

I Regained 401

Chapter 401: Leave, and don't let me see you again

Gu Ming, crying, said, "Gu Dai kicked me out of the company and the villa. I don't have a penny to my name. And recently, she even made Zhizhi work as her servant!"

Seeing Xu Huan remain silent, Gu Ming grew increasingly anxious. Clenching his teeth, he continued his lament, "Mom, I've been bullied to this point. You must stand up for me!"

Xu Huan handed him a tissue, signaling him to stop crying, and calmly said, "Daidai is a good child. She wouldn't treat you this way for no reason. Tell me what you did."

Gu Ming was taken aback, but quickly pointed at Gu Dai and shouted, "I did nothing! Gu Dai is just targeting me. Mom, I'm your biological son. Don't you believe me?"

Xu Huan responded, "I believe you, but Daidai is also my granddaughter. I want to hear the whole story."

Gu Ming opened his mouth, his mind flashing through many memories, unsure where to start.

Gu Dai, with a cold voice, said, "Since Big Uncle won't speak, I'll do it. The reason I made you leave Gu Group is that during the three years you were in charge, the company was continuously losing money. I even suspected you were embezzling funds..."

Gu Ming quickly retorted, "I invested all of it back into the company, not a penny was misused!"

Gu Dai's lips curled into a mocking smile.

Angered, Gu Ming asked, "Why are you laughing?"

Gu Dai shook her head, “Nothing, just remarking how much Big Uncle and cousin Zhizhi are alike.”

Both of lied with such straight faces, as if speaking the truth.

Gu Dai, with her arms crossed, calmly said, “Even if you didn’t embezzle, you admit the losses are real. Doesn’t that alone justify your removal?”

Gu Ming was taken aback and began to protest, “When did I admit...”

But he stopped mid-sentence upon realization. His face soured, but he still argued, “Business naturally has its ups and downs. What does that prove? Why should I step down?”

Gu Dai nodded and said with serious in her voice, “I understand now.”

Gu Ming rolled his eyes, clueless about what Gu Dai understood.

Gu Dai continued, “So Big Uncle doesn’t want to step down but rather pay back the money. You made the decisions for those projects and must bear the risks. I just never mentioned it to you before. Since you...”

Gu Ming, infuriated and wanting to curse Gu Dai, swallowed his words upon noticing Xu Huan’s gaze on him.

Gu Dai added, “It seems Big Uncle doesn’t want to be the chairman anymore. But let me remind you, the company was my father’s and should be inherited by me. The house is ours too, it has nothing to do with you!”

Gu Ming’s face grew uglier, looking pleadingly at Xu Huan, who only nodded in agreement with Gu Dai.

Taking a deep breath, his face pale, Gu Ming continued, “What about bullying Gu Zhi, making her your servant?”

Gu Dai seriously replied, "As I recall, she took my things. Gu Zhi agreed to atone in that manner, and neither Big Uncle nor big Aunt objected."

After, Gu Dai took out her phone.

Gu Ming's pupils constricted. Not knowing Gu Dai's intention but sensing it was against him, he lunged to grab her phone.

Xu Huan, seeing his actions, sternly yelled, "Stop! What are you trying to do?"

Gu Ming quickly said, "Mom, whatever Gu Dai is showing is fake. Don't believe her!"

Gu Dai raised her phone, "Big Uncle, I was just checking the time. What did you think it was?"

Gu Ming's face froze, "I... I..."

Xu Huan, turning her gaze away from Gu Ming, said disappointingly, "Gu

Ming, you're trying to use me against Daidai, aren't you?"

Gu Ming shook his head, denying, "No, I'm not."

"No?" Xu Huan, angered, slapped the table and said coldly, "Then why are you so nervous? Weren't you trying to destroy evidence by grabbing the phone?"

Gu Ming continued, "I didn't, I..."

Xu Huan interrupted, "I don't want to hear from you anymore. Leave, and don't let me see you again!"

Knowing he couldn't win today, Gu Ming glared fiercely at Gu Dai.

Xu Huan, catching his look, said, "Daring to treat Daidai like this in front of me, I can only imagine what you do behind my back.. And you still have the audacity to lie to me!"

Chapter 402: Objects Flew towards Gu Dai

Gu Ming could only slink away in defeat.

Xu Huan gently took Gu Dai's hand, speaking softly, "Your Big Uncle and your father, although both are my sons, have very different characters."

Gu Dai poured a cup of warm water for Xu Huan, comforting her in a soft voice, "Grandma, don't be angry."

After drinking the water, Xu Huan sighed and shook her head to indicate she was not angry, then continued, "Your father was always intelligent and filial from a young age, whereas your Big Uncle is more selfish. I used to be stricter with him, hoping to correct his bad habits. Perhaps I used the wrong method; he hasn't changed at all."

Xu Huan looked at Gu Dai and said, "It's my fault for not teaching him well, leading to Gu Ming bullying you and causing you such distress."

Gu Dai hugged Xu Huan, "Grandma, it's all in the past. Don't be sad, and don't take all the blame upon yourself."

After a long contemplation, Xu Huan came to a realization and seriously said to Gu Dai, "If your Big Uncle ever harms you again, feel free to retaliate. Don't spare him for my sake."

Gu Dai nodded, "Grandma, I understand."

The two then cast aside these unpleasant matters from their minds.

The next day.

While Gu Dai was at work, Zheng Ming knocked on the door in a panic.

Entering the office, he anxiously reported, "Chairwoman Gu, Luo An and Lin Yu have started fighting."

Gu Dai frowned, puzzled, "What happened?"

Zheng Ming explained, "During the recording of the variety show today, there was a quiz section. Luo An, with his vast knowledge, answered many questions correctly. Lin Yu accused us of giving Luo An the answers, claiming he cheated, which led to their argument."

Gu Dai stood up, her voice cold, "It's only the first day of the show, and this has happened. I'll go have a look."

She remembered Lin Yu's profile description, "Isn't Lin Yu supposed to have a boy-next-door personality? How could he start a fight over something so trivial?"

Zheng Ming pursed his lips, thought for a moment, and then seriously replied, "Nowadays, artists have an image to maintain. In front of the camera, he's the boy-next-door, but off-camera..."

Gu Dai nodded in understanding, "Which company does Lin Yu belong to?"

Zheng Ming answered, "Sheng Media."

Gu Dai nodded again, then asked, "And Luo An?"

Zheng Ming replied, "Song Corporation."

Gu Dai said, "So they are from the companies of Sheng Xin and Song Ling. Inform them that these two have violated their contracts and are now dismissed. Ask them to arrange for someone to pick them up."

Zheng Ming acknowledged, "Yes!"

Upon Gu Dai's arrival at the recording location, the director immediately approached her, excitedly saying, "You're finally here, sponsor!"

Gu Dai nodded and asked, "What's the situation now?"

The director started, "They were just having a personal argument, but then it escalated to a conflict between the two companies. I..."

Before the director could finish, they were interrupted by the noise from the studio.

Luo An shouted, "I'm signed with Song Corporation. The head of our company is Song Ling! How dare you accuse me of cheating? Aren't you afraid of my company dealing with you?"

Lin Yu scoffed disdainfully, "Though Song Corporation is formidable in business, it has little involvement in the entertainment industry. I'm signed with Sheng Media, one of the top names in the industry!"

Gu Dai walked in, but they continued arguing, oblivious to her presence.

Lin Yu pointed at the director, angrily saying, "I'll expose this scripted and rigged variety show to the public!"

The director, sweating profusely, hurriedly assured Gu Dai, "I guarantee our project follows all the rules, there's absolutely no rigging!"

Realizing the director's anxious attempts to explain, Lin Yu and Luo An understood that Gu Dai was no ordinary figure.

Lin Yu looked at Gu Dai, his voice cold, "Your show is rigged. How else could Luo An answer so many questions correctly?"

Gu Dai replied calmly, "If you believe there's rigging, then present your evidence."

Luo An snorted, "Yeah, Lin Yu, if you're capable, show us the proof. Besides, I rely on my own abilities. Do you think everyone is as empty-headed as you?"

In a fit of rage, Lin Yu picked up an object from the table and hurled it at Luo An.

Luo An dodged, and retaliated by throwing something back at Lin Yu.

However, they misjudged their aim, and the objects flew towards Gu Dai..

Chapter 403: Terminate the contract

Caught off guard, Gu Dai was struck and fell to the ground.

Zheng Ming quickly helped her up, pulling out his phone in a panic, "Chairwoman Gu, hang in there, I'm calling a doctor right now!"

Gu Dai, feeling dizzy, barely managed to utter through slightly parted lips, "No need, I'm fine."

Relieved to see Gu Dai still able to speak and her eyes clearing, Zheng Ming breathed a sigh of relief.

Gu Dai instructed, "Go and separate Lin Yu and Luo An."

Lin Yu and Luo An, completely oblivious to having hit someone, were now kicking and punching each other, entangled in a fight.

Zheng Ming hurriedly had the bodyguards pull them apart. Despite being separated, they continued hurling insults at each other.

Upon arriving, Song Ling witnessed this chaos and asked with a stern face, "What are you doing?"

Luo An's eyes lit up, eagerly telling Song Ling, "President Song, this Lin Yu slandered me, accusing me of cheating!"

Ignoring Luo An, Song Ling's concern was for Gu Dai, who had a bruise on her forehead, "How did you get hurt? Let's go to the hospital."

Gu Dai brushed off Song Ling's offered hand, her voice cold, "No need. Let's discuss the termination of their contracts."

Sheng Xin arrived soon after, a fleeting look of pleasure crossing her face upon seeing Gu Dai's bruise, quickly masked by a composed expression.

She earnestly said, "It's Lin Yu's fault for fighting and breaching the contract. I'll sign the termination right now."

Sheng Xin promptly signed the termination contract as soon as she finished speaking.

Song Ling, without any delay, also signed the termination.

Lin Yu and Luo An were dumbfounded, incredulously asking, "Why terminate our contracts? It was just a dispute, isn't this too much?"

Su Ting approached, his voice cold, "It's necessary!"

He slapped the contracts against the faces of Lin Yu and Luo An, "The contract clearly states what you cannot do, and fighting is included. Any violation leads to termination!"

Fear made swallowing hard for Lin Yu and Luo An.

Su Ting asked, "And the injury on Daidai's head, you did that, right?"

Lin Yu and Luo An paused, then realized that indeed during their scuffle, something they threw had hit her.

Lin Yu defensively argued, "It wasn't on purpose. Why was she standing so close? If she'd been further away, how could I have hit her?"

Luo An quickly agreed, "Exactly, you can't blame me for this!"

Su Ting's expression grew colder, he glanced at them for a few seconds before turning to Gu Dai and softly said, "Daidai, I'll take you home."

Gu Dai nodded, "Okay."

Song Ling followed Gu Dai, "Let me look at your injury."

Gu Dai declined, "No need, I just want to go home and rest."

Song Ling watched Su Ting supporting Gu Dai, his face ashen.

Even as Su Ting was about to leave, Lin Yu and Luo An's hearts still trembled, a bad premonition lingering.

Song Ling glared at Luo An, "Let's go."

Sheng Xin, regaining her composure, adjusted her hair and smilingly said, "President Song, it's rare that we meet. How about a drink together?"

Song Ling didn't even glance at Sheng Xin, simply walking past her and leaving.

Sheng Xin's smile froze, her expression turning sour.

Lin Yu followed Sheng Xin, hesitating before speaking softly, "Miss Sheng, I'm sorry. I didn't expect my actions to cause such an impact."

Sheng Xin scoffed lightly, her smile returning, "It's fine. You did well this time. I'll contact your agent to take good care of you, and the company will provide you with more resources."

Lin Yu's eyes widened in disbelief, "Really?"

Sheng Xin nodded, "Of course."

The incident where Lin Yu hurt Gu Dai was precisely what Sheng Xin had wanted to do but couldn't. She felt exhilarated.

Sheng Xin's view of Lin Yu improved, and with a smile, she said, "Come to my room tonight."

Lin Yu was momentarily stunned, then quickly agreed, "Okay!"

He was now sure Sheng Xin really wanted to promote him, but a sense of unease lingered, feeling like something bad was about to happen.

Lin Yu asked, "Miss Sheng, about the variety show..."

Sheng Xin casually said, "I have a contract with Gu Group. Even though you're terminated, I can replace you with someone else.."

Chapter 404: Get Out

Luo An, trembling with fear from Song Ling's icy demeanor, cautiously spoke up, "President-President Song, it was Lin Yu who provoked me first, I just..."

Song Ling let out a cold laugh and slapped Luo An across the face, "I don't care about your dispute with anyone, but you hurt her!"

Stunned, Luo An struggled to comprehend Song Ling's words when he heard him coldly command, "Zhao Xuan, bring the termination contract."

Zhao Xuan promptly responded, "Yes."

Song Ling received a call from Wang Lan.

Wang Lan exclaimed excitedly, "Yuyu has woken up, come to the hospital quickly."

A wave of joy washed over Song Ling, and he hurriedly replied, "I'm on my way."

After hanging up, Zhao Xuan returned with the termination contract. Song Ling sternly ordered, "Make sure he signs it."

As Song Ling's chilling aura dissipated, Luo An collapsed weakly to the ground. A few seconds later, he regained his strength and asked Zhao Xuan in confusion, "Why does President Song want to terminate the contract with me?"

Zhao Xuan thought, What else, it's because you had hurt President Song's beloved.

Instead, he just shook his head and pushed the termination contract towards Luo An, signaling him to sign.

Song Ling drove swiftly to the hospital. As he was about to enter, he was unexpectedly stopped by Jiang Yue.

Frowning, Song Ling coldly asked, "What are you doing here?"

Jiang Yue forced a smile, speaking softly, "I was worried about Yuyu's condition, but afraid of angering you. I didn't dare to go inside and had to wait here."

After a pause, she tearfully asked, "Brother Song Ling, I'm really concerned about Yuyu. Can you tell me how she is?"

Initially, Jiang Yue wasn't afraid, but as time passed, her anxiety and fear grew, dreading that once Song Yu regained consciousness, she would expose her.

Seeing Jiang Yue's tears, Song Ling thought of the day she bravely rescued him from the fire, feeling a twinge of compassion. He looked down and said, "Song Yu has already woken up, don't worry."

Jiang Yue, unable to contain her shock, exclaimed, "Awake?"

Song Ling's eyes narrowed suspiciously at her reaction.

Regaining her composure, Jiang Yue forced a smile, excitedly saying, "That's great, Yuyu has finally woken up, I'm relieved! Brother Song Ling, can I go in and see her? I promise to be quiet and not disturb her."

Song Ling nodded, "Let's go."

After Song Ling turned, Jiang Yue's eyes darkened.

She hadn't expected the thing she feared for days to actually happen.

Clutching her phone and thinking of the recordings and photos inside, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Song Ling strode into the ward, only to find Wang Lan holding Song Yu and crying. Confused, he asked, "Isn't Yuyu awake? Why are you still crying?"

Wang Lan cried out, "There's something wrong with Yuyu's brain. She can't even speak now. My poor daughter!"

Realizing something was amiss with Song Yu, Song Ling approached her and softly said, "Yuyu, it's me, your brother. Do you remember me?"

Song Yu looked at Song Ling without speaking, but when her gaze fell on Jiang Yue behind him, her pupils contracted, and she began trembling and screaming in fear.

Song Ling stepped forward to comfort Song Yu, gently saying, "Don't be afraid, Yuyu, I'm your brother."

Song Yu looked at Song Ling fearfully, then abruptly closed her eyes.

Seeing Song Yu's reaction, Jiang Yue's lips curled into a satisfied smile, which she quickly suppressed, asking worriedly, "Yuyu, I'm Jiang Yu. Do you remember what happened before? Tell me, I..."

Song Yu covered her ears, rolling and screaming on the bed, "Ah—"

Wang Lan, holding Song Yu, glared at Jiang Yue and yelled, "You vile woman, you've scared Yuyu! Get out and don't show your face to us again!"

Jiang Yue, gritting her teeth with anger, looked helplessly at Song Ling, hoping he would speak for her.

Meeting Jiang Yue's gaze, Song Ling coldly said, "You've seen Yuyu, now go back."

Jiang Yue, forcing a smile, said softly, "Okay, Brother Song Ling. If there's anything Yuyu needs, just call me."

Wang Lan spat, "You vile woman, just stay away from me!"

Jiang Yue, wishing she could tear Wang Lan apart then and there, had to bide her time and left swiftly..

Chapter 405: Su Ci Passed Away

Wang Lan whispered comforting words to Song Yu, "Don't be scared, Yuyu. The niece of that despicable woman who tried to ruin our family has left. You have nothing to worry about."

Wang Lan thought Song Yu was just frightened by Jiang Yue's presence and that's why she screamed.

Song Ling, however, sensed something amiss. Jiang Yue's peculiar behavior had not escaped his notice, and he couldn't shake the feeling that she was hiding something.

With this thought, he made a call to Zhao Xuan.

Upon answering, Zhao Xuan immediately reported, "Mr. Song, I've had Luo An sign the termination contract."

Song Ling acknowledged and then instructed, "Investigate what Jiang Yue has been up to recently."

Zhao Xuan agreed, "Yes, President Song."

At the Gu residence.

The doctor reassured them, “Miss Gu Dai has only suffered skin injuries. She’ll be fine after applying some medicine and resting for a few days.”

Su Ting’s worried heart finally settled.

Gu Dai chuckled softly and said, “You can leave now. I’m feeling sleepy and would like to rest.”

Su Ting nodded, “Alright.”

Though he agreed, Su Ting didn’t leave immediately. He quietly exited only after Gu Dai’s breathing became deep and steady and he had tucked her in comfortably.

Stepping out of the room, he made a call, his voice cold, “How are the Song Corporation and Sheng Media handling Luo An and Lin Yu?”

After receiving the answer, a dark glint passed through his eyes. He coldly declared, “If the Sheng Media won’t act, I will. Tell everyone in the circle not to work with Lin Yu ever again!”

Gu Dai quickly fell asleep but her slumber was restless. Her mind was filled with a series of images, including the face of a mysterious man.

She knew she was dreaming, but couldn’t wake up.

The dream was lengthy. She saw herself embracing the man’s waist, her face alight with joy as she looked at him. She also saw them participating in a school event and him patiently teaching her coding...

In a coquettish tone, she complained, “Su Ci, tell me how to crack this code, or I’ll get angry!”

Su Ci asked, “What will Daidai do when she’s angry?”

Gu Dai, after a moment of frustration, pinned the man down and threatened, "When I'm angry, I'll keep calling your name to annoy you, Su Ci, Su Ci, Su Ci..."

Su Ci embraced her, burying his head in her neck, laughing softly, "I love it when Daidai calls my name; it engraves me in her heart."

Su Ci, Su Ci, Su Ci...

Gu Dai shouted, "Su Ci!" and abruptly woke up.

Her hand touched her tear-streaked face and her voice trembled with sadness as she said, "Su Ci, why did I forget you..."

Su Ci, the eldest son of the Su family, was a remarkable figure in school and Gu Dai's senior.

They met at a school dance, gradually got to know each other, both young, they fell deeply in love.

Their relationship was awkward yet blissful as it was their first and it blossomed beautifully.

Gu Dai loved Su Ci dearly, and they had plans to marry and live happily together. But despite such deep love, she had forgotten him.

She had forgotten Su Ci, and even after regaining her memory, she remembered many but not him...

As these thoughts swirled in her mind, the door was knocked. Meng Zhi's voice called out, "Daidai, it's time to get up for dinner."

Wiping away her tears, Gu Dai quickly got up and opened the door, pulling Meng Zhi into the room and asking urgently, "Third Brother, do you know where Su Ci is?"

Meng Zhi paused, then with a heavy heart, said, "You finally remembered."

Frowning, Gu Dai asked, "What do you mean, Third Brother?"

She suddenly recalled several instances she had overlooked, where Meng Zhi clumsily hid something from her.

Looking at him incredulously, she asked, "Third Brother, you could have told me. Why did you keep Su Ci's existence a secret?"

As the possibility dawned on her, she staggered, her voice trembling, "Did something happen to Su Ci?"

Meng Zhi took a deep breath and said, "He passed away in the cruise ship incident."

Gu Dai's vision blurred with tears.

Meng Zhi quickly supported her, turning his head away with a bitter expression, "Daidai, don't be sad, you..."

Gu Dai collapsed to her knees, covering her throbbing head with her hands, repeatedly denying, "No, I don't believe it.. You must be lying, right, Third Brother?"

Chapter 406: Su Ci Saved Her

Gu Dai couldn't believe it, but fragments of memory kept surfacing in her mind.

After the explosion, the cruise ship was engulfed in fierce flames, intertwining with thick, black smoke.

Clutching her chest in distress, Su Ci held her tightly, swearing with determination, "Daidai, I won't let anything happen to you!"

He placed her on a lifeboat, then began to untie the rope.

Upon seeing Su Ci's actions, Gu Dai asked anxiously, "Su Ci, what are you doing?"

Without waiting for her reaction, Su Ci pushed the lifeboat away with force, smiling gently as always, his eyes soft as he watched her drift away. "Daidai, the lifeboat can only carry one person. I want you to live."

As soon as Su Ci finished speaking, a sudden gust of wind stirred up, and thick smoke enveloped the massive cruise ship, along with the smiling man.

Meng Zhi tenderly helped the weeping Gu Dai off the ground, "Daidai..."

Gu Dai's gaze was vacant, "Su Ci died saving me. He knew the lifeboat could save him, but he gave the chance to me. Why was he so foolish, so selfless? He was so good to me, and I forgot him..."

Meng Zhi sighed softly, "Maybe Su Ci wanted you to forget him, to move on from the past and live a happy life."

Gu Dai shook her head, "No, I don't want to forget him!"

Meng Zhi said, "Su Ci's grave is in the Su family cemetery. Let's eat first, and then Su Ting can take you there."

Gu Dai wiped the tears from her eyes and nodded lightly.

Meng Zhi opened the bedroom door, only to find Su Ting standing there.

Su Ting looked down, pressing his lips together, then finally said, "Daidai, let's eat. I'll take you to see big brother afterward."

The food was delicious, but Gu Dai couldn't taste anything. After mechanically finishing her meal, she changed into a long black dress and went to the Su family cemetery.

Standing before the tombstone, she gazed at the black-and-white photo of the young man smiling, tears streaming down her face.

She knelt down, gently touching the photo, her voice filled with sorrow, "I'm sorry I forgot you..."

With red eyes, she promised earnestly, "From now on, I'll remember every detail of us, I won't forget you again. I'll always miss you."

Gu Dai had many things to say to Su Ci before coming, but now, all she wanted was to quietly look at his photo and be with him.

Su Ting's heart ached. Every time he faced Gu Dai, he was torn between revealing his brother's existence and the fear of telling her.

Su Ci was always excellent, learning everything quickly, and a role model for him. He always looked up to his brother, who also protected him. But he never expected they would fall for the same girl.

When Su Ting thought of giving up, Su Ci met with an accident. Seeing Gu Dai again, he couldn't control his feelings and wanted to be close to her.

He enjoyed Gu Dai's care, but it felt like stolen moments.

Su Ting wanted to envy Su Ci for having Gu Dai's warm and eager heart, but thinking of the bright young man, he couldn't bring himself to do so.

Gu Dai looked at the photo for a long time, until dawn broke. She softly said, "I have to go to work now. After I finish, I'll come back to see you."

Meng Zhi was already waiting for them at the cemetery gate.

Gu Dai got into the car, softly speaking, "Let's go, Third Brother. Take me to the company."

Meng Zhi frowned slightly, disapproving, "You look pale and weak. You should rest at home first and put off work."

Su Ting nodded in agreement, "Yes, and the hacker competition is tonight. You should conserve your energy."

Gu Dai, seeing their insistence, reluctantly agreed, "Okay."

Suddenly, a racing car sped towards them.

Meng Zhi's eyes turned cold, his hands quickly maneuvering the car, masterfully drifting to avoid the racing car.

Gu Dai snapped back to reality and looked back at the speeding car, but it was too fast, leaving only a fleeting glimpse.

Meng Zhi exhaled in relief, his voice cold, "That racing car was no ordinary vehicle.. It looked like it was coming straight for us!"

Chapter 407: Caught Niu Shan

Gu Dai, her eyes downcast, said, "If it weren't for you driving, Third Brother, we would have definitely collided with that racing car, and our lives would have been at risk."

A glint of determination flashed in her eyes as she took out her phone and made a call, "A racing car almost hit me just now. Check the Su Mountain surveillance, especially where that racing car came from. Also, speed up the investigation on the matter I previously assigned to you."

At the Song Corporation.

Zhao Xuan rushed into Song Ling's office, excitedly reporting, "President Song, I've caught Niu Shan. Moreover, our investigation into Miss Jiang Yue revealed she had contact with Niu Shan."

Song Ling's gaze deepened, his voice cold, "Take me to see Niu Shan."

Zhao Xuan hurriedly complied, "Yes!"

Song Ling added, "Send Niu Shan's location to Jiang Yue, and get her to go there too, I have something to ask her later."

Niu Shan, terrified in a dark room, regretted his actions.

If he knew he'd be captured right after landing, he wouldn't have gambled on returning.

The room's door opened, letting in light. Niu Shan squinted uncomfortably, and upon seeing Zhao Xuan, shouted angrily, "Why did you capture me? Kidnapping is a crime! I advise you to release me, or I'll call the police!"

Zhao Xuan glared at him, warning, "You better answer honestly when I ask you questions!"

Song Ling entered, his icy gaze falling on Niu Shan.

Niu Shan trembled in fear, "Who are you? What do you want to do to me?"

Seeing Niu Shan, Song Ling was sure he was the person from the surveillance. He kicked Niu Shan and showed him Song Yu's photo, asking coldly, "Do you recognize her?"

Upon seeing the photo, Niushan was momentarily stunned. As he regained his composure, the sense of panic within him gradually dissipated. A smile curled on his lips as he said, "Of course I know her. The taste of this woman... Ah!"

Song Ling's fists relentlessly hit Niu Shan.

In pain, Niu Shan threatened through clenched teeth, "If you keep hitting me, I'll release her videos and photos to the world, showing how she was..."

Song Ling's expression grew colder, his eyes reddened. He threw off his suit and cut Niu Shan with a knife, "You'd need to be alive to do that!"

Zhao Xuan thought Niu Shan was as foolish as a cow. How dare he provoke Song Ling when he was already angry? It was clear that Niu Shan was on the brink of collapsing, even his breathing had slowed down a bit.

Zhao Xuan quickly intervened, "President Song, we still need to question him. We can't kill him now!"

Jiang Yue arrived at the location given by Zhao Xuan. Seeing Song Ling with a knife and the blood-covered, unrecognizable man, she screamed and fell to the ground.

Song Ling put away the knife, turned to Jiang Yue, and asked coldly, "Do you recognize this person?"

Jiang Yue, trembling, responded in a whisper, "I can't see his face."

Song Ling glanced at Niu Shan, then ordered Zhao Xuan, "Wash off the blood with cold water and wake him up."

Niushan shivered from the cold, and upon feeling the pain on his body, he cried out in agony.

Song Ling approached Niu Shan with a knife in hand and said coldly, "Shut up!"

Niu Shan was instantly frightened into silence, stopping his crying.

Upon seeing Niu Shan's face, Jiang Yue was completely stunned and took two steps back instinctively, overwhelmed with fear.

Zhao Xuan noticed Jiang Yue's reaction and said, "Miss Jiang Yue seems to recognize Niu Shan and appears very nervous."

Song Ling's gaze fell on Jiang Yue, and he asked in a cold tone, "Is that so?"

Jiang Yue, wishing she could kill Zhao Xuan, took a deep breath to suppress her anger, trying to appear calm and said softly, "I'm not nervous. I was just startled by his appearance, that's all."

Song Ling looked down, "You mean you don't know Niu Shan?"

Jiang Yue's heart raced, and her eyes involuntarily darted around as she replied in a low voice, "I've seen him at a banquet before, but we barely spoke a few words. I don't know him well."

Song Ling pressed, "Are you sure?"

Jiang Yue nodded vigorously, "Of course!"

Feeling Song Ling's intense gaze on her, she trembled slightly and quickly changed the subject, asking, "Brother Song Ling, why did you call me here?"

Chapter 408: Doubt Jiang Yue

Song Ling had no intention of changing the topic. His voice grave, he declared, "Niu Shan is the one who harmed Song Yu."

Jiang Yue's hand flew to her eyes in disbelief, her mouth agape, "The few times I interacted with Niu Shan, I thought he was a gentleman. I never imagined he'd be such a person behind the scenes!"

Her gaze briefly met Song Ling's unchanging expression, then she turned to Niu Shan, anger lacing her voice. "Yuyu is my closest friend, and you dared to harm her. Brother Song Ling, someone like Niu Shan shouldn't exist in this world. Kill him, I won't tell anyone!"

Niu Shan, stunned by Jiang Yue's call for his death, bore his pain and retorted furiously, "It was you who instructed me to do it, and now you're throwing all the blame on me, you bit*h!"

Jiang Yue's pupils contracted, fists clenched behind her back.

Song Ling's face darkened, his voice sharp as an ice blade, "You instructed him?"

Jiang Yue, pale-faced and shaking her head, tears streaming down, pleaded, "No, I didn't instruct him. Brother Song Ling, you must believe me. Don't be misled by Niu Shan's words. He's only saying this because I just suggested you should kill him. He wants revenge."

As she saw Song Ling's disbelief, her crying intensified. "Yuyu and I share such a deep bond; I have no reason to harm her. And I love you so much. Song Yu is your sister; I would never harm her!"

Hearing this, Song Ling's expression softened slightly.

Zhao Xuan, seizing the opportunity, interjected, "Niu Shan didn't seem to be lying when he spoke earlier."

Song Ling, sensing something amiss, fixed his icy gaze on Jiang Yue.

Furious, Jiang Yue wished she could stab Zhao Xuan. If not for him, Song Ling would have believed her by now.

She marched forward, kicking Niu Shan several times, crying out, "Why are you framing me? Is someone threatening your family and forcing you to do this?"

Niu Shan, kicked, instinctively wanted to curse Jiang Yue, but her threatening gaze brought him back to his senses.

He remembered being sent abroad by Jiang Yue, who promised to take care of his family in his absence. Revealing the truth now would mean their death.

He could disregard his parents and wife, but his son was his lifeline.

Jiang Yue, noticing Niu Shan's realization, smiled subtly and interrogated, "Who made you frame me?"

Niu Shan quickly replied, "It was me, all my doing... I wanted to drag you down with me..."

Song Ling's eyes narrowed, his tone cold, "Are you sure?"

Niu Shan affirmed, "Yes, I was just angry earlier, so I framed her to make you dislike her."

Song Ling probed further, "Since you wanted to frame Jiang Yue, why change your story now?"

Niu Shan, speechless, struggled to reply.

Jiang Yue cursed him silently, then approached Song Ling, her voice soft, "Because I was harsh on him, he's afraid to keep framing me."

Zhao Xuan scoffed, "Miss Jiang Yue, how would you know what Niu Shan, the person involved, is thinking?"

Jiang Yue maintained her smile, pushing through, "It's a guess. After all, Niu Shan, a grown man, wouldn't easily admit the truth after being beaten by me."

Finishing her statement, she looked up at Song Ling, her voice filled with feigned innocence, "Brother Song Ling, your assistant seems biased against me. You must believe me and not let him influence you."

Zhao Xuan's eyes widened as he turned to look at Song Ling and plead, "President Song, I..."

Song Ling cut Zhao Xuan off, addressing Jiang Yue, "You go back first. I'll continue investigating the truth."

Relieved, Jiang Yue softly agreed and left, murmuring, "Then I'll leave first, Brother Song Ling."

As she departed, Song Ling's order to detain Niu Shan reached her ears.

Jiang Yue, confident Niu Shan wouldn't betray her, wasn't particularly worried, but she still wished Song Ling would kill him!

Song Ling, staring into space, inquired, "Zhao Xuan, do you think Jiang Yue is telling the truth?"

Zhao Xuan, decisive, responded, "No, and I believe Jiang Yue was threatening Niu Shan."

Song Ling had his suspicions too, but Jiang Yue had saved him twice. It was hard for him to believe she had changed so drastically..

Chapter 409: Participate in the Hacking Competition

Facing anyone else, Song Ling could have taken immediate action, but the one before him was Jiang Yue, and without concrete evidence, he couldn't rashly harm her.

After returning to his company, Song Ling received an encrypted call.

Baua, with a hint of excitement, inquired, "Brother, are you participating in the hacking competition?"

Song Ling, puzzled, asked, "Hacking competition?"

Baua, surprised, explained, "You haven't heard of it? It's starting today in the Capital, and I remember you're in the Capital too. Didn't you get an invitation?" Recalling an envelope he had seen recently, Song Ling pressed his temple and apologized, "Sorry, some family issues came up. I won't be able to make it this time."

Baua urged, "This hacking competition is a rare opportunity. It might be years before the next one. We've known each other for years but only online. Please come this time; it'd be great to meet in person."

Remembering the help Baua had given him with company problems, Song Ling agreed, "Okay, send me the address."

The competition was held in a scenic manor on the outskirts, complete with fountains, swimming pools, and lush greenery.

Although it was an offline event, the participants maintained a sense of mystery, wearing masks and voice changers upon entry.

Gu Dai and Su Ting, masked, presented their tickets and entered together.

Gu Dai's figure drew much attention. Among the many hackers, women were scarce, especially beautiful ones.

Men gathered, whispering among themselves.

"Her figure looks great, but how good can her hacking skills be?"

"She must have tagged along with some guy. After all, there's no rule against bringing friends."

"I think so too. After all, hacking is such a difficult skill. How could a woman, especially a beautiful one, have the patience and focus to learn it? With that time, they'd surely prefer to find a man to date and swindle money from him."

Gu Dai stopped, her gaze cool as she addressed them, "The masks and voice changers hide your faces, allowing your vile souls to emerge unchecked."

The murmurers, taken aback by her words, struggled to maintain their composure. They retorted, "Did we say anything wrong? Do you even understand coding?"

Su Ting's gaze grew colder, "I didn't expect the world's top hackers to have such low qualities in reality."

Gu Dai nodded in agreement, then, pulling out her laptop she suggested, "Let's have a match."

The men laughed derisively, "You're out of your depth. We won't go easy on you. Don't cry when you lose."

Gu Dai sneered.

A dedicated area was set up for the hacking showdown.

At first, their faces were adorned with smiles. However, as time passed, their smiles gradually faded, giving way to expressions of tension. Fine beads of sweat appeared on their foreheads, and their facial features contorted with stress. Staring at the glaring 'FAIL' on the screen, they eventually slumped over the desk, drained and powerless.

They were in disbelief, "How could this be? My code, so easily breached? This is the best I can do!"

Gu Dai tilted her head, her voice light yet mocking, "Is this all you're capable of?"

Although Gu Dai's voice was soft, it was full of mockery. After hearing this, their faces all changed.

The scene caught Baua's attention, who excitedly turned to Song Ling, "Brother, that woman is incredible. She defeated so many top hackers. I doubt even I could win against her."

Song Ling responded absentmindedly, the woman's figure seeming familiar, reminiscent of... Gu Dai.

The defeated hackers, faces flushed with embarrassment, finally managed to utter, "You must have cheated to beat so many of us!"

"If she cheated, that only proves she's more formidable."

Gu Dai's eyes followed the voice, spotting a man in a black suit descending from the second floor, his stature and proportions perfect..

Chapter 410: Song Ci is Still Alive

Upon seeing the man's figure, Gu Dai's eyes narrowed slightly, a sense of familiarity washing over her.

The hackers defeated by Gu Dai also turned to the man, their tone unfriendly, "Who are you?"

The man chuckled softly, lowering his eyes before speaking lightly, "Your primary concern right now should be to apologize to this lady, not who I am."

Gu Dai looked at the men coldly, "If you suspect I cheated, then bring forth your evidence."

As Gu Dai finished, the men's faces paled, heads bowed in shame. "We're sorry. We shouldn't have looked down on you just because you're a woman, nor should we have slandered you for cheating."

They waited for Gu Dai's forgiveness, but she remained silent, her gaze indifferent.

Nervously, they stammered, "We promise never to underestimate women again."

Gu Dai nodded, "I'll forgive you this time. But be careful next time, or you might find your computers compromised."

It was a blatant threat, but they believed in Gu Dai's capabilities, agreeing hastily, "We understand, we understand."

Gu Dai shifted her attention to the man, asking, "Have we met before?"

After a brief pause, the man shook his head and bowed slightly to Gu Dai, "I admire your hacking skills, Miss. Would you honor me with a match?"

"Of course," replied Gu Dai.

Su Ting prepared a chair for Gu Dai, his gaze fixed on the man during their contest.

Noticing the man's habitual taps on the table after booting up the computer, Su Ting's heart skipped a beat.

He suspected this man might be the one he'd been thinking of.

Gu Dai focused entirely on the code. She knew the man was formidable, but he exceeded her expectations. Realizing this, her eyes brightened, a smile tugging at her lips.

Su Ting, seeing familiar symbols on the man's computer, fought back tears, grateful for the mask hiding his emotions.

After the match, Gu Dai breathed a sigh of relief, accepting water from Su Ting. She smiled at the man, "You left an obvious flaw. I hope next time you won't go easy on me, and we can have a real contest."

The man nodded, replying softly, "There will be a next time."

Gu Dai's gaze darkened, "What did you say?"

Without answering, the man turned and walked away. As he felt Gu Dai's gaze on his back, he murmured, Daidai, we will meet again.

Watching the man leave, Su Ting instinctively followed him but stopped, remembering Gu Dai.

Gu Dai asked softly, "Are you going to the restroom?"

"Yes," Su Ting hurriedly agreed.

He followed the man to a secluded corridor, where the man turned and asked, "Why are you following me?"

Su Ting, his voice trembling but certain, said, "Big brother, I know it's you."

The man stiffened, then slowly removed his mask with a soft chuckle.

Upon seeing the familiar face, Su Ting's eyes reddened, and he rushed to embrace the man, exclaiming, "Brother!"

Su Ting's brother, Su Ci, patted his back gently, "It's me."

Su Ting, clutching his brother tightly, voiced his confusion and longing, "Brother, you look thinner. What have you been through? We missed you. Why didn't you contact us?"

Su Ci looked down, "I've been fine. I couldn't contact you due to special circumstances."

"What circumstances?" Su Ting asked, frowning.

Su Ci shook his head, remaining silent.

Su Ting, suppressing his questions, grabbed his brother's arm, "Let's go see Sis. She's missed you terribly. She'll be thrilled."

Su Ci hesitated, then withdrew his hand, "I can't see her yet. The situation is complicated.."