

Lady gu 61

Chapter 61: Don't Be So Sarcastic

After the class ended, Qiao Xi held her phone and sighed.

She just wanted to look up information on Li City University. Why would she involve Gu Zheng? Zhou Guanjin was so unreliable. He would screw up whenever she really needed him.

She propped her chin and fell into deep thought. Logically speaking, she could hack into Li City University's system to investigate what she wanted to know. However... She remembered that Mo Yuan had told her not to touch Li City University's system. At that time, she was not interested in Li City University, so she had casually agreed.

Now that she thought about it, why did Mo Yuan disallow her from touching Li City University's system? Could it be that Mo Yuan was also studying here? It was not impossible. The last time they chatted, was Mo Yuan not in Li City?

In addition, Qiao Xi thought that Mo Yuan should not be too old. It was very likely that Mo Yuan was a student of Li City University. Which department, though? Computer programming?

Her ringing phone interrupted her thoughts. Gu Zheng called to ask her where she was. The chauffeur who sent her to university this morning had something going on and could not come, so he came to pick her up.

This was good too. She could take this opportunity to tell Gu Zheng that she wanted to look up information about Li City University. Qiao Xi put away her phone, put her hands in her pockets, and walked lazily toward the car park.

When she reached the passenger door of the car, Qiao Xi reached out to pull the handle but it did not budge... She could only knock on the window to get the person inside to unlock the car. Just then, the window of the front passenger seat rolled down.

"Sit in the front."

Gu Zheng's voice drifted over from the front. Qiao Xi was stunned for a moment. "You're driving today?"

Thinking about it, this seemed to be the first time she saw Gu Zheng drive the car himself. Previously, he would always sit in the back like a lord. Thinking that she still had something to ask of Gu Zheng today, she very obediently opened the car door and got in. She crossed her legs and placed her hands on her lap. She was full of smiles. "I'm really sorry to have troubled you to come and pick me up."

Gu Zheng glanced at her casually. "Don't speak so sarcastically."

Qiao Xi: "???"

She was finally trying to be polite to him, yet he said she was being sarcastic? Was he crazy?!

Taking a deep breath, Qiao Xi stabilized her emotions that were on the verge of erupting and gnashed her teeth before smiling. "What are you talking about? I'm just thanking you."

“Thank you? I think you’re burning my bones to ashes.” Gu Zheng snorted. This woman did not even know how to beg. She was so stupid.

Gu Zheng could guess the reason for Qiao Xi’s change in attitude. It was probably because Zhou Guanjin had told her about how to get the information about Li City University. This woman wanted him to give in. Her method of begging... was unacceptable.

Qiao Xi’s gaze changed a few times. She remembered that her teacher had said that men were unable to resist the praise of women, and there was no man who did not like hearing nice words. Hence, she cleared her throat and tried her best to say in the gentlest voice, “Gu Zheng, have you been busy recently? I often see you in Li City University.”

Gu Zheng’s hand that was holding the steering wheel froze.

Qiao Xi said, “Could it be that you’re a director of Li City University? How impressive.”

Gu Zheng stepped on the brakes abruptly. “Qiao Xi, get straight to the point. Don’t disgust me like this!”

Qiao Xi coughed and straightened her back. She said seriously, “I just wanted to ask if you’re a director of Li City University. If you are, I’d like your help. I want to see the student records of Li City University from 20 years ago. I only want to see the records from the math department.”

Gu Zheng tapped the steering wheel. “So you have a favor to ask of me?”

Qiao Xi said, “I guess so.”

If Gu Zheng did not agree, she could threaten Zhou Guanjin to do it. If he did not agree either... she would give him a beating.

However, she would try her best not to resort to violence if she could. She smiled at Gu Zheng. “So, are you going to help me or not?”

Gu Zheng: “...”

For some reason, he actually sensed a threat from Qiao Xi’s tone. Was this the attitude this woman had when asking for help? Was she threatening him?

Gu Zheng snorted coldly in his heart. When Qiao Xi’s patience was about to run out, he slowly said, “I’m indeed a director of Li City University, and I also have the authority to look access student records...”

Qiao Xi saw a ray of hope, so she hurriedly straightened up. “Right? Checking student records is extremely easy for you, right? What do you say? Can you help me?”

“I can.” Gu Zheng tilted his head and looked at her. “But I don’t really want to help, Mrs. Gu.”

Qiao Xi: “???”

This man was too arrogant!

Was he messing with her?

Qiao Xi rubbed her hands and was slightly unable to control her fists.

Chapter 62: Brother Gu Zheng

“Gu Zheng, I just want to take a look at the students’ information. It’s not like I’m doing anything illegal. Can’t you just make an exception?” Qiao Xi’s fingers cracked.

“Mrs. Gu, you have to know that apart from the chancellor of Li City University, no one else has the right to access the data of Li City University. Of course, if you have the patience, you can submit an application as a teacher. If the majority agrees, you’ll be able to see what you want to see, Mrs. Gu.”

Qiao Xi: “...”

What was even more infuriating was that Gu Zheng even took out his phone. “Do you want to submit the application? I’ll send you the application form. Oh, right, I remember that there was also a teacher who said he wanted to look at the information previously, but the application was rejected by the university board as soon as it was submitted.”

Qiao Xi felt her blood boil. “Bullsh*t! Song Shiyu got his hands on the information about Li City University not long ago. If he can, then why can’t I?!”

Li City University was strict with access? That was bullsh*t! This man was just deliberately not letting her see get the information and was going against her!

Gu Zheng sneered. “Song Shiyu is my assistant. What’s wrong with him helping me look up information about Li City University?”

Qiao Xi choked on her rage. “But you’re my husband.”

Her words were growing less and less confident. When the last word was said, the car fell silent.

A moment later, Gu Zheng chuckled. His gaze was indifferent and a little childish. “You still know that I’m your husband, huh?”

Qiao Xi was stunned for a moment. Before she could speak, Gu Zheng continued slowly, “You keep calling me Gu Zheng. People who don’t know might even think I’m your enemy.”

Qiao Xi: “...”

Had she not always called him Gu Zheng? Did he think that it was too disrespectful for her to call him by his full name? Did he have to call him President Gu or Master Gu like the others?

Qiao Xi had an inexplicable feeling that if she dared to call Gu Zheng President Gu or Master Gu, this man would be even angrier. He might even throw her out of the car.

“What else can I call you if I don’t call you Gu Zheng? I’m not an employee of your company, nor am I your subordinate. There’s no need to for me to formally address you, right?” As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi’s fingers tapped on her knee. She suddenly recalled how some women addressed Gu Zheng...

“Brother Gu Zheng?”

Qiao Xi spoke, her throat getting tight. After calling out to him, she could not take it anymore and shuddered. When she looked at Gu Zheng, her entire body stiffened.

The atmosphere in the car gradually became strange. In the end, it was Qiao Xi who cleared her throat and wanted to say something to break the awkward atmosphere. However, before she could say anything, she heard Gu Zheng say in a hoarse voice, "Say it again."

Qiao Xi: "??"

She was stunned for a long time and clearly found it hard to react. Gu Zheng turned to look at her and she subconsciously said, "... Brother Gu Zheng?"

"Say it in a gentler tone."

Qiao Xi finally came back to her senses and called out again, "Brother Gu Zheng?"

"Yes." Gu Zheng suddenly felt his throat itch.

Qiao Xi was stunned. She did not expect that Gu Zheng would actually like such mushy things! Her eyes shifted as she gulped. "Brother Gu Zheng, I want to see information about Li City University, can I?"

"..."

Gu Zheng's Adam's apple bobbed. He tugged at his tie and looked away. "I'll arrange it for you tomorrow."

Qiao Xi stared at Gu Zheng's slightly pink ears as if she had just discovered something new. Did this man really like this sort of behavior? Was he shy right now?

"Brother Gu Zheng..." After a pause, Qiao Xi finished her lines with much difficulty. "Can you let me kiss you?"

Recently, Gu Zheng had been throwing a tantrum. She had not tasted the delicious flavors of food for a long time and her mouth was always bitter. Now that she had finally discovered Gu Zheng's weakness, she naturally had to take this opportunity to seek some benefits for herself.

Gu Zheng's heart itched from her calling him that, and his voice became a little hoarse. "Okay."

Qiao Xi: "!"

He actually agreed?! He agreed so easily?!

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If she had known that calling him 'Brother Gu Zheng' was such a powerful move, she would have called him that a long time ago!

Qiao Xi quickly kissed the corner of his lips, then took out the mint candy from her backpack. The cool sweetness spread in her mouth. She narrowed her eyes and collapsed on the seat while licking her lips in satisfaction.

Half an hour later, the car arrived at the villa. Qiao Xi was about to open the car door when she suddenly heard a clear and sweet female voice coming from the entrance of the villa.

“Brother Gu Zheng, Aunt and I are here to see you!”

Qiao Xi: “...”

No wonder Gu Zheng liked it when she called him Brother Gu Zheng. He was already used to it and had another woman who called him that! Thinking about this, she glanced at Gu Zheng, who was sitting in the driver’s seat. He was seemingly thinking about something.. She snorted and got out of the car.

Chapter 63: Husband’s Decree

Meng Wan ran out of the villa with an elegant-looking and beautiful noblewoman behind her.

Meng Wan ran over and wanted to hug Gu Zheng’s arm. Suddenly, she saw Qiao Xi and took two steps back as if she was shocked. She lowered her head and said in a terrified voice, “M-Miss Qiao, you’re here as well.”

Qiao Xi narrowed her eyes. This pretentious appearance... Was she going to start acting again? Last time, she and Gu Zheng kept talking about getting rid of the Meng family. She thought that they would be smart about it, but she did not expect that they would make a comeback after just a short period of time. Was it because they had brought new helpers?

Qiao Xi’s gaze fell on the elegant noblewoman behind Meng Wan. She reckoned that this was the new backer Meng Wan had found. It was just that she did not know what identity this backer had... She looked at the woman surreptitiously. The housekeeper who had warned the Meng family last time was standing behind the noblewoman in fear at this moment. Coupled with the arrogance and delight that was vaguely visible in Meng Wan’s eyes, Qiao Xi had a rough guess about the noblewoman’s identity.

It was probably Gu Zheng’s mother, the madam of the Gu family.

Mrs. Gu was wearing a shawl, looking elegant and noble. The jewelry on her body was low-profile and luxurious, perfectly highlighting her temperament and status. She knew how to attract attention to herself and made others think that she had good taste in clothes. One look and one could tell that she was an exquisite and beautiful noblewoman.

At the same time, Meng Wan was wearing a diamond-studded dress. Her makeup was appropriate, and even her hair was exquisite. Compared to the two of them, Qiao Xi was much more shabby-looking. She was wearing an ordinary sports attire, while her hair was casually let down. She did not put on any makeup and only had on lip balm.

Madam Gu coldly sized up Qiao Xi. “You’re Qiao Xi?” Her voice was filled with undisguised disdain, and she completely disregarded Qiao Xi’s dignity.

Gu Zheng’s eyes darkened.

Qiao Xi swept a glance at Meng Wan. She could confirm that Madam Gu was her new backer. No wonder she dared to take the initiative to visit Gu Zheng after he warned the Meng family.

Meng Wan spoke before Qiao Xi could. “Aunt Lan, this is Miss Qiao...”

“Tsk, you seduced someone else’s fiance at such a young age. You’re really shameless. Wan Wan, don’t be afraid. Nobody should even think of entering the Gu family after such shameful behavior.”

Qiao Xi's face sank.

Madam Gu sneered. "Gu Zheng, since you've decided to marry Wan Wan, you have to treat her well. What's the meaning of bringing a promiscuous woman home? I'll make the decision. From today onward, Wan Wan will stay in Longwan Residential to foster your relationship."

The atmosphere instantly froze.

A storm gathered in Gu Zheng's peach blossom eyes as he swept his invasive gaze over the crowd. He slowly said, "What status does Madam Gu have to make such a decision? Have you received the husband's decree?"

Madam Gu shuddered.

The husband's decree... was a token that symbolized her status as the madam of the Gu family. She did not have it! Only the old madam of the Gu family, who was recognized by everyone in the family, was allowed to obtain the husband's decree. Together with the patriarch, they ruled the Gu family.

Mrs. Gu was unwilling to give up. "Gu Zheng, I'm your mother. Would I harm you? You can play with this woman, but you can't marry her. No one can replace Wan Wan. Listen to me, divorce this woman now."

Gu Zheng casually stretched out his hand to Qiao Xi. "Come, let's not listen to her nonsense."

Mrs. Gu was provoked by his attitude. Just because she did not have the husband's decree, even her own son would not listen to her? Was the husband's decree so easy to get in the Gu family? She was not the only one who did not have it. For the past three generations, the women of the Gu family had never gotten it!

The husband's decree had not appeared in the world for more than a hundred years.

Meng Wan gritted her teeth and leaned against Mrs. Gu's shoulder. She said softly, "Aunt Lan, it's okay. Don't ruin your relationship with Brother Gu Zheng because of me."

Only then did Madam Gu remember her purpose for coming here today. Her expression darkened. "Let's go in too. I don't believe that Gu Zheng will really chase the two of us out for that vixen!"

Qiao Xi had also heard of the Gu family's husband's decree. It seemed to be a result of a family head's mistake in making a decision. In that dangerous situation, it was the wife of the head of the Gu family who stepped in and led the Gu family out of the swamp. After the incident ended, the entire Gu family expressed their gratitude and also decided to set up a husband's decree for the sake of the Gu family's future.

If the current head of the Gu family did not display a good character and did things that were not beneficial to the Gu family, the wife who received the husband's decree had the right to handle anything—including expelling the current head of the family and electing the next head.

It could be said that the husband's decree was a sword hanging over the heads of the Gu family. No one liked having their status threatened at all times, so the husband's decree had not appeared in a long time.

Chapter 64: Move Out Of The Master Bedroom

“So your father didn’t give the husband’s decree to your mother?” Qiao Xi was slightly curious.

“Yeah.” Gu Zheng chuckled, his gaze meaningful. “Why are you suddenly asking about the decree? Do you want it?”

Qiao Xi choked for a moment, then looked away. She just wanted to ask about it. What was wrong with this man’s brain? If Madam Gu found out that she wanted something from her husband, she would probably curse her again.

Gu Zheng curled his lips. This woman looked smart but was also stupid at times. She did not even know that she already had the husband’s decree.

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After the two of them went upstairs, Gu Zheng went straight to the study. He had not read the documents sent by the company and still had a video conference that he needed to preside over. Qiao Xi returned to the third floor and fiddled with her things. She only went downstairs to look for food when her stomach growled from hunger.

Unexpectedly, as soon as she went downstairs, she saw Mrs. Gu ordering a group of servants to move Meng Wan’s luggage into the villa.

“Aunt Lan, isn’t it inappropriate to have me stay in the same room as Brother Gu Zheng...” Meng Wan’s face was slightly red.

Mrs. Gu patted her hand. “What’s there to be shy about? You and Gu Zheng are engaged. If it weren’t for the incident in the middle, the two of you would’ve registered your marriage and gotten married by now. You’ll have to share a room sooner or later. We’re just doing it a little earlier now, so no one will gossip.” Then, she lowered her voice. “And if you don’t stay, that woman will continue to stay with Gu Zheng. Are you willing to let the two of them continue being together?”

Meng Wan bit her lip. “I understand what you mean, Aunt Lan. I also know that you’re doing this for my own good, but Brother Gu Zheng has been seduced by Miss Qiao. He already has Miss Qiao in his heart. I’m afraid that my actions will only make Brother Gu Zheng even more dissatisfied with me.”

“You’re thinking too much.” Madam Gu tapped her forehead. “All men are the same. You’re so beautiful, so which man won’t be moved by you?”

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“Aunt Lan...” Meng Wan pulled her arm and said coquettishly.

Madam Gu could only relent. “But it seems that you’re right, Wan Wan. Gu Zheng has been bewitched by that vixen. He won’t be able to see your good side for a while. Rashly stepping in between them will only make Gu Zheng unhappy, so you shouldn’t rush to stay with him.” With that, she asked the servants to move Meng Wan’s things to the room next to Gu Zheng’s.

The butler stood still.

Whether it was having Meng Wan share a room with Gu Zheng or letting her take up the room next door, he could not do either of those things. There was only one master bedroom on the third floor and it belonged to Madam now. Recently, Young Master had also been staying with Madam, so he could not fulfill Meng Wan's request of living next door to Young Master.

Meng Wan also thought of this. She remembered that the last time she came to the villa, Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi had come from the third floor together. Her hands were suddenly clenched tightly. She said to Madam Gu with tears in her eyes, "Aunt Lan... Brother Gu Zheng is staying on the third floor... That woman also stays on the third floor."

"What?!"

Madam Gu abruptly stood up. "That little b*tch is actually staying in the same room as Gu Zheng? How is that possible? Gu Zheng hates strangers entering his room the most! Butler, throw that little b*tch's things out of Gu Zheng's room right now! Wan'er, don't be sad. I'll definitely give you an explanation."

The butler resisted for a moment. "Young Madam has been staying in the master bedroom since she entered."

Even someone as territorial as their young master had to give in to Young Madam. What right did Madam Gu, a mother who was not close to Young Master, have to force Young Madam to leave the master bedroom?

Mrs. Gu was about to speak when Meng Wan's face suddenly turned pale. She looked upstairs with trembling eyes. "Miss Qiao, you're here... I... I don't mean to take your room. Don't misunderstand..."

Everyone turned around upon hearing that.

Qiao Xi lazily leaned against the stairs with her arms crossed in front of her chest, looking as if she was watching a show. When Madam Gu saw her like this, she was even more infuriated. She opened her mouth and ordered, "Qiao Xi, you came at the right time. With your identity, you're unqualified to stay in the master bedroom. I'll give you a chance now. Pack your things and move out of the master bedroom. I won't make a fuss about this with you. Otherwise, don't blame me for not showing you any respect."

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows.

Not show her any respect? When had this person ever shown her any respect?

Madam Gu was certain that Qiao Xi would not dare to disobey her orders, so after she finished speaking, she pulled Meng Wan to sit on the sofa and slowly sipped on tea. She looked as if she did not take Qiao Xi seriously.

Qiao Xi pinched the space between her brows... What should she do? She was really unhappy looking at this scene...

Chapter 65: It's Just To Marry You

Qiao Xi gradually smiled.

Before she could say anything, the butler could not help but say, “Madam, what you’re doing is too unreasonable. You want Young Madam to move out of the master bedroom and even want Miss Meng to live with Young Master. Young Madam and Young Master are legally married.” With that, he glanced at Meng Wan and continued, “Even if you want to take the initiative to send her to him, you shouldn’t be doing it like this...”

The moment Madam Gu heard the words ‘Young Madam’, she slammed down her teacup. “Young Madam? Is she worthy? I think you’re being too silly, butler. Ever since you left the old residence, you’ve forgotten who the master is, haven’t you? And Qiao Xi, if you’re sensible, you should understand that you and Meng Wan are from different worlds. The difference between you two is the difference between heaven and earth.”

“The third floor is not a place you can stay in. You can shamelessly stay in Longwan Residential and I can generously give you a room to stay in, but not the master bedroom. People like you should stay in the servants’ room. Aren’t you afraid of losing your life? Poor people shouldn’t be spending their lives in front of the rich.”

With that, she raised her chin and pointed arrogantly at the servants’ room. “Now, I’ll give you a chance to choose again. Do you want to obediently move out of the master bedroom yourself, or do you want me to throw you out?”

Qiao Xi narrowed her eyes. This woman was threatening her?

Meng Wan bit her lip. “Aunt Lan, don’t say that about Miss Qiao. She’s the eldest daughter of the Qiao family... The one who was brought back from the countryside.”

“What?! You came back from the countryside? No wonder you’re so uneducated!” Madam Gu pinched her nose as if Qiao Xi had some sort of bacteria on her body. “Not to mention the eldest young miss who came back from the countryside, even the proper young miss of the Qiao family can’t compare to you, Meng Wan. They’re only worthy of helping you carry your shoes.”

“Qiao Xi, listen carefully. Meng Wan is being magnanimous by not bickering with you. I advise you to be nicer to her. When she marries Gu Zheng, perhaps she can give you a way out!”

Meng Wan lowered her eyes and did not say anything.

Qiao Xi finally understood why Meng Wan had returned to the villa. It was because as long as she cried, many people would stand up for her. Mr. and Mrs. Meng were like this, as was Madam Gu. Meng Wan only needed to stand behind these people and quietly wait for them to get rid of all obstacles just so she could Gu Zheng.

“Aunt Lan...” Meng Wan tugged at Madam Gu’s sleeve. “Forget it, Aunt Lan. Don’t make things too difficult for Qiao Xi. Brother Gu Zheng will be unhappy if he finds out.”

Meng Wan’s eyes were filled with apology. “I’m sorry, Miss Qiao. Aunt Lan doesn’t have any ill intention. She’s just straightforward. I like Aunt Lan’s character the most. It’s not tiring to spend time with her. She says things directly, unlike others who beat about the bush.”

Qiao Xi: “...”

Being straightforward and vicious with words were two different things.

Madam Gu was touched and patted the back of Meng Wan's hand. "I like you the most. I've decided to have you as my daughter-in-law. I won't even think about any other woman." After she finished speaking, Madam Gu looked at Qiao Xi and sneered. "Qiao Xi, you're unwilling to move out because of money, right? A poor person like you who came from the countryside has probably never seen a family as rich as the Gu family, let alone live in such a luxurious house. That's why you're blinded by temptation and want to take advantage of Gu Zheng. That's why you shamelessly became his mistress.

"Since it's for money, I won't beat about the bush with you. I'll give you five million to leave Gu Zheng and get out of this house."

Oh, she finally remembered to throw money at someone?

However, it was only five million yuan. It seemed that Madam Gu was not as rich as the rumors made her out to be. Qiao Xi found it a little boring since the price was too low. What she lacked the least was money. She could easily earn tens of millions just by accepting a task. Madam Gu just wanted to humiliate her by getting her to take the money.

Qiao Xi's interest was piqued and she suddenly thought of a good idea to humiliate them. However, she did not expect someone else to speak first.

A male voice came from upstairs. His voice was calm but carried unquestionable authority. Gu Zheng's peach blossom eyes were cold, and his thin lips were slightly curled up without a trace of emotion. "Shamelessly become my mistress? I'm officially married to my wife and we've registered at the Civil Affairs Bureau. How did she become my mistress?"

He was standing on Qiao Xi's side and opposing Madam Gu. Madam Gu was so angry that her face was contorted.

Before Gu Zheng could finish, he looked at Meng Wan and said in an even more sinister tone, "And you... You know very well whether I went to the Civil Affairs Bureau that day to marry you or someone else."

Meng Wan's face instantly turned as pale as a sheet.

Chapter 66: Sew Your Mouth Shut

Under the gazes of everyone, Gu Zheng walked over to Qiao Xi's side with unhurried steps and naturally held her hand.

Qiao Xi was puzzled.

The first time she saw Meng Wan, she had wondered why Gu Zheng ever agreed to the marriage with the Meng family. Could it be that it was really because of Old Master Gu's coercion? However, Gu Zheng did not look like a good child who would blindly listen to his family's arrangements... Now that she heard Gu Zheng say this, Qiao Xi understood. The person Gu Zheng was waiting for at the entrance of the Civil Affairs Bureau was not Meng Wan!

Then... Who was the person Gu Zheng was really waiting for that day at the Civil Affairs Bureau?

Meng Wan's face was pale. "Brother Gu Zheng, Aunt Lan and I were just joking with Miss Qiao. I... I didn't really mean to chase her away."

Gu Zheng said, "Don't call me brother. I don't have a sister as shameless as you."

Qiao Xi: "..."

'You clearly liked it when I called you Brother Gu Zheng not long ago. Men are indeed fickle-minded!'

Meng Wan's expression was very ugly. She moved her lips and put on a smile that was uglier than her crying face. "Alright, alright."

When Madam Gu saw that Meng Wan was being bullied so pitifully, she pointed at Qiao Xi fiercely. "Do you think you have a backer now that Gu Zheng is here? You're starting to bully Meng Wan so brazenly, huh? How can there be such a vicious woman like you in the world?!"

Qiao Xi smiled. Was she not the one getting bullied right now?

Gu Zheng was the one who said it, but she would take the blame?

Qiao Xi hated being the scapegoat the most in her life. She slightly straightened her body and crossed her arms over her chest. Her aura was strong. "Madam Gu, I suspect that you didn't bring your brain with you when you left the house today, so you failed to see that the person who scolded Meng Wan is your biological son who's next to me. Also, I don't know where you heard the news that I'm indecent and I seduced Gu Zheng."

Madam Gu was flustered and exasperated. "Isn't it obvious? You're poor. You're just a poor country bumpkin who hopes to marry a rich person to enter the upper class society!"

Qiao Xi slowly nodded. "Oh, I see..." She slowly raised her eyes to look at Madam Gu. "But I remember that you came from a small family, right? You seem to owe quite a bit of money back then... According to your logic... You married into the Gu family for money back then and shamelessly became someone else's mistress?"

The entire living room fell silent.

Madam Gu was so angry that her entire body was trembling. She pointed at Qiao Xi and shouted in a sharp voice, "Y-You slut! Who gave you the right to speak to me like this?!"

"What's wrong? Am I wrong? Or do you think you're a white lotus that can't be tainted by mud?"

Madam Gu's face turned red, and she smashed the cup beside her. "Gu Zheng, are you just going to watch this b*tch talk to me like this? Don't forget that I'm your mother!"

Mother?

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes. Was this kind of woman worthy of being a mother? She beat and scolded him since he was young like a crazy woman. When he was still a kid, she had even tried to drown him and strangle him. She often cursed him to die a horrible death.

After he became the current head of the Gu family, she began to control him again. She ordered him around in the name of being his mother and even pretended to ask about his well-being.

Was such a hypocritical and selfish woman worthy of being his mother?

Seeing that the atmosphere was not right, Meng Wan hurriedly went to Madam Gu's side and said, "Aunt Lan, forget it... It's really okay. I don't have to live with Brother Gu Zheng."

As she spoke, she suddenly sighed and looked at Qiao Xi. She said with an envious expression, "Miss Qiao, I'm actually very envious of you. You made Brother Gu Zheng like you in a short period of time... While I'm just an insignificant playmate."

She seemed to be backing down, but she was actually adding fuel to the fire.

Madam Gu doted on Meng Wan very much. When she saw Meng Wan's extremely lonely look, her anger grew even more. She wanted Gu Zheng to like Meng Wan, but Gu Zheng liked Qiao Xi, this unpresentable woman who came back from the countryside. He did not take his mother seriously at all. This was a blatant slap to her face!

Meng Wan was still sighing. "It's my fault that I couldn't make Brother Gu Zheng like me... I know that it's wrong, but I still can't let go of Brother Gu Zheng... Sob, what should I do? I really like Brother Gu Zheng."

Gu Zheng's gaze was cold. "Call me brother again and I'll sew your mouth shut."

Qiao Xi: "..."

Meng Wan : "..."

Meng Wan's tears were still welled up in her eyes. Her unblemished appearance made her look quite pitiful. Unfortunately, Gu Zheng's expression did not change at all. The words he said were extremely cold. "Miss Meng, if you insult my wife again, your Meng family should be prepared to go bankrupt."

Chapter 67: Gu Zheng Is An Illegitimate Child?

Qiao Xi instinctively glanced at him.

Was this man... defending her?

Meng Wan's expression froze.

Madam Gu roared in anger, "Gu Zheng, what are you talking about?! Meng Wan is your fiance. In the future, the Meng family will only get closer to us. You actually want to make the Meng family go bankrupt for that b*tch Qiao Xi? Have you gone mad?! Qiao Xi is a mistress!"

"Madam Gu, did my warning hold no effect on you?" Gu Zheng said impatiently, "You keep saying that Qiao Xi is the third party while putting yourself on the moral high ground. Have you forgotten your dark history of infuriating the first wife to death back then?"

"You're clearly a mistress yet you act as though you hate mistresses the most and want them to die... It's making me think that my memory is wrong. I'm even starting to forget that you, Madam Gu, is a mistress yourself."

The air fell into a deadly silence.

Qiao Xi could not help but widen her eyes. Madam Gu was a mistress? Then Gu Zheng...

Madam Gu's fingers trembled slightly. "You bastard! You're calling me a mistress, but what are you if I'm a mistress?! An unpresentable illegitimate child?!"

Gu Zheng's eyes turned cold. "I'm indeed an illegitimate child, so I've never thought of getting things that don't belong to me. However, Madam Gu and Miss Meng don't seem to understand this logic."

Qiao Xi never expected that a mere quarrel would involve the old grudges of the Gu family from many years ago. Madam Gu almost could not stand still anymore. She felt waves of dizziness as she staggered back a step and fell onto the sofa. Seeing this, Meng Wan panicked. "Brother Gu Zheng... No, Young Master Gu, don't talk to Aunt Lan like this. Aunt Lan is just too concerned about you so things became messy..."

"Butler, see the guests out."

Gu Zheng did not even look at Meng Wan as he got the butler to see them out and shut the door in their faces.

Madam Gu was so angry that her whole body was trembling after her son chased her out of the villa. Although Meng Wan despised Madam Gu for being incapable of letting her stay in the villa, she knew that she could only rely on her now. Hence, she comforted her in a low voice.

"Aunt Lan, it's my fault. I shouldn't have any fantasies about Brother Gu Zheng. I know that he's already married, but I still want to be with him. I... I just can't accept him abandoning me and getting married just like that... However, things have already been done. I've tried my best, but Brother Gu Zheng's attitude toward me... What should I do, Aunt Lan? I don't think I can be your daughter-in-law anymore."

Meng Wan became more and more upset as she spoke. Her tone grew increasingly agitated as well. "Aunt Lan, I don't want to interfere in Brother Gu Zheng's marriage. I don't want to be a mistress. I just want to know why Brother Gu Zheng chose Miss Qiao and gave up on me."

Madam Gu's eyes were sinister. "Don't worry, Meng Wan. You'll never be a mistress. You're the daughter-in-law I've acknowledged and only you will be my daughter-in-law. The position of Mrs. Gu has only been temporarily snatched away by that b*tch, Qiao Xi. You'll snatch it back sooner or later."

Meng Wan shook her head and cried. "I can't take it back. Miss Qiao can throw caution to the wind and be shameless, but I can't... I can't ruin their marriage... I can wait until they get a divorce. I can wait for Brother Gu Zheng."

Meng Wan was full of schemes.

Her engagement with Gu Zheng had all been a lie. Gu Zheng did not appear at the Civil Affairs Bureau for her that day, but no one else besides Gu Zheng and her knew about this matter. As long as she insisted that she was Gu Zheng's fiancée and she did not appear at the Civil Affairs Bureau that day only because she wanted to test whether Gu Zheng loved her or not, then Qiao Xi's identity as a mistress would be established!

Madam Gu was indignant. “That Qiao Xi is just a disgusting vixen. How can she compare to you? Don’t worry, Meng Wan. You’ll definitely be my daughter-in-law. I’ll definitely help you snatch back your position as Mrs. Gu!”

Meng Wan cried and said, “Aunt Lan, I don’t care. You know that I don’t care about these things. The only thing I’m afraid of is that the public will laugh at Brother Gu Zheng when they find out about this. After all, Miss Qiao isn’t from the upper class society, and she has never learned the etiquette of the upper class society. I’m afraid that she’ll bring shame to Brother Gu Zheng, and I’m also afraid that she’ll bring trouble to him... Brother Gu Zheng is already tired from managing the company. It wasn’t easy for him to finally marry a wife, so he should be with someone who can share his burden with him. Unexpectedly, marriage has made him have a greater burden.”

As Meng Wan observed Madam Gu’s expression, she choked and said, “Aunt Lan, why don’t you help Miss Qiao? Get her a etiquette teacher to teach her about the upper class society. No matter how Brother Gu Zheng treats you, he’s still your son. You can’t just watch him be laughed at by others.”

When Madam Gu heard this, she was even angrier. At the same time, she lamented that Meng Wan was still the most sensible. She patted Meng Wan’s hand. “Meng Wan, you’re the most considerate.”

Chapter 68: The Meng Family’s Invitation

In the villa, Gu Zheng lowered his eyes. “Mrs. Gu, don’t you have anything to ask?”

Qiao Xi was stunned for a moment. “... What do I have to ask?”

Gu Zheng smirked and said sarcastically, “The head of the Gu family is an illegitimate child. Aren’t you interested in this matter?”

Qiao Xi: “??”

Why would she be interested?

Every family had its own difficulties. Her own family was full of conflict, so how could she have time to be interested in the grudges and grievances of another family? Moreover... what was the significance of it? Who would want to be an illegitimate child from the moment they were born? If the infant had the right to choose, they would probably rather be born in a poor family than be an illegitimate child—especially an illegitimate child from a rich family.

Qiao Xi had heard some things about Gu Zheng when he was young from the butler. She knew that Madam Gu often abused Gu Zheng when he was young. She never gave him food or drinks and even placed him in solitary confinement every now and then. Qiao Xi felt that there was sorrow behind every influential figure. There were too few people born with smooth-sailing lives.

She and Gu Zheng were two examples of this. However, her circumstances were slightly better than Gu Zheng. At the very least, she had a second uncle from the Qiao family who treated her with sincerity, so her childhood was not too miserable. However, Gu Zheng was completely alone. It was said that Gu Zheng had a younger brother. Although they were clearly born from the same mother, the treatment they received was vastly different.

Madam Gu doted on her youngest son very much. She would agree to anything he wanted. She even wanted to snatch the power of the Gu family from Gu Zheng's hands so that her youngest son could inherit everything.

When she first heard about this, Qiao Xi wondered if Gu Zheng was Madam Gu's biological son. Was there a melodramatic plot of someone swapping out the heir? Otherwise, why did his mother treat him so differently even though they were both her sons?

Gu Zheng leaned against the sofa that had just been cleaned and glanced at her indifferently.

At that moment, the butler returned after sending the two off. "Young Master, Madam said that she came over today to tell you that the Meng family is holding a banquet at Mingfeng Hotel. Old Master Meng wants to invite you to attend..."

Old Master Meng.

Qiao Xi caught the keyword, and Gu Zheng's peach blossom eyes slowly narrowed. If it were an invitation from someone else from the Meng family, Gu Zheng could ignore it, but not Old Master Meng. Old Master Meng had done the Gu family a favor back then. Now that he had lowered his status to invite Gu Zheng, Gu Zheng could not refuse.

Moreover, Old Master Meng was the only sensible person in the Meng family.

Seeing that Gu Zheng did not say anything or look annoyed, the butler continued speaking. "The Meng family is holding a banquet because they obtained a dress designed by Gu Shan. There's only one dress in the world and it has been bought by the Meng family. The Meng family has invited many people from the upper class society, as well as the elites of the fashion world... They're probably trying to go enter the market for luxury fashion."

Qiao Xi froze when she heard the words 'Gu Shan'. The dress she designed had been bought by the Meng family? Was she so fated with the Meng family? She did not design many limited edition dresses, and she did not sell many either. But among all her work, her favorite was 'Time Flows'.

Before Qiao Xi could finish thinking, the butler continued, "The dress designed by Gu Shan is called Time Flows. In recent years, there have been few designs released by Gu Shan and there are even fewer finished products. When 'Time Flows' was first released, countless people competed for it but the scene went silent all of a sudden. At that time, someone guessed that it must have been bought at a high price. Unexpectedly, the final buyer was actually the Meng family."

From the looks of it, although the Meng family had declined in recent years, a starving camel was still bigger than a horse. Their family's heritage still ran deep.

Qiao Xi: "..."

She had just thought of Time Flows when the butler mentioned it.

However, Qiao Xi suspected that she misheard it. Time Flows was her most proudest piece of work. Back then, she originally wanted to auction it off but the more she looked at it, the more she liked it. In the end, she gritted her teeth and decided not to put it up for auction anymore. She wanted to keep it for herself! Hence, Time Flows was being stored in her house, so where did the Meng family get it?

A knockoff? They were even holding a banquet to display a knockoff product?

Qiao Xi could not help but think, 'Will it be fun if I expose that the Meng family's Time Flows is a fake on the day of the banquet?'

Noticing the wicked glint in her eyes, Gu Zheng suddenly asked with a smile, "You want to go?"

Qiao Xi was shocked by his sudden question and suddenly remembered that he already knew her identity as Gu Shan.

"..."

She no longer looked mysterious.

"I want to go. I want to see that legendary Time Flows." She nodded without hesitation.

Gu Zheng chuckled. "What a naughty child."

When he heard Qiao Xi's tone, he knew that she was holding herself back. He guessed that there was a big problem with the Meng family's Time Flows. However, he did not care about all this. The Meng family had been jumping around in front of him recently, so he did not think it was wrong to teach them a little lesson.

Chapter 69: Please Do Me A Favor

Qiao Xi smiled like a fox. "I've never attended such a banquet. Can't I go out to see the world?"

Gu Zheng chuckled and looked away.

After Qiao Xi went upstairs, she walked to the balcony and made a call. The call was quickly answered. "Little Six, you're finally willing to call me, your third brother? You said that you'd be gone for a few months. You didn't even call to say you were safe. Master was so angry that he wanted to expel you."

Qiao Xi: "..."

When Qiao Xi remained silent, Third Brother added as if he had found his conscience, "Don't worry. Don't you know Master's temper? He's only saying that you'll be expelled but the ones who'll suffer in the end is us."

They were all used to their master venting his anger on them because he could not bear to flare up at Little Six.

"Hehe." Qiao Xi scratched her head in embarrassment. "Third Brother, are you free? I have something I need your help with."

"Since you're the one asking, I'm definitely free."

"Someone has made a fake Time Flows. It's going to be displayed at Mingfeng Hotel next week. I can't reveal my identity right now, so help me."

Third Brother was infuriated when he heard that. "Someone faked Gu Shan's work? Who gave them the guts to do such a thing?! Don't worry, Little Six, I'll definitely be there next week!"

After dealing with Third Brother, Qiao Xi hung up. Meng Wan and Gu Zheng were not engaged, but Meng Wan kept provoking her. She could tolerate it once or twice, but the constant provocation was a little infuriating.

...

In the Meng family.

Madam Meng was flustered and exasperated. "That b*tch actually chased you out? You're Gu Zheng's fiancée, the future mistress of the Gu family! If that little vixen is smart, she should kneel down and wait on you to please you. Only then can you give her some benefits, but she didn't appreciate it and even chased you out of the Gu family's villa?!"

"Boo-hoo... Qiao Xi stole Brother Gu Zheng and even mocked me... I even heard from Li City University that..." Meng Wan's tears came streaming down like a broken dam. "They said Qiao Xi is Gu Shan. If she's Gu Shan, it's only normal that she looks down on me... And if she really is Gu Shan, our Meng family's future in the fashion industry will be difficult."

"Gu Shan? How could she be Gu Shan?" A trace of malevolence flashed through Madam Meng's eyes. "She probably saw that the students in the university are inexperienced and easy to deceive, so she said it to deceive them."

Meng Wan's eyes flashed. "But won't our dress be exposed..."

Madam Meng was arrogant. "No, it doesn't matter who the buyer is. It's normal for these things to be resold. Even if Gu Shan attends the banquet, she won't suspect anything. After all, the imitation product looks so real. Don't worry, nothing will go wrong.

"When the time comes, let Qiao Xi take a look at it as well. Expose her lie and give her a good slap in the face! Maybe Gu Zheng will even find her embarrassing and divorce her."

...

The next morning when Qiao Xi arrived at the university, she found out that Wang Qing had taken a week off. Although Li City University was a university, it was very strict when it came to taking leave. If there was nothing important, the university would not have given Wang Qing a day off. The fact that Wang Qing could take a week off meant that the incident yesterday had affected her greatly.

However, what did this have to do with Qiao Xi? She walked toward the classroom. Not far away, Qiao Rou was holding Gu Moling's arm and talking to her classmates.

"Qiao Rou, look at your family's eldest daughter who was brought back from the countryside. Not only did she get Wang Qing to apologize, but she also got the class monitor to threaten Wang Qing. Wang Qing was so scared that she took leave."

The student looked at Qiao Rou. "Rou Rou, it's a good thing you're kind-hearted. You're different from Qiao Xi. Young Master Gu, you're lucky that you're with Qiao Rou."

They previously heard that the person who was supposed to marry Young Master Gu was Qiao Xi. Everyone in the university tacitly agreed that Qiao Rou and Gu Moling were a match made in heaven. What was Qiao Xi? Was she worthy to be with Gu Moling?

Qiao Rou revealed a proud smile.

Although the university had given her a warning and punishment, her image in the university was still too good. Some students thought that it was normal for her to be biased when she saw her sister, who had not been home for a long time, get out of a strange old man's car, so they generously forgave Qiao Rou for her actions.

Qiao Rou was extremely gentle, and her eyes were filled with heartache. "Don't say that. My sister is very good too... It's just that the environment she lived in in the past was different from ours. She won't be able to adapt to our environment anytime soon. After she adapts to the environment here, you'll realize that she's actually a very good person."

"Haha, she's a good person?"

A student sneered. "A crow is always a crow. It shouldn't try to become a phoenix. Qiao Xi is vicious and petty. Qiao Rou, stay far away from her in the future. Don't be led astray by her."

Chapter 70: Deliberately Push Down The Stairs

Gu Moling frowned. He did not know that Qiao Xi's reputation in university was so bad. Since that was the case, he would look for a chance to tell Qiao Xi not to work in this university anymore. After all, the Qiao family did not lack money.

Qiao Rou sighed and said to the student, "No, my sister and I are biological sisters. Of course, I won't be led astray by her. Speaking of which, I want to look for my sister to talk. After what happened yesterday, I still haven't apologized to her. So many people were scolding her yesterday. I'm afraid she'll take it too far... Lili, Brother Ling, can you come with me? I believe that if the few of us go together, we'll definitely give my sister a lot of encouragement.

"I heard that the Meng family is going to display the high-end evening dress Time Flows that was designed by Gu Shan next week. I want to invite my sister to go over. After all, the dress they're displaying is one that she designed. I believe she'll feel a sense of accomplishment."

Zhao Lili snorted. "Rou Rou, you're really kind-hearted! Gu Shan... In any case, I absolutely don't believe that Qiao Xi is Gu Shan. I think Zhou Guanjin and Qiao Xi are quite close. Maybe there's something going on between them."

No one had seen Gu Shan before, so they did not know what she looked like. Qiao Xi kept saying that she was Gu Shan. It was laughable that the students in the university really believed her. Of course, they believed that Qiao Xi was Gu Shan mainly because of Zhou Guanjin. After all, Zhou Guanjin's status in the university was extraordinary.

Gu Moling nodded as well. He agreed with Zhao Lili's words.

...

When Qiao Xi came out of the teaching building, she happened to see Qiao Rou holding Gu Moling's hand and walking toward her. Qiao Xi frowned. Why were these two people always approaching her? Was there something wrong with them?

"Sister, there's been a misunderstanding between us. Can we sit down and talk?"

Qiao Xi paid no attention to her and was just about to leave when her pupils suddenly constricted. The staircase from the third floor leading down to the second floor was filled with junk. At the top of the junk was a fruit knife with a very long blade. It was unknown who was pulling a prank and deliberately placed the blade on it. If someone were to fall down, they would get stabbed by the fruit knife!

How could there be such a safety hazard in the university? If the students were fooling around or accidentally slipped when they were walking after class, someone would die! Qiao Xi was about to get someone to deal with it when Qiao Rou walked over and blocked her way.

“Sister, I just want to say a few words to you. Don’t be so against me, okay? Lili and Brother Ling are waiting behind me. No matter what we say, they won’t hear us. I know you like designing, Sister. The Meng family is going to display Time Flows next week. Sister, you should be familiar with Time Flows, right?”

Qiao Xi’s eyes narrowed lightly. She did not know what Qiao Rou was planning.

Before she could open her mouth to ask, Qiao Rou suddenly slipped and widened her eyes in horror. “Ah! Sister...” Then, she stretched out her hands and pushed Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi smiled. Behind her was the fruit knife. Previously, she suspected that it was a prank pulled by a student, but now it seemed that someone with ulterior motives had placed it there. With a gentle push from Qiao Rou, she would definitely fall onto the fruit knife and get stabbed through the heart.

Qiao Rou seemed to imagine Qiao Xi lying on the floor covered in blood, and the corners of her mouth could not help but reveal a satisfied smile.

She really did not want this b*tch to live in this world anymore. She could not stand it when Qiao Xi stole her spotlight. She, Qiao Rou, was the only one who could shine in this world. She was the only one who could have the position of the Qiao family’s eldest daughter!

Even if she could not kill Qiao Xi by accident today, she had to let her know that going against her would only result in death.

Qiao Xi’s gaze was cold. She did not expect Qiao Rou to be so bold, but the most important thing now was not to get angry with Qiao Rou but to ensure that she survived in one piece. It would be hard for her to regain her balance while falling down the stairs. Even if the fruit knife was not waiting for her below, she reckoned that she would still break her bones from the fall and even have a concussion.

Qiao Rou stared at Qiao Xi with a mad look. She had fallen into a state of hysteria and did not see a thin line shoot out from Qiao Xi’s hand. The thin line seemed to have its own consciousness as it wrapped around the fruit knife below and tilted the tip of the knife slightly, allowing Qiao Xi to avoid the sharp blade without anyone noticing.

From Qiao Rou’s perspective, Qiao Xi had fallen down the stairs and it was not a light fall. However, she did not come into contact with the fruit knife that was placed there earlier. Qiao Rou secretly gritted her teeth and cursed Qiao Xi for being too lucky, but she still had to continue acting. She sniffled and wiped the nonexistent tears at the corner of her eyes. She said in a panic, “Sister, why were you so careless? Are you okay? Did you hurt yourself from the fall? Don’t be afraid, I’ll come down and help you.”

Qiao Xi raised her head, her gaze icy-cold. She stood up and stretched her body before walking back upstairs.

Seeing her movements, a trace of pity flashed through Qiao Rou's eyes. She failed to kill this b*tch but she still had to keep a gentle expression on her face. "Sister, I'll send you to the infirmary."