

Chapter 188 Ability

"Damn, are you a beggar? Why do you have so much change? Are they the day's takings?" Hao searched Baldie again but did not find anything else.

"Damn, how can you be so poor? Alright, it's not like you'll use human currency anymore. Here's a coin. Keep it to pay your fare across the river Styx." Hao grinned and shoved one coin back into Baldie's pocket.

Baldie and I exchanged a quick look, then we were pushed into the villa.

This villa was a normal holiday home. From the entrance, there was a tree-lined courtyard. Under the two large trees, there was a small pavilion where a tall, refined man sat. He was dressed in dark gray silk pajamas, and he watched us get ushered in from across the swimming pool.

I kept my gaze fixed on that man, wondering if he was Jiang Ming.

I had seen a photograph of Jiang Ming before, Xia Genghuai had found one for me. The man in front of me quite resembled that ID photo, but I could barely believe that this man was the person behind my parents' death.

We were brought in front of the man, our backs facing the swimming pool. Hao kicked each of us, bringing us down to our knees.

I raised my head to stare at him, and he looked straight back at me. Our gazes met, and we were both filled with rage.

"You're Zhang Jun's son."

At the same time, I ground out between my teeth, "You... you're Jiang Ming?"

I had fantasized about my first meeting with Jiang Ming multiple times, but never in this situation. He was nothing like how I imagined him. He was polite and not crafty; he seemed more like a teacher than the boss of a gang.

Hao kicked me in the back and said unhappily, "You're the one who said Brother Ming's name. F you, now you can die happy. Brother Ming, let me know how you want me to deal with him."

I breathed out heavily and pulled myself upright. I caught sight of Jiang Ming smiling and shaking his head at Hao. He had to know that Hao was just trying to push the responsibility to him.

"There's no hurry, I'm reminiscing with my old friend's son. I also have some messages for Zhang Chao to pass to his father. You can wait by the side. I'll call you when I'm done."

Hao did not want to get involved in our business and wanted to leave right now. However, at Jiang Ming's order, he immediately withdrew to the side with his men.

Jiang Ming swept his gaze across the three of us, then stopped and smiled at Baldie. "Xu Changsheng, the crazy old man of Cloud Cliff Sect taught you well. But if you don't return, your dear junior is going to get married soon. Aren't you worried about her? You aren't from here, why did you get mixed up in this?"

This was the first time I found out that Baldie's real name was Xu Changsheng. Chu Xiaoxiao and I both looked at him in surprise. If not for Jiang Ming, I would have assumed that his real name was Baldie.

Baldie ground his teeth and the vein on his forehead throbbed, but he remained silent. It seemed as if Jiang Ming had spoken the truth.

Cloud Cliff Sect? Crazy old man? It sounded like something out of a wuxia novel. I always felt that Baldie had extraordinary skill and had to have learned from a master, but had not expected it to be so complicated. Zhao Zichen was clearly capable if he was able to get a hermit warrior like this into his service with the Red Lanterns.

Next, Jiang Ming turned his gaze to Chu Xiaoxiao. "Chu Huai'en owes five hundred million. He can't return that money at one shot, and can only finance it. However, his reputation is shot and no one will lend him anything. It seems like Chu Huai'en has to let you come up with a solution via Zhang Chao."

Chu Xiaoxiao retorted at once, "What goes on in my home has nothing to do with you. If you like gossip so much, why don't you be an entertainment reporter? I'm not borrowing money from you. You're such a busybody that I'm sure no one likes you."

Jiang Ming was not the only shocked person, even I was shocked that Chu Xiaoxiao would give him a piece of her mind.

Jiang Ming smiled faintly. "You don't want to borrow from me, but I want to lend you money. I can't fork out five hundred million, but I can offer a bridging loan to Chu Huai'en. One hundred million. Just nod and it's yours."

Chu Xiaoxiao was taken aback, but she quickly reacted, glancing over at me, before telling Jiang Ming, "Then you can talk to my father. I don't dare to borrow a hundred million from you. I can't return it. I know what you're trying to do. You have history with Zhang Chao. How am I worth a hundred million? You're just trying to make him feel disgusted."

Surprisingly, Jiang Ming was not flustered that Chu Xiaoxiao had seen through him. He slowly opened a drawer at the coffee table and removed a gun, placing it on the table.

Chu Xiaoxiao went pale. "What's the meaning of this?"

Jiang Ming replied, "You're right. This hundred million isn't for your sake. I want to buy Zhang Chao's life."

She started trembling, and she backed away, shaking her head insistently. "You want me to kill Zhang Chao? Keep dreaming! You might as well kill me!"

I wanted to comfort her and tell her that everything would be fine and that I would bring her somewhere safe. But Jiang Ming seemed to get excited by Chu Xiaoxiao's fearful response. He held the gun and walked between the three of us.

"Kill you? I did consider to have Zhang Chao kill you himself. He would suffer such pain. He's very like his father, you know. Zhang Chao, your father and I were adversaries for years. As the saying goes, your enemy knows you best. I can say that I am the person who understood your father the best. You don't know this, but when I found out that Zhang Jun had a son, I was so happy. I was even happier when I found out that you were actually smart, and not a stupid rich boy. After your father died, I haven't had a proper adversary over the years. It's been so boring. A long and boring life is like an endless prison sentence..."

Jiang Ming rambled on happily.

"Once I knew of your existence, I was delighted. I wanted to meet you so much, boy. That's why when I heard that my subordinates were going to take you on tonight, I planned this. How unexpected to catch two big fish. The boss of the Red Lanterns also fell into my net. Zhang Chao, not bad. Even the boss of the Red Lanterns went into battle for you."

I was astounded. I had thought that Jiang Ming was out to get Zhao Zichen, but I was actually his main target!

"Huh, but you let Hao try and kill me. Didn't you want to meet me?" I asked.

Jiang Ming pressed his hands to my shoulders and smiled. "I had to test your abilities. If you had been killed by Hao, then you're not worthy of being my plaything. Boy, you passed. You might be even more capable than your father."