

Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 171  
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*Chapter 171 Reprimand*

At the thought of Gu Zhou's health, Matriarch Gu's expression became suffused with melancholy. She turned to look at Qiao Nian and urged, "Nian Nian, if he bullies you, don't be afraid to let Grandma know. Grandma will definitely teach him a lesson for you!"

Qiao Nian's heart warmed. Her eyes sparkled, bright laughter in her gaze. "Okay."

Then, Matriarch Gu took Qiao Nian's hand and began chatting about some interesting things with a smile.

Only then did Gu Zhou's tense heart relax.

Once they arrived at the Gu family villa, Gu Zhou was worried that Matriarch Gu would ask him to go to the hospital for a physical examination again. Thus, he brought Chen Qing to the study.

Meanwhile, Qiao Nian stayed with Matriarch Gu in the living room, chatting.

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Before long, Jiang Yue and Zhao Qian returned home as well.

The two of them greeted Matriarch Gu politely. Matriarch Gu's mood had just lightened considerably, and she was beaming. However, when she glimpsed Jiang Yue, her smile instantly vanished. Her eyes gradually filled with anger. Jiang Yue knew Matriarch Gu well and could tell that she was angry. She quickly walked over and sat down beside Matriarch Gu, a fawning smile on her face. "Grandma, what would you like to eat tonight? I'll make whatever dish you want for you right now."

Zhao Qian walked over and sat down beside Qiao Nian. In a low voice, she greeted, "Second Sister-in-law."

Qiao Nian greeted Zhao Qian with a faint smile. Because Matriarch Gu was angry, she was really worried that Matriarch Gu's heart disease would flare up again. All her attention was on Matriarch Gu.

Matriarch Gu's gaze fell on the servant who had just entered the room. Seeing the gown the servant was holding, she frowned and turned to look at Zhao Qian. In a manner that

was still considerably gentle, she asked, "Qian Qian, did you tell Jiang Yue that the gown I made was for Nian Nian?"

Zhao Qian looked at Matriarch Gu and nodded. "Grandma, I did."

When Jiang Yue heard Zhao Qian's words, the blood drained from her face. She stammered an explanation. "Grandma, I thought Qian Qian was joking with me. I..."

Matriarch Gu's expression improved a great deal. She heaved a sigh of relief. Ever since she had spoken to Zhao Qian, the child had shed her prejudice against Nian Nian.

Once again, Matriarch Gu's gaze fell on Jiang Yue's face. Seeing that her eyes had turned red, she said, "Get all the servants here!"

Within three minutes, all the servants in the Gu family villa were standing in the living room.

Matriarch Gu swept her gaze across everyone present. Intentionally or otherwise, her gaze lingered on Jiang Yue's face for a while longer. Her eyes were filled with coldness, and her grave, stately aura frightened everyone so much that they did not dare to move.

"Today, I have something to say!" Matriarch Gu said as she stood up from the sofa.

Jiang Yue hurriedly went to help Matriarch Gu up, but was pushed away by Matriarch Gu. Jiang Yue's expression faltered.

Qiao Nian helped Matriarch Gu walk towards the servants. Zhao Qian followed behind Qiao Nian like an obedient lamb.

"From now on, if any fool dares to slight Young Madam, don't blame me for being impolite." Matriarch Gu tried hard to suppress her anger. If she had not raised Jiang Yue herself, she would have chased her out of the house long ago.

Hearing Matriarch Gu's words, Qiao Nian felt a strange disturbance in her heart. It was as if a stone had fallen into the still lake of her heart, causing ripples to bloom across the initially calm surface.

Qiao Nian knew very well that Grandma's words were meant for Jiang Yue to hear.

Jiang Yue was no fool. She could naturally tell that Matriarch Gu was referring to her. Her eyes grew even redder, and her hands dug into her palms involuntarily. Her heart ached terribly.

In the past, everyone knew of Young Mistress Jiang Yue of the Gu family. Today, she had been thoroughly humiliated at the speech ceremony. Now that she had returned home, Grandma had even deliberately embarrassed her in front of so many people.

Jiang Yue's mind was in a mess. She was a little worried that Grandma would take back everything she had.

*Chapter 172 Blessing Bag*

With teary eyes, Jiang Yue lowered her gaze.

Grandma would never abandon her. Never!

Grandma had been angry in the past, but her anger would always dissipate after a few days.

Matriarch Gu looked at the servant who was carrying the box. Her gaze then fell on Qiao Nian's face and she said gently, "Nian Nian, this gown is already ruined and can't be worn anymore. Grandma will take it away for you. In the future, I'll make another gown for

you."

"Grandma, there's no need. I'll keep this as a memento!" Qiao Nian said with a smile.

"How can that be? This gown is already ruined." Matriarch Gu frowned in disapproval.

"Grandma, you don't have to worry about that. I'll fix it. Even if it's ruined, Grandma spent several nights preparing this gown specially for me. The love you sewed into this gown, stitch by stitch, is the most important thing to me," Qiao Nian said.

When Matriarch Gu heard this, she was so touched that tears welled up in her eyes. Nian Nian was such an obedient and lovable young lady. She liked her more and more every passing day.

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Zhao Qian stood at the side and smiled. "Grandma, do as Second Sister-in-law wishes!"

Suppressing her tears, Matriarch Gu nodded gently.

Seeing this, Jiang Yue's heart felt empty. Her tears fell silently, and she turned to leave without saying anything.

Out of the corner of her eye, Matriarch Gu caught sight of Jiang Yue's retreating back. A dozen emotions surged in her heart. Regardless of which perspective one took, these children were like her own flesh and blood. She doted on all of them equally.

However, Jiang Yue had gone too far this time. She just hoped that Jiang Yue could reflect on her actions and stop doing such things in the future.

At this moment, Matriarch Gu suddenly recalled something. She smiled at Qiao Nian and asked, "Nian Nian, do you know how to make a fortune bag for peace and blessings?"

"Yes."

"Have you heard of the eldest daughter of the Lu family, who died young in her early years?" Matriarch Gu's expression turned serious.

After Qiao Nian had met Lu Zhu, she had investigated the situation with the Lu family. She had also heard of the eldest daughter, who had passed away at a very young age. However, it wouldn't be appropriate for her to know this, so she shook her head. "No."

Matriarch Gu pulled Qiao Nian to sit down. Seeing this, Zhao Qian took all the servants away.

"The eldest daughter of the Lu family is a pitiful child. The poor girl. She was only two years old back then. Sigh. Just like that, she was gone." When Matriarch Gu said this, her expression was full of sorrow.

Qiao Nian lowered her gaze. She didn't have much of an opinion on these matters, so she quietly listened to Matriarch Gu speak.

"Now, it's almost her birthday. In the past, I used to be the one making blessing bags for her." Matriarch Gu lowered her head and looked at her hands. "Grandma is getting old. A few days ago, I used my hands continuously as well. I think my hands are a little weak now. I'm afraid Grandma won't be able to make a good blessing bag. Can you help me make one?"

Qiao Nian nodded. "Okay, sure."

"There's still more than a week left. The date is the 13th of August. There's enough time. When the time comes, help me send the fortune bag over," Matriarch Gu said.

When Qiao Nian heard Matriarch Gu's words, she froze for a moment. Her birthday was also on this day. If that was the case, serendipity must have been involved in this. Perhaps she was destined to do something for the eldest daughter of the Lu family.

"Grandma, don't worry. After I make the blessing bag, I'll definitely recite the Earth Bodhisattva Sutra to pray for her," Qiao Nian said with a serious expression.

When Matriarch Gu heard Qiao Nian's words, a kind smile appeared on her face. "Alright. I always feel at ease after leaving things in your hands."

Qiao Nian smiled.

Matriarch Gu gave some more instructions. After she was done, she stood up and said, "Sigh, I'm really getting old and useless. I'll return to my room to rest first."

"I'll send you back!" Qiao Nian stood up and helped Matriarch Gu up.

"There's no need. You have important things to do. Go ahead." Matriarch Gu smiled and waved her hand.

"Okay." Qiao Nian watched as Matriarch Gu left, her gaze gradually turning cold.

Before she made the blessing bag for Miss Lu, she had to return to the Qiao family home first. There were some things she had to figure out.

### *Chapter 173 Calling*

Qiao Nian wanted to know if her biological parents were still alive.

If they were no longer around, then as their daughter, she should offer incense to her parents' graves.

If they were still around, then all she wanted to know was why they hadn't come looking for her. Why had they left her alone...

At the thought, Qiao Nian took out her phone and made a call. Her voice was as cold as ice. "I want all the information on Qiu Nan from Feng Yun Gym."

Since she had already confirmed the suspicion that she was no relation of Su Xue's, it was time for Su Xue's extramarital affairs to be exposed.

At this moment, Qiao Nian's phone began to ring. She picked it up and glanced at the caller ID. It was Su Xue.

A trace of coldness flashed in Qiao Nian's eyes. She picked up the call and placed the phone to her ear. She said coldly, "Why are you looking for me?"

"Were you the first speaker at the Second Academy of Medicine?"

Su Xue's voice was full of disbelief.

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"Yes," Qiao Nian answered impassively.

After that, Su Xue hung up!

Qiao Nian sneered. Su Xue's thoughts were not difficult to guess. While she had attended the speech ceremony as a lecturer at the Second Academy of Medicine, Qiao Xin had only managed to attend as a member of the audience, and only as Qiao Yu's plus one.

Qiao Yu...

Qiao Nian's beautiful fox-like eyes narrowed and her expression turned serious.

She was sure that nothing good would come from Qiao Yu's return visit this time round.

When Qiao Nian returned to her room, she received the information on Qiu Nan she had requested. She read it carefully, then used her phone to call Qiu Nan.

Qiao Nian had studied voice acting in the past. When the call went through, she imitated Su Xue, putting on a fawning, pretentious manner as she spoke. "Nan Nan."

"Sister Xue?" Qiu Nan was slightly stunned. He continued, "When did you change your phone number?"

"Sigh, Qiao Shan checked my phone. I was afraid that he would suspect me, so I bought another phone and SIM card."

"Ah, my god! They won't find out, will they?" Qiu Nan said in fear.

Still imitating Su Xue, Qiao Nian said in a nasally voice, "Don't worry. I told you that you were just one of my clients. He's so stupid that he didn't even give it a second thought. But don't call that number for the time being."

Upon hearing Qiao Nian's words, Qiu Nan clearly heaved a sigh of relief. His guard fell. "Sister Xue, you haven't come to visit me in a long time. I miss you so much. My little brother misses you too!"

When Qiao Nian heard this, she almost threw up. She gritted her teeth and said in a girlish voice, "Nan Nan, I miss you too."

As Qiao Nian spoke, she continued to browse through Qiu Nan's information. Qiu Nan had been obsessed with gambling these past few days, but his luck hadn't been good. He was bankrupt.

To Qiu Nan, Qiao Nian's phone call was a lifesaver, because all Qiu Nan could do now was get money from Su Xue.

Hence, Qiu Nan would never doubt whether the person speaking was truly Su Xue.

“Nan Nan, that old foggy will be going on a long trip tomorrow. I miss you so much. I’ve already booked a suite at the Huangtian Hotel. I want to spend a wonderful time with you. By the way, in order not to arouse suspicion, I’ll get someone to send you the room card. When the time comes, you can go over first. I’ll go over later, okay?”

“Okay, okay. Sister Xue, when the time comes, I’ll definitely give you a big surprise. Wait for me!” Qiu Nan said excitedly.

Qiao Nian was about to throw up, but she still pretended to be joyful. In the same sweetly girlish voice, she said, “Yes, Nan Nan, I will miss you very much today. I’m looking forward to the surprise tomorrow!”

“Sister Xue, I love you. See you tomorrow!”

“See you!”

With that, Qiao Nian hung up and heaved a sigh of relief. She picked up a cup and took a sip of water. Only then did she feel a little better.

However, when Qiao Nian turned around, she saw Gu Zhou standing at the door with a cold expression, staring unblinkingly at her.

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Qiao Nian was shocked, but she didn’t let it show on her face. Her lips parted slightly.

*Chapter 174 Cuckold?*

Gu Zhou’s gaze was a little frightening...

Qiao Nian didn’t know when Gu Zhou had arrived, but she was certain that he had heard the contents of her call.

“... About that, actually... I...”

For the first time, Qiao Nian felt awkward.

What should she say?

She had been flirting with another man in front of her legal husband.

Looking at Qiao Nian, Gu Zhou advanced towards her step by step. He narrowed his phoenix-like eyes and stared down at Qiao Nian’s mouth.

If he had not heard it with his own ears, he would never have believed that Qiao Nian's mouth would ever be able to spout such sweet, charming words. Most of the time, she couldn't be bothered to even open that mouth of hers.

And she even knew how to play the part of the coquette!

She didn't even speak coquettishly to him!

Qiao Nian's back broke out into a cold sweat under Gu Zhou's glare. She lowered her head guiltily, not daring to look at Gu Zhou.

"Mrs. Gu, who are you meeting tomorrow?"

His voice was cold, and his gaze was piercing to the bone. Suppressing his anger, he spoke in a tone that made Qiao Nian's scalp go numb, especially when Gu Zhou addressed her as Mrs. Gu.

The atmosphere in the room turned awkward. The air seemed to have frozen over.

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Qiao Nian sensed the pressure mounting. Carefully, she looked up at Gu Zhou and said hesitantly, "Actually, this is just a misunderstanding."

"Misunderstanding?" Gu Zhou raised an eyebrow, his thin lips parting as he questioned her, his voice chilling.

"It's really a misunderstanding. I definitely didn't..."

Before Qiao Nian could finish her sentence, Gu Zhou interrupted her. "Mrs. Gu has never even invited me to spend a night in a suite, has she?"

Qiao Nian: "?"

Why did she feel that Gu Zhou's words were tinged with sourness?

No.

Definitely not.

She must have misheard.

"Um, in that case, why don't I take you there next time?" Qiao Nian asked softly.

Gu Zhou frowned. His voice was low and slightly hoarse. "Are you saying that I can't afford a luxury suite?"



Qiao Nian was stunned. What did Gu Zhou mean by that? However, she quickly understood. Gu Zhou wanted her to make things clear.

Qiao Nian gave it some serious thought, struggling with where to begin.

“Or could it be that Mrs. Gu thinks that wearing a green hat will suit me?”[1]

Hearing Gu Zhou’s words, Qiao Nian’s thoughts began to follow in that direction. For a few moments, she fantasized about Gu Zhou being made a cuckold. With that universally hated face of Gu Zhou’s, he would look good even in a green hat.

No!

What was she thinking?

She had never thought of making Gu Zhou a cuckold.

Gu Zhou seemed to have already read Qiao Nian’s mind. He bent down slightly and moved his gaze closer to Qiao Nian. He asked again, “So, do I look good?”

Qiao Nian was a little flustered by Gu Zhou’s words. She took a step back and looked up at Gu Zhou, saying firmly, “Why don’t you come with me tomorrow?”

Gu Zhou was slightly stunned. The anger in his eyes dissipated. “What?”

“To watch a good show!”

Gu Zhou’s thin lips curved up slightly. “Alright.”

Qiao Nian heaved a sigh of relief, thinking that she had finally managed to get Gu Zhou off her back. “I’ll make some medicine for Grandma.”

With that, Qiao Nian walked past Gu Zhou. However, Gu Zhou’s next sentence made Qiao Nian turn as red as a lobster.

“Mrs. Gu, I’m a little curious. What do you sound like when you’re flirting in your own voice?” Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian intently, his eyes burning.

Qiao Nian’s breath caught in her throat. She tilted her head back to look up at Gu Zhou, feeling as if she was being sucked in by Gu Zhou’s gaze. Her face grew even redder.

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian’s flushed face. His heart lightened, and he felt a little happier.

“I-I have something on,” Qiao Nian stammered. “I’ll leave first.”

With that, Qiao Nian fled.

Gu Zhou gazed at Qiao Nian's retreating back. His beautiful phoenix-like eyes narrowed, and a faint smile appeared on his lips. His eyes seemed to grow ever more bottomless.

His irises, dark as ink, were sparkling with dazzling starlight.

Gu Zhou's breathing quickened as he stepped out of the room.

"Second Young Master."

A delicate voice came from behind him. Gu Zhou turned around and saw Wang Miao looking at him shyly.

[1] Wearing a green hat is slang for being a cuckold.

### *Chapter 175 Blessing Bag*

Wang Miao had specially gotten someone to help her with her makeup today. She looked much more exquisite than usual.

However, Wang Miao in light makeup was still hardly comparable to Qiao Nian without makeup.

Gu Zhou looked at Wang Miao with a dark expression, frowning. "What is it?"

Wang Miao took two steps forward, then took out the item she had been hiding behind her. She handed it to Gu Zhou and looked at him expectantly.

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on Wang Miao's open palm. There he saw a pink blessing bag with lotus flowers embroidered on it. There was a faint scent of agarwood wafting from it.

Seeing Gu Zhou staring at her, Wang Miao couldn't help but blush. She said shyly, "Second Young Master, I've specially made this blessing pouch for you. It's even been placed in front of Buddha for forty-nine days(1). It... it can ensure your safety and your health. I hope you can accept it!"

Towards the end, Wang Miao's face turned bright red. She didn't even dare to look up at Gu Zhou.

Gu Zhou did not take Wang Miao's blessing bag. The coldness in his eyes was obvious. His voice was extremely frigid. "Is that so?"

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Wang Miao was extremely nervous. When she heard Gu Zhou's words, she thought that Gu Zhou had understood her good intentions. She said shyly, "Yes!"

"Aren't you afraid of tainting Buddha's eyes?"

Wang Miao froze. It was as if someone had poured a bucket of cold water over her head, chilling her to the bone. She looked at Gu Zhou in confusion, blinking her beautiful eyes in a puzzled manner. After a beat, she began to feel wronged.

"Second Young Master, actually, I..."

As Wang Miao spoke, she deliberately exposed her hand. On her fingers were quite a number of scars, caused by sewing needles. She had accidentally injured herself many times when she was making the blessing bag.

Naturally, Gu Zhou could tell what Wang Miao's intentions were. His expression darkened. "If this happens again, get lost!"

Wang Miao looked at Gu Zhou in disbelief, growing anxious. She said pitifully, "Second Young Master, don't chase me away. I just wanted to help you a little. I really didn't have any other intentions. I..."

Wang Miao felt a little guilty under Gu Zhou's gaze. She could not finish her sentence.

Gu Zhou looked at Wang Miao coldly. If it weren't for Wang Lin, he would never have kept a person like Wang Miao around in the Gu family villa. That was because he felt guilty towards Wang Lin.

If Wang Miao knew what was good for her, she would do her job quietly and obediently.

In a panic, Wang Miao looked anxiously at Gu Zhou. Worried that Gu Zhou would chase her out, she quickly said, "Second Young Master, don't be angry. If you're unhappy, I won't make you any more blessing bags. I'll make whatever you like!"

Gu Zhou looked at Wang Miao coldly. His voice deceptively light, he asked, "Are you asking if you have a chance to marry me?"

Wang Miao's heart leaped to her throat. She looked at Gu Zhou in shock. She had never expected Gu Zhou to know what she was thinking, and to say it so bluntly.

How could one speak aloud a girl's innermost thoughts just like that?

Wang Miao lowered her gaze shyly and said in a girlish, delicate voice, "Second Young Master, how can you say such things so bluntly? I... I'm not mentally prepared!"

Gu Zhou waited for Wang Miao to finish speaking, then said coldly, "Do you think any Tom, Dick, or Harry can replace Second Young Madam's position?"

Wang Miao heard the sarcasm in Gu Zhou's words. In an instant, her heart, which was filled with love and admiration, sank into the abyss. She looked at Gu Zhou in fear and unease.

"Just this once. This won't happen again."

Gu Zhou's voice was like that of a demon from hell, frightening Wang Miao so much that her legs began to tremble uncontrollably. She watched as Gu Zhou turned around and left without hesitation.

Gu Zhou walked towards the stairs. For the past few years, he had been searching for the woman he had spent a night with. In the end, he finally managed to find Wang Lin, Wang Miao's older sister.

Wang Lin had given birth to a child for him. He wanted to know more about what Wang Lin was like when she was alive. Wang Lin and Wang Miao were biological sisters. If Wang Miao acted like this, then Wang Lin...

At this moment, Gu Zhou felt that Wang Lin might not be the girl he had been looking for.

Wang Lin stood there with teary eyes, her tears falling uncontrollably. She was unable to hide the greed and infatuation in her gaze. However, she no longer dared to chase after him.

[1] In Chinese culture, forty-nine days is a common praying period, especially for funeral rituals.

### *Chapter 176 Encounter*

Wang Miao clenched her fists tightly, biting down on her lower lip.

Five years ago. He had paid their family a visit. Back then, she had fallen in love with him at first sight.

When her older sister had died in childbirth, she had been very upset. However, seeing how upset he was, she yearned to have died in her sister's stead.

She had heard from Chen Qing that he seemed to have fallen into someone's trap during the Mid-Autumn Festival. Because of that, he had spent a long time searching for the woman he had spent a night with. That woman was her older sister.

Seeing how devoted he was to his sister, she had sworn to herself that she would marry him in the future.

She wanted to stand by his side and take care of his family on behalf of her sister, so that he would never be sad again.

For all these years, she had worked hard at her studies, and tried to grow up as fast as she could. She wanted to become more outstanding. Only then would she be qualified to marry him and heal his broken heart.

However, Wang Miao had never expected to be one step too late.

How could he forget her older sister?

How could he marry another woman?

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At the thought, Wang Miao felt even worse.

Wang Miao walked downstairs. Before long, she saw Qiao Nian holding the materials one would need to make a blessing bag.

Wang Miao's expression faltered slightly. Her eyes were red as she stared at the items in Qiao Nian's hand. Her brow furrowed deeper and deeper.

Seeing that something was wrong with Wang Miao's expression, Qiao Nian expressed some polite concern. "Are you feeling unwell? I can help you take your pulse if you'd like."

Wang Miao shook her head. Her voice trembled as she spoke, "I... I just didn't sleep well last night. Are you going to make a blessing bag?"

"Yes." Qiao Nian nodded. She looked down at the silk, needles, and thread in her hand, thinking that she should send the materials to the temple for a longer period of time. The materials could absorb the good fortune of the temple, and she would make the blessing bag then.

"Young... Young Madam, you're such a good person." Wang Miao gazed at Qiao Nian, sounding dazed. "No wonder Second Young Master likes you so much."

Qiao Nian thought to herself, "Young lady, are you blind? How can he possibly like me?"

Qiao Nian felt that if she wasn't skilled at medicine, Gu Zhou would have left her for dead long ago.

Like her?

This was utterly impossible!

Qiao Nian gave a perfunctory response. "If you didn't sleep well, rest early today. I'll head out first. I have other things to do today."

With that, Qiao Nian turned and walked out.

Wang Miao stood rooted to the ground, staring at Qiao Nian's retreating back. Her eyes grew even redder. Second Young Master must have known that Qiao Nian was making a blessing bag for him, which was why he wasn't willing to take hers.

Wang Miao looked down at the blessing bag in her hand. It was embroidered with lotus flowers. She had labored over the bag for a month before she had managed to complete the embroidery.

The lotus flowers symbolized them coming together for one hundred years of happiness. They would be together forever.

She wanted to be with Gu Zhou for the rest of her life and never be apart.

But she was well aware of the disdain in Gu Zhou's eyes.

Wang Miao clenched the blessing bag in her hand involuntarily, her brow furrowed. She threw the blessing bag into the trash can.

Baohua Temple.

Qiao Nian went directly to the inner hall and donated some money to the temple. She then placed the silk fabric and thread she had prepared under Buddha's knees. Then, she knelt in front of Buddha to pray for Miss Lu.

To Qiao Nian, death was like the extinguishing of a lamp. Once one died, one would no longer know anything.

The reason why living people prayed for the dead was just to seek some peace of mind. This was also a spiritual pursuit.

Qiao Nian gave three sincere kowtows before getting up.

When she was locked up in the mental hospital, she had already made up her mind to live a good life for herself.

Qiao Nian was about to leave when a girl with a bright smile walked towards her.

“Professor Qiao!” When Lu Qi saw Qiao Nian, she smiled and jogged up to her, her voice crisp. “So you believe in Buddhism too!”

## Chapter 177 You Only Have One Older Sister

Seeing Lu Qi’s smile, Qiao Nian couldn’t help but smile as well. Her mood was now much better than usual. “You don’t have to treat me like an outsider. Just call me by my given name.”

Lu Qi’s eyes lit up. “You’re older than me. I’ll call you Sister Nian Nian, okay?”

Suddenly, an aged voice came from the side.

“Qi Qi, you only have one elder sister!”

Qiao Nian looked over and saw an old lady with white hair. She appeared to be reserved and taciturn, unlike Matriarch Gu’s natural amiability.

Lu Qi’s expression turned awkward. She quickly said, “Nian Nian, this is my grandmother.”

Lu Qi had changed the way she addressed Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian smiled at Matriarch Lu and greeted politely, “Madam Lu, how do you do?”

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When Matriarch Lu heard Qiao Nian’s voice, she shifted her gaze to Qiao Nian, sizing her up. Then, she nodded indifferently. “So you’re Professor Qiao Nian. I heard from Qi Qi that you’re a knowledgeable young lady.” After exchanging a few pleasantries, Qiao Nian took a good look at Matriarch Lu. Her lips were pale, and the whites of her eyes were slightly yellow. Qiao Nian narrowed her beautiful fox-like eyes, frowning a little. “Madam Lu, have you been feeling unwell lately?”

Matriarch Lu was stunned for a moment.

“Do you have any difficulty breathing in the middle of the night, or feel that your chest is tight?” Qiao Nian asked solemnly.

When Matriarch Lu heard Qiao Nian’s words, a trace of surprise flashed in her eyes. She nodded. “A little lately.”

Qiao Nian seemed to be deep in thought. She continued asking, “Do you feel a swelling pain in your temples? Is your back perspiring? Do the soles of your feet feel like they’re burning?”

Matriarch Lu's gaze softened as she looked at Qiao Nian. She had long heard that some doctors could tell a person's health condition just by looking at their physiognomy. Now, it seemed that Qiao Nian was truly capable. "A little."

Qiao Nian's expression turned serious. She turned to look at Lu Qi and said, "Hurry up and take Madam Lu to the hospital for a neurological examination. Also, do a full body examination."

Lu Qi's face turned pale in fear.

Matriarch Lu was indeed someone who had weathered many storms. She stood there unmoving, the expression on her face unchanging

"Also, take Grandma Lu to do a liver and heart examination. Make sure the doctors examine her thoroughly. This can't be delayed any longer." Qiao Nian was frowning as she spoke.

Frightened, Lu Qi gripped Matriarch Lu's hand tightly. She looked at Qiao Nian in fear and unease. "Nian Nian, did you just say that my grandmother's health..."

Qiao Nian herself was also hoping that she had misdiagnosed Matriarch Lu. Pursing her lips, she said, "Madam Lu's complexion doesn't look too good. I suspect that there might be something wrong with her liver. Moreover, elderly people tend to have heart problems as well. It's better to go for an examination."

Lu Qi nodded solemnly.

"However, Matriarch Lu might have a cerebral infarction right now. We have to nip this illness in the bud," Qiao Nian said sternly.

Lu Qi's slim body swayed on the spot. There was no trace of blood on her face. If someone else had said that about Grandma, she would definitely step forward to argue with that person.

However, when she saw Qiao Nian's expression of certainty, she couldn't bring herself to doubt Qiao Nian's words. She pulled Matriarch Lu's arm, ready to bring her to the hospital.

Matriarch Lu herself was much calmer. She was thinking about something else. She stopped Lu Qi and said, "We've already arrived at the temple. Pray for your sister first. It's fine if I go to the hospital after that. I'm getting old. It's normal for me to have some health problems."

"Grandma!" Lu Qi frowned, pouting. "This won't do. Come with me quickly. We're going to the hospital now. If Sister finds out that you put off going to the hospital just to pray for her, she'll definitely be unhappy!"



A trace of hesitation flashed across Matriarch Lu's face. In the end, she couldn't dissuade Lu Qi and could only follow her to the hospital.

Qiao Nian watched as the two of them left and heaved a sigh of relief. Only then did she relax.

When Qiao Nian got home, she took a shower and changed her clothes. She had just stepped out of the bathroom when she heard a knock on the door. She walked over and opened the door to see Gu Zhou standing there.

## Chapter 178 Making a Wish

Gu Zhou was wearing a casual white shirt, and his entire body emitted a languid aura. Coupled with the indifferent expression on his face, he gave off a cool sense of abstinence. The first button of his shirt was opened, and his perfect chest muscles were just discernible. It made one want to tear off his shirt to take a better look.

Qiao Nian's gaze moved away from the collar of Gu Zhou's shirt. Casually, she asked, "Have you taken the medicinal bath I prescribed?"

"Yes."

Gu Zhou nodded, then walked into Qiao Nian's room, taking a seat on the sofa.

Qiao Nian walked in as well. She sat down not far away from Gu Zhou, deliberately avoiding any physical contact.

Gu Zhou could sense Qiao Nian's avoidance. His brow furrowed slightly, but it quickly smoothed out. "You saved Matriarch Lu's life today. The Lu family is very grateful to you. They wanted to ask if you wanted anything?"

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou's words, she couldn't help but feel nervous. "How is Matriarch Lu now? What did the doctor say?"

"Lu Qi said that when she pulled Matriarch Lu to the hospital, Matriarch Lu's headache worsened. She was covered in cold sweat."

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou's words, her brow furrowed deeper and deeper.

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"Fortunately, you've let Matriarch Lu know in time. The examination was carried out early, so the doctors could take the necessary precautions. Otherwise, the old lady might have died. The doctors have suggested that the old lady be admitted to the hospital."

Qiao Nian's tense heart finally settled back down. She heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, Matriarch Lu was fine.

Gu Zhou took Qiao Nian's reaction to heart. With some admiration in his eyes, he asked, "What wish are you going to make?"

"Are you the magic lamp from Aladdin?" Qiao Nian couldn't help but laugh. Her eyes seemed to sparkle with starlight as she teased, "Will any wish of mine be granted?"

Gu Zhou looked into Qiao Nian's eyes. At this moment, time seemed to have stopped. He felt that the person sitting in front of him wasn't Qiao Nian, but a very clever and adorable little fox.

For some reason, his heart skipped a beat.

Gu Zhou retracted his gaze indifferently, turning away from Qiao Nian. Pretending to be unconcerned, he said, "Any realistic wish should be fine."

"Okay." Qiao Nian lowered her head slightly, seemingly deep in thought.

For a long time, Gu Zhou didn't hear any response from Qiao Nian. He turned his head to see Qiao Nian musing deeply, looking like a little fox with her brow furrowed. Gu Zhou raised an eyebrow. "Are you really planning to take up the offer?"

"Why not?" Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou in confusion and continued, "If it's free, why wouldn't I take it?"

Gu Zhou: "..."

Qiao Nian said with a serious expression, "I saved Matriarch Lu with my years of experience in medicine. She's granting me a gift. I would be a fool not to want it!"

Gu Zhou: "..."

Gu Zhou had always thought that Qiao Nian was very generous. One had to know that she didn't even bat an eyelid when she had gifted those priceless medicinal herbs to someone else.

Gu Zhou was now very curious about what gift Qiao Nian would want.

"I've thought of something." Qiao Nian turned to look at Gu Zhou, her eyes bright and her teeth gleaming white. Excitement was written all over her face. "I want an acceptance letter from the music academy. Can the Lu family do that?"

Gu Zhou had thought that Qiao Nian would want some ordinary item or some medicinal herbs. He had never expected her to want an acceptance letter into a school.

After a long while, Gu Zhou asked, "Is that all?"

Qiao Nian could tell from Gu Zhou's tone that he was looking down on her request. She glared at Gu Zhou and said unhappily, "What do you mean by 'is that all'? This wish is impressive. You have to know how difficult it is to get into An City's music academy. Only one in a thousand students were admitted last year!"

The more Qiao Nian spoke, the more excited she became. "The students who graduated from there are all big shots in the music industry. If I can get in, that would be my fortune!"

Qiao Nian loved guqin and the bass guitar the most[1] Those were her favorite instruments. If she could study in the music academy, she would be able to write her own songs and arrange her own music. Wouldn't that be amazing?

[1] Guqin is a plucked seven-string Chinese musical instrument.

Chapter 179 Complimenting Me?

At the thought of this, Qiao Nian felt that Gu Zhou was really too shallow. He clearly didn't know the importance of art and music in cultivating one's mind and soul. Moreover, he wasn't aware of the value of an acceptance letter to the music academy.

She gave Gu Zhou a disdainful look and said, "You're an outsider of the music field. You don't know anything. You're not qualified to give your opinion!"

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian with a complicated expression. He stood up and left the room. When he returned, he handed a document to Qiao Nian.

Puzzled, Qiao Nian took the document from him and opened it, still gazing at Gu Zhou in confusion. However, when she saw a graduation certificate from An City's Academy of Music, she felt as if she had been struck by lightning

Damn!

This weak, delicate husband of hers was actually an academic tyrant!

What Qiao Nian found most unbelievable was that Gu Zhou had specialized in the guqin as well. She was so shocked that she couldn't move. This was her favorite instrument.

Qiao Nian looked up at Gu Zhou's hands. His fingers were long, slender and well-defined. Indeed, they were suitable for playing the guqin. "Why don't I give you a recommendation?" As Gu Zhou spoke, he put the certificate away and looked at Qiao Nian with interest.

Qiao Nian sat there. While she looked calm, tumultuous waves of emotion were rising and crashing in her heart.

Outstanding graduates of the Academy of Music were all qualified to recommend someone to study at the academy.

Gu Zhou happened to have this privilege.

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Silently, Qiao Nian shifted closer to Gu Zhou, staring unblinkingly at the certificate in Gu Zhou's hand. If she had a tail, it would definitely be wagging excitedly.

Qiao Nian was now nearly leaning against Gu Zhou. Fortunately, she knew her limits. Her gaze fell on Gu Zhou's face and she smiled in a fawning manner. "Yes please!"

If she had Gu Zhou's recommendation, coupled with Lu Zhu's recommendation letter as the principal, the chances of her getting accepted into the music academy would increase significantly. However, Qiao Nian was still rational. She tried hard to calm down and asked, "There... there aren't any conditions, are there?"

Gu Zhou met Qiao Nian's starry eyes. His mouth was dry, and he found himself swallowing involuntarily. In a low voice, he raised his tone slightly. "What can you give me?!"

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned.

With that, Gu Zhou left.

Qiao Nian gazed at Gu Zhou's retreating back. She hadn't expected Gu Zhou to be willing to help without asking for anything in return.

Since there were no conditions attached, she was relieved.

The next day.

Qiao Nian drove to the Huangtian Hotel. As soon as she stopped the car, she took off her sunglasses and took out her phone. She skillfully typed a string of code, then typed out a text and sent it.

Su Xue suddenly received a message from Qiu Nan.

"Sister Xue, I miss you. I'm in the suite on the top floor of the Huangtian Hotel. I've already specially prepared a unique fitness training plan just for you. Can you come now?"

When Su Xue saw this message, her lips curved up involuntarily. Her body began to heat up. She yearned to fly to the hotel right now to do some wonderful aerobics with Qiu

Nan.

Su Xue quickly replied, then deleted the message.

Qiao Nian, who had been sitting in the car, received a message from Su Xue not long after.

“Little Nan Nan, wait for me. I’ll be there soon!”

Qiao Nian’s lips curved up coldly. She turned to look at Gu Zhou, who was sitting in the front passenger seat. Smiling, she asked, “Do you want to make a bet?”

Gu Zhou looked away from the phone and his gaze fell on Qiao Nian’s face. His eyes lit up. “Yes?”

“Do you think Qiao Shan will hit Su Xue when he comes to the hotel and finds out everything?” Qiao Nian said, looking extremely excited.

Gu Zhou was slightly amused by the smile on Qiao Nian’s face. He thought for a while and said, “A man shouldn’t hit a woman.”

The smile on Qiao Nian’s face deepened. Her red lips parted slightly. “A friendly reminder. Not every man is a gentleman. Many men are beasts!”

“Mrs. Gu, are you complimenting me? Am I a gentleman?” Gu Zhou narrowed his phoenix-like eyes, his words tinged with humor!

Qiao Nian: Man, you’re missing the point!

However, this didn’t interfere with Qiao Nian’s understanding of Gu Zhou. She nodded solemnly, a bright smile on her face. “Of course. Mr. Gu is definitely a gentleman!”

Chapter 180 Setup

Gazing at the bright smile on Qiao Nian’s face, Gu Zhou was momentarily dazed.

Suddenly, the car braked sharply.

Only then did Gu Zhou come back to his senses. He frowned, turning to look at Chen Qing unhappily. “What happened?”

Chen Qing unbuckled his seatbelt and looked straight ahead, saying, "I'm sorry, Second Young Master. I almost bumped into someone just now!"

Gu Zhou lowered his gaze and said nothing

more.

From time to time, Qiao Nian took out her phone to check the time. When she felt that it was about time, she gave Qiao Shan a call.

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When Qiao Shan saw that it was Qiao Nian calling, he was momentarily surprised. He couldn't believe that Qiao Nian would voluntarily contact him. He picked up the phone and said uncertainly, "Who is it?"

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"Dad."

When Qiao Shan heard Qiao Nian call him "Dad", his lips curved up involuntarily.

Previously, Qiao Nian had pretended to want to cut ties with her family. Yet, she was still respectfully addressing him as "Dad" when calling him. Perhaps Qiao Nian had suffered a lot in the Gu family. Now, she had sought him out for help to back her up.

Qiao Shan was extremely pleased with himself, but he put on a calm facade and asked coldly, "What do you want?"

When Qiao Nian heard Qiao Shan's voice, a trace of disdain flashed in her eyes. She said, "Previously, didn't you say that you wanted the Suranne Grass?"

Qiao Shan raised his eyebrow. His guess was correct. In order to cement her position in the Gu family, Qiao Nian was willing to give him even the precious Suranne Grass.

However, Qiao Shan decided to continue putting on an act. Pretending to be confused, he asked, "You value the Suranne Grass so much. Are you willing to give it to me?"

Qiao Nian smiled and said, "How can you say that? You're my father. What's mine should be yours, shouldn't it?"

Gu Zhou was speechless.

Chen Qing was speechless.

Qiao Nian smiled again and said gently, "Dad, no matter what, I'm still your biological daughter. I went too far last time. And now that Brother has returned... I think we haven't even had a meal together as a family!"

When Qiao Shan heard Qiao Nian's words, he was even more certain that Qiao Nian had been suffering in the Gu family. He was extremely pleased with himself, but he still pretended to be calm.

Qiao Shan coughed and said in a low voice, "You're young, so I won't hold it against you. It's not too late for you to reflect upon your mistakes. Have you been suffering in the Gu family?"

Gu Zhou frowned.

A trace of anger flashed across Qiao Nian's face. Her eyes turned cold, but her voice was as calm as ever. "No."

as

"If you had been so obedient from the beginning, your mother would have been as gentle with you as she was with your sister," Qiao Shan said meaningfully.

A trace of disdain flashed in Qiao Nian's eyes. The coldness in her eyes grew clearer and clearer. Her thin lips moved slightly. "You're right. I was young and insensible in the past."

Qiao Shan sat down on the sofa. Hearing Qiao Nian admit her mistake, he felt even more satisfied. He continued, "Not only the Suranne Grass, but also the other expensive medicinal herbs you've grown... You should keep those in our backyard, not in the Gu residence. By the way, teach your sister how to cultivate these plants. In the future, these will be a Qiao family skillset. It will bring glory to our family!"

Qiao Nian felt her stomach churn. She suppressed her nausea. She was looking forward to seeing how Qiao Shan would react later on.

Qiao Nian took a deep breath and said, "I've already sent Mom the location. She'll go over first. Take Brother and Sister with you. We'll talk when we get to the hotel. I'll send you the room number as well."

With that, Qiao Nian hung up without waiting for Qiao Shan to reply. If she heard another word from Qiao Shan, she would probably throw up.

Qiao Nian took out her phone and typed out another code. This code could make Su Xue's phone temporarily lose signal.

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on the code Qiao Nian was typing. His eyes darkened as he memorized every character.