

King Hall 151

Chapter 151 Dilemma

Several minutes later.

The taxi pulled up to the entrance of Mu Jinyu's residential complex and came to a stop.

Mu Jinyu paid the fare and got out of the car, while Gu Xiyan still clutched tightly at the hem of his clothes, following him out of the car door.

"Take care."

Mu Jinyu stood by the road and waved to the taxi driver.

"Yeah, you two lovebirds get inside, have a good life together."

The taxi driver said with a smile and then drove away.

Mu Jinyu stood there, watching him leave.

Then, when the taxi was no longer in sight, he remained by the roadside, showing no intention of moving.

Gu Xiyan, clutching a piece of Mu Jinyu's clothes, turned her head to take in the scenery on the side, silent, waiting for Mu Jinyu to lead her home.

But left waiting and right waiting, why wasn't this guy moving?

Finally, she couldn't hold back anymore, stretched out her hand to gently push Mu Jinyu, and called out, "Let's go!"

When Mu Jinyu heard her speak, he chuckled softly, "You're willing to talk to me now?!"

Gu Xiyan gave him a cold look and didn't want to engage with him.

Mu Jinyu chuckled again and stopped teasing Gu Xiyan, taking steps toward the residential complex.

Gu Xiyan hastily clutched at his clothes, following him like a little tail.

Very quickly.

Mu Jinyu led Gu Xiyan back home, opened the anti-theft door, and stepped into the entrance to change shoes.

Gu Xiyan also followed in, casually shut the anti-theft door, and then curiously surveyed the interior of Mu Jinyu's small abode.

The first impression was that it was a bit small.

However, the decoration and furnishings were pretty good, exuding a warm feeling.

Gu Xiyan nodded her head, feeling quite satisfied.

And at that moment.

Wen Rou heard the sound of the door opening and came out of her room, walking towards them, rubbing her sleepy eyes and yawning softly, "Little Mu, you're back? Are you hungry? I'll go make some late-night snack for you."

Gu Xiyan watched as Wen Rou, devoid of makeup yet still charming and beautiful, came out of the room in her pajamas, calling out to Mu Jinyu intimately and familiarly; she felt as though she'd been struck by lightning, petrified on the spot!

Gu Xiyan's eyes opened wide in shock, she pointed at Wen Rou, then at Mu Jinyu, stammering incredulously, "You... you... you actually have a woman hidden at home?!"

Gu Xiyan had never expected that Mu Jinyu was hiding a beauty in his golden house.

That was one thing, but how could he dare to bring her back home so openly?!

Wasn't he afraid the other girl would throw a tantrum?

Or was it that his head got muddled and he mistakenly brought her to the wrong house?!

But no matter what, she couldn't accept it and immediately turned around to open the door and leave this place.

Wen Rou, hearing the voice of an unfamiliar woman, shuddered, and the sleepiness in her eyes disappeared instantly, becoming alert.

She looked up and stood in the center of the living room, looking toward the entrance. When she saw Gu Xiyan, she too was astounded by her beauty.

Then, she realized that Mu Jinyu had just gone out and brought back a beautiful woman.

Her eyes became somewhat sad.

Afterward, Wen Rou saw Gu Xiyan glance at her a few times, her expression suddenly filled with anger, about to leave without a word. Wen Rou reacted, her heart tightened, realizing she had spoiled Little Mu's plans, and quickly tried to explain,

"Miss, please don't misunderstand, I'm just a nanny hired by Little Mu to take care of him, and I have nothing to do with him..."

As Wen Rou uttered these words, she suddenly felt a sharp pain in her heart.

She was abruptly reminded of something Mu Jinyu said in a joking tone a few days ago, "Why don't you be my girlfriend?"

Thinking of Mu Jinyu's words, Wen Rou was filled with melancholy and a faint regret.

She suddenly realized that she had actually fallen for Mu Jinyu a long time ago, but due to her low self-esteem, she never dared to harbor improper thoughts about him. However, when Mu Jinyu truly returned with another beautiful girl, she regretted it.

"Is that so?!"

Upon hearing Wen Rou's explanation, Gu Xiyun, who was twisting the doorknob ready to flee, paused unconsciously in her actions.

Then, she turned back, looking at Wen Rou with suspicion in her eyes. She then turned to look at Mu Jinyu, who had changed his shoes and appeared calm, and asked tentatively.

Although she didn't believe Wen Rou's words, Gu Xiyun was still prepared to give Mu Jinyu a chance. Thus her gaze at him was full of hope, and a hint of begging, which even she hadn't noticed.

Yes, begging.

Even if Mu Jinyu made up lies, for her at this moment, it would feel much better.

Then she could deceive herself and stay.

Mu Jinyu's expression was indifferent, but inside, he too felt a bit of panic.

He thought he must have drunk too much; his mind wasn't working well, and he had been a fool.

However, to echo Wen Rou's statement and say she was just his nanny, he couldn't bring himself to say it.

And to say that Wen Rou had something to do with him, if Gu Xiyan left in anger, with no place to go, and something happened to her outside, he would feel guilty for life.

Not wanting to hurt either of the two women, Mu Jinyu wrestled inwardly with the difficulty until he finally gritted his teeth and said, "No, she's not my nanny, she's my friend!"

With her head bowed, Wen Rou's eyes, which had been gray and colorless, suddenly looked up at Mu Jinyu in shock, finding it hard to believe he would respond like that.

Yet inside, she felt warmth, and her eyes once again shone with boundless luster.

Gu Xiyan, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, saw despair, and her slim hope and unperceived begging instantly shattered. She pursed her lips, her eyes slightly reddened, with tears swirling in them, and then turned silently to open the door and leave.

Mu Jinyu grabbed Gu Xiyan's hand in one swift motion. Gu Xiyan's body trembled, and then she tried desperately to break free.

Mu Jinyu sighed helplessly, "She is my friend, and so are you, why are you leaving?"

"Who is your friend? Let go of me, or I'll call the police!" Gu Xiyan cried out with teary voice, her back to Mu Jinyu.

She felt terrible inside. Although she didn't like or covet Mu Jinyu, it still felt like betrayal.

Helplessly, Mu Jinyu could only drag her by the arm back inside, "Hey, stop making a scene, I will explain everything to you."

With a mix of dragging and deceiving, he finally managed to pull Gu Xiyan back into the house.

"Hmph." Gu Xiyan sat on the living room sofa, turning her head away, refusing to look at Mu Jinyu.

Yet her heart was waiting for his explanation.

Mu Jinyu cast an apologetic glance at Wen Rou, who received his newfound radiance with a serene smile, gently shook her head, indicating it was nothing.

Then, without staying in the living room any longer, she turned and went into the kitchen to prepare some late-night snacks for them.

Mu Jinyu sighed softly and then went on to tell Gu Xiyan all about Wen Rou's situation.

At first, Gu Xiyan pretended not to listen, but as the story went on, she realized that this girl Wen Rou seemed to have a much sadder life than her own.

Especially...

The part about Wen Rou's experiences being extremely similar to Mu Jinyu, how her mother also left her when she was young.

Gu Xiyan suddenly understood why Mu Jinyu was so close to her and had used the excuse of looking for a nanny to have her move in.

Chapter 152: Sleep Problems!

After hearing Mu Jinyu's explanation,

Gu Xiyan looked at Wen Rou in the kitchen with a complex expression in her eyes.

Seeing her gentle and serene face, intent and serious as she cooked, and then thinking about her background, Gu Xiyan regretted her own immature behavior earlier.

'Just now, if I had pressured Mu Jinyu to tell her that she was just his nanny, she must have felt terrible, right?!

Gu Xiyang thought to herself silently.

Although she still couldn't figure out if there was any other relationship between Wen Rou and Mu Jinyu,

at this moment, she no longer wanted to pursue it.

After all, she and Mu Jinyu have no relationship other than a fake boyfriend-girlfriend setup, what right did she have to ask Wen Rou to leave?

Mu Jinyu, noticing Gu Xiyang had calmed down, also seemed a bit embarrassed and guilty, and he breathed a sigh of relief in his heart.

Then, he sighed, "She is just like you, I feel sorry for her, and I was afraid something might happen to her in that shabby rental, so I let her stay here for a while."

"Hmph." When Gu Xiyang heard this, she snorted lightly, looked at him contemptuously, and said, "I think it's clearly more dangerous for her to live here than alone!"

"What do you take me for?" Mu Jinyu said, speechless.

"You're just a big lecher, seeing the poor little lady and deliberately plotting ways to deceive her back here; what evil intentions are you harboring in your heart, as if I don't know?"

Gu Xiyang looked disdainfully at Mu Jinyu, then made up her mind and said, "I don't care, starting today, I'm going to live with you guys, and I won't let your schemes succeed."

Mu Jinyu was exasperated and said speechlessly, "All I did was a good deed; do you have to label it like that?"

However, deep down, he wasn't really opposed to it, because he also knew that Gu Xiyan was just looking for an excuse to stay.

And since Gu Xiyan had decided not to leave and could get along with Wen Rou peacefully, he let her label him however she wanted.

As soon as they finished talking,

Wen Rou in the kitchen also had the late-night snack ready.

Then, she carried out two bowls of clear noodle soup on a tray.

Walking to the living room, she first set the tray on the coffee table, then moved the bowls of clear noodle soup one by one from the tray to the coffee table and placed the chopsticks beside them. She then looked up at Gu Xiyan and smiled, "I'm not skilled at cooking, but eat a little to help the alcohol, so you won't feel too bad when you wake up tomorrow..."

"Thank you,"

Gu Xiyan said with a complex expression as she looked at Wen Rou, thanking her and then hesitated for a moment. Her pretty face slightly flushed, she then took a deep breath and said, "About earlier, I'm sorry..."

"It's alright, I am indeed just Little Mu's nanny, and perhaps a friend. I'm grateful that you don't mind my staying here."

Wen Rou smiled.

Hearing this, Gu Xiyan realized Wen Rou had misunderstood her relationship with Mu Jinyu and hurriedly said, "You misunderstood; I have nothing to do with this guy. I just ran away from home earlier and had nowhere to stay, so he let me stay here just for tonight."

"Oh, so that's how it is."

Upon hearing this, Wen Rou showed an enlightened expression.

But internally, she couldn't help but smile bitterly. How could a noble and elegant woman like Gu Xiyan casually stay at someone else's place for a night?

Gu Xiyan continued earnestly explaining, "Earlier, I thought you were his girlfriend, so I didn't want to disturb you, which is why I was about to leave. It turns out we are pretty much in the same situation."

"Slurp, slurp!"

While the two women were chatting with different thoughts, Mu Jinyu had already finished the clear soup noodles placed in front of him.

Finished.

He stood up, stretched lazily, and said, "It's getting late, hurry and finish the late-night snack, and then go take a bath and sleep."

Speaking, Mu Jinyu glanced at the neat black business attire on Gu Xiyan, and said, "You didn't bring a change of clothes, and you can't buy any now, so just wear Wen Rou's pajamas for tonight."

After speaking, he no longer cared about them and shook his head, "I'm going to take a bath first, I smell like alcohol!"

Mu Jinyu returned to his room, grabbed a change of clothes, and went into the bathroom to take a shower.

Gu Xiyang looked at her business attire, considering her cleanliness obsession, which required her to bathe every day and her discomfort with wearing someone else's clothes, she hesitantly looked towards Wen Rou.

Before she could speak, Wen Rou had already understood her intentions and said with a gentle smile, "I just bought a few sets of clothes a few days ago, and I haven't worn them yet. You can wear them first, they might not fit perfectly, but tomorrow I'll go shopping with you."

Gu Xiyang hesitated, but then nodded and said, "Then... thank you..."

"It's no trouble, hurry up and eat," Wen Rou said with a smile.

Gu Xiyang was starving by now, having not eaten dinner and having drunk a lot of alcohol. At that moment, smelling the enticing aroma of the noodles, she felt her stomach spasming with hunger.

"Thank you." Gu Xiyang thanked Wen Rou again, then picked up her chopsticks, picked up the bowl, and, not caring about maintaining a ladylike image, began to slurp her food eagerly.

When Mu Jinyu came out after his shower.

He saw Gu Xiyang and Wen Rou sitting together, chatting and laughing, as close as real sisters.

Mu Jinyu smiled and said, "Alright, stop chatting, it's getting late, you should hurry and take a bath, Wen Rou has to work tomorrow."

Upon hearing this, Gu Xiyang reluctantly stopped chatting with Wen Rou, then glared at Mu Jinyu with a snort, upset that he interrupted their conversation, and then walked toward the bathroom with the clothes Wen Rou had just given her.

Mu Jinyu shook his head helplessly, seeing her in pity today, he decided not to argue with her.

Walking into the living room and sitting on the sofa, Mu Jinyu was thinking about how to arrange their sleeping arrangements for the night.

Wen Rou sat beside him and lifted her delicate hand to massage him.

Mu Jinyu turned and looked at her, apologized with a smile, and said, "Aren't you going to blame me for not telling you and just bringing someone home unexpectedly?"

In his heart, Mu Jinyu truly didn't consider Wen Rou as a maid but as a cohabiting roommate and friend. That's why he felt guilty about not asking Wen Rou's opinion before directly bringing Gu Xiyuan home.

"Why would I blame you? This is your home after all," Wen Rou said with a gentle smile, "You don't need to feel embarrassed."

Mu Jinyu did not dwell on this topic and sighed, "What do you think, how should we arrange for her to sleep tonight?"

Wen Rou suggested, "Should she sleep with me?"

This apartment was a two-bedroom, and if Mu Jinyu didn't want to give up his room to Gu Xiyuan and sleep on the sofa, then two people would need to share a room.

Mu Jinyu shook his head, expressing doubt, "That kind of person, she might not be used to sleeping with someone else."

"Then I'll sleep on the sofa tonight," Wen Rou said with a smile.

Mu Jinyu suddenly looked up, his eyes sparkling at Wen Rou.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Wen Rou thought Mu Jinyu was angry and said somewhat nervously.

Mu Jinyu pursed his lips and suggested, "Why don't we squeeze into one bed?"

Chapter 153 Is That Your Company?!

As soon as Wen Rou heard what Mu Jinyu said, her pretty face blushed, and her ears turned bright red as well.

"This... isn't that inappropriate?" Wen Rou's voice was very low, and she felt she wasn't firm in her refusal.

Mu Jinyu laughed and said, "Just kidding! Later, when she comes out, I'll ask her if she wants to sleep with you or by herself. If she's willing to sleep with you, then all is well. If she wants to sleep alone, then I guess I'll be inconvenienced tonight."

"Um..." Wen Rou saw that Mu Jinyu wasn't very firm in his attitude. She smiled and responded, though she felt somewhat disappointed in her heart.

Actually, after just realizing her feelings, Wen Rou was no longer resistant to something happening with Mu Jinyu. If Mu Jinyu had insisted a bit more, she would have agreed.

But Mu Jinyu... didn't seem to take it very seriously...

Soon.

"Click!"

The bathroom door opened.

Gu Xiyan came out wearing a set of new pajamas that Wen Rou had just bought and never worn.

Mu Jinyu turned to look at her.

Hmm...

Her hair was wet, her pretty face was flushed, and she was wearing a short-sleeved, white floral pajama set. She looked less fierce than usual and more like a homely girl.

"Does it fit well?" Wen Rou asked, looking up.

Gu Xiyan blushed and responded awkwardly, "Yeah."

Mu Jinyu was surprised. She was wearing the pajamas, and they obviously fit well. Why would Wen Rou still ask that?

Feeling slightly puzzled, Mu Jinyu decided not to think too much about it and reiterated the question they had just discussed.

"Do I even need to say it?!" Gu Xiyan, having heard Mu Jinyu's question, glared at him, then sat on the couch and hugged Wen Rou, saying, "I'm worried if you sleep on the sofa, you might sneak into our room in the middle of the night. So, it's better for me and Xiaorou to sleep together, and you can sleep by yourself."

Mu Jinyu was a bit sleepy, too tired to argue with her. He yawned and said, "Then, good night."

"Good night."

Mu Jinyu walked groggily to his room, not bothering to listen to who had wished him good night.

He lay his head on the pillow, and because he had drunk quite a bit and had not managed to rid himself of the alcohol, he fell asleep very quickly.

The next day.

"Dong dong!"

The sound of knocking arose.

Wen Rou's gentle voice followed:

"Little Mu, time to get up for breakfast."

Wen Rou called out and did not press further. After all, Mu Jinyu didn't have to go to work and could afford to sleep in, while she had to go to work and couldn't afford to wait for him to get up.

Mu Jinyu responded groggily, then got out of bed and rubbed his temples.

He also remembered what happened the previous night.

Oh, so Gu Xiyun, that foolish woman, has also entered our house?

Mu Jinyu thought to himself that this wouldn't do; he couldn't let her mooch off him at his place.

Hmm...

Maybe he should make her his maid, keeping herself busy massaging his legs and scrubbing his back?

"Hmm, that's not a bad idea, but I wonder whether she will kill me for it!"

With a slight shake of his head, Mu Jinyu decided not to dwell on it any longer, got up, went out, washed up in the bathroom, and then headed to the dining room to eat.

Wen Rou and Gu Xiyun were already sitting at the table eating when Wen Rou saw him enter, stood up and said, "I'll get you some food."

She then went to scoop a bowl of porridge for Mu Jinyu and handed it to him.

Gu Xiyan watched this scene with displeasure, snorting disdainfully and muttered, "Lazy pig."

Mu Jinyu heard her and this time decided not to ignore her. He said, "You're one to talk, you better think of a way to pay your rent first."

At his words, Gu Xiyan paused in her eating, then looked up at Mu Jinyu with big, doe eyes, appearing stunned.

It seemed she hadn't expected Mu Jinyu to actually ask her for rent.

"What's wrong? Did you think you could keep living and eating here for free?"

Mu Jinyu looked at Gu Xiyan seriously and said, "I don't keep freeloaders, and as a self-respecting, strong woman like yourself, you shouldn't be living off someone else, right? How about this, you can also work for me as a maid instead, oh no, as a maid, just warming my bed, scrubbing my back, and washing my feet every day..."

"Enough!" Gu Xiyan cut him off, angrily saying, "I'll go out and find a job today. You won't miss a cent from me for the rent!"

"And the food expenses too." Mu Jinyu reminded her.

"You?!" Gu Xiyan was so angry she clenched her teeth, wishing she could bite him hard.

"I'll pay those too!" Gu Xiyan said through gritted teeth.

"Oh, Little Mu, stop teasing Xiyan," Wen Rou said from the side, watching the two bickering helplessly.

Mu Jinyu smiled and said, "All right, I won't joke with you anymore."

"You?!" Gu Xiyan hadn't expected Mu Jinyu to be just teasing her, and was immediately annoyed again.

Mu Jinyu suddenly said, "Hey, did you just say you're going to look for a job?"

Gu Xiyan irritably responded, "What else? I'm completely broke, without a penny to my name. If I don't find a job and earn money, do you think you, miser that you are, would support me?"

"I could, actually!" Mu Jinyu said.

At his words, Gu Xiyan's heart skipped a beat, her cheeks unwittingly flushing, as she hastily said, "Who needs your support..."

"I'm serious," Mu Jinyu looked at Gu Xiyan sincerely and said, "You used to be a CEO yourself, right? Instead of looking for a job, why not come work at my company?"

Gu Xiyan was startled, the flush fading from her face, "To your company? You have a company?"

"Yes, I just earned it a few days ago," Mu Jinyu said, nodding at Wen Rou, then continued, "Wen Rou is working there now. We're short of people, so come join me, and I'll support you from now on."

Hearing Mu Jinyu talk about supporting her, Gu Xiyan's expression darkened, and her look became somewhat dangerous.

However, having broken ties with the Gu Family, she was in need of a new company where she could prove herself and make her grandparents regret their decision!

With that thought, Gu Xiyan set aside her prejudice against Mu Jinyu and asked, "What's the scale of your 'shabby' company?"

"I'm not sure, I traded it for a billion," Mu Jinyu said.

"Only a billion?" Gu Xiyan said, slightly disappointed, and casually asked, "What's the company called?"

Mu Jinyu responded, "It's recently renamed, you might not have heard of it, it's called 'Jinyu International Fashion Co., Ltd.'..."

At his words, Gu Xiyan was shocked, then suddenly looked up at Mu Jinyu, her eyes filled with disbelief, and exclaimed, "That company is yours?!"

"Why?! Have you heard of my company before?" Mu Jinyu curiously asked, seeing her reaction.

Gu Xiyan said with a grave expression, "Of course, your company has always been considered my number one rival, and it's worth more than just a billion!"

Chapter 154: Zhou the Skinflayer!

"Eh, my company has that much potential? It can be considered your number one enemy?"

Mu Jinyu asked, quite surprised.

"Of course," Gu Xiyan answered, with a solemn look yet oddly excited, "Your company is developing a new cosmetic, claiming to be a beautifying and health-preserving product. It's said to be an ancient secret formula used by noble consorts, purportedly capable of significantly slowing down human aging and providing immediate effects. After one use, you look younger, and with long-term use, it can make you about three years younger..."

"Is that so?!" Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu was not too excited but instead felt that this ancient noble consort's prescription was somewhat trashy.

After all, the worst beauty recipe he had could make a person look five years younger, a better one, ten years younger. And the best? Eternal youth and perennial beauty.

To be honest, he really wasn't impressed by this beauty product that only made you look three years younger.

Gu Xiyan continued excitedly, paying no attention to the disappointment in Mu Jinyu's words, "So, if your company were to sell now, it could fetch at least several billion. And once the cosmetic is successfully developed and proven effective, it could be worth over a hundred billion!"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu nodded thoughtfully and muttered, "Then they do have intentions."

Gu Xiyan didn't quite catch what Mu Jinyu said, her gaze curious as she asked, "So, how exactly did you manage to buy this company with one billion?"

Mu Jinyu looked up at her and smiled, saying, "If I tell you the truth, you probably won't believe it."

"Why wouldn't I believe you if you aren't lying to me?" Gu Xiyan retorted, unconvinced.

Mu Jinyu replied, "Well, I'll tell you the truth then. I got this company by treating someone. After he got better, he gave it to me. I initially wanted to charge him a billion as a consultation fee, but he said he didn't have that much cash on hand, so he handed over the company to me. He also lectured me on making money from money and said that even if I ran the company into bankruptcy, he'd buy it back for ten billion. It seemed reasonable, so I ended up taking the company..."

As he spoke, Mu Jinyu chuckled and shook his head, "I never expected the company was originally worth more than ten billion; it seems like they were really eager to please me by throwing money my way."

Initially skeptical while listening to Mu Jinyu, Gu Xiyan started believing him as he spoke convincingly and since Wen Rou showed no sign of surprise. She inclined to believe him a bit.

"What's the name of that patient? With such wealth, he must be well-known in River City." Gu Xiyan asked.

Mu Jinyu replied, "I forgot his first name, but his surname is Xu. His granddaughter and I are on good terms; she's called Xu Qingya..."

"Xu Qingya..." Gu Xiyan muttered, then her eyes suddenly lit up. She stood up, leaned forward over the table, and asked Mu Jinyu excitedly, "Are you talking about the Xu Family from the Four Great Families of River City? Was the patient Xu Tianzheng?"

"Oh..." Mu Jinyu tilted his head, thinking unsurely, "I think it was that name."

Even though Mu Jinyu was uncertain, Gu Xiyan was convinced that the patient treated by Mu Jinyu was Xu Tianzheng.

The news of Elder Master Xu's illness had spread in River City's high society. On the day they were at the Face of Jade Exclusive Store, Gu Xiyan had seen the Xu family's convoy searching everywhere. Doubting Mu Jinyu's status as the Divine Doctor because of something Yu Linglong said, she recounted Xu Zhixin's respectful attitude toward Mu Jinyu that day and was now absolutely sure that Mu Jinyu was the doctor who cured Xu Tianzheng and thus received such compensation...

"The company, backed by the Xu Family, has a very promising future..." Gu Xiyan murmured, her eyes gradually becoming fiery, feeling that this company was the best place for her to be!

The company that Gu Xiyan and Yu Linglong founded, Face of Jade Company, was also a business encompassing luxury goods, apparel, cosmetics, and perfumes.

Recently, after learning news from Jinyu's company indicating it had a strong backing, confirming the news was true, and failing to acquire better cosmetic formulas, they felt they would be crushed to death by that company. Eventually, they had no choice but to seek cooperation with the luxury brand behind Trotsky to attempt a transformation and avoid company bankruptcy.

Unexpectedly, she ended up partnering with Trotsky, but also left the Face of Jade Group, and then, due to a series of misfortunes, ended up going to her original rival company.

This really was... a twist of fate!

Thinking this, Gu Xiyan looked at Jinyu who had helped her, intentionally or not, numerous times. Her emotions surged; she really wanted to rush up and hug him, to fiercely kiss him.

Jinyu, seeing Gu Xiyan's gaze as if she wanted to devour him, felt a chill in his heart and shrunk his neck, weakly asking, "Are you really going or not?!"

"I am, of course, I am..." Gu Xiyan hurriedly said, then seriously reminded him, "But if I go, you have to relinquish real power to me. I want to make a big impact!"

"I see..." Jinyu said, his eyes deep in thought, somewhat hesitant.

Seeing this, Gu Xiyan grew anxious, thinking he did not trust her and would refuse. She couldn't help but add softly, "Don't worry, I definitely won't mess things up..."

After thinking it over, Jinyu nodded and said, "Alright then, when the time comes, I will hand the company over to you and Sister Qingya. Whatever happens in the company, you two discuss it and, if really undecided, notify me!"

"Really... really?" Gu Xiyan, seeing Jinyu let go so easily, was more astonished than thrilled and incredulously asked again.

"Of course, it's true. You think I'm kidding around here?!" Jinyu looked up at Gu Xiyan and said, "You'll go with Wen Rou to the office after this, start work immediately. I'll call Sister Qingya."

Seeing Jinyu truly intending to transfer power to her, Gu Xiyan stared at him, then smiled sweetly, saying, "Thank you!"

Jinyu glanced at her sideways and chuckled, "Verbal thanks don't mean much. I want to see actual gratitude. You help me make money, make a few hundred billion, and that would truly be repaying my kindness."

"A few hundred billion?!" Gu Xiyan exclaimed, her eyebrows twitching, then she couldn't help but say, "Why don't you just let me die instead?"

"Hehe..." Jinyu chuckled lightly and said, "Stop dawdling, it's getting late. Hurry up and finish your meal and go to work. If you're late on your first day, I'll dock a month's salary!"

"You're such a skinflint!" Gu Xiyan's beautiful eyes widened as she complained.

After his remark, the gratitude Gu Xiyan had for him, which had not risen long ago, completely vanished.

In her heart, she felt that Jinyu was just like Zhou the Skinflayer, only knowing how to exploit his employees!

Chapter 155: An Unfavorable Year, Things Don't Go Well!

Gu Xiyan complained verbally, but deep down she was actually very grateful to Mu Jinyu for giving her this opportunity.

Moreover, it seemed she might not have to wait too long; she could use the least amount of time to make all the Gu family members regret till their guts turned green.

After quickly finishing her meal, Gu Xiyan courteously asked Mu Jinyu to help clean up the dishes, then she hurriedly followed Wen Rou out of the house, heading to the Jinyu Company.

Watching the two leave, Mu Jinyu was left to deal with a table full of dishes and shook his head helplessly.

Not in a rush to wash dishes, Mu Jinyu took out his mobile phone, called Xu Qingya, and then told her about the matter of Gu Xiyan joining the Jinyu Company.

After hearing the news, Xu Qingya didn't feel any dissatisfaction about someone else coming to fight for power. Instead, she breathed a sigh of relief and agreed readily.

After all, Xu Qingya wasn't regarded well in the Xu Family before, and she had no experience managing a company. These few days, Xu Xiaojiao had completely handed over the company to her, keeping her so busy that she was beside herself, wishing she could learn the art of shadow cloning to handle every matter.

Now, knowing that Gu Xiyan was joining the company, Xu Qingya, who had never thought about competing for power and profiting for herself, naturally felt very happy.

After hanging up the phone, Mu Jinyu started to clean up the bowls and plates and went to the kitchen to start washing dishes and pots.

While washing the dishes, Mu Jinyu showed a happy smile.

He remembered that a few days ago, he had thought that if only Gu Xiyan or Mei Yinxue would join his company and help him make money.

He didn't expect that a few days later, his dream actually came true.

If Mei Yinxue also joined his company now, that would be even better.

Four women together, they could make up a table for Mahjong.

Hmm? Wait a minute...

These four women together, wouldn't they end up fighting?

Maybe it's better not to think about it. Xu Qingya, Gu Xiyan, and Wen Rou were all reasonably good-natured, so even if they did fight, it wouldn't be too severe. But if Mei Yinxue were added to the mix, there might be a risk of someone getting killed.

The company being managed by just the three of them was enough...

Mu Jinyu thought guiltily.

...

While Gu Xiyan was rushing towards a new world, and Mu Jinyu was worried about the company's future,

Face of Jade Group.

Gu Shiqian sat in the office chair that once belonged to Gu Xiyan, her face ashen as she looked at several resignation letters from company veterans without uttering a word.

"Thud thud!"

The door to the office was knocked upon again.

As a reflex, Gu Shiqian's heart skipped a beat, an inexplicable fear rising within her.

Shaking her head hard several times to suppress the irritating emotion, she took a sip of coffee, cleared her throat, and spoke, "Come in."

The office door was pushed open, and a middle-aged man with a calm demeanor walked in, holding an envelope, and spoke in an even tone,

"Boss, this is my resignation letter."

Ordinary employees would simply go to HR to resign, but company veterans who had been part of the founding and growth of the company still needed to inform the boss in person.

Upon hearing the words of the middle-aged man, Gu Shiqian's hands, hidden below the desk, clenched tight, and her annoyance surged.

Resignation, another resignation, and dammit, another company veteran is resigning!!!

Gu Shiqian felt like she was about to explode with anger.

Slamming the desk, she stood up and questioned, "Are all of you doing this to support that bitch Gu Xiyan by giving me a demonstration? Do you think I can't manage the company without her?!"

"We don't mean that."

The middle-aged man watched Gu Shiqian get angry, her pretty face twisting into a hideous expression, but his own demeanor remained very calm as he said lightly:

"We've all been fighting alongside General Gu and President Yu from the beginning. Now that the company is looking up, to be honest, we're all very gratified and reluctant to leave. But the company is under pressure to undergo a transformation and won't need us anymore, so naturally, it's time for us to leave..."

On hearing this, Gu Shiqian felt a bit relieved, but her face was still ashen as she said, "But just as I arrive at the company, you all come to resign in succession. How does this reflect on me?"

"I'm sorry," the middle-aged man replied, displaying a trace of a remorseful smile, "But I've already found another job, and in a few days I need to start helping out there..."

Gu Shiqian collapsed weakly into her office chair, let out a despondent sigh, waved her hand, and said, "Go then, go, everyone just go!"

"I'm sorry..."

The middle-aged man stepped forward, placed his resignation report on her desk, apologized once again, then left the office and carefully closed the door behind him for Gu Shiqian.

Gu Shiqian slumped in her office chair, staring blankly at the ceiling with unfocused eyes.

Suddenly, she seemed to see Gu Xiyan's charming and unparalleled face in front of her again—a face she found particularly loathsome.

"Ah!"

Gu Shiqian screamed, reaching out to grasp at the face of Gu Xiyao that didn't actually exist in front of her!

"Huff, huff..."

After a frantic bout of clawing at the air and flailing about, Gu Shiqian grew tired, sank back into her chair, and glared at the several resignation reports on her desk with a look of resentment and irritation!

She already harbored an intense loathing for Gu Xiyao, as Chen Xuyang showed favor only to Gu Xiyao, while treating her with indifference.

Yesterday, when Gu Xiyao threw a tantrum in front of their grandfather and was kicked out of the house, Gu Shiqian saw her chance. She pleaded with their grandfather and with great difficulty convinced him to let her take over the opportunity to manage the Face of Jade Group.

But she had not anticipated such an unfavorable start!

No sooner had she arrived at the Face of Jade Group and taken Gu Xiyao's place, and before she could revel in triumph for even a few minutes, several of the company's veterans came to submit their resignations to her.

At first, she didn't think much of it, believing that if these lackeys raised by Gu Xiyao wanted to follow her and be disgraced, then let them. She didn't care...

But after dozens continued to do so, she finally began to panic.

If their grandfather found out about this, what would he think of her? Would he believe she was incapable of managing effectively, and would he continue to entrust the Face of Jade Group to her?!

Gu Shiqian no longer had that confidence!

And if the Face of Jade Group were taken back by their grandfather and handed to someone else, how would she face Gu Xiyan in the future without the status of president of the Face of Jade Group to mock her with?

It was unbearable!

Gu Shiqian was full of irritation, cursing bitterly, "Gu Xiyan, you wretch, even if you're cast out of the Gu Family and leave the Face of Jade Company, your shadow still lingers!"

Just then.

"Knock, knock!"

The office door was knocked on again.

Now, anytime Gu Shiqian heard a knock, it annoyed her. She was just about to tell them to wait outside when.

The door burst open.

Upon seeing this, Gu Shiqian's brows furrowed, ready to scold the person for their lack of manners.

But then she saw her secretary enter hurriedly, calling out anxiously, "It's bad, General Gu, Trotsky and his gang have come over, saying they want to cancel the partnership with us!"

Gu Shiqian heard this without showing much shock, just furrowing her brows tightly and asking, "What Trotsky driver? Why are you panicking?"

Her secretary quickly explained Trotsky's identity, the company he represented, and the series of transformation plans that Gu Xiyan had originally laid out with him.

"You mean to say that if he cancels our partnership, not only will our company fail to successfully transform, but our cash flow will also suffer a huge deficit?!"

After understanding her secretary's words, Gu Shiqian's vision went dark, and she almost fell off her chair!

Chapter 156: A Turn for the Better?

Just as Gu Shiqian was losing her vision and had yet to catch her breath,

Trotsky, adorned in flamboyant colors, entered the office with his team, striding casually.

"Huh?"

He had visited the Face of Jade Group headquarters once and naturally knew this office belonged to Gu Xiyan, but today, someone else was seated there.

And, among those present, he didn't see Gu Xiyan and Yu Linglong, so he asked in English, "Where are General Gu and President Yu?"

Gu Shiqian forced herself to remain composed and said, "They have already left the company. Now, I am in charge of Face of Jade Group."

"Is that so?"

Upon hearing this, Trotsky, although unaware of what major turmoil had occurred within the ranks of Face of Jade Group, couldn't be bothered to care about it. After giving Gu Shiqian a few looks and noticing that her appearance fell far short compared to that of Gu Xiyan and Yu Linglong, he couldn't help feeling disappointed.

Putting aside his disappointment, Trotsky said with a cold expression, "I came here today to tell you that due to your malicious deception, our cooperation is canceled!"

"Malicious deception, what happened?"

Gu Shiqian was new and hardly knew anything about the affairs of Face of Jade Group. Anxious after Trotsky's statement, she quickly asked.

She thought that if there was a possibility to make amends, she would do her best to do so.

Hearing this, Trotsky let out a cold laugh and said, "You're not aware, huh? Right, they wouldn't just tell anyone about the malicious deception they played on me."

Seeing that Gu Shiqian was clueless about the true events and subtly guessing that she didn't get along with Gu Xiyan, he wouldn't be inclined to ask for the truth from them, Trotsky decided to exaggerate the story when he relayed it to Gu Shiqian.

Thus, according to Trotsky, the truth became:

Gu Xiyan and Yu Linglong, having learned that Trotsky fancied a certain rare and precious type of cloth that was incredibly scarce and seldom seen in the world, decided to spend a great deal of money on creating a high-quality imitation and gifted it to Trotsky. Then they duped him into signing a highly unfavorable collaboration contract. Later, when Trotsky presented the fabric to a distinguished guest, it led to his utter humiliation...

Therefore, it's no surprise what the final outcome would be. Faced with such malicious deception and fraudulent tactics, Trotsky preferred to pay a breach of contract penalty rather than continue any partnership with Face of Jade Group!

After listening to Trotsky's version of events, Gu Shiqian felt the room darken before her eyes and almost spat out a mouthful of blood!

Damn it, Gu Xiyan and Yu Linglong were low enough to dare play such tricks on Trotsky; they had no idea how they were going to die.

Now, both women had beaten a premature retreat from Face of Jade Group, but they had left her with an entire mess!

If she couldn't handle it properly, she would certainly have to roll out as well!

Gu Shiqian's hatred for Gu Xiyan grew even more intense.

But this was not the time to dwell on these matters. Gu Shiqian quickly apologized, "I'm so sorry, I truly wasn't aware that they would do such a thing, I will make it up to you..."

"Make it up?!" Upon hearing this, Trotsky looked Gu Shiqian up and down again, then shook his head and said, "You can't make it up!"

Trotsky was very disappointed. If he wanted to directly cancel the cooperation with Face of Jade Group, a simple phone call to them would have sufficed. Why would he bother coming in person?

The reason he came today was because he thought that in the process of canceling the cooperation, he could take advantage of Gu Xiyan and Yu Linglong—if he found the opportunity to exploit them, he would do so and then leave Huaxia...

That way, he could vent his frustration fully.

Unfortunately, the two striking beauties were no longer with Face of Jade Group, leaving behind only a plain and unremarkable girl. Naturally, he found no interest in her.

Seeing that Gu Shiqian was still stubbornly attempting to offer herself, Trotsky dismissed her with an indifferent wave, "Enough, no need to say more. I came here today to inform you that the cooperation is canceled, not to discuss it with you..."

After saying this, Trotsky, with his entourage, swaggeringly left the office.

"Mr. Trotsky..."

Gu Shiqian extended her hand, still wishing to retain him, but he totally ignored her.

"Bang!"

Gu Shiqian watched in despair as Trotsky left, until she could no longer see the backs of his team members; then anger surged within her. She grabbed her coffee cup and viciously smashed it on the ground!

"Gu Xiyan, Yu Linglong, you two sluts, being sly is bad enough, but to even screw me over, don't let me see you again, or I swear I won't let you off!"

Gu Shiqian roared furiously.

The secretary, trembling with fear, stood by. Looking at this scene, she felt that if Gu Xiyan and Yu Linglong appeared in front of Gu Shiqian right now, they would probably be torn limb from limb!

After smashing one cup, Gu Shiqian was not yet appeased, and started to continue her rampage, destroying the office.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!!"

She smashed things for almost four or five minutes.

During this time, actually, quite a few longtime employees who had also planned to come in hand their resignations were deterred by the noise at the door, knowing that if they went in now, they might come out with only half a life left, so they all decided to come back after the new boss's anger had cooled down.

But...

Waiting for her temper to subside before provoking her again might not be a good idea, right?!

"Huff puff..."

Gu Shiqian, tired from her destruction, heavily collapsed into the office chair, gasping for air, her eyes filled with despair and rage, now bloodshot to the point of madness.

The secretary waited a while, hesitated, then weakly suggested, "General Gu, they did sign a contract with us. If we just cancel the cooperation like this, we can sue them..."

"Sue them?!"

When Gu Shiqian heard the secretary's words, she was furious, cursing out, "They're an international corporation, do you dare to sue them? Besides, didn't he just say that even if they have to pay a penalty fee, they want to cancel the cooperation with me? Even if I sue them, they can just delay it, can our company afford to wait?!"

The secretary instantly fell silent, not daring to respond.

"Knock knock!"

The door was knocked on again.

Gu Shiqian was already very sensitive to the sound of knocking. Hearing someone knock again almost made her rush over to fight!

Just as Gu Shiqian was preparing to bark out: "Get lost!"

The door was already opened directly.

Then, Gu Shiqian saw her assistant, leading in a young woman, respectfully introducing, "General Gu, this is the former President of Jinyu International Fashion Co., Ltd., Xu Xiaojiao. She has come to say she wants to cooperate with us!"

"Cooperate? Cooperate on what?" As soon as Gu Shiqian heard the word 'cooperate,' she felt the anger surge within her again!

Xu Xiaojiao walked into the office, glanced at the chaotic scene, and thought back to Trotsky's recent departure, knowing that the Face of Jade Group's chance for transformation had failed.

Thus, Xu Xiaojiao looked down at the dispirited Gu Shiqian and bluntly said,

"I am here to offer Face of Jade Group a chance to bring you back from the dead!"

Chapter 157: Scheming!

"Hmm? Give my company a chance to come back from the dead? Who do you think you are? Such big talk without shame!"

Upon hearing this, Gu Shiqian couldn't help but laugh coldly.

Currently, Face of Jade Group was beset by internal and external troubles innumerable—the departure of company veterans had led to widespread anxiety among the employees, and Trotsky's breach of contract had put her in a difficult position. And now an unknown woman had come forward, claiming boldly from her first sentence that she could revive her company from the dead...

Gu Shiqian was no fool; how could she believe such nonsense?

Witnessing that Gu Shiqian seemed not to recognize Xu Xiaojiao, her secretary, anxious, promptly leaned in and briefly informed her about Xu Xiaojiao's details.

Though the secretary spoke briefly, Gu Shiqian was still shocked after hearing it.

She hadn't expected that this unremarkable-looking woman could so overwhelm Gu Xiyan and her team that it had forced them to shift from the thriving perfume and cosmetics industry to the fashion industry!

Face of Jade Group had dabbled in fashion before, but it was never the main focus of the company. The sudden pivot to concentrate on fashion was entirely because of her and the news about her company's newly developed cosmetics...

A product rumored, with long-term use, to make a person look three years younger—a miraculous cosmetic indeed!

Gu Shiqian, eyes wide with shock, stared at Xu Xiaojiao standing proudly at the doorway and thought, no wonder Gu Xiyan and her team had gone mad, suddenly abandoning new cosmetics development to dabble in fashion!

Xu Xiaojiao let Gu Shiqian's secretary relay her details to Gu Shiqian, and after observing her shocked expression, she smiled faintly and said, "Well? Does General Gu want to partner with me?"

She still felt a trace of surprise, wondering where Gu Xiyan and Jinyu Linglong had gone.

When Gu Shiqian heard Xu Xiaojiao's words, she came back to her senses, her gaze growing somewhat wary, then she said, "Partner, what do we have to partner on?!"

In her view, Xu Xiaojiao, such an impressive individual, coming out of nowhere to propose a partnership, was clearly joking or making fun of her.

On hearing this, her secretary quickly leaned in again and whispered, "President Xu was previously the president of Jinyu International Fashion."

When Gu Shiqian's assistant introduced Xu Xiaojiao as the former president when they arrived, Gu Shiqian was in a foul mood and didn't listen carefully, leading her to mistakenly think Xu Xiaojiao came intentionally to show off!

At that moment, after hearing her secretary's reminder, Gu Shiqian's eyes flashed, and she guessed that Xu Xiaojiao, this woman, must also have been defeated in a power struggle within her company, and then kicked out.

That made her intentions for coming here quite clear...

At that moment, Gu Shiqian smiled and said, "I apologize, I misspoke earlier. President Xu, please forgive me. May I ask how you intend to cooperate with me?"

Xu Xiaojiao was straightforward and said, "I have brought over all the materials for the new cosmetics that Jinyu Company is currently developing vigorously."

Upon hearing this, Gu Shiqian's eyes lit up, her heartbeat sped up rapidly, and her adrenaline surged, feeling that her chance to turn things around had come.

However, she quickly realized a problem and asked, "I believe you have come with sincerity to cooperate with me, but at Jinyu Company, this new cosmetic product must already have been successfully developed. They must be about to send it for testing at the Drug Administration to see if it's qualified, and then launch it in the market, right?"

While speaking, she shook her head slightly and added, "If that is the case, even if I obtain all the information on this new cosmetic product, I wouldn't be able to launch it before them. Instead, I would likely end up entangled in lawsuits!"

If the Face of Jade Company were not in a precarious state right now, then having obtained this valuable information, even if she couldn't launch a new product before Jinyu Company, she could still revamp the product and make a profit by following the trend.

But the Face of Jade Company was currently in a dire situation. Where would she find the time to slowly follow the trend and sip from the soup? The company might go bankrupt due to a break in the capital chain before the cosmetic product was even developed!

Xu Xiaojiao had studied the situation of the Face of Jade Group upon her arrival. Originally, if Trotsky had successfully cooperated, she would have been half convinced to persuade Gu Shiqian. But now, she was ninety percent sure that Gu Shiqian would cooperate with her.

With a light chuckle, Xu Xiaojiao confidently said, "Don't worry, they are still figuring out how to minimize the side effects of the new cosmetic product. It seems like it will take some time. Let's develop the imperfect product right now, take it to the Drug Administration for tests, get it approved, and immediately launch it in the market, catching them entirely off guard!"

"Are you sure they are still in the development phase?" Gu Shiqian quickly asked.

"Of course," Xu Xiaojiao replied. "I had to resign due to some issues, but I am fully aware of the internal situation of the company!"

A glint of spite flashed in her eyes as Xu Xiaojiao said, "Right now, they have spent a lot of money to verify a stable formula for this cosmetic product. Once it passes the Drug Administration's test, it could be sold in the market, probably for nearly ten thousand per box..."

With a sinister chuckle, Xu Xiaojiao added, "And we have no research and development costs. We can directly use their research achievements, plus by purchasing cheap medicinal herbs, keep the costs low. When we price it at three thousand, we will completely crush them!"

"Even if they continue to develop cosmetics with lesser side effects, the effects will only be slightly better than ours. They won't be crushing us by any stretch. Because of their high research and development costs, they can't reduce the price. If they sell it high, no one will buy; if they sell it low, they're signing their death warrant. Even if they sue us, we can drag it out for a while, then just settle with some money. By then, we'll have grabbed all their customers, and they'll have no chance at a comeback!"

Gu Shiqian got excited by her speech, then voiced a concern: "This truly is a great opportunity for a desperate counterattack, but... using cheap medicinal herbs, which means inferior quality, to produce beauty cosmetics, might there be... problems?"

Xu Xiaojiao calmly smiled and said, "There are definitely some risks, but they are ahead of us in terms of development, and their product is about to hit the market. If we want to overtake them in the curve and launch this cosmetic product before they do, we naturally have to take some risks."

Seeing Gu Shiqian still hesitant, Xu Xiaojiao persuaded again, "Don't worry, we don't need to keep it this way forever. Once the cosmetics are on the market and have made a name, capturing enough market share, we can slowly develop and improve, aiming to make it the best. The chances of something going wrong are very slim!"

Chapter 158: Pleasant Cooperation!

Gu Shiqian was still hesitant.

Just then, her phone suddenly began to ring.

As Gu Shiqian took out her phone and saw the caller ID, her scalp tingled instantly.

It was her grandfather, Gu Zhengxin, calling!

"Ring-a-ding-ding! Ring-a-ding-ding!"

The phone continued to ring, sounding like the death knell of King Yan, yet Gu Shiqian didn't dare to answer it.

She knew there must be various issues in the company that had reached her grandfather, and he was calling to seek an explanation!

Xu Xiaojiao watched Gu Shiqian's demeanour, glanced at the lit name on the screen, sneered to herself, and said, "Answer the phone, I'll go outside and wait for General Gu's response."

After saying that, she didn't dilly-dally and walked straight out of the office to the reception room, giving Gu Shiqian the chance to negotiate at her leisure.

Once Xu Xiaojiao left, Gu Shiqian steeled herself and answered the phone.

"Hello, why did it take so long to answer? And, what's with all the problems at the company? If you can't handle it, come home right away; I'll have someone else take over!"

As soon as the call connected, an angry roar came from Gu Zhengxin through the receiver.

Gu Shiqian quickly explained, "I'm sorry, Grandfather, just now Shiqian was receiving a partner at the company and couldn't answer your call right away, I'm really sorry..."

Hearing Gu Shiqian's apology, the anger in Gu Zhengxin's voice subsided somewhat, but he was still very annoyed and queried, "What about the partnership with Trotsky? I thought partnering with him would offer Face of Jade Company a huge future, which is why I didn't hesitate to fall out with that ingrate. Now, the moment we get our hands on the company, they withdraw from the partnership. What's the use of acquiring the company at such a great cost if it leads to nothing?"

Gu Shiqian's hesitant eyes immediately turned to determination, and she quickly said, "Grandfather, it's okay, if Trotsky won't cooperate, then he won't cooperate. I've already found a better partner!"

As she spoke, she hurriedly explained to Gu Zhengxin the reasons behind Gu Xiyan's shift to focusing on fashion and how Xu Xiaojiao, after being ousted from their company, came with the precious secret formula data seeking partnership.

"Is that so?" Gu Zhengxin asked, somewhat incredulous.

Yet Gu Shiqian could still detect a hint of excitement in his tone.

Suddenly, Gu Shiqian felt a weight lift from her chest and quickly said, "Yes, that's right, I'm already negotiating the terms of the partnership—whether to buy her secret formula data outright or to take an equity stake. Maybe you should come and talk to her, Grandfather?"

"There's no need," said Gu Zhengxin. "Since I've handed the company over to you, you should negotiate. The company doesn't have much funds now, right? If she plans to sell the secret formula data for money, as long as she doesn't ask for an exorbitant price, go ahead and negotiate..."

After giving Gu Shiqian a few instructions, Gu Zhengxin hung up the phone.

Pocketing her phone, Gu Shiqian finally felt the great stone that had been pressing on her heart had fallen, and she breathed a sigh of relief.

Afterward, she went to the reception room to find Xu Xiaojiao, who was sitting leisurely waiting for her arrival.

"President Xu, I kept you waiting," Gu Shiqian said with a smile to Xu Xiaojiao.

"It's fine, have you made up your mind, General Gu?" Xu Xiaojiao said, with her legs crossed.

Gu Shiqian said, "I've considered it, but President Xu, how do you want to cooperate? Are you going to sell the secret formula to me directly, or are you going to use the information to take a stake in the company with technology?"

Xu Xiaojiao obviously had considered it too and said directly, "I'll sell the information directly. After all, given my sensitive identity, I can't take a stake in the company."

"Fine," Gu Shiqian said. "Then, President Xu, how much do you want to sell it for?"

"Fifty million!" Xu Xiaojiao didn't even think before blurting out the amount.

"Fifty million?!" Gu Shiqian, upon hearing this, was also shocked.

"What? Too expensive for you?" Xu Xiaojiao, hearing this, gave Gu Shiqian a sidelong glance and said leisurely, "I'm not trying to extort you. When I bought this beauty secret formula from someone else, I spent more than twenty million. Plus, I invested a lot of money into research and development until this information ended up in my hands. So, fifty million is not only fair, but it's actually quite a bargain."

After speaking, Xu Xiaojiao saw that Gu Shiqian was still hesitant and added, "I don't want my months of hard work to end up benefiting someone else like a wedding dress made for another, plus your company was originally a mortal enemy of my company. That's why I thought of selling it to you—to let you rise from the ashes like a phoenix, so they would feel like they'd eaten shit. Otherwise, if I go to cooperate with someone else, without a billion, I wouldn't even give them the time of day!"

After listening to Xu Xiaojiao, Gu Shiqian was moved and then said, "I'm going to make a phone call."

"Okay," Xu Xiaojiao nodded.

Gu Shiqian then quickly went out and called Gu Zhengxin.

After all, Face of Jade Group didn't have much in the way of liquid funds right now. If she wanted to buy this beauty secret formula information, she would have to ask her grandfather for money.

Soon after making the call, Gu Shiqian came back into the reception room.

"How did it go?" Xu Xiaojiao looked up at her, her expression calm, neither rushing nor dragging her feet.

Gu Shiqian hesitated, "Fifty million might be workable, but I need to know if your information is genuine or fake first, and whether its effects are real and not exaggerated!"

Upon hearing this, Xu Xiaojiao took out an unlabeled makeup box from her bag and said, "Don't worry, since I've come, of course, I came prepared. This is a qualified beauty makeup product that I brought from my previous provider. You can try it out for yourself."

Gu Shiqian, of course, did not dare to test it on herself. Hearing this, she called her secretary in to try it.

The secretary came in, took the makeup product, and applied it to her face. Soon after the medicinal paste was evenly spread on and absorbed by her skin, the secretary's skin visibly improved at a speed visible to the naked eye, becoming moisturized, shiny, and elastic.

Gu Shiqian, suspecting it was only good for concealment and whitening, had her secretary wash her face and then remove the makeup with cleansing water.

After all that, the secretary's skin still did not revert to its original dry state, leaving Gu Shiqian shocked.

Wow, it's really that amazing.

Seeing Gu Shiqian's expression of interest, Xu Xiaojiao struck while the iron was hot and said, "General Gu, what do you think? I didn't lie to you, did I? The secret formula information I have is definitely worth the money."

"And..." Xu Xiaojiao hesitated for a moment, then added, "You should be aware, my surname is Xu, and I am from the Xu Family of River City. There's absolutely no need for me to cheat you out of this small amount of money. I'm selling you this information purely to vent my anger."

Upon hearing this, Gu Shiqian stated a concern that both she and her grandfather cared about deeply, "If I buy your information, outmaneuver Jinyu Company, and screw them over, wouldn't the Xu Family... come after us for a reckoning?"

Xu Xiaojiao smiled faintly and shook her head, "Don't worry. My resignation was just a result of being schemed against; it doesn't really involve the Xu Family's internal affairs. You also know Jinyu Company is now just a small company, which was meant for me to play around with. The Xu Family has bigger fish to fry, so why would they bother with you over such a trifle?"

Hearing this, Gu Shiqian relaxed, flashed a relieved smile, and extended her hand, "Then let's have a pleasant cooperation!"

Chapter 159: Hobby — Money!

Upon leaving the Face of Jade Group, Xu Xiaojiao's expression remained calm and composed, without a ripple of disturbance.

But inside, she found the situation quite amusing.

If that fool, Gu Shiqian, knew that the reason she was ousted from Jinyu Company and utterly defeated was because the new company owner was someone even Elder Master Xu had to treat with respect...

Would they ever think of buying the secret formula information from her and then trying to snatch food from the tiger's mouth?

They thought it was just a normal business competition, that the Xu Family wouldn't trouble them for it, but they didn't know...

Alas, she had deceived them!

Unfortunately, they had no way to verify with the Xu Family whether her words were true or false, and because they coveted the immense profits that the beauty secret formula promised, they could only gamble, betting she hadn't lied to them.

Moreover, in order to keep her position as president and to make a desperate bid for survival, Gu Shiqian would cover up any parts of Xiaojiao's story she felt were not quite right, reassuring Gu Zhengxin and allowing Xiaojiao to successfully pull the wool over their eyes.

She had smoothly obtained fifty million.

As for what happened afterward...

It was none of her business!

Anyway, she was about to leave Huaxia soon; she would leave the mess for them to play with slowly.

Ever since Xu Tianzheng had kicked her out of the Jinyu Company, Xu Xiaojiao understood that it would be difficult for her to get the resources, wealth, and status she desired from the Xu Family...

And because of Mu Jinyu's existence, she would also be eternally suppressed by Xu Qingya, that bastard, never to turn things around!

Therefore, after making a firm decision to take revenge on them, she had no intention of staying in Huaxia any longer.

While thinking about these matters, Xu Xiaojiao's eyes flickered briefly with resentment and satisfaction, and then she took her mobile phone out of her pocket and made a call.

"Hello, are the plane tickets booked? Good, I'll be there right away..."

...

Mu Jinyu, who was washing dishes at home, still had no idea that the cosmetic secret formula his company had spent a fortune developing had been sold off.

However, even if he knew, he wouldn't care; after all, he had never thought highly of that trash secret formula that could only make someone look three years younger.

Mu Jinyu was washing dishes while contemplating.

Speaking of which, if Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and Xu Qingya were in the same place, would they fight over him?

Alas, being too outstanding has its troubles!

After tidying up the dishes, Mu Jinyu still felt uneasy and thought it would be best to visit his own company.

After all these days, he had not yet visited his company and it didn't seem right!

So, Mu Jinyu went back to his room to change into more appropriate clothes, then left the house and headed to the company that he had owned for several days but had never visited.

Upon arriving at the company's entrance...

Mu Jinyu called Xu Qingya to tell her he had arrived.

Upon hearing this, Xu Qingya was quite surprised and then prepared to come down to lead him up while calling the company's executives to meet him.

Mu Jinyu declined, "No need for that trouble, as long as you haven't fought, it's fine."

"Fought? What do you mean?" Xu Qingya didn't understand what Mu Jinyu meant.

Mu Jinyu, realizing he accidentally spilled the beans, quickly changed the subject, "It's nothing. Anyway, I'm entering the company incognito to see if there are any bad apples. Don't make a fuss about coming down."

Xu Qingya, hearing that Mu Jinyu wanted to play this game, naturally cooperated with him.

"Then which department are you planning to join? Security? HR? PR? Marketing? Finance? Procurement? Or R&D?"

The reason Xu Qingya mentioned the security department first is that in many novels, commanding 'War Kings' and such, when entering their wife's company to freeload, usually start in the security department.

"Which department has the most beauties?" Mu Jinyu blurted out.

Xu Qingya replied, "That would naturally be the PR department."

"All right, then I'll join the PR department," Mu Jinyu decided happily. After saying that, he added somewhat guiltily, "I'm not going there for the beauties, but generally beauties lack skills and get by on connections. I want to see if the PR department is full of high-paying but incompetent freeloaders!"

"Sure, I understand," Xu Qingya said in an even and natural tone, not adding much else but cautioned, "Then I'll arrange for you to join the PR department right away. Just go to HR, fill out the form, and you'll be employed."

"Okay," Mu Jinyu, unsure if Xu Qingya suspected any ulterior motives, sheepishly agreed and hung up the phone.

After that.

Mu Jinyu entered the building, pressed the button for the twenty-second floor, and took the elevator up.

Arriving on the twenty-second floor, Mu Jinyu stepped out of the elevator and, seeing the wall with "Jinyu International Fashion Co., Ltd." on it, nodded his head in satisfaction and then proceeded inside.

"Good morning, sir. Do you have an appointment?"

The receptionist saw Mu Jinyu approaching and asked with a sweet smile.

"Yes, I'm here to join the company. My name is Mu Jinyu," Mu Jinyu responded with a smile as well.

Hearing this, the receptionist didn't even check the records, since President Xu had just reminded her. She smiled much more warmly and said, "Ah, the HR department is just inside, the third office."

"Thank you," Mu Jinyu thanked her and headed towards the company's interior.

Once at HR, since he had already received Xu Qingya's instructions, his employment procedures were processed very quickly.

After completing the formalities, his HR colleagues then showed Mu Jinyu how to get to the PR department.

"Thank you." Mu Jinyu thanked them and then followed their directions to the PR department.

Upon arriving at the PR department, Mu Jinyu reported to the manager's office.

The PR manager was a woman in her thirties, not particularly beautiful, but with an air of elegance, probably from a scholarly family.

The manager, having been alerted in advance, did not give Mu Jinyu a hard time but greeted him with a polite and gentle smile, exchanged a few words, and then introduced him to the other colleagues.

"Everyone, please pause your work. Our PR department has a new team member, and what's more, a rare male colleague. Make sure you don't bully him, okay? Now, let's have him introduce himself..."

The manager clapped her hands to draw everyone's attention, then after saying the above words, she gave Mu Jinyu an encouraging look, stepped aside, and allowed him to start his self-introduction.

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing this, was somewhat taken aback.

I just wanted to sneak in quietly, so why do I end up drawing so much attention?

Sigh!

Mu Jinyu sighed inwardly, but seeing the group of youthful and pretty ladies from the PR department casting curious glances his way, he cleared his throat and began his self-introduction, "Hello everyone, my name is Mu Jinyu, I'm male, and my hobbies are..."

Upon hearing this, some people couldn't help but smirk, thinking he was going to say his hobby was women, while others found it boring and scornfully turned up their noses.

Mu Jinyu paused, cleared his throat again, and said, "Money!"

Chapter 160 Lin Qiaoxia

"Pfft."

Everyone burst into light laughter when they heard Mu Jinyu's self-introduction, finding him quite witty and humorous.

Then, they all focused their attention on Mu Jinyu, eagerly anticipating his next words.

The director stood by, watching Mu Jinyu with encouraging eyes, signaling him to continue.

Feeling their expectant gazes, Mu Jinyu cleared his throat softly and said somewhat embarrassedly, "That's it."

"Huh? That's all?"

Upon hearing this, the public relations department collectively sighed in disappointment, then turned back in their chairs and returned to their work.

Seeing this, the director chuckled, shook his head, and patted Mu Jinyu on the shoulder encouragingly, "Keep up the good work, and if there's anything you don't understand, feel free to ask them. I'll be heading back now."

"Okay," Mu Jinyu nodded.

The director gave Mu Jinyu one more encouraging look before turning back to his office.

Mu Jinyu watched him leave, then turned around to find that no one else was paying him any attention. He chuckled ruefully and found a corner seat to sit down.

He couldn't bother to seek out the leaders to ask what he should be doing or to seize an opportunity to make himself noticed.

Nonsense, he had entered the company incognito—not to work, but just to play...to investigate if anyone was harming the company's interests!

If there was such a person, he would catch them and then decide whether to have them locked up for a few years.

At that moment.

A fair arm holding some documents stretched over from the next desk, the voice gentle, "Um... please take a look at this."

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu glanced at the items being handed over—all company regulations and corporate culture materials.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu reached out to take them.

Then, he turned his head to look.

At the neighboring desk sat a girl in a professional suit, slender and frail. Her dense black hair fell thickly, her bangs untrimmed, and she wore a pair of large black glasses, looking down at her work; her face was indistinct.

Sensing Mu Jinyu's gaze, the girl looked up at him.

Instantly, Mu Jinyu saw half of her face—a delicate nose, rosy lips, a fine chin, and very fair skin, free of acne or spots, or any scars left from adolescence.

At first glance, she was a girl with delicate and beautiful features, and the large black glasses made her eyes misty and dreamy, giving her an overall look of fragile purity that elicited a protective instinct.

Noticing Mu Jinyu's steady gaze, the girl's pretty face flushed slightly, then she lowered her voice, "I'm Lin Qiaoxia. If you need any help, feel free to ask me, though... I also only just joined the company."

"Okay," Mu Jinyu nodded, a fleeting look of admiration in his eyes, then he averted his gaze and casually flipped through the corporate culture materials that Lin Qiaoxia had just handed over.

But inside, he was still thinking non-stop. When he first entered the office and casually glanced around, he thought the public relations department was just a bunch of ordinary, superficial people with internet-celebrity or "Snake Spirit Face" looks. He didn't expect to find such a beautiful girl tucked away in the corner.

Lin Qiaoxia, due to her lack of dressing up, might seem plain and simple at first glance, but on closer inspection, she could definitely rival beauties like Gu Xiyan and Xu Qingya if she dressed up properly.

And she seemed quite kind-hearted...

As Mu Jinyu was lost in his thoughts, a stylishly dressed woman with a perfect figure but a "Snake Spirit Face" strode towards them in her high heels with assertive steps.

"Bang!"

The woman tossed a document onto Lin Qiaoxia's desk and instructed, "Qiaoxia, the five hundred thousand balance owed by Hongmao Pharmaceuticals still hasn't been collected. Why don't you go and give it a try today?"

"This..." Upon hearing this, Lin Qiaoxia's pretty face instantly turned pale, and she quickly shook her head, "I can't do it, Manager. Please find someone else..."

"How do you know if you can't do it without trying?" the manager retorted irritably, glaring at Lin Qiaoxia with a hint of jealousy, then turned her head to look at Mu Jinyu, who sat in the farthest corner. After pondering for a moment, she added, "If you're too scared to go alone, let the newcomer Mu Jinyu accompany you."

"This... Manager..." Lin Qiaoxia tried to say something else.

But the manager cut her off abruptly, "Alright, that's settled. Hurry up and get ready, and go."

After speaking, she walked away in her high heels.

Mu Jinyu watched the manager leave, frowning slightly but saying nothing.

Seeing that the manager had made her decision final, and that she had even dragged the new coworker into this, Lin Qiaoxia couldn't help but press her lips together. She turned to Mu Jinyu, her eyes brimming with tears as she said, "I'm sorry, it's all my fault, and now you're involved too..."

"It's okay, no need to cry," Mu Jinyu responded, pulling a tissue from the office box and handing it to Lin Qiaoxia, then curiously asked, "By the way, what's the deal with the balance the manager asked us to collect? Is there a problem with it?"

"Yeah." Lin Qiaoxia nodded, about to explain to Mu Jinyu,

"Aren't you guys leaving yet?!"

From the other side, the hot-tempered manager, seeing that they were still dawdling, yelled at them loudly.

"Let's go first, I'll explain it on the way," Lin Qiaoxia quickly wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes, stood up to take the document that the manager had just thrown at her, and said to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu's brows furrowed deeply.

Although Lin Qiaoxia hadn't yet clearly explained how terrifying the task was, the fact that it had immediately reduced her to tears indicated it was no simple matter. This manager had clearly passed on the trouble to them, likely because she couldn't handle it herself and wanted to shift the responsibility.

"Let's go," Lin Qiaoxia said, picking up the document. Seeing that Mu Jinyu was still in a daze, she called out again.

Actually, if it had been any other task, she probably would have gone by herself.

But the manager had tasked her with collecting a five hundred thousand balance owed by Hongmao Pharmaceuticals, which made her tremble with fear, afraid to go alone.

Therefore, despite feeling terribly guilty towards Mu Jinyu, she could only ask him to accompany her.

"Okay," Mu Jinyu said upon hearing that, nodding his head solemnly as he stood up.

Then, Lin Qiaoxia, holding the document and looking down, hurried towards the office door.

Mu Jinyu quickly followed suit.

At that moment, knowing that the two were headed to Hongmao Pharmaceuticals to collect the long-overdue balance, the public relations department staff looked at them with a mix of pity and mockery, murmuring among themselves:

"They're going to collect the balance from Hongmao Pharmaceuticals, eh? How long do you guys think these newcomers will end up in the hospital?"

"At least three weeks, right?"

"Well, they're definitely not in for anything good!"

"I heard that it was General Gu, who had just come in, ordered Manager Chen to collect the balance due from other companies. Manager Chen had no choice but to find newcomers as scapegoats."

"..."