

## Lady Gu 1221

### Chapter 1221 Disqualifying He Corporation

He Wenyin's tone was a little arrogant. "Actually, Sister didn't say anything. It's all because that assistant doesn't respect Mrs. Gu. You have to believe that our He family is sincere to you. Moreover, the He family was kind to you back then. All these years, my father has been thinking about you. You can't suspect Dad and Sister!"

Gu Zheng glanced at her meaningfully.

Song Shijing: "..."

Second Miss He brought the president here so that he could see He Wenxian's actions. Then, Second Miss He pushed all the responsibility to He Wenxian's assistant, making the president think that the He family was shirking responsibility and would only push the blame on their subordinates. Then, she mentioned the He family and reminded the president that the He family was his benefactor.

How was this persuasion? She was clearly trying to anger the president and make him attack the He family!

Gu Zheng looked up, his eyes filled with sharpness. He pushed the door open and walked into the office.

He Wenyin did not know if her plan would succeed. Just as Song Shijing was about to follow Gu Zheng in, she grabbed Song Shijing and smiled at him. "Assistant Song, please remember that the He family is Brother Ah Zheng's benefactor. I'll go over now."

Song Shijing: "..."

Second Miss He was really slandering the He family! However, why was she doing this? Was she deliberately angering the president so that he would completely hate the He family?

But wasn't she the second daughter of the He family? Why would she do something that would harm her family when it would bring no benefit to herself?

Song Shijing looked at He Wenyin meaningfully and asked her to enter first before following her in.

In the office, He Wenxian was about to explain when she suddenly heard footsteps. When she turned around, her heart trembled.

"President." The design director brought many designers forward to greet him.

Gu Zheng nodded and looked at Qiao Xi who was not far away. He asked in a doting tone, "Xi Xi, are you unhappy?"

Qiao Xi looked at He Wenyin who was behind him and said casually, "Someone said that I'm just here to make up the numbers. They even said that they don't want to work with someone like me who got in through the back door. How could I be happy?"

Gu Zheng ordered immediately, "Song Shijing, disqualify He Corporation."

The moment that was said, He Wenxian's expression changed. She hurriedly said, "President Gu, it's my fault, but this has nothing to do with He Corporation. I've already apologized to Mrs. Gu..."

"How is it unrelated? Miss He, you're the general manager of He Corporation. Your words and actions represent He Corporation," one of the designers said sarcastically. "A mere assistant of the He family dares to offend Mrs. Gu like this. If the He family hadn't agreed to his behavior, would he have dared to do this?"

Director Liu also echoed, "He Corporation hasn't even become a partner yet, yet they're already questioning the person in charge of the project, Miss Gu Shan. If we really collaborate in the future, I don't know what will happen. We have many options for third-party companies. Everyone's ability is similar, so what we value the most is cooperation. Naturally, we have to choose a company where both parties will be happy."

He Wenxian's expression gradually darkened. Her mind was a mess. The moment she heard Gu Zheng give the order, her heart turned cold. The originally calm and composed eldest daughter of the He family was at a loss.

At this moment, her phone suddenly rang. She looked at the caller ID, and her expression suddenly changed. After bidding farewell to Gu Zheng, she left in a panic.

Song Shijing leaned over to Gu Zheng's ear and said in a low voice, "President, the He family seems to have found out about it."

Gu Zheng nodded and looked up at He Wenyin.

He Wenyin met his cold eyes and hurriedly turned around to shout, "Sister! I'll go with you!"

Then, she said indignantly, "Gu Zheng, don't forget that our He family has done you a favor. This project should be handed to He Corporation to handle. Now that you no longer find us useful, you're burning bridges! You're really too heartless! I'll go home and tell my father now!"

She was angering Gu Zheng again, but Gu Zheng was expressionless as if he did not hear her.

Two hours later, Qiao Xi finished editing the last design draft. She followed Gu Zheng back to the president's office and entered. Qiao Xi asked, "Do you think the He sisters are very interesting?"

Gu Zheng smirked. "Yes, they're interesting, especially Second Miss He."

"Yeah! If she hadn't lured you over, how would you know that I was bullied?" Qiao Xi leaned against the sofa and stretched her arm.

Gu Zheng sat beside her, his eyes filled with amusement. "He Wenxian and He Wenyin came to Gu Corporation together, but He Wenxian let He Wenyin wander around alone. Unexpectedly, she went straight to the president's office and was caught by the bodyguards. When the bodyguards wanted to chase her out, He Wenyin clamored to see me. She even hugged Song Shijing and refused to let go."

Chapter 1222 Suspecting He Wenyin

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows. He Wenyin was really using all kinds of methods to achieve her goal. She was really capable.

Gu Zheng continued, "Not only that, but she also shouted near the president's office that the He family has done me a favor. If I didn't see her, I'd be heartless. After I agreed to let her in, she asked me to bring her around Gu Corporation and even deliberately lured me to the design department. I knew that she had a plan, so I followed her wishes to the design department. I happened to see He Wenxian and her assistant criticizing you."

Qiao Xi knew that He Wenyin had deliberately lured Gu Zheng to the design department, but it was not easy to get the timing right. How could she be sure that Gu Zheng would agree? Moreover, she even knew that He Wenxian would criticize her at that time.

He Wenyin was not a simple character!

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In the He family's villa.

Gu Zheng disqualified the He family from the competition. Now, everyone in He Corporation knew about it. When Song Shijing called to inform them, they were in a high-level meeting. Song Shijing's call was displayed on the big screen, and everyone heard his words.

"Chairman He, I regret to inform you that after Miss He Wenxian publicly accused Mrs. Gu of fooling around with the project design and interfering in Gu Corporation's internal affairs, President Gu got very angry and revoked He Corporation's right to compete."

When Chairman He heard this, he immediately called He Wenxian to ask her to return to the company.

When He Wenxian returned, Chairman He Weinian was standing by the window with a gloomy expression. Beside him was He Wenxian's brother, He Tingchen, who was now the president of He Corporation.

He Wenyin walked behind her sister. When He Weinian saw her, a glint flashed across his eyes. He casually looked away and looked at He Wenxian. He said calmly, "Wenxian, what happened today?"

When He Weinian asked this, He Wenxian was slightly stunned. She did not understand why Gu Zheng would suddenly come to the design department. Moreover, it was such a coincidence that he happened to see her targeting Qiao Xi.

He Weinian's sharp gaze landed on He Wenyin, and he exuded a cold aura.

He Wenyin pretended not to see it and complained loudly, "Sister isn't in the wrong at all. It's clearly Gu Zheng who doesn't know what's good for him! Our He family is his benefactor, yet he's so heartless! And Song Shijing is too annoying. If he hadn't said that Mrs. Gu was in the design department, Gu Zheng wouldn't have gone over!"

The three members of the He family sized up He Wenyin as if they suspected her words.

"Moreover, my sister didn't say anything wrong! Didn't Mrs. Gu enter the company because of Gu Zheng? If it weren't for Gu Zheng, would she have been able to become the person in charge? That ingrate, Gu Zheng, has received the He family's favor but he didn't give my sister any face at all! Dad! Previously, you even said that you wanted to marry me to Gu Zheng! Now that woman is occupying the position of Mrs. Gu. She seduced Gu Zheng until he forgot about the He family!"

He Weinian's expression gradually calmed down, and he slowly let down his guard against He Wenyin.

He walked over to He Wenyin and held her hand. He coaxed her softly as if he really doted on his daughter. He smiled affectionately, but his eyes were cold. "Yin Yin, Gu Zheng's identity is different now. You can't be as willful as before. Going against him isn't a good thing for you or our He family. You didn't suffer today, right?"

He Wenyin snorted. "No, but they made my sister suffer. I was really angry, so I shouted at Gu Zheng in public. He doesn't take our He family seriously at all. We have to take revenge for my sister. We can't let this go!"

He Wenxian looked up and sized up He Wenyin, feeling a little puzzled. At that time, He Wenyin and Gu Zheng appeared at the entrance of the design department together. Didn't she lead Gu Zheng there?

Thinking about it carefully, with He Wenyin's stupid personality, she would not lie to them.

He Weinian looked at his two daughters and smiled affectionately. "Yin Yin, do you have enough pocket money? Do you want me to give you more? If you have nothing to do, go shopping more often. You don't have to worry about the company's matters. You just have to be happy.

"Wenxian, this matter started because of you. No matter what, you have to obtain Gu Zheng's forgiveness. Prepare to visit and apologize."

He Wenxian followed He Weinian into the inner room, while He Wenyin skipped out the door after taking the pocket money her father gave her. He Tingchen watched her leave with a frown.

#### Chapter 1223 His Relationship With The He Family

He Wenyin left the office happily and got into the car. She went to the mall. After getting out of the car, a mall manager was in charge of receiving her. She was surrounded by people. If she took a liking to something, she would order the bodyguards to pay.

Looking at this scene, anyone who saw it would sigh and say that Second Miss He was really favored!

Elders Miss He had just made a mistake and was being punished in the company. On the other hand, Second Miss He came to the mall to sweep the place. Chairman He was really too biased.

He Wenyin walked to a corner and deliberately avoided everyone's gazes. She threw the ring on her finger into the trash can.

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In the president's office.

He Weinian and Madam He asked seriously, "Say that again. What happened today?"

He Wenxian was a little down. "Didn't Yin Yin already explain it?"

"How could you be so rash? She's Gu Zheng's wife. Even if you're dissatisfied, you can't target her in public, right? Now that the He family has lost their collaboration, how are you going to explain this to the higher-ups of the company?"

“Does it have anything to do with you whether that woman is capable or not? You’re the general manager of He Corporation. In the future, you and your brother will be in charge of He Corporation together. How can that woman compare to you? I told you a long time ago that you should try your best to fight for what you want, but you can’t be anxious about quick success. You exposed your thoughts as soon as you returned to the country. Gu Zheng isn’t a fool. He already knows!”

He Weinian reprimanded her angrily, “He Wenxian, immediately prepare an apology. We can give up on this collaboration, but we can’t offend Gu Zheng. We have to let everyone know your sincerity. We have to show Gu Zheng that you weren’t targeting Mrs. Gu. What happened today was just an impulse.

“From now on, you have to remember not to expose your thoughts. You have to plan slowly. I know you want to marry Gu Zheng, so I’ll naturally help you. However, in the end, it all depends on your own ability. Until the last moment, no one can be sure who the position of Mrs. Gu belongs to. Do you understand?”

He Weinian’s eyes were filled with anger. Madam He comforted her softly. “Wenxian, you have to remember that you’re the daughter of the He family. You have a noble status, so why bicker with a wild girl? She’s very popular now. Even if you go against her and become Mrs. Gu, people will naturally stand up for her. You can get as close to her as possible first. It’s best if you become friends with her. This way, everyone will subconsciously compare you two. At that time, they’ll realize that you’re the woman who should be standing beside Gu Zheng.

“You’re the general manager of He Corporation. You and Gu Zheng might have to see each other a lot for work. As long as you don’t expose your thoughts, no one will gossip.”

Madam He’s tone was gentle as she continued, “You’re different from He Wenyin. She’s a bastard of unknown origin. I’m keeping her in the He family to restrain that person. When she’s useless one day, I’ll naturally chase her out of the He family.”

When He Wenxian heard this, she took a deep breath. “Mom, I understand.”

Just as she was about to stand up and leave, she suddenly thought of something. “Dad, Mom, I realized that Mrs. Gu looks very similar to someone. It’s the woman in that old photo.”

He Weinian’s expression changed. “What? She looks like the woman in the photo?”

“I’ll go with you tomorrow. I want to see what kind of person Mrs. Gu is!”

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The next day.

Qiao Xi lay lazily on the rocking chair as she listened to the servant, Xiao Lan, describe the scene. “Young Madam, the second daughter of the He family is really too favored by her family. She casually bought a bag worth more than 100,000 yuan. I heard that she spent millions in the mall in Xin City yesterday! The He family is really good to her!”

Qiao Xi smiled and did not say anything. Were they good to her just because they were letting her spend a lot of money?

She looked at the time, stood up, and followed Gu Zheng into the car to Gu Corporation.

“Mrs. Gu, don’t you want to know about my relationship with the He family?” Gu Zheng asked softly.

Qiao Xi said casually, “The He family and the Meng family are exactly the same. On the one hand, they want to curry favor with Huang Lilan, but on the other hand, they want to help you. That way, no matter which one of you emerges at the top in the future, they’ll still benefit from it.”

“No.” Gu Zheng shook his head. His gaze was calm, and the corners of his mouth curled into a meaningful smile. “Xi Xi, you guessed wrong this time.”

Qiao Xi was interested. From Gu Zheng’s tone, the He family was indeed a very different existence from the Meng family. Since they were different, there must be a special reason. For example, his relationship with Chairman He.

Seeing Qiao Xi’s pensive appearance, Gu Zheng smiled heartily. “Chairman He is my master.”

Chapter 1224 Master For A Day, Father For Life

Gu Zheng’s eyes suddenly turned cold. “He Weinian is indeed my benefactor. He even has my mother’s token. At that time, he didn’t know that I was the legitimate son of the Gu family, but he promised my mother that he would teach me. He naturally didn’t go back on his word.

“Hence, he didn’t curry favor with Huang Lilan. Instead, when the Gu family was suppressing me, he always helped me. He’s my master, so I grew up with the children of the He family.

Qiao Xi was slightly surprised. He Weinian was actually asked by Lu Qingyun to take care of Gu Zheng. Moreover, a person who Gu Zheng addressed as ‘Master’ was definitely someone he respected and trusted.

Qiao Xi suddenly recalled that before she met Gu Zheng, she once heard people talk about him. He did not have many friends and was not close to his family. In the entire Li City, there were only a few families who were willing to lend him a helping hand. Other than Ye Qingyuan, who was his closest friend, there was only one family that had always spared no effort to support him. If it were not for that family, perhaps Gu Zheng would not be where he was today.

Although these words were a little exaggerated, it was undeniable that this family had a deep impact on Gu Zheng. It turned out it was actually the He family.

“But...” Qiao Xi hesitated for a moment.

Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow. “Do you want to ask why we parted ways? Take a guess.”

Qiao Xi thought carefully. At that time, Gu Zheng definitely trusted the He family very much and treated their entire family as his own family. A master for a day was a father for life. He Weinian was his master, so Gu Zheng naturally respected him as much as he respected his father. The sisters of the He family were his childhood playmates, and He Tingchen was his good friend. However, Qiao Xi was able to sense that Gu Zheng had no feelings for the He family and was even slightly disdainful of them.

What exactly happened?

She thought for a long time and said in a cold voice, “The He family betrayed you, right?”

“Yes.” Gu Zheng nodded, his eyes filled with coldness.

Previously, when Lu Yan was blind and Old Master Lu lost his position as the head of the family, she had asked Gu Zheng why he did not react at all. His answer at that time was, “I don’t care about these people at all. Their outcome won’t affect my emotions.”

To Gu Zheng, it was inevitable that the Lu family would end up like this. Those people could not affect him at all, but the He family was different. When Gu Zheng mentioned the He family, his eyes revealed a trace of disdain.

The more emotional he was, the more it meant that the He family was very important to him back then but they were also the ones who had hurt him the most.

When she thought about this, Qiao Xi’s heart ached. The young man who was abandoned by everyone had been struggling at death’s door under the suppression of the Gu family. When someone found him with his mother’s token, it was like a ray of light that illuminated his dark life. He gave the remaining love and trust in his heart to the He family.

To him, He Weinian was his master and father, but such a person had betrayed him. The He family had hurt Gu Zheng greatly. They had torn his heart into pieces.

Gu Zheng’s tone was indifferent. “Ever since then, the He family went overseas and never returned to Li City. We never contacted each other again.

Song Shiyu said indignantly, “Young Madam, the He family went overseas to take refuge. They offended many people and their company wasn’t doing well either. Coupled with the fact that they betrayed the president, they should’ve gone bankrupt at that time. It was the president who gave them a sum of money to tide them over.”

Qiao Xi looked at the man beside her, and her heart ached even more. He had clearly been hurt, yet he still went soft-hearted and helped them again.

Gu Zheng’s expression was indifferent as if all of this had nothing to do with him.

However, at the thought of this, Song Shiyu was so angry that his face turned red. He could not understand why the He family was so heartless. With the president’s character, he should’ve killed them all after they betrayed him, but the president actually gave them money!

Qiao Xi also understood Gu Zheng’s thoughts. It was a fact that the He family had betrayed him, but it was also a fact that the He family had helped him at his lowest point. He remembered the He family’s kindness, so he gave them a sum of money. He similarly would not forgive them for their betrayal, so from then on, he cut off all contact with the He family.

After the He family left Li City, they went to another city to start afresh. Even with Gu Zheng’s sponsorship, it was still very difficult. It was not easy for the situation to stabilize. Initially, the grudge between the He family and Gu Zheng was resolved with the family’s departure, but they suddenly came back.

Qiao Xi’s heart trembled as a wave of anger instantly surged into her head. She gritted her teeth and said, “Did the He family come back this time to reconcile with you?”

Back then, they had already decided not to contact each other anymore. However, the He family pretended that nothing had happened and looked for Gu Zheng again. They wanted to use Gu Zheng's power to establish themselves in Li City once more. What right did they have?

Chapter 1225 She's In The President's Office

Gu Zheng sneered and nodded, but his eyes were red. He did not hide the coldness emanating from his body.

"I've already returned the He family's kindness. We shouldn't be in contact anymore, but the He family suddenly returned to Li City. They seem to have forgotten about what happened before."

Gu Zheng knew He Weinian well. He was a true businessman, but he was also a ferocious beast. There must be an important reason for his actions.

At this moment, their car had already stopped at the entrance of Gu Corporation. The staff member saw that Gu Zheng's car had been parked at the door for some time and thought that it had broken down. He hurriedly went forward and asked warmly, "Mr. Gu, do you need help?"

Qiao Xi glanced at the time. They had actually stayed at the entrance for so long. "Ah Zheng, I'm going to the design department."

"Xi Xi," Gu Zheng suddenly said. He grabbed her wrist and instructed softly, "The He family has ill intentions. You have to be careful. But He Wenying doesn't have any ill intentions toward us. Instead, she's filled with hostility toward the He family."

When Qiao Xi heard his words, the corners of her mouth curled up into a smile before she turned around and left.

As he watched her leave, Gu Zheng's eyes suddenly turned cold. He asked, "Have you found out about that?"

Song Shiyu felt the coldness around him and was too scared to say anything. Song Shijing said respectfully, "Not yet, President."

Gu Zheng's expression changed. "You can't find any news of He Weinian from when he was overseas?"

"Yes! I keep having the feeling that there's a powerful force behind the He family. The other party has erased all news of the He family. I can't find any clues."

Gu Zheng's eyes suddenly turned cold, scaring Song Shijing so much that he trembled. "President, please give me a little more time. I'll do my best to search."

"There's no need. There's no point in giving you time." A cold killing intent burst out of Gu Zheng's eyes. "I knew He Weinian wouldn't have come back for no reason."

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Qiao Xi entered the design department and found a corner to sit down. She logged into Black Tide's account. It should be very easy for her to investigate a family. The internal information of Stars was very detailed, but she could not find any useful information after investigating for a long time.



Back then, after He Weinian left Li City, he opened a company overseas. Although his business was not as good as when he was in Li City, it could at least be maintained. Everyone knew that his business overseas had not been optimistic all these years, so he opened a few more companies in the country. Only then did the He family gradually stabilize.

After going overseas, He Weinian arranged for He Tingchen and He Wenxian to continue their studies. After they graduated, they would return to the company to work.

He Weinian had a good reputation outside, and his business partners had a high evaluation of him. He never mistreated the company's employees, nor was he biased toward his children. The assets were equally divided between He Wenxian and He Tingchen.

The information that could be found on him was all positive, and it was limited. It made people feel that something was wrong.

Qiao Xi knew that this information was true, but she kept having the feeling that this was just what He Weinian wanted others to see. There was more information that was being concealed. Perhaps only the He family knew about it.

He Weinian might not be as good as the rumors said. He might even be a complete villain!

An hour later, Qiao Xi was sitting in the office drawing designs when there was a knock on the door. "Xi Xi, Assistant Song is looking for you."

Qiao Xi went out and saw Song Shijing waiting for her outside with a frown. As Gu Zheng's assistant, he had always been calm, but at this moment, he looked extremely embarrassed.

"Young Madam, the He family is here again."

Qiao Xi frowned. "Why are they here?"

"Uh..." Song Shijing hesitated for a moment and said with a subtle expression, "They said they want to apologize to you in person."

"Apologize?" Qiao Xi's eyes were filled with disdain.

"Yes! He Wenxian wishes to apologize. Moreover, Chairman He and Madam He are both here as well. Young Master He and Second Miss He aren't around this time."

Qiao Xi's tone was playful. "Oh? He Wenyin isn't here?"

"Um..." Song Shijing was a little uneasy. "Young Madam, you should go take a look at the situation yourself."

Qiao Xi's gaze landed on him as if she had captured the crux of the problem. "I asked you why He Wenyin isn't here. Why didn't you answer me? Do you know where she is?"

Song Shijing's expression froze.

He wanted to say something but hesitated. He felt his heart almost stop beating as he said with difficulty, "She... She's in the president's office."

At this moment, in Gu Zheng's office, his long legs were stretched out as he lazily leaned against the chair. He opened his eyes slightly and smiled distantly. "Second Miss He, why do you think I should agree?"

Chapter 1226 Her Acting Skills Are Truly Heaven-Defying!

He Wenyin replied nervously, "Because the He family betrayed you and you hate the He family. The enemy of my enemy is my friend. We can join forces to deal with them."

"Join forces?" Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow and said indifferently, "Second Miss He, with my strength, I don't think I need to join forces with you. Moreover, we're not friends."

He Wenyin was unconvinced. "Gu Zheng, I know you've been pretending to be a warm man in front of Mrs. Gu. To be honest, it doesn't match your temperament at all. Your wife isn't simple either. In terms of acting skills, she's the best. She probably already knows what kind of person you are. Why are you pretending? Today, we'll be frank!"

Song Shiyu could not help but sigh. Second Miss He was indeed smart. She could tell at a glance that Young Madam's acting skills were good!

Gu Zheng's expression remained indifferent. "Xi Xi likes me like this. What can you do about it, Second Miss He?"

He Wenyin instantly choked. They were clearly husband and wife, but they were still acting with each other. They pretended to be warm and weak. What kind of new way of communication was this?

He Wenyin pursed her lips. "Let me remind you that He Weinian didn't return to Li City just for the He family's company. He wants to deal with you and me. I don't know his true plan yet, but he definitely won't let you off. He might even kill you and take everything from you."

Gu Zheng snorted coldly. Kill him?

Seeing Gu Zheng's disdainful expression, He Wenyin shook her head helplessly. "That's all I have to say. Whether you believe it or not, it's up to you. Looking at the time, the He family will be here to apologize soon. Hurry up and look for your wife. Who are you putting on an act for if not her?"

"Miss He." Gu Zheng's voice was calm. "No matter what secrets and motives you have, don't come to my office on your own in the future. I'm afraid Xi Xi will misunderstand our relationship. I don't want anything to affect our relationship as husband and wife."

He Wenyin: "..."

Damn! If she had known earlier, she would have gone straight to look for Mrs. Gu. Now, she was actually despised by Gu Zheng.

After He Wenyin left, Gu Zheng's eyes revealed a trace of coldness. He did not know why He Weinian wanted to deal with He Wenyin, but He Weinian would not kill him if he wanted to deal with him. He Weinian was just after some benefits.

Song Shiyu asked tentatively, "President, the He family is here, but He Wenyin said that they're going to deal with you. Are you still going to see them?"

"They didn't go to Longwan Residential to apologize but came to Gu Corporation with great fanfare. They want everyone to be an audience so that I can't refuse them in public. If I don't go, won't I be disrespecting them?"

Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng arrived at the fifth meeting room of Gu Corporation almost at the same time. When they saw the two of them arrive, everyone from the He family immediately stood up with enthusiastic expressions.

When He Weinian saw Gu Zheng, his eyes were filled with gratification and joy. Even Qiao Xi could not discern anything from his appearance. He was like an elder who truly doted on his disciple. If he was pretending, then his acting skills were really heaven-defying!

He Weinian's eyes were gentle as he smiled affectionately. "Gu Zheng, it's been so many years since we last met. You've changed a lot. I didn't know that you were already married. Why didn't you tell me?"

He looked at He Wenxian helplessly and sighed. "Gu Zheng, you've probably guessed why I'm here today. If there's nothing else, I wouldn't have disturbed you. I know that Wenxian offended Mrs. Gu in Gu Corporation yesterday.

"After Wenxian returned home, I reprimanded her severely. Now that she knows her mistake, I shamelessly brought her here to apologize to your wife. Don't worry, I won't make things difficult for you. The He family has already given up on the collaboration. Take it as a lesson for Wenxian. I'll make sure she learns her lesson and won't dare to spout nonsense anymore."

With that, he turned to look at He Wenxian and berated coldly, "Wenxian, quickly apologize!"

Only then did Qiao Xi understand He Weinian's intentions. He came to apologize so ostentatiously, but he was saying that the He family had taken the initiative to withdraw from the competition. This was a punishment for He Wenxian. Was he doing this to express his sincerity to Gu Zheng or to show outsiders? He wanted to prove to everyone that his children had done something wrong, and he would absolutely not tolerate it.

It was really strange! What was he trying to do? Why was he deliberately maintaining his perfect image?

Just then, Song Shiyu walked in and whispered in Gu Zheng's ear, "President, the Xia family is outside. They're asking to see Young Madam."

Qiao Xi was speechless. Why did she have to meet these annoying people every day? Today, both families were here.

Chapter 1227 Can't Understand He Weinian

When He Weinian heard the words 'Xia family', his expression changed. Madam He and He Wenxian's faces turned pale as they looked at each other in surprise.

Qiao Xi noticed the change in their expressions.

He Weinian glared at the two of them. Madam He and He Wenxian adjusted their emotions and calmed down as if they were never surprised.

Qiao Xi caught this scene with her eyes. She really did not understand why the He family was surprised. Why were they surprised that the Xia family was here to look for her? Or was it because of the Xia family's name?

Not only did Qiao Xi see a look of surprise in their eyes, but she even saw a trace of panic and fear.

How many more secrets did the He family have that she did not know?!

Qiao Xi turned around and asked Song Shiyu, "Who's here?"

Song Shiyu glanced at the He family as if signaling that it was not convenient for him to say it here. He Weinian could tell what he meant, so he smiled and said, "Since Mrs. Gu has an honored guest to see, we won't disturb her anymore. I just hope that Mrs. Gu will accept the gift we got her. I'll get Wenxian to go to Longwan Residential to formally apologize to you another day, Mrs. Gu. I hope you'll be magnanimous and forgive her this time!"

Qiao Xi replied indifferently, "I accept your apology, Miss He. You don't have to come to Longwan Residential to apologize. Chairman He has already personally come to apologize. If I don't forgive you, that'll only mean I don't know what's good for me."

He Weinian smiled gently. "Mrs. Gu, you're being too serious. Wenxian, come over and apologize."

He Wenxian hurriedly went forward and sincerely expressed her apology. Then, He Weinian left with his wife and daughter. As an elder, no one could find fault with him.

He had given up the right to compete and specially brought He Wenxian to apologize. He even gave Mrs. Gu a valuable apology gift. In everyone's eyes, his actions were already very appropriate.

After the three of them left, Song Shiyu said unwillingly, "Are we just letting it go?"

Song Shijing explained, "Chairman He has come to the company in person. If Young Madam insists on not forgiving them and chases them out, it'll be seen as her being rude and unreasonable."

Qiao Xi nodded. "He Wenxian only said a few words to me yesterday. It's not like she hurt me. In any case, I didn't suffer. Moreover, it seems that Chairman He just apologized and didn't have any intention of targeting me."

However, it was precisely because of this that Qiao Xi was even more unable to understand He Weinian. She raised her eyes to look at Gu Zheng. His expression was still calm, and his eyes were gentle. In front of Qiao Xi, he had indeed always maintained a good image and temperament.

"Xi Xi is right. He was just apologizing. My master really cares about his image!" Gu Zheng sighed softly. "Now, everyone in Li City knows that Chairman He Weinian is gentle and polite. He's a sincere man."

Qiao Xi chuckled. "If a person likes to pretend to be kind and loving, it means that they're not such a person."

Gu Zheng smiled, and his eyes were bright like stars. "Xi Xi, you're right."

Qiao Xi raised her eyes and looked into Gu Zheng's eyes. Her heart instantly skipped a beat, and her face instantly flushed red.

Even though she was already married to Gu Zheng and they had been together for so long, she could not resist the temptation of Gu Zheng's smile. This man was really too seductive.

She quickly looked away and cleared her throat. "Why is the Xia family looking for me?"

Song Shiyu's expression was profound. "I'm not too sure either, but... Madam Xia Yunlou insists on seeing you. She's already waiting in the waiting room."

"Tell her that I'm very busy and don't have time." As soon as Qiao Xi finished speaking, she added, "There's still a design that hasn't been finalized in the design department. I have to ask Lu Zhi for his opinion."

Qiao Xi did not care about Xia Yunlou's feelings at all. In short, she did not want to see her.

Song Shiyu understood and patted his chest. "I understand, Young Madam. Leave Madam Xia Yunlou to me."

The Xia family had only arrived in Li City for a short while before the He family returned to the country. Qiao Xi still did not know the He family's motive for returning, but she kept having the feeling that this matter seemed to be related to the Xia family. Perhaps she would be able to learn the truth soon.

...

In the living room, Xia Yunlou knew that Qiao Xi was unwilling to see her, and her expression instantly turned malicious. "What? She doesn't want to see me? I'm her biological mother. How can she leave me here? There are some misunderstandings between us, but we're mother and daughter, after all! Could it be that she wants to hate me for the rest of her life over that small matter?"

Song Shiyu sneered in his heart. In her eyes, wanting to send her own daughter to jail was a small matter?

#### Chapter 1228 The Reference Target Appeared

Song Shiyu could see the disgust and anger in Xia Yunlou's expression. It was as if she thought that giving birth to this daughter was the most unlucky thing to have happened in her life. She clearly did not treat Young Madam as her biological daughter, but she asked Young Madam to treat her as her biological mother. Was this fair?

He frowned. The bodyguards at the side instantly understood and asked Xia Yunlou to leave.

Seeing this, Xia Yunlou said helplessly, "Since she's unwilling to see me, please help me pass a message to Xi Xi. The Luo family is about to collaborate with the Xia family to produce the porcelain designs left behind by my sister, Xia Yunqiu.

"The Xia family provided the designs, and the Luo family is in charge of the production. Xi Xi should be in charge of the docking, but my father wants Mengyan to do it. No matter what, Xi Xi is my daughter. I'm still on her side, so I specially came to tell her that if she doesn't want to let go of this good opportunity, she should quickly return to the Xia family."

Song Shiyu: "??"

He was stunned. Before he could ask, Xia Yunlou stood up and left.

What was going on? Had Xia Yunlou found her conscience? However, she had just criticized Young Madam, and her eyes were filled with disgust. How did she transform into a mother who was considerate of her daughter? Her acting skills were far inferior to Young Madam's.

Song Shiyu returned to the office and told Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi what Xia Yunlou had said.

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth curled up. If these two families worked together, their reputation would rise. Hence, under normal circumstances, the heirs of the families would be in charge.

According to their identities, the most suitable person was Qiao Xi. It was just that everyone in the Xia family doted on Xia Mengyan. As Qiao Xi's biological mother, it was normal for Xia Yunlou to come and remind her daughter. However, according to Xia Yunlou's past actions, her words today were strange.

Gu Zheng asked softly, "Xi Xi, do you think Xia Yunlou is up to something?"

Qiao Xi's eyes lit up, and she shook her head with a smile.

Gu Zheng's gaze was deep as he turned to look at her. "What do you think, then?"

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth curled into a cold smile. "Do you still remember that I guessed that Xia Yunlou has been revealing her true nature more and more over the years? It's possible that it's because the real Xia Yunlou is no longer around that she's exposing herself like this. After all, she has no reference to follow. She's unable to interact with Xia Yunlou's mother and brother and doesn't have the slightest emotion for me, her daughter.

"But Song Shiyu thinks that Xia Yunlou looks like she cares about me very much. What could be the reason for it?" Qiao Xi's expression was gloomy, scaring Song Shiyu so much that his body trembled. "It's probably because her reference has appeared again. She knows how to care about her daughter."

Gu Zheng hissed. "Xi Xi, you're really getting smarter and smarter. I'm ashamed of my inferiority."

Song Shiyu's pupils trembled when he heard that. It took him a long time to understand what she meant. In that case, the woman who had just appeared in front of him was not the real Xia Yunlou.

Qiao Xi turned around and left. Song Shiyu said with lingering fear, "President, other girls have warm and sunny smiles, but why is Young Madam so scary when she smiles?"

Gu Zheng looked up and glanced at him coldly. Song Shiyu understood instantly. "You don't have to say anything. I know that Young Madam will always be the cutest and most beautiful woman in your heart."

Gu Zheng: "..."

His eyes suddenly turned sharp. "Song Shiyu, are you itching for a beating?"

Song Shiyu's heart trembled. He took a few steps back and said in a panic, "President, calm down! Don't hit me! Don't send me to the mountains either. I still have something to say!"

Gu Zheng's eyes regained their calm.

Song Shiyu lowered his voice and said, "President, don't you think that Young Madam has been estranged from you recently? She has a plan, but why isn't she telling you about it? This isn't a good sign!"

Song Shiyu's words instantly piqued Gu Zheng's interest. He raised an eyebrow and asked, "What do you think I should do?"

"It's simple! First of all, you have to show more concern for Young Madam and coax her with sweet words. If she wants to eat, pass her the chopsticks. If she wants to sleep, cover her with the blanket. If she wants to hit someone, bring her a rod. Remember not to let her suffer. You have to be gentle and become a completely warm man!" Song Shiyu said excitedly.

Song Shijing: "..."

Although Song Shiyu usually did not do any proper work, what he said made sense. A man had to be meticulous, gentle, and attentive to women.

After Qiao Xi left, she still had a lot on her mind. She did not know where the real Xia Yunlou was. If she was still alive, why did she not acknowledge the Yin family? Why did she not stand forward and expose the fake Xia Yunlou?

What difficulties did she have? Or was it because she could not appear?

#### Chapter 1229 The Xia Family's Secret Is About To Surface

The Yin and Xia families had cut off all contact for decades, but Old Madam Yin had always been thinking of Xia Yunlou. She suspected that the one in the public eye was not her real daughter, but she did not have any evidence. If the real Xia Yunlou was found and this matter was made public, the Yin and Xia families would become enemies. At that time, the Xia family's situation would be very difficult.

Xia Yunlou, who was hiding in the dark, probably hoped to see this scene.

Qiao Xi kept having the feeling that her guess was logical. It was as if someone had left clues for her to investigate. If that person really existed, why didn't they come forward and expose all of this themselves?

"Little Six." In the living room of Longwan Residential, Shen Yu was leaning against the sofa. When he saw her return, he said with a smile, "Did Xia Yunlou go to the company to look for you?"

Qiao Xi sized up Shen Yu.

That was right! He Weinian was also like a smiling tiger. He was exactly the same as her eldest brother, but her eldest brother was a Best Actor while He Weinian was just a businessman!

Seeing that she was silent, Shen Yu was a little surprised, but there was still a gentle smile on his lips. "Little Six, what are you thinking about? Why aren't you saying anything?"

Luo Qing glanced at him: "... 'Why does Xi Xi despise Eldest Brother so much today?'

He was silent for a few seconds, and his cold eyes gradually became gentle. His deep eyes were like clear springs. "Xi Xi, everything is ready."

Qiao Xi looked at Luo Qing and could not help but sigh in her heart. Among the siblings, the eldest brother was clearly cunning and sinister, but he pretended to be gentle. The third brother would bring out a knife and a gun at the slightest disagreement, but he became a doctor. The fourth brother liked poison, but he became an artist. Xue Yi had a bad temper, but she was a gentle socialite.

As for her...

She was even better at pretending!

Among the six of them, only Second Brother was normal. He was like a god in heaven. His eyes were clear, and his temperament was cold. It was as if nothing could move him.

Now that everything was ready, it was time for her to carry out her plan.

This collaboration between the two families was actually facilitated by her. Her goal was to expose Xia Yunlou's identity and reproduce the designs her mother left behind.

She indeed did not have any evidence, but even without evidence, she could use public opinion. When a group of people began to suspect Xia Yunlou's identity, the Xia family's secret could not be kept anymore.

In the Xia family's villa.

Xia Cheng paced in the living room with a gloomy expression. Xia Ji and Old Madam Xia sat at the side with livid expressions.

"Yunlou, I asked you to go to the company because I wanted you to persuade Qiao Xi to hand over the designs in her hand. Why did you ask her to be in charge of the docking? This time, it's a collaboration with the Tang family. What ability does she have to be in charge of such a large collaboration? What if she screws up? I think it's safer to have Mengyan do it." Xia Cheng frowned unhappily.

Old Madam Xia suddenly cried out, "Everyone is saying that Mengyan isn't the legitimate daughter of the Xia family and that my son is an illegitimate child! All these years, Mengyan has suffered so many grievances and slander! She's clearly so outstanding and hardworking, but she's still being gossiped about by outsiders! Yunlou! You're Mengyan's... aunt! Why are you helping that wild girl?"

Madam Xia, who was ignored by everyone, sat in a corner. Her gaze changed imperceptibly.

In the eyes of outsiders, Qiao Xi was Xia Yunlou's biological daughter, while Xia Mengyan was only Xia Yunlou's niece. What was wrong with her helping her daughter?

Madam Xia lowered her head and tried her best to reduce her presence, but her eyes were clear. The Xia family's secret was finally about to surface.

Seeing Old Madam Xia's tears, Xia Yunlou explained aggrievedly, "I did go to look for Qiao Xi for the designs. I don't understand why I said those words either."

Old Madam Xia's voice was sharp. "Although Qiao Xi is your biological daughter, she's been wandering outside all these years and has no feelings for you at all. Mengyan grew up by your side. Think about it carefully. Who exactly should you help?"



A few days ago, the Luo family came to visit and asked to collaborate with Xia Yunqiu. However, Xia Yunqiu had long died, so the Luo family suggested that the Xia family choose someone to represent Xia Yunqiu.

The Luo family was the head of the four major porcelain families and was famous in high society. In the past, the Luo family had lived on Xuan Island for generations and did not interact with outsiders. Hence, it was a great honor for the Xia family to be able to build a relationship with the Luo family. Now that the Luo family had personally come to ask for collaboration, Xia Cheng naturally could not let go of this good opportunity.

However, Xia Yunqiu's designs had already been destroyed by Ai Sumei and Xia Yunlou. There were only fragments left. They really did not have the ability to restore them.

Chapter 1230 Ah Zheng, Is There Something Wrong With You Today?

When Xia Cheng heard this news, he was angered to the point of almost fainting. Then, he recalled that Qiao Xi still had some of the designs in her hands. The Luo family wanted to reproduce Xia Yunqiu's designs, so Qiao Xi had no reason to refuse. That was why he asked Xia Yunlou to persuade Qiao Xi to give them the designs.

Who knew that Xia Yunlou would actually let Qiao Xi compete for the position of person in charge? If Qiao Xi became the person in charge, what would Mengyan do?

Xia Cheng thought for a moment and said, "Qiao Xi cares about Yunqiu the most. When she finds out that the Luo family is willing to produce Yunqiu's work, she'll definitely not refuse. I'll talk to her in two days. She'll definitely agree."

However, why couldn't he go tomorrow? It was because the Luo family would come to the Xia family to discuss a collaboration tomorrow. It was best if Qiao Xi didn't appear. If she really came, he would definitely chase Qiao Xi out. As the head of the Xia family, wasn't it reasonable for him to chase an outsider away?

...

The next day, at seven in the morning.

After breakfast, Gu Zheng took a sip of coffee. His entire body exuded nobility and elegance. He looked at Qiao Xi, who was at the table, and asked softly, "I happen to be going to discuss business today. I'll send you to Xia Corporation later."

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows. "President Gu, you have so many subordinates. Do you need to personally discuss business?"

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth twitched. His voice was gentle, but it carried unyielding insistence. "Xi Xi, I'll send you there."

In the car, the man had a smile on the corners of his mouth. After the car stopped below Xia Corporation, Qiao Xi was just about to get out of the car when she was grabbed by the man.

His tall body suddenly approached her as he muttered in her ear, "Xi Xi, if you've been wronged in the Xia family, you must tell me. I'll avenge you."

Qiao Xi's mind was filled with question marks. She kept having the feeling that Gu Zheng was acting so strangely today. What was wrong with him?

Gu Zheng was acting like a gentleman, and his gaze was tightly glued to Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi: "...!!!" Why did she feel that he was a little scary?

After a moment of silence, Qiao Xi frowned and asked seriously, "Ah Zheng, is there something wrong with you today?"

The smile on Gu Zheng's face froze: "..."

He should not have trusted Song Shiyu, but Song Shijing had agreed to this idea! They were indeed brothers. They were both so unreliable. What bad ideas did they come up with?!

Qiao Xi sized up Gu Zheng with a subtle expression and stretched out her weak and fair hand to touch his head.

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth twitched slightly. "It looks like the Luo family is about to arrive."

Qiao Xi immediately opened the car door. "Then I'll get going first."

Gu Zheng pursed his lips and suddenly said, "Xi Xi, you can wait in the car for a while. You can go in when the Luo family comes."

Qiao Xi smiled noncommittally. "Ah Zheng, don't you understand me? You should know very well what I'm thinking! I'm not afraid of those people from the Xia family. They can go ahead and use whatever tricks they have."

Gu Zheng curled his lips into a smile. "As long as you don't suffer, you can do whatever you want. If anything happens, I'll take responsibility for you."

Qiao Xi nodded obediently and waved at Gu Zheng before turning to leave.

Gu Zheng sat in the car and watched her leave. The smile on his face gradually disappeared. He asked coldly, "Have they arrived?"

Song Shijing appeared outside the window and replied respectfully, "They're here, President."

Gu Zheng played with a sharp dagger in his hand while exuding strong killing intent. "Alright, I want to see what they want."

...

At Xia Corporation.

Cooperating with the Luo family was an important matter. Xia Cheng took it very seriously, so he had already instructed someone to prepare for it. He even redecorated the lobby.

It had to be known that the Luo family was an existence that many noble families looked up to. If the Xia family could get close to the Luo family this time, all the noble families in Li City would think highly of them.

Xia Yunlou sat on the chair and fell into deep thought. She suddenly recalled something. Previously, when Qiao Xi and Xu Anran were holding their respective birthday parties on the same day, someone with the surname Luo had come to celebrate Qiao Xi's birthday.

When all the guests heard that the young master of the Luo family had personally come to celebrate Qiao Xi's birthday, they ran from Xu Anran's birthday party to Qiao Xi's birthday party.

Could it be that the Luo family Qiao Xi knew was the same Luo family?

At this moment, Qiao Xi was standing at the door of the living room with the corners of her mouth curled into a cold smile. It was a good thing that the Luo family wanted to produce the designs her mother left behind, but this glory belonged to her mother and had nothing to do with the Xia family.

All these years, the Xia family had always been covering up their crimes. After a long time, they probably did not even remember their past actions. Hence, Qiao Xi directly joined forces with the Luo family to set a trap for the Xia family to fall into.