

I Regained 181

Chapter 181: Song Yu Using Gu Zhi

The waiter didn't respond immediately but smiled and said, "1 just fell and bled a little. I'm fine, there's no need to go to the hospital."

Gu Dai understood his concern right away, "Don't worry, I'll cover the medical bills. You don't need to be concerned about the money."

The waiter hastily waved his hand in refusal, "No, no, no. I can't take your money. It was my fault for not doing my job properly and even startling you. You haven't even asked for compensation, how can you give me money? Besides, 1 can still walk on my leg; it's just a scratch. I've fallen so many times since 1 was a child and nothing bad has happened."

Gu Dai sighed in exasperation, taking another look at the waiter's leg, she said earnestly, "Your leg has internal damage. It might look fine now, but if not treated in time, it will become incurable in two months, and the condition will only worsen."

The waiter, upon seeing Gu Dai's serious demeanor, began to waver, stuttering, "Is... is that so?"

Gu Dai nodded firmly, "Yes!"

The waiter, convinced, hurriedly said, "I'll go to the hospital right away."

Elsewhere.

Song Yu hid in a bathroom stall, tears streaming down her face. She couldn't understand how things had turned out this way. Not only was Gu Dai unharmed, but she had also become the one blamed.

As Song Yu's tears flowed freely, a woman's voice suddenly emanated from the neighboring stall.

Gu Zhi spat, “Damn you, Gu Dai! What’s so great about you? How dare you play me like this? Once my father takes back the Gu Group, I’ll lock you up in a dark room and have someone beat you every day. Then, I’ll let you wish for death but won’t let you die!”

There was a chilling laugh in Gu Zhi’s voice by the end, sending shivers down one’s spine.

But Song Yu felt no fear. Instead, a surge of excitement took over.

Ever since she found out that Gu Dai was the heiress of the Gu family, Song Yu had someone investigate the Gu family ties.

She knew the relationship between the Gu Ming family and Gu Dai wasn’t good. She wanted to use them against Gu Dai. Unexpectedly, before she even found a reason to approach them, an opportunity had presented itself right in front of her.

Song Yu wiped the tears from her face, composed herself, and stepped out of the stall. She then knocked on the door of the stall where Gu Zhi was.

When Gu Zhi heard the knock, she immediately stopped murmuring about her plan against Gu Dai. After a few seconds, she asked loudly, “Who is it?”

Song Yu replied with a smile, “Sorry to disturb you. I am Song Yu, the younger sister of the President of Song Corporation, Song Ling. I heard noises from this stall and wanted to check on the situation.”

Gu Zhi paused, murmuring, “Song Yu, the younger sister of the President of the Song Corporation, Song Ling...”

After a few moments, Gu Zhi quickly exited her stall, saying excitedly, “You, hello, I am...”

Before Gu Zhi could finish, Song Yu interjected, “I know who you are. You’re Gu Zhi, the heiress of the Gu Group, right?”

Any shadow in Gu Zhi's heart was instantly dispelled, replaced by sheer excitement. The Gu Group was a level below the Song Corporation in stature. The fact that Song Yu knew her stunned Gu Zhi, who hesitantly asked, "Miss Song, how do you know me?"

Inwardly, Song Yu coldly responded, Of course, I've done my research. If it weren't for Gu Dai, a woman like Gu Zhi wouldn't even be worthy of my acquaintance.

Though these thoughts raced through Song Yu's mind, she maintained an excited facade, exclaiming, "You're so accomplished, and my mother always mentions you. I how could I possibly not know you? I've wanted to meet you for so long, but I've been too busy. I can't believe we've finally met!"

Gu Zhi grabbed Song Yu's hand, laughing, "It's not too late for us to get acquainted now!"

But then her demeanor changed as she added, "However, my father is no longer the president of the Gu Group, and I'm no longer its heiress."

Song Yu knew the reasons but feigned surprise, asking, "Oh? What happened?"

Gu Zhi nodded somberly, "I have a younger sister named Gu Dai. She returned after a three-year disappearance and, without any regard for my father's three years of dedication to the company, took over his position as chairman. She even evicted our family from the villa."

Song Yu hadn't expected Gu Zhi to be so manipulative, trying to use her as a pawn.

Luckily, Song Yu knew the real reasons and wouldn't fall for it.. After all, if someone was going to be used, it would be Gu Zhi by Song Yu!

Chapter 182: Spreading Rumors

Song Yu's eyes flickered momentarily before she adopted a look of indignation on behalf of Gu Zhi, saying passionately, "Gu Dai has gone too far! Zhizhi, you shouldn't be lenient with someone like her. If she can do such things, you should find a way to deal with her!"

Upon seeing Song Yu's demeanor, a hint of amusement crossed Gu Zhi's eyes. She had thought the Song family members would be more astute, but this was quite naive of them.

Feeling at ease now, Gu Zhi spoke, "I have considered retaliating against Gu Dai, but she's formidable. Not only was I unable to teach her a lesson, I ended up being the one bullied."

Song Yu pretended to be deep in thought for a while, then her face lit up as if she had an idea, "Think about it, does Gu Dai have any strange habits? Once you figure them out, you can tell others and let the news spread."

Gu Zhi looked somewhat perplexed, "Strange habits?"

Song Yu nodded, affirming, "Exactly!"

Having spent a considerable amount of time caring for Gu Dai recently, Gu Zhi had gotten to know her quite well. But no matter how much she thought, she couldn't recall any strange habits of Gu Dai.

Gu Zhi stared blankly at Song Yu, shaking her head, "I don't think there are any."

Song Yu was growing frustrated. She felt an urge to smack some sense into Gu Zhi and pressed, "Think harder! Is there anything you've overlooked?"

Gu Zhi replied earnestly, "No."

Inwardly, Song Yu was exasperated. If there were none, couldn't Gu Zhi just make up a few? The end goal was to make life difficult for Gu Dai; was there really a need for complete accuracy?

Still, Song Yu managed to suppress her annoyance, and with a guiding smile, she said, “Think about it, during those three years she disappeared, what might have happened to her? Maybe she got married, became pregnant, had a miscarriage, or had encounters with various men.”

Having heard Song Yu’s words, realization dawned on Gu Zhi. She immediately understood what she needed to do.

In fact, she could already visualize a future where, after executing this plan, Gu Dai was scorned by everyone, while she seized the opportunity to reclaim the Gu Group.

With a grateful smile, Gu Zhi said to Song Yu, “Thank you. I’ll start working on this right away!”

Song Yu nodded, replying with an equally warm smile, “Good.”

Song Yu watched Gu Zhi’s retreating figure, lowering her head slightly as the corners of her lips curled into a sly smile.

With still an hour left before the exhibition began, Gu Dai, feeling restless within the banquet hall, decided to step out for some fresh air.

But to her surprise, just as she stepped out of the hall, she saw a captivating woman standing at the entrance, loudly declaring to the people around, “Do you know Gu Dai? The newly appointed chairwoman of the Gu Group?”

Wei Ling’s words had many turn their gaze to her. Someone chimed in, “Of course we do. The news of Miss Gu’s return swept across all major platforms!”

Wei Ling, seated comfortably with her arms crossed, continued with a smirk, “Since you all know, let me just spill it. I heard that during the three years she disappeared, she got married. But even after that, she couldn’t stay faithful and wandered among dozens of men, even those you could sleep with just by paying. Because of this, she’s had hundreds of miscarriages...”

The surrounding crowd was in utter shock, with someone incredulously asking, "That's impossible! Gu Dai is the heiress of the Gu family. Where did you hear such rumors?"

Refusing to back down, Wei Ling retorted defiantly, "How could this possibly be a rumor? And even if she's rich, maybe she enjoys the thrill of betraying her husband. She is so wild, spending time with over a dozen men every day..."

Gu Dai's gaze darkened as she watched Wei Ling spewing more and more outrageous claims. Unable to contain her fury, she swiftly grabbed a wine glass from a nearby table, marched over to Wei Ling, and drenched her face with the wine.

Wei Ling's speech halted abruptly, her eyes widening in disbelief as she stared at Gu Dai.

Upon seeing Gu Dai's stunning features, she was momentarily stunned, never imagining that someone could look so exquisite. But soon after, envy crept in.

With a darkened face and a hostile tone, Wei Ling snapped, "You dared to pour wine on me.. Do you know who I am?"

Chapter 183: Legs Lost Feeling

Gu Dai swiftly grabbed a few more glasses of wine and poured them over Wei Ling, remarking coolly, "I don't know you, nor do I care to."

Wei Ling's face turned a shade of blue, countering with, "Let me tell you, I'm going to be the next top global model. Do you know Zhang Zheng? I bet you do. He's that influential agent who can turn anyone he touches into a star. And he's also Su Ting's agent!"

Gu Dai remained silent, her gaze fixed on Wei Ling, curious to hear what she would say next.

Wei Ling didn't disappoint, continuing, "Awhile ago, Zhang Zheng approached me, wanting to sign a contract! Once I sign with him, I'll become famous in every corner of the world. And when that happens, I'll make sure my fans cyberbully you!"

The crowd around them, upon hearing Wei Ling's words, wasn't concerned about her threat towards Gu Dai. Instead, they all gasped in admiration, their eyes burning with envy and desire.

They were just minor celebrities, small-time models. They couldn't even gain entry to today's banquet and were relegated to loitering outside, hoping for a chance to be noticed and to ascend to stardom.

They saw this person, soon to sign with Zhang Zheng, as their ticket.

Gu Dai's expression remained impassive despite Wei Ling's threat. She said, "I'm not interested in how you plan to retaliate against me. I want to know who told you those rumors and what purpose you have for spreading them."

A hint of panic flashed across Wei Ling's face, but she feigned calm, "I have no ulterior motive. I didn't spread rumors, because everything I said about Gu Dai is true!"

Those around, hoping to curry favor with Wei Ling, began to chime in.

"It can't be a rumor; it sounds true."

"I think it's true. Even if it's not, there's something off about that Gu Dai. Why would people spread rumors about her and not others?"

"Sure, you're pretty, but why are you butting in? We're talking about Gu Dai, not you!"

Wei Ling, seeing people take her side, broke into a smile and locked eyes with Gu Dai, saying, "Exactly, we're not talking about you. Why are you so worked up? Even though you were quite disrespectful to me, I won't stoop to your level and hold it against you."

Gu Dai responded nonchalantly, “Oh?”

Wei Ling attempted to break free from Gu Dai’s grasp but was immobilized. Trying to negotiate her way out, she suggested, “If you let me go now, I’ll allow you to follow me as my personal assistant.”

Amused, Gu Dai repeated, “Personal assistant?”

Wei Ling nodded arrogantly, “Yes. You’d serve me, bring me tea and water. Oh, and massaging my shoulders and feet, among other things. You look fairly good, so if any of the big bosses take a fancy to me in the future, you’ll take my place and serve them well. Make sure you secure all the resources for me...”

From a short distance away, Gu Zhi watched the scene unfold, finding it difficult to contain her laughter.

To think Gu Dai, who had previously treated her in a similar manner, was now at the receiving end of such treatment!

Without hesitation, Gu Dai jerked Wei Ling up from the chair, slapped her across the face, and delivered several swift kicks to her legs.

Witnessing this, several bystanders rushed forward, wanting to rescue Wei Ling. Each hoped to be the first, aiming to gain favor with her.

But their eagerness resulted in a skirmish among themselves. As some broke free from the crowd to approach Gu Dai, her impressive martial arts skill allowed her to easily dodge their advances.

Gazing at Wei Ling, Gu Dai said coldly, “You’re full of ideas, aren’t you? But you should also be prepared for the consequences.”

With a swift movement, two glinting silver needles appeared between Gu Dai’s fingers. She rapidly pricked several acupuncture points on Wei Ling’s legs.

Moments after feeling several brief stings, Wei Ling collapsed to the ground.

Frozen in disbelief, she tried to move her legs but found them unresponsive. In a rage, she glared at Gu Dai, shouting, "What did you do to my legs? Why can't I stand or even feel any pain?"

Frantically, Wei Ling slapped her own legs, but they felt numb, as if they weren't even there.

Tears streamed down Wei Ling's face as she glared at Gu Dai, shrieking, "I am a model, a model! How dare you disable my legs? I'll never forgive you!"

The commotion had grown so intense that it drew the attention of the event's manager.

Rushing over, he inquired, "What happened?"

Wei Ling's gaze landed on Su Ting, who arrived with the manager.. Desperately, she cried out, "Senior brother, my legs have been broken! Please seek justice for me!"

Chapter 184: Do I Know You

Under Wei Ling's expectant gaze, Su Ting quickly walked over.

Upon seeing Su Ting, the crowd erupted with excitement. They never dreamed they'd see the international superstar in person. Thoughts of possibly getting on his good side, ensuring a worry-free future, filled their minds, and they promptly began defending Wei Ling.

"Su Ting, sir, it was that woman who hurt your junior sister."

"We wanted to help your junior sister, but this woman's skills are too nimble; we couldn't lay a finger on her."

“She dared to hurt your junior sister’s leg. Do you want to get revenge? I can be your muscle and break her legs for you!”

The crowd was clamoring and falling over each other to speak.

What they didn’t expect, however, was that Su Ting showed no interest in Wei Ling, who was now collapsed on the ground. Instead, he walked over to the woman who had struck her, his expression tender, and gently lifted her hand.

The crowd was stunned. Silence enveloped the surroundings.

Gazing at Gu Dai’s reddened palm, pain evident in his eyes, Su Ting softly said, “Sis, let me blow on it for you.”

Bending down, he brought his face close to Gu Dai’s palm and gently blew on it.

Gu Dai felt a ticklish sensation on her hand, causing her fingers to curl. She quickly withdrew her hand and turned her head away, saying, “It’s fine. My hand doesn’t hurt.”

Witnessing this scene, the onlookers rubbed their eyes in disbelief. They rubbed them multiple times, yet the scene before them remained unchanged.

One person in the crowd, still in a state of shock, asked, “Su Ting, why are you comforting the woman who hurt your junior sister? Did you mistake her for someone else? Your junior sister is lying on the ground!”

Snapping out of her daze, Wei Ling called out to Su Ting, “Senior brother, you’ve mistaken the person. I’m right here!”

Su Ting frowned when he heard the voice. After a long pause, he looked down at Wei Ling and asked in genuine confusion, “Who are you? Do I know you?”

Wei Ling's expression stiffened momentarily before she quickly replied, "We haven't met yet, so you don't recognize me. But once I introduce myself, you will. I'm the model that Zhang Zheng is about to sign, and I'll be your junior sister!"

Su Ting's brows furrowed even more.

Unable to hold back, Gu Dai remarked, "When did Zhang Zheng's taste get this bad?"

Wei Ling instantly bristled, her voice shrill, "How dare you question Zhang Zheng's judgment? Senior brother, you must teach her a lesson!"

Su Ting glanced at Wei Ling, replying coolly, "If Zhang Zheng plans to sign you, then his judgment truly is questionable."

After making that statement, Su Ting pulled out his phone and dialed Zhang Zheng.

Zhang Zheng picked up almost immediately. "Weren't you on vacation and told me not to disturb you? Why are you calling?"

Cutting to the chase, Su Ting asked, "Are you planning to sign a model named Wei Ling recently?"

There was a pause before Zhang Zheng responded, "Wei Ling?"

Su Ting continued, "Don't sign that model."

Wide-eyed with disbelief, Wei Ling demanded, "On what grounds? Who says you can just decide not to sign me? I won't accept this!"

As Wei Ling's voice trailed off, Zhang Zheng's confused reply echoed from the phone, "The person I'm planning to sign is Wei Yu. Who is Wei Ling?"

Stunned, Wei Ling retorted in disbelief, “How could it be Wei Yu? She’s not even a model. She was just accompanying me to the competition that day!”

Recalling the event, Zhang Zheng replied, “You’re Wei Yu’s older sister, right? Although Wei Yu didn’t participate in the competition, she had a great physique and exuded a confident aura. She’s a natural for modeling. Unfortunately, she left early that day. After the competition, I wanted to approach her but couldn’t find her. I ran into you instead and asked you to pass on the message. By the way, did Wei Yu agree to sign?”

That day, upon meeting Zhang Zheng, Wei Ling was over the moon, having only heard him mention a contract in a few days. She had assumed he was interested in her, but now he was saying he was interested in Wei Yu!

Wei Yu was just a little nurse at the hospital. How was she fit to be a model, let alone catch Zhang Zheng’s eye?

Zhang Zheng, not receiving a response, asked in confusion, “Hello? Are you still there?”

Pulling herself together, Wei Ling shouted in the direction of the phone, “Wei Yu won’t become a model. She can’t be a model!”

Gu Dai lowered her gaze, leaning in to the phone, suggesting to Zhang Zheng, “Try to find Wei Yu’s contact and discuss this with her privately..”

Chapter 185: Not Decorations

After hearing Gu Dai’s words, Zhang Zheng quickly responded and then hung up the phone.

Wei Ling hadn’t expected the truth to be like this. Anger flared up within her, fueling a desire to strike Gu Dai. It was only then that she deeply realized the numbness in her legs.

Wei Ling's gaze toward Gu Dai was filled with animosity. "You actually dared to break my legs. I'm a model, and you've ruined my future career. I won't let this go. I'll hire the best lawyer and see you behind bars!"

Gu Dai's expression remained unchanged as she walked toward Wei Ling.

Seeing this, Su Ting swiftly reached out, grabbing Gu Dai, and said, "Sis, don't go. She looks like she might hurt you."

Gu Dai whispered, "Don't worry. She can't hurt me. Don't you trust my abilities?"

Seeing Gu Dai's confidence, Su Ting gradually released his grip on her clothing, nodding gently, "I trust you."

Yet, even though Su Ting had let go, his gaze remained intently on Gu Dai, monitoring her situation closely.

As Wei Ling saw Gu Dai approach, her eyes were filled with hostility. Her hands tensed, prepared to react the moment Gu Dai got close.

When Gu Dai neared Wei Ling, she whispered, "Do you want your leg to heal?"

Wei Ling's tense posture paused, and she replied almost instinctively, "Yes."

After all, she was a model. Her future activities depended on her legs.

But soon after answering, Wei Ling's alertness returned. She looked at Gu Dai warily and coldly said, "I know what you're up to. You probably want to use the promise of healing my legs to extract information from me, right?"

Gu Dai looked at Wei Ling appreciatively before saying, "I want to know who told you to spread rumors about me."

Wei Ling showed a look of 'I knew it' before furrowing her brow in confusion, "Rumors about you?"

Realization dawned upon her. "You're Gu Dai?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Yes."

Wei Ling's face displayed mockery. She scoffed, "I never thought Miss Gu would be this naive. I said I didn't believe you could heal my legs, given that I can't even feel them. Yet you still try with such a foolish... Ahh!"

Wei Ling was still speaking when a sharp, bone-piercing pain suddenly shot through her leg.

From a distance, Gu Zhi only saw Gu Dai approaching Wei Ling, unaware of what transpired between them, until a sudden cry broke the silence.

When Gu Zhi heard the scream, she shuddered in fear, a torrent of thoughts racing through her mind. Had Gu Dai lashed out at Wei Ling in anger? If Gu Dai found out that she was the one who spread the rumors, would she be spared?

However, since she had sent someone else to deal with Wei Ling earlier, Gu Dai probably wouldn't suspect her, right?

The more Gu Zhi thought, the more terrified she became. Even though her current hiding spot seemed concealed, she was afraid that Gu Dai would spot her and make the connection. Panicking, she picked up her gown and carefully made her exit.

But as fate would have it, Gu Dai just happened to glance up at that moment, catching a glimpse of the sneaky figure. Narrowing her eyes, she immediately recognized Gu Zhi.

Gu Dai briefly cast a glance in that direction before turning her focus back to Wei Ling. “You feel the pain in your legs now, don’t you? Now do you believe I can heal them?”

Feeling the pain in her legs, Wei Ling was caught between pain and an ecstatic realization. She even slapped her legs a few times; after all, if there was pain, it meant that her legs could still be healed and wasn’t completely broken!

However, upon this realization, Wei Ling didn’t meekly reveal the reason. Instead, she retorted, “My legs feel pain now, so perhaps with some rest, I might be able to stand again. If not, I can always seek help from other doctors. What makes you think I would tell you the reason?”

Gu Dai chuckled softly, her gaze unwaveringly fixed on Wei Ling. “Because only I can heal your legs. No one else can.”

Wei Ling tried to brush off the claim with disdain, but under Gu Dai’s resolute gaze, doubt began to gnaw at her. Could what she was saying actually be true?

Gu Dai continued, “Even if you don’t believe me, there’s another thing you should consider.. Why do you think that after spreading rumors about me, you’d walk away unscathed? Do you think the Gu Group behind me is just for show? Do you think the team of lawyers I employ is just for decoration?”

Chapter 186: Don’t Tell Anyone

Gu Dai’s questioning had completely stunned Wei Ling, realizing the gravity of her situation.

However, she figured that if she didn’t admit her guilt, the money she had acquired would suffice to treat her legs and allow her to continue with endorsement activities.

This thought calmed Wei Ling down gradually.

Seeing Wei Ling's expression, Gu Dai could guess what she was thinking. She coolly remarked, "I will take you to court and use the influence of the Gu family to cut off all your resources, making it impossible for you to get any

endorsement deals."

Wei Ling was momentarily stunned but soon countered, "It doesn't matter. There will always be companies that are against the Gu family. They'll surely invite me."

Zhou Ci, who had just arrived, overheard Wei Ling's comment and promptly interjected, "The Zhou family will never hire you as a spokesperson. We'll also spread the word in the industry that anyone who hires you is opposing the Zhou family!"

Gu Dai looked at Zhou Ci, slightly taken aback.

Noticing Gu Dai's gaze, Zhou Ci became even more animated, cheekily sending a flirtatious glance her way.

Caught off guard by Zhou Ci's behavior, Gu Dai found herself at a loss for words, her lips moving but unable to voice her gratitude.

Song Ling, noticing Gu Dai's gaze on Zhou Ci, felt a twinge of jealousy. He cast a cold glance at Wei Ling and remarked, "If anyone hires her, they are also going against the Song family!"

Surprise flashed in Gu Dai's eyes. She harbored no intentions of thanking Song Ling, given her nature to hold grudges.

She believed that Song Ling must have initially known that it was Song Yu who pushed the cart since she recalled him looking up at the time. But he chose to remain silent, shielding Song Yu.

This reminded Gu Dai of her time with amnesia in the Song family, where she was often bullied with no one willing to hear her side of the story.

Gu Dai couldn't fathom why Song Ling would utter such a statement.

Whispers erupted among the onlookers after hearing Zhou Ci's and Song Ling's remarks.

Su Ting also added his voice to the fray, stating, "I'll speak with my collaborators to ensure they don't work with you. There won't be a place for someone like you in the modeling world ever again!"

The murmurs grew louder as Su Ting's words echoed.

While the Zhou and Song companies' primary ventures weren't in the modeling industry, any restrictions they imposed could, at most, affect only the domestic market.

Su Ting stood apart from the rest. With his international reputation, people in the modeling industry regarded him as a god. These influential figures would never risk offending him over a minor model.

Wei Ling felt as though she had been struck dumb. Regaining her senses, she blurted out, "No, you can't sideline me. I still want to shine in the modeling world and step onto the international stage!"

Glancing around at the crowd, who were watching the drama unfold, Wei Ling eventually fixed her gaze on Gu Dai. Unable to use her legs, she desperately dragged herself using her arms and crawled to Gu Dai's side.

Clutching Gu Dai's legs, Wei Ling cried, "Please, I beg you. Don't let them blacklist me. Since childhood, my dream has been to become a top model. I can't give up on that dream now."

Gu Dai looked down at Wei Ling, silent.

Seeing this, Wei Ling hastily retrieved a piece of paper with a bank account number from her pocket. "Actually, someone approached me, asking me to badmouth you. Once the deed was done, they promised to transfer three million into this account. I couldn't resist the temptation at the time, but now I realize my mistake. I apologize to you. From now on, I will repent every day for what I've done. I..."

Interrupting her, Gu Dai took the note from Wei Ling's hand, "I'll allow you to continue on the path of modeling. But I'll also have someone supervise your every word and action. If you ever act like you did today, I'll blacklist you immediately."

Not daring to object, Wei Ling hurriedly replied, "I'll be mindful of my actions from now on. If I ever behave as I did today, you won't need to do anything I'll break my own legs!"

Gu Dai looked at Wei Ling, then subtly pressed a few acupressure points on her leg.

Wei Ling felt the pain in her legs gradually fade, slowly regaining strength. She looked at Gu Dai in disbelief.

Gu Dai softly shook her head at her, whispering, "Don't tell anyone.."

Chapter 187: Poor Doggy

Wei Ling couldn't comprehend why Gu Dai chose to hide her capabilities, but she nodded continuously in response, saying, "Okay."

When Gu Dai expressed her decision not to blacklist Wei Ling, she didn't lower her voice, so Su Ting, Zhou Ci, and Song Ling all overheard.

Given Gu Dai's stance, they had no choice but to revoke their earlier decision.

Although Gu Dai had pardoned Wei Ling, she hadn't forgotten the sycophantic words these people spouted earlier to please Wei Ling.

The surrounding crowd trembled slightly, sensing impending doom. Recalling how Wei Ling was forgiven after her apology, they hastened to speak up.

“Miss Gu, we were wrong. We shouldn’t have speculated without knowing the full story.”

“Miss Gu, we apologize to you. Please spare us this once.”

“Miss Gu Dai, you can ask us to do anything, as long as you can forgive us!”

Gu Dai took note of the hidden desperation in their eyes.

She responded coldly, “You won’t be considered for any future Gu Group events.”

Hearing Gu Dai’s words, the people felt nothing but regret. They couldn’t believe their earlier folly, offending the chairwoman of the Gu Group just to gain favor with Wei Ling!

Zhou Ci, who had arrived late and was unaware of the earlier events, promptly added, “You’ll also be excluded from any Zhou family events.”

Song Ling cast a quick glance at Zhou Ci, wondering why he was everywhere.

Catching Song Ling’s gaze, Zhou Ci grinned, “I’m pursuing Gu Dai, after all. I need to be proactive!”

Zhou Ci stared at Song Ling, challenging him, “Weren’t you thinking of implementing the same measure?”

Song Ling flatly rejected, “No!”

With that, Song Ling turned and swiftly departed.

Watching Song Ling’s hasty exit, Zhou Ci chuckled. It was clear to him that Song Ling had wanted to make the same declaration but had denied it.

Luckily, Zhou Ci was sharp-witted, posing the question first. Otherwise, if Song Ling had mirrored his words and Gu Dai had been swayed by them, what then?

Zhou Ci, with thoughts of Gu Dai on his mind, quickly approached her, smiling cheerfully, "How did I do?"

Gu Dai looked at the approaching Zhou Ci with a hint of helplessness in her eyes, but he had indeed assisted her. Thus, she replied, "Thank you."

Zhou Ci hastily responded, "You're welcome, it's what I should do!"

Su Ting, narrowing his eyes slightly, swiftly walked to Gu Dai's side, nudging Zhou Ci away, and sweetly offered, "Sis, the auction is about to begin. Let me take you inside."

Gu Dai nodded, "Alright."

Even though Zhou Ci had been pushed aside, he didn't show any annoyance and followed them with his ever-present smile.

Song Yu, after sharing her plan with Gu Zhi, had always been behind her, both finding a hidden spot to sit.

Initially, Song Yu felt triumphant as everything was going according to plan. But the emergence of Gu Dai turned everything upside down.

She was taken aback by the sheer number of people supporting Gu Dai.

Especially Zhou Ci, who not only helped Gu Dai but was also sticking close to her like a devoted dog. But wasn't he supposed to have feelings for her, Song Yu?

Over the years, every time Zhou Ci met her, he was always gentle, leading Song Yu to believe he held affection for her.

No, it wasn't just a belief. Zhou Ci definitely had feelings for her.

Yet, Gu Dai had ruined everything. She not only ensnared her brother, Song Ling, but now even Zhou Ci.

Hatred swirled in Song Yu's eyes; she wouldn't let Gu Dai off easily!

Meanwhile, Su Ting led Gu Dai into the auction hall and after choosing a prime seat, he lamented, "Sis, I have to take the stage shortly, so I won't be able to accompany you for a bit. I initially wanted to be the first to appear, but the organizers insisted I go fifth..."

Looking at Su Ting's pitiable puppy-dog expression, Gu Dai reached out, ruffling his hair with affection, "It's alright. You go ahead."

Su Ting nodded and as he was about to leave, he added, "Sis, buy whatever you like, and I'll cover the costs later.."

Chapter 188: Switching Seats

At the auction, the products were not just for display. They would also be auctioned off, going to the highest bidder.

Gu Dai nodded to Su Ting's reminder and said, "Alright!"

Su Ting then headed backstage.

From a distance, Song Ling watched the exchange between Gu Dai and Su Ting, his eyes darkening.

After Su Ting left, he took long strides toward Gu Dai.

Gu Dai, sensing the movement beside her and looked up in puzzlement. Upon seeing Song Ling, she felt an ominous feeling.

She diverted her gaze and asked coldly, "Can I help you with something?"

Song Ling observed the cold demeanor Gu Dai showed him. He remembered her cheerful smile when she spoke to Su Ting earlier, and a pang of displeasure surged in his heart.

Song Ling took a seat beside Gu Dai, staring ahead, "Do you think I came here just for you?"

Gu Dai slightly furrowed her brows, giving Song Ling a quick glance, "Is this your seat?"

Each seat in the auction hall had a name tag attached. Gu Dai hadn't paid attention earlier, but she intuitively felt that this was not Song Ling's designated spot.

Leaning back in his chair, Song Ling confidently replied, "Of course."

Gu Dai noticed Song Ling's fingers rubbing together, his eyes slightly narrowed, a gesture he often made when in deep thought.

She softly said, "Can I see the name on the back of the chair?"

Song Ling immediately refused, "No!"

Realizing his reaction was a bit too fervent, he spoke again, "This is my seat. Why should I show you? If you don't believe me, just wait and see if someone comes to claim it!"

Witnessing Song Ling's adamant demeanor, Gu Dai couldn't help but doubt herself. Had she made a mistake?

Just as Gu Dai began to question herself, Zhou Ci's voice reached her ears.

With long strides, Zhou Ci approached, and slightly annoyed, asked Song Ling, "Why are you sitting here?"

Maintaining an outwardly calm appearance, Song Ling's finger-rubbing became more frantic. He looked at Zhou Ci, retorting, "Do you have a problem?"

Catching his breath, Zhou Ci said, "I went to find the person assigned to this seat to switch with them. To my surprise, he told me someone bought his spot for a high price. I wondered who it was, and it turns out it was you who bought it!"

Song Ling hadn't expected Zhou Ci to spill the beans. He tried to stop him, but Zhou Ci spoke too quickly to be interrupted.

Song Ling shot Zhou Ci a glare. Now that the truth was out, especially in front of Gu Dai, he felt embarrassed. He beckoned a server and coldly said, "The auction is about to begin. Ensure that people don't wander around!"

The server escorted Zhou Ci away and returned him to his seat.

Song Ling glanced sideways at Gu Dai, his voice icy, "I just thought this spot had a better view, so I switched seats. Don't overthink it."

Gu Dai acknowledged him, adding, "The auction is starting. Be quiet and stop talking!"

Song Ling wanted to retort, but upon seeing Gu Dai's emotionless face, he swallowed his words.

However, Gu Dai didn't believe Song Ling for a second. Instead of the 'better view' excuse, she was convinced he switched seats just to irritate her.

It seemed he succeeded; she was truly annoyed.

Yet, Gu Dai soon realized that letting someone as insignificant as Song Ling affect her mood was unnecessary. She decided to treat him as if he were invisible.

With clarity of mind, Gu Dai's focus shifted to the stage.

Seeing Gu Dai ignore him, Song Ling's frustration grew, his fingers whitening from clenched tension.

He couldn't fathom why he had impulsively bought the seat beside her after witnessing her conversation with Su Ting.

The more he lacked answers, the colder his demeanor grew, making him seem like a walking air conditioner.

People nearby felt the chilly aura and instinctively shrunk away, casting wary glances at Song Ling. Upon noticing Gu Dai beside him, unfazed, they felt a surge of admiration for her.

The crimson curtain slowly drew open. After the host's introductory remarks, the stage was bathed in a gentle light accompanied by soft music.

One by one, models stepped out, showcasing products.

Below the stage, the continuous sounds of bidding rang out. Products were being snapped up at an astonishing speed.

Finally, it was Su Ting's turn to appear. Gu Dai straightened up, her gaze fixed intently on the stage..

Chapter 189: Bidding On The Necklace

Tall and long-legged, Su Ting stepped out emotionlessly. Dressed in a suit with two top buttons undone, he appeared far from the well-behaved image Gu Dai remembered. Now, there was an added touch of rebelliousness.

Aloofness and wildness seemed contradictory, yet they merged seamlessly in Su Ting.

Seeing him, many women in the audience couldn't help but gasp in admiration.

Gu Dai watched Su Ting with pride swelling in her heart. The once young boy was now standing on such a grand stage, garnering the affection of so many. She felt a deep sense of gratification.

Hearing the commotion, Song Ling's mood darkened further, especially seeing Gu Dai's attentive gaze on Su Ting and the smile playing on her lips. His fists clenched on his thighs.

Are these women blind? Su Ting is nothing but a pretty boy! What's there to like?

The host hurriedly introduced upon Su Ting's entrance, "Presenting international supermodel, Su Ting! The necklace he's wearing is a unique piece crafted specially by our hosts. It's one-of-a-kind!"

The necklace featured a delicate chain with a round, lustrous white pearl pendant. The pearl's surface was adorned with numerous tiny protrusions and indentations, each dot composing different patterns in myriad colors, resembling the mesmerizing and mysterious trajectories of stars in the universe.

On Su Ting, the necklace looked even more dazzling and captivating.

Awed by its beauty, the audience held their breath.

The host was the first to regain composure, slamming down the auction hammer, "Bidding starts at 80 million!"

As his words echoed, many in the audience were taken aback. Even though they were affluent, the starting bid was steep, making them hesitant.

Without hesitation, Gu Dai raised her sign, “85 million.”

Su Ting’s gaze immediately found hers. His eyes softened at the sight.

Gu Dai’s lips curled up, silently mouthing, “Work hard.”

Su Ting couldn’t respond, but his eyes softened even more.

The silent exchange might have been brief, but to Song Ling, it was glaringly painful. His face darkened further.

In that moment, Song Ling understood his discomfort.

Back when he and Gu Dai were married, she always followed him loyally, undeterred even by his rejection and disdain, her gaze always lovingly fixed on him.

Now, even when sitting beside her, she hardly glanced at him, her demeanor cold and distant.

That alone was enough, but to see Gu Dai brazenly exchange affectionate glances with Su Ting right in front of him?

This stark contrast deeply unsettled Song Ling!

During the brief moment when Song Ling was lost in thought, Gu Dai had already bid up to 150 million. The necklace was on the verge of becoming hers.

Seeing the radiant smile on Gu Dai’s face, Song Ling, determined to outbid her, raised his sign and coldly declared, “200 million.”

The host was about to declare the sale when he heard Song Ling's bid. He stopped immediately, excitedly exclaiming, "Good! We have a bid of 200 million from the gentleman! Any other bids?"

At this moment, Gu Dai couldn't help but acknowledge Song Ling's presence. She shot him a cold glance and raised her sign, "300 million."

Leaning back in his chair, Song Ling promptly countered with, "400 million."

A murmur of astonishment rippled through the room. Even for these affluent attendees, the casual bidding of such vast sums was shocking.

Gu Dai's brows furrowed slightly, turning to Song Ling she coldly said, "As I recall, you don't wear necklaces. What's the point in buying it?"

Noticing that Gu Dai had finally turned to look his way, Song Ling's mood improved. He replied with a grin, "I might not wear it, but I can gift it to someone."

Upon hearing Song Ling's words, Gu Dai deduced he probably intended to present the necklace to Jiang Yue. The smile on his face was nothing short of provocative.

The host, thrilled by the escalating bids, eagerly looked at Gu Dai, waiting for her next move.

Gu Dai, without hesitation, was about to raise her sign to place another bid.

But to her surprise, someone beat her to it.

Zhou Ci called out, "500 million."

Gu Dai turned to the source of the voice and spotted Zhou Ci seated behind her to the side.

Seeing her attention, Zhou Ci excitedly waved his raised sign at her..

Chapter 190: One Billion

When Gu Dai witnessed this, she felt a headache coming on. Initially, she had only Song Ling to contend with; now Zhou Ci had joined the fray.

As these thoughts crossed Gu Dai's mind, her phone buzzed. It was a message from Zhou Ci.

Zhou Ci: If you like it, 1'11 win the bid and give it to you.

Gu Dai replied: No need. If I want it, I'll bid myself.

After sending the message, fearing Zhou Ci might ignore her request, she quickly added another.

Gu Dai: Don't bid!

Song Ling was unaware of the conversation between Gu Dai and Zhou Ci. However, seeing them engrossed in their phones, his irritation grew.

Taking a deep breath and adjusting his tie to ease his tension, Song Ling raised his sign and declared, "600 million."

Zhou Ci was about to place another bid, but after seeing Gu Dai's messages, he hesitated and reluctantly withdrew his hand.

Without missing a beat, Gu Dai shouted, "1 billion!"

Instantly, the room was abuzz.

“Oh my God, it’s up to a billion.”

“I thought the initial 80 million was already high. This billion is astronomical!”

“Miss Gu surely has deep pockets. Does this mean collaborating with their company has potential? I might need to call a shareholders’ meeting when I get back!”

Song Ling took a deep breath, surprised at the lengths Gu Dai would go to for Su Ting.

One would think that while the necklace was beautiful, 100 million was already a high price. Yet, Gu Dai had bid a whopping billion!

Meeting Song Ling’s icy gaze head-on, Gu Dai inquired, “Are you still bidding?” Song Ling didn’t respond, just kept his eyes on Gu Dai.

Seeing this, Gu Dai continued, “It’s alright if you want to bid higher. I can keep going. I’m determined to win this necklace.”

Song Ling’s face turned ashen. He was tempted to raise his bid, but pulling out that sum would greatly affect his company’s operations.

The host, regaining his composure, wore an dazzling smile. Seeing no further bids, he excitedly declared, “1 billion once, 1 billion twice, 1 billion three times, sold! The necklace goes to Miss Gu Dai!”

Confetti cannons went off, and the venue erupted in cheers!

The happier the crowd seemed, the darker Song Ling’s expression became. He shot Gu Dai a cold glare.

Upon witnessing Song Ling’s demeanor, Zhou Ci shook his head and texted him.

Zhou Ci: Dude, your way of grabbing a girl's attention is incredibly childish. Plus, it's asking for a punch!

Song Ling snapped back: Who told you I'm trying to get Gu Dai's attention?

Zhou Ci quickly replied: Both my eyes did!

With a huff, Song Ling responded: Then both your eyes must be blind. Even if everyone in the world died, leaving only Gu Dai, I wouldn't give her a second glance!

Zhou Ci tutted and shook his head: I hope you can still say that in the future.

After his segment, Su Ting left the stage and took a seat beside Gu Dai. He handed her a piece of cake, "Sis, this is from your favorite cake shop. Give it a try."

Gu Dai obliged, taking a few bites with a fork, she commented with satisfaction, "Delicious. You should try some too."

Su Ting smiled, "Sure."

Watching the two of them sharing cake, leaning close as if they might touch, Song Ling felt an acute pang of jealousy.

Adding to his misery was the realization that he didn't even know which cake shop Gu Dai enjoyed.

Su Ting, thinking about the necklace Gu Dai had won, blushed a little and whispered, "Sis, thank you for buying the necklace. I'll handle the payment later."

He knew the necklace wasn't worth the winning bid. Though he wasn't sure why Gu Dai had placed such a high offer, he hoped deep down it was for him. Perhaps she had bought it because he was showcasing it?

Seeing Su Ting's ears and face turning crimson, Gu Dai couldn't resist tousling his hair. She softly said, "Over the past three years, I never had the chance to see your shows. This was my way of making up for that."

Stunned, Su Ting stammered, "Is... is it because of me?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Yes."

Even though Su Ting had fantasized that it was because of him, getting confirmation from Gu Dai made him feel incredibly overjoyed.

Su Ting wanted to respond, but looking at Gu Dai, words escaped him. All that remained was sheer happiness..