

Big Shot 571

Chapter 571: Smart

Gu Zhou frowned. Just as he was about to say something, he heard Qiao Nian speak again.

“By the way, Gu Qi thinks that you’re his biological father. If he finds out about our relationship and that he has a stepmother, will he feel upset? Why don’t we hide our relationship for a while? We’ll say that we’re good friends. What do you think?” Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou intently with a smile in her eyes.

Gu Zhou didn’t speak immediately. His dark eyes were fixed on Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian felt a little uncomfortable under his gaze. She pursed her lips and asked, “Do you think my suggestion is okay?”

Gu Zhou nodded.

Qiao Nian gave a relaxed smile and continued, “Since you agree with me, I’ll get the butler to inform all the servants. However, I think you’ll have to speak to Grandma yourself.”

Gu Zhou frowned, a trace of coldness flashing in his eyes. He didn’t understand if Qiao Nian was really so open-minded, or if she didn’t care about him at all.

A woman who wanted to take the initiative to hide their relationship.

Who was he?

He was the only heir of the Gu family, the Second Young Master of the Gu family. Even if rumors of his short life and ugly appearance spread like wildfire, many people were still willing to marry him.

If he suggested hiding their marriage and Qiao Nian said that she wasn’t willing, he would have thought that it was normal. However, Qiao Nian was the one who suggested hiding their marriage.

She didn’t seem to mind at all.

Qiao Nian didn’t seem to notice the expression in Gu Zhou’s eyes. Seeing that he didn’t speak, she urged, “I still have to take care of Little Qi later. Should we do this?”

Gu Zhou was speechless.

Qiao Nian continued, “Children are fragile at heart. We have to take good care of him. You think so too, don’t you?”

Qiao Nian seemed to be eager to cut ties with him.

He seemed to remember that Qiao Nian had mentioned something about a year of marriage, but he had rejected her.

He couldn’t remember what was written on the contract either.

Gu Zhou felt his throat go a little dry. Qiao Nian's fondness for Gu Qi seemed to exceed her ordinary self. He said in a low voice, "I'll tell Grandma myself."

A bright smile appeared on Qiao Nian's face. Just as she was about to speak, she realized that something was wrong with Gu Zhou's expression. She was worried that Gu Zhou's third personality had appeared.

To be honest, she was most afraid of Gu Chuan.

"Gu Zhou, what's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?" Qiao Nian frowned slightly. Had Gu Zhou really switched personalities?

If Gu Zhou really changed his personality, it would be troublesome.

In particular, the cold aura he exuded was similar to Gu Chuan's.

If Gu Chuan came out now, should she strike first and knock Gu Zhou out and call Chen Qing over to help?

"If you're not feeling well, then I..."

"I understand. I'll make the arrangements." Gu Zhou interrupted Qiao Nian coldly, looking up at her.

"Where's Grandma?"

"Grandma already knows about him. She also knows that his family wasn't happy. There's something wrong with his mind. She will help." When Gu Zhou said this, he felt extremely upset.

Little Qi's childhood was very similar to his own. They both had an imperfect and flawed childhood.

Gu Zhou sighed heavily and said, "You're right. If he finds out that we're husband and wife now, he'll definitely be even more upset. We'd better keep this a secret for now. When he's recovered and his mental health has improved, we'll tell him."

Qiao Nian heaved a sigh of relief and said with a smile, "You really care more about him than his biological father."

Gu Zhou was speechless.

Qiao Nian continued, "Then I'm relieved. I'll go back to my room for a while. I'll continue taking care of him later."

With that, Qiao Nian turned to leave, but Gu Zhou grabbed her hand.

Chapter 572: Contract Marriage

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou in confusion. She didn't understand why Gu Zhou didn't want her to leave. Had she said something wrong?

Gu Zhou's gaze lingered on Qiao Nian's face, his eyes filled with confusion. He asked, "Have you ever thought that your request would be unfair to you?"

A trace of shock flashed in Qiao Nian's eyes. Her beautiful fox-like eyes curved up as she said, "I'm an adult and a doctor. I should take care of a sick child. Is there a problem?"

Gu Zhou thought that there was nothing wrong with Qiao Nian's words. However, Qiao Nian was really indifferent. She was still unwilling to admit that they were married.

Seeing that Gu Zhou's expression was getting worse and worse, Qiao Nian tried to speak as gently as possible. She asked softly, "Gu Zhou, what's wrong?"

Gu Zhou remained silent. He lowered his gaze, as if he was thinking about something.

Qiao Nian wanted to retract her hand, but Gu Zhou was holding on too tightly. She called out tentatively, "Gu Zhou?"

However, she still didn't receive a response. Gu Chuan's face flashed before Qiao Nian's eyes. Her heart jumped to her throat and she called out carefully, "Gu Chuan?"

At this moment, Gu Zhou finally reacted. He looked up at Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian was so frightened that her heart was about to jump out of her throat.

Oh my god!

He had really become Gu Chuan!

It was over. Gu Chuan was the most terrifying of the three personalities.

"How did you—"

Before Qiao Nian could finish speaking, Gu Zhou interrupted her. "Who's Gu Chuan?"

When Qiao Nian heard this, she was slightly stunned. She looked at Gu Zhou in confusion.

Huh?

This voice and tone did not sound like Gu Chuan at all. It was clearly Gu Zhou.

So Gu Chuan had not come out.

Qiao Nian heaved a sigh of relief. A bright smile appeared on her face as she said, "I called you by the wrong name just now. I'm sorry."

Gu Zhou frowned at Qiao Nian, clearly not believing her words.

Gu Chuan?

This name sounded like a man's name, but Gu Chuan didn't seem to exist in his memory.

When did Qiao Nian meet him?

However, there was something strange. The name Gu Chuan sounded a little familiar.

He seemed to know this person too.

At the thought of this, Gu Zhou felt a sense of danger.

Gu Zhou's frown deepened.

The uneasiness in Qiao Nian's heart gradually grew. She frowned and said softly, "Um, don't think about it anymore. Why don't you go and tell Grandma about this now?"

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian with a burning gaze, unblinking. "Gu Chuan... Who is he?"

Qiao Nian was dumbfounded.

How could she explain?

Gu Chuan and Zhou Zhou were all him!

If she said that, Gu Zhou would probably think that she was the one who was sick.

"I just accidentally called you by the wrong name. Why are you thinking so much? Alright, hurry up and get back to work. What if you miss out on something?" Qiao Nian hurriedly urged.

Gu Zhou pursed his lips. When he thought of how she had been considerate of Little Qi previously, he had a strange feeling.

If he asked for a divorce now, Qiao Nian might agree without hesitation.

Gu Zhou's dark eyes grew darker and darker, the light gradually fading. "Qiao Nian."

Qiao Nian's heart skipped a beat. She wanted to retract her hand, but Gu Zhou was holding on too tightly.

The spot he was holding was faintly burning. His voice sounded a little hoarse, but there was a hint of sexiness in it. She couldn't help but be tempted.

"Huh?" Qiao Nian swallowed.

"I remember when we first got together, you mentioned a contract marriage?"

Qiao Nian looked puzzled, but she still nodded obediently. "Yes."

Actually, she still wanted Gu Zhou to sign the marriage contract!

Chapter 573: Frustrated

As long as she obtained the contract, she would run off to look for her grandfather who mysteriously disappeared and senior brothers. After that happened, she would return to treat Gu Zhou's illness.

If Gu Zhou's illness was not cured, he would very likely die.

Qiao Nian felt a little suffocated, and her heart ached.

If she told Gu Zhou now that she wanted a divorce, with Gu Zhou's pride, he would definitely not let her help with the treatment again.

Even if she wanted a divorce, she had to treat his illness first. At the thought of this, Qiao Nian said, "How is that possible? Everyone wants to be Mrs. Gu!"

Gu Zhou didn't feel relieved. Although Qiao Nian was smiling, he could tell that she was hesitating before answering his question.

She really wanted a divorce.

Was the Gu family that bad?

Did she want to leave this place so badly?

"Do you want to divorce me that badly?"

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned. She looked at Gu Zhou in surprise. She had no intention of getting a divorce now.

Before Qiao Nian could speak, she saw Gu Zhou turn around and go downstairs.

"Where are you going?" Qiao Nian was worried that Gu Zhou's condition was unstable. What if Gu Chuan ran out? She hurriedly followed him.

"I'm going out!"

When he reached the first floor, Gu Zhou stopped Chen Qing, who was about to leave, and left with him.

Qiao Nian watched as Gu Zhou left. She felt that Gu Zhou was a little strange, but with Chen Qing by his side, he should be fine.

Qiao Nian took out her phone and sent Chen Qing a message. "Pay more attention to him. Perhaps other personalities will appear."

Chen Qing, who had walked into the courtyard, glanced at his phone and hurriedly replied. He put his phone back into his pocket and pretended that nothing had happened.

When Qiao Nian saw Chen Qing's message, she heaved a sigh of relief and sat down on the sofa, looking exhausted.

After a long while, Qiao Nian regained her composure and walked upstairs.

In the evening, Qiao Nian was taking care of the sleeping Gu Qi. When she heard the knock on the door, she walked out.

When she came out of her room, she saw Chen Qing waiting for her outside.

"Second Young Madam, Second Young Master asked me to take you somewhere," Chen Qing said in a low voice.

Qiao Nian hesitated for a moment. Then, she remembered that Gu Qi had just fallen asleep. He shouldn't be waking up anytime soon. She nodded at Chen Qing and the two of them walked out.

“Was his emotions stable during the day?” Qiao Nian asked worriedly. “Did his other personalities come out?”

“No, Second Young Madam. Are you saying that Second Young Master might switch personalities soon?” Chen Qing frowned deeply, his lips pursed.

Qiao Nian thought of Gu Zhou’s current state and couldn’t help but sigh. She said, “It’s hard to say what his situation is like now. Try to stay by his side as much as possible. If anything happens, he’ll be safe with you around. By the way, where did he ask you to take me?”

“The villa on the mountain.”

When Qiao Nian heard Chen Qing’s answer, she was slightly stunned. When she first went there, Gu Zhou’s personality had already appeared.

Hence, she was a little curious why Gu Zhou wanted her to go to the villa on the mountain this time. “Why does he want me to go there?”

“Second Young Master won’t tell me,” Chen Qing said flatly.

Qiao Nian smiled and didn’t say anything else.

Chen Qing drove Qiao Nian up the mountain.

She opened the car window, and a strong osmanthus fragrance brushed past her nose. Her gaze fell on the stars in the sky, and she was slightly stunned.

So beautiful.

This feeling was really good.

However, Qiao Nian’s heart skipped a beat.

Today was not a special festival. Could Gu Zhou have done something wrong?

Gu Zhou usually treated her with indifference.

While Qiao Nian was thinking, the car had already arrived at the hut on the mountain.

After Chen Qing got out of the car, he quickly walked to the front passenger seat and opened the door.

Qiao Nian got out of the car and saw Gu Zhou standing not far away.

Chapter 574: Take You Somewhere

Gu Zhou walked over to Qiao Nian and draped a fur coat over her.

Actually, Qiao Nian wasn’t cold. She wanted to take off her cloak, but she received a burning gaze from the man. There was a trace of danger and warning in his eyes.

Qiao Nian lowered her hand silently.

Gu Zhou held Qiao Nian’s right hand and walked beside her. “I’ll take you somewhere.”

Although not many people came to this villa, the servants still cleaned it regularly every day. However, the lights would not be left on.

The villa grew darker and darker. Moonlight and starlight could no longer be seen.

Qiao Nian pursed her lips and said hesitantly, "Can we turn on the lights?"

That night five years ago was like a chain that had been locked around her, preventing her from breaking free.

Her footsteps gradually slowed down.

When Gu Zhou heard Qiao Nian's voice, he stopped in his tracks. He realized that she seemed to be especially afraid of the dark. At this moment, Qiao Nian looked like an ordinary girl.

Qiao Nian sensed that Gu Zhou had stopped. In the darkness, she could only see the outline of Gu Zhou's face. She narrowed her eyes, trying to get a better look. "Why aren't you walking?"

Qiao Nian just wanted Gu Zhou to turn on the power for her. She didn't want to stay in the dark anymore. Seeing that Gu Zhou didn't speak, her heart was in a mess. Puzzled, she asked, "Why aren't you saying anything? Are you feeling unwell? Ah..."

Before she could finish speaking, her waist was trapped in his arms, and her feet left the ground. Only then did she realize that Gu Zhou had picked her up.

In the darkness, except for her vision, all her senses were magnified.

She let out a cry of surprise and instinctively wrapped her arms around Gu Zhou's neck, leaning her head against his chest.

The tip of her nose was sniffing the man's scent. For some reason, she felt at ease.

Qiao Nian felt extremely uncomfortable being carried like a princess by Gu Zhou. She licked her lips gently and said in a low voice, "I can walk."

"We're almost there. If you're afraid, close your eyes."

Gu Zhou's voice was low, hoarse, and pleasant to the ear, but there was an undeniable quality to it.

Qiao Nian sighed silently in her heart. She leaned her head against his chest and closed her eyes silently.

She could clearly hear the strong heartbeat in his chest. For some reason, her heart suddenly began to race, making her feel flustered.

She tried hard to adjust her mentality. At this moment, she was being carried in his arms like a toy.

When Gu Zhou wasn't sick, he was quite the boyfriend.

Qiao Nian lowered her gaze. If he wasn't sick, would their paths have never crossed?

With this thought in mind, Qiao Nian immediately threw all the strange thoughts in her mind to the back of her mind.

Even if Gu Zhou's life changed, the butterfly effect would not affect her. She would still be the second daughter of the Qiao family, who was not favored by anyone.

Moreover, she still had to look for her grandfather. Her grandfather had raised her painstakingly, but he had disappeared for no reason.

Thinking of her grandfather, Qiao Nian's heart gradually calmed down. Her thoughts gradually drifted away.

When Qiao Nian sat down on the swing with Gu Zhou in her arms, she came back to her senses and realized that this was a small garden behind the villa.

This small garden was at the top of the mountain. It was sealed off with glass.

Sitting on the swing, she saw the bustling An City. The neon lights of the night flickered, and the traffic was heavy.

Moonlight and starlight scattered on the ground, making one feel very comfortable.

The fear and insecurity in Qiao Nian's heart dissipated. It was as if a person who had lost her way in the darkness had seen a ray of light and was saved.

Gu Zhou sat not far away from Qiao Nian. He glanced at her and asked, "Are you still feeling cold?"

The temperature at the top of the mountain was slightly lower than at the bottom.

Chapter 575: Wait For Me

Qiao Nian smiled and shook her head. "I'm not cold."

Her gaze inadvertently fell on the table beside her. There was red wine and desserts on the table. It seemed that Gu Zhou had specially gotten someone to prepare them.

"What do you want to say to me?" Qiao Nian went straight to the point. If Gu Qi wasn't sick, she would be very willing to stay here and admire the beautiful scenery of An City with Gu Zhou. However, she was still very worried about Gu Qi.

"This is a strawberry pastry I got someone to specially make. It should be your favorite." Gu Zhou didn't answer Qiao Nian immediately. His gaze fell on the small table.

Qiao Nian picked up a piece of cake. It melted in her mouth. The soft and delicate texture was her favorite flavor. Moreover, she didn't find the cake greasy after eating it.

"Delicious. Has the family changed chefs?" Qiao Nian smiled at Gu Zhou.

"It's from somewhere else," Gu Zhou said, his gaze lingering on Qiao Nian's face. "You suggested hiding your identity today. Have you been thinking about getting a divorce?"

Qiao Nian was drinking red wine with this pastry. The taste was amazing.

She ate happily, but she had never expected Gu Zhou to bring up the past.

“How is that possible?” Qiao Nian mocked Gu Zhou silently, but she didn’t show it on her face. She looked at Gu Zhou with a smile. “It’s so good to be Mrs. Gu. Many people would do anything to be Mrs. Gu.”

“To you, Gu Qi is just a child you’ve just met not long ago. For his sake, you want me to bring the entire Gu family to lie?” Gu Zhou raised his eyebrows, staring unblinkingly at Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian had never expected Gu Zhou to be so gentle when she first arrived. Now, he was questioning her.

He was truly an unpredictable man!

Of course, Qiao Nian didn’t dare to reveal her true thoughts. Her lips curved up slightly as she said gently, “Gu Qi is so obedient. I like him very much too. It’s only right for me to take care of his feelings. Moreover, logically speaking, he should call me Godmother.”

Gu Zhou didn’t speak. His gaze remained fixed on Qiao Nian, as if he wanted to see something different in her eyes.

Qiao Nian smiled at Gu Zhou and leaned closer to him. “Aren’t you very concerned about him too? I’m doing this for your sake.”

Gu Zhou’s slender fingers gripped the wine glass tightly. He drained it in one gulp, stood up, and walked in.

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou in confusion, not understanding what she had said wrong. She hurriedly stood up and rushed towards Gu Zhou’s back. “What are you doing?”

“Going down the mountain.”

Qiao Nian hurriedly jogged after Gu Zhou. However, Gu Zhou was walking a little too fast, so she could only jog. “Walk slower.”

She really didn’t understand what Gu Zhou was up to again.

Qiao Nian followed Gu Zhou into the long corridor of the villa. The corridor was dark, and she couldn’t see Gu Zhou. She could only hear Gu Zhou’s footsteps getting further and further away.

Darkness enveloped and suffocated her.

Qiao Nian felt a chill run down her spine. She hurriedly wrapped her clothes around herself, the panic in her heart gradually growing.

She had wanted to take out her phone to turn on the lights, but when she thought about how she had left her phone in Gu Qi’s room, she knew that something was wrong.

“Gu Zhou, can you wait for me?” Qiao Nian shouted, feeling a little anxious.

“Why are you shouting? I can hear you!”

Gu Zhou’s voice came from ahead. Qiao Nian heaved a sigh of relief. It seemed that he hadn’t gone far.

At this moment, a hand grabbed hers.

“Ah, let go of me! Don’t touch me!” Qiao Nian couldn’t help but scream.

The memories of that night five years ago surged like a rising tide.

She was locked in a dark room. She was about to leave when a hand grabbed her wrist and held her by force. The hand tightened, and she fell back onto the bed.

Chapter 576: Please

“Don’t touch me. Go away!”

Qiao Nian screamed hysterically. She wanted to retract her hand, but she couldn’t. She was trembling, completely immersed in that night five years ago.

She hated it when others got close to her, especially men.

Qiao Nian’s body trembled even more. All she wanted to do was escape from this room.

... .

Sensing that something was wrong with Qiao Nian, Gu Zhou tightened his grip on her hand, not daring to let go at all.

Previously, he had thought that Qiao Nian was just afraid of the dark. Why was her reaction so drastic? It was a little like a victim’s syndrome.

Could something have happened to her in the darkness?

This was unlikely.

Previously, he had gotten someone to investigate Qiao Nian. Her identity was very clean, and there was nothing wrong with her.

Could it be that she had changed her personal information?

That made sense. Qiao Nian was able to order around Qin Chuan’s people. How could she change such a small matter so easily?

Gu Zhou’s brow furrowed deeper and deeper. If it weren’t for the fact that the two of them had experienced so much together, he would definitely think that Qiao Nian had ulterior motives.

But now, he knew that Qiao Nian was a pawn used by the Qiao family. She had no choice but to marry him.

“Qiao Nian...” Gu Zhou called out softly.

Qiao Nian’s body trembled even more violently, and her coat fell to the ground. She seemed to be immersed in pain, as if she was still enduring torture.

“No, please, don’t come over...”

Please...

When Gu Zhou heard this word, his heart skipped a beat.

When they were in MY, Qiao Nian had brought Lu Zhu out of Jiang Chi’s villa alone in high spirits.

She was as gentle as water when she was with Gu Qi.

When she faced him, her fox-like eyes would always flash with cunning.

At this moment, this was the first time he had heard Qiao Nian say the word “please” helplessly and hopelessly.

Fear, despair, helplessness, pity...

These negative emotions gripped Qiao Nian tightly, as if they wanted to drag her into the abyss.

Five years ago, that girl was just like Qiao Nian now and was about to fall into hell. He clearly remembered that girl begging him with this voice.

However, their voices were different.

Gu Zhou let go. Hearing the commotion, he knew that Qiao Nian had already curled up into a ball by the wall.

“Wait for me.” With that, Gu Zhou turned and walked towards the other end of the corridor. He had designed this villa himself, so he knew where the main power switch was.

Walking to the electrical room, Gu Zhou opened the door and groped around in the darkness. Then, he pushed the main power switch up.

The originally dark villa was instantly brightly lit.

At first, Gu Zhou was not used to the brightness of the lights. He blinked and gradually got used to it.

He hurriedly walked towards Qiao Nian.

At this moment, the corridor was empty. Only a coat was left on the ground.

Suddenly, the scene from that night five years ago flashed in Gu Zhou’s mind.

The bed was in a mess, and there was a woman’s coat on the ground.

Gu Zhou felt an emptiness in his heart. He glanced around but didn’t see Qiao Nian.

Strange. Where had she gone?

He didn’t hear any footsteps. There were no rooms or doors around the long corridor, which meant that Qiao Nian must have headed towards the small garden at the back of the villa.

Gu Zhou quickly walked towards the garden. He looked around but didn’t see Qiao Nian.

Gu Zhou was about to leave when he saw Qiao Nian curled up under a tree next to the swing. She was holding her head in her hands, as if she had been abandoned by the entire world.

Gu Zhou's heart ached. Looking at Qiao Nian, he didn't know how to pull her out of her pain.

He squatted down and stayed by Qiao Nian's side, silently accompanying her. He understood that Qiao Nian was probably the same as him. She was mentally ill. When she was sick, she didn't want to communicate with anyone.

Chapter 577: Temptation

When Qiao Nian heard footsteps, her body trembled even more violently. She covered her head desperately, as if this was the only way to avoid being discovered.

Gu Zhou could clearly hear Qiao Nian's heavy breathing. With every breath she took, her grip on her head seemed to tighten.

He could feel her pain, because he had experienced this before.

His eyes darkened as he recalled his past self. When he had a relapse, Qiao Nian was able to pull him out of the darkness.

However, when Qiao Nian fell ill, no one could save her.

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian with heartache. Carefully, he draped the coat over Qiao Nian again.

He only hoped that she would wake up soon.

Qiao Nian hugged her head tightly. She felt as if she were in a cellar, shivering from the cold but unable to break free.

At this moment, a warmth enveloped her entire body. Her world gradually warmed up.

Her grip on her head gradually loosened. She took a deep breath, and the suffocating feeling of despair gradually disappeared. Everything became comfortable.

She gradually sat up straight. On her right was An City in the dark, and on her left was the light from the long corridor of the villa.

The corridor was white in color, making one feel as if they had walked into a bright world.

"Are you feeling better?"

The male voice coming from the side stunned Qiao Nian slightly. Her heart jumped to her throat, and she instantly raised her mental defenses, crossing her arms over her chest.

"It's me, Gu Zhou." Gu Zhou looked into Qiao Nian's deer-like eyes. A trace of guilt flashed in his eyes, and his face turned pale. "I'm sorry, I didn't know you were afraid of the dark."

He knew in his heart that Qiao Nian wasn't afraid of the dark. Instead, she had been traumatized in a dark place.

The reason he said that was because he didn't want to burden her too much or think that he had discovered something.

Qiao Nian gradually lowered her hands and her gaze. She gradually realized that this wasn't the night she had been bullied five years ago.

Seeing that Qiao Nian was responding, Gu Zhou hugged her.

This time, Qiao Nian behaved and didn't push Gu Zhou away.

Qiao Nian was enveloped in warmth, and the coldness in her heart gradually dissipated. She began to respond to Gu Zhou with both hands, raising her head slightly. Inadvertently, her lips brushed against Gu Zhou's Adam's apple.

She could feel the man hugging her tense up. Even his breathing became erratic.

Qiao Nian recalled how Gu Zhou had brought tanks to look for her back in MY, forcing Jiang Chi to let her and Lu Zhu live.

At that time, although he looked tired, he stood by her side like a savior.

"Gu Zhou..." Qiao Nian hugged Gu Zhou's back tightly. Her beautiful fox-like eyes gradually filled with charm. She looked up at Gu Zhou, her uneasiness gradually calming down.

When Gu Zhou heard Qiao Nian's voice, he was slightly stunned. Her voice was completely different from before. It was charming and soft, like a feather brushing past his heart. It was itchy, and he couldn't stop himself.

His eyes gradually darkened as he looked at Qiao Nian with an unfathomable expression.

Logically speaking, Qiao Nian should have woken up by now. She wasn't supposed to look like a seductive little fox.

Qiao Nian's hands gradually retracted, moving up his chest. She cupped Gu Zhou's face with both hands, gradually taking the initiative. Without hesitation, her lips kissed Gu Zhou's.

Her hands were like snakes, gently sliding across his face and back.

Gu Zhou opened his eyes and happened to see Qiao Nian's infatuated expression.

It wasn't pleasure, but indulgence. She wanted to use reality to crush her nightmares.

What exactly had she experienced?

Chapter 578: Don't

"Please, no!"

"Oh, no..."

In the darkness, Qiao Nian resisted helplessly, trying to stop the man from pressing himself against her. However, the man was much stronger than her. She tried hard to resist the man's invasion, and her tears fell uncontrollably.

However, her strength gradually dissipated, but she still couldn't stop the man's demonic claws.

She could clearly hear the sound of clothes tearing. The defense on her body gradually disappeared.

...

Qiao Nian couldn't help but hug Gu Zhou tightly, trying hard to forget all the images in her mind.

Gu Zhou sensed that Qiao Nian was becoming more and more anxious, as if she wanted to resist the fear in her heart.

She was trying to distract herself.

His frown deepened. If Qiao Nian continued like this, it would only get worse.

With this thought in mind, he reached out and pushed Qiao Nian away.

"Gu Zhou—" Qiao Nian's drawl carried a trace of charm and coquettishness. She pressed her body against Gu Zhou, her eyes moist. "Don't you want me?"

Gu Zhou's frown deepened. He didn't speak, but looked at Qiao Nian coldly.

"Don't you want it? It's now or never." When Qiao Nian said this, she was almost leaning against Gu Zhou.

Gu Zhou's expression darkened. He disliked the current Qiao Nian very much. At this moment, Qiao Nian was completely restrained by her extreme desires. She wanted to use one thing to forget another.

It wasn't love.

It had nothing to do with physical desire either.

Instead, she felt as if she had thrown caution to the wind. She wanted to use this stimulation to resist the fear in her heart.

"Qiao Nian, are you treating me like a tool?"

There was a trace of anger in Gu Zhou's cold voice.

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou's voice, she gradually came back to her senses. The fear in her eyes gradually disappeared, leaving behind her usual composure.

If it weren't for Gu Zhou, she would still be controlled by desire.

Only then did she notice that she was sitting on Gu Zhou. She subconsciously got off him and hurriedly distanced herself from Gu Zhou.

She clenched her fists tightly, her nails digging into her palms. The pain made her sober up even faster.

What had she just done?

She pounced on Gu Zhou, who had an aversion to women, and wanted to use him like a tool?

How... how could she be so bold?

Qiao Nian stole a glance at Gu Zhou. Seeing his dark expression, she thought that he was angry at her for being rash.

"I... I'm sorry. I didn't do it on purpose just now," Qiao Nian stammered. She didn't know how to explain herself either.

His footsteps were getting closer and closer. Qiao Nian lowered her head and saw that Gu Zhou had already walked up to her.

"You only want to do it once with me?"

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned. She looked up at Gu Zhou, confused.

"One time won't satisfy me," Gu Zhou said expressionlessly. "One night is more like it."

Qiao Nian was speechless.

Just as Qiao Nian was at a loss for words, Gu Zhou picked her up like a princess.

Qiao Nian instinctively wanted to jump down, but Gu Zhou's grip was stronger. She couldn't break free at all. "I-I'm fine now. I can walk on my own."

"I'm sorry. I really didn't know you were so afraid of the dark."

Gu Zhou's voice came from above. The uneasiness and grievance in Qiao Nian's heart gradually dissipated, leaving only peace of mind.

Following Gu Zhou made her feel even more at ease.

"Mrs. Gu."

Qiao Nian looked up at Gu Zhou. He wasn't looking at her, but ahead.

"It's been hard on you taking care of Gu Qi," Gu Zhou said calmly. Although Qiao Nian had taken the initiative to hide the fact that the two of them were married, even if she didn't say anything, he would still ask Qiao Nian to cooperate with him and hide the truth.

At the end of the day, it was still his fault.

"I don't feel wronged."

"It's a long night. Why don't we confirm our marriage?" As Gu Zhou spoke, he looked down at Qiao Nian in his arms and saw that her face was flushed red.

Chapter 579: Strange

Qiao Nian knew in her heart that Gu Zhou was definitely not joking. He was seriously considering this matter.

Qiao Nian's heart began to race. She pursed her lips. "Don't, I..."

Before Qiao Nian could finish speaking, Gu Zhou placed her on the sofa in the living room.

Gu Zhou walked to the water dispenser at the side, filled a cup with hot water, and handed it to Qiao Nian. "Drink some water to calm yourself down."

Qiao Nian looked up at Gu Zhou, her eyes a little red. She took the cup from Gu Zhou and said softly, "Thank you."

After drinking some hot water, Qiao Nian finally recovered. Everything that had happened just now replayed in her mind. She wished she could find a hole to hide in.

"I'm sorry. Just now, I..."

"It's my fault. I didn't know you were afraid of the dark," Gu Zhou interrupted her coldly.

Qiao Nian froze. She had clearly done something wrong tonight, but Gu Zhou had already apologized to her three times.

She was slightly stunned, but she didn't know how to answer.

She was not afraid of the dark.

No matter how familiar the environment was, darkness had no effect on her.

However, when she was in an unfamiliar environment, the darkness would always remind her of that night five years ago. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't get rid of the nightmare. Then, she would do some unimaginable things uncontrollably.

Only she and Qin Chuan knew about this.

If Gu Zhou had not brought her here tonight, she would not have done such a thing.

However, she still didn't understand. Had she said something wrong?

Why had he suddenly left?

"Are you feeling better?" Gu Zhou asked softly.

"I'm fine. Let's go back. I wonder how Gu Qi is now. Is he better?" Qiao Nian gave a faint smile.

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian, remaining silent.

The two of them walked out of the villa. Gu Zhou drove the other car back with Qiao Nian.

When they arrived at the Gu family's main residence, it was already past three in the morning. Most people had already entered the house to rest, and there was no one outside.

Just as they reached the second floor, they saw Gu Qi walking out of the house barefooted, dragging a pillow with one hand.

Qiao Nian's frown deepened. She quickly walked over and hurriedly picked Gu Qi up, casually tossing the pillow in Gu Qi's hand to Gu Zhou.

Before she left, there were servants guarding Gu Qi's room. Why had all of them disappeared?

Qiao Nian hugged Gu Qi and touched his forehead, then his feet. His forehead was no longer burning, but his feet were still a little cold.

Gu Qi noticed Qiao Nian's small actions and didn't say anything. His little fingers twirled around Qiao Nian's long hair, and his eyes gradually lit up.

He liked being hugged by Qiao Nian like this. It was very warm and comfortable.

Afraid that they would disturb Grandma, Qiao Nian hurriedly carried Gu Qi back to his room and placed him on the bed. She said softly, "Little Qi, you still have a cold. You can't get out of bed casually, especially your feet. You can't catch a cold. Most of the time, people fall ill because their feet catch a cold."

Gu Qi sat on the bed with his head lowered, not speaking. His fingers were still wrapped around Qiao Nian's hair. He looked like an obedient child.

As for Gu Zhou, who had followed Qiao Nian in with a pillow, he was completely stunned. He had never expected Little Qi to accept Qiao Nian's embrace. One had to know that Little Qi had always been very resistant to others touching him.

Gu Zhou placed the pillow back on the bed and took out his phone to send Chen Qing a message. "Check how many times Qiao Nian and Little Qi have met."

After sending the message, Gu Zhou calmly turned off his phone and stood calmly at the side. Qiao Nian brought over a basin of water and helped Gu Qi wash his feet.

Gu Qi was sitting by the bed, looking at Qiao Nian with sparkling eyes.

Gu Qi's gaze was something Gu Zhou had never seen before.

Chapter 580: Angry

Qiao Nian washed Gu Qi's feet very carefully and seriously. She looked up at Gu Qi and said with a smile, "Remember to wear shoes in the future."

Gu Qi nodded obediently.

After helping Gu Qi dry his feet, Qiao Nian carried the basin into the bathroom and poured it out. She then washed her hands and returned. Seeing that Gu Qi was still sitting on the bed, she smiled and said, "Aren't you sleepy?"

Gu Qi shook his head.

“Are you hungry?” Qiao Nian asked gently.

Gu Qi nodded. He even touched his stomach with his right hand, as if in response to Qiao Nian’s question.

Previously, Qiao Nian had fed him some food. Later on, she and Gu Zhou spent a few hours alone on the mountain. It was normal for Gu Qi to be hungry now.

“Alright, I’ll go to the kitchen to take a look now. There should be some porridge specially prepared for you. When you recover, I’ll take you to eat something delicious, okay?” As Qiao Nian spoke, she helped Gu Qi back to the bed and covered him with the blanket. She didn’t forget to tuck him in.

Qiao Nian gave Gu Zhou a look and walked out.

Gu Qi lay on the bed and watched as Qiao Nian left. Only after Qiao Nian had left did his gaze fall on Gu Zhou’s face.

Gu Qi frowned. The joy in his eyes instantly disappeared. He questioned unhappily, “How did you meet Auntie?”

Gu Zhou’s dark eyes were filled with curiosity. He asked with interest, “Huh?”

“She’s my aunt!” Gu Qi said unhappily.

He seemed to be declaring his sovereignty, but he also seemed to be displeased that Gu Zhou knew her.

However, Gu Qi’s voice was exceptionally loud, unlike his usual calm self. It was as if knowing his aunt was something he was very proud of.

This was the first time Gu Zhou had seen Gu Qi like this. In the past, Gu Qi’s expression had been indifferent, as if he was not interested in anything. He especially didn’t want to communicate with him.

What surprised him even more was that Gu Qi had taken the initiative to communicate with him because of this matter.

Gu Zhou said calmly, “Of course I know her. She’s my…”

Wife.

He almost said the word.

If Gu Qi knew that Qiao Nian was his stepmother, he might deliberately go against Qiao Nian because of his rebellious nature. This would gradually distance Gu Qi from Qiao Nian.

Gu Zhou knew that there were very few people Gu Qi cared about. In his heart, other than his parents, Qiao Nian probably ranked first.

However, just because Qiao Nian was ranked first didn’t mean that she could replace his mother.

Gu Zhou recalled what Qiao Nian had told him previously. She had asked him to hide their marriage. Qiao Nian was really putting herself in Gu Qi’s shoes.

Gu Qi stared unblinkingly at Gu Zhou, confusion written all over his face. "What?"

Gu Zhou retracted his thoughts and his gaze fell on Gu Qi's face. "My secretary."

"Huh?" The disappointment on Gu Qi's face was obvious. At the same time, he realized something. "Could it be that you met auntie before me?"

Gu Zhou nodded calmly. "Yes."

Gu Qi frowned. How could his father monopolize all the good things? He pouted and looked at Gu Zhou indignantly.

His expression was very expressive, making Gu Zhou a little curious.

Gu Qi was expressionless, as if everything around him had nothing to do with him.

"Are you unhappy?" Gu Zhou still liked Gu Qi when he had a lively expression as he would look more like a child.

Gu Qi pouted and sat up in anger.

If it was anything else, he would definitely not argue with his father.

The only exception was Auntie.

The auntie was clearly his. He had clearly known her earlier. Why had she become the auntie his father had known first?

Hmph.

"It's useless even if you knew Auntie first. I know that Auntie definitely likes me the most. Moreover, Auntie likes to hug me and wash my feet!"

Gu Qi raised his head high and puffed out his chest, looking as proud as he could.