

## Chapter 262 He's Straight

Chu Huai'en pretended to only notice me when he sat down. It was obvious that I was the odd one out here.

No matter what, this was my future father-in-law. I had to stay on his good side.

"Uncle, I was having a date with Xiaoxiao when we bumped into Li Ge. Would you like some wine?"

Chu Huai'en smiled calmly. "You young people like playing around. Today you're on a date with this person, and tomorrow with another person. However, Xiaoxiao isn't getting any younger. She should settle down. Zhang Chao, you did reconnaissance while in the army?"

"Yes," I said with an insincere smile. I could tell that he had more to say.

"Then you're really good at reading people. You're Xiaoxiao's boss, you can help filter through the people who meet her. Since you're good at reading people, do help if any man takes an interest in Xiaoxiao."

"Dad! What are you talking about? Zhang Chao is my boyfriend. You know that." Chu Xiaoxiao could not stand it any longer. Chu Huai'en's words were like a slap to my face.

He knew that I was her boyfriend, but was purposely acting this way. It was a clear message to me that he did not approve of us being together and that he did not recognize me as his future son-in-law.

I felt anger flare up inside me, but since he was my future father-in-law, I maintained a smile on my face.

"It's alright. I think Uncle is urging me to propose to you," I told her.

Chu Huai'en tutted. "He's your boyfriend now? A few days ago when I asked if he was your boyfriend, what did you say? You said there was nothing between Zhang Chao and you."

"That was because you wanted me to force him to invest. I didn't have a choice!" Chu Xiaoxiao retorted.

The restaurant was quiet and their argument was loud. In no time at all, everyone was staring at our table.

I had guessed that Chu Huai'en wanted Chu Xiaoxiao to ask me for money. I was willing to fork it out, but now that I knew that Chu Huai'en and Han Kun were planning something, I had other thoughts.

Chu Huai'en was very protective of his image. He was unwilling to argue in front of such a large audience and held back his temper. "Xiaoxiao, this is your life, not a game. This has nothing to do with investments. Ge is here today and you got along quite well with him in high school. Did you know, Ge just graduated and came back from overseas. He's now a promising manager with a securities firm. You can add each other on WeChat and talk."

He was recommending another man to my girlfriend right in front of me. This was a clear show of strength.

Li Ge did not waste any time. He turned to Chu Xiaoxiao and held out his phone for Chu Xiaoxiao to scan the QR code.

Chu Xiaoxiao immediately insisted, "I won't add you."

"Xiaoxiao, don't be impolite. Your mother wouldn't be happy," reminded Chu Huai'en.

A shadow passed across Chu Xiaoxiao's face, and she took out her phone to scan Li Ge's QR code and add his WeChat.

What was this about? What happened to Chu Xiaoxiao's mother?

I could tell she was under duress. Her tears threatened to spill over and my heart ached. I hit the table and made to stand up, but Chu Xiaoxiao squeezed my hand, shaking her head hard in a desperate bid to have me not take action. It broke my heart to see her like that and I was stunned for a moment.

Li Ge was even more arrogant than before. "Xiaoxiao, there's a concert going on tomorrow, come and enjoy it with me."

Chu Xiaoxiao's eyes were brimming with tears and she bit her lip, while Chu Huai'en smiled and answered for her, "Xiaoxiao's free. Ge, you can come over and pick her up tomorrow."

"Then Uncle Chu will have to make the sacrifice and lend me your beloved daughter for a day."

"What are you saying? I can relax when Xiaoxiao is with you."

The two of them ignored me and Chu Xiaoxiao, acting as if we were not there.

"Uncle, I'll be frank with you. No matter what Xiaoxiao said to you before, she's my girlfriend now. I won't let any other man near her."

I interrupted them quite unhappily.

Li Ge was about to speak up, but I grabbed a fork off the table and pressed it into the wooden table. The prongs stuck inside and did not budge. His eyes widened and he swallowed the words he was about to say.

"Mr. Zhang, you might be powerful, but you can't be so domineering. My daughter isn't married to you yet. She can still choose."

"Xiaoxiao has always chosen me," I said.

"Well, let's ask her again. Xiaoxiao, who do you choose between Li Ge and Zhang Chao?"

I thought that Chu Xiaoxiao would choose me without hesitation. However, she shook her head and refused to answer.

"Xiaoxiao, what's wrong?" I was shocked. Was this the brave Chu Xiaoxiao that I knew?

Chu Huai'en looked as though he had anticipated this reaction and smiled. "Mr. Zhang, look at my daughter's attitude. Women are fickle-minded. I know what she likes best. Ge is the most suitable for my daughter. He's handsome, from a good family, is educated well, and is refined. My ideal son-in-law. What do you think, Xiaoxiao?"

I felt a chill in my heart. Was the scene with Lin Fang going to be played out again here?

But Chu Xiaoxiao bit her lip and refused to speak. Under the table, her hand reached out and grabbed mine. I could feel her trembling in fear, and I squeezed her small hand in mind. However, I did not know what was going on and how to help her.

I could not figure out what Chu Huai'en was using to put pressure on her. With her personality, she was not one to easily give in.

"Hah, you bastard. You're here."

While I was sorting my thoughts, I suddenly heard a piercing male voice from behind me. I turned to see a seductive-looking, golden-haired young man, who could not be more than twenty, point accusingly at Li Ge and scold him.

Li Ge twisted around in his chair and realized that there was no one behind him. He looked unsure as he asked, "Me?"

"Who else? You heartless rat! Have you forgotten me after sleeping with me?"

I swear, I had been feeling so bad, but when the young man spoke, I almost burst out laughing. Chu Xiaoxiao's expression was as surprised and amused as mine.

The wait staff had all been watching the commotion at our table. Everyone was stupefied by the sudden appearance of a new character.

Li Ge was flustered. "Don't make false accusations, little brother. Heartless rat? Do I know you? You must be mistaken."

"Oh, wonderful. You used to call me sweetheart and now I'm 'little brother'. You're a heartless rat! Aren't you Li Ge? L-I Li. The same surname as Mayor Li Liang."

"I—I..." Li Ge probably wanted to deny it, but by this time, Chu Huai'en was watching him too. Denying it might seem even more suspicious, so he had to admit who he was. "I am, but I've definitely never met you before. Xiaoxiao, Uncle Chu, you need to believe me. Zhang Chao must have arranged this."

"I've been sitting here all this time. What can I arrange?" I asked. I had no part in this. I was just as dumbfounded as he was.

The young man was absolutely furious. "You said you were going to earn money and take care of me, but you don't even acknowledge me after you put your pants on. I was still waiting for you and you came here to meet a girl."

He seized hold of a glass of water and made to pour it on Li Ge, but after hesitated and spun around to splashed it on Chu Xiaoxiao's face instead. "Bitch! You can have this trash!"

I caught his arm and growled, "What are you doing?"

He cried out. "Let go of me! I'll sue you for molest!"

Damn, I automatically let go of him, and he hurried out, his swinging hips more pronounced than a woman's.

Li Ge's face was red and blotchy, and he was fuming. "Don't listen to his nonsense. I really don't know him! I like women!"

The wait staff scattered, but every one of them was excited about the gossip.

The expression on Chu Huai'en's face could only be described as stormy. Even if he wanted the resources of Mayor Li's family, having witnessed the truth about his prospective son-in-law... How could he keep his dignity if this news got out?

Chu Xiaoxiao secretly sent me a message: "You arranged this?"

I immediately replied: "No, I didn't. He's gay."

Chu Xiaoxiao's reply was instant: "No, he isn't. He's straight. Only likes women. I know him well."

This was confusing. What was going on? We exchanged a look.