

## **I Regained 191**

### **Chapter 191: Su Ting is My People**

Gu Dai chuckled softly, "I've already paid for the necklace, so you don't need to reimburse me."

Su Ting snapped back to reality and was on the verge of proposing a bank transfer of the ten billion to Gu Dai.

However, it seemed Gu Dai could almost read his mind. To change the topic, she suggested, "Let's continue with the auction!"

Her gaze returned to the stage, fully engrossed.

Seeing Gu Dai's concentrated expression, Su Ting didn't want to disturb her, so he swallowed his words.

His attention too returned to the stage, where a Suzhou embroidery painting was being displayed.

Gu Dai's eyes lit up when she saw it, and without hesitation, she raised her bidding card, "One million."

Suzhou embroidery wasn't a universally popular art, so after Gu Dai made her bid, no one else chimed in.

To her surprise, Song Ling raised his card again.

Song Ling stated, "Three million."

Gu Dai took a deep breath, trying to keep her calm. She turned to Song Ling, her voice laced with skepticism, "Are you trying to antagonize me?"

Song Ling retorted coldly, "No, I just like it."

A sarcastic smile curled Gu Dai's lips.

It was almost comical how Song Ling's preferences seemed to conveniently align with hers. When she bid on the necklace, he did too. Now, with the Suzhou embroidery, he followed suit.

She found it hard to believe, especially since during their marriage, she never saw him show any interest in Suzhou embroidery.

Su Ting raised his card, announcing, "Ten million."

Without missing a beat, Song Ling shot back, "Twenty million!"

As Su Ting was about to counter, Gu Dai gently held down his arm, signaling him to stop.

Su Ting tilted his head, looking quizzically at her.

Gu Dai subtly shook her head, then addressed Song Ling, "We'll pass."

Thanks to Gu Dai's decision, the Suzhou embroidery went to Song Ling.

Zhou Ci was also puzzled by Gu Dai's decision. However, noticing she seemed resolved not to bid further, he deliberated for a moment and chose not to bid either.

Song Ling, with a smirk curling up his lips, taunted, "Such a spineless man, relying on a woman and not even willing to spend her money."

In Song Ling's eyes, given how fiercely Gu Dai had bid for the necklace earlier, it couldn't have been her reluctance to spend. It had to be Su Ting's doing.

Gu Dai's brow furrowed at Song Ling's condescending tone. She patted Su Ting reassuringly and retorted, "I was the one who decided against it."

Song Ling sneered, not believing her, "Gu Dai, ever since you left me, not only has your taste declined, but you seem to have become more foolish. You're defending a man who can't even spend on you."

Gu Dai stared hard at him, her patience waning. "Do you suffer from delusions? I've told you it was my choice, so why are you fixated on blaming Su Ting?"

Song Ling's face soured, his voice tinged with frustration, "You always go all out when you see something you want, like the necklace just now!"

Gu Dai nodded, acknowledging his observation, "Yes, that's how I behave with things I desire."

Gaining some confidence from her admission, Song Ling continued, "See, even you admitted..."

She cut him off sharply, "But that's when it's something I want. When it's something I don't care for, I easily let go."

Song Ling was taken aback.

Without missing a beat, Gu Dai added, "This doesn't just apply to objects, but people as well."

Song Ling's eyes darted under her piercing gaze, his voice betraying a hint of vulnerability, "You think I care if you like me or not?"

Gu Dai exhaled, "If you truly don't care, that would save me a lot of trouble."

Song Ling's fist clenched, the veins on his hand standing out prominently.

Gu Dai, seemingly unaffected, continued, "You really should watch your words, Song Ling. After all, you're the president of a company. Labeling someone as a 'spineless man' isn't very becoming. Can you imagine the embarrassment if someone overheard?"

She straightened her sleeves, her voice cold and firm, "I'm letting it slide this time. But if you dare speak of my people that way again, you'll receive a legal notice immediately."

Hearing Gu Dai refer to Su Ting as "her people" made Song Ling's emotions flare even more. Taking several deep breaths to calm himself, the fire inside him blazed hotter.

His eyes fixed on Gu Dai, he spat out bitterly, "Impressive, Gu Dai. Very impressive.."

## Chapter 192: A Stranger

The atmosphere between Gu Dai and Song Ling attracted murmurs from the surrounding crowd.

"The President of Song Corporation and the young miss of the Gu family seem to be at odds. Could this be a prelude to a major battle in the business world?"

"I don't know, but it's intriguing to see Su Ting, who's always been known for his aloof demeanor, being so tender with Miss Gu."

"Exactly! He doesn't exude that untouchable aura anymore."

The auction had a scheduled break between its segments, lasting for half an hour. A lounge had been provided for the attendees.

Song Ling's face was a mask of suppressed rage as he watched Gu Dai and Su Ting leave together.

Seeking to console her, Su Ting whispered, "Sister, I'll buy you an even more beautiful Suzhou embroidery. Don't be upset."

She smiled in response, "Alright. But don't worry about me. Go to the room and rest."

After guiding Su Ting back to his room, Gu Dai headed to her own.

Once in his room, Su Ting immediately made a call, instructing someone to find a piece of Suzhou embroidery.

Once he ended the call, his thoughts darkened as he remembered how Song Ling had harassed his sister today and over the past three years.

He was determined to seek revenge on her behalf.

Soon after Gu Dai settled in her lounge, she received an unexpected call from Meng Zhi.

As soon as she picked up, Meng Zhi's voice rushed forth, "Daidai, there's a car race at the Capital Hotel after the auction. Do you want to come and watch?" With a hint of teasing, he added, "Your Third Brother will be participating!"

A smile crept onto Gu Dai's face, "Of course I'll be there if Third Brother is racing."

Meng Zhi cheered upon hearing her affirmation.

They continued chatting for a while until Meng Zhi hesitated, "Daidai, about that model at the auction... Do you want Third Brother to investigate who's behind it?"

Gu Dai was momentarily surprised, not expecting Meng Zhi to know about the incident. Recovering quickly, she replied with confidence, “No need. I have my suspicions and have already sent someone to look into it. We should have answers soon.”

Relieved, Meng Zhi whispered, “Alright.”

Just after ending the call with Meng Zhi, Gu Dai’s phone buzzed with a new message.

Chu Min text, Boss, I’ve found out. The cardholder of the bank card is Gu Zhi!

The news didn’t surprise Gu Dai. When she caught a glimpse of Gu Zhi’s fleeing figure outside the banquet, she had already had this suspicion.

She had originally thought that letting Gu Zhi work in the villa was punishment enough. But now, it seemed that this punishment was too lenient for her.

Gu Dai then placed a call to Wu Zhen.

Gu Dai said, “Uncle Wu, keep an eye on Gu Zhi when she returns. I’ll have some questions for her when I get back.”

Wu Zhen didn’t know what had transpired, but he knew that if Gu Dai was making such an arrangement, she must have her reasons. So he quickly responded, “Understood, Miss. Leave it to me.”

Feeling a little stifled in the room, Gu Dai wanted to get some fresh air. But to her surprise, as soon as she opened the door, she saw Song Ling.

Her immediate instinct was to close the door, but Song Ling moved faster, swiftly entering her lounge.

Gu Dai exhaled softly, crossing her arms as she looked at Song Ling with a cold voice, “What do you want?”

The coldness in Gu Dai's demeanor stung Song Ling. With a determined face, he reached out to grab her hand.

Anticipating his move, Gu Dai deftly slapped his hand away, calmly saying, "Speak your mind. No need to be touchy."

Song Ling clenched his fist, then quickly relaxed it. He looked at Gu Dai with an interrogative gaze, "When did you learn your medical skills? I just reviewed the security footage. Wei Ling's leg was initially fine, but you made her unable to stand. And later, you even healed her. How did you do that?"

Gu Dai's brows furrowed slightly. She looked at Song Ling and asked, "Mr.

Song, you should know that we're divorced. Why should I share my affairs with a stranger like you?"

Song Ling lowered his gaze, his voice laced with bitterness, "A stranger?"

Gu Dai reaffirmed calmly, "Yes, a stranger."

Song Ling raised his head and exclaimed with frustration, "You treat me as a stranger, yet you regard Su Ting as one of your own?"

### Chapter 193: Stomping Song Ling

Gu Dai didn't deny it and nodded, "Yes."

Song Ling's face darkened and he pressed his lips tightly together.

Sarcastically, he said, "When you eagerly followed me around in the past, you never considered me a stranger. And now, right after our divorce, you've taken Su Ting as one of your own and distanced yourself from me. I bet you two were entangled long before this, weren't you?"

Gu Dai's frown deepened. She couldn't comprehend how, during her amnesia, she had ever fallen for Song Ling.

During her memory loss, she had loved only Song Ling, with every fiber of her being. However, he failed to see or feel it. And when she laid out the truth for him, he refused to believe.

Seeing Song Ling advancing toward her, in a fit of anger, Gu Dai swiftly lifted her leg and stomped hard on his foot.

The stiletto heel of Gu Dai's shoe was pointed and thin, and she had applied a considerable amount of force.

Feeling the bone-piercing pain, Song Ling gritted his teeth to keep from crying out.

His face turned ashen. Beads of sweat appeared on his forehead as he gritted out, "Let go."

Seeing Song Ling's state, Gu Dai didn't torment him further, mainly because the second half of the auction was about to start. She didn't have time for this prolonged drama.

Gu Dai released her foot and coldly said, "I've come to realize you're genuinely foolish. I've explained some matters to you clearly, yet you stubbornly refuse to believe."

After Gu Dai left, due to the pain in his foot, Song Ling collapsed to the floor. A look of lost flashed in his downcast eyes.

Could what Gu Dai said be true? Did she genuinely love him throughout their three years of marriage? But how does one explain the money she took from his grandfather?



The more Song Ling thought, the more agitated he became. A throbbing headache set in, making him feel as if there was a bomb ticking inside his head, ready to explode.

With trembling hands, he took out a peace talisman from his pocket, held it to his nose, and took a deep, forceful sniff. The light aroma dispelled his inner confusion, and his headache gradually subsided.

Gu Dai took the money from his grandfather and then gave it to that pretty boy, Su Ting. She must have been lying earlier, trying to confuse him with her words.

She was truly cunning; he had underestimated her.

When Song Ling, with his grim expression, entered the auction hall, the event had already started. He immediately spotted Zhou Ci seated next to his spot and inquired coldly, “Why are you sitting here? Where’s Gu Dai?”

Zhou Ci, seeing the dark look on Song Ling’s face, deduced that he must have faced a setback with Gu Dai.

Zhou Ci glanced towards Gu Dai’s seat and responded, “Miss Gu Dai didn’t want to sit with you, so she exchanged seats with me and those next to me.”

Taking a deep breath, Song Ling shot a fierce look at both Gu Dai and Su Ting before coldly taking his seat.

Zhou Ci shook his head in bewilderment. He genuinely didn’t understand Song Ling’s behavior—constantly claiming he didn’t have feelings for Gu Dai, yet persistently seeking her out.

Throughout the second half of the event, every time either Gu Dai or Su Ting placed a bid, Song Ling would immediately counter with his own. The tension between the trio was palpable.

Yet, after each of Song Ling’s bids, both Gu Dai and Su Ting would opt to withdraw, allowing Song Ling to win the item.

Seeing this, Zhou Ci couldn't help but comment, "The price for each item is now more than ten times its original value. If you continue, aren't you just throwing your money away?"

Song Ling shot Zhou Ci a cold glance, retorting, "What's it to you?"

Zhou Ci chose not to advise Song Ling further after the comment. After all, it wasn't his loss, so why bother going to great lengths for an unappreciative cause?

Song Ling glanced at Gu Dai. Since she dared to deceive him, he would outbid her on every item she desired!

Witnessing Song Ling squander money so recklessly, Gu Dai felt a surge of amusement. Her earlier gloominess also dissipated significantly.

The auctioneer, seeing the sales figures vastly exceeding expectations, was beaming, practically laughing with joy. Excitedly, he announced, "This brings our auction to a close. Thank you to all the gentlemen and ladies for your support!"

As the auctioneer's words ended, the audience erupted in applause.

Although many of them hadn't made a purchase, the intense bidding war between Song Ling, Gu Dai, and Su Ting was more exhilarating than actually owning the items.

The auctioneer added, "After our auction, there's a race happening in the adjacent venue.. Those interested can go have a look!"

Chapter 194: Enjoying the Atmosphere

Su Ting turned to Gu Dai, gently asking, "Sis, do you want to watch the car race?"

Gu Dai's eyes sparkled as she looked at Su Ting, "I'd love to! Oh, by the way, my third brother, Meng Zhi, will also be participating in the race. He's incredibly talented. I'll introduce you to him after the race."

A fleeting shadow passed through Su Ting's eyes, but he quickly reverted to his usual obedient demeanor, nodding, "Alright, I'll follow whatever Sis plans."

Song Ling turned to look at Gu Dai, catching her smiling and chatting with Su Ting.

Without noticing Song Ling's actions, Zhou Ci, having heard the auctioneer's announcement, asked, "Are you going to watch the race later?"

Song Ling replied coldly, "No."

Zhou Ci responded, "Alright, I'll go by myself then... Hey, where are you going?"

He was puzzled when Song Ling suddenly stood up. Still not understanding, he followed behind him.

Only when Song Ling finally stopped did Zhou Ci look up and realize they were at the racing venue.

Hadn't Song Ling just said a moment ago that he wouldn't watch the race?

Following Song Ling's gaze, Zhou Ci spotted Gu Dai and Su Ting. The confusion from earlier was instantly cleared up.

Zhou Ci, "..."

The auction and the race were closely scheduled, with only a ten-minute gap in between. The race was about to start.

Su Ting softly asked Gu Dai, "Sis, can I sit next to you?"

Gu Dai nodded and patted the seat beside her, "Sit. I saved this seat for you."

Su Ting's lips curved into a smile. As he sat down, he subtly glanced over his shoulder. When his gaze brushed past Song Ling in the distance, a shadow flickered in his eyes.

Soon, as the host announced the start of the race, drivers began to enter the track. Upbeat music started playing, further immersing the audience into the excitement, bringing out cheers from the crowd.

When the race cars made their entrance, Gu Dai immediately noticed a silver-grey car with the character "Zhi" on it. This was her third brother's distinctive car.

Caught up in the atmosphere, Gu Dai cheered in Meng Zhi's direction.

There were many people cheering around, creating a wall of sounds. Gu Dai didn't expect Meng Zhi to hear her, but to her surprise, the window of the silver-grey car rolled down. Meng Zhi's gaze met hers, and with a smile, he mouthed a single word.

Gu Dai couldn't hear what he said, but by reading his lips, she deduced he probably said, "Good."

The occupants of the four cars beside him seemed to have heard Meng Zhi's voice. They uniformly rolled down their windows, looking toward the audience stands. They then turned to Meng Zhi, sharing some comments.

The female spectators, upon noticing their actions, cheered even more fervently.

"Oh my God, these are the young masters of the Capital! And now they've come out to race together. I'm so lucky to witness this."

"These young masters are so handsome! Especially the first one who rolled down his window. He's just breathtaking. But I haven't seen him in the Capital before. Does anyone know who he is?"

“You don’t know him? That’s Meng Zhi, the third young master of the Meng family. Everyone in the capital knew him back in the day! But he went abroad three years ago. I never thought I’d see him again, but here he is!”

“Did the third young master look my way? Did I catch his attention? After all, he smiled at me.”

“You’re probably mistaken. Clearly, he was looking at me, okay?”

Listening to the bickering, Su Ting leaned over to Gu Dai’s ear, whispering, “Sis, it’s a bit noisy here. Will you be uncomfortable? Should we return once it’s a bit quieter?”

Gu Dai shook her head gently, her face breaking into a smile, saying, “No need. I actually like this atmosphere and enjoy these lively and exuberant young ladies.”

During her three years of memory loss, she had been overly timid. So, witnessing the girls’ courage and zest for life didn’t irritate her; it made her genuinely happy.

Seeing Gu Dai genuinely enjoying the environment, Su Ting’s concerns faded.

Song Ling’s expression, however, grew darker.

He genuinely couldn’t comprehend what Gu Dai found so amusing.. Even during their time together, she had never laughed with such joy!

Chapter 195: Never Jealous

With the signal from the host, the car race began. Several cars zoomed out at high speed, leaving only blurred trails in their wake.

Everyone's attention was initially spread across the track, but within minutes, all eyes focused on the silver-grey car.

Because it was exceptionally fast, leaving all other competitors far behind. Even with various checkpoints and obstacles, it effortlessly navigated through.

"Meng Zhi is not only handsome, but his driving skills are also top-notch! I think I'm falling for him!"

"Tsk, you girls only care about looks. Meng Zhi started off so fast, without conserving any energy. What if he's overtaken later on?"

"Yeah, others haven't even given their full effort yet. Meng Zhi's just showing off to impress young ladies like you. I can't wait to see him fall behind and be proven wrong!"

The crowd began to argue, their voices rising in a noise of opinions.

Gu Dai's gaze remained steadfastly on the race. She believed in her third brother, confident he would emerge victorious.

The silver-grey car sped on, raising dust trails in its wake. Contrary to some predictions, Meng Zhi's speed didn't wane. Instead, he sped up, crossing the finish line decisively.

"He won! Did you see that? Meng Zhi won!"

"What? Meng Zhi actually won? That's incredible!"

"Even though I've been proven wrong, this sight is exhilarating. He's truly the top racer!"

As Gu Dai listened to the admiration from the crowd, his earlier tension dissolved. With a joyful smile, she cheered, "Third brother, you're amazing!"

After all the racers arrived at the finish line, Meng Zhi stepped out of his car. He exchanged friendly greetings with the other racers before heading to the trunk. From it, he retrieved a bunch of red flowers.

The action caused a stir amongst the spectators, as everyone tried to guess the reason behind his gesture.

Unaffected by the crowd's speculation, Meng Zhi walked directly toward Gu Dai. Offering the flowers, he softly said, "Daidai, these are for you."

Accepting the bouquet with a smile and taking a moment to appreciate its fragrance, Gu Dai playfully remarked, "Third Brother, are you using the same tactics you'd use to woo a girl on me?"

Meng Zhi chuckled, "Who defined these gestures? Who says I can't give flowers to my little sister? By the way, do you like these? If not, I'll pick a different type for you next time."

Gu Dai quickly nodded in affirmation, "I love them!"

Observing this scene, the surrounding spectators finally realized that Meng Zhi's earlier gaze had been directed towards Gu Dai.

"I'm not envious. Seriously, I'm not at all. I've lived for over twenty years, and no one has ever given me flowers!"

"Hold on, twenty-somethings! Let us thirty-somethings lament first. But what's the relationship between Meng Zhi and Miss Gu? Why would he give her flowers?"

"Who cares about their relationship! All I can say is that Miss Gu is stunning. Especially with those flowers, she looks even more radiant!"

"I always thought I was only into men, but after seeing Miss Gu, I'm starting to question my orientation."

After witnessing Gu Dai accepting the flowers, Song Ling couldn't help but scoff, "How pathetic. Acting as if she's never seen flowers in her life."

Song Ling's harsh remarks about Gu Dai made Zhou Ci jump to her defense, "At the very least, during the three years she was with you, she probably didn't receive any. Are you possibly belittling her because you're jealous she accepted flowers from someone else?"

Song Ling grabbed Zhou Ci by the collar, threateningly, "What did you just say?"

Zhou Ci pulled his collar free, calmly retorting, "I'd say it a hundred times more if I must – you're jealous."

With a cold chuckle, Song Ling responded, "Ridiculous. Why would I be jealous?"

Besides, he had already investigated. Meng Zhi was merely Gu Dai's brother. It was just a brother giving flowers to his sister. What was there to be jealous about?

He was not jealous.

That's what Song Ling kept telling himself, yet his gaze remained fixed intently on Meng Zhi.

After regaining her composure from the floral exchange, Gu Dai pulled Su Ting closer and introduced him to Meng Zhi, "Third Brother, this is Su Ting, the talented model I discovered.. He's also a dear friend of mine!"

Chapter 196: Perhaps An Illusion

Su Ting's eyelashes quivered slightly, and he appeared somewhat uneasy.



After introducing Su Ting, Gu Dai promptly introduced Meng Zhi, "This is my third brother, Meng Zhi, whom I've told you about."

When Meng Zhi focused on Su Ting, his smile faded slightly, and a sharp gleam flickered in his eyes.

Their gazes met, sparking a palpable tension, and the atmosphere grew increasingly strained.

Perceiving the tense dynamic between them, Gu Dai curiously inquired, "Do you two have some history?"

Su Ting laughed it off, "We have no past issues."

Meng Zhi regaining his composure chimed in, "We've never met before. How could we possibly have any bad blood? It's just the excitement of meeting the international supermodel Su Ting up close for the first time; it made me a bit overzealous."

Nodding in agreement, Su Ting added, "I was simply stunned seeing world-class race car driver Meng Zhi, so I was momentarily distracted."

Although Gu Dai heard Meng Zhi and Su Ting exchange these courteous remarks, something felt amiss. But seeing them shake hands amicably, she dismissed it as mere intuition.

The car race, being a casual entertainment, concluded shortly after.

Su Ting softly said to Gu Dai, "Sis, let me take you home."

Meng Zhi quickly pulled Gu Dai to his side, replying, "Daidai and I live together, so there's no need for the trouble."

Grabbing Gu Dai's other hand, Su Ting smiled, "I don't have a place to stay in the country, and Sis has graciously let me stay at her villa, so it's no trouble at all."

Meng Zhi's eyes widened in disbelief, turning his gaze to Gu Dai for confirmation.

Spotting Meng Zhi's doubtful look, Gu Dai gently nodded, confirming Su Ting's statement, "It's true."

Meng Zhi: "..."

Although Su Ting had the convenience, he couldn't ultimately accompany Gu Dai home due to his constantly ringing phone.

Gu Dai asked, "What's going on?"

Muting his phone, Su Ting brushed it off, "It's nothing."

Not convinced, Gu Dai continued to look at Su Ting questioningly.

Feeling pressured, Su Ting admitted, "There are several collaborators who want to sign contracts with me."

Gu Dai replied with a smile, "Work is important; you should go."

Su Ting hung his head in a dejected manner, murmuring softly, "But I don't want to work. I just want to be with you."

Gu Dai chuckled lightly, reaching up to tousle his hair, gently replying, "We can meet tomorrow too."

Though Su Ting was visibly reluctant, Gu Dai's persuasion swayed him. He finally accepted with a soft, "Okay."

Witnessing this, Meng Zhi's face lit up with a smile. He took the necklace that Gu Dai had bought from Su Ting's hand, saying, "Go to work now."

Su Ting shot Meng Zhi a resentful glance, clenched his teeth, and turned to leave.

A sense of confusion once again rose within Gu Dai. She turned to Meng Zhi, starting to ask, "What's going on between you and Su Ting...?"

Interrupting her, Meng Zhi quickly responded, "Su Ting and I have a good relationship. It's getting late; let's go home."

Following behind Gu Dai, Song Ling couldn't overhear their conversation, which further soured his mood.

Agitated, Song Ling adjusted his tie and slammed the car door after getting in. He tersely commanded the driver, Zhao Xuan, "Drive."

Upon Song Ling's command, Zhao Xuan promptly prepared to drive. Suddenly, there was a knock on the window.

Feeling apprehensive, Zhao Xuan waited for permission before rolling down the window.

Outside stood the person in charge of the auction, who respectfully said, "Mr. Song, you forgot to take the items you bought at the auction."

Zhao Xuan hastily exited the car, placing the items in the trunk.

Observing the trunk full of purchases and recalling the look Song Ling had given Gu Dai earlier, Zhao Xuan cautiously asked, "Boss, did you buy these for Miss Gu Dai?"

Song Ling's brows furrowed, casting a cold glance at Zhao Xuan, "Why would I give them to Gu Dai?"

Taken aback, Zhao Xuan blurted out, "Aren't you trying to win back Miss Gu Dai? Aren't you pursuing her?"

Song Ling scoffed, retorting, "Are you joking? It took so much effort to divorce Gu Dai. Why would I want to be with her again?"

After stating this, Song Ling pointedly addressed Zhao Xuan, "If there's something wrong with your eyes, get them checked early. Otherwise, you might go blind soon.."

## Chapter 197: Suzhou Embroidery Industry

Zhao Xuan hesitated, then said, "Sir, I noticed you bought an embroidery pattern. I assumed you intended it for Miss Gu Dai since her company has recently been exploring the Suzhou embroidery industry."

Song Ling snorted coldly, retorting, "I've also recently considered venturing into that industry."

Zhao Xuan had never heard Song Ling express interest in Suzhou embroidery before, so this sudden inclination likely arose on a whim.

Sighing, Zhao Xuan remembered something, "Mr. Song, is the Suzhou embroidery industry on the rise? I heard that Young Master Zhou is also entering this field."

Song Ling's brow furrowed, "Zhou Ci?"

Zhao Xuan affirmed, "Yes."

Song Ling closed his eyes momentarily, thoughtfully caressing the embroidery he had taken from his pocket.

With Gu Dai developing the Suzhou embroidery industry and Zhou Ci following suit, it indicated a possible collaboration between them.

Realizing this, Song Ling swiftly opened his eyes and dialed Zhou Ci's number. When the call connected, he demanded, "Are you collaborating with Gu Dai on Suzhou embroidery?"

Zhou Ci saw no reason to hide the truth; after all, Song Ling would find out eventually. He replied simply, "Yes."

After hearing Zhou Ci's straightforward answer, Song Ling was silent for a long moment before firmly stating, "Don't work with Gu Dai."

Zhou Ci's voice turned icy, "Mr. Song, whom the Zhou family collaborates with shouldn't require the approval of the Song family, right?"

Regretting his impulsiveness, Song Ling sought to regain composure, "When are you planning to discuss the collaboration?"

Suspicion arose in Zhou Ci as he questioned, "What are you planning to do?"

Song Ling exhaled deeply, clarifying, "I'd like to join your Suzhou embroidery collaboration. When the time comes, I'll attend the discussion with you."

Zhou Ci's wariness heightened, "Are you sure you're seeking collaboration and not here to cause trouble?"

Song Ling's expression darkened, "Do you think I would cause trouble?"

Zhou Ci remained silent, but internally, he felt sure of his suspicions.

While the old Song Ling would never intervene negatively, the man he'd become post-divorce with Gu Dai was unpredictable.

Seeing Zhou Ci's silence, Song Ling's mood soured even further, "Even if you don't tell me, I can find out on my own."

Challenged, Zhou Ci replied, "Even if you find out and decide to attend, do you think Gu Dai would want to see you? Especially after you outbid her for the Suzhou embroidery pattern she wanted."

Zhou Ci's question resonated with Song Ling, leaving him unable to respond, ultimately cutting the call short.

Given Song Ling's personality, if someone had outbid him, he wouldn't just refrain from collaborating but would likely retaliate.

Coldly, Song Ling directed Zhao Xuan, "Find out when Gu Dai and Zhou Ci are planning to meet. Inform me as soon as you get the information."

Zhao Xuan nodded, "Understood, Mr. Song."

On the surface, Zhao Xuan maintained a impassive facade, but internally, he was awash with doubt.

Mr. Song's pretense of indifference towards Gu Dai was thin at best. His urge to meddle in her business deals was a dead giveaway of his lingering attachment.

Zhao Xuan had a nagging feeling that if Song Ling didn't act on his feelings for Gu Dai now, he might never get another chance. Sadly, all his subtle hints seemed lost on his boss.

Unbeknownst to Song Ling, Zhao Xuan was deeply concerned about his well-being.

Drowning in his thoughts, Song Ling wondered about the drastic changes in Gu Dai. What had happened in the short span since their separation to cause such transformation?

Elsewhere, Gu Dai and Meng Zhi reached their home.

Even when Gu Dai wasn't looking at Meng Zhi, he sensed Meng Zhi's lingering glances. Finally, she met his eyes, asking, "Third Brother, is there something on your mind? Something you want to discuss?"

After a brief pause, Meng Zhi hesitantly asked, "Daidai, is there something you'd like to share? Perhaps about the events following your encounter with Song Ling at today's banquet?"

## Chapter 198: Planning To Teach Him A Lesson

Gu Dai furrowed her brow in confusion, pondering for a moment before shaking her head. "Nothing really happened," she answered earnestly.

Seeing Gu Dai's response, Meng Zhi felt a deep pang of sadness.

Noting his expression, Gu Dai became even more confused. "Third Brother, what's wrong?"

Meng Zhi's frustration bubbled up. "Daidai, you don't need to hide things from me. I've heard about what happened! Song Ling's sister, Song Yu, pushed a waiter into you, potentially injuring you. And despite knowing what happened, Song Ling even defended her actions!"

Only then did Gu Dai realize what Meng Zhi was talking about. "Third Brother, it really didn't affect me much. After all, Song Ling apologized later."

Meng Zhi replied quickly, "He only apologized because you had evidence from the surveillance footage. If not for that, do you think he would have?"

As Meng Zhi spoke, he suddenly realized something troubling. His gaze fixed on Gu Dai, concerned. "Daidai, why are you defending Song Ling? Could it be that you..."

Gu Dai, sensing his suspicion, quickly interjected, "I don't have feelings for Song Ling!"

Meng Zhi heaved a sigh of relief but still looked puzzled. "Then why defend him?"

She smiled gently, "I'm not defending him. I just didn't dwell on the incident. If you hadn't brought it up, I might have even forgotten about it."

Reflecting on her words, Meng Zhi realized she was right.

However, just because Gu Dai was willing to overlook it didn't mean he would. Every time he thought of Song Ling's actions, he wanted to go teach him a lesson.

Deciding on his next course of action, Meng Zhi looked at Gu Dai and said, "Daidai, I feel a bit tired. I'll head to my room to rest."

Gu Dai nodded, "Alright."

With her acknowledgment, Meng Zhi hastily retreated.

Watching Meng Zhi's retreating figure, Gu Dai tilted her head in confusion. He seemed quite awake and alert, not at all like someone needing rest.

Indeed, Meng Zhi wasn't heading off to rest. As soon as he reached his room, he began planning how to deal with Song Ling.

Gu Dai tried to imagine what Meng Zhi might be up to but eventually decided not to dwell on it. After all, her third brother was a sensible adult, and it wasn't her place to keep tabs on him.

Turning to Wu Zhen nearby, she asked, "Uncle Wu, has Gu Zhi returned?"

Wu Zhen shook his head, replying, "I've stationed people around the villa to watch for her. The moment they see Miss Gu Zhi, they'll bring her straight here."



Gu Dai nodded. "Alright."

Observing her seated on the couch, Wu Zhen advised, "Miss, staying up late isn't good for your health. Perhaps you should rest for the night and deal with Miss Gu Zhi's situation in the morning. Once she returns, I'll have someone notify you."

Gu Dai gave a soft chuckle. "It's alright. I rested this afternoon. I can't sleep right now, so I might as well use this time to address some work matters."

Saying this, she fetched her laptop from the table and began reviewing the company's recent collaborations.

From a distance, Wu Zhen couldn't discern the precise details on the screen but noticed the abundance of text.

Most people might feel drowsy at the sight, yet Gu Dai was wholly engrossed, occasionally suggesting revisions.

One glance at her was enough to grasp her prowess.

But seeing her work tirelessly, while proud, Wu Zhen couldn't help but feel a pang of sympathy. If the old lady was still alive, Gu Dai would likely still be a carefree child. Even if she had taken over the company, she wouldn't be this burdened.

Meanwhile, Gu Zhi had already shed her cumbersome gown for a simple black casual attire and was cautiously approaching the villa.

She believed she had concealed her involvement in the Wei Ling incident well at the banquet, but the mere thought of Gu Dai made her feel uneasy, as if Gu Dai knew everything.

So even though the banquet had ended quite a while ago, Gu Zhi loitered outside, waiting until she thought Gu Dai would be asleep before sneaking back to the villa.

Taking a deep breath, Gu Zhi closed her eyes in reverence, making a praying gesture, silently pleading, "Dear deities, please don't let Gu Dai discover that I was the one who orchestrated the act.."

## Chapter 199: Hate Turning Into Fear

Just as Gu Zhi finished her prayer, figures emerged, and one from each side grabbed her arms.

Opening her eyes in panic, Gu Zhi struggled, shouting, "Who are you? Why are you capturing me? Someone help! Help... Mmm..."

She was dragged into the villa and thrown onto the floor.

Hearing the commotion, Gu Dai snapped back to reality from her work. She glanced at Gu Zhi and instructed Wu Zhen, "Wu Zhen, please take the bodyguards and leave us."

Worried, Wu Zhen responded, looking at Gu Zhi warily, "Miss, perhaps I should stay with you. In case anything happens, I can protect you immediately."

Gu Dai gently shook her head, replying, "No need, Uncle Wu. I can handle myself. Besides, you'll only be outside. If anything goes wrong, I'll just call you."

Still concerned but seeing the determination in Gu Dai's eyes, Wu Zhen reluctantly agreed, "Alright."

Gu Zhi, looking paler upon recognizing Gu Dai, still fixed a fierce gaze upon her.

Unfazed by Gu Zhi's glare, Gu Dai leaned back in the couch, calmly asking, "You bribed Wei Ling to spread those rumors about me, didn't you?"

Gu Zhi trembled slightly, her fear escalating. Suddenly, she remembered her aunt, Gu Si!

That day when her father disregarded her, locking her outside, she had tearfully confided in her aunt about Gu Dai's actions against her.

On the phone, her aunt reassured her, telling her not to be afraid, promising to support her. Even if things went south, she'd arrange for help.

Gu Zhi was confident that her aunt wasn't deceiving her. Ever since childhood, she'd heard tales of her formidable aunt thriving overseas.

Moreover, she was well aware that even Gu Ming listened to Aunt Gu Si. So, she believed her aunt would undoubtedly be able to handle Gu Dai. There was no reason for her to be afraid now.

With this thought, Gu Zhi's demeanor changed. Staring defiantly at Gu Dai, she declared with newfound confidence, "Yes, I ordered Wei Ling to do it!"

She continued, her voice firm, "Besides, what did I say that was untrue? During the three years you disappeared, wandering alone, are you telling me you never engaged with anyone?"

Gu Dai's eyes grew cold upon hearing Gu Zhi's words, as they touched upon a part of her past she wished to forget—her marriage.

Feeling an overwhelming sense of anger and embarrassment at being intimidated by Gu Dai, Gu Zhi's emotions took over.

Turning to face Gu Dai, she lunged, trying to bite her.

But before she could get close, Gu Dai lifted her leg and kicked Gu Zhi away.

Thrown onto the floor, Gu Zhi was stunned, pain burning through her entire body.

Walking over, Gu Dai crouched down next to her. In a chilling voice, she said, "I've been very nice to you before. But if you're not satisfied with that mercy, then don't blame me for what comes next."

She signaled for the guards to enter, instructing, "Take Gu Zhi to the small chamber in the basement. Ensure she cleans it thoroughly overnight and organizes it well."

Gu Dai continued, a hint of mockery in her voice, "Of course, if you don't clean it properly, it's no issue. After all, you'll be living there. As long as you can tolerate the filth and disorder, it's fine."

The color drained from Gu Zhi's face as she processed Gu Dai's instructions.

Having lived in the Gu family mansion for three years, she knew exactly what that small chamber in the basement was like.

It had been unoccupied for years, with only a basic bed in its confines. Dust covered every surface, and countless bugs thrived in its corners.

The mere thought of that place sent shivers down Gu Zhi's spine.

As she looked at Gu Dai, all traces of animosity vanished from her eyes, replaced by pure terror. She began to plead, "No, please don't make me stay there! I was wrong for orchestrating that gossip about you. Please forgive me this once. I promise not to do it again, Gu Dai..."

Gu Dai watched as the guards dragged a sobbing Gu Zhi away. Only when her cries faded did she turn her attention back to the room.

Settling back onto the couch, she lowered her gaze, her voice barely above a whisper, "Uncle Wu, am I being too cruel?"

Wu Zhen immediately responded, "Miss, you are not cruel. It was Gu Zhi who provoked you. Had she not acted first, you would have never retaliated..."

## Chapter 200: Backing

Wu Zhen's voice softened as he spoke, "Miss, you were once very kind-hearted, but showing too much softness now could make you vulnerable to others."

Gu Dai responded softly, "Hmm."

Relieved that his words had reached her, Wu Zhen finally exhaled.

Although he had been standing outside the door earlier, he had still been able to hear the conversation inside the room, leaving him puzzled about one particular issue.

After pondering for a moment and coming up with no answers, Wu Zhen felt compelled to ask Gu Dai, "Miss, Gu Zhi used to be afraid of you. Why did she suddenly gather the courage to confront you?"

Gu Dai lowered her eyes briefly before lifting them again, "I suspect someone is backing Gu Zhi."

Wu Zhen immediately tensed up and blurted out, "Could the person behind Gu Zhi harm you? No, I must arrange for more bodyguards to protect you; we can't risk you getting hurt!"

Feeling the warmth of Wu Zhen's concern, Gu Dai smiled and reassured him, "Uncle Wu, don't worry, there's no need for extra bodyguards. Whoever is behind Gu Zhi won't be able to harm me."

Wu Zhen knew Gu Dai was formidable, but he remained anxious about the issue, unable to let his guard down.

Seeing this, Gu Dai added, "I'm confident!"

After uttering these words, Gu Dai stifled a yawn.

Wu Zhen, who had been about to speak again, paused and suggested, "Miss, you've had a long day. It's best to get some rest. I won't disturb you further."

Gu Dai nodded, "Uncle Wu, you should rest early too."

Indeed, Gu Dai felt tired. After washing up and lying down on her bed, sleep swiftly enveloped her. Yet even so, she remembered to send a message to Chu Min.

Gu Dai: Check on how Gu Ming has been doing lately.

The next day, while on route to her company, Gu Dai received a phone call from Chu Min.

Chu Min, "Boss, Gu Ming recently unearthed quite a few antiques through tomb raiding. After selling them off, he's come into some money."

Gu Dai was somewhat surprised; she hadn't expected Gu Ming to actually succeed.

However, fleeting success didn't necessarily equate to lifetime achievement.

A faint smile crossed Gu Dai's lips as she mused, "Tomb raiding is illegal. If word gets out, I wonder what sort of predicament Gu Ming would find himself in."

Chu Min, "Understood, Boss. I know what to do."

Gu Dai acknowledged briefly, then added, "Keep an extra eye on Gu Zhi; see who she communicates with."

Although Gu Dai's voice bore a trace of amusement as she spoke, Chu Min could sense an icy undercurrent upon hearing her words.

It seemed the boss was getting serious this time.

Chu Min was a bit puzzled, though, “Boss, didn’t you bring Gu Zhi into the villa? Why are you still investigating her?”

Gu Dai spoke softly, “Because I haven’t restricted Gu Zhi’s freedom, and she’ll likely want to leave soon. I’ll let her go when she does.”

Chu Min didn’t understand why Gu Dai would allow Gu Zhi to leave, but he accepted the answer without question, “Alright.”

Initially, Gu Dai had suspected that the person behind Gu Zhi might be Gu Ming.

But upon further reflection, she doubted Gu Ming had enough influence to strengthen Gu Zhi to such an extent. This meant someone else was involved, and letting Gu Zhi go would be the best way to draw that person out.

After she hung up the call, she arrived at her company. As she entered, she noticed the receptionist at the front desk glancing her way.

As usual, Gu Dai greeted her, “Morning.”

The receptionist replied, “Good morning, Chairwoman Gu.”

Catching a hint of unease on the receptionist’s face, Gu Dai inquired, “Is something wrong?”

The receptionist quickly responded, “Chairwoman Gu, the young master from Zhou Corporation is here.”

Gu Dai nodded and said, “Hmm, that’s fine. I’d arranged to discuss a partnership with Zhou Ci today. I just didn’t expect him to arrive so early.”

The receptionist pursed her lips before continuing, “Chairwoman Gu, it’s not just Young Master Zhou Ci; the President of Song Corporation, Song Ling, is also here.”

When she heard the name Song Ling, her eyebrows tightened, and a flicker of annoyance flashed through her eyes.

Noticing this, the receptionist hurriedly explained, “Chairwoman Gu, I tried to stop Mr. Song, but he’s too imposing; I couldn’t hold him back.”

Gu Dai responded softly, “It’s alright, focus on your work. I’ll go see what’s going on.”

Exiting the elevator, Gu Dai saw Song Ling and Zhou Ci sitting on the sofas in the lobby. Intriguingly, a notably large distance separated the two men..