

## Lady gu 361

### Chapter 361: Mrs. Gu's Performance Is Average?

Qiao Xi slowly walked up to the stage. "Everyone knows that I didn't enter the finals before this. Moreover, I haven't played the violin much in the past three years, so my standard is still the same as it was three years ago. If I don't perform well, I hope Mr. Zhao and Miss Yao won't be disappointed and save me some dignity. Is that alright?"

Zhao Qinghui smiled disdainfully. "Miss Qiao, don't worry. I'm a judge. Everything I say represents professional judgment. There's no doubt about that."

His words were ambiguous. He did not say that he would not criticize Qiao Xi. He only knew how to give professional comments. Even if he said harsh words, it was because of his professionalism in music and not because of her.

Moreover, he was very sure that Qiao Xi's standard was absolutely not comparable to Yao Mengqing's.

Yao Mengqing lowered her head with a proud smile. After the birthday banquet ended, the entire Li City would know that Qiao Xi was uneducated and useless!

What right did a woman like her have to be Mrs. Gu? Only she, Yao Mengqing, had the right to be by Gu Zheng's side and be his only woman!

Qiao Xi picked up the violin and thought for a few seconds. Then, she elegantly raised her head, revealing the beautiful angle that was formed. Instantly, beautiful notes spread from her fingertips.

Everyone held their breaths.

Everyone closed their eyes and quietly felt the beautiful music. Sometimes, it felt like they were riding a small boat and swimming in the ocean. Other times, it felt like they were lying on the grass and counting the stars in the sky. The melodious music flowed into everyone's hearts like flowing water, filling them with faint sorrow.

At this moment, someone reacted. "Qiao Xi's performance is... very good!"

"Yes! It's really good. Miss Qiao hasn't played in three years, yet she can still perform so well. She's really a genius!"

"However, she's still a little inferior to Miss Yao."

Yao Mengqing played a happy and relaxing tune. Playing such a genre on a day like this could easily bring up the atmosphere of the venue, but such a sad tune was more suitable for a quiet concert.

Zhao Qinghui frowned and said unhappily, "It's alright, but this standard isn't enough to participate in the international competition. It's normal that Miss Qiao didn't enter the finals back then. You indeed don't have the qualifications."

Yao Mengqing curled her lips. "Mr. Zhao, Xi Xi plays very well! Maybe it's because you have higher expectations, but she's not as useless as the rumors say."

As soon as she finished speaking, she turned to look at Gu Zheng and said shyly, "Ah... President Gu, what do you think? What do you think of Xi Xi's performance?"

Gu Zheng leaned lazily against the chair and slowly looked up.

For some reason, everyone felt suffocating pressure.

Gu Zheng looked at Qiao Xi and replied casually, "It's average."

Yao Mengqing looked up in surprise.

Ah Zheng said... Qiao Xi's performance was very ordinary?

Qiao Xi's playing skills were indeed inferior to hers. No wonder Ah Zheng did not take her seriously. It seemed that he would hate her very soon.

Originally, these few people thought that Qiao Xi's performance was not bad. Now that Gu Zheng had spoken, they all shut up.

Zhao Qinghui was emboldened. "President Gu, you also think that Miss Qiao's performance is average?"

Gu Zheng's expression was indifferent as he glanced at him coldly. He only sneered and did not answer him. He looked like he was sick of talking to him.

Yao Mengqing said gently, "President Gu, Xi Xi hasn't played for three years. It's normal for her progress to have deteriorated a little"

At this moment, the woman beside Yao Mengqing immediately said obsequiously, "Miss Yao, you haven't played in three years but you're still so outstanding."

Yao Mengqing smiled shyly. "I'm different from Xi Xi."

Their words instantly flattered Yao Mengqing and pressed Qiao Xi to the floor.

Yao Mengqing looked at Qiao Xi proudly. She finally won against Qiao Xi today. There would be a day when Ah Zheng would detest Qiao Xi and abandon her. She believed that that day would not be far away.

Qiao Xi was not aware of the discussion below the stage and was just immersed in playing. Every note was infused with her emotions.

As soon as Yao Mengqing finished speaking, the sad tune suddenly became enthusiastic. It was as if they were at a concert and listening to the world's best performance.

Everyone was stunned.

The smile on Yao Mengqing's face gradually vanished.

### **Chapter 362: Breathtaking**

"Miss Qiao is the one playing this?"

“Oh my God! She can actually play such a famous tune. It seems that the performance just now was just to immerse herself in the atmosphere.”

In the notes of the violin, everyone could hear sorrow and despair. Then, the tune became joyful again. It was like the peaceful and prosperous era when the country was prosperous.

If Yao Mengqing’s tune was a happy and relaxed tune, then Qiao Xi’s tune was a heroic tune that was filled with the sentiments of the country. Although there were no words, it could make others feel deep emotions.

When the last note sounded, Qiao Xi lowered her arm and bent down slightly, her eyes filled with coldness.

Everyone held their breaths, unable to break the silence.

Everyone was immersed in the music. It was as if they had gone on a journey to look at the mountains and rivers. The flames of war raged before they witnessed the peaceful era today.

After a while, someone came back to their senses. It turned out that the song had already ended, but they still could not calm down for a long time. It was as if they had just watched a grand concert.

The applause was thunderous as everyone praised her excitedly. “I didn’t realize that the song had ended. I was too immersed in the music. Miss Qiao, you’re really awesome!”

Old Master Li stood up as well. His face was red as he clapped excitedly. “Although I’ve never heard this piece, I know that the person who created this piece must be a genius. Miss Qiao, you were able to play such a difficult piece without making a single mistake. You’re really awesome!”

After Old Master Li finished speaking, the venue erupted in applause.

Qiao Xi glanced indifferently at them, then her gaze landed on Yao Mengqing and Zhao Qinghui. She asked casually, “Miss Yao, Mr. Zhao, my performance has ended. Do you think I have the ability to prove those rumors about me being ignorant and incompetent wrong?”

Yao Mengqing choked and bit her lip.

Zhao Qinghui’s face alternated between red and white. A moment later, he gritted his teeth and said, “Miss Qiao’s performance was indeed very good...”

“If even you think it’s good, Mr. Zhao, then I should be qualified to compete with the champion, right? At least I didn’t lose my dignity here.”

Li Xing’er applauded again. “Miss Qiao, you haven’t played the violin for three years. It means that you were even more outstanding than now. You were already so capable back then. If Mr. Zhao still criticizes you, it only means that Mr. Zhao’s expectations are too high.”

Someone echoed, “Why do I feel that Miss Qiao’s standard is better than Miss Yao’s?! As expected of Xue Liang’s younger sister!”

“Who spread the rumors? They even said that Miss Qiao is ignorant and incompetent? Then what’s Yao Mengqing?”

“Yeah, who was it who spread these rumors? Before we came to the banquet, we never heard of such rumors. Yao Mengqing was the one who said it herself. I think she just wanted to step on Miss Qiao. Unexpectedly, she’s much better than her.”

Yao Mengqing’s pupils constricted abruptly as her body trembled.

Qiao Xi looked at Yao Mengqing and said casually, “Miss Yao, did you just say that my performance was very average?”

Everyone looked at Yao Mengqing with anger. She did say that Qiao Xi’s performance was average, but everyone thought that Qiao Xi was playing and could not hear their comments at all. Unexpectedly, she actually heard it.

Yao Mengqing stammered, “I-I...”

She suddenly thought of something and abruptly looked up at Gu Zheng with a confident smile. “I didn’t say anything. Yes, yes... Ah Zheng was the one who said it. He said that your performance was average, so...”

“Is that so? Gu Zheng said that my performance was average?” Qiao Xi seemed to be lost in thought.

Everyone was nervous to the point of breaking out in a cold sweat. Qiao Xi actually dared to call President Gu by his name?

Qiao Xi frowned. “Gu Zheng, did you say that my performance was average?”

Everyone held their breaths as they looked at the scene in front of them with fear. Gu Zheng might flare up in the next second, so they could not be implicated.

Yao Mengqing could not help but be stunned. She did not expect that Qiao Xi would start questioning Ah Zheng in front of everyone.

According to Ah Zheng’s character, he would definitely not pay attention to Qiao Xi, but it could be said that he was saving her some dignity.

Actually, Qiao Xi was not suitable to be Mrs. Gu at all because she did not know Ah Zheng.. She had no right to be his woman!

### **Chapter 363: What’s The Secret Behind It?**

Yao Mengqing was sure that she was the only one who understood Gu Zheng the most. At this moment, she should step forward to show Ah Zheng her concern and let him know her feelings for him.

Yao Mengqing thought about it and said gently, “Xi Xi, don’t blame Ah Zheng. Maybe it’s because his standards are too high. Actually, Mr. Zhao and I both think that you play very well. As long as you practice hard, Ah Zheng will take a liking to you sooner or later.”

Yao Mengqing secretly curled up her lips into a proud smile. "Ah Zheng and I grew up together. I know him very well. He's very picky about things and people. He won't like even such a perfect tune. He's not targeting you, but his requirements are too high. Although you're his wife, you can't let him change for you. Just get used to it."

Everyone gasped.

In that case, President Gu did not like Qiao Xi and even found her a little annoying. Otherwise, why would such perfect music not satisfy him?

Li Xing'er could not sit still anymore. "Gu—"

Before she could finish, Gu Zheng raised his eyes indifferently. His eyes were filled with disdain and ridicule. He looked at Yao Mengqing and chuckled. "Xi Xi, I said your performance was average. Are you angry with me?"

Gu Zheng's voice was gentle, but it still maintained a dignified air. Everyone could hear the affection in his voice, especially when he said 'Xi Xi'. It was filled with President Gu's gentleness and love, making everyone dumbfounded.

Yao Mengqing's heart thumped. Impossible! Ah Zheng was clearly helping her. How could he be so gentle to Qiao Xi? This was definitely an illusion!

Earlier, he said that Qiao Xi's performance was very ordinary, which meant that he liked the tune she played more.

B-But... Why was she still so nervous? Her heart seemed to skip a beat.

Gu Zheng's voice was magnetic as he said slowly, "I watched the international violin competition three years ago too. Xi Xi, this time, your performance was not even half as good as your performance three years ago, so it can only be said to be average."

Everyone was instantly stunned. Then, they realized what Gu Zheng had just said. They were extremely shocked!

President Gu said that the performance this time was not even half as good as her performance from three years ago?

The performance this time had already made them forget about everything else. If that was the case, just how stunning was her performance from three years ago?

"Miss Qiao said that she hasn't played the violin in three years, so her standard has dropped. It looks like she's not lying!"

"That's not a problem. After all, President Gu has seen Miss Qiao's performance back then. After listening to her performance now, he naturally finds it very ordinary. Miss Qiao has not practiced for three years, so it's normal for her to be a little weak."

"President Gu, your expectations are too high, but we all think that the performance this time was perfect!"

“Miss Yao was the champion back then. She has been practicing all these years but can’t compare to Miss Qiao, who hasn’t played for three years. How embarrassing! She still has the cheek to mock others with such standards?”

“Wait!”

At this moment, something suddenly flashed through Li Xing’er’s mind. She did not have the time to think and blurted out, “That’s not right! If Qiao Xi is better than Yao Mengqing after not practicing for three years, then why didn’t Qiao Xi enter the finals when she was at her peak? Moreover, Yao Mengqing even won the championship?”

Huh? That was right.

This was a little strange!

Everyone looked at Li Xing’er, whose face was overcast with anger. “According to President Gu, Qiao Xi performed better three years ago, so why didn’t she enter the finals?!”

“Yao Mengqing has been practicing for so long but still can’t compare to Qiao Xi, who’s already unfamiliar with the violin. However, she became the champion back then! What exactly is going on?”

...!

Yao Mengqing’s face was pale as if she had been struck by lightning.

Li Xing’er’s words had reminded everyone of the incident. No wonder when they heard Qiao Xi’s performance just now, they kept feeling that something was wrong! So that was the reason!

“That’s right! Back then, Miss Yao’s violin skills might not even be as good as they are now. Back then, even President Gu was full of praise for Miss Qiao. Why didn’t Miss Qiao enter the finals?”

“Who were the judges for the semi-finals?”

“I remember that the judge who had the right to veto and the right to advance contestants was... Zhao Qinghui!”

### **Chapter 364: Music Is An Art That Normal People Don’t Understand**

“Could it be that in the semi-finals, everyone performed very well and was even better than Miss Qiao? But President Gu said that Miss Qiao performed even better back then. President Gu can testify for Miss Qiao. Whose performance could’ve been more exciting than hers?”

“Then how did those people enter the finals back then? And how did Yao Mengqing get the championship title? Mr. Zhao, can you explain?”

One could hear a pin drop.

Everyone knew what was going on and looked at Zhao Qinghui in disdain.

Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully. "After everyone's reminder, I finally remember that something was off back then! All of you are right. The current Miss Yao can't even compare to me, whose skills have already regressed. Is it because she has regressed more, or is it because there was a conspiracy in the finals back then?"

Yao Mengqing broke out in a cold sweat, her eyes filled with horror.

Zhao Qinghui frowned and cleared his throat. "Of course, the competition back then was fair and transparent, but I wasn't the only judge in the violin competition. I couldn't take the lead. Moreover, our evaluation of the contestants was based on many aspects. At that time, Miss Yao was indeed very outstanding. Be it her stage presence or her performance itself, she was very mature. Perhaps the judges at that time liked her a lot."

Zhao Qinghui lectured everyone like an elder.

"Music is an art that only experienced musicians can understand. As for ordinary people, they're just simply listening to music. It's not enough for them to give comments."

These words meant that although Qiao Xi's performance sounded good on the surface, it actually did not contain any meaning. It could only make outsiders praise her endlessly, but it could not get her the praise of professionals.

Qiao Xi pretended to be innocent. "Gu Zheng, Mr. Zhao said you're a layman! It doesn't count if you say my performance is good!"

Everyone was trembling with fear. Zhao Qinghui was so nervous that he broke out in a cold sweat.

However, he was a celebrity in the music industry, after all. President Gu was a businessman. The comments he gave did not represent professionals at all.

Gu Zheng's expression was calm as he said indifferently, "I'm indeed not a professional. As a famous musician, Mr. Zhao is naturally more experienced."

Yao Mengqing's expression softened. It seemed that Ah Zheng still cared about her.

She admitted that she was inferior to Qiao Xi in today's performance. Everyone liked Qiao Xi's performance, but everyone present was an amateur. They did not know music, so they liked Qiao Xi's music that did not have any soul or emotions.

Mr. Zhao was a famous musician, so when he said that she played better, it meant that her playing skills were professional while Qiao Xi was just an amateur.

Hearing Gu Zheng's words, Zhao Qinghui heaved a sigh of relief.

"President Gu is right. Miss Qiao's performance was indeed astounding. I was also very puzzled that she did not enter the finals back then, but this has nothing to do with Miss Yao's performance. Back then, we all agreed that Miss Yao's performance was more emotional and mature. She deserved to be the champion!"

"Speaking of which, let me invite Miss Yao to attend next month's concert. At that time, the two of us will perform on stage together."

After Zhao Qinghui finished speaking, he looked at Qiao Xi with eyes that were filled with disdain. “The matter from three years ago is already over. Miss Qiao, please don’t cling to the past and train hard. You’ll have a chance in the future.”

Everyone looked at Yao Mengqing in envy. It was a great honor to be able to perform with Zhao Qinghui. With Yao Mengqing’s looks, she might even be able to enter the entertainment industry. At that time, she would be superior to everyone in high society.

“But I still think Qiao Xi is more outstanding! It’s fine that Zhao Qinghui doesn’t like her, but why did he keep forcing her to perform? She has already given a great performance, yet he’s criticizing her. Isn’t this a little too much?”

Zhao Qinghui did not care at all. “I was just commenting as a professional musician. Although I’m a little harsh to Miss Qiao, it’s also for her own good.. I hope she can improve in the future and not give up on playing the violin. Miss Qiao, could it be that you think I’m deliberately targeting you?”

### **Chapter 365: She Can Be The Judge**

Hearing Zhao Qinghui’s words, everyone was instantly angry. “You...”

However, one thing was right. Everyone present was not a professional. No one could compare to Zhao Qinghui in terms of music. Moreover, he was clearly biased toward Yao Mengqing. He was just short of telling everyone that he wanted to avenge Yao Mengqing by targeting Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi was not annoyed in the slightest and just smiled lightly. “As long as Mr. Zhao is happy, it doesn’t matter who everyone likes. It’s fine as long as Miss Yao is happy.”

Yao Mengqing suppressed her anger and forced a smile.

This time... she had won, so it did not matter. Qiao Xi could say whatever she wanted.

Zhao Qinghui was a famous musician. He represented the highest level of music. Who could retort him? If he said that Qiao Xi’s performance was emotionless, then it meant that she was emotionless!

Zhao Qinghui nodded in satisfaction. “I still have to ask, do you have any objections to the competition’s results back then? If you don’t...”

At this moment, a man suddenly stood up and shouted, “Wait!”

The man had European features, fair skin, and light blue eyes. His Chinese was a little awkward, but he said anxiously, “Miss Qiao, please wait a moment.”

Qiao Xi turned around. The person hurriedly bowed to Old Master Li. “I’m sorry, Mr. Li. For the sake of ensuring fairness in the international violin competition, I might have to take up a little of your time.”

Old Master Li nodded without hesitation, then the man quickly said, “Miss Qiao, I’m really grateful that you performed such a stunning piece. In fact, you’re not even at the level of a contestant. You’re more than qualified to be a judge for the competition.”

As soon as he finished speaking, the banquet hall fell silent. Everyone was dumbfounded.

Zhao Qinghui and Yao Mengqing’s expressions were very ugly.



She could be a judge for an international competition?

Yao Mengqing's face was pale. She bit her lip so hard that her nails dug into her palms.

The woman beside Yao Mengqing was indignant. "Nonsense! Mr. Zhao said that Mengqing's standard is higher and she's fully deserving of being the champion. You said that Qiao Xi can be a judge. Could it be that you're denying Mr. Zhao's professionalism?"

"Or are you looking down on the champion of the international violin competition?"

The atmosphere was tense. Everyone was staring at the few people in front of them with burning gazes. Something big was going to happen today!

Speaking of which, who was this foreigner? Why did he deny Mr. Zhao's comments and praise Qiao Xi for being good enough to become a judge?

With Mr. Zhao's ego, he would definitely not be able to take this lying down and would definitely compete for supremacy.

The man frowned, then looked at the woman beside Yao Mengqing. "Miss, please don't instigate a fight. I'm not looking down on the champion of the international violin competition."

The woman beside Yao Mengqing was Lin Weiwei from the Lin family, Lin Jie's younger sister. She knew that Yao Mengqing and Gu Zheng had grown up together, so she had always been by Yao Mengqing's side as her lackey. It was all for the sake of helping Yao Mengqing when she married into the Gu family and became Mrs. Gu.

Unexpectedly, Qiao Xi became Mrs. Gu first. Her dream of attaining riches was shattered, so she naturally felt resentment.

Lin Weiwei looked disdainful. "If you're not looking down on her, then what are you doing?"

The man said without hesitation, "I'm just looking down on Miss Yao Mengqing. I'm not looking down on the champion!"

Lin Weiwei was instantly speechless, and her face turned pale.

Being mocked in public, Yao Mengqing's face alternated between red and white. She was so angry that her entire body was trembling. She suppressed the anger in her heart.

The man continued to attack. "Zhao Qinghui, as a judge for the international violin competition, you secretly manipulated things and oppressed an outstanding contestant like Qiao Xi. What explanation do you have? What right do you have to be a judge?"

Lin Weiwei roared and retorted, "Shut up! Who do you think you are?! Do you have the right to speak here? Sister Mengqing is the champion! You have no right to say anything!"

If Qiao Xi really became a judge, wouldn't it be equivalent to slapping Yao Mengqing's face? Moreover, it would be equivalent to announcing to the world that Yao Mengqing's victory back then was a conspiracy!

## **Chapter 366: Unveiling The Scheme**

If news of this got out, where would Zhao Qinghui place his dignity?

Yao Mengqing's body went soft, and she fell into Madam Yao's arms.

Madam Yao frowned. "Mister, no matter who you are, you humiliated Mengqing like this and even questioned the fairness of the international violin competition! Please apologize to my daughter immediately! Otherwise, our Yao family will immediately sue you for slander!"

At this moment, Old Madam Li suddenly stood up and rubbed her eyes. She asked in disbelief, "Y-You're... Mr. Morper?"

The man smiled. "Yes, Old Madam. I didn't tell you my identity in advance. I'm really sorry, but you still recognized me."

Gu Zheng, who was sitting at the side, smirked.

Madam Yao had never heard of Mr. Morper before. She immediately shouted, "I don't care who you are! You have to pay the price for slandering my daughter!"

As soon as she finished speaking, Li Xing'er widened her eyes as well. "Mr. Morper, why are you here in Li City? Shouldn't you be preparing for the upcoming violin competition in the United States?"

Li Xing'er's words enlightened everyone.

"Could this Mr. Morper, the founder of the international violin competition?"

"That's right! It's him! 15 years ago, Mr. Morper founded the violin competition. Although Mr. Morper's violin skills are not the best in the world, he discovered many violin geniuses and promoted the development of the violin."

"That's right! Mr. Morper has a pair of sharp eyes. He can accurately discover the strengths and weaknesses of every contestant. He's a true master of music!"

"Do all of you still remember? Mr. Morper said earlier that Zhao Qinghui is deliberately targeting Qiao Xi. He also said that Yao Mengqing isn't qualified to be the champion. Meanwhile, Qiao Xi's standard is enough to make her a judge for the violin competition, so..."

The words that followed were self-evident. Everyone understood and looked at Yao Mengqing.

Madam Yao choked and looked at Yao Mengqing in horror.

Yao Mengqing bit her lip tightly. The anxiety and shame in her heart mixed together, making her almost unable to breathe.

She never expected that the man in front of her would be the founder of the violin competition... Mr. Morper.

Mr. Morper was very enthusiastic. "Miss Qiao, may I represent the violin competition to invite you to be a judge for this year's competition?"

This was explosive news!

Yao Mengqing was proud and arrogant just because she was the champion. She even wanted to step on Qiao Xi. Little did she know that Qiao Xi's standard was enough for her to be a judge.

Now that Mr. Morper had appeared, it proved that Zhao Qinghui had deliberately eliminated Qiao Xi three years ago and given Yao Mengqing the position of the champion. This was a conspiracy!

Not only that, but Mr. Morper was now even inviting Qiao Xi to be a judge. This was equivalent to humiliating Yao Mengqing and Zhao Qinghui.

Qiao Xi did not need to compete for the championship three years ago at all. The title of champion was nothing to her. She could be a judge who had the qualifications to decide who the champion was!

"Deliberately eliminating Qiao Xi and stopping her from becoming the champion was for naught! She can already be a judge!"

"Look at Yao Mengqing's smug look just moments ago. In the end, all she did was slap herself in the face, no?"

Qiao Xi smiled lightly. "Mr. Morper, I'm inexperienced and don't have the qualifications to be a judge. However, I appreciate your kind intentions. If I have the chance, I can be an appraiser. It's just a suggestion, and I won't be participating in the competition."

"Alright! It's good enough that you're willing to be an appraiser, Miss Qiao. I completely agree!" Mr. Morper agreed without hesitation. He turned around and saw Zhao Qinghui.

Morper's eyes turned cold. "Mr. Zhao, the violin competition was supposed to be fair and transparent. Because of your participation, we lost such an outstanding contestant. The international violin competition won't let you off so easily!"

"Miss Yao Mengqing, we'll take back your trophy and announce that your title as the champion is invalid. Whether you won the championship through shady means or not, the title of champion won't be yours.. I hope you can understand."

### **Chapter 367: Yao Mengqing Is Going To Do Evil Things Again**

"I hereby announce that the champion of the violin competition from three years ago is revoked! No one won that competition!"

Morper announced loudly. Actually, in his heart, Qiao Xi was undoubtedly the champion. It was just that Qiao Xi might not care anymore.

Zhao Qinghui's legs went weak, and he almost fell to the floor. He had to support himself on the chair to steady himself. His eyes were filled with defeat.

Yao Mengqing widened her eyes in horror. She was about to explain when she saw the disdainful gazes of everyone. She could only suppress her anger and lower her head.

'Qiao Xi! I won't let you off!

'One day, I'll return all the pain and humiliation you gave me. I'll let you have a taste of it!'

The Li family came forward to mediate the situation. "Someone! Help Mr. Zhao to the lounge. The banquet will continue."

...

The banquet was very lively. No one mentioned the incident just now. Everyone had a tacit understanding that mentioning this matter would undoubtedly humiliate Yao Mengqing even further and make the Li family feel disgusted.

Li Xing'er pulled her sister to the side and complained, "How shameless! I really want to chase Yao Mengqing out! Is she really a daughter of a rich family? Which noble daughter could do such despicable things?"

The younger sister blinked and said in a low voice, "Look, Yao Mengqing is going to create trouble again!"

Li Xing'er turned around and saw Yao Mengqing holding a wine glass. She was walking toward Qiao Xi with a group of people.

"Miss Qiao, I'm very sorry. I really didn't know that Zhao Qinghui deliberately made the decision to eliminate you. If you had participated in the competition back then, this championship would've been yours! I'm indeed not worthy!"

Yao Mengqing raised her glass with a gentle expression. "Miss Qiao, this glass of wine is my apology. Can you... forgive me?"

Madam Yao chimed in, "Miss Qiao, Mengqing didn't know anything. It was all Zhao Qinghui's doing!"

Lin Weiwei also said, "Sister Mengqing and President Gu are good friends! If you don't forgive her, won't you be making things difficult for President Gu too? It's not a big deal anyway. It's just a matter of words."

Li Xing'er was angry. These people were shameless. Even if Yao Mengqing, this b\*tch, was apologizing, why should Qiao Xi forgive her? Moreover, everyone knew what was going on. Zhao Qinghui would not have done it for no reason. He must have done it for Yao Mengqing.

Wasn't it too late to pretend to be innocent now?

Seeing that Qiao Xi did not reply after a long time, Yao Mengqing's eyes instantly welled up with tears as she choked. "Xi Xi... If you're unwilling to forgive me, I won't blame you. Boo-hoo..."

"Qiao Xi! You're too heartless! It's already been three years, yet you're still unwilling to let this go! Sister Mengqing has already apologized to you. What else do you want? Can't you tell that she's very guilty now? This isn't her fault at all. What else do you want?"

Yao Mengqing hurriedly stopped her. "Wei Wei, don't say anymore. It's normal for Miss Qiao to be dissatisfied. It's my fault. I shouldn't have fought for the championship. If I knew that Xi Xi was also participating in the competition, I wouldn't have hesitated to give the championship to her."

"You want to beg Xi Xi for forgiveness?"

At this moment, a cold voice sounded.

Gu Zheng leaned lazily on the sofa and swept his cold gaze across the crowd.

His eyes were deep as he gently took a sip of red wine. His lips were also stained with some red.

Gu Zheng sneered. "Shouldn't you show some sincerity if you want Xi Xi to forgive you? Yao Mengqing, what should you call Xi Xi?"

Everyone was puzzled. Yao Mengqing had just called Qiao Xi 'Miss Qiao' and also called her 'Xi Xi' intimately. Could it be that there were other titles?

Gu Zheng said slowly, "Since you know that we're married, shouldn't you call her Mrs. Gu?"

Yao Mengqing's heart stopped.

Li Xing'er smiled. "Yes! Yao Mengqing, you know that President Gu and Mrs. Gu are married, but you keep calling her Miss Qiao instead of Mrs. Gu.

"You keep saying that you're President Gu's good friend, but you keep calling her 'Miss Qiao'. Are you doing this on purpose?"

"Do you think we won't know that you're not acknowledging Mrs. Gu's identity? That's too laughable!"

### **Chapter 368: Pretending To Faint Again**

The matter of Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi's marriage had never been made public, but there were also some people who knew the inside story. Hence, everyone present guessed that Qiao Xi was Mrs. Gu.

However, Yao Mengqing already knew that Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng were married. Why did she still insist on calling her 'Miss Qiao'?

Moreover, when Old Madam Li wanted to call Qiao Xi 'Mrs. Gu', it was Yao Mengqing who called her 'Miss Qiao' first. She interrupted Old Madam Li and led everyone to call Qiao Xi 'Miss Qiao'.

Yao Mengqing looked at the crowd's disdainful and mocking gazes and felt a sense of shame.

Her face was pale as she resisted the fear in her heart. Her voice trembled. "I... I'm not doing it on purpose. I'm just used to it."

Li Xing'er snorted. "Who are you kidding? I think you're just denying it on purpose."

Qiao Xi pretended to be surprised, then she smiled meaningfully. "Miss Li, you're right. Miss Yao knew that I'm Mrs. Gu a long time ago, but she has always addressed me as 'Miss Qiao'. Moreover, you came

to our house several times without an invitation and even asked to stay there. Although you didn't succeed, it's clear you actually want to..."

Qiao Xi specially emphasized the word 'our'. She did not say anything else, but everyone understood what she meant.

"Hah! Yao Mengqing wants to be a mistress. She wants to stay in Longwan Residential as a friend and pretend to be President Gu's friend. Actually, she has always wanted to interfere in the relationship between Mrs. Gu and President Gu."

"Isn't she just a b\*tch?"

"No wonder she and Zhao Qinghui put on an act just to mock Mrs. Gu for not entering the finals back then. Who knew that she would shoot herself in the foot?"

"Zhao Qinghui kept forcing Mrs. Gu to perform because he wanted to step on her and highlight how good Yao Mengqing's violin skills are."

Everyone sneered. "Unfortunately, Yao Mengqing won the championship back then because of a conspiracy. Mrs. Gu is the true champion!"

Yao Mengqing's blood froze when she heard the mocking laughter around her.

Her legs went weak, and she did not know how to explain herself. Her voice trembled as she choked. "Xi Xi, I... I treat both President Gu and you as friends. I really don't mean anything else."

"Miss Yao, please call me 'Mrs. Gu'," Qiao Xi said coldly.

Yao Mengqing instantly choked. Her face was as pale as paper, and she was about to break down.

Lin Jie finally could not take it anymore. "Qiao Xi! Don't go too far!"

Qiao Xi said casually, "Miss Yao, what are you afraid of? Is calling me 'Mrs. Gu' so difficult for you?"

Everyone's burning gazes landed on Yao Mengqing.

Even though Yao Mengqing and President Gu were once a couple, that was all in the past. Now that Qiao Xi was the real Mrs. Gu, why was she pretending to be aggrieved?

Moreover, Yao Mengqing had always said to the public that she was President Gu's friend. She had never said that the two of them were a couple. Now that President Gu was married, she ran over to disgust Qiao Xi and pretended to be weak. She was really a b\*tch.

Yao Mengqing was about to break down.

She had never been so embarrassed before because she was the beloved daughter of the Yao family and Gu Zheng's childhood sweetheart. In Li City, many people would suck up to her and no one would make things difficult for her, much less attack her like this.

However, because of Qiao Xi, everyone was criticizing her. Their gazes were filled with ridicule and disdain. How could she raise her head in high society in the future?

"Mrs... Mrs. Gu..." Yao Mengqing said with difficulty. She instantly felt dizzy and fainted.

“Mengqing!” Lin Jie hurriedly supported her, looking worried. “Mengqing! Mengqing! Madam Yao, I’ll send Mengqing to the hospital!”

Then, Lin Jie raised his eyes and glared fiercely at Qiao Xi. He then carried Yao Mengqing horizontally and left the hall.

Yao Mengqing collapsed weakly in Lin Jie’s arms, her body still trembling.

She gritted her teeth and suppressed her trembling.

It was all Qiao Xi’s fault! Qiao Xi had harmed her!

### **Chapter 369: The Jewelry Exhibition A Few Days Later**

Yao Mengqing hid in Lin Jie’s arms and revealed a vicious smile. Then, she looked up weakly.

“Ah Jie...”

Lin Jie said gently, “Mengqing, you’re awake?”

“I-I just...” Yao Mengqing’s tears trickled down. “Take me to the waiting room. We’re not going to the hospital anymore. I really don’t wish to ruin their relationship, nor do I want to be a mistress. How should I explain it so that they’ll believe me?”

“I just think that Xi Xi’s identity isn’t worthy of Ah Zheng. He’s such an outstanding man. He’s handsome and rich. Only the most outstanding woman has the right to be his wife.

“But Xi Xi is just a young girl from the countryside. She’s not gentle nor talented. How is she worthy to be Mrs. Gu?”

“Although Xi Xi is very good, she’s not suitable for Ah Zheng. Who knew that everyone would misunderstand me and think that I have ulterior motives?”

Lin Jie was angry. “It’s all Qiao Xi’s fault. She’s jealous of you. It’s because she’s useless that she keeps targeting you! Mengqing, don’t be sad. The jewelry exhibition will be held in a few days. I heard that Qiao Xi has signed up as well. It’s impossible that she’s able to design anything good!”

Yao Mengqing suddenly recalled that when she first met Qiao Xi, she had given her 16 sets of gowns. She had tampered with the gowns, but she did not expect that Qiao Xi would figure it out right away.

She was suddenly slightly perturbed. Previously, she had heard the two Song brothers say that Qiao Xi was Gu Shan. Could it be that this was true?

After a moment of silence, she heaved a sigh of relief. What was there to be afraid of? So what if it was true? Even if Qiao Xi was Gu Shan, she might not necessarily be good at designing jewelry.

However, it was different for her. She had international brands for both jewelry and fashion. Many of her products were in short supply, but she had never heard of Qiao Xi’s brand.

So what if Qiao Xi could play the violin well? In terms of jewelry and clothes, Qiao Xi was definitely not her match.

She was an internationally renowned designer. She was a young, beautiful, and talented independent woman. How could a woman like Qiao Xi, who relied on men to survive, compare to her?

“Xi Xi has also registered, so... she has works to display?”

A sinister look appeared in Yao Mengqing’s eyes, then she smiled bitterly. “Xi Xi... Why is she doing this to me? Why must she interfere in what I want to do?”

“I’ve been involved in design since I was young. This isn’t something that can be learned in a day or two. It also requires talent. It’s not a simple industry.

“Xi Xi doesn’t know anything about design at all. She still wants to participate in this competition? She probably knows that I signed up, so... Why don’t I forfeit, then? I don’t want others to say anything else.”

Lin Jie’s heart ached. Mengqing was really kind. Qiao Xi treated her like this, but she was still thinking about Qiao Xi.

“What Qiao Xi wants to do has nothing to do with you. You’ve already tolerated her enough. If she steals herself to participate in the design competition, she’ll only be mocked.”

Lin Jie sneered. “Mengqing, you can’t let her win anymore. She’s participating this time, and the competition will be broadcasted live. At that time, everyone will know that Qiao Xi is useless. You’re the most outstanding woman!”

Yao Mengqing lowered her eyes and smiled sinisterly.

...

In the Li family’s banquet hall.

When the birthday banquet was about to end, Old Master Li stood up. “Everyone, please wait a moment.”

Everyone stopped in their tracks.

Old Master Li said, “Everyone would have heard that ten years ago, Xing’er pushed Mrs. Gu on her birthday. Now, Xing’er already knows that she misunderstood Mrs. Gu back then, so she wants to clarify this matter in public.”

When everyone heard that the eldest daughter of the Li family wanted to apologize to Mrs. Gu, they were instantly dumbfounded.

Back then, Xu Mei chased Qiao Xi to the countryside because she thought that Qiao Xi had offended Li Xing’er and stole her things.

However, no one knew that the person who offended Li Xing’er was Qiao Rou, and it was Qiao Xi who took the blame.



Now that the truth was out, everyone had no choice but to think that it was Xu Mei who schemed and framed Qiao Xi back then. She found an excuse to chase Qiao Xi to the countryside and used that opportunity to seize the assets left behind by the first wife.

After the banquet ended, the guests left one after another.

Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng were in no rush to leave. They sat in their seats and chatted. When they turned around, they saw Li Xing'er walking over.

She was slightly nervous and uneasy. "Qiao Xi, I..."

### **Chapter 370: The Young Lady Apologizes**

Qiao Xi raised her eyes. "Hello."

Li Xing'er's face was full of shame, and her ears were red. She moved closer and said helplessly, "I-I have something to tell you."

The few women who came with Li Xing'er gently pushed her and whispered something in her ear. Qiao Xi understood their purpose for coming.

Gu Zheng understood and stood up to go to the other side.

Seeing that there were only the two of them left, Li Xing'er said shyly, "Qiao Xi, I'm sorry."

Qiao Xi thought that the young lady in front of her was quite cute, so she smiled. "There's nothing to be sorry about."

Li Xing'er instantly became nervous. "I know it was my fault at that time. I caused you to be chased to the countryside. It's okay if you're unwilling to forgive me, but I still want to apologize to you.

"Even if you weren't involved, Xu Mei would have found another excuse to chase me away. You can't be blamed for this," said Qiao Xi.

Li Xing'er said anxiously, "But if not for that incident, you wouldn't have lost your reputation in public, and the Qiao family wouldn't have..."

"Actually, I benefited from a disaster. If I had continued to stay in the Qiao family, I might not even be able to live till now. It's because I left the Qiao family that I got a new life."

Qiao Xi said indifferently, "I have my grandfather and a few brothers. I'm a hundred times happier than I was in the Qiao family. If I hadn't left at that time, I might have missed this opportunity.

"Actually, I should be thanking you."

Li Xing'er widened her eyes. "Really?"

If it were not for Li Xing'er calling her about the banquet, Qiao Xi would have forgotten about it. She only remembered that there was a young lady who got a diamond crown on her birthday. However, her senior also gave her a diamond crown after that. It was considered a happy ending.

Li Xing'er stared at Qiao Xi and noticed that there was no resentment on her face at all. Instead, she was full of smiles. She could not help but be surprised. "Qiao Xi, I pushed you down back then. I remember

that your hand even bled. Have you really forgiven me? I thought you would at least want to push me down too?"

An indescribable feeling arose in Qiao Xi's heart.

After leaving the Qiao family, she had always been doted on by her brothers and sisters. Everyone doted on her. No matter what she liked or wanted, they would try their best to satisfy her and would not quarrel with her.

This was the first time she had encountered a young lady like Li Xing'er. Qiao Xi found it very interesting that she was apologizing so much out of embarrassment.

Li Xing'er quickly said, "You can't forgive me so easily!"

Qiao Xi was silent for a short while before she said casually, "Alright, then I'll forgive you if you give me a gift."

...

On the other side, Gu Zheng watched the two young ladies standing together and chatting.

After a while, Qiao Xi turned around and walked toward him.

"Are you done?"

"Yes." Qiao Xi nodded.

Gu Zheng's expression was calm as the corners of his lips curled up. "What gift do you want?"

Qiao Xi smiled lightly. "A diamond crown!"

Gu Zheng understood. "So she was the young lady you were envious of back then."

Qiao Xi nodded, and the two of them got into the car. Song Shiyu was driving, but Qiao Xi suddenly felt her stomach hurt.

...

That night, the Li family called all the major jewelry companies and asked them to customize a diamond crown. It did not matter how much it cost. Most importantly, it had to be unique.

Li Xing'er said generously, "Don't try to save any money! Other than diamonds, you have to embed some gems too. It has to look good. I'm giving it to someone!"

The designer nodded. The eldest daughter of the Li family was their God of Fortune. How could they dare to be negligent? They immediately chose suitable accessories and prepared to draw the design drafts overnight.

At this moment, the door to the reception room was pushed open.

"I'm sorry to disturb you so late at night. That wedding ring..."

When Li Xing'er heard this voice, she frowned and turned around. It was indeed that scheming b\*tch.

Qiao Rou was extremely nervous. Her eyes were lowered as she leaned slightly against Gu Moling. She appeared extremely weak and delicate.

The designer also knew about the recent news in Li City. They knew that the couple consisted of a scumbag and a b\*tch. However, the couple had already paid the bill. If they did not design the wedding ring on time, they would have to compensate for the breach of contract.

The designer could only suppress their disgust and smile. "Miss Qiao, this is your wedding ring.."