

## **I Regained 141**

### Chapter 141: Good Taste

Zhou Ci's eyes sparkled as he straightened up. "Thank you, Miss Gu Dai."

Gu Dai nodded, gracefully accepting Zhou Ci's gratitude. "You've apologized, you can leave now."

Zhou Ci paused, surprised at the abrupt dismissal.

After he regained his composure, he leaned closer to Gu Dai. "Miss Gu, we've known each other for many years. Don't you think we can at least be considered friends? Won't you invite me in?"

Gu Dai cast a sidelong glance at him. "We've known each other for a long time, true, but our relationship has never extended beyond that. I wouldn't say we're friends."

Zhou Ci felt as if he'd been stabbed. With a victimized look, he whispered, "Fair enough, I was presumptuous. But it's okay. Even if we're not friends now, I believe we'll become friends in the future."

Sighing softly, Gu Dai reconsidered her initial resistance to him, especially given his recent apology. "Alright, come in."

Zhou Ci, who had been ready to leave, found himself pleasantly surprised. "Thank you," he said quickly, following her into the villa.

As they walked, Zhou Ci couldn't help but shower Gu Dai with compliments. "You look even more beautiful than the last time I saw you. Those earrings suit you exceptionally well, and your outfit, down to the shoes, complements you perfectly."

Zhou Ci wasn't lying; from the moment he stepped out of the car and laid eyes on Gu Dai, he was captivated. His heartbeat accelerated, each thump louder than the last.

Meng Zhi, overhearing Zhou Ci's endless praises, looked at him and said, "You have good taste, certainly better than your brother."

It took Zhou Ci a moment to realize that the "brother" Meng Zhi was referring to was Song Ling. He nodded vigorously, puffing out his chest. "Of course!"

Zhou Ci then sighed softly, "The moment I laid eyes on Miss Gu, I knew she was someone of exceptional character, far superior to that woman named Jiang Yue. I even wanted to warn Song Ling a few times that Jiang Yue was bad news, but the man was so stubborn he never gave me the chance to speak."

Gu Dai and Meng Zhi listened to Zhou Ci's words, neither of them commenting. They simply looked at him, their gazes heavy with skepticism.

Zhou Ci sensed the skepticism in their eyes. A little embarrassed, he cleared his throat and pulled a small box from his pocket. Opening it, he presented it to Gu Dai, steering the conversation in a new direction. "I saw this necklace a couple of days ago while browsing a jewelry store. The moment I laid eyes on it, I thought it would suit you perfectly. I hope you'll accept it."

Zhou Ci had roamed the world of romance for years and had come into contact with many women. He had developed a keen eye for jewelry.

Gu Dai glanced at the necklace and immediately recognized its suitability for her. She nodded approvingly. "You have good taste."

Zhou Ci beamed, clearly delighted by her affirmation. "May I put it on for you?"

Meng Zhi frowned, emitting a series of deliberate coughs to assert his presence. When Zhou Ci looked his way, Meng Zhi said coldly, "I've bought many pieces of jewelry for Daidai. She doesn't need to wear yours right away."

Although Zhou Ci seemed to be behaving well, Meng Zhi remembered his past as a playboy and couldn't help but view him unfavorably.

Meng Zhi might not have liked Zhou Ci, but he didn't want to interfere in Gu Dai's personal affairs. Instead, he quietly warned her, "Daidai, be careful with this one. He's slick with words. You're a simple girl; don't fall into his trap."

Gu Dai was both amused and touched. She could clearly sense that her brother had an idealized, perhaps overly protective view of her, as if she were a naive rabbit easily fooled.

To ease Meng Zhi's concerns, she nodded earnestly, whispering, "Don't worry, I can judge character. I won't be deceived by Zhou Ci.."

#### Chapter 142: No Intentions of Dating

Reassured by Gu Dai's promise, Meng Zhi finally relaxed. "In that case, I'll head upstairs. Call me if you need anything."

"Alright," Gu Dai responded, nodding.

Zhou Ci watched Meng Zhi's figure ascending up the stairs and couldn't help but stand closer to Gu Dai. "What were you two talking about just now?"

Their voices had been so low that even with his ears straining, Zhou Ci hadn't been able to catch the conversation.

Suppressing a yawn, Gu Dai said casually, "We were just praising you."

It seemed more like you were speaking ill of me," Zhou Ci countered, as he found that hard to believe.

Gu Dai looked at him, surprised by his perceptiveness.

Yet she had no intention of confirming his suspicion. Changing the subject, she said, "So, what other goals do you have?"

Zhou Ci leaned in, lowering his voice. "Miss Gu, I don't think that's the right way to put it. I merely wish to be friends with you. And perhaps, if fate allows, to take things further."

Gu Dai, unamused, pushed him away. "Don't stand so close when speaking to me. I'll let it slide this time, but not again. You've been warned."

Her eyes flicked briefly to his lower body.

Zhou Ci shivered involuntarily under her gaze. A sudden chill enveloped him; particularly around his lower half.

Yet, paradoxically, her implicit threat only piqued his interest further. Gu Dai was proving to be even more fiery and challenging than he'd anticipated, making him all the more infatuated.

Meeting her scrutinizing gaze, Zhou Ci bowed his head. "Very well, I'll keep my distance next time. Now, what's your take on what I've just said?"

Leaning back on the sofa, Gu Dai idly examined the silver bracelet on her wrist. "You might as well give it up. I have no intentions of dating."

Zhou Ci nodded, then spoke as though he had an epiphany. "I get it. You must be deeply hurt by Song Ling, now mistrustful of all men."

Gu Dai's eyebrows knitted slightly, surprised by Zhou Ci's conclusion. She wanted to correct him, but he didn't give her the chance.

"I'm not like other men," he rushed on, without giving her the chance to speak, selling himself. "If you date me, I promise to treat you wholeheartedly, to help you overcome past emotional scars. And you

won't have to worry about family conflicts; my family adores you. If I ever wrong you, they'd be the first to pick up a stick to teach me a lesson."

Zhou Ci paused before quickly adding, "Not that I'd ever give them a reason to, of course."

Skeptical of Zhou Ci's enthusiastic ramble, Gu Dai posed a question. "And what, exactly, sets you apart from other men?"

Caught off guard, Zhou Ci stalled for a moment. His mind raced before he replied, "I used to be someone that just cruised through my days, but since meeting you, I've felt hope and purpose. I'll start taking work seriously, living a more productive life.

Plus, once we start dating, I'll listen to you, stay loyal, and won't be easily swayed by others. Most importantly, I've always been working on my body, so I'm definitely in better shape than Song Ling. He's always cooped up in his office, barely moving. So, I can promise you—"

Noticing Gu Dai's increasingly icy gaze and her foot's threatening rise, Zhou Ci promptly closed his mouth.

Realizing how many 'advantages' he'd listed, Zhou Ci looked to Gu Dai for her response. "So, what do you think? Will you be with me?"

Without hesitation, Gu Dai replied, "No."

Stunned, Zhou Ci sought clarification. "Why?"

Before Gu Dai could respond, Zhou Ci introspectively wondered aloud, "Is there something I'm still lacking? Tell me what it is, and I'll change it immediately!"

Chapter 143: Being Hacked

Gu Dai looked at Zhou Ci, who was earnestly awaiting her response. She opened her mouth, hesitated for a moment, and finally spoke. "I'm curious about what you went through in the training camp that turned you into this...playboy. Perhaps this isn't your true nature but a facade you've put on."

Zhou Ci was the only grandson of the Zhou family and had been doted upon since birth. Despite that, he didn't grow up to be willful or capricious. He had always been as well-behaved and clever as his cherubic features suggested, even showing an interest in the family business.

According to Gu Dai's information, one year, a relative of the Zhou family, in a bid for company power, tried to eliminate its heir—Zhou Ci.

He had nearly lost his life.

After dealing with that, Zhou Ci was sent to an overseas training camp.

When he returned years later, he was a changed man—habitually skipping work and started to become a playboy, embodying the epitome of a dissolute young master.

Zhou Ci was taken aback. He hadn't expected Gu Dai to know him so intimately. Only his family and a few close friends were privy to the fact that he had been sent to a training camp; others simply thought he had been abroad for leisure. "How did you find out about the training camp?" he asked, curiously. "As far as I know, the location and purpose of those camps are highly secretive."

Gu Dai looked down slightly, responding softly, "I have my ways."

Seeing that Gu Dai didn't want to elaborate, Zhou Ci didn't press. Instead, his voice, tinged with a magnetic, playful quality, probed, "Aren't you curious about why my personality changed so much? If you date me, I'll tell you."

As he spoke, Zhou Ci struck what he considered a signature, suave pose.

Had it been any other young woman, she might've been utterly charmed by this display. But Gu Dai was different. Unmoved by his theatrics, she responded calmly, "In that case, never mind. I'd rather not know."

Zhou Ci was at a loss for words, utterly unprepared for Gu Dai's response.

Just as he was about to speak again, Gu Dai's phone rang, cutting him off.

She saw it was a call from her secretary, Zheng Ming, and promptly answered, "What's going on?"

Zheng Ming's voice was tinged with urgency. "It's bad, Ms. Gu. Hackers are infiltrating our internal system, and our tech team is struggling to hold them off."

Gu Dai remained unfazed. "Understood. Have the team continue their defense. I'll handle the rest."

Zheng Ming felt a weight lift off his shoulders. He had blind faith in her abilities and was confident she would resolve the issue.

After she hung up, Gu Dai pulled out her laptop, her eyes focused intently on the screen. Her slender, ivory fingers danced over the keys, so fast they almost created afterimages.

Sitting not too far away, Zhou Ci had heard Gu Dai's phone conversation and now watched her actions with disbelief. A mind-boggling thought occurred to him: Is Gu Dai coding to counter the hackers?

Having studied coding himself, Zhou Ci understood some of it, but he had never seen anyone type so quickly.

His eyes remained glued to Gu Dai's movements until she finally shut her laptop. "Is... is it fixed?" he asked, still in a daze.

It was only then that Gu Dai realized she had an audience. Her eyes narrowed slightly as she warned, "I expect you to keep this matter to yourself. Don't tell anyone."

Understanding the meaning of her words, Zhou Ci quickly assured her, "Don't worry, my lips are sealed."

After making his promise, Zhou Ci looked at Gu Dai and expressed his concern. "I think you should consult a professional hacker. After all, the person on the other end is Song Ling, and he's exceptionally skilled at hacking. Maybe this was just a ploy."

Unperturbed, Gu Dai responded, "I'm confident in my abilities. But did you just say that the person attempting to hack into the company's system is Song Ling?"

Without a moment's hesitation, Zhou Ci nodded firmly. "Yes, it was definitely Song Ling.."

#### Chapter 144: Shame

"I've seen Song Ling code before, so I'm familiar with his methods. I'm certain it's him," Zhou Ci declared.

Upon hearing Zhou Ci's words, Gu Dai reopened her phone and examined the IP address of the intruder. It displayed the name of a villa, which happened to be Song Ling's usual residence.

So the one attempting to infiltrate Gu Group was indeed Song Ling.

A faint smile curved Gu Dai's lips. She tapped a few keys, sending Song Ling a digital "gift" of her own.

Meanwhile, Song Ling's eyes darkened as he stared at his computer screen, which now displayed an emoji of a taunting middle finger. His face grew increasingly grim. He pressed the shutdown button with force, but the computer remained unresponsive.

It took a moment for him to realize: not only had he failed to breach Gu Group's system, but he had also been counter-hacked.



He hadn't felt this humiliated in years. Over these years, his exceptional hacking skills had helped keep Song Corporation running smoothly. But now, not only had he failed, he was met with disdainful mockery from the other side.

The sight of the middle finger on the screen angered him further, prompting him to smash his laptop onto the floor.

The laptop's screen went black, the mocking finger disappearing. But before Song Ling could even breathe a sigh of relief, the computer suddenly blared a haunting children's rhyme, looping over and over.

"Coldly, he ordered, "Take it out and throw it away."

Zhao Xuan hurriedly picked up the damaged laptop, his body trembling, and swiftly exited the villa.

As the eerie rhyme faded into the distance, Song Ling leaned back on his sofa, closing his eyes.

Zhao Xuan had reported to him how Gu Dai had treated Old Master Zhou, stating that her treatment was exceptionally timely and flawless.

Medical professionals had noted that only an expert in the medical field could have accomplished such a feat.

Reflecting on Gu Dai's revealed talents over this period, Song Ling couldn't hold back any longer. Gu Group was the only place he knew that had any relation to Gu Dai, so he had wanted to use his hacking skills to uncover whatever was going on with her.

In the beginning, everything was going smoothly for Song Ling. He had successfully cracked one code after another and was on the verge of breaking the final one. However, in a sudden turn of events, he found himself retreating, utterly powerless against the counterattack. The opponent had struck at his vulnerabilities, leaving him with no room to maneuver.

Since learning to hack, Song Ling had always been the apple of his master's eye, praised for his exceptional talent. Indeed, his skills had advanced at a remarkable pace.

But a few years ago, in a major hacking competition, his firewall was easily broken by someone named "Zhi Ming." Not only was his firewall compromised, but he had also been thoroughly defeated, his home security breached.

After that incident, Song Ling had redoubled his efforts, harboring the hope that the next time he encountered "Zhi Ming," he would not suffer such a humiliating defeat and could exact his revenge. But "Zhi Ming" never reappeared.

These past years in the capital city, Song Ling had come to believe that his hacking skills were unparalleled globally. Yet today, his opponent had delivered a stinging slap to his face.

He had lost.

This was his second defeat...

With that thought, Song Ling's eyes snapped open. The moves used by his opponent just now bore a striking resemblance to those of "Zhi Ming." Could it be that the person on the other end was actually "Zhi Ming"?

No sooner had the thought crossed his mind than he dismissed it.

No, it wasn't "Zhi Ming." Although their techniques were similar, the nuance was different. It was evident that these were two different styles.

If not "Zhi Ming" himself, then perhaps a disciple.

That would make sense and explain why he couldn't find any information on Gu Dai. A formidable hacker on her side must have concealed her data.

But how did Gu Dai come to know such a skilled hacker? And if she knew the disciple of “Zhi Ming,” did that mean she also knew “Zhi Ming” himself?

What was Gu Dai’s ultimate goal? Why did she have so many secrets?

The more Song Ling pondered, the more vexed he became, and his headache intensified. He furiously massaged his temples with one hand while taking out the amulet from his pocket with the other. He inhaled its calming scent deeply several times. Only then did the agonizing pain begin to subside..

#### Chapter 145: Operate At A Loss

While Song Ling was in a state of extreme agitation and discomfort, Gu Dai was in high spirits, especially when she thought about Song Ling’s reaction to her digital “gift.” Her mood soared even higher.

Zhou Ci had a basic understanding of coding but couldn’t grasp what Gu Dai had accomplished. Seeing her genuine smile, his curiosity piqued. “What did you do just now? You look so pleased.”

Having already revealed her hacking skills to him, Gu Dai saw no need to hide the truth. She replied with a smile, “I sent Song Ling a little gift.”

“What!” Zhou Ci was stunned, disbelieving. “You’re sending gifts to Song Ling after the way he’s treated you? Don’t tell me you’re thinking of reconciling with him!”

Unable to contain himself, Zhou Ci stood up and paced back and forth, mumbling, “What kind of spell has Song Ling cast to make such an incredible woman hung up on him? And yet here I am—good family background, good looks, good character...”

Gu Dai’s lips twitched. She couldn’t bear to watch this any longer. “Stop! Sit down!”

Although still puzzled, Zhou Ci obeyed Gu Dai's command instantly, halting his pacing to sit back on the sofa.

Seeing that he had calmed down, Gu Dai finally spoke, "Do you think I'm the kind of person to go back to an ex?"

Shaking his head, Zhou Ci earnestly responded, "No, but you said you sent him a—"

Before he could complete his sentence, realization dawned on him. The gift didn't have to be a pleasant one. Feeling relieved, he said, "Well, that's good. After all, with someone as exceptional as me around for comparison, if you still liked him and didn't choose me, then how much of a failure would I be!"

Gu Dai fell silent for a moment before softly saying, "Aren't you similar to Song Ling?"

Zhou Ci paused, registering what she meant—that he and Song Ling were alike. Hurriedly, he clarified, "No, I'm not like him. I'm actually better than he is!"

When it came to pursuing the woman he liked, Zhou Ci had no reservations about outshining his friend. He could only say that if Song Ling hadn't acted as he did, there would be no basis for comparison.

Fearing that Gu Dai might continue to liken him to Song Ling, Zhou Ci quickly changed the subject. "The Gu family has recently ventured into the Suzhou embroidery business, haven't they?"

Gu Dai lowered her gaze briefly before meeting Zhou Ci's eyes. "Yes, I've been working on developing the Suzhou embroidery industry recently, planning to turn them into garments and various items. I was wondering if Young Master Zhou might be interested in a collaboration?"

Zhou Ci smiled, "Of course, I've been keeping an eye on it for some time now."

Years ago, when Gu Dai's mother was alive, she had a particular interest in Suzhou embroidery and had done extensive research on it. She and Gu Dai's father had even started to develop the industry together. However, an unfortunate incident occurred just as the business was beginning to flourish.

Subsequently, the company was taken over by Gu Ming, who had neither the interest nor the management skills to continue the embroidery business, and so it languished.

Suzhou embroidery was a passion of Gu Dai's mother. Therefore, as soon as Gu Dai regained control of the company, she wanted to revitalize this industry.

She had even put out offers to find interested companies for collaboration, but the industry was so specialized that few corporate leaders paid any attention to it.

What surprised her was that Zhou Ci, the scion of a wealthy family, had actually taken notice.

Perhaps Zhou Ci was more business-savvy than she had initially thought.

It made sense, considering he was friends with the workaholic Song Ling. They must have something in common.

Zhou Ci caught Gu Dai's eye and blinked playfully. "You're not falling for me just because I said I would collaborate with you, are you? After all, you've been staring at me for quite a while!"

Gu Dai rolled her eyes at him, unimpressed. "If we collaborate, there's a high chance it won't be profitable and might even operate at a loss."

Zhou Ci looked at Gu Dai earnestly. "A loss is just a loss. Having caught the attention of a beautiful woman like you for even a few seconds is already worth it to me. It would bring me joy for a lifetime.. So even if it's a loss, I will still provide the largest sales platform for you!"

## Chapter 146: Slit Wrist

The sky darkened, plunging the world into an impenetrable blackness.

For two hours, Song Ling sat immobile, his eyes vacant as they stared into the void. He couldn't make sense of who Gu Dai really was.

When Zhao Xuan entered the villa and turned on the lights, he found Song Ling in this state. After hesitating for a few minutes, he mustered the courage to speak, "Mr. Song, Miss Jiang Yue couldn't reach you on your phone, so she called me."

Song Ling's eyes shifted slightly towards Zhao Xuan. His voice was cold, "Tell her not to contact me anymore."

Zhao Xuan looked uneasy. He lowered his head and spoke softly, "But Miss Jiang Yue said that if you ignore her and don't answer her calls, she'll have no reason to live and will commit suicide."

Song Ling's eyebrows furrowed, and he stood up abruptly. However, due to staying in one position for too long, his body was stiff, causing him to collapse back onto the sofa.

Zhao Xuan's expression turned to one of alarm. He hurried over, intending to help Song Ling up. "Mr. Song, are you alright?"

Song Ling glared at him, snapping, "Get out!"

Feeling a shiver run down his spine, Zhao Xuan didn't dare to linger. He quickly left the villa.

Song Ling turned on his phone with a grim expression. He saw that Jiang Yue had called him hundreds of times. The next second, her call came through again. He hesitated for a moment before answering.

Immediately, Jiang Yue's choked sobs emanated from the other end of the phone.

"Brother Song Ling, you finally answered. I thought you were ignoring me! You're the only person left in my life. If you also ignore me, I don't know what I'll do," Jiang Yue sobbed.

Song Ling rubbed his temples, responding in a detached tone, "Hmm."

Jiang Yue didn't expect Song Ling to remain so calm after hearing her words. In the past, even when she was just in a bad mood, he would go to great lengths to cheer her up. Now, here she was, crying, and he showed no reaction whatsoever.

All of this could be blamed on Gu Dai. If she hadn't undergone such a significant change, Song Ling's attention would have never shifted to her, and Jiang Yue would have easily married him.

Jiang Yue's eyes were filled with resentment, but her voice remained pitifully soft. "Brother Song Ling, let's talk. Can you come to my house?"

Unmoved, Song Ling responded coolly, "I don't think there's anything left for us to discuss. You should get some rest and stop contacting me."

Jiang Yue didn't speak; her crying just grew louder.

After a long time passed without any comforting words from Song Ling, her sobbing began to subside. She murmured, "Song Ling, are you still mad at me? If you are, I can't go on living. I'll die right now."

With that, she abruptly hung up the phone.

Song Ling's face darkened even further. Taking a deep breath, he grabbed his jacket from the sofa, rushed to his car, and sped toward Jiang Yue's house.

Upon arriving, he burst through the door. All the windows were open, and the curtains fluttered in the wind. The place seemed empty, devoid of human presence.

Suddenly, a possibility flashed through his mind. He quickly made his way to the balcony and looked down. Fortunately, the area below was empty; Jiang Yue hadn't jumped.

So where had she gone?

Song Ling searched several rooms but found no trace of her, and her phone was unreachable, likely turned off.

Just when he was at a loss, a clattering noise came from the bathroom, followed by the sound of water splattering onto the floor.

Song Ling kicked open the bathroom door and rushed in. There on the floor lay a blood-stained knife. The clear water was gradually being overtaken by the red hue of blood. Jiang Yue, dressed in a white gown, lay pale and lifeless in the bathtub, her wrist marked by a gash.

Song Ling bent down to lift Jiang Yue out of the bathtub. "Jiang Yue, are you alright?"

With a light cough, Jiang Yue opened her eyes. "Brother Song Ling, you're here. Thank goodness you still wanted to see me."

Lowering his gaze, Song Ling spoke coldly, "Don't talk. I'm taking you to the hospital."

Jiang Yue looked momentarily stunned. Recovering quickly, she asserted, "I'm not going to the hospital!"

Ignoring her protest, Song Ling started to carry her toward the hospital.

Realizing what he was doing, Jiang Yue's resistance intensified. Blood continued to flow from her wrist. "I won't go to the hospital. There's a first-aid kit at home. Just bandage me up, and it'll be fine.."

Chapter 147: Secretary In Name

Seeing Jiang Yue struggle so much, Song Ling reluctantly agreed for the moment.



He took some gauze from the medical kit to dress her wounds. As he saw the scars on Jiang Yue's wrist, his movements became noticeably gentler.

Jiang Yue felt a glimmer of hope ignite within her when she noticed this. Could it be that Song Ling still had feelings for her? Would he believe her words?

Jiang Yue looked up at Song Ling and said, "Brother Song Ling, please believe me. The person in the wedding video was edited to frame me. If you don't believe me, I have no reason to go on living..."

Song Ling's gaze toward Jiang Yue grew increasingly complicated.

He wasn't the type to care about someone's past. Even if the person in the video was Jiang Yue, he had never thought about canceling the wedding. What he truly minded were the lies.

Song Ling couldn't understand why Jiang Yue would still want to deceive him, even now.

Seeing Song Ling remain silent and just staring at her, Jiang Yue felt increasingly anxious. She quickly said, "In that case, I really don't want to live anymore."

As the words left her mouth, Jiang Yue ripped off the gauze on her wrist and pressed hard, causing the previously staunch blood to spurt out again.

Snapping back to reality, Song Ling hastily pulled Jiang Yue's hand away and said in a low voice, "Calm down!"

Jiang Yue's hand was held tightly, immobilizing her. Regaining her composure, she looked at Song Ling with pitiable eyes.

Before Jiang Yue could speak, Song Ling cut her off, "I won't marry you."

Jiang Yue was stunned. As she tried to struggle, Song Ling, who had anticipated her actions, held her tightly.

Song Ling stared at Jiang Yue for a long moment before saying, "You shouldn't gamble with your life. And I've noticed that you've changed; you're not the strong girl you used to be."

Jiang Yue tensed, lowering her eyes to hide her unease. She whispered, "People change as they grow up."

Song Ling didn't deny it, simply muttering, "Mhmm."

Jiang Yue finally calmed down and looked up at Song Ling. "Even if I've changed, it doesn't negate the fact that I once saved you. And you promised me something. But you won't marry me."

Song Ling responded earnestly, "Mhmm."

Taking a deep breath, Jiang Yue said, "If you won't marry me, that's fine. But your promise can't be voided. You must agree to another request: let me be your secretary."

Song Ling frowned deeply and immediately refused, "No!"

Jiang Yue asked, puzzled, "Why?"

Song Ling looked at Jiang Yue, not mincing his words, "Because the video of you from today has spread, and many people are aware of the incident. If you become the secretary at Song Corporation and accompany me to various important events, it could have a significant impact on the company."

Jiang Yue's face turned pale. "But you were the one who made the promise to me!"

After a long pause, Song Ling finally spoke, "You can be a secretary in name only at the company. Your salary will be paid as usual, but I expect you to tell me the truth and not deceive me with lies."

Jiang Yue, who had been elated upon hearing the first part of Song Ling's statement, was stunned by the latter half. He knew about her being the person in the video.

Realizing this, Jiang Yue's mind raced, and she quickly assumed a pitiable appearance. "Song Ling, the person in the video is indeed me. But as you know, the entertainment circle is chaotic, and I don't have a strong background there. Someone drugged me, and I acted as I did while I was not in my right senses."

Jiang Yue cautiously looked up at Song Ling. Seeing that his expression remained unchanged, she continued, "I was afraid that you would regret it and despise me if you knew the truth, so I didn't dare tell you."

Song Ling didn't immediately believe Jiang Yue's words. After being deceived multiple times, he had become wary of her.

Seeing that Song Ling remained silent, Jiang Yue knew that he still didn't believe her. She said, "Song Ling, everything I've told you is the truth. I've absolutely not lied to you."

As soon as Jiang Yue finished speaking, she fainted onto the sofa.

Song Ling was taken aback. Seeing that the gauze on Jiang Yue's wrist had been soaked through with blood, he scooped her up and raced downstairs to his car, driving her to the hospital.

In his haste, Song Ling failed to notice the flash of cameras from the bushes..

Chapter 148: All Kinds of Men

When Gu Dai walked down the stairs in the morning, she saw Meng Zhi on the sofa, glaring at his phone in irritation.

Curious, Gu Dai approached him. "Third Brother, what's got you so worked up this early in the morning? Do you want me to get revenge for you?"

Meng Zhi looked at Gu Dai with a pained expression and said indignantly, “Song Ling and Jiang Yue, that worthless pair, are back on trending again”

Intrigued, Gu Dai said, “Let me see.”

Only after looking at Meng Zhi’s phone did she understand that Song Ling and Jiang Yue had been caught on camera during the night.

The entertainment section displayed several large pictures—some showed Song Ling tenderly looking down at Jiang Yue, others where he was cradling her in his arms, and even one where he had her wrist pinned against the sofa in a dominating pose.

However, after a brief glance, Gu Dai noticed something off. Realizing the truth, she couldn’t help but chuckle.

Seeing her laugh, Meng Zhi was stunned. Confused, he asked, “Daidai, did the pictures enrage you to the point of madness? Why else would you be laughing?”

Meng Zhi became more convinced that he’d guessed correctly and grew even angrier. He quickly grabbed a tablet from beside the sofa, turned it on, and placed it in front of Gu Dai. “Daidai, Song Ling is not worth it. There are plenty of exceptional men in the world. Look at these men on the tablet; I’ve met them all, and they’re all outstanding, much better than Song Ling!”

Before Gu Dai even had a chance to explain, Meng Zhi had already started scrolling through pictures.

Meng Zhi said, “Look at this one, Daidai. This man is a doctor who graduated from the top global university and has already founded dozens of hospitals. And this one is an excellent scientist who’s dedicated to academic research and has invented...”

Within half an hour, Gu Dai had been introduced to hundreds of outstanding men by Meng Zhi. She even began to suspect that she was suffering from face blindness, as the faces of all these men started to blur before her eyes.

Seeing that Meng Zhi was about to continue, she hurriedly interrupted, "Third Brother, Third Brother! I really have no plans to date anyone right now. And how did you manage to collect all this information about these men?"

Finally pausing his introductions, Meng Zhi explained, "I have a group chat with them. After seeing the news, I became more and more infuriated. I mentioned in the group that I wanted to find you a partner, and they voluntarily sent me their resumes. So, I didn't have to collect anything."

Gu Dai pursed her lips and said, "Alright, then."

Meng Zhi was still eager to continue introducing potential suitors to Gu Dai. After all, even if she wasn't interested in dating right now, she could at least get to know them.

Seeing Meng Zhi's gaze shift back to the tablet, Gu Dai sensed his intentions and hurriedly changed the subject. "Third Brother, with you introducing potential partners for me, are you hinting that you want me to do the same for you?"

Meng Zhi was taken aback, not expecting the conversation to turn towards him. He replied almost reflexively, "I don't have any plans to date right now."

With a smile, Gu Dai said, "That's alright; you can still meet people and make friends. By the way, what type of person do you like?"

Gu Dai hadn't forgotten that her close friend Shi Nuan had a crush on Meng Zhi, so she seized this opportunity to gather some information.

Without much thought, Meng Zhi answered, "I like people who are passionate and outgoing."

Catching himself, he wondered how his initial thoughts had been turned back on him by Gu Dai. "Daidai, let's focus on you for now."

Though Meng Zhi said this, Gu Dai didn't change the subject. She continued, "Besides this type, are there other types you could accept?"

After all, Shi Nuan had a sweet, innocent appearance and was a bit shy, not the type Meng Zhi had described liking.

Therefore, Gu Dai looked at Meng Zhi with particular earnestness at this moment.

Feeling somewhat uneasy under Gu Dai's scrutinizing gaze, Meng Zhi spoke softly, "I really only like this type. Daidai, are you trying to catch me in some sort of trap so you can report me to my dad? Whenever you've tried to catch me out in the past, you've had this serious expression on your face."

Gu Dai shook her head, denying his suspicion. "I have no intention of reporting you to Uncle; I was just curious."

Meng Zhi didn't quite believe her, even suspecting that Gu Dai was simply trying to lower his guard..

Chapter 149: Two-meter-tall Green Hat

Realizing this, Meng Zhi quickly said, "When I date, I make it clear upfront that I have no plans to marry. That way, when it's time to part ways, we can do so amicably without any entanglements."

Taken aback, Gu Dai asked, "Are you sure you'll never get married?"

Meng Zhi nodded affirmatively, "Absolutely!"

Studying him, Gu Dai spoke earnestly, "For some reason, I have a feeling that you'll end up getting married someday, and you'll be the one pursuing it."

Meng Zhi was quite shocked by this and retorted, "Daidai, your intuition must be off. Not to mention that I'm committed to not marrying, but with my personality, how could I possibly chase someone to marry me?"

After Meng Zhi said this, he suddenly realized that the topic had veered off course. He then turned to Gu Dai and said earnestly, "Daidai, don't get upset because of Song Ling and Jiang Yue. I'll find a way to teach them a lesson. And Song Ling, a man with a two-meter-tall green hat on his head and not a shred of intelligence, is not worth your anger."

Meng Zhi used to think that Song Ling was a talented person. Now he just felt like he had been blind to not see how not only unintelligent but also utterly foolish Song Ling was.

With a resigned smile, Gu Dai said seriously, "Third Brother, I'm really not angry. Besides, I think these photos were probably taken by someone Jiang Yue arranged to spy on them."

Meng Zhi froze, looking puzzled. "Jiang Yue arranged for these photos?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Because I noticed that the angles in these pictures don't show the expressions on their faces, so the reality might not be what it appears."

As her words settled, Meng Zhi examined the pictures once again and found that they were indeed as Gu Dai had described.

Realizing this, Meng Zhi sighed, "So, Song Ling may not be as foolish as I thought, huh?"

Gu Dai yawned and said, "Well, that's not necessarily the case, given that they still met."

Meng Zhi nodded in agreement, "True."

After breakfast, Gu Dai prepared to go to the office.

Meng Zhi quickly offered, "Daidai, let me take you."

Looking at the dark circles under Meng Zhi's eyes, Gu Dai said, "Third Brother, you should rest. Driving while fatigued is very dangerous."

Meng Zhi was about to say he wasn't tired, but then he let out a big yawn. He conceded, "Alright, I'll go upstairs and rest. Be careful on your way."

Though Meng Zhi was worried, he had to give up on the idea of driving Gu Dai to the office, considering he hadn't slept all night due to his frustration over the news about Song Ling and Jiang Yue.

Gu Dai nodded earnestly to Meng Zhi's caution and left the villa. However, she didn't expect to run into her Elder Uncle Gu Ming and his family on her way out.

Upon seeing Gu Dai emerge from the large villa, their initially cheerful expressions vanished, and they stared at her.

Especially Gu Ming, who had been regretting his earlier thoughts of getting someone to teach Gu Dai a lesson. He felt something was off, suspecting that Gu Dai had been pulling strings behind his back, leading to his current plight.

Yet, upon seeing the three, Gu Dai smiled warmly, "Elder Uncle, how's your health? Also, why didn't you tell me about your discharge from the hospital? I could have picked you up!"

Though Gu Ming and Liu Min were irked by Gu Dai, they managed to maintain a facade. "You've been so busy managing the company; we didn't want to disturb you, so we didn't inform you."

Gu Dai nodded, "I see. But Elder Uncle, Elder Auntie, you don't have to worry. Even though the company is busy, I've caught on pretty quickly. I'm quite proficient at managing it now. Feel free to tell me if there's anything you need."

Compared to Gu Ming and Liu Min, Gu Zhi appeared more naive. Upon hearing Gu Dai's words, she blurted out, "Ha, those are just sweet words. I wonder who you're trying to fool!"

Unfazed, Gu Dai's eyes settled on Gu Zhi, her smile intact. She said, "The necklace you're wearing around your neck looks so familiar. It seems like a style I wore three years ago. You know, it's funny, I recently noticed that a lot of my old clothes, jewelry, shoes, and bags have gone missing.."

Chapter 150: Necklace Design



Gu Zhi felt a momentary panic but quickly regained her composure. “There are many similar styles in the world. How can you be sure this necklace is yours? And if you’re saying I took your things, do you have proof?”

Gu Dai looked at her and calmly said, “I never said you took my things. I just mentioned that it looks similar. But now that you mention it, it does make me wonder if you might have taken them.”

Feigning arrogance, Gu Zhi retorted, “Why would I take your clothes, let alone wear something you wore three years ago?”

Though she spoke confidently, her heart was racing.

When she had moved into the Gu household three years ago, she couldn’t resist claiming all of Gu Dai’s beautiful clothes for herself.

After her father, Gu Ming, secured the Gu family’s assets, she stopped wearing Gu Dai’s old clothes. In fact, whenever she saw those clothes, they reminded her of the days when she was envious of Gu Dai, and she had thrown them into a small cabin in a fit of anger.

Now she was living in that small, shabby cabin, and Gu Dai’s old clothes were the best she had to wear. To celebrate Gu Ming’s discharge from the hospital, she wore one of the necklaces, never expecting Gu Dai to notice it.

But regardless; it had been three years, and Gu Zhi didn’t believe Gu Dai had any evidence to prove the clothes were hers.

As this thought crossed her mind, the fact that Gu Dai couldn’t do anything despite knowing what happened, her eyes were filled with smugness and defiance.

Liu Min chimed in, "Exactly, why would your sister wear your clothes? After all, she was also raised by me and your Elder Uncle. She wouldn't do such a thing!"

Gu Ming didn't speak but nodded in agreement.

Gu Dai raised an eyebrow, finding the situation amusing. The necklace Gu Zhi was wearing was one she had made herself three years ago; there couldn't possibly be another like it in the world.

Gu Dai lifted her gaze to Gu Zhi and said with a smile, "May I take a closer look at the necklace? I feel like it looks even better than the one I had before."

Without any suspicion, Gu Zhi took off the necklace and handed it to Gu Dai. Crossing her arms and rolling her eyes, she said, "Sure, take a look. But be careful with it. If you damage it, you'll have to pay me ten times its original price. This is my favorite necklace, after all."

Ignoring Gu Zhi, Gu Dai took the necklace and examined it carefully.

A sense of foreboding filled Gu Zhi as she watched Gu Dai scrutinize the necklace. She extended her hand and said, "Give me back the necklace!"

Ignoring Gu Zhi's plea, Gu Dai didn't return the necklace; instead, she gripped it tightly in her hand.

"What do you mean, Gu Dai? Why are you taking my necklace?" Gu Zhi's pupils dilated as she raised her voice.

Gu Ming also furrowed his brow, discontentedly saying, "Gu Dai, give the necklace back to your sister!"

Gu Dai's smile vanished, and she spoke coldly, "It's my necklace. Why should I give it to someone else?"

Gu Zhi's pupils contracted. Forcing herself to speak, she said, "This is clearly my necklace. You can't just claim it's yours because you have a similar one!"

Unable to hold back, Gu Dai laughed. She extended the necklace for everyone to see and said softly, "So, you're saying you're Gu Dai?"

Confused, Gu Zhi didn't understand what Gu Dai meant. However, upon seeing the name "Gu Dai" engraved on the necklace, she froze, disbelievingly saying, "Impossible. The name wasn't there when I last looked. You must have switched it!"

Nodding her head, Gu Zhi affirmed her own words.

Liu Min chimed in, "I've also seen this necklace before, and there was no name on it. You must have switched it when you held it in your hand!"

Even Gu Ming became exceptionally angry, furiously saying, "Gu Dai, you already have control of the Gu Group. Are you still not satisfied? Now you're even taking your sister's necklace?"

In the face of the trio's accusations, Gu Dai remained silent. Instead, she gently pressed a small button on the necklace.

The next second, the name on the necklace slowly disappeared.

When Gu Dai saw the shocked expressions on their faces, she said, nonchalantly, "The reason you couldn't see the name before is that you didn't activate the switch. This is a feature I specifically designed years ago. Now that the evidence is irrefutable, it's clear that Gu Zhi took my necklace.. Do you still have anything to say?"