

Chapter 304 Actual Boss

Zhao Zichen was very disappointed, and I could understand how he felt.

I said, "You're hoping that he'll repent and apologize to Sun Qiaoqiao. But you're wrong. This type of person won't face reality until it smacks him in the face. He'll never repent or apologize.

Sun Qiaoqiao asked us to take revenge for her, and we have done so. She can rest in peace. Rock, how long have you been doing this?"

Before Rock could say anything, Zhao Zichen spoke up, "You don't need to ask him."

"Huh?"

Both Rock and I did not understand his nuance. Zhao Zichen took a deep breath and said, "In the two days I've been following him, I discovered that he's only in charge of manufacturing. The raw materials are provided by someone else and he's not responsible for distribution. His upline and downline are the same people. They'll send a car to accept the shipment but Rock won't get to interact with the actual buyer. He's never seen them before."

I frowned. "That means he's just an outsourced factory. He's not even a cog in this whole chain."

Rock grit his teeth and chimed in, panicked, "That's right. I—I didn't do much wrong. Let me go!"

An odd sort of laughter came from Zhao Zichen, who suddenly knelt in front of Rock. I could not see his face, but from Rock's terrified reaction, Zhao Zichen's expression must be scary.

Then all at once, before Baldie or I could react, Zhao Zichen ripped out the dagger sticking out of Rock's waist and—with lightning-fast reflexes—stabbed it in his throat.

"What are you doing?!"

Rock convulsed in a pool of blood, still alive. Pain and the agony of being unable to breathe haunted his last seconds.

Zhao Zichen peered down at him, wiping at the blood that had spurted onto his face.

"You're mistaken. I'm not taking revenge for Sun Qiaoqiao. You shouldn't have threatened me. Your subordinates used my father to threaten me just to get Sun Qiaoqiao's medical records. I'm sorry, that was when I decided to kill you."

Rock reached up with great difficulty to cover his throat. Then, he stopped moving.

The room was silent. Baldie and I had both killed before, but we both shuddered at the sight of Zhao Zichen covered in blood.

Only the waiter, still eating melon seeds, said, "Bro, you've done it again. What did Old Ge teach

you? Be compassionate, don't be bloodthirsty. You'll go overboard one day."

"Enough with the nonsense. The old man's been gone for so long. I kill, you clean. Stop nagging and start cleaning."

"Don't make a big fuss like this next time. Let us know before you let the blood flow. It's harder to clean when it's all over the floor like this."

I grabbed hold of Zhao Zichen's wrist, barely holding in my fury. "Zhao Zichen, do you know what you've done? You've killed!"

"I know. He killed Sun Qiaoqiao, so I killed him. It's fair. That's what the Zhao family has done for generations. Enforcing justice and taking revenge."

I felt like I did not recognize him.

"No matter what, you can't kill. You have no right!"

"Who has the right? The police? Will he be sentenced to death? Sun Qiaoqiao's autopsy report has

been destroyed and while the body isn't cremated, after so long, the evidence has disappeared.

He's just a bit player on this gun-running case. He'll be out after a short stint in prison. I promised to take revenge for Sun Qiaoqiao..."

"You still have to let the police investigate," I replied, "He must have other incriminating evidence that might get him the death sentence."

Zhao Zichen shot back aggressively, "And if there isn't?"

"If there really isn't, the crime of selling guns might be enough..."

Zhao Zichen said quietly, "Zhang Chao, Sun Qiaoqiao is dead. So Rock had to die. Otherwise, it isn't fair."

We argued, and Zhao Zichen refused to give in.

"There are many ways to take revenge. Equal retribution is the least desirable outcome. Only a judge can sentence someone to death, we can't. He killed someone, and you killed him in return.

Do you want to turn into him?"

Zhao Zichen turned to me exasperated. "Are we going to fight about this here? Or do you want to arrest me?"

"I'm not getting through to you. But it stops here now. We don't subscribe to 'An eye for an eye'."

I did not wish to fight with Zhao Zichen. Rock was already dead and as Zhao Zichen himself said, there was no way I would arrest him because of Rock.

However, I felt very uncomfortable. All special forces soldiers had the same common principle.

We could only strike our enemies when wearing our uniform. Outside of uniform, we could not kill.

Zhao Zichen kept his mouth shut after that. I did not know how much I said actually registered. It was not that I considered myself a saint, but if he kept killing as he liked, he would become a monster.

The waiter started cleaning up Rock's corpse. Rock's eyes were wide open and staring at the ceiling. It was unexpected for someone like him, one of the old guard, to die like this.

I had seen many corpses before. The ones on the battlefield died in worse ways than this.

"How many days can you hide this body before someone finds it?" I asked casually.

"What do you mean? Are you looking down on me? Feng, Ma, Yan, Que... This is what our Yan School does. Clean up. We're very professional. Even a police dog won't be able to find the body after a thorough search."

I shrugged helplessly. "You're so good at all these illegal activities. Tell me honestly, how many days can the body be buried for? I don't believe that no one will be able to find it. Rock's death is easily explained away. This case is commissioned by the military. Rock was armed with a gun, and Zhao Zichen doesn't know martial arts. He was worried and defended against Rock with a knife. This is a normal reaction. Zhao Zichen, this is the only time I'm going to lie for you. If

there's a next time, I won't be able to protect you." Zhao Zichen smiled. "Yes, yes, Master Zhang will take the lead in the future. Don't worry, the body will remain hidden for as long as you want it to be. Rock's upline and downline won't notice that he's dead."

I shook my head. "I want them to realize that Rock is dead after some time. The disappearance of someone along the line is more alarming to these people than the discovery that he's dead. We can't forget that we're fighting a criminal group that's very wary and very careful."

Zhao Zichen's reply was earnest. "This group is definitely very wary. As their external contractor, Rock was the weakest link in their chain. Whether we can make contact with Rock's actual boss... Only tomorrow will tell."