

I Regained 151

Chapter 151: Cross-check the Purchase History

Although Gu Dai had laid out the facts, Gu Ming still insisted, "You must have switched the necklace when we weren't paying attention. Gu Zhi is so pure and kind; she would never take your stuff!"

Unsurprised by Gu Ming's stubbornness, Gu Dai took out her phone and waved it, saying, "I have surveillance cameras installed at the entrance to the villa. If you're so convinced that I switched the necklace, feel free to check the footage."

Gu Zhi's face turned pale in an instant. She had adamantly denied taking the necklace, banking on the fact that Gu Dai had no proof. But now, it turned out Gu Dai had surveillance cameras.

After watching the surveillance footage multiple times, it became abundantly clear that Gu Dai hadn't switched the necklace. The one she held in her hand was indeed the one that Gu Zhi had given her.

Seeing that Gu Ming and his family were now speechless, Gu Dai leisurely said, "All my other missing clothes, shoes, and accessories also have my name on them. So, please return them as soon as possible."

Liu Min frowned, reflexively asking, "How can every item possibly have your name on it?"

Gu Dai replied, "If you don't believe me, you can take me to where my belongings from three years ago are stored, and I'll show you."

Without a second thought, Liu Min blurted out, "Fine, I'd like to see where you've put your name on these items."

Reacting to this, Gu Zhi hurriedly stopped Liu Min, "Mom, when did we ever have Gu Dai's stuff from three years ago?"

Only then did Liu Min snap back to reality, and she looked at Gu Dai with an embarrassed smile, "Oh my, my age is catching up to me. We never took any of your belongings, so how could we possibly have your old stuff?"

Seeing this, Gu Dai had no choice but to say, "Since you all deny it, the only option is to call the police. My missing items are worth quite a bit. If it turns out you did take them, then..."

As Gu Dai picked up her phone and began to dial for the police, Gu Zhi's heart sank deeper into panic. She hurriedly shouted, "Don't call the police!"

Gu Ming's face turned as dark as coal, and he said coldly, "Regardless of the situation, we are still family. Even if your sister took something, she just used it. Is there really a need to involve the police?"

Gu Dai thought she had already braced herself for Gu Ming's audacity, but at this moment, she realized he was even more shameless than she had ever imagined.

Still poised to call the police, Gu Dai looked at Gu Ming and said, "Before I pointed out the missing clothes, you all vehemently denied taking anything and never mentioned that you were 'just using them.' Calling the police seems to be the fastest way to resolve this matter now."

Gu Ming was not a fool. Seeing that Gu Dai had not immediately called the police, he sensed there was room for negotiation. "So what do you want for you to not call the police?" he asked.

Gu Dai had been waiting for this question. She said, "Actually, I was considering that we are relatives, and I had no intention of involving the police. Here's the deal: I won't make a fuss about how many times my things have been used over these three years. Just return everything to me, and we can put this to rest."

Upon hearing this, the words "we're doomed" flashed through the minds of Gu Ming, Liu Min, and Gu Zhi simultaneously.

After they were driven out of the Gu family home, they had no money. Realizing that Gu Dai's clothes were valuable, they had already sold many of them in a short span. The money they got from selling those items had been nearly wasted. They had no way to buy the clothes back.

However, so much time had passed that Gu Dai probably wouldn't remember how many items she had in the first place.

Planning to return whatever was left and bluff his way through the situation, Gu Ming agreed, "Alright."

With just one look at Gu Ming, Gu Dai knew exactly what he was planning. She casually said, "Good. Oh, I remember that I had the habit of keeping purchase records three years ago. When you bring the items, I'll cross-check them with my records, just to make sure you don't accidentally bring over Gu Zhi's clothes."

Gu Ming hadn't expected Gu Dai to be so cautious as to think of purchase records. Irritated, he couldn't help but glare at Gu Zhi.

If it weren't for Gu Zhi wearing that necklace today, how could Gu Dai have thought of this?

Noticing Gu Ming's glare, Gu Zhi hid behind Liu Min in fear..

Chapter 152: Explore New Venture

Gu Ming's irritation intensified when he looked at Liu Min.

Liu Min was another thoughtless one, going along with Gu Dai's words without even thinking, thus easily giving away a vulnerability.

At this moment, looking at Liu Min and Gu Zhi, Gu Ming felt like slapping them both.

Observing the fury in Gu Ming's eyes, Gu Dai felt rather pleased. She said with a smile, "Elder Uncle, if you could kindly sort out the items today, please return them to me tomorrow."

Gu Ming opened his mouth and finally said, "It's been so long; some things might not be there anymore."

Gu Dai asked with a smile, "Were they sold or given away?"

Gu Zhi looked at Gu Dai in surprise, not expecting her to guess correctly so quickly. She almost nodded in agreement.

Gu Dai continued, "If I recall correctly, it's illegal to sell someone else's belongings without their consent, right?"

Gu Zhi's face paled even more. Her nodding stopped abruptly, and she blurted out, "You said you wouldn't call the police!"

Gu Dai nodded and said solemnly, "Indeed, I did say that. So even if you did this, I won't involve the authorities."

Seeing the relief wash over Gu Zhi's face, a mischievous glint flashed in Gu Dai's eyes. She smiled, "However, since I've suffered a loss, you should compensate me, shouldn't you?"

With a frown, Gu Zhi retorted, "You have the Gu Group now; you're not lacking money. After you drove me out of the Gu family, I was left penniless. Why are you still making my life difficult for me when I'm already in such a situation?"

Gu Dai chuckled as she repeated, "Have the Gu Group? Driven out of the Gu family? Making your life difficult?"

Gu Dai lifted her gaze to meet Gu Zhi's eyes squarely. "Having the Gu Group is natural, as it was founded by my parents, and I am the rightful heir. As for you leaving the Gu family, it's because that villa is my

home, not yours. Even then, I provided you with a place to live in the expensive capital city. So, do you still feel like I'm making life difficult for you?"

Gu Zhi snorted, as she yelled with her head protruded out. "How is it not? You're even asking for clothes from three years ago!"

Gu Dai looked at Gu Zhi, who was defending the indefensible, and said coldly, "If you feel that I'm being unfair, then let's just call the police."

Frustrated, Gu Zhi retorted, "Go ahead and call the police, you think I'm scared?"

However, the moment Gu Zhi finished her sentence, she was slapped hard across the face by Gu Ming, who wore a sullen expression. "Stop this nonsense! If you get arrested, you'll have a criminal record and it'll be made public. Do you still want a life in the capital?"

Gu Zhi, covering her tear-streaked face, didn't dare to utter a word.

Turning to Gu Dai, Gu Ming said with a smile, "Daidai, let's discuss this. Please don't call the police."

Gu Dai nodded, "I can agree to that. However, Gu Zhi will need to spend some time in the countryside. She can learn about farming, pig-feeding, and chicken-raising as a new venture for the Gu Group."

Gu Zhi was flabbergasted. When she regained her senses, she yelled, "I won't go! I can't go to the countryside; there are bound to be weirdos there. Someone as attractive as me would surely meet with misfortune!"

Liu Min chimed in, "Zhizhi has been pampered since a young age. She can't possibly adapt to such a poor place, let alone farming!"

Gu Dai, after hearing both of their objections, scrutinized Gu Zhi and then nodded in agreement. "You're right. Going to the countryside would indeed be a challenge for Gu Zhi."

The sentence made Gu Zhi feel a surge of hope, “So I don’t have to go...”

Cutting her off, Gu Dai said, “How about this? Before you go to the countryside, I’ll hire a few bodyguards who are well-versed in rural life. They can not only protect you but also teach you how to adapt. Sounds good, doesn’t it?”

Gu Zhi’s hope was dashed.

Even though Gu Zhi was usually a bit slow, she realized at this moment that Gu Dai wasn’t planning to protect her but to monitor her. She was being set up to learn these difficult tasks while also ensuring she couldn’t slack off!

When Gu Zhi recognized this, she quickly said, “I won’t go to the countryside.. Aside from calling the police or sending me there, I’ll do anything else you ask!”

Chapter 153: I’m willing to serve you

Gu Dai pondered for a moment and then spoke as if reluctantly, “If neither of those options works for you, then perhaps you can take care of some of my daily needs—like preparing my bath, for example.”

As soon as Gu Dai finished speaking, Gu Ming, Liu Min, and Gu Zhi simultaneously objected, “No way!”

Furious, Gu Zhi glared at Gu Dai, her voice shrill as she shouted, “This is an insult to me!”

Gu Ming and Liu Min didn’t speak, but they both nodded in agreement.

With a cold laugh, Gu Dai responded, “If you consider it an insult, then perhaps the countryside is the better option after all.”

With this sentence, Gu Dai turned to leave.

Panicked, Gu Ming quickly called out to stop her, “Zhizhi is willing to serve you; please don’t send her to the countryside.”

Hearing this, a glimmer of amusement flashed in Gu Dai’s eyes, but she maintained her icy demeanor. “Elder Uncle, that’s your decision, not hers. I’d like to hear what Gu Zhi has to say.”

Gu Zhi couldn’t believe that Gu Ming had actually agreed. Facing Gu Dai’s question, she hastily said, “I definitely won’t—”

Before she could finish, Gu Ming slapped her again, his voice low and stern, “If you don’t serve Gu Dai, are you willing to wake up early in the countryside, labor all day, and come home after dark? There’s not even a washing machine there; are you prepared to wash your clothes by hand? And don’t forget, Gu Dai also mentioned raising pigs. Those animals stink!”

Gu Ming’s words made Gu Zhi frantic, but she still protested, “But serving Gu Dai is humiliating!”

Gu Ming shot her a glance, his voice cold, “What’s so bad about being humiliated? Which successful person hasn’t endured some form of humiliation? At least in the capital, I can find a way to get you out from this life. If you’re sent to the countryside where there might not even be good internet, how will I contact you?”

Gu Zhi slowly began to calm down at those words.

Seeing that she had finally come to her senses, Gu Ming nodded approvingly and whispered, “Now go tell Gu Dai that you’re willing to serve her.”

Feeling utterly humiliated, Gu Zhi had no choice but to grit her teeth and say to Gu Dai, “I’m willing to serve you.”

Noticing that Gu Dai frowned at her tone, Gu Ming quickly whispered to Gu

Zhi, "Watch your tone."

Suppressing her resentment, Gu Zhi reluctantly softened her voice, "I'm willing to serve you."

Gu Dai hadn't heard what Gu Ming whispered to Gu Zhi, but from Gu Zhi's demeanor, she had a good idea. Nonetheless, she brushed it off and said, "Since you're willing, come find me tonight."

With those words, Gu Dai quickly got into her car and sped away.

Watching Gu Dai's car disappear into the distance, Gu Ming's expression darkened further.

Liu Min held the aggrieved Gu Zhi in her arms and grumbled, "Didn't Gu Si say that Gu Dai's car had crashed..."

"Shut up!" Gu Ming snapped, his voice icy. "We're under surveillance here. We'll talk about it at home."

The trio left the Gu family villa and walked into the neighboring small house.

As soon as they entered, Liu Min couldn't help but ask, "Didn't Gu Si say that Gu Dai had died in a car crash? Why is she still bouncing around, completely unscathed?"

Irritated, Gu Ming shot back, "You're asking me, how would I know?"

After a moment of collected thought, Gu Ming spoke, "Gu Dai must have some powerful backers. Otherwise, she wouldn't have walked away without a scratch."

Just then, someone knocked on the door. An older man walked in and approached Gu Ming, whispering, "Master."

Gu Ming nodded and asked, "What's happened in the Gu family while I've been away?"

Li Shui reported with a bowed head, "One night, I saw Song Ling, the President of the Song family, driving over to see Gu Dai. However, it didn't seem like they got along well."

Gu Ming shot up from his seat and analyzed when he heard this, "It must be Gu Dai shamelessly clinging to President Song, making him uncomfortable. Ha, how disgraceful. She's already started to rope in Song Ling for the sake of the Gu Group."

Li Shui looked puzzled, as what he had seen seemed to be Song Ling coming to find Gu Dai but being kept outside, as if he was not well-received.

Li Shui opened his mouth to clarify, but Gu Ming didn't give him the opportunity. "You can go now. If anything else happens, come report to me directly. I'll transfer your salary for this month to your account shortly.."

Chapter 154: Doctor Would Be More Professional

Li Shui's eyes lit up, and he responded with a smile, "Very well, Mr. Gu."

He had initially wanted to clarify the situation to Gu Ming, but thinking that any money transferred to his account might be taken back if he did so, he quickly swallowed his words.

After Li Shui left, Liu Min turned to Gu Ming and asked, "You don't think Gu Dai could really have something going on with Song Ling, do you?"

Gu Ming dismissed the idea, "Impossible! President Song has seen all sorts of women; why would he take an interest in Gu Dai? Besides, doesn't he already have someone he likes?"

Gu Zhi, who frequently kept up with online news, chimed in, "But Jiang Yue has wronged Song Ling, so maybe the wedding will be called off."

Gu Ming scoffed, “Even if the wedding is called off, it still wouldn’t be Gu Dai’s turn!”

Gu Ming’s steadfast words made Liu Min and Gu Zhi breathe a sigh of relief.

Liu Min proposed, “In that case, since President Song definitely won’t help Gu Dai, let’s take this opportunity to find another covert way to take her out.”

Gu Zhi eagerly agreed, “That bit*h Gu Dai dares to treat me like a servant; we must get rid of her soon!”

Gu Ming furrowed his brows, casting an annoyed look at the mother-daughter duo, “Even without Song Ling’s help, Gu Dai still has the support of the Meng brothers! Otherwise, how could our previous attempts have failed?”

Upon hearing the mention of the Meng brothers, a glint of envy flickered in Gu Zhi’s eyes.

Three years ago, every time she saw Gu Dai, the Meng brothers would be pampering her like a little princess.

She had initially thought that after Gu Dai’s death, the Meng brothers might shift their affection to her, being somewhat related by blood. But they had unexpectedly moved abroad!

And now that Gu Dai was back, they were pampering her once again.

Darkness clouded Gu Zhi’s eyes; she couldn’t bear to see Gu Dai pampered with attention any longer!

Gu Zhi turned to Gu Ming and asked, “Dad, you must have a way to take Gu Dai out, right?”

Gu Ming neither confirmed nor denied. His gaze passed through the window, locking onto the Gu family villa in the distance.

After a long silence, Gu Ming finally spoke in a chilling tone, “The time will come. For kicking me from the company, taking my villa, and humiliating my daughter—Gu Dai will pay for all of it one day!”

At the Capital Hospital.

A pale woman lay on a hospital bed, her eyes closed.

Song Ling glanced at Jiang Yue before turning to the doctor beside him, “Why did she suddenly faint?”

Recognizing the man in front of him as the man in charge of the Song Corporation in the capital, the doctor stammered, “The young lady fainted due to excessive blood loss.”

After a moment’s pause, during which the doctor feared for his job, Song Ling finally spoke.

Song Ling, “Is her life in danger?”

Caught off guard, the doctor shook his head, “No.”

Song Ling nodded and turned to Zhao Xuan, “Stay here and watch over Jiang Yue. Once her family arrives, you can return to the company.”

Puzzled, Zhao Xuan inquired, “What about you, Mr. Song?”

Realizing what he’d just asked, Zhao Xuan wished he could slap himself for daring to probe into Song Ling’s personal affairs.

Fortunately, Song Ling did not seem angry this time. Picking up his jacket from the chair, he said, “I’m going back to the company.”

As Song Ling took steps to leave the room, Jiang Yue coughed lightly and called out weakly, “Brother Song Ling.”

Song Ling halted and turned to look at her.

Coughing lightly again, Jiang Yue spoke feebly, "Brother Song Ling, can 1 talk to you? Can you come over?"

Song Ling lowered his gaze, responding coldly, "If you have something to say, say it from there. I can hear you."

Jiang Yue's eyes dimmed as she softly said, "I'm really scared right now. Can you stay and take care of me?"

Song Ling responded, "I think the doctor would be more suitable in that regard. I have a meeting at the company; 1 must go."

With that, Song Ling strode out of the room, not looking back.

Watching Song Ling's retreating figure, Jiang Yue could no longer maintain her expression, and her face darkened completely.

Zhao Xuan, noticing the change in Jiang Yue's demeanor, felt increasingly uneasy. He mustered up the courage to whisper, "Miss... Miss Jiang, if you need anything, you can call me anytime."

Irritated, Jiang Yue snapped, "I don't need your help; just go."

Without hesitation, Zhao Xuan picked up his belongings and hastily left the room, internally relieved that Song Ling hadn't married this kind of woman.. Otherwise, as an employee, his life would have been miserable!

Chapter 155: Give Up Purchasing

Jiang Yue had actually woken up much earlier but kept her eyes closed, curious to see what Song Ling would do. She hadn't expected that he would show her no concern and even intend to leave.

Having no other choice, she opened her eyes and spoke, trying to retain Song Ling. However, he left anyway.

Jiang Yue sighed deeply and picked up her phone to call Jiang Lin. Sobbing, she said, "Aunt, I asked Song Ling to stay with me, but he didn't agree and left. His attitude towards me has changed so much; it's completely different from before. Does he not like me anymore? Can I still marry him and become the lady of the Song family?"

Jiang Lin responded flatly, "Of course."

Stunned, Jiang Yue asked, "Really?"

Jiang Lin affirmed, "Everything is going as I've envisioned. Pictures of you and Song Ling embracing have already been released by the media, and many people online believe it. Whether or not he stays doesn't matter.

You have nothing to worry about; just wait patiently, and you'll surely become Mrs. Song."

Reassured by Jiang Lin's promise, Jiang Yue breathed a sigh of relief.

She couldn't help but fantasize about how many people would envy her once she became Mrs. Song.

And the first thing she'd do after that would be to deal with Gu Dai. It was all Gu Dai's fault for spoiling her plans; otherwise, she would've already married Song Ling!

However, thinking about Song Ling's recent change in attitude toward her, she couldn't help but ask, "Ever since he saw the video, Brother Song Ling's attitude towards me isn't as good as before. Will this affect my plans to marry him?"

"No," Jiang Lin chuckled coldly, "Song Ling used to like you so much, how could he just stop liking you? Based on my understanding of men, he's just too proud to admit it for now. Once the situation blows over, he'll definitely like you again."

At that moment, Jiang Yue felt entirely relieved. However, the thought of Gu Dai still left a lingering bitterness in her heart. She wished she could beat her up right now.

Unaware of Jiang Yue's thoughts, Gu Dai wouldn't have cared even if she knew. After all, she felt especially good at the moment, looking at Gu Zhi who was standing in front of her.

The fantasies in Jiang Yue's mind could only exist in her imagination and had no impact on her.

Heeding the previous advice from Gu Ming, Gu Zhi suppressed her irritation, keeping her eyes obediently lowered. She asked, "Is there anything I need to do?"

Gu Dai rested her chin on her hand and smiled, "I've been working all day and I'm a bit tired. I'd like to soak my feet. Could you prepare some water for me?"

Gu Zhi furrowed her brow in disbelief, "You want me to bring water for you?"

Gu Dai nodded, then countered, "Didn't you know that's what you signed up for?"

Of course, Gu Zhi knew, but imagining it and facing the reality were two different things.

Gu Dai then said, "If you're not willing, you can go back home now."

A glimmer of joy appeared on Gu Zhi's face.

Gu Dai leisurely added, "At that time, I'll arrange for someone to send you to the countryside. If you're still not willing, I'll have no choice but to call the police. After all, you've taken so many of my things and haven't returned them; there will be consequences."

The color drained from Gu Zhi's face, and she reluctantly said, "I didn't say I wasn't willing."

Gu Zhi took the bucket and headed to the bathroom.

Meng Zhi, who had seen this exchange, asked in amazement, "Daidai, you're amazing. How did you manage to make her so obedient?"

Gu Dai briefly recounted the morning's events to Meng Zhi.

Meng Zhi became exceedingly angry when he heard the story and pulled out his phone.

Confused, Gu Dai asked, "Third Brother, what are you doing?"

Fingers rapidly swiping on his phone, Meng Zhi exclaimed, "Gu Zhi dared to take your things from three years ago; I'll just buy more for you now and let her watch. That'll kill her!"

Gu Dai sighed in exasperation, "Third Brother, you're so childish. Stop buying things for me; you've already bought so much!"

Meng Zhi flatly refused, "No, I must buy them!"

In the end, Meng Zhi didn't make the purchases, as Gu Dai told him that if he insisted on buying, she would be angry and ignore him.

Meng Zhi had no choice but to abandon his plan, although deep inside, he was still plotting ways to gift things to Gu Dai in the future.

Gu Zhi, unable to hear clearly what Gu Dai and Meng Zhi were discussing, could nevertheless hear their laughter and chatter. Her eyes grew increasingly darker, consumed by a jealousy that bordered on madness.

Watching the steaming hot water fill the footbath bucket, a wicked idea suddenly flashed across her mind. Once the bucket was full, a smile crept onto her face. She carefully carried the bucket over to Gu Dai..

Chapter 156: Hands Being Burnt

Gu Zhi spoke softly to Gu Dai, "Little sister, let me take off your shoes and socks for you."

Gu Dai glanced at Gu Zhi and sensed her ulterior motives. Looking at the footbath bucket steaming away, she lowered her eyes and asked, "Isn't the water a bit too hot?"

The smile on Gu Zhi's face momentarily stiffened before quickly recovering. She laughed and said, "How could it be hot? I've tested it; the temperature is just right for a foot soak."

Gu Dai looked at Gu Zhi without responding.

Increasingly anxious, Gu Zhi averted her eyes, unable to meet Gu Dai's gaze.

Gu Dai once again softly inquired, "Are you sure the water temperature is just right?"

Even though Gu Zhi was inwardly panicked, she nodded affirmatively and said earnestly, "I'm sure!"

Meng Zhi had been holding back his irritation since he saw Gu Zhi bring the hot water. Hearing her words now, he stood up and said, "If you think it's just right, then you soak your feet!"

Gu Zhi's face tightened, and she blurted out, "I can't; this water is for Little Sister Gu Dai's foot soak."

Finishing her sentence, she turned her eyes towards Gu Dai.

Under Gu Zhi's expectant gaze, Gu Dai slightly parted her red lips and said, "We're all family, and it's just a foot soak. What's the harm in you using it?"

Full of alarm, Gu Zhi quickly waved both hands in refusal.

Gu Dai curled her lips into a faint smile and queried, "Is there something wrong with the water?"

Gu Zhi's hand-waving halted. Startled, she quickly said, "Of course not."

Nodding, Gu Dai smiled, "If there's no problem, then you should go ahead and soak your feet."

Gu Zhi found herself caught between a rock and a hard place, uncertain what to do.

Not giving Gu Zhi a chance to choose, Gu Dai promptly grabbed her hand and plunged it into the bucket.

Feeling the searing pain on her hand, Gu Zhi screamed, "Ah, my hand! It hurts!"

Gu Dai forcefully held Gu Zhi's struggling hand and asked again, "Is the water too hot?"

Gu Zhi yelled, "Hot, hot, let go of me!"

After Gu Dai loosened her grip, Gu Zhi hurriedly pulled her hand back and rushed into the bathroom to rinse it under cold water.

Gu Dai didn't stop her. When she returned, Gu Dai asked, "Why did you bring such hot water to me?"

Gu Zhi looked at her own scalded, swollen hand, her eyes filled with hatred for Gu Dai. What other reason could there be except that she detested her?

But Gu Zhi only dared to think these thoughts; she couldn't utter them.

Avoiding Gu Dai's eyes, she shifted her gaze and said softly, "I didn't know the water was that hot; otherwise, I wouldn't have brought it."

Gu Dai nonchalantly responded, "Oh, but I remember you just told me that the water was just right."

Gu Zhi lowered her head in panic, muttering, "The water indeed seemed just right."

Upon seeing this, Meng Zhi rolled up his sleeves, ready to teach her a lesson.

He had never laid a hand on a woman, but seeing Gu Zhi's actions, he couldn't hold back any longer.

Noticing Meng Zhi's movement, Gu Dai quickly reached out to hold him back, saying, "Third Brother, don't do it."

Meng Zhi could tolerate not buying things for Gu Dai for a while, but he couldn't bear to see Gu Zhi mistreating her and getting away with it. "Daidai, she tried to scald you with hot water and lied through her teeth. How can you let her go?"

Gu Dai whispered, "I haven't planned on letting her go. After all, I'm no saint. I just don't want to deal with her right now."

Meng Zhi understood that Gu Dai must have other plans. To avoid interfering, he reluctantly gave up his intention to give Gu Zhi a beating.

Gu Zhi didn't hear what Gu Dai and Meng Zhi were talking about but noticed their secretive whispers. A sense of dread filled her, as if something bad was about to happen.

After Meng Zhi gave up on his idea, Gu Dai shifted her gaze to Gu Zhi and said coldly, "If you think the water is just right, then continue soaking."

Seeing Gu Dai reaching out, Gu Zhi was reminded of the earlier scene where she was forcibly held down. Frightened, she quickly blurted out, "No, it's not just right. I lied earlier."

Gu Dai remained silent, waiting for Gu Zhi to continue.

When Gu Zhi realized this, she had no choice but to go on, "I thought the water temperature was just right because it looked that way to me. I didn't actually test it."

After saying this, even Gu Zhi herself felt the reason was hardly convincing. Unexpectedly, Gu Dai nodded, appearing as if she believed her.

Gu Dai said, "I see, then it's a misunderstanding on my part. However, you're also at fault. After all, you can't just go by feel for everything you do."

Chapter 157: Not A Single Complaint

Gu Zhi, not daring to refute Gu Dai, quickly nodded in agreement. "I understand, it won't happen again."

Satisfied, Gu Dai nodded and said, "As long as you understand, let's hope you don't make the same mistake again. Also, you don't need to go back to your place; you can stay in the villa. Uncle Wu will arrange your work from now on." Confused, Gu Zhi asked, "Uncle Wu?"

Wu Zhen stepped forward and said, "That would be me."

The color drained from Gu Zhi's face upon seeing Wu Zhen. She hadn't forgotten how she had mistreated him before, and now that she was in his hands, he surely wouldn't let her off easy.

If Wu Zhen knew what Gu Zhi was thinking, he'd say she was overthinking it. Since resuming his role as the housekeeper, he'd been so busy with matters in the villa that he'd long forgotten how she'd mistreated him in the past.

Gu Dai turned to Gu Zhi and said, "You should know Uncle Wu; I don't think introductions are necessary. You can go familiarize yourself with your new life under his guidance. I won't need you to attend to me today."

Reluctantly, Gu Zhi followed Wu Zhen, in order not to be sent to the country side. Every fiber of her being resented Gu Dai for her current life. As she left, she shot Gu Dai a surreptitious glare.

Meng Zhi noticed Gu Zhi's gaze and fumed, "Daidai, she dared to glare at you. You should put your plan into action sooner and teach her a lesson!"

Gu Dai nodded in acknowledgment, "I understand, Third Brother. Don't get angry; it's not good for your health."

Meng Zhi saw the fatigue on Gu Dai's face and softly responded, "Alright, Daidai, you should rest early. If there's anything you can't handle in the company, just let me know."

Gu Dai smiled, "Will do, Third Brother!"

Although Meng Zhi said this, he still had faith in Gu Dai's capabilities. In just a few months since she took over, she had managed to turn around loss-making projects and put the Gu Group back on track.

Now, they had an increasing number of partnerships and successful projects; the entire company was bustling with activity.

Initially, when Gu Dai took over the company, many employees were skeptical of this young woman's abilities. Now, having seen what she could do, they were utterly impressed.

They felt that Gu Dai was many times more capable than her predecessor, Gu Ming.

Especially with the recent jewelry project, where she had managed to get Su Ting as an ambassador. The jewelry was being purchased globally, and sales were skyrocketing, far surpassing initial expectations.

Most importantly, the customers were dazzled by the actual product, which they found to be even more splendid than the pictures. The reviews were universally positive, not a single complaint.

Now, whenever the employees saw Gu Dai, they felt as if they were looking at a deity. After all, their salaries had more than tripled since the sales took off.

Every time Gu Dai entered the company, the staff would greet her enthusiastically.

Gu Dai returned each greeting with a smile, but gradually, she noticed an issue.

She called Zheng Ming into her office and asked, perplexed, "Why do all the employees have dark circles under their eyes? Is it because we have too many projects going on lately? If they can't physically endure it, we should give them a few days off. Employee well-being is top priority."

Zheng Ming chuckled, "It's not because of the number of projects."

Confused, Gu Dai looked up at him and then asked with even more bewilderment, "Why do you have dark circles too?"

Meeting Gu Dai's gaze, Zheng Ming's ears turned a shade redder as he evasively replied, "The tasks the company has given us are all within our capabilities. It's just that these projects are so good that we don't want to go home anymore." Gu Dai hadn't expected this reason. Frowning, she pondered for a few minutes before making a decision. "Everyone must go home after work, and the company's doors must be locked."

Shaking his head, Zheng Ming responded, "Ms. Gu, I don't think that method will work. I'm afraid some employees might resort to picking locks or climbing over walls to get into the company."

Gu Dai was at a loss for words.

After mulling it over for a while, she finally came up with another solution, “Let’s expand the company and build more rest areas within it. This would save time spent on commuting.”

Zheng Ming nodded, his eyes lighting up as he looked at Gu Dai, excitedly saying, “That’s a great solution, and you came up with it so quickly!”

Receiving Zheng Ming’s praise, Gu Dai didn’t lose her composure. She earnestly added, “If the employees voluntarily choose to work overtime, their overtime pay will be tripled based on their regular pay.. But those who don’t wish to work overtime should never be forced to do so!”

Chapter 158: His Motives Are Indeed Not Straightforward

After Zheng Ming passed on Gu Dai’s instructions, the employees looked at her with even stronger admiration.

“Ms. Gu is the guiding light of my life.”

“I thought I’d spend my life drifting aimlessly, just earning a meager salary. But now, it feels like becoming wealthy isn’t just a dream as long as I work hard.”

“Ms. Gu is as beautiful as she is kind; she’s the only goddess in my heart!”

Zheng Ming reported these employee sentiments to Gu Dai one by one.

Listening, Gu Dai could only offer a resigned smile.

Catching sight of her grin, Zheng Ming looked down, his heart pounding erratically. The employees hadn’t been wrong; Ms. Gu was indeed stunning.

Gu Dai, oblivious to Zheng Ming’s internal turmoil, spoke in her usual tone, “Ask Assistant Lin to come to my office when he’s free.”

Snapping back to reality, Zheng Ming nodded, "Alright!"

Not long after Zheng Ming left her office, Lin Sheng entered.

Standing up, Gu Dai greeted him with a smile, "Uncle Lin."

Lin Sheng bowed slightly, responding, "Miss."

An inner sense of resignation washed over Gu Dai. She'd told Uncle Lin countless times that he didn't need to be so formal with her. Each time, he'd agree verbally, but the next time they met, he'd revert to his usual respectful demeanor.

Gu Dai pulled out a chair for Lin Sheng, expressing her concern, "Uncle Lin, please sit. The weather has been quite unpredictable lately; please take care to keep warm."

Lin Sheng nodded with a smile, "Don't worry, Miss, I will take care of myself."

Pleased by his response, Gu Dai poured tea for both of them before stating her reason for seeing him, "Uncle Lin, about the embroidery project we discussed a while ago—I've found a partner for it. Do you think it's a good time to proceed with this project?"

Lin Sheng looked a bit surprised, "Embroidery project?"

Gu Dai nodded, "Yes."

After sipping his tea contemplatively, Lin Sheng finally looked up at Gu Dai and said, "Miss, I'll be honest with you. When you first proposed this project, I wasn't fully on board. Embroidery, although intricate and beautiful, is not common in the current market. People may not readily accept this new industry, and there's a high chance it'll result in a loss."

Gu Dai's eyes softened with a touch of nostalgia as she spoke, "I understand your concerns, Uncle Lin. The embroidery project was something my parents wanted to establish but couldn't due to unforeseen circumstances. That's why I'm so keen on pursuing it now. As for making a loss, I'm not overly concerned."

Lin thought about Gu Dai's late parents and their remarkable business acumen.

He looked at Gu Dai, who closely resembled them and had successfully introduced a myriad of innovative projects within the company, exhibiting not only inherited skills but also promising signs of surpassing her parents.

Suddenly, he found himself believing that maybe, just maybe, Gu Dai could make the embroidery project work.

Upon realizing this, Lin Sheng smiled and replied, "Miss, I think it's a good time to proceed with the embroidery project. I'll do my best to assist you with any issues."

With Lin Sheng's support, Gu Dai felt more assured.

It was then that Lin Sheng remembered a crucial detail he had overlooked. He looked at Gu Dai and asked, "Young Mistress, who is collaborating with us on this embroidery project?"

After all, it was a risky venture. Lin Sheng was concerned that someone might be setting a trap for Gu Dai.

Under Lin Sheng's wary gaze, Gu Dai softly revealed the name of the investor, "Zhou Ci."

Lin frowned as he repeated, "Zhou Ci?"

Being a special assistant in the Gu Group, Lin Sheng was fairly knowledgeable about social circles and quickly recalled Zhou Ci's face.

His worry intensified, “Miss, Zhou Ci is close to Song Ling. Is he investing in this project to stand up for his friend?”

Lin Sheng hadn’t forgotten that Gu Dai had previously declined to collaborate with Song Ling, the President of Song Corporation. He felt Zhou Ci’s intent must be far from simple.

Gu Dai didn’t deny it, nodding in agreement, “His motives are indeed not straightforward..”

Chapter 159: Covered His Tracks

Lin Sheng’s anxiety escalated, but he quickly regained his composure. Trusting that Gu Dai was not easily fooled, he speculated, “Miss, have you already thought of a way to deal with this?”

Gu Dai shook her head honestly, “I haven’t thought of a countermeasure.”

Lin Sheng grew even more puzzled.

Gu Dai softly added, “Zhou Ci isn’t investing to exact revenge on behalf of Song Ling. I know his purpose for investing, and it doesn’t affect the project.”

The truth was that Zhou Ci’s investment was primarily aimed at her, Gu Dai.

However, she couldn’t reveal this fact, as it might keep Lin Sheng up at night with worry.

While Lin Sheng was not losing sleep over it, he was nevertheless deeply concerned. He considered advising Gu Dai to steer clear of such risky individuals.

Noticing Lin Sheng’s apprehension, Gu Dai smiled reassuringly, “Don’t worry, Uncle Lin. Zhou Ci can’t deceive me.”

Seeing Gu Dai's confident demeanor, Lin Sheng finally felt at ease.

Switching topics, Lin Sheng reported on an earlier task assigned by Gu Dai, "Miss, regarding your request to investigate the whereabouts of the former employee, Liu Nian, I've found nothing. It's as if he doesn't exist in this world; I couldn't trace him at all."

Gu Dai's eyes slightly narrowed as she softly responded, "Alright, Uncle Lin, you can return to your work now."

Once Lin Sheng had left, Gu Dai closed her eyes and leaned back in her chair. She had suspected that search for Liu Nian would be fruitless.

After all, according to her original hypothesis, Liu Nian might have been involved in the cruise ship incident. If that were the case, her father, Gu Ming, would have definitely covered his tracks, making him untraceable.

Gu Zhi furtively glanced around. Seizing the moment when no one was paying attention to her, she quietly slipped out of the villa and into a small neighboring house.

When Liu Min spotted Gu Zhi, she rushed over and hugged her tightly, "Zhizhi, you've lost—"

Taking a good look at Gu Zhi's plump face, Liu Min couldn't finish her sentence. Confused, she asked, "Zhizhi, how did you gain so much weight?"

A flash of resentment crossed Gu Zhi's eyes as she sobbed, "Mom, Gu Dai has a chef prepare every meal for me. It's either lobster or abalone, all sorts of extravagant foods!"

Recalling her own meager meals of pork since she was thrown out of the villa, Liu Min felt a pang of envy, "From what you're saying, it sounds like Gu Dai is treating you quite well."

Gu Zhi looked at her mother with disbelief, exclaiming, "Mom, how could you think Gu Dai is treating me well? I believe she just wants the chef to fatten me up, make me fat and ugly!"

Liu Min felt a surge of indignation, "That's terrible! Gu Dai is actually forcing you to eat?"

Nodding, Gu Zhi felt a twinge of guilt. The truth was, Gu Dai hadn't forced her to eat; she simply couldn't resist the temptation.

Seeing her mother's rising anger, Gu Zhi continued her lament, "Not only is she forcing me to eat, but she also has Wu Zhen supervise me as I work. Look, Mom, I've even developed calluses on my hands!"

Liu Min looked at Gu Zhi's hands, her heart aching even more, "Just hang in there, Zhizhi. Your dad and I are already thinking of ways to get you out." "How much longer will it take?" Gu Zhi asked impatiently.

Liu Min averted her eyes, murmuring, "I'm not sure."

The glimmer of hope in Gu Zhi's eyes vanished instantly. She shrugged off Liu Min's hand and yelled resentfully, "It's all your fault, you and Dad are so useless! I've been waiting, always waiting. When will it end? If you two were competent, I wouldn't be humiliated by Gu Dai!"

Just as she yelled this, Gu Ming arrived at the doorway. Already annoyed these past few days, hearing Gu Zhi's words darkened his face even more.

Barging in, he stormed up to Gu Zhi, raised his hand, and slapped her. "If we're so useless, go find someone competent to help you!"

Feeling the burning pain on her cheek, tears started to roll down from Gu Zhi's eyes. She lowered her head, her heart filled with intense resentment.

Gu Ming continued, his voice icy, "If you hadn't taken Gu Dai's belongings, would you be in this situation?"

Lifting her head, Gu Zhi glared straight at Gu Ming, retorting, "But many of the things that went missing were sold by you!"

Chapter 160: Quick Ways to Earn Money

Gu Zhi lifted her foot and bolted out of the door before Gu Ming could strike her again.

Liu Min immediately called out, “Zhizhi!”

Seeing Liu Min about to chase after her, Gu Ming locked the door and said coldly, “This is all because you’ve spoiled her rotten. You are not to go after Gu Zhi today!”

With that, Gu Ming slammed the door behind him, retreated to his bedroom, and took out his phone to open a group chat.

Back when he was the Chairman of the Gu Group, a nonchalant word from him would have people flocking to curry favor. Now, those who used to ingratiate themselves with him had all but disappeared.

Only a few remained in the chat group—individuals he had barely paid attention to in the past due to the lack of their ability. And now they were doing better than him. So even if he disdained mingling with these people, he had no choice but to endure it.

The more Gu Ming thought about his current penniless state and his inability to integrate back into the Gu Group, the deeper his resentment towards Gu Dai grew. He wished he could tear her to pieces.

Staring at the group chat, Gu Ming sent a message.

Gu Ming: Any quick ways to make money?

Friend 1: Well, Brother Gu, there are quick ways, but they’re not exactly legal.

Gu Ming’s brows furrowed as his fingers rapidly typed across the screen.

Gu Ming: I don't care if it's legal or not; I need money now!

Friend 2: Since you've said so, I'll tell you. I recently heard about an ancient royal tomb. It's bound to be filled with treasures. Sell those age-old antiques, and you'll have your money, right?

Friend 3: Tomb raiding? Isn't that a bit extreme? Aren't you afraid of repercussions?

Gu Ming scoffed at the notion of "repercussions."

Gu Ming: There's nothing scarier in this world than not having money. Since this path to wealth is open, let's prepare and act quickly!

As Gu Ming observed his friends discussing the intricacies of tomb raiding, he began fantasizing. Once he successfully raided the tomb, sold the antiques, and secured a large sum of money, he'd buy shares in the Gu Group and eventually oust Gu Dai. She'd end up destitute, wandering the streets.

In the darkness, the glow from his smartphone cast eerie shadows on his face, highlighting an expression that was a mix of gloom and madness.

After Gu Zhi ran out of the house, she stood at a distance, staring at the closed door. The slap she'd received earlier only deepened the well of resentment within her.

She picked up her phone and dialed Gu Si's number. In her eyes, her aunt Gu Si was the most capable and cunning. Surely, she could rescue her from her miserable life and teach Gu Dai a lesson.

When Gu Dai returned home and didn't see Gu Zhi, she turned to Wu Zhen with a puzzled look, "Where's Gu Zhi?"

Wu Zhen spoke softly, "Miss, she went to the adjacent house. I saw her sneak out, so I didn't stop her. But I had someone follow her."

Gu Dai nodded, "When she comes back, act as if you're unaware that she left. Be as you usually are."

Wu Zhen, "Understood, Miss."

Gu Dai went upstairs and made a call to Chu Min.

The moment the call connected, Chu Min picked up, "What's up, Boss? Any instructions?"

Gu Dai: "Keep an eye on Gu Ming and Liu Min. Report any movements immediately."

Chu Min: "Absolutely, Boss!"

After he agreed, he then hesitated, as if debating whether to say something more.

Detecting Chu Min's hesitant breathing, Gu Dai, who'd come to understand him over the years, guessed what was troubling him. "If there's something on your mind, just say it."

Chu Min quietly said, "Boss, the previous incident with Song Ling and Jiang Yue has created quite a stir online. Surprisingly, public opinion has swung in favor of Song Ling within days, even boosting Song Corporation's stock significantly."

Gu Dai yawned, speaking indifferently, "Is that so? I've been too busy to keep up with news."

Chu Min nodded vigorously, then remembered that Gu Dai couldn't see him and quickly added, "It's true, Boss. Just check the entertainment news; Song Ling is still trending!"

Though she wasn't interested, seeing Chu Min's excitement made her cave. She opened the news and skimmed through a few headlines..