

Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 101 - Leisure? –

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Chapter 101: Leisure?

Reading?

Gardening?

Had Qiao Nian lived such a refined and leisurely life for those five years?

“How was she able to stay idle?” Qiao Xin asked.

Yang Ze said calmly, “Second Young Mistress Qiao, if you don’t believe me, why don’t I take you there?”

“Alright, thank you for your trouble, Doctor Yang.”

Qiao Xin followed behind Yang Ze and walked towards the small courtyard where Qiao Nian used to live.

Before she reached the small courtyard, Qiao Xin could already smell the fragrance of flowers.

“Miss Qiao, Young Mistress Qiao’s residence is right in front,” Yang Ze explained with a smile.

In front of them was a garden filled with a variety of flowers and plants. The flowers were in bloom, attracting many bees and butterflies.

In the middle of the garden was a small hut.

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That was where Qiao Nian used to live.

“Were these all planted by Qiao Nian?” Qiao Xin looked at the flowers in disbelief.

Yang Ze's eyes were filled with admiration. From the bottom of his heart, he truly respected Qiao Nian. He said, "This piece of land used to be dry and barren. Miss Qiao came here every day to garden for the past five years. She's single-handedly turned this place into one of the most beautiful areas here in

our mental hospital."

Qiao Xin nodded and pointed at the hut. "Did she usually live there?"

"Yes."

Yang Ze brought Qiao Xin towards the wooden hut.

When Qiao Xin walked to the hut, she saw that the door was locked.

"Unlock the door!" Qiao Xin was curious. What was in the hut?

Yang Ze looked troubled. He stammered, "We don't have the key."

Qiao Xin's expression darkened and she clenched her fists involuntarily. Her nails dug into her palms, but she didn't feel any pain.

How was it that Qiao Nian could enjoy life wherever she went?

"This is a mental hospital. How can you let a patient do whatever she wants? Don't you know that these gardening tools can pose a danger to her life?" Qiao Xin questioned, forcibly suppressing her rage as she turned to look at Yang Ze.

"Our biggest investor has already approved of Miss Qiao gardening here," Yang Ze explained.

"Investor? Isn't our Qiao family the biggest investor here?" Qiao Xin looked at Yang Ze in surprise. Because the Qiao family was the biggest investor in this mental hospital, Su Xue had faced no trouble in sending Qiao Nian here five years ago.

"Two weeks after Miss Qiao entered, someone else has become the biggest investor in our hospital," Yang Ze said with a serious expression.

"Who is it now?" Qiao Xin asked curiously, frowning.

"Mr. Fang."

Qiao Xin's frown deepened. If she wasn't wrong, Mr. Fang was a hacker.

Very few people had heard of Mr. Fang. It was rumored that Mr. Fang was extremely rich.

If Mr. Fang was so rich, why would he invest in a mental hospital?

What made Qiao Xin unhappy was that she had thought that Qiao Nian would lead a life worse than death here. She had never expected Qiao Nian to lead such a pleasant life here, as if she were a member of a high profession who had chosen to live in solitude, away from society.

Could it be that Qiao Nian and Mr. Fang had an improper relationship? Was that why she received Mr. Fang's favor and special treatment?

However, Qiao Xin quickly dismissed the thought. Mr. Fang was a member of the high society. Perhaps he had simply taken Qiao Nian to be a gardener here.

Indeed, Qiao Nian had always been a country bumpkin. After all, she had grown up in the countryside. Apart from gardening, she knew nothing else.

At this thought, Qiao Xin felt much better.

Perhaps Mr. Fang had let Qiao Nian become the principal of An University on account of how well the garden had been taken care of.¹

It seemed that Mr. Fang was very capable.

Qiao Xin thought that if she could meet Mr. Fang, she would have to be on good terms with him. Perhaps if she managed to get Mr. Fang into a good mood, he would let her become the principal instead.

At this moment, a pickup truck drove over and two nurses alighted.

Qiao Xin watched as the two nurses began to move the plants into the truck.

Could it be that Mr. Fang had instructed them to move the plants?

Chapter 102: Stunned

With this thought in mind, Qiao Xin stepped forward and gave a gentle smile, asking politely, "Excuse me, sisters, where are you moving these plants to?"

"The Gu family's villa."

The smile on Qiao Xin's face froze. The Gu family's villa. Wasn't that where Qiao Nian lived?

Did Qiao Nian ask these people to move the plants?

“Are you moving all of these over?” Qiao Xin asked with a smile.

“Just these few.”

Qiao Xin’s gaze swept across the garden. These plants should belong to Mr. Fang. Qiao Nian definitely wouldn’t dare to move all of them away.

However, why was Qiao Nian taking away some of the plants?

Could there be a secret hidden in these plants?

At this moment, the nurses got into the van and prepared to leave.

Qiao Xin stepped forward quickly and smiled at one of the nurses. “Sister, please wait.”

The two young nurses looked at Qiao Xin in surprise.

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Qiao Xin gave a sweet smile and said, “Sisters, my name is Qiao Xin. A while back, my sister said that she would give me a potted plant. I came here today to pick one. I’ll bring it home tonight myself, in case my sister asks someone else to send one over again.”

The two nurses looked at Qiao Xin warily. Their gazes finally landed on Yang Ze’s face, as if questioning if that was the case.

Yang Ze nodded and introduced, “This is the Qiao family’s Second Young Mistress.”

The two nurses were instantly enlightened, and fawning smiles appeared on their faces. One of the nurses said, “In that case, Second Young Mistress Qiao, please choose any pot you want!”

Qiao Xin smiled and thanked them. She walked to the truck and took a few glances, then selected one of the plants at random. She thanked them again and left.

Although Qiao Xin didn’t recognize this pot of greenery, she had a strange feeling that this plant was very important.

After Qiao Xin drove home, she moved the pot into the house.

When she placed the green plant on the table in the courtyard, panting heavily, she finally realized that she had really moved a potted plant home herself.

She must be out of her mind.

Otherwise, why would she move a random pot home?

Su Xue came out of the house and saw Qiao Xin standing next to a potted plant, panting heavily. She said, "You're the Young Mistress of the Qiao family. Moving potted plants is such a simple matter; why not ask someone to do it for you? Why would you need to do it yourself? Oh dear... this is..."

Before Su Xue could finish her sentence, she froze, staring at the green plant in disbelief. Her eyes were as wide as saucers.

"Mom, what's wrong?" Qiao Xin asked casually, panting heavily.

"Daughter, tell me, where did you get this plant?" Su Xue's voice was trembling with excitement. She stepped forward quickly and grasped Qiao Xin's dirty hand.

Qiao Xin looked at Su Xue in surprise. Su Xue had always liked to be clean. "Mom, my hands are still dirty."

"My dear daughter, tell me!" Su Xue looked at Qiao Xin excitedly.

Qiao Xin's gaze fell on the pot of greenery. Puzzled, she asked, "Mom, what's wrong?"

"I'm fine. Let me tell you, this is an extremely rare specimen of Suranne Grass. It's hard to come by even in a hundred years!" As Su Xue said this, she was practically jumping in excitement.

Qiao Xin gasped in shock. Stunned, she stood frozen to the spot.

Suranne Grass.

Although Qiao Xin wasn't a medical student, she still knew a little about top-grade herbs.

Three years ago, a mysterious buyer had bought a stalk of Suranne Grass for fifty million dollars.

Now that three years had passed, it was rumored that the price of Suranne Grass had already increased by more than 30 times.

Qiao Nian, this country bumpkin, could actually cultivate Suranne Grass?

How was this possible?

Yes, this had to be impossible!

Qiao Nian couldn't have known that this was Suranne Grass.

“Mom, are you sure? Actually, this is just an ordinary plant. Perhaps it just looks like Suranne Grass!” Qiao Xin said, frowning.

“Daughter, have you forgotten? I studied Chinese medicine in the past. How could I be mistaken about this medicinal herb?”

Qiao Shan, who had just come out of the house, heard everything Su Xue and Qiao Xin said.

Qiao Shan quickly walked over and said excitedly, “Honey, are you sure that this is Suranne Grass?”

“I swear, this is definitely Suranne Grass!” Without hesitation, Su Xue raised three fingers and swore. After that, she looked anxiously at Qiao Xin. “Where exactly did this Suranne Grass come from?”

Qiao Xin felt as if she had been struck by lightning. She was utterly stunned. She had never expected this to truly be a priceless pot of Suranne Grass..

Chapter 103: We're Rich!

At the incessant urging of Qiao Shan and Su Xue, Qiao Xin told them all about her trip to the mental hospital.

This time, it was Qiao Shan and Su Xue's turn to be dumbfounded.

“Is that really true?” Su Xue asked hesitantly.

Qiao Xin nodded and said, “Mom, why would I lie to you? There's still a lot of greenery in the courtyard where Qiao Nian lived! Mom, tell me, how would Qiao Nian know how to cultivate Suranne Grass?”

Qiao Shan sat on a stone stool nearby and said thoughtfully, “Are you sure it was Qiao Nian who planted it?”

Qiao Xin nodded. “Qiao Nian's attending doctor said so.”

“Then, this matter will be easier to handle.” The corner of Qiao Shan's lips raised as a peculiar light flickered in his eyes.

Qiao Xin looked at Qiao Shan in confusion, not understanding what Qiao Shan meant. “Dad, what are you saying?”

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Seeing Qiao Xin like this, Su Xue couldn't help but explain with a smile, "Silly child, you don't understand. She's your sister, and she's a member of the Qiao family. The things she owns will naturally belong to the Qiao family."

Qiao Xin looked at Su Xue in surprise and said doubtfully, "Mom, are we going to be rich?"

Su Xue gave Qiao Xin an affirmative look.

Qiao Xin couldn't help but smile. She said triumphantly, "That's great! Then I can buy what I like!"

Su Xue's smile grew a touch more reckless. "Our Qiao family has never been very high up on the social ladder. Since Qiao Nian is so capable, then our family will no longer be afraid of being bullied!"

Qiao Shan nodded. At this moment, he suddenly felt that Qiao Nian was quite pleasing to the eye. "Little Xin, do you remember how many pots of Suranne Grass there were in the mental hospital?"

Qiao Xin thought for a while, then said, "At the mental hospital, the nurses moved about seven or eight pots away. There were still many potted plants in the courtyard. I don't know if there's any left."

"You're saying that she cultivated a lot of greenery?" Qiao Shan asked eagerly.

"Yes, about 200 square meters' worth, but I didn't recognize any of those plants," Qiao Xin said.

Qiao Shan turned to look at Su Xue and said, "Hurry up and go to the hospital to take a look. She might have planted many expensive medicinal herbs. Move them all home!"

Su Xue nodded.

Qiao Xin, who was standing at the side, said approvingly, "Father, you have to get back the Suranne Grass that Qiao Nian moved to the Gu residence. That's the treasure of our Qiao family. How can you let Gu Zhou have it so easily?"

Qiao Shan nodded in agreement. "That's right. That belongs to our Qiao family. This traitorous wretch is truly too shameless!"

Suddenly, there was the sound of clapping. The few of them looked over and saw Qiao Nian standing not far away.

“Marvelous. Truly amazing!” Qiao Nian looked at the three of them with a sarcastic expression. This was the first time she had seen anyone with such thick skin. She was so disgusted that she felt like vomiting.

Seeing Qiao Nian walk over, Su Xue subconsciously stood in front of the pot of Suranne Grass, blocking Qiao Nian’s line of sight.

Qiao Xin clenched her fists nervously and looked at Qiao Nian, her expression wary.

Now that Qiao Nian was the principal of An University, if she wanted to graduate successfully, she would have to get Qiao Nian’s approval. Hence, she had no choice but to tuck her tail between her legs.

Qiao Shan remained calm and composed. Sitting on the spot, he put on the airs of the head of the family. “Qiao Nian, you’re back. This is good timing. I have something to tell you!”

“Sure, but you have to return the Suranne Grass to me first!” Qiao Nian couldn’t even be bothered to greet Qiao Shan as her “father”. Her voice was cold.

When Su Xue heard Qiao Nian’s words, she immediately jumped out and said impatiently, “What are you saying? The Suranne Grass belongs to the Qiao family. How dare you mention it now? If you get your hands on anything good, shouldn’t you know to bring it home?”

“Why would I be embarrassed to mention it?” Qiao Nian raised her eyebrows and her gaze fell on Qiao Xin, who was standing next to Su Xue. “Qiao Xin is a thief. She stole my things. Why can’t I mention it?”

Qiao Nian simply couldn’t understand what the three of them were thinking.

Qiao Xin had been born after Su Xue had spent ten agonizing months pregnant. Now, according to Qiao Nian, Qiao Xin was a thief. Su Xue rebuked angrily, “What nonsense are you talking about? Qiao Xin just went to the hospital to take back some things of the family.. How can you say that she stole

anything of yours?”

Chapter 104: Bastard

The atmosphere grew more and more awkward.

Qiao Xin stood up shakily, mustering her courage to look at Qiao Nian. “Sister, you’re back. Would you like to have a meal at home before you leave?”

Qiao Nian simply couldn't bear to stay in the Qiao family home any longer. Her entire body was now radiating a frigid aura. Ignoring Qiao Xin's words, she snapped, "Give me back the Suranne Grass!"

Su Xue sensed the coldness radiating from Qiao Nian. For a moment, she was a little dazed. She felt that Qiao Nian was changing more and more. She was no longer the obedient Qiao Nian she used to be.

She was indeed a bastard child. This willful girl would never mature, not even after a lifetime of raising her.

A trace of coldness flashed in Su Xue's eyes.

Qiao Shan had also sensed the change in Qiao Nian. Casually, he slammed the teacup onto the ground and glared at Qiao Nian. He raged, "What are you talking about? How dare you speak to your mother and sister like that?! Do you want me to send you back to the mental hospital? Maybe then you'll learn

how to speak properly to your family!"

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Qiao Nian's gaze moved from Su Xue's face to Qiao Shan's. She snorted and questioned, "In that case, how do you think I should speak to a thief?"

"shut up! You wretch! If we didn't have your best interests in mind for your marriage, and arranged for you to marry into the Gu family, you would still be stuck in the mental hospital!"

Qiao Shan's heart ached at the mention of the Gu family. If he had known that Gu Zhou was good-looking, and that he was healthy and had a bright future, he would have asked Qiao Xin to marry into the Gu family. "Since the moment you got home, you've been talking about nothing but 'stealing'. How

does your family owe you anything?"

Before Qiao Nian could speak, Qiao Shan continued, "If your sister didn't go to the mental hospital, we wouldn't have known that you were planning to move all the Qiao family's assets out!"

Qiao Nian

Qiao Nian had never seen such brazen people in her life. This had truly broadened her horizons.

But Qiao Shan himself did not think that there was anything wrong with his words. With a cold expression, he commanded, "I order you to move all of the Suranne Grass in the Gu family home back to our house. As for the green plants in the hospital, move them all back to the Qiao family home as well!"

"Are you dreaming?" Qiao Nian couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Qiao Shan could hear the disdain in Qiao Nian's words. He said angrily, "What are you laughing at? Hurry up and move these things back!"

Qiao Nian stood there smiling, her gaze fixed on Qiao Shan, as if she was looking at a performing clown.

Qiao Shan could clearly see the disgust in Qiao Nian's eyes. He stood up angrily. "Do you not understand the English language? Do you think I'm spouting nonsense?"

Seeing that Qiao Shan had gotten himself worked up, Su Xue glared daggers at Qiao Nian. "Apologize to your father now!"

Qiao Xin was secretly overjoyed, but she pretended to be as pious and innocent as a white lotus. "Sister, do listen to Dad. His heart isn't well. Don't make him angry! Hurry up and bring the Suranne Grass back!"

Qiao Nian completely ignored Su Xue and Qiao Xin's words. Staring directly at Qiao Shan, she mocked, "Aren't you indeed spouting nonsense?"

Su Xue looked at Qiao Nian in astonishment. She hadn't expected Qiao Nian to say something so outrageous.

Qiao Shan was so irate that he choked, falling into a coughing fit.

Su Xue hurriedly patted Qiao Shan's back, attempting to relieve his coughing fit. Her gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face and she said in the tone of an old fogey, "Qiao Nian, don't anger your father. Hurry up and move the Suranne Grass back home. Let's forget about what happened today!"

"Wretch! You wretch!" Seeing how unruffled and uncaring Qiao Nian looked, Qiao Shan couldn't help but rage at her.

"Can you use another insult? I'm sick of hearing that!" Qiao Nian sneered, speaking unhurriedly.

"You... You have no respect for your elders!" The moment Qiao Shan thought of the priceless Suranne Grass, his anger exploded. "You traitorous wretch! Without a word, you just moved everything belonging to our family to the Gu family home!"

“What did you say?” Qiao Nian raised an eyebrow. There was only coldness in her eyes as her red lips opened slightly. “You never gave me a chance to speak. After you threw me into the mental hospital, did you even bother to visit?”

At this moment, both Qiao Shan and Su Xue looked extremely displeased.

At that time, Qiao Shan felt that Qiao Nian was already useless as a chess piece. Thus, he didn't think of visiting her.

If he had known that Qiao Nian had the ability to cultivate Suranne Grass, he would have brought her back home a long time ago..

Chapter 105: Playing The Family Card?

“I spent so much effort cultivating the Suranne Grass myself. How has it suddenly become the property of the Qiao family?”

Su Xue knew very well that Qiao Nian was displeased with the Qiao family. Putting on a polite demeanor, she said, “Qiao Nian, what happened back then was our fault, but at that time, your father and I were both busy with the company. The reason we didn't visit you was to cover up the fact that you were

once pregnant and had a child. Everything was for your marriage. If others knew that you were pregnant and even gave birth to a child, they might look at you differently.”

Seeing that Qiao Nian was silent, Su Xue thought that Qiao Nian had been swayed by her words. She continued, “Back then, if news of what happened to you got out, you wouldn't be able to marry anyone for the rest of your life. Qiao Nian, we're family, after all. Your father also has you in his heart. He

adores you a lot. Often, because of you, he secretly wipes his tears at night.”

Qiao Nian stood there expressionlessly. She looked toward Su Xue and asked curiously, “Then, can I take everything the Qiao family owns, and chase you out of the family home? Didn't you say that we're family? What's yours is mine.”

“You...” Su Xue's face turned red with anger.

“Were you lying to me just now?” Qiao Nian looked at Su Xue. She wanted to see what other preposterous lies this woman could make up.

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“How... How is that the same? We are your elders!” Su Xue stammered.

“Elders? For my sake, you sent me to a mental hospital?” Qiao Nian’s expression was cold, her voice even colder. “If the same thing happened to any other child of a rich family, the parents would just send their child overseas to study. But why was I sent to a mental hospital? When I was alone in the

mental hospital with no one to rely on, what were you doing? Why didn’t you say that you were my elders back then?”

Qiao Xin immediately said gently, “Sister, it’s a blessing in disguise. If Mom and Dad didn’t send you to the mental hospital, how could you have settled down to cultivate Suranne Grass?”

Qiao Nian smiled. There was anger in her eyes. “Why don’t I send you to a mental hospital for five years? Will that do?”

Qiao Xin turned pale in fright. She lowered her head, not daring to say another word.

Su Xue’s eyes darted to the side and she hurriedly said, “Qiao Nian, your sister is right. You don’t have to thank us for sending you to the mental hospital, though that was why you were able to cultivate Suranne Grass. How about this? As long as you bring back all the remaining Suranne Grass, that will do.

Write down the method to cultivate Suranne Grass, and we won’t make a fuss about it with you!”

Qiao Nian glared at Su Xue coldly. Su Xue was clearly asking for too much. She gritted her teeth and spat out three words. “In your dreams!”

“What do you mean?” Su Xue looked at Qiao Nian in confusion. She felt that what she said made sense. She already had Qiao Nian’s interests in mind. “As long as you hand over the Suranne Grass and write down the method to cultivate it, you will be the greatest contributor to our family. Your father and I

will prepare a richer dowry for you!”

Qiao Nian couldn’t be bothered to reason with these idiots. She enunciated each word clearly as she spoke. “I spent many years of effort nurturing the Suranne Grass. This belongs only to me. It has nothing to do with your Qiao family!

“If you know what’s good for you, hand over the Suranne Grass immediately. Otherwise, don’t blame me for being impolite!” Qiao Nian continued, forcibly suppressing her anger.

Qiao Xin looked at Suranne Grass reluctantly. It was such a valuable item. Of course she couldn’t bear to return it.

Previously, after Qiao Nian had made a name for herself in An University, Brother Su Yan was longer paying Qiao Xin any attention. If she gave the Suranne Grass to Su Yan, he would definitely think highly of her and reconcile with her.

Qiao Xin looked imploringly at Su Xue, signaling for her to keep the Suranne Grass.

Su Xue instantly understood what Qiao Xin meant. She looked at Qiao Nian and said helplessly, "Qiao Nian, you're the elder sister. How can you fight with your younger sister over a pot of Suranne Grass? Can't you give in to her a little?"

Qiao Nian hated it when Su Xue played the family card.

The Qiao family might not be good at anything else, but they were good at moral abduction.

Qiao Nian said impatiently, "Enough nonsense. Are you returning it or not?"

"Not!" Su Xue said, her expression dark.

Qiao Nian had never spoken to her in such a tone before she went to the mental hospital.

Qiao Nian's eyes turned cold. "Is that so?"

Qiao Shan also felt that Qiao Nian had gone too far. Haughtily, he said, "Hurry up and bring back all the Suranne Grass that you've taken to the Gu residence. Then, I won't pursue the fact that you talked back to your elders today!"

Qiao Nian clenched her fists tightly..

Chapter 106: Scheming

Qiao Shan also felt that Qiao Nian had gone too far. Haughtily, he said, "Hurry up and bring back all the Suranne Grass that you've taken to the Gu residence. Then, I won't pursue the fact that you talked back to your elders today!"

Qiao Nian clenched her fists tightly.

Ha!

Pursuing the matter.

What a great turn of phrase!

Qiao Nian had never expected Qiao Shan to brazenly shield Qiao Xin, the thief, just for a pot of Suranne Grass.

Qiao Nian was even starting to doubt whether she was Qiao Shan and Su Xue's biological daughter. Why did their attitudes towards their two daughters differ so much?

Qiao Nian put away her thoughts and looked coldly at Qiao Xin, her lips curving up slightly as she said, "Qiao Xin, since you don't want to return the Suranne Grass, then I won't want it either. But you have to think this through carefully. Whether you can afford to keep this pot of Suranne Grass around is a

matter you evidently haven't considered. When the time comes, I hope you won't kneel down and beg me to accept it!"

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Qiao Nian's eyes flashed with ice.

Qiao Xin stood behind Su Xue. She hadn't expected Qiao Nian to change her mind.

However, Qiao Xin soon understood. Qiao Nian had grown up in the countryside and had always wanted to return to the Qiao family.

For the sake of the Suranne Grass, her father had been kind to Qiao Nian. Qiao Nian must have been so touched that she wanted to cry.

Qiao Xin smiled and said gently, "Sister, don't worry. I will take good care of this pot of Suranne Grass."

After receiving Qiao Xin's answer, Qiao Nian left without turning back, leaving the Qiao family in a state of confusion.

Qiao Xin heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, Qiao Nian had relented.

Qiao Shan looked at Qiao Nian's retreating back and frowned. He said worriedly, "She clearly cared a lot about this pot of Suranne Grass. Why did she suddenly change her mind?"

The more Qiao Shan thought about it, the more worried he became. He was afraid that Qiao Nian would use the Gu family's connections to force them to send the Suranne Grass back.

Qiao Xin's mind was filled with thoughts of gifting this pot of Suranne Grass to Su Yan. That way, the two of them could reconcile.

Thus, Qiao Xin said disapprovingly, "You're over-thinking. Qiao Nian cultivated the Suranne Grass behind our backs. She probably felt that she was in the wrong and wanted to use this pot of Suranne Grass to please Dad."

When Qiao Shan heard Qiao Xin's words, his frown grew deeper. He had a nagging feeling that things weren't as simple as they seemed.

Qiao Xin quickly walked to Qiao Shan's side and tugged on Qiao Shan's sleeve like a spoiled child, saying ingratiatingly, "Alright, Dad, stop letting your imagination run wild. Can you give me this pot of Suranne Grass?"

Qiao Shan was initially worrying over whether Qiao Nian would have other tricks up her sleeve. When he heard Qiao Xin's words, worry was written all over his face. Puzzled, he asked, "Why do you want the Suranne Grass?"

Hence, Qiao Xin told Qiao Shan and Su Xue her plans to firmly secure her relationship with Su Yan.

Qiao Shan and Su Xue had initially wanted to use the Suranne Grass to bring the Gu family to greater heights, but those things didn't seem to be as important as Qiao Xin's lifelong happiness, so the two of them nodded and gave the Suranne Grass to Qiao Xin.

1

'When Qiao Nian stepped out of the Qiao family's residence, she was shrouded in a cold aura. She took out her cell phone and sent a text: [Pay close attention to every move the Qiao family makes. Report to me if anything happens.]

[Yes.]

Qiao Nian put her phone back into her bag and walked to her car. She opened the door and got in.

1

She had to find a way to get the Qiao family to send the Suranne Grass back. Moreover, she would ensure that they would never dare to have any designs on her medicinal herbs ever again.

When Qiao Nian arrived at the Gu family villa, she saw a pickup truck parked outside.

Lin Tao got out of the pickup truck. When she saw Qiao Nian, she quickly ran over and gave her a big hug. "Nian Nian."

Qiao Nian was beaming as she reached out to hug Lin Tao. After letting go of Lin Tao, she asked, "Isn't there an exam today? Why did you come here personally?"

“The examinations aren’t difficult. I can take them quite easily. However, these medicinal herbs are simply priceless. If I lose one of them, my father will probably die from heartache. I’ll only feel at ease if I see them for myself.” Lin Tao smiled at Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian thought of what happened to her Suranne Grass and asked, “Did you tell your father how many stalks of Suranne Grass I’ve grown?”

“Not yet. Didn’t you say that you wanted to give him a surprise? That’s why I didn’t say anything.” At this point, Lin Tao couldn’t help but sigh and say, “I wonder who has the guts to steal Suranne Grass! If I catch this person, I’ll definitely send her to jail!”

Chapter 107: Taking the Initiative to Take a Medicinal Bath

A trace of cunning flashed in Qiao Nian’s eyes. She nodded and said, “There’s a small surprise!”

“What surprise?” Lin Tao asked eagerly.

“If I tell you, it won’t be a surprise anymore!” Qiao Nian said with a smile.

Lin Tao nodded regretfully. She handed a couple of bags to Qiao Nian. “These are the Moonlight Fruits you wanted.”

“Thank you for making the trip!” Qiao Nian said sincerely.

“There’s no need to thank me given our relationship. By the way, how are you doing in the Gu family? If you’re not being treated well, I’ll protect you! I’ll make sure that no one in the Gu family dares to bully you!” As Lin Tao spoke, she patted her chest, looking as if she was unafraid of anything, even if it

meant going through hell for her good friend.

“Little girl, you’re only twenty years old this year. You should call me Elder Sis!” As Qiao Nian spoke, she pinched Lin Tao’s nose dotingly.

Lin Tao coughed. Seeing that no one was looking over, she said in a low voice, “There are outsiders here. Give me some face!”

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“Okay, okay. You’re not young anymore. You’re an adult now.” Qiao Nian went along with Lin Tao’s words.

Lin Tao instructed the people in the pickup truck to unload all the medicinal herbs. After she was done, she said to Qiao Nian, "Nian Nian, I have to leave. I have to go back and help Dad take care of the opening of the hospital in the northern suburbs tomorrow. You have to come tomorrow!"

As Lin Tao spoke, she stuffed an invitation into Qiao Nian's hand.

"Okay, I'll definitely go tomorrow." Smiling, Qiao Nian saw Lin Tao off.

After that, Qiao Nian got the servants in the villa to move the medicinal herbs in. She was tending to the medicinal field when she heard footsteps behind her. She turned around and saw Gu Zhou standing by the rockery in a well-tailored suit.

Seeing Gu Zhou staring at her, Qiao Nian casually asked, "Are you going out?"

"Doctor Qiao, isn't it time for the medicinal bath?"

Gu Zhou's shirt was all buttoned up, and he was wearing a dark blue tie. He looked sultry, yet exuded a strong air of propriety.

Qiao Nian's ears turned slightly red. This was the first time she had seen Gu Zhou so cooperative. She quickly said, "I go get the medicine bag!"

Qiao Nian had just taken two steps when Gu Zhou stopped her again.

She looked at Gu Zhou worriedly and asked in confusion, "Are you feeling unwell?"

"No."

Qiao Nian frowned but didn't leave immediately. Walking up to Gu Zhou, she reached out to grab his hand.

Gu Zhou lowered his head and watched Qiao Nian. Carefully, she unbuttoned the cuffs of his shirt and rolled up his sleeve, resting her fingers on his wrist.

The skin on her hand was a little warm. That delicate heat traveled through his blood to every part of his body, warming up his cold body.

After taking Gu Zhou's pulse, Qiao Nian heaved a sigh of relief and said, "You can use the same medicine bag we used previously to treat your current condition. Go back to your room and wait for me. I'll get the medicine!"

After retrieving the medicine bag, Qiao Nian walked towards Gu Zhou's room. When she passed by Gu Zhou's office, she heard a scream.

Qiao Nian frowned slightly. She opened the office door and saw Gu Zhou's snake coiled around a young girl's neck. There was a dangerous glint in its eyes.

It was as if the snake was going to snap the girl's neck in the next moment.

The girl screamed in despair.

Qiao Nian didn't have time to think. She quickly ran forward and grabbed the snake, snatching it off the girl's neck.

In pain, the snake bit Qiao Nian's wrist without hesitation.

Qiao Nian's face contorted in agony. Carelessly, she tossed the snake away, revealing a ghastly bite mark on her pale wrist.

The snake was in pain from the fall. Without hesitation, it pounced on Qiao Nian, but Qiao Nian grabbed the seven-inch snake before it could attack.

Qiao Nian hurriedly took out a silver needle and pricked the snake, causing it to faint!

The young girl in the office had already collapsed to the ground in shock.. She had never expected there to be a snake in this room!

Chapter 108: Brother Gu Zhou

At this moment, footsteps came from the corridor.

Qiao Nian turned around and saw Gu Zhou walking in. She met Gu Zhou's intriguing gaze.

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's arm, which was still bleeding.

At this moment, the butler walked over. Gu Zhou said coldly, "Lock it in the cage."

The snake seemed to realize that it had done something wrong. It sat there aggrievedly, unmoving. It allowed Butler Zhao to lock it up.

Qiao Nian frowned.

The girl, who had been too shocked, seemed to have only just come back to her senses. Weeping pitifully, she said in a weak voice, "Brother Gu Zhou, I'm so scared."

With that, the girl prepared to throw herself into Gu Zhou's arms.

Gu Zhou frowned. Under his suffocatingly cold gaze, the girl stood rooted to the ground in fear.

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“Brother Gu Zhou...”

Gu Zhou’s expression was abnormally dark. His eyes were ice-cold as he asked impatiently, “Who are you? Why are you in my study?”

The young girl looked at Gu Zhou in shock. She raised her hand to wipe her tears and said pitifully, “Brother Gu Zhou, I’m Wang Miao, Wang Lin’s biological sister. We met at the hospital back then!”

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned.

‘Wang Lin.

This name sounded familiar. She seemed to have heard it before.

Qiao Nian’s gaze fell on Wang Miao’s face. Suddenly, the realization struck her. She remembered now. Wasn’t Wang Lin a woman Su Xue had casually made up in order to help Qiao Xin get out of the situation?

Did Wang Lin actually exist?

Why would Gu Zhou ask Wang Lin’s younger sister to come to the Gu residence?

Qiao Nian stood rooted to the ground, studying Wang Miao intently. Could it be that Gu Zhou had taken a liking to Wang Miao?

‘The next moment, Gu Zhou’s words made Qiao Nian overturn her own thoughts.

“Who allowed you to enter my study?” Gu Zhou’s expression was extremely dark. His entire body emitted a cold aura, causing one to shiver in fear.

‘Wang Miao froze. She had not expected Gu Zhou to hate her, not when she was the aunt of Gu Zhou’s child. “I...”

“Get out! Without my permission, anyone who steps into the study will have to report to the king of the underworld!” Although Gu Zhou’s voice wasn’t loud, it was frightening.

‘Wang Miao was so frightened that she no longer dared to cry. She took two steps back, then hurried out.

'When Wang Miao walked to the study door, she seemed to remember something. She turned back to look at Gu Zhou and said softly, "Thank you, Brother Gu Zhou, for saving me. Otherwise, I might have been bitten to death by that snake!"

Qiao Nian couldn't help but think: Was this person mentally deficient?

Gu Zhou's expression darkened further. He glanced at Qiao Nian, then at Wang Miao. "You should be thanking her. What has that got to do with me? There's no place for anyone with bad eyesight in the Gu family."

'Wang Miao froze. She didn't expect Gu Zhou to be so ruthless when speaking with her. She looked at Qiao Nian with teary eyes.

'That woman was naturally beautiful and gave off a noble and elegant aura. Even though her arm was injured, her composure was completely unaffected.

'Wang Miao felt ashamed of herself. Compared to that woman, she was like a stray dog one found on the streets.

'Wang Miao lowered her head and said reluctantly, "Thank you."

With that, Wang Miao walked out, wiping her tears.

'Wang Miao had thought that Brother Gu Zhou would take good care of her on account of her older sister. After all, she was Little Qi's aunt, and she was a relative of the Gu family.

How could Brother Gu Zhou treat her like this?

Her sister had lost her life because of him.

The more Wang Miao thought about it, the more awful she felt. She couldn't help but burst into tears..

Chapter 109: It's Yours Now

In truth, Wang Miao had not gone far. Her sobs could be heard from within the study.

Gu Zhou's expression turned ugly. He frowned in displeasure, a wave of irritation washing over him.

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on the snake and he said impatiently, "Well, hurry up! Aren't you going to lock it up in the punishment room?"

Hearing this, the butler picked up the cage and prepared to leave the room.

“Wait a minute.” Qiao Nian stepped closer to the cage and looked at the snake, which was curled up in an aggrieved ball. “Actually, it didn’t do anything wrong. It was just guarding your study.”

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian with a complicated expression. His gaze fell on Qiao Nian’s injured arm and he said very seriously, “But it bit you.”

The man’s voice was as deep as ever. There was no emotion in his voice.

Qiao Nian glanced at the bite mark on her arm and said, “The wound on my arm isn’t too bad. Once the bleeding has stopped, I’ll apply some medicine, then I’ll be perfectly fine. We can’t punish it just because of an outsider’s mistake!”

Gu Zhou gazed intently at Qiao Nian, his eyebrow slightly raised. “So Mrs. Gu thinks that I’m not an outsider? Am I a part of the family?”

Qiao Nian was speechless.

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Qiao Nian had not expected Gu Zhou to joke around with her. However, hearing Gu Zhou call her Mrs. Gu caught her off guard, and she was momentarily flustered.

The butler, who was standing at the side, had never expected such flirtatious words to fall from Gu Zhou’s lips.

At this moment, the butler felt like the biggest third wheel in existence. It was no longer suitable for him to remain, so he quietly left the room.

Qiao Nian gazed unblinkingly at Gu Zhou. She met his dark, glittering eyes and pursed her lips, her throat working slightly. “I’m talking about the snake and Wang Miao. This snake is closest to you.”

Gu Zhou stared unblinkingly back at Qiao Nian. His gaze fell on her fair and slender neck, and he noticed the movement of her throat. Her cheeks were just a little flushed, and the tips of her ears were also tinted red. For some reason, she gave off an air of delicacy.

Gu Zhou’s mouth was a little dry, but he quickly recovered his usual impassiveness. His thin lips parted slightly. “As long as it doesn’t hurt you anymore, I’ll let it off the hook.”

Qiao Nian smiled and looked down at the snake in the cage. The snake was looking at her too.

Although the snake had bitten her, she felt that it was the victim this time round.

If the snake had bitten her like it did the last time, she would have boiled the snake alive for its medicinal properties.

Most importantly, Qiao Nian could tell that Gu Zhou cared about the snake a lot.

At the thought, Qiao Nian opened the cage and reached in.

Gu Zhou's usually serene eyes instantly narrowed. He looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief, his heart involuntarily rising to his throat. "Qiao Nian, what are you doing?"

The snake kept flicking out its tongue, staring unblinkingly at Qiao Nian's arm.

In truth, Qiao Nian was also very nervous. Her gaze fell on the snake's teeth, which were exposed from time to time. With extreme effort, she put on a calm facade.

'The temperature in the room dropped.

Qiao Nian placed her hand carefully on the snake's head, caressing it over and over again, as if she were soothing its injured feelings.

Perhaps it was because Qiao Nian's touch was very gentle. The snake didn't seem to sense any aggression. Instead, it lay obediently on the bottom of the cage, letting Qiao Nian stroke it.

Gu Zhou looked at this scene in disbelief. He didn't expect this snake to turn into an obedient and cute kitten under Qiao Nian's touch.

'When Qiao Nian retracted her hand, the snake wound itself around her wrist happily.

Qiao Nian couldn't help but smile. She looked up at Gu Zhou and said proudly, "Look, it won't hurt me anymore, so you don't have to lock it up anymore."

Seeing Qiao Nian's proud expression, the ice in Gu Zhou's heart seemed to melt.

Qiao Nian's smile now was probably the most natural smile she had worn since she arrived at the Gu residence. She looked like an innocent child.

"From now on, it's yours."

"Really?" Qiao Nian was slightly stunned. She looked at Gu Zhou in confusion.

Gu Zhou found himself speechless.

'What was he saying?

'Was there something wrong with his brain?

Other than his grandmother, this snake was the only female who was close to him..

Chapter 110: Bandaging the Wound

However, since he had already spoken, Gu Zhou couldn't go back on his words. He nodded, giving a faint murmur of assent.

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou, overjoyed. She quickly said, "Thank you!"

In her excitement, Qiao Nian reached out to pet the snake a little too forcefully. Forgetting that she was injured, she accidentally bumped against the cage with her arm, right where she had been bitten. She inhaled sharply in pain, going pale in an instant.

Looking at Qiao Nian's wound, the snake lowered its head pitifully and rubbed gently against her arm.

Tugging on Qiao Nian's uninjured arm, Gu Zhou walked towards the door.

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou's side profile in confusion. "Where are you taking me?"

"To bandage your wound."

Gu Zhou's voice was as pleasant as ever, but beneath his words lay an undercurrent of overbearing strength. It would not be easy to disobey anything that voice commanded.

There was a flash of surprise in Qiao Nian's eyes. Without struggling, she let Gu Zhou drag her to the bedroom.

Sunlight filtered through the window, illuminating the entire bedroom.

"sit down on the sofa first." Gu Zhou looked at the sofa not far away. He turned to Qiao Nian and said, "I'll get the medical kit."

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Only then did Qiao Nian remember something. Hurriedly, she said, "Don't help me bandage my wound first. Take the medicinal bath first. I'll bandage my wound after I've helped you with the acupuncture. Otherwise, the wound will still need to be bandaged again after coming into contact with water."

In the past, Gu Zhou would have hated anyone who spoke too much, But at this moment, Gu Zhou had a different impression.

Qiao Nian's voice seemed to be able to penetrate one's heart. Her voice left its mark on his heart.

This was something he had never felt before.

suddenly, Gu Zhou's breathing hitched. He felt as if someone had clutched at his chest, causing a sudden jolt of pain.

Gu Zhou had never felt this strange before.

Gu Zhou let go of Qiao Nian's hand. His handsome face was expressionless and his voice was several shades hoarser. "Qiao Nian."

Qiao Nian's heart skipped a beat. This was the first time Gu Zhou had called her by her name in such a hoarse, arresting voice.

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian and said with a serious expression, "Mrs. Gu, you're a lady. If you're in pain, just shout. It won't be embarrassing!"

Qiao Nian's eyes widened. She stared at Gu Zhou in disbelief. She hadn't expected Gu Zhou to comfort her in such a manner.

At this moment, Qiao Nian's heart was beating wildly. Before she could react, Gu Zhou had already poured sanitizing alcohol all over her wound.

Without any warning, he attacked.

Pain shot through her arm. Qiao Nian couldn't help but cry out in pain.

In the next moment, Gu Zhou moved right up to her. Without hesitation, he bent down and sealed her lips with his.

"Mimph."

As their lips touched, Qiao Nian's cry was swallowed by Gu Zhou, leaving behind only a whimper.

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou in utter shock. She had not expected Gu Zhou to do this, and her mind went completely blank.

Gu Zhou had actually kissed her!

His lips were slightly sweet, and the lingering scent of Chinese medicine was present. It was intoxicating.

'What was she thinking?

How could she be thinking about whether Gu Zhou's lips were sweet?

He had kissed her!

Qiao Nian came back to her senses in an instant. She pushed Gu Zhou away and looked at him warily.

Qiao Nian's pale face was now slightly red. She frowned, her expression displeased. "What are you doing!"

Gu Zhou observed the mixture of embarrassment and anger in Qiao Nian's eyes, as well as her flustered air. A trace of amusement flashed in his eyes, but his expression and demeanor remained cold. "Does it still hurt?"

For some reason, Qiao Nian's heart began to race. Hearing Gu Zhou's words, a trace of confusion flashed across her face, but she quickly came back to her senses.

Gu Zhou was probably using this method to distract her.

Qiao Nian asked with a serious expression, "Are you using this method to distract me so that I don't feel any pain?"

"What else?" Gu Zhou pulled Qiao Nian's arm over and began bandaging her wound. "The latest research shows that kissing can relieve pain."

Qiao Nian was speechless..