

Lady gu 1031

Chapter 1031: Don't Be Unreasonable

Yi Cang was not nervous. He sneered and said, "Teacher Qiao, on the account that you're still young, I can give you a chance. As long as you lower your head and admit your mistake, this matter will be over. After all, regardless of status or reputation, you're inferior to me. It won't do you any good to continue fooling around here."

Qiao Xi was angered to the point of laughing. Yi Cang was really shameless. He seemed to be advising her on the surface, but he was actually provoking her. So what if her work was hers? Who would believe her?

At this moment, the art hall was silent. Everyone looked at each other, and the scene fell into a deadlock.

Shang Jing's face darkened as he took two steps forward. His tone was filled with impatience. "Teacher Qiao, I know that you've been wronged and find it unfair, but the truth is out now. Everyone knows that this calligraphy piece belongs to Mr. Yi Cang. Why are you being unreasonable? I advise you to quickly apologize to Mr. Yi and not ruin your reputation!

"Mr. Yi doesn't want to bicker with you because you're a young talent, but you can't take things too far!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Yi Cang snorted arrogantly.

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. Even though she didn't like this piece of work, it was still hers. Why should she give it to others?

Yi Cang wanted to snatch her achievements with just one sentence by relying on his identity. He was simply daydreaming!

Qiao Xi crossed her arms in front of her chest and said casually, "Since Mr. Yi and I both said that this work is ours, then we'll get a professional to appraise it. After all, the style is similar, but some small habits can't be changed."

One had to judge a person's handwriting through their previous works, but Yi Cang's work was bought from many people. If they really invited an appraiser, Yi Cang would expose himself.

Sure enough, when Yi Cang heard this, his expression instantly changed. His arrogant expression from before froze as he glared fiercely at Qiao Xi.

He remained silent and quietly waited for the others to stand up for him. Before Shang Jing could speak, Teacher Zhao, who was in charge of the competition, suddenly roared angrily. "Qiao Xi! Are you done?! This concerns Li City University's reputation. It doesn't matter whether you've done something wrong or not, but the main thing is that you have to be brave enough to admit your mistake. Mr. Yi doesn't want to pursue the matter with you. As long as you apologize, this matter will be over. However, you just have to cause trouble. Do you still care about the university?!"

Hearing these words, Yi Cang smiled proudly. There was no need for him to say anything at all. Someone would teach Qiao Xi a lesson for him. Before long, Qiao Xi would be forced to let the matter rest, so there was no need to appraise the calligraphy piece.

Yi Cang slowly stood up and placed his hands behind his back. He cleared his throat and said, "Teacher Qiao, I admire you very much, so I don't want to bicker with you. I can also understand the grievances in your heart. You were wronged, so you want to find an outlet to vent your anger. Now that you've already caused a scene, it's about time to end things. If you continue to cause trouble, it won't look good for everyone."

Qiao Xi remained calm and collected.

Seeing that she was silent, Yi Cang thought that she was afraid, so he said frankly, "If you insist on getting someone to appraise it, I have no objections. Mr. Shang, please find a professional and reliable appraisal agency."

He was sure that Qiao Xi did not dare to continue fighting with him. After all, she was just a university teacher. If she continued to cause trouble, she would lose her job. The gains would not make up for the losses.

Unexpectedly, Qiao Xi smiled and nodded in the next second. "Alright!"

Yi Cang was stunned for a few seconds, then his eyes became filled with anger. He had never seen such an insensible person who insisted on having a piece of work be appraised. Shang Jing also went forward to put away the calligraphy piece and prepared to send it to the appraisal agency.

At this moment, the students below the stage were all dumbfounded. The students of Class 1 could not help but ask, "Muxue, has Qiao Xi gone mad?"

Lu Muxue's expression was extremely ugly. She did not expect Qiao Xi to be so stubborn and unwilling to let go even now. She replied with a gloomy expression, "Perhaps she's too confident."

"Once the appraisal agency has the results, will she say that Senior Yi Cang bribed them to give fake results?"

Lu Muxue sneered. "She's putting up a final struggle. Mr. Yi has already given her a way out, but she's still not satisfied. Even the chancellor can't protect her now."

Qiao Xi's expression did not change when she heard the discussions below the stage.

Yi Cang looked at her meaningfully and said arrogantly, "Teacher Qiao, since you don't know how to appreciate my kindness, don't blame me for being merciless. You cheated and slandered your elders..."

Before she could finish, footsteps suddenly came from the entrance of the art hall. Everyone turned around and saw a handsome middle-aged man in a long robe walking in with a group of people behind him.

Chapter 1032: Teacher's Support

Although the middle-aged man at the door was a little old, one could tell from his face that he must have been a handsome man when he was young. He had a gentle temperament and attracted many gazes the moment he appeared. However, no one noticed the anger in his eyes.

Who was this person?

Just as everyone was puzzled, Chancellor Chen suddenly stood up. Yi Cang's expression changed as well. A trace of horror and flattery suddenly appeared on his disdainful face.

Shang Jing was even more dumbfounded. All the artists and calligraphers present stood up when they saw who it was and were prepared to welcome them.

Everyone's attitude was enough to prove that the middle-aged man in front of them had a noble identity.

The students discussed softly. "Look, the chancellor and those calligraphers have all stood up to welcome him. Who is this person?"

"Muxue, do you know him?"

Lu Muxue watched for a moment before her body suddenly trembled. She said excitedly, "Mr. Liang Pingchuan is actually here!"

Everyone was about to ask about Liang Pingchuan's identity when they saw Shang Jing quickly go forward to welcome him. He was respectful and ingratiating. "Mr. Liang, you should have informed us when you came so that we could go out and welcome you."

The chancellor and the university leaders also went forward to welcome him. "Hello, Mr. Liang. Please take a seat!"

Someone in the crowd began to explain, "Mr. Liang is the top figure in the art circle. He looks very young, but he became famous very early on. He's proficient in music, painting, and calligraphy. No one in the country can shake his status. If he's in second place, no one will dare to say that they're first."

"Moreover, he even represented our country to promote traditional culture overseas and is considered an art ambassador. Look, even Mr. Yi Cang has to welcome him. It's enough to show that his status is extraordinary!"

"I heard that the National Painting and Calligraphy Association previously wanted Mr. Liang Pingchuan to be the president, but he's used to being carefree and doesn't like complicated matters. He has never participated in these competitions. Why did he suddenly come today?"

Qiao Xi couldn't help but be slightly surprised when she heard the discussions of everyone. It turned out that her teacher was so famous!

Liang Pingchuan looked at Qiao Xi with a much gentler gaze. Qiao Xi instantly understood why her teacher said on the phone that he would meet her at Li City University. He had come this time to support her!

After Liang Pingchuan sat down, his gaze landed on the two works on the stage. He asked casually, "Isn't this a competition? What's going on?"

Shang Jing hurriedly explained, "Mr. Liang, a contestant cheated in this competition and stole Mr. Yi Cang's work. She even slandered Mr. Yi, so Mr. Yi asked me to send these two works to be appraised."

Yi Cang looked coldly at Qiao Xi. Although Liang Pingchuan had a gentle temper, he was extremely serious when it came to art. He would absolutely not tolerate someone like Qiao Xi who refused to admit that she cheated. She even slandered her seniors.

If Liang Pingchuan reprimanded Qiao Xi, there would no longer be a place for Qiao Xi in the entire art industry. She would even be ostracized in the design industry.

Yi Cang's face was filled with pride. He suppressed the excitement in his heart and said respectfully, "Mr. Liang, Miss Qiao is still young. It's normal for her to be muddle-headed. I didn't want to pursue the matter, but she refused to apologize and even slandered me for snatching her work. I really had no choice but to send her work for appraisal."

Chancellor Chen frowned. He was not afraid of Yi Cang. It did not matter even if he offended him, but now that Liang Pingchuan was here, it would be troublesome if he forced Qiao Xi to apologize.

At this moment, everyone below the stage felt that Qiao Xi was completely ruined. Lu Muxue smiled proudly.

Yi Cang beamed with joy. He was waiting to see Qiao Xi's humiliated expression when she apologized to him. It should be very satisfying.

At this moment, Liang Pingchuan clenched his fists tightly, his eyes filled with anger. He was really angry!

Who was Yi Cang? How dare he bully Little Six? She was the child he doted on. He could not even bear to reprimand her. What right did Yi Cang have to malign her?

Little Six was really useless. She actually let Yi Cang prance around in front of her for so long!

Liang Pingchuan looked around and suppressed his anger. There were so many people present, so it was better not to hit anyone. He had to maintain his gentle image.

Just as Yi Cang was feeling proud and felt that the matter had been concluded, Liang Pingchuan suddenly asked, "Shangjing, are you sure that Teacher Qiao stole Yi Cang's work? What evidence do you have?"

The smile on Yi Cang's face vanished abruptly. What evidence did he need? He was the strongest evidence!

Chapter 1033: This Is The Evidence

Shang Jing frowned and replied respectfully, "Mr. Liang, the artistic conception of this piece is not something that a 20-year-old girl can achieve. Coincidentally, I heard that Mr. Yi lost a piece of calligraphy, so I took this piece of calligraphy to ask Mr. Yi. It's indeed the piece he lost, but I don't know how it ended up in Teacher Qiao's hands. This is enough to prove that she stole Mr. Yi's work!"

“Heh...” Liang Pingchuan sneered. “Just because Yi Cang said that his work is his, does it mean it’s his? Didn’t Teacher Qiao produce an even more perfect piece? She has already proven herself with her ability. There’s no need for her to steal Yi Cang’s work.”

Shang Jing’s expression was a little gloomy, then he frowned and said, “Mr. Liang, the calligraphy piece that Teacher Qiao wrote on the spot is a copy of Mr. Yi’s work. It can only mean that she’s indeed talented, but she’s just a 20-year-old girl. How could she have written such a perfect piece?”

Bang!

As soon as he finished speaking, Liang Pingchuan slammed the table. “It’s all nonsense!”

He looked at Yi Cang coldly and said in a serious tone, “Yi Cang, is this piece really yours?”

Yi Cang was so scared that his entire body trembled. He really did not understand why Liang Pingchuan was angry. Could it be that this calligraphy piece was personally written by Liang Pingchuan? If that were the case, he would be in trouble.

However, when he took a closer look, the basics of this painting were not good enough. Liang Pingchuan had written calligraphy for his entire life, so it was impossible for it to be his handwriting. Moreover, the style was very different. It was fine as long as it was not Liang Pingchuan’s work. Even if he refused to admit it, Qiao Xi could not do anything to him.

Yi Cang pretended to be calm. “It’s mine!”

Even though Liang Pingchuan had a noble identity, he could not determine that this was not his work with just one sentence.

Liang Pingchuan gritted his teeth. It seemed that Yi Cang had predicted that they would not have any evidence and was prepared to deny it. He sneered. Did Yi Cang really think that he could not do anything to him?

Seeing Liang Pingchuan’s angry look, Shang Jing was afraid that he would be implicated. He hurriedly said in a low voice, “Mr. Liang, today is the calligraphy competition. Why don’t we hold the competition first? We can settle the matter of cheating later...”

“Shut up!”

Liang Pingchuan berated, his eyes filled with anger. “Do you have the right to speak here? Cheating is no small matter. How can we start the competition if we don’t investigate clearly?”

In everyone’s eyes, Liang Pingchuan had always been gentle. They had never seen him flare up in public. Shang Jing was so scared that he lowered his head and did not dare to say another word.

Yi Cang was slightly unhappy in his heart. Hearing that Liang Pingchuan wanted to protect Qiao Xi, he hurriedly said, “Mr. Liang, you’re a senior in the art world. We should respect your wishes, but today is Li City University’s calligraphy competition. We can’t delay everyone’s matters because of Qiao Xi’s cheating. If you insist on supporting Teacher Qiao, then...”

“That’s right! I want to support Qiao Xi!”

Liang Pingchuan interrupted Yi Cang coldly and said in an icy-cold tone, "Let me tell you, this calligraphy piece was written by Qiao Xi half a year ago. I saw it with my own eyes. How did it suddenly become yours?"

He waved his hand, and his assistant went forward with his phone. He played a video and projected it onto the big screen. He said loudly, "Miss Qiao rarely practices calligraphy, so the last time she wrote, our master instructed me to record it."

In the video, Liang Pingchuan was leaning against the couch and lazily watching the girl in front of the wooden table waving her brush and ink. The girl frowned, but she quickly completed a calligraphy piece and handed it to Liang Pingchuan with a smile.

Liang Pingchuan took the calligraphy piece and sized it up. Then, he shook his head helplessly. "It's still not good. You really don't have any talent."

The video was short, but the content was very clear. The girl in the video was Qiao Xi, and the calligraphy piece in her hand was the work submitted to the competition!

The art hall was eerily quiet. Yi Cang was stunned on the spot. He felt a dull pain in his temple as if he had been hit hard. His mind was a mess.

Lu Muxue gasped and stood up abruptly. Her body swayed, and her vision darkened. She hurriedly supported herself on the chair and finally stabilized herself.

Qiao Xi knew Liang Pingchuan? Moreover, this calligraphy piece was completed half a year ago?

This was impossible!

Her breathing gradually quickened, and her chest heaved. She could not accept this fact.

After a long time, the scene instantly became noisy.

"Oh my God! What's going on? Qiao Xi actually knows Mr. Liang Pingchuan?"

"Do you see that wooden table? Although it looks very ordinary, it's made of priceless ancient wood. Mr. Liang introduced it in an interview previously. That's his study, and outsiders aren't allowed to enter."

Chapter 1034: This Person Is Too Shameless!

"Looks like this calligraphy piece was indeed written by Qiao Xi, but Yi Cang said it was his? Does he think Qiao Xi is easy to bully just because she's a university teacher?"

"Yi Cang wanted to snatch Qiao Xi's work and pass it off as his. He didn't expect Qiao Xi to know Mr. Liang and that the writing process was recorded."

Everyone did not expect the outcome of the cheating incident to be like this. They all looked at Yi Cang in disbelief. Who would believe that a dignified master of the calligraphy world would maliciously snatch the work of an amateur?

Liang Pingchuan looked up at Yi Cang coldly. "The truth is right in front of you. What else do you have to say?"

Yi Cang's face was ashen, and his body swayed. He hurriedly held onto the chair to steady himself. His vision was slightly blurry, and he looked at Liang Pingchuan while trembling with fear before turning to look at Qiao Xi.

"What? You have nothing to say? Apologize to Xi Xi!" Liang Pingchuan berated, "As a senior in the calligraphy world, you tried to snatch the work of a junior and even slandered her for cheating. If I hadn't come to clear her name today, Xi Xi would have been scolded for cheating! She clearly didn't do anything wrong, but she was wronged by you because she's too talented and capable. Is this fair to her?"

Liang Pingchuan had a gentle temper and had always been gentle and elegant. However, at this moment, he reprimanded Yi Cang sternly. It could be seen how angry he was.

The students of Class 3 below the stage were equally angry. The sports representative shouted at Yi Cang, "Mr. Liang is right! Just because Teacher Qiao is too outstanding, you got jealous and wanted to malign her. You did something wrong, so shouldn't you apologize?"

"Do you know that once Qiao Xi is thought to have cheated, she'll be fired from the university? Moreover, she'll have to bear the infamy and be mocked by everyone in the future. Not only will you not suffer any losses, but you'll also be able to obtain a perfect piece of work without spending a single cent. You've planned it well, but you never expected that your evil deeds would be exposed one day, huh?!"

"Don't think that you can do whatever you want just because of your identity and status. We've been studying for so many years, so don't think we'll be stepping stones for people like you! We also want to display our works and stand out!"

The students below the stage roared angrily. It was not only for Qiao Xi but also for themselves. They were unwilling for their achievements to be stolen by others.

The students stood up and shouted one after another. The chancellor at the side also said with a gloomy expression, "Mr. Yi, you passed off Teacher Qiao's work as yours and even slandered her reputation. Our university can sue you according to the law. And Mr. Shang, you're also involved in this matter. What else do you have to say for yourselves?"

Yi Cang and Shang Jing's faces were ashen. Their throats were dry, and they could not say a word.

Below the stage, Lu Muxue's heart trembled. Cold sweat gradually seeped out of her forehead as her heart thumped violently.

She kept comforting herself in her heart. This had nothing to do with her. She had just raised a question. She did not say that the calligraphy piece belonged to Mr. Yi. Yi Cang admitted it himself.

Yi Cang gritted his teeth. He knew that he could not explain himself anymore, but he was still unwilling to give up. "She's just an amateur. It's her honor that I liked her work. Anyway, she won't be entering the calligraphy world. Since she was just keeping this work, she might as well give it to me. I'll compensate her accordingly after this. Mr. Liang, we're both seniors in the calligraphy world. Why are we going against each other?"

These words were heard through the microphone at the side. The students widened their eyes when they heard that.

Was it Qiao Xi's honor that he stole her work? This person was too shameless!

Not only did Yi Cang pretend to be the creator of Qiao Xi's work, but he even played the blame game with Qiao Xi. He was not even willing to apologize and even shamelessly said that this was Qiao Xi's honor!

The corners of Liang Pingchuan's mouth twitched. He slowly walked forward, and the powerful pressure made Yi Cang unable to raise his head. The atmosphere instantly fell into a deadlock. After a long silence, he slowly said, "Do you think that just because the other party is an amateur with no background, they can be easily manipulated? I helped Xi Xi clear her name this time. If it were someone else, you would've ruined that young person's life. However, you don't regret it at all and are instead very unconvinced?"

Yi Cang lowered his head, but he was still unwilling to give up. "As long as she admitted that the work she submitted was changed, neither party would've lost out. I had already given her a way out, but she, a junior, insisted on going against me..."

"Why?" Liang Pingchuan's eyes were filled with anger, and his voice suddenly turned cold. "Why should she admit it? This is clearly her work. Why should she go against her own wishes? Moreover, with her identity, she doesn't have to suffer at all!"

Chapter 1035: Saved The World In Her Past Life

"Do you think Qiao Xi doesn't have any background?" Liang Pingchuan sneered. "Yi Cang, listen carefully. Qiao Xi is my and Senior's final apprentice!"

The entire venue fell silent for a few seconds.

Everyone could tell that Liang Pingchuan and Qiao Xi had a deep relationship, but they did not know that the two of them were actually master and apprentice. They heard that Liang Pingchuan never took in apprentices from the outside world, and his apprentices had always been very mysterious.

Shang Jing's entire body trembled as he abruptly raised his eyes to look at Qiao Xi. At this moment, she was lazily leaning against the wall. Her cold and stunning face was filled with indifference, and she did not reveal the slightest emotion.

He never expected that Qiao Xi was actually the disciple of Liang Pingchuan and his senior. Liang Pingchuan was already at the peak of the art circle. Although his senior had never shown his face, Liang Pingchuan would occasionally show his senior's works. That senior was good at oil paintings, and every one of his works could be said to be perfect.

Qiao Xi was actually the disciple of these two seniors?

When Lu Muxue heard this, she felt as if she had fallen into an ice cellar. She had already lost the ability to think. Her lips were pale and trembling slightly.

She had been learning calligraphy since she was young and dreamed of receiving Liang Pingchuan's guidance. However, she had never seen Mr. Liang before this. What right did an amateur like Qiao Xi have to be Mr. Liang's apprentice?

Shang Jing stood on the spot in a daze. If Qiao Xi was really Liang Pingchuan's apprentice, then it made sense that she could write such perfect works. However, he kept having the feeling that something was wrong.

Suddenly, he had an idea. His sharp eyes hurriedly searched below the stage.

That's right! It was Lu Muxue! She was behind this!

Lu Muxue met Shang Jing's questioning eyes and hurriedly lowered her head guiltily. Her eyes were filled with panic.

Liang Pingchuan glanced at the few of them coldly and sneered. "If Qiao Xi wasn't my student, she would've been wronged by all of you today! Ruining someone's future is equivalent to destroying their beliefs. This matter absolutely won't end here. I'll ask the National Painting and Calligraphy Association to severely punish all of you!"

Hearing this, Yi Cang instantly panicked. He hurriedly rushed over and grabbed Liang Pingchuan's arm. He explained while trembling, "I was manipulated by someone. Someone deliberately gave this piece to me!"

He could not be punished by the association, or everything he had worked hard for all these years would be ruined. Hence, he had to find a scapegoat. He pointed at Shang Jing and said, "It's Shang Jing! He was the one who brought the work to me. Also, Lu Muxue was the one who said she wanted to give this calligraphy piece to me. Mr. Liang, I was muddle-headed for a moment and was blinded by greed. I was bewitched by them!"

Lu Muxue's heart trembled. This old man actually betrayed her!

Qiao Xi slowly raised her eyes to look at the pale woman in the crowd and sneered.

Yi Cang's words caused an uproar. The students of Class 1 looked at Lu Muxue and quickly distanced themselves from her, afraid that she would implicate them.

"At the end of the day, it's still Yi Cang who's greedy! Even if someone gave him a calligraphy piece, he could just refuse. Can saying that he was bewitched cover up his mistake?"

"Then why did Lu Muxue and Shang Jing get involved in this? Shang Jing has always been fair, so he was invited by the university to be a judge. Lu Muxue is also a goddess in the design department. Why did they join forces to malign Teacher Qiao?"

A few calligraphers who were on good terms with Shang Jing defended him. "Mr. Shang just couldn't stand seeing anyone cheat, so he did what he did. He's not selfish."

"Tsk! Who would believe that he's not selfish? If he really wanted to investigate the matter clearly, he should've told the chancellor as soon as he found out about this. Then, he should've discussed with the chancellor how to handle this matter in private to minimize the impact. He shouldn't have publicly

announced this matter at the competition venue and pushed the blame on Qiao Xi, causing her to lose her reputation! He just wanted to use Qiao Xi's cheating incident to boost his reputation!"

"Lu Muxue must be jealous that Qiao Xi could easily complete a perfect work, so she deliberately instigated Shang Jing to accuse her of cheating in public!"

"That's right! If Qiao Xi had participated in the competition, she would definitely have gotten first place. Lu Muxue, who has been learning calligraphy for more than 10 years, would've lost to Qiao Xi in the end. She definitely felt upset about it, so she planned all of this!"

"Teacher Qiao is really awesome. Not only is she an international designer, but she also knows oil painting and calligraphy. Most importantly, she's beautiful. Did she save the world in her previous life?"

Chapter 1036: Learn To Be Human

Everyone in Class 3 also looked at Qiao Xi with admiration. Teacher Qiao Xi had always been outstanding, but she was too low-profile, so no one noticed her.

What puzzled them was that Qiao Xi was clearly stronger than Yi Cang and Shang Jing. Why did she say that she did not know calligraphy? Could it be that she was too humble?

At this moment, Liang Pingchuan glanced coldly at Yi Cang and said in a mocking tone, "You were so easily manipulated. With your IQ, are you still thinking of remaining in the calligraphy world?"

Then, he raised his hand and pointed at Shang Jing. "If you were my student, I'd immediately cut off all ties with you. You look fair and selfless on the surface, but in reality, everything you do is for your own sake. You don't care about the truth at all! If it weren't for you and Lu Muxue instigating things behind the scenes, would Xi Xi have been wronged?"

"All of you have been learning calligraphy for many years. Don't you understand that you have to learn how to be a good person first? Even if you're talented and capable, you can't hide your immoral character! In the art industry, character is far more important than ability. If you have the ability, others might praise you, but only with a noble character will you be admired!"

"Even if she were just a student without any background, how can you be sure that she isn't able to produce perfect works? As a senior, you have to give the juniors a chance to display their talent, not blindly suppress them for the sake of your reputation."

Liang Pingchuan looked helpless after lecturing them. The beliefs in these people's minds were already deeply rooted, so it was useless for him to say these things.

Shang Jing thought that he was talented and his career had always been smooth-sailing, so he was superior to others. Lu Muxue, on the other hand, had been pampered since she was young. Due to jealousy and hatred, she wanted to ruin the future of another person. They might regret it, but they would never think that they were in the wrong.

At this moment, Qiao Xi glanced at Lu Muxue. Her head was lowered, and her expression could not be seen clearly. However, Shang Jing's face was filled with panic. Although he was not the mastermind, he would still be punished accordingly.

Seeing this, Qiao Xi picked up the microphone and said, "Chancellor Chen, let's not waste everyone's time. Let's continue with the competition."

Chancellor Chen naturally would not let Yi Cang and Shang Jing continue to be judges. The two of them were too embarrassed to stay here. When they heard this, they fled.

Qiao Xi walked back to her seat. The class monitor was still indignant. "What?! They left without even apologizing? And Lu Muxue was the one who caused all of this! Isn't she going to apologize?"

"Calligraphy requires talent. Teacher Xi Xi has only been learning the art for a few months but can already write such perfect works. Lu Muxue has been learning for more than 10 years but hasn't made a name for herself. How embarrassing!"

Qiao Xi heard the discussions of everyone and only smiled before focusing on the competition.

At this moment, Lu Muxue's phone rang. She hurriedly stood up and left the art hall. She walked to a corner to answer the call.

"Brother Ah Yan..."

"Muxue, you're really too willful. I told you not to attack Qiao Xi, but why didn't you listen?" Lu Yan's voice revealed displeasure. "Grandpa has been thinking of ways to rope Qiao Xi in. After you caused such a scene, she probably won't keep in contact with the Lu family anymore. You've ruined Grandpa's plan. Think about how you'll admit to your mistake later!"

"Why?"

Lu Muxue's face was pale as she gritted her teeth. "Qiao Xi clearly doesn't like the Lu family and even caused you to lose more than ten billion. Why are you still trying to rope her in? She'll never be on our side. Why waste your time on her?"

Lu Yan's tone was slightly cold. "This isn't something you should be thinking about. Grandpa and I will handle the family's matters. You just have to do your job well. Muxue, you ruined Grandpa's plan by acting on your own this time. Don't be so rash in the future."

Lu Muxue's mouth was wide open, and her face was filled with grievance. She did not expect Lu Yan to scold her for Qiao Xi. She hung up the phone and forcefully endured the tears in her eyes. The resentment in her heart grew stronger and stronger.

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At the same time, Xia Yunlou and Old Madam Xia had already gotten into the car to go home. Xia Mengyan went to the studio to handle some trivial matters.

After a bumpy journey, they finally returned to the villa. When Old Madam Xia entered, she quickly took a shower and burned incense, wanting to chase away her bad luck. Meanwhile, Xia Yunlou was sitting in the living room with a displeased expression. "Dad, I didn't expect Qiao Xi to actually cheat. She's really embarrassing our Xia family!"

Xia Cheng's expression did not look too good either. "Why is she so muddle-headed? It's just a competition. Is there a need to cheat? Moreover, this matter might affect Mengyan."

“What does this have to do with Mengyan?” Xia Yunlou asked.

Chapter 1037: Fang Shiyun Wants To Take On An Apprentice

“Have you heard of Fang Shiyun?” Xia Cheng sighed and said, “Fang Shiyun is Liang Pingchuan’s apprentice. Although Liang Pingchuan doesn’t acknowledge him as his apprentice, everyone knows very well that Fang Shiyun got all his skills from Liang Pinchuan. You should’ve heard of Liang Pingchuan’s status in the art industry, right?”

Xia Yunlou nodded.

Xia Cheng frowned. “Fang Shiyun said that he wants to take on an apprentice. I originally wanted to send Mengyan over to give it a try, but news of Qiao Xi cheating has been exposed... Qiao Xi and Mengyan are sisters, after all. I’m afraid this matter will affect Mengyan’s apprenticeship.”

When Xia Yunlou heard this, she was instantly infuriated. “Isn’t it enough that Qiao Xi, that little b*tch, has embarrassed herself? Now, she’s even delayed Mengyan’s important career. If Mengyan can’t acknowledge him as her master because of her, I’ll absolutely not let her off!”

“Don’t be anxious. I’ll ask Mr. Fang first. Maybe he doesn’t care about this. Although Mengyan and Xi Xi are sisters, they didn’t grow up together. Their personalities are completely different.”

With that, Xia Cheng called Fang Shiyun’s assistant.

“Hello, Mr. Xia. What’s the matter?” The assistant’s attitude was gentle.

“Hello. I want to ask how Mr. Xia is doing?” Xia Cheng was a little uneasy.

The assistant said indifferently, “The matter of Mr. Fang accepting an apprentice has to be put aside for now. However, Mr. Fang said that he knows the lady of the Xia family. If he has time, he hopes to meet her.”

Xia Cheng was stunned.

“Mr. Xia, you don’t have to rush the matter of the apprenticeship. After all, Miss can have a better master. I hope you can tell Miss that my master has been thinking about her.”

Xia Cheng took a while to react and immediately beamed. He did not expect Mengyan to know Fang Shiyun. There was no need to rush the apprenticeship. From what his assistant said, the man could introduce a better master to Mengyan. Could it be Liang Pingchuan?

If she could become Liang Pingchuan’s apprentice, Mengyan’s status would definitely rise. At that time, the Xia family’s status in Li City would also increase.

At the thought of this, Xia Cheng suddenly asked uneasily, “Mr. Fang, you must have heard about the calligraphy competition. Will it affect our family...”

“Those are all rumors. My master doesn’t care at all.” With that, the assistant hung up.

Xia Cheng held his phone and could not come back to his senses for a long time. He said excitedly, "Mr. Fang is indeed Mr. Liang's apprentice. He doesn't look down on Mengyan because Qiao Xi cheated. Moreover, he seems to know Mengyan and is willing to introduce an even more outstanding master to her!"

"Quickly make a call! Get Mengyan to come back!"

On the other hand, after the assistant hung up, he walked to Fang Shiyun's side and said respectfully, "Sir, it's done."

Fang Shiyun gulped and pointed at the mountain of gifts on the table. "Will Senior like these gifts?"

The assistant hesitated for a moment and said, "Girls in their 20s should like jewelry and bags. The things you chose are very good."

"Good! Good!" Fang Shiyun heaved a sigh of relief. "Xia Cheng actually wants me to take Senior as my apprentice? That's too scary! She's my senior! Am I worthy of being her master?"

The senior Fang Shiyun was talking about was naturally Qiao Xi, but he did not know that the Xia family had completely misunderstood him.

The matter of Li City University cheating came to an end, but the live broadcast was switched off midway. The only people who knew the outcome of the matter were the teachers, students, and the university leaders present. The others did not know about Qiao Xi's relationship with Liang Pingchuan.

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Fang Shiyun had gotten someone to buy some expensive gifts meant for girls. At the same time, the news of him wanting to take in a female apprentice spread. Everyone guessed that he wanted to take in a female apprentice and that he had already decided on a candidate. Otherwise, why would he buy so many gifts that young girls liked?

This matter had spread like wildfire. One of the members of the National Painting and Calligraphy Association had heard of this matter and specially asked around. He found out that Fang Shiyun had recently contacted the Xia family. Moreover, there was a daughter of the Xia family named Xia Mengyan. She was in her 20s and was a famous perfumer. She was also proficient in the four arts. Could it be that the apprentice Fang Shiyun wanted to take in was this person?

He thought for a long time and thought that Xia Mengyan was the most suitable candidate.

If that were the case, then he would build a good relationship with Xia Mengyan first. There would definitely be benefits in the future.

The news that Fang Shiyun was taking in an apprentice had spread throughout the entire art industry. At the same time, another piece of shocking news was revealed. The master of the calligraphy world, Yi Cang, actually passed off the work of another as his.

Chapter 1038: Why Are You Pretending To Be Innocent?!

This was not the first time Yi Cang had passed off someone else's work as his. More than half of his works were created by others. He bullied his apprentices to create works for him and at the same time, he suppressed the rising talents. Those people joined forces to report Yi Cang and gathered all the evidence to post it online.

The evidence was clearly listed as if it had long been prepared. Yi Cang could not retort. All his titles and honor disappeared overnight. His reputation was completely ruined, and many contracts were terminated. Those who had been bullied and suppressed by him came looking for him. The former calligraphy master was completely taken down.

Qiao Xi looked at the news online and raised her eyebrows. "Gu Zheng, you did this, right?"

Gu Zheng was wearing black loose pajamas and lazily leaned against the sofa. He raised his eyes unhurriedly and glanced at the news on the screen. Something flashed past his eyes, but he quickly recovered his calm and looked at Qiao Xi with an innocent expression. "No, Yi Cang has done too many evil deeds. He has too many enemies. I didn't have to do anything at all."

Qiao Xi: "... " Why was Gu Zheng still pretending to be innocent in front of her?! Everyone knew his methods!

For Yi Cang to be able to survive in the art industry for so many years, he had always been very careful. The people he suppressed all had no background. After taking their work, he would give them some money to appease them if he was in a good mood or chase them away if he was in a bad mood. Even if the other party got angry, they wouldn't dare to say anything because they knew that no one would believe them even if they reported Yi Cang. Moreover, they did not have any strong evidence.

Now, these people seemed to have agreed to join forces to report Yi Cang. Qiao Xi would never believe that Gu Zheng did nothing!

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and looked at the document in his hand. The corners of his mouth curled into a meaningful smile. "In the end, you're just too awesome. Everyone who offends you ends up miserable."

Qiao Xi glared at him, then put down her phone. Yi Cang's reputation was in shambles now, so he would probably find a place to hide for a period of time. From now on, he would never appear in front of her again.

After a moment of silence, Qiao Xi asked, "Tell me, why is Lu Muxue looking for trouble with me?"

Gu Zheng narrowed his eyes. "Is it strange for the Lu family to look for trouble with you?"

Qiao Xi said thoughtfully, "Shouldn't they be looking for trouble with you? What's the point of dealing with me? Gu Zheng, I've always been very curious. You're the grandson of the Lu family, but the Lu family would rather support Huang Lilan's illegitimate child than you. They even spent so much effort to scheme against you. Why exactly is that?"

Gu Zheng did not raise his head and replied with a chuckle, "Lu Yan grew up in the Lu family since he was young. After raising him for so long, they've developed feelings for each other. Meanwhile, the Lu family and I have always been incompatible. It's natural for them to like Lu Yan.

“Old Master Lu is stubborn. Lu Yan is the heir he carefully nurtured. Even if he’s not the flesh and blood of the Lu family, he still has to continue on this wrong path. Moreover, if I, an illegitimate child who was abandoned by my parents and who almost died in Maple Garden, surpassed Lu Yan, whom he carefully nurtured, wouldn’t he be very embarrassed?”

For the sake of his reputation, Old Master Lu was unwilling to accept Gu Zheng in the past. He wanted to support Lu Yan, whom he had personally nurtured, to rise to power. So what if Lu Yan was not the flesh and blood of the Lu family? He thought that the person he nurtured would definitely be more perfect than Gu Zheng!

Qiao Xi nodded. Gu Zheng’s background was miserable. When he was young, he did not have enough to eat and wear. He was often abused by Huang Lilan. Everything he obtained now was obtained through his own efforts.

On the other hand, Lu Yan grew up with the love of the Lu family. He received a high level of education since he was young, and the Lu family gave him all their resources. If he could not compare to Gu Zheng, then everyone in the Lu family would lose their dignity.

Actually, it was understandable for Old Master Lu to like Lu Yan. It was because Lu Yan had grown up by his side since he was young. How could he hate him?

Perhaps there was another important reason. Old Master Lu did not like his daughter, Lu Qingyun, so he hated her biological son, Gu Zheng. Hence, when Gu Zheng looked for the Lu family when he was young, they pretended not to know anything despite knowing his identity.

When Qiao Xi thought of the hardships Gu Zheng had suffered in the past, anger arose in her heart. She snorted coldly. “The Lu family is not right in the head. Fortunately, you didn’t grow up in the Lu family. Otherwise, you would’ve become as annoying as Lu Yan.”

Gu Zheng’s tone was calm. “Everyone’s character is different. Even if I had grown up in the Lu family, I would never have become one of them.”

Chapter 1039: Forcing Herself On Him?

People often said that one was influenced by the company one kept, but that was not entirely the case. Gu Yao grew up under Huang Lilan’s wrong upbringing and should have been raised to be a hedonistic son who committed all kinds of crimes. However, he was kind-hearted and knew right from wrong. He was completely different from Huang Lilan.

In Qiao Xi’s opinion, even if Gu Zheng grew up in the Lu family, he would still be incompatible with the rest of the Lu family. He might still become the person who was hated by the Lu family, and it was precisely because of this that Miss Lu Qingyun was hated by Old Master Lu.

“Mrs. Gu,” Gu Zheng suddenly said softly. The light in his eyes flickered, and his voice was low and hoarse. He stood up and slowly approached her.

Qiao Xi looked at the man who had suddenly approached her and subconsciously took a few steps back. She did not expect that she would accidentally step on air and fall onto the floor, causing her vision to darken.

The living room was silent. Qiao Xi lay on the floor and was dazed for a moment. Fortunately, she had fallen onto the carpet. It did not hurt too much, but it was really embarrassing!

Gu Zheng was not in a rush to help her up. Instead, he sat on the sofa and looked at her with a smile. He teased, "Mrs. Gu, how could you fall like this? You really need to train."

Qiao Xi frowned and glared fiercely at him. She struggled to get up, but her feet slipped and she fell to the floor again.

At this moment, Qiao Xi wished for nothing more than to find a hole to hide in.

The smile on Gu Zheng's face grew wider. He stroked his chin and said, "Mrs. Gu, you're really stupid and cute. You fell while lying down?"

Qiao Xi instantly choked and glared at him angrily. Suddenly, her eyes shifted, and when she raised her eyes again, they were charming. She said sweetly, "Ah Zheng..."

Gu Zheng's Adam's apple bobbed as he narrowed his eyes.

Qiao Xi slowly stood up and reached out to pull on his pants. Her voice was soft as she said, "Ah Zheng, it hurts! I want you to kiss and hug me. Raise me up!"

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth twitched.

"Ah Zheng, you said you love me. I fell this time. Don't you feel sorry for me?!" Qiao Xi continued to act cute.

She supported herself on the floor with one hand and gently tugged on his pants with the other, looking weak. She bit her lip lightly, her expression aggrieved and charming. "Can you carry me?!"

Gu Zheng's body suddenly tensed. After a moment of silence, he smiled. "Alright."

He stood up and moved a little closer. He stretched out his hands and was just about to pass them through Qiao Xi's waist when Qiao Xi suddenly supported herself on the floor and flipped over, pressing Gu Zheng under her. After that, their posture became that of Gu Zheng lying on the floor while Qiao Xi straddled him.

Gu Zheng was not surprised in the slightest. He held Qiao Xi's waist tightly with one hand and wrapped his other hand around her neck, forcing her to lean down and lean tightly against his chest.

On the surface, it seemed that Gu Zheng was being pressed down, but in reality, Qiao Xi's body was completely controlled by him. She leaned intimately against Gu Zheng's body without any room to resist.

The two of them calmed down for a moment. Gu Zheng's low, hoarse, and slightly charming voice sounded. "Mrs. Gu, are you trying to force yourself on me?"

Qiao Xi instantly blushed. She only wanted to punish Gu Zheng, but she never expected that she would not be able to gain any benefits. On the contrary, she was even getting teased by him.

“Mrs. Gu, the door isn’t locked yet. Are you sure you want to do it in the living room with me?” Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow, and a trace of desire appeared in his deep eyes.

Qiao Xi suddenly felt her entire body heat up, and she could not help but lick her lips. She opened her mouth slightly awkwardly, but she did not know what to say. Hence, the two of them remained in this position while lying on the carpet.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open, and hurried footsteps were heard. Then, Song Shiyu said excitedly, “President! I have something to tell you. Um—”

The words in his mouth suddenly stopped. The living room was abnormally quiet as if time had frozen.

Song Shiyu stood where he was, looking embarrassed and at a loss. At the same time, Qiao Xi closed her eyes, unable to face this reality.

Song Shiyu had seen them! She really wanted to disappear!

After a few seconds of silence, Song Shiyu suddenly covered his eyes and said in a panicked tone, “President! I didn’t see anything. Please continue. I’ll leave and close the door for you!”

With that, he left as if he was escaping. Every step he took was so flustered, which was enough to show his current mood.

Qiao Xi: “...” ‘Song Shiyu, would you believe me if I said that we were just playing around?’

At this moment, Gu Zheng had already let go. Qiao Xi quickly got up from Gu Zheng’s body and shouted, “Song Shiyu! Come here!”

Chapter 1040: The Xia Family’s Invitation

Hearing Qiao Xi’s shout, Song Shiyu refused crazily. “Young Madam! I was wrong. I shouldn’t have disturbed your married life. You can deduct my salary. I really didn’t see anything. I don’t dare to go in anymore! President, I know you two are close, but the living room is still a little cold and the floor is too hard. Be careful of your health! Otherwise, you’ll get sick when you’re old!”

The corners of Qiao Xi’s mouth twitched slightly.

Gu Zheng looked at her and smiled. Then, he slowly straightened his slightly messy clothes and instructed casually, “Come in.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Song Shiyu pushed the door open and walked in obediently. He straightened his back and said respectfully, “President, I have something to report!”

Qiao Xi glared at him. Song Shiyu did not listen to her orders, but Gu Zheng only said two words and he came in obediently. Was this the difference in treatment?

Song Shiyu handed the document to Gu Zheng. The man looked at it and instructed, “Go handle it.”

“By the way, President, have you heard about Fang Shiyun taking on an apprentice?” Song Shiyu suddenly asked.

Gu Zheng was silent for a moment before asking, “Who’s Fang Shiyun?”

Song Shiyu was stunned for a moment. The president was a busy man and would not remember just anyone. He must only know a famous figure like Liang Pingchuan. The others were not important to him at all.

Fang Shiyun was Liang Pingchuan’s apprentice. He was an upright person with high artistic attainments. Why did he take that scheming b*tch, Xia Mengyan, as his apprentice?

After Song Shiyu left, Gu Zheng suddenly frowned and asked, “Fang Shiyun wants to take Xia Mengyan as his apprentice. Has he ever considered your feelings?”

Actually, Gu Zheng had long known that Fang Shiyun was taking Xia Mengyan as his apprentice. He was very unhappy when he found out, so when Song Shiyu asked about Fang Shiyun just now, he pretended not to know.

Qiao Xi was stunned for a few seconds before she said with a smile, “It’s all rumors. If that kid dares to take Xia Mengyan as his apprentice, Teacher will expel him!”

The next morning.

Knock, knock, knock.

Qiao Xi was woken up by a knock on the door. The servant at the door, Xiao Lan, asked softly, “Young Madam, the Xia family has sent someone to deliver an invitation. Do you want to take a look now?”

Invitation?

Qiao Xi hurriedly stood up and took the invitation with a trace of doubt in her eyes. “What is the Xia family doing this time... Heh... It’s an apprenticeship banquet. How rare!

“But I really don’t understand why they invited me. Do they want me to flip their tables over?”

Xiao Lan shook her head helplessly. Young Madam looked so weak, but why was she so violent?! She actually wanted to flip the tables at the apprenticeship banquet!

Qiao Xi had an innocent expression. “Since they insist on inviting me, then I’ll give them some face. I can’t be rude in front of everyone. I’ll definitely show Xia Mengyan some mercy.”

The Xia family was really relentless! She did not provoke them, but they insisted on provoking her. She would let them see what the consequences of provoking her were!

However, she would not let the Xia family off so easily.

...

On the other hand, in the Xia family’s villa.

Xia Cheng waited for a long time, but there was no news of Qiao Xi. His expression darkened. “This is a great event. She’s actually unwilling to come?”

Xia Mengyan hurriedly went forward and comforted him softly. "Grandpa, don't blame Xi Xi. Maybe she's still angry with us!"

Xia Cheng frowned. "Mengyan, it's only because you're kind-hearted that you're willing to invite Qiao Xi to your apprenticeship banquet. If it weren't for you, she probably wouldn't be able to see Mr. Fang Shiyun for the rest of her life."

It was Xia Mengyan's idea to give Qiao Xi an invitation. There were not many chances for her to trample on Qiao Xi in public, so she naturally would not let it go.

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Originally, Xia Cheng did not agree to let Qiao Xi participate. After all, Qiao Xi had gotten into a cheating scandal. Although Fang Shiyun did not care, it would inevitably affect his impression of the Xia family.

During this period of time, everyone in the Xia family was busy with the apprenticeship banquet. They did not pay attention to the news online and did not know about Yi Cang's outcome.

In Xia Mengyan's opinion, she was about to become Mr. Fang's apprentice. Those unimportant people had nothing to do with her. She only needed to use Fang Shiyun's power to climb up step by step. One day, she would trample on Qiao Xi.

Moreover, Xia Mengyan thought that since Qiao Xi had cheated, she was definitely anxious to clear her name. If she knew that she could see Fang Shiyun at the apprenticeship banquet, she would definitely not refuse.

Xia Mengyan had thought it through very well, but Qiao Xi's reply did not come even after two hours. A thought flashed through her mind.

Could it be that she looked down on Fang Shiyun and did not care about this apprenticeship banquet at all?