

So Pure, So Flirtatious

Chapter 46: Yang Ming's Worries

-- --

During the afternoon, Yang Ming went out to take a bath. He learned from a movie that he would need to take a bath to wash away the bad luck when he left prison. Although he was released from a detention center, it was almost the same.

Father Yang felt more relaxed after knowing that Yang Ming was fine. He had requested the afternoon off at the factory. He went to the market to buy some fish and got ready for tonight's homecoming celebration for Yang Ming.

Mother Yang who worked in the street community was relieved after she received a call from Father Yang. Because of her son, Mother Yang wasn't happy at work these days. Even her coworker noticed that her spirits lifted. Her coworker had been persistently asking about the Yang family matters. Since Yang Ming's arrest was shameful, Mother Yang didn't tell anyone about it. She knew that a case like this would be difficult to keep secret but she wanted to hide it for as long as possible. Knowing that her son was acquitted, she was completely freed from her worries and smiled from ear to ear.

Mother Yang was a laid-off worker. After being laid off, the street wanted to take care of her. Thus, she was arranged to be a temporary worker in the community. She couldn't apply for leave like Father Yang. Her pay was based on the number of hours worked. As such, if she applied for time off, her pay would be reduced. Thus, Mother Yang could only get off from work in the evening.

Yang Ming felt sorry in his heart when he saw his delighted parents go through the effort to get together and prepare so many dishes! It was his fault for making such a mistake but they still treated him so well. It was such a great display of parental love.

Father Yang raised his voice as he welcomed Yang Ming, "Big Ming, time to eat! Mom, stop working. Finish the rice in the pot before you scrub the kitchen utensils!"

Yang Ming said with sorrow, "Dad, Mom, you have been worried about me so much. I am sorry..."

"Silly boy, why are you saying sorry? You shouldn't be sorry for us but Lin Zhiyun!" Mother Yang laughed as she patted Yang Ming's shoulder. "Your dad had told me almost everything. Originally, I had the same thoughts as your dad to look for the girl.

However, if Lin Zhiyun doesn't wish to meet with us, let's forget about it. However, you should always remember that you owe her!"

"Mom, I understand even you didn't say anything." It seemed Yang Ming had become more mature in these past few days. He had a more profound view in dealing with people and matters.

Mother Yang shook her head as she said compassionately, "Alright, let's dig in. During these two days in detention hall, you must not have eaten anything good. I heard that the food supply in the cafeteria is scarce and many prisoners fight for food. It is good enough if there is something to eat especially for someone like you that got in recently!"

"Pu..." Yang Ming was enjoying his soup. He almost spat out the soup when he heard the joke from his mother. "Mom, who did you hear this from?"

Mother Yang thought a little while and said, "During my time in the countryside, my neighbor, Qu Laoer's father who used to be in prison said it!"

Yang Ming asked, "Qu Laoer? How old is his dad?"

"He is almost ninety years old this year!" Mother Yang was a little curious. "Big Ming, why are you asking about it so much?"

Yang Ming smiled bitterly as he said, "Come on, Mom. His dad is already approaching ninety years old this year. Did his case happen during the Republic period or Qing Dynasty period? Currently, the food in the detention center might taste bad but having enough to be full isn't an issue!" Indeed, there were cases of fighting for food among the prisoners in the detention center, but they were fighting for the better food which was limited in supply. For instance, it could be a steamed bun, etc. It wasn't possible for everyone to have it. Prisoners who failed to get those could still fill their stomachs with rice or porridge. However, Yang Ming and Bao Sanli were together. In addition, Yang Ming gave Yu Xiangde a humiliating defeat that night. Their group became the prison tyrants. Who would dare take away their food?

After Mother Yang heard Yang Ming's explanation, she realized that her example was a bit far-fetched. Embarrassed, she laughed and said, "Mom was worried about you!"

Thereupon, the whole family finished their dinner in a harmonious atmosphere. Afterward, Yang Ming proactively cleared away the dishes without waiting for Mother Yang to stand up.

Mother Yang was surprised by Yang Ming's behavior. "Big Ming, why are you so diligent after disappearing for a few days? Meanwhile, her expression showed gratification. Usually, Yang Ming was someone who just left his dishes at the table after a meal. He never helped to clean up.

Yang Ming felt deeply ashamed as these words came out of his mouth, "Mom, I have grown up. It is time for me to shoulder the responsibility from you." It seemed that the earlier version of him was outrageous or else how could his mother be so happy just for him doing house chores! In reality, Yang Ming did this out of habit. In the detention hall, he had to clear away his own tableware and separate them into different bins.

"Alright, Mom knows your kind intentions. Let Mom handle these. What matters the most for you is to study and enroll in a good university. It will be the best out of everything!" Mother Yang smiled as she took the dishes in Yang Ming's hand. "You didn't go to school for these few days. You might not be able to catch up with your studies. Quickly return to your room and study. Also, your Teacher Zhao just called yesterday. She asked why you didn't attend school for the past two days. I mentioned that you were sick. By the way, Yang Ming, this case wouldn't leave any records, right? The school wouldn't find out about it, right?"

There wouldn't be any record since Lin Zhiyun had withdrawn the lawsuit. The police department would close the case. Chen Fei wouldn't want him to have any bad records! But, school! Yang Ming was tense. By law, it was impossible for the school to know about this matter, but how about Wang Zhitao? Had he already spread this news around? As a matter of fact, he was the culprit for all of this. His goal was to destroy Yang Ming's image in front of Chen Mengyan! If he reported this to the school, will I be expelled?

Mother Yang saw Yang Ming frowning his eyebrows as he was deep in his thoughts. She was worried as she asked, "Big Ming, what's the matter?"

"Oh... nothing much." Yang Ming pretended nothing had happened as he forced a smile. His parents didn't know of the matter regarding Wang Zhitao. Yang Ming didn't want them to know that he was set up because of a girl. As such, Yang Ming had spoken to them vaguely when he was at the detention hall. He only mentioned that it was the result of revenge from his nemesis.

Now that he thought about it, would this be the end of this situation? Would Wang Zhitao give up so easily? He wouldn't be! He even took such sinister actions. Yang Ming had not the slightest doubt that Wang Zhitao was incapable of doing things worse than this.

Chapter 47: A Flirtatious Phone Call

--- --

“Oh ya, Big Ming, for the past two days there was a girl who phoned our house and she called twice!” Mother Yang pretended that she just remembered it and told Yang Ming. She secretly observed the change in Yang Ming’s expression.

“Girl?” Astonished, Yang Ming asked, “Who?” From the time he was little until now, he, himself, had never received a phone call from a girl. How could this not surprise him?

Mother Yang looked at Yang Ming’s surprised face and gave out a sigh of relief as she didn’t think he was pretending. As a mother, if there was a girl who called to find her son two days in a row, how could she not be concerned? Yang Ming was at a crucial time in his life. If his studies were ruined because of an early relationship, that would be bad!

“She said she was Chen Mengyan. She’s your classmate.” Relieved, Mother Yang answered.

“Chen Mengyan? It was actually her!” Yang Ming’s words made Mother Yang who just let out her sigh of relief tense up again. However, his next sentence let her relax again. “She is our study commissary. It was she who helped me to study recently!”

“So this was actually the case. Then you should quickly give her a call. She must be concerned with why you were not going to school!” Mother Yang nodded her head. In her opinion, a study commissary must be the best student in the class. Her son, even though she didn’t want to admit it, was a bad student. How could a bad student be in a relationship with a good student? Now that she heard that Chen Mengyan was just helping Yang Ming to study, Mother Yang naturally thought that this was just part of a pairing system that the school had set up to help bad students to improve.

“Sure!” Yang Ming was nervous. Could it be that Wang Zhitao already told my story to Chen Mengyan so she called to ask? If that wasn’t the case, why didn’t she call me when I skipped class in the past?

Even though he was worried, Yang Ming still dug out the class contact number list and called Chen Mengyan’s house number. Yang Ming wanted to clarify what had happened. If Wang Zhitao had already shared all of his stories, then he should prepare beforehand countermeasures for his explanation to the school.

“Hi, greetings, who are you looking for?” The phone call went through and he heard the sound of a male voice.

“Hi, I am looking for Chen Mengyan.” When Yang Ming first heard a man on the other end, he thought the voice sounded really familiar. Could it be Chen Mengyan’s father?

“Alright, please wait a bit,” said the guy. In a little while, he heard Chen Mengyan’s voice on the phone, “Hello.”

“Mengyan, it’s me!” Yang Ming thought to himself. Chen Mengyan’s parents were pretty open. A guy called her and he didn’t even ask who the caller was.

“Ah... hmph! Do you still know how to call me?!” When Chen Mengyan first heard Yang Ming’s voice, she was obviously a bit agitated. This brat had skipped class for two days! He didn’t even bother to tell her beforehand and that caused her to turn around and look back at his seat many times over the past two days. However, once she said it out aloud, she felt like her tone was sending some ambiguous signals. She turned around to look at her parents who were watching television but since they weren’t paying attention to her, she felt at ease.

Since a phone call couldn’t show pictures, Yang Ming couldn’t really see that Chen Mengyan’s face looked like a complaining little girl. As he heard Chen Mengyan’s cold humph, he was so scared that his heart almost jumped out. Did she already find out about that?

“I...” Yang Ming was tongue-tied. He didn’t really know what he should say.

“You... What you? Last time, you skipped class for a day without any reason. This time was even better. You skipped class for no reason for two days straight!” Chen Mengyan said a bit angrily. In her heart, she was saying, If you had this kind of half-hearted attitude and still wanted to enter the same university as me, you are obviously dreaming!

Two days? I was in there for four days! Oh ya, the day of the incident was on a Saturday so from Chen Mengyan’s perspective it was only two days. Skipped class for no reason? This means Chen Mengyan really didn’t know what I had been up to! It seemed like Wang Zhitao didn’t spread this news out!

“Sorry, I was sick. I was hospitalized for two days...” Yang Ming could only explain in this way.

“You were sick? Are you okay? Really. Then that’s why when I called your house your mom was so vague. She didn’t even tell me where you went. So it was actually the hospital. What was there to hide?” Once she heard how he didn’t skip class on purpose, her resentment dissipated.

“My mom almost thought that you were my girlfriend. How could she tell you this?!” Yang Ming said smilingly, “Oh ya, was the person on the phone just now your father?”

“Yeah, why?” Chen Mengyan complained, “No wonder your mom was acting so mysteriously. Was she concerned that I went to look for you?”

“I guess it was just because my mom hadn’t seen what you look like. If she had seen that you were such a pretty girl, she would have definitely changed her intentions and

asked you to be our Yang family's daughter-in-law!" teased Yang Ming. "So that was your father who you wanted to look handsome, but his voice was pretty manly!" [1]

"Go die! My father is much more of a gentleman and even more handsome than you!" Chen Mengyan was agitated.

"So that means, you only denied the second point, but you tacitly approve the first point?" Yang Ming had a sly smile.

"What first point?" Chen Mengyan didn't really understand what Yang Ming said.

"It is the point about you being the Yang family's daughter-in-law!" Yang Ming continued to tease her. Now that he knew that Wang Zhitao hadn't exposed his case, his mood had turned a lot better.

"Stop saying that! My family members are not far from me. Stop sweet talking me and being so cheeky!" Chen Mengyan complained.

She wasn't angry! Yang Ming's heart was on cloud nine. If a girl was able to accept a guy's teasing, then that meant this girl didn't repel this guy in her heart!

"Does that mean that when your family members aren't around I can sweet talk you?" Yang Ming asked.

"If you continue to be like this, I will stop bothering with you!" Chen Mengyan said in a serious tone. Then after she finished she was concerned that her tone was too harsh, so she added, "As I have said, everything will have to wait until we have entered a university first. Since you have promised me, I hope you can fulfill this promise!"

Yang Ming was elated. With the x-ray and binocular vision, entering into a university was an easy task. However, on the surface, he said calmly, "Alright then, no worries. I am very sure that I will be entering the same university as you. What about you?"

"Me? What about me?" Chen Mengyan felt bewildered with Yang Ming's question.

Chapter 48: Mom I Love You

-- --

"It's what you promised me – be my girlfriend once you have entered university!" Yang Ming smiled.

"I... I only said that I would give you a chance. Stop putting words in my mouth! Okay. Let's stop talking. Tomorrow, you must come to school, or else I will revoke your chance. I am hanging up!" Chen Mengyan felt that her heart was almost jumping out of her throat. She no longer dared to chit chat with this guy and immediately disconnected the phone. She patted her small chest and let out a sigh as she saw that her parents didn't notice her at all. She then quietly returned to her room.

At this moment, in the living room, Father Chen and Mother Chen exchanged a look and took out a small device from their ears.

"Darling, both of us are committing a crime!" Father Chen shook his head and explained, "According to Protection of Minors Act, Article 69, both of us are breaching the privacy of our child!"

"Damn, Little Yan is having a relationship so early. Why are you still in the mood to talk about these things? She's almost eighteen years old and going to be an adult soon! And what crime? I am her mother. So what if we eavesdrop on her conversation! She was a piece of meat that had fallen off from me [1], what privacy is there to preserve?!" Mother Chen snapped.

Father Chen shook his head. Mother Chen's attitude reflected the thinking of many parents at present. In their eyes, their children don't deserve any form of privacy. Even an upright official would find it difficult to settle a family quarrel. Even though Father Chen didn't support what Mother Chen did, he didn't go against it when Mother Chen suggested listening in on their daughter's conversation.

"Puppy love? I don't think so? Didn't Little Yan say something about entering the university first? This means that she is a really responsible child. What else is there to worry about?" Father Chen gestured and said calmly.

"But, what if it affects her studies? Why don't you go to Little Yan's school tomorrow and discuss it with her class teacher?" Mother Chen said with a worried heart.

"No! I cannot go, and you also cannot go! There are two more months until the National Higher Education Entrance Examination. If you were to mess it up and cause our child to be in some sort of defensive mood, it would be terrible! At the present situation, these two children just had some affection towards each other, but nothing was happening yet. How would that affect her studies!" Father Chen shook his head, "Moreover, in these past few months, Little Yan's results haven't really declined!"

"You are right. I think I was a bit too impulsive and I'm glad that you reminded me!" Mother Chen nodded her head and said, "Oh yeah, who was the guy who gave Little Yan a call?"

“Weren’t you listening? He didn’t say it in the phone call so how would I know? Do you think I am Detective Rengjie?” Father Chen gave out a helpless expression and he pointed at the television show that was airing now, <Amazing Detective Di Renjie 3> [2].

“Ai, I am just worried because Little Yan is a girl and she may suffer some losses!” Mother Chen was concerned.

“Haha, you should remember what her father does. Who dares to bully our house’s Little Yan!” Father Chen smiled.

“Ai ya, alright, you say don’t bully then I won’t bully. Eh, where’s your hand touching? Little Yan is not asleep yet!” Mother Yan hurriedly pushed Father Yan aside, “Hmph, you just know how to bully me...”

Yang Ming hung up the call and was feeling really good in his heart. Once he turned around, he noticed that his mom was standing behind him. Suddenly shocked, he asked, “Mom... why are you here? Appearing and disappearing so mysteriously!”

“What’s wrong with me standing here?” Mother Yang stared at Yang Ming and asked, “What? Are you are afraid of me overhearing your conversation?”

“Not really, how could that be?” Yang Ming smiled awkwardly. “I’ll go back to my room to study.”

“Alright, go. I am just considering whether to change my mind about finding another daughter-in-law for the Yang family.” Mother Yang said with a light tone.

“Ah!” Yang Ming’s extended right leg almost stepped on his left foot. “Mom... I...” Yang Ming knew that his mom heard the entire phone conversation.

“Hurry up and go study. If you can’t enter university, how else are you going to get me my daughter-in-law?!” Mother Yang waved her hand signaling him to stop explaining to her.

“I understand! Thank you for your understanding!” Yang Ming speedily gave a kiss on Mother Yang’s face. “Mom, I love you!” Yang Ming was very grateful that he had an open-minded mom. Actually, what he didn’t know was that he had an open-minded father!

“This child!” Mother Yang shook her head. Then turned around to speak to Father Yang who was watching television. “Old Yang, why didn’t you let me criticize him?”

“Big Ming’s results were visible to both of us so why should we criticize him?” At this moment Father Yang paused for a while and then he sighed, “Wasn’t the incident five years ago a strong enough impact for Yang Ming? Do we still want to give him another impact like that?”

Mother Yang paused for a while, then she understood what Father Yang meant. Mother Yang remembered the picture that was still on Yang Ming's bookshelf. The person in the picture was Su Ya.

The next day, Yang Ming came very early to school and saw Wang Zhitao's chauffeur drop him off at school.

"Hey! Yang Ming!" Wang Zhitao greeted Yang Ming as if they were two old buddies who hadn't met each other in a while.

Yang Ming looked at Wang Zhitao who was being extremely friendly to him and was confused. What? What's actually happening?

"I thought we were brothers? You can't recognize me now?" Wang Zhitao tapped Yang Ming's shoulder and said, "I thought you couldn't come today!"

This guy definitely didn't have good intentions. Two sentences in and it was exposed. The guy was insulting him! Yang Ming said coldly, "Yup, aren't you surprised?"

"Yeah, I'm a bit surprised. Hahaha!" Wang Zhitao laughed.

"Are you admitting it?" Yang Ming pressed on.

"Admit? What are you saying?" Wang Zhitao looked at Yang Ming while looking puzzled. "What's there for me to admit?"

"Didn't you say it yourself? You were surprised?" Yang Ming sneered.

"I am surprised, yeah! You drank so much that day. I thought you had to sleep for seven days and seven nights!" Wang Zhitao nodded and asked, "But what's this got to do with me admitting or not admitting anything?"

"What did you do after I was drunk?" Yang Ming asked suddenly.

"Me? I didn't do anything. I saw how you were so drunk that I couldn't wake you up, so I just paid for the bill and asked the waiter to get you a room to rest. Then I left first! Are you saying... that the waiter was cheating you and said I didn't pay the bill?" said Wang Zhitao loudly as he slapped his thigh.

What is going on? Yang Ming observed Wang Zhitao and his actions and words didn't seem like he was faking it! Could it be that what happened that day wasn't done by him, but by another person?

Yesterday, Yang Ming was still baffled as to why Wang Zhitao hadn't exposed his story. Seeing how Wang Zhitao behaved today, could it be that the culprit wasn't really him?

But that wasn't really possible. Yang Ming felt that it must be Wang Zhitao! Other than Wang Zhitao, there was no other person who he had a beef with.

Chapter Notes:

[1] It's a common phrase for Chinese to say that children were part of themselves, part of their meat. It may sound gross in our translation, but in Chinese, it sounds pretty digestible.

[2] Amazing Detective Di Renjie 3

Chapter 49: You Are Mu Guiying

-- --

Yesterday, Yang Ming was still baffled as to why Wang Zhitao hadn't exposed his story. Based on how Wang Zhitao behaved today, could it be that the culprit wasn't really him? But that wasn't really possible. Yang Ming felt that it must be Wang Zhitao! Other than Wang Zhitao, there was no other person who he had a beef with.

Actually, Wang Zhitao already knew that Yang Ming would go to school today! Yesterday, he heard from Zhang Biao that Yang Ming was acquitted! The situation was like this: Wang Zhitao was holding the photos that he took a few days ago wondering when would be a good time to pass them out. Then, Zhang Biao's phone call came.

"Master, I have gotten some news from my friend in the police department. Yang Ming was acquitted!"

"What? Acquitted!" Wang Zhitao almost dropped his phone! There was no way to get around the fact that Yang Ming raped a girl so how could he be acquitted? Could it be that he had a strong family background?

Zhang Biao said, "Yes, they said that the girl suddenly dropped the case so the police department let Yang Ming go."

Damn! Wang Zhitao smashed his phone into the wall and it broke in half. Wang Zhitao said it with resentment, "What the heck were you doing? Why is that motherf***** still alright? Damn, what did Yang Ming offer to that b**** so that she would actually drop the case?"

Wang Zhitao was definitely mad but he knew that he couldn't do anything to Yang Ming this time. The only hope right now lies with the few pictures! Wang Zhitao wanted to distribute the pictures but Yang Ming's case had not settled yet. If he published those

photos first, he would be easily identified as the one behind the scene. Even though he could explain that he stumbled upon the scene accidentally, it would easily bring trouble. His family may have power, but if the police were persistent, he would be in a mess.

Wang Zhitao put the photos in the drawer as he contemplated deeply. How could he utilize these photos to their maximum effect?

Should the photos be given to the school? Let's disregard whether or not the school would believe it. Even if the school was convinced, the school would verify this with the police department. By the time the police department clarified it as a misunderstanding, Yang Ming wouldn't have suffered any negative effect. On the other hand, the police would trace it back to him! Wang Zhitao wouldn't want to do something that brought misery onto himself. By that time, he would have failed to frame Yang Ming. On the contrary, Chen Mengyan would think that he was despicable! That would be such a great loss!

After much deliberation, Wang Zhitao thought of a wonderful idea! I could give those photos to Chen Mengyan privately! Why have I gone so far as to attack Yang Ming? All of it was for Chen Mengyan! If I gave those photos privately to Chen Mengyan, she would not spread this matter out solely because of her personality. With that, I can achieve my objective.

Wang Zhitao felt delighted after settling his final thoughts. Tomorrow, he would pretend nothing had happened in order to maintain a good friendship with Yang Ming. He would deliver the critical hit when Yang Ming least expected.

Thus, the scenario from this morning had played out.

Chen Mengyan had a radiant smile while she stood in front of Yang Ming, "You came?"

"Oh, it is Mu Guiying!" Yang Ming was upset with the matter of Wang Zhitao, but the sight of a pretty girl made him flirt.

"Mu Guiying?" Chen Mengyan was dumbfounded. Was Yang Ming so strange? What was the relationship between me and Mu Guiying?

"Yes, Mu Guiying was the daughter-in-law in the Yang family." Yang Ming said it with a serious tone.

"Daughter-in-law of the Yang family... Yang Ming! You go to hell!" Chen Mengyan threw the pile of paper in her hand onto Yang Ming's head.

"What's this?" Yang Ming looked at the paper scattered on the table as he asked.

“I saved a copy of the papers from the past two days. Go ahead and do them. I will check them again for you after you have finished!” Chen Mengyan rolled her eyes and said, “Don’t speak about nonsense again! Alright, I need to go to class!”

Yang Ming looked at Chen Mengyan’s back as she left. He laughed as he thought about it. Does this girl have an interest in me? Damn, I am too strong. As expected, like the main male character of a web novel, one will be freaking awesome after attaining a special ability. However, what I have achieved didn’t seem related to my special ability.

Right, it was due to his mentality. Yang Ming originally thought Chen Mengyan was too good for him. At this moment, Yang Ming felt that he was unique! With a change in mentality, the results of his actions would be different!

Yang Ming looked at the papers in his hand. He knew that whether he did them or not, there wouldn’t be much impact on his grades. His grades were obtained through the contact lenses which had nothing to do with working hard! Even so, Yang Ming would finish up those papers as though they were mock exam papers. Of course, it could also be considered as mock cheating!

Yang Ming put a few books that were related to the subject on the table. Afterward, he started to answer those worksheets. The questions at the top focused on concepts. Yang Ming almost found all the answers from the book. The challenging questions were those that involved calculations so Yang Ming just gave up on them. It wasn’t an actual exam right now. During the actual exam, Yang Ming could copy someone’s answer.

For the mathematics sheet, Yang Ming didn’t copy. Rather, he answered the questions based on his own capability. Yang Ming managed to catch up with math after the series of Zhao Ying’s tutoring sessions and the practice with Chen Mengyan. He learned all the textbooks in senior high school. Thus, Yang Ming’s mathematics grade was the most genuine.

Yang Ming wasn’t stupid. Basically, he could learn anything if he studied. Yang Ming could cope with the questions on the paper easily. Even the compound questions in the back were quickly answered solely using his own capability.

His morning time was all spent on answering the papers. In the afternoon, Yang Ming gave his papers to Chen Mengyan. Then, he decided to go home and eat.

“Yang Ming, where are you going for lunch? I can treat you.” Wang Zhitao appeared behind Yang Ming just as he left the school gate.

“I am going home for lunch.” Yang Ming suddenly felt that Wang Zhitao was very pretentious. Even though Yang Ming lacked the evidence to prove that Wang Zhitao was the culprit, he was sure that Wang Zhitao did not have any kind intentions. Also, Yang Ming was ninety-nine percent sure that the case was set up by Wang Zhitao!

Yang Ming never believed that someone like Wang Zhitao had a conscience. A villain would always be a villain. Hence, Yang Ming already decided since the morning to treat him perfunctorily. Since you are acting dumb, I will simply act ignorant as well! Do you wish to play “Infernal Affairs”? [1] I will deal with you until the end. Let’s see who can survive until then!

However, Yang Ming also knew that his strength couldn’t match Wang Zhitao! Despite Yang Ming having a special ability, he didn’t have the luxury to act as he liked! Thus, Yang Ming restrained himself this time! In the years when Yang Ming was in the underworld, Yang Ming learned how to deal with opponents who were stronger than he. If he confronted them directly, it would be a path to hell! But, if he acted dumb, it would cause the opponents to feel less threatened as though they could simply bully him to death! Only in that way could he have the opportunity to groom his strength and deliver a critical hit on his opponent!

“Since it is like this, then so be it. Another day I guess!” Wang Zhitao didn’t pursue further. He waved his hand toward Yang Ming and entered into a Mercedes by the roadside.

Chapter Notes:

[1] 无间道 (Wújiàn dào) Internal Affairs is a 2002 Hong Kong crime/killer movie where people played dirty tricks on each other.

Chapter 50: Two Thieves

-- --

As usual, Yang Ming went back to his housing complex, opened his unit’s anti-theft gate and went upstairs. However, when he arrived at his floor, he was shocked by what he saw.

His home’s anti-theft door was wide open! Yang Ming immediately became alert! Usually, his home’s main gate would never be wide open. This would not happen even on a really warm day.

In a city, the relationships among the neighbors are very different from those in a village. In a village, almost everyone knows everyone else, so they don’t really lock their doors. But it’s not the same in a city. In the city, even though the neighbors live in the same building, they hardly interact. At most, they would nod their heads to acknowledge one another. Once they were home, they locked themselves up in their room!

There's a thief! This was Yang Ming's first thought! Once he came to this conclusion, he became really careful. He used his x-ray vision to examine the house's condition.

Inside Yang Ming's home, there were two men searching for something! The living room was already a mess, and they were now in the master bedroom. The two men would occasionally speak one or two words to each other but because the distance between Yang Ming and them was too far, Yang Ming couldn't hear anything they said. Yang Ming was even more regretful now. He had already experienced a loss due to this lack of ability. Why didn't he learn his lesson earlier? If he knew this was going to happen, he should have gone to the bookstore to buy a lip-reading book for the deaf and mute! However, regret won't do anything for him now. Yang Ming could only carefully observe these people!

According to the time, Yang Ming's father should be home preparing lunch so why wasn't he at home? Why did the thieves come at this time?

However, Yang Ming felt that he couldn't afford to bother with that. He would be even more afraid if his father was at home! His father would never be a match for them because these two thieves looked pretty big.

Yang Ming didn't dare to slack off for even a moment. Even though he was experienced in fighting, who could guarantee that these two thieves weren't people like Ji Shuisheng who killed without hesitation? If it had been any other situation, Yang Ming wouldn't be as nervous as he was now. For him, facing these people would just be another fight. He even faced Ji Shuisheng without much struggle. If he was not a match for them, all he had to do was run! However, it was a different situation here. These two brats were actually robbing his home! Yang Ming knew his family's financial situation really well. All they had was a few ten-thousand yuan [1] in savings and a few thousand yuan cash in their drawer plus his mom's tenth's anniversary gold wedding ring!

If the robbers stole everything from their house, his family's situation would definitely fall into a hole. Yang Ming didn't care much about money, but what about his parents? Yang Ming couldn't imagine how they would be impacted if they had lost all the money at home. Yang Ming's first thought was to get the police, but he didn't have a cell phone. He didn't dare to go downstairs to call from the public phone because these two may run away once he left.

This was the first time that Yang Ming faced a situation much beyond his capability. Yang Ming smiled bitterly and shook his head. He could easily hand over a few thousand yuan to a girl whom he didn't know at all, but he was now using all his brain cells to think of a way to protect this cash in his home.

When Yang Ming thought about that girl, his brain flashed through a few cutscenes, but those cutscenes were very blurry and he couldn't quite grasp what they were. However, now wasn't the time for all these, the key question was how could he deal with the situation in front of him!

Yang Ming was nervous, but the two men inside his home were even more nervous! For them, this was their first ever theft of a home!

— “Damn, where did Old Yang hide the lottery ticket? We searched so many places and can’t find it!” One of the thieves scolded in his heart nervously.

— “Damn, where did Old Yang hide the lottery ticket? We searched so many places and can’t find it!” Suddenly a voice boomed in Yang Ming’s mind. Yang Ming was startled and looked everywhere around him. He noticed that there wasn’t anyone else on this floor!

What’s happening? Could it be a hallucination? As he thought about it, another voice came to him, “By this time, Old Yang would know that we lied to him about our leader wanting to have a word with him. He would probably be coming back home now. If we don’t find it soon, we will run out of time!”

The two thieves searched even faster. Yang Ming was looking at these two thieves and they didn’t speak a word just now! Then what did he hear? He was very sure that what he heard was definitely spoken by someone in the house! However, they hadn’t opened their mouths to say anything!

Could it be... that I could listen to their thoughts?! Yang Ming was delighted! Ever since he had put in these contact lenses, it felt as though many strange things could be explained by them! Yang Ming felt really excited. These contacts not only had binocular vision, x-ray vision, night-vision, and now it also had the “vision” to access to others’ thoughts!

This was definitely a treasure! To confirm his shocking discovery, Yang Ming continued to observe the two guys in his home.

Once again, some sound gradually entered Yang Ming’s mind. This time, Yang Ming could differentiate between the two voices in his mind. These must be the thoughts of the two men!

— “There’s nothing here. Damn. This Old Yang really knew how to hide his things!” A person’s voice said.

— “Now we don’t even know whether we have enough time. If we still can’t find it, we would have to give up soon!” said another voice.

— “One last search at the bottom of his bed. If there’s nothing else, we really gotta go! It seems like I really don’t have that luck for prosperity! ... Ah! Lottery ticket!” Accompanying this sound, the person in the home also shouted, “Ah! Lottery ticket!” Then he happily waved the lottery ticket in his hand as if he was dancing!

The two men exchanged a look and Yang Ming couldn't hear what they said, but the voice that went into Yang Ming's mind said, "Let's leave right now!"

When Yang Ming saw these two thieves walking to the front door, he immediately ran up to the fifth floor so that he wouldn't be noticed by them. Once they went downstairs, he followed them behind quietly.

However, the strange thing was that once these two people walked out of the house, Yang Ming's brain could no longer receive any information. Could it be that these two people were not thinking about anything? Yang Ming was puzzled.

Yang Ming noticed that they didn't steal anything else from home. All that they did was to take a lottery ticket from under the bed, therefore, he didn't feel nervous now. Even though Yang Ming didn't know why these two guys came to steal the lottery ticket, Yang Ming knew that his own father wouldn't spare the cash to buy this type of item.

Yang Ming trailed these two people from afar. It seemed like these two weren't professionals. They didn't notice that they were being followed and were still chatting happily.