

I Regained 71

Chapter 71: Trial of Justice

Meng Zhi's voice carried both urgency and a touch of calm as he said, "Big Brother and Second Brother, you must collect yourselves for now. Daidai is safely back home, and I just learned over the phone that she doesn't wish to interfere with your work on her account. Since I've just finished my competition and have time on my hands, let me return to assist Daidai first. You both can come back after completing your work."

Though Meng Si and Meng Chuan were initially reluctant, fearing Gu Dai's displeasure, they ultimately agreed to Meng Zhi's proposal.

Meng Si queried with a tone of concern, "Have you identified the person who bullied Daidai?"

With assurance, Meng Zhi replied, "I've already arranged for an investigation. We should have results shortly."

A few tense minutes ticked by before Meng Zhi announced, his voice laced with anger, "Song Ling is the one who bullied our sister!

My sister lost her memory after the cruise ship exploded, and under the arrangement of the Song family's patriarch, she married Song Ling. Far from cherishing our sister, Song Ling treated her with cruelty! The rest of the Song family, even the servants, hold Daidai in contempt."

Meng Chuan's voice seethed with rage as he said, "Despicable. I remember Song Ling being quite intelligent, possessing his own management style. Never would I have thought he could be so misguided. When I return home, I won't spare him!"

Meng Si's voice was cold and determined, "Song family, brace yourselves. It's time to find a suitable task for Song Ling."

After concluding the call with Meng Zhi, another call reached Gu Dai.

“Boss, there’s been activity from Wang Lan. She’s currently seeking ways to raise money. Oh, and in monitoring Wang Lan, we discovered something else. Her son Song Ling obtained Master Cui Song’s painting ‘Moon’ at an exhibition.”

Gu Dai’s eyes narrowed, her voice dropping to a near-whisper, “So he’s the one who acquired the painting.”

Regaining her composure, she spoke to the person on the other end, “You managed this affair well. I’ll have Chu Min arrange a raise for you.”

After hanging up, she was about to call Chu Min, but he beat her to it.

Chu Min’s excited voice filled the receiver, “Boss, your Third Brother sent so many things that they’re overfilling the house! Your favorite snacks, diamond-studded high heels worth millions, exclusive designer handbags, some of them limited editions, and more things that I haven’t even unboxed!” Gu Dai’s astonishment was evident, “They arrived so soon?”

Chu Min’s voice was filled with amusement as he explained, “Yes, yes, I contacted your Third Brother late last night. I’m guessing he had arranged for immediate air shipping after our call.”

Gu Dai chuckled softly.

Gu Dai was lost in fond memories of how her Third Brother had always showered her with gifts every time. If he could, he would build a house with the gifts he purchased, and make her live inside.

With warmth in her voice, she murmured, “My brothers are very good to me.”

Chu Min expressed agreement, saying, “That’s right. Yesterday, when he found out you were safe, he was so overwhelmed that he cried. If he hadn’t been afraid of waking you, he would have called you right away. Boss, another wave of boxes has arrived, so I’ll hang up now and continue helping you unpack!”

Hearing Chu Min's words, Gu Dai instantly snapped back to reality, remembering her own business, and quickly said, "Wait a moment, I have something I need you to help me with."

Chu Min responded, "Just tell me what you need."

Gu Dai quietly explained her plan to Chu Min.

Chu Min readily agreed, "Alright, Boss, leave it to me."

Before Chu Min could hang up, Gu Dai added, "Later, I will send you information on two people and what they have done in the past. You will anonymously report them to the police."

The way Sun Hai and Sun Yang acted the previous night indicated that it wasn't their first time. They ran into her yesterday and were unsuccessful, but if they encounter a defenseless young woman in the future, she may not be so lucky.

And such people must be locked up in jail and face justice!

When Gu Dai saw Lin Sheng come in, she put down her pen, stood up, and called out, "Uncle Lin."

Lin Sheng quickly responded, "Miss, you are too polite, please sit, please sit."

Gu Dai sat back down, thought for a moment, and asked, "Uncle Lin, are you here regarding the secretary's matter? I only fired her because she did not follow instructions.."

Chapter 72: Vague Figure

Lin Sheng said, "Chairwoman Gu, there's no need for an explanation. I know that whatever you do, you have your own considerations. I came here because after Zhang Hui's firing, you'll have no secretary to handle some miscellaneous things, so I want to recommend someone."

Gu Dai nodded, waiting for Lin Sheng to continue speaking.

Lin Sheng continued, "The person I'm recommending is called Zheng Ming. He graduated from a prestigious school and has been with the company for a while. He's quite competent, and I believe he should have no problem handling your secretarial duties."

After firing Zhang Hui, Gu Dai indeed needed to find a new secretary. Lin Sheng's recommendation seemed to have saved her the trouble.

Gu Dai said, "If Uncle Lin recommends him, then he must be the right person. Let's go with him."

Lin Sheng nodded and placed the file in his hands on Gu Dai's desk. "Chairwoman Gu, this is the employee list from the past few years that you asked me to organize."

Gu Dai nodded and scanned through the list before she asked Lin Sheng, "How have the employees been doing lately? Do we need to adjust any employee benefits?"

Lin Sheng smiled in response, "The company has recently arranged air conditioning, relaxation rooms, massage rooms, and other amenities. Now with clear direction, employees are motivated. They say that since you took over, they feel their career trajectories have improved tremendously"

Gu Dai felt somewhat embarrassed. "Uncle Lin, isn't that a bit exaggerated?"

Lin Sheng replied, with seriousness in his tone, "This is not exaggerated at all. Our company is definitely a leader in the industry, even better than Song Corporation in terms of benefits."

When he mentioned Song Corporation, he suddenly recalled something.

Lin Sheng looked at Gu Dai, perplexed, and asked, "By the way, Chairwoman Gu, working with Song Corporation should be beneficial to us. Why did you refuse this cooperation?"

Gu Dai smiled, replying, "Although Song Corporation is one of the best in the industry, not all partnerships are suitable. I want to wait a bit longer."

Lin Sheng had developed a deep admiration for Gu Dai and didn't inquire further.

At that moment, Gu Dai spotted an employee's resignation details. When she saw the name Liu Nian, she paused to process the information, then her eyes narrowed slightly, fixated on the photograph.

She turned to Lin Sheng and asked, "Uncle Lin, do you know why this person named Liu Nian resigned three years ago?"

Lin Sheng thought for a moment, then said, "He was doing well in the company, but suddenly wanted to resign, claiming his hometown's land was claimed by the government, and he received 5 million in compensation."

Gu Dai nodded, saying, "Okay, I understand."

Leaning back in her chair, eyes closed, Gu Dai felt something was off about Liu Nian.

Back when her parents were alive, Gu Ming's family appeared nice, and she had visited their home a few times, seeing Liu Nian. He even had a brotherly relationship with Gu Ming.

Logically, after Gu Ming took over, Liu Nian should have reaped some benefits. He should not have resigned, especially at a critical time related to her cruise explosion. It was possible that the cruise explosion was somehow related to Liu Nian.

With the story starting to become clear, Gu Dai opened her eyes, then said to Lin Sheng.

"Lin Sheng, can you contact Liu Nian? I have something that I have to speak to him about."

Lin Sheng looked somewhat troubled but still agreed, "I'll arrange for some people to look into it."

Gu Dai nodded, "Good."

After Lin Sheng left, Gu Dai lowered her head, her eyes filled with darkness.

Back then, as the cruise swayed on the sea, surrounded by fire, Gu Dai's ears were filled with screams and shouts of the people onboard. She felt like she was pushed, then fell into the sea, gradually losing consciousness, only recalling a vague figure, followed by a massive explosion, and then everything went dark.

Although she had recovered her lost memory, there were lingering effects, and she couldn't recall many details of the explosion.

Gu Dai clearly remembered seeing that person's face, but why couldn't she remember it now?

Who was he?

After some time, Gu Dai's vision gradually cleared. She picked up her phone and texted Chu Min, "Have you found anything about the passengers on the cruise that year?" Her fingers hovered over the phone, anticipation mixing with a sense of uncertainty, as she awaited the reply..

Chapter 73: Thinking of a Scammer

Chu Min responded, "I just received the list, and I'm sending it to your email now. However, this is only the tally of those known to have perished so far; some individuals are still unaccounted for, and I'm still investigating."

Gu Dai opened the list and her eyes meticulously scanned each name, her brows gradually furrowing with concern. Regrettably, after examining the entire list, she found no familiar names.

The investigation yielded no progress, leaving Gu Dai still in the dark about who had assisted her.

It appeared that any leads would have to come from Gu Ming's side.

At noon, at Song Corporation.

Wearing a red long dress, Jiang Yue gracefully entered the company, carrying lunch prepared for Song Ling.

Her entrance captured many onlookers' attention, and whispers filled the air:

"Who is this person? She didn't even need to make an appointment and went straight to President Song's office."

"You don't know her? That's the famous dancer Jiang Yue, also President Song's beloved, our future lady boss!"

"Future lady boss? But isn't President Song already married? If he has another love, wouldn't that make him a playboy?"

"He's already divorced. It's a shame; I never even caught a glimpse of the former lady boss. But she must not have been pretty, or President Song wouldn't have fallen for another woman. I heard that Miss Jiang is the reason for President Song's divorce."

Jiang Yue remained unbothered by the employees' gossip, considering it irrelevant to her interests, and didn't engage with them.

Before entering the office, she adorned a bright smile, gently pushed open the door, and found Song Ling at his desk, immersed in signing documents, his expression serious.

Song Ling looked up, his usual cold expression giving way to a brief frown. However, his irritation vanished as he caught sight of the red dress, his mind momentarily drifting to memories of Gu Dai's dance on stage at the bar.

When Jiang Yue noticed Song Ling's distant look, she lowered her head, a shy smile gracing her lips, and whispered, "Brother Song Ling, don't look at me like that, I'm getting shy."

Jiang Yue's voice snapped Song Ling back to reality, his eyes flashing with complexity. He quickly stood up, accepted the lunchbox from her, and softly said, "I'm sorry, Yueyue, you're too beautiful; I couldn't help myself."

Then he changed the subject: "Why did you come here yourself? You could have sent someone with the lunch."

Jiang Yue's eyes softened as she looked at Song Ling, explaining, "I feared that if a servant brought it, you wouldn't eat. I made this myself; I don't want others taking credit for my effort."

Song Ling gave Jiang Yue a helpless look and said, "How could that happen? I could instantly tell if it's food made by Yueyue. But why did you decide to cook?"

Jiang Yue unveiled the food from the lunchbox and gently said, "I learned from Zhao Xuan that you haven't been eating well lately. My heart aches at the thought, so I decided to cook to enhance your meals. You work tirelessly; if you don't eat well, your health will suffer."

Song Ling's face soured as he looked at the unappetizing food. Still, he embraced Jiang Yue and said, "Thank you, Yueyue. Your intentions are enough; next time, let the servants handle it. Cooking is laborious, and I can't bear to see you tired."

Jiang Yue, growing even shyer at his words, gently pushed Song Ling away and offered him a bite with her chopsticks.

Song Ling wanted to refuse but, seeing the expectation in Jiang Yue's eyes, he relented and took a bite.

For a brief second, his taste buds were assaulted by an overwhelming mix of flavors. He was so repelled that he could no longer sustain his smile.

In that moment, Song Ling's thoughts turned wistfully to Gu Dai.

Her cooking had always been pleasing to the nose, eyes and mouth, and they were always to his liking, never featuring dishes he disliked, such as potatoes.

Jiang Yue noticed Song Ling's distracted demeanor, and though her expression cooled slightly, she softly asked, "Brother Song Ling, are you thinking about work?"

Song Ling immediately denied it, "No, I'm thinking about a scammer."

He then paused, surprised at his candid response, knowing that he should have played along with Jiang Yue's question instead..

Chapter 74: The Fire

"A scammer?" Jiang Yue, hearing Song Ling's words, was taken aback, and then quickly followed up, concern in her voice, "Did the company suffer any losses?"

After all, once she and Song Ling were married, the company would effectively be hers. If there were any losses, even the smallest amount, it would affect her future wealth!

Song Ling failed to notice Jiang Yue's underlying anxiety and replied dismissively, "Don't worry, the company hasn't suffered any losses. That scammer's rank is too low to affect me."

Jiang Yue breathed a sigh of relief, her bright eyes full of admiration as she praised, "Brother Song Ling, you are so capable! But who would dare target you?"

Song Ling looked away, a sneer forming in his mind, recognizing Gu Dai as a woman of great audacity.

He couldn't believe that all the men surrounding her had become involved after their divorce.

There were men who had driven her to the divorce proceedings, so she must have cheated during their marriage, weaving him a big green hat (1)!

Yet outwardly, Gu Dai had managed every aspect of his life, pretending to be devoted, even fooling his grandfather into recognizing her as the only suitable granddaughter – in – law.

Song Ling thought bitterly, Gu Dai is a complete and utter scammer!

Jiang Yue noticed Song Ling's darkening mood but didn't probe further, content that the company was secure.

When she attempted to feed Song Ling the third piece of potato, he reached a breaking point and said tactfully, "Yueyue, I'm full."

"You must eat," Jiang Yue insisted, concern in her voice, "If you don't eat, you won't have energy for work this afternoon. Can you take just one more bite?"

Song Ling, though fond of Jiang Yue, couldn't endure the food any longer. He took the chopsticks from her and said with a firm voice, "I'm resting this afternoon; there's no work. I won't need energy."

"Alright." Jiang Yue relented and then looked at Song Ling with thoughtful eyes, "Shall we go buy a wedding dress this afternoon? We are getting married next month. If we don't prepare now, it may be too late."

Song Ling was taken aback, a subconscious resistance forming in his mind. He frowned, "Getting married next month?"

He had not expected Jiang Yue to take Wang Lan's words to heart.

"I think it's a bit premature for us to get married now. Perhaps we should wait a little longer..."

A flicker of darkness appeared in Jiang Yue's eyes, followed by a pitiful look, stopped him in his tracks. Her eyes welled with tears as she looked at Song Ling, her voice soft and trembling, "Brother Song Ling, don't you love me?"

Song Ling's brow twitched, and he pressed his lips together, pausing for a few seconds before finally replying, "I love you."

Jiang Yue, fortified by his confirmation, continued, "But if you love me, you wouldn't say it's too early to marry. After all, we've known each other for a long time, and this excuse is too obvious."

Song Ling rubbed his brow, the situation clearly taxing him, wanting to articulate his thoughts.

But the next moment, he was interrupted by Jiang Yue's earnest words. "You once promised to repay me, saying anything would do. My greatest wish is to marry you. Will you go back on your word?"

Song Ling's heart ached at the sight of Jiang Yue's tears. He wiped them gently from her face and comforted her softly, "Of course I won't go back on my word. When I said it was too early, I meant that you haven't been back in the country for long, and we haven't spent much time together. But since you want to get married, let's go look at wedding dresses now, and we'll get married next month."

Jiang Yue's smile blossomed like a flower after a rainstorm, and she joyfully clung to Song Ling's arm, pressing herself close to him as if she were afraid he might change his mind.

She knew that by mentioning the past and the promise of marriage, Song Ling would agree right away.

Song Ling looked down at Jiang Yue beside him, feeling a warmth spreading through his heart, a fondness that he couldn't deny.

Years ago, during a sudden fire, he had been trapped, surrounded by merciless flames, his hope dwindling. Just when he thought death was imminent, Jiang Yue, a child of just over ten, had braved the inferno to pull him out.

That was when he had vowed to repay her kindness.

If it hadn't been for Jiang Yue, he would have perished in that fire. Now that her only request was to marry him, refusal was unthinkable.

Soon, Song Ling was leading Jiang Yue to the grandest and most luxurious bridal shop in the capital.

Upon entering, he instructed the shop assistant with a confidence borne of his love for her, "Bring out the newest and most beautiful wedding dresses in your store for my future wife to try."

(1) Big Green Hat is known as a symbol of a disloyal partner

Chapter 75: Last Piece

Jiang Yue took a moment to process what Song Ling had said, clearly not expecting him to refer to her as his wife already. After she recovered from her surprise, she shyly responded, "We're not married yet!"

Song Ling smiled warmly and assured her, "We'll be married next month. It's happening soon."

The shop assistant, overhearing their exchange, appropriately chuckled along and offered a congenial remark, "Mr. and Ms., your love is truly beautiful."

A light shade of red crept into Jiang Yue's cheeks, and, embarrassed, she stomped her foot, playfully directing the shop assistant towards the wedding dress section, "Hurry, let's go look at the wedding dresses."

Jiang Yue's eyes widened as she surveyed the extensive collection of wedding dresses, her face lighting up with astonishment. In no time at all, she picked out no less than ten dresses, eagerly trying on each one and soliciting Song Ling's opinion.

Finally, she emerged wearing the last one.

Adorned in a mermaid wedding dress, her eyes sparkling with excitement, Jiang Yue turned to Song Ling, seeking his thoughts, "Brother Song Ling, I feel that this one looks better than the others. What do you think?"

Song Ling looked up from his distracted thoughts, not fully comprehending the difference between these pristine white wedding dresses. To him, they all looked alike, but he still nodded approvingly and said, "It's beautiful."

Jiang Yue frowned, sensing his indifference, and accused him, "You're just humoring me!"

With earnest conviction, she then explained, "Do you know? For girls, the day we get married is a day filled with anticipation, because we will walk towards the person we love most in the presence of our loved ones. The wedding dress is worn only on that day, so I must choose the most beautiful one..."

Her words trailed off, becoming a distant murmur in Song Ling's ears as he was lost in thought.

Is the wedding day truly a girl's most anticipated day?

Did Gu Dai also look forward to it?

But three years ago...The memory of that day, when he had run away from his wedding with Gu Dai, returned to him. He ran away that day, and only returned to the hall late into the night, with only grandpa and Gu Dai.

They had ended up marrying in a nearly empty hall, with only his grandpa as a witness.

Gu Dai looked beautiful in the wedding dress.

Her black, silky hair, along with her fine and delicate skin contrasted the white wedding dress. The beautiful smile on her face brightened the dark night.

Except that when they returned to their room, he coldly ordered her to take off her wedding dress, and said in a disapproving tone, "This is hideous."

At that time, Gu Dai's eyes, which seemed to hold stars within them, dimmed in an instant. Even so, she said nothing, merely quietly changing her clothes without any complaint or bitterness.

As these thoughts played in his mind, his face turned grim, his heart uneasy.

Jiang Yue noticed Song Ling's distraction, her face falling. Was it because she wasn't pretty enough?

No, that couldn't be!

It must be the dress's fault!

Frustration evident in her voice, she looked angrily at the shop assistant and demanded, "Is this the best wedding dress in your shop? I think it's just mediocre!"

Taken aback by her fury, the shop assistant stammered, as it was difficult for her to believe that despite her good look, her face seemed to twist because of anger, "We have one masterpiece in our shop, Master Gu.D's last piece of work. Would you like to try it?"

Jiang Yue's glare didn't waver, "Since there's a masterpiece, why didn't you bring it out at the beginning? Go fetch it now!"

When Song Ling's attention returned to the present, he found that Jiang Yue had disappeared. He approached the shop assistant, inquiring, "Have you seen Miss Jiang, who was trying on wedding dresses just now?"

"Miss Jiang is trying on a new wedding dress in the fitting room," the shop assistant responded.

Song Ling thanked her.

The shop assistant listened to the polite response from Song Ling, and was confused about what he saw in Jiang Yue's unrefined manner.

After a short wait, the fitting room door opened, and Jiang Yue emerged.

When Song Ling turned around, and his gaze landed on the wedding dress on her, he froze in place. The dress she wore was unlike any he had seen before.

Pleased by Song Ling's astonished expression, Jiang Yue approached him, her voice soft, "Is it beautiful?"

He nodded, genuinely moved, "Beautiful, very beautiful."

Jiang Yue's satisfaction was palpable, but a slight discomfort betrayed her. The dress was too small, so tight that she had to breathe cautiously.

"Do you have this dress in a larger size?" she asked..

Chapter 76: Invitation

The shop assistant shook her head with a touch of regret in her eyes. "I'm sorry, miss, but Master Gu.D designed this dress based on her own measurements."

Jiang Yue was about to complain, indignant at the small size, but her words caught in her throat when she heard the shop assistant's explanation. Her face, however, betrayed her slight dissatisfaction.

Song Ling, noticing her discomfort, gently patted her head and asked the assistant, "Can the size not be altered?"

The shop assistant replied, "No, every petal of the skirt on this wedding dress was hand-sewn by Master Gu.D with exquisite technique. If we alter it, we won't be able to restore its original beauty."

Jiang Yue, though frustrated and unwilling, had no choice but to accept this and select another wedding dress. Although the one she ended up choosing was still stunning, it lacked the magic of the masterpiece in the store had.

Before leaving the wedding dress shop, Song Ling's eyes lingered on the dress now returned to its prime position. A thought crossed his mind that Gu Dai might be able to wear it.

By the time the two left the shop, dusk had settled.

Jiang Yue, holding Song Ling's arm, gazed up at him and softly suggested, "Brother Song Ling, I heard that a new Western restaurant opened nearby. The steak there is delicious. Let's go..."

Before she could finish, Song Ling interrupted her, "I'm sorry, Yueyue, I have work to handle later, so I won't be able to have dinner with you."

Jiang Yue was momentarily taken aback and asked in confusion, "But you said you didn't have work this afternoon?"

Song Ling's brows furrowed, caught in a lie he had forgotten.

As he pondered how to soothe Jiang Yue, his phone rang, providing a timely interruption.

Song Ling quickly answered, "What's up, Assistant Zhao?"

Zhao Xuan had prepared himself for an earful, knowing that he was interrupting Song Ling's date with Jiang Yue. But he was surprised to detect a hint of joy in Song Ling's typically emotionless voice.

Zhao Xuan informed, "Mr. Song, the Shi family is hosting a banquet tonight, and they have sent you an invitation. Will you attend?"

Song Ling's response was affirmative, "Yes. I'll send you the address. Come pick me up."

For a fleeting moment, Zhao Xuan doubted what he heard, thinking he must be hallucinating. After all, the Shi family had a good relationship with the Gu family, and a banquet hosted by them would certainly extend an invitation to Miss Gu Dai. Considering President Song's recent disagreement with Miss Gu, Zhao Xuan had assumed that Song Ling would direct his anger at the Shi family and refuse the invitation.

Now it seemed, Zhao Xuan realized that his understanding had been too narrow, and he had misjudged the situation.

Close by, Jiang Yue overheard the conversation and asked after Song Ling hung up, "Can't you not go?"

Song Ling, shaking his head, carefully explained, "The Shi family's status is only second to the Song family. This banquet is a networking opportunity with other influential figures, which could lead to several partnerships. Furthermore, the Shi family patriarch's health is poor, and since he was just discharged from the hospital, I should pay my respects."

Jiang Yue's eyes sparkled with understanding as she smiled, "Okay, go work, I won't disturb you."

Song Ling nodded.

Soon after, Zhao Xuan had driven over and Song Ling got into Zhao Xuan's waiting car.

Leaning back and closing his eyes, he was left to ponder why he had felt so irritated during his time with Jiang Yue and why he had chosen to attend a banquet he didn't need to.

Meanwhile, at Gu Group.

A young man with a crew cut, dressed in a suit, entered the office and placed an invitation on the desk. His ears reddened, and his voice shy as he informed, "Chairwoman Gu, this is an invitation from the Shi family."

Gu Dai looked at Zheng Ming and smiled, "Good, you go first to prepare some gifts for Old Master Shi."

Zheng Ming respectfully acknowledged.

After Zheng Ming left, Lin Sheng came in, his laughter hearty as he inquired, "Chairwoman Gu, do you find Zheng Ming to be a suitable candidate?"

Gu Dai's approval was prompt, "He's good. I've observed him for a day now. He's efficient, serious, mature beyond his years, and not overly talkative. Let's keep him for now."

Lin Sheng nodded, "Alright."

Then, he asked, "Chairman Gu, are you going to the Shi family's banquet tonight?"

Gu Dai nodded, agreeing without hesitation, "Yes!"

She had intended to visit Old Master Shi after her busy schedule, but receiving an invitation had expedited the plan..

Chapter 77: One-sided Contract

Gu Dai looked at Lin Sheng and said, "Uncle Lin, why don't you come with me later?"

Lin Sheng shook his head, expressing his thoughts, "I think we can have Zheng Ming accompany you this time to gain some experience. After all, he will be with you on many occasions in the future."

Gu Dai nodded in agreement, "Alright."

Lin Sheng then reported to Gu Dai about what was happening in the company.

After Gu Dai tidied up her office desk, she received a call from Chu Min.

Chu Min said, "Boss, Wang Lan has signed the contract."

Gu Dai was very satisfied with Chu Min's efficiency, and she nodded in response, "Good, I see."

Just as Gu Dai hung up the phone, Zheng Ming knocked on the door. Upon receiving permission to enter, he came in, face flushed and panting, carrying several gift bags.

Seeing this, Gu Dai raised her eyebrows, inquiring with confusion in her tone, "Why did you buy so much?"

Zheng Ming barely caught his breath before he quickly responded, "Chairwoman Gu, I took the initiative to not only buy gifts for President Shi but also for the other members of the Shi family. If you don't like it, we won't give the remaining ones."

Gu Dai wasn't angry; instead, she praised him, "Not bad."

Compared to Zhang Hui's initiative, Zheng Ming's approach would earn him more favor with her.

After all, one was something she had explicitly refused, and the other was something she hadn't considered thoroughly.

Gu Dai looked at Zheng Ming's current state and expressed concern. "It's still early, and this place is not far from the Shi family's place. Sit down and rest for a bit; we'll go later."

Zheng Ming did not refute Gu Dai's words; he only sat down on the chair and looked troubled for a while before finally summoning the courage to say, "I'm not tired; I'm just, just a little shy."

Gu Dai was momentarily stunned, asking in confusion, "Shy?"

Zheng Ming lowered his head, speaking softly, "Chairwoman Gu is not what I imagined. I thought you would be very fierce and serious, but you're actually so gentle."

His voice became softer and softer as he spoke.

Gu Dai suddenly wanted to tease him. She immediately put away the smile on her face and said, her tone cold, "No, I am very fierce. If you don't do your job well, I'll deduct your salary!"

Zheng Ming realized that Gu Dai was teasing him, but he still earnestly said, "Don't worry, Chairwoman Gu, I'll work with all my energy every day!"

Regarding the matter of Wang Lan signing the contract, Song Ling found out on the way to the Bai family, as Wang Lan had called him.

Wang Lan said, "Hey, son, that painting you bought at the auction, where is it? I can't find it."

Hearing Wang Lan's words, Song Ling instantly furrowed his brows, distant and emotionless in his voice, "What do you want the painting for? I've already given it away."

Wang Lan's voice suddenly rose, "What, you actually gave it away! No, why did you give the painting away without telling me?"

Understanding Wang Lan's character, Song Ling knew she must have gotten into trouble. He rubbed his temples helplessly and said, "Tell me, did you want to sell that painting?"

Wang Lan hadn't expected to be seen through by Song Ling so quickly. Her once high and mighty voice dropped, "I, I'm just short of money recently. Someone offered to buy your painting for one hundred million. I thought since it could be sold for such a high price, you wouldn't be losing out, so I planned to sell it. Thus, don't forget to get the painting back from your friend."

"Once given, how can something be taken back? And not losing out?" Song Ling was almost furious with Wang Lan but still suppressed his annoyance, "Do you know that my painting was by Master Cui Song? It's worth over three hundred million on the market!"

Wang Lan's face turned pale over the phone, she exclaimed in shock, "Three hundred million?"

Song Ling, seeing that Wang Lan had taken the hint, finally breathed a sigh of relief, saying, "Yes, that buyer's offer is too low. You should reject him; don't sell."

What Song Ling didn't expect was that after saying these words, Wang Lan's side fell silent. Realizing something, he felt a bad premonition.

Sure enough, Wang Lan's next words confirmed his fears.

Wang Lan's voice was low, yet it thundered in Song Ling's ears, "I can't refuse. I've already signed a contract with them."

Song Ling closed his eyes, taking a deep breath, "You even signed a contract? Take a picture of it and let me see."

Wang Lan's photo came quickly.

Song Ling only took one glance to know it was a one-sided contract!

Chapter 78: Daidai, I've missed you so much

The contract stipulated that in exchange for the painting, one hundred million yuan would be paid to Wang Lan. However, if Wang Lan failed to produce the painting within two days, she would be liable for a penalty five times that amount, which amounted to five hundred million yuan.

Song Ling read the contract several times, growing angrier with each reading. He had concluded that the contract was devoid of any flaws; it was so legitimate that it couldn't be more so!

He instructed Zhao Xuan to bring him his computer, then asked Wang Lan over the phone, "Where did you sign the contract with the person you traded with?"

Wang Lan was so nervous that she hardly dared to breathe. Faced with Song Ling's inquiry, she quickly answered, "At Shanlin Coffee!"

Song Ling's ability to establish himself within the Song family was due largely his hacking skills, which he had used to take care of troublesome people within the company. Although he hadn't used his skills in a long time, he still possessed them.

In no time at all, he found the surveillance footage from Shanlin Coffee.

In the video, Wang Lan sat across from a man in a suit. They spoke for only a few minutes before Wang Lan, visibly excited, took a pen from the man's hand and signed the contract.

Song Ling's eyes narrowed as he watched the scene, then he asked Wang Lan over the phone, "Do you know who this man is? What's his name? Where does he live?"

Wang Lan said, "I don't know... We met online, and he said he wanted this painting. Since you have it, we agreed to meet at this location."

Song Ling snorted coldly, "This man clearly knew you had the painting and targeted you!"

Previously, Grandpa had said that Wang Lan was foolish, a notion that Song Ling hadn't fully grasped. He even had his doubt about whether it was exaggerated or not. But at this moment, he realized it was not exaggerated at all. In fact, it was an understatement, because he thought Wang Lan was not just foolish but downright stupid!

After he tracked the surveillance footage, he tried to look into the man's identity. Unexpectedly, he couldn't find anything about the man, just like he had been stumped by the investigation of Gu Dai.

An idea flashed across Song Ling's mind. Perhaps this man had a connection with Gu Dai. After all, although Wang Lan had offended many people, only Gu Dai had the courage to retaliate.

Song Ling's pupils dimmed. He didn't even want to deal with Wang Lan now, and said coldly, "I'll cover the five hundred million for you this time, but it's only a loan. I'll have a lawyer send a contract to your home later, remember to sign it." If she likes signing contracts so much, then she can sign all of them!

Wang Lan was completely dumbfounded by Song Ling's words.

Song Ling stated, "If this happens again, I won't pay for you. You can let the police handle it. Also, you'd better stay at home and stop causing trouble outside!"

Wang Lan took a while to recover from the sentence, then exclaimed passionately, "Song Ling, I am your mother! Is there any filial piety left in you treating me this way?"

But Song Ling had already hung up the phone, so he didn't hear Wang Lan's protest.

After sending a message, he put away his phone and told Zhao Xuan, "Go to the family house later, and make sure my mom signs the contract. Also, arrange for a few people to watch her. If she does anything odd, inform me immediately."

Song Ling felt that even with his warning, Wang Lan, with her attitude, would definitely not listen.

At that time, Gu Dai had arrived at the Shi family home. Looking at the familiar building, she felt a bit dazed, only to be greeted by a familiar voice calling, "Daidai!"

Gu Dai was startled, then turned around, embraced by someone.

Shi Nuan's eyes filled with tears as she hugged Gu Dai tightly, exclaiming, "Daidai, I've missed you so much!"

Gu Dai's heart trembled, and she raised a hand to stroke Shi Nuan's head, forcing back her tears as she smiled, "Nuannuan, I've missed you too. Have you been well these years?"

Shi Nuan shook her head vigorously, "Without Daidai, these three years have been terrible!"

Gu Dai took a tissue from her pocket and carefully wiped away Shi Nuan's tears, softly saying, "Nuannuan, don't cry. I'm back now, aren't I? You should be happy."

Shi Nuan nodded vigorously, but although her actions agreed, her tears continued to flow. She said plaintively, "I searched for you for three days and nights on the ship and on the sea, but I couldn't find a trace of you. Everyone said you were dead.."

Chapter 79: Playboy

Shi Nuan said, "But I thought it's very possible that you were rescued, since we didn't even find your body. Over these three years, I've dreamt more than once that you were not dead, and now you have finally appeared before me, no longer a figment of my imagination!"

Gu Dai silently wiped away Shi Nuan's tears, softly consoling her.

Several minutes passed, and Shi Nuan finally regained her composure, a little embarrassed. She turned her face away and quietly asked Gu Dai, "Daidai, where have you been these three years? Have you been well?"

Gu Dai nodded and then shook her head.

Shi Nuan looked at Gu Dai's gestures, feeling somewhat puzzled, not understanding her meaning.

Gu Dai saw this and began to speak, "After the ship incident, I was indeed rescued, but I lost my memory."

Shi Nuan was shocked, and her eyes filled with heartache as she looked at Gu Dai, "Amnesia!"

Gu Dai nodded, continuing to speak, "In these three years, not only did I injure my brain, but my taste has also diminished. I fell in love with a man, and later fulfilled my wish to marry him. However, he loved another woman and didn't like me, so his attitude towards me wasn't very good."

Shi Nuan was still in shock, but when she heard Gu Dai's words, she came to her senses, furious, "You are beautiful and kind-hearted. Back then, I thought that whoever married you would be blessed. How could a man be so unappreciative? Is he blind?"

Shi Nuan paused, then looked at Gu Dai carefully, and softly asked, "Daidai, do you still like him now?"

Without any hesitation, Gu Dai denied, "I don't like him. After recovering my memory, I divorced him right away!"

Shi Nuan clapped her hands in excitement, "Well done! You should have kicked that scumbag out the first chance you had! Tell me who he is, Daidai, and I'll hire someone to teach him a lesson!"

Gu Dai shook her head.

Shi Nuan pursed her lips, thinking that Gu Dai still had some feelings for that man, and decided that moving on from a failed relationship was the best course of action.

So Shi Nuan said to Gu Dai, "Daidai, there are many men in this world. Look at my brother; although he is irresponsible and has run away abroad to avoid taking over the company, he's a good person with a kind heart. If you were with him, he would treat you like a princess!"

Gu Dai raised her hand to touch Shi Nuan's forehead and helplessly said, "Your brother might already have someone he likes. If he knew you mentioned him, he might get angry."

Suddenly, Gu Dai's eyes narrowed, and she stared intently at Shi Nuan.

Feeling somewhat uneasy under Gu Dai's gaze, Shi Nuan softly asked, "What's the matter, Daidai?"

Gu Dai looked at Shi Nuan and spoke slow, "Nuannuan, we've been talking about my love life, now let's talk about yours. For example, do you still like my third brother?"

Shi Nuan's face turned red the instant she heard Gu Dai's words, and after she struggled for a while, she finally nodded slightly, whispering, "Yes."

After she expressed her feelings, her shyness somewhat dissipated, and she seemed to see the gallant youth on the racetrack, with a smile, she said, "After all, Meng Zhi is fair-skinned, tall, and handsome. It's really hard for me not to like him."

Gu Dai gave Shi Nuan a knowing look, saying, "Leave it to me. Once my third brother comes back, I'll try to create opportunities for you two!"

Shi Nuan covered her blushing ears, shouting, "Daidai!"

Lin Ye, as she walked to the front of the villa, saw the two girls laughing and playing. When she saw Gu Dai, her eyes also turned slightly red, exclaiming joyfully, "Daidai, why didn't you come in?"

Shi Nuan walked over and took Lin Ye's arm and smiled, "Mom, I was so excited to see Daidai that we talked outside for a while."

Gu Dai looked at Lin Ye and called softly, "Aunt Lin."

Lin Ye responded and led Gu Dai towards the villa, her sight falling on her constantly, "The old master was overjoyed to hear that you had returned. Had he not been sick recently, he would have gone to see you right away. Now that he's well, he held a banquet to invite you over.. He must be eagerly waiting for you inside the villa!"

Chapter 80: Family

Gu Dai's brows furrowed slightly, "Grandpa Shi is sick?"

Lin Ye sighed, "He suddenly fell ill with a fever a month ago, so severe that he had to be hospitalized. He's been getting better lately, but there's still a lingering cough. The doctor said it'll take another two months to fully recover. They wanted to keep him in the hospital for further observation, but the old man insisted he was fine and threatened to starve himself if he wasn't allowed to leave, so we had to take him home."

As the two talked, they unknowingly reached the villa, and Shi Kun overheard them.

Shi Kun's eyebrows shot up, and he glared at Lin Ye, booming energetically, "Little Dai, don't listen to those doctors' nonsense. I feel perfectly fine. They just want to cheat me out of my money! Cough, cough, cough..."

Lin Ye quickly stepped forward, lightly patting Shi Kun's back, "Dad, be careful."

Shi Kun waved his hand, "It's nothing, nothing. I'm fine."

Then he looked up at Gu Dai, his eyes shining with excitement, "Little Dai, come over here and let Grandpa Shi have a look."

Gu Dai walked closer, noting the changes in the old man's appearance since she had last seen him. There were more wrinkles on his face, and his hair had turned completely silver. Despite these changes, he still gave her the same warm feeling as before.

Gu Dai greeted him, "Grandpa Shi."

Shi Kun acknowledged her, looking her over with a smile, "Little Dai, it's great that you're alive. There's hope for the Gu family. You've become more radiant but also a bit too skinny. Haven't you been living well these past three years? Why don't you live with Grandpa Shi and Nuannuan, and I'll hire some chefs to fatten you up?"

Gu Dai had indeed lost weight in the stressful years she'd been staying with Song Ling's family, but she reassured him with a smile, "Grandpa Shi, I'm skinny thin. Being slender is the trend, so I've been dieting on purpose."

Shi Kun shook his head, disapproving, "No, no, that's not good. You should be plump. You must consider Shi family as your own home."

Shi Kuang, who had just finished a meeting, also chimed in, "Your father and I were sworn brothers. I've always considered you as my daughter."

Lin Ye and Shi Nuan nodded in agreement, "Yes, we are all your family."

Tears welled in Gu Dai's eyes, but she fought to hold them back, only to have them spill over. She wiped them away, nodding emphatically.

Gu Dai hastily presented the gifts she had prepared, "These are the gifts I've brought. I don't know if you'll like them."

Shi Kun laughed, "We love them, we love them. Anything from you is welcome, but don't bring gifts when you come to see me in the future, or Grandpa Shi will be angry."

Gu Dai quickly complied, remembering that Grandpa Shi was still coughing, "Grandpa Shi, I once studied medicine with a master. Would you like me to take your pulse and check your condition?"

As soon as Gu Dai finished speaking, Shi Kun extended his hand, smiling, "Why not?"

Gu Dai placed her fingers on Shi Kun's pulse, and a few minutes later, she reassured him, "Grandpa Shi, there's nothing seriously wrong. It's just a lingering cough, like the doctor said. I can prescribe some herbs, and you'll feel better in a few days. If you're worried about the medication, you can have a doctor look at it."

Shi Kun's eyes widened with delight, "No need to look, I trust Little Dai. Nuannuan, quickly bring the pen and paper."

Shi Nuan excitedly complied, quickly fetching them.

Gu Dai wrote down the names of the herbs within moments.

Shi Kuang handed the paper to his assistant to retrieve the medication and then looked at Gu Dai, still with a bright smile, "We're truly grateful, Daidai. Tell me what gift you want, and Uncle Shi will have it bought for you."

Gu Dai quickly shook her head, "Uncle Shi, you said we're family. I'm just prescribing some medicine for a family member; this is what I should do. How could I ask for a reward?"

Shi Kuang immediately agreed, "Yes, yes, we're all family, no need to talk about these things."

Lin Ye's admiration for Gu Dai grew as she observed her calm and medical skills. She couldn't help but ask, "Daidai, have you liked anyone these past few years? When you were little, you and Shi Wen were always together, and you were very close.. If you haven't found someone you like, why not consider Shi Wen?"