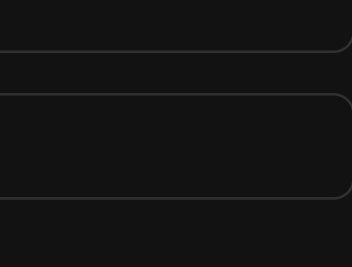


Chapter 269 Causing Trouble



Li Ge's glare looked positively murderous.

"Don't talk about quality to me, uncultured swine! Get out before I call the police."

"Stop yelling. Your father invited us in for dinner," Chu Xiaoxiao explained.

"That's impossible!" he yelled back.

I grabbed his arm to stop him from waving the mop about and said, "Ask Uncle Li yourself. He's just there. Why would we lie to you?"

By this time, Li Liang had parked his car and he called out to Li Ge, "What are you doing with that mop?! Why are you so rude to guests? Have you forgotten all your manners after studying overseas for a few years?!"

Li Ge would never have imagined that his father would be so obvious.

"Dad, are you helping them?"

"Put that down. Zhang Chao and Xiaoxiao are our guests. Tell the kitchen to prepare more dishes."

I smiled. "There's no need, Mayor."

Li Liang smiled. "How can I do that? You're the hero of Tong City. I wanted to invite you to a meal, but I just never found the opportunity."

I figured that Li Ge was currently doubting his whole life right now. He could not believe what he was seeing and hearing.

"Dad, this is Zhang Chao. You're inviting him for dinner? Have you forgotten what he did to me? Have you forgotten that you said you'd teach him a lesson yesterday?"

Li Ge tugged at his father's sleeve, embarrassing Li Liang. He still wanted to fake it in front of me, but Li Ge had revealed everything.

"Stop being so childish! Let go! Is that how you speak to your father?! What's the point of studying so much! Settle your private feud with Zhang Chao yourself. As the city's mayor, I can't use my authority to solve your petty squabbles. If you can't understand that, then you're not my son!"

Li Liang glared at his son. Li Ge did not even dare to raise his head.

As we trailed behind Li Liang to enter the house, Li Ge caught my arm and asked, "What did you do to my father?"

I smiled. "Nothing. Mayor Li has always been a fair mayor who is full of integrity. Come on, let's have dinner."

"Zhang Chao, you've gone too far! Don't think you've won. My father will never help you. He's my father. He'll only help me."

I shook my head at his immaturity.

He had grown up in a safe bubble, and like Chu Xiaoxiao, was naive about many things.

This kind of character trait was cute in a woman, but in a man, it only made him seem ignorant and stupid.

Li Ge could not understand how his father, as mayor of Tong City, could decide who to help based on who he liked.

I did not want to keep arguing with him. It would not be to my advantage.

The dishes were served and a richly-dressed middle-aged woman was directing the staff. She noticed how furious Li Ge looked and waved him over to ask him what the matter was. He whispered back to her, and she turned in Chu Xiaoxiao and my direction.

"You're Zhang Chao?"

From her expression, I could tell that she would not be easy to deal with, so I just nodded and immediately turned to Li Liang. "Mayor, regarding the interview, perhaps we can talk about it first."

"Dinner is already served. We can talk while eating," replied Li Liang.

"Who allowed you to sit down? Zhang Chao, I know what you're the heir to the Junran Group, but you've gone too far with your bullying. How dare you be a guest in my house after humiliating my son yesterday? My family isn't here for you to bully?!" shouted the middle-aged woman suddenly, making Chu Xiaoxiao and I jump.

But before we could say anything, Li Liang said in a disgruntled manner, "These are my guests. Am I not allowed to have guests?"

"You? Why?" Her look of surprise was very similar to Li Ge's, as expected of a mother and son. "I don't care about your reasons. You've never cared about your son and me. I'm not even going to talk about all the times we've suffered for you. But now someone is bullying our son and you brought this person back as a guest, I won't stand for it?!"

I watched the way she dug her heels in and suddenly felt that this was a bad time.

I only wanted to borrow Li Liang's authority to put some pressure on my aunt's actions. I had no intention of showing off in front of Li Ge. So when I saw how fierce their resistance was, I thought about leaving and meeting up with Li Liang another time.

I rubbed my head and said, "Mayor, perhaps we can discuss this on the phone. Please go ahead and eat. I'll send Xiaoxiao home."

Perhaps Li Liang was mistaken that I was angry. His expression darkened and he replied coldly, "Zhang Chao, if you respect me, have dinner here. I apologize for the rudeness of my household. I will punish my son and wife later." Then, he turned to Li Ge and Li Ge's mother, who were respectively shocked and furious, saying, "If you don't want to eat, go take a walk."

"Y—you would chase your son and I out for Zhang Chao?" Li Ge's mother covered her mouth in disbelief.

After Li Ge and his mother rushed out furiously, Li Liang apologized awkwardly to us.

"I'm so sorry, Master Zhang. I apologize for not running a strict household. My son is too stubborn, so I apologize on his behalf."

Li Liang focused his full attention on Chu Xiaoxiao and me, completely ignoring the two people who ran out.

Chu Xiaoxiao stuck her tongue out at me when Li Liang was not looking. I knew that she thought he was cold-hearted.

We made small talk before diving into the subject proper, and I brought up that my aunt had masterminded people into creating trouble for me.

"I heard about that," said Li Liang. "That's definitely not in line with our policies. We are public servants, and the administration needs to work for businesses, not against them. Even though it looks like they are following the rules and regulations, they should be working with you to solve any issues. They should not be using it as a weapon to cause trouble for you. I will have a word with them about this."

This was a real master. He managed to twist his words entirely regarding the same matter. This was what an official was all about.

"Master Zhang, then about the interview..."

I raised my wineglass and smiled. "Please arrange it, Mayor. I'm available at any time."

Li Liang was delighted by my response. He grinned from ear to ear and told me how promising a young man I was.

It was late by the time we finished eating. I did not know where Li Ge and his mother went, but they did not return.

Since Chu Xiaoxiao's house was in this neighborhood, we took a stroll around. The environment in this neighborhood was very good. It was quiet, and you could see the stars when you looked up.

"Ugh, I never thought that Uncle Li was that kind of person. While growing up, he always seemed fair to me. I never expected him to act like this," Chu Xiaoxiao said as she gazed at the stars, clinging to my arm.

"People are complicated. No one is completely good or completely bad. Take Mayor Li for example. He seems to be fair and has integrity, but he loves power and reputation more than his own family. But someone like Chen Ruhai was a ruthless and cruel man, but the way he treated his son was entirely different."