## Farmhouse 441

Chapter 441: I Am a Wisp of Unyielding Spirit Wronged Spirits That Refuses to Disperse

"Now," Jin Zijin thought seriously, said, "now is not the time, Youyou, you must not be willful."

"Me, willful?" Gu Youyou said with a mocking laugh, "If I were such a person, I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you tonight. Instead, I would already be on my way back to Qingshui Town. You could ride fast and perhaps catch up."

She was right in what she said; she wasn't someone who acted on impulse, but was very rational instead.

Jin Zijin suddenly didn't know what to say.

In the darkness, Gu Youyou took another sip of strong tea.

She used to drink coffee when she encountered trouble in the past, which would keep her mind clear. There wasn't any coffee here, so she used strong tea to keep herself awake.

After a long while, Gu Youyou sighed to herself, then started speaking softly again, "Zijin, do you know? I have a grandfather, the person who raised me from a young age and taught me to read and write. He taught me medical skills, and with his guidance, I used my wit to fight against my aunts and uncles who were covetously eyeing the family wealth, just like Gu Feng."

I won. In the end, the wealth that could rival that of countries fell into my hands. But in the end, I still died. In desperation, they disregarded familial affection and killed me for the property."

At some point, Gu Youyou's tears fell like rain, "I always believed my death was a kind of relief for me, and it meant one less burden for my grandfather, perhaps a good ending for everyone. My grandfather didn't have to worry about me anymore, and my aunts and uncles devoted all their attention to him.

But I never considered that I would be killed by my closest kin, and my death would anger him to death. Gu Feng's grandfather died because of me, because his parents were angered to death, and it's very likely my grandfather died as well."

In the dark, Gu Youyou couldn’t see Jin Zijin’s expression, but she knew he must be shocked, or perhaps he didn’t understand at all.

But that didn’t matter; she just wanted to speak out and hoped for a listener.

Such a quiet night was good for her; she couldn’t see him, and he was very quiet, so she could say whatever she wanted.

"You’ve always been asking who I really am. I’ll tell you, I’m just a resentful spirit, unwilling to die a grievous death and reluctant to dissipate. At the moment Gu Youyou died, I took the opportunity to enter her body, so I could live another life. I know you’re a Taoist, and you can draw talismans, maybe even chant spells to catch ghosts. You can try if you can capture me.

If you wish to eradicate a demon, please give me a packet of euthanasia drugs first, then burn me on a pyre. Because being burned alive hurts a lot, and I’m afraid of pain."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" the person opposite said in annoyance.

Jin Zijin was indeed shocked, but this was a possibility he had already considered.

She was clearly that person, but not like that person at all.

It was as if she was inhabited by the wrong soul.

Such things were too fantastical to believe, because... it went against the secret of the Dao Family, which is why he never dared to believe it.

Now that she had said it from her own mouth, he believed it.

He gave a bitter smile, thinking that what Xuanzong had been searching for was indeed not illusory. It’s just that if they knew that Gu Youyou actually...

With that thought, Jin Zijin was suddenly startled, pulled Gu Youyou harshly into his arms, stiffened his whole body, and said with a trembling voice, "You must never speak of this again. Keep everything, your former identity, rotting in your belly forever. Don’t tell anyone else."

His sudden change startled Gu Youyou.

His stiff body, his trembling voice, all of this surprised and delighted her.

Chapter 442: Planning to Return to Qingshui Town

Because there are still people in this world who worry about her, it’s not that after her grandfather died, she was left alone.

Perhaps it was because revealing the secret had eased the knot in her heart, or maybe Jin Zijin’s warm embrace had also warmed her heart, the discomfort inside her was slowly dissipating.

She tentatively asked, "You won’t... "

Jin Zijin interrupted her hurriedly, "Don’t say it, of course, I won’t."

Even if he knew that she was actually a lonely ghost, he wouldn’t harm her.

Speaking out like this, she was actually not rational.

But the result pleasantly surprised her.

She believed him and nodded lightly.

Noticing that her body was ice-cold, he released his hands from her and said in a deep voice, "Even if you’re angry, you can’t harm yourself. You carry the mission of two people, the hopes of two people."

Gu Youyou was momentarily stunned.

The mission of two people, that of both Gu Youyous. The hopes of two people, both grandfathers.'

Yes, she sighed with a bitter smile.

"I will be fine, thank you. Tonight... I almost lost control of myself."

He chuckled lightly and said, "Grandfather... taught you well." If she were an ordinary woman, she wouldn't have such strong self-control. Women mostly can't keep their composure, just like she said earlier, if she were willful, she would be on the road now, not sitting and waiting for his return.

Gu Youyou was stunned because the grandfather Jin Zijin spoke of was not Gu Feng, but another grandfather.

He tucked her into the blankets, removed his clothes, and held her tightly, letting his body heat gradually warm her chilly body.

"So, don't let yourself get cold again in the future, you can have a brazier."

She said displeased, "I was so angry I forgot about the cold."

He said authoritatively, "You can't forget, do you want to suffer from cold poison?"

"..."

"Oh..." she sighed, "But I still need to go back to Qingshui Town. Grandfather's grave is overgrown with weeds. He was so good to me, yet I haven't even burned paper money for him. And... one has been punished, while the other is still flaunting power."

"You..." Jin Zijin didn't stubbornly refuse and said, "Fine, I'll arrange it as soon as I can."

...

Jin Zijin was a man of action. Half a month after his disappearance, he returned with a smile on his face.

"In a few days, everything will be arranged, and then we can go."

Gu Youyou smiled with joy, "I heard you went to Qi Mountain, was it your master who settled it?"

Settled?

Jin Zijin was taken aback, then chuckled, "Yes, the only one who might pose a threat to him in this world is my master. It's just that he's advanced in years, and there are many things we don't want to disturb him with."

"Mm, thank you, Zijin."

Gu Youyou knew that Jin Zijin had never sought his master's help before, but this time he had gone for her sake, which must have been difficult for him.

He patted her back and said, "No need to thank me when you're with me, go make your arrangements."

Arrange? Gu Youyou was also a woman of action. Knowing that she couldn't stay in Lingnan for long, she had already trained someone to take over for her.

Banxia was smart and eager to learn, making her a good choice, but her feudal thinking was deep-rooted. Although she had improved a lot under Gu Youyou's deliberate guidance, there were still many issues that weren't suitable for her to handle.

So now, there were two people managing Jisheng Hall—one was Banxia and the other was Fang Xi, the only literate apprentice bought as a child.

And the well-behaved Miss Guan Yuexin was put in charge of managing the factory.

Because her feudal thinking was even more deeply ingrained than Banxia’s, she would rather be a maid than show her face in public.

Absolutely speechless.

Chapter 443: The Recent Situation of the Gu Family

Three days later, they set off, just Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin.

Jin Zijin had prepared a carriage for her, and he himself acted as the coachman.

He said, "Now the weather is cool, you can’t withstand the cold."

Gu Youyou didn’t argue. After all, they weren’t fleeing for their lives. Whether they arrived a few days earlier or later didn’t matter.

Banxia helped her load the luggage onto the carriage. After saying goodbye to everyone at Jisheng Hall, she climbed onto the carriage.

The carriage looked plain on the outside, but inside, it was warm and cozy.

There was a small couch for her to rest on, the floor was covered with thick blankets, and in the middle, there was an intricately carved, hollowed-out heating stove.

This kind of stove was exquisitely made and complex, with water underneath the foundation. The smoke that emerged would go through a pipe on the side and blend into the water, making it smokeless.

Such ingenious design and sophisticated craftsmanship made her think of this phrase: "Never underestimate the intelligence of the ancients."

Outside the carriage, Yue Rujing, the martial brother, was nearly in tears.

"Senior brother, do you really not want me to go? I can work as a coachman for you!"

Jin Zijin’s voice was cool, but his gaze was gentle.

"Do you need me to remind you of all the trouble you’ve caused? Do you still remember how we last left Qingshui Town?"

Gu Youyou, sitting inside the carriage, couldn’t help but laugh.

Jin Zijin had told her about this incidence. If it weren’t for Yue Rujing finding him, the people of Xuanzong wouldn’t have located him so quickly. The reason he was beaten so severely last time was also due to Yue Rujing’s performance that angered him.

Yue Rujing felt particularly aggrieved, but seeing Jin Zijin’s insistence, he had no choice but to stay behind in the end.

Jin Zijin turned and climbed onto the carriage, sitting in the coachman’s seat.

Yue Rujing, still unwilling to give up, said, "Can I come to visit you guys?"

"No!" Jin Zijin replied coldly this time.

"Hey, it’s not up to master!"

"Even if master personally intercedes, it won’t work."

Alright, he was thoroughly discouraged.

It seemed that everything that needed to be done had been taken care of. They encountered no troublesome events on the road and reached Qingshui Town smoothly.

"The house we rented before has long expired. Let’s settle down at Jisheng Hall for now."

Gu Youyou knew everything she needed to know; Jin Zijin had made everything clear to her. The straw house they owned was now occupied by Shunzi and Erya.

After Meng Qiuju, along with Erya and the three treasures, was thrown out of the Gu Family, they moved into their former straw house.

Later, Meng Qiuju committed suicide, and only Erya and the three treasures were left.

Their suffering didn’t end with their father’s imprisonment and mother’s suicide; soon, there was news about Shunzi’s family wanting to call off the marriage.

Gu Xiaoqing also despaired and thought of suicide. But seeing her young brother, she eventually endured.

Shunzi’s family wanted to retract the marriage, yet Shunzi himself firmly refused. In the end, he still married Erya, and now they lived together in that straw house.

Gu Youyou couldn’t help but sigh that Shunzi was a man of deep loyalty and affection.

The carriage stopped at the entrance of Jisheng Hall. Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin got down from the carriage.

The people here hadn’t been seen for a long time. Upon seeing Gu Youyou, Qin Changlin dropped his pen, took off his white coat, removed his mask, and rushed out.

"Oh my, Brother Jin, Sister Youyou, is it really you? If you were coming back, why didn’t you send a message ahead?"

Gu Youyou said, "It’s a surprise for you!"

"Huh...?"

She said, "Thank you, Qin Changlin, for taking care of Shunzi and the others all this past year."

"Hehe!" He chuckled awkwardly, looking towards Jin Zijin, and said, "It was Brother Jin who asked me to do this."

Jin Zijin had once asked if she thought his arrangements were inappropriate. She had replied that the wronged have their wrongdoer, and the debtor has their creditor, and Erya and the three treasures were also victims.

Chapter 444: Visiting Gu Wu at the Governor’s Office

Although they were the children of the third son of the Gu family, they were also the younger siblings of Gu Youyou, and the direct grandchildren of Grandfather Gu Feng.

If Grandfather were alive, he surely would not have driven them to such a state.

It was the chili peppers and medicinal herbs that Gu Youyou had left behind that saved them. Originally thinking that their lives were miserable, but because those chili peppers were valuable, their days were not as hard as imagined.

After spending a night at Jisheng Hall, the next day, Gu Youyou went with Jin Zijin to the Governor’s Office.

Before returning to Lotus Village, she "especially" wanted to meet that Gu Wu who was reportedly sentenced to life imprisonment.

As the victim, Gu Youyou went to the outside of the Governor’s Office and sounded the drum for justice.

Her parents were dead, and the Governor’s Office only sentenced the murderer to a life imprisonment, so of course, as a daughter, she was dissatisfied and it was only natural for her to beat the drum to seek justice.

A while later, someone from the Governor’s Office came out and shouted at Gu Youyou, "What are you knocking for so early in the morning?"

"This humble woman has been wronged!" she said.

"Wait!" the Government Official said irritably.

Who would come knocking on this drum if not to complain about injustice? Of course, he knew that.

But he hadn’t woken up yet.

The Government Official banged the door shut with a thud, and Gu Youyou frowned, "This damned Governor’s Office!"

Jin Zijin said, "Small places are always like this, used to being lax. In a place like Beijing, it wouldn’t be like this."

Gu Youyou raised her eyebrows, "Have you been to Beijing?"

On second thought, how could Jin Zijin have never been to Beijing?

Jin Zijin said, "Yes, I went to Beijing before coming to Lotus Village."

After a while, the vermilion gates were reopened, and Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin were finally allowed inside.

The Magistrate on the platform had bleary eyes; it seemed they had indeed come too early.

He took a piece of long wood and snapped it down, "Who cries out for justice and why do you not kneel?"

Gu Youyou was startled and looked at Jin Zijin.

To tell the truth, she had just remembered that no matter what your grievance was, you had to kneel in a place like this.

But as for kneeling, Gu Youyou had only ever knelt to the deceased in her lifetime; she had never really knelt before the living.

Jin Zijin also frowned, but in a flash, two impatient Government Officials had already come with planks, intending to force them to kneel.

Just then, Jin Zijin took out a token to show to the Magistrate.

The sitting Magistrate was only a County Magistrate, and upon seeing that token, his face immediately changed. He came down from his seat and bowed, "My eyes are poor, please..."

"As long as you know!" Jin Zijin did not let him continue, interrupting him.

"So, these two are..." The County Magistrate asked respectfully.

Gu Youyou said, "More than a year ago, you people took in a criminal, who killed his own brother and sister-in-law but wasn't sentenced to death."

The County Magistrate frowned and thought for a moment, then his clerk behind him immediately said, "My lord, there was one, named Gu Wu."

"Oh, right, right, right," the County Magistrate hurriedly said, "Is this Madam related to him?"

He only knew that someone had saved the life of that criminal from above; perhaps it was these two people before him?

Gu Youyou said, "I am related, I am the daughter of that tragically deceased couple."

"Ah...?" Both the County Magistrate and the clerk were taken aback, at the same time becoming alarmed.

Normally, such a heartless person would be sentenced to death, but someone from above intervened to save him. However, this victim's daughter also seemed like a tough person to deal with. If she demanded the execution of Gu Wu, what should he do? This would put him in a difficult position.

"This... this, Madam, what... what..."

The County Magistrate was sweating profusely, stammering for a long time without being able to articulate his thoughts.

Gu Youyou said, "I want to go to the prison to see him; I wonder if that's possible?"

Chapter 445: Death Is Too Easy

"Sure, sure, certainly," the County Magistrate wiped the sweat from his brow.

He personally led the way to the prison cell, taking Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin inside. Gu Youyou had previously thought about having Gu Wu beheaded, but upon seeing the terrifying depths of the dungeon, she suddenly changed her mind.

Executing him with a single stroke would be too kind; better to let him stay here.

Gu Youyou pinched her nose and took quite a while to get used to the stench of the cell.

Having been locked in a dark room for so many years, Gu Youyou felt certain this place was undeniably more terrifying than the dark room—it would be too lenient not to confine him here.

"Madam, we've arrived," the County Magistrate obsequiously said to Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou looked at the person shackled in chains inside the cell, who, dressed in rags, was curled up sleeping on some rotten straw, looking no different from the prisoners depicted in historical drama series.

"Gu Wu, get up!" shouted a Government Official, striking the cell door with a stick, causing it to clatter resoundingly.

The noise startled Gu Wu awake, and he slowly lifted his head.

Seeing the people outside, he jolted with shock and, dragging his chains, scrambled towards the cell door with his eyes wide and staring straight at Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou sneered at him, then turned to Jin Zijin and said, "I'd like to speak to him alone for a moment. You all wait outside for me."

Jin Zijin looked at her and nodded gently.

All the others left the room, leaving only Gu Youyou and Gu Wu.

Gu Wu's voice was hoarse, "Where had you gone?"

Where had you gone? It was a mystery whether Gu Youyou had returned to town or if she had been taken away by those people.

Gu Wen didn't believe the story brought back by Shunzi for a second. Considering Gu Youyou's temperament, if nothing had been amiss, she would have surely returned to report her safety to Gu Feng immediately. She definitely would not have had an emergency, especially not one that required braving the heavy rain.

But if she had been taken away by those people, he wouldn’t be imprisoned here now.

Either those people would have kept their promise, making him a wealthy man, or they would have killed him to silence him, not leaving him alive.

It had to be said that Gu Wu was indeed much smarter than Gu Wen; the latter would never have considered these possibilities.

"Where do you hope I went?" Gu Youyou retorted with a cold laugh.

Gu Wu was taken aback, but then began to laugh out loud, the hoarse sound echoing within the prison walls, sounding especially menacing.

"Aren’t my intentions clear to you? Where do you think I hoped you would go?" he said.

Gu Youyou responded with a smile, "It’s a pity, but I’m tough to kill. Your hopes have been dashed."

Gu Wu stopped laughing and bellowed, "If you weren’t captured, why didn’t you come back?"

"Thanks to your blessings, I’ve been on the run for over a year."

Gu Wu was stunned, suddenly unable to utter another word.

So, she was on the run!

"Haha... your life is indeed quite resilient!" he acknowledged.

Gu Youyou’s gaze turned icy, staring intently at Gu Wu as she said, "For all the things you’ve done, do you realize how many people you’ve hurt?"

"Hurt people?" Gu Wu hesitated, then sat down suddenly on the ground, murmuring in a daze, "Yes, I've hurt people, killed my brother and sister-in-law, harmed my niece, and caused my own father's death. I thought I would die too, but to my surprise, I'm still alive and well. I know you loathe me, but my life has come to this, so you might as well kill me for revenge."

Gu Youyou crouched down, meeting Gu Wu's gaze at eye level.

In his eyes, she truly saw despair.

He no longer wished to live.

After committing so many evil deeds and ending up with a fate worse than death, he truly did not want to live any longer.

But how could Gu Youyou possibly let him go just like that? She sneered with a ghostly chill, "Hahaha... You wish to die, do you? Your death won't atone for your sins. How could I let you off that easily?"

Chapter 446: Return to the Gu Family

"What do you want?" Gu Wu suddenly lifted his head.

Gu Youyou said, "Harming your brother and sister-in-law, Gu Youyou, even your own father, and you think it's all right? But you've miscalculated one thing."

Gu Wu squinted his eyes, warily staring at Gu Youyou, "What do you mean?"

Gu Youyou smiled and said, "After all you've done, haven't you ever thought about the consequences? The consequences for your third aunt and her family."

"You..." Gu Wu suddenly erupted, his hands clutching the prison bars tightly.

"What are you trying to do? This is all my doing; they know nothing about it."

Gu Youyou stood up, taking a disgusted step back, and with a mocking smile looking down at him, said, "You've done so much, only to be making a wedding dress for someone else. Now the Gu Family is in Gu Wen's hands. After you went to prison, the third aunt and her three children were driven out of the Gu Family. They have no one to rely on and have been subjected to cold stares from others. That's why the third aunt took her own life."

"What did you say?" Gu Wu glared fiercely at Gu Youyou, baring his teeth like a man-eating beast, "What about Erya and Sanbao?"

Gu Youyou merely looked down at him disdainfully and curved her mouth, saying, "What do you think?"

Having said that, she turned and walked out lightly.

"Clarify what you said, you come back!" Gu Wu was still shouting furiously at Gu Youyou as his iron chains clanked noisily.

Gu Youyou did not turn around, maintaining her slow pace as she walked away.

"You kill me!" Gu Wu shrieked as he watched Gu Youyou getting further away.

Gu Youyou smiled coldly and said, "Don't worry, you'll live for a very long time."

On the way back, Jin Zijin asked, "Why not kill him again?"

Previously, Gu Youyou had said that she would kill Gu Wu to avenge her parents; it was Grandfather's wish.

But Gu Youyou said, "Let him suffer alive, pay off Gu Youyou's debt first."

The debt of Gu Youyou was the ten years she was locked up.

...

A bombshell went off in Lotus Village.

"Gu Youyou is back."

"Gu Youyou is back, brought by the hunter Jin."

When Gu Youyou went missing, initially the doctor at Jisheng Hall had said she was out for an emergency call, but after a long time, she never came back, so everyone guessed she was really sold, and Jin Zijin, upon learning that his wife was sold, naturally went to find her.

Could someone who was sold be found again? Everyone looked at them with amazement.

They went straight into the Gu Family home where Huang Xiangwen, who was doing laundry, got startled.

"You... you you you..."

With a light smile, Gu Youyou said, "Second aunt, long time no see, don’t you remember me?"

Then a woman’s voice came from inside the house, sounding unfriendly, "Mother, are you done with the laundry yet? Bin Bao is hungry."

That was the voice of a stranger; Gu Youyou guessed that must be Lei Qianqian.

"Yes, almost!" Huang Xiangwen shouted back loudly.

"Hurry up!" The woman kept urging.

With a serene smile, Gu Youyou said, "Maybe you should stay busy first."

Huang Xiangwen looked at Gu Youyou, her eyes complex, then wiped her hands and turned back into the house.

Seeing her go in, Gu Youyou turned to Jin Zijin and said, "Suddenly I don’t want to expose Lei Qianqian so quickly. There’s truth to the saying that the wicked will be ground by other wicked. It makes a lot of sense."

Jin Zijin laughed and said, "As you wish, I’m going to check on Shunzi."

He knew Gu Youyou could handle herself here, and the news of their return would soon reach Shunzi and Erya. Gu Youyou didn’t want Erya to come at this time; he needed to go and steady Erya and the others first.

"All right, go ahead!" Gu Youyou said.

Huang Xiangwen came out, and a woman carrying a child also appeared. Seeing Gu Youyou, she pursed her lips and asked, "Who is this woman? Why is she standing in the courtyard?"

Chapter 447: The Child is Premature

Dabao and Lei Qianqian got married with her head covered, so she had never seen Gu Youyou, and Gu Youyou was also seeing her for the first time.

Lei Qianqian was quite attractive, her facial skin fair and pure, soft and delicate to the touch.

It was said she grew up in the town and had never done any rough work. Upon arriving at the Gu Family, she was even pampered by the Empress Dowager, naturally maintaining her soft and delicate skin.

"So this is Qianqian?" Gu Youyou asked with a smile.

Huang Xiangwen quickly said, "This is Youyou, your eldest sister, whom you haven’t yet met."

Upon hearing this, Lei Qianqian was startled and scrutinized Gu Youyou with an unfriendly gaze, "Is this the Gu Youyou who was taken away by a human trafficker? It's been over a year, how has she returned?"

The smile on Gu Youyou's face suddenly disappeared, the words "so this is Lei Qianqian who bore a bastard child" almost slipping out.

She stared directly at Lei Qianqian and said coldly, "Yes, and so I'm here to deliver that human trafficker to the Governor's Office."

Ah...?

Huang Xiangwen and Lei Qianqian were both startled at the same time.

Especially Huang Xiangwen, who almost couldn't stand steady.

They knew the truth about last year's incident very clearly—the second Gu brother had liaised with the neighbouring village's human trafficker Liu Dazhuang, Huang Xiangwen had drugged her, personally delivering her to the trafficker. After Gu Wu's affair was exposed, they shifted the blame to him, and with the second Gu brother becoming Gu Feng's only son, and Youyou disappearing, the Gu Family had no victim to report them to the Governor's Office, so the matter was left unresolved.

But what about now? Gu Youyou had returned, and she was the direct victim who knew precisely what had happened.

If this wretched girl really took the matter seriously, it would be the end for them.

Huang Xiangwen hurriedly forced an ugly smile and said, "It's good that Youyou has returned. Please, come in and sit down; I'll go call your second uncle and Dabao. They will be very happy to know you've returned."

Lei Qianqian, also aware of the origin of the affair, knew the consequences if the matter truly reached the Governor's Office. She immediately changed her expression, warmly saying to Gu Youyou, "So you are the eldest sister, ah. Please come in. Dabao often talks about you. You've finally returned safely."

"Hmph..." Gu Youyou snorted coldly and entered the house.

The house had undergone quite the transformation. Huang Xiangwen and Gu Erbao had moved into the main house, while Dabao and Lei Qianqian lived in the eastern wing of the backyard, and Erbao and Sanya resided in the western wing.

The whole family living here, it was indeed spacious and comfortable.

However, it was rumored that the residence was earned back by Gu Youyou's parents.

"Youyou, please have a seat here for a moment. Your second aunt will go call them back from the fields!"

Naturally, it was better to speak when everyone was assembled, and Gu Youyou hummed in response.

After Huang Xiangwen had left, only the two of them remained in the room. Lei Qianqian, holding a child, seemed somewhat guilty. But then she thought, the ones who committed the act were Huang Xiangwen and Gu Erbao. Even if Gu Youyou exposed the matter, what if the two of them were thrown into prison? Dabao was the heir of the Gu Family head, so wouldn't all these things still belong to her?

Alas! It just meant that there would be no one to serve her.

Sanya was still too young. If only Gu Youyou had returned a few years later.

Gu Youyou took a sip of water, glanced over at Lei Qianqian with narrowed eyes, and suddenly said in a low voice with a chuckle, "I just saw you two get married last year, and to think the child is already so big."

Lei Qianqian was most sensitive to people remarking on how quickly her child arrived, and she almost shuddered instinctively.

She said, "Yes, it was quite fast, and the child was even born prematurely."

"Oh? How prematurely?" Gu Youyou asked nonchalantly.

"I gave birth at seven months, but fortunately, the child was healthy. When he was born, he was nearly the same as full-term babies."

Chapter 448: Lei Qianqian's Matter

"Seven months already!" Gu Youyou murmured.

She suddenly stood up and walked toward Lei Qianqian with a smile.

For some reason, Lei Qianqian always felt that there was something strange about Gu Youyou's gaze, as if she could see right through her. Instinctively, she took a step back.

What Erbao had said about her being a 'ghost sister' who is especially scary seemed to be true.

"Elder sister, please... have a seat!" Lei Qianqian said, somewhat flusteredly.

Gu Youyou flashed her a grin, without shifting her eyes for even a moment, and said in a low voice, "No, I'm just going to look at the child. He still has to call me 'great auntie'."

As Gu Youyou got closer and closer, Lei Qianqian became even more terrified and flustered.

She said she wanted to look at the child, but kept giving her that kind of... indescribable look. What did it mean?

Erbao said the 'ghost sister' was very scary, and at the time, she thought it was just Gu Youyou scaring a child. But now, it seemed not a single lie had been told.

When Gu Youyou approached, she stood right in front of Lei Qianqian, stopped, withdrew her gaze, and looked at the sleeping child, saying, "The child does seem very healthy, not to mention he seems to have quite the large destiny."

At Gu Youyou's words, Lei Qianqian's legs went weak with fear.

To say that the child had a large destiny was also Lei Qianqian's taboo.

The village women were always gossiping, keen to ask her about her fall into the ravine.

The cart driver died, the old man of the Huang Family died too, yet not only did she not die, but she also gave birth to a child, which surely indicated that the child had a large destiny.

Every time someone mentioned it, she'd leave with a grim face. Huang Xiangwen had explained to outsiders that the death of the old man of the Huang Family had greatly affected her, and she didn't want to talk about those things because it upset her. She had feigned agreement, and afterward, the village women stopped mentioning it in front of her.

The gossip of the village women only made her angry, but coming from Gu Youyou, it felt different—she felt afraid. Why was she afraid?

Was it just because Gu Youyou seemed quite frightening?

"Elder sister, why don't you sit for a while? Bin Bao is asleep; I'll go put her back in bed first."

Unable to cope with that kind of gaze from Gu Youyou, she finally found a smart excuse to leave.

Gu Youyou did not stop her, her expression turning gloomy.

Lei Qianqian would naturally not be let off so easily. Jin Zijin had instructed someone to find out all about Lei Qianqian's affairs early on, and Gu Youyou had enough evidence in her hands, ready to deal with her whenever she pleased.

This woman had indeed once had a man she conversed with, and both families were interested. Unfortunately, before they could proceed to enlist a matchmaker, Lei Qianqian's father passed away.

The man couldn't wait for her three years and hence married another woman's daughter.

Because the man had a younger brother who was waiting to marry and a sister who was waiting to be married. He might have waited for her, but they certainly weren't going to delay the sister just because of her.

It's not good for a girl to remain unmarried for too long.

However, Lei Qianqian and the man had taken a fancy to each other, and though his wife wasn't as pretty as Lei Qianqian, they still ended up having an affair.

With firewood ready to burn and both parties willing, they did something they should not have.

Originally, Lei Qianqian had incited the man to divorce his wife and then marry her. But the man wasn't a good person either; learning of her pregnancy, he was so scared that he turned his back and refused to recognize her.

All the past affection vanished.

That man wasn't a good person to begin with; scared of being held accountable by Lei Qianqian, he even lied to his parents about going abroad to do business, when in fact, he was just avoiding her.

With the man gone, Lei Qianqian had no choice but to have her mother quickly find her a match.

No matter what, she had to cover up this scandal. She still wanted to live a good life.

...

Chapter 449: Taking You to the Governor’s Office

Huang Xiangwen and Gu’s second son took quite a while before they returned with Dabao and the others.

The lengthy delay was something Gu Youyou had anticipated; they surely needed time to get their stories straight, didn’t they?

It didn’t matter; she would wait.

"Youyou! Oh, it really is Youyou! Now that you’re back, your second uncle can finally give an explanation to dad." As soon as Gu’s second son arrived, he put on an act worthy of an Oscar, and if not for Gu Youyou’s cold and disdainful stare, he would have climbed onto her knees to cry.

"Oh, I am inhuman, to have fallen for that Gu’s third son’s deception!"

He squatted on the ground, holding his head and sobbing, occasionally looking up to add a few words, and they were real tears!

Meanwhile, Huang Xiangwen played her part in the duo.

"Dabao’s father, listen, Youyou knows you were also deceived by that damn third son, she won’t blame you. Stop crying, get up, alright?"

Gu’s second son slapped his own face several times, continuing to wail, "I am not human, I am nothing! I always knew there was something off about that third son, and yet, I was taken in by his tricks. Even if Youyou forgives me, our deceased father will not, for he was literally angered to death by that third son, ah!"

Gu Youyou: "..." Since when did I forgive you?

"Dad will forgive you, he loved Youyou the most. As long as Youyou goes to his grave and says she forgives you, then dad won't blame you either."

Gu Youyou became furious: They still wanted to hassle Grandpa?

"Enough!" she shouted angrily, "Cry all your tears now, for once we're at the Governor's Office, it'll be blood that's shed."

If there was a way to hit the snake's vital spot, Gu Youyou's blunt and direct approach always managed to grasp it firmly.

At those words, Gu's second son couldn't even muster up tears anymore.

"What... what are you going to do?" Gu's second son looked at Gu Youyou with a hostile gaze.

Huang Xiangwen stared at Gu Youyou with resentment and said, "Mom was completely right, you just came back to collect a debt. Was it not enough for you to ruin a good family? Do you also want to send your uncle and me to jail? Are you trying to hog all the family wealth for yourself?"

Gu Youyou's lips curled into a cold smile, "Exactly."

"You... what did you say? As a married daughter, what gives you the right?"

Gu's second son and his wife were utterly shocked, and then looked at Gu Youyou with a fearful and fierce gaze, as if she were about to carve flesh from their bodies.

Gu Youyou looked at them coldly for a moment, then shifted her gaze behind them.

At the door stood Dabao, Erbao, and Sanya. Dabao looked a bit worried when he looked at Gu Youyou, but averted his eyes in shame when she noticed him.

He knew what his parents were up to, he knew it was wrong, but his timid nature doomed him to be an onlooker, a listener. Someone like him needed a gentle and kind-hearted wife like Erya to live a harmonious life. Lei Qianqian was not a good match for him.

Erbao had never been fond of Gu Youyou, and that remained unchanged.

Sanya had grown a bit older. Gu Youyou had been gone for over a year, and she was now a seven or eight-year-old girl who understood how to read facial expressions, watching Gu Youyou with concern, and similarly feeling a bit ashamed.

When Sanya saw Gu Youyou looking at her, she softly called out, "Sister!"

Lacking the "ghost" prefix, she had indeed grown up.

Gu Youyou simply smiled at her and remained silent.

Through the window, Lei Qianqian could be seen peering out curiously before quickly withdrawing when she met a piercing gaze.

Gu Youyou closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

This narrow-minded, petty woman had killed grandma and was now strutting around the Gu Family like she owned the place.

Chapter 450: She Really is Back to Fight for the Inheritance

Two people were missing, the two youngest aunts from the Gu Family who had always been well-behaved.

Gu Youyou was suddenly startled and her eyes snapped open.

"Where are the two youngest aunts?"

By this time, they should have been around fourteen or fifteen years old.

Huang Xiangwen’s expression changed subtly before she spoke indifferently, "They got married."

Married?

Gu Youyou then looked toward Gu Er, the second eldest.

Seemingly understanding that having two sisters marry before the age of fifteen was somewhat inappropriate, Gu Er’s face turned slightly unnatural, but he spoke as if it was to be expected, "They were married off just ten days ago. I had intended to let them wait a few more months, to get married after they turned fifteen, but the fortune-teller calculated that ten days ago was an auspicious date. Waiting any longer would mean another two years. Since they are twins married off together, and the other family also has twins taking brides, their wedding needed more considerations than usual."

"Didn’t Grandpa and Grandma pass away less than two years ago? Shouldn’t they observe three years of mourning for them?"

Women of marriageable age had to observe mourning, especially since the two aunts were still young. Waiting another two years for them to marry would have been just right.

Gu Youyou’s questioning caused Gu Er to deflate a bit. He remembered the way Gu Feng looked before he died, his last words.

Everything can be fake, but the bond between father and son is real. Although Gu Er was calculating, he truly was a filial son and never intended to anger Gu Feng to death.

To think he had sold Gu Youyou, initiating the subsequent events, filled him with regret. But at that time, had he not sold Gu Youyou, Gu San, the third brother, would have had to sell someone. The prospect of letting Gu San benefit from such an incident without any effort was unacceptable to him. As things had reached this point, he thought it was best to let bygones be bygones.

Huang Xiangwen said, "I also didn’t want to marry them off so early, but those were your grandfather’s last words. With him leaving behind such a statement, your second uncle wouldn’t listen to any advice and insisted on marrying them off."

"Grandpa said that?" Gu Youyou felt a sinking feeling in her heart.

"Yes, many people were there that day, everyone saw and heard it. If you don’t believe us, we can ask the villagers. The family they married into was already approved by your grandfather before his demise. The other side has twin brothers, one year older than your two youngest aunts. Everyone says twins shouldn’t live too far apart, so it’s perfect for both to marry into the same family."

Gu Youyou lowered her head and chuckled bitterly, finally understanding why her grandfather would leave such a will when she remembered Lei Qianqian ordering Huang Xiangwen around.

It was better for them to marry off early. Without parents and faced with such a brother and sister-in-law.

They would just be suffering if they stayed, turned into mere servants for others.

Suddenly, Gu Youyou stood up and walked into the courtyard.

Gu Er and Huang Xiangwen exchanged glances, puzzled, and followed her out.

Gu Dabao and his siblings stood at the doorway, remaining at a distance, not daring to come closer.

Gu Youyou looked around the courtyard and then suddenly praised with a smile, "Not a bad courtyard, my parents were really capable."

Gu Er and his wife had complex expressions as they watched Gu Youyou, their hearts pounding with trepidation.

What was she going to do? Why was she suddenly praising the courtyard?

And she mentioned the eldest brother and sister-in-law.

After looking around and praising, Gu Youyou suddenly turned to Gu Er and said, "I heard my parents also bought quite a bit of farmland and left a decent amount of silver. Everything must be with you since Grandpa and Grandma died, right? When do you plan to return it to me?"

What...?

Everyone in the courtyard changed color at her words, especially Gu Er and Huang Xiangwen, whose faces twisted grotesquely.

Gu Youyou had come back to fight for the family property.

After the shock passed, their faces darkened, and they looked at Gu Youyou with a vicious expression.