

## Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 51 - Flaring Up

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Chapter 51 - Flaring Up Online -

### *Chapter 51: Flaring Up*

Her entire body felt weak. Stumbling, she fell backwards.

Gu Zhou had long since sensed that something was wrong with Qiao Nian's expression. He followed behind her.

Seeing that she was about to fall, he quickly stepped forward to support her.

The familiar scent of ambergris wafted towards her. In a daze, she opened her eyes, her gaze landing on the man's face. In a soft voice, she murmured, "Gu Zhou..."

Gu Zhou bent down and picked Qiao Nian up in his arms, bridal style.

Chen Qing, who was standing to the side, was completely stunned.

Didn't the Second Young Master have a phobia of women?

When did he recover from that illness?

Why wasn't he aware?

Gu Zhou took two steps forward. Seeing that Chen Qing was still standing there blankly, he frowned.

"Drive to the hospital!"

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Chen Qing came back to his senses and quickly nodded. "Yes, sir."

Once they got into the car, Gu Zhou's eyes flashed. He ordered, "Head straight home!"

Chen Qing glanced in the rearview mirror. Qiao Nian was in Gu Zhou's arms, and her face was flushed red, as if she had a fever.

Why didn't the Second Young Master ask him to send Qiao Nian to the hospital?

Chen Qing could not figure it out, but he did not dare to ask.

Looking at the woman in his arms, who seemed to be in extreme discomfort, Gu Zhou began to grow anxious as well.

Qiao Nian opened her eyes slowly, her gaze unfocused. She asked, "Gu Zhou, how long will it take to get home?"

Her voice was no longer as cold as it usually was. Instead, it seemed a shade more alluring than usual.

Gu Zhou's expression darkened. He looked up at Chen Qing. "Pull up the rear view mirror. Turn the volume of the music up to the loudest."

Although Chen Qing didn't know what Gu Zhou meant to do, he still obeyed.

Qiao Nian's face grew redder and redder. Her eyes seemed to glaze over as she tossed and turned restlessly in Gu Zhou's arms.

But to Gu Zhou, Qiao Nian seemed to be trying to seduce him.

He lowered his head and glanced at Qiao Nian. Her face was covered in sweat, and there was a unique fragrance surrounding her. He felt as if he had previously smelled this fragrance somewhere, but at that moment, he couldn't remember where.

Qiao Nian reached out and grabbed his tie, her fingers climbing further up. She loosened his tie and casually tossed it aside, then reached out to unbutton his shirt.

Her hand inadvertently touched his skin. Immediately, she felt a chill. This chill was clearly capable of quenching the overwhelming heat in her body.

Qiao Nian sat up, her fingers sliding under Gu Zhou's shirt, which she had begun to unbutton.

Seeing Qiao Nian's bold actions, Gu Zhou's brow furrowed deeper and deeper. When he saw that they had reached home, he immediately took off his suit jacket, covering Qiao Nian with it without hesitation. Then, he carried her into the villa.

When they arrived at his room, Gu Zhou kicked the door open. He lowered Qiao Nian into the bathtub and turned on the showerhead.

The cold water ran down her head and over her entire body. Qiao Nian shivered once from the cold, and found that she was suddenly a lot more awake.

Although the water was a little cold, soaking in it actually helped to relieve her discomfort.

After a long while, Qiao Nian finally opened her eyes. When she saw Gu Zhou leaning against the bathroom door, she gave a sweet smile.

She leaned weakly against the side of the bathtub, her gaze landing on Gu Zhou's face. "Thank you, Young Master Gu, for saving me."

At Qiao Nian's words, Gu Zhou found himself suddenly recalling how she had touched his chest just now. He said expressionlessly, "There's no need to thank me."

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face. She was completely soaked in water. Her evening gown clung to her body, and her long hair clung to her back. She made a charming picture.

"Do you still want to seek revenge?"

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou's words, she laughed.

How could the enmity between her and the Qiao family be resolved so easily?

Of course, she wanted revenge, but beyond that, she wanted to ruin them.

Qiao Nian naturally wouldn't tell him. Sensing that the heat in her body had dissipated, she looked toward Gu Zhou helplessly. "Young Master Gu, I should be able to get up now."

Gu Zhou walked up to Qiao Nian and bent down to pick her up. She was still soaked.

Qiao Nian obediently wrapped her arms around Gu Zhou's neck.. If she hadn't sealed her acupoints beforehand, she wouldn't have been so physically weak right now.

*Chapter 52: I'm Not the Antidote!*

Being in such close contact with Gu Zhou, Qiao Nian had to tip her head back to look at his face. He seemed to be the most perfect masterpiece crafted in heaven. His facial features were well-defined, and his eyes were two deep pools. Coupled with his cool, stoic aura, she couldn't help but want to throw herself at him.

At this moment, Qiao Nian felt extremely shallow. She only cared about his looks.

Qiao Nian licked her lips.

At this moment, Gu Zhou let go of her in one swift motion.

“Plop!”

The water in the bathtub splashed across the floor.

Qiao Nian awkwardly sat up straight and coughed twice. Only then did she manage to get rid of the water stuck in her throat. She was much more awake now.

“Gu Zhou!” Qiao Nian leaned against the side of the bathtub, feeling as if she was barely alive. She said unhappily, “Did you need to do that? You’re a man, and I’m not ugly. You won’t lose out.”

Gu Zhou’s expression darkened. He looked down commandingly at Qiao Nian and said, “I’m a human being, not the antidote!”

“When a man is in bed, isn’t...” Before Qiao Nian finished her sentence, she remembered what had happened five years ago. The light in her eyes dimmed. “Bring me my silver needles.”

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Weakly, Qiao Nian sank into the bathtub, letting the water run over her face.

Gu Zhou grabbed Qiao Nian’s head and pulled her towards the surface. “Are you sure you can do this?”

“Where are the silver needles?” Qiao Nian smiled. “Or are you willing to be the antidote?”

Gu Zhou hesitated for a moment, looking at Qiao Nian suspiciously. “Are you sure you can do it now?”

“Yes.” Qiao Nian’s voice was just a shade alluring. She lay her head against the side of the bathtub and smiled at Gu Zhou. “They’re in the drawer of the dressing table.”

Gu Zhou turned around and walked to the dressing table. He pulled open the drawer and saw a wooden box engraved with flowers. When he opened the box, he saw the silver needles.

He was about to enter the bathroom when the door to the room opened.

Gu Zhou looked over coldly, frowning.

Jiang Yue walked in with a pot. When she saw Gu Zhou, her face flushed red uncontrollably. Overcome by shyness, she lowered her gaze.

He seemed to be soaked. His hair was dripping with water. The buttons on his shirt were unbuttoned slightly, and she could just make out the drops of water on his chest.

Jiang Yue lowered her head, trying hard to get her breathing and her state of mind under control. She was afraid that she would not be able to hold back and would throw herself at Gu Zhou.

A trace of ice flashed in Gu Zhou's eyes as he said coldly, "Why are you here?"

Hearing Gu Zhou's cold voice, Jiang Yue bit her lip. After some hesitation, she looked up at Gu Zhou and said apologetically, "I heard from the servants that Second Sister-in-law seemed to be drunk, so I made some hangover stew and brought it over. I didn't expect to disturb you and Second Sister-in-law. I'm really sorry!"

Jiang Yue didn't see Qiao Nian around, so she was trying to sound out where she could be.

"You are disturbing us." Gu Zhou glanced coldly at Jiang Yue, his irritation obvious. "Since you knew you would disturb us, why did you come?"

Just as Jiang Yue was about to reply, a seductive voice came from the bathroom.

"Gu Zhou, have you found it?"

Jiang Yue turned to look towards the bathroom. This voice was different from how Qiao Nian usually spoke.

Could Qiao Nian and Gu Zhou have already...

Jiang Yue turned pale in shock. Her hands trembled, and the bowl of hangover soup slipped from her grip, spilling all over the floor.

"I'm sorry." While speaking, Jiang Yue bent down to pick up the soup bowl.

"Get out." Gu Zhou's expression was frigid as he frowned at Jiang Yue. "I remember explicitly saying that no woman is allowed to enter the second floor."

Jiang Yue bit her lip, tears swirling in her eyes.

Wasn't he afraid of women?

Why did he carry Qiao Nian into the villa?

She had been by his side for so long. Why couldn't he give her just another glance?

Jiang Yue stood up unwillingly and turned to leave, not forgetting to close the door.

Gu Zhou walked to the door and locked it without hesitation, then walked back to the bathroom.

When he stepped into the bathroom, he saw Qiao Nian leaning against the bathtub, looking at him innocently.

*Chapter 53: I've Gotten Married!*

Her eyes were like those of a nervous little deer, innocently confused. It made one's heart race.

"I've brought you the silver needles." Gu Zhou walked over to Qiao Nian and handed her the silver needles.

Qiao Nian looked up at Gu Zhou, her gaze gradually losing focus. Slowly, she closed her eyes and fell asleep.

Seeing that Qiao Nian looked a little strange, Gu Zhou began to lift her out of the bathtub. However, he soon discovered that Qiao Nian was burning hot. She seemed to be having a fever.

Gu Zhou hurriedly picked up a towel and wrapped it around Qiao Nian before lifting her up, then carried her to the bed.

Carefully, he placed Qiao Nian on the bed. After some hesitation, he called his attending doctor, Lu Yan.

When Lu Yan walked into the bedroom, he saw that the floor was covered in water. Seeing that Gu Zhou was drenched as well, he almost fell to the ground in shock.

What was going on?

Wasn't Gu Zhou afraid of women?

Was he actually having fun with a woman?

Had they been fooling around in the shower?

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Looking towards Gu Zhou, Lu Yan gave him a friendly reminder. "Ah Zhou, you should be wearing a bathrobe."

Gu Zhou frowned slightly, looking at Lu Yan in confusion.

“If you’re fooling around in the shower, shouldn’t you be wearing a bathrobe?”

As Lu Yan spoke, he pictured Gu Zhou together with a mysterious woman in the bathroom. He couldn’t help but smile.

“Ah Zhou, don’t tell me you’ve gotten rid of that young lady?” Lu Yan smiled at Gu Zhou, his eyebrows raised. He said maliciously, “You have to learn to be gentle with the fairer sex...”

Upon hearing Lu Yan’s words, Gu Zhou frowned. “What nonsense are you spouting? Come here! Treat her!”

Lu Yan walked to the bed and saw a young lady with a towel wrapped around her. The young lady’s hair was wet and she was soaked to the bone. She looked quite like a sleeping beauty from a fairy tale.

Lu Yan looked at the young lady. She looked a little familiar, but he didn’t think he had seen her before. After all, no one would forget a good-looking young lady.

“You must have been ramping it up. In the future, you shouldn’t make the young lady faint.” Lu Yan took out his medicine box and began to examine the patient.

“Put away your dirty thoughts.” Gu Zhou sat at the side coldly, looking at Lu Yan with disdain.

“What do you mean by dirty? How can the relationship between a man and a woman be considered dirty? It’s clearly called making love!” Lu Yan glanced at Gu Zhou and teased, “I remember in the past, if a young lady happened to brush your hand, you would wash your hands for nearly half an hour. Have you recovered from your phobia of women?”

Upon hearing Lu Yan’s words, Gu Zhou recalled the incidents in the past. He really didn’t like being touched by women.

However, Qiao Nian was an exception.

“I’ve gotten married,” Gu Zhou said calmly.

When Lu Yan heard this, he was astonished.

He had thought that Gu Zhou would be alone and single for the rest of his life.

He had never expected Gu Zhou to get married before him.

It took him a long time to recover from the shock.

“Did your grandmother force you to get married?” Lu Yan felt that only Grandma Gu had the ability to force Gu Zhou to get married.

“You’re spouting quite a bit of nonsense today.” Gu Zhou looked up at Lu Yan, frowning.

“By the way, who are you married to?” Lu Yan asked as he finished examining Qiao Nian’s health. He began to put her on an IV drip.

“The lady on the bed.”

Lu Yan glanced at the young lady on the bed, then looked at Gu Zhou with a sly smile.

“Have you fallen for her looks?”

Without waiting for Gu Zhou to reply, Lu Yan continued, “I think you’re quite compatible with her. The two of you have quite compatible good looks too!”

Upon hearing Lu Yan’s words, Gu Zhou snapped, “When will she wake up?”

“She’ll wake up around the second half of the night. By then, her fever should have subsided,” Lu Yan said with a serious expression.

“I don’t want anyone else to know about what happened today,” Gu Zhou said, his face blank.

“Why not? Marriage is a joyous occasion.” Lu Yan did not see Gu Zhou’s face turn darker and darker, and continued to dance on the fine line between life and death. “If you ask me, I think you should announce your marriage to the public. That way, you can let the outside world know that the Second Young Master Gu is very handsome, and not the ugly wretch he’s rumored to be!”

“Do you still remember the way home?”

Hearing Gu Zhou’s words, Lu Yan was stunned. It wasn’t as if he had a poor sense of direction. How could he not know the way home?

However, in the next moment, Lu Yan realized that Gu Zhou was commanding him to leave.

#### *Chapter 54: How Humiliating*

Lu Yan pursed his lips unhappily. He glanced at Gu Zhou, then got up and left reluctantly with his bag. He had wanted to hear more gossip.

After Lu Yan left the room, Gu Zhou walked back to the bed and looked down at the girl lying there.

Perhaps it was because of her fever, but her face was flushed red, and her breathing had grown shallower. She was frowning slightly, as if she were having a nightmare.

After Gu Zhou left the room, he turned and entered the study. Seeing Chen Qing enter, he asked solemnly, "Have you found any information on Qiao Nian?"

"We've already investigated thoroughly!" Chen Qing said with a serious expression. He handed the documents he had been holding to Gu Zhou and stepped to the side. "When Madam was born, the Qiao family sent her to live in the mountains. She was raised by Qiao Shan's younger sister, Qiao Ling.

"When Madam was ten, Qiao Ling got into a car accident, and Madam was sent to live in a nunnery. When she turned seventeen, she got into university, and only then was she sent back to live with the Qiao family."

Gu Zhou's expression darkened a little. Spinning a fountain pen in his hand, he said thoughtfully, "She didn't grow up with the Qiao family. I guess the Qiao family doesn't know everything about her either."

"Madam was sent to a mental hospital because she burned down a school building in university," Chen Qing said solemnly.

"Mental? Do you think she's mentally ill?" Gu Zhou asked in reply.

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Chen Qing recalled how magnificent Qiao Nian had been when she dealt with Zheng He. He said earnestly, "No, I don't think so. I believe that the Qiao family is slandering Madam."

Hearing Chen Qing's words, Gu Zhou narrowed his phoenix-like eyes. He recalled the degrading words they had spoken about Qiao Nian when he was at the Qiao family villa. Frustration flashed across his face.

Gu Zhou gripped the documents in his hand tightly. "She can control a snake without breaking a sweat. She's definitely not as simple as an ordinary person. She must have undergone professional training. We have to investigate this matter thoroughly."

Chen Qing drew a sharp breath. Now, he understood why the Second Young Master had chosen not to stand up for Qiao Nian directly when others were bullying her at the banquet.

Now, it seemed that it was already quite fortunate for them that Madam had chosen not to retaliate.

Gu Zhou looked at the documents in his hand. They contained no additional useful information. He looked up at Chen Qing and continued, "Continue your investigation!"

"Yes, sir."

After Chen Qing left, Gu Zhou's gaze fell on the documents. His brow furrowed deeper and deeper.

Was Qiao Nian's marriage into his family a mere coincidence, or did she have other motives?

He didn't know if he should believe Qiao Nian.

The only thing he was certain of right now was that Qiao Nian's medical skills were excellent. She seemed to be truly capable of treating his illness.

But Gu Zhou didn't dare to take the risk. He was afraid that Qiao Nian had been sent here by those people. If his gamble failed, there would be no coming back from that mistake.

The next morning, sunlight filtered through the windows, slanting across the bed.

Qiao Nian opened her eyes dazedly. The sun was a little glaring, and she burrowed under the blankets.

She was so thirsty.

Qiao Nian sat up reluctantly. Just as she was about to get out of bed, she heard a familiar voice.

"You're awake. Are you feeling better?" Sitting on the sofa, Gu Zhou put down the documents in his hand and looked at Qiao Nian intently.

The man's voice was low and slightly rough, and was as pleasant to the ear as ever.

Qiao Nian froze for a moment. Only then did she remember what had happened last night. She seemed to have fallen asleep in the bathtub, but she wasn't aware of anything that had happened from then on.

However, she seemed to remember practically throwing herself at Gu Zhou.

This was simply too humiliating!

Her illustrious reputation had been ruined just like that!

The next time she met Shen Xing, she would never let her off.

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou suspiciously. Seeing that he was wearing a bathrobe, her brow furrowed deeper and deeper.

“I’m much better.” Confusion was written all over Qiao Nian’s pretty face. She hesitated, caught in a dilemma over whether to ask Gu Zhou about what had happened last night.

“Qiao Xin gave you a call.” Gu Zhou glanced at the phone beside Qiao Nian’s pillow.

Qiao Xin had actually dared to call her.. It seemed that Qiao Xin was becoming much bolder.

*Chapter 55: A Match Made in Heaven*

Just as Qiao Nian was thinking about how she should bully Qiao Xin, she heard Gu Zhou speak.

“That friend of mine will be coming over tonight.”

Qiao Nian’s heart skipped a beat, but her expression remained calm. She tried to control her breathing and nodded.

The truth was finally about to be revealed.

She had finally found that person!

“Gu Zhou.” Guessing that Gu Zhou wasn’t the kind of person who would take advantage of anyone, Qiao Nian looked at him gratefully. “Thank you for last night.”

Gu Zhou did not reply. He walked towards the door with several documents in his hand. When he reached the door, he seemed to remember something and glanced back at Qiao Nian.

“Come down for breakfast after you’ve washed up.”

With that, Gu Zhou left without looking back.

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Qiao Nian washed up and went downstairs. From afar, she saw Matriarch Gu sitting on the sofa, making a video call.

When Matriarch Gu heard Qiao Nian's movements, she quickly bid goodbye to the person on the phone and hurriedly hung up the video call.

"Oh, my darling girl, you're finally awake." Matriarch Gu cast her phone aside and stood up to walk over to Qiao Nian. Her heart ached when she saw how pale Qiao Nian's face was. "I heard from Ah Zhou that you had a fever last night. How do you feel now? Are you feeling better?"

"Thank you for your concern, Grandma. I'm already much better." Qiao Nian said obediently, smiling at Matriarch Gu.

Seeing how sweet and obedient Qiao Nian was, Matriarch Gu's heart melted. Holding on to Qiao Nian's hand, she walked towards the dining room. "My darling girl, look at how thin you are. You must eat more good food to nourish your body."

When they arrived at the dining room, Matriarch Gu pulled Qiao Nian to sit down with her, asking about her well-being. "Don't worry too much about what happened last night. That girl, Shen Xing, has already gone to kneel in her ancestral hall. She'll come specially to apologize to you later. Child, you keep everything to yourself. It's not good for your health."

Qiao Nian looked at Matriarch Gu gratefully. "Thank you, Grandma. I'll know what to do in the future."

"That's right. If anyone dares to bully you, bully them back. Don't show any mercy. If anything happens, Grandma will bear the consequences!" Matriarch Gu said heroically.

Smiling, Qiao Nian agreed.

At this moment, Gu Zhou walked in.

"Ah Zhou, my darling girl is still young. Take care of her more in the future. Don't let anyone bully her." Matriarch Gu looked up at Gu Zhou and said meaningfully, "You had better take my words seriously. I'm telling you, if anything happens to my darling child, I will never forgive you."

Gu Zhou gave an indifferent grunt of assent and sat down calmly on the other side.

After breakfast, Qiao Nian prepared to go out to meet Qiao Xin.

Matriarch Gu knew that Qiao Nian was about to leave the house. She pulled Gu Zhou over and said seriously, "Ah Zhou, send Nian Nian off later."

"I'll give her the car keys," Gu Zhou said expressionlessly.

“Are you an idiot?” Matriarch Gu was about to explode with anger. “Nian Nian has already suffered greatly after marrying you. Can’t you treat her better?”

Gu Zhou frowned.

“Ah Zhou, let me tell you. I had a dream.” Matriarch Gu moved closer to Gu Zhou and whispered into his ear, “I dreamed that after Nian Nian married you, your illness was cured, and she treated Little Qi like her own son. This was a good dream. This means that the two of you are a match made in heaven. You have to treat her well, otherwise...”

Gu Zhou’s eyes flickered. He nodded.

When he saw Qiao Nian coming down the stairs with her bag, Gu Zhou stuffed a hand in his pocket and said calmly, “I’ll walk you out.”

Qiao Nian gave Gu Zhou a surprised look. She wanted to decline, but her gaze accidentally fell on Matriarch Gu, who was gazing at her dotingly. She nodded. “Thank you.”

Qiao Nian’s sharp eyes noticed that Matriarch Gu seemed to sigh in relief.

Gu Zhou and Qiao Nian walked out side by side. They walked to the garage and Gu Zhou opened the door of the passenger seat of the car in a gentlemanly manner.

Qiao Nian thanked him politely and got into the car. She had just buckled up when she received a text from Qiao Xin.

Qiao Xin: Sister, where are you?

*Chapter 56: Acting As a Pimp*

“Where are you going?” Gu Zhou buckled his seatbelt and asked casually.

“The Blue Coffeehouse. Thank you.”

Qiao Nian’s phone buzzed again. Seeing that it was a text from Qiao Xin, she quietly turned it off.

Gu Zhou didn’t say anything. He began to drive.

Along the way, the two of them didn’t interact much. When they arrived, Gu Zhou stopped the car and turned to say to Qiao Nian, “If you need anything, look for me!”

His voice was clear yet mellow, just like a fine wine.

“Thank you.” Qiao Nian smiled.

When she stepped into the coffee shop, Qiao Nian could see Qiao Xin sitting by the window from afar.

Qiao Xin was wearing a white dress today. If Qiao Nian recalled correctly, this dress was a limited edition LV product.

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When Qiao Xin saw Qiao Nian, she immediately stood up, looking at her worriedly. “Sister, I heard last night that you had fainted. Are you alright?”

Qiao Nian looked at the false smile on Qiao Xin’s face. Sneering, she rebuked, “I thought you yearned for me to die sooner!”

“Sister!” Qiao Xin put on a shocked facade, then shook her head hard and said, “Have you been possessed by a demon? How can you say such nonsense?”

At that moment, Qiao Xin seemed to remember something. She took out a branded handbag with an LV tag from a shopping bag. “I bought this specially for you a few days ago.”

One who is unaccountably solicitous is usually hiding evil intentions.

What disgusted Qiao Nian the most was that Qiao Xin had given her a fake handbag.

“No, thank you.” Qiao Nian looked at Qiao Xin expressionlessly and continued, “I don’t like carrying fake handbags.”

A wave of awkwardness surged in the air between them. Qiao Xin looked at the handbag on the table. She didn’t know whether to take it back or not.

“How... how is this possible?” Qiao Xin stammered. She immediately took the handbag off the table and put it back into the shopping bag. “I’ll turn back and demand an explanation from the store later!”

If Qiao Xin hadn’t tried to defend herself, Qiao Nian might think that Qiao Xin had really bought the wrong handbag without meaning to, but seeing Qiao Xin’s reaction, she knew with certainty that Qiao Xin had intentionally bought a fake handbag.

“Sister, the graduation banquet for the university is taking place today. Would you like to join us? If Sister didn’t drop out of school back then, I think you probably would have graduated this year.” As Qiao Xin spoke, she began to regain confidence in herself.

She recalled how, during the previous banquet for medical students, Qiao Nian had bribed Teacher Liu and forced him to say that she was a PhD student, just so she could save face.

Recalling this now, it was all Qiao Xin could do to not burst out in laughter.

She had initially wanted Qiao Nian to appear at the graduation banquet with a fake handbag. When that happened, Qiao Nian would once again become a laughing stock.

What a pity that Qiao Nian had immediately identified it as a fake handbag.

Qiao Nian sat there and looked at Qiao Xin, her expression blank. If she wasn't wrong, Qiao Xin had brought this handbag here today so that Qiao Nian, a student who had dropped out of school before completing her degree, would carry a fake handbag to the school's graduation banquet. She clearly wanted Qiao Nian to be humiliated.

Qiao Nian's eyes flashed with disdain. Without hesitation, she refused Qiao Xin's invitation. "I won't go!"

"Sister, Brother Su Yan will be speaking at the banquet today as well. Don't you want to see him?" Qiao Xin tilted her head and looked at Qiao Nian innocently.

Back then, when reading through Qiao Nian's diary, Qiao Xin had realized that Qiao Nian had a crush on Su Yan.

"I heard that the two of you are already a couple. Are you trying to act as a pimp for your boyfriend?" Qiao Nian raised her eyebrow and asked with a smile.

Qiao Xin's expression suddenly changed, but she calmed down just as quickly.

Qiao Nian was indeed from a poor family in the mountains. Her words were so crass.

"Sister, what are you saying?" Qiao Nian smiled lightly and continued, "If other people hear you, they might think that you're unrefined. It'll affect your image."

"Since you're already willing to act as a pimp, why can't others say so?" Smiling, Qiao Nian retorted..

#### *Chapter 57: Graduation Banquet*

"Sister, you're wrong. Back then, Brother Su Yan was the one who courted me. I'm saying this today because I know you like him, so you can pay him a visit if you like. It's all for your sake..." Qiao Xin retorted, refusing to be outdone.

“If that’s the case, then he’s just a piece of trash that I didn’t want. Is picking up a piece of trash that I’ve thrown away really worth being happy about?” Qiao Nian picked up the cup of coffee in front of her and took a leisurely sip, then put it back.

Qiao Nian looked at Qiao Xin’s face, which was now alternating between shades of green and white. She was in an extraordinarily good mood. Her gaze fell on the jade pendant around Qiao Xin’s neck and she said, “By the way, the owner of the pendant will be arriving at the Gu villa tonight. You can come over tonight!”

With that, Qiao Nian stood up and left.

That afternoon, Qiao Nian found out that Qiao Xin had tagged her on her social media account. She opened the app to see a photo of An City University’s graduation banquet.

Qiao Xin was worried that others wouldn’t be able to tell that this was An City University, so she deliberately tagged the location as well.

There was a line of text added to the photo.

[I am both immensely honored and incredibly proud to be a member of An City University. I hope my alma mater will get better and better!]

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Qiao Nian scrolled past the photo and saw that there were a lot of comments. The comment section was full of members of the Qiao family, mostly distant relatives heaping praise on Qiao Xin.

“Qiao Xin is the role model of the Qiao family!”

“Qiao Xin has brought glory to the Qiao family!”

“Qiao Xin is so much more outstanding than her sister. Considering how the two of them were born to the same set of parents, how can the difference between them be so stark?”

“You’re right! Qiao Nian never spends her time doing anything serious or worthwhile. She just goes around causing trouble!”

...

Qiao Nian couldn’t be bothered to read the rest of the comments. All of them were fawning over Qiao Xin.

Qiao Nian couldn't help but scoff. She closed her social media app and walked to the window, looking out at An City University. A joyous atmosphere filled the campus. Her lips curved up slightly.

Outside, An City University was filled with cheers and laughter. She walked out of the medical laboratory and onto the field. Immediately, she saw many students preparing the decorations for the graduation banquet.

Su Yan and Qiao Xin were the most eye-catching people on stage.

Su Yan was one year older than Qiao Xin, and he was in his second year of his Master's degree. He was also the most handsome boy in the university. In fact, the most attractive thing about him was his family background.

The Su family was also a well-known prestigious family in An City. Because of that, many young ladies wanted to marry Su Yan, just so they could soar to the skies.

As Su Yan's girlfriend, Qiao Xin received countless glares filled with envy and jealousy. She smiled as she stood next to Su Yan, chatting with the other classmates.

Qiao Xin's good friend, Wang Nian, walked to her side and asked with a smile, "Xinxin, is that person your sister?"

Qiao Xin looked in the direction Wang Nian was pointing at and saw Qiao Nian in conversation with a young man.

Indeed.

She was right.

On the surface, Qiao Nian had seemed disdainful of the school's activities, but in reality, she was eager to come here.

Qiao Xin smiled. "Hey, it wasn't easy for my sister to get an invitation to the graduation banquet. Let's not disturb her."

Wang Nian instantly understood the meaning behind Qiao Xin's words. Hurriedly, she spoke, making sure that the juniors nearby could hear her words. "Xinxin, you're too kind. Your sister was capable of setting the school building on fire back then. How could you be so gentle with her?"

Qiao Xin smiled and shook her head. She explained, "It was all a misunderstanding. Believe me, it was all a misunderstanding."

Wang Nian's words instantly aroused the curiosity of the others in earshot. Just like that, Wang Nian was pulled away by the crowd, who wanted to hear more about the rumors.

Shen Xing stood there with a sour expression. Whenever she saw Qiao Nian, she would inevitably get angry. She looked at Qiao Xin with dissatisfaction. "Didn't she get expelled from the school? How can she still enter the campus?"

Just as Qiao Xin was about to explain, she heard Shen Xing say, "Senior Su, it's been so many years, but she still likes you. When she found out that you were here, she came running immediately."

When Su Yan heard Shen Xing's words, he felt an inexplicable sense of disgust. He still had to give a speech tonight, as an outstanding alumnus of the undergraduate medicine program.. He didn't want Qiao Nian to disrupt his good mood.

#### *Chapter 58: Lunatic*

"Excuse me, I'll go take a look." Su Yan gave Shen Xing a smile.

He was genuinely worried that Qiao Nian would suddenly fall back into her old ways and set fire to another school building. Then, it would be meaningless to have the graduation banquet.

With that, Su Yan walked past the surrounding juniors and strode towards Qiao Nian.

Qiao Xin didn't want to go, but when she recalled how Su Yan had gazed unblinkingly at Qiao Nian the night before, she felt her heart skip a beat in fear. She quickly followed suit.

From afar, Qiao Nian saw Su Yan and Qiao Xin walking towards her. She said to the man next to her, "Do as we've discussed. Go ahead!"

"Yes, Miss Qiao." With that, the man turned and walked out.

At that moment, Su Yan walked up to Qiao Nian, not bothering to hide the disgust in his eyes. Suppressing his anger, he said, "Let's talk."

Qiao Nian surveyed her surroundings. Only after seeing that there was no one else around did she acknowledge that Su Yan was speaking to her. She sneered. "I'm sorry, I have nothing to say to you."

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"Qiao Nian, you must know your place!" Su Yan glared at her, frowning.

If Su Yan wasn't worried that Qiao Nian would do something crazy again, he wouldn't have lowered himself to the level of speaking to her.

"You're crazy!" Qiao Nian turned to leave, but she was stopped by Su Yan.

“Five years ago, I already made it clear to you that I don’t like you. Why are you still chasing after me?” Su Yan’s hands clenched involuntarily into fists. If only he could get the security guards to throw Qiao Nian out of campus.

“Su Yan, what do you mean by that? Are you saying that I’m pursuing you?” Qiao Nian finally understood what Su Yan meant. Sneering, she glanced at him as if he was a pile of shit.

Su Yan met her gaze, his brow involuntarily furrowing.

“I’m really sorry, Su Yan. I’m not interested in human excrement at all.” Qiao Nian gave a bright smile.

“Sister, stop.” Seeing that the situation was worsening, Qiao Xin hurriedly stepped forward to pull Su Yan back, speaking gently to Qiao Nian as she did so. “I know you’re still interested in Brother Su Yan. Brother Su Yan knows that you’re rejecting him to hide your feelings, but he’s already my boyfriend. Can you please stop having any ideas about him?”

Su Yan had almost lost control of his anger. Fortunately, Qiao Xin had stopped him. Otherwise, if he were to lose his temper here tonight, his name would be trending on the Internet the next day.

Su Yan’s gaze softened as he looked at Qiao Xin. Qiao Xin was such a sensible girl.

Qiao Nian glanced at the couple in front of her and smiled. “The two of you are a perfect match for each other. A maggot belongs with human excrement.”

With that, Qiao Nian turned and left without hesitation.

Su Yan stood rooted to the ground, his face flushed red with anger. He couldn’t think of a way to get back at Qiao Nian.

Excrement?

How dare she say that to him!

She was simply a lunatic!

He had to find a chance to humiliate her.

Qiao Xin could tell that something was wrong with Su Yan’s expression. Worried that he would lose his temper, she carefully took hold of his hand and said gently, “Brother Su Yan, don’t get too angry. My sister used to be warded in a mental hospital, and there are some problems with her brain. She’s different from normal people like us. Seeing as she’s my sister, don’t blame her anymore, okay?”

Yes, Qiao Nian was a lunatic!

He could not stoop to the level of a lunatic.

At the thought of this, Su Yan's expression grew considerably brighter. He smiled at Qiao Xin and said gently, "I understand. For your sake, I won't be angry with her."

Back when he courted Qiao Xin, Qiao Xin had always been unwilling to be with him because of Qiao Nian.

It hadn't been easy for the two of them to get together, but he had never expected Qiao Nian to disregard the sisterhood between her and Qiao Xin.

Qiao Nian was truly an awful person..

*Chapter 59: How Was This Possible?*

"Brother Su Yan, you're the best. Let's go visit Sister first. I'm a little worried about her," Qiao Xin said gently. Holding on to Su Yan's arm, she walked towards Qiao Nian.

"Sister, when you burned down the school building back then, the principal was furious. He wouldn't let you step foot onto campus. If it weren't for our family name, he likely wouldn't have made an exception for you to come today."

Qiao Xin continued, "The principal doesn't visit the university often, but he will be here today. Brother Su Yan will intercede for you. Perhaps the principal will no longer be angry. He might even allow you to return to school."

The classmates nearby heard Qiao Xin's words clearly.

"I'm so jealous that Senior Su Yan can meet the principal. I've been studying here for so long, but I've never even seen the principal once. I heard that the principal is very busy every day!"

"Yes, yes. I've heard that too. Back then, when the school building was burned down, many netizens were questioning the school's role in the incident. If the principal hadn't taken charge at that critical moment, and if he hadn't whole-heartedly thrown his weight behind the school, we would have lost that battle."

"I heard that the principal is now focusing on his mathematics research, so he rarely makes an appearance here. How can Qiao Nian still have the cheek to show up? What if she angers the principal?"

"Exactly, exactly. We should protest against Qiao Nian's enrollment in An University!"

“You’re right. We must stand up to Qiao Nian!”

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...

One by one, the surrounding students chimed in. They really liked and respected the principal. To them, the principal was like a god to be worshiped.

Listening to the other students, Su Yan glanced at Qiao Nian. The disgust in his eyes intensified.

Qiao Nian turned to look at Qiao Xin and said expressionlessly, “Can you stop polluting the air around me?”

Qiao Xin: “?”

At this moment, the principal’s assistant, Wang Qi, looked toward them. He began walking over.

Su Yan saw Wang Qi and thought that the principal was looking for him. He straightened his clothes and put on a warm smile.

When Wang Qi walked over, Su Yan took a step forward and politely extended his hand to Wang Qi.

Wang Qi gave Su Yan a strange look. Without shaking his hand, he brushed past Su Yan and walked towards Qiao Nian. With a serious expression, he said, “Miss Qiao, you’re finally here. The principal has specially instructed me to pick you up.”

Qiao Xin looked at Wang Qi in disbelief. She had never expected the principal to instruct his assistant to pick herself up. She smiled at Wang Qi. “Alright, let’s head over now.”

Qiao Nian looked at Qiao Xin in confusion. She had an appointment with the principal. Could it be that Qiao Xin had an appointment with the principal as well?

Wang Qi turned to look at Qiao Xin, and the smile on his face instantly disappeared. He asked without expression, “This student, who exactly are you?”

Qiao Xin still didn’t realize anything odd about the whole affair. She said innocently, “I’m Qiao Xin.”

“My apologies, the principal would like to invite Miss Qiao Nian over.” Wang Qi smiled ingratiatingly at Qiao Nian. “Miss Qiao, let’s go!”

When Wang Qi and Qiao Nian left, Su Yan and Qiao Xin felt as if they had been slapped in the face. They were so embarrassed that they wanted to find a hole to hide in.

Of course, the surrounding classmates who were watching the spectacle were also stunned. They had never expected the principal and assistant to treat Qiao Nian with such respect.

Didn't the principal hate Qiao Nian?

Didn't the principal forbid Qiao Nian from coming to school?

Why was the principal's assistant so respectful towards Qiao Nian?

Shen Xing, who was standing not far away, turned pale. She turned to look toward Qiao Xin. So Qiao Xin had lied to her!

However, when Shen Xing saw Qiao Xin's confused expression, she hesitated. She walked over to Qiao Xin and asked in a low voice, "What's the relationship between Qiao Nian and the principal?"

"I don't know." Qiao Xin shook her head honestly. Suddenly, she recalled Qiao Nian saying that she had received her PhD diploma.

Oh my god!

Qiao Nian couldn't really have been awarded a doctorate, could she?

How... How was this possible?

Qiao Xin gasped in shock.. A layer of cold sweat formed on her palms.

*Chapter 60: Stuck Out Like a Sore Thumb*

Su Yan watched as Wang Qi and Qiao Nian left. His brow furrowed deeply. He pressed his lips together, remaining quiet.

Qiao Xin, who was standing beside Su Yan, carefully tugged at his sleeve. She said gently, "Su Yan, let's go to the lecture hall!"

Su Yan recalled how embarrassed he had been just now and yearned to find a place to hide. He agreed easily. "Okay, let's go!"

After Su Yan and Qiao Xin left, the other students followed suit.

Shen Xing was livid. She followed Su Yan and Qiao Xin, determined to find an opportunity to embarrass Qiao Nian.

Although Su Yan had just embarrassed himself, many of his classmates still wanted to get in his good books. They wanted to join the Su family's company in the future.

A classmate stepped forward with a smile and said ingratiatingly, "Senior Su Yan, since five years ago, everyone knows that you've been taking good care of Qiao Nian. Qiao Nian likes you too. I guess the principal is looking for Qiao Nian this time because of you. Perhaps he wanted to give Qiao Nian a warning beforehand, so he asked her to go to the principal's office alone."

As soon as she said this, the onlookers immediately nodded in agreement.

"That's right, that must be it. The principal and his assistant must be afraid that Qiao Nian's mental illness will flare up again. That's why they're so polite to her!"

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"Definitely. The principal must be treating Qiao Nian with such gentleness on Senior Su Yan's account. Senior Su Yan, do you want to make your relationship with Qiao Nian clear? Otherwise, the principal might misunderstand you."

...

Su Yan was momentarily stunned.

That was true.

The principal must have treated Qiao Nian so gently because of him. He must have called Qiao Nian to the principal's office alone to warn her.

The principal didn't get his assistant to call Su Yan into his office because he thought Su Yan was preparing his speech.

It seemed that he should take the initiative to speak to the principal about this, lest the principal misunderstand.

Qiao Xin's tense shoulders gradually relaxed. Only then did she realize that she had been wrong.

That was true. Qiao Nian hadn't been to school. How could she have gotten a PhD?

It was even more impossible for her to have anything to do with the principal.

Qiao Xin heaved a sigh of relief. She didn't want Qiao Nian to climb on top of her.

When everyone arrived backstage, they saw that the principal's assistant had arranged for Qiao Nian to sit in the middle of the first row.

Everyone was stunned.

What was going on?

The seat in the middle had always been reserved for the principal. Qiao Nian actually had the guts to sit in the principal's seat without hesitation.

Today, Qiao Nian was wearing a white shirt and jeans. Her hair was tied up high into a bun behind her head, and a few stray hairs fell on either side of her face. She looked just like a student.

She was already eye-catching to begin with. Once she sat in the middle, she attracted everyone's attention.

The seats in the second row were filled with famous teachers and formidable top students of An University. All of them were considered to be gifted and favored by heaven.

And Qiao Nian stuck out like a sore thumb.

As the representative of the outstanding graduates that year, Su Yan sat in the third row. He glanced at Su Yan, his expression darkening.

Qiao Nian was sitting in the first row today. She was simply looking for trouble!

Su Yan didn't want to interfere in this matter. However, he thought that the principal might have misunderstood that he had a special relationship with Qiao Nian. What if the principal got angry and took it out on him?

Qiao Xin, who was standing beside Su Yan, also felt embarrassed. She felt that Qiao Nian had truly brought disgrace upon the entire Qiao family.

Qiao Xin thought for a while, then shouted at Qiao Nian, "Qiao Nian!"

When Qiao Nian heard Qiao Xin's voice, she didn't even bother giving her a glance out of kindness.

Qiao Xin had no choice but to raise her voice. "Sister, you're sitting in the wrong seat. Apart from the outstanding graduates, everyone who comes to the banquet brings their own stools.."