

Lady Gu Is Too Weak To Fend For Herself

- Chapter 1281 - 1290

1281 Taking Over

“Could it be that Xia Yunlou is really sick? Chairman Xia happened to know about the relationship between the Luo family and Xia Yunlou and guessed that the Luo family’s head would give Xia Yunlou a gift, so he found another woman to replace her?”

“Chairman Xia, if Xia Yunlou is really sick, you could’ve just explained it to Mr. Luo. Why find someone to replace her? Moreover, Madam Xia is unique and can’t be replaced. Doing this will anger the Luo family!”

Everyone did not agree with the Xia family’s actions. They really did not understand what the family was thinking. They clearly had a good opportunity to get close to the Luo family, but it was forcefully ruined by them.

On the other end of the phone, the head of the Luo family said impatiently, “Chairman Xia, let me ask you one last time. Where’s Yunlou?”

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Xia Cheng gasped. He wanted to speak but did not know how to explain. He did not know where Xia Yunlou was at all.

At this moment, someone suddenly reacted. “That’s not right! All these years, we’ve been in contact with the Xia family. Everyone has seen Xia Yunlou before. Hasn’t she always looked like this? Could it be that this impostor had already replaced the real Xia Yunlou in the Xia family 20 years ago?”

“Patriarch Luo has seen Xia Yunlou before. It’s been 24 years, but he immediately knew that she was an impostor after seeing her. It seems that she’s indeed been pretending for many years!”

“Back then, Xia Yunlou went to Xuan Island with Xia Yunqiu. It’s impossible for Xia Yunqiu not to know her younger sister! Moreover, there’s no need for the Luo family to lie. The head of the Luo family just wanted to see an old friend today, but he ended up exposing this impostor!”

“That’s right! The Luo family has never interfered in the grudges between noble families. Moreover, with the Luo family’s status, it’s easy for them to deal with the Xia family. Why beat about the bush? Hence, what the Luo family’s head said must be true. This woman isn’t the real Xia Yunlou!”

“If she’s an impostor, where’s the real Xia Yunlou?”

“Why is this woman staying in the Xia family and pretending to be Xia Yunlou? Moreover, why is Xia Cheng letting her pretend to be his biological daughter?”

For a moment, the atmosphere fell into a deadlock. Everyone was making guesses about the Xia family’s secret.

Suddenly, someone shouted loudly, “I knew it. This woman must be Xia Cheng and Ai Sumei’s illegitimate daughter. Otherwise, why would Chairman Xia spend so much effort to let her take Xia Yunlou’s place? He just wants to help her get rid of the infamy of being an illegitimate daughter and live in the Xia family as the legitimate daughter! They’re really too much!”

“Then where’s the real Xia Yunlou? Could it be that they…” The person who spoke made a throat-slitting gesture.

“Oh my God! Xia Cheng is really heartless! Back then, if Yin Lianxin hadn’t married him and used the Yin family’s resources to support the Xia family’s assets, would he have been able to steadily become the head of the Xia family? It’s fine that he cheated and divorced, but he actually let an illegitimate daughter occupy the identity of Old Madam Yin’s daughter. I wonder if Xia Yunlou is still alive. She’s his biological daughter! Even a vicious tiger won’t eat its cubs, but he doesn’t feel guilty at all. He’s really vicious!”

No one would suspect that the head of the Luo family was lying because there was no need for him to do so. After confirming this matter, the rest could be deduced logically. Everyone was sure that the daughter of the Xia family in front of them was not the real Xia Yunlou.

“I knew it. Xia Yunlou and Xia Yunqiu are biological sisters. Why are their personalities so different? All these years, she has been relying on the fact that her mother is Old Madam Yin to commit crimes. Everyone in the socialite circle has to tolerate her. Now, her identity has been exposed. It turns out that she’s just an illegitimate daughter!”

“This impostor has ruined Xia Yunlou’s reputation. She deserves to die!”

“So that’s why I kept feeling like she’s becoming more and more like Ai Sumei. She looks like a shrew in the market. She doesn’t have the magnanimity and nobility that Old Madam Yin has at all. I finally understand the reason why now.”

“Xia Cheng is a scumbag! For the sake of his illegitimate daughter’s future, he disregarded the life of the legitimate daughter. Is he still human?”

The curses were endless. Xia Yunlou’s face was as pale as paper. She wanted to retort, but her throat was dry and painful. She could not say anything.

She was Xia Yunlou, the daughter of the Xia family. She could not be exposed, or her life would be completely ruined.

Xia Cheng gritted his teeth, the muscles on his face trembling violently. He looked ferocious and terrifying.

Why? Why was this secret discovered? Xia Yunlou had been pretending for so many years. Even she was sure that she was Xia Yunlou. They clearly looked exactly the same, so how did the Luo family's head know that she was not the real Xia Yunlou?

Impossible! This was impossible!

1282 Xia Yunlou Reveals Her Secret Again

Xia Cheng's entire body trembled as if he had thought of something. He abruptly raised his eyes to look at Qiao Xi. She stood in the corner with her head lowered, and the corners of her mouth were curled into a cold smile.

Qiao Xi sensed that someone was looking at her. She slowly raised her eyes, and her gaze was calm without a trace of panic. She smiled lightly at Xia Cheng.

At that instant, Xia Cheng felt his heart stop beating. An indescribable fear and shock swept through his entire body. His ears buzzed, but he was extremely clear-headed. When he saw Qiao Xi's eyes, he understood everything.

Everything today was Qiao Xi and the Luo family's plan!

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Even Yin Lianxin could not confirm if the person in front of her was her daughter. If even she could not tell when she was Xia Yunlou's mother, how did the head of the Luo family figure it out? How could he be so sure that the person in front of him was not Xia Yunlou?

Was it because there was an agreement that no matter what the person looked like, the head of the Luo family would deny it?

There was no enmity between the Luo and Xia families, so there was no need for the head of the Luo family to do this. The only possibility was that it was because of Qiao Xi. It was Qiao Xi who begged the Luo family to cooperate with her and set up a trap for them to be exposed.

After Xia Cheng thought it through, his head felt like it was about to explode. His breathing quickened as he gritted his teeth. His eyes burst with strong hatred.

Qiao Xi smiled as she looked at him, her eyes filled with ridicule.

It seemed that the old master was very angry! But so what? No matter how unwilling he was, he could not refute the head of the Luo family because no one would suspect him.

She did not have any evidence, but she could get the Luo family to help her create evidence. Now that everyone knew about the Xia family's scandal and the seeds of doubt were planted, no one would believe anything the Xia family said.

Xia Cheng's eyes almost popped out. He took a deep breath and forced himself to calm down. He absolutely could not admit to this. However, before he could think of a countermeasure, Xia Yunlou, who was at the side, broke down. "Nonsense! I'm Xia Yunlou! Qiao Xi! Tell them that I'm Xia Yunlou, your biological mother! You know—"

Xia Cheng was shocked. Just as he was about to stop Xia Yunlou, Mr. Luo spoke first, "Madam Xia, at this point, are you still thinking of getting Miss Qiao to help you? When you helped Xia Mengyan slander Miss Qiao just now, did you remember that she's your daughter? Now that you're in this situation, you finally remember your daughter, huh?"

"Moreover, I remember you said that you wanted to cut off all ties with Miss Qiao. You even helped Miss Xia Mengyan force Miss Qiao to admit her mistake. Madam Xia, apart from pretending to be the daughter of the Xia family, could it be that you're also pretending to be Miss Qiao's biological mother?"

Everyone was instantly stunned. It took them a few seconds to understand Mr. Luo's words.

Xia Yunlou retorted without hesitation, "That's not true—"

"Madam Xia, don't be in a rush to explain. I'm just making a reasonable guess. The person who took out the fake is Miss Xia Mengyan, but you forced Miss Qiao to confess to the crime. You also knew what kind of price she'd have to pay if she lost the Luo family's porcelain sculpture. Not only would her reputation be ruined, but she might even be punished by the law. However, you didn't care about your daughter at all. Instead, for the sake of your niece, you deliberately pushed all the blame onto Miss Qiao. Hence, I suspect that you..."

Mr. Luo's voice dragged out. Xia Yunlou's heart thumped violently as she felt her entire body being surrounded by coldness.

There was no need for Mr. Luo to say the rest. Everyone knew what was going on. "In that case, she's not the real Xia Yunlou, nor is she Qiao Xi's mother. Perhaps she's Xia Mengyan's biological mother!"

This thought was deeply rooted in everyone's hearts. In this way, everything made sense. Why was Xia Yunlou unwilling to believe Qiao Xi's words but believed Xia Mengyan's nonsense? Why was she blaming Qiao Xi for stealing Xia Mengyan's

limelight? Why was she praising Xia Mengyan for being outstanding but unwilling to give Qiao Xi a trace of warmth?

Everything could be explained if Xia Yunlou was Xia Mengyan's biological mother! It was not that she did not have motherly love, but her motherly love was given to Xia Mengyan. She did not care about Qiao Xi at all.

Xia Yunlou insisted on saying that she was Qiao Xi's biological mother probably because Qiao Xi's adoptive mother, Xia Yunqiu, had left behind a large inheritance. As long as she controlled Qiao Xi, she might be able to obtain benefits from Qiao Xi.

Even if Qiao Xi did not have any evidence, the Xia family was unable to change everyone's thoughts.

Xia Cheng's expression was as dark as ink. He originally had a way out, but Xia Yunlou had exposed her weakness again. No matter how he explained, no one would believe him.

1283 You're More Vicious Than A Tiger

The Xia family's opening ceremony ended like this. The matter of Xia Mengyan framing Qiao Xi was exposed. Xia Yunlou was not the real daughter of the Xia family, nor was she Qiao Xi's biological mother. The Xia family's secret was instantly exposed to everyone.

Xia Yunlou's body went weak. She knew that if she was no longer Yin Lianxin's daughter, her life would be completely ruined.

"Director Xia, this ceremony can't be held anymore. I'll take my leave first," Mr. Luo suddenly said.

As soon as Mr. Luo left, everyone could not sit still anymore. They stood up one after another. "Director Xia, I'm really sorry. Something happened in the company, so I have to rush over."

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"Director Xia, my wife is about to give birth, so I'll leave first."

These people naturally would not say that they looked down on the Xia family. They could only find an excuse to leave.

Xia Cheng, who was standing in front of the stage, lowered his head. He looked as if he had aged ten years in an instant. He knew very well that the Xia family was really hopeless this time. The company was already in a difficult situation, and there was another force secretly dealing with them. He thought that all his difficulties would be

resolved if he got close to the Luo family. Unexpectedly, not only did the collaboration get canceled, but he also offended the Luo family.

What should the Xia family do?

Xia Yunlou's legs went weak as she fell heavily to the floor. However, it was as if she could not feel any pain. She just sat there with empty eyes.

Xia Mengyan's teeth chattered as her heart ached. Why was this happening? Today was clearly supposed to be the Xia family's most glorious day, but it had become their most humiliating day.

"Qiao Xi..." After everyone left, Xia Cheng called out in an old voice.

Xia Mengyan slowly raised her eyes and realized that Qiao Xi had been standing in the corner. She looked at them indifferently and quietly watched the Xia family's disheveled appearance.

Qiao Xi's appearance completely infuriated Xia Mengyan. She was the daughter of the Xia family and a socialite of high society. What right did Qiao Xi have to look at her with such disdain?

At this moment, Xia Mengyan was unable to suppress the flames of rage in her heart anymore. Her gentle mask cracked as she pointed at Qiao Xi and roared furiously. "Qiao Xi! It's all because of you! You harmed us!"

The sharp gazes of everyone from the Xia family shot at Qiao Xi in unison, while Qiao Xi slowly raised her eyes and walked forward calmly while nodding with a smile. "That's right, it's me."

Xia Mengyan did not expect Qiao Xi to admit it so readily. She roared in exasperation, "You're also from the Xia family. What's in it for you to scheme against us? Why are you—"

"Why? What do you think?" Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows with an indifferent expression.

"We didn't do anything. You and the Luo family are the ones who joined forces to frame us!"

As soon as Xia Mengyan finished speaking, Qiao Xi sneered, her eyes filled with ridicule. "Miss Xia, do you want to record this? I can cooperate with you. I admit that I schemed against you."

"Luo Chenjiu is my subordinate. I instructed him to give you the porcelain sculpture. Everything was planned by me to expose Madam Xia's identity. Miss Xia, have you recorded everything?"

Xia Mengyan held her phone tightly with her pale fingers and could not help but tremble.

Qiao Xi's voice suddenly became aggrieved. "Miss Xia, I've already admitted that all of this was my plan. The Xia family was framed by me.

"Miss Xia, are you satisfied now?" The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth curled into a cold smile. As far as she was concerned, the Xia family had already lost and had no chance of making a comeback.

Xia Mengyan was stunned on the spot. For a moment, she did not understand what Qiao Xi meant, but Xia Cheng reacted and roared from his throat. "Qiao Xi!"

At this moment, the Xia family no longer had any credibility in everyone's hearts. If Xia Mengyan released this recording, everyone would think that the Xia family had forced Qiao Xi to admit it. Her voice was filled with grievance and helplessness. This recording could not be used as evidence at all. Instead, it would make everyone hate the Xia family even more.

Qiao Xi took a few steps forward and narrowed her eyes. "Chairman Xia, do you think I'm heartless? But I learned all of this from you! You harmed your own biological daughter! Everyone says that even a vicious tiger won't eat its cubs, but you're even more vicious than a tiger!"

"She's Xia Yunlou!" Xia Cheng pointed at Xia Yunlou and roared.

A trace of a cold snort seeped out of Qiao Xi's nose as she turned around indifferently, leaving only her back view for them to see. She said coldly, "Goodbye, Chairman Xia."

As soon as she left, Xia Cheng received countless calls. What had happened in New City Mall had already spread to Li City. Now, not only did the people of high society know about it, but the news had also spread online. The fans who once supported Xia Mengyan were the most shocked.

1284 Selfish Heir

Xia Mengyan's pure and gentle image completely collapsed. Her former fans trampled all over her. All her contracts and endorsements were canceled overnight. She also needed to compensate a huge sum of money for the breach of contract. Everyone knew that Xia Mengyan had framed her cousin and even destroyed the porcelain sculpture given by the Luo family. Whoever worked with her would be going against the Luo family. Naturally, they did not want to have anything to do with her.

At this moment, the Xia family was like drowning dogs. The company was in danger. What worried Xia Cheng even more was now that they had offended the Luo family and the others in Li City could step on them, how could they survive?

Xia Mengyan screamed, "No! I don't want to go back to Shengdu! If I go back now, everyone will look down on me!"

"Grandpa, save me! I can't go back like this. I might as well die!"

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As she spoke, Xia Mengyan threw her phone on the ground like a lunatic. Xia Yunlou picked it up and looked at it. It was filled with curses from the netizens. They said that Xia Mengyan was vicious and pretentious. They also said that Qiao Xi was a hundred times better than her. Normal people would choose Qiao Xi, while only the fools of the Xia family would choose Xia Mengyan.

Xia Mengyan had been pampered since she was young. She was smart, and everyone in the Xia family doted on her. At a young age, she became an internationally famous perfumer. She was a top socialite with countless fans and was the goddess in everyone's hearts. However, now that all her dirt had been exposed, she would naturally be exposed if she still called herself the 'Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor'. She had fallen from heaven to hell in an instant. Of course, she could not accept it.

Xia Yunlou was also very haggard with a sad face. "Dad, quickly think of a way. You have to help Mengyan! She's still so young. If she has to bear this infamy in the future, her life will be completely ruined."

"Shut up!" Xia Cheng roared angrily, then turned to look at Xia Mengyan. His eyes were bloodshot, and he was like a crazy beast. "Xia Mengyan, you're still thinking about your reputation? I thought that Qiao Xi had ill intentions and wanted to destroy the Xia family. I never expected that you would be the one to destroy the Xia family in the end!"

Xia Yunlou immediately retorted, "Qiao Xi framed—"

"Qiao Xi did scheme against you, but if you hadn't done it, Qiao Xi's plan would've failed?"

"All these years, I've carefully nurtured you to be the successor of the Xia family. I didn't expect you to be an idiot who only cares about yourself! For your own selfishness, you ignored the Xia family's interests? Are you still worthy of being the successor of the Xia family?"

Xia Cheng knew that if Xia Mengyan had not wanted to frame Qiao Xi, those events wouldn't have unfolded. In the end, it was because she was too selfish. For her own selfish desires, she did not hesitate to put the entire Xia family at stake.

Now that everyone in the Xia family was implicated, she only cared about her reputation and future. She had never considered how the others would suffer and whether the Xia family's company would go bankrupt.

Why were the two heirs he had spent so many years nurturing so useless? Xia Ji was useless, and so was Xia Mengyan.

Xia Mengyan explained in a panic, "Grandpa, it's not like that. I..."

Ai Sumei couldn't stand it anymore and retorted anxiously, "How can you blame Mengyan? If you had let Mengyan be in charge earlier, everything wouldn't have happened."

Xia Mengyan's eyes were filled with fear as she hid behind Xia Ji and Ai Sumei. She did not feel that she was in the wrong at all. What was wrong with taking back her position? If she succeeded, the opening ceremony of New City Mall would not have been affected at all and the Xia family would not have offended the Luo family.

If they had to blame someone, it would be Qiao Xi. If she hadn't schemed against the Xia family, they wouldn't have ended up like this.

Ai Sumei was still unconvinced. She tugged on Xia Cheng's sleeve and said, "Ah Cheng, you must help Mengyan this time. Mengyan is the hope of the Xia family. She's an internationally famous perfumer. If her reputation is ruined, we'll have no hope at all.

"Don't forget that she's the heir of the Xia family! No matter what the price is, we have to protect Mengyan!"

Xia Cheng's eyes were filled with disappointment. He glanced at Ai Sumei and Xia Ji, feeling a strong sense of powerlessness.

At this moment, he was filled with regret. Why did he get a divorce because of Ai Sumei back then? Ai Sumei's looks and intelligence were clearly far inferior to Yin Lianxin's. She was not even qualified to compare to Yin Lianxin. But back then, he was obsessed and ruined his originally happy marriage for this stupid woman.

1285 Charity Banquet

"The Xia family is going to disappear. What's the use of keeping an heir? We've already offended the Luo family. Who will still do business with our Xia family in the future? Xia Mengyan, you're selfish and only care about yourself. Without the Xia family, who do you think you are?!" Xia Cheng pointed at Xia Mengyan and cursed.

Ai Sumei, who was at the side, was still unconvinced. She muttered in a low voice, "It's not Mengyan's fault. It's all Qiao Xi's fault."

Xia Cheng choked on his words and almost fainted. The foundation that he had worked so hard for his entire life was ruined just like that. The Xia family's reputation was ruined, and they were despised by everyone because of Xia Mengyan, Xia Yunlou, and Ai Sumei.

The taste of blood rose in his throat, and his chest felt stuffy. His vision darkened, and he fainted.

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On the other hand, Qiao Xi had just left New City Mall when she saw a tall man standing there. At this moment, Shen Yu had already taken off his human skin mask and stood in the crowd, looking especially dazzling. Many fans noticed Shen Yu and hurriedly went up to ask for his autograph. He smiled gently and signed autographs for every fan.

This was the first time many fans had seen Shen Yu in person. They were extremely excited. "Are you here to participate in a variety show?"

Shen Yu smiled and replied, "It's just a small event, not a recording."

The fans asked in surprise, "Are you attending the opening ceremony of the New City Mall?"

Qiao Xi was hiding in a corner when she heard Shen Yu pretend to be puzzled and say, "What's New City Mall? I've never heard of it! I'm here to attend a private gathering. I hope you guys won't tell anyone about seeing me here."

His tone was sincere and gentle. The fans present nodded crazily in agreement. No one would have thought that this gentle-looking Best Actor was pretending to be a member of the Luo family in New City Mall just now!

The fans held their autographs and said goodbye to Shen Yu excitedly. Shen Yu said softly to his manager, "It's about time. We should go to the gathering."

The manager looked at Shen Yu in confusion, then his eyes were filled with admiration. As expected of the Best Actor! His acting skills were natural!

Shen Yu revealed an indifferent smile. As soon as he raised his eyes, he saw Qiao Xi's figure. He quickly walked over and asked softly, "How is it? Are you satisfied?"

Qiao Xi nodded.

Shen Yu looked up in the direction of the New City Mall. "Why are you out so soon? Xia Cheng didn't stop you from leaving? Shouldn't he be looking for you to settle scores?"

Qiao Xi replied casually, "They're all so anxious that they don't have the mood to care about me! When I came out, I think I heard that Chairman Xia fainted. The Xia family should be in chaos now."

The smile on Shen Yu's face widened.

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Longwan Residential.

After Qiao Xi returned home, she took out her phone. As expected, as soon as she went online, she saw the news about the incident at New City Mall. At this moment, the Xia family's reputation had been ruined. Coupled with the fact that they had offended the Luo family, they were in grave danger.

The netizens stood up and criticized the Xia family for their crimes. Some of their competitors also scolded them online. However, Xia Cheng hadn't fainted, so he couldn't do anything about it.

Now that Xia Cheng was unconscious and the Xia family had lost their decision-maker, it seemed that they were already in a state of disunity.

The next day.

Qiao Xi was resting at home when Song Shiyu and the servants walked up to her with a few gowns. "Madam, the He family is holding a charity banquet tonight and invited you and the president. These are the gowns prepared for you."

She put down the book in her hand and raised her eyes slightly. She casually pointed at a simple gown and frowned. "Why is He Weinian suddenly holding a charity banquet?"

"Actually, He Weinian holds a charity banquet almost every year, but the timing is not fixed. He has invited many guests, and all the famous people in Li City will attend."

Qiao Xi sneered. "When the He family was in Li City, they were considered a middle-level wealthy family. Now that they're back after so many years, how did they manage to invite so many people to the charity banquet?"

Song Shiyu's lips curled into a mocking smile. "Because He Weinian has a good reputation! He's very popular in Li City now! Although the He family's business isn't as good as before, he donates at least 100 million yuan every year. This isn't a small sum for the He family."

Qiao Xi said thoughtfully, "Could it be that he just wants a good reputation, so..."

"It's not that simple." Song Shiyu's expression was subtle as he raised his eyebrows and said, "Do you really think they'll take out such a large sum of money to donate? Then what will the He family use to spend? Actually, that money has never left the He family."

1286 Special Ceremony

Qiao Xi abruptly sat up straight and widened her eyes. "How is this possible?"

Could it be that the He family had been putting on an act all these years? If they did not want to donate, they could just not hold a charity banquet. However, they insisted on holding it every year. Was it just for their reputation?

Song Shiyu looked up and explained, "The He family is constantly promoting a kind image for the He family. They donate to the mountains to build schools and repair roads. Everyone says that they're kind, but who knows if the money they donated actually goes to building schools?"

"He Weinian holds charity banquets every year and uses his position to take a portion of the money. Not only does he earn a reputation, but he also earns a lot. It's really killing two birds with one stone."

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Qiao Xi chuckled. "In that case, He Weinian wants both reputation and money. I thought he had no desires!"

"But the He family doesn't deposit the money in the bank or change it into cash. Instead, they exchange it for gold and jewelry and hide it in the He family," Song Shiyu added.

Qiao Xi nodded. Gold was valuable no matter what, but why did the He family exchange all their money for gold? After all, gold was not as convenient as cash.

Song Shiyu was about to say something when he suddenly saw the man standing outside the door. He immediately left.

Qiao Xi was just about to turn around when the man hugged her from behind. His long fingers gently landed on her fair neck, and a cold touch assaulted her.

"How beautiful."

Qiao Xi looked in the mirror. She did not wear makeup, but her lips were red and her teeth were white. She wore a sparkling ruby necklace on her fair neck. The design was ingenious. The ruby was pure without a trace of impurity, and it was as gorgeous as blood.

With her identity as a jewelry designer, she could tell that this necklace was probably worth hundreds of millions. However, she seemed to have seen this necklace somewhere before.

Before she could react, she heard Gu Zheng whisper in her ear, "Five years ago, the Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor donated a necklace called 'Scorching Heart'. I think this necklace suits you very well."

“Xi Xi, do you like this gift?”

Qiao Xi’s expression instantly stiffened: “...” It turned out that she was the one who donated this necklace!

Hence, Gu Zheng must know that she was the Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor and deliberately bought this necklace!

Qiao Xi raised her eyes slightly, and her face was slightly red. “I do, but won’t I look too ostentatious wearing this necklace to attend the charity banquet?!”

“Xi Xi, you should know that there’ll be a special ceremony at the charity banquet, right?” Gu Zheng smiled meaningfully.

Special ceremony?

Qiao Xi recalled that the charity banquet was actually an occasion for many big shots to compete with each other. Everyone wanted to display their noble status, so they would put in the effort to wear expensive jewelry or watches to the charity banquet. Then, they would donate their things in public to earn a good reputation.

Gu Zheng’s slightly cold finger landed on her neck and stroked it. “Xi Xi, you can donate this necklace tonight.”

She was willing to donate it. As long as she could help those who were really in trouble, of course, she would not be stingy, but...

“The He family holds charity banquets every year. But in the end, is that money really used for the construction of schools?”

“Xi Xi, you’re starting to suspect something too, right?” Gu Zheng’s tone was calm, but his eyes were filled with a sharp coldness. “Of course, they don’t hold charity banquets to show their love but to fill their pockets. All that money from previous banquets is still kept in the He family.”

Judging from He Weinian’s character, the man must only believe in himself. It was safest to keep the money by his side.

Qiao Xi suddenly thought of something. “You want to donate this necklace because you want to track the money using it?”

“How smart!” Gu Zheng rubbed her head with a gentle smile.

Qiao Xi immediately took off the necklace and carefully examined it. In the end, she noticed something on one of the gems. She raised her eyes in surprise. “This gem has been dismantled!”

Gu Zheng had personally done the work. Ordinary people were unable to notice this slight difference. Only the original owner of the necklace, Qiao Xi, was able to notice this slight difference.

“But Song Shiyu said that He Weinian will exchange some of his money for gold. How can you be sure that he won’t sell this necklace?” Qiao Xi asked.

Gu Zheng replied confidently, “This necklace is different. It’s extremely valuable. He Weinian is a businessman and will maximize his benefits. Wouldn’t it be a waste to exchange the necklace for gold?”

“That’s why I’m sure that He Weinian will definitely put this necklace in the He family’s treasure vault. At that time, we’ll know the exact location of the He family’s treasure vault.”

1287 He’s Really An Actor

Qiao Xi understood and revealed a sweet smile. “Then I’ll wear the necklace to the charity banquet! Not only that, but I also want to invite someone. If he goes, He Weinian will absolutely not sell this necklace.”

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In the He family’s villa.

He Wenying read the news about the Xia family’s scandal and looked at the photo of Xia Yunlou. However, it seemed that the He family had not found out her secret and did not suspect her for the time being. She could heave a sigh of relief.

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At this moment, the He family were gathered together to discuss the charity banquet. He Wenying never attended such meetings. Even if she wanted to attend, the He family would probably use all sorts of reasons to reject her.

She turned on her computer and tapped into the surveillance device. She could hear their conversation.

He Weinian said seriously, “Tingchen, as the future heir of the He family, you must perform well at tonight’s banquet. Nothing must happen.”

He Tingchen agreed. “I understand, Dad. But are you sure you want to donate that valuable item?”

“Tingchen!” He Weinian berated. “So what if it’s expensive? As long as it can help with the construction of schools, it’s worth it! Moreover, our He family is the organizer of this charity banquet. If we don’t take the lead in donating, why would others donate?”

“The luxury car under your name is valued at ten million yuan. This sum of money is enough to cover the expenses of a child in school for a few years! Tingchen, as the heir of the He family, you should broaden your horizons and not only look at benefits.”

He Tingchen felt a little guilty and looked at He Weinian in admiration. “Father, you’re right. I was too narrow-minded.”

On the other hand, He Wenying listened to the voice coming from her earpiece with a look of disdain. He Weinian still had the cheek to say such things. He was really a drama queen!

Everyone in the He family was smart. Only He Tingchen was silly enough to believe He Weinian’s nonsense.

He Weinian’s voice came from the earpiece again. “Wenxian is donating a necklace this time. Speaking of which, she’s quite fated with this necklace. She donated it previously and didn’t expect to find it again. The market value is 120 million.”

He Tingchen was so ashamed that his face turned red. “Wenxian, you’re too kind. I have to learn more from you.”

He Wenxian smiled gently. “Brother, it’s nothing. I’m usually busy with work, so it’s not convenient for me to wear such expensive jewelry. Instead of leaving it to gather dust in my jewelry box, I might as well donate it to help the children in the mountains.”

“What necklace can be so expensive?” He Tingchen asked.

He Wenxian said casually, “The ruby necklace called ‘Scorching Heart’.”

“Then what is Yin Yin donating? Why didn’t you ask her to come over and discuss it?” Only then did He Tingchen remember that the siblings were both here except for He Wenying.

He Weinian’s gaze changed as he replied indifferently, “It doesn’t matter what Yin Yin donates. She’s just a child. No one will find faults with her. Moreover, I’ve already prepared something for her. If she’s willing, she can donate it.”

“Yin Yin is playful. I don’t know where she went. Anyway, it’s not a big deal, so I didn’t ask her to come over. She probably doesn’t pay attention to such things, so let’s not disturb her.”

He Tingchen frowned. “She’s not young anymore. She can’t always be so playful. If she continues to be like this, she’ll become a wild child.”

He Wenyin was speechless when she heard this. Only by being playful could the He family be at ease. If she suddenly became studious, the He family would probably not tolerate her anymore.

Five minutes later, He Tingchen left the study, leaving He Wenxian and the He couple alone.

He Weinian looked at the door, and the kindness in his eyes instantly vanished. He removed his hypocritical mask. "Wenxian, your brother is kind-hearted. He definitely won't be able to accept what we're doing. You must not let him know."

He Wenxian nodded obediently. "Dad, don't worry. I won't say anything. One day, Brother will understand your painstaking efforts and accept us."

He Weinian smiled in relief. "Wenxian, donate that necklace. Of course, the He family will get it back later. You just have to arrange for the necklace to go through the motions in front of everyone. I'll handle the rest."

"Dad, we've been holding charity banquets all these years. After returning to Li City, we've done so many good things. Tomorrow when I donate 'Scorching Heart', the He family will definitely become kind people in everyone's hearts!" He Wenxian's voice was filled with joy.

He Wenyin turned off the surveillance and lazily leaned against the sofa with her eyes closed.

1288 He Wenxian Encounters A Dead End

At eight in the evening, the guests gradually entered the banquet hall. He Weinian and Madam He were talking to the guests in the center of the banquet hall with gentle smiles on their faces.

He Wenxian and He Wenyin were chatting with a group of young masters and young ladies from high society. The scene was very lively.

On the other hand, Gu Zheng had already entered a spacious and luxurious private room through a special passage. When He Weinian heard that Gu Zheng had arrived, he immediately abandoned everyone and went upstairs. As soon as he saw him, he greeted him warmly. "President Gu, I'm really happy that you're here!"

Madam He smiled gently and even instructed the servants to bring pastries and fruit tea to Qiao Xi. She asked Qiao Xi not to be restrained and to treat this as her own home.

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It had to be said that these two people acted very well. Even Qiao Xi was almost

deceived by their hypocritical appearance. The He family was skilled at pretending to be kind.

After they left, Qiao Xi leaned against the sofa and took out the necklace from her bag. She was about to put it on when the voices of passersby came from outside.

“Have you heard of the Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor?”

“Of course, I’ve heard of her. She repaired that incomplete scroll and caused a sensation in the industry!”

“I wonder which family nurtured her? Not only did she repair the damaged scroll, but she also donated an expensive ruby necklace. I think it’s called Scorching Heart.”

“I heard that the necklace is worth more than 100 million yuan. I wonder who got it? I really want to see what that necklace looks like. Is it really as shockingly beautiful as the rumors say?”

Qiao Xi pricked up her ears and smiled in embarrassment when she heard everyone’s praise. It seemed that everyone had heard of this necklace. If they knew that the Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor was sitting here, they would definitely break the threshold.

Could it be that in order to get He Weinian to keep this necklace, Gu Zheng specially released the news of it? When the time came and this necklace stunned everyone, it would naturally not be convenient for He Weinian to sell it.

Qiao Xi was just about to ask Gu Zheng when a voice suddenly sounded from outside the door again. “We’ll be able to see Scorching Heart today because that necklace is in He Wenxian’s hands!”

Qiao Xi’s expression suddenly stiffened, then she couldn’t help but roll her eyes.

“The He family donates so much money every year and has always lived a simple life. Why did Miss He still buy such an expensive necklace?”

“What’s strange about it? The He family has so many businesses both domestically and overseas. They definitely have the money to buy that necklace. Moreover, they bought this necklace to donate, not to show off.”

“Really? Miss He is donating Scorching Heart?”

Everyone’s voices were filled with surprise and admiration. “The He family is too kind and loving! They’ve been benevolent for so many years. They’ve donated loads and even arrange for other businessmen to donate. A family like the He family deserves to be rich.”

Hearing everyone's discussion, Qiao Xi looked at the necklace in the box and sneered in her heart. He Wenxian was in trouble this time.

She had donated this necklace as the Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor. Moreover, she designed it with Lu Zhi when she was in Liuli. Others might not have seen this necklace, but as the original owner of the necklace, how could she not tell if it was real or fake?

Moreover, this necklace was bought by Gu Zheng for her. How could Gu Zheng have given her a fake? Hence, it was obvious that the necklace in He Wenxian's hand was a fake.

Perhaps He Wenxian knew that the necklace in her hand was fake. She did this only to add to the He family's reputation. She wanted everyone to know that the He family was benevolent and was willing to donate such a valuable necklace.

Qiao Xi pondered for a moment before her eyes suddenly lit up. "Ah Zheng, I'm going out to take a breather."

"Why? Is it very stuffy here? Or do you have something else to do?" Gu Zheng looked at her with interest. His eyes seemed to have seen through her thoughts.

Qiao Xi's expression remained unchanged as she blinked innocently. "What's wrong? It's very lively outside, so I want to go out to take a look. Do you think I'd hit on someone in the banquet hall?"

Gu Zheng stared at her for a few seconds, then looked away and curled his lips slightly. "Xi Xi, I heard that a jewelry appraiser will be coming tonight. This master has already settled down overseas, but he suddenly returned a year ago. Do you know about this?"

Qiao Xi squeezed out a smile and replied gently, "I do!"

"I also heard that the master has seen 'Scorching Heart'."

Qiao Xi still maintained her smile, but she did not speak. The two of them quietly looked at each other until Gu Zheng's ears turned red and he looked away. "Go play."

1289 The Unique Necklace

With Gu Zheng's permission, Qiao Xi happily left. She had just left when Gu Zheng's entire body instantly emitted a strong chill.

"Returned to the country a year ago?"

Song Shiyu could feel the coldness in his tone and said considerately, "President, I'll go see who that jewelry appraiser is!"

Gu Zheng smiled coldly. "Go ahead."

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Song Shiyu patted his chest and promised, "President, don't worry. I won't let him snatch Young Madam away!"

Gu Zheng: "..."

At this moment, the banquet hall was still extremely lively.

As the charity banquet was held by the He family, He Wenxian became the focus of the banquet. Everyone surrounded her and chatted.

The He family did not hide anything and told everyone in advance that they would display 'Scorching Heart' today. Hence, most of the guests came today to see this expensive necklace. Everyone saw the dazzling ruby necklace on He Wenxian's neck at a glance.

On the other hand, Qiao Xi sat in a corner and quietly looked at He Wenxian, who was in the crowd.

"Oh my God! This necklace is too beautiful. No wonder it fetched a price of 120 million last time!"

"To be honest, only a generous socialite like Miss He is qualified to wear such an expensive necklace. Even if others wear it, they definitely won't look as elegant and beautiful as Miss He."

He Wenxian smiled in embarrassment. "Thank you for your praise, but I'm not wearing this necklace to show off at the banquet today. I'm donating it."

Everyone widened their eyes and looked at He Wenxian in surprise.

"Miss He, are you really willing to donate Scorching Heart?"

He Wenxian smiled gently. "What's there to be reluctant about? My father has been dedicated to charity for so many years. Moreover, this charity banquet is mainly for the construction of schools on the mountains. This requires a lot of money. As my father's child, I naturally have to support him and do my best to contribute to the construction of schools. This necklace is just a precious accessory to me. It won't affect me even if I don't wear it. However, to the children on the mountains, it might change their lives or even the entire village!

"I feel very honored to be able to contribute to the construction of schools on the mountains!"

At this point, He Wenxian felt a little guilty. "Actually, compared to my father, what I'm doing is insignificant. Everyone knows that my father holds charity banquets every year. He started preparing almost a month in advance. He often tells us that money is just a worldly possession and that we have to be kind at all times."

Qiao Xi: "... " These words sounded very touching, but when they came from He Wenxian's mouth, they made one feel nauseous.

Perhaps it was because the He family had indeed done many good deeds all these years, so when He Wenxian said these words, no one felt that it was inappropriate. Moreover, it further solidified the kind image of the He family in their hearts.

Everyone was very impressed with He Wenxian. After all, there was no woman who did not like jewelry. Moreover, it was such a precious necklace. If it were them, they would not bear to donate such a precious thing.

"Miss He, Scorching Heart fetched a price of 120 million previously. Did Chairman He bid for it and give it to you?"

He Wenxian nodded without hesitation. "Yes."

120 million was the price four years ago. At that time, the mysterious buyer did not appear and directly bid for Scorching Heart. The He family investigated and found out that the mysterious buyer had gone overseas. After that, there was no more news of Scorching Heart.

The He family had been looking for this necklace for many years. Presumably, this necklace was either far away overseas or had long been abandoned in the transportation process. In short, it was almost impossible for it to appear again. Hence, the necklace He Wenxian was wearing naturally became Scorching Heart. Moreover, no one would suspect anything.

"The auction will be held in an hour. I wonder who will bid for Scorching Heart. If no one offers a suitable price, they can bring it to the auction house in the capital. The price will definitely be higher than 120 million."

"Of course, 120 million was the price four years ago. With the value of Scorching Heart, it's at least 150 million now. Moreover, this necklace was originally donated by the Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor!"

"What? A unique piece?" Someone exclaimed, "In other words, this necklace is unique through and through. There's no second piece in the world that's like it!"

Scorching Heart's design was very ingenious. The embedding of each gem was very unique. Ordinary craftsmen could not replicate it at all. Moreover, even if they could, they could not afford the expensive gems.

1290 Wearing Fake Goods Is Embarrassing!

He Wenxian said gently, "That's right, it's a unique piece. Moreover, the gems on the necklace are unique. You can't find anything more perfect than this."

"Look..." Suddenly, someone pointed not far away and said in surprise, "The necklace that lady is wearing seems to be... the same as Miss He's necklace?"

Everyone immediately turned around. He Wenxian's heart trembled as she hurriedly turned around.

Qiao Xi was leaning against the sofa alone. She was wearing a pearl-white dress that revealed her shoulders. It was simple but luxurious. What was even more eye-catching was the necklace around her neck. It flickered with a red light, accentuating her snow-white skin. She looked like a fairy who had descended to the mortal world.

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That necklace was almost identical to Miss He's!

"Why is there another one?"

"The He family wouldn't lie, right? But that lady is wearing the same necklace. What exactly is going on?"

"Which family is that lady from?"

As the daughter of the He family and the person wearing a piece of jewelry that was worth more than 100 million yuan, He Wenxian was naturally the most eye-catching person here. However, there was a lady in the banquet hall who was wearing the same necklace as her. Since it was a unique piece, one of them must be fake.

The instant He Wenxian saw Qiao Xi, her heart seemed to have been dealt a heavy blow. Could it be that Qiao Xi's necklace was real?

Impossible! Her father gave her the necklace, which meant that he was sure that the real Scorching Heart would not appear. Moreover, the mysterious person who bought that necklace back then had long left the country. It was impossible for the buyer to be Gu Zheng.

He Wenxian's expression softened a little as she gradually calmed down.

Everyone stared at Qiao Xi. Actually, she rarely attended high society gatherings. Coincidentally, none of the socialites and young masters present today had seen her before, so when they saw her wearing the ruby necklace, they instantly thought that the necklace she was wearing was fake.

Just as someone was about to ask He Wenxian about this lady's identity, He Wenxian warmly went forward to greet her. "Xi Xi, when did you come? Why didn't you look for me?"

Qiao Xi raised her eyes and smiled at He Wenxian without saying anything.

Faced with Qiao Xi's cold attitude, the smile on He Wenxian's face was slightly stiff. "What? You came alone?"

The socialite beside her frowned and asked, "Wenxian, who is she?"

"She..." He Wenxian was a little hesitant. If she said that Qiao Xi was Gu Zheng's wife, everyone present would naturally think highly of her. Hence, she changed the topic and said, "All of you have heard of the Xia family, right? She's Madam Xia Yunqiu's adopted daughter."

Everyone here had never seen Qiao Xi before, but they had all heard of the Xia family's scandal. Someone had pretended to be Xia Yunlou, and the real Xia Yunlou's whereabouts were unknown. Now that Qiao Xi was no longer Xia Yunlou's biological daughter, she could naturally only consider herself Xia Yunqiu's adopted daughter.

In everyone's opinion, a woman with such an identity was not qualified to attend high society banquets. Moreover, how could such a woman bid for a necklace worth more than 100 million? Even if she was really rich, how could she have snatched something from the He family?

One was the eldest daughter of the He family, while the other was the adopted daughter of a declining family. Yet, the two of them were wearing the same necklace. It was already very obvious who was telling the truth.

At this moment, someone said sarcastically, "If you can't afford expensive jewelry, you can choose not to wear it! Otherwise, everyone will laugh at you for wearing a fake! How embarrassing!"

"She probably didn't know that Miss He would wear Scorching Heart to the banquet. This is too awkward."

He Wenxian's eyes were filled with helplessness and heartache. She waved at the people who were talking, then took a few steps forward, bent down, and said softly, "Xi Xi, I think you must have been deceived. There are many fake goods on the market, and ordinary people won't be able to distinguish them. If you really like this necklace, I'll lend it to you to wear first. Take off this fake one first."

With that, He Wenxian immediately wanted to take off her necklace.

Qiao Xi raised her eyes and glanced at her. Why was He Wenxian pretending in front of her?! She clearly knew that she was Gu Zheng's wife, yet she did not tell them. Instead, she said that she was from the Xia family. Did she think that without Gu Zheng's identity, she would have no one to rely on?

He Wenxian stared fixedly at Qiao Xi. Even if Qiao Xi said that she was Gu Zheng's wife, it was too late. After all, everyone already suspected that she was wearing a fake. Since no one had seen the real Scorching Heart, it would depend on who everyone believed.

She took off the necklace and handed it to Qiao Xi with a gentle smile. "Xi Xi, I'll lend you my necklace first."

He Wenxian's kind actions made the other socialites jealous. They also wanted to wear it. After all, it was the dream of all girls. What right did that woman who brought a fake here have to wear it so easily?