

## Lady gu 591

### Chapter 591: He Really Has A Dog

When the little black dog heard the commotion coming from the door, he jumped up and stared at the door with his obsidian-like eyes. He turned around and looked at the unfamiliar Qiao Xi, tilting his head curiously.

Qiao Xi's eyes widened. This dog was too cute!

But how could one raise a dog in the same room as a child? Children were fragile. Gu Zheng was too careless.

Just as Qiao Xi was puzzled, Gu Zheng had already bent down slightly and called out gently to the little black dog not far away, "Lele, come over to Daddy!"

Qiao Xi's body froze abruptly as the corners of her mouth twitched slightly.

It was called Lele?

This was Gu Zheng's son?

She felt her ears buzz for a moment, and her mind went blank.

While she was still in a daze, she saw the little black dog running toward Gu Zheng excitedly. It jumped into Gu Zheng's arms and enthusiastically licked Gu Zheng's hand.

The little black dog stared fixedly at Qiao Xi, his eyes filled with curiosity toward this female owner who had suddenly appeared. "Woof!"

Qiao Xi: "... " Was this the so-called illegitimate child?

Xia Yunlou had shouted in front of everyone that Gu Zheng had an illegitimate child hidden in the courtyard and thought that she had something on him. In the end, the so-called illegitimate child she was talking about was a dog?

If Gu Zheng really had a son, wouldn't it be a real person?

The rims of Qiao Xi's eyes were still red as the sorrow lingered in her heart. But at this moment, she was unable to flare up no matter what. Her emotions were replaced with shock instead.

After a long time, Qiao Xi recovered from her shock. "This... is your son?"

"Yes, he's yours too." The man smiled. "Lele, call Mommy."

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"Woof!"

The little black dog stretched out his little legs and directly jumped into Qiao Xi's embrace. He rubbed his soft fur against Qiao Xi's hand and enthusiastically tried to curry favor with this female owner.

When Qiao Xi thought of Gu Zheng's questioning earlier, as well as the scene of her sorrowful tears flowing down her face, she instantly felt ashamed.

"Mrs. Gu, do you know who my son is now?" Gu Zheng's eyes were filled with ridicule.

Qiao Xi felt a weight pressing down on her chest. When her anger had reached its peak just now, she had even thought of divorcing Gu Zheng. If she couldn't accept it, then she would really do it. In any case, she would be even more carefree after she regained her freedom.

"Xi Xi, you have to believe me. You're the only woman I've had since the beginning. It was the same in the past and will continue to be like this in the future. Nothing will change."

Gu Zheng's voice was extremely gentle. Qiao Xi abruptly raised her eyes and met those deep eyes of his. He was gazing at her affectionately, and she instantly indulged herself in this wonderful feeling.

His hot breath blew across her face. "Believe me.

"No matter what they say, you have to believe me. You're the only one I've ever had."

He leaned closer and pecked her lightly on the lips. "If I really had an illegitimate child, I would never hide the news from you. I've already made myself clear on the day I married you."

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Qiao Xi didn't understand why she was so impulsive just now. She clearly knew that Gu Zheng wouldn't do such a thing. He had always been clean and honest. He hadn't had a single woman by his side all these years, so how could he have an illegitimate child?

But she just couldn't control herself. The moment she heard that he had an illegitimate child, her rationality vanished. It was probably because... she loved him too much.

Song Shijing, who had been guarding outside the door, was also surprised. This boss of his who had always been cold and heartless was so gentle in front of his wife, fearing that she would feel wronged.

Before Young Madam showed up, Song Shijing didn't expect the president to fall into the hands of a woman one day.

Perhaps the president was not heartless, but the torture and abuse from his childhood had made him restrain his feelings and never reveal them easily. Only when he faced the person he trusted and loved deeply would he show them.

Song Shiyu frowned. "The president likes animals? And he's raising a dog in the courtyard? Isn't it too extravagant to let a dog live in such a big house?"

Song Shijing said calmly, "Watch what you're saying. He isn't a dog. It's the little master. When the president picked up Lele, he was almost dead. After raising him for so long, the president has developed feelings for him. As long as the president is happy, the dog can stay anywhere."

## **Chapter 592: There Are Spies In Longwan Residential**

Song Shiyu was confused. "Don't you think a cold-blooded man like the president should have a tiger or a lion as his pet? Why would he have a dog?"

Gu Zheng was the god of Li City. Rumors had it that he was bloodthirsty, cold, and ruthless. Although he did not lose his temper easily, he was the God of Plague who must not be provoked.

Someone of his status was actually raising an abandoned dog? It was indeed different from his personality.

Song Shijing said seriously, "Shiyu, the president is not as cold as the rumors say.

"Actually, he's very kind at heart. It's just that the bad memories from his childhood had forced him to become cold. He wears a fake and cold mask to hide the softness in his heart. He's afraid others will see through him.

"It's only after Young Madam appeared that she slowly warmed up the president, allowing him to gradually remove his mask and become more human."

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Qiao Xi hugged the obedient dog and gently stroked its soft fur. "Haha... No wonder Xia Yunlou was so shocked when you spoke to her earlier. She definitely didn't expect you to be raising a little black dog in the courtyard."

A cold glint flashed across Gu Zheng's indifferent eyes. "Xia Yunlou reminded me of something."

"What?"

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"There are spies in Longwan Residential."

Gu Zheng's voice was slightly cold, and the smile on Qiao Xi's face gradually disappeared as she suddenly reacted.

That was right! As the mistress of the house, she didn't even know that Gu Zheng had a puppy. How did an outsider like Xia Yunlou know so much?

Whoever it was guessed that Gu Zheng was keeping his illegitimate child in the courtyard, and he had only moved in a year ago. This was probably something that only the people from Longwan Residential would know, but who was it?

Gu Zheng's eyes were deep, and his thin lips moved slightly. "Looks like I have to clean up the 'trash'."

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Lu family.

Lu Yan lazily leaned on the sofa and took a sip of hot tea.

Suddenly, the assistant rushed in. "Young Master! Uh..."

Lu Yan suddenly opened his eyes. "What was Qiao Xi's reaction?"

That secret had already been revealed to Xia Yunlou. A person like her who couldn't hide anything would definitely not be able to refrain herself from saying it in public. Qiao Xi probably already knew about Gu Zheng having an illegitimate child.

According to his understanding of Qiao Xi, she would probably divorce Gu Zheng this time.

When Lu Yan thought about this, he smiled proudly. Divorced women needed comfort. He would take advantage of the situation and snatch Qiao Xi to his side.

Unexpectedly, the assistant stammered, "P-President Gu's son is... is a dog!"

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Lu Yan suddenly opened his eyes, thinking that he had heard wrongly. "Say that again?"

"It's a dog! The so-called illegitimate child is just a dog!"

Lu Yan was puzzled for a moment. "Gu Zheng gave birth to a dog?"

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Impossible! He had sent people to investigate, and they said that Gu Zheng was raising an illegitimate child in the courtyard. How did the child become a dog?

Coincidentally, a few guests of the Lu family came in at this moment. When they heard his words, they frowned slightly.

Although everyone in Li City knew that Gu Zheng and the Lu family were enemies, it was not nice to badmouth others behind their backs.

"I heard that Young Master Lu was as gentle as jade. Seeing you today, however, you're nothing much. You appear polite on the surface, but behind the scenes, you're badmouthing President Gu, saying he gave birth to a dog!"

Everyone else chimed in softly, "That's right. Does President Gu's son have anything to do with him? He even said that President Gu's son is a dog. That's too rude!"

Lu Yan instantly choked, unable to release the anger in his heart.

The people he sent to Longwan Residential definitely would not lie to him. So how did the illegitimate child suddenly become a dog? What exactly happened?

A moment later, another subordinate rushed in hurriedly. "Young Master, bad news! The people we arranged at Longwan Residential have all..."

Lu Yan suddenly sat up from the sofa, feeling uneasy.

"They were all beaten up by President Gu and chased out of Longwan Residential. Not a single one was left."

Lu Yan narrowed his eyes.

Gu Zheng's methods were swift and decisive. Not a single person was left behind?

He had gotten rid of all the spies within a day. It seemed like he had already sensed their presence but had pretended not to notice anything wrong. And this time, he got rid of all of them so irrationally.

Did he feel that there was no need for these people to stay, or was it because this matter had hurt Qiao Xi?

### **Chapter 593: Holding Two Birthday Parties At The Same Time**

At the Xu family's villa.

Xia Yunlou's heart ached as she hugged Xu Anran and shouted with all her might, "No! I'll never allow Anran to leave this place! Anran has already lived in this house for 20 years. If you chase her away, how can she bear it?! She's also your daughter! You're so cruel!"

Xu Zhi's expression darkened. "It's fine if we don't chase her out, but get that servant out of the Xu family! Otherwise, our Xu family will completely offend the Yin family and Gu Zheng!"

Xu Anran's body trembled slightly.

Xia Yunlou held her in her arms. "Nanny Deng has been working in the Xu family since she was young. Although she did something wrong and swapped the two children, she still gave us an obedient and sensible daughter, Anran. They're both our daughters, after all. What difference does their identity make? Why must we pursue this matter?"

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"Shut up, idiot! It's fine if you don't approve. Just get out of the Xu family with them, then!" Xu Zhi pointed at her nose and roared in anger.

He looked at his scheming daughter and his stupid wife. If this continued, the Xu family would be ruined by them sooner or later.

Xu Zhi took a deep breath and ordered, "It's going to be Xi Xi's birthday soon. I've already prepared a grand birthday banquet for her. I've invited all the relatives and friends of the Xu family to participate. At the banquet, I'll announce that she's the eldest daughter of the Xu family."

Xia Yunlou gnashed her teeth in anger. "No way! It's clearly Anran's birthday, so why should we hold a birthday party for Qiao Xi? Ever since Qiao Xi returned to the Xu family, she has been targeting Anran in every way and wants to fight with Anran for everything! Anran is the daughter we raised for 20 years! Moreover, don't forget who caused your son to be sent to the police station! All of this is thanks to Qiao Xi!"

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No matter what Xia Yunlou said, Xu Zhi had already made up his mind. He shouted angrily, "Xia Yunlou! If you don't let Xi Xi come back, how are you going to explain this to the family head?! Also, about the things Yunqiu left behind..."

His voice paused, and his eyes lost focus for a moment.

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Xia Yunlou was stunned for a few seconds before she laughed crazily. “Haha... Xu Zhi, I really thought your heart was aching for Qiao Xi! So, it’s because of Xia Yunqiu! You’ve always liked her, so you like the daughter she raised too, right?”

“Qiao Xi is our biological daughter. Of course, she has to return to the Xu family, but she absolutely can’t take over the identity of the Xu family’s eldest young miss!” Xia Yunlou roared with a malevolent expression.

“Anran is a top socialite who we have nurtured with all our heart. If outsiders find out that she’s just an adopted daughter, I don’t know how those daughters of rich families will laugh at her. All our years of hard work will be ruined! Qiao Xi is a country bumpkin. She doesn’t know anything. What can she bring to the Xu family?”

Xu Zhi remained silent.

“Do you want to talk about President Gu? Although Qiao Xi is already married to President Gu, how long can President Gu’s love last? With Qiao Xi’s personality, she’ll be abandoned by him sooner or later. Without President Gu, she’s useless! In the end, she still needs us to support her!”

“Anran is now the leader of the top socialites, and she has connections with all the big families. She can bring great benefits to our Xu family. If her identity is known by others, none of those families will be willing to interact with Anran anymore. So, if Anran is destroyed, our Xu family will go down too! Don’t you understand this logic?!”

Xu Zhi’s eyes were filled with contradictions. It was indeed because of Gu Zheng that he had to agree to his requests, but now...

Seeing that he was wavering, Xia Yunlou continued, “Why don’t you hold a birthday party for your two daughters? However, the guests will be divided into two venues. It’ll be clear then which daughter can bring more benefits to the Xu family.”

If the two daughters’ birthday parties were separated, then the guests could only choose to attend the birthday of the person more important to them. This was indeed a good idea.

Xu Zhi said helplessly, “Okay, let’s do it this way. If Xi Xi achieves a better result, then you must consider the big picture and stop making a fuss. Let Xi Xi return as the eldest young miss of the Xu family.”

Xu Anran remained silent as a cold glint flashed across her eyes.

After returning to her room, Xu Anran made a call to invite a few guests over.

When Wen Xi heard that the Xu family was going to hold a birthday party for both their daughters at the same time, she instantly roared. “Is Qiao Xi even worthy of celebrating your birthday with you? You’ve been celebrating your birthday alone for so many years! Why should she interfere?”

## **Chapter 594: Battles**

Xu Anran’s eyes were filled with disappointment. “Actually, it’s also her birthday...”

At that moment, Xu Anyi was walking down the stairs and exploded the moment he heard Qiao Xi's name. "Anran! With me around, Qiao Xi's birthday party will definitely be cold and cheerless. I'll have all my friends attend your birthday party."

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Xu Anyi had just been released today, and he looked a lot more haggard than before. After being locked up in the police station for so many days, the resentment in his heart had reached its peak.

Xu Anran smiled bitterly. "Brother, she's your sister too."

"Nonsense! You're my only sister!"

Xu Zidie recalled how Qiao Xi had snatched her clothes previously, bullied Xu Anran, and even angered Xu Anyi. Her eyes darted around. "Sister Anran, Brother Anyi, I have an idea. I can ruin Qiao Xi's reputation."

Xu Anyi's expression was cold. "Tell me about it."

Xu Zidie voiced her idea in a low voice. Xu Anyi's gaze turned from gleeful to one of excitement. In the end, he laughed out loud.

Wen Xi also beamed with joy. "Good! This is a good idea! Qiao Xi will definitely lose all her dignity. At that time, what qualifications will she have to be the Xu family's eldest daughter?"

Xu Anran lowered her eyes and remained silent. A trace of danger flashed past her eyes.

Since Xu Zidie was the one who came up with the idea, there would be a scapegoat if the matter was exposed. She didn't have to worry.

"Brother, I think this is too much. No matter what, Xi Xi is our parents' child..." Xu Anran frowned and pretended to be kind.

When Xu Anyi heard this, he felt that his sister was too obedient. Qiao Xi actually bullied such a beautiful and kind woman. She deserved to die, so he snorted. "She's not from the Xu family! It has nothing to do with us! Since she dares to bully you, she'll have to bear the consequences!"

Wen Xi chimed in, "Brother Anyi is right. She stole your room, and now, she's trying to steal your identity. What can't we do to her? You're a kind person. Just remember that you didn't cause all of this to happen. Don't feel guilty!"

Seeing how stubborn everyone was, Xu Anran could only nod her head helplessly.

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At this moment, not far away from the villa's door, two tall men had cold expressions on their faces.

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Shen Yu sneered. "This is Little Six's family!"

There were many bodyguards at the entrance of the Xu family's house. Outsiders naturally could not barge in, but these two men had appeared silently outside the door. They were calm and composed. They did not even panic when they saw the bodyguards not far away.

Shen Yu looked at the expressionless man beside him and raised his eyebrows. "Second Brother, Little Six is being bullied so badly. Why aren't you reacting at all?"

The man was dressed in a black suit, and his gaze was even sharper and colder than Gu Zheng's. His entire body was filled with killing intent. His thin lips were filled with bloodthirsty killing intent. He was completely different from the calm and gentle Shen Yu.

He said casually, "Then kill them."

2

The tone of this sentence was too flat as if he was not talking about murder but a simple meal.

Shen Yu's expression remained unchanged. "You don't have to be so ruthless. After all, these people are related to Little Six by blood, and they've caused some trouble recently. If Xu Anran and Xu Anyi suddenly die, it won't be good for Little Six. Little Two, don't always fight and kill."

Luo Qing frowned. "Don't call me 'Little Two'."

Shen Yu chuckled and said, "The Xu family intends to attack Little Six while she's under our watch. They must be tired of living. Destroying the Xu family is like crushing an ant to us."

Luo Qing thought so too. However, if he destroyed the Xu family, it would affect Little Six's reputation. It wasn't worth it.

Shen Yu said, "Little Six is kind and doesn't like to kill people. She just wants to know why her mother, Xia Yunqiu, died for no reason. It wasn't all Xu Mei's doing. Xia Yunlou must be involved too. They can't die before we find out the truth."

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After a moment of silence, Shen Yu's voice suddenly turned cold. "Little Six doesn't have to go back to the Xu family anymore. If she goes back, she'll be frustrated facing these people every day. We don't know how many more battles Little Six will have to face. This time, the Xu family has given us a chance. We have to grasp it."

Luo Qing looked up at him meaningfully, then frowned. "I understand."

### **Chapter 595: Definitely Lose**

"Control yourself. Don't kill them," Shen Yu warned.

Luo Qing nodded and watched as Shen Yu turned around and left. He leaped onto the roof opposite to observe the movements in the villa, then hid his tracks.

His eyes were cold and filled with killing intent.



If Shen Yu hadn't stopped him, he would have killed these scumbags, but he had to endure it for Little Six.

How annoying!

Luo Qing flicked his wrist, and a slender silver needle was now in between his fingertips. His eyes narrowed, and before anyone could notice, he suddenly flicked it out.

"Ah! It hurts! What is it?" Xu Anyi's painful cry came from inside the house.

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On the other hand, Qiao Xi picked up Xu Zhi's call. Her expression was cold. Gu Yao, who was beside her, sensed that the atmosphere was not right. He was so scared that he did not dare to make a sound. Gu Lele also lay on the ground obediently.

After a while, she sighed helplessly. "What do you mean, Mr. Xu?"

Xu Zhi was a little nervous. "Xi Xi, this—"

"You want to hold birthday parties for me and Xu Anran on the same day, but the parties will be divided into two venues. You want to see which of us can bring more benefits to the Xu family, right? Mr. Xu, you know very well that I've never attended a banquet before. I don't have as many connections as Xu Anran. I'll definitely lose this match! Do you want me to lose my dignity?"

Xu Zhi quickly explained, "Xi Xi, don't think that way. I just want to celebrate your birthday for you. How could I want to embarrass you? It's just that there'll be too many guests, so we have to separate the parties."

"Mr. Xu, do you think I'm a three-year-old child? There's no point in beating about the bush. There are some things that are better said openly. You and Xia Yunlou just want to let the Yin family know that Xu Anran is the most suitable person to be the eldest daughter of the Xu family as she has more connections than me."

Qiao Xi said lightly, "You don't want the Gu family to get involved, and you want me to rely on my own connections for this event. But Mr. Xu, you know very well that I'm already at a disadvantage when compared to Xu Anran. Even so, you want me to attend this birthday banquet willingly. Don't you have anything to say about this?"

Xu Zhi's heart trembled. "What do you want?"

"Didn't Gu Zheng say that as long as Xu Anran transfers the 30% of shares to me, he won't hold a grudge against the Xu family? Did you forget what had happened yesterday so quickly?"

Qiao Xi sneered. "That's the only way I'll agree to attend the banquet. Otherwise, why would I go even though I know I'll embarrass myself? I'm not a fool! It's fine if you're not willing to let Xu Anran suffer. Then just transfer her shares to me."

Xu Zhi was in a difficult position.

To be fair, he liked Xu Anran more. After all, she was his daughter who had lived by his side for 20 years. She was smart, capable, beautiful, and generous. She was indeed qualified to be the eldest daughter of the Xu family.

Qiao Xi, on the other hand, was too mediocre. She didn't look like someone who knew how to manage a company. If she managed the company, the Xu family would be finished. Hence, Anran and Anyi had to manage the company.

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But... if they didn't agree to Qiao Xi's conditions, then the Yin family and Gu Zheng wouldn't stop just like this.

He would agree to give her 30% of the shares first, but he wouldn't let her manage the company. He could make this compromise.

Xu Zhi took a deep breath. "Okay! I agree, but you have to promise me that you'll attend my birthday party."

Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully. "Okay! I'll be there on time. Don't be late, Mr. and Mrs. Xu."

After hanging up the phone, Gu Yao immediately scolded, "Does the Xu family really think that there's no one else in the Gu family? They want a daughter like you who has been living outside to compete with Xu Anran? They want to use this to determine who's the most qualified to be the eldest daughter of the Xu family? No one else can think of such a despicable way."

Qiao Xi pursed her lips and remained silent.

Everyone could tell that the Xu family was biased toward Xu Anran. However, it didn't matter to her. She didn't care about that bit of pitiful kinship either. She had obtained 30% of the shares. It was still unknown who would lose their dignity in the end!

Gu Yao was indignant. "I'll call people now!"

Qiao Xi waved her hand. "Don't."

"Why? Xu Anran and Xia Yunlou must have already contacted a lot of people. Although Xu Anyi is useless, he has a lot of friends. They'll definitely attend Xu Anran's birthday party."

### **Chapter 596: The Winner Is Decided**

"Moreover, the Xu family even said that they won't let the Gu family get involved. It's obvious that they don't want you to use Gu Zheng's identity. They're probably banding together and waiting to see you make a fool of yourself!"

Qiao Xi smiled. "Don't worry."

The Xu family thought that she wouldn't have any family or friends if she didn't rely on Gu Zheng. But she had more than one helper!

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At that moment, the families that were close to the Xu family had all received invitations. The two daughters' birthday parties were being held on the same day, but the parties were divided into two venues. Everyone could only choose one to attend.

Actually, those with discerning eyes knew clearly in their hearts that the party they went to represented which side they stood on. If they went to Qiao Xi's birthday party, then after Xu Anran took over the Xu family in the future, it would be impossible for her to have any dealings with them.

Although the noble families valued bloodline inheritance and wanted their children to inherit the family business, the Xu family was completely different because they already had an heir—Xu Anyi. It didn't matter which of their daughters was their biological daughter. The key was who the Xu couple liked more.

It went without saying that Xu Anran was not comparable to Qiao Xi.

The Chen family's patriarch had already received the invitation. He went silent for a moment before he said, "Let's attend Xu Anran's birthday banquet, but we still have to prepare a gift for Qiao Xi. At the very least, we shouldn't offend her."

Madam Chen was puzzled. "Didn't they say Qiao Xi is their biological daughter?"

"It doesn't matter who the biological daughter is. The Xu couple is biased toward Xu Anran and wants to support their adopted daughter. I don't think that biological daughter is important at all. It won't do us any good to attend her birthday party. We just have to focus on Xu Anran."

At the Wu family's residence.

Madam Wu sat on the sofa and said to Mr. Wu, "The birthday parties are organized by the Xu family this time... To put it nicely, they're both banquets. To put it bluntly, it's a battle between their two daughters. Whoever can bring more benefits to the Xu family is qualified to be the eldest daughter of the Xu family.

"This morning, Madam Xu called me and told me that I must attend Xu Anran's birthday party. Since she said so, how can I reject her? I thought that the couple wouldn't interfere in this matter. After all, one is their biological daughter while the other is their adopted daughter who has lived with them for 20 years. I didn't expect the Xu couple to actually help their adopted daughter. I think Qiao Xi will definitely lose her reputation this time."

Mr. Wu said, "You're right. We have to attend Xu Anran's party. Although she's an adopted daughter, she's favored by the Xu couple. Their family matters have nothing to do with us. We just need to choose the most powerful party."

At the same time, Xu Anyi invited a bunch of friends to the party as well and announced loudly, "If you're my friends, all of you are to attend Anran's birthday party. Whoever goes to Qiao Xi's party will be disrespecting me and I'll never see you again!"

Wen Xi and Xu Zidie also looked for their friends in the circle and said with disdain, "Qiao Xi is a wild girl. Everyone in the Xu family hates her. So what if she has joined the Xu family? Sister Anran is still the eldest daughter of the Xu family. She can't win."

Just like this, the winner and loser seemed to have been decided.

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Two days later on the day of the birthday parties.

Early in the morning, Xu Zhi sent someone to pick Qiao Xi up. He had even brought a makeup artist to help Qiao Xi dress up.

"The Xu family is finally being generous this time. They even prepared a decent gown for you. It seems like they're afraid of gossip, so they're treating you equally."

Gu Zheng glanced at the gown in the box, then looked at Qiao Xi and asked, "Is today really your birthday?"

Qiao Xi replied indifferently, "If the Xu family says it's today, then it is. No one has celebrated my birthday for me in the past. Only when Mom was still around did she celebrate it for me. It's a few days from today. They must have deliberately ignored it."

Gu Yao was indignant. "You've been back in the Xu family for so many days now, but the Xu couple hasn't even said that they care about you. All they're thinking about is how to use you to become Xu Anran's foil. Are you kidding me?! You're their biological daughter! Xu Anran is nothing! She has been occupying your identity for so many years, but now, she even wants to snatch my brother away?"

#### **Chapter 597: The Joke Of Li City**

Qiao Xi was puzzled. "I'm not even angry. Why are you so resentful?"

"I'm angry on your behalf! Damn it!" Gu Yao could not help but swear.

"I've received 30% of the shares from Xu Zhi. It's about a billion yuan. Not only will attending this birthday party make Xu Anran lose her dignity, but I've also gotten so much money. What's there to be angry about?"

Gu Yao: "...". Why didn't he realize before that Qiao Xi loved money so much? As Gu Zheng's wife, how could she lack money?

However, he was curious how Qiao Xi could be sure that the person who would lose their dignity later was definitely Xu Anran.

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Half an hour before the two birthday parties started.

Shen Yu stood in the corner and whispered, "Almost everyone is here."

Luo Qing nodded and hid in the darkness.

Xue Liang looked at his friends who had rushed over from the capital and said elegantly, "Thank you all for coming to my sixth sister's birthday party. Please wait outside for a moment."

Xu Anran was wearing the same long dress as Qiao Xi and had exquisite makeup on her face. She looked like a proud swan as she proudly looked at Qiao Xi's banquet hall.

How could Qiao Xi be a match for her in terms of connections?!

“Anran, everything is ready. We’ve already informed the various families of Li City that they absolutely aren’t allowed to attend Qiao Xi’s party.”

When Xu Anran heard Wen Xi’s words, she smiled smugly. However, when she looked up, her face was full of sadness. “It’s a pity that Dad is in her banquet hall. I really want Dad to accompany me on my birthday.”

Hearing this, Xu Anyi couldn’t help but snort. “Seriously, how dare Dad celebrate that wild girl’s birthday?! Anran, you don’t have to be sad. Dad will come here soon after seeing that there’s no one there. You’re Dad’s most beloved daughter. This won’t change.”

Xu Anran pretended to be worried. “But... what will happen then? You and Mom are already here with me. If Dad comes too, won’t she...”

Xu Anyi looked at her gently. “Anran, you’re too kind. Why do you care about her? Just let her lose her dignity. It’s best if she leaves the Xu family immediately and never comes back.”

Xu Anran did not say a word as a sinister look flashed across her eyes.

Even if everyone came to attend her birthday banquet, she was still unwilling because there was Gu Zheng beside Qiao Xi. Even if Qiao Xi lost her dignity today, no one would dare to say anything because of Gu Zheng. At most, they would only speak badly about her behind her back. It wouldn’t cause too much harm to Qiao Xi.

So, this time, she had to amaze everyone at the party and make Qiao Xi lose all her dignity!

Xu Anran was all smiles. Soon, Qiao Xi would become the joke of the entire Li City. The Xu family wouldn’t be able to afford to lose their reputation like this, so they would definitely abandon their biological daughter.

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The birthday parties officially began.

Xu Anran’s banquet hall was filled with people. Soon, it was almost fully packed. The guests gathered and discussed.

“How many people do you think will go to Qiao Xi’s banquet hall?”

“I’m guessing that there aren’t many people there. Everyone knows what the Xu family is doing. Who would attend the birthday party of the young lady who isn’t favored by her family? Doing so will offend Madam Xu and Young Master Xu!”

“Qiao Xi is in deep trouble this time. Not only will she lose her dignity, but she might even be abandoned by the Xu family. Actually, her status as the biological daughter might not be that important. After all, Xu Anran is the daughter that the Xu couple has raised for 20 years. Moreover, this daughter of theirs is outstanding enough and has a good relationship with the Xu family’s relatives and friends. Of course, she’s not someone a wandering daughter can compare to.”

“That’s right! After today’s parties, Miss Qiao will become the laughing stock of the entire Li City.”

After another ten minutes, the banquet hall at Qiao Xi’s side was still very quiet compared to the lively scene at Xu Anran’s side. The ridicule on the guests’ faces became even stronger.

Xu Zhi stayed in Qiao Xi’s banquet hall and couldn’t sit still.

Originally, he thought that because Qiao Xi was Gu Zheng’s wife, he would surely make use of some of his connections. Moreover, Madam Shen seemed to think highly of Qiao Xi as well. Could it be that he was thinking too much?

Even the Shen family didn’t attend Qiao Xi’s birthday banquet. Did this mean that the Shen family had only helped Qiao Xi out the last time because they couldn’t bear to see such a thing happen? They didn’t have any other intentions at all? To them, Qiao Xi was only an unfamiliar junior who was dispensable?

### **Chapter 598: Not Even One Guest Came**

Xu Zhi turned around and saw that Xu Anran’s banquet hall was full of guests. He couldn’t help but frown.

If it weren’t for the sake of the Yin family and Gu Zheng, he wouldn’t have come to attend Qiao Xi’s birthday party. Now, even if there was no one in the banquet hall, he couldn’t leave just like that. He asked with slight impatience, “Who’s here?”

The butler immediately said, “The Chen family is here.”

Xu Zhi’s expression softened a little. “Finally, someone is here. Xi Xi won’t be too embarrassed this way. Actually, it doesn’t matter if she loses. As long as she knows her place, she’s still the daughter of my Xu family. The Chen family and my Xu family have a good relationship. Arrange for them to sit down at a table.”

Xu Zhi was afraid that Gu Zheng would take his anger out on him because of this matter, so it was better to have some people come than no one at all.

After all the guests on Qiao Xi’s side were seated, he would go celebrate Anran’s birthday with her.

At this moment, the butler suddenly said in embarrassment, “Sir, the Chen family only sent someone to deliver the gift. They’ve gone to Eldest Miss’ banquet hall.”

Qiao Xi’s expression was indifferent.

Xu Zhi’s face was gloomy, and he suddenly felt a bit embarrassed. They were both his daughters, but why was there such a huge gap between them? Didn’t Qiao Xi have any friends who could help her?

At this moment, another family came in with a gift in their hands. “I’m really sorry, Mr. Xu. My daughter is good friends with Miss Anran. She insisted that we attend Miss Anran’s birthday party, so...”

Xu Zhi felt somewhat depressed in his heart. Was he wrong? He should have chosen Anran from the very beginning. How could Qiao Xi compare to Anran?

Then, a few other families came. They all sent gifts and apologized before going to Xu Anran’s banquet hall.

Xu Zhi frowned. "Even if President Gu and the Yin family continue to blame me, I'll have something to retort with. I gave Xi Xi a chance, but she failed to live up to my expectations. They can't blame me for this!

"I'm staying with Xi Xi in her banquet hall, but she doesn't have a single friend. Forget it, there's no point in me staying here. Let's go look for Anran!"

The butler frowned and felt that Qiao Xi was being wronged.

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The two daughters could not be compared to each other. Xu Anran had attended all kinds of banquets since she was young and befriended the daughters of noble families. As for Qiao Xi, she had never shown her face in the upper-class society, so how could she compare to Xu Anran? In the end, it was just the Xu couple favoring their adopted daughter.

Xu Zhi stood up and left, but the butler stood still.

It was the birthday of the daughter of the Xu family. How could not a single person from the Xu family be present?

The butler and Nanny Li walked up to Qiao Xi. "Miss, it's fine if no one comes. Please don't be angry. If you don't mind, what do you think of Nanny Li and I staying?"

Qiao Xi smiled. "Of course."

...

When they saw Xu Zhi walking over from the banquet hall on the other side, Xu Anran and Xia Yunlou revealed proud smiles.

Xia Yunlou said coquettishly, "Hubby, I thought you weren't coming! Anran, I knew that your father still cared about you. He just didn't want Qiao Xi to lose too badly."

Xu Anran pretended to be worried. "But what about my sister? If you come over to my side, there won't be anyone on her side? Our relationship isn't good to begin with. Now, she'll hate me even more."

Xu Zhi was a little irritated in his heart. His mood only improved a little when he saw the hall full of guests and heard the cheerful laughter. He was somewhat regretful. He shouldn't have gone to Qiao Xi's side just now. He wouldn't have been so upset if he had come directly to Anran's side.

"Anran, don't think too much about it. It's her own fault. It has nothing to do with you!"

When everyone heard Xu Zhi's words, they could not help but turn around and look at the banquet hall over there.

"Look, they're both the daughters of the Xu family, but not a single guest went to that lady's birthday party!"

"Xu Anran is a top socialite. She's beautiful and popular. Of course, the guests will choose to attend her birthday party. Actually, if it weren't for the fact that the two of them insisted on celebrating their

birthdays together, I would've attended Qiao Xi's birthday party on the account that she's the biological daughter of the Xu couple."

"But if we have to choose between the two of them, of course, we have to come to Xu Anran's side."

"Biological? Tsk tsk... There's nothing much to it!"

### **Chapter 599: The Xue Family's Heir Appears**

Although the guests were discussing softly, Xu Anran could still hear what they were saying and smiled proudly.

'Qiao Xi, the last thing you should do in your life is to become enemies with me!'

Xu Anran walked up to the stage and smiled gracefully. "Thank you very much for coming to my birthday party. There'll be a dance segment later. I hope that everyone—"

Before she could finish speaking, someone pointed at the banquet hall opposite and shouted, "Look! Is there a guest in Miss Qiao's banquet hall?"

...

Ten minutes ago.

Qiao Xi's banquet hall was still cold and cheerless. The butler said helplessly, "Miss, why don't you just go back, in case you start feeling unhappy?"

Qiao Xi replied indifferently, "What's there to be unhappy about? It's still early."

"Miss, someone is here." A voice came from outside.

Qiao Xi chuckled as she looked at the entrance. Sure enough, she had already heard the hum of cars. Instantly, dozens of luxurious cars stopped outside the banquet hall, and the scene was extremely magnificent.

The butler walked out and couldn't help but take a deep breath. These luxury cars were all top-notch. Some of them were even custom-made and limited edition sports cars. This represented not only wealth but also status.

A young man got out of the car. He was handsome and gentle like jade. Miss Qiao, who was rumored to have no connections, went up to him. The butler was very familiar with him.

Xue Liang took the gift box from his assistant and handed it to Qiao Xi. He said gently, "Xi Xi, happy birthday."

At the same time, all the guests in Xu Anran's banquet hall looked over. They were extremely curious about who this young nobleman was and what relationship he shared with Qiao Xi.

Suddenly, someone stood up abruptly, his eyes filled with astonishment. "He... He's the heir of the Xue family! I heard that the Xue family has already handed over the inheritance to him. He actually came, and he seems to be very familiar with Qiao Xi!"

"Mr. Xu, you know Young Master Xue? Which daughter's birthday will he attend?"



Everyone was slightly puzzled as well. Even though Young Master Xue had gone to see Qiao Xi, it didn't mean that he was going to attend her birthday banquet. After all, many people had gone there to deliver gifts before coming to Xu Anran's banquet hall to take their seats.

Xue Liang had only delivered a gift to Qiao Xi. He might still come to Xu Anran's side later. No one knew whose friend he was.

When Xu Zhi heard that the other party was the heir of the Xue family, he immediately stood up and instructed his assistant, "It doesn't matter which daughter he came for. Since he's here, he's our Xu family's honored guest. Quickly invite him in!"

1

"Of course, he's here for Anran's birthday. How could he be here for Qiao Xi? How could she know Xue Liang?" Xia Yunlou said with a mocking expression.

2

Xu Anran also held up her gown and followed her father over. She said excitedly, "Dad, I didn't expect Mr. Xue to come as well. His status is honorable. I'll go out with you to welcome him!"

Xu Zhi beamed with joy and said with a smile, "Of course, quickly! Come with me quickly. I didn't expect that Mr. Xue would also come to attend your birthday party. Anran, you're really my good daughter. Quickly come with me to welcome Mr. Xue!"

2

Xia Yunlou's face was full of pride. As expected, she was right. Anran was a hundred times more outstanding than Qiao Xi. Even Mr. Xue thought highly of her and was willing to lower himself to attend her birthday party.

The guests also complimented her. "Miss Xu is a top socialite, and many young masters admire her. It's not strange that the young master of the Xue family is here!"

"Yes! Miss Xu, hurry up and go welcome Mr. Xue!"

Xu Anran beamed with joy and nodded slightly at everyone. She gracefully lifted her gown and went to welcome the outstanding man with Xu Zhi.

However, before she reached the door, the smile on Xu Anran's face suddenly disappeared.

The guests also looked up, their eyes full of surprise.

How... How was this possible?!

Xue Liang... He actually entered the banquet hall with Qiao Xi? Moreover, he had no intention of coming out again. Worst of all, he didn't seem to have Xu Anran in his eyes. He didn't send anyone to send her a gift.

2

Xu Anran's eyes darkened as she asked in disbelief, "Sister... She knows Xue Liang? Isn't Mr. Xue here to attend my birthday party?"

3

Xu Anyi's eyes were filled with viciousness. "She actually snatched Anran's guest?"

### **Chapter 600: The Mysterious Luo Family From Xuan Island**

The guests stood up one after another and curiously looked across. Xue Liang had actually gone to Qiao Xi's banquet hall?

No matter whose birthday Xue Liang wanted to celebrate, the fact that he had entered Qiao Xi's banquet hall meant that he had a close relationship with Qiao Xi.

Could it be that... the biological daughter of the Xu family, Qiao Xi, actually had more connections than Xu Anran?

Xu Anran's expression was cold. "So, Mr. Xue is here to attend my sister's birthday party. My sister has led a wandering life for 20 years. It's not strange for her to have friends."

No one said anything, but they all had certain thoughts in mind. Although it was only the Xue family, they were more powerful than all the other noble families on Xu Anran's side.

At this moment, the assistant rushed in with a face full of surprise. "Congratulations, Eldest Miss. The Qin family is here. They've arranged for people to send over gifts."

Imperial Capital's Qin family? This family actually came to celebrate Xu Anran's birthday?

All the guests shuddered. That family could be said to be on par with the Xue family. If the Qin family came over, then they wouldn't have to curry favor with the Xue family and Qiao Xi.

Xu Anran's expression softened a little. Luckily, the Qin family came.

She heard that Qiao Xi and Xue Yi were good friends and that Xue Liang was Xue Yi's elder brother. Hence, it was understandable for him to celebrate Qiao Xi's birthday on account of Xue Yi.

The smile on Xu Anran's face gradually recovered. It didn't matter even if Xue Liang had gone to Qiao Xi's side. Anyway, the Qin family was here for her.

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She said elegantly, "Dad, I didn't expect the young master of the Qin family to come. We have indeed met once. Young Master Qin is very easy-going. Let's go and welcome him now. Let's not be rude."

As soon as she finished speaking, the assistant said in a panic, "Eldest Miss, there's no need to go. Young Master Qin only sent someone to deliver the gifts. He got out of the car and went straight to Second Miss' banquet hall."

The entire place fell silent as if a thunderclap had exploded in everyone's hearts.

Previously, the guests had all gone to give gifts to Qiao Xi before going to Xu Anran's side to take their seats. Now, Young Master Qin actually sent someone to send gifts to Xu Anran while he directly went to Qiao Xi's side.

The tables had turned?

Xu Anran's face turned pale as the corners of her mouth twitched. Just as she was about to speak, a voice sounded from outside. "The Wang family of Luo City has arrived!"

After a while, the assistant said nervously, "Miss Wang's family sent a gift and... went straight to Second Miss' banquet hall."

"Imperial Capital's Yang family has arrived!"

"The Zhao family from Lingcheng City has arrived!"

"Eldest Miss, the Yang family and the Qin family are long-time friends, so they also went to Second Miss' hall. Second Miss once saved Mrs. Zhao, so the Zhao couple also went to Second Miss' hall."

...

Several aristocratic families came in succession, and all of them went to Qiao Xi's side without exception.

Although the Xu and Xia families had great reputations in Luo City and could be ranked at the top, while the Yin family was the cream of the crop among the wealthy families, they still paled in comparison to so many wealthy families.

Xu Anran stood rooted to the ground as her body trembled. It was not anger or jealousy but fear!

Impossible! It was absolutely impossible for Qiao Xi to know so many people from noble families!

At this moment, the guests were filled with regret. If they had gone to Qiao Xi's side, they would surely be able to meet many wealthy and noble families. Perhaps they would be able to use this opportunity to get to know the big shots.

1

The successors and members of those noble families were all intelligent people. There was absolutely a reason why they chose to attend Qiao Xi's birthday banquet. This meant that Qiao Xi's identity couldn't be underestimated. She was even able to make these people think highly of her.

1

At this moment, some guests were already unable to restrain themselves from heading over to Qiao Xi's side. The remaining guests were slightly unable to sit still as well. But it wouldn't do their reputation any good if they left directly, so they could only brace themselves and sit on their seats.

The rims of Xu Anran's eyes were slightly red, and her expression was filled with resentment. However, she still put on an indifferent smile as she faced the many guests. "It's really great that Sister has so many friends. I... I'm also very grateful that everyone is staying here with me."

1

“You’re too kind, Miss Xu.”

“We’ve been friends with your father for years. Of course, we won’t leave.”

1

The next second—

“The Shen family from the capital has arrived!”

Boom!!!

The Shen family was here too! The rest of the people started to get restless.

Everyone had yet to recover from the shock of the Shen family’s arrival when—

“The Luo family from Xuan Island has arrived!”

As soon as that sentence was uttered, the entire banquet hall was in an uproar. The mysterious Luo family from Xuan Island had also come!