

## Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 33 - 40

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Chapter 33 Online -

### *Chapter 33: Investigation*

Qiao Nian heaved a sigh of relief and swiftly changed out of her gown.

Initially, Qiao Nian had thought that that would be the end of it. However, by the time afternoon rolled around, she realized that this morning was just the beginning of her preparations for the banquet. Matriarch Gu had hired a makeup artist to help her with her makeup.

Four hours later, Qiao Nian changed into a gown, her makeup immaculate, and made her appearance at the Gu family villa.

Matriarch Gu's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face. Qiao Nian's beautiful eyes were clear and bright, like those of a forest deer, making it impossible for one to look away.

When Qiao Nian appeared at the Shen family's banquet, everyone was stunned.

She looked like a fairy maiden from the heavenly realm, pure and flawless. She was so perfect that no one quite dared to touch her.

Qiao Xin stood next to Su Xue, her hands clenched into fists. Her nails dug into her palms as she glared at Qiao Nian with hatred.

She yearned for Qiao Nian to disappear from this world.

Five years ago, she managed to destroy Qiao Nian after much effort. She didn't expect Qiao Nian to bounce back.

However, she was going to make Qiao Nian hit rock bottom tonight. When Qiao Nian got together with other men at Madam Shen's birthday banquet, she wanted to see if Gu Zhou would still want her!

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Qiao Xin lowered her gaze, worried that others would see the hatred in her eyes. She initially wanted Zhou Xue to do it, but Gu Zhou had sent Zhou Xue to the mental hospital, so Qiao Xin could only get others to help.

Matriarch Gu had brought Qiao Nian to the banquet today to let everyone know that Qiao Nian was now the Second Young Madam of the Gu family. It was also a show of support for Qiao Nian. Matriarch Gu wanted everyone to forget about Qiao Nian's past!

Zhao Qian was wearing a white gown. When she went to pick out a gown today, she saw her great aunt coming out of the dress shop with Qiao Nian.

Zhao Qian recalled that her great aunt used to go with her to pick out dresses in the past. Today, not only did she not do so, but she also did not bring her along to the banquet.

Seeing Matriarch Gu exchange greetings with Matriarch Shen, Zhao Qian obediently walked up to Old Madam Gu and greeted sweetly, "Great Aunt!"

When Matriarch Gu saw Zhao Qian, the smile on her face widened. She said softly, "Qian Qian, you're getting prettier!"

"Thank you for your compliment, Great Aunt!"

Matriarch Gu turned to look at Qiao Nian, her eyes gentle. Speaking in a soft voice, she said, "Go somewhere else and have fun. Call me if you need anything!"

Qiao Nian had initially wanted to leave to ask the other members of the Shen family about Shen Yue anyway, so she nodded in assent.

Matriarch Gu glanced at Zhao Qian and instructed, "Take your Second Sister-in-law somewhere else to play!"

Zhao Qian led Qiao Nian out of the room sullenly. Her face was expressionless as she said, "I've never been here before either. You can hang out here by yourself!"

With that, Zhao Qian left, betraying no emotions.

After leaving, Zhao Qian bumped into her friends. They stood together, chatting and laughing. Zhao Qian secretly kept an eye on Qiao Nian, who was not far away. In the beginning, Qiao Nian stood where she had left her, scrolling through her cell phone. After a while, she went up to the second floor. Seeing that, Zhao Qian began to sneak after her quietly.

In a room beside the bathroom on the second floor.

Zhao Qian hid herself in the room. She pushed the door slightly ajar. From afar, she saw Qiao Nian talking to a man in the bathroom.

Strange.

How could a woman like Qiao Nian be acquainted with other men?

Zhao Qian wanted to move closer and eavesdrop on Qiao Nian's conversation with the man, but she thought that she might expose her identity if she did so. She could only remain hidden where she was.

In the bathroom.

"Doctor Qiao, you and Matriarch Gu..." Shen Mo lowered his gaze, looking at the young lady in front of him. His words were a little hesitant. The news about Qiao Nian had long since spread in their social circle, but he had never believed that she would marry Gu Zhou.

"Young Master Shen, where has your cousin Shen Yue gone?" Qiao Nian could not find out where Shen Yue was. Her only hope was to get information about Shen Yue from Shen Mo.

At Qiao Nian's words, Shen Mo's heart, which had been in his throat, gradually settled back down. Clearing away his private conjectures, he said in a low voice, "She... she went overseas to study."

"Which country is she in? Do you have her contact information?" Qiao Nian asked eagerly. If the Shen family wanted to hide someone, it would be an easy task.

Shen Mo looked at Qiao Nian in confusion. Softly, he asked, "Miss Qiao, you..."

"I would like to consult Shen Yue regarding some matters. I didn't see Miss Shen Yue downstairs just now, so..." Qiao Nian's expression took on a tinge of disappointment as she spoke.

"As you know, I've been trapped in a mental hospital all this time. In the past, I couldn't sneak out of the hospital in case my family found out. This delay has lasted for five years!"

At Qiao Nian's words, Shen Mo frowned slightly and said, "Miss Qiao, don't worry. I'll help you ask."

"Thank you, Young Master Shen."

Shen Mo looked at Qiao Nian's faint smile and the dimples in her cheeks. He could not help but smile in return.. "Doctor Qiao, you're too polite. I still have to thank Doctor Qiao for saving my life back then!"

#### *Chapter 34: Plotted Against*

"That was in the past, Young Master Shen. You shouldn't feel obliged," Qiao Nian said as she tucked her hair behind her ear. She saw someone approaching from afar. "Young Master Shen, please excuse me!"

Shen Mo nodded slightly.

Qiao Nian walked towards the stairs in her high heels. Along the way, she passed by Qiao Xin, but left without even turning to look at her.

Qiao Xin gave Qiao Nian a strange look. She had wanted to speak to Qiao Nian, but seeing Qiao Nian ignore her completely, she couldn't be bothered to speak up. She would just be snubbed anyway.

Qiao Xin walked towards the bathroom. When she saw Shen Mo, she smiled and greeted, "Young Master Shen."

Shen Mo nodded elegantly in response. He walked towards the stairs, his expression blank.

Zhao Qian, who had been hiding in the room, saw that Qiao Nian and Shen Mo had left. Only then did she step out of the room, frowning.

Zhao Qian mused to herself. Shen Mo and Qiao Nian had met up privately, without anyone else knowing. Could it be that they were having an affair?

As she thought about this, Zhao Qian's eyes lit up. If Brother Gu Zhou knew that Qiao Nian was together with another man, he would definitely divorce her. When that happened, she could marry Brother Gu Zhou!

Zhao Qian regretted not taking a photo of Shen Mo and Qiao Nian together. If she had, she could have sent it to Brother Gu Zhou. However, she felt that Qiao Nian would definitely meet Shen Mo again.

Qiao Nian went downstairs. Sitting alone, she began to eat quietly. After a while, her phone buzzed. She unlocked her phone and saw that Old A had sent Shen Yue's information over.

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The information that Old A had found covered all the same bases, but Shen Yue's information was still only from five years ago. In the end, the words "whereabouts unknown" indicated the time she had disappeared.

Frustrated, Qiao Nian took a sip of her wine, then calmed down. Her only hope was with Shen Mo.

After a while, a maid passed by Qiao Nian with a tray of drinks and said in a low voice, "Young Master Shen is waiting for you by the pool!"

Qiao Nian glanced at the maid's retreating back. She stepped out of the villa.

After leaving the villa, Qiao Nian felt that the whole world had become much quieter. At long last, she no longer needed to listen to the cordial yet wholly insincere conversation of the people inside the house.

The Shen family's garden was quite big. If Qiao Nian hadn't asked the servants beforehand, she might have gotten lost.

She walked over to the pool. Seeing that there was no one around, Qiao Nian grew doubtful.

At this moment, a figure walked over from afar. Qiao Nian turned around and saw a dreadful-looking man walking towards her.

"Hey, gorgeous! Are you waiting for me?" The man looked at Qiao Nian lewdly. His Adam's apple bobbed in his throat as he rubbed his hands together. "Don't be shy. Come with me, we'll have fun together!"

Qiao Nian spun around. She was about to leave when she saw a young lady in a gown standing behind her.

The young lady was holding a bat in her hand. Without hesitation, she brought the bat down on Qiao Nian's head.

Did someone set her up?

Qiao Nian was already holding a coma-inducing drug in her hand. Without hesitation, she threw the drug in the girl's face and was about to leave when the man walked up to the girl, grabbing hold of her.

"Miss, what happened? Are you alright?" The man looked at the young lady anxiously.

Qiao Nian immediately turned to walk towards the villa. From afar, she saw many people walking out of the villa. She had no choice but to hide in a dark corner.

Could someone have set her up?

Qiao Nian looked towards the side of the pool. The young lady had thrown herself into the man's arms. The two of them were entangled together in a fit of passion.

Something was wrong.

The drug she gave the girl would only have made her unconscious.

Qiao Nian suddenly recalled that when she left, she had smelled the fragrance of the girl's perfume. It seemed to be mixed with some other scent.

It was a lust drug!

The powdered drug should have been on the gown that the young lady was wearing. The drug would take effect immediately after touching the skin, and someone standing one meter away would also be aroused by the smell.

If Qiao Nian wasn't wrong, someone must have invited the young lady and the man to the pool at the same time. If Qiao Nian had smelled the scent of love powder, she might be locked in an embrace with the two of them now.

What a vicious scheme!

Qiao Nian's gaze fell on the group of people coming out of the villa. Zhao Qian was at the front, Qiao Xin was at the back, and there were a few socialites in between that Qiao Nian didn't recognize.

Qiao Nian's expression darkened. She took out her cell phone and took a photo of the six of them. It must have been one of them who had planned this.

Qiao Xin, Zhao Qian, and the others walked to the pool, only to glimpse the young lady and the man having sex.

"Ah!"

Zhao Qian's scream rang out, frightening away all the birds in the garden.

"Don't scream!" Qiao Xin covered Zhao Qian's mouth and said softly, "Right now, we should pretend that we didn't see anything. Let's get out of here!"

Zhao Qian nodded, dazed.. Just as she was about to leave, she saw many servants running over towards them. Her expression instantly turned ugly!

*Chapter 35: Framed*

“What should we do? Someone’s coming!” Zhao Qian was at her wits’ end. Although she had meant no harm, if others found out that Miss Shen Xing was fooling around with a man in public, Shen Xing would definitely bear a grudge against her. So would the entire Shen family.

A trace of panic flashed in Qiao Xin’s eyes. She had initially thought that Qiao Nian would also be present, but contrary to her expectations, there was only Shen Xing, together with a wretched man. This was terrible. If Matriarch Shen knew that Qiao Xin had caused Shen Xing to ruin her purity in front of everyone, then the Qiao family...

This wouldn’t do.

She could not allow the Qiao family to fall into danger.

Seeing a socialite taking out her phone to record the scene, Qiao Xin seemed to have thought of something. She turned to leave, but saw Qiao Nian looking at her meaningfully from not far away.

Qiao Xin quickly looked away, not daring to meet Qiao Nian’s eyes. Slowly, she pressed her slender fingers to her temple and collapsed to the ground weakly, pretending to faint.

Zhao Qian had wanted to ask Qiao Xin for help. Seeing Qiao Xin faint, she hurriedly shouted, “Qiao Xin! Qiao Xin, what’s wrong? Wake up!”

When the socialite heard Zhao Qian’s words, she turned to look at Qiao Xin, who was now lying on the ground. Just as she was about to speak, a servant hurried over.

“What happened?” Butler Shen looked at Qiao Xin, lying prone on the ground. Just as he finished speaking, he heard the sound of making love from not far away. He looked over and saw his family’s Third Young Mistress sitting naked on a man, bouncing up and down.

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“Miss!” At this moment, Butler Shen had no time to pay any attention to the person lying on the ground. He quickly ran toward the two people locked in an embrace on the lawn. When he saw that his family’s Young Mistress was completely naked, his expression instantly soured. He immediately took off his suit jacket, draping it on Shen Xing’s body.

“Go away!” Shen Xing was already wholly under the control of the lust drug. She pushed away Butler Shen, who was trying to pull her off the man, and flung away the suit jacket. She then threw herself onto the man in excitement.

Butler Shen had no choice but to knock Shen Xing out and forcibly take her away.

“What’s going on here?” Along with many others, Matriarch Shen rushed to the scene. When she saw Shen Xing in Butler Shen’s arms, her gaze landed on Shen Xing’s bare legs. In that instant, she understood everything. She shouted sternly, “Butler, what’s going on?”

Matriarch Shen was known for being strict with her children. However, on this special day, her granddaughter actually had sex in front of everyone. How could she tolerate this!

Matriarch Shen gripped her walking stick tightly. In order to protect the Shen family’s reputation, she could only let Shen Xing suffer.

“Wake her up!” Matriarch Shen pointed at Shen Xing and said furiously, “And that man, bring him over!”

Butler Shen splashed pool water on Shen Xing, waking her up from her coma. He then tied the man up and threw him in front of Matriarch Shen.

“Ah!” When Shen Xing woke up, she discovered that she was only wearing a suit jacket. The suit jacket barely covered her thighs. If she moved slightly, she would be exposed in public.

She clutched at the jacket in a panic, her face red with embarrassment and fear. Shivering, she curled in on herself. Everything that had just happened replayed in her mind.

It was over!

It was all over!

Shen Xing drew a cold breath. How could she be so desperately eager to be with a man like Ah San?

No, she couldn’t possibly be so wanton.

Shen Xing suddenly remembered that Qiao Nian had sprinkled some powder on her earlier. Her eyes lit up and she immediately shouted, “Grandma, please save me! I’ve fallen into someone’s trap!”



When the onlookers heard Shen Xing's words, they all expressed their disbelief. One by one, they began to mutter softly.

"I didn't expect Young Mistress Shen to be so uninhibited."

"Who knew? Young Mistress Shen's amorousness has truly broadened my horizons!"

"I heard that it was Young Mistress Shen who pounced on the servant. That poor servant. He might lose his job because of Miss Shen."

...

Matriarch Shen had already thought of how to punish Shen Xing. However, when she heard Shen Xing's words, her eyes flickered.

Ever since she was a child, Shen Xing had grown up by Matriarch Shen's side. Although Shen Xing was arrogant and willful, she would never do such an outrageous thing.

"Tell me, what really happened?" Hearing the discussion of the surrounding onlookers, Matriarch Shen spoke sternly, her eyes as cold as ice.

Qiao Nian stepped in slowly from the other side. She looked at Qiao Xin, who was still lying on the ground, and casually stepped on Qiao Xin's hand. Seeing that Qiao Xin remained unmoving, she stepped again on the back of Qiao Xin's hand, her expression blank. Qiao Nian thought to herself, "Let's see who's better at acting!"

"Grandma, you have to uphold justice for me!" With tears running down her face, Shen Xing pointed at Qiao Nian in the crowd, shouting loudly. "It's Qiao Nian! She's the one who wants to harm me!"

Matriarch Gu was standing beside Matriarch Shen. At Shen Xing's words, her expression immediately soured.. Without waiting for Matriarch Shen to speak, she said, "Miss Shen, you have to take responsibility for your words. My granddaughter-in-law would never do something so despicable!"

### *Chapter 36: Outrageous*

Matriarch Shen and Matriarch Gu had always been close. At Matriarch Gu's words, Matriarch Shen's expression turned ugly as well.

Shen Xing stood rooted to the spot, stunned. Her face was extremely pale, and her lips were trembling. She swallowed nervously.

What was Matriarch Gu trying to say? Was she trying to say that she was framing Qiao Nian?

Shen Xing was about to take a step forward, but sensed that any movement would lead to a wardrobe malfunction. She had no choice but to stand on the spot, glaring at Qiao Nian viciously. She had initially wanted to harm Qiao Nian, but she had never expected that she herself would end up getting into trouble!

She knew very well that if she didn't cast the blame on Qiao Nian, her future would be ruined.

"Qiao Nian, are you the one who drugged me? If you have any courage at all, then step forward!" Shen Xing yelled. She was determined to make sure that Qiao Nian was utterly destroyed. If she couldn't ruin Qiao Nian, then her name wasn't Shen Xing.

Once again, everyone's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face. There was no one present who didn't know who Qiao Nian was. The moment Qiao Nian made her appearance at the banquet, she immediately became familiar to everyone present.

Qiao Nian stood there calmly, her lips pursed into a straight line. Looking at Shen Xing coldly, Qiao Nian began to walk towards her. Wherever she walked, the crowd parted automatically.

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Qiao Nian met Shen Xing's resentful gaze fearlessly, her red lips curving upwards. It was as though she was telling Shen Xing that if she committed any more unjust acts, she would bring about her own destruction!

Shen Xing looked into Qiao Nian's eyes, and a tinge of panic flashed through her mind. She gripped the sleeves of the suit jacket uneasily, her heart beating wildly.

At this moment, Matriarch Shen's eldest son, Shen Ming, arrived at the scene as well. Shen Ming was Shen Xing's biological father.

Shen Ming stood rooted to the ground. Behind his gold-rimmed glasses, his dark eyes were filled with shock. He had no idea how to react.

That was his youngest daughter. She had been pampered and spoiled ever since she was young, but he never expected Shen Xing to do something so shameless in public.

In Shen Ming's pocket, his right hand clenched into a tight fist. He willed himself not to explode.

Shen Xing saw that her father was at the scene as well. She had been on the verge of breaking down, but now her emotions quietened. Her tears fell uncontrollably, glittering strangely under the streetlights.

“Father.” Shen Xing gripped the suit tightly, still uneasy. The suit had been given to her by Butler Shen. Without Butler Shen’s help, she could only stand there naked.

The socialites who were usually on good terms with Shen Xing silently distanced themselves from her. They were afraid that they would be labeled as Shen Xing’s good friend. If their reputations were affected by any gossip related to Shen Xing, it would be difficult for them to get married in the future.

Because of Shen Ming’s arrival, the surrounding people no longer dared to gossip carelessly. After all, the status of the Shen family was clear to everyone. Who would dare to challenge the Shen family? If they did, it would be impossible to even remain in An City.

“What on earth did you do?!” Shen Ming’s voice trembled with rage. He had never expected Shen Xing to do something so despicable.

Shen Xing looked at her father as though she was looking at her life savior. Tears of grievance fell as she said, “Father... it... it was Qiao Nian who set me up!”

Shen Xing’s words were like an explosive bomb, causing everyone to be dazed with shock. All the onlookers turned to look at Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian’s expression was calm. She stood there nonchalantly, as though she were a lotus flower which had sprouted from mud, yet remained wholly untainted. It was as if everything happening around her had nothing to do with her.

Shen Ming and Matriarch Shen turned to look at Qiao Nian, their twin glares like a pair of sharp swords.

Qiao Nian’s eyes turned cold. It seemed like the Shen family wanted her to be a scapegoat in order to clear Shen Xing’s name.

Following the other gentlemen, Su Yan arrived at the scene and saw Qiao Xin sitting at the side, her face pale. He walked towards her and asked worriedly, “Xin Xin, what’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?”

Qiao Xin looked up and shook her head gently. She turned to look at Qiao Nian, who was standing in the middle of the crowd some distance away. Adding fuel to the fire, Qiao Xin said, “Sister is in big trouble. Shen Xing doesn’t seem to like her at all.”

Before Su Yan arrived, he had already seen the comments in the group chat about how Qiao Nian had caused Shen Xing to lose her virginity. Now that he heard Qiao Nian's words, he was even more certain that Qiao Nian was indeed the culprit.

Fortunately for him, he didn't get together with Qiao Nian back then. What a vicious woman!

Su Yan glanced at Qiao Nian. She still looked pure and innocent. Looking at her face, he felt nauseous.

"Father," Shen Xing sobbed. "You have to believe me... It really was Qiao Nian. I..." Shen Xing cried until she was out of breath, but did not forget to direct blame.

Shen Ming looked at Shen Xing, who was sobbing heart-wrenchingly. Shen Xing had been born in her parents' later years, and Shen Ming had always doted on her the most. He looked toward Qiao Nian furiously and shouted, "Qiao Nian!"

Matriarch Gu looked at Qiao Nian worriedly. She stepped forward and said, "I refuse to believe that my granddaughter-in-law could be someone so despicable!"

Shen Xing could no longer care about her status as a socialite.. She took a step forward and pointed at Qiao Nian. "She's escaped from the mental hospital!"

### *Chapter 37: Refutation*

The mental hospital?

The onlookers were stunned.

Even Matriarch Gu was stunned. She would never believe that her darling child had come out of a mental hospital. She quickly said, "Miss Shen, you're clearly in the wrong, yet you still want to drag my granddaughter-in-law into this. When we arrived, Qiao Nian wasn't even here!"

As soon as Matriarch Gu said this, the people who had suspected that Qiao Nian was the culprit instantly fell silent. Indeed, they hadn't seen Qiao Nian.

"No, it's not like that at all!" Shen Xing screamed like a shrew, her hair disheveled. "Qiao Nian drugged me. She's the one who caused me to end up like this!"

Glaring daggers at Qiao Nian, Shen Xing roared hysterically, "You're a lunatic. You killed your good friend Li Chun and caused my sister to disappear off the face of the earth. Now, you're even trying to harm me! You're a demon from hell. You deserve to die and go to the eighteenth level of hell!"

Everyone looked at Qiao Nian doubtfully, narrowing their eyes. Qiao Nian looked like a fairy maiden, innocent and gentle. At the thought that she could have killed someone in the past, they couldn't help but take a step back in fear.

Li Chun was dead?

Shen Yue was missing?

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Qiao Nian's face was expressionless, but her heart was already surging with emotions. She had never managed to find Li Chun. Why did Shen Xing say that Li Chun was dead?

Qiao Nian walked gracefully to Shen Xing. Her gaze finally landed on the adulterer. She asked curiously, "Miss Shen, who is this person?"

Hearing Qiao Nian's voice, everyone's gaze landed on the adulterer. Previously, they had only wanted to watch the show, and had completely forgotten about the adulterer.

"Isn't he the Shen family's gardener?" A socialite who was not on good terms with Shen Xing said bluntly.

"Oh, I see. So he's the gardener of the Shen family," Qiao Nian said casually, her beautiful eyes shining with a strange light. There was an aura of power around her. "This is my first time coming to the Shen family. How did I collude with the gardener of the Shen family and let him ruin Miss Shen's innocence?"

She was clearly only a young lady in her twenties, but her aura was not in any way weaker than that of Shen Ming, who had been in the business world for thirty years.

Qiao Nian's casual words easily extricated herself from Shen Xing's accusations. There wasn't a single person present who didn't admire Qiao Nian.

Seeing the challenge in Qiao Nian's eyes, Shen Ming walked in front of her and questioned, "Aren't you a sharp-tongued girl? You've been plotting behind our backs—there's no way you would admit to your deeds out loud!"

Qiao Nian hadn't wanted to continue pursuing the matter, but after hearing Shen Ming's words, she knew that Shen Ming was trying to smear her reputation on purpose.

Her beautiful eyes narrowed slightly as she raised her brows and retorted, "You're spouting nonsense without any evidence. Shen Xing, let me ask you. When did I drug you?"

Before Shen Xing could speak, Qiao Nian continued, "I didn't speak to you the entire night. How could you have fallen into my trap?"

At this moment, a man hurried over from afar. It was none other than Shen Mo.

Shen Mo had been helping Qiao Nian investigate Shen Yue's whereabouts. When he sneaked out of Shen Ming's office, he saw that there was no one left in the hall.

Shen Mo took out his phone and saw that the WeChat group chat was already in an uproar. He could hear Shen Xing accusing Qiao Nian from afar. He could not help but frown.

Shen Mo walked up to Qiao Nian and shielded her behind him. He said, "Uncle, Miss Qiao is not that kind of person!"

With the appearance of Shen Mo, those who initially believed in Qiao Nian's innocence began to doubt her as well. Qiao Nian had said that she wasn't familiar with the Shen family. Wasn't this a direct contradiction?

Shen Ming was already very angry. He looked at Shen Mo with a surly expression and raised his hand to slap Shen Mo. However, Shen Mo dodged the blow.

"Uncle, let's call the police!" Shen Mo said without changing his expression. He had faith that Qiao Nian was not that kind of person.

Shen Ming found himself at a disadvantage. Even though Shen Xing's reputation had been completely ruined, he was still worried that the Shen family's reputation would be ruined as well. He shouted sternly, "Shen Mo, how dare you help an outsider! Get out of my way! I'm going to make this vicious girl suffer the consequences of her own actions!"

"Mr. Shen sure is arrogant!"

Gu Zhou's deep voice resounded from the back of the crowd, his voice rising slightly.

Upon hearing his voice, everyone was stunned for a moment. They turned their heads and looked over. Most people did not recognize Gu Zhou and began whispering to one another.

Gu Zhou had a hand in his pocket. With two bodyguards behind him, he walked elegantly from the crowd to Shen Ming.

There was a faint coldness at the corner of his lips and his eyes were slightly narrowed. He had a natural sense of alienation and indifference, and his entire body emitted a cold aura.

When Shen Ming saw Gu Zhou, a trace of astonishment flashed across his face. Frowning, he silently took a step back.

Su Yan had coincidentally seen a photograph of Gu Zhou in the past.. Seeing Gu Zhou approach, he knew that this farce would definitely end with the defeat of the Shen family.

*Chapter 38: He Will Protect Her*

Seeing Gu Zhou appear, Qiao Xin shuddered involuntarily.

Su Yan sensed that Qiao Xin wasn't feeling well. He looked at her worriedly and whispered, "Xin Xin, if you're unwell, can I take you to the hospital?"

Su Yan had never been interested in gossip. He felt that he might as well use the time to read more books.

"I... I'm fine," Qiao Xin said gently. How could she leave? She wanted to see Qiao Nian humiliated by Gu Zhou.

Gu Zhou stood next to Qiao Nian. His facial features were well-defined, and he looked extremely distinguished. He raised his chin slightly, like a proud and aloof king.

Someone recognized Gu Zhou and exclaimed, "Isn't this the Second Young Master of the Gu family?"

Everyone gasped and looked at Gu Zhou in disbelief.

"He's not ugly at all!"

"He's so handsome. I want to give birth to his child!"

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"Oh dear, if I had known, I would have married into the Gu family!"

...

The socialites present murmured among themselves.

The Gu family was the most powerful family in An City. No aristocratic family dared to go against the Gu family. Even though it was rumored that Second Young Master Gu was ugly and short-lived, many socialites still volunteered to marry into the Gu family. However, the Gu family did not find any of them suitable.

Everyone stared at Gu Zhou. They knew that Gu Zhou was someone they could not afford to offend.

Gu Zhou's tone seemed to indicate that he disapproved strongly of Shen Ming's actions.

Although everyone knew that Qiao Nian was Gu Zhou's bride, they also knew that the two of them hadn't been married for long. Moreover, some people had heard that Gu Zhou didn't seem to like Qiao Nian. Otherwise, Gu Zhou would be the one bringing Qiao Nian to this banquet.

Qiao Nian stood beside Gu Zhou. Lifting her eyes slightly, she glanced at the cold aura surrounding Gu Zhou. She narrowed her eyes. She was curious about what Gu Zhou intended to do.

"Second Young Master, long time no see," Shen Ming said through gritted teeth. He had wanted to make Qiao Nian take the blame while Gu Zhou wasn't around.

But by the looks of it, this plan would no longer work.

Gu Zhou lifted his eyes and looked at Qiao Nian. The coldness in his aura dissipated to a considerable extent as he said gently, "Nian Nian, you're too good-tempered. That's why you get bullied."

Shen Ming felt like he had been slapped in the face. He felt awkward and helpless, but he couldn't say anything because the Shen family still had to rely on the Gu family.

Matriarch Shen looked at Qiao Nian with a complicated expression, then her gaze fell on Matriarch Gu, who looked gratified. Her heart skipped a beat. She did not expect Gu Zhou to stand on Qiao Nian's side.

Matriarch Shen had already sent people to keep an eye on Gu Zhou and Qiao Nian. The information she received was that Gu Zhou didn't like Qiao Nian, but that didn't seem to be the case now.

Qiao Nian lowered her gaze. Obediently, she gave an affirmative response.

Gu Zhou walked up to Matriarch Shen and Matriarch Gu and asked, "Grandma, Madam Shen, how have you been?"

Matriarch Shen's heart was in her throat. She had been living quite well, but her life would take a turn for the worse very soon.

However, Matriarch Shen still had to follow the rules of etiquette. "Thank you for your concern. I'm fine. I just can't believe that such a thing has happened—what will outsiders think!"



Gu Zhou's cold gaze fell on Shen Ming's face. He continued, "The events today have to be investigated thoroughly. We can't let outsiders make fun of us!"

As Gu Zhou spoke, he gave Lin Nan a look.

Wearing a well-tailored suit, Lin Nan looked around at the entire crowd. With a cold expression, he pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up and said loudly, "Everyone, please don't record any videos or take any photographs. If any videos are leaked tonight, I'm afraid none of you will be able to attend banquets of this kind ever again!"

Most of the guests here today were people with money and status in An City. Hearing Lin Nan's words, they weren't too annoyed and deleted the videos on their phones quietly. As for what they were discussing in the group chat, it hardly mattered anymore. After all, everyone in the group was present today, which meant that this incident would not be leaked to anyone else.

Knowing that this matter would not spread further, Shen Ming secretly heaved a sigh of relief. He did not have the ability to openly threaten those people. Only Gu Zhou had the capability to do such a thing.

Shen Ming looked toward the gardener and asked sternly, "Useless thing, what's your name? Tell me the whole story!"

"My... my name is Sun Jiu," Sun Jiu said shakily. He lowered his head even more, his voice trembling. "Tonight... tonight..."

Before Sun Jiu could finish speaking, Shen Xing spoke impatiently, "Sun Jiu, do think this through carefully. Tell us the truth. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rude!"

When Sun Jiu heard Shen Xing's words, he couldn't help but tremble. He looked at Shen Xing with trepidation and pursed his lips slightly before saying, "M-Miss Qiao gave me money to..."

Upon hearing this, the corners of Shen Xing's lips turned up slightly.. She looked at Qiao Nian with a haughty expression. Her eyes were vicious as she snapped, "Qiao Nian, so it really was you!"

*Chapter 39: Being Taken Advantage Of?*

Lin Nan walked towards Sun Jiu, his expression calm. He gazed at Sun Jiu's face for a long while before he spoke. "Mr. Sun, every word you say will be recorded. Please tell us everything that happened from the beginning. If we find out that you are lying, the consequences..."

Lin Nan paused for a second and pushed his glasses up. He continued, "The last person who lied... his family is already begging on the streets. None of the companies under the Gu family will hire him or any of his family members."

The blood drained from Sun Jiu's face. Most of the companies in Country Z were related to the Gu family. Even those companies who were not would still not hire them out of respect for the Gu family.

Sun Jiu was so frightened that his legs gave way, and he sank to his knees.

Naturally, Shen Xing knew Lin Nan was threatening Sun Jiu. Her heart skipped a beat. If she could not drag Qiao Nian down this time, her reputation would be ruined. However, beyond that, the entire Shen family would definitely become a thorn in the Gu family's side.

If she had known this would happen, she wouldn't have targeted Qiao Nian in the first place.

But it was too late for regrets.

Shen Xing wanted to kick Sun Jiu, who was kneeling beside her, but she was afraid that she would be exposed. She could only stand on the spot and glare at Sun Jiu with a ferocious expression. She said furiously, "I told you to tell the truth. Hurry up!"

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Shen Ming glanced at Shen Xing with a peculiar expression before turning his gaze toward Sun Jiu, who was still kneeling. He had initially planned to make use of this opportunity to get Shen Xing and Sun Jiu engaged. However, it appeared that Sun Jiu wasn't someone who could be placed in a position of importance.

Shen Ming only hoped that this matter would end as soon as possible. Then, he could send Shen Xing overseas and never allow her to return. Thus, he said, "Xing Xing, you tell the story. You're not allowed to lie!"

Shen Xing did not understand her father's good intentions. She continued to glare at Qiao Nian angrily and berated loudly, "Qiao Nian, you're so vicious. I didn't expect you to ruin my reputation. I know you're the Second Young Madam of the Gu family now, but I'd rather die than submit to you!"

Qiao Nian looked away with an impatient expression. She was not the least bit interested in what Shen Xing was saying. She glanced at Shen Xing indifferently and said, "Miss Shen, regarding what has happened tonight, I advise you to think carefully before you speak. Don't let anyone with ulterior motives take advantage of you!"

Shen Xing's heart sank.

Ulterior motives?

Shen Xing subconsciously glanced at Qiao Xin, who was sitting not far away. If Qiao Xin had not told her about those things, she would never have thought of going against Qiao Nian. Moreover, she wouldn't have known that Qiao Nian was the person who had hurt her older sister.

Shen Xing saw that Qiao Xin had her head lowered. She glanced back at Qiao Nian. Qiao Nian's indifferent expression seemed to be giving her one last chance.

Was Qiao Xin trying to harm her?

No, she was Young Mistress Shen. She had never interacted with Qiao Xin at all. Why would Qiao Xin do this to her?

"Miss Shen."

When Shen Xing heard Qiao Nian calling her, she looked toward her, still stunned.

"Miss Shen, your gown today is very unique. There's even a strange smell." Qiao Nian felt that with Shen Xing's pig-like brain, she probably wouldn't be able to figure out what was going on. All Qiao Nian could do was help Shen Xing get there.

Strange smell?

Shen Xing's face turned paler and paler. She swallowed nervously and looked at Qiao Nian in panic. Turning to glance at Qiao Xin not far away, she saw that Qiao Xin was about to leave. Shen Xing shouted, "Qiao Xin, stop right there!"

Due to Shen Xing's warning, Gu Zhou's men immediately stopped Qiao Xin and Su Yan from leaving.

A trace of panic flashed in Qiao Xin's eyes before she reverted back to her gentle and weak facade. Su Yan helped her walk back.

Zhao Qian stood at the side with a stunned expression. She glanced at Qiao Xin, then at Shen Xing who was not far away. Her gaze fell on Shen Xing's gown hidden in the grass, and she cried out in surprise.

Everyone looked at Zhao Qian in confusion.

Seeing that Zhao Qian was hesitating to speak, Matriarch Gu waved at her and asked softly, "Qian Qian, what's wrong? What do you have to say?"

Before Zhao Qian could say anything, Shen Xing shouted at Qiao Xin, "Qiao Xin, get over here! Let me smell you!"

Even though Shen Xing was only wearing a suit jacket, the powerful aura radiating from her was still impossible to overlook. Her legs were tense.

Seeing that Qiao Xin was dawdling on purpose, Shen Xing roared angrily, "Qiao Xin, is your leg broken or what? Why are you walking so slowly? Do you need me to carry you over?"

"Young Mistress Shen, Xin Xin has just fainted. She isn't feeling well right now." Su Yan frowned. He didn't understand why Shen Xing had asked Qiao Xin to go over. He didn't want Xin Xin to get hurt.

Shen Xing had no time to waste on Su Yan. She pulled Qiao Xin over and sniffed her. She frowned, looking at Qiao Xin with a complicated expression.

Qiao Xin coughed lightly and glanced at Shen Xing confusedly, looking as if she were in pain.

#### *Chapter 40: Murderer!*

Shen Xing glared at Qiao Nian angrily. She was almost misled by Qiao Nian. She thought it was Qiao Xin who wanted to harm her. Now that she thought about it, if Qiao Xin had wanted to harm her, why would she use the same perfume as her?

"Qiao Nian, you're clearly the one who gave me the lust drug, yet you still want to implicate others. You're truly shameless!" Shen Xing yelled in exasperation. Previously, she had heard Qiao Xin mention how awful Qiao Nian was. "You killed your good friend and made my sister disappear. Do you think no one knows what you've done?"

Shen Ming was slightly taken aback by Shen Xing's words. He asked in astonishment, "Xing Xing, what did you say? Are you talking about Shen Yue?"

"Dad, Sister went missing because of Qiao Nian!"

As soon as Shen Xing's words fell, chaos erupted.

Everyone looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief. They never thought that this little-known young girl would have so many tricks up her sleeve.

"Where is Shen Yue?" Shen Ming's eyes had turned red, and he was panting heavily. Shen Yue was his most beloved daughter.

Five years ago, Shen Yue had disappeared. He had been searching everywhere but could not find her!

“Miss Shen, I don’t know what you’re talking about. I didn’t kill anyone, and I didn’t kidnap your sister.” Qiao Nian paused, took out her cell phone and played a video.

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The video was of Sun Jiu and Shen Xing trying to harm her.

Qiao Nian looked at the clothes not far away and continued, “Miss Shen, I’ve only given you a slight dose of a coma-inducing drug. There’s definitely some on the outside of your clothes, but the inside of your gown is stained with a lot of lust powder. As long as the police come, they’ll know if I’m right!”

When Butler Shen heard Qiao Nian’s words, he immediately walked to the clothes and sniffed. Then, he nodded at Shen Ming.

“Miss Shen, I only gave you the drug in self-defense. The drug I’ve given you only lasts for a minute, and it will only make you dizzy for a little while,” Qiao Nian said expressionlessly. “The thing that really made you lose your mind was the lust drug in your clothes. I don’t have any enmity with you, and it’s impossible for me to get to your gown before the banquet to add the lust drug. Someone should already have sprinkled it on your gown before you wore it.”

The moment her words fell, everyone got excited.

Qiao Nian’s rebuke was truly amazing.

Gu Zhou gave Qiao Nian an approving look and nodded slightly.

Shen Xing looked at Qiao Nian in frustration. Her face was flushed red as she said angrily, “Since you knew that there was a lust drug in my clothes, why didn’t you tell me?”

Qiao Nian shook her phone and said innocently, “Miss Shen, you wanted to beat me to death with a stick. What should I say to you? I’m not interested in saving someone who wants to kill me!”

Shen Ming was on the verge of collapse. Although his daughter was framed, Shen Xing had already angered the Gu family. He was worried that...

“Enough!” Matriarch Shen snapped. She glared fiercely at Shen Xing. Shen Xing was not as obedient and sensible as Shen Yue. “Miss Qiao, I would like to ask if you know where Shen Yue is?”

When Shen Ming heard Matriarch Shen’s question, he looked toward Qiao Nian in anticipation. He said, “We’ve been looking for Shen Yue for five years, but we couldn’t find her. She met you before she disappeared!”

Five years?

Gu Zhou, who had been standing at the side, frowned imperceptibly. He had previously investigated what happened five years ago and found out that Li Chun and Shen Yue had disappeared.

He had thought that what happened five years ago was just between the two of them, but when he found out that the jade pendant was in Qiao Xin's hands, he didn't dare to jump to conclusions.

"I'm sorry, I've not seen her," Qiao Nian said without hesitation.

Just then, everyone heard Qiao Xin's scream of pain.

"Ah!"

"I'm going to strangle you to death!" Shen Xing clutched at Qiao Xin's neck with both hands, glaring at her with a sinister expression. "I'm going to strangle you to death!"

Shen Xing's terrifying appearance gave Shen Ming a shock. He stepped forward, slapped Shen Xing and said in a rage, "What are you doing?"

Shen Xing was bleeding at the corner of her mouth. She pointed at Qiao Nian and said furiously, "Five years ago, Qiao Nian strangled Li Chun to death like this. Then, she strangled my sister like this!"

At first, everyone had thought that this was just a simple incident of Shen Xing falling into someone's trap. However, they did not expect Li Chun and Shen Yue to be involved. Shen Xing even accused Qiao Nian of being a murderer in front of everyone.

Shen Xing knew that everyone thought that she was a dirty rat that had crawled out of the gutter. All they felt towards her now was disgust and detestation.

But even if her reputation was ruined, she had to find her sister and seek justice for her!

Shen Xing stood up in tears and pointed at Qiao Nian as she sobbed. "It's been five years. Sister and Li Chun have already disappeared for five years. Qiao Nian, you're awful. If you didn't kill them, how could they have vanished from the face of the earth?"

"You killed my sister. For that, I won't let you off.. I'm telling you..." Before Shen Xing could finish her sentence, she blacked out and collapsed.