

Full-Level 731

Chapter 731: A Jestng Tone

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an were oblivious to what the audience below thought. At this moment, all they saw in each other's eyes was mutual existence.

After the ring exchange, Huangfu Ruiling leaned down and placed a devout kiss on Ye Leng'an's forehead, treating her as if she were a rare treasure.

Onlookers had varied thoughts witnessing this scene. Given today's engagement ceremony, it was evident that Ye Leng'an would be the future matriarch of the Huangfu family. Huangfu Ruiling's solemn oath during the engagement ceremony suggested that there would be no changes in the future.

However, some couldn't help feeling regretful. Having finally uncovered the mysterious face of the head of the Huangfu family, it happened during the other party's engagement ceremony. Many unmarried young women, having experienced such an engagement ceremony, had essentially given up

Huangfu Ruiling was willing to make such a commitment to Ye Leng'an. How could that change? Thus, any actions against their union were simply making a mockery of themselves. Why subject oneself to such humiliation

Watching Ye Leng'an's blissful expression, Lian Mengzhu couldn't help but reach out to hold Ye Hongxuan by her side, asking softly, "Hongxuan, do you think there will come a day when we can be part of our daughter's life and experience her joys and sorrows?"

Seeing Huangfu Ruiling's deep affection for Ye Leng'an made her happy, but not being able to stand beside Ye Leng'an as her mother and offer blessings saddened her. She wondered if she would continue like this in the future and if she would ever hear Ye Leng'an call her "mother."

"Yes." Ye Hongxuan nodded, his words directed at Lian Mengzhu or perhaps himself. "One day, she will return to our side."

Despite his assurance, he lacked confidence. Having met Ye Leng'an many times, he could sense her indifference and lack of expectations or feelings toward her parents, making their relationship only marginally better than that with strangers.

Unaware of Ye Hongxuan's response, Lian Mengzhu pursed her lips and remained silent.

The engagement ceremony concluded, making way for the banquet.

Despite being Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an's engagement ceremony, the attending guests seized the opportunity to expand their connections or foster relations between major families.

However, for unknown reasons, no one dared to approach Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an.

Even Lian Mengzhu, intending to offer a few words of congratulations, hesitated due to Huangfu Ruiling's icy gaze and formidable aura.

Leaning against Huangfu Ruiling's chest, Ye Leng'an smiled. "We are the stars tonight! Why hasn't anyone come to congratulate us? Is it because you look too fierce?"

There was a hint of jest in her tone.

"Perhaps they are being considerate, not wanting to disturb us!" Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow, confidently stating, "Moreover, don't you enjoy spending quiet moments with me rather than socializing with those people?"

Ye Leng'an was momentarily surprised by Huangfu Ruiling's words, then shook her head and continued, "I think staying like this is good."

Truth be told, she wasn't in the mood to deal with the guests. Quietly watching with Huangfu Ruiling was indeed preferable. Furthermore, the guests attending the engagement ceremony were not there to bless them but to socialize.

This aspect was quite similar between the Hidden World and the mortal world. Even though the Hidden World prioritized strength, many necessary social interactions were still indispensable. Just like fostering good relations between two families, it enabled resource sharing, bringing benefits to each respective family.

Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow and said no more.

Ye Leng'an surveyed the banquet venue. Upon making eye contact with Lian Mengzhu, who seemed eager to approach, she calmly withdrew her gaze, avoiding any eye contact with her.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's actions from a distance, Lian Mengzhu couldn't help but feel heartbroken. However, realizing that Ye Leng'an didn't want to witness her in such a state, she immediately concealed her sorrow, putting on a forced smile.

Seeing Lian Mengzhu yield, Ye Hongxuan felt a twinge of heartache but more of helplessness. He, too, was in a similar situation, unsure of what to do with Ye Leng'an.

Ye Leng'an was unaware of this couple's thoughts. Moreover, after the engagement ceremony, they would return to the mortal world, reducing interactions with Ye Hongxuan and his wife.

Suddenly noticing Huangfu Ruixiang's gloomy expression in the corner, Ye Leng'an frowned and asked, "Ling, after we return to the mortal world, will Huangfu Ruixiang continue staying here to cultivate?"

"It's likely!" Huangfu Ruiling's tone carried a hint of indifference as if he didn't care about the matter. "He's not a child; he can decide for himself."

Ye Leng'an's lips curled into an interested smile as she continued, "It seems like Zhong Yating really wants to ensnare Huangfu Ruixiang! Rumor has it she has been pestering him persistently. Do you think she knows that Huangfu Ruixiang already has a child?"

She knew about Zhong Yating's situation because, until now, Zhong Yating hadn't given up on involving her. However, since the last time, the Huangfu family had been reorganized, and Zhong Yating hadn't even seen her face, forcing her to pester Huangfu Ruixiang constantly.

“Zhong Yating probably doesn’t know about the matters in the mortal world!” Huangfu Ruiling’s tone remained indifferent as if discussing matters unrelated to him. “Her affair with Huangfu Ruixiang has nothing to do with me.”

Ye Leng’an found it amusing. She shook her head and said, “I wonder what will happen between the two of them. No, it should be between the three of them!”

Although Li Yiran was in the mortal world, she had given birth to a son for Huangfu Ruixiang, holding a place in his heart. Zhong Yating was in the Hidden World, close to Huangfu Ruixiang, but seemingly without his favor. Thus, it was uncertain who would become Huangfu Ruixiang’s wife in the end!

Chapter 732: He Knows When to Yield

“Don’t worry too much about other people’s matters.” Huangfu Ruiling directly embraced Ye Leng’an’s waist, his deep voice tinged with a hint of displeasure. “Today is our special day, and you should focus more on me.”

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling’s dissatisfaction, Ye Leng’an found it amusing but still tried to reassure him. “All my attention is on you; you shouldn’t misunderstand me!”

After scanning the surroundings, Huangfu Ruiling took Ye Leng’an’s hand. “Let’s go outside for a stroll! There are too many people here.”

Coincidentally, Ye Leng’an didn’t want to linger in this place either, so she followed Huangfu Ruiling and left the banquet scene.

Many people noticed the couple leaving, but everyone tactfully ignored it. Though they were the protagonists, this was their territory, and people refrained from commenting on their choices.

Seeing this, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu immediately wanted to follow suit, hoping to have a conversation with Ye Leng’an away from the crowd. Despite expecting no kind words from her, they still wanted to spend some time with her.

However, as they took a few steps forward, they were intercepted by the Grand Elder, Huangfu Changmao.

“Master Ye, Mrs. Ye, my apologies for not greeting you properly. Are you leaving?” Though Huangfu Changmao didn’t know the specifics of the grievances between them, he could sense the Master’s disdain for the Ye family. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have omitted invitations to them for this engagement ceremony.

Now that it seemed the family head wanted some private time with Miss Ye, Huangfu Changmao naturally couldn’t allow others to disturb them.

After being stopped, Ye Hongxuan’s expression turned sour, but in the Huangfu family’s domain, he couldn’t afford to lose his temper. Suppressing his anger, he spoke, “Grand Elder, we, as a couple, find it rather dull here. We’d like to go out and get some fresh air. Is that permissible?”

“Of course, it’s allowed.” Huangfu Changmao smiled and summoned a servant. Instructing the servant, he said, “Master Ye and Mrs. Ye wish to go for a walk. Lead the way and attend to them.”

Before Ye Hongxuan could voice any objections, Huangfu Changmao turned to him, smiling. “Master Ye, please! I hope you have an enjoyable time.”

Instantly, Ye Hongxuan couldn’t utter a word of refusal. He reluctantly followed the disciple’s lead and commenced a tour of the garden outside.

Until the banquet’s end, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu never had a chance to see Ye Leng’an again.

Ye Leng’an remained oblivious to the happenings. She and Huangfu Ruiling had already arrived at the garden outside.

Though it was dark, the garden was adorned with small white lamps, casting a brightness akin to daylight.

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an, like any regular couple, strolled hand in hand, fingers intertwined.

“The air here is better.” Ye Leng’an took a deep breath, smiling. “It was too noisy inside; it’s more comfortable and peaceful here.”

“You don’t enjoy this kind of occasion?” Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow. “If you dislike it in the future, just say so; there’s no need to endure.”

“It’s not that I dislike it.” Ye Leng’an smiled, shaking her head. “I just feel there are too many people, and I don’t want to engage in socializing. Being here, strolling with you feels more comfortable.”

Huangfu Ruiling couldn’t help but smile upon hearing her express her liking for being with him.

His already perfect face now appeared so handsome that he seemed unreal. If there were other girls present, they would undoubtedly be captivated.

Despite spending day and night together and being accustomed to Huangfu Ruiling’s face, Ye Leng’an couldn’t help but feel a flutter in her heart at this moment. Her gaze, which had become familiar with his face, now held a hint of enchantment.

Observing her expression, Huangfu Ruiling’s smile deepened, and he even let out a low chuckle.

Upon hearing his laughter, Ye Leng’an snapped out of her daze.

Regaining her composure, she glared at him. “Is it funny, or are you reveling in your own charm?”

Her squinted eyes seemed to convey a message: If Huangfu Ruiling dared to affirm, the following consequences would be unpleasant.

“I’m delighted,” Huangfu Ruiling said, smiling softly. “But I’m happy that you appreciate my face. It means I’ve gained another point in your heart, doesn’t it?”

After hearing his response, Ye Leng'an burst into laughter. Then, shaking her head in amusement, she said, "You truly know how to talk! In the past, you were like a closed book. How did you become so articulate? Did you learn it from someone?"

"It's all sincere." Huangfu Ruiling's tone was earnest.

"Alright, I'll trust you completely." Ye Leng'an smiled, saying, "In the future, say more of these kind words. I still like them."

Huangfu Ruiling chuckled, not responding.

Seeming to recall something, Ye Leng'an maintained a smile on her face and continued, "I truly didn't expect that Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu didn't receive invitations yet still came uninvited."

"Ye Yikun probably played a part in this." Huangfu Ruiling's lips curled into a sarcastic smile. "Didn't I tell you before? Ye Yikun is undoubtedly a qualified leader."

Ye Leng'an understood and nodded. "Indeed, Ye Yikun knows when to yield! When I was in the Ye family, wasn't he vehemently opposed to letting me return? Why did he push Ye Hongxuan out now, attempting to ease our relationship? What a joke!"

Back at the Ye residence, Ye Yikun had asserted that she was absolutely forbidden from entering. Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu didn't dare utter a word. Now, not only had they come uninvited, but it also turned out that Ye Yikun had already agreed to it!

"Probably because he learned about my identity," Huangfu Ruiling said casually. "Ye Yikun decided to keep Ye Wanwan after considering the pros and cons since Ye Wanwan is still tied to the Murong family's marriage."

Ye Leng'an sneered and said, "The Ye family is considered an alchemist family! Why fixate on this marriage alliance and seek relations with other families?"

Chapter 733: A Chance to Showcase Your Strength

"It's precisely because the Ye family is renowned for alchemy that they need to form alliances with other families," Huangfu Ruiling explained slowly. "Indeed, within the Hidden World, the Ye family is considered the largest alchemy family. However, their focus on alchemy has hindered their overall cultivation compared to other families. In the past, when alchemists were scarce, major families highly valued the Ye family. However, times have changed. Many alchemy families have emerged in the Hidden World. Some aristocratic families even support alchemists within their own ranks. The Ye family's advantage is no longer as significant. In recent years, the Ye family has produced few high-level alchemists. Thus, while they remain one of the top ten families in the Hidden World, they are not as formidable as before. Ye Yikun has been eager to restore the family's former glory, and forming alliances is the quickest way."

Having listened to Huangfu Ruiling's explanation, Ye Leng'an understood. "I didn't expect Old Master Ye to be so ambitious! It's a pity he's not willing to take the righteous path."

In her view, any marriage alliance was superficial. The key to a family's prosperity and strength was continuous self-improvement, not resorting to dubious means. Regardless of the external assistance, true strength came from within.

Moreover, marriage alliances were fragile. For instance, Ye Wanwan's cultivation had been crippled, yet the Ye family dared not spread the news, fearing the Murong family might break off the engagement.

Self-reliance was better than dependence. Strengthening oneself was the basis for survival.

"Although Ye Hongxuan is the current head of the Ye family, in reality, the one making decisions is Ye Yikun, who has already taken a back seat," Huangfu Ruiling explained calmly. "Ye Hongxuan is indecisive and cannot achieve great things or lead the Ye family to its former glory. To make the Ye family strong, Ye Yikun believes forming alliances is the best option."

Although Ye Hongxuan was Ye Leng'an's biological father, Huangfu Ruiling truly had little regard for him. If he were in Ye Hongxuan's position, he would ensure all power rested in his hands after becoming the family head, rather than just holding a title.

Ye Hongxuan was overly cautious due to Ye Yikun being his father, enduring much. He was unlikely to achieve anything significant.

"Perhaps indecisiveness makes control easier!" Ye Leng'an stated bluntly. "That's why I say the Ye family is truly chaotic. Thankfully, I never considered going back."

The Ye family was nothing but a quagmire, and she had no intention of stepping into it.

After Ye Leng'an's remarks, Huangfu Ruiling shook his head amusedly. "It's alright. We'll leave the Hidden World tomorrow. The Ye family's matters won't trouble you anymore."

Ye Leng'an stuck out her tongue and sighed. "Seems like I'm truly a person without family ties!"

Indeed! Back in the mortal world, the Ye family favored their biological daughter, Ye Xiyuan. In the Hidden World, her biological parents had been reluctant to give up on their adopted daughter.

However, Ye Leng'an was just casually complaining and felt no emotional ripples.

Huangfu Ruiling also perceived that Ye Leng'an's mood was unaffected, so he offered no comforting words. He merely smiled and continued, "That's good! In your world, I'm the only one."

"Your possessiveness is quite strong!" Ye Leng'an couldn't help but roll her eyes. "Shouldn't you be saying some sweet words to comfort me at a time like this?"

Huangfu Ruiling raised his eyebrows and asked, "Do you need my comfort?"

Ye Leng'an didn't know how to respond. Currently, she truly didn't need any comfort.

She had never harbored expectations for her so-called parents, so she wouldn't be disappointed. Moreover, she exposed Ye Wanwan's identity this time merely as payback. Regardless of Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's attitudes, she didn't care and wouldn't be saddened.

"Alright! I can't argue with you."

After saying that, she released his hand, turned around, and jumped onto his back.

Huangfu Ruiling reacted swiftly, immediately reaching out to support her on his back.

Ye Leng'an lay on his back, a radiant smile on her face. The broad back beneath her provided a sense of security.

"Darling, just carry me on your back!" Her tone was filled with hearty laughter.

"Consider this an opportunity for you to showcase your strength!"

"Good! As long as you don't come down, I'll carry you all the way."

With that, Huangfu Ruiling carried Ye Leng'an on his back, strolling leisurely through the garden. The care he took was as if the entire world rested on his shoulders.

Lying on Huangfu Ruiling's back, Ye Leng'an smiled. "Actually, this feels quite nice. Ling, in the future, let's find time to go on a trip together! Just the two of us, without anyone else."

They had only traveled together once, to the southern boundaries, and it wasn't for leisure but to deal with Gu poison.

That reminded her of Xiao Jin. Before her college entrance exams, Xiao Jin had already fallen into a deep sleep, possibly due to consuming many elixirs, indicating an impending evolution. This had caught her off guard.

However, since Xiao Jin was still asleep, she didn't bring it to the Hidden World. Otherwise, she genuinely wanted Lian Zixin to taste Xiao Jin.

Noticing Ye Leng'an lost in thought on his back, Huangfu Ruiling's eyes revealed a hint of doubt. He then asked, "An'an, what are you thinking about?"

After Ye Leng'an snapped out of it, she smiled and continued, "It's nothing. I was just thinking. By the way, you haven't answered my question yet!"

"Sure!" Huangfu Ruiling's tone was indulgent. "You can go anywhere you want. You can set the time and go anywhere you want."

With Huangfu Ruiling's response, she smiled and said, "At least you know what's good for you."

Chapter 734: The Top Scorer

After walking for a while, Ye Leng'an suddenly spoke again, "Ling, after you go back this time, do you still need to keep pretending?"

In simple terms, it meant whether he would continue sitting in the wheelchair.

“No need,” Huangfu Ruiling replied straightforwardly. “Since our matter has already spread in the Hidden World, many people in the mortal world know about it. So, there’s no need to continue.”

All four major families in the mortal world had representatives in the Hidden World, and even if their status was not high, they had undoubtedly heard about the news that was making waves. Therefore, there was no need to keep up the pretense.

Besides, he never intended to disguise himself. It was just a matter of habit that he had been sitting in the wheelchair.

Ye Leng’an lay on his back, unable to hold back a laugh. “It seems like many people will be genuinely shocked this time!”

Huangfu Ruiling smiled without saying a word.

And so, he carried her on his back, strolling through the garden. With no disturbances from outsiders, the two appeared like an ordinary couple – peaceful and sweet, free from unnecessary commotion.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu had been eager to find an opportunity to meet Ye Leng’an, but they were thwarted repeatedly. They had no choice but to stay in the banquet hall until the end of the event.

Since today offered no chance to meet her, they decided to post an invitation the next day.

Little did they expect that when they finally mustered the courage to visit Ye Leng’an the next day, she was nowhere to be found. Simultaneously, they received word that Ye Leng’an and Huangfu Ruiling had temporarily left the Hidden World with an uncertain return date.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu were deeply disappointed, but with no other option, they left the Huangfu family.

On the other side, Ye Leng’an remained oblivious to this development. Unperturbed, she had returned to the mortal world, where she stumbled upon a significant event.

The college entrance exam results were out, and she had secured the top spot this year.

Luckily, her home address was unknown, sparing her from the hassle of reporters.

Inside the villa, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an sat on the sofa.

More precisely, Huangfu Ruiling sat on the sofa while Ye Leng’an rested on his lap, scrolling through her phone. She checked if anyone had sent her messages during her time in the Hidden World.

After a while, Ye Leng’an noticed that the principal had sent her the most messages, inquiring about her return.

“Why is Principal looking for me?” Ye Leng’an was puzzled. “The college entrance exam is over; he’s not asking me to go back to class, is he?”

“Probably because of your results,” Huangfu Ruiling said, running his fingers through her hair. “He should be quite happy now! After all these years, Sheng’an High School

has finally produced a college entrance exam top scorer. Previously, it was always overshadowed by Capital No.1 High School.”

Hearing this, Ye Leng’an couldn’t help but chuckle. “Principal Zheng and the principal of Capital No.1 High School have had a love-hate relationship for many years!”

This description elicited a subtle smile from Huangfu Ruiling.

“I better call him back!”

With that, she began dialing the number. Almost instantly, the call was answered.

“Ye Leng’an?” The voice on the other end was filled with excitement, a stark contrast to the usual calm demeanor.

“Principal, you seem delighted!” Ye Leng’an teased. “I noticed you’ve called me quite a few times. Is there something wrong?”

“Ye Leng’an, I finally got your call.” Zheng Anyang slowly calmed down upon hearing Ye Leng’an’s playful tone. However, his excitement remained. “Do you know? You’re the top scorer in this year’s college entrance exam, and you scored a perfect 100. In the past decade, you’re the only one to achieve this. Do you realize how much attention you’ve garnered?”

Ye Leng’an raised an eyebrow, a hint of surprise in her eyes. “I didn’t expect that.”

While she wasn’t surprised to be the top scorer, she hadn’t anticipated achieving a perfect score. It wasn’t a lack of confidence but an assumption that some points might be deducted, especially in the essay section.

“We didn’t expect it either.” Zheng Anyang tried to contain his excitement. After a few deep breaths, he continued, “Your essay initially sparked some controversy. After several teachers reviewed it together, they decided to award it a perfect score. It’s the only essay in this year’s college entrance exam to receive full marks.”

“I see,” Ye Leng’an responded calmly. “Principal, do I still need to return to school to get my report card?”

“There’s no need for that,” Zheng Anyang said, a bit puzzled. “Did you already know your results? You don’t seem surprised at all!”

Due to Ye Leng’an’s composure, Zheng Anyang’s initial excitement gradually subsided. He realized he might have been overly enthusiastic. After all, it was the first time Sheng’an High School produced a college entrance exam champion, and a perfect one at that. This achievement was sufficient for him to show off in front of the principal of Capital No.1 High School.

Previously, he sought out Ye Leng’an to share the good news. However, not finding her made him all the more excited when he finally did. Now, in hindsight, he felt a bit embarrassed. He had failed to maintain the calm expected of someone more mature.

After a moment's thought, Ye Leng'an replied, "I just returned, and I found out not long ago. However, I have confidence in myself, so I'm not too surprised."

"Hehe, that's true." Zheng Anyang had completely calmed down. "By the way, although you don't need the report card, you still have to come back. You need to pick up your graduation certificate."

Most graduates had already retrieved their certificates, but due to the inability to reach Ye Leng'an, hers remained at the school. Zheng Anyang had safely stored it, waiting for Ye Leng'an to collect it.

"Alright." Ye Leng'an agreed. "I'll find time tomorrow to come over and get my graduation certificate."

"Hehe, then come straight to my office!" Zheng Anyang replied with a smile. "Your graduation certificate is with me!"

Chapter 735: Status Is Prior to Age

After ending the call, Huangfu Ruiling gazed at Ye Leng'an and congratulated her, "Well done on acing the college entrance exam! What kind of reward would you like?"

Ye Leng'an blinked, then replied with a smile, "There's a reward! But I haven't decided yet. I'll let you know once I've made up my mind!"

"Alright!" Huangfu Ruiling's voice was filled with affection.

While the two shared a tender moment, Huangfu Ruiling's phone rang at an inconvenient time. Disregarding it, he hung up.

However, the caller seemed persistent and immediately dialed again.

Ye Leng'an suggested, "You should answer it!"

Despite Huangfu Ruiling's displeasure at the untimely call, he obeyed Ye Leng'an's advice and picked up, his tone chilly. "What's the matter?"

In less than a minute, Huangfu Ruiling responded curtly, "Got it," and hung up.

Curious, Ye Leng'an raised an eyebrow. "Who was it?"

"Zhongyu Liuying," Huangfu Ruiling replied without concealment. "She asked me to go back."

"Then go quickly!" Ye Leng'an stood up and nudged Huangfu Ruiling. "It's probably because your identity has been exposed, and that's why she urgently summoned you! She is quite well-informed! We've only just returned, and she already knew."

"Huangfu Ruixiang," Huangfu Ruiling disclosed the informant's name. "He told her."

Ye Leng'an smiled and commented, "Clearly, the knives are out for you this time!"

“I’ll go back and check,” Huangfu Ruiling said casually. “Do you want to come with me?”

“No.” Ye Leng’an shook her head. “I plan to practice alchemy later, so I won’t accompany you.”

Having been occupied with other matters, she hadn’t practiced alchemy for a long time. With some free time now, she intended to refine pills and hone her skills.

Accepting her decision, Huangfu Ruiling bid farewell and left the villa.

Once Huangfu Ruiling departed, Ye Leng’an entered the alchemy room to begin her practice.

Huangfu Ruiling swiftly returned to the Huangfu family’s ancestral residence. Upon entering, he found Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying seated with peculiar expressions – neither good nor bad.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying watched Huangfu Ruiling enter with bewilderment. They had learned from Ruixiang that Huangfu Ruiling’s legs had long recovered.

However, seeing it firsthand still shocked them.

“You...” Zhongyu Liuying couldn’t help asking, “When did you recover and could stand?”

Huangfu Ruiling walked to the sofa, sat down, and leaned back. “Why did you call me back this time?”

“Didn’t you hear your mother’s question?” Huangfu Jingzhang felt irritated. “Is this how you treat your mother?”

The accusatory demeanor exuded a sense of superiority that made it uncomfortable to listen to.

Unfazed, Huangfu Ruiling maintained his composure, his eyes icy. “What does it have to do with you?”

“What kind of attitude is this?” Huangfu Jingzhang, frustrated by Huangfu Ruiling’s indifference, became agitated. “We are your parents, not your enemies. How can you treat us like this?”

“Believe what you want.” Compared to Huangfu Jingzhang’s frustration, Huangfu Ruiling remained calm, almost indifferent. “If you called me back today to question and punish, there’s no need. Also, don’t forget your current status.”

Hearing that, Huangfu Jingzhang was furious. “Our status? We are your parents!”

“So what?” Huangfu Ruiling crossed his hands, looking at Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying with eyes devoid of any extra emotion. “Are you trying to assert your parental authority in front of me? Showing respect for others according to a person’s status and age, status is prior to age.”

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying were not fools; they naturally understood Huangfu Ruiling's words.

Huangfu Ruiling was the head of the Huangfu family, undoubtedly the most esteemed figure within the entire family. Even though they were his parents, within the family, they had to show utmost respect to Huangfu Ruiling.

"You..." Huangfu Jingzhang's face turned red with anger.

However, seeing Huangfu Ruiling's indifferent expression, he didn't dare to erupt. He knew very well that if he dared to confront Huangfu Ruiling in anger, Huangfu Ruiling would genuinely punish him. Moreover, even if Huangfu Ruiling did punish him, no one in the entire family would plead for him, and no one would dare to have any objections against Huangfu Ruiling.

"Ruiling, we're just concerned about you." Zhongyu Liuying, sensing that something was amiss, immediately spoke to ease the tension. "We're your parents, and we definitely won't harm you."

Hearing her words, a trace of mockery flashed in Huangfu Ruiling's eyes.

It seemed this couple had forgotten about the kidnapping incident.

"Just state your purpose directly." Huangfu Ruiling said coldly, "I don't have time to beat around the bush with you."

Huangfu Jingzhang was angered, but Zhongyu Liuying pulled his sleeve, and upon seeing Huangfu Ruiling's cold gaze, his anger dissipated, leaving only an icy demeanor.

Because in Huangfu Ruiling's eyes, he saw no warmth, as if they weren't his parents. For a moment, he felt only a chilling solemnity.

"Ruiling, we genuinely have no ulterior motives." Zhongyu Liuying forced a smile.

"When did your legs recover? Why didn't you tell us? We've been worried about your legs all these years!"

Chapter 736: Falling Out

"Is it important?" Huangfu Ruiling glanced indifferently at Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying, then continued, "This has nothing to do with you guys, so why should I tell you?"

One sentence almost reignited Huangfu Jingzhang's suppressed anger, and he might have jumped up again if Zhongyu Liuying hadn't winked at him.

"Ruiling, why are you doing this?" Zhongyu Liuying pressed down on Huangfu Jingzhang's hand, then raised her head, looking at Huangfu Ruiling. She continued, "We are your parents. We were also very surprised to hear that your leg had suddenly recovered. I called you here today just to show concern. I have no other purpose."

“Then you’ve seen me.” Huangfu Ruiling nodded, indicating that he already knew.

“So, can I leave now?”

He didn’t want to waste time going around in circles with these two people. Since they didn’t want to reveal their purpose, he would just leave.

“Don’t be in such a hurry!” Seeing Huangfu Ruiling about to get up, Zhongyu Liuying immediately got up and said, “It’s getting late. Why don’t you stay for dinner?”

Huangfu Ruiling glanced at Zhongyu Liuying indifferently. “No, I’ll leave first.”

Although he had come over, he did not intend to stay for long. He still had to go back and have dinner with Ye Leng’an.

“Wait a minute.”

Seeing Huangfu Ruiling unmoved, Zhongyu Liuying was also a little anxious. “I still have something to ask you. Don’t be in a hurry to leave!”

Huangfu Ruiling frowned but sat down again. Today, he planned to explain everything at once to avoid harassment by Zhongyu Liuying in the future. Although he could ignore it, it was still annoying. So, it was better to settle everything today.

Huangfu Ruiling sat there quietly, and it was enough to make people feel endless pressure.

Even though Huangfu Ruiling was her son, Zhongyu Liuying still felt a lot of pressure facing him. However, when she thought of her youngest son, she took a deep breath, raised her head, and continued, “Ruiling, Ruixiang said you’re already the head of the Hidden World’s Huangfu family. Is that right?”

This time, both Zhongyu Liuying and Huangfu Jingzhang focused on Huangfu Ruiling.

Compared to Huangfu Ruiling being able to stand up, they were more concerned about his identity as the head of the Hidden World’s Huangfu family.

Previously, when they heard the news from Huangfu Ruixiang, they couldn’t believe their ears. They always knew Huangfu Ruiling’s status in the Hidden World’s Huangfu family was not low, but they never knew what kind of identity he had.

They never expected him to be the head of the Huangfu family. That was the Huangfu family, even in the Hidden World, at the top of the pyramid.

Everyone in the Huangfu family wanted to enter the main family. Suddenly, they learned their eldest son was the leader of the entire clan.

How could they not be shocked?

When they heard the news, they immediately called Huangfu Ruiling back. The most important thing was to get benefits for their youngest son.

Huangfu Ruiling was not surprised when he heard Zhongyu Liuying’s words. “So what if it is? So what if it isn’t?”

Clearly, such an answer was not what Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying expected. They looked at each other.

“Ruiling!” Zhongyu Liuying said earnestly, “You and Ruixiang are biological brothers, connected by the roots. Now, Ruixiang is cultivating in the Hidden World. Since you’re the head of the Huangfu family, take care of him. If he becomes successful, you’ll also be proud, right?”

“That’s right.” Huangfu Jingzhang chimed in, “The elder brother takes on the responsibilities or roles traditionally associated with a father when necessary. It’s only right for you to take care of Ruixiang.”

After that, both of them looked at Huangfu Ruiling, waiting for his answer.

“Are you done?” Huangfu Ruiling’s lips curled into a sarcastic smile. “Huangfu Ruixiang is your son, not mine. What does it have to do with me? Also, if he wasn’t my younger brother, do you think he would have the chance to continue cultivating in the Hidden World? As for whether he can continue to stay, that will depend on his ability. The family’s resources are precious. We can’t waste them on trash.”

That last sentence was just short of mentioning Huangfu Ruixiang by name. Huangfu Ruixiang was that trash.

“But, but...” Zhongyu Liuying wanted to speak up for Huangfu Ruixiang but didn’t know what to say.

“Ruixiang is definitely a promising talent.” Huangfu Jingzhang said confidently. “As long as you nurture him well, he will become your right-hand man in the future.”

“Huangfu Ruixiang’s matter has nothing to do with me.” Huangfu Ruiling said lightly, “The matters of the Huangfu family have nothing to do with you. There is no need for you to point fingers here. You have no right to interfere with any affairs of the Hidden World.”

After hearing such impolite words, Zhongyu Liuying and Huangfu Jingzhang’s expressions immediately became especially ugly. They did not expect that Huangfu Ruiling would not give them any face at all.

“Ruiling, we...” Zhongyu Liuying had just opened her mouth when she was interrupted.

“Actually, I find it very strange. Why can you guys always be so confident in front of me?” Huangfu Ruiling’s cold eyes fell on the two people opposite him. “All along, I think we can get along peacefully, which is already giving you a lot of face. But you keep taking advantage and putting on airs in front of me. Are you trying to completely fall out with me?”

In the past, he was too lazy to pay attention to them. However, he was already annoyed by their actions.

Zhongyu Liuying was shocked, her brows twitching. Before she could speak, her husband couldn't help but speak.

"Huangfu Ruiling, what do you mean?" Huangfu Jingzhang said angrily, "In your eyes, are we still your parents?"

"I thought we already had an agreement." Huangfu Ruiling looked up at Huangfu Jingzhang and said, "Since the kidnapping case that year, you planned to take the opportunity to kill me. I think there should be no so-called father-son relationship between us!"

Chapter 737: Her Fiancé

Huangfu Ruiling's words plunged Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying into an icy abyss, their bodies shivering with cold.

They had desperately tried to forget the incident of the kidnapping, especially after Huangfu Ruiling returned alive. They had hoped this dark chapter would fade away.

Since Huangfu Ruiling's return, the matter had never been brought up. They had assumed that Huangfu Ruiling had moved on and didn't care about it anymore.

However, today, Huangfu Ruiling unexpectedly raised the issue, forcing them to confront the past they had tried to bury. It became clear that Huangfu Ruiling had been carrying the memory all along.

"Ruiling, back then, we didn't intend to abandon you. We just..." Zhongyu Liuying struggled to find the right words, realizing that every explanation seemed feeble. Eventually, she resorted to an apology. "Regardless, we are your parents. We never wanted to harm you."

While Zhongyu Liuying explained, Huangfu Jingzhang, on the side, was rendered speechless. He was the one who had chosen not to rescue Huangfu Ruiling.

Huangfu Ruiling raised a hand, stopping Zhongyu Liuying's lengthy discourse. "These so-called explanations are unnecessary. You both know the truth about what happened back then. I'm making everything clear today to convey that, in the future, don't expect me to comply with your requests just because you're my parents. You don't have that privilege."

His words left Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying flushed. They exchanged speechless glances. Especially when met with Huangfu Ruiling's cold gaze, an unprecedented unease gripped them.

After a brief glance at Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying, Huangfu Ruiling continued speaking slowly, "In the future, I hope you won't summon me back over such matters. I don't have the time to go in circles with you."

With that, he stood up and walked towards the door.

Huangfu Ruiling harbored no deep resentment or hatred towards Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying. To him, they were devoid of any emotional attachment. One couldn't harbor resentment towards individuals they felt nothing for. However, dealing with this couple, who unconsciously attempted to leverage their parental status, had tested his patience.

Hence, he chose to lay everything bare today, preventing any future disputes.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying watched him leave, refraining from further comments.

Only after Huangfu Ruiling completely vanished from view did Huangfu Jingzhang finally speak, his tone trembling slightly, "That ungrateful child. It turns out he's been holding onto that grudge from the past. He's been resenting us all along."

Zhongyu Liuying's lips quivered. She attempted to speak, but no words came out.

Huangfu Jingzhang, oblivious to her reaction, continued talking to himself, "Why didn't he die during that kidnapping? If he had, none of this would have happened."

He wouldn't have been forcibly removed from the position of family head at such a young age, becoming an idle common member of the family

"Jingzhang, let's not say more," Zhongyu Liuying hurriedly interjected. "Who knows if Huangfu Ruiling is monitoring us? If he hears such words, our situation might become even more difficult."

"We've truly brought calamity upon ourselves! To think we gave birth to such an ingrate." Though he said so, Huangfu Jingzhang's voice lowered. "We can't count on him in the future."

Zhongyu Liuying couldn't help but sigh deeply. "I never thought Ruiling would hold a grudge against us. Judging by his appearance, he probably won't help Ruixiang either."

Huangfu Jingzhang remained silent, but his demeanor revealed his displeasure.

The couple exchanged silent glances, and the atmosphere within the room became heavy.

After today, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying understood that moving forward, they couldn't rely on their parental status to make demands of Huangfu Ruiling.

Early the next morning, Ye Leng'an went to Sheng'an High School. Although she was previously a first-year student, she still needed to collect her graduation certificate since she had already taken the college entrance examination.

With the holidays underway, there weren't many students strolling on campus. However, the new graduating class had already started supplementary classes, leaving no room for relaxation in their pursuit of success in the college entrance examination.

Spotting only a few familiar faces on campus, Ye Leng'an quickly reached the principal's office, knocked on the door, and, upon receiving a response, entered.

Zheng Anyang was initially engrossed in work. Unfazed by the knocking, he absentmindedly responded. However, upon seeing who had entered, he promptly stood up.

“You’ve finally arrived.” Clearly delighted by Ye Leng’an’s presence, Zheng Anyang remarked, “Where have you been all this time? I couldn’t reach you.”

Upon the announcement of the college entrance examination results, discovering Ye Leng’an as the top scorer with full marks, he had immediately attempted to contact her. However, her phone had been switched off until yesterday.

“Oh, after the college entrance examination, I went out for a trip with my fiancé.” Ye Leng’an casually explained, “I didn’t realize my phone had run out of battery, which is why I couldn’t be reached.”

Her tone remained composed, stating the fact matter-of-factly. However, these seemingly simple words greatly astonished Zheng Anyang, nearly prompting him to leap from his chair.

“Fiancé?” Unable to conceal his surprise, Zheng Anyang questioned, “You have a fiancé? Why haven’t I heard about your engagement before?”

In truth, what he wanted to ask was who Ye Leng’an’s fiancé was. Was it Huangfu Ruiling?

Previously, he had seen Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an attending a banquet together, their intimacy evident as they publicly declared their relationship. Suddenly learning of Ye Leng’an’s engagement surprised him, leaving him curious if it was with Huangfu Ruiling.

As the head of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Ruiling wouldn’t have such a low-profile engagement. Furthermore, there had been no news about the Huangfu family head’s engagement during this period.

Chapter 738: Declining the Interview Requests

Although Zheng Anyang had many questions in his mind, he refrained from asking, fearing he might touch upon something that would upset Ye Leng’an. Especially during such a joyous occasion, it seemed unnecessary.

Ye Leng’an, seemingly unfazed, spoke slowly, “Our engagement ceremony is already in preparation. It will take place before the start of the university term. Principal, please come and attend our engagement ceremony!”

Seeing Ye Leng’an’s calm demeanor, Zheng Anyang felt reassured. He smiled and responded, “Certainly! Make sure to send me an invitation. I’d like to attend and see what kind of person is worthy of you!”

Upon hearing this, Ye Leng’an furrowed her brow and then looked at Zheng Anyang strangely. “Principal, didn’t you already encounter him before? Have you forgotten?”

Though they hadn’t exchanged greetings at the banquet, the principal must have heard about her and Huangfu Ruiling. Why did he now act as if he knew nothing?

Zheng Anyang paused for a moment, then cautiously asked, “So, your fiancé is Huangfu Ruiling, right?”

“Yes!” Ye Leng’an nodded matter-of-factly. “We’ve been dating for some time now, and now we’re planning to get engaged. It’s a natural progression!”

They had already held an engagement ceremony in the Hidden World, and now another one was scheduled for the mortal world. While it seemed a bit bothersome, she was willing to accept it. The crucial point was that Huangfu Ruiling would take care of all the arrangements; she just needed to attend on time.

After Ye Leng’an’s confirmation, Zheng Anyang took a deep breath, his eyes widening in surprise. Even though he had witnessed Ye Leng’an and Huangfu Ruiling together before, the news of their impending engagement still astonished him.

He held Ye Leng’an in high regard, believing she was destined for greatness. However, Huangfu Ruiling, as the head of the prominent Huangfu family, was at the forefront of the four major families in the capital. Ye Leng’an, on the other hand, was just an erroneously adopted daughter of a small Ye family, and their statuses seemed entirely mismatched.

It was unexpected that these two individuals not only got together but were also planning to get engaged.

Observing Zheng Anyang’s reaction, Ye Leng’an couldn’t help but find it amusing. “Principal, shouldn’t this be too difficult to accept?”

“No, I was just a little surprised by this news.” Zheng Anyang quickly regained composure, smiling as he said, “Congratulations. I’ll be sure to arrive early.”

Regardless of his inner thoughts, on the surface, he appeared calm.

Ye Leng’an seemed unperturbed and steered the conversation back to business. “Principal, didn’t you ask me to come here for my graduation certificate?”

“Yes.” Apologetically, Zheng Anyang patted his head. “I was so delighted to see you suddenly that I almost forgot my duties.”

He rose, walked to a nearby filing cabinet, retrieved a book with a red cover, and handed it to Ye Leng’an across the desk.

Ye Leng’an took the graduation certificate and without inspecting it, stashed it into her bag. She then bid farewell. “Principal, I’ve taken the graduation certificate. If there’s nothing else, I’ll leave now.”

Observing her preparing to depart, Zheng Anyang sighed. “There’s no need to be in such a hurry. You just arrived. I still have something to discuss with you.”

Ye Leng’an, not rushing, resumed her seat, calmly waiting for the principal to continue.

“You’re this year’s top scorer in the college entrance examination, and you achieved a perfect score.” Zheng Anyang adjusted his expression and stated, “Now, several television stations want to interview you. What are your thoughts?”

Traditionally, major television stations competed to interview the top scorer in the college entrance examination. Additionally, Ye Leng'an was the sole perfect scorer in the past decade, making her exceptionally noteworthy.

Ye Leng'an furrowed her brow, declaring, "I don't plan to accept any interviews."

She disliked drawing attention to herself, especially exposing herself to the spotlight.

"I'll help you decline those interviews." Zheng Anyang, unsurprised by Ye Leng'an's response, continued, "However, the school will issue a press release about your situation. Is that acceptable to you?"

It was an excellent opportunity to promote the school, having produced a top scorer after many years. Zheng Anyang was keen not to miss this chance. However, if Ye Leng'an disagreed, he wouldn't proceed.

Their relationship had always been amicable because Zheng Anyang never compelled Ye Leng'an to do anything she disliked in his capacity as the principal. He didn't intend to jeopardize this rare teacher-student bond.

Undeniably, there was another crucial factor – Ye Leng'an was about to be engaged to Huangfu Ruiling. Zheng Anyang didn't want to offend the Huangfu family backing Ye Leng'an.

"Principal, do as you see fit." Ye Leng'an shrugged, indifferent. "I don't mind these matters."

As long as she didn't have to be present, she was unconcerned. Moreover, the principal had been lenient with her throughout the year; it was time to reciprocate.

With Ye Leng'an's response, Zheng Anyang smiled, affirming, "Don't worry. We won't utter anything that tarnishes your reputation. The school simply wants to take advantage of this opportunity for publicity, especially with new enrollments on the horizon."

A top scorer in the college entrance examination was an excellent publicity hook.

Ye Leng'an showed no surprise, nodding to indicate her understanding.

Continuing, Zheng Anyang said, "There's one more thing. I wonder if you have the time to give a speech to this year's graduating class. It would motivate them to strive for good results in the coming college entrance examination."

At Zheng Anyang's words, Ye Leng'an's expression became peculiar. She frowned, gazing at Zheng Anyang, and asked in a skeptical tone, "Principal, are you sure?"

Chapter 739: Enemies on a Narrow Road

"Why, do you not want to give a speech?" Zheng Anyang was somewhat surprised, then continued to persuade, "Actually, you don't need to speak for too long. I just hope you can share some experiences with them."

Though not explicitly stated, he could tell that Ye Leng'an was intending to refuse. This was somewhat unexpected, as it was not a significant matter. Zheng Anyang didn't anticipate Ye Leng'an being unwilling.

"I don't have a preference." Ye Leng'an looked at Zheng Anyang and continued, "However, Principal, are you sure you want me to share experiences? I'm afraid of leading these graduating students astray!"

"How could that be?" Seeing a chance, Zheng Anyang quickly tried to persuade, "You..."

As if he remembered something, his voice abruptly stopped. He recalled that Ye Leng'an often took leaves and barely attended school for days in a semester. It wasn't appropriate to impart such experiences. Teaching those kids poorly would not be good.

Realizing this, an awkward smile appeared on Zheng Anyang's face.

Seeing that Zheng Anyang seemed to understand, Ye Leng'an smiled slightly and continued, "So, Principal, do you still want me to give a speech?"

"It's actually fine." Zheng Anyang thought for a moment and replied, "You don't need to share specific experiences. Just encourage them. Based on your achievements, it will be a great motivation for them."

Hearing that, Ye Leng'an raised an eyebrow and shrugged. She didn't seem to mind. "If you think so, I have no objections."

It was just saying a few words on stage; she didn't object.

"Really? That's great." After getting her confirmation, Zheng Anyang was pleased. "I'll make the arrangements right away. When it's time, we can discuss it again."

Ye Leng'an, this year's college entrance exam top scorer, was the school's pride. Using her example might motivate the graduating students. Perhaps, next year, the school could achieve another peak.

Ye Leng'an nodded. Picking up her graduation certificate, she waved at Zheng Anyang. "Principal, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave. Notify me when the speech time is confirmed!"

"Alright." Zheng Anyang nodded. Then, he thought of something and said immediately, "Be careful, don't turn off your phone again!"

"Got it."

With that, Ye Leng'an took her graduation certificate and left the principal's office.

Walking through the school grounds, Ye Leng'an felt a bit awkward. Many places had red banners with large words, "Congratulations to Ye Leng'an for achieving the honor of being the top scorer in the college entrance examination!"

She understood the principal's excitement, but seeing her name everywhere felt strange.

Quickening her pace, just before reaching the main entrance, she saw a familiar face. It was Ye Xiyuan.

Encountering Ye Xiyuan here was unexpected.

This could be considered a narrow road for enemies!

Ye Xiyuan noticed Ye Leng'an too. She hesitated for a moment, and then her face instantly darkened.

Her college entrance exam results this time were disastrous. She could feel everyone around her laughing at her.

Originally just a first-year student, she ignored the opposition and directly entered the third year. She did this to achieve good results in the college entrance exam, making everyone take her seriously.

However, unexpectedly, the exam questions were entirely different from what she remembered. Consequently, her results were abysmal.

After the results were out, she received disdainful looks from everyone. Even though she was mentally prepared, facing it in person was tough.

Especially her family's changed attitude. Even her usually affectionate mother became cold after the results were released.

What frustrated and angered her the most was that, while she got terrible results, Ye Leng'an became the top scorer with a perfect score.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's name everywhere on campus, she wished she could tear down and burn all the banners.

In her past life, she was suppressed by Ye Leng'an into the dust. Even with a second chance, she was still going to lose to Ye Leng'an. What was the point of her rebirth?

Even in adversity, she was determined to forge a path to prosperity. She wouldn't repeat the mistakes of her previous life; she wanted to live better than anyone.

Now, seeing Ye Leng'an again, she only wanted to scratch her face, or even kill her.

Unlike Ye Xiyuan's emotional turmoil, Ye Leng'an remained calm. She slowly averted her gaze, treating Ye Xiyuan as a stranger. Without a second glance, she continued walking.

Not wanting to be ignored, Ye Xiyuan didn't intend to let her off.

As they passed each other, Ye Xiyuan suddenly said, "Ye Leng'an, you must be very pleased with yourself!"

Ignoring her, Ye Leng'an didn't stop. Completely unfazed, she continued walking, disregarding Ye Xiyuan.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's indifference, Ye Xiyuan felt ignored. An inexplicable anger surged in her. She quickly stepped forward and blocked Ye Leng'an's path. "Ye Leng'an, are you deaf? Didn't you hear me talking to you?"

"So?" Ye Leng'an stopped, looking coldly at Ye Xiyuan. "Who do you think you are? Why should I respond just because you called me?"

These words further infuriated Ye Xiyuan. “Ye Leng’an, don’t be so arrogant. You’re just the top scorer of this year’s college entrance exam. What’s the big deal?”

“I’m not a big deal.” Ye Leng’an nodded in agreement. “However, it’s still much better than your disastrous college entrance exam results. If you don’t have the ability, don’t take the exam. You’re just a joke.”

Chapter 740: Killing Intent

“Ye Leng’an, you’re asking for trouble!”

Hearing these scornful words, Ye Xiyuan could no longer restrain her emotions. Taking a bold step forward, she raised her hand, intending to slap Ye Leng’an across the face.

Ye Leng’an wasn’t one to passively endure a beating. A glint of coldness flashed in her eyes, and she swiftly reached out to grab Ye Xiyuan’s descending hand. Simultaneously, her other hand rose, delivering a resounding slap to Ye Xiyuan’s face.

The impact left Ye Xiyuan’s cheeks visibly swollen

Momentarily stunned by the slap, Ye Xiyuan quickly regained composure when the pain set in. Filled with resentment, she declared, “Ye Leng’an, I’ll kill you.”

With her eyes now reddened, Ye Xiyuan’s gaze dripped with slow-burning hatred. If it weren’t for Ye Leng’an’s firm grip on her hand, a physical brawl would have likely erupted.

Yet, even in a physical confrontation, Ye Xiyuan would hardly stand a chance against Ye Leng’an. Each encounter ended with Ye Leng’an overpowering her, but she persisted in her misguided defiance.

“Ye Xiyuan, you’re like a persistent cockroach!” Ye Leng’an’s lips curled into a cold smile as she addressed the proximity between them. “Despite repeated setbacks, you cling to your pursuits. If only you invested this energy into studying, you might have made it to university by now, instead of falling short.”

Ye Xiyuan, stung by the mention of her college entrance exam results, suddenly connected the dots. She raised her head and accused, “It’s you, isn’t it? Because of you, the exam papers were altered this year, right?”

Initially not considering this possibility, the sight of Ye Leng’an triggered the realization. Among those aware of her rebirth, only Ye Leng’an fit the bill. It was likely that Ye Leng’an, knowing she would take the exam, manipulated the questions.

“So what?” Ye Leng’an sneered. “Knowing the questions in advance isn’t fair to other candidates, is it?”

Her intent was rooted in fairness, aiming to rectify the disadvantage caused by her foreknowledge. Unaware that Ye Xiyuan was also taking the exam, Ye Leng’an only learned of it later.

Nevertheless, the situation worked out well. From everyone’s perspective, it was the fairest approach.

“Ye Leng’an, you’re truly despicable.” With Ye Leng’an’s confirmation, Ye Xiyuan’s disdain overflowed. “You can’t stand to see me succeed. Because of you, I fell behind. Ye Leng’an, you’ve ruined me, and I won’t let you off.”

“Your inability to succeed is due to your lack of competence,” Ye Leng’an retorted with amusement. “Ye Xiyuan, you attempt to exploit loopholes rather than putting in genuine effort. Don’t blame others for your failures; it’s your own problem.”

Unfazed by Ye Leng’an’s words, Ye Xiyuan persisted in believing that her exam performance suffered solely due to Ye Leng’an’s interference.

“Ye Xiyuan, you want to kill me, don’t you?” Ye Leng’an mocked. “Unfortunately, you lack the strength. But if I want to kill you, it will be effortless.”

Though delivered in a soft tone, Ye Leng’an’s words held an indifferent quality, as if discussing the weather. Yet, from her tone, Ye Xiyuan sensed genuine intent to carry out such an act.

Realizing this, Ye Xiyuan shuddered. “Ye Leng’an, you can’t kill me. It’s against the law.”

“Is that so?” Ye Leng’an smiled. “As long as I do it discreetly, who would know I killed you? Have you forgotten? How did your system vanish without a trace? I could destroy your system; do you think I couldn’t kill you?”

Ye Xiyuan trembled at the thought. She regretted provoking Ye Leng’an at this moment.

The icy glare, indifferent tone – every element conveyed Ye Leng’an’s contempt for her life. It was as if she were nothing more than an ant in Ye Leng’an’s grasp, easily crushed at any moment.

“No, Ye Leng’an, you can’t say you want to kill me.” Trembling, Ye Xiyuan protested. “I’ll tell you, I’m now part of the Nangong family. If you dare to harm me, not even Master Huangfu can protect you.”

Hearing this, Ye Leng’an paused, visibly perplexed. “Ye Xiyuan, what nonsense are you talking about?”

“I’m not talking nonsense.” Ye Xiyuan stood proudly, looking at Ye Leng’an triumphantly. “Ye Lng’an, I’ll have you know I’m about to marry Nangong Riming. Do you know who he is? He’s a direct descendant of the Nangong family, the cousin of Nangong Xuyao. If you dare to touch me, the Nangong family won’t spare you.”

With these thoughts, she couldn’t help but feel a sense of triumph. Despite Ye Leng’an being the girlfriend of the head of the Huangfu family, it was merely a title without substantial significance. In contrast, she was different – she was already the fiancée of Nangong Riming.

She had managed to secure an engagement with Nangong Riming after the college entrance exams.

This fact had protected her from severe repercussions at home, despite the drastic change in her family’s attitude post-exams. She was not only the daughter of the Ye family but also Nangong Riming’s fiancée.

“So what?” Ye Leng’an dismissed. “Even if I kill you, what can Nangong Riming do to me? He’s just an illegitimate child of the Nangong family. Should I be afraid?”

Not to mention Nangong Riming, even facing Nangong Xuyao didn’t intimidate her. However, she couldn’t help but admire Ye Xiyuan. Truly, she was like a cockroach difficult to terminate! No matter the circumstances, she managed to seize opportunities to climb higher.

“Ye Leng’an, you...” Ye Xiyuan seethed. “Don’t think you can do whatever you want just because you have Master Huangfu backing you. You’re just a pawn of the Huangfu family, and you could be discarded at any time.”