

Lady Gu Is Too Weak To Fend For Herself

- Chapter 1291 - 1300

1291 My Sister Is Beautiful And Kind

“Xi Xi is my friend,” He Wenxian explained to everyone, then looked at Qiao Xi gently. “Xi Xi, I’m donating this necklace later. Before I donate it, you can wear this necklace. It’s okay.”

He Wenxian’s words made everyone even more sure that this woman was wearing a fake. The only necklace in the world appeared on two women at the same time. One of them must be wearing a fake. The eldest daughter of the He family had a noble status and was the organizer of the charity banquet. She even wanted to donate this necklace. Of course, the necklace she was wearing could not be fake. There were so many pieces of expensive jewelry, so why did she have to wear a fake to ruin her reputation?

The socialites and noblewomen thought that they had noble statuses and looked down on people who wore fake goods the most. Moreover, Qiao Xi was exposed on such an important occasion. She would be treated as a joke by everyone in high society.

Moreover, He Wenxian said that this woman was her friend, but this woman ignored her. She knew that the two of them were wearing the same necklace, but she had no intention of taking it off. Perhaps she had long known that He Wenxian wanted to wear Scorching Heart to the banquet, so she deliberately wore a fake to cause trouble.

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A trace of bright light flashed through He Wenxian’s eyes. If Qiao Xi had not worn this necklace today, she wouldn’t have bothered to bicker with her. After all, in front of everyone, she had to maintain her gentle and understanding image at all times. However, she was wearing Scorching Heart now and was about to donate it. If others realized that her necklace was fake, she would definitely be mocked.

She absolutely would not allow such a thing to happen, so she could only blame Qiao Xi for being unlucky. She could have worn any jewelry, but she just had to wear the same one as her.

He Wenxian curled her lips and said softly, “Xi Xi, don’t be shy. I’ll bring you to the lounge now. Wear my necklace...”

Qiao Xi paid no attention to her. She just glanced lazily and casually at her as if she didn’t take He Wenxian seriously at all.

Mocking laughter came from around her, but she pretended not to hear it. After a moment of silence, she chuckled. “Miss He, how can you be sure that I’m wearing a fake?”

He Wenxian’s expression froze, and her tone carried a trace of bewitchment. “Xi Xi, there are so many people in the banquet hall. Why don’t we talk in the lounge?”

As soon as she finished speaking, He Wenxian stretched out her hand to pull Qiao Xi back, but she was flung away by Qiao Xi. Qiao Xi’s gaze shifted and swept past a figure in front of her.

He Wenxian’s expression was a little ugly as she pursed her lips tightly. The people beside her could not stand it anymore and hurriedly stood up to defend the injustice. “You really don’t know what’s good for you! You’re clearly wearing a fake, so Wenxian wanted to save you some dignity and decided to lend you her necklace. It’s fine if you don’t thank her, but you still dare to be so arrogant?”

“This is the He family’s charity banquet. Who do you think you are to dare to throw a tantrum at the eldest daughter of the He family? This necklace is unique. One of the two identical necklaces must be fake. Miss He is the daughter of the He family. How could she wear a fake to attend her own charity banquet?”

“That’s right! Miss He even wants to donate the necklace! It’s absolutely impossible for her to wear a fake!”

Qiao Xi lazily leaned against the sofa and did not care about everyone’s accusations in the slightest. Her gaze had already drifted ahead. He Wenyin was sitting and chatting with a few rich young ladies. They had also heard the commotion here.

He Wenyin looked over and stood up abruptly. “My sister is beautiful and kind-hearted. She clearly knows that that woman is wearing a fake, but she didn’t expose her and still offered to lend her the necklace.

“My sister is the eldest daughter of the He family. She’s so rich and noble. How could she be wearing a fake? My sister is definitely wearing the real one!”

The young ladies beside her were instantly stunned. One of the socialites who was close to He Wenyin asked with a subtle expression, “Yin Yin, who taught you these words?”

He Wenyin retorted in a panic, “No! It’s all my own thoughts!”

Actually, these young ladies all knew that He Wenyin was innocent and ignorant. He Wenxian must have taught her to say these words. Although she was telling the truth, no one expected a gentle and kind woman like He Wenxian to use her innocent sister. She got He Wenyin to say in public that she was beautiful and kind-hearted, while she

stood behind He Wenyin and pretended to be humble. She wanted to maintain a noble image in front of everyone.

He Wenxian was not as gentle as she looked on the surface. In fact, she was actually very scheming.

He Wenyin saw the doubt in the ladies' eyes and lowered her eyes to smile.

Chapter 1292 Jewelry Appraisal Master

On the other hand, He Wenxian's expression was slightly cold when she saw that Qiao Xi was stubborn, but her tone was still gentle. "Xi Xi, it's useless even if you don't admit it now. After all, it's not good for your reputation!"

Qiao Xi raised her eyes and looked at He Wenxian with a subtle gaze.

He Wenxian smiled confidently. Although her necklace was not the real one, Qiao Xi's necklace was definitely fake as well. She knew that Qiao Xi was a jewelry designer, but so what? Who said that jewelry designers could not wear fakes? Perhaps she was the one who imitated it and was confident that she could make it look real. Unexpectedly, something went wrong.

Qiao Xi suddenly spoke with an extremely calm tone, "Miss He, what should I admit to? Why must you force me to admit it? If you suspect that my necklace is fake, you can get a professional to appraise it. We'll know the truth then."

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Everyone suddenly reacted. They might not be able to tell if the jewelry was real or fake, but there were professional jewelry appraisers. Everyone here would know if the necklace was real or fake after getting someone to check it.

Someone voiced out, "But... very few people have seen Scorching Heart. If someone hasn't seen it before, how can they judge if it's real or fake? I don't think the gems on Miss Qiao's necklace look fake. If the gems are all real, but there's a small difference in the necklace, who will be able to tell?"

Even so, everyone still thought that the necklace Qiao Xi was wearing was fake. Presumably, Qiao Xi had spent a lot of money to replicate this necklace, but a fake was a fake. She was clearly here today to ruin the scene!

"Then who do you think is suitable to appraise it, Miss Qiao? If you casually find an appraiser, we won't be able to tell if the necklace is real or fake."

Qiao Xi's eyes were bright like stars as she gently swirled the contents of the glass in her hand with a carefree appearance.

He Wenxian seemed to be in a dilemma. "This idea isn't..."

"Wenxian, quickly get the bodyguards to pull this woman to the lounge and get her to take off the necklace. Don't let her cause trouble in the banquet hall anymore. You've already given her face, but she doesn't know what's good for her!"

Qiao Xi said indifferently, "Miss He, you concluded that my necklace is fake, and you even want to chase me out of the banquet hall. The threshold for this He family's charity banquet is quite high!"

Everyone could hear Qiao Xi's strange tone. Before He Wenxian could speak, a young lady who was trying to curry favor with her stood up to defend the injustice. "Miss Qiao, you should know that you have to donate money or things to attend the charity banquet. What are you donating? Could it be that it's the fake necklace you're wearing? If you don't have any expensive jewelry, you can choose not to wear it. Why would you wear a fake to the banquet? Who are you trying to disgust?"

"You're just afraid of losing your dignity if you don't admit it, but even if you don't admit it, we'll still believe Miss He. After all, you're just—"

Before she could finish, a clear and hearty voice came from afar. However, there was a trace of impatience in this voice. "Why are you so noisy?!"

The huge banquet hall instantly fell silent. The daughters beside He Wenxian exclaimed. They all recognized the young and handsome man in front of them—Cheng Juan, the jewelry appraiser.

Cheng Juan looked to be in his 20s, but he was already an internationally renowned jewelry appraiser who had won countless awards overseas. Moreover, he had never made a mistake in his career. He very quickly became a top figure in the jewelry industry.

A year ago, he returned to the country to develop his career and had been operating in the capital. What everyone was most afraid of was not him but the noble families who were inextricably linked to him. Cheng Juan was protected by those noble families, so no one dared to easily offend him.

The young lady's name was Lan Rong. When she saw Cheng Juan appear, she immediately cowered and said while trembling, "M-Mr. Cheng, I'm really sorry to have disturbed you."

As soon as she finished speaking, she glared at Qiao Xi unwillingly and said in a hoarse voice, "If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have spoken so loudly. It's all your fault for disturbing Mr. Cheng!"

Qiao Xi was speechless to the extreme. This woman was so good at pushing the blame. How could Qiao Xi be blamed for such a small matter?

After a few seconds of silence, everyone's eyes landed on Cheng Juan. Didn't Miss Qiao want to find a professional to appraise it? Mr. Cheng was the top jewelry appraiser and had never made a mistake. Moreover, with his strength and reputation, he would definitely be able to differentiate the two necklaces.

Lan Rong knew that Cheng Juan's identity was extraordinary. Afraid of offending him, she hurriedly explained, "Mr. Cheng, I shouldn't have made a fuss, but I just couldn't stand it anymore."

Chapter 1293 Miss He, Are You Afraid?

"It's all because of her! She wore a fake Scorching Heart to attend the charity banquet. Miss He thought that this occasion was special and it was not suitable for her to wear a fake, so she advised this lady to take off the fake necklace to avoid embarrassing herself later. However, not only did she not listen to Miss He, but she even said that her necklace is genuine. She means to say that the necklace Miss He is wearing is fake!"

Hearing Lan Rong's words, Cheng Juan, who was about to leave, stopped in his tracks. He slowly turned around, and his gaze landed on He Wenxian's necklace. "Scorching Heart?"

He Wenxian was not nervous at all. Cheng Juan was an honored guest invited by her father. Her father must have already made plans. If they really got it appraised on the spot, Cheng Juan would not hesitate to say that her necklace was the real thing.

Moreover, Cheng Juan had worked with her father before. Since he agreed to attend the charity banquet, he must be extremely respectful to her father. He naturally would not speak up for outsiders.

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If Cheng Juan said in public that Qiao Xi's necklace was a fake, then Qiao Xi would not be able to explain herself.

He Wenxian's eyes narrowed slightly as she looked at Qiao Xi with slight pride. Her father had always reminded her not to become enemies with Qiao Xi, but she was truly unable to control herself. What right did Qiao Xi have to occupy the position of Mrs. Gu? What right did she have to stand by Gu Zheng's side? What was so good about her?

He Wenxian originally thought that she could renew her relationship with Gu Zheng after returning to the country this time, but she did not expect that Gu Zheng would have gotten married a long time ago. Moreover, the two of them were very close now. She had to hide the emotions in her heart at all times and respectfully call Qiao Xi 'Mrs. Gu'. She even had to give a wedding gift to please Qiao Xi.

She was indignant!

Now, she could not openly become enemies with Qiao Xi, but she could make Qiao Xi make a fool of herself in public and let everyone know that Qiao Xi was utterly unqualified to be Gu Zheng's wife. She could watch her reputation be ruined. When the time was right, she could kick Qiao Xi away and become the woman standing by Gu Zheng's side.

Her thoughts quickly occupied her mind like a monstrous fire. He Wenxian looked away and said gently, "That's right, it's Scorching Heart."

A trace of surprise flashed past Cheng Juan's eyes as his gaze landed on her necklace.

Lan Rong, who was at the side, immediately provoked him. "Mr. Cheng, Wenxian's necklace is the real deal. Miss Qiao is wearing a fake. This is an insult to the charity banquet. She doesn't take the He family seriously at all.

"Moreover, she must have known that you would be attending the banquet, but she still decided to wear a fake in front of a noble jewelry appraiser like you. She's clearly disrespecting you!"

Cheng Juan raised his eyes slightly and looked at Qiao Xi. His tone carried a trace of playfulness. "She's wearing a fake?"

For some reason, He Wenxian became inexplicably nervous when she heard Cheng Juan's voice. She hoped that Cheng Juan would quickly come to a conclusion. She wanted to see Qiao Xi lose all her dignity and be chased out by everyone.

Cheng Juan smiled brightly. "Miss Qiao, do you know what will happen if you wear fake jewelry in front of me?"

Everyone looked at Qiao Xi in unison. Her back was straight, and her figure was extremely perfect. The gorgeous ruby necklace made her skin look snow-white, and her entire body was glowing.

"I'm not too sure." Qiao Xi shook her head indifferently.

Cheng Juan smiled. "Looks like you're very confident, Miss Qiao."

Qiao Xi blinked and said casually, "Because I'm sure that my necklace is real. It's just that everyone else has publicly concluded that my necklace is fake. Isn't this too arbitrary?"

Everyone was instantly stunned. Cheng Juan was already here, yet she still refused to admit it? What right did she have to be sure that her necklace was real?

He Wenxian subconsciously glanced at Cheng Juan, gritted her teeth, and continued to drive a wedge between them. “Xi Xi, how can you say that in front of Mr. Cheng?! Mr. Cheng will decide which necklace is real and which is fake. It’s better if you don’t—”

“Since that’s the case, why waste your breath, Miss He? Just get Mr. Cheng to appraise it as soon as possible. I think Mr. Cheng won’t refuse if you ask him. Or are you afraid and deliberately stalling for time?” Qiao Xi interrupted her mercilessly with a trace of ridicule in her tone.

He Wenxian’s heart trembled. She originally thought that Qiao Xi did not dare to get the necklaces appraised and was just thinking about how to get Qiao Xi to agree. Unexpectedly, Qiao Xi jumped into her trap herself.

He Wenxian wanted Cheng Juan to do the appraisal and give the final conclusion in front of everyone, but she was the gentle and kind eldest daughter of the He family. She could not force Qiao Xi openly. However, not only did Qiao Xi agree, but she was also anxious to do the appraisal.

Could it be that Qiao Xi did not know that since the He family was able to invite Cheng Juan, it meant that Cheng Juan was close to the He family and he would help the He family instead of an outsider like Qiao Xi?

Chapter 1294 Nothing Can Be Done Without Rules

He Wenxian shook her head helplessly. “Xi Xi, I have nothing to be afraid of. Since you’re strongly requesting an appraisal, I’ll have to trouble you, Mr. Cheng.”

Cheng Juan raised his eyes to glance at Qiao Xi before slowly asking, “Are you sure you want me to do an appraisal?”

His voice was gentle and a little hoarse. It carried a unique male charm, making the women present blush. He Wenxian smiled in embarrassment. “Mr. Cheng, I don’t want to waste your time, but this is no small matter. If you don’t come forward to appraise the two necklaces, there won’t be a conclusion today. Since Xi Xi has agreed, please appraise the necklaces.”

Lan Rong echoed, “That’s right. Only Mr. Cheng’s appraisal results can convince Miss Qiao. Those who don’t know might think that we’ve wronged her!”

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Cheng Juan smiled and said in a gentle voice, “Everyone should know my rules.”

Most people had heard of Mr. Cheng’s rules. He had never made a mistake in his career and could not tolerate anything. Hence, his rule was that once a fake was discovered, it would be mercilessly destroyed on the spot. It did not matter who it belonged to or how much it was worth.

Back then, a young miss from the capital was attending a banquet and happened to wear the same brooch as a lady. At that time, the young miss insisted on appraising it. In the end, the young miss' brooch was fake. Cheng Juan ignored the young miss' scream and smashed the brooch on the spot.

The entire venue was in an uproar, but ever since then, he became famous in the industry and everyone naturally knew about his special rules.

He Wenxian had no objections. Since Cheng Juan could even smash the belongings of those daughters from wealthy families in the capital, he would naturally not give them an exception. Actually, this was also a good thing. After Cheng Juan determined that Qiao Xi's necklace was a fake, it would immediately be smashed. Not only would Qiao Xi lose an expensive necklace, but she would also be despised by everyone. Perhaps even Gu Zheng would hate her for her stupidity.

"I agree. What do you think, Xi Xi?" He Wenxian asked softly.

Qiao Xi nodded and did not object.

A trace of playfulness flashed past Cheng Juan's eyes. "Since the two of you have no objections, let's start."

He slowly sat down, put on gloves, and instructed his assistant to spread a layer of velvet on the table. Then, both parties took off their necklaces and placed them on the table.

In everyone's eyes, the two necklaces were almost identical. The color, saturation, and angle of embedding were all the same.

Cheng Juan picked up the two necklaces and observed them carefully. He revealed a subtle smile.

The next second, the assistant took out a box. Inside was a small exquisite hammer. It was the tool Cheng Juan used to smash the brooch of the daughter of a rich family in the capital.

When everyone saw the hammer, they knew that Cheng Juan had already come to a conclusion. They stared fixedly at the two necklaces, and He Wenxian became nervous.

'With Cheng Juan's hammer, Qiao Xi's necklace will be shattered into pieces. From then on...'

"Miss He, are you really going to let Mr. Cheng smash it?" Qiao Xi suddenly interrupted He Wenxian's thoughts. "If you go back on your word now, I believe Mr. Cheng won't make things difficult for you."

He Wenxian smiled and shook her head. "Xi Xi, there are rules we have to follow. Since this is Mr. Cheng's rule, it's not good for him to make an exception for us. No matter whose necklace is a fake, it has to be destroyed according to Mr. Cheng's wishes. Xi Xi, are you going back on your word?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Lan Rong snorted. "I think her necklace is quite good. It shouldn't be cheap either. Now that she heard that the fake is going to be smashed, she can't bear to part with it and wants to go back on her word.

"If you want to go back on your word, then tell the truth. You even asked Wenxian if she wants to go back on her word. How shameless! Wenxian had already given you a chance. You didn't cherish it and insisted on doing an appraisal!"

He Wenxian waved her hand gently. "Rong Rong, don't say that. If Xi Xi wants to go back on her word, I'll agree. It's just that I don't know what Mr. Cheng will think.

"After all, Xi Xi is my friend's wife. I can't just watch her make a fool of herself. If she hadn't insisted on getting it appraised, I wouldn't have troubled you, Mr. Cheng.

"Xi Xi, if you want to go back on your word, we'll stop here. Mr. Cheng, please show mercy and treat it as a joke."

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. He Wenxian's behavior was really nauseating. No matter what she said or did, she always maintained the appearance of being very kind and wholeheartedly thinking for the sake of others. It was as if she only agreed to the appraisal because she had no choice and was respecting the other party's opinion. However, every word she said was actually adding fuel to the fire.

1295 Are You Doubting My Standard?

Qiao Xi knew very well in her heart that He Wenxian must be thinking that Cheng Juan was invited by He Weinian, so he would definitely stand on her side in the end. That was indeed the case on the surface. Moreover, Qiao Xi had heard from Cheng Juan that he grew up in an orphanage and had suffered a lot. However, a family had donated a sum of money to the orphanage at that time, allowing him to obtain some benefits.

The family who donated the money was the He family. If that were the case, Cheng Juan should be very grateful to the He family. After all, he seemed to be a grateful person, but—

Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully. "Miss He, I never said that I wanted to go back on my word. I was just reminding you."

As soon as she finished speaking, Cheng Juan had already picked up the small hammer. He Wenxian's excited voice trembled slightly. "Xi Xi, what do you mean?"

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Qiao Xi glanced at her and did not say anything because He Wenxian would soon find out.

The hammer was raised high, and everyone held their breaths as their gazes landed on Qiao Xi's necklace. They all thought that Cheng Juan would smash Qiao Xi's necklace. With Miss He's identity, she would not wear a fake.

Bang!

A violent bang sounded as a ruby necklace shattered. The smile on He Wenxian's face froze.

The entire venue was silent. They could not believe the scene in front of them. He Wenxian's necklace had actually been smashed by Cheng Juan!

How did this happen?

When everyone was shocked to the point of being speechless, Qiao Xi broke the silence. "I just wanted to remind Miss He as it'd be too embarrassing for your necklace to be smashed in public, so I wanted to give you a chance to go back on your word. Unfortunately, you didn't cherish it!"

As soon as she finished speaking, He Wenxian looked as if she had eaten a fly. Even though she had been putting on an act for so many years, she couldn't help but be furious when she saw the ruby necklace she had painstakingly obtained shatter.

Everyone saw the two of them take off their necklaces with their own eyes. Qiao Xi placed hers on the left, while He Wenxian placed hers on the right. The broken necklace was on the right. This scene happened under everyone's eyes. Qiao Xi had no chance to pull a trick, so He Wenxian's necklace was a fake.

The entire venue was in an uproar.

"Mr. Cheng smashed Miss He's necklace, which means that she was wearing a fake!"

"Oh my God! I didn't expect the high and mighty Miss He to wear a fake!"

He Wenxian's face was ashen, and her entire body was extremely cold. She almost stopped breathing. She raised her eyes to look at Cheng Juan in disbelief. Perhaps Cheng Juan really could not tolerate fakes. It was understandable that he smashed her necklace, but shouldn't he have smashed Qiao Xi's necklace too?

However, after Cheng Juan smashed He Wenxian's necklace, he handed the hammer to his assistant and instructed him to put it away. Then, he leaned back in the chair and

crossed his long legs, looking extremely lazy. His actions had already told everyone the final conclusion.

He Wenxian's sharp nails had already dug into her palms. The pain made her stay awake and rational. The group of young ladies who were speaking up for her just now was instantly anxious. "No! No! Wenxian, what exactly is going on? Why were you wearing a fake? Moreover, you said that your father gave you this necklace!"

Lan Rong's face was pale. When she recalled the scene of her standing up for He Wenxian and mocking Qiao Xi, she wished for nothing more than to slap herself. However, she was still unconvinced and argued loudly, "Mr. Cheng, take a good look again. Wenxian is the eldest daughter of the He family. She wouldn't wear a fake. On the other hand, that woman is just the adopted daughter of the Xia family. I don't know where she found this fake. She..."

"Are you doubting my standard?" Cheng Juan looked up slightly, his eyes filled with coldness. Lan Rong was so scared that she instantly swallowed the words in her mouth.

After a few seconds of silence, Cheng Juan snorted. "Rubies are indeed not rare, but every ruby on Scorching Heart is expensive and extremely rare. The rubies in the fake aren't big enough, so they used fillings on the back of the gems and the diamonds and platinum beside to cover it up. From afar, one really wouldn't be able to tell. But do you think I can't tell when it was so poorly made?"

"It's a fake Scorching Heart, and it only imitated the genuine necklace's appearance. It's difficult to imitate the essence of it. That fake was truly laughable."

The moment that was said, everyone gasped. Although they did not know anything about jewelry appraisal, Cheng Juan had already made himself very clear. No one would doubt his professionalism. Moreover, Cheng Juan had always been fair. He did not have to offend the He family for Miss Qiao and ruin his reputation.

1296 This Is How The He Family Treats Their Guests

He Wenxian's face was as pale as paper. She clenched her fists tightly and took a deep breath. The truth was already in front of her. If she continued to explain, everyone would laugh at her and hate her.

She frowned and said helplessly, "Mr. Cheng, I'm really sorry. I didn't expect this necklace to be a fake. After all, my father did spend 150 million to buy this necklace back then. He probably didn't know anything about jewelry, so he was deceived."

Seeing this, everyone echoed, "That's right! Now that the technology used for jewelry imitation is so advanced, ordinary people will definitely find it difficult to differentiate between the real thing and fake goods. Chairman He just wanted to give Miss He a valuable piece of jewelry. He didn't expect to encounter such a thing."

“Miss He can’t be blamed for this. After all, she didn’t know either!”

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He Wenxian said tiredly, “Mr. Cheng, I’m really sorry that a fake appeared at the charity banquet. I’ve disturbed you. It’s getting late, and the banquet is about to start. Let’s go to the main hall.”

“Miss He.” Just as He Wenxian wanted to wrap up this matter as soon as possible, Qiao Xi suddenly spoke. He Wenxian’s body instantly stiffened as she slowly turned around.

Qiao Xi’s tone carried a trace of ridicule. “Miss He, so your necklace is fake! But it’s okay. If you like this necklace, I can lend the real one to you to wear first. You don’t have to be polite with me!”

As soon as these words were spoken, He Wenxian’s expression instantly turned ugly. Qiao Xi was clearly imitating her tone from earlier.

This was the He family’s charity banquet, but Qiao Xi was so arrogant. Was she going to completely offend the He family?

He Wenxian suppressed the anger in her heart and did not say anything for a long time. Lan Rong, who was at the side, said indignantly, “Miss Qiao, why are you saying that?! Wenxian didn’t do it on purpose. Do you have to be so unforgiving?”

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi abruptly widened her eyes and blinked innocently. “Huh? Is this being unforgiving? But these words were said by Miss He in the beginning! I thought this was a way to express one’s goodwill, so I learned these words from her. It turns out that she was actually being unforgiving!”

The veins on He Wenxian’s forehead were bulging.

Lan Rong instantly choked and pointed at Qiao Xi as she shouted, “You! Are you worthy of learning from Miss He? She can say some things, but you can’t!”

“Why am I not worthy? I was wearing the same necklace as Miss He, but you concluded that mine was a fake. Now that Mr. Cheng has already proven that mine is the real deal, you’re saying that I’m not worthy. In that case, no matter who has the fake necklace and who has the real one, Miss He will still be noble and perfect in your eyes while I’m still the adopted daughter who’s wearing a fake necklace. If that’s the case, is there any point in appraising the authenticity of the necklace?”

Qiao Xi spoke indifferently, but it caused He Wenxian to frown.

Lan Rong was so angry that her face turned red. “I already said that Miss He didn’t do it on purpose. She’s the eldest daughter of the He family. There’s no need for her to wear a fake to the banquet. This is just a misunderstanding. Actually, it’s all your fault. If you

hadn't worn Scorching Heart here to show off, Wenxian wouldn't have made a fool of herself in public!"

Qiao Xi was instantly angered to the point of laughing. "It's ostentatious for me to wear a necklace when I go out, but it's noble for Miss He to do the same? It's my fault that her necklace was appraised as a fake, and I'm not showing Miss He any respect? I've really learned something today. So, this is how the famous daughter of the He family treats guests!

"Miss He, you thought that my necklace was fake. You've already embarrassed yourself, but you're blaming me when I haven't even settled the score with you yet?"

He Wenxian originally thought that this matter could be resolved. If it really did not work out, she could apologize to Qiao Xi and resolve this matter as soon as possible so that it would not delay the banquet.

However, she was unable to open her mouth no matter what. She was unwilling, and she was unable to apologize to Qiao Xi.

What right did Qiao Xi have to possess the true Scorching Heart? Wasn't it all because of Gu Zheng? Besides Gu Zheng, who else would give her such a precious gift? Why did Gu Zheng give Scorching Heart to that b*tch? That necklace should belong to her!

He Wenxian lowered her head and looked very aggrieved. The young man at the side could not stand it anymore and said unhappily, "Miss Qiao, this isn't Miss He's fault. She was originally prepared to donate the necklace. Now that she knows that the necklace is a fake, she's very sad. However, you just insist on being unreasonable and not letting her off. Anyway, you didn't suffer any losses. Can't this matter end here?"

"That's right!" Someone else stood up and echoed, "Miss He is kind-hearted. She didn't mean to do it. It's just a misunderstanding. Moreover, she hasn't donated it yet, and there are no negative consequences. Why are you criticizing her so sarcastically? Don't think that you can bully others just because you're wearing the real necklace!"

1297 Who's Bullying Who?

Qiao Xi was instantly speechless. This group of people had really been brainwashed by He Wenxian. All these years, He Wenxian had always maintained a good image, so she had an extremely good reputation among socialites. She treated others gently, was capable, and was not arrogant. Many men treated her as a goddess in their hearts. They came to the charity banquet for the sake of approaching this goddess. In order to show a good performance in front of He Wenxian, they had already lost their minds at this moment.

'Don't think that you can bully others just because you're wearing the real necklace.'

Was this what a human should say? He Wenxian indiscriminately said that she was wearing a fake. Now that she had been slapped in the face, she was still pretending to be innocent in front of everyone. Who was bullying who?

Actually, these people knew very well that He Wenxian was not as kind as she looked on the surface. At that time, He Wenxian's words were clearly filled with mockery, but many men saw He Wenxian through rose-colored lenses. Even if she did something bad, they would find all kinds of reasons to defend her.

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When He Wenxian arrogantly suggested letting Qiao Xi wear her necklace, it was because He Wenxian was being kind. Now that Qiao Xi said the same words, she was being unreasonable and deliberately targeting He Wenxian.

How unreasonable!

The young man sized up Qiao Xi. He had to admit that this woman was really beautiful, but her character was too domineering and unforgiving. Moreover, her identity was not noble enough, so she was completely unqualified to marry him. Hence, Miss He was more suitable for him.

Then, an inexplicable sense of confidence suddenly surged in his heart. "Miss Qiao, you're different from Miss He. She wanted to donate the necklace, while you're wearing it to show off. The two of you are of different natures, so you have no right to blame her!"

Qiao Xi raised her eyes slightly and said casually, "Then I'll really have to disappoint you. I wore the necklace today for the sake of donating it."

As soon as these words were spoken, the man instantly choked. He Wenxian, who was at the side, also widened her eyes. Her eyes were filled with surprise and joy. If Qiao Xi donated this necklace, then this necklace would still fall into her hands in the end. The charity banquet was just a cover. It was just a tool for the He family to earn money.

However, if Qiao Xi donated such expensive jewelry, she would definitely be in the limelight at the charity banquet.

He Wenxian's delighted expression was mixed with a trace of unwillingness. She said in surprise, "Xi Xi, are you really donating to Scorching Heart? This necklace is worth 150 million. Are you sure?"

"I'm sure. If you could have the idea of donating the necklace, why can't I? Besides, I don't lack this necklace," Qiao Xi said casually.

He Wenxian bit her lip. Lan Rong immediately stood up to defend the injustice. “Wenxian wanted to donate the necklace, and now you want to donate it too. You just want to copy Wenxian. Why are you so annoying?!”

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows and said slowly, “Didn’t everyone come to the charity banquet today to donate money and things? Could it be that just because Miss He wanted to donate the necklace, no one else can donate it?”

“Did the He family come up with such a special rule for this charity banquet? This necklace is worth 150 million. I want to donate it so that schools can be built on the mountains. What does it have to do with Miss He? This necklace belongs to me. Do I need Miss He’s permission to donate it to anyone?”

“Or perhaps...” Qiao Xi paused, and her tone carried a trace of bewitchment. “Miss He, do you not want me to donate to the villages in the mountainous area or see schools being built there?”

He Wenxian’s face was pale while her mind buzzed. Qiao Xi was slandering her!

All these years, the He family relied on charity work to become famous. If others knew that Miss He was such a two-faced person, everyone would wonder if the real purpose of the He family’s charity banquet was really for the sake of the people in trouble or to flatter themselves.

He Wenxian suppressed the anger in her heart and said with difficulty, “Xi Xi, t-that’s not what I meant. I’m just reminding you that this necklace is very expensive. If you really want to donate, of course, I’ll be very happy. But if you’re just angry about the incident, then there’s no need. After all, this necklace is someone else’s goodwill. If you donate it just like that...”

Everyone was puzzled. Miss He meant that this necklace was given to Miss Qiao by someone and she did not buy it herself. After all, Miss Qiao was only Xia Yunqiu’s adopted daughter. She probably did not have the ability to buy such a valuable necklace.

1298 Being Generous

When Lan Rong heard Qiao Xi say that she wanted to donate Scorching Heart, she was unable to control the flames of rage in her heart even more. She said sarcastically, “Although Wenxian was wearing a fake, the gift was given to her by Uncle He with kind intentions. It’s just that Uncle He was deceived. Whether it’s real or fake isn’t actually that important. The main thing is the sender of the gift. I don’t know where your necklace came from. Perhaps you stole it or got it from scamming someone!”

Qiao Xi grunted coldly.

“Wenxian, am I right?” Lan Rong was extremely proud as she went to He Wenxian to claim the credit. Her guess must be right. That woman was not worthy of having such a valuable necklace at all. She must have obtained it through inappropriate methods.

She said righteously, “Miss Qiao, actually, the owner of this necklace isn’t you, right?! If you brace yourself and donate it now, how will you explain it to the owner of the necklace later? I’ve never seen such a shameless person like you!”

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He Wenxian’s lips were tense as she shook her head helplessly. The disdain in everyone’s eyes deepened as they looked at Qiao Xi in disgust.

If it was really as Miss He had said and this necklace did not belong to Qiao Xi but was only borrowed, then what right did she have to donate it? It was truly nauseating to be generous with the belongings of another just to boost one’s reputation.

He Wenxian said earnestly, “Xi Xi, Scorching Heart is really too precious. You really don’t have to donate the necklace for the sake of your reputation. Donating things depends on your ability. Even if you donate cheap things, no one will laugh at you.”

Qiao Xi was almost convinced by He Wenxian’s pretentious appearance. She had really met her match.

Lan Rong instantly became confident. “Wenxian is right! I advise you not to pretend anymore. If you donate someone else’s things, the true owners will come looking for you. It’ll be awkward if you can’t afford it. We just wanted to save you some dignity, so we didn’t expose you earlier. Do you really think we believe that you can have such an expensive piece of jewelry?”

“Actually, I’m already giving you face by saying that you borrowed it. If you continue to fool around and we tell the truth, what right do you have to continue staying here?”

As soon as she finished speaking, footsteps came from the door. Then, a cold male voice sounded in everyone’s ears. “I want to hear the truth.”

The man’s voice was low with a trace of mockery and disdain. Everyone looked in the direction of the voice and saw a tall man in a custom-made suit slowly walking over.

When they got closer, everyone could see his face clearly. His eyebrows were resolute, and his light brown eyes were deep and cold. He had a high nose bridge, making him look like the work of God. What was even more shocking was that the kingly aura he exuded was noble and gentle, but it was also filled with an unapproachable aura.

Most of the guests had never seen the person in front of them, but they knew that the young man behind him was Gu Zheng’s personal assistant, Song Shijing.

It seemed obvious who the man who made Song Shijing follow him so respectfully was.

Everyone was dumbfounded, but Lan Rong had mixed feelings. Fear, joy, and shock surged into her mind. She explained while trembling, “S-She stole this necklace and even said she wanted to donate it. I...”

Lan Rong was so scared that she could not finish her sentence. The entire venue was silent. After a few seconds of silence, Gu Zheng sneered.

This sudden laugh made He Wenxian’s heart twitch, then beat violently.

What did Gu Zheng want to do? Even if he doted on Qiao Xi, he could not cause trouble at the He family’s charity banquet. Her father was Gu Zheng’s master. Although that was in the past, Gu Zheng had to show her father some respect no matter what. Moreover, Gu Zheng and her brother had been good friends for many years. Gu Zheng would not go too far!

Gu Zheng glanced coldly at everyone. In the end, his gaze landed on Qiao Xi, and his gaze instantly softened. Then, he looked sharply at He Wenxian.

“She stole the necklace?” he suddenly asked. His tone was calm, making it impossible to tell if he was happy or angry. However, Lan Rong felt that she was surrounded by a cold aura. She could not even breathe.

Under this man’s powerful pressure, she could not say a word. Before she could speak, she heard Gu Zheng’s cold voice. “He Wenxian, why didn’t you tell everyone who she is?”

He Wenxian’s body suddenly stiffened. It was as if a huge rock was stuck in her throat, and she

1299 Her Real Identity

The surroundings instantly fell silent. What did Gu Zheng mean? Could it be that Miss Qiao’s identity was extraordinary? Wasn’t she just Xia Yunqiu’s adopted daughter? What was there to be afraid of?

He Wenxian’s face was pale as she widened her eyes at Gu Zheng. Why did he say that? Did he have to expose her thoughts in front of everyone?

Why didn’t she tell everyone Qiao Xi’s identity? It was because she was unwilling. What right did Qiao Xi have to become the legitimate Mrs. Gu? What right did Qiao Xi have to make her be polite and respectful to her? Why did she have to only consider herself as Gu Zheng’s friend while Qiao Xi could stand by Gu Zheng’s side forever?

She hated all of this, so she naturally would not reveal Qiao Xi's identity. Moreover, if she said that Qiao Xi was Gu Zheng's wife and Cheng Juan happened to appraise Qiao Xi's necklace as a fake, wouldn't Qiao Xi implicate Gu Zheng and make him lose face? Hence, there was a reason why she did not say anything.

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At the thought of this, He Wenxian instantly became confident. "Ah Zheng, I didn't say anything just now because I thought that Xi Xi's necklace was a fake. If I revealed her identity, I was afraid I'd implicate others."

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth twitched as she understood what He Wenxian meant.

If she wore a fake, not only would she lose her reputation, but Gu Zheng would also lose his. He Wenxian did not say anything because of Gu Zheng's reputation.

In that case, Gu Zheng had to thank her? However, Gu Zheng was not just referring to her identity as Mrs. Gu.

Only then did everyone react to He Wenxian's words. He Wenxian did not reveal Miss Qiao's true identity because she was worried that Qiao Xi was wearing a fake. It would embarrass her backer. This was reasonable.

It had to be said that Miss He was really meticulous and understanding.

"Implicated?" Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow, and his tone rose slightly. Every subtle move he made was so elegant. His entire body exuded a powerful aura, making others admire and fear him. Hence, the moment he spoke, the surrounding discussion instantly stopped.

He Wenxian gritted her teeth and looked a little aggrieved. "Ah Zheng, it's all my fault. I didn't figure out the truth and rashly—"

"Miss He, you were unwilling to reveal her identity because you were worried that she'd implicate others. But since you know her identity, you should know that the necklace she's wearing is absolutely not a fake." Gu Zheng sneered coldly. "As the chief designer of Liuli, is there a need for Gu Shan to wear a fake necklace?"

Everyone was instantly dumbfounded. They even suspected that they had heard wrongly. Gu Zheng was saying that Miss Qiao was the chief designer, Gu Shan?

He Wenxian clenched her fists tightly, her expression slightly stiff.

The people present were the daughters and young masters of high society. They might not know Gu Shan, but they definitely knew Liuli Corporation. To be able to become the chief designer of Liuli, a top fashion design company, one had to be outstandingly

capable. Moreover, one had to be internationally famous. It just so happened that this international top designer was the young and beautiful Miss Qiao.

After a long silence, someone muttered in a low voice, "I heard that not only do designers of Liuli have to know how to design clothes, but they also have to be proficient in identifying jewelry and luxury goods. As the chief designer, Gu Shan must know if the necklace she's wearing is real or fake! Moreover, with her identity and wealth, it's impossible for her to wear a fake to the banquet, right?! No wonder Miss Qiao was so confident in asking for the necklace to be appraised. It seems that she had already checked her necklace."

Cheng Juan stood up and said in a gentle voice, "Let me explain to everyone. Scorching Heart was designed by Miss Gu Shan and Lu Zhi, the president of Liuli. At that time, Lu Zhi spent half a year collecting these perfect rubies. It took a year from the design to the final completion. The process of forging the necklace was personally supervised by Gu Shan, which is why every detail is perfect.

"Everyone should know that this necklace was donated by the Thousand Faces Immortal Doctor, but we've never heard of the creator of the necklace. Even so, as long as you investigate, you'll probably find out. After all, the name Gu Shan is very famous both domestically and overseas. Moreover, Liuli has never hidden the relevant information about this necklace."

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone looked at Qiao Xi. They did not dare believe that this necklace was actually designed and completed by Qiao Xi.

He Wenxian, who had always been calm and composed, could not help but have a shocked expression. At the same time, a trace of resentment flashed past her eyes. How was this possible? It was actually designed by Qiao Xi?

Cheng Juan sneered. "I'm really curious why you asked me to appraise this necklace, Miss He? Gu Shan is wearing a necklace that she designed herself. How can it be fake?"

Everyone sighed in their hearts. He Wenxian was in trouble!

1300 The Collapse Of A Perfect Image

At this moment, the man standing beside He Wenxian frowned and retorted indignantly, "But how could Miss He have known—"

"Miss He." The corners of Song Shijing's mouth curled up slightly as he interrupted the other party rudely. He turned to look at He Wenxian. "I remember that the last time you went to Gu Corporation to bid, you accused Young Madam in public of not being qualified to work as a designer in Gu Corporation. The He family withdrew from the collaboration because of your rash actions. Chairman He even brought you to apologize

to Young Madam personally. It seems that what happened last time wasn't enough to teach you a lesson as you forgot Young Madam's identity so quickly."

He Wenxian's body stiffened as she widened her eyes at Song Shijing.

He was just an assistant. What right did he have to expose her in public? All these years, in order to protect her perfect image, she had always been careful and did not dare make a single mistake. She maintained a gentle and elegant image in front of outsiders at every moment, but after meeting Qiao Xi, she seemed to be plagued by bad luck and was exposed every time.

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If this continued, it wouldn't be long before her image was completely ruined. Everyone would think that she was deliberately targeting Qiao Xi and was jealous of Qiao Xi!

Everyone looked at He Wenxian with doubt and mockery. They had previously heard that the He family suddenly withdrew from the collaboration with Gu Corporation. Chairman He even personally came to apologize, but they did not expect that it was because He Wenxian had criticized Miss Qiao in public. It turned out that Miss Qiao was the chief designer of Liuli, Gu Shan.

He Wenxian had lived for more than 20 years, but this was the first time she needed to apologize to someone. It must have been very embarrassing, but it had only been a few days since the incident. She wouldn't have forgotten so quickly, right?

Hence, He Wenxian must have known that Miss Qiao was Gu Shan but deliberately did not say it out loud. She clearly knew that it was impossible for Gu Shan to be wearing a fake, yet she still deliberately wronged her to protect her reputation. If Gu Zheng had not stepped forward to clarify things, then...

Wait!

Everyone widened their eyes and thought about what Song Shijing had just said. They all looked at Qiao Xi, their eyes wandering between her and Gu Zheng. Did they hear Song Shijing call Qiao Xi 'Young Madam' just now?

Song Shijing was Gu Zheng's personal assistant. He called Qiao Xi 'Young Madam', which meant that Qiao Xi was Gu Zheng's wife?

"She's Mrs. Gu?"

"I heard that President Gu dotes on Mrs. Gu very much. Why would he stand up for other women? So, Miss Qiao is Mrs. Gu! They're indeed a perfect match!"

"Since Miss Qiao is Mrs. Gu, it's even more impossible for her to be wearing a fake!"

“As the eldest daughter of the He family, He Wenxian visited Longwan Residential as soon as she returned to the country. She even claimed to be President Gu’s childhood sweetheart. She must know that Miss Qiao is Mrs. Gu and also Gu Shan. Why did she suspect that Miss Qiao was wearing a fake in public, then?”

“Let’s not talk about Gu Shan’s identity first. Miss Qiao is Mrs. Gu! President Gu is so rich. Why would he let his wife wear a fake to the charity banquet?”

Perhaps He Wenxian could explain that she had forgotten that Qiao Xi was Gu Shan, but she would absolutely not forget that Qiao Xi was Mrs. Gu. The He family had always told the public that they were close to Gu Zheng, so how could they not know who Gu Zheng’s wife was?

Everyone discussed softly, their eyes filled with doubt. He Wenxian gasped and bit her lip. She took a deep breath and endured the mockery around her with difficulty.

She did not expect that Gu Zheng would stand up for Qiao Xi in public and not leave her with the slightest bit of dignity. Just because Qiao Xi was Mrs. Gu, he had to care for Qiao Xi without any scruples?

Her necklace had clearly been smashed, and Cheng Juan had already confirmed that Qiao Xi’s necklace was the real deal. Why was he still unwilling to let the matter go? Did he have to announce Qiao Xi’s identity and embarrass her in public?

At this moment, He Wenxian was already overwhelmed by anger. Her body could not help but tremble. She suppressed the anger in her heart and explained helplessly, “Xi Xi, I’m really sorry. I’ve been busy with the charity banquet recently, so I forgot that you’re Gu Shan. I didn’t know that you designed this necklace. You’re really outstanding. Ah Zheng, it’s my fault this time. I apologize.”

Qiao Xi had an expression of disdain. Miss He was really tolerant. Her thoughts had been exposed in front of everyone, yet she could still apologize calmly. Moreover, her tone was extremely sincere, and no one could find fault with it.

Indeed, maintaining a perfect image for more than 20 years was not something that ordinary people could do!