

Lady gu 971

Chapter 971: Asking For Too Much

Lu Zhi smiled slightly. The director heaved a sigh of relief. "Xia Tong, just apologize! Miss Qiao doesn't need you to compensate her for the psychological damage. It's just a simple request. As long as you agree, this matter will be over."

Xia Tong bit her lip tightly and looked at Qiao Xi with resentment. A public apology was equivalent to admitting that she stole someone else's design. In that case, she would not be able to participate in the show anymore.

This little b*tch was quite capable. She actually used the Shen family and Lu Zhi's power to suppress her. Did she really think that she was a pushover?

Xia Tong abruptly looked up and gritted her teeth. "Director, don't forget who invested in this show. If I publicly apologize, it'll be equivalent to me quitting the show. How will this show continue filming?"

The director looked embarrassed. 50 million was indeed not a small sum, but he could not offend the Shen family for this sum of money! After thinking for a moment, the director's tone was a little stiff. "Xia Tong, you can't say that. This is your fault, so you should apologize. Even if someone is protecting you, you can't—"

"Miss Qiao, can we talk?" Xia Tong interrupted the director and looked at Qiao Xi with a gloomy expression.

Qiao Xi glanced at her coldly, and Xia Tong only felt extremely embarrassed. When had she ever been so embarrassed? She forcefully suppressed her anger. "I'll get straight to the point. How much is your design? I'll buy it. We can then forget about the public apology."

Everyone was stunned. Xia Tong wanted to buy Gu Shan's design and participate in the competition with it?

The venue was silent for a moment. Seeing this, Shen Yu's fans cursed, "Is this person crazy?! She stole someone else's design but refuses to apologize. She even wants to spend money to buy it?"

"Gu Shan is the chief designer of Liuli and Shen Yu's younger sister. Would she lack money? She just wants an explanation!"

Xia Tong heard the mocking voices around her and sneered in her heart. This small-time designer's surname was Qiao, and she was not Shen Yu's biological sister. The Shen family indeed did not lack money, but it did not mean that this young lady did not lack money. Xia Tong naively thought that as long as the money she offered was enough, Qiao Xi would not pursue the matter.

"Miss Qiao, how much do you want? Just tell me."

Lu Zhi's eyes turned cold. She wanted to send Qiao Xi away with just money? Was she joking? Gu Shan's work was unique and could not be bought by money. He was just about to go forward and berate her when Qiao Xi suddenly raised her eyes and said with a smile, "Sure."

Everyone was stunned, and Lu Zhi swallowed the words in his mouth. Xia Tong did not expect it to be resolved so easily. A trace of disdain flashed past her eyes.

She knew that with Gu Shan's current status and strength, her designs might cost hundreds of thousands or even a million yuan, but this was not a problem. Her sugar daddy had already invested 50 million yuan, so she did not lack that sum of money.

"50 million!"

Qiao Xi spoke indifferently, but it was suffused with a trace of irrefutable dignity.

Lu Zhi, who was in a fit of anger: "..."

Everyone was dumbfounded. Only Shen Yu smiled as if he had expected this.

The words '50 million' echoed in Xia Tong's mind. She almost vomited blood. Her face alternated between green and white as she gritted her teeth. "Miss Qiao, stop joking."

Qiao Xi lazily crossed her arms. "Do I look like I'm joking? Could it be that my design isn't worth 50 million?"

The design was hers, so she had the right to set the price. If Xia Tong thought it was too expensive, she could choose not to buy it. She just had to publicly apologize online.

Xia Tong shouted in exasperation, "No matter how good your design is, it's just a piece of paper. How can it be worth 50 million? Even if you want money, you can't casually state a price! If you continue to fool around, our deal will be canceled!"

"The deal is canceled?" Qiao Xi laughed out loud and raised her eyebrows. "Miss Xia, looks like you still don't understand. You stole the design. You refused to apologize and insisted on buying my design. I agreed to your request, but you're canceling it now. If you're not sincere about buying it, then forget it."

Xia Tong was furious, and her voice became sharp. "You're asking for 50 million because you know that someone invested 50 million in the production team for me. You're clearly teasing me!"

Even though she was Gu Shan, a top fashion designer, she was actually asking for 50 million for a piece of design. This was clearly an exorbitant price. Xia Tong gritted her teeth and said, "I can only give you two million!"

Shen Yu frowned. Did she think she was giving the money to a beggar?

Chapter 972: The 50 Million Investment Is Gone

Qiao Xi did not even bother to look at her and said casually, "Miss Xia, you should know that I'm the chief designer of Liuli. The work I design can bring Liuli a lot of money. Although I'm not too satisfied with this gown, it can still bring Liuli at least 50 million yuan. If you want to buy this design, you have to compensate us for our losses. Otherwise, why should I sell it to you?"

Everyone nodded in unison and instantly felt that Qiao Xi's asking price was not high anymore.

Lu Zhi stood up. "That's right. Any one of Gu Shan's designs can bring huge benefits to Liuli, and 50 million is nothing. Miss Xia, if you want to buy it, take out the money. If you refuse to, apologize publicly. It's your choice."

Xia Tong was so angry that her face turned red. 50 million for a piece of paper? She was not stupid! She did not expect this designer to be so greedy. She asked for 50 million without any room for discussion.

"Miss Xia, since you're neither willing to apologize nor pay, then don't blame me for being nasty," Shen Yu said coldly, a trace of ruthlessness flashing past his eyes.

Xia Tong's face was pale, and the director lowered his head with an embarrassed expression. He was already cursing Xia Tong and Qiao Xi in his heart. Neither of these two women was willing to give in, so this show could not continue. On one hand, it was the Shen family and Lu Zhi. On the other hand, it was the investor. He did not dare to offend either of them and could only be stuck in the middle.

Xia Tong was so afraid that her entire body was trembling. However, on second thought, this designer was not the biological daughter of the Shen family, and she was from the Xia family. Why would the Shen family offend the Xia family for an unrelated person? Shen Yu was probably just saying it casually. Would he really attack her?

Her expression softened, and her tone was exceptionally arrogant. "It's not that I'm unwilling to accept it, but Miss Qiao, you're insincere. You're asking for 50 million right away, so forget it. I'll quit the show."

With that, Xia Tong and Chen Li turned to leave.

"Miss Xia, in that case, let's see who between the Xia and Shen families is stronger!" Shen Yu said casually, but his body was filled with strong killing intent.

No! No way! Shen Yu would not attack her for an unrelated person. Moreover, if he wanted to sue her for plagiarism, he would have to go through legal procedures. Why would Shen Yu waste his precious time for a designer?

Xia Tong's breathing became irregular as cold sweat broke out on her back. She gritted her teeth and left as if she was escaping.

The recording studio was silent for a moment. The director's phone suddenly rang. It was a message from the investor. He clearly said that if Xia Tong withdrew, he would withdraw his investment.

The director's expression was ugly as he looked at Shen Yu helplessly. "Mr. Shen, this..."

If the 50 million yuan investment was gone, shouldn't the Shen family take responsibility? After all, this series of events happened because of Qiao Xi!

Shen Yu glanced at him coldly and said slowly, "Director Feng, don't forget your promise. I hope to see you publicly apologize online today."

With that, Shen Yu and the others left, leaving the production team looking at each other.

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At this moment, in the president's office, Xiang Rong was reporting to Gu Zheng while trembling. "President Gu, I promise you that I'll investigate this matter thoroughly and strictly deal with people who have been bribed!"

Xiang Rong never expected that the young lady who saved his daughter was actually Gu Zheng's wife! Hence, Gu Zheng directly looked for him today. When he saw Gu Zheng, Xiang Rong was so nervous that his forehead was covered in sweat. He was afraid that this man would get angry and tear down the entire television station.

After hearing about what had happened at the scene, Xiang Rong did not hesitate to cancel the 50 million investment. It did not matter if Xia Tong did not participate. He would never allow anyone to secretly manipulate the results of the competition. Those who helped Xia Tong cheat would also be punished. He only hoped that Gu Zheng would not blame them.

Gu Zheng leaned lazily against the sofa, his long fingers tapping lightly on the table. "Who invested 50 million?"

"Uhh... It's the young master of 'Xingxin Foods' in Luo City."

Gu Zheng stopped what he was doing. His voice was cold, but it made one shudder. "Those people stole my wife's design, and the producer also helped Xia Tong hide the truth. This must be all his doing!"

Xiang Rong nodded. "Actually, the development of Xingxin Foods has been getting worse over the years, but their young master still splurges all day long. For Xia Tong, he spent 50 million yuan. He doesn't even consider the overall situation. He's just a good-for-nothing."

Chapter 973: Young Madam Is A Femme Fatale

Gu Zheng's expression was indifferent as he said casually, "Song Shijing, how long do you think Xingxin can last if it's handed to this good-for-nothing?"

Song Shijing replied seriously, "According to my investigation, the young master of Xingxin Foods is Xia Tong's fan. Because he embezzled a sum of money from the company, it's difficult for the company to operate. If he really inherits the company, the company probably won't last a month."

Gu Zheng nodded thoughtfully. "Since Xingxin Foods is going to go bankrupt sooner or later, why don't I acquire the company so that it won't be ruined in his hands?"

His casual words had decided the fate of the company, making Xiang Rong tremble in fear. It was said that Gu Zheng was swift and decisive. His tone was clearly so calm, but he spoke in an imposing manner.

Suddenly, Gu Zheng's gaze landed on Xiang Rong. He broke out in a cold sweat and said, "President Gu, I didn't manage this matter well. I..."

"I heard that you and Xi Xi are old acquaintances. I'll invest in this show!"

The station head was stunned.

Gu Zheng said casually, "Record the show again. Choose ordinary people to participate in the competition."

Xiang Rong gasped. Not only did Gu Zheng not pursue his mistake, but he was also willing to invest. It seemed that everything Gu Zheng did was to make Mrs. Gu happy!

With Gu Zheng's investment, the show continued filming, but all of Xia Tong's scenes were cut.

Song Shiyu was confused. "Can this show be popular? What's the president thinking? He'll only lose money after investing so much!"

Song Shijing glanced at him and said meaningfully, "The president has so much money, so it doesn't matter if he loses some. Moreover, he's not investing in this show to earn money. It's just that Young Madam is participating in the recording. He doesn't want her to work for nothing."

Song Shiyu nodded, then said something shocking, "I know. Young Madam made the usually calm president spend so much money to support her. She's really a femme fatale!"

Song Shijing frowned. Forget it. His brother's IQ was hopeless.

After the recording, Qiao Xi removed her makeup in the most luxurious dressing room. Shen Yu walked in and gestured for the makeup artist to leave. At this moment, there were only the two of them in the empty dressing room.

Shen Yu leaned against the chair beside her and handed her a photo. There was a name written on the back. "He's the one investigating your identity."

That person was called Meng Fan. Qiao Xi had never heard of this name, and she had no recollection of this surname. If he was the one who spread the news that the blood of the divine physician's descendant could cure all poisons, it would mean that he was going against Shen Yu. Why would he do this?

In the photo was a handsome man with red hair. His eyes were filled with sinisterness, and he exuded a cold aura. He was like a venomous snake that flicked out its tongue, making one shudder.

Shen Yu's expression was serious. Before he came to look for Qiao Xi, he had already gone to see Gu Zheng. These few days, the two of them had been secretly investigating and found this man called Meng Fan almost at the same time. Gu Zheng did not know this person either.

Shen Yu had also asked a few juniors, but they said they did not know him. How did this person know this secret?

"Little Six, do you still remember the Situ family?"

Qiao Xi nodded. Old Master Situ was very kind and even gave her a hollowed-out porcelain vase. He did not have the airs of an elder at all.

"Maybe this matter has something to do with Situ..." Shen Yu shook his head. "No, no! That can't be!"

"By the way, I heard that Gu Zheng's younger brother also came to T City to look for you." Shen Yu quickly changed the topic.

Qiao Xi was slightly surprised, then took a deep breath and said, “Meng Fan deliberately spread the news, but he didn’t say that I’m the descendant of the divine physician. I guess he must know my identity, but we don’t know him. This means that his name is fake, and his identity can’t be exposed.”

Shen Yu was instantly enlightened. If Meng Fan could not expose his identity, it meant that his identity was very special.

Qiao Xi stood up and left. As soon as she left, she saw Gu Yao standing around the corner with a cute young lady. The other fans had all left following the celebrities they liked. Only this young lady saw Gu Yao at a glance and took the initiative to talk to him. “Hello, are you a friend of Designer Qiao?”

Gu Yao was wearing a long khaki windbreaker. His soft hair was hanging low, and his eyes were clear and deep. His skin was smooth and fair, like a cute little puppy. To be honest, he and that young lady were quite compatible.

Chapter 974: My Teammates Say I’m Like A Primary School Student

Qiao Xi stood at the door and observed Gu Yao. She should have known that Gu Yao could not be Huang Lilan’s biological son. With Huang Lilan’s looks and vicious thoughts, how could she have given birth to such a handsome and kind Gu Yao? Huang Lilan’s son should be a scheming man like Lu Yan.

Gu Yao’s eyes had always been clear. The smile on his face was like a spring breeze. He was a bright young man who exuded a gentle aura. One look from him could capture the heart of a young woman, but he knew nothing about his charm.

Hearing the lady’s voice, Gu Yao slowly looked up at her and replied softly, “Yes.”

His voice matched his appearance very well. The young man’s handsome voice was very gentle. The lady’s cheeks gradually turned red as she fell in love with him.

The two of them chatted, and Gu Yao asked about what had happened before. The lady answered truthfully. The corners of his mouth curled into a smile, but it did not reach his eyes.

He was tall and had his head lowered. The lady raised her head when talking to him. The way the two of them talked made them look like a beautiful oil painting. The lady could not extricate herself at this moment. She was deeply immersed in his smile, and her eyes were filled with love.

However, the next second—

Gu Yao said, “Damn! Are you kidding me?! She wanted to buy Qiao Xi’s design? So what if she’s rich?! No matter how rich she is, can she be richer than Qiao Xi? If she’s so awesome, why doesn’t she buy Gu Corporation?!”

The lady’s expression suddenly stiffened, and the love in her eyes was gradually covered by shock.

Qiao Xi: “...” Why did such a handsome little puppy have a mouth?

However, Gu Yao did not feel that something was wrong at all and continued talking, “She actually dares to say that Qiao Xi plagiarized? Even if Qiao Xi were to draw something with her feet, it’ll still be better

than the work of that little b*tch, Xia Tong! Doesn't she know that she'll be struck by lightning if she pretends to be cool? Who does she think she is?!"

The young lady stood where she was, the corners of her mouth twitching slightly. She looked heartbroken. This man was so gentle and loving when he did not speak. His casual actions were so seductive, but when he did speak...

Gu Yao did not care about the lady's expression at all and shouted indignantly, "That bullsh*t director also helped Xia Tong hide the truth and even dared to delete the surveillance footage! Are these people tired of living? I'm going to settle the score with them and let them know the consequences of offending Qiao Xi."

He was about to leave when he suddenly realized that a young lady was still beside him. The originally gentle young lady looked at him with disdain and shook her head helplessly. "Sir, please shut up, okay?"

With that, the lady left as if she was escaping. Perhaps this was what it meant when one's heart was dead!

Gu Yao frowned. It seemed that what unfolded was more infuriating than he had imagined. Xia Tong's skin was thicker than the city walls. He had to avenge Qiao Xi!

At this moment, Qiao Xi slowly walked forward and looked at him with a strange expression. She sighed helplessly. "Gu Yao, do you know why you can't find a girlfriend?"

Gu Yao frowned unhappily. "Qiao Xi!"

After being dissatisfied, Gu Yao started to be curious again. He leaned over and asked, "Li Xing'er asked me the same question. I'm not too sure either. Tell me!"

Qiao Xi looked at him with sympathy. "It's fine. It's good this way."

Originally, Qiao Xi planned to return to Li City after filming the show, but now that Gu Yao had rushed over, Qiao Xi decided to stay in T City for a few days. Coincidentally, Gu Zheng had also bought a villa in T City. Although no one had lived in it for a long time, someone would tidy it up regularly.

When the few of them returned to the villa, it was already evening. On the way back, Gu Yao heard Qiao Xi's story and found out that Xia Tong was from Luo City's Xia family.

"The Xia family has been so annoying since long ago!" Gu Yao glanced at Qiao Xi and said gently, "Ignore them. They're just a group of small fries. They're not worth your anger. Forget about today's matter. Let's play games!"

Qiao Xi's eyes instantly lit up when she heard that they were playing games. She had just taken out her phone when she heard Gu Yao say with a grin, "Let me tell you, I'm really awesome now. My teammates even praise me when I'm playing games."

"What do they praise you for?" Qiao Xi had seen Gu Yao's gaming skills before. They were really tragic. It was a pity that he looked like an esports big shot.

Gu Yao raised his head and smiled proudly. "My teammates all say that I'm like a primary school student. Aren't they just praising me for being young?"

Qiao Xi: "... "Gu Yao, are you sure they're praising you? The hidden meaning of saying that you're like a primary school student is that you're as lousy at playing games!"

Chapter 975: Justice

Qiao Xi sized up Gu Yao with a serious expression. She really suspected that there was something wrong with Gu Yao's IQ. If she had time, she would bring him for a check-up. If they could find out the problem earlier, she could treat him earlier.

The two of them played a few rounds of games before leaning against the sofa and scrolling through their phones in boredom. Gu Yao suddenly sat up and hesitated. In the end, he picked up his phone and handed it to Qiao Xi. "Take a look."

Qiao Xi took the phone and glanced at it, instantly speechless.

[Xia Tong: Due to personal reasons, I've decided to quit the show 'The Birth Of A Designer.' I won't participate in this program anymore. If the competition loses its fairness, it'll be meaningless. If the program team insists on protecting a certain someone, then there's no need for me to join it.]

As soon as this statement was posted, it instantly attracted many netizens to watch. Although Xia Tong was not an A-list celebrity, she had good resources and had been popular for a period of time. She was the most famous among the participants. Why would she suddenly announce her withdrawal?

Fans left comments: [Our Tongtong has been wronged. What exactly is going on? Does anyone know?]

[This show is a fashion design competition. Could it be that someone is secretly manipulating the show? I remember Chen Li saying that although Tong Tong has never systematically learned design, she's very talented. The production team must be biased toward a certain contestant, so Tong Tong decided to withdraw.]

[Tong Tong has always had a good temper. They must have crossed the line to make her so angry!
@TheBirthOfADesigner]

The fans were indignant and scolded the production team. The director's and producers' accounts were filled with criticisms.

Qiao Xi kept having the feeling that this matter was a little strange. Xia Tong plagiarized the design and only announced her withdrawal from the competition after the matter blew up. Previously, the production team was biased toward Xia Tong because of the 50 million investment. Now that the investment was gone, the production team would naturally not tolerate Xia Tong or take the blame for her.

Xia Tong should know this very well. At this moment, she should hide and try her best to reduce her presence. She should be afraid of being exposed. There were so many people present who could testify. Her lie would soon be exposed. She was undoubtedly courting death by doing this.

Why did she send this message? Did someone order her to send it?

Even Gu Yao looked shocked. “Is Xia Tong crazy? She’s maligning the production team like this. Once the director posts the surveillance footage online, not only will Xia Tong’s reputation be ruined, but she might even receive a lawyer’s letter from the production team suing her for slander! Is she crazy?”

That was right. Normal people would not do such a thing. Why was she doing this?

Despite the crazy number of comments from the fans, Xia Tong did not step forward to clarify anything. The production team did not want to blow up the matter and have it affect the viewership ratings of the show, but since Xia Tong wanted to ruin the production team’s reputation, they could not swallow their anger.

Xia Tong was willing to risk being sued to do this. Was there a more tempting condition for her to do this?

Qiao Xi looked at the comments and suddenly saw a familiar username. It was Xia Mengyan!

Xia Mengyan: [Justice is in the heart. You’re all my family. Why can’t you go home and talk? Why do you have to create a scene online? Moreover, this is clearly your fault. You should apologize to her and delete the message immediately.]

Xia Mengyan was a famous perfumer, but she had just returned to the country, so she naturally did not have as many fans as Xia Tong. Soon, Xia Tong’s fans found this comment. Xia Mengyan and Xia Tong both had the surname Xia. It seemed that they were relatives, but why was Xia Mengyan speaking up for another person?

Xia Tong’s fans were instantly angry. They immediately ran to Xia Mengyan’s account and questioned why she did not help her sister. Tong Tong was bullied by the production team, but her family did not help her. As Tong Tong’s family member, she scolded her instead. It was really too much.

Everyone rushed to Xia Tong’s account, and the comments section instantly exploded. Xia Mengyan’s fans were all stunned. Before they could retort, Xia Mengyan closed the comments section.

Gu Yao was burning with anger. “Xia Mengyan is too scheming. She pretended to speak up for you and was even scolded by Xia Tong’s fans. With her words, those fans will soon know that you’re the one who’s in conflict with Xia Tong!”

Qiao Xi reacted. She knew why Xia Tong had sent this message. She was instructed by Xia Mengyan. She smiled, then picked up her phone.

“What are you doing?” Gu Yao asked.

“I’m going to call Xia Tong.” Qiao Xi’s words made Gu Yao look puzzled.

Chapter 976: Testing Xia Tong

The call was connected, but the other party did not pick up for a long time. Qiao Xi nodded. “As expected. She has the guts to spout nonsense online, but she doesn’t dare to answer my call.”

After hanging up, Qiao Xi stood up and put on her jacket. Gu Yao hurriedly asked, "Where are you going?"

A trace of danger flashed past Qiao Xi's eyes. "She's not answering my calls, so I can only look for her myself. I want to see if she dares to spout nonsense in front of me."

Gu Yao: "... " It was too scary! Qiao Xi looked like a tigress when she was angry!

Qiao Xi drove straight to Xia Tong's studio. She guessed that the entire studio was thinking of ways to protect her reputation. Moreover, everyone unanimously agreed to Xia Tong's message, but it was useless no matter what they did.

After getting out of the car, Qiao Xi knocked on the door forcefully. The door was closed as if no one was inside, but she knew that those people were hiding inside. She unhurriedly took out a thin metal wire from her bag and casually fiddled with the door lock a few times before it opened with a click.

Gu Yao looked at her in shock. He did not expect his sister-in-law to have such skills. What did she not know?

At this moment, everyone in the room was looking at them with terrified expressions. Qiao Xi crossed her arms and greeted everyone with a smile. "Everyone's here! Then why didn't you open the door?"

Gu Yao: "... " He really admired Qiao Xi's calm temperament. She had clearly broken the lock and was discovered, yet she was still so calm.

Chen Li was discussing countermeasures with Xia Tong when she looked up and saw Qiao Xi and Gu Yao. She instantly roared, "Who let you in?"

Qiao Xi chuckled. "I forced my way in with my own ability!"

The studio was silent. Chen Li almost spat out a mouthful of blood. She was furious. "You're not welcome here. Please leave!"

Qiao Xi paid no attention to her at all. Her icy-cold gaze landed on Xia Tong, but her tone was very gentle. "Miss Xia, don't you know why you withdrew from the competition? Won't your face turn red when you casually post false news online?"

Xia Tong took a few steps back guiltily. "I can post whatever I want. I didn't name anyone. What does it have to do with you?!"

"But I know that the person you're talking about is me! I find that statement of yours an eyesore! Moreover, you're the one who did something wrong. What right do you have to criticize me? I'm very curious. You clearly know that I have evidence, yet you still dare to provoke me. Why is that?"

Xia Tong's and Chen Li's expressions were ugly. Xia Tong bit her lip and did not say a word, but Qiao Xi did not intend to let her off. She continued to ask, "You know that doing this will anger the production team and ruin your reputation, but you still took the risk. Did someone order you to do this?"

As soon as these words were spoken, Xia Tong's expression clearly changed. Qiao Xi smiled lightly and stared fixedly at her, not missing the slightest change in expression.

“It’s Xia Mengyan?”

Chen Li’s and Xia Tong’s bodies stiffened. Xia Tong pretended to be calm, but the emotions in her eyes betrayed her.

“She gave you money? What did she promise you that you didn’t hesitate to ruin yourself to work for her? Or did the Xia family pressure you so much that you had no choice but to agree?”

Xia Tong lowered her head and bit her lip. Qiao Xi said indifferently, “I have to say that Xia Mengyan’s plan this time isn’t bad. She asked you to post the news online first, then she stood up to protect me and was scolded by many fans. When the truth is revealed, your reputation will be ruined, but Xia Mengyan will be praised by everyone. I have to thank her. At that time, she’ll appear and say that we’re cousins with a good relationship. I’ll inexplicably become Xia Mengyan’s stepping stone.”

Under Qiao Xi’s questioning, Chen Li’s and Xia Tong’s breathing almost stopped, and their faces were ashen. Qiao Xi understood in her heart that all her guesses were correct.

“Thank you for the clues. I’ll take my leave.”

Chen Li and Xia Tong looked at Qiao Xi’s back view and gnashed their teeth in hatred. They clearly did not say a word. Qiao Xi had guessed everything herself.

Qiao Xi and Gu Yao left. Gu Yao sighed. “I suddenly pity them.”

“Why should you pity them? I didn’t force them. I guessed everything myself from the beginning. I can only say that I’m too smart, while they’re not good at hiding themselves.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi turned around and closed the door. The door was locked, and it was no different from when she first arrived. She sighed. “Look at how kind I am!”

Chapter 977: The Internet Has No Memory

The two of them returned to Longwan Residential. Gu Yao was still puzzled. “Is it fun for Xia Mengyan to pretend? This clearly has nothing to do with her, but she insisted on interfering.”

At this moment, the netizens were still discussing fervently. The production team finally came forward to clarify the matter. First, they criticized Xia Tong for distorting the truth. She was clearly the one who used her connections to enter the production team and secretly manipulated things, but she was the one who slandered the production team. It was good that they were no longer working with her. They did not want to work with Xia Tong either and even decided to sue her for slander.

Immediately after, the production team sent another message to apologize to the chief designer of Liuli, whose real name was Qiao Xi. According to Gu Zheng’s request, they explained the situation clearly and deeply reflected on their mistakes. They also expressed their sincere apology to Miss Gu Shan.

The two pieces of news from the production team explained the matter very clearly. Everyone also reacted.

[Ah! My worldview has collapsed, so the person who plagiarized is Xia Tong! She stole Gu Shan's design and even accused Gu Shan of plagiarism! Is she crazy?]

[The production team is in the wrong too! They helped Xia Tong hide the truth for the sake of investing. If the designer wasn't Gu Shan, that person would definitely have been misunderstood. Fortunately, Lu Zhi was able to stand up for her and prove her innocence.]

[The production team has apologized, which means that they've already repented. However, not only did Xia Tong not apologize, but she even continued to distort the truth. Why is she so shameless?!]

[I admit that I spoke a little too loudly earlier. I'm sorry, Gu Shan. We were wrong.]

The internet instantly exploded as netizens berated Xia Tong. Soon, someone reacted. [Right, it seems that someone tried to persuade Xia Tong in the comments section earlier!]

[I remember too. That person is Xia Tong and Gu Shan's family member. I think her name is Xia Mengyan. She said that it was Xia Tong's fault and even asked Xia Tong to apologize to Gu Shan. At that time, she was even scolded badly by Xia Tong's fans. My heart aches for her!]

[Looks like Xia Mengyan and Gu Shan have a good relationship! When she heard that her cousin was wronged, she immediately stood up for her. Even though she was insulted by everyone, she didn't delete the comment. I want to have such a cousin too.]

Just as everyone was praising her, someone said in confusion: [That's not right! I remember that Xia Mengyan framed Qiao Xi before and caused an uproar on the internet. Indeed, the internet doesn't have memories.]

[That's all in the past. It must be a misunderstanding! If Xia Mengyan could stand up for her, why would she frame her?]

Qiao Xi looked at the comments online, and the corners of her mouth curled up slightly. A single comment was enough to clear Xia Mengyan's name, offsetting the scandal of her trying to be a mistress and snatching someone else's fiancé.

Since Xia Mengyan liked acting so much, Qiao Xi would continue acting with her!

Qiao Xi raised her eyes and looked at Gu Zheng. She knew that it was Gu Zheng's doing that the production team apologizes so readily. Actually, she did not care if the production team apologized or not. She was very curious about what benefits Xia Mengyan had given Xia Tong to make her agree to such an unreasonable request.

Gu Zheng raised his cup and took a sip of coffee. His fingers tapped lightly on the table as he asked with a smile, "Do you want to know what benefits Xia Mengyan gave her?"

"Actually, it's very easy to guess. The fact that Xia Tong plagiarized can't be hidden. Instead of struggling at death's door in the entertainment industry, she could take this opportunity to leave. At this moment, Xia Tong seems to be despised by everyone and has no choice but to leave the industry. In reality, she's willing to withdraw from the industry. The Xia family gave her a guarantee that she could still have money to spend even after she leaves the industry. She naturally agreed."

To put it simply, Xia Tong entered the entertainment industry to earn money. Even if she had to leave the entertainment industry now, she would be earning more than before. Moreover, she did not have to be insulted. What reason did she have to refuse?

“Shares?” Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows and realized that Xia Mengyan must have given Xia Tong shares. Although Xia Tong was not a popular celebrity, her salary was not low either. Since Xia Mengyan could make her give up her reputation and future, she must have promised Xia Tong a lot of shares.

However, why did Xia Mengyan have to pay such a huge price just for a good reputation?

While Qiao Xi was still puzzled, Xia Mengyan suddenly started a live broadcast. Back then, when Xia Mengyan was in the midst of a scandal where she was said to have snatched someone else’s marriage contract, a group of brainless fans still believed that their idol would not do such a thing. Coupled with the Xia family spending a lot of money on public relations, they quickly suppressed public opinion. Now that everyone was talking about this new incident, the netizens were not as angry as before.

Moreover, Xia Mengyan had stood up for Qiao Xi this time. Not only had she cleared her name, but she had also attracted a large number of fans.

Chapter 978: Sudden Family Banquet

For the sake of her reputation, Xia Mengyan would do anything. However, was this really useful?

Qiao Xi entered the live-stream. Xia Mengyan was wearing a very simple white dress, and her makeup was very pure. She smiled gently. She did not go straight to the point but played a piano piece for everyone. She sat on the chair, and her hair fell slightly as she played, giving others a feeling of peace.

Xia Mengyan was the daughter of the Xia family. She had a noble identity and was a famous perfumer. Even if she was not a celebrity, she had many fans.

After she finished playing a song, she established a perfect image in everyone’s hearts. Then, she got to the main topic and slowly said, “Regarding what has happened online recently, I’ll seriously explain it to everyone. Xia Tong and Gu Shan are indeed my cousins, but Xia Tong is a cousin from the Xia branch family while Gu Shan is my biological aunt’s daughter.”

After a pause, Xia Mengyan said helplessly, “Xi Xi doesn’t often return to the Xia family, and Xia Tong doesn’t keep in contact with us, so the two of them don’t know each other. I didn’t expect Xia Tong to use the Xia family’s power to suppress Xi Xi.

“After I found out about this, I immediately went to Xia Tong’s comment section to persuade her. At that time, I just wanted to protect Xi Xi. I was very angry that Xia Tong had wronged Xi Xi. I didn’t think too much about it and directly commented. I was also insulted by some fans, but even so, I didn’t regret it. Fortunately, the person those fans were scolding was me. If they knew that the person Xia Tong was talking about was Xi Xi, they would definitely have run to Xi Xi’s account and insulted her.

“The misunderstanding between me and Xi Xi has been resolved. We have a good relationship!”

Qiao Xi smiled. If she were a netizen, she would definitely be deceived by Xia Mengyan’s appearance.

At this moment, the netizens in the live-stream felt even sorer for Xia Mengyan. The netizens' impression of her increased. She would rather suffer insults to protect her younger cousin. Why would someone who doted on her younger cousin snatch her younger cousin's fiancée? What had happened before must have been a misunderstanding.

Xia Tong's outcome was very tragic. She quickly announced her withdrawal from the entertainment industry and issued an apology.

Xia Mengyan reposted the apology statement and added: [Tong Tong, I'm very happy that you realized your mistake. Don't blame me for exposing you previously. I'm doing this for your own good. No matter which one of you made a mistake, I'll point it out. Only then will you improve.]

After that, Xia Tong publicly apologized to Qiao Xi. This way, Xia Mengyan would become a hero again. As for why Xia Tong apologized, it did not matter if it was because of the production team's reprimand or the pressure from the Shen family and Gu Zheng.

At this moment, everyone agreed that Xia Tong did not want to apologize at first. It was only when Xia Mengyan came forward to persuade her that she realized her mistake and chose to apologize.

When the live broadcast was about to end, Xia Mengyan said with a smile, "Everyone, I still have something to do, so I'll go offline first. Tomorrow is the family banquet. Everyone in the Xia family has to gather at the old residence, so I have to go back and help Grandpa and Grandma prepare."

When they heard this, the fans asked curiously: [If everyone from the Xia family goes back, will Qiao Xi go too?]

Xia Mengyan nodded and said, "Of course. If there's nothing important going on, everyone in the Xia family will go back."

[Speaking of which, it's all thanks to Mengyan that Xia Tong was able to apologize. Qiao Xi will probably thank Mengyan in person when she goes back tomorrow!]

After the live broadcast ended, Qiao Xi threw her phone on the sofa and sneered. It turned out that Xia Mengyan wanted to use public opinion to make her return to the Xia family!

The news that the Xia family was holding a family banquet spread throughout high society. Everyone was very curious about whether Qiao Xi would return. After all, the grudge between the Yin and Xia families back then was no secret.

Many curious people sent Qiao Xi WeChat messages. [Have you seen Xia Mengyan's live broadcast? Will you go to the Xia family's house?]

Gu Zheng said casually, "We can go, but not this time."

As soon as he finished speaking, a trace of coldness flashed past his eyes. He suddenly tightened his grip on the cup, and his fingers turned slightly white. His voice was extremely cold. "The Xia family must have spent so much effort to lure you there to obtain greater benefits from you."

"Could it be my blood?" Qiao Xi was slightly surprised. Previously, her eldest brother had reminded her that Meng Fan had spread the news that her blood could cure all poisons. The Xia family had also been

looking for the descendant of the divine physician. It was very likely that the Xia family had set up a trap to lure her to the Xia family for her blood.

Chapter 979: Mrs. Gu Has Gained Weight Recently

Qiao Xi had taken the opportunity to check Xia Mengyan's body but found nothing. However, she had an inexplicable feeling that there seemed to be a type of poison lingering in Xia Mengyan's body.

Her intuition had always been very accurate. As a doctor, this was a special ability. She was able to confirm that the Xia family had been poisoned. However, this poison was very mild and would not affect their lives for the time being. However, it was hard to say what would happen to them in the future. Hence, after the Xia family found out that the blood of the divine physician's successor could detoxify poisons, they started looking everywhere for that person.

Gu Zheng shook his head and said firmly, "The Xia family probably doesn't know that you're that person yet. The person who spread the news is indeed up to no good, but..."

He paused for a moment and continued, "But once that person reveals that you're the descendant of the divine physician, you'll be equivalent to a blood bank. Many people will target you."

Qiao Xi had long realized this. Her blood could detoxify poisons. This was a skill and also a calamity. However, her blood could only detoxify one person. She had already helped Gu Zheng detoxify the poison and the two of them were already connected by blood. Her blood was useless to others.

"Everyone hopes to get your blood. If the Xia family or others target you at this time, can that person still be indifferent? If the Xia family attacks first, they'll undoubtedly be courting death. Before they can succeed, they'll already be devoured by other forces.

"I'm guessing that everyone is just watching now. No one dares to make the first move as they're afraid that they'll become the target of others. This way, you'll be safer. There'll be another group of people protecting you."

Qiao Xi was dumbstruck. Everyone wanted her blood, but only one person could obtain it in the end. If the Xia family really made a move, the others would first eliminate the Xia family. The Xia family probably understood this logic, so they would not rashly make a move.

It was because of human greed that she became the target of protection. However, no one knew that she had already detoxified Gu Zheng's poison.

Qiao Xi did not notice a trace of abnormality flash past Gu Zheng's eyes. He cleared his throat and said, "The current situation isn't very serious yet. They don't know your identity yet, and the Xia family is only suspicious, so they want to keep you by their side."

"That makes sense. They want to seize the initiative and keep me by their side. Once they confirm it, they can attack me. At that time, it'll be too late for others to attack." Qiao Xi nodded.

Suddenly, Gu Zheng's gaze turned cold. He stretched out his strong arms and pulled Qiao Xi into his embrace, pressing her onto the sofa. His hot breath sprayed on her neck, making her feel ticklish and slightly nervous.

“You... What are you doing?” Qiao Xi stammered.

Gu Zheng stood up slightly and stared at her with his deep eyes. His tone was gentle, but there was no response. “You can only stay by my side. No one can snatch you from me.”

Qiao Xi’s body trembled uncontrollably. Gu Zheng laughed, and his voice suddenly became gentle. “Mrs. Gu, no matter what happens, you’re not allowed to leave me.”

She looked up and met his gentle eyes. His light brown eyes were filled with love and affection. At that moment, her heart seemed to be surrounded by a warm current as she nodded shyly.

“Okay.” No matter what happened, she would not leave Gu Zheng.

Under the man’s scorching breath, Qiao Xi’s body gradually softened. Her clear eyes were glazed over. She curled up in his embrace like a kitten and said in a soft voice, “Ah Zheng, I’m tired. Can you carry me upstairs?”

The atmosphere was especially ambiguous at this moment. The two of them should return to their room to do something meaningful. Qiao Xi looked at Gu Zheng with a shy expression. Unexpectedly, Gu Zheng slowly stood up and teased, “Mrs. Gu, you’ve gained weight recently. I can’t carry you.”

Qiao Xi: “...” Damn! This bastard actually dared to mock her?

The living room was silent for a long time. Qiao Xi slowly said, “Gu Zheng...”

Gu Zheng looked at her with a smile and waited for her to continue.

Qiao Xi said, “You... Are you looking for a beating?”

Gu Zheng looked indifferent. Mrs. Gu could not beat him anyway.

...

The next morning at six.

Ring, ring, ring...

Gu Zheng woke up on time, and Qiao Xi opened her sleepy eyes. The sky was slightly dark when she suddenly reacted and roared. “Gu Zheng!”

He turned on the lights in the bedroom and turned around slowly. “Yes?”

Qiao Xi shouted in exasperation, “Why did you set the alarm so early? Don’t you know that I want to sleep?”

Chapter 980: He Just Wanted To Be By Her Side

At this moment, she wished she could kick Gu Zheng out and throw that damned alarm clock out as well. If he were not her husband, she would definitely make him die an ugly death.

“Mrs. Gu, your body is too weak, so I’ve decided to have you run with me in the morning to develop healthy habits. Otherwise, how can you defeat me?”

Qiao Xi took a deep breath. She could not hit her husband, so she could only endure it. She shouted anxiously, "I'm not weak!"

She covered herself with the blanket and ignored Gu Zheng. She was very angry when she woke up, so even if God were here today, He could not disturb her sleep.

Gu Zheng leaned over to the bed, lifted the blanket, and smiled. "Mrs. Gu, if you're cursing me, it's best to let it out. It'll be very uncomfortable to keep these things bottled up!"

Qiao Xi's eyelids twitched. Gu Zheng was a smart person, right? She could not hide anything from him.

"I guessed correctly. You're indeed scolding me in your heart." Gu Zheng's tone was teasing. He did not continue to force her to go for a morning run. Instead, he leaned behind her and hugged her tightly. He whispered in her ear, "Xi Xi, what are you scolding me for?"

His voice was very gentle, but it scared Qiao Xi so much that her entire body trembled. Gu Yao's words suddenly echoed in her mind. 'My brother is a very strange person. The calmer and gentler he is, the more terrifying he actually is. A second ago, he was still talking to me gently. I was still lamenting in my heart about having a brother with a very good temper. The next second, I was beaten up. Qiao Xi, you must be careful. If you encounter such a situation, you must immediately admit your mistake and not resist. Otherwise, you'll suffer harsher revenge.'

Later on, Gu Yao reminded her again, 'Gu Zheng likes you so much. He definitely won't hit you, but a two-faced man like him will definitely think of ways to punish you.'

When she thought about this, Qiao Xi's entire body could not help but tremble. However, her mouth seemed to not listen to her anymore as she blurted out the thoughts in her heart, "You bastard! You two-faced man! If you disturb my sleep again, I'll kick you out!"

As soon as she finished speaking, the corners of Gu Zheng's mouth curled up slightly to reveal a charming smile. Without giving Qiao Xi a chance to react, a scorching kiss landed on her lips. It was surging and fierce as if it wanted to devour her.

After a long time, Qiao Xi felt her breathing quicken, her lips go numb, and her mind go blank. The man's gentle voice sounded. "Are you still cursing me?"

At this moment, Qiao Xi finally confirmed Gu Yao's words. Gu Zheng was really too evil. She knew very well that if she did not get up now, she might be suffocated by Gu Zheng's kiss.

20 minutes later.

Qiao Xi followed behind Gu Zheng with a face full of resentment. He was not training her body at all but torturing her!

Gu Zheng turned around and glanced at her. "Are you unhappy?"

Qiao Xi rolled her eyes at him and did not say anything.

"Alright, don't be angry anymore." Gu Zheng coaxed her gently. His low voice was filled with affection without the slightest impatience.

After their morning run, Gu Zheng went upstairs to take a shower while Qiao Xi collapsed on the sofa, not wanting to move at all. Not far away, she heard Song Shijing and the butler talking. "The president wakes up every morning to run. He's been like this for so many years, but Young Madam has never gotten up early. Why did he call her over today? I think Young Madam doesn't seem too happy."

The butler looked at Qiao Xi, who was slumped on the sofa, and explained, "All these years, he has always been alone. Now that he has someone he likes, he wants the person he loves to participate in everything he does. He's not forcing Young Madam to run in the morning. He just wants her to accompany him."

Song Shijing sighed. "The Gu and Lu families don't treat the president well. He has never felt love since he was young and doesn't have many friends. It wasn't easy for him to have Young Madam, but she doesn't understand him."

Qiao Xi's heart instantly softened. It turned out that Gu Zheng only felt lonely, so he wanted to pull her along for a morning run. He only hoped that there would be someone by his side to talk to and not always be alone.

At the thought of this, Qiao Xi abruptly stood up. Seeing Qiao Xi leave, the butler said softly, "Shijing, Young Madam heard our conversation. She won't be angry with the president, right?"

Song Shijing nodded and said, "I don't think so, but we have to control Song Shiyu. As long as he doesn't spout nonsense, we won't be exposed."

After breakfast, the conversation between Song Shijing and the butler appeared in Qiao Xi's mind. Her tone was a little gentler. "Do you wake up so early every day to run?"