

Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot!

Chapter 26: Doting

Su Yan's bad mood vanished in an instant. He walked calmly into the banquet hall and saw Qiao Xin looking for him.

He walked towards Qiao Xin and whispered, "I'm back."

Qiao Xin pursed her lips and smiled. She turned to glance at Qiao Nian with a guilty expression. "Brother Yan, I'm really sorry for making things difficult for you. No matter what, she's my sister. I..."

As Qiao Xin spoke, her eyes grew red-rimmed. She began to sob softly.

Su Yan took out a tissue and gently wiped Qiao Xin's tears away. Softly, he said, "It's okay, don't worry. Don't blame yourself for other people's mistakes."

"Thank you, Brother Yan." Qiao Xin sniffled and whispered, "My sister's emotional state is quite stable now, but let's not mention what happened five years ago in front of her. I'm afraid she..."

Qiao Xin didn't have to continue her sentence. Su Yan knew what Qiao Nian could do.

Back then, Qiao Nian had burned down an entire school building!

At the thought of this, Su Yan silently drew Qiao Xin into his embrace. Back then, people had cast blame on Qiao Xin behind her back for what Qiao Nian had done. His heart ached as he said, "I know. You're too kind. Back then, she even tried to say that you were the one who burned down the school building. Why do you still consider her feelings?"

"S-She's my older sister!" Qiao Xin lowered her gaze, saying pitifully

Right now, Qiao Xin hoped that Qiao Nian would keep a distance from Su Yan. She wasn't sure what Mr. Jade Pendant looked like and whether his family was rich. She had to keep Su Yan in her clutches until then.

Qiao Nian stood at a distance, slowly nibbling at her pastry. Seeing the pretentious act Qiao Xin was putting on, she couldn't help but frown.

Su Yan.

An ordinary yet overconfident man who kept insisting that she liked him. Qiao Nian was sure that there was something wrong with his brain. To be precise, he was too narcissistic!

Seeing that it was about time for the banquet to start, Qiao Nian stopped eating. She wiped her mouth clean and walked towards the door.

Seeing Qiao Nian walking over, Qiao Xin looked at her nervously.

Su Yan looked at Qiao Nian with a face full of disgust. He thought to himself that if Qiao Nian tried to talk to him, he would refuse to reply.

Qiao Nian walked past Qiao Xin, ignoring her panicked expression. She walked towards the door and her gaze landed on the male professor who had just walked in.

“Teacher Liu.” Qiao Nian walked up and greeted, smiling.

“Nian Nian, you’re here. I have something to tell you. Come here!” Teacher Liu said, bringing Qiao Nian to the side of the banquet hall.

Su Yan had wanted to greet Teacher Liu, but when he saw his attitude towards Qiao Nian, he hesitated.

Teacher Liu was famous for being taciturn. Su Yan didn’t understand why Teacher Liu treated Qiao Nian so gently—he even had a smile on his face.

His brow furrowed deeper and deeper. Just as he was contemplating chasing after the two of them, a group of people arrived at the door. Su Yan turned to see the medical professors from the university entering the banquet hall with Doctor Wang.

There were a great number of professors who wanted to participate in Doctor Wang Shuo’s research project.

“Teacher Wang!” Su Yan pushed Qiao Xin away and strode towards Wang Shuo, smiling.

“Oh, it’s Su Yan.” Wang Shuo had taught Su Yan a few classes in the past. When he saw Su Yan approaching, he smiled and greeted him. Then, he glanced at the hall and continued, “Alright, let’s talk later. I have errands to run.”

“Teacher Wang, please go ahead!” Su Yan replied politely, beaming brightly.

After greeting Su Yan, Wang Shuo strode towards Teacher Liu.

Su Yan watched by the side as Qiao Nian spoke to Teacher Wang and Teacher Liu. Hidden in his pocket, his right fist was clenched tightly. He had never expected Qiao Nian to gain the attention of the two teachers!

“Teacher Liu, long time no see!” Wang Shuo went up to Teacher Liu, shaking his hand.

Teacher Liu gave a bright smile. He greeted Wang Shuo politely before introducing Qiao Nian to Wang Shuo. “Teacher Wang, this is my disciple, Qiao Nian.”

Qiao Nian smiled and greeted, “How do you do, Teacher Wang!”

Wang Shuo gave Qiao Nian a glance-over. His gaze fell on Teacher Liu’s face, and he asked curiously, “Is she the disciple you’ve been so proud of?”

“Yes. I was thinking of letting her join your research project this time round. After all, this is a rare opportunity!” Teacher Liu knew that Wang Shuo’s research project was extremely important. Furthermore, this project was well-funded, so Qiao Nian could take the opportunity to learn more.

“You’re willing to let her go?” Wang Shuo smiled and looked toward Teacher Liu. While Wang Shuo studied Chinese medicine, Teacher Liu studied Western medicine.

“She can learn even more from you. Why don’t you take her along for the project? Or, we could give her a test right now.” Teacher Liu had absolute faith in Qiao Nian, so he was not at all worried that Qiao Nian would not be able to answer Wang Shuo’s questions.

“That won’t be necessary.” Previously, Wang Shuo had already heard from his good friend that Qiao Nian was really gifted in medicine. He looked at Qiao Nian kindly and said, “The day after tomorrow, just look for me at the research institute.”

“Thank you, Teacher Wang.”

Qiao Nian had a pleasant disposition to begin with. Coupled with her exquisite outfit and makeup, she looked like a sunny young lady.. Anyone looking at her would have been unable to summon the tiniest bit of disgust.

Chapter 27: An Ordinary Yet Overconfident Man

Wang Shuo said a few more words to Teacher Liu before leaving to greet the others.

Fussing a little, Teacher Liu gave Qiao Nian a few more reminders. Finally, he said, “Study well under Doctor Wang. He is very talented in Chinese medicine.”

“Thank you, Teacher. It must have been difficult making plans for me.” Qiao Nian looked at Teacher Liu gratefully. If Teacher Liu had not gone against public opinion, she would not have been able to complete her PhD.

“Why are you being so polite? I’m your teacher. Of course I have to plan for you.” Teacher Liu really wanted to continue taking Qiao Nian under his wing, but he had already taught Qiao Nian everything he had learnt in medicine. “Alright, this matter is settled. I’ll leave first. If you need anything, look for me.”

Smiling, Qiao Nian walked Teacher Liu to the entrance of the banquet hall. She wanted to continue seeing Teacher Liu off, but Teacher Liu refused.

“You’ll be studying under Teacher Wang soon. He’ll be the one teaching you. You don’t need to send me off.” Teacher Liu smiled. He gave Qiao Nian a few more reminders, then left.

Qiao Nian turned around and entered the banquet hall. The moment she entered, she saw Wang Shuo waving at her.

Qiao Nian walked over, smiled and greeted, “Teacher Wang.” She obediently stood still.

“Su Yan, this is Qiao Nian. She’s Teacher Liu’s inner disciple. Do study well with her in the future.” Wang Shuo glanced at Su Yan with a cold expression, then he turned to Qiao Nian, a bright smile overtaking his features. “Has Teacher Liu returned home?”

“Yes.” Qiao Nian replied, smiling. The smile on her face faded when she thought of Teacher Liu’s health.

“Don’t worry, your Teacher Liu is blessed by the heavens. He will definitely be fine.” Wang Shuo spoke a few words of comfort, then turned to leave.

Qiao Xin and Zhou Xue stood some distance away, eating refreshments. Seeing Qiao Nian and Su Yan standing together, Zhou Xue frowned.

“Xin Xin, is that b*tch Qiao Nian here to look for Su Yan on purpose?” Zhou Xue had been taken to the police station, and the Zhou family had to spend money to bail her out. Her father was so furious that he refused to give her any allowance for the next two months.

Qiao Xin’s eyes gleamed. Her eyes darted to the side and she said, “I don’t know. This is a banquet for medical students. Why is she here?”

With those words, Zhou Xue instantly understood.

Qiao Nian had been sent away before she finished her first year at the university. Apart from Su Yan, no one else here today would have been her classmate!

“I’ll go speak to her!” Zhou Xue thought of how she had been thoroughly embarrassed in the shopping mall. This time, she had to regain her dignity.

Although Qiao Xin had abandoned her back then, Qiao Xin later explained the situation to Zhou Xue.

Qiao Xin had wanted to go to the Qiao residence to seek reinforcements, but when she saw Zhou Xue coming out of the police station, she felt immensely guilty. As compensation, Qiao Xin gave Zhou Xue 100,000 yuan.

After Zhou Xue received the 100,000 yuan, her anger dissipated somewhat. With immense generosity, Zhou Xue forgave Qiao Xin. Qiao Xin even invited her to this banquet, saying that she hoped for Zhou Xue to find a boyfriend soon.

Zhou Xue walked up to Qiao Nian in her high heels and looked at her, brimming with arrogance. She said furiously, “How dare you attend this banquet? Don’t you have any shame? You’re not even a student of S University. You’re a lunatic. Don’t you feel uncomfortable here?”

Su Yan turned around and walked towards Qiao Xin. Every second he spent around Qiao Nian was utter torture.

“Was being arrested not enough for you?” Qiao Xin raised her eyebrows and looked at Zhou Xue with a smile, saying lightly, “Do you want to go in there again?”

“If it wasn’t for you, how could I have been arrested? You b*tch!” Zhou Xue raised her hand, ready to slap Qiao Nian’s face.

“Pa!”

Without waiting for Zhou Xue to make a move, Qiao Nian slapped her first.

Zhou Xue stumbled, collapsing onto a table nearby. Drinks and pastries were strewn all over the floor, and her gown was stained.

With that, Zhou Xue had drawn the attention of everyone in the banquet hall.

Qiao Xin looked worriedly at Zhou Xue. She pursed her lips and said anxiously, “Sister hit Xue’er during the day, and now she’s hit Xue’er again. This...”

“Let’s go take a look!” Su Yan didn’t want to have anything to do with Qiao Nian, but he frowned when he saw that Zhou Xue had been hit.

In the past, Qiao Nian put on a meek facade. Now, much to Su Yan’s disbelief, not only did she stop pretending, but her mental illness had worsened. She actually hit someone in public!

“How dare you hit me!” Zhou Xue glared at Qiao Nian viciously, as if she wanted to swallow Qiao Nian whole.

Qiao Xin walked to Zhou Xue’s side and took out a tissue to help her wipe her face. She said worriedly, “Xue’er, are you okay? Oh my god, you’re bleeding!”

Seeing Qiao Xin step out to defend her, tears of grievance fell from Zhou Xue’s eyes.

Su Yan shielded Qiao Xin and Zhou Xue behind him.. He glared at Qiao Nian and said in disgust, “Qiao Nian, I’ve told you many times that I don’t like you. Please stop disturbing me!”

Chapter 28: Misunderstood

Qiao Nian did not seem to have heard him speak. Her gaze was still slightly lowered as she toyed with the ring on her finger. Her nails were pink and glossy. The whole image made one feel warm, as if all the chaos had nothing to do with Qiao Nian.

Su Yan frowned when he saw that Qiao Nian was paying him no heed. He stepped forward and said, “Qiao Nian, I know that you’ve come out from a mental hospital. I advise you to quit Teacher Wang’s project as soon as possible. Otherwise, it won’t look good for you if your past is exposed!”

Everyone in the banquet hall gasped when they heard Su Yan’s words. Many of them were here for Dr. Wang’s project. Some of them wanted to join the project, some wanted to invest in the project, and others wanted to discuss other projects with Dr. Wang.

Su Yan’s words made it clear to everyone that Qiao Nian was a lunatic who had already been selected by Doctor Wang.

“So this person is actually from a mental hospital!”

“How can Dr. Wang work with such a person?”

“If Dr. Wang brings her into the project, I’m worried that my investments might go down the drain!”

...

Qiao Nian didn’t even bat an eyelid as she listened to the discussion taking place around her. Scornfully, she strutted over to Su Yan in her high heels and looked straight into his eyes. As if the matter was of little importance, she spoke. “Classmate Su, do you think I’m not fit to participate in Teacher Wang’s project?”

Hearing Qiao Nian's words, Zhou Xue didn't bother waiting for Su Yan to respond. Haughtily, he replied, "At least you know your place. I advise you to leave this project as soon as you can. If anything happens in the future, you won't be able to bear the consequences!"

Qiao Nian's beautiful eyes narrowed slightly, her gaze lingering on Zhou Xue's face as she spoke. "Haven't you learnt your lesson by now? Do you still want another slap?"

"You were only in university for half a semester and you didn't even get your diploma! What right do you have to join Dr. Wang's project?" Su Yan glared at Qiao Nian coldly. The more he looked at her, the more disgusted he felt. He hoped that he would never see her again in his life.

Su Yan had just finished speaking when a sweet-looking girl with two symmetrical ponytails stepped forward. She glanced at Qiao Nian and sneered. "You must be Senior Qiao Nian. I've heard your name everywhere since I entered university. I heard that you slept with many men in your class, and you're a sex addict. Aren't you mentally ill as well? You didn't even get your diploma. How are you qualified to participate in Teacher Wang's project?"

Before Qiao Nian could speak, Wang Tian continued her interrogation. "Or did you use other unsavory means to secure a place? For example, your body?"

The people crowding around were looking at Qiao Nian differently now. It was impossible for a mentally ill patient to become a doctor.

Doctor Wang had been discussing the project with a friend in a corner of the room. When he heard the commotion, he walked over and asked, "What happened?"

Su Yan had always prided himself on being a humble gentleman. He hesitated to speak up.

But Zhou Xue was different. Zhou Xue hated Qiao Nian's guts for sending her to the police station, so she immediately stood up and explained the situation. "Teacher Wang, Qiao Nian has only attended one semester of classes. She was locked up in the mental hospital after that, and she was just released a short while back. You can't let someone like this participate in your project!"

When Wang Tian heard Zhou Xue's words, she immediately nodded in agreement. "Grandfather, you must not let a mentally ill person join our projects. If anything goes wrong with this project, then everyone else's efforts will be wasted!"

As Wang Tian spoke, she gave Qiao Nian a vicious glare.

“Yes, Teacher Wang. Qiao Nian is still mentally ill. She has never even studied medicine before, not properly. You can’t let her participate in your project. If she makes a mistake, it will bring harm to your entire team!” Zhou Xue quickly added.

In the past, Dr. Wang had only heard from Teacher Liu that Qiao Nian was talented in the field of medicine. He didn’t know Qiao Nian very well either. After listening to what everyone around him had to say, he frowned and asked, “Qiao Nian, is all this true?”

“Actually, I already have a P—”

“Sister.” Qiao Xin cut in, looking at Qiao Nian with teary eyes. She sniffled and said in a shaking voice, “Let’s go home. Do stop fooling around!”

Although Qiao Xin didn’t say explicitly that Qiao Nian was mentally ill, every word she spoke made it clear to everyone present that Qiao Nian had a mental illness!

Qiao Nian turned to look at Qiao Xin and frowned slightly. Just as she was about to explain the situation to Dr. Wang, she heard Dr. Wang say coldly, “Qiao Nian, don’t follow me around anymore!”

Qiao Nian’s expression darkened slightly as she explained, “Teacher Wang, I’ve already graduated with a PhD!”

When Zhou Xue heard Qiao Nian’s words, the corner of her lips curved up slightly. She laughed scornfully and said, “Qiao Nian, you’d better go back to the mental hospital and recuperate properly, lest you come out and embarrass yourself!”

Chapter 29: A Lunatic

All the onlookers were staring at Qiao Nian. They were all smiling disdainfully.

“How can a lunatic be a doctor?”

“Keep your voice down. She must be hallucinating as a doctor.”

“Ugh, that’s truly pitiful. She’s so pretty. Too bad there’s something wrong with her brain.”

...

Sensing the skepticism aimed at her from all directions, Qiao Nian said, “Teacher Wang, I’ve published theses in multiple universities. If you don’t believe me, you can check!”

Doctor Wang glanced at Qiao Nian suspiciously. She was clearly a young lass in her twenties, but her aura was no less strong than that of a man in his forties or fifties.

Could Qiao Nian be telling the truth?

Doctor Wang was starting to have doubts. Sizing Qiao Nian up, he was about to speak when he heard Zhou Xue's voice.

"Qiao Nian, you must really have an exaggerated opinion of yourself. Your name is so ordinary—there are tons of people with the exact same name. Your mental illness must be getting worse and worse. Now, you're even starting to make up falsehoods!" Zhou Xue clicked her tongue twice and shook her head, her face full of disdain.

The surrounding onlookers also began to laugh at Qiao Nian mockingly.

Qiao Nian turned to look at Zhou Xue and smiled. "Zhou Xue, you're not a medical student, are you?"

The smile on Zhou Xue's face froze.

"Teacher Sun, do your legs ache often?" Qiao Nian asked indifferently, glancing at Teacher Sun, who was standing a distance away.

Teacher Sun nodded in confusion. His legs had only started aching in the past two days. They had never ached before that. How did Qiao Nian know?

Seeing Teacher Sun nod, everyone glanced toward Qiao Nian in disbelief.

"Teacher Feng, do you frequently have headaches?" Qiao Nian spoke with certainty.

Everyone turned to look at Teacher Feng. Seeing Teacher Feng nod as well, they looked at Qiao Nian strangely.

"Teacher Zhang, has your liver been unwell?" Qiao Nian asked.

Everyone thought that there was no way Qiao Nian could have guessed correctly this time. One by one, they looked toward Teacher Zhang expectantly. When they saw Teacher Zhang nod, they were all so shocked that their jaws nearly dropped to the ground.

Doctor Wang looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief. He had thought that Qiao Nian was a lunatic with no medical training at all. But now that didn't seem to be the case!

How was Qiao Nian aware of each teacher's health problems?

Zhou Xue sensed that everyone's opinion of Qiao Nian had shifted. She said disdainfully, "Qiao Nian, you're really good at spouting nonsense. I was wondering why you didn't talk to anyone after you arrived. So you've just been eavesdropping!"

Zhou Xue's words were ingenious. What she implied was that Qiao Nian was only able to identify which teachers were feeling unwell because she had eavesdropped on their conversations.

When Doctor Wang heard Zhou Xue's words, he secretly heaved a sigh of relief. He knew it. How could a mentally ill patient possess medical skills?

Doctor Wang's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face. He said, "Qiao Nian, you don't have to explain anymore. I understand now. I know that your illness is very serious. There should be a psychiatrist present. I'll get them to take a look at you."

At that moment, a loud voice resounded from the doorway.

"Who dares to bully my disciple!"

Teacher Liu had been preparing to return home, but he soon realized that he had forgotten to pass Qiao Nian's doctoral diploma to her, so he returned to the banquet. When he saw everyone talking about Qiao Nian's illness, his expression darkened.

"Teacher!" Qiao Nian called when she saw Teacher Liu enter.

Teacher Liu looked at Qiao Nian with heartache. Out of all his disciples, he was the proudest of her. Yet, she was rumored to be a mentally ill patient!

This had gone too far!

When Doctor Wang saw Teacher Liu, he hurriedly said, "Teacher Liu, that's not what I meant. Why don't you treat your disciple's illness first?"

"What exactly is her illness?" Mr. Liu looked toward Dr. Wang with a sour expression.

Upon seeing Teacher Liu's displeased expression, Doctor Wang began to bristle as well. He had trusted Teacher Liu so much, but he never expected Teacher Liu to foist a lunatic upon him!

The more Doctor Wang thought about it, the angrier he became!

"She just came out of the mental hospital!" Doctor Wang spoke, forcibly suppressing his anger. He turned to look at Qiao Nian. "Tell your teacher yourself! Did you, or did you not, just come out of the mental hospital!"

Qiao Nian gave Doctor Wang an indifferent glance. Doctor Wang felt a little uncomfortable under her gaze and turned his head to the side.

“Where would she go to study psychiatry, if not a mental hospital?” Mr. Liu was so angry that his face and neck were flushed red. He glared at Doctor Wang coldly. He had never expected Doctor Wang to say that his disciple was a lunatic, especially when he had just entrusted his best disciple to Dr. Wang. “She has already graduated with a doctorate. Which of you here said that my disciple has never studied medicine?”

Zhou Xue was surprised by Teacher Liu’s words. “Qiao Nian is only 24 years old this year! How is that possible?”

“Why not? Do you think she’ll only graduate with a doctorate at the age of 30 like you idiots?” Teacher Liu questioned, his expression dark.

Chapter 30: Offense

Everyone present was dumbfounded.

They felt offended.

Most of them had only graduated at 30 years old!

They glared at Teacher Liu angrily. Teacher Liu had graduated with a doctorate at the age of 26. They did not expect Teacher Liu’s disciple to be even more formidable. She graduated at the age of 24!

Zhou Xue turned bright red in embarrassment. She seemed to have recalled something, and hurriedly spoke. “That’s impossible. You must be having an improper relationship with her. Otherwise...”

“Pa!”

Qiao Nian walked up to Zhou Xue and gave her a brutal slap across the face. Then, she took out a tissue and began to slowly wipe her hands, making sure every finger was pristine. When she spoke, her voice was as clear as a stream. “How dare you slander my teacher? You’re too brazen.”

“Nian Nian, it’s because you’re usually too low-profile. This is why people misunderstand you!” Teacher Liu took out Qiao Nian’s PhD diploma from his bag, handing it to her. “Congratulations, Addie, you’ve graduated early. Now, which hospital do you want to work at?”

Addie!

There was an uproar. Everyone was shocked!

Everyone present had heard of this name, Addie. This person was a rising star in the medical field and had once won a world-renowned medical award. However, this person maintained a very low profile. All the doctors in Country Z knew that she was a woman, but none of them knew anything else.

None of them could have guessed that Addie and Qiao Nian were one and the same.

“Thank you, Teacher Liu. I haven’t decided.” Qiao Nian had initially wanted to go to Doctor Wang’s hospital to join his project, but now she had changed her mind.

“Impossible! You can’t be Addie!” Su Yan strode towards Qiao Nian and yelled, “You have got some nerve! How dare you impersonate her?”

Su Yan had always treated Addie as a beacon he strove towards. He had always tried his best to be on par with her, but he had never expected the person he admired for so long to actually be Qiao Nian, the woman he despised the most!

Su Yan hated Qiao Nian more than anyone else in the world. That woman pretended to be innocent and acted like she knew nothing, but she had committed so many despicable acts!

Qiao Xin frowned. She didn’t know why everyone was looking at Su Yan with disdain. She tugged at Zhou Xue’s sleeve, her voice quavering as she spoke. “Sister, you’ve told such a big lie. What will you do if it’s exposed?”

When Zhou Xue heard Qiao Xin’s words, her eyes darted to the side. Immediately, she stepped forward. She said loudly, “You’re talking nonsense. Do you think you can take on Addie’s identity just by claiming to be her? How dare you lie in front of everyone? Qiao Nian, your mental health is truly deteriorating. You should go to the hospital as soon as possible!”

At this moment, Qiao Nian’s cell phone began to ring.

Qiao Nian took out her cell phone and placed it beside her ear. She couldn’t hear the other party’s voice. “Hello, who’s speaking?”

“You’re really Addie!” The white-haired Director Zhao, who oversaw the school of medicine, stepped out of the crowd. He looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief, his lips trembling slightly as he exclaimed, “I saved your phone number in the past! I..”

Director Zhao’s phone was still placed next to his ear. He had only been testing out a theory just now, but he had not expected Qiao Nian to really be Addie.

Qiao Nian smiled. She greeted, “Director Zhao.”

"This is impossible, you can't be Addie!" Zhou Xue seemed to have lost her mind. She didn't expect that Qiao Nian's name would be cleared. Her voice trembled as she spoke. "You clearly... you..."

"Who's mistreating my wife?" A cold voice came from the doorway.

The temperature in the banquet hall seemed to have dropped by a few degrees. Everyone turned to look toward the door. They saw a man in a well-tailored suit entering the banquet hall, his stance elegant and his steps unhurried.

The moment he stepped in, he attracted everyone's attention. A select few of the people present recognized him.

One by one, the gazes of the young female students present all turned shy, as though they had become girls with a crush. They had never seen such a handsome man in their lives. His face was like the most perfect masterpiece bestowed by heaven. They were unable to take their eyes off him.

Qiao Nian stood there calmly. She frowned slightly when she saw Gu Zhou walking towards her.

Why was he here?

Gu Zhou walked unhurriedly in front of Qiao Nian. In a natural motion, he put his arm around Qiao Nian's waist, tugging her towards him. His narrow phoenix eyes swept coldly across everyone present. "Honey, who bullied you?"

Hearing Gu Zhou's words, the onlookers were all stunned. Their gazes lingered on Qiao Nian and Gu Zhou's faces. They had never expected Gu Zhou to marry Qiao Nian.

Teacher Liu was also stunned. He blinked in confusion, pushing his glasses up his face. He asked calmly, "Nian Nian, when did you get married?"

"Teacher, my husband and I registered our marriage a few days ago. We haven't held our wedding yet. We had important matters to settle just now during the banquet, so I haven't had the chance to tell you yet." Qiao Nian explained with a smile. In her heart, she had already scolded Gu Zhou a few times over.

She did not know what Gu Zhou was up to.. She couldn't believe that he had come to the banquet, and even made their relationship public.

Chapter 31: When Is The Divorce

Hearing Qiao Nian's words, Teacher Liu nodded in understanding. Although he was getting old, he knew that young people nowadays would typically register their marriage before holding a wedding. It was different from Teacher Liu's era.

In fact, among everyone present, Qiao Xin was the one who was most upset. She looked at Qiao Nian in utter shock. She had never expected Gu Zhou to stand up for Qiao Nian.

Qiao Xin glanced up at Gu Zhou. Sensing the coldness radiating from him, she couldn't help but shiver.

By her side, Su Yan was staring at Gu Zhou in shock, his lips pressed together. He had made a mistake. He had never expected Qiao Nian to marry Gu Zhou.

What should he do now?

Su Yan recalled how he had insulted Qiao Nian over and over again. His father had repeatedly exhorted him to get along well with the Gu family, but now, he had offended Qiao Nian.

If Qiao Nian told Gu Zhou what he had said, he would...

Su Yan's face turned paler and paler. He wanted to seize the opportunity to retreat quietly from the scene, but there were many people standing behind him. He had no choice but to stand still.

"Which of you here said that my wife is mentally ill?" Gu Zhou asked coldly.

Zhou Xue had never seen Gu Zhou before, so she naturally didn't know who Gu Zhou was. She only felt that this man had a foul aura around him. Frowning, she stepped forward.

"Don't be fooled by Qiao Nian. She's not a good person at all!" Zhou Xue spoke firmly, "She was really a patient in the mental hospital!"

"Is that so?" Gu Zhou gave Zhou Xue a cold glance, then spoke to Chen Qing, who was standing not far away. "There seems to be something wrong with this lady. Take her away."

"Yes, sir," Chen Qing responded. He walked forward to take Zhou Xue away.

Zhou Xue's expression changed. She said anxiously, "Who are you? Don't touch me!"

As soon as Zhou Xue finished speaking, Chen Qing knocked her out without hesitation. Swiftly, he carried her out of the banquet hall.

When Teacher Liu saw that the troublemaker had left, he smiled at Qiao Nian and said, "That annoying little girl has finally left. The entire hall has finally quietened down."

Everyone thought to themselves, "Of course it's quiet. No one dares to speak!"

Seeing Gu Zhou walk over, Dr. Wang put on a fawning smile and said, "Second Young Master Gu, how do you do!"

Gu Zhou raised his eyebrows slightly. He did not seem to recognize the man in front of him.

"I am Wang Shuo. I thank the Gu family for investing in this research project." Wang Shuo smiled eagerly and extended a hand to Gu Zhou, wanting to shake his hand.

Gu Zhou didn't shake hands with Wang Shuo. Instead, he turned to gaze at Qiao Nian gently, speaking in a low voice. "If you need anything in the future, just ask for my help directly. It's useless to ask these shady people for help. After all, they clearly can't understand people of high intelligence, like you."

Everyone: Do you think we're all dunces?

Wang Shuo's hand hovered awkwardly in midair. He did not dare to retract it.

Teacher Liu agreed with Gu Zhou. He said approvingly, "Nian Nian, if you want to continue studying Chinese medicine, then..."

"Honey, why didn't you just tell me that you wanted to work in a laboratory? We can just build a laboratory." Gu Zhou gazed at Qiao Nian dotingly, his voice gentle.

Hearing Gu Zhou's words, Qiao Nian gave a sweet smile. "Thank you, Hubby."

Gu Zhou then turned to look at Wang Shuo and continued, "I'm sorry, I want to withdraw my investment."

The color on Wang Shuo's face instantly drained away. He felt as if the sky was collapsing!

Qiao Nian, too, was privately stunned. She didn't know why Gu Zhou had changed so much. In the past, Gu Zhou didn't even want to interact much with her.

After a while, Gu Zhou brought Qiao Nian out of the banquet hall. Seeing that Qiao Nian was still holding her PhD diploma, he said, "Your mentor likes you a lot."

"Teacher Liu is a good person." Qiao Nian looked down as she spoke, her voice impassive.

Actually, Teacher Liu was aware that her family had locked her up in the mental hospital on purpose. He would often send her lesson materials, and meticulously answered any questions she had regarding medicine.

Gu Zhou had asked other people to investigate the relationship between Qiao Nian and Teacher Liu. Seeing that they had nothing to do with the rest of those people, he was relieved.

“Can you treat my illness?” Gu Zhou asked calmly, his arm still around Qiao Nian’s waist.

“Yes, I can try.” Thinking about Gu Zhou’s illness, Qiao Nian said thoughtfully, “Gu Zhou, when do you plan to divorce me?”

The flirtatious atmosphere between the two of them instantly vanished. A gust of wind blew, causing Qiao Nian to feel a little cold.

Qiao Nian did not receive any response from Gu Zhou. She smiled and said to him, “Don’t worry, I’ll continue to treat your illness after the divorce.”

“Divorce?” Gu Zhou gave Qiao Nian a cold look, his eyes filled with ice. “I will never divorce you!”

Qiao Nian stopped in her tracks and turned to look at Gu Zhou, blinking in confusion.

Under the silvery moonlight, her small face looked even fairer.

Qiao Nian’s lips parted slightly in confusion. “Why?”

Chapter 32: Not an Outsider!

Qiao Nian felt that something was wrong. Shouldn’t Gu Zhou be eager to divorce her?

Just then, Lin Nan walked over with a folder in his hand. He greeted politely, “Second Young Master, Second Young Madam.”

“Secretary Lin.” Seeing that Lin Nan was hesitating to speak, Qiao Nian prepared to find an excuse to leave.

“Just say it here!” Gu Zhou gave Qiao Nian a meaningful look, then looked toward Lin Nan calmly. “She is not an outsider.”

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou with a complicated expression, frowning slightly. She stood there with her head lowered, trying to reduce her presence as much as possible.

"I've withdrawn the investment in Wang Shuo's company. Second Young Master, I've bought that new medical company too. The renovations will start tomorrow," Lin Nan said respectfully.

At Lin Nan's words, Gu Zhou nodded with satisfaction. He turned to Qiao Nian and said, "Would you like to visit the research company tomorrow?"

Qiao Nian nodded blankly. The more she spent time with Gu Zhou, the more she found herself puzzled by him.

When they returned to the house at night, Gu Zhou did not request for Qiao Nian to sleep with him. Qiao Nian privately heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly ran back to her room.

Qiao Nian lounged lazily on the bed after taking a shower. When she thought of Gu Zhou's strange behavior tonight, she couldn't help but frown. She knew that no matter what she asked, Gu Zhou wouldn't say anything if he didn't want to.

The next day, Qiao Nian was reading a book on medicine at home. When she heard from Butler Zhao that Matriarch Gu had returned, she closed the book and walked downstairs.

"My darling girl, you're finally here." Matriarch Gu smiled at Qiao Nian and said gently, "I have something to tell you."

Qiao Nian smiled and nodded.

"Today is Madam Shen's 70th birthday. Come with me to her birthday banquet. I've already prepared the birthday gift for you!" Matriarch Gu smiled at Qiao Nian. In a tone that left no room for argument, she said, "I'll bring you to select a gown first, then bring you to the stylist. Then, you'll be able to visit the Shen family tonight."

The Shen family?

Qiao Nian lowered her gaze. Could it be Shen Yue's family?

That night five years ago, when she was in a daze, the person supporting her seemed to have met Shen Yue along the way.

Qiao Nian had asked someone to contact Shen Yue in the past, but Shen Yue seemed to have vanished into thin air, leaving no trace behind.

How odd.

Both Li Chun and Shen Yue had disappeared after that incident five years ago.

Li Chun came from an ordinary family. The Qiao family would only need to raise a finger, and Li Chun would naturally be unable to fight back.

But Shen Yue was different. Shen Yue was the eldest daughter of the Shen family. The Qiao family did not have the ability to do anything to Shen Yue. If they did, the Qiao family would have easily been ruined five years ago.

What went wrong?

Qiao Nian's brow furrowed slightly.

"My darling?"

"Grandma." Qiao Nian came back to her senses. With a warm smile on her face, she gazed unblinkingly at Matriarch Gu.

Matriarch Gu grasped Qiao Nian's hand and patted it gently. She said softly, "I know you've never attended such an event before. You must be afraid. But don't worry. With Grandma around, no one can bully you!"

"Thank you, Grandma." Qiao Nian smiled.

Qiao Nian left the house with Matriarch Gu. In the car, she secretly sent a text to Old A, asking him to continue investigating Shen Yue.

In the past, Qiao Nian had attended several banquets with Su Xue. At that time, she was still young, and she had grown up in the countryside. Every time Su Xue tossed her a gown, she would change into it, and that would be all!

After that, she was locked up in the mental hospital, and rarely appeared at any social events.

Last night was her first time attending a school banquet. That banquet was mainly a networking event, so it did have high standards for make-up or style.

However, the Shen family's birthday banquet was different.

Matriarch Gu led Qiao Nian to the store and asked the service staff to help Qiao Nian pick a gown.

Qiao Nian had always been the kind of person who preferred staying at home most of the time. After choosing a dress, she would try it on and buy it if there were no problems.

But today, she couldn't.

When Qiao Nian came out of the fitting room wearing the twentieth dress, she was so exhausted she could have collapsed. She stood in front of the fitting room mirror and looked at herself, not understanding the differences between each of the dresses.

“This one looks good!” Matriarch Gu, who was sitting on the sofa, saw that Qiao Nian was wearing a light blue gown that hugged her waist. The back of the dress extended all the way to her ankles and the front to her knees. It was breathtakingly beautiful. Matriarch Gu said to the service staff, “This one will do!”

Qiao Nian secretly heaved a sigh of relief. She had already been picking a dress for two hours. The morning was almost over.

Smiling, the service staff paid Qiao Nian a few compliments, and didn’t forget to issue the bill.

Matriarch Gu walked in a circle around Qiao Nian. This gown made her look even more elegant, fitting Qiao Nian’s aura perfectly. Matriarch Gu said admiringly, “This gown seems to be tailor-made for you.”

Qiao Nian smiled lightly. Lowering her gaze, she said, “Grandma, may I change out of it now?”

“Alright, you may!” Matriarch Gu nodded in satisfaction.