

Divine 41

Chapter 41: The Air of Miss

Madame Gu asked her to step down.

When she did it, Gu Chaoyan could still hear Duke Changning's wife cursing her about not finding a proper family to marry in the future.

Gu Chaoyan did not care about these. She was going to take revenge on all of them, and there was no hurry to do anything right now.

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When Madam Gu asked for Gu Chaoyan again, it was already the evening time. Gu Chaoyan had just finished exercise and drank some tea with spring water.

It was not Chen Fu who showed up this time, but Cai Zhu, the eldest maid of Madam Gu at Pear Yard.

When Cai Zhu saw Gu Chaoyan, she was behaving in a normal way.

"Miss, Madam Gu asks you to visit her at Pear Yard." Cai Zhu sized up Gu Chaoyan with fixed gazes.

Gu Chaoyan was still showing a flat look.

Seeing Cai Zhu not showing so much passion, she got up and answered lazily, "Just wait outside. I will be there when I have changed."

No one had liked or cherished Gu Chaoyan before in the mansion. She had been bullied by anybody so she had been discreet about her own behaviors. She even showed courtesy to these maids.

However, now she was Gu Chaoyan, and she had been a killer in the previous life.

She never hesitated about anything or showed any timid behaviors. She was the Miss, so she was going to act like one.

Cai Zhu looked displeased instantly, so she added ironically, "Lady Chaoyan, you are now involved with the Wang Family, so you are in a different situation. But none of us are sure how much longer the relationship can last."

Seeing the situation, Qing was about to explain... when Gu Chaoyan walked to her and slapped right on Cai Zhu's face.

That was not a soft strike. Cai Zhu's face turned swollen as she turned a look of disbelief at Gu Chaoyan. "How dare you slap me, you moron!"

The next second...

The other side of Cai Zhu's cheek turned swollen too.

Cai Zhu got so annoyed that she stepped forward just to start a fight with Gu Chaoyan, whose hands gripped her neck directly. She said to Cai Zhu with a look of coldness. "I can even take your life."

"...."

“Do you think Madam Gu is going to speak for a maid?”

“...”

“You don’t know how much longer I can stay related to the Wang Family, but I do know that as long as I am related to them, I can still kill you. Madam Gu is not going to pick on me about this matter, because of the Wang Family.”

Having said the words... Gu Chaoyan released her hands.

Cai Zhu collapsed to the ground, panting in fury and fright.

Miss was thinking about killing her!

They had been bullying her so fiercely before, but she had not uttered a sound. Maybe that was why they had more or less forgotten that this hideous lady was their master and that even without the Wang Family, the maids would not have any advantage if she reported their behavior to Madame Gu. She was the master!

Seeing the seriousness of this problem, Cai Zhu waited politely next to her despite the swollen cheeks.

Qing got startled at the sight of them. She had been worried that when Miss was getting changed, Cai Zhu would report the delayed behavior to Madam Gu. If that happened, her miss would have a bad time.

Howeve, Cai Zhu got even more frightened than she was.

That made Qing extremely happy.

Gu Chaoyan did not have Qing with her when she went to the front yard. She expected Qing to take a break and she also worried that Cai Zhu was so unconvinced that she would take the chance to bully Qing.

As they came to the front yard, Madame Gu spotted the injury on Cai Zhu’s face. Her face sank. “Cai Zhu, what happened to your face?” She said as she turned a displeased look at Gu Chaoyan.

Cai Zhu had just been to Qiong Pavilion. So it must have been someone from Qiong Pavilion who caused the injury.

Chapter 42: Sentence to Death

Cai Zhu was asked first.

Cai Zhu’s worried face was brightened up, when she assumed that Madame Gu asked her first to get her justice done. She threw a provocative look at Gu Chaoyan just to see if Lady Chaoyan was panicking.

Cai Zhu had decided that if this ugly woman begged her, she might forgive her. So she did not answer the question directly, instead she waited for a little while longer.

During this interval, Gu Chaoyan did not even spare a look at her.

That displeased Cai Zhu so she said furiously, “Madame Gu, you have to help me! I am your eldest maid and my duty was to ask Miss to come here. But she slapped me right on the face.”

Madame Gu looked at Gu Chaoyan, wondering if she had got so arrogant just because of her relationship with the Wang Family.

Gu Chaoyan did not have the intention of dodging Madame Gu. She was a frank person and a profit lover like Madam Gu would not defend her beloved. She was furious at the moment, because she felt humiliated. She never cared a thing about the life and death of Cai Zhu.

She had thought about giving up Cai Zhu if she never mentioned a thing.

But since Cai Zhu decided to mention it, Gu Chaoyan had no intention of letting the revenge go. So she said straightforwardly to Madame Gu. "Grandma, I slapped her because I had to."

"...."

"I am the Miss of the Gu Family, ugly yet still the blood of the family, the Miss. This maid pays me no coutersey and calls me names. If the maid dares to bully me now, I am worried that she will bully you in the future if I don't give her a lesson."

"...."

"Also, since I have saved the Young Master of the Wang Family, and the Wang Family approves of me. Then it is a reasonable thing that the Gu Family and the Wang Family are going to be involved in the upcoming future. But this maid claims that I am trying to suck up to the Wang Family. I am the Miss of the Gu Family, so does she mean that the Gu Family are all sucking up to the Wang Family? It is we, the Gu Family who are the saviors of the Wang Family. This maid is looking down on us all!"

"...."

"This maid is totally impolite. The two slaps on her face were not a serious punishment, because I wanted to wait for you to deal with her! But she is now bad-mouthing her Miss!" Gu Chaoyan said in a wronged tone, yet her words made total sense.

Madam Gu's face already turned pale. She pointed at Cai Zhu who had gotten so frightened that she dropped to her knees. "How dare you, useless maid! How dare you humiliate the miss of the Gu Family and the whole mansion. Someone!"

Hearing Madam Gu's tone, Cai Zhu understood that she was not going to get away with it.

She did not dare to beg for mercy from Madame Gu, but went to catch Gu Chaoyan's legs and said, "Please, Miss, it is all my fault, please spare me! I don't dare to do anything any more!"

Before Gu Chaoyan was able to talk, Madame Gu already said to Chen Fu in a furious tone, "Take her out and beat her to death!"

Gu Chaoyan did not blink a thing. She was a kind-hearted person, but she was resolute as well. Else she would not have been a killer in her previous life.

If Cai Zhu had chosen to conceal the whole incident, she would not have mentioned anything either. However, the maid chose the opposite, so Gu Chaoyan had to get her killed in her own defense.

Cai Zhu had begged for mercy from the wrong person. If she had turned to Madame Gu, her life might have been spared.

Because Madame Gu...

Chapter 43: Marriage Arrangement

She was old and still held the control of the Gu Family instead of leaving it to Mrs. Gu. So she was a forceful person who would not tolerate her maid turning to others for help.

She was glad that Madam Gu made this decision too.

That was how she was going to establish her status in the Mansion. After all, there were quite a few maids and servants who were looking down on her.

Cai Zhu was sentenced to death today, so none of the maids and servants would dare to irritate her any more.

“Chaoyan, you are getting more and more like a Miss. I feel assured.” Madam Gu pointed at a seat for Gu Chaoyan randomly. “Sit down.”

“I am calling you here to ask you why you turned down the concubine position of Duke Changning’s Mansion, even if it meant offending them?”

Gu Chaoyan had just sat down and did not panic at what Madam Gu was asking. She more or less understood what Madam Gu was going to ask on her way there.

Madam Gu was a very smart lady. She put the blame of offence on her so she could feel guilty. However, Gu Chaoyan was not like before, and she was not going to feel guilty because of what Madam Gu said. When she was turning down the offer, Madame Gu did not stop her either, meaning that Madam Gu did not think it was a proper deal either.

Gu Ruxue was the Princess Consort, and what was the use to add one more granddaughter for that Mansion. Besides, this granddaughter of hers was now related to the Wang Family.

Knowing what Madam Gu intended to get from her, Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly following Madam Gu’s ideas. “Grandma, I am doing this for the Gu Mansion’s sake.”

“...”

“Second Sister is already the Princess Consort, so it doesn’t matter if I am married to the Duke’s Mansion either.”

“...”

“Also, Madame Wang decides to establish a marriage for me too, seeing that my engagement was cancelled.”

“...”

“So if Madame Wang is out for this business, I think that the match would be very good for the Gu Mansion, so why not listen to her instead.”

After the speech, Madame Gu smiled brightly. "You can do something more for the Gu Mansion. You can mention Xiuying for them too. Xiuying might not be as pretty as Ruxue, yet she is also an intelligent and lovely girl."

"Yes." Gu Chaoyan answered obediently.

That made Madam Gu satisfied and gratified.

Soon, the Gu Mansion would find their way to become a place of prestige.

Zhenkang the Old Master had been working at the Temple for years, but it was a terrible working place with very little payment. Now he was connected with Duke Changning's Mansion and the Wang Family, he would soon get promoted.

She had no other expectation for her remaining life any more. She just expected that her son would get promoted so she could get a title of Imperial Madam before she passed away.

Madame Gu was satisfied, so was Gu Chaoyan.

Cai Zhu died, but was soon forgotten by Madame Gu.

So she smiled friendly. "Chaoyan, just go back to your place now. Eat dinner at your Qiong Pavilion tonight, but come to join us for breakfast here in the front yard tomorrow. We can have the meal together."

"Okay."

Chaoyan bowed and left.

Seeing her Miss coming out, Qing sized her up first and saw that Miss was not injured. She let out a sigh of relief and went back to Qiong Pavilion behind her back.

As they came out of the front yard, Qing whispered as she saw that no one was around. "Miss, Cai Zhu is dead. I worry that we are falling into deep trouble!"

Chapter 44: What Did She Want

Hahahaha.

Chaoyan laughed brightly.

She pinched Qing's face. "Don't worry, no one will come to us, and no one dares either. They don't want to be beaten to death."

As she was speaking, Gu Chaoyan suddenly thought of something and said to Qing. "Qing, no one from this Mansion, either the staff in the kitchen or the servants, would dare to bully you. You experienced a great deal of bitterness and from this day on, you will fear nothing wherever you go. I can stand up for you when something happens!"

"Really, Miss?" The evening arrived, but Qing's eyes were brightened as she turned to Gu Chaoyan.

"Really."

Qing cheered.

The miss and the maid went back to the Qiong Pavilion.

As they returned to Qiong Pavilion, Gu Chaoyan bathed with aloe vera juice. She also added one drop of spring water into the aloe vera juice.

Soon she fell asleep without thinking about anything else.

As she woke up, she had sweat all over her body just like before. Blended with sweat was some black dirt. Gu Chaoyan understood that the spring water worked so she was losing the tan.

So she took another bath.

One maid from Pear Yard was here. Now it was Cai Ming, also one of the major maids from Pear Yard. She was slightly older than Cai Zhu, obviously more mature. She showed full courtesy at the sight of Gu Chaoyan. "Miss, Madame Gu is asking me to pick you up for breakfast in the front yard."

So this time, this maid was behaving properly.

Since Cai Ming was paying her respect, she would too.

She nodded with a smile. "Let's just leave now, I am ready."

As they were leaving, she did not have Qing with her, because the maid was out in the kitchen for breakfast alone. She needed to spend a lot of time in the front yard, and what Qing could do as a maid was waiting outside all alone rather than getting any breakfast. She did not want Qing to experience such misery, so she asked her to stay.

Cai Ming did not understand the meaning of it, but she did not ask her for the reason. Any more improper words might lead to the same consequence as Cai Zhu.

As they came to the front yard, Cai Ming said courteously, "Miss, please wait a while. Madam Gu is on the way."

Gu Chaoyan nodded and started to drink the tea alone.

The tea offered at the front yard was indeed tasty, and the scent was quite strong too.

It must be more than breakfast for her. This was the third day after the treatment for Gu Ruxue was started. If her face did not have any change, she was here to take revenge. If her face did change somehow, she was still here carrying out the deal they had made before.

What she wanted was the dowry of her deceased mother. What about Madam Gu?

Chapter 45: The Position of Lineal Daughter

Chaoyan was still in the middle of contemplation when the sound of footsteps arose. They were on the way here.

She was an agent in her previous life, so she had a better hearing ability. It took a while before she heard their voices and saw Madam Gu arriving with a group of people. Madame Gu had a slight smile on her face. That meant that Gu Ruxue was getting better.

She got up and greeted her.

Madame Gu waved her hands directly and said, "Your prescription worked. Ruxue's face has been cured."

Standing next to Madame Gu, Gu Ruxue did not show a sense of gratitude, and instead looked down at Gu Chaoyan. She had been furious about Gu Chaoyan for daring to raise an exchanged condition, but now Madam Gu was here helping her to get the position of lineal daughter so she could get married openly. So Gu Ruxue was not that displeased for the moment. Instead, she was showing much pleasure on her face.

"Great Gu Chaoyan, you are smart enough not to hurt me. It is already humiliating enough that you are ugly in the mansion." Gu Ruxue said disdainfully, as she sat down one seat lower than Madame Gu.

"Hehe." Gu Chaoyan said disdainfully too.

Madame Gu had no intention of irritating Gu Chaoyan because of Gu Ruxue at the moment. Chaoyan was indeed a very planning girl. As she thought back at what happened to Cai Zhu, she realized that it must have been a purposeful job done by Gu Chaoyan! If she was irritated now, it might not be so easy to get her lineal daughter's position. So she said, "We talked about this before. If Ruxue's face is cured, you will get one thing from me as I will from you."

"...."

"I will try my best to meet your demand, as long as it is reasonable!"

"...."

"I have got one demand here. Your Second Sister is now engaged with Prince and she is going to be the Princess Consort soon, the most promising girl of our family. So for the sake of the Gu Family and the children of the Gu Family, I hope that you can give up your position as the lineal daughter for your Second Sister so that she is able to marry Prince openly and reasonably. She needs the position as the Princess Consort, understand?" Madame Gu's fixed her blurry gaze at Gu Chaoyan. She was asking her if she understood what she meant, not whether she was willing to give up.

Hearing this demand, Gu Chaoyan felt her heart freeze.

She had thought that the Gu Mansion already did everything bad they could to hurt her, but now they were still trying to deprive her position as her mother's daughter.

That was how the Gu Family tried to trick themselves and others.

She was the lineal miss, and no matter how the past few years had been like for her, she was still the miss, but now...

They were trying to get her lineal position.

Gu Chaoyan laughed out of extreme anger. "Alright then, I agree."

Madame Gu had been prepared to make a long speech, but now the words were stuck in her throat. She had not expected that she would agree so fast without hesitation. Madame Gu had thought that she had

turned smarter because of what happened to Cai Zhu, but it seemed that she still had no idea of the importance of being a lineal daughter. Her birth mother went away too early so she just could not get a full understanding of her own place.

It was good in this way too.

Madame Gu said with a smile, "It is good that you are so understanding. We are doing this for the family's interest and you are benefitting from there too."

Gu Chaoyan nodded briefly.

She just could not turn it down at the moment.

However, soon these people would be paying back double of what they were asking now.

She had no intention of sticking to the position. What she needed was the interests she could get now. "Since I agree with what you asked for, you will have to approve of my demand too."

"..."

"I have no other thoughts but to get back my mother's dowry!"

Madam Gu's smile froze instantly.

Chapter 46: Dowry

Madame Gu had thought that what Gu Chaoyan was going to ask for was her own defence, so she could have an easier time in the Gu Mansion. She had not expected that she was demanding to get the dowry her birth mother had left her.

According to the land's law, the girl's dowry when getting married belonged to her only, and it was something to be dealt with by the girl's children. Ms. Lin died at a young age, so the Gu Mansion had been taking care of the dowry. According to the laws, the dowry should be her own daughter's, namely Gu Chaoyan's despite her early death.

However, Ms. Lin's dowry was quite exceptional.

The Lin Family was in the medicine business and had relations with the imperial court. So the dowries were quite abundant. The Gu Mansion could be so wealthy right now mostly because of the dowry from the woman.

The Gu Family had been a family with literacy, yet none of the men stood out because of their knowledge. So the whole family had had a very poor life.

That was the reason why Gu Zhenkang married Ms. Lin back then.

Although he married Ms. Lin for her money, he just did not want to mention this woman at all.

That was why Ms. Lin had been a rare mention in the entire Gu Mansion.

Even Madam Gu almost forgot that it had been the stores, which were from Ms. Lin's dowry, that kept the expenses going on for the entire Gu Mansion.

Silence dominated the entire hall.

Gu Chaoyan was very sure by now that Ms. Lin's dowry was very abundant. The Gu Family just did not want to give them up.

No wonder Gu Chaoyan had been deserted in the Qiong Pavilion these years.

If she had not noticed the leases of these stores in the Qiong Pavilion a few days earlier, she would not have thought about the dowry at all.

What an excellent thing!

Great!

Madam Gu's face expression turned and then she replied with slightly calmness. "The dowry from your birth mother will be given to you when you are married."

Madame Gu was offhand with her. She was just trying to convince Gu Chaoyan for the time being.

Gu Chaoyan did not believe those words but said straightforwardly, "Grandma, what I mean is that you can put mother's dowry in my hands. I was too young and too busy to take care of the dowry, but now I am going to become an adult and the marriage has been recently cancelled, I truly feel insecure not to have the dowry with me."

Mrs. Gu who had been watching the show was now not very glad.

If the hideous woman got the dowry, what should they do about Ruxue's dowry? Ruxue was a very nice girl and she deserved to have those things rather than this hideous woman!

However, Mrs. Gu could not spill those words, so she said, "There are so many stores in Ms. Lin's dowry, and you are not able to manage them well. When you get married, those will be yours anyway. You don't trust me to take care of them?"

"No." Gu Chaoyan said without blinking.

"You!!!" Mrs. Gu pointed at Chaoyan furiously.

Gu Chaoyan had no fear at all. "Everyone knows what kind of life I have had in the Gu Mansion these years, so of course I don't trust you." Gu Chaoyan said with a smile, "If you don't agree with my demand, then our deal is off. I am still a lineal daughter."

As the words were spoken, Gu Ruxue got more nervous. She tugged at her mother's sleeves, blaming Mrs. Gu inwardly.

The most important thing right now was the position as the lineal daughter, but her mother kept talking about dowry. When she got the position as the lineal daughter, the dowry would be in their charge anyway!

Chapter 47: Prettier

By Gu Ruxue's suggestion, Mrs. Gu suddenly understood the point and decided not to continue.

She turned to Madame Gu to see how she was going to deal with the situation.

Madame Gu was a very smart person. Soon she started to think and then turned to Gu Chaoyan. "If you insist on that, then dowry can be transferred to your hands." Then she turned to Mrs. Gu. "Just try to sort things through and get them to Chaoyan these days."

"Take your time."

Madame Gu and Mrs. Gu looked at Gu Chaoyan with surprise, looking a bit expectant with joy.

Ignoring their look, Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly, "You can do that when I am ready."

Madame Gu and Mrs. Gu let out a sigh of relief.

Good, good. Good, good.

The two obviously failed to notice what Gu Chaoyan said – she said that she would take them when she was ready.

Things went on smoothly.

After all, the lineal daughter's position was obtained. As for the dowry, they would still be in charge of them. Chaoyao was just a young girl who was not worth paying attention too.

So neither Madam Gu nor Mrs. Gu paid much attention.

Madame Gu thought of something. So before the breakfast started, she added. "Chaoyan, you and your mother as well as sisters are attending the banquet held at the Huo Mansion tomorrow, and Madame Wang is definitely going to be there. Don't forget to introduce your sisters to Madame Wang, remember?"

Gu Chaoyan sneered inwardly. She used to be considered as an ugly being by the whole mansion before, and she was never taken out to attend anything in case she brought humiliation to the family, let alone to a banquet. Now this time, she was allowed to attend the banquet only because they wanted her to introduce Gu Ruxue, Gu Xiuying and Gu Caiqin to Madame Wang.

Gu Ruxue was going to be the Princess Consort soon, and if she was related to Madame Wang, Duke Changning would be glad about it. And if Madame Wang took favor of Gu Xiuying and Gu Caiqin, the girls would surely have great suitors for marriage in the future.

These were all for those sisters. And she was not at all one of their concerns. She was not even given any new clothes.

Gu Chaoyan's heart sank.

She knew how interest-seeking Madam Gu was. She had not hated her, she even thought about helping Madam Gu with some deeds if Madam Gu could defend her somehow, but now...

Gu Chaoyan sneered and nodded. "Okay."

Madame Gu did not notice Gu Chaoyan's twisted expression. Or she did not even care.

Seeing her making a response, she added. "Let's start to eat."

The breakfast went on smoothly, since everyone around was thinking about something personal and selfish inside their hearts.

After the breakfast, everyone returned to their own yard.

On the way home, Gu Chaoyan told Qing something about going to the Huo Mansion the next day.

After they arrived at home, she bathed and washed her face with aloe vera juice and the magical water. Then she fell asleep.

The following day, Qing got a set of shining outfits for Gu Chaoyan since they were going out to attend the banquet. Gu Chaoyan shook her head at the sight of the garment. "Get another one, what about the yellow one."

Qing hesitated.

Gu Chaoyan explained. "I have lost some weight these days, but I am still chubby, so the yellow outfit looks better on me."

Qing got her another outfit happily.

She added with emotions. "Miss, I find that you have lost lots of weight and your skin is much less tanned. Some less weight will make you even prettier than Second Miss!"

Chapter 48: The Banquet

Gu Chaoyan was not as excited as Qing. She was just showing a very slight smile.

She was aware of these changes, and all of these were within her plan.

Also, her goal was more than this. She needed to get thinner and fairer, at least as pretty as she was in her previous life.

She got dressed and ate some breakfast.

Then Cai Ming from Madam Gu's yard was there asking for her.

She was behaving in a very polite and silent manner.

As she arrived, Mrs. Gu, Gu Ruxue, Gu Xiuying and Gu Caiqin as well as Madam Gu were all waiting there. However, Gu Chaoyan did not believe that they were waiting for her out of kindness.

As she approached them, Gu Xiuying shrilled. "What a star you are, letting us wait for you to come."

As the words were spoken, Madame Gu appeared. She clicked her cane as she heard the voices, frowning. "What are you arguing about?"

Gu Xiuying did not fear a thing. She bowed and pointed at Gu Chaoyan, saying, "Grandma, I am talking about her. She knows the time, but comes later on purpose! We are all waiting for her."

Gu Ruxue laughed loudly. She had to make Madame Gu hate Gu Chaoyan.

Madame Gu turned to Gu Chaoyan with displeasure on the face. "Chaoyan, did you do that on purpose?"

Cai Ming went to her late and she did not know about the time of arrival at all!

So she did not hold back her thoughts.

She looked at Madame Gu and then at Mrs. Gu and her gang as she said, "I am the lineal daughter of the Gu Mansion, the eldest Miss, what is the problem of me coming so late?"

Having said the words...

She gazed at Gu Xiuying. "No wonder you are the daughter of a concubine. You are such a shame to have not learnt the rules."

Gu Xiuying flushed out of anger rather than humiliation! Stuck with words, she pointed at Gu Chaoyan. "You hideous woman! How dare you..."

The words had just been spoken, when a slap landed upon Gu Xiuying's face.

Before Gu Xiuying was able to say anything, Gu Chaoyan bowed to Madame Gu. "Grandma, we are all people of literacy, and what we need most of all are rules. Third Sister is not obedient enough for her to be at the Huo Mansion."

Madame Gu was both furious and surprised.

She was furious that Gu Chaoyan had slapped Xiuying before she gave an order. Xiuying might be annoying, yet she was both good-looking and intelligent, and she was definitely going to marry someone better than Gu Chaoyan. So she did not plan to wrong Xiuying in any way.

What surprised her was that Gu Chaoyan was right about the positions and rules.

However, thinking that Ruxue would soon become the lineal daughter, Madame Gu thought through and decided to agree with Chaoyan this time.

Madame Gu said to Gu Xiuying, "Just stay here today, you are grounded for half a month."

Gu Ruxue and Mrs. Gu had no idea how to beg for mercy, so they gave up.

Madame Gu had made the decision, after all.

Mrs. Gu was surprised too. She had not expected that the weak and crazy Gu Chaoyan in the past had now become so intimidating. She even asked for the dowry the day before! Now she regretted that she should have killed her in case of potential trouble.

...

At the Huo Mansion, or more precisely, the home of Elder Huo.

Elder Huo invited the Gu Family to the banquet not because they were in a good relationship with each other, but because as the Elder of the court, he invited every official above Rank Five.

That was why Madam Gu was pretty sure that Madame Wang would be present too.

They had just entered the Huo Mansion when a maid bumped into Gu Chaoyan accidentally.

Chapter 49: The Blame

The maid was aware that she had bumped into a lady, so she kneeled down in front of Gu Chaoyan directly and kept kowtowing. "Sorry, Miss, sorry Miss."

She kowtowed and mumbled constantly.

The passing servants, madams and ladies could not help but turn to this position. Before Madam Gu could say a thing, Gu Ruxue appeared and said with a gentle tone, "just rise, please." She turned to Gu Chaoyan afterwards. "Sister, she bumped into you accidentally. Don't blame her any more."

The bystanders threw a very meaningful glance at Gu Chaoyan.

Blaming the servants would be alright if conducted at one's own mansion, but a lady should not blame servants outside her home – that was not a good thing for reputation.

Gu Chaoyan had not said a thing, before Gu Ruxue defined her in this way.

Gu Chaoyan felt a paper bag stuffed in the maid's sleeves, and she realized that it was her Second Sister who had been involved in this trick, though she thought that it was a normal conduct of people from the Huo Family.

No wonder the trick had worked out so successfully.

She laughed coldly as she threw a few more looks at this maid. "Since my Second Sister, the daughter of a concubine, is so broad-minded and stops me from giving you the blame, then just rise."

The maid looked up, threw a few looks, kowtowed and hurried off with head lowered.

Gu Ruxue looked at Gu Chaoyan with an angry expression on her face. She just could not throw a temper in front of those people. What was it going on with this hideous woman! She was soon going to give up the position as the lineal daughter, and now she was still talking more than she should.

Apart from Gu Ruxue, Madame Gu was not pleased either. Apparently she hated the feeling when her granddaughter was out of control, so she clicked her cane and said, "Chaoyan, you are not often out on a banquet, so do not talk about what should not be spoken. This is the Huo Mansion, blaming the servants is not allowed. Ruxue is just giving you a reminder."

Madame Gu was defending Gu Ruxue, for sure.

Gu Chaoyan had not gotten a very strong sense about this when she was at the Gu Mansion, but now when she was out with the family, she clearly understood the feelings when she was scolded in public.

She nodded and continued without saying anything more.

During the process, Gu Ruxue came and whispered something into her ears with gritted teeth.

Gu Chaoyan did not care. She was just thinking that if the maid who had set her up was from the Huo Mansion, then it must have been an order from someone in the mansion.

She was famously hideous, but she barely went out. So she could not possibly have offended anyone from the Huo Mansion. So there was only one possibility why she was set up – the lady of the Huo Mansion was a friend of Gu Ruxue. Gu Zhenkang the father was just a minor officer so he could not possibly have any relationship with the Elder Huo.

Then it must have been the Prince of the Duke Changning who had introduced them all.

She was now getting curious to see what kind of trick they were going to do today.

The Huo Mansion had arranged a very nice position for the Gu Family, probably because of their potential marriage arrangement with the Duke Changning's Mansion.

"That is your eldest sister?" A girl's voice arose.

Gu Chaoyan looked up and saw a girl in red standing by Gu Ruxue, as she looked at her with disdain.

They were friends.

"Why is she out for the banquet, when she is so hideous?" The girl in red asked in disbelief.

Chapter 50: Princess Yunxi

Gu Chaoyan frowned. She disliked people who had no politeness, but in this annoying dynasty, ranks were important. Otherwise she would have gone up and given her several punches.

Huo Wei was not whispering, so the madams and ladies around Huo Wei started to whisper.

They were all talking about how this hideous Gu Chaoyan was divorced from her marriage arrangement.

Gu Chaoyan was very furious, but she was showing a calm face to everyone. She would not hit anyone, because Huo Wei and Gu Ruxue were trying to irritate her, and to see if she would get angry.

Unfortunately, she would not do anything like that.

So she stood there with a cold face.

"I heard that the most ugly woman is here, where is she, let me have a look." Another bump arose again.

Gu Chaoyan was just at the edge of rolling her eyes.

A princess was here, when Miss. Huo had just stopped.

Gu Ruxue was indeed a capable person who was able to team up with a princess.

Gu Chaoyan wanted more and more to cooperate with Lord Huai.

"Madame Gu, I told you not to bring this hideous woman here today. We are humiliated again!" Ms. Gu was speaking with a loud voice. She was not blaming Gu Chaoyan, but trying to set up a bad image of Gu Chaoyan so that she would not think about the dowry all the time.

Hearing Ms. Gu's words, Gu Ruxue smiled and looked at Gu Chaoyan with a proud look on her face.

Then a red silhouette broke in. Instead of coming towards Gu Chaoyan, she glanced about and said with disappointment. "Didn't you say that the most ugly woman in the Capital is here? Where is she?"

Hearing the princess's question, everyone around changed a different expression.

Especially Gu Ruxue.

Anxious, she pointed at Gu Chaoyan. "Princess Yunxi, that is her!"

Princess Yunxi threw a look at Gu Ruxue and then at Gu Chaoyan. Dressed in a yellow outfit, Gu Chaoyan had apparently lost a lot of weight because of the aloe vera juice and magical spring water. Her facial features stood out and her skin had turned fairer. And the outfit of that color made her skin look fairer.

She looked cold yet she stood there with a straight back, as if she were not affected by those bystanders who intended to make fun of her.

Seeing Gu Chaoyan, Princess Yunxi said nothing, but glared at Gu Ruxue. "Who do you think you are to have lied to me!"

Hearing the words, Gu Ruxue turned pale. "I am not lying to you, Princess!"

Having said the words, she realized what Princess meant so she pointed at Gu Chaoyan and explained instantly, "Princess, that is the hideous woman! I am not lying to you, she is my sister! Of course I know who she is!"

Princess Yunxi threw a few looks at Gu Ruxue and said no more. Gu Ruxue let out a sigh of relief.

By this hour...

Princess Yunxi came to Gu Chaoyan and said, "You are so disappointing!"

The cold-looking Gu Chaoyan looked at Princess Yunxi with interest now.

"I heard of you wherever I go these days. They say that you are the most ugly woman in the whole city. I overestimated you. I came here just to take a look at you, and..."

"..."

"And you are not ugly at all. Lose some weight, you may even exceed that sister of yours." Yunxi said with honesty.

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Gu Chaoyan was about to express her gratitude, when Huo Wei suddenly let out a scream.