

I Regained 281

Chapter 281: Don't you know

Upon reaching the restaurant, Chu Min received a message from his subordinates, requesting his presence for a matter.

"Boss, I..." Chu Min began.

Gu Dai, noticing Chu Min's actions, guessed what was happening. Without letting him finish, she said, "Go ahead, I'll be fine here alone."

Before he left, he didn't forget to mention, "Boss, I've ordered your favorite dishes. They'll be served soon."

"Okay," Gu Dai nodded in acknowledgment.

While waiting for the dishes, Gu Dai took out her tablet to work.

Suddenly, a shadow cast over her table. Assuming it was the waiter with her order, she politely said, "Thank you."

After finishing her work and hearing no response or seeing any movement on the table, Gu Dai looked up, puzzled, only to find Song Ling standing there.

"Quite a coincidence. There are no seats available nearby. May we share a table?" Song Ling asked calmly.

"No," Gu Dai refused.

Ignoring her rejection, Song Ling sat down opposite her. "We're still business partners and will meet in the future. If you continue avoiding communication with me, it will affect our project."

Gu Dai crossed her arms and leaned back in her chair, her gaze indifferent as she observed Song Ling.

The waiter arrived, and soon the table was filled with dishes.

The waiter, admiring Gu Dai and Song Ling, couldn't help but comment, "You both look like a perfect match, a match of talent and beauty. I wish you a long and happy life together."

Song Ling's lips curved into a slight smile as he said, "Thank you."

As his words trailed off, he pulled out his wallet and drew several red bills, handing them to the waiter while saying, "For the tip."

Gu Dai, unable to comprehend Song Ling's behavior, earnestly told the waiter, "We're divorced and can't accept your blessings."

Surprised, the waiter quickly apologized, "I'm sorry, I was mistaken."

"It's okay," Gu Dai replied softly.

As the waiter left, he couldn't help but look back at them, feeling sorry for their divorce.

Reflecting on the fact that Song Ling, a divorced man, was still pursuing his ex-wife, his sympathy turned into disdain.

Song Ling looked at the dishes and asked, "Do you like all these?"

"Yes," Gu Dai responded.

Then, she saw Song Ling taking photos of the dishes with his phone.

"I'm recording these to invite you for a meal later," Song Ling explained without being asked.

Gu Dai, unable to hold back any longer, looked directly at Song Ling and asked, "Are you out of your mind?"

Song Ling's expression froze for a few seconds before returning to normal. "No," he replied.

Gu Dai, still convinced of her initial thought, remained unswayed.

Song Ling, realizing her thoughts, felt increasingly frustrated. He tugged at his tie in irritation and asked, "Can you talk to me normally?"

"I always talk normally," Gu Dai replied, puzzled.

Song Ling chuckled coldly.

When Gu Dai spoke with other men, her eyes always held a trace of a smile, but with Song Ling, all that remained was coldness and indifference.

It used to be that only Song Ling occupied her gaze, but now, it seemed anyone could be in her sight except him.

And where once every word he said was met with her earnest attention and gentle replies, now she responded with impatience.

Song Ling lowered his gaze, sighing wearily, and murmured softly, "Why have you changed so much all of a sudden? Even if you've regained your memory, it shouldn't be like this..."

Gu Dai let out a mocking laugh and asked coldly, "Why have I changed so much? Don't you know?"

Song Ling met Gu Dai's eyes, his pupils contracting briefly before he averted his gaze, looking down.

He opened his mouth to speak, but the words just wouldn't come out.

He knew very well that the drastic change in Gu Dai was entirely due to his neglect and indifference.

The atmosphere between them grew colder.

Gu Dai, who had been hungry and looking forward to the meal, suddenly lost her appetite due to Song Ling's presence.

She set down her utensils and picked up a napkin to wipe her lips, "I'm full. You can finish your meal."

With that, she picked up her bag, preparing to leave..

Chapter 282: Uncle

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Gu Dai quickly noticed a young girl, around five or six years old, running around the restaurant. In the diagonal direction, a waitress was carrying a tray with several dishes, unable to see the child due to a blind spot.

The two were getting dangerously close to colliding.

Gu Dai instantly dropped her bag back onto the chair and rushed out, pulling the little girl into her arms just in time to avoid an accident.

After the waiter moved past the girl's location, his mind raced as he realized what had just happened. His face turned ashen, and he turned to Gu Dai, repeatedly thanking her.

Gu Dai waved her hand dismissively, "It's alright, you can go back to work."

She then gently seated the girl and asked softly, "Sweetheart, what's your name?"

Jiang Sui replied, "My name is Jiang Sui, you can call me Suisui."

Gu Dai nodded gently in acknowledgment, then spoke softly, "Suisui, you shouldn't run around in the restaurant, okay? You're still small, and the big brothers and big sisters are too tall; they might not see you. You could easily bump into someone, and both of you might get hurt."

Jiang Sui, slightly stunned, obediently nodded her head.

Song Ling, observing Gu Dai's smiling face as she comforted Jiang Sui, recalled the tender way she looked at Gu Yin in the hospital and couldn't help but be captivated.

He asked somewhat subconsciously, "Do you really like children?"

Gu Dai glanced at Song Ling, then looked away and responded indifferently, "I do."

Song Ling felt a tremor in his heart, unable to resist fantasizing about what it would be like if he and Gu Dai had a child.

Surely, the child would be as strong as him and as beautiful as Gu Dai.

Without looking at Song Ling, Gu Dai knew what he was thinking and interrupted his thoughts with a cold voice, "There will be no children between us."

"Why?" Song Ling asked.

Gu Dai increasingly found Song Ling foolish and forgetful.

Impatiently, she explained, "Because we're already divorced. And even when we were married, it was you who didn't want children."

Gu Dai remembered how, during her amnesia, Wang Lan had ridiculed her many times for not having children and would take away the gifts her grandfather had given her.

The frightening part was that, at that time, not only did she not know how to resist, but she even felt that Wang Lan was right. She harbored guilt for not having borne a child.

Now, Gu Dai could only find it laughable. After all, having a child requires two people; without Song Ling's cooperation, how could she possibly conceive? Through parthenogenesis?

Song Ling's expression froze as he also recalled the past.

Gu Dai had once expressed a desire to have a child with him, but he thought she was trying to tie him down with a child, fueling his disdain for her and even causing him to stay away from home.

Watching Song Ling's changing expressions, Gu Dai couldn't help but scoff.

Lowering his gaze, Song Ling softly said, "Daidai, I've changed my mind now." Hearing Song Ling's use of her nickname, Gu Dai felt a chill in her heart. Frowning, Gu Dai spoke earnestly, "President Song, please address me by my full name. We are not that familiar. You should maintain a sense of distance." Pausing for a few seconds, she added softly, "President Song, you should know, just because you've changed your mind doesn't mean I will agree." Song Ling remained silent, eventually responding with a faint acknowledgment.

He extended his hand towards Jiang Sui, asking softly, "Suisui, may Big Brother hold you for a while?"

Jiang Sui glanced at Song Ling, then turned to Gu Dai, firmly wrapping her arms around Gu Dai and shaking her head while refusing, "No, I don't want uncle to hold me, I only want sister to hold me!"

Uncle? Song Ling's smile froze.

Gu Dai almost laughed out loud, a smile curling at the corners of her mouth. Taking a deep breath to suppress his irritation, Song Ling reminded himself that Jiang Sui was just a child, without any malice, merely expressing her thoughts, and that he, as an adult, should not take it to heart.

Burying her face in Gu Dai's embrace, Jiang Sui cried out, "Big Sister, I can't find my mom and dad."

Gu Dai softly asked, "Did you get separated from your mom and dad here in the restaurant, Suisui?"

Jiang Sui nodded, speaking in a small voice, "My cup was empty, and mom and dad were busy working. I tried to find the drink myself, but I couldn't find it, and now I can't find my mom and dad either."

Gu Dai gently patted Jiang Sui's back, comforting her, "Don't cry, we'll tell the waitress, and she'll help you find your mom and dad soon.."

Chapter 283: Another Identity Revealed

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After Gu Dai called the waitstaff, she then went to find the person in charge.

Soon, the restaurant broadcasted a message to find someone.

Jiang Sui's eyes shimmered with tears, still looking downcast.

After pondering for a moment, Gu Dai asked softly, "Does Suisui like to draw?"

Draw?

Jiang Sui nodded vigorously, her voice crisp and clear as she replied, "I like to!"

Gu Dai took out paper and pencils from her bag. “While waiting for Mommy and Daddy, how about we draw together?”

Jiang Sui nodded, “Okay.”

Since Song Ling took over the Song family, everyone had always shown him the utmost respect. Today, however, was the first time he felt so thoroughly ignored.

Song Ling, feeling disgruntled, looked down at the drawings with a gloomy expression.

Gu Dai wasn’t creating any masterpieces but simply drew cartoon animals with Jiang Sui.

However, when Song Ling saw the little rabbit Gu Dai drew, a sense of familiarity washed over him, and a name slowly surfaced in his mind.

He couldn’t believe it and asked in disbelief, “Are you Lin Zhu?”

Gu Dai paused in her drawing for a moment but quickly resumed as if nothing happened.

Song Ling didn’t need Gu Dai’s confirmation. The familiar style, smooth execution, and attention to detail in the little rabbit convinced him further.

Staring intently at Gu Dai, he declared firmly, “You are Lin Zhu!”

Song Ling couldn’t believe that the artist he had admired for so many years was right beside him, and it was Gu Dai.

Shocked, he stood up, only to collapse back into his seat, his voice trembling as he asked Gu Dai, “Why didn’t you ever tell me that you are Lin Zhu?”

Gu Dai continued to teach Jiang Sui to draw, ignoring Song Ling.

Jiang Sui leaned in and whispered to Gu Dai, "Big Sister, what's wrong with Uncle?"

Gu Dai glanced at Song Ling and replied indifferently, "I don't know. Let's not let him disturb us, Suisui. Let's keep drawing."

Jiang Sui nodded, "Okay."

Song Ling was speechless.

Song Ling remained silent, lips pursed, filled with agitation. But his gaze, when it fell on Gu Dai, couldn't shift away.

Gu Dai, with the same features as before, now exuded an air of elegance, looking exceptionally beautiful and radiant.

A couple rushed over anxiously, looking at Jiang Sui in Gu Dai's arms. They called softly, "Suisui."

Jiang Sui's eyes lit up immediately when she saw them. She excitedly threw herself into their arms, affectionately shouting, "Mommy! Daddy!"

They responded, then turned to Gu Dai, gratefully saying, "Thank you, young lady. We heard everything from the waiter. If it weren't for you, Suisui could have been hurt. We are so grateful."

Gu Dai stood up and gestured that it was nothing.

After a moment of thought, she advised, "Suisui is still young. While you work, don't forget to spend some time with her."

The parents, realizing their oversight, felt a bit embarrassed but quickly agreed, "We understand and will be more careful in the future."

They thanked Gu Dai profusely, even offering gifts as an apology for Jiang Sui disturbing her.

Gu Dai shook her head, "No need, Suisui is very well-behaved and cute. I enjoyed spending time with her."

Hearing Gu Dai's praise, Jiang Sui lifted her head proudly.

Before leaving with her parents, Jiang Sui, feeling a strong sense of reluctance, ran to Gu Dai and hugged her legs, saying earnestly, "I had a lot of fun with Big Sister too. I really, really like you!"

Gu Dai, always fond of children's innocence, couldn't help but smile. She watched them leave before turning her attention elsewhere.

Picking up her bag, she prepared to leave.

Song Ling quickly stepped forward, grabbing her hand, "Do you have a place to stay in Chuanchen?"

Without waiting for an answer, he continued, "I have a few hotels in

Chuanchen. If you need a place to stay, you can go to any of them."

Gu Dai pulled her hand away, taking out a wet wipe to clean her wrist until it turned red, before stopping.

She looked at Song Ling and asked indifferently, "Didn't you say it was your first time in Chuanchen and that you were unfamiliar with the place? How come you have hotels here?"

Song Ling froze, recalling his previous words and feeling embarrassed, his mind racing for an explanation.

Gu Dai didn't wait for him to speak and said, "I have a place to stay in Chuanchen.."

Chapter 284: Striking Similarities

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Chu Min opened the car door for Gu Dai and took her bag, then swiftly returned to the driver's seat and sped away.

Gu Dai massaged her temples and asked Chu Min, "Have you finished handling your issues?"

Chu Min nodded. "Those issues were a breeze for me. When I arrived, I immediately spotted the problem and resolved it quickly."

Remembering the figure he saw at the restaurant entrance, Chu Min hesitated for a few seconds before asking in a low voice, "Boss, was that Song Ling just now?"

Gu Dai hummed in confirmation.

Chu Min, with a downcast gaze, voiced his confusion, "Boss, Song Ling's behavior seems like he's pursuing you. Does he like you?"

Gu Dai firmly denied it. "No. When I had amnesia, I was especially nice to him, but he not only disliked me, he also hated me. Now that I've regained my memory, I've always been cold to him. Unless Song Ling masochistically enjoys that, he wouldn't like me."

Chu Min pondered whether Song Ling indeed had such tendencies.

Gu Dai's stomach growled, interrupting Chu Min's thoughts.

Without a second thought, Chu Min knew Song Ling must have disrupted Gu Dai's meal.

He quickly offered, "Boss, what do you want to eat? I'll go buy it for you."

Gu Dai shook her head, "No need to buy anything. I'll eat at the hotel restaurant."

"Okay," Chu Min agreed.

Before getting out of the car, Gu Dai suddenly remembered something. Turning to Chu Min, she said, "I'm going to Yinyin's school tomorrow to handle her transfer. You go to the hospital to take care of her. If anything happens, contact me."

Chu Min smiled in admiration. "Boss, you really care about that little girl."

Gu Dai smiled slightly, "Having decided to adopt Gu Yin, I'll naturally take responsibility and care for her wholeheartedly."

Chu Min nodded vigorously, feeling that Gu Dai, saying these words, seemed to be glowing with coolness and beauty.

As soon as Gu Dai stepped out of the car, she saw a young boy running past her at high speed. But after only a few steps, he tripped over a stone and fell hard to the ground.

The boy propped himself up from the ground, but instantly winced and fell again.

Gu Dai approached with a frown and politely asked, "Are you alright?"

The boy shook his head weakly, "I-I'm alright. Could you please help me up?"

Gu Dai helped the boy to his feet.

After thanking Gu Dai, the boy limped away.

Suddenly, a rough male voice shouted, "You brat, where did you run off to? We won't let you off once we catch you!"

The boy stiffened and lightly tugged Gu Dai's sleeve, looking up at her with pleading eyes, "Please, help me."

Gu Dai, needing to handle Gu Yin's school transfer and not wanting to get involved in trouble, was about to refuse.

But upon seeing the boy's face, she paused. Before she knew it, she had already helped him into the car.

"Thank you," the boy said with a smile.

Gu Dai's actions were swift, but the men chasing him managed to witness the scene. The leader called his followers to catch up.

Gu Dai glanced at them and quickly drove off, leaving them behind.

Turning to the boy in the back, Gu Dai asked, "Why are those people chasing you?"

The boy's face paled. He bit his lip and after a few seconds, whispered, "I'm an unknown actor. I had a dispute with my agency and wanted to terminate the contract, but not only did I fail, I also ended up owing a lot of money..."

Gu Dai understood the situation.

The entertainment industry can be chaotic, especially for those without strong backing. They often fall victim to predatory contracts from agencies.

Gu Dai parked in a safe area with many people around.

Turning to face the boy, she examined his face closely. Now looking more carefully, she saw a striking resemblance...

As Gu Dai observed the boy, his gaze also fell on her face. Seeing her delicate features, he blushed slightly, shifting his gaze away, but couldn't help wanting to look back again.

"Why are you staring at me?" the boy asked.

Gu Dai snapped back to reality, withdrew her gaze, and said, "You have a good-looking face. I have something to handle now. If you trust me, wait here for me, and we'll talk when I return.."

Chapter 285: Surrounded Once Again

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After pondering for a moment, the young boy agreed, "Okay."

With nowhere else to go and uncertain of what lay ahead, he felt indifferent.

Moreover, for some reason, he felt a sense of familiarity and an instinctive trust towards this woman before him, believing she wouldn't harm him.

Gu Dai nodded, closed the car door, and walked away.

The car was parked not far from the school, and soon, Gu Dai arrived there, guided by students to the teacher's office.

Gu Dai had already contacted the school in advance, so upon arrival, she directly proceeded with the transfer procedures.

In the midst of this, a middle-aged woman with a gentle demeanor approached her and asked softly, "Are you Gu Yin's relative?"

Gu Dai nodded and replied, "I'm Gu Yin's cousin. And you are?"

The woman smiled, "I'm her homeroom teacher, Wei Xue."

As Gu Yin's teacher was amiable, Gu Dai also spoke softly, "Hello, Teacher Wei. Is there something I can help with?"

Wei Xue hesitated, then said, "I remember Gu Yin lives with her father. The transfer process requires a guardian. Why are you..."

Wei Xue didn't finish her sentence, but Gu Dai understood her implication.

"There's been a change. I'm now Gu Yin's guardian. I plan to take her to study in the Capital," Gu Dai explained.

Wei Xue nodded, and although she didn't know the specifics of what had happened, she still let out a sigh of relief, feeling that Gu Yin's cousin would be kind to her in the future.

She couldn't help but add, "Gu Yin is a good student and always well-behaved, but perhaps due to her father's influence, she's quite timid. Sometimes, even when bullied by classmates, she chooses to suffer in silence."

Remembering Wen Ye's treatment of Gu Yin and his actions, Gu Dai felt even more sympathetic towards the girl and softly assured, "Don't worry, Teacher Wei. I'll take good care of Gu Yin and help her heal from her past experiences." Wei Xue smiled, reassured by Gu Dai's commitment.

After completing the procedures, Gu Dai left the school. However, she soon sensed something amiss and stopped. Turning around, she saw several figures hiding nearby and calmly called out, "Come out."

A group of seven to eight men in black emerged.

"You were the one protecting that kid, right? Hand him over now, and if you're nice to us, we won't beat you up. Otherwise, I..."

Gu Dai, having experienced such situations before, didn't even let them finish. She asked directly, "Are you going to attack one by one, or all together?"

The leader, angered, clenched his fist, "You're quite bold, lady. We wanted to be gentle with you, but since you're asking for it, don't blame us for being rough." Gu Dai rotated her wrists and coldly declared, "If you're not attacking, I will." She moved swiftly like a swallow, throwing left and right hooks, weaving between the men. A sweeping leg kick brought all of them down in succession. They were strong and robust, and when they fell to the ground, a loud thud echoed through the air. Clumsily sprawled on the ground, they found themselves unable to stand up.

"Bo... boss... She's too strong. We can't beat her," one of the men lamented.

The leader, face red with fury, couldn't understand how they were overpowered by a seemingly fragile woman.

"Never mind, we still have other tactics," the leader declared.

Just then, a car drove towards them, speeding directly at Gu Dai.

Gu Dai watched as a car hurtled towards her, her pupils constricting as she quickened her pace to dodge the vehicle.

The gang leader, who hadn't expected Gu Dai to move so swiftly, gaped in astonishment and blurted out in disbelief, "Good heavens, is she even human?" Seeing their plan foiled, their faces turned deathly

pale. They tried to force themselves to stand up to confront Gu Dai, but for some reason, they couldn't muster any strength in their bodies, as if they were paralyzed, and couldn't get up.

Gu Dai, watching the car crash into a tree, let out a light sigh of relief.

However, to her dismay, another car approached, moving even faster than the previous one.

Estimating the distance, she realized she couldn't avoid it.

As she attempted to evade, she raised her hand to protect her head, striving to minimize the injury..

Chapter 286: Gu Dai Fainted

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Gu Dai was knocked to the ground, and as she turned her head towards the black license plate of the car that had swiftly departed after hitting her, she staggered to her feet and walked towards the several people lying on the ground.

Her face frosty, Gu Dai coldly asked, "Who arranged for the car?"

The leader, trembling and stammering, looked at Gu Dai's chin and replied, "I... I don't know anything about the car... Ah!"

Gu Dai stepped on him and demanded again, "Who arranged for the car?"

With increasing pressure from Gu Dai's foot, the leader's face turned pale with pain. Clenching his jaw to prevent himself from howling in agony, his mouth filled with the taste of metal.

Fearing his bones would break and he would become disabled if he didn't speak, he hurriedly confessed, "I'll talk, I'll talk. I arranged for the first car, but I don't know who arranged the second one!"

Gu Dai withdrew her foot, her gaze sweeping over the others lying on the ground.

Seeing their pale faces, frightened by the scene they had just witnessed, and their refusal to lie under Gu Dai's intimidating gaze, they all shook their heads, indicating they hadn't arranged it.

Convinced they were not lying, Gu Dai turned and swiftly left.

Her head spinning increasingly, she fainted as soon as she entered a nearby hospital.

Song Ling watched Gu Dai on the hospital bed, his heart still racing from the memory of her collapsing and the hours she spent in emergency surgery.

Zhao Xuan, noticing Song Ling's worried gaze, sighed helplessly and said, "President Song, it seems you are quite concerned about Miss Gu."

Song Ling, his gaze lowered, did not respond to Zhao Xuan's remark.

Concerned...

Song Ling recalled how tense and afraid he had been while Gu Dai was in surgery, fearing she might not wake up, as well as the crazy and lunatic thoughts that were racing in his mind.

Yet, despite his concern, Gu Dai's attitude towards him was cold, and there were many others who cared for her. She didn't need him.

Rubbing his aching temples, Song Ling was interrupted by Zhao Xuan's concerned voice, "President Song, do you have a headache? Hang in there; I'll go find a doctor right away!"

Song Ling stopped him, "No need."

He had come to the hospital for his headache, but the doctors were unable to cure it, only providing temporary relief.

He found the fragrance of the Peace Amulet more effective than medication.

Chu Min hurried to Gu Dai's bedside, turning to Zhao Xuan, "Is she badly injured? What did the doctor say?"

Zhao Xuan replied, "Miss Gu suffered a head injury, but it's not serious. She will recover."

Chu Min, noticing Song Ling, frowned and asked warily, "Why are you here?"

Song Ling glanced at Chu Min, then looked away, "Just happened to be here."

Zhao Xuan watched nervously, fearing a confrontation.

Chu Min, remembering Song Ling's recent behavior, concluded he wouldn't harm Gu Dai. Also with Gu Dai injured, she needed someone to care for her.

"I have something to attend to. Please take care of boss for now. I'll be back soon. Contact me if anything happens," Chu Min said seriously.

Song Ling simply responded with a "Hmm."

After Chu Min left the hospital, he got into his car and made a phone call.

"How is it? Did you find out what happened to her?" he asked urgently.

"Brother Chu, we've got the information. I'm sending it to you now," came the reply.

Chu Min quickly scanned the details and, seething with anger, commanded, "Call the police right now, get them all jailed!"

The audacity of someone to hit someone with a car, he thought, they are going to face the consequences.

After the call, Chu Min contacted internationally renowned doctors to examine Gu Dai, considering her previous head injury and the possibility of lingering effects. It seemed prudent to have her examined by several experts.

In a dimly lit alleyway, Wen Ye anxiously paced back and forth, repeatedly checking his watch.

The agreed time had passed, yet the person hadn't shown up. Could his plan to target Gu Dai have been exposed?

No, no, that couldn't be it, he thought, quickly dismissing the idea. For his plan to succeed, he had employed the most powerful organization in Chuanchen.

Suddenly, footsteps approached, followed by a hoarse voice, "The plan didn't work.."

Chapter 287: Gu Dai Woke Up

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Wen Ye's eyes widened in disbelief, anger surging to his heart as he stared at the man in front of him and shouted, "You're all useless! So many of you, and yet you can't even handle one woman!"

The man, already in a foul mood, was instantly enraged by Wen Ye's words. He raised his hand and punched Wen Ye in the face, then kicked him, knocking him to the ground.

He glared at Wen Ye and hissed, "Now, see who the useless one is!"

Wen Ye's face turned pale with pain, and he quickly admitted, "I am the useless one, I am!"

The man, satisfied deep down, kicked Wen Ye again and said, "It's your fault for not telling us how tough that woman was. I got beaten up so badly, and my brothers, even our boss, got arrested by the police. If I hadn't sensed something was wrong and fled, I'd be in the police station too!"

Wen Ye, curled up on the ground, didn't dare to speak.

The man recalled the earlier scene with a shudder, "She even stood up after being hit by the car you arranged!"

Wen Ye, puzzled, asked, "What car?"

The man, thinking Wen Ye was feigning ignorance, didn't dwell on it, having more important matters at hand.

The man demanded, "We executed the mission already, although we failed and won't receive the final payment, shouldn't you give us some compensation for the injuries we have suffered?"

Wen Ye was astonished that there were such shameless people in the world who would demand payment for a job not completed.

For a moment, forgetting the pain in his body, Wen Ye spoke irritably, "No money, and you... Ah, my leg!" His complaint was cut short by a sudden, searing pain.

The man, stepping hard on Wen Ye's leg, threatened, "If you don't pay, you can forget about keeping this leg."

Wen Ye, his pupils shrinking in fear, stammered, "I'll pay, I'll pay!"

He hurriedly took out a bank card from his pocket and handed it over, trembling.

The man flipped the card, asking, "How much is in here?"

Wen Ye replied, offering it as medical expenses and pleading for mercy, "It's the original final payment, now for your medical expenses. Brother, I did everything you asked, can you please let me go?"

The man, satisfied, moved his foot off Wen Ye's leg, "You should have given me the money earlier to avoid getting beaten."

The man, having received the money, envisioned in his mind the lavish ways he and his brothers would spend it. Casting a glance down at Wen Ye, he commanded in a cold tone, "You better use your connections to get my brothers out of trouble, understand?" His voice was firm and unyielding, leaving no room for negotiation or dissent.

Wen Ye nodded hastily, "I heard you, I'll ask all my friends to help!"

Satisfied, the man left.

Wen Ye, struggling to his feet, spat in the direction of the departing man and cursed at the wall, venting his fury, "Damn it, a bunch of useless idiots, not finishing the job and still expecting me to bail them out, wishful thinking!"

After half an hour of cursing, Wen Ye sat down, panting.

He couldn't let Gu Dai take Gu Yin away, as without her, Gu Si would stop paying him for the child's living expenses, cutting off his financial source.

Wen Ye took out his phone, searching for a way to deal with Gu Dai.

At Chuanchen Hospital, Gu Dai slowly opened her eyes, while she raised her hand to shield them from the light.

Chu Min, noticing first, excitedly whispered, "Boss, you're finally awake!"

Kneeling by Gu Dai's bed, Chu Min's eyes brimmed with tears.

Gu Dai had been unconscious for a day and night, and Chu Min, overwhelmed with happiness, would have jumped up if his legs weren't so weak from standing all this time.

Gu Dai, looking at Chu Min, said resignedly, "Stop crying, or I'll start wondering if I'm dead."

Chu Min quickly wiped his tears, "Boss, you're alive and well! I'll go find a doctor. Are you feeling any discomfort?"

Gu Dai stopped him, "I'm fine, no need for a doctor."

Chu Min, remembering Gu Dai's medical expertise, withdrew his step, no longer insisting.

Gu Dai rubbed her hazy head, recalling the events before she fainted, and asked, "What about those men?"

Chu Min, proudly patting his chest, assured, "Don't worry, boss, I've already sent them to the police station. One got away, but I believe we'll find him

soon.."

Chapter 288: I'll Pay

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Gu Dai recalled the license plate number she hazily saw after being hit by a car.

CA77799.

This license plate wasn't from Chuanchen or the Capital. Who could be targeting her?

She turned to Chu Min and softly asked for her computer.

Chu Min, frowning slightly, asked, "Boss, what do you want to check?"

Gu Dai nodded, "A black car hit me. I want to see if there are any clues."

Chu Min handed her the laptop, puzzled, "I found out that those men arranged the car. Why do you need to check further?"

Gu Dai, focused on the screen, replied, "They did arrange a car, but the one that hit me was a different black car."

Chu Min's expression turned serious upon hearing this. "Who could it be?"

Gu Dai pondered.

She had been monitoring Gu Ming, but there was no news about his movements. That left Wen Ye, who she had beaten up and who was likely harboring resentment.

Wen Ye, who spent his days indulging in alcohol and gambling, lacked the influence to bail out the man's associates. It was clear that someone more powerful was backing him.

Gu Dai spent ten minutes going through all the information but made no progress.

Seeing this, Chu Min said, "Boss, I'll arrange for someone to check the surveillance cameras. Maybe we'll find something."

Gu Dai nodded in agreement, "Okay."

Before Chu Min left, Gu Dai stopped him, "I met a boy that day and asked him to wait for me, but..."

"Don't worry, boss," Chu Min reassured her, "I saw him in your car when I was looking for you. After learning what happened from him, I arranged for him to stay in a nearby hotel."

He had spent quite some time taking care of the boy, otherwise he could have made to his boss when those people were ambushing her.

He regretted not delegating this task, as it delayed him from reaching Gu Dai during her ambush.

After Chu Min left, Gu Dai continued her search for the mysterious black car, believing she would eventually find a clue.

Song Ling opened the door of the hospital room and was greeted by the sight of a conscious Gu Dai, his eyes lighting up.

"You're awake," he said.

Gu Dai looked at him, surprised, "Why are you here?"

Song Ling didn't answer her question directly but instead said, "After you fainted, I took care of you."

Gu Dai nodded faintly, "Oh."

Song Ling's brow furrowed at her cold demeanor.

Gu Dai, sensing his discontent, said, "I took care of you many times in the past, but you've only cared for me once."

Recalling the past, Song Ling softly thanked her, "Thank you for all those times."

Gu Dai, engrossed in her work, didn't engage further with Song Ling.

Song Ling glanced at her computer screen and offered, "It seems like you're struggling to find something. Need my help?"

"No need," Gu Dai declined.

Looking at her, Song Ling noticed her pale lips and weak appearance, as if a slight push could knock her over.

"The doctor said you have a minor concussion and internal injuries. You need to rest more, so let me handle this," Song Ling insisted.

Pausing, he added, "You took care of me for three years. Let me investigate this as a way of repaying you."

Initially reluctant, Gu Dai changed her mind upon hearing his reasoning and nodded, "Okay."

Song Ling's capabilities were undeniable, and with the Song family's strong influence in the capital, he might uncover useful leads.

Gu Dai addressed Song Ling, "I'll pay you the market rate for your help."

Seeing Gu Dai's determination to keep a clear boundary between them, Song Ling felt a sense of frustration welling up inside him. He responded with a sigh, "No need..."

"I insist," Gu Dai firmly stated.

Staring intently at Gu Dai, Song Ling asked, “Do you really dislike me that much? You don’t want any involvement with me?”

Without hesitation, Gu Dai nodded, “Yes.”

Song Ling felt disheartened. His grandfather had always urged him to get along well with Gu Dai and not to show any animosity, but it was Gu Dai who was distant towards him. He realized his past actions were too harsh, which had led to her current attitude..

Chapter 289: Bailed Out

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Suppressing his emotions, Song Ling changed the topic, he asked, “Is there anything else you want to add to the investigation?”

Gu Dai thought for a moment, “In this ambush, Yinyin’s father, Wen Ye, might be involved. You should focus on him and my aunt, Gu Si, who’s currently overseas. It might be difficult to investigate her.”

Song Ling noted down everything, his eyes betraying his concern for Gu Dai.

Noticing his gaze, Gu Dai asked, “What do you think?”

Song Ling’s eyes turned cold but softened when speaking to Gu Dai, “I know about your troubles. The explosion on your ship three years ago had a lot to do with your Elder Uncle, Gu Ming, and his daughter Gu Zhi, who envied you, took many of your things.”

In a low voice, he continued, “Your situation is tough, but you’ve been holding on.”

Pausing, he added, “You don’t have to endure this alone. Tell me, and I’ll help you deal with them.”

Gu Dai was surprised to hear that Song Ling knew about it, but she replied, "I don't need your help; I can handle it myself."

Song Ling insisted, "I believe in your ability to handle it, but with my help, you can have it easier. Why refuse me?"

Gu Dai, after Song Ling's remark, said, "I remember you being very busy, always dealing with work. Now you seem too free, having time to pay attention to my affairs."

Song Ling's expression stiffened briefly before he replied, "I'm not that busy lately."

Gu Dai nodded, not probing further.

Unable to hold back, Song Ling finally asked, "Life is so short. Do we have to be so distant with each other?"

Gu Dai, puzzled, countered, "Otherwise?"

Frustrated, Song Ling paced around the room. Calming down, he said earnestly, "Even though we're divorced, we're still business partners. You can't be so distant with me!"

After saying this, fearing Gu Dai's response, he quickly excused himself to find leads and left.

Gu Dai, reflecting on Song Ling's words, found them amusing.

They were merely business partners for company work. How close did they need to be?

She found herself increasingly unable to understand Song Ling. Ever since their divorce, his behavior had become more peculiar, not at all like the Song Ling she remembered. It was as if he had become someone else.

After much thought, Gu Dai attributed Song Ling's odd behavior to some kind of mistake.

Zhao Xuan saw Song Ling leave the room with a cold expression, a familiar scene, so he looked down, unfazed.

Song Ling asked coldly, "What about those thugs?"

Zhao Xuan reported, "President Song, I was a step too slow. By the time I found them, they had already been sent to the police station."

Frowning, Song Ling asked, "Who sent them to jail?"

Zhao Xuan, even more subdued, apologized, "I'm sorry, President Song, I couldn't find out."

Song Ling already had a name in mind when asking – Chu Min.

He must have dealt with this while Gu Dai was in bed.

Cursing inwardly for being outdone, Song Ling realized he needed to hasten the black car investigation, determined not to let Chu Min beat him to it.

Zhao Xuan was puzzled by Song Ling's sudden departure, almost like he was handling a major company collaboration, forcing him to jog to keep up.

Coincidentally, Chu Min was heading towards the hospital room.

Their eyes met as they passed each other, sparks seemingly flying in the air.

Inside the room, Chu Min looked at Gu Dai for a long time. Seeing her calm demeanor, he relaxed.

Gu Dai, noticing his silence, asked, "Why are you here? Is something wrong?"

Chu Min, reminded of the urgent matter, reported, "Boss, those thugs have been bailed out of the police station."

Gu Dai asked, "What happened?"

Chu Min explained, "The police said a middle-aged woman in red bailed them out. She had just left the station, and I followed the direction given by the police but couldn't catch her. I only got a photo.."

Chapter 290: Release then Catch

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Chu Min pulled out his phone, scrolled to the photo, and handed it to Gu Dai.

He explained, "She left too quickly. When I got there, I saw her getting into a car. I quickly snapped a photo, but only got her side profile. Boss, do you recognize her?"

Gu Dai studied the photo, which showed a red-dressed woman getting into a car.

Her brows furrowed slightly, she shook her head, "I don't recognize her."

Chu Min, realizing even his boss didn't know her, suspected she wasn't an ordinary person.

"I suspect this woman is connected to Wen Ye," Chu Min suggested.

Gu Dai nodded in agreement. "That's what I think too."

Chu Min asked, "Boss, what should we do now? Should I arrange for someone to bring those thugs back?"

Gu Dai, after pondering, declined, "No need."

Confused, Chu Min looked at her for an explanation.

Gu Dai spoke calmly, "We don't have any leads right now. Their release might lead us to the mastermind behind this."

Chu Min's eyes brightened, admiring her strategy, "Boss, you're brilliant! I didn't think of that!"

Gu Dai, hearing Chu Min's praise, shook her head helplessly, she then asked, "Can you arrange for me to be discharged."

Chu Min frowned, concerned about her health, "Boss, you haven't fully recovered. It could affect your recovery."

Gu Dai insisted, "I have things to handle."

She added, "I am a doctor. I know my body well, and you've hired doctors, haven't you? If you're worried, they can check on me daily."

After a moment of internal struggle, Chu Min agreed, "Okay, I'll arrange it."

Before leaving, Chu Min asked, "Boss, what do you need to handle?"

Gu Dai replied, "The matter with that young boy. Have someone bring him to my hotel."

Chu Min nodded, "Alright."

When Gu Dai opened her hotel room door, she saw the boy standing nervously at the doorway. “Miss... Miss Gu, hello,” he greeted hesitantly.

Gu Dai nodded and, leaning against the wall with crossed arms, asked, “What’s your name?”

Fu Nan, fingers nervously twisting his shirt hem until they turned white, answered with a forced loudness, “I, I’m Fu Nan.”

Fu Nan then lowered his head, not daring to meet Gu Dai’s eyes.

Being a low-profile actor in the entertainment industry, he had only stayed in modest hotels before. This was his first time in such a luxurious hotel.

Even without knowing the brands, the exquisite decor and upscale furnishings suggested immense value.

Gu Dai, with her delicate features and stunning beauty, seemed to blend perfectly into this refined setting, making Fu Nan feel even more out of place, as if they were from different worlds.

Observing Fu Nan’s tense demeanor, Gu Dai softened her voice, “Hello, I’m Gu Dai.”

Fu Nan quickly nodded, stuttering, “I, I’ve heard about you.”

Assuming Chu Min had informed him, Gu Dai didn’t dwell on it and got straight to the point, “I’m interested in you, you...”

Before she could finish, Fu Nan, like a startled rabbit, looked up in disbelief, “You’re interested in me!”

Gu Dai nodded, her gaze studying his face, “You’re very handsome. Sharp facial features, well-proportioned and defined. You have a charisma about you.”

The more she observed, the more satisfied she became.

She believed Fu Nan had potential. If the company signed him, his good looks and talent would surely attract fans.

Fu Nan's complexion turned pale, his expression conflicted. His hands, hanging by his sides, clenched into fists, then slowly relaxed..