

Chapter 253 Old Yu

Chu Xiaoxiao turned her head in my direction, an awkward look on her face. In front of her was a man around the same height and build as me who was smiling and greeting her.

"Hi, I'm Li Ge, Mayor Li's son. You must be Zhang Chao. I think we might have been in the same school."

I remembered who he was. This was the mayor's son who had pursued Chu Xiaoxiao through high school and had been rejected by her.

Li Liang noticed that his son was still in the doorway. When he turned back to take a look, he suddenly remembered who Chu Xiaoxiao was.

I said ill-humoredly, "Yes, but you probably don't remember me."

Li Ge did not even pretend. He laughed and replied, "I don't actually. We weren't in the same clique in high school." Then, he turned his attention back to Chu Xiaoxiao, dismissing me entirely.

"Xiaoxiao, how about it? It's been years. Do you have time for a coffee with me?"

Mayor Li Liang's face changed color. He knew that Chu Xiaoxiao and I were a couple, but Li Ge did not and still harbored hopes of pursuing Chu Xiaoxiao.

Chu Xiaoxiao smiled. "No thanks. I already have a boyfriend."

I thought that would be the end of it, but I had not expected that Li Ge would be narcissistic enough to ask, "Who? Who could be better than me?"

Chu Xiaoxiao hugged my arm and patted my chest. "Zhang Chao."

"Him?"

Li Ge looked me up and down. I knew that look. It was full of disdain and disbelief.

I did not need to guess what he was thinking. It was obvious that he was wondering why someone rich and handsome like him had failed to pursue Chu Xiaoxiao, while poor Zhang Chao managed to.

At least he did not say it out loud, even though his feelings were written all over his face.

"Son, I haven't introduced you. Zhang Chao is the hero of this incident. It was he who steered the ship back. Otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable. I might not have been able to maintain my position."

"That's too much praise, sir." I smiled.

"It's not too much. Zhang Chao is also a major shareholder and a board member of the Junran Group, our city's biggest group of companies. How amazing it is for such a young man of talent to even steer a ship back safely. He's a young superhero!"

I was not sure if Li Liang was purposely reminding his son not to hit on Chu Xiaoxiao. As he spoke, his son's expression grew more sullen, but he pretended not to notice.

Li Ge rubbed his nose, looking awkward. The woman he liked had been snatched away by me, and his own father was speaking up for me. There was no way he could be anything but unhappy. Even a calm man would want to show off in front of the woman he liked.

"Nice to meet you, Zhang Chao." He forced out a smile and reached over with his hand over. "Apologies, I'm not too aware of what's going on in Tong City. I've been studying overseas and I'm not familiar with domestic matters. I seem to remember that you didn't finish high school."

I clasped his hand and felt him squeeze hard. He was trying to give me a show of strength, and I smiled at his immature action.

Li Ge saw me smile, and said, "So sorry, did it hurt? I box and sometimes I don't know my own strength. Xiaoxiao used to say that boxing made me rough and that she preferred pretty boys. Haha, maybe if I didn't box I would be together with her. But I think that men should be more manly, right?"

Chu Xiaoxiao had a meaningful smirk on her face, while Li Ge and the other city leaders wanted to cover their faces in shame. They all looked like they wished that Li Ge would just stop showing off and leave.

I also squeezed Li Ge's hand back but did not use all my strength. However, he blurted out an exclamation and his face went red.

I laughed and replied, "It's fine. I agree with you about manliness. I didn't finish high school. Haha, I joined the army and served as a soldier for five years, then special forces for four years. I didn't want to be a career soldier, so I left this year."

The expressions that were crossing Li Ge's face as he cradled his aching hand were fascinating. He was stunned into silence.

Li Liang, on the other hand, had quicker reflexes. He pulled his son away before the younger Li could embarrass himself further.

I watched them leave, then turned back to see Chu Xiaoxiao smirking at me.

"This is the first time I've seen you being jealous," she said carelessly as she draped her arm around my waist. "I'm wondering how many more suitors I might have. I should get them all to come here for you to deal with at one go."

"Why? Do you want me to die of frustration?"

I did not know whether to laugh or cry. This was not Chu Xiaoxiao's fault though. She had been sought-after in school. Many men coveted her and wanted to pursue her.

If there was anything to blame, it would be how charming my girlfriend was. I was pretty amazing to secure such a charming girlfriend.

During these two days, Yue Mangong was in the room next to mine and he would randomly come over. I understood that he was worried that the Yin family would take revenge on me, but he was an enormous third wheel. Chu Xiaoxiao and I could not be intimate even if we wanted to.

Nothing could be done about it. Chu Xiaoxiao reluctantly went back to work, leaving me and Yue Mangong to stare at each other in the hospital.

I called Woodfire Wonton to ask if Old Yu had returned, and they told me over the phone that he was performing on the third floor. For a moment, I was relieved. At least he had not run, and it should still be with him.

I could not wait to look at the painting and the last words. After all, it was my mother's artwork.

While Yue Mangong was in the toilet, I sneaked out of the hospital and hired a car to bring me to Woodfire Wonton.

Old Yu was on the third floor. As I arrived, he kept his erhu and stood up to turn in my direction before I even made a sound. "Follow me."

I had no idea how he knew it was me. I had not uttered a sound, and my footsteps were so light that even I could not hear them.

Old Yu led me to the innermost room on the third floor. He let me enter, then shut the door and secured the two locks on it.

Then, he pointed at a drawer. "Open it, it's inside."