

## Full-Level 521

### Chapter 521 - 521: A Farce 1

Nangong Zilin, observing from the sidelines, wore a pensive expression as she witnessed the unfolding events. Simultaneously, she found it necessary to reassess Ye Leng'an's standing within the Huangfu family.

Even though it was just a move by Butler Ford, it was sufficient evidence that, within the Huangfu family, Ye Leng'an's status seemed to surpass that of Zhongyu Liuying.

Moreover, it was apparent that in Huangfu Ruixiang's heart, Ye Lengan held a significance greater than even his parents. If that were indeed the case, one could only wonder about Huangfu Ruixiang's position in the family. Despite Huangfu Ruixiang's talent in cultivation, the extent of his abilities remained uncertain.

Marriage to Huangfu Ruixiang – would it truly secure her status in the Nangong family? If not, she might have to reconsider her plans.

Zhongyu Liuying's thoughts seemed irrelevant. After Butler Ford received Ye Leng'an's command, he promptly ushered in Li Yiran.

Upon entering, Li Yiran felt a tightness in her chest. Despite Huangfu Ruixiang often accompanying her recently, she believed she had already captured his heart. However, to her surprise, in such a short time, Huangfu Ruixiang brought his girlfriend to meet his parents.

Her hand gently caressed her abdomen as her heart settled. Taking a deep breath, she looked up, smiling at everyone.

"Why are you here at this moment?" Zhongyu Liuying addressed Li Yiran with a cold tone. "Didn't Butler Ford inform you that we have an esteemed guest today?"

"Auntie, I came today with good news to share with you." Li Yiran, seemingly oblivious to the situation in the living room, smiled happily. "Upon hearing this news, I immediately wanted to share it with Brother Ruixiang."

Nangong Zilin's eyes flashed with a sharp light at Li Yiran's address. However, as she looked at Huangfu Ruixiang beside her, her expression turned puzzled, as if she didn't understand the newcomer's identity and her relationship with Huangfu Ruixiang.

"She's a distant relative from my mother's side. I usually take care of her." Huangfu Ruixiang's forced smile conveyed. "Just a little sister. Probably something joyful happened today, prompting her to come and share the good news!"

"I see." Nangong Zilin nodded, seemingly buying into Huangfu Ruixiang's explanation.

Huangfu Ruixiang turned to Li Yiran, a warning in his eyes. "Yiran, we have matters to attend to today. You should go back first. If there's anything, we can discuss it later."

“Brother Ruixiang, what’s happening?” Li Yiran, appearing completely perplexed, questioned, “Didn’t you say you love me the most? Why are you asking me to leave now?”

Hearing this, Nangong Zilin frowned. When she glanced at Huangfu Ruixiang again, her expression grew more unpleasant.

Observing this, Zhongyu Liuying immediately reprimanded, “Li Yiran, leave immediately. This is the Huangfu family, not a place for your impudence. Even if you like Ruixiang, you can’t speak recklessly here!”

“Exactly,” Huangfu Jingzhang added a warning, “Yiran, you’re not a child anymore. Think before you speak. Don’t cause trouble for others with your words. It’s not beneficial for you, is it?”

While speaking, he signaled to Butler Ford, as if instructing him to escort her out. However, Butler Ford, seemingly oblivious, remained motionless.

This infuriated Huangfu Jingzhang. If Nangong Zilin weren’t present, he would have erupted in anger.

Ye Lengan, thoroughly enjoying the spectacle, was certain that Li Yiran was only pretending to be clueless. However, she didn’t anticipate that Li Yiran would choose a day like today to announce her good news, likely thwarting Zhongyu Liuying and the others’ schemes..

Chapter 522 - 522: A Farce 2

At this moment, Huangfu Ruixiang was truly in turmoil. He wanted to take direct action and pull Li Yiran out, but with Nangong Zilin watching, he didn’t dare to act recklessly, afraid of raising suspicion.

It was important to note that Nangong Zilin was the legitimate daughter of the Nangong family’s main lineage. With her status, even if she didn’t choose him, she had other options.

He absolutely couldn’t allow Li Yiran to sabotage his marriage.

“Uncle, Auntie, I came here today because I have something very important to tell you.” Even facing so many people, Li Yiran didn’t back down. “I’m pregnant.”

As soon as these words were uttered, it was like a thunderbolt on a clear day, leaving everyone dumbfounded.

Huangfu Ruixiang looked at Li Yiran with mixed emotions. Initially, hearing this news brought joy as it was his first child. However, it was followed by displeasure and irritation because Li Yiran chose to reveal this in front of Nangong Zilin.

“Li Yiran, get out.” Zhongyu Liuying couldn’t hold back. She stood up, disregarding any semblance of decorum, and pulled Li Yiran, intending to usher her out. “Who gave you the right to blurt out such things here? Your pregnancy has nothing to do with us! Get out, right now.”

At this moment, she regretted her decision to take in Li Yiran. If she hadn't, Li Yiran wouldn't have had the chance to seduce Ruixiang. Despite promising to let Li Yiran stay by Ruixiang's side, now the latter was pushing her luck, even daring to covet Ruixiang's wife status.

Even a fool wouldn't believe that Li Yiran didn't know what was going on. Li

Yiran was undoubtedly doing this intentionally to sabotage Ruixiang and Nangong Zilin's marriage. Otherwise, why bring up her pregnancy in such a situation?

Li Yiran was involuntarily dragged out. She looked towards Huangfu Ruixiang for help, but he was avoiding eye contact.

"Auntie, wait a moment." The one speaking was Nangong Zilin. She stood up, wearing a composed smile, and said, "I have some questions for this young lady. Can I ask a few questions first?"

As Nangong Zilin spoke, everyone's movements froze.

Zhongyu Liuying turned to Nangong Zilin, her smile seeming forced. "Zilin, this is a distant relative of mine, young and playful. Just likes to make mischief."

"Auntie, there's no need for that." Nangong Zilin shook her head with a smile. "I don't have any ulterior motives. I just want to know the connection between this lady's pregnancy and Ruixiang. Why did she come to see Ruixiang today?"

Zhongyu Liuying's expression turned peculiar. She quickly disguised it with a smile and said, "Didn't I say earlier that she was just joking? She's not pregnant at all."

"Zilin, let her leave first!" Huangfu Ruixiang spoke up. "Today is your first visit. Don't let unrelated people spoil the mood."

"You guys..." Li Yiran seemed to have finally grasped the situation. She appeared deeply affected, her face filled with sorrow. When she looked at Huangfu Ruixiang, her eyes were accusing.

Her hesitant, tearful expression evoked sympathy from anyone who saw it.

After Ye Lengan witnessed Li Yiran's performance, she couldn't help but silently commend her.

Indeed, silence was golden in this instance! Without uttering a word, everything was said. It seemed that Li Yiran had truly disrupted today's meeting.

It remained uncertain how much of Huangfu Ruixiang's feelings for Li Yiran would endure after this incident. Undoubtedly, Li Yiran had made a risky move! Choosing a day like today to appear not only disrupted Huangfu Ruixiang's marriage but also diminished his guilt and pity for her.

However, this Nangong Zilin didn't seem to be a straightforward person. Remaining calm when witnessing her boyfriend's ambiguous connection showed that her feelings for Huangfu Ruixiang weren't deeply rooted..

Chapter 523: A Farce 3

Nangong Zilin, being a woman herself, naturally saw through all of Li Yiran's tricks. A hint of disdain and scorn flashed in her eyes. She then turned her gaze directly to Li Yiran and calmly inquired, "Miss, the child inside your stomach, is it Ruixiangs?"

Although phrased as a question, it carried a tone of certainty. It was evident that despite the inquiry, she had already formed an answer in her mind. Upon hearing Nangong Zilin's question, Li Yiran's face displayed a mixture of inner turmoil. She lifted her head, glanced at Huangfu Ruixiang, perceived his nervousness, and eventually, she bit her lip, shook her head, and with a mournful expression, uttered, "No, this isn't Brother Ruixiangs child."

With this revelation, both Huangfu Ruixiang and Huangfu Jingzhang, along with Zhongyu Liuying, breathed a collective sigh of relief. Especially Huangfu Ruixiang, who, when he looked at Li Yiran again, harbored a tinge of guilt in his eyes.

Nangong Zilin's eyes betrayed a hint of mockery, yet she chose not to press on, stating, "Is that so? Well, then it's fine. I apologize for taking up your time."

Did these people believe she was gullible? Would they think she'd fall for such a fabricated tale?

However, Huangfu Ruixiang truly disgusted her. He had already fathered a child with another woman, yet he shamelessly performed a facade of deep affection. Nangong Zilin, a lady of the Nangong family, had no reason to endure such humiliation. Since Huangfu Ruixiang was such a person, she decided to replace him.

With this in mind, Nangong Zilin couldn't help but cast a glance in the direction of Huangfu Ruiling, her eyes revealing a trace of regret.

In reality, if Huangfu Ruiling wasn't physically impaired, he would undoubtedly be her best choice. Regarding Ye Leng'an's existence, she saw it as a non-issue. She was a magnanimous person and wouldn't insist on being Huangfu Ruilings only wife. After marriage, she could turn a blind eye to any other woman in Huangfu Ruilings life.

Ye Leng'an naturally noticed the regret in Nangong Zilin's eyes. She squinted her eyes, a glint of sharpness flashing within.

Nangong Zilin's actions were swift and imperceptible to others. She turned her head, addressed Huangfu Ruixiang with a smile, and remarked, "I feel that today is not an appropriate day for a visit, so I'll head back first. As for your matters, I won't be involved."

Having said that, she turned around, picked up her bag from the sofa, and walked away without a backward glance.

Huangfu Ruixiang hadn't anticipated the situation unfolding this way. He stood there, somewhat bewildered.

"Go and chase her." Observing Huangfu Ruixiangs demeanor, Huangfu Jingzhang kicked him directly. "What are you still doing here? Do you not want this marriage anymore?"

After hearing Huangfu Jingzhangs words, Huangfu Ruixiang snapped out of his stupor and hastily went after Nangong Zilin.

Watching Huangfu Ruixiang chasing after her, Li Yiran remained in place, her eyes filled with desolation.

At this moment, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying were too preoccupied to pay attention to Li Yiran. Their thoughts were entirely on Nangong Zilin, who had already left.

They could sense that due to today's events, Nangong Zilin likely had formed an opinion of Ruixiang. They wondered if Ruixiang could salvage the situation.

Not long after, Huangfu Ruixiang returned alone, wearing a somewhat dejected expression. A single glance was enough to tell he hadn't caught up with her.

"Li Yiran, you deceitful woman." Zhongyu Liuying couldn't contain her anger any longer. She delivered a resounding slap to Li Yiran's face, exclaiming, "It's all because of you. Are you trying to ruin Ruixiang?"

"No, Auntie, I truly didn't know." Stunned by this unexpected slap, Li Yiran covered her slapped cheek, her face bearing an innocent expression. "I just learned this news and was so happy that I wanted to share it with Brother Ruixiang. I genuinely didn't know today was the day Brother Ruixiang brought his girlfriend back. If I had known, I wouldn't have come here today. Please believe me."

Turning her head, she looked at Huangfu Ruixiang, her eyes brimming with sincerity. "Brother Ruixiang, you believe me, right?"

Seeing Li Yiran in tears and thinking about the child in her belly, Huangfu Ruixiang's heart softened. He stepped forward, shielding Li Yiran, and looked at Zhongyu Liuying, saying, "Mom, I believe Yiran didn't do it on purpose. Don't make it hard for her."

Chapter 524: A Farce 4

"Ruixiang, step aside," Zhongyu Liuying said, glaring at Huangfu Ruixiang, who was protecting Li Yiran. "Is the trouble caused by her not enough for you today? And now you're still protecting her. Do you even realize what you've lost today because of her?"

Although Nangong Zilin didn't explicitly state it, her implication was clear. The likelihood between her and Huangfu Ruixiang was diminishing.

The frustration of losing such an excellent match left Zhongyu Liuying feeling stifled. The main culprit behind all this was Li Yiran, yet her own son insisted on protecting her.

"Mom, Yiran didn't do it on purpose," Huangfu Ruixiang furrowed his brows, defending Li Yiran. "Besides, she's carrying my child now. You should consider the bigger picture. Just for the sake of your future grandson, you shouldn't treat her like this!"

"Abort it," Huangfu Jingzhang's cold voice interrupted. "You're not married yet. If this child is born, what girl of equal status would consider you?"

Li Yiran raised her head abruptly, fear and panic evident in her eyes. She had hoped that, with Huangfu Ruixiang's child in her womb, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying would show her some consideration. Unexpectedly, Huangfu Jingzhang wanted her to terminate the pregnancy.

Despite the recovery from the medicine provided by Ye Leng'an, she still feared the potential impact on her health. Thoughts of a future where she might not conceive again troubled her.

In desperation, she reached out and tightly grasped Huangfu Ruixiang's clothes, silently praying for his protection.

"Dad, this is my child," Huangfu Ruixiang protested. "How can you make such a decision?"

"Exactly! Honey," Zhongyu Liuying added, a hint of reluctance on her face. "This is our grandson!"

Although she hated Li Yiran, her biological grandson resided in Li Yiran's belly, and it was Ruixiang's first child. Despite her disdain for Li Yiran, she had never entertained the idea of forcing her to abort the child.

"If we don't abort it, do we let it be born and stain Ruixiang's life?" Huangfu Jingzhang continued ruthlessly. "With this child, can Ruixiang still have a good marriage?"

Silence enveloped the room as both Zhongyu Liuying and Huangfu Ruixiang pondered.

Li Yiran grew anxious, feeling a sense of helplessness. She didn't entirely trust Huangfu Ruixiang.

Unintentionally, Li Yiran's gaze landed on Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan.

A glint of hope flashed in her eyes as she turned around, kneeling before Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan. Crying, she pleaded, "Patriarch, please help me. This is also the flesh and blood of your Huangfu family!"

At this critical moment, she dared not call him "Big Brother Huangfu" and instead addressed him with the respectful term "Patriarch." All her fate seemed to hinge on Huangfu Ruiling's decision. If he chose to let her keep the child, even Huangfu Jingzhang would be powerless.

Nobody anticipated Li Yiran's unexpected move. Even Ye Lengan was momentarily bewildered, transitioning from a spectator to an actor. Such a dramatic shift left her almost unable to react.

Huangfu Ruiling, indifferent to Li Yiran, watched her kneeling in front of him. His expression remained unchanged, devoid of any warmth or recognition.

Li Yiran persisted in her pleas, uncertain of their effectiveness but desperate to try. Furthermore, Ye Lengan was present, and this child was conceived through the pills provided by her.

While uncertain of Ye Lengan's motives, she hoped he might assist her.

"Yiran, get up first," Huangfu Ruixiang said, approaching her, ready to pull her up.

"What are you doing?"

Displeasure laced his tone; Li Yiran had sought help from Huangfu Ruiling without waiting for his input. It seemed she didn't regard him, the father of the child, highly. Was she portraying him as the heartless murderer of their child?

Sensing Huangfu Ruixiang's displeasure, Li Yiran realized her misstep. However, with no alternative, she might be sent away if she couldn't keep the child.

After today's events, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying would likely no longer tolerate her presence by Huangfu Ruixiang's side.

"Brother Ruixiang, I want to keep this child," Li Yiran said, her eyes filled with tears. "I'll do anything you want, but please, let me keep this child!"

Huangfu Ruixiang remained silent. No one knew what he was contemplating.

Ye Lengan turned to Huangfu Ruiling, intrigued by how he intended to handle the situation. Would he intervene, or would he remain indifferent?

"Ruixiang, what's your decision?" Huangfu Ruiling finally spoke. "Do you want this child or not?"

"This child must not be kept," Huangfu Jingzhang interjected before Huangfu Ruixiang could respond.

Huangfu Ruiling glared coldly at Huangfu Jingzhang before turning to

Huangfu Ruixiang. "I'm asking you. Do you want this child or not?"

After an internal struggle, Huangfu Ruixiang gritted his teeth and confessed, "Big Brother, I want to keep this child."

He lowered his head, avoiding Huangfu Jingzhang's murderous gaze.

Li Yiran, still kneeling, breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing this. At least Huangfu Ruixiang still possessed some conscience and was willing to keep the child. Otherwise, she truly didn't know what she would do..

Chapter 525 - 525: Special Ore 1

"In that case, keep the child!" Huangfu Ruiling said calmly, "No one is allowed to entertain the thought of harming this child again."

Li Yiran breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing this. With Huangfu Ruiling's order, her child was now safe. At the very least, neither Huangfu Jingzhang nor Zhongyu Liuying could coerce her into having an abortion. However, bringing this child into the world would likely demand considerable effort. After all, avoiding a frontal attack was easy, but guarding against a covert threat was challenging.

Huangfu Jingzhang's eyes flared with anger upon hearing these words. Yet, in the next moment, he seemed to recall something, and his gaze turned opaque.

At that moment, Ye Lengan, who had been silent all along, suddenly spoke up, "Ruiling, what if someone intends to harm the child in Li Yiran's womb? There's still a considerable time before delivery, and if someone harbors ill intentions, there are ways."

Huangfu Jingzhang's expression stiffened at these words. When he looked at Ye Lengan, his eyes seemed ready to spark flames. He felt that Ye Lengan was indeed his nemesis, ensuring misfortune whenever they crossed paths.

Because of Ye Lengan, he had lost his position as the family head and the proud identity that came with it. He hadn't even made a move, and Ye Lengan was already jeopardizing his plans. If Li Yiran gave birth, it would undoubtedly ruin Ruixiang.

Li Yiran felt a surge of joy. Although she couldn't fathom why Ye Lengan was willing to speak up for her, it was undeniably a positive turn of events for her.

After Ye Lengan spoke, Huangfu Ruiling pondered for a moment before saying, "In that case, let Second Auntie take care of Li Yiran until the child is safely delivered. I believe Second Auntie can handle this."

Due to the events involving Li Yiran, Huangfu Jingzhang and the others had lost their appetite.

Huangfu Ruixiang escorted Li Yiran to the second branch. After seeking Nangong Xiyu's assistance, he returned to the main building.

Although the drama had concluded, the atmosphere in the living room remained somber. The faces of Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying darkened even further upon seeing Huangfu Ruixiang return.

"We'll take our leave now," Huangfu Ruiling declared.

"It's already quite late. Why not have a meal before heading back?" Zhongyu Liuying hastily stood up, attempting to persuade them to stay. There was a hint of flattery in her tone. "It's a rare occasion for you to be back. Let our family have a good gathering."

Despite the inopportune timing, she rarely had the chance to see Huangfu Ruiling. Moreover, she dared not venture to the company anymore. Since the last time she brought Ye Wanwan there, Huangfu Ruiling had forbidden her

from visiting the company.

"No, thank you." Huangfu Ruiling declined directly and then instructed Li San to wheel him away.

Ye Lengan followed Huangfu Ruiling as they left.

Left behind, Zhongyu Liuying stared at Huangfu Ruiling's departing figure with resentment. She clenched her teeth, and a displeased gleam flickered in her eyes.

"That unfilial son," Huangfu Jingzhang cursed without hesitation, "Why didn't he die in that kidnapping? If he had died, we wouldn't have been in this mess now."

Since relinquishing his position as family head, he rarely ventured outside. He feared encountering old friends and being treated differently. In the past, whenever he went out, he was greeted with praise. Now, when he met former friends, their words were laced with mockery.

Such a stark contrast was unbearable for him. Meanwhile, in his heart, he harbored resentment toward Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan for causing all of this.

Despite his seething hatred, the bitter truth was that he was powerless. He had no title and no authority. Although he still enjoyed a luxurious life, he was incapable of anything else.

“Hubby!” Zhongyu Liuying exclaimed in surprise. Then, she quickly glanced in the direction Huangfu Ruiling had departed. After confirming that he was out of sight, she discreetly breathed a sigh of relief. “In that case, let’s not mention it again in the future. It won’t be good if others hear about it..”

Chapter 526 - 526: Special Ore 2

“Humph!” Huangfu Jingzhang snorted but remained silent.

However, his snort served as a response. In reality, his earlier words were spoken in a moment of impulsiveness. Almost immediately after uttering them, he felt a sense of regret. Yet, his regret wasn’t about having those thoughts but rather expressing them out loud.

If, by any chance, Huangfu Ruiling heard his words, who knew what kind of trouble that troublemaker might stir up? He couldn’t afford any unnecessary turmoil at the moment.

As Huangfu Ruiling departed, the atmosphere in the living room didn’t lighten; instead, it grew even more somber.

On the other hand, the interaction between Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan seemed notably relaxed and pleasant.

Following their exit from the ancestral home of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan found themselves in a restaurant for a meal.

After placing their order, Li San promptly left the private dining room, leaving Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan to their own devices.

“Ruiling, what do you think about Nangong Zilin?” Ye Lengan inquired directly, “Considering today’s events, do you think there’s still a chance between her and Huangfu Ruixiang?”

“It depends on whether she can find someone better than Huangfu Ruixiang,” Huangfu Ruiling bluntly replied. “Unless she secures a better match, today’s incident won’t have a lasting impact on her. Furthermore, from her perspective, this may even turn out advantageous. If she decides to marry in the future, it becomes a leverage against Huangfu Ruixiang.”

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling’s words, Ye Lengan was left speechless. “It’s indeed a bizarre scenario. Having one’s future husband impregnate another woman before marriage somehow becomes an advantage.”

“That’s because their marriage was originally a union of convenience,” Huangfu Ruiling explained. “However, whether Huangfu Ruixiang and Nangong Zilin will succeed is still uncertain.”

Ye Lengan chuckled, covering her mouth. “I didn’t expect today to be such a spectacle! However, Li Yiran was too hasty; she turned her advantage into a disadvantage. She probably didn’t anticipate your father instructing her to abort the child!”

“Huangfu Ruixiang is still young. If he wants children, there are plenty of opportunities,” Huangfu Ruiling stated. “If Huangfu Ruixiang were already married, they might overlook the child in Li Yiran’s stomach and allow a smooth birth.’

“True, no one would complain about having too many grandchildren,” Ye Lengan agreed. “Li Yiran shouldn’t have caused such a scene on an occasion like today. Now, if that child wants to be born successfully, it might not be so straightforward.”

After expressing this, Ye Lengan sighed involuntarily.

Although Huangfu Ruiling had given the order to ensure the smooth birth of the child in Li Yiran’s belly, there was still a significant duration until the child’s birth – ample time for various actions. The world was full of unexpected events. Moreover, if an accident did occur, no one else could be blamed.

Ye Lengan held no sympathy or goodwill towards Li Yiran. Her only sentiment was a mild regret for the child.

“That was her own choice. Didn’t she aim to manipulate Huangfu Ruixiang’s marriage with this child?” Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow, smiling teasingly at Ye Lengan. “What’s this? Worried about losing the bet?”

“Not at all!” Ye Lengan pursed her lips, responding with a hint of indignation,

“I’ve finally come to understand. I probably will lose this bet.”

“It’s unlike you to admit defeat so easily!” Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow, playfully remarking, “Now that Huangfu Ruixiang isn’t married yet, everything is still possible, isn’t it?”

“I’ve finally grasped it.” Ye Lengan rolled her eyes. “Huangfu Ruixiang obviously doesn’t harbor deep feelings for Li Yiran. Therefore, no matter what, he won’t marry her.”

This apparent fact might be clear to everyone except Li Yiran, or perhaps, she had already realized it but was unwilling to admit it..

Chapter 527 - 527: Special Ore 3

“So, are you planning to admit defeat now?” Huangfu Ruiling directly inquired. “In that case, I’ve won our bet.”

“No.” Ye Lengan shook her head. “I just feel like I can’t win, but as long as Huangfu Ruixiang isn’t married, I won’t admit defeat.”

This was her final bit of stubbornness. Anyway, she didn’t want to make it too easy for Huangfu Ruiling to win.

“Alright then!” Huangfu Ruiling nodded. “As long as you’re happy.”

“Let’s not talk about this anymore.” Ye Lengan smiled and shook her head.

Then, she continued, “There’s still about a month and a half before the Family Competition in the Hidden World begins. When should we go to the Hidden World?”

“In another month!” Huangfu Ruiling thought for a while and said, “It’s just right, with half a month left. You can also familiarize yourself with the Hidden World.’

“Alright.” Ye Lengan nodded. Then, as if she had thought of something, she smiled mischievously and said, “Speaking of the Hidden World, did Ye Wanwan not report after she returned?”

“I’m not sure.” Huangfu Ruiling shook his head. “These minor matters are usually handled by the Grand Elder. If there’s nothing major, he won’t easily disturb me.’

He was quite content with this arrangement. The Grand Elder knew his personality well, so as long as it wasn’t a significant issue, he would handle it without bothering him.

“It seems that even though you’re not in the Hidden World, your influence over the Huangfu family is quite strong!” Ye Lengan marveled. “They are indeed very loyal to you!’

“That’s because I have the strength,” Huangfu Ruiling asserted without modesty.

However, what he said was undeniably true. In the Hidden World, strength was paramount. If one possessed enough strength, others would submit. Though simple and direct, it was remarkably effective.

After hearing Huangfu Ruiling’s words, Ye Lengan couldn’t help but burst into laughter.

“There’s one more thing,” Huangfu Ruiling suddenly mentioned. “I intended to tell you two days ago, but I forgot due to some delay. It’s about the bracelet Pang Tingting gave you. The gemstones on it are indeed ordinary, but the main body of the chain is not made of ordinary metal.”

“Isn’t it platinum?” Ye Lengan was surprised. “It looks a lot like platinum.”

“It’s not platinum.” Huangfu Ruiling shook his head. “That metal is quite special; it resembles platinum but is a type of ore.”

“Ore?” Ye Lengan couldn’t help but furrow her brow. “How come I’ve never seen this kind of ore before?”

“It’s unique to the Hidden World,” Huangfu Ruiling explained. “Although this ore isn’t rare in the Hidden World, it’s mostly used for refining. Generally, it’s seldom employed in jewelry making. Moreover, using this ore for jewelry requires intricate craftsmanship.”

“So, not many people can craft a bracelet with this material, right?” Ye Lengan’s eyes brightened. “If that’s the case, it shouldn’t be too difficult to find the owner of this bracelet, right?”

Although she didn’t hold any particular expectations for her background, she still wanted to know where she came from and why she was abandoned.

“It’s still under investigation,” Huangfu Ruiling replied. “However, I believe there should be clues soon.”

Ye Lengan nodded. “And the     engraved on the bracelet. I think it should be an abbreviation for someone’s name,”

“I’m also exploring that avenue.” Huangfu Ruiling nodded, reassuring her, “Don’t worry! Trust me; we’ll find out soon enough.”

“Let nature take its course,” Ye Lengan wasn’t particularly concerned. “I just want to know the truth. Honestly, I don’t have much hope or desire for my parents and family. It’s probably because I’ve been through too much time or experienced too many things.”

Looking at Ye Lengan’s expression, Huangfu Ruiling felt a pang of sympathy. He reached out and held Ye Lengan’s hand, softly saying, ‘You still have me. I will always be by your side.’”

Observing Huangfu Ruiling’s demeanor, Ye Lengan found it amusing. She shook her head and said, “What are you doing?! Actually, I really don’t have much feeling for my family, so I don’t care. You don’t need to comfort me. I genuinely don’t feel sad at all..”

Chapter 528 - 528: Special Ore 4

After confirming that Ye Lengan wasn’t lying, Huangfu Ruiling breathed a sigh of relief.

Next, the two of them refrained from discussing these matters and engaged in casual chatter, creating an atmosphere that felt particularly warm.

Days continued to pass peacefully, with Ye Lengan attending school punctually and occasionally practicing alchemy in her free time. Life was indeed flavorful.

Sauntering along the school pathway, Ye Lengan appeared carefree. However, at this moment, she was also contemplating how to request leave from the principal to visit the Hidden World.

With the college entrance examination looming, obtaining approval from the principal wouldn't be straightforward. Well, it seemed she had to devise a thoughtful plan!

Just as Ye Lengan was lost in her thoughts, she suddenly heard a commotion not far ahead in the woods. Initially uninterested in meddling, her curiosity got the better of her upon recognizing familiar voices – Li Deze and Ye Xiyuan.

It was quite peculiar; considering Li Deze's deep affection for Ye Xiyuan, their quarrel was unexpected. Ye Lengan wondered what had transpired between them, filling her with curiosity.

Presently, the two in the thicket remained oblivious to her presence, engrossed in their dispute, particularly Li Deze's one-sided questioning. "Xiyuan, what is the Ye family up to?" Li Deze interrogated Ye Xiyuan, unable to contain his frustration. "When our family faced trouble, yours not only refrained from assisting but even seized several major contracts from our company. Is this how you honor the years of friendship between our families?"

Li Deze never anticipated that, amidst his family's crisis, the Ye family's initial response wouldn't involve aid but rather the exploitation of their company's contracts, exacerbating their already dire situation.

"Brother Deze, I..." Ye Xiyuan lifted her head, gazing at Li Deze with an expression torn between hesitation and distress. "You know I have no say in the company's matters. These decisions are made by Dad, and I can't change them."

"Xiyuan, do you plan to continue deceiving me even at this point?" Li Deze, looking at Ye Xiyuan's innocent demeanor, could no longer summon any compassion. "This time, it wasn't Uncle orchestrating things. It was your scheming behind the scenes, wasn't it?"

Upon discovering this truth, Li Deze found it hard to believe the results of his investigation. Ultimately, his father scolded him, jolting him into awareness.

He always perceived Ye Xiyuan as a genuinely kind and innocent girl. Even when he learned some truths in the principal's office, it didn't significantly alter his opinion. He had silently cherished and protected Ye Xiyuan all this time.

He didn't seek any reciprocation or gratitude. Yet, in their family's dire situation, Ye Xiyuan chose to kick them when they were down.

"Brother Deze, what are you saying!" Despite Ye Xiyuan's attempt to appear innocent, a hint of awkwardness flashed in her eyes. However, her face still exuded innocence. "You know the kind of person my father is. How could he allow me to intervene in the company's affairs?"

Li Deze, gazing at the seemingly innocent girl, couldn't shake off the chill creeping up from his heart. He felt as if he'd been blind all this time. How could he have fallen for someone like Ye Xiyuan?

It turned out that he had misunderstood Ye Xiyuan all along. She wasn't as innocent and kind as she projected; it was all an act. Perhaps every time he witnessed Ye Xiyuan being bullied in the past, it was orchestrated by her! That revelation was truly terrifying.

“Brother Deze, why are you looking at me like that?” Faced with Li Deze's intense gaze, Ye Xiyuan felt uneasy. Still, she mustered a smile and comforted him, “I know you're upset now. I genuinely can't intervene in the company's affairs. However, once I return, I'll persuade Dad to assist your family. I believe you'll overcome this crisis.”

“Ye Xiyuan, you're truly frightening.” Li Deze, looking at Ye Xiyuan, couldn't help but comment, “So, in the past, I never truly understood the kind of person you are. If not for this incident, I might have been deceived by you for a lifetime!”

Ye Xiyuan's expression stiffened, followed by a change in demeanor. Her face now bore a look of sadness. Biting her lip, she continued, “Brother Deze, I know you hold grievances against my family because of this incident. But I didn't lie to you; this truly has nothing to do with me. It's all Dad's decision.

You've always been so good to me. Why would I harm you?”

As she spoke, she pondered whether someone had leaked her involvement. After all, during the incident, she had accompanied Ye Li to the company multiple times.

Moreover, because of this event, she had gained considerable benefits, causing Ye Li's attitude towards her to change significantly. She was quite satisfied with this outcome.

Regarding Li Deze, she felt no remorse. In the business world, there were no permanent friends or enemies – only everlasting interests. Thus, she considered her actions justified.

Yet, she never intended to let Li Deze know about this. After all, Li Deze was deeply infatuated with her and served as an excellent backup. She had no intention of letting him go!

“That's right! I've truly treated you well.” Li Deze, looking at Ye Xiyuan, smiled coldly. “Unfortunately, all my kindness was wasted. No, even dogs understand loyalty. But I treated you well, only to receive a knife in the back. I must have been blind to have liked you so much.”

Hearing Li Deze's harsh words, Ye Xiyuan's expression changed. With a cold demeanor, she retorted, “Brother Deze, I know you're upset now, but you can't vent your anger on me! I haven't done anything. Believe it or not.”

“Ye Xiyuan, you don't need to continue acting here.” Li Deze persisted, “Without evidence, do you think I would come to accuse you? I just didn't expect that, even now, you're still evading the truth..”

Chapter 529 - 529: Hostage 1

Li Deze's words plunged Ye Xiyuan into a moment of silence; she refrained from responding.

Observing Ye Xiyuan's demeanor, Li Deze didn't relent; instead, he pressed on relentlessly, "Ye Xiyuan, say something! Aren't you usually quite eloquent?"

Why the sudden silence?"

"If you've already said that much, what more is there for me to say?" With things having reached this point, Ye Xiyuan saw no need for further pretense. "Since you claim acknowledgment of everything, why bother coming to me? Do you expect me to reveal my inner struggles to you?"

The disdain in her eyes and the coldness in her words caught Li Deze off guard. He had never witnessed this side of Ye Xiyuan, a stark contrast to the person he once knew.

Facing Li Deze in seemingly relentless pursuit, Ye Xiyuan coldly remarked, "What's the matter? Can't handle my transformation? Initially, I had no intention of severing ties with you. But since you're so oblivious, I see no reason to show any mercy. Indeed, I was the one who convinced Dad to seize an opportunity when the Li family faced trouble. But, so what? Isn't this the norm in the business world? When things are good, everyone benefits. However, the moment you falter, you're liable to be stabbed in the back. It's common, so why the need for an inquisition?"

"Ye Xiyuan, I never expected you to be like this." Fuming at Ye Xiyuan's words, Li Deze struggled to articulate his thoughts. "I was truly blind before. I actually believed you were a kind and virtuous girl."

"I can be kind and virtuous, as long as you deserve it," Ye Xiyuan retorted with a sarcastic smile. "Actually, every girl is the same, with multiple facets. In different situations, we present different faces. Initially, I planned to leave a favorable impression on each other. However, if you insist on digging into this now, there's no need for me to continue the charade."

Initially, she had no intention of severing ties with Li Deze. She thought there might still be opportunities to leverage him in the future. However, with Li Deze's relentlessness, there was no need for her to maintain the facade of an understanding person.

Furthermore, the Li family was already on the brink. Li Deze's family was about to lose everything, leaving her with no constraints. Additionally, she was about to participate in the college entrance examination, poised to become this year's top scorer. She had no reason to show mercy.

"Acting, huh?" Li Deze's lips curled into a self-deprecating smile. "So, you've been acting in front of me all this time. I, like a fool, was the only one deceived by you. Ye Xiyuan, you're truly frightening."

He never fathomed that everything was a charade. Reflecting on how many times he had defended this duplicitous girl, he couldn't help feeling like a complete fool.

"Believe what you want," Ye Xiyuan responded nonchalantly. "In the future, let's not even bother with greetings when we meet. We can just be strangers. I think that's what you'd prefer."

With those words, Ye Xiyuan turned and left without mercy.

Left standing in place, Li Deze appeared utterly lost, as if abandoned by the entire world.

After witnessing this dramatic scene, Ye Lengan blinked and decided to leave.

At this moment, if she walked out, Li Deze might think she was there to mock him. Better to avoid it.

However, as she turned to leave, she inadvertently stepped on something, producing a soft “crack” sound that drew Li Deze’s attention.

“Who’s there?” Startled by the noise, Li Deze sharply turned his head towards the source.

Since the discovery was inevitable, there was no need to continue concealing herself.

Ye Lengan walked out unabashedly.

“Ye Lengan, why are you here?” Li Deze was surprised to see her. “What brings you here?”

Caught off guard by Ye Lengan’s presence, he suddenly recollected the recent dispute with Ye Xiyuan. Ye Lengan must have overheard everything, and his expression turned grim..

Chapter 530 - 530: Hostage 2

“I didn’t intentionally eavesdrop,” Ye Lengan shrugged and explained. “The truth is, you guys were just too loud. If you don’t want your arguments to be overheard, it’s better to find a more secluded place.”

This was a school campus, bustling with people. Even if it wasn’t her, it could have been someone else, Besides, she didn’t feel the need to apologize.

“I’m not trying to blame you.” Li Deze, with a bitter smile, suddenly asked, “Ye Lengan, do you also think I’m a fool? All this time, I’ve been played by Ye Xiyuan. ”

“You’re not the first, and you won’t be the last,” Ye Lengan replied, offering no consolation. “However, I do think your intelligence might be lacking a bit; otherwise, you wouldn’t have fallen for Ye Xiyuan’s clumsy schemes.”

In reality, Ye Xiyuan’s methods weren’t particularly sophisticated. It was just that when people looked at her, they seemed to have a built-in filter, thinking she was inherently kind, and any wrongdoing was imposed on her by others. After hearing Ye Lengan’s words, Li Deze’s smile turned even more bitter. Looking at the transformed Ye Lengan standing before him, he couldn’t help but be bewildered.

He couldn't remember the last time he had truly looked at Ye Lenz'an. Now, as he examined her once again, he realized the person in front of him seemed entirely different from the Ye Lengan he remembered.

Undeniably beautiful, Ye Leng'an of the past had a touch of wilfulness. Regardless of her beauty, she was like a delicate doll in a showcase.

Present-day Ye Lengan, however, was a complete departure. Radiant and sharp, the first thing noticeable about her was not her beauty but her dynamic temperament, with her beauty noted subsequently.

"You..." As if unsure of recognizing the Ye Lengan he grew up with, Li Deze's shock was evident. "Seems like quite a change."

If it weren't for that familiar face, he might not even dare admit that this TWas the Ye Leng'an he knew.

"Everyone changes," Ye Lengan responded, her expression unchanged. "We've all just grown up."

"That's right! Everyone has changed," Li Deze mumbled, looking somewhat absent-minded. Nevertheless, he raised his head, gazing at Ye Lengan, and said solemnly, "Ye Lengan, I owe you an apology. I'm sorry."

After discovering Ye Xiyuan's true nature today, he realized he had misunderstood Ye Lengan all along. So, regardless, he should apologize to Ye

Lengan.

"I've received your apology." Ye Leng'an nodded, then added, "If there's nothing else, I'll be leaving. I still have to get back to class!"

Li Deze's apology didn't elicit any emotion from her. In fact, she no longer harbored any feelings for Li Deze. The current Li Deze was nothing more than a stranger to her. Thus, she didn't care whether he apologized or not.

Observing Ye Leng'an's impassive expression, Li Deze couldn't help but ask, "Ye Lengan, are you..."

Ye Lengan looked at him, waiting for him to finish.

Under Ye Leng'an's scrutinizing gaze, Li Deze's words were stuck in his throat, and no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't utter them.

In the end, he could only shake his head, managing a forced smile. "It's alright now. Goodbye."

Ye Leng'an nodded and left without hesitation, not sparing Li Deze a second glance.

Watching Ye Leng'an's departing figure, Li Deze, left behind, felt a wave of bitterness. He knew that the distance between him and Ye Lengan was growing. In the future, they might not have any interactions at all.

Reflecting on their past, where they grew up together, and the families even had the intention of marriage, everything seemed so distant now.. When did this change happen? It was after Ye Xiyuan returned to the Ye family!