

## Lady gu 611

### Chapter 611: Qiao Xi Is My Wife

Li Xing'er continued, "Before the show started filming, they had already sent me a notice saying that my gown had passed the selection, but as to which episode it would appear in, it wasn't confirmed yet. I've been waiting for the news and was only notified of the exact time last week."

Qiao Xi raised her brows. "What about Meng Meimei?"

Li Xing'er was a little hesitant, "I heard it was a special guest, but I remember that she wasn't the one they invited! Could it be... Could it be that she stole someone else's spot? You mean she did it on purpose?"

"She's Xu Anran's best friend. After she heard about what happened between the two of you, she purposely chose to appear in this episode. Even if you couldn't make it, she would probably embarrass me on the show instead..."

Qiao Xi sneered. "Yeah, looks like someone is standing up for Xu Anran again!"

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With a calm expression, she slowly said, "I guess Xu Anran didn't tell Meng Meimei the truth. If Meng Meimei knew my identity, she definitely wouldn't attack me.

"I've always been a person who doesn't attack unless I'm attacked first. If she wants to attack me, she'll have to pay a painful price."

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At this moment, the production team was nervously leading the way for Gu Zheng. "President Gu, look, this is the editing room backstage. There's a rest area behind."

As this variety show was sponsored by Gu Corporation, Gu Zheng was like the boss of the show. Everyone was naturally respectful, afraid that they would offend this God of Fortune.

When the director received a call from Song Shiyu saying that Gu Zheng was coming to visit, he was scared out of his wits. He thought that there was something wrong with the show, but he didn't expect that President Gu was just here to take a look.

After walking around the venue, the director brought Gu Zheng to the lounge.

Coincidentally, Meng Meimei was talking to her manager. "Anran is an A-list celebrity. Although she doesn't act anymore, her status is still high. But she was actually bullied by a wild girl! This is too much!"

"I think Anran is too benevolent. With her ability, she can directly mobilize her own fans to deal with Qiao Xi. Those fans can curse Qiao Xi to death!"

Hearing her manager's words, Meng Meimei nodded her head in affirmation. "That's right! This time, Qiao Xi is also joining the show. Just wait and see how I teach her a lesson later! So what if she's the daughter of the Xu family? Is she as powerful as Anran? I think she's just an idiot! She dared to fight with Anran as soon as she returned to the Xu family. Who gave her the confidence?!"

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The manager sneered. "She probably really thinks she's the daughter of the Xu family and that she can do whatever she wants just because she has a status now. With Anran's ability and identity, dealing with Qiao Xi is like crushing an ant."

Meng Meimei's eyes were vicious. "Go and see if she's here. I'm going to teach her a lesson this time and take revenge for Anran. Let's see if she still dares to be so arrogant in the future!"

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Everyone outside the door broke out in a cold sweat. The director said nervously, "P-President Gu, this celebrity was hired at the last minute and we're not familiar with her. If you don't like her, we can replace her."

The director knew that President Gu didn't like people who played dirty tricks behind his back, not to mention that Qiao Xi wasn't a celebrity and was just a model who came to make up the numbers.

Meng Meimei would probably never be able to work under Gu Corporation ever again.

As expected, Gu Zheng's eyes darkened. "I don't want to see her."

"P-President Gu... she's a special guest this week. The notice has already been sent out. If we replace her..."

Gu Zheng looked up coldly. "Do you know who Qiao Xi is?"

The director thought for a few seconds and shook his head. "I don't know. As a senior, it's indeed a little overboard for Meng Meimei to target a newcomer, but this is a private grudge between them. It can't affect the show! Why not..."

"Qiao Xi is my wife."

Gu Zheng's voice was calm, but it made people flustered without giving them the chance to respond.

The director raised his head and met that pair of deep and cold eyes. He felt cold sweat dripping down his back. Even if he wanted to plead for Meng Meimei, he didn't have the guts.

He knew that Qiao Xi was invited by Li Xing'er. Li Xing'er was the eldest daughter of the Li family. Someone who could be the friend of this rich miss was definitely not an ordinary person. But he didn't expect that Qiao Xi was actually President Gu's wife.

## **Chapter 612: Special Guest Has Been Changed**

The director was silent for a moment, his body trembling slightly.

Regardless of anything else, he had the ability to become the director of this variety show under Gu Corporation. After calming down, he immediately replied, "I understand, President Gu. Actually, we've already arranged for two special guests. I'll get the other female celebrity to save the situation."

Gu Zheng's voice was low. "Mm."

Seeing that the big boss was satisfied, the director heaved a sigh of relief. "President Gu, how about... I bring you to the stage to take a look?"

Gu Zheng waved his hand and rejected, his tone carrying a hint of authority. "Deal with the matter I've instructed you to."

"No problem, I'll definitely get it done."

The director nodded and bowed as he sent Gu Zheng off. As he watched Gu Zheng's tall figure disappear at the end of the corridor, his stiff body softened a little. He then helplessly instructed his assistant, "Quickly call Jinzhou and invite her to come on the show first."

The assistant looked troubled. "But Meng Meimei isn't someone to be trifled with. What if she doesn't agree and causes a scene?"

"She has already offended President Gu. How is she going to survive in the industry? Even if we don't do anything, President Gu will definitely teach her a lesson. If we let her appear on the show, it'll affect our viewership ratings!" The director snorted. "What bad luck! We just had to invite such an idiot who wants to teach Mrs. Gu a lesson!"

The assistant replied, "I heard from Meng Meimei that she's here to avenge Xu Anran."

"Xu Anran..." The director spat on the ground. "The two of them are indeed best friends. On camera, they look weak and gentle, but in private, they're violent, vicious, and petty. It's troublesome to work with such people. It's better to replace people like them earlier than later."

"Don't think too much. Hurry up and inform the staff that the special guest has been changed," the director instructed impatiently. The show was about to start, so he had to brace himself.

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On the other hand, Li Xing'er brought Qiao Xi into the dressing room. Her eyes lit up when she saw Qiao Xi walking out in the gown she designed. "Wow! This gown suits you so well. Only you can wear such a high-class gown!"

The two of them waited for 20 minutes, but no makeup artist came in. When they went out to ask, they realized that Meng Meimei had called all the makeup artists away. The remaining contestants didn't have makeup artists either, so they could only rely on themselves.

Actually, everyone knew that they were just going through the motions. Meng Meimei was the champion of this episode, and they were already very satisfied to be able to show their faces on the show.

However, Li Xing'er was the eldest daughter of the Li family. She couldn't stand the humiliation and immediately called her brother. Instantly, a professional makeup team arrived.

After putting on makeup for Qiao Xi, the makeup artists also put on makeup for the other contestants. The dressing room was harmonious.

"Miss Li, thank you so much. If it weren't for you, we would've been in trouble."

“The gown you designed is really nice!”

“Not only are the clothes nice but Miss Qiao is also really pretty. She’s beautiful, has a good figure, and has an outstanding temperament. She’s even better than professional models.”

“That’s right! I thought Miss Qiao was a professional! Wearing this gown makes you look like a fairy from a painting. If you guys can’t get a ranking, then...”

Actually, everyone knew in their hearts that Qiao Xi was the most beautiful model. It was a pity that the program had already internally selected Meng Meimei, the special guest. That was why Meng Meimei was so arrogant.

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Meanwhile, in Meng Meimei’s dressing room.

Her dressing room was packed with people. It was obvious that one makeup artist was enough, but she insisted on having several of them surround her. She was unwilling to let anyone leave. No one dared to offend her, so they could only stay in the dressing room.

Meng Meimei’s assistant tried to persuade her. “Sister Meimei, why don’t you have the makeup artists leave? The others probably don’t have any makeup on. The director might be unhappy.”

Meng Meimei sat in front of the mirror and said arrogantly, “No one is allowed to leave. Why should those small-time models bother putting makeup on? Do you think the director doesn’t know anything? He won’t care about those small models. As long as I, the special guest, can appear in front of the camera in a glamorous manner, no one else is important.”

The moment she finished speaking, there was a commotion outside the door. The assistant pushed the door open and saw that it was a professional makeup team. Every member was very famous.

### **Chapter 613: The Same Purple Gown**

Meng Meimei’s assistant was shocked. “These people look like ‘Clearshadow’, a famous team of makeup artists.”

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Meng Meimei abruptly turned around and gritted her teeth. “Did Qiao Xi use the Xu family’s connections? Otherwise, how could she have invited such a famous makeup team?”

“B\*tch! Not only did you steal Anran’s identity, but you even want to steal my limelight!”

1

The assistant frowned. She wanted to say that Xu Anran was not a good person. If she really hated Qiao Xi, why didn’t she deal with Qiao Xi herself but instead incited Meng Meimei to do it?

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An hour later, all the models were done with their makeup. The director informed all the crew members to get ready. The shoot would officially begin in 20 minutes.

The models lifted their gowns and walked out of the dressing room. Meng Meimei also walked out in a purple gown and raised her head arrogantly. However—

“Wait! Why are you wearing the same color as me?”

The gown designed by Li Xing'er was also a purple long gown. It had passed the internal selection two months before the show started, and the judges all gave it high scores.

Now that Qiao Xi was wearing this dress, her fair skin and curvaceous figure added more vibrancy to this dress. She was so beautiful that one couldn't take their eyes off her.

At this moment, Meng Meimei walked up to Qiao Xi angrily and glared at her fiercely. “Why are you wearing purple?”

The atmosphere instantly became awkward. Everyone lowered their heads and didn't dare to make a sound. Everyone knew Meng Meimei's identity, so no one dared to offend her.

The assistant director had just returned from outside and didn't know that Meng Meimei had been replaced. He hurriedly came over to persuade her. “Miss Meng, please calm down. It's just a small matter. Although it's the same color, the style is completely different. It won't affect the filming at all.”

“A small matter? Who is she to wear the same color as me?”

Meng Meimei said angrily. Then, she angrily threw her handbag on the ground and looked at Qiao Xi viciously. “I order you to take off your clothes! Now! Immediately!”

The entire place was silent.

Qiao Xi patted Li Xing'er's hand to assure her and asked indifferently, “Why?”

“Why? Because I'm a senior and you're just a model! I'm an A-list celebrity and a special guest, while you're just an amateur model! Do you think you deserve to wear the same color as me?”

“When did Miss Meng hand her gown to the production team?”

Meng Meimei said disdainfully, “I'm different from you guys. As long as I bring a gown over, it's automatically approved.”

Qiao Xi said unhurriedly, “But Xing'er's gown was already approved two months ago. The production team didn't say that there was anything wrong with the gown.”

What she meant was that even the production team said that there was no problem, so why was Meng Meimei kicking up a fuss?

Even if the production team had requested that there should not be any clashing colors, it was Li Xing'er who submitted her gown first. Everything was first come, first served. By right, Meng Mei should be the one changing her gown.

Meng Meimei pointed at Qiao Xi and gnashed her teeth in anger. “You, what do you mean by that?! I told you to take it off. Are you deaf? The production team doesn't have the final say. If I tell you to take it off, you have to!”

The manager also stood up and snorted. “Miss Qiao, since you’re here to participate in the competition, you should know the rules. Meimei is your senior, so how can you wear the same color as her?”

Then she scolded Li Xing’er, “You must be a new designer too! Let me remind you, if you want to survive in this industry, don’t offend our Meimei. Otherwise, you’ll have to bear the consequences!”

The manager was sure that Li Xing’er was just a small designer without any background. If she had a background, she would not have come to participate in this kind of show as just a regular designer.

Li Xing’er clenched her fists. No one had ever dared to threaten her like this.

Qiao Xi’s expression was indifferent. “Miss Meng, I would like to ask who set the rule that we can’t wear the same color? If you feel that it’s inappropriate, you can ask the judges or the production team to give the final say. Moreover, although our gowns have similar colors, the style is completely different.

“Could it be that you have the right to change the rules of the program? If that’s the case, why would we need to participate in the program at all?”

As soon as these words were spoken, the air seemed to have almost frozen. The atmosphere became oppressive. Even though everyone disliked Meng Mei, no one dared to stand up for Qiao Xi.

#### **Chapter 614: Who Are You Threatening?**

Li Xing’er took out her phone and complained to her brother about what was happening at the scene. Shortly after, her brother sent a message: [I told you I didn’t want you to participate in that variety show. Can’t you just stay home and inherit your assets...? Okay, don’t be angry. I’ll help you deal with that little celebrity.]

Li Xing’er: [I must work harder or you’ll drag me back to inherit the family assets.]

Qiao Xi’s words instantly angered Meng Meimei. She roared. “Purple is my lucky color! Don’t you know? You clearly know that I’m participating in the show, yet you still dare to fight with me. You must be doing this on purpose!”

Before participating in the show, everyone would do their research on who the guests of the show were so as to avoid getting into conflicts like this. If they learned that Meng Meimei liked the color purple, they wouldn’t choose purple gowns.

But Li Xing’er’s gown was approved two months ago. At that time, it was not confirmed who the special guest was, so this matter could not be avoided.

More importantly, as a special guest, Meng Meimei could take a look at the design drafts of other designers. When she first saw that someone had designed a purple gown, she could have discussed the situation with the production team then. At that time, she could have requested Li Xing’er to change the gown. However, she just had to wait until it was time to go on stage before she got angry.

Besides, who made the rule that if she liked purple, others could not wear it?

Qiao Xi sneered. “Miss Meng, could it be that you bought the copyright to the color purple and only you can wear this color in this world? To be honest, I’m also a designer. I’ve been a designer for so many years, but I’ve never heard of purple being exclusive to someone. You can treat purple as your lucky

color. This is your right, but you don't have the authority to restrict others from choosing what color they want to wear."

The assistant immediately tried to persuade her. "Sister Meimei, why don't you forget it? She's just a small model, don't—"

Meng Meimei shouted angrily, "Shut up! I won't allow anyone to wear the same color as me! Purple is my exclusive color. No one else can wear it wherever I'm around! If anyone wears it, it'll be plagiarism. It'll be considered as taking advantage of my popularity!"

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She glared fiercely at Qiao Xi. "Ha! You said you're a designer? Do you think you're worthy of being a designer? So, any Tom, Dick, or Harry can be a designer? Since you're a designer, you should know that my lucky color is purple. If you fight with me, I have the ability to make you—"

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"Who is Miss Meng threatening?"

Before she could finish, a cold male voice was heard.

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice and saw the director walking respectfully with a tall, handsome, and powerful man.

Everyone did not know this man, but they could recognize the special assistant who was with him—Song Shijing.

The famous Song Shijing was President Gu's personal assistant!

Song Shijing and Song Shiyu were President Gu's most trusted men. If they could give orders on behalf of President Gu, then the person who could make Song Shijing accompany him had to be Gu Zheng himself!

The manager gasped.

Before she could warn Meng Meimei, the furious Meng Meimei exploded. "Director! You're finally here. This model is wearing the same-colored clothes as me. She—"

"Miss Meng, let me ask you again. Who were you threatening just now?" Song Shijing's voice was cold.

Meng Meimei looked up at Song Shijing. She felt that she had seen this man somewhere before, but she couldn't remember where. Gu Zheng had caught her attention.

Although she had never seen Gu Zheng before, she could tell from his clothes and bearing that this man had a noble status. Thus, she immediately explained in an aggrieved manner, "Sir, I'm not trying to make things difficult for this newcomer, but she's just a small model. She doesn't respect her seniors and deliberately wore purple to anger me. She's too much!"

Song Shijing smirked. "Didn't Miss Li just say that her gown was approved two months ago? She didn't do it on purpose."

“But everyone in the design industry knows that purple is my exclusive color. Since they know that I’ll be participating in the show, they should’ve avoided the color purple!”

“Haha.” Song Shijing sneered.

Meng Meimei felt a little guilty. “If she changes her clothes, I...”

### **Chapter 615: Offended The Lady Boss**

“That’s not necessary.” Song Shijing interrupted her. “It’s going to be a lot of trouble to do a replacement. Wouldn’t it be easier to just quit the competition? Then we won’t have to waste everyone’s time.”

When Meng Meimei heard this, she beamed with joy. It seemed like this gentleman was going to help her.

There was nothing strange about this. She was a special guest on this variety show, so naturally, these people would side with her.

“Thank you—”

“Then please leave now, Miss Meng. Don’t disturb the program anymore.” Song Shijing interrupted Meng Meimei with a mocking expression.

The smile on Meng Meimei’s face gradually disappeared, and her eyes were filled with disbelief. She even thought she had heard wrongly. “What?”

“Am I not clear? Miss Meng! You’ve been replaced! And you will face a ban!”

The manager and Meng Meimei turned pale.

Meng Meimei was stunned for a few seconds before she started laughing maniacally. “Are you kidding me? What right do you have to replace me? What right do you have to ban me? I’m under Gu Corporation. What right do you have to ban me?”

“Yes, I don’t have the right...” Song Shijing smiled. “But our president does.”

He bowed slightly to invite the man behind him to step forward. At this moment, Gu Zheng slowly raised his eyes, his sharp gaze sweeping across the crowd. His body was surrounded by a cold aura. He seemed to have descended among the crowd like a god.

Meng Meimei’s manager had never met Gu Zheng before, but Song Shijing had called him the president. Her heart sank.

“Who’s your president?” Meng Meimei still didn’t realize the danger she was in and questioned arrogantly.

“President Gu Zheng.”

When this name was mentioned, everyone’s breathing stopped. Meng Meimei’s eyes widened as she looked at the man in front of her in fear. Her voice trembled slightly as she said, “T-This...”



Meng Meimei's manager was the first to react. She immediately cried and begged for mercy. "President Gu, please give Meimei another chance. She shouldn't have made things difficult for the newcomer. She already knows her mistake. We'll withdraw from this program now. Please spare her. She'll remember this lesson, but the ban... The ban..."

"No matter what, Meimei is still an A-list celebrity. She's outstanding in all aspects, and the company has spent a lot of money on her. If we ban her now, it won't be good for the company either..."

This was the first time Meng Meimei had seen her manager begging for help. She finally realized that she had offended someone she shouldn't have.

Her eyes were filled with remorse, and tears streamed down her cheeks.

"President Gu! I really know my mistake now. Please give me a chance!"

Meng Meimei ran to Gu Zheng and begged him in a humble manner.

Gu Zheng, who had been silent for a long time, suddenly sneered and said in a low voice, "Miss Meng, you said that you know your mistake. Do you know what you did wrong, then?"

"I... I was wrong. I shouldn't have made things difficult for the newbie. I shouldn't have embarrassed the company and you!"

"So... you think you've offended me?" Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow, his eyes full of disdain.

Meng Meimei's face turned pale. Wasn't that the case?

Qiao Xi shook her head helplessly. It seemed like Gu Zheng was going to use his skills to humiliate his newest victim again.

As expected, Gu Zheng's thin lips parted slightly. "No, the person you offended isn't me. It's Mrs. Gu."

Mrs. Gu?

Meng Meimei was confused. She didn't even know Mrs. Gu, so how could she have offended her? She came to the show today just to teach Qiao Xi a lesson. Who knew that Qiao Xi would coincidentally wear a purple gown as well, so...

Wait! Mrs. Gu? Qiao Xi?

Meng Meimei looked up abruptly, her face filled with disbelief.

Could it be that... Mrs. Gu was...

How was this possible?! Didn't Xu Anran say that Qiao Xi grew up in the countryside and was an ignorant idiot? If she had known that Qiao Xi was Mrs. Gu, she wouldn't have dared to target her own lady boss!

Qiao Xi slowly walked in front of her and said in a low voice, "Have you ever thought about why Xu Anran didn't personally take action if I'm really just the daughter of the Xu family who has led a wandering life? Why did she come to you and complain about me instead? It's because she can't defeat me, so she used you to deal with me."

Meng Meimei's body trembled as cold sweat seeped out of her back.

### **Chapter 616: Came Here To Apologize**

Qiao Xi sized up Meng Meimei with a smile before silently turning around to leave.

Everyone followed Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng as they left. The originally congested corridor immediately became much more spacious. Meng Meimei's entire body went limp as she slid along the wall to the ground.

She was trembling with remorse and anger.

Xu Anran!

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The variety show officially started filming, and no one caused any trouble, so the show proceeded smoothly. After filming, Qiao Xi directly entered the dressing room, changed her clothes, and went out. She saw Gu Zheng standing at the door, waiting for her.

"Mrs. Gu, you're really multi-talented. You could even walk so well on the runway." Gu Zheng smiled devilishly and held her hand as they walked out the door. He said leisurely, "And you're very beautiful too."

Qiao Xi hesitated for a moment, but she couldn't help herself and ultimately still asked after getting into the car, "Am I really beautiful?"

"Very beautiful, more beautiful than anyone else. If you enter the modeling industry, I'm afraid no other models will be able to make a living."

As soon as Gu Zheng finished speaking, Qiao Xi was instantly speechless. She never realized that Gu Zheng was so mushy when he spoke sweet words.

The car suddenly jolted, and only then did Qiao Xi realize that this wasn't the way back home. She asked curiously, "Where are you taking me?"

"Nine Heavens Villa," Gu Zheng said indifferently. "Your property."

Qiao Xi thought for a moment before realizing that there was a villa among the assets her mother had left behind for her, but no one had gone there for a long time. The place must be a little old, so she didn't understand why Gu Zheng wanted to bring her there.

Gu Zheng said gently, "To celebrate your birthday."

"Didn't we celebrate it yesterday?"

He pondered for a moment. "Others gave you birthday presents, but I haven't. Besides, someone you hate has come to our house. Let's not go back for now."

Song Shijing said unhurriedly, "Young Madam, the president has ordered people to renovate the villa and build a hot spring area. Professionals have tested the place and there are no problems with the air and water quality."

“More importantly, the president even remodeled the villa’s backyard into a yard that belongs solely to you. He named it Night Tide Yard. You’ll definitely like it.”

Qiao Xi’s interest was instantly piqued when she heard this. She never expected that Gu Zheng would prepare such a surprise birthday present behind her back.

However, Qiao Xi was very curious about who that annoying person in Longwan Residential was. Why did Gu Zheng not want her to see that person?

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At this moment, at Longwan Residential.

The butler looked at Xia Yunlou and Xu Anran. He said helplessly, “Madam Xu, I’m really sorry. Our president and young madam have gone on a long trip. They won’t be back today. You can come back another day!”

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Xia Yunlou’s face darkened. “Call her immediately and tell Qiao Xi that I want to see her!”

When the butler heard Xia Yunlou address the young madam so rudely, he instantly frowned. “Madam Xu, I’m just a butler. I don’t have the right to pry into their private matters, much less disturb the couple’s lives. If you really have something urgent that requires you to meet them, why don’t you call Young Madam directly?”

Xia Yunlou was so stunned that she could not speak. After calming down for a long time, she shouted angrily, “I’m her mother! How dare you talk to me like that?! If you anger me, I’ll make her chase you out of Longwan Residential!”

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“I have no objections if President and Young Madam want to chase me away, but you don’t seem to have the authority to do so. If there’s nothing else, please leave!”

“You... You let Qiao Xi out! Why is she avoiding me? I’m here to apologize. Could it be that she won’t forgive her own mother for the rest of her life?”

The butler pursed his lips. “So, you’re here to apologize, Madam Xu! I thought you were here to pick a fight! But no matter what you’re here for, the President and Young Madam are not here. If you still don’t give up, don’t blame us for being rude to you. Song Shiyu, come out now!”

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As soon as he finished speaking, Song Shiyu ran out of the hall in a hurry and said with a fake smile, “Everyone, my brother has gone out with the president and the young madam. They really won’t be coming back tonight. It’s not a good idea for you to block the Longwan Residential. If you continue to cause trouble here, I’ll have to call Mr. Xu and ask him to pick you up personally.”

Xia Yunlou was somewhat afraid.

**Chapter 617: Second Brother Is Here**

Seeing this, Xu Anran said gently, "Sorry to have disturbed you. We'll leave now."

"Mom, let it go. I don't think Sister will forgive us. We'll come back in a few days, okay?"

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The butler looked at Xu Anran who was pretending to be weak and snorted. He closed the door and isolated the family outside.

The people from the Xu family looked disgusting.

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The few of them got into the car unwillingly. Xia Yunlou and the two siblings wiped away their tears. "Boo-hoo... I'm Qiao Xi's biological mother! But your father actually asked me to lower my head and apologize to her. If this gets out, where will I put my dignity?!"

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Xu Anran also shed a few tears as she sobbed. "Mom, I'm sorry... It's all my fault. If it weren't for me, you wouldn't have to suffer like this. Actually... I should have left long ago."

"Anran! Don't say that. How could I bear to let you leave!" Xia Yunlou immediately stopped her. Then, she gritted his teeth and said, "For Qiao Xi's sake, your dad actually wants to divorce me! Why did I give birth to this jinx of a daughter?! Before she came back, the family was very harmonious. The moment she came back, the entire family fell into chaos!"

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A trace of ruthlessness flashed past Xu Anran's eyes. "But... But what else can we do? For the sake of your marriage, we can only lower our heads and apologize. Why don't I go and beg Qiao Xi? I'll kneel down and beg for her forgiveness!"

Xia Yunlou held her hand tightly, and her eyes were filled with heartache. "Anran, how can I bear to let you kneel down to her? I have a better idea. I'll definitely make Qiao Xi forgive us."

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She lowered her voice and whispered to Xu Anran.

"But..." Xia Yunlou was in a difficult position. "If that's the case, you won't be able to keep your identity as the eldest daughter of the Xu family anymore. It'll still be hard for you..."

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Tears welled up in Xu Anran's eyes as she said pitifully, "It's alright. As long as she can forgive us and not ruin my parents' marriage, I don't mind being wronged."

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Nine Heavens Villa.

When they arrived, it was already the afternoon and the sky was a little dark.

“The weather feels a little cold. I’d better not soak in the hot spring today,” Qiao Xi muttered to herself, and as soon as she finished speaking, her slightly cold body fell into a wide and warm embrace.

Gu Zheng took off his coat and draped it over her. He wrapped her in his arms and chased away all the cold in an instant. “The scenery at the villa is beautiful. Let’s walk together.”

She nodded with a smile. Suddenly, she noticed a figure standing in the corner. She asked in surprise, “Second Brother?”

Luo Qing, who was dressed in black, was hiding in a corner. He lowered his head, and his black hair covered his eyes. He stood there like a statue as though the cold wind couldn’t affect him at all.

Those gray eyes were as sharp as an eagle’s. It was the symbol of the Luo family’s bloodline to show their noble status.

He pursed his lips tightly. His handsome face was well-defined and filled with coldness. When he saw the young woman in front of him, he revealed a gentle smile.

Qiao Xi’s eyes were filled with surprise as she anxiously said, “Gu Zheng, wait for me. I’ll go talk to Second Brother.”

Gu Zheng knew that she had four brothers. They were all big shots too. He would not be jealous of them. He nodded gently and stood at the same spot to wait for her.

Song Shijing watched Qiao Xi run over and asked in a low voice, “President, will you be unhappy to see Young Madam alone with other men?”

Gu Zheng looked indifferent and said casually, “Are you close to Song Shiyu?”

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Song Shijing looked confused.

Gu Zheng said, “You know that Song Shiyu’s salary has been deducted, so you’re deciding to stand in unison with him, huh? You two are indeed close!”

Song Shijing: “...” ‘President that’s not what I meant. I just saw that you didn’t look too good, so I asked.’”

Gu Zheng smiled.

He believed that there was only kinship between Qiao Xi and her brothers. There were no romantic feelings between them. It was just that when he saw her being intimate with other men, he still felt a little sour in his heart. This was an emotion that a normal man would have, but he would restrain himself. Otherwise, he would scare the young woman.

Moreover, he was clearly aware in his heart that Luo Qing and the other brothers treated Qiao Xi as their own younger sister and truly loved her. This was the most precious kinship in Qiao Xi’s heart.

**Chapter 618: Leaving Her Husband At The Door**

Gu Zheng would never destroy whatever was precious to her, including kinship.

More importantly, her junior liked gentle men. To make sure she would keep liking him, he would maintain a gentle image.

On the other hand.

“Second Brother, why didn’t you tell me that you were coming?”

“This is your birthday present.”

Luo Qing handed the black box in his hand to Qiao Xi. “I didn’t know when’s your birthday, but now that I know, I’ll give you this hidden weapon as a gift.”

Qiao Xi took it from him and looked at him with a smile. “This is the birthday that the Xu family set for me. Actually, my mother had previously set it on a different day. You didn’t have to give me a birthday present. Otherwise, you’ll have to give me one next year too!”

“Don’t worry. Just keep it. I’ll prepare something better for you next time.”

Qiao Xi knew that her gloomy second brother had always been a man of few words. He would only say a few more words when facing her. She couldn’t help but feel warm in her heart. She slowly opened the box. “Teacher has already given me this hidden weapon.”

Luo Qing frowned. “Teacher’s hidden weapons aren’t as powerful as mine. Not only can my hidden weapons protect you, but they can also avoid getting detected by metal instruments. Moreover, it’s difficult to find any traces of it in surveillance cameras. Even if you attack, others won’t be able to catch any clues.”

Qiao Xi’s mouth gaped open in shock.

What was wrong with Second Brother today? He was so abnormal! He actually said so much in one breath.

However, she had to admit that Second Brother understood her well. He knew that she liked to use hidden weapons when there were a lot of people around. That was why he created a hidden weapon that would not be detected by others. This made it easier for her to teach some petty people a lesson.

Qiao Xi took out the hidden weapon and studied it carefully. There seemed to be a medicinal fragrance lingering on it. “What smell is that? Why haven’t I smelled it before? Is it newly developed?”

“Qin An developed it.”

Knowing that it would be troublesome to ask her second brother, Qiao Xi directly gave Qin An a call.

Qin An smiled sinisterly. “You definitely won’t be able to guess what this thing is used for. I specially developed it for you. Aren’t you always around women who don’t mean what they say? In front of others, they pretend to be kind-hearted and weak, but behind others, they’re more ruthless than anyone. For example, Xu Anran.”

Qiao Xi’s eyes instantly lit up. “Don’t tell me that this medicine will cause one to reveal what’s in one’s heart?! You’re too awesome! Holy sh\*t!”

“You’re thinking too much. I’m not that capable!”

Qin An’s words shattered Qiao Xi’s fantasy as he seriously explained, “In the future, if she tries to put on an act in front of you again, you can try to use this hidden weapon on her. If she gets hit by a needle laced with this medicine, it can cause her facial expression to go out of control. For example, the corners of her mouth will start twitching or her eyes will start to blink randomly. This way, no one will believe anything she says.”

2

Qiao Xi seemed to be lost in thought. “There are many ways to deal with Xu Anran. Why did you give me a harmless concealed weapon like this?”

Qin An gave a sly smile. “You’ll understand in a while. Little Six, I know you like to pretend to be weak, so I gave you this hidden weapon. Before long, you’ll know the benefits of this hidden weapon.”

Qiao Xi pouted coquettishly. “How annoying! I really am weak!”

The two of them walked to the Night Tide Courtyard together. Luo Qing said, “Alright, I’ll go back first. Go back to your room and rest.”

Qiao Xi nodded as she watched Luo Qing leave. She suddenly felt as if she had forgotten something and stood on the spot to think for a minute before suddenly reacting.

Wait! Where’s Gu Zheng?

She had left her husband at the door!

...

Gu Zheng lifted his eyes to look at the drizzling rain in the sky. His body was shrouded in mist, and his hair was dripping with rainwater. His entire body was emitting a cold aura.

At this moment, he was chuckling as he looked into the distance. Qiao Xi was running toward him in a panic. He sneered. “Mrs. Gu, so you still knew to come back?”

Qiao Xi, who had forgotten about her husband: “...” ‘Gu Zheng, can you stop smiling? I’m scared!’

Qiao Xi’s face was immediately filled with flattery. “I heard that you prepared a courtyard for me, so I couldn’t help but take a look. But I immediately came back to pick you up.”

Gu Zheng sized her up with his deep eyes and said in a low voice, “Is that so?”

“Mhm, mhm!” Qiao Xi nodded her head like a chick pecking at rice. She could only brace herself and admit that if she were to say that she had forgotten about Gu Zheng while walking with Second Brother, this man would definitely hold a grudge.

## **Chapter 619: Relaxing In The Hot Springs Together**

Seeing that Gu Zheng was silent, she quickly changed the topic. “I found the indoor hot springs next to Night Tide Court! It’s raining now, so we can’t go outside. Why don’t we go to the indoor hot springs together?”

Gu Zheng's eyes burned with passion. After a few seconds of silence, he asked word by word, "Are you sure you want to go with me?"

Qiao Xi didn't hesitate in the slightest. "Yes, let's go together!"

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes to hide his desire.

...

20 minutes later, Qiao Xi arrived at the indoor hot springs in a bathrobe. The floor was also warm, and the room emitted a faint fragrance that made one feel very comfortable.

Gu Zheng's hot breath came close and landed beside her ear, causing her to shiver.

"Mrs. Gu, why aren't you going in?"

Qiao Xi only felt her entire body tremble. She only wanted to relax in the hot spring, but when she was changing her clothes earlier, Gu Zheng had said something into her ear. "Junior, you were the one who invited me to go to the hot springs with you, so don't blame me for what happens later. After all, you're too tempting. I'm truly unable to control myself."

1

She really did not expect that the seemingly decent President Gu would actually be so passionate in private. Moreover, he was really too strong in that aspect, so strong that it was scary.

"Y-You go first. I'll wait a moment." Qiao Xi's face was red as she stammered out a reply.

Tempting? Unable to control himself? Did Gu Zheng really say these?

Besides, she was only wearing a thin bathing suit under her bathrobe. It was basically the same as her not wearing anything!

Gu Zheng's scorching gaze sized up her body, moving down her fair neck and landing on her chest for a moment before his breathing became heavy.

"Alright, you can take your time."

Qiao Xi glared at him fiercely. 'Ha, you bastard! If you hadn't tormented me until I was weak all over the previous time, would I be so afraid?'

However, she could only complain in her heart. There was still an ingratiating smile on her face. "I suddenly don't really want to soak in the hot springs anymore. Why don't you enjoy the hot springs yourself? I'll wait here."

Gu Zheng ignored her and slowly took off his bathrobe, revealing his eight packs and muscular chest. He had broad shoulders and a narrow waist. His model-like figure came into Qiao Xi's view.

Qiao Xi: "Gulp..." Although she had seen Gu Zheng's body many times, she still couldn't help but swallow her saliva. His figure was truly too alluring.

The blush on her cheeks spread to her ears as she stammered, "G-Gu Zheng, get dressed."



The man slowly turned around and looked at her flushed cheeks with interest. With an innocent expression, he said, "How am I going to soak in the hot spring if I don't take off my clothes? Don't tell me you don't take off your clothes in the hot springs?"

Qiao Xi, who was standing at the side, instantly choked up. She stood at the same spot and imagined the two of them soaking in the hot springs together. They would kiss and hug each other. It was not only Gu Zheng who could not hold himself back; even she couldn't control herself!

Gu Zheng entered the hot springs and leaned against the edge lazily. He closed his eyes contentedly and enjoyed the warmth enveloping him.

At this moment, the maid walked in with hot tea and looked at Qiao Xi in confusion. "Young Madam, why aren't you going into the hot springs?"

Qiao Xi felt her limbs go limp, so she blurted out, "I... I'll wait until he's done. Otherwise, he definitely won't be able to hold himself back."

1

The maid's lips twitched. "Young Madam, you're overthinking."

Qiao Xi: "... " 'Damn! In your eyes, Gu Zheng is a gentleman, huh? You don't know how much of a beast he is in private!'

After a while, the maid tactfully left Night Tide Court, leaving only the couple in the large courtyard.

Gu Zheng leaned comfortably against the edge of the hot springs as though he had fallen asleep.

Qiao Xi squatted down and asked softly, "Gu Zheng?"

Seeing that Gu Zheng didn't have any reaction, Qiao Xi finally let out a sigh of relief. It looked like he was asleep. Hence, it should be fine if she took advantage of this time to soak in the hot springs!

The water quality here in Nine Heavens Villa was the best in the entire Li City, and Night Tide Courtyard was in the upper reaches of the villa. Not only was the water clean, but the environment was also beautiful. If she missed this opportunity, who knew how long she would have to wait for the next time?

Qiao Xi waved her hand in front of Gu Zheng's eyes. After confirming that he was really asleep, she quietly took off her bathrobe and carefully stepped into the hot springs.

The 'sleeping' Gu Zheng's lips curled up slightly, but his expression remained indifferent for the most part.

### **Chapter 620: Leaving The Entertainment Industry**

The sky outside was still gloomy, and the surroundings were silent. Only the pattering of rain could be heard. Qiao Xi leaned against the pool and sighed comfortably.

She did not know when she fell asleep, but when she opened her eyes, she was already on the small couch in the room inside Night Tide Court.

Qiao Xi propped herself up and looked around. Where was Gu Zheng?

Although she didn't know how long she had been sleeping, it was already a little dark outside. The lights around Night Tide Courtyard were already lit up. Qiao Xi put on a coat and held an umbrella as she followed the path to find Gu Zheng.

At this moment, she heard a commotion. "Let us in! I'm Qiao Xi's elder sister. I have something important to discuss with her!"

1

When Qiao Xi heard this voice, she abruptly looked up. Why was Xu Anran here?

She looked at the door and sized up Xu Anran. She realized that she was recording something on her phone.

Just as she was about to step forward, someone suddenly held her hand. Gu Zheng had unknowingly appeared beside her. He said gently, "Go back to your room. Leave this to me."

Qiao Xi shook her head. "How can I do that? They'll probably be disappointed if I don't make an appearance."

She stood at the same spot and watched for a while. Then, she realized that Xu Anran was holding her phone and doing a live broadcast. Xia Yunlou and Xu Anran had come here to apologize on a live broadcast because they wanted to use the fans' power to force her to forgive them. If she rejected them, those fans would definitely scold her for not knowing what was good for her.

1

At the door, Xia Yunlou was still crying and begging humbly, "I'm Xi Xi's biological mother. Please let me in. I just want to see her, boo-hoo..."

The maid stopped her. "Our president and young madam are resting. We don't dare to go in and disturb them. If you're really Young Madam's mother, why don't you call them directly? What's the use of arguing here?"

A trace of resentment flashed past Xu Anran's eyes.

Xia Yunlou was crying her eyes out. "She's not answering my calls..."

Seeing how pitiful she was, the maid couldn't bear to reject her. Hence, she nodded. "Alright, then. I'll ask Young Madam. If you're really her mother, she'll definitely invite you in."

Xia Yunlou smiled smugly. They were currently doing a live broadcast. Qiao Xi would be thought of as unfilial if she didn't appear.

No matter how outstanding a person was, as long as they were accused of being unfilial, their reputation would be ruined. Coupled with the power of public opinion, Qiao Xi would be the one begging them to let the matter rest.

...

Ten minutes ago.

The car stopped at the entrance of the hot springs villa. Xia Yunlou looked at the gloomy weather and frowned. "The weather is terrible. Why don't we come back another day?"

Xu Anran smiled and said, "Mom, it's good that the weather is bad. Only then can we show our sincerity."

Xia Yunlou also felt that what she said made sense. The fact that they still came to Nine Heavens Villa to look for Qiao Xi on a rainy day showed how difficult it was for them. If Qiao Xi still refused to see them, Xu Anran's fans would definitely scold her for being unfilial.

As soon as she finished speaking, Xu Anran threw the umbrella away. Her thin dress was instantly drenched by the rain. She raised her hand and messed up her hair before starting a live broadcast.

Xu Anran had a lot of fans. As soon as she started the live broadcast, many fans rushed in, and the number of fans increased.

[Wow! Anran is doing a live broadcast!]

[Why didn't the studio inform us? We almost missed our goddess' live broadcast!]

[Where is she? Anran seems to be in the rain. Is she filming?]

Xu Anran's eyes were slightly red as tears mixed with the rainwater. Her voice trembled slightly. "Everyone, I'm sorry. I want to announce something important. I've decided... to leave the entertainment circle."

As soon as she finished speaking, the entire broadcast room was in an uproar.

Although Xu Anran no longer acted, she could still be considered a popular female celebrity. For her to suddenly announce her withdrawal from the entertainment circle was a big piece of news.

It quickly attracted some entertainment reporters, and the number of viewers reached the peak.

Fans asked: [Goddess Anran, why do you want to quit the entertainment industry?]

[Why are you crying? Did someone bully you?]

Xu Anran sobbed, "No... No one bullied me. Actually, this matter started 20 years ago. At that time, my mother was giving birth in the hospital but the nurse accidentally carried the wrong child over, causing the Xu family's biological daughter to be stranded outside. So... I'm not the real daughter of the Xu family!"