

## **I Regained 321**

### Chapter 321: Block Song Ling

Song Ling, though confused, commanded Zhou Ci, “Regardless of whether I have the right, from today onwards, you are not allowed to like Gu Dai!”

Song Ling felt that if Zhou Ci wasn’t a brother he had known for many years, he would have fought him right there.

Watching Song Ling’s staggering departure, Zhou Ci thought him absurd and promptly dismissed his warning.

Once outside, Song Ling looked up at the dark sky, his eyes reflecting uncertainty.

He had always denied it, firmly believing that his feelings for Gu Dai were only guilt and that his kindness was mere compensation.

But was it really just guilt?

Recalling the moment when Zhou Ci mentioned pursuing Gu Dai, the momentary pause of his heart, and his recent emotional fluctuations because of her, Song Ling suddenly realized his feelings for Gu Dai might be more than just guilt—it could be... love.

The word ‘love’ echoed in his mind, accompanied by Gu Dai’s image. He admitted to himself that he indeed loved her.

Having reached this conclusion, he hesitantly dialed Zhao Xuan’s number.

Zhao Xuan, groggily waking from sleep, asked in confusion, “President Song, what do you need?”

After a pause, Song Ling finally said, "Do you have any methods for pursuing a girl?"

Pursuing a girl? Zhao Xuan was shocked to hear such words from Song Ling and doubted whether he was still half-asleep.

He instinctively asked, "President Song, are you thinking of pursuing Miss Gu Dai?"

Song Ling, feeling exposed, reacted with a pounding heart, "I asked you for recommendations, why are you guessing?"

Hearing Song Ling's tone, Zhao Xuan became more convinced that the person he liked was indeed Gu Dai. With his sleepiness evaporated, he excitedly suggested, "President Song, I think you should first be nice to Miss Gu Dai." Zhao Xuan's reference to "Miss Gu Dai" made Song Ling purse his lips, wanting to deny, but ultimately he said nothing.

After all, Zhao Xuan would find out sooner or later, and there was no need to deny it.

As Zhao Xuan shared his ideas, Song Ling couldn't help but retort, "What kind of lousy idea is that? Don't I know that already?"

Zhao Xuan felt wronged, remembering Song Ling's past attitude towards Gu Dai and thinking it was crucial for him.

Zhao Xuan added, "President Song, if you're pursuing a girl, it's essential to know what she likes."

Recalling that he already knew Gu Dai's dining preferences, Song Ling felt somewhat satisfied with Zhao Xuan's words and indicated him to continue.

Zhao Xuan, encouraged by Song Ling's attitude, continued, "Most importantly, you must frequently appear before Miss Gu Dai, making your presence felt, so she doesn't forget you."

After Song Ling hung up, his gaze landed on Gu Dai's contact information. After half an hour of contemplation, he resolved to call her.

However, to his surprise, Gu Dai hung up as soon as he dialed. Song Ling, thinking she might have done it accidentally, felt slightly better and called again. This time, the call wasn't immediately disconnected but was still hung up after a few rings.

Undeterred, Song Ling called once more, only to be greeted by an automated voice message.

"You have reached a number that is temporarily unavailable, please try again later..."

Song Ling was no fool; he knew he had been blocked by Gu Dai.

At the Gu residence.

After blocking Song Ling, Gu Dai instantly felt the air around her become fresher. She regretted not blocking him sooner, instead of waiting until now.

Seeing Gu Dai's actions, Gu Yin asked curiously, "Cousin, was that a call from someone you dislike?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Something like that."

Gu Yin thoughtfully asked, "Cousin, was it that brother from the plane?"

Gu Dai, surprised that Gu Yin knew even this, was momentarily taken aback.

Gu Yin declared, "Since it's someone Cousin dislikes, I dislike them too. Goodnight, Cousin. Rest early.."

Chapter 322: Your lack of ability

Gu Dai was about to tell Gu Yin that such thinking was not right, but seeing that Gu Yin had already closed her eyes, she shook her head in resignation and quietly closed the door as she left.

Exiting the room, Gu Dai saw Wu Zhen hurrying towards her.

Gu Dai asked in confusion, "Uncle Wu, what's the matter?"

Wu Zhen quickly reported, "Miss, I need to inform you about something. There's an undercover agent planted by Gu Ming in our villa."

Gu Dai's brows furrowed, "What's going on?"

Wu Zhen explained, "I've identified him. The mole, Li Shui, hired by Gu Ming, has been inquiring about you recently and even met with Gu Ming today."

Gu Dai nodded, "Okay, I got it."

Wu Zhen, not hearing further instructions from Gu Dai, chose not to inquire about how to deal with Li Shui, trusting in her judgment.

Back in her room, Gu Dai contacted her sources to investigate Gu Ming and soon had results.

Li Shui had informed Gu Ming about the company's plan to launch a Suzhou embroidery project. Gu Ming was now contacting shareholders, hoping they would oppose it, and several had already responded.

Gu Dai had planned to announce the Suzhou embroidery project in a few days, but with Gu Ming causing trouble, she decided to move up the timeline and deal with him sooner.

The next day, the shareholders gathered in the Gu Group's meeting room.

Dressed in a sleek black suit, Gu Dai's composed gaze made the shareholders instinctively lower their heads as she scanned the room.

After Zheng Ming distributed the documents, Gu Dai spoke, "I've called you here today to make an announcement."

Wang Huai interjected, "I oppose the Suzhou embroidery cooperation!"

Yang Gao followed suit, "I also oppose it. The embroidery process is tedious and lacks market demand. It's clearly a loss-making venture. Didn't you see what happened to Wu Corporation last year? They went bankrupt trying to pursue Suzhou embroidery."

Lin Hong added, "If it fails, we shareholders will be the ones affected."

As the three of them led the charge, the other shareholders joined in, creating a commotion in the meeting room.

Gu Dai watched them argue coldly, waiting for the noise to die down before speaking, "How did you know I was going to discuss Suzhou embroidery?"

The three were taken aback, not expecting this question.

Wang Huai, glancing at the documents in front of him, hastily said, "Didn't you just distribute these documents?"

Yang Gao and Lin Hong, regaining their senses, echoed, "Yes, we just saw them. How else would we know?"

In reality, they had received information from Gu Ming the previous night, but they dared not speak the truth now.

Gu Dai didn't expose them, nodding as if believing their story. She firmly stated, "I believe Suzhou embroidery has market potential, and today's meeting is not to discuss but to inform you of this decision. You need to rein in your opposition."

The three, still sweating from Gu Dai's unexpected question, felt discontent but didn't dare voice it.

Gu Dai continued, "According to market research..."

Gu Ming interrupted, "Gu Dai, as the president, you should listen to the shareholders, think of the big picture, not make stubborn decisions like a child, disregarding the collective interest of the company."

Gu Dai looked up towards the door and saw Gu Ming, a smile on his face, slowly walking in.

Seeing Gu Dai silent, Gu Ming assumed she was frightened and continued, "I once initiated a Suzhou embroidery project too. In reality, it was unfeasible. Luckily, I realized something was amiss in time and didn't pursue it further, or the Gu Group would have surely gone bankrupt."

Gu Ming added, "And now, you're hell-bent on starting a Suzhou embroidery project. If it's not due to your lack of insight, then it must be a malicious intent to sabotage everyone in the company!"

Having finally found a fault in Gu Dai, Gu Ming was eager to pin all the blame on her. In the process, he subtly praised his own foresight, showcasing his capability in hopes of regaining control of the Gu Group.

Gu Dai, leaning back in her chair with her arms crossed, waited for Gu Ming to finish. Then, fixing him with a direct gaze, she retorted, "Your failure was due to your lack of ability, but I have the ability.. I won't fail!"

Chapter 323: Partners

Upon hearing Gu Dai's words, everyone was momentarily stunned.

Regaining their composure, they recalled the series of decisions Gu Dai had made since taking over Gu Group, and how these had benefited the company. Gradually, they began to believe her words.

Perhaps, Gu Dai really could make the Suzhou embroidery project a success.

Gu Ming's expression soured. With a cold voice, he said, "You speak well, but it could all just be a ploy to deceive the shareholders. After all, even if it fails, that will be a problem for later."

As Gu Ming's words settled, the crowd snapped back to reality.

"Yes, maybe it's just to keep us calm for now."

"If the Suzhou embroidery project fails, our position in the industry will decline."

"Chairwoman Gu, Gu Ming is just looking out for the company. Don't oppose him just because of power struggles."

Gu Ming, dissatisfied with being addressed directly by his name, knew this wasn't the time to dwell on it. He made a mental note of the shareholder's names, planning to deal with them once he regained control of Gu Group.

He turned to Gu Dai with a smile, "Daidai, I, as your uncle, believe in your ability. You must be tired recently, so why not take a break and let me manage the company?"

Gu Dai's lips curved into a smile, her gaze on Gu Ming nonchalant yet penetrating.

"Do you intend to take over the company while I rest?" she asked.

Gu Ming, caught off-guard by her directness, struggled to maintain his composure, accusingly retorting, "Daidai, how can you think so poorly of your uncle?"

"I'm just concerned about your recent exhaustion. Once you're well rested, I was planning to return the company to you. And yet, this is what you think of me!"

Gu Dai looked at him skeptically, "Are you sure?"

Gu Ming's eyes flickered, his voice trembling, "Yes, I'm sure."

Wang Huai, unable to bear it, spoke up for Gu Ming, "Chairwoman Gu, he's your uncle. How could he harm you?"

Yang Gao added, "Yes, we've known him for years, and he's a decent person."

Lin Hong, though silent, nodded in agreement.

Gu Dai glanced at Zheng Ming beside her, signaling him to proceed. Her gaze then fixed intently on the three, "You trust Gu Ming so much and yet you're unaware of his recent actions."

At her words, confusion spread across their faces, including Gu Ming's, who was clueless about what she meant.

Zheng Ming projected information from his computer onto the big screen.

"Mr. Gu Ming recently got into antiques, but due to his limited knowledge, he was swindled and accrued substantial debts. Unable to repay, he resorted to loan sharks," Zheng Ming revealed.

The shareholders were surprised by Gu Ming's actions, but considered it his personal issue, unrelated to them.

Gu Dai, perceiving their thoughts, spoke softly, "But the collateral for his high-interest loans was company shares."

As soon as Gu Dai spoke, all the shareholders were stunned. In disbelief, they turned to Gu Ming for confirmation, "Is what Chairwoman Gu said true?"

At that moment, Gu Ming was completely dumbfounded. He hadn't anticipated that Gu Dai would be aware of this matter, but under the pressing inquiries of the crowd, he didn't dare to admit it.

Despite his denial, Gu Dai had evidence.

Zheng Ming clicked the mouse, and the next second, documents with Gu Ming's fingerprints, along with proof of his drunken brawls, smashed antiques, and borrowed money – all under the names of Wang Huai and others – appeared on the screen.

Wang Huai and the others trembled with rage.

"Gu Ming, how have I wronged you? To tarnish my reputation like this!" Yang Gao exclaimed.

Lin Hong added, "No wonder people have been looking at me strangely lately.

It was all because of you!"

If not for the presence of many others, they would have pounced on him in anger.

Amidst the furious glares, Gu Ming restrained his urge to flee, turning to Gu Dai with a forced response, "Don't try to divert attention. The main issue is your Suzhou embroidery project. You don't even have a partner!"

Gu Dai calmly replied, "Everyone, please review the documents distributed earlier. The partners are listed there.."

## Chapter 324: Searching for the Suzhou Embroidery Master

The crowd's attention shifted to the documents, and upon seeing Zhou Corporation and Song Corporation as the partners, they were all dumbfounded. "Are these the corporations I'm thinking of?"

"Of course, it's them. The documents clearly state the responsible persons are Zhou Ci and Song Ling!"

"With these two as partners, the chances of the Suzhou embroidery project failing are greatly reduced!"

Gu Ming's brow furrowed deeply as he stood among the discussions. He snatched the documents from someone nearby, and upon seeing the two names clearly written, his whole body trembled.

He couldn't fathom how Gu Dai had become acquainted with Song Ling and Zhou Ci, nor why they would participate in a Suzhou embroidery project that seemed destined for loss.

What trick had Gu Dai, thatbit\*h, used?

Everyone scrutinized the distributed documents and realized that Gu Dai's interest in the Suzhou embroidery industry was not a whim but a meticulously planned execution.

After reading the plan, they began to believe that Suzhou embroidery might indeed find a market, maybe even becoming globally popular.

After leaving the meeting room, they looked around but couldn't find Gu Ming anywhere.

Wang Huai asked, "Have you seen Gu Ming?"

Yang Gao replied, "I just saw him running off."

Lin Hong, with a dark expression, said coldly, "Let's go after him. Gu Ming dared to plot against us behind our backs. We must teach him a lesson. He can't get away with this!"

The three left briskly with stern faces.

After everyone had left, Gu Dai turned to Zheng Ming and inquired, "How were the results of the recent online Suzhou embroidery competition?"

Zheng Ming sighed and showed her the competition results.

Gu Dai glanced over them, noticing that every submitted work had flaws, some quite severe.

"In this era, fewer and fewer people know and learn Suzhou embroidery..."

Zheng Ming suddenly remembered someone, "Chairwoman Gu, there's a master in Suzhou City named Zhen Chan. I heard her Suzhou embroidery skills are exceptional. That was a few years ago, though. She's been off the radar recently."

"Zhen Chan..." Gu Dai repeated softly, the name striking a familiar chord. A scene flashed in her mind.

It was a summer evening. She was young, sitting under a big tree with her grandmother, watching the sunset.

Her grandmother had said, "I once visited a secluded village in Suzhou City. The scenery was picturesque, untouched by the outside world. This isolation allowed the villagers to deeply study Suzhou embroidery. Among them was a master craftswoman, Zhen Chan. Her works were..."

Her grandmother's subsequent words were all about the beauty and lifelike quality of Zhen Chan's works. Gu Dai had been captivated, and it was this story that sparked her interest in Suzhou embroidery.

Excited, Gu Dai stood up and asked, "Zheng Ming, do you know where this master lives?"

Zheng Ming quickly searched.

Although Zhen Chan's online presence was sparse, her participation in competitions years ago meant there were still traces to be found.

"Chairwoman Gu, I found it! Master Zhen Chan lives in Xiuyang Village, Suzhou City!"

Upon receiving the address, Gu Dai immediately went home to pack, intent on finding Master Zhen Chan.

Gu Yin, seeing Gu Dai's actions, asked, "Cousin, are you going on a long trip?"

Gu Dai squatted down, speaking softly, "Yes, I'm going on a business trip. I'll bring a gift for Yin Yin when I return. You must be good while I'm away. If you need anything, you can tell Brother Meng Zhi or the maid taking care of you."

Gu Yin felt reluctant but obediently nodded, "Okay, I'll be good at home!"

Gu Dai checked Gu Yin's wounds, relieved to see they were healing, but still couldn't help but instruct, "Yinyin, make sure to rest well these next few days. When your cousin returns, I'll take you out."

Gu Yin hugged Gu Dai, smiling, "Don't worry, Cousin. I'll rest well. You must take care of yourself on your trip. I'd be heartbroken if you fell ill."

As she spoke, Gu Yin shyly lowered her head, her cheeks flushing with a soft rosy hue..

Chapter 325: Finding Xiuyang Village

Gu Dai couldn't help but find humor in Gu Yin's words, she didn't think Gu Yin made herself embarrassed with her own words.

"Alright, I'm leaving now," Gu Dai said.

Gu Yin nodded obediently.

When Su Ting returned, he coincidentally saw Gu Dai with her luggage, ready to leave, and quickly asked, "Sis, where are you going?"

"To Suzhou City," Gu Dai replied.

Su Ting swiftly offered, "Sis, it's too dangerous for you to go alone. Let me accompany you!"

Gu Yin chimed in, "Yes, cousin, let Brother Su Ting go with you."

Though young, Gu Yin could guess Su Ting's feelings towards Gu Dai, especially given his glances at her. She preferred Su Ting over the uncle from the plane.

"It's not necessary, I've been to many places before..." Gu Dai began, but when she saw their hopeful eyes, her voice faltered, eventually conceding, "Alright, you can come with me."

Su Ting's eyes lit up instantly. "Sis, I'll pack my things right now. It'll only take three minutes."

Watching Su Ting's hurried departure, Gu Dai called out, "No rush, take your time."

Su Ting quickly responded, but Gu Dai sensed he hadn't really heeded her words.

Gu Yin giggled and clapped her hands joyfully, "With Brother Su Ting to take care of you, I'll be at ease."

Gu Dai, seeing Gu Yin's astute demeanor, called out helplessly, "Yinyin."

Gu Yin looked up at her cousin innocently.

Gu Dai, initially wanting to say something else, softened her tone, "If anything happens at home, you can call me."

"Okay!" Gu Yin nodded.

Despite Gu Dai's assurances that there was no need to hurry, Su Ting packed his belongings in less than three minutes.

Pushing his luggage and taking Gu Dai's as well, Su Ting smiled, "Sis, let's go."

A few hours later, they arrived in Suzhou City. After settling into their hotel and leaving their luggage, they headed to Xiuyang Village to find Zhen Chan.

Following the GPS, Gu Dai reached the destination, only to find no sign of the village.

"Did we get the location wrong?" Su Ting wondered aloud.

Gu Dai checked the GPS for a few seconds, then shook her head, "No, it's correct. Let's ask a local."

As she spoke, she saw a middle-aged woman and a young girl approaching.

Gu Dai approached them gently, "Hello, my name is Gu Dai. Do you know how to get to Xiuyang Village?"

The girl smiled, "Hi, I'm Chi Mian, a villager of Xiuyang. Are you here for..."

“We’re looking for Master Zhen Chan to involve her in our company’s Suzhou embroidery industry,” Gu Dai explained.

Chi Mian nodded in understanding, “I see. My mother and I were just heading back to the village. We can go together.”

Gu Dai thanked her, and Su Ting did the same.

Chi Mian waved off their thanks.

Chi Mian’s mother eyed Gu Dai and Su Ting warily, then quickly exchanged a few words with Chi Mian, who responded with a smile.

Gu Dai, not understanding their rapid conversation, looked on in confusion.

Chi Mian noticed and explained, “My mother has never left the village and only speaks our local dialect. She was worried you might be bad people, so I reassured her.”

After speaking, Chi Mian led Gu Dai and Su Ting into the village.

Walking on the rugged, winding mountain path, surrounded by lush vegetation, Gu Dai realized why she couldn’t find the village earlier – Xiuyang Village was incredibly hidden.

As Gu Dai nearly stumbled, Su Ting quickly caught her, ensuring she wasn’t hurt before he relaxed.

“Be careful, sis.”

Gu Dai, caught off guard by Su Ting’s concerned look, awkwardly averted her eyes, stammering, “Yes, I’ll... be careful.”

Realizing her distraction had almost caused her fall, Gu Dai promptly cleared her mind of wandering thoughts.

Chi Mian, noticing Gu Dai's avoidance of Su Ting's gaze and Su Ting's constant attention on her, couldn't help but laugh, remarking to Gu Dai, "You and your boyfriend seem to have a great relationship.."

#### Chapter 326: Throw Out the Flowers

Gu Dai was momentarily taken aback, then clarified, "You're mistaken, he and I aren't a couple..."

Chi Mian nodded in understanding. "I see."

It seemed the boy had not yet won over the girl's heart.

Chi Mian gave Su Ting an encouraging thumbs-up, considering he was handsome and his eyes were filled with tender affection when he looked at Gu Dai. She was quite optimistic about his chances.

Su Ting nodded in response.

Chi Mian led the two into the village, then pointed ahead, "Just walk straight and then turn left to get there."

At that moment, Chi Mian's mother spoke, and Chi Mian relayed her words to Gu Dai, "My mom says that Master Zhen Chan was once invited to a Suzhou embroidery competition, but the person who invited her turned out to be a fraud. So she's quite wary now and might not agree to your request."

Gu Dai responded, "Thank you for telling me, Auntie. I'll prove to her that I'm not a fraud."

She immediately messaged Zheng Ming.

Gu Dai: Send me the information about the Suzhou embroidery project.

A minute later, Zheng Ming replied.

Zheng Ming: Chairwoman Gu, there's a contract here that needs your signature. Can I come to you now?

Gu Dai: I'm currently in Suzhou City. Leave the contract in my office, I'll check it when I return.

Zheng Ming exclaimed in surprise, "Suzhou City!"

Chairwoman Gu was incredibly efficient. She had only learned about Master Zhen Chan in the morning, and by afternoon, she was already in Suzhou City. Did her request for information mean she was already at Master Zhen Chan's residence?

Suddenly, Song Ling's voice reached Zheng Ming's ears, "What about Suzhou City?"

Zheng Ming, taken aback and seeing Song Ling holding flowers followed by Zhao Xuan, instinctively said, "Chairwoman Gu has gone to Suzhou City."

Song Ling asked coldly, "What is Gu Dai doing in Suzhou City?"

Realizing the situation, Zheng Ming did not answer.

Song Ling clenched his fists tightly, glaring at Zheng Ming fiercely. A few minutes later, he tossed the flowers in his arms to Zhao Xuan and turned to leave.

Zhao Xuan, trying to be as inconspicuous as possible, hurriedly followed, whispering, "President... President Song..."

Song Ling commanded, "Throw away the flowers!"

Zhao Xuan dared not object and quickly discarded the flowers in a nearby trash can.

He regretted it deeply. Had he known that Gu Dai wouldn't be in the office today, he would never have suggested Song Ling buy flowers for her as a surprise.

Song Ling ordered coldly, "Find out where in Suzhou City Gu Dai has gone. Send me the address immediately, and prepare the private jet right away!"

Zhao Xuan quickly complied, "Yes!"

Meanwhile, Gu Dai had arrived at Master Zhen Chan's doorstep.

Su Ting stepped forward and gently knocked on the door. After a few seconds, a voice asked, "Who is it?"

Then the door opened.

A woman stepped out, her black hair streaked with silver strands and she wore a dress embroidered with exquisite patterns. She exuded a serene aura that made one feel an instinctive closeness.

Seeing the patterns on her dress, Gu Dai respectfully inquired, "Hello, may I ask if you are Master Zhen Chan?"

Zhen Chan glanced at Gu Dai and Su Ting, then replied distantly, "I am Zhen Chan. What do you want?"

Gu Dai began, "I'm Gu Dai, the chairwoman of Gu Group. We're planning to launch a Suzhou embroidery project and will be hosting a competition soon. I would be honored if you could participate. Here's my information, and..."

Before Gu Dai could finish, Zhen Chan abruptly shut the door, refusing, "Leave, I'm not interested in any competition!"

Remembering Chi Mian's mother's words, Gu Dai quickly added, "Master Zhen Chan, I'm not a fraud. I admire your talent, that's why I'm here. And don't worry about expenses, I'll cover everything."

Zhen Chan scoffed, "You're all liars, you don't appreciate Suzhou embroidery! I won't open the door, just leave!"

Despite Gu Dai's further attempts, Zhen Chan didn't respond.

Su Ting pursed his lips, pondering for a moment before suggesting, "Sis, maybe we should print the documents and I can climb over the wall to deliver them to her."

Perhaps upon seeing their plan for Suzhou embroidery, she might change her mind.

On their way back, they happened to meet Chi Mian.

After learning about the situation, Chi Mian sighed softly and said, "We have a printer at home. Come with me.."

Chapter 327: Saving Zhen Chan

Chi Mian's home was a quaint, ancient manor, simply decorated yet full of charm.

Holding the freshly printed documents, Gu Dai couldn't help but ask, "How was Master Zhen Chan deceived back then?"

Chi Mian gazed skyward, recalling, "My mom mentioned that a group had once approached Aunt Zhen to participate in a competition. She returned very upset. The specifics are unclear, but we all knew Aunt Zhen had been duped, making it hard for her to trust others now."

Gu Dai nodded, resolving to investigate the matter further.

Preparing to try again with Master Zhen Chan, she suddenly felt the ground tremble as she stood up.

Sensing something amiss, Gu Dai asked Chi Mian, "Did you feel the ground shake just now?"

Chi Mian, unperturbed, nodded, "I did feel it. But such tremors are common here; we're used to them."

Still uneasy but reassured by Chi Mian's calm, Gu Dai tried to set aside her worries.

Su Ting approached Gu Dai, saying, "Sister, this could be a prelude to an earthquake."

Stepping outside, Gu Dai saw the water in the pond rise slightly and bubbles form. Frogs leapt from the lotus pond to the shore, dogs barked incessantly, and birds scattered in the sky.

Gu Dai urgently called out to Chi Mian, "An earthquake is coming, get Aunt Chi to open space!"

Turning to Su Ting, she commanded, "Let's warn the others in the village!"

Fortunately, they had ample time to gather people before the earthquake struck. Looking around, Gu Dai suddenly realized that Master Zhen Chan was nowhere to be seen.

She hurried back towards Master Zhen Chan's house.

Su Ting noticed Gu Dai's actions and asked, "Sis, where are you going?"

Without turning back, Gu Dai replied, "I'm going to find Master Zhen Chan. Take care of everyone here!"

Su Ting wanted to follow, but heeded Gu Dai's instruction and stayed, watching her retreating figure with concern.

Chi Mian, observing Su Ting's demeanor, said, "I can take care of things here. Go find Sister Gu Dai."

Upon hearing this, Su Ting quickly rushed off.

Meanwhile, Song Ling had arrived at Xiuyang Village according to the map.

Zhao Xuan, following Song Ling, couldn't help but glance at him, thinking to himself that President Song was naturally skilled in pursuing girls and didn't need his advice.

Song Ling, noticing Zhao Xuan's glances, felt embarrassed but quickly composed himself, stating coldly, "I came to Xiuyang Village not for Gu Dai, but for Master Zhen Chan. My grandfather had some acquaintance with her. It's only right for me to pay her a visit."

Zhao Xuan blurted out, "President Song, I think you should change your habit of having a sharp tongue and a soft heart. Only by expressing your true feelings..."

He stopped mid-sentence under Song Ling's icy stare, quickly diverting, "Let's go in, President Song. Master Zhen Chan will surely be happy to see you."

Song Ling felt speechless.

Song Ling was tempted to dock Zhao Xuan's pay, but before he could speak, he felt the ground shake.

Zhao Xuan reacted instantly, "President Song, this seems like an earthquake. We should go back!"

Song Ling's expression turned grave as he coldly said, "You go back."

With that, he ran into the village.

Zhao Xuan looked at Song Ling's departing figure, then at the way back, but ultimately decided to follow Song Ling.

Upon entering the village, Song Ling saw dozens of men and women gathered in an open area, but Gu Dai was not among them. His brow furrowed, and his face showed signs of anxiety.

Chi Mian, noticing the stranger, asked warily, "Who are you?"

Song Ling, ignoring the question, demanded, "Where's Gu Dai?"

Chi Mian glanced at Song Ling and answered, "She went into the village to help people."

Help people?

Anger surged through Song Ling. "She dares to risk herself in such a dangerous situation as an earthquake? This is reckless!"

As he prepared to rush in, the ground trembled more violently, trees began to fall, and surrounding buildings started to sway....

Chapter 328: Waking Up

Startled for a few seconds, Song Ling regained his composure and was prepared to rush inside.

Zhao Xuan quickly grabbed Song Ling, urging, "President Song, it's too dangerous now. Maybe we should wait for help?"

Song Ling shook off Zhao Xuan's grasp, "By the time help arrives, it might be too late."

Realizing Song Ling's determination, Zhao Xuan let go, but then he noticed something.

Zhao Xuan exclaimed, "President Song, you don't need to go in for Miss Gu Dai. She has already come back."

Song Ling looked in the direction of Zhao Xuan's gaze, joy flickering in his eyes. However, seeing Gu Dai helping an elderly person, with Su Ting by her side, his expression darkened.

Gu Dai had indeed made a bold move, coming to Suzhou City without informing him and even bringing Su Ting along.

Suddenly, the ground shook violently. The houses around the spot where Gu Dai and her companions were located wobbled perilously, on the brink of collapse.

Gu Dai, noticing the danger, urgently said to Su Ting, "We need to hurry!"

But just as she spoke, the house collapsed towards them.

Gu Dai's pupils constricted as she instinctively shielded Master Zhen Chan.

The falling house and trees created a cloud of dust. Song Ling, facing the devastation, rushed in, his pupils narrowing in focus.

"Quick, rescue them!" he shouted.

By then, the earthquake had ended, and upon hearing Song Ling's voice, everyone surged forward to help.

Song Ling worked ceaselessly, his expression growing grimmer, silently praying for Gu Dai's safety.

The rescue team arrived and joined the effort.

Master Zhen Chan's voice came faintly, "Is anyone there? Help..."

Gu Dai felt a sharp pain in her head, her vision darkening. She struggled to open her eyes but lacked the strength as her mind slipped into chaos.

She saw the man from her dreams again, standing under a white light, his features softened, teaching her coding with a gentle voice.

She couldn't resist stepping forward, reaching out to touch him, but just as her hand extended, he disappeared.

Who was he...

Gu Dai opened her eyes to a clear blue sky, her hand on her aching head. She sat up shakily.

Chi Mian, seeing Gu Dai awake, hurried over, "Are you feeling alright? Do you need water?"

Gu Dai shook her head, "I'm fine."

Chi Mian sighed in relief, "Luckily, the building that fell where you were had a support structure that held it up. And your boyfriend protected you. The doctor said your injuries aren't severe."

Boyfriend? Gu Dai was momentarily puzzled, then quickly asked, "How is Su Ting? Is he seriously hurt?"

Chi Mian replied, "The doctor said his injuries aren't serious, but he's still unconscious."

Gu Dai's expression grew solemn as she left the ward, "I'm going to see him."

Then she remembered, "How is Master Zhen Chan?"

Chi Mian, about to stop Gu Dai, was distracted by her question, "Auntie Zhen was well protected by you. She's uninjured, just startled by the accident. She's resting now."

Gu Dai nodded, reassured, "That's good."

Su Ting lay unconscious on the hospital bed.

Gu Dai approached, checking his pulse and examining him. Finding no serious issues, she finally relaxed.

Chi Mian, observing Gu Dai's actions, asked in surprise, "Do you know medicine?"

Gu Dai nodded, "I have some knowledge."

Though Gu Dai downplayed her skill, Chi Mian was impressed by her proficient manner.

Chi Mian's eyes sparkled with admiration, then she remembered something when she saw Song Ling unconscious on another bed.

Chi Mian explained, "He arrived during the earthquake, saying he came to find you. After the collapse, he helped the rescue team look for you. He fainted from exhaustion after seeing you were safe."

Gu Dai glanced at Song Ling, her brows furrowing.

Song Ling's hands and arms were covered in wounds, likely from moving heavy debris.

Perplexed by Song Ling's unexpected appearance, Gu Dai, nonetheless being a person who understood the importance of reciprocity, promptly approached to check on his condition.

Song Ling's eyelashes fluttered, and his eyes slowly opened a sliver..

## Chapter 329: Saving People

Song Ling struggled to open his eyes, only managing to catch a hazy glimpse of a figure, a woman's silhouette that stirred a sense of familiarity in him.

In that moment, it was as if he saw the legendary doctor who had once saved him.

Overwhelmed with excitement, Song Ling tried to open his eyes wider to clearly see the face of this miraculous healer, but the heaviness of slumber overcame him once more, and he fell back into unconsciousness.

Gu Dai, unaware of Song Ling's changing expressions, had examined him and, finding no internal injuries, only superficial wounds, withdrew her gaze.

Turning her attention to Su Ting, she picked up the iodine from the table and began treating the wounds on his back.

Su Ting's eyes fluttered open weakly as he called out feebly, "Sis... sis..."

Gu Dai, relieved to see Su Ting awake, inquired, "Do you feel discomfort anywhere?"

Shaking his head, Su Ting replied, "I'm fine, just some scratches."

He had used his back to shield Gu Dai from falling debris, bearing the brunt of the impact himself.

At that moment, voices echoed from outside the door.

“There are too many injured, we’re short on hands. Contact the doctors on leave and ask them to come in immediately!”

“Director, I’ve called back everyone I could, but the chief physician is on a trip to...”

Gu Dai stepped out and offered calmly, “Let me help.”

The hospital director and the doctors looked at her with a mix of surprise and skepticism.

Gu Dai nodded, her voice steady, “If you’re doubtful, test me with some medical questions. I can perform surgeries while you observe.”

One of the doctors, upon hearing Gu Dai’s offer, couldn’t help but protest, “This is a crisis! Your behavior is reckless!”

But the director saw things differently. Looking at Gu Dai, he asked after a few seconds, “Are you the one who predicted the earthquake and advised the villagers of Xiuyang to evacuate?”

Confused as to why the director was asking this, Gu Dai simply replied, “Yes.”

Impressed, the director, and even the initially skeptical doctors, began to view her differently.

After all, thanks to her, the villagers of Xiuyang had suffered only minor injuries in the earthquake.

The director rapidly fired a series of important questions at Gu Dai, to which she responded not just correctly, but impressively so.

The doctors, forgetting the director's presence, urged her, "Let's go, we need to save lives!"

Seeing Gu Dai preparing to leave, Su Ting also got out of bed to follow.

Gu Dai objected, "You're injured, you should rest."

Su Ting shook his head with a smile, "It's just a scratch. I may not know medicine, but I can help carry things, fetch water."

Nodding, Gu Dai advised, "Take care of yourself, and speak up if you feel unwell."

Zhao Xuan, just returning to the hospital, saw Gu Dai and Su Ting hurrying away. He instinctively called out, "Miss Gu Dai."

Gu Dai responded, "Please tell Song Ling I'm grateful when he wakes up. There's medicine on the table for him."

With these words, she briskly walked away.

Following the doctor into the operating room, Gu Dai encountered skepticism from all but the few who had witnessed her capabilities. Undeterred by the doubts of others, she remained focused on the surgeries at hand.

One operation led to another, and Gu Dai tirelessly performed four to five surgeries in succession. It was only after the arrival of the rescue medical team that she finally paused for a brief rest.

Su Ting had been waiting at the door. As soon as he saw Gu Dai emerge, he hurriedly offered her water and began to massage her weary shoulders.

“Sis, Master Zhen Chan wishes to see you. She’s waiting for you at the hotel,” Su Ting informed her.

Gu Dai rose and headed towards the hotel, questioning, “Why didn’t you tell Master Zhen Chan to rest first? Whatever she wants to discuss can surely wait until tomorrow.”

Su Ting replied helplessly, “No matter how much I persuaded her, Master Zhen Chan insisted on waiting for you.”

Arriving swiftly at the hotel, Gu Dai saw Zhen Chan and immediately inquired, “Master Zhen Chan, what brings you to me?”

Zhen Chan, looking down, said, “Mianmian showed me your company’s plan for Suzhou embroidery.”

Gu Dai’s expression tensed, and she spoke earnestly, “Master Zhen Chan, I am serious about Suzhou embroidery. I’m no fraud. If you find any fault in my plan, I am willing to make adjustments.”

“There’s no need for changes,” Zhen Chan reassured. “Your plan is excellent. I believe under your guidance, Suzhou embroidery will flourish..”

Chapter 330: Back to the Capital

Gu Dai’s eyes lit up as she began to ask, “Master Zhen Chan, are you willing to...”

Before she could finish, Zhen Chan interjected with a firm, “Yes.”

“I came here to tell you that I believe you’re not a fraud. I’m willing to go to the Capital to develop the Suzhou embroidery industry. Also, I owe you an apology for having turned you away at my door,” Zhen Chan confessed.

Gu Dai shook her head softly, "It's alright. It was the fault of those who deceived you in the past. Without them, you wouldn't have been so guarded."

Gu Dai, looking at Zhen Chan, asked, "Is there anywhere where you feel unwell? Let me take a look."

Even though they weren't in a hospital, Zhen Chan knew of Gu Dai's medical skills and her role in saving many, which softened her gaze towards her.

"I'm perfectly fine," Zhen Chan reassured. "In fact, I should thank you. If you hadn't climbed over the wall to find me and protected me, I wouldn't have survived the earthquake."

After closing the door, Zhen Chan went straight to sleep. She was a deep sleeper and didn't hear any noise from outside. In the end, it was Gu Dai who came and woke her up.

Gu Dai waved off the gratitude, "It's nothing."

Zhen Chan insisted, "It is something! I'll share all my Suzhou embroidery skills with you as a token of my thanks!"

Gu Dai tried to interject, but Zhen Chan continued, "Call me 'Auntie Zhen', like Chi Mian does. 'Master Zhen Chan' sounds too formal."

Gu Dai nodded with a smile, "Alright!"

Su Ting, watching the smile on Gu Dai's face, couldn't help but smile himself.

Zhen Chan, observing Su Ting, thought to herself, 'The love in this young man's eyes is hard to miss.'

Noting the time, Gu Dai suggested, "Auntie Zhen, you should rest early."

Zhen Chan agreed but asked before leaving, "When do we leave for the Capital?"

Gu Dai replied seriously, "I came here on a private plane. We can leave whenever you're ready."

"Then let's leave tomorrow," Zhen Chan decided.

The next day, on the plane, Zhen Chan looked out at the scenery and said, "This is my first time on a plane. The view from up here is even more beautiful than I imagined."

"If you like it, Auntie Zhen, I'll take you on more flights," Gu Dai offered.

Zhen Chan nodded, then sudden she remembered something that made her curious, so she asked, "How did you come to know about me?"

Gu Dai explained, "My grandmother traveled extensively and once visited Xiuyang Village. She spoke with you and told me about it. It was under her influence that I developed a love for Suzhou embroidery."

Upon hearing Gu Dai's words, Zhen Chan was momentarily stunned. An image flashed through her mind, and she expressed her disbelief, "You... you're Xu Huan's granddaughter!"

Gu Dai nodded, smiling in response, "Yes."

Zhen Chan's gaze towards Gu Dai softened considerably. She spoke gently, "I should have realized this earlier. Now that I look closely, you do bear some resemblance to her."

Zhen Chan inquired further, "Where is your grandmother now? Can I meet her?"

Gu Dai shook her head regretfully, "I'm sorry, Auntie Zhen, my grandmother has been traveling these past years. I don't know her current whereabouts."

A fleeting sense of loss crossed Zhen Chan's heart, but she quickly came to terms with it, smiling, "That indeed matches your grandmother's free-spirited nature."

At the hospital.

Song Ling slowly opened his eyes, gazing at the sterile, pale room with a momentary haze, murmuring, "Where am I..."

Zhao Xuan, upon seeing Song Ling awake, rushed to him with excitement, crying out, "President Song, you're finally awake!"

Song Ling pushed the approaching Zhao Xuan away and asked coldly, "Where is Gu Dai?"

Zhao Xuan hesitated, then shared, "Miss Gu Dai woke up yesterday morning. She went to help save many people."

The image of Gu Dai diligently at work came to Song Ling's mind, softening his expression. He gently responded, "Hmm."

Feeling the pressure lift from him, Zhao Xuan finally breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly handed the prepared meal to Song Ling.

As Song Ling ate, he inquired, "Where is Gu Dai now?"