

I Regained 231

Chapter 231: Master Lin Zhu

Song Ling called out, "Gu Dai!"

Gu Dai had no intention of engaging with Song Ling and planned to walk around him to enter the company, but he managed to intercept her.

With no choice but to halt, Gu Dai frowned and looked at Song Ling with puzzled inquiry, "What's the matter?"

Song Ling, unconcerned by Gu Dai's chilly demeanor, earnestly said, "I've come to sign the Suzhou embroidery contract."

Only then did Gu Dai remember that she had given the contract to Song Ling previously, but he had not signed it yet.

"Come in," Gu Dai invited.

Upon seeing Song Ling, Lin Sheng's gaze unexpectedly shifted to Gu Dai.

She explained, "He's here to sign the contract."

Lin Sheng nodded in understanding and followed behind them.

Song Ling's eyes occasionally rested on Gu Dai, wanting to speak to her, yet he didn't know what to say.

Zhao Xuan, watching his president's hesitant demeanor, almost wished to speak on his behalf, and in his eagerness, he accidentally did just that.

"The painting in Chairwoman Gu's office is really beautiful," Zhao Xuan blurted out.

Gu Dai glanced at the painting on the wall and then smiled appreciatively at

Zhao Xuan, "Assistant Zhao has quite the eye for art."

Lin Sheng also puffed out his chest in pride.

After all, the painting was the young miss's own work; how could it not be beautiful?

Song Ling also looked at the painting and was instantly stunned.

It was an ink wash painting.

With just a few strokes, it depicted the glow of the sunrise on a valley, with indistinct pines and cypresses and a solitary vibe, captivating the observer and transporting them into the painting's profound atmosphere.

Regaining his composure, Song Ling excitedly asked, "Is this painting by the famous ink painting master Lin Zhu?"

Gu Dai gave a soft affirmation.

Song Ling, an avid admirer of paintings, especially cherished the works of "Lin Zhu," a master he had investigated more than once.

However, he had only learned that "Lin Zhu" was a pseudonym the master used. The true identity of this incredibly enigmatic person remained unknown, as nobody had seen him for years.

The artworks of “Lin Zhu” were scarce, each one a masterpiece highly sought after and fetching high prices at auctions.

The last sighting of the master was five years ago; afterward, he had vanished, leaving no trace.

Snapping back from his reverie, Song Ling turned to Gu Dai with a smile, “I had no idea our tastes were so similar—you also appreciate Master Lin Zhu’s works.”

Gu Dai pressed her lips together, not replying.

Song Ling, still immersed in his excitement, didn’t mind and continued, “I recall this painting is the master’s initial work. It’s nearly impossible to acquire Lin Zhu’s pieces under normal circumstances, but to think you’ve secured this one!”

After reflecting for a moment, Gu Dai hesitantly nodded.

This painting was just one of many she had created, hence her memory of it was not so clear.

Song Ling looked at the painting and asked symbolically, “Do you know Master Lin Zhu?”

Gu Dai answered directly, “Yes.”

Song Ling was taken aback, then looked at Gu Dai in shock, exclaiming, “You know Master Lin Zhu!”

“Uh-huh,” Gu Dai responded lightly.

Song Ling quickly spoke up, “Could you please convey to Master Lin Zhu that

I’m very fond of his work and would like to acquire a piece?”

After a brief hesitation, Gu Dai replied, "I can do that."

Song Ling's eyes lit up with joy at her response.

He was a fervent fan of Master Lin Zhu, and now the opportunity to own one of the master's collections was a dream come true.

Lin Sheng felt even prouder upon hearing Song Ling's words.

The paintings Song Ling admired were all works of the young miss when she was eighteen.

Although Gu Dai had agreed to Song Ling's request, she wasn't completely selfless.

Gu Dai raised her eyes to Song Ling and said, "I can pass your message to Lin Zhu, but you should offer something in exchange, shouldn't you?"

Without any hesitation, Song Ling immediately replied, "I can share with you the trends of the Suzhou embroidery market that I've been researching these days."

Gu Dai hadn't expected Song Ling to offer this as a trade; it seemed he truly cherished her paintings.

Then, they sat across from each other at the negotiation table and began discussing the Suzhou embroidery matter.

While reviewing the documents Song Ling had given her, Gu Dai suddenly looked up and seriously asked, "To participate in the collaboration, you need to invest a cash share first. Is that a problem?"

Shaking his head, Song Ling responded, "No problem."

With the money issue resolved, Gu Dai began to discuss the development of Suzhou embroidery..

Chapter 232: Thirty-Seven Split

In the beginning, Song Ling listened intently, but his thoughts gradually drifted as he caught sight of Gu Dai's lips moving, a striking contrast of red.

Gu Dai was dressed in a black suit that day, looking exceptionally sharp. A few stray hairs on her forehead lent her a touch of softness, adding to her already impressive aura.

She was a far cry from the Gu Dai in Song Ling's memories, who only seemed to appear before him in an apron, occasionally tear-streaked.

The Gu Dai before him now shone brilliantly, irresistibly drawing gazes to her, to the point where Song Ling found it impossible to reconcile the image of the woman he once knew with the one before him. At times, he even felt as if the events of the past three years were nothing but a delusion.

He couldn't fathom why he had once been so convinced that the Gu Dai from before was just a simple girl from a remote village.

After Gu Dai finished speaking, she noticed Song Ling's distraction and a flicker of displeasure crossed her face. She spoke up with a cold tone, "President Song, I have finished my part. Do you have anything to add?"

Song Ling snapped back to reality, hastily reviewed what Gu Dai had just said, and replied, "No, I think it's all good."

Gu Dai nodded, pushed the contract towards Song Ling, and gestured for him to sign.

However, Song Ling did not sign immediately but looked at Gu Dai and said, "I have a question regarding the profit-sharing."

Gu Dai waited for him to continue.

Song Ling inquired, "What are the exact terms of the profit-sharing between Zhou Corporation and you?"

"It was originally fifty-fifty, but then it was changed to forty-sixty," Gu Dai replied.

Song Ling didn't ask who had the larger share, as he already had his answer thinking about Zhou Corporation's claims of affection for Gu Dai.

Gu Dai, mistaking Song Ling's silence for dissatisfaction with the fifty-fifty split, suggested, "If you find it too little, we can renegotiate."

Song Ling shook his head, "It's not that it's too little. It's actually too much."

Gu Dai was stunned, looking at Song Ling as if he were a fool. It was her first encounter with someone who thought they were being offered too much money.

Undeterred by Gu Dai's gaze, Song Ling stated, "Since Zhou Corporation has a forty-sixty share, I propose a thirty-seventy split with me taking the lesser part."

Now not only did Gu Dai think Song Ling was foolish, but even Zhao Xuan, another witness to the conversation, looked at him bewildered.

"Are you certain you want thirty-seventy?" Gu Dai asked.

Song Ling nodded affirmatively, "I am certain."

He explained, "I've made several mistakes before. A thirty-seventy split is my way of apologizing. The profits that follow, I plan to relinquish an additional twenty percent to Gu Group."

Song Ling seemed to be offering a deal where he was not aiming to make a profit at all.

Gu Dai hadn't expected such a surprising turn of events in partnering with Song Ling. If it weren't for her meticulous confirmation of the contract in advance, she would have suspected ulterior motives behind Song Ling's actions.

Without intending to refuse the offer — after all, turning down money would be foolish, and she was certainly not Song Ling — Gu Dai arranged for a new contract to be drafted.

After confirming there were no issues, she signed her name and passed it to Song Ling.

Song Ling, without a glance, signed swiftly, stood up, and handed it back to Gu Dai for her review.

As Song Ling retracted his hand, Gu Dai caught a whiff of a familiar scent.

Subconsciously, she asked, "What's that fragrance on you?"

Song Ling was taken aback, then understanding dawned, and he produced a talisman from his suit pocket, saying, "You gave this to me."

Upon seeing the amulet, Gu Dai remembered the effort she had put into making it for Song Ling during her memory loss.

Her expression cooled, "I remember when I gave it to you, you threw the amulet away. Why do you have it now?"

"It was wrong of me to throw it away," Song Ling admitted.

Gu Dai replied with a noncommittal “Oh,” then said, “You don’t have to carry something you dislike out of guilt.”

Song Ling, eager to clear the misunderstanding, quickly said, “I don’t dislike it. On the contrary, I’m quite fond of the scent. Ever since I found it in the bedroom, I’ve been carrying it with me. It’s just that it’s been a while, and the scent has faded. Could you make another one with the same fragrance?”

Gu Dai fell silent, taken aback by the request..

Chapter 233: Rejected Invitation

Gu Dai, unhesitant and with a cold voice, firmly refused, “No.”

To make her refusal more absolute, Gu Dai added, “I don’t know how to blend fragrances.”

Song Ling pursed his lips and spoke softly, “After learning about your many skills, I thought you knew how to blend fragrances...”

Gu Dai possessed exceptional medical skills, capable of rescuing Old Master Zhou from danger, and her hacking abilities were strong. Hence, Song Ling assumed that fragrance blending would be easy for her, but her denial perhaps signified her genuine lack of this skill.

After all, these two skills had no connection with fragrance blending.

Song Ling asked, “Could you tell me where that fragrance master is?”

Gu Dai continued to refuse, “I don’t remember where the master is.”

Song Ling felt Gu Dai might know but doubted his assumption upon seeing her cold demeanor.

Still, not wanting to give up on the only method to cure his headache, Song Ling spoke again, "If you remember, please let me know."

Gu Dai responded nonchalantly, not taking it to heart.

Lin Sheng spent the afternoon in pride, unable to help it, for his young mistress was so outstanding.

He knew she was proficient in fragrance blending, and the fragrance mentioned by Song Ling was likely blended by her.

Lin Sheng felt no pity for Song Ling being rejected, only thinking he deserved it.

He remembered how Song Ling used to bully Gu Dai and considered not beating him a mercy.

After all contracts were settled, Gu Dai politely said, "It's getting late, President Song, please take care."

Song Ling, however, didn't leave, his gaze fixed on Gu Dai.

Gu Dai, noticing this, inquired, "Is there something else?"

Since Song Ling saw her, she had always been distant, which wasn't what he wanted.

With downcast eyes, Song Ling invited, "It's dinner time; may I invite you to dinner?"

Gu Dai promptly refused, "Sorry, I'm not hungry."

Song Ling persisted, "Even if you're not hungry, you can eat a little to avoid being hungry at night. I know a very good restaurant..."

He kept talking, but Gu Dai didn't listen to a word.

If Song Ling had shown concern during her amnesia, she might have been thrilled for a year, but now she just found him noisy.

Song Ling asked, "What do you think?"

As soon as Song Ling finished speaking, Gu Dai quickly replied, "I don't think so, I'm not hungry."

Song Ling recalled seeing Gu Dai earlier, leaving a restaurant with a radiant smile, probably dining with a man.

Why would she dine with other men but not with him, not even offering a pleasant face!

This thought left Song Ling feeling particularly unbalanced, suppressing his emerging anger, he said, "Let's have dinner as an apology for disturbing you that night."

That night, an apology?

Gu Dai paused, then calmly replied, "There is no need."

Gu Dai was unemotional, but Zhao Xuan, who overheard, was excited.

A few days ago, Song Ling was fine after work, but the next day, his face bore a slap mark. Because of this, he had been working from home.

Zhao Xuan always wondered who dared to hit him, and now he understood it was Miss Gu Dai.

Unaware of his assistant's rapid thoughts, Song Ling hadn't given up, insisting, "It's just a meal..."

Gu Dai's ringing phone interrupted Song Ling.

Without checking the caller ID, Gu Dai answered excitedly.

Gu Dai responded, "Hello? What, you're downstairs at the office? Wait for me, I'll come down now!"

Eagerly hanging up, Gu Dai quickly left the office, grabbing her bag.

Her movements were so swift that by the time Song Ling reacted, he couldn't even see her anymore.

Zhao Xuan observed Song Ling's state, recalling his extensive preparation for today's attire, like a peacock in full display to meet Gu Dai, and shook his head..

Chapter 234: Second Brother is Back

As soon as Gu Dai dashed downstairs, she saw a red car parked by the roadside.

Meng Zhi got off the car and approached Gu Dai.

Gu Dai greeted him with a smiling face, "Third Brother, what brings you here?"

Meng Zhi spoke mysteriously, "Daidai, I have something to tell you."

Curious, Gu Dai asked, "What is it?"

Seeing her eagerness, Meng Zhi didn't keep her in suspense and revealed directly, "Second Brother has returned."

Gu Dai's eyes widened in surprise, hardly believing, "You mean Second Brother is back!"

Meng Zhi nodded affirmatively, "Yes!"

Gu Dai couldn't help but burst into laughter, quickly suggesting, "What time does Second Brother's plane arrive? Let's get ready to pick him up!"

As Gu Dai spoke, eager to drive to the airport, Meng Zhi held her back.

Puzzled, Gu Dai inquired, "What's the matter, Third Brother?"

Meng Zhi coughed lightly, feeling a bit guilty, and showed his phone to Gu Dai.

Although Gu Dai didn't understand the implication, she still looked at the phone.

After reading the content, she turned to Meng Zhi, annoyed, "Third Brother, why didn't you tell me Second Brother's flight was yesterday? He has already returned to the country, and I didn't go to pick him up!"

Meng Zhi felt wronged internally, "Second Brother instructed me not to tell you. He said you've been working too hard and asked me not to bother you with these trivial matters."

Gu Dai, feeling helpless, remarked, "How can picking up Second Brother be a trivial matter?"

For Gu Dai, Meng Chuan's return was a significant event, another loved one returning to her side.

Meng Zhi nodded repeatedly, agreeing with her, and promised, "Don't worry, Daidai. If such a thing happens again, even at the risk of being beaten by Second Brother, I'll tell you."

Gu Dai's anger dissipated, and she said, "Well, let it be. If he chose to hide the fact from me, then let him hide it from me."

Meng Zhi grinned, "I knew Daidai, with your kind heart and beautiful soul, couldn't bear to see me get beaten!"

Gu Dai then asked, "Let's go meet Second Brother. Where is he now?"

Meng Zhi replied, "Second Brother is already waiting for us at the restaurant."

Gu Dai then said, "Then let's go quickly."

However, just as Gu Dai finished speaking, Meng Zhi's phone rang.

After he answered the call, his smile slowly faded as he listened.

Seeing this, Gu Dai asked, puzzled, "What happened, Third Brother? Is there a problem?"

Meng Zhi pursed his lips and after a while, spoke, "Daidai, there's a problem at the racing club. I need to go handle it."

As the owner of the racing club, Meng Zhi often dealt with various issues. Gu Dai was accustomed to this and didn't think much of it.

Gu Dai added, "After you finish with the matters at the club, come to dinner early."

Meng Zhi nodded, "Okay."

Watching Gu Dai's car drive away, Meng Zhi's eyes, cast down, flickered with a dark shade and filled with sympathy.

Gu Dai might have forgotten that incident, but he hadn't. Now that his Second Brother was back, they would help Daidai resolve it.

The thought of Meng Chuan's return filled Gu Dai with joy.

Even when stuck in traffic, her mood remained unaffected. She noticed a secluded shortcut on the navigation.

Although a bit longer, it would surely be faster than the traffic jam.

Deciding to take the shortcut, Gu Dai changed direction.

A black car, noticing Gu Dai's change of course, followed suit, speeding up behind her.

Gu Dai sensed something amiss. Her eyes lowered and she gradually stopped her car.

The black car also halted, its doors opening, revealing several burly men in black clothes with scarred faces.

Recognizing the scars, Gu Dai knew trouble had found her again, brought by some reckless person.

Feeling irked, Gu Dai thought, Why today of all days?

She sent a message to Meng Chuan, informing him of the delay due to an issue, then raised her eyes to face the men.

The leader, a blond-haired man, smirked lecherously upon seeing Gu Dai, tauntingly saying, "Pretty girl, you're quite a looker. If you kiss me now, maybe I'll go easy on you later when I hit you.."

Chapter 235: Discuss These Matters with Zhao Xuan

When Song Ling and Zhao Xuan were escorted out of the company by Lin Sheng, Gu Dai's car was already out of sight. Scanning the surroundings, they could only see the silhouette of a red car.

Realizing this, Song Ling's expression turned increasingly cold, a reflection of whatever thoughts were swirling in his mind. An unceasing chill seemed to emanate from him, permeating the air around.

Zhao Xuan shivered involuntarily, even his breathing becoming cautious. He whispered, "President Song, Miss Gu Dai might not have gone far. Should we follow her?"

Song Ling's gaze turned icy as he coldly replied, "Why should we follow her?"

Zhao Xuan bowed his head, daring not to utter another word.

Song Ling, with nowhere to vent his anger, furiously got into the car, slamming the door shut, and commanded coldly, "Back to the office!"

Zhao Xuan obediently responded, "Yes, President Song."

Song Ling's eyes were dark with turmoil, haunted by the memory of Gu Dai's radiant smile upon receiving the phone call. His heart was filled with frustration.

It must have been another man who called her!

Staring at the passing scenery outside the window, Song Ling couldn't help but order, "Find out Gu Dai's location."

Zhao Xuan hesitated momentarily before complying.

Zhao Xuan sighed softly. Despite his boss's evident concern for Miss Gu Dai, he never admitted it and always acted covertly. Miss Gu Dai remained unaware of his feelings.

He couldn't understand why President Song behaved this way.

Realizing his unusual attention towards Gu Dai, Song Ling's expression soured. He wanted to retract his order, but Zhao Xuan had already agreed, so he let it be.

Song Ling rubbed his temples, trying to soothe the throbbing.

His phone rang at that moment, displaying an unknown number.

Answering the call, he heard Jiang Yue's voice.

She cried, "Brother Song Ling, it's me."

Song Ling, already agitated by thoughts of Gu Dai, grew even more irked when he heard Jiang Yue's voice.

Since the wedding incident, his patience with Jiang Yue had dwindled to nothing, even her voice became unbearable.

He had ignored all her calls, leaving them for Zhao Xuan to handle, never expecting her to call his personal number.

Song Ling responded coldly, "Didn't I tell you to speak to Zhao Xuan about any issues?"

Jiang Yue, hearing the indifference in his voice, felt even more wronged. She should have been the one being comforted.

With a sobbing voice, she said, “Zhao Xuan can’t solve anything. After talking to him, he just uses excuses to dismiss me!”

Song Ling, leaning back in his seat with closed eyes, ignored her words.

Unmet with a response, Jiang Yue’s face soured, but she persisted, “Brother Song Ling, I’ve been transferred from being your secretary to the logistics department.”

Song Ling opened his eyes when he heard this and said, “Good, the logistics department is less demanding and simple, quite suitable for you.”

Jiang Yue had hoped to complain about Zhao Xuan, but instead, Song Ling seemed to approve of the transfer.

Crying, she said, “But the logistics department isn’t easy at all. My colleagues bully me, making me do the hardest work, even mocking me.”

The company staff, aware of her character from the wedding livestream, harbored disdain for her.

Song Ling’s trust in Jiang Yue had completely eroded. He didn’t believe her story, thinking she was fabricating it for sympathy.

Song Ling replied dismissively, “How could your colleagues mock you? You’re overthinking it. It’s unavoidable to interact with them at work. Don’t make baseless accusations.”

Jiang Yue was stunned, suppressing the urge to lash out in anger.

She had specifically bought a new SIM card, hoping that after sharing her grievances, Song Ling would support her. But things turned out entirely differently.

Jiang Yue persisted, “Brother Song Ling, they really are mocking me. I’m not mistaken, you...”

Song Ling, not wanting to hear anymore, interrupted her coldly, "Discuss these matters with Zhao Xuan on the phone. He will handle it better than me.."

Chapter 236: You Can't Compare to Gu Dai

Jiang Yue, panicked, exclaimed, "Brother Song Ling, you were never like this before. Why are you so cold towards me now?"

Song Ling switched his phone to speaker and carelessly tossed it onto the car seat, stating indifferently, "I hate being lied to the most, and you deceived me!"

Pausing, he continued, his voice laden with warning, "Jiang Yue, if it weren't for the fact that you saved me back then, I would have driven you out of the capital long ago."

Jiang Yue was taken aback, not expecting the situation to be so serious.

She retorted, "Gu Dai also lied to you, hiding her identity as the Gu Group heiress and getting close to you. She didn't reveal her true identity for three years, which clearly had ulterior motives. Why don't you hate her?"

Song Ling snapped, "Shut up!"

Jiang Yue, overwhelmed by her emotions, failed to detect the coldness in Song Ling's voice and continued, "And though I made mistakes, I have sincerely repented. But what about Gu Dai? She is surrounded by several men now. Isn't that even more despicable?"

After Gu Dai and Song Ling's divorce, Jiang Yue felt Gu Dai had changed drastically. A crude girl from the countryside suddenly exuded a powerful aura, as if she was a completely different person.

Following her humiliating expulsion from a store, Jiang Yue's perception of Gu Dai intensified, leading her to investigate her background.

Upon discovering that Gu Dai was actually the heiress of the Gu family, Jiang Yue was stunned and fearful, considering her past actions. But her jealousy overshadowed everything else.

Why was Gu Dai born into such a privileged family? Why did she have so much wealth, while she could only reach such heights by marrying Song Ling?

Filled with discontent, Jiang Yue couldn't resist slandering Gu Dai again, "Gu Dai already has so many men around her, and who knows how many more there are in secret. It's probably worse than what I did."

Song Ling's voice turned icy with rage, "You and Gu Dai are completely different. How dare you compare yourself to her?"

Jiang Yue defiantly asked, "How are we different?"

Song Ling retorted, "In every way!"

Jiang Yue sought other men behind his back, pretending to be innocent. But Gu Dai is different. She lost her memory, forgetting her past identity. Her feelings for him these past three years were sincere.

He was disgusted by Jiang Yue's attempt to equate her actions with Gu Dai's, finding it laughable.

Song Ling warned her sternly, "If I hear you slander Gu Dai again, don't blame me for taking actions!"

Stunned by the rebuke, Jiang Yue slowly gathered her thoughts. She realized that offending Song Ling would ruin her last remaining chances of marrying into the Song family.

Adjusting her tone, Jiang Yue spoke softly, "Brother Song Ling, I wasn't thinking straight when I said those things. I know I was wrong and I apologize."

As Song Ling had put the phone on speaker, Zhao Xuan could hear Jiang Yue's words. He was astonished by her sudden change in demeanor.

Has Jiang Yue mastered the art of changing faces? How else could her emotions shift so swiftly?

Even as Jiang Yue's demeanor altered rapidly, Zhao Xuan couldn't help but see her as disingenuous. After all, he had witnessed her brazen side.

He had seen it, but Song Ling, the person directly involved, had not.

Inwardly, Zhao Xuan fervently hoped that Song Ling would stand firm, not be swayed by Jiang Yue. Yet, in the very next moment, he heard his own president beginning to speak.

Song Ling said, "Continue."

With this sentence, Zhao Xuan's mind was flooded with the thought Its over.

In the end, it seemed they couldn't withstand the 'beauty trap'.

Zhao Xuan mentally braced himself, realizing Song Ling was still susceptible to Jiang Yue's manipulation.

Feeling relieved, Jiang Yue softened her voice further, "Brother Song Ling, my agitation stemmed from loving you too much. I'll do anything just to stay by your side."

Having sought advice from her aunt during her days of being ignored by Song Ling, Jiang Yue was now following her aunt's strategy: to lower her stance and evoke pity and affection.

She couldn't help but fantasize about Song Ling falling in love with her again and marrying her into the Song family.

But Song Ling's cold response shattered her daydreams.

Song Ling stated, "Keeping you in the logistics department is already letting you stay by my side. My only request is for you not to disturb me.."

Chapter 237: Taking Care of Four People

Jiang Yue, stunned by Song Ling's blunt words, was speechless, and the call ended abruptly.

Not only was Jiang Yue taken aback, but Zhao Xuan, who had witnessed the entire exchange, was equally surprised.

He had thought Song Ling would forgive Jiang Yue, but instead, he rejected her, proving that his boss hadn't lost his intellect to love.

After hanging up, Song Ling became lost in thought, reflecting on how he had been misled by Jiang Yue to wrong Gu Dai.

During her three years of amnesia, Gu Dai had been utterly alone, without family or friends.

Gu Dai had already suffered so much, and he, as her husband, not only lacked concern but often spoke harshly to her. She had to be so sad in those times

He pondered whether he had ever been a good husband.

This realization brought a deep, gnawing pain in his heart. Gu Dai's current attitude towards him was, he conceded, well deserved.

The phone ringing suddenly broke the silence in the car.

Song Ling's detached gaze fell on Zhao Xuan, startling him into hastily ending the call and switching to texting.

Moments later, Zhao Xuan's expression changed drastically, urgently informing, "Bad news, President Song! The people tracking Miss Gu Dai say she's in trouble. Someone is causing her problems!"

Song Ling's expression tensed, his face turning grim, and a chill emanated from him. He ordered immediately, "Go to Gu Dai's location!"

Gu Dai, ignoring the thug's lewd remarks, spoke coldly, "You can't beat me, and I don't want to waste time here. 1'11 offer you double the money to leave me alone."

Her offer instantly caused hesitation among the thugs.

"Wow, double the money! How much is that? Boss, we're going to be rich!" One exclaimed.

Yellow Hair, referred to as the leader, was angered by his subordinate's greed. He glared viciously at the person who spoke.

He spat, "A little favor and you change sides so easily? Plus, she's probably deceiving you. She won't pay a dime."

Gu Dai calmly replied, "I can transfer the money now."

Yellow Hair paused, taken aback. Regaining his composure, he spoke with anger, "What do you mean by that? You think having some money makes you great?"

Gu Dai remained silent, offering no response.

Yellow Hair continued, his voice laced with resentment, "I don't want your money, I just want to beat you up!"

His smirk, expecting to see fear in Gu Dai's eyes, faded when he saw her unwavering expression, a direct challenge to him.

Enraged, Yellow Hair charged at Gu Dai, arm raised to strike.

Gu Dai watched him approach, coldly remarking, "I gave you a chance. Since you don't want it, don't blame me."

She kicked Yellow Hair, who just charged forward, in the stomach as he neared, sending him tumbling to the ground. He looked up to see Gu Dai gazing down disdainfully.

Fuming, Yellow Hair attempted to stand, only to collapse again under the searing pain in his leg.

His subordinates rushed to his aid, voicing their concerns and threats.

"Boss, are you alright?"

"Boss, we'll take you to the hospital right now!"

"Damn it, you dare hurt our boss, we won't let you off for this."

With a dark expression, Yellow Hair commanded sternly, "What are you waiting for? Get her now!"

The subordinates were apprehensive, vividly remembering how this woman had effortlessly turned their boss into a pitiable state with a single kick. Despite their hesitation, they had no choice but to follow orders.

Gu Dai watched the three men charging towards her, her gaze sharp and unyielding.

She kicked the first attacker into the air, dodged the assault, and quickly seized his arm. Tightening her grip, she landed a forceful punch on his face, then hurled his body onto the last remaining assailant.

Yellow Hair, witnessing the three bodies lying beside him, his expression gradually morphed into panic. In a flustered tone, he pleaded, "Don't hit me, I give up!"

Gu Dai nodded, lowering her gaze as she rubbed her fists, and asked, "Who sent you?"

Yellow Hair began, "At that time..."

Seeing that Gu Dai was not paying attention to him, a vicious glint appeared in Yellow Hair's eyes. He swiftly stood up, pulled out a knife from his waist, and lunged at Gu Dai.

Just as Yellow Hair was half a meter away from Gu Dai, a man rushed out, snatched the knife from his hand, and in a swift reversal, stabbed Yellow Hair with it..

Chapter 238: Eyes Brimming with Emotion

Gu Dai, recognizing the masked man before her, excitedly called out, "Second Brother!"

Meng Chuan's eyes crinkled with affection as he looked at Gu Dai, speaking softly, "Daidai."

Meng Chuan and Gu Dai exchanged a glance, sharing an unspoken understanding that there were many things to say. However, they both knew that more pressing matters demanded their attention.

Yellow Hair, clutching his wounded arm and bleeding profusely, glared fiercely at Gu Dai and Meng Chuan.

He had underestimated Gu Dai, thinking her merely a delicate heiress, only to find himself entirely outmatched.

Now, with another formidable man present, he felt even more outmatched.

Meng Chuan's gaze was icy as he immobilized Yellow Hair, treating him as if he were already a corpse, preventing any further sneak attacks.

Gu Dai asked coldly, "Who sent you?"

Yellow Hair's pride was deeply wounded, and he struggled to maintain his defiance. "I was paid. I have professional ethics. I won't reveal my employer's name!"

Gu Dai responded nonchalantly with a nod, "That's fine."

Yellow Hair, thinking he was off the hook, relaxed slightly, but the next words from Gu Dai sent chills down his spine.

"If you won't talk, then you won't need to speak ever again."

Yellow Hair watched as Gu Dai, holding a knife and advancing towards him step by step, seemed like a demon emerging from hell. His body shivered involuntarily, and a cold sensation swept over him.

Gu Dai pressed the knife against Yellow Hair's face and inquired, "Where would you like me to start dissecting you?"

Feeling the cold blade on his face, Yellow Hair tensed up, not daring to move an inch. His voice trembled as he uttered, "Di...Dissect?"

Gu Dai nodded, smiling, "Of course, what else did you think?"

Yellow Hair, who had initially thought Gu Dai might at most cut off his tongue, now realized she intended to kill him!

Petrified, Yellow Hair hadn't expected such a beautiful woman to have such a ruthless heart. As the knife began to pierce his skin and blood trickled into his mouth, he screamed in terror, "I'll talk, I'll talk! Please don't kill me!"

Gu Dai's smile widened as she asked, "But didn't you just say you'd never tell?"

Crying, Yellow Hair replied, "I didn't know you were this ruthless, thinking of killing me! I'm only twenty this year, there are so many sights I haven't seen, I don't want to die..."

Gu Dai withdrew the knife and took out a pristine handkerchief to wipe it, speaking indifferently, "I'll give you another chance. Who sent you?"

After facing death, Yellow Hair dared not entertain any further thoughts and hastily said, "It was Zhou Gang. He paid me to bring my guys and teach you a lesson!"

Yellow Hair was filled with rage.

He suddenly remembered how Zhou Gang had described Gu Dai as a fragile, easy-to-deal-with lady. How wrong he was!

Yellow Hair wished he could take his revenge on Zhou Gang.

Meng Chuan's face darkened as he slapped Yellow Hair on the back, coldly stating, "Wait for your turn in the police station."

Meng Chuan looked up at Gu Dai, his voice gentle, "Is Zhou Gang the director who slandered you and caused that trending scandal?"

Gu Dai affirmed, then curiously asked, "Second Brother, how do you know about this? Did Third Brother tell you?"

Meng Chuan nodded, "When Meng Zhi told me and Big Brother about your situation, we were furious. If he hadn't said you'd already handled it, we would have flown back to the country immediately!"

A warmth rose in Gu Dai's heart, her eyes brimming with emotion.

Seeing this, Meng Chuan panicked, "Daidai, don't cry, 1..."

Gu Dai, looking at Meng Chuan's flustered demeanor, couldn't help but chuckle, "Don't worry, Second Brother, I'm not crying, just moved."

Meng Chuan frowned slightly, speaking earnestly, "Why should Daidai feel moved? This is what we as your brothers should do. You just need to accept it."

He paused, then covered his chest with both hands, feigning heartbreak, "1 get it now, it's because Daidai doesn't like me anymore, we've become distant..." True to his title of a film star, Meng Chuan's words and actions prompted Gu Dai to quickly wave her hands and say, "No, no, I haven't become distant with Second Brother!"

Chapter 239: Misunderstanding

After Gu Dai reassured Meng Chuan that they hadn't grown distant, he finally believed her and abandoned his sorrowful demeanor.

Meng Chuan glanced at the defeated men on the ground and declared, "I'll have them sent to the police station right now. As for Zhou Gang, I won't let him off!"

Gu Dai, sensing something amiss, quickly said, "Second Brother, I need to ask them a few questions first."

Meng Chuan halted his call and responded, "Of course, Daidai. You can ask as many questions as you want."

Listening to Meng Chuan's exaggerated assurance, Gu Dai shook her head with a smile.

Turning to Yellow Hair, she asked, "Who informed you of my whereabouts?"

Yellow Hair, caught off guard, stammered, "We followed you here. No one told us..."

Gu Dai cut him off, stating firmly, "That's impossible. I didn't see your car following me at all."

Yellow Hair reluctantly admitted, "It was Zhou Gang..."

Before he could finish, his expression shifted to one of slight relief.

Gu Dai, sensing something wrong, turned around and saw the three men she had knocked down now charging at her, each armed with a knife.

Meng Chuan stepped in front of Gu Dai, pulling her behind him protectively.

Excitement twinkled in Gu Dai's eyes as she let out a light chuckle, whispering, "Don't worry, Second Brother, I can handle them. Besides, I've been cooped up working every day lately, feeling almost like I'm about to sprout. They've come just in time for me to stretch my muscles a bit."

Meng Chuan chuckled and agreed, "Alright."

As Gu Dai was about to step forward, the three assailants were swiftly taken down.

Gu Dai, lips pursed and eyes void of enthusiasm, stared at Song Ling, who had appeared unexpectedly.

Song Ling, oblivious to Gu Dai's displeasure, loudly comforted, "Don't worry, I'm here to save you!"

He rushed towards Meng Chuan with the speed of a leopard, engaging him in a swift battle.

Meng Chuan met him head-on, and the two exchanged blows.

Despite their high skill level and fast evasion, neither managed to injure the other even after ten minutes.

At first, Gu Dai was worried, but she gradually calmed down and even figured out what was happening during the fight.

Stepping forward, she called out, "Both of you, stop!"

Meng Chuan and Song Ling halted at her command, turning to face her.

Upon hearing Gu Dai's voice, Meng Chuan and Song Ling, as if on cue, ceased their actions and turned to look at her.

Gu Dai pulled Meng Chuan behind her and spoke, "Song Ling, you've misunderstood. Things aren't as you think."

Song Ling's brows furrowed, his breaths shallow, as he pointed at Meng Chuan, "How have I misunderstood? Isn't it him who brought people to attack you?"

Song Ling glared at Meng Chuan, unable to bear the thought of what might have happened to Gu Dai if he had arrived even a moment later.

Gu Dai felt a mix of emotions upon hearing Song Ling's words, surprised that he would want to rescue her.

Seeing Gu Dai standing motionless, Song Ling urged, "Come on, let me take you home."

Gu Dai snapped back to reality and explained to Song Ling, "You've got it wrong, he wasn't with them. He was actually trying to protect me when they charged at us."

Song Ling froze, reevaluating his actions, his voice filled with disbelief, "You're saying he was trying to protect you?"

Gu Dai nodded firmly, "Yes!"

Song Ling's expression cooled, his demeanor shifting.

Ignoring Song Ling, Gu Dai turned to Meng Chuan, her voice soft with concern, "Are you hurt anywhere?"

She had seen with her own eyes that they didn't hit each other, but still feared she might have missed something, her heart racing with worry.

Meng Chuan smiled, "I'm fine, Daidai. With my skills, it's not easy for anyone to harm me."

Gu Dai felt helpless, but seeing Meng Chuan unharmed, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Meng Chuan's gaze drifted to Song Ling, a flicker of coldness in his eyes, he asked quietly, "Is he the one?"

Gu Dai instantly understood Meng Chuan's meaning; he was asking if Song Ling was her former husband.

All three of her brothers knew about her failed marriage, so Gu Dai didn't intend to hide it, affirming, "Yes.."

Chapter 240: Immediately Investigate

Meng Chuan scoffed coldly, his gaze towards Song Ling filled with disapproval.

In his eyes, Song Ling might have been good-looking, but there were plenty of more attractive men in the world.

Moreover, Song Ling's character left much to be desired, and he was certainly not a match for Gu Dai. Meng Chuan couldn't fathom why Gu Dai would ever have considered someone like him.

Meanwhile, Song Ling was equally irked by Meng Chuan.

Watching Gu Dai and Meng Chuan converse quietly together, though he couldn't catch their words, the care in Gu Dai's eyes was unmistakable.

The man, tall and handsome, with eyes that seemed to speak of romance and a demeanor that exuded elegance and sophistication, annoyed Song Ling.

He suspected it was just the mask creating an air of mystery.

Watching the intimate interaction between Gu Dai and Meng Chuan, Song Ling couldn't suppress the irritation bubbling inside him. He tugged at his tie, asking, "Who is this man?"

Gu Dai seemed capable of displaying affection with other men. There was Su Ting, Zhou Ci, and now this man. Perhaps there were even more he hadn't yet seen. With so many people receiving her warmth, he wondered, why couldn't she extend the same kindness to him?

Gu Dai, hearing Song Ling's query, suppressed her annoyance and asked in return, "Who he is, how is that related to you?"

Song Ling, unable to articulate his feelings, felt his heart ache.

His mood worsened as he questioned, "Was it his call you received at the office?"

Gu Dai, unwilling to engage further on this topic, deflected, "Why are you here?"

Song Ling, caught off guard, eventually managed, "I just happened to pass by."

Noticing Song Ling's unnatural expression, Gu Dai realized he was lying. She then questioned, "This road is quite secluded; it's not often traveled by people."

Song Ling, feeling cornered, raised his voice, "I just wanted to take a less traveled road, is that wrong?"

Zhao Xuan, arriving on the scene, overheard Song Ling's agitated response and hurriedly explained, "Miss Gu Dai, don't misunderstand. President Song rushed here knowing you were in danger. It wasn't just a coincidence."

Gu Dai, despite anticipating this, felt somewhat dazed hearing Zhao Xuan's confirmation.

Song Ling, frustrated that Zhao Xuan exposed this embarrassing truth, glared at him coldly.

Zhao Xuan, in the face of such a situation, harbored no regrets. After all, if he hadn't spoken up, Song Ling might never have revealed the things he did for Gu Dai.

Seeing Gu Dai silent, Zhao Xuan thought she didn't believe him and hastily added, "What I said just now is true. When President Song saw the traffic jam, he didn't even think twice before getting out of the car and running over here."

Song Ling, meeting Gu Dai's gaze, felt as though she was mocking his presumption. With the thought in his mind, his gaze towards Zhao Xuan grew colder.

Under such a gaze, Zhao Xuan could only apologize, "I'm sorry, President Song. I shouldn't have spoken out of turn."

Gu Dai looked at Song Ling and softly said, "Regardless, thank you for just now."

Although Song Ling ruined her chance to show her prowess, he was, after all, unaware of the situation and only wanted to save her. Gu Dai, not one to be ungrateful, appreciated the help extended to her.

Song Ling, taken aback, shook his head, "You're welcome."

Acknowledging this, Gu Dai nodded towards Song Ling, then raised her eyes to Meng Chuan and smiled, "I'm hungry. Let's go have dinner."

Meng Chuan warmly agreed, "Okay."

Watching their departing figures, Song Ling's brows furrowed and a sense of rivalry towards Meng Chuan brewed within him.

Meng Chuan opened the car door for Gu Dai and, after ensuring she was safely inside, cast a mocking glance at Song Ling.

Song Ling was fuming, he clenched his fists, his aura intensifying.

He coldly ordered, "Immediately arrange for someone to check the identity of that man with Gu Dai!"

Fearing Song Ling's wrath might extend to him, Zhao Xuan obediently complied, quickly taking out his phone to follow the instructions.

Song Ling's gaze then fell on the four men struggling to get up from the ground, his voice cold, "Tell whoever sent you, if they dare to lay a hand on Gu Dai again, they'll be opposing me and the Song Corporation!"

His eyes piercing like blades, Yellow Hair and the others didn't dare to resist, nodding their heads in agreement..