

## Lady gu 761

### Chapter 761: International Oil Painting Exhibition

Longwan Residential.

Gu Zheng looked at the message on his phone. Han Yin had clarified that she had nothing to do with Han Ye. Although he knew that Qiao Xi had said it on purpose for Lu Yan to learn about it, she clearly thought so too.

At the International Oil Painting Exhibition three days later.

The art exhibition would last for a total of three days. Famous artists from all over the world were invited to the exhibition. Everyone had to bring their own works to the exhibition. Qi Zhong and his master, Cui Xian, went to the exhibition together.

Cui Xian was already in his 80s and had white hair. He asked Qi Zhong indifferently, "I heard that you took in two very talented apprentices?"

Qi Zhong immediately waved his hand to signal Tang Ruge to come forward. "This is my apprentice, Tang Ruge. She's the daughter of the porcelain family, the Tang family. She's extremely talented."

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Cui Xian sized up Tang Ruge and nodded in satisfaction. He had also heard of this Miss Tang before. He heard that she was very smart and was proficient in music, chess, calligraphy, and painting since the age of six. However, he had never heard that she knew how to paint.

"What about the other one?"

When Qi Zhong thought of Qiao Xi, his expression instantly darkened. "Forget it! It's her honor that I was willing to take her as my apprentice, but she was unwilling. Since that's the case, I don't have to force her!"

Tang Ruge smiled imperceptibly. Qiao Xi was talented, but she was too arrogant. If she offended Qi Zhong, it would be very difficult for her to establish herself in the oil painting world in the future.

It would be fine if Qiao Xi did not appear in today's art exhibition, but if Qiao Xi dared to appear, she would definitely make Qiao Xi pay the price!

Tang Ruge curled her lips into a proud smile. Now that she was Mr. Qi Zhong's apprentice, what right did Qiao Xi have to fight her?

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Qiao Xi had woken up early to freshen up. For this occasion, Qiao Xi had specially put on makeup that made her look delicate. Her lips were light pink, and her eye makeup was very simple. She looked like an obedient girl.

“Gu Zheng! Do you think I’m beautiful?” Qiao Xi was wearing a pink knee-length dress and spun in front of him like a little girl.

Gu Zheng stroked his chin and sized her up. “How old are you?”

Qiao Xi pouted and said coquettishly, “You’re so annoying. You even forgot my age!”

The man curled his lips, revealing his neat and white teeth. His eyes were filled with affection. “Of course, I know your age. It’s just that those who don’t know might think that Mrs. Gu is only 16 years old this year.”

Qiao Xi smiled proudly. “Of course, I’m very young to begin with!”

She looked at herself in the full-length mirror and felt that this pink dress did not seem appropriate, so she returned to the bedroom to change.

Ten minutes later, Qiao Xi was wearing a pair of light yellow overalls and had her hair tied into a ponytail. It was not an exaggeration to say that really looked like she was 16 years old.

Gu Zheng smiled helplessly. “Mrs. Gu, when did you have such a hobby?”

Qiao Xi chuckled. “It’s natural that you don’t understand, but old people like children who are especially obedient, quiet, and weak.”

The corners of Gu Zheng’s mouth twitched slightly. ‘Obedient and quiet? Are these words suitable to describe you?’

Qiao Xi asked excitedly, “Should I change it to a more festive color? The elderly will definitely like it! Or should I wear a dress?”

“Han Ye will like whatever you wear,” Gu Zheng said gently.

Qiao Xi nodded thoughtfully. Gu Zheng had seen Han Ye before and definitely knew what he liked, but she still asked with a slight uneasiness, “Will Han Ye like me?”

Gu Zheng nodded and pinched her soft cheek. “He will.”

Who would not like such a cute Mrs. Gu?

At ten o’clock, the two of them appeared at the art exhibition together. Qiao Xi said slightly unnaturally, “Ah Zheng, I... I want to go to the bathroom. Wait for me here.”

Gu Zheng’s expression did not change. She was always so guilty when she lied in front of him. Seeing her lower her head while looking uneasy, the man said casually, “Alright.”

Qiao Xi instantly heaved a sigh of relief. “Wait for me. I’ll be back soon!”

With that, she left in a hurry.

Song Shiyu pointed in the opposite direction. “President, it seems that Young Madam went to the wrong place. The bathroom is over there!”

Gu Zheng smiled meaningfully. “She’s not wrong. That’s where she’s going.”

As an artist participating in the exhibition, Qiao Xi also provided two paintings. One was her previous work, while the other was completed a few days ago. They had already been moved to the exhibition area, but every participant still had to sign their names with the person in charge.

She hurriedly signed her name and glanced at the names in front. They were all famous international artists. Suddenly, she saw two familiar names.

Qi Zhong and Tang Ruge.

### **Chapter 762: Identity Exposed**

Qiao Xi knew that Qi Zhong would be attending the exhibition, but how did Tang Ruge have the cheek to come?

Seeing that Qiao Xi had been staring at Tang Ruge's name, the person in charge explained, "Miss Han Yin, Miss Tang is Mr. Qi Zhong's apprentice, so the art exhibition made an exception for Miss Tang to participate and allowed her to provide a painting."

Qiao Xi's expression was indifferent. She did not find it strange that Tang Ruge and Qi Zhong had become master and apprentice again. After all, the two of them were similar.

It was just that the last time she was in Fragrance Hotel, she had tested Tang Ruge and realized that she did not know how to paint. It had only been a few days, but her standard had already reached the level where she could participate in an art exhibition?

After pondering for a moment, Qiao Xi understood. Qi Zhong liked to use the works of others and pass them off as his. He had so many apprentices, so he could just find a random apprentice to come up with a painting for Tang Ruge. No one would notice.

Qiao Xi continued to flip through the list but did not see the name she wished to see the most. She asked in disappointment, "Han Ye isn't here?"

The person in charge looked surprised. "Han Ye?"

"Yeah!" Qiao Xi was puzzled.

The person in charge looked meaningfully at the obedient woman in front of him. "Miss Han Yin, you're so familiar with Han Ye. You should know very well whether he's coming or not, right?"

Although Han Ye was not here, the person in charge had called him before this. Han Ye said that he would attend with Miss Han Yin!

Qiao Xi was not surprised in the slightest when she heard this, and she explained indifferently, "I don't know Han Ye. I chose this name because I'm his fan!"

The person in charge frowned and fell into deep thought when he saw the words 'husband and wife' on the information sheet.

Qiao Xi continued, "I know many people think that we're master and apprentice, but we really don't know each other. I just admire him very much, so I wanted to ask if he came."

The person in charge's eyes were filled with confusion. 'I know you're not master and apprentice, but aren't you husband and wife?'

He took a deep breath and said, "I don't know when Mr. Han Ye will come, but you must know."

Qiao Xi: "?" 'Haven't I explained myself clearly enough? I already said that we don't know each other, so why doesn't the person in charge believe me?!'

Qiao Xi returned to the hall helplessly and saw Gu Zheng waiting for her at the door. The tall man was wearing a black windbreaker and exuded a noble aura, attracting the burning gazes of countless women.

Seeing that her man was being coveted by others, Qiao Xi hurriedly ran over. "Ah Zheng!"

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth curled up slightly. He looked in the direction she ran back and asked teasingly, "Mrs. Gu, did you go to the bathroom?"

Qiao Xi did not notice that something was wrong and blurted out, "Yeah, didn't I say so just now?"

Gu Zheng curled his lips into a smile and teased her, saying, "Xi Xi, the bathroom is on the left side of the hall, while you went to the right. Even if you had realized that you were in the wrong area, you'd still have to pass through the hall to reach the bathroom on the left. Did you fly there?"

Qiao Xi was dumbstruck: "...". It was over! She had been caught lying!

Gu Zheng's light brown eyes were filled with smiles. "I heard that Miss Han Yin is a very young woman. Seeing you today, you're indeed as young as the rumors say!"

Song Shiyu asked in confusion, "Where's Miss Han Yin? Why don't I see her?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Qiao Xi raised her eyes in shock and looked at Gu Zheng in disbelief. He had known all along!

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes, and their gazes met. Qiao Xi was terrified to the point her entire body trembled. She knew that she could not hide it anymore, so she could only say obediently, "Ah Zheng, I originally wanted to tell you, but I forgot. If it weren't for Tang Ruge, I wouldn't even have remembered that I can paint!"

"The two paintings that I provided to the exhibition were just something that I casually painted, so I didn't tell you. You can understand, right?"

Gu Zheng said casually, "Mrs. Gu, you don't have a good memory! How can you forget such a thing?"

Qiao Xi nodded like a chick pecking on rice with a serious expression.

Song Shiyu complained in his heart, 'Young Madam, you'd better tell the truth. Don't think that you can escape just by saying a few perfunctory words.' Last time, the president asked him if he had forgotten, and he replied that he had. Then, the president replied casually, 'What's the point of keeping you if you have a bad memory? Go to the island and train!'

At this moment, Song Shiyu could not help but worry for Young Madam. How was Young Madam going to train on the island with her weak body? She would definitely faint!

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The next second, Gu Zheng glanced at Song Shiyu and smiled. "Xi Xi must be too busy to remember. I won't blame her."

### **Chapter 763: He's That Ugly Thing**

Qiao Xi heaved a sigh of relief, and the corners of her mouth curled into an enormous smile.

Song Shiyu: "?" The president treated them differently!

Gu Zheng asked casually, "Xi Xi, you went to sign your name just now?"

Qiao Xi nodded, but she was slightly puzzled as to how Gu Zheng knew that the participants needed to sign their names. However, when she thought about it carefully, it was not strange. With Gu Zheng's identity, what did he not know? Even her identity as Han Yin had been exposed!

After that, the two of them went to the exhibition area to admire the paintings. However, Qiao Xi kept looking around as if she was waiting for someone.

"Didn't you say he would come today? Where is he?" Qiao Xi muttered to herself.

Gu Zheng smiled meaningfully. "Who are you waiting for?"

Qiao Xi said directly, "Han Ye, of course! When I went to sign my name earlier, the person in charge insisted that Han Ye and I were master and apprentice. He even said that Han Ye would come and I should be very clear about it, but I don't know anything at all! I only chose this name back then because I admired Han Ye. He doesn't know me at all!

"Everyone has misunderstood me. If Han Ye finds out, he'll think that I'm trying to ride on his coattails! When we meet, I must explain myself."

As soon as she finished speaking, Song Shijing walked over. "President, Young Madam, he's here."

Gu Zheng's eyes darkened. "I expected that."

Qiao Xi knew that Song Shijing was referring to Lu Yan, so she snorted. "Lu Yan is here to see if Han Ye will appear and if it'll affect the launch of his perfumes?"

Gu Zheng nodded and said softly, "I'll go over first. Wait for me here."

In the lounge.

Gu Zheng and Lu Yan sat opposite each other. The air seemed to have frozen.

Lu Yan said gently, "President Gu, you should know that Lu Corporation is about to release new products. Even if you don't support us, don't stop us. After all, the Lu family is half your family."

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and did not even bother to look at him.

Lu Yan spoke for a long time but was met with silence. His expression was extremely ugly.

Lu Yan was afraid that Gu Zheng would still hold a grudge against him for poaching Gu Corporation's perfumers. He was afraid that Gu Zheng would do something that would affect the release of the new products, so he humbly came to ask for peace.

However, it was not as if he had nothing to gain from this art exhibition. At the very least, he was roughly sure that Han Ye had passed away because his work was being displayed but he had not arrived.

Lu Yan sized up the man in front of him. Gu Zheng remained silent. Not only that, but he was also sitting lazily on the sofa as if Lu Yan was not in this room at all.

Lu Yan originally thought that he was calm enough, but Gu Zheng could still easily arouse his anger. He finally could not take it anymore and gritted his teeth. "President Gu, what exactly are your intentions?"

"Lu Yan, your clothes are really ugly." Gu Zheng suddenly said something unrelated. Then, he continued, "Lu Corporation's branded clothes are too ugly. No wonder no one buys them."

All these years, the sales of Lu Corporation's brands had not been good. That was why Lu Yan was wearing his own brand's clothes. He planned to advertise this brand, but he did not expect to be mocked by Gu Zheng.

He gritted his teeth and comforted himself in his heart. Since the sales of his branded clothes were not good, he could immediately take down all the clothes and release the new perfumes. He could guarantee that once the perfumes were released, they would definitely be sought after by everyone. At that time, what reason would Gu Zheng have to look down on him?

Before Lu Yan could retort, Gu Zheng stood up impatiently. "Maybe I care too much about my looks and can't stand ugly things. Please don't appear in front of me in the future, Mr. Lu."

With that, Gu Zheng strode away, leaving Lu Yan alone with a gloomy face.

Wait! Gu Zheng said that he did not like ugly things and even told him to appear less in the future. Did Gu Zheng mean that he was that ugly thing?

Lu Yan was furious, but he had nowhere to vent his anger. Hence, he smashed the cup on the table angrily and changed his clothes.

On the other hand, Qiao Xi was still looking for Han Ye. Presumably, with Han Ye's identity, he would not appear in the hall. He must have gone to the lounge a long time ago.

Hence, Qiao Xi went straight to the resting area. Unexpectedly, she did not see Han Ye but a few people she did not want to see.

At this moment, everyone was praising Cui Xian and Qi Zhong. After all, Cui Xian was old and could not stand and talk for a long time. Hence, he returned to the lounge, leaving Qi Zhong and Tang Ruge to talk with everyone.

#### **Chapter 764: Ugly People Cause Trouble**

Cui Xian and Qi Zhong were very famous in the oil painting world, but most of the credit went to Cui Xian. Qi Zhong's current status was all thanks to Cui Xian.

Someone could not help but sigh. "Mr. Qi, your apprentice has done so much at such a young age. Back then, I was only qualified to participate in the oil painting exhibition when I was 40 years old. She's only in her 20s, but she's already qualified. The younger generation will surpass us in time!"

Qi Zhong smiled and said, "Not only is Ruge talented, but she's also humble and studious. However, don't praise her too much lest she gets arrogant."

"Mr. Qi, I heard that you took in two new apprentices. Where's the other one?" Everyone was envious when they heard that Qi Zhong had taken in two extremely talented apprentices at once.

Unexpectedly, Qi Zhong's expression suddenly changed. "You're talking about Qiao Xi?"

Everyone replied, "We don't know that lady's name either. We just heard that she drew a rose that's very lifelike. It's amazing. Is she here for the art exhibition today?"

Qi Zhong said unhappily, "She doesn't have the right to attend the art exhibition!"

Tang Ruge, who was at the side, hurriedly explained, "Actually, Miss Qiao didn't acknowledge anyone as her master. She's too proud and arrogant, so Master didn't accept her in the end."

Everyone understood what Tang Ruge meant. It turned out that Qiao Xi was unwilling to acknowledge Qi Zhong as her master. This 20-year-old woman was actually so arrogant?

"Miss Qiao is indeed a little talented, but she has a firm character." Tang Ruge's few words made everyone think that Qiao Xi was an arrogant and ungrateful person.

Everyone said, "Even if she's talented, she can't be so disrespectful to her elders. It's good that Mr. Qi didn't accept an apprentice with such character. After all, Mr. Qi already has such an outstanding apprentice like Miss Tang!"

"That's right! Being talented is one thing, but one's character is another. If the apprentice is too conceited, it's better not to accept her. Otherwise, she'll ruin her own reputation in the future. Now that Miss Tang is able to display her work for the exhibition while Qiao Xi couldn't even get to appear, it's enough to explain everything."

Qi Zhong's expression was gloomy as he said, "Qiao Xi is indeed talented, but she's not comparable to Ruge. It's expected that she can't participate in the exhibition."

Everyone continued walking forward. Suddenly, Tang Ruge stopped in her tracks and said in surprise, "Xi Xi?"

At this moment, Qiao Xi and Li Xing'er were walking arm in arm in the spacious corridor. They bumped into everyone, and Qi Zhong's expression instantly changed. "Why are you here?"

Li Xing'er's temper flared up again. 'Are you holding this art exhibition? Why do you care if she comes or not?!

Before Li Xing'er could say anything, Tang Ruge tried to persuade her gently. "Xi Xi, this is an exclusive resting lounge for exhibitors. How can you come in so casually? Are you here to look for Master Qi?"

Tang Ruge paused for a moment and continued to ask, "Do you regret rejecting Master back then? Did you hear that he was coming to the exhibition, so you followed him here?"

When Qi Zhong heard this, he instantly straightened his back with a proud expression.

Qiao Xi glanced at her. Was this person crazy?

She held Li Xing'er's hand and continued walking forward, but Tang Ruge did not intend to let her off just like that. She said with a helpless expression, "Xi Xi, you're already here. Aren't you going to greet Master? Since you want to acknowledge him as your master again, you have to show your attitude. You can't look down on others just because you have some talent."

Qi Zhong raised his head high, his eyes filled with disdain. He had long guessed that Qiao Xi would regret it one day, but he did not expect it to be so soon.

The atmosphere gradually became awkward. Qiao Xi remained silent, and the smugness on Tang Ruge's face was almost impossible to hide. She pretended to be regretful and said, "Xi Xi, we could've been friends with the same master, but you—"

"Who told you that I'm here to acknowledge him as my master?" Qiao Xi's voice was ice-cold. "Miss Tang, have you heard of a saying that's especially suitable to describe you?"

The corners of Tang Ruge's mouth twitched slightly. She had a bad feeling. "What is it?"

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth curled up. "Ugly people cause trouble! Since you're ugly, you should talk less. Don't come looking for trouble! If you have nothing to do, go home and look in the mirror. Your face is almost in ruins!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she pulled Li Xing'er and quickly left.

Tang Ruge stood where she was. Her gentle face was ferocious. She was so angry that she was about to explode, but she still had to maintain her image in front of the painters.

However, Qi Zhong could not take it lying down and roared angrily. "Qiao Xi! What right do you, a visitor, have to enter the lounge? Who else could you have secretly come in to look for besides me?"

### **Chapter 765: Mrs. Gu Complains**

"Do you feel embarrassed after being exposed? Is that why you're unwilling to admit it? I've already seen through your intentions. You don't have to hide anymore!" Qi Zhong said.

Qiao Xi: "?" "Are you crazy? Hurry up and get yourself treated, then. Don't delay the treatment!"

She would never let this slide. She suddenly turned around and looked coldly at Qi Zhong's arrogant face. She said casually, "Mr. Qi, who gave you the confidence? When did I say that I'm here to take you as my master? With your standard, you can only teach apprentices like Tang Ruge who have average aptitude!"

Her words mocked the two of them. Tang Ruge's face instantly turned ferocious as her eyes widened.



Qi Zhong gritted his teeth in hatred. It had always been others who begged him to take them in as his apprentice. Even if they wanted to give him paintings, many people would have to fight for the chance to do so. This was the first time he took the initiative to take in an apprentice but was rejected.

“Qiao Xi! Remember this. No matter how much you beg me in the future, I’ll absolutely not accept you as my apprentice!” Qi Zhong roared in exasperation.

Qiao Xi was angered to the point of laughing. Where did he get the cheek to say such things? What could she learn from taking him as her master? Would he teach her how to take credit for someone else’s paintings, or would he get someone to paint for her?

Facing such a person, Qiao Xi could not be bothered to talk to him and directly turned to leave.

Tang Ruge’s face was livid. After calming down for a moment, she comforted Qi Zhong, “Master, don’t be angry. Xi Xi cares about her reputation a lot. It’s normal that she’s unwilling to admit that she regrets it.”

“Hmph! I definitely won’t take her in as my apprentice. She shouldn’t think that she can do whatever she wants just because she has some talent. If her character is bad, how is she going to survive in the oil painting world?” Qi Zhong said unhappily.

Tang Ruge pretended to be helpless. “Everyone knows that Xi Xi has no patience. After all, she doesn’t even have a complete work. It’s really a pity.”

Everyone’s eyes were filled with disdain when they heard this. Qiao Xi relied on her talent to be so arrogant, yet she could not even produce a complete piece of work. She could not be considered a painter!

Qiao Xi knew that this group of people were jackals of the same tribe, so she could not be bothered to explain it to them. She walked around but did not find Han Ye, so she simply stopped looking. In any case, the exhibition would be held for a total of three days. Perhaps Han Ye would only appear tomorrow or the day after.

She followed Li Xing’er to Old Master Li’s lounge to greet him before returning to Gu Zheng’s lounge.

Qiao Xi had just entered when she frowned and looked pitiful as if she had been bullied. “Ah Zheng, I’m so angry! Tang Ruge and Qi Zhong bullied me. How could they bring themselves to bully such a cute girl like me?!”

Gu Zheng slowly looked up.

Qiao Xi complained pitifully, “I happened to meet them when I went to the resting lounge just now. They mocked me without distinguishing between right and wrong. Qi Zhong even said that I didn’t know what was good for me! I’m so dizzy! Am I sick from anger? My body is really too weak!”

Gu Zheng massaged his temples. “Song Shijing.”

Song Shijing looked at Qiao Xi meaningfully and walked up to her.

Gu Zheng said, “Someone’s bullying Young Madam. Go handle it.”

Song Shijing suppressed the twitch of his lips and replied, "Yes!"

Tang Ruge and Qi Zhong had bullied Young Madam. If they really angered Young Madam, the two of them would not be able to see the sun tomorrow!

After Song Shijing left, Gu Zheng pulled the weak woman into his arms and asked softly, "Have you found Han Ye?"

Qiao Xi lowered her eyes and said dejectedly, "No! I looked around but didn't see anyone. I ran into Qi Zhong and Tang Ruge, though. I was almost angered to death!"

She leaned against Gu Zheng's chest and closed her eyes for a while. She opened her eyes and looked at the time. "The exhibition is about to start. I want to go out and take a look."

Gu Zheng said gently, "Go ahead."

As soon as Qiao Xi left, Gu Zheng picked up his phone and sent a message. Soon, the other party called. "Mr. Han Ye, are you going to attend the exhibition? Mr. Lu is indeed here to ask about you."

"What did he ask?" Gu Zheng asked.

The person who called was the person in charge of the art exhibition. His expression was indescribable. "He asked if you were present. He even asked... if you were still... alive."

The person in charge really did not understand. Why did these people think that Han Ye was an old man? He was clearly only in his 20s and was in his prime!

Moreover, Mr. Lu was even stranger. Why did he have to ask if Han Ye was still alive? What exactly did he want to do?

Gu Zheng sneered. "Heh! He sounds like a retard for asking this!"

"Haha, you're right, Mr. Han Ye." The person in charge smiled awkwardly.

### **Chapter 766: They Like To Be Tortured**

"Normal people won't bicker with idiots. It's very embarrassing." Gu Zheng asked casually, "Do you know Qi Zhong and Tang Ruge?"

The person in charge nodded, then Gu Zheng said indifferently, "They bullied my wife. You know what to do."

The person in charge: "... " Gu Zheng had just said that he would not bicker with idiots. However, when others bullied Miss Han Yin, he could not help but attack.

On the other hand, when Gu Yao saw Qiao Xi, he rushed over excitedly. "Xi Xi, I didn't expect you to be an oil painter! You're even participating in an international oil painting exhibition. You're really too awesome!"

Li Xing'er was also trembling with excitement. "I want to tell my grandfather that I have a friend who's a famous painter!"

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth twitched slightly. Did these two people have to be so excited?

At this moment, the person in charge walked over with Qiao Xi's painting in his hand. However, it was not framed nor signed. "Miss Hanyin, where should I put this painting?"

Qiao Xi pointed at a corner. "Just leave it there!"

As soon as the person in charge left, Tang Ruge walked forward with a smile. "Xi Xi, are you here to see the art exhibition or to look for Master? Tell me the truth. I won't laugh at you."

Qiao Xi frowned. Was this woman crazy? Did she like being abused so much?

Tang Ruge looked at Qiao Xi with resentment. She had been defeated by Qiao Xi several times. She did not believe that Qiao Xi's luck would be so good every time!

"Xi Xi, you're too proud. Master Qi isn't willing to take you in as his apprentice because he doesn't like you. Although there was a misunderstanding at the apprenticeship banquet previously, Teacher Qi was still willing to take me in as his apprentice after I apologized. It's because I'm humble. Since things have already come to this, stop fooling around."

When Qiao Xi heard Tang Ruge's words, she forcefully resisted the urge to vomit. She looked at Tang Ruge as if she was looking at a mentally inept person.

Tang Ruge looked fiercely at Qiao Xi. She did not understand how Qiao Xi could be so arrogant. She clearly could not even produce a complete work, yet she was still so arrogant!

At this moment, Qi Zhong walked over and said impatiently, "Ruge, what's there to say to such a person? Aren't you afraid of losing your status?!"

Tang Ruge pretended to be regretful. "Master, I think Xi Xi is really talented. If you can take her in as your apprentice, her future will definitely be limitless. She offended you previously. Please don't take it to heart and give her another chance."

Qi Zhong frowned. "Ruge, you're kind-hearted and always think of others. But look at her. Is she a humble person? She's not even willing to lower her head and admit her mistake to me. Why should I take such a person as my apprentice? I've already made up my mind. I won't take her as my apprentice!"

Gu Yao: "?" The two of them echoed each other like fools! He could not stand it anymore!

"Mr. Qi, isn't it inappropriate for you to be so overbearing to a junior? Whether Qiao Xi wants to acknowledge a master or not is up to her. No one can force her. Just because she doesn't want to acknowledge you as her master, you're slandering her in public. I think you've lost your reputation and are angry from embarrassment!" Gu Yao mocked.

Qi Zhong had been a painter for decades and was always praised no matter where he went. This was the first time he was mocked in public. His face instantly turned red as he roared in exasperation, "You... You're going too far! As a junior, she should respect her elders. It was her honor that I was willing to take her as my apprentice. What right does a newcomer like her have to refuse?"

At this moment, the surrounding people heard the commotion and gathered over.

“This young lady actually rejected Mr. Qi Zhong? She’s too arrogant!”

“I heard that this young lady is impatient and can’t even produce a complete work. However, Mr. Qi valued her talent and wanted to keep her by his side to train her. It’s just that this young lady doesn’t know what’s good for her!”

“The person speaking up for that young lady must be the second young master of the Gu family who was chased out by the Gu family! A hedonistic son like him will be abandoned by the family sooner or later!”

“How good can a woman who’s with such a good-for-nothing be?! There’s also Li Xing’er from the Li family. Although she’s the eldest daughter of the Li family, she’s far inferior to Miss Tang. She only knows how to eat, drink, and play all day. She’s ignorant and incompetent!”

Qi Zhong’s face darkened. “Ruge, let’s go!”

With that, Qi Zhong brought Tang Ruge to an elder with gray hair.

Li Xing’er was furious, but if she scolded him on such an occasion, she would definitely be called uneducated. Her reputation did not matter, but it would affect the entire Li family.

## **Chapter 767: Perfect Painting**

Gu Yao lowered his head and suppressed the anger in his heart. “Qiao Xi, it’s my fault...”

He felt that he had implicated Qiao Xi. Otherwise, those people would not think that it was Qiao Xi’s fault.

Qiao Xi patted his shoulder and comforted him. “It’s not your fault. Let’s go.”

“Where are we going?”

“Of course, we’re going to take revenge! Some people like to look for trouble. Since that’s the case, I’ll fulfill their wish!” Qiao Xi smiled slyly. “I’ve always been a person who doesn’t offend others unless they offend me. Since someone insists on acting atrociously in front of me, I’ll tell them the price for going against me!”

Originally, Qiao Xi did not want to bicker with these two people, but Tang Ruge and Qi Zhong just had to come in front of her to disgust her. Since that was the case, she could not blame them for being merciless!

On the other hand, Qi Zhong rushed to Cui Xian in a hurry. His expression softened a little. “Master, I’m late.”

Originally, Cui Xian had agreed to meet them in the front hall of the art exhibition, but they were five minutes late. Hence, Tang Ruge muttered softly, “If it weren’t for Qiao Xi arguing with us, we wouldn’t be late.”

At the mention of Qiao Xi, Qi Zhong burned with rage. "That woman is really shameless. It's fine that she doesn't work hard, but she's always thinking of crooked methods! It was her honor that I was willing to take her as my apprentice, but she actually refused!"

Tang Ruge comforted him softly. "Master, don't be angry. Your health is important. Xi Xi is unruly and unwilling to be under others. When she suffers in the future, she'll know how good a master you are!"

Cui Xian looked up and glanced at the two of them coldly. In reality, he did not like Qi Zhong, his apprentice. Back then, he thought that Qi Zhong was talented and might succeed in the future. However, he played many tricks behind his back.

Now that he was old, he did not want to cause trouble anymore. He could only let Qi Zhong fool around.

Cui Xian walked around but did not see Han Ye or Han Yin. He wanted to say goodbye to the person in charge. The next second, he suddenly glared at the painting in the person in charge's hand.

Cui Xian immediately rushed over with his walking cane. "Wait!"

His shout scared the person in charge so much that he almost threw the painting away. "Mr. Cui, you're..."

Cui Xian was extremely excited, and his beard trembled. He could actually see such a perfect painting in his lifetime? He had been pursuing such a mastery his entire life, but he still could not reach this height.

This painting was very similar to Han Yin's style, but compared to her previous paintings, this one had a more settled and special style.

Cui Xian specially looked at the back of the painting. There was no signature. This skilled painter was probably unwilling to reveal their name. Their identity must be special.

He had previously heard that Han Yin's grandfather was also an outstanding oil painter. She had learned oil painting from her grandfather, so their styles had always been somewhat similar. Could it be that this painting was her grandfather's work?

Cui Xian's body trembled slightly as he asked excitedly, "Who's the creator of this painting? Are... Are they at the scene?"

The person in charge nodded. "Yes! She even sent two works to the exhibition."

Cui Xian's old eyes were filled with hope. He did not expect to meet such an expert in his lifetime. Now that this painter was here at the scene, he had to seize this opportunity.

The person in charge asked hesitantly, "Mr. Cui, you... Do you want to take this artist as your apprentice?"

Hearing this, Qi Zhong and Tang Ruge were dumbfounded. Their eyes were filled with disbelief. What kind of painting could make Cui Xian so excited that he decided to take the other party as his apprentice with just one look?

Cui Xian had painted his entire life and was famous internationally. If one could catch his eye, one's future would definitely be bright. Moreover, with a top painter like him as one's teacher, one would be respected no matter where one went.

Tang Ruge looked at the painting with jealousy. What right did a person who did not even want to leave their name on their painting have to be Cui Xian's apprentice?

Everyone also came forward and sized up the painting. Qi Zhong came forward to take a look as well. His body instantly trembled. This painting was indeed perfect. No wonder his master had decided to take this painter as his apprentice.

Cui Xian hurriedly called his other friends over to admire the painting. Everyone exclaimed, "Who drew this?! It's too perfect! This charm and skill are definitely that of an expert!"

The person who was praising the painting was surnamed Fu, and he was also a famous painter. The two old men held hands tightly and trembled in excitement. "Old Fu! I've finally found the person I've been looking for!"

### **Chapter 768: They Want To Acknowledge Qiao Xi As Their Master**

Cui Xian quickly turned around and asked the person in charge excitedly, "This artist... Do they have an apprentice? I want to take them as my master. I wonder if they're willing?"

When Mr. Fu heard this, he hurriedly added, "Me too! Count me in. Ask them if they're willing to take in two disciples."

The person in charge: "???"

Was there a mistake?! It turned out that these two top figures in the oil painting world who had been discussing for a long time had no intention of taking in an apprentice but wanted to acknowledge this painter as their master?

Everyone gasped. These two national treasures were going to acknowledge someone as their master just because they saw one painting? Moreover, they did not know who the other party was.

Mr. Fu hurriedly explained, "Actually, you don't have to be surprised. This artist's standard is completely above mine and Old Cui's. Our painting skills stopped improving 20 years ago. We urgently need someone to help us break through this plateau so we can create more perfect paintings. We came to the exhibition to see if we could meet such an outstanding artist. Now that we've finally met one, of course, we have to acknowledge the painter as our master!"

Qi Zhong's mouth was wide open as he looked at this scene in disbelief. He then looked at the painting in fascination. It was indeed perfect. It was to the point of making one go crazy.

Although he was very jealous of this artist, he had to admit that this painting was indeed perfect. He hoped that this artist could help his master have a breakthrough.

The person in charge looked at Qi Zhong meaningfully. 'Didn't you just have a fight with Miss Han Yin? Why did you change your attitude so quickly?'

Seeing that the person in charge did not respond for a long time, Cui Xian was instantly anxious. "Mr. Charlie, ever since you became the person in charge of the International Oil Painting Exhibition, I've never refused your invitation to attend. Even when I was in poor health, I would force myself to come. On the account of our many years of friendship, can you help me get into contact with this artist? I can ask her in person. If she's really unwilling, I won't force her anymore."

"I've lived to this age. Glory, money, and fame don't matter to me anymore. I just want to surpass my plateau and paint a perfect painting. It'll also bring a perfect end to my life. I only have one wish. If I can't fulfill it, I'll regret it for the rest of my life!"

The person in charge was very touched by his words.

People like Mr. Cui and Mr. Fu were true painters. They never cared about money, fame, or fortune. They just wanted to paint perfect paintings.

They were already top figures in the oil painting world, but they were still willing to beg for a master in front of everyone. It was enough to show their sincerity.

The person in charge said awkwardly, "But... Mr. Cui, your apprentice might not agree."

Qi Zhong instantly gasped. What did this have to do with him? Hence, he asked with a puzzled expression, "Mr. Charlie, what do you mean? Why would I object?"

The person in charge had a subtle look in his eyes. "What if you have a grudge against the artist of this painting?"

Qi Zhong slowly looked up and saw his master's and Mr. Fu's murderous gazes. His body instantly trembled as he said, "That'd certainly be my fault! I'm willing to lower my head and admit my mistake! I hope this painter can help my two seniors fulfill their wishes!"

At this moment, Qiao Xi was standing in a corner. She raised her head at Gu Yao. "Do you see that?"

Gu Yao was shocked and nodded obediently. Sister-in-law was too awesome! The two seniors had only taken one look at her painting and were already fighting to acknowledge her as their master.

Then, Qiao Xi brought Li Xing'er and Gu Yao forward. The person in charge looked at Qiao Xi and could not say anything. If he told the two seniors that the person they wanted to acknowledge as their master was a 20-year-old woman, would they still be able to accept it?

Was this what it meant for a student to surpass the master? Her skills were something these two seniors could never reach in their lives. Meanwhile, she was only a 20-year-old woman. This was really too shocking!

The person in charge was in a difficult position. Unexpectedly, Qi Zhong saw Qiao Xi in the next second and shouted, "Qiao Xi! Why are you here again?!"

"Don't you have any shame?! I've already said that I definitely won't accept you as my apprentice. Why did you still come looking for me? You didn't know how to appreciate my kindness back then. It's too late to regret now!"

Tang Ruge also looked helpless. “Xi Xi, stop fooling around! Mr. Cui and Mr. Fu want to acknowledge a painter as their masters. Don’t disturb them!”

Qi Zhong continued to mock, “It’s fine that you’re impatient, but you’re also so arrogant. I want to see who in the entire oil painting world is willing to take you as their apprentice.”

### **Chapter 769: I Heard You Wanted To Apologize To Me?**

“Mr. Qi Zhong.” The person in charge hurriedly interrupted him and said with an awkward expression, “Don’t talk anymore.”

However, Qi Zhong did not listen to the other party’s reminder and continued to pursue the matter. “I’ve already gone easy on her. Since she still dares to come over now, then don’t blame me—”

Before he could finish speaking, the person in charge hurriedly interrupted, “Don’t blame me for not reminding you. If you continue to say nasty words, Mr. Cui can forget about becoming an apprentice.”

“What did you say? Could it be that Qiao Xi knows the painter of this painting? How laughable!”

As soon as he finished speaking, the person in charge said with disdain, “This lady is the painter of this painting. Mr. Qi Zhong, can you shut up now?”

There was silence. The air seemed to have frozen.

Qi Zhong felt as if he had been struck by lightning. His mind was blank, and his ears were buzzing. His legs went weak as he looked at the person in charge in disbelief.

How was this possible? He actually said that Qiao Xi was the painter of this painting?

Tang Ruge’s face was livid. She subconsciously looked at Qiao Xi, only to meet her indifferent and mocking eyes.

No! Impossible!

Qiao Xi was only 20 years old, so how could she have drawn such a perfect piece? This was definitely fake!

At this moment, Qi Zhong was trembling and close to going crazy. “No! I don’t believe it!”

The next second, Qiao Xi slowly walked over with a faint smile. “Mr. Qi, I heard that you wanted to apologize to me? I’m already here, so it’s your turn to express your gratitude.”

The entire place was silent.

After a moment, Qi Zhong gradually came back to his senses. The corners of his mouth twitched slightly, and his face gradually became ferocious. “Mr. Charlie, you must be mistaken. She... How could she...”

The person in charge said impatiently, “Mr. Qi, are you doubting the integrity of the International Oil Painting Exhibition? I can tell you clearly that this painting was made by Miss Qiao. I saw her paint it with my own eyes. If you don’t believe me, there are surveillance cameras in the studio. I can show you the footage immediately.”

When he said this, everyone believed that Qiao Xi was the creator of this painting.



At this moment, Qi Zhong's body was trembling, and his mind was a mess. She was just a person who could not even produce a complete work. How could she paint such a perfect piece?

Tang Ruge was also shocked. She gritted her teeth so hard that her fingers dug into her palms. Only such sharp pain could keep her calm. Otherwise, she would have lost her composure in front of everyone.

Li Xing'er looked at the two of them and finally vented her anger. She snorted and said, "Mr. Qi Zhong, even your master wants to acknowledge Xi Xi as his master. With your standard, what right do you have to accept Xi Xi as your apprentice?"

Cold sweat broke out on Qi Zhong's forehead. He lowered his head and could not say anything. At this moment, he wished for nothing more than to find a hole to hide in. He had never been so embarrassed in his life.

"Mr. Qi Zhong, didn't you say you wanted to admit your mistake?" Li Xing'er asked.

Seeing this, Tang Ruge's voice trembled. "Miss Li, no matter what, Master Qi is an elder. How can he—"

"What kind of elder is he?" Li Xing'er interrupted coldly. "If Xi Xi agrees to be the master of these two seniors, in terms of seniority, Xi Xi will be Qi Zhong's master. In that case, Xi Xi is the elder. Qi Zhong, the junior, has offended an elder. Shouldn't he apologize? Moreover, he was the one who said he wanted to apologize to Xi Xi!"

Tang Ruge choked until her face turned red. She was the eldest daughter of the Tang family, but she had to be taught a lesson by an ignorant and incompetent piece of trash in front of everyone.

The person who was even more embarrassed was Qi Zhong. He had clearly mocked Qiao Xi just now, but in the blink of an eye, she had become Mr. Cui's teacher.

Everyone mocked, "If I were Qi Zhong, I wouldn't even have the face to stay here. He even mocked Miss Qiao just now. In the end, it turns out that she's a genius. There's no need for her to acknowledge him as her master."

"Even the two seniors are full of praise for Miss Qiao's painting. Does Qi Zhong have the cheek to be her master? What can he teach her with his standard?"

"That's right! No wonder Miss Qiao wasn't willing to acknowledge him as her master. He's not qualified!"

"Apologize! What are you waiting for?! Are you going to go back on your word?"

Qi Zhong's face alternated between red and white. His body swayed slightly as if he was going to faint the next second.

Cui Xian stood on the spot and listened for so long and understood everything. He walked in front of Qiao Xi and said, "Uh... Master, do you have a grudge against my apprentice?"

He thought that Qiao Xi was in a fit of anger and would ignore Cui Xian, but he did not expect her to chuckle. "That's right. He has offended me time and time again. My patience with him has already reached its limit."

## Chapter 770: The Evil Will Get Their Retribution

Qi Zhong's heart trembled. He had a bad feeling. The next second, Cui Xian said word by word, "Since Master doesn't like Qi Zhong, I officially announce that I'll cut off all ties with him from now on!"

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"No!" Qi Zhong screamed in despair.

All these years, the reason why he could establish himself in the oil painting world was that his master was Cui Xian. Hence, no matter where he went, everyone had to show him some respect.

Cui Xian did not like to take in apprentices and only liked to focus on painting. Back then, it was because Cui Xian owed his family a favor and his parents begged him that Cui Xian agreed to take him in as an apprentice. Moreover, he was Cui Xian's only apprentice, so he soon became a master in oil painting.

If Cui Xian severed ties with him, his status would plummet. It was very likely that he would disappear from the oil painting world. After all, everyone would kick a man who was down.

It was all because of Qiao Xi! This b\*tch!

"Master! No! I've been with you for so many years, yet you're abandoning me for this woman?" Qi Zhong's body went weak as he fell to the floor and cried bitterly.

Cui Xian's face was indifferent. "Qi Zhong, I told you a long time ago that as an artist, although painting skills are important, you can't lose your conscience. You've violated my taboo several times. Even if it weren't for this matter, I would have still cut off all ties with you!"

Qi Zhong's body trembled. He knew what the taboo his teacher was talking about was. Previously, he had taken a liking to a genius painter and wanted to take that person in as his apprentice. Unexpectedly, that person was unwilling and even caused a scene in front of his master.

At that time, his teacher was very dissatisfied with him and warned him that if this happened again, he would cut ties with him.

He thought that his master was just saying that back then. After all, he was his master's only apprentice. Moreover, the two of them had shared a master and apprentice relationship for so many years. On the account of his parents, he thought that his master would definitely not expel him. But now...

Qi Zhong knew very well that once news of his actions got out, he would no longer have a place in the oil painting world. He would be hated by everyone and would not even have the right to attend even the most ordinary art exhibitions.

He opened his mouth and wanted to beg, but Cui Xian did not give him a chance at all. He directly looked at Qiao Xi. "Master, please agree to take me in as your apprentice! I really want to learn from you! Don't hold my age against me. As long as I make up my mind to do something, I'll definitely accomplish it!"

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth twitched slightly when she heard the white-haired old man call her 'Master'. "Senior Cui, don't call me that."

How could she be worthy of calling him 'Master'?

"Lass, Old Fu and I ran out of inspiration 20 years ago. We only hope to have an outstanding painter guide us. If you think the title 'Master' is inappropriate, then you can be our instructor. As long as you agree to help us, we'll agree to anything!"

Cui Xian continued, "As long as you come over to guide us when you're free and discuss art with us, we'll be satisfied. Don't worry, we definitely won't take up too much of your time!"

The two seniors had sincere expressions as they looked at Qiao Xi with anticipation, while Qi Zhong watched this scene with bloodshot eyes. He gritted his teeth so hard that they were about to shatter.

"Hey! Mr. Qi, you haven't left yet?" Li Xing'er glanced at Qi Zhong, then her gaze landed on Tang Ruge. "Miss Tang, you spent so much effort to get a master, but in just a few days, you and Qi Zhong were expelled! How unlucky!"

Tang Ruge clenched her fists tightly and suppressed the anger in her heart. "Miss Li, my matter has nothing to do with you!"

"Oh! You're angry? I'm telling the truth! It's better than slandering others in public, right? You mocked Xi Xi just now but you ended up getting slapped in the face. Eldest Miss Tang, you actually looked down on Mr. Cui's master. If news of this gets out, will you still have the cheek to stay in this industry?"

"Li Xing'er!" Tang Ruge finally could not help but roar. Her breathing gradually quickened. "What does the matter between Master and Xi Xi have to do with me? Why must you target me?"

Li Xing'er had a look of disdain on her face. She had never seen someone as shameless as Tang Ruge. She had just fanned the flames beside Qi Zhong earlier, but now that she had been slapped in the face, she said that it had nothing to do with her.

She could not be bothered with Tang Ruge. The wicked would be punished by the heavens anyway. Tang Ruge would pay the price for her actions sooner or later. Today was just the start of it all.