

Full-Level 721

Chapter 721: Paying the Price

The engagement ceremony of the head of the Huangfu family was considered a significant event in the Hidden World. Invitations had been steadily received by the major families. However, the Ye family had yet to receive an invitation from the Huangfu family.

“You may leave!” Ye Hongxuan waved his hand, dismissing the disciple who had come for the third time today with the same disappointing news.

After the disciple left, Lian Mengzhu wore a worried expression. She raised her head, looking at Ye Hongxuan, and after a moment of contemplation, she spoke, “Hongxuan, do you think the Huangfu family might not intend to invite us?”

She understood they couldn’t attend in the name of Ye Leng’an’s parents, but not even having the qualification to attend troubled her.

“It won’t happen,” Ye Hongxuan said, though his lack of confidence was apparent.

“It’s possible the invitation hasn’t been sent yet. The Ye family is a prominent alchemist family, one of the top ten alongside the Huangfu family. Even if the Huangfu family is powerful, they can’t completely disregard us. The invitation will come.”

He couldn’t tell if he was saying it for his wife’s comfort or to convince himself.

“But...” Lian Mengzhu’s expression saddened. “Other major families have received the Huangfu family’s invitation, and even some smaller families. We haven’t heard anything. Isn’t that unusual?”

Ye Hongxuan sighed, acknowledging the uncertainty they faced.

“Hongxuan, do you think...” Lian Mengzhu hesitated before asking, “Should we send someone to the Huangfu family to inquire if they’ve forgotten our Ye family’s invitation?”

“Impossible.” Ye Hongxuan rejected the idea firmly. “We can’t. Father wouldn’t allow it either. Sending someone now would only bring shame to the Ye family.”

If the Huangfu family had indeed forgotten, it was one thing. However, if they hadn’t intended to invite the Ye family from the beginning, visiting them would be an embarrassing move.

Because of the last incident, his father had been harboring resentment. If any rumors detrimental to the Ye family spread at this time, he would surely be infuriated. In the end, it would be unfortunate for them.

“But, if the Ye family doesn’t receive the invitation this time, then wouldn’t we not even be able to attend our own daughter’s engagement ceremony?” Lian Mengzhu’s

voice quivered. "Moreover, if the Huangfu family really doesn't intend to invite the Ye family this time, then rumors will still spread everywhere! Everyone will be guessing if our Ye family and the Huangfu family have fallen out."

"We can't do anything now. We can only continue to wait," Ye Hongxuan said helplessly. "No matter what we do, it's all wrong, so let's just wait and see!"

"If the Huangfu family doesn't give us an invitation, then we..." Lian Mengzhu almost couldn't continue. She took a deep breath and tried to suppress the sadness in her heart before continuing, "Will we not be able to attend Leng'an's engagement ceremony?"

Ye Hongxuan could not answer, choosing instead to remain silent. The atmosphere became particularly somber.

"Don't think too much." Ye Hongxuan finally consoled his wife. "Even if we can't attend this time, it won't change the blood relationship between us. She might still have some opinions about us now, but time will heal everything."

"It won't happen again," Lian Mengzhu muttered, "I'm afraid that Leng'an will not return to the Ye family. Father will not let her return either."

"Don't worry, Father will," Ye Hongxuan asserted, "As long as Leng'an becomes the matriarch of the Huangfu family, Father will definitely let Leng'an come back."

He understood his father's priorities, always putting the family's interests first. As long as Leng'an could bring benefits to the Ye family, his father would compromise in the end.

Lian Mengzhu fell silent. No one knew what she was thinking.

"By the way, how's Wanwan doing now?" Ye Hongxuan suddenly asked, "Have you visited her these two days?"

"I've been there a few times. Wanwan's condition is much better than a few days ago, but her body is still very weak," Lian Mengzhu said. "She suffered a lot this time. Moreover, because her dantian was destroyed, Wanwan can't heal herself now. Moreover, she can't take many pills. I'm afraid it will take a long time for her to recover."

She paused for a moment, considering her words, before continuing, "Leng'an was really a little too ruthless this time. Although Wanwan had occupied her position for so many years, the main culprit of this matter was Lian Zixin. Wanwan can be considered innocent. She had no choice back then."

Although Ye Leng'an had claimed Wanwan wanted to harm her, Lian Mengzhu found it hard to believe. Wanwan was raised by her and couldn't be such a malicious child. There must be a misunderstanding.

“Don’t say these words in front of Leng’an,” Ye Hongxuan reminded her. “Her relationship with Wanwan wasn’t good to begin with. If she hears such words, she might hate Wanwan even more. It will become even more difficult for them to get along well with each other.”

“I know.” Lian Mengzhu nodded. Then, a trace of hatred flashed in her eyes. “If Lian Zixin hadn’t swapped Leng’an, she wouldn’t be in this state now.”

“As for Lian Zixin, I won’t let her off.” Ye Hongxuan’s eyes flashed with a cold glint. “She must pay the price for what she has done.”

Chapter 722: No Need for Them to Attend

As the engagement date of Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an approached, the anxious individuals were not limited to Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu alone; within the Huangfu family, another person was feeling the urgency, Huangfu Ruixiang.

As the date drew nearer, he hadn’t received any news about his parents intending to attend the ceremony in the Hidden World. This was the engagement of Huangfu Ruiling, how could his parents possibly be absent?

If, by any chance, Huangfu Ruiling decided not to have their parents present, it would signify that in his eyes, their parents held no significant position. This would inevitably broadcast a clear message to the entire Huangfu family, portraying his supposed younger brother as someone of little importance in Huangfu Ruiling’s mind.

Moreover, the change in attitude from the family members towards him during this period was noticeable. Initially, when they learned of his relation to Huangfu Ruiling, many sought to win his favor. Even in the absence of overt attempts at flattery, they treated him with respect and courtesy.

It wasn’t that these people were deliberately making things difficult for him. Rather, the way they treated him now resembled how one would treat an ordinary inner sect disciple, devoid of the previous attempts at ingratiation.

Such a transformation left him feeling uneasy.

Consequently, he decided to personally seek out Huangfu Ruiling to inquire about their parents. Simultaneously, he aimed to remind those who had distanced themselves that he was indeed the brother of Huangfu Ruiling.

To his surprise, he found himself unable to meet Huangfu Ruiling. The messengers relayed a message stating that as a low-level disciple, he had no qualification to meet the head of the family.

This only intensified his desire to meet Huangfu Ruiling, understanding that all his predicaments would likely find resolution upon doing so.

After exhausting all possible avenues, he finally intercepted Huangfu Ruiling one day as he prepared to leave.

Observing Huangfu Ruixiang blocking his path, Huangfu Ruiling gestured for the intended escort to step back. He then looked at Huangfu Ruixiang with a cold gaze, remaining silent.

Ye Leng'an, standing nearby, blinked curiously, wondering about Huangfu Ruixiang's intentions.

Though Huangfu Ruixiang had much to say, the ice-cold stare from Huangfu Ruiling left him unable to articulate his thoughts.

"If you have nothing else, step aside." Huangfu Ruiling's frigid words lacked any hint of emotion. "We don't have time to engage in a silent confrontation with you here."

"I..." Huangfu Ruixiang struggled to suppress his inner turmoil. After taking a deep breath, he gathered his courage and said, "Big Brother, I just wanted to ask when Mom and Dad will be arriving. I was concerned that you might be too busy and forgot to notify them."

After expressing himself, he swallowed nervously, allowing himself to retreat under the intense pressure emanating from Huangfu Ruiling.

"Why would they come?" Huangfu Ruiling furrowed his brows. "There's no need for them to attend. We'll have an engagement ceremony in the mortal world, and they can attend that."

He had never considered inviting Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying to participate in the Hidden World engagement ceremony. He held no affection for his so-called parents, and he saw no necessity for their presence at such an event.

"What?" Huangfu Ruixiang was taken aback. Anxiously, he questioned, "Brother, it's such an important occasion, and you won't even let Mom and Dad come. Isn't that inappropriate?"

"They aren't the main characters; does it matter if they come or not?" Huangfu Ruiling responded indifferently. "Besides, whether they come or not won't impact our engagement ceremony."

"But, this..." Huangfu Ruixiang was growing more anxious but couldn't find the right words. Turning to Ye Leng'an, he appealed, "Sister-in-law, won't you persuade my brother? In such a situation, don't you care about the blessings from our parents?"

Ye Leng'an looked at Huangfu Ruixiang with a puzzled expression. "Are you sure they'll come to bless us? Weren't they vehemently opposed to us being together initially?"

Huangfu Ruixiang couldn't argue with Ye Leng'an's words, especially considering he had been one of the individuals aiding in their separation.

"If you're here just for this matter, now we've heard it." Huangfu Ruiling glanced at Huangfu Ruixiang. "We have other matters to attend to. Please move aside."

Confronted with Huangfu Ruiling's nearly emotionless eyes, Huangfu Ruixiang shivered involuntarily. Unable to utter a word, he slowly stepped aside.

“If you have time, focus on cultivating properly!”

Before leaving, Huangfu Ruiling reminded him, “Don’t think that becoming an inner sect disciple guarantees a carefree life. The Huangfu family conducts assessments periodically. If you can’t pass, you won’t be able to retain your position as an inner sect disciple.”

Huangfu Ruixiang could hardly believe his ears. Stammering, he asked, “Brother, do you mean that if I fail the assessment, I’ll also be expelled?”

He had never anticipated such a reality. Initially, he believed that becoming an inner sect disciple meant a permanent place within the Huangfu family. Now, he was being informed of the possibility of expulsion. How was this conceivable? He was Huangfu Ruiling’s biological brother!

“That’s correct.” Huangfu Ruiling nodded. “This is common knowledge among all inner sect disciples. Someone should have informed you on the first day you arrived.”

“But...but...” Huangfu Ruixiang didn’t know what else to say. He could only emphasize, “I’m not someone else! I’m your biological brother!”

“So you became an inner sect disciple!” Huangfu Ruiling frowned and continued, “Do you think you could become an inner sect disciple based on your own strength?”

Huangfu Ruixiang was rendered speechless. He couldn’t argue because it was the truth.

“If you weren’t my brother, you wouldn’t even have the opportunity to enter the Huangfu family.” Huangfu Ruiling continued mercilessly, “I’ve given you a chance. Whether you can establish yourself within the Huangfu family is entirely up to your ability. Even if you’re my brother, you must adhere to the family’s rules.”

Chapter 723: Regret

Preparations for Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an’s engagement ceremony were complete, and the ceremony was set to take place tomorrow.

Inside the Huangfu family, there was an air of excitement, and everyone was in high spirits, bustling around to make final preparations for the ceremony.

However, on the Ye family’s side, a stark contrast prevailed – a somber atmosphere loomed. The Ye family had not yet received an invitation from the Huangfu family. It seemed that this time, they were not included in the engagement ceremony.

This news couldn’t be concealed, and many within the family were aware of it. Speculations arose, with people wondering if the strained relations between the Huangfu and Ye families during the previous Family Competition were the cause.

In the Ye residence, Ye Yikun’s health had significantly improved. Upon hearing the numerous rumors circulating outside, he had to exert great effort to restrain his inner emotions. Otherwise, he might have ended up spitting blood once again. This time he directly summoned Ye Hongxuan.

“Father, is there something you need?” Ye Hongxuan respectfully asked as he stood by.

“Tomorrow is the engagement of Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an. Are you aware of that?” Ye Yikun asked directly without beating around the bush. “The Huangfu family hasn’t extended an invitation to us. How do you interpret this situation?”

Taken aback by his father’s abrupt question, Ye Hongxuan furrowed his brows before responding, “Father, what else can I think about this matter? You know what happened before. The fact that the Huangfu family is unwilling to invite us already indicates their stance.”

The Ye family’s refusal to recognize Ye Leng’an had led to the Huangfu family reciprocating. This unfavorable situation would undoubtedly spread negative implications for the Ye family.

Despite being an alchemy family, the Ye family couldn’t match the formidable strength of the Huangfu family, especially with Huangfu Ruiling at the helm. Following the recent Family Competition, the Huangfu family had risen to become the preeminent force in the Hidden World.

“Then, regarding Ye Leng’an...” Ye Yikun paused, pondered for a moment, and continued, “What are your plans?”

“Father, are you suggesting...” Ye Hongxuan appeared puzzled.

Previously, his father had made it clear that he adamantly refused to acknowledge Ye Leng’an’s existence and status. Now, he was inquiring about their intentions. What other plans could they possibly have?

“She is your daughter and the future matriarch of the Huangfu family. Don’t you have any thoughts on the matter?” Ye Yikun straightforwardly pointed out. “Reclaiming this daughter is beneficial for both you and the Ye family.”

Upon hearing his father’s words, Ye Hongxuan fell into silence.

He wasn’t naive and understood his father’s underlying meaning. Ever since the revelation of Huangfu Ruiling’s identity, he anticipated that his father would change his stance sooner or later. However, the speed of this change took him by surprise.

Despite being his father, he found this approach somewhat shameless.

“Father, do you believe we can still acknowledge this daughter?” A wry smile appeared on Ye Hongxuan’s face. “It was already awkward before, and you swore not to let Leng’an return to the Ye family. Now...”

Although he left his sentence unfinished, the implication was evident.

Ye Yikun’s expression turned grim, unsure of what to say.

Had it not been for the confirmation that Huangfu Ruiling was the head of the Huangfu family, he wouldn’t have considered allowing Ye Leng’an to return to the Ye family. The Huangfu family’s dominance made allying with them immensely advantageous for the Ye family.

However, their past strained relationship prevented him from easily setting aside his pride. He had initially planned to use the engagement ceremony as an opportunity to mend relations, but the Huangfu family unexpectedly omitted an invitation.

After a prolonged silence, Ye Yikun shifted the topic. "How is Wanwan doing?"

"Everything else is fine, but her dantian was crippled," Ye Hongxuan said with a hint of helplessness. "We've tried various pills, but there's still no way to repair it. If we want Wanwan's dantian to recover to its previous state, it's likely only achievable through Nine Nether Night Cloud."

"Nine Nether Night Cloud?" Ye Yikun frowned. "It might be quicker to restart cultivation."

The Nine Nether Night Cloud was nearly extinct, and even if they obtained it, giving it to Ye Wanwan, who wasn't of the Ye bloodline, was improbable. Such a precious plant would undoubtedly become the Ye family's treasure.

"Therefore, we must quickly nurture Wanwan's body and then guide her back to cultivation." Ye Hongxuan sighed and continued, "However, her injuries this time are severe, so she'll likely need an extended period of recovery before resuming cultivation."

"Then expedite the process," Ye Yikun urged. "Furthermore, the fact that Wanwan lost her cultivation must remain confidential. Especially with the Murong family; not a hint of this can leak."

With the Ye family and Huangfu family at odds, preserving the engagement with the Murong family was crucial. If the Murong family learned of Wanwan's diminished cultivation, they might call off the engagement.

Even if Murong Xingrui adored Ye Wanwan, the cunning Master Murong would never let his most beloved son marry a crippled woman.

Therefore, this matter needed to stay under wraps until a solution was found. They had to devise a plan to initiate Wanwan's cultivation promptly, enabling her to recover to her previous level.

"Only a few family physicians are aware of this matter," Ye Hongxuan assured. "However, even if Wanwan resumes cultivation, rumors might still circulate, considering her lengthy recovery."

"After Wanwan begins cultivating again, have her directly consume pills to elevate her cultivation," Ye Yikun decisively concluded. "This way, her recovery will be expedited."

Chapter 724: Wanwan's Own Decision

“Father!” Ye Hongxuan could hardly believe his ears. “If Wanwan takes the pill, her cultivation will become very unstable. Moreover, even if she manages to recover her previous cultivation, future advancement will be challenging.”

“So what?” Ye Yikun’s tone showed no hesitation. “Considering Wanwan’s current cultivation method and the previous injury to her dantian, how long do you think it would take for her to recover her previous cultivation? Can you guarantee that the Murong family won’t detect anything during this extended period?”

“But you can’t let Wanwan forcefully enhance her cultivation with pills just because of this!” Ye Hongxuan found it hard to accept. “That’s merely courting disaster. For Wanwan, there’s no benefit at all.”

“Stop arguing with me here.” Ye Yikun glanced at Ye Hongxuan and continued, “Ask Wanwan yourself and see if she’s willing to consider my suggestion. If she disagrees, then treat my suggestion as if it was never mentioned.”

“Really?” Ye Hongxuan’s tone held a hint of skepticism.

He couldn’t easily believe his father changed his stance so readily. His father had always been unwavering in the Ye family. Yet, with just a few words, his father altered his decision. It seemed implausible.

“I don’t intend to force Ye Wanwan.” Ye Yikun’s expression remained unchanged, unaffected by Ye Hongxuan’s suspicion. “After all, she’s the one who would need to take the pill to boost her cultivation. If she genuinely refuses, I can’t force her to take the pill.”

However, he was confident that Ye Wanwan wouldn’t reject this proposal. He could see Wanwan was an ambitious person, unwilling to give up on the marriage with the Murong family – the foundation of her existence in the Ye family. She clearly understood the necessity of rapidly advancing her cultivation.

“Alright.” Ye Hongxuan nodded. “Then we’ll follow Father’s lead. We’ll let Wanwan decide when the time comes.”

With a positive response from his father, he genuinely felt a sense of relief. Despite knowing Ye Wanwan wasn’t his biological daughter, he had raised her for many years, and their bond couldn’t be easily severed. Naturally, he didn’t want Wanwan to jeopardize her future.

Ye Yikun nodded, then after some contemplation, continued, “You should be concerned about Wanwan, but don’t neglect Ye Leng’an. Regardless, you two share blood ties. As long as you and Lian Mengzhu can set aside your pride, she’ll soften sooner or later.”

Ye Hongxuan nodded but harbored little hope. Even during this engagement ceremony, Ye Leng’an was unwilling to invite her biological parents. It indicated her feelings toward them.

Moreover, they couldn’t abandon Wanwan. As long as she remained in the Ye family, it would be challenging for Leng’an to acknowledge them.

Within the Huangfu family, Ye Leng'an gazed at the terrified Lian Zixin in front of her, her expression unchanged.

"Who are you?" Lian Zixin's tone held fear. "Why did you bring me here? Let me tell you, my sister is the matriarch of the Ye family. If you do anything to me, she won't spare you."

Ye Leng'an couldn't help but chuckle at this. "I didn't expect you to use your sister's influence so skillfully! But, are you sure Lian Mengzhu still cares about you? If she genuinely did, the Ye family wouldn't be suppressing the Yan family like this."

Lian Zixin was shocked, and the fear in her eyes deepened. "What's your goal?"

Could it be that someone she offended before had heard about the discord between her and the Ye family, taking this opportunity for revenge?

"My goal?" Ye Leng'an smiled, but her words were chilling. "What if I said I wanted your life?"

"You can't do this!" Lian Zixin's fear altered her voice. "Although there are misunderstandings between my sister and me, she still cares about me. Let me tell you, if you harm me, she won't spare you."

"If Lian Mengzhu still cares about you, she's a fool." Ye Leng'an sneered. "You used your own child to replace her biological child. Do you think she'll forgive you? Your bond as sisters makes your mistakes even more despicable, doesn't it?"

"Who are you?" Lian Zixin was afraid. "How do you know these things?"

Ye Wanwan had stayed at the Ye residence all this time, and there was no news from there. She knew the Ye family had sealed off all information. As long as Ye Wanwan was in the Ye family, she would still be the young lady. This was the only comforting thing for her.

She knew that if Wanwan lost her status as the young lady of the Ye family, she would lose everything, including her marriage to the Murong family. As long as Wanwan was safe, she still had a faint hope for the future.

"Who am I?" Ye Leng'an tilted her head in thought, then blinked and smiled as she replied, "My name is Ye Leng'an. I should call you auntie!"

When Lian Zixin first heard the name Ye Leng'an, it sounded familiar. When she heard the rest, her breathing became rapid, and her voice trembled slightly. "You are... You are..."

"That's right."

Before Lian Zixin could finish, Ye Leng'an nodded and replied, "I'm the child you switched with back then."

"What do you want?" Lian Zixin's eyes widened, and her body involuntarily wanted to retreat. "Let me tell you, I'm your auntie, your mother's biological sister. If you do anything to me, your mother will never forgive you."

She had no time to think about why Ye Leng'an would appear here. She only wanted to ensure her own safety. She believed Ye Leng'an must have kidnapped her for revenge.

Now that Ye Leng'an knew everything, she wouldn't let the real culprit off. To be fair, if she were swapped like this, she wouldn't spare the person who harmed her.

"Auntie?" Ye Leng'an found it amusing. "I don't even acknowledge my parents. Do you think I'll acknowledge you as my so-called auntie?"

Chapter 725: Getting Injured

"Ye Leng'an, you can't harm me. We're blood relatives!" Lian Zixin suppressed her inner fear and continued, "What happened back then was my mistake. But now, I realize my error. Besides, the Ye family is continually suppressing the Yan family. My future can be anticipated, and you don't need to personally intervene, right?"

"But I enjoy seeking revenge personally. What should I do?" Ye Leng'an tilted her head and smirked maliciously. "So, dear Auntie, leaving today unscathed might not be so easy. Even if I wanted to kill you to satisfy my hatred, no one would blame me!"

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's intention to kill her, Lian Zixin couldn't help but tremble. Even her voice changed. "You... You can't harm me. Ye Leng'an, even if you are truly a daughter of the Ye family, so what? The Ye family now publicly acknowledges Ye Wanwan. She is my biological daughter. If you harm me, she won't spare you."

"Ye Wanwan?" Ye Leng'an smiled mockingly at Lian Zixin and continued, "She can't even protect herself now. Do you think she still cares about you, her so-called biological mother? And do you really believe she has any affection for you?"

"What have you done to Wanwan?" Upon learning about Ye Wanwan's predicament, Lian Zixin overcame her internal fear and questioned, "I'm telling you, if you dare to harm Wanwan, I will make sure you pay."

"I crippled Ye Wanwan. How will you not let me go?" Ye Leng'an didn't conceal anything and spoke directly, "Now Ye Wanwan has lost all her cultivation. She's just an ordinary cripple. Do you think her position in the Ye family will remain secure?"

Hearing Ye Leng'an's revelation, Lian Zixin became immediately agitated. At this moment, she no longer felt fear. She attacked Ye Leng'an directly. "How dare you treat Wanwan like this? I'm going to kill you."

Now, Ye Wanwan was her last hope. If Ye Wanwan lived well, Lian Zixin might have a chance to turn the tables. However, Ye Leng'an was telling her that Ye Wanwan's cultivation had been ruined.

Her only hope shattered, and at this moment, all she wanted was to kill the person in front of her. She completely forgot that she was brought here by Ye Leng'an.

Just as Lian Zixin was about to reach her, Ye Leng'an remained seated and didn't get up. She merely waved her hand lightly, sending Lian Zixin flying with a burst of spiritual force.

Lian Zixin was knocked down, crashing into a nearby wall. She then fell to the ground, starting to cough up blood.

"Tell me, is this not inviting trouble upon yourself?" Ye Leng'an rested her right hand on the table, supporting her chin with a faint smile. "I just told you that I crippled Ye Wanwan. Why do you still think you can harm me?"

Lian Zixin struggled to prop herself up and sat back up, looking at Ye Leng'an with a mixture of fear and dread. "How can this be? You clearly grew up in the mortal world. How could you..."

She had thought Ye Leng'an was able to bring her here because someone was helping her from behind. Her initial fear was genuine because she didn't know who was behind this. If that person truly supported Ye Leng'an, she might be in serious trouble. After all, it would be effortless for them to bring her here and do whatever they pleased.

However, she now realized that Ye Leng'an's cultivation was remarkably high. While her own cultivation was not impressive, she wasn't someone who could be knocked down with a wave of her hand.

"Why, do you find it peculiar?" Ye Leng'an blinked and smiled. "This must be quite disappointing for you! You sent me to the mortal world to prevent me from cultivating and surpassing Ye Wanwan in any way. So, even if this matter is exposed, the Ye family will choose Ye Wanwan over a useless person like me, right?"

Seeing that Ye Leng'an had completely understood her thoughts, Lian Zixin panicked. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"It doesn't matter to me whether you're willing to tell me or not," Ye Leng'an said nonchalantly. "In any case, Ye Wanwan is the one who's now a cripple."

"If you dare to ruin Wanwan, the Ye family won't let you off," Lian Zixin said fiercely. "Ye Leng'an, even if your cultivation is extraordinary, the Ye family now recognizes Wanwan, not you."

Indeed, as long as the Ye family acknowledged Ye Wanwan and not Ye Leng'an, she would win. She would triumph over Lian Mengzhu.

"Do you genuinely believe I care if the Ye family acknowledges it or not?" Ye Leng'an sneered and continued, "Moreover, even if Ye Wanwan is now the young lady of the Ye family, you are currently in my hands. Do you think she can save you?"

"So what if you kill me now?" Lian Zixin suppressed her fear and panic, bravely saying, "Now you have nothing. Furthermore, even if you kill me, the Enforcement Team won't spare you. Ye Leng'an, you grew up in a small place like the mortal world. You might not understand the rules of our Hidden World. As an outsider, you dare to kidnap me. Let me tell you, now that my family will undoubtedly go to the

Enforcement Team if they find out I'm missing. When that happens, you'll be the one in trouble."

"Is that so? I'm so scared!" Ye Leng'an couldn't help but roll her eyes. "Then what should we do? Since it's already like this, I might as well listen to you and kill you directly! Killing to silence, as long as you're dead, the Enforcement Team won't come after me, right?"

Hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Lian Zixin couldn't determine if it was true or false. She felt she had overplayed her hand, so she forced herself to remain calm and said, "The Enforcement Team is different from the police in the mortal world. Even if you kill me, they'll still find you. At that time, you'll pay with your life."

"So that's how it is!" Ye Leng'an teased Lian Zixin like a cat playing with a mouse. "So, according to you, I can't do anything right now. Well, I'm genuinely in a dilemma!"

"As long as you let me go now, we can pretend nothing happened. Before anyone finds out, you'll be fine." Seeing a glimmer of hope, Lian Zixin immediately spoke to persuade her.

Chapter 726: Drunken Beauty

"Really?" Ye Leng'an expressed doubt. "How can I be sure you're not deceiving me? Besides, I just injured you. Are you truly that benevolent?"

"I won't deceive you," Lian Zixin urgently responded. "The switching incident was my mistake. Now that you've injured me, we are even."

"Sounds good."

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's response, Lian Zixin finally sighed in relief. However, her relief was short-lived as she was once again startled by Ye Leng'an's next words.

"Unfortunately, I'm not willing." Ye Leng'an's smile appeared somewhat cold. "Life is about finding happiness. Right now, the only thing that brings me joy is punishing you, the culprit."

At this point, Lian Zixin had a clear understanding of the situation. "Ye Leng'an, you played me!"

"That's correct, played you." Ye Leng'an nodded, continuing, "Why? Weren't you playing me just now? Lian Zixin, I dared to abduct you openly. Do you think I'd fear the Enforcement Team?"

Understanding that Ye Leng'an wouldn't let her go easily, Lian Zixin's only recourse was to fight desperately. Perhaps there was a slim chance of survival.

With this in mind, Lian Zixin endured the pain, activating her spiritual power, and fiercely attacked Ye Leng'an. Knowing she couldn't defeat her, she aimed to injure her, even at the cost of her own well-being.

As long as she could buy time, there might be a chance to escape. At the very least, she could inform someone outside and potentially receive help.

Unfortunately, ideals often clashed with harsh realities. Despite Lian Zixin's best efforts, she couldn't match Ye Leng'an's prowess. After just two moves, she was knocked down again, spewing fresh blood.

Watching Ye Leng'an approach step by step, a glint of desperation flickered in Lian Zixin's eyes. Just as Ye Leng'an was about to reach her, a dark light flashed in her eyes, and she produced a sleeve arrow. With a crazed smile, she exclaimed, "Ye Leng'an, go to hell!"

She hoped, even if unable to kill Ye Leng'an, to inflict severe injuries. To her surprise, Ye Leng'an effortlessly caught the arrow.

"How is that possible?" Lian Zixin's eyes widened in disbelief.

The sleeve arrow was no ordinary weapon; it was a spiritual weapon gifted by Lian Mengzhu before their falling out. Initially meant for self-defense, she now used it against Lian Mengzhu's daughter, savoring a bizarre sense of satisfaction.

Ye Leng'an, however, easily caught the spiritual weapon.

The power of the sleeve arrow was something she had witnessed before. Even cultivators with Golden Core Stage cultivation found it challenging to catch, let alone someone like Ye Leng'an. However, when Ye Leng'an caught the sleeve arrow, it appeared effortless, as if it posed no difficulty at all.

Examining the arrow, Ye Leng'an discovered its poisoned tip. She remarked, "This doesn't look ordinary. Unexpectedly, the arrowhead is coated with poison! The Drunken Beauty! Such a vicious toxin. Afflicted individuals endure 49 days of excruciating pain as their flesh rots away."

"How do you know?" Lian Zixin asked, her breath catching. "Ye Leng'an, who are you exactly? How do you know that?"

"I can discern it naturally. As for who I am, don't you know?" Ye Leng'an's malicious smile emerged. "The most dreadful aspect of this poison is the complete decay after 49 days. If one lacks the courage to commit suicide, life becomes a perpetual abyss. I have a great idea; since you presented such a wonderful item, let's use it on you."

With these words, Ye Leng'an advanced toward Lian Zixin with the arrow.

Fear painted Lian Zixin's face. Though unable to stand, she desperately retreated. "What do you want? No, no."

Attempts to use her sleeve arrow again were futile. Ye Leng'an effortlessly deflected it.

In Lian Zixin's eyes, Ye Leng'an was now a devil.

Within moments, Ye Leng'an stood before her, smiling as she drove the sleeve arrow into her abdomen. Blood, tainted with black, flowed out.

“Ah!”

Lian Zixin writhed on the ground, feeling as if thousands of ants were gnawing at her bones. The pain was unbearable, and she couldn't help but scream. The abdominal wound, in the face of such agony, seemed secondary.

Observing Lian Zixin's torment, Ye Leng'an's face showed no sympathy. “This poison looks rather intense. However, as you apply it yourself, you should be aware of its effects.”

Lian Zixin cried out in pain, gasping for air. “Ye... Ye Leng'an, you... You're so cruel. I... Let me tell you, the Ye family will not... acknowledge you since you are such a vicious person.”

Ye Leng'an said with an innocent expression, “This has nothing to do with me. Now, I'm afraid Lian Mengzhu despises you to the core. Do you think she'll save you once she knows you are poisoned?”

Chapter 727: Are You Shy?

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Lian Zixin's face turned a dismal shade of gray, and her eyes mirrored sheer despair. Her entire being seemed to have lost all vitality.

At present, she was in pain all over, and even speaking required almost all her strength. She dared not contemplate her future, especially enduring the torment of Drunken Beauty for forty-nine days. Throughout these forty-nine days, suicide wasn't an option, leaving her with no choice but to endure.

In forty-nine days, she would transform into something neither human nor ghost.

The only hope for her salvation was the Ye family, but considering her past act of switching children, they were inclined to end her life instead. Why would they be willing to save her now?

Observing Lian Zixin's anguish, Ye Leng'an persisted, not letting up with her words that cut like a double-edged sword. “Initially, I didn't intend to use poison against you. However, since you first employed poison against me, not retaliating in kind would make me seem naive. So, now you've tasted the poison you intended for me. Doesn't it feel satisfying? Do you think this is karma?”

Already severely injured and now poisoned, Lian Zixin once again coughed up a mouthful of blood, hearing Ye Leng'an's sarcastic words.

She was so weakened that she could barely speak. Yet, even in this state, she couldn't faint. Drunken Beauty had a distinct characteristic – the poisoned person remained fully conscious throughout the entire process.

Thus, many individuals, after enduring the agonizing forty-nine days, were on the brink of collapse, with some even descending into madness.

Ye Leng'an crouched down, stuffing a pill into Lian Zixin's mouth. Subsequently, the wound on her abdomen ceased bleeding.

Of course, her intentions were far from benevolent. She simply didn't want Lian Zixin to meet a swift demise. Allowing her to continue living became the ultimate punishment.

Soon after, Ye Leng'an summoned others and instructed them to return Lian Zixin the way she was brought in.

Before long, everything returned to an eerie calmness, as if nothing had occurred. Only the pool of blood on the ground vividly marked Lian Zixin's fate.

Even in such a gruesome environment, Ye Leng'an casually sat at a stone table, sipping tea, appearing somewhat out of place.

Huangfu Ruiling quickly entered. Seeing the blood on the ground, he raised an eyebrow, saying nothing. He silently took a seat opposite Ye Leng'an, poured himself tea, and then calmly asked, "Has the matter been resolved?"

"Yeah." Ye Leng'an nodded, smiling. "The grudge between Lian Zixin and me can be considered settled. She swapped me at birth, altering my destiny. Therefore, she's going to spend the rest of her life atoning. I find it satisfying."

Being afflicted with the Drunken Beauty poison, Lian Zixin's ensuing life difficulties were foreseeable. If she dared to commit suicide, Ye Leng'an wouldn't stop her.

"Are you happy?" Huangfu Ruiling didn't care about Lian Zixin's fate; his concern was solely about Ye Leng'an's emotional state.

"Of course." Ye Leng'an nodded, smiling. "I'm only happy when she's barely hanging on."

At this moment, Ye Leng'an suddenly lifted her head, gazing at Huangfu Ruiling, who sat across from her. Her smile grew brighter. "How about it? Do you think I'm quite vicious?"

"Very endearing." Observing Ye Leng'an's smile, Huangfu Ruiling's lips formed a fond curve. "I like your vengeful nature. You look truly adorable now."

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling's words, Ye Leng'an couldn't help but burst into laughter. "Is this the saying that beauty is in the eye of the beholder? Probably only you would find me cute like this."

Huangfu Ruiling reached out, encircling Ye Leng'an's waist. Leaning in, he whispered in her ear, "No matter what you do, in my eyes, you are the cutest."

Feeling the warm breath beside her ear, Ye Leng'an's heart trembled. She struggled, wanting to break free, but the hands around her waist were like a pair of pliers, rendering her motionless.

"Release me first." Ye Leng'an's tone carried a hint of playfulness.

"Why? Are you shy?" Huangfu Ruiling's magnetic voice held a trace of mockery. "I didn't expect you to be so shy!"

"I'm not!"

Even if she were, she wouldn't admit it.

Ye Leng'an raised her head, looking at the perfect face in front of her. She couldn't help but be momentarily dazed. However, she quickly regained her composure. "I won't be embarrassed by such a trivial thing!"

Huangfu Ruiling also noticed Ye Leng'an's momentary distraction. A hint of a smile flashed in his eyes, but he didn't say anything. However, Ye Leng'an's subsequent actions made him widen his eyes.

Ye Leng'an directly grabbed Huangfu Ruiling's collar, pulled him down, and kissed him on the lips.

Such an abrupt move surprised even Huangfu Ruiling. By the time he reacted, she had already pulled back.

Looking at his bewildered expression, Ye Leng'an's face formed a bright smile. She then asked, "What's wrong? Are you shy? You dared to say that to me just now."

Her tone exuded pride.

Upon hearing her words, Huangfu Ruiling chuckled and said, "That wasn't a kiss!"

"Huh?" Ye Leng'an didn't comprehend his meaning. A trace of doubt flickered in her eyes, and her expression appeared somewhat bewildered.

Huangfu Ruiling's lips curled into a slight curve. Then, he directly held her waist and pulled her into his arms.

While Ye Leng'an was still in a daze, forgetting to resist, Huangfu Ruiling grabbed her hand, hooked it around his neck, and swiftly kissed her lips, skillfully parting her teeth for a deep, passionate kiss.

Her entire body went numb in that kiss. Her head was spinning, and she gradually forgot to resist, reflexively kissing him back.

Chapter 728: The Beginning of the Engagement Banquet

After an unknown duration, the two finally broke apart.

Perhaps it was due to not taking a breath during the kiss, Ye Leng'an felt a dizzy spell, disoriented and lightheaded.

Observing her unusual state amused Huangfu Ruiling.

Regaining composure, Ye Leng'an's gaze remained somewhat hazy as she looked at Huangfu Ruiling.

Huangfu Ruiling chuckled but said nothing, simply wrapping his arm around her waist, allowing her to lean against him.

The atmosphere became momentarily ambiguous yet serene, exuding a sense of a beautifully undisturbed time.

Meanwhile, the state of the Yan family was far from ideal.

Enduring substantial pressure recently, the Yan family's circumstances were already challenging. Additionally, the two legitimate children of the Yan family, Yan Chenlang and Yan Xiaolei, had been sent back by the Ye family. Though described as being sent back, in reality, they were expelled.

The Yan family was perplexed about how they had suddenly offended the Ye family. They were already in the dark. Yan Kai had been urging Lian Zixin to gather information from the Ye family, but Lian Zixin, aware that she couldn't let Yan Kai discover her actions, kept stalling.

Today, Lian Zixin suddenly went missing from the Yan family, prompting chaos. Yan Kai swiftly sought help from the Ye family, hoping to use this opportunity to mend relations and resolve misunderstandings.

Unexpectedly, the Ye family not only refused to allow their messengers entry but also coldly asserted that the Ye and Yan families were no longer relatives. Their Madam had severed ties with Lian Zixin, and henceforth, any matters concerning her should not involve the Ye family.

Faced with such a ruthless response, Yan Kai was left dumbfounded, unable to fathom the twists and turns of the situation. Over the years, he had witnessed Lian Mengzhu's kindness towards Lian Zixin. Each time Lian Zixin returned from the Ye family, she brought back bags of items. Now, Lian Mengzhu's indifference towards Lian Zixin was baffling. Even with Lian Zixin missing, there was no concern. What had happened between the two sisters that he wasn't aware of?

Before Yan Kai could unravel the mystery, Lian Zixin was returned. Similar to her disappearance, nobody knew how she was brought back.

By the time they discovered her, Lian Zixin was covered in injuries and on the verge of death. Chaos ensued in the Yan family once again.

However, all of this was unrelated to Ye Leng'an. Her engagement ceremony with Huangfu Ruiling proceeded as scheduled.

Their engagement ceremony took place in the evening. Thus, by noon, Ye Leng'an had already been whisked away for her preparation.

It was only when the engagement ceremony was about to commence that Ye Leng'an finished dressing up. Stepping out, she spotted Huangfu Ruiling waiting not far from the entrance.

Upon hearing the movement, Huangfu Ruiling immediately turned, and upon seeing the elegantly adorned Ye Leng'an, he couldn't help but be captivated.

Ye Leng'an was naturally striking, and even without makeup, she was astonishing. Now, with subtle enhancements, her already perfect features became more pronounced. Coupled with her opulent white evening gown, she resembled a celestial being untouched by earthly troubles.

Sensing Huangfu Ruiling's reaction, Ye Leng'an curved her lips into a smile and approached. "What do you think? Stunned, right? Do I look good?"

With that, she twirled in front of Huangfu Ruiling.

Observing Ye Leng'an, resembling a little girl showcasing herself, Huangfu Ruiling's eyes filled with affection. He smiled and spoke softly, "You look very beautiful."

“Does that mean I’m not usually beautiful?” Ye Leng’an playfully asked. “You better think carefully about how to answer! If I’m not pleased, your fate won’t be pleasant either!”

Unperturbed, Huangfu Ruiling allowed her to jest. He smiled and responded, “You are beautiful, always the most beautiful, no matter when.”

“Good!” Ye Leng’an nodded, appearing satisfied. She even extended her hand, tiptoed, and patted Huangfu Ruiling’s shoulder, speaking with a mischievous smile, “I’m content with your answer. Consider yourself barely passing.”

Huangfu Ruiling chuckled. “Thank you for your generosity, Mrs. Huangfu.”

Upon hearing the address from Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Leng’an widened her eyes. “You... What nonsense are you spouting? Don’t casually tarnish my reputation!”

“Sooner or later.” Huangfu Ruiling reached out, took Ye Leng’an’s hand, kissed it gently, and then smiled, “So, Mrs. Huangfu, shall we depart?”

With that, he stood beside Ye Leng’an and raised his arm, gesturing towards her.

Ye Leng’an didn’t dwell on the matter. She held onto his arm, and the two proceeded towards the main hall.

As the head of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Ruiling would naturally hold the engagement banquet in the main hall.

The Huangfu family’s main hall was quite spacious and seldom used for entertaining guests in normal circumstances. Typically, only significant banquets were hosted there.

However, over the years, the Huangfu family had scarcely held banquets. The most recent one should have been many years ago, around the time when the new family head assumed office!

Yet, during that time, the central figure, Huangfu Ruiling, did not attend. Everyone had speculated about the appearance of the Huangfu family’s new head. It wasn’t until Huangfu Ruiling appeared before them that they realized he wore a mask.

No one could have guessed that Huangfu Ruiling, someone from the mortal world, was actually the same person as Huangfu Ling.

Most of the invitees had already arrived at the banquet venue. People from the other eight major families were present, but the Ye family was conspicuously absent.

The previous news of the Huangfu family not sending an invitation to the Ye family had already caused a stir. Seeing the continued absence of the Ye family only confirmed the speculations.

However, who could have anticipated that the Ye family and Huangfu family would have such a strained relationship due to the Family Competition?

Just as the guests exchanged toasts and the atmosphere was festive, a couple suddenly appeared at the entrance. They were Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an, the two protagonists of the night.

Ye Leng’an held onto Huangfu Ruiling’s arm as they entered the hall.

Chapter 729: Uninvited Arrival

Huangfu Ruiling donned a black tuxedo, while Ye Leng'an wore an elegant white princess dress. The black and white attire created a stark contrast yet seemed remarkably harmonious and complementary. Both of them, with their striking features, looked almost unreal – a truly perfect couple.

“Master, Miss Ye.” Grand Elder Huangfu Changmao approached, radiating a joyful smile. “You’re here! Congratulations! Today is indeed a joyous occasion for both of you!”

The other three elders followed suit, offering their congratulations.

Normally, Huangfu Ruiling wore a stoic expression. However, today, an uncommon smile adorned his face, softening his usually icy demeanor. It made him appear more approachable.

Observing this amiable side of Huangfu Ruiling, many approached to extend their well-wishes.

Huangfu Ruiling appeared to be in exceptionally high spirits today, responding with a continuous smile to those who came to congratulate him.

In a corner, Huangfu Ruixiang witnessed the scene nearby, feeling a sense of discomfort.

Even though he had gained the qualification to attend today’s engagement ceremony, there were few here at the banquet who truly regarded him with respect. Despite being the younger brother of Huangfu Ruiling, not many took the initiative to approach and greet him.

He sensed that he didn’t quite fit into the atmosphere.

However, even so, he chose to stay. Standing there made him feel markedly different from before. In the past, he lacked the qualification to attend such grand events hosted by the Huangfu family. At least, not every inner sect disciple had the privilege to participate in the family head’s engagement ceremony.

At this moment, Huangfu Ruixiang remained unaware that his inclusion in the engagement ceremony was merely for convenience. Adding one more person wouldn’t impact the ceremony, so Huangfu Ruiling didn’t mind.

After some exchanges, the time for the ceremony approached. Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an prepared to step forward.

Suddenly, a couple entered from outside, instantly casting a chill over the previously lively atmosphere.

The unexpected guests were none other than Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu.

Observing Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu’s arrival, Ye Leng’an’s eyes revealed a hint of confusion. She moved closer to Huangfu Ruiling and asked softly, “Ling, didn’t you tell me before that you didn’t plan to invite the Ye family?”

Why had Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu come?

Huangfu Ruiling's smile vanished, his eyes briefly showing a hint of darkness as he replied quietly, "We did not send an invitation to the Ye family."

"So, they came uninvited!" Ye Leng'an hesitated for a moment before furrowing her brows. "What are they doing here on such a day?"

She couldn't believe they had come to attend her engagement ceremony.

During their time in the Ye family, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu had already chosen Ye Wanwan. It was unrealistic for them to come for her on such a day, especially without an invitation.

After hearing a disciple's report, the Grand Elder promptly informed Huangfu Ruiling of the situation.

"What happened?" Ye Leng'an looked at Huangfu Ruiling. "They are..."

Huangfu Ruiling's expression darkened as he explained, "Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu came directly to the door. They insisted on coming in. Since they are guests, and today is our day, those servants didn't want any trouble, so they had to let Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu in."

While they were talking, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu had arrived in front of Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an.

Lian Mengzhu looked at the stunningly beautiful girl in front of her, her eyes somewhat moist.

This was her daughter, her biological daughter. They hadn't spent a day together, and now she was about to get married. Yet, as her biological mother, she couldn't even openly offer blessings on such a day.

The thought filled her with immense sorrow, and simultaneously, her resentment toward Lian Zixin deepened. If not for Lian Zixin, they wouldn't be strangers on such an important day.

Ye Hongxuan's emotions were complicated. He forced a smile and sincerely wished, "Master Huangfu, Leng'an, congratulations."

He couldn't articulate his current feelings, but he knew that being unable to attend his biological daughter's engagement ceremony as a father would be a lifelong regret.

Huangfu Ruiling's expression remained unchanged. It was as if he hadn't seen the inner struggles of Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. He nodded and said, "Thank you, Master Ye. Please help yourself!"

With that, he pulled Ye Leng'an along, ready to leave.

Ye Leng'an was also cooperative, showing no intention of staying to face Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu.

She never expected Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu to come directly without an invitation.

The surrounding guests couldn't help but look over.

They had heard that the Huangfu family hadn't sent an invitation to the Ye family. Therefore, no one expected someone from the Ye family to come, especially Ye Hongxuan, the family head.

Was the information they received earlier false?

Regardless, they weren't fools. They could sense that the atmosphere here seemed peculiar.

There were rumors before that the Huangfu and Ye families had a falling out due to the Family Competition. Now, it seemed like those rumors were untrue. Or perhaps, the Ye family had hurried over because of the Family Competition, seeking reconciliation with the Huangfu family?

Lian Mengzhu paid no attention to what outsiders thought. Her heart and gaze were fixed on Ye Leng'an. Seeing Ye Leng'an about to leave with Huangfu Ruiling, she quickly called out, "Leng'an, can you stay for a while and talk to me?"

A polite smile appeared on Ye Leng'an's face. She then said, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Ye. I'm the main character today, so I really don't have time to chat with you. Please forgive me for my lack of hospitality."

She felt there was nothing to discuss with Lian Mengzhu.

Chapter 730: Taking Vows

Watching Ye Leng'an about to leave, Lian Mengzhu felt a sense of urgency. She even reached out, wanting to grab Ye Leng'an's arm. However, under Ye Leng'an's icy gaze, she reluctantly withdrew her hand, feeling a bit at a loss

"I... I didn't mean anything else." Lian Mengzhu resembled a child who had done something wrong, her expression filled with anxiety. "I just wanted to offer my blessings."

She was well aware that their uninvited presence wasn't appropriate. In the eyes of others, it might even be a subject of mockery. Despite that, she still wanted to attend because it was her biological daughter's engagement ceremony – a significant life event. She had missed too much of her daughter's life, and missing such a crucial moment would be a lifelong regret.

"Mrs. Ye, we have received your blessings," Huangfu Ruiling coldly remarked. "Guests are welcome, and today, you are our guests. I hope you can play your role as guests."

These words were somewhat hurtful, causing a hint of sadness to appear on Lian Mengzhu's face.

Observing Lian Mengzhu's expression, Ye Leng'an couldn't help but furrow her brows. "Mrs. Ye, today is my special day. I don't want to utter harsh words, but I hope you won't upset me on such an occasion, alright?"

She genuinely found Lian Mengzhu peculiar. Wanting to acknowledge her biological daughter while being reluctant to let go of the adopted one. However, she knew well that the relationship between an adopted daughter and a biological one was almost irreconcilable. It was impossible for them to get along.

It was apparent that Lian Mengzhu struggled with her decision, but it felt like everyone was pressuring her.

These blunt words made Lian Mengzhu even more distressed. She hastily began to explain, "I didn't mean to, I just..."

At this moment, Lian Mengzhu felt exceptionally wronged. She had come only to avoid missing a crucial moment in her daughter's life. However, she didn't expect her daughter to resist her this way, not even showing a friendly face. Did she really make a mistake by coming?

"Leng'an, there's no need to be so sharp." Ye Hongxuan frowned, speaking up. "We never intended to make you angry. I understand that you don't want to associate with us because of Wanwan. However, you should also understand our feelings! Wanwan has been under our care for many years. Even if it's raising a pet, feelings are bound to develop, let alone with a person! At the moment, we truly can't let her go."

Hearing Ye Hongxuan's lofty words, Ye Leng'an couldn't help but find it amusing. "Master Ye, you don't need to explain anything to me. Your thoughts have nothing to do with me, and I don't care. However, I don't want to see you act like I owe you something. It disgusts me."

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu couldn't possibly expect her to feel gratitude for their willingness to come over! Were they overestimating themselves or underestimating her? The current her had no intention of acknowledging her so-called biological parents.

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Lian Mengzhu was on the verge of tears.

Observing his wife's state, Ye Hongxuan felt a pang of heartache. He wanted to say something, but before he could, Huangfu Ruiling interrupted.

"Master Ye, Mrs. Ye." Huangfu Ruiling coldly addressed the couple. "Today is our engagement day, and I apologize for not welcoming you properly. Our engagement ceremony is about to begin, so please enjoy yourselves."

Huangfu Ruiling took Ye Leng'an's hand and left without sparing Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu a glance, not giving them a chance to speak.

Lian Mengzhu stood in place, her face expressing grievance and sorrow. Especially when she gazed at Ye Leng'an's departing figure, she seemed to want to say something but hesitated.

Ye Hongxuan, on the other hand, wore a stern expression, not looking pleased.

Since Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu entered the banquet hall, almost everyone's attention had shifted towards them, either subtly or overtly.

Everyone knew that the Ye family hadn't received an invitation from the Huangfu family. Due to this, many had speculated about the situation. Now, with Master Ye and his wife arriving uninvited, the situation had taken a peculiar turn.

Seeing the strange atmosphere between Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Hongxuan, onlookers couldn't help but let their imaginations run wild. Was there some undisclosed grudge between them?

Despite their speculations, no one spoke out. After all, it was a private matter. As guests, regardless of their thoughts, they maintained a calm facade.

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an walked hand in hand onto the stage. In front of everyone, they made their vows and exchanged engagement rings.

Gazing at the delicate figure in front of her, Huangfu Ruiling's eyes were filled with affection. He spoke slowly, "I, Huangfu Ruiling, swear that in this life and all eternity, I only want Ye Leng'an. If I break this oath, I am willing to accept the punishment of the Heavenly Dao."

Finishing his words, he placed the ring on Ye Leng'an's finger.

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling's oath, Ye Leng'an smiled and made her own vow. "I, Ye Leng'an, swear that in this life and all eternity, I only want Huangfu Ruiling. If I break this oath, I am willing to accept the punishment of the Heavenly Dao."

She, too, placed the ring on Huangfu Ruiling's finger.

Those below the stage were astonished as they witnessed the couple make their engagement vows.

In the Hidden World, a cultivator's oath was a solemn commitment to the Heavenly Dao. Violating it could lead to the development of inner demons, impacting future cultivation.

Hence, cultivators rarely took oaths. However, once made, they were bound to uphold them.

In the Hidden World, many had held engagement ceremonies, but making such an oath at this moment was unheard of. Although most engaged couples eventually married, a small number would fail to reach the final step for various reasons. Such an oath, aside from self-inflicted consequences, could significantly impact their future cultivation. Therefore, few would take such a risk.

In fact, many cultivators hesitated even when getting married, unwilling to make vows.

Who would have expected that Huangfu Ruiling, the head of the Huangfu family, would make such an oath during their engagement ceremony? It seemed he had already firmly decided on Ye Leng'an!