

I Regained 161

Chapter 161: Get To Know Her

The top trending topic featured Song Ling, accompanied by a blazing “Breaking” label.

“#SongLing, the President of Song Corporation, has built over a dozen orphanages over the years and donated hundreds of millions!”

“Song Ling is such a good person. He’s done so many great deeds over the years. The more I think about what he’s recently been through, the more my heart aches for him.”

“Absolutely. He’s not only handsome but also has a great character. He’s never been involved in any scandals. Yet Jiang Yue, who got so lucky with him, is ungrateful and even cheats on him!”

“If I could marry Song Ling, I’d be obedient and sensible, taking care of his everyday needs, his mother, and his sister. I’d never cause him any stress.”

Reading through these exaggerated comments, Gu Dai fell into deep thought, particularly puzzled by those who claimed they would be obedient and look after their in-laws. She couldn’t understand why anyone would willingly subject themselves to that.

Some comments also supported Jiang Yue.

“Jiang Yue didn’t cheat! All those videos were from before she was with Song Ling. Don’t you people have exes too? What’s the problem with doing such things when dating?”

However, this person was quickly rebuffed, though a few stood up for Jiang Yue.

“Heh, the premise is that Jiang Yue was dating someone else, which she wasn’t. She was just seducing the director to get a role.”

“Sure, we might have exes, but not multiple ones at the same time. And those men in the nightclub don’t look like Jiang Yue’s exes, do they?”

“Jiang Yue is shameless; otherwise, why would videos like that exist?”

“She explained that the faces in those videos were altered, and it wasn’t her. Why aren’t you listening to the explanation and just blindly criticizing?”

Chu Min softly asked Gu Dai, “Boss, are you alright?”

Lying on the couch, Gu Dai sighed, “I have to admit, Song Corporation’s PR is impressive, especially how they’ve shifted Grandpa Song’s achievements onto him.”

Chu Min paused, incredulous, “I thought he fabricated those, not that he was taking credit for someone else’s work.”

Gu Dai hummed in agreement.

Over the past three years of her amnesia, she had gathered in-depth knowledge about Grandpa Song and Song Ling himself. She was absolutely certain that these deeds were not Song Ling’s doing.

An idea flashed across Chu Min’s mind, “Boss, should we expose Song Ling’s lies?”

Gu Dai lowered her gaze, pondering before finally refusing, “Let it be. If the company’s stock falls, it might affect Grandpa’s mood. Let’s not disturb him.”

Though Chu Min wanted to argue, recalling Gu Dai’s firm tone made him keep his mouth shut.

In recent days, Song Ling had been deeply occupied with handling public relations, making him look particularly haggard. After a night of rest and noticing the improved situation online, he found himself at Gu Group the next morning.

Song Ling was intensely curious about Gu Dai's identity. He wanted to confront her and get clear answers.

He wanted to know what secrets Gu Dai was hiding, to get to know her again—the real her.

Upon reaching the reception desk, Song Ling ordered coldly, "Tell your Chairwoman Gu to come down and see me."

The receptionist, hearing Song Ling's harsh demand to meet their beloved Gu Dai, was instantly irked. She even managed to ignore his good looks as she responded coldly, "I'm sorry, but our Chairwoman is quite busy. I'll have to check for you."

Most importantly, the receptionist had a good memory. She remembered that Gu Dai had shown a lack of interest in Song Ling, the CEO of Song Corporation, before. Therefore, she didn't dare to make a decision rashly.

She was about to phone Zheng Ming, who would then relay the message, when she caught sight of Gu Dai walking in. Wearing a smile, she greeted softly, "Chairwoman Gu."

Gu Dai returned the smile and nodded, proceeding to stride out of the company.

Song Ling hadn't anticipated that he would be so blatantly ignored by Gu Dai, and his face darkened instantly.

Hurrying to catch up, he reached out to grab her wrist.

But Gu Dai, now seasoned in his tactics, deftly sidestepped his move.

Her expression turned cold, and she spoke in an irritated tone, "I'm busy right now. I'd appreciate it if you didn't disturb me, or else don't blame me for being rude."

Unwilling to let her go, Song Ling pressed, "Gu Dai, what other secrets are you hiding?"

Chapter 162: Yam Porridge

Gu Dai looked at Song Ling and uttered two simple words, "You're insane."

Song Ling's face darkened, disbelief coloring his tone, "What did you say?"

Having no interest in engaging further with Song Ling, Gu Dai pushed him away with a swift motion and walked off quickly.

Staggering back a couple of steps from the force of her push, Song Ling looked after Gu Dai's retreating figure, his eyes clouded with gloom.

How did this woman get so strong?

Zhao Xuan stood behind Song Ling, not daring to utter a single word, fearful of being embroiled in the scene.

Even though Zhao Xuan remained silent, Song Ling still noticed him, "Why didn't you step forward to stop Gu Dai just now?"

Zhao Xuan: "..."

Gu Dai sped down the road to the airport, spotting Su Ting in the crowd. She waved at him, "Su Ting, over here."

Upon seeing Gu Dai, Su Ting wheeled his suitcase over to her. His eyes shone as he looked at her, excitement filling his voice, "Sis, I'm back! I've missed you so much these past days that I've lost weight."

Gu Dai stared at Su Ting's plaintive expression and sighed helplessly. She looked up and examined him closely.

Noticing Gu Dai's move, Su Ting thoughtfully crouched down to be at her eye level and asked, "Sis, have I really lost weight?"

Gu Dai looked into Su Ting's sparkling eyes and patted him on the head before nodding earnestly, "Yes, you have. I'm going to make a reservation. We're going to eat, and I'm going to make sure you gain back the weight you've lost."

Su Ting, his hair curled, looked up at Gu Dai like an obedient puppy and said, "Sis, I've already made a reservation at a restaurant. Shall we go straight there?"

Gu Dai put away her phone and nodded, "Alright."

Following the address provided by Su Ting, Gu Dai drove swiftly to the restaurant.

Su Ting had carefully selected it, knowing it was stocked with many of Gu Dai's favorite dishes.

Most importantly, the restaurant was always packed; securing a reservation without prior notice would be impossible.

As they entered the private dining room, the waiter had just finished setting the table with an array of dishes.

"You must have gone to a lot of trouble to arrange this," Gu Dai remarked softly.

Su Ting smiled at her, "While I was abroad for the competition, all I could think about was having a meal with you. So, it didn't feel like trouble at all, just pure happiness."

Gu Dai chuckled at his words, "Your flattery is getting better."

"That's because I'm with you, Sis," Su Ting said softly.

Su Ting pushed a bowl of yam porridge toward her. "Try the porridge, Sis. It's delicious, and I remember yam porridge being your favorite."

Gu Dai tasted a spoonful, then took several more sips before nodding, "It's indeed delicious, but I think you might have remembered wrong. I don't recall yam porridge being my favorite."

Su Ting paused and nodded, "Maybe I did get it wrong."

His gaze lingered on Gu Dai, his thoughts drifting away.

But yam porridge was something he used to make for you all the time...

"How did your competition overseas go?" Gu Dai inquired after finishing her porridge.

Snapping out of his thoughts, Su Ting beamed, "Thanks to your guidance, Sis, I won first place!"

Gu Dai had always believed in Su Ting's capabilities, but hearing the news from him still filled her with joy.

She said, "It seems I was right to guide you onto this path three years ago. I'm glad I ran into you back then and helped you. The world would have missed out on a supermodel otherwise."

Su Ting thought of their initial encounter and lowered his eyes to hide the pain that flashed through them.

Gu Dai, engrossed in her meal, didn't notice Su Ting's fleeting emotion.

After leaving the restaurant, Gu Dai turned to Su Ting, "Let me give you a gift. Is there anything you'd like?"

Su Ting looked puzzled, "Why the sudden gift, Sis?"

Although Gu Dai wanted to give him a gift without a specific reason, she pondered a bit upon being questioned. Finding an acceptable rationale, she eagerly said, "It's because you stirred things up at Song Ling and Jiang Yue's wedding. I was a bit frustrated back then, but your arrangement instantly lifted my spirits.."

Chapter 163: Someone Else Grabbed The Tie

Gu Dai's words made Su Ting let out a sigh of relief, "I'm glad you're not mad at me for taking matters into my own hands. When I saw how distasteful they were, I decided to act. But after everything was set, I was afraid you'd be angry."

Gu Dai looked at him seriously, "Don't worry, I'm not upset at all. Now, tell me what gift you want so I can go buy it for you."

Su Ting thought for a moment, "Sis, I recently bought a suit but I'm missing a matching tie."

Gu Dai nodded, "Alright."

Gu Dai was about to drive, but Su Ting stopped her, "Let me drive, Sis. You've been working hard lately; take this opportunity to rest."

Not insisting further, Gu Dai agreed, "Okay."

With one hand on the steering wheel, Su Ting drove.

Gu Dai had been getting familiar with new stores in the city, so it didn't take long for them to find a shop famous for its selection of ties.

The interior was beautifully decorated, but it paled in the presence of Gu Dai and Su Ting, whose refined elegance naturally drew attention.

A sales associate, captivated by the pair, began to approach them but was immediately pulled back by Feng Xue, "What have I told you? For well-off-looking customers like these, don't serve them yourself. Call me!"

The associate's eyes narrowed, and she stepped back, stammering, "Understood."

Feng Xue shot the clerk a glare before turning to Gu Dai and Su Ting with a charming smile, "Sir, Miss, may I assist you with something?"

Oblivious to the prior exchange between Feng Xue and the clerk, Gu Dai responded graciously, "Show us your selection of ties, please."

Feng Xue eagerly led the way, "These are the latest styles we have in stock. Please take your time looking."

Gu Dai lifted her eyes to the wall covered in ties and felt momentarily overwhelmed.

Her only experience with ties dated back to her third anniversary with Song Ling, when she'd given him a tie as a gift.

Noticing her distraction, Su Ting asked, "Is something wrong, Sis?"

Snapping back to reality, Gu Dai shook her head, "I'm fine."

Su Ting nodded, appearing to believe her but his eyes kept drifting back to her, clearly concerned.

Su Ting pursed his lips, diverting Gu Dai's attention, "Sis, you have great taste. Could you pick a tie for me that would match my new suit?"

Gu Dai lowered her head, glancing at the photo on Su Ting's phone.

Su Ting was already dressed in the suit, just as he'd said—only lacking a tie. The suit was a pattern of blue checks, matched with a grey shirt underneath.

After contemplating for a moment and looking at the wall full of ties, Gu Dai's eyes settled on one in particular. "I think the grey plaid one would be a good choice. It adds a casual touch while maintaining formality," she suggested.

Hearing this, Su Ting praised her earnestly, "Sis, your taste is really impeccable. Just picturing it in my head, I can already sense how well it matches."

Gu Dai chuckled, "Keep flattering me then."

Surprised, Su Ting responded, "Sis, how could you say that? I'm just stating the truth!"

With a resigned glance at Su Ting, Gu Dai reached for the tie. But before her hand could get there, someone else grabbed it.

Frowning slightly, Gu Dai turned her head and unexpectedly found herself looking at Jiang Yue.

At that moment, all Gu Dai felt was annoyance. She couldn't believe that on her rare visit to a mall, she'd run into Jiang Yue—a person she found utterly distasteful.

Seemingly oblivious to Gu Dai's disdain, Jiang Yue smiled, "What a coincidence, Miss Gu. We meet again."

Ignoring her greeting, Gu Dai responded icily, "Jiang Yue, the tie you're holding was the one I had my eye on first. Hand it over."

Jiang Yue laughed softly, lifted the tie, and provocatively said, "But I got my hands on this tie first, so it should be mine, don't you think?"

Chapter 164: Rebel Just This Once

Jiang Yue cast Gu Dai a sidelong glance, adding, "Besides, a beautiful tie like this could only be pulled off by my Brother Song Ling."

Gu Dai scoffed, "Does your 'Brother Song Ling' know you've escaped from the hospital to buy him a tie? And are you so sure he's forgiven you?"

Gu Dai had always thought Song Ling was indifferent to whatever happened concerning Jiang Yue.

However, after observing how Song Corp's PR team had successfully cleared Song Ling's name but left Jiang Yue hanging, Gu Dai suspected that Song Ling might not care about Jiang Yue as much as she had initially thought.

Jiang Yue's face stiffened momentarily upon hearing Gu Dai's words but quickly recovered. She said, smiling, "Brother Song Ling loves me so much; he won't mind."

Since the photographs had been leaked and the media had once again linked her with Song Ling, Jiang Yue felt as if she had taken a tranquillizer.

The hospital she was staying at happened to be nearby, so she decided to buy Song Ling a tie as a gift. Maybe if she acted a little coy, he wouldn't be so cold towards her.

Jiang Yue never expected to find Gu Dai in the store, also looking at ties. Irritated, she'd impulsively snatched the tie that Gu Dai had her eyes on.

Not wanting to get entangled in a futile debate with Jiang Yue, Gu Dai spoke coldly, “Hand over the tie. Now.”

Jiang Yue flatly refused, “No, I got it first.”

Feng Xue, who had been observing the scene, looked from Jiang Yue to Gu Dai.

Jiang Yue was adorned in this season’s newest fashions—from clothes to jewelry to shoes—all designed by top brands.

Although Gu Dai was undeniably attractive and her clothes looked good on her, Feng Xue couldn’t even spot a brand label. That led her to conclude that Gu Dai must be wearing some lesser-known brand, hardly worth much money.

Recognizing the connection between Jiang Yue and Song Ling, the President of Song Corporation, Feng Xue thought she might earn some brownie points by siding with Jiang Yue. Maybe she’d even buy more items from the store.

For the sake of her own sales performance, Feng Xue immediately stepped forward and said with a smile, “Indeed, Miss Jiang got the tie first. Therefore, it should belong to her.”

Having said that, she waved to the young store clerk she had initially sidelined and then turned to Gu Dai, “We have many other similar ties in our store. She can show you some alternatives.”

Then, attempting to ingratiate herself further with Jiang Yue, Feng Xue said, “Miss Jiang, is there anything else you’d like to buy? I can show you around. Besides, I’m a big fan of yours. I’ve seen all your performances on stage...”

Jiang Yue listened to Feng Xue’s flattery and her chin tilted up in pride as she shot a challenging look at Gu Dai.

At this point, Gu Dai was utterly exasperated with Jiang Yue. She took Su Ting’s arm and turned to leave.

But Su Ting didn't move. His eyes were dark as they fixed on Jiang Yue. Finally, he murmured to Gu Dai, "Sis, I can't stand her anymore. I want to rebel just this once."

After those words, Su Ting turned to Jiang Yue and said coldly, "Do you enjoy stealing what belongs to others that much? Be it men or ties."

Jiang Yue was momentarily stunned but quickly recovered, shouting, "How is this stealing? It's just that my hands are faster. Besides, Song Ling and I are in a mutual relationship; there's no 'stealing' involved!"

After Jiang Yue uttered those words, her gaze swept over Gu Dai and Su Ting, "Speaking of stealing, isn't Gu Dai the one who cheated? She just got divorced, and you two are already together. Who would believe that there was nothing going on between you before?"

Su Ting let out a cold laugh, "You're good at excluding yourself. If I remember correctly, weren't you caught with a director? And it was live-streamed; many people saw it."

That was a sore point in Jiang Yue's life, and she blamed it entirely on Wang Lan's show-off mentality.

Feng Xue, hearing this, quickly jumped to Jiang Yue's defense, "That video had AI face-swapping!"

Jiang Yue's face brightened considerably upon hearing Feng Xue's defense and she shot her an approving glance.

Feng Xue stood even straighter when she met Jiang Yue's eyes. She was already fantasizing about Jiang Yue buying more items to express her gratitude..

Chapter 165: Mistress

Jiang Yue looked at Su Ting and chuckled, “You must really adore Gu Dai. You’re even willing to stand up for her. But no matter how much you stand up for her, Brother Song Ling will only ever have eyes for me!”

Su Ting’s eyes turned colder upon hearing Jiang Yue speak so disparagingly of Gu Dai, who was nothing less than a goddess in his heart.

He retorted, “The divorce was initiated by Sis. She doesn’t like Song Ling, nor does she care whom he likes.”

Listening to Su Ting’s steadfast defense of Gu Dai, Jiang Yue’s eyes filled with jealousy.

Why did Gu Dai have such a devoted man by her side? And why had she changed so much, thwarting her plans? Wouldn’t it be better if she had stayed the timid woman she’d been for the last three years?

Driven by these thoughts, Jiang Yue’s gaze towards Gu Dai became even more hostile. “You’re so shameless. Just because Brother Song Ling doesn’t like you, you go around seducing other men. I bet you’ve had to pay quite the price for that, considering you have nothing to offer but your body!”

Growing angrier by the moment, Jiang Yue raised her hand and lunged at Gu Dai. “I can’t stand women like you who hide behind men!”

Gu Dai hadn’t considered Jiang Yue to be a threat, but she hadn’t expected her to resort to violence either.

So, lifting her foot, she kicked the charging Jiang Yue, sending her sprawling to the floor.

Jiang Yue landed on the ground with a thud.

Feng Xue, visibly startled, covered her mouth with her hand. Coming back to her senses, she hurried over to help Jiang Yue up, asking softly, “Miss Jiang, are you alright?”

By this point, a crowd had gathered, drawn by the altercation between Jiang Yue, Gu Dai, and Su Ting. Their eyes were all focused on Jiang Yue.

Seeing so many eyes on her, Jiang Yue felt humiliated. She violently shrugged off Feng Xue, who was trying to help her up, and stood up, her eyes fixed fiercely on Gu Dai.

Gu Dai spoke coldly, "You should be careful with your words; otherwise, it's defamation. I can sue you. Also, someone mentions 'AI face-swapping,' and you start lying even to yourself? You know what the truth is."

Jiang Yue was left speechless by Gu Dai's words.

Without waiting for Jiang Yue to recover, Gu Dai continued, "Your aunt is well-known for being a mistress, isn't she? Mention her name in the high-society circles in the capital, and there's no one who doesn't know her, given her specialty in destroying families. Of course, your aunt can't represent you, but haven't you also played the role of the 'mistress'?"

As Gu Dai's words settled, murmurs began rippling through the crowd.

Snapping back to reality, Jiang Yue yelled, "Gu Dai, when have I ever been a mistress? I was abroad before, and I only got together with Brother Song Ling after you divorced him!"

Gu Dai let out a cold chuckle, "I admit that you and Song Ling got together after our divorce."

Relieved, Jiang Yue was about to gloat when she saw Gu Dai take out her phone and wave it at her.

Gu Dai stated, "But don't forget, while I was still married to Song Ling, you sent me these messages. They detail quite a few intimate scenes between you and him. You even called him 'brother' back then. Do you think that's appropriate?"

Jiang Yue's face turned pale; she had never thought Gu Dai would still have those messages.

Initially, Gu Dai hadn't wanted to bring up these old messages; what was past was past, and she had no interest in holding grudges. But Jiang Yue just had to keep pushing her buttons!

With her eyes locked onto Jiang Yue, Gu Dai inquired, "Shall I have someone bring over a projector to display these messages for everyone to see?"

As her words echoed, someone in the crowd couldn't help but shout, "Do it! Show us!"

Jiang Yue felt like she was about to collapse. Gritting her teeth, she managed to say, "Those messages are fabricated. Don't believe her!"

At this moment, Jiang Yue found Gu Dai extraordinarily intimidating, even more so than Su Ting. She couldn't bear to meet her gaze, dodging it in her panic. A sense of dread began to well up within her..

Chapter 166: A Tie Worth 500,000

Feng Xue, eager to win Jiang Yue's favor, addressed the gathering crowd, "Everyone, please disperse. If you don't leave, I'll call the security to have you removed from the store and permanently banned."

The faces of many in the crowd darkened.

Seeing that people were not dispersing, Feng Xue signaled the security to forcibly remove them from the store.

Frowning, Gu Dai asked, "Is this how your store usually conducts its business?"

Feng Xue retorted disdainfully, "How we conduct our business is our concern. You should leave the store willingly before I call security to throw you out."

Jiang Yue sent an appreciative glance toward Feng Xue and said, "Wrap up that tie for me. I'll check out now."

Feng Xue hadn't expected that after going to such lengths, Jiang Yue would only buy a single tie, as she grew somewhat annoyed in her mind. However, the irritation vanished when she remembered Song Ling's influence behind Jiang Yue.

Taking the tie, Feng Xue proceeded to the checkout.

Jiang Yue, carrying herself like a triumphant general, haughtily walked past Gu Dai.

Unperturbed, Gu Dai turned to Su Ting beside her, "I've just spotted a few more ties that might suit you even better than the previous one. Also, the suits here look quite nice. How about I buy a few for you?"

Su Ting shook his head, "Sis, let me pay for it. I've earned quite a bit of money over the years. I'm not the penniless boy I used to be."

Gu Dai immediately declined, "No way, we agreed this would be my gift to you. How can I let you pay for it?"

She hurriedly called over the young sales associate, who had been previously pushed aside by Feng Xue, to show them suits and ties.

Gu Dai was quick when it came to shopping. In just over ten minutes, she had selected dozens of suits, matching ties, shirts, and shoes for Su Ting.

Seeing that Gu Dai was still keen on shopping, Su Ting quickly intervened, "Sis, you said you'd buy just a few sets. This is getting a bit excessive."

Coming back to her senses, Gu Dai exclaimed, "Your physique is simply exceptional. You're like a walking clothes hanger. Every suit looks as if it's tailor-made for you."

It was at that moment that Gu Dai finally understood the mentality her third brother had when he used to buy clothes for her.

Finally, at Su Ting's insistence, Gu Dai abandoned the idea of buying him more clothes.

After making their selections, the two prepared to pay. To their surprise, upon reaching the cashier, they found Jiang Yue still in the store, seemingly in an argument with Feng Xue.

Jiang Yue questioned, "It's just a tie. How could it possibly cost 500,000?"

Feng Xue hastily explained, "Miss Jiang Yue, this tie was designed by a top designer in the country. While it may appear simple, if you look closely, you'll notice many intricate details."

Examining the tie from every angle, Jiang Yue scoffed, "What details? I can't see any. So, will you sell it for 50,000 or not?"

Unable to hold back, Gu Dai let out a small chuckle.

Hearing Gu Dai's laughter, Jiang Yue stiffened. She hadn't expected Gu Dai to still be in the store, let alone witness her haggling.

Though flustered, Jiang Yue quickly composed herself and turned to Gu Dai, "Would you be willing to buy such an expensive tie?"

Gu Dai responded nonchalantly, "I would, actually."

Jiang Yue's expression soured immediately.

It wasn't that she couldn't afford a 500,000 tie; she just found it exorbitant and unwarranted. Especially since she had initially planned to gift Song Ling a tie worth only a few tens of thousands of yuan.

But now, Gu Dai's casual response echoed in her mind, making her suspect that Gu Dai was silently judging her.

Gritting her teeth, Jiang Yue turned to Feng Xue, "Fine, 500,000 it is. Wrap it up for me!"

Feng Xue hurriedly packaged the tie, grinning as Jiang Yue swiped her card to make the payment. She even took the opportunity to flatter Jiang Yue, "I knew Miss Jiang Yue was just testing me to see if the tie is truly worth 500,000 yuan."

Having just spent a significant sum, Jiang Yue felt a twinge of regret. To Feng Xue's sycophantic words, she could only respond with a curt "Mm.."

Chapter 167:1 Could Really Afford it

Jiang Yue immediately spoke to Gu Dai, "I'm willing to buy it too."

Gu Dai nodded slightly, responding with a detached "Oh."

Feeling as if she'd been challenged, Jiang Yue raised her voice, "This is a whole 500,000 yuan!"

Resigned, Gu Dai glanced at Jiang Yue, "I understand. Can you move aside now? I need to pay."

For a moment, Jiang Yue felt as if Gu Dai was looking at her like a three-year-old child.

Subconsciously, she stepped aside, only to see seven or eight store employees approaching, their arms loaded with suits, shirts, ties, and shoes.

Not only was Jiang Yue astonished, but Feng Xue at the cash register was equally stunned. Her voice shaky, she asked Gu Dai, "Are you buying all of this?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Yes, let's proceed with the payment."

Hearing Gu Dai's unflappable tone, Jiang Yue recalled how she had just spent 500,000 yuan and had felt so smug about it. Suddenly, she felt as if she'd been slapped hard, invisibly.

Feng Xue scanned each item one by one, finally announcing the total, "It's... it's 40 million yuan."

Stunned, Gu Dai instinctively said, "40 million, huh?"

Seizing the opportunity, Jiang Yue quickly interjected, "You can't afford it, can you?"

Gu Dai gave Jiang Yue a puzzled look and shook her head, "No, I was just amazed at how inexpensive it all is, only 40 million."

Jiang Yue chuckled disdainfully, "Keep pretending, Gu Dai. You can't even afford it, yet you still claim it's cheap."

Gu Dai sighed, speaking once more, "So many clothes for just 40 million; how did it turn into an astronomical figure in your mouth? A single custom piece I usually order costs more than that."

After saying this, she turned to Su Ting and said, "When we get home, I'll have even better suits custom-made for you."

Su Ting grinned, "The clothes now are already excellent. The price isn't what matters. What's important is that they're gifts from you."

Hearing their exchange, Jiang Yue was still convinced that Gu Dai was putting on airs. She challenged her, "I bet you can't afford it. If you can't, you have to kneel before me!"

Gu Dai turned her puzzled gaze toward Jiang Yue upon hearing this audacious statement.

Seeing this, Jiang Yue assumed that Gu Dai was intimidated by her words, becoming even more certain that Gu Dai couldn't afford the purchase.

Gu Dai responded, "And if I can afford it, does that mean you have to kneel before me?"

Caught off guard, Jiang Yue hesitated for a moment. Could Gu Dai actually afford it?

Jiang Yue glanced at Su Ting, who was standing next to Gu Dai, and it clicked. She laughed and said, "If you can buy all of this, I'll kneel before you. But there's a condition: you have to pay for it, not anyone else."

As she spoke, her eyes subtly shifted toward Su Ting.

Understanding the implication, Gu Dai said, "I see what you mean. Don't worry, these are gifts for Su Ting; there's no way I'd let him pay."

Before Jiang Yue could react, Gu Dai simply said, "Use this card."

Jiang Yue quickly turned her head to see Gu Dai pulling out a white card from her bag. She couldn't help but laugh.

Gu Dai looked puzzled at Jiang Yue.

Not concealing her mockery, Jiang Yue said, "I thought you were actually going to pay, but instead, you pull out a fake card. Just so you know, this store only accepts its own cards for payment, and those cards are pink and blue. There's no white card. Now, hurry up and kneel—"

Before she could finish, Feng Xue's trembling voice interrupted, "It's a global VIP card!"

Stunned, Jiang Yue couldn't believe it, "How can a simple white card be a VIP card?"

Gu Dai lifted the card into the sunlight.

What seemed like an ordinary white card transformed into a dazzling gold one, flickering with brilliant light as if it were a diamond..

Chapter 168: Cardholder: Gu Dai

Jiang Yue blinked, then pointed at Gu Dai, regaining her confidence. "That card must be fake, or perhaps it's actually Su Ting's card. Did he give it to you to use?"

Feeling as if she'd uncovered the truth, Jiang Yue's confidence surged anew.

Seizing on the hope, Feng Xue quickly chimed in, "I can verify the real cardholder on my computer!"

Gu Dai remained utterly unfazed, even yawning out of boredom.

Jiang Yue moved beside Feng Xue, urging her, "Check it quickly, and announce the cardholder's name out loud."

Let Gu Dai be humiliated then!

Feng Xue's face paled further as she stuttered, "The VIP cardholder is... Gu Dai."

Jiang Yue's confidence deflated like a punctured balloon. Her eyes widened in disbelief, "What did you say?"

She didn't even wait for Feng Xue's response, pulling her away from the cash register and staring at the computer screen herself. Seeing Gu Dai's name clearly displayed, she muttered incredulously, "How can it be Gu Dai? How is it possible?"

Gu Dai softly added, "But the fact is, it's me."

Jiang Yue stared at Gu Dai, suddenly struck by another idea. She smirked, "You may have the card, but who's to say there's any money in it?"

Gu Dai was puzzled by Jiang Yue's endless stream of wild thoughts, one following the other.

Tired of the pointless chatter, Gu Dai simply swiped her card.

The next second, the card reader beeped twice, indicating a successful transaction.

Jiang Yue was left utterly speechless.

At that moment, a middle-aged male voice rang out, "Why are so many people crowding the entrance? Don't you know the owner might perform an inspection at any time? Disperse at once and go about your duties. If you perform poorly, even I, your manager, will get scolded from the boss!"

The sales associate exclaimed, "Manager, we have a white VIP card customer here!"

The manager's furrowed brows instantly relaxed, and he exclaimed in astonishment, "Where is the customer? Lead me to her; I want to greet her personally!"

After saying this, the manager's eyes fell upon the stunning Gu Dai.

Then they shifted to Jiang Yue, whom he recognized. After all, she had almost married the President of the Song Corporation not long ago. Even though the marriage had fallen through, that didn't mean she didn't have spending power.

By this logic... Jiang Yue must be the holder of the white VIP card!

The manager hurriedly jogged over to Jiang Yue, bowing slightly as he greeted her with a smile, “You must be our esteemed white card VIP customer. What can I assist you with?”

Jiang Yue looked slightly uncomfortable.

Unaware of her discomfort, the manager enthusiastically began to introduce their store’s products. After completing his spiel and noticing that Jiang Yue remained silent—along with everyone else—he found it odd.

The manager discreetly moved closer to Feng Xue and whispered, “Did you offend Miss Jiang Yue earlier?”

Feng Xue shook her head numbly, replying, “No.”

The manager sighed in relief, whispering, “That’s good, considering a white card requires over a billion in storewide spending to obtain. We can’t afford to offend such people.”

Feng Xue responded emotionlessly, “Dad, I already have, and so have you.

You’ve mistaken the person. The real cardholder is Gu Dai.”

The manager asked incredulously, “Gu Dai?”

Hearing her name called out, Gu Dai inquired, “What’s the matter?”

Following the voice, the manager almost fainted as he shakily approached her, mumbling, “I apolo— apologize. I mistook the person.”

Gu Dai responded nonchalantly, “It’s okay.”

The manager exhaled a sigh of relief, grinning, “Miss Gu is truly as beautiful as she is kind-hearted, not holding grudges against us lesser beings—”

Gu Dai cut him off, her brows furrowing, “Hold on. Stop buttering me up.”

The manager paused, looking at Gu Dai in confusion. Before he could claim that his words were sincere and not flattery, Gu Dai interrupted.

“I’m not as generous as you think,” she stated flatly. “While I didn’t make a big deal out of you mistaking my identity, that doesn’t mean I won’t take issue with poor customer service. It seems the problem lies not just with the staff, but also with the manager— you..”

Chapter 169: Kneel before me, and I’ll forgive you

After the manager heard Gu Dai, he didn’t dare to utter a single retort. Instead, he nodded obediently and stammered, “I’ll make changes, I promise to rectify everything moving forward.”

Gu Dai’s voice tinged with skepticism as she asked, “Change?”

Before the manager could nod in agreement, she smiled and continued, “If you had truly wanted to rectify things, you would have done so already.”

Turning to the sales associate beside her, Gu Dai inquired, “There are surveillance cameras in the store, right? Can we review the footage?”

Captivated by Gu Dai’s radiant face, the associate blushed slightly and stammered, “Yes, we have them.”

Feng Xue wanted to intervene, to stop the associate from complying. But under Gu Dai’s penetrating gaze, she dared not make a move. All she could do was watch as the associate went to retrieve the surveillance video.

The footage began playing from the moment Gu Dai entered the store. Though fast-forwarded, every event unfolded clearly on the screen.

After watching the video, Gu Dai's eyes fell on the manager as she questioned, "Considering Feng Xue is an employee who steals others' sales, bootlicks the powerful, and freely expels customers from the store—aren't her actions grounds for her dismissal a thousand times over?"

The manager's face twisted in discomfort, and he spoke softly, "I think..."

Gu Dai interrupted, "I get it, she's your daughter, so you don't want to fire her, right? Well, in that case, I'll have to take it up with the owner."

Gu Dai pulled out her phone and sent a message to the store's owner. Almost as soon as she relayed the situation, a reply came back.

Owner, "I apologize for the poor experience. We will take serious action against these two employees. The final decision will be communicated to you as soon as possible."

Although the manager couldn't see the message's details, he recognized the owner's profile picture instantly.

Seeing this, he pleaded with Gu Dai in desperation, "I have parents to support and three children in school. I can't afford to lose this job..."

Unmoved, Gu Dai responded coldly, "The day you nepotistically put your daughter in this job, you should've considered the potential consequences. And given your position, you've likely reaped quite a few benefits yourself, haven't you? I'll also remind your boss to investigate your recent actions."

As soon as Gu Dai's words fell, the manager's phone rang.

The voice of the owner on the other end was loud and furious, directing the manager and his daughter to head to the company headquarters for further action.

Jiang Yue finally snapped back to reality as she saw the two leave.

She picked up the tie she had bought and prepared to leave, only to be stopped by Gu Dai the very next second.

Gu Dai said, "Did you forget something? Like the bet you lost to me just now?"

Jiang Yue's face stiffened with regret. She had made the foolish assumption that Gu Dai didn't have the means to win the bet.

The shame of having to kneel before Gu Dai would be unbearable; she'd rather die on the spot!

Backing away, Jiang Yue spoke softly, "You're not my elder. Why should I kneel before you? You're humiliating me, trampling on my dignity!"

Gu Dai couldn't help but laugh at this, responding coldly, "If I remember correctly, you were the one who suggested this form of punishment. And when you thought I had lost, you had no problem demanding that I kneel, without any concern for dignity or self-respect!"

Jiang Yue's face paled. She remained silent for a long moment, her eyes catching a car pulling up at the entrance. A glint of scheming darkness flashed across her eyes.

In the next second, tears shimmered in Jiang Yue's eyes as she spoke in a pitiful tone, "Yes, I'm sorry, Sister Gu Dai. I shouldn't have competed with you for the tie in the first place. Then none of this would have happened."

Gu Dai's eyebrows knitted together but she remained silent, curious to see what Jiang Yue was planning.

Jiang Yue continued, "It's just that I love Brother Song Ling so much. I wanted to give him this tie as a gift, which is why I acted as I did. Can you understand me, Sister Gu Dai?"

Hearing the sound of the store's door opening and seeing Jiang Yue's woeful demeanor, Gu Dai guessed that Song Ling must have arrived.

So Jiang Yue was planning to frame her?

If that was the case, then she would play along.

With a cold voice, Gu Dai declared, "Kneel before me, and I'll forgive you.."

Chapter 170: We're Divorced

Jiang Yue's eyes flickered with delight, silently marveling at how foolish Gu Dai was to fall into her trap without any prompting.

Now, let's see how Song Ling will chastise you!

Maintaining her pitiable facade, Jiang Yue lowered her head and let tears trickle down. Her knees began to bend, almost touching the ground in a kneeling position before Gu Dai.

Song Ling interrupted, "Gu Dai, you're becoming increasingly audacious!"

Striding over to Jiang Yue, he lifted her up and shot Gu Dai an icy stare.

Feeling the overwhelming aura emanating from Song Ling, everyone else in the store lowered their heads, not daring to meet his gaze.

Unfazed, Gu Dai casually remarked, "You've been standing at the door for quite some time, haven't you? It's about time you stepped in."

Shock flashed across Song Ling's eyes as he asked incredulously, "You knew 1 was there?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Of course."

After all, Jiang Yue had suffered a significant loss at her hands. It was only natural for Song Ling to come and back her up upon learning about it.

Sensing something amiss from Song Ling's reaction, Jiang Yue quickly tugged at his clothes and whispered, "Gu Dai was facing away from you. She must have made up that line after she saw you."

Remembering his angle of view when he entered, Song Ling nodded, buying into Jiang Yue's explanation. He then glared at Gu Dai and scoffed, "The Gu Dai I thought I knew wouldn't lie."

Gu Dai asked, "Did Mr. Song ever truly understand me?"

Her words pierced through Song Ling like thorns, reminding him how little he knew about her—a fact that frustrated him immensely.

Earlier in the day, he had sought Gu Dai, only to be ignored. This left him discontent, prompting him to have Zhao Xuan keep tabs on her.

Learning that her 'urgent matter' involved meeting Su Ting and even dining and shopping for men's clothing together infuriated him.

Seeing Gu Dai and Su Ting standing together when he pushed the door open had almost driven him mad with rage.

Noticing Song Ling's dark expression, Jiang Yue guessed he must have been infuriated by Gu Dai. She promptly started crying and exclaimed, "Brother Song Ling, earlier, Sister Gu Dai and I both liked the same tie. She wanted to buy it for Su Ting, but I thought it would suit you better. So I took it, and she demanded that 1 kneel in apology!"

As Jiang Yue's words hung in the air, not only was Gu Dai rendered speechless, but the bystanders who had witnessed the entire episode were also at a loss for words. Murmurs and whispers erupted among them.

The onlookers unanimously thought that Jiang Yue might have escaped from a mental institution. After all, how could a sane person exhibit such drastic emotional changes in such a short span of time?

Song Ling's face turned more gloomy, his eyes locking onto Gu Dai with spite.

Su Ting stepped forward, positioning himself between Song Ling and Gu Dai, clearly intent on defending her.

This only infuriated Song Ling more. He demanded, "Gu Dai, you gave me a tie as a gift for our third anniversary. What does it mean that you're giving him a tie now?"

Jiang Yue was dumbfounded. After her lengthy explanation, Song Ling only picked up on the tie. Not only did he not stand up for her, but he also showed no concern whatsoever!

Gu Dai was also surprised by Song Ling's question but remained composed. She asked, "If I'm not mistaken, we're divorced, aren't we? On what grounds are you questioning me now?"

Song Ling was momentarily at a loss for words, but he still managed to force out the question, "Tell me, why are you giving Su Ting a tie? Were you cheating on me with him during our marriage? Did you make a joke of me?"

Su Ting looked at Song Ling disdainfully and retorted, "You really don't understand Sis at all!"

Frustrated by Su Ting's words, Song Ling exhaled out and then asked, "What do you mean by that? Are you claiming to understand her?"

Su Ting glanced at Gu Dai and chuckled softly, "I can't claim to understand Sis one hundred percent, but I do know that she has a strong sense of morality. She would never cheat.."