

Lady Gu 1231

Chapter 1231 The Shameless Xia Family

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart and stepped into the lobby. As soon as she entered, she saw a few printed drawings that were even framed in gold. The funny thing was that Xia Ji's name was actually written on the drawings.

She frowned, and her eyes suddenly turned cold.

Heh! How could these people be so shameless?

In the eyes of the Xia family, the designs were drawn by her mother, but her mother was from the Xia family. In other words, the designs belonged to the Xia family. They knew that these designs were drawn by her mother, but outsiders did not. As long as it was something from the Xia family, the family could use it however they wished. They believed that the Luo family would not mind.

If the Luo family did not expose them, no one else would care.

Qiao Xi turned her head and saw a group of reporters rushing in from outside. At this moment, many reporters were gathered outside Xia Corporation's building. She seemed to understand the Xia family's intentions.

She looked out. As soon as Xia Ji got out of the car, many reporters surrounded him. Xia Mengyan followed Xia Ji obediently and greeted everyone with a smile.

Xia Yunlou had specially come to inform her about the collaboration between the Xia and Luo families. It was not agreed upon by the Xia family and seemed to be Xia Yunlou's own idea, so she did not come together with the Xia family today.

Qiao Xi's eyes narrowed slightly. She saw someone in the crowd. It was Assistant Gao, who was beside Xia Ji. At this moment, he was doing an interview on behalf of Xia Ji while Xia Ji quickly went upstairs.

Seeing this, Qiao Xi immediately sent Luo Qing a message: [Second Brother, I'll have to trouble you to cooperate with me today.]

...

In the chairman's office.

Xia Ji rushed over in a hurry, his expression not looking good. He asked uneasily, "Dad, will things really be fine? I don't feel at ease."

Xia Cheng was expressionless, but Ai Sumei snorted. "Don't worry! These designs belonged to that b*tch... They were designed by Xia Yunqiu, so they belong to the Xia family. Now that she's dead, they're yours! Outsiders don't know about it at all. What are you afraid of?"

Xia Ji still wanted to say something, but Ai Sumei glared at him and turned to Xia Cheng with a flattering smile. "Ah Cheng, Xia Yunqiu has been dead for so many years. The heir in her will is Qiao Xi, but Qiao Xi just so happens to be at odds with our Xia family. If we announce that these designs all belong to Xia Yunqiu, Qiao Xi might snatch them away."

“The Luo family is clearly here to discuss a collaboration with us. We’ve been preparing for so long, so how can we let all of this be snatched by Qiao Xi?”

Xia Cheng was silent for a moment before he frowned and said, “Yunqiu is my daughter. She’s from the Xia family. If she has belongings left in the Xia family, they’re ours.

“Xia Ji is the next head of the family. There’s nothing wrong with giving these designs to him. Moreover, this is for the sake of the Xia family. If Yunqiu was still alive, she wouldn’t have refused.”

Sumei smiled widely. “Ah Cheng, you’re right! Son, since your father said so, you should be relieved now!”

Xia Ji felt as if a rock was pressing down on his heart. He could not breathe. When he thought of the reporters outside the door and the ingratiating smiles of Li City’s business magnates, he felt a little better.

In the past, this group of people looked down on him and thought that he was just an illegitimate child. They thought his aptitude was mediocre and that he could never compare to Yin Yunyi or Xia Yunqiu. Now that he was the one working with the Luo family, Yin Yunyi was the one who did not have the ability!

With the Luo family’s protection, who would dare to laugh at him for being an illegitimate child?

At the thought of this, he became even prouder, and the uneasiness in his heart gradually dissipated.

Xia Yunqiu was already dead. Even if she was the one who drew these designs, who could prove that she was the one who drew them? Could it be that Xia Yunqiu would jump out of her grave to prove it?

Sumei smiled proudly. “It doesn’t matter even if the Luo family suspects it. Just say that it was you and your sister who learned how to carve porcelain and jade together back then. Say that Yunqiu passed away early, so there are very few works that she left behind. Claim ownership for all the works here and just mention in passing that the style happens to be very similar to Yunqiu’s. The Luo family won’t investigate who drew these designs.”

If Xia Yunqiu’s name was on the designs, Qiao Xi and the Yin family would have to take a share. To the Xia family, only by giving these designs to Xia Ji could they maximize the benefits.

“Alright, let’s do that. With the Xia family as witnesses, I believe the Luo family won’t suspect anything. Xia Ji, you must calm down. Don’t let your guard down in front of the Luo family,” Xia Cheng instructed.

Xia Ji continued to ask, “But what if the Luo family wants me to draw some more designs? We don’t have that many of Xia Yunqiu’s designs left.”

Chapter 1232 The Most Important Thing In Business Is Integrity

Xia Cheng's expression was serious. "Just say that your wrist is injured and you can't draw anymore. If they insist, recommend Mengyan. She's also very talented in porcelain design. Although she might not satisfy the Luo family, it can at least dispel the Luo family's doubts."

As soon as he finished speaking, the assistant rushed in. "Chairman, President Xia! There's bad news! Miss Xia and Assistant Gao are arguing with a woman outside. The reporters are all outside. Hurry up and take a look at the situation!"

Xia Cheng frowned. "Today is an important day for our Xia family. The Luo family is about to arrive. We can't let unimportant people affect our collaboration. Hurry up and chase them away!"

"That woman..." The assistant hesitated and said while trembling, "But that woman said her surname is Qiao."

Everyone's expressions instantly changed. Anger suddenly surged on Xia Cheng's face. He slammed the table and roared, "She's really here? These designs all belong to Xia Ji! What does she want? Does she still want to compete with Mengyan for the position of the person in charge?"

Ai Sumei gritted her teeth. Xia Yunqiu had been dead for so many years, so her belongings should be left to the Xia family. What right did Qiao Xi have to occupy them? It was absolutely impossible!

Her voice was sharp. "Let's go! I want to see what she wants to do. No matter what, we have to chase this little b*tch out today. This is the Xia family's territory. We won't allow her to commit crimes!"

At this moment, the lobby was silent. The reporters raised their microphones and aimed their cameras at Qiao Xi.

Many business giants who came to watch the collaboration between the Luo and Xia families had vague expressions. They had just heard Miss Qiao say with their own ears that these designs belonged to her mother and not Xia Ji.

Not long ago, there were rumors in Li City that the Xia family wanted to collaborate with the Luo family. Everyone was also curious about who was so talented in the Xia family to have caught the Luo family's eye. The Xia family was in a difficult situation now. They could not stand firmly in Li City and could not return to Shengdu either. They were in a dilemma. If they could be on good terms with the Luo family, all their difficulties would be resolved.

It was only today that everyone was informed that the creator of the designs was Xia Ji. Unexpectedly, the mediocre and useless illegitimate child actually had the talent to design porcelain.

But now...

Under everyone's suspicious gazes, Assistant Gao said indignantly, "Miss, don't spout nonsense! The designs are President Xia's work. Who's your mother? We don't know her at all! I know what's going on. Someone must have instructed you to cause trouble and interfere with our Xia family's collaboration!"

The reporters were instantly interested when they heard this and surrounded Qiao Xi, afraid that she would run away in the next second.

Qiao Xi was not nervous in the slightest. Her phone vibrated. She picked it up and saw a message: [No problem.]

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth curled into a smile as she said casually, "First of all, I'll state that no one instructed me to cause trouble. No one knows better than the Xia family who the creator of these

designs is. President Xia and Chairman Xia aren't here themselves but sent an assistant to deal with me... Are they afraid?"

As soon as these words were spoken, the entire venue was in an uproar. It was like a rock had smashed into a calm lake.

Qiao Xi came to Xia Corporation today to blow things up. The bigger the fuss, the better. Only then would the Xia family lose even more face and gradually expose themselves!

Most people were jealous and unwilling to see the Xia family collaborate with the Luo family. Now that someone had revealed that the designs were not Xia Ji's, doubts sounded.

Assistant Gao's face turned red as he ordered the security guards at the side, "What are you waiting for? Chase this crazy woman out! She must have been sent by a competitor to cause trouble. Don't believe her. The designs were designed by President Xia!"

Everyone stared at Qiao Xi. If the designs were really not designed by Xia Ji, then the Luo family would definitely not collaborate with the Xia family. After all, the most important thing in doing business was integrity.

There were more and more doubts about the matter. Assistant Gao was at a loss and could only roar, "Go! Chase her out!"

The security guards passed through the many reporters and rushed in front of Qiao Xi. "Miss, please leave immediately. Otherwise, don't blame us for being merciless."

This was the lobby of Xia Corporation, so the reporters would not speak up for Qiao Xi. Those business giants did not dare rashly offend the Xia family without knowing the truth either, so everyone just looked at her. No one was willing to stand up for Qiao Xi.

Chapter 1233 Cooperating With Xi Xi's Acting

Qiao Xi did not panic in the slightest and smiled indifferently. "Assistant Gao, are you angry from embarrassment? Are you panicking just because I told the truth? Assistant Gao, do you think I came here today just to cause trouble and don't have any evidence? Then I must say that you're looking down on me."

Assistant Gao's lips trembled violently as he stammered, "You... You were sent by our competitor. I know who you're working for. If you dare to spout nonsense again, I'll... call the police!"

"Call the police? Alright! Assistant Gao, you can ask Miss Xia who I am and who my mother is!" Qiao Xi's icy-cold gaze landed on Xia Mengyan.

Assistant Gao instantly choked, and his heart trembled. Could it be that her identity was very extraordinary?

"I know! Isn't she Miss Qiao?" Suddenly, someone in the crowd said, "I saw her at the Qiao family's banquet previously. She's the daughter of Qiao Zhenguo's first wife, Xia Yunqiu. In that case, she can be considered a member of the Xia family!"

Xia Yunqiu's daughter?

If that were the case, Miss Qiao could be considered the daughter of the Xia family. Why did Assistant Gao say that she was sent by a competitor?

Everyone subconsciously looked at Xia Mengyan. If Miss Qiao was Xia Yunqiu's daughter, Xia Mengyan would definitely have recognized her long ago. Why didn't she say so earlier?

Xia Mengyan's face was pale, and her forehead was covered in cold sweat. She did not dare to rashly speak and could only roar helplessly in her heart. Qiao Xi was actually here! If it were not for that b*tch, Xia Yunlou, telling Qiao Xi about the collaboration between the Luo and Xia families, Qiao Xi wouldn't have come! Qiao Xi had always hated Xia Yunlou. Wasn't she afraid that Xia Yunlou would scheme against her?

These designs did belong to Xia Yunqiu, but that woman had been dead for so many years. Her things should belong to the Xia family. Now that they were working with the Luo family, it could be considered Xia Yunqiu's contribution to the Xia family. This was her honor!

What right did Qiao Xi have to cause trouble here? What good would it do her to expose the Xia family?

Xia Mengyan gritted her teeth, and the resentment in her heart was about to overflow. However, no matter how much she hated Qiao Xi, she could not show it in front of everyone.

Under everyone's burning gazes, she walked forward and smiled gently. "Everyone, I'm sorry. I didn't have the time to introduce you. Miss Qiao is my younger cousin. She's Aunt Yunlou's—"

"I'm Madam Xia Yunqiu's daughter!" Qiao Xi interrupted her without the slightest hesitation.

The moment the name Xia Yunqiu was uttered, everyone could not help but be stunned. Miss Xia was a beautiful woman! Unfortunately, beautiful women had short lives!

Qiao Xi said coldly, "These drawings are the blood, sweat, and tears of my mother, Xia Yunqiu. She spent days and nights thinking about how to draw them. Now, they've become Xia Ji's work. I'm not here today to cause trouble. I just want to ask all of you if it's reasonable for the Xia family to treat their legitimate deceased daughter like this while giving all the glory to their illegitimate child?"

Xia Mengyan's body trembled, and the sweat on her forehead slid down her face. Her hair was stuck to her face, making her look a little disheveled. She pretended to be calm and said, "Xi Xi, you must have remembered wrongly. Aunt Yunqiu did do some designs, but they're not the ones that we're using to collaborate with the Lu family this time. Back then, my father and Aunt Yunqiu learned to design porcelain together. It's just that he wasn't as ambitious about it, so he put it aside all these years. Everyone in the Xia family knows that these designs belong to my father. If you don't have evidence, don't spout nonsense."

"Miss Xia, why are you so sure that I don't have any evidence?" Qiao Xi smiled coldly.

At this moment, Luo Qing got out of the car and met Gu Zheng at the entrance of Xia Corporation's building. He greeted indifferently, "President Gu."

Gu Zheng smiled. "Young Master Luo."

The two of them stood together, and the surrounding temperature dropped a lot. After a few seconds of silence, Gu Zheng asked, "Young Master Luo, why are you here today?"

Luo Qing looked up with a glint in his eyes. "To cooperate with Xi Xi's acting."

Gu Zheng's expression was slightly gloomy. Xi Xi's other three brothers mostly called Qiao Xi 'Little Six', but only Luo Qing always called her 'Xi Xi'.

For some reason, Gu Zheng's heart ached. No matter what, Luo Qing was a man. He was such a noble and outstanding man too.

"Why are you here, President Gu here?" Luo Qing asked.

Gu Zheng narrowed his eyes and sneered. "Of course, for the same reason as Young Master Luo."

Luo Qing looked up, and the two of them sized each other up before leaving without saying anything.

Song Shijing asked curiously, "President, Young Master Luo is here to help Young Madam, so why are you..."

Chapter 1234 Mother's Will

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth curled into a smile, but his eyes were filled with coldness. "Haven't you realized that Luo Qing treats Xi Xi very differently?"

"I was stupid and didn't realize it sooner." Only then did Song Shijing understand why the president was so hostile to Young Master Luo. He was jealous.

Gu Zheng smiled and retracted his gaze. "Let's go."

At this moment, in the lobby of Xia Corporation, the argument between Qiao Xi and Xia Mengyan had already reached its climax. The reporters and the businessmen present looked between the two of them.

Xia Mengyan suppressed the uneasiness in her heart and still had a smile on her face. She maintained her dignity. "Xi Xi, stop fooling around. Since you're from the Xia family, you should think about the Xia family. The Luo family will be here soon. Don't delay our collaboration because of your nonsense."

Now, Qiao Xi had a few designs in her hands, but it was impossible to prove that the designs in the Xia family's hands now were done by Xia Yunqiu. Qiao Xi had no evidence at all. She just wanted to interfere with the Xia family's collaboration.

At the thought of this, Xia Mengyan became confident. "Xi Xi, I'm very sure that these designs were all created by my father. I also know that you won't harm the Xia family. You must have misunderstood. Stop fooling around first. After the collaboration is over, we'll talk at home, okay?"

Xia Mengyan had already thought of a way out for Qiao Xi. As long as she admitted that this was a misunderstanding, this matter would be resolved. Neither party would lose anything. Everyone would only treat what had just happened as a small episode.

Everyone quietly waited for Qiao Xi to speak. Unexpectedly, Qiao Xi sneered, and her cold expression carried a trace of disdain. "Miss Xia, since you said that the designs were created by your father, then tell me when he created them."

Xia Mengyan's expression changed. Could it be that Qiao Xi really had evidence?

However, didn't Grandpa say that everything was already prepared? Even if Qiao Xi came to cause trouble, he had a way to deal with her.

Xia Mengyan thought for a moment and replied, "I was about six or seven years old. Although I was still young at that time, I clearly remember that my father always liked to draw designs in the study. There are still some sketches in the study now. Everyone in the family knows that my father likes to design, but he's usually too busy with work and can't spend too much time on design, so he doesn't draw anymore."

Her words dispelled many people's doubts, and it seemed as though there was nothing wrong with what she said.

"Xi Xi, I don't understand why you're here to cause trouble, but today is a very important day for the Xia family. If there's a problem, let's talk about it at home. Grandpa's health hasn't been good recently, and he really can't take the stimulation. Be good, okay?"

Xia Mengyan's tone was gentle, and her voice trembled slightly with a hint of pleading.

When everyone heard Xia Mengyan's words, they felt that Xia Mengyan was more credible. She was thinking about the overall situation. Moreover, if the designs were really Xia Yunqiu's, why did the Xia family sign the designs with Xia Ji's name? They were all descendants of the Xia family, so what difference did it make who signed it? Why did they have to make things difficult for others?

Xia Mengyan could not help but be proud. Everyone believed her now. As long as Qiao Xi could not produce any strong evidence, she would be chased out. In the future, she would be mocked by Li City.

Suddenly, Qiao Xi sneered, and her eyes were filled with disdain. She took a few steps toward Xia Mengyan and said with a trace of ridicule, "Miss Xia, I didn't come empty-handed today. Coincidentally, everyone is here, so I'll show the evidence to everyone."

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi took out a stack of documents from her bag.

Xia Mengyan's heart thumped violently. Was this the evidence Qiao Xi was talking about? How was this possible? Could it be that Xia Yunqiu had left something behind?

"This is my mother's will. She left all the assets under her name, including her designs, to me. My mother is a meticulous person. She left behind specific information and photos of everything. These documents contain all the information about the designs she drew. They were entrusted to me by a lawyer."

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Xia Mengyan's eyes were filled with resentment. Will? Xia Yunqiu actually recorded all the designs in her will? Was she crazy?

Xia Mengyan immediately shot a look at the bodyguard beside her. The bodyguard hurriedly rushed over, but the next second, Qiao Xi had already flipped open the documents. A few designs appeared in front of everyone. They were indeed exactly the same as the ones signed by Xia Ji.

Moreover, the date on it was 24 years ago. Every design was signed by Xia Yunqiu.

Xia Mengyan's face was as pale as paper, and her body trembled uncontrollably.

Chapter 1235 The Illegitimate Child Goes Too Far

Qiao Xi said casually, "Miss Xia, you were probably just born 24 years ago, right? You said that these designs were drawn by your father when you were six or seven years old. At that time, my mother had already passed away, so it's utterly impossible for her to have signed your father's designs."

Everyone looked at Xia Mengyan in shock. The discussions became more and more heated. Every word was like a thousand-kilogram rock smashing into Xia Mengyan's heart, making the blood in her entire body freeze and making her tremble uncontrollably.

"Miss Xia Yunqiu's designs were completed 24 years ago. At that time, there was a lawyer to notarize them, but Xia Mengyan said that Xia Ji designed them when she was six or seven years old. That was about 18 years ago. In other words, these designs were Xia Yunqiu's. Now, they're being occupied by Xia Ji!"

From the time, it was obvious that Xia Yunqiu completed her designs earlier than Xia Ji, according to Xia Mengyan's words. After Xia Yunqiu passed away, it was impossible for anyone to forge evidence.

However, since they were Xia Yunqiu's designs, why did the Xia family have to discuss a collaboration with the Luo family using Xia Ji's name?

If Xia Ji was really occupying Xia Yunqiu's designs, then this illegitimate child was going too far. Did he think that he could be fearless just because Miss Xia had passed away?

Everyone's eyes were filled with disdain as they discussed softly. Their burning gazes were about to burn Xia Mengyan to ashes.

Xia Mengyan was flustered. Under Qiao Xi's questioning and everyone's disdainful gazes, she was on the verge of fainting. She could only lower her head and try her best to reduce her presence.

"Miss Xia, now that I've proven that these designs were drawn by my mother 24 years ago, please give me a reasonable explanation for your claim about how these designs were made by your father 18 years ago."

"I..." Xia Mengyan opened her mouth, but she did not know where to start. Her face was pale, and her lips could not help but tremble. She bit her lip and forced herself to calm down.

Everyone stared at her, waiting for her answer. There was silence.

Qiao Xi chuckled and broke the silence. She said gently, "Miss Xia, don't be nervous. You have plenty of time. Think carefully about what to say. I'll wait for your explanation."

Xia Mengyan's legs went weak, and she almost fell. She looked at Qiao Xi's disdainful eyes and was on the verge of breaking down. She never expected that Qiao Xi would actually have evidence.

Now that such a thing had happened, whose name would be on the designs when the Luo family came later if they could not explain it clearly?

If they continued to use her father's name, Qiao Xi would definitely not let the matter rest. She might cause a scene at Xia Corporation, but if they put Xia Yunqiu's name, wouldn't it be equivalent to admitting that Xia Ji plagiarized Xia Yunqiu's work?

Xia Mengyan listened to the discussions around her. Those people were mocking her father for being an illegitimate child and having a bad character. Otherwise, why would he steal his sister's things?

Her teeth chattered. She originally thought that after so many years, no one would mention it again. Moreover, she had already become the eldest daughter of the Xia family and was doted on. Those people naturally did not dare to easily offend her. Now that her flaws were exposed in public, Xia Mengyan gritted her teeth in hatred. Her eyes were filled with resentment, and she wished for nothing more than strangle Qiao Xi to death.

Qiao Xi took a few steps closer and said softly, "Miss Xia?"

Xia Mengyan looked up, her eyes filled with panic. The sweat on her back had already soaked her clothes, making her look a little disheveled. After thinking for a long time, she gritted her teeth and was about to speak.

"This is just a misunderstanding!" At this moment, a dignified and old voice suddenly sounded. Xia Cheng and Old Madam Xia walked over with extremely gloomy expressions. Behind them was the ashen Xia Ji.

Seeing Xia Ji appear, the reporters immediately swarmed over and aimed their microphones and cameras at them.

Xia Cheng stood in front of the reporters and was not nervous at all. He still smiled kindly. "Everyone, please calm down. I'll explain this matter clearly later. I want to handle the family matters first."

"Xi Xi, you're Mengyan's younger sister. You know very well how Mengyan treats you. She has already tolerated you so much, so why are you still making things difficult for her in public? We could've talked about this at home, but you just had to be so unforgiving and make her lose her dignity with you.

One of the reporters said in confusion, "Chairman Xia, you're saying that it's inappropriate for Miss Qiao to be so unforgiving, but Miss Qiao has evidence to prove that these designs are Madam Xia Yunqiu's work. Xia Mengyan was the one who said that they were Xia Ji's work. This isn't Miss Qiao's fault!"

Chapter 1236 What's The Difference Between This And Daylight Robbery?

Xia Cheng ignored the reporter and said earnestly, "Xi Xi, you're really too much of a fool. You made everyone know about your dissatisfaction. Now, it seems that I can't hide this matter anymore. For the sake of the collaboration with the Luo family, as well as Xia Ji and Mengyan, I can only tell the truth."

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. She quietly watched Xia Cheng put on an act.

Xia Cheng was silent for a long time before he said helplessly, "I didn't want to say this at first, but now that Xi Xi has blown things up, I have to explain it clearly. This matter is a secret of our Xia family. Mengyan is young and doesn't know about it. Now, I'll tell the whole story in front of everyone!"

"These designs were... created by Xia Ji, not Yunqiu." Xia Cheng's eyes were filled with sorrow. "As Xi Xi said, they were created 24 years ago. Mengyan thinks that they were created 18 years ago. That was when my son, Xia Ji, took out all the designs and sorted them out. At that time, Mengyan happened to see those designs, so she always thought that Xia Ji drew them 18 years ago.

"We've been keeping it a secret, so we never told Mengyan the truth. Please don't blame Mengyan, everyone. If you want to blame someone, blame me. If I hadn't hidden it from her, she wouldn't have said the wrong thing."

Everyone frowned. What secret did the Xia family have to keep? Someone finally could not help but ask curiously, "Chairman Xia, what secret are you talking about? Why couldn't you tell Miss Xia?"

Xia Cheng sighed helplessly. "Xi Xi, don't blame me for being heartless. Now that things have come to this, I have to say it."

"Yunqiu has been dead for so many years. As her father, I wasn't willing to make this matter public. Even if I had to let Xia Ji suffer, I didn't care. However, this concerns the Xia family's reputation and the collaboration with the Luo family now. I can't hide it anymore."

Xia Cheng spoke for a long time but was still keeping them in suspense. This made everyone even more anxious. They all wanted to know what the secret behind this was.

The old man seemed to have fallen into his memories. He shook his head helplessly. "24 years ago, after Xia Ji completed the designs, Xia Yunqiu borrowed them. At that time, she said that she wanted to borrow them, but she kept them and refused to return them. After a long time, she treated them as her own work."

"Xia Ji carried the reputation of an illegitimate child. He was mocked by others outside and couldn't raise his head at home. He already felt that he had let Yunqiu down, so he didn't pursue the matter. It was only when the Luo family came to ask for a collaboration that he dared to say that they were his designs. Who knew that Xi Xi would reveal this incident in public today?"

Everyone gasped. They did not expect the situation to turn around again. In other words, the person who really occupied someone else's work was Xia Yunqiu.

Xia Ji felt that he had let Xia Yunqiu down, so he had been hiding this matter. If the Luo family had not come to collaborate with the Xia family, the Xia family would have kept this secret forever. No one would have known that the real Xia Yunqiu was so unbearable.

"Sigh! Perhaps Miss Qiao didn't know that Xia Yunqiu was such a person either. After all, from the evidence she provided, it was clearly Xia Ji who plagiarized Xia Yunqiu's designs. Who would have thought that the truth would be like this?!"

"Chairman Xia is doing this for his daughter's own good. He has been keeping this secret all these years. Xia Yunqiu said that she wanted to borrow those designs but never returned them. How is this any different from daylight robbery? If Miss Qiao hadn't come looking for trouble, I don't know how long we would have misunderstood the Xia family!"

"Miss Qiao wanted to seek justice for her mother, but who knew that her mother was the one who plagiarized someone else's work?! Hehe!"

Xia Mengyan shed tears aggrievedly. "Father, you've suffered all these years."

Xia Ji smiled and waved his hand. "It's nothing. Yunqiu is my younger sister. She wanted my designs, so I just gave them to her. As long as she liked them, it didn't matter even if I suffered a little."

"However, we had to make things clear with the collaboration with the Luo family this time. That's why these designs are under my name. If I had known that this would involve this past, I would've kept Yunqiu's name on them. Sigh..."

Xia Ji said helplessly, "Xi Xi, you're still too young. You're rash when you encounter problems. It would've been better to talk about it at home. How could you come to the company to kick up a fuss?"

Qiao Xi glanced coldly at him, and a cold light burst out from her eyes.

She knew that the Xia family would not admit to plagiarizing her mother's work and would push all the blame on her and her mother. However, she did not expect the Xia family to be so shameless. They did not even blush when they lied and even looked helpless as if they had suffered a lot.

Chapter 1237 Not Xi Xi's Fault

Everyone had different expressions. Xia Cheng had already given an explanation, and the Xia family still had to discuss a collaboration with the Luo family. The Luo family would not collaborate with a family that plagiarized and lied, so the Xia family would definitely not admit that Xia Ji plagiarized Xia Yunqiu's work no matter what.

Although Qiao Xi had produced evidence, the Xia family had also given a reasonable explanation. They were unable to get the dead to stand up and tell them the truth. Both parties had their own arguments, so it could only depend on who lost first.

Qiao Xi's eyes were filled with coldness. She had not gotten so angry in such a long time.

Xia Ji pretended to be tolerant. "This isn't Xi Xi's fault. She wasn't even born at that time, so she didn't know the truth. Actually, I didn't care at all. If Yunqiu was still alive, she would naturally be representing the Xia family in this collaboration with the Luo family. Unfortunately, she passed away at a young age. Xi Xi, I hope you can understand our painstaking efforts. We don't want Yunqiu to bear the infamy either, but now that things have come to this, we had no choice but to tell the truth."

Xia Mengyan's eyes were red, and her heart ached. "Dad! Why didn't you tell me?! I almost misunderstood you!"

Xia Ji patted her back gently and said with a loving gaze, "Mengyan, I didn't want to tell you because I was afraid you'd be too rash and stand up for me like Xi Xi. However, your Aunt Yunqiu and I are biological siblings. I won't ruin Yunqiu's reputation for my own benefit. Unfortunately, I still exposed it in the end. Now that this matter has been explained clearly, I hope everyone won't take it to heart. After all, the dead are gone. Everything is in the past."

Everyone praised him obsequiously, "President Xia, you're really tolerant! What a rare quality!"

"After all, we're family! Miss Qiao didn't know either. Moreover, she was just defending her mother. This is just a misunderstanding. No one is wrong here!"

"Although Xia Yunqiu is the legitimate daughter, it's too much for her to snatch someone else's work. She stole the glory that should have belonged to you, President Xia. You've really suffered all these years. Fortunately, the truth is finally out."

“Chairman Xia, Xia Yunqiu has already passed away. You should’ve said this out loud a long time ago. Otherwise, Miss Qiao wouldn’t have misunderstood you. Miss Qiao is a junior and has wronged her elders. She should apologize!”

The businessmen who were close to the Xia family stood up and echoed, “That’s right! Miss Qiao, although this isn’t your fault, you caused a scene in the lobby and seriously affected President Xia’s reputation. You should apologize to him. A tolerant and magnanimous person like President Xia won’t blame you.”

Qiao Xi curled her lips into a gloomy smile, and the coldness in her eyes grew even stronger.

Sumei tugged at the corner of Xia Cheng’s shirt and looked at him aggrievedly. Xia Cheng cleared his throat and said, “Xi Xi, I know that you and Yunqiu had a deep relationship as mother and daughter. Yunqiu is also the child I doted on the most. I’m very happy that you had such intentions, but you were too rash today and misunderstood your uncle. No matter what, he’s your elder. You should apologize. As a child of the Xia family, you should be brave enough to admit your mistake so that you can continue to improve.”

Everyone’s burning gazes landed on Qiao Xi. They also felt that it was understandable for the Xia family to ask Qiao Xi to apologize. After all, today was an important day for the Xia family as they were going to be discussing a collaboration with the Luo family, yet she chose this day to cause trouble. She clearly did not take the Xia family seriously. She should apologize to her elders.

However...

The scene was silent. After a long time, Qiao Xi did not speak. Xia Ji’s expression gradually turned gloomy.

Even if he was an illegitimate child, he was Qiao Xi’s uncle according to seniority. What right did she have to look down on him?

Xia Mengyan bit her lip and cursed in her heart, but there was a fake and gentle smile on her face. “Xi Xi, it’s just an apology. As long as you apologize, my father and grandfather will forgive you. We’re family, so no one will make things difficult for you. It won’t do you any good if you continue to be in a deadlock with us.”

Qiao Xi glanced indifferently at her, then a meaningful smile appeared in her eyes. The air around her became icy-cold.

Xia Cheng’s tone gradually became impatient. “Xi Xi, this isn’t your fault, but you slandered your uncle without distinguishing right from wrong. Is it wrong for me to ask you to apologize?”

Everyone stared fixedly at Qiao Xi. Some people knew that she was Mrs. Gu, and they thought that she was able to be so unyielding because she had Gu Zheng as her backer. Those who did not know her identity sighed in their hearts. This woman was really audacious to not take the Xia family seriously at all.

Chapter 1238 It’s Still Uncertain Who’ll Regret It!

Qiao Xi lazily raised her eyes. “Old Master Xia, why should I apologize?”

Her words were like a rock smashing into a calm lake. The entire venue was in an uproar. They did not expect her to be so arrogant.

Xia Cheng's eyes suddenly turned cold. "Qiao Xi, what do you mean?"

"Old Master Xia, your ears aren't good, so I'll say it again. I won't apologize!" Qiao Xi's voice was calm, but it was filled with a powerful aura. She wasn't defeated in the slightest in front of Xia Cheng.

!!

The surroundings were silent. Xia Cheng gritted his teeth and said, "Qiao Xi! Think carefully. As long as you apologize to Xia Ji today, we can let bygones be bygones and pretend that nothing happened."

Qiao Xi's expression was calm, and there were no other emotions in her eyes. She raised her head and smiled arrogantly, but her tone was still firm. "I said I won't apologize!"

"Qiao Xi!!!" Xia Cheng was instantly infuriated. She was just a junior, yet she went against his orders time and time again in front of everyone, causing him to lose all his dignity in front of outsiders!

She shouldn't think that just because she was married to Gu Zheng that the Xia family wouldn't dare to attack her. This matter was caused by Qiao Xi's rashness. Even if Gu Zheng came, he wouldn't be able to protect the weak Qiao Xi in front of everyone.

Xia Cheng suppressed his anger and said, "Xi Xi, the Luo family will be here soon. The two families want to discuss a collaboration. I don't want to see anyone cause trouble here. Even if you're from the Xia family, you can't fool around like this. If you insist on not apologizing, then don't blame me for disregarding our kinship and chasing you out!"

Everyone gasped. Miss Qiao was Xia Yunlou's daughter who had led a wandering life for many years. Now that the old master said such things, it meant that Miss Qiao was not favored by the Xia family.

Qiao Xi's eyes narrowed slightly as she said casually, "Old Master Xia, no matter what you say, I still believe that the designs belong to my mother. Since you don't welcome me, I'll leave."

Xia Cheng was instantly proud. It seemed that she was afraid, so...

However, he had only been happy for a few seconds when Qiao Xi coldly said, "But if I leave now, I won't come back to the Xia family ever again. Even if Xia Ji and you personally come to beg me to come back, I won't be willing."

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi left without turning her head.

Xia Cheng stood on the spot and was stunned for a long time before he reacted. Qiao Xi still dared to say such harsh words? This wild girl actually dared to threaten him? He was the head of the Xia family and Qiao Xi's grandfather. What right did she have to threaten him?

He was already unable to suppress the flames of rage in his heart and roared furiously at Qiao Xi's back. "Alright! Even if you're unwilling to come back, we won't look for you! Qiao Xi! Let me tell you, don't regret it if you leave!"

Qiao Xi stopped in her tracks and turned slightly to reveal a stunning smile. "It's still uncertain who'll regret it!"

Everyone looked at the tense situation between the two parties and could not help but widen their eyes. However, they did not expect such a stubborn person as Miss Qiao to be scared away in the end.

Someone could not help but sigh. "Miss Qiao is too rash. It wasn't easy for her to reunite with the Xia family. Now that things have come to this, she won't get anything good out of it."

"Although the Xia family has been struggling all these years, they're still a noble family. Moreover, the Xia family is about to collaborate with the Luo family. Their power and status will increase in the future. There's no benefit in offending them. Moreover, if Miss Qiao leaves just like that, she won't have a share in the Xia family's assets in the future."

"She's still too young! The person who plagiarized the designs was clearly Xia Yunqiu, but Miss Qiao insists on believing her mother. She lost a lot this time..."

"She's so disrespectful to her elders. No wonder Chairman Xia is angry. If it were me, I wouldn't want such a stubborn granddaughter who causes trouble either."

"When Miss Qiao left, she even said that she would never step into the Xia family again. Even if Chairman Xia and President Xia begged her, she wouldn't come back. Actually, in the eyes of the Xia family, she's nothing at all. After all, she has been wandering outside for many years and has no feelings for the Xia family. Moreover, the Xia family already has Xia Mengyan. To the Xia family, Qiao Xi is just a stranger who's related to them by blood."

Hearing everyone's discussions, Xia Mengyan pursed her lips proudly. The resentment in her heart finally dissipated.

However, Xia Mengyan still could not believe that Qiao Xi would leave just like that. She left without turning the Xia family upside down first?

According to Qiao Xi's usual character, she wouldn't be able to wait to blow things up and make the Xia family lose all their dignity. It was really not her character to return in defeat like this!

Chapter 1239 The Luo Family's Power Can't Be Underestimated

With Xia Mengyan's understanding of Qiao Xi, she was not the kind of person who would be easily defeated and leave dejectedly without achieving her goal. However, she left just like that today. It was truly strange.

A trace of uneasiness surged in Xia Mengyan's heart. Could it be that Qiao Xi still had a backup plan?

She had always been uneasy and afraid that Qiao Xi would interfere with their collaboration with the Luo family. It was only when the Luo family appeared that her heart calmed down and she smiled generously.

It seemed that she had overestimated Qiao Xi. The Luo family was not affected by Qiao Xi.

Moreover, the person sent by the Luo family to discuss the collaboration this time was actually the butler, who had always been in charge of the Luo family's internal and external matters. Although he

was a butler, this person had a lot of power. The head of the Luo family trusted him very much and treated him as a brother. Since he personally appeared, it meant that the Luo family valued this collaboration very much.

Butler Luo had just gotten out of the car and walked to the door when everyone congratulated Xia Cheng.

“Congratulations, Chairman Xia!”

“Chairman Xia, you’re really good at raising your son. You gave birth to such an outstanding son. The Luo family actually took a liking to your work. How rare!”

“Chairman Xia, once you have the resources in the future, don’t forget us brothers!”

Xia Cheng beamed with joy and nodded at everyone. He thought in his heart, ‘Qiao Xi caused a scene in Xia Corporation but still left dejectedly in the end. She’s still too inexperienced to want to fight me!’

On the other hand, after Qiao Xi walked out of Xia Corporation, she immediately contacted Luo Qing. After a minute, the Luo family’s shadow guards appeared in front of her. “Eldest Miss, our young master invites you to rest first. Leave everything to him.”

Qiao Xi smiled and entered a private room in a coffee shop beside Xia Corporation. She leisurely leaned against the chair. Soon, the Xia family would know why she had said those words just now.

The scene she caused at Xia Corporation today was just an appetizer. Did the Xia family really think that she had lost?

Qiao Xi closed her eyes and savored the aromatic coffee. She suddenly recalled that Gu Zheng seemed to be here today as well. What was he doing here?

Gu Corporation and Xia Corporation were so far away from each other. What business did he want to discuss? Why did he have to come here? Or did he just want to drop her off?

Qiao Xi abruptly opened her eyes. Perhaps Gu Zheng was indeed here to see someone, but it was not for business. Maybe he had other motives, so it was not convenient to tell her.

At the thought of this, Qiao Xi immediately took out her phone and sent Song Shiyu a message.

At this moment, a shadow guard of the Luo family knocked on the door and walked in. He said respectfully, “Eldest Miss, Young Master instructed me to prepare desserts for you. He said that if you’re tired, you should sleep for a while. Now, the butler of the Luo family has already entered Xia Corporation’s building.”

Qiao Xi nodded. The guard put down the things and left immediately.

At Xia Corporation’s building.

Everyone from the Xia family was originally worried that the Luo family would not collaborate with the Xia family after hearing the rumors. When Xia Cheng saw Butler Luo getting out of the car and walking toward the entrance of Xia Corporation, he heaved a sigh of relief.

Amidst everyone's congratulations, Xia Cheng hurriedly went forward. Even though this person was just a butler, Xia Cheng did not dare to be negligent. Butler Luo stood at the back while another young man walked forward. He looked to be Butler Luo's personal assistant.

Xia Cheng's attitude was still respectful without any difference.

Some people did not understand why Xia Cheng was so humble. No matter how noble the Luo family was, this person was just the butler's assistant. Why should Xia Cheng lower his status?

However, some people knew very well in their hearts that the Luo family's identity was special. To be able to occupy the island and be the king, their strength naturally could not be underestimated. Not only did they have to be rich, but they also had to be powerful and strategic. It was enough to prove that the Luo family was extremely powerful. They could even destroy the entire Xia family.

Xuan Island was the Luo family's base. The Luo family had lived there for generations. No one knew what they did on the island, but they knew that anyone who provoked the Luo family would have a tragic outcome. Hence, they naturally did not dare to offend the Luo family.

Butler Luo's assistant walked forward. He was wearing a custom-made suit with an insignia embroidered on his chest. It was the symbol of Ling Pavilion.

"Hello, Chairman Xia." The assistant smiled faintly.

Xia Cheng immediately said respectfully, "Hello, nice to meet you."

The butler glanced at him and nodded slightly, but he did not say anything. Even so, it made Xia Cheng extremely excited. Being able to build a relationship with the Luo family was something he had never dreamed of. Now, it had really happened!

Xia Ji and Xia Mengyan did not dare to rashly go forward, but a group of ingratiating people appeared beside them. "President Xia, you're really awesome! I didn't expect you to be so accomplished in art!"

Chapter 1240 Is The Designer Still Alive?

"Miss Qiao is really too much! She actually wanted to snatch President Xia's designs. Fortunately, Chairman Xia appeared in time and explained this matter. Otherwise—"

Xia Mengyan pretended to be sad and interrupted that person. "Don't blame Xi Xi. This isn't her fault. She was very close to Aunt Yunqiu. When she heard that Aunt Yunqiu stole my father's designs, she was unable to accept it for a moment. It's understandable. If my father hadn't said it today, I wouldn't have known about this either."

That person continued, "Even if she was on good terms with Xia Yunqiu, she can't be indiscriminate and snatch someone else's things!"

Listening to everyone criticizing Qiao Xi and Xia Yunqiu, Xia Ji and his daughter revealed proud smiles.

On the other hand, Xia Cheng was talking to the Luo family's representatives. He wanted to let Xia Ji, as the designer, speak during the official ceremony and show his face in front of the Luo family. If he could obtain the Luo family's recognition, Xia Ji's future would definitely be limitless. The Xia family would also receive preferential treatment.

After everyone chatted for a while, the butler's assistant got to the main topic. "Our young master likes these designs very much and wants to personally carve and restore these exquisite designs. Are there any other designs?"

Xia Cheng explained with a smile, "I'm really sorry, Assistant. He only has a few designs in his hands, but don't worry. He's in the lobby now. I'll introduce him to you later. I promise that he'll design more outstanding works in the future. They'll definitely satisfy Young Master Luo!"

Actually, Xia Cheng knew very well that Xia Ji did not know how to draw designs, but he had to say that now. As long as they signed the contract with the Luo family, everything would be fine. If it really did not work out, he could hire someone to draw the designs at a high price.

However, as soon as Xia Cheng finished speaking, the butler's expression changed. His assistant understood and hurriedly asked, "Chairman Xia, you said that person is inside?"

They looked up and searched the crowd.

Xia Cheng did not expect the Luo family to value these designs so much. He was extremely excited. "Yes! He's waiting in the lobby. I'll get him to come over now."

The assistant suddenly asked in surprise, "Chairman Xia, do you mean that the designer has always been alive? Young Master will be very happy to know about this!"

His voice was very loud and entered the lobby on the first floor. Everyone was stunned for a long time and showed curious expressions. What was going on? Xia Ji was, of course, living well!

The corners of Xia Cheng's mouth twitched slightly, but the other party was from the Luo family, after all. He naturally did not dare to say anything and could only smile helplessly. "Assistant, you must be joking. Of course, the designer is still alive! It's a good thing as he can always draw designs for Young Master Luo."

The assistant was pleasantly surprised. "I see! I remember hearing rumors that the designer has been dead for many years. Young Master and the head of the family even sighed for a long time when they mentioned this. It turns out that it's just a rumor. It's good that the designer is still alive."

Xia Mengyan's heart thumped violently in the hall. From the moment the assistant asked if the designer was still alive, she had a bad feeling.

Xia Yunqiu passed away many years ago. Could it be that the Luo family knew Xia Yunqiu?

It did not matter. It did not matter even if they knew Xia Yunqiu. Xia Yunqiu had already passed away for so many years. She could not get up from the grave and tell everyone the truth. They could still use what they had just said to explain it to the Luo family.

Of course, Xia Cheng also sensed that something was wrong. He knew that the designer the assistant was talking about was his daughter, Xia Yunqiu. However, Xia Yunqiu passed away many years ago. How could she have known the Luo family? Xia Cheng had heard that Young Master Luo was only in his 20s. When Xia Yunqiu died, Young Master Luo was still a child who could not remember anything. It was absolutely impossible for him to know Xia Yunqiu.

Thinking of this, Xia Cheng heaved a sigh of relief.

The assistant then asked indifferently, "Chairman Xia, our young master didn't intend to come at first, but now that he knows the designer is still alive, he decided to come and take a look. Young Master will arrive later. Please wait for a moment. Our young master will personally complete the collaboration ceremony. You don't mind, right?"

Of course, Xia Cheng did not dare to mind. The arrival of the Luo family's butler had already brought light to the Xia family's humble dwelling, making everyone present jealous. Now that the person who was coming was the young master of the Luo family, Xia Cheng wouldn't complain even if he had to personally pick the young master up, not to mention waiting for a while.

Xia Cheng hurriedly nodded in agreement. Under everyone's burning gazes, his face was filled with pride.