

Lady gu 691

Chapter 691: My Name Is Gu Yao!

Tang Ruge's face darkened as she clenched her fists tightly. Her fingernails were almost digging into her palms, but she still gritted her teeth and refused to say anything. She maintained her last shred of dignity.

Qiao Xi smiled lightly. "May I ask if I've won?"

The shop owner stood rooted to the ground for a few seconds. He did not expect the young master of the Luo family, Luo Qing, to really come.

When he heard Qiao Xi's words, he hurriedly nodded. "Yes! Of course, you've won."

Tang Ruge lowered her head with a ferocious expression. After a moment of silence, she slowly looked up and revealed a relieved smile. "I didn't expect this miss to be from the Luo family. I was ignorant and didn't know better. I've lost."

Gu Yao snorted. "Since you lost the bet, take out that ancient painting!"

This was the bet that they had agreed on earlier. Previously, Tang Lingyun forced Qiao Xi to hand over Heart of Rose and even rushed over to snatch it. Now that Tang Ruge had lost, she should hand over the 30 million yuan ancient painting.

Tang Ruge gritted her teeth and suppressed the emotions that were about to break out of her heart. The 30 million yuan ancient painting was her father's treasure. She lost it just like that. The price was too high.

She took a deep breath, but there was still a faint smile on her lips. There was no anger at all. "Since I lost, I'll naturally have to give up the ancient painting. May I know where you live? I'll send someone to deliver the painting."

Qiao Xi said, "Second Brother, since you helped me win this bet, then I'll give the painting to you."

Luo Qing did not refuse and instructed his subordinates to pass that woman his address.

Tang Ruge frowned. The Luo family was a big family. They had all kinds of gold, silver, and jewelry. How could they take a liking to her ancient painting? She originally thought that Luo Qing would not accept this painting, but who knew that he really did!

Tang Lingyun stomped her feet in anger. "You... How could you accept..."

"Why not?" Gu Yao immediately interrupted her and mocked, "I remember that when you thought we lost just now, you tried to snatch the necklace. Moreover, Miss Tang has admitted defeat. Remember to send the ancient paintings to the Luo family immediately. Otherwise, everyone will think that the Tang family is shameless!"

Now that the bet was over, everyone was no longer in the mood to watch the show. They gradually dispersed. Tang Ruge was too embarrassed to continue staying here. Just as she was about to leave, she suddenly stopped in her tracks and turned around. "May I ask for this lady's surname?"

Before Qiao Xi could say anything, Gu Yao stood up and said domineeringly, "Why? Do you want to seek revenge?"

Tang Ruge suppressed the anger in her heart and squeezed out a faint smile. "Of course not. I've just never heard of there being a young miss in the Luo family, so..."

Everyone instantly understood what Tang Ruge meant. She suspected Qiao Xi's identity and felt that she was not from the Luo family.

Gu Yao had a look of disdain. "What does it have to do with you whether she's from the Luo family or not? Anyway, she's the one Luo Qing is helping. You lost the bet. Moreover, I'm the one who wants to buy the porcelain vase. She's just here to accompany me. If you want revenge, come find me! My name is Gu Yao!"

As soon as this name was mentioned, even the usually calm Tang Ruge could not help but take a deep breath and ask in surprise, "Gu Yao? You... You're from the Gu family?"

Seeing that Gu Yao was dressed in noble clothes, Tang Ruge looked at Gu Zheng. The two of them looked a little similar, so she smiled gently. "Are you the head of the Gu family, Gu Zheng?"

Gu Yao: "???" Why was this woman still smiling? She still wanted to seduce Gu Zheng in front of the legitimate wife?

Gu Zheng's expression was indifferent, and he did not answer. Tang Ruge did not seem to notice the other party's coldness and continued talking, "Mr. Gu, we met when we were young, but it's been more than ten years. You probably don't remember me anymore. I came to the porcelain shop today because I know that Old Madam Gu likes this pink porcelain vase, so I wanted to buy it for her. Unexpectedly, I bumped into Second Young Master Gu and there was a misunderstanding."

As soon as he finished speaking, Gu Zheng still ignored her, but Tang Ruge continued to smile. "I was originally blaming myself for not being able to buy the porcelain vase that Grandma Gu likes. Now that I know that Second Young Master Gu is buying it for Grandma Gu, I'm relieved."

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There was silence again. Gu Zheng did not say anything, so naturally, no one would say anything. Tang Ruge stood awkwardly for a moment, and the corners of her mouth twitched slightly. "Teacher, Lingyun, let's go."

The three of them left with their attendants. The crowded shop instantly became much quieter, and even the air seemed to have become fresher.

Chapter 692: My Surname Is Situ

Gu Yao was indignant. "Tsk! She sure knows how to find a way out! Hah, she seems so kind now. Where did her arrogant look from earlier go?"

Luo Qing rubbed Qiao Xi's hair affectionately. "Little Six, the matter has been resolved."

Qiao Xi held Luo Qing's hand and smiled sweetly. "Yes!"

Gu Zheng frowned and took a few steps closer to Gu Yao. He asked in a low voice, "Who is this man? He's even touching Qiao Xi's hair? I'm still here. What is he doing?!"

Qiao Xi vaguely heard Gu Zheng's words, and the corners of her mouth twitched slightly. It seemed that Gu Zheng had never seen Second Brother before. Would he be jealous?

In the past, Gu Zheng would never stop her from interacting with her brothers. Every time he saw them coming, he would stand a distance away and look at her gently. It seemed like the original Gu Zheng would not be jealous of her brothers!

According to their interactions over the past few days, Qiao Xi gradually realized that the second personality's thoughts were similar to Gu Zheng's. It was just that Gu Zheng had experienced many things and had become taciturn, steady, and calm. He was good at pretending and would not easily expose his emotions. However, this second personality had very little experience and did not know how to hide his emotions at all.

So... Gu Zheng would get jealous in the past as well? It was just that he never said anything?

Qiao Xi let go of Luo Qing's hand as if she had been electrocuted. Coincidentally, the shop owner walked in front of Luo Qing and bowed respectfully. "Young Master Luo!"

Then, the shop owner handed the porcelain vase to Gu Yao. "According to the rules we set previously, as long as the person invites the top porcelain master in the world, this porcelain vase will belong to them. Although you haven't made the porcelain vase with hollowed-out jade rings yet, I believe you won't go back on your word."

When Luo Qing entered, he had already seen the pink porcelain vase. It was indeed a high-grade porcelain vase, but this porcelain vase was naturally inferior to a porcelain vase with hollowed-out jade rings.

"Young Master Luo, you're aware of my grandfather's request. As long as you can create the perfect porcelain vase with hollowed-out jade rings, we'll naturally give you a generous reward."

The process of making this porcelain vase was complicated, and Luo Qing had only done one. This was a little difficult for him, but as long as he was given enough time, he was confident that he could create a perfect piece.

Luo Qing asked, "May I know your name, sir?"

Gu Yao was about to say that the shop owner was unwilling to reveal his name when the shop owner smiled and replied, "My name doesn't matter, but since you asked, I naturally have to answer. My surname is Situ."

"Situ..." Luo Qing hesitated for a moment. "If that's the case, I really can't say anything. After the porcelain vase is made, I'll come again."

Gu Zheng's eyes darkened. No wonder the shop owner was looking for someone to make the porcelain vase with hollowed-out jade rings. It was because other than Luo Qing, there was another person who could make it. It was the former head of the Situ family, the old man's missing eldest grandson.

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After bidding farewell to Luo Qing, Qiao Xi got into the car with Gu Yao.

After returning to Longwan Residential, Gu Yao was overjoyed. "Qiao Xi! You're really my idol! I went there a few times but couldn't buy this porcelain vase. You helped me get it as soon as you went, and you didn't spend any money. Grandma will definitely be very happy."

"I officially announce that from today onward, you're my eldest brother. If you're so capable, why do you even need to get married?! You should just be a beautiful single woman!"

Gu Zheng frowned and was about to flare up when Song Shiyu said slyly, "Actually, I think it's good for Young Madam to be single. She's such an outstanding person, so she must have many suitors. If she gets married, she won't be able to date other men."

Gu Zheng revealed a bloodthirsty smile. "What should I do if I suddenly feel like hitting someone?"

Song Shiyu took a few steps back and looked at him in horror. "President, I was wrong. Second Young Master said it first."

Gu Zheng was silent for a moment. "Alright, I'll hit him first. I'll deal with you later."

As soon as he finished speaking, Song Shiyu fled. Gu Yao also sensed that the atmosphere was not right and quickly found an excuse to leave.

Only the two of them were left in the living room. Qiao Xi suddenly thought of something and turned around to ask, "Gu Zheng, do you know that Luo Qing is my second brother?"

Gu Zheng's face darkened. When he thought of her smiling at Luo Qing, he felt annoyed and nodded unhappily.

Qiao Xi looked at him in confusion. "You know that he's my second brother, so why do you look so unhappy? Could it be that you were jealous when I was with my second brother?"

A trace of surprise flashed past Gu Zheng's eyes, then he looked at her with an accusatory gaze. He was like a puppy that had been abandoned. He said unhappily, "He's not your biological brother."

Chapter 693: Gu Zheng Is Jealous

At this moment, Qiao Xi was finally sure that Gu Zheng was a jealous person. He was clearly a jealous person, but the original Gu Zheng was good at pretending not to care. This arrogant Gu Zheng was not good at hiding his true thoughts.

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Night fell, and Qiao Xi entered the master bedroom. After a moment, Gu Zheng entered. His eyes gradually returned to normal, and his tone was gentle. "Xi Xi."

Qiao Xi knew that he was back and hurriedly pulled him to sit down. She asked probingly, "Gu Zheng, let me ask you a very serious question. Will you be unhappy seeing me with my brothers?"

Gu Zheng's expression was indifferent as he smiled and said, "Of course not. They're all your brothers, and they're all very good to you. Why would I be unhappy?"

Qiao Xi: "... 'Keep pretending, then!'

She smiled slyly. "What if I hug my brothers? You won't mind?"

Gu Zheng looked puzzled but still said indifferently, "It's okay. There's nothing wrong with you hugging them."

Qiao Xi said, "But we're not biological siblings! We're not related by blood!"

Gu Zheng was even more confused. "Xi Xi, why are you asking such a question? I'm not unhappy. Don't think too much."

Qiao Xi: "... She knew that he would not admit it, but he had already been exposed.

Actually, it was quite fun to watch Gu Zheng pretend to be calm. If Gu Zheng found out that he had long been exposed after putting on an act in front of her, what would his expression be like?

Qiao Xi lowered her eyes and smiled. Then, she told Gu Zheng about what had happened today. As Gu Zheng could not completely recall the memories of his secondary personality, the memories in his mind were intermittent. Someone had to help him sort them out.

"The woman Gu Yao and I met in the shop is surnamed Tang. She said that you two met when you were young. Do you remember?"

Gu Zheng thought for a moment but did not seem to remember anything.

"She's the daughter of the Tang family, Tang Ruge. She came to Li City to attend Grandma's birthday banquet."

"There's one more thing..." Qiao Xi was slightly hesitant. "The owner of that porcelain shop is surnamed Situ. Gu Yao asked him for his name earlier, but he refused to tell him. He only said his name after my second brother asked."

"Situ?" Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow, a trace of interest flashing across his eyes. The corners of his mouth twitched. "He didn't tell you?"

Qiao Xi shook her head.

Gu Zheng said indifferently, "The surname 'Situ' is very rare. Among the top noble families, there's only one surnamed 'Situ'. However, they keep a low profile. Only people from high society are qualified to know their names.

"Ever since the head of the Situ family went missing, the Situ family has been living in seclusion. However, their strength can't be underestimated. They've become even stronger. Two years ago, the Li family of the capital wanted to develop a resort, but they were opposed by the Situ family.

"The Situ family didn't even show their faces. They only sent someone to pass on the news. The Li family took the initiative to give up the opportunity to build the resort. At that time, they had already invested a considerable amount of manpower and resources. But because of the Situ family's words, the Li family could only give up. You should understand the Situ family's strength now."

Qiao Xi was slightly shocked. No wonder Second Brother said those words when he found out that the other party's surname was Situ. Such a family really could not easily expose their identity.

"Then think about why the Situ family opened a porcelain shop in Li City. I'm guessing the Situ family's power has already spread to various cities through this method. Perhaps they're looking for the missing family head," Gu Zheng said.

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In the porcelain shop.

"Grandpa." The shop owner's name was Situ Jian. He walked in front of an old man with a respectful expression. The old man was already 98 years old, but he looked strong and had a burning gaze.

The old man looked up slightly, exuding a dignified aura. "Have you found out anything about that lady?"

Situ Jian replied, "She's called Qiao Xi. Heart of Rose is a relic that once belonged to her mother, Xia Yunqiu. Xia Yunqiu is the eldest daughter of the Xia family and the daughter of Old Madam Yin."

"I heard that Old Madam Yin dotes on her daughter very much. There seem to be many valuable items in Xia Yunqiu's belongings. With the Yin family's wealth, it's indeed possible for them to have accumulated so many precious items, but they would've had to pay a huge price."

Old Master Situ's eyes were cold as he said slowly, "Do you also think that her Heart of Rose came from an unknown source?"

"The Heart of Rose that Cousin gave away shouldn't have appeared in the hands of a woman. Moreover, it's someone from the Yin family who has nothing to do with the Situ family. There must be something wrong here."

Chapter 694: He's A Devil

"It's been so many years, and I don't know how many people have laid their hands on Heart of Rose. It's not surprising that it somehow ended up in the hands of the Yin family," Old Master Situ said. After a moment of silence, he asked, "Do you think she looks like Yu'er?"

"That lady is very beautiful. Her eyebrows and eyes do look a little similar to Cousin's, but there are too many people in the world who look alike. We can't make a decision based on looks alone. Why don't I get Miss Qiao's DNA for a DNA test?"

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Old Master Situ took a sip of tea leisurely and said indifferently, "Not for now."

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“Miss Qiao is also Young Master Luo’s younger sister. She has a lot of experience. When she was young, she was abused by her stepmother and almost lost her life. After that, she met the divine physician and became a direct disciple. She also has a few brothers from outstanding families. After that, she got to know the hacker, Mo Yuan, who is also Gu Zheng. Now, she’s married to Gu Zheng and has become Mrs. Gu. What’s even more shocking is that she’s the owner of Ling Pavilion and manages an assassin organization. Her experience really makes me feel inferior!”

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After Situ Jian finished speaking, the old master could not help but curl his lips. “This young woman’s ability is a little like Yu’er’s! The Tang family is doomed this time.”

Old Master Situ did not appear today and was only watching the surveillance footage in the shop. He had witnessed everything. This young lady had such a powerful force behind her at such a young age. It was definitely not just because of luck.

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The next morning, Qiao Xi woke up early. It was Old Madam Gu’s birthday tomorrow. She and Gu Zheng were going to the old residence a day earlier to help welcome the guests.

All these years, Old Madam Gu would be deep asleep most of the time and rarely attended banquets. Even Gu Weiming could only meet Old Madam Gu once a month. However, with Old Madam Gu’s identity, as long as they held a birthday banquet for her, she would naturally attend it.

The two of them arrived at the Gu family’s old residence. As soon as they entered, Qiao Xi saw someone beside Lu Yan.

Qiao Xi frowned. “The Lu family?”

Seeing Gu Zheng’s confused expression, Qiao Xi recalled that the second personality had lost a lot of his memories. She looked at him with a complicated expression and asked tentatively, “Do you know about the Lu family?”

Just as Qiao Xi was about to explain, Gu Zheng snorted coldly. “The Lu family abandoned their biological daughter, cooperated with the mistress who killed their daughter for benefits, raised the son of the mistress, and let him take on the surname Lu. How could I not remember the Lu family who has done so many ugly misdeeds?”

Qiao Xi: “...” Why was she a little afraid? The original Gu Zheng might not bicker with the Lu family at his grandmother’s birthday banquet, but if the Lu family dared to provoke this master today, Gu Zheng would definitely make the Lu family lose all their dignity!

“Why are they here for Grandma’s birthday banquet?” Gu Zheng looked unhappy, and his eyes were filled with coldness. Grandma would naturally not invite them, so it could only be Huang Lilan and Gu Weiming.

After the two of them entered, they walked straight toward Maple Garden. As soon as they reached the door, they saw a familiar figure. It was Madam Gu—Huang Lilan.

After Shen Ying was chased away, she immediately went to the Gu family to complain to Huang Lilan. Only then did she know that Gu Zheng actually went so overboard and chased away the woman she sent over.

When she saw Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi holding hands as they walked over, Huang Lilan glared angrily. However, when Gu Zheng approached and she saw his green eyes, all color suddenly drained from her face.

It... It was the demon!

Gu Zheng glanced impatiently at Huang Lilan, directly ignoring her as he held Qiao Xi’s hand and walked away.

“You’re awake, right?”

Huang Lilan’s terrified voice sounded from behind. She rushed over and pulled Gu Zheng back. Her eyes were filled with fear and anger. Her face alternated between red and white before she laughed crazily. “Hahaha! You’re a freak!”

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Gu Zheng stopped in his tracks and looked at her coldly.

Huang Lilan was so scared that her entire body trembled. She let go of his hand. It was unknown if she was afraid or happy as she started shouting crazily, "You appeared again, so he must have disappeared! Hahaha! That's great!"

Qiao Xi's expression was serious. Huang Lilan also knew that Gu Zheng had two personalities? But why was she so happy? What was she trying to do?

Huang Lilan laughed excitedly. "A demon! You're a demon! It's been so long. I thought you wouldn't wake up anymore. I didn't expect you to wake up at this time! The original Gu Zheng has disappeared, so the Gu family is destined to belong to Ah Yan!"

Qiao Xi was angered to the point her entire body trembled. She wished for nothing more than to rush over and slap Huang Lilan. Unexpectedly, Gu Zheng sneered. "Are you so sure?"

Chapter 695: Like A Prisoner In Hell

"Of course!" Huang Lilan said excitedly, "You're a demon who has been sleeping for more than ten years. What can you do? The Gu family can only belong to Ah Yan!"

"Lu Yan? With his IQ, is he worthy of being the head of the family?" Gu Zheng asked coldly.

Huang Lilan instantly choked, and her eyes were filled with resentment. She suddenly glanced at Qiao Xi who was at the side and instantly laughed crazily. "Qiao Xi doesn't know that you're a demon, right?!"

Gu Zheng's deep eyes darkened.

Huang Lilan said anxiously, "Qiao Xi! He's a demon! He's a dirty demon born from the darkness! He's a demon imprisoned in this cage in Maple Garden!"

Then, she pointed at Gu Zheng and shouted, "You're a demon who's afraid of the sun. You're only worthy of living in the dark. You must be feeling very uncomfortable standing under the sun like this today! Do you feel hot all over as if you're about to melt?"

"If others find out that the legendary Gu Zheng is actually afraid of the sun and can only struggle at death's door in the dark, what will they say? How is such a person worthy of being the head of the Gu family?"

Gu Zheng exuded killing intent.

Huang Lilan continued to mock, “Why did you come out during the day? You want to attend the birthday banquet in Gu Zheng’s place? Are you worthy? Don’t tell me you think you’re the savior? Did you appear to protect Gu Zheng?”

“Back then, I was the one who locked Gu Zheng in Maple Garden. The doors and windows were all nailed shut. I didn’t leave him with a single ray of sunlight. I didn’t give him any food or water for three days, so I forced out a demon! Do you still remember how terrifying you were back then? When you woke up, you wanted to occupy Gu Zheng’s body. I don’t believe that you’re so selfless!”

Gu Zheng felt dizzy, and his forehead hurt.

Perhaps it was because those memories were too painful. Even though he had been asleep for a long time, he did not want to recall the dark and humid environment of Maple Garden. He was afraid and hungry. Everything around him was so disgusting. Even the air was filled with a stench.

He endured the pain of darkness and hunger. From time to time, he would be beaten up like a prisoner in hell.

The woman in front of him was looking at him coldly, her eyes filled with mockery. She seemed to find it very amusing to see him struggling in pain!

Huang Lilan had always been sure that Gu Zheng hated her, but even though he had become the head of the family, he never looked for her to settle the score. This meant that he did not dare to because she was his mother!

She became crazier. “Qiao Xi, you already know that he’s not Gu Zheng. Do you still want to be with him? If you’re willing to get a divorce, I’ll help you!”

“He’s a demon! If you don’t leave him, he might kill you one day or imprison you in a dark basement to torture and abuse you! I advise you—”

Smack!

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A crisp sound interrupted Huang Lilan’s words.

Qiao Xi used all her strength to slap Huang Lilan hard. Huang Lilan’s face was turned to the side. She lost her balance and fell to the ground. A few drops of blood seeped out of the corners of her mouth.

Qiao Xi was angered to the point her heart ached. It was even the first time she had the thought of killing someone. Did Huang Lilan think that torturing an unarmed child was something to be proud of?

Huang Lilan held her painful cheek and looked at Qiao Xi in disbelief. Was she crazy? She actually beat up her mother-in-law in the Gu family’s old residence?

“You dare to hit me? You b*tch! Ah!”

The curses were stuck in her throat. Huang Lilan widened her eyes in horror. She felt the air in her lungs gradually thin out, and the suffocating feeling made her subconsciously struggle.

Qiao Xi's gaze was vicious as she grabbed Huang Lilan's neck with increasing force. It looked like Huang Lilan's neck would be broken in the next second.

Huang Lilan struggled weakly, her tongue sticking out as her eyes kept blinking. Her face turned from pale to purple, and her body trembled violently.

Qiao Xi tossed her to the side in disgust and warned coldly. "Huang Lilan, if you dare say another word, I'll send you to see a true demon!"

Huang Lilan lay on the ground and panted crazily. A moment later, she finally recovered and said in a hoarse voice, "Qiao Xi, looks like you still don't know who he is! Why are you protecting him? He's not Gu Zheng anymore!"

"The Gu Zheng you love has already disappeared. The man in front of you is a demon! You're really pitiful! You don't even know that your husband has become someone else!"

"Madam Gu." Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows. "Don't use your intelligence to try and figure me out. How could I not know what you already know?"

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She looked down at Huang Lilan. "It's been a few months. Madam Gu, do you still remember the feeling of you and Shen Ying being poisoned?"

Chapter 696: He Was Destined To Disappear

When she heard Qiao Xi mention being poisoned, Huang Lilan's eyes were filled with ferocity as she roared. "It was you! You poisoned us!"

The last time Huang Lilan locked Qiao Xi in the basement, she and Shen Ying were suddenly poisoned. She clearly knew that it was Qiao Xi who did it, but she did not have any evidence. Even the people from the Medical Association could not find any clues.

This b*tch!

"Madam Gu, do you really not understand how I poisoned you without leaving a trace? You'll soon know how stupid it is to be my enemy.

"The poison that time couldn't kill you as it was just a small warning, but this time..." The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth curled into a meaningful smile.

Huang Lilan's heart thumped. The next second, Qiao Xi said casually, "The poison I poisoned you with this time is much more powerful than the last time. I hope you can survive. Otherwise, who'll play with me in the future?"

Huang Lilan gritted her teeth, and her eyes were filled with anger and confusion. Why was Qiao Xi still willing to stay by his side even though she already knew that the man in front of her was not Gu Zheng?

"Qiao Xi! I'm telling the truth! He's not Gu Zheng! He's a demon! I'm really not lying to you this time!"

A sharp cry sounded. Gu Zheng's heart suddenly tightened, and his eyes were filled with cold killing intent. Huang Lilan was so scared that she lowered her eyes and trembled.

The next second, Qiao Xi said indifferently, "I know."

Huang Lilan looked at her in disbelief. Qiao Xi said casually, "Madam Gu, do you not understand human language?! I've already said that I know he's not the original Gu Zheng. However, he's also a part of Gu Zheng. He has never changed."

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi held Gu Zheng's hand and entered Maple Garden. The killing intent that erupted from Gu Zheng's entire body suddenly vanished. He held that warm and soft hand while feeling an indescribable feeling in his heart.

He was born from the darkness and was called a demon by others. After everyone found out about his identity, their eyes would be filled with horror and ridicule. Only Qiao Xi was so indifferent and still intimate with him. She was like a ray of light shining into his dark life.

He was clearly just an extra personality. He was occupying this body that did not belong to him, but Qiao Xi did not blame him and had always been by his side.

After entering, Gu Zheng asked softly, "Are you really not afraid of me?"

"What should I be afraid of?"

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes. For the first time, he felt nervous. "What Huang Lilan said is half-true. I... I'm indeed from the dark..."

He had never thought of himself as a demon. He thought that he was here to save the pitiful Gu Zheng. It was Huang Lilan who said that he was a bloodthirsty demon. Would Qiao Xi think the same? After all, she liked gentle men and not vicious men.

Qiao Xi glanced at him in confusion. "Huang Lilan can say whatever she wants. It won't affect me at all. Why do you think I'm afraid of you?"

"Have you been to the basement of Longwan Residential? It's dark and humid there. It's an underground prison built by Gu Zheng over the years. Why do you think he built such a large prison in his own residence?"

From the day she met Gu Zheng, she had known he was not a good person. It was just that he was good at pretending and looked like a polite noble young master.

Qiao Xi blinked and smiled. "What's there to worry about? I'm not a good person either. Aren't we very compatible?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Gu Yao rushed in and said, "Qiao Xi! What gift did you prepare for Grandma? Quick, let me take a look!"

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and concealed the emotions in his heart. He suddenly felt that being able to live with Qiao Xi was a blessing. Unfortunately, he was destined to disappear.

At this moment, Qiao Xi turned around and took out a scroll from the gift box. She gently opened it. "I heard that Grandma likes to collect Old Master Wang's calligraphy pieces. This is the 'Thousand Words Life' he wrote when he was alive. He personally wrote a thousand words. It's the most suitable birthday gift for Grandma."

Gu Yao's eyes instantly lit up. "Thousand Words Life? Qiao Xi, you're too awesome. Not only did you help me get the porcelain vase, but you also brought something so precious. This calligraphy piece is worth at least ten million."

Old Madam Gu was the matriarch of the Gu family. In the past, when she was in good health, she was in charge of the entire Gu family. She had seen all kinds of gold, silver, and treasures. It did not matter if the gift was expensive or not. What was most important was the person's sincerity.

Chapter 697: The Same Birthday Present

"But..." Suddenly, Gu Yao frowned. "It seems that Tang Ruge is going to give Grandma a calligraphy piece too. Could it be that she heard the news and deliberately got the same kind of gift as you?"

Qiao Xi wanted to give Old Madam Gu a calligraphy piece, and so did Tang Ruge. Wasn't this too much of a coincidence?! Gu Yao could not help but be slightly worried. That woman was not easy to deal with. She might take this opportunity to take revenge on Qiao Xi.

...

The Tang family.

Tang Ruge looked at the painting with heartache. This was the ancient painting that the Tang family had treasured for many years. Now that she had to give it to someone else, she was naturally unwilling.

Tang Lingyun shouted angrily, "That woman is really shameless. How dare she take our things?"

At this moment, there was a young man standing beside Tang Ruge. This man was the young master of the Ye family in the capital. He accompanied Tang Ruge to Li City to celebrate Old Madam Gu's birthday.

Ye Chi was the second son in the family, and his eldest brother, Ye Qingyuan, was above him. Over the years, his eldest brother had gradually taken control of the family's power. He had completely lost his status. Seeing that the position of heir was about to fall into the hands of another, he began to panic.

Originally, Ye Qingyuan was not valued, but he was Gu Zheng's friend. Ever since the rest found out about this, the elders in the family changed sides and began to support Ye Qingyuan.

Ye Chi had come to Li City this time to take the opportunity to get close to Gu Zheng and obtain the right to compete for the position of heir. However, before he could see Gu Zheng, he heard that Mrs. Gu and Tang Ruge had gotten into a conflict.

Tang Ruge had a gentle personality. Before this, he had never heard of her having a conflict with anyone. Now that such a thing happened as soon as she arrived in Li City, it must be Mrs. Gu who started it!

Moreover, Mrs. Gu even asked Tang Ruge to hand over Eternal Winter Snow. Everyone knew that this painting was very valuable. Wasn't Mrs. Gu simply forcing Tang Ruge?

Ye Chi snorted. "Ruge, Lingyun has told me everything. That woman clearly set up a trap to deceive you. Why should you give it to her?"

Tang Ruge smiled bitterly. "Our Tang family has always kept our word. A loss is a loss. I have to pay the price. It's just a painting. How can it compare to the Tang family's hundred years of reputation?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Ye Chi's phone suddenly rang. After hanging up, Ye Chi looked excited. "Ruge, you don't need to hand over Eternal Winter Snow anymore.

"The gift Qiao Xi wants to give Old Madam Gu this time is Old Master Wang's last work, Thousand Words Life."

The moment that was said, Tang Lingyun's face was filled with surprise. "How is this possible? Sister clearly has the Thousand Words Life! How can that woman have it too?"

Ye Chi smiled coldly. "Old Master Wang only produced one of them. Since there are two, it means that one of them is fake! Mrs. Gu is an idiot. Since she doesn't know calligraphy, she shouldn't come out and embarrass herself. She actually wants to give a fake to someone!"

"Ruge, if she gives away that fake at the banquet, Old Madam Gu will definitely hate her. If that's the case, you'll be disrespecting Old Madam Gu if you give her Eternal Winter Snow."

Tang Ruge was silent for a moment, feeling a little troubled. "Is it really okay to do that?"

On the other hand, Huang Lilan had already returned to the main residence. At this moment, she had a splitting headache and her entire body was burning. It was as if she had been placed in a pot of boiling water. Her lips were cracked, and a burning pain swept through her entire body.

She knew that this was a symptom of being poisoned. She was wearing a cool dress and was convulsing on the floor. She could only shout helplessly, "Call the doctor! Doctor!"

When the family doctor arrived, Huang Lilan had already been helped to the bed by the servants. Her sweat had drenched the blanket.

Huang Lilan was afraid that Qiao Xi would make another move on her, so she did not directly say that she had been poisoned. Instead, she gritted her teeth and said, "My entire body hurts! It hurts like fire!"

The doctors hurriedly did a full-body check-up on her, but the results were shocking.

"Madam Gu, there's... There's nothing wrong with your body."

Huang Lilan also looked up in surprise, her heart burning with anger. "How is that possible? If there's nothing wrong, would I be in so much pain? Maybe I was poisoned."

At this moment, another doctor walked in. "Madam Gu, we've already tested your blood. The results show that everything is normal. There's no poison in your blood."

Then, an old doctor walked in. This person was Old Madam Gu's private doctor. Tomorrow was Old Madam Gu's birthday. He had to be on standby in the Gu family's old residence in case of emergencies.

Unexpectedly, before he reached the old madam's courtyard, he was invited to Huang Lilan's main residence by the butler.

Chapter 698: Seek Treatment For Your Mental State

Many doctors surrounded Huang Lilan to check her pulse and blood. They checked her entire body and finally came to a conclusion—Madam Gu was not sick. Her body was very healthy. She was not poisoned, and there were no other problems.

The doctors had also seen a lot of scheming in wealthy families. At this moment, they could not help but suspect that Huang Lilan was deliberately pretending to be sick to achieve a certain goal.

Old Madam Gu's personal doctor was the oldest and had the highest reputation. Seeing Huang Lilan crying and shouting, he frowned and said, "Madam Gu, there's nothing wrong with your body. It's better not to waste time. I originally wanted to do a check-up on Old Madam Gu. If I miss the best timing and it causes Old Madam Gu's body to be damaged, can you bear the responsibility?"

"I'm really sick! I was poisoned! My whole body hurts! You're all quacks. You can't even find out that I've been poisoned! A bunch of trash!" Huang Lilan lay on the bed and roared.

"Madam Gu!" Hearing Huang Lilan's curses, the doctors were instantly angry. "We're all famous doctors in the medical world. If we don't have the ability, the Gu family wouldn't have invited us over. If you don't believe our diagnosis, you can get someone else to take a look at you. We don't have to waste time here."

"We can't treat your illness, so it's useless for us to stay here. Madam Gu, you should find another doctor to prevent your illness from worsening. You can't blame us for this!"

"Madam Gu, you should probably seek treatment for your mental state. Only you know what you're thinking!"

With that, everyone stood up and left the main residence. Huang Lilan's eyes were filled with resentment as she gritted her teeth.

Impossible! Qiao Xi had clearly poisoned her. She was in pain and her body was burning. Why couldn't these doctors find anything?

Qiao Xi, that b*tch!

She had poisoned her once before, but she accused Huang Lilan of framing her daughter-in-law. This time, she poisoned her again. There were so many doctors, but they could not find any illness.

Qiao Xi was a freak. No wonder Gu Zheng liked her. The two of them were the same.

...

The next day.

On the day of the birthday banquet, all the guests came to congratulate the Gu family. The Gu family was extremely lively.

Qiao Xi was entertaining guests in the front hall when she bumped into Huang Lilan. She was dressed very gorgeously today and had exquisite makeup on. She was forcefully enduring the pain in her body and chatting with everyone.

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows. Huang Lilan was quite capable. She was actually able to appear in front of everyone while enduring the pain. Her forbearance was indeed shocking.

The poison she poisoned Huang Lilan with was not a traditional poison. It was just a drug that stimulated the nerves. It would cause one to hallucinate from intense pain, but it would not affect the body at all. Hence, the doctors failed to realize that she had been poisoned.

Yesterday, Qiao Xi told Huang Lilan that she had been poisoned, so she was already psychologically influenced. Coupled with the effects of the drug, it made her think that her body was in intense pain. This kind of pain was very similar to the real thing. Moreover, this kind of pain would change according to one's imagination. It could be the pain of being whipped, a burning sensation, or the feeling of being cut.

Huang Lilan's words yesterday had really angered Qiao Xi. For the sake of taking revenge for Gu Zheng, Qiao Xi had scattered a little more medicinal powder this time. She would be in pain for at least two to three days. Unexpectedly, in order to protect her position as Madam Gu, Huang Lilan actually endured the intense pain and came out to welcome the guests.

Qiao Xi sized up Huang Lilan, then her gaze landed on Shen Ying, who was beside her. Gu Zheng also saw Shen Ying and looked at her.

A moment later, Shen Ying excused herself to go to the bathroom and walked out of the banquet hall. She came to the backyard and said while trembling, "President Gu..."

"Miss Shen, let me remind you that there were conditions for letting you go that day. If you can't do as per my instructions, I might take your life at any time."

Shen Ying took a few steps back in fear and trembled. "President Gu, w-what do you want me to do?"

"What did Huang Lilan tell you?" Gu Zheng asked.

Shen Ying did not hesitate at all and said something in a low voice. When Gu Zheng heard this, a trace of danger flashed past his eyes.

Huang Lilan was really a disgusting woman. Such a dirty and vicious woman should not be living in this world. Today, he would take the place of the real Gu Zheng to get rid of this dirty woman!

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and instructed coldly, scaring Shen Ying so much that she knelt on the floor. "President Gu, I beg you. Don't do this to me. Chairman Gu is old enough to be my father. How can I..."

Chapter 699: Unable To Live Or Die

Gu Zheng looked down at her and said casually, "Huang Lilan wanted to use you to restrain me, and you agreed. Since you chose to be my enemy back then, you should at least pay the price for your actions! Miss Shen, don't tell me you're naive enough to think that you're simply trying to atone for your sins now?"

"Only allies have the chance to atone for their sins. You're just a chess piece in my hands. You don't have the right to refuse whatever I ask you to do. If you offend Huang Lilan, she might kill you, but if you offend me..."

Gu Zheng's deep eyes were filled with coldness. Then, the corners of his mouth curled up into a devilish smile. "If you offend me, I'll make you wish you were dead!"

Shen Ying's body went weak as she collapsed to the ground. Her eyes were filled with tears as she shouted in horror, "No! I don't want to die! Please spare my life!"

"Since you don't want to die, you know what to do." A small silver knife appeared in Gu Zheng's hand. He held the knife to Shen Ying's chin and forced her to look up.

"If you fail the mission Huang Lilan tasked you with, I'll let you go. But can you guarantee that Huang Lilan will let you off? If you serve Gu Weiming and obtain his love, who in the Gu family will dare to touch you?"

"Although Gu Weiming is muddle-headed, he has the final say in the entire Gu family's old residence. Only he can compete with Huang Lilan and protect you. Miss Shen, you should understand that all of this is for your own good."

Shen Ying's body trembled. After a moment of silence, she wiped her tears and nodded reluctantly.

Seeing that he had achieved his goal, Gu Zheng smiled and stood up to leave. He knew that Shen Ying was also involved in the car accident, but he still decided to give her a chance. It was not because he pitied her, but because things would only become interesting if she was kept alive.

...

In the banquet hall, Tang Ruge walked in with a smile. Lu Yan came forward to greet her. "Hello, Miss Tang."

Everyone's gazes landed on the two of them. "Is this the daughter of the Tang family in the capital? As expected of a daughter of a noble family. Her every move is very elegant and noble. Miss Tang's temperament is unparalleled."

Tang Ruge nodded slightly at everyone and said gently and politely, "Thank you for your praise, everyone. I don't deserve it."

"Miss Tang, what's your gift?" Everyone looked at the gift box in Tang Ruge's hands in confusion. Since it was her gift to Old Madam Gu, it must be something good.

Tang Ruge smiled and said, "I heard that Old Madam Gu likes Old Master Wang's calligraphy works. I happened to obtain Old Master Wang's last work titled Thousand Words Life. He wrote a thousand words."

"Actually, I originally wanted to give Old Madam Gu a porcelain vase. But the vase was bought by Second Young Master Gu. Hence, I could only choose this Thousand Words Life. I hope Old Madam Gu will like it."

Everyone exclaimed. As expected of the Tang family. Old Master Wang's works were very valuable. She was actually able to give a piece to Old Madam Tang as a gift. She was really considerate.

At this moment, Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng walked into the banquet hall hand in hand. Gu Yao lowered his voice and reminded her, "Qiao Xi, that woman is here. Be careful."

As soon as she finished speaking, Tang Ruge held a glass of red wine and walked toward the three of them with a smile. She smiled at Qiao Xi. "Mrs. Gu, I was in the wrong for what happened before. I apologize to you. Let me give you a toast."

1

Before Qiao Xi could speak, Gu Zheng said with a cold face, "Miss Tang, you can apologize, but my wife is not good at drinking. There's no need to ask her to drink. It's been so many days since the incident. Miss Tang, please fulfill your promise and hand over that ancient painting as soon as possible."

Tang Ruge's expression froze. Everyone was confused and did not know what was going on.

On the other hand, Ye Chi could not take it lying down. He muttered to the person beside him, "It was this Mrs. Gu who set up a trap for Ruge and got her to give her to hand over the 30 million yuan ancient painting named Eternal Winter Snow. She's really too much!"

Gu Yao glanced at Ye Chi. Where did this fool come from? Could just anyone enter the Gu family's old residence?

He did not care who the other party was and mocked, "Miss Tang took the initiative to make a bet with my sister-in-law and even asked her to bet on a necklace worth more than 100 million. At my request, Miss Tang unwillingly bet on an ancient painting worth 30 million. Since Miss Tang lost, shouldn't she hand over the painting?"

"This bet was proposed by Miss Tang. Now that you've lost, you're unwilling to fulfill your promise and are even slandering my sister-in-law? Is this the scholar character of a member of the Tang family?"

Chapter 700: Who Gave The Fake?

Gu Yao glanced coldly at Ye Chi. "Miss Tang, you have to make things clear. Don't let others misunderstand my sister-in-law. She's the madam of the Gu family. Why would she covet your Tang family's ancient painting that's only worth 30 million yuan? What a joke!"

Ye Chi instantly choked.

Everyone looked enlightened. It turned out that Miss Tang had taken the initiative to make a bet and made Mrs. Gu bet on a necklace worth a few hundred million dollars. Meanwhile, she only bet on a painting that cost 30 million dollars.

Now that Miss Tang had lost, she was unwilling to hand over the ancient painting. It was indeed inappropriate.

Tang Ruge's face was livid. She suppressed the anger in her heart and said gently, "A few days ago, I met Mrs. Gu and made a bet with her. I lost Eternal Winter Snow. After the banquet ends, I'll naturally give that painting to Mrs. Gu."

Ye Chi said unwillingly, "It was just a casual bet. Could it be that she—"

“A casual bet? Miss Tang and my sister-in-law were competing to see who could find the top porcelain master in the world. As someone from a porcelain family, Miss Tang actually initiated a bet with my sister-in-law. Tsk tsk...”

Gu Yao pursed his lips. The meaning behind his words was self-evident. Tang Ruge wanted to bet on what she was good at and even asked the other party to bet on an expensive item. No matter how one looked at it, Tang Ruge was bullying others!

Tang Ruge lowered her eyes and gritted her teeth, not knowing how to retort. She could only suppress the anger in her heart and squeeze out a smile. She changed the topic and said, “Mrs. Gu, we’re about the same age. Can I call you by your name?”

“Second Young Master Gu’s gift is the pink porcelain vase. Xi Xi, what are you going to give Old Madam Gu? I wonder if I have the honor to take a look?”

1

The guests’ gifts were all sent to the backyard when they entered. The butler would check and register them. However, there were also some expensive or special items that would be opened in public for everyone to look at.

Tang Ruge’s words did not surprise anyone, but Gu Yao had a furious expression. This woman clearly knew that she had given the same thing as Qiao Xi, yet she still asked in front of everyone. She clearly wanted to embarrass Qiao Xi.

At this moment, someone with sharp eyes saw Qiao Xi’s gift. “Huh? Mrs. Gu, you’re giving a calligraphy piece too? It looks very similar to Miss Tang’s Thousand Words Life.”

Everyone immediately craned their necks, extremely curious about the gift Qiao Xi had prepared.

Tang Ruge frowned. “Yes, the design on Xi Xi’s box is exactly the same as the one on the box for Thousand Words Life. Even the ribbon on the box is the same color. What a coincidence.

“Xi Xi, can you open the box and take out the gift for us to see? We’re really curious about your gift to the old madam. It’ll broaden everyone’s horizons.”

Without waiting for Qiao Xi’s agreement, Ye Chi casually tugged on the ribbon on the box, revealing the contents. The red scroll looked very festive. A few words were written on the paper—‘Thousand Words Life.’

1

Everyone gasped.

“Isn’t Miss Tang’s gift Thousand Words Life? Why is Mrs. Gu’s gift the same work too?”

“Could it be that she took the wrong one? Maybe she accidentally took the wrong one when she did the registration process in the backyard. When Miss Tang entered, we all saw her gift. It’s Mr. Wang’s posthumous work. How did it become Mrs. Gu’s gift?”

“Mrs. Gu, your gift isn’t Thousand Words Life, right? Even if you forgot to prepare a gift, you can’t give someone else’s gift!”

Tang Ruge was stunned for a few seconds, then pretended to be surprised. “Mrs. Gu, this is my gift! Why is it with you? And your name is written on it.”

Gu Yao was about to speak when Ye Chi suddenly said, “No, this isn’t Ruge’s calligraphy piece. There’s an extra ink spot on this painting. It’s completely different from Ruge’s calligraphy piece.”

“How could there be two Thousand Words Life? Mr. Wang only made one back then! Could it be that one of them is fake?”

Someone was actually giving a fake at the Gu family’s birthday banquet. If news of this got out, the person who gave the fake would definitely lose all their dignity and would never be able to raise their head in high society again.

One of them was the daughter of a porcelain family, while the other was Gu Zheng’s wife. Their identities could not be underestimated, yet one of them was actually giving out fake goods?

Lu Yan walked forward and said gently, “Why don’t we get a professional to appraise them? We can’t accept any fake gifts. President Gu, what do you think?”

Gu Zheng sized up the man in front of him. His memory was a little blurry, but he knew Lu Yan’s identity very well. He was the person who replaced him as the legitimate child.