

Chapter 261 Play by Ear

I had been quite angry to see her there, but my anger evaporated. I stood silently behind Li Ge.

"Xiaoxiao, men shouldn't just have the advantage you mentioned, you also need interests. I'm willing to be your confidant. When you're bored, I'll chat with you. Leave your soul for me."

In the correct circumstances, I would have applauded Li Ge for setting such a good standard for bootlickers.

I thought that Chu Xiaoxiao would snap back at him. She was not one to be merciful. However, she did not say anything, and just gave him a brief smile.

I was feeling uneasy when my phone in my pocket vibrated. I checked it and saw that Chu Xiaoxiao had sent me a message.

"My father has to ask a favor of his father for business. I can't do anything. Don't be angry, darling."

This useless Li Ge's greatest fortune was being born to a good father. Otherwise, he would have nothing.

I was disgruntled, but I held back.

"Xiaoxiao, don't reject me. At least let me be your friend. We can do so many things together: go to art galleries, listen to music, drink wine, read poems..."

Chu Xiaoxiao could not stand it anymore and said, "But... Zhang Chao won't be happy."

"If he was a proper man, he shouldn't be too strict with you."

Chu Xiaoxiao stuck out her tongue. "He doesn't control me. I'm just afraid he'll punch you. He's got a bad temper and he can fight well."

"Haha, I'm not afraid..."

He had just spoken when I squeezed his shoulder. Li Ge was so surprised that he jumped out of his chair. When he saw it was me, he shouted out loud.

"You! What are you doing here?" Li Ge jumped in surprise, his face ashen.

I picked up a walnut that was being used as a table decoration and playfully crushed the shell. Then, I passed the nut to Chu Xiaoxiao to eat. Li Ge, who had said that he was not afraid of me, visibly gulped at my show of strength.

I could tell that he wanted to run away. When we shook hands the first time we met, he knew that he was no match for me strength-wise. However, he had just talked about how he was not afraid of me, and now he had to grin and bear the consequences.

I pulled a stool up and sat down, smiling at him. "Don't mind me. I heard that Xiaoxiao was here and came over to pick her up. I didn't expect to see you here, Li Ge. I hope you don't have designs on Xiaoxiao. She's my girlfriend now. I have a bit of a temper. I do hope you're not thinking of hitting on her."

I said it in a joking manner. I could not afford to offend him, and I had to find the right balance.

While my tone was joking, the meaning was obvious. Keep bothering Chu Xiaoxiao, and I was not going to take it lying down.

The corner of Li Ge's mouth twitched, but he quickly recovered.

"Xiaoxiao and I were just reminiscing. You can't be that sensitive? Oh yes, do you want a bite? Waiter, menu."

I had to admire his tenacity. He was still pretending even now. As expected of an official's son who had some experience in the world.

My attitude had switched from wanting to chase him away to wanting to see how else he was going to keep faking it.

The waiter quickly brought a menu over. He glanced at it and unhappily said, "Who asked you to bring a menu in Chinese? This is a French restaurant, bring one in English!"

The waiter quietly returned with an English-language menu. Chu Xiaoxiao caught my attention and sent me a message asking me what Li Ge was up to.

I smirked. I knew what he was going to do.

As I expected, Li Ge pushed the English-language menu to me, pretending to be a gentleman. "Zhang Chao, go ahead and order."

I replied him with only a smile and did not take the menu.

Li He seemed to come to a sudden realization. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I didn't consider it. It's perfectly normal that you can't read the menu in English. Lots of undergraduates can't read English. Education level isn't everything. After all, you have junior high education and you're running a successful business. I might have come back from overseas with a master's degree, but what can I do with my knowledge? I still have to work for someone else when I came back."

I was about to say something when I noticed that Chu Xiaoxiao was gaping at Li Ge with an amazed and slightly admiring look. She then bent her head and sent me a message.

I glanced at my phone. The message read: "Learn well. This is an epic-level of pretense."

I could not hold back a snort of laughter, interrupting Li Ge. "No, don't feel bad. I was just wondering, since this is a French restaurant, reading the menu in French must be better. Waiter, can I have the menu in French?"

The waiter was waiting in the wings, watching our exchange. At my summons, he quickly slid a French-language menu over.

Li Ge was shocked. "You can read it?"

I rubbed my chin and ordered some dishes in French. Then, I laughed. "Haha, I learned English, German, French, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish while in the army. I also learned the languages of the countries surrounding our borders, and our local dialects. Haha, what would you like to eat? Go ahead and order."

I flipped the menu around and pushed it in Li Ge's direction. His face was bright red.

I immediately mimicked his tone. "Oh sorry, I didn't consider it. You don't understand French. Haha, I'm really surprised. I thought you would know based on your high level of education."

Li Ge could never have imagined that I would be able to completely squash his greatest achievements.

"Waiter, my friend can't read this. Can I have the menu in Chinese?"

The waiter excitedly brought back the Chinese-language menu and handed it to Li Ge.

By now, Li Ge was too embarrassed to keep up the pretense. He was so ashamed and he looked like he wanted to dig a hole to hide in.

I made conversation. "Li Ge, how did the meeting with Lutong go? Will you be making the advertisement? Xiaoxiao's a manager at Lutong now, and you're old friends. I believe you'll know what to do."

What else could Li Ge say? He had to give face to Chu Xiaoxiao. However, he was also aware that giving Lutong business was giving me money. He was definitely unhappy about giving his love rival any money.

I did not know what he was scheming next, but he took out his phone and messed around with it for a while. When he placed it back on the table, he seemed to have a new plan.

"Xiaoxiao, Uncle Chu's on his way. Let's order some food."

Chu Xiaoxiao and I exchanged a look. Chu Huai'en was coming?

It went without saying that Chu Huai'en had something up his sleeve to arrange for his daughter to meet up with Li Ge.

Now that Chu Huai'en was asking a favor from Li Liang, he wanted to use his daughter as a bargaining chip to get on the mayor's good side.

Chu Xiaoxiao sent me a message asking me what we should do. I felt uneasy about Chu Xiaoxiao falling out with her family over me. It was a scummy man who would make his girlfriend disown her parents over him. But I was worried about Chu Huai'en destroying what we had. I could not let anyone take her away from me.

I told her to calm down and play it by ear.

Li Ge was smiling as though he had won. I did not understand why he seemed to think he had accomplished something. A man who used such methods to win over a woman was just shameless.

It might actually be good to meet Chu Huai'en. Han Kun had secretly met with Chu Huai'en after sneaking back into the country without telling anyone. What was so special about this man who owed a ton of debt and misappropriated his company's money?

Chu Huai'en was personable as always. He was as refined as the first time I saw him.

Li Ge was good at flattering others, and he and Chu Huai'en exchanged flattering remarks with each other. He complimented Chu Huai'en on how strong he was even at his age, and Chu Huai'en returned the compliment by mentioning how young and handsome Li Ge was. Chu Xiaoxiao and I were embarrassed on their behalf.

"Master Zhang, you're here too. Ge, Xiaoxiao, why didn't you tell me?"