

## Lady gu 421

### Chapter 421: The Material Was Destroyed

In the afternoon, the designers handed in their design drafts one after another. The competition's organizers informed the contestants to collect the materials from the materials section with their reservations.

Yao Mengqing and Jason received their materials first. Just as they were about to return to the design hall, Yao Mengqing suddenly exclaimed, "Oh my! I forgot to take the Gray Spirit Pearl. Lil Tong isn't around either. Id better go back."

Jason was unhappy. "We can do it later. We have to go confirm the main body of the piece first."

"But..."

Yao Mengqing was in a difficult position. "No, the materials Xi Xi chose are very similar to mine. What if I take the wrong materials? Moreover, she..."

Jason roared, "What are you afraid of? What can she do in public? Even if she has a backer, she won't dare to destroy your materials so brazenly!"

"Mengging, I'll go get it for you!" At this moment, a familiar face walked over and looked at Yao Mengqing gently.

Yao Mengqing's face was like a peach. She had a good figure and gentle eyes, making the man's heart tremble. "Miss Yao, I'm Lin Jie's friend. He asked me to take care of you. I'm going to get my materials now, so I'll help you get yours too."

In their circle, Yao Mengqing was like a goddess. She had the status of the eldest daughter of the Yao family. Her figure and appearance were outstanding. She also had her own fashion and jewelry brands, as well as superb talent in design. Such a woman was the dream lover of all men.

Of course, she understood the man's thoughts. She made herself look pitiful, and her eyes were red.

"Thank you, Brother Chen Hao. I... It's all my fault for being too careless. The material I need is the Gray Spirit Pearl. You should know what it is."

Chen Hao nodded, and he just happened to see Qiao Xi walk past him. His face instantly turned gloomy.

Qiao Xi, this b\*tch, actually dared to bully Mengging. Mengging was the favorite among the bunch of them. Whoever dared to bully her would be going against the children of wealthy families like them!

After a while, Chen Hao returned with the material. Yao Mengging picked it up and positioned it under the lights, smiling proudly.

It was the Spirit Jade Pearl that Qiao Xi needed. Chen Hao did not take the Gray Spirit Pearl that Yao Mengging had reserved.

Without the Spirit Jade Pearl, she wanted to see what Qiao Xi could design!

Chen Hao shifted his eyes. "Mr. Jason."

Jason looked up.

Chen Hao lowered his voice. "Actually, this pearl isn't Mengqing's Gray Spirit Pearl. Mengqing's Gray Spirit Pearl had a very deep mark on it. It was destroyed. Even if you take it, it can't be used in the design."

Yao Mengqing stood at the side and looked at the design draft. She pretended not to hear anything, but her eyes were filled with joy.

Chen Hao continued, "I asked someone about it. They said that the person who destroyed the Gray Spirit Pearl was Qiao Xi. She's deliberately causing trouble for Mengqing because she wants to stop Mengqing from becoming the champion. After thinking about it, I couldn't let her succeed, so I took the Spirit Jade Pearl that Qiao Xi reserved.

"Qiao Xi shot herself in the foot. She deserves it! She should pay the price for destroying others' materials. If she hadn't damaged Mengqing's pearl, I wouldn't have taken the materials she needed either!

"Mengqing is too kind. If I tell her the truth, she'll definitely return the Spirit Jade Pearl to Qiao Xi. It's better not to say anything."

Chen Hao felt that he was really considerate. If he told Mengqing about it later, she would definitely be very touched.

Yao Mengqing smiled and pretended to be focused on creating the jewelry.

She was using Qiao Xi's materials, but it did not matter even if someone found out because she was not involved! It was Chen Hao who stole Qiao Xi's materials, not her!

However, Qiao Xi might not necessarily lack the materials because there were others who chose Spirit Jade Pearls as well. They would definitely be lacking in them in the end. If those people found out that there were fewer Spirit Jade Pearls, would they look for Qiao Xi to settle the score?

The competition was about to start. Qiao Xi and Gu Yao went to get the materials together.

Unexpectedly, there were many people outside the door complaining about something.

"How did this happen? How can we complete our work without the materials?!"

Qiao Xi frowned and had a bad feeling.

Li Xing'er hurriedly ran over and said anxiously, "Qiao Xi! Have you heard? Someone destroyed a pearl. The organizers are investigating it.."

## **Chapter 422: Wrong Materials**

Qiao Xi was slightly surprised as well. She did not expect that someone would dare to destroy the materials at the competition venue. If they were caught, it would not be as simple as revoking their qualifications to participate in the competition. It would be very difficult for them to gain a foothold in the design world in the future.

Everyone present was a famous designer. Of course, they would not be angry, but the assistants were all very angry. The atmosphere in the materials section was very awkward. After Qiao Xi entered, she saw a destroyed Gray Spirit Pearl on the table.

The Gray Spirit Pearl and the Spirit Jade Pearl looked very similar, but the colors revealed under the illumination of the light were completely different. Qiao Xi did not choose the Gray Spirit Pearl, but she did not understand why someone would destroy it.

Qiao Xi ignored it and went straight to collect her materials, but there was nothing there. She frowned and walked in front of the staff. "May I ask where the Spirit Jade Pearl I reserved is?"

Gu Yao said that he was the first to reserve the materials, but now that they were gone, it meant that someone had secretly taken away her materials.

The staff member's expression was ugly. He did not have the time to care where a newcomer's materials went. The most important thing now was to find out who destroyed the Gray Spirit Pearl.

An older staff member at the side hurriedly reminded, saying, "The president of ZR is here too. It won't look good if something happens. Let's solve Qiao Xi's problem first before finding out who destroyed the materials."

At this moment, Chen Hao walked over.

After checking the surveillance footage, the staff said with certainty, "The last Spirit Jade Pearl was taken by Mr. Chen Hao."

Everyone's gazes instantly landed on Chen Hao. In the lounge behind the materials room, the president of ZR slowly looked up.

Qiao Xi's eyes were deep. "Mr. Chen Hao, according to the rules of the competition, you have to take your own materials. May I ask if you also need Spirit Jade Pearl? I remember that your work mainly consists of dark colors, so you shouldn't need such a shiny pearl. If so, why did you take the Spirit Jade Pearl that you don't need?"

The atmosphere became awkward, and everyone looked at Chen Hao in confusion.

Today's competition was full of twists and turns. The materials were destroyed, and someone took someone else's Spirit Jade Pearls. When these two things were added together, the competition's organizers looked troubled. "Mr. Chen, please explain why you took the Spirit Jade Pearl."

Li Xing'er's face was filled with anger. "I'm guessing that Mr. Chen didn't want to use the pearls for his own work but took them for Yao Mengqing! Did Yao Mengqing reserve Spirit Jade Pearl as well? I don't think so. Then why did you take someone else's things?"

Gu Yao suddenly remembered that when he was reserving the materials, Yao Mengqing had asked him to make the first pick. At that time, he had already felt that something was wrong.

At this moment, Yao Mengqing walked in and asked gently, "What happened? Mr. Chen, why are you here? Everyone... What's going on?"

Gu Yao's eyes darkened. "Yao Mengqing, you asked Chen Hao to get the materials for you, right?"

Yao Mengqing looked innocent. "Yes, what's wrong?"

“But the material you reserved is a Gray Spirit Pearl. Why did you let Chen Hao take Qiao Xi’s Spirit Jade Pearl? Have you already used the materials?”

One could hear a pin drop.

Everyone’s burning gaze landed on Yao Mengqing.

Yao Mengqing blinked innocently, her eyes filled with confusion. Coupled with her pale face, she looked very ignorant. It made one’s heart ache.

“The material I reserved is indeed a Gray Spirit Pearl. I asked Mr. Chen to help me get it. This...”

Yao Mengqing paused for a moment, then suddenly widened her eyes. Her voice trembled slightly.

“Could it be that Mr. Chen took the wrong materials? You gave Xi Xi’s materials to me? Our materials look similar, so it’s normal to mistake them, but... I’ve already used the pearl. This... What should I do?!” Yao Mengqing looked troubled. Her eyes turned red unconsciously, and she looked pitiful. “Xi Xi, I didn’t know that those were your materials. I’m sorry, I... It’s my fault. I hope you can forgive me...”

Everyone was stunned. The person in charge also looked embarrassed.

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They had held so many competitions before, but this was the first time they encountered such a situation. The designer had taken the wrong materials. This kind of thing should not have happened. This was because the basic skills a designer should have were not just the ability to design but to be able to differentiate materials.. If one could not differentiate the materials, what right did they have to be a designer?

### **Chapter 423: Surveillance Camera In The Materials Section**

According to the rules, Yao Mengqing should be punished for using the wrong materials. A light punishment would result in a deduction of points, and a heavy punishment would be the disqualification of the competition. However, the current situation was slightly troublesome because the person who took the wrong materials was Chen Hao. Yao Mengqing had no idea.

The person in charge looked troubled. ZR’s president was in the lounge. If he did not handle it well and it caused a bad effect, he could just hand in his resignation.

He thought for a moment and cleared his throat. “Chen Hao, everyone saw the rules before participating in the competition. Now that you’ve violated the rules and took someone else’s materials, you...”

“Wait, listen to my explanation.” Chen Hao shouted. Then, he looked at Qiao Xi with vicious eyes.

“I did take Qiao Xi’s materials to give to Mengqing, but I’m not wrong!”

Yao Mengqing lowered her eyes and smiled.

Qiao Xi was not surprised in the slightest. She knew that Yao Mengqing would definitely take this opportunity to trip her up. This was already within her expectations.

Chen Hao said hatefully, "Mengqing chose the Gray Spirit Pearl. She asked me to help her take it, but when I came, the last Gray Spirit Pearl was already destroyed, so I chose to take the remaining Spirit Jade Pearl.

"I saw Qiao Xi destroy Mengqing's Gray Spirit Pearl with my own eyes! What's wrong with me taking her Spirit Jade Pearl?!"

Boom!

Everyone was stunned.

Everyone was in disbelief. They did not expect the situation to turn around.

'The person in charge was very surprised. "This..."

Chen Hao's face was filled with ridicule. "Qiao Xi knew that Mengqing chose the Gray Spirit Pearl, so she deliberately destroyed it. Without the material, no matter how talented Mengqing is in design, she won't be able to design a perfect piece. However, I saw it happen with my own eyes, so I wanted to take revenge on Qiao Xi by taking away her materials.

"It's Qiao Xi's own fault for destroying someone else's materials. I did it to teach her a lesson!"

After he finished speaking, Chen Hao walked over to Yao Mengqing's side and said with a gentle tone, "Mengqing, I'm sorry. I hid the truth from you because you're too kind. If you found out that I took Qiao Xi's materials, you definitely wouldn't have agreed. Moreover, you've always treated Qiao Xi as a friend. If you knew that she destroyed your materials, you would definitely be very sad. That's why I didn't say anything. I hope you don't blame me."

At this moment, everyone came to an understanding, It turned out that Qiao Xi had destroyed the materials of others first. No wonder there was a damaged Gray Spirit Pearl on the table.

It turned out that Qiao Xi was jealous of Yao Mengqing, so she deliberately destroyed her materials.

In the lounge area behind the materials section.

The assistant looked at ZR's president nervously. "Sir, do you need me..."

Gu Zheng's thin lips parted slightly as he instructed softly. The assistant nodded and left.

In the materials section, Chen Hao was aggrieved. "I don't plan on denying that I took Qiao Xi's materials because I want to tell everyone that Qiao Xi destroyed Mengqing's materials first. She deserves it! There shouldn't be such an unprofessional person in the jewelry design industry!"

Qiao Xi's expression remained indifferent when facing his accusations.

Chen Hao's face was filled with ridicule. "What? You're unwilling to admit it?"

Gu Yao was so angry that his face turned red. "You're slandering Qiao Xi! You said that Qiao Xi destroyed Yao Mengqing's materials, so show us the evidence! You're the one who took Qiao Xi's materials, yet you still have the cheek to complain!"

Yes, empty words could not be trusted. Evidence was required.

The person in charge had a gloomy expression. "Mr. Chen, you should know that the impact of this matter is very big. You said that Miss Qiao Xi destroyed the materials. Do you have evidence?"

Chen Hao smiled proudly and replied confidently, "I saw Qiao Xi destroy the materials with my own eyes. I didn't malign her, but for the sake of convincing everyone, I have evidence!"

He pointed at an exquisite brooch on the pile of materials. "This is Qiao Xi's brooch. She was wearing it when I saw her today. The brooch is no longer on her and appeared here. Qiao Xi must have accidentally lost it when she was destroying the pearl. Moreover, I saw it with my own eyes. How could I be wrongly accusing her?"

"There's a surveillance camera in the materials section! Can't we just check if Qiao Xi came here?"

Chen Hao was extremely sure that the gazes everyone shot at Qiao Xi were filled with disdain..

#### **Chapter 424: Evidence**

The staff hurriedly walked over and said anxiously, "Everyone, I'm really sorry. The surveillance camera in the materials section suddenly broke. The images from this afternoon have all disappeared, so we can't be sure if Miss Qiao Xi was the one who destroyed the materials."

Everyone sighed. Wasn't this too much of a coincidence? They were just about to check the surveillance footage when it turned out the cameras broke. This was a little too obvious!

Chen Hao said anxiously, "The surveillance camera in the materials section is broken, but the surveillance cameras outside the door aren't broken, right? Just check the surveillance cameras outside and see if Qiao Xi has come to the materials section."

The person in charge nodded and quickly sent someone to investigate.

Gu Yao was burning with anxiety.

He believed that Qiao Xi would not do this, but Chen Hao was extremely sure that he saw Qiao Xi destroy the materials with his own eyes. Moreover, Qiao Xi's brooch had fallen here, so it meant that she had indeed been here. This evidence was very disadvantageous to her.

"Qiao Xi, what exactly is going on?"

The designers were furious. "What are you trying to do by refusing to talk? Did you destroy the materials? Are you jealous of Yao Mengqing, so you used such despicable methods? An outstanding designer wouldn't deliberately destroy others' materials!"

"You want to take revenge on Yao Mengqing, but have you thought about us? Many of us chose Gray Spirit Pearls as well. You're leaving us without enough materials. We've been preparing for this competition for a long time. Are our careers going to end in your hands?"

Yao Mengqing widened her eyes in disbelief. "Xi Xi... Did you really destroy the Gray Spirit Pearl? Why... did you have to do this to me?"

Qiao Xi looked coldly at her and sneered.

It was a pity that Yao Mengqing did not want to be an actress. Everything was clearly planned by her, but she still pretended that she did not know anything. It must be really hard on her to pretend to be an innocent girl in front of everyone.

Yao Mengqing bit her lip tightly and shed tears of sorrow. "Xi Xi, as long as you say that it's not you, I'll believe you. The brooch can't be used as evidence, nor can it prove that you did this. Perhaps others have the same brooch as you too. Have you put away your brooch? Why don't you show it to everyone?"

Everyone looked at Qiao Xi and waited for her to retort.

Qiao Xi smiled and took out the brooch from the pile of materials. She smiled meaningfully. "This brooch is indeed mine."

Chen Hao revealed a delighted expression and shouted happily, "All of you heard it. Qiao Xi admitted it! She said that this brooch is hers, so she did it!"

Yao Mengqing squeezed out a few drops of sparkling tears. "Xi Xi, even if you hate me, you can't do such a thing. You can target me, but if it affects the competition, how can I face the designers who worked so hard?!"

Yao Mengqing wiped her tears and bowed to everyone.

"I'm sorry! I'm really sorry. Today's incident is all because of me. I've harmed everyone and affected the progress of the competition. I'm willing to withdraw from the competition so that everything can be peaceful again. I hope everyone can forgive me."

When they saw Yao Mengqing being so aggrieved, someone couldn't endure it any longer. "This isn't your fault! Qiao Xi's motives weren't pure, and this affected the competition. It has nothing to do with you!"

"Yeah! If Mr. Chen Hao hadn't given you Qiao Xi's materials, your work would have been affected as well. Miss Yao, you don't need to withdraw from the competition. Someone else should withdraw!"

"S-Sorry, I..." Yao Mengqing's tears trickled down. "Xi Xi, you made a mistake and should bear the punishment. You owe everyone an apology!"

"Yeah, Qiao Xi, you must apologize to Yao Mengqing and all the participants. Moreover, you violated the rules and destroyed the materials of others, so you ought to withdraw from the competition immediately!"

The person in charge hesitated for a moment. Seeing that ZR's president wasn't objecting, he said, "Mr. Chen is right, Miss Qiao. If you don't have any objections to the result, according to the competition rules, you can't participate in the competition. Please—"

"Wait." Qiao Xi interrupted him and raised her brows. "Who said I have no objections?"

Chen Hao's expression instantly changed. "You already said the brooch is yours. Could it be that you want to go back on your word now?"

"Qiao Xi, what else do you have to say? It's too late for regrets now!"

**Chapter 425: Give Qiao Xi A Chance To Change**

“Tonly said that the brooch is mine. I never said that I destroyed the materials. There’s no correlation between the two,” Qiao Xi replied indifferently.

Chen Hao snorted coldly. “Excuses!”

Qiao Xi smiled indifferently. “Mr. Chen, aren’t you just quibbling? You said you saw me destroy the materials with your own eyes, but no one else saw it. Your one-sided story isn’t trustworthy. After all, you’re filled with hostility toward me!”

“Why... Why am I untrustworthy? You’re jealous of Mengqing. You’re afraid of losing to her, so you destroyed her materials. Isn’t this all true? I saw it with my own eyes. I have no reason to wrong you!”

Chen Hao spoke forcefully and righteously. “It’s the first time we’re meeting, so why would I target you for no reason? Could it be that I’ll be suspected even though I’m telling the truth? I just don’t want everyone to be kept in the dark.”

Seeing this, Yao Mengqing tried to persuade her earnestly. “Xi Xi, don’t make a fuss. Actually, it’s fine even if you admit it. You’re a newbie. No one will blame you. This matter won’t have a bad impact on the other designers as well. They won’t say anything. When the time comes, tell everyone that you withdrew from the competition due to health reasons. This will protect your reputation as much as possible.”

Then, she bowed with a gentle expression. “Everyone, although Xi Xi did something wrong, she’s still young and it’s her first time participating in a competition. I hope everyone can give her a chance. Don’t tell anyone about this, alright? I believe Xi Xi will try her best to correct her behavior. She won’t do such things again. I beg everyone.”

Everyone hesitated for a moment. Since Yao Mengqing, the person directly involved, wasn’t making a fuss about it, what else could they say? Because of Yao Mengqing, they agreed to give Qiao Xia chance to change herself.

Yao Mengqing turned around and smiled gently. “Xi Xi, look. No one is pursuing this anymore. This way, your reputation will be preserved and the competition can proceed normally. It’s better if you don’t”

“Yao Mengqing, why are you pretending to be understanding? Aren’t you indirectly forcing Qiao Xi to confess?”

Before Yao Mengqing could finish her sentence, she heard angry voices.

“She says that she wants to give Qiao Xi a chance to change her attitude, but in reality, Qiao Xi is the scapegoat! If she agrees to it, how is she going to maintain her position in the design industry in the future?! What right do you have to stop her from explaining, Yao Mengqing?!”

Second Young Master Gu was not going to let Yao Mengqing have her way. He immediately retorted, his eyes burning with fury. “Qiao Xi already said that the brooch is hers, but she didn’t destroy the materials!”

There was complete silence.



Yao Mengqing bit her lip pitifully. "Ah Yao..."

Chen Hao immediately stood out to defend the injustice. "Second Young Master Gu, Mengqing is already very considerate of Qiao Xi and isn't pursuing her for the matter. She even advised everyone not to pursue the matter as well. Qiao Xi only has to apologize. Are you still not satisfied?"

Gu Yao roared, "I'll say it again. Qiao Xi didn't do it! Are you deaf?!"

Chen Hao said furiously, "It's her! Qiao Xi, don't take advantage of Second Young Master Gu's protection and refuse to admit your mistake. Do you still have any shame?! Making a big deal out of this won't be beneficial to you!"

The designers' eyes were also filled with anger and hostility. "Qiao Xi, don't you think you've gone too far? Miss Yao is already very forgiving. Can't you just apologize?"

Gu Yao trembled in anger.

Qiao Xi patted Gu Yao's shoulder. "It's alright, don't worry."

She smiled confidently. "Mr. Chen, the person who destroyed the materials should be disqualified, right?"

Chen Hao was stunned.

The atmosphere became awkward.

Everyone was puzzled. From beginning to end, Qiao Xi wasn't the slightest bit nervous. It could even be said that she was very indifferent. Moreover, she emphasized that the person who destroyed the materials should be disqualified from the competition. What exactly did she mean?

Gu Yao's expression softened a little when he saw Qiao Xi speak. He knew that Qiao Xi would not swallow her anger after being wronged. If she spoke, it meant that she was going to retaliate.

He was extremely excited and anxiously waited for Qiao Xi to turn the tables around.

"That's right! The person who destroyed the materials should be disqualified! Chen Hao, Sister Mengqing, don't you think so?"

Chen Hao suddenly felt nervous.

Yao Mengqing looked helpless. "Xi Xi, what exactly do you want? Actually, you could've just withdrawn from the competition... But since you said so, I have nothing else to say. Let's leave it at that.."

#### **Chapter 426: Who Said There Was Only One Surveillance Camera?**

Gu Yao was puzzled.

Why did Yao Mengqing look so calm this time? She wasn't afraid of being exposed at all. Was she not the one who destroyed the materials?

Chen Hao's expression eased up when he heard Yao Mengqing's words, and the uneasiness in his heart gradually dispersed.

N-Nothing would happen. Weren't the surveillance cameras broken? Even if they can't prove that Qiao Xi was the one who destroyed the materials, no one can prove that she was innocent either. Besides, Qiao Xi was just a newcomer while he was a famous designer. Compared to her words, he was naturally more trustworthy.

After pondering for a moment, Chen Hao nodded confidently. "Of course, I agree! The person who destroyed the materials should be disqualified from the competition and apologize to everyone." Qiao Xi smiled lightly.

Chen Hao spoke forcefully and righteously, "Qiao Xi, you said that you didn't destroy the materials. What proof do you have to show that you're innocent? I think you're just speaking glibly!"

Qiao Xi smiled indifferently. "Mr. Chen, actually, the first time you said that you personally saw me destroy the materials, I had already wanted to refute you. But... I found that the way you were lying was truly interesting, so I've been enduring it

Chen Hao gulped. "Tsk! You don't have any evidence at all. You just admitted that the brooch is yours! Isn't this the strongest evidence?"

Qiao Xi's brows raised. "Mr. Chen, this materials section isn't a closed area. What's strange about me accidentally dropping the brooch here when I came to retrieve my materials? Could it be that this can be used as evidence?"

Chen Hao felt that Qiao Xi was just quibbling. Actually, there was no material evidence. If she continued delaying like this, it would only cause everyone to hate her even more. The consequences would be even worse.

"Qiao Xi is stalling for time. I suggest that Qiao Xi's qualifications to participate be revoked immediately. We shouldn't allow a single person to affect the progress of the entire competition!"

The person in charge hesitated and looked at Yao Mengging, In the end, he said helplessly, "Miss Qiao, it's better not to make things too awkward. You should—"

"Mtr, Chen." Qiao Xi interrupted him.

"I don't want to argue with you about whether my brooch can be used as evidence, but..."

She paused for a second and smiled meaningfully. "I just want to ask why Mr. Chen is so sure that there is only one surveillance camera in the materials section?"

Everyone gasped.

Qiao Xi's voice was indifferent as it slowly entered everyone's ears. "If Mr. Chen wants to prove that I destroyed the materials, then a brooch is probably insufficient. Could it be that nobody here lost anything? How can this be used as evidence?

"Actually, the easiest way is—"

Qiao Xi smiled slightly and said word by word, "To check the surveillance camera!"

Chen Hao's pupils constricted as he blurted out, "Nonsense! The surveillance camera in the materials section is clearly broken!"

“Who said there’s only one surveillance camera?”

Qiao Xi said unhurriedly, “In past competitions, there was only ever one surveillance camera in the materials sections. But for the sake of making the competition more transparent, it isn’t impossible for them to add a few more surveillance cameras in the materials section. Mr. Chen, did you think that so long as the surveillance camera was broken, I’d be unable to explain myself regardless of how you accuse me?”

Qiao Xi’s voice suddenly turned cold. “Mr. President of ZR, I request to check the surveillance cameras!”

Everyone gasped. Who was Qiao Xi talking to? The president of ZR was here too? Could it be that he was among this group of people?

At this moment, the door of the lounge room slowly opened. A deep voice came from inside. “Yes.”

‘The man leaned lazily against the sofa, his long legs crossed as he looked at everyone with interest.

Everyone widened their eyes in disbelief.

‘The president of ZR actually came to the materials section personally and had been watching from behind the scenes. Everyone instantly became nervous. This was a design competition organized by ZR. If they offended this big shot, they would not be able to survive in the design industry anymore. But he actually agreed to let Qiao Xi check the surveillance footage?

The assistant walked out of the lounge room and swept a cold glance at Chen Hao. He said sternly, “Sir has agreed to let Miss Qiao check the surveillance cameras. Seeing is believing. After finding the person who destroyed the materials, they must be disqualified!”

Yao Mengqing’s expression changed as her body stiffened.

All these years, she had been secretly investigating the president of ZR, hoping to get close to this man. However, he had always been very mysterious and no one knew what he looked like..

### **Chapter 427: Double Standards**

If Yao Mengqing became close to the president of ZR, she wouldn’t have to participate in all kinds of competitions anymore. She would even be invited to be a judge in various competitions. She would have endless connections and resources.

However, after investigating for a long time, she still couldn’t find any clues. Every time this man appeared, he would wear a mask and wouldn’t stand in the crowd. He would always sit on the chair and observe the entire situation.

Hence, everyone suspected that the president of ZR was actually disabled and could not stand. He wore a mask because he was disfigured and embarrassed to let others see him.

Yao Mengqing felt that such a disabled man would like a gentle woman like her. She would use her true feelings to move him and let him feel the warmth of the world.

However, she did not expect their first meeting to be under such circumstances. It was possible that the president of ZR's impression of her would be greatly discounted.

At this moment, Chen Hao's entire body was trembling, and his eyes were filled with terror. He took a few steps back and still struggled desperately. "How... How could there be more surveillance cameras in the materials section? Qiao... Qiao Xi, stop talking nonsense."

The president of ZR frowned and looked a little impatient. His assistant immediately understood and looked coldly at Chen Hao, his eyes full of warning. "Immediately check the surveillance footage!"

The staff quickly checked the surveillance cameras. The time shown on the screen was from this afternoon. The angle was different from the first surveillance camera, but the image was very clear. Everyone's face could be seen clearly.

"There was really another surveillance camera!"

"Isn't there only one surveillance camera in the materials section?"

"It wasn't like this before, but it seems like they've really increased the number of surveillance cameras this year!"

"Look! It's Qiao Xi!"

Everyone stared fixedly at the scene. Qiao Xi walked into the materials section and took away her materials in the corresponding area. Then, they saw Qiao Xi's brooch accidentally drop on the screen.

"Qiao Xi didn't destroy the materials!"

"Yeah, she didn't even touch the Gray Spirit Pearl! Quick, look! Chen Hao has entered."

Chen Hao's entire body stiffened before he trembled slightly.

Impossible! He had already destroyed the surveillance camera. How could there be another one?

"ah! It's Chen Hao! Chen Hao destroyed the Gray Spirit Pearl!"

"He picked up Qiao Xi's brooch and placed it in the pile of materials. So he intentionally framed Qiao Xi! Truly too detestable!"

"He's too scheming! No wonder he was anxious to force Qiao Xi to admit her mistake earlier. So it turns out that he's guilty!"

The blood in Chen Hao's entire body was about to freeze, and his mind was in chaos as he roared with terror, "This is fake! Stop watching! I won't allow you to watch!"

The assistant waved his hand coldly, and the bodyguards immediately rushed in to restrain Chen Hao.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Chen. You just agreed that the person who destroyed the materials should be disqualified. You're no longer a participant. Please leave now!"

No!

He was the young master of the Chen family and a famous designer. How could he be disqualified?

Chen Hao's face paled as he looked pleadingly at Yao Mengqing.

Qiao Xi smiled lightly. "Why is Mr. Chen looking at Miss Yao? You're the one who destroyed the materials, so what does it have to do with Miss Yao? Could it be that she can save you?"

Chen Hao's mind buzzed as his face turned hideous. He roared, "Mengqing! Tell me why there's another surveillance camera! Help me explain!"

Yao Mengqing shuddered and couldn't help but retreat.

Qiao Xi said indifferently, "I remember that Miss Yao agreed earlier that the person who destroyed the materials should be disqualified. If you plead on his behalf, I might think that you're in cahoots with Mr. Chen."

Gu Yao chimed in, "That's right! Although the materials that were destroyed earlier were Sister Mengqing's, Chen Hao took Qiao Xi's materials. Moreover, if Chen Hao had successfully framed Qiao Xi, she would've been expelled from the competition. No matter what, Qiao Xi would be the one at a disadvantage.

"Sister Mengqing was constantly persuading Qiao Xi to admit her guilt earlier. She even asked Qiao Xi to apologize to everyone. Isn't it too double standards if she pleads for mercy for Chen Hao now?"

"Could it be that... you and Chen Hao joined forces to frame Qiao Xi?"

Everyone looked at Yao Mengqing suspiciously.

"A didn't."

"Mengqing! Help me explain! I did all of this for you! There's no enmity between me and Qiao Xi, so why would I harm her? Isn't it because..."

Yao Mengqing's face was pale.

Chen Hao had already admitted that he destroyed the materials and framed Qiao Xi for Yao Mengqing's sake..

#### **Chapter 428: If You Keep Doing Bad Deeds, Your Hands Are Bound To Be Dirty**

Yao Mengqing looked at everyone's doubtful eyes and felt a little guilty. "Ah Yao... I-I really didn't. You know me very well. Why would I frame Xi Xi? Although Xi Xi and I have some misunderstandings, I won't hurt her. Moreover, this incident affected the entire competition. I wouldn't have..."

"It's just that when I was chatting with Mr. Chen, I unintentionally said that there were some misunderstandings between me and Xi Xi... I didn't have any ill intentions. I just casually grumbled about it. I never expected Mr. Chen to do such a thing. I really didn't know!"

"Mr. Chen, I know you did this for me, but your actions were wrong. You ruined Xi Xi's reputation and affected the competition... Therefore, I still agree that the person who destroyed the materials should be disqualified.

"I'm sorry, everyone. This happened because of me. I'm really sorry..."

Chen Hao's face instantly paled!

Why did she do this to him and abandon him when the truth was revealed?

He didn't know Qiao Xi, and only after he calmed down did he understand that it was Yao Mengqing who always said that Qiao Xi bullied her and hinted at him that he should go deal with Qiao Xi for her. However, she wasn't willing to put in a good word for him now. It seemed like it was all his fault.

Gu Yao thought to himself. This was already the second person to take the blame for Yao Mengqing. Previously, it was Yao Mengqing's cousin. This time, it was Chen Hao. Who else would it be after this? Yao Mengqing made use of her weak appearance and pretended to be weak to attract men. After that, she would unintentionally reveal the enmity between her and Qiao Xi to get these men to do things for her.

After being exposed, as long as Yao Mengqing stood on the moral high ground and criticized them, she could pretend to be ignorant and get away with it. She was still the pure goddess in everyone's hearts.

Gu Yao sneered as he watched Chen Hao get dragged out by the bodyguards. "Sister Mengqing, you're still so lucky this time. However, if you keep doing bad deeds, your hands are bound to be dirty. If you do too many bad things, you might get your retribution. I really want to know who the next idiot who'll take the blame for you is."

Gu Yao paused and took a deep breath. "You're a scheming b\*tch! How disgusting!" Yao Mengqing was shocked by suddenly getting cursed at. She couldn't help but take a few steps back. Her pale face was filled with fear. Then, tears of grievance fell. "Ah Yao... How could you say that about me? I know.. it's all my fault, but... Xi Xi, I really didn't know that Chen Hao would do such a thing for me. I don't like him at all.

"I've let everyone down. In that case, I'm willing to withdraw from the competition. I don't want to affect everyone..." With that, she sobbed weakly and covered her face pitifully. She ran out aggrievedly.

Gu Yao couldn't help but scold, "What's there to cry about?! Why are you pretending in front of me! You used someone else to frame Qiao Xi. Now that your plan was exposed, you still managed to dodge the blame. I'm guessing you're just running off to hide and laugh evilly. I can't believe you managed to escape again!"

Everyone lowered their heads and remained silent.

Regardless of whether Yao Mengqing was involved or not, she was still the eldest daughter of the Yao family. Gu Yao could scold her in public, but they did not dare to do so.

Actually, everyone was clearly aware in their hearts that even if Yao Mengqing hadn't directly instructed Chen Hao, this matter couldn't be separated from her. After all, she was the one who used her suitors to deal with Qiao Xi.

The person in charge immediately sent someone to get extra materials, and everyone returned to the design hall after collecting their own materials. Just then, the assistant stopped Qiao Xi. "Please wait."

Gu Yao stopped with Qiao Xi, only to see the assistant say with a smile, "Miss Qiao, Sir wants to meet you."

Qiao Xi smiled.

Actually, ever since she left Gu Zheng's office, she had found it a little strange. Why did everyone know that there was a big shot upstairs, and why did the assistant call him 'Sir' but not 'President Gu'?

Gu Zheng had worked hard in the business world for so many years. Everyone had to respectfully address him as 'President Gu'. President Gu represented Gu Zheng, and no one called him 'Sir.'

In that case, there was only one possibility. Gu Zheng did not come here as President Gu but as the president of ZR.

When she arrived at the materials section, she saw that the door to the lounge room was tightly shut. There seemed to be someone guarding inside, so she asked the president of ZR to help her check the surveillance cameras. If that person was really Gu Zheng, he would definitely agree.

As expected, Qiao Xi really won..

### **Chapter 429: My Brother Is A Bastard!**

'What? I'm still here, and you're meeting a stranger alone? If Gu Zheng finds out, it'll be troublesome!'

Gu Yao immediately stopped Qiao Xi, his face full of vigilance. "I go with you!"

The assistant looked troubled. "Uh..."

"I've long heard of your president's great name. I also want to meet your president. Can't I? Is there a problem with me going with Qiao Xi?"

The assistant didn't know that the president of ZR was Gu Zheng, nor did he know that Qiao Xi's assistant was the famous Second Young Master Gu of the entire Li City. Thus, he answered with a serious expression, "Sir, the president only invited Miss Qiao. You should wait here. Our president won't hurt Miss Qiao."

"It's fine. Let him come in."

At this moment, a cold voice came from the lounge room. The assistant was stunned for a moment before he nodded. "Please follow me."

The assistant brought them in and left.

At this moment, the masked man was sitting lazily on the sofa. He was wearing a dark gray suit, giving off a mysterious sense of oppression.

Gu Yao looked wary.

Gu Zheng said coldly, "You're not willing to wait?"

This voice sounded a little familiar, but Gu Yao could not quite put his finger on it. However, this tone made Gu Yao very unhappy. He was the Second Young Master of the Gu family. In this world, only that bastard, Gu Zheng, would talk to him like this. Who was this president of ZR? How dare he be so arrogant?

He didn't think too much about it and directly retorted, "Who cares if I'm willing to wait or not?! I want to ask why you invited Qiao Xi to see you alone? What's your motive for asking a woman to be in a room with you alone?! Let me tell you, don't have any bad intentions!

"Qiao Xi has already married my elder brother, so don't even think about being a third-party! You should give up on this thought as soon as possible! Do you know who my elder brother is? My elder brother is a bastard. If he finds out that you have feelings for Qiao Xi, he'll absolutely not let you off! Don't blame me for not warning you. Your end will be extremely miserable."

Qiao Xi:" ..."

Gu Zheng narrowed his eyes: "..."

A moment later.

Gu Yao wailed, "Brother! I was wrong! I don't dare to do it anymore! How could I know it was you since you were wearing a mask?! Why are you pretending to be the president of ZR?"

He explained carefully, "I didn't say you were a bastard. I thought that another man liked Qiao Xi, so I deliberately said this to intimidate the other party. This is also for your own good! I'm protecting Qiao Xi for you because I'm afraid other men will snatch her away!"

'Damn! How did my brother become the president of ZR? If I had known his identity, I wouldn't have dared to be so arrogant!"

Gu Yao trembled in fear. Then, he heard Gu Zheng's calm voice.

"Couldn't you recognize my voice? Gu Yao, is it because your ears are not good enough, or do you not care about me at all? Tell me."

Gu Yao:" ..."

He was finished!

Qiao Xi reminded him by his ear. "Friendly reminder. Think carefully before you speak."

Gu Yao's eyelids twitched crazily. If he said that his ears weren't good enough, would Gu Zheng say that he didn't need them and that he could cut them off? If he said that he didn't care about him, his ending would be even worse. He might be sent to the hospital.

After thinking for a long time, he replied with a sincere expression, "My ears truly aren't fine. I've never had good ears since I was young. You know that."

Gu Zheng sneered. "Yes."

Gu Yao's expression softened. It was already very good that he was not beaten up.

Unexpectedly, Gu Zheng stood up the next second and pulled Gu Yao's collar as he walked out. The two brothers talked about something outside the door. A moment later, Gu Yao walked in with tears streaming down his face.

Qiao Xi asked him worriedly, "Did he hit you?"

Gu Yao looked desperate. "He might as well beat me up!"



This bastard was too terrifying!

Gu Zheng actually wanted him to work in the company next week!

Gu Corporation was founded by Gu Zheng and had nothing to do with the Gu family. However, the Gu family's company was now under Gu Zheng's control as well. Gu Yao and Gu Zheng both knew that the Gu family would fight for everything sooner or later.

There were only two possibilities. Firstly, Gu Zheng would give up the family's company and return it to the Gu family. Secondly, if Gu Zheng did not give up the company, the company would be withdrawn from the Gu family. However, Gu Yao did not expect that Gu Zheng would transfer all the shares of the Gu family's company to him and let him be the person in charge of the company.

The second master of the Gu family, who was used to being idle, could not accept this..

### **Chapter 430: It's Not That Easy Even If He Wants to Beat Me To Death**

Tears welled up in Gu Yao's eyes. Qiao Xi thought that Gu Zheng had bullied Gu Yao and was instantly furious. "Gu Zheng is too much! You're his younger brother, after all. Why did he bully you until you're crying? What did he say to you? Did he hit you but you don't dare to say it? Did he hurt you? Don't be afraid of him. Even if he bullies you, you can't just take it lying down. Beat him back!"

Hearing Qiao Xi's indignant words, Gu Yao looked at her with eyes full of grief. His lips trembled slightly.

"Q-Qiao Xi, please don't have any dangerous thoughts. I'm a living example!"

Qiao Xi's face was full of heartache. "Gu Zheng always bullies you. You've been oppressed for so many years, so why do you still like this brother of yours so much? Could it be that you like being abused?"

Gu Yao wiped his tears and said pitifully, "Actually, he's not that strong. At most, I'm only half-submissive. Although he can defeat me with one punch, it's not easy for him to kill me. After all..."

Qiao Xi hurriedly asked. "What?"

Gu Yao looked at her meaningfully. "After all, he can't kill me as it's against the law."

Qiao Xi: "..."

Gu Yao said, "Even if I resist, I won't be able to beat Gu Zheng. This is what I've learned from many bloody lessons. Moreover, if I resist, Gu Zheng will retaliate even more crazily, so I might as well let him beat me up. Anyway, I'm his younger brother. He can't kill me, and at least I can keep my life."

Qiao Xi: "... This kid was really open-minded!"

When they went back, Gu Yao was clearly unhappy. When the two of them returned to No. 29 workstation, the people around them came over one after another.

"Didn't Yao Mengqing say that she wanted to withdraw from the competition just now? Then why did she return to No. 1 workstation? If she doesn't want to withdraw from the competition, then she shouldn't have said that. Why is she pretending?"

"She was just saying that. She definitely won't withdraw from the competition. After all, she's the most likely candidate to win the championship!"

Li Xing'er came up to Qiao Xi and asked curiously, "Qiao Xi, I heard that the president of ZR invited you over?"

At once, everyone's ears perked up. They also asked curiously, "Yeah! Why did the president of ZR ask you to see him? Do you know him? What does he look like? I heard he's not easy to get close to!"

Qiao Xi: "Uh..."

Li Xing'er pulled Qiao Xi to a corner and lowered her voice. "Qiao Xi! You're really something! The president of ZR has always been mysterious and has never invited any designer to meet him alone. He actually helped you check the surveillance footage and even invited you to his office. Are you guys..."  
Qiao Xi didn't know how to explain and could only smile awkwardly.

Li Xing'er instantly understood. "I understand! Don't worry, I won't tell President Gu. You're already married, so you definitely won't have any thoughts about the president of ZR, right?"

Qiao Xi had an aggrieved expression. "This... Please don't misunderstand. Actually..."  
Before she could finish speaking, she heard a few women gather together. "If the president of ZR takes a fancy to a woman, it'll be a huge leap for her. There's no need for her to compete here at all. She can just sit in a judge's seat. Half of the world of design is already hers. What's there to work hard for?!"  
"But I heard that the president of ZR doesn't like women. Has he really taken a liking to Qiao Xi? Although Qiao Xi is very good-looking, there are so many beautiful women here. Why did the president of ZR take a liking to a newcomer?"

"I think it's a little strange too. The president, who has never been close to women, suddenly likes a woman. Something doesn't feel right!"

Li Xing'er was extremely excited. "Qiao Xi! Everyone is curious about your relationship with the President. Does he really like you?"

Before Qiao Xi could reply, Gu Zheng's assistant walked over with an expensive men's watch and a cup of hot latte.

The moment the assistant appeared, everyone's eyes widened and they held their breaths.

"Wow, that latte must be for Qiao Xi!"

"I'm so envious. If the president of ZR has really taken a fancy to her, she wouldn't have to work hard for the rest of her life. Cinderella will become a rich wife. The plot in this novel would really become a reality."

Seeing this, Li Xing'er gave Qiao Xi a push. "Quick, go accept it! Qiao Xi! This is the president's love for you!"<sup>1</sup>