

Lady gu 33

Chapter 33: Not The Time For My Appearance

Zhou Guanjin raised his hand without hesitation. “Chancellor Li, you can’t simply say things. When did Gu Shan admit that Qiao Rou is her disciple?”

Chancellor Li said, “But before this...”

“Before was before, now is now.”

When Zhou Guanjin pulled a long face, he looked quite intimidating. “I was the one who introduced Gu Shan to Li City University as a temporary substitute teacher. It was her responsibility as a teacher to guide students. If all the students who have been taught by her claim to be her disciple, would Gu Shan be able to accept them all?”

Only few people knew about Gu Shan being a substitute teacher here. Furthermore, all classes were done online and she had never appeared in front of the students before.

Gu Zheng frowned when he heard Qiao Rou’s name. If he remembered correctly, Qiao Xi’s younger sister was called Qiao Rou.

Chancellor Li was embarrassed by Zhou Guanjin’s words. He smiled awkwardly and said, “Yes, yes, yes, it’s my fault. I shouldn’t be spouting nonsense.”

Seeing that the fashion design competition was about to start, Chancellor Li stood up and bid farewell to Gu Zheng.

As a judge, Gu Zheng could only show up during the final round of the competition, but as the chancellor, he had to go cheer the students on.

After the chancellor and the rest of the university leaders left the office, Zhou Guanjin collapsed on the chair.

“Brother Gu Zheng, why don’t I secretly bring you to meet Gu Shan? You can discuss the collaboration with her personally.”

1

“That’s alright, I still have something else to attend to.”

Gu Zheng straightened his suit and stood up. “See you in the competition later.”

“Where are you going?”

“To see my wife.”

“To see your wife...”

Zhou Guanjin could not react in time. When he realized what Gu Zheng just said, he jumped. “F*ck, Brother Gu Zheng, what did you just say?!”

Wife?!

When did he have a wife?!

Song Shiyu explained to him considerately, "The president and Madam just got their marriage certificate not long ago."

"Bullsh*t, don't lie to me!"

Zhou Guanjin pointed at him. "I heard that the daughter of the Meng family, who's supposed to marry Brother Gu Zheng, ran away on the day of their marriage. Even the bride ran away, so who did Brother Gu Zheng marry?"

Song Shiyu adjusted his glasses. "Someone you don't know."

2

Zhou Guanjin: "..."

Song Shiyu ignored Zhou Guanjin, whose expression was full of disbelief. He hurried to catch up with Gu Zheng, who instructed him without turning to look at him, "Get that woman to look for me in the car."

Song Shiyu hesitated. "But won't it be inconvenient for Madam?"

After all, Madam was also a student in the fashion design department. She should be participating in the competition, right?

Gu Zheng did not answer. Song Shiyu touched the tip of his nose and kept quiet. He was about to take out his phone to call Qiao Xi, but Qiao Xi called before he could.

"Where are you guys? I have time to show you around the university now."

"Madam, you're not participating in the competition?" Song Shiyu was surprised.

Qiao Xi paused for a moment. "It's not time for me to make an appearance yet."

Although Song Shiyu did not understand what she meant, he did not pursue the matter and reported their current location.

About ten minutes later, Qiao Xi was seen walking leisurely with her hands in her pockets.

Song Shiyu was staring as he asked hesitantly, "Is that... Madam?"

Gu Zheng followed his line of sight and his deep eyes froze.

The woman was wearing formal attire with a belt around her waist, highlighting her slim waist. Her legs were long and strong, while her steps were leisurely. Her eyebrows looked nonchalant. The sun shone warmly on her body, and her skin was so fair that it seemed to be glowing.

As she got closer, he got a clearer view of her face. She had a sharp nose and red lips. Her slightly raised eyebrows carried a strong sense of oppression.

Song Shiyu shuddered and quickly got down to open the car door. "Madam..."

His attitude was extremely respectful.

Qiao Xi looked at him and hesitated for a moment before retracting her foot that was about to enter the car. She tilted her head slightly and asked Song Shiyu in a low voice, "Is Gu Zheng... in a good mood?"

Song Shiyu nodded hesitantly. "I think so."

Qiao Xi rolled her eyes. This answer was no different from not answering at all. However, since she was already here, she could just coax him if he were angry.

She immediately bent down and entered the car.

Gu Zheng noticed her momentary hesitation. Seeing Qiao Xi sitting beside him, he could not help but snort.

Qiao Xi's eyelids twitched as she looked at him. The car door had not closed yet, so she could still run! However, before she could execute her plan, she heard a bang as Song Shiyu closed the car door from outside.

Qiao Xi: "..."

Gu Zheng snorted. "What are you afraid of? Would I eat you?"

Qiao Xi was very sensible and did not say anything.

Click.

Gu Zheng put down the small table in the back seat and took out a beautifully packaged lunch box under Qiao Xi's puzzled gaze. When the lunch box was opened, the fragrance of the food filled the car.

Qiao Xi took a whiff of it. "You're not going to tour the university anymore?"

Gu Zheng did not raise his head. "Don't you know what time it is? You want me to tour the university hungry?"

Qiao Xi tapped open her phone screen and fell silent when she saw the time displayed on it.

Chapter 34: Going Blind

Gu Zheng leaned against the chair and pushed the lunch box toward Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi: "..."

Her gaze lingered on Gu Zheng's lips.

Alright, she admitted that her appetite had changed. In the past, the food she ate was always bitter no matter what it was and she eventually got used to it. However, after discovering that she could enjoy food again if she kissed Gu Zheng, she felt that eating bitter dishes was simply the most painful torture in the world!

It was just that recently, Gu Zheng had been throwing a tantrum and she did not dare to touch him...

“Eat. Don’t you want to eat?” Gu Zheng knocked on the table impatiently.

Qiao Xi thought for three seconds before suddenly raising her head to reveal a smile. “Do you want a kiss?”

Such delicious food was right in front of her, so of course, she could not resist the temptation. She reached out her little hand to Gu Zheng.

Gu Zheng’s gaze was cold as he let out a snort. “Say that again?”

Qiao Xi swallowed her saliva and subconsciously poked the rice in the lunch box with a pair of chopsticks. Gu Zheng had been too difficult recently, so she was hesitant to continue.

However...

She looked at the glutinous rice balls and recalled how soft and sweet they were. She closed her eyes and opened her mouth, asking firmly, “I said, do you want a kiss?”

Gu Zheng chuckled. “I’m sorry, I won’t kiss you.”

Qiao Xi: “!”

‘Are you kidding me?!

‘Do you have the final say?!’

Qiao Xi moved past the small table and pressed against Gu Zheng’s shoulder with one hand. She lowered her head and pressed her red lips against the man’s thin lips without hesitation!

1

Her movements were fierce and aggressive, but her lips were unbelievably soft.

Each breath brought with it a minty coolness.

Gu Zheng remained motionless with his back against the leather seat, allowing Qiao Xi to go wild. His long eyelashes slightly lowered, hiding the flash of light in his dark eyes.

Qiao Xi did not know anything about kissing. She only knew how to nibble on Gu Zheng’s thin lips. When she failed to control her strength, the man could not help but let out a muffled groan.

His voice was low and slightly hoarse. Qiao Xi let go as if she had been electrocuted.

Blood slowly seeped out from the corner of Gu Zheng’s mouth.

Qiao Xi: “...”

Gu Zheng raised his hand and touched the corner of his lips. The slight stinging pain caused him to frown, and the gaze he shot at Qiao Xi carried some complaint and displeasure.

Qiao Xi awkwardly played with her hair. “Err, it was an accident... An accident.”

Gu Zheng smiled ambiguously. “An accident?”

Song Shiyu, who had watched the whole process, was speechless.

F*ck, he was going blind!

Fortunately, Gu Zheng did not say anything else after that. Qiao Xi silently returned to her seat and picked up her chopsticks to eat.

Gu Zheng sat opposite her and watched as the woman ate like a hamster. Her cheeks were all puffed up, and her chopsticks kept reaching for the lunch box. She ate very quickly, but it did not make her look like she was in a sorry state.

She seemed to have realized that Gu Zheng was not eating. While stuffing food into her mouth, she did not forget to put some food into Gu Zheng's bowl as well.

Gu Zheng lowered his head and looked at the pile of dishes in front of him. He unbuttoned his sleeves with one hand, picked up the chopsticks by the side with his well-defined fingers, and slowly ate.

For a moment, the back seat was so quiet that one could only hear the sounds of them chewing their food.

...

At two in the afternoon, Qiao Xi had her fill and returned backstage.

At this moment, the participants backstage were discussing the competition's topic.

"I heard that the topic this time was set by Master Gu Shan!"

"Ahhhh, no wonder it's so difficult. I think I'm going to be in last place!"

"I feel so wronged. When I saw the topic, I started to doubt if I'm suitable for fashion design."

"But Qiao Rou definitely won't feel pressured, right? After all, she's Master Gu Shan's disciple. I'm so envious of her. I also want Master Gu Shan's guidance!"

Qiao Rou smiled embarrassedly. "To be honest, I was also stunned when I saw the topic."

"Hey, don't be humble. As Master Gu Shan's disciple, you must be familiar with Master Gu Shan's way of doing things. No matter how muddled you are, you'll still do better than us."

The girl sounded envious.

Seeing that everyone was in low spirits, Qiao Rou began talking about something else. "Where's my sister? I don't see her anywhere."

After a moment of silence, everyone curled their lips in disdain.

"Who knows?"

"I didn't see her during the competition just now. She probably ran away at the last minute."

"Haha, it's understandable for her to run away at the last minute. After all, she came from that kind of environment. She's different from us."

Knowing that Qiao Xi had given up, their spirits lifted once more.

Qiao Rou stopped them, softly saying, "Don't say that, everyone. My sister is very hardworking and likes to design... Everyone has the right to pursue their dreams. We shouldn't mock someone who's chasing after their dreams."

"Hahaha, Qiao Rou, you should know that there's a difference between having dreams and having wishful thinking.." Someone mercilessly mocked.

Chapter 35: Change Seats

"Wishful thinking? Me?"

Qiao Xi did not expect to hear such a thing the moment she returned backstage. She crossed her arms and looked at the female student who had just spoken with a faint smile.

That person's expression froze, as if recalling what had happened backstage this morning. She silently took a step back and hid in the crowd, not daring to make a sound.

Qiao Rou walked past the crowd and held Qiao Xi's hand with a face full of worry. "Sister, where did you go? Someone said that you gave up participating in the competition... Sister, quickly tell everyone that you're a participant. You clearly like designing so much..."

"I'm not a participant in the competition."

Qiao Xi withdrew her hand.

Qiao Rou's expression froze. "Sister, you..."

She sounded angry and sad at the same time. "Why... Why did you..."

Why?

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows. Of course, it was because she was a judge.

"Don't worry. You'll know why later."

Qiao Xi looked at her deeply.

That glance made Qiao Rou feel uneasy.

At this moment, the host talked into the microphone, "Please keep quiet, everyone. We're soon going to announce the winner of Li City University's Fashion Design Competition! Everyone knows that this competition has made history in our university. Not only did we manage to invite Mr. Gu Zheng, the CEO of the Gu Corporation, over but also the mysterious Master Gu Shan!"

As soon as the host finished speaking, the spotlight to the judges' seats.

Gu Zheng's handsome face instantly appeared on the big screen.

"Damn, so handsome!"

"The CEO of the Gu Corporation is actually so young! If I had known earlier, I would've signed up for the competition too!"

“Bullsh*t, don’t think that I don’t know you. You’re from the business department!”

“But what about Master Gu Shan? Didn’t the host say that Master Gu Shan is here too?”

Compared to Gu Zheng, who would occasionally appear in financial newspapers, the students were more interested in the mysterious Master Gu Shan.

However...

The seat that should have been Master Gu Shan’s was empty.

The chancellor kept winking at Zhou Guanjin, asking him where she was.

Zhou Guanjin was also anxious. He kept calling Qiao Xi but there was no response!

In a corner of the hall, Qiao Xi nonchalantly rejected the call. After the spotlight was no longer on the judges’ seats, she slowly moved forward.

The host was good at acting on the spot. After a short pause, he announced the winner of the competition.

The participants who were backstage were disappointed when they did not see Master Gu Shan. However, they quickly composed themselves and waited excitedly for the host’s final announcement.

“Hurry, hurry, hurry. Where’s Qiao Rou? Hurry up and get ready to receive the award!” Someone called out to Qiao Rou.

Under their enthusiasm, Qiao Rou was pushed from the back to the front. She said some humble words, but her proud expression was about to overflow from her eyes.

She straightened her skirt and prepared to make her appearance on stage.

“Students, I now announce that the winner of this competition is Qiao...”

The moment the word ‘Qiao’ was uttered, the people backstage erupted in cheers. Qiao Rou could not even hide the smile on her face.

She enjoyed the envious and jealous gazes of everyone. She enjoyed the feeling of being the center of attention. Gu Moling was holding a bouquet of roses and standing in front of Qiao Rou. He smiled at her. “Congratulations.”

“Thank you.”

Qiao Rou went on her tiptoes and kissed his cheek.

Gu Moling held her shoulders and waited for the host to finish calling out Qiao Rou’s name.

“Qiao Rou!

“I now announce that Qiao Rou won first place. Let’s welcome her on stage with warm applause!”

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Amid the applause, Qiao Rou, who was wearing a white dress, appeared on stage like a fairy.

At the same time, Qiao Xi finally sat down on the seat.

Sensing the movement by his side, Gu Zheng casually glanced over and happened to meet Qiao Xi's gaze as she shushed him.

Gu Zheng paused.

Song Shiyu heard the movement as well and turned casually. However, his eyes widened instantly.

"Madam?! Why are you sitting here?!"

Fortunately, everyone's eyes were on the stage and no one noticed this. Song Shiyu quickly bent down and waved at Qiao Xi. "Madam, come sit with me. Your seat belongs to someone else."

The university knew that Gu Corporation intended to work with Master Gu Shan, so they had arranged for them to be seated together.

Qiao Xi shook her head. "That's alright, I'll just sit here."

Song Shiyu, "!"

He was screaming in his heart. 'I'm not being polite, I'm asking you to leave that seat!'

At this moment, Qiao Rou had already started giving her speech.

Ignoring Song Shiyu who was so anxious that his buttocks were burning, Qiao Xi casually raised her hand amid the silence.. "Sorry to interrupt, but I have objections about the first-place winner of this competition."

Chapter 36: She Plagiarized

The venue instantly fell silent.

They stared blankly at Qiao Xi, not knowing how to react.

Many people who did not know Qiao Xi were whispering to each other.

"Who is she?"

"I don't know. I've never seen her before, but she's really good-looking."

"Are you stupid? Why are you acting like a love-struck fool? So what if she's good-looking if she's brainless!"

She actually dared to openly question the judges' decision. This woman must be crazy.

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They did not know Qiao Xi, but that did not mean they did not know Qiao Rou. In the hearts of many students, Qiao Rou deserved to be first place.

Gu Zheng was shocked by Qiao Xi's sudden actions as well. He turned to look at Qiao Xi.

1

After causing such a huge commotion, the woman's expression had not changed. She still looked carefree as though she had not come to her senses. Her red lips were still curled up as well.

Song Shiyu gulped. "Madam, Madam..."

He knew that Qiao Xi and Qiao Rou were not on good terms. However, even if Madam wanted to have Qiao Rou make a fool of herself, she should look at the occasion!

The first-place winner was selected by so many judges. How could Qiao Xi, a student who did not participate in the competition, question their decision?!

1

Among the crowd, only Zhou Guanjin patted his chest. Luckily, Sister Qiao Xi had finally appeared.

This unforeseen event happened too suddenly. When the host realized what was going on, he kept signaling the leaders below to ask them what to do. However, he realized that the university leaders were ignoring him!

The host was stunned.

Qiao Rou held the microphone and looked into Qiao Xi's eyes. After a long silence, Qiao Rou's gentle voice spread to every corner of the venue through the microphone.

"Sister, stop fooling around. I know that you really want to get first place in this competition. You want to enter Gu Corporation to fulfill your dreams of becoming a designer, but you didn't even have the courage to participate in the competition."

Qiao Rou bit her lip, as if the words were a little difficult for her to say. "Although you're my sister, there are some things I still have to say. As fashion designers, we have to be brave and innovative when facing difficulties. Only when we are brave can we open up a new era for future designers."

Anyone could have dreams, but one should have the courage to move forward.

It had to be said that Qiao Rou's words were really grand and majestic-sounding. Many students immediately gave her thunderous applause.

Song Shiyu was as anxious like an ant on a hot pan. His brain worked furiously as he tried to think of a way to resolve this awkward situation.

On the contrary, Qiao Xi's expression was extremely calm even though she was the person involved.

1

At this moment, the leaders of the university who were forcefully pulled back by Zhou Guanjin finally came back to their senses. They looked at Qiao Xi in bewilderment and then secretly waved at the host.

After a while, the host returned to the stage. He cleared his throat and said, "I'm sorry that something unexpected has happened."

As soon as he spoke, the spotlight instantly shifted to him.

“Student, why do you think Qiao Rou is not worthy of winning first place?” The host pointed the microphone at Qiao Xi.

The instruction he received was to find out why Qiao Xi had objections to Qiao Rou winning first place.

“Why? Of course, it’s because... she plagiarized.” Qiao Xi’s brows were indifferent, and her posture was lazy and casual.

“What? Plagiarism?! Damn!”

As designers, they hated plagiarizers the most!

Every design sketch was the product of the designer’s blood, sweat, and tears. It was simply shameless to treat something that someone else had painstakingly created as their own!

There was an uproar.

Qiao Rou panicked for a moment. Impossible! She could not have been discovered!

Moreover, she did not plagiarize. She had only borrowed Master Gu Shan’s creativity!

1

At the thought of this, she quickly calmed down. “Sister, how can you spout nonsense? Do you know that this sentence from you will ruin me? Reputation is the most important thing to a designer. One word from you and I’ll be nailed to the pillar of shame...”

Qiao Rou choked.

The host also came back to his senses and continued to ask, “Qiao Rou is right. Reputation is everything to a designer. Qiao Xi, you’re saying that Qiao Rou plagiarized, but can you provide evidence?”

After a pause, he continued, “Although I’m not a student of the fashion design department, I can see that Qiao Rou’s design is very novel and vibrant. It’s a design style I’ve never seen before.”

As soon as the host finished speaking, a figure rushed out from backstage. “Of course, it’s novel! Because Qiao Rou didn’t plagiarize at all!”

The girl grabbed Qiao Rou’s microphone and pointed at Qiao Xi while shouting, “Don’t be fooled by her. She’s Qiao Xi, the eldest daughter of the Qiao family who was brought back from the countryside! She’s someone who has never even learned fashion design.. She only got into Li City University’s school of design with the help of the Qiao family. She knows nothing about design and plagiarism! She just doesn’t like Qiao Rou and wants to go against her!”

Chapter 37: I’m Qiao Xi, Alias Gu Shan

The crowd broke into an uproar.

All sorts of strange gazes fell onto Qiao Xi.

Song Shiyu crept closer to Gu Zheng's ear and asked, "Is the Qiao family so capable that they could even send Madam to Li City University through the backdoor?"

Gu Zheng looked at him as if he was looking at a fool. "Do you think university is high school?"

There could be transfer students in high school, but how could one simply join a university?

How could they have gotten someone who had never been to university into her fourth year?

Was he joking?

Song Shiyu said, "... Then how did Madam get into Li City University?"

Gu Zheng turned around. 'Don't ask me, I don't know either!'

"F*ck, what is this woman talking about?!"

Zhou Guanjin slammed the table. His Sister Qiao Xi was invited to Li City University by him. What did it have to do with the Qiao family?!

The lights were not shining down on the stage at this moment, so Qiao Rou's expression could not be seen clearly.

However, she remained silent, which meant that she was tacitly agreeing with the girl's words earlier.

If news of this got out, Li City University's reputation would be ruined!

The host quickly stopped her. "Student, please be careful with your words and actions. Apart from some special admissions, every student in our university was admitted through the standard procedures. There's no such thing as joining through the backdoor."

The girl curled her lips in disdain. "You're denying it? Then what about Qiao Xi? Didn't she suddenly appear in our university?"

The host replied, "This..."

Qiao Rou kindly stepped forward to mediate the situation. "Let me explain things for my sister. She's not an official student of our university. She's just auditing here. Our father understands that my sister grew up in the countryside and has never gone to university. He just wants her to experience university life. Our father has put in painstaking effort to make this happen. I hope everyone can understand..."

Qiao Rou knew that Qiao Xi had joined Li City University, but she did not know the exact details. She only thought that it was arranged by their father.

Therefore, her words were rather self-righteous.

"Hahaha, what kind of bullsh*t are you talking about? Auditing? Dream on!"

Zhou Guanjin could not stand it anymore. He pointed at Qiao Xi and said loudly, "This person was personally invited by me. It has nothing to do with your father!"

Qiao Rou's face turned pale. "President, you..."

Pausing for a moment, she bit her lip before saying unwillingly, "I know that you have a special relationship with Qiao Xi. You even protected her backstage... But no matter how close you are, it's not a reason for you to distort the truth."

All she wanted to say was that Qiao Xi was in an inappropriate relationship with Zhou Guanjin!

Gu Zheng narrowed his eyes. His gaze shifted between Zhou Guanjin and Qiao Xi, his eyes dark and heavy.

Song Shiyu was still confused. "Why would Zhou Guanjin speak up for Madam? Do they know each other? Why did Zhou Guanjin invite her to join the university?"

"Who knows?" Gu Zheng's fingers that were placed on his knees lightly tapped them as he tilted his head to glance meaningfully at Qiao Xi.

Sensing his gaze, Qiao Xi touched the tip of her nose. She reckoned that Gu Zheng had already guessed her identity.

However, it did not matter. She had no plans of hiding it anyway.

Knock, knock, knock.

Qiao Xi tapped on the microphone with her finger, attracting everyone's attention.

"Haven't you noticed anything? I've been sitting here for a long time," she reminded them meaningfully.

"Hahaha, a bunch of blind people!" Zhou Guanjin laughed without restraint.

Only then did the others realize that Qiao Xi was sitting on Master Gu Shan's seat, which the host had introduced earlier!

Damn, how dare she?!

"Oh my God, this woman is too shameless. She actually dares to sit there."

"If she hadn't said anything, I wouldn't have realized. Is she sitting there to try and seduce President Gu?"

"F*ck, she'd better stay away from Master Gu Shan's seat! Don't dirty it!"

Qiao Xi: "???"

Things seemed to be developing unexpectedly.

Qiao Rou's eyes flashed with pride as she said innocently, "Sister, how can you sit in the master's seat? That seat..."

"Shut up, I don't have a disciple like you!"

Qiao Xi roared in frustration.

The venue fell silent again.

Qiao Xi's fingers tapped lightly on the table, and her elegant brows were furrowed. It was obvious that she was in a very bad mood.

Her cold voice spread to every corner of the venue through the microphone. "Let me introduce myself. I'm Qiao Xi, and my alias is Gu Shan. I'm a special teacher invited by Li City University's fashion design department."

Before anyone could react...

Qiao Xi did not wait for their reaction as she continued speaking, "The topic for the design competition this time is 'five grains'. The designs handed by the participants mostly contain the relevant elements, and Qiao Rou's design is the most outstanding."

The layers of the skirt were made up of golden wheat ears.. The waistline was separated from top to bottom, and the sleeves were boldly draped over the deep V neckline, like golden wheat ears that grew while bathing in sunlight.

Chapter 38: Growth

It was also because Qiao Rou's design was too stunning that she won over the judges and got first place.

Gu Zheng had also looked at Qiao Rou's design. Although it was good, he had a strange feeling that this style did not match Qiao Rou's.

Hence, he did not vote for Qiao Rou.

On the other hand, Qiao Xi's evaluation of this design was: 'The designing process is flawed. All designers need to sharpen themselves and persist in coming up with original designs.'

The sharp edge of a sword came from sharpening it, while the fragrance of plum blossoms came from the bitter cold.

As long as you persevered, you would eventually walk your own path.

Unfortunately...

Too many people liked to take shortcuts.

Qiao Rou was stunned when Qiao Xi admitted that she was Gu Shan. No, impossible! How could she be Gu Shan?!

"I don't know why everyone is saying Qiao Rou is my disciple, but as the temporary substitute teacher in Li City University, I have indeed guided Qiao Rou before. I can't deny that she's very talented in fashion design."

Qiao Xi raised her chin slightly and said in an unhurried tone, "Perhaps it's because I cherish talent. Also, I was entrusted with the job by someone else. I hope that our country can produce more outstanding designers, so I gave Qiao Rou more pointers. For the things she didn't understand, I also taught her through the computer screen.

“At that time, I was working on a new design. Qiao Rou saw it and asked a few questions. It’s the one she has submitted for this competition... It’s called Growth.”

Qiao Xi pulled out a copy of her original design from her phone, and the cameraman cleverly aimed the camera at the screen of her phone.

The design was mainly based on the five grains with the wheat ear skirt as the highlight.

When everyone saw Qiao Rou’s design, they could not help but be amazed. However, now that they were looking at Qiao Xi’s original design, they finally understood what it meant that a dupe could never beat an authentic product!

Growth! Growth!

Her dress was full of layers and layers. The golden wheat ears seemed to ripple like a golden rice field during a windy day.

The golden waistline was stitched with wheat. It supported the top half of the dress and also held up the heavy wheat ears. It did not have a sexy deep V but a perfect little V-neck. The neckline was decorated with a thin layer of tulle. When the wind blew, the tulle would sway gently.

This was the real Growth!

After giving them sufficient time to digest the new information, Qiao Xi slowly opened her mouth again. “Before accepting the invitation to be a judge for this competition, I heard that the winner will have the opportunity to enter Gu Corporation. It just so happened that Gu Corporation extended a sincere invitation to me, hoping to collaborate with me for this season’s designs.”

“That’s why I chose five grains to be the topic this year. I wanted to discover designs that would fit my five grains series. I wanted to take a glimpse at high-end and mid-end fashion designs. Unfortunately...”

Qiao Xi shook her head.

Unfortunately, everything was ruined by Qiao Rou.

Song Shiyu did not care whether Qiao Rou had plagiarized or not. What he cared about was that the madam was Gu Shan! Moreover, the madam wanted to collaborate with Gu Corporation!

Master Gu Shan, whom they had been unable to reach out to, was actually beside them this whole time!

Song Shiyu thought that his eyes were useless!

“Impossible, you can’t be Gu Shan! How can you be Gu Shan?!” Qiao Rou went crazy. She could not take it anymore and shouted, “You’re lying, you’re not Gu Shan at all! Don’t be deceived by her! She can’t be Gu Shan!”

“Why? Are you going to say that I’m a country bumpkin again?”

Qiao Xi looked at her indifferently. “Because I came from the countryside, it’s natural for me to be ridiculed? Because I came from the countryside, I know nothing and should crawl to your feet for the sake of your ego and self-satisfaction?”

7

Qiao Rou staggered back. "No, no, it's not like that..."

How could she accept the fact that the person she had been stepping on was suddenly stepping on her?!

1

After this dramatic scene, Qiao Rou was forced to leave.

The first-place winner was revoked, and they announced the second place. No one was paying attention to the person's acceptance speech as everyone was staring at Qiao Xi!

Among all these gazes, the gaze of the person beside her was the most unbearable.

Qiao Xi could not help but move her body and ask in a low voice, "Why are you looking at me?"

Gu Zheng said, "I'm looking at how my wife has transformed into the international designer, Gu Shan."

Qiao Xi replied, "... There's something wrong with you."

Finally, when the curtains were drawn, Qiao Xi stood up and walked out.

Gu Zheng reached out to grab her, but all he got was air.

Looking at his empty hand, Gu Zheng's eyes turned dark.

"President, what are you waiting for? Madam has already run away!"

Run?

Could she escape?

Gu Zheng got up unhurriedly and slowly walked out of the building under the respectful escort of the university leaders.

Chapter 39: Are We Going Home Together?

Outside the building, Zhou Guanjin excitedly placed an arm around Qiao Xi's neck. "Sister Qiao Xi, why did you suddenly agree to collaborate with Gu Corporation? You don't have to force yourself. You don't have to agree to collaborate with them on my account."

At the very least, she should at least meet the people from Gu Corporation before agreeing.

Qiao Xi rolled her eyes.

After Gu Zheng and Song Shiyu got rid of the university leaders, they saw two figures standing outside the building.

Zhou Guanjin had an arm around Qiao Xi and kept talking to her. They looked intimate.

For the most part, Qiao Xi listened silently and occasionally nodded in agreement.

One was quiet while the other was noisy. They looked strangely harmonious.

Song Shiyu stole a glance at Gu Zheng's expression and said, "Um... Madam and Zhou Guanjin seem to be very close, haha... I remember Zhou Guanjin saying that Gu Shan is his junior. It's probably been a long time since they last met, so it's normal for them to have a lot to talk about..."

Gu Zheng expressionlessly looked at the arm Zhou Guanjin had placed around Qiao Xi's neck.

Zhou Guanjin felt a chill run down his spine. He turned around and saw Gu Zheng and Song Shiyu coming down the stairs. He waved his hand. "Brother Gu Zheng, come here. Let me introduce you. This is my junior..."

Before he could finish, Gu Zheng stopped three meters in front of them and asked, "Are we going home together?"

Zhou Guanjin said, "Huh? Are we going to your house for a gathering today?"

Qiao Xi pinched the space between her brows. "Let's go together."

She did not want to listen to this talkative Zhou Guanjin anymore!

"Yeah."

Gu Zheng nodded lightly and turned to walk toward the parking lot.

Qiao Xi tossed Zhou Guanjin's arm that was on her shoulder. She casually said that she was leaving and left.

Zhou Guanjin watched them leave together... He was stunned...

What was going on?

He grabbed Song Shiyu and asked, "My junior and Brother Gu Zheng know each other? When did they meet? Why don't I know about this?"

Song Shiyu stammered, "Maybe... they haven't known each other for long?"

They had not known each other for long but were going home together?

Going home together?!

"F*ck, something's wrong. Something's definitely wrong. Song Shiyu, tell me the truth. What's going on between them?"

"Nothing much. They're just legally married."

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With that, he took advantage of Zhou Guanjin's moment of shock to break free from his restraints and slip away.

Zhou Guanjin was still thinking about what he had heard. Legally married... They were husband and wife?

His junior and Brother Gu Zheng were married?!

Brother Gu Zheng's marriage partner was his junior?!

Holy sh*t!

...

Qiao Xi originally thought that she would have to face Gu Zheng's probing. She had even thought of an excuse, but who would have expected that Gu Zheng did not ask a single question!

Apart from Song Shiyu glancing at her from time to time, their interactions were no different from usual.

Never mind the incident about her being Gu Shan but Gu Zheng did not even mention the collaboration with Gu Corporation!

The breath that Qiao Xi had been holding all throughout was let go just like that.

After returning to the villa, she ran up to the third floor.

At this moment, a birthday reminder popped up.

Qiao Xi slowed down.

Mo Yuan's birthday was coming up...

In the past, she would always make a happy birthday animation and send it to him. However, she had asked Mo Yuan too many questions recently so it would not be as easy to handle his birthday this year.

Scratching her head, Qiao Xi thought about the impression she had of Mo Yuan. In the past, he was steady, but after the recent few conversations, Qiao Xi felt that Mo Yuan was probably very young...

She would just make him something, then!

In the study on the second floor.

Song Shiyu asked Gu Zheng as he worked, "President, your birthday is coming up. How are you going to celebrate it this time? Are you going back to the Gu family's mansion or are you going to a gathering with friends?"

Song Shiyu would always ask the same question for his birthday.

However, Gu Zheng soon added, "You can also spend time with Madam."

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Gu Zheng slammed the document onto the table. "Do you think she'll celebrate my birthday with me? She doesn't even know my birthday!"

Song Shiyu: "..."

What was going on?

It was at this time that Qiao Xi called. Song Shiyu looked at Gu Zheng in fear and quietly walked to the side to pick it up. "Madam, what's wrong?"

“Help me get something.”

“What is it?”

After Qiao Xi told him what she wanted, Song Shiyu was silent for a while. “Madam, are you interested in craftsmanship? There’s a shop under the president’s name that specializes in craftsmanship. The facilities are very complete.”

“Don’t tell him about it.”

Qiao Xi refused without the slightest hesitation.

Song Shiyu sensed that something was wrong. He asked in a quivering tone, “Madam, may I ask what you want these things for?”

What was there to hide from the president?

Chapter 40: Large Scale Scene

Qiao Xi frowned. “I have a friend whose birthday is coming up. I don’t know what to give him, so I’ll just make him something.”

A friend’s birthday?

What kind of friend was it that news of this had to be hidden from the president?

Wait, it was the president’s birthday soon. Could it be that Madam knows about the president’s birthday and wants to secretly give him a surprise?

Song Shiyu thought that he knew the truth. He covered his mouth and said in a low voice, “Okay, Madam. I’ll send you the things you need tomorrow. The president won’t find out.”

After hanging up the phone, Qiao Xi thought about what Song Shiyu said at the end and felt awkward.

She did not want Gu Zheng to know about it because she subconsciously thought that he would be angry if he found out that she was making something for another man, hence she wanted to hide it from him.

However, Song Shiyu’s tone made her want to create trouble behind Gu Zheng’s back...

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Shaking her head to shake off the strange thoughts, Qiao Xi took out a paintbrush and began to design the rough outline of the gift.

After hanging up, Song Shiyu patted his chest and heaved a sigh of relief.

Noticing his expression, Gu Zheng frowned and asked, “Who called?”

“No one, no one.”

Song Shiyu waved his hands.

...

In the blink of an eye, it was Gu Zheng's birthday.

Ever since he woke up in the morning, Gu Zheng had been sitting on the sofa in the living room, not moving at all. From time to time, he would glance upstairs.

On the third floor.

Qiao Xi yawned when she got up from bed. She had stayed up late last night and finally finished the present she wanted to give Mo Yuan.

After washing up, she put on a large sweater, stuffed the things she had prepared into her backpack, and picked up her phone to send a message to Mo Yuan.

[Give me your home address. I'm going to send you a present.]

His phone beeped, and footsteps sounded at the same time.

Gu Zheng looked up without hesitation.

"Morning. Aren't you going to work today?"

Qiao Xi yawned while looking at Gu Zheng.

He was not wearing a suit, nor had he styled her hair. His black and gray home clothes complemented his smooth short hair, making him look inexplicably obedient.

Qiao Xi stared blankly at him for a while.

"I'm resting today."

Gu Zheng tightened his grip on his phone and looked at Qiao Xi's backpack. "You're going out?"

"Yes, I'm going out to do something. I won't be having lunch at home."

Qiao Xi waved her hand and walked out casually.

The moment she left, Gu Zheng's face turned cold.

After three minutes of silence, he smirked.

There was a message from Black Tide.

Gu Zheng thought about it and gave the address of his apartment in the city center.

[Okay, I'll courier it using the same-city express service. It'll probably be delivered to you in the afternoon. Happy birthday.]

...

When Song Shiyu received Gu Zheng's call, he was sound asleep in bed.

When he heard Gu Zheng's sinister voice, he immediately got up. "What's wrong? Is there something wrong with the data I sent you yesterday? I'll be right there!"

Gu Zheng sneered. "The data is fine, but you're going to have problems."

Song Shiyu wiped his face silently, waiting for Gu Zheng to continue.

"Qiao Xi went out after sleeping till noon. She didn't even eat before leaving."

Song Shiyu, "???"

His mind raced as he tried his best to keep up with Gu Zheng's train of thought. "President, are you saying that Madam left you alone at home on your birthday?"

Gu Zheng hummed coldly.

Song Shiyu said, "... That shouldn't be the case. I've bought all the tools and materials Madam asked me to buy. Didn't she ask for those things because of you, President?"

Gu Zheng asked, "What did you buy?"

Song Shiyu: "..."

He had accidentally said out what he was thinking.

After hanging up, Gu Zheng went to the third floor with a dark expression.

Ever since Qiao Xi moved into the villa, he had never stepped into the master bedroom. At this moment, he stood in this familiar yet unfamiliar place while looking at the pile of tools in the corner. The anger that he had been suppressing finally erupted.

Three minutes later, a sports car drove out of the villa.

Song Shiyu felt that things were bad the moment he hung up. He quickly took out Qiao Xi's phone and called her. Before Qiao Xi could speak, he started spitting out words like a machine gun, "Madam, today is the president's birthday. This is the first birthday you guys are spending together after your marriage. It's extremely meaningful."

Qiao Xi had just sent the package out when she heard Song Shiyu's words. She was surprised. "Gu Zheng's birthday is today too?!"

Song Shiyu: "..."

'Oh no, Madam's gift was really not for the president!'

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Xi Di Apartment.

Gu Zheng drove around the neighborhood for a long time. At last, he thought of the gift Black Tide had mentioned and drove to the entrance of Xi Di Apartment.

There was a package in front of the door of his apartment and he opened it.