

Chapter 233 International Waters

"Don't be such a slowpoke, old man. It's just a signature. I'm going to win this round. We'll split the winnings."

Boss Ho motioned to the dealer to start the game. He turned to Lin Kang and asked, "What will you bet on, little brother?"

"Big."

"You've bet on big for so many rounds, will you change your bet?"

"I want to bet on big. I like it."

Boss Ho laughed and shook his head, putting the chips the staff had brought onto the table. I glanced over. A pair of corneas was worth a hundred thousand.

Just a hundred thousand. I was sure that Chen Ruhai probably ate meals worth more than that sometimes. Never in his life would he have thought that his eyes would be sold one day.

In no time, the dice were revealed. The total came to three. The smallest number that could be rolled.

This time, Lin Kang was stunned. He awkwardly said, "Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose."

Two security guards put their hands on his shoulders. He had already lost his earlier bravado and shrunk back, asking them what they were doing.

Boss Ho was surprisingly still quite polite. "Little brother, you lost again."

"I'm not denying that I lost. I fully admit it. Take the corneas. But mine weren't the ones on the chopping block. Take Chen Ruhai's, he signed the contract." Lin Kang pointed at Chen Ruhai.

I was used to Lin Kang's shamelessness and did not even bat an eye. However, the other spectators were frankly stunned by his lack of shame. They whispered among themselves about how he could act this way, and their tone was accusatory.

Not only was Lin Kang not embarrassed, he became defensive. "So what? It's not my name that's written on the contract. It's Chen Ruhai. Let me go! This has nothing to do with me."

He pushed through the crowd to leave, but the security blocked his way and he started to panic.

Boss Ho smiled. "Little brother, I'm a proper businessman, of course I don't mess around. I will adhere to the contract as signed. However, since you were the one who lost the money, I need you as a witness as I bring Chen Ruhai for cornea removal surgery. This is to prevent any ambiguities."

Lin Kang was not one to consider the possibilities. Once he heard that he was not responsible, he agreed.

But after some thought, he added, "Boss Ho, with so many guests on board, I believe you won't risk your reputation. Otherwise, who would want to come aboard your ship?"

Perhaps he felt that it might not be safe to follow Boss Ho, so he gave a vague warning to Boss Ho not to do anything reckless.

"Of course. Don't worry, little brother."

Boss Ho nodded at his men, and the two security guards tied Chen Ruhai up. Then, Boss Ho hooked an arm around Lin Kang's shoulders in a friendly manner.

"This way, little brother."

Lin Kang used to hide from Boss Ho every time he came to the casino. When had Boss Ho become so chummy with him? Even though he was initially scared, he had forgotten all his fears and was now on cloud nine.

I kept my distance as I followed them out of the doors of the hall and out onto the deck.

It was very windy outside and the sea was pitch black, reflecting the bright stars in the sky. Occasionally, you could catch a glimpse of the weak glow of the plankton in the water below. Its beauty was beyond compare, but it also felt wild and out of human control.

I could not linger too near them. There was no one around and I would easily be discovered.

Boss Ho was asking Lin Kang, "Little brother, do you know who he is? He's the boss of the Juen Group. What are you going to do when he takes revenge on you for the removal of his corneas?"

Lin Kang laughed wildly. "Don't worry about it. He won't take revenge on me. I have his secret in my hands. Chen Ruhai, don't look at me like that. You're not giving up your corneas for me, you're giving them up for your son. It's Chen Yuzhou's fault for not being an upstanding citizen. His lack of filial piety is the reason why you're here. Why don't you look out at the sea instead of at me? You won't be able to see it next time."

It was very windy and they had to shout at each other to be heard. But they were not worried about being overheard; there was no one around.

"You must be very capable to make Boss Chen willing to donate his corneas," Boss Ho brought up.

"It's not that I'm capable, but it's his son who is the problem. You jump at shadows when you have a guilty conscience. Chen Ruhai, don't be so narrow-minded. Think about how much this exclusive secret I'm keeping is worth. Treat it as a fee to keep me silent."

Boss Ho nodded and did not ask further questions. With a word from him, the security guards stepped aside and waited for his orders.

There was an uncertain expression on Chen Ruhai's face as he stood there, hands tied behind his back.

Noticing that no one was moving, Lin Kang asked, "Are you removing his corneas here? It's really windy."

As soon as he finished speaking, he looked down in surprise at the knife that Boss Ho had buried in his stomach.

Lin Kang touched the blood oozing out of him in shock. Boss Ho pulled out the knife and used it to set Chen Ruhai free.

"Y—you..."

Boss Ho helped Chen Ruhai up and did not bother to glance at Lin Kang. "I'm sorry for letting you suffer."

Chen Ruhai nudged him aside and marched up to Lin Kang angrily.

Lin Kang was terrified. He had nowhere to run. Behind him was the sea, and falling in was a death sentence.

"What secret are you hiding? Why don't you tell us?" Chen Ruhai ground out between his teeth.

"Y—you're trying to silence me..."

"Yes, that's the only thing you've gotten right all night."

"Murder...is...illegal..."

Chen Ruhai placed a hand on Lin Kang's shoulder, and Lin Kang clutched hold of his arm.

"Idiot, these are international waters." Chen Ruhai glared at him. "Go to hell."

He pushed, and Lin Kang fell backward past three floors of decks and disappeared into the roiling sea.

Chen Ruhai glanced down into the gloomy waters and smiled sinisterly, heaving a sigh of relief.

The moment they left the deck, I jumped into the water.

The black sea seemed almost impenetrable to light. All I had was a small flashlight that I had found in a rescue bag earlier. I held it with my mouth as I searched for Lin Kang.

I was tossed around by the strong waves and the salty water stung my eyes, making it difficult for me to keep them open.

After much difficulty, I finally spotted Lin Kang. He had lost consciousness and I tied a rope to him and swam back to the ship. Grabbing hold of a dangling rope, I climbed up first, then dragged him up after me.

The cut on Lin Kang's stomach was not big. Boss Ho had stabbed him with a pocket knife, and the wound was only the width of my finger. I stuck my finger inside it to check, and it was not deep either; his internal organs were fine. The main issue was that he had drunk a lot of water.