

Lady Gu 1191

Chapter 1191 There's Surveillance In The Villa

The police officers usually did not pay attention to business tycoons, but Gu Zheng was the business emperor of Li City. Everyone had naturally heard of his reputation. Moreover, the woman who could marry Gu Zheng was naturally not an ordinary person.

They had thought that it was just an ordinary theft case, but they did not expect the amount involved to be one million yuan. Moreover, it was related to Mr. and Mrs. Gu. It had been a long time since their branch had received such a big case.

The police officer said nervously, "M-Mr. Gu, we want to ask Mrs. Gu about the situation. Do you think..."

Gu Zheng turned his head slightly and looked at the woman beside him lovingly. "Xi Xi."

Qiao Xi glanced at Xia Yunlou and said helplessly, "It's every citizen's duty to cooperate with the police's investigation. Of course, I won't refuse. However, Miss Xia, you reported that I stole something. It really surprised me. You were the ones who broke into the Qiao family's villa. I haven't called the police to arrest you yet, but you came to the police to say that I stole a bracelet?"

The police officer was stunned. How could this be about trespassing?

Xia Mengyan panicked. "Xi Xi, I'm sorry. I didn't want to report it to the police either. I was worried that you would go astray and just wanted to teach you a lesson. I don't have any other intentions. Please don't blame me! Let's withdraw the case. Aunt, Xi Xi wouldn't have stolen the bracelet!"

Seeing her compromise, Xia Yunlou was even angrier. Mengyan was too naive, which was why she thought that Qiao Xi would not steal anything. She was married to Gu Zheng now, and her value had risen. However, she was a wild girl from the countryside in the past. Her bad habit of stealing must have developed at that time. She definitely did not steal for money, but she just could not change this habit of hers.

Why did she have to withdraw the case? It was not easy for her to catch Qiao Xi in the wrong. She would not let Qiao Xi off so easily!

Xia Yunlou was unable to restrain her anger. "You're not allowed to withdraw the case! She did such an embarrassing thing. Are you afraid of others talking about it? Mr. Gu, I know you might be unhappy, but this bracelet was stolen by Qiao Xi. Why do you have to take a fancy to such a wild girl? Our Mengyan is clearly better than her and more suitable..."

Gu Zheng's entire body emitted a cold aura. Qiao Xi, who was at the side, suddenly whimpered and threw herself into Gu Zheng's arms aggrievedly. Her voice was choked with sobs. "I'll cooperate with the investigation! I never said that I wouldn't cooperate, but even before the investigation is completed, Madam Xia is insisting that I stole something. She even said that I'm a wild girl who's not worthy of Ah Zheng. Boo-hoo... I'm so aggrieved!"

A soft cry sounded in the hall. Qiao Xi was crying softly like a pitiful kitten, causing the police officers in the station to feel sorry for her.

Mrs. Gu was too weak. She looked like a little princess who had been pampered since she was young. She had never suffered such grievances. It was probably the first time she had been accused of stealing in her life, so she could not help but cry.

What shocked everyone was that Gu Zheng was extremely gentle. He hugged Mrs. Gu in his arms and coaxed her gently for a long time. There was no trace of impatience in his eyes.

Qiao Xi hugged Gu Zheng's waist with her weak little hands. She raised her eyes slightly to look at him and said delicately, "Ah Zheng, I'm so scared!"

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and looked at Qiao Xi, whose eyes were slightly red but without a trace of tears. He gently touched her head, bent down slightly, and whispered into her ear, "Stop fooling around."

Qiao Xi acted as if she did not hear anything. She gently wiped the corners of her eyes and said in a soft and aggrieved voice, "If Madam Xia doesn't believe me, then investigate me. In order to prove my innocence, I've already sent someone to get the surveillance cameras in the villa. There are surveillance cameras in every corner of the villa. When the time comes, everyone will know if I stole the bracelet or not."

"I can make a statement now." Qiao Xi took a deep breath, then a female police officer brought Qiao Xi into the interrogation room.

Everyone couldn't help but sigh. A real big shot was indeed different. Even though Mrs. Gu felt aggrieved, she was willing to cooperate with the police. Moreover, she was willing to take out the surveillance footage as evidence, which meant that she most likely didn't steal it.

Madam Xia, on the other hand, was making a fuss the moment she entered. She insisted that Miss Qiao had stolen something without any evidence and even ordered them to arrest her. She was really unreasonable.

At this moment, Xia Mengyan's forehead was covered in cold sweat. There were surveillance cameras in the villa?

She bit her lip nervously, feeling uneasy. She quickly walked up to Xia Yunlou and said in a low voice, "Aunt, forget it. Xi Xi is ready to check the surveillance footage. It seems that she really didn't steal the bracelet. We wronged her..."

Chapter 1192 Proving Her Innocence

"Mengyan! Remember that you're the daughter of the Xia family. How can you be timid? Are you afraid of Qiao Xi? She clearly stole that bracelet!" Xia Yunlou said firmly.

Xia Mengyan: "..."

At this moment, she despised Xia Yunlou very much. At this point, it was obvious that Qiao Xi had evidence to prove her innocence. If they continued to cause trouble, they would definitely be embarrassed. She hesitated for a moment and patiently persuaded, "Aunt, look at how confident Xi Xi is. It doesn't seem like she stole something. Even if she really did steal something, she's still your biological

daughter and my cousin. If she's arrested, we'll also lose face. If this matter gets out, they'll think that we bullied Xi Xi.

"Aunt, let's withdraw the case. You've taught Xi Xi enough lessons. She's already crying from fright."

She had never planned to call the police in the first place. She just wanted the entire Li City to know that Qiao Xi had stolen her bracelet, but she did not intend to hold it against her. That way, not only could she let everyone know that Qiao Xi's character was bad, but she could also let everyone know that she was tolerant and magnanimous. She did not expect that she would accidentally end up at the police station.

Xia Yunlou was silent. No matter what, Qiao Xi was still her daughter. If this matter blew up, she would also lose face. Those noble ladies would mock her behind her back.

However, would the news not spread after the case was withdrawn? At that time, everyone would say that the Xia family was afraid of Gu Zheng's power and did not dare to stand up for Mengyan. It seemed inappropriate no matter what they did.

However, Mengyan insisted on withdrawing the case...

Xia Yunlou thought for a long time before saying, "We can withdraw the case, but..."

"Withdraw the case? That won't do!" Qiao Xi walked out of the interrogation room and pointed at Song Shiyu, who was behind everyone. "The surveillance footage of the villa has been sent over. From Madam Xia Yunlou breaking into the Qiao family's villa to the two's departure, everything was recorded very clearly."

Song Shiyu took out his laptop and played the surveillance video. Qiao Xi stared at the screen and pointed at it. "Here, you can see Miss Xia taking out the bracelet box."

On the screen, Xia Mengyan opened an exquisite velvet box, revealing the bracelet inlaid with diamonds. Then, she closed it.

From then on, the velvet box was placed on the table without anyone touching it. Halfway through, Xia Mengyan even stuffed the box into Qiao Xi's arms. However, Qiao Xi did not even touch it before Xia Yunlou snatched it back and stuffed it into Xia Mengyan's hand. Then, Xia Mengyan placed the box in her bag. The surveillance footage was very clear. Qiao Xi did not have the chance to open the box and take out the bracelet at all.

Later on, Xia Yunlou pulled Xia Mengyan away. From the moment they walked out of the storage room to the entrance of the villa, there were surveillance cameras all the way. The box was in Xia Mengyan's bag and did not fall out. The surveillance footage in the storage room was still playing. Qiao Xi was seen holding the broken shell wind chime in her hand. She did not chase after them.

At the same time, after Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan left the villa, they got into the car. The two parties did not meet again. In the surveillance footage, Qiao Xi did not even touch the box. How could she have stolen the bracelet?

After the surveillance footage ended, Xia Mengyan's expression was extremely ugly.

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows and said, "Everyone saw it clearly. I didn't touch the box containing the bracelet at all, but Madam Xia Yunlou insisted that I stole the bracelet. I don't understand why. Are you maligning me, or do you just dislike me?"

The surveillance footage was enough to prove Qiao Xi's innocence. What Xia Yunlou said just now had become slander. She realized that the gazes around her had become sharp.

She gritted her teeth. She didn't like Qiao Xi, but why couldn't this little b*tch just go along with her this once? How could she embarrass her biological mother in public?

Xia Yunlou was indignant and shouted sharply, "Why are you all looking at me? Mengyan lost her precious jewelry. There were only a few people present. Wasn't it natural for me to suspect Qiao Xi?"

They were the owners of the jewelry, so they could suspect anyone?

Qiao Xi sneered. Xia Mengyan's heart suddenly trembled, and cold sweat seeped out of her back. She bit her lip and racked her brains to think of a way to deal with it. Now that Qiao Xi had already proven her innocence, how could she explain the whereabouts of the bracelet?

She didn't want to make a scene at the police station in the first place. It was Xia Yunlou, that idiot, who insisted on making a big deal out of it. Now, it was hard to retaliate.

Just as Xia Mengyan was about to explain, Qiao Xi asked, "Madam Xia, since you're allowed to suspect anyone, why don't you suspect Miss Xia?"

Chapter 1193 She Slandered Me

As soon as Qiao Xi said this, the entire venue was silent for a few seconds. Xia Yunlou erupted into ear-piercing laughter. "Are you crazy?! Mengyan was the one who lost the bracelet. Why should I suspect her?"

"Why not?! It's possible that Miss Xia pretended to lose her bracelet and framed me. Madam Xia, you can look for it in Miss Xia's bag. Perhaps you'll find it!"

Xia Mengyan's body suddenly stiffened, and the blood in her body seemed to have frozen. She was stunned for a long time before calming down.

Qiao Xi wanted to search her bag?

Xia Yunlou was indignant. "What right do you have to search Mengyan's bag? Mengyan is the owner of the missing bracelet and is a victim!"

"Can't the owner steal her own belongings? Why do you insist on thinking that it was me without any evidence? Why do you firmly believe in Xia Mengyan?" Qiao Xi asked.

The female police officer received a signal from her team leader to search for Xia Mengyan's bag.

Xia Mengyan heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, she did not put the item in her bag, but the next second...

After searching her bag, the female police officer accidentally touched her clothes. She touched her pocket, then took out a diamond-studded bracelet from the inside pocket of her coat.

The diamond bracelet worth a million yuan was in Xia Mengyan's pocket!

Boom!!!

Xia Mengyan's mind was a mess, and everything in front of her became blurry. Didn't they say that they were going to search her bag? Why did they search her clothes?

Qiao Xi was supposed to be the one who stole the bracelet, but now, she had become the culprit!

"Oh! It's indeed on Miss Xia!" Qiao Xi crossed her arms and leaned slightly in Gu Zheng's arms. "This bracelet was clearly in your pocket, but you made a fuss and came to the police station to report it missing. You even slandered me for stealing it!"

Xia Yunlou felt as if she had been struck by lightning as she looked at Xia Mengyan in disbelief.

Xia Mengyan was so anxious that her forehead was covered in sweat. "Aunt, I told you long ago that Xi Xi wouldn't have stolen anything. I... Perhaps I forgot that I put it in my pocket, so I misunderstood Xi Xi."

Qiao Xi watched Xia Mengyan act with interest, but no matter what she said, it seemed so powerless.

Xia Mengyan pulled Xia Yunlou's arm and said anxiously, "Aunt, since the misunderstanding has been resolved, let's leave quickly. Grandpa is still waiting for us at home!"

At this moment, Xia Yunlou felt even more embarrassed. Everyone's gazes were gathered on them. It turned out that the bracelet was not lost and Qiao Xi did not steal it. The unwillingness and guilt in her heart were mixed together. Xia Yunlou was like a walking corpse as she was pulled out by Xia Mengyan.

Xia Yunlou's mind was in chaos. If this matter spread, what should she do? It was definitely ridiculous that she had accused her daughter of stealing!

She felt weak all over and walked out the door.

"Don't leave yet!" Qiao Xi opened her mouth to stop them, and Song Shiyu quickly acted on it.

Xia Yunlou turned around stiffly, and her face alternated between red and white. She gritted her teeth and roared at Qiao Xi, "What are you doing?"

Qiao Xi turned around and said to the female police officer, "Officer, I want to report a case."

The female police officer understood in her heart that these two women had wrongly accused Miss Qiao of stealing something. Moreover, the amount involved was as high as a million yuan, and there was also the crime of slander. Moreover, they had even called the police and occupied public resources.

According to the rules, the two of them had to be severely punished. How could they think of leaving without a word?

How was that possible?!

"She slandered me!" Qiao Xi pointed at Xia Yunlou and shouted.

The female police officer was not surprised, but the next second, Qiao Xi pointed at Xia Mengyan. "She deliberately destroyed my collectible that's worth 200,000 yuan."

200,000 yuan was not a lot to Qiao Xi, but it had already reached the amount needed to file a case. When the policewoman heard this, she immediately recorded it, but Xia Mengyan was dumbfounded.

Qiao Xi said that she had deliberately destroyed a collectible of hers, but she did not!

Before Xia Mengyan could speak, Xia Yunlou could not help but roar. "Qiao Xi! What nonsense are you talking about?!"

Qiao Xi glanced at her disdainfully. Soon, a man in a suit walked in. He respectfully greeted Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi before introducing himself to everyone. "I'm Wei Feng, a lawyer from Chengyue Law Firm. My client is Miss Qiao Xi."

The policewoman invited everyone to move to the mediation room and take their seats. Lawyer Wei was wearing gold-rimmed glasses and had a faint smile on his lips, but his tone was extremely serious. "My client has already told me the whole story about the slander. My client doesn't have to say anything anymore. I'll be handling the case."

Everything went according to the procedure, so the police naturally nodded in agreement. However, when Xia Yunlou saw the lawyer, she was instantly unhappy. "Qiao Xi! You actually got a lawyer to come over? Are you going to sue me?"

It was just a small matter, but Qiao Xi actually invited a lawyer. She was really calculative!

Chapter 1194 Xia Yunlou Was Punished

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When Wei Feng heard Xia Yunlou's words, the smile on his face suddenly disappeared. "Madam Xia, your actions are already suspected of breaking the law and causing mental harm to my client."

"Don't scare me. I'm—"

Before Xia Yunlou could finish speaking, Wei Feng interrupted her coldly. "Miss Xia's diamond bracelet was bought at an auction in the capital a few months ago. It's worth one million yuan. The amount involved is too high. If convicted of theft, my client would've been severely punished and her reputation would've been affected."

Xia Yunlou was displeased. "I didn't say I wanted to punish her."

"Madam Xia, it's not up to you to decide if she'll be punished or not." Wei Feng's eyes were sharp. "From the moment you entered the police station to report the case, it already meant that you were seeking to punish Miss Qiao."

Xia Yunlou instantly choked, and her heart beat violently. She only wanted to teach Qiao Xi a lesson. She had never thought of letting Qiao Xi go to jail!

"Now that the diamond bracelet has been found and it was on Miss Xia's body, it means that Madam Xia had slandered my client." Wei Feng did not speak quickly, but every word hit Xia Yunlou. "According to

the law, slandering others requires detention for more than 10 days. Madam Xia, if you have any questions, you can ask a lawyer to negotiate with me.”

“No... No.” Xia Yunlou panicked when she heard that she was going to be detained. She had come to the police station to report a case. Why was she being arrested now?

Xia Yunlou’s face was filled with anxiety. “Why? It was reasonable suspicion. I...”

“Madam Xia, it’s still early. You can contact your lawyer as soon as possible.” Wei Feng stood up, his eyes cold.

“Madam Xia.” The policewoman gestured for Xia Yunlou to leave. Her face was deathly pale, and her body was trembling uncontrollably. She raised her eyes to look at Qiao Xi, and when she saw Qiao Xi sitting there with an indifferent expression, her heart instantly turned cold.

She shouted in panic, “No! You can’t detain me! My father is Xia Cheng! What right do you have?”

Everyone ignored her. The policewoman held her hand and was about to leave when Xia Yunlou suddenly broke free and shouted at the

Chapter 1195 A Collectible Worth 200,000 yuan

“I’m sorry, Madam Xia. You can’t leave yet.” The female police officer stopped Xia Yunlou and glanced at the trembling Xia Mengyan. She asked respectfully, “Miss Qiao, regarding the intentional destruction of the collectible...”

Xia Mengyan’s face turned pale as she bit her lip uneasily.

Xia Yunlou roared, “Qiao Xi! Are you done?! I wronged you, but are you going to wrong Mengyan now? She’s innocent! Don’t make things difficult for her!”

Xia Mengyan’s mind was in chaos. When did she destroy Qiao Xi’s collectible? Qiao Xi was clearly taking revenge and wanted to frame her!

Qiao Xi ignored the crazy Xia Yunlou and said casually, “Everyone has seen the surveillance footage. Xia Mengyan deliberately smashed my wind chime and stepped on it a few times. Many pieces of that shell wind chime have already shattered, and the piece has lost its value.”

Xia Mengyan’s entire body trembled. The female police officer went forward to take a look at the surveillance footage. Although Xia Mengyan kept saying that she didn’t do it on purpose, when she slowed down the video, she could tell that Xia Mengyan had deliberately thrown the wind chime on the ground. Moreover, Xia Mengyan’s eyes and expression revealed a trace of smugness. She had deliberately destroyed the shell wind chime in order to anger Qiao Xi.

Her acting skills were so bad that all the police officers present could see her triumphant smile.

Xia Mengyan’s body stiffened, and she was about to break down. She had only accidentally broken a wind chime. What right did Qiao Xi have to be so relentless? Now that Xia Yunlou was already detained, was she going to be detained too? Was the daughter of the Xia family actually going to be thrown in jail? If this matter got out, the socialites of upper class society would definitely laugh at her. How could she face others in the future?

Xia Yunlou was already suppressing her anger. When she saw Xia Mengyan's entire body trembling, she immediately roared with a ferocious expression, "Qiao Xi! What exactly do you want? Are you crazy?! Mengyan only broke a wind chime, and it's not anything valuable. You actually want to sue Mengyan because of this? Are you crazy? If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have given birth to you back then!"

As soon as she said this, everyone's sharp gazes suddenly turned to Xia Yunlou.

Gu Zheng exuded a cold killing intent, and his gaze was terrifyingly cold.

The female police officer couldn't stand it anymore. "Madam Xia, as Miss Qiao's mother, you helped your niece wrongly accuse her of stealing. This time, your niece deliberately broke your daughter's valuables, yet you're saying that your daughter is calculative. You really don't know who your biological daughter is."

Everyone only found out today that Miss Qiao was abandoned when she was young and had been wandering outside. She was only found not long ago. They did not understand why Xia Yunlou, the daughter of a wealthy family, would abandon her daughter.

At this moment, Xia Mengyan lowered her head and was about to break down. Her eyes were bloodshot, and tears fell like beads. She sobbed softly, "Xi Xi, it's all my fault. I shouldn't have misunderstood you, but I accidentally broke that wind chime. Moreover, it's just a worthless thing. Do you have to target me like this?"

Qiao Xi chuckled, her eyes filled with disdain. "Miss Xia, your ears might not be good. Let me repeat myself. That shell wind chime is a part of a rare collectible that's no longer in production. It's worth 200,000 yuan.

"200,000 yuan might not be a big deal to you, but it's enough to count as a crime. You have to take responsibility for it!"

"200,000 yuan? How is that possible? That's just an ordinary shell wind chime. It can be found everywhere! Why are you so unreasonable?!"

When Xia Mengyan saw Xia Mengyan crying aggrievedly, she couldn't help but roar loudly. She shouted at the top of her voice, "She's slandering us! Arrest her and detain her!"

Everyone: "???"

The female police officer had a headache. She didn't expect this rich lady to be so rude as to shout at the police station.

Xia Mengyan looked up aggrievedly and said pitifully, "Xi Xi, I know you hate me, but it's just an ordinary shell wind chime. I didn't break it on purpose. Are you really going to extort 200,000 from me?"

"Extortion? You can't say that. This shell wind chime is indeed worth 200,000 yuan. I'm not lying. Now that we're at the police station, Miss Xia, there's no need to pretend anymore. Whether you intentionally broke it or not, it's been made very clear in the video. I hope you can confess and ask for leniency. Otherwise, you'll be punished even more severely," Qiao Xi said casually. Then, she took out the wind chime that Xia Mengyan had damaged.

Chapter 1196 I Don't Accept The Settlement

“This is a handicraft designed by Zhu Jin. My mother loved collecting the works of this artist. This shell wind chime is part of her collection. The name and seal of Zhu Jin are engraved on the shell wind chime. If you don’t believe me, you can ask someone to investigate and see if I lied to you.”

The female police officer took the shell wind chime. Sure enough, she saw the carved name and red seal in the shell at the top of the wind chime. She took a closer look at the wind chime. The craftsmanship was indeed exquisite. It was different from ordinary wind chimes.

This shell wind chime was considered cheap among Zhu Jin’s works, but each of them was unique. The shells of each wind chime were different, so if the shells were broken, the chime would lose its value.

As the amount involved was too high, the police station specially hired professionals to verify the authenticity of the artwork. After a moment, the other party came to a conclusion. “This is indeed a piece designed by Zhu Jin. The current market price is at least 200,000 yuan.”

“Miss Xia, you’re suspected of destroying Miss Qiao’s collection and causing the other party to lose 200,000 yuan. Now that the evidence is conclusive, please come with us!”

Xia Mengyan’s eyes widened in disbelief. “It’s really worth 200,000?”

Xia Yunlou’s face was also filled with shock, but then she pointed at Qiao Xi and screamed, “Qiao Xi, why are you so calculative? Isn’t it just 200,000 yuan? Is there a need for you to do this?”

“This is a relic left behind by my mother, but Xia Mengyan deliberately destroyed it. I’ve never cared about money. I just want to punish her.”

Xia Yunlou immediately blurted out, “She’s already dead. What’s precious about the things she left behind? Don’t forget that I’m your biological mother...”

“Madam Xia.” The female police officer frowned unhappily. “This is the police station. Please don’t shout. Besides, I have to remind you that the victim now is your daughter. Instead of speaking up for your daughter, you actually think that your daughter is being calculative. How many mothers like you exist in this world?”

After the policewoman finished speaking, she looked at Xia Mengyan coldly. “Miss Xia, the 200,000 yuan has already reached the filing amount. Your actions constitute a crime...”

“No! I didn’t do it!” Xia Mengyan panicked and shouted, “I can compensate her! I apply for a settlement. I don’t want to be detained!”

At this moment, Xia Mengyan’s forehead was covered in sweat. She was no longer as calm as before. She shouted in panic, “Xi Xi, I’m your cousin! You can’t sue me. How can you be so heartless? Let’s reconcile, okay? I can compensate you with 200,000 yuan!”

“There’s no need.” Qiao Xi refused coldly. “Miss Xia, I’ve already said that I’m not calculative about money. This is about getting justice. I want the person who destroyed my mother’s belongings to be punished, so I won’t accept a settlement.”

She looked up at Wei Feng. “Lawyer Wei, I’ll have to trouble you next.”

“Miss Qiao, you’re too kind. I’ll definitely settle everything and seek justice for you!” Wei Feng promised. Then, he turned to look at Xia Mengyan. “Miss Xia, I’m sorry. My client won’t accept the settlement. Quickly hire a lawyer. It won’t be long before we meet in court.”

Xia Mengyan felt as if she had been struck by lightning. Her head felt like it was about to explode, and her breathing stopped. She stood rooted to the ground for a few seconds before fainting.

A week later.

Qiao Xi sat comfortably in the teahouse, drinking hot flower tea while waiting for Gu Zheng to finish his work. At the side, Li Xing’er was chatting with a few good friends.

“You guys don’t know yet, right? Something big happened in Li City’s socialite circle!” Li Xing’er’s mysterious tone and exaggerated expression immediately attracted everyone’s curiosity.

“What is it? Tell me!”

Li Xing’er cleared her throat and said, “You guys haven’t seen Xia Mengyan for a long time, right?”

“That’s right! It’s strange that someone like her who likes to join in the fun didn’t attend Miss Ye’s birthday banquet. Moreover, it was Old Madam Xia who rejected the invitation for her. Miss Ye was so angry that her face turned green!”

“The Xia family has just moved to Li City, but they’re already putting on airs. Not only did they reject Miss Ye, but they also rejected others. Xia Mengyan is really arrogant!”

Just as they were discussing, the ‘Miss Ye’ they were talking about happened to come to the teahouse. She was accompanied by Madam Ye. The mother and daughter had come out to shop. When they were tired from walking, they came to the teahouse at the side to rest.

When Madam Ye saw Li Xing’er, she pulled her daughter back and said in a low voice, “Let’s sit at the side and listen to what they’re saying.”

Chapter 1197 I Have My Own Plan

Miss Ye was still brooding over Xia Mengyan rejecting the birthday banquet invitation. She did not expect that this matter had already spread throughout Li City. Now, countless people were laughing at her behind her back.

At this moment, one of Li Xing’er’s friends asked curiously, “Xing’er, do you know something? Tell us quickly. Not only did Xia Mengyan reject Miss Ye, but she also rejected Miss Bai a few days ago!”

“I heard that Miss Ye is very angry. After all, Xia Mengyan is not a socialite in Li City. Madam Ye sent her an invitation because she was giving her face. Who knew that she would reject it and not even show her any respect? She’s really too rude. How dare she say that she’s a socialite?”

“Listen to me...” Li Xing’er smiled meaningfully. “Actually, Xia Mengyan didn’t mean to refuse. It’s just that she really couldn’t go.”

“Why?”

Everyone was curious. Miss Ye, who was at the side, also pricked up her ears to listen. Because of Xia Mengyan's rejection, she was mocked by many people. The Xia family was an outsider and did not have a deep foundation in Li City. They actually dared to reject the Ye family's invitation. They simply did not take the Ye family seriously. Therefore, Miss Xia really wanted to know why Xia Mengyan did not come.

Li Xing'er's lips curled into a smile as she said mysteriously, "Let me tell you, Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou have both been detained, so she couldn't attend the gathering at all."

Everyone was stunned.

Madam Ye and Miss Ye also gasped in shock. Xia Mengyan was actually detained?

Under everyone's shocked gazes, Li Xing'er said proudly, "The Xia family was afraid that this matter would spread, so they've been hiding it from everyone. However, when my father and Gu Yao were discussing business that day, Gu Yao happened to be drunk and let it slip. Only then did I know that Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou have been arrested!"

When Qiao Xi heard Li Xing'er's words, she almost choked on her tea.

Li Xing'er had gathered so many of her friends to gossip. She knew what Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou had done and stood up for her. Although they were both detained, it did not affect them much. Only by spreading this news throughout Li City would it be the greatest punishment for them.

Two days later, when Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou were released and they found out that the entire Li City was talking about their detention, how could they still have the face to stay in Li City?

When Qiao Xi told Li Xing'er about this earlier, Qiao Xi had asked her how she would reveal it to everyone and explain how she knew.

At that time, Li Xing'er had a mysterious expression on her face. She said that she had a brilliant plan. She did not expect her brilliant plan to involve Gu Yao. Gu Yao was really pitiful!

At this moment, Li Xing'er cleared her throat and said, "Gu Yao was the one who told my father about this. Gu Yao has many friends and connections. Moreover, this matter is related to his sister-in-law, Qiao Xi, so it's not strange for him to know. He was also drunk and accidentally let it slip. My father told my mother and me. I thought that I had to share such a big piece of news with my good friends, which is why I'm telling you."

"This has something to do with Qiao Xi? What's going on? Xing'er, tell me quickly. Why was Xia Mengyan arrested?" The young ladies were so anxious that they stomped their feet. They all wanted to know how the usually high and mighty Xia Mengyan fell from grace.

Madam Ye and Miss Ye were also focused on waiting for Li Xing'er to speak.

Li Xing'er stopped keeping them in suspense. "You all know that Qiao Xi was abandoned when she was young. Later on, although she reunited with Xia Yunlou, the mother and daughter didn't have a good relationship. A week ago, Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou secretly went to the Qiao family's villa and happened to meet Qiao Xi. After the two of them left, Xia Mengyan said that she lost her diamond bracelet and incited Xia Yunlou. Xia Yunlou went to the police in a fit of anger and said that Qiao Xi stole it and demanded the police arrest Qiao Xi. That bracelet was worth a million yuan. If she was sentenced,

she might be jailed for 10 years! As Qiao Xi's mother, she actually believed a few words from Xia Mengyan. She said that she was afraid that Xia Mengyan would be sad after losing the bracelet and insisted on making Qiao Xi pay the price!"

The eyes of the daughters of wealthy families were filled with shock. They were born into wealthy families and had seen many dirty things like mistresses and illegitimate daughters working together to deal with the legitimate daughters of wealthy families. However, they did not expect to hear that a biological mother had helped her niece and wronged her daughter. She even insisted on calling the police and demanding her daughter go to jail!

Li Xing'er said, "They went too far!"

The young ladies said, "Yes! They really went too far!"

Chapter 1198 You Deserved It!

On the other hand, Li Xing'er was still talking confidently. "Xia Mengyan wasn't detained just because she framed Qiao Xi. Most importantly, she deliberately broke Qiao Xi's adoptive mother's belongings in the Qiao family's villa. It's a collectible that's no longer in production, and it's worth 200,000 yuan. Moreover, it's impossible to repair it. According to the procedures, the police naturally had to detain Xia Mengyan!"

The disdain in the ladies' eyes deepened. "This is too much! Xia Mengyan framed Qiao Xi and even smashed her adoptive mother's belongings. Why didn't she go straight to hell?! Fortunately, Second Young Master Gu told your father about this. Otherwise, we would have thought that Xia Mengyan was a gentle and kind socialite! Now, it seems that she's just a scheming b*tch wearing a hypocritical mask!"

"I'll send a message to my brother now and tell him the true colors of the Xia family. My brother has been discussing business with the Xia family recently. I think we should cancel the cooperation. Who would dare to cooperate with people like them?"

"That's right! There are no good people in the Xia family!"

"I also want to tell my family to be careful of Xia Mengyan. I heard that she's a perfumer. I don't dare to use the perfumes she developed."

Madam Ye took a sip of tea and stood up. "Let's go. We're going to discuss business with the Zeng family later. Miss Zeng will also be there. In the future, you have to interact more with Miss Zeng. She's the person you should befriend."

"I remember that the Zeng and Xia families have always had business dealings. When we meet later, find a chance to remind Miss Zeng and tell her to be careful of the Xia family. I'll also remind President Zeng."

Miss Ye replied and felt even more disgusted. Xia Mengyan was a fool. She framed someone else but was detained. Her intelligence would be lowered if she made friends with such a person!

Li Xing'er kept glancing at Madam Ye and Miss Ye from the corners of her eyes. After the two of them left, she revealed a victorious smile in Qiao Xi's direction.

Qiao Xi replied with a smile. It seemed that she had to thank Li Xing'er properly this time.

Soon, Madam Ye told this matter to the Zeng family, and the Zeng family told their other partners. The news spread like wildfire, and gradually, everyone in Li City knew about it.

Everyone knew that Gu Yao had gotten drunk and let it slip, but no one blamed him. Instead, they praised him for exposing the matter. Such a thing should be said to let everyone denounce the Xia family. Gu Yao had done another good deed on behalf of the heavens.

The elders of the Gu family looked at Gu Yao with admiration. "Ah Yao, you did the right thing. There's no need to feel pressured. Gu Zheng has been taking good care of you all these years. Now that Mrs. Gu has been wronged, it's only right you spoke up and let the matter spread. Well done!"

Gu Yao's eyes were filled with confusion.

What are you talking about? What did I spread?

Li Xing'er's friends quickly told their relatives and friends about this. Not long after, all the women in high society knew that Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou were detained for framing Mrs. Gu.

Chapter 1199 Madam Ye's Banquet

10 days passed in the blink of an eye. Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan's detention period ended, and they were picked up in the Xia family's car. After the two of them returned to the Xia family, Old Madam Xia hugged the two of them and cried until she was out of breath. Xia Cheng's face was also gloomy.

Xia Yunlou complained, "Dad! Mengyan and I were detained. Why didn't you come over and let us out earlier?! You forced us to stay inside for 10 days. I'm afraid everyone outside knows about it now."

Xia Cheng's eyes were malicious. "Don't worry, I've already suppressed this news. The outside world doesn't know that you and Mengyan were detained. I've also rejected all your invitations on behalf of you. It's just that we rejected Madam Ye's invitation too, and the Ye family doesn't seem too satisfied. You and Mengyan need to visit and apologize."

"The Ye family's company has been doing well in recent years, and they've worked with our family. We have to obtain Madam Ye's forgiveness."

Xia Mengyan hurriedly agreed. "I understand, Grandpa."

"Yes, you've suffered for the past 10 days. You couldn't eat or sleep well in there. Hurry up and go upstairs to take a shower and have a good rest. I'll get the chef to cook something delicious for you tonight." Xia Cheng's tone was gentle, but his eyes were filled with coldness. "Qiao Xi actually disregarded her family ties and caused you to be detained. I'll settle this score with her sooner or later!"

At the mention of Qiao Xi, the anger in Xia Cheng's heart surged.

10 days ago, when he found out that Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan were detained, he immediately called Qiao Xi. He had already tried his best to persuade her, but Qiao Xi was unmoved. He had no choice but to go to Longwan Residential, but Qiao Xi actually refused to see him.

From the moment the two of them were captured until today, he had never seen Qiao Xi at all. She was clearly avoiding him on purpose!

Xia Cheng was furious. Xia Mengyan hurriedly comforted him in a low voice, "Grandpa, don't be angry with Xi Xi. It's all our fault. We shouldn't have misunderstood her. She suffered grievances, so she insisted on us being punished. I understand her. Forget it."

Xia Mengyan was indignant. "Mengyan, you're still speaking up for her at a time like this!"

Xia Mengyan sighed helplessly. "Aunt, I understand that Xi Xi finds it unfair. If she hadn't been wandering outside back then, she would have been the beloved daughter of the Xia family and the Yin family. She has suffered a lot in the past 20 years, so no matter what she does, I won't hate her. After all, she's your biological daughter!"

"I don't have a daughter like her. Only an ingrate like her would do such a thing!" Xia Yunlou roared with a ferocious expression.

Xia Cheng's heart couldn't help but ache when he saw that Xia Mengyan didn't have the slightest trace of resentment and was instead defending Qiao Xi. "Mengyan, you're too kind. That's why you were bullied by Qiao Xi. If it weren't for us protecting you, Qiao Xi would have bullied you even more badly!"

The few of them chatted for a while. Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan went upstairs to take a shower before hurriedly calling Madam Ye and Miss Ye to ask them to meet. The two of them knew that Madam Ye and Miss Ye had been rejected previously and would definitely be dissatisfied with them, so there was a high chance that they would reject them this time. However, they did not expect Madam Ye to agree so readily.

When they arrived at the restaurant, Xia Yunlou realized that Madam Ye had also invited some daughters and noblewomen from the upper class society of Li City. As she had invited these people to eat together, Madam Ye had specially booked a small banquet hall in Fragrance Hotel. After the dozens of women sat down, everyone's phones rang at the same time.

Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou looked at each other and realized that everyone was holding their phones and covering their mouths while laughing as if they had seen something funny.

Xia Mengyan was about to join in the fun when she heard Madam Ye say with a smile, "Everyone has heard, right? Something big has happened in Li City recently!"

As Madam Ye spoke, her gaze landed on Xia Yunlou. Xia Yunlou could only casually respond, "I've been a little busy recently, so I didn't hear about it. What's the matter?"

Madam Ye and the other noblewomen looked at each other and replied meaningfully, "This matter has already spread. I found it really funny when I heard it! Therefore, since all my friends are here today, I'll tell you about it."

Before Xia Yunlou could respond, Miss Ye said, "That's right! This matter is indeed funny. I just happened to hear about it."

There was no curiosity in everyone's eyes as if they already knew what Madam Ye would say next. Only Xia Yunlou and Xia Mengyan were kept in the dark and were dumbfounded.

Chapter 1200 The Forest Is Large, And There Are All Kinds Of Birds

Xia Yunlou met Madam Ye's gaze and felt uncomfortable all over. Her heart beat uneasily. She had only rejected Madam Ye's invitation once, and she was already prepared to apologize in person and treat her to a meal to apologize. Madam Ye wouldn't make things difficult for her in public over such a small matter, right?

Xia Yunlou comforted herself in her heart before gradually calming down. Madam Ye cleared her throat and said, "Everyone has seen the news, right? It's been a long time since such a funny thing happened in the socialite circle! Madam Xu, what do you think?"

She addressed Madam Xu as Xia Yunlou. Xia Yunlou was married to Xu Zhi. Although Xu Zhi had been arguing with Xia Yunlou about a divorce recently, the two of them had not terminated their marriage yet. There was nothing wrong with Madam Ye addressing her as Madam Xu.

However, Xia Yunlou found it strange. Everyone in high society knew that her marriage with Xu Zhi only existed in name, so they usually wouldn't call her Madam Xu in case she got unhappy. Now that Madam Ye suddenly called her that, she had a bad feeling.

The next second, Madam Ye sneered and said, "I believe everyone has heard that a certain someone listened to her niece's instigation and called the police to arrest her biological daughter. In the end, the police found out that her niece was deliberately framing her daughter. Her biological daughter was innocent, and her daughter's identity was extraordinary, so she sued both her mother and cousin. In the end, that person and her niece were both detained! Counting the days, they should have been released today!

"Isn't it funny? It's so funny!"

Madam Ye's words exploded in Xia Yunlou's ears. She felt as if she had been struck by lightning, and the blood in her body seemed to have frozen. There was an ear-piercing buzzing in her ears, and the sounds around her became blurry.

At this moment, a rich lady who was on good terms with Madam Ye said sarcastically, "Sister Qi, who is this person? She actually believed her niece and didn't believe her own daughter. She even wanted to send her daughter to prison? Is she crazy?"

When Madam Ye heard the noblewoman's words, she chuckled and said, "I heard that the stolen diamond bracelet is worth one million yuan. That person insisted on calling the police. If her daughter was convicted of theft, I'm afraid she would've been sentenced to 10 years in prison! However, that person didn't care about her daughter's reputation and future at all. She insisted on reporting it to the police, saying that she was afraid that her niece would be sad and suffer."

"That niece isn't a good person either. She pretended to have lost something to frame her cousin. It's better to stay away from such people. She might scheme against us one day."

Madam Ye's gaze landed on Xia Mengyan and Xia Yunlou. "Hey, do you know who this person is? This is something that happened in Li City recently. I believe it won't be long before news of it spreads. That's too embarrassing! By the way, they were detained for 10 days. During these few days, we've been holding banquets. Those who didn't attend are suspicious candidates!"

As soon as these words were spoken, Xia Yunlou could not remain calm anymore. Her breathing became chaotic.

The rich ladies laughed wantonly. "Sister Qi, do you mean that this person is in our circle? This person is too heartless. She wanted to send her own daughter to prison. There are all kinds of birds in the forest! Wait, I remember now. Mrs. Xu and Miss Xia didn't attend any of the banquets for the past 10 days!"

"That's right! Miss Xia happens to be Madam Xu's niece! Could it be them?"

Xia Yunlou immediately choked. Cold sweat seeped out of her forehead, and her throat felt like it was blocked by a stone. She could not say a word, and her face turned red.

Seeing that she didn't say anything, Madam Ye smiled. "What nonsense are you talking about?! It can't be Madam Xu. Madam Xu has just acknowledged her daughter and should be doting on her! Why would she get the police to arrest her daughter? Madam Xu, what do you say about this?"

Xia Yunlou raised her eyes slightly and said bitterly under everyone's burning gazes, "Yes, Madam Ye is right. It's not... me."

Miss Ye's gaze landed on Xia Mengyan. She lowered her head and asked softly, "Miss Xia, where have you and Madam Xu been these past few days? I invited you to my birthday banquet, but you rejected me."

Xia Mengyan's clothes were already drenched in sweat. Her eyes were filled with fear, and her heart seemed to be about to jump out of her chest. Didn't Grandpa say that this matter hadn't spread? Why did everyone know?

It was Qiao Xi! She must have spread the news!

No, she could not let everyone know that she was detained!

Everyone's eyes fell on the two of them, waiting for their answer. Xia Mengyan felt as if a fishbone was stuck in her throat and stammered, "W-We..."