The two police officers next to him also looked back at Lu Chen to see if this gate-crasher was really serious about it.

Lu Chen sized the police officers up and down, then smiled and said, "Director Xu, I'm not trying to disrespect you in any way, but to be honest, your men can't even match up to me as an opponent."

It wasn't that he was pretending to be cool, but he was very confident in his own fighting abilities in a melee fight.

After all, he had learnt the Arts of Longevity with Elder Yun for more than ten years. Even a worldly expert like Elder Yun had to admire his talent. His decades of painstaking practice were not in vain.

Lu Chen was confident to fight even seven or eight men from the special forces.

Xu Zuojun smiled bitterly as he wasn't certain whether Lu Chen was just bragging. At the moment, he was placed in a very tough spot.

On the other hand, Lu Chen's words had angered the several police officers nearby.

"Bro, what's your name? After today's matter is resolved, let's have a go at it, shall we?" a male police officer, who was also greatly confident in his own fighting skills, looked at Lu Chen and said disdainfully.

"Let's not. I've only learned martial arts out of interest and not because I want to compete!" Lu Chen smiled and rejected the police officer's challenge.

The main reason he chose to practice martial arts with Elder Yun was because it was indeed his interest, and secondly, due to his father's influence.

Although he hadn't seen his father fight before, according to Elder Yun, his father's fighting skills were not below Elder Yun's at all.

This was also one of the reasons why he was willing to learn from Elder Yun when he was younger.

Tsk! A female police officer looked at Lu Chen disdainfully before deviating her gaze to the bank entrance. It was obvious that she thought Lu Chen was bragging.

The male police officer only smiled and didn't say anything more. Perhaps Lu Chen and Xu Zuojun are acquainted. He just shook his head contemptuously, and then turned his head away.

"Director Xu, if you want all the hostages to come out safely, I suggest you stop hesitating. Besides, what kind of person do you think I am? Would I endanger my own life over something that I'm not sure about?" Lu Chen persuaded.

Xu Zuojun hesitated as he realized that what Lu Chen said made sense. This matter was not a joke after all. If Lu Chen was not sure about this, he would definitely not risk his own life.

Because no one would simply put their lives on the line.

"Are you really sure that you can rescue all of the hostages?" Xu Zuojun asked.

"I'm not a hundred percent sure, but at least I'm a bit more confident than your men are." Lu Chen smiled slightly.

His words instantly offended the other police officers. When they turned to look at

him, they wore a look of contempt on their faces.

If it weren't for Lu Chen being an acquaintance of Director Xu, they would have lashed out long ago!

However, the female police couldn't help but sarcastically said, "How can someone like you—who dared not even accept Jiang Cheng's challenge earlier—brag here right now?"

The police officer, who had challenged Lu Chen earlier, shook his head. "Forget about it, who cares if he's bragging or not? The most important thing is to find a way to rescue the hostages now!"

"Yeah, let's not bother Director Xu and Commander Liu anymore. The robbers will start killing the hostages if we continue dragging this," the female police officer nodded and reminded Xu Zuojun to quickly come up with an idea as time was running out.

Director Xu looked at his watch—seven minutes left on the clock. If they still did not fulfill the robber's requests, the robbers would start killing the hostages.

As someone who has dealt with criminals for many years, Xu Zuojun did not doubt the robber's threats at all. Since they had declared that they would kill one person every fifteen minutes, they would definitely do it.

"Okay, Mr. Lu, I'll believe you this time. The lives of dozens of hostages are in your hands, so please be careful," Xu Zuojun nodded and said.

"Director Xu, do you really want to send him to his death?" Commander Liu and several police officers next to him looked at Xu Zuojun in disbelief, surprised that he would make such a crazy decision.

Xu Zuojun raised his eyebrows and suddenly said to the female police officer, "Chen Jing, you go in with him."

Evidently, he was still slightly doubtful about Lu Chen. Since Chen Jing was one of the best police officers in the bureau, he believed in her skills.

Chen Jing could protect Lu Chen during critical times.

The female police officer, Chen Jing,

understood Xu Zuojun's intentions. He probably wanted her to protect Lu Chen during emergencies. She then looked at Lu Chen contemptuously before nodding her head and walked over.

"Director Xu, I'll go in too," Jiang Cheng also stepped forward and said.

"No, two should be the limit. If too many headed in, the other party would immediately start to suspect us," Commander Liu declined without hesitation.

"I think the other party will be suspicious if two of us went in together. It'll be better for me to go in alone," Lu Chen said.

"You? Going in alone? Do you think you can really complete the task? I'm assigned to protect you but I'm afraid that you'd be shot down even before you enter the bank entrance!" Chen Jing snorted coldly.

Frankly speaking, she would not accompany Lu Chen if it weren't for Director Xu.

"Mr. Lu, I reckon that you both should go in together, at least then you'll have someone

to protect you," Xu Zuojun said.

Lu Chen nodded and said nothing. He picked up the bag of fast food the police had prepared before and walked toward the bank entrance.

Seeing Lu Chen walking steadily toward the entrance, the policemen behind him were rather impressed.

He's seriously going in?

Seems like this guy has the heart of a lion after all!

Even so, does he think that having courage is all he needs to succeed?

Everyone shook their heads, feeling quite dissatisfied with Xu Zuojun's decision.

If he were to anger the robbers, then their rescue mission today would be a failure.

Chen Jing also put down her gun and walked over.

Seeing Lu Chen's calm and steady footsteps, he did not look like he was going to negotiate with the robbers at all.

Instead, it seemed like he was actually delivering a meal. Chen Jing was still a little surprised at the sight of it.

It stood to reason that even the police officers would be cautious while carrying out such a task. In fact, they would feel a little afraid inside.

After all, no one knew when the robbers would suddenly start shooting.

However, Lu Chen's calm composure compelled her to admire his bravery.

He is truly a man of courage!

Chen Jing thought to herself as the two came to the entrance of the bank.

"Everyone, I have brought you some food.

Do you want to come out and get it
yourself, or would you like us to send it in?"

Lu Chen stopped at the entrance of the
bank and shouted.

After a few seconds, a deep voice suddenly sounded from inside. "Come in!"

Obviously, the robbers were not stupid either. They would not expose themselves

to the guns of the police officers outside at this crucial moment.

When the shutter door was opened, Lu Chen took the first step forward. He then pushed open the glass door and walked in with Chen Jing following closely behind.

At the request of the robbers, Lu Chen stood there, raised his hands and turned around. Meanwhile, Chen Jing, who was beside him, did the same too.

When the robbers confirmed that neither of them had weapons, Lu Chen took the opportunity to observe the situation in the bank.

A large number of men and women were gathered in one corner of the hall with two robbers guarding them. One of them had a revolver while the other had a rifle. From where he was standing, Lu Chen was not too sure if it was an AK gun.

On the other hand, the other two robbers nervously scanned Lu Chen and Chen Jing.

They also had guns in their hands which were now aimed at both Lu Chen and Chen

Jing.

Despite that, Lu Chen noticed a trace of slight nervousness in their eyes.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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After confirming that Lu Chen had no guns, a robber took the bag of food from Lu Chen and shouted softly, "Put the things down and get out!"

"Wait a minute. Since the two of them are with the police, they must have come in to spy on the situation. Capture the both of them. With them both, the police would fear us even more. We'd also be able to use them as extra bargaining chips." Lu Chen heard another robber saying before he could even respond.

"That makes sense." The robber with a hand in his pocket smiled grimly, then pointed his gun at Lu Chen.

"Since you are already here, don't even think of leaving. Get over there," he said, pointing to the crowd of people squatting on the other side.

Chen Jing looked at Lu Chen, slightly surprised. Lu Chen was right.

When he was outside earlier, Lu Chen had said that the people who came in would definitely not be able to get out.

Now, she and Lu Chen were forcibly

detained by the robbers.

She wanted to resist and thought about subduing all of them at once, but seeing that the four had split up, she had no choice but to give up her plan.

If the four robbers could not be subdued in one fell swoop, not only would her life be in danger, the other hostages' safety would also be compromised.

Meanwhile, Lu Chen began to notice Chen Jing's unusual behavior. He was slightly afraid that she would make an impulsive move, so he shot her a look.

"Hey, don't you want to leave safely in a car? I can help you persuade the police," Lu Chen gave Chen Jing a look, then turned to the robber closest to him and said.

"Huh?" Upon hearing his words, the four robbers instantly looked at Lu Chen with a confused expression on their faces.

Chen Jing was startled as she stared at Lu Chen, not knowing what his plans were. At that moment, she felt a little uneasy.

"How could you be so confident?" one of

the robbers, who was bald, sized Lu Chen up and down and asked in a deep voice.

"Are you trying to make us release the hostages? You have some sh\*tty negotiating skills, I really don't know why the police would send you in here. How did you become an expert in negotiation with that low IQ of yours?" Another robber grinned.

The other three robbers laughed as well.

They had met many negotiators in their lives, but it was their first time encountering a person with such mediocre negotiating skills.

"Yes, I want you to release the hostages first," Lu Chen said solemnly.

"Hahaha, do you think you're f\*cking funny? Or do you not think that we're real robbers?"

The four robbers burst out laughing when they heard his words.

Clearly, they thought that Lu Chen was too naive.

Even Chen Jing rolled her eyes. Although she didn't say anything, she was looking at Lu Chen as if he was an idiot.

"No, I'm hundred percent sure that you guys must be robbers. No doubt about that." Lu Chen also smiled.

"Are you f\*cking toying with us then?" the bald guy pointed a gun to Lu Chen's chest and shouted in a deep voice.

Even then, Lu Chen remained still. He spread his hands and said, "Dude, you don't understand what I said. I meant that these twenty plus hostages are actually not as important as the two of us. You should let them go. Detaining the two of us is better than detaining them. Let me tell you the truth, although Director Xu cares about the safety of these hostages, he's more concerned about capturing the four of you. Therefore, if you continue to stand in a stalemate, they will definitely resort to aggressive means to wipe out the four of you in one go. Think about it, by that time, how many hostages could the four of you even kill under their violent attack? Plus, there are already many sniper rifles aimed at the exits of the bank. The moment you step out, you guys will

definitely get shot. Moreover, are you all really so fearless that you don't care about your life at all? In my opinion, your own life is the most precious. No matter how many hostages you kill, you'd still die in the end. Is it really worthwhile? It's not worth it at all, right? You can only live a fulfilling life if you regard your own life as more precious than others, am I right?"

Hearing Lu Chen's persuasion, the four of them were obviously a little tempted.

Indeed, they must live. If they were to die, it would be useless for them to kill more hostages.

They were notorious thieves after all. Their lives were more exciting than these ordinary people. How could they compromise their lives over these ordinary people?

"Why should we trust you? Also, how can you be so sure that the car they give us will not be defective?" the bald guy said after a moment of silence.

"Well, I'm not afraid to tell you my true identity. I bet you have realized from my accent that I am from Beijing. My father is

a leader in Beijing, thus he can't afford to have anything happening to me in Chongqing, otherwise the City Council leaders would be held accountable by my father," Lu Chen said.

What he said was both true and false. He was indeed from Beijing, which they could tell by his accent alone. His father was also one of the leaders in Beijing before, but only in the business world. Even so, Lu Chen had led the robbers to misunderstand that his father was also a leader in the regime.

In fact, at this moment, even Chen Jing had actually believed that Lu Chen's father was really a leader in Beijing's regime.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so close with Director Xu. Furthermore, Director Xu wouldn't have been so easily persuaded by him to make such a decision.

Is this guy from the military? Perhaps his father is a member of the military? Chen Jing secretly sized Lu Chen up. The more she thought about it, the more she felt that Lu Chen's father was a military leader. Lu Chen himself was most probably a leader in the military too. Otherwise, it was

impossible for him to remain so calm when facing these robbers.

He even chatted quite casually with them. More surprisingly, it seemed that the robbers were slightly tempted by his words.

The four robbers then looked at Lu Chen while analyzing the credibility of his words.

However, they could only verify that Lu Chen spoke a standard Beijing accent from the start till the end.

"Fine, I'll believe you for the time being, if something happens in the midst of our deal, I'll be the first to kill you," said the bald guy as he stared solemnly at Lu Chen after pondering it over.

"Okay, then I'll go out now to discuss then," Lu Chen said.

"I'll give you ten minutes. If the talk fails after ten minutes, I'll kill this little b\*tch," the bald guy threatened as he aimed the revolver at Chen Jing's head.

Lu Chen looked back at Chen Jing and saw no fear in her eyes. He then nodded and

said, "Yes, I believe that Director Xu is a man of reason and will not disappoint us."

After finishing his sentence, Lu Chen turned around and walked out.

"Bro, do you think that that kid didn't want to be a hostage and deliberately said all of that to escape?" one of the robbers asked while looking at Lu Chen's back.

Everyone was stunned. That is a possibility. After all, who would want to be a hostage?

Being a hostage is life-threatening indeed.

With that thought, the bald guy suddenly felt that he had been fooled.

"Damn it, that cunning motherf\*cker! But it's okay. We still have this chick in our hands. She can still be our bargaining chip." The bald head looked at Chen Jing with an evil grin.

Chen Jing was boiling inside as she was here mainly to protect Lu Chen.

To her dismay, Lu Chen actually betrayed her in the end.

Son of a b\*tch! You better pray hard that you don't fall into my hands in the future, otherwise you will definitely die a terrible death!

Chen Jing thought angrily as she was forced by the bald guy to squat along with the other hostages.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Seeing Lu Chen coming back alone, Xu Zuojun was obviously relieved. He was most afraid that something would happen to Lu Chen.

"Where is Chen Jing? Why didn't she come back with you?" Jiang Cheng questioned Lu Chen, his eyes full of suspicion.

Other police officers also looked at Lu Chen. Chen Jing was a beauty in their police station, and many people had a crush on her. She and Lu Chen entered the bank together, but in the end only Lu Chen came out. How could they not worry?

Lu Chen glanced at Jiang Cheng. He did not ask him any questions but walked toward Xu Zuojun.

When everyone saw that Lu Chen had remained silent, anger started to cloud their eyes.

Especially Jiang Cheng, who did not conceal his anger at all.

"Are you deaf? I asked you why Chen Jing didn't come out with you," Jiang Cheng asked in a deep voice.

"Are you an idiot? Of course she stayed inside as a hostage," Lu Chen said, slightly speechless.

"What about you? Why didn't they keep you as a hostage?" Jiang Cheng questioned angrily.

"Be quiet. What's with the commotion?" Commander Liu frowned, walked over and glared at Jiang Cheng. Finally, Jiang Cheng shut up reluctantly.

"Boy, if something happened to Chen Jing, I will not let you off the hook!" Jiang Cheng did not forget to lecture Lu Chen.

Commander Liu frowned before asking Lu Chen, "Mr. Lu, what's the situation inside? Do you remember their approximate location?"

When Lu Chen came out alone, he knew that Chen Jing must have stayed inside as a hostage, but what he cared more about was the situation in the bank lobby. If they attacked, how sure was he that they would be able to quickly wipe out the robbers?

"The situation inside is quite complicated.
The four of them often change positions. It

is possible for us to rush in, but it is certainly not possible to ensure the safety of all the hostages," Lu Chen said.

Commander Liu nodded, and fell into deep thought for a while.

Lu Chen didn't bother him, but looked at Xu Zuojun.

"Director Xu, I have a method to capture the robbers and ensure the safety of all hostages at the same time, but Officer Chen may be in some danger," Lu Chen said.

"Oh, Mr. Lu, do you have a better idea?" Xu Zuojun asked hurriedly.

"Yes. Exchange Officer Chen and I with the twenty over hostages, and then give them a car and let them take the two of us away. After leaving, I'm certain that I can escape from them. I'm sure that I can subdue even half of them, but I cannot guarantee the safety of Officer Chen. It's possible that she might lose her life," Lu Chen told him the plan in his mind.

His plan was a bit risky; he might be killed by the opponent if he made a single

mistake.

But he knew that if the stalemate continued, the robbers would definitely lose patience, and they might become frantic and really kill the hostages.

He believed that in order to survive, those robbers might kill about half of the hostages to force Xu Zuojun to surrender even if there was only a 10% chance of them escaping.

"No, this is too dangerous. Let's think of another way." Xu Zuojun was the first to shake his head.

This was no laughing matter. Lu Chen was an important person. He had already taken a great risk when he let Lu Chen in just now, so he must not let Lu Chen be in danger again.

It was fortunate that Lu Chen came out unscathed. If something happened to Lu Chen, he would be kicked out of Chongqing's officialdom.

"Did you tell your plans to the robbers?"

Jiang Cheng asked Lu Chen suddenly.

If Lu Chen had already communicated with the robbers, he felt that this method was feasible. They could at least save the twenty over hostages first.

However, he wanted to replace Lu Chen as the other hostage, so that he could protect Chen Jing's safety at critical moments.

He believed in his own strength.

"Of course he has. If he didn't communicate with them, do you think they would have let Mr. Lu out?" Commander Liu said.

"Then I will be a hostage. I am sure that I can protect Officer Chen at critical moments." Jiang Cheng immediately stood up.

"Can you do it?" Lu Chen looked at Jiang Cheng and smiled.

"Who else can do it? You? Also, since you doubt my abilities so much, do you want to have a duel to see who is more suitable for this task?" Jiang Cheng snorted, looking at Lu Chen very angrily. He was the best fighter in the bureau, yet he was repeatedly provoked by Lu Chen. He had endured Lu

Chen for a long time now.

Seeing Jiang Cheng cracking his knuckles, Lu Chen smiled calmly and said, "Okay, then I will test your strength."

As the words left his mouth, he punched Jiang Cheng.

It was not that he wanted to be nosy, he just didn't want the innocent twenty-odd hostages to be dragged down by this incident.

Besides, he was about to ask Xu Zuojun for a favour. He just helped Xu Zuojun today. He believed that Xu Zuojun would take matters concerning his supermarket very seriously in the future.

As long as the police intervened, Zuo Qingcheng's tricks would be deterred.

At the same time, he wanted to clear the supermarket's name as well as reveal the truth to the confused shoppers.

Only in this way could the reputation of his supermarket be preserved.

The above two reasons were his purpose

of helping Xu Zuojun today.

Seeing that they had started to fight the moment they didn't agree with each other, both Commander Liu and Xu Zuojun were stunned.

Especially Xu Zuojun, he knew Jiang Cheng's skills. This guy was a good fighter in the bureau, and he used to subdue a lot of fierce bandits. If he hurt Lu Chen, he would suffer.

He was about to tell Jiang Cheng to stop when he saw the two fists clash together.

#### Crash!

Under everyone's shocked gazes, Lu Chen's punches forced Jiang Cheng backwards until he hit a police car before finally stopping.

On the other hand, Lu Chen didn't move from his spot. He just stood still, looking at Jiang Cheng with a smile on his face.

"Jiang Cheng was defeated!"

It took a long time for everyone to come back to their senses. Looking at the pale

Jiang Cheng, they couldn't believe it.

Lu Chen had a slender figure, but he was able to throw Jiang Cheng back with a punch. Everyone's jaw dropped in shock.

"This guy is indeed a martial artist, plus he is much stronger than Jiang Cheng. No wonder he dared to offer to be a hostage," someone sighed.

Only then did they finally believe that Lu Chen was not bragging or messing around with them.

Lu Chen was really capable of taking on this task.

When Commander Liu saw Lu Chen's skills, he was also shocked speechless.

Jiang Cheng was a member of the special forces. He was specially sent to their unit. However, he was thrown back by Lu Chen with a punch. This meant that Lu Chen was stronger than even the special forces.

There was a look of surprise in Xu Zuojun's eyes, but he was still a little worried about Lu Chen's safety.

"Mr. Lu, maybe we should let Jiangcheng go," Xu Zuojun said.

"Director Xu, I think it's best if Mr. Lu goes," Commander Liu analyzed, "First of all, Mr. Lu was the one who negotiated this plan with the robbers, and Mr. Lu must have promised them something which was why the robbers willingly let him out. This shows that the robbers believed in Mr. Lu. However, this might not be the case if someone else replaced him. Secondly, Mr. Lu is obviously much stronger than Jiang Cheng. He has a greater chance of success if he becomes the hostage."

The words of Commander Liu made Jiang Cheng feel a little embarrassed, but Lu Chen was indeed much stronger than him. He had no other choice but to accept that fact at this point.

"Very well then. Mr. Lu, everything is up to you. It doesn't matter whether you can catch the robbers or not. The most important thing is for you and Officer Chen to come back safely. I will send someone to follow you two to ensure your safety." Xu Zuojun thought for a while, and decided to let Lu Chen take on this risky task.



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"Hey, pretty officer, you still have three minutes left. If your friend does not return by then, we will kill one of the hostages. If those on the outside do not comply with our requests, we will start killing hostages every ten minutes until they're all dead."

Seeing that Lu Chen still hadn't returned after more than seven minutes, Baldy threatened Chen Jing.

"And you say we bandits are inhumane? From what I see, your friend is the one who is inhumane. Abandoning such a pretty girl like you here alone to save his own life!" one of the other bandits taunted.

"Hey gorgeous! If we manage to escape today, you should come with us! We will bring you along to enjoy all the great things in life!" the third bandit teased and laughed.

Chen Jing remained silent. She couldn't help scoffing at Lu Chen mentally.

What Director Xu initially meant was for her to protect Lu Chen.

She did not expect Lu Chen to sell her out at such a critical moment.

## Chapter 114 The Way To Express Gratitude

And for him to completely betray her.

All men are cowardly scum!

Chen Jing cursed mentally.

"Hey, do you guys hear that? It sounds like a car is coming over here," one of the bandits by the entrance suddenly called out right then.

Although he heard noises of a car outside, he didn't dare to head out to take a look.

He knew that there were snipers outside preparing to attack if he poked his head out.

"Did that guy really manage to convince Xu Zuojun to send us a car?" one of the bandits exclaimed.

All of them had suspected Lu Chen of making up stories to deceive them because he was afraid of becoming a hostage. They did not expect that he was actually serious.

Chen Jing was surprised too. She didn't know why but she'd secretly hoped that he would come back too.

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She was impressed by Lu Chen's performance previously and she really wished that he wasn't some timid coward.

"Don't make any moves yet. Let's wait for a while. It might also be those cops preparing for a raid," Baldy warned cautiously, the gun in his hands aimed at the direction of the entrance.

"Yeah, that's possible." the other three nodded along. One of them guarded the hostages while the other two bandits aimed their guns at the entrance too.

"Hey misters, I have already convinced Director Xu, and he also agreed with the exchange. If it's no problem with you guys, I'm going to come in now."

Right then, Lu Chen's voice rang from the entrance.

Everyone sighed in relief after hearing Lu Chen. Even the hostages let out long sighs of relief.

They also understood the deal between Lu Chen with Baldy and the others. They were grateful that Lu Chen prepared to use him and Chen Jing in exchange for the lives of

#### Chapter 114 The Way To Express Gratitude

more than twenty of them. Now that Lu Chen had really managed to convince Director Xu, this meant that they will be rescued very soon.

Chen Jing sighed in relief too. Her heart felt somewhat lighter.

She couldn't explain why, but she just felt somewhat better.

"Alright, come on in," Baldy sighed in relief and called out to him.

After a few seconds, Lu Chen finally entered the bank.

Everyone was staring at him intently when he came in.

To be honest, it was hard to run into someone like Lu Chen.

What he did was literally endanger his own life in exchange for the lives of others. It was very hard to get someone with a character like this.

"You're really gutsy," Baldy couldn't help but praise. After all these years of travelling from place to place and murdering so many people, it was his first time meeting someone like Lu Chen: confident, steady, and ready to sacrifice himself for others.

So, he still admired Lu Chen's guts.

If it weren't for their differences in identity and the circumstances, he even wanted to find some time to have a few drinks with Lu Chen.

Lu Chen smiled lightly and said, "I have already talked about it to Director Xu and got you the car. These are the keys." Lu Chen threw Baldy the keys of a Changan car.

Baldy took the key and squeezed it in his hands. He taunted, "Aren't you afraid of me breaking our promise and not letting the hostages leave too?"

Everyone was stunned, horror slowly creeping into their hearts.

Chen Jing was starting to freak out too; if both Lu Chen and her were held back as hostages, these bandits will have even more confidence to negotiate with the cops.

Lu Chen was stunned, then he chuckled, "As the saying goes, those who are loyal are usually from the lower rank in society, whereas scholars are usually unfaithful. The saying reveals the reality that the more underbred one is, the more loyal he will be; the more cultured and educated one is, the more likely he will do something against his conscience. Hence, although you are all bandits and much hated by society, all of you are the most loyal people in my eyes."

Baldy was taken aback. Then, he sighed, "It's too bad that you're on the cops' side while we are the bad guys. If it weren't so, I would have befriended you."

Lu Chen grinned, "Which is why we shall remain as enemies."

Baldy grinned too, he said, "So, now I'll have to inconvenience you and the gorgeous cop first."

While he said that, the other two bandits started using ropes to tie their hands behind their backs while the other bandits started leading the hostages out.

"Officers! Thank you very much! We hope for the safety of the both of you!"

As the crowd walked past Lu Chen and Chen Jing, some voiced out their gratitude toward them while others quickened their pace, not even sparing them a glance, desperate to escape that "h\*II hole".

"It looks like not everyone is grateful for what the both of you have sacrificed for them to be rescued. Look, more than half of them don't even bother to spare you guys any glances, let alone thank you guys." Looking at the hostages' reactions, Baldy mocked.

Chen Jing nodded instinctively. Although she didn't really want people to thank them, she was still a little uncomfortable from most of the hostages' selfish behavior.

As a cop, saving the hostages was the right thing to do. However, for others to take it for granted left a bad taste on her tongue.

Right at that moment, she agreed with what Baldy said. Sometimes, even bandits were more humane than ordinary people.

"Everyone has a different way to express their gratitude. They might be too nervous or scared today; it is normal to not think about expressing gratitude when they were literally praying to get out of this place. It is possible that once they calm down after getting back, they will think about the two of us," Lu Chen smiled lightly.

Baldy heard what Lu Chen said and smiled, deciding against saying anything.

Chen Jing turned to look at Lu Chen too. Realizing that Lu Chen wasn't being sarcastic, she suddenly felt like she thought too much about it.

She knew that Lu Chen wasn't a cop and just wanted to help them out.

However, his kind actions made her realize something.

As a cop, she felt ashamed for having such thoughts when she was rescuing the hostages.

She really couldn't make out what this man had on his mind.

## Chapter 114 The Way To Express Gratitude

"Let's go. I hope that this would be a smooth collaboration."

After all the hostages left, Baldy escorted Lu Chen to the main entrance himself.

To prevent the sniper team from launching a sudden attack, the four bandits had Lu Chen and Chen Jing stand in front as a shield, slowly parting the way to give them a clear path.



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Seeing the van parked in front as they exited the entrance of the bank, Baldy and the other bandits were both nervous and excited.

They were mainly nervous because they were afraid that they might be ambushed in the van or that the snipers might attack them without caring about the well-being of Lu Chen and Chen Jing.

However, it was obvious that they thought too much.

Xu Zuojun couldn't possibly risk Lu Chen's life considering his status. So, he arranged for two cars to tail behind them, ordering for them to be ready to pick Lu Chen and Chen Jing up at any time.

After the bandits took the car, they immediately drove right toward the suburbs.

Before going out to the suburbs, the van was still under surveillance of the cops. However, they completely lost eyes on the van after it went out to the suburbs.

Even Jiang Cheng and the others in the two cars tailing the van lost sight of it.

Baldy drove the van, and after many twists and turns along the mountain path for God knows how long, they finally stopped in front of a mountain retreat.

"I really admire your courage and steadfast demeanor. I wanted to let the both of you off initially, however it seems like the cops are not letting us off any time soon. We have no choice but to inconvenience the both of you," Baldy told Lu Chen. He actually admired Lu Chen from the bottom of his heart.

They initially wanted to try to get more money before leaving Chongqing.
However, after the ride today, Baldy realized that the cops were really concerned about Lu Chen and Chen Jing.

Hence, they took advantage of this.

Lu Chen shrugged, not wanting to say anything.

However, Chen Jing felt uneasy. Although she knew that the bandits wouldn't let them off the hook easily, she was still quite scared and worried when the bandits really decided against letting them go.

After all, this was a bandits' den. A woman like her, and a beautiful woman at that, falling into the hands of bandits. She didn't dare to imagine what would happen.

Moreover, the bandit that held her down just now had also touched her subtly.

She knew that the bandit did it on purpose.

This made her feel really uneasy.

"Liu Zixiu, don't think that I'm afraid to kill you! If you dare walk out of this door, I'll make sure that you won't survive after taking more than five steps!"

Right then, a man's sinister voice rang from the retreat.

"Hong Bing, if you open fire at me, your trip to Chongqing this time will be a meaningless one," another man's voice rang out. Then, a middle-aged man of around 170cm walked out from the retreat.

## Bang!

Suddenly, a gunshot rang in the air. The man who just left the retreat let out a few muffled sounds before falling to the

ground.

Noticing that Baldy and the others were distracted by the man, Lu Chen forcefully jerked and broke out from his bonds when he saw that no one had eyes on him.

The bandit, who was holding him, was immediately alarmed and turned to aim his gun at Lu Chen.

Lu Chen's sharp eyes caught the movement and he swiftly twisted the bandit's wrist, breaking his grasp on the gun and snatched it away.

The bandit swung his other fist toward Lu Chen's face. Leaning his head to one side, Lu Chen promptly avoided the hit and jammed his elbow in the bandit's face.

He broke the bandit's nose with a sickening crack.

The bandit held onto his nose and fell down in agony, immediately losing all combat ability.

This all happened in a few seconds. By the time Baldy and the others finally realized, one of the bandits was already down.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

All three of the bandits did not hesitate to shoot at Lu Chen.

Lu Chen immediately responded by leaping sideways. By the time the three of them came to their senses, he had already released three bullets in their direction.

Baldy also reacted quickly by falling down sideways to avoid the bullets. However, the other bandits weren't so lucky; the bullets embedded in their chests and they fell in a pool of their own blood.

Chen Jing rushed to hide behind the van after witnessing the gun fight, using the van to cut the rope binding her hands.

Fortunately, the bandit did not bind her arms behind her. If it was so, it would have been even more troublesome.

Then, Lu Chen ran over to the back of the van too. He hurriedly untied Chen Jing and stood up again trying to look for Baldy over the other side.

He instantly spotted Baldy who was dashing toward the entrance of the retreat

and pulled the trigger.

Bang!

Baldy fell to the ground. Although Lu Chen's shot managed to hit his back, it did not hit any vital organs. Baldy managed to scramble into the entrance despite his injuries.

"What's the situation outside?"

When Baldy rushed into the retreat, around four or five buff men were staring at him nervously.

All of them had heard the gunshots outside. However, with the situation remaining unknown, they were afraid to head out.

"F\*ck! We were too careless! We had two hostages with us, but one of them was a cop! Even I was tricked by him," Baldy explained.

"You guys made a mistake and took the cops back as hostages?" one of the buff men frowned and accused.

"Due to the circumstances, we had to take

them in as hostages. If we didn't, we would be dead by now." Baldy briefly summarised what went down at the bank to them.

The men nodded in understanding. In a situation like that, there were no other choices unless they murdered all the hostages and engaged in a shoot-out with the cops.

"How many are there?" the buff man asked.

"Two, a man and a woman. I don't know about the woman's combat skills but the man is pretty strong," Baldy answered.

"Alright, let's get the both of them now. I figured that by now our location has already been exposed," the buff man commanded as he gave another man a look. The man nodded and released a gunshot outside and dashed to the other side of the entrance, using the chance to observe the situation outside.

However, there weren't any movements outside. The man turned around and nodded to the others while they all crept to the entrance of the retreat.

"I don't see anyone. I guess they're still hiding behind the van," one of the guys that came over whispered.

"Tiger, go over and lure them out while we open fire," the buff man instructed the blonde-haired teenager next to him.

The blonde-haired teenager nodded. He released a gunshot outside. Not receiving any reactions, he swiftly dashed outside.

He released two more gunshots in the direction of the van as he ran out.

The buff man along with two other men took the opportunity to dash out and started shooting at the van too.

However, in an instant, Lu Chen and Chen Jing emerged from behind the wall at the side of the entrance and fired shots at all four of them.

The buff man and the others did not expect that Lu Chen and Chen Jing would hide at the low wall next to the entrance. By the time they recovered from their surprise, all four of them were shot.

"It looks like your marksmanship is

excellent!" Chen Jing praised Lu Chen.

"You're not that bad either." Lu Chen chuckled lightly and went over to search for both his and Chen Jing's mobile phones.

Then, he threw her phone back to her and motioned for her to call some people over to clean up the scene.

Although all the bandits were shot, Lu Chen wasn't planning on murdering them. They lost their combat ability, but at least they weren't dead.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"Mr. Lu, we are grateful for what you have done. If it weren't for you, I really don't know how much longer we would need to take down these bandits. Please accept a toast from me to show my respect."

At a private room of the police bureau's canteen, Xu Zuojun and Commander Liu were treating Lu Chen to a meal.

After Lu Chen helped them with the arrest of the bandits, of course Xu Zuojun had to treat Lu Chen to a meal.

However, with many work-related issues to solve in the bureau today, he could only treat Lu Chen in the canteen of the bureau.

"You are exaggerating things, Director Xu. I'm just doing my responsibility as a civilian to help remove harmful threats to society." Lu Chen humbly explained as he clinked glasses with Xu Zuojun.

Commander Liu gave Lu Chen a toast too. He felt nothing but admiration toward Lu Chen.

Just as they were leaving after the meal, they spotted Chen Jing standing outside with a tablet.

"Director Xu, the report is out. Those bandits that were caught came from Hong Kong last week. The man named Hong Bing is the head of the bandits. I figure that they escaped to China after almost getting caught by Hong Kong's police force due to a crime that they've committed recently." Chen Jing showed the pictures of Baldy and the others on her tablet and introduced them to Xu Zuojun.

"Wait, isn't this Liu Zixiu guy in a gang with them?" Lu Chen asked when he saw a picture of the man that was shot by Hong Bing when he left the mountain retreat.

"They're not in a gang together. Liu Zixiu used to be a bandit too, nicknamed Legendary Thief Liu. Ten years ago, he managed to steal an exclusive diamond from the hands of a Hong Kong jeweler who managed to buy the diamond in an auction from Europe. After getting hunted down by the Hong Kong police force, he escaped to Lotus Village in Chongqing, changing his name and concealing his identity to hide there. In the span of ten years, he also managed to marry a girl from the village. Unfortunately, his wife passed away three years ago from cancer, leaving a six-year-old daughter behind,"

Chen Jing explained.

Lu Chen raised an eyebrow, an idea flashing through his mind as his eyes twinkled.

"Why was he with Hong Bing and the others then?" Xu Zuojun questioned.

"According to him, he was betrayed by someone. Hong Bing and the other bandits found his place and threatened him with his daughter so that he was forced to meet Hong Bing. Hong Bing wanted him to commit a robbery with them but he refused, hence Hong Bing shot and injured him," Chen Jing explained.

"Alright. Monitor them closely. Send them back to the detention center after their injuries are tended to and inform the police force from Hong Kong to come and get their people," Xu Zuojun nodded and instructed.

"Yes, sir." Chen Jing nodded. She gave Lu Chen a glance and then left.

"Director Xu, can you arrange for me to meet Liu Zixiu? Would that be a problem to you?"

"No, no, it's fine. Let me bring you there." Xu Zuojun agreed to his request without thinking twice.

Then, both of them drove to Southwest Hospital.

"Director Xu." Upon reaching the hospital, all the police officers greeted Xu Zuojun.

Xu Zuojun nodded and asked, "Which ward is Liu Zixiu in? Can you bring us over to his ward?"

"He's in ward 213. Please follow me," the police officer announced and led Xu Zuojun and Lu Chen to ward 213.

"Director Zuo, I wish to speak with him alone," Lu Chen told Xu Zuojun when they reached the entrance of ward 213.

"Alright, I will wait outside for you." Xu Zuojun nodded. The police officer initially wanted to say something but decided not to as Xu Zuojun had already agreed.

After all, he didn't have to worry much as Director Xu was here to take responsibility if anything happened.

Liu Zixiu was lying on his side on the hospital bed when Lu Chen entered the room.

He was shot in the back but the bullet missed his lungs and other organs so he only needed to rest for around a week to recover.

Liu Zixue did not bother greeting Lu Chen when he came in. However, when he saw that Lu Chen was sizing him up, he called out, "Hey man, do you smoke? Can you spare me a cigarette?"

Lu Chen took his cigarette pack and handed him one along with a zippo lighter.

After waiting for Liu Zixiu to smoke his first puff, Lu Chen spoke, "Are you really the great thief Liu Zixiu, nicknamed Legendary Thief Liu?"

Liu Zixiu sized Lu Chen up before speaking exasperatedly, "Don't you guys already know from the investigations?"

For Lu Chen to be able to meet him personally proved that he had a powerful status in the police bureau. However, he was speechless that Lu Chen actually

didn't know who he was.

"Alright, looks like I'm right after all. By the way, do you know that it's over for you?" Lu Chen asked and chuckled lightly.

Liu Zixiu looked up at Lu Chen cautiously.

Of course he knew that he was done for. He knew that people from Hong Kong were coming to get him within these two days to trial him in court as he was wanted back in Hong Kong. What was awaiting him back there was a jail sentence of at least ten years.

"I also heard that you have a daughter at around the age of five or six. She must be a very adorable child," Lu Chen continued on.

"What do you want?" Liu Zixiu's facial expression changed as he glared at Lu Chen with murderous intent.

His daughter was his soft spot, and no one was allowed near his soft spot.

"You misunderstand me. I have a daughter around three years old too. What I mean is, what is going to happen to your daughter if

something happened to you? Have you ever thought of that?" Lu Chen asked.

Liu Zixiu's gaze dimmed. This was what he was most worried about.

If he was caught now, there was no chance of him getting out any time before the ten years were up.

However, his daughter was still around five and a half. How could she possibly live on her own?

Liu Zixiu's wife was a widow. Apparently, she was an orphan before too. So, there weren't any grandparents that could look after his daughter.

"Just get straight to the point," Liu Zixue said after a few moments of silence.

"I can get you out so that you and your daughter could lead a normal life after this. I can also destroy your previous criminal records provided that you help me out with something," Lu Chen did not beat around the bush as he proposed.

"What do you want me to do?" Liu Zixiu squinted his eyes. He knew the reason Lu

Chen came here alone was to request a favour from him.

"By the way, I'm a thief, so I only know how to steal. I can't help you if you need other kinds of help," Liu Zixiu added.

"That is exactly what I need you to help me with. After you succeed, I will arrange for your criminal records to be destroyed and provide the best living conditions for you and your daughter," Lu Chen offered.

"All I've ever wanted was for my daughter to have an ordinary life," Liu Zixue lamented.

"I can help you with that. As long as you work for me for over a year, I will pay you a salary ranging from one to five million so that you can move and hide in other places," Lu Chen continued on.

"Why should I believe you?" Liu Zixiu stared into Lu Chen's eyes.

"Because I can get you out of this even though I'm not from the bureau. I will give you three days so that you can consider my offer thoroughly," Lu Chen advised and left the ward. He was sure that Liu Zixiu

would take up his offer.

When he mentioned this to Xu Zuojun, Xu Zuojun was hesitant.

However, he agreed to help Lu Chen with Liu Zixiu's case after Lu Chen promised him that he would not allow Liu Zixiu to commit any crimes anymore.

After leaving the hospital, Lu Chen headed back.

However, when he stopped midway at a gas station to pump oil into his car, he bumped into Zuo Qingcheng.

Zuo Qingcheng was pumping oil too. When he noticed Lu Chen, his expression turned into one of mocking.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## Chapter 117 Let Me Slap You Twice

Lu Chen noticed that Zuo Qingcheng was grinning at him. He raised an eyebrow and walked over.

"Young Master Zuo, you're really mean.
How could you bully an honest man like
me?" Lu Chen teased as he walked over to
stand next to Zuo Qingcheng's luxury car,
resting a hand on Zuo Qingcheng's car
window.

His facial expression was relaxed, looking nothing like he had really gotten bullied by Zuo Qingcheng. This looked more like a banter between two best friends instead.

Zuo Qingcheng was stunned. He was one of the four young masters in Chongqing. Although he wasn't as famous as Chen Zhilong, he also couldn't be compared to lower-tier young masters like Zhang Daoren.

He'd bullied many people in the past but all of them had pretended that nothing had happened.

As the saying went, when you're out in society, what goes around comes around.

If someone was bullied or taken

## Chapter 117 Let Me Slap You Twice

advantage of, they should try to get their revenge. However, if they couldn't, they should forget about it.

So, Zuo Qingcheng was dumbfounded when Lu Chen voiced out his thoughts outright in front of him.

It made him feel embarrassed to even try to deny it.

"You're really smart, I'll give you that. You managed to guess that I was the one who plotted against you." Zuo Qingcheng shrugged. Since Lu Chen called him out for going against his supermarket, he should admit it without shame.

This was the confidence of the Four Great Sons.

"Young Master Zuo, don't you think that you're being ridiculous? Look, we have never had any grudges before this and I've never offended you. How could you bully a normal citizen like me just because your family's business is larger? Alright, fine, you have your right to bully normal citizens like us, I can't deny you your freedom. But, could you give me a heads-up at least? Let me have some mental preparation, won't

you?" Lu Chen ranted in all seriousness.

Zuo Qingcheng pondered. Then, he nodded and said, "Well, your suggestion is actually not bad, so I'll take it. Next time I want to bully someone, I'll get someone to inform them what they did wrong and ask for them to brace themselves for my attacks."

He shifted his posture as he talked, his facial expression reeking arrogance, "I'm one for the Four Great Sons in Chongqing, so I can't let others look down upon me, right?"

"Exactly. The Four Great Sons in Chongqing are like the representatives of the youths of Chongqing. All of them are smart and talented, so how could they do stupid things to ruin their reputation, right?"Lu Chen went along and agreed with him.

Zuo Qingcheng squinted at him. Then, he chuckled, "Lu Chen, do you know what you've just said has completely offended all four of us? Don't you know that both Chen Zhilong and Zhang Daoren are against you? And don't forget Liu Huoshan, that guy will literally use every dirty trick up

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his sleeves without any remorse. Aren't you afraid of not being able to stay in Chongqing any longer after angering them? The Four Great Sons are backed by all sorts of powerful figures. In other words, if you offend them, you will offend the entire Chongqing."

Lu Chen exclaimed in shock, "Please don't scare me, Young Master Zuo. I'm not as educated as you are. I wasn't offending them. Instead, I want to protect their reputations!"

"Oh? You're saying that you're protecting their reputations?" Zuo Qingcheng became curious.

"Look, the Four Great Sons are famous for being smart young men. However, with you tarnishing their names and brand behind their back, everyone will think that they're all like you. What do you think the other three will think of you?"

Lu Chen acted as if he was defending the other three young masters as he said, "There's a saying that goes something like 'a bone-headed teammate can do more harm than the most formidable opponent'... Hey, don't be mad. I'm just

## Chapter 117 Let Me Slap You Twice

giving a simple example. But, with the way you're tarnishing their reputation, honestly, I think that the one offending them is you instead of me."

Zuo Qingcheng narrowed his eyes. He had never conversed with Lu Chen previously and just stereotyped him as someone ordinary. Now that he had interacted with Lu Chen, he finally realized how venomous his words could be, insulting him over and over indirectly during their conversation, even threatening him using the other young masters.

"Well, what you've said makes sense. I guess I should stop messing around and put an end to this. I can't keep dragging this on, right? From what you've told me, I've decided to solve this issue quickly. Like cutting through a tangled rope with a knife; as long as the knife moves quickly, the rope won't have time to tangle at all," Zuo Qingcheng stared intently at Lu Chen and mocked.

"Yes, that makes sense. Some things should be solved quickly. By the way, Young Master Zuo, after chatting for so long, don't you feel that we are quite compatible as friends?" Lu Chen suddenly grinned and asked.

His question was so random that it threw Zuo Qingcheng off as he struggled to keep up with his pace.

"What I meant was, since I gave you a few suggestions today that you've accepted, don't you think that we could be friends instead of enemies now? What do you think?" Lu Chen explained.

Zuo Qingcheng nodded instinctively before hearing Lu Chen say again, "How about this then—I'll slap you twice, then we can be good friends."

"Slap me twice?" Zuo Qingcheng eyed Lu Chen cautiously. He knew that Lu Chen had great combat skills.

"Well, yeah. Look, Young Master Zuo, you have sent so many people over to my supermarket to cause trouble there these few days, affecting my business badly. I was so close to shutting down my business right then. Honestly, I'm unwilling to be your friend too. So, I've thought of a brilliant idea—I'll slap you twice to release my inner dissatisfaction so that I can let my grudge go and befriend you!" Lu Chen

went on.

"What if I say no?" Zuo Qingcheng was taken aback initially. Then, a mesmerizing smile bloomed on his face, his signature dimples forming on his cheeks.

He did not expect Lu Chen to beat around the bush for so long only for him to express his desire to slap him across the face twice. Although he was smiling on the outside, he was annoyed and enraged on the inside.

He was one of the Four Great Sons, Zuo family's only heir and had only ever received praises in Chongqing. Who dared to give him two slaps across the face?

"You don't appreciate me as a friend?" Lu Chen was stunned and asked rhetorically.

Friend?

Do you even deserve to be my friend?

What makes you think you deserve to be my friend?

Maybe you misunderstand the meaning of the word 'friend'.

## Chapter 117 Let Me Slap You Twice

Zuo Qingcheng smirked mentally. Even though Lu Chen looked like he had potential and had a seemingly close relationship with the Chen family, so what?

After all, he wasn't from the Chen family. Lu Chen had no right to be treated as his equal.

"I'm sorry, I personally think that not everyone deserves to be friends with me. You have to be on par with me to be my friend. So, dear Lu Chen, do you think that you have the right to be friends with me?" Zuo Qingcheng was enraged. After beating around the bush for so long, Lu Chen unabashedly requested to slap him twice. Didn't that mean that Lu Chen couldn't bother with respecting him at all?

"Yeah, I feel like you don't deserve to be my friend too. Well, since we can't be friends, we shall be enemies then."

Lu Chen nodded in all seriousness.
Suddenly, he grabbed Zuo Qingcheng by
his hair and smashed his head hard on the
steering wheel with a loud bang.

# Chapter 117 Let Me Slap You Twice



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Although Lu Chen didn't exact much force—a human's facial structures were fragile to begin with, especially the nose bridge—blood immediately flowed from Zuo Qingcheng's nose as he was smashed onto the solid steering wheel, turning the brown steering wheel red in no time.

"Lu Chen, you-"

Lu Chen was quick. Zuo Qingcheng was caught off-guard and didn't have time to react. After getting grabbed in the head by Lu Chen, his face was immediately smashed into the steering wheel.

Not even bothering about his bloodied face, Zuo Qingcheng wanted to cuss Lu Chen out. However, before he could do so, Lu Chen smashed his face down again.

Bang!

His face collided with the dashboard once more.

This time however, Zuo Qingcheng was prepared. He tried to struggle. However, Lu Chen's death grip on him was unbreakable; he could barely muster any force to struggle against him.

Lu Chen increased his force for the next smash, almost knocking Zuo Qingcheng out from the impact.

He shook his head slightly, regaining some of his consciousness.

Slap!

He received a resounding slap on his face, red fingerprints immediately emerging on his cheek.

"Lu Chen!"

Slap!

What answered him was another slap to the face, rendering him completely vulnerable.

Now, not only his nose was bleeding, blood was also starting to trickle out of the corner of his mouth.

His bloodied and battered look was horrifying.

After doing that, Lu Chen felt so much better.

He glanced at Zuo Qingcheng and laughed, "Look at yourself. If you had agreed to what I proposed just now and received two slaps from me, your nose wouldn't be bloody now right? If you had agreed to what I proposed just now, we could have gone to a restaurant and have a few drinks. Maybe even have more collaborations in the future. However, you rejected my proposal and refused to be my friend. Since we are not friends, then I can only resort to dealing with you like how I deal with my enemies, right?"

Lu Chen bent down and stared at Zuo Qingcheng, whose eyes were ablaze with hatred. He spoke coldly, "Now that we are enemies, this won't be over soon."

Then, he drove off and left.

Lu Chen had never bothered about Zuo Qingcheng. If he had challenged him publicly instead of pulling dirty tricks behind his back, Lu Chen wouldn't have been so pissed off.

If Zuo Qingcheng really dared to challenge him head-on, it would prove that he was worthy of being viewed as an opponent.

However, people who pulled dirty tricks like Zuo Qingcheng did not deserve to become his opponent.

To deal with people like Zuo Qingcheng, it was best to use straightforward tactics.

Actually, the reason Zuo Qingcheng pulled small tricks on Lu Chen's supermarket behind his back was only because he wasn't really sure about Lu Chen's real potential.

Lu Chen had bet ten billion in stone gambling and won over Zheng Xihe, one of the top masters of stone gambling.

Moreover, he was close to the Chen Family and had even gotten Old Master Chen's approval.

It was hard for him to investigate the background of someone as powerful as Lu Chen.

That was why he didn't want to challenge Lu Chen publicly.

Moreover, he just wanted to see Lu Chen's true potential for himself.

However, he did not expect Lu Chen would make such a sudden move and attack him like some gangster.

After confirming that Lu Chen had left, Zuo Qingcheng managed to stop his nose bleed and immediately made a call.

The call was connected after a few seconds and a deep man's voice could be heard on the other end of the call, "Young Master Zuo, do you need me to do anything for you?"

A sudden thought flashed through Zuo Qingcheng's mind right as he was about to say something. The burning rage in his heart cooled down immediately.

"Director Xu, it's nothing much. My dad managed to get his hands on two legendary luminous pearls from an auction at Middle Sea for around 1.1 billion. We are preparing to exhibit it in the Yun Fei Jewelry Hall so I am inviting you to come over on that day to admire its beauty too," Zuo Qingcheng explained calmly.

"You mean the real legendary luminous pearls?" Director Xu asked in surprise.

"Yes, they are real legendary luminous pearls. The expert who examined them said that the pearls were antiques from the Qin Dynasty," Zuo Qingcheng exclaimed.

"Alright, alright. I will be sure to drop by," Director Zuo promised excitedly.

After Zuo Qingcheng ended the phone call, he threw his phone onto his car's dashboard in anger. The blazing hatred emerged in his eyes once again.

"Lu Chen, you will pay for what you've done today!"

Zuo Qingcheng laughed manically.

Zuo Qingcheng headed back to his house after filling his car with oil.

His grip on the steering wheel was forceful, as if he was trying to crack Lu Chen's skull.

It was obvious that Zuo Qingcheng still hadn't calmed down when he reached his mansion. His wife's greetings and offers to help were left ignored.

Sitting down on the sofa, the first thing he did was to make a call to Di Fu.

However, he was told that Di Fu's phone was turned off after calling him twice to no avail.

"That piece of trash! Turning off his phone at this kind of critical moment! Does he still want to work in the company?!" Zuo Qingcheng threw his phone on the sofa in a fit of rage.

He had initially wanted Di Fu to go all out to destroy Lu Chen's entire business.

However, he did not expect Di Fu to turn off his phone, making him even angrier.

"What happened?" Zhu Xiaoqing asked as she walked over with a cup of tea.

Zhu Xiaoqing was Zuo Qingcheng's wife, and the Zhu family's young lady.

Although the Zhu family was just a small clan, they were still influential in Chongqing.

"I was attacked by a crazy dog today; I just want to remove all its fangs with my bare

hands!" Zuo Qingcheng seethed.

"It looks like this crazy dog must have been very strong to make you so pissed off. Was it Chen Zhilong? Liu Huoshan? Or was it Zhang Daoren?" From what Zhu Xiaoqing knew, her husband only feared the three of them.

She was confused. The four of them were known as the Four Great Sons of Chongqing, and although they had always fought with each other in private, they had always looked united in public. Why did they have a complete fall out today?

"It would be better if it was those three! At least they wouldn't have gone for me physically! This crazy dog almost broke my nose bridge!" Zuo Qingcheng fumed.

"Huh? If it weren't those three, who else would have dared to go against you?" Zhu Xiaoqing gasped.

"Lu Chen! That crazy dog!" Zuo Qingcheng exclaimed.

"Lu Chen? Isn't he that expert in antiques that won against Zheng Xihe in the antiques fair?" Zhu Xiaoqing felt like she

## Chapter 118 Zuo Qingcheng Is Insane

had heard Zuo Qingcheng mention this name before.

"Yes, that's the a\*shole! He recently launched his own supermarket called Sheng Shi Supermarket. Di Fu is not answering my phone calls! I don't care how much money is needed but I want you to contact your brother and ask him to arrange for Sheng Shi Supermarket to be shut down!" Zuo Qingcheng raged.

Lu Chen managed to make him bleed today. If he didn't show Lu Chen what he was capable of today, he would be undeserving of his name and his title as one of the Four Great Sons.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The Zuo Family was active again these past couple of days.

The reason was because the Zuo Family had managed to obtain two legendary luminous pearls from the Qin dynasty and was preparing to exhibit them at Yun Fei Group three days later.

It was hard enough to find legendary luminous pearls, let alone legendary luminous pearls from the Qin dynasty.

For those who were interested in antiques, this would no doubt be another grand affair.

The Zuo Family had spent three years on the last antiques fair. Their plan was to help Yun Fei Group reach new heights in the business field.

However, with Lu Chen winning the rough stone channel, the entire antiques fair became a joke, tarnishing the Zuo Family's reputation.

Even Yun Fei Jewelry Group's business was affected, causing them to achieve the worst sales of the month ever since the establishment of the company.

So, they hoped that Yun Fei Group's reputation could reach its peak again with the exhibition of the legendary luminous pearls.

As long as the exhibition of the legendary luminous pearls was successful, Yun Fei Group would once again be on top in Chongqing's jewelry field.

Many professionals from the world of antiques as well as jewelers were invited to join the exhibition. Many influential families were invited by the Zuo Family too.

These included three other families beside the Four Great Families, as well as people in the city that worked for or were related to the Zuo Family.

They were building the momentum for Yun Fei Group to rise again.

Although the Zuo family did not invite Lu Chen, Huang Youjun, one of the masters of the world of antiques, invited him along.

After seeing Lu Chen's performance at the antiques fair in Shangri-La Hotel, Huang Youjun's impression toward Lu Chen had

completely changed. It could be said that he admired Lu Chen's skills in the world of antiques from the bottom of his heart.

He lost terribly in a bet with Zheng Xihe back then but Zheng Xihe was completely destroyed by Lu Chen.

It was obvious that Lu Chen was way stronger than him.

Although someone like Lu Chen was somewhat wild and unpredictable, he was still a worthy fellow to befriend.

"Lu Chen, over here."

In the guest hall of Yun Fei Group, Huang Youjun waved at Lu Chen who was amongst the crowd.

After Lu Chen spotted Huang Youjun, he started making his way over.

Huang Youjun was accompanied by Lei Mingchao and Yu Zhengtao, both also masters in the world of antiques. Both of them gave Lu Chen a glance and did not bother to greet him or make any moves.

"Master Yu, Master Lei, good to see you

here too," Lu Chen smiled politely and greeted them.

They both mumbled their greetings and did not say anything else.

It was obvious that Lu Chen still had not won over their liking.

"Lu Chen, what do you think about the Zuo family saying that the legendary luminous pearls are from the Qin dynasty?" Huang Youjun asked.

"I guess it's true. If it weren't so, the Zuo family wouldn't make such a big fuss over it," Lu Chen grinned and replied.

"You're right. The Zuo family has literally invited every influential figure here. If they found out that it was fake in the end, wouldn't that humiliate them instead?" Huang Youjun nodded in agreement.

"Why isn't Lin Dahai here? Can he resist not coming to such a large-scale antiques fair?" Yu Zhengtao was annoyed at Lu Chen and Huang Youjun's constant conversation and tried to change the topic.

"Maybe he was delayed by other issues.

He could also be stuck in traffic or something. If it weren't so, with his obsession in antiques, he would have been here as soon as possible," Huang Youjun guessed.

"He might not be coming, actually," Lu Chen smiled and explained.

After Wang Xue lost around 4 million, it was a miracle that Lin Dahai hadn't jumped to his demise. He probably wouldn't be in the mood to come to the exhibition either.

"Let's not bother about him then. Here, let's have a toast," Lei Mingchao offered as he raised his glass to meet Yu Zhengtao and Huang Youjun's, ignoring Lu Chen completely.

Upon seeing this, Huang Youjun turned to give Lu Chen a toast, "Lu Chen, here. Let's drink."

"Sure." Lu Chen smiled. He clinked glasses with Huang Youjun and took a small sip.

"Mr. Lu, you came too!"

Right at that moment, two beautiful girls came over and greeted Lu Chen cheerfully.

Lu Chen looked up and recognised the Chen sisters, Chen Churan and Chen Xiaobing.

"Mr. Lu, come and sit with us! Everyone at our table are around our age," Chen Xiaobing said as she eyed Huang Youjun and the others.

"That's fine. I will sit here." Lu Chen shook his head. He wasn't close to the Chen sisters nor their friends. Although Yu Zhengtao and Lei Mingchao weren't friendly toward him, he felt more at ease sitting here with them.

"Then we will sit here too," Chen Churan announced. Ignoring what Lu Chen and the others might think, she took the seat right next to Lu Chen.

This was a public gathering, so there wasn't any segregation of classes nor arrangement of seats.

Although Yu Zhengtao and the other masters were uncomfortable, they did not say anything even though they frowned, annoyed.

Lu Chen was speechless. Since the Chen

sisters came over to invite him to their table and stayed because he refused, he didn't know what to say either.

He secretly wished for the both of them to leave as he saw two other people heading in their direction.

He was sure that these two people were targeting the Chen sisters.

"Churan, you're sitting here?" Zhang Daoren tried to butter up Chen Churan as he sat down with another young man in a tuxedo.

Yu Zhengtao and the others' facial expression turned even darker.

Yu Zhengtao and Lei Mingchao gave Lu Chen hostile stares.

If Lu Chen had gone off with the girls, they wouldn't have attracted more people over here.

"Zhang Daoren, Chu Qiaozhi, what are the both of you doing here?" Chen Xiaobing glared at the both of them.

Chu Qiaozhi felt a little awkward but Zhang

Daoren's eyes brightened when he spotted Huang Youjun and the others. He greeted, "Hey, you guys are Master Huang, Master Yu and Master Lei, right? It's an honor to meet you guys!"

The three masters from the world of antiques were quite popular among the upper class of Chongqing. As the heir of the Zhang family, Zhang Daoren obviously knew who they were.

"And you are?" Lei Mingchao scanned Zhang Daoren. He didn't know who he was.

"Oh. My name is Zhang Daoren, my grandfather's name is Zhang Shengqiao," Zhang Daoren introduced himself and smiled politely.

"Young Master Zhang, nice to meet you."
Lei Mingchao's eyes brightened as he
greeted. The Zhang family was one of the
Four Great Families in Chongqing so they
wouldn't dare to be rude around the young
master of the Zhang family.

"Here, masters, let me give you a toast."

Zhang Daoren cheerfully poured himself a glass of wine and raised it to the three of

them.

Yu Zhengtao and Huang Youjun didn't dare to be rude to Zhang Daoren and hurried to clink glasses with him.

Chu Qiaozhi also greeted the three of them respectfully.

However, his status wasn't comparable to Zhang Daoren's, so it was obvious that Huang Youjun and the others didn't know who he was.

After Zhang Daoren chatted and drank with the three of the masters for a while, he acted surprised when he saw Lu Chen and asked, "Master, since this fellow sat with you guys too, it means that you're friends with each other, right? Do you guys mind introducing him?"

He had spent these few days trying to investigate Lu Chen's background but came back empty. He couldn't figure out Lu Chen's background at all.

During Old Master Chen's 70th birthday, not only had Lu Chen completely humiliated him, Lu Chen had also managed to make his future wife leave

him.

With the amount of hatred he harboured against Lu Chen, he wouldn't let him off the hook easily.



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Zhang Daoren looked at Lu Chen and smiled, not looking like he wanted to kill Lu Chen at all. None of the Four Great Sons were completely incompetent, and even the most notorious Zhang Daoren had schemes that ran deeper and darker than the ocean floor.

"Ah, so it's the eldest son of the Zhang family. My name is Lu Chen. Lu as in 'land', Chen as in 'dust'. I'm honored to have received the recognition, even sharing a table with all three of you masters." Lu Chen might not be that good in other aspects, but he was still pretty good at gauging other people's moods; one look at Zhang Daoren's scheming eyes told him that he was being assessed.

If it weren't for the incident at old Mr. Chen's birthday party, he wouldn't have noticed this at all. Considering he'd thoroughly humiliated the Zhang family back then and even forced them to give up their land on Green Island, it would have been weird if Zhang Daoren was being friendly with him. Since friendliness was out of the question, then he must be harboring harmful intentions, and Lu Chen would never reveal himself so easily.

"Your surname is Lu? That reminds me of Tycoon Lu. Are you in any way related to him?" Zhang Daoren feigned surprise with a slightly exaggerated expression.

Meanwhile, Chen Xiaobing and Chen Churan's eyes lit up in response to his words. There was no way their grandfather and even the patriarch would show Lu Chen this much respect just for being a good martial arts fighter.

That would mean that there was a high chance he was related to Tycoon Lu in some way. Perhaps... they were father and son?! The two of them continued cooking up various theories, confident that their guesses weren't that far off.

"Five hundred years ago, maybe." Lu Chen internally sighed. Back then, the Jun Yue Group held a monopoly over Chongqing's business field for almost a decade and made Lu Zhong the richest man in Chongqing. Even after the group fell apart, it was inevitable that the surname Lu would always remind everyone of Lu Zhong. Lu Chen felt a little resigned because this wasn't the first time someone had assumed that Lu Zhong was his relative, and he suspected many more thought that he was Lu Zhong's son.

They'd never guess that Mr. 'Wealthiest in Chongqing' Lu Zhong was actually their family butler, and that he normally addressed Lu Chen as 'Young Master'.

"You're a funny man, Lu Chen," Zhang Daoren said, clearly in disbelief.

"Actually, I can verify what he said. Lu Chen was being truthful about having no relation to Tycoon Lu," Huang Youjun answered with a smile.

"What?" Now Zhang Daoren was surprised; he distinctly remembered Lu Chen being welcomed by both father and son of the Chen family, and Lu Zhong's family was the only Lu family he could think of that warranted such a welcome. How can there be no relation between them at all?

"Lu Chen is just the son-in-law of a friend of ours. If he was related to Tycoon Lu, surely you would have heard of this friend as well," Huang Youjun said with a smile on his face.

"That's true." Zhang Daoren nodded, completely believing Huang Youjun's words. If he couldn't dig up any info on Lu Chen himself, then maybe his in-laws would be a good place to start. But there was no way he could publicly ask Huang Youjun about them without seeming suspicious, so he could only weasel the info out slowly.

"Y-You're married, Mr. Lu?" Chen Xiaobing felt inexplicably sorrowful as she stared at Lu Chen in disbelief. Beside her, Chen Churan shot Lu Chen a look with a similar feeling of sorrow, praying he wouldn't tell the truth.

"Yep. My daughter's already a little over three years old," Lu Chen said with a smile. The sisters were strangely friendly with him and he had no idea what their intentions were, but he was a married man through and through. He knew he'd never initiate an affair, but he wanted to shut down any chance of it just to be safe. Life was too short to love more than one person per lifetime, after all.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's firm answer, Chen Xiaobing felt a little disappointed, while Chen Churan's face fell a little and she seemed dispirited to hear that. Chen Churan had previously given Lu Chen her contact info but she had never spoken to him alone, not even after he changed her

life with that astounding punch at her grandfather's 70th birthday banquet. The image of that incident was burned into her mind, and remained there to this day.

She knew what she felt wasn't love, but she still felt strangely sad, as if something precious to her had suddenly been taken away from her.

"Are you alright, Churan? Are you not feeling well?" Zhang Daoren asked, concerned.

"I'm fine," Chen Churan answered nonchalantly.

"That's good. Come, have a drink with me."
Zhang Daoren nodded, then clinked his
glass against Chen Churan's; she wasn't
much of a drinker, but now she downed
the content in the glass in one shot.

"Man, the Zuo family is powerful. Not only did they manage to invite all three patriarchs of the other Four Great Families, even Xie Weihao the City Council leader is here. If you have the honor of sitting at their table, then it certainly means you've made it big," Chu Qiaozhi said wistfully as he looked over at the table.

Lu Chen and the others glanced at that table when they heard him, and realized he was right. Apart from the people he mentioned, there were also several bigshots there that were extremely influential in Chongqing, and any regular joe who managed to secure a seat beside them would surely have their career progress skyrocket. Lu Chen smiled at Chen Guangxing when the latter looked over, then immediately turned around; he was here to cause trouble on this day, so he didn't want to associate with them too much.

Under normal circumstances, he would have offered a toast. After all, he was already on good terms with half the people at that table, including Chen Guangxing and Xie Weihao; he needed the support of those big shots for Yi Qi Technology too.

"My father's here too, I can go over to offer a toast," Zhang Daoren bragged. As the son of the Zhang patriarch, Zhang Xingquan, no one doubted his words; some even shot him admiring glances. Even the heir of a Great Family would not necessarily get the chance to drink with those VIPs at the same table.

"Churan, grandmasters, do go on without me. I'll come back after toasting Xie Weihao and the others," Zhang Daoren said proudly, basking in their admiration before heading over with a wine glass. Huang Youjun and the others nodded in admiration, since they have yet to receive any recognition from Xie Weihao even at their age, something that they hoped they would be able to achieve one day. To everyone's surprise, Zhang Daoren's father shook his head at him as soon as he approached the table. It was essentially an 'abort mission' signal, and Zhang Daoren obeyed it with disappointment.



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