Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot! #Chapter 61 - Provoked

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Chapter 61: Provoked

When Qiao Nian heard Qiao Xin's words, she casually picked up the list of guests and performers from the table, and began reading through it.

Qiao Xin was so anxious that she began breaking out in a cold sweat. She was genuinely worried that whatever trouble Qiao Nian caused would implicate Su Yan. She hurriedly said, "Sister, come sit here. I'll give you my seat."

Many university students had come to watch the graduation ceremony. Most of them hadn't brought stools out of convenience, and were all standing around the hall. When they heard Qiao Xin's words, they were furious.

Qiao Nian was a well-known figure in An University. She was a woman who had burned down the school building.

"What right does she have to sit in that seat? Those seats are reserved for outstanding students!"

"That's right, that's right. The school has already given her face by allowing her to enter campus. How dare she take the principal's seat!"

"This is so infuriating. I'm going to get security to chase her out now!"

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Shen Xing stood silently at the side, the corners of her lips curving up slightly. Her gaze fell on the back of Qiao Nian's head. She had always wanted to seek an opportunity to deal with Qiao Nian, but she had never expected Qiao Nian to have already angered everyone before Shen Xing had done anything.

Shen Xing was the precious daughter of the Shen family. If not for the Shen name, she would not have had the chance to sit in the fifth row.

Shen Xing held her hands up around her mouth, forming a megaphone shape, and yelled at Qiao Nian, "Qiao Nian, your sister is calling for you. We know that there's already something wrong with your brain, but is there something wrong with your ears too?"

Qiao Nian sat quietly. Without even granting Shen Xing a glance, she continued to peruse the program list she was holding.

Shen Xing had always been revered by her peers—she was used to being the center of attention, like the moon among a crowd of stars. She didn't expect Qiao Nian to ignore her completely, and was so furious that she gritted her teeth.

"Qiao Nian, do you know that the first row is reserved for leaders of the school? Who the hell do you think you are? How dare you sit there? What sort of upbringing did you have?" Shen Xing was so angry that her face had turned red.

Qiao Xin instantly sensed the disdainful gazes landing on her. Her expression changed. She was the one who invited Qiao Nian here. Now that Qiao Nian had gotten into trouble, she would be humiliated as well.

Qiao Xin hurriedly stood up and looked toward the other students with an apologetic expression. She said guiltily, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Shen Xing, my sister isn't doing this on purpose. Do stop speaking. I'll talk to her properly. She'll definitely understand!"

"Pft, she can't even be bothered with you." Shen Xing snorted. She said nonchalantly, "Those who don't know the circumstances might think that she's a corpse. There's no reaction from her at all."

At the thought of what had happened in the Shen family villa, Shen Xing yearned to tear Qiao Nian to shreds. "The two of you are truly an interesting pair. The older sister is arrogant beyond belief, while the younger sister steps out to apologize. Are you two putting on a show?"

Qiao Xin's eyes turned red. Feeling wronged, she bit her lip and stood rooted to the ground, glistening tears falling from her face to the ground.

Listening to Shen Xing's words, Su Yan saw that Qiao Xin was crying. He turned to look toward Shen Xing with a threatening expression.

Shen Xing lifted her chin and said nonchalantly, "Don't look at me. I don't know anything. Qiao Xin, you'd better get your sister out of here quickly. Otherwise, she'll continue causing trouble!"

The stage preparations had almost been completed. The graduation ceremony would start in half an hour.

Qiao Nian had initially wanted to ignore Shen Xing, but Shen Xing was simply too noisy. To block out the noise, Qiao Nian had begun thinking about medical prescriptions. She turned to look at Shen Xing, her bright eyes filled with coldness.

"Miss Shen, do you no longer want to graduate successfully?" Qiao Nian enunciated each word clearly. When she thought of how Shen Xing had tried to frame her that night, flames of rage burned in her heart.

Qiao Xin was stunned!

Shen Xing was also stunned!

The onlookers were all astonished.

They were all a little frightened by Qiao Nian's words. However, when they recalled that Qiao Nian was mentally ill, they heaved a sigh of relief.

Qiao Nian was just a patient who had a mental illness. It seemed that Qiao Nian had already begun to imagine herself to be the principal. That was why she was acting so brazenly.

"She's indeed a lunatic!"

"A lunatic like her should just stay in the mental hospital. Why let her out? Does she mean to scare us to death?"

"Everyone, be careful. If she takes out a knife and starts stabbing people, we'll be doomed!"

. . .

Chapter 62: Telling Tales

The onlookers no longer dared to continue conversing with Qiao Nian. They were truly afraid.

Qiao Nian was mentally ill. It wasn't even a crime for such a patient to kill someone. The only thing they could do as onlookers was protect themselves.

However, their gazes towards Qiao Nian were very unfriendly.

Shen Xing couldn't care less. The Shen family had also invested in An University. If she wanted to graduate from An University, she just had to speak to her grandmother. Even

if she were to fail all her subjects, her grandmother would still have a way to change her grades.

"Qiao Nian, if you're crazy, you should just go back to the mental hospital. You set fire to the school building five years ago. Why, do you plan to kill me now?" At this point, Shen Xing pursed her lips in disdain. "Oh my, you're truly scaring me to death!"

When the onlookers heard Shen Xing's words, they all covered their mouths and sniggered.

Everyone knew that Qiao Nian had set fire to the school building five years ago because of Su Yan.

At this moment, Su Yan was sitting at his seat, wearing a white suit. His entire body emitted a gentle aura. Just like the winter sun, anyone near him, or who looked at him, would feel a wave of warmth.

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In addition, the Su family was also a rich family in An City. Hence, many girls liked Su Yan and yearned to marry him so that they could have his children.

Qiao Nian was thinking about Gu Zhou's antidote. She was still short of one medicinal herb, and she hadn't thought of what to use. She was thoroughly irritated by Shen Xing's tantrum.

Qiao Nian pursed her red lips impatiently. Beneath her long sweeping eyelashes was a pair of cold eyes. She looked at Shen Xing expressionlessly. "Classmate Shen Xing, congratulations. You no longer have to study here. You can get lost from An University."

Hearing Qiao Nian's words, Shen Xing was only momentarily stunned. Then, she looked at Qiao Nian like Qiao Nian was a big fool, and began laughing out loud.

If she didn't know Qiao Nian's identity, she might really be fooled by Qiao Nian.

The Qiao family wasn't considered rich in An City. Qiao Nian was just an unfavorable daughter of the Qiao family.

She was the precious daughter of the Shen family!

How dare Qiao Nian go head-to-head with her?

Qiao Nian must not want to recover from her illness.

"Qiao Nian, do you think you're the principal?" Shen Xing was laughing so hard that tears were running down her face. Right now, she truly felt that Qiao Nian might be mentally ill. She mocked, "Alright, alright. I'm scared. Is that enough?"

With great effort, Shen Xing managed to stop laughing. She continued, "Who do you think you are? This is not a mental hospital, and you are not the principal either. You are the unfavorable daughter of the Qiao family. You grew up in a poor village in the mountains when you were young. Have you forgotten?"

Qiao Nian stood there expressionlessly. After hearing Shen Xing's words, she looked at her as if she was looking at a clown. She continued, "University of An won't allow you to come in again!"

Like a snake, Qiao Nian glared at Shen Xing coldly, as if Shen Xing was her prey. It was as if she would swallow Shen Xing whole in the next second.

As the saying went, one should never admit defeat, even when on the losing side.

How could Shen Xing admit defeat? She looked up at Qiao Nian and said, "Who the hell do you think you are? You're a lunatic, yet you still want to throw your weight around in An University. You may have been born to good parents, but it's clear that you're simply a beast who's never had any proper upbringing!"

"How dare you!"

Suddenly, a majestic roar resounded from afar.

Everyone looked over and saw Principal Wang An walking over with a cold expression. He looked extremely serious, and he seemed to be exuding a righteous aura.

His hair was combed neatly, and under the gold-rimmed glasses, his eyes were fixed on Shen Xing.

When Wang An appeared, everyone fell silent. No one dared to speak.

When Shen Xing saw Wang An, she grew excited.

This was great.

The principal must have seen how arrogant Qiao Nian was. Qiao Nian would definitely be thrown out of An University by the security guards.

All she needed to do was wait to see a good show unfold for Qiao Nian.

Shen Xing straightened her back and looked at Wang An with a fawning smile. She immediately began telling tales. "Principal, you came at the right time. Qiao Nian is

purposefully causing trouble on campus! She even impersonated the principal and took your seat. This is simply outrageous! You must punish her severely.. You must chase her out of the campus."

Chapter 63: Provoked

Wang An's gaze turned cold, and his expression grew more and more serious. His brow furrowed into a frown. His gaze fell on Shen Xing's face, and then on Qiao Nian.

Qiao Xin, who was standing not far away, heaved a sigh of relief. This was great. She no longer needed to tell on Qiao Nian. She would no longer be implicated in this mess.

What made Qiao Xin the happiest was that Qiao Nian would definitely be expelled by the principal. Qiao Nian would never be able to study in this school ever again.

However, she still had to put on a facade. Qiao Xin pretended to look worriedly at Qiao Nian.

Shen Xing could also sense Wang An's dissatisfaction. Her lips curved up involuntarily. She glanced at Qiao Nian with a smug expression. She could already picture Qiao Nian leaving the campus dejectedly.

"Principal, we've already thought about it. We'll just chase Qiao Nian out..."

"You…" Wang An cut in. He said expressionlessly, "I've heard everything you said."

"Principal, please speak!" Shen Xing looked at Wang An expectantly, her lips curving up slightly.

"Alright." Wang An looked at Shen Xing with disappointment written all over his face. In the end, he said, "Shen Xing, after tomorrow, pack your things and leave this place. From now on, you are not to set foot in An University ever again!"

The smile on Shen Xing's face gradually disappeared. She looked at Wang An in disbelief. Her lips trembled slightly. "Wh-what?"

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Everyone present was stunned.

Who was Shen Xing?

The precious daughter of the Shen family.

The Shen family and An University were deeply affiliated.

No one had expected that the principal would choose to disregard Matriarch Shen's dignity and status.

Qiao Xin was also stunned. Standing in the middle of the chaos, she looked at the principal in disbelief. She had never expected the principal to expel Shen Xing!

Seeing that the principal had nothing more to say, Shen Xing said shakily, "Um, Principal, d-did I say anything wrong?"

Shen Xing's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face, and she instantly overcame her fear to speak. "Qiao Nian has taken your seat. I'm speaking up for you. Why are you expelling me?"

Wang An looked at Shen Xing with a somber expression. Only then did he say, "That seat was hers to begin with."

The moment his words fell, everyone who was watching the spectacle was stunned.

Qiao Nian was sitting in the middle of the first row.

Qiao Nian's seat was even better than that of the principal!

Shen Xing looked at the principal in shock, then at Qiao Nian. "Qiao Nian? How is that possible? She's just a student who dropped out in the middle of her studies!"

"Qiao Nian is our principal!"

Wang An said expressionlessly.

In an instant, everyone seemed to have been struck by lightning.

Shen Xing's teeth chattered, and her mind went blank.

How was this possible?

This couldn't be happening!

Qiao Nian couldn't be the principal!

Shen Xing looked at Qiao Nian in a daze.

Qiao Xin's heart was racing. Her voice trembled as she spoke. "Principal, m-my sister just came out of the mental hospital. She…"

When everyone heard Qiao Xin's words, they looked at Wang An intently. They wanted to know what was going on.

Wang An stood there with a gentlemanly air. He said to everyone, "Three quarters of the trophies in the collection room on the seventh floor were won by Qiao Nian."

"How can a lunatic be so outstanding?" Shen Xing blurted out!

Everyone gradually turned to look at Shen Xing, frowning. They all felt that Shen Xing should not have said this.

As for the man of the hour, Qiao Nian, she sat there calmly, as if everything happening had nothing to do with her.

"Shen Xing, you can leave now." Wang An looked toward Shen Xing expressionlessly.

Shen Xing glanced at Wang An before retracting her gaze. Her gaze landed on Qiao Nian's face not far away. "Qiao Nian, it was Qiao Nian who burned down the school building. You..."

"Qiao Nian wasn't the one who burned down the school building!" Wang An said coldly, his hands behind his back.

Chapter 64: Changing Sides

"Someone else was responsible for burning down the school building. If it weren't for Principal Qiao's funding of the reconstruction, An University wouldn't be what it is now." When Wang An said this, he looked at Qiao Nian gratefully. "Principal Qiao, thank you!"

At this moment, everyone was stunned. They must have been hallucinating. Otherwise, how could they have heard such fantastical words?

"That's impossible. Qiao Nian was still young back then. How could she have been able to get so many awards?" Shen Xing exclaimed.

Qiao Xin, too, was thinking that there was something wrong with what the principal said. Now she finally understood where the problem lay. She nodded in agreement. "Principal, there's something wrong with my sister's brain. How can she be so capable?"

"Don't you know Weibo?" Wang An frowned, his entire face darkening. "Take a careful look. The names of the people who won those awards are all on the Internet."

Wang An's casual words stunned everyone.

One had to know that in the hearts of everyone in An University, Wang An was a god. Wang An was their last hope of saving An University. They had never thought of Qiao Nian.

Shen Xing could not believe her ears. If she were to be expelled from the university, it would truly be too humiliating. She couldn't help but say, "Aren't you the principal of our school?"

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When Wang An heard this, he couldn't help but frown. "I've been telling everyone for a long time that I'm the vice-principal!"

Only then did everyone recall what Wang An had said in the past.

That was true.

Wang An had always said that he was the vice-principal, but in everyone's eyes, Wang An was the principal himself.

No one could accept that Qiao Nian, a student who had almost ruined the school, was actually the principal who had saved the school.

This realization was unacceptable to everyone.

"By the way, during the graduation banquet, I told everyone that I would introduce the principal to all of you." When Wang An thought about how the surprise he had prepared for Qiao Nian had been ruined by Shen Xing and the others, he felt a little uncomfortable. He felt that Qiao Nian had suffered.

Qiao Xin felt a little suffocated. She looked at Qiao Nian. All these years, she had been arrogantly trampling on Qiao Nian, forcing her to be admitted to the mental hospital. She never expected Qiao Nian to be standing on top of her instead.

How could a wild lass from the countryside surpass her?

Qiao Xin's eyes were filled with rage as she looked at Qiao Nian, but she quickly lowered her gaze, pretending not to be ignorant and innocent.

Soon, the onlookers began to stand on Qiao Nian's side.

"Whenever I saw Qiao Nian in the past, I felt that she was very approachable. I didn't expect her to be a top student, much less the principal of our school."

"It's our school's honor to have her as our principal."

"What a joke. Su Yan even said that the principal let Qiao Nian enter the school on account of him. The funniest thing is that Qiao Xin, Qiao Nian's younger sister, doesn't even know that her older sister is so outstanding."

"By the way, do you think Qiao Xin chased Qiao Nian away back then because of Su Yan?"

"It's possible. I heard from others that Qiao Xin is easily jealous. She's a very hypocritical person!"

"Oh my god, Qiao Nian is a big shot. I want to get close to her!"

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Qiao Xin and Su Yan heard every word of the conversation around them.

Su Yan felt as if he had been slapped in the face. His face was burning with embarrassment, and he felt as if his entire world had collapsed.

At this moment, Qiao Nian stood up slowly.

The onlookers all looked at Qiao Nian. For a moment, no one dared to speak.

Qiao Nian walked over to Wang An and gave a small smile.

This smile stunned all the students.

Chapter 65: Her Smile Put Sunflowers To Shame

When everyone saw Qiao Nian's charming smile, they finally understood what that sentence meant.

According to the ancients, beauty lies in not one's skin, but in one's bones. Qiao Nian's beauty seemed to fulfill both aspects. Her beauty could conquer nations.

In the past, everyone only knew that Qiao Nian was mentally ill. No one cared whether she was pretty. But now that they knew that Qiao Nian was the principal of the school, the hero who saved the university, the way they looked at her changed.

Wang An looked at his assistant and said, "Take Shen Xing with you to settle the withdrawal procedure."

"Yes, sir!"

Shen Xing looked at Wang An in despair. Her gaze gradually moved to Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian!

It was all Qiao Nian's fault!

She first caused Shen Xing to lose face at Grandma's birthday banquet. Now, she even caused her to be expelled!

Shen Xing pushed away the people next to her and walked quickly to Qiao Nian. With teary eyes, she begged, "Qiao Nian—no, Principal Qiao—I beg you. Please let me off. Just let me off. I'm begging you."

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Qiao Nian looked at Shen Xing calmly. She did not speak.

Ever since the birthday banquet, where Shen Xing had been thoroughly humiliated, she had been bent on studying hard to regain a foothold in high society. However, she had never expected that she would offend Qiao Nian.

"Principal Qiao, if I'm expelled, my grandmother will be angered to death. Please, on account that we're both women..."

"Shen Xing, are you kidding me?" Sarcasm dripped from Qiao Nian's words.

If Qiao Nian had not sealed her own acupuncture points during Matriarch Shen's birthday banquet, she would have been humiliated as well.

Fortunately, Gu Zhou had been a gentleman, and did not take advantage of her. Otherwise, she would have truly gotten into trouble.

Qiao Nian leaned over and spoke into Shen Xing's ear in a voice that only the two of them could hear. "When you gave me the lust drug, why didn't you think about what you just said? We are both women, are we not?"

When Shen Xing heard Qiao Nian's words, her legs began to tremble non-stop. She fell to her knees in front of Qiao Nian.

"I know I was in the wrong. I'm begging you, please let me off this once." Shen Xing begged pitifully. If she was really expelled, then she would no longer be able to maintain her position in the Shen family.

Qiao Nian looked down at Shen Xing. She stepped away, about to leave.

However, no matter how Shen Xing begged, it did not change the fact that the security guards were already pulling her away.

Qiao Nian's gaze swept over Qiao Xin again and she said lightly, "Qiao Xin shall be given a demerit!"

Wang An nodded approvingly.

Qiao Xin stood rooted to the ground, her face pale. She swayed on the spot, biting her lower lip, with an unwilling expression on her face. However, she didn't dare to protest.

Su Yan, who was standing beside Qiao Xin, looked at Qiao Nian in astonishment. This time, when he looked at Qiao Nian more closely, he realized that she was breathtakingly beautiful, like a plum blossom in the snow.

At this moment, Su Yan regretted his actions. If he could be together with Qiao Nian, then he...

The graduation banquet continued as planned. By the time it ended, Su Yan still hadn't recovered from the shock that Qiao Nian was the principal.

Seeing that Qiao Nian was about to leave, Su Yan chased after her and blocked her and Wang An's path.

Wang An glared at Su Yan in displeasure. Just as he was about to speak, Qiao Nian spoke.

"Student Su, what can I do for you?"

Student Su?

In the past, she had always addressed him as Brother Su Yan. Now, she was addressing him as Student Su?

Strangely, Su Yan felt a sense of abandonment. However, he calmed down very quickly. He knew that Qiao Nian was playing hard to get in order to seduce him.

Su Yan cleared his throat and smiled in a gentlemanly manner. "Can we talk?"

Qiao Nian glanced at Wang An.

Wang An immediately understood what Qiao Nian meant. He walked away.

Seeing that everyone had left, Su Yan smiled at Qiao Nian. "Do you want to join me at the coffee shop…"

"Student Su, it's getting late. I have other things to do." Qiao Nian looked impatient.

She wanted to return home early. She wanted to know who the father of her dead child was.

She had no time for people like Su Yan.

Chapter 66: Playing Hard to Get

Su Yan was momentarily stunned. Previously, he had thought that Qiao Nian was playing hard to get, but now her attitude puzzled him.

"Then let's talk here." Su Yan stuffed a hand in his pocket and glanced at Qiao Nian calmly.

"Sure."

Su Yan looked up at Qiao Nian and said impassively, "You're already the principal of An University. Why didn't you let Li Chun and Shen Yue off? Where did you take them?"

Qiao Nian crossed her arms and glanced at Su Yan coldly. Her face was expressionless. "Student Su, I don't know what you're talking about. I'm searching for them too. If you manage to find them, you can let me know."

Su Yan frowned. "I heard that back then, you targeted them because of me?"

"Is that so? Why didn't I know that?" Qiao Nian raised her eyebrow, smiling.

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"You've won so many awards in the past. You're a smart person. Don't you understand that by using such methods to hurt your love rivals, you'll only push me further and further away?" As Su Yan spoke, he pictured Shen Yue confessing her love to him. He would take the opportunity to agree.

Qiao Nian gave a small laugh.

Seeing Qiao Nian laugh, Su Yan thought that she was too embarrassed to confess her feelings to him. He said, "I've already understood your intentions now. If you can be a little more gentle in the future, I think I can consider taking you as my girlfriend."

Qiao Nian was so angry that she couldn't help but laugh. She didn't know how Su Yan had got the nerve to say this. With a trace of mockery in her eyes, she spoke. "Su Yan,

did you graduate from the film academy? How can you fabricate such nonsense? You can become a film director with the fictional things you're spouting!"

Su Yan glanced at Qiao Nian in confusion, freezing for a moment. "What?"

"I'm sorry, I've never liked you." With that, Qiao Nian turned to leave.

Qiao Nian's words were like a bolt from the blue, causing Su Yan to be stunned. He couldn't believe his ears and immediately walked up to Qiao Nian, looking flustered. "Didn't everyone in school say that you liked me?"

"Did I say that myself?" Qiao Nian glanced at Su Yan impatiently.

Su Yan was momentarily stunned. It did indeed seem that Qiao Nian had never confessed her feelings to him directly. "If you don't like me, how can there be so many rumors?"

When Qiao Nian heard Su Yan's words, the corners of her lips turned up. Casually, she replied, "I thought you liked me and were embarrassed to confess your love for me. That's why you spread those rumors."

"I didn't." Su Yan frowned.

"Then I don't know who started the rumors, but the funniest thing is that they said I killed someone and that I liked you. I wonder who's filling your ears with all this gossip?" Ignoring Su Yan, who was now in shock, Qiao Nian left.

As for Su Yan, he was dumbfounded. Qiao Nian had indeed said nothing directly to him, and there was no concrete evidence.

Had he been imagining things all these years?

Something was wrong.

It seemed that it was Qiao Xin who told him.

Qiao Xin had said that Qiao Nian liked him.

Qiao Xin also said that Qiao Nian had gone around claiming that she liked him.

Qiao Xin also said that Qiao Nian had killed someone for him.

Su Yan's mind was in a mess. He couldn't believe that Qiao Xin was the one who had told him all this gossip. In his heart, Qiao Xin was the purest and kindest person on earth.

Su Yan thought for a moment and ran over to Qiao Nian. His expression was dark as he said, "You're lying!"

Qiao Nian was practically speechless.. "Alright, if you want to think that every girl likes you, so be it. You're deluding yourself! I don't want to be your girlfriend!"

Chapter 67: Aggrieved

With that, Qiao Nian left. She didn't want to waste any more time on Su Yan.

Su Yan stood there alone, looking dejected. As he thought about Qiao Nian's words just now, his mind became more and more jumbled.

"Brother Su Yan." Seeing that Su Yan was standing alone, Qiao Xin walked over. "Shouldn't we leave as well?"

Su Yan heard Qiao Xin's voice and turned to look at her. His eyes met Qiao Xin's innocent face. Immediately, he recalled Qiao Nian's words. He frowned and coughed. "Okay."

Qiao Nian must be lying to him. Qiao Xin was clearly so innocent and lovable. How could she be someone like that?

Su Yan looked up at Qiao Xin and hesitated. "Did you know that your sister..."

Qiao Xin shook her head, looking troubled. "Brother Su Yan, Sister didn't grow up in the Qiao family when she was young. She only came to the Qiao family after she began studying at university. She doesn't go home often either, so..."

At this, Qiao Xin's brow furrowed deeper and deeper. She sighed and continued, "Although I didn't grow up with her, I'm still her blood-related sister, but she..."

As Qiao Xin spoke, she looked more and more aggrieved, and her eyes turned red. Her voice was choked with emotion.

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Su Yan instantly understood.

Qiao Nian had never said anything.

Although Qiao Xin had said in front of him that Qiao Nian liked him, Qiao Xin must have heard some rumors from other students. That could be the only reason why Qiao Xin would say those things to him.

He used to think that he knew her very well, but even now, he still didn't know what kind of person Qiao Nian was.

Su Yan's gaze fell on Qiao Xin's face. He had been together with Qiao Xin for years, and he knew her better than anyone else.

Qiao Xin must have mentioned Qiao Nian because Qiao Xin had always felt that being with him was betraying Qiao Nian.

Looking at the dejected Qiao Xin, Su Yan pulled her into his embrace and comforted her gently. "It'll be fine."

Qiao Xin was such a good person. All this time, Qiao Xin had never spoken ill of Qiao Nian in front of him.

"Did your sister really kill..."

Su Yan didn't finish his sentence.

Qiao Xin looked flustered, as though she had just recalled something. She glanced around and said, "Brother Su Yan, let's not bother ourselves with the past. Sister is the principal now, so don't bring up the past."

Su Yan glanced at Qiao Xin's anxious expression and instantly understood.

There was a fine line between genius and insanity.

Perhaps Qiao Nian was an insane genius. She was smart and capable, but she wouldn't be aware if she had done something wrong.

Su Yan glanced at the gentle and charming Qiao Xin in front of him, and lowered his gaze.

Qiao Xin was the best.

He should never have believed the words of a lunatic.

Su Yan pulled Qiao Xin into his embrace again, giving a gentle murmur of assent.

"Brother Su Yan, you're the best." Qiao Xin leaned into Su Yan's embrace and heaved a sigh of relief.

She didn't understand. How could Qiao Nian, that wild lass who had returned from the countryside, be better than her?

She had to knock Qiao Nian off her perch so that everyone would see Qiao Nian's true colors.

Su Yan and Qiao Xin walked out side by side. Before long, they saw Wang An walking towards them.

Wang An walked up to Su Yan and said calmly, "Student Su Yan, the school has selected your PhD thesis to represent An University in a competition. Come with me, we will discuss your thesis."

The gloom in Su Yan's eyes vanished in an instant. He felt that he would be able to achieve glory for the school through his hard work.

"Congratulations, Brother Su Yan." Qiao Xin looked at Su Yan happily, then at Wang An.. After some hesitation, she asked, "Principal, may I come with the two of you?"

Chapter 68: Acting Innocent

Wang An didn't even bother granting Qiao Xin a look of glance as he said, "Are you sure you'll be able to understand?"

Qiao Xin's face burned with embarrassment.

In the past, whenever Su Yan was working on projects with his mentor, she would often tag along as well. She genuinely hadn't expected to be rejected this time round. Her composure was shaken.

Wang An's gaze lingered on Su Yan's face as he spoke coldly. "Take care of your personal matters. When you're done, come to the Vice Principal's office to look for me."

With that, Wang An left without looking back.

Su Yan's face turned pale. This was the first time he had been reprimanded by Principal Wang, and his expression instantly darkened.

Su Yan turned to look at Qiao Xin, his eyes clouded with irritation. Qiao Xin was too clingy. That must have been why she had grown too big for her britches.

Qiao Xin could tell that Su Yan was displeased, and her small face turned pale in fear. Her tears began to fall uncontrollably.

"Brother Su Yan." Qiao Xin lowered her head and sniffled. "I'm sorry for causing you trouble!"

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Qiao Xin's words successfully quelled Su Yan's anger.

"Did someone say something to Principal Wang? Do we have to gain their approval just to graduate?"

Qiao Xin looked up at Su Yan with tears swirling in her eyes, looking utterly pitiful.

Su Yan looked at Qiao Xin's pitiful manner and recalled what she had said. He also recalled how Principal Wang had treated him just now. With those thoughts in mind, he formed a theory.

Qiao Nian must have spoken ill of him in front of Principal Wang. That must have been why Principal Wang had treated him so coldly.

Su Yan clenched his fists in a rage. Gritting his teeth, he growled. "It must be Qiao Nian!"

"It can't be Sister!" Qiao Xin shook her head. More and more tears fell, and her voice was choked with emotion. "Although Sister wants to be with you, she definitely won't do anything to hurt you."

Su Yan snorted coldly when he heard Qiao Xin's words.

He was now completely certain that Qiao Nian was playing hard to get.

Qiao Nian must have seen that he hadn't taken the initiative to chase after her. She must have set up a trap so that he would be forced to chase after her.

Only if he fawned over Qiao Nian, would she allow him to graduate without a hitch!

Qiao Nian was truly despicable!

In order to possess him, she was unscrupulous.

"Qiao Xin, don't cry." Su Yan carefully wiped her tears away and said gently, "I will definitely protect you. I won't let you suffer any grievances."

"Brother Su Yan, you're the best," Qiao Xin said, her eyes red-rimmed.

Su Yan leaned over and gently kissed Qiao Xin's forehead, then straightened up. "Alright, you can leave first. I'll go to the principal's office."

"Okay." Qiao Xin nodded obediently.

Su Yan looked at Qiao Xin's manner and liked her even more. Surely there could be no one who didn't like such a sweet and obedient girl!

After Su Yan left, Qiao Xin silently wiped her tears away. As she gazed coldly at his retreating back, a smug smile appeared on her face.

Tonight, she would know who the owner of the jade pendant was. If that person had a higher status than Su Yan, and he was the type she liked, she could openly snatch him away from Qiao Nian.

At the thought of this, Qiao Xin heaved a sigh of relief. There would come a time when she won against Qiao Nian.

Holding her bag, Qiao Xin walked out of the school elegantly in her ten-centimeter high heels.

Qiao Xin drove directly to the Gu family villa.

She parked her car at the entrance of the Gu family's villa. Looking at the majestic, towering doors of the grand entrance, the thought that she would soon meet the person from five years ago struck her. Her heart began to beat faster and faster.

Qiao Xin had just walked to the door when the butler greeted her...

Chapter 69: Confession

Qiao Nian performed acupuncture on Gu Zhou once more. After she put the needles away, she heard a knock on the door.

The butler's voice came from outside the door. "Second Young Master, Second Young Madam. Miss Qiao has arrived."

"Got it," Gu Zhou replied impassively.

After dismissing the butler, Gu Zhou turned to see Qiao Nian packing up the silver needles with her head lowered. He said with a serious expression, "Every time you help me perform acupuncture, I feel much better. When will I be able to fully recover from my illness?"

After Qiao Nian finished packing up her silver needles, she looked up at Gu Zhou and smiled. She said, "Second Young Master Gu, you're too impatient. Treating illnesses takes a long time."

"Let's head out first." Gu Zhou put his arm around Qiao Nian's waist and smiled at her.

When Qiao Nian and Gu Zhou went downstairs, they saw Qiao Xin sitting on the sofa, tapping on her phone.

Qiao Nian's lips curved up in a cold smile. She was curious about what brazen things Qiao Xin would do tonight.

Every time, she would shoot down Qiao Xin, often humiliating her in public. Yet, with the way Qiao Xin acted, it was almost as if Qiao Xin herself wanted to be embarrassed. Qiao Nian didn't understand it at all.

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Qiao Nian and Gu Zhou sat side by side, their gazes landing on the pendant on the coffee table.

Under the gentle lighting, the color of the pendant was distinctive and clear. One could tell with a single glance that it was not an ordinary pendant.

Seeing that Gu Zhou and Qiao Nian had come down, Qiao Xin looked at them happily. In an excited manner, she asked, "Sister, Brother-in-law, will we really be able to find the owner of the pendant today?"

Qiao Nian didn't reply.

Qiao Xin continued, "If only we could find him. Then we could find the person who ruined your innocence."

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned. She didn't expect Qiao Xin to say something like that.

The atmosphere in the room grew more and more tense. Qiao Xin didn't seem to sense it at all. She continued, "Brother-in-law, I know it's my fault for only telling you the truth now. I just thought that since the two of you are now husband and wife, there shouldn't be any overnight enmity between you two. You would empathize with Sister, wouldn't you?"

When Qiao Xin had entered the room, she had seen a man with white hair sitting in the next room. She had heard from the servants that this man was the owner of the pendant.

Therefore, she planned to tell Gu Zhou directly that the pendant belonged to Qiao Nian. Firstly, Gu Zhou would definitely no longer be willing to be with Qiao Nian. Secondly, Qiao Nian would soon be forced to be with that old man.

Two birds would be killed with one stone.

As Qiao Xin thought about this, her lips curved up involuntarily. She might be able to marry Gu Zhou in the future.

Qiao Nian didn't expect Qiao Xin to disclose what had happened in the past. She said in astonishment, "You..."

"Sister." Qiao Xin looked at Qiao Nian and said meaningfully, "Husband and wife should be honest with each other. I know you don't dare to say it. This time, I'll tell Brother-inlaw for you. I believe Brother-in-law will definitely forgive you."

As Qiao Xin looked at Qiao Nian's panicked expression, her lips began to curve up slightly. She said smugly, "Brother-in-law, you'll forgive Sister, right?"

At this moment, the butler led a young and handsome man with gold-rimmed glasses into the room.

The man's good looks were on par with Gu Zhou's. He had sharp eyebrows and bright eyes. He had a tall and broad figure, and was practically a dragon among men.

"Lu Zhu, the owner of the pendant," Gu Zhou said impassively.

Qiao Xin's eyes widened. In disbelief, she stared at the man named Lu Zhu, biting her lip.

She had clearly heard from the butler that the man with the white hair was the owner of the pendant.

Lu Zhu. He was an incredibly well-known celebrity, and the direct heir to the Lu family, a rich family from the upper class.

Lu Zhu's fans often encouraged Lu Zhu to do well in his acting career. If he did not do well, he could only return home to inherit the family business.

There were countless women who wanted to marry Lu Zhu.

She herself was also a fan of Lu Zhu.

At the thought, Qiao Xin's frown grew deeper.

Qiao Xin's eyes grew red. She glared at Qiao Nian in a rage..

Chapter 70: The Owner of the Pendant

What had Qiao Nian done to deserve such luck?

Why didn't Gu Zhou and Lu Zhu belong to her?

Qiao Xin clenched her fists tightly, her heart ready to jump out of her mouth.

This wouldn't do. She had to expose Qiao Nian!

At this moment, Qiao Nian's heart was surging with emotions, but her expression was very calm. She stared at Lu Zhu unblinkingly, thinking about what happened five years ago. For some reason, she felt that this man didn't seem to be the owner of the pendant.

"Second Madam Gu." Lu Zhu smiled at Qiao Nian. His voice was as soothing as the spring breeze.

Gu Zhou nodded. "Only for now!"

Lu Zhu was slightly taken aback, but the smile on his face did not falter. He looked at Gu Zhou meaningfully.

Qiao Nian looked at Lu Zhu. The more she looked at him, the more she felt that Lu Zhu looked familiar. After some hesitation, she asked, "Have... have we met before?"

Lu Zhu had been polite to Qiao Nian solely because Qiao Nian was Gu Zhou's wife. However, after Gu Zhou's words, he found that he didn't like Qiao Nian either. He said coldly, "I'm sorry, we aren't acquainted."

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Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian with a complicated expression. Qiao Nian had always kept her calm, no matter the situation. This was the first time he had seen panic and disappointment written on her face.

Qiao Xin looked at Qiao Nian, who was staring unblinkingly at Gu Zhou. In her heart, she had already cursed Qiao Nian a hundred times. Her words were dripping with sarcasm as she said, "Sister, you've come here from the countryside. I think you must have seen Mr. Lu Zhu in his movies."

Qiao Xin's words implied that a country bumpkin like Qiao Nian would never have met Mr. Lu Zhu in person.

Hearing Qiao Xin's words, Qiao Nian frowned slightly.

Qiao Xin sensed the coldness of Gu Zhou's gaze and froze for a moment, not knowing what she had said wrong.

But Qiao Xin soon understood.

Qiao Nian was still Gu Zhou's wife, so Gu Zhou was trying to protect his dignity.

That made sense. She had just said that Qiao Nian had been with someone else.

Qiao Nian realized that she had forgotten herself. She smiled and said nothing more.

"Mr. Lu Zhu, is this the pendant you lost?" Changing the subject, Qiao Xin showed Lu Zhu the pendant.

Lu Zhu extended his hand towards Qiao Xin.

Qiao Xin walked over to Lu Zhu in a fawning manner and placed the pendant in his palm.

The drawing room grew eerily quiet.

The silence made both Qiao Nian and Qiao Xin extremely uneasy.

Qiao Xin really didn't want this pendant to belong to Lu Zhu. She wanted the pendant to belong to that old man in his sixties she had seen previously. That would definitely be nauseating for Qiao Nian.

In any case, her goal was now to become Gu Zhou's wife. Otherwise, she could settle for being with Lu Zhu instead. She would ask for his contact information in a while.

Qiao Xin no longer held Su Yan in any regard. To her, the Su family was nothing.

Lu Zhu did not have any romantic scandals. His acting skills were outstanding and he had won many Best Actor awards.

Lu Zhu was truly outstanding. Only someone like her, Qiao Xin, would be worthy of him.

Qiao Nian, who was sitting at the side, stared unblinkingly at Lu Zhu. She felt that Lu Zhu was very familiar. Moreover, she was certain that Lu Zhu wasn't the owner of the pendant.

"Is this pendant yours?" Qiao Xin looked at Lu Zhu uneasily and asked, her voice soft.

Lu Zhu sized up the ring carefully and asked in a casual manner, "Who brought it over?"

Gu Zhou turned to look at Qiao Nian.

Lu Zhu looked at Gu Zhou in disbelief and pursed his lips. Remembering his purpose for coming here, he said, "Do explain. Why do you have my pendant?"

Qiao Nian frowned. She continued to stare unblinkingly at Lu Zhu.

Qiao Xin looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief.

How was this possible?

Five years ago, she had arranged for an old man. It was impossible for him to be Lu Zhu!