

Lady Gu 1171

Chapter 1171: Every Man For Himself

“Young Master Lu, you’ve always thought that you were in the wrong. It’s not your fault that you and Gu Zheng were swapped, but you clearly knew Gu Zheng’s identity, yet you joined forces with Huang Lilan to torture him and attempted to kill him. Isn’t this your fault?” Qiao Xi questioned loudly.

Lu Yan’s face was pale, and he was about to break down.

“Every man for himself, Qiao Xi! If you were in my position, you would’ve been as unscrupulous as me. Who’d be willing to give up everything that was painstakingly obtained?”

“No!” Qiao Xi retorted without the slightest hesitation and said word by word, “You’re the only one who’s so vicious. Do you think everyone is like you? You relied on the Lu family’s power to obtain money and status, so you wanted to continue occupying the nest. Moreover, you even wanted to kill Gu Zheng to prevent future troubles. Do you still think you’ve been doing the right thing?”

“Lu Yan, if it were a normal person, they would feel guilty and regretful at this moment. They wouldn’t be arguing about how innocent they are. You and Huang Lilan are both selfish demons. You only have yourself in your eyes!”

At this moment, the audience in the live-stream could not help but discuss: [I’m really going to vomit! Lu Yan actually thinks that he’s not wrong and that others are just like him!]

[If I knew that I had occupied someone else’s identity, I would definitely feel guilty and do my best to obtain the other party’s forgiveness so that I could return to my own life. What right does Lu Yan have to say that we’re like him?]

[Lu Yan is too disgusting! He clearly did something wrong, yet he’s still pushing the responsibility onto others. Not everyone is as selfish and vicious as him!]

Lu Yan collapsed weakly in the wheelchair, his face as pale as paper. Everything was clearly according to his plan. He wanted to chase Gu Zheng out of the Lu family and make him lose the qualifications to compete for the position of heir, but why was he the one who lost everything now?!

“Young Master Lu!” Qiao Xi walked in front of him and bent down slightly. She lowered her voice and said, “Don’t forget that you poisoned Old Master Lu! Don’t be too arrogant, or you’ll be courting death!”

“Perhaps you and Huang Lilan have done too many bad things, so God is helping Ah Zheng seek justice. I hope you can live with regret for the rest of your life!”

Lu Yan’s eyes were filled with resentment. He gritted his teeth and said, “You were the one who started the live broadcast!”

Qiao Xi blinked innocently. “You’re wrongly accusing me here. I didn’t start the live broadcast. Perhaps a kind person couldn’t stand it anymore and made your crimes public!”

“Qiao Xi! I know your identity!” Lu Yan shouted heartbreakingly.

Gu Zheng narrowed his eyes and exuded cold killing intent.

“Young Master Lu, what do you mean? Why don’t I understand?” Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows with an indifferent expression.

“You’re the disciple of the divine physician!” Lu Yan laughed crazily. “Qiao Xi, I’ve already said that I’m your fiancée. Why did you marry Gu Zheng? Why did you betray me?”

Qiao Xi’s gaze turned cold as she frowned with disgust. “It’s not even nighttime yet, but you’re already talking in your sleep!”

“If you don’t believe me, ask the divine physician when he comes back if the person you were engaged to back then was me or Gu Zheng.”

“So what?” Qiao Xi had a disdainful expression as her cold gaze landed on him. “Grandpa has always doted on me. How could he agree to marry me to someone like you? Even if I was really engaged to you, it must have been because Grandpa was deceived by you. The fiancée Grandpa found for me is Madam Lu Qingyun’s biological son, while you’re just an illegitimate child. Moreover, Gu Zheng is more handsome and capable than you. Anyone with good taste will choose him. When Grandpa comes back, he’ll definitely think that the husband I’ve chosen is outstanding.”

“Shut up!” Lu Yan roared like a wild beast.

“Oh! You’re angry from embarrassment, huh? You can’t accept others praising Gu Zheng for being better than you? But this is the truth!” Qiao Xi looked at him with a smile, then took out her phone and clicked on the live broadcast. “The netizens in the live broadcast think so too!”

At this moment, the screen of the live-stream was filled with curses. [Gu Zheng is more handsome and richer than Lu Yan! Mrs. Gu is right!]

Lu Yan’s eyes were bloodshot as if he was about to vomit blood from anger.

“Young Master Lu, do you think you’re qualified to be compared to Ah Zheng?” Qiao Xi sneered, her tone extremely disdainful. “In the past, you were the young master of the Lu family, so you could show off in front of Ah Zheng. Now that your true identity has been exposed, what can you use to compare yourself to Ah Zheng?”

The moment that was said, Lu Yan instantly gasped and almost fainted.

Chapter 1172: The Street Rat Everyone Wants To Beat Up

Old Master Lu did not care about Lu Yan’s feelings at all. He directly instructed the butler to open the door of the ancestral hall. All the plaques of the Lu family’s deceased direct descendants appeared in front of everyone.

The butler pushed the old master’s wheelchair forward. The old master said loudly, “My ancestors, Lu Yan pretended to be the flesh and blood of the Lu family to commit crimes. From now on, Lu Yan will be expelled from the Lu family. He no longer has anything to do with the Lu family anymore!”

As soon as he finished speaking, a few burly bodyguards went forward and dragged Lu Yan out.

Lu Yan’s face was filled with horror. He was the heir of the Lu family, and the Lu family’s bodyguards had to listen to him. However, this group of people was actually dragging him away.

No! He could not leave the Lu family!

Wasn't there still Ji Nan? He was Grandpa's personal assistant. If Ji Nan stopped Grandpa, Lu Yan might have a chance.

Lu Yan's vision was blurry, and he could only weakly call out Ji Nan's name. However, he did not notice that Ji Nan was standing behind Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng at this moment, looking at him indifferently.

The door slowly closed, and Lu Yan was thrown out by the bodyguards. Before he could react, a group of reporters swarmed over and surrounded him.

"Young Master Lu, your true identity has been exposed and the Lu family has chased you out of the house. What are your plans next?"

"I heard that before this, you poisoned Chairman Lu. Were you going to take over the Lu family's assets? If your identity wasn't exposed today, would you have poisoned Gu Zheng next?"

Lu Yan pushed the reporters away with all his might, wanting to rush out of the encirclement. The next second...

With two bangs, two eggs fell on his head in a row. Sticky liquid flowed down his hair and covered his eyes. Someone kept throwing rotten food at him, and his body emitted a stench.

He could not see to begin with. Now that his eyes were covered in egg liquid, he could only hug his head and avoid everyone's attacks.

"Stop hitting him! He's already fainted!"

"He's covered in trash. It's too disgusting!"

"Damn! You guys are too vicious. You knocked him out?"

"How could two eggs knock him out?! He must have fainted from anger!"

Lu Yan was dressed in thin clothes. His body was wet as he fell to the cold floor. He opened his eyes with difficulty, and they were filled with despair.

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In the Lu family's mansion.

When Qiao Xi saw Lu Yan's miserable state at the Lu family's door, she turned off the live broadcast. Now that everyone knew the Lu family's background, he probably would not have the chance to make a comeback.

A few days later, Lu Bai woke up, but Lu Yan had already been expelled from the Lu family. There was also the old master of the Lu family around, so he was naturally helpless.

Qiao Xi raised her eyes slightly, and her sharp gaze landed on Lu Xiang. Lu Xiang was terrified to the point of trembling and took a few steps back in horror. "Why are you looking at me?"

Qiao Xi looked away and did not hide the disgust in her eyes. Lu Xiang was just a small character and was nothing to be afraid of. She could keep her around for a period of time.

Old Master Lu seemed to be a little tired and sighed. "Let's start worshipping the ancestors."

The Lu family's ancestral worship ceremony was a big matter. Although the event was delayed, it still had to be held. Everyone completed the worship according to the rules and left the ancestral hall.

"Gu Zheng, follow me," Old Master Lu suddenly said.

Gu Zheng and the old master entered the main residence. Qiao Xi waited quietly outside the door. She raised her eyes to look at Ji Nan, who was beside her. "In the two years you were by Lu Bai's side, did Lu Yan not discover your identity?"

Ji Nan hesitated for a moment before replying, "I don't think so, but it doesn't matter even if he did find out."

"Yes, it's been hard on you for the past two years. From today onward, you don't have to continue staying by Lu Bai's side," Qiao Xi instructed.

"Eldest Miss, why are you suddenly telling me this? Is there something wrong?" Ji Nan asked.

"It's nothing. I'm just a little worried about Lu Yan," Qiao Xi said with some sympathy. "Lu Yan went from a genius to a street rat that everyone wants to beat up. I'm afraid that he'll commit suicide. I haven't had enough fun yet!"

Ji Nan: "... 'Women were too scary!'

Qiao Xi sighed. "If Lu Yan finds out that you're one of mine, he'll probably break down! He'll definitely think that he's very stupid for being played by me."

Ji Nan: "... 'You probably don't know yet, but Lu Yan's assistant is one of President Gu's people. If he finds out that the assistant who's been beside him every day is one of President Gu's men, he'll probably break down even more!'

In the residence.

Gu Zheng sat on the sofa with a calm expression. Old Master Lu sat opposite him and said helplessly, "Ah Zheng, the Lu family has let you down all these years. I'm already old. The Lu family..."

Chapter 1173: The Reason For His Disappearance

"No matter what, the Lu family is the result of Qingyun's hard work. I can't bear to see the Lu family destroyed just like that. Lu Bai is a good-for-nothing, and Lu Xiang is even more useless. Now that the Lu family is in a precarious situation, are you willing to take over the Lu family?"

Old Master Lu's attitude was sincere, and his eyes were filled with pleading. His voice trembled slightly, but in the end, he still received a disappointing answer.

"No," Gu Zheng refused without hesitation.

Old Master Lu lowered his head and said regretfully, "But this is Qingyun—"

"Old Master." Gu Zheng interrupted him and said casually, "The Lu family has already been destroyed in my hands."

Old Master Lu was stunned for a few seconds before he understood. The Lu family was no longer in Qingyun's hands. There was no longer a need for the Lu family to exist after Lu Yan and Lu Xiang tainted it. Moreover, Gu Zheng had no feelings for the Lu family to begin with. He was naturally unwilling to take over the Lu family.

He thought that there was room for discussion, but when he saw Gu Zheng's gaze, Old Master Lu knew that Gu Zheng looked down on the Lu family. He could not be the heir of the Lu family.

Wang Liang wanted to persuade him, but the old master waved his hand. "Ah Zheng, then I'll let you decide everything!"

"Old Master!" Wang Liang exclaimed, his eyes filled with shock. The Lu family was the blood, sweat, and tears of the Old Master and Eldest Miss. Were they going to give up just like that?

"The Lu family is already filthy and meaningless. Back then, the Lu family was developed in the hands of Qingyun. It's good for you to end all of this yourself now, lest the Lu family is ruined further by Lu Bai."

At this point, Old Master Lu suddenly raised his voice. "Ah Zheng, I support you."

Gu Zheng looked up slightly and nodded at the old master.

"Um..." The old master hesitated for a moment and asked, "Is Xi Xi your wife? When did you get married?"

Gu Zheng's eyes darkened. "Old Master, can you tell me how she woke you up?"

The old master was stunned for a moment and could not help but smile. "The descendant of the divine physician does have a treatment method that requires the blood of a physician to treat patients. But don't worry, she didn't hurt herself when she saved me."

Now, the old master finally understood why Gu Zheng had a cold face and a trace of gloominess between his brows. Even when he saw Lu Yan being expelled from the Lu family, he did not change in the slightest. It seemed that he was worried that Qiao Xi had hurt her body.

Gu Zheng looked at Old Master Lu's expression and knew that he was not lying. His expression softened as he smiled lightly. "Xi Xi is my wife, so I'm naturally more concerned about her. Please don't take offense."

Old Master Lu sized up Gu Zheng. Although he had never met him before, he felt inexplicably close to him. Perhaps it was because this child was a little similar to Qingyun. They were both so strong and outstanding.

"Ever since I fell unconscious, I haven't been able to feel anything. It was only when Xi Xi came to treat me that I realized that someone was by my side. Xi Xi is a good child. After all, she's Ah Xiao's disciple. She's naturally as kind as him." A loving smile appeared on the old master's face, then it was covered in a layer of gloom.

"You should know about the disappearance of Xi Xi's grandpa as well. She doesn't seem to care on the surface, but before this, she has searched for him in many places. It was only after Ah Xiao sent Xi Xi some news that Xi Xi gave up on searching for him.

“Actually, I can roughly guess why Ah Xiao went missing. Do you still remember the time when your mother was poisoned back then?” The old master looked up at Gu Zheng.

Gu Zheng nodded.

The old master fell into his memories. “Years ago, I got to know Ah Xiao and became friends with him. After Qingyun was poisoned, he desperately wanted to detoxify the poison in Qingyun’s body. Unfortunately, even after he worked hard for a long time, Qingyun still passed away. Not long after, Ah Xiao went missing. At that time, he had six apprentices. Xi Xi was the youngest and hadn’t reached adulthood. Ah Xiao wouldn’t have suddenly disappeared without regard for his apprentice, so I think that in order to save Qingyun, his body was seriously injured and there were some irreversible consequences.”

Gu Zheng’s expression suddenly changed. The divine physician had used his blood to detoxify the poison and his body was seriously injured. What would the consequences be for Qiao Xi?

Sure enough, the thing he was most worried about had still happened. Using blood to detoxify poison was equivalent to using Qiao Xi’s life in exchange for his. Now that he was no longer using Qiao Xi’s blood, would there still be adverse consequences?

Old Master Lu realized that he was nervous and smiled comfortingly. “Ah Zheng, this is just my guess. Even if it’s really as I guessed, it might not happen to you and Xi Xi.”

Chapter 1174: Don’t Learn From Your Grandpa

“I was unconscious for 20 years. The doctors all said that I wouldn’t wake up, but I still miraculously woke up. All of this is thanks to Xi Xi. The medicine Ah Xiao left behind must be for Xi Xi to save her life. I didn’t expect her to leave such precious medicine to me just to ask me to help you. I’m already in my 90s and won’t be able to live for long. It really wasn’t worth it for her to give me the medicine!” the old master continued.

Only then did Gu Zheng remember that Qiao Xi seemed to often go to Blue Dream Pavilion. That was the stronghold of the Medical Association. She went there for many days before coming to the Lu family to wake the old master up.

If that medicine was left behind by the divine physician, she could have taken it out to save the old master a long time ago. Why did she have to wait until now?

Perhaps this medicine was just recently developed to wake the old master up. If the divine physician had a medicine that could save the old master, why would he watch his good friend fall unconscious? Hence, Qiao Xi waking the old master up should be the divine physician’s idea.

Gu Zheng did not say what he was thinking. Old Master Lu had just woken up. At this moment, he closed his eyes tiredly. “Ah Zheng, go out first. Let Xi Xi in. I have something to tell her.”

Gu Zheng nodded, then walked out of the door and gestured for Qiao Xi to enter. Qiao Xi had just stepped in when Wang Liang walked out and closed the door.

At this moment, there were only two of them in the room. The old master pointed at the chair beside him and gestured for her to sit down. Then, he said earnestly, "Xi Xi, you're still young and have a bright future ahead of you. Don't learn from your grandfather."

Qiao Xi sat obediently on the chair. She knew that the old master and her grandfather were friends, so she respected this old man very much. However, she did not understand the old master's words.

Seeing that she was a little confused, Old Master Lu said with a serious expression, "Xi Xi, it's not worth losing your life for anything."

Qiao Xi's pupils constricted abruptly. Could it be that the old master was talking about her detoxifying Gu Zheng's poison? How did he know?

"Xi Xi, you're kind-hearted, but you don't owe anyone anything. There's no need for you to sacrifice yourself for another person. Back then, in order to repay my kindness, your grandfather almost lost his life. Although he's still alive, there's no news of him.

"Ah Xiao is a responsible person. He wouldn't abandon his disciples for no reason. He must have had a reason for leaving suddenly. I'm guessing that it might be related to him detoxifying Qingyun's poison. I don't want you to follow his path.

"You're flesh and blood. You weren't born to sacrifice for others. You don't have to give up your life for another person."

Old Master Lu took a deep breath, and his voice trembled slightly because of his sorrow. "Qingyun was my most beloved granddaughter. Her mother passed away early, so I kept her by my side to teach her. I watched her manage the company. I was also very sad when she passed away, but...

"But I don't want anyone to lose their life because of Qingyun. If it's possible, I'm willing to die for Qingyun. As long as she and Ah Xiao can be safe and sound, I'm willing to do anything. But she... won't be able to live anymore."

Qiao Xi's eyes were slightly red, and she could not help but lower her eyes.

Old Master Lu sighed helplessly. "Now that you're married to Ah Zheng, the relationship between the two of you must be very deep. I also know that you're willing to make sacrifices for Ah Zheng, but you're Ah Xiao's disciple! Ah Xiao has already paid a painful price for Qingyun. I owe you. I can't watch you sacrifice yourself for Ah Zheng anymore!

"Moreover, with Ah Zheng's feelings for you, he definitely won't agree to let you bear the consequences for him. If you die, his life will be meaningless."

Qiao Xi remained silent. She was clearly aware in her heart that detoxifying Gu Zheng's poison was equivalent to luring the poison into her body. However, she had a body that was immune to all poisons. Even if this poison was very strong, she would not suffer as much as Gu Zheng.

Old Master Lu was telling her not to hurt herself for Gu Zheng. Her grandfather's life was already ruined. Old Master Lu did not want to see such a thing happen again. He had let her grandfather down, so he hoped that she could live safely and wait for her grandfather to return.

People had to love themselves first before they had the right to be loved. She knew these principles very well, but what about Gu Zheng?

“Xi Xi, I’m done talking. As for what you decide, it’s your choice. I have no right to interfere.” Old Master Lu frowned, and his tone carried a trace of helplessness.

Before Qiao Xi could answer, Old Master Lu suddenly asked, “Has your grandfather contacted you recently?”

Chapter 1175: The Older, The Wiser

Qiao Xi replied truthfully, “Every once in a while, Grandpa would send me a message to let me know that he’s safe. Moreover, I’m sure that he’s the one who sends those messages.”

There was no name or surname on the messages, but Qiao Xi had an inexplicable feeling that they were the messages her grandfather had sent her. His goal was to reassure her that she did not have to search for him.

Old Master Lu heaved a sigh of relief. “That’s right. He must still be alive. He’s just afraid that you’ll worry, so he sends you messages. That’s good!”

His tone was filled with delight. Qiao Xi could tell that he was really worried about her grandfather.

After a moment of silence, Old Master Lu looked at her affectionately. “Xi Xi, do you still remember what happened when you were young?”

Qiao Xi was slightly puzzled by the old master’s words, but she still said, “10 years ago, I lived in the Qiao family. After that, I was chased out by the Qiao family and had nowhere to go, so I was brought up the mountain by my grandfather. I learned medicine and painting from him. Sometimes, I would even travel around with him. My seniors were all capable, so they brought me around the world as well.”

Ever since she became the apprentice of the divine physician, Qiao Xi had gone to many places and gained a lot of knowledge, but nothing left a deep impression on her.

Hearing her words, Old Master Lu’s eyes changed. “Is that all?”

Qiao Xi hesitated for a moment, then thought carefully before replying seriously, “Yeah.”

“Xi Xi, do you like the beach? Although there’s no sea in Li City, if you like it, go to the beach and have a good time there. The scenery there is beautiful and makes one happy,” the old master said meaningfully.

Actually, Qiao Xi did not like the sea. Moreover, because she was pushed into the water by Qiao Rou when she was young, she had always been afraid of water, so she usually did not go to the beach.

Before she could answer, the old master asked affectionately, “Xi Xi, you don’t like the beach?”

“Yeah.” Qiao Xi nodded.

Old Master Lu smiled and said softly, “That’s all I have to say. I can’t interfere in the matters of you young people. It’s getting late today, so I should rest. You can leave.”

“By the way, when will Lu Bai wake up?” Old Master Lu suddenly remembered.

Qiao Xi instantly choked.

There was no trace of blame in the old master’s eyes. “I don’t mean to blame you. Ah Xiao used to like to tease others and drug them, but the drug wouldn’t be harmful to the human body. I just want to know when Lu Bai will wake up.”

Qiao Xi: “...” As expected, the older one was, the wiser one became. She thought that no one knew about this, but Old Master Lu had just woken up not long ago and had already guessed it. It was really too awkward.

“Um... he’ll wake up soon,” Qiao Xi replied in embarrassment.

“Alright, you can leave now.” Old Master Lu waved his hand.

After Qiao Xi left, Wang Liang walked in and asked softly, “Old Master, why do you believe that Miss Qiao wouldn’t hurt the head of the family?”

Although Old Master Lu kept calling Lu Bai a bastard, he still cared about his son. However, he did not blame Qiao Xi for poisoning him.

“You’ve never been to the head of the family’s room. You don’t know what poison he was poisoned with. How are you so sure that Miss Qiao won’t hurt the head of the family?” Wang Liang continued to ask.

Old Master Lu glanced at him and said casually, “Xi Xi is Ah Xiao’s disciple. Since he was willing to take her in as his disciple and even taught her carefully for so many years, it means that this child is promising. If Xi Xi was really vicious and unscrupulous, Ah Xiao wouldn’t have kept her by his side. Liang Pingchuan and Shen Yu wouldn’t dote on her so much either. I believe in Ah Xiao, so I naturally believe in Xi Xi.

“Although Xi Xi hates Lu Bai, she definitely won’t hurt him. At least, on my account, she’ll let him live.”

Qiao Xi did hate Lu Bai for treating Lu Qingyun badly. He abandoned Gu Zheng, but he was the son of the old master, after all, so Qiao Xi would not kill him.

Old Master Lu’s expression suddenly turned cold. “I really regret not abolishing Lu Bai’s position as the head of the family earlier and letting him rely on his identity as the head of the family to commit crimes. I’ve always tolerated him because he’s my only son, but now, for Qingyun and Ah Zheng, I can’t continue to tolerate him.”

With that, the old master gestured for Wang Liang to come closer and spoke into his ear.

On the other hand, after Qiao Xi left the main residence, she saw a tall figure standing at the intersection. His eyes were lowered lazily, and he slowly raised them when he heard footsteps. His light brown eyes were calm as he came forward to hold her hand. “Let’s go.”

Chapter 1176: Lu Bai Wakes Up

“Ah Zheng, aren’t you curious about what the old master told me?” Qiao Xi raised her eyes to look at him.

Gu Zheng stopped in his tracks and revealed a faint smile. “I know it well. I naturally don’t need you to say anything, Mrs. Gu.”

Qiao Xi’s heart suddenly thumped. It was probably because her grandfather had detoxified Lu Qingyun’s poison back then, so Old Master Lu guessed that she had also detoxified Gu Zheng’s poison. However, Gu Zheng probably wouldn’t have guessed that they were talking about this just now, right?

But for some reason, she suddenly felt uneasy.

“Lu Bai should wake up soon. Let’s leave.” Gu Zheng held her hand. Just as the two of them were about to leave, Lu Bai’s heart-wrenching roar suddenly came from not far away.

“No! Impossible!” Lu Bai’s voice was hoarse and old. He had almost used all his strength. He was so agitated as soon as he woke up. He probably knew that Lu Yan had been chased out of the house.

Lu Bai had spent all his energy on Lu Xiang and Lu Yan. Unfortunately, Lu Xiang, his daughter, was useless. Even if he gave her the authority, she would not have the ability to manage Lu Corporation. Lu Yan had some tricks up his sleeve, but they were all crooked methods. If he could focus on the right things, perhaps the Lu family would not be in such a miserable state.

The drug Qiao Xi gave Lu Yan was not heavy. Lu Yan’s vision should recover in a few days, but in these few days, he would have the most painful experience of his life. He would feel the torture Gu Zheng had experienced in the past, but Qiao Xi did not intend to let him off just like that.

“Xi Xi.” Gu Zheng’s voice sounded in her ear with a trace of ridicule. “Don’t tell me you’re thinking about how to torture Lu Yan?”

Qiao Xi did not expect Gu Zheng to see through her thoughts at a glance. She hurriedly retorted righteously, “No! Lu Yan has already been expelled from the Lu family. His life is already ruined. Why should I torture him? I’m so weak and kind. It’s absolutely impossible for me to do such a thing!”

As soon as he finished speaking, Lu Bai’s roar sounded from the main residence again. It was filled with unwillingness and anger.

The two of them paused in their tracks, and Qiao Xi could not help but ask, “Ah Zheng, the people who bullied you have already been punished. Aren’t you excited at all when you see such a scene?”

“If I were you and saw these people in such a miserable state, I would definitely jump up in joy. However, you’re not reacting at all. Why is that?”

Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow, but his expression remained indifferent. “It’s probably because... I don’t care about these people at all. Their outcome won’t affect my emotions, and there’s only one person who can affect my emotions now.”

Qiao Xi was stunned for a moment. Before she could react, she heard the man’s low and magnetic voice. “Only you are worthy of affecting me.”

His scorching breath sprayed onto Qiao Xi's neck, and his voice carried a trace of charm while his eyes were filled with strong affection.

Qiao Xi's body stiffened, and her cheeks were slightly red. She lowered her head shyly. She did not know when Gu Zheng had learned to say sweet words, but she was slightly unaccustomed to it!

...

10 minutes ago, in the Lu family's residence.

Lu Bai's face was pale. He lay on the hospital bed and panted heavily. He looked at the time on his phone and instantly broke out in a cold sweat. Today was the day to worship the ancestors, but he had actually fallen asleep.

Why did no one wake him up? Where were Lu Xiang and Lu Yan?

Just as he was feeling puzzled, footsteps came from outside. Lu Bai, who was already nervous, suddenly tensed up when he heard the footsteps. He was vigilant. He was uneasy, and his eyelids could not help but twitch.

The Lu family's main residence was very quiet, so it was terrifying. The footsteps sounded like they were urging him to die, making him break out in a cold sweat.

The next second, Ji Nan pushed the door open and walked in. Lu Bai heaved a sigh of relief.

Ji Nan was his personal assistant. Although he was young, he was very capable and could complete the missions he was given. Moreover, he had a weak character and was careful. Lu Bai had to admit that Ji Nan was an outstanding assistant, so he had always trusted him.

Lu Bai thought that after a while, he would promote Ji Nan and get him to help Lu Yan manage the company. This way, Ji Nan could report to him about the company at all times. It was equivalent to him having another pair of eyes in the company.

However, when he saw Ji Nan now, Lu Bai's heart surged with anger. "What time is it now? Why are you only here to get me now? The ancestral worship ceremony has already passed!"

Ji Nan's expression was subtle as he glanced at Lu Bai with some sympathy and disdain. He did not answer and just looked at him quietly.

Chapter 1177: The Real Master Of The Lu Family

Lu Bai did not notice Ji Nan's expression and asked unhappily, "Where are Ah Yan and Xiang'er? As the head of the family, I didn't attend the ancestral worship ceremony. How did they hold it? Or was the ancestral worship ceremony postponed?"

"The ancestral worship ceremony is a big matter for the Lu family. Our ancestors are all waiting for us to pay our respects. How could I have missed it? Ji Nan, quickly call Lu Yan over!"

"By the way, why is the Lu family so quiet? Has everyone else left? They usually stay back for a family banquet and spend the night here. What exactly is going on?"

Lu Bai had a bad feeling. He did not understand how he missed the ancestral worship ceremony. If he did not appear, Ah Yan would definitely have come to wake him up. Hence, he instructed Ji Nan to call Lu Yan over. He wanted to ask what was going on.

However, when Ji Nan heard his words, he did not react at all and remained where he was.

Lu Bai frowned and berated loudly, "Are you deaf? I told you to call Ah Yan over. Hurry up and go!"

A trace of mockery appeared on Ji Nan's calm face. The corners of his mouth curled up slightly, but his expression was still as respectful as before. "Chairman Lu, the ancestral worship ceremony has ended."

Lu Bai widened his eyes in disbelief. "How is that possible? I didn't attend. How could they open the door of the ancestral hall without permission? This is against the rules!"

Lu Xiang naturally did not dare to casually open the door of the ancestral hall. To Lu Yan, not opening the door of the ancestral hall was a good thing. This way, Gu Zheng would have no reason to enter.

At the thought of this, his expression suddenly changed. He slammed his fist on the bed and said hatefully, "It's Gu Zheng! Only he could've done such a deviant thing! That little bastard actually dared to rashly open the door of the ancestral hall—"

"Don't be agitated, Chairman Lu. President Gu didn't do that. Don't blame President Gu for everything." Ji Nan interrupted Lu Bai, then a trace of a sneer appeared on the corners of his mouth. His voice was still respectful, but his tone carried a trace of provocation.

Lu Bai instantly choked as he looked up at his assistant in disbelief. How did this assistant who was once weak and obedient to him become so arrogant?

He was stunned for a few seconds and even suspected that he was hallucinating. "You... say that again."

"Chairman Lu, you're old and your ears aren't working well anymore." Ji Nan's tone was filled with mockery. He recalled Eldest Miss' instructions on how he should treat Lu Bai.

He casually leaned against the chair, and the corners of his mouth curled up slightly. "Then I'll repeat myself. I told you not to blame President Gu for everything."

This time, Lu Bai heard it clearly and was sure that it was not an illusion. He did not expect his assistant, who had always been submissive, to criticize him for Gu Zheng.

The anger in Lu Bai's heart surged. He struggled to get up from the bed, but he had just woken up and his body had not recovered. He staggered and held the bed to steady himself. He pointed at Ji Nan and shouted while trembling, "What did you say?! Ji Nan, are you crazy?"

Ji Nan's expression was indifferent as he glanced at him coldly with a disdainful smile.

Lu Bai felt as if he had been struck by lightning. A trace of horror appeared in his eyes. "Y-You're one of Gu Zheng's men?"

"It doesn't matter who I am." Ji Nan crossed his arms and looked at him wantonly. "Chairman Lu, if you have time, you should think about things thoroughly. You didn't even attend, yet the Lu family's

ancestral worship ceremony has already been completed. Will you still have a place in the Lu family in the future?”

Lu Bai abruptly looked up. At this moment, he should not be paying attention to who Ji Nan was. What was important was who had hosted the ancestral worship ceremony. As the head of the family, he had not even attended. Who would be so bold as to open the door to the ancestral hall?

He pondered for a moment and felt that only Gu Zheng had the guts to do such a thing!

“Who else could it be but Gu Zheng? I didn’t even attend, but the Lu family still proceeded with the ceremony. Only he would’ve done that! Ah Yan is a child I raised. He wouldn’t have done that!”

“Lu Yan indeed wouldn’t have.” Ji Nan sneered. “You gave him the power and status he has today. If you didn’t attend, he naturally wouldn’t dare to hold the ancestral worship ceremony. However, there’s still someone in the Lu family who has the right to do this.”

“Who else?” Lu Bai roared.

Ji Nan smiled as if he was deliberately making Lu Bai anxious. His voice was low and slow. “Chairman Lu, don’t forget that other than you, there’s another master in the Lu family!”

He was the head of the Lu family, so how could there be another master? Ever since he took over the Lu family, he had the final say in everything. Only...

Lu Bai’s expression froze. A person suddenly appeared in his mind.

Chapter 1178: Abolition Of The Head Of The Family

Looking at Lu Bai’s stunned expression, Ji Nan slowly said, “Chairman Lu, you must have figured it out. Isn’t the real master of the Lu family the old master? The old master has personally held the ancestral worship ceremony, so of what use is your position as the head of the family now?”

Old Master?

How did he suddenly wake up?

Lu Bai widened his eyes, and his legs went weak as he fell onto the bed.

“Chairman Lu, are you afraid? You’ve been living a carefree life for so many years. Now that the old master has woken up, all your power is going to disappear. After all, the next head of the family that Old Master Lu chose back then was Eldest Miss Lu Qingyun. The old master has never liked you.

“Although Miss Lu Qingyun has passed away, her son, Gu Zheng, has returned to the Lu family. You’re very afraid that the old master will give him the position of the head of the family, aren’t you? Because that means your power will be taken away.

“All the glory and power in the Lu family now were established by the old master. Even if you’re the head of the family, you can’t disobey his orders. If he wants to abolish your position as the head of the family, the old master just has to give the word.”

Ji Nan’s words were like a knife stabbing into Lu Bai’s heart, leaving behind bloody holes.

One word from the old master and his position as the head of the family would be abolished?

He had been pursuing power his entire life. It was not easy for him to stand out, but the old master wanted to give the position of the head of the family to Lu Qingyun. He actually lost to his daughter. Now, the old master wanted to abolish his position as the head of the family with just one word!

Even if he could not be the head of the family, the position had to belong to Ah Yan. Why should he give it to Gu Zheng? Ah Yan had lived with the Lu family since he was young. He was the person most qualified to be the head of the family.

Lu Bai's eyes were red. Ji Nan looked at his crazy appearance and said with a trace of sympathy, "Chairman Lu, you want to say that you don't mind not being the head of the family but the position has to be given to Lu Yan since he's also Miss Lu Qingyun's son, right?"

"Yes, yes! That's what I want to say! Ah Yan and Gu Zheng are both Qingyun's sons. Why should the position of the head of the family be given to Gu Zheng? Why is my father biased toward that little bastard, Gu Zheng? It's hard to say if he's really a son of the Lu family, but Ah Yan is—"

Lu Bai hurriedly spoke. But before he could finish, he was interrupted by Ji Nan impatiently, "Chairman Lu, I'm afraid you still don't know that Lu Yan's identity has been exposed. What you should be thinking about now isn't how to let him be the head of the family but about how to let him survive.

"You want Lu Yan to be the head of the Lu family? Dream on!"

Ji Nan observed his expression and added, "Huang Lilan is the murderer who caused Miss Lu Qingyun's death. If her son becomes the head of the family, will the Lu family still have the cheek to stay in Li City? Chairman Lu, why don't you turn on your phone and take a look? The internet is filled with news about the Lu family now!"

Lu Bai was dumbfounded. The muscles on his face trembled slightly. He could not accept Ji Nan's words. He even felt that he was still in a dream and had not woken up.

Lu Yan's identity had been exposed? Impossible!

His breath got caught in his throat. It felt like a huge rock was stuck in it, making him almost suffocate. The secret they had hidden for so long had been destroyed. But the others had no evidence. So what if they knew the truth?

Back then, they had already sent all the doctors overseas and asked them to hide their identities and keep this secret for them. The surveillance footage of the hospital was also destroyed by hackers. How could Gu Zheng get the evidence?

Lu Bai forced himself to calm down. If Ji Nan was one of Gu Zheng's men, then Ji Nan might be lying to him. Perhaps they had not obtained evidence, so they were using this method to force him to admit it.

Ji Nan seemed to have seen through his thoughts and said slowly, "Chairman Lu, you might think that I'm lying to you, but you've probably heard of Mo Yuan!"

Lu Bai's face, which had just eased up, instantly turned pale. The top hacker, Mo Yuan?

“Mo Yuan personally took action and restored all the surveillance footage. Although the wait was a little long, the truth still surfaced. It took him 10 years to recover all the footage!”

“Back then, you did destroy this evidence, but so what? Your secret was still exposed in the end. The heir you carefully nurtured for 20 years has been completely destroyed.”

Lu Bai’s eyes almost popped out as his body trembled uncontrollably. Ah Yan’s identity had been exposed, so the only heir to the Lu family was Gu Zheng. He had worked so hard to scheme for so many years, but in the end, the Lu family still fell into the hands of that little bastard.

“Don’t worry, Chairman Lu. President Gu won’t snatch the position of the Lu family’s heir,” Ji Nan mocked. “After all, he looks down on the Lu family.”

Chapter 1179: Dreamed Back To When I Was 16

Ji Nan was about to leave when Lu Bai hurriedly stopped him. “Ji Nan!”

Lu Bai looked at the assistant who had accompanied him for two years. His eyes were filled with unfamiliarity as he asked in a hoarse voice, “W-Who do you work for?”

In the past two years, he had never mistreated Ji Nan. He had given him enough money. There was no reason for Ji Nan to betray him, so there was only one reason. It meant that it had been a conspiracy since Ji Nan joined the Lu family. For the past two years, he had been pretending to be his assistant.

Lu Bai did not expect that Gu Zheng had already planted someone around him two years ago.

Ji Nan was silent for a while before glancing at Lu Bai. “You’re wrong. I’m not on Mr. Gu’s side.”

Lu Bai’s voice trembled slightly. “Then who are you working for?”

“I can tell you that I wasn’t Mr. Gu’s man before. I only became one of his men half a year ago,” Ji Nan said meaningfully with a mocking smile in his eyes.

Lu Bai looked confused. He only became one of Gu Zheng’s men half a year ago?

He pondered for a moment before an idea suddenly appeared in his mind. Half a year ago, Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi got married. It was also around that time Ji Nan became Gu Zheng’s subordinate. Could it be that this matter was related to Gu Zheng’s marriage? In other words, Ji Nan was Qiao Xi’s subordinate?

Impossible! Qiao Xi was just a wild girl who had been wandering outside. How could she have a capable subordinate like Ji Nan?

Before he could think clearly, Ji Nan stood up and left the main residence. From now on, the Lu family would be drowning in pain and torture every day. Lu Bai was no longer the high and mighty head of the Lu family, and Lu Xiang was no longer the pampered daughter of the Lu family. Lu Yan’s outcome was even more miserable. It was already a miracle that he could survive.

...

After returning to Longwan Residential, Qiao Xi received Ji Nan’s message. The current Lu family no longer had the ability to turn the tables. Gu Zheng did not want to waste time on this group of people, but Qiao Xi was very happy to see the Lu family struggling in pain.

Lu Yan's reputation was completely ruined, and Lu Bai also lost his position as the head of the family. However, Lu Xiang still had a certain amount of power in upper class society. After all, the Lu family had a place in the upper class society of Li City in the past. She had always been popular with many noblewomen.

Now that the rest of the Lu family had been punished but Lu Xiang was not too badly affected, of course, Qiao Xi could not let this be.

"Ah Zheng, if I attack the Lu family again, will you think that I'm vicious?" Qiao Xi probed.

Gu Zheng raised his eyes slightly and smiled. "Mrs. Gu, you're so cute. How can I think that you're vicious? Besides, they don't deserve sympathy."

Song Shiyu: "..."

The president was showing off his love all the time!

Qiao Xi nodded. The Lu family had done so many bad things that left a trauma in Gu Zheng's childhood. They even tried to kill Gu Zheng. They were indeed not worthy of sympathy. They brought this upon themselves.

Qiao Xi's eyes narrowed as she leaned into Gu Zheng's arms and smiled.

Gu Zheng gently stroked the top of her head. "Xi Xi, you look so beautiful when you smile."

...

In the dead of the night, Gu Zheng finished his work and gently pushed open the door to the bedroom. At this moment, Qiao Xi was curled up by the bed with a frown.

Gu Zheng walked into the dim room. His vision was blurry, but he could walk to the bed out of habit. He gently stroked Qiao Xi's eyebrows and realized that she was frowning.

He rarely saw Qiao Xi with a worried expression. At this moment, she was curled up as if she was having a nightmare.

Gu Zheng lay by the bed, his slender fingers gently smoothing the space between her eyebrows. He gently pulled her into his arms before closing his eyes.

Old Master Lu's words still echoed in her ears. The miracle doctor, Qiao Xi, and his mother seemed to be related to everything. Could it be that his poison was really incurable?

Gu Zheng gradually fell asleep. In his dream, he returned to being 16 years old. At that time, his eyes were already filled with coldness and paranoia, and his entire body exuded an aura that kept people away.

As a top hacker, he had repeatedly refused to attend all those gatherings, but that time, he went. As expected, no one was willing to pay attention to a cold and fierce-looking young man. He was dressed in black, and his drooping hair slightly covered his eyes as he looked coldly at the people around him.

He was unwilling to talk with anyone. He just sat in a corner with a laptop to deal with orders. The next second, a childish voice sounded behind him.

“There’s something wrong here. You should try another approach.”

The person who spoke was a little girl. She was only about 10 years old. Her voice was soft, but her tone was very certain.

Chapter 1180: Lost Memories

Mo Yuan looked up slightly and heard another voice. “Black Tide, don’t get close to that person. I heard that he’s very irritable. No one is willing to be friends with him.”

“He looks so scary. He’ll definitely hit someone! Black Tide, come here quickly. Don’t talk to him.”

After hearing this, the young girl in the dream did not leave. She still stood behind him and said patiently, “Believe me, you really did write the wrong part. Correct it.”

At that time, for some reason, Mo Yuan did not reject the girl’s suggestion and changed it as she said.

Gu Zheng knew in his heart that all of this was a dream. He had never seen Qiao Xi before they got married. They had always been communicating online, and there had never been a scene of Qiao Xi guiding him to modify the code. However, the scene in front of him seemed to be real.

He tried his best to wake up, but he seemed to be trapped in a cage. His body floated in the air as he watched the scene of Mo Yuan and Black Tide.

These scenes were not in Gu Zheng’s memory at all. He did not understand why he would dream of such a scene. Could it be that he subconsciously thought that after meeting Qiao Xi 10 years ago, his life would be glorious and he would no longer be dark and defeated?

At this moment, the young Mo Yuan lowered his head and focused his gaze on the computer. His slender fingers quickly typed on the keyboard while Black Tide leaned on the sofa behind him and pointed at the code on the screen. “You’re so awesome! You even managed to solve this problem. Can you teach me?”

Mo Yuan was about to explain when his gaze was suddenly fixed on her hands. Those hands were very inconsistent with her body.

At that time, Black Tide was only ten years old. Although she was still very young, it was obvious that she was a beauty. Her facial features were exquisite, her voice was sweet, she was small and cute, and she was obedient too. Many boys would come to express their interest in her. However, such a princess-like girl’s hands were filled with terrifying scars.

To be able to enter the hacker alliance at the age of 10 meant that she was very talented and had plenty of time to practice. However, there were knife wounds on her hands, round scars, and burn marks. It was hard to imagine how a 10-year-old girl could have so many scars on her hands.

He had thought that he was the only exception. He had struggled to survive in that woman’s hands. In order to escape the Gu family’s control one day, he secretly learned hacking skills. Now that he looked at the little girl’s hand, he realized that this girl’s life was not glamorous either.

Mo Yuan was stunned for a few seconds before looking away. He patiently explained things to her. When Black Tide heard this, her eyes were filled with admiration. “I see! You’re really smart!”

At the age of 16, Mo Yuan's heart was as hard as a rock. His heartstrings could not be tugged. He was not moved by the girl's praise at all.

After Mo Yuan finished speaking, Black Tide took out a brand new laptop from her backpack. This laptop was a new release. It was not cheap and seemed to be limited. Ordinary families would definitely not be able to afford it.

Perhaps because his gaze lingered for a moment longer, Black Tide noticed it and smiled proudly. "Is my laptop nice? My grandfather gave it to me!"

From her gaze, it could be seen that she was very happy to have a grandfather who doted on her so much and supported her in learning hacking skills. It seemed that she should be living a rich life, so why were her hands...

"Actually, let me tell you a secret. I'm not related to Grandpa by blood," Black Tide said calmly. "But he took me in and has been treating me very well ever since. He knows that I'm interested in coding recently, so he bought me a new laptop. Unfortunately, he doesn't know how to hack, so he sent me here to learn."

Hearing the girl's slightly regretful words, a corner of Mo Yuan's cold heart seemed to melt. He couldn't help but say, "Let me teach you."

Black Tide was a little surprised. In the end, a weak and sweet smile appeared on her face. "Okay!"

Gu Zheng's Adam's apple bobbed. He felt that the scene in front of him was terrifyingly realistic. The girl in front of him was a miniature Qiao Xi. It turned out that she liked to pretend to be weak even at that young age.

Even if this dream felt very real, there was no trace of it in his memory. Qiao Xi became his junior because...

A portion of the memories in Gu Zheng's mind seemed to have disappeared. He could not remember how Black Tide became his junior. He only remembered that later on, everyone knew about their relationship. Then, they called each other senior and junior for 10 years.