

Chapter 297 A Trusted Brother

Baldie was so anxious that he could not speak. His face was flushed red and I had never seen him look so ashamed before.

"Boss..."

"Don't call me Boss. I don't have a brother like you, Baldie. I ordered you to kill Zhang Chao, but you lied to me and said you killed him. You betrayed me."

"I..."

By now, I was very sure that Zhao Zichen was not acting. No one could be that realistic.

If he was acting, there was no need to lie to Baldie.

"You're a highly-skilled apprentice of the Cloud Cliff Sect. I'm no match for you. All of us here combined are no match for you. Get out of here. I don't ever want to see you again."

Rock could only watch the drama unfold. Perceptiveness was not a strong point of his.

Baldie's eyes had gone red. This was the first time I had seen him so emotional.

"Boss, I'm one of the Red Lanterns. I won't leave."

"You won't leave?! Haha, do you treat me like a fool? Why did you help disguise Zhang Chao and hide him? What was your reason for doing so? I'm already giving you a boon by not demanding the answers for this. I'm being nice to you but you still don't know what's good for you."

"Boss, I won't leave. You're my benefactor. The Cloud Cliff Sect must repay all kindness. Even if you kill me today, I will not leave."

Not only did Baldie not leave, he took a step back and got down on one knee.

He glanced over at the bottle on the table and ground out, "I should be condemned for my lack of faith. I will cut my hand off to show my loyalty!"

So saying, he brandished the bottle and broke it. Then, he picked up a shard of glass and stabbed at his palm with it.

Zhao Zichen himself was obviously shocked, but he did not utter a sound. From this, I wholeheartedly believed that he had betrayed me.

There was no reason for Baldie to lose a hand unless he really wanted me dead, and Baldie failed to kill me.

If this was just an act, how could Zhao Zichen bear to pay such a price?

I wanted to stop him, but Baldie was too fast and I was already too late.

"Wait." At that moment, a shout came out from Rock's swollen mouth. The shard of glass stopped just one centimeter from Baldie's hand.

"Brother Zhao, you need to think positive. See, Brother Baldie brought Zhang Chao here for us didn't he? Doesn't Chu Xiaoxiao want to see proof of Zhang Chao's dead body? You can kill him today and deliver the body to her."

Zhao Zichen did not take him up on that. Instead, he said, "Brother Rock, I'll be honest with you. Right now, I have more than a hundred Red Lanterns mouths to feed. How much income can I get from the Black Alley? It's not enough to make ends meet. I heard from Zhang Chao that you're manufacturing weapons. That's why I came to speak to you, to talk about money. Business is about integrity. I can't have a man that you don't trust by my side."

Rock smiled. "I trust him, I do. He has such good skills, let him be my personal bodyguard."

I could not tell whether Rock was joking, but he had stopped Baldie.

Rock continued lamenting, "Brother Zhao, I honestly didn't really trust you before, but your actions have really proven yourself to me. Let's earn this money together. I've long wanted a partner for this business. I was wondering just now why Zhang Chao could trick me, and it was because I'm not a crafty person. I need a strategist like you by my side."

Zhao Zichen looked at him in astonishment. "Aren't you worried that I'm Zhang Chao's spy? I was on pretty good terms with him."

Rock breezily replied him, "How could you be? If you hadn't poured tea on Zhang Chao, I would never have recognized that it was him. I trust you, Brother Zhao!"

He turned to me again, but he had been bitten too many times. He now had a fear of me, and he stayed as far from me as possible.

"Oh Zhang Chao, the little bitch Sun Qiaoqiao told you quite a lot. You just want to get in the way of my business tomorrow. But such a pity that Brother Zhao has seen through your plan."

My eyes were bloodshot in my rage and I wished that I could burn Zhao Zichen up just with my gaze.

"I never thought that this bastard would break his word."

Cackling, Rock said, "Brother Zhao, look at how he's scolding you. He's just trash. Kill him."

He passed Zhao Zichen a gun.

"Brother Zhao, don't tell me that I'm too cautious. If you kill Zhang Chao, you will be my brother. We are both in this line of business. Killing one man can't be difficult."

One of the security guards held my head down with his foot. Baldie could not save me; he only listened to Zhao Zichen's orders.

There was only one wish in my heart: That Zhao Zichen was only acting and had not gone back on his word.

But Zhao Zichen did not hesitate. He aimed the gun at my head and pulled the trigger.

I squeezed my eyes shut to wait for the inevitable, but the gun made a soft click. I was not dead.

Zhao Zichen turned warily to Rock.

Laughing loudly, Rock pushed the muzzle to point down. "Brother Zhao, there are no bullets in this gun."

Zhao Zichen leveled a fake smile at him. "You're testing me?"

"At least you passed. From the way you didn't hesitate, I believe you're not in cahoots with Zhang Chao."

Zhao Zichen frowned in displeasure. "Boss Rock, we're working with each other. Don't test me and just give me a real loaded gun. I'm not worried about blowing Zhang Chao's brains out. I just want to work together. I have mouths to feed."

Rock had not expected to be rebuked. He mocked Zhao Zichen, "Sure, little brother. Let me tell you what we'll do tomorrow. Our goods will come out of three warehouses. Since Zhang Chao is already warning me, that police officer Xia Genghuai might cause trouble. The police might be on to me, so I can't appear at the delivery site. We always take the normal roads when delivering our goods, but we need to be extra careful now. There will be three routes. I've already assigned two to my most trusted brothers. You can take the other route. I'll settle the transaction away from the goods."

This was a clear message to Zhao Zichen: "The benefits are mine, the dangers are yours."

The most dangerous part of the transaction was the delivery.

Zhao Zichen nodded and was about to say something when Rock's phone started ringing.

"What? Where's Yanzi?"Rock shouted into the phone.

It looked like Ayu had made his move.

The soundproofing of Rock's phone was faulty, and my hearing was very good, so I could hear what the person on the phone was saying.

The panicked middle-aged man was saying, "Boss Rock, we don't know either. Yanzi was on the street just outside the Devil's Eye bar today when she was taken away by a man. I tried her phone but she didn't answer. Since you had me keep an eye on her and I didn't want to disappoint you, I called you at once."

Rock was very upset. He hung up as the man blabbered on.

He tried to reach Yanzi by phone too, but as expected, the phone was switched off.

Zhao Zichen tried to comfort Rock, who was anxious and ashen-faced. "Boss Rock, do you think someone wanted to investigate your shipment tomorrow but could not find any clues, so made a move against the woman closest to you?"