

Lady gu 831

Chapter 831: No Evidence

Before Carter could figure it out, Lu Yan said helplessly, "During the presales, Lu Corporation was always in first place. We even surpassed Gu Corporation by 100,000 bottles."

Carter nodded thoughtfully. "In that case, why do you look so regretful, Young Master Lu?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Lu Yan glanced at Gu Zheng, who was not far away. He suppressed the anger in his heart and said sorrowfully, "But when the presales channel was about to close, all our sales were canceled."

"Why?" Carter asked.

Everyone subconsciously looked at Gu Zheng. Lu Yan looked worried. "Because someone is suing Lu Corporation for copyright infringement. This is our Lu family's own matter and we shouldn't trouble you. However, I heard that you're Mr. Han Ye's friend, so you should be clearer on this matter."

Hearing this, Carter was instantly confused, but since Lu Yan had already said so, she could not say anything else. She could only nod. "Young Master Lu, please speak."

When Lu Xiang heard this, she could not wait to mock Gu Zheng. "Gu Zheng, Madam Carter is already here. Are you still not going to withdraw the lawsuit?"

Gu Zheng did not even raise his eyes.

At this moment, Lu Yan walked in front of Carter and said respectfully, "Madam Carter, it's my honor that you're here for Lu Corporation's annual meeting. Unfortunately, there were some problems with the presales this time. At the last moment before the presales channel closed, all of Lu Corporation's sales were canceled. The person suing Lu Corporation for copyright infringement is Gu Zheng.

"Gu Zheng is suing Lu Corporation for copyright infringement in Han Ye's name. In order to expand the negative impact of the matter, he even chose to forcefully refund all deposits made at the last moment before the presales ended. At the same time, Gu Corporation was pushed to first place.

"For his own benefits, he used such despicable methods to frame the Lu family. It has affected the Lu family's reputation and broken the balance of the entire business world. If this is the way to become the richest man in the world, I'd rather not be it!"

These words caused a commotion in the calm banquet hall. Everyone revealed disdainful expressions.

Old Master Lu, who was at the side, nodded in satisfaction. Then, he sighed. "Ah Zheng, it's understandable for you brothers to compete with each other, but why did you play tricks behind our backs? You relied on suing us to win the sales championship. You're too despicable. Your reputation will also be affected. From now on, who will be at ease doing business with you?"

Lu Xiang was proud of herself. "Quickly withdraw the lawsuit or bear the consequences!"

Carter listened to everyone with a subtle expression.

What was the Lu family talking about? Why did she not understand?

“Mr. Gu is suing Lu Corporation for copyright infringement?”

After a long time, Carter asked in confusion, “Is it because Lu Corporation used Mr. Han Ye’s work without permission that they’re being sued now?”

1

Gu Zheng’s lips curled into a cold smile. He did not expect Carter to attend the annual meeting, but things became even simpler now that she was here.

Lu Yan had a helpless expression, and his gentle voice was filled with unwillingness. “First of all, we didn’t violate the law. Secondly, Gu Zheng isn’t Han Ye. If our Lu family had really violated the law, Mr. Han Ye should be the one suing us. Mr. Gu doesn’t seem to have the right.

“Isn’t it a little too much for Mr. Gu to pretend to be Han Ye and sue us?”

At this point, Lu Yan even sighed as if he was an honest person who was forced to do this. Meanwhile, he made Gu Zheng seem like a sinister, cunning, and selfish person.

“If Mr. Han Ye sues me, I have nothing to say, but he wouldn’t do that. Madam Carter, what do you think?”

When Carter heard Lu Yan’s words, her eyes instantly widened. She looked at Lu Yan, then at Gu Zheng. She asked with a subtle expression, “Young Master Lu, did you really obtain Han Ye’s authorization?”

Lu Yan said confidently, “Of course. I’ve long received Mr. Han Ye’s authorization. I don’t know where President Gu heard the rumors that I don’t have the authorization. It’s really shameful of him to rashly sue Lu Corporation for his own benefits.

“If only Mr. Han Ye could appear and clear my name. Unfortunately, that’s impossible.”

Lu Yan looked regretful. “I’ve investigated. Mr. Han Ye has already...”

Han Ye had already passed away and there were no relatives around him. Who was qualified to sue Lu Corporation for copyright infringement?

Even if he did not have Han Ye’s written authorization, he could still say that he had previously obtained Mr. Han Ye’s verbal authorization. After all, there was no evidence, and no one could verify it. Even if Gu Zheng wanted to sue him, he did not have any evidence.

At the thought of this, Lu Yan smiled proudly. He had completely won this time.

Chapter 832: Slapping The Lu Family In The Face

As soon as Lu Yan finished speaking, Carter frowned. Old Master Lu, who was at the side, sensed that something was wrong. He was about to stop Carter, but...

“Who said it’s impossible?”

Carter looked at Lu Yan as if she was looking at a fool. “Young Master Lu, how do you know that you won’t be able to see Han Ye? Actually, you’ve already seen him!”

...

The entire venue was silent, eerily so.

Lu Yan felt as if he had been struck by lightning. His heart skipped a beat as he had an ominous feeling.

When had he seen Han Ye? Hadn’t Han Ye already passed away?

The corners of Lu Yan’s mouth twitched slightly, and his gentle face gradually became ferocious. He did not even dare to carefully figure out what Carter meant.

If Han Ye was not dead, then Lu Corporation’s copyright infringement...

No! Impossible! Carter did not know before she came, which meant that Han Ye had not announced this matter to the public yet. If that was the case, they still had a chance. As long as they found Han Ye and gave him a generous compensation, there would be room for negotiation.

However, for some reason, he felt waves of panic in his heart. There was an aura of despair surrounding him.

Old Master Lu’s expression darkened. He knew that he could not let Carter speak anymore.

Carter, on the other hand, had a mocking expression. It turned out that Lu Yan did not know that Gu Zheng was Han Ye, so he used Han Ye’s painting without permission. Now that Gu Zheng was suing Lu Corporation, Lu Corporation was accusing Gu Zheng of playing tricks.

She had seen shameless people, but she had never seen someone so shameless!

“Young Master Lu, do you want to know who Han Ye is?”

Lu Yan’s body trembled. He subconsciously looked at Gu Zheng, only to see the corners of Gu Zheng’s mouth curl into a smile. It was extremely lazy but carried a trace of coldness.

When Lu Xiang saw him like this, she was instantly infuriated. “Gu Zheng! What’s with your expression? Even if Mr. Han Ye can’t testify for Ah Yan, it doesn’t mean that you can pretend to be Mr. Han Ye and sue Lu Corporation! Moreover, Ah Yan has long since received the authorization. You’re slandering him!

“Gu Zheng, if you use this method to win the championship, you’ll be despised by everyone!”

As soon as she finished speaking, Gu Zheng chuckled.

“Of course, he can sue Lu Corporation.”

At this moment, a cold and serious voice sounded. Carter revealed a mocking expression. “Gu Zheng is the person most qualified to sue Lu Corporation!”

He had the right? What right did he have? The person most qualified to sue Lu Corporation should be Han Ye!

Lu Xiang was about to retort loudly when her body suddenly trembled as if someone was grabbing her throat. Her face was livid, then she suddenly looked at Gu Zheng with disbelief.

At this moment, Gu Zheng was sitting leisurely on the sofa with his long legs crossed. Under everyone's burning gazes, he was still elegant and noble.

The man's lips curled up slightly. In the eyes of the Lu family, such a smile was a public provocation!

Before everyone could come back to their senses, Carter sneered. "Young Master Lu Yan, you keep saying that you've obtained Han Ye's authorization, so why don't you know that Mr. Gu is Han Ye?"

Boom!!!

Mr. Gu was Han Ye?

These words were like a thunderclap that struck everyone's hearts. Everyone was dumbfounded, and the Lu family's expressions alternated between red and white.

Carter's words gave the Lu family a heavy slap. Old Master Lu's face darkened as he could not help but size up Lu Yan. The grandson he had raised since he was young was actually so different from Gu Zheng?

1

Lu Yan clenched his fists tightly. His mind went blank. His gentle face was filled with malevolence, and the veins on his forehead were about to pop out.

Carter continued to question, "Young Master Lu, you must've met Han Ye when you were discussing a collaboration, right? Even if you hadn't met him, you must've contacted him through the internet or phone. Since Lu Corporation has already obtained the authorization, why doesn't anyone know that Mr. Gu is Han Ye?"

Lu Yan felt like he was sitting on pins and needles. He could not suppress the anger in his heart anymore. He glared fiercely at the calm man not far away. His face gradually darkened from pale to black. He wished he could tear Gu Zheng into pieces.

As the young master of the Lu family, Lu Yan had grown up with a silver spoon in his mouth. He was even nurtured by the Lu family with all their hearts. They had also decided to hand over the Lu family's inheritance to him. He was supposed to be the person standing at the top of the pyramid, but ever since Gu Zheng established Gu Corporation, everyone began to disregard him.

He originally thought that he could break off Gu Zheng's sharp edges this time and prove to everyone that he was the most suitable candidate to be the heir of the Gu and Lu families.

However, someone actually told him that Gu Zheng was Han Ye.

This was impossible! Absolutely impossible!

Chapter 833: Send Him To Prison

Looking at the Lu family's expression, Qiao Xi, who was at the side, had already lost her patience. She snorted coldly. "Lu Yan has never seen Han Ye at all, much less obtained Han Ye's permission. That's why he doesn't know Han Ye. Coincidentally, Gu Zheng realized that his work was being privately used by

someone else. Shouldn't he exercise his legal rights to protect his interests? It turns out that in the eyes of the Lu family, anyone who hurts the Lu family's interests is selfish? How laughable!"

"Qiao Xi!" Old Master Lu was unable to restrain his anger.

His entire body trembled as fear surged in his heart. If news of this got out, the entire business world would despise the Lu family. The Lu family, which was already in a precarious situation, would definitely encounter an unprecedented crisis.

However, how did Gu Zheng become Han Ye? He was treated as an illegitimate child the moment he was born and was despised by everyone. He was left in Maple Garden to fend for himself when he was young. Even his parents hated him. Moreover, how could a person who was about to die from poison become a top figure in the oil painting world?

Back then, they firmly believed that Gu Zheng would not live past the age of six, so they agreed to swap children with Huang Lilan. They wanted to focus on nurturing Lu Yan for him to inherit the family business in the future. However, they did not expect that not only did Gu Zheng survive, but he also founded Gu Corporation from scratch.

Now that Gu Corporation had become the leading company in C Nation, Gu Zheng had also become a famous figure in the business world. Not only that, but he also had more influence in the art world. It could be said that he could command hundreds of people.

On the other hand, Lu Yan had the outstanding resources of the Gu and Lu families, but he was still stuck at the same spot. It was very difficult for him to even continue managing Lu Corporation.

3

Old Master Lu's heart ached. At this moment, he was badly regretting it. If he had chosen Gu Zheng back then, would the outcome have been different? However, there was no turning back now. Gu Zheng already knew what the Lu family had done and would not favor them anymore. Now, he could only place all his hopes on Lu Yan and hope that Lu Yan could make a comeback one day.

They could not fall out with Gu Zheng now. No matter what, they had to get him to withdraw the lawsuit. Otherwise, Lu Corporation would suffer irreversible losses.

Old Master Lu was silent for a moment before squeezing out a flattering smile. "Ah Zheng—"

Gu Zheng's long fingers stroked the wine glass as he slowly looked up. His cold voice interrupted Old Master Lu's words. "I have two requests. First, Lu Corporation has to destroy all the perfume bottles with my work printed on it. Second, Lu Corporation has to compensate me for the infringement fees at three times the authorized price.

"Otherwise, what Lu Yan has to pay with isn't money but his future and reputation. The Lu family has nurtured Lu Yan for more than 20 years. We can't just watch him go to jail, right, Chairman Lu?"

Boom!!!

Lu Yan's heart skipped a beat.

Gu Zheng! What right did he have?

Old Master Lu was so angry that he felt dizzy. “Gu Zheng! You... What do you mean? Are you threatening us?”

This bastard! He had the Lu family’s bloodline, yet he still wanted the Lu family to compensate him?

1

Gu Zheng chuckled. “Chairman Lu, you already understand, so why ask? Let me tell you again that I want the Lu family’s compensation. Otherwise, I’ll see you in court.”

“Gu Zheng! You’re fooling around!” Old Master Lu was so angry that his beard was trembling. He slammed his walking cane on the floor. “How unfilial!”

A bastard who was hated by his parents still dared to be so arrogant?

1

Old Master Lu’s breathing was heavy, and his face was purple. Lu Yan hurriedly went forward to support him, then turned to look at Gu Zheng. “President Gu, you’re from the Lu family, after all. Why do you have to—”

“Young Master Lu, my surname isn’t Lu. Besides, do you think I’m from the Lu family?”

At this moment, Qiao Xi walked forward, her eyes filled with coldness. “Young Master Lu, now that everyone knows that Ah Zheng is Miss Lu Qingyun’s son, what’s your identity as the child who once called himself Miss Lu Qingyun’s child? Why is Huang Lilan so good to you? Why would she rather bear everything herself than let you be tainted?”

“Don’t treat everyone as a fool. Everyone knows your identity. You’re just a puppet nurtured by the Lu family. Now that you’ve damaged Gu Zheng’s rights, he has the right to sue you. What right do you have to ask him to let you off?”

2

Qiao Xi clicked her tongue. “We don’t need the money. In any case, we husband and wife and don’t lack money. It’s useless to ask for compensation of just a couple billions. Why don’t we just send Young Master Lu to jail? It’s such a large case. I wonder how many years Young Master Lu will be sentenced to?”

Chapter 834: Ordinary And Confident

“The evidence is conclusive, yet Young Master Lu is still unrepentant. Even if your Lu family hires the most powerful lawyer, you have no chance of winning. However, the Lu family is still a big family in Li City, after all. With your connections and Young Master Lu’s good performance, he’ll be released in a few years. Unfortunately, Young Master Lu will be someone who has been to jail then. I don’t know if he’ll still have a chance to be the heir.”

The Lu family’s faces turned livid.

“Gu Zheng!” Lu Yan gritted his teeth.

“What? Are you angry from embarrassment, Young Master Lu?” Qiao Xi’s face was filled with ridicule.

At this moment, Lu Yan wanted to cover Qiao Xi’s mouth. He even wondered why he had a good impression of this woman back then and even dealt with the Qiao family for Qiao Xi.

He originally thought that he could rely on his sincerity to move Qiao Xi and get her to leave Gu Zheng to be with him. As long as Qiao Xi was willing to divorce Gu Zheng, he could disregard the past and marry her. However, he never expected that all of this was just his wishful thinking. Qiao Xi had already been bewitched by Gu Zheng, and her mind was filled with thoughts of what was best for Gu Zheng. Why should he ask for trouble?!

Lu Yan had long known that Qiao Xi was not to be trifled with, but he did not expect her to have such a vicious tongue. Every word she said stabbed at his heart.

However, Mrs. Gu was not appeased. She continued to attack crazily. “Young Master Lu, have you looked in the mirror?! I want to vomit just looking at your hypocritical appearance!

“I really don’t understand why your Lu family is so confident when you’re so ordinary! You were the one who broke the law and even made Ah Zheng lower his head. What right do you have? Just because you’re shameless?

“Don’t you think so?”

As soon as Qiao Xi finished speaking, Gu Yao chimed in, “Yes, yes! Since you made a mistake, you should either go to jail or pay the compensation. However, you don’t want to compensate or go to jail. You even said that my brother is unfilial. The Lu family is really good at distorting the truth!”

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation looked at Lu Yan with subtle expressions. At this moment, they began to wonder if the heir they were following really had the ability to lead them.

Previously, Lu Yan spent a lot of money to buy a plot of land to build a resort. Unexpectedly, not long after, it was discovered that there was a tomb underground, causing Lu Corporation to lose 10 billion yuan. Now, because of the packaging of the perfumes, Lu Corporation suffered a huge loss.

Could it be that Lu Yan was a spy sent by the enemy?

Ever since he took over Lu Corporation, not only had he not made any achievements, but he had also lost more than 10 billion yuan. Lu Corporation was already in a difficult situation. If this continued, how long would Lu Corporation survive?

Old Master Lu also noticed everyone’s gazes. At this moment, his face was ferocious, and his old eyes were filled with horror and anger. His body swayed as if he would faint the next second.

He suppressed the anger in his heart. He absolutely could not have a falling out with Gu Zheng in public. Although he could not let Gu Zheng be of use to him, he could not become enemies with Gu Zheng either.

Right now, he could only use his bloodline to force Gu Zheng to yield, so he had to endure it.

Old Master Lu shot a look at one of the higher-ups. The other party instantly understood and said while trembling, “President Gu, how about this? During the presales, Lu Corporation sold a total of 800,000

bottles of perfume. We promise to only sell these 800,000 bottles. The total amount is about 900 million. We're willing to compensate you at twice the price. We just hope that you won't pursue the matter with Lu Corporation."

Old Master Lu lowered his eyes and clenched his fists.

Anger! Unwillingness!

Unexpectedly, after spending his entire life in the business world, he still ended up losing to his grandson.

The 900 million yuan was the total price after all the perfumes were sold. However, after deducting the publicity fees, research and development fees, and materials fees, the final net profit was only 200 million yuan.

However, they still had to compensate Gu Zheng with 1.8 billion yuan. The employees of Lu Corporation had been busy for two months. In the end, not only did they not earn a single cent, but they even lost 2.5 billion yuan.

Who could accept this outcome?

Old Master Lu could not just watch Lu Corporation go bankrupt. Not only did he have to pay Gu Zheng 1.8 billion, but he also had to ask him to accept the money and immediately withdraw the lawsuit so that he would not mention this matter again.

Old Master Lu had never been so embarrassed in his life. He knew that he had been schemed against by Gu Zheng, but he did not dare to go head-on with him. He could only willingly hand over 1.8 billion.

It was extremely humiliating...

Lu Yan's expression was gloomy, and there was a strong smell of blood in his mouth. He even felt that he was about to faint. At this moment, he finally felt like he was being stepped on by Gu Zheng.

Chapter 835: Compensate 1.8 billion

Lu Corporation's annual meeting had only started for half an hour, but Lu Yan had already lowered his head and was being questioned by all the higher-ups of Lu Corporation. Meanwhile, Gu Zheng was sitting on the sofa and calmly tasting red wine. His expression did not change at all.

When Lu Xiang heard that she had to compensate Gu Zheng 1.8 billion yuan, she was instantly angry.

Why? That was 1.8 billion, not 180,000! Moreover, the Lu family was already in a difficult situation. How could Gu Zheng have the cheek to take this sum of money?

This scumbag deserved to die! If she had known earlier, she would have killed him when he was young. Then, there would not be so much trouble now.

Lu Xiang could not suppress the anger in her heart and cursed, "Gu Zheng! You ingrate! Do you have the cheek to ask for this money? It's 1.8 billion!"

As soon as she finished speaking, Old Master Lu's blood surged. He roared, "Shut up!"

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation also looked at Lu Xiang in disdain. This woman was really too stupid!

The atmosphere in the banquet hall was extremely awkward. After a moment of silence, the man on the sofa slowly looked up and revealed a calm smile. "Compensate me with 1.8 billion?"

Everyone held their breaths as their bodies trembled.

Gu Zheng said casually, "I could have accepted this suggestion, but..."

But?

Everyone's hearts almost stopped as they anxiously waited for Gu Zheng to speak. Only Qiao Xi was leisurely eating the cake.

"However, Second Miss Lu seems to be very unwilling. If I accept this money, won't I be an ingrate?"

Lu Xiang gasped, and her expression changed.

Gu Zheng chuckled. "In any case, I don't lack this 1.8 billion. There's no need for me to ruin my reputation for such a small amount of money. Xi Xi, don't you think so?"

Qiao Xi nodded like a chick pecking on rice. "Very right! Ah Zheng, I think we should sue Lu Corporation! It seems that Second Miss Lu doesn't care about Young Master Lu at all! She would rather let him go to jail than give us 1.8 billion!"

Gu Zheng nodded. "Yes."

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation had gloomy expressions and hurriedly begged, "President Gu, President Gu..."

It was not easy for them to persuade President Gu to accept the money and let the matter rest. Just because Lu Xiang's words had angered President Gu, he became unwilling?

If Lu Corporation was sued, not only would they have to compensate, but all their perfumes would also be taken off the shelves and destroyed. They would not even be able to recover their capital. Moreover, Lu Yan would still go to jail. Most importantly, if Lu Corporation was sued, the company's reputation would be greatly affected. From now on, there was a high chance that customers would not buy Lu Corporation's products anymore. This would be a devastating blow.

Originally, they only needed to fork out 1.8 billion yuan to solve the problem. Although everyone was unwilling, this was the only solution. Now that Lu Xiang had caused a scene, the matter had become even more serious.

Was Lu Xiang crazy?

1

Old Master Lu, who usually doted on his daughter, could not help but roar, "Lu Xiang! Are you crazy?!"

Old Madam Lu said unhappily, "Why are you shouting at Xiang'er? She's doing this for the company, but you're actually biased toward Lu Qingyun—"

Hearing this, Old Master Lu was so angry that his beard trembled. He immediately interrupted, "Shut up!"

"Old Madam Lu, are you trying to say that he's biased toward Lu Qingyun's son?" Qiao Xi said with a smile, "You mean to say that you don't like Eldest Miss Lu, right? So why are you so good to Lu Yan? When the Lu family adopted Lu Yan, they announced to the public that they had found Eldest Miss Lu's biological son. Could it be that the Lu family already knew that Lu Yan wasn't Eldest Miss Lu's child?"

The entire place was silent.

Old Master Lu was almost angered to the point of vomiting blood. "Qiao Xi, you..."

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation all lowered their heads and remained silent. The atmosphere was terrifyingly oppressive.

"Everyone."

At this moment, Gu Zheng slowly stood up. His expression was indifferent, and his voice was cold and distant.

"I'm sorry, but I've already lost my patience. It's time for this farce to end. Xi Xi, let's go."

The moment that was said, everyone in the Lu family gasped. If Gu Zheng left just like this, it would be equivalent to giving Lu Corporation a death notice.

From the moment he stepped out of the banquet hall, the news of Han Ye's lawsuit would spread widely. Not only would the Lu family have to compensate, but their reputation would also be ruined. Moreover, Lu Yan would go to jail.

Qiao Xi held Gu Zheng's arm and smiled lightly. "Originally, Lu Corporation only needed to compensate 1.8 billion yuan and everything would've been fine. However, Second Miss Lu was unwilling to compensate, which caused the situation to worsen. Ah Zheng, who do you think Second Miss Lu got her IQ from?"

"Maybe it's because our family has too much money and thinks that losing 1.8 billion is nothing to fret over. She'll only be satisfied when the Lu family loses everything."

Chapter 836: Want An Apology

The corners of Gu Zheng's mouth slowly curled up, while the Lu family's faces were still pale. They were thinking about how to persuade Gu Zheng.

Qiao Xi said casually, "Second Miss Lu, do you have a grudge against Lu Yan? He clearly didn't have to go to jail, but you made things worse by causing a scene."

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation looked at Lu Xiang angrily. They did not really care about Lu Yan, but Lu Yan was now the acting president of Lu Corporation. He represented Lu Corporation's image. If he went to jail, Lu Corporation's reputation would be completely ruined.

At this moment, a higher-up broke down and begged, "President Gu, we're willing to destroy all the perfumes and compensate at twice the price. We'll give you a total of 1.8 billion!"

Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully. The Lu family had gone from asking them to withdraw the lawsuit to letting them still sell the perfumes to compensating 1.8 billion. Now, they had decided to destroy all the perfumes and would still compensate them 1.8 billion.

The Lu family's constant concessions meant that they no longer had the confidence. Originally, they could still rely on selling the perfumes to recover a portion of their capital. Now, they had reluctantly given up.

Gu Zheng ignored the higher-up's words and continued holding Qiao Xi's hand as they slowly walked out of the banquet hall.

Everyone stopped breathing. The air around them seemed to have frozen. They had already given in to him to this extent, so why was President Gu still not satisfied?

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation looked terrified. "President Gu, what else do you want?"

Qiao Xi stopped in her tracks and turned around to glance at everyone. She chuckled. "Ah Zheng has never made demands. He doesn't lack money and isn't interested in that 1.8 billion. He doesn't have time to go to court with Lu Yan either. He's only unwilling to forgive the Lu family because of Second Miss Lu's words."

She said unhurriedly, then looked at Lu Xiang casually.

"Why don't we just get Lu Xiang to apologize?! As long as Second Miss Lu is sincere, Ah Zheng might withdraw the lawsuit. Anyway, it doesn't matter to us. Whether we sue or not depends on our mood. Whether you apologize or not depends on you."

Qiao Xi's words instantly caused a commotion. Everyone had different expressions, but most of them were angry, especially Second Miss Lu. Her expression was gloomy like ink, and her hands could not help but tremble.

Everyone knew clearly in their hearts that the couple really did not care. The more Qiao Xi did not care, the angrier Lu Xiang became.

Gu Zheng held Qiao Xi's hand and did not care about what she said at all. He looked at her with dotting eyes. "Is the food here not to your liking? I'll get the chef to prepare a new table of food for you when we get home."

The two of them chatted casually as if no one was around. They did not care about the Lu family at all.

"Chairman... Chairman Lu!" The higher-up of Lu Corporation's voice trembled as they looked at Old Master Lu in despair. They hoped that he could stand up and take charge of the situation. Otherwise, Lu Corporation would be destroyed in Lu Yan's hands.

Old Master Lu's expression was terrifyingly gloomy, and his old face was filled with malevolence. His gaze was filled with anger and disgust, but he still had to humble himself to please Gu Zheng.

Seeing that Old Master Lu was silent, the higher-ups of Lu Corporation looked at Lu Xiang. Lu Xiang was already in her 40s. Her relationship with her husband was not harmonious. Hence, she often stayed with the Lu family. Now that she had caused a commotion in the Lu family and angered President Gu, she wanted all of them to bear the consequences.

The banquet hall was silent for two minutes. Finally, someone could not help but say, "If Eldest Miss Lu was still alive, how could President Gu..."

Lu Qingyun was Gu Zheng's biological mother. If she were still alive, why would President Gu target the Lu family? Even if he did not have any feelings for the Lu family, he still had to care about Lu Qingyun's reputation.

Hearing everyone mention Lu Qingyun, Lu Xiang's expression changed. She gritted her teeth. That familiar feeling had returned!

Back then, when Lu Qingyun was still alive, everyone said that Eldest Miss Lu was gentle and generous. They said that she was indeed the daughter of a socialite. Lu Qingyun kept overshadowing her. Now that so many years had passed, Lu Qingyun's son was actually making things difficult for her in public and asking her to apologize?

What right did Gu Zheng have?

Old Madam Lu was so angry that she felt dizzy. Back then, after she became a mistress, she and Lu Xiang suppressed Lu Qingyun. After Lu Qingyun died, they controlled the entire Lu family. They thought that no one would threaten them anymore.

However, who knew that Lu Qingyun, this weak woman, would give birth to an outstanding son? Gu Zheng was controlling the entire Li City's economy at such a young age.

Since they did not lower their heads to Lu Qingyun back then, they would not lower their heads to Gu Zheng now!

Chapter 837: A Pauper Can Never Become A Princess

Old Madam Lu's eyes were filled with resentment as she roared unwillingly, "Gu Zheng! Xiang'er is your aunt, yet you..."

"If she's Ah Zheng's biological aunt, then he should indeed call her 'Aunt'. But what right does the daughter of a mistress have to be Gu Zheng's aunt?"

Qiao Xi interrupted Old Madam Lu indifferently, then snorted coldly. "It's fine if you don't want to apologize, but why are you trying to claim kinship? Chairman Lu, I need to remind you of something. Three months ago, Lu Yan and Yao Mengqing made a bet with me. Young Master Lu bet on two percent of Lu Corporation's shares.

"It just so happens that I won that bet, so I'm also a shareholder of Lu Corporation now. If Lu Yan is sued, I'll sell these shares. At that time, it'll be very disadvantageous for Chairman Lu to gather back the shares. However, it seems that Old Madam Lu and Second Miss Lu don't care at all."

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation subconsciously looked at Lu Yan. He actually used the shares of the company as a bet and lost to Qiao Xi?

Old Madam Lu was not cultured to begin with, let alone know about company matters. She shouted like a shrew, "Qiao Xi! What right do you have to ask Xiang'er to apologize? No matter what, she's an elder. You need to show some respect for our status here!"

Everyone knew very well in their hearts that although Qiao Xi only held two percent of the shares, if Lu Yan really went to jail, the shareholders would all sell their shares. It would be difficult for Old Master Lu to gather back the shares then. At that time, Gu Zheng would definitely buy the shares at a high price. Once his shares surpassed the Lu family's, Lu Corporation would completely belong to him.

There was only one way to get Gu Zheng to withdraw the lawsuit, and that was to get Lu Xiang to apologize.

Old Master Lu suddenly looked up at Lu Xiang fiercely.

At this moment, Lu Xiang was still calm. She knew that the old master doted on her. He had never been able to say harsh words to her, not since she was young. How could he ask her to apologize to Gu Zheng?

She did not care about Qiao Xi's words at all. Unexpectedly, when she raised her head, she suddenly met Old Master Lu's vicious gaze. She was terrified to the point her entire body trembled. "Dad, you..."

Before she could finish, Old Master Lu slammed his walking cane on the floor. He suppressed his anger and gritted his teeth. "Lu Xiang, apologize to Ah Zheng!"

His voice was filled with anger and unwillingness, while his heart was filled with humiliation. He used this tone to tell everyone that he was unconvinced, but he had no choice but to lower his head.

Suddenly, the phones of everyone from Lu Corporation rang at the same time. A message appeared in front of everyone's eyes: [The news has been confirmed. Lu Yan has been sued for copyright infringement. As he was unable to fulfill his presales promise, he's been receiving a great number of complaints from customers. The relevant departments have already started an investigation.]

At this moment, everyone finally started to feel nervous. They knew that if they did not come up with a solution and let the matter fester, Lu Corporation would be completely destroyed.

Lu Xiang's voice trembled with unwillingness. "Dad, why should I apologize to him? He's just..."

She used her last bit of rationality to not say the word 'bastard'. Then, she said indignantly, "Dad! This is Gu Zheng's trap. He deliberately dug a hole for the Lu family. I'm unwilling to lower my head for Lu Corporation. Otherwise, how badly will the Lu family's reputation drop?"

Bang!

A higher-up of Lu Corporation could not help but smash the wine glass and roar, "Lu Xiang! Shut up! You're relying on the fact that you're the only daughter of the Lu family to commit crimes! If you had a little bit of Miss Qingyun's intelligence, you wouldn't have caused Lu Corporation to become like this! You're a jinx. You want to destroy the entire Lu family and make all of us go bankrupt with you!"

Old Madam Lu instantly exploded when she heard this. "Bullsh*t! What are you talking about?! Are you rebelling?! Xiang'er is the daughter of the Lu family. What does she caring about her family's matters have to do with you?!"

The banquet hall was filled with the seniors of Lu Corporation. Many of them had dedicated their lives to Lu Corporation. Their life and death depended on the company. However, under Gu Zheng's oppression, they gradually lost their minds.

"Do you have the right to speak? You're just an uneducated mistress! A pauper can never become a princess. You've never been worthy to be the wife of the chairman. You and your daughter are both useless! Even as mistresses, you can't keep your men! You even want to make things difficult for Eldest Miss' biological son. Are you idiots?"

Qiao Xi's eyes curved into crescents when she heard that person's reprimand. She felt extremely carefree.

The people from Lu Corporation were all bad people to begin with. Now that there was an internal conflict, they revealed their true colors. They usually pretended to be harmonious, but now, for the sake of benefits, they were unwilling to give in.

Chapter 838: The Wicked Will Be Dealt With By The Wicked

At this moment, Lu Xiang and Lu Yan had already become a thorn in everyone's side. Everyone criticized them. "In the end, it's just because Lu Yan doesn't have the ability that he insisted on fighting with President Gu. If he wanted to release his new perfumes, he should've investigated Han Ye's identity clearly. He used someone else's paintings without investigating clearly, which resulted in such consequences. Do you know the law?! Do you know what copyright infringement is?!"

"President Gu was able to establish Gu Corporation by himself and become the international oil painter, Han Ye. You, Lu Yan, can't do anything well. Even with the Lu family's resources, you're still useless!"

"Lu Yan brought this upon himself! What does it have to do with us?!"

"President Gu had already decided to let the matter rest. As long as Lu Corporation takes out 1.8 billion yuan to compensate, everything will be settled. However, Lu Xiang just had to anger President Gu. Are you stupid or do you want to drag everyone down with you?"

"If Lu Corporation goes bankrupt, what will we do? Chairman Lu, you've been managing Lu Corporation for your entire life. Are you going to watch as the mistress and illegitimate daughter ruin your hard work?"

Old Madam Lu and Lu Xiang's bodies went weak. They almost fell to the floor.

It had been so many years, but Lu Xiang still could not get rid of the title of being an illegitimate daughter. These people called her 'Second Miss Lu' on the surface, but they still looked down on her background behind her back.

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth curled up. As the saying went, the wicked would be dealt with by the wicked. Earlier, Lu Xiang mocked Gu Zheng for being an illegitimate child, but in the end, she was mocked by the higher-ups of Lu Corporation for being an illegitimate daughter.

At this moment, the higher-ups roared crazily, "Lu Xiang, apologize! Lu Yan! You have to apologize too!"

“What did you two pieces of trash bring to the company? If it weren’t for your surname being Lu, you would’ve been chased out a long time ago. Without you, the Lu family wouldn’t have encountered such a crisis!”

Cold sweat broke out on Lu Xiang’s forehead as she retreated in horror. “No, I’m not apologizing!”

Gu Zheng, who was standing at the door, smirked. He wanted to see how long Lu Xiang could last.

Soon, everyone received news that contracts were being terminated. The employees downstairs anxiously went upstairs to ask about the exact situation.

No! They could not watch Lu Corporation go bankrupt.

Old Master Lu indeed doted on his daughter, but at this moment, he had no choice but to seriously order, “Lu Xiang, quickly apologize to Ah Zheng and beg him to forgive you!”

The higher-ups of Lu Corporation could not suppress the anger in their hearts anymore. Seeing that Lu Xiang was unwilling to apologize, they splashed a glass of red wine on her head.

“Ah!” Lu Xiang screamed. Bright red wine liquid flowed down her head and covered her terrified face. It was a shocking sight.

When one of them made a move, the others could not help but raise the things in their hands and throw them at her.

Bang!

Someone threw a wine glass at Lu Xiang’s forehead, and a wound instantly appeared. She held her forehead and felt a splitting headache. Her vision was blurry.

The originally gorgeous banquet hall was in a mess now. Lu Xiang stood in the middle. Her white evening gown was already dyed red by the alcohol. She screamed helplessly and gradually broke down...

Seeing this, Lu Yan did not dare to delay and hurriedly apologized. “President Gu, I’m sorry.”

Gu Zheng smiled, his eyes filled with mockery.

Everyone looked at Lu Xiang. She held her forehead and wiped the red wine off her face. No one came forward to comfort her.

Lu Qingyun was clearly dead, and she was the only daughter of the Lu family now. In the past, she was the one who bullied others. Who would dare to bully her? However, everyone was forcing her to apologize to this bastard!

Lu Xiang’s heart was filled with despair. It was clearly Gu Zheng who schemed against Lu Corporation, but now, he wanted her to apologize. However, she had no choice. She knew very well that if she insisted on not apologizing today, these people would definitely not let the matter rest.

Her former relatives, friends, and colleagues all looked ferocious. Even her mother did not dare to defend her. Her father had also asked her to apologize with a gloomy expression. As for that piece of trash, Lu Yan, she could not count on him.

“Gu Zheng...”

Lu Xiang was extremely humiliated. Her face that was covered with red wine gradually became ferocious. She gritted her teeth and said word by word, “I apologize. I’m sorry.”

As soon as he finished speaking, the entire venue fell silent.

After a moment, Gu Zheng chuckled and said in a happy voice, “It’s really rare to hear you say words of apology. Gu Yao, did you record it?”

Gu Yao said, “Of course! It’s clearly recorded. It’ll be broadcasted in Lu Corporation tomorrow!”

Qiao Xi: “...” ‘You brothers are really vicious!’

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Seeing that Lu Xiang had apologized, the higher-ups of Lu Corporation asked excitedly, “President Gu, Lu Xiang has already apologized. Then...”

Chapter 839: It’s Fortunate You’re Around

Hope reignited in everyone’s eyes. Now that Lu Xiang had already apologized, Gu Zheng should let them and the Lu family off.

The banquet hall was silent. Everyone’s breathing slowed down as they quietly waited for Gu Zheng to speak. He did not speak, so no one dared to rush him, afraid that they would anger this living King of Hell.

After a moment of silence, Gu Zheng seemed to be tired of seeing Lu Xiang’s and Lu Yan’s humiliated expressions. He slowly opened his eyes and smiled casually. “Alright.”

Song Shijing went forward to convey the president’s message. “The president will withdraw the lawsuit immediately, but at the same time, you have to take down all the perfumes and destroy the bottles. You have to compensate the president 1.8 billion yuan.”

Everyone from Lu Corporation was livid. Old Master Lu only felt a dull pain in his heart. It was so painful that he could not say anything. However, even though they were so unwilling, they still gritted their teeth and accepted this outcome.

Old Master Lu could only clench his fists and grit his teeth. “Someone will confirm the compensation with Gu Corporation later.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Gu Zheng held Qiao Xi’s hand and left mercilessly. This farce was finally over. The Lu family would have to pay an enormous price for this, but fortunately, the Lu family’s reputation was preserved.

As soon as Gu Zheng and Lu Xiang left, Old Master Lu’s vision darkened as he fell to the floor. His body trembled as he pointed at Lu Yan and Lu Xiang. He did not even have the strength to say anything.

He regretted it! If he had chosen Qingyun and Gu Zheng back then and if Lu Corporation had been handed to the mother and son, perhaps the Lu family would have long become the top corporation in the country. He would not have to worry about the company's trivial matters at his age.

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However, at this point, he had no way out. From the moment he decided to keep Ah Yan, everything was already destined.

Soon, Lu Corporation quickly suppressed the news and gave the customers a reasonable explanation. They also gave some coupons to the customers who paid for the presales deposit. Only then was the crisis resolved.

They had lost 1.8 billion yuan to Gu Zheng. Coupled with the manpower, resources, and publicity expenses they had invested during this period of time, they lost a total of 2.6 billion yuan.

Previously, Lu Corporation had already lost more than 10 billion yuan. In just a few months, they lost another 2.6 billion yuan. The huge company was already emptied out and could not withstand any more storms.

...

Longwan Residential.

Qiao Xi chuckled and praised, "Gu Yao, you've become smarter! You even knew how to bring Madam Carter over."

Gu Yao looked proud. "I was smart to begin with!"

Qiao Xi smiled and nodded. The gratification she felt was similar to that of a mother watching the child she raised grow up. This kid had grown up and gotten rid of the title of a good-for-nothing. Although he liked freedom and did not want to join the company, he was doing well now.

She could not help but sigh. "Actually, Huang Lilan isn't completely useless. She did something right by bringing you to Gu Zheng."

It was because of Gu Yao that Gu Zheng's gray childhood had some color.

The first time they met, Qiao Xi only thought that Gu Yao was an ignorant and incompetent hedonistic son who kept protecting Yao Mengqing. Now that she thought about it, she could not blame him. It was because he was too naive and trusted others very easily. Moreover, as long as someone was good to him, he would give up everything to repay that person. Who would not like such a loyal little puppy?

Qiao Xi smiled as she looked at him. "It's fortunate you're around."

Gu Yao was so touched that tears welled up in his eyes. His sister-in-law was too good. When he was chased out of the Gu family, everyone thought that he was a stray dog. Only Qiao Xi comforted him and gradually brought him out of the shadows.

Just as he was about to pull Qiao Xi over to express his gratitude, Gu Zheng also looked at him with a dotting gaze. "It's so good to have you around."

Gu Yao was instantly smug.

Even Gu Zheng, this bastard, said that he was fortunate to have him around. He was really outstanding. He danced with excitement. "Yes! It's your honor to be able to meet me!"

Qiao Xi had just taken a sip of the soup when she suddenly choked.

This kid couldn't help but boast now! Gu Zheng had only praised him a few times, yet he was already so arrogant. How dare he speak to Gu Zheng like this?

...

10 minutes later, Gu Yao stood outside in the snowstorm like an abandoned dog.

He was wrong. He would never be arrogant again.

Coincidentally, it was snowing today, so his brother heartlessly threw him out.

Gu Yao was so aggrieved that he was about to cry. Looking at the heavy snow, he could only get into the car and think about where he should go next. However, he would be alone no matter where he went. It was too boring.

Chapter 840: You'll Always Be My Younger Brother

Just as he was thinking about it, someone knocked on the car door. A man was standing outside the car in a black windbreaker. He frowned. "Gu Yao, are you stupid? It's snowing so heavily and you want to drive somewhere? Are you tired of living? Hurry up and get out of the car. I don't want to see the news of Second Young Master Gu getting into a car accident and dying tomorrow!"

Gu Yao was stunned for a moment. He gritted his teeth and said, "Can you not curse me? I wanna beat you up so badly!"

Qiao Xi, who was not far away, pursed her lips. Gu Zheng was clearly worried that it would not be safe for Gu Yao to drive on a snowy day and wanted him to stay in Longwan Residential, but the words he said were so infuriating.

Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow. "Give it a try, then."

Gu Yao was so scared that his entire body trembled. He suddenly noticed that Gu Zheng was only wearing a thin windbreaker. He could not help but complain, "It's snowing so heavily and you're only wearing a windbreaker? You're not even wearing a down jacket. Are you showing off your good figure?"

Qiao Xi: "...". He was clearly concerned about the other party, but why was he being so annoying?

Although Gu Yao was dissatisfied, he still got out of the car obediently. As soon as he got out of the car, a black umbrella blocked the heavy snow for him. Then, Gu Zheng's calm voice sounded. "Come celebrate the new year with us this year."

In the past, Gu Yao would spend the new year in the Gu family's old residence. However, he had been chased out by the Gu family and did not know who his biological parents were. He had nowhere to go except for his brother, Gu Zheng.

Gu Zheng said slowly, "Blood relations don't matter to me. There are so many people in the Gu family who are related by blood, but their relationship is worse than that of strangers. I've never cared whether you're my biological younger brother or not. I only care about you. I thought you already knew this."

Gu Yao did not say anything and just lowered his head. He, who was usually noisy, suddenly quietened down.

"All these years, we've been brothers and supported each other. I thought that you would understand my intentions even if I didn't say anything. I didn't expect you to be even more stupid than Mrs. Gu."

Qiao Xi: "... " How was she stupid? Could he not implicate her?

His voice was calm and gentle. "No matter whose son you are, you're still Gu Yao and my younger brother. This won't change at all. Don't you understand?"

Gu Yao hesitated.

Gu Zheng stopped in his tracks and turned to look at him. "You were a good-for-nothing in the past. Now that you've left Huang Lilan, you don't have to pretend anymore. You've gradually become polite and capable. I'm very pleased. After all, you've always been a good child.

"You've been doing very well in the company recently, and everyone's impression of you has changed. However, I don't want your relationship with me to change at all. You can always do whatever you want in front of me."

Gu Zheng's voice was gentle. This was the first time he spoke so gently and calmly to Gu Yao like a big brother.

"Gu Yao, I can't stop you from doing what you want. I'll respect your wishes, but I don't want you to keep a distance from me."

Gu Zheng had always been a man of few words. This was the first time he had said so much. Every word stabbed Gu Yao's heart.

"You don't have to think that you're taking advantage of me. In my gray childhood, you were the only one who brought me warmth. Just based on this alone, you'll always be my younger brother."

Gu Yao lowered his eyes. In the past, he was the second young master of the Gu family. He thought that it was reasonable for Gu Zheng to be good to him and indulge him because they were biological brothers. However, ever since he found out about his identity, he did not dare to fool around like before. He kept a distance from many people, including Gu Zheng.

In the past, even if he had committed a crime, he would very arrogantly say that his brother was Gu Zheng. However, now, he did not dare to use Gu Zheng's name to commit crimes. After all, Gu Zheng was no longer his brother.

Moreover, Gu Zheng had been taking care of him all these years. He already owed Gu Zheng a lot, so what right did he have to continue enjoying Gu Zheng's care?

However, Gu Zheng's words today hit him hard.

'I'll respect your wishes, but I don't want you to keep a distance from me.'

'Brother! My dear brother!'

Gu Yao burst into tears. "Brother, do you really not mind us not being biological brothers? Will you still treat me as well as you did before?"

Gu Zheng frowned. "What do you think?"

"Even if I call you a bastard, you won't hate me?" Gu Yao wiped his tears and asked seriously.

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and frowned slightly. After a moment of silence, he glanced at Gu Yao and said, "Kid, do you want to be beaten up?"

Gu Yao looked terrified, then he smiled foolishly. He was sure that Gu Zheng would not change. Gu Zheng would still be good to him and dote on him.