Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 201 - Thank You Gift?

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Chapter 201: Thank You Gift?

When Gu Zhou heard this, his eyes darkened.

Seeing Gu Zhou's reaction, Qiao Nian knew in her heart that he definitely hadn't realized that she had taken his money.

However, Qiao Nian was curious about why Gu Zhou was so concerned about this matter. Most of the time, Gu Zhou didn't seem to care about anything. "What's wrong? Do you have something to ask her?"

Gu Zhou looked up. Seeing Qiao Nian's serious expression, he pursed his thin lips.

Hackers were not all-powerful.

Moreover, that incident had happened five years ago. Even if Mr. K made a move, she might not be able to investigate the situation back then.

Also, he didn't want Qiao Nian to know what happened five years ago.

"It's nothing," Gu Zhou said impassively.

Qiao Nian studied Gu Zhou's expression. He looked exactly the same as he always had. It was as if the serious expression she had glimpsed just now was just an illusion. She smiled. The money that had entered her pocket was hers. He could forget about getting it back.

Qiao Nian said happily, "Fortunately, you accompanied me to the hotel today. If it weren't for you, I might have wasted a trip there. Thank you."

Gu Zhou looked into Qiao Nian's sparkling eyes and frowned slightly. There was a trace of dissatisfaction in his voice as he said, "Is a thank you all I get? Surely that's too perfunctory?"

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The smile on Qiao Nian's face froze.

Hadn't Gu Zhou gotten angry with her because she had thanked him previously? Why was he saying that her expression of gratitude was too perfunctory now?

A man's thought processes were as clear as mud!

Truly incomprehensible.

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on the blessing bag beside Qiao Nian. He instantly understood. So she was thanking him by making a blessing bag for him.

Although he didn't like to wear such things, since she was making one for him by hand, he'd have no choice but to wear it then.

While Qiao Nian was still puzzled, Gu Zhou stood up and said calmly, "I like the aroma of ambergris."

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou in confusion. It was as though there were a dozen question marks around her head.

Qiao Nian had always thought that she was very smart, but at this moment, she felt that she might be a little unintelligent. She didn't understand Gu Zhou's words at all.

Was Gu Zhou just telling her his preferences so that she would remember them?

Puzzled, Qiao Nian nodded.

Under her astonished gaze, Gu Zhou left the bedroom.

Qiao Nian walked to the door and closed it. She was about to continue embroidering the blessing bag when she seemed to remember something. She took out her phone and made a call.

"Oh, my dear young lady, you finally have the time to call me!"

Qiao Nian couldn't be bothered to be polite. She said directly, "Go and help me buy a box of high-quality ambergris. The price is negotiable. The quality must be good."

"Sure."

Qiao Nian thought of the scene of Qiao Shan and Su Xue being taken away by the police. Her eyes narrowed slightly as she continued, "I have another important task for you."

"What is it?"

Qiao Nian's lips curved up slightly as she said, "Purchase all the shares of the medical enterprises under the Qiao corporation under my name. Make use of the fact that I'm a shareholder of the Qiao Corporation."

"Are you going to attack the Qiao family now? Aren't you going to wait?"

Qiao Nian recalled the way Qiao Yu had stared at her, like a snake staring at its prey. She didn't like Qiao Yu's gaze at all. She had to get rid of the Qiao family as soon as possible, so that they wouldn't be able to cause any trouble.

However, Qiao Nian wouldn't tell them this. She said casually, "I just think that the shares I have aren't enough. Now is the best time to buy them."

Because Qiao Yu would definitely be too busy right now.

Qiao Shan had committed the crime of intentional injury, and Su Xue had perjured herself. Qiao Yu would definitely be busy fishing Qiao Shan and Su Xue out!

"Understood. I'll get it done right away!"

Satisfied, Qiao Nian hung up. Only then did she pick up the blessing bag and continue embroidering, her expression indifferent.

While Qiao Nian was making the blessing bag, she suddenly recalled Gu Zhou's words. She thought that it wouldn't be a bad idea to store ambergris within the blessing bag.

She would definitely make a good-looking blessing bag for Gu Zhou.

Chapter 202: A Mistake

Time passed very quickly. In the blink of an eye, a week had passed.

It was now the birthday of the late eldest daughter of the Lu family.

For breakfast today, Qiao Nian and Matriarch Gu were the only ones present.

Seeing that Gu Zhou's seat was empty, Matriarch Gu asked in confusion, "Where is Gu Zhou?"

Qiao Nian answered naturally and fluently. "He left the house with Chen Qing early this morning. He didn't mention when he would be back."

A trace of surprise flashed in Matriarch Gu's eyes. Looking at Qiao Nian's calm expression, she asked with concern, "He... he didn't bully you, did he?"

"No." Qiao Nian smiled.

Moreover, Gu Zhou had helped her send Qiao Shan and Su Xue to prison.

Seeing Qiao Nian smile, Matriarch Gu felt relieved. She asked softly, "By the way, about the blessing bag I asked you to make... Is it ready?"

"It's already done. It's in my room!" Smiling, Qiao Nian nodded.

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"Alright. After this, go and change your clothes, then you'll accompany me to the Lu family home. Remember to bring the blessing bag along." The more Matriarch Gu looked at Qiao Nian, the more she liked her. Her Ah Zhou was really lucky to have the obedient and adorable Qiao Nian as his wife. "By the way, Madam Lu would like to thank you in person for saving her the last time."

Qiao Nian nodded obediently.

After breakfast, Qiao Nian returned to her room to change her clothes. After tidying up, she went to look for the blessing bag. However, to her confusion, the blessing bag that had been placed in the bedside drawer had disappeared.

Qiao Nian rummaged through the bedside drawers, and the bed as well. She even searched the cabinet, but she couldn't find the blessing bag.

Gu Zhou walked out of the bathroom, wearing a white bathrobe. There were still some water droplets on his muscular chest, and the sash of the bathrobe was tied loosely around his waist.

His hair was wet. Drops of water fell from his forehead, running down his handsome face and landing on his Adam's apple. His collarbone came next, and finally his chest muscles. The water droplets continued their journey all the way down into his bathrobe.

His phoenix-like eyes were a little red from the heat, giving off an aura of sultriness.

Qiao Nian found herself captivated by Gu Zhou's eyes. She hurriedly looked away and pursed her lips slightly. In order to prevent awkwardness, she asked softly, "When did you come back?"

"I just got back not long ago." Drying his hair, Gu Zhou sat down on the sofa with an indifferent expression. Seeing Qiao Nian rummaging through the room, he asked casually, "What are you looking for?"

Qiao Nian raised her hand and tucked her hair behind her ear. Without even glancing at Gu Zhou, she said, "It's just a dark blue blessing bag. Did you see it?"

Hearing Qiao Nian's words, Gu Zhou's thoughts raced. However, he pretended to be calm and said casually, "I've already taken it."

Qiao Nian paused in her search. She quickly walked up to Gu Zhou and reached out a hand. "Give it back."

Gu Zhou's expression faltered slightly. He looked at Qiao Nian with an impassive expression and said, "Did you use sandalwood for the aroma?"

He had clearly said that he liked ambergris.

This woman had forgotten his preferences. Yet he wasn't even angry.

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou's words, she nodded. "Yes, I used sandalwood. You took my things without my permission. Give it back, now."

Gu Zhou had a bad feeling about this.

He had a vague feeling that the blessing bag was not meant for him.

However, Qiao Nian's next words confirmed his thoughts.

"Give it back to me quickly. We can't miss the auspicious period for the memorial service."

"Memorial?" Gu Zhou raised his eyebrow.

"Yes, today is the birthday of the eldest daughter of the Lu family." Qiao Nian cut straight to the point. "Grandma asked me to make a blessing bag for the eldest daughter of the Lu family. She said it was to pray for her."

Gu Zhou stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian. He stood up and opened the wardrobe. Inside, there was a password-protected safe. After entering the password, he took out the blessing bag from the wooden box and handed it to Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian knew about Gu Zhou's password-protected safe. She had heard that Gu Zhou only kept things that were the most important to him in it.

Seeing that Qiao Nian hadn't taken it from him, Gu Zhou grew displeased. He said coldly, "You don't want it?"

Qiao Nian hurriedly took it. She didn't know if it was her imagination, but she felt that Gu Zhou's eyes had turned even redder. Chapter 203: Are You Worthy?

"If you leave your things around in a mess again, I'll throw them away!" Gu Zhou said coldly.

Gripping the blessing bag tightly, Qiao Nian asked tentatively, "Do you not like blessing bags?"

"I just think this smells good. So I put it in the safe for some fragrance," Gu Zhou said coldly, slamming the wardrobe shut.

Qiao Nian looked at Gu Zhou strangely. She had a nagging feeling that Gu Zhou was acting a little strange today. Didn't he like ambergris? Why would he put a sandalwood-scented sachet in a safe?

What sort of safe would need a fragrance?

Gu Zhou walked to the dressing table and began to blow-dry his hair indifferently. With his back facing Qiao Nian, he said sternly, "Don't leave your things around so carelessly in the future."

Qiao Nian was still puzzled, but she nodded and said, "I understand."

Holding the blessing bag, Qiao Nian left the house.

Not long after Qiao Nian left, Gu Zhou changed and went to the study. In less than ten minutes, he heard a knock on the door.

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He had been feeling annoyed while reading through documents when the knock came. He said indifferently, "Come in!"

The door opened and Gu Zhou saw Wang Miao walking in timidly.

Gu Zhou's expression darkened. So it was Wang Miao, this annoying person.

Wang Miao gave what she thought was a sweet smile. With her hands behind her back, she smiled at Gu Zhou and said in a weak voice, "Second Young Master."

When Gu Zhou heard that, goosebumps rose all over his body. He frowned and looked at Wang Miao unhappily, his entire body exuding a cold aura. "What is it?"

Wang Miao smiled and took out the blessing bag behind her. Her blessing bag was also dark blue, exactly the same color as Qiao Nian's.

However, Wang Miao's blessing bag seemed to be more exquisite.

Although the two bags looked alike at first glance, they were actually completely different.

Gu Zhou thought of his blunder this morning and frowned. "Huh?"

Wang Miao smiled at Gu Zhou and said gently, "Second Young Master, I made two blessing bags last time. I thought you might not like the first blessing bag, so I wanted to give it to you."

Seeing that Gu Zhou did not chase her out, Wang Miao continued, "Second Young Madam also said that my blessing bag was beautifully made. She wants an identical one too."

Gu Zhou had already been fuming. Now that he heard Wang Miao's words, his anger surged. He questioned coldly, "Are you trying to say that Qiao Nian plagiarized your idea of making a blessing bag?"

Wang Miao could naturally tell that Gu Zhou was unhappy, but she wasn't that stupid. Pretending to be confused, she asked, "Ah, Second Young Master, do you think Second Young Madam made an identical blessing bag?"

"Second Young Madam is too polite. If I had known, I would have given her this blessing bag," Wang Miao said in frustration. "I should have asked clearly before I did anything."

"Identical?" Gu Zhou raised his eyebrows slightly.

Wang Miao thought that Gu Zhou was fed up with Qiao Nian. She hurriedly nodded and said, "Second Young Madam did want to make a blessing bag identical to mine."

Gu Zhou's eyes instantly turned cold. The frigidness emanating from his body instantly chilled the originally warm study.

Only then did Wang Miao realize that she had said something wrong. She spoke anxiously, "Second... Second Young Master!"

"Are you worthy?" Gu Zhou enunciated each word clearly. The mockery in his words was obvious.

Wang Miao looked at Gu Zhou in shock. She didn't know what she had said wrong.

This morning, she had seen the blessing bag in Qiao Nian's hand. That blessing bag looked identical to the one she had embroidered. She explained anxiously, "Second Young Master, this blessing bag is my..."

"What does a blessing bag symbolize?" Gu Zhou interrupted Wang Miao mercilessly.

Wang Miao swayed on the spot, her mind in a mess. She answered, "It's... it's a blessing!"

"That's right. It's a blessing. Blessing bags are for dead people!" Gu Zhou said with a dark expression. He himself had only found out about this this morning.

Chapter 204: Did He Swallow Gunpowder?

Wang Miao was a little stunned. She didn't know how to react.

Just as she was about to explain, she felt the air around her turn cold, as if she was trapped in hell. Her eyes couldn't help but turn red. "No, Second Young Master, I…"

Before Wang Miao could finish speaking, Gu Zhou questioned, "Are you cursing me?"

At this moment, Wang Miao had no time to explain. She hurriedly threw the blessing bag out of the study. As tears rolled down her face in fear and trepidation, she tried to explain, "No, no, Second Young Master, I really don't know what the blessing bag meant. I always thought that it was just to bless and protect one's family. I..."

"Who asked you to copy her embroidery? It's shameful to plagiarize!" Suppressing his anger, Gu Zhou continued, "And you've made such a poor copy. Didn't I warn you before? Don't you have a brain?"

Wang Miao suddenly recalled how the snake had felt wrapped around her neck. Her legs gave way and she collapsed to the ground.

Gu Zhou's patience had run out. He said coldly, "Get lost!"

Wang Miao looked at Gu Zhou in disbelief. Looking at Gu Zhou's cold expression, she instantly understood what he meant. Crying, she begged, "Second Young Master, you can't send me away. Mom and Dad will be upset. If Sister finds out..."

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"Did your parents instruct you to become my mistress, or to break up my marriage? If your sister knew that you were thinking about me that way, I'm sure she'd be so angry that she'd find a way to crawl up from hell just to settle scores with you!"

Wang Miao's body swayed!

"Hang your blessing bag in front of your sister's grave. Don't contaminate my home!"

Wang Miao's tears fell as she argued, "No, Sister doted on me the most. She gave me everything. If Sister finds out that you chased me away, she'll definitely be upset!"

"Since she doted on you so much and gave in to you in every way possible, then she can give in to you in the matter of death as well. You'll go to hell in her place and let her live!" Gu Zhou said mercilessly.

Wang Miao wanted to say something, but was abruptly pulled out of the room by the butler.

Gu Zhou's gaze fell on the blessing bag beside the study door. He walked over with a dark expression and kicked the blessing bag away without hesitation.

All the dirty things were now gone. Gu Zhou closed the study door, feeling much better.

Gu Zhou walked back to the desk, his gaze falling on the computer screen.

"The Qiao Corporation is in danger. A mysterious buyer is purchasing a large number of shares in the Qiao Corporation. The Qiao Corporation is in danger. The chairman is about to be replaced!"

Leaning back in his chair, Gu Zhou narrowed his eyes. After some thought, he gave Chen Qing a call.

"Second Young Master!"

"Who's purchasing the shares of the Qiao Corporation?"

"I think it's the former chairman of the Nianxing Group."

Gu Zhou had heard of the former chairman of the Nianxing Corporation. However, because the company was a small enterprise, he had not paid much attention to it.

"Get me an appointment with the former chairman of the Nianxing Group," Gu Zhou said after some thought.

Hearing Gu Zhou's words, Chen Qing was slightly stunned. He hesitated for a moment and said awkwardly, "Second Young Master, the former chairman of the Nianxing Group has always been elusive. The last time he made an appearance was when he bought the Third Mental Hospital with Mr. Fang. He hired many psychiatrists, and helped many patients get better. After that, he disappeared..."

Hearing Chen Qing's words, Gu Zhou paused for a moment and asked, "Which hospital did you say it was?"

"The Third Mental Hospital!"

Gu Zhou's mind raced. "The mental hospital Qiao Nian used to stay in?"

"Yes, sir."

Gu Zhou's slender fingers tapped lightly on the table. His expression changed slightly. "Continue."

"Um..." Chen Qing didn't understand what Gu Zhou was thinking about just now, but he quickly continued, "I've already asked someone to contact the former chairman of the Nianxing Group, but I couldn't even get hold of his secretary."

"If you can't get me an appointment, you won't need to come back." Gu Zhou hung up without hesitation.

Chen Qing sat at the desk in his office, listening to the dial tone of the phone. Confusion was written all over his face.

Strange.

What was wrong with Second Young Master today?

Had he swallowed gunpowder?

Chapter 205: The Lu Family

Just as Chen Qing was feeling puzzled, his phone rang again. The caller ID showed "Gu Zhou". He hurriedly picked up the phone and greeted respectfully, "Master?"

"Have you made a reservation at the restaurant, and prepared the cake?" Gu Zhou asked coldly.

Hearing Gu Zhou's words, Chen Qing heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly replied, "I've already done so."

As soon as he finished speaking, the dial tone began playing again.

Only then did Chen Qing place his phone back on the table and heave a sigh of relief.

He found Second Young Master a little strange today. He actually wanted to celebrate Second Young Madam's birthday.

Tsk, tsk.

Second Young Master definitely had Second Young Madam in his heart!

At the Lu family villa.

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Matriarch Gu led Qiao Nian into the Lu residence.

Matriarch Lu was already standing in the courtyard to welcome them. When she saw Matriarch Gu and Qiao Nian, the coldness and sternness in her expression dissipated significantly, and she looked much gentler.

Lu Qi had been accompanying Matriarch Lu the entire time. When she saw Qiao Nian, a polite smile appeared on her face.

The two elders met and greeted each other, then walked into the house, supporting each other. Both of them were in low spirits.

Qiao Nian and Lu Qi walked behind.

"Nian Nian, I didn't expect you to be Brother Ah Zhou's wife." Lu Qi turned to look at Qiao Nian, surprise written all over her face.

"Yup." Qiao Nian nodded. Grandma had brought her here this time for her to get to know more people in this circle.

Lu Qi was still very surprised. In a daze, she said, "The two of you didn't even speak to each other during the speech ceremony. If Brother hadn't told me after..."

"Qi Qi!"

A cold voice interrupted Lu Qi sternly.

Qiao Nian looked over and saw Lu Zhu standing not far away in a black suit. Even though he was wearing spectacles, they couldn't hide the dark circles under his eyes. It was obvious that he hadn't had a good night's sleep for the past few days.

"Madam Gu." Lu Zhu walked up to Matriarch Gu politely.

Matriarch Gu smiled and said, "Where are your parents?"

"They've already gone overseas," Lu Zhu said in a low voice.

He knew in his heart that his parents could not face his sister's death, so every time his sister's death anniversary approached, they would leave An City. It was as though they could keep his sister alive in their hearts by doing this.

"Let's go in!" Matriarch Lu said.

The Lu family's villa was completely different from the Gu family's villa. The antiquelooking furniture made one feel as if they had time-traveled to ancient times.

The fragrance of Longjing tea filled the entire room. Matriarch Lu invited everyone to sit down, then got the servants to bring over some fruits and snacks.

Smiling, Matriarch Gu glanced at Qiao Nian. Qiao Nian then handed the wooden box to Matriarch Gu. Taking out the blessing bag from the box, Matriarch Gu handed it to Matriarch Lu. She said gently, "This is the blessing bag my granddaughter-in-law made for your precious granddaughter. It has been prayed over in front of the Buddha for a long time. Every day, she only works on it after taking a bath. I hope your granddaughter won't mind that Qiao Nian's hands are clumsy."

Matriarch Lu had already been very grateful to Qiao Nian. Glancing at the blessing bag, she forced a smile and praised, "You're truly skilled!"

As she spoke, Matriarch Lu couldn't help but look at Qiao Nian again. She continued, "Very few people know how to embroider well these days."

Lu Qi moved closer to Matriarch Lu, taking a careful look at the blessing bag. She sighed. "This blessing bag is so beautiful. I think Sister will definitely like it very much!"

Lu Qi spoke with a sincere expression. She had no intention of flattering her at all!

When Qiao Nian heard Lu Qi's words, she couldn't help but smile. Every time she looked at Lu Qi, she felt a great sense of comfort. "In that case, I'll make a calming pouch for you in the future. You can put it by your bed. It'll be good for your sleep!"

Without bothering with the conventional pleasantries, Lu Qi said happily, "Okay!"

When Matriarch Lu heard Lu Qi's reply, she was slightly stunned. One had to know that Lu Qi would only do away with pleasantries when she was speaking to those close to her. It seemed that Lu Qi and Qiao Nian were really close.

Chapter 206: Tying the Blessing Bag

Matriarch Lu recalled how she had met Qiao Nian at the temple. Her expression grew gentler as she said softly, "Young Nian, if you hadn't reminded me last time, I'm afraid I wouldn't have been able to hold my eldest granddaughter's birthday banquet this time. You would probably be attending my funeral instead!"

Matriarch Lu coughed. Thinking of the results of the examination, she sighed slightly and continued, "Thank you for making such a beautiful blessing bag for my poor eldest granddaughter. To express our gratitude, we'd like to invite you to have a meal with us today."

"Alright, thank you, Madam Lu." Qiao Nian nodded.

After that, the group arrived at the Lu family's ancestral hall. This place was dedicated to the ancestors of the Lu family. Incense was burning in the ancestral hall, indicating that the Lu family's incense offerings would continue indefinitely into the future.

Everyone in the Lu family offered incense one by one. After that, Matriarch Gu and Qiao Nian offered incense to the ancestors of the Gu family.

After offering incense, Matriarch Lu brought everyone to the small courtyard beside the ancestral hall.

This small courtyard was filled with all kinds of plants and flowers, as well as many toys. Qiao Nian didn't think that this place looked like the mourning hall of the precious daughter of the Lu family. Instead, it looked more like a place that was often inhabited.

Everyone walked into the room, which was furnished very warmly. At a glance, one could tell that this was a style young girls would like.

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There were also many framed photographs hanging at the entrance. The same baby was pictured in all of them.

The baby's cheeks were puffed up, and she looked extremely adorable. Her small mouth was slightly curved, and she was smiling brightly.

Looking at the photographs of this child, Qiao Nian couldn't help but want to step forward and pinch her chubby face.

However, all she could see were photos.

Qiao Nian couldn't help but sigh. The eldest daughter of the Lu family was truly unfortunate. She had passed away at such a young age.

Qiao Nian's gaze inadvertently fell on the entrance. She saw Lu Zhu looking out with his back to the room. For some reason, she felt that his back looked a little lonely.

It seemed that Lu Zhu really cared about his sister. That was why he was having such a strong reaction!

Qiao Nian followed everyone in. The girl's bedroom was like a castle in a fairy tale.

The bedroom was filled with clothes for a young lady of all ages.

Seeing this, Qiao Nian was a little moved. She envied the eldest daughter of the Lu family.

The eldest daughter of the Lu family had passed away so many years ago, but the Lu family had still created a dream-like world for her. It was as if they wanted her to live in this courtyard and house forever.

This was a kind of kinship Qiao Nian had never experienced before.

Matriarch Gu glanced at the bed and turned her head, saying, "Lu Zhu didn't follow us? I wanted him to tie the blessing bag here."

Matriarch Lu took the blessing bag from Matriarch Gu. Her eyes were misty as she said in a choked voice, "He... he still hasn't forgiven himself."

When Qiao Nian heard Matriarch Lu's words, she had a vague feeling that the death of the eldest daughter of the Lu family had something to do with Lu Zhu.

"Sigh, this child..." Matriarch Gu sighed and said helplessly," Back then, he took the young lass out with him. She got lost by accident. He can't be blamed for this! "

"But he refused to forgive himself. All these years, he has never stepped foot into this room." Matriarch Lu sighed.

When Lu Qi heard this, her eyes turned red. She said softly, "I believe Sister won't want Brother to continue blaming himself."

Matriarch Lu hung the blessing bag next to the urn by the bed. Only then did she stand up straight, clasp her hands together, and give a soft prayer.

After she opened her eyes, she touched the urn sadly. There was heartache in her eyes.

Matriarch Gu and Qiao Nian stood where they were to offer incense and pray for the eldest daughter of the Lu family.

Matriarch Lu wiped her tears, then left reluctantly.

Lu Qi felt terrible too. Although she had never met her elder sister, as she grew older, she felt worse and worse when she saw all that her family had done for her sister.

When they came out, Matriarch Gu realized that Matriarch Lu didn't look well. She comforted Matriarch Lu for a while before suggesting that they take their leave.

Chapter 207: Doubts

All Matriarch Lu could think about was her eldest granddaughter, so she did not try to persuade Matriarch Gu to stay either.

Lu Qi was also feeling down. She had wanted to chat more with Qiao Nian, but she wasn't in the mood.

Qiao Nian seemed to read Lu Qi's mind. Smiling, she asked, "When you're not in class, do you want to go shopping together?"

Lu Qi's eyes instantly lit up, curving into crescents.

Matriarch Gu gazed at Lu Qi dotingly. Suddenly, a strange thought flashed across her mind. Why did she feel that Lu Qi looked a lot like Qiao Nian when she smiled?

However, Qiao Nian didn't notice this. Supporting Matriarch Gu, she bade goodbye and left.

The butler, who had been standing beside Matriarch Lu, watched as Matriarch Gu and Qiao Nian left. Suddenly, his expression froze and he froze. "Matriarch, look at Second Young Madam Gu's back. Don't you think she looks exactly like our First Madam?"

The "First Madam" the butler was referring to was Lu Zhu and Lu Qi's biological mother.

When Matriarch Lu heard the butler's words, she instinctively replied, "How is that possible? She..."

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Before Matriarch Lu finished her sentence, she glanced at Qiao Nian's retreating back. Startled, she began to frown as well.

How was this possible?

Why did Qiao Nian look exactly like her eldest daughter-in-law?

Qiao Nian's face appeared in Matriarch Lu's mind, along with all the different expressions she had seen Qiao Nian wear. Abruptly, she realized that not only did Qiao Nian look exactly like her eldest daughter-in-law from behind, but her aura was also very similar to her eldest daughter-in-law's.

Not only that, Qiao Nian's eyes were exactly the same as Lu Qi's.

If she didn't know that her daughter-in-law was overseas right now, she might have really thought that Qiao Nian was her daughter-in-law!

Oh my god!

How could there be two people who looked so alike in this world?

Gazing at Qiao Nian's retreating back, Lu Qi was stunned as well. She murmured, "She really looks like her!"

Matriarch Lu stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian, her eyes narrowing slightly.

Qiao Nian sensed their gazes on her and felt a little uncomfortable. It was only after they had walked a good distance away that the discomfort dissipated.

Could it be that Matriarch Lu didn't like the blessing bag she had embroidered?

With this thought in mind, Qiao Nian asked tentatively, "Grandma, do you think they like the blessing bag I made?"

When Matriarch Gu heard Qiao Nian's question, she smiled gently. In a soft voice, she said, "Silly child, of course they like it. Moreover, the blessing bag you embroidered was hung up by Matriarch Lu herself. This means that she really likes the blessing bag you made."

Qiao Nian smiled and nodded. She lowered her gaze, her eyes filled with confusion.

Since the Lu family liked her blessing bag, why did they keep staring at her?

Qiao Nian couldn't figure it out, nor could she be bothered to think about it.

Qiao Nian helped Matriarch Gu into the car. At this moment, a white sports car drove over and stopped in the parking space behind their car.

A glamorous girl got out of the car with a smile. Her gaze fell on Qiao Nian's back not far away, and her eyes lit up. She walked over. "Mom, when did you come back? Didn't you say you wanted to…"

Qiao Nian heard the playful voice from behind. She turned around and saw an outstanding-looking young lady standing behind her.

She knew this young lady. She was currently the most popular young female celebrity in the entertainment industry, Song Yu.

When Song Yu took a good look at Qiao Nian's face, the smile on her face froze. She said apologetically, "I'm sorry. I mistook you for someone else."

Qiao Nian shook her head. "It's fine."

If she had such a beautiful daughter, she would definitely be very proud of her.

When Song Yu saw Matriarch Gu in the back seat of the car, she hurriedly greeted, "Hello, Madam Gu."

Matriarch Gu nodded slightly. She did not say anything else.

Chapter 208: Happy Birthday!

Song Yu watched as Qiao Nian got into Matriarch Gu's car. After the Gu family's car left, a trace of confusion flashed in Song Yu's eyes.

Who was this girl?

Just now, Matriarch Gu seemed to be very close to her.

She remembered that Zhao Qian and Jiang Yue didn't look like this.

What embarrassed Song Yu the most was that she had even mistaken a young lady for her mother. How embarrassing!

The car gradually left the Lu family villa.

Qiao Nian recalled that Song Yu had just mistaken her for someone else. She asked curiously, "Grandma, what's Song Yu's relationship with the Lu family?"

Matriarch Gu had expected this question, and had prepared a response. With Song Yu's reaction in mind, she explained, "Back then, when the eldest daughter of the Lu family died an unnatural death, the Lu family was extremely upset. It was at this time that they met Song Yu, who had been abandoned on the streets. Hence, Song Yu was brought back to the Lu family and took Mrs. Lu's surname. They took her as their adopted daughter."

Qiao Nian nodded in understanding. From the reaction of the Lu family members just now, the departure of the eldest daughter of the Lu family had been a huge blow to them. Even now, the Lu family had yet to recover from the early demise of their eldest daughter.

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Song Yu was the adopted daughter of the Lu family. Did that mean that the "mother" Song Yu was referring to was Mrs. Lu?

Could it be that she looked very similar to Mrs. Lu, whom she had never met?

Some fragmented memories flashed through Qiao Nian's mind, but she couldn't seem to grasp them.

"Nian Nian."

Matriarch Gu smiled gently and reached out to hold Qiao Nian's hand. Her eyes were filled with love.

Qiao Nian came back to her senses and smiled at Matriarch Gu. "Grandma."

"I heard from Chen Qing that today is your birthday!" As Matriarch Gu spoke, she took out a dark blue ticket from her pocket and handed it to Qiao Nian. "You've registered your marriage with Gu Zhou. Now, you're a member of the Gu family. This is your first birthday since you arrived at the Gu residence. This is a small gift Grandma has prepared for you. Hurry up and accept it. Happy birthday, my Nian Nian."

When Qiao Nian heard Matriarch Gu's words, her heart warmed. Looking at the ticket in her hand, her eyes lit up like the stars in the night sky. "This is a ticket to Mr. Donghua's concert!"

"Yes. Do you like it?" Matriarch Gu looked at Qiao Nian lovingly.

Qiao Nian gripped the ticket in her hand tightly. Mr. Donghua was a world-renowned musician. She had heard that tickets for his concerts were only sold to insiders of the music industry. Only the top musicians in the industry had a chance to get tickets.

Grandma had actually given her a ticket.

Qiao Nian's eyes grew hot. She looked up at Matriarch Gu and said gratefully, "Thank you, Grandma. Grandma, how did you know that I liked Mr. Donghua's music?"

Matriarch Gu gave a teasing smile. "Ah Zhou told me, of course!"

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned.

Strange.

She had never told Gu Zhou that she liked Mr. Donghua's music.

However, Qiao Nian couldn't be bothered to think too much about it right now. She hugged Matriarch Gu gratefully and said happily, "Grandma, thank you so much. You're so good to me!"

Matriarch Gu's heart softened when she saw Qiao Nian's sweet, coquettish manner. This was the first time Qiao Nian had acted like the young girl she was since she married into the Gu family! Matriarch Gu gently patted Qiao Nian's back. "Good girl. You're my darling child. Isn't it only right that I treat you well? Happy birthday!"

Qiao Nian's eyes were a little wet. She smiled and nodded.

After returning to the Gu residence, Qiao Nian placed the ticket Matriarch Gu had given her into the cabinet of the dressing table. Her eyes sparkled with joy.

Qiao Nian glanced at the time on her phone. It had been some time since she had left a blood sample at the hospital. Thinking of how the Lu family mourned their eldest daughter, she took out her phone and dialed the hospital's number.

"Hello, this is the nurses' station. I'm Nurse Wang."

Back then, Nurse Wang was the one who had collected Qiao Nian's blood sample. Qiao Nian smiled and greeted, "Nurse Wang, hello. I'm Qiao Nian."

"Hello, Miss Qiao." Nurse Wang had a deep impression of Qiao Nian. After all, Qiao Nian was too good-looking.

Chapter 209: Disappointment

"Nurse Wang, may I ask if anyone has gone to the hospital for a DNA test?" Qiao Nian asked tentatively. This was the first time she had ever been so nervous. Her heart was in her mouth.

"Miss Qiao, I'm really sorry. You might have to wait a little longer." Nurse Wang's apologetic voice came through the phone.

The light in Qiao Nian's eyes gradually faded. She composed herself and said with a smile, "Nurse Wang, thank you for your trouble!"

Nurse Wang was in charge of conducting blood tests. She could hear the disappointment in Qiao Nian's voice. In a comforting voice, she said softly, "Miss Qiao, some things can't be rushed. These things have to be left to fate. Don't worry. Just leave it to me. As soon as I get any news, I'll inform you immediately."

Hearing Nurse Wang's words, Qiao Nian felt even worse. Could it be that she was really abandoned by her biological mother, just like Su Xue had said?

At the thought of this, Qiao Nian's heart felt empty. She tried hard to perk up and said, "Thank you, Nurse Wang. Goodbye!"

After hanging up, Qiao Nian sat on the sofa in disappointment, her entire body shrouded in gloom.

She thought of the eldest daughter of the Lu family, who had died young. Her heart ached even more.

Both incidents had to do with the birth of a child. The Lu family valued kinship and loyalty, while her parents had seemingly only treated her as a burden. They didn't care if she lived or died.

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Qiao Nian leaned weakly against the sofa and hugged her shoulders tightly. It was as if this was the only way she could feel a trace of warmth.

After some time, a knock on the door interrupted Qiao Nian's dispirited thoughts.

She hurriedly sat up straight. Sensing that her face was a little cold, she reached out to touch it. Only then did she realize that she was crying.

Qiao Nian hurriedly took out a tissue to wipe her tears. Blinking hard, she tried to calm herself down before saying, "Come in."

"Young Madam." Chen Qing pushed the door open and entered, panting heavily.

Qiao Nian looked at Chen Qing in confusion. Puzzled, she asked, "What happened?"

"Second Young Master... Second Young Master has fallen ill. The situation is serious. He's already unconscious!" Chen Qing said anxiously.

Qiao Nian's eyes widened in shock. The medicine she had previously prepared for Gu Zhou was to stabilize his condition. How could his illness have flared up?

"When did this happen?" Qiao Nian asked, frowning at Chen Qing.

"Ten minutes ago!"

Qiao Nian's expression changed slightly. She said, "Tell the butler to keep Gu Zhou's relapse a secret. Don't let Grandma know. Her health isn't great. She won't be able to take the shock."

"Yes." As Chen Qing spoke, he hurriedly took out his walkie-talkie to instruct the butler on these matters.

Qiao Nian picked up the medicine kit she usually used and said to Chen Qing, who was standing at the door, "Let's go!"

Chen Qing replied, "Yes, ma'am." With Qiao Nian following him, he walked toward the door of the house.

Qiao Nian looked at Chen Qing in confusion. Puzzled, she asked, "Is he outside?"

If Gu Zhou had fallen ill outside, why had Chen Qing returned to the villa so quickly?

"No, Second Young Master is at the back of the mountain," Chen Qing hurriedly explained, leading Qiao Nian towards the mountain.

The entire mountain belonged to the Gu family. Chen Qing got into the car, and after Qiao Nian got in, he began driving towards the mountain.

Qiao Nian turned to look at Chen Qing and asked in confusion, "What are his symptoms?"

As Chen Qing drove, he said, "Second Young Master seems to have been poisoned. He's lying on the ground, and his body is completely cold. No matter how hard we try, we can't wake him up."

Qiao Nian frowned slightly. Knowing only these symptoms, she had no way to determine Gu Zhou's current condition. She needed to take his pulse.

The mountain path curved prettily, and fresh flowers bloomed on both sides. Yet Qiao Nian didn't have time to admire the scenery now. Her mind was filled with thoughts of what medicine Gu Zhou should use next.

Chen Qing drove very fast. He stepped on the accelerator all the way, drifting around many turns.

In just a few minutes, the car stopped in front of a small courtyard.

Chen Qing hurriedly got out of the car. He turned his head and saw Qiao Nian calmly getting out of the car with the medical kit.

Chen Qing was momentarily stunned.

Chapter 210: Crystal Cup

He had been driving very fast just now. If it were anyone else, they would have probably been screaming the whole journey.

This thought flashed through Chen Qing's mind for only a second. He led Qiao Nian inside.

Qiao Nian didn't expect the Gu family to have a small, old-fashioned courtyard. As soon as she walked in, the fragrance wafted over.

The sun was shining brightly. Everywhere she looked, she could only see greenery and flowers. It made one feel as though they were in some sort of paradise.

They walked through the garden and arrived at a small hut. There, they saw Gu Zhou lying on a recliner, his face pale. It was unclear if he was dead or alive.

There were scattered flowers, red wine, Western food, and some fruits on the ground beside Gu Zhou.

Qiao Nian's expression changed drastically. In the past, when Gu Zhou's illness flared up, he could still control himself.

However, this time round, Gu Zhou had evidently lost control of himself. That must be why he was smashing things.

She stepped forward, pulled a chair close to Gu Zhou, and began to take his pulse.

Gu Zhou's white shirt had already been stained red by the red wine. The top two buttons of his shirt seemed to have been pulled off.

"Gu Zhou," Qiao Nian called out softly.

However, Gu Zhou did not react at all.

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If Qiao Nian hadn't been able to feel Gu Zhou's weak pulse, she might have thought that he was already dead.

They were in the mountains, and there was a strong breeze everywhere. If a healthy person came here, they would probably feel warm and comfortable, but Gu Zhou's health was not suitable for this place.

If she wasn't wrong, Gu Zhou's illness had flared up because of the strong wind.

Qiao Nian noted this down. She would remind Gu Zhou about this in the future. Turning to look at Chen Qing, she asked in confusion, "Why is he here?"

Chen Qing looked embarrassed. He stammered, "I..."

How should he put it?

Chen Qing felt a little awkward.

Second Young Master wanted to prepare a birthday surprise for Second Young Madam.

If Young Master were to know that Chen Qing had told Young Madam about this, he would definitely seek revenge from him!

Qiao Nian retracted her hand from Gu Zhou's pulse. Chen Qing hadn't replied for a long time, and she couldn't be bothered to ask further. The most important thing now was to stabilize Gu Zhou's condition. She hurriedly said to Chen Qing, "Come and help me. Help him into the house!"

Chen Qing immediately stepped forward to help.

Qiao Nian and Chen Qing had just helped Gu Zhou up when Gu Zhou's eyes flew open.

His gaze was like a lake in the depths of winter, his eyes as cold as ice.

Seeing that Gu Zhou had woken up, Qiao Nian couldn't help but smile. "Gu Zhou, you're finally awake. You..."

Before Qiao Nian could finish her sentence, Gu Zhou flung Qiao Nian and Chen Qing away, seemingly unconscious of what he was doing.

"Gu Zhou!" Qiao Nian called out anxiously.

Gu Zhou's red eyes were fixed on the last cup on the table. He clenched his fists tightly, his nails digging into his palms.

Qiao Nian followed Gu Zhou's gaze. She knew in her heart that Gu Zhou wanted to continue smashing things. She hurriedly stepped forward and picked up the glass on the table, preparing to hand it to Gu Zhou!

But when her hand touched the cup, her hand froze.

This cup felt different from ordinary cups. It seemed to be made of crystal!

The sunlight fell on the crystal cup, refracting light of all colors. It was so beautiful that one could not take their eyes off it.

Crystal cups were so expensive!

Wouldn't it be a pity if such a valuable cup was broken?

A trace of reluctance flashed in Qiao Nian's eyes.

However, when she saw how Gu Zhou was suppressing his urges, she couldn't bear to stop him. She handed the crystal cup to Gu Zhou and said softly, "If you want to smash it, then do so!"

Gu Zhou grabbed the cup. Just as he was about to fling it away, he seemed to sense that something was different about this cup. The cloudiness in his eyes gradually dissipated.

His brow was furrowed tightly, and he looked like he was in pain. He stared at the cup in his hand, then placed it on the table, looking as though that simple act had taken all of his self-control. Then, in pain, he squatted on the ground with his head in his hands.

Chen Qing looked at Gu Zhou in disbelief, his eyes filled with astonishment.

How could Second Young Master put the crystal cup back on the table when he was in such a state? He had been practically unconscious of his surroundings!

This crystal cup seemed to be extremely important to Second Young Master!

And, this crystal cup was a gift Second Young Master had prepared for Second Young Madam!