

Chapter 277 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

I picked up a cup and tossed it back and forth between my hands, speaking nonchalantly, "I'm curious. There are so many beautiful women in the world, and Xiaoxiao won't satisfy your fetish. Why pursue her?"

Li Ge's eyes flicked around nervously. "She's my first love. Every man is always hung up on their first love. I—Ah, what was that for!"

I threw the cup in his direction and it hit the wall not five centimeters from his face and shattered.

"Tell me the truth," I said coldly.

"I...I was speaking the truth..."

I picked up a fruit knife from the plate of fruits on the table and started tossing that.

"Don't, please. We can talk, please."

Li Ge covered his face with his hands. I took the opportunity to pull the blanket away and looked pointedly between his legs. He was so scared that his voice changed.

"I'll talk, I'll talk. I'm an account manager at Hongtong Securities. I—I want Chu Huai'en to buy our products. And of course, I do like Chu Xiaoxiao."

"Bullshit, everyone knows that Chu Huai'en doesn't have any money," I said to bait him.

"He...he..." Li Ge gulped and said, "That's a cover-up. He's establishing a financial company in Chu Xiaoxiao's name. He's applying for the business license now. However, he doesn't have a good reputation, and they won't grant it to him. He's gone around asking for help and even asked my father."

"Tell me more. What kind of financial company is he setting up?"

"It's not that mysterious, it's just kept secret from outsiders. I happened to crack the case. I studied finance and I know about this stuff. I recognized the inconsistencies when I was investigating his funds. Everyone thinks he's bankrupt, so they won't suspect him of anything. He got a sum of money from somewhere and he's possibly looking into microloans."

I had no knowledge of financial matters. Li Ge had explained it, but I did not understand him.

However, I could not let him know that otherwise he would definitely try and fool me.

"Tell me everything in one go," I reminded him.

"It's similar to loansharking but legal. The loan is for seven or fourteen days with very high interest rates. Even higher than the loan sharks."

"That's legal?"

"There are loopholes in the law. It's just difficult to get a license for this. Once the license is granted, it's possible to earn a lot of money before the regulators notice. Even if the regulators find out, you won't lose out. You can keep the principal and give up the profits."

Something still did not seem right. "He ruined his own reputation just to be a loan shark?"

"Don't underestimate it. There's a lot to be earned. It's different from normal loansharking. You can just sit and wait for the money to roll in."

I did not know much about finance, but logically speaking, it could not be as easy as Li Ge said it was. Chu Huai'en was being very serious about it. Could he really be loansharking and risking imprisonment for high rewards?

"I've told you everything I know. I haven't lied. I want to pursue Chu Xiaoxiao because Chu Huai'en is using her to establish the company. If I marry her, I'll be able to get my hands on the company."

"You're pretty shrewd," I sneered.

"I beg you, please let me go. I won't pursue Chu Xiaoxiao again."

He had probably said all he could. Asking further would not get me any answers.

"Get up." I grabbed the chain and forced him down from the bed.

Li Ge was crying as he said, "What do you want with me? I really won't do anything to Chu Xiaoxiao."

"Do you think I'll believe you so easily? If you meant what you said, you wouldn't keep bothering Xiaoxiao for days on end."

"Zhang Chao, I really do mean it. Let me go. You also need to leave soon. If someone discovers you here, you won't be able to leave so easily."

I smiled. "How considerate of you. You need to see your good deeds through to the end. Why don't you give me all the information you investigated into Chu Huai'en?"

Li Ge was taken aback. "No! Chu Huai'en will have me killed!"

"You're the mayor's son. Why would you be afraid of a businessman?"

With red-rimmed eyes, he replied, "Zhang Chao, I finally get it. You came here for me today. I've already told you everything, but I can't give you the information. I promise I won't touch Chu Xiaoxiao. She's all yours. Don't underestimate Chu Huai'en. He might be a businessman, but his position in the martial arts world is comparable to Chen Ruhai's."

I had not expected that Li Ge would know about the martial arts world. Smiling, I told him, "Chu Huai'en might be scary, but I'm not to be messed with either. It's your choice on who to offend."

"Zhang Chao, I've already told you everything I can. There's no point in forcing me further. Hurry up and leave before someone finds you here."

I turned in the direction of the door. There were rapid footsteps outside. My heart skipped a beat. What was going on?

I heard Zhang Mei's voice come from outside. "Come out, Nephew."

I spun around and glared at Li Ge.

"You called someone here?!"

"No! You've been watching me all this while. How could I?"

It was true, I had kept Li Ge cornered and he could not escape. Xiaoke was still unconscious. How had Zhang Mei found me?

Since she had found me, I could not hide, even though I really did not want to see her.

"Come out, you can't run away. It's been five years since we saw each other. Let's talk."

I took a deep breath. There was no use in being afraid. What would be, would be.

It was odd that bullets could not faze me, but she terrified me. The thought of her face made me clench my fists. My hatred and terror of her had seeped into my bones.

I tugged Li Ge up. "Pull yourself together. Come with me!"

"Don't. There are no grievances between us," he whimpered.

Li Ge's outfit was particularly easy to maneuver. I found a pair of handcuffs in a pile of toys on the table and put him in them. Then, I stuffed something in his mouth.

He struggled and almost fell to his knees.

"Enough. Stop crying. You spent money on these fake services, but you're not keen on the real thing? Put your money where your mouth is. Get up!"