

I Regained 261

Chapter 261:1 am your grandfather

Zhou Ci chuckled, "Is it because your company's staff is so incompetent that you have to investigate matters yourself?"

Zhao Xuan, entering the office to deliver coffee to Song Ling, trembled upon hearing Zhou Ci's comment.

He hadn't expected the conversation to turn towards him, despite his carefulness.

Fortunately, Song Ling was absorbed in the code and didn't have time to get angry with him. Zhao Xuan hurried out of the office.

Song Ling, scrutinizing the dense code, paused and turned to Zhou Ci, asking, "Do you know the Legendary Doctor?"

Zhou Ci, looking baffled, shook his head, then said, "It's just a doctor, right? I'll have someone look into it, and we'll find him soon."

Song Ling looked at Zhou Ci disdainfully, "That's impossible."

Under Song Ling's skeptical gaze, Zhou Ci's confidence waned.

He averted his gaze and coughed lightly. Noticing the investigation materials about Meng Chuan on Song Ling's desk, he quickly changed the subject, "I never thought you'd be a fan after knowing you for so many years."

Song Ling frowned, "You think I like Meng Chuan?"

Zhou Ci, puzzled, asked, "Then why are you so interested in him? Are you planning to start an entertainment company and sign Meng Chuan? But I remember he's mostly focused on the international market."

Song Ling narrowed his eyes slightly, "You seem to know a lot about Meng Chuan. Do you know him?"

Zhou Ci, startled, quickly denied, "No, no, I really don't know him."

Song Ling just looked at him coldly.

Zhou Ci, feeling guilty, murmured, "Meng Chuan is an academy winner. It's normal for me to know about him..."

Song Ling reminded him coldly, "Remember, our two companies have a partnership going on."

Under Song Ling's implicit threat, Zhou Ci reluctantly admitted, "Alright, I know Meng Chuan, but it's from our childhood."

Zhou Ci recounted, "I was taken to a Meng family banquet by my grandfather. Meng Chuan, as a child, looked delicate like a doll. I thought he was a girl and teased him a bit, which ended up with him chasing me all night."

Song Ling frowned slightly, glancing at Zhou Ci, "So your habit of teasing others started in childhood."

Zhou Ci hung his head, murmuring, "I, I..."

Song Ling, not caring for Zhou Ci's response, gazed at him intently, "When you met Meng Chuan at the Meng family... could he be the young master of the Meng family?"

Considering this possibility, Song Ling felt a bit panicked.

"If Meng Chuan is the Meng family's young master, then he's Gu Dai's brother!"

Song Ling, recalling his actions against Meng Chuan today, suddenly felt foolish.

Zhou Ci frowned, exclaiming, "Gu Dai is divorced from you. Whether Meng Chuan is her brother has nothing to do with you!"

Song Ling's gaze turned icy.

Zhou Ci, struggling to maintain composure, added, "As far as I know, the Meng family has only two grandchildren, one taking over the company and the other into racing. So, I don't think Meng Chuan is one of them."

Song Ling rubbed his aching temples, "If Meng Chuan isn't a grandson of the Meng family, what is his identity?"

Zhou Ci shook his head, honestly answering, "I don't know."

"But I do know something," Zhou Ci added.

Song Ling glared at him, "Speak up, don't dawdle."

Zhou Ci revealed, "A friend in the entertainment industry told me that Meng Chuan once put a lot of effort into searching for a girl."

In Song Ling's mind, the image of Gu Dai appeared instantaneously.

Lowering his gaze, Song Ling spoke softly, "Could it be about finding Gu Dai?"

The mere thought of this possibility made his expression turn icy, his aura growing colder by the second.

Zhou Ci, realizing he was in over his head, quietly gathered the contract he had intended to sign with Song Ling and left on tiptoe. He suddenly realized that partnering with other companies might not be such a bad idea after all.

The ringtone of a cell phone echoed through the office.

Song Ling, with a vacant look in his eyes, raised his sore fingers and shakily retrieved his phone from his pocket.

Song Ling asked, "Who..."

From the other end of the phone, the angry voice of Song An boomed, "I am your grandfather! You have ten minutes to get back to the family residence, or else you can wait and see what happens!"

Chapter 262: Sending a Gift

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Song Ling entered the family residence and, surveying the vast interior, called out in confusion, "Grandpa, you... Ow!"

His features twisted in pain as he clutched his aching back, turning around to see Song An just retracting his hand, snorting coldly at him.

Puzzled, Song Ling asked, "Grandpa, why did you hit me?"

Hearing this, Song An grew even angrier, smacking Song Ling again with his cane, glaring at him, "Do you even know what today is?"

Song Ling thought hard but finally shook his head in confusion. Seeing Song An's face darken further, he grew more perplexed.

Song Ling: "Today's not a holiday, nor is it anyone in the family's birthday, so..."

Song An, trembling with rage, sat down forcefully with the support of his cane.

Song Ling asked with concern, "Grandpa, are you alright?"

Song An shouted angrily, "I'm not your grandpa, you're my grandpa!"

Song Ling was lost for words.

Song An, frustrated and exhausted, sighed, "Today is Gu Dai's birthday. Did you know that?"

Song Ling's mind went blank, incredulous, "Today is Gu Dai's birthday?"

Song An wanted to hit him again.

Song Huan scolded, "After she is married for you for three years, you didn't even know Gu Dai's birthday, and you call yourself a husband? What a failure!"

Song Ling, head lowered, defended himself weakly, "I've been busy with work these past three years, so I might have neglected home matters..."

Song An stared at Song Ling piercingly, questioning sharply, "Busy? Busy courting Jiang Yue, or buying yourself another house to stay away from home even in your free time?"

The recent findings about Song Ling made Song An even more displeased.

Song An lamented, "I can't believe I have a grandson like you! If only I had investigated your behavior earlier, I could have supported Gu Dai and prevented her suffering!"

Song Ling, recalling his own past behavior, felt his face grow slightly pale, a flicker of regret visible in his eyes.

Over these three years, Gu Dai had filled her heart and eyes with him. She remembered all his dietary preferences and meticulously prepared birthday gifts for him every year.

Yet, he hardly knew anything about Gu Dai, not even her birthday. He had learned of it only after receiving a call from Song An, and had impatiently delegated the task of picking out a gift to Zhao Xuan, instructing him to prepare something casual for her.

Song Ling's fingertips curled as he remembered the scene he witnessed earlier that day. He spoke in a steady voice, "Gu Dai has an acclaimed actor by her side, and before that, a model, along with some other men whose identities I'm not aware of. So, even if I don't remember her birthday, it doesn't affect her."

Song An's mood lightened as he responded with a smile, "Gu Dai is an outstanding person; it's natural for her to have admirers."

Song Ling's expression darkened.

Seeing this, Song An's mood improved further.

Song An then said, "Feeling a sense of crisis now?"

Song Ling stubbornly replied, "I am not."

Knowing his grandson well, Song An didn't believe his words and said, "Anyway, the gift I prepared has already been sent to Gu Dai. Whether you send one or not, I don't care anymore."

Song Ling lowered his head and remained silent.

Song An spoke softly, "If you haven't sent a gift, it just means there's no chance for you with Gu Dai in the future. Although I only recognize her as my granddaughter-in-law, if you two aren't fated, I can't force it."

Song Ling's eyes grew heavier, and he spoke in a low voice, "Grandpa, I need to go back now."

As Song Zhi watched Song Ling leave, he quietly asked Song An, "Old Master, do you think the young master will prepare a gift for the young lady?"

Song An nodded affirmatively, "He will."

Song An, "Song Ling likes Gu Dai, but he doesn't realize it himself. However, the chances of him catching up... are slim."

At the Gu residence.

After Zhou Ci's departure, the room fell into silence.

Meng Chuan spoke softly, "Daidai, it's getting late. Should we rest now?"

Gu Dai shook her head, smiling, "I'm not tired yet, and I still have birthday gifts to open."

Meng Zhi's eyes sparkled with excitement, "Daidai, let's see who sent this pink gift. It looks so youthful."

Seeing the wrapping, Gu Dai already had a guess in her mind. She laughed lightly, "I think it's from Shi Nuan.."

Chapter 263: The Man in Her Dream

Shi Nuan presented a rose gold bracelet, adorned with tiny diamonds that radiated a sense of luxury.

Underneath the pink gift box lay a note, penned in exquisite handwriting: "Happy Birthday to my best friend Gu Dai. May you always be happy, grow ever more beautiful, and know how much you are loved, sweetheart!"

Gu Dai smiled lightly, a hint of helplessness in her voice, "This girl..."

Meng Zhi, seemingly lost, remarked, "This gift is quite thoughtful. And the name Shi Nuan sounds familiar; I think I've heard it somewhere."

Gu Dai replied, "Not only have you heard of her, but you've also met her!"

Recalling Shi Nuan's fondness for Meng Zhi, Gu Dai hastily added, "Shi Nuan is my close friend. She used to come over to play often. Do you remember her?"

Meng Zhi, after a moment's reflection, visualized the image of a young girl in his mind.

Meng Zhi said, "It's been a long time; my memory is a bit hazy. Daidai, why don't you see what other gifts you have?"

Gu Dai wanted to continue talking about Shi Nuan, but seeing Meng Zhi change the subject, she decided to set this matter aside for now and discuss it later.

As Gu Dai continued to unwrap her gifts, she paused, slightly dazed upon seeing the present from Song An.

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi, noticing her reaction, came over and fell silent upon recognizing the sender, murmuring softly, "Daidai..."

Gu Dai snapped back to reality, smiling, "It's okay. Grandpa has always been kind to me. When I was with the Song family, he would prepare gifts for me every year. I just didn't expect that even after my divorce from Song Ling, he would still..."

Gu Dai slightly tilted her head, holding back the tears in her eyes.

Inside the gift box lay an exquisite hairpin.

The hairpin was crafted from high-quality redwood, with intricate carvings and gold and silver thread woven into delicate patterns, featuring a hollowed-out floral design.

Despite its simplicity, the hairpin exuded an air of elegance.

A card accompanied Song An's gift, bearing birthday wishes for her.

Gu Dai carefully stored the hairpin, whispering her thanks, "Thank you, Grandpa."

Meng Chuan sighed, "Old Master Song is a good person, but his grandson Song Ling... How could he..."

Meng Zhi, indignant, exclaimed, "Song Ling is blind! My sister is such a wonderful person, yet he failed to appreciate her and let her down. I must teach him a lesson!"

Gu Dai shook her head gently, "Big Brother, Third Brother, today is a day of happiness. Let's not talk about him."

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi quickly agreed, "Alright."

Song Ling was indeed unworthy of mention at such a moment!

Back in her bedroom, Gu Dai received a call from Su Ting.

Su Ting's sweet voice came through, "Happy Birthday, Sis!"

Gu Dai chuckled in response, "Thank you."

Su Ting continued, "Sis, I'm currently in transit and should arrive at your place before midnight. I don't want to miss your birthday, but I'm afraid you'll be asleep by then. So, I wanted to call you in advance."

Gu Dai remembered Su Ting's recent trip abroad for an event and knew that his schedule was still ongoing.

Gu Dai started to speak, "Your event..."

Su Ting interjected softly, "I took leave. Nothing is more important than my sister's birthday!"

Gu Dai wanted to remind Su Ting of the importance of his work, but before she could, he hurriedly said, "Sister, my plane is about to depart, and I won't be able to talk later."

Gu Dai responded, then added, "I've been going to bed late recently. When you arrive, just come straight to my house."

Su Ting paused, then replied softly, "Okay."

With three hours left until midnight, Gu Dai decided to rest for a while after washing up.

She soon fell asleep in bed, but her dreams were restless, haunted by scenes that kept her from finding peace.

In her dream, she encountered the mysterious man she had dreamed of before.

Just like last time, he patiently guided her in hacking skills.

Gu Dai tried to focus on the computer screen, but it remained shrouded in mist, obscuring her view.

She saw herself in the dream, excitedly jumping up, her eyes sparkling as she looked at the man, exclaiming, "I beat you! I finally beat you once!"

The man gently ruffled her hair, speaking affectionately, "I knew Daidai was the best!"

After saying this, he turned his face slightly.

His side profile was sharp, with bright eyes, a prominent nose, and lips slightly upturned, making him look incredibly handsome...

Gu Dai wanted to see more details, but the vision blurred, and in the next moment, she abruptly woke up..

Chapter 264: Bracelet

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Gu Dai sat up, breathing in the fresh air deeply as she massaged her temples, her once clouded gaze gradually became clearer.

She couldn't comprehend why she kept having such strange dreams, especially about the man who felt oddly familiar, as if she had known him before.

Could it be that he had taught her hacking skills?

Gu Dai felt as if she had lost an important piece of her memory; every time she delved deep into thought, her head throbbed painfully.

Was this a lingering effect from the cruise?

Gu Dai wanted to delve deeper into her dream, but her phone rang at that moment.

Answering the call, she heard Su Ting's voice, "Sis, I'm here."

Gu Dai quickly dressed and cheerfully responded, "I'll come down now."

She walked into the villa's garden and immediately saw Su Ting standing under the lights.

Su Ting's eyes sparkled as he approached her excitedly, "Happy Birthday, Sis!"

Gu Dai nodded gently, her gaze falling on Su Ting's face. Seeing him, she felt a strange sense of familiarity.

Su Ting asked, puzzled, "What are you thinking about, Sis? You seem so engrossed."

An idea struck Gu Dai, "I've been dreaming of a man lately. His profile resembles yours."

Su Ting froze, his eyelashes trembling slightly, his smile stiffening for a few seconds before he regained his composure and laughed it off, "Dreams are just dreams, Sis. Don't overthink it."

He then presented his gift, "Sis, this is your birthday present from me."

Gu Dai opened the gift box under Su Ting's expectant gaze.

Inside was a bracelet made of jade and jewels, its white color interspersed with a faint green, exuding a cool elegance.

Gu Dai exclaimed in admiration, "The bracelet is beautiful!"

Su Ting's eyes curved happily, looking at the bracelet and then at Gu Dai's wrist, suggesting, "Sis, try it on."

The more Gu Dai looked at it, the more she liked it, feeling as if the bracelet had been custom-made for her.

She asked, "Where did you buy this necklace? It's gorgeous."

Su Ting proudly replied, "Custom-made by the Su family!"

Gu Dai was taken aback, "The Su family?"

Realizing what he meant, she asked excitedly, "Did you make this necklace yourself?"

Su Ting nodded firmly, "Yes!"

Gu Dai had received many necklaces before, but none were as precious as one handmade.

Su Ting's phone rang, a call from Zhang Zheng.

Gu Dai couldn't make out the exact words, but judging by Su Ting's annoyed expression, she guessed the gist. After he hung up, she asked, "Is Zhang Zheng asking you to return to work?"

Su Ting nodded reluctantly, "Sis, I don't want to leave you."

Gu Dai hugged him, patting his back comfortingly, "You'll see me after you finish work. Go on now."

He hesitantly agreed, "Okay."

As Su Ting left, he kept looking back, his eyes filled with reluctance.

Gu Dai smiled helplessly, waving goodbye to him.

After Su Ting departed, Gu Dai prepared to return inside, but stopped after a few steps and turned, speaking calmly, "Come out."

Song Ling emerged from around the corner, his face ashen.

Gu Dai asked coldly, "How did you get in?"

The Gu family's property was patrolled by guards, and only those she had specifically allowed were permitted entry.

When Song Ling sneaked into villa, he had seen Gu Dai embracing Su Ting, their intimate late-night meeting and reluctance to part painting a picture that aggravated him.

He was irked by Gu Dai's cold demeanor towards him and her warmth towards others.

Seeing Song Ling silent, Gu Dai began to speak, "President Song, if there's nothing else, please..."

Before she could finish, Song Ling thrust something into her hand.

His gaze fell on the bracelet on her wrist, his face darkening, "Happy Birthday."

His voice was cold, lacking any resemblance of a genuine wish.

After speaking, he turned and quickly left.

Gu Dai frowned slightly, noticing the mud on Song Ling's clothes and his damaged shoes, a possibility dawned on her.

If he couldn't enter through the front gate, did he climb over the wall just to give her a birthday gift?

Returning to the living room, Gu Dai saw Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi descending the stairs.

Meng Zhi asked curiously, "Daidai, why aren't you sleeping tonight?"

Chapter 265: Embroidery

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Gu Dai revealed the bracelet on her wrist with a smile and replied, "Su Ting just came to give me a birthday gift."

Meng Zhi pursed his lips, an action Gu Dai did not notice as she continued, "Su Ting is quite busy with work abroad, so he had to leave right after delivering the gift."

Meng Chuan inquired, "Did he send all these gifts?"

Gu Dai glanced at the gift boxes on the table and shook her head lightly, "No, these are from Song Ling."

Song Ling?

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi's brows furrowed deeply. In the next second, they stood up swiftly and headed towards the door.

Gu Dai, surprised by their actions, asked, "Second Brother, Third Brother, what are you doing?"

Meng Chuan spoke angrily, "I'm going to deal with Song Ling. I let him off during the day, but he dared to come here at night!"

Meng Zhi nodded in agreement, "Right, me too!"

Gu Dai informed them, "But Song Ling has already left."

Meng Chuan asked, "He left?"

Gu Dai nodded.

Meng Zhi returned from outside and reported, "Second Brother, there's no one outside."

Meng Zhi then asked in confusion, "Daidai, how did the guards let Song Ling in?"

He distinctly remembered Gu Dai specifically instructing the guards not to let Song Ling in. Had he remembered wrong, or did the guards allow him in privately?

Meng Chuan shared the same thought, "I'll call the guards to ask."

Gu Dai stopped Meng Chuan, her eyes downcast, "The guards wouldn't have let Song Ling in."

Meng Chuan guessed, "Are you suggesting Song Ling sneaked in?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Yes."

Meng Chuan mocked, "I never expected the president of Song Corporation to stoop to such actions."

Meng Zhi agreed with a nod.

Meng Zhi then curiously asked, “Daidai, what did Song Ling give you?”

Gu Dai opened the gift box, immediately spotting the bracelet inside.

Meng Zhi leaned in, critically noting, “The bracelet looks nice, but why does it have bloodstains on it?”

Bloodstains?

Gu Dai’s gaze fell on the bracelet. After pondering for a moment, she responded, “This bracelet might have been handmade by him.”

After she said this, she returned the bracelet to the box and set it aside, turning her attention to another gift.

Meng Chuan noticed the embroidery she took out, his eyes narrowing slightly, “Is this a Suzhou embroidery?”

The embroidery was exquisitely detailed, with a three-dimensional snow scene that felt almost real.

Meng Zhi couldn’t help but admire, “This painting is beautiful.”

Gu Dai nodded in agreement, “Indeed, it’s lovely.”

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi, initially captivated by the embroidery, quickly came back to reality upon hearing Gu Dai’s remark and earnestly advised her.

Meng Chuan cautioned, “Just because the gift is beautiful doesn’t mean the giver is good.”

Meng Zhi echoed fervently, "Yes, Daidai, I think Song Ling surely has ulterior motives. Don't be deceived by him."

Gu Dai, seeing their anxious expressions, reassured them with a smile, "Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. I was just admiring the embroidery."

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi both sighed in relief, "Indeed, the embroidery is a fine piece."

Gu Dai agreed, "Yes, it uses an ancient technique from a thousand years ago. I'll put it away in the storage room."

The mention of the ancient technique astonished both, considering the embroidery's potential value of millions if auctioned.

Zhao Xuan drove with bated breath, cautiously glancing at Song Ling in the back seat before quickly averting his gaze.

He had been ready to sleep when he suddenly received a call from Song Ling, asking him to fetch an embroidery piece from the villa and then drive him to the Gu residence. However, the guards stopped them from entering.

Zhao Xuan had yet to think of a solution when he saw his boss pick up the item and scale the wall, only to return a few minutes later with a darkened face.

After much thought, Zhao Xuan tentatively asked, "President Song, was Miss Gu Dai pleased with your gift?"

Song Ling remained silent, so Zhao Xuan bravely continued, "I think Miss Gu Dai must have been happy, especially since the embroidery you gave is a rare piece in the market, hard to come by."

Zhao Xuan added, "The bracelet you made by hand, even injuring your hand while making it in the car... Miss Gu Dai, seeing the wound on your hand, may not say it, but she surely feels grateful..."

Song Ling's expression darkened, and he coldly commanded, "Shut up!"

Zhao Xuan's body trembled in fear, and he dared not speak any further..

Chapter 266: Full of Blood

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Song Ling gazed at the wound on his hand, feeling intensely frustrated.

Not only had Gu Dai failed to notice the injury, but she was also wearing the bracelet given by Su Ting.

Their intimate interaction made his own gift seem like a joke.

Song Ling felt even more like a fool for having rushed to prepare a gift after hearing his grandpa's words.

The more he thought about it, the angrier he became, pounding his fist against the car seat in frustration.

Zhao Xuan, startled by the sound behind him, felt his heart skip a beat.

He now understood that Gu Dai probably, no, definitely did not appreciate Song Ling's gift.

At the Capital Hospital.

Gu Zhi woke up at dawn.

Her hair disheveled, she lay on the hospital bed, her cheeks hollow and pale from repeated stomach washes, looking utterly exhausted.

She couldn't understand why things had turned out this way.

The drug was supposed to be ingested by Gu Dai, leading to her death. However, the situation had unexpectedly turned, and now Gu Dai was affected by the drug's toxicity.

Gu Zhi, unwilling to accept this turn of events, gave all her money to Zhou Gang, instructing him to deal with Gu Dai. Logically, by now, there should have been some outcome.

Gu Zhi's gaze was intensely fixed on her phone, eagerly awaiting news.

Finally, the ringtone of her phone broke the silence.

Gu Zhi hurriedly answered, asking anxiously, "How did it go? Was it successful?"

Instead of a response, she heard the door open, and Zhou Gang walked in.

Struggling to sit up, Gu Zhi frowned, "Why are you here?"

Before Zhou Gang could reply, she hurriedly asked, "What happened to that wretched Gu Dai? Is she in the hospital now?"

Growing impatient with Zhou Gang's silence, Gu Zhi snapped, "Are you mute? Why aren't you... AHH!"

Zhou Gang suddenly pushed her off the bed, towering over her.

Gu Zhi, holding her sore back, incredulously asked, "Have you gone mad? Why did you push me?"

Zhou Gang kicked her several times, and after seeing her unable to fight back, he crouched down and slapped her face repeatedly.

Gu Zhi's initial cries of surprise turned into silent pain, blood flowing from her eyes and nose to her ears. It seemed that any noise she made turned into pain.

Zhou Gang, who had acted swiftly in his attack, now had eyes reddened with fatigue. His voice was hoarse as he said, "You asked me to deal with Gu Dai, but you didn't tell me how difficult she would be to handle. I ended up being caught because of it."

Zhou Gang chuckled, "Miss Gu Dai said that as long as I teach you a lesson, she will let me off. Ha ha ha, now that I've beaten you like this, she certainly won't hold it against me anymore!"

After glancing at the blood-red mess on the ground, Zhou Gang gave Gu Zhi another vicious kick, nodded in satisfaction, and left.

When the nurse came to change the dressings, she was terrified by the scene in the hospital room, which looked like the site of a brutal murder.

After freshening up, Gu Dai came downstairs and saw Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi excitedly chatting in the living room.

Upon seeing Gu Dai, Meng Zhi hurried over and exclaimed, "Daidai, you must see the news. Zhou Gang has been arrested and put in jail."

Gu Dai raised her eyebrows and looked at her phone.

The news reported that Zhou Gang was sentenced to over four years in prison for assaulting a woman in the hospital, causing severe injuries.

Gu Dai recognized Gu Zhi at a glance, who was wrapped like a mummy, only her nose and eyes visible.

Meng Chuan nodded approvingly, smiling, "Zhou Gang did a surprisingly good job, beyond my expectations."

Meng Zhi also chimed in, "Beyond mine as well! But Daidai, you promised Zhou Gang yesterday that he wouldn't break the law, yet now he's in prison..."

Meng Chuan patted Meng Zhi's shoulder resignedly, "But Daidai didn't ask

Zhou Gang to do it this way, and what he did deserves prison time."

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi noticed Gu Dai's silence and looked at her curiously, only to see her gazing down at her phone.

Puzzled, Meng Chuan asked, "Daidai, what are you looking at?"

Gu Dai replied, "Looking at the news about me."

The two, baffled, took out their phones, and upon seeing the video, they trembled with anger.

Meng Zhi comforted, "Daidai, don't be sad. All this is in the past."

Meng Chuan declared, "I'll find out right now who released these videos!"

Chapter 267: Surveillance Video

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Gu Dai laughed and spoke, "Second Brother, Third Brother, I'm fine, don't be alarmed."

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi had grim faces as they watched the video of Gu Dai busily cleaning the entire villa. How could they not be angry?

Seeing the smile on Gu Dai's face only deepened their pain. They whispered, "Daidai, we are here. If you want to cry, just cry. Don't force a smile."

Gu Dai shook her head and replied, "I'm not pretending to be happy. Look at the comments section, the netizens aren't even sure it's me, and some are defending me."

"The surveillance footage is so blurry; you can barely make out a figure, let alone anything else."

"Yeah, with this quality, I could even claim the person in the video is my grandmother, not Miss Gu Dai."

"Even if it is Miss Gu Dai, so what? I always thought the rich CEOs were aloof, but here she is, personally cleaning the house. It's so down-to-earth!"

"Today is a special day, I share something in common with a rich CEO!"

After seeing the online comments, Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi were somewhat relieved, but still heartbroken over the many tasks Gu Dai had to endure.

When they were around, they wouldn't even let Daidai carry a suitcase, fearing she might get tired. But in the three years at the Song's, Daidai had to do so much.

Meng Chuan took out his phone, speaking softly, "Daidai, I'm ordering someone to find out who released the surveillance footage, and I'll have someone beat up the Song family members."

Gu Dai shook her head, refusing, "No need."

Meng Zhi, confused, looked at Gu Dai, "Why not? Are we going to let them off?"

Gu Dai clarified, "Of course not! I just want to personally deal with those who bullied me. As for the surveillance, I suspect it's Wang Lan who released it."

Wang Lan was wealthy but only spent lavishly on herself, like clothes and bags. She skimped on updating the home surveillance, rarely checking it and keeping the control room locked.

So, it had to be her.

Meng Chuan, head bowed in self-reproach, said, "Daidai, it's our fault that you've suffered so much these three years."

Meng Zhi added, "Now that we're back, we'll definitely avenge you!"

Gu Dai smiled and nodded in agreement, "Okay."

But there was one thing that puzzled Gu Dai. Her three brothers loved her so much, they wouldn't have gone abroad without seeing her body.

She voiced her confusion.

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi were taken aback, realizing they had overlooked this.

They recalled, "After your accident, we never stopped looking for you. But one day, Gu Ming said they found your body, and under Gu Si's arrangements, it was cremated."

Meng Zhi continued, "The body had been in water for so long, we couldn't make out the face. Our minds were clouded, and we never suspected for these three years that it wasn't you!"

Gu Dai lowered her eyes, softly speaking, "At the time of the cruise incident, Gu Si might have been involved too."

Meng Chuan and Meng Zhi's expressions turned cold.

Gu Si and Gu Ming were close, and she usually stayed abroad. But for Gu Dai's sake, she had returned...

They exchanged glances and set out to investigate Gu Si.

Song Ling, sleepless all night, had red eyes.

Zhao Xuan, facing Song Ling at this moment, wanted to keep his distance but had urgent news to report. Bracing his inner turmoil, he said, "President Song, our company's shares have dropped."

Song Ling frowned, fixating on Zhao Xuan, "What's the reason?"

Zhao Xuan shuddered in fear, "It's because of a video."

After Song Ling watched the video, his expression turned more and more serious.

He recognized Gu Dai in the video at a glance. Although netizens didn't know, they speculated, even guessing that she married Song Ling and was forced by the Song family to do housework.

The Song family's stocks plummeted as a result.

Zhao Xuan stammered, "President Song..."

Song Ling commanded coldly, "Find a way to reduce the video's popularity."

Zhao Xuan immediately complied, "Yes!"

Song Ling then called Wang Lan, accusing, "Did you release the surveillance video online?"

Wang Lan feigned innocence after a few seconds, "What video? I don't know what you're talking about."

Song Ling sneered, "Your actions have affected the company's interests.. Starting today, I won't be sending you money anymore!"

Chapter 268: Mistaken For Someone Else

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After Song Ling hung up on Wang Lan, he received a call from Song An.

Song An asked eagerly, "How did it go, did you give Gu Dai a birthday gift last night?"

Song Ling, recalling Gu Dai's indifferent attitude towards him and the other man last night, suppressed a surge of anger before replying, "Yes, I did."

Song An excitedly said, "That's good, that's good! Was Gu Dai happy to see your gift?"

Song Ling answered unhappily, "No, she wasn't."

After a long silence, Song An suggested, "Perhaps Gu Dai was moved deep down but didn't show it. You should take this opportunity to communicate more with her, ask her out for meals and shopping."

He added emphatically, "You must be kind to her. If I hear you're still acting like before, giving Gu Dai a hard time, I won't forgive you!"

Song Ling did want to get along with Gu Dai, but her cold attitude towards him made it difficult.

While Song An continued to lecture him, Song Ling responded automatically before collapsing weakly into his chair.

Having not slept all night and physically exhausted, Song Ling was kept awake by a fierce turmoil within. After finishing his work, he grabbed his suit from the chair and left the office.

Zhao Xuan, slightly bending, handed documents to Song Ling, "President

Song, these are the documents I've prepared..."

Song Ling nodded, "Just put them on the table. Drive me to a bar."

A bar? Zhao Xuan was surprised.

Song Ling, a workaholic, had never missed work, let alone visited a bar.

Zhao Xuan wanted to ask what was wrong but, recalling last night's events, held back his words.

The bar was ablaze with lights and neon.

Song Ling, sitting with a glass in hand, drank heavily, his eyes growing hazy. His phone rang, and he answered it casually.

Jiang Yue's soft voice came through, "Brother Song Ling, I miss you. How have you been? Next week is my birthday, will you come to my party?"

Upon hearing the words "birthday," Song Ling's thoughts immediately turned to Gu Dai and the indifferent look in her eyes when she gazed at him, filling his heart with agitation.

He refused coldly, "I can't."

Jiang Yue, shocked by his immediate and merciless refusal, persisted, "Brother Song Ling, I know I was wrong. Please forgive me. Besides, I saved your life once, you..."

Song Ling, not wanting to listen to Jiang Yue's moral blackmail, turned off his phone and threw it on the table.

Amid the noisy surroundings, Song Ling massaged his throbbing temples while drinking.

Suddenly, a woman appeared before him, "Handsome, I've been watching you for a long time. Drinking alone is lonely, right? I'm alone too. How about we keep each other company?"

Song Ling, his vision blurry, looked at the woman in red with indistinct features and asked with a smile, "How did you get here, hehe?"

The woman, playing with her hair and holding a glass, sat next to Song Ling, "I didn't expect you to know me."

Ye Huan, a singer with some influence in the industry, was surprised that Song Ling, a seeming workaholic, recognized her.

She smiled, "Though you know me, I think a formal introduction is needed. My name is Ye Huan, and you?"

Song Ling's smile faded as he stood up unsteadily, in a distant voice, he said, "You're not her."

Ye Huan, stunned, said in disbelief, "You're treating me as a substitute? Why do all of you treat me as a substitute?"

Song Ling, rubbing his head, apologized, "Sorry, I've had too much to drink, and my thoughts are confused."

He handed Ye Huan his business card, "For any compensation, contact me directly."

Ye Huan's smile turned bitter. As Song Ling's figure disappeared, she looked at the business card and whispered sadly, "Do all you men like to hurt someone and then offer compensation?"

Song Ling staggered along the street, observing couples walking together.

“Honey, you’ve worked hard. I’ve made your favorite corn and pork rib soup at home.”

“Darling, I bought you a gift. Guess what it is.”

“Clothes, shoes, bags.... I can’t guess, let’s hurry home and see!”

Chapter 269: Terminally Ill

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The image of Gu Dai flashed in Song Ling’s mind.

Gu Dai used to be like that too. She would always wait for him at home and cook his favorite dishes upon his return, her eyes shining brightly with love. But now, it all seemed like a dream that had vanished into thin air.

Song Ling looked up at the sun, trying to clear his head. He couldn’t understand why he kept dreaming of Gu Dai, and now, in his drunken state, he mistook other women for her.

Wandering aimlessly, Song Ling didn’t realize he was straying off course. Suddenly, a heavy blow from a stick struck his head, and he fell to the ground. Several figures emerged from the bushes, stuffed him into a sack, and carried him away.

At the Gu residence, Gu Yin tearfully looked at Gu Dai, whispering, “Cousin, I don’t want to leave you.”

Gu Dai crouched down, gently rubbing Gu Yin’s head, softly saying, “Yinyin, I’ll miss you too. But you need to go to school. Once you’ve learned enough, you can change our family’s situation.”

Gu Yin nodded in agreement, “Okay.”

Gu Dai handed her a gift.

Gu Yin, holding it, asked puzzled, "Cousin, what is this?"

Gu Dai encouraged her to open it, saying, "This is a phone for you. If anything happens, or if someone bullies you, call me. I'll come to help you right away!" Gu Yin hugged Gu Dai tightly, nodding vigorously with tears in her voice, "Okay."

Gu Dai reassured her, "Yinyin, come visit me during the holidays. You're always welcome here."

After spending time together, Gu Dai grew fond of the clever and lovely Gu Yin, feeling a deep sense of reluctance to part.

Gu Dai gave a few more instructions and asked the driver to drive slowly.

Only after the car disappeared from sight did she let out a sigh and turn back to her work.

By the time she looked up again, it was already dark outside.

Gu Dai, feeling hungry, pondered what to eat for dinner. But before she could decide, her phone rang.

Why was Zhao Xuan calling her? Puzzled, she answered the phone after a brief silence. Before she could speak, Zhao Xuan's anxious voice came through.

Zhao Xuan urgently said, "Mi... Miss Gu Dai, President Song has fainted. Can you come to see him?"

Gu Dai, without hesitation, refused, "No."

Zhao Xuan persisted, "Miss Gu Dai, President Song is seriously injured. I'm sending you a picture."

Almost immediately, Gu Dai received the photo from Zhao Xuan.

The photo showed Song Ling with his eyes shut, his clothes stained with blood, and his face marked with wounds. He looked pitiful, a far cry from his usual handsome appearance.

Gu Dai spoke indifferently, "He looks quite pitiful, but I'm about to have dinner, and my presence won't help his recovery."

Zhao Xuan, recalling Song Ling's recent concern for Gu Dai, earnestly said, "President Song is severely injured. If he doesn't recover well, it might affect our upcoming partnership on the Suzhou embroidery."

Gu Dai sighed and asked for the location.

After hanging up, she couldn't help but complain, "What a hassle."

When she arrived, she saw several doctors around Song Ling's bed.

Zhao Xuan approached her excitedly, "Miss Gu Dai, you're finally here."

Gu Dai, with her arms crossed, nodded indifferently, observing the scene, "Is your President Song terminally ill? Why so many doctors?"

Zhao Xuan's heart skipped a beat, and he quickly denied it, "No, no, no,

President Song is just seriously injured, it's not a terminal illness."

Gu Dai felt a tinge of regret and disappointment, "Alright then."

Gu Dai added, "I feel like my coming here might not really help Song Ling.

Maybe I should go back.”

Zhao Xuan hurriedly stopped her, “Your moral support is already enough for President Song. Besides, when he wakes up and sees you first, he will surely be very happy.”

Gu Dai shook her head, replying earnestly, “I think before he feels happy, he’ll probably be overwhelmed..”

Chapter 270:1 Won’t Take Care of You

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Zhao Xuan chuckled awkwardly, “No, that won’t happen... Let me tell you how President Song got injured. I wasn’t with him today, so I don’t know the exact details, but he was stuffed into a sack and dumped at the company’s entrance.” Gu Dai’s brows furrowed, her voice distant, “A sack?”

Zhao Xuan nodded.

Gu Dai, lowering her gaze, murmured, “I’ll step out for a moment.”

Zhao Xuan panicked, thinking his explanation would make Gu Dai stay, but she was still leaving.

He called out, “Miss Gu...”

“I’ll be back soon,” Gu Dai said before hurrying off to an internet cafe.

Gu Dai gazed at the dense code on the webpage. In no time, she figured everything out, cleared the records, and walked out of the internet cafe. Then, she made a phone call to Meng Chuan.

Meng Chuan didn’t answer, possibly busy, so Gu Dai called Meng Zhi.

Meng Zhi, at a banquet, brightened upon seeing Gu Dai's call. He excused himself from his friends and found a quiet spot to answer.

Meng Zhi asked cheerfully, "Daidai, I'm at a banquet. Do you want anything to eat? I'll bring something back for you."

Gu Dai's stomach growled as she quickly listed her desired dishes to Meng Zhi.

Meng Zhi confirmed each item and said he'd have the chef prepare them. "Great!" Gu Dai responded.

Then, remembering the serious matter at hand, she asked, "Third Brother, was it you and Second Brother who bagged Song Ling?"

Meng Zhi proudly replied, "Yes!"

After his answer, Meng Zhi suddenly became anxious, whispering, "Daidai, did we cause trouble for you?"

Gu Dai laughed, "How could you cause me trouble? I'm calling to say, next time you do something like this, be a bit more discreet, and consult with me. If someone digs deeper, it could be troublesome."

Meng Zhi nodded vigorously, "Understood, I'll tell Second Brother."

When Gu Dai returned to the hospital, Song Ling had woken up.

His eyes lit up, suppressing his happiness, he said indifferently, "You came."

Gu Dai nodded, "Since you've recovered, I'll leave."

Song Ling sat up suddenly, exclaiming, "I know who hurt me!"

Gu Dai paused.

Song Ling continued, "The only person I've wronged is you, so it must be those men around you, right?"

Gu Dai turned to face him, asking seriously, "Do you have any evidence?"

Song Ling was taken aback by her question.

Gu Dai sighed with relief internally and added, "Your assumption proves nothing. You're strong; how could they hurt you?"

Song Ling's face darkened, "I was drunk, so I couldn't defend myself... My words aren't mere guesses. If I investigate, I can find out. Why don't you take care of me as compensation for their actions?"

Gu Dai, as if hearing a joke, incredulously said, "Me, take care of you?"

Song Ling nodded, "They injured me severely. I can't even drink water or peel an apple, and I might need special care at night. You should take care of me." Gu Dai replied, "Sorry, I'm going home for dinner and don't have time. As for your problems, Zhao Xuan can help."

After leaving this remark, Gu Dai's phone beeped. Seeing the picture of food sent by Meng Zhi, she swallowed and quickened her steps home.

Song Ling, in frustration, swept a cup off the table. The pieces shattered on the floor as he fixated on them with bloodshot eyes. Why did Gu Dai staunchly defend those men, refusing to believe his words?

Before, when he was injured, Gu Dai would stay up all night to care for him. Now, she left without a hint of concern in her eyes.

Zhao Xuan, sensing the growing chill in the room, shivered in a corner of the hospital..