

I Regained 121

Chapter 121: Jiang Yue's Aunt

Meng Zhi looked sympathetically at Gu Dai and softly comforted her, "Don't be sad, Daidai. The reason they believe Jiang Yue is that their own interests haven't been harmed yet. Once they are, their faith will crumble."

Gu Dai shook her head, her gaze fixed on the screen as she softly spoke, "But Jiang Yue's actions should have hurt Song Ling's interests, shouldn't they? Yet he still chooses to believe her."

Meng Zhi paused for a moment before asserting, "I think Song Ling can't be indifferent. There must be some other reason for his actions."

A look of confusion seeped into Gu Dai's face. "Another reason, you say?"

Similar doubts plagued Song Zhi. He couldn't understand why these people were still so steadfast in their belief in Jiang Yue, even after a witness had come forward. However, he had another card up his sleeve, courtesy of the family patriarch.

Looking at Wang Lan, he spoke, "Madam, do you know why the patriarch has never accepted Miss Jiang Yue?"

Without hesitation, Wang Lan responded, "What else could it be? Isn't it because he favors that woman, Gu Dai, and doesn't want Jiang Yue to marry into the Song family?"

Song Zhi did not deny it, adding, "That's part of it, but there's also the fact that Miss Jiang Yue has an aunt."

Song Yu glanced skeptically at Song Zhi. "So what? Lots of people have aunts. Are you saying that only orphans like Gu Dai, who have no parents or relatives, are suitable to marry into the Song family?"

Song Zhi: "..."

Upon hearing the mention of her aunt, Jiang Yue felt as if she were on the brink of collapse. She turned to Song Ling and whispered, "Song Ling, my stomach hurts. Can you take me to the hospital?"

Ignoring Jiang Yue, Song Zhi loudly declared, "Having an aunt is normal.

What's not normal is that her aunt's name is Jiang Lin!"

Wang Lan froze as the name resounded in her ears. Images of Jiang Lin, with her bewitching allure, flashed through her mind. Her face twisted as she demanded, screaming at Song Zhi, "Which Jiang Lin are you talking about?"

Song Zhi locked eyes with her and said, "Madam, you already know the answer in your heart, don't you?"

Upon receiving confirmation, Wang Lan felt as if all the strength had been drained from her body. The name 'Jiang Lin' was like a bolt from the blue, shattering the world around her.

Song Yu, listening to the exchange between Song Zhi and Wang Lan, felt puzzled and asked, "Mom, what's going on? Who is this Jiang Lin, and why do you seem to despise her so much?"

Wang Lan lowered her head, her teeth clenched in a bitter smile. "Jiang Lin is the woman who once threw our family into utter chaos," she said, her voice tinged with darkness.

Song Yu's eyes widened in disbelief, her hand covering her mouth. "What?!"

Years ago, Wang Lan and her husband were known in their social circle as a deeply loving couple. Despite his family's objections, Song Ling's father had been unwavering in his commitment to Wang Lan.

But Jiang Lin's arrival shattered that idyllic picture. Song Ling's father's affections shifted from Wang Lan to Jiang Lin as if he were under a spell.

It was a lifelong wound for Wang Lan. She'd dreamt countless times of eradicating Jiang Lin. What she hadn't expected was to spend years unknowingly doting on the niece of the woman she despised, even going out of her way to help her.

Fueled by a torrent of emotions, Wang Lan stormed up to Jiang Yue, raising her hand to deliver a stinging slap. "You're that bit*h's niece, and you dared to show your face around me? Doesn't your conscience bother you, seeing how well I've treated you?"

Jiang Yue's head snapped to the side from the force of the slap and a trickle of blood emerged from the corner of her mouth. She covered her stinging cheek as tears filled her eyes. "I cut ties with her after finding out she was someone's mistress. I have no contact with her!"

But Wang Lan wasn't listening. The sight of Jiang Yue's tear-streaked face only reminded her more of Jiang Lin.

Seized by this thought, she couldn't help but slap Jiang Yue again, shouting, "I've seen these tricks before with your aunt! You little bit*h, you thought you could deceive me with the same tactics?"

After being slapped twice in quick succession, Jiang Yue could no longer maintain her usually gentle demeanor. As Wang Lan raised her hand to slap her again, Jiang Yue swiftly caught her wrist and flung it away..

Chapter 122: Not Right in the Head

Wang Lan felt the stinging sensation in her wrist where Jiang Yue had flung her hand away. She stared at Jiang Yue incredulously. "How dare you resist!"

Song Yu was equally shocked that Jiang Yue had fought back. Seething with anger, she took a few steps towards Jiang Yue, grabbed a fistful of her hair, and demanded, "How dare you treat my mom like this?"

The amount Song Yu had once adored Jiang Yue was now equal to the disgust he felt, knowing that Jiang Yue was related by blood to the woman who had disrupted her family.

Taking advantage of Song Yu's grip on Jiang Yue, Wang Lan landed slaps on both of Jiang Yue's cheeks.

Jiang Yue didn't need to look in a mirror to know her face must be swollen and red by now. She lifted her eyes to Song Ling, her last hope, and cried out, "Brother Song Ling, save me..."

When he heard Jiang Yue's plea, he spoke in a cold, stern voice, "Mom, Song Yu, don't lay a hand on her."

Both Wang Lan and Song Yu were stunned. "You're still siding with her, even now?" they asked in disbelief.

As Wang Lan realized this, she raised her hand to slap Jiang Yue again.

But Song Ling moved swiftly, shielding Jiang Yue behind him and taking the slaps meant for her.

Wang Lan froze upon seeing her slaps land on her own son.

Song Yu was dumbstruck. She stepped forward and said in disbelief, "Brother, after all that Jiang Yue has done, you're still protecting her? Are you intending to marry her?"

Without hesitation, Song Ling nodded and said, "Yes, I still intend to marry her."

Meng Zhi, hearing Song Ling's voice through the computer, looked at Gu Dai with concern and softly said, "Daidai..."

Gu Dai shook her head and calmly responded, "Don't worry about me; I've already considered this."

Meng Zhi couldn't shake the feeling that Gu Dai was merely putting on a brave face. His resentment towards Song Ling boiled in his heart.

Meng Zhi took a deep breath and softly said to Gu Dai, "Daidai, this guy named Song Ling is not right in the head; he doesn't think like a normal person!"

Hearing Meng Zhi's choice of words to describe Song Ling, Gu Dai couldn't help but burst into laughter. She knew her third brother was concerned for her, so she reassured him, "Third Brother, I truly am not upset because of Song Ling. Don't worry. Besides, I'm particularly looking forward to Wang Lan's reaction now."

Although Gu Dai said this, Meng Zhi still couldn't shake his underlying concern. He felt she was merely putting on a brave face.

With that thought, Meng Zhi's feelings transformed into a swirl of resentment aimed at Song Ling. He vowed to himself that he wouldn't let him off the hook in the future.

Wang Lan found herself gasping for breath after she heard Song Ling's declaration about Jiang Yue. "Jiang Yue carries the blood of Jiang Lin, that vile woman, and you still want to marry her? I tell you, it's impossible! I won't allow her to set foot in this house!"

Song Yu chimed in, "Exactly, brother. There are so many people in the world. Why are you so fixated on Jiang Yue?"

Jiang Yue remained silent, hiding behind Song Ling, her face a portrait of pitiable vulnerability.

Ignoring the objections of Wang Lan and Song Yu, Song Ling turned his head slightly towards Zhao Xuan and ordered, "Call the master of ceremonies back in. The wedding will proceed."

Jiang Yue, tucked behind Song Ling, felt a surge of triumphant delight. To think that this exceptional man still believed in her and loved her despite everything.

Just then, Song Zhi, who had stepped out for a moment, returned in a frantic rush. "Something terrible has happened! The old master is about to jump off a cliff!"

Song Ling's face drained of color. "What?"

Upon hearing Song Zhi's alarming news, Gu Dai leapt to her feet, grabbed her car keys, and dashed out.

Meng Zhi quickly followed, but Gu Dai was too fast. By the time he reached the ground floor, all he saw was the tail light of Gu Dai's red sports car speeding away.

Song Min stood at the edge of a cliff, leaning on his cane. One more step, and he would plunge into the abyss below, his body lost to the ravine's depths.

When Song Ling stepped out of the car, his eyes were met with a scene that drained the color from his usually composed face. "Grandpa, you're dangerously close to the cliff's edge! Please step back; we can discuss whatever's troubling you once you're safe."

Wang Lan, who in her heart almost wished her father-in-law would take the fateful step, knew she had to say the socially acceptable thing in front of the assembled crowd. "Yes, Dad, let's talk about it when you come back from the edge."

Song Min gave a disdainful snort, his voice laced with suspicion.. "If I step back, will Song Ling actually listen to me?"

Chapter 123: Double Standard

Song Ling quickly responded, "I'll listen to you, Grandpa. Please come down!"

Song An didn't descend but instead inquired, "So you'll listen to me? Will you call off the wedding with Jiang Yue and reconcile with Gu Dai?"

Upon hearing Song An's words, Jiang Yue almost crushed her teeth in anger. Just moments ago, Song Ling had firmly committed to marrying her, and now this obstinate old man had appeared out of nowhere to ruin her plans.

Song Ling fell silent. He knew he couldn't fulfill either of those requests.

As for Jiang Yue, he had already promised her something that he intended to keep.

And Gu Dai... he had been so keen on divorcing her initially. Reconciling now would make him a laughingstock. How could he show his face in the Capital if word got out?

Seeing Song Ling's silence, Song An's face turned black with rage. He tapped his cane on the ground twice.

And with those two taps, the sound of pebbles falling could faintly be heard.

Wang Lan, seizing the moment, hurriedly said to Song Ling, "Quickly tell your grandpa you won't marry Jiang Yue! Look, her aunt is the type of woman who breaks up families. This proves that the video shown at the wedding was real. She's been with so many men; think about how tainted she is."

Wang Lan didn't actually want Song Ling to marry Gu Dai either, but compared to Jiang Yue, Gu Dai seemed like the lesser evil and easier to control. Once they were married, Wang Lan was confident she could easily manipulate Gu Dai.

Song Ling ignored Wang Lan, looked at Song An and said, "Grandpa, don't move. We're coming to get you!"

Seeing that Song Ling and the others were actually heading his way, Song An shouted, "None of you come any closer! If any of you take one more step, I'll jump!"

Song Ling was utterly torn, wrestling with his emotions. Just as he was about to say, “I agree,” a roaring engine sound suddenly pierced the air.

Instinctively turning his head, he saw a red sports car speeding toward them. Just as it seemed about to collide, the car executed a slick drift and halted beside them.

Snapping back to her senses from her initial fear, Wang Lan was about to curse the driver. However, upon recognizing woman with sunglasses as Gu Dai, her curse was instantly silenced.

Wang Lan took in Gu Dai, dressed in a tailored suit and looking sharp. Her mind flashed back to a recent scene in a cemetery, and the wounds that had only just healed on her body began to ache once again.

Song Yu’s eyes filled with jealousy when she saw Gu Dai.

Usually engrossed in studying fashion—clothes, shoes, jewelry—she immediately recognized that everything Gu Dai wore was high-end luxury, items she’d tried and failed to acquire despite multiple attempts.

Song Ling’s brow furrowed slightly as he asked, “Why have you come here?”

Ignoring the stares and chatter surrounding her, Gu Dai headed straight for Song An, who stood near the edge of the cliff.

Song Ling, noticing Gu Dai’s actions, urgently shouted, “Gu Dai, stop! Grandpa doesn’t want anyone to approach!”

Undeterred, Gu Dai continued her trek toward the cliff’s edge.

Song Ling’s eyes grew colder as he stepped forward to catch up with her, intending to pull her back.

Song An, who had been gazing at the horizon, turned his head sharply upon hearing Song Ling's voice. Seeing Gu Dai, he threw his cane on the ground, rushing back toward her with palpable excitement. "Gu Dai, how did you get here?"

With a smile, Gu Dai approached Song An and asked, "Grandpa, why are you standing so high up? Are you feeling unwell?"

Shaking his head and smiling, Song An replied, "Don't worry, I'm as fit as a fiddle. I just got a little scared standing up so high; my calves were trembling, that's all."

Gu Dai let out a gentle sigh, saying, "You can't stand so high next time, Grandpa. It's really too dangerous, you know?"

Without any objection, Song An nodded his head in agreement.

Witnessing this exchange, Song Ling and his companions were utterly dumbfounded.

Song Yu stammered, "Didn't Grandpa just say he wouldn't come down unless his conditions were met? And that he didn't want anyone approaching him? Why did everything change when Gu Dai went over?"

Observing the scene, Wang Lan also felt a twinge of irritation. She couldn't help but snort, "I don't see what's so special about Gu Dai that the old man likes!"

Ignoring their sarcastic remarks, Gu Dai halted when she reached Song Ling. She looked at him, her face stern..

Chapter 124: Being Played Like A Fool

Without waiting for Song Ling to react, Gu Dai began to scold, "Grandpa is standing in such a perilous spot; what if he accidentally falls? Couldn't you have indulged him first to get him down?"

Song Ling's face turned ashen.

Didn't he want to coax his grandpa down? It was just that Gu Dai had appeared as he was about to speak. Moreover, his grandpa behaved completely differently with him compared to Gu Dai; he hardly listened to him!

Wang Lan, astonished that Gu Dai dared to reprimand Song Ling, snapped, "Gu Dai, what do you mean by—"

Gu Dai turned her head, fixing Wang Lan with a chilly gaze.

Wang Lan faltered, speechless and retreating two steps in fear.

Regaining her composure, Wang Lan's face turned even graver. She used to be the one giving Gu Dai dirty looks; now the tables had turned and she found herself afraid.

Noticing Wang Lan's hostility and unfazed by it, Gu Dai said, nonchalant, "Instead of finding time to scold me, perhaps you should consult an eye doctor for your flawed vision. After all, a person who favors the niece of an mistress and tries to introduce the said person to their son is increasingly rare."

Wang Lan's face contorted with humiliation. She opened her mouth to retort but found herself at a loss for words.

Growing tired of further entanglement with these people, Gu Dai turned to Song An and whispered, "Grandpa shall I take you home?"

Ever since Gu Dai's arrival, Song An's attention had shifted away from everyone else. He nodded enthusiastically, "Yes, yes!"

After Gu Dai helped Song An into the car, Song Ling finally came to his senses, shouting, "Grandpa, don't go with her! We can take you home!"

Song An ignored Song Ling's words, showing no interest in engaging with him.

Song Zhi, Song An's personal butler, also boarded Gu Dai's car. After all, he was there to serve the old man, and if Song An's choice was to go with Gu Dai, then it was none of his concern.

Gu Dai's car then audaciously drove off, leaving only its diminishing outline.

Wang Lan was nearly exploding with rage. She turning her eyes to Jiang Yue, her gaze hardened as she sneered, "As long as I live, I won't allow someone like you to marry into the Song family. Those disgraceful videos of you have already circulated widely; our family can't afford such humiliation!"

Song Yu chimed in, "Exactly, I would never accept you as my sister-in-law!"

After all, she had originally wanted Jiang Yue as her sister-in-law because she was presentable and could be flaunted in front of her friends. But now that Jiang Yue was embroiled in such a scandal, she would become a subject of ridicule rather than envy.

As Song Yu pondered the humiliation she might face, Wang Lan also foresaw the days of ridicule that lay ahead, particularly from Zhang Hua. Her mood soured even further, and her gaze toward Jiang Yue became increasingly venomous, as if she wished to tear her apart right there and then.

Noticing Wang Lan's glare, Song Ling spoke before she could act, "Mom, you and Song Yu go find grandpa first."

Reluctantly, Wang Lan agreed, her defiance wilting under Song Ling's icy stare.

Jiang Yue, standing behind Song Ling, watched the retreating figures of Wang Lan and Song Yu with a triumphant smile.

Jiang Yue thought, "So what if they don't want me in the Song family? The person marrying me is Song Ling, and he's willing to do so!"

Song Ling glanced down at Jiang Yue and murmured, "Jiang Yue."

Snapping out of her reverie, Jiang Yue quickly erased the smug expression from her face and looked up, asking, "When are you going to marry me, Brother Song Ling?"

Song Ling paused for a few seconds before saying, "Let's give it some time."

Jiang Yue was stunned. Recovering quickly, she gripped his arm and urgently asked, "Is it because of my aunt? I've really cut ties with her, you must believe me! Or is it those videos? Those aren't me; they're all fake..."

Frowning, Song Ling looked down at Jiang Yue.

He detested being lied to. He had tolerated Jiang Yue time and again because she had saved his life. But now, even when faced with overwhelming evidence, she still insisted that the person in those videos wasn't her, claiming they were fabricated.

It was as if she thought he was a fool.

At that moment, the Jiang Yue before him felt like a stranger, a far cry from the woman who had once saved him. He even began to suspect that the person who had rescued him and the Jiang Yue standing before him were not the same individual..

Chapter 125: Call Off the Wedding

Feeling the shift in Song Ling's demeanor, Jiang Yue grew increasingly anxious.

Song Ling, deeply disappointed in Jiang Yue, finally said coldly, "Jiang Yue, let's call off our wedding."

Jiang Yue was stunned. She couldn't believe that Song Ling would say such a thing. "But you promised that you'd agree to any request I made," she protested.

"I did say that," Song Ling admitted, "but the promise is void now."

After uttering these words, he got into a nearby car.

Jiang Yue came to her senses and ran after Song Ling's car, but it sped away, soon vanishing from sight.

She fell to the ground, her face swollen and marked with several handprints. Her once immaculate and elegant wedding dress was now stained with mud. Overwhelmed by the day's events, she buried her face in her hands and began to sob.

After some time, Jiang Yue lifted her head and took out her phone to make a call.

The call was quickly answered, and Jiang Yue said plaintively, "Aunt, it's over for me. They found out everything, and Song Ling just said he won't marry me!"

Jiang Lin yawned, responding nonchalantly, "I watched your wedding live stream; it's not a big deal."

Wiping away her tears, Jiang Yue continued, "But they saw those old videos of me, and that wicked Wang Lan is adamantly against Song Ling marrying me."

Jiang Lin's eyes darkened as she said, "Wang Lan is nothing but a defeated foe of mine. I was able to steal her husband; as my niece, you can certainly win over her son. Don't worry, I'll guide you. You'll still become Mrs. Song."

Hearing Jiang Lin's words, Jiang Yue felt immediately reassured.

Yes, her aunt had even managed to seduce Wang Lan's husband; solving her problem would be a piece of cake.

Jiang Yue smiled, saying, "Thank you, Aunt. I don't know what I would do without you."

Jiang Lin acknowledged this, then said, "For now, avoid the reporters; I'll send someone to pick you up."

Reporters had already stationed themselves on the mountainside. When they saw Song Ling's car, they swarmed it.

Zhao Xuan, seeing the situation, had no choice but to hit the brakes and said, "Mr. Song, if I keep driving, I'll hit them."

Song Ling looked at the throng of reporters surrounding the car and ordered, "Run them over."

Zhao Xuan, scared witless by Song Ling's words, stuttered, "Mr. Song, I'm too young to go to prison. Maybe I should resign."

Song Ling glanced at him and exited the car.

As Song Ling stepped out, reporters shoved their microphones in his face, peppering him with questions.

"Mr. Song, what's your take on the inappropriate videos of Miss Jiang revealed at the wedding?"

"Mr. Song, did you really not know that Miss Jiang's hand isn't actually injured?"

"Mr. Song, will you still marry Miss Jiang in the future?"

"Mr. Song, Mr. Song..."

Listening to their incessant chatter, Song Ling's face darkened further. His eyes grew colder and an icy aura enveloped him.

When the reporters met Song Ling's icy gaze, their voices gradually diminished until none dared to speak.

Seeing this, Song Ling declared, "I expect that none of your outlets will report today's events. Otherwise, you'll be making an enemy of the Song family. Don't say I didn't warn you."

Though it was still spring, the reporters felt as if they were standing in an ice-cold chamber. A chill ran down their spines.

Song Ling swept his eyes over them and said dismissively, "Now move. Don't block my way."

Without a word, the reporters parted, clearing a path for him.

Song Ling returned to the car and lowered his eyes, instructing Zhao Xuan, "Have the company's PR team ready. Deal with any discoveries immediately."

Zhao Xuan wanted to say it was pointless, especially since Wang Lan had live-streamed the entire debacle. Still, as Song Ling was his boss, he could only nod and say, "Understood, Mr. Song."

Getting his reply, Song Ling closed his eyes, attempting to rest. However, the next second, his mind was invaded by images of Gu Dai.

He remembered how, when he was ill, Gu Dai would take care of him tirelessly, only leaving once he was fully recovered.

During his bouts of drunken misery, Gu Dai would silently endure his drunken rages and even prepare hangover remedies for him to drink..

Chapter 126: Impossible to Reconcile

Haunted by the assassination attempt overseas years ago, Song Ling often suffered from nightmares. During those restless nights, it was Gu Dai's soft whispers that lulled him back to sleep.

When he woke up, however, he would feel embarrassed and lash out at her.

He acknowledged that Gu Dai had always been good to him, but the thought that she was materialistic sickened him, sharpening his attitude toward her even further.

Gu Dai would often hold back tears, offering him a forced smile without a single word of complaint, only to continue treating him kindly.

All of this began to change when Jiang Yue returned to the country. When he once again suggested a divorce to Gu Dai, she agreed without hesitation. Initially, he thought it was some kind of manipulative ploy on her part, but her agreement was genuine. Now, the warmth that once filled her gaze when she looked at him had vanished.

His reflection, once so vivid in her eyes, was now nowhere to be found.

The more Song Ling thought about this, the more agitated he became. His hands clenched into fists, which he slammed down onto the car seat, producing a thunderous noise.

Zhao Xuan, witnessing this, grew increasingly anxious and dared not utter a word.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in Gu Dai's car was starkly different.

Despite Song An's promise never to act so recklessly again, Gu Dai couldn't help but chide him, "Grandpa, how could you go up to such a high cliff?"

Hastily, Song An explained, "Daidai, it was all an act to force that brat Song Ling to not marry Jiang Yue and reconcile with you. As soon as he agreed, I would have come down. I wasn't actually going to jump off the cliff."

After saying this, Song An glanced at Song Zhi, his personal butler, who was also in the car. "If Daidai doesn't believe me, she can ask the butler here. I told him beforehand that it was all an act."

Caught off guard, Song Zhi still cooperated, saying, "That's correct. The old master told me in advance that he was merely putting on a show."

Gu Dai was speechless.

Gu Dai sighed, "Even if it was an act, it was still incredibly dangerous. What if something had gone wrong? You must never do something like this again!"

Obediently, Song An nodded, "Alright, alright, I'll listen to Daidai."

After giving his assent, Song An carefully lifted his eyes to look at Gu Dai and cautiously asked, "Daidai, you and Song Ling..."

Gu Dai pursed her lips and said firmly, "Grandpa, a reconciliation between Song Ling and me is not possible."

Panicking, Song An rushed to say, "Daidai, Grandpa will sort Song Ling out for you. He won't dare to treat you the way he did before. If he does, I'll have someone break his legs immediately!"

When Song An learned of Gu Dai's divorce from Song Ling, he had immediately started an investigation. Only then did he realize that Gu Dai had been suffering quietly at the hands of Song Ling and Wang Lan, his daughter-in-law.

Even after hearing Song An's vehement promises, Gu Dai shook her head resolutely. "Grandpa, Song Ling and I just don't get along. Three years of being together have made it clear that we're not suited for each other. A reconciliation wouldn't bring happiness."

Realization dawned on Song An. Gu Dai had made up her mind; she and Song Ling had no future.

With a weary sigh, Song An finally conceded, "Alright, it's ultimately Song Ling's loss. The boy can't see straight, swayed as he is by Jiang Yue. But he's my grandson; I know him well. He has his boundaries and wouldn't betray you during his time in the marriage."

"I understand, Grandpa," Gu Dai responded softly.

Although Song Ling could be obtuse and harsh, during their three years of marriage, he had steadfastly rejected the advances of numerous women.

If anyone persisted, he would even order Zhao Xuan to have them escorted out.

Feeling relieved, Song An suddenly noticed something unusual. He looked at Gu Dai, who was skillfully maneuvering the car, then at the winding cliff side road outside the window. Puzzled, he finally asked, "Daidai, when did you learn to drive? And so skillfully at that? Even on this treacherous cliff side road, you drive the car so smoothly. I haven't seen such skilled driving since my younger days among professional racers.."

Chapter 127: How dare you

After saying this, Song An quickly found an answer himself, "It must be that Daidai is extraordinarily talented, easily rivaling those professional racers with just a bit of practice."

Gu Dai couldn't help but chuckle, "Grandpa, you're exaggerating. I've just been through some events recently."

"What happened? Daidai, I've been arranging for people to find you for some time, but we've had no news of you. Where have you been? Are you okay?" Song An asked, with urgency in his tone.

Caught off guard by Song An's litany of concerned questions, Gu Dai hesitated for a moment, unsure where to start. She looked at the buildings passing by and said, "Grandpa, we're almost home. Can I explain everything to you once we're there?"

Although bursting with curiosity, Song An nodded, "Alright."

Gu Dai supported Song An as they walked into the house.

Though the mansion remained unchanged, stepping inside filled Gu Dai with a mix of nostalgia and unfamiliarity.

Song An noticed her distant look but chose not to disturb her, quietly standing by her side until a servant announced that Song Ling had arrived.

Song Ling strode up to Song An, asking with concern, "Grandpa are you alright?"

Irritated, Song An glared at him, "What are you talking about? I'm perfectly safe with Daidai. Why would anything happen? And who let you in? Just looking at you annoys me. Go stand by the door!"

A bit hurt, Song Ling moved to the door as his grandfather was clearly not in the mood to deal with him.

Knowing that Song An was trying to vent on her behalf, Gu Dai interjected, "Grandpa, what's past is past. There's no need for this."

Song An was often willing to listen to Gu Dai, but on this point, he was resolute, "No! The pain he's caused can't just be brushed away. This brat must make it right! Also, Daidai, you still haven't told me what you've been up to recently."

"I've been busy with work," Gu Dai responded.

“Work?” Song An paused, then broke into a smile, “That’s wonderful! Be an independent woman of the new era! If you encounter any problems at work, you can always come to me. Although I no longer manage the company, my old connections are still there. I’m not sure if they’ll be of any help, though.”

“Thank you, Grandpa,” Gu Dai replied.

Even though she expressed gratitude, Gu Dai had no intention of seeking Song An’s help. She didn’t want to disturb his peaceful life over trivial work matters.

Song An was initially concerned that she might decline his offer, but he felt relieved when she agreed.

After Gu Dai agreed, a radiant smile bloomed on Song An’s face. He then proceeded to ask, “Daidai, where have you been staying recently? And what accounts for such a significant change in you?”

Gu Dai was about to speak when her words were drowned out by Song Yu’s surprised voice, “Brother, why are you standing at the doorway? Why aren’t you coming in?”

Before Song Ling could answer, Song Yu rushed into the mansion and said, “Grandfather, I saw my brother at the entrance, but he—Gu Dai, what are you doing here?” Song Yu’s eyebrows furrowed upon seeing Gu Dai.

Following closely behind Song Yu, Wang Lan entered and queried upon hearing her daughter’s words, “After bringing the old man home, why haven’t you left? Are you planning on sticking around?”

Furious, Song An grabbed the teapot from the table and hurled it onto the floor, shouting, “How dare you! I’m still sitting here, and you dare to treat Daidai like this? It shows just how audacious you’ve become when I’m not around!”

The loud crash of the teapot startled Wang Lan and Song Yu, who were now too afraid to utter another word.

Witnessing this, Gu Dai quickly poured a cup of water for Song An, saying, “Grandpa getting angry is bad for your health. Please, have some water to calm down.”

Taking the cup from Gu Dai's hand, Song An gulped down several sips before his mood finally settled. "Since everyone is here, go call Song Ling in as well. I have something to say."

After giving the instruction, Song An turned his gaze back to Gu Dai, asking, "Daidai, what were you about to say?"

Gu Dai softly replied, "I was about to say that I've found my family.."

Chapter 128: Found My Family

Song Yu's eyes widened in disbelief as she stared at Gu Dai, "You're an orphan. If you had any living relatives, they would've found you by now. Why did you only find them now, and right after divorcing my brother at that?"

Pausing for a moment, Song Yu sized up Gu Dai dismissively, "You didn't conjure up some sort of delusional disorder after the shock, did you?"

Song An's brows furrowed, and he spoke sternly, "What nonsense are you talking about? I've already decided to recognize Daidai as my own granddaughter!"

Song Yu was stunned. Regaining her composure, she asked sharply, "Why, Grandpa? Don't you already have me as your granddaughter? Why do you need to recognize Gu Dai as well?"

Wang Lan was equally alarmed. After all the effort she had put into ousting Gu Dai from the Song family, the old man was now considering adopting her as a granddaughter, integrating her into the family once again.

Rushing to speak, Wang Lan said, "Dad, I don't think this is a good idea. Gu Dai was once your daughter-in-law, and now you want to recognize her as your granddaughter? Isn't that confusing?"

Unperturbed, Song An did not even listen to their words.

Gu Dai sighed helplessly. She knew that deep down, Song An didn't actually believe she'd found her family. "Grandpa, I'm not lying. I really found my relatives. My parents are the founders of the Gu Group in the Capital, Gu Zhe and Meng Xian."

Song An was stunned.

Wang Lan and Song Yu exchanged disbelieving glances.

Anyone in the business world would have heard of Gu Zhe and Meng Xian. They were geniuses who had built the Gu Group from scratch in a very short time, becoming leaders in various industries.

If Gu Zhe and Meng Xian were Gu Dai's biological parents, didn't that make her the rumored heiress of the Gu family?

No, it couldn't be. Absolutely not!

Wang Lan and Song Yu both mentally rejected the notion, simultaneously declaring, "Gu Dai can't possibly be the Gu family's heiress!"

Scornfully sweeping her gaze over Gu Dai, Wang Lan sneered, "Even though the founders of the Gu family are no longer alive, they're not people you, a country bumpkin, can casually claim connections to!"

Following suit, Song Yu added, "I grew up hearing stories about the heiress of the Gu family. She is incredibly smart and has excelled in various fields since she was young. You, Gu Dai, are good for nothing. How dare you claim to be her?"

Nodding in agreement, Wang Lan chimed in, "Exactly, we just mentioned you might be delusional, and you still won't admit it!"

Gu Dai looked at Wang Lan and Song Yu as if she were looking at two fools.

Just as Gu Dai was about to speak, a voice rang in her ear—Song Ling’s. “Gu Dai is not lying.”

In disbelief, Wang Lan and Song Yu turned their gaze to Song Ling, asking in astonishment, “Why are you helping Gu Dai deceive us?”

Song Ling refuted, “I’m not deceiving anyone. Gu Dai is indeed the heiress of the Gu family.”

Wang Lan let out a scornful laugh as if she had heard a delightful joke, “If Gu Dai were the heiress of the Gu family, why wouldn’t she have mentioned it in the past three years? This only proves that Gu Dai’s surname being ‘Gu’ is purely coincidental and she is not the Gu family heiress.”

Song An had long since grown tired of listening to Wang Lan and Song Yu. In a cold voice, he interrupted, “Has Song Ling ever lied since he was a child? Daidai is the heiress of the Gu family!”

With an emotionless tone, Gu Dai addressed Wang Lan and Song Yu, “Whether you believe it or not is irrelevant. We will have plenty of opportunities to meet in the future.”

The certainty in Gu Dai’s voice made Wang Lan and Song Yu began to doubt themselves.

Could Gu Dai really be the heiress of the Gu family? Why didn’t she mention it during her three years with the Song family?

If she had revealed her true identity, they wouldn’t have mistreated her those three years. They wouldn’t have involved Jiang Yue, claiming that her status was a better match for Song Ling than Gu Dai’s.

A thought suddenly flashed across Wang Lan’s mind, and she blurted out, “You married into the Song family without revealing your identity. Were you trying to steal our family secrets?”

Gu Dai's eyebrows rose in surprise. She glanced at Song Ling, recalling how he had similarly accused her at the cemetery. She couldn't help but marvel inwardly; Wang Lan and Song Ling were truly like mother, like son, even their suspicions echoed each other..

Chapter 129: Introducing Men

Song Ling's expression darkened instantly, recalling that he had once asked such a foolish question himself.

Song An, oblivious to Song Ling's change in mood, glared at Wang Lan as he retorted, "Why would Daidai ever need to steal secrets? Our Song family couldn't even begin to compare to the Gu family back in the day. She has no reason to engage in such meaningless actions!"

Pausing for a moment, Song An continued, "If Daidai really wanted to know, all she'd have to do is ask me, and I'd have someone brief every detail about the Song family to her."

Song An's casual words had the impact of a stone thrown into a placid lake; everyone present froze, stunned by the implications.

It was as if his statement served as a pair of slaps across the faces of Song Ling and Wang Lan, who had accused Gu Dai of stealing secrets.

Snapping back to reality, Gu Dai's eyes brimmed with tears. She tilted her head back slightly to keep them from falling and softly said to Song An, "Thank you, Grandpa. But I wouldn't engage in such activities. The reason I didn't reveal my identity over the past three years is due to certain unforeseen circumstances."

Nodding, Song An proceeded to ask the question he had long been contemplating, "Daidai, would you consider becoming my granddaughter?"

Gu Dai was taken aback. She had initially thought that Song An wanted to adopt her as his granddaughter merely to protect her from being belittled. She hadn't expected him to raise the question again.

Noticing Gu Dai's confusion, Song An quickly clarified, "Daidai, I didn't say this on a whim. In fact, I've been contemplating it for some time."

Song Ling furrowed his eyebrows, "Grandpa, how could Gu Dai become your granddaughter?"

Song An snorted coldly and retorted, "Why can't Daidai be my granddaughter? You had such a wonderful wife and you didn't cherish her. If I no longer have a granddaughter-in-law, why can't I have Daidai as my granddaughter instead? If she agrees, she'll be your sister!"

Song Ling's face darkened, "Grandpa, this..."

Song An completely disregarded Song Ling's comment, lost in his own thoughts. He even went so far as to instruct him, "So, if you meet any exceptional men in the future, remember to introduce them to Daidai. On second thought, forget it. Knowing your questionable character, most of the men around you are likely the same. I'll take it upon myself to find suitable men for her. By the way, Daidai, what type do you like? Aloof, lively, adorable...?"

Caught in the whirlwind of Song An's rambling, Gu Dai was almost at a loss for words.

After he finished his spiel, Song An looked expectantly at Gu Dai, "What do you think, Daidai?"

Song Yu felt her blood boil as she listened to Song An's rambling. She was the biological granddaughter, yet her grandfather had never introduced her to any outstanding men. Now, he was planning to do that for Gu Dai. By all rights, these resources should have been hers!

Song Ling's brows furrowed deeper as he couldn't help but say, "Grandpa, is it appropriate for you to be introducing men to Gu Dai? She was your daughter-in-law!"

Song An snorted coldly, "That's precisely why it's appropriate. She's divorced now and perfectly free to meet new people, unlike sticking with her ex-husband who was too blind to see her worth!"

Having come to this realization, Song An found it increasingly difficult to look at Song Ling without irritation. He felt that Song Ling was utterly undeserving of Gu Dai. In fact, he considered it to be Song Ling's good fortune to have been favored by Gu Dai in the first place.

Anger clenched Song Ling's fists, but he swallowed down the resentment. After all, the man in front of him was Song An.

Noticing Song Ling's discontent, Gu Dai couldn't help but feel particularly pleased.

She knew that if she agreed to become Song An's granddaughter, it would only infuriate Song Ling even more. However, she wasn't inclined to do so. Accepting the title would inevitably lead to more interactions with Song Ling, something she was not looking forward to.

"I'm sorry, Grandpa. I want to focus on my work for now and consider romantic relationships later. Also, I can't become your granddaughter," Gu Dai apologetically said.

Song An sighed softly. He could guess the reason behind Gu Dai's refusal but chose not to press her. "It's okay, Daidai. In my heart, you've always been like a true granddaughter, and that won't change."

Nodding, Gu Dai took hold of Song An's hand and softly said, "Grandpa, I'll come to visit you often.."

Chapter 130: Go Away

Gu Dai continued, "Grandpa, in my heart, I've already considered you as my real grandpa. There's no need for us to go through any unnecessary formalities."

Song An understood her message and smiled, "Alright, alright. We'll forego any unnecessary formalities. In our hearts, you and 1 are already grandpa and granddaughter, and that's not linked to anyone else."

Gu Dai grinned and nodded, "Exactly."

Song Yu, watching the harmonious interaction between Gu Dai and Song An, couldn't contain her bitterness. "1 don't know what act she's putting on. She obviously wanted to agree; all that talking was just beating around the bush!"

Wang Lan chimed in, "Exactly, such a pretentious bit—"

Before she could finish, Song An, whose face had already darkened at Song Yu's words, slammed his palm onto the table. "I've put up with you both for far too long. If you can't behave yourselves here, then get out!"

Though Song An had been angry before, the force of his anger this time was unparalleled. Wang Lan and Song Yu took several steps back, their faces filled with fear.

Not wanting to let them off the hook, Song An continued, "I've had someone investigate. It turns out that you both dared to mistreat Daidai behind my back. Daidai has always been pure and kind-hearted and didn't tell me about it. But that doesn't mean these issues are in the past, and I have no intention of letting you off the hook!"

Wang Lan and Song Yu's faces went ashen. They were so shaken that they staggered and collapsed onto the ground.

Song An stared at their current state and coldly demanded, "Apologize to Daidai now!"

Wang Lan and Song Yu lifted their heads, prepared to declare they would never apologize. But when they saw the stern expression on Song An's face, they were rendered speechless.

After a long pause, Wang Lan finally managed to say, "Regardless of anything, I'm still an elder. Since when do elders apologize to the younger generation?"

Song An glared at Wang Lan and retorted, "I've seen plenty of elders apologize to younger people. Besides, have you ever behaved like a true elder? Both you and Song Yu must apologize today!"

Wang Lan and Song Yu had never expected Song An would go to such lengths for Gu Dai. As they turned their gaze towards her, their eyes were filled with deep resentment. Reluctantly, they muttered, "Sorry."

Both of their voices were exceptionally soft, devoid of any sincerity.

Gu Dai picked up on this but didn't really care. After all, she had no interest in apologies from Wang Lan and Song Yu. However, since her grandfather was standing up for her, she gently nodded and murmured, "Mhmm."

Song An also noticed the insincerity in Wang Lan and Song Yu's voices. He initially wanted to make them apologize again, but since Gu Dai had already accepted it, he had to drop the idea. However, he wasn't ready to let them off the hook so easily. "Both of you, get out. Don't come back in. Your presence is irritating!"

Wang Lan and Song Yu had no choice but to exit, sulking. In their hearts, they had already cursed Song An and Gu Dai multiple times.

Once the two left, the atmosphere seemed to clear up. Song An chatted with Gu Dai for quite some time until her phone rang, indicating that it was getting late. Their conversation reluctantly came to a halt.

Gu Dai smiled and said, "Grandpa, the person picking me up will be here soon. I'll come and visit you whenever I get the chance, alright?"

Although Song An was reluctant to see her go, he knew that young people had their own lives to live. So, he nodded and said, "Okay."

Song Ling, watching Gu Dai's retreating figure, turned to Song An and said, "Grandpa, I'll step out for a moment."

Startled by Song Ling's sudden voice, Song An had forgotten he was still there. Seeing him was irritating, so he waved his hand dismissively, "Go away!"

Song Ling was speechless.

Quickly exiting, Song Ling called out, "Gu Dai."

Gu Dai quickened her steps when she heard Song Ling's voice, not wanting to engage with him.

Seeing this, Song Ling also sped up to catch her, grabbing her wrist as he reached her.

Feeling a sharp pain in her wrist, Gu Dai's brows furrowed in irritation. She swiftly shook off Song Ling's grasp..