

Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 161
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Chapter 161 Prize

Qiao Xin's face was pale. She glared at Qiao Nian, hatred written all over her face.

Previously at the research institute, Qiao Nian had used Suranne Grass to humiliate and slander her.

Qiao Xin took a deep breath. As she listened to the skeptical remarks of the people around her, it occurred to her that they were all clowns, every one of them. They were just like her at the research institute during that humiliating incident.

A trace of shame flashed in Qiao Xin's eyes. It was only now that she realized how stupid and foolish she had been back then.

At this moment, Lin Tao walked into the hall with a pot of Suranne Grass in her arms and placed it on Qiao Nian's podium.

This pot of Suranne Grass instantly attracted everyone's attention. It was like an invisible slap to the face of everyone who had been doubting Qiao Nian.

The entire hall was now in an uproar.

Everyone looked at the Suranne Grass in disbelief. Some people took off their glasses and rubbed their eyes hard. When they took a closer look, they realized that it was indeed Suranne Grass.

Some people even took photos of the plant to examine it more closely. Upon checking up on the Internet, they discovered that the plant was indeed Suranne Grass.

Although they all felt as if they had been slapped in the face, they were still very excited.

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"Oh my god, it's really Suranne Grass!" "How can Qiao Nian own such an expensive plant?"

"Suranne Grass is priceless. Yet she dares to give this away as a prize!"

"Alright, stop talking. Hurry up and think of the answer!"

“That’s right, that’s right. I want to be the first to solve this riddle!”

Seeing the reactions of the people around her, Qiao Xin’s breathing grew more and more rapid. When she thought of the humiliation she had suffered in the research institute, she yearned to walk right up to Qiao Nian and fling a couple slaps at her face.

Qiao Xin’s eyes grew redder and redder. Although Brother Su Yan had been angry with her, he still genuinely liked her. He had spent a lot of money to cover up the whole embarrassing incident that had taken place at the research institute. Otherwise, her reputation would have been ruined, and she wouldn’t be able to attend such events now.

Qiao Yu sensed that something was wrong with Qiao Xin. He turned to look at her and gently patted her arm, consoling her gently. “Xinxin, don’t worry. With Brother around, you’ll be fine.”

When Qiao Xin heard Qiao Yu’s words, she looked up at him and nodded lightly.

At this moment, Qiao Yu’s gaze fell on Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian seemed to have changed a lot. She had become even more confident and eye-catching. Even standing on stage, and with no one in the audience responding to her question, she could still remain calm and composed.

Qiao Yu’s thin lips curved into an odd half-smile, his eyes glittering with satisfaction.

His little girl had truly grown up.

Qiao Yu lowered his gaze and turned to look at Qiao Xin, asking gently, “Do you really want the Suranne Grass?”

When Qiao Xin heard Qiao Yu’s question, her eyes lit up.

Qiao Xin was very arrogant, but she had to admit that Qiao Nian was indeed more outstanding than her. Moreover, Qiao Nian had the ability to cultivate Suranne Grass and Moonlight Grass.

If she could get her hands on this pot of Suranne Grass, she would gift it to Brother Su Yan once again. When that happened, Brother Su Yan would definitely treat her better.

She had to hold on to Brother Su Yan tightly. To her, Su Yan was the best springboard available. She was determined to lead a better life than Qiao Nian in the future.

After thinking everything through, Qiao Xin looked up at Qiao Yu and said firmly, “Brother, I want it.”

Hearing Qiao Xin's words, Qiao Yu smiled dotingly and said in a gentle voice, "Okay, then I'll win it back for you!"

Qiao Yu lowered his gaze. After some thought, he looked up at Qiao Nian, who was standing at the podium. "Is the answer related to his wife?"

Qiao Yu was the first to answer the question. Everyone's gaze fell on Qiao Yu's face.

"Is Qiao Yu trying to help his sister by getting the ball rolling?"

"Don't tell me Qiao Nian told Qiao Yu the answer long ago. If Qiao Yu answers the riddle Qiao Nian gives, then this pot of Suranne Grass will still belong to the Qiao family."

"I don't think so!"

"If that's really the case, then the Qiao family is really too despicable!"

Chapter 162 Smart Young Lady

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned when she heard Qiao Yu's voice, but she quickly regained her composure. She nodded and said, "Yes."

Qiao Yu thought for a while more and asked, "Did he find his wife?"

"Yes."

At this moment, a clear voice rang out from the side. "Was he happy because he saw his

wife?"

Qiao Nian looked over and saw Lu Qi looking at her excitedly.

Qiao Nian nodded slightly. "Yes."

When Lu Qi heard Qiao Nian's words, she was overjoyed.

Qiao Yu glanced at Lu Qi not far away and frowned slightly. He was very dissatisfied with Lu Qi's interference. "Was he hurt by someone?"

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Qiao Nian shook her head. "No."

Qiao Xin, who was sitting beside Qiao Yu, looked at him anxiously. She was a little worried that the Suranne Grass would be snatched away by someone else.

Qiao Xin looked at Qiao Yu, who was deep in thought. She lowered her gaze slightly and began to think seriously as well, hoping that she could help Qiao Yu. However, her mind was in a mess, and she couldn't think calmly at all.

While Qiao Yu and Lu Qi competed against each other, the others present also began to contemplate the riddle seriously. Many of them actively asked questions, but most received negative answers.

For the sake of Suranne Grass, many people even took out their phones to send the riddle to their friends, hoping that their friends would help them solve the riddle.

The tension in the venue was so thick that it could be cut with a knife.

Lu Qi's eyes suddenly lit up. She asked, "Was he driving to find his wife?"

"Yes." Qiao Nian nodded.

"Was his wife dead?" Lu Qi continued asking.

"Yes."

"Then there's no murderer at the scene?" Lu Qi asked.

"Yes."

Lu Qi's eyes lit up. She hurriedly stood up and gave the answer in one breath. "This man's wife should have disappeared, so the man was driving around looking for his wife. The stack of paper he placed in the front passenger seat should be copies of a missing person notice. If it were something like tissue paper or kitchen rolls, it wouldn't be a stack of paper."

"As the man drove through the countryside, he realized that he needed to use the toilet. That was why he took a piece of paper to the field. It must have been there that he saw his wife's corpse. He was happy that he had found his wife, but heartbroken to find her dead. He was in such extreme sorrow that he committed suicide the next day." After Lu Qi finished speaking, she looked at Qiao Nian nervously.

Qiao Nian's beautiful fox-like eyes narrowed and her red lips curved up slightly. "Congratulations, you're right. This pot of Suranne Grass will be given to you as a prize."

Lu Qi covered her mouth in excitement. She was a little worried that she would shout out loud in joy.

After Lu Qi sat back down, she threw herself into Lu Zhu's arms and said excitedly, "Brother, aren't I amazing? I actually managed to give the correct answer!"

Lu Zhu saw how elated Lu Qi was, and the corner of his mouth curved up in gratification.

Qiao Xin, on the other hand, wasn't in such a good mood. Seeing how happy Lu Qi was, her eyes darkened. This Suranne Grass should have been hers, but someone else had snatched it away.

But Qiao Xin didn't dare to throw a tantrum. She had taken a liking to Lu Zhu. If she could marry Master Lu in the future, she would be Lu Qi's sister-in-law...

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Qiao Yu could tell that Qiao Xin was disappointed. Casually, he spoke, "I was a step too slow this time. What gift do you want? I'll make it up to you."

When Qiao Xin heard Qiao Yu's words, her eyes lit up. However, she hadn't thought of a present she wanted yet, so she said, "Then I'll ask Brother for it when I've thought about it."

"Sure."

On the stage, Qiao Nian's heart gradually settled back down. Deep down, she didn't want Qiao Yu to get the Suranne Grass, because if Qiao Yu got his hands on it, he would definitely give it to Qiao Xin.

Fortunately, Qiao Yu didn't manage to solve the riddle. Lu Qi was truly a smart young lady.

Chapter 163 Grandma Has Arrived

"The riddle I gave just now was to let everyone's imagination run wild. In the future, in any field, we can try some bold ideas and methods. There's no need to constrain ourselves to known methods. Who knows, we might get an unexpected result." Qiao Nian smiled at everyone and continued, "For example, the way the Suranne Grass grows is very different from ordinary plants..."

After that, Qiao Nian made public the cultivation methods of Suranne Grass.

Everyone was completely stunned. They had never expected that Suranne Grass was cultivated using such strange methods.

Everyone listened with relish. They even planned to try it out when they returned home.

When the Q & A session began, everyone raised questions regarding cultivation of plants.

Smiling, Qiao Nian answered each and every one of them. The atmosphere of the speech ceremony grew more and more pleasant.

“Lecturer Qiao Nian truly deserves her reputation, and her status as the first speaker.”

“What a great speech. She’s so young, yet she’s so proficient and capable. I’m truly ashamed of myself.”

“What should we do? I want to listen to more of her lectures, but it’s such a pity that she can only give us this short lecture.”

“I remember who was looking down on her previously. Now, they’ve all been slapped in the face!”

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Jiang Yue sat there, listening to everyone praise Qiao Nian. Her breathing grew more and more erratic, and beads of sweat appeared on her forehead.

Jiang Yue had to admit that Qiao Nian had spoken very well. She was much better prepared than she was.

Jiang Yue felt the pressure mounting.

At this moment, an old lady entered the banquet hall.

Although she was old, she was dressed elegantly. When she was young, she must have been a drop dead gorgeous beauty.

The old lady, wearing a dark brown gown, walked in. Her manner was kindly.

Liu Yu was the first to see the old lady. She hurriedly patted Jiang Yue’s arm and said excitedly, “Yue Yue, your grandmother has come to see your speech!”

Jiang Yue’s heart leaped to her throat. She tried hard to suppress the unease in her heart. Her features relaxed and she smiled at Matriarch Gu, who was not far away. She waved at Matriarch Gu. “Grandma!”

Matriarch Gu looked over. When she saw Jiang Yue’s gown, her smile froze.

What... What was going on?

Why was Jiang Yue wearing this gown?

She had made this gown for Nian Nian!

Qiao Nian saw Matriarch Gu as well. She also noticed that Matriarch Gu didn't look well and was frowning slightly.

She had been wondering about how to get the gown back without Matriarch Gu knowing. Only then would she not waste Matriarch Gu's efforts and good intentions.

However, Qiao Nian had never expected Matriarch Gu to attend the speech directly.

A trace of worry flashed in Qiao Nian's eyes. If Matriarch Gu had a heart attack, that would be disastrous.

With that thought in mind, Qiao Nian wrapped up her speech in a few words. Then, she bowed to everyone and ended the speech.

Just as Qiao Nian was about to leave, thunderous applause exploded in the hall.

Qiao Nian saw Jiang Yue walk towards Matriarch Gu first.

"Grandma." Jiang Yue reached out to steady Matriarch Gu.

Matriarch Gu retracted her hand and took a step back. She looked at Jiang Yue coldly.

When everyone saw this, they were all stunned. They all knew that Matriarch Gu loved Jiang Yue the most.

Jiang Yue's hand hovered in midair awkwardly. Her face was pale as she looked at Matriarch Gu uneasily. "Grandma, what's wrong?"

Matriarch Gu had always had a good temper, but this time, she could barely suppress her emotions. With a cold expression, she asked, "Jiang Yue, what is wrong with you? Why are you wearing the gown I've specially prepared for Nian Nian?"

Matriarch Gu's words resounded throughout the entire lecture hall. Everyone was stunned.

Goodness, so Jiang Yue was really wearing Qiao Nian's gown.

At that moment, it was as if Jiang Yue was struck with lightning. Her mind went completely blank. She couldn't hear anything apart from the ringing in her ears.

She sensed that everyone was looking at her, despising her, and spurning her with scorn!

Chapter 164 Reversal

How could this be?

Jiang Yue managed to squeeze out a slightly unnatural smile. Her gentle voice trembled as she said, "Grandma, are you joking? All my gowns were handmade by you!"

If Jiang Yue had not said this, Matriarch Gu would not have been so angry. This was the first time she had made a gown for Nian Nian. This was a token of her appreciation for Nian Nian, but it had been ruined by the granddaughter she had watched grow up.

"Jiang Yue, does the gown you're wearing now fit you?" Matriarch Gu asked coldly. "The waist of the gown is about to tear from the tightness. The gown is already deformed from the strain, and it has lost its beauty..."

"Grandma!" Jiang Yue looked at Matriarch Gu in disbelief. She had not expected Matriarch Gu to say such ugly words in public. If other people heard her words, she would live in ridicule for the rest of her life.

Jiang Yue's eyes turned red, and her tears began falling uncontrollably. "Grandma, how can you say that about me? I'm your granddaughter. In the past, you had always made gowns for me. How would I have known that you would suddenly make a gown for Sister Nian Nian this time round?"

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Looking black as thunder, Matriarch Gu said, "So you're also aware of how many gowns I've made for you. This time, I made just the one for Nian Nian. Do you have to cry so bitterly?"

Jiang Yue raised her hand to her face and wiped her tears.

The more Matriarch Gu thought about it, the angrier she became. She continued, "Moreover, I was also worried that you would feel unhappy, so I specially invited Mr. S to design a gown tailored for you. Last night, I even added embroidery to your gown by hand. That gown is also a token of my goodwill. Where did that gown go?" At this moment, Zhao Qian walked over with two servants and handed over the unopened box containing the gown. "It's here."

Matriarch Gu was so irate that she began panting heavily. Frowning, she said, "You didn't even open it to take a look?"

"Grandma, it's not like that. I thought that one wasn't mine."

“Is that so?” Matriarch Gu looked at Jiang Yue coldly and asked, “How do you not know what your size is? This gown is clearly too small for you. It’s obvious that only Nian Nian can fit into this gown. Look at you!”

The last bit of blood drained from Jiang Yue’s face. She turned paler and paler.

Matriarch Gu grew angrier and angrier as she spoke. She shouted furiously, “Why are you standing there like a fool? Take off the gown now and return it to Nian Nian!”

Jiang Yue looked at Matriarch Gu in disbelief. She had never expected Matriarch Gu to ask her to take off her gown right now.

With teary eyes, Jiang Yue said pitifully, “Grandma, I’ve already put on this gown. How can I take it off now? Do you mean to ruin my reputation in school? I’ll never be able to have a foothold here again if I do as you ask.”

Seeing Matriarch Gu’s cold expression, Jiang Yue said pleadingly, “Grandma, I’m about to go on stage to give my speech. Can I change into the other gown after the speech?”

At this moment, Qiao Nian walked over from the podium.

This was the first time Qiao Nian had seen Matriarch Gu lose her temper. She hurriedly consoled her, “Grandma, don’t be angry. This isn’t good for your health.”

When Matriarch Gu saw Qiao Nian, she hurriedly grabbed her hand and said guiltily, “Nian Nian, it’s all Grandma’s fault. If I had asked you to leave the house in your gown today, this wouldn’t have happened. Jiang Yue is too bold. I can’t believe that she did such a thing.”

The onlookers were all stunned.

“Jiang Yue is really wearing Professor Qiao’s gown!”

“Did you guys realize that Matriarch Gu seems to like Professor Qiao more?”

“Matriarch Gu seems to be apologizing on behalf of Jiang Yue. In that case, Matriarch Gu must really love both of them. The two of them should be equally important to Matriarch Gu.”

Chapter 165 Goodwill

“I think Jiang Yue is more important to Matriarch Gu. It’s only when educating their own flesh and blood do parents show no mercy.”

“I really didn’t expect Jiang Yue to steal someone else’s gown!”

“No wonder the gown she’s wearing seems a little strange!”

“We’ve all been fooled by her innocent appearance. We really thought that Professor Qiao was trying to snatch her gown!”

Jiang Yue’s face grew paler and paler as she listened to the sarcastic comments around her. She clenched her fists tightly, swaying on the spot.

Qiao Nian was very worried that Matriarch Gu’s heart disease would flare up again. Hurriedly, she rubbed Matriarch Gu’s back gently and said in a comforting voice, “Grandma, don’t be angry anymore. Your health is the most important thing. Why didn’t you tell me beforehand that you were coming?”

Matriarch Gu looked at Qiao Nian carefully. Seeing that Qiao Nian didn’t seem to be angry at all even after her gown had been stolen, Matriarch Gu blamed herself even more. She said uneasily, “I stayed up all night yesterday because I hoped that both of you would be able to wear the most perfect gowns here today.”

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One by one, Jiang Yue’s tears fell without a sound, falling onto the diamond pieces embedded in the gown. She felt as if the gown she was wearing was mocking her.

Qiao Nian was very touched by Matriarch Gu’s words.

She disliked Jiang Yue greatly. If it weren’t for Jiang Yue’s vanity, Grandma’s good intentions wouldn’t have been ruined.

Matriarch Gu gave a soft sigh and said, “I knew that both of you would be going on stage to give a speech. How could I not have attended such a momentous event? I was just too tired, so I asked Zhao Qian to bring the gowns over first. I never expected such a situation to happen. If I had known this would happen, I would have left early on my own.”

As Matriarch Gu finished speaking, her gaze inadvertently fell on Jiang Yue, who was still standing at the side. She frowned and said, “Why are you still standing there? Hurry up and change out of the gown! Look at the state of you! Wearing someone else’s gown...”

Jiang Yue looked at Matriarch Gu in disbelief. She had not expected Matriarch Gu to be so insistent on changing her gown.

Jiang Yue's heart sank, and she felt a wave of hurt. Biting her lip, she hesitated for a long while before saying, "Fine, I'll take it off. But even so, this gown can only be worn once. She can't wear it again for the rest of her life!"

As Jiang Yue spoke, she looked resentfully at Qiao Nian.

When Matriarch Gu heard Jiang Yue's words, her temper flared up again. She had initially wanted to protect Jiang Yue's dignity to some extent, but her anger had now extinguished her rationality. "Don't tell me you think you're the first person to wear this gown!"

When Jiang Yue heard this, her heart skipped a beat. She felt a chill run down her spine, and an ominous feeling rose in her heart. She watched as Matriarch Gu took out her phone.

Matriarch Gu pulled up the photographs she had taken of Qiao Nian on her phone. She handed the phone to Jiang Yue and said coldly, "You're wrong there. You're the one who's wearing someone else's gown."

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Many people had already gathered around. One by one, they leaned forward and looked at Matriarch Gu's phone curiously.

In the photograph, Qiao Nian was wearing the diamond-encrusted gown, standing elegantly by a window. SHE was bathed in sunlight, and her entire body was glowing bright gold. Even her hair was shining.

When everyone saw this photograph, they were all stunned!

Qiao Nian was like a fairy, while Jiang Yue was like a servant waiting on a fairy.

They were wearing the same gown, yet the resulting effects were like night and day.

Jiang Yue's heart sank to her stomach. She looked at the photograph in disbelief.

She had known that she and Qiao Nian would look different wearing this gown, but she had never expected the difference to be so overwhelmingly great. Qiao Nian looked like she belonged in heaven, while Jiang Yue looked plain and ordinary.

Jiang Yue's mind was in a mess.

Matriarch Gu retracted her phone and said in mild annoyance, "Take off that gown now. You have to know that a gown can only be worn once, and can only be loyal to one owner. Change into the other gown."

With great foresight, Zhao Qian took out the other gown from the box. This gown stunned everyone present.

Chapter 166 Change

Although this gown that belonged to Jiang Yue was different from the black diamond gown, it gave off a gentle aura of purity.

The gown was a light shade of purple, and the embroidery at the neckline and hip revealed a serene beauty.

When Jiang Yue saw this gown, her eyes lit up. Tears began falling uncontrollably.

Grandma was right. This gown was made for her. Be it in terms of design or embroidery, it was everything she loved. Seeing that Jiang Yue was still standing there, Matriarch Gu said angrily, "Look at you. This gown isn't suitable for you. The threads are about to snap, yet you're still wearing it. What do you look like? Hurry up and take it off!"

When Qiao Nian heard Matriarch Gu's words, her gaze fell on Jiang Yue's waist. She could already see the threads unraveling there.

She couldn't help but frown. If Grandma wasn't here, she wouldn't mind even if the gown split open while Jiang Yue was speaking on stage. Now, however, she was worried that if something happened to Jiang Yue, Grandma would be upset.

Qiao Nian's gaze fell on Jiang Yue's face. She continued, "Why don't you change out of your gown? That purple gown looks nicer. It suits you better."

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When Jiang Yue heard Qiao Nian's words, disgust flashed in her eyes.

Although she liked the gown Grandma had prepared for her, she still preferred this gown with diamonds all over it.

She had yearned for such a gown for a long time.

Jiang Yue still couldn't figure out why Grandma would give a gown she liked the best to Qiao Nian.

"Grandma, I'm sorry." With tears in her eyes, Jiang Yue looked pathetically at Matriarch Gu. "Since I've already put on this gown, I won't take it off again."

Jiang Yue's dignity wouldn't allow her to change out of her gown right now.

Even if she had to take it off, she would only do so after her speech.

Matriarch Gu's eyes widened in anger. She began panting heavily. All this time, Jiang Yue had always been an obedient and adorable child. This was the first time she had seen Jiang Yue willfully disobeying her.

At this moment, the host invited Jiang Yue onto the stage for a speech.

Jiang Yue looked at Matriarch Gu with a determined expression. She gave Matriarch Gu an elegant bow before walking towards the podium.

At this point, there was no turning back.

Matriarch Gu was panting heavily with rage.

Qiao Nian hurriedly patted Matriarch Gu's back and comforted her softly. "Grandma, don't be angry."

Matriarch Gu finally managed to catch her breath. She looked at Jiang Yue in disbelief and said in a disappointed voice, "What exactly is this girl thinking today? She used to be very obedient and sensible. How did she become like this?"

Qiao Nian did not speak. Instead, she looked at Jiang Yue, who was standing at the podium. Her eyes darkened. In life, every person was bound to have certain obsessions, or certain matters on which they were unwilling to compromise. She guessed that Jiang Yue's would be insisting on only wearing gowns handmade by Matriarch Gu.

Seeing that Jiang Yue was being disobedient, Matriarch Gu said, "Nian Nian, don't..."

"Grandma, I'm not angry. I was the first to wear this gown. In my heart, it already belongs to me. Moreover, you've already taken many photographs of me, haven't you? I think it will still belong to me in the future." Qiao Nian smiled and consoled Matriarch Gu.

When Matriarch Gu heard Qiao Nian's words, she was overjoyed. She yearned to give Qiao Nian all the best things in the world. This was her darling girl.

"Ah!"

Jiang Yue's scream suddenly rang out. Amplified by the microphone, it became so loud and piercing that everyone hurriedly covered their ears.

Everyone looked over and saw that Jiang Yue's gown was no longer covering her appropriately. She was covering her chest with both hands, looking terrified.

This gown was simply too small for Jiang Yue. Her mind had been in a mess just now, and she had completely forgotten to suck in her stomach. The gown had burst open, and it was now hanging on her like a rag.

Chapter 167 Humiliated

Jiang Yue's face was flushed bright red with embarrassment. She stood there awkwardly, looking at the lustful glints in the eyes of the men below the stage. One by one, tears fell from her face.

Now, Jiang Yue looked pitiful and utterly helpless.

Seeing Jiang Yue like this, Matriarch Gu's face turned even paler. She looked at Jiang Yue with heartache, her body trembling involuntarily.

Qiao Nian, who had been supporting Matriarch Gu, naturally noticed that Matriarch Gu was trembling. Her eyes darkened.

If Matriarch Gu wasn't here, she wouldn't even bother with Jiang Yue.

However, Jiang Yue had been raised by Matriarch Gu, and Matriarch Gu still loved Jiang Yue after all. Coupled with the fact that Jiang Yue was now labeled with the Gu family's name...

Now, the Gu family and Jiang Yue were on the same boat. If dishonor was brought upon one party, the other would be humiliated as well.

Qiao Nian was worried that Matriarch Gu's illness would worsen because of her anxiety. Her gaze fell on the red cloth on the table beside her. She walked over and pulled it off the table, causing the placards on it to fall to the ground.

Qiao Nian walked up to Jiang Yue and draped the red cloth over her body.

Jiang Yue's trembling body suddenly froze. She looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief.

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Qiao Nian looked extremely elegant in the black gown, but what about her? Her gown had burst open, and she could only pull the red tablecloth tighter around herself.

Jiang Yue could clearly feel the coldness radiating from Qiao Nian. Even after thinking through all the possible outcomes, she would still have never expected Qiao Nian to be the one to protect her at this critical moment.

Actually, Jiang Yue wasn't the only one who was shocked. The others were also stunned.

“Am I blind? Jiang Yue stole Professor Qiao’s gown, but Professor Qiao still helped her?”

“Professor Qiao is really amazing!”

“Professor Qiao is truly a person who sees the big picture. She must be an outstanding person. Outstanding people are always so outstanding, no matter at what juncture!”

Seeing that Jiang Yue was still standing there unmoving, Qiao Nian frowned a little and said coldly, “Are you planning to continue your

speech?”

Jiang Yue came back to her senses.

“Hurry up and get changed. If Grandma has another heart attack because of you, I’ll never let you off the hook.” Narrowing her eyes, Qiao Nian said coldly.

When Jiang Yue heard Qiao Nian’s words, she turned slowly to look at Matriarch Gu, inch by inch. Her gaze finally landed on Matriarch Gu’s face. She saw Grandma looking at her anxiously.

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“Grandma... Grandma,” Jiang Yue called out silently.

Previously, she had thought that Grandma was only insisting that she take off the gown because it belonged to Qiao Nian. Now, it seemed that she had misinterpreted Grandma’s intentions. Grandma was just worried that the gown would split open and ruin her image.

Jiang Yue lowered her head in shame and walked awkwardly towards the changing room, not daring to take another look at the audience.

When she arrived at the changing room, Jiang Yue locked the door with trembling hands. All the strength in her body seemed to have drained out of her. Leaning against the door, she slid down, falling onto the ground.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Jiang Yue came back to her senses. She got up from the ground and walked to the fitting room mirror.

She had held her head high her entire life. She was the idol of many socialites, and the goddess admired by many young masters. But all of this had been ruined.

How could this be?

Why was fate so cruel to her?

She had waited for so many years just to stand on that podium to give a speech.

She had prepared so much, but she hadn't expected everything to end so dramatically.

What she had expected even less was that Qiao Nian would step forward and save her at this moment.

Although she knew very well that Qiao Nian had only saved her because of Grandma, the fact still remained that Qiao Nian had saved her. If it weren't for Qiao Nian, she might have been in an even worse state right now.

She had even provoked Qiao Nian on purpose today and snatched her gown. She had gone too far.

When Jiang Yue thought of Grandma's disappointed expression just now, her heart ached. Grandma must have been very disappointed in her.

Chapter 168 Apologizing

To the people at the venue, Jiang Yue's incident was just a small interlude. The host quickly stood up and invited the third speaker to the stage to give their speech.

Thinking of Jiang Yue's state just now, Matriarch Gu grew extremely worried. She began walking towards the changing room.

Qiao Nian had been staying by Matriarch Gu's side. Since Matriarch Gu was not in good health, she was worried that something would happen to her. She said softly, "Grandma, I'll go with you!"

Matriarch Gu's heart skipped a beat. Her gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face, and her heart seemed to be clenched tightly by an invisible hand.

This child must have suffered a lot in the past!

Silently, she endured the unfairness of everything, but on the surface, she pretended that nothing was wrong. Matriarch Gu held onto Qiao Nian's hand. Her eyes were red-rimmed as she said gently, "Nian Nian, you don't have to accept someone you don't like for my sake. You just have to follow your heart."

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned. She could sense her grandmother's love for her. "Grandma."

For the first time, Qiao Nian didn't know what to say.

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"You should blossom with your own unique light. You don't have to live under anyone's shadow. As long as you live freely according to your whims and follow your heart, that will do," Matriarch Gu said gently.

Hearing Matriarch Gu's words, Qiao Nian's heart skipped a beat. She felt intensely touched. Pursing her lips, she nodded with a smile.

Matriarch Gu pursed her lips and gently patted Qiao Nian's hand, then walked towards the changing room.

Matriarch Gu had only taken a few steps when she saw Jiang Yue coming out.

"Grandmother."

Jiang Yue was wearing the purple gown. After tidying up a little, her disheveled appearance had disappeared, leaving behind only a gentle

aura.

No one had expected Jiang Yue to regain her composure and step out in public once again after making such a huge fool of herself. It seemed that Jiang Yue was a very strong-willed person.

Matriarch Gu had initially wanted to scold Jiang Yue, but when she recalled how pitiful Jiang Yue had looked on stage just now, she hesitated.

However, Matriarch Gu did not want to forgive Jiang Yue so quickly either, as she was worried that Jiang Yue would become increasingly disobedient in the future. Hence, she said coldly, "Why haven't you gotten lost?"

Jiang Yue's eyes were red. She pursed her lips. She had to regain all the dignity she had lost today. She walked up to Qiao Nian and gave a respectful perpendicular bow. "Sister Nian Nian, I brought all of this upon myself. I've let you down. Not only did I ruin your gown, but I also ruined Grandma's good intentions. I'm really sorry. I hope you can forgive me. I'll fix the gown as soon as possible."

When the onlookers heard Jiang Yue's words, they were all astonished. "Senior Jiang Yue lowered herself to apologize. Looks like she truly knows that she's in the wrong!"

"Sigh, Senior Jiang Yue has been so humiliated just now. She's been punished enough. After all, this was all a misunderstanding from the beginning!"

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“Actually, there’s nothing wrong with Senior Jiang Yue mistaking the gown to be hers. After all, Matriarch Gu only used to make gowns for her in the past. Most people would definitely think that the gown Grandma made was meant for them.”

“Yes, yes, yes. It’s human nature!”

“Professor Qiao, why don’t you forgive Senior Jiang Yue?”

“Yes, yes. It was just a misunderstanding back then. Now that the misunderstanding has been cleared and Senior Jiang Yue has apologized, please forgive her!”

Qiao Nian’s eyes were as cool as water. She stood there silently, looking at Jiang Yue without a word.

Not only did Matriarch Gu, who was standing at the side, not heave a sigh of relief, but her frown grew deeper and deeper. Her eyes were filled with complicated emotions.

“Just because you’ve apologized, does that mean she has to accept your apology?”

Suddenly, a magnetic male voice rang out from the side, filled with sarcasm.

Everyone looked over. They didn’t expect the speaker to be Gu Zhou!

Gu Zhou had a hand in his pocket. He exuded a cold aura that made one subconsciously retreat several steps away.

Chapter 169 Seeing Through People

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou in astonishment. She had never expected Gu Zhou to voice aloud exactly what she had been thinking.

At this moment, Jiang Yue was also stunned. She looked toward Gu Zhou tearfully, disbelief written all over her face. “Brother Ah Zhou...”

Only at this moment did Jiang Yue remember that Gu Zhou had witnessed all of her humiliation just now. However, he hadn’t stepped forward to help her out of her predicament. Not only that, but when she had tried to regain what was left of her dignity, he had deliberately spoken up to suppress her efforts.

Jiang Yue’s heart turned completely cold.

“Brother Ah Zhou, I know I’m in the wrong. I really do.” Jiang Yue looked at Gu Zhou with red-rimmed eyes, her voice choked with emotion. “I really didn’t know that this gown was meant for Sister Nian Nian. I will find a way to fix it...”

Towards the end, Jiang Yue was already sobbing.

“What’s the point of fixing something that’s already broken?” Gu Zhou retorted, his words still dripping with sarcasm.

Jiang Yue was now sobbing uncontrollably.

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Qiao Nian was beginning to see Gu Zhou in a new light. She looked at him as if she were looking at an interesting novelty. Could Gu Zhou be reading her mind? Otherwise, why would he be able to say everything she wanted to say?

Gu Zhou retracted his gaze from Jiang Yue’s face, the disdain in his eyes obvious. He walked up to Matriarch Gu, lowering his gaze, and said gently, “Grandma, you must be tired. Let’s go home now!”

Jiang Yue looked at Gu Zhou anxiously. Still sobbing, she spoke, “Brother Ah Zhou, Sister Nian Nian...”

Matriarch Gu was already getting impatient. When she heard Jiang Yue continuing to speak, she frowned and said coldly, “Jiang Yue, I can tell that you know your mistake. Because of that, you’re a good child, and you know how to reflect upon your actions. However, it’s Nian Nian’s choice whether to forgive you or not. You shouldn’t have apologized in front of everyone, much less forced Nian Nian to be the bigger person and forgive you. If you’re really sincere, you should apologize to her in private. Alright, we’ll talk after we get back!”

Qiao Nian was not at all surprised by Matriarch Gu’s words.

Although Matriarch Gu doted on Jiang Yue a lot, she did not unconditionally indulge Jiang Yue.

No wonder Gu Zhou was so good at seeing through people. So he had taken after Matriarch Gu!

Jiang Yue had never expected Matriarch Gu to directly expose her thoughts. In her purple gown, she looked like an abandoned angel.

Liu Yu stood at the side and watched as Matriarch Gu, Gu Zhou, and Qiao Nian left. Suddenly, an idea struck her. She opened her mouth and got ready to expose everything her uncle had found out about Qiao Nian.

However, when she thought about how Jiang Yue was now at a disadvantage, she realized that no one would be on their side, even if she exposed the dirt she had on

Qiao Nian. She could only wait until the next time to take revenge on Qiao Nian with Jiang Yue's help.

As she thought about this, Liu Yu's lips curved up involuntarily.

Suddenly, Liu Yu saw Qiao Nian turn back to look at her. The smile on her face froze.

Qiao Nian narrowed her fox-like eyes, staring unblinkingly at Liu Yu, her expression cold.

Liu Yu was frightened by Qiao Nian's gaze. She hurriedly looked away and lowered her eyes guiltily. Her breathing quickened involuntarily.

Strange. Why was Qiao Nian looking at her?

Did Qiao Nian know that she had dirt on her?

This was impossible!

Her uncle was a top hacker. If he wanted to investigate someone, he would leave no trace.

Liu Yu's mind was in a mess.

Qiao Nian retracted her gaze indifferently. Her gaze fell on Jiang Yue's pale face. She raised her eyebrow and asked, "Are you very close to Liu Yu?"

When Jiang Yue heard Qiao Nian's question, she was slightly stunned. She didn't understand why Qiao Nian would mention Liu Yu. She said casually, "She's my classmate."

"Is that so?" Qiao Nian looked at Jiang Yue intently, as if she didn't believe Jiang Yue's words. Speaking slowly, she said, "Help me tell her that her uncle should behave himself. He shouldn't be investigating the private affairs of other people. Even if he does, he shouldn't be giving himself away. Otherwise, I'm afraid that he won't even be aware of whose wrath he's facing before he's killed."

Chapter 170 Infertility

Jiang Yue felt a chill run down her spine. She stopped in her tracks for a moment before she continued walking after the group.

Did Qiao Nian already know that Liu Yu's uncle was investigating her?

Since Qiao Nian was so capable, did that mean that Qiao Nian also knew that she had agreed to the investigation?

Jiang Yue felt extremely uneasy. After a long while, she said, "Second Sister-in-law, did... did you misunderstand?"

"Is that so?" Qiao Nian gave Jiang Yue a meaningful look, then retracted her gaze and followed Matriarch Gu towards the door.

Jiang Yue's brow furrowed deeper and deeper. She was now completely certain that Qiao Nian knew about those things.

Goodness, what should she do?

Qiao Nian's eyes turned cold. She didn't think there was any misunderstanding. Liu Yu and Jiang Yue's reactions just now had already explained everything.

She had already heeded Grandma's words. For Grandma's sake, although she didn't like Jiang Yue, she was still willing to give Jiang Yue a chance to turn over a new leaf.

She was curious. Would Jiang Yue, who often probed her and tried to trip her up behind her back, and even hired an outsider to investigate her, really be able to turn over a new leaf?

In any case, Qiao Nian didn't believe that she would. Her eyes grew colder and colder.

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When they arrived at the car, Chen Qing hurriedly opened the door to the backseat and helped Matriarch Gu into the car. Qiao Nian got in from the other side.

Just as Jiang Yue was about to get into the car, Gu Zhou stepped forward unexpectedly and closed the door of the backseat.

Jiang Yue was slightly taken aback. She saw Gu Zhou getting in the front passenger seat, and heard him instruct Chen Qing to begin driving

Just like that, the car flew past her.

Jiang Yue was utterly stunned.

Matriarch Gu sat in the backseat. Through the rearview mirror, she glimpsed Jiang Yue's pale and helpless little face. She felt a tinge of heartache.

She had raised Jiang Yue since she was a little girl.

"Ah Zhou, Jiang Yue is alone..."

“Grandma, I have a phobia of women,” Gu Zhou said earnestly, looking back at Matriarch Gu.

Matriarch Gu was at a loss for words.

“She can just come home with Zhao Qian,” Gu Zhou said impassively. “I won’t accept anyone of the opposite sex taking my car.”

Qiao Nian had been musing about Jiang Yue and Liu Yu. When she heard Gu Zhou’s words, she looked up at him in confusion.

Was he subtly referring to her?

Was Gu Zhou trying to say that she wasn’t a woman?

Matriarch Gu’s gaze fell on Qiao Nian’s face. She seemed to have thought of something, and her brow furrowed deeper and deeper. “What nonsense are you spouting? Let me tell you, Nian Nian is your wife. The phobia you’re talking about can’t include her!”

Gu Zhou sat up straight and said nothing.

Matriarch Gu’s gaze once again fell on Qiao Nian’s stomach. Her frown grew deeper and deeper. After a beat, she looked at Gu Zhou with dissatisfaction and said angrily, “The two of you have been married for so long. Why hasn’t there been any news? Nian Nian’s tummy looks the same as ever. Is there something wrong with your health?”

Gu Zhou found himself speechless.

Chen Qing almost let go of the steering wheel in shock.

The more Matriarch Gu thought about it, the more she felt that she was right. Frowning, she said in a considerate manner, “This won’t do. I’m worried. Let’s go to the hospital now. Go and examine your body. By the way, for this issue, which department of the hospital should you be visiting?”

Gu Zhou’s expression turned black as thunder. Annoyance flashed in his eyes, and he had to interrupt her. “Grandma, there’s nothing wrong with my health!”

Matriarch Gu looked at Gu Zhou worriedly. After some hesitation, she said, “What if you’re infertile?”

It was as if Gu Zhou had turned to stone in an instant.

When Chen Qing heard this, he had to hold back his laughter. As expected of Gu Zhou’s own grandmother!

“Chen Qing, go to the hospital now!” The more Matriarch Gu spoke, the more she felt that there might be something wrong with Gu Zhou. She was extremely anxious.

“Drive home.” Gu Zhou looked a little helpless as he spoke. “We have our own way of life. Don’t let your thoughts run wild.”

“I’m not overthinking. Your health has never been good to begin with, so it’s expected that you might be infertile!” Matriarch Gu said seriously. “It’s what you’re saying that’s strange. You’re only starting to get better now, and that’s only because Nian Nian has been helping to treat your illness.”

Gu Zhou could think of nothing to say in response.