

Lady gu 731

Chapter 731: Apologize For Huang Lilan

Gu Zheng frowned.

Song Shiyu did not notice the president's displeasure and continued, "Young Madam is the eldest daughter of the Yin family now. She has many powerful families behind her. I don't think you're worthy of her."

1

Song Shijing rushed over and covered Song Shiyu's mouth, but it was too late. Gu Zheng turned around slowly and looked at Song Shiyu with a smile. "I'm not worthy of her?"

"Yes! You're not worthy—"

Song Shiyu could not breathe as Song Shijing held him tightly.

Unexpectedly, Gu Zheng said thoughtfully, "You're right, but don't you think I've changed?"

Song Shiyu broke free and suddenly felt that the president had become more magnanimous. He did not say that his salary would be deducted this time. It seemed that the president had realized the difference between him and Young Madam.

Song Shiyu thought for a moment and replied with a smile, "President, I think your temper is getting better. You're not as bad-tempered as before. You won't deduct my salary for no reason now."

Gu Zheng smiled sinisterly. "Because I think that deducting your salary is useless to you and I can't restrain you, so I've decided to send you to the island to train. What do you think?"

Song Shiyu: "... 'I was wrong! I was thinking too much. I thought that the president's temper had improved, but he's even more vicious now!'

"Qiao Xi!" At this moment, Gu Yao rushed in. He saw Gu Zheng before he saw Qiao Xi.

"Huh? Gu Zheng, what are you talking about?" Gu Yao asked curiously.

The moment Song Shiyu saw Gu Yao, it was as if he had seen his savior. He quickly said, "I said that Young Madam doesn't want to share her secrets with the president anymore."

When Gu Yao heard that, his expression instantly turned serious. Then, he said fearlessly, "Gu Zheng, you're doomed! How long have you been married for? You've already fallen out of favor?"

Gu Zheng's eyes were deep as he suppressed his emotions and slowly said, "Gu Yao, are you itching for a beating?"

Gu Yao immediately looked pitiful. "Brother, I was wrong."

With that, Gu Yao ran upstairs to look for Qiao Xi.

At this moment, Qiao Xi had already returned to the study. She had just turned on her computer to modify the design when she saw Gu Yao rush in as if he was very anxious.

Gu Yao's eyes were red as he panted. "Qiao Xi, I have something to say."

Qiao Xi was slightly surprised. "Alright, go ahead."

The usually carefree Gu Yao suddenly had a serious expression and bowed deeply to Qiao Xi. "Qiao Xi, I want to apologize on behalf of Huang Lilan!"

He still decided to tell Qiao Xi the truth. "The person who asked Qiao Rou to crash into you back then was Huang Lilan, not Lu Yan. I found a message between Huang Lilan and Qiao Rou."

Gu Yao sent a few photos to Qiao Xi. "Lu Yan did get someone to cut the brake line, but Huang Lilan was worried. Later on, she got someone to drive a truck to kill you and fake the scene of the accident. Coincidentally, Qiao Rou had already broken down and wanted to kill you. Hence, Huang Lilan found the perfect scapegoat.

"Lu Yan doesn't know about this. It was planned by Huang Lilan. She was willing to do anything for Lu Yan. Now that the matter has been exposed, Lu Yan can't wait to cut ties with her."

Gu Yao's eyes were red as he choked. "Actually, Huang Lilan wasn't that bad to me. After all, she raised me. Moreover, she's right. She has never hit me since I was young. I always thought that she really loved me, but she just did it in the wrong way. That's why I'm willing to bear her mistake for her."

Qiao Xi was silent. Actually, Huang Lilan's life was very legendary. She went from a servant to the mistress of the Gu family. She should cherish her opportunity, but for the sake of paving the way for Lu Yan, she ruined her life. Now, Lu Yan wished for nothing more than to kill her with his own hands to avoid being criticized.

Meanwhile, Gu Yao, who had always been living as her chess piece, wanted to atone for her sins.

Qiao Xi's heart ached. She stood up and hugged Gu Yao, gently patting his back.

Gu Yao said tearfully, "Qiao Xi, I'm really sorry! I didn't expect her to be so vicious. She wanted to kill you and Gu Zheng. Now, she's receiving the punishment she deserves!"

"That's all her doing. What does it have to do with you?" Qiao Xi comforted him softly. Her heart really ached for Gu Yao. His heart was soft, pure, and kind. How could Huang Lilan bear to hurt such a cute and obedient child?

Chapter 732: I Like You So Much

"Gu Yao, you're still able to stay true to yourself despite Huang Lilan's years of manipulation, and you're simply adorable. You don't have to endure so much burden yourself. You've already done very well."

Hearing Qiao Xi's words, Gu Yao was touched. How could there be such a good sister-in-law in the world?!

He was truly unable to suppress the feelings in his heart. He hugged Qiao Xi tightly and buried his head in Qiao Xi's shoulder as he cried. "Qiao Xi, you're really too good! I like you so much!"

At this moment, Gu Zheng had just walked to the door when he heard him say that.

The man's body suddenly turned cold as he pushed the door open. "What are you doing?"

He glanced at the two people hugging each other tightly in front of him. Gu Yao was so scared that his entire body trembled. Looking at his and Qiao Xi's actions, he suddenly realized what a terrifying mistake he had made.

Gu Yao turned his head slightly and said in a desperate tone, "Qiao... Qiao Xi, I think we're doomed!"

Qiao Xi's body could not help but tremble. She looked at Gu Yao and gritted her teeth. "Gu Yao, you're killing me!"

Gu Yao said, "Save me! Gu Zheng wanted to hit me just now! Now that he's seen us hugging, he'll definitely kill me! I don't want to die! I'm still so young! Boo-hoo!"

1

Qiao Xi said, "Then let go!"

Gu Zheng looked at the remaining tears on Gu Yao's face, then at the two of them hugging each other tightly. He said with a faint smile, "Can you tell me what you're doing?"

Gu Yao: "... 'Oh no! Oh no!'

Qiao Xi: "... 'The heavens want me dead!'

Qiao Xi took a deep breath and was about to explain when she saw Gu Yao suddenly jumped out of her embrace. He shouted with a righteous expression, "Qiao Xi! You could've just told me what you wanted to say! Why are you hugging me?! I'm Gu Zheng's younger brother, so we have to keep a distance! Gu Zheng, this has nothing to do with me! Qiao Xi hugged me first. I resisted, but I'm not as strong as her!"

Qiao Xi's mouth was wide open: "... 'Damn! Who ran over to apologize to me, then hugged me while crying? Who said that I'm too good and that they like me? Is this how you treat the person you like?'

Gu Zheng's expression was indifferent, but the calmer he was, the more alarmed the two of them were. After a moment of silence, he slowly said, "Xi Xi, tell me."

Of course, Qiao Xi would not admit to Gu Yao's words. Hence, she decided to give him a taste of his own medicine. She shouted, "Gu Yao! Why did you hug me?! I'm Gu Zheng's wife! Gu Zheng, he was the one who rushed over to hug me first. I resisted, but he didn't hear me!"

Gu Yao: "... 'Why are you such a dog like me?!'

In the end, Gu Yao was beaten up and was forbidden from having intimate contact with Qiao Xi. Qiao Xi was carried back to the bedroom. The next day, her back ached and she only woke up in the afternoon.

...

Two days later.

During this period of time, Qiao Xi had been paying attention to Tang Ruge. However, ever since she pretended to be Fu Sheng, she had not done anything. This was really not right.

Qiao Xi woke up in the morning to work at Li City University. As soon as she entered the office, Teacher Song Xiao, who was about her age, smiled and said, "Xi Xi, there's an art exhibition in the art hall today. Let's go take a look!"

Li City University had recently spent a huge sum of money to hold an event. All the paintings they had collected were displayed in the art hall. They also took this opportunity to buy many famous paintings. All teachers and students could go and admire them.

After entering the art hall with Song Xiao, Qiao Xi suddenly saw a familiar figure. "He's here too!"

At this moment, the chancellor was accompanying Gu Zheng on a tour of the art hall. Many university leaders followed behind him with very respectful attitudes.

Song Xiao had just arrived at Li City University. She was young and inexperienced. She muttered softly, "That man is... Qiao Xi, is he your..."

After Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng got married, although it was not made public, they did not deliberately hide it either. It was just that their marriage was not officially announced. However, everyone knew that Qiao Xi was married. They just did not know who her husband was.

Song Xiao found the man in front of her very familiar. She seemed to have seen him pick up Qiao Xi before. She thought for a moment and came to a realization. "Ah! He's Gu Zheng! Gu Zheng, right?"

Qiao Xi smiled and nodded.

Song Xiao said excitedly, "He's the richest man in the country! He has always been very low-profile and rarely shows his face. The photos of him from before were all very blurry. Now, I've finally seen him in person! Qiao Xi, you actually have such a powerful backer!"

Chapter 733: Uncle Gu Is Handsome And Rich!

Qiao Xi smiled shyly. She was so shy! Now that everyone knew that she and Gu Zheng were husband and wife, she could not keep a low profile in university in the future!

Then, Song Xiao smiled and said, "It's really enviable to have such a powerful uncle!"

Qiao Xi: "... Uncle?"

Song Xiao did not notice the change in Qiao Xi's expression. At this moment, the other teachers from the design department walked over. Song Xiao said excitedly, "Look, that's Xi Xi's uncle, Gu Zheng! He's handsome and rich!"

Coincidentally, the chancellor saw them and hurriedly waved at them to greet them.

Qiao Xi was just about to explain that Gu Zheng was her husband. She really did not understand. Gu Zheng was only 26 years old this year. How did he become her uncle?

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Before she could explain, everyone had already walked in front of Gu Zheng.

The man had long seen the few of them muttering and guessed that Qiao Xi had told everyone about their relationship. This was the first time she announced their relationship in front of everyone, and it made him very happy.

The next second, Song Xiao said, "Hello, Uncle Gu!"

Gu Zheng's expression froze, and the corners of his mouth twitched slightly.

Qiao Xi lowered her head.

The man's expression recovered its indifference, and his gaze descended onto Qiao Xi as he said with a faint smile, "You told them that I'm your uncle?"

The air seemed to have frozen, and the atmosphere became a little awkward.

Song Xiao asked in confusion, "Aren't you?"

Qiao Xi shook her head and was just about to speak. "No..."

"Yes!" Gu Zheng spoke first, then said with a smile, "Xi Xi, follow me."

Before everyone could react, Gu Zheng had already pulled Qiao Xi away.

Song Xiao was young, and Qiao Xi was even younger than her. Although Gu Zheng was 26 years old, he looked mature and steady like he was in his 30s. That was why Song Xiao mistakenly thought that Gu Zheng was Qiao Xi's uncle.

Qiao Xi was uneasy in her heart as she followed Gu Zheng into a studio. At this moment, there was no one in the room. Before Gu Zheng could speak, Qiao Xi asked, "What are you doing here?"

"Can't I be here? Am I affecting your relationship with other male teachers?" Gu Zheng's words were filled with jealousy.

3

Gu Zheng bent down and gently stroked her face. His fingers moved to her lips as he sneered. "I'm your uncle?"

Qiao Xi's body trembled slightly. After a moment of silence, she suddenly looked up and smiled. She placed her hands on Gu Zheng's shoulders and said sweetly, "What's wrong with me calling you my uncle? It's a nickname! Moreover, I wasn't talking to a male teacher! Why are you jealous?!"

Gu Zheng's body suddenly stiffened, and his eyes gradually burned. His Adam's apple moved, and his voice was hoarse. "Very good. Let me teach you how to paint, then."

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth twitched slightly. Was Gu Zheng now obsessed with being an uncle? However, since he was pretending to be an uncle, she could only brace herself and answer, "Alright."

Coincidentally, the tools in the studio were all present. Qiao Xi casually found a spot and started painting. Gu Zheng stood behind her and bent down slightly to hold her hand. His hot chest was pressed against her back, and their posture was extremely ambiguous.

Qiao Xi's nose was filled with Gu Zheng's strong aura, and her head was spinning. Her heart was thumping violently, and her face was dyed red. She forced herself to remain calm and paint seriously.

In next to no time, Qiao Xi completed an exquisite painting.

"Not bad." Gu Zheng took the brush from her hand and added two strokes to the painting, adding some color to it.

"I learned my art skills from Grandpa, so of course, I'm not bad at it!" Qiao Xi had participated in the International Painting Competition before and even held an art exhibition. Painting was not difficult for her.

After the two of them left, a figure walked into the studio. The moment he saw the painting, he could not help but gasp.

This was actually painted by Qiao Xi!

Tang Ruge had a look of disbelief. Qiao Xi could actually paint such exquisite works?

She had seen Qiao Xi painting with a paintbrush outside the door. She originally thought that she was just an amateur, but now, it would seem that Qiao Xi was qualified to participate in the International Painting Competition.

With Qiao Xi's strength and talent, if she really returned to that family and became the daughter of that family, she would definitely leap to become the top socialite in the capital. At that time, where would she, Tang Ruge, stand?

Tang Ruge admitted that she was not considered beautiful and could not compare to Qiao Xi's foxy face. However, she had always been recognized as a talented woman in the capital.

Chapter 734: The Only Enemy Is Qiao Xi

Furthermore, Tang Ruge had already mastered the four arts when she was six years old. No one in her generation could surpass her. Even if she was not good-looking, she could still occupy the top position in the capital with her outstanding talent.

But now, there was Qiao Xi...

Before she came, she had already asked around. There were no surveillance cameras in the studio. If she destroyed this painting now, no one would know. The Situ family would not know Qiao Xi's true strength.

No matter what, she had to protect her reputation as a talented woman in upper society.

Now that she already had Fu Sheng's account, there was no one else in the capital who could compare to her when it came to the four arts. Her only enemy was Qiao Xi.

In the end, Tang Ruge reached out her hand and wanted to tear the painting apart. At this moment, footsteps came from outside. The person in charge of the art hall walked in. "Miss Tang, I'm sorry. The door to the studio is about to be locked."

Tang Ruge's heart thumped violently as guilt filled her heart. She forced herself to calm down and smiled. "I'm really sorry. I've been here for too long."

The person in charge lowered his head and happened to see the painting. He could not help but exclaim, "Miss Tang, did you paint this? Your painting is simply too awesome!"

Tang Ruge was stunned for a few seconds before she suddenly realized that the person in charge thought that this painting was hers.

"Miss Tang, your work is really too beautiful. I can't describe it with words. Coincidentally, the famous painter, Mr. Qi Zhong, is in the art hall. I want to show this painting to him. Are you okay with that, Miss Tang?"

Tang Ruge was so excited that she could not say anything. The person in charge continued, "Mr. Qi Zhong has always wanted to take in a disciple so that he could impart everything he has learned. Miss Tang, I have a feeling that if Mr. Qi sees your painting, he might..."

The person in charge did not continue, but Tang Ruge naturally understood what he meant. She naturally wanted to be Mr. Qi Zhong's disciple. This way, her status would not be shaken. However, this painting was not hers...

In the end, Tang Ruge did not refuse. They took the painting and left.

Mr. Qi Zhong was already in his 70s and had gray hair. He came to the art hall to look for a piece that satisfied him and hopefully gain a talented disciple, but it seemed he would leave in disappointment.

Just as he was about to get into the car, the person in charge rushed over. "Mr. Qi, wait! Don't be in a rush to leave. Why don't you take a look at this painting first?"

Qi Zhong's eyes were filled with impatience. He was already very disappointed today and did not want to look at any more paintings. However, the person in charge had specially rushed over, so he could not refuse. Hence, he took a glance and exclaimed, "It's too perfect! Whose painting is this?"

The person in charge hurriedly introduced, "It's Miss Tang's painting."

Qi Zhong sized up the scholarly Tang Ruge in front of him and trembled with excitement. He had displayed astonishing talent in painting when he was six years old. He became a top figure in the art world when he was in his 20s. He had always been looking for an outstanding disciple. However, he was already 70 years old, yet he still could not find a disciple who satisfied him.

Now...

Qi Zhong asked in disbelief, "You really painted this?"

Such a young woman could actually paint such a perfect work of art? The lines were smooth, and the colors were used accurately. Most importantly, the artist's state of mind was very relaxed. It made one experience a carefree and transcendent state. This was something that ordinary artists could not do in their lives.

Tang Ruge was so nervous that sweat broke out on her forehead. However, she smiled and nodded. "I painted it."

If Mr. Qi Zhong could take her in as his disciple, she would be able to inherit his legacy and improve her painting skills.

In the future, even if she could not produce such stunning paintings, she could also explain that she did not have any inspiration. After all, the creation of artworks required a lot of inspiration. Mr. Qi Zhong would probably understand.

As long as she became Mr. Qi Zhong's disciple, she would definitely be able to become a top genius in high society. No one would be able to shake her status!

Unexpectedly, Mr. Qi Zhong was suddenly stunned. His eyes were fixed on the two strokes in the middle of the painting. He had sharp eyes and could tell at a glance that these two strokes were powerful. They were not drawn by an artist.

Hence, he asked in confusion, "It's just that the two strokes in the middle of this painting seem to be the work of a male painter. They're strong but filled with gentleness. The other parts look like the work of a female painter. The strength is gentle, and the lines are smooth. They're filled with a gentle aura. Miss Tang, you didn't complete this alone, right?"

Chapter 735: Disciple Banquet

Tang Ruge gasped. She did not expect Mr. Qi Zhong to ask this question. In reality, she did not know anything about painting and could not tell what was wrong with this painting.

Hence, when Qi Zhong asked this question, it really made Tang Ruge's heart tremble. Fortunately, the person in charge and Qi Zhong were both focused on the painting. They did not notice that something was wrong with her expression.

At this moment, Qi Zhong was still sighing. "This painting is really too good! Even I might not be able to come up with such a perfect piece! However, I can confirm that there are two painters for this painting. Although the last two strokes are simple, they add color to this painting. Miss Tang, are you the one who did the painting or the one who made the finishing touches?"

Tang Ruge thought about it. Qi Zhong had just said that the creator of this painting was a woman, and the person who added the two strokes was a man. Hence, Tang Ruge could only answer, "I painted this. The other two strokes were added by my friend."

Qi Zhong's eyes were filled with admiration. "Good! Really good! This painting is the most perfect piece I've seen in decades. Your skills and techniques make me feel inferior!"

Tang Ruge was flattered. She did not expect this painting to bring her such an unexpected gain.

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"Miss Tang, do you have a master?" Qi Zhong went straight to the point.

Tang Ruge suppressed the excitement in her heart and smiled indifferently. "Not yet."

"Miss Tang, are you willing to take me as your master?" Qi Zhong had always wanted to take in a disciple. Now that he had finally found a perfect disciple whose standard even surpassed his, she would definitely have great achievements in the future.

Tang Ruge smiled and nodded. "Of course. It's my honor that you're willing to take me in as your disciple!"

"Alright!" Qi Zhong was so happy that his face was slightly red. "Ruge, I'll take you in as my final disciple and hold a banquet for you to announce your identity."

Tang Ruge smiled gently. "Thank you, Master."

After Qi Zhong praised her, he told her that he would hold a apprenticeship banquet in Li City in seven days. At that time, he would invite famous artists in the industry to attend. Of course, that included the noble families of Li City.

As the protagonist of the banquet, Tang Ruge could also invite her family, relatives, and friends over. However, her family and friends were all in the capital. Now, only her younger sister, Tang Lingyun, and Ye Chi were in Li City.

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On the other hand, Qiao Xi had just arrived home when she received the Eternal Winter Snow painting that Tang Ruge sent over. Immediately after, the house's landline rang.

Qiao Xi had just picked up when she heard Tang Ruge's gentle voice. "Ah Zheng, that painting... I've already sent someone to deliver it."

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. She was the one who made the bet with Tang Ruge, so the painting should be given to her! However, Tang Ruge called the landline of Longwan Residential instead. Was she afraid that others would not know that she wanted to seduce Gu Zheng?

Hearing Tang Ruge's voice, Qiao Xi felt nauseous and hung up without saying anything.

After a while, Tang Ruge called again. The butler picked up and said, "Miss Tang, I'm really sorry. Our president isn't around."

Tang Ruge's tone was still gentle. "In that case, can I trouble you to remind President Gu that I've sent an invitation over? If he's free next week..."

What invitation?

Qiao Xi found a gilded invitation card in the box. It said that Mr. Qi Zhong wanted to accept Tang Ruge as his final disciple. He also wanted to hold a ceremony, so he invited Gu Zheng.

Gu Yao glanced at it and threw the invitation into the trash can. "Throw it away! Gu Zheng won't attend such a boring banquet!"

Qiao Xi had heard of Qi Zhong. He was indeed a very famous painter, but her grandfather had said that although his skills were very superb, his character was not too good. He had always been arrogant and looked down on others.

A true master was humble and polite. The higher one's status was, the more they knew how to respect others. Qi Zhong, who only knew how to draw but did not have a good character, was not worthy of being called a master.

Gu Zheng would not attend this banquet, so of course, she would not go either. Hence, she turned around and forgot about this matter.

Qiao Xi was bored staying at home, so she entered the art room of Longwan Residential. She looked at Gu Zheng's previous paintings and suddenly felt that they looked a little familiar.

Then, Qiao Xi took a few photos and sent them to Xue Liang. She then called him. "Fourth Brother, don't you think these paintings look a little familiar?"

Xue Liang took a look at the photo and exclaimed, "Hey! Isn't this Grandpa's favorite artist? Where did you find these paintings? I heard that this person has already left the industry!"

Chapter 736: Gu Zheng Is Han Ye?

"Actually, these are Gu Zheng's paintings. Is there a possibility that Gu Zheng is... the artist Grandpa likes?" Qiao Xi probed.

"Impossible!" Xue Liang said without hesitation, "Little Six, think about it carefully. Grandpa has been painting for 20 years and suddenly grew to admire that artist. That artist should have been painting for longer than Grandpa. Gu Zheng is only 26 years old this year. How is that possible?"

Qiao Xi thought about it and felt that it made sense. The person her grandfather liked should be a middle-aged man in his 40s or 50s, or a senior about her grandfather's age.

Xue Liang continued, "Even if Gu Zheng is very good at painting, it's absolutely impossible for him to be the artist Grandpa likes. Moreover, I investigated it a few years ago. That artist seems to be no longer alive."

Qiao Xi nodded thoughtfully. "In that case, it's indeed impossible. Gu Zheng is still alive and well."

At this moment, footsteps came from the door. Qiao Xi hurriedly turned around and looked up. The man was still wearing his jacket. He seemed to have gone straight to the studio to look for his wife as soon as he entered the villa.

Qiao Xi asked, "Gu Zheng, did you paint all of these yourself? Who did you learn the style from? I think the style of your paintings is very similar to that of an artist, but that person has never publicly sold his paintings. Is he your teacher? That person's name seems to be Han Ye."

When Gu Zheng heard this name, a trace of a smile flashed past his eyes. He could not help but ask softly, "You like his paintings too?"

Qiao Xi replied without the slightest hesitation, "I like them! Unfortunately, this artist is too low-profile and doesn't have many works. I've only seen a few."

She really admired this artist from the bottom of her heart. Every piece of art from him was perfect and impeccable. Even her grandfather was full of praise for Han Ye's works.

"Actually, your style is very similar to Han Ye's. I almost thought that you were Han Ye!" Qiao Xi smiled.

Gu Zheng picked up the paintbrush and painted on the canvas in a professional posture. He said casually, "Why are you so sure that I'm not Han Ye?"

Wasn't it possible that his lack of works was not because he lacked inspiration but that he did not lack money at all? He just liked to paint.

Why couldn't he be Han Ye?

Qiao Xi raised her eyes in shock. "You're Han Ye? Impossible! Han Ye should be at least 40 years old. It's even speculated that he died a long time ago, but you..."

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth twitched slightly, and the smile on his face gradually froze.

Qiao Xi repeated what Xue Liang had said on the phone just now. "My grandfather has been painting for more than 20 years. The artist he likes must be even older than him. Senior Han Ye only appeared in the art world ten years ago, but he must have gone through many years of practice before this to have such shocking talent, so..."

"Moreover, the last painting that Han Ye left the painting scene three years ago. Many people suspect that he has already passed away. Even if he's still alive, he's probably living in seclusion and doesn't want to take in disciples anymore. Otherwise, I really want to take him as my master!"

Master?

When Gu Zheng heard the last word, the corners of his mouth curled up slightly. Then, he picked up his paintbrush and started painting.

Qiao Xi looked at the outline and lines on the canvas. She could not help but exclaim, "Ah Zheng, your painting style is really too similar to Han Ye!"

She watched Gu Zheng paint with infatuation. When he finished the last stroke, Qiao Xi suddenly thought of something. "Tang Ruge sent an invitation over. She said that Qi Zhong wants to take her in as his disciple and invited you to attend her apprenticeship banquet."

"Not going." Gu Zheng refused casually.

Qiao Xi was not surprised. Gu Zheng was not interested in such things to begin with, let alone Tang Ruge's apprenticeship banquet.

The next day, when Qiao Xi came out of university after work, she bumped into someone sent by the Tang family.

"Mrs. Gu, forgive me for my rashness. I'm here on Eldest Miss' orders to invite you to be a guest. She said that there was a misunderstanding between the two of you previously and she hopes to apologize in person."

Qiao Xi glanced at the person in front of her and knew that Tang Ruge had ill intentions. She raised her leg and was about to leave when the assistant suddenly blocked her way.

"Don't be in a rush to leave. Our young miss has already booked a seat at Qingyuan Pavilion. I hope you can give our young miss a chance to apologize."

Qingyuan Pavilion?

Qiao Xi sneered. "Looks like Miss Tang is full of sincerity!"

She walked past the person and got into the Tang family's car.

Chapter 737: It's Better To Make Enemies

The assistant's eyes were filled with disdain as he hurriedly replied to Tang Ruge. It was indeed as Eldest Miss had expected. Qiao Xi was just a country bumpkin. Even if she became Mrs. Gu, it could not change the country bumpkin traits in her.

In the beginning, Qiao Xi was still adamant about rejecting the invitation. However, when she heard that the seats were reserved in Qingyuan Pavilion, she directly got into the car. She definitely knew that only people with status could enter Qingyuan Pavilion. She did not have the qualifications at all.

If it were not for the young miss inviting Qiao Xi, Qiao Xi would probably never be able to enter a place like Qingyuan Pavilion in her life. Now that she had the chance to enter and look around, she would definitely not refuse.

Song Shiyu stood where he was and watched Qiao Xi get into the Tang family's car. After hesitating for a moment, he called Gu Zheng. "President, the Tang family is bringing Young Madam to Qingyuan Pavilion. I heard that Tang Ruge want to apologize, but I don't think it's that simple. Do you need me to send someone to follow them?"

Gu Zheng's tone was indifferent. "There's no need. She can handle it herself."

Song Shiyu: "... That was right! With Young Madam's character and methods, those who bullied her would definitely not have a good ending.

"If you're really worried..." Gu Zheng hesitated for a moment. "You can follow her as well. You can help her when she needs it."

Song Shiyu knew that the president was still worried. As the caring assistant, he had to follow the young madam.

Qingyuan Pavilion was a high-end restaurant. Ten years ago, it suddenly rose in Li City and instantly became a gathering place for people of high society. Everyone came here to show their status.

This restaurant was hidden, but as long as one passed through the narrow alley, one would be able to see the antique courtyard. It gave one the feeling of returning to ancient times. Moreover, the dishes here were very rich. There was a dish with crab meatballs. It was made with high-quality crabs and many other precious ingredients. Only five servings were sold a day.

Qingyuan Pavilion only received eight tables of guests every day, so people might have to reserve their seats for half a month in advance. This meant that Tang Ruge had planned this out beforehand.

At this moment, Tang Ruge and Tang Lingyun were sitting on their seats in gorgeous clothes, waiting for Qiao Xi to arrive.

Tang Lingyun was indignant. "Sister! Why did you invite her here?! Is a country bumpkin worthy of eating in such a place?"

Tang Ruge's expression was indifferent as she said gently, "Lingyun, we were able to come to Qingyuan Pavilion because Master gave his spot to us. This is such a precious opportunity. As the saying goes, it's

better to make friends than enemies. We can take this opportunity to invite Xi Xi over. I don't think she's ever been to Qingyuan Pavilion before. Maybe she won't target us anymore after this."

Tang Lingyun snorted. What right did that country bumpkin have to compare herself to her sister? She was simply overestimating herself!

She shouted, "Alright, let's let Qiao Xi come! You've already become Mr. Qi Zhong's last disciple. I want to see what qualifications she has to compare herself to you!"

At this moment, footsteps came from the door. The two of them thought that it was Qiao Xi, but they did not expect it to be a waiter.

The waiter had heard their conversation from outside the door. They were actually talking bad about the eldest miss behind her back, so he entered and reminded them, "I'm sorry, ladies. Your voices are too loud and will affect the other customers."

Tang Lingyun was embarrassed. This was her first time coming to such a place. She did not expect there to be so many rules. She could not even speak loudly.

As soon as the waiter was done speaking, Qiao Xi had already walked to the door. The waiter looked at her and left without saying anything.

As soon as Tang Ruge saw Qiao Xi, she immediately smiled warmly. "Xi Xi, you're here! There was a misunderstanding between us previously. It's all my fault. You've already received the Eternal Winter Snow painting, right? Do you like it?"

Qiao Xi said indifferently, "I threw it in the warehouse. It's nothing much."

"What? You left such a precious painting in the warehouse?" Tang Lingyun had long forgotten about the reminder she got and shouted, "You're truly a country bumpkin who don't know anything about paintings! How embarrassing!"

"Miss Tang lost a bet and had to give that painting to me. Why do you care where I put it? I'm even willing to burn it," Qiao Xi retorted indifferently.

Tang Ruge bit her lip tightly. Qiao Xi was really sharp-tongued. The Eternal Winter Snow painting was her father's favorite painting. It had always been hung in the study and had to be carefully wiped every day. However, Qiao Xi actually threw that painting into the warehouse where it would collect dust. Yet Qiao Xi actually felt proud about it?

Chapter 738: Qingyuan Pavilion's Rules Are Only For Outsiders

Tang Ruge suppressed the anger in her heart, and her expression gradually softened. She said gently, "Xi Xi, sit down first."

Qiao Xi did not answer and directly sat opposite the two of them.

After sitting down, Tang Ruge pressed the service bell. The person who entered was the manager of Qingyuan Pavilion. He and Qiao Xi looked at each other. After seeing her nod, he asked, "May I know what you need?"

Tang Lingyun was extremely excited. With Qingyuan Pavilion's current status in Li City, even though this person was just the manager, no one would dare to offend them. Hence, the manager personally coming in to serve them must be because he valued the Tang family.

She casually ordered a few special dishes, then asked with disdain, "Miss Qiao, what do you want to order? There are many foreign languages on this menu. If you don't understand something, I can translate it for you."

Tang Ruge quickly stopped her. "Lingyun, don't be so rude."

After that, she looked at Qiao Xi gently. "Xi Xi, you can tell me what you like. I'll help you order. There are only the three of us here and no outsiders. You don't have to feel embarrassed."

Qiao Xi stroked her hair and smiled meaningfully. "I can order anything?"

At this moment, Song Shiyu was sitting in a small pavilion outside the door, eating fruits and pastries. From time to time, he would glance into the private room. Just as the president had said, Young Madam could handle it herself. Moreover, the two daughters of the Tang family were no match for her.

After Qiao Xi finished speaking, the room was silent for a few seconds. Before Tang Ruge could answer, Tang Lingyun said, "Since we're treating, of course, anything is fine."

Qiao Xi smiled and said, "Then let's order Qingyuan Pavilion's signature dish, crab meatballs!"

Everyone knew that Qingyuan Pavilion only sold five servings of crab meatballs a day. Moreover, because the cooking process was complicated and exquisite, customers had to make reservations in advance. In other words, it was impossible to order this dish now.

When Tang Lingyun heard this, she instantly laughed out loud. "Qiao Xi! You're really a country bumpkin! You've never been to Qingyuan Pavilion, but haven't you heard that Qingyuan Pavilion only serves a limited number of their signature dish a day? Moreover, not just anyone can order it. Don't you know your identity? You're asking to eat Qingyuan Pavilion's signature dish, but are you worthy?"

Everyone knew that the Yin family had officially announced Qiao Xi as the eldest daughter of the Yin family, but the Yin branch family had not. After all, she was not the legitimate daughter of the Yin family. The eldest daughter of the Yin family was just a title. Moreover, a vulgar wild girl like her might be removed from the Yin family one day.

Qiao Xi was not angry and asked with an innocent expression, "Didn't Miss Tang say that it was alright for me to order anything I wanted? Why can't I do it now?"

"You're clearly making things difficult for her!" Tang Lingyun slammed the table. "You're asking for crab meatballs. You clearly know that this dish needs to be reserved in advance and it's limited edition, so you're deliberately saying that you want to eat that dish."

Qiao Xi raised her eyes slightly and gestured to the manager. The manager immediately understood what she meant and hurriedly went forward. "Miss Qiao, may I confirm if you want to order crab meatballs?"

The entire room instantly fell silent. When Tang Lingyun saw how respectful the manager was to Qiao Xi, her heart suffered a violent blow.

Qiao Xi nodded. Unexpectedly, the manager really brought over a bowl of steaming hot crab meatballs the next moment. The aroma instantly filled the entire room.

Tang Lingyun looked at the tempting meatballs and almost drooled. Qiao Xi could bring over a bowl just by casually saying so. In that case, was there no need to make a reservation to order the meatballs now?

Hence, Tang Lingyun waved her hand. "Sister and I want crab meatballs too. Give us two more servings!"

The manager had a smile on his face, but his tone was very distant. "I'm really sorry, but you need to make a prior booking for the crab meatballs."

Hearing this, Tang Ruge's and Tang Lingyun's faces instantly darkened. Tang Lingyun said indignantly, "Since this dish needs to be booked, why did you serve her the meatballs?"

A trace of mockery flashed past the manager's eyes. "The rules of Qingyuan Pavilion are only for outsiders. The Tang family needs to abide by them."

Tang Ruge frowned, her expression extremely ugly.

After the manager left, Tang Lingyun shouted unwillingly, "Qiao Xi! You're only so arrogant because of President Gu! Everyone knows that President Gu has special privileges in Qingyuan Pavilion, so you're using his identity to put on airs in Qingyuan Pavilion! People like you are too disgusting!"

Chapter 739: Slapping The Tang Sisters In The Face

After a moment of silence, Tang Ruge slowly looked up and said with some difficulty, "Xi Xi, we all know that President Gu has always been a low-profile person and doesn't like to be too ostentatious, but you're using his name to break the rules of Qingyuan Pavilion. Isn't that inappropriate?"

"That's right! You're ruining President Gu's reputation by doing this!" Tang Lingyun snorted. "Don't think that just because you're married to President Gu, you can climb up the social ladder and be a princess. Some people are still a country bumpkin even if they wear princess dresses!"

1

As soon as Tang Lingyun finished speaking, she reached out to slap Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi naturally could not suffer this loss. She quickly grabbed Tang Lingyun's wrist and twisted it. Instantly, a pig-like scream sounded in the room.

"Ah!" Tang Lingyun ignored her image and shouted, "Qiao Xi, let go of me! It hurts! You little b*tch, you're relying on President Gu's power to commit crimes in Qingyuan Pavilion. If he finds out, he'll definitely not forgive you! Someone, quickly pull this crazy woman away!"

The surroundings were silent. There were clearly a few waiters standing outside the door, but no one entered to help Tang Lingyun.

Tang Lingyun gasped in pain and shouted crazily, "Qiao Xi! Let go! You b*tch, you actually dare to attack me? Is a vulgar wild girl like you worthy of being Mrs. Gu? I'm a customer of Qingyuan Pavilion. You can't do this to me!"

1

It was still quiet outside. The security measures in Qingyuan Pavilion were excellent, but no one cared about the commotion here. Everyone outside seemed to have fallen asleep.

At this moment, Tang Ruge realized that something was wrong. She had a bad feeling. Why did no one from Qingyuan Pavilion appear?

“I’m a wild girl?” Qiao Xi looked at her with a smile. “Miss Tang, think about it carefully. You’ve been shouting for a while now, so why hasn’t anyone in Qingyuan Pavilion come over?”

Tang Lingyun’s cries instantly stopped. She looked at her with tears in her eyes. Then, her gaze was gradually filled with horror.

Even though Qiao Xi was now the eldest daughter of the Yin family, the Yin family was an aristocratic family in Luo City. They did not have any special privileges in Li City’s Qingyuan Pavilion, but the manager brought her crab meatballs. Moreover, everyone was helping Qiao Xi. Why was this so? Was it just because of Gu Zheng?

1

Crack!

Tang Lingyun only felt a sharp pain in her wrist. She could not help but scream, “Ah!”

Qiao Xi’s expression was indifferent as she said casually, “Everyone who comes to Qingyuan Pavilion is an honored customer, so the security measures here are very good. We have to ensure the safety of every honored customer. Miss Tang, do you know why the staff here would rather offend the Tang family and ruin this establishment’s reputation than come in to save you?”

Tang Lingyun’s entire body trembled. What was even more terrifying than the pain in her wrist was the fear that filled her heart. The powerful pressure Qiao Xi exuded even made her unable to breathe.

The reason why they booked a table in Qingyuan Pavilion back then was because this was a restaurant that was difficult to book even if one were from a noble family in Li City. This place represented the identity of someone from the high society, so they wanted to take this opportunity to show off in front of Qiao Xi and mock her.

“Do you want to know?” Qiao Xi said casually, “Manager Hou, tell them.”

The manager of Qingyuan Pavilion walked forward and ignored Tang Lingyun, who was already sprawled on the floor. He directly walked in front of Qiao Xi and bowed respectfully. “Eldest Miss.”

The room instantly fell silent. The Tang sisters stopped breathing, and their hearts almost stopped. Tang Ruge’s face was livid, and the veins on her forehead were bulging.

Eldest Miss?

The manager of Qingyuan Pavilion actually called Qiao Xi ‘Eldest Miss’?

The manager did not explain anything and only used his respect for Qiao Xi to tell everyone the truth. He then said respectfully, “Eldest Miss, Mr. Liang wanted to personally cook for you, but he suddenly had something to attend to and went out.”

Liang Pingchuan was the boss of Qingyuan Pavilion. Tang Ruge only found out after investigating it.

Qiao Xi smiled and said, "Teacher dotes on me the most."

Teacher? Liang Pingchuan was Qiao Xi's teacher?

Tang Ruge clenched her fists tightly, and her palms were about to bleed. She was unable to accept this fact. What right did Qiao Xi have to be the eldest mistress of Qingyuan Pavilion?

"Eldest Miss, do you need to clear the venue?" the manager asked.

The word 'cleared' was very tactful. Actually, the manager wanted to chase the two of them out. After all, Qingyuan Pavilion would never serve anyone who had offended Eldest Miss. Otherwise, Mr. Liang would definitely be angry when he returned.

Qiao Xi asked indifferently, "How much did Miss Tang spend today?"

"Including the bottle of wine that Mr. Liang personally brewed, it's a total of 530,000 yuan."

Chapter 740: My Tolerance Is Limited

Qiao Xi smiled lightly. "A meal that costs 530,000 yuan. Miss Tang, you're really generous! It turns out that you're extremely generous! How can we chase away a distinguished customer like Miss Tang? We can only earn money if she's here!

"Miss Tang, you've been fighting with me for a few rounds now. You should know very well that I'm not easy to deal with. My patience is limited. In the future, control your stupid sister and don't let her provoke me again."

Tang Ruge looked nervous and pretended to be aggrieved. "Xi Xi, Lingyun is young and insensible. You..."

"Ah!" Tang Lingyun screamed like a pig being slaughtered.

At this moment, there was a sharp dagger pressed against her neck. It was glinting coldly. Manager Hou's expression was indifferent, and his voice was cold. "Hasn't our eldest miss made herself clear?"

Tang Ruge gasped. She had never seen such a scene before. Tang Lingyun, who was at the side, was trembling in fear as tears welled up in her eyes.

They never expected that not only would they not be able to mock Qiao Xi today, but they would even lose 530,000 yuan. Most importantly, Tang Ruge had lost her reputation.

Tang Ruge bit her lip tightly and was so angry that her entire body was trembling. "Xi Xi, I'm... I'm sorry. We were wrong!"

Qiao Xi sneered. "Miss Tang."

Tang Ruge looked up. The anger and resentment in her eyes were exposed, but she still suppressed her anger and said calmly, "Miss Qiao, what else do you want to do?"

Qiao Xi glanced at the disheveled Tang Lingyun. "Miss Tang, you think you're smart and can use anyone to deal with me, but time will reveal your true colors. Perhaps one day, some idiots will realize that they've been used. At that time, can you still maintain your image as a gentle and noble daughter?"

At this moment, Tang Lingyun's heart was filled with horror. She did not care about Qiao Xi's words at all and only wanted to leave as soon as possible.

Tang Ruge's expression instantly turned ferocious as she gritted her teeth. "Xi Xi, don't go too far! Lingyun, let's go!"

Tang Lingyun scrambled up and left with Tang Ruge.

On the way out, she could not help but recall Qiao Xi's words. Who were the idiots Qiao Xi was talking about? Who had her sister used?

After the Tang sisters left, Qiao Xi sat down leisurely. "They left without even eating anything. It's really a waste. I guess I have no choice but to help them finish the food."

Qiao Xi enjoyed the delicious food. However, she did not finish everything and chose to pack up the rest. She was about to leave when she bumped into Song Shiyu.

Her face was filled with horror. "W-Why are you here?!"

The moment Qiao Xi broke Tang Lingyun's wrist, Song Shiyu was so scared that he spat out the water in his mouth. Although he had already seen Young Madam's powerful side, he was still shocked every time he saw it. How could a weak-looking woman have so much strength in her body?

"I—"

"Where's Gu Zheng?"

Song Shiyu said, "At Longwan Residential."

Qiao Xi muttered to herself, "Fortunately, he didn't see me deal with the Tang sisters. Otherwise, my image would've been ruined!"

1

"..." Song Shiyu pursed his lips and said in a low voice, "Young Madam, is there a need to maintain your image? Everyone knows that you..."

Qiao Xi's eyes turned cold. "Song Shiyu, do you think you're rich now? Do you want your salary to be deducted? Or are you itching for a beating?"

Song Shiyu said quickly, "The president won't deduct my salary anymore. He sent me to the island to train. He hopes that I can improve and become an outstanding assistant!"

Training on an island? Were the requirements to be an assistant so high now? Was there a normal person by Gu Zheng's side?

Then, Song Shiyu said, "There's an island on the mountain behind Longwan Residential. I made a mistake recently, so the president sent me there to train. I ran 5,000 meters, did 1,000 push-ups, and 1,000 heavy squats. I'm exhausted!"

Qiao Xi instantly roared with laughter. So, the island training Gu Zheng was talking about was on the mountain behind Longwan Residential. Gu Zheng was really too cute!

1

The two of them had just left Qingyuan Pavilion and were about to go home when the butler of the Situ family suddenly stepped forward to stop them.

“Are you Miss Qiao? I’m the butler of the Situ family. My master invites you over.”

Song Shiyu’s face was filled with vigilance. If Qiao Xi were meeting the Tang sisters, he could guarantee that Qiao Xi would be safe. However, the power behind the Situ family was too powerful. He was worried about Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi thought for a moment. The Situ family had probably invited her over to talk about the design, so she patted Song Shiyu’s shoulder and said indifferently, “Alright.”