

Lady gu 431

Chapter 431: So The President Likes Gu Yao!

Under the envious gaze of everyone, Qiao Xi slowly took a few steps forward

The assistant turned to the side. "Is Mr. Gu Yao here?"

Everyone:

Gu Yao lifted his eyes, looking confused.

The assistant walked in front of him and smiled. "Mr. Gu, you accidentally left your watch in the office just now. Sir asked me to send it over to you. Sir also said that you like to drink latte and asked me to buy you a cup. He instructed me to add more sugar. Do you think it suits your taste? If you don't like it, I can buy another cup for you.

"Sir said it's better not to drink too much coffee. Otherwise, you won't be able to sleep at night and it'll affect your rest."

Gu Yao pouted, feeling wronged. He wanted to bribe him with a cup of latte to have him take over the Gu family's business?

However, everyone did not understand what was going on. Their expressions gradually tuned to horror. No way!

Didn't the president of ZR like Qiao Xi? How did Gu Yao's watch end up in the President's office? How did the president know that Gu Yao liked sugar in his latte? He even got his assistant to specially buy Gu Yao a cup of latte?

Li Xing'er widened her eyes and looked at Gu Yao, then at Qiao Xi. She jumped up excitedly, her face flushed red as she shouted in disbelief, "Could it be... the person the president of ZR likes is not Qiao Xi but Gu Yao?"

Everyone gasped.

"Qiao Xi is just a cover. Actually, the person the president of ZR likes is Gu Yao. He invited Qiao Xi to hide it from the public and then let Gu Yao go as her assistant!"

"Yeah, the president of ZR has never been close to women. So, it's because he likes... men!"

The news that the president of ZR liked Gu Yao spread throughout the entire hall.

Second Young Master Gu was stunned:

Gu Yao's face turned pale instantly. "F*ck, do you have a grudge against me?"

However, this was a competition, after all. Gossip was just entertainment. Everyone quickly immersed themselves back into the competition.

In order not to affect the designers' work, the main door of the design hall would be closed during the official competition to prevent people from entering and disturbing the designers.

Within five days, the designers had to complete a full set of jewelry. Time was quite tight, so the assistants were also very busy and anxious.

Qiao Xi was designing the framework when Gu Yao looked at her with admiration. "I've finally experienced the charm of jewelry design. If I were a woman, I would definitely wear the jewelry you design. Your work is too beautiful. Just looking at the design draft makes me think that it's going to be stunning!"

Qiao Xi carefully placed the gemstone on the necklace, which was very dazzling under the light.

Five days passed in the blink of an eye. Everyone kept the jewelry they designed and handed it to the judges to grade.

All the jewelry was placed in an opaque box, so no one could see the other designers' works.

The participants were all waiting backstage. After drawing lots, they would go on stage in order while models would wear the jewelry they designed to show to the judges. Then, they would get an average score based on the judges' scores.

Backstage, some famous designers had gathered together to discuss. Newcomers like Li Xing'er also gathered with them to chat.

Li Xing'er panicked. "Qiao Xi, I'm so nervous!"

"Only a newbie like you would be nervous. We're all used to it, and Qiao Xi is Yun Chu's friend. Her design skills must be very strong. She'll definitely get a high score when the time comes."

At this moment, an eccentric female voice sounded.

The woman beside Yao Mengqing said arrogantly, "Jason, you're Master Yun Chu's disciple. You should know her friend, right? If she doesn't have the ability to design, how could she be Master Yun Chu's friend?"

Everyone's expression changed, and the atmosphere suddenly became oppressive.

Jason was Yun Chu's disciple, and Qiao Xi was Yun Chu's friend. If they lost, they would be affecting Yun Chu's reputation as well. This was a battle of the century.

However, Jason sneered in disdain. "Who's Qiao Xi? I only know that Master Yun Chu has no friends at all. I think she must be lying just because she wants to forge connections with my master!"

Boom—

The entire backstage was silent.

Jason had never heard of Qiao Xi?

Yao Mengqing pretended to be surprised. "Mr. Jason, did you remember wrongly? Xi Xi wouldn't lie. She said that she's Master Yun Chu's friend in public."

Chapter 432: Battle Of The Century

Jason sneered. "A friend of Master Yun Chu? Doesn't she know that she's not qualified? Is Master Yun Chu someone a new designer like her can get close to? She's overestimating herself!"

The woman next to Yao Mengging scolded, "Qiao Xi is too shameless! Teacher Jason said that he doesn't know her at all. She wants to use Yun Chu's reputation to enter the design industry? Why doesn't she look in the mirror and see if she's worthy first!"

Someone else chimed in, "It must be because she doesn't have much strength, so that's why she came up with unorthodox methods. She deliberately said that she's Yun Chu's friend, wanting to use this method to rise up."

Jason's face was full of mockery. "There's nothing to say to this kind of person. I'll file a report against you for using the identity of Master Yun Chu's friend to participate in the competition. A person like that is not qualified to compete with us on the same stage!

"I don't know what sh*tty work your designs will be. Don't embarrass Master Yun Chu!"

These words weren't kind at all.

If Jason successfully filed the report, the entire design industry would know about the scandal of Qiao Xi pretending to be Yun Chu's friend. From then on, no design team or design competition would accept her. Her future would be ruined.

However, Qiao Xi just said indifferently, "If you rely on Yun Chu's name to participate in the competition, then you ought to be unworthy of being a designer, right?"

Jason did not hesitate. "Of course. Otherwise, do you think a person like that deserves to stand in the arena?"

Qiao Xi went silent for a short while before she smiled lightly. "I agree with the statement very much. I hope you won't regret it."

At this moment, all the judges had arrived and the participants had finished drawing lots. Next, they had to go on stage to show their works according to the order decided by the lots.

Since this competition was sponsored by ZR Group, it attracted widespread attention. There were television stations that broadcast the entire event live, and many reporters were there to interview them.

Today was the day of the competition for the championship. Some seniors from the design world had also come. The scene was very lively and spectacular.

Li Xinger asked in a low voice, "What's your number?"

Qiao Xi replied, "Still 29."

Li Xing'er widened her eyes. "What? Yao Mengging is the 28th! Did they deliberately arrange for you to go after her?"

Li Xing'er's partner said helplessly, "I think Yao Mengging did it on purpose because everyone is saying that you don't have the ability. If your work is really bad, it'll affect the judges' scores. If that happens, she'll have a reason to attack you."

Qiao Xi replied indifferently, "It's fine."

Actually, it was good to go after Yao Mengqing. After all, she wasn't the one who would be embarrassed in the end. Yao Mengqing would definitely regret it. This was called shooting oneself in the foot.

The participants ahead quickly finished displaying their works. It was soon Yao Mengqing's turn.

For the competition this time around, the judges were very strict and their words were sharp. The designers were all dealt a blow and left the stage feeling dejected. Li Xing'er also looked dispirited. "The judges this time are really too scary!"

"What's there to be afraid of? It's all because you're not strong enough. Those who are truly capable will not be worried." Jason looked at them arrogantly and coldly.

Yao Mengqing looked at Qiao Xi and smiled apologetically. "Xi Xi, Mr. Jason is just a straightforward person. Don't take it to heart. I believe in your strength!"

Seeing Yao Mengqing and Jason going on stage together, Li Xing'er said indignantly, "Tsk! What's there to be proud of? She always pretends to be a good person!"

Everyone remained silent. Actually, they were clearly aware in their hearts that Yao Mengqing had been targeting Qiao Xi since the beginning. Qiao Xi drawing the last lot was also the work of Yao Mengqing.

But so what? Yao Mengqing was indeed capable. Moreover, she was the eldest daughter of the Yao family and had the help of Yun Chu's disciple, Jason. Yao Mengqing would definitely be the champion this time!

As for Qiao Xi

Everyone sighed helplessly.

At this moment, a tall model came on stage to showcase the jewelry. The judges' eyes lit up.

Previously, the designs were too ordinary. Finally, when the competition was about to end, they saw a perfect design.

"Miss Yao's work is indeed eye-catching."

"I heard that Miss Yao is the founder of Sunshine.. Her work is really amazing!"

Chapter 433: We Can Only Win; We Can't Lose

"That's right! The other designers can't be compared to her. I think she'll be the champion this time."

"What do you think, Mr. Ye?"

Everyone held their breaths and suddenly became nervous.

'Mr. Ye was the president of ZR. No one knew his full name, nor had anyone seen his face before. However, in the design industry, this name was well-known.

'Mr. Ye had superb design skills and controlled half of the world of design. It would be every designer's

lifelong dream if they could get his approval.
Yao Mengqing was extremely nervous.

Mr. Ye looked up slowly and took a glance at the set of jewelry. He replied nonchalantly, "Mhm."
What did 'mhm' mean?

Did he agree with the other judges?

Jason was overjoyed, while Yao Mengqing was even more excited.

The designers backstage were also very envious. "Mr. Ye didn't even take a look at the earlier designs. But after Yao Mengqing went on stage, he opened his eyes and took a look. Yao Mengqing is really capable!"

"All the judges gave high scores. Mr. Ye seems to like her work too. The championship is hers to take!"

"That's right. None of the previous designers surpassed Yao Mengqing's score, and only Qiao Xi remains now. How could she possibly compare to Yao Mengqing? There's no doubt about who the champion will be!"

Qiao Xi looked at Yao Mengqing's work as well.

Actually, it was not too bad. Although jewelry needed to be gorgeous, if too many materials were piled up, it would appear very messy and affect the aesthetics. Moreover, she felt that this design was very familiar, especially the shape of the gem cutting. It was as though she had seen it somewhere before. Qiao Xi thought for a moment and suddenly recalled that she seemed to have done a similar draft many years ago, but she didn't know where she had thrown it later.

Yao Mengqing's design was praised by everyone. After she got off the stage, she smiled gently. "Mr. Jason, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't have achieved such good results. Thank you so much."

Jason nodded proudly. "It's nothing. Since I agreed to participate in the competition, I surely won't embarrass Master Yun Chu. We can only win; we can't lose!"

Yao Mengqing looked at Qiao Xi who was about to go on stage. "Mr. Jason, Xi Xi is going on stage soon. If her work is not good, please guide her. After all, she's still a newcomer and needs to improve. Don't hurt her too much and make her lose her confidence."

Jason sneered. "You want me to guide her? Is she worthy? Is a lowly designer worthy of my guidance? I don't have the time for that."

Yao Mengqing nodded helplessly. "Alright, then. I'll go and comfort Xi Xi after the competition. I won't trouble you, Mr. Jason."

Just then, the designers surrounded her. "Miss Yao, the work you did with Mr. Jason is perfect! You'll definitely be the champion!"

Yao Mengqing smiled in embarrassment. "The competition hasn't ended yet. It's too early to say that I won the championship. Xi Xi hasn't shown her work yet!"

“Even those famous designers can’t compare to you. How can a newbie like Qiao Xi be your opponent? Miss Yao, your win has been determined. There’s no need to be humble.”

Yao Mengging was ecstatic.

She had deliberately arranged for Qiao Xi to go after her. With the two of them displaying their works one after another, the judges would definitely give Qiao Xi low scores after making a comparison.

‘As expected, the judges had all praised her work. In their eyes, she was the champion.

Qiao Xi’s work would have no meaning. Just a few points would do. The judges might even cruelly criticize Qiao Xi’s poor work.

Yao Mengging lowered her head and smiled sinisterly.

People continued to praise her. “Miss Yao’s ability is obvious to all. How can some newbie surpass you? If I were her, I would just forfeit!”

“Look, Qiao Xi has gone up the stage!”

All the lights in the surroundings converged together and fell onto Qiao Xi, causing everyone to gasp.

What? There was no model?

Qiao Xi’s expression was calm as she carried the box to the front of the stage and slowly opened the box, revealing the jewelry within.

Yao Mengqing didn’t bother looking at the screen. She could clearly feel that the venue had instantly quietened down and only melodious notes were flowing.

Chapter 434: No Doubt About Who The Champion Is

She smiled confidently. “Xi Xi is still a newcomer. Don’t expect too much from her, Mr. Jason. I think...”

Before she could finish speaking, one of the judges suddenly came back to their senses and stood up abruptly. The designers backstage were also boiling with excitement as they rushed to the front of the big screen in shock.

“How is this possible?!”

“Did a newcomer really design such a perfect piece of work? In just five days and using the same materials as us, she created such a stunning piece!”

At that moment, the judges stood up one by one and walked to the front of Qiao Xi’s jewelry, carefully observing the nearly perfect work.

“How beautiful! This is the most perfect set of jewelry I’ve ever seen!”

Yao Mengqing’s expression froze and she slowly turned around.

Under the lights, a set of sparkling jewelry shone so brightly.

“Qiao Xi’s design concept is amazing! The more I look at her work, the more beautiful I find it!”

“The judges are about to give their scores. Let’s hear what they have to say. I suddenly feel that I don’t have the qualifications to comment on Qiao Xi’s work as if it would be blasphemous!”

The judges stared intently at the set of jewelry and discussed it excitedly. Their eyes were filled with amazement and admiration.

“I believe everyone has already gotten a good look. This set of jewelry can be said to be perfect. To be honest, I can’t even produce such a high standard of work. How can I have the nerve to comment on her work?”

“That’s right. This set of jewelry can’t be described in words. No words can describe it.”

Yao Mengqing’s body stiffened. She stared at the screen. At that moment, time seemed to have stopped.

Impossible! Impossible!

How could such a perfect piece of work be designed by Qiao Xi? Qiao Xi was just a newbie. Why was her work more perfect than hers? She must have copied it from somewhere.

“What do you think, Mr. Ye?”

The judges all looked at him, waiting for his comment.

Mr. Ye, who had been silent this whole time, looked up slowly. It was different from when he commented on Yao Mengqing’s work. He stood up and clapped leisurely.

“The championship belongs to her alone.”

Her alone?

Yao Mengqing’s body softened and she almost fell to the ground. Her eyes were filled with unwillingness.

Mr. Ye said that Qiao Xi would be the champion? What would she become, then?

Li Xing’er glanced at her coldly. “Miss Yao, I’m sorry to disappoint you. But it doesn’t matter. Even if you don’t win the championship this year, you can still participate in next year’s competition. But Xi Xi had better not participate. It’s meaningless if she keeps winning the competition. She should just let you win it once.

“After all, our Xi Xi is a newbie. She still has a lot of youth and time, but Miss Yao, you’re already a famous designer. You’ve been in the design industry for so many years but still haven’t won the competition. It wouldn’t be nice if word got out. With a designer like Mr. Jason helping you, you still lost. If

word got out, how would you have the face to continue accepting orders? Don’t you think so?”

Yao Mengqing’s face turned green, and she clenched her fists tightly.

“Jason even looked down on Qiao Xi and said that she wasn’t fit to be Yun Chu’s friend. I think the person who really lost all reputation is Jason. His designs are simply trash compared to Qiao Xi’s. Does he have the nerve to say that he’s Yun Chu’s disciple?”

“Yao Mengqing even intentionally made Qiao Xi go after her in order to crush Qiao Xi, yet in the end, she shot herself in the foot and was severely humiliated.”

Yao Mengqing was trembling with anger. However, in front of everyone, she had no choice but to remain calm. She forced a smile on her face, but her expression was still ugly.

Jason’s face was dark, and there was a trace of viciousness in his eyes.

Qiao Xi was just a newcomer. How could her designs be more perfect than his?

After the judges gave their scores, Qiao Xi’s work crushed all the participants present. She received a perfect score. There was no doubt about who the champion was. After the competition’s organizers announced the champion of the design competition, they gave Qiao Xi an award.

Jason shouted indignantly, “Absolutely not! She’s just a newbie! I want to go look for Yun Chu.. She’ll stand up for me! There must be some conspiracy!”

Chapter 435: Yao Mengqing Delivered Herself To The Door!

Hearing his roar, Li Xing’er frowned unhappily and said softly, “Qiao Xi, I think this person is crazy. You have to be careful. He might do something.”

Qiao Xi held the trophy and smiled meaningfully. “Yun Chu is in Li City right now.”

Li Xing’er exclaimed, “Ah? What should we do, then? If Jason really complains to Yun Chu and Yun Chu speaks up for Jason, will the judges revoke your championship title and let Yao Mengqing have the title? What should we do?”

“One more thing, I heard that before the competition, Yao Mengqing said that she wanted to sell her designs. They’ll be the flagship products for Sunshine’s next season. She didn’t even win the championship. How dare she sell them?”

Qiao Xi was slightly stunned. “Yao Mengqing wanted her designs for the competition to be put into the production line?”

She suddenly had a good idea. This time, she couldn’t be blamed. It was Yao Mengqing who delivered herself to her door!

At this moment, Gu Zheng was sitting lazily on a chair. A group of people was standing not far away from him, maintaining a distance from him. However, their faces were still filled with solicitousness.

“Mrr. Ye, the champion of this competition is indeed very impressive. Miss Qiao Xi’s work is perfect. The set of jewelry she designed is very suitable to be the first batch of jewelry for the next season.”

Another person refuted, “But Qiao Xi is just a newcomer. She doesn’t have much fame. If we promote her work first, I’m afraid many people won’t buy it. Although Yao Mengqing lost, she has some influence internationally, after all. The jewelry she made will definitely sell well.”

“But before the competition, we already said that we’d put the champion’s work into production. Yao Mengqing didn’t win. If we sign a contract with her, wouldn’t we be breaking our promise?”

“But if we don’t sign Yao Mengqing, she’ll produce her designs this time under Sunshine for their next season. This will affect our interests.”

Everyone expressed their opinions, but they could not come to a definite conclusion in the end. Hence, they looked at Mr. Ye.

The man lifted his eyes slowly and sneered. "So, if ZR doesn't sign a contract with Yao Mengging, she'll release her designs under Sunshine?"

Everyone nodded. "That's right."

"Heh."

Gu Zheng scoffed lightly. "Since that's the case, let's satisfy her. Let her bring her work back to Sunshine. She won't have anything to do with ZR anymore."

Everyone was stunned for a moment before they understood what Mr. Ye meant.

Longwan Residential.

Qiao Xi had long since heard that Yao Mengging would bring her designs from this competition back to Sunshine and sell them in batches after the finished products were made.

Since she did not win the championship, this set of jewelry could not be sold as a masterpiece. It could only be placed on the display counter like other jewelry pieces for people to browse from.

The price would be much lower as well. However, they could be mass-produced and Yao Mengging could earn a small sum.

Qiao Xi smiled disdainfully. She had long since felt that Yao Mengging's work was somewhat familiar, and only later on did she recall that it was a draft she had drawn many years ago. She lost the physical copy somewhere, but all her drafts were saved on her computer.

She turned on the computer and tapped on the keyboard. Soon, she found the draft.

At this moment, downstairs.

The sound of a car engine came from outside, followed by the butler's voice. "President, you're back."

Gu Zheng nodded and asked, "Where's Young Madam?"

"Madam went back to her room as soon as she came back."

Just as Gu Zheng was about to go upstairs and knock on the door, Qiao Xi stood up and rushed over, saying sweetly, "Ah Zheng~"

The butler's mouth twitched slightly. He saw his boss holding his wife's hand as they entered the door and slammed it shut.

Qiao Xi said shyly, "Ah Zheng, we'll sign the contract now, alright?"

Gu Zheng was stunned for a moment and instantly understood what she meant, but his expression remained calm. "Sign what?"

Qiao Xi tugged at him and said coquettishly, "Stop fooling around! Didn't we agree before? I'll sign a contract with Gu Corporation as Yun Chu."

“Oh,” Gu Zheng replied casually and nodded. “Yes, we did agree, but that was a few days ago. I’ve been thinking about it for the past few days...”

The smile on Qiao Xi’s face gradually vanished.

Why? Was Gu Zheng going back on his word?

Chapter 436: I Hope You Won’t Ignore My Kindness

Gu Zheng paused for a moment before he calmly said, “After these few days of deliberation, I think that Yun Chu isn’t suitable for our company. After all, you rejected me a few years ago. Furthermore, when I asked you to sign a contract with us that day, you rejected the offer as well. I think it’s better to forget it. I won’t accept a designer who rejected me twice.”

Qiao Xi’s expression froze, and she was completely petrified.

She almost passed out and questioned, “You’re not signing the contract with me anymore? G-Gu Zheng, you’d better think about it!”

If she didn’t sign the contract, how could she deal with Yao Mengqing?

From the moment Qiao Xi found out that Yao Mengqing wanted to mass-produce her work, she’d already thought of a plan. Now, she was completely thrown into disorder by Gu Zheng’s words. Her mind was instantly in chaos.

She looked at Gu Zheng in disbelief. “Y-You need to reconsider! I’m Yun Chu! Don’t you know who Yun Chu is? I’m the best jewelry designer in the world! Gu Zheng, why are you rejecting me?”

Gu Zheng glanced at her indifferently. “Mrs. Gu, this is the first time I’ve seen someone praising themselves to the skies without blushing or having their heart skip a beat. I’ve learned something.”

Qiao Xi originally didn’t think much of it, but when Gu Zheng said this, she instantly blushed in embarrassment.

After a moment of silence, she said self-righteously, “W-What’s wrong with me praising myself? I’m telling the truth! I’m really amazing! The people who want to sign a contract with me can form a line all the way to Paris. I agreed to sign a contract with Gu Corporation on account that you’re my husband! I hope you won’t fail to appreciate my kindness!”

Gu Zheng sneered. “Ha, thank you very much, but Gu Corporation won’t accept it.”

Qiao Xi: “?”

‘Where’s my Imife! Don’t stop me! I’m going to kill this bastard!’

She was about to vomit blood from anger because of Gu Zheng, She resisted the urge to flare up and smiled. “Ah Zheng, can you tell me why you suddenly don’t want to sign a contract with me?”

The corners of Gu Zheng’s mouth curved up as he watched Qiao Xi swallow her anger. “That’s inappropriate.”

Qiao Xi: "..."

F*ck! Him saying this was the same as him not saying anything! This bastard was trying to mess with her!

The gentle expression on her face suddenly disappeared and was replaced with a fierce expression. Her eyes were filled with anger. "Gu Zheng, close your eyes. I have a gift for you."

Gu Zheng raised his eyes, a little puzzled. He had rejected Qiao Xi, but she still wanted to give him a gift. What exactly did she want to give him?

He tried to hear Qiao Xi's inner voice, but it was extremely calm without the slightest sound. Gu Zheng couldn't help but feel some anticipation. Could it be a kiss?

Gu Zheng hesitated for a moment before closing his eyes expectantly.

Then, Qiao Xi said hatefully, "Gu Zheng, open your eyes."

The next second.

Gu Zheng clearly saw the international 'friendly' gesture in front of him. Qiao Xi's slender middle finger had suddenly appeared in front of him.

Qiao Xi gnashed her teeth and said, "You rejected me, yet you still thought I'd give you something? Dream on! I'll give you the middle finger! How about it! Do you like it?"

Gu Zheng: "..."

Before he could speak, Qiao Xi rushed out angrily. He smiled helplessly. "Mrs. Gu."

Qiao Xi felt that there was definitely something wrong with this person. He refused to agree to a collaboration, yet he could still smile when she gave him the middle finger!

Was he planning to take revenge on her?

'When he thought up to here, Qiao Xi suddenly felt a chill run down her back. This bastard might have thought of some dirty tricks to deal with her!

However, she had already raised her middle finger, so she didn't regret it! In any case, she was very happy at this moment. She really wanted to roar at the sky.

Gu Zheng heard her inner thoughts and could not help but laugh. "Mrs. Gu, it's not that I don't want to sign a contract with you. It's because Gu Corporation is not good enough for Yun Chu. Yun Chu should be a free designer and should not be bound by any company or rules."

'When Qiao Xi heard his words, she stopped in her tracks and snorted coldly.

'Do I need you to say that? Of course, I know I'm very powerful! Don't think that I'll forgive you just because you put in a few good words!

'At least continue to praise me! I won't be coaxed by just a few words.

'But if you don't sign a contract with me, how am I going to get Gu Corporation to file a claim against Yao Mengqing for me? She violated my copyright.. If Gu Corporation steps in, Yao Mengqing will definitely have to pay a huge price for it this time!'

Chapter 437: Profit

Qiao Xi had already planned things out in her heart. If she signed a contract with the Gu Corporation, Yao Mengqing would be in violation of both her and Gu Corporation's copyright terms. The amount of compensation she would have to pay would double, or perhaps it would be even more than that. With this, Yao Mengqing would definitely be given a lesson she would remember.

But Gu Zheng, this damned man, refused to sign the contract with her. Qiao Xi's plan was completely messed up.

Qiao Xi frowned as waves of anger surged in her heart. No matter what Gu Zheng said, she was unwilling to forgive him, so she secretly decided that no matter what Gu Zheng said this time, she would not cooperate with Gu Corporation!

Shortly after, Gu Zheng's voice slowly sounded from behind her. "Mrs. Gu, I'm speaking the truth. With your status, you shouldn't sign a contract with any company. You'll have more freedom and won't be restricted.

"We don't have to sign a contract if we want to work together. As the president of Gu Corporation, I've decided to buy the design draft of 'Returning Dream' that you created three years ago. This way, you won't have to sign a contract with Gu Corporation to achieve your goal."

Qiao Xi was instantly stunned.

Returning Dream?

It was the draft that Yao Mengqing plagiarized!

If Gu Corporation bought Returning Dream and Yao Mengqing sold her plagiarized works in batches, Gu Corporation would demand compensation and Yao Mengqing would have to pay a huge price.

Qiao Xi was just about to turn around when she heard Gu Zheng's unhurried voice. "But... Mrs. Gu, you seem to have decided not to cooperate with Gu Corporation anymore, so I won't force you."¹

Qiao Xi instantly swallowed the words she was about to say.

'Was there a man who was worse than Gu Zheng in this world?

Qiao Xi, who'd just sworn in her heart that she wouldn't agree no matter what Gu Zheng said, suddenly hesitated.

She thought about it for a while before turning around slowly and moving closer to Gu Zheng. "Ah Zheng~"

Gu Zheng's eyes softened.

Mrs. Gu, who was still angry a moment ago, suddenly became shy and revealed a fawning smile.

“Ah Zheng! You’re so smart! You intend to buy my design draft to achieve the same result. My impression of you has improved again. Ah Zheng, I love you so much!”

Gu Zheng smirked. “Does that mean that you’ve agreed?”

Qiao Xi nodded like a chick pecking on rice. “Of course! Actually, I’ve always wanted to work with you. I was just joking earlier. I’m very happy that you’re willing to work with me!

“rma girl, after all, so I have to be more reserved! Since you’ve already invited me, of course, I’ll agree. I’ll sell the design draft of Returning Dream to you at a low price. Is three million okay? You’ll get a huge sum of compensation soon. It’ll definitely be a profit!

“Ah Zheng, you’re smart and capable! You’re handsome, rich, wise, and competent! Actually, I’ve been wanting to work with you for a long time! This is the best opportunity. I’m even willing to sell the design draft to you at a low price. Where else can you find such a good deal? Hurry up and agree!”

Three million yuan to buy Yun Chu’s design draft. If news of this got out, countless jewelry companies would probably show up at Yun Chu’s door with stacks of money.

The smile on Gu Zheng’s face grew wider. “Since you’re so sincere, I’ll agree to it.”

Qiao Xi jumped up in excitement, but she had forgotten something. “Have you printed the contract? We’ll sign it now. Let’s not waste time!”

Gu Zheng waved his hand indifferently, and Song Shiyu brought over a contract.

Qiao Xi signed her name without the slightest hesitation, but she didn’t sign it as Yun Chu and signed it as Qiao Xi instead.

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After receiving the contract that she had been longing for, Qiao Xi urged Gu Zheng, saying, “Get Song Shiyu to use the Gu Corporation’s account to post a statement on Weibo about the company buying Yun Chu’s design draft.”

First, they would tell everyone about this matter. Then, after Yao Mengqing sold her designs in bulk, they would take out evidence and ask Yao Mengqing to compensate them with a huge sum of money!

Gu Zheng nodded and gave a few instructions according to Qiao Xi’s wishes. Then, he sized Qiao Xi up with interest and slowly said, “Mrs. Gu.”

“Huh?”

He lowered his eyes slightly and said casually, “If you have nothing to do, read more books and learn how to praise others. Don’t use what you learned from television dramas in real life. It’s very awkward.”

The smile on Qiao Xi’s face gradually vanished: “? Read more books? Did he mean that she was uneducated?”

This wretched man! How unlucky of her to have met him!

Chapter 438: Counter-attack

Overnight, the internet exploded.

Firstly, the feud between Yun Chu and Gu Corporation was resolved. This was the first collaboration between the two parties. Gu Corporation had bought Yun Chu's design draft 'Returning Dream' from three years ago and would use it as the company's first jewelry piece for the next quarter.

On the other hand, although Yao Mengqing did not win the championship, her and Jason's jewelry was going to be put into production and sold as the main product of Sunshine. Jason was also said to be Yun Chu's disciple.

As for the last piece of news.

In the morning, Qiao Xi was woken up by the noisy ringing of her phone.

Li Xing'er's anxious voice came from the phone. "You're still in the mood to sleep at a time like this? Jason... and Yao Mengqing are going to sue you!"

Qiao Xi's gaze was muddled, and her mind was still in chaos.

Li Xing'er gritted her teeth in anger. "Jason said that your work that won the championship in the competition was plagiarized from his previous design draft, so he wants to sue you! Where did he get his confidence from? If he could design such a perfect piece of work, he wouldn't have lost the competition!"

Qiao Xi's eyes gradually became clear.

This was going to be interesting. She had yet to settle scores with Yao Mengqing and Jason, but they had turned on her first?

Qiao Xi logged into her account and saw a bunch of messages in her private inbox.

She opened Jason's Weibo and frowned.

There were two photos recently posted on his Weibo. One was a design sketch provided by Jason, while the other was a piece of jewelry designed by Qiao Xi during the competition. There were indeed many similarities between the two photos. From the design concept and color tone, they looked very similar.

Jason's design draft was published in 'International Design Record Magazine' three years ago.

Jason had also attached a caption to the photos—

[I wasn't satisfied with this design draft at first, but the person in charge of the magazine approached me, hoping that he could publish my design draft. Hence, I handed the completed design draft to him. Probably because this magazine isn't very famous, many people haven't read it, giving Miss Qiao a chance to plagiarize it.

[But coincidentally, I also participated in the competition this time. The first time I saw her jewelry, I felt that it looked familiar. After I went back and thought about it carefully, I decided to announce the truth of this matter. I hope that the competition's organizers will revoke Miss Qiao's title as champion as her work was plagiarized. She doesn't deserve to be the champion!]

Li Xing'er was worried. "Qiao Xi, he took out a design draft and said you plagiarized. Who knows if his design draft was really published three years ago?"

"Yes," Qiao Xi replied calmly, "I've looked into it. Three years ago, the person in charge of International Design Record Magazine accepted his design draft."

Li Xing'er asked anxiously, "Then..."

"But I drew this design draft four years ago."

Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully. "Although I haven't released it anywhere, I can prove that the design draft is mine."

The biggest taboo in the world of design was plagiarism. Plagiarizing something that another had created with their own inspiration was no different than stealing their soul. Therefore, everyone found plagiarism to be a shameful thing, especially now that a famous designer like Jason was accusing Qiao Xi of plagiarism. If she did not have evidence to prove her innocence, she would not be able to turn the situation around.

But she was Yun Chu!

Jason was digging his own grave!

Not long after, the person in charge of the International Jewelry Design Competition called and asked about Qiao Xi's work.

Qiao Xi did not give a clear explanation. Instead, she asked indifferently, "Is this regarding Mr. Jason's appeal to revoke my title as champion? You're saying that there'll be a press conference tomorrow where famous designers will come together to boycott plagiarism, so you want me to explain the origin of my work?"

"Yes, that's right," the person in charge said.

Qiao Xi didn't hesitate in the slightest. "I'll attend."

After hanging up, Qiao Xi turned on her computer and logged into Black Tide's account.

Although her design draft was not released anywhere, there would be records of it on the computer.

Some things could not be faked. Even though four years had passed, she could still find evidence.

The next day.

At the press conference, Yao Mengqing and Jason sat in front of the stage, their faces full of grief and anger.

"I've been in the design industry for so many years, but this is the first time I've seen such an arrogant designer. I had already gone on stage, yet she still dared to copy my work.. Did she think I wouldn't remember my own work from three years ago?"

Chapter 439: The Title Of Champion Doesn't Belong To You!

“When I saw the work, I found it familiar. I wondered why Qiao Xi’s work was so similar to my design draft. It was only later that I realized something. How could a newcomer complete her design draft in such a short period of time and produce such perfect work?”

“If it’s not plagiarism, there’s no other way to explain it!”

Facing everyone’s camera, Jason was extremely furious. “I’ve invited many famous designers in the design industry to do an examination. They’ve confirmed that Qiao Xi’s designs are 90% similar to my design draft. This is enough to constitute plagiarism!”

“I’ve also invited Miss Qiao to the venue. I hope she can explain to me why her work is so similar to my design draft!”

“But the press conference is already halfway through and Miss Qiao still hasn’t appeared. It looks like she’s admitting that she plagiarized!”

Jason’s eyes were full of contempt. “Since Miss Qiao is not coming, then—”

“I’m here!”

Before Jason could finish, a cold female voice floated in.

Qiao Xi wore a sapphire blue velvet dress that revealed her fair shoulders and collarbone. Her slightly curled hair fell onto her shoulders while her red lips were bright. She seemed like a celestial maiden who had walked out from a painting.

“Wow! Her clothes are really good! Why haven’t I seen this dress before? Where did you buy it from?”

“Tsk! What’s so good about it? It must be a small brand. If a big brand had released a new collection, how could we not know about it?”

“It can’t be. How could a small brand have such an amazing design? It must be a new work by some big designer!”

“There’s no point discussing this. We’re boycotting plagiarism today. Whether she looks good or not has nothing to do with us. The plagiarist should get out of the design industry!”

Yao Mengqing looked at Qiao Xi coldly and acted as if she was in a difficult position when Qiao Xi got closer. “Xi Xi, don’t blame me for this. I’ve also begged Mr. Jason to give you a chance and not make a big deal out of this. But he thinks that his work has been blasphemed, so—

Jason interrupted her impatiently. “You’re finally here! I thought you wouldn’t dare to come! You copied my design draft. What do you have to say for yourself now?”

Yao Mengqing lowered her head and revealed a sinister smile.

She really thought that Qiao Xi was talented in designing, but it turned out that she had copied the design from a magazine. Now that she had been discovered, she would not be able to deny it!

Qiao Xi was also a fool. She knew that Jason was going to participate in the competition, yet she copied the design draft that he published in a magazine many years ago. Wasn’t she courting death?

The reporter hurriedly asked, "Miss Yao, if Miss Qiao hadn't plagiarized, you would undoubtedly have been the champion. What do you have to say about this?"

"Mr. Jason, I heard that you're ready to sue Qiao Xi?"

Jason did not answer, but Yao Mengging replied gently, "Although I have a good relationship with Xi Xi, having zero tolerance for plagiarism is the basic ethics of a designer. We should protect the ethics of the design world!

"Some people use other people's things as their own and ruin the design industry's culture. If we tolerate plagiarism, who will protect the rights of the original creator?"

Yao Mengging was helpless. "Xi Xi, the title of champion doesn't belong to you!"

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. At this moment, Yao Mengqing was surely overjoyed in her heart. She must feel like Qiao Xi would surely be unable to turn the situation around this time.

Yao Mengging was an internationally renowned designer, and her reputation was still very resounding. Therefore, at this time, the number of netizens in the live-stream kept increasing. Most of them were attacking acts of plagiarism and defending Yao Mengqing.

The corners of Yao Mengqing's mouth curled up. From now on, Qiao Xi would never be able to participate in another jewelry design competition.

She wanted Qiao Xi to know that this was the outcome of going against her!

She thought that the woman who married Gu Zheng would be very capable, but it turned out that she could only rely on plagiarism to participate in the competition. No wonder she was so confident previously. In reality, however, she was actually just a piece of trash.

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Jason said coldly, "Mengging is right! I'm here today not only to seek justice for myself, but also for all the designers who have been plagiarized! Qiao Xi, you have no respect for anyone and dared to plagiarize my work in the competition. Do you still have any shame? It's because of designers like you that the design industry is approaching its doom!"

Chapter 440: Who's Plagiarizing Who?

The reporters then rushed to Qiao Xi and aimed the microphones at her.

"Miss Qiao, do you admit that you copied Mr. Jason's work?"

"You thought that not many people knew about that magazine, so you chose that design draft. You thought that no one would find out, right?"

"Do you regret plagiarizing someone else's work and getting first place in the competition? Will you continue to work in the design industry in the future?"

The reporters' sharp questions came one after another. Without waiting for Qiao Xi to reply, countless fans at the scene cursed Qiao Xi to the skies.

"The design industry doesn't need a designer like her! Get out!"

"Qiao Xi isn't worthy of being the champion!"

Yao Mengqing heard the scoldings around her and looked pleased.

This time, Qiao Xi's reputation would surely be ruined!

Amidst the curses of the crowd, Qiao Xi slowly raised her eyes and casually took over a microphone. She said indifferently, "The first creator is the original, and the next one who comes after is a plagiarist, right?"

Jason snorted. "Yes!"

His design draft was released three years ago. Although he did not finish the final product, the design draft was still there. This was the most powerful evidence.

"Qiao Xi, the truth is right in front of you. Don't try to deny it! You'd better hurry up and apologize to Mr. Jason. He's a magnanimous person. He won't hold it against you!" said Lin Jie.

Yao Mengqing also chimed in. "Xi Xi, it won't do you any good if things get out of hand. Even if you're not thinking about yourself, you should think about... him!"

Him? Gu Zheng? Qiao Xi was angered to the point of laughing.

She looked up at the design draft from three years ago on the big screen, and everyone's gaze followed her to the big screen.

suddenly, the screen went black and a video appeared.

"Everyone heard it just now. Mr. Jason also agreed that the first creator is the original. Please take a look at this video."

As soon as Qiao Xi finished speaking, the video started playing.

'There was a sketch on the screen. Someone was drawing and editing on the computer. That person's movements were smooth and meticulous.

Although the video was fast-forwarded, one could still clearly see that this was the design process of a draft. Furthermore, it was a highly-skilled designer.

'What was even more shocking was that the time displayed was four years ago!

Everyone's eyes widened.

That was because they realized that the design was almost identical to Jason's!

Back then, Qiao Xi was watching a drama set in the Qing dynasty and suddenly had an inspiration. Following the theme of the male and female leads' undying love, she created a design draft. It happened to be exactly the same as the topic of the competition this time, so she used this design draft to participate in the competition.

She was too busy to complete the design draft back then, so it had been kept on her computer for so long. She had only shown it to two people during this period.

She did not understand how the design fell into Jason's hands, but she was sure that Jason copied her design draft because all the details were exactly the same. Even some of the flaws were not changed by him.

After the video ended, two design drafts appeared on the big screen. Although it could be seen that they were not drawn by one person, the two were basically the same.

Those who were cursing Qiao Xi madly earlier didn't utter a single word now. The reporters couldn't help but be stunned as well.

"This design draft is... the same as Jason's?"

"Four years ago? Does that mean Jason copied someone else's work?"

"Actually, if you take a closer look, it's not hard to notice that the design draft from four years ago is exactly the same as the one Qiao Xi produced during the competition. The flow of the lines and details are exactly the same. It can be seen that the two drafts were done by the same person."

"Ah! So the person who drew this design draft four years ago was Qiao Xi! Qiao Xi didn't plagiarize because this design draft was originally hers, but she didn't publish it and only chose to reproduce it during the competition."

Everyone was enlightened. "Jason kept saying that he would boycott plagiarism, but it turned out that he was the one who plagiarized and even used public opinion to attack the original creator! This way, no one would know that he was the plagiarist!"

The situation suddenly changed. Those who were scolding Qiao Xi started cursing Jason, and his face turned pale.

"No, no! It's not true!"