

Lady gu 981

Chapter 981: Gu Zheng Is Exposed

Every day when Qiao Xi woke up, Gu Zheng was already dressed and waiting in the dining room. He would accompany her to eat breakfast before going to work. She had indeed never thought about what Gu Zheng had done during this period of time and whether he would be lonely. After thinking about it, the anger in Qiao Xi's heart instantly dissipated.

"Ah Zheng, you work until late at night every night and wake up at six in the morning. It's not good for your body if you don't sleep enough. You have to take care of your body no matter how busy you are!" Qiao Xi looked at him with a worried expression.

Gu Zheng nodded in agreement.

Qiao Xi recalled Song Shijing's conversation with the butler and felt very guilty. She quickly said, "It's okay. I won't let you be alone in the future. I'll wake up early and run with you."

Gu Zheng slowly looked up, his deep eyes shining. He smiled. "Alright."

Seeing that he seemed to be slightly sad, Qiao Xi felt even guiltier. "I'll definitely wake up early. No matter what, I'll accompany you."

Gu Zheng looked at her gently, his eyes filled with love.

Qiao Xi said confidently, "Not to mention six, even four o'clock is fine. Gu Zheng, you're usually so busy. All I can do is be by your side. I won't let you be alone."

"Four o'clock?" Song Shiyu happened to walk over and said in surprise, "President, why would you wake up at four? Don't you usually wake up at seven?"

Qiao Xi was puzzled. Didn't Gu Zheng wake up at six? Sometimes, he would wake up even earlier, so why did Song Shiyu say that he only woke up at seven?

Song Shiyu said, "What's there to be lonely about? The president wakes up in the morning and gets ready, then has breakfast with you before going to work. There are hundreds of people in the company surrounding him. How could he be lonely? Thank God he's not annoyed!"

Qiao Xi came to a sudden understanding. So Gu Zheng did not wake up early every day and only occasionally trained his body. He was not as lonely and pitiful as she imagined?

Gu Zheng put down his chopsticks, and his expression darkened.

Song Shiyu did not realize that danger was coming. He smiled arrogantly. "The president only woke up so early today because he wanted to wake Young Madam up! He was afraid that Young Madam would be angry, so he deliberately said that he was lonely to pretend to be pitiful!"

Gu Zheng looked up slowly and said indifferently, "Song Shiyu."

At this moment, his eyes were calm, but the more gentle he was, the more terrifying he was. His thin lips parted slightly. "Are you very free?"

Song Shiyu shook his head. "No, I have to go to a meeting with you later!"

"Song Shijing can accompany me to the meeting. You have a more important task. Leave for the mountains immediately! Be back in a week."

Song Shiyu wanted to cry but had no tears. Why did he send him to the mountains for no reason? Moreover, there was a lot of work there. How could he come back in a week? The president was asking him to work without sleep. Was he not just telling the truth? Did the president have to be so petty?

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At ten o'clock, Qiao Xi reported to Li City University on time. After work, she was about to leave when she bumped into a familiar figure. Qiao Xi originally did not want to pay attention to him and walked past him. Unexpectedly, the person directly rushed over. "Qiao Xi, you're still so rude. You didn't even say anything when you saw me."

At this moment, Xia Yunlou's face was filled with resentment. "I went to Longwan Residential to look for you this morning. Those people refused to let me in, so I came here to look for you!"

Qiao Xi had an indifferent expression. Xia Yunlou had gone to Longwan Residential, but the butler did not tell her. He probably knew that she hated Xia Yunlou, so he did not want to disturb her because of an unrelated person. Unexpectedly, Xia Yunlou actually found her here.

"Have you seen Mengyan's live broadcast? Did you even listen to what she said?!"

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows and sneered. "She said so much, so how would I know what she meant?"

Xia Yunlou's face was livid. She suppressed her anger and said, "Our family is holding a family banquet, so we're letting you come home! No matter what, I'm your mother. It's only right for you to return to the Xia family to attend the banquet. No one will gossip. Hurry up and go back with me!"

"Oh!" Qiao Xi had an indifferent expression, but her next words almost made Xia Yunlou vomit blood. She looked at Xia Yunlou with an innocent expression. "But I don't want to go to the family banquet! I'm afraid that if I eat at the same table as you, I won't be able to help but vomit."

Xia Yunlou was dumbstruck, and her mouth opened wide in shock. She did not expect that Qiao Xi would actually say such things. It just so happened that Qiao Xi even looked arrogant. The flames of rage in Xia Yunlou's heart instantly burned fiercely.

"What did you say?! You bastard!" Xia Yunlou screamed.

Chapter 982: Don't Project One's Shortcomings On Others

Qiao Xi dug her ears and repeated loudly, "I said that your Xia family is disgusting. I'm afraid I'll vomit if I eat with you!"

The Xia family was disgusting?

Xia Yunlou was angered to the point her face flushed red. She was unable to suppress the anger in her heart and shouted at the top of her voice, "Qiao Xi! Have you gone mad?!"

"What? Have you become crazy after hearing that I'm not attending the family banquet? Where did your Xia family get the confidence that I'll definitely attend as long as you invite me?" Qiao Xi retorted.

Xia Yunlou was so angry that her entire body was trembling. She gritted her teeth and said, "I'll ask you again. Are you coming back with me or not? You're a descendant of the Xia family. Do you want me to beg you to go back and attend the family banquet?"

Qiao Xi's eyes were icy-cold as she smiled lightly. "Madam Xia, I'm very curious. In the past, the Xia family didn't acknowledge me as their granddaughter at all and wished for nothing more than for me to scam far away. To you guys, it was best if I didn't embarrass the Xia family. Why are you trying your best to invite me to the family banquet this time? What's your motive?"

Xia Yunlou avoided his gaze. The anger in her eyes instantly dissipated as she lowered her head guiltily.

"Oh! You really have ill intentions! The Xia family is spending so much effort holding a family banquet just to lure me over. What do you want from me?"

Qiao Xi's words caused Xia Yunlou to fly into a rage out of humiliation. "What nonsense are you talking about?! Of course, the elders invited you home for a meal. Don't project one's shortcomings on others!"

"What are you talking about? Your Xia family is only focused on benefits. Would you do anything that's not worth your effort? Xia Mengyan spent a lot of money to clear her name and make it seem like we have a good relationship, right? How many shares did she give Xia Tong?"

Qiao Xi smiled and said, "If I'm not wrong, what you want is even more precious than shares. Moreover, only I can give it to you, so you're trying your best to get me to return to the Xia family."

Xia Yunlou's expression changed. "I don't understand what you're saying."

"Madam Xia, I've already guessed it. Why are you pretending?" Qiao Xi smiled meaningfully. Xia Yunlou had lived for so long, but she was not as good at hiding her emotions as Xia Tong.

Qiao Xi continued, "What you want should be related to my mother, right?"

"I'm your biological mother!" Xia Yunlou shouted in exasperation.

Qiao Xi was even more sure of what she was thinking in her heart, and she sneered. "After Mom passed away, everything she had was left to me. If the Xia family wants to obtain what she left behind, they have to look for me. That's why all of you spent so much effort to make everyone think that I'm from the Xia family. If I don't admit to this matter, I'll be despised by everyone."

Xia Yunlou was angered to the point of being unable to speak. She could only glare fiercely at Qiao Xi.

"Madam Xia, are you guilty? Are you speechless? The angrier you are, the more sure I am of my guesses. Thank you for providing me with the clues."

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi suddenly thought of something and stared at Xia Yunlou with burning eyes as she sized her up. She remembered that her grandmother and uncle had said that Xia

Yunlou was very obedient and sensible when she was young. She was bright and cute. Everyone liked her very much, but everything changed after Xia Yunlou was taken away by Xia Cheng.

Xia Yunlou had already agreed to go home with her siblings, but she suddenly changed her mind. Moreover, the gentle and cute young lady suddenly became vicious.

At first, they thought that Xia Yunlou was threatened. Later on, they slowly realized that she had really changed. However, even if a person could change, they could not completely become another person overnight. Other than her appearance being exactly the same, her character was not similar to before at all.

Not only did Xia Yunlou not acknowledge her siblings and mother, but she also hated them. Hence, the Yin family had always suspected that the person in front of them was not the real Xia Yunlou. They had also secretly investigated for a long time, but they still could not find any useful clues.

After she became an adult, Xia Yunlou even stole her sister's fiancé. Her hatred for her sister increased day by day. Actually, Qiao Xi knew clearly in her heart that the reason Xia Yunlou hated her, her biological daughter, was because she was raised by Xia Yunqiu.

Qiao Xi was silent for a moment. Perhaps she could help the Yin family solve this mystery. Her hypnosis technique could get some clues from the deepest part of Xia Yunlou's mind.

"Xia Yunlou."

Qiao Xi called out lightly with a bewitching voice, "Look into my eyes."

Xia Yunlou's entire body instantly stiffened, and her eyes gradually became empty before turning blood-red. She looked at Qiao Xi in a daze like a puppet.

Chapter 983: Dangerous Family Banquet

Qiao Xi was full of smiles as she asked in a gentle voice, "Are you the real Xia Yunlou?"

The surroundings suddenly fell silent. Xia Yunlou slowly looked up, and her empty eyes seemed to have a crack. She replied indifferently, "I am."

Qiao Xi was stunned. Her grandmother and uncle both suspected that she was not the real Xia Yunlou, but even under hypnosis, Xia Yunlou was still able to confirm her identity.

Hypnosis could control someone like Gu Zheng, who had extremely strong self-control. Of course, she could also control Xia Yunlou. Moreover, she was clearly hypnotized now. Under such circumstances, she would not lie.

Could it be that she was really Xia Yunlou?

Ring, ring, ring...

Suddenly, Xia Yunlou's phone rang. Her empty eyes gradually recovered their clarity and were shrouded by anger and viciousness. She did not remember what had just happened at all and warned fiercely, "You have to come to this family banquet, or you'll bear the consequences!"

Qiao Xi was silent for a moment before she smiled lightly. "Alright, when does it start?"

Xia Yunlou probably did not expect Qiao Xi to agree so readily. She was stunned for a few seconds before replying, "Seven in the evening."

"Alright." Qiao Xi nodded.

Xia Yunlou smiled proudly. Qiao Xi was stubborn, but in the end, she was afraid of the Xia family's power and did not want to offend them, so she still had to obediently attend the family banquet.

She would slowly deal with her when she arrived at the Xia family!

Qiao Xi watched Xia Yunlou's departing figure. She had indeed agreed to attend the family banquet, but she would not attend on time. She had to make the entire Xia family anxious. It would be best if they sent someone to personally invite her.

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Longwan Residential.

Qiao Xi went straight to the bedroom as soon as she entered. She found her grandfather's notebook and found it. It recorded that if the other party was hypnotized, what they said would definitely be the truth. Hence, Xia Yunlou was not lying. There were only two possibilities, then. This person was the real Xia Yunlou, but for some reason, her character had suddenly changed. She hated her siblings and mother very much.

The other possibility was that she was not the real Xia Yunlou, but she thought that she was. Perhaps she had lost her memory, or perhaps there was another reason. In short, she subconsciously thought that she was the real Xia Yunlou.

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Uncle and Grandma had always thought that the real Xia Yunlou was still wandering outside. That was a thorn in their hearts and also a strand of hope. However, if this person was the real Xia Yunlou, then all their previous efforts and persistence would be in vain.

Qiao Xi was unable to imagine how sad and helpless they would be when they found out about this.

She closed her grandfather's notes. Actually, when she thought about it carefully, Xia Yunlou was only five or six years old back then. How could she have pretended? At that time, she really liked her brother, sister, and mother. If she was pretending, how could Grandma not tell?

Just as she was deep in thought, Gu Zheng pushed the door open and walked in. "I heard you're going to the Xia family's banquet?"

Qiao Xi nodded.

Gu Zheng took off his jacket and sat beside her. He hugged her from behind and muttered in a low voice, "Mrs. Gu, you know that they have ill intentions, yet you still want to attend?"

"I'm not stupid, so I'll be careful. Moreover, what can those idiots do to me?" Qiao Xi grunted coldly with disdain, but Gu Zheng's face remained cold. "Mrs. Gu, you have to remember that safety comes first. I don't want you to take the risk."

"Yes." Qiao Xi nodded obediently, then said softly, "I don't think the Xia family knows that I'm the descendant of the divine physician. They probably invited me back for my mother's inheritance. I tested Xia Yunlou today, and she was indeed very nervous. Since Xia Cheng wants to obtain those things, he needs my signature. He won't hurt me for the time being, but they might want to have me under their control first. For example..."

"By poisoning you?" Gu Zheng's expression darkened, then he chuckled and said, "Unfortunately, you're immune to poison! Looks like you've already planned it out. Even if you go, they won't really hurt you, but are you so sure that there's no danger at all?"

Looking at Gu Zheng's deep eyes, Qiao Xi could not help but feel slightly guilty. Of course, it was impossible for her to not be in danger at all, but she was very confident that the trash from the Xia family could not hurt her. Since she had decided to attend the family banquet, she would not let the Xia family have an easy time.

Gu Zheng looked at her seriously. "Mrs. Gu, I hope you can protect yourself. Otherwise, you'll regret it."

Hearing the man's low and hoarse voice, Qiao Xi's entire body could not help but tremble as she gulped.

Chapter 984: I Learned To Lie From You

At around six in the evening, Qiao Xi was still lazily leaning against the sofa and playing games. The family banquet officially began at seven. At this moment, people had started to arrive and would take their seats. It would only officially start when everyone was present.

Qiao Xi played the game unhurriedly without the slightest intention of leaving. The next second, Xia Yunlou called.

Xia Yunlou was very impatient, and her tone was filled with anger. "Do you know what time it is? Where are you?"

Qiao Xi's fingers moved nimbly on the screen as she casually said, "Oh, I suddenly don't want to go anymore."

These words almost caused Xia Yunlou to vomit blood from anger. She gritted her teeth and shouted, "Qiao Xi! You're fooling around! So many elders are waiting for you. What right do you have to not come?"

At this moment in the Xia family's villa, everyone heard Xia Yunlou's roar and looked over. Old Madam Xia asked with a gloomy expression, "Yunlou, Qiao Xi said she's not coming? This girl really doesn't know etiquette!"

"Aunt, didn't she already agree? Why isn't she coming?" Xia Mengyan asked.

Qiao Xi heard their voices and chuckled. "I just don't want to go. I suddenly recall Madam Xia saying in public that Xu Anran is your daughter and I have nothing to do with you. Then why should I attend the Xia family's banquet? Moreover, you don't welcome me very much.

"I'm very close to the Yin family, so I have to keep a distance from the Xia family. If I attend the family banquet, it'll cause Grandma and Uncle to misunderstand, so I won't be going. I hope you have fun!"

At this moment, Xia Yunlou's entire body was stiff, and her face was ferocious. She roared like a wild beast, "Qiao Xi!"

Seeing the gazes of the guests, Xia Yunlou immediately restrained her anger and lowered her voice. "Don't forget that Mengyan is your good cousin. She has endured so many criticisms for you. Now that Mengyan has invited you to the family banquet, you're unwilling? Even if you don't care about me, you have to come for Mengyan's sake!"

Qiao Xi nodded thoughtfully. "That makes sense."

However, the next second, her tone was filled with innocence and difficulty. "But I can't do anything about it! Today is also the day of the Yin family's banquet. As the precious daughter of the Yin family, of course, I have to go back and see my grandmother! My grandmother dotes on me so much. If I don't go back and see her, I'll be unfilial. I believe everyone will understand."

Xia Yunlou berated, "What nonsense are you talking about? The Yin family isn't holding a family banquet at all!"

"You can say that Xia Mengyan is taking the blame for me, so why can't I say that the Yin family is holding a family banquet? I learned how to lie from you!"

Xia Yunlou instantly choked. Qiao Xi already knew that all of this was a setup by the Xia family to use the power of public opinion to force her to return to the Xia family. She knew it clearly in her heart, but others did not.

Now, for the sake of not attending the family banquet, Qiao Xi fabricated the lie that the Yin family was holding a family banquet. At that time, as long as Yin Lianxin appeared to confirm her words, everyone would naturally not suspect anything.

The two of them were lying, but neither could refute the other.

"Madam Xia, don't think that I can't expose your lies. I have the Yin family behind me. What can you do to me?"

"Madam Xia, don't you know about the grudge between the Yin and Xia families? The two families haven't been in contact for decades. If Grandma invites me home but I go to the Xia family's residence, that'll be truly unfilial! Any normal person would choose their grandmother over attending a banquet held by a mistress."

Xia Yunlou's face alternated between green and white. She gritted her teeth and said, "Qiao Xi, don't go too far!"

"How am I going too far? I just don't want to attend your family banquet. If there's nothing else, I'll hang up." As soon as Qiao Xi finished speaking, the person on the other end of the phone panicked.

“Wait!”

A few seconds later, an old and kind voice sounded on the other end of the phone. “Xi Xi! I’m your grandfather.”

Qiao Xi leaned against the sofa and turned off the game interface. She turned on the loudspeaker and threw her phone on the coffee table. Her tone was indifferent and distant. “If you have something to say, quickly say it. I’m still very busy.”

Xia Cheng was indeed stunned for a moment. He was suppressing his anger. When he spoke again, his tone was still very gentle. “Xi Xi, I know that you don’t have any feelings for the Xia family, but you’re very close to Yunqiu. After all, she’s your adoptive mother. We still have some of her designs and photos in the family. Don’t you want to take them back?”

Chapter 985: Going To The Banquet Alone

Qiao Xi had long known that the Xia family still had her mother’s belongings, but she did not know what they were. She did not expect that there would actually be some designs.

Qiao Corporation relied on fashion design to make a fortune, but she had never heard that her mother knew how to design as well. Moreover, her mother stopped interacting with the Xia family when she was young. Why would the Xia family have her old designs?

“Old Master Xia, you’re indeed very smart. You’re using my mother’s belongings to force me to go back.” Qiao Xi’s eyes narrowed slightly, and her voice gradually turned cold.

Xia Cheng smiled proudly. “How can I force you? You’re a child of the Xia family. Of course, we all hope that you can come back. Come quickly. Everyone is waiting for you!”

“Alright.” Qiao Xi’s eyes were filled with coldness as she hung up.

On the other hand, the smile on Xia Cheng’s face suddenly vanished, and his gaze gradually became vicious. “Bastard! When she arrives at the Xia family, I’ll see how arrogant she can be.”

Xia Mengyan pretended to be worried. “Grandpa, are we really going to let Xi Xi drink that? But—”

“Mengyan!” Xia Yunlou immediately tried to persuade her. “You’re just too kind. Since Qiao Xi can’t be used by us, then let her be poisoned like us. At that time, for the sake of protecting her life, she’ll definitely look for the antidote. That way, we’ll be able to detoxify the poison in our bodies as well.

“You’re the future heir of the Xia family. You have to be ruthless when you have to be. She’s just an outsider. Can she compare to the lives of our entire Xia family?”

Xia Mengyan nodded, a sinister look in her eyes.

At this moment, Xia Ji’s wife subconsciously looked up at Xia Yunlou. Didn’t they say that Qiao Xi was Xia Yunlou’s biological daughter? Why was she so vicious as to harm her own daughter?

Seeing Madam Xia staring at her, Xia Yunlou glared and asked coldly, “Why are you looking at me?”

Seeing this, Xia Ji did not protect his wife but reprimanded her. "If it weren't for the fact that you're Mengyan's mother, do you think you would have the right to attend the family banquet? Since I asked you to come, you'd better be obedient and not say anything you shouldn't. Otherwise, you'll suffer! Hurry up and apologize to Yunlou!"

Madam Xia lowered her head and bit her lip without saying anything.

Xia Yunlou's face was filled with disdain. "Forget it, I don't want to bicker with her either. Look at her useless appearance. I feel annoyed just looking at her. If she hadn't given birth to Mengyan, she would have been chased out long ago."

Madam Xia's expression turned even uglier. She crossed her fingers and looked uneasy.

Xia Mengyan, who was at the side, saw her mother being berated but did not say anything. There was not a trace of heartache in her eyes as if she was just a stranger.

At this moment, Qiao Xi had already left Longwan Residential and was driving to the Xia family's villa.

Song Shiyu shouted anxiously, "President! Did you hear that? Those bastards from the Xia family are threatening Young Madam. Are you sure you want Young Madam to deal with those people alone? They must be up to no good! Hurry up and protect Young Madam! If you don't want to go, let me go. With me around, they definitely won't dare to bully Young Madam!"

Gu Zheng and Song Shijing looked up at the same time and glanced at him meaningfully. It seemed that only a fool like Song Shiyu did not understand that no one could threaten Qiao Xi. She was going because she wanted to. Moreover, it was only because Xia Cheng had agreed to return Xia Yunqiu's belongings that she was willing to go. Since she knew that the Xia family had ill intentions, it meant that she had already come up with a countermeasure to ensure her safe return.

Song Shijing's first impression of Qiao Xi was that she was a weak woman. Later on, he realized that Young Madam's methods were on par with the president's. She would never be afraid of the Xia family! Moreover, she was not a weakling who needed protection. Song Shiyu would only cause trouble if he went.

After a moment of silence, Gu Zheng smiled. "How can I feel at ease letting my cute and kind Mrs. Gu go alone? I'll go myself."

Song Shiyu and Song Shijing looked at each other in disdain. Ever since the appearance of Young Madam, the president had changed. He was showing off his love all the time.

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At eight in the evening.

Qiao Xi had just arrived at the Xia family's residence. The banquet was supposed to start at seven, and everyone had already been sitting in their seats for an hour. At this moment, all of their expressions were gloomy. Xia Yunlou was even more furious, and the cup in her hand was almost crushed.

Qiao Xi walked in and waved at everyone with a smile. "Everyone's here! Why aren't you eating yet?"

Chapter 986: Keep The Goodies Within The Family

When Xia Yunlou heard this, she could not help but roar, "You still have the cheek to say that?! It's all because of you! What did I tell you during the day? The banquet starts at seven, but you only rushed over at eight. Aren't you embarrassed to have so many elders wait for you on an empty stomach?"

Qiao Xi glanced at her and said casually, "I'm not the one who wants to come. Aren't you the one who invited me? If you're unwilling to wait for an hour, then it just shows that you're not sincere!"

Xia Yunlou was angered to the point her face flushed red. She could lose ten years of her life by talking to Qiao Xi.

At this moment, Song Shiyu, who was hiding outside the door, heard this and could not help but sigh in his heart. Young Madam was still so calm when facing this group of covetous people from the Xia family. There seemed to be no need for them to protect her anymore.

Gu Zheng was smiling meaningfully at the side. When Qiao Xi entered, they had already arrived at the entrance of the Xia family's villa, but they were not in a rush to enter. Instead, they stood at the door and listened to the sounds coming from the corner of the wall.

Qiao Xi's appearance caused everyone present to be dissatisfied. Xia Mengyan immediately stood up and patiently reminded her, "Xi Xi, you're a junior. Why aren't you greeting the elders when you see them?"

Xia Yunlou roared, "Rude wild girl! How embarrassing!"

"Since you think I'm embarrassing, I'd better go! In any case, I didn't want to come in the first place. My husband is going to bring me out for a feast when I get home!" As she spoke, Qiao Xi walked out the door.

Xia Cheng was instantly anxious. He glared at Xia Yunlou and hurriedly said kindly, "Xi Xi! Don't be angry! Your mother is a little impatient, but she's doing this for your own good. Don't bicker with her and quickly take a seat!"

"Since Old Master Xia said so, then I'll reluctantly stay," Qiao Xi said with a smile as she walked straight to the empty seat and sat down.

At this moment, everyone's gazes were on her like a pack of hungry wolves. Xia Yunlou calmed down and said in a gentler tone, "Xi Xi, didn't President Gu come with you?"

Qiao Xi replied without the slightest hesitation, "This is the Xia family's banquet. Why would he come here? Moreover, he's very busy and doesn't have time to attend such a boring banquet."

Xia Yunlou instantly choked. Every word Qiao Xi said could anger her to the point her blood pressure rose. However, since Gu Zheng was not here, they could rest assured and deal with Qiao Xi.

"Xi Xi, during the matter of the marriage contract previously, why didn't you speak up for Mengyan? She was scolded by netizens for so many days and felt terrible. Can you bear to see your cousin suffer?" Xia Yunlou criticized.

At this moment, a servant went forward and poured a cup of tea for Qiao Xi. Qiao Xi was caught off guard and picked up the teacup to finish it in one gulp. Everyone revealed sinister smiles when they saw her drink the tea.

Old Madam Xia also reprimanded, "Yes! Mengyan is your sister, but you watched her suffer. You're too heartless!"

Qiao Xi was angered to the point of laughing. It seemed that the Xia family had spent a lot of money to settle this matter, so they wanted her to pay for it.

"Oh!" Qiao Xi replied indifferently.

Seeing that Qiao Xi was so arrogant, Old Madam Xia felt as though her attacks were ineffective. She could not take it anymore and continued, "It's just a small misunderstanding between you cousins. Why did you have to make things worse? President Gu is young and promising. It's understandable that Mengyan likes him. It's normal for an outstanding man like President Gu to have a few women by his side. He can't possibly spend the rest of his life with you alone. Since there'll be women fighting for your favor sooner or later, why don't you give this opportunity to Mengyan? Good things shouldn't be left to outsiders!"

Qiao Xi replied without raising her head, "Tsk tsk, Old Madam Xia, you're surely worthy of being a mistress. You make ruining someone else's marriage sound so refreshing and refined. Your Xia family's education philosophy is really destructive!"

Being a mistress was a stain on Old Madam Xia's life. These words were like a slap to her face in public, making her unable to raise her head.

"Although Gu Zheng and I didn't hold a wedding, we got our marriage certificate a long time ago. We're legally married. Xia Mengyan fell for a married man and even faked the marriage contract in a vain attempt to use me to climb up the social ladder. As the first wife, do I have to cooperate with all of you? Do you still have any shame?"

As soon as these words were spoken, the huge villa fell silent. Everyone's faces were ashen, and they only felt their cheeks burn with pain. They all berated angrily, "Qiao Xi!"

Xia Cheng was still relatively calm, but he was unable to conceal the flames of rage in his eyes. He glared fiercely at Qiao Xi. "Shut up!"

Chapter 987: Something Must Be Wrong

At this moment, the Xia family had already blocked the signal, and Qiao Xi was unable to contact the outside world. Under the siege of everyone, it was impossible for her to escape. Yet she still dared to be so arrogant?

Xia Cheng no longer pretended, and his face was filled with viciousness. "Qiao Xi, immediately post a statement online and say that it's just a misunderstanding. Say that someone was deliberately slandering Mengyan. Mengyan has always been very good to you, so she definitely wouldn't ruin your marriage!"

Qiao Xi said casually, "It's easy to be struck by lightning if I lie too much. I won't do such a thankless task."

Everyone's gazes immediately became fierce. However, Xia Mengyan still pretended to be a good cousin and patiently advised, "Xi Xi, do you know that this matter has already affected the company's reputation? You're also a member of the Xia family. Can you bear to see Grandpa worry about the company at his age?"

Then, she looked at Xia Cheng and comforted him softly. "Grandpa, don't be angry. Xi Xi won't be so heartless. She'll definitely help us."

Qiao Xi lazily leaned against the chair and slowly closed her eyes. After all, out of sight, out of mind. It seemed that one of the reasons Xia Cheng forced her to attend the family banquet was to help Xia Mengyan clear her name.

Although Xia Mengyan had already recovered her image by criticizing Xia Tong, there were still some people who thought that she had offended Gu Zheng and was unwilling to collaborate with the Xia family. Hence, they needed someone to clarify this matter.

If she really clarified things for Xia Mengyan according to the Xia family's instructions, the Xia family would soon hire a group of fake commenters to spread rumors online. They would say that she deliberately led Xia Mengyan around and made Xia Mengyan think that she was engaged to Gu Zheng, causing her reputation to be ruined. That way, Xia Mengyan would be the one who was wronged from beginning to end.

Qiao Xi had long seen through these people's thoughts. Her icy-cold gaze swept past everyone. All of them had ulterior motives, but there was one person who was different—Xia Ji's wife.

Madam Xia was completely different from the rest of the Xia family. She always lowered her head like a frightened bird, and it was as if no one took her seriously. What made Qiao Xi even more puzzled was why Xia Mengyan was so distant from her biological mother and was very close to Xia Yunlou instead.

There must be something wrong. She really should investigate Madam Xia's background.

Xia Cheng's eyes were filled with anger. When he saw that Qiao Xi did not agree, his gaze became fierce. Since she was not cooperating, then she could not blame him for being heartless. When she was poisoned, she would obediently listen and look for the medicine until she found the right antidote. It could be considered as benefiting the entire Xia family while fulfilling her value.

When he thought about this, Xia Cheng turned around and gestured for Xia Yunlou to pour the wine. Then, he looked at Qiao Xi with a gloomy gaze. "Xi Xi, since you're unwilling, I don't want to force you. Let's have a toast, then. Let's let bygones be bygones. We'll get along well in the future. After all, we're family. Why go against each other?"

Qiao Xi lowered her eyes to look at the glass of wine. The wine was clear and suffused with a strong fragrance. She could not see anything wrong with it, but she was aware that there was poison in the wine. She raised her eyes and swept her gaze across the Xia family. Everyone's eyes carried resentment and anticipation. They hoped that she would immediately drink this glass of wine and be obedient after being poisoned.

Qiao Xi's gaze suddenly landed on Madam Xia, who was not far away. She saw Madam Xia staring at the wine glass with a burning gaze, then she looked at Qiao Xi. Her eyes were filled with anxiety and a trace of horror. She was afraid that someone would notice that she was reminding Qiao Xi.

Xia Ji followed Qiao Xi's gaze and turned around to glare fiercely at Madam Xia. She immediately lowered her head and was terrified to the point her entire body trembled. She did not dare remind Qiao Xi anymore.

Qiao Xi was slightly surprised. Madam Xia was completely different from the rest of the Xia family. She actually tried to signal her not to drink.

She picked up the wine glass, and the hearts of everyone in the Xia family rose as they stared at her hand with burning gazes. They urgently hoped that Qiao Xi could drink that glass of wine.

At this moment, Song Shiyu, who was hiding in the dark, looked serious and clenched his fists. As long as Gu Zheng gave the order, he would break in to protect Young Madam.

Everyone could tell that there was something wrong with this glass of wine. If Young Madam really drank it, she would definitely be hurt. However, if Young Madam did not drink it, how could those hungry wolves let her off?

Qiao Xi raised the wine glass to her lips, but she suddenly stopped in the next second. She held the wine glass a little farther away and said casually, "Old Master Xia, I agreed to come to the Xia family to retrieve my mother's belongings. Shouldn't you give them to me first?"

Chapter 988: Xia Cheng Broke His Promise

Seeing that Qiao Xi did not drink the glass of wine, Xia Cheng frowned. Xia Ji had already lost his patience and rushed over to pick up the glass, wanting to forcefully pour it into Qiao Xi's mouth. However, in the next second, his wrist was firmly grabbed by Qiao Xi.

Xia Ji looked at Qiao Xi with a shocked expression. She was only a 20-year-old girl, yet she was actually so strong. She could grab his wrist with one hand, and it seemed to be effortless.

There was not the slightest fear in Qiao Xi's eyes. Instead, she smiled indifferently. She grabbed Xia Ji's wrist and slowly exerted force. "Old Master Xia, are you going back on your word?"

Xia Cheng's expression was gloomy. Before he could speak, Old Madam Xia shouted anxiously, "Qiao Xi! What are you doing? Let go of my son! This is the Xia family's territory. You can't fool around here! Otherwise, don't blame us for being nasty!"

"Old Madam, if I remember correctly, your son is the one who attacked me first, right? I'm just defending myself. I didn't say that I wouldn't drink this glass of wine. I just want to get my mother's belongings first, but Mr. Xia is in a rush to force me to drink. Could this wine... be poisonous?"

The entire hall instantly fell into a deathly silence. Everyone had different expressions, but they all carried a trace of guilt. The corners of Xia Cheng's mouth twitched slightly as he glanced at Qiao Xi with a slight uneasiness. Qiao Xi meant that she could drink, but she had to get her hands on the belongings before she drank the wine.

Xia Cheng hesitated for a moment, then instructed, “Mengyan, go get your Aunt Yunqiu’s belongings.”

Those things were meaningless to them, but if Qiao Xi could be used by them, then it would be a great thing for the Xia family. Once she was poisoned, so Gu Zheng would probably not sit idly by. With Gu Zheng’s current power and status, it should be very easy for him to find the descendant of the divine physician.

Xia Cheng’s tone became gentle. “Xi Xi, don’t misunderstand. Your uncle thinks that you don’t want to reconcile with us, so he became a little anxious. Let go of him.”

Qiao Xi let go, but Xia Ji looked at her with disdain without a trace of anger. In his eyes, Qiao Xi was already a fish on the chopping board that could be slaughtered at will. It wouldn’t be long before she knelt on the floor and begged them to let her off.

After a while, Xia Mengyan walked down empty-handed. Qiao Xi smiled and asked, “Where are the things?”

Xia Mengyan looked troubled. “Grandpa, I’ve searched the warehouse. Aunt Yunqiu’s belongings are nowhere to be found.”

At this moment, Old Madam Xia revealed a vicious expression. Qiao Xi wanted Xia Yunqiu’s belongings? Dream on! Since she wanted them so badly, she should go to hell to get them from Xia Yunqiu!

Xia Cheng glanced at Old Madam Xia and knew that she had secretly destroyed the belongings. He did not flare up but raised his glass and said to Qiao Xi, “Then I might have remembered wrongly. They were probably just worthless things that aren’t worth your attention! Let me give you a toast!”

Qiao Xi glanced at the wine glass on the table and completely ignored Xia Cheng. She directly stood up, and her voice was filled with dignity. “Old Master Xia, since you’re unwilling to give me the belongings, I’ll go look for them myself!”

Seeing that she was so arrogant, Old Madam Xia shouted in exasperation, “Qiao Xi! Do you think this is your house? Your grandfather took the initiative to give you a toast, but you actually pretended not to see it?”

Qiao Xi snorted. “Decades ago, my grandmother divorced Old Master Xia and announced that the two families would no longer have any contact. My mother, Madam Xia Yunqiu, had always lived with my grandmother. What right do you, Old Madam Xia, and the entire Xia family have to keep my mother’s belongings? Old Madam Xia, not only do you like to be a mistress, but you also like to snatch other people’s belongings. You have such special hobbies!”

Old Madam Xia was so angry that her breathing quickened and she almost fainted. She shouted without caring about her image, “Someone! Capture this little b*tch! Ah! I’m so angry!”

At this moment, she could no longer care about letting Qiao Xi drink. All she could think about was making Qiao Xi pay the price.

The bodyguards rushed over with the intention of subduing Qiao Xi, but before they could approach, Qiao Xi took two steps back and kicked the other party’s knee. That person’s legs went weak as he knelt in front of Qiao Xi.

“Old Master Xia, you promised to return my mother’s belongings to me, but you went back on your word. In that case, I don’t have to drink this glass of wine anymore.” Qiao Xi remained calm and composed.

“Go! Catch her!” Old Madam Xia roared.

Qiao Xi stood on the spot and said casually, “Right, I forgot to tell everyone that Ah Zheng is already waiting for me outside the door. If I can’t walk out of the Xia family’s door in an hour, he’ll personally come to look for me.”

Chapter 989: Who Destroyed The Belongings?

Xia Cheng’s expression changed, and he hurriedly waved his hand to signal the bodyguards to leave. Then, he whispered something to Xia Ji, who was beside him. After about half a minute, he said kindly, “Xi Xi, what are you talking about?! Would we harm you? It’s all a joke.

“Didn’t you say that President Gu wasn’t coming? It’s good if he comes. Let him come in and have a meal with his family to liven things up. Everyone wants to see your husband too!”

Qiao Xi smiled coldly. As expected, Xia Cheng was still afraid of Gu Zheng. Actually, she was not sure if Gu Zheng was here at all, but with his character, he would at least send Song Shiyu or Song Shijing to protect her.

“I only want my mother’s belongings. Give them to me immediately!” Qiao Xi’s tone suddenly became fierce.

Xia Cheng frowned. If Gu Zheng really came, they could not continue to force Qiao Xi to drink. Otherwise, she would definitely notice that the wine was poisoned. At that time, it would be troublesome if Gu Zheng barged in.

He could only suppress his anger for the time being. “Butler, bring Yunqiu’s belongings over.”

A few minutes later, the butler walked over with a tattered box. “Master, I found it.”

Qiao Xi opened the box. The things inside were very messy. There was a photo album and a sketchbook. They were probably the designs Xia Cheng had mentioned. She flipped open the photo album, and her expression instantly changed.

Her mother’s photo had been scratched by someone with a knife. Every cut was very forceful. The person even wrote the words ‘b*tch’ and ‘damn you’ on her mother’s face with a red pen. It was obvious that the person hated her mother.

Qiao Xi’s pupils suddenly constricted as she raised her eyes to look at Old Madam Xia. Her indifferent eyes were filled with ruthlessness, and her entire body emitted dense killing intent. Old Madam Xia looked at her gaze and was terrified to the point her entire body trembled. She took a few steps back in horror and said while trembling, “Why are you glaring at me? I didn’t do it.”

Qiao Xi stood up and slowly walked toward her, her icy-cold eyes staring fixedly at her.

Song Shiyu, who was outside the door, could not help but gulp. He had to admit that Young Madam was really scary when she was angry! No wonder even the president did not dare to provoke her.

Gu Zheng's expression was similarly gloomy. He rarely saw Qiao Xi so angry. Since the Xia family had the guts to anger her, they had to bear the consequences.

At this moment, Old Madam Xia took a few steps back and bumped into the chair behind her. She could not retreat anymore and shouted in horror, "Qiao Xi! Go away! I already said that it has nothing to do with me!"

"I didn't say a word just now, yet you're busy explaining yourself. Is it because you're guilty?" Qiao Xi spoke coldly like a messenger from hell, making one tremble with fear.

Old Madam Xia could not retort. She stood there trembling and looked at the others for help.

"Xi Xi, stop fooling around." Xia Mengyan hurriedly went forward to stop her and advised softly, "Actually, when we got these designs and photo albums, they were already destroyed. We were afraid that you would be sad, so we didn't tell you. I was also very sad, but I couldn't salvage the things. I could only keep them and give them to you. How could you misunderstand us?"

Qiao Xi paid no attention to Xia Mengyan at all. Her eyes were still staring at Old Madam Xia as if she would tear her into pieces in the next second.

Old Madam Xia was so scared that she broke out in a cold sweat. She stammered as she retorted, "That's right! What right do you have to malign me? These things were already destroyed when they were sent here. Xia Yunqiu must have done something wrong outside and offended someone. That's why this happened after she died. She can only blame herself for this!"

"Ah!" As soon as Old Madam Xia finished speaking, she suddenly screamed. Qiao Xi forcefully broke her wrist, and a cracking sound was heard. An intense bout of pain swept through her entire body.

Qiao Xi's gaze was gloomy and cold. "I'll ask again. Did you destroy my mother's belongings?"

Xia Mengyan was also frightened by the angry Qiao Xi and hurriedly tried to persuade her. "Xi Xi, let go! This wasn't Grandma's doing at all. Even if you have doubts, you should wait until the matter is investigated clearly. How can you hurt your elders without distinguishing right from wrong?"

Qiao Xi could not be bothered with Xia Mengyan and looked at Old Madam Xia with a sharp gaze. Her entire body emitted strong killing intent. "I'll give you another chance. Answer me!"

At this moment, Old Madam Xia had already forgotten the pain in her wrist. She looked into Qiao Xi's eyes as intense fear spread from the bottom of her heart. From Qiao Xi's red eyes, she seemed to have seen a fiery hell. She could even hear miserable cries.

Chapter 990: The Furious Qiao Xi

The pain in her wrist made Old Madam Xia almost faint. Her throat was dry, and she could not say anything. However, her strong desire to live made her roar with all her might, "It wasn't me!"

“Then tell me who it is. Perhaps I can let you off.” Qiao Xi smiled sinisterly as her gaze swept past everyone. Under Qiao Xi’s deterrence, everyone lowered their heads. No one stood out to admit all of this.

Old Madam Xia trembled uncontrollably. She could sense that Qiao Xi really wanted to kill her. “Qiao Xi! It really wasn’t me. How could a junior like you—”

Before she could finish, her throat was suddenly tightened. Qiao Xi suddenly grabbed her neck. “Who destroyed my mother’s belongings? Are you going to tell me?”

Old Madam Xia found it difficult to breathe and could not say a word. It was not until her face was ashen that Qiao Xi slowly let go. At this moment, tears surged out of her eyes as she clutched her neck in horror and said while trembling, “It... It was done by Butler Liu!”

Butler Liu hurriedly stood in front of Old Madam Xia and explained, “Miss Xi Xi, I didn’t do it on purpose. Moreover, when Miss Yunqiu was still alive, I was very attentive to her. She was always kind and respectful. She treated me as an elder. If she knew that I destroyed these things, she definitely wouldn’t have the heart to blame me.”

Qiao Xi was angered to the point of laughing. He was just a dog by Xia Cheng’s side. Was he worthy of her mother’s respect? As a butler, he destroyed the belongings of his master. He did not admit his mistake and even tried to explain himself? The Xia family was the same from head to toe. They were all the same!

She could believe it if it was not intentional, but were the words ‘b*tch’ and ‘damn’ not intentional?

Qiao Xi picked up a photo and placed it in front of Butler Liu. She said slowly, “I know you took care of my mother for a period of time, so I can give you a chance. Tell me who destroyed her belongings!”

Butler Liu had indeed taken care of Xia Yunqiu, but that was a long time ago. He thought that the child Xia Yunqiu raised would definitely be as gentle as her, so he did not take Qiao Xi’s warning to heart. He said without hesitation, “I did it, Miss Xi Xi. Today is a family banquet. The elders here have been waiting for you for more than an hour. It’s fine if you don’t know how to be grateful, but you’re fooling around over the belongings of a dead person. If news of this gets out, everyone will say that you’re unfilial!

“You’re all descendants of the Xia family. Look at Miss Mengyan. She has always been steady and respectful to her elders. If you were half as sensible as Miss Mengyan, you wouldn’t be so incompatible with the Xia family!”

Qiao Xi slowly took a few steps closer as the corners of her mouth curled into a cold smile. She abruptly raised her eyes, which were filled with dense killing intent.

“You... What are you doing?” Butler Liu was frightened by her terrifying gaze, and his voice trembled.

At the end of the day, he was innocent! He was just a butler and had no grudge against Miss Yunqiu. Why would he destroy her belongings? However, since the old madam had already said so, how could he dare to retort? At this point, he could only brace himself and admit it.

“I... I know my mistake. I really didn’t do it on purpose! Please let me go! My old bones really can’t take it.” He begged for mercy while trembling.

“Xi Xi! Butler Liu didn’t do it on purpose. He has already admitted his mistake. What else do you want? No matter what, Butler Liu has served the Xia family for his entire life. How can you—”

Bang!

Suddenly, a loud bang interrupted Xia Mengyan’s words. Qiao Xi kicked Butler Liu a few meters away. He hugged his legs and wailed. Before he could get up, Qiao Xi walked over and stepped on his hand.

“Help!” A scream resounded throughout the entire Xia family’s villa. Everyone’s expressions changed.

Qiao Xi fiercely stepped on his finger, and the corners of her mouth carried a ghastly smile. “Did you use this hand to destroy my mother’s belongings?”

Butler Liu lay on the floor and looked at Old Madam Xia pleadingly. He was indeed suffering from some physical pain now, but if he exposed Old Madam Xia and Miss Yunlou, his outcome would definitely be even worse. Hence, he could only grit his teeth. “I know my mistake now! Old Madam Xia, Old Master! Save me!”

“Qiao Xi! Stop!” Xia Cheng berated.

Old Madam Xia, who was at the side, had a ferocious expression, but she hid behind Xia Cheng in horror and did not dare to say anything.