

Lady gu 851

Chapter 851: *Emotional Blackmail*

The middle-aged man in the lead said arrogantly, “The two of you aren’t from the music industry, so perhaps you don’t know me. Let me introduce myself. I’m a guest of honor for Planet Music Festival, Xu Da.”

After Xu Da finished speaking, he looked proud and raised his head arrogantly. Planet Music Festival was the top music competition in the country and was very famous overseas. His identity as a guest of honor for Planet Music Festival was enough to make the two people in front of him admire him.

He had his hands behind his back and a proud expression as he quietly waited for Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng to come forward to greet him. However, after waiting for a long time, the two of them did not move in the slightest.

After a moment of silence, Qiao Xi cleared her throat and slowly said, “Mr. Xu, you came to Li City to give out an award. Who are you giving it to?”

Seeing this, Xu Da said arrogantly, “A composer named Fu Sheng won a gold award at Planet Music Festival. I came to Li City to give her an award.”

The corners of Qiao Xi’s mouth curled up slightly. So it was for Fu Sheng!

Xu Da said arrogantly, “Let me remind you that Miss Fu Sheng has taken a liking to this ancient Chinese zither. I wanted to bid for this zither as a gift to Miss Fu Sheng. As the top composer of Planet Music Festival, she’s the most suitable candidate for this zither. Since some people don’t know music, why did they bid for this zither?”

He glanced coldly at Qiao Xi, and his eyes were filled with ridicule. “If this Nine Heavens Chinese Zither falls into the hands of an outsider, it’ll only be left in the storeroom to rot. This is equivalent to ruining it. Why don’t you just give it up?!”

As soon as he finished speaking, Gu Zheng’s expression turned cold.

Qiao Xi continued to smile as she casually said, “So, Mr. Xu, you mean that if I don’t give up this zither, I’ll be considered unreasonable?”

When Xu Da saw that Qiao Xi was very sensible, his expression softened. “Only Fu Sheng is worthy of this ancient zither. Even if you obtain it, it’s worthless to you. Why don’t you give it to someone more suitable for it?”

Qiao Xi smiled. “I can give it to you, but Mr. Xu, you have to show your identification and prove that it was Planet Music Festival who asked you to buy this zither for Fu Sheng. If it’s the person in charge’s request, my husband and I naturally have no reason to refuse.

“When my husband bought this zither, the auctioneer didn’t say that anyone had reserved it. However, if the person in charge of Planet Music Festival wants this zither, I can give it up.”

Xu Da's face was livid.

"If it's just because Miss Fu Sheng has taken a liking to this zither and you want to give it to her in your own name, why should I give it to you? Moreover, if you really wanted to give someone a gift, why didn't you come earlier? You just had to wait for the zither to be auctioned off before coming over to make things difficult for us. Doesn't that make you a robber?"

Qiao Xi's words were reasonable, and every word heavily smashed into Xu Da's heart. His expression became uglier and uglier. The muscles on his face were even trembling slightly.

Finally, he flew into a rage out of humiliation and shouted, "What nonsense are you talking about?! It doesn't matter if it's Planet Music Festival's idea or mine. Only Fu Sheng is worthy of this violin. You're just an amateur who doesn't know music. What right do you have to occupy this violin? Do you have any shame?"

"Everything is first come, first serve. Why should I give in just because she likes it?" Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows.

"She has obtained such a great honor. She's the pride of the entire Li City and the country. What right do you have to stop her?" Xu Da shouted.

"If she wants it so badly, then let her look for me herself!" Qiao Xi's face was filled with ridicule. "Oh! Mr. Xu, are you trying to use emotional blackmail against me? How dare you ask me for something? Just because you're old? If Miss Fu Sheng really likes this zither, she can look for me. I want to see if she's as shameless as you!"

Xu Da did not expect to be rendered speechless by a 20-year-old woman. His expression gradually turned ferocious.

Qiao Xi said meaningfully, "Mr. Xu, perhaps you don't know the rules of the auction. Once the mallet is hit thrice, it means that the deal is done. This zither belongs to me. As for the others, they won't have the chance even if they want it. Why should I have to give in to just anyone who takes a liking to it?"

Moreover, what right did 'Fu Sheng' have to ask for this Nine Heavens Chinese Zither?

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi turned around and left. Gu Zheng carried the ancient zither and followed her. Xu Da was still standing on the same spot while gnashing his teeth in hatred. He was unable to calm down for a long time.

Chapter 852: Gold Award Winner

On the way, Gu Zheng asked, "Previously when you went to look for Song Shijing, was it about this?"

Qiao Xi nodded. "Song Shijing majored in law. I asked him to do me a small favor and give me a copyright certificate."

Gu Zheng revealed a dotting smile. "Looks like I've underestimated you, Mrs. Gu. You've already laid out your plans. Who in the world is more suitable for this zither than you, Mrs. Gu?"

He walked steadily and looked ahead. His tone was gentle. "Don't worry, I'll get Song Shijing to pay more attention to Xu Da. I won't let him look for trouble with you."

Qiao Xi's face turned red as she revealed a shy expression. It turned out that in Gu Zheng's eyes, she was such a weak and helpless little girl!

The couple got into the car. Qiao Xi had just taken out her phone when she realized that the screen had turned black. A white code appeared on the screen. It turned out that Mu Ming and Mu Ling were looking for her. Actually, she did not have a good relationship with this pair of siblings. Previously, Mu Ling always quarreled with her and even became enemies with her because of Mo Yuan. However, when Xu Mei wanted to help Qiao Rou get rid of the dirt on her, the siblings refused without hesitation. They even ordered the entire Dark Net not to let anyone take on Xu Mei's job.

Hence, on the account of their past relationship, she had to help. Moreover, this matter was very simple for her. She just had to expose Tang Ruge for pretending to be Fu Sheng. It was something that she should do.

Gu Zheng slowly looked up. "You want to help?"

"It's not exactly helping. I don't care about other people's family matters, but Tang Ruge has been looking for trouble with me time and again. This time, she's even pretending to be Fu Sheng. It's time for me to retaliate."

Qiao Xi replied to Mu Ming's message and said calmly: [The copyright certificate has been completed, but I still need someone to help me. She'll arrive in Li City a few days later.]

Gu Zheng smiled. It seemed that Mrs. Gu had long set up a trap. Whether Mu Ming asked her for help or not, she had already decided to make Tang Ruge pay the price. Tang Ruge could provoke anyone but not Mrs. Gu.

"I'm such a weak and obedient girl, yet Tang Ruge insists on bullying me. Since that's the case, then I don't have to show any mercy. I hope she won't cry too miserably!" Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully.

At the entrance of the charity banquet.

Xu Da was still immersed in his anger. He was so angry that his face was livid. "Miss Fu Sheng has long taken a liking to that zither, but that woman refused to give in. What right does she have to refuse? Who does she think she is?! She's inferior to even a strand of Miss Fu Sheng's hair!"

The assistant also chimed in, "Which family is that wild girl from? She's rude and has such a bad temper. She actually doesn't take the winner of Planet Music Festival seriously!"

"We've already agreed to Miss Fu Sheng's request, but now that the zither has been snatched away, how are we going to explain this to her?!"

"Mr. Xu, what's wrong?" At this moment, a gentle female voice came from afar. Tang Ruge walked over elegantly in a gown and smiled at the two of them. "Mr. Xu, who made you angry?"

Xu Da was already filled with anger. When he saw the so-called 'Fu Sheng', he exaggerated what had happened just now. He wanted Tang Ruge to deal with that arrogant woman.

When Tang Ruge heard this, she asked indifferently, “Was there a handsome and tall man standing beside the woman you’re talking about?”

Xu Da hurriedly nodded. He was curious about how Tang Ruge knew that. He heard her say with a smile, “It’s a misunderstanding. Xi Xi and President Gu are both my friends. If they like that ancient zither, just give it to them. I won’t mind.”

Xu Da looked shocked. “What? They’re your friends? Since they’re friends, why did they snatch your things?”

Tang Ruge looked miserable but pretended to be calm. “It’s okay. If Xi Xi likes it, just give it to her. Anyway, I’m not lacking in zithers. After all, she’s my friend. There’s no need to make both parties unhappy because of a zither.”

Xu Da was indignant. “Miss Fu Sheng, you’re too kind. She clearly knew that you liked that zither, yet she still snatched it away. She did it on purpose. She doesn’t know how to play the zither at all, yet she insists on having it. You’re the top composer of Planet Music Festival, yet she still looks down on you. She’s simply too much!”

Tang Ruge said helplessly, “Xi Xi is a little willful. She definitely has to get whatever she likes. I don’t have to compete with her. If this matter blows up, it won’t be good for anyone. Mr. Xu, you don’t have to take it to heart. I’ll apologize on her behalf.”

Chapter 853: A Noblewoman

Xu Da was already angry because of Qiao Xi’s attitude. Now when he saw Tang Ruge compromising, he stomped his feet in hatred.

“You’re the winner of Planet Music Festival, yet you still have to give in to her. There aren’t many young people as humble and polite as you are now.”

Tang Ruge smiled and said, “I grew up in the capital. My parents are very strict with my education. They tell me to be humble and kind no matter what. It’s just a zither, so I’ll just give it to her.”

Their conversation was secretly recorded by the reporters who came to interview them. That night, a piece of news spread online. The composer who won the gold award for Planet Music Festival had appeared in Li City in preparation to attend the award ceremony.

Before the award ceremony, the organizers of Planet Music Festival had to keep the winner of the gold award a secret. This had always been the rule. The final outcome would not be revealed until the last moment. However, the big shots in the industry had long received the news and knew that the winner of the gold award this time was a woman called Fu Sheng.

The more mysterious it was, the more attention it attracted. Hence, the entire internet was discussing who the winner of the gold award was.

Not long after, netizens found the account Fu Sheng had registered on a small website. She gained millions of fans overnight. Those with sharp eyes realized that one of the songs was very similar to a song released by the big celebrity, Xu Anran. Coupled with the fact that Xu Anran was suddenly banned, everyone could not help but suspect that Xu Anran had plagiarized Fu Sheng’s work.

Fu Sheng was just a stage name. As for this woman's true identity, no one knew. Hence, everyone started an intense discussion online.

[Previously, I didn't understand how Xu Anran suddenly disappeared, so I went to investigate. It turns out that Xu Anran plagiarized and framed the real daughter of the Xu family with her mother. In the end, the mother and daughter were chased out of the house.]

[Xu Anran's adoptive father, Mr. Xu, has already cut off all ties with Xu Anran and Madam Xu. It seems that the mother and daughter had done many shameful things behind his back!]

[Previously, Xu Anran's brainless fans were still clamoring over how their idol had released a new song. In the end, they were slapped in the face. Plagiarists should get out of the entertainment industry!]

While the netizens were discussing fervently, a reporter suddenly released a photo of Tang Ruge and Xu Da with the caption—

[I took a photo of Miss Tang and Mr. Xu at the charity banquet yesterday. Everyone might not know who Mr. Xu is. Let me explain to everyone. This is the guest of honor who'll be giving out awards for Planet Music Festival. He came to Li City this time for the award ceremony that's taking place two days later.

[I heard that this gentleman came to attend the charity banquet just to bid for a zither. Unfortunately, someone beat him to it. Mr. Xu was unwilling, so Miss Tang came to comfort him. I'll post the video for everyone later.]

A moment later, the reporter released a video. However, because the video was taken from a distance, no one could hear the conversation between the two clearly. However, everyone could hear the words 'Gold Award' and 'Planet Music Festival'.

[Let me make a bold guess. Miss Tang is probably the winner of the gold award for Planet Music Festival. She's Fu Sheng!]

Once Fu Sheng's identity was exposed, the internet instantly exploded. Everyone hurriedly checked Tang Ruge's information. This lady's identity was not ordinary. She grew up in the capital, and not only was she the eldest daughter of the Tang family, but she was also a top socialite and talented woman. She had won many awards in piano, chess, calligraphy, and painting competitions. Coupled with the gentle and kind image she had carefully built over the years, she instantly attracted a large number of fans.

Coincidentally, Tang Ruge was participating in a live broadcast at this moment. She was wearing a silk dress, and her dark hair fell over her shoulders. She looked like the humble but pretty daughter of a small family. One seemed to be able to feel the air of an intellectual on her, and she made others feel like there was a breeze caressing them just by looking at her.

The host had a good impression of this noble young lady and guided her into the topic. "Miss Tang, do you know Xu Anran?"

At this moment, the matter of Xu Anran plagiarizing Fu Sheng's work had already been exposed. In just 10 minutes, it was trending. Everyone was also very concerned about Tang Ruge's attitude toward this matter.

Tang Ruge looked confused. "Xu Anran... I know her. I've seen her on TV."

“Miss Tang and Xu Anran are both socialites of high society. Have you never met in private?” the host continued to ask.

Tang Ruge smiled. “We’ve met a few times at banquets, but I’m not familiar with her. Moreover, I don’t think we’re the same kind of people.”

Chapter 854: Plagiarism

In everyone’s eyes, Tang Ruge had always been gentle and kind. This was the first time she had publicly expressed that she didn’t like someone. That person was Xu Anran, who had gotten into the plagiarism scandal.

Just as everyone was still guessing, Tang Ruge smiled bitterly. “I don’t like to talk about others behind their backs, but since the host asked today, I’ll be honest. I don’t like her, but it’s not because of her plagiarism. It’s because of what she did to my friend.”

When Qiao Xi heard these words, an inexplicable feeling instantly appeared in her heart. The next second, Tang Ruge said with a sad expression, “Everyone should have heard about the real and fake daughters of the Xu family. Xu Anran is only the adopted daughter of the Xu family, but she deliberately hid the news of the real daughter. When the real daughter returned to the Xu family, she even targeted her in every way. The real daughter of the Xu family is an important friend of mine.”

Tang Ruge’s eyes were filled with schemes. The corners of her mouth curled up slightly, revealing a confident and gentle smile. In front of the camera, she maintained a good image and defended her friend. Even if she publicly said bad things about Xu Anran, no one would think that she was in the wrong.

“My friend is called Qiao Xi.”

At this moment, Qiao Xi, who was sitting in front of the computer, was speechless. How shameless!

Tang Ruge continued to put on an act. “Xi Xi is the famous fashion designer, Gu Shan. We’ve known each other for many years. When we first met, she was still an unknown designer. I watched her grow step by step until now. It wasn’t easy for her to find her biological parents, but Xu Anran wanted to interfere and ruin her hard-earned happiness. How can I like Xu Anran?”

“Xu Anran might know about my relationship with Xi Xi, so she played some tricks behind my back. I believe everyone has already guessed it. I can’t say much about the exact situation.”

Qiao Xi took a sip of water and stared at the woman on the screen thoughtfully.

Song Shiyu, who was at the side, quickly shouted, “Young Madam, she’s using you! She even said that she knew you when you weren’t famous. What does this mean?! It means that she’s better than you. It’s all thanks to her that you’re so famous now. Not only is she your friend, but she’s also your benefactor. What good methods she’s using this time!

“She even said that Xu Anran knows about your relationship, which is why she’s targeting her. She means to say that you’ve implicated her. As for what Xu Anran did, everyone knows even if she doesn’t say it. She plagiarized! Xu Anran plagiarized Fu Sheng’s song. She’s telling everyone that she’s Fu Sheng!

“I’ve never seen such a shameless person!”

Qiao Xi nodded while feeling touched. “Song Shiyu, you’ve become smarter. You’ve analyzed her thoughts thoroughly.”

Song Shiyu was right. That was what Tang Ruge meant. Moreover, her methods were very brilliant. No one would be able to tell that she was wrong. Instead, everyone would think that she was kind-hearted and valued friendships.

Immediately after, a group of people stood up for Tang Ruge. [Gu Shan appeared in the International Fashion Week seven years ago. Coincidentally, Tang Ruge and Gu Shan met seven years ago. The two of them became friends when they were in their teens. No wonder they’re so close!]

[Could it be that Tang Ruge is the winner of Planet Music Festival?]

[Although Planet Music Festival hasn’t announced the news, I think it’s Ruge. We’ll wait and see!]

[Shocking! The Tang family has already sued Xu Anran’s studio and asked her to compensate for the copyright infringement. Xu Anran has to personally apologize!]

[Xu Anran is in trouble this time. She was banned online after committing the crime previously. Now that the plagiarism incident has been exposed, it’s absolutely impossible for her to make a comeback. She probably thought that Fu Sheng was just a small composer back then since her songs were usually posted on small websites. That’s why she dared to plagiarize. Who knew that she would meet Tang Ruge this time?]

At this moment, the host also received a message from his assistant. He hurriedly asked, “Ruge, do you know that your parents are suing Xu Anran?”

Tang Ruge smiled. “Of course, I know. I’m very grateful to my parents and grandfather. They love me very much.”

These words were equivalent to admitting that she was Fu Sheng. Everything was already developing in her favor.

Qiao Xi sneered and turned off the live broadcast in disgust. Her gaze landed on the ancient zither Gu Zheng had given her. She casually fiddled with it a few times, and a pleasant melody slowly sounded.

Chapter 855: She’s Fu Sheng

Suddenly, a black shadow flashed past the window. Not long after, that person jumped in from the window. After that person entered, he said respectfully, “Eldest Miss, Yang Lin’s matter is very complicated. Young Master said that it’s not convenient for you to interfere anymore and asked you to protect yourself. This is a weapon Young Master gave you to protect yourself.”

With that, the person took out a dagger embedded with gems.

Qiao Xi took it and pulled the dagger out of the sheath, which revealed a faint cold light. She asked thoughtfully, “What’s the relationship between the Tang family and Yang Lin?”

The person was stunned for a moment. "How did you know, Eldest Miss?"

"I've investigated Yang Lin. He's just a businessman. Why does Second Brother care so much about him? All these years, Second Brother has been most concerned about the dirty dealings the Tang family has been doing behind his back. So, Yang Lin must be the person who conspired with the Tang family to commit human trafficking and fraud?"

The man in black gulped and said nervously, "Young Master originally told me not to tell you, but since you've already found out, I'll tell you the truth. Yang Lin has captured someone. Young Master was entrusted by another party to save the person captured by Yang Lin, so he wanted to attack Yang Lin. However, to capture him in one go, he can't make too big of a move. He can only do it in secret."

Qiao Xi nodded. No wonder Second Brother took this matter so seriously. Ling Pavilion, which had always been tasked with killing people, had now taken up the job of saving someone.

"After spending a few days on it, Young Master found their nest. As long as we find out where that person is, we can successfully save him. Someone will naturally handle the rest. It won't have anything to do with us anymore."

Qiao Xi lazily leaned against the sofa and closed her eyes slightly. "I really didn't expect that the scholarly Tang family would actually collude with Yang Lin to do illegal business behind the scenes. No wonder Gu Zheng is in no rush to deal with Tang Ruge. It turns out that someone is already targeting this family!"

Second Brother was already investigating the Tang family's dirty business, so Gu Zheng must also know that the Tang family was colluding with Yang Lin. Coupled with the fact that he recognized her as 'Bai Lu' at the charity banquet, he should have already guessed what Ling Pavilion was going to do.

The Tang family and Yang Lin had been in cahoots for a long time. The crimes they had committed were countless. The reason why the Tang family and Yang Lin could be left to do as they wished for so long was not that Gu Zheng or Second Brother were afraid of them, but because if they wanted to eliminate these people, they had to wait for a good opportunity.

"Eldest Miss." The man in black suddenly spoke and reminded her softly, "Ever since you married President Gu, you haven't cared about anything else. You can choose not to participate in Ling Pavilion's matters, but you don't care about your family business either?"

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth twitched slightly: "..."

"Back then, you said that you wanted to open an entertainment company. Now, your Qingfeng Entertainment is already ranked second in the industry and is gradually getting closer to Heavenly Voice Entertainment. During this period of time, we've been helping you manage the company, but we're just employees, after all. How can we make decisions for you? You should come back and manage it yourself!"

Qiao Xi thought about it. She founded Qingfeng Entertainment on a whim, and she signed a few small celebrities in the beginning. After that, she never participated in the management and planning of the company. She originally thought that the company was about to go bankrupt, but she did not expect it to be second in the industry!

At this moment, the news of Tang Ruge being Fu Sheng was everywhere on the internet. The award presenters of Planet Music Festival also came to Li City one after another.

For some reason, Xu Da's words at the charity banquet had reached the ears of Madam Wen Lai, the founder of Planet Music Festival. She also knew that Tang Ruge wanted that ancient zither.

The rule of the Planet Music Festival was that not only could the winner of the gold award win the championship, but they could also choose a gift that they liked and have Planet Music buy it for them.

When Madam Wen Lai heard the news, she insisted on coming to Li City. "I've met this young lady once before. She doesn't really like music, but she's very talented. I'm really surprised that she was able to attend the music festival this time. Since she wants this gift, I have to get it for her.

"It just so happens that I also wish to see the beautiful girl from back then again. Has she gotten even more beautiful than before? I saw her once many years ago, but I still can't forget her face."

At this moment, the person standing beside Wen Lai lowered his head. Miss Fu Sheng was indeed very talented, but her face...

Tang Ruge's face could not help but appear in his mind. Her beauty was completely supported by expensive clothes and makeup. Moreover, her appearance was not something that Madam Wen Lai would find memorable.

Chapter 856: Award Gift

On the other hand, the award presenters had already arrived in Li City one after another. They had long contacted the largest concert hall in the area to present the award to Miss Fu Sheng and have it broadcasted worldwide.

Perhaps some people did not pay attention to this award ceremony before, but now that the plagiarism incident had spread online and it was revealed that Tang Ruge was the daughter of the Tang family, everyone could not help but pay attention to this grand occasion.

However, other than the trophy, the person in charge also had to give Tang Ruge the ancient zither. Hence, he looked for Xu Da. "Mr. Xu, did you contact the organizers of the charity banquet in advance and have them reserve the zither for Miss Fu Sheng?"

Xu Da's heart trembled as he lowered his head guiltily. As the award presenter for Planet Music Festival, did he need to reserve anything? As long as he wanted it, the other party should obediently deliver it to his door. He had indeed not reserved that zither. Who knew that someone would bid for it so quickly? Moreover, that woman was unwilling to give it up.

The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. Xu Da cleared his throat and said without blushing, "That's right!"

"The person in charge of the charity banquet said that someone has already bid for that zither. Now that we can't get the gift Miss Fu Sheng likes, what should we do?"

Xu Da looked flustered, but he quickly recovered. "It's okay. I told Miss Fu Sheng about this a long time ago. She said that the person who got the zither is her friend, so she doesn't care."

The person in charge's expression darkened. "Since she's Miss Fu Sheng's friend, why did she snatch the zither that Miss Fu Sheng likes?"

At this moment, the netizens also found out about the zither. This was because Wen Lai had already arrived in Li City. In the interview, she even made it clear that she would give Fu Sheng a zither. Fu Sheng had liked that zither for a long time. Planet Music had already contacted the person in charge of the banquet and would definitely send the zither to Fu Sheng as soon as possible.

This was a normal routine for the award ceremony. In the past, the award ceremonies for Planet Music Festival would always go very smoothly. However, this time, a plagiarism scandal arose. Now, even the zither was snatched away.

The person in charge of the award ceremony looked worried. They had already promised Miss Fu Sheng that they would get the ancient zither for her, but they had gone back on their word. Not only would Madam Wen Lai be angry, but the people of Li City would also not let the matter rest. They would think that this was a show of disrespect to Li City. If this matter blew up, it would not be good for anyone.

He thought for a long time and helplessly posted an apology statement on Planet Music's official website. He sincerely admitted his mistake, which caused the zither to be bought by someone else. He didn't even know the whereabouts of the zither now.

Everyone was very curious about who bought this ancient zither that originally belonged to Miss Fu Sheng. At the same time, they were angry on behalf of Tang Ruge. [What a pity. Planet Music Festival is only held once a year. Every year, the winner of the gold award would get what they want. However, Miss Fu Sheng has to change her request. Planet Music is too irresponsible!]

[So who exactly stole that zither?! Why didn't you investigate?! If you can find the buyer and explain the situation to them, they'll definitely give it up if they know that it's a gift for Miss Fu Sheng!]

Instantly, the account of the person in charge of Planet Music exploded. Netizens stood up to scold the organizers.

Tang Ruge looked at the comments online and smiled sinisterly. The identity of Fu Sheng had brought her too many benefits. As long as she remained to be Fu Sheng, countless people would stand up for her. She did not have to do it herself.

After a moment of silence, she made a call. "We can start now. Follow the original plan."

The night before the award ceremony, a mysterious account suddenly posted a video on Weibo. In the video, a woman in a high-end dress was seen carrying the ancient zither. The timestamp in the video was exactly half an hour before Xu Da arrived at the charity banquet. Hence, when Xu Da arrived at the charity banquet, the ancient zither had already been bought.

The video was very clear, and it was just enough to see the woman's face clearly. That person was... Qiao Xi!

[In that case, Mr. Xu Da went to the charity banquet for the zither. Before he went, he would definitely have informed the person in charge of the banquet. The person in charge would immediately take the zither off the display case and not sell it to outsiders.]

[Who knew that before the zither could be taken down, Qiao Xi would bid for it? Others might not know the origin of this zither, but as Miss Fu Sheng's friend, doesn't she know that this is the gift Miss Fu Sheng wants most?]

Chapter 857: Kidnapping

At this moment, Madam Tang and a group of noblewomen were in the mall when they bumped into a bunch of reporters. Faced with the reporters' questions, Madam Tang only smiled politely and pretended to be gentle. She said, "Ruge is a gentle and kind child. She doesn't want to make everyone unhappy over a small matter. I hope you won't have any ill intentions to ruin the relationship between her and her friend.

"Actually... Sigh! Forget it."

The noblewomen beside Madam Tang said helplessly, "It's only because Ruge isn't willing to bicker that we—"

"Don't say anymore. It's all in the past now. Our Ruge doesn't care about the zither either. She'll come across other musical instruments that she likes." Madam Tang smiled gently and continued speaking to the reporters, "This isn't the first time something like this has happened. Ruge doesn't even care, so don't make a fuss."

However, the more Madam Tang spoke like this, the more people thought that Qiao Xi had deliberately snatched Tang Ruge's things. Meanwhile, the eldest daughter of the Tang family had a good temper and was unwilling to make things too ugly with her friend. Hence, she could only swallow her anger.

After this interview, the news that Qiao Xi had bought the Guqin immediately broke out on the internet. Then, someone revealed that Qiao Xi had rushed to the charity banquet early to snatch the award gift that should have belonged to Tang Ruge because she was jealous of Tang Ruge. Weibo instantly exploded.

[So that's the truth! Qiao Xi clearly knew that the ancient zither belonged to Miss Fu Sheng, yet she still insisted on buying it. She's too scheming!]

[Miss Fu Sheng is so pitiful! She treats Qiao Xi as a friend, but Qiao Xi doesn't treat her as a friend! It's fine that Qiao Xi doesn't have the ability, but she even played these small tricks behind Miss Fu Sheng's back. How shameless!]

[Miss Fu Sheng is loyal to her, yet she actually did such a thing?]

[Madam Wenlai said that if she can't give the ancient zither to Miss Fu Sheng, she'll regret it for the rest of her life. However, a certain someone who can't stand seeing others do well just had to interfere!]

The netizens stood up to express their opinions, while the Tang family and Planet Music Festival's officials did not retort. They just let public opinion ferment as if they had already tacitly agreed to all the allegations.

At this moment, Qiao Xi was looking at the news on the internet coldly. It was unknown if Tang Ruge was deliberately stirring up trouble or if she had hired fake commenters. These people on the internet were using the excuse of protecting Fu Sheng to scold her indiscriminately.

The corners of Qiao Xi's mouth curled up slightly as she dressed up and left. There were still six hours before the award ceremony began, and the sun had just risen. She had just left Longwan Residential when she heard footsteps behind her.

The footsteps were getting closer and closer. A few men rushed over and captured her. One of them held a handkerchief that had been soaked in chloroform and pressed it to her nose. In a few seconds, her entire body went limp. Then, the few of them quickly carried her to the truck.

"I thought I would have to wait a few days to kidnap this woman. I didn't expect to get her so easily."

"Ease it. This woman is very delicate. If she gets hurt, we won't be able to get a good price for her!"

"She's living in such a big villa. This woman is no ordinary person! If we really sell her to such a place, she'll definitely die!"

"She'll accept her fate after being beaten a few times. Hurry up and drive. Don't let anyone find out. Let's quickly deal with this woman to avoid any trouble."

...

At this moment, Qiao Xi slowly opened her eyes in the truck. Her gaze was cold, and she did not seem to have fainted in the slightest. She quickly untied the rope around her wrists, then indifferently sized up the truck.

The truck was not big, and there was a faint smell of blood. It seemed that this was not the first time they had done such a thing. Previously, the Tang family had also used this truck to commit human trafficking.

The truck door was tightly shut, and it was dark before her eyes. Qiao Xi could only grope around as she moved forward. Suddenly, a strange movement came from behind her. Qiao Xi turned around vigilantly and raised her hand to slap the man. Unexpectedly, her wrist was grabbed by someone, and her body swayed before she fell into a warm and familiar embrace.

The man's voice was low and magnetic. There was a refreshing fragrance of tea in his breath as he whispered in her ear, "Xi Xi, it's me."

Hot air sprayed onto Qiao Xi's neck, causing her entire body to tremble. It was clearly dark before her eyes, yet she seemed to be able to see the other party's face clearly.

"Ah Zheng, why are you here?" Qiao Xi was surprised.

She had long guessed that Tang Ruge would attack her. Coincidentally, Second Brother was investigating the Tang family's human trafficking activity, so she suggested being the bait to help Second Brother destroy the Tang family.

Chapter 858: The Tang Family's 'Business'

Originally, Qiao Xi felt that this was not a dangerous mission. After all, these people wanted to sell her to the brothel and would not hurt her at all. Even if they attacked, those good-for-nothings were not her match. Moreover, the assassins of Ling Pavilion would follow her all the way and protect her safety.

“Don’t say anything.” Gu Zheng hugged her tightly and took a shallow breath. “Mrs. Gu, you got involved in something big. As your husband, how can I bear to let you take the risk alone?”

In the darkness, Gu Zheng held her hand tightly as if he was worried that she would be afraid, so he gave her a sense of security.

It was unknown how long he had been waiting in the truck. His body was slightly cold, but his lips were warm. He kissed the woman in his arms as if she was a treasure in this world.

“No... Gu Zheng, you can’t...”

Gu Zheng did not seem to hear her and was still focused on kissing her. His hands held her tightly in his arms, not giving her a chance to resist.

Qiao Xi: “...”

Was this man crazy? There were others in the truck!

When those men threw her in, the people from Ling Pavilion took the opportunity to hide inside as well. At this moment, these people were hiding in the dark and listening to the couple making out!

The few subordinates of Ling Pavilion who were ordered to protect Qiao Xi heard the sound of Gu Zheng and Qiao Xi kissing and blushed. They did not expect that the cold and heartless Gu Zheng would actually be so unrestrained behind their backs.

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On the other hand, Tang Ruge received a call and knew that Qiao Xi had already been captured and was currently unconscious. Tang Ruge could not control her excitement.

Qiao Xi! She was Gu Zheng’s wife and the eldest daughter of the Yin family. Unfortunately, she could only rely on selling her body for the rest of her life. As long as she was sold to that kind of place, she would never be able to come out. Even if she was lucky enough to come out, she would be hated by others.

How could a genius like Gu Zheng want a woman who had probably ridden 10,000 men?

Tang Dawei felt uneasy and asked in a low voice, “Dad, didn’t we agree that our Tang family wouldn’t do such things anymore? If we send Qiao Xi to such a place...”

When Old Master Tang, who was leisurely drinking tea, heard this, his expression instantly darkened. He slammed the teacup on the table and roared angrily. “What are you afraid of?! If we don’t say anything, who will know that we kidnapped Qiao Xi? Moreover, now that the matter has been settled, isn’t it too late for you to regret it?!”

Tang Dawei was so scared that his face turned pale. He lowered his head and did not say anything.

“You’re the head of the Tang family. You can’t be as soft-hearted as your elder brother. Our Tang family relied on that kind of business to have our current status and wealth. Now that we’ve already captured her, if we let her go and someone finds any clues, our Tang family will be doomed!”

Old Master Tang had a serious expression as he shouted at the top of his voice, “Who do you think I’m doing this for? It’s all for you and Ruge! Qiao Xi has already become an enemy of my Tang family. If you don’t get rid of her soon, you and Ruge will be the ones suffering in the future. If you can’t harden your heart now, you’ll definitely regret it in the future!”

Tang Dawei could not help but look at his daughter. How would he feel if Ruge was sold to that kind of place?

Back then, when his family wanted to do such a business, he did not agree. However, the old master insisted on it. After that, he also had a taste of the benefits and turned a blind eye to it. However, now that the Tang family had already obtained what they wanted, why would they do such a heartless and evil thing?

“Dad, but...”

Seeing Old Master Tang’s gloomy expression, Madam Tang hurriedly interrupted Tang Dawei. “Dawei, why can’t you bear to do it?! Qiao Xi is vicious and has repeatedly framed Ruge. She deserves what’s happening to her now. We sold her to that kind of place to atone for her sins. Don’t feel guilty.

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“Moreover, if we don’t deal with her now, she’ll definitely go against the Tang family in the future. For the sake of the Tang family, we have to get rid of her. Moreover, she’s just a vulgar wild girl. She even shamelessly occupied the position of Mrs. Gu. Now that she’s gone, Ruge will have a chance to marry President Gu. At that time, our Tang family will be a first-class family.”

Hearing Madam Tang’s words, the old master’s expression softened a little. He had decided to pass the position of head of the family to Tang Dawei because he married a wife who was sensible. She was much better than that old-fashioned and stupid eldest daughter-in-law.

Chapter 859: Are You Looking For Me?

Tang Ruge was overjoyed and almost laughed out loud.

After selling Qiao Xi to such a dirty place, she would absolutely have no chance of escaping and would no longer have the qualifications to be Mrs. Gu. A large family like the Situ family would not care about a daughter they had never met. Moreover, they were not even sure that Qiao Xi was from the Situ family. There was no need to waste manpower and resources to look for her.

From now on, no one would block her path anymore.

A trace of viciousness flashed past Tang Ruge’s eyes as she advised, “Dad, I know you’re kind-hearted, but you should look at who you’re facing. How can a sinister and vicious woman like Qiao Xi be worthy of your kindness? I know you’ve always been filial, so you won’t go against Grandpa’s wishes, right?”

Under everyone's persuasion, Tang Dawei took a deep breath and nodded.

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The truck drove for a long time before finally stopping at eight in the morning. The people from Ling Pavilion had already opened a hole in the top of the truck and got out with Gu Zheng. Everyone found a hidden place to hide.

Boom—

The door of the truck slammed open, and the dark vehicle instantly lit up.

At this moment, Qiao Xi was lying on the floor with her hands bound. She pretended to be slowly waking up and struggled weakly.

The two men pulled her into a warehouse. As soon as they entered, Qiao Xi could clearly hear cries coming from the surroundings. They were all women who had been kidnapped.

Her expression turned cold, but she still pretended to be weak and was pushed in by everyone.

This warehouse must have been abandoned for a long time. It was located in a remote area. No one would come to this uninhabited place. No wonder Second Brother had not been able to find their nest for a long time.

"Send this woman to the room upstairs. She's not an ordinary person. Take good care of her. She'll definitely fetch a good price!"

A man's voice sounded in her ears, then Qiao Xi was locked in a room upstairs. The room was filled with the faint smell of blood. It could be imagined how many women they had abused before and how much blood their hands were stained with.

Qiao Xi remained indifferently in the room. After a while, Luo Qing's voice sounded from the invisible earpiece. "Gu Zheng is here too?"

"Yeah."

Luo Qing could not help but smile. "In his eyes, you're really a weak Mrs. Gu. He's afraid that you'll be hurt, but now that he's here, things will be easier."

"What do you mean?" Qiao Xi asked.

"President Gu's assistant has already called the police. He said that you and Gu Zheng have gone missing. The GPS on you shows that you were brought to an abandoned warehouse. He thinks that the two of you were kidnapped. At this moment, the police have already sent people over."

Qiao Xi blinked. She had originally planned to use her kidnapping to lure the police over and take the opportunity to destroy the Tang family's nest. Unexpectedly, Gu Zheng had also thought of this method. Now, the police were making their way here faster than she had expected.

As soon as Luo Qing finished speaking, a few men's voices came from outside the door. "I heard that this woman offended the boss, so she was captured and brought here. She said that we can enjoy her first

before selling her. Since she's already married, we can do whatever we want to her. Why don't I have a taste of this rich woman first?"

"I saw that woman the moment she entered. She has delicate skin, a slender waist, and a beautiful face. I've never seen someone so beautiful. It's worth it to sleep with her once!"

The few of them pushed the door open excitedly and barged in. However, they did not see anyone.

"Where is she?"

"That's not right. I saw her enter with my own eyes. Why is she gone?"

"She couldn't have run away, right? I'll send someone to look for her!"

As soon as that person finished speaking, the door behind them slammed shut. The already narrow and humid room suddenly became dark, scaring the three of them.

"Haha..." At this moment, the woman's silvery laughter came from above everyone's heads. Her laughter carried a trace of coldness, making everyone shudder.

"Are you looking for me?"

The three men abruptly raised their eyes and saw Qiao Xi sitting on the beam on the roof, looking at them with a smile. Her eyes were filled with disdain and coldness as if she would kill them in the next second.

For some reason, they suddenly broke out in a cold sweat. However, when they thought about it carefully, she was just a young lady. How could she defeat the three of them?

The sharp-mouthed man stared wretchedly at Qiao Xi's long legs and fair ankles as he slowly approached.

Chapter 860: Mrs. Gu Cried Again

"Young lady, you're so beautiful. It's a pity that you're going to be sold to a brothel to serve those old men. Why don't you accompany us? If you're obedient and serve us well, we might keep you by our side so that you don't have to suffer there."

Qiao Xi's expression was indifferent as she lightly jumped down from the beam and said with a smile, "Alright!"

When the three men heard her words, their eyes instantly turned red as they looked at the woman in front of them in infatuation. They had never seen such a beautiful woman in their lives, let alone have the honor of spending a night with her. They would have no regrets in their lives if they could have a taste of this woman.

They instantly went mad and rushed anxiously toward Qiao Xi.

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When Ye Qingyuan and the police arrived, they heard shrill screams from the room upstairs.

Everyone's expressions darkened. Mrs. Gu was upstairs. If she was injured, they would not be able to explain it to Gu Zheng!

Song Shiyu, who was at the side, was speechless. It was over. Had Young Madam lost her life?

Everyone did not dare to delay and hurriedly went upstairs. The police held guns in their hands, afraid that someone would hurt Mrs. Gu. However, after pushing the door open, the scene in front of them stunned them.

The three men's faces were bruised and swollen as they fought fiercely. They stared fiercely at each other and did not care about the leisurely Qiao Xi at the side. They did not notice the people who had barged in.

Even though there were many police officers with guns standing at the door, the three of them continued to beat each other up crazily. No one was willing to give in.

Mrs. Gu, whom everyone was most worried about, was sitting in a corner at this moment. She watched the three men fight with interest as if she was watching a show.

Song Shiyu: "... 'Young Madam, there are so many people here. You have to restrain yourself!'

The captain was named Yuan Shan, and with his order, the officers all rushed forward to capture the three of them. Only then did Qiao Xi withdraw her gaze and slowly stand up.

Yuan Shan sized up Mrs. Gu. He had worked on so many kidnapping cases, but he had never seen the victim not afraid at all. Instead, she watched the criminals fight with interest. He cleared his throat and was about to ask about the details of the case when Qiao Xi's eyes suddenly turned red as she sniffled.

Song Shiyu: "... 'Was it still going to happen anyway?'

Qiao Xi choked, then pounced toward the man behind everyone. She buried her head in the man's broad chest and sobbed in horror and grievance.

Gu Zheng hugged the little woman in his arms and shook his head helplessly. He knew very well that Qiao Xi had used a hypnosis technique to make the three of them fight, but he absolutely could not let outsiders know about this ability of hers.

He stretched out his hand and gently stroked Qiao Xi's back, his eyes filled with gentleness.

Yuan Shan was silent for a moment. Could it be that Mrs. Gu's calm appearance just now was all an act? Actually, she was very afraid in her heart. Now that she had seen President Gu, she could not hold it in anymore.

Suddenly, Yuan Shan's expression changed. With his years of experience handling cases, he figured out that this warehouse was not simple. He had a bad feeling that there seemed to be other victims here.

The next second, Qiao Xi sobbed and said, "When I entered, I think I heard the cries of women downstairs. Were they also kidnapped? Quick, go take a look."

With that said, Yuan Shan was even more sure of what he was thinking. It seemed that they had coincidentally found a criminal den this time.

Suddenly, there was a rush of footsteps outside the door. A police officer looked embarrassed and said anxiously, "Captain, we found the others in the basement..."

"There are dozens of kidnapped women!"

The dozens of women detained in the underground room were enough to tell everyone that this was a criminal den that had been established for a long time. After a series of investigations, all the evidence pointed to the Tang family. These women who were detained had overheard the conversation between the criminals. They frequently mentioned the Tang family and Old Master Tang.

Yuan Shan's expression was extremely ugly. "Mr. Gu, Mrs. Gu, this is definitely not a simple kidnapping case. With my many years of experience, I'm guessing that this is a den for human trafficking. We still need time to investigate the exact situation. The impact of this case is extremely bad. I hope you can come back to the police station with me to make a statement.

"As for Mrs. Gu..."

At this point, Yuan Shan hesitated for a moment. The victim's emotions were unstable, and Mrs. Gu was just a weak woman. It would be too cruel to ask her to recall the details of her kidnapping. It would also easily traumatize her.