

## Lady gu 991

### Chapter 991: Chasing Butler Liu Away

Qiao Xi ignored Xia Cheng and lowered her head to look at the disheveled Butler Liu. She chuckled and said, "Butler Liu, who gave you the illusion that I'm easy to bully?"

Butler Liu was in so much pain that he could not say anything. He could only whimper and glare at her fiercely. This was the Xia family's residence. How could she dare to attack him? Moreover, she would go to jail if she deliberately hurt someone. She would not want to get into a lawsuit, right?!

Crack!

"Ah!"

A miserable scream sounded along with the sound of bones breaking. Qiao Xi withdrew her foot as if she had stepped on disgusting trash.

She lowered her eyes to look at Butler Liu, who had collapsed on the floor. She slowly bent down and whispered in his ear, "Don't think that just because you're taking the blame for Old Madam Xia and Xia Yunlou that this matter is over. I'll deal with you first. Then, I'll slowly deal with the two of them!"

"Even if I hurt you, no one in the Xia family will stand up to help you! You destroyed my mother's belongings. As her daughter, I'm disheartened over it. It's not a big deal if I accidentally step on you, right? Moreover, I can tell that your injuries are very light. You don't have to trouble the police with such a small matter, right?"

"You..." Butler Liu gritted his teeth, his gaze gradually filling with fear.

Qiao Xi smiled coldly. "You can indeed get a sum of compensation from me after calling the police, but as the butler, you destroyed Eldest Miss' belongings. Who will dare to hire you in the future? You can only rely on the compensation you received and retire."

Butler Liu's entire body trembled violently. At this moment, he realized that Qiao Xi was the one who was the most difficult to deal with.

Qiao Xi stood up and looked at the things in the box. Those things had all been destroyed by others and could no longer be repaired.

Xia Cheng's expression was gloomy. Now that the inheritance had been handed to Qiao Xi and she had beaten up the butler, it was time for her to drink that glass of wine. Hence, he advised gently, "Xi Xi, Butler Liu was the one who destroyed Yunqiu's inheritance. I'll chase him out of the Xia family. I absolutely won't allow such a person to continue staying in the Xia family."

Originally, Qiao Xi thought that no matter what, her mother was Xia Cheng's daughter. He would not just watch as her belongings were destroyed. After hearing Xia Cheng's words, she was sure that Xia Cheng must have known about this long ago.

Qiao Xi did not say anything and directly raised the wine glass to her lips. She drank it in one gulp in front of everyone. Everyone was instantly excited. Qiao Xi had been poisoned, so how could they be afraid that she would not obediently listen to them?

Xia Cheng gestured for the servants to send Butler Liu to the hospital, then looked at Qiao Xi affectionately. "Xi Xi, I owe you and your mother. Actually, I missed you very much. Your mother has passed away, so you have to be filial in her place. You should stay in the Xia family's residence to accompany me for a few more days."

Qiao Xi put down the empty wine glass and was slightly troubled. "But I promised Ah Zheng that I would go home. He's still waiting for me outside!"

Xia Cheng's expression changed as he continued gently, "It's still early. After eating with us, go upstairs and rest, okay?"

Everyone knew that this poison would make Qiao Xi faint. If she was still safe and sound after half an hour, it meant that she was not poisoned. However, how was this possible? They had seen Qiao Xi drink that glass of wine with their own eyes.

As for Gu Zheng, Xia Cheng had other ways to deal with him.

Qiao Xi looked at Xia Cheng's scheming gaze and smiled lightly. "Alright! I'll go upstairs now."

Xia Cheng did not expect that Qiao Xi, who was still furious just now, would be so obedient at this moment. Things were going even smoother than he had expected. After that, everyone sat down to eat. Everyone at the dining table had ulterior motives. Xia Cheng could not help but size up Qiao Xi. She was still in a very normal state.

"Mengyan, I think Xi Xi is tired. Bring her upstairs to rest."

Everyone from the Xia family raised their eyes to look at Qiao Xi. Their proud gazes were no longer concealed. At this moment, she was already a lamb waiting to be slaughtered.

Qiao Xi nodded, stood up, and followed Xia Mengyan upstairs. Xia Mengyan brought her to the guest room. Qiao Xi entered and smiled. "Miss Xia, why are you guys in such a rush to keep me in the Xia family?"

Xia Mengyan's expression changed as she hurriedly explained, "Xi Xi, you're thinking too much. Grandpa thinks that you're too tired, so he asked you to go upstairs and rest for a while. Don't misunderstand us."

"I know that the Xia family has already blocked the signal. I can't contact anyone, but don't forget that if I can't walk out of the Xia family safe and sound in half an hour, Gu Zheng will rush in with his men."

## **Chapter 992: The Antidote She Developed**

Qiao Xi sat lazily on the sofa and looked at Xia Mengyan with a sharp gaze. "How are you going to explain this to Gu Zheng when the time comes? Are you going to be holding his wife here while disregarding him?"

Xia Mengyan instantly choked. She could not help but be nervous. Could it be that Qiao Xi had discovered their plan?

“Xi Xi, rest well. President Gu will come to pick you up in a while. Even if he doesn’t come, Grandpa will send you home. You must be too tired. Don’t let your thoughts run wild.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Xia Mengyan stared fixedly into Qiao Xi’s eyes. The poison was about to take effect, and Qiao Xi would not be able to hold on for long. Sure enough, Qiao Xi’s body started swaying.

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. From the moment she drank that glass of wine, she knew what the poison was. It was the same poison as the one in Gu Zheng’s body. This poison would cause a person to fall into a deep sleep as soon as it entered their body. The Xia family was taking this opportunity to test the poison on her. Unfortunately, what the Xia family did not know was that she was immune to poison and was very familiar with this poison.

Qiao Xi calculated the time it would take for the poison to flare up and pretended to be weak all over as she collapsed on the sofa. Then, she closed her eyes.

Xia Mengyan stood on the spot and sized her up. After confirming that the poison had acted up and Qiao Xi no longer had the ability to resist, she heaved a sigh of relief. She turned around and walked out of the guest room, locking the door behind her.

Not long after, the other members of the Xia family walked in. Xia Cheng took out a pill and stuffed it into Qiao Xi’s mouth.

Old Madam Xia said unhappily, “Xia Cheng, this medicine is rare. We don’t have many of them. It’ll be a waste to give a pill to Qiao Xi!”

Xia Cheng smiled and explained, “What do you know?! The person who gave me the medicine said that if the person who’s poisoned takes this antidote and it works, the blood in her body will have the effect of detoxifying the poison. We can then drink her blood to detoxify the poison. Isn’t this more effective than a hundred antidotes?”

When Old Madam Xia heard this, she was extremely excited. “Does that mean our entire family can be saved?”

It turned out that this was the Xia family’s plan all along. Although this was a little different from the news that Meng Fan had spread, in the end, it was just to get her to be the antidote. Who exactly sent this news to the Xia family? Was it someone from the Medical Association, or was it someone from the Medical Association pretending to be a doctor?

Qiao Xi curled up on the sofa and quietly listened to the Xia family’s conversation. She carefully tasted the pill in her mouth. Wasn’t this pill developed by her?

Back then, she developed this medicine to help Gu Zheng detoxify the poison, but it was useless. Who stole her medicine?

“But President Gu is still outside...” Xia Ji was a little uneasy. They all knew Gu Zheng’s methods, so they naturally did not dare to provoke him.

“When he comes, find an excuse to delay him. Also, don’t tell Mengyan about this,” Xia Cheng instructed. “This matter is very dangerous, after all. We can’t implicate Mengyan no matter what. Once the matter is exposed, we have to insist that it has nothing to do with Mengyan.”

Although Xia Cheng said that, he was actually very sure that no one would discover their plan. If Gu Zheng really barged in to ask for her, they would just say that Qiao Xi had already left. What could Gu Zheng do to them?

At this moment, Song Shiyu was hiding outside the window. He gritted his teeth in hatred. “President, when are we going in? I can’t take it anymore. I want to go in and beat all these people up!”

Gu Zheng’s expression was indifferent, and his smile was sinister. “We can’t enter through the window. We have to walk in through the door and get my Mrs. Gu back!”

In the guest room.

After everyone left, Qiao Xi opened her eyes. She hurriedly stood up and easily opened the door. At this moment, everyone from the Xia family was conspiring in the living room. There was no one upstairs. Qiao Xi was prepared to quietly sneak into Xia Cheng’s study to look for clues. Before she could leave, an extremely gentle set of footsteps suddenly came from the door.

That person was extremely careful and afraid of being discovered. He gently pushed the door open. Seeing this, Qiao Xi hurriedly lay back on the sofa, then she saw a figure carefully walk in.

“Miss Qiao! Wake up!” Madam Xia’s voice was gentle as she shook Qiao Xi’s arm.

Qiao Xi closed her eyes tightly and pretended to be asleep.

Madam Xia was so anxious that she sighed. Her voice trembled. “Miss Qiao, they want to harm you. While President Gu is still waiting outside, quickly go downstairs and leave with him!”

Qiao Xi pondered in her mind. Madam Xia seemed to be different from the others. From the moment she entered, Madam Xia had vaguely reminded her that the Xia family had ill intentions. Now, she was taking the risk to tell her to leave quickly.

### **Chapter 993: An Inexplicable Sense Of Trust**

With Qiao Xi’s usual character, even if Madam Xia was expressing her goodwill, she would still be vigilant. Perhaps this was all the Xia family’s plan to test if she was really unconscious. However, when she heard Madam Xia’s anxious voice, Qiao Xi’s heart surged with an inexplicable sense of trust.

Seeing Madam Xia’s anxious appearance, Qiao Xi did not continue pretending. She opened her clear eyes.

Madam Xia was surprised and delighted to see her awake. “That’s great! Miss Qiao, you’re finally awake!”

Qiao Xi sized up the woman in front of her. She could not see a trace of sinisterness in her eyes, only worry and happiness. However, Qiao Xi really did not understand. She had never seen Madam Xia before, so why was Madam Xia so concerned about her?

Madam Xia was Xia Mengyan's mother. She did not care about her daughter but about another unrelated person. Why was that?

"I'm fine." Qiao Xi slowly stood up.

Madam Xia held her hand, feeling anxious and afraid. "Hurry up and leave! If you continue to stay in the Xia family, you'll be killed by them! I'll bring you out. After we get out, go look for President Gu for help immediately. Don't hesitate!"

At this moment, footsteps suddenly came from outside. Madam Xia's body froze, and her forehead was covered in sweat. It was obvious that she was very afraid.

Qiao Xi frowned. Madam Xia was Xia Ji's wife and Xia Mengyan's mother, so why was she like a frightened bird in front of the rest of the Xia family? She did not have the demeanor of the Xia family's mistress at all.

Xia Ji's voice came from the door. "Dad, it's almost time. If we don't think of a way, I'm afraid President Gu will barge in."

Old Madam Xia hurriedly said, "That's easy! We'll just say that Qiao Xi wants to stay in the Xia family for a few more days. Even though she has married Gu Zheng, it won't do our Xia family any good. Now, we just have to send Mengyan to Gu Zheng's side and let him make his own choice. Our Mengyan is so beautiful and obedient. No man will refuse her. She'll definitely be able to sit firmly in the position of Mrs. Gu. At that time, our entire family will be able to enjoy life with Mengyan."

In the guest room, Madam Xia frowned. Her eyes were filled with sorrow and pain. She was sad that her daughter had to be given away as an item. She was sad that her daughter was willing to join forces with the rest of the Xia family.

Actually, Qiao Xi had always suspected that Madam Xia was just a woman casually found by the Xia family to make up the numbers. Their goal was to announce to the public that Xia Ji and Madam Xia were very close and had an affectionate image. Actually, the real Madam Xia had long disappeared.

In the Xia family, no one took Madam Xia seriously. Her husband and daughter treated her as air, and the servants did not seem to take her seriously either. However, Madam Xia's feelings for Xia Mengyan were real. Her heart really ached for her daughter. This kind of expression could not be faked.

Could it be that Madam Xia was really Xia Mengyan's biological mother? How could such a weak but kind-hearted woman give birth to such a scheming daughter like Xia Mengyan?

At this moment, Old Madam Xia's voice sounded from outside the door again. "Once he has Mengyan's company, Gu Zheng won't look for Qiao Xi anymore. If he insists on looking for Qiao Xi, we'll say that Qiao Xi has already fallen asleep. When she wakes up, we'll arrange for a driver to send her back. As for what will happen on the way, we can't guarantee it."

Everyone understood what Old Madam Xia meant and turned to leave.

After the door fell silent, Madam Xia said while trembling, "Let's go! I'll bring you out!"

"It'll be easier for me to be discovered if you bring me out. Moreover, they'll absolutely not let you off. I don't want to implicate others," Qiao Xi said indifferently.

Madam Xia had a difficult expression as she held Qiao Xi's hand and said anxiously, "Miss Qiao, it'll be too late if you don't leave now! They won't let you leave because they..."

Looking at Madam Xia who wanted to say something but hesitated, Qiao Xi smiled. Of course, she knew what Xia Cheng wanted to do. He wanted to use her to test the medicine and cure everyone in the Xia family. Not to mention leaving, it would be very difficult for her to even survive.

A trace of disdain flashed past her eyes. She really did not take the Xia family seriously. She smiled at Madam Xia. "Thank you, but I can't leave yet. You can leave first."

"I know you're staying here for Miss Yunqiu's belongings. I know where they are. They're all in Xia Yunlou's room. There are also some precious jewelry and clothes!" Madam Xia said anxiously.

#### **Chapter 994: You Must Be Very Happy To Be Married To Him!**

Qiao Xi could not help but raise her eyebrows. Madam Xia actually called her mother 'Miss Yunqiu'? Her tone was also a little gentler. "You're already struggling in the Xia family. If they find out that you let me go, will they let you off? I'll be fine. Since I dared to come to the Xia family, I have a way to escape unscathed, but I can't leave now."

If she really left, Xia Cheng would definitely know that Madam Xia was the one who let her go. What kind of punishment would Madam Xia, who was not liked by the entire family, receive? Would everyone in the Xia family vent their anger on her? Would she be tortured to death?

Qiao Xi did not want to implicate the others. Seeing Madam Xia's worried expression, she said softly, "Don't worry, Gu Zheng will save me."

Madam Xia was slightly stunned, then she smiled with envy. "I heard that President Gu dotes on you very much. You must be very happy to be married to such a man!"

...

In the Xia family's villa.

At this moment, two luxury cars were parked at the entrance. Xia Cheng was already nervous even before he saw Gu Zheng. The two cars seemed to be reminding Xia Cheng that Qiao Xi's husband was already here. If they wanted to hurt Qiao Xi, they had to think about what price they should pay.

Xia Cheng's forehead was covered in a cold sweat, but he had lived for decades, after all. He would not be frightened so easily. He quickly composed himself and led everyone to welcome them. However, before he could reach the car, Song Shijing stopped him.

"Mr. Xia, please stop."

Song Shijing's cold and distant voice entered Xia Cheng's ears. He was instantly infuriated and felt that he had lost his dignity. Qiao Xi was his granddaughter, and as Qiao Xi's husband, Gu Zheng should respectfully call him 'Grandpa'. However, Gu Zheng was clearly here, but he did not show his face. Instead, he sent an assistant to stop him. The assistant even spoke so rudely. He did not take him seriously at all.

Gu Zheng was sitting in the car and leaning lazily against the back of the chair. He did not care about the people outside at all. Song Shijing was enough to deal with them. In his eyes, Xia Cheng was just an ant. He came to the Xia family's villa just to pick up Mrs. Gu. Otherwise, he would not have stepped into the Xia family's territory. He did not even want to waste time talking to Xia Cheng.

Seeing that Gu Zheng was so rude, Xia Cheng was so angry that his face turned livid and his chest felt heavy. After a while, he forced a smile and said obsequiously, "Mr. Song, please tell President Gu that Xi Xi is a little tired and wants to rest in the guest room for a while. We'll send her back when she wakes up."

Gu Zheng, who was in the car, suddenly opened his eyes. His gaze was sharp and cold. Even though he did not get out of the car, it made the surrounding people feel a strong chill.

Song Shijing asked, "Young Madam promised the president that she would come out on time. If she wanted to rest in the Xia family's residence, she would have called to tell the president. Why didn't she call?"

Xia Cheng smiled obsequiously and explained, "We were paying our respects to Yunqiu just now. Xi Xi saw Yunqiu's belongings just now and was too sad. She cried for a long time and got too tired, so she fell asleep. She didn't have time to call President Gu, so I came out to tell him so that he wouldn't worry."

Gu Zheng snorted from the car. Song Shijing said seriously, "So, the family banquet today was to pay respects to Young Madam's mother. As Madam Xia's son-in-law, our president naturally has to go in and pay his respects. He can bring Young Madam back with him afterward. Old Master Xia, you won't refuse, right?"

"Uhh... The worship ceremony has already been completed. We can't disturb Yunqiu anymore." Xia Cheng's expression was extremely ugly. He was nervous for a moment.

Song Shijing nodded. "Alright then. Our president won't be entering, but it'll definitely be midnight when Young Madam wakes up. Old Master Xia, please send Young Madam back to Longwan Residential."

Xia Cheng widened his eyes in disbelief. He did not expect Gu Zheng to be fooled so easily. Perhaps he had other matters to attend to and was in a rush to leave.

In a few hours when it was dark, they would let Mengyan wear Qiao Xi's clothes back. Their figures were similar anyway, so Song Shijing probably wouldn't be able to tell. Once Mengyan arrived at Longwan Residential, everything would depend on Mengyan's methods.

Xia Cheng smiled and nodded. "Don't worry, Mr. Song. We'll definitely send Xi Xi back. There are still some trivial matters at home, so I'll go back first."

Song Shijing watched Xia Cheng leave and smiled coldly. After the Xia family entered the house, Song Shijing opened the car door and said respectfully, "President, it seems that Xia Cheng is indeed ready to take action."

### **Chapter 995: The Xia Family's Secret**

Gu Zheng's eyes were sharp and filled with strong killing intent. His voice was low and hoarse. "She doesn't want to be exposed yet. I can cooperate with her, but..."

He was unable to tolerate Qiao Xi being in danger alone, and he was unable to imagine what was happening in the Xia family's villa at this moment. The feeling of not being able to contact her was truly too torturous.

Xia Cheng returned to the villa and heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Gu Zheng's car leave through the surveillance cameras. However, he did not know that the car stopped after leaving the surveillance area and Gu Zheng got out of the car.

On the other hand, Madam Xia was afraid of being discovered, so she could only leave the guest room. Perhaps Xia Cheng thought that even if the antidote was effective, it would be impossible for Qiao Xi to wake up so soon, so he did not send anyone to guard Qiao Xi at all.

Qiao Xi quickly unlocked the door and walked toward Xia Yunlou's room. Madam Xia said that her mother's belongings were all in Xia Yunlou's room. If there was enough time, she would go to Xia Cheng's study to search the place as well. Perhaps there would be pleasant surprises there.

Qiao Xi's footsteps were very light, and her figure was agile. She avoided a few servants and quickly found Xia Yunlou's room. Coincidentally, the door was not locked, and the room was very luxurious. It could be seen that the Xia family really doted on their daughter.

After entering, Qiao Xi went straight to the dressing table. There were a few jewelry boxes on it, and the word 'Qiu' was engraved on them. These were indeed her mother's belongings. Did Xia Yunlou not feel ashamed of keeping these expensive belongings?

Qiao Xi found a large leather bag in the room and packed all the jewelry. Suddenly...

Her body suddenly froze. She clearly felt that there was someone behind her, and this person's aura was very light. It seemed that he was an expert. Her eyes suddenly turned cold as she slowly bent down and took out a dagger from her boot.

Just as she was about to turn around and counterattack, the person grabbed her wrist and the dagger fell to the carpet. She fell into a warm embrace. The familiar smell of sandalwood made her realize something.

The man had been looking at her for a long time. At this moment, his eyes were filled with smiles as he teased, "Mrs. Gu, am I not able to support you? Why are you here to steal from the Xia family?"

Qiao Xi's face was filled with surprise. This was Xia Yunlou's room. How did Gu Zheng get in?



Gu Zheng gently pinched her soft cheek and looked at her dotingly. He seemed to like her surprised expression. She looked like a little hamster.

“Mrs. Gu.”

A murmur that carried a trace of huskiness and charm sounded. Qiao Xi abruptly raised her eyes. The man’s slightly cold lips gently kissed her forehead, then he pressed his lips against her ear and chuckled. “Mrs. Gu, you took such a long time to find your way here. And you haven’t entered Xia Cheng’s study yet? Are you sure you don’t need my help?”

Qiao Xi widened her eyes, then frowned. Gu Zheng specially climbed in through the window to look for her just to mock her?

She originally wanted to seek help, but Xia Cheng, that old fox, had blocked all the signals. She could not contact Gu Zheng, so she could only complete the mission alone. If she admitted that she needed Gu Zheng now, wouldn’t it be very embarrassing?

Qiao Xi thought for a moment and said with a firm expression, “There’s no need. You’re so busy! There’s no need for you to attend to such a small matter!”

Seeing that she was unconvinced, the corners of Gu Zheng’s mouth curled up slightly. He asked softly, “You really don’t need my help?”

His voice carried a trace of ridicule. In Qiao Xi’s opinion, this was blatant mockery! She absolutely could not let Gu Zheng have his way, so she abruptly nodded. “Yes! It’s unnecessary!”

Gu Zheng’s long fingers touched his chin, and his voice was filled with joy. “It’s fine if you don’t need me, Mrs. Gu. But I originally wanted to accompany you to find the Xia family’s secret.”

The Xia family’s secret?

Qiao Xi’s eyes immediately widened. Gu Zheng must have some clues since he said that. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have climbed in through the window. It seemed that this was no small matter.

“Mrs. Gu, you must be very interested in this secret because it concerns Madam Xia.”

Qiao Xi was instantly interested. She wanted to investigate Madam Xia not because Madam Xia had saved her, but because she could not find any useful information about Madam Xia with Black Tide’s account. All she could find was that Madam Xia was the daughter of an ordinary family. After she married into the Xia family, everyone in her family passed away. She could not find any clues.

Her identity was very likely faked. All her relatives had died, so no one could investigate her further. Their goal was to hide Madam Xia’s true identity.

### **Chapter 996: One’s Appearance Reflects One’s Heart**

Xia Ji clearly did not like his wife, but he had never cheated on her. He had been with Madam Xia for so many years. Although everyone in the Xia family hated her, no one had thought of chasing her away. Why was that?

Qiao Xi was really curious, so she asked Qin An to investigate Madam Xia's identity. However, she only obtained a little information. Now that Gu Zheng mentioned the Xia family's secret, she was instantly interested.

However, she had already rejected Gu Zheng. At this moment, she wished she could take back what she had just said. She slowly looked up. Indeed, Gu Zheng's eyes were filled with ridicule. She could only brace herself and say sweetly, "Senior! I was just joking just now! Of course, I'm very happy that you're willing to help me!"

Gu Zheng had already expected her to go back on her word, but the next second, he chuckled. "Forget it. I believe you can handle such a small matter yourself."

Qiao Xi hurriedly pulled him back, and she was angered to the point of stammering. "I-I can't do it myself. Can you help me?"

She shook his arm and looked at him with anticipation, but Gu Zheng looked down at her with a trace of ridicule in his eyes. He said casually, "I'm usually so busy. Why would I need to attend to such a small matter?"

Qiao Xi: "... 'Damn it! Bastard, believe it or not, I'll slap you!'

The corners of her mouth twitched slightly, and her tongue did not work anymore. She could only suppress her anger and say aggrievedly, "Ah Zheng, you're my husband! Of course, you'll help me if I'm in trouble. You can't just watch me fall into a predicament and not save me, right?"

Gu Zheng looked at Qiao Xi's anxious gaze that was like a crafty kitten. He smiled lightly and raised his eyebrows. "Tell me again who I am to you."

Qiao Xi's face was filled with shyness as she pounced into his embrace and thumped his chest shyly. "Idiot! I've already said it!"

Gu Zheng coughed. 'I'm afraid not many people can take Mrs. Gu's punches! Surely she's not venting her anger on me, right?'

Qiao Xi hid in his embrace and smiled slyly.

That was right! She did it on purpose! She wanted Gu Zheng to be punished!

Gu Zheng smiled helplessly, then said, "Actually, Madam Xia and your mother were friends—lifelong friends."

The smile on Qiao Xi's face instantly vanished as she abruptly raised her eyes.

"Madam Xia is easily bullied. Xia Ji married her to control your mother. When Madam Xia fell into the hands of the Xia family, your mother could only be at the mercy of the Xia family."

Qiao Xi's eyes suddenly turned cold. The Xia family was really unscrupulous when it came to using Madam Xia to control her mother. The jewelry in Xia Yunlou's room was all obtained through threatening her mother. No wonder there were so many of her mother's belongings in the Xia family's villa.

The two of them no longer hesitated and went straight to Xia Cheng's study. Gu Zheng had already investigated. There was a secret room in this study. He knew the entrance and switch of the secret room like the back of his hand. The two of them successfully entered the secret room. It was very spacious here. After looking around, there were no useful clues. There was only a dusty photo album in the corner of a bookshelf.

Qiao Xi flipped open the photo album. It was a photo of the Xia family. On it were Xia Cheng, Old Madam Xia, Xia Ji, and Xia Yunlou. The photo was slightly yellow and looked to be from more than 20 years ago. Xia Ji and Xia Yunlou were both very young.

Qiao Xi narrowed her eyes as she looked at Xia Yunlou's face. She picked up the photo and asked, "Ah Zheng, look at this photo. I keep having the feeling that the current Xia Yunlou is very different from the past."

Gu Zheng nodded. He had realized it too.

Qiao Xi tried her best to describe it. "It's not that they look different, but their auras are completely different."

The elderly said that appearances would reflect one's heart. In the photo, Xia Yunlou was full of smiles. She looked very innocent and kind. Her eyes were also very warm, making people subconsciously want to get close to her. However, the current Xia Yunlou was full of viciousness. Her eyes were filled with schemes and sinisterness. She was completely different from the Xia Yunlou from 20 years ago.

Qiao Xi looked at Xia Yunlou in the photo and felt inexplicably awkward. It was as if this person's soul and body had split into two.

Gu Zheng said softly, "If the Xia Yunlou in front of us is fake, then it must have been done on purpose by the Xia family. Moreover, her every word and action imitates the real Xia Yunlou. She lives according to the other party's preferences and character. The photo from 20 years ago was also deliberately imitated by her.

"However, one day, Xia Yunlou suddenly disappeared. Xia Yunlou escaped her restraints and released her suppressed nature. Unknowingly, she became herself again.

### **Chapter 997: Treating Her Like A Little Lab Rat**

Qiao Xi was dumbstruck. If Xia Yunlou's actions were indeed an imitation, then after the target disappeared, she could finally reveal her true nature. She became as shrewish and vicious as she was now.

At this moment, Qiao Xi's mind was slightly chaotic. She really wanted to know where the real Xia Yunlou had gone. Was she already dead, or had she escaped?

Gu Zheng stroked her hair gently and changed the topic. "Actually, Old Madam Xia was a little similar to Old Madam Yin when she was young."

Qiao Xi raised her eyes and took a glance. She casually flipped through a few photos of Xia Cheng and Old Madam Xia. They indeed looked very similar to her grandmother. She sneered. "How laughable. The

first wife gave birth to his children and helped him manage the company, but he fell in love with a woman who looks similar to the first wife.”

Xia Cheng found a good reason for his affair. He fell in love with Old Madam Xia because she looked like Yin Lianxin, so he was not a scumbag. It was just that he had been too lonely all these years.

Qiao Xi thought for a moment. If she were her grandmother, she would definitely hate Xia Cheng even more. Xia Cheng had probably explained this to her grandmother back then, so her grandmother divorced him without the slightest hesitation and completely cut off all ties with the Xia family.

The two of them did not find any useful clues and returned to the guest room. Qiao Xi leaned into Gu Zheng’s embrace and asked softly, “Ah Zheng, do you know why the Xia family is forcing me to stay here?”

“I don’t know,” Gu Zheng replied indifferently.

“They poisoned me.”

Actually, Gu Zheng had long known about the Xia family’s plan when he was hiding outside the door, but when Qiao Xi asked him that, he was unable to suppress the killing intent in his heart.

“Not only did they poison me, but they also fed me an antidote. They’re not sure if the antidote will work, so they’re testing it on me. They treat me like a lab rat.”

After that, Qiao Xi smiled. “Unfortunately, this poison is useless against me, and I’m unable to help them test the medicine. Since they’ve done this to me, I can’t easily let them off.”

“Mrs. Gu, how do you want to deal with them?” Gu Zheng hugged her soft waist and asked softly.

Qiao Xi smiled sinisterly. “I want them to know that not only is there no benefit in inviting me over, but I’ll also pose a big problem to them! I’m already very satisfied that I was able to find that photo album and my mother’s belongings on this trip today. You can leave first.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Qiao Xi lay on the sofa and pretended to be unconscious again. She was very curious about how the Xia family and Gu Zheng were poisoned together. What was the relationship between the Xia and Lu families?

Gu Zheng stood up, and the smile on the corners of his mouth suddenly stiffened. The scene before his eyes suddenly became blurry. He rubbed his eyes. Fortunately, Qiao Xi did not see his abnormality.

Qiao Xi thought that she had already detoxified the poison in his body and the two of them were already connected by blood, so he would never be blind again. But in reality...

Gu Zheng’s eyes were gradually losing light. He could only rely on the light coming from the window to determine the direction. He adjusted his breathing and said softly, “Mrs. Gu, be careful. I’ll wait for your good news.”

Without waiting for Qiao Xi’s response, Gu Zheng opened the window and nimbly climbed out. Qiao Xi was slightly surprised. Why did the man who was still worried just now suddenly leave?

At this moment, the Xia family was probably already surrounded by Gu Zheng's people. Their plan was within Gu Zheng's expectations, so he was at ease leaving her alone here and letting her deal with the Xia family.

Just as her thoughts were running wild, footsteps came from outside the door. Xia Ji asked softly, "Dad, is the antidote really effective?"

Xia Cheng smiled proudly. "That's a medicine developed by the Medical Association. Even if this medicine is useless, we can continue to use Qiao Xi to try other antidotes. One of them will definitely be effective."

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. They really treated her as a lab rat. No matter what, she was still human. They actually didn't care about her at all. Perhaps they had done many such vicious things behind her back. This group of people was really the scum of society!

Old Madam Xia's voice suddenly sounded as she laughed so hard that it made one nauseous. "Get Mengyan to prepare to go to Longwan Residential later. President Gu will definitely like her. With Mengyan by his side, he won't be in the mood to care about Qiao Xi's life!"

Xia Cheng's voice was serious. "Don't be anxious. We'll talk about it when Qiao Xi wakes up. If that medicine works, we have to keep her as the antidote! But we can't detain her here for no reason. We have to have a good reason, or else..."

#### **Chapter 998: She's A Successful Substitute**

Xia Cheng knew clearly in his heart that even if Gu Zheng liked Mengyan and was not in the mood to care about Qiao Xi, there was still the Yin family. Yin Lianxin would definitely come looking for Qiao Xi.

At this moment, his expression was gloomy. He recalled the years when he was with Yin Lianxin. When he married into the Yin family, he had to listen to the Yin family's arrangements for everything. Although the Xia family was prosperous, he did not feel grateful to the Yin family. He only felt resentment. Due to the Yin family's power, he would not go against them if they came to ask for Qiao Xi. He had to find an excuse to deal with them.

Old Madam Xia's eyes were filled with resentment as she said, "There are many reasons. Why don't we say that Qiao Xi is already dead? Let's set a fire and say that Qiao Xi was burned to death. That way, we can use the excuse that she was already burned to ashes. We'll just give some ashes to them."

Xia Cheng nodded. "This idea is feasible, but we can't act rashly now. We have to wait until President Gu really falls for Mengyan and completely forgets about Qiao Xi. Only then will President Gu not blame us."

Old Madam Xia was very confident in her granddaughter. Mengyan had been educated since she was young and learned the four arts. She had a gentle and generous character. Many rich young masters came to ask for her hand in marriage, but they were all refused. She believed that it would not be long before Mengyan could firmly grasp Gu Zheng's heart.

If Gu Zheng liked Qiao Xi's character, they would get Mengyan to imitate Qiao Xi's every move, just like how she imitated Yin Lianxin back then. Even if she was a substitute, she would still be a successful one. After all, she had already become the old madam of the Xia family.

Qiao Xi slowly stood up and leisurely leaned against the door to listen to their conversation.

Old Madam Xia said proudly, "Mengyan will marry Gu Zheng sooner or later. At that time, when we spread the news that Qiao Xi was burned to death and she completely falls into our hands, she'll still be at our mercy!"

Xia Cheng's expression changed. Actually, he married Yin Lianxin not only for the sake of the Yin family's power but because he really liked Yin Lianxin. However, marrying into the Yin family was a humiliation to him, so he chose a woman who looked very similar to Yin Lianxin. However, he felt that the woman in front of him was a little unfamiliar now.

At this moment, Old Madam Xia did not notice Xia Cheng's displeasure and continued to say arrogantly, "Yin Lianxin has always suppressed me. Now that her granddaughter has fallen into my hands, I must vent all my resentment from all these years on her!"

As soon as she finished speaking, the door of the guest room was suddenly pushed open from the inside. Everyone was shocked and hurriedly took a few steps back.

"What do you want to do to me, Old Madam Xia? Tell me in detail." A cold female voice came from inside the house, scaring Old Madam Xia so much that her body suddenly froze. Her already ferocious face became even more terrifying, like an old witch in a movie.

Qiao Xi crossed her arms and appeared in front of everyone. She raised her eyebrows and asked, "You said you want to vent all your resentment on me? Tsk tsk, you're too heartless!"

Old Madam Xia did not expect that Qiao Xi had already woken up, nor did she expect that she would actually hear their conversation. As she looked at Qiao Xi's arrogant expression, she thought of Yin Lianxin. As long as Yin Lianxin appeared, she would be the third party who would be despised by everyone. She would never be able to raise her head in front of Yin Lianxin, and the resentment in her heart surged like a tide.

"Yes! I want you to suffer! I want to torture you! So what? Do you think you can still escape from the Xia family?" Old Madam Xia looked at her with resentment.

"Oh." Qiao Xi had an indifferent expression as she turned around and returned to the guest room. She leisurely leaned against the sofa with her legs crossed and looked at Xia Cheng indifferently.

Xia Cheng recovered from his shock, and his eyes were filled with a look of pleasant surprise. Not only was Qiao Xi awake, but the lights in the room were not switched on. She actually did not lose her eyesight. This meant that the medicine had taken effect. In other words, Qiao Xi's blood had become their antidote.

Xia Ji immediately reacted and hurriedly ran downstairs. He instructed everyone to guard the Xia family's villa and not let anyone enter. They had to watch Qiao Xi closely.

At this moment, Qiao Xi's eyes were still indifferent without the slightest fear. Since the Xia family dared to set up a trap to harm her, she would absolutely make the Xia family pay the price.

Now, Xia Cheng should be sure that his entire family could be saved. How disappointed would he be to realize that all of this was just his imagination?

Old Madam Xia could not take it anymore and shouted with a ferocious expression, "Tie this little b\*tch up! Don't let her escape!"

Xia Cheng was still relatively calm. He instructed, "Yunlou, tell Mengyan to get ready. Drive Mengyan to Longwan Residential later."

### **Chapter 999: Taking Revenge For Xi Xi**

Xia Cheng walked into the house, turned on the lights, and advised softly, "Xi Xi, actually, I can't bear for you to suffer either. It's just that for the sake of the Xia family, I can only do this. I promise you that as long as you obediently stay in the Xia family, I'll try my best to satisfy you in the future."

Qiao Xi grunted coldly. "You want to imprison me? Then which room in the villa do you plan on putting me in?"

Before Xia Cheng could answer, Old Madam Xia cursed, "Little b\*tch! You still want to stay in the villa? Are you worthy? Ah Cheng, there's an old house in the suburbs. Let her stay there and get a few people to watch her. It's best if you lock her with chains to prevent her from escaping."

Xia Cheng frowned. He, too, felt that letting Qiao Xi stay in the villa would be a disaster. It was better to send her to the suburbs, so he nodded and said, "Xi Xi, the air in the suburbs is good. Go there and recuperate. I'll send servants to take care of you."

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. She really hated Xia Cheng's hypocritical appearance. He clearly wanted to treat her as a lab rat to test the medicine, yet he was still pretending in front of her.

At this moment, Xia Ji had already rushed back with a length of hemp rope in his hand. He entered without saying anything and wanted to tie Qiao Xi up. The next second...

Bang!

With a loud bang, Xia Ji felt a sharp pain in his abdomen. His body flew up and he crashed into the wall outside the door.

The scene in front of him stunned everyone in the Xia family. Xia Ji could no longer care about the pain in his body. He looked up anxiously, wanting to see who had kicked him. When he saw the man in front of him, his body suddenly stiffened.

"Didn't Old Master Xia promise me that he would send Mrs. Gu home? Where are you sending her now?" A low and cold voice sounded with strong killing intent. The smiles on the faces of the Xia family members froze, and the blood in their bodies seemed to have frozen.

His voice was so calm, but it made them break out in a cold sweat and tremble uncontrollably.

Song Shijing retracted his foot coldly and retreated behind Gu Zheng while glancing at the Xia family coldly.

Gu Zheng? Hadn't he left?

Xia Cheng and Old Madam Xia were terrified and could not help but take a few steps back. They had seen Gu Zheng's car leave with their own eyes. Why did he suddenly appear in the guest room?

Gu Zheng stood in front of Qiao Xi, his deep eyes filled with killing intent. The corners of his mouth curled into a cold smile. "I remember Old Master Xia saying that he was paying respects to my mother-in-law today. Xi Xi was tired from crying, so she decided to rest in the Xia family for a moment. Is this what you mean by paying respects?"

Xia Cheng's expression froze. When he met Gu Zheng's cold eyes, he was so scared that his entire body trembled. The muscles on his face trembled as he stammered, "President... President Gu, you... You've misunderstood. We were just joking with Xi Xi. How could..."

"The environment in the suburbs is good. Yunqiu has also stayed there before. There are many of her belongings there, so I... want Xi Xi to stay in the suburbs for a period of time. It's good for her health."

Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow with a faint smile. "Is that so?"

"Yes! Yes!" Xia Cheng nodded crazily as cold sweat trickled down his forehead.

Qiao Xi pounced into Gu Zheng's arms. The man hugged the little woman in his arms a little tighter. He asked in a mocking tone, "Then please explain why Mr. Xia wanted to tie Xi Xi up with a rope."

Xia Ji sat against the wall, not expecting Gu Zheng to mention him. He was so scared that his legs were trembling. Xia Cheng explained while trembling, "Uhh... Xia Ji just wanted to..."

"Everyone knows that I dote on Mrs. Gu and can't bear to see her being bullied. Old Master Xia, if you don't give me a reasonable explanation today, then I can only take revenge for Xi Xi."

Xia Cheng's expression instantly changed. They had all heard of Gu Zheng's methods. He would definitely not let Xia Ji off easily. Most importantly, they had detoxified Qiao Xi's poison, but they had yet to obtain Qiao Xi's blood. She was everyone's antidote, so they could not just watch her leave.

Xia Cheng thought for a long time. His eyes shifted as he gritted his teeth and said, "President Gu, listen to me. Sumei wanted to send Xi Xi to the suburbs. Xia Ji only did it according to his mom's wishes. He wasn't willing to do it at all."

Old Madam Xia's name was Ai Sumei.

Qiao Xi smiled. Xia Cheng was still so selfish. He could push everyone else under the bus for his own sake. Between Ai Sumei and Xia Ji, he chose Xia Ji without hesitation.

Old Madam Xia was stunned as she looked at Xia Cheng in disbelief.

**Chapter 1000: Dare To Do But Don't Dare To Accept**



“Old Master Xia, I don’t object to you letting Xi Xi stay in the Xia family for a period of time, but Old Madam Xia wants to chase Xi Xi to the suburbs. How can I be at ease with her staying out there? I’d better bring Xi Xi home. Someone might plot against her if she stays in the Xia family,” Gu Zheng said indifferently.

Qiao Xi grabbed Gu Zheng’s sleeve and said with a face full of fear, “Ah Zheng, quickly bring me away. I’m afraid every time I see Old Madam Xia. She even said that she wants to torture me and vent all her resentment on me. It’s too scary!”

Xia Cheng turned around with an angry expression and glared fiercely at Old Madam Xia. If it were not for this idiot spouting nonsense, Qiao Xi would not be so resistant to staying in the Xia family.

Old Madam Xia lowered her head and did not dare to retort. After Xia Cheng turned around, a smile immediately appeared on his face. He said gently, “Sumei is indeed too muddle-headed. She always thinks that Xi Xi is here to look for trouble with her on behalf of Lianxin, so she said those words. Those were all out of anger. She doesn’t mean it at all. She’s in the wrong for this. I’ll ask her to apologize to Xi Xi.”

“So what if Xi Xi is here to look for trouble? Does Old Madam Xia have the right to be angry?” Gu Zheng said casually, “Since she became a mistress and ruined someone else’s marriage, she has to be prepared to be cursed at. Why doesn’t she dare to admit her mistake?”

Xia Cheng’s face was livid, and Old Madam Xia was so angry that her breathing became irregular. No matter how powerful Gu Zheng was, he was just a junior. What right did he have to say this in public?!

“I remember that the Xia family invited Xi Xi to today’s family banquet. She didn’t take the initiative to come, nor did she come to look for trouble with Old Madam Xia. Xi Xi is so busy, so how could she have time to look for unrelated people? Old Madam Xia, you’re overestimating your position in Xi Xi’s heart.”

Gu Zheng’s tone was indifferent, and he did not curse at all. However, he just meant to say that Ai Sumei was an ant in their eyes. No one wanted to look for trouble with her at all because she was not worthy. Qiao Xi did not take her seriously at all.

Xia Cheng’s face turned red. If they looked down on Su Mei, then what was he?

Just as Xia Cheng was immersed in his anger, Gu Zheng said slowly, “Old Master Xia, my wife’s body is weak to begin with. Now that she was threatened by Old Madam Xia, do you think she can make up for her crimes with just an apology?”

If an apology could not make up for it, what did he want?

Xia Cheng was so angry that his entire body was trembling. Stars were starting to appear in front of his eyes. He suppressed his anger and said while trembling, “President Gu, why don’t we ask Xi Xi how to deal with this?”

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and asked softly, “Xi Xi, what do you think we should do?”

Qiao Xi fell weakly into Gu Zheng’s arms and lowered her head weakly. She said sweetly, “Ah Zheng, everyone knows that I’m kind-hearted. Grandpa asked me that because he thinks that I’m soft-hearted and won’t deal with Old Madam Xia.

“But I feel so wronged! They invited me to the family banquet, but they later said they were going to tie me up and throw me to the suburbs. There aren’t many people, so even if something bad happens to me, no one will know about it. Boo-hoo... I’m so pitiful! I didn’t do anything, yet Old Madam Xia wants to torture me. Maybe it’s because when she sees me, she’s reminded of her past when she was despised. It’s not my fault that she’s a mistress. Why is she venting her anger on me?! If I had known earlier, I wouldn’t have come to the Xia family!

“Ah Zheng, don’t blame Grandpa. It has nothing to do with him. It’s all my fault. If I hadn’t come, Old Madam Xia wouldn’t have done such an impulsive thing. Boo-hoo...”

Song Shiyu: “...” Young Madam was acting weaker and weaker. If he did not know her well, he would have believed her.

Xia Cheng was already suppressing his anger, and the flames of rage in his eyes almost sprayed out when he heard Qiao Xi’s words.

Gu Zheng nodded with heartache. “Since the family doesn’t welcome Mrs. Gu, let’s leave. We won’t visit again in the future to avoid being annoyed. As for those who threaten you, Mrs. Gu, they’ll have to be careful.”

Sumei’s mind buzzed. Of course, she could hear the threat in Gu Zheng’s words. She glared fiercely at Qiao Xi. This little b\*tch actually exaggerated things in front of Gu Zheng as if she had done something vicious. She clearly had not attacked yet!

She looked at Gu Zheng’s gloomy eyes and was instantly terrified to the point her entire body trembled. She pointed at Qiao Xi and roared furiously. “Qiao Xi! Shut up! I’ve never threatened you. Why are you pretending?!”

When Qiao Xi heard her angry roar, she choked and abruptly burrowed into Gu Zheng’s embrace while trembling in fear.