

Full-Level 411

Chapter 411: Falling Out 3

If it had been in the past, Qian Gumeng would have felt self-blame and immediately apologized to Ye Xiyuan. But now, she harbored suspicions about Ye Xiyuan. So, she straightforwardly said, “Since what you’re saying is true, when can I meet Li Deze? Didn’t you mention wanting to set us up? If that’s the case, we should spend some time together!”

Upon hearing Qian Gumeng’s request, Ye Xiyuan’s body stiffened, and she struggled to maintain her expression. “Gumeng, Brother Deze is usually quite busy, so if we want to meet, we’d need to schedule a suitable time, and we...”

Before Ye Xiyuan could finish her sentence, Qian Gumeng interrupted her, saying, “Don’t use such words to evade my questions. Xiyuan, tell me honestly, have you been using me all along?”

“Gumeng, have you perhaps heard someone trying to sow discord between us?” Ye Xiyuan quickly offered an explanation. “We’re good friends. Why would

I use you?”

“If that’s not the case, then why are you making me take the blame for this situation?”

Qian Gumeng’s emotions were slipping out of her control as she questioned, “It’s not just this time, even during the last qualifier. That matter clearly had nothing to do with me, but I ended up facing the consequences. Ye Xiyuan, why am I always the one who gets hurt? Is it just because I’m your good friend?”

“Gumeng, I...” Ye Xiyuan didn’t know what to say. “Take a moment to calm down. Otherwise, we won’t be able to have a productive conversation.”

“I don’t need to calm down right now.” Qian Gumeng’s gaze, when fixed on Ye Xiyuan, carried a hint of resentment she couldn’t conceal. “I want to hear your explanation now. Otherwise, you can go explain to our classmates that I didn’t steal that necklace.”

“Sorry, Gumeng, but I truly have no choice.” Ye Xiyuan wore a troubled expression. “What’s the point of me saying these things now? Both of us will be criticized. Is that the outcome you want?”

Her patience with Qian Gumeng had reached its limit. It appeared she had been too lenient. Qian Gumeng should have been cast aside long ago, and now the blade was pointed squarely at her.

Just at that moment, the mechanical voice of the system suddenly sounded, “Host, please be aware that Li Deze is on his way here.”

Receiving the system’s alert, Ye Xiyuan immediately formulated a plan. Since Qian Gumeng was no longer under her control, it was time to let her go. This was a perfect opportunity. With the right execution, no one at school would believe Qian Gumeng’s words.

With this in mind, Ye Xiyuan's expression transformed completely. Her formerly gentle countenance was now adorned with a malevolent smile. "Qian Gumeng, I initially didn't want to have a falling out with you, but it seems you are truly shameless! So, I'll tell you straight. Yes, I've been using you all along.

How does that make you feel now that you know the truth?"

Even though she had prepared herself mentally, Qian Gumeng was still somewhat taken aback by Ye Xiyuan's abrupt change in demeanor. Her face displayed disbelief. "Ye Xiyuan, you..."

"How does it feel? Quite shocking, isn't it?" The sarcasm on Ye Xiyuan's face became more pronounced. "Didn't you suspect as much already, Qian Gumeng? If it weren't for your naivety and gullibility, do you think I would have willingly made myself your so-called good friend?"

"Ye Xiyuan, aren't you afraid I'll expose your true nature to everyone?" Qian Gumeng spoke with resentment. "By then, do you think our classmates will still idolize you as they do now?"

"If you want to do that, go ahead!" Ye Xiyuan responded indifferently. "You're now a known thief, while I'm about to become the Nangong family's adoptive daughter. Tell me, will people believe your words or mine?"

Chapter 412: Falling Out 4

"When the time comes, all I need to do is say that you're overreacting out of embarrassment, fabricating stories in an attempt to defame me. After all, do you have any evidence?"

Looking at Ye Xiyuan right in front of her, Qian Gumeng felt like she was facing a complete stranger. She never expected that her so-called good friend had such a true face.

As if finding it not thrilling enough, the malicious smile on Ye Xiyuan's face grew even brighter. "And there's more! Did you really think I would speak well of you in front of Li Deze? That's nothing short of a pipe dream. I actually told Li Deze that you have a bad temper, poor social skills, and act recklessly. Moreover, I didn't even bother to defend you this time, So, now, in Li Deze's eyes, you're nothing but a thief."

At this point, Ye Xiyuan leaned in close to Qian Gumeng's ear, speaking in a low voice, "Do you know? Right now, Li Deze is absolutely repulsed by you."

"Stop, don't say any more,"

Whether it was due to the intense emotions or not, Qian Gumeng's face displayed pure madness. She didn't hold back; she just pushed Ye Xiyuan to the ground and, without hesitation, straddled her. She reached out and firmly gripped Ye Xiyuan's neck while shouting, "Ye Xiyuan, you b*tch, I'm going to kill you."

Surprisingly, Ye Xiyuan made no effort to resist this treatment. She even wore a smile that seemed victorious.

This smile caused Qian Gumeng, who was acting somewhat deranged at the moment, to suddenly regain her senses for a fleeting moment. She hadn't figured out why when she was abruptly pulled away by a powerful force and unceremoniously shoved onto the ground.

The force was considerable, and it showed no mercy. She instinctively extended her hand to cushion her fall, but her palm stung from scraping against the sharp stones on the ground.

However, as she gazed upon the person who had pushed her, she felt that the pain in her heart was a hundred times more intense than the pain in her palm. This person was none other than Li Deze.

Li Deze didn't spare a glance for Qian Gumeng. In his eyes and heart, there was only Ye Xiyuan. He promptly helped Ye Xiyuan up from the ground and inquired with deep concern, "Xiyuan, are you okay? You're fine, right?"

Just moments ago, when he had gone to look for Ye Xiyuan in the classroom, he had heard students say that Ye Xiyuan and Qian Gumeng had left.

Furthermore, he had heard that Qian Gumeng seemed emotionally agitated.

Upon learning of these events, he rushed over, worried that if the two couldn't reconcile and Qian Gumeng started causing trouble, it would be Ye Xiyuan who would suffer.

However, he hadn't expected to encounter this scene upon arrival. Without any hesitation, he immediately separated Qian Gumeng from Ye Xiyuan.

"Cough, cough, cough!" Ye Xiyuan clutched her chest, coughing a few times.

After taking several deep breaths, she mustered a weak smile as she spoke to

Li Deze, "Brother Deze, I'm okay. Don't worry."

At this moment, Ye Xiyuan looked pallid, covered in dust, with disheveled hair. But what was most shocking were the two crimson handprints on her neck.

As Li Deze looked at Qian Gumeng with disgust in his eyes, he said with anger, 'Qian Gumeng, you've gone too far. You had already stolen Xiyuan's necklace before, and she had forgiven you. Now, you're actually attempting to kill her?

You're truly heartless."

Qian Gumeng was extremely anxious to be criticized by the boy she liked. She immediately got up and was about to defend herself, "No, l... It was her..."

But in her haste, her words became incoherent. The more she tried to explain, the less clear it became.

"Brother Deze, please don't blame Gumeng." Ye Xiyuan held Li Deze's hand and pleaded, "She didn't mean it. It's just that she's been through a lot recently, which has caused her to act this way."

“Xiyuan, after she’s treated you like this, why are you still speaking up for her?” Li Deze frowned in disagreement. “It’s precisely because you’ve been so lenient with her that she’s become even more audacious.’

“Ye Xiyuan, you can’t pretend to be nice here.” Seeing how quickly Ye Xiyuan was practicing, Qian Gumeng couldn’t help but exclaim, “Just a moment ago, you weren’t like this. What kind of act are you putting on now?”

“Gumeng, please calm down.” Ye Xiyuan looked at Qian Gumeng with a troubled expression. “I understand that what happened at the banquet deeply affected you. It was a moment of confusion, and I don’t hold it against you. But you can’t expect me to lie to everyone, saying that I lent you the necklace just because of this.”

At this point, Ye Xiyuan’s expression turned somewhat sorrowful. “You know how important that necklace is to me. I would never lend it so casually.”

Li Deze immediately understood the situation. He looked at Qian Gumeng with disdain, saying, “It’s one thing for you to be greedy, but it’s another to shamelessly ask Xiyuan to lie for you. You’re beyond redemption. To think that earlier, Xiyuan told me that you were just momentarily confused and had no ill intentions. Now it seems that you’re truly unrepentant.”

“It’s not like that. Really, it’s not like that.” Hearing the words of the person she liked, Qian Gumeng felt her heart ache to the point where she could barely breathe. She pointed at Ye Xiyuan and said, “I didn’t steal that necklace. It was Ye Xiyuan. She wanted to frame Ye Lengan, so she asked for my help. But I don’t know why the necklace ended up in my bag. I truly didn’t steal that necklace.’

“Gumeng, how could you say such a thing?” Ye Xiyuan appeared deeply provoked. “I’ve been looking out for you all along. Why are you accusing me like this?”

“Ye Xiyuan, it was all your idea. Why did you make me take the blame in the end?” As Qian Gumeng looked at Ye Xiyuan, her eyes were filled with hatred.

“In the end, you’re still pretending to be the good person here.”

If she could, she truly wanted to approach Ye Xiyuan and tear away all the pretense from her face. She had always thought that she and Ye Xiyuan were good friends who were helping each other. But in the end, she realized that she was nothing more than a tool Ye Xiyuan had used to deal with Ye Lengan..

Chapter 413 - 413: The Banquet 1

Ye Xiyuan lowered her head and remained silent, offering no further words or self-defense.

Observing Ye Xiyuan’s demeanor, Qian Gumeng became increasingly furious.

“Ye Xiyuan, you...”

“Alright, Qian Gumeng, please keep quiet,” Li Deze interjected abruptly. “It’s truly a tragedy for Ye Xiyuan to have a friend like you. And furthermore, we won’t let today’s incident be brushed aside so easily. Your actions just now amounted to attempted murder. The injuries on Ye Xiyuan’s body stand as clear evidence. We won’t let you escape justice.”

“No, Brother Deze, Gumeng didn’t do it on purpose,” Ye Xiyuan pleaded, gripping Li Deze’s arm and hastily speaking. “Let’s put an end to this matter as it is, and not pursue it any further.”

“Xiyuan, by doing this, you’re condoning her criminal behavior,” Li Deze furrowed his brows and remarked. “She nearly took your life moments ago, and yet you’re here pleading for her. Just look at her, does she seem like someone who will appreciate your mercy?”

“Brother Deze, this is my own affair, and I’ve declared my decision not to pursue it.” Ye Xiyuan’s tone grew resolute. “I’m the victim, and I have the right to make that call.”

Watching Ye Xiyuan’s demeanor, Li Deze couldn’t help but feel exasperated.

“Ye Xiyuan, don’t put on a show here,” Qian Gumeng glared at Ye Xiyuan. “Don’t think that your past deeds have gone unnoticed. Actions have consequences, and you will face retribution.”

“Today’s events won’t end so easily,” Li Deze turned to Qian Gumeng, speaking firmly. “Even if Xiyuan chooses not to pursue this, it doesn’t mean the incident never happened. I will report this to the principal now and let him ensure justice is served. I believe the principal will make a fair decision and will not allow a student with murderous intent to remain here.”

Seeing the boy she cared for treating her this way, Qian Gumeng felt utterly heartbroken.

“Li Deze, don’t be naive. Do you truly believe that Ye Xiyuan likes you? She merely regards you as a backup plan, yet you devote yourself entirely to her. Is it truly worth it?”

“My personal matters have no relevance to you,” Li Deze looked at Qian Gumeng with a mixture of disdain, as if he had spotted something unsavory. “Furthermore, don’t spew baseless accusations. There is nothing romantic between Xiyuan and me. I will continue to cherish her like a sister.”

Although his affection for Ye Xiyuan lingered in his heart, he had vowed, just as he had at Ye Xiyuan’s birthday celebration, to silently protect her without causing her any distress.

With these words, Li Deze took Ye Xiyuan’s hand and began walking toward the principal’s office. He couldn’t let this matter be swept under the rug. Even if he chose not to pursue legal

consequences against Qian Gumeng, he was determined to ensure she was expelled from the school. Otherwise, they would share the same campus, and he had no idea when Qian Gumeng might snap and pose a threat to Ye Xiyuan again.

“You will come to regret this, Li Deze. I promise you that. Ye Xiyuan is not as simple as she seems.”

Watching Li Deze depart, Qian Gumeng sobbed loudly.

“Is it worth it?” Just then, a figure appeared before Qian Gumeng. “For the sake of Li Deze, you and Ye Xiyuan have played a dangerous game, and now the tables have turned. Do you genuinely believe it’s all worth it?”

“Xuyan?” Qian Gumeng raised her head and saw Ouyang Xuyan standing before her. She immediately reached out and grasped his sleeve, urgently pleading, “You must help me. You’re the only one left who can. No one else is willing to support me.”

As in countless previous instances, she turned to Ouyang Xuyan for assistance.

She knew all too well that even if the entire world abandoned her, Ouyang Xuyan would remain steadfastly by her side.

Hearing Qian Gumeng’s plea, Ouyang Xuyan’s eyes betrayed a hint of pain. “Then how do you wish for me to help you?”

At this moment, he recalled the words Ye Lengan had once spoken. It seemed that he had consistently played the role of a sycophant in front of Qian Gumeng. Now, he couldn’t help but reflect upon himself. Had everything he sacrificed for her truly been worthwhile? For Qian Gumeng, he had given so much.. Was it time to cease?

Chapter 414 - 414: The Banquet 2

“Help me deal with Ye Xiyuan!” Completely oblivious to Ouyang Xuyan’s unusual demeanor, Qian Gumeng kept talking persistently. “That wretched Ye Xiyuan, she’s been using me. And Li Deze, can you please help me explain things to him, okay?”

Feeling waves of pain in his chest, Ouyang Xuyan took a deep breath. His eyes gradually grew cold, mirroring the emotions he once had for Qian Gumeng.

He extended his hand, directly pulling Qian Gumeng’s hand away, and asked,

“How do you propose we deal with Ye Xiyuan? Should I, like I once did with Ye Lengan, seduce Ye Xiyuan? So, in your eyes, what exactly am I? A means for you to eliminate all obstacles?”

“Xuyan, what’s gotten into you?” Seemingly caught off guard by Ouyang Xuyan’s sudden words, Qian Gumeng felt somewhat bewildered. “What do you mean by this? Are you accusing me?”

"I wouldn't dare," Ouyang Xuyan responded with a mocking smile. "Everything I did for you in the past was willingly, so I hold no grievances. However, I'm now awake, and I no longer wish to continue being foolish."

"So, Xuyan, are you betraying me?" Qian Gumeng's eyes widened with disbelief, her face displaying incredulity. "Why, Why are you giving up on me at a time like this?" She had never expected that someone she believed would never betray her would utter such words today, especially when she was going through a period of alienation, he chose to depart at this moment.

"What kind of relationship do we have? Where does the notion of betrayal come into play?" Ouyang Xuyan chuckled. "Just because I've assisted you in the past, does it mean I must continue to do so unconditionally in the future?"

Based on what? Gumeng, I'm not betraying you; I've simply awakened."

Observing Ouyang Xuyan's countenance, Qian Gumeng felt as if something immensely significant was slipping away. She instinctively reached out to grasp Ouyang Xuyan's hand once more, but he evaded her.

"Gumeng, you won't be able to resolve this matter," Ouyang Xuyan sidestepped Qian Gumeng and offered a final piece of advice. "You should promptly contact your family. As for the school, transferring will be the best option. I'm afraid you can't stay here much longer."

For the sake of their past connection, this was the last guidance he could provide. Henceforth, Qian Gumeng's affairs would have no bearing on him.

"Don't go, Ouyang Xuyan, you jerk."

Qian Gumeng couldn't stem the flow of tears down her face. She watched Ouyang Xuyan's departing figure, and her heart felt desolate. She couldn't articulate the emotions coursing through her, but she was acutely aware that from this day forward, she had truly lost Ouyang Xuyan.

This ache was even more agonizing than when she had confronted Li Deze's misunderstanding just moments ago. At this juncture, she couldn't decipher the exact nature of her feelings for Ouyang Xuyan. Nevertheless, she comprehended that in the future, she might not encounter someone who would unconditionally treat her well.

With these thoughts, Qian Gumeng found her tears uncontrollable.

Upon hearing the news of Qian Gumeng's transfer, Ye Lengan wasn't particularly surprised but did harbor some regret. During their earlier conversation, she had secretly administered a drug to Qian Gumeng. This drug was somewhat akin to a hallucinogen but had distinct properties. It could magnify preexisting suspicions in a person's heart limitlessly. To put it plainly, Qian Gumeng had already harbored doubts about Ye Xiyuan, and the drug merely amplified that inkling, compelling Qian Gumeng to confront Ye Xiyuan.

Regrettably, the drug had no discernible effect on Ye Xiyuan, but it resulted in Qian Gumeng's expulsion.

In the days that followed, Ye Lengan had no particular engagements, so she remained at school. However, over these few days, she conceived an idea, to accelerate her studies and sit for the college entrance examination early.

Before long, the banquet to celebrate Murong Yanshu formally taking in her goddaughter was held as scheduled. The event took place at a hotel under the Nangong family's banner..

Chapter 415 - 415: The Banquet 3

The banquet had invited almost all the top families in the capital, and its grandeur was quite evident.

This was the first time the Ye family had attended such an event. Even though they were trying to maintain their composure, a hint of unease still occasionally crept into their demeanor.

The guests in attendance today were from the most prominent families in the capital. So, when they saw the Ye family, though they didn't show it, a trace of disdain was hard to conceal.

However, Ye Li seemed unfazed by this apparent disdain. It was his first time attending such a high-class gathering, which was worlds apart from the events he had previously attended. He held a wine glass and engaged in socializing, introducing himself to various individuals in the hopes of expanding his company's business.

As for Lin Wanqin, she didn't accompany Ye Li, but she also couldn't seamlessly blend in with the affluent ladies present. It wasn't that others rejected her; it was just that she couldn't quite find her place. At times, she appeared a bit awkward.

In the lounge.

Ye Xiyuan sat within, dressed in a pink princess gown that made her look charming and adorable, resembling a cute princess.

Murong Yanshu gazed at Ye Xiyuan, a smile on her face as she complimented,

"Xiyuan, you truly are the most beautiful little princess today."

"Godmother, you're the star today!" Ye Xiyuan tilted her head and smiled.

"And, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't have become a little princess!"

"This little one really knows how to speak!" Murong Yanshu beamed, saying, "I've always known that having a daughter is wonderful! Xiyuan, we'll have each other in the future."

Nangong Xuyao smiled, but his eyes were icy. "Mom, it's about time. Shouldn't we head out?"

As he spoke, he only looked at Murong Yanshu, not even sparing a glance at Ye Xiyuan. Perhaps it could be said that ever since he entered the lounge, he hadn't exchanged a single word with Ye Xiyuan. He hadn't even looked her way.

Ye Xiyuan smiled on the surface but felt a twinge of unease deep within. Although she had long learned from the system that Nangong Xuyao's affection for her had greatly diminished, seeing his drastically different attitude now was still unsettling.

She didn't know why he had suddenly changed like this, and she couldn't shake the feeling that this altered Nangong Xuyao posed a certain danger.

Before she could contemplate it further, Murong Yanshu led her out.

The banquet had been underway for some time when Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan finally arrived.

Upon hearing of Huangfu Ruiling's arrival, Murong Yanshu, as the host, naturally went out to welcome him. It wasn't only because Huangfu Ruiling was a member of the Huangfu family but also because Huangfu Ruiling was on the verge of becoming the family's head.

"Xuyao, come with me to welcome Young Master Huangfu," Murong Yanshu said, turning her gaze from Nangong Xuyao to Ye Xiyuan. She continued, "Xiyuan, you should come along!"

Although Ye Xiyuan wasn't a member of the Nangong family, she was still one of the central figures today. It would be impolite not to accompany them in welcoming the guests when she was present.

At this moment, Ye Xiyuan couldn't decide if she felt happy or unhappy. She was pleased that Murong Yanshu had asked her to welcome the guests, a sign of her regard. However, the thought of welcoming Ye Lengan, considering that Huangfu Ruiling was there, left her quite reluctant. It felt as if she was inferior to Ye Lengan.

Nonetheless, regardless of her personal feelings, she joined Murong Yanshu. This day was of utmost importance, and there was no room for error. She couldn't afford to leave a negative impression on Murong Yanshu.

Huangfu Ruiling remained in a wheelchair, but this time, it was different. The person pushing the wheelchair was Ye Lengan.

As the two entered, nearly all eyes in the room were fixed upon them, particularly the women whose eyes held tangible traces of envy when they

looked at Ye Lengan.

Chapter 416 - 416: The Banquet

Because most of the people present already knew that Huangfu Ruiling was soon to take over the position of the head of the Huangfu family. In other words, in the near future, Huangfu Ruiling would no longer be addressed as Young Master Huangfu, but as Master Huangfu.

When Murong Yanshu arrived, she immediately noticed the presence of Huangfu Ruiling and naturally acknowledged Ye Lengan, who stood behind him.

"Young Master Huangfu, Miss Ye, welcome to my banquet," Murong Yanshu greeted with a smile. "I hope you both have a delightful time tonight."

During the previous banquet, she had addressed Huangfu Ruiling by his name.

According to their seniority, she did have the privilege to do so. However, the circumstances had changed. With Huangfu Ruiling poised to assume the position of Huangfu family head, it was no longer appropriate to use his name. Yet, he had not officially taken on the role, so calling him Master

Huangfu was also premature. Therefore, she chose to address him as Young Master.

Nangong Xuyao's expression remained unchanged, but his pupils briefly constricted when he looked at Huangfu Ruiling. At this moment, he genuinely desired to inquire directly from Huangfu Ruiling about the identity of his true savior. He was confident that Huangfu Ruiling was aware of who had saved him. However, he couldn't fathom why Huangfu Ruiling insisted on keeping it a secret from him.

Nevertheless, despite these thoughts, Nangong Xuyao was acutely aware of the decorum required in the current setting. He refrained from acting inappropriately.

Moreover, it was of utmost significance that Huangfu Ruiling was on the cusp of becoming the head of the Huangfu family. Henceforth, he would need to defer to Huangfu Ruiling, making it impossible to question him.

Huangfu Ruiling nodded and replied, "Mrs. Nangong, there's no need for formalities. Please feel free to enjoy yourselves."

After some polite conversation, the attendees entered the banquet hall. Niurong Yanshu departed with Ye Xiyuan, intending to introduce her to others. As for Nangong Xuyao, he had initially wished to remain but tactfully left upon noticing Huangfu Ruiling's unwelcoming demeanor.

With only two individuals remaining, Ye Lengan settled into a chair beside Huangfu Ruiling.

"Tonight's gathering is certainly lively!" Ye Lengan observed, taking in the atmosphere of the venue and glancing at Ye Xiyuan, who was navigating the

crowd with Murong Yanshu. She commented, "Ye Xiyuan should be thrilled, considering she's the star of such a grand event."

"The spotlight indeed belongs to her," Huangfu Ruiling responded with a detached tone. "Yet, I wonder if she can maintain her prominence till the end."

Ye Lengan's face lit up with curiosity. "Could Nangong Xuyao cause a scene at the banquet tonight?" she mused. "If so, we might witness quite the spectacle."

"Who knows," Huangfu Ruiling replied with indifference. 'E In any case, it doesn't concern us.'

"Agreed." Ye Lengan nodded and then abruptly said, "Ruiling, I need to use the restroom.'

"Okay," Huangfu Ruiling assented. "I'll wait for you here."

Ye Lengan departed alone for the restroom. However, to her surprise, she encountered Lin Wanqin, who had also finished using the facilities.

Despite seeing Lin Wanqin, Ye Leng'an's emotions remained unchanged. She did not even spare her a second glance, as if they were complete strangers.

Upon completing her own restroom routine, Lin Wanqin intended to leave.

However, it became evident that Lin Wanqin had a different agenda in mind.

"Ye Leng'an, aren't you going to greet me when you see me?" Lin Wanqin demanded, perturbed by Ye Leng'an's impending departure. "Is this how you've been raised? Failing to extend greetings to your elders?"

Lin Wanqin was well aware that maintaining a distant relationship with Ye Lengan was the ideal course of action. Yet, the moment she saw Ye Lengan disregarding her presence, she found it unbearable. This sentiment was further exacerbated when she saw Ye Lengan leading a more prosperous life than her daughter, Ye Xiyuan.

Ye Leng'an furrowed her brow at the voice behind her. She turned to face Lin Wanqin and retorted, "Mrs. Ye, my upbringing is irrelevant to you. Moreover, please refrain from attempting to exert authority as an elder. The nature of our relationship is clear to everyone."

Lin Wanqin responded with growing frustration, "You... It hasn't been long since you left our Ye family, has it? Yet, you're so eager to sever ties and have already climbed to new heights. Truly, you're different now! "

"Mrs. Ye, one must be self-aware," Ye Lengan retorted with a cold smile. "Let's not forget that it was your family that asked me to repay my debt of upbringing with fifty million. Furthermore, ever since you requested that I spare Ye Xiyuan, I have had no association with the Ye family. So, kindly refrain from raising these matters in the future. It's quite tiresome."

Ye Leng'an's words left Lin Wanqin breathless, as they were an unassailable truth she could not refute. However...

"If we hadn't shared a household for so many years, I wouldn't have spoken up! Ye Lengan, using your charms is not a sustainable approach. Although you've captivated the young master of the Huangfu family for now, who knows what the future holds? I suggest you make preparations sooner rather than later!"

Hearing the mocking undertone in Lin Wanqin's words, Ye Lengan remained unperturbed. She even mustered a smile. "Mrs. Ye, doesn't this sound like sour grapes to you? I'm aware that Ye Xiyuan wants to get close to Nangong Xuyao. Unfortunately, it's doubtful she can even succeed in using her charms! So, you must be quite distraught."

"Ye Lengan, stop speaking nonsense," Lin Wanqin retorted, her expression turning increasingly unpleasant. "There's nothing between Xiyuan and Young Master Nangong. Absolutely nothing. Moreover, my daughter is exceptional. Otherwise, Mrs. Nangong wouldn't have taken her as a goddaughter. Your jealousy stems from the fact that my daughter can become the Nangong family's young lady."

As she spoke, Lin Wanqin's agitation became apparent. Ye Lengan's words had undeniably struck a chord. Although Lin Wanqin was unsure of the specifics, she was well aware that Ye Xiyuan held affection for Young Master Nangong. Yet, after tonight, their chances of being together had vanished. This filled her with anguish for her daughter..

Chapter 417 - 417: Clarification 1

"The Nangong family's young lady?" Ye Lengan gazed at Lin Wanqin and grinned, saying, "You can't even grasp the situation, yet you dare to make grand claims here. That's quite naive."

"What do you mean?" Lin Wanqin was taken aback, even suspicious. "Ye Lengan, are you planning something? Let me tell you, today's banquet is hosted by the Nangong family. If anything goes awry, the Nangong family won't let you off."

"Who told you this is a banquet organized by the Nangong family?" Ye Lengan smiled and shook her head. "We were invited by Mrs. Nangong, not the Nangong family. Don't get it twisted."

"Isn't Mrs. Nangong representing the Nangong family?" Upon hearing Ye

Leng'an's words, Lin Wanqin breathed a sigh of relief. Her gaze towards Ye Lengan carried a hint of smugness. "I know you're just envious of Xiyuan, which is why you're nitpicking over such trivial matters."

"Trivial matters?" Ye Lengan raised an eyebrow and continued, "If you consider it trivial, then so be it! Everyone attending this banquet today knows that it's Mrs. Nangong accepting her goddaughter, with no ties to the

Nangong family. However, I believe that even if you can only associate with Mrs. Nangong, it's a great opportunity for all of you!"

With that, Ye Lengan turned and left without hesitation.

Left behind, Lin Wanqin wore a perplexed expression. Despite her efforts to convince herself not to be influenced by Ye Leng'an's words, she couldn't shake the unease in her heart. Those words had indeed left a significant impact.

With these thoughts in mind, she promptly exited. At this point, she couldn't make sense of these matters on her own. Since that was the case, she decided to consult her husband and determine whether what Ye Lengan had said was true.

Upon hearing Lin Wanqin's words, Ye Li couldn't help but furrow his brows. However, he wasn't well-informed about the situation.

"Honey, do you think it's true as Ye Lengan said? That Xiyuan has only been accepted as Mrs. Nangong's goddaughter and has no connection to the Nangong family?" Lin Wanqin expressed her concerns. "Isn't Mrs. Nangong deceiving us by doing this?"

“Don’t jump to conclusions.” Ye Li immediately scolded her upon hearing that. He quickly surveyed their surroundings and sighed in relief when he saw no one paying attention to them. “Whether it’s under Nirs. Nangongs name or the Nangong familys name, it’s beneficial for Xiyuan.”

Ye Li lowered his voice. “We’re on the Nangong family’s turf. Be careful with your words. It wouldn’t be good if someone overheard us.”

Speaking so critically about Mrs. Nangong, if someone heard and relayed it to her, wouldn’t that offend her?

He was well aware of the distinction between Mrs. Nangongs invitation and the Nangong family’s invitation. However, the control was currently in Mrs. Nangongs hands, and they couldn’t change anything. Moreover, regardless of the formality, it was a significant social advancement for Xiyuan.

Lin Wanqin was also startled and refrained from complaining further. She spoke with worry, “I wonder if Xiyuan knows about this.”

“Whether Xiyuan knows or not won’t change the facts,” Ye Li replied. “Besides, whether Xiyuan is Mrs. Nangongs goddaughter or the Nangong family’s goddaughter, it doesn’t matter. She has saved Mrs. Nangong and Young Master Nangongs lives, so they l,von’t treat her unfairly.”

Hearing Ye Li’s reassurance, Lin Wanqin breathed a sigh of relief.

On the other side, Ye Leng’an returned to Huangfu Ruilings side.

“Did something happen?” Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow as he looked at Ye Leng’an, inquiring, “It’s been quite a while!”

“I ran into someone I know and had a brief conversation,” Ye Lengan said.

“But it wasn’t exactly pleasant.”

Huangfu Ruiling chose not to delve further into the matter.

Just then, Nangong Xuyao suddenly approached and, with a hint of hesitation on his face, looked at Huangfu Ruiling.. Eventually, he mustered the courage to step forward and said, “Young Master Huangfu, may I have a private word with you?”

Chapter 418 - 418: Clarification 2

In their usual encounters, he rarely had the opportunity to meet Huangfu Ruiling. Furthermore, even if he tried to visit him in person, Huangfu Ruiling wouldn’t agree to see him. Given the current circumstances, and with Huangfu Ruiling about to assume the position of the family head in the Huangfu family, finding a chance to talk to him in the future would be even more challenging.

So, after much consideration, he felt that today might be his best opportunity. In the end, he summoned the courage to approach.

Clearly, Huangfu Ruiling had no intention of a private conversation. He spoke directly, "If you have something to say, just say it!"

"Yes!" Ye Leng'an's eyes sparkled mischievously. She cleared her throat, gazing at Huangfu Ruiling, and playfully cooed, "Darling, you wouldn't hide anything from me, would you?"

That melodious voice sent shivers down her own spine.

Huangfu Ruiling's eyes revealed a hint of fondness. Suppressing a smile, he replied, "Of course not."

"Darling, I always knew you were the best to me." Ye Lengan leaned down and planted a sweet kiss on Huangfu Ruiling's cheek. "Consider this a reward for

This unexpected delight brightened Huangfu Ruiling's eyes. He felt that rewards like this could come more than once!

For some reason, Nangong Xuyao found this sight somewhat annoying.

Previously, due to Ye Xiyuan's deception, he had harbored no goodwill towards Ye Lengan. Now that he knew the true nature of Ye Xiyuan, the disdain he had felt because of her had dissipated. Nevertheless, he still didn't hold a favorable opinion of Ye Leng'an.

In his view, Ye Lengan was merely attached to Huangfu Ruiling, and thus, he didn't accord her much respect.

Of course, he wouldn't openly display his disdain in front of Huangfu Ruiling. After all, Ye Lengan still held a place in Huangfu Ruiling's heart. One must consider the master's feelings!

"Young Master Huangfu, in that case, I'll get straight to the point." After pondering for a moment, Nangong Xuyao decided to speak, "Do you happen to know who saved me?"

Strangely, no matter how hard he investigated, he couldn't determine who had rescued him in that alley. He suspected that someone had intentionally covered up this fact, and the most likely person to have done so was Huangfu Ruiling. After all, only Huangfu Ruiling knew that Ye Xiyuan wasn't his savior and was aware of the true identity of his benefactor.

He simply couldn't fathom why Huangfu Ruiling would do this.

"Wasn't your savior Ye Xiyuan?" Huangfu Ruiling's lips curved into a sardonic smile. "Nangong Xuyao, weren't you adamant about that initially? Why the sudden change in your line of inquiry?"

"Young Master Huangfu, my previous behavior was impolite." Nangong

Xuyao's face betrayed a hint of embarrassment. "I had misunderstood. Ye Xiyuan didn't save me. I truly wish to know who my benefactor was and hope that Young Master Huangfu can enlighten me. Moreover, I wish to express my gratitude in person for saving my life."

“Does it truly matter to you whether you know or not?” Huangfu Ruilings tone turned icy as he continued, “Or is Young Master Nangong planning to reenact a scene of repaying a life debt with his own body, just as you did with Ye Xiyuan in the past?”

Huangfu Ruilings mention of repaying a life debt with one’s body sent a chill down Nangong Xuyao’s spine. He hastily spoke up, “Young Master Huangfu, since someone saved my life, I believe I have the right to know their identity.

As for how I intend to express my gratitude, that’s a matter for me to decide!”

He couldn’t comprehend why, but whenever he broached the subject of his benefactor, Huangfu Ruiling always seemed to exude a subtle animosity. However, upon reflection, it seemed highly implausible. After all, even if Huangfu Ruiling knew the identity of his savior, there shouldn’t be any reason for him to harbor ill will. This was because the fact that the other person had saved his life had nothing to do with Huangfu Ruling.

“You may wish to meet the other party, but the other party might not desire the same,” Huangfu Ruiling replied coldly to Nangong Xuyao. “Furthermore, you’ve already settled the medical expenses, so you’re even. There’s no necessity for a face-to-face meeting..!”

Chapter 419 - 419: Clarification 3

“Young Master Huangfu, this is a matter between me and the other party. It shouldn’t concern you, right? On what grounds do you have to make decisions on the other party’s behalf?” Nangong Xuyao persisted, saying, “I hope you can provide me with that person’s contact information, and I will personally seek her out.’

The reason he was so eager to find his benefactor was not only to express his gratitude for saving his life but also because he wanted to establish a friendly connection with the other party. Although he had no knowledge of the person’s identity, his situation had been perilous back then. Yet, this individual not only brought him back from the brink but also miraculously healed his wounds. It was evident that the person’s medical skills were exceptional. Befriending such a skilled healer was undoubtedly a favorable prospect.

“Nangong Xuyao, if you wish to know, then conduct your own investigation!” Huangfu Ruiling asserted bluntly. “But if you expect answers from me, you’re dreaming.

Seeing Huangfu Ruilings unyielding stance, Nangong Xuyao grew increasingly anxious. Yet, he was uncertain how to further persuade him.

“If Young Master Nangong has no other business, I suggest you depart,” Ye Lengan, who had been observing, chimed in. “Since you’ve conveyed your message, it’s time for you to attend to your guests. After all, even if today isn’t your Nangong family’s primary event, it’s your mother’s.”

“Does this concern you?” Nangong Xuyao’s mood was already soured due to Huangfu Ruilings rejection. However, upon hearing Ye Leng’an’s words, his brow furrowed even more tightly, and his tone became tinged with irritation as he addressed Ye Lengan.

“Of course, it concerns me!” In contrast to Nangong Xuyao’s impatience, Ye Lengan remained considerably composed, even wearing a smile. “You’ve been here all this while, and you’ve disrupted our private time.”

Ye Leng’an’s nonchalant comment darkened Nangong Xuyao’s complexion. He began, “Miss Ye, you...”

“Young Master Nangong, you’ve disrupted us,” Huangfu Ruiling interjected, cutting Nangong Xuyao off. “As guests, we seek some privacy. Can we have that?”

“Apologies for the disturbance.”

With Huangfu Ruilings unequivocal statement, Nangong Xuyao naturally couldn’t linger any further. Thus, after uttering a parting phrase, he turned and departed.

“Tell me, why is he so adamant about learning the identity of his savior?” Ye Lengan shrugged, amused, and remarked, “Is he perhaps dissatisfied with the medical fees?”

“Most likely, he wishes to establish a connection,” Huangfu Ruiling replied casually. “Though Nangong Xuyao is the Nangong family’s young master, he isn’t the head of the Nangong family. There are probably many individuals eyeing his position now, as evidenced by his near-fatal incident last time. It’s likely because he recognizes the exceptional medical skills of his benefactor. So, he wants to form a connection.’

Hearing Huangfu Ruilings analysis, Ye Lengan curled her lips. “Indeed, the young master of the Nangong family. He even calculates his so-called life-saving favor. It seems I was truly blind back then, that’s why I saved such a person!”

The only consolation might be the one billion medical fees.

“Perhaps there was a modicum of sincerity in the past,” Huangfu Ruiling commented nonchalantly. “You can tell from how he treated Ye Xiyuan.”

“That’s why he squandered his sincerity on a false savior,” Ye Lengan lamented, feeling a bit helpless.

Hearing Ye Leng’an’s words, Huangfu Ruiling smiled wryly. Nonetheless, he found this situation quite satisfactory.

In his view, the worse Nangong Xuyao’s impression of Ye Lengan became, the happier he would be.

“I quite enjoyed the recent reward,” Huangfu Ruiling suddenly remarked. “The more rewards like that in the future, the better.’

Upon hearing Huangfu Ruiling mention the recent kiss, Ye Leng'an's heart skipped a beat. However, she swiftly regained her composure, displaying a radiant smile. "If you seek rewards, it will depend on your future performance."

Huangfu Ruiling clasped Ye Leng'an's hand, planted a kiss on it, and then looked up with a smile. "Anticipate with bated breath."

Meanwhile, on the other side, Ye Xiyuan and Murong Yanshu were socializing and getting to know people. Ye Xiyuan maintained a constant smile on her face. Encountering these noblewomen who would typically ignore her gave her a sense of satisfaction. However, she found one thing rather peculiar..

Chapter 420 - 420: Clarification 4

When only the two of them were left, Ye Xiyuan couldn't help but ask, "Godmother, that..."

Her face displayed a trace of hesitation, as if there were things she wanted to say but couldn't find the words.

"Xiyuan, what is there to be embarrassed about between us?" Murong Yanshu smiled and said, "Don't hold back. From today onwards, you are my goddaughter, so you should act and speak confidently, understood?"

"Understood, Godmother," Ye Xiyuan obediently nodded. After a brief pause, she inquired, "Godmother, today, um... is Mr. Nangong not coming?"

She wanted to address him as Godfather, but it felt awkward to say it aloud. She had never met the head of the Nangong family, and using the term "Godfather" seemed overly eager.

Upon hearing Ye Xiyuan's question, Murong Yanshu waved her hand nonchalantly and replied, "He won't be coming tonight. He's currently abroad! He left for overseas right after the New Year's Day, as there's an important business deal he's handling. He hasn't returned to the country yet."

Ye Xiyuan understood and nodded. She then smiled and commented, "Mr. Nangong seems to be very busy!"

As she spoke, she instinctively glanced at Murong Yanshu, waiting for her to correct the way she addressed the Nangong family head. She had already started calling Murong Yanshu her Godmother, so shouldn't she address the Nangong family head as Godfather? However, she couldn't directly raise this issue; Murong Yanshu would need to bring it up.

Unexpectedly, after Ye Xiyuan's remark, Murong Yanshu merely nodded and said, "Alright, it's almost time and the guests are here. Let's go up to the stage!"

Ye Xiyuan felt a bit disappointed, but the anticipation of being in the spotlight on stage quickly improved her mood.

Murong Yanshu led Ye Xiyuan onto the stage, with Nangong Xuyao following suit. The music that had been playing came to a stop, and everyone's attention shifted to the stage.

Ye Li and Lin Wanqin observed Ye Xiyuan on stage with comforting expressions. Ye Anvun was also in a good mood because she knew that Li Qiaomeng would soon be released thanks to Ye

Xiyuan's plea. He felt a newfound gratitude toward his sister. Seeing his sister now standing on stage like a princess, he couldn't help but feel happy for her.

Murong Yanshu stood on the stage, accepted the microphone from a waiter, and began speaking, "I'd like to thank everyone for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this banquet I've organized. I believe you all know the reason behind this event."

At this point, she turned to look at Ye Xiyuan and smiled, saying, "Xiyuan, come here."

Ye Xiyuan, who had been standing at the side, couldn't help but look puzzled upon hearing Murong Yanshu's words. Especially when she mentioned it was a personal banquet, her confusion deepened. However, she couldn't overthink it in this situation.

Responding to Murong Yanshu's call, Ye Xiyuan immediately stepped forward and joined her on stage, wearing a dignified smile.

Murong Yanshu shifted her gaze away from Ye Xiyuan, addressing the audience, and continued, "As many of you are aware, an incident occurred at our previous gathering. If it hadn't been for Xiyuan saving me, I might have ended up in the hospital. Afterward, I realized that Xiyuan and I really clicked, so I decided to take her as my goddaughter. From today onward, Xiyuan is my goddaughter. I hope you all will take good care of her."

With her speech concluded, she turned to Ye Xiyuan and asked with a smile, "Xiyuan, would you like to say a few words?"

Unbeknownst to her, Ye Xiyuan failed to detect any oddity in Murong Yanshu's words. She approached the microphone, accepted it with a smile, and spoke,

"Hello, everyone. I'm Ye Xiyuan. I'm thrilled to become the goddaughter of the Nangong family. Looking forward to knowing and learning from you in the future."

As soon as she finished speaking, the expressions of the guests varied. Clearly, everyone who had been invited knew that this banquet was organized in Murong Yanshu's personal capacity. In other words, this event was about her accepting a goddaughter, with no connection to the Nangong family.

However, Ye Xiyuan had just declared herself as the Nangong family's goddaughter, seemingly unaware of her impropriety.

Murong Yanshu had also heard this, and a shadow of disappointment flickered in her eyes, reducing her favorable impression of Ye Xiyuan. Nevertheless, she refrained from commenting, understanding that the attendees were perceptive enough to discern whether Ye Xiyuan was her goddaughter or the Nangong family's.

Ye Xiyuan remained oblivious to the peculiar glances from the audience. Instead, the Ye family, situated among the guests, couldn't help but notice the anomaly. However, despite their awareness, they couldn't warn Ye Xiyuan on stage at this critical juncture and were left to anxiously wait.

At this moment, Lin Wanqin couldn't help but recall the words spoken by Ye Lengan. She had a foreboding sense of unease.

After setting down the microphone, Ye Xiyuan obediently returned to Murong Yanshu's side.

With her speech concluded, they were about to leave the stage. Unexpectedly, Nangong Xuyao stepped forward, taking hold of the microphone.

“I have a few words to say.”

His declaration instantly captured everyone’s attention.

Murong Yanshu and Ye Xiyuan didn’t rush to leave the stage, instead, they awaited Nangong Xuyao’s words.

Nangong Xuyao cleared his throat and stated bluntly, “First, I want to clarify something. Today, my mother is taking in a goddaughter, not the Nangong family. This distinction is crucial, so I hope no one misunderstands.”

Ye Xiyuan, who had been wearing a smile, widened her eyes in disbelief upon hearing Nangong Xuyao’s words. Simultaneously, she recalled Murong Yanshu’s actions and words. In an instant, the blood drained from her face, leaving her exceptionally pale..