

Lady Gu 1181

Chapter 1181: It's Not Your Fault That You're An Illegitimate Child

Gu Zheng had completely forgotten how he knew Qiao Xi back then and why they became senior and junior. He and Qiao Xi seemed to have never mentioned the past as if they had both forgotten about it.

Before he could react, the scene in his dream suddenly changed. He saw a teenage girl with pigtails. She was wearing dungarees and carrying a heavy backpack. Inside was a laptop and some spare parts that she had taken from Mu Ming. The backpack was very heavy, but the moment she saw him, the girl ran toward him quickly.

When Black Tide was about to reach him, she suddenly staggered. Her eyes were red as she looked up at him weakly. "Senior, I almost fell! Come and help me!"

Mo Yuan recalled her actions just now. She was clearly pretending, but she looked so cute. He did not expose Black Tide's trick. Instead, he quickly walked in front of her, helped her up, and put her backpack on himself.

He was carrying a pink backpack, but there was nothing strange about it. The two of them looked so compatible when they stood together that passersby could not help but take another look at them. They sighed at how good being young was.

At this moment, Gu Zheng was like a soul that had lost its body. He stood not far away and watched this scene. He had never seen Qiao Xi when she was young, but he seemed to be very familiar with her in his dream.

Qiao Xi had liked to pretend to be weak since a young age and deliberately pretended to fall to make others pity her. At that time, he did not expose her just like how he indulged in her now. There was a trace of affection in his eyes.

Did this scene really happen, or was it just his imagination?

The girl and the gloomy man walked side by side. After a long silence, Mo Yuan said, "Did you hear what they said?"

Black Tide did not hide anything and replied frankly, "Yes, I did!"

Mo Yuan's face darkened, and his entire body seemed to be emitting black fog.

Gu Zheng did not know what had happened before, but from Mo Yuan's expression, he could guess that only that matter could embarrass him so much. As an illegitimate son, he had to bear the malice of everyone.

At that time, he was already 20 years old. He founded Gu Corporation and completely controlled the Gu family. His heart, which was riddled with holes, became even colder. He no longer cared about the rumors outside, but he was afraid that Black Tide would find out.

The 20-year-old Mo Yuan had already opened his heart and silently doted on Black Tide. This meant that he cared about Black Tide very much, so he did not want Black Tide to know his unbearable identity and past.

The next second, a cold smile appeared on Mo Yuan's face, and his eyes were a little distant. "That's right. I'm an illegitimate child and everyone hates me, so it's not surprising that you hate me too."

Black Tide widened her eyes and shook her head. "I don't hate you, Senior! I won't laugh at you just because you're an illegitimate child. Besides, it's not your fault that you're an illegitimate child. You can't deny all your efforts just because of your identity!"

Mo Yuan's pupils constricted. Gu Zheng, who was floating in the air, also had a change in expression as his heart ached.

Half a year ago, when he and Qiao Xi got married, Qiao Xi had no idea that he was Mo Yuan. Later on, Huang Lilan and Meng Wan came to the house and he asked Qiao Xi the same question. At that time, Qiao Xi's answer was exactly the same.

Gu Zheng was even more confused. Why was he having this dream? Was it really a dream or something that had happened before?

At this moment, Mo Yuan, who was in his dream, was stunned on the spot when he heard Qiao Xi's words. His eyes were filled with shock and confusion. From the moment he was born, he had been hated by everyone. The Lu family was unwilling to accept him, and the Gu family wished for him to die. He was a bastard, and no one had ever said that it was not his fault that he was an illegitimate child.

At that moment, a trace of light seemed to appear on Black Tide's body, filling his dark heart with warmth and melting his already cold and scarred heart.

He pursed his lips tightly, and his body trembled slightly. That was the first time he felt warmth. In the past, even if he felt kindness, it was only fleeting as if the heavens were just doing some charity work. But now, he really felt warmth. It was as if the noon sun was shining on him, and his entire body was warm.

Black Tide did not think much about this small act of kindness. To her, her senior treated her very well, so she did not care about his identity. She did not care about what outsiders thought of her senior.

The two of them sat on the bench and chatted. Gu Zheng actually saw a smile on the 20-year-old Mo Yuan's face. It was so unfamiliar. Was this really a dream?

Chapter 1182 A Strange Dream

Just as Gu Zheng was feeling confused, his body was instantly pulled out of his dream. He suddenly opened his eyes, and his vision was blurry. He could not see a trace of light. It was still late at night, but Qiao Xi was still sleeping soundly beside him.

His back was already covered in sweat. He opened his eyes and quietly pondered. Was that just a dream? However, the dream was too real and very in line with his and Qiao Xi's personalities. Moreover, after waking up, he still remembered every detail of the dream.

This dream was very strange. He clearly had no memory of it. He had always been alone. Song Shiyu and Song Shijing did not know his connections in Stars. If he had already known Black Tide from long ago, then why did he lose those memories?

They had known each other for 10 years, but they had always thought that they had never met before. Moreover, it was not just him. Qiao Xi thought so too.

Gu Zheng gently turned over and caressed Qiao Xi's smooth cheek. She seemed to be dreaming of something as well. Her body curled up uneasily with a frown.

In Qiao Xi's dream, she saw Gu Zheng's appearance when he was in his teens. She stood beside him like a soul and watched him go from a gloomy young man to the famous president of Gu Corporation.

She had clearly never seen Gu Zheng before, but why did Gu Zheng's teenage appearance appear in her mind?

Qiao Xi suddenly opened her eyes and took a few deep breaths before calming down. She lowered her eyes and looked at Gu Zheng. It was already so late, but he was actually not up yet. Usually, Gu Zheng would have already gotten up and gone to the study to deal with documents.

She reached out and turned off the alarm. It was already late anyway, so it didn't matter if he slept a little longer. Gu Zheng was very busy every day, so he should take some time to relax.

Qiao Xi got out of bed, still very puzzled. Why would she dream of the teenage Gu Zheng? Could it be that it was just a random dream she had? It was also possible that it was because she had heard Old Master Lu's words yesterday that she naturally dreamed of the teenage Gu Zheng.

She did not want to think about this dream anymore, but she suddenly remembered something. In the dream, a wind chime made of shells appeared in Gu Zheng's hand. He had personally made it, but she clearly remembered that she had an identical wind chime.

She had been afraid of water since she was young and didn't like anything related to water. Later on, her senior enlightened her and helped her get rid of her fear of water. Only then could she swim in the water, but she still didn't like the shell wind chime.

Even so, she had no intention of throwing away the wind chime. She did not understand why she kept it by her side if she did not like it.

Where did it go?

Qiao Xi suddenly felt a headache as if she had lost a part of her memory. She couldn't even remember where the shell wind chime came from. In her impression, it was just a simple shell wind chime and wasn't an expensive gift. It didn't matter if she threw it away, so she didn't care about that shell wind chime at all. If she hadn't had this dream, she wouldn't have remembered that she had a shell wind chime at all.

Qiao Xi's mind was filled with doubts. She leaned against the window and thought for a moment. She remembered that the last time she saw the shell wind chime, it was probably during the time it was taken away by Qiao Zhenguo and Xu Mei. At the same time, some of her mother's belongings had been taken away as well and placed in a storage box. She felt that Xu Mei wouldn't have thrown these things away. After all, these things could be used to threaten her into being obedient.

That meant the wind chime was still in the Qiao family's villa!

Qiao Xi decided to find that wind chime. Why did the wind chime that she had forgotten for so many years suddenly appear in her dream? She had to know the reason. Was this just a coincidence or was there another omen?

Qiao Xi was about to get up and leave when she was suddenly grabbed by a warm hand.

Gu Zheng's hair was a little messy, and his eyes were sleepy. He was lying on his side, revealing his muscular chest. This should have been a beautiful scene, but there was unease in his eyes. "Where are you going?"

Qiao Xi was stunned. "I have something to do at the Qiao family's villa."

Gu Zheng's deep eyes were calm. He still did not let go of her wrist and continued to ask, "What is it?"

"Uh... I'm looking for a..." Qiao Xi did not know how to explain and replied truthfully, "I'm looking for a shell wind chime. Last night, I suddenly dreamed of it. I remember that it's in the Qiao family's villa. I want it back."

Gu Zheng's strange emotions confused Qiao Xi. He let go of his grip on her and got up from the bed. "I'm taking a rest today. I'll go with you."

Qiao Xi was a little surprised. "Don't you work at home on weekends?"

Gu Zheng leaned on her shoulder and pulled her into his arms. He whispered in her ear, "There's nothing urgent going on in the company. You're my priority."

Chapter 1183 Taking Without Asking

Outside the Qiao family's villa.

The villa was an asset left behind by Xia Yunqiu, so Qiao Xi had gotten someone to clean it. This place was still very clean, but there were no longer any traces left behind by the Qiao family.

The property that her mother had left for her was occupied by that group of people for 20 years. Now, it was finally back in her hands. She looked up at the plaque at the door and walked in.

When she left, she did not organize her personal belongings. The things that Xu Mei had detained should be in the storage room. After Qiao Xi entered, she went straight to the storage room.

Suddenly, she stopped in her tracks, and her gaze changed.

The butler she hired often stayed here to guard the villa, but now, the door of the main residence had been opened by someone. There were two pairs of women's shoes at the door. Who had come to the residence?

Qiao Xi's gaze turned cold as she quickly walked in. Gu Zheng followed closely behind and also noticed the two pairs of shoes on the ground. His expression suddenly turned cold. Someone actually dared to barge into a private house and provoke his cute Mrs. Gu.

The interior of the villa had not changed much. After Qiao Xi went upstairs, she walked to her room and looked through the gap. There was no one inside.

Clang!

The sound of something falling to the ground came from the storage room. Qiao Xi's eyes turned cold as she walked toward the storage room. Before she arrived, she heard the voices of two women.

"This is so beautiful. Aunt, can you give me this?"

Immediately after, a voice very familiar to Qiao Xi sounded. Her tone was very loving. "Of course! Mengyan, everything here is mine. Take whatever you like. These earrings are good stuff! They're imperial jade. They're very valuable!"

Xia Mengyan's excited voice sounded. "Thank you, Aunt. You're too good to me!"

Qiao Xi frowned. Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan?

Recently, she had been busy dealing with the Lu family, so she had not dealt with these two people for too long. Was that why they were so arrogant now? How dare they come to the residence to steal things?

The things in the storage room were all valuable items that Xu Mei had plundered. Most of them were her mother's and her things. Xia Mengyan expressed her interest in them, and Xia Yunlou immediately agreed to give her the imperial jade earrings.

What right did she have to give away her mother's belongings? Who did she think she was?

Qiao Xi's eyes darkened as she pushed open the door and walked in. "Xia Mengyan, you're the daughter of the Xia family. Don't you know that taking without asking is stealing?"

Half an hour ago, the two of them arrived at the villa and saw the things in the storage room. Their eyes were filled with greed. Although Xia Mengyan was also the daughter of a wealthy family, she had never seen so many valuable items. All the jewelry here was worth more than 100,000 yuan. Some of them were even worth a million yuan. A few were no longer made and were priceless.

Faced with so many precious items, Xia Mengyan did not hesitate at all and asked the butler to wrap them up. Xia Yunlou could not help but take action.

In front of her was only a portion of Xia Yunqiu's belongings, so these shouldn't be the most valuable. In other words, Qiao Xi still had something more valuable.

As Xia Mengyan was rummaging through the box, she realized that there was a pair of imperial jade earrings in the sandalwood box. These things were naturally expensive. She pretended to pick up the earrings and asked softly, "This is really beautiful. Aunt, can you give this to me?"

At this moment, Xia Yunlou had already lost her wits and naturally agreed to Xia Mengyan's request. She seemed to have already treated everything in front of her as her own.

Xia Mengyan had just handed the pendant to the butler and asked him to pack it for her when...

A cold female voice interrupted the two of them. The storage room was silent. Their hearts trembled at the same time. Xia Yunlou's eyes were filled with fear for a moment before dissatisfaction appeared.

The butler had never seen Qiao Xi before. Seeing her arrogant attitude, he immediately stood up and shouted, "Who are you?! This is my master's villa. How dare you come in casually?! You're trespassing on private property. We can call the police to arrest you!"

"I trespassed?" Qiao Xi sneered as her cold gaze landed on Xia Mengyan. "Are you guys crazy? Do you like snatching other people's things so much?"

This was the Qiao family's villa. In the past, it was her mother's asset. Now, it was under her name. No matter what, it had nothing to do with the Xia family. How dare they dream of occupying the residence?

Xia Mengyan lowered her head, looking aggrieved. She did not say anything.

Seeing that Qiao Xi did not refute, the butler said even more arrogantly, "Hurry up and leave! Don't delay my master. If anything valuable is lost, you won't be able to bear the responsibility!"

Chapter 1184 You're Fired If You Disobey

Qiao Xi raised her eyes coldly and glanced at the butler. "You're really stupid. You actually haven't figured out who your real master is!"

The butler was stunned and looked at Xia Mengyan in confusion.

When Qiao Xi saw this, she took out her phone and sent a message to the butler. The butler's phone instantly rang. He looked at his phone and was shocked. "Y-You're the owner of the Xia family's residence?"

He ran to Qiao Xi and apologized crazily. Then, he glared angrily at the two of them. "Who are you?! How dare you pretend to be Miss Qiao?!"

Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan had embarrassed expressions on their faces. After all, Xia Yunlou was the daughter of the Xia family. Now that she was being treated as a thief, she naturally felt terrible. She could only roar helplessly, "Qiao Xi! This is indeed your property, but I'm your biological mother! What's yours is mine. Moreover, these things are all piled up in the storage room. You definitely don't want them anymore, so we just want to take them away. Hurry up and explain to the butler. Don't treat us as thieves!"

The butler was stunned. This woman was actually Miss Qiao's mother? But the two of them did not look like mother and daughter at all!

Qiao Xi lazily leaned against the door, her eyes filled with coldness. "Butler, send the guests out!"

The butler was put in a difficult position. "Miss Qiao, uh..."

"What? You won't listen to me?" Qiao Xi's lips twitched as her entire body emitted a cold aura.

Qiao Xi's words seemed to have slapped Xia Yunlou twice. She felt her cheeks burn as she roared indignantly, "Qiao Xi! What are you doing? Mengyan and I are just here to take a look. It's fine if you don't welcome us, but you actually want to chase us away. How can there be a daughter like you?"

Xia Yunlou shouted with a flushed face. She was so angry that she lacked oxygen and felt dizzy.

The butler stood in the middle, hesitating.

At this moment, Gu Zheng appeared behind Qiao Xi. He glanced indifferently at the butler and chuckled. "Xi Xi, this butler is taking your money but doesn't listen to you!"

Qiao Xi said coldly, "If you won't listen, you'll be fired."

The butler's expression changed. This was a good job that was hard to find. He lived alone in a luxurious villa and did not have to serve a host. He only had to clean the place occasionally. The salary was very high, and he had a lot of freedom.

Miss Qiao wanted to fire him, but he could not lose this job. He hurriedly walked up to Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan and said loudly, "Ladies, since this isn't your property, please leave immediately!"

The anger in Xia Yunlou's heart surged. "Qiao Xi! I'm your biological mother! You actually want to chase me away? Look at the plaque outside. This place is called the Xia family's residence. Mengyan and I both have the surname Xia. It's only right for us to come here!"

This place was called the Xia family's residence, but it was not Xia Yunlou's. It was called the Xia family's residence in memory of Qiao Xi's deceased mother, Xia Yunqiu.

Qiao Xi nodded thoughtfully. "Madam Xia, since you think the name isn't suitable, then let's change it. From now on, let's call it the Yin family's residence. After all, my mother's surname should have been Yin. Remember this clearly. This place has nothing to do with the Xia family. I hope you won't be shameless enough to come over again."

With that, she glanced around and saw the shell wind chime on the floor. Anger surged through her. She didn't want to continue being entangled with these two.

"Madam Xia, you're trespassing on private property. If you don't leave now, I'll call the police. At that time, the news of the two daughters of the Xia family being caught stealing will spread throughout Li City. I don't think you want to see this outcome, right?"

The butler really did not understand. Since Madam Xia and Miss Qiao were mother and daughter, why were the two of them opposing each other?

Xia Yunlou was furious and roared, "Qiao Xi!"

Xia Mengyan raised her eyes slightly and carefully glanced at the cold Gu Zheng at the door. She clenched her fists tightly.

Why did Qiao Xi get to fulfill the Xia family's arranged engagement? Gu Zheng was such an outstanding and handsome man. There were thousands of people who wanted to marry him, and she was naturally no exception. Everything she did was for the sake of pursuing true love. Gu Zheng would probably understand her.

Xia Mengyan said gently, "Xi Xi, we're family. There's no need to quarrel over such a small matter. Actually, I just wanted to see you."

She noticed that Qiao Xi's gaze had been on the shell wind chime on the ground. She had taken a look just now. That wind chime was not worth much. Although it looked quite beautiful, it was not made using any rare materials. However, Qiao Xi had always been paying attention to that shell wind chime. It was as if she had come to the Xia family's residence for this shell wind chime.

Chapter 1185 Shell Wind Chime

Xia Mengyan suddenly had an idea. If Qiao Xi was angry at her because of a worthless shell wind chime, how would Gu Zheng react?

Perhaps Gu Zheng would think that it was just an ordinary shell wind chime and Qiao Xi was angry over nothing. He would think her temper was too bad and she was nothing like her usual weak and gentle self at all.

Grandma had taught her how to deal with women since she was young, so Xia Mengyan knew very well how to destroy Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng's relationship without batting an eyelid. Hence, she said with a smile, "Xi Xi, I know you don't like me, but Aunt is your biological mother and Aunt Yunqiu's sister. She's only here to see where Aunt Yunqiu lived when she was alive. What's wrong with that? Why are you throwing a tantrum?!"

Xia Yunlou glared fiercely at Qiao Xi. "Look at how understanding Mengyan is. Look at you. You're really a rival from my previous life!"

Xia Mengyan smiled. "Xi Xi, it was wrong of us to disturb you rashly, but Aunt has always missed Aunt Yunqiu, who has passed away. She knows that Aunt Yunqiu used to live here, so she brought me here. I was afraid that you would be unhappy, so I brought you a gift."

With that, Xia Mengyan took out a velvet square box from her bag. Inside was a diamond-studded bracelet. She was supposed to wear it when she participated in events, but she had to use this bracelet to put on a show first.

Xia Mengyan smiled sincerely and took out the bracelet from the box. She said gently, "Xi Xi, I know you have a lot of precious jewelry. This bracelet is nothing to you, but I spent a million yuan to buy it. This is just a token of my appreciation. There were some misunderstandings between us in the past. Take this bracelet as an apology."

Qiao Xi raised her eyes slightly. Xia Mengyan was taking the initiative to express goodwill? There must be something fishy going on.

The next second, Xia Mengyan pointed at the shell wind chime on the ground and said with a smile, "Xi Xi, I've already given you a gift. Can you give this to me? I don't want anything precious. I just want this shell wind chime. I felt a close affinity to it at first glance. This thing shouldn't be important to you. Can you give it to me?"

Xia Mengyan was very sure that Qiao Xi valued this shell wind chime very much, so she wanted to snatch it and cause trouble for Qiao Xi.

"No," Qiao Xi replied coldly. However, the more she refused without hesitation, the more Xia Mengyan was certain of the importance of this shell wind chime.

Xia Mengyan was neither anxious nor impatient. She said regretfully, "Xi Xi, this is just a shell wind chime. I'm willing to exchange it for a bracelet worth a million yuan. Why aren't you willing?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Xia Yunlou shouted at the top of her voice, “Qiao Xi, why are you so petty?! Mengyan has already given you a bracelet worth a million yuan. She only wants this shell wind chime, but you’re unwilling to give it to her. How did I give birth to a daughter like you?!”

Xia Mengyan hurriedly went forward to comfort her. “Aunt, don’t be angry at me. It’s fine if Xi Xi doesn’t agree. I gave her the bracelet of my own volition. As for whether she’ll give it to me or not, I won’t force her. I’m just afraid that if this matter gets out, others will say that Xi Xi doesn’t know any etiquette and accepted a bracelet worth a million yuan but refused to return the favor.”

She gave Qiao Xi a gift of 1,000,000 yuan, then chose the most worthless item among the pile of expensive items. It was completely to accommodate Qiao Xi, but Qiao Xi was unwilling to give the worthless item to her. Anyone would think that Qiao Xi was too rude.

What would Gu Zheng think of her?

Xia Mengyan looked up at Gu Zheng with an aggrieved expression. “Mr. Gu, what do you think? I’m doing this for Xi Xi’s own good. I’m afraid that people will gossip about her. After all...”

“There are only four of us at the scene. If we don’t say anything, and if Miss Xia and Madam Xia don’t say anything, who will find out?” Gu Zheng interrupted Xia Mengyan coldly and raised his eyebrows. “Or do you want to spread this matter and ruin Xi Xi’s reputation?”

The butler had already left the storage room. There were only the four of them present, so Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi would naturally not tell anyone. In that case, only the two of them were left.

Xia Mengyan choked. Her eyes turned red as she bit her lip. “I... I don’t know what to do. I just... want this shell wind chime. If Xi Xi doesn’t want to agree to it, then forget it. I...”

Qiao Xi didn’t even look up. Xia Mengyan was right. She did look down on that bracelet. It wasn’t because the gift was expensive but because it was a gift from Xia Mengyan. She hated it.

“If you don’t leave, I’ll call the police.” As she spoke, Qiao Xi took out her phone. Xia Yunlou’s face was deathly pale. She knew that Qiao Xi was capable of doing so. If the police came and arrested them, it would be too embarrassing.

Chapter 1186 I Will Not Let Her Go

Xia Yunlou hurriedly pulled Xia Mengyan away. “Alright! Let’s go! I really don’t understand what’s wrong with me coming to my sister’s property! Don’t regret chasing us away today!”

Xia Mengyan was still indignant. She stared fixedly at the shell wind chime and suddenly reached out to pick it up.

Qiao Xi’s eyes narrowed slightly as a trace of coldness flashed through them.

Xia Mengyan looked helpless. “Xi Xi, I really want this wind chime. If... you’re still unwilling, I won’t take it away. But I just want to take a look at it. As for this bracelet...”

“Mengyan! She’s not even willing to give you a gift in return. Why should you give her a bracelet?!” Xia Yunlou hurriedly snatched the velvet box from Qiao Xi’s hand and stuffed it into Xia Mengyan’s arms.

She really hated Qiao Xi's personality. Her eyes were filled with coldness and disdain. She had no mother-daughter relationship with her at all. She would rather not have given birth to this daughter!

It was just a shell wind chime, but Qiao Xi was unwilling to give it to Mengyan. She was too petty! It was too embarrassing!

Xia Yunlou was furious. She pulled Xia Mengyan and was about to leave when a sinister look flashed across Xia Mengyan's eyes. She pretended to lose her balance and threw the wind chime in her hand to the ground. "Ah..." Then, she staggered a few steps and stepped on the wind chime.

The shells were thin to begin with. When Xia Mengyan stepped on it, a few of the shells shattered. The white fragments fell on the brown floor, looking so dazzling.

The storage room was silent, and the air seemed to have frozen. Qiao Xi was stunned.

Xia Mengyan looked down at the fragments and pretended to be flustered. Then, she said in a trembling voice, "Xi Xi, I'm sorry. I didn't do it on purpose."

She was trembling in fear like an innocent girl who had broken someone else's things. She could only apologize profusely. "I'm sorry, Xi Xi. It's all my fault for not holding the wind chime properly. I..."

Seeing Xia Mengyan apologize crazily, Xia Yunlou was even angrier. Her heart ached for Xia Mengyan, and she could not bear to see her apologize to Qiao Xi so humbly.

"It's just a worthless shell wind chime. If you really like it, Mengyan will compensate you for it. Qiao Xi, don't make things difficult for Mengyan! We'll leave now!"

Xia Mengyan cried in fear and sobbed softly. "Xi Xi, I'm sorry. Don't be angry with me. I can compensate you. I'll buy whatever shell wind chime you want. If you're not satisfied, I can personally go to the seaside to pick up shells and make you a new wind chime."

As she spoke, Xia Mengyan was already pulled to the door by Xia Yunlou. She lowered her head and smiled triumphantly.

Since Qiao Xi did not allow her to take any jewelry, she would destroy Qiao Xi's most cherished shell wind chime. She would even give her a reputation for being petty.

Qiao Xi watched the two of them leave and did not stop them.

Gu Zheng leaned over and picked up the shell wind chime. A few of the shells had shattered, but most of them were still intact. He held the wind chime in his palm and handed it to Qiao Xi. "Your wind chime."

Qiao Xi reached out to take it and sized it up carefully. Her serious expression made Gu Zheng involuntarily laugh. "You came over so early in the morning just to look for this wind chime? Since you value it so much and she broke your wind chime, aren't you going to punish her?"

She looked at it for a long time before finally placing it on the table. "This isn't the wind chime I'm looking for."

"Huh?" Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow.

Qiao Xi said casually, "My wind chime is very ordinary. It's made of shells that can be seen everywhere. Moreover, the craftsmanship is a little rough. However, this seashell wind chime was carved and embedded with some gems. The largest shell is even engraved with the words 'Zhu Jin.' My mother has a lot of Zhu Jin's works. This is one of them."

"Zhu Jin's works aren't worth much, but they're very valuable. Moreover, there are very few existing works. To collectors, this is a priceless treasure. Xia Mengyan has been around the world for so many years, so she must have heard of Zhu Jin."

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows and said casually, "She broke my things, so of course she has to be punished. She can either compensate or go to jail. It's up to her. In short, I won't let her off easily."

"My Xi Xi is so smart." Gu Zheng smiled, hiding the killing intent in his eyes. If Xi Xi didn't make a move, he would naturally take revenge for her. However, if he did it on her behalf, things wouldn't end with just Xia Mengyan having to compensate for the damage.

Not long after, Qiao Xi found another shell wind chime in the storage room. It was indeed as Qiao Xi had said. It was very ordinary and could be seen everywhere. It did not have any special characteristics. Gu Zheng did not know why Qiao Xi valued this wind chime so much.

Chapter 1187 An Expensive Pen

Gu Zheng fell into deep thought. He remembered that Qiao Xi was afraid of water, so she hated everything related to water. However, the Qiao Xi in his dreams was not afraid of water.

He turned his head and looked at Qiao Xi's side profile. She was staring seriously at the wind chime. There were a lot of shells on it. She flicked the wind chime, and the shells collided with each other, making rustling sounds. It was indeed very ordinary and nothing special, but Qiao Xi held the wind chime in her hand and inexplicably felt close to it as if she had once liked this wind chime very much.

A thought flashed through her mind. In an instant, Qiao Xi could not remember if it was a dream or if it really happened. She seemed to have liked this wind chime when she was young, but why did she suddenly have a dream about it? In the dream, Gu Zheng was holding the exact same wind chime in his hand.

After a long silence, Gu Zheng asked softly, "Did you buy it?"

Qiao Xi was slightly hesitant. "I didn't buy it, and it's impossible for me to have made it. This should be a gift from someone else."

In that case, everything seemed to be connected to the dream. Qiao Xi was silent for a moment before abruptly raising her eyes to look at Gu Zheng. "Didn't you give this wind chime to me?"

Gu Zheng did not have any toys when he was young. After he grew up, he focused on improving his hacking skills and managing company matters. He had never tried to make such handicrafts that girls liked. It was hard to imagine himself seriously making seashell wind chimes.

After a long time, Qiao Xi did not hear his response and did not ask further. After all, that was just her dream. It was just coincidental that she had a seashell wind chime, and it had nothing to do with Gu Zheng.

Qiao Xi stood up to pack her mother's belongings. She dragged out a storage box from the corner. Gu Zheng picked up a golden fountain pen from the dusty storage box and raised his eyebrows. "Who gave this to you?"

Qiao Xi thought for a moment. "I participated in a small event when I was out shopping. The boss gave it to me, but it wasn't very useful, so I threw it in the storage box."

Gu Zheng looked at the pen that was worth 500,000 yuan and was a little surprised. "It's not useful?"

"Yeah." Qiao Xi nodded. "This fountain pen is quite nice, but it's not useful at all. Later on, I bought a 50-yuan fountain pen and it was especially useful."

Gu Zheng's fingers stroked the patterns on the pen as he said softly, "It's fine if you don't like it. Just treat it as an ornament."

"You're right! This fountain pen looks quite good on the table. I wanted to throw it away previously, but after all, I got it from playing a game in the event. I couldn't bear to throw it away."

Gu Zheng asked curiously, "What game?"

Qiao Xi thought for a moment. "When I was 13 years old, I was pulled over by a boy to participate in a game on my phone after school one day. There was a reward for winning, and I was given a fountain pen. This prize is probably the most beautiful one among the other prizes. Unfortunately, it's not useful."

Gu Zheng was stunned. "You didn't tell Qin An about this?"

Qiao Xi had a puzzled expression. "Why would I tell Third Brother about such a small matter? He had something going on that day and didn't come to pick me up from school. It had already been a few days when I saw him again. I put the fountain pen in the storage box a long time ago, so he doesn't know about it."

So that was how it was! No wonder this fountain pen that was worth 500,000 yuan was thrown into a storage box by Qiao Xi. However, who gave Qiao Xi such an expensive fountain pen through a game on the streets? Moreover, the other party was a man!

Gu Zheng's eyes darkened as he continued to ask, "Xi Xi, do you still remember what that person looked like? Or how old he was and what characteristics he had?"

Qiao Xi recalled carefully. "It's been so long, so I can't remember clearly. I only remember that he was wearing a black casual suit and a mask. His eyes were deep and lively. He should be a handsome man. Moreover, he personally handed the fountain pen to me. He even said that he specially chose this gift for me. I think it was definitely the best among all the prizes."

A light flashed in Gu Zheng's eyes as he thought of investigating who bought this fountain pen seven years ago. Perhaps he would find something. Since that person was wearing a mask, it seemed that it was not convenient for him to show his face. Before the results of the investigation were out, he did not intend to tell Qiao Xi lest she thought too much.

Qiao Xi sat on the chair and packed her things, while Gu Zheng found an empty room to handle his work. Perhaps it was because he did not sleep well last night, he actually fell asleep while leaning against the desk.

In real life, he did not like those handicrafts, but in his dream, he was holding a seashell wind chime in his hand because he had heard that Black Tide liked the sound of wind chimes.

Chapter 1188 Lost The Diamond Bracelet

Gu Zheng had always found such things childish and boring. He did not have time to go to the beach to pick seashells to make wind chimes, but at some point, a seashell wind chime appeared in his hand.

Perhaps dreams did not need logic. Everything was so ridiculous.

In the dream, Mo Yuan gave the wind chime to Black Tide. Black Tide happily took it and waved it in her hand. She smiled sweetly and said, "The sound of the wind chime is beautiful!"

Mo Yuan revealed a satisfied smile, but it quickly disappeared. He had always been so cold as if he was not used to laughing. When he spoke, his voice remained cold. "What's so nice about the sound of shells hitting each other? I'll give you a better gift in the future."

The next second, Black Tide put the wind chime to her ear and shook it gently. The ordinary wind chime suddenly made sounds that were pleasant to the ear.

Mo Yuan was stunned for a moment before nodding. "It does sound good. I won't give it to you anymore. I'll keep it for myself."

Black Tide hurriedly protected the wind chime in her arms and smiled sweetly. "No! You've already given it to me. This wind chime is mine. You can't go back on your word. Also, you have to give me more gifts in the future!"

Looking at the girl's tender and innocent smile, Mo Yuan could not help but smile.

Gu Zheng's consciousness was pulled out of his dream. He suddenly opened his eyes and felt a slight headache. Why was he dreaming of the shell wind chime? Could it be that he had really given that wind chime to Qiao Xi?

Gu Zheng sat on the chair and reacted for a moment before getting up to leave the room. As soon as he left, he bumped into Qiao Xi walking over with a wind chime. "It's all packed. Let's go."

"Well..." She hesitated. "Get Song Shijing to help me find a more reliable butler. I'm still worried about this butler."

"Alright," Gu Zheng replied.

On the other hand, in a luxury car near the Qiao family's villa, Xia Yunlou's expression was gloomy. "I didn't expect Qiao Xi to suddenly appear. We should've left long ago!"

Xia Mengyan's eyes turned red. "Aunt..."

Xia Yunlou naturally couldn't bear to scold Xia Mengyan. She only scolded her softly, "Mengyan, you're the daughter of the Xia family. You've been treated well your whole life. Why do you have to have that

worthless shell wind chime? Moreover, you just broke a wind chime. Did you have to apologize to her? Qiao Xi has so many treasures in her hands. She doesn't care about a wind chime at all. You don't have to lower yourself to apologize to her!"

Xia Mengyan's voice trembled slightly. "I was just afraid that Xi Xi wouldn't be willing to give me a valuable gift, so I chose the most worthless item, the wind chime. I didn't expect her to be unwilling to even give me that. Later, I accidentally broke the wind chime. I was afraid that Xi Xi would think that I did it on purpose, so I hurriedly apologized. Who knew that she still wouldn't forgive me?"

Hearing their conversation, the driver was speechless. At that time, he had been waiting at the door and heard Miss Xia apologize. However, before Miss Qiao could speak, Madam Xia pulled Miss Xia out. As Miss Qiao's biological mother, she treated her niece better than her own daughter. It was really strange.

At this moment, Xia Mengyan quietly took out the bracelet from the box and stuffed it into the pocket of her coat. Since Qiao Xi did not give them any face, Qiao Xi could not blame her for being heartless.

The inheritance left behind by Xia Yunqiu belonged to the Xia family. What right did Qiao Xi have to take it for herself? She had to make Qiao Xi pay the price!

After Xia Mengyan stuffed the one million yuan bracelet into the inner pocket of her coat, she pretended to be flustered and looked around. Just as the driver was about to drive away, she shouted in a panic, "Wait!"

The driver slammed on the brakes.

Xia Yunlou frowned unhappily. "Mengyan, what's wrong now?"

Xia Mengyan panicked and said, "Aunt, my diamond bracelet is missing. I originally planned to wear it when I participated in business activities, but now that it's gone, what should I do?!"

Xia Yunlou sat up and reached for the velvet box. She opened it and saw that it was indeed empty.

Xia Mengyan poured all the things in her bag onto the car seat. Her eyes turned red from anxiety. "There's nothing in the jewelry box or in the bag. Where did the bracelet go? Could it have dropped when we were at the Qiao family's villa?"

"Aunt, that's a bracelet worth a million yuan. I have to go back and look for it," Xia Mengyan said awkwardly. "B-But Xixi won't let me in."

Just as the two of them were hesitating, Xia Yunlou saw Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng's car leave. She immediately decided. "They've left. Let's go in and look for it. Who cares if she agrees or not?! A bracelet that's worth a million yuan has been lost. She has to let us go in and look for it."

Chapter 1189 Counterattack

The driver drove the car to the entrance of the Qiao family's villa. After all, Xia Yunlou was Qiao Xi's mother, so the butler did not dare to stop them. The two of them swaggered into the villa.

Xia Mengyan's eyes were filled with schemes. "Aunt, I put the box away when I left the storage room, so the bracelet must have fallen in the storage room. Moreover, you were the one who snatched the box from Qiao Xi and gave it to me. Was the bracelet in the box at that time?"

After being suddenly asked by Xia Mengyan, Xia Yunlou was not sure if the bracelet was in the box when she handed it back to Xia Mengyan. "I don't remember, but when I gave you the box, I closed it. If the bracelet was still there at that time, it wouldn't have gone missing."

Xia Mengyan looked around the storage room and finally returned to Xia Yunlou with a helpless expression. Xia Yunlou's face was ashen, and an idea formed in Xia Mengyan's mind.

"I'm so stupid! How could I have lost such a precious thing? I remember that after Xi Xi came in, I took out the bracelet and handed it to her. I didn't pass it to anyone else. After that, I took the box back and closed it. I didn't take it out again. How did I suddenly lose it?"

Xia Yunlou's body stiffened, and her expression was extremely ugly.

Qiao Xi!

When she thought of how Qiao Xi had stolen the bracelet, Xia Yunlou felt extremely embarrassed. She could not suppress the anger in her heart and roared, "It must be Qiao Xi! She stole your bracelet!"

"Other than us, only Qiao Xi touched the bracelet. She must have wanted the bracelet but was unwilling to give you the wind chime, so she took it away. Why is she so cheap?!"

Xia Mengyan pretended to be surprised. "No way. How could Xi Xi..."

"It must be her! How did Xia Yunqiu educate her child? She actually allowed Qiao Xi to steal things! She's dead and left her daughter here to embarrass me! I'm so angry!"

Xia Yunlou shouted crazily, "Mengyan! Follow me to the police station to report this matter. I want her to know the price of stealing! If we don't teach her a lesson this time, she'll definitely become worse and do even worse things!"

Xia Mengyan's heart trembled. If they went to the police station, would they find out about what she did? However, on second thought, she was the person who reported the case and the daughter of the Xia family. Those police officers would definitely not suspect her.

She pretended to decline. "Forget it. No matter what, Xi Xi is your biological daughter, Mrs. Gu, and the daughter of the Yin family. If this matter blows up, she'll offend many people."

"What's there to be afraid of?! Can she blame us for stealing something?" Xia Yunlou felt her face burning. "Now that she stole something from you, it's fine if we teach her a lesson. If she steals something from someone else in the future, she won't be afraid of losing face, but I'm her biological mother. I'll definitely be criticized for not teaching my daughter well. I don't want to lose face!"

"Mengyan, don't be afraid. I'll accompany you to the police. I'll definitely get her to return your bracelet! Let's go!"

"Aunt..."

"Driver, let's go to the nearest police station. Qiao Xi is so young but already has so many bad habits. How dare she steal things? I have to teach her a lesson!"

The driver looked helpless. How could Miss Qiao steal something? He, an outsider, did not believe it. How could Madam Xia be so sure that Miss Qiao had stolen something?

...

Longwan Residential.

Qiao Xi leaned lazily on the sofa and listened to the news from Song Shijing. The smile on her face grew wider and wider. "Xia Mengyan lost her bracelet that costs one million yuan. Xia Yunlou thinks that I stole it, so she went to the police to report it?"

Song Shijing nodded. "Yes."

"Stealing an item worth a million yuan is a big crime!"

"Xia Yunlou has already taken out the receipt for the bracelet. As the amount involved is too high, the police have already opened a case for investigation. As the aunt of the owner, Xia Yunlou insists that you stole the bracelet. If word gets out, it'll affect your reputation," Song Shijing said.

"Heh." Qiao Xi snorted coldly. "Coincidentally, I also want to make a trip to the police station. I originally wanted Xia Mengyan to compensate me, but who knew that they would actually bite back and say that I stole the bracelet? How interesting!"

"Xia Mengyan deliberately destroyed my collection of artworks and hasn't compensated me yet. Now, Xia Yunlou is accusing me of stealing a bracelet worth a million yuan. Will these two people end up in the police station for a while after this?"

Song Shijing knew that Madam had wanted to counterattack a long time ago, but before she could do anything, the other party had already gone to the police station. However, this was nothing to Madam.

He asked respectfully, "Madam, are you going out now?"

"Yes, which police station are they at? Send me there. I want to report a case too." Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully.

Chapter 1190 The Big Shot Of Li City

"Do you need the president to accompany you?"

Qiao Xi hesitated for a moment before nodding. "Yes! I'm just a weak woman. My precious collection was ruined by Xia Mengyan. I didn't want to report it to the police at first, but my husband encouraged me to go head-to-head with evil forces, so I finally agreed to go to the police station."

Song Shijing was speechless. She was already pretending to be weak before reaching the police station?

At the police station.

Xia Yunlou said hatefully, "Qiao Xi stole the bracelet! Arrest her for interrogation now and ask her to hand over the bracelet!"

The police officer looked troubled. “Madam Xia, you said that Miss Qiao stole it, but you didn’t provide any substantial evidence. We can’t arrest her. As for who stole your item, we still need to investigate it. Please give us some time.”

Xia Yunlou glared at them. “What do you mean? You don’t believe me? Other than Mengyan and me, only she touched that box. She must have stolen the bracelet. She’s only 20 years old, but she’s already stealing things. If you don’t arrest her, she’ll definitely steal more expensive things in the future!”

The police officer said patiently, “Evidence is important in a case. We can’t arrest someone just because of your words. If we wrongly accuse Miss Qiao...”

Madam Xia insisted that Miss Qiao had stolen something, so they would have to investigate Miss Qiao first. However, without evidence, they had no right to arrest her. They could only go to her house to find out the situation.

Xia Yunlou’s face was ferocious as she shouted without caring about her image, “What evidence do you need? My words are evidence. Let me tell you, I’m the daughter of the Xia family. I’m also Qiao Xi’s—”

“Madam Xia, if you have anything to say, tell me directly. Why make things difficult for them?” A gentle and sweet voice sounded. The few of them looked in the direction of the voice and saw a young lady exuding a pure aura standing at the door. Beside her was a tall and handsome man. The two of them stood there like a painting, pleasing to the eye.

The place was silent for a moment. Xia Yunlou instantly exploded. She pointed at Qiao Xi and roared, “Alright! You’re finally here! Hurry up and hand over Mengyan’s bracelet! Otherwise, you’ll go to jail!”

Gu Zheng stood tall and straight beside Qiao Xi like a mountain. His deep eyes swept across Xia Yunlou. It was just a casual glance, but it made Xia Yunlou shudder, and she instantly swallowed the words in her mouth.

Xia Mengyan took two steps forward, her eyes filled with helplessness and worry. She said gently, “Mr. Gu, I’m really sorry. I told Aunt not to call the police, but she insisted on coming. I believe that Xi Xi wouldn’t steal the bracelet. Aunt came to the police station because she was afraid that Xi Xi would go astray. Please don’t blame Aunt...”

“Mr. Gu, you should take Xi Xi away first! Aunt and Xi Xi are already very distant with each other. If Aunt says something bad again, Xi Xi will definitely be sad! I believe that Xi Xi wouldn’t steal anything, and I tried stopping Aunt too. Who knew that she would force me to come to the police station? I tried to persuade her for a long time, but she...”

Xia Mengyan stood in front of Gu Zheng as if she was an innocent little white flower. She made it seem that everything was Xia Yunlou’s idea, and she had tried her best to stop her.

She bit her lip, and her eyes turned red. She looked at Gu Zheng aggrievedly and shyly. “Mr. Gu...”

“Miss Xia, if I leave with Xi Xi, the entire Li City will think that Xi Xi stole something,” Gu Zheng said coldly.

Xia Mengyan’s expression froze as she explained in a panic, “No, I’m just afraid that Xi Xi...”

The police officer sized up the person in front of him and found him familiar. Before he could figure it out, Gu Zheng's gaze landed on him. Gu Zheng slowly said, "Officer, I'm Qiao Xi's husband. I want to confirm that Madam Xia accused my wife of stealing a bracelet worth a million yuan?"

"Yes. Since you're here, can you cooperate with us? We want to know what happened." With that, the police officer called for his other colleagues.

"This..." The police officer who had just arrived suddenly froze on the spot and asked the person beside him in a low voice, "Isn't this the big shot of Li City?"

The police officer in charge seemed to realize something and quickly asked, "May I know your name, sir?"

Gu Zheng's expression was indifferent, and there was a cold smile on his lips. He said casually, "My surname is Gu."

"Hiss..." The police officers gasped. This man's surname was Gu, and his aura was very similar to the legendary big shot. Could he be the famous president of Gu Corporation?

Miss Qiao was Mr. Gu's wife?