

## Full-Level 421

### Chapter 421 - 421: Don't Call Me Brother 1

Just as Ye Xiyuan seemed oblivious to the pallor on her face, Nangong Xuyao continued, "There's one more thing I need to clarify. I believe many of you have heard the story that Miss Ye Xiyuan here is my savior. However, there's been a misunderstanding. Before, it was true that I was gravely injured and someone did rescue me. But that someone wasn't Ye Xiyuan; it was another person. I won't disclose the person's identity at this moment. As for Ye Xiyuan, she falsely claimed the credit."

Nangong Xuyao's words were unapologetic and straightforward, leaving Ye Xiyuan no room for face.

The guests below, who had initially gathered for a simple banquet, couldn't believe the sensational revelation they were witnessing. As they glanced towards Ye Xiyuan, their expressions were filled with astonishment.

Previously, they had all heard about how Ye Xiyuan had saved Young Master Nangong. Many admired her as the great benefactor of the Nangong family, having saved both Young Master Nangong and Mrs. Nangong. Yet, who could have anticipated that this savior was an impostor? It was a daring act to deceive Young Master Nangong so thoroughly.

Ye Xiyuan's face had turned nearly transparent with its pallor. As she gazed at

Nangong Xuyao, her eyes were brimming with shock. Finally, she understood why Nangong Xuyao's affection for her had abruptly diminished so drastically. It was all because of this revelation.

What took her by even greater surprise was that, instead of confronting her privately upon learning the truth, Nangong Xuyao chose to expose it before an audience on such an important occasion. Wasn't this a blatant attempt to disgrace her?

She had never expected Nangong Xuyao to be so ruthless. Even if she had truly deceived him, hadn't they formed any emotional connection during their time together?

"Xuyao!" Murong Yanshu's expression grew serious, and she spoke with a deep voice, "Is what you're saying true?"

"Mother, I wouldn't joke about something like this," Nangong Xuyao asserted with utmost seriousness. "This matter is absolutely true. When I was injured, Ye Xiyuan did not save me. She arrived later after someone else had already saved me and then falsely claimed to be my rescuer."

"No, Brother Nangong, I..." Ye Xiyuan attempted to offer her defense but was swiftly cut off by Nangong Xuyao.

“Don’t address me as Brother Nangong; we are not close,” Nangong Xuyao retorted coldly. “In simple terms, you are merely my mother’s savior now, and we have no significant relationship.”

The Nangong Xuyao in this moment had shed his former gentleness, exuding an air of cold indifference that Ye Xiyuan had never witnessed before.

She realized that this was Nangong Xuyao’s true nature. A young master of a prominent family couldn’t possibly be soft-hearted.

For a moment, Ye Xiyuan was frozen, unsure of how to respond to this situation. She silently called out to the system, hoping for assistance or guidance, but received no response.

The audience below began buzzing with discussions. Many people turned their gaze towards the Ye family with disdain clearly visible in their eyes.

Although they had been strangers to the Ye family initially, Ye Li’s earlier ostentation and self-introductions had made them known to the crowd. If Ye Li had been self-assured just moments ago, he was surely regretting his actions now. Confronted with the disdainful looks of the crowd, he wished for the ground to open up and swallow him whole.

Meanwhile, Murong Yanshu’s smile had disappeared. She cast a glance at Nangong Xuyao and then at Ye Xiyuan. Afterward, she walked over and, with a warning look towards Nangong Xuyao, addressed the audience once more, “Ladies and gentlemen, I have some personal matters to attend to, so I won’t be able to continue hosting you. I hope you all have an enjoyable evening..”

Chapter 422 - 422: Don’t Call Me Brother 2

After uttering those words, she cast a glance at both Nangong Xuyao and Ye Xiyuan and said, “You two, come with me now.”

In no time, Murong Yanshu was the first to step down from the platform. Nangong Xuyao shrugged his shoulders, adopting an indifferent demeanor, and followed her.

As for Ye Xiyuan, even as she stood still, she could sense an unprecedented chill. She knew that her situation was dire. In the midst of such a grand banquet, such an incident had occurred. Not only would the people of the four major families be aware of her situation, but even the top-tier families beneath them would now know.

In the future, it might not be as easy for her to establish connections with higher-ranked families.

Moreover, she had no idea how to explain the situation to Murong Yanshu and Nangong Xuyao.

With these thoughts weighing on her, Ye Xiyuan stiffly trailed behind Murong Yanshu and Nangong Xuyao. Her face had lost all color, rendering her exquisite makeup insufficient to mask her pallor. If she had been spirited just moments ago, now she could only be described as ashen.

Once the three figures vanished, the banquet hall resumed its liveliness. However, it was different from the cheerful toasts and lively conversations before. Presently, the guests were abuzz with discussions about the recent incident. Some even speculated whether tonight’s banquet still held any significance and whether Mrs. Nangong would continue to acknowledge Ye

Xiyuan as her goddaughter.

Listening to the varied conversations and witnessing the scrutinizing gazes directed at them, Ye Li's ire grew fiercer.

He dared not contradict anyone present, for there was not a soul he could afford to provoke, Especially with Ye Xiyuan having incurred the wrath of the Nangong family.

Ultimately, he could only stifle his anger and depart.

Watching Ye Li about to leave, Lin Wanqin hesitated and spoke, "Honey, if we leave like this, what will happen to Xiyuan?"

Should they abandon Xiyuan to her fate? Wasn't that inappropriate? Especially after the recent incident, they didn't know how Mrs. Nangong would treat Xiyuan. As parents, it didn't seem right to leave at this juncture.

"Yeah, Dad, why don't we wait for Xiyuan?" Ye Anyun chimed in.

"Wait for what? What's there to wait for?" Ye Li retorted angrily. "Are we just going to stand here and be treated like fools? That wicked girl has brought shame upon our family. Are we going to linger here, waiting for her to further embarrass us?"

If he had ever felt pride in his daughter in the past, now he was consumed by anger. He even regretted his previous decision, thinking that maybe he had made a mistake by choosing Ye Xiyuan over Ye Lengan.

If Ye Lengan had remained his daughter, then perhaps they could have ascended to the ranks of the Huangfu family.

Especially given the vital piece of information he had gleaned while interacting with those people earlier. Huangfu Ruiling was set to assume the position of the Huangfu family's head. If Ye Lengan were his daughter now, the future head of the Huangfu family might have been his son-in-law.

The weight of regret settled upon him as he contemplated this.

"Honey, there might be some misunderstanding," Lin Wanqin attempted to defend Ye Xiyuan. "Don't you know the kind of person she is? She would never do such a thing."

"I really don't know what kind of person she is," Ye Li replied coldly. "She's only been back for a short while. How could I possibly understand her? I don't know what kind of person Young Master Nangong is, but I do know that he wouldn't make such statements without solid evidence. I never expected my daughter to be this formidable, capable of even outsmarting Young Master

Nangong."

Lin Wanqin opened her mouth to respond but found no words.

Ignoring Lin Wanqin, Ye Li turned to leave..

Chapter 423 - 423: Don't Call Me Brother 3

Lin Wanqin glanced in the direction Ye Xiyuan had departed and then at Ye Li e s retreating back, which never turned around. In the end, she had no choice but to follow suit.

Ye Anyun let out a sigh, turned around, and trailed after his parents.

Watching the Ye family from a distance, Ye Lengan couldn't help but curl her lips into a sardonic smile when she saw them all leave.

"What are you staring at?" Huangfu Ruiling reached out and grabbed Ye Leng'an's hand. "What's so interesting about that family?"

"Indeed, there's nothing worth seeing," Ye Lengan pursed her lips and commented. "They're just a bit heartless and ruthless, not much to watch. I'm just wondering how Ye Xiyuan will feel when she comes out and sees that her family has all left!"

She had already experienced the heartlessness of the Ye family.

Ye Li was undeniably a pragmatic person. In his eyes, if something had value, he would treat it well. His favor towards Ye Xiyuan wasn't just because she was his daughter, but also because she excelled in various aspects. Later on, she even managed to establish connections with the Nangong family.

However, it was now evident that Ye Xiyuan had offended the Nangong family.

In Ye Li's eyes at this moment, Ye Xiyuan had likely become a liability, perhaps even a scapegoat!

As for Lin Wanqin, despite her motherly love, she had a weak personality and mostly deferred to Ye Li's decisions. Just like now, even though she was deeply concerned about Ye Xiyuan, she chose to leave with Ye Li in the end.

Ye Anyun was even more spineless. Despite being the only male in the Ye family, he displayed no sense of responsibility.

"This is reality," Huangfu Ruiling remarked lightly. "If tonight's banquet had gone smoothly, they should be wearing triumphant expressions now."

Ye Leng'an nodded in agreement and added, "I never expected Nangong Xuyao to choose today, in such a setting, to step onto the stage and expose Ye

Xiyuan's lies. The timing was indeed impeccable."

If this was a vendetta against Ye Xiyuan, then she had to admit that this retaliation was exceptionally ruthless.

"Nangong Xuyao was never a kind person," Huangfu Ruiling continued. "Even though he's the sole son of the current Nangong family head, he couldn't secure the position of the Young Master without sufficient strength. How could such a person waver? I suspect he had everything planned out from the moment he discovered that Ye Xiyuan had deceived him."

“He is indeed a ruthless individual,” Ye Lengan agreed. “However, Ye Xiyuan brought this upon herself. She actually attempted impersonation. Since she chose to do it back then, she should have been prepared to face the consequences.”

In fact, if it hadn’t been for Huangfu Ruilings investigation, Ye Xiyuan might have continued to deceive others indefinitely.

“After tonight’s events, I’m afraid that all the top families in the capital will know about Ye Xiyuan,” Huangfu Ruiling remarked with indifference. “It won’t be so easy for her to find a partner among this group of people in the future.”

“Ye Xiyuan is quite ambitious.” Ye Lengan chuckled, covering her mouth. “She doesn’t hold ordinary families in high regard. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have clung to Li Deze like this.”

“People with lofty aspirations but limited abilities rarely end well,” Huangfu Ruiling stated as he glanced around. “Tonight’s banquet has likely been completely ruined.”

“So, should we stay or head back?” Ye Leng’an smiled and asked, “If we continue to stay, there probably won’t be any interesting developments!”

“Mrs. Nangong will handle the remaining matters behind closed doors,” Huangfu Ruiling replied, narrowing his eyes with a sharp glint. “Furthermore, the Hidden World’s major family competition is about to commence. Nangong Xuyao, as the young master of the Nangong family in the mortal world, can’t afford any missteps at this juncture.”

“Is that the family competition?” Ye Leng’an’s eyes sparked with interest. “May I attend?”

Speaking of which, despite registering in the Hidden World, she had never actually visited. She had always been curious about it..

Chapter 424 - 424: Don’t Call Me Brother

“Do you want to go?” Huangfu Ruling didn’t seem particularly surprised and nodded. “In that case, I’ll arrange for you to come along when the time comes. You can join as a disciple of the Huangfu family.”

“Speaking of which, I’m quite curious,” Ye Lengan gazed steadily at Huangfu Ruiling, speaking with a hint of confusion, “What kind of position do you hold within the Hidden World’s Huangfu family?”

It was clear that being able to secure her a spot so easily indicated that the Huangfu family held significant influence in the Hidden World. However, another point was apparent. She didn’t think Huangfu Ruiling was someone who would willingly submit to others.

“I am the head of the Huangfu family,” Huangfu Ruiling stated without any concealment when addressing Ye Lengan. “However, this matter is known only to a few elders within the Hidden World’s Huangfu family; others are not aware of it.’

“The head?” Ye Leng’an was taken aback upon hearing this. “You’re so young, yet you’ve become the head? Didn’t anyone object to it?”

Her intention was not to belittle Huangfu Ruiling but rather to express her surprise at the absence of opposition from the older generation. While Huangfu Ruiling was undoubtedly powerful, his youth should have been a point of contention. It was only natural for some resistance to arise.

“Strength commands respect,” Huangfu Ruiling responded casually, seemingly indifferent to the issue. “As long as one possesses sufficient strength, objections cease to matter. Those who did object couldn’t possibly continue holding positions as elders.”

He might not be a tyrant, but he wasn’t inclined to tolerate those who opposed him at every turn. It wasn’t about enjoying the suffering of others; there was no need to make life difficult for himself.

Ye Lengan gave a thumbs-up, then enthusiastically remarked, “Well then, I’m definitely looking forward to seeing what the Hidden World is really like!”

“Hmm,” Huangfu Ruiling agreed with a smile, nodding in response. “Alright, let’s go!”

With that, Ye Lengan pushed Huangfu Ruiling as they left the scene. Many other guests followed suit.

No matter how one looked at it, it was unlikely that this banquet would end on a positive note. Such a significant incident couldn’t be made public by the Nangong family. Whether or not Ye Xiyuan’s promise as a goddaughter would hold depended on Mrs. Nangongs final decision.

In the lounge.

Niurong Yanshu sat on the sofa, her expression grave. She fixed her sharp gaze on Nangong Xuyao and Ye Xiyuan.

Nangong Xuyao occupied another sofa, his expression devoid of any emotion. It was fair to say that he looked quite serious.

Ye Xiyuan sat on yet another sofa, her face reflecting a certain unease. Her reactions revealed the substantial impact of Nangong Xuyao’s words on her.

At this moment, she felt even more anxious than she appeared. Currently, she had no way of contacting the system. Despite knowing that Murong Yanshu’s favorability towards her had declined, she remained uncertain about the extent of that decline, leaving her unsure of how to deal with Murong Yanshu.

After a prolonged silence, Murong Yanshu was the first to speak, breaking the room’s stillness. “Xuyao, what you said on stage, was it true?”

Even though she already knew the answer, she sought confirmation.

“It’s true,” Nangong Xuyao’s sharp gaze landed on Ye Xiyuan as he spoke. “I’ve been manipulated by her this whole time! I always believed she was my savior and provided the Ye family with many benefits! Now I realize I’ve been quite the fool!”

When Murong Yanshu turned her gaze back to Ye Xiyuan, the tenderness that once adorned her eyes had disappeared. Instead, a hint of disdain could be detected. “Xiyuan, how could you do something like this?”

“Godmother, I didn’t do it intentionally.” Ye Xiyuan lifted her tearful face. “At the time, when I saw Brother Nangong lying there covered in blood, I had no idea what had happened. I simply took him to the nearest hotel. Later, I found that there were no injuries on his body, which struck me as odd. I was planning to leave, but when Brother Nangong woke up, he immediately assumed I had saved him. I didn’t understand what was happening at that moment, and in the heat of the moment, I just agreed.”

“Ye Xiyuan, so this is all my fault!” Nangong Xuyao scoffed. “You were clearly the one seeking vanity and masquerading as a savior. Now, when it comes to light, you suddenly play the innocent card!”

“No, Brother Nangong, I...” Ye Xiyuan attempted to explain but was promptly interrupted by Nangong Xuyao.

“As I just mentioned, don’t call me brother. I’m not your brother,” Nangong Xuyao stated, looking at Ye Xiyuan with sarcasm. “Besides, I don’t have a sister full of lies like you.”

Hearing Nangong Xuyao’s words, Ye Xiyuan seemed to have suffered a severe blow, tears streaming down her face.

Any man seeing her cry would likely feel a pang of sympathy. Unfortunately, Nangong Xuyao wasn’t one to take pity on women. Moreover, he harbored resentment towards Ye Xiyuan for having played him for a fool. Consequently, her tears didn’t evoke any sympathy in him; rather, they only intensified his disgust.

“Alright, Xiyuan, I’ll have someone accompany you back,” Murong Yanshu said, her tone patient as she looked at Ye Xiyuan. “Go rest for a while. Regardless of the circumstances, you’re still my goddaughter, and that won’t change.”

Even though this incident made her genuinely reluctant to accept Ye Xiyuan as her goddaughter, she had just publicly announced it in front of so many people. If she were to retract her statement now, it would only invite ridicule.

Moreover, even if the claim that Ye Xiyuan had saved Xuyao was false, the fact that she had saved her was undeniable. She had done so in front of many witnesses, so it would be unwise to turn against someone who had extended a helping hand.

Thus, whether she liked it or not, Ye Xiyuan was already her goddaughter.

Thankfully, she had accepted Ye Xiyuan in her own name, rather than under the banner of the Nangong family. Otherwise, the situation would be much more complicated now.

#### Chapter 425 - 425: Post-Meal Exercise 1

After receiving Murong Yanshu's assurance, Ye Xiyuan felt a mix of anxiety and relief. She allowed Murong Yanshu's people to escort her back home.

Once Ye Xiyuan had departed, Murong Yanshu cast a disapproving look at Nangong Xuyao. "Are you satisfied now? You've disrupted the entire banquet.

Did you do it on purpose?"

Nangong Xuyao didn't deny it. "Mom, since you're aware of the situation, why ask? I merely wanted to teach her a lesson, to make her realize that I'm not someone she can toy with."

"No wonder you changed your mind so suddenly," Murong Yanshu mused, then scolded him with a glare. "If you knew all along, why didn't you inform me earlier? You even had me host such a grand banquet. Isn't that inviting ridicule?"

"What's there to ridicule?" Nangong Xuyao remained unfazed. "Even if it's a jest, they're only mocking Ye Xiyuan. Such a person aspiring to be the Nangong family's goddaughter is utterly delusional."

"Let's drop it," Murong Yanshu sighed and rubbed her temples, her voice tinged with resignation. "Alright! The situation has unfolded this way. Now that it's public, there's nothing to be done."

The silver lining was that she had formally acknowledged Ye Xiyuan as her goddaughter in her personal capacity, not on behalf of the Nangong family. Otherwise, she'd have to bear the brunt of ingratitude, pretending tonight's incident never occurred.

"Mom, why fret over this?" Nangong Xuyao advised. "Even if Ye Xiyuan is your goddaughter in name, it's just a title. If you wish to avoid her, you can easily minimize contact. Let her bear a false reputation; it won't harm you." "If only it were that simple," Murong Yanshu lamented. "After tonight, Ye Xiyuan has connected herself to me. Even if we reduce our interactions, as long as she bears the title of my goddaughter, I can't ignore her completely."

"Mother, don't dwell on this person. Pretend she doesn't exist," Nangong Xuyao sneered. "If she's sensible, she'll keep her distance, and we can pretend nothing happened. But if she insists on seeking attention, I'll take back every favor I've granted her."

"For now, let's set this aside," Murong Yanshu suggested, shaking her head. She turned serious as she looked at Nangong Xuyao. "Your priority is the upcoming Family Competition in the Hidden World. If you shine in that competition, the main



family will surely take notice of you. Xuyao, understand that your future lies not in this ordinary world, but in the broader realm of the Hidden World.'

As one of the four prestigious families in the capital, the Nangong family held immense sway. However, in reality, they were but a minor branch in the Hidden World's Nangong family. Even the current family head, her husband, had to defer to the Nangong family's disciples from the Hidden World.

Fortunately, their son, Nangong Xuyao, displayed remarkable talent in cultivation, already reaching the second stage of the Qi Refining Phase at a young age. Such aptitude would make him a standout, even within the main family.

Previously, during his advancement, Nangong Xuyao had fallen victim to an ambush, nearly losing his life. Fortunately, he'd been rescued. That was why he'd been so grateful upon learning that Ye Xiyuan had been his savior. Little did he expect to discover tonight that Ye Xiyuan was an imposter.

"I understand." Nangong Xuyao nodded, making a decision. "Starting tomorrow, I'll directly head to the main family for cultivation. I'll return after the Family Competition."

"That's a good plan," Murong Yanshu agreed. "I'll announce to the public that you've gone abroad."

Meanwhile, on the other side, Ye Xiyuan had also returned to the Ye family..

Chapter 426 - 426: Post-Meal Exercise 2

After Murong Yanshu's people left her at the Ye family's doorstep, they drove away without any intention of escorting her inside.

Seeing the shadow of the luxury car fading into the distance, Ye Xiyuan clenched her teeth, her eyes flashing with determination.

If they had taken her inside, her situation would have been much better. She knew they were aware of this, but they had left her at the door anyway. The main reason was that they believed she had lost her standing in Murong Yanshu's eyes.

One day, she would make everyone who had looked down on her kneel before her, begging for her forgiveness.

She took a deep breath and walked into the house.

She knew exactly what awaited her inside.

She wasn't concerned about her mother and brother. Instead, they were probably worried about her now. It was only her father, Ye Li, whom she had to face.

From her experiences in her past life, she knew that Ye Li's top priority was never his family but the company's interests. If you could bring profits to the company, that was when he would take notice of you.

Ye Li wasn't angry that she had impersonated Nangong Xuyao's savior; he was furious that she had been exposed.

As expected, as soon as she entered the room, she saw Ye Li sitting on the sofa with a face as dark as thunder.

Beside him sat Lin Wanqin, her eyes filled with worry when she saw Ye Xiyuan enter. However, she didn't dare to speak out of consideration for Ye Li.

"You still have the audacity to come back!" The moment Ye Li spotted Ye Xiyuan, the anger he had been suppressing erupted. He picked up a teacup from the table and hurled it toward her. "After bringing such disgrace upon yourself, you still have the nerve to return?"

If the past Ye Xiyuan had made him proud, the current one had brought him nothing but shame, especially since her actions had been exposed in front of so many people. He could already imagine the gossip that would circulate among the upper-class tomorrow.

"What's there to be ashamed of?" In contrast to Ye Li's anger, Ye Xiyuan remained composed. After deftly evading the teacup, she calmly took a seat on the sofa. "Even if my ruse as Nangong Xuyao's savior was exposed, I am still

Mrs. Nangong's goddaughter. That's an unalterable fact."

"Goddaughter? What good is being a goddaughter?" Ye Li directly berated her. "Do you truly believe that after an incident like this, your position as a goddaughter holds any significance in front of Mrs. Nangong?"

"Whether I have a position or not is inconsequential. What matters is that as long as I hold this title, it's sufficient for me," Ye Xiyuan replied nonchalantly. "Moreover, while my claim as Nangong Xuyao's savior may be false, my debt to Mrs. Nangong for saving her life is very real. So, even if she holds grievances against me, she won't take any drastic actions."

"You only think of yourself." Hearing Ye Xiyuan's words, Ye Li became even angrier. "Have you ever thought about our family? Have you considered the company? Do you realize how much the company stands to lose after today's debacle?"

"Dad, even if the company experiences losses, it's merely what we gained from Nangong Xuyao," Ye Xiyuan calmly stated. "Those were profits we rightfully earned. Losing them now only levels the playing field; how can you call it a loss?"

"Do you understand anything about the business world?" Ye Li, already fuming, exacerbated the situation. He stood up, pointing a finger at Ye Xiyuan as he reprimanded her. "In the world of business, everyone is shrewd! After what happened today, mark my words, many will renege on their agreements tomorrow. Moreover,

who knows how many deals we had in the pipeline will fall through. And now you have the time to make sarcastic remarks here.”

“Dad, I know that ultimately, success in business depends on capability, not connections.” Ye Xiyuan didn’t waver in the face of Ye Li’s rage. She continued, “Our Ye Group specializes in women’s fashion, and design is paramount.. As long as we can excel in the upcoming fashion design competition, do you think the Ye Group will have any concerns about business?”

Chapter 427 - 427: Post-Meal Exercise 3

“You don’t have to say it. I already know,” Ye Li said, giving Ye Xiyuan a fierce look. “But winning the championship isn’t that easy! Do you think all the judges are on your side?”

Ye Xiyuan didn’t respond to Ye Li’s words. Instead, she took out her phone, operated it for a moment, and then handed it to Ye Li.

Despite his lingering anger, when Ye Li caught a glimpse of the designs on Ye Xiyuan’s phone, his eyes lit up. He even reached out to snatch the phone from her hand, his gaze fixed on the screen displaying the design drawings.

“Dad, what do you think of these designs?” Ye Xiyuan’s eyes gleamed with pride. “Do you think these designs have what it takes to win first place in the design competition?”

“These designs are truly exceptional!” Ye Li’s earlier anger had completely dissipated now. In fact, he appeared rather excited. He raised his head to look at Ye Xiyuan, his eyes filled with enthusiasm. “Xiyuan, where did you get these design drawings?”

As long as they could identify the designer responsible for these drawings and bring him or her into the Ye Group, victory in the upcoming design competition would be assured. Moreover, having such a designer on board would significantly boost the Ye Group’s development.

“I drew these designs in my free time.” Despite her efforts to contain it, there was a trace of excitement in Ye Xiyuan’s voice. “It looks like they’ve captured your attention!”

“Hahaha, Xiyuan! I never expected you to possess such talent,” Ye Li exclaimed. At this moment, he was no longer angry but rather filled with contentment. “Dad knew you would never disappoint us. If those people knew I had such a gifted daughter, they would be incredibly envious.”

The more Ye Li looked at Ye Xiyuan, the more satisfied he felt. Though losing the support of the Nangong family was regrettable, if Ye Xiyuan indeed possessed such remarkable design talent, it would be a tremendous asset for the Ye Group.

Observing Ye Li's change in mood, Lin Wanqin couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief. She smiled and suggested, "Honey, so much has happened today. I think Xiyuan must be tired. Why don't you let her rest?"

"Yes, Xiyuan!" Ye Li beamed at Ye Xiyuan. "Go upstairs and get some rest. Tomorrow, come with me to the company. You can head directly to the design department to assist."

"Honey, what are you saying?" Lin Wanqin playfully nudged Ye Li with her elbow. "Xiyuan is still a high school student! Her studies are crucial. And don't forget, she's about to participate in the National Mathematical Olympiad Competition; she can't afford to take time off."

"Oh, I almost forgot about that." Ye Li slapped his forehead and smiled kindly at Ye Xiyuan. "Xiyuan, I'll arrange a nominal position for you in the company's design department! Right now, your top priority is the math competition.

After it's over, you can focus on preparing for the design competition."

"Alright, I understand."

Ye Xiyuan rose from her seat and headed upstairs.

Once inside her room, her smile instantly vanished, replaced by a mocking expression.

She had long known what kind of person Ye Li was and had prepared herself for how he might treat her if they lost the support of the Nangong family. So, when she saw Nangong Xuyao's decreasing favorability, she had been ready. As expected, Ye Li's attitude had changed as soon as he realized she could still benefit the company.

However, if Ye Li chose to treat her this way, she wouldn't blame herself for being unfeeling. She would enter the Ye Group, but she wouldn't serve the Ye Group's interests without reason. She would take control of the Ye Group, making Ye Li bow before her. She was determined to show Ye Li that she, Ye Xiyuan, wasn't so easily manipulated.

After a night of commotion, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan didn't head straight home after leaving the banquet. Instead, they went for a late-night snack. After eating, Ye Lengan impulsively took Huangfu Ruiling for a walk along the beach..

Chapter 428 - 428: Post-Meal Exercise

After arriving at the beach, Ye Lengan immediately removed her shoes and began walking barefoot on the soft sand.

It was already quite late, and there were no other people on the beach. As a result, Huangfu Ruiling didn't remain in his wheelchair but instead held hands with Ye Lengan as they strolled along the shore.

Observing Huangfu Ruiling beside her, rolling up his trousers, and walking barefoot on the pristine white sand, Ye Lengan couldn't help but find it amusing. "Ruiling, I suppose this is your first time experiencing this, isn't it?"

"Indeed," Huangfu Ruiling replied, gazing at Ye Lengan's dainty white feet, his eyes reflecting a hint of tenderness. "I rarely visited the beach in the past."

Perhaps one could say that he seldom frequented such leisurely places. Besides his home and work, his usual whereabouts involved the Hidden World.

"Hehe, it seems you're quite inexperienced in this," Ye Lengan remarked with a melodious laugh. She pulled Huangfu Ruiling's hand and continued, "But to be honest, it's been a while since I last visited the seaside too,"

In her previous life, she hardly went to the beach during its latter stages due to a lack of time and mood. As for her time in the cultivation world, she did visit the seaside, but her focus was solely on training. She had no time for leisurely activities.

Now that she had returned to this world, she found herself considerably more relaxed. Most importantly, she had her beloved by her side, ensuring she never felt lonely.

Thinking of this, Ye Lengan couldn't help but steal a glance at Huangfu Ruiling by her side, a sweet feeling welling up within her.

As Huangfu Ruiling held the hand of the person beside him, enjoying this moment of serenity, Huangfu Ruiling felt an unprecedented sense of contentment. He smiled and spoke, "If you like it, perhaps we can go to the Maldives one day! The sea there is much more beautiful than here, and the sand is even whiter."

In the past, he had never considered going on vacations. However, with Ye Lengan by his side, he wanted to explore various experiences and share more wonderful moments together. Sometimes, merely sitting in silence with her made him feel immensely satisfied.

There were moments when he wished time would stand still, allowing them to grow old together naturally, truly a beautiful choice.

"Sounds good!" Ye Lengan nodded in agreement. "Let's plan for it after the college entrance exams. Once I secure first place in the Mathematics

Olympiad, I'll go directly to the principal and request grade skipping. I wonder if he'll agree."

If she skipped straight to her final year of high school now, she'd miss out on two years of schooling, potentially leading to fewer awards for the school. She wondered if the principal would approve.

If only she had known, right from the beginning, she would have applied for a grade skip. Back then, she was thinking of enjoying life and just drifting through these three years. However, now she felt like it was a bit of a waste of time, so she planned to complete her high school studies earlier.

"He will agree." Huangfu Ruiling's tone was filled with certainty. "Unless he wants to lose a top scorer in the college entrance examination."

Upon hearing Huangfu Ruilings words, Ye Lengan couldn't help but chuckle. "Threatening the principal like this isn't a good idea! Honestly, I think our school's principal is quite a decent person. At the very least, he's been very indulgent and supportive of me."

And, to be honest, she felt that their principal was quite a good educator. At least, he had done a good job ensuring fairness in education and never treated students differently based on their family backgrounds. So, she really had no intention of leaving Shengan.

"If you assert yourself, he'll agree," Huangfu Ruiling confidently affirmed. "Furthermore, having a young top scorer in the college entrance exams will be advantageous for the school."

"True," Ye Lengan concurred. "It seems even the principal, cunning as he may be, can't match your skills!"

Hearing this description, Huangfu Ruiling couldn't help but chuckle. "Your choice of words needs improvement, though! I doubt the principal will be thrilled to hear such an adjective."

"I didn't say it to his face." Ye Lengan playfully stuck out her tongue.

Then, as if a thought occurred to her, she abruptly let go of Huangfu Ruilings hand. She swiftly moved behind Huangfu Ruiling and leaped onto his back.

Feeling the sudden disappearance of warmth in his hand, Huangfu Ruiling couldn't help but furrow his brow. However, before he could say anything, he felt an additional weight on his back. Instinctively, he reached out and caught it, breaking into a warm smile.

"Ruiling, I'm feeling a bit tired from walking." Ye Leng'an's tone was serious, but her voice betrayed the joy she felt at the moment. "So, as my boyfriend, you should carry me on your back!"

"You!" Huangfu Ruilings tone held a hint of indulgence. "You just jumped onto my back like that. Aren't you afraid I might not react in time to catch you?"

"Hehe, I believe in you!" Ye Lengan reached out, encircling Huangfu Ruilings neck and smiling playfully. "And if you really can't catch me, it's fine. At most, we'll fall together. Plus, you're underneath me, so I'll be fine!"

Hearing Ye Leng'an's reply, Huangfu Ruiling shook his head with amusement. Then, he held Ye Lengan with one arm, giving her a playful swat on the rear with the other. His tone carried a hint of helplessness. "You!"

"Don't complain!" Ye Lengan lay on Huangfu Ruilings back, her lips forming a pout. "I'm giving you a chance! Usually, even if you wanted to carry me, I might not agree!"

"Well then, I must really thank the heavens for this opportunity!" Huangfu Ruiling joked in a rare fashion. "So, Your Highness, what's next on your agenda?"

“Let’s continue walking!” Ye Lengan smiled and replied, “Look at how beautiful the beach is! Even at night, it has a unique charm. Let’s keep strolling here. This can be considered our post-meal exercise.”

“Exercise?” Huangfu Ruiling teased, giving Ye Lengan a nudge on his back... “Is this how you work off a meal?”

Chapter 429 - 429: The Invader 1

“Don’t worry about the details.” Ye Lengan playfully draped her arms around Huangfu Ruiling’s neck. “You’ve spent too much time sitting around, so I thought you could use some exercise. As for me, I’ll pass.”

Listening to Ye Lengan’s whimsical reasoning, Huangfu Ruiling couldn’t help but find it amusing. “Well, going by your logic, I might have to thank you properly then.”

“No need for that.” Ye Lengan lay on Huangfu Ruiling’s back, nodding seriously, before breaking into a smile. “After all, you’re my dearest boyfriend! It’s only natural.”

With that, Ye Lengan leaned in and planted a gentle kiss on Huangfu Ruiling’s ear, then playfully asked, “Is that a reward you like?”

Suddenly feeling warmth in his ear, Huangfu Ruiling’s heart raced, and he felt a flush of heat spread across his face and ears, even though he couldn’t see it happening.

“Ruiling, your ears are turning red!” Ye Lengan exclaimed as if making a new discovery. “Are you blushing? That’s quite rare!”

Maintaining his composure, Huangfu Ruiling, still carrying Ye Lengan, playfully nudged her and gave her a light swat on the butt. He replied nonchalantly, “Am I blushing? Why don’t you find out for yourself?”

“Mr. Huangfu, I seriously suspect you’re teasing me!” Ye Lengan said with a straight face, “I didn’t expect you to be so experienced!”

“Do you doubt my skills?” Huangfu Ruiling’s magnetic voice echoed. “Perhaps we can find some time to put them to the test and see how capable I am!”

Ye Lengan had initially planned to tease Huangfu Ruiling during this moment, but unexpectedly, she found herself on the receiving end of Huangfu Ruiling’s teasing. Feeling her cheeks heat up, Ye Lengan struggled to maintain her composure and said, “Mr. Huangfu, I’m only seventeen this year, and I’m still underage! Please be mindful of the situation!”

She was fully aware of her age, and she felt embarrassed by Huangfu Ruiling’s playful banter. However, she couldn’t help but admit that she was being teased relentlessly, and it was rather embarrassing. But, to be fair, she couldn’t blame herself entirely; the opponent was quite formidable.

With these thoughts in mind, she nodded, as if supporting her own argument.

Unaware of the wild thoughts running through the mind of the person he was carrying, Huangfu Ruiling continued to hold her, as if he were carrying the weight of the world.

If there were onlookers present, they would have been utterly shocked to see the contented smile on Huangfu Ruiling's face. The footprints they left on the beach seemed to etch the memory of their joyous moments into the sands. The National Mathematical Olympiad Competition proceeded as scheduled, with Capital No. 1 High School as the venue. Early in the morning, Zheng Anyang and Qian Tong brought the ten participating students to the examination hall.

Inside the car, Ye Lengan noticed Ye Xiyuan, whom she hadn't seen for a few days. To her surprise, Ye Xiyuan looked much better than she had anticipated. Instead of appearing worn out, Ye Xiyuan exuded a determined spirit, a stark contrast to the person who had suffered a heavy setback a few days ago.

Even as rivals, Ye Lengan couldn't help but marvel at Ye Xiyuan's resilience. After such a devastating blow, she displayed no signs of faltering.

Ye Lengan's gaze fell upon Ye Xiyuan, who was in turn sizing her up. When she saw Ye Lengan's spirited demeanor, Ye Xiyuan nearly ground her teeth in frustration.

Although she projected confidence on the surface, Ye Xiyuan was acutely aware of her own uncertainty. Her lack of confidence did not stem from fear of performing poorly; rather, it was rooted in the presence of Ye Lengan as a variable. Particularly after glimpsing Ye Lengan's previous test paper, she had to admit that compared to Ye Lengan, her skills still had room for improvement.

Chapter 430 - 430: The Invader 2

Now the only way for her was to prevent Ye Lengan from taking the exam.

And for this, she needed the system's help. Thinking of this, Ye Xiyuan called out to the system, "System, are you there?"

A mechanical voice sounded in her mind, "Host, what can I do for you?"

Ye Xiyuan's eyes flickered as she asked, "When the exam starts, can you help me find a way to make Ye Lengan faint, just like how we dealt with Qian Gumeng last time?"

As long as Ye Lengan collapsed in the exam hall, she would not be able to participate in the competition. Without Ye Lengan, the championship was already in her grasp.

She had thought this would be simple for the system. However, she did not expect to receive no answer from it.

For a moment, Ye Xiyuan frowned with worry. She had an uneasy feeling that recently, the system seemed problematic, as if it was frequently disconnected.

She even suspected that after the upgrade, it now seemed much slower than before.

However, anxious as she was, Ye Xiyuan did not urge the system. She knew it would not help even if she did. Unless it spoke up itself, she would not even know if it was there.



After a long pause, the system finally responded, “After analysis, Ye Lengan is a difficult target to attack. Attacking her risks backlash.”

Receiving this reply, Ye Xiyuan’s brows furrowed as she asked again, “Is there really no way? Ye Lengan is my strongest opponent. With her participating, my chances of completing the mission will decrease. System, if I succeed, it should benefit you too, right?”

Another period of silence ensued before the system’s mechanical voice returned, “If the host truly wants my assistance, it can be arranged. However, the reward for mission success will be halved. If the mission fails, the punishment will double. Do you agree?”

Now it was Ye Xiyuan’s turn to fall silent. She had not expected conditions just for the system’s help this time.

However, without its aid, she truly lacked confidence in taking first place. So...

Gritting her teeth, Ye Xiyuan finally agreed.

After consenting, she sighed in relief. With no Ye Leng’an, her mission was secure. Though the reward was halved, it remained enticing. Especially in her difficult situation now, the system’s beauty reward could be the best for her.

Considering this, she cast a furtive smug glance toward Ye Lengan.

Ye Lengan had been sitting in her seat the whole time. Naturally, she noticed Ye Xiyuan’s smug look directed at her. However, she did not care at all. What concerned her more was the faint fluctuation she sensed from Ye Xiyuan’s body earlier.

In the past, she had felt this kind of fluctuation before, but it disappeared quickly. Until now, she had not uncovered what it was. However, the distance was so close this time. It seemed Ye Xiyuan’s secret would be exposed soon

Thinking this, Ye Lengan’s lips curled into a bright smile.

Soon, the car arrived at the exam hall.

Zheng Anyang and Qian Tong led the ten students off the bus.

What a small world!

Just as the group reached the entrance, they saw Capital No. 1 High School’s team also arriving then.

“Wow, isn’t that Principal Zheng from Shengan High School?” Principal Zhou from Capital No. 1 High School smiled broadly as he approached. “You’ve brought your students to compete!”

All this time, Shengan High School and Capital No. 1 High School had been in a competitive position. One was the top private high school, and the other was the leader among public high schools. The intensity of competition between these two schools was beyond imagination.

However, Capital No. 1 High School had always had a slight edge over Shengan High School. Shengan had naturally been working hard to catch up, but it just couldn’t seem to win against Capital No. 1 High School.

Whenever the principals met, they would mock one another..