

I Regained 211

Chapter 211: Regret

Ignoring Zhou Gang, Song Ling turned to the standing Feng Xue and said, "Sit."

Feng Xue shook her head and lightly chuckled, "I'd rather not, President Song. We're here to apologize, so sitting would be inappropriate..."

Before Feng Xue could finish speaking, Zhou Gang beside her sat down abruptly. At the same time, he enthusiastically exclaimed, "Song Corporation really is different! Even the office chairs are more comfortable than the ones in my own home!"

Feng Xue's face turned ashen. She reached out to pull Zhou Gang up, "Stand up!"

Zhou Gang protested, "Why? President Song said we could sit!"

Unable to hold back, Feng Xue kicked Zhou Gang in the leg.

Having been scolded at home for his infidelity, Zhou Gang had taken it. But now, in public, and with so many eyes on him, his face burned with shame.

Grim-faced, Zhou Gang rose, ready to strike Feng Xue.

Zhao Xuan quickly stepped forward to intervene. "Mr. Zhou, this is Song Corporation, not a place where you can get into a brawl. If you must resort to violence, don't blame us for being inhospitable!"

Zhou Gang, hearing this, reluctantly withdrew his hand but shot Feng Xue a menacing look.

Having been married to Zhou Gang for many years, Feng Xue had maintained a veneer of marital harmony. She never expected that Zhou Gang would dare to raise a hand against her.

Observing this, Song Ling inquired, "Have you considered divorce?"

Feng Xue was taken aback, instinctively shaking her head.

Song Ling continued, "Zhou Gang has betrayed you, and not just with one person. Are you sure you want to stay with him?"

Feng Xue furrowed her brows, puzzled, "Not just one person?"

Zhou Gang became anxious when he heard Song Ling's words. Grabbing Feng Xue's arm, he began to drag her towards the door, "Honey, I just remembered that I left the stove on at home. Let's go back and check!"

Feng Xue was no fool; she sensed something was amiss and a theory came into her mind.

Shaking off Zhou Gang's grip, she turned to Song Ling, "President Song, do you know something else?"

Song Ling handed Feng Xue a file from the desk.

Zhou Gang, seeing this, was about to stop them, but Zhao Xuan, ever vigilant, immediately stepped in to block him.

Zhou Gang, having spent years on frivolous pursuits, struggled in vain against Zhao Xuan's hold, his face turning red from the effort.

After scanning through the documents, Feng Xue flung the file at Zhou Gang's face and declared, "We're getting a divorce!"

Zhou Gang was dumbfounded.

At that moment, he abruptly realized that his wealth was attributable to his relationship with Feng Xue, who had fallen for him, and after marriage, the Feng family had to compromise, aiding him in establishing his company and connecting him with various influential networks in the entertainment industry, which propelled him to prominence as a well-known domestic director.

Should he divorce Feng Xue, he would be plunged into poverty, with no chance of a resurgence.

As this realization sunk in, he felt a chill run through him. Bursting forth with newfound energy, he knelt before Feng Xue, "Honey, I don't want a divorce. I was wrong, and it won't happen again."

Feng Xue kicked him away, her voice icy, "You've deceived me more than once, twice, or three times. How dare you ask for my forgiveness now?"

"Prepare the divorce papers. We'll meet at the civil affairs bureau tomorrow. If you disagree, I don't mind taking this to court," she added.

Zhou Gang slumped to the floor, pale-faced, "It's over, all of it is over..."

Song Ling concluded, "You may leave."

Regaining his composure, Zhou Gang glared at Song Ling, "It's all your fault! You're the one who created discord between us. How could you be so evil?"

Song Ling glanced at him dismissively, "If you hadn't cheated, how would we be in this situation?"

Zhou Gang sneered, "As far as I know, didn't President Song also cheat within marriage? Even ended up divorcing Miss Gu Dai if I recall... Gu Dai..." Suddenly, it clicked for Zhou Gang. The person he had targeted while helping Wei Ling was named Gu Dai.

What he had failed to understand before was suddenly clear..

Chapter 212: We're the Same

Zhou Gang stared directly at Song Ling, his face breaking into an exaggerated smile. "I get it now," he said excitedly, "You're targeting me because you want to stand up for your ex-wife, right?"

Song Ling's expression darkened. "That's not it," he retorted coldly.

With a scoff, Zhou Gang continued, "You say it's not, but your thoughts might as well be written all over your face! In that case, we're cut from the same cloth. We've both cheated, been divorced, and regretted it."

Gritting his teeth, Song Ling demanded, "Who are you saying is like you?"

Upon seeing Song Ling's demeanor, Zhao Xuan felt a surge of apprehension for Zhou Gang. He couldn't believe that someone could be so lacking in social cues.

Zhou Gang, oblivious to the warning tone in Song Ling's voice, attempted to dig himself in further. "Of course, we're the same type of people! President Song, please, let's forget the grudge and maybe you can even assist me, given we are similar—"

Song Ling cut him off, his gaze turning dangerous and his voice sounding more menacing. "I'll say it one more time, you and I are not the same."

Zhou Gang had wanted to continue buttering him up, but his body trembled involuntarily, reacting faster than his brain.

Only then did Zhou Gang realize something was terribly wrong with Song Ling and hastily tried to salvage the situation. "President Song, please don't be angry. My mother often plays Mahjong with your mother; we're actually quite acquainted."

Song Ling's eyebrows furrowed. He hadn't realized that his mother Wang Lan was socializing with such people. He would have to restrict her associations in the future.

Zhou Gang continued to linger.

Song Ling shot Zhao Xuan a look, and moments later, Zhou Gang was unceremoniously thrown out by a group of men.

Still irritated after seeing Zhou Gang tossed out, Song Ling ordered coldly, "Liquidate all of Zhou Gang's assets."

Zhao Xuan nodded, "Understood, President Song."

Song Ling leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes. However, images of Gu Dai flashed before him: smiling, heartbroken, impassioned.

As he revisited those scenes, he found his heartbeat accelerating. Realizing this, he snapped his eyes open.

Recalling what Zhou Gang had said, Song Ling began to question himself.

Had he truly developed feelings for Gu Dai and now regretted it?

No, that couldn't be.

He assured himself that the acceleration of his heartbeat was merely coincidental.

Feng Xue acted swiftly. She prepared all the divorce papers the same day and was ready to finalize things the next, only to receive a message from Zhou Gang refusing to consent.

Zhou Gang texted, "I won't divorce you. Besides, we have a child. Would you really leave your child fatherless?"

Feng Xue hesitated for a second when she read the message but quickly regained her composure. She realized he was only after her family's money and power.

Viewing his message now, she found it laughable.

If Zhou Gang wouldn't agree to the divorce, then he had only himself to blame.

Gu Dai laid listlessly on the sofa, dark circles prominent under her eyes. She yawned repeatedly in a short span.

Seeing this, Wu Zhen advised, "Miss, today is Sunday. If you're tired, why not get some more sleep?"

Shaking her head, Gu Dai replied irritably, "I've been suffering from insomnia recently. No matter how tired I am, I can't sleep. And when I do, I keep having this strange dream."

Puzzled, Wu Zhen asked, "A strange dream? Would you like to tell me about it? Maybe I can help."

Gu Daidai nodded and began to recount the dream.

First, she would see Song Ling, his profile capturing her gaze while her lips curled into a smile. Those moments were always the happiest for her.

Following that, she would see another man, whose presence felt familiar and comforting.

Listening to her description, Wu Zhen was also perplexed. "Miss, do you remember the second man's appearance?"

Gu Dai shook her head, “No, I don’t. All I know is that in the dream, I can see his face clearly. But once I wake up, I only remember that he’s handsome, with no clue what he actually looks like..”

Chapter 213: Who is he

When Wu Zhen heard this, he speculated, “Miss, did you perhaps know this man before, but have forgotten him?”

Deep in thought, Gu Dai shook her head. “The memories I lost have returned, but there are none concerning this man.”

Wu Zhen couldn’t fathom the reason either. However, recalling Gu Dai’s recent bouts of insomnia, he suggested, “Miss Gu Dai, I remember you’re skilled in the art of scent-blending, and some fragrances have soothing properties. Would you like to give it a try?”

Gu Dai nodded, replying simply, “Alright.”

Elated, Wu Zhen quickly said, “I’ll fetch the ingredients for scent-blending right away!”

He was swift. Within moments, all the necessary tools were prepared and laid out.

Gazing at the fragrant materials before her, Gu Dai felt a long-absent sense of familiarity.

She had learned the craft from her grandmother, and since her amnesia, she had not practiced it. But then, a memory sprang forth—there was a time when Song Ling couldn’t sleep, and she had crafted a blend for him, relying on her intuitive sense of the craft.

Despite having a feel for the task, she was not yet proficient, and after months of fumbling and stumbling, she finally succeeded.

Yet when she presented her work to Song Ling, filled with anticipation, he showed no regard for it, carelessly casting it aside.

The incident had occurred quite some time ago, but the memory still ached in Gu Dai's heart as she recalled it.

Meng Zhi descended from the stairs just in time to notice Gu Dai's pensive expression. Though her mind seemed elsewhere, her hands moved deftly through the motions.

After she completed her blending, he inquired, "Why did you suddenly take up scent-blending, Daidai?"

Gu Dai recounted the conversation she had earlier with Wu Zhen.

Her bewilderment deepened, questioning why she would dream of a man she didn't remember. She didn't even notice the flash of light that crossed the depths of Meng Zhi's eyes after hearing her words.

Meng Zhi had originally thought that Gu Dai had forgotten him, but it turned out she had merely buried her memories deep within her heart.

Seeing Meng Zhi remaining silent, she asked, "Third Brother, do you know who the man in my dreams is?"

Meng Zhi shook his head, responding, "I don't know."

"Alright then," Gu Dai said softly.

Suddenly remembering that Meng Zhi had just arrived by plane three hours ago, she hurriedly said, "Third Brother, you should go rest in your room."

Meng Zhi declined and eagerly pulled up a message that had kept him too excited to sleep. "Daidai, look, Director Zhou finally got what he deserves."

The internet was ablaze with discussions, instigated by Feng Xue's reveal of Zhou Gang's infidelity.

Upon seeing the message sent by Feng Xue, Zhou Gang was immediately alarmed and hastened to clarify online that in his line of work, it was inevitable to encounter many temptations, hoping for understanding from others.

"Good heavens, am I reading this right?" one netizen exclaimed in disbelief.

"You're not mistaken," chimed in another. "I had to read it over a dozen times before I could accept that I hadn't misread the message! I can't fathom how a man can be so shameless as to ask us to understand his infidelity!"

"I always knew that a mismatched couple would have major problems! Feng Xue, please don't be soft-hearted. There are 3.5 billion men in the world. After him, you will surely find someone better!"

The comments online were overwhelmingly favorable.

Under the weight of public scorn, Zhou Gang withdrew his initial remarks and issued an apology.

Ultimately, even though Zhou Gang was unwilling to let go of the Feng family's support, he had no choice but to succumb to the pressure and agreed to sign the divorce papers.

Once Feng Xue had the divorce certificate in hand, the whole internet celebrated for her.

Gu Dai raised an eyebrow in surprise, sensing that something was amiss.

Finally, after perusing a comments section brimming with warmth, she realized what was wrong — everyone was siding with Feng Xue, and it looked as though someone was manipulating the situation.

Before Gu Dai could speculate on who it might be, her phone rang. It was a call from Su Ting.

Su Ting asked, "Sis, have you seen the post about Feng Xue and Zhou Gang's divorce?"

Gu Dai replied, "Yes, I've seen it! By the way, did you hire an internet army under Feng Xue's post?"

After a moment of silence, Su Ting responded softly, "Well, actually, those internet trolls were initially hired by Zhou Gang.. I merely turned them to our side!"

Chapter 214: Look So Good Together

Gu Dai chuckled softly, explaining to Su Ting, "Don't be nervous. I just wanted to thank you for the favor you did."

A wave of relief washed over Su Ting, who hurriedly responded, "I was worried that you would be upset with me for what I did..."

Gu Dai interjected, "Why would I be upset? By the way, as a token of my gratitude, I'd like to take you out to dinner tonight. Are you available? If not, I can reschedule."

Upon hearing Gu Dai's words, Su Ting froze, his mind echoing with one thought: She's inviting me to dinner!

After a long pause without a response, Gu Dai called out, puzzled, "Su Ting?"

Su Ting snapped back to reality, responding enthusiastically, "I'm available, I'm free tonight!"

A smile graced Gu Dai's face as she softly replied, "Good."

Gu Dai continued, "I found a newly opened restaurant with excellent reviews."

Would you like to try it tonight?"

Su Ting grinned, "I'll follow your lead!"

Even though it was still morning, Su Ting was already lost in daydreams about the evening ahead.

He rolled out of bed and began rummaging through his wardrobe, selecting the perfect outfit for the night.

After hanging up the phone, Gu Dai turned to Meng Zhi who stood beside her and invited, "Third Brother, would you like to join us for dinner tonight?"

Meng Zhi shook his head, declining, "You and Su Ting go ahead. I don't want to intrude."

Gu Dai stared at Meng Zhi's meaningful expression and sighed, "Third Brother, I've always seen Su Ting as a younger brother. This is simply a meal; don't read too much into it."

Meng Zhi reassured, "Alright, alright, just a simple meal. I won't think too much of it!"

Gu Dai was speechless.

As soon as Gu Dai stepped out of her office building that evening, she found Su Ting waiting for her at the entrance.

He looked extraordinarily striking, dressed casually and donning a baseball cap, his aura alone was enough to halt many passersby.

Gu Dai walked up to him, smiling, "Have you been waiting long? Why didn't you wait inside the building?"

Su Ting answered obediently, "I didn't want to disturb your work, and I've only just arrived; I haven't been waiting long."

Just as Su Ting finished speaking, a child's voice piped up from the crowd, "Big Brother is lying! He's been waiting here for two hours. He didn't arrive just now!"

People around them couldn't help but laugh at the child's words. Realizing this, they quickly stifled their laughter.

Gu Dai squatted beside the little girl and softly asked, "How do you know Big Brother has been waiting here for two hours?"

The girl explained, "Because I've been watching him for two hours. Also, he was staring up at a window; I guess that's your office?"

Gu Dai glanced in the direction the girl was pointing and found her office window.

After a few seconds of being caught in the girl's sparkling gaze, she took some candy from her bag and handed it to her, "You're clever. You guessed right. This is your reward. Now, it's getting late; you should head home."

Holding the candy, the girl nodded and smiled, leaning close to whisper in Gu Dai's ear, "Big Sister, you and Big Brother look so good together. I wish you everlasting happiness!"

Gu Dai was about to clarify that she and Su Ting were not a couple but, meeting the girl's innocent gaze, she simply nodded.

Su Ting's ears turned a faint red. After exchanging several glances with Gu Dai, he finally mustered the courage to speak, "Sis, I didn't mean to deceive you. I thought it was only a moment, not realizing two hours had passed."

Gu Dai responded, a little dazed, "I understand. Time flies when I'm engrossed in work too."

Seeing that Gu Dai was not angry, Su Ting let out a sigh of relief. Curious, he asked, “What did the little girl say to you?”

Gu Dai paused, “Ah?”

Gu Dai quickly added, “Oh, she didn’t say much.”

Noticing Su Ting’s puzzled look, Gu Dai changed the subject, “The restaurant isn’t open yet, but there’s a pretty busy street with food stalls nearby. Do you want to go check the place out?”

Having said this, Gu Dai remembered that Su Ting was a high-profile model and that that street was quite crowded. She added, “Or we can wait in the restaurant’s lounge..”

Chapter 215: Strawberry-flavored Milk Tea

Su Ting no longer dwelled on the little girl’s words and spoke up, “Sis, let’s go to that street. While looking at places we can go to tonight, I’ve been really looking forward to it as well, and to my surprise, Sis, you had the same idea!”

Gu Dai nodded in acknowledgment, her gaze landing on Su Ting’s casual attire, and she complimented, “Your clothes look quite nice.”

The assistant driving the car nearly failed to suppress his laughter, for he knew all too well that Brother Su had fussed over his outfit all day, all to make a good impression on Miss Gu.

Now, with Miss Gu’s praise, the assistant could almost envision the joy in Brother Su’s heart—if he had a tail, it would surely be wagging uncontrollably by now.

It had to be said that Brother Su's happiness was palpable in Miss Gu's presence, the aloofness that typically clung to him seemed to dissipate significantly, even the tone he used with their staff carried more warmth than before.

Upon hearing Gu Dai's words, Su Ting was indeed as elated as the assistant had imagined, his mind feeling blissfully dizzy.

Once Su Ting collected himself, he said excitedly, "Sis, this outfit was bought from a clothing store just up ahead. They even have a ladies' version."

Gu Dai mused, "It wouldn't be convenient to stroll through the streets in a suit. It's a good chance for me to buy a set to change into."

After changing her clothes, Gu Dai was greeted by Su Ting offering her a cup of milk tea.

Su Ting said, "Sister, I ordered it with half sugar for you. Try it."

Gu Dai took a generous sip and closed her eyes in contentment.

Su Ting asked expectantly, "Sis, is it good?"

Gu Dai nodded, took another hearty gulp, and then found a moment to reply, "Delicious."

Su Ting chuckled lightly to Gu Dai's reaction, pride lacing his voice, "I knew it. Sis's taste hasn't changed. You're still fond of the strawberry-flavored milk tea."

After Su Ting's comment, Gu Dai inquired with a puzzled tone, "Did I used to like milk tea?"

She eyed Su Ting with a sharp glint in her gaze, "I don't recall ever being fond of milk tea. Are you perhaps confusing me with someone else?"

Su Ting, blushed, smacked his forehead and clarified, "I misspoke. It's the strawberry flavor I like, and I thought Sis might like it too."

Gu Dai still sensed something amiss but couldn't quite put her finger on it. After another sip of the milk tea, she ceased to ponder over it and exclaimed, "I've discovered that 1 indeed like the strawberry flavor!"

The anxiety in Su Ting's heart gradually eased.

Gu Dai, oblivious to Su Ting's unease, suddenly recalled that in the three years since marrying into the Song family, she hadn't had a sip of milk tea, all the while being prodded to work by the milk tea-drinking Song Yu.

With this thought, her disdain for the Song family grew.

Suddenly, a girl burst into their view, "Hello, are you Su Ting?"

Gu Dai noticed the girl's barely contained excitement; her hands trembled slightly, holding a paper and pen.

Su Ting nodded, his voice cool, "1 am. What can I do for you?"

The girl said, "I'm a fan. Could you please give me an autograph? It's alright if you can't, don't worry, I won't disturb you!"

Su Ting didn't answer right away but turned to look at Gu Dai, seeking her opinion with his gaze.

Gu Dai nodded slightly, then watched Su Ting with a smile, feeling happy for him as he had so many fans who adored him.

The girl, observing Su Ting's autograph, was so thrilled she didn't know where to place her hands. She caught his glance towards Gu Dai, which made her look over curiously.

Upon seeing Gu Dai, the girl froze.

Oh my, how could there be such a beautiful woman in this world!

Unable to contain herself, the girl approached Gu Dai with excitement, then hastily stopped and whispered, "You're so beautiful. Are you and Su Ting in a relationship?"

Gu Dai shook her head, intending to deny it.

But the girl didn't give Gu Dai a chance to speak and excitedly blurted out, "I know, I know, you're in a secret relationship. Don't worry, I'm a sensible fan. I'll keep your secret and won't tell anyone!"

After saying this, the girl bounded away with glee.

After being misunderstood a few times now, Gu Dai had become accustomed to it. She turned to Su Ting and said, "Let's go, we'll walk around a bit more before heading to the restaurant."

Su Ting, as if in a daze, responded, "Okay."

Sis didn't deny that they were in a relationship!

Chapter 216:1 won't accept your apology

Compared to Su Ting's elated spirits, Song Ling was decidedly in a terrible mood.

All of Song Ling's previous attire had been meticulously selected by Gu Dai. This meant that, following their divorce, there had been an extended period during which he was bereft of new garments.

Thus, after work today, he ventured into a clothing store, only to encounter Gu Dai and Su Ting by chance. He stood behind them, inadvertently overhearing their entire conversation.

Gu Dai and Su Ting were together!

Song Ling clenched his fists tightly, his gaze darkening as he stared at their retreating figures.

He eyed the matching couple outfit worn by Gu Dai and Su Ting with rising irritation. Gu Dai had never worn such matching clothes with him during their marriage, and now, she was doing it with someone else—a bitter pill to swallow indeed!

Song Ling gritted his teeth, forcefully suppressing the rage burning within him.

Zhao Xuan shrank back upon observing Song Ling's shadow trailing behind Gu Dai, too frightened to utter a word and silently followed along.

Even after numerous instances, Zhao Xuan still couldn't acclimate to Song Ling's uncontrollable demeanor whenever he encountered Gu Dai.

However, his own boss hardly warranted any sympathy, given that he was the architect of his current predicament.

With a stony expression, Song Ling watched as Su Ting and Gu Dai affectionately enjoyed their outing, and finally, when they entered the same restaurant, he could no longer contain himself and strode over to confront them.

Upon seeing Song Ling, Gu Dai's brow furrowed, and she spoke with a cold voice, "Please step aside, thank you."

Song Ling, as if deaf to Gu Dai's words, said on his own accord, "I've come to dine at this restaurant too. I thought we might share a table."

Gu Dai's irritation deepened.

Su Ting stepped in front of Gu Dai, blocking Song Ling's view, and said coldly, "Mr. Song, Sis does not wish to have any contact with you, and we decline the offer to share a table."

Song Ling looked at Su Ting with a disdainful gaze and retorted, "I'm talking to my wife, what's it to you?"

Gu Dai wanted nothing to do with Song Ling. Upon hearing his words, she immediately replied, "We are divorced. I am not your wife!"

Moreover, when they were married, Song Ling never acknowledged her status, never introducing her to others.

Now that they were divorced, he was calling her his wife again, which was simply nauseating.

Su Ting looked down at Song Ling and said softly, "Daidai has divorced you. Please stop bothering her. Otherwise, I will expose President Song's behavior to the world, and everyone will know you lack any sense of boundary."

Su Ting's influence was significant globally. Even though Song Ling could have professionals shut down accounts, he could never keep up with the vast numbers.

Realizing this, Song Ling's face grew increasingly pale, even ashen.

Zhao Xuan watched the scene unfold, already strategizing how to protect Song Ling from getting too battered should a fight break out over Gu Dai.

Song Ling averted Su Ting's gaze and said to Gu Dai, "I misunderstood you before, so I'd like to invite you to dinner as an apology."

Gu Dai couldn't comprehend what incident Song Ling was referring to, nor did she want to know, and flatly declined, "There's no need for dinner, and I won't accept your apology."

Song Ling, taken aback by Gu Dai's rebuff, felt an anger smoldering within him, "Gu Dai, regardless, you are the chairwoman of a corporation. Why do you act so emotionally?"

Gu Dai, confronting Song Ling's familiar tone, looked at him directly and inquired with a curled lip, "Is this the first time President Song has seen me act on emotion?"

Without waiting for a response, Gu Dai continued, "Moreover, how I act is my concern. President Song, mind your own business and stop fretting over me like an old mother hen!"

Song Ling's expression turned frosty, his breathing deepened as he exhaled sharply, "Fine, very well! You may not accept my apology, Gu Dai, but shouldn't you at least thank me?"

At that moment, Gu Dai felt as if she had heard the biggest joke on earth. She looked at Song Ling as if gazing at a fool.

Gu Dai, puzzled, asked, "Why should I thank you? What have you done that's worthy of my gratitude?"

Song Ling, losing sight of his composure, blurted out, "I acquired Zhou Corporation!"

Chapter 217: Not Forgiving

Gu Dai nodded, signaling for Song Ling to continue speaking.

Song Ling said, "I acquired Zhou Corporation for your sake, so you should be thankful."

Unmoved, Gu Dai responded calmly, “While Zhou Corporation may be inferior to Song Corporation, it has considerable growth potential and could benefit Song Group in the future. So, how can I be sure you’re not morally blackmailing me?”

Song Ling tried to speak, but found himself at a loss for words. Frustrated, he turned to leave but misjudged the transparent restaurant door and walked right into it.

Irritated, he kicked the door and quickly walked away.

Gu Dai observed this sequence of actions from Song Ling and fell silent.

Zhao Xuan, who had witnessed Song Ling’s behavior, was torn between face-palming and speaking up as his subordinate.

Looking at Gu Dai, he said, “Chairwoman Gu, President Song truly acquired Zhou Corporation for your sake.”

Gu Dai remained undisturbed, merely nodding her head.

Zhao Xuan continued, “Upon seeing the unfavorable news about you online, he was furious. He immediately had me dig up dirt on Zhou Gang and also gave the information to Mrs. Zhou, which led to their divorce.”

This revelation left Gu Dai somewhat surprised. She hadn’t expected Song Ling would go as far as to break up a couple.

Zhao Xuan then hurriedly left to catch up with the departing Song Ling.

Su Ting looked at the silent Gu Dai, his clenched hands hidden behind his back.

His Sis had finally returned to his side, and he had no intention of letting anyone else have her.

Suppressing his internal unrest, he tentatively asked, "Sis, are you considering forgiving Song Ling?"

Gu Dai shook her head, her reply resolute. "No."

A wave of joy instantly washed over Su Ting.

Gu Dai said, "Song Ling ignored me for three full years and spent time with other women during our marriage. How could one good deed make me forget all that?"

She thought Song Ling was naive. Just because he had done one thing for her, he expected her to be grateful. What about all the terrible things he had done before? Shouldn't he atone for those with his life?

Gu Zhi had been pondering ways to deal with Gu Dai, only to dismally realize she couldn't handle her alone; she needed Gu Si's help.

Since Gu Si was enjoying his time abroad and didn't seem concerned about her suffering at Gu Dai's hands, she resolved to take matters into her own hands.

Gu Zhi remembered that Gu Si had a daughter named Gu Yin who had left the country. She was young and easy to control.

If Gu Zhi held Gu Yin hostage, Gu Si would have to help her.

In the wake of her realization, Gu Zhi acted on the firm belief that she would not ignore her daughter, Gu Yin.

With resolve crystallizing within her, Gu Zhi gathered all her spare cash, sparing no expense, to commission a search for Gu Yin, intent on bringing her back to the Capital.

The next day, Gu Yin arrived.

At the airport, Gu Zhi rushed to her, embracing her tightly and exclaimed, "You must be my cousin Gu Yin. You're just as pretty as I imagined!"

Gu Yin blushed and lowered her head, quietly saying, "Hello, Cousin."

Handing her a teddy bear, Gu Zhi smiled and said, "Yinyin, this is a gift from me. I hope you like it."

Gu Yin couldn't believe it. Holding the teddy bear tightly, she said, "You're the first person to give me a gift. You're so kind, Zhizhi!"

Gu Zhi's smile widened; children were so easy to win over

Especially a kid like Gu Yin, who grew up in a loveless home with an alcoholic father and a negligent mother, who offloaded her responsibility to the nanny.

Squatting down, Gu Zhi whispered, "I have something to tell you. Your cousin from your Big Uncle's family, Gu Dai, is a bad person. She always targets me for no reason. If you ever run into her, keep your distance, okay?"

Gu Yin nodded, fearfully. She had already labeled Gu Dai as a bad person in her mind.

Gu Zhi said, "Yinyin, you're so obedient. How about we take a picture?"

Gu Yin replied, "Okay."

After snapping the photo, Gu Zhi sent it to Gu Si right away..

Chapter 218: You can take everything

After Gu Zhi sent the photo over, she sent another message to Gu Si.

Gu Zhi: "I noticed that Yinyin seemed quite bored at home all by herself, so I've brought her over to the Capital for a bit of fun. Auntie, you should come over too."

Gu Yin looked at the smile on Gu Zhi's face, a twinge of fear settling in her heart. She carefully reached out and tugged at the hem of her cousin's clothes, whispering, "Cousin."

Snapping back to the present, Gu Zhi pocketed her phone and turned to Gu Yin with a tender gaze, speaking softly, "Yinyin, your cousin is going to take you home."

Hearing the gentle tone of Gu Zhi's voice, it eased some of the fear that had settled at the base of Gu Yin's heart, and she nodded obediently, replying with a soft, "Okay."

On her day off, Gu Dai had planned a leisurely stroll outside. She hadn't expected to encounter Gu Zhi, accompanied by a young girl.

Narrowing her eyes slightly, Gu Dai called out with a calm detachment, "Gu Zhi."

Gu Zhi had spotted Gu Dai from afar, but fearing she would be taken back, she tried her best to diminish her presence. Nonetheless, she had been noticed.

A tremor of uncertainty flickered through Gu Zhi as she avoided Gu Dai's gaze.

Upon noticing the little girl by Gu Zhi's side, Gu Dai inquired after a long pause, "Who is she?"

Gu Zhi, feeling a wave of relief that she wasn't being taken back, hurriedly said, "This is Auntie's daughter, Gu Yin. I remember you've met her before."

After introducing Gu Yin, Gu Zhi said to her, "This is the cousin I told you about, Gu Dai. Yinyin, why don't you say hello?"

The image of Gu Dai, as described by Gu Zhi, flared uncontrollably in Gu Yin's mind and a flicker of fear lingered in her eyes as she scrambled to hide behind Gu Zhi.

Gu Zhi, quite pleased with Gu Yin's reaction yet feigning perplexity, asked, "Yinyin, why don't you greet your cousin Gu Dai?"

Peering out cautiously, Gu Yin's voice was as faint as a mosquito's, "Hello, Cousin Gu Dai."

After her greeting, Gu Yin swiftly retreated back behind Gu Zhi.

Seeing this, Gu Zhi turned to Gu Dai with a smile and said, "Yinyin is probably just shy. Don't be upset with the child."

Gu Dai remained silent, her gaze briefly sweeping over Gu Yin, then she said nonchalantly, "I see."

Gu Dai, always sharp in her judgments of people, had not missed the slight tremble of Gu Yin's shoulders as she spoke, a clear sign of fear.

It seemed that Gu Zhi had been speaking ill of her since picking up Gu Yin.

With a light laugh, Gu Dai asked Gu Yin, "Would you like to come over to my house and play?"

Gu Yin shook her head vigorously, indicating her refusal.

Persisting, Gu Dai said, "I have lots of toys at home. Why don't you come see if there's anything you like? If there is, I can give it to you."

When she heard toys, she began to waver, and noticing how beautiful and gentle Gu Dai seemed, she didn't appear to be a bad person.

Mhmin, she certainly didn't seem as villainous as Cousin Gu Zhi!

Gu Yin's resolve wavered, yet a shred of rationality remained. She looked up at

Gu Dai and asked, "Can Cousin Gu Zhi come with me?"

Gu Dai nodded and replied with a smile, "Of course, she can."

Gu Dai led the two back to the villa, instructing Wu Zhen to bring out all her toys.

Gu Yin's eyes immediately brightened at the sight of a small rabbit doll, her gaze transfixed, unable to look away.

Noticing her interest, Gu Dai handed the doll to Gu Yin, asking with a smile, "Do you like this toy, Yinyin?"

Clutching the rabbit doll tightly, Gu Yin nodded vigorously, "Yes!"

Encouraged by this, Gu Dai continued, "Do you like any other toys? Go ahead and pick any you like."

Surprised, Gu Yin looked at Gu Dai and asked, "Can I really keep taking more?"

Gu Dai nodded affirmatively, "Of course, you can take anything you like. If you want, you can take everything."

After scanning the table of toys for another few moments, Gu Yin shook her head gently and said, "I'm happy with just the little white rabbit doll, I don't need the rest."

Gu Dai fondly ruffled Gu Yin's hair, smiling as she said, "Alright."

Gu Yin giggled twice, her delight apparent as she reveled in the sweet fragrance emanating from her cousin Gu Dai.

Gu Zhi, witnessing this scene, felt a sharp sting of jealousy. She could hardly believe how things had turned out.

Moreover, the collection of toys on Gu Dai's table were all out of production, rarities that could fetch six figures each if sold separately. And yet, Gu Yin had chosen only a single rabbit.

Observing the items on the table she coveted so deeply, Gu Zhi felt her jealousy spiral into madness!

Chapter 219: Sleeping Pills

Gu Dai had not only gifted toys to Gu Yin, but also had Wu Zhen prepare an assortment of delectable snacks, placing them one by one before her.

"Yinyin, these are all the snacks I enjoy," Gu Dai presented with a smile, "try them and see if you like them too."

Gu Yin pierced a piece of cake with her fork and popped it into her mouth, nodding vigorously in delight, without forgetting to exclaim, "Delicious!"

Seeing her enjoyment, Gu Dai encouraged Gu Yin to try the others as well.

After tasting more, Gu Yin couldn't help but admire, "Cousin Daidai, your snacks are so tasty!"

"If you like them, I'll have Uncle Wu prepare some for you to take home, okay?"

Gu Dai offered, watching Gu Yin's sweet smile as she continued nodding.

Once Gu Zhi stepped outside the villa with Gu Yin, her smile could no longer hold its facade. She briskly escorted Gu Yin back to her own home.

Still munching on snacks, Gu Yin looked around and couldn't help but comment, "Cousin Gu Zhi, how come your house is so much smaller than Cousin Daidai's?"

Unable to restrain her frustration, Gu Zhi shouted, "Shut up!"

Gu Yin's snacking halted, her eyes reddening as she stared blankly at Gu Zhi.

Immediately regretting her outburst, Gu Zhi quickly tried to console her, "Yinyin, I didn't mean to be so harsh."

But Gu Yin wasn't receptive, crying out, "You're lying, you yelled at me, I want to go home!"

Gu Zhi couldn't let Gu Yin leave, needing her to leverage against Gu Si.

Softening her voice, Gu Zhi continued to placate, "Yinyin, I was just very sad, that's why I lost my temper."

"Sad?" Gu Yin asked, puzzled.

Gu Zhi nodded, confessing, "I used to live in a big villa, where your Cousin Gu Dai lives now, but she forced me and your second uncle and aunt out to this cramped house."

Gu Yin instinctively denied, "Cousin Daidai wouldn't do that, she's a really nice person!"

It had been less than an hour since Gu Yin had met Gu Dai, yet she already referred to her affectionately as Cousin Daidai, seeming even closer to her than to Gu Zhi.

Suppressing her resentment, Gu Zhi forced a gentle tone, "Don't be deceived by Gu Dai, she's just lowering your guard to bully you when you least expect it. She's a bad person."

Doubt crept into Gu Yin's mind, "Really?"

Gu Zhi affirmed with a nod, and seeing Gu Yin was listening, she revealed her plot, "Once you trust her, she'll bag you up, beat you, and lock you in a windowless, pitch-black basement filled with bugs to eat you alive..."

At the thought of Gu Zhi's chilling description, Gu Yin's scalp tingled, and she screamed, "AHHHHH, don't say that, Cousin Gu Zhi, I don't want to be locked in a basement, 1 don't!"

Seeing Gu Yin's terrified expression, Gu Zhi smiled contentedly, pulling her into an embrace, whispering, "Don't be scared, Yinyin, 1'll protect you. Just do as 1 say, and you won't get hurt."

Eager for reassurance, Gu Yin pledged, "Okay, I'll listen to you, Cousin Gu Zhi. What should I do now to prevent Cousin Gu Dai from bullying me?"

Gu Zhi slowly disclosed her scheme, "For now, just get close to her, gain her trust, and then pour the powder 1 give you into her cup. Make her drink it." Confused, Gu Yin questioned, "Powder? Are you trying to get me to kill Cousin Gu Dai?"

Gu Zhi flinched but quickly regained composure, laughing, "Of course not, why would I make you kill Gu Dai? 1 low could you think such a thing?"

Her mind racing with the possibility that Gu Dai had preempted this and warned Gu Yin, Gu Zhi feigned various scenarios.

Breaking Gu Zhi's train of thought, Gu Yin said, "Because 1 saw it on a TV drama at home."

Relieved, Gu Zhi chuckled, "Think about it, Yinyin, don't they also use sleeping pills in dramas?"

Gu Yin recalled and hesitantly nodded, "Seems like it, but why give Cousin Gu Dai sleeping pills?"

Laughing, Gu Zhi explained, "Imagine, if Gu Dai takes sleeping pills, she'll be asleep and won't be able to bully you anymore, right?"

Chapter 220: The Person Behind the Scenes

Gu Yin always felt that something was amiss, but her nine-year-old mind couldn't pinpoint the problem.

Gu Zhi asked, "Am I right?"

Gu Yin nodded and hesitated before replying, "Right, I guess."

Pleased with her affirmation, Gu Zhi nodded contentedly and smiled at Gu Yin, "Yinyin, play by yourself in the room for a while."

Gu Yin responded cheerfully, "Okay!"

As Gu Yin was about to leave, Gu Zhi caught a glimpse of the doll in her hand and called out, "Yinyin, leave your rabbit doll with me; your cousin will take care of it."

Gu Yin felt a wave of reluctance, but under Gu Zhi's firm gaze, she had no choice but to hand over the doll.

Once Gu Yin had left, the gentle smile on Gu Zhi's face vanished completely, leaving only a cold indifference as she looked at the doll with growing disdain and slapped it hard several times.

"A broken rabbit doll, is it better than the one I gave?" Gu Zhi scornfully muttered to herself, neglecting the fact that the one she had gifted was merely a cheap knock-off from a street stall, while Gu Dai's rabbit doll was worth tens of thousands.

Thinking of how easily Gu Yin had been deceived, believing the poison to be merely sleeping pills after a few words from her, Gu Zhi's eyes brimmed with malicious satisfaction, whispering, "Children are so gullible. She had suspected poison, yet a few words from me convinced her it was just sleeping pills."

"When Gu Dai dies, I can shift all the blame onto Gu Yin and return to my former life, sleeping in a big villa, buying limited edition clothes, bags, shoes..."

Gu Zhi was smug about her clever plan, unaware that Gu Dai had heard every word.

Gu Dai had long suspected Gu Zhi's malicious intent, hence the toys she had let Gu Yin pick were all equipped with cameras.

Listening to Gu Zhi's words, Wu Zhen paced back and forth, furiously exclaiming, "This is outrageous, utterly despicable! To think she'd resort to such evil means against you!"

Gu Dai remained calm and consoled Wu Zhen, advising him not to get angry.

She had only been speculating before, but now that Gu Zhi's true, ruthless colors were confirmed, it was despicable that she would even exploit a child.

Wu Zhen tried to compose himself and after a moment suggested, "Miss, shall we call the police and have Gu Zhi arrested?"

Gu Dai shook her head, rejecting the idea.

Confused, Wu Zhen asked, "Why not?"

Gu Dai explained, "Although we have the recording, it's not enough to severely punish Gu Zhi. I prefer to wait and deal with her when she takes action."

Wu Zhen was still concerned for Gu Dai, but seeing she had a plan, he held his tongue.

Another reason Gu Dai did not want to act against Gu Zhi was that she was waiting for the person backing Gu Zhi to reveal themselves.

At the Song family.

Song Ling spoke to the woman sitting across from him in a cold tone, "I apologize, but this was all arranged by my mother. I have no intention of participating in this matchmaking."

Sheng Xin maintained her composed demeanor and her face still wore a gentle smile as she softly said, "Coincidentally, I'm also here because of my family's arrangements."

Song Ling nodded, "Since that's the case, let's end this."

Sheng Xin shook her head, sharing her thoughts, "I actually think we can engage in a long-term partnership, as our families are constantly urging us, and it's difficult for us to oppose them as their children."

Sheng Xin looked at the handsome man before her, her heart racing.

She had met many men abroad and had a few relationships, but none compared to Song Ling.

Without waiting for an answer, Song Ling stated, "I have been married before. Does that bother you?"

Sheng Xin smiled, "Why should it? I was aware before I came."

With a pursed-lip smile, Sheng Xin added, “I know your ex-wife was crude and didn’t understand the intricacies of high society. Due to her background, you couldn’t take her to social events, which must have been a great embarrassment for you during your marriage.”

Listening to Sheng Xin belittle Gu Dai, Song Ling’s brows furrowed slightly, and he felt very uncomfortable.

Unaware of the shift in Song Ling’s mood, Sheng Xin continued to mentally compose praises for herself..