

I Regained 171

Chapter 171: Only an Ex-Husband

Seeing Su Ting's confident demeanor, as if he understood Gu Dai very well, Song Ling felt increasingly agitated. He glared at Su Ting and questioned, "I was married to Gu Dai for three years and I don't fully understand her. Are you saying you, who met her not too long ago, understand her better?"

Su Ting smirked coldly, "Sorry, my sister and I met three years ago, even before you knew her."

Song Ling's pupils contracted, disbelief etched on his face as he turned to Gu Dai, "Why didn't you ever tell me you knew him three years ago?"

Gu Dai spared Song Ling a brief glance before turning away. To Su Ting, she said, "Let's go."

Su Ting nodded in agreement, "Alright."

Seeing Gu Dai's response to Su Ting, Song Ling's eyes reddened with anger. "You haven't answered my question! You're not allowed to leave!"

After uttering those words, Song Ling directed his attention to the store clerks, "Close the doors, don't let them leave!"

The clerks exchanged glances, and eventually, all of them lowered their heads, taking no action.

After all, Gu Dai was a white-card VIP customer at their store. How could they dare to stop her?

Song Ling couldn't believe that someone would defy his orders. His mood grew darker.

Never since becoming the President of the Song Corporation had he experienced such disobedience. Normally, people would scramble to fulfill his every command.

Gu Dai turned her gaze to Song Ling and reiterated, "Like I said earlier, we're divorced. What standing do you have to question me now?"

Song Ling's eyes bore into Gu Dai as he said coldly, "I am your ex-husband!"

When Gu Dai heard Song Ling's response, she couldn't help but find it amusing. "Since you know you're the ex-husband, why are you prying so much?"

Song Ling's eyes were dark as ink, fixated intently on Gu Dai.

Noticing Song Ling's continued neglect of her with all his attention on Gu Dai, Jiang Yue felt increasingly irritated. She seized the opportunity to sidle up to him and whimpered, "Sister Gu Dai kicked me earlier, and it really hurts."

Given the incidents at their wedding, Song Ling was well aware of Jiang Yue's true nature. He knew that Gu Dai wouldn't have attacked her without reason.

However, noticing the intimate interaction between Gu Dai and Su Ting, as well as their intent to leave, he quickly said, "Gu Dai, is there no way to discuss this matter without resorting to violence?"

Gu Dai did not answer. She simply took Su Ting's arm and exited the store.

Song Ling's face darkened further as he was ignored once again.

Jiang Yue sidled up to him and began, "Brother Song Ling, I only got into an argument with Gu Dai because I wanted to give you a gift so badly. But I never thought she'd resort to physical violence."

The store associates were speechless by now, as they had clearly seen the whole incident unfold.

“Miss Gu initially didn’t want to make a fuss with Jiang Yue, but she was the one who initiated the physical contact. Miss Gu only retaliated in self-defense,” said a young associate, who, having been long oppressed by Feng Xue, felt liberated upon Gu Dai’s arrival. The associate spoke these words with a steadfast gaze, despite the fear of the imposing Song Ling.

Jiang Yue shot the young associate a venomous look, then quickly said to Song Ling, “Brother Song Ling, that’s not how it happened. I didn’t want to resort to violence!”

Song Ling spoke emotionlessly, “I recall that you’re not yet cleared for discharge from the hospital. Who let you out?”

Jiang Yue’s body trembled slightly. Her injuries were actually not severe, so the doctors had not insisted she stay in the hospital. However, she still needed to play the victim in front of Song Ling.

Lowering her head, she stammered, “I, I sneaked out when the doctor wasn’t looking.”

Song Ling’s eyebrows furrowed, and he said coldly, “Then you should go back to the hospital. No more sneaking out.”

Not daring to argue, Jiang Yue lowered her head and nodded, “Alright, okay.”

She then took out the tie and presented it to Song Ling, “I really think this tie would suit you well. Take a look.”

Thinking about how the tie had been snatched from Gu Dai, Song Ling had no desire to accept it.

Jiang Yue’s arm grew tired from holding it out, and she inquired hesitantly, “Brother Song Ling?”

He responded in a low voice, meeting Jiang Yue’s cautious gaze, and finally took the tie from her.

However, he knew he would never wear it in his lifetime.

After all, how could he face his peers if they knew that the tie he wore had been obtained by a woman through such means? Would he still have any dignity left?

Chapter 172: Smashing The Phone In Anger

Jiang Yue was unaware of Song Ling's thoughts. Seeing him accept the tie, she sighed in relief and cheerfully said, "Take me back to the hospital, please."

Song Ling promptly refused, "I have business at the company. You can go back by yourself."

Without waiting for Jiang Yue's reaction, he quickly turned and left.

Jiang Yue stood there, unable to believe what had just happened.

She had thought Song Ling came because he heard she was being bullied by Gu Dai. To her astonishment, he hadn't shown any concern for her and had hurriedly left.

Could it be that he had actually come for Gu Dai?

No, that can't be. How could it be for that woman, Gu Dai?

Jiang Yue repeatedly denied the possibility, but every time she thought of Gu Dai, a deep hatred filled her heart.

Upon exiting the store, Song Ling noticed several clerks placing packages into a car. Intrigued, he approached and asked, "Who are these purchases for?"

These associates were in charge of home deliveries and were not present in the store earlier. Unaware of the previous events, they cheerfully responded, "They're gifts from our white-card VIP member, Miss

Gu Dai, to Mr. Su Ting. She's ordered dozens of suits, along with matching accessories. She must really love Mr. Su Ting."

"I think so too!"

As the associates drove away, their voices fading into the distance, Song Ling finally snapped back to reality. His face darkened like coal upon recalling their words.

Gu Dai must have spent a considerable amount on Su Ting to have white-card VIP status.

Ha, Su Ting is just a freeloader. He lets a woman spend money on him, and not just a little but dozens of suits. He's nothing more than a freeloader!

Although Song Ling thought this, the realization that Gu Dai had only gifted him a single tie gnawed at him.

Angrily, he strode into his car, slammed the door shut, and sped off.

Zhao Xuan, watching Song Ling storm in, guessed that he must have encountered Gu Dai again, and was dismissed once more.

This had been the pattern for some time, and he had grown accustomed to it.

Zhao Xuan shook his head in resignation, clicking his tongue mentally.

Mr. Song looks like he has fallen for his ex-wife, but it's too late now. She's surrounded by impressive men; Mr. Song really doesn't stand a chance.

Song Ling stopped in his tracks, his eyebrows furrowed and voice icy, "Zhao Xuan, I have a question for you."

With that, he walked into his office.

Zhao Xuan's body shivered upon hearing his name. Had he accidentally voiced his inner thoughts?

Zhao Xuan entered the office, then asked nervously, "Mr. Song, what did you want to see me about?"

Staring at Zhao Xuan, Song Ling queried, "I asked you to find out where the money Gu Dai got from my grandpa was spent. Have you found out?"

Relieved that he wasn't about to be fired, Zhao Xuan quickly responded, "I'll follow-up on that."

Zhao Xuan quickly picked up his phone and urged the private investigator on the other end. Moments later, the results were sent over.

Upon seeing the information, Zhao Xuan's face turned pale. However, under the intimidating gaze of Song Ling, he managed to muster the courage to speak. "Miss Gu Dai transferred the money to Mr. Su Ting."

"What did you say?" Song Ling's voice thundered, eyes narrowing dangerously.

Zhao Xuan trembled, holding his phone as he stammered, "I... I—"

Impatient, Song Ling snatched the phone from Zhao Xuan's hands and read the information displayed on the screen.

An icy chill emanated from him, intensifying by the second. In a fit of anger, he hurled the phone to the ground and coldly ordered Zhao Xuan, "Get out!"

Staring at his shattered phone on the floor, Zhao Xuan didn't dare utter a word and hurriedly left the office. His heart bled; after all, he had just bought that phone a couple of days ago.

After the office door closed behind Zhao Xuan, Song Ling's fury erupted. With a savage kick, he struck his office desk and then slammed his fist into the wall, eyes burning red with anger.

So, Gu Dai had known Su Ting three years ago and had even transferred money to him. It seemed they had been involved with each other since then, and yet she played innocent in front of him.

For three years, Gu Dai had put on a facade of being deeply in love with him. How utterly disgusting.

They were nothing but a pair of scoundrels—a loathsome man and a despicable woman!

Chapter 173: The Three Years To Erase

Song Ling recently had Zhao Xuan investigate due to being preoccupied with an online public opinion crisis. Now, the results of that inquiry only fueled his fury.

He switched on his computer and, using his hacking skills, accessed bank transaction records. As expected, the logs showed that Gu Dai had indeed transferred that sum of money to Su Ting years ago.

For a moment, he considered using his skills to teach Gu Dai a lesson, but then remembered she had some formidable programmers on her side. Grudgingly, he refrained.

But the more he thought about it, the angrier he became, as if a relentless fire were burning his insides. Song Ling wished he could just take a knife and stab Gu Dai to death.

A knock at the office door interrupted his turbulent thoughts. Zhao Xuan's voice sounded, "Mr. Song, there's an important gala tonight. Will you be attending?"

In a fit of rage, Song Ling grabbed the mouse from his desk and flung it at the door. A loud crash followed, and he bellowed, "Cancel it! And don't disturb me again, or you can pack your things and leave!"

Meanwhile, in the car.

Su Ting looked at Gu Dai and gently inquired, “I heard there’s a gala at the Capital Hotel tonight. It sounds like it could be fun. Would you like to go, Sis?”

Having taken over the company recently, Gu Dai hadn’t had much time to relax. This gala seemed like a perfect opportunity.

She nodded, replying, “Sure, what time is it tonight?”

Su Ting, who had been prepared for a possible rejection, was elated to hear her agree. He said enthusiastically, “The gala starts at six. I’ll pick you up, Sis. It’ll likely run late, so make sure to rest well when you get home.”

Gu Dai smiled and simply said, “Alright.”

Su Ting, recalling their recent encounter with Song Ling at the store, asked softly, “Sis, do you think Song Ling is regretting his decision? He seemed a bit jealous earlier...”

Gu Dai paused, puzzled, “Jealous?”

She tried to recall the details but realized she had already forgotten what Song Ling had said and how he’d acted. She finally said, “It’s unlikely. After all, his true love is Jiang Yue, and he’s always been fond of her. Why would he feel any emotional upheaval because of me?”

Su Ting’s eyes dimmed slightly.

Gu Dai sighed, “I know what you’re thinking. Don’t worry. Even if Song Ling becomes jealous one day and starts liking me, I won’t reciprocate. The things that happened during the three years I lost my memory are what I’d most like to erase from my life.”

Hearing this, Su Ting's spirits lifted, and his eyes sparkled as he looked at her.

With work commitments awaiting him upon his return to the country, Su Ting dropped Gu Dai off at home before leaving.

As Gu Dai stepped out of the car, she saw Gu Zhi standing at the entrance. Her eyebrows furrowed as she approached him and asked, "What are you doing standing here?"

Seeing Su Ting drop Gu Dai off, Gu Zhi was consumed by a frenzied jealousy. However, when she heard Gu Dai's question, she quickly suppressed her irritation and lowered her head, saying, "Sister, I'd like to take the evening off tonight."

Gu Dai didn't inquire as to why Gu Zhi needed the time off. She simply responded, "You can take the evening off. Just make sure to organize all the new clothes that have arrived."

Thinking of those clothes, Gu Dai felt somewhat helpless. She hadn't expected that after telling her third brother to stop buying her clothes, her other brothers would start doing so instead.

Gu Zhi was flabbergasted by what Gu Dai said. Disbelievably, she said, "All those clothes? You want me to sort through all of them? How long is that going to take?"

Considering the volume of clothing, Gu Dai conceded, "Fine, organize half of them then."

Gu Zhi hadn't expected Gu Dai to compromise and cut the amount in half. Unable to resist pushing her luck, she said, "But even half is too much. I have a gala to attend at six this evening; there's no way I can finish in time."

Gu Dai looked at her sister coolly. Having mentally simulated the task based on her understanding of Gu Zhi's efficiency over the past few weeks, she knew that Gu Zhi could easily finish sorting half the clothes by five o'clock.

Thus, Gu Dai said flatly, "If you can't finish, then I'll have to start questioning your capabilities. Perhaps it's time for you to go to the countryside for some character building."

The mention of 'countryside' struck terror into Gu Zhi.. Snapping back to reality, she said tearfully, "I can finish! I can get it done before six, just don't send me to the countryside!"

Chapter 174: Three Times Her Normal Pace

To Gu Dai's immense surprise, it appeared that Gu Zhi had hidden talents. She made a mental note to assign her sister more tasks in the future.

Seeing that Gu Dai remained silent, Gu Zhi became increasingly anxious and softly inquired, "Is it okay?"

Gu Dai nodded, replying, "Of course it is."

After her response, Gu Dai suddenly recalled the timing of the gala Gu Zhi had mentioned. She asked, "Is the gala you're attending at Capital Motel?"

Caught off guard, Gu Zhi realized she had inadvertently spilled her plans.

Faced with Gu Dai's probing gaze, she couldn't lie and admitted, "Yes, Dad said it's at Capital Hotel."

Gu Dai simply nodded and walked away.

Watching Gu Dai's retreating figure, Gu Zhi blinked in confusion. She had thought her sister would forbid her from attending the gala.

As for Gu Dai, her thoughts turned to Gu Ming from what she heard from Gu Zhi.

Chu Min had been keeping a close eye on him as per her instructions and had quickly informed her of his recent behavior.

Chu Min: "Gu Ming has been listening to some dubious friends lately and has gone tomb raiding."

Gu Dai couldn't help but think that Gu Ming must be desperate for money to engage in such illegal activities.

Moreover, he was a novice in this field, never having studied tomb raiding techniques before. So, she didn't believe he would get far.

Besides, Gu Dai had already arranged for someone to keep tabs on Gu Ming. If he did anything illegal, she would have him arrested immediately.

After catching some sleep, Gu Dai went to her gown selection room. In the sprawling, several-hundred-square-foot space, she tried to pick out a gown for the evening.

But the plethora of choices left her dizzy; each dress was stunning in its own right, and she couldn't make up her mind.

Finally, Gu Dai randomly chose the closest gown and with the help of her maid, got dressed, applied makeup, and coordinated the appropriate accessories.

Given her natural beauty, she didn't need to spend much time on makeup. Soon enough, she was ready.

Just then, Su Ting called to say he was almost there.

Gu Dai lifted her gown's hem and stepped out of the room. Glancing at the neatly arranged clothes, she asked Wu Zhen, "Did Gu Zhi personally organize all of these?"

Wu Zhen nodded, saying, "Yes, I watched her do it myself."

Wu Zhen paused, then added, "I must say, Miss Gu Zhi's speed was much faster than usual."

It was as if Gu Zhi was working at three times her normal pace!

Wu Zhen had been astounded while supervising her; after all, Gu Zhi usually dragged her feet, taking her sweet time to complete any task.

Gu Dai had already anticipated this, so she wasn't surprised. She instructed Wu Zhen, "From now on, make sure Gu Zhi works at this pace."

Wu Zhen acknowledged, "Understood."

Capital Hotel was not just a top-tier hotel in the country; it was globally renowned.

The venue was bathed in light, and the walls and floors were made of gold. The various utensils and decorations scattered around the hotel were worth a small fortune.

When Gu Zhi walked in, she was immediately awestruck. Although she had attended such galas in the past, her recent experiences had left her feeling as if she had entered a different world.

A few young women spotted her and called out, "Zhizhi, come over here!"

Upon recognizing the faces of the women, a trace of disdain flashed in Gu Zhi's eyes. These girls were either daughters of small company owners or women from new money. In the past, she would never have mingled with people of such status; they were simply beneath her.

However, times had changed. Since Gu Ming had lost his position as the Chairman to Gu Dai, Gu Zhi's former friends had started to ignore her. If she didn't socialize with these lesser figures, she would spend the entire gala alone.

Realizing this, Gu Zhi reluctantly approached the group, her expression less than enthusiastic.

The women could tell from Gu Zhi's demeanor that she looked down on them.

They couldn't help but silently curse her for being pretentious.

After all, Gu Zhi was now in a more precarious financial situation than they were. Had it not been for their fathers' harboring hopes that Gu Ming would regain his wealth and advising them to maintain a good relationship with her, they wouldn't have bothered with her at all..

Chapter 175: A Celestial Being

Though they wanted to avoid Gu Zhi, their allowances were controlled by their parents. Hence, they had no choice but to cluster around her, offering insincere compliments.

"Zhizhi, your dress looks fantastic. When this design first came out, I pestered my dad for so long to buy it for me, but he said we couldn't afford it."

"It's not the dress that's beautiful, it's Zhizhi herself who makes the dress look good."

"Exactly, it's Zhizhi who's beautiful!"

"Zhizhi, your hair is so thick and luscious, and your skin so fair and soft. You look like a little princess. Meanwhile, my hair is falling out in clumps, and my skin is dark and rough. Do you have any skincare products you'd recommend?"

"Zhizhi probably can't recommend any; she's naturally beautiful and no amount of skincare can replicate that!"

For some time, Gu Zhi had been taking care of Gu Dai, and her hands had developed calluses. Her complexion had also dulled due to fatigue. Even the gown she wore tonight was one that Gu Dai had worn three years ago.

Yet, amid the praise from these girls, Gu Zhi was on cloud nine, completely forgetting her current circumstances. She covered her mouth and replied shyly, “Oh, come on! All of you look great too. I’m only a little bit more beautiful, not as much as you’re making it out to be!”

The girls felt nauseated by Gu Zhi’s words, but they could only fake smiles and agree with her.

Listening to the surrounding flattery, and recalling Gu Dai’s recent tough treatment of her, a sinister thought flashed in Gu Zhi’s eyes.

Lowering her head, she sighed, “Although I’m pretty, my sister Gu Dai is even more beautiful than I am.”

The girls immediately understood Gu Zhi’s intentions. After all, it was public knowledge in the capital that a young woman named Gu Dai had ousted Gu Ming from his Chairman position.

They exchanged glances and harmonized their responses.

“Zhizhi, I’ve never met Gu Dai, but with you being this beautiful, there’s no way she could be prettier than you.”

“Yeah, yeah, you’re the most beautiful woman I’ve ever seen. Nobody could be prettier than you.”

“Just hearing the name ‘Gu Dai,’ you can tell she’s probably not that good-looking.”

Suddenly, the chatter and laughter that filled the hotel evaporated, giving way to a hush that slowly enveloped the room.

Gu Zhi furrowed her brows in confusion, her eyes following the crowd’s gaze toward the hotel entrance.

What she saw was a captivating couple stepping in—so striking that everything around them seemed to pale in comparison. The lights shimmered down upon them as if they were deities descended from the heavens.

A collective gasp rose, mouths agape in awe, as everyone involuntarily held their breaths at the sight of them.

Gu Dai felt rather bewildered to see the previously bustling hall go silent as she and Su Ting entered.

She turned her eyes toward him and asked, "Is there something odd about what I'm wearing, or is something else amiss? Why is everyone staring at us?"

Su Ting looked at her intently, then hesitated before saying, "Could it be because a strand of your hair has fallen out of place?"

Thinking that was a possibility, Gu Dai raised her hand to tuck the stray hair behind her ear.

However, Su Ting gently grabbed her hand, saying, "Let me do it for you, Sis. I wouldn't want to mess up your hairstyle."

Unable to see the specific issue, Gu Dai simply nodded, replying, "Alright."

Bending down, Su Ting delicately swept her hair back behind her ear and announced, "There, all done."

As her hair settled into place, the room's atmosphere changed dramatically again, this time it erupted into cheers and excited chatter.

"Oh my God, they're both incredibly good-looking! Who are they? If they're celebrities, I'm becoming a fan starting today!"

"You don't recognize Su Ting? He's an international supermodel. I don't know who the woman is, but she's stunning—like a celestial being!"

"This must be the work of a divine sculptor. We, mere clay figures slung together, can't compare!"

Hearing the surrounding admiration, Gu Zhi's expression darkened progressively, her eyes brimming with jealousy as she glared at Gu Dai..

Chapter 176: No Plan for the Entertainment Industry

At that moment, Gu Zhi felt that Gu Dai was nothing but a scheming woman.

In her mind, Gu Dai must have known she would be attending this banquet and deliberately dressed to outshine her, stealing her limelight.

The group of girls who had been complimenting her earlier were now transfixed by Gu Dai, so much so that they didn't even notice Gu Zhi's face, which had turned sour.

"She's really beautiful, isn't she?" they couldn't help but exclaim.

Feeling slighted that the girls who had just been showering her with praises were now enthralled by Gu Dai, Gu Zhi's face turned almost black with anger. She huffed, stomped her foot, and turned to leave.

In her mind, Gu Dai's beauty was nothing but the result of various skincare products. If her dad Gu Ming provided her with the same conditions, she believed she would undoubtedly be ten thousand times more beautiful than Gu Dai!

When the girls snapped back to reality, they saw Gu Zhi storming off. They exchanged puzzled glances, not understanding what had upset her.

After a moment of contemplation, one girl voiced a thought.

"Don't you think Gu Zhi looks somewhat like that beauty? Do you think they're related?"

As the words fell, the others started to mentally compare the appearances of the two women.

“My guess is that the beautiful woman is probably Gu Dai, the one we were just talking about.”

“Gu Zhi must know what Gu Dai looks like. Yet, after hearing our compliments earlier, she actually thought she was more attractive than her sister. That’s just hilarious.”

Unaware of Gu Zhi’s simmering jealousy, Gu Dai was at the moment politely declining the overtures of yet another talent scout—the seventh for the night.

“Miss, your proportions are absolutely perfect. If you sign with our agency, I’m certain you’ll become a sensation, a worldwide phenomenon!”

With a serene expression, Gu Dai replied, “I’m sorry, but I have no plans to enter the entertainment industry.”

Undeterred by her rejection, the talent scout wasn’t ready to give up and was about to continue his pitch.

Su Ting stepped forward, cutting the scout short. “As Sis has already mentioned, she has no plans to join the entertainment industry.”

The talent scout, clearly daunted by Su Ting’s intervention, stammered his agreement. “Alright, alright.”

As the scout turned to leave, Su Ting called out to him. “If you have any scout friends, could you please tell them not to approach Sis anymore?”

The scout nodded vigorously. “We scouts have a large group chat, and I’m the admin. I’ll notify everyone right away so they won’t bother her anymore.”

After sending out a quick message on his phone, the scout left, seemingly relieved.

Seeing that no more interruptions would come their way, Su Ting finally exhaled deeply. "I'm sorry. I should have considered this. I didn't anticipate the interruptions and it might have affected your experience."

Gu Dai's lips curled into a soft smile. "It's fine. I haven't seen a scene like this in a long time. In a way, it's quite enjoyable."

A pang of heartache flashed through Su Ting's eyes.

He knew Gu Dai was reminiscing about the past, a time when both her parents were still around.

He collected his thoughts, intending to offer some comforting words, but before he could open his mouth, a man in a business suit approached him. "Mr. Su, if you have a moment, could we discuss the brand contract for the upcoming term?"

Recognizing the man as the CEO of a partnering company, Su Ting still declined. "I'm sorry, I have something more important to attend to right now. We can discuss the contract some other time."

Catching snippets of their conversation, Gu Dai realized that the 'important thing' Su Ting mentioned likely involved her. She looked at him, asking, "The important thing you mentioned, is it to comfort me?"

Caught off guard, Su Ting unconsciously nodded.

Smiling, Gu Dai responded, "Don't worry about me. I'm fine. Go handle your work."

Though reluctant to leave her side, Su Ting struggled and said, "Sis, the work can be left..."

In Gu Dai's firm gaze, he finally yielded, "Alright, if you insist," he murmured, before heading off to speak with the CEO.

The CEO was somewhat surprised; he hadn't anticipated this turn of events. As he left, he shot Gu Dai a grateful glance, acknowledging the unspoken concession she had made..

Chapter 177: A Lost Puppy

After Su Ting left, Gu Dai picked up a piece of cake from the table and began to eat it in small bites. Suddenly, a piercing voice reached her ears.

It was Song Yu, and she knew it instantly.

"How are you here, Gu Dai?" Song Yu's voice was shrill.

Annoyance filled Gu Dai's heart, and it deepened when she saw Song Ling standing next to Song Yu.

Without even glancing at them, she focused on her cake and replied coldly, "I'm here because I have an invitation. And as far as I remember, neither this banquet nor the Capital Hotel belongs to the Song family, so you don't have any right to question my presence here, do you?"

Stung by Gu Dai's retort, Song Yu pressed her lips together before forcing out a reply. "You're here because you knew my brother would be attending, aren't you?"

Gu Dai's expression soured upon hearing this.

Reading Gu Dai's expression as confirmation, Song Yu gloated, "All, so I guessed right!"

"I'm not upset because you guessed right," Gu Dai shot back, her face growing even darker. "I'm upset because I feel disgusted hearing you say that. After all, Song Ling has no redeeming qualities that would make me want to follow him here."

Infuriated by Gu Dai's harsh words about her brother, Song Yu pointed a shaking finger at her. "Gu Dai, why don't you look at yourself from before. How dare you talk about my brother like that? You're just following him around like a lost puppy, and you're afraid to admit! You—"

"Song Yu, shut up!" Song Ling interrupted, his face covered in gloom.

Song Yu's laughter got stuck in her throat as she coughed awkwardly. When she regained her composure, she looked at Song Ling in disbelief. "Why are you yelling at me? I'm just speaking the truth. She's been following you around like a lost puppy."

Exasperated, Gu Dai wondered how someone could be so clueless.

But to her surprise, Song Ling seemed even more upset than she was.

He walked up to Song Yu and slapped her, his voice icy. "Didn't you hear me tell you to shut up?"

Song Yu stood there, stunned, her hand covering the red mark on her face, as she looked at Song Ling with hollow eyes.

Song Ling knew exactly why he was so angry.

It wasn't because Gu Dai had come knowing he would be at the banquet; rather, he had left a dinner party and rushed to the Capital Hotel's hall after seeing a social media post featuring Su Ting holding Gu Dai in his arms.

The commotion between Song Ling and Song Yu had attracted quite a bit of attention; many eyes were now turned their way.

Zhou Ci, noticing the odd atmosphere as he entered the hotel, followed the crowd's gaze to Gu Dai and Song Ling. He quickly approached, asking, "What's going on here?"

While asking, Zhou Ci didn't really expect an answer from the crowd. His eyes remained fixed on Gu Dai, intending to walk over to her and ask if she was alright.

However, he was stopped in his tracks when Song Yu grabbed his wrist.

Her face stained with tears, she cried out, "Brother Zhou Ci, my brother slapped me! Look at the mark on my face!"

Being the sister of his friend, Zhou Ci had always treated Song Yu like a younger sister.

He instinctively spoke in her defense, "Even if she did something wrong, you shouldn't have laid a hand on her. She's a girl; you should be giving her gentle guidance."

Having said that, Zhou Ci remembered that Song Ling was generally quite kind to his sister, Song Yu. It seemed unlikely that he would slap her, especially across the face.

Realizing this, Zhou Ci looked down at Song Yu and asked, "What did you do to make your brother so angry?"

Song Yu was in a tearful mess. Without a second thought, she recounted the entire incident to Zhou Ci.

After she finished, she shook Zhou Ci's hand pleadingly. "Brother Zhou Ci, you have to help me get justice. I was just telling the truth; I didn't say anything wrong."

Zhou Ci's eyebrows furrowed deeper and deeper as Song Yu spoke, so much so that they could have knotted by the time she finished..

Chapter 178: A Cart Charging Towards Gu Dai

Zhou Ci yanked his hand away, casting a cold glance at Song Yu. "Gu Dai is just a young girl in her early twenties. How could you speak of her so venomously? Besides, what she said is true; her character would never allow her to follow Song Ling like that."

Song Yu stared blankly at her empty hands for a moment before finally comprehending what Zhou Ci had said. She looked up, agitated, pointing at Gu Dai. "But hasn't she done all sorts of things over the past three years?"

Zhou Ci didn't understand why Gu Dai had once so humbly followed Song Ling. Could love really blind people to that extent?

Nevertheless, he spoke seriously, "People change. You can't judge someone based on past behaviors."

Song Yu sneered, as she looked at both Song Ling and Zhou Ci, "Change? Oh, people do change. But it's not Gu Dai who's changed; it's all of you! Now it's like she's bewitched you all, and you're speaking up for her!"

Unsatisfied, Song Yu continued, "Gu Dai is just a seductive, despicable bit*h. Who knows where she learned these lowly tricks!"

Song Ling raised his hand and slapped Song Yu twice more. His gaze was intimidating, his voice as cold as shards of ice, "Are these the words of a young lady from a prestigious family? What happened to all the manners you were taught?"

Zhou Ci also spoke in a cold voice, "Song Yu, you're nothing like the person I thought you were. I'm very disappointed in you."

Song Yu felt the stinging pain on her face and heard Zhou Ci's thunderbolt-like words. Her heart was filled with hatred.

She looked up at Gu Dai.

Even though Gu Dai's face remained expressionless, Song Yu felt that she must be enjoying her downfall and humiliation.

In a hoarse voice, Song Yu yelled at Gu Dai, "Are you satisfied now, seeing me like this?"

Gu Dai was completely bewildered. She didn't understand what there was for her to be satisfied about, given that she had done nothing.

Gu Dai wanted to grab Song Yu and get some clarity, but Song Yu dashed past her.

However, in her haste, Song Yu collided with a waiter pushing a cart full of wine bottles.

The waiter lost his balance and fell to the ground. Before he hit the floor, inertia caused him to push the cart forward, sending it careening uncontrollably towards Gu Dai.

Since Gu Dai had her back turned, she didn't see the cart coming.

Both Song Ling and Zhou Ci's faces changed instantly upon seeing the impending danger. They yelled in unison, "Watch out! Move!"

Gu Dai sensed something was wrong, but the cart was moving too fast, and she was wearing high heels, making it impossible for her to get out of its path.

Glancing back at the crowd, which even included children, Gu Dai mustered all her strength to charge forward and put her hands on the cart.

She had braced herself for injury, but to her surprise, the cart wasn't as heavy as she'd imagined. With seemingly little effort, it came to a stop.

Confused, Gu Dai looked up and realized that both Su Ting and Zhou Ci had joined her in holding the cart back.

Relieved to see that Gu Dai was unharmed, Su Ting and Zhou Ci let out sighs of relief.

The cart had indeed been heavy; even Zhou Ci felt he was about to lose his grip. He quickly turned to Song Ling, "What are you doing just standing there, Song Ling? Come and help!"

With a grave nod, Song Ling approached and secured the cart in place.

Su Ting examined Gu Dai one more time to ensure she was unscathed before finally letting his guard down. He pulled her into an embrace, his voice choked with emotion, "I'm so glad you're alright."

After saying this, it suddenly occurred to him that while Gu Dai appeared uninjured externally, there might be internal damage. He quickly asked in a frantic tone, "Is there any part of you that doesn't feel right? We should go to the hospital for a full-body check-up just to be safe!"

Patting Su Ting on the back, Gu Dai reassured him, "Don't worry. You and Zhou Ci got there just in time. The cart didn't even touch me, so I feel absolutely fine. Not even a scratch.."

Chapter 179: Possessive

Reflecting on the harrowing scene that had just unfolded, Su Ting finally exhaled, but he couldn't help but express his concern: "Sis, what you did was incredibly risky. What if something had gone wrong, like it did years ago? You've only just come back..."

As he spoke, Su Ting's eyes reddened, barely holding back tears.

Seeing Su Ting's emotional state, Gu Dai quickly reassured him, "Don't worry, I won't do anything like that again. And if I do, it will only be after ensuring my own safety."

Upon hearing Gu Dai's promise, the tears that had been circling Su Ting's eyes retreated. However, his heart continued to pound uncontrollably.

He couldn't bear to think what might have happened had he not arrived in time.

Noticing Su Ting's lingering apprehension, Gu Dai took it upon herself to offer further comfort.

Song Ling watched Gu Dai intently, his expression growing colder with each passing moment.

Noticing Song Ling's demeanor, Zhou Ci leaned in and whispered, "Jealous?"

With a disdainful snort, Song Ling retorted, "Why would I be jealous?"

Zhou Ci grinned and said, "Well, if you're not jealous, that's good news for me. It means I can pursue Gu Dai without any reservations. Even if you were, my resolve wouldn't change just because of your thoughts."

Song Ling's hands involuntarily clenched at his sides. He glared at Zhou Ci, gritting his teeth as he said, "I don't see what's so special about Gu Dai."

Unfazed by Song Ling's evident hostility, Zhou Ci didn't immediately answer his question. Instead, he tilted his head and remarked, "You didn't try to stop the cart earlier. You must have thought Gu Dai would dodge it, so you rushed out to try and sweep her aside. But you didn't expect her to actually push the cart, did you?"

Song Ling was stunned, caught off guard by Zhou Ci's insight.

Observing Song Ling's stunned expression, Zhou Ci coolly added, "See? You really don't understand Gu Dai at all."

A pang of discomfort settled in Song Ling's heart. He couldn't quite grasp why he had instinctively wanted to save Gu Dai earlier. Trying to deflect Zhou Ci's assertion, he retorted, "That's just your speculation!"

Undeterred, Zhou Ci simply smiled and said, "Alright, alright, it's all my speculation."

Annoyed by Zhou Ci's demeanor, Song Ling snapped back, "You may like Gu Dai, but you can't compare to Su Ting, the model. After all, he's willing to cry and put on a vulnerable act, calling her 'sis' like some manipulative charmer."

Zhou Ci glanced over at Su Ting and Gu Dai, then grinned as he replied, "Now, I think I can answer your earlier question. You asked me what I saw in Gu Dai. The answer is, I see something special in every part of her. You may find her ordinary, but to me, she's extraordinary."

Zhou Ci elaborated, "What I mean is, my affection for her is quite accommodating. Even if she loves someone else, I will respect her choices. If she doesn't end up loving me, that's alright too, as long as she's happy."

Scoffing, Song Ling found Zhou Ci's reasons absurd. To him, love was about possession; willingness to let go merely indicated a lack of true affection.

Possession...

As he pondered the word, Song Ling froze, recalling his own possessive behavior towards Gu Dai. A nagging thought crept in: could it be that I've falling for her?

Shaking off the notion, Song Ling vehemently denied it in his mind.

No, it's impossible. How could he be attracted to a woman like Gu Dai?

His possessive tendencies were simply a temporary adjustment period, a reaction to seeing his former spouse in the arms of another. With time, he believed that such scenes would no longer stir any emotional upheaval within him.

Having sorted out his thoughts, Song Ling put his internal debate to rest. Noticing that Gu Dai and Su Ting were still engrossed in each other, he finally broke the silence, "Is all this fuss really necessary when she's not even hurt?"

Upon hearing Song Ling's comment, Su Ting turned his gaze toward him.

The warmth he'd shown Gu Dai was gone, replaced by icy detachment. "I saw it with my own eyes; it was your sister, Song Yu, who knocked over the waiter, causing the cart to roll away.. Shouldn't you be bringing her here to apologize?"

Chapter 180: Apologize For her

Su Ting's words made Song Ling's brows furrow slightly, he coldly retorted, "How can you be so sure you didn't see it wrong? Maybe it was just a coincidence."

Su Ting asserted with conviction, "I couldn't have seen it wrong."

"Who can guarantee that..." Song Ling began to argue.

Intervening, Gu Dai firmly believed Su Ting wouldn't make such a claim lightly. She turned her cold gaze towards Song Ling and said, "The facts can be easily confirmed by asking the people involved."

As soon as Gu Dai finished speaking, Zhou Ci immediately stepped forward, "I'll bring the waiter over and arrange for someone to find Song Yu."

The waiter was nearby and arrived within minutes, his face flushed with nervousness. Bowing apologetically, he stammered, "I'm sorry, it was my fault for not holding onto the cart tightly, causing this incident."

Gu Dai noticed that the man's trousers were stained with blood around the calf area, indicating a rather severe injury. She shook her head gently and softly assured him, "It's alright."

She then asked, "Did anyone bump into you just now?"

The waiter, relieved by Gu Dai's forgiveness and kindness, thought back to the event. "I apologize, I was too flustered to notice who bumped into me. However, it seemed to be a lady wearing a light purple dress."

Song Ling's expression tightened. His sister, Song Yu, had worn a light purple dress today. He had seen her bump into the waiter but had hoped to explain the situation. Now that Su Ting had pointed it out, he suddenly became reluctant to admit it.

Keeping his eyes lowered, Song Ling responded coolly, "There are so many people at the party. She's not the only one wearing a light purple dress. Besides, Song Yu hasn't returned yet."

Zhou Ci couldn't take it anymore. He interrupted, "Wasn't Song Yu the only one who ran in that direction? If it wasn't her, then who else could it be?"

Remaining unfazed, Song Ling met Gu Dai's gaze and said, "Proof is required to make such claims."

Su Ting moved to stand in front of Gu Dai, blocking Song Ling's view. "The hotel has security cameras. We'll soon find out whether it was Song Yu or not." Song Ling's expression shifted slightly.

Following Su Ting's instructions, the waiter made a call. Shortly thereafter, a man arrived, carrying a laptop.

The man arrived, visibly out of breath. After wiping the sweat from his face, he quickly played the security footage on his laptop.

The surveillance video was crystal clear, vividly capturing the moment when Song Yu collided with the waiter as she ran off.

Gu Dai turned to Song Ling and said, "The evidence is now in front of us. Is it time for an apology?"

Su Ting didn't speak, but upon hearing Gu Dai's words, he nodded in agreement.

Song Ling, observing the intimacy between Gu Dai and Su Ting, felt a surge of resentment. Deep down, he thought that Gu Dai being hit by the cart would have been a fitting retribution for her flirtatious behavior.

His eyes as dark as ink, Song Ling turned to Zhou Ci and coldly asked, "Have you found Song Yu yet?"

Zhou Ci, irritated by Song Ling's tone, responded in kind, "No."

Receiving this answer only added to Song Ling's irritation.

After staring at Gu Dai for a moment, he stiffly said, "Song Yu didn't do it on purpose. Since you insist on an apology, then I'll apologize on her behalf. Sorry."

The apology clearly cost him; it was the first time in his life he had ever had to apologize to someone.

Gu Dai frowned, watching as he made to leave. She called out, "Wait, don't go yet."

Instinctively, Song Ling halted and turned to look at her.

Gu Dai posed her question, "Are you saying that this incident has nothing to do with Song Yu?"

"Of course," Song Ling responded curtly.

Gu Dai almost laughed out of incredulity, but she quickly composed herself, her expression becoming stone-like. She asked Song Ling, "If I were to accidentally kill you, would the court find me innocent?"

Stunned, Song Ling opened his mouth to say something but ended up saying nothing at all. He quickly turned and walked away.

The waiter once again expressed his apologies profusely. When Gu Dai assured him it was fine, he prepared to return to work.

However, Gu Dai stopped him. Seeing his anxious expression, she spoke softly, "Wait. I'll speak to your manager. You should go to the hospital and get your leg checked out.."