

## Chapter 230 Opening Bet

Lin Kang shoved Chen Ruhai back a few steps, and he almost fell off the stairs. Luckily, I came up behind to steady him.

Chen Ruhai was an old man. Taken by surprise, he leaned on the railings to catch his breath and did not think to look behind him. As he was getting over his shock, Lin Kang yelled at him again to keep up.

"Uncle Chen, you need to keep up. The highlight of tonight is the God of Gamblers competition. We won't be able to enter if we're late."

Just then, the ship hit a wave and jolted sharply. Old Chen Ruhai, who had never been insulted in this way before, was still getting over his shock. "Kang, Uncle's not feeling very good. You go ahead, I'll catch up in a while."

"In a while? You're not coming to pay for me?"

"Pay what?" Chen Ruhai asked. He was feeling seasick and was a bit confused.

Lin Kang looked as if it could not be any more obvious. "The opening bet for the God of Gamblers competition."

"Y—you want me to lend you money to gamble?"

Never would Chen Ruhai have expected that Lin Kang could be so brazen to say such shameless words.

"Oh no, this is an investment. If I win, we'll split the profits. I'll be nice. Seventy-thirty, in favor of you."

"And, and if you lose? How are you going to pay me back?"

"It's an investment. You're a businessman. You know what an investment is. Investments come with risk."

Chen Ruhai was dumbfounded by his audacity.

"You want me to give you money to gamble? Never in the history of the Chen family has there ever been a gambler. You want me to give you money to gamble?!"

Lin Kang's expression darkened. He took a step back and said impatiently, "Old man, don't test me. Your Chen family might not have gamblers, but there are plenty of other unsavory types."

Chen Ruhai looked like he was being held at knifepoint by Lin Kang and could not speak.

"Don't worry, I just want money. Give me money, and I'll keep your secret. Treat it as a fee."

Ashen-faced, Chen Ruhai could only say, "I'll pay, just keep your mouth shut."

"Well, hurry up. Don't wait for me to ask for money. You've got plenty of money but only one son."

"Lin Kang," Chen Ruhai called out suddenly, glanced around furtively.

I was hiding in a corner. Neither of them had seen me, and everyone else was rushing into the casino and ignoring them.

Chen Ruhai continued, "Does anyone else know? About that thing?"

"Of course not. No one else knows but you and I. Old man, just provide the money. You're paying for your son's life."

Chen Ruhai nodded in the darkness. Lost in joy, Lin Kang ran in the direction of the casino.

Chen Ruhai trotted along behind him like an obedient servant. I followed them from afar, wearing a hat. There were many people in the casino, and they did not notice me.

As Lin Kang strode along, people stopped to stare in surprise because almost everyone in Tong City recognized Chen Ruhai.

Chen Ruhai was always an important guest wherever he went, and everyone respected him. The man who got along with both sides of the law was now trailing behind this ne'er-do-well like a follower!

At the start, Lin Kang had been slouching, but now, he held his nose in the air.

The ongoing discussion among everyone satisfied his vanity. He had been to this casino many times before, and he was usually pushed away by everyone like a homeless dog. He had never been the center of attention like this.

I found a quiet corner and sat down with a glass of wine. We were still on the way to international waters, and the casino was not open yet. Once we reached international waters, the cruise ship would really come into itself.

The tables in the casino were all ready, but everyone was still gathered in groups and drinking alcohol. Many rich men enjoyed seeking out business partners and discussing work in such places.

Lin Kang had just sat down when a big man with slicked-back hair—looking very much like Chow Yun-fat in the God Of Gamblers movie—came down the stairs and headed straight for him.

"Boss Ho..." Lin Kang was a bit flustered because he still owed Boss Ho money. However, Boss Ho was beaming and did not look like he was here to ask for his money back. That was when Lin Kang remembered that his debt was now being paid by Chen Ruhai.

"Brother Lin, it's been a while. You must be feeling lucky to pay us a visit. I wish you all the best tonight. And is Brother Chen here to play too? What a rare sight. Everyone in Tong City knows that the Chen family doesn't gamble or do drugs. Since you're here, please have some fun. Good luck."

Chen Ruhai did not respond. With his status, he did not necessarily need to reply Boss Ho. Boss Ho was very shrewd and he was quick to notice that something was not quite right. He glanced between Chen Ruhai and Lin Kang, and seemed to come to a conclusion.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome aboard Sagittarius Luxury Cruises. We are now traveling full speed to international waters. Tonight, we will be holding Tong City's first-ever God of Gamblers competition in the large event hall on the third floor. Competition specifics will be announced later. I would like to wish everyone good luck, and may the best man win!"

The crowd broke out into enthusiastic chatter. Boss Ho's announcement had these gambling addicts jumping in excitement.

Boss Ho spread out his hands to quieten the crowd and continued speaking,

"We have some amazing prizes for tonight's God of Gamblers competition. I'm excited just thinking about it. I, of course, will be playing alongside you. However, I'm not good at cards, so I beg mercy from all our great players."

This Boss Ho character was good at rousing up the crowd. With just a few words, he had livened up the atmosphere, and everyone was eager to get going. They called for him to introduce the prizes.

I was not particularly interested, so I did not give him my full attention. I sipped at my wine and kept an ear on the proceedings while I live-texted the situation to Chu Xiaoxiao.

Boss Ho was saying, "As everyone knows, our first prize is one million US dollars in cash. The winner takes it straightaway. Everything is for real here. However, besides the first prize, I've also added a special prize. This prize might not be valuable to some people, but to me, it's priceless."

He clapped and two staff carried out what looked like a large frame. The frame was obscured by a white cloth.

Everyone discussed what it might be and waited with bated breath to see what was on the canvas.

I glanced over and lost interest when I saw that it was a painting.

The value of art was the most difficult to pinpoint. Its worth was based on hype. Boss Ho could not have procured a world-famous painting as a prize. If he did, how could he bear to part with it? This was probably a contemporary artist that was using the competition to hype up their value.