

Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 111
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Chapter 111: Kiss

Gu Zhou was now exuding a chilling aura, as if the person he had just kissed wasn't her.

If they were in a comic book, a line of crows would have been flying over Qiao Nian's head". She frowned.

Didn't Gu Zhou have a phobia of women?

Yet, it didn't seem like he had any such phobia after all!

Gu Zhou had already finished bandaging Qiao Nian's wound. He stood up with an indifferent expression and placed the medical kit back in the cupboard.

"Gu Zhou!" Qiao Nian called out sharply.

Gu Zhou turned to look at Qiao Nian, who was still sitting on the sofa. He raised his eyebrow. "What's wrong?"

"You actually kissed me!" Qiao Nian said in frustration, her eyes a little red.

"And?"

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou, dissatisfied. She really hadn't expected kissing to be such a casual affair in Gu Zhou's eyes.

"Are you expecting thanks?" Qiao Nian said through gritted teeth.

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"You're welcome."

Qiao Nian had never expected Gu Zhou to accept her thanks so shamelessly. Furious, she began breathing heavily. If only she could punch Gu Zhou right this instant!

This was the first time Gu Zhou had seen Qiao Nian in a rage. She no longer looked as sharp and cold as she usually did. Instead, she looked a touch more innocent and

adorable. He thought for a while and said, "If you think you've gotten the short end of the stick, why don't you kiss me back?"

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Qiao Nian was speechless with shock and rage.

She exhaled a long breath, trying hard to suppress the anger in her heart. "There's no need for that! Take off your clothes and go for your medicinal bath!"

Gu Zhou didn't say anything else either. He followed Qiao Nian's commands obediently.

Qiao Nian wrapped her bandaged wound in plastic wrap and performed acupuncture on Gu Zhou as he took the bath.

'When she was done with that, it was time for her to give Gu Zhou a massage.

This time, Qiao Nian used a lot of force during the massage. She had thought that Gu Zhou would be in so much pain that he wouldn't be able to take it. She didn't expect Gu Zhou to have no reaction for the entirety of the massage.

Qiao Nian felt as if she was punching a ball of cotton wool. She simply couldn't be bothered with Gu Zhou any longer. Standing up, she turned and left.

Gu Zhou sat alone in the bathtub. Looking at the closed bathroom door, his throat worked slightly.

His slender hand touched his lips lightly, and he recalled how Qiao Nian's lips had felt on his.

Her lips were soft, and even carried a faint sweetness.

This feeling was actually identical to the impression that the girl from five years ago had left on him.²

Could it be that everyone's lips tasted like this?

Or was it just Qiao Nian's lips?

Gu Zhou's mouth was a little dry. As he licked his lips, his eyes turned a shade darker.

After rinsing himself off in the shower, Gu Zhou stepped out of the bathroom. Immediately, he heard his phone ring from the bedside table.

He walked over to pick up the phone. After a while, he said gravely, "Alright. Please let Mr. Lin know that I'll be there on time tomorrow!"

'The next morning.

Many well-known figures of An City made their appearance at the opening of the newest research branch under the Lin family name.

Qiao Nian arrived early in the morning. Lin Tao was initially greeting guests, but when she saw Qiao Nian, she hurriedly ran up to her and said happily, "You've finally arrived! I've waited for so long! Why are you so late?"

Qiao Nian couldn't help but laugh. She gently swiped at Lin Tao's nose and said, "It's only seven o'clock. The opening ceremony will start at ten o'clock. Is this considered late?"

"Fine, fine. I should have kidnapped you here yesterday!" Lin Tao said with a smile.

The two of them chatted and laughed as they walked to the backyard of the Lin Research Institute. Qiao Nian saw Director Lin pruning some expensive herbs.

'When Director Lin saw Qiao Nian, a trace of surprise flashed in his eyes. However, when he saw that Qiao Nian's hands were empty, he couldn't help but frown. He said unhappily, "Didn't you say that you wanted to give me a surprise? Where is the surprise?"

"The surprise is on the way. It'll be here soon!" Qiao Nian's smile was like a flower in bloom.

Hospital Director Lin was overjoyed. Looking at Qiao Nian happily, he reached out to stroke his white beard as he rebuked, "You're too polite, child. Just bringing yourself is good enough. You don't have to bring a gift along!"

Qiao Nian and Lin Tao looked at each other and smiled, a tacit understanding between them.

Chapter 112: The Show Begins

Lin Tao smiled at Director Lin and said, "Dad, you must be secretly overjoyed. You were clearly pining after Nian Nian's medicinal herbs!"

Director Lin's smile grew even brighter. "Child, why must you speak such truths aloud?"

"See, you do agree that I'm telling the truth," Lin Tao teased.

"It's all my fault for spoiling you. You don't even know what etiquette is. You should address Qiao Nian as Elder Sis!" Keeping his expression serious, Director Lin began to lecture Lin Tao.

"Stop, stop, stop! I don't want to listen anymore!" Lin Tao was really worried that Director Lin would continue with his lengthy lecture. She shook her head vigorously. "I'm taking Nian Nian to take a look around our research institute!"

Before Director Lin could say anything, Lin Tao had already pulled Qiao Nian away.

Looking at Lin Tao and Qiao Nian's retreating backs, Director Lin couldn't help but smile.

At around nine in the morning, guests began to arrive in a steady stream. Director Lin stood at the door to welcome them, smiling from ear to ear.

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Actually, Qiao Nian didn't like such occasions. If it weren't for Director Lin and Lin Tao, she wouldn't have come.

At this moment, Qiao Nian's phone began to ring. She took out her phone and saw a WeChat message.

[Qiao Xin and Su Yan have the Suranne Grass to Mr. Lin's research institute.]

Qiao Nian typed [Okay] in response, then put her phone into her bag.

Lin Tao looked at the happy Director Lin. A trace of worry flashed in her eyes. She moved closer to Qiao Nian and asked in a low voice, "Nian Nian, have you really found the Suranne Grass? My father has been waiting for twenty years. I'm a little worried he'll..."

Qiao Nian's gaze fell on Qiao Xin and Su Yan, who had just entered the room. Her lips curved up in a bright smile, and a sly glint flashed in her eyes. "Look, hasn't the Suranne Grass arrived?"

Lin Tao blinked in confusion. She followed Qiao Nian's gaze and saw a sweet-looking girl and a young, handsome man walking in.

Because the pair were attractive, they became the center of attention the moment they entered.

Lin Tao looked at Qiao Nian in confusion. Puzzled, she asked, "Those two people are just a couple of guests, and they seem to have only brought themselves. Where exactly is the Suranne Grass?"

Qiao Nian gave a meaningful smile and raised her eyebrow slightly. "Just wait and see! The show will begin very soon."

Qiao Nian's gaze fell on Qiao Xin's face. Tonight, she would trample Qiao Xin's arrogance to the ground, so that Qiao Xin would never be able to raise her head again.

At the entrance of the institute, Su Yan was chatting happily with Director Lin.

Standing obediently next to Su Yan, Qiao Xin carefully tugged on his sleeve.

Su Yan glanced at Qiao Xin and nodded. He then looked back at Director Lin. "I've specially prepared a small gift for you. I hope you'll accept it!"

'When Director Lin heard Su Yan's words, he casually replied, "You didn't have to bring any gifts. Bringing yourself is enough. You're too polite!"

At this moment, Su Yan's assistant brought in a box about a cubic meter in size. It was draped in red cloth, giving off a mysterious aura.

The people around them couldn't help but look over.

Qiao Xin had a bright smile on her face. Her eyes curved into crescents as she walked up to the assistant. She especially enjoyed being the center of attention.

At this moment, Qiao Nian walked over, pulling Lin Tao with her. She gave Qiao Xin an impassive glance and asked, "You came?"

Qiao Xin was feeling especially smug when she suddenly heard a familiar voice. She turned around and saw Qiao Nian standing next to Director Lin.

Qiao Xin's heart skipped a beat.

Qiao Nian. Why would she be here?

Qiao Xin quickly regained her composure, smiling sweetly. "Sister, you're here too. What a coincidence."

At this moment, Su Yan's gaze fell on Qiao Nian. Today, she was wearing a light blue dress, revealing her slender neck and a pair of alluring collarbones. Her hair fell in a smooth wave behind her back. She looked like a fairy maiden who had descended from the skies. Su Yan couldn't take his eyes off her..

Chapter 113: Gift

Su Yan's breathing quickened. Only at that moment did he realize how beautiful Qiao Nian was.

Many people around them were beginning to whisper among themselves.

"Oh my god, that woman is so beautiful. Whose daughter is she? Why haven't I seen her before?"

"Yes, yes. Who exactly is she? Why do I find her familiar?"

"I don't know. Could it be a new member of the elite in An City?"

A trace of gloom flashed in Qiao Xin's eyes. Previously, she had stunned everyone, but Qiao Nian's appearance had completely stolen the limelight.

Qiao Xin clenched her fists involuntarily, trying hard to regain her composure.

As long as Su Yan could work with Director Lin, Qiao Nian didn't matter one jot.

Su Yan listened to the compliments that the people around him were heaping on Qiao Nian, his face full of disdain.

In his opinion, Qiao Nian was very cunning, She regularly tried to smear Qiao Xin's name. This woman was simply evil to the bone.

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No matter how good-looking Qiao Nian was, if she was utterly evil, she would be a vicious woman through and through.

But Qiao Xin was different. Qiao Xin was gentle and kind, and thought for him in every way.²

For his future, Qiao Xin had risked her life to get him a pot of Suranne Grass.

Unlike Qiao Nian, who had a vicious heart.

At the thought of this, Su Yan couldn't even bear to look at Qiao Nian any longer. He glanced at Director Lin and said humbly, "Director Lin, please open the gift!"

Su Yan's thought process was very simple. As long as Director Lin saw this gift, he would definitely choose to work with Su Yan!

Director Lin nodded and reached for the red cloth.

At this moment, a deep and magnetic voice resounded from the side.

“Uncle Lin, how have you been?”

Just as Director Lin’s hand was about to touch the red cloth, he retracted it.

Su Yan frowned and glanced at Gu Zhou warily.

Shouldn’t Gu Zhou be staying at home like the sickly invalid he was? What was he doing here?

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou, slightly stunned. However, she quickly recovered.

Naturally, Gu Zhou sensed Qiao Nian’s gaze. He glanced at her, his gaze lingering on her cherry-red lips for a moment, then gradually moved downwards. His gaze fell on her faintly exposed cleavage, and his eyes darkened just a shade. The aura of aggression intensified.

Chen Qing, who was standing behind Gu Zhou, frowned. Second Young Madam had dressed up today. For some reason, he sensed that she would definitely draw a lot of attention.

‘When Director Lin saw that Gu Zhou had arrived, he was overjoyed. He hurriedly stepped forward to greet him and said, “Nephew, you’re here. Come, come in!”

Gu Zhou gave Su Yan an indifferent glance and said, “Uncle, apart from congratulating you today, I would also like to formally ask to work with you on the production of medical equipment. Would you like to consider my proposal?”

Gu Zhou’s voice was gentle. Despite the domineering aura radiating from every inch of his body, his manner was sincere and polite. No one thought he was being rude.

Su Yan’s expression changed when he heard Gu Zhou’s words.

He had never heard of the Gu family planning to enter the medical field.

Was Gu Zhou really planning to enter the medical field on a whim, or was he trying to make life difficult for Su Yan on purpose?

Su Yan didn’t have the time to think too much about it. He couldn’t let Gu Zhou snatch this partnership away from him. He hurriedly stepped forward and said respectfully, “Director Lin, I’ve actually taken a liking to this project as well. As you know, the Su family has opened a chain of hospitals too. I

came today because I hope that you can consider the Su family in this partnership.”

When Gu Zhou had first spoken about the partnership, he gave off the impression of bringing it up casually, merely getting straight to the point and stating his purpose for coming. He had no intention of asking for an answer right there and then.

But when Su Yan brought this up, it was as if he was holding a knife to Director Lin's neck, forcing him to give an answer right that instant.

Instantly, the atmosphere turned a little awkward.

Smiling, Qiao Nian stepped forward. Her gaze fell on Director Lin's face, and her voice was as gentle as flowing water. "Director Lin, you haven't seen this gift yet. This little assistant has been carrying this gift for a long time, and Mr. Su has been so kind as to bring it here."

Director Lin suddenly smiled and said, "Yes, yes, yes. I've forgotten about it!"

Gu Zhou narrowed his eyes dangerously, his body radiating coldness..

Chapter 114: Priceless

Chen Qing, who was standing behind Gu Zhou, was the first to sense the change in Gu Zhou's aura. He couldn't help but shiver.

Su Yan's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face. He hadn't expected Qiao Nian to speak up for him, and his lips curved up involuntarily.

So Qiao Nian still liked him.

The reason Qiao Nian didn't confess her love for him the last time was probably because she was embarrassed!

Su Yan could understand. After all, girls tended to be shy.

Su Yan gave Gu Zhou a challenging look. As long as his gift was opened in public, Gu Zhou would have no choice but to step aside!

suppressing the ecstasy in his heart, Su Yan instantly began to exude an air of superiority.

Qiao Xin stood uneasily beside Su Yan. No one else knew where the Suranne Grass came from, but she did. She had a bad feeling about this. Nervous, she gripped Su Yan's hand tightly.

Su Yan was initially getting a little impatient, but when he thought about how Qiao Xin had given him the Suranne Grass immediately after she found it, he didn't show it.

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Director Lin reached out and pulled off the red cloth.

Just like that, the Suranne Grass appeared in front of everyone.

Most of the people who attended the opening ceremony today were from the medical field. They instantly recognized the rare Suranne Grass.

Someone in the crowd, who perhaps wasn't as grounded as the others present, exclaimed loudly, "Oh my god, it's Suranne Grass! It's worth tens of millions!"

This feeling of astonishment instantly bloomed in everyone's hearts.

"That's right, that's right. This is Suranne Grass!"

"Oh my god, Mr. Su is so generous. He actually gave Suranne Grass as a gift!"

"I've only seen Suranne Grass in books. This is the first time I've seen a real pot of Suranne Grass. I wonder where Mr. Su got it from!"

"Mr. Su casually gifted this pot of Suranne Grass as a congratulatory gift. Perhaps he has other pots of Suranne Grass. This won't do. I want to buy a stalk!"

The people around them were discussing spiritedly. At this moment, Director Lin was also astonished. For a moment, he didn't know what to do, or what sort of expression to show.

Su Yan basked in the feeling of being the center of attention. He glanced at Gu Zhou, his eyes glittering with smugness.

However, Gu Zhou's attention wasn't on Su Yan. His gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face. Slowly, he walked over.

"Mrs. Gu, you look beautiful today."

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou in confusion. She felt that Gu Zhou's words sounded a little strange, almost as if they were carrying an undercurrent of danger.

Qiao Nian smiled. "Second Young Master Gu is as handsome as ever."

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on the Suranne Grass. His voice was low, but his tone was firm. "That belongs to you, right?"

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned. Puzzled, she looked at Gu Zhou, not understanding how Gu Zhou was so sure that this pot of Suranne Grass was hers.

Gu Zhou seemed to be able to read Qiao Nian's mind. His expression was indifferent. "Looks like the flowers and plants in our little garden at home are quite valuable after all!"

Qiao Nian smiled. She didn't expect Gu Zhou to notice the medicinal herbs in the garden. It seemed that Gu Zhou was a very meticulous person!

"Then why are you here today?" Qiao Nian asked.

"To get back what belongs to our Gu family, of course!" Gu Zhou said self-righteously.

Qiao Nian didn't understand at first. When she saw Gu Zhou staring at the Suranne Grass, she finally understood that Gu Zhou was referring to the Suranne Grass.

This Suranne Grass was clearly hers. What did it have to do with the Gu family?!

Gu Zhou walked over to Su Yan with a faint smile on his face. "Mr. Su, I heard that Suranne Grass is hard to come by in a hundred years. How did you get it? Do tell."

Su Yan knew that Gu Zhou was jealous of him. He glanced at Gu Zhou. When he met Gu Zhou's dark eyes, a chill ran down his spine.

Su Yan had heard of Gu Zhou as well. It was said that Gu Zhou had never been a curious person.

Su Yan had initially wanted to get rid of Gu Zhou with a perfunctory answer, but onlookers had begun to gather around, all of them asking him how he had found the Suranne Grass as well..

Chapter 115: Shocking An City

Now, all the members of the elite in An City were staring at him and Qiao Xin.

Su Yan had never felt so superior in his life. In that instant, he was overwhelmed with a wave of pride. He raised his head arrogantly, gazing at Qiao Xin with deep affection.

"This pot of Suranne Grass was given to me by my girlfriend, Qiao Xin. She cultivated it herself."

Everyone was stunned by his words.

The smile on Qiao Xin's face didn't change. She stole a glance at Qiao Nian and heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that Qiao Nian had no other expression on her face.

"Miss Qiao Xin is truly a lady of great capability. She actually managed to cultivate Suranne Grass!"

"I heard that even expert herbalists in our country can't cultivate such a valuable plant!"

"Qiao Xin? Why haven't I heard of the daughter of the Qiao family before?"

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"Then you must be ill-informed. I heard that Miss Qiao Xin has always kept a low profile!"

"By the way, I remember something, At Matriarch Shen's last birthday banquet, there was someone named Qiao Nian. I think she's also a daughter of the Qiao family?"

"That's right, that's right. I know about that. Qiao Nian was locked up because of a mental illness. I heard that she grew up in a village. She's not even worth mentioning, She clearly can't compare to Qiao Xin!"

"That's right, that's right. It's really surprising that Qiao Xin can cultivate Suranne Grass. Perhaps the government will even hire her to specially cultivate Suranne Grass!"

Su Yan listened to the discussion around him and felt immensely proud of himself.

He was really glad that he was together with Qiao Xin. Although Qiao Nian was the principal of An University, so what? Qiao Xin was miles ahead of her!

Today, Qiao Xin was wearing a light green dress with shoulder straps. Beneath the lace was a fishtail skirt, accentuating her curvaceous figure.

Qiao Xin had a sweet, round face, which made her look approachable.

Today was the grand opening of the research institute. Director Lin had invited many members of the press. Now that they knew that Qiao Xin had cultivated Suranne Grass, they all aimed their cameras and microphones at Qiao Xin.

Qiao Xin smiled gently, feeling immensely proud of herself. So this was what it felt like to be at the top.

Those reporters longed to record every move Qiao Xin made, thinking that once the news got out, they could earn a lot of money through publicity.

An excited reporter stepped forward and aimed the microphone at Qiao Xin, asking in admiration, "Miss Qiao Xin, it's said that Suranne Grass is extremely difficult to cultivate. How did you cultivate it?"

When the big shots of the medical field heard the reporter's question, they all stared unblinkingly at Qiao Xin. Some even took out pens and notebooks, preparing to write down every word Qiao Xin said.

"The living conditions of Suranne Grass are quite specific. It has to be kept at a constant temperature of 26 degrees Celsius. It has to be placed in sunlight in the morning for three hours a day, and in the afternoon, it has to be placed in a dark room. Its growth period is three years: one year for

germination, and two years for maturation. During this period, there are still many details to take note of. If anything goes wrong, the Suranne Grass might wither," Qiao Xin said with a smile.

Actually, she wasn't clear about the cultivation method of Suranne Grass either. She had only found this information from Baidu'.

"Oh my god, this Suranne Grass sounds so troublesome to cultivate!"

"No wonder no one can keep Suranne Grass alive. Such meticulous care really tests one's patience!"

"Every generation brings forth a talent. I really didn't expect Young Mistress Qiao Xin to be able to cultivate Suranne Grass at such a young age!"

"Let me tell you, I heard that back then, the Gu family wanted Qiao Xin to marry Second Young Master Gu to get rid of the Gu family's bad luck. Fortunately, the Qiao couple asked Qiao Nian to marry into the Gu family instead. Otherwise, Miss Qiao Xin's entire life would have been ruined!"

"Yes, Second Young Master Gu is not in good health. Miss Qiao Xin would definitely have become a living widow if she married him!"

"Oh my god, is that true?"

"Isn't that so? Don't you think Second Young Master Gu regretted marrying Qiao Nian when he came here today? Perhaps he's planning to propose to Qiao Xin again, and beg her to marry him!"

Listening to the words of those people, Qiao Nian truly felt that gossip was a fearful thing, If these rumors were repeated often enough, they would soon be accepted as truth!

Those people had made her sound so despicable with just a few words. They even said that Gu Zhou was Qiao Xin's fawning dog. Their imaginations truly knew no bounds. It was a pity that they weren't screenwriters!

Chapter 116: Heartache for Him

Qiao Nian's heart ached a little for Gu Zhou.

Her brow furrowed deeper and deeper. Previously, no one knew that she had married into the Gu family as a gesture of good fortune to the family. How did everyone know now?

Now, the entire An City seemed to know that the short-lived Gu Zhou had married the lunatic Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian's brow furrowed even deeper. Previously, she had thought that when the time came, she would leave the Gu family.

Now that her marriage with Gu Zhou had caused such a stir, if she wanted to get a divorce, it would probably be quite troublesome.

At this moment, Qiao Nian suddenly recalled something. Gu Zhou seemed to have planned to keep their marriage a secret as well.

Now that this matter had been exposed, Gu Zhou would definitely be furious.

At the thought, Qiao Nian looked up at Gu Zhou.

'What surprised Qiao Nian was that Gu Zhou didn't seem to be angry. His expression was as calm as ever, as if whatever those people were saying had nothing to do with him.

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"Gu Zhou is so pitiful. He didn't manage to marry such a beautiful and talented girl like Qiao Xin, but he ended up marrying a lunatic."

"Keep your voice down. Don't let Gu Zhou hear you!"

"What's there to be afraid of? Back then, he was willing to marry that lunatic. He must have been mentally prepared for gossip."

Qiao Nian pursed her lips gently. She couldn't bear to listen to any more of their gossip. Her eyes were filled with coldness.

The man who had been speaking ill of Gu Zhou felt someone staring at him. He tured his head and met Qiao Nian's dark eyes.

The man's expression faltered. If he recalled correctly, this woman was Qiao Nian, who had shocked everyone at Matriarch Shen's banquet.

He felt a chill run down his spine and momentarily forgot about gossiping.

Actually, he wasn't afraid of Qiao Nian herself. However, because Gu Zhou was standing next to Qiao Nian, if Qiao Nian could hear him, then Gu Zhou could too.

These people could gossip about Gu Zhou in private, but they did not have the guts to go against the Gu family in the open!

Qiao Nian walked over to Lin Tao and lowered her voice, pretending to be unconcerned. "Who's that blonde with curly hair?"

Lin Tao followed Qiao Nian's gaze. After some thought, she said, "I think he's the youngest master of the Sheng family. His name is Sheng Shan."

Qiao Nian lowered her gaze slightly.

Eighty percent of the chain pharmacies in An City were owned by the Sheng family. Qiao Nian's eyes darkened several shades.

Qiao Nian hated it when people gossiped behind her back. Worse still, how could others refer to her marriage to Gu Zhou as one between a lunatic and a short-lived invalid? She was already used to people gossiping about her, but Gu Zhou had done nothing apart from falling ill, yet he still had to be

criticized.

Qiao Xin, who was standing in the middle of the crowd, inadvertently glanced at Qiao Nian's face. Seeing that Qiao Nian didn't seem to care about her at all, she heaved a sigh of relief. Pretending to be humble, she said, "I accidentally cultivated the Suranne Grass myself. I'm not as outstanding as everyone

says. Everyone, do stop praising me."

Qiao Xin's humility instantly made the onlookers have a much better impression of her.

"Lass Qiao, you're too humble!"

"Young people these days are all arrogant and conceited. There aren't many who are as humble as you!"

Qiao Xin gave a sweet smile, then turned to glance at Su Yan affectionately. Her gaze finally landed on Director Lin's face and she said gently, "Director Lin, I initially wanted to keep this Suranne Grass as seed for the future. Brother Su Yan regards you as his idol and he admires you greatly. He wanted to

give you the Suranne Grass, so I sent it over. I hope you'll accept it!"

Qiao Xin might sound humble and polite, but in reality, she had caused Director Lin a lot of trouble.

Director Lin really cared about this Suranne Grass. It had to be known that Nian Nian, who had always been very talented at cultivating plants, had never managed to cultivate Suranne Grass either. Therefore, he desperately wanted this Suranne Grass.

The medical value of Suranne Grass was immense!

He understood that Su Yan wanted to work with him. To Director Lin, it didn't matter who he worked with..

Chapter 117: Gardening

suppressing his excitement, Director Lin decided to agree to Su Yan's request. "Miss Qiao, since

"Uncle Lin!"

Before Director Lin could finish speaking, Qiao Nian spoke up.

Qiao Xin's heart jumped to her throat. She stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian, an ominous feeling rising in her heart.

This country bumpkin had kept silent for so long. Why did she choose to speak up at this critical moment?

Qiao Xin had already cursed Qiao Nian to the core a thousand times over.

Su Yan's eyes darkened. He could clearly sense that Director Lin was willing to work with them, but Qiao Nian had stepped forward and interrupted him.

Although Director Lin was also displeased that Qiao Nian had interrupted him, he couldn't bear to berate Qiao Nian. Hence, he said, "Nian Nian, if you have anything to say, let's talk about it later!"

The smile on Qiao Nian's face didn't falter. She said solemnly, "Uncle Lin, I have something to discuss with you."

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Director Lin instantly understood what Qiao Nian meant. He hesitated for a moment, caught in a dilemma.

"Qiao Nian, what exactly do you mean by that?" Su Yan couldn't help but ask coldly. He was just about to gain the opportunity for collaboration, but Qiao Nian was ruining everything. "We're talking about serious business. Do you even understand what serious business means?"

Qiao Nian's methods were truly despicable. She was clearly trying to attract his attention through such low-down ways!

She was such a pathetic woman. She should learn from Qiao Xin. Only then would she realize the best way to show her love for him.

"I've heard that if one collaborates with Uncle Lin on this project, they can get a piece of land spanning fifty acres. I would like to garden on that piece of land, and cultivate the plants and flowers I like. As for medical equipment, I'll find a third party to be a supplier. Would that be okay?"

Qiao Nian's words made everyone burst into laughter.

"All the big shots in the medical field want to snatch that piece of land. And she dares to say that she wants to use that piece of land to garden. What a waste of a priceless treasure!"

"She must be a fool."

"She's indeed an unpresentable piece of goods! She clearly won't amount to anything!"

An old man said gently, "Young lady, collaborating with Director Lin isn't just a game. It won't be like playing house. There are many factors involved in this. If you want to be involved, you have to take note of the occasion."

Qiao Nian gave the old man another look, but said nothing.

The onlookers took this opportunity to continue humiliating Qiao Nian.

"If Mr. Su gets the opportunity for collaboration, his girlfriend, Qiao Xin, will definitely plant more Suranne Grass. This will be a great contribution to the country. Where did you get the guts to snatch this collaboration from Mr. Su?"

"It's not wrong for young ladies to like plants, but those plants and flowers you like are all very cheap. Isn't it embarrassing to say that you want to garden on that piece of land?"

"She's truly overestimating her own abilities. What a fool! She's just another country bumpkin."

"If you ask me, you should hurry to the hospital to have your brain examined. I think it's extremely likely that you have a screw loose."

"They were both born to the same parents. How can the difference between them be so great!"

Qiao Xin stood there calmly. Listening to the people around her slandering Qiao Nian, she felt extremely smug.

Gu Zhou stood where he was, remaining silent. His gaze, as sharp as an eagle's, swept across every single person who was slinging mud at Qiao Nian. He turned his head slightly and said to Chen Qing, "Have you remembered all of their names?"

Chen Qing could guess what Gu Zhou was planning to do. He nodded solemnly. "I've already memorized all their names."

"Remember to give me the name list when you get back." Gu Zhou pursed his thin lips.

"Yes, sir."

At this moment, Chen Qing realized that President Gu had really fallen for Qiao Nian. Perhaps he didn't know it himself.

"Heh!" Qiao Nian's sneer stunned everyone.

Everyone's gaze fell on Qiao Nian.

Su Yan stepped forward, looking displeased. He glared at Qiao Nian and questioned, "What are you laughing at? Aren't they telling the truth? Or do you want to continue pretending to be deaf and mute?"

Qiao Nian didn't even bother granting Su Yan a glance as she walked towards the Suranne Grass..

Chapter 118 Can You Afford It?

Qiao Nian placed her hand on the glass cabinet and gently tapped twice with his fingers. Her gaze fell on the Suranne Grass she had meticulously taken care of, now enclosed in a display cabinet. Coldly, she snorted.

Her gaze swept across the people who were looking at her with disdain. Her eyes were as cold as ice, and the oppressive aura she exuded stunned everyone.

Su Yan looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief. He hadn't expected Qiao Nian to be so imposing. Her aura was unbelievably strong.

Qiao Nian's gaze finally fell on Qiao Xin's face. She raised her eyebrows slightly, her eyes filled with cold arrogance. She said disdainfully, "You think you can afford my Suranne Grass?"

The surroundings instantly went silent. Everyone's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face.

Su Yan drew a sharp breath and frowned, looking at Qiao Xin in confusion.

Qiao Xin's palms were covered in cold sweat. She looked at Qiao Nian, her face pale, not daring to speak.

At this moment, the old man from before asked, "Young lady, are you saying this pot of Suranne Grass belongs to you?"

"Yes!" Qiao Nian nodded without hesitation, her voice firm.

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Everyone around them was stunned!

"How is this possible?"

"Is this because she saw everyone praising Qiao Xin? Is that why she's trying to draw attention to herself?"

"Definitely. Miss Qiao Xin clearly knows how to cultivate Suranne Grass!"

When Qiao Xin heard these words, her lips curved up involuntarily. She immediately adjusted her mentality, and a warm and sweet smile appeared on her face. "Sister, this is a public place. Stop joking around!"

Hearing Qiao Xin address that young lady as "Sister", everyone was stunned.

Some of the people in the crowd were on good terms with the Qiao family, so they explained to everyone, "Qiao Shan has two daughters. Qiao Nian, who's mentally ill, married Second Young Master Gu! The other

daughter is Qiao Xin!”

“So she’s Second Young Master Gu’s wife!”

“She’s not bad-looking, and her outfit looks good as well. What a pity that she’s a lunatic!”

Su Yan, who was standing beside Qiao Xin, seemed to have been struck by lightning. He looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief.

Qiao Nian had actually married Gu Zhou. How was this possible?

He would rather believe that the sun rose in the west.

Su Yan’s gaze lingered on Qiao Nian’s and Gu Zhou’s faces. The two of them didn’t seem to be on good terms. Perhaps Qiao Nian hadn’t really married Gu Zhou.

Hearing everyone’s words, Qiao Xin’s eyes lit up. Smiling, she spoke up for herself. “Sister, if you’re not feeling well, don’t come out into the city for now. Recuperating at home should be the most important thing!”

Qiao Xin’s words confirmed the rumors that Qiao Nian was mentally ill.

Everyone’s gaze fell on Qiao Nian’s face. They all felt that the words of a mentally ill patient could not be trusted.

Qiao Nian’s gaze fell on Qiao Xin’s face. She knocked lightly on the glass cabinet containing the Suranne Grass and said calmly, “Qiao Xin, if you don’t let the Suranne Grass out for a breather, it might wither.”

The smile on Qiao Xin’s face grew gentler. Her words were dripping with love and concern. “Sister, did you come out of the house by yourself? Did the nanny who’s taking care of you come with you? Did you take any

medicine this morning?”

“Qiao Xin, I’m not ill. Why would I take any medicine?” Qiao Nian said expressionlessly.

Qiao Xin had initially wanted Gu Zhou to take Qiao Nian away. She looked at Gu Zhou, instantly meeting his dark eyes. Her heart skipped a beat.

Although Qiao Xin had already made up her mind to marry Su Yan, if she had the chance to marry Gu Zhou, she would still choose to marry Gu Zhou instead.

The Gu family was so rich that their wealth could rival a small country. They were much richer than the Su family!

Moreover, Gu Zhou was much more good-looking than Su Yan. In the past, everyone used to say that Gu Zhou would die young, but she felt that perhaps Gu Zhou's health was just a little weak. She was sure that he

would be fine.

Qiao Xin looked up slightly. Seeing that Gu Zhou was still looking at her, she was overjoyed. Gu Zhou must have taken a liking to her..

Chapter 119 Go On Fabricating

Qiao Xin's mind raced. As long as she could calm Qiao Nian down right now, they could still discuss the collaboration between Su Yan and Director Lin some time later.

If anyone else found out that Qiao Nian was the one who had cultivated the Suranne Grass, her reputation would be ruined. Not only would Su Yan be angry, but Gu Zhou would also be displeased with her.

"Sister, the opening ceremony is starting soon. Don't spout nonsense. Let's go home, okay?"

Qiao Nian raised her eyebrow slightly, speaking in a cold voice, "Forget about the opening ceremony for now. Answer my question first!"

After Qiao Nian spoke, everyone was even more certain that Qiao Nian was a lunatic. No one in An City would dare to cause trouble at Director Lin's grand opening ceremony.

Everyone looked toward Director Lin. They saw that he wasn't angry at Qiao Nian's words. Instead, he was listening to the gossip with anticipation.

Everyone was a little curious. They recalled that Director Lin had previously addressed Qiao Nian as Nian Nian. For a moment, they were all curious about their relationship.

Qiao Xin's heart was beating faster and faster. Her mind was in a mess, and she didn't know what to say.

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"Qiao Xin, the Suranne Grass is already beginning to wilt. Are you sure you know how to cultivate it?" Qiao Nian said impatiently. "If you can take good care of my Suranne Grass, I won't say anything, but right now,

you're essentially trampling on it!"

When everyone heard Qiao Nian's words, their gazes fell on the Suranne Grass.

The Suranne Grass was indeed beginning to look a little listless.

Qiao Xin had also noticed something strange about the Suranne Grass, but at this moment, she had to refuse to admit that Qiao Nian had cultivated this pot of Suranne Grass. "Sister, you've indeed taken care of this pot

of Suranne Grass for a few days, but I've cultivated it since the beginning. I know you like Brother Su Yan, but he's my boyfriend now. Today is the opening day of Director Lin's research institute. If anything is the

matter, we can talk when we get back, okay?"

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Qiao Nian clapped for Qiao Xin. That mouth of Qiao Xin's truly knew no bounds!

Qiao Nian sneered. "Do go on fabricating!"

This was such a trivial matter, but Qiao Xin was relentlessly adding fuel to the fire. Now, she was even trying to sow discord between her and Gu Zhou. She was just pretending to be an obedient and innocent girl!

Qiao Xin's eyes were now filled with tears, and she looked extremely pitiful. The onlookers all felt that Qiao Xin was being bullied.

In this situation, it was clearly Qiao Nian who was causing trouble for no reason!

Everyone spoke one after another. They all wanted Qiao Nian to leave as soon as possible, lest she continue stirring up trouble on purpose.

At this moment, Gu Zhou, who had been silent all this while, spoke.

"Since the matter has already blown up, let's make things clear now. Otherwise, others might think that Director Lin has bullied a young lady to the point of tears!"

Qiao Xin looked at Gu Zhou in disbelief. She hadn't expected Gu Zhou to speak up for Qiao Nian. Did Gu Zhou not mind the flirtatious relationship between Qiao Nian and Su Yan at all?

When Director Lin heard Gu Zhou's words, he nodded in agreement. "That's right, that's right. The truth of this matter must be made clear!"

Lin Tao, who had been standing in the crowd, stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian. She believed that Qiao Nian would definitely handle this matter well.

Qiao Nian's gaze fell on Qiao Xin's face again. She narrowed her beautiful crescent-shaped eyes and questioned again, "Are you sure you cultivated this pot of Suranne Grass?"

Qiao Xin could naturally tell that Qiao Nian was angry. She nodded obediently and said, "Sister, it's getting late. Let me take you home to take your medicine!"

"Qiao Xin, I'll repeat myself one more time. If you don't take out the Suranne Grass, it will really wither!" Qiao Nian enunciated each word clearly.

When everyone heard Qiao Nian's words, they all felt that she was looking for trouble. One by one, they sneered at her.

They glanced at Qiao Nian and then at Qiao Xin. They were both children of the same parents. One was both a troublemaker and a lunatic, while the other was so sweet and capable. One didn't have to think hard to

know that Qiao Xin was right.

If they were Qiao Xin's parents, they would probably favor Qiao Xin as well..

Chapter 120 Greatly Wronged

Hence, most people stood on Qiao Xin's side. One by one, they began to criticize Qiao Nian.

"Qiao Nian, you can't bully your sister just because she's kind!"

"Isn't that so? I think Mr. Su doesn't want to be with Qiao Nian because she's arrogant, domineering, and crazy."

"Qiao Nian, you said that you cultivated the Suranne Grass. You have to provide evidence. Forget it, there's something wrong with your brain. You probably don't even know what evidence is!"

When Qiao Xin heard that everyone was speaking up for her, her eyes instantly turned red. Her tears fell one by one, and she looked at Su Yan with tear-stained cheeks.

"Brother Su Yan, please convince Sister. Don't let

her delay Director Lin's opening ceremony just because she wants to get your attention."

Su Yan had never liked Qiao Nian to begin with. Seeing how Qiao Nian was flinging her weight about in an inappropriate situation, he was so angry that he nearly vomited blood. "Qiao Nian, look at yourself. In what way

do you think you can compare to Qiao Xin? You're like a shrew right now. You don't even look like a daughter of a high-class family. Hurry up and get lost. Don't embarrass yourself here!"

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Director Lin, who was standing at the side, frowned. He had watched Qiao Nian grow up. How could he let her be bullied by outsiders?

With a dark expression, Director Lin said coldly, "Mr. Su, before we investigate this matter thoroughly, you still have to watch your words!"

Su Yan froze when he heard Director Lin's words, his expression faltering. He had never expected Director Lin to speak up for Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian was a lunatic. Everyone present knew about this. Why was Director Lin still defending a lunatic?

However, he couldn't afford to offend Director Lin. He could only control his temper and say, "I'm sorry, my heart ached for Qiao Xin just now. I couldn't help it!"

Qiao Xin looked at Su Yan, touched. She gently consoled him. "Brother Su Yan, don't worry. I'll be fine. I'm used to it. Don't offend Director Lin over such a small matter."

"And you!" Director Lin frowned, his expression displeased. "I'm opening my research institute today. Why are you crying?"

Qiao Xin bit her lip, aggrieved. One by one, her tears fell in silence.

Lin Tao was amused by Qiao Xin's pretentious, pitiful manner. She stepped forward and said, "Dad, why are you being so fierce? If Miss Qiao Xin sues you for scaring her and asks us for compensation, what should we

do? But she's right. No matter what happens, evidence is important. As long as we have evidence, we'll know if Miss Qiao Xin has been wronged."

With that, Lin Tao gave Qiao Nian a reassuring look.

Qiao Nian smiled but didn't say anything.

Qiao Xin bit her lip. She wasn't a fool. How could she not tell that Director Lin's precious daughter was on Qiao Nian's side?

Everyone's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face.

Director Lin looked at Qiao Nian gently and said, "Nian Nian, think about it. Is there anything that can prove that you were the one who cultivated the Suranne Grass?"

Actually, Director Lin was already certain that Qiao Nian was the one who had cultivated the Suranne Grass. However, he couldn't favor Qiao Nian so blatantly in front of everyone. As long as Qiao Nian could provide

evidence, the bad reputation Qiao Nian had gained today would be forgotten. The onlookers would no longer think that she was a lunatic who bullied her younger sister.

"There's no need." Qiao Xin wiped her tears and stepped forward, tears swirling in her eyes. "Since Sister said that she cultivated the Suranne Grass, then she must have done so. As long as Sister is happy, it's fine if I

suffer a little!"

Qiao Nian's expression turned cold. Qiao Xin's casual words had confirmed that Qiao Nian was a lunatic, as well as made clear the accusation that Qiao Nian had stolen her Suranne Grass.

Su Yan's heart ached when he heard Qiao Xin's words. "Xinxin, you're always so kind. Although she's your older sister, that doesn't mean that you have to give in to her in every way!"

The surrounding guests looked at Qiao Xin's aggrieved expression and nodded in agreement.

Qiao Xin didn't speak. She just stood there with her head lowered, looking extremely dejected.

Everyone looked at Qiao Xin with heartache, each feeling that she had been greatly wronged. They despised Qiao Nian even more!