

Chapter 289 Ji Family

"Try me. You're just a dog. You clung on to Zhang Chao when he was alive, and now he's dead, you cling on to Commissioner Qi. Stay away from me," Zhao Zichen said ruthlessly.

Xia Genghuai was incensed by his words, but he could only sneer back, "You might not be scared, but how about your Red Lanterns brothers? Sure, I might be a dog. But as the saying goes, you need to watch out for the master before you hit the dog. Are you going to oppose Commissioner Qi?"

This hit straight at Zhao Zichen's weak spot. He was always smart and levelheaded except when it came to his Red Lanterns brothers.

He grit his teeth and lowered the gun, glaring at Xia Genghuai. "Watch your back."

Xia Genghuai now turned to Chu Xiaoxiao. "Put the gun away too, otherwise, you won't be able to leave. Don't do anything stupid, Chu Xiaoxiao. We were classmates; take my advice."

Chu Xiaoxiao was weeping. "Xia Genghuai, are you crazy? Didn't you hear what he said? Zhang Chao is dead and he killed him. You used to be good friends with Zhang Chao, why aren't you taking revenge for him!"

Xia Genghuai was actually panicking inside. He could not be sure whether I was really dead, and for his own safety, he had to keep up his act.

"You can't bring someone back to life. It's not like Zhang Chao was a good person. Mourn and find a better one."

Chu Xiaoxiao was absolutely dumbfounded. She could never have imagined that over the course of one night, everyone had betrayed me. All my supposed friends had taken off their masks and revealed their dark sides.

Chu Xiaoxiao was so angry that she could no longer control her emotions. She was crying and grimacing at the same time. It was heartbreaking.

"I know. You're all in this together. Zhang Chao is so smart, there's no way he didn't see through you. You shameless bastards, you can die. Together."

Chu Xiaoxiao was heartbroken. She suddenly moved and aimed at Zhao Zichen and Xia Genghuai. Both men jumped in surprise.

I dashed over and grabbed Chu Xiaoxiao, pushing her hand holding the gun upward. The gun fired at the same time, and the bullet shattered the chandelier hanging from the ceiling.

At the same time, Zhao Zichen did not hesitate and fired too. If I had not grabbed Chu Xiaoxiao and rolled away, we would definitely have been injured.

While panicking, Rock found himself still alive. He scrambled behind Xia Genghuai, and his subordinates helped him up.

I found a table to use as a shield. Both sides had guns, but the lights had gone out and no one dared to shoot.

"Hand Chu Xiaoxiao over. Mind your own business and I'll let you go," Zhao Zichen said.

I was so angry that smoke might be coming out of my ears. I fired in the direction of Zhao Zichen's voice, but it was a random shot and I did not aim at or hit him.

Neither Zhao Zichen nor Baldie had special forces training. They could roughly tell where I was, but not as accurately as I could.

I said loudly, "Haha, I don't feel like minding my own business today. I'm just someone named Ji with a rotten life, but this situation is interesting. Let's create more trouble and see where we end up."

I purposely said that my surname was Ji. It just came out, because it was my mother's surname. I had not been thinking of anything else.

Baldie knew who I was. I only wanted to deceive Zhao Zichen and Rock so that they could not figure out who I was.

One of the reasons why I missed my shot was because of Baldie. I wanted him to know that I did not kill Zhao Zichen for his sake. Baldie knew what I was capable of. He would understand my intention.

But just as I finished speaking, Baldie—who had not said anything all this while—suddenly asked in the darkness, "What did you say your name was?"

Was he stupid? I thought to myself. He knew who I was. Why was he asking about a name that I had just made up?

I fired a random shot in Baldie's direction and replied, "None of your business."

Baldie's tone did not change. "Big brother, are you from the Ji family? There's only one Ji family in the martial arts world."

I immediately caught on. He wanted to take advantage of my bluff.

As expected, after he said that, Zhao Zichen whispered back in surprise, "From the Ji family? That's impossible."

Rock was unaware of the implications. "Who cares what his surname is. Kill him."

Zhao Zichen ground his teeth together. "No, we can't touch him. This is the rule in the martial arts world. Otherwise, we're all dead."

The seriousness of Zhao Zichen's tone left Rock stunned.

Zhao Zichen did not know that the man was me and that Baldie was playing along with me. He sounded quite panicked.

Brainless Rock scoffed. "Why not? Is his brain bulletproof?"

"You don't understand the rules of the martial artists. There are nine big families. Decades ago, after the decline of the Yin family, the Ji family became the strongest. They have always been the richest and most powerful, and no one dares to touch them. If you do, you'll die a terrible death. But the Ji family retreated into the mountains more than ten years ago, why would they be back? Baldie, did you hear right?"

I said loudly, "So, there are still people with the knowledge. I thought no one remembered the Ji family."

Zhang Mei called out in the darkness, "Brother Zhao, don't scare us. Ji Yanran is dead. Did anyone avenge her?"

I got a shock. Had my aunt known from the start that it was no ordinary accident? Otherwise, why would she say that?

"Haha," Zhao Zichen replied, "Why fabricate an accident unless you're afraid of retaliation? The Ji family has a rule: Don't kill suspects. The big families take their rules very seriously. For example, the Yue's is to be upright and never lie, and the Yin's is no gambling, no drugs. The martial arts world takes its rules very seriously. If he's really from the Ji family, we can't touch him."

They thought they were being quiet, but I heard everything.

Rock mocked him, "You just don't dare."

Zhao Zichen fell silent. After a while, he said, "I don't. Go ahead if you dare. No one offends the Ji family."

That was awkward. Zhao Zichen's words made those who were not familiar with the martial arts world worried and put Rock in a hard place.

Embarrassed, Rock asked, "Brother Zhao, are you thinking too much? What if he's not from that Ji family?"

Zhao Zichen hemmed. "Baldie, you ask him."

And Baldie did. "The Ji family went into seclusion years ago. Why are you here?"

I did not know much about the Ji family, but since they had been in seclusion for so long, I did not think they knew any more than I did. Besides, half of the blood that ran through me was Ji.

I laughed. "You're Zhao Zichen? With your surname and your knowledge, you must be one of the Zhaos from the nine big families. I'm here to take back the painting that my elder left behind. I don't need to elaborate, I'm sure."

I heard Zhao Zichen gasp sharply. "Mount Wuxiang?"

Baldie quickly ran with my story. "Brother, you walk a different path. This has nothing to do with us. Don't get mixed up in this."