

## • **Mr. Gu, Your Replacement Bride Is A Big Shot!**

901 Lying?

In her heart, her brother had always been an honest and gentle person. She had never expected him to lie.

Could it be that Big Brother knew the owner of that pendant?

Was that why Big Brother had stepped forward to help that friend lie?

Could that person be Gu Zhou?

Qiao Nian grabbed Lu Zhu's arm and asked impatiently, "Brother, who does the pendant belong to?"

Lu Zhu could feel Qiao Nian's grip on his arm. He stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian, having a vague guess.

His face had also turned pale. His throat felt as if it was being strangled. For a moment, he couldn't speak.

Seeing that Lu Zhu was silent, Qiao Nian asked again, "Is it Gu Zhou's?"

Lu Zhu pursed his lips and nodded.

When Qiao Nian heard Lu Zhu's words, her face turned as pale as a sheet of paper. Her eyes turned red, and her breathing gradually intensified.

It was really Gu Zhou!

After all the twists and turns, it was still him?

Seeing that Qiao Nian's expression was ugly, Lu Zhu hurriedly grabbed her hand. Only then did he realize that her hand was as cold as ice. He asked anxiously, "What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

Qiao Nian didn't reply.

“Didn’t Wang Lin give that pendant to Qiao Xin? Why are you asking this?” Although Lu Zhu had a guess, he couldn’t make a conclusion unless Qiao Nian made it clear.

Qiao Nian looked at Lu Zhu with red-rimmed eyes. She shook her head gently.

Although she had already guessed the truth of the matter tonight, she was still unwilling to accept it when the truth was in front of her.

Why was God so cruel to her?

The Brother White Shirt she had always loved and cared about the most was actually the person who had hurt her the most.

When she was in the mental hospital, she had thought of looking for that man more than once. She wanted him to suffer a fate worse than death!

Qiao Nian’s eyes grew redder and redder. She felt that she was very stupid. She had never thought that the man might be Gu Zhou.

Perhaps it was because she really believed her brother’s words back then and felt that that person was the thief who had stolen the pendant.

Or perhaps it was because she knew that Gu Zhou was not in An City at that time, so she had never thought that the man was Gu Zhou.

Why?

Did God have to be so unfair to her?

She had been kidnapped. When she grew up, her innocence was ruined and she would have had children in a sorry state.

Looking back, her upbringing had been too messy. Nothing had gone smoothly for her.

She still remembered Gu Zhou being honest with her about Gu Qi. Gu Zhou had said that he had been drugged and had hurt a young lady uncontrollably.

At that time, she thought that Gu Zhou had a similar experience as her. She had never expected the two of them to be the exact parties involved in that matter.

Gu Qi and Xiao Shi were both her children. Her only joy was that the two children were still alive.

Qiao Nian felt as if her throat was being strangled. She couldn't breathe at all, and her mind was buzzing.

Qiao Nian's vision gradually blurred. Just as she was about to faint, she heard her brother's worried voice.

"Sugar!"

"Sugar, what's wrong?"

"Don't scare me, Sugar!"

...

Qiao Nian gradually came back to her senses. She breathed heavily, feeling the hard-won fresh air.

This suffocating feeling of despair was like the night she was bullied, or the night she heard that the children she gave birth to were dead...

Lu Zhu had already understood what had happened from Qiao Nian's reaction. His voice trembled as he said, "Sugar, back then, you..."

Qiao Nian's eyes were red. She smiled self-deprecatingly. "It's me."

Lu Zhu pursed his lips and remained silent.

Qiao Nian thought of that matter and asked, "Brother, did he tell you that he was schemed against?"

Lu Zhu met Qiao Nian's sad eyes and sighed slightly.

If Sugar and Gu Zhou were not husband and wife, he would definitely help Sugar.

But now, not only were Sugar and Gu Zhou husband and wife, but their relationship was also especially good.

Perhaps that was why Sugar was in so much pain.

Lu Zhu lowered his gaze and sighed. "After that incident, he had always regretted not being able to control himself."

902 Protecting Her?

Qiao Nian pursed her lips.

"But it already happened. At that time, he wanted to make it up to that girl." Lu Zhu recalled Gu Zhou's painful expression and couldn't help but sigh. "His first reaction was to look for that girl, but An City is so big. Finding a girl is like fishing for a needle in the sea."

"He doesn't dare to look for that girl openly. With the Gu family's status in An City, if Gu Zhou speaks up, many women will definitely flock to him. What happened that night will also be brought up by everyone. In order to protect that girl's reputation, he could only secretly look for her."

When Qiao Nian heard Lu Zhu's words, she was stunned.

She finally understood why Gu Zhou had never been able to find her. It was because she had asked Qin Chuan to erase her traces, so Gu Zhou could not find her.

In order to protect what happened that night, Gu Zhou had hidden his identity, so she had never found him.

They all did the same thing again, and that was to protect her.

The discomfort in Qiao Nian's heart dissipated a little, but her mind was still in a mess. She hurriedly suppressed the messy emotions in her heart and said, "Brother, don't tell Gu Zhou about this. I want to handle it myself."

Lu Zhu looked at Qiao Nian with heartache. Her eyes were red, and her nose was a little red. She looked aggrieved.

He stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian and asked, "Then have you thought of what to do?"

A trace of stiffness flashed across Qiao Nian's face. Her eyes darkened as she sighed and said, "I don't know."

If she hadn't fallen for Gu Zhou and if Gu Zhou wasn't Brother White Shirt, she would have killed him without hesitation!

But it was different now.

She couldn't do anything to Gu Zhou.

Qiao Nian sighed helplessly.

Fate really made fools of people!

Qiao Nian picked up the cup on the table and took another sip. Suddenly, an idea flashed across her mind. She hurriedly said, "Brother, I understand now why Mom was certain that the broken arm was mine back then."

When Lu Zhu heard Qiao Nian's words, he looked confused. "What do you mean?"

"If Mom uses the blood in that broken arm for a DNA paternity test, the results will definitely be mine, because the owner of that broken arm used my bone marrow. The blood in her body is the same as mine."

Lu Zhu wasn't a medical student, but he was very smart. He quickly understood what Qiao Nian meant.

Lu Zhu paused for a moment and continued, "You're saying that person used your bone marrow."

“Yes, that person had a bone marrow transplant.” Qiao Nian frowned. When she realized today that her encounter matched Gu Zhou’s, she knew that she was the mother of two children.

When Song Man’s blood DNA was tested with Xiao Shi’s, the two of them were biologically related.

This meant that Song Man’s blood DNA was the same as hers.

In other words, she had once done a bone marrow transplant for Song Man.

When Qiao Nian thought of Gu Qi and Xiao Shi, her heart instantly softened. Her heart was filled with joy and excitement.

Her eyes gradually turned red. She had thought that her children were already dead, but she had not expected them to be alive and well, and right beside her.

She was simply too happy.

Gu Qi had already called her Mommy.

She did not like children to begin with.

That night at the crematorium, she only took one look at Gu Qi and fell in love with him. She was also willing to interact more with him.

Later on, when she saw Xiao Shi, she also felt that she was very close to her. She couldn’t help but like her.

Now, it seemed that it was because her blood flowed in the bodies of those two children. It was blood ties that had closed the distance between them.

Now that she thought about it, she was still very lucky to have a pair of children by her side.

Qiao Nian suppressed the joy in her heart. She felt that she had to discuss this matter with her brother. “Brother, I think you have to ask

Mom if she only used blood when she did the DNA test with that broken arm. Did she use the skin of the broken arm?"

Lu Zhu wasn't sure what the difference was. He asked, "What's the difference?"

### 903 Don't Deal With Everything On Your Own

"If Mom only uses the blood of the broken arm for a DNA test, she can indeed determine that it's my arm. But if she uses the epidermal cells of those broken arms for a DNA test, the results will definitely have nothing to do with me! She accepted my bone marrow. Her blood is the same as mine, but her DNA in other places is still different from mine!" Qiao Nian explained concisely.

Lu Zhu was also a smart person. He quickly understood what Qiao Nian meant. "If Mom used epidermal cells for a DNA test back then and found out that it was your arm, it means that the person who helped Mom might have tampered with Mom's test sample."

"That's what I think." Qiao Nian's expression was serious as she continued, "If someone really tampered with the sample, it means that that person is related to the person who accepted my bone marrow. He might have been involved in my kidnapping back then."

Lu Zhu lowered his eyes, which were filled with coldness. Soon, the kidnapping case from more than twenty years ago would appear again.

What worried Lu Zhu the most was that if someone really tampered with it, that person would definitely have a good relationship with his mother.

At the thought of a dangerous person by his mother's side, Lu Zhu felt very uneasy.

Qiao Nian sat there and drank her drink slowly. If she hadn't realized that Song Man wasn't Xiao Shi and Gu Qi's mother, the first step Song Man would have taken would have been to enter the Gu family and become Madam Gu.

If she wasn't wrong, Song Man wanted to enter the Lu family and pretend to be the eldest daughter of the Lu family.

Qiao Nian's grip on the cup tightened.

Those people were simply crazy.

Back then, not only had they kidnapped her, but they had also extracted her bone marrow and thrown her somewhere else.

Now, they still wanted Song Man to replace her and live a better life.

Suddenly, Qiao Nian felt that something was wrong.

She felt a chill run down her spine.

If she wasn't wrong, those people were also the ones who had schemed against her and Gu Zhou five years ago. Only then would Song Man be able to adopt Xiao Shi naturally and enter the Gu family to be Mrs. Gu.

Those people seemed to be playing a huge game of chess.

Back then, she was only three years old when she was kidnapped. She had seen Song Man before. Song Man looked to be about her age.

This meant that Song Man did not know back then. After all, she was just a child.

There must be an adult behind this.

Why would they do that?

Qiao Nian didn't intend to tell Lu Zhu about this. She wanted to investigate it alone and find everyone involved. She wanted them to pay with their lives.

"Brother, do you know who I've donated my bone marrow to?" Qiao Nian asked because she wanted to confirm that those people had kidnapped her for her bone marrow.



Lu Zhu frowned and said, "At that time, you were still so young. How could you donate bone marrow to someone else? Besides, donating bone marrow is very dangerous. How could Dad and Mom let you do such a dangerous thing?"

Qiao Nian instantly understood. Her guess was right.

However, Song Man was dead. They could investigate Song Man's past, hoping to find clues.

Qiao Nian now understood that those people all knew that she was still alive.

"Brother, help me ask Mom first. After you know the answer, tell me," Qiao Nian said, lowering her gaze. When she knew the answer, she would consider returning to the Lu family.

"Okay!"

Qiao Nian had chatted a lot with Lu Zhu tonight and obtained a lot of useful information. It was getting late, and Big Brother had to rest.

"Brother, it's getting late. Go back and rest first. I have other things to do." Qiao Nian stood up.

Lu Zhu still wanted to talk to Qiao Nian more. After all, his sister had been very busy. He didn't have much time to see her. He frowned and asked, "It's already so late. Aren't you going back to rest?"

Qiao Nian nodded and smiled. "That matter is a little urgent. I have to do it now."

Lu Zhu's frown deepened. He instructed, "Sugar, if you need anything in the future, just tell me. I'll definitely help you. Don't shoulder everything yourself, understand?"

904 He Wants to Pick You Up

Qiao Nian felt Lu Zhu's concern, and her heart warmed.

Qiao Nian pursed her lips slightly and said, "Brother, the most important thing now should be to investigate what happened more than twenty years ago. We'll talk about the rest later."

Seeing that Qiao Nian's expression was off, Lu Zhu had a bad feeling. Puzzled, he asked, "Are you no longer willing to be with him?"

If Sugar was willing to be with Gu Zhou, she would not say anything else until a later time.

Lu Zhu felt that all of this was fate making fools of him.

Sugar was not in the wrong, nor was Gu Zhou.

The ones in the wrong were those who were playing tricks behind the scenes.

Qiao Nian didn't speak. She stood there with her eyes lowered.

Lu Zhu frowned slightly. Sugar should still be hesitating.

Qiao Nian gripped her bag tightly and smiled at Lu Zhu. "Brother, you don't have to worry about me anymore."

Actually, she hadn't thought of how to deal with this matter.

Lu Zhu nodded and watched Qiao Nian leave.

His greatest wish was for Qiao Nian to be happy.

When Qiao Nian left the cafe, she looked at the traffic outside and sighed deeply.

She walked towards the parking lot. She still had to make a trip to the paternity test center.

Although she had already guessed that Gu Qi and Xiao Shi were her children, she still believed in the facts more, so she planned to do another DNA test with Gu Qi and Xiao Shi herself.

The car drove for about half an hour before they arrived at the paternity test center.

Qiao Nian quickly walked towards the paternity test center. She walked into the paternity test center, then took out a strand of her own hair and extracted the DNA inside.

She still operated on her own. She didn't trust anyone else now.

Qiao Nian did it very seriously. Not long after, the results of her DNA test with Gu Qi and Xiao Shi were out.

When she saw the results, she understood.

Indeed, it was exactly as she had thought. Gu Qi and Xiao Shi were really her children.

Qiao Nian's eyes turned red again, and she felt a lump in her throat.

For some reason, she recalled the scene of the doctor carrying the dead baby over after she gave birth.

At that time, when she knew that the child she had painstakingly given birth to were dead, her entire world collapsed.

She sat on the hospital bed with the dead baby in her arms and cried hysterically.

If her children were all alive, who was the dead baby?

Could it be that even her childbirth had been tampered with by those people?

Qiao Nian felt a chill run down her spine. Those people were really pervasive.

At this moment, her phone suddenly rang. It was Gu Qi calling her.

Qiao Nian's heart began to race. Gu Qi was her child.

Realizing this, Qiao Nian picked up the call eagerly.

“Mommy!” Gu Qi’s childish voice came through the phone.

Qiao Nian was touched. In the past, she liked Gu Qi calling her that. Now that she knew that Gu Qi was her child, she felt that Gu Qi’s voice sounded better than before.

Qiao Nian’s tears fell uncontrollably.

Worried that Gu Qi would hear her voice, she hurriedly covered her mouth with her hand. A tear fell down her cheek.

Gu Qi sat on the bed and didn’t hear Qiao Nian’s answer on the phone. He glanced at his phone, and the screen showed that he was on a call. He called out tentatively again, “Mommy?”

Qiao Nian sniffled and tried hard to remain calm. She hurriedly replied, “Yes, I’m here. Xiao Qi, why aren’t you asleep?”

Qiao Nian glanced at the time. It was already past three in the morning.

Gu Qi gripped his phone tightly and asked in a childish voice, “Dad told me that you left in a hurry. Mommy, I’m a little worried about you. When are you coming back?”

The smile on Qiao Nian’s face froze. She pursed her lips and said, “Where is Dad now?”

“Dad’s right next to me. He wants to pick you up. Where are you now?”

Qiao Nian recalled what had happened that night and had mixed feelings. She didn’t want Gu Qi to be sad, so she said casually, “I have something important to do tonight, so I won’t go back first. Go to bed early. Children can’t stay up late.”

On the other end of the phone, Gu Qi seemed to be silent for a moment. Then, Qiao Nian heard Gu Qi say, “Mommy, Dad said that it’s not safe at night. He’s planning to pick you up.”

## 905 Lying

This time, Qiao Nian understood. Gu Zhou must have asked Gu Qi to make this call. It was already three in the morning, but Gu Zhou had actually woken Gu Qi up. Did Gu Zhou know that children had to sleep early at night?

Qiao Nian sighed helplessly and said, "There's really no need. After I'm done, I can go home by myself!"

There was no more movement on the other side of the phone.

Seeing that the call was still connected, Qiao Nian called out in confusion, "Xiao Qi?"

"Nian'er, it's me." Suddenly, Gu Zhou's low and hoarse voice came through the phone.

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou's voice, the blood drained from her face.

The events of that night surged into her mind, catching her off guard. Fear instantly surrounded her.

Qiao Nian's entire body was cold. Her phone trembled slightly, as if it was being gripped tightly by an invisible hand. She couldn't say a word, immersed in the memories of that night.

At this moment, Gu Zhou's voice came through the phone again.

"Xiao Shi just woke up from her dream. I don't know how to coax her. Can you come back early to coax her?"

Qiao Nian gradually came back to her senses. Thinking of Xiao Shi's adorable face, she hesitated for a moment before answering, "Yes."

Xiao Shi had seen Song Man jump down from the window with her own eyes. If she could not help Xiao Shi tide through this crisis, she might be covered in this shadow for the rest of her life.

She couldn't let Xiao Shi live in fear forever, like her.

"How... is she now?"

"I don't think she's too good."

Qiao Nian's frown deepened. She had completely forgotten the fear of that night. Her mind was filled with Xiao Shi.

She could no longer sit still. She said, "I'll go back now!"

Without waiting for Gu Zhou to speak, Qiao Nian hung up and walked out.

...

When Qiao Nian returned to the Gu family villa, it was already half past four in the morning.

She parked the car and looked at the brightly lit Gu family villa with a complicated expression. She got out of the car and walked in.

The dolls and balloons in the garden had already been put away and returned to their usual calm.

Qiao Nian walked in step by step. She recalled how she had held Gu Qi and Xiao Shi's hands just now.

The scene changed. She recalled the first time she had seen Gu Zhou.

Back then, Gu Zhou had been very wary of her. She had spent a lot of effort to get Gu Zhou to lower his guard against her.

For some reason, she recalled Gu Zhou's confession to her.

The sweet memories and the pain of the past were mixed together. Qiao Nian's frown deepened.

The most important thing now was to comfort Xiao Shi.

With this thought in mind, Qiao Nian quickly walked in. When she walked into the living room, she saw Gu Zhou leaning against the sofa.

When Gu Zhou saw Qiao Nian enter, he put down the book in his hand and looked up at her, his gaze gentle and deep.

Qiao Nian met Gu Zhou's gaze and recalled what had happened that night. She couldn't help but feel nervous. She clenched her fists tightly.

Gu Zhou didn't seem to notice that something was wrong with Qiao Nian's expression. He stood up and walked towards her.

Qiao Nian pursed her lips tightly. Every step Gu Zhou took seemed to be walking on her heart. When Gu Zhou stood in front of her, she felt as if Gu Zhou was already holding a knife to her heart.

If Gu Zhou casually moved his knife, she might die without a burial ground.

Qiao Nian took a step back. She didn't want to be so close to Gu Zhou. Only when the two of them were far apart would she feel safe.

Gu Zhou pretended not to notice Qiao Nian's small actions and asked calmly, "How's the investigation going?"

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou's question, she shook her head gently and said, "The other party hid it very well. We haven't found anything yet."

"Are you feeling unwell? You look terrible." Gu Zhou took a step forward and reached out to touch Qiao Nian's forehead.

However, before Gu Zhou's hand could touch Qiao Nian's forehead, Qiao Nian took another step back. She looked away and said, "How is Xiao Shi now? Let's go see her!"

906 I'm Sorry

As Qiao Nian spoke, she walked towards the stairs.

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian's back and narrowed his phoenix-like eyes. "Xiao Shi just fell asleep."

Qiao Nian's right foot had just stepped onto the stairs when she heard Gu Zhou's words. She retracted her foot and lowered her gaze, saying casually, "I have something on at the company..."

As Qiao Nian spoke, she walked out.

If it weren't for Xiao Shi, she wouldn't have been willing to return to the Gu family.

However, before she could take a few steps, Gu Zhou blocked her path.

Qiao Nian looked up and met Gu Zhou's gaze.

"I have something on now. I..."

"What kind of person do you think Xiao Qi and Xiao Shi's biological mother are?" Gu Zhou stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian, interrupting her gently.

Qiao Nian took a step back and shook her head. "Their biological mother? How would I know what kind of person she is?"



At this point, Qiao Nian recalled that night and the pain she had suffered during childbirth.

Qiao Nian clenched her fists. She looked up at Gu Zhou and asked, “I’ve always been curious. What kind of person do you think their biological mother is?”

Gu Zhou saw Qiao Nian’s small actions. His eyes flickered as he said seriously, “I think... she must be a very smart and kind person.”

Qiao Nian raised her eyebrows slightly. “Why?”

“Xiao Shi and Gu Qi are both very smart. Moreover, they didn’t go astray when they were by Song Man’s side. That’s really commendable.” Gu Zhou paused for a moment and continued, “That can only mean that Xiao Shi is naturally kind. This kind of kindness should be inherited by her bloodline!”

At the mention of Xiao Shi, Qiao Nian’s eyes gradually softened. “Yes, it’s like this...”

Gu Zhou looked at Qiao Nian’s face. Guilt and self-reproach gradually appeared in his eyes.

Gu Zhou pursed his lips and finally said, "If I could do it again, I definitely won't hurt her!"

Qiao Nian came back to her senses. Her eyes flickered as she looked up at Gu Zhou.

That night, Gu Zhou had also been drugged. Moreover, Gu Zhou seemed to have suffered from a mental illness because of that incident.

This incident had traumatized her and Gu Zhou greatly.

Gu Zhou was also unwilling.

Gu Zhou had a phobia of women. Gu Zhou did not have a phobia when facing her.

Qiao Nian also understood that what happened that night had been deliberately planned.

Putting everything else aside, back then, when she fell into Qiao Xin's trap, she might have lost her virginity to an old man.

However, those people brought her to Gu Zhou's room.

For the entire night.

She had spent her life in fear and pain.

That night had been a nightmare for her.

Qiao Nian closed her eyes and suppressed all the emotions in her heart.

She looked up at Gu Zhou and tried hard to remain calm. “If we find her,

how do you want to make it up to her?”

Gu Zhou stared unblinkingly at Qiao Nian and said seriously, “I wanted

to marry her and redeem myself for the crimes I’ve committed!”

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Zhou’s words, she was stunned.

After a long time, she came back to her senses and asked with a frown,

“Do you really think so?”

Gu Zhou nodded seriously. He looked at Qiao Nian gently and smiled

self-deprecatingly. “But it’s different now. After meeting you, I just want

to marry you. However, I’ll still do my best to find her and atone for my

sins in other ways!”

Qiao Nian’s heart began to race. She lowered her gaze.

So he hadn't forgotten to look for her back then. He had always been protecting her.

At this moment, Qiao Nian's mind was in a mess.

Suddenly, a maid ran down the stairs and ran up to Qiao Nian. She said in a panic, "Young Madam, Little Miss has woken up from her tears. She keeps calling for Mommy!"

When Qiao Nian heard the servant say that she had cried, her heart jumped to her throat. She turned around and ran upstairs, leaving Gu Zhou standing alone.

Gu Zhou watched as Qiao Nian left. What had happened that night flashed across his mind, and his brow furrowed deeper and deeper. The light in his eyes gradually disappeared, and his eyes were filled with self-blame.

Nian'er...

I'm sorry...

When Qiao Nian followed the servant to the corridor on the second floor, she could hear Xiao Shi crying from afar.

Qiao Nian turned to look at the servant and said in a low voice, "I won't return to my room tonight. I'll sleep with Xiao Shi."

"Yes!" The servant nodded.

Qiao Nian walked to the door of Xiao Shi's bedroom. She placed her hand on the handle and was about to push the door open when she heard Xiao Shi's hysterical cries. Her entire heart seemed to be clenched tightly by a hand.

Qiao Nian pushed the door open and walked in. The moment she entered, she saw Xiao Shi sitting on the bed, crying hysterically. Her face was red, and she looked very pitiful.

When she returned to the Gu residence at night, she saw a garden filled with dolls, balloons, and beautiful fireworks. At that time, she was very happy.

However, when she fell asleep, the shadow of Song Man's death would linger around her.

Qiao Nian knew in her heart that it was difficult for a child to withstand the death of a adoptive mother who had raised her for five years.

"Xiao Shi."

As Qiao Nian spoke, she walked to the bed and sat down.

Xiao Shi raised her hand to wipe her tears. She looked at Qiao Nian and cried until she was out of breath. "Auntie Nian Nian... I just dreamed of her. She was covered in blood..."

Qiao Nian's heart ached as she hugged Xiao Shi in her arms. Her eyes turned red. Xiao Shi had suffered greatly by Song Man's side.

Xiao Shi hugged Qiao Nian tightly. It was as if this was the only way she could feel loved and feel that she wasn't alone.

Qiao Nian gently patted Xiao Shi's back. She looked at Xiao Shi in her arms guiltily. If she had taken care of Xiao Shi back then, Xiao Shi would definitely have lived better.

Guiltily, she apologized. "Xiao Shi... I'm sorry. Mommy didn't take good care of you!"

When Qiao Nian finished speaking, she was stunned. Xiao Shi was still unwilling to be her daughter. If she took the initiative to say that she was Xiao Shi's mommy, would Xiao Shi think of Song Man and be even sadder?

But since she had already said it, she couldn't say anything.

Xiao Shi had been nestled in Qiao Nian's arms. When she heard Qiao Nian's words, she looked up at her.

When she met Qiao Nian's red eyes, she could clearly see her reflection in them. She could also see guilt and self-blame in Qiao Nian's eyes.

"Mommy?" Xiao Shi called out in confusion.

Qiao Nian looked at Xiao Shi's face, tears welling up in her eyes. She forced a smile and nodded vigorously. "Yes, Auntie Nian Nian will be Xiao Shi's mommy in the future, okay?"

Worried that Xiao Shi would be disgusted, Qiao Nian added, "If Xiao Shi is willing..."

Mommy?

Xiao Shi looked up at Qiao Nian. She could clearly see that Qiao Nian's eyes were filled with sincerity. For some reason, she felt that Qiao Nian's eyes were both sad and gentle.

Xiao Shi nodded. If Auntie Nian Nian became her mommy, she would really be willing. She reached out and hugged Qiao Nian's neck, leaning her head against Qiao Nian's collarbone. With a satisfied expression, she said, "Thank you. I'm willing to be your daughter."

Qiao Nian's heart suddenly skipped a beat, then began to race. She hugged Xiao Shi tightly, tears welling up in her eyes. She was extremely touched.

She was really happy that Xiao Shi was willing to be her daughter, but her heart ached for the grievances she had suffered in the past.

"Xiao Shi, it's Mommy's fault. Mommy didn't protect you well in the past and made you suffer. I'm really happy that you're willing to let me be your mommy." Qiao Nian slowly closed her eyes, tears falling silently.

If she hadn't come to An City and if Song Man didn't want to be Madam Gu, she might never have known that Gu Qi, who had been raised by her, was her child.

She might be immersed in the pain of losing her children for the rest of her life. She would spend time with her own child, but she would never be able to acknowledge him.

It was Xiao Shi's arrival that enabled her to know the truth of the matter, and prevented her from suffering because of the loss of her child.

Xiao Shi didn't know what Qiao Nian was thinking. She hugged Qiao Nian's neck and fell silent for a moment. She asked carefully, "Mommy, I..."

Xiao Shi stopped after saying a few words, hesitating if she should continue.

## 908 Good Child

Qiao Nian had always known that Xiao Shi was a sensitive child. Seeing that Xiao Shi was hesitating to speak, she silently wiped the tears off her face before letting go.

Xiao Shi sat where she was. Her face was red from crying, and her eyes were swollen.

Qiao Nian took out a tissue and carefully wiped the tears off Xiao Shi's face. Then, she said softly, "Xiao Shi, if you have anything to say, tell Mommy."

Xiao Shi looked up. There were still tears on her long eyelashes, and her wet eyes were fixed on Qiao Nian.

She pursed her lips, looking unwilling to speak.

"If you have any thoughts, Mommy will try her best to help you." Qiao Nian smiled gently and tucked her hair behind her ear. "You're Mommy's good child. A good child has to express her thoughts bravely, understand?"

Xiao Shi was slightly stunned.

This was the first time she had heard someone say that a good child had to express her thoughts bravely. Was it so simple to be a good child?

In the past, in Hai Cheng, Song Man had asked her to work every day. Only when she did a lot of work would Song Man be happy and praise her for being a good child.

Xiao Shi hesitated for a moment and asked seriously, "Mommy, can I visit her?"

As she spoke, she studied Qiao Nian's face carefully.

Qiao Nian paused for a moment. Xiao Shi was very careful and her heart felt as if it was being pricked by countless needles. It was so painful that it was difficult to breathe.

How could Xiao Shi take so long to consider such a small request?

"She's going to visit Song Man, right?" Qiao Nian looked at Xiao Shi with heartache.

Xiao Shi was a little surprised. She said obediently, "She used to be my favorite mommy. I've thought it through. She won't be my mommy anymore. I want to say goodbye to her."



Xiao Shi recalled that on the way back from the hospital, she vaguely saw Song Man smiling at her.

“Sure.” Qiao Nian smiled and agreed. Seeing Xiao Shi heave a sigh of relief, she asked worriedly, “Aren’t you afraid?”

Xiao Shi shook her head and said, “I’m not afraid anymore.”

She wanted to make things clear to Song Man. She wanted to tell her that she would live a good life and hoped that Song Man would be a gentle mommy in the future.

When she knew that Song Man loved her, she was no longer afraid.

A faint smile appeared on Qiao Nian’s face, like the winter sun, filled with warmth.

For a moment, Xiao Shi was stunned.

Qiao Nian touched Xiao Shi’s little face. Xiao Shi looked very similar to her. Although she looked weak on the surface, she was very strong in her bones and was unafraid of all difficulties.

Qiao Nian pulled Xiao Shi into her arms and smiled. “Good child!”

Xiao Shi’s heart instantly skipped a beat. Her eyes widened in disbelief. So telling the truth would mean being praised as a “good child”.

At this moment, Xiao Shi felt the coldness around her gradually disappear, leaving only the warmth of Qiao Nian hugging her.

She reached out and tried her best to hug Qiao Nian.

She really liked Mommy Nian Nian. Mommy Nian Nian was too good.

“Mommy, can I listen to a bedtime story?” Xiao Shi asked carefully, her eyes filled with anticipation.

“Okay.” Qiao Nian let go of Xiao Shi and met her sparkling eyes.

Xiao Shi's eyes seemed to be filled with stars. They were frighteningly bright.

Qiao Nian helped Xiao Shi lie down on the bed and lay down beside her. She helped Xiao Shi cover herself with the blanket. "In the past, there was a beautiful little princess. She..."

Xiao Shi leaned against Qiao Nian and obediently closed her eyes. Listening to Qiao Nian's gentle voice, she gradually fell asleep.

When she fell asleep, there was a smile on her lips, as if something beautiful had happened in her dream.

Qiao Nian looked at Xiao Shi in her arms. Gradually, her heart was soothed by Xiao Shi's sleeping appearance. The restlessness and fear in her heart had already disappeared.

Outside Xiao Shi's room.

Gu Zhou leaned against the door. He could still vaguely hear Qiao Nian telling a story. He pursed his lips tightly, his heart aching as if it had been hollowed out.

He slowly closed his eyes and stood at the door of Xiao Shi's room.

...

909 Funeral Home

The next morning, sunlight filtered through the curtains and fell on the bed. Xiao Shi slowly opened her eyes.

Later on, she actually dreamed that she was playing at the amusement park. In her dream, she was having a good time with her brother.

However, after waking up, she thought of Song Man again, and her eyes gradually dimmed.

Suddenly, she heard steady breathing in her ear. Her expression froze, and she suddenly realized that Mommy Nian Nian had been sleeping with her last night.

When she realized this, Xiao Shi's face turned red uncontrollably.

She turned to look at Mommy Nian Nian.

When Mommy Nian Nian slept, she was like an angel in a painting. Xiao Shi was stunned.

Qiao Nian's biological clock woke her up. She opened her eyes and saw Xiao Shi lying beside her, staring unblinkingly at her.

Qiao Nian smiled and moved closer to Xiao Shi, planting a kiss on her forehead. "Good morning, Xiao Shi."

"Morning..." Xiao Shi stammered, her big eyes flickering at Qiao Nian. "Mommy."

Was this how it felt to have a mommy?

Was this how it felt to sleep with Mommy?

She felt so warm and safe.

Qiao Nian didn't know what Xiao Shi was thinking. She tidied up briefly and helped Xiao Shi choose some good-looking clothes. After she was done, the two of them walked downstairs.

When they arrived at the living room, they saw Matriarch Gu and Gu Qi sitting on the sofa, chatting and laughing.

"Grandma." Qiao Nian smiled at Matriarch Gu and greeted her. Seeing Matriarch Gu nod, she smiled and greeted, "Xiao Qi."

"Mommy." Gu Qi greeted her with a smile. His gaze landed on Xiao Shi's face, and a trace of worry flashed in his eyes.

“Great-grandmother and Brother Xiao Qi.” After greeting her, Xiao Shi looked around but did not see Gu Zhou. A trace of confusion flashed in her eyes as she asked, “Where did Daddy go?”

Matriarch Gu looked at Xiao Shi’s pale face. This child had suffered such a huge shock yesterday. How pitiful.

She stood up and walked to Xiao Shi. Holding her hand, she walked to the sofa and sat down. She said gently, “Your daddy has something on and went to the company early in the morning. Where does the little princess want to go to play today?”

A trace of disappointment flashed in Xiao Shi’s eyes. She had wanted her father to accompany her to see Song Man, but it seemed that she could only ask Mommy Nian Nian to accompany her.

“Mommy and I...” As Xiao Shi spoke, she turned back to look at Qiao Nian, then at Matriarch Gu again. “We want to visit Auntie Song!”

Hearing Xiao Shi’s words, Matriarch Gu and Gu Qi were stunned.

They hadn’t expected Xiao Shi to call Qiao Nian Mommy!

Gu Qi’s face was filled with smiles. He felt that his mommy was the best mommy in the world. Initially, he was worried that his sister was unwilling to let his mommy be her mommy. Now, it seemed that he was overthinking.

Gu Qi looked up at Qiao Nian and saw a gentle smile on her face. Every time he saw his mommy smile like this, he felt that the entire world had become better.

Gu Qi smiled and walked up to Qiao Nian. He looked up at her and said happily, “Mommy, that’s really great. You’re now the mommy of me and Xiao Shi!”

When Qiao Nian heard Gu Qi’s words, she felt a little bitter. She gripped Gu Qi’s hand tightly.

She was the mother of two children to begin with. She had worked hard to give birth to them after ten months of pregnancy.

Xiao Shi sat on the sofa and looked at Gu Qi with sparkling eyes. She asked, "Brother, can you go with me? You're an indomitable man. With you, I won't be afraid of anything!"

Gu Qi turned to look at Xiao Shi and nodded. "Okay!"

Matriarch Gu, who was sitting on the sofa, couldn't help but worry. She frowned slightly and asked worriedly, "How can that be? That place is so scary. You're still young. It's not appropriate for you to go there."

Qiao Nian smiled and said, "I've already contacted the hospital just now. Song Man's family has already arrived and cremated her. Song Man is in the funeral home now."

When Matriarch Gu heard Qiao Nian's words, her frown deepened. She was still worried. "The yin energy at the funeral parlor is too strong. Children are inexperienced. They'll be easily frightened."

910 Regular Visitor

Qiao Nian's first reaction was to see Xiao Shi. Xiao Shi had been frightened last night.

However, before Qiao Nian could speak, Gu Qi said, "Grandma, a funeral parlor isn't scary. I used to go there often. I'm already a regular at the funeral parlor!"

Regular visitor...

Qiao Nian was speechless. Was that how he should call himself?

Matriarch Gu hurriedly prayed piously, "Bodhisattva, don't blame me. Bodhisattva, don't blame me. A child's words carry no harm. A child's words carry no harm. Bodhisattva, don't stoop to the level of a child!"

After praying, Matriarch Gu's mood improved a little. Only then did she look at Gu Qi and say meaningfully, "Xiao Qi, you can't say such things

in the future. The funeral parlor isn't an ordinary place. You can't say that you're a regular visitor there."

Although Gu Qi didn't understand much, he still agreed obediently and corrected himself. "Yes, I often go to the funeral parlor to play!"

Matriarch Gu was speechless.

The funeral parlor was a place for dead people. Gu Qi was really fearless.

Qiao Nian didn't know whether to laugh or cry at Gu Qi's words. She said, "Grandma, the first time I saw him, he was at the funeral home."

Matriarch Gu no longer wanted to mention the funeral parlor. Gu Qi was really bold.

"Alright." Matriarch Gu planned to relent. If she didn't stop, she didn't know what Gu Qi would say. "Then hurry up and come back. Don't stay too long!"

"Alright." Qiao Nian smiled and agreed.

After breakfast, Qiao Nian brought Gu Qi and Xiao Shi into the car.

The two little ones sat in the back seat of the car. Qiao Nian carefully checked their seatbelts. After confirming that there were no problems, she walked to the driver's seat and sat down.

Qiao Nian drove towards the funeral home.

Xiao Shi clenched her fists tightly and placed them on her knees, looking nervous. In order to appear more relaxed, she turned to look out of the car window. Looking at the retreating scenery along the way, she recalled Song Man jumping off the building, and fear gradually appeared in her eyes.

Gu Qi sat at the side. His attention was on Xiao Shi. Seeing that Xiao Shi didn't look well, he reached out and held her hand.

The fear in her eyes instantly disappeared. She came back to her senses and turned to look at Gu Qi, who was sitting beside her. She called out softly, "Brother."

"It'll be fine. Don't be afraid!" Gu Qi comforted her with a smile.

Xiao Shi nodded obediently.

Gu Qi heaved a sigh of relief. His gaze inadvertently swept across the empty seat between him and Xiao Shi. There were two folded pieces of A4 paper.

Gu Qi retracted his hand and opened the A4 paper curiously.

Xiao Shi also leaned over and looked at the contents of the paper curiously.

When the two of them saw the line of words at the bottom, their eyes widened.

Gu Qi and Qiao Nian were mother and son.

During this period of time, Gu Qi had seen many DNA reports. When he saw this line of words, his expression changed.

Mommy?

Was this Mommy and his DNA report?

He was actually Mommy's child.

Gu Qi and Xiao Shi looked at each other. The two of them looked at the piece of paper below them.

Xiao Shi and Qiao Nian were mother and daughter.

The two children's eyes were filled with shock, joy, and disbelief.

Xiao Shi's eyes grew redder and redder. Although she was willing to let Auntie Nian Nian be her mommy, she wanted to see her biological mother more.

No wonder she was happy when she saw Mommy Nian Nian. No wonder she liked Mommy Nian Nian from the bottom of her heart. No wonder she couldn't help but want to get close to Mommy Nian Nian.

So Mommy Nian Nian was her biological mother!

Gu Qi was thinking about something else.

When he found out that his biological mother was still alive, his mind was filled with thoughts of meeting her. He often fantasized about his biological mother and her personality.

Sometimes, he would wonder why his biological mother didn't look for him. Was it because she didn't like him or something else?

Later on, he gradually gave up. When he saw Song Man, he felt that it no longer mattered who his biological mother was.

Mommy Nian Nian could give him all the love he wanted. As long as he had Mommy Nian Nian in his future, that would be fine.

But when he found out that Mommy Nian Nian was his biological mother, he was even happier.