

Chapter 267 Close Acquaintance

I declined Gan's good intentions to help me deal with my aunt. I never wanted to contact her again.

Even if Gan went in my stead, he would be representing Junran, and representing me. To be truthful, I did not ever want contact with my aunt. The thought of her gave me a headache.

"What are you planning to do? How does your aunt know so many officials? Isn't she an ordinary housewife?"

I had spoken to Chu Xiaoxiao about my childhood before. She knew what my aunt was like.

Before my uncle died, he and my aunt did not work or earn any money. They relied on my family.

She was an ordinary housewife. How did she make such a sudden change and get the contacts of so many officials?

Why had Chen Ruhai agreed to have her daughter Su Xiaoqiang marry into his family with the way she looked? Chen Ruhai had been a snob. If my aunt had no power or influence, how could her daughter have caught Chen Ruhai's eye?

"I don't know either. Once I left their house at seventeen, I never contacted them again. However, my parents left behind a significant amount of money. Since I was too young, it went to her as my guardian. You know how my childhood was. She took all the money and I never touched any. She also took the villa that my parents left behind. My father was smart, and I'm sure she wasn't stupid. She must have taken the money and gotten in touch with officials."

"I don't think it's that simple. I don't think she just knows them in passing. It seemed as though even Chen Ruhai wanted to get on her good side. Even if you don't want anyone's help, get someone to ask around."

"Alright, but I need to find someone who looks like they have nothing to do with me to ask around." I paused, then laughed. "No one's more suitable than Zhao Zichen."

Zhao Zichen was respectable in both legal and gang worlds, and his father Zhao Gongming was the director of Tong City Hospital and knew many people. Asking about this should be easy.

"Oh yes, since we're free this afternoon, bring me to see your mother. You can bring me to buy a suitable present too. I don't know what she likes."

Ever since Chu Xiaoxiao had told me about her family, I really wanted to meet my future mother-in-law.

I did not want Chu Hua'en to have any leverage against Chu Xiaoxiao and me.

But Chu Xiaoxiao did not meet my eyes. "We need to return to the hospital to see Qingqing."

"Zhao Zichen is doing his best at the hospital. Your mother might be happy and take a turn for the better if she sees us and knows that I'm taking good care of you."

"No, we can't. I'm not prepared to go today. I'll definitely bring you next week. Just don't be scared and run away."

Chu Xiaoxiao was obviously avoiding the topic, but I did not understand what she was afraid of.

"Why would I be scared and run away?" I smiled, but I could tell that she really did not want me to meet her mother. I did not want to force her, so I nodded and confirmed that we would go next week.

At the hospital, I asked Zhao Zichen to help me investigate my aunt, but when he heard her name, he gave me a "don't you know what's going on" expression.

"Do you know Commissioner Qi from the city's Public Security Bureau?"

I shook my head. "I don't see what this has to do with my aunt."

Zhao Zichen explained, "Your aunt Zhang Mei might be almost fifty, but she still looks good. And Commissioner Qi is notoriously promiscuous. I don't think I need to say more."

I came to the realization that Zhao Zichen meant that my aunt and Commissioner Qi were having an affair.

"No way. My aunt and uncle had a great relationship. After my uncle passed, she never found anyone else."

"Everyone on the street knows about it. Commissioner Qi has a wife at home and your aunt outside. Zhang Mei runs a restaurant in Black Alley. The Black Dragons and the Red Lanterns all know not to bother them because they're under Commissioner Qi's special protection. You're the only one who doesn't know."

I was stunned speechless for a while. The sudden glimpse into this other side of my aunt's life was like an illusion. It was completely different from the deep love she had acted out.

I did not mean that she had to remain a widow but her daily abuse and rants about my parents killing her beloved were a bit ridiculous now.

I smiled helplessly. "Alright then."

Zhao Zichen exhorted, "Commissioner Qi is particularly protective. Your aunt has been with him for so many years, it can't be just a physical deal anymore. There have to be some feelings between them. Don't do anything rash. Commissioner Qi doesn't yield."

I kept smiling. "I have other plans."

"I'm not joking with you. He doesn't bow to threats. He's usually fair, but when he's protective, he goes all the way. Just observe the way that Xu Xiang is stuck as deputy commissioner under him, and you will be able to tell that he's got his ways. You can't use physical strength to threaten him or use Junran to scare him. He won't fall for it..."

"You speak as though I only have two methods."

"Then what else can you do?" Zhao Zichen asked curiously.

"It's a secret," I replied.

At around three in the afternoon, Zhao Zichen gave me some good news. Qingqing and Ma Dazhuang were out of danger and had been transferred to the intensive care unit.

I felt a burden lift off my back and I entrusted Zhao Zichen with taking care of the two of them before leaving the hospital.

Since Lutong had temporarily closed, Chu Xiaoxiao did not need to go to work and could spend every day with me.

My driver's license had not been reissued yet, so Chu Xiaoxiao drove. She asked me what our next stop was.

"Are you planning to look for a close acquaintance in the government? I have a few old classmates who might be able to help," Chu Xiaoxiao suggested.

I nodded and smiled. "The person I'm looking for might even be someone you know."

"Who are you talking about?" she asked, uncomprehending.

"Your fan Li Ge's father, Li Liang."

"Him? Why would he help you?" Chu Xiaoxiao was taken aback. "Uncle Li has never done this; he doesn't sell favors. Look at the way Li Ge has to work in a securities firm after graduating. Uncle Li will never use his power to smooth the way for anyone."

"I'm not asking anyone to smooth the way. I'm just looking for justice when I'm being wronged."

Chu Xiaoxiao groaned in frustration. "You don't understand him. It's not going to work, he's not going to help you. He doesn't even help his own son. Why would he help you?"

I stretched and said, "Then let's bet on it. He'll definitely help me."

Chu Xiaoxiao laughed. "Zhang Chao, you're definitely going to lose. I hope he'll help you, but you don't understand him."

"That's the point. He won't help his son because he'll do anything to uphold his good image. That's why he'll help me. What will you give me if you lose?"

Chu Xiaoxiao was surprised at how confident I was.

After some time, she laughed and smirked, licking her lips. "If I lose, you can do whatever you want to me."

Damn! I quickly turned away. I would get a nosebleed if I kept looking at her.

The Chu family and the Li family were on good terms. Li Liang's home turned out to be in the same neighborhood as Chu Xiaoxiao's.

Chu Xiaoxiao parked. "Uncle Li lives here. Let's go inside and wait for him. He's probably not back yet. Are you sure about this?"

"I'm especially sure. I'm already thinking about what to do to you tonight."

The villas here looked the same. I located the doorbell and rang it. After some time, the metal gate opened, and the person who opened it shared the same dumbfounded look as me.

"Li Ge."

"Zhang Chao, how dare you show your face here?!"