

I Regained 201

Chapter 201: Please Leave

Gu Dai's eyes narrowed slightly, her gaze landing dangerously on Song Ling.

Zhou Ci stood up with a guilty expression, his eyes continuously conveying apologies to Gu Dai.

Taking a deep breath, Gu Dai decided to let Zhou Ci off the hook for now.

She turned her head toward Song Ling and asked coldly, "What are you doing here?"

Having noticed the non-verbal exchange between Gu Dai and Zhou Ci, Song Ling's expression darkened, his heart swelling with discontent.

Facing Gu Dai's inquiry, he retorted coldly, "I'm here to discuss a partnership with you."

Without a moment's hesitation, Gu Dai refused bluntly, "No discussion. Mr. Song, please leave."

Witnessing this, Zhou Ci couldn't help but interject, "I told you Gu Dai wouldn't talk business with you. You didn't believe me, and now here you are waiting..."

Song Ling's face turned ashen, his hands, hanging at his sides, clenched into fists; veins popping out. Angrily, he shot back at Zhou Ci, "Shut up! Who asked you to speak?"

Although Zhou Ci generally listened to Song Ling, the fact that he was made to lose face in front of Gu Dai irritated him. He locked eyes with Song Ling.

The atmosphere in the office tightened instantaneously; it was as if sparks flew between their glances.

Gu Dai's eyebrows furrowed, "Gu Group isn't a place for you two to quarrel. If you want to argue, take it outside."

As the words left Gu Dai's mouth, both Song Ling and Zhou Ci shifted their gaze away.

Zhou Ci responded with good grace, "I apologize. I won't argue any further."

Eyeing Zhou Ci's submissive demeanor, Song Ling snorted coldly. Lifting his head arrogantly, he addressed Gu Dai, "Our personal relationship may be strained, but a partnership between Song Corporation and Gu Group would be mutually beneficial. Don't act rashly!"

Gu Dai couldn't help but find it amusing, looking disdainfully at Song Ling, "I couldn't care less about mutual benefits."

Angered to the point of grinding his teeth, Song Ling began, "Gu Dai, you—"

Gu Dai interrupted, "Song Ling, you are a president after all. Don't you know that when you want to meet someone, you should schedule it through their secretary and confirm the appointment in advance?"

Not giving Song Ling a chance to reply, she continued, "Of course, there's no need for you to make an appointment because I won't see you."

Frustrated, Song Ling adjusted his tie and blurted out, "Gu Dai, don't go too far!"

Gu Dai questioned, puzzled, "I'm going too far?"

Her gaze fixed intently on Song Ling as she added, "Who's really going too far—me, or you?"

“Forget it, I don’t want to argue with you. Leave now, or I’ll have security escort you out. If by then the media captures you being thrown out and posts it online, not only will Song Corporation’s stock be affected, but you’ll also lose face in public!”

Song Ling’s face darkened as he moved toward the elevator. After taking a few steps, he pivoted abruptly and grasped Gu Dai’s slender, fair arm, questioning her with a heated urgency, “Why have you changed so much since our divorce? What secret are you keeping from me?”

His voice echoed loudly in the room, startling a few Gu Corporation employees who had just exited the elevator.

Gu Dai glanced at the onlookers, her gaze becoming even colder when it met Song Ling’s again.

Ever since regaining her memory, she had kept the matter of their marriage tightly sealed, not even wanting to touch upon that unpleasant chapter of her life. And yet, here was Song Ling, airing it out in public.

Wasn’t Song Ling the one who had always been reluctant to disclose their relationship, never even introducing her to others during their married life?

Why was he revealing it now?

Ignoring Song Ling, Gu Dai pointed toward the elevator and commanded icily, “Leave. Now!”

Witnessing Gu Dai’s dismissal, rational thought deserted Song Ling. Angered, he shot back, “Don’t dodge the question, Gu Dai. You’re clearly the heiress of the Gu family. Why did you hide your identity and marry me? What were you after?”

Gu Dai lifted her arm, shaking off Song Ling’s grip, then shoved him away.

Staggering back two steps, Song Ling finally steadied himself.

Gu Dai continued, "Mr. Song, mind your boundaries."

Song Ling insisted, "Gu Dai, stop avoiding the question!"

With her arms crossed, Gu Dai looked at Song Ling coldly, "We're divorced.

Even if you get the truth you seek, what's the point?"

A sarcastic smile briefly touched Song Ling's lips, "How is there no point? I can find out what ulterior motives you had for approaching me!"

Gu Dai's lips curled into a derisive smile, which quickly faded. She spoke wearily, "Song Ling, we were married for three years. I've been wholeheartedly devoted to you throughout that time; I don't believe you didn't feel it.."

Chapter 202: Are you even worthy

Of course, Song Ling felt it, which was why he was so puzzled now. "Then why did you suddenly change? Why did you become so distant, no longer treating me well?"

Gu Dai almost laughed out of incredulity. She couldn't fathom how thick-skinned a person had to be to utter such a statement.

Trembling with suppressed anger, Gu Dai responded, "Because I'm not a masochist. And if I suddenly stopped treating you well, shouldn't you reflect on your own actions?"

Song Ling paused, confused. "What do you mean?"

Gu Dai felt increasingly pathetic for her amnesiac self who had fallen for such a man.

Bracing herself, Gu Dai continued, "If I remember correctly, you were the one who cheated and got entangled with another woman. You were the one who betrayed our marriage. And now you have the audacity to question me. Are you even worthy?"

Song Ling was dumbstruck by Gu Dai's words. Catching a glimpse of the pain in her eyes, he felt momentarily lost.

Song Ling stammered, "I..."

Closing her eyes for a moment to regain her composure, Gu Dai finally said, "Enough. There's nothing more to say about this matter."

She walked past Song Ling and closed the door to her office.

Lin Sheng arrived, having caught wind of the commotion, and found Song Ling standing outside the office door.

The employees who had witnessed the entire scene brightened up when they saw Lin Sheng and hastily recounted what had just happened.

After hearing the account, Lin Sheng's gaze toward Song Ling became increasingly complicated.

Lin Sheng nodded to the employees, gesturing for them to return to their work. "Don't talk about this," he cautioned.

The employees nodded and left the scene, only then finding the time to reflect on the shocking turn of events.

They hadn't realized that their respected boss Gu Dai had been married in the three years she had disappeared—married to Song Ling, no less, who had turned out to be a rather poor spouse.

Lin Sheng approached Song Ling and said courteously, "Mr. Song, let me walk you out."

Song Ling slowly turned his head to look at Lin Sheng.

Ever since discovering that Gu Dai was the Chairwoman of the Gu Group, he had ordered background checks on all its employees. Therefore, he instantly recognized Lin Sheng as Gu Dai's special assistant, the person she trusted most.

The person Gu Dai trusted most... he should know something about her, right?

Song Ling tilted his head towards Lin Sheng and spoke, "Let's talk."

Lin Sheng furrowed his brows, thinking that there wasn't much to discuss between them.

Song Ling continued, "About Gu Dai."

The words of refusal halted on Lin Sheng's lips.

Inside the office.

Zhou Ci hastily apologized to Gu Dai, "I'm sorry, it was me who told him yesterday that we had a Suzhou embroidery partnership."

Gu Dai's eyes narrowed slightly as she asked in a chilly tone, "Did you also tell him when the partnership would take place?"

Zhou Ci shook his head vigorously, denying it. "No, no, Song Ling found that out on his own."

Gu Dai responded with a grunt, lowering her eyes and softly murmuring, "Well, that's consistent with my impression of him."

Gu Dai changed the subject, "Enough, discussing Song Ling is a waste of time. Let's move on to our partnership. Here's the contract I've drafted, have a look."

Zhou Ci took the contract and briefly scanned it, ready to sign immediately.

Seeing this, Gu Dai intervened, "Aren't you going to read it thoroughly? You're not worried that I might've set some trap in it?"

Zhou Ci looked up at Gu Dai and smiled, "No, we're friends, and I trust you."

Gu Dai felt her irritable mood lift considerably at Zhou Ci's words.

Jokingly, Gu Dai added, "Actually, this is an exploitative contract where I take ninety percent and you get ten."

Unfazed, Zhou Ci nodded and responded with a smile, "As long as you're happy, I don't mind taking a loss."

Gu Dai assured him, "Don't worry, it's a fifty-fifty contract; you won't lose out."

Zhou Ci made an exaggeratedly happy face and exclaimed, "Thank you, Chairwoman Gu!"

He didn't forget to add, "Investing in Suzhou embroidery means I don't care about losses; I mainly want to support you!"

Gu Dai suppressed her emotions for a moment but eventually couldn't help but call him out, "No, you're not investing to support me; you know Suzhou embroidery has potential."

Surprise flickered in Zhou Ci's eyes as he waited for Gu Dai to continue.

Gu Dai revealed, "In fact, you started researching Suzhou embroidery a few months ago and even conducted market simulations. Only after confirming its viability did you decide to invest.."

Chapter 203: Reduced to Zero

After being exposed by Gu Dai, Zhou Ci didn't show any annoyance. Instead, the sparkle in his eyes grew brighter as he looked at her.

"So, was I correct?" Gu Dai asked after she finished speaking.

Zhou Ci nodded, then quickly shook his head, admiring, "Absolutely correct, Daidai. You're just as smart as I thought. Though, that's expected for the woman I have my eyes on. Now that you know me this well, will there come a day when you'll like me?"

Gu Dai was at a loss for words. She took a long pause before finally mustering a response, "Could you like someone else?"

Zhou Ci bowed his head, clutching his heart as if wounded. "Do you know how much your words hurt me, Daidai?"

Gu Dai sighed, "Please call me by my full name."

"Alright, Gu Dai," Zhou Ci complied.

Looking earnestly at Gu Dai, he couldn't help but voice the question that had been lingering in his heart, "What type of man do you like?"

Pondering his years of knowing Gu Dai, Zhou Ci hesitated before asking, "Does it have to be someone like Song Ling? If I mimic his behavior, would the chances of you liking me increase?"

Gu Dai replied with candor, “No.”

Zhou Ci let out a wail, “Ah?”

Gu Dai added, “Not only will the chances not increase, they will become zero.”

“Alright, I understand,” Zhou Ci nodded.

It seemed that Song Ling had no chance at all.

Zhou Ci breathed a sigh of relief. After all, in his eyes, Song Ling had been his most formidable rival. Little did he know that Song Ling was, in fact, a nobody.

Gu Dai then briefly outlined her plans for the Suzhou embroidery industry. At the end, she said, “Well then, here’s to a successful collaboration.”

Smiling, Zhou Ci extended his hand, “To a successful collaboration.”

Gu Dai also reached out and shook hands with Zhou Ci.

However, Zhou Ci paused for a moment upon holding Gu Dai’s hand, his eyes resting confusedly on her hand.

Noticing Zhou Ci’s gaze, Gu Dai knew what he was pondering. Before he could ask, she spoke up, “You’re not mistaken; my hands are rather rough.”

Baffled, Zhou Ci inquired, “But you’re the young miss of the Gu family, how could your hands—”

Halting midway, Zhou Ci suddenly realized what he was about to say and looked seriously at Gu Dai, “Is it because of the bullying you’ve endured over the years at the Song family?”

Gu Dai wasn't inclined to answer the question. Instead, she issued a veiled dismissal to Zhou Ci. "We've settled on our business arrangement. If Mr. Zhou has no other matters, please take your leave."

Understanding Gu Dai's sentiment, Zhou Ci nodded. He didn't want to press her, so he simply responded, "Alright, I'll go then. If you need anything, don't hesitate to call me. And don't forget, my entire family will support you unconditionally!"

After several acknowledgments from Gu Dai, Zhou Ci finally took his leave.

Once Zhou Ci left, Gu Dai's gaze fell back onto her hands.

Indeed, Zhou Ci wasn't wrong. Her hands had become rough, and though there were other factors, the Song family was partly to blame. Wang Lan had tormented her ceaselessly.

Despite the availability of smart home technology, she insisted that Gu Dai perform manual labor and even assigned three or four people to supervise her.

After completing household chores and errands for Wang Lan during the day, Gu Dai had to care for her at night, including dressing, washing, and providing full-body massages.

Fortunately, Grandpa Song cared for her. When he discovered what she had to endure, he ordered Wang Lan to cease the bullying.

Therefore, Wang Lan resorted to tormenting Gu Dai only when Grandpa Song wasn't around, which reduced the frequency of these cruel acts.

If she had been subjected to high-intensity labor, Gu Dai felt that her hands would be far worse than they were now.

She sighed and then gathered her thoughts to focus on her work for the day. Just as she was about to start, her office door was knocked.

"Come in," Gu Dai said.

Looking up, she was surprised to see Zhou Ci, who had just left, return.

"What's the matter?" she asked, puzzled.

Zhou Ci placed two bottles on her desk, smiling as he spoke, "These are hand creams that my family unanimously recommended as effective. Try them for a few days and see if they suit you. If they don't, I can select a different brand for you."

Gu Dai was momentarily stunned.

And Zhou Ci continued, "Oh, and my aunt owns a beauty salon that offers hand treatments. Everyone who has tried it speaks highly of the service.. I can take you there to try it out when you have some free time!"

Chapter 204: Speculation and Truth

After Zhou Ci's blurb, he finally said, "I won't disturb your work any longer. I'll leave now."

Gu Dai smiled in response, "Alright, and thank you."

Zhou Ci replied, "You're welcome. After all, I do harbor secret intentions of wooing you. Don't be too touched; you might just fall for me."

The smile gradually faded from Gu Dai's face, replaced by a cold expression. "Fine, you may go. No need for farewells."

"I regret saying that just now," Zhou Ci confessed.

Regret couldn't undo his words, and with a heavy heart, Zhou Ci left.

After he departed, the iciness on Gu Dai's face gradually dissipated. Her gaze lingered on the hand cream on her desk for a while before she picked it up. She opened the bottle, squeezed out some cream, and applied it to her hands.

Not far away, in a cafe near Gu Corporation, Lin Sheng sat across from Song Ling and spoke in a neutral tone, "Mr. Song, what would you like to know? Out with it."

Song Ling clenched his hands tightly together, "I want to understand why Gu Dai has changed so drastically."

Not even offering a pleasant expression, Lin Sheng flatly responded, "People grow up. It's not unusual for Miss Gu to experience changes in her temperament, is it?"

Hearing Lin Sheng's evasive words, Song Ling felt a surge of anger rising within him. Recalling that Lin Sheng was close to Gu Dai, he reluctantly suppressed his rage.

Song Ling said, "Even if someone changes, it wouldn't be so dramatic in such a short period of time. It's like she's become a different person!"

Lin Sheng lowered his gaze and was silent for a moment before he slowly said, "Miss Gu's original temperament was always like this."

Her original temperament... Song Ling clenched his fists, his eyes reddening. "Are you saying that Gu Dai was pretending all along? What was her purpose for hiding her true self and getting close to me?"

Gritting his teeth, Lin Sheng replied angrily, "Miss Gu would never do such a thing. There's nothing on you worth the risk for her. The reason for her change is that she regained her memory!"

Song Ling was stunned, taking a long time to process the meaning of Lin Sheng's words. "Are you saying that Gu Dai had amnesia for the past three years?"

"Yes," Lin Sheng confirmed.

Initially, Lin Sheng didn't want to disclose the truth to Song Ling. But considering Song Ling's recent relentless pursuit of Gu Dai, and Gu Dai's evident lack of affection for him, Lin Sheng felt that perhaps coming clean would be beneficial for both parties.

Song Ling's vision began to blur, and he spoke in a daze, "Impossible. How could Gu Dai approach me without a motive? She was just amnesiac?"

Lin Sheng felt as if he were about to burst with frustration. He hadn't expected that even after revealing the truth, Song Ling would still refuse to accept it.

Lin Sheng's expression grew icy, displeased, he said. "During the three years Miss Gu went missing, we were all extremely worried about her, even fearing the worst. And it turns out she married you. After marrying her, not only did you neglect her, but you also doubted her sincerity towards you. The President of the Song Corporation is truly laughable!"

Finally, as if gears were starting to turn in his wooden head, Song Ling looked at Lin Sheng and asked, "So you're saying that you've only recently reconnected with Gu Dai as well?"

"Yes!" Lin Sheng responded, giving Song Ling a deep look before standing up to leave.

Miss might have lost her memory, but she was someone he had watched grow up. Even with amnesia, she shouldn't fall head over heels for someone recklessly.

So why did Miss Gu, after losing her memory, choose Song Ling so steadfastly? It was as if she was under some spell.

It took Song Ling a long while to come back to his senses after Lin Sheng left. One sentence kept revolving in his mind, 'Gu Dai did not deceive him; she had no ulterior motive forgetting close to him; she truly had lost her memory.'

In haste, Song Ling pulled out his phone and dialed Zhao Xuan.

As soon as the call was answered, he said hurriedly, "Find out what happened to Gu Dai three years ago. Remember, be thorough. Don't miss any details! Report back to me the moment you find something!"

Zhao Xuan didn't understand why Song Ling would claim not to like Gu Dai yet suddenly show such concern for her. But hearing Song Ling's urgent tone, he promptly replied, "Alright, Mr. Song!"

After, Song Ling sat in silence, staring at his coffee.

Could it be that Gu Dai was truly good to him without any ulterior motives?

Was it really, as she had claimed, because of love?

Chapter 205: Cooking for Sis

Zhao Xuan was quick to act, and in just two to three hours, he had gathered information about what had happened years ago.

Zhao Xuan pushed open the door to the office and placed the file on Song Ling's desk.

"Mr. Song, these are the results of the investigation," Zhao Xuan announced.

Song Ling nodded in acknowledgment, lifting his hand to flip through the documents. His eyes scanned faster and faster, his brows furrowing deeper and deeper.

Gu Dai had been on that exploding cruise ship three years ago. It was speculated that the incident had led to her amnesia.

Unable to resist commenting, Zhao Xuan said, “Mr. Song, Miss Gu returned to the country suddenly back then, and her ticket for the cruise was arranged by her uncle, Gu Ming. I find him highly suspicious.”

“I agree,” responded Song Ling, who felt the same way.

Right after Gu Dai’s incident, Gu Ming’s family moved into the Gu family’s villa and took over control of the Gu Group.

Everything seemed too smooth, as if it had been meticulously planned in advance.

Song Ling had seen many plays during the chaos that once engulfed the Song family. With just a glance at these documents, he knew this was corporate usurpation.

After all, eliminating Gu Dai, the only direct heir, would make it easy for Gu Ming, a distant relative, to take over the company.

Family betrayal, parents’ misfortunes, a cruise accident leading to amnesia, and finally entering the Song family only to be mistreated—Gu Dai had endured it all.

Even he himself had mistreated her.

Memories of a timid yet constantly worried and loving young girl flashed in his mind, suddenly seeming distant, fading like a shadow.

“No, don’t, don’t go...” Song Ling muttered.

Seeing Song Ling’s reddening eyes and his hands forcefully rubbing his head, Zhao Xuan asked anxiously, “Mr. Song, are you alright? Should I call an ambulance? Hang in there!”

"I'm fine, don't... Just help me get the amulet from my pocket," Song Ling managed to say.

"Alright," Zhao Xuan complied.

Song Ling took the amulet and held it to his nose, inhaling the calming scent deeply.

Zhao Xuan was stunned, staring blankly at Song Ling.

After a good while, Song Ling finally felt the headache easing.

He looked at Zhao Xuan and asked, "Have you found the legendary doctor yet?"

Shaking his head, Zhao Xuan replied, "Not yet. The miracle doctor's whereabouts are unpredictable. The last time we tried to find him based on an address, we found out he had vanished again, said to have left the Capital."

Song Ling nodded: "Mm."

Upon hearing Song Ling mention the legendary doctor, Zhao Xuan suddenly remembered something and asked, "Mr. Song, is your headache a lingering effect from that incident years ago?"

Song Ling nodded again, "Mmhm."

Seeing that Song Ling had no desire to elaborate, Zhao Xuan said, "Mr. Song, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

Song Ling stopped him, instructing, "Focus your investigation on this Gu

Ming, and continue searching for the legendary doctor's whereabouts."

After a brief pause, Song Ling's voice softened. "First, go investigate Gu Dai's situation. Handle those other two matters afterward."

Gu Dai opened the lunch box and saw layer upon layer of colorful and aromatic dishes. She exclaimed, "It looks so delicious!"

Su Ting's cheeks turned a shade of pink as he shyly responded, "Sis, please try it. If there's anything that doesn't taste good, just let me know, and I'll improve it."

After taking a bite, Gu Dai praised, "Delicious!"

Surprised, Su Ting's eyes widened incredulously, "Really?"

Gu Dai nodded: "Of course, come and sit down to eat."

Once she finished eating, Gu Dai let out a satisfied burp and then told Su Ting, "You don't have to bring me food anymore."

Su Ting was startled and, after recovering, asked, "Why? Is there something wrong with what I've made?"

Gu Dai shook her head to indicate otherwise, explaining, "You've done very well, but preparing all these dishes must have taken a lot of time. I can get by with just a few bites at lunch; you don't need to waste your time on me."

Su Ting hurriedly spoke up, "Cooking for Sis is not a waste of time! I enjoy making meals for you, and you don't need to worry about me; I have plenty of time lately!"

Gu Dai hesitated a little, "Is that so?"

Su Ting nodded vigorously, affirming, "Absolutely! So can I continue cooking for you?"

Meeting Su Ting's pleading eyes, Gu Dai subconsciously agreed, "Alright."

Realizing what she'd done, Gu Dai felt a bit bewildered. She hadn't expected to be swayed by Su Ting so easily and, feeling a bit embarrassed, diverted her attention by unlocking her phone.

However, as soon as she opened it, she saw her name topping the trending search list..

Chapter 206: Let me do it

#Miss Gu Caught Assaulting Model Wei Ling in Public!#

Gu Dai's eyebrows furrowed as she clicked on the trending topic. She saw that Wei Ling had posted a statement ten minutes ago.

Wei Ling: "Last night, I attended a banquet at the Capital Hotel. I misspoke a few words, and Miss Gu didn't even give me a chance to explain. She just beat me up and threatened to cut off all my resources."

Renowned domestic director Zhou Gang was quick to share Wei Ling's post, adding his own comment: "In my experience, Wei Ling has always been a dedicated model, diligent in her work and kind-hearted. The things she says have never made us uncomfortable. I can feel that she's a good girl who cares about others. So even if she misspoke, it couldn't have been too bad."

Zhou Gang: "Personally, I think Miss Gu's actions were overly harsh."

If it were just these two commenting, the issue wouldn't have blown up so quickly, given their limited fan base.

What caught people's attention was that Gu Zhi also shared Wei Ling's post and left a comment.

Gu Zhi: "I never thought my younger sister would have such a short temper, just rushing to hit Wei Ling. Here, on behalf of my sister, I apologize to Wei Ling."

Gu Zhi: "Wei Ling, I'm sorry!"

Though Gu Zhi retracted the message only two minutes after posting, quick-eyed netizens had already screenshotted her comments and shared them online. And so, the news spread like wildfire.

"My God, I can't believe Miss Gu is like this. She's completely different from what I imagined, even worse than the shrew who lives next door to me."

"I used to think that rich young ladies were somehow different from us, but it seems they're no better than ordinary people."

"In comparison, Gu Zhi seems to be the real model of a proper-mannered, affluent young woman. She even humbly apologized on behalf of her sister. Why did she delete her comment afterward, though?"

"What else could it be? Obviously, Miss Gu saw what Gu Zhi posted and got angry, forcing her to delete it."

"Our Lingling may have few fans, but she's not without support! Miss Gu is too despicable. We should dig into her background and expose her. If she doesn't apologize to our Lingling, we'll cyberbully her every day!"

Gu Dai set down her phone, no longer interested in reading the subsequent comments.

After all, scrolling through them was a waste of time; they all essentially said the same thing.

Noticing the clouded expression on Gu Dai's face, Su Ting took out his own phone. His visage turned icy after reading the contents of the trending topic.

He took a deep breath to suppress the rising anger and assured Gu Dai, "Don't be upset, Sis. Wei Ling is not worth getting angry about."

Gu Dai nodded in agreement.

Seeing that she was indeed unshaken, Su Ting finally exhaled in relief. "I'll call my PR team to handle this matter," he offered.

Gu Dai interrupted him, "There's no need."

Su Ting cast a puzzled glance at her. She had already opened her laptop and typed in a web address.

"I prefer to handle it myself," Gu Dai said calmly.

Su Ting's eyes brightened, and he chuckled softly. "Alright."

It didn't take long for Gu Dai to unearth the reason behind Wei Ling's actions.

As expected, it was instigated by Gu Zhi.

While investigating, she also found incriminating photographs and videos of Wei Ling sleeping with various bosses to secure more contracts. She even discovered evidence of Wei Ling sabotaging her co-competitors in modeling contests.

"It seems 1 was too lenient with Wei Ling yesterday," Gu Dai mused, organizing all the information she had gathered.

Su Ting observed her actions, then asked, "Do you plan to release all this information?"

Gu Dai affirmed, "Yes."

Su Ting proposed, "Could you let me do it? I didn't get to help earlier, and my wider influence could ensure that more people see it."

Gu Dai shook her head, resolutely refusing. "No, it would negatively affect your career.."

Chapter 207: Pictures Turning Pixelated

Su Ting lowered his head, his voice tinged with a whiff of grievance. "I understand, Sis. You don't need me at all, I—"

Gu Dai quickly interjected, "It's not that I don't need you. It's just that disseminating this kind of information could really impact you negatively."

Su Ting shook his head, smiling reassuringly. "Don't worry, Sis. There won't be any negative impact. Trust me, okay?"

Caught in Su Ting's imploring gaze, Gu Dai found herself nodding unconsciously.

Seizing the opportunity, Su Ting quickly logged into his account and sent out the content.

Only when the pings of incoming messages filled the air did Gu Dai snap back to reality. She regretted her earlier agreement. "This is the last time, we can't do this again."

Su Ting nodded vigorously. "Understood, Sis!"

Within minutes of Su Ting's post going live, a multitude of people had already seen it.

“My God, I can’t believe I’m actually seeing Su Ting post something!”

“Quick, check out the content Su Ting has posted. It’s explosive!”

“What? That model named Wei Ling has been with so many men and even got involved with married ones? No wonder Zhou Gang stood up for her; they’ve had an intimate transaction!”

“Why did Su Ting choose to expose Wei Ling now? What happened?”

“Gu Group has sent a legal letter to Wei Ling, turns out she was spreading rumors. Is Su Ting doing this to defend Miss Gu?”

“I don’t know, but it’s Su Ting’s prerogative. I’m just curious about Miss Gu’s sister. Didn’t she already apologize to Wei Ling? How can it be rumor-mongering?”

“It could be a misunderstanding, or there could be some dispute between them. You know how complicated relationships are in these wealthy families.”

In just a matter of minutes, netizens had already formulated numerous conspiracy theories, along with an avalanche of condemnations against Wei Ling.

As quickly as people had sympathized with Wei Ling, now they denounced her.

After briefly scanning the comments, Gu Dai put away her phone.

Su Ting said, “Sis, aren’t you going to teach them a lesson?”

Gu Dai let out a soft chuckle. “Of course I will, but now it’s work time. We can deal with this later.”

Su Ting nodded, comprehending.

If she didn't have the time now, he certainly did.

A shadow flickered across the depths of Su Ting's eyes. As far as he knew, Zhou Gang was not only a renowned director but also owned several entertainment companies. Since he was so eager to help Wei Ling, then Su Ting would give his companies something to worry about.

Several hours had passed by the time Song Ling received the news.

He stared coldly at Zhao Xuan, interrogating, "Why didn't you report this to me earlier?"

Zhao Xuan felt wronged deep inside. After all, Song Ling had instructed him not to be disturbed that afternoon.

Song Ling looked at the post where Su Ting stood up for Gu Dai, finding it irksome. He was already frustrated deep inside.

Ever since he learned of Gu Dai's amnesia, he realized he had wronged her. She hadn't cheated during their marriage, and yet the affection in Su Ting's eyes when looking at her was particularly intense.

Song Ling lowered his eyes and ordered in a cold voice, "Zhao Xuan, this director named Zhou Gang seems too idle. Find something to keep his company busy."

Considering what he knew, Zhao Xuan reported, "Mr. Song, there is already a crisis brewing at Director Zhou's company. After some investigation, it seems Su Ting had arranged for—"

Seeing Song Ling's face that had turned more gloomy, Zhao Xuan trailed off.

Song Ling was silent for a moment before saying, "Go ahead and acquire Zhou's company."

Zhao Xuan looked up in surprise, unable to hold back his question, "Mr. Song, are you doing this for Miss Gu?"

Song Ling didn't answer, only urging Zhao Xuan, "Go, quickly!"

On the internet, thanks to some collective clarification, the public had come to know the truth. Now they were more curious than ever to know what the fabled Miss Gu looked like.

"Does anyone have a photo of Miss Gu? She's trended several times now, and I still have no idea what she looks like. Even Baidu has no information on her."

"I was at a banquet at the Capital Hotel yesterday and even took pictures. Want to see?"

"Of course we want to see, we want to see! Stop tantalizing us and post it already!"

"Picture##."

"Why is everything pixelated in this photo?"

"I clearly sent a photo, why isn't it displaying?"

"I attended an art exhibition a while back, and Su Ting was there too. There was a woman beside him, and I'm starting to think she's Miss Gu. I'll send the picture for you all to see.."

Chapter 208: Blacklisted

"No way, the picture is still pixelated. I get it, Miss Gu must naturally look like a pixelated image."

"Don't be ridiculous up there!"

“Miss Gu is extremely beautiful; she’s the most dazzling woman I’ve ever seen.”

As this person commented, many who had seen Gu Dai came forward, echoing the sentiment.

“Is Miss Gu really that beautiful? Why can’t her pictures be posted online? Are they afraid she’s too stunning?”

Having finished her work, Gu Dai packed up her things, preparing to leave the office. To her surprise, as she moved through the company interior, she found that the employees weren’t in a rush to leave. Instead, their eyes seemed to follow her, glowing with intrigue.

Gu Dai gave herself a cursory check and found nothing amiss. Puzzled, she inquired, “Did something happen?”

Her voice broke the spell of silence, and the employees all began to speak excitedly at once.

“The moment we saw the trending topic, we knew you were being wrongfully accused, Chairwoman Gu. But Wei Ling and her crew have too much influence; our comments in your defense quickly got drowned out. They must’ve hired an army of trolls.”

“Yeah, we thought Gu Group’s stocks would surely be affected. But lo and behold, a counter-attack was launched within ten minutes, exposing Wei Ling’s lies!”

“Chairwoman Gu, are you and Su Ting dating? He looked so dashing defending you.”

“Yes, yes!”

Gu Dai shook her head, bemused as she listened to the spirited chatter of her youthful employees.

Just as she was about to respond, a sudden gasp from one of the employees interrupted her.

“Wei Ling has no shame! After her lies were exposed, she’s pretending to have depression and threatening suicide if people don’t stop talking about this. And she was the one who started this mess, slandering you, Chairwoman Gu.”

“Thank goodness netizens aren’t fools; they saw right through her. They’re all defending you now.”

Wei Ling appeared on video, clothed in a hospital gown, her face pale and feigning distress.

Upon enlarging the video, Gu Dai saw several people standing behind Wei Ling, one of whom was her agent. She realized this was all just a marketing ploy.

Gu Dai’s brows furrowed as she picked up her phone to call Lin Sheng. “Uncle

Lin, please arrange to have Wei Ling blacklisted.”

Lin Sheng replied, “Understood.”

As Gu Dai was about to hang up, Lin Sheng stopped her.

“Uncle Lin, what’s wrong?” Gu Dai inquired.

Lin Sheng hesitated for a moment before saying, “No, it’s nothing...”

Lin Sheng wondered if he should tell Gu Dai about his conversation with Song Ling but decided against it.

Distracted by her mysterious inability to have her photos appear online, Gu Dai didn’t notice Lin Sheng’s unease.

After returning home, Gu Dai attempted to investigate why her photos couldn’t be displayed online, but found no reason; everything seemed normal.

In a secluded hotel in the outskirts of the capital, a man sat deep in the shadows of the night. The glow from his laptop illuminated his striking features and stunning visage.

Closing his laptop, the man whispered, "As long as I'm here, no one will harm Gu Dai. Rest assured."

The sound of a car pulling up from below alerted Gu Dai that Meng Zhi had returned.

When Meng Zhi saw her, he quickly said, "Daidai, don't let what's happening online bother you. Your Third Brother is already arranging people to handle it."

"Don't worry, Third Brother. The issue online has been resolved," Gu Dai replied with a smile.

Meng Zhi was momentarily stunned, then heaved a sigh of relief. However, Gu Dai's next question made him anxious again.

"Third Brother, weren't you handling work overseas? Why did you return so suddenly? Did you put your work on hold because of that trending topic?" As Gu Dai spoke, her voice took on a dangerous tone.

Meng Zhi knew better than anyone that Gu Dai didn't want her issues to affect him. If he told her the truth, she would be angry.

Forcing down his guilt, Meng Zhi calmly replied, "I finished work early and just happened to see the trending topic before my flight took off."

Gu Dai looked into Meng Zhi's determined eyes and chose to believe him—for now.

Seeing that Gu Dai believed him, Meng Zhi finally let out a sigh of relief..

Chapter 209: That's not for you to decide

After Meng Zhi had fully understood the situation and saw that it had no impact on Gu Dai, his tense emotions finally relaxed completely.

Meng Zhi said, "Daidai, you can't go easy on Wei Ling anymore. I'll arrange for her to be blacklisted right now!"

Gu Dai stopped him. Under his puzzled gaze, she spoke, "I've already blacklisted her."

Meng Zhi then added, "Then I'll go ahead and acquire Zhou Gang's company!"

Just as Meng Zhi was about to put his plan into action, his phone rang, displaying two new notifications.

"#Zhou Corporation is bankrupt, CEO Zhou Gang has declared bankruptcy."

"#Song Group acquires Zhou Corporation."

Meng Zhi's face darkened, he couldn't help but complain, "If I hadn't been on the plane, cut off from the latest domestic news, I would have moved faster than Song Ling!"

Gu Dai nodded, then added regretfully, "Zhou Corporation had a promising future; it's a pity Song Ling got to it first."

Testing the waters, Meng Zhi said, "I feel Song Ling might have done it for you."

Gu Dai looked at Meng Zhi in surprise, "Third Brother, why would you think that?"

Meng Zhi explained, "Well, Song Ling acquiring Zhou Corporation at this time is certainly for you. After all, the Song family has never ventured into the entertainment industry before."

Gu Dai shook her head, "That's impossible! I think he must also see the future potential of Zhou Corporation."

Seeing this, Meng Zhi chose not to elaborate further. After all, he didn't want to speak well of Song Ling, lest Gu Dai fall for him again.

Meng Zhi suddenly remembered Su Ting and asked softly, "Daidai, how do you feel about Su Ting?"

Su Ting? Gu Dai pondered seriously in her mind.

Su Ting had always been kind to her, cheering her up when she was down and standing up for her when she was bullied.

So, Gu Dai said, "He's really nice, very adorable, and he's always been supportive of me. I feel relaxed when I'm with him; he's a great, great younger brother, and I really like him!"

Meng Zhi nodded, his eyes slightly downcast.

So Daidai really just sees Su Ting as a younger brother?

Moreover, the types that she found herself drawn to, Song Ling and Su Ting, why were they utterly dissimilar to that person in every way?

Gu Dai said, "Third Brother, have you finished your work?"

Meng Zhi responded reflexively, "Not yet."

Frozen for a moment and meeting Gu Dai's serious eyes, he began to scramble for words.

Gu Dai showed a gentle smile and said, "Thank you, Third Brother."

Meng Zhi rubbed his head awkwardly, "No, no need for thanks, we're family after all."

Gu Dai nodded with a smile, "So, when will you finish your work?"

Meng Zhi responded, "By tomorrow."

Pushing Meng Zhi out the door, Gu Dai said, "Go do your work."

Meng Zhi looked at the closed door and shook his head in resignation, "Alright."

Meng Zhi then called one of his subordinates, instructing, "Keep a close eye on Wei Ling's movements. If anything unusual happens, deal with it directly; no need to report to me."

After Gu Dai sent Meng Zhi away, she headed for the basement.

Seeing Gu Dai, Gu Zhi quickly got up from the bed. Thinking of what she had done today, she stuttered, "W-what brings you here so late?"

Gu Dai scanned the cramped room before her gaze settled on Gu Zhi. She spoke calmly, "I think you know why I'm here."

Gu Zhi quickly said, "I-I realized it was wrong as soon as I sent it, so I immediately deleted it!"

Gu Dai chuckled and showed her the screen of her phone, "Then what's the meaning of hiring internet trolls to screenshot what you posted and spread it online?"

Gu Zhi couldn't believe what she was seeing. Her mind was in turmoil, wondering how Gu Dai got her chat records with the internet trolls.

Gu Dai said, “Starting tomorrow, Uncle Wu will take you to do the most tedious jobs, like cleaning toilets in the villa.”

Gu Zhi collapsed onto the bed, shaking her head, “No, I can’t!”

Gu Dai simply stated, “That’s not for you to decide.”

Upon hearing Gu Dai’s cold refusal, Gu Zhi’s eyes flashed with malice.

The next morning, Gu Dai received news that Gu Zhi had run away..

Chapter 210: Spare Me

Wu Zhen blamed himself, “Miss, it’s my fault for forgetting to lock the window last night. Otherwise, Gu Zhi wouldn’t have had the chance to escape. I’ll go and organize—”

Gu Dai shook her head and interrupted, “No need. I watched her climb out the window last night.”

Relieved that it had been Gu Dai’s intention all along, Wu Zhen exhaled slightly.

Upon seeing Gu Zhi’s return, both Gu Ming and Liu Min were utterly stunned.

Liu Min embraced Gu Zhi tightly before finally letting her go, asking, “Zhizhi, you’re back? Mom missed you so much. Was it that bit*h Gu Dai who let you go?”

Compared to Liu Min’s emotional outburst, Gu Zhi’s demeanor remained unchanged. She spoke calmly, “I escaped on my own.”

Liu Min pushed Gu Zhi away, incredulous, "How could you come back on your own?"

Gu Ming's expression also turned icy. "Go back, right now!"

Gu Zhi looked at her parents, who once doted on her but now seemed keen on pushing her out of the family because of Gu Dai.

Her disdain for Gu Dai deepened when she realized this, and her attitude toward Gu Ming and Liu Min worsened. She spoke icily, "Do you have any idea how much humiliation I suffered under Gu Dai? If you couldn't save me, fine, but now that I've escaped on my own, you actually want to send me back?"

After uttering these words, Gu Zhi retreated into her room and slammed the door shut.

Gu Zhi tried calling her aunt Gu Si several times before finally getting through.

Gu Si asked, "What's the matter, ZhiZhi?"

Gu Zhi didn't directly answer but asked, "Aunt, what were you doing just now? Why didn't you answer my calls?"

Gu Si said, "I was just looking at something on the web, my phone wasn't with me. What do you need?"

After a moment of silence, Gu Zhi relayed her situation.

Tears started to fall, her voice tinged with bitterness, "Aunt, Gu Dai has humiliated me like this, you have to help me get revenge."

Gu Si didn't respond immediately but said, "No need to act hastily; it's not the right time to deal with Gu Dai yet."

Gu Zhi grew anxious.

Her aunt, who was abroad and out of touch with Gu Dai's menace, didn't understand the urgency. But she had to worry about the situation.

Realizing that any further delay would make her situation even worse, Gu Zhi urged, "Aunt, you must act quickly—"

Gu Si said, "Zhizhi, a friend of mine is here. I have to hang up now."

Gu Zhi quickly called out, "Au..."

Before Gu Zhi could protest, the call was disconnected.

Frustrated, she hurled her phone onto the floor.

No, she couldn't wait for Gu Si any longer; she needed to deal with Gu Dai herself.

Meanwhile, at Zhou Corporation.

Zhao Xuan bowed his head and reported, "President Song, Zhou Gang, the former president of Zhou Corporation, is causing a scene at the entrance, demanding to see you."

Song Ling frowned, "Zhou Gang?"

Zhao Xuan answered, "He's the one who supported Wei Ling online yesterday, slandering Miss Gu Dai."

Song Ling replied concisely, "Don't let him in."

Zhao Xuan couldn't help but think, President Song obviously cares about Miss Gu Dai, why won't he admit it?

Zhao Xuan then added, "President Song, Zhou Gang didn't come alone. His wife Feng Xue is also here, and the Feng family's business has strong ties with our company. If we don't see them—"

Song Ling set down his pen, his gaze turning icy as he looked at Zhao Xuan.

Zhao Xuan felt a shiver down his spine, but just when he thought Song Ling was about to lose his temper, the latter averted his eyes and spoke softly, "Let him in."

Zhou Gang, his face battered and bruised, walked in, his tone icy, "I apologize, President Song. I don't know what I've done to offend you, but I hope you can forgive me."

The room's atmosphere instantly chilled.

Song Ling regarded Zhou Gang with cold eyes.

Feng Xue, born into a wealthy family and always poised, could no longer tolerate Zhou Gang's behavior.

She slapped him across the face, while she did her best to maintain her composure, and softly said, "Zhou Gang!"

Recalling the beating he'd taken at home, Zhou Gang's demeanor instantly changed. He began to plead tearfully, "President Song, you've already acquired Zhou Corporation, please spare my smaller assets. Leave me some money.."