

Full-Level 771

Chapter 771: Moral Blackmail

After a while, neither Ye Hongxuan nor Lian Mengzhu spoke.

Ye Leng'an didn't rush them. Instead, she sat quietly, waiting for them to speak. She appeared relaxed as if she was simply enjoying afternoon tea without the discomfort of a serious conversation.

Finally, after Ye Hongxuan let out a long sigh, he began, "In a month, it will be your grandfather's 300th birthday. This time, the Ye family plans to celebrate extravagantly. On that day, I hope you'll attend his birthday party."

"Birthday party?" Ye Leng'an narrowed her eyes and sneered. "Are you sure I won't anger him to death if I show up?"

"You..." Ye Hongxuan was exasperated by her words. He took a deep breath, trying to calm his inner anger and speak calmly. "Leng'an, I understand that you have some misunderstandings about your grandfather due to past events. But you must know that everything he did was for the future of the Ye family, not to deliberately target you."

"Oh!" Ye Leng'an said indifferently, "What does that have to do with me? I'm not a member of the Ye family, so don't try to morally manipulate me into understanding him. I'm not that kind of person."

These words left Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu almost speechless. Ye Leng'an's disregard for convention left them unsure of how to respond.

"Leng'an, regardless, you are our biological daughter. You carry the blood of the Ye family," Lian Mengzhu intervened after a moment of contemplation. "Your grandfather is just stubborn, but he still values you greatly as his granddaughter."

"If he values me so much, then why keep Ye Wanwan around?" Ye Leng'an smiled and asked, "Do you all think that Ye Wanwan and I will get along?"

"Why not?" Lian Mengzhu replied matter-of-factly. "I've watched Wanwan grow up. She's kind and generous. Though a bit headstrong, she's fundamentally good-natured. I believe you two could be good sisters. Leng'an, I understand you resent Wanwan for taking your place for so many years. But consider, she's innocent. Once you've spent time with her, you'll understand my perspective."

"Hmm." Ye Leng'an nodded in agreement. "She's a good child, very kind. But remember, I'm not a good child. I'm not kind at all. Aren't you afraid I'll devour her whole?"

With that, the conversation ground to a halt.

Ye Hongxuan's expression darkened. "Leng'an, are you deliberately retaliating against us?"

"No." Ye Leng'an shook her head. "I'm rational. I know you were also victims of past events. But, just as you can't let go of your feelings for Ye Wanwan, I have no feelings for you at all. Even now, knowing the truth, you still treat Ye Wanwan as your biological daughter. Then don't try to impose your presence on me. Isn't it better for everyone to mind their own business? Why do you keep seeking validation from me?"

"Leng'an, you..." Lian Mengzhu was on the verge of tears at Ye Leng'an's cold-blooded words. "Do you still harbor resentment toward us? Otherwise, why refuse to acknowledge us?"

"Mrs. Ye, there's a saying, 'You can't have your cake and eat it too.'" Ye Leng'an's lips curled into a sarcastic smile. "You want both an adopted daughter and a biological daughter. But have you ever considered what I need?"

"Ye Leng'an, don't push your luck."

Ye Leng'an's repeated rejection and merciless attitude pushed Ye Hongxuan over the edge. "We've been patient with you due to our past negligence, but that's no excuse for your relentless pressure. If you truly want to disown us, why expose this matter?"

Ye Hongxuan's words caused Ye Leng'an's expression to change subtly. She emitted a chill. When she looked at Ye Hongxuan, it was more like she was staring at a stranger than her father.

"Master Ye, watch your words." Ye Leng'an's tone was icy. "Don't assume the Ye family is superior in this world, and everyone desires to be a part of it. I've said it before. I revealed this matter solely because of what Ye Wanwan did. If you think I shouldn't have exposed it, then pretend it never happened. Ye Wanwan can remain your precious daughter."

Under Ye Leng'an's cold gaze, Ye Hongxuan felt as though he were in an icy abyss.

He regretted his words the moment they left his mouth. But as a father, he couldn't bring himself to apologize to his daughter, especially when she was so cold and defiant.

"Leng'an, your father didn't mean it like that," Lian Mengzhu, growing anxious, interjected. "He was just anxious and spoke out of turn. You're our daughter, and we're happy to know the truth."

"Your feelings have nothing to do with me," Ye Leng'an said coldly to Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. "But remember, you've never raised me. Don't try to act like parents in front of me. And please, don't disrupt my life in the future. I don't want to continue dealing with you or have any interaction with you. If you're willing, you can

pretend I don't exist as your so-called biological daughter. That way, everyone will be happy, right?

Her words pierced Lian Mengzhu's heart like a knife. She couldn't understand how things had come to this. Her own daughter stood before her, yet it felt like an insurmountable chasm separated them.

She couldn't help but resent Lian Zixin even more, for she was the cause of all this. If Lian Zixin hadn't switched the children back then, none of this would have happened.

Chapter 772: Disgust

The conversation ended on a sour note.

Ye Leng'an stood up and left.

Meanwhile, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu remained seated, their expressions solemn. It was evident that both of them were feeling quite unsettled.

"Hongxuan, what do you think we should do now?" Lian Mengzhu's voice carried a hint of anguish. "Leng'an... she won't forgive us, will she?"

All Lian Mengzhu could discern from Ye Leng'an's words was resentment towards them, indicating an unwillingness to forgive. That seemed to be the underlying reason for her remarks.

"Don't dwell on it too much," Ye Hongxuan comforted. "Right now, Leng'an is just taking it hard. With time, she'll come around. She'll understand our intentions eventually."

"Will that day really come?" Lian Mengzhu sounded uncertain. "Leng'an... she seems very adamant."

"Let's take it slow," Ye Hongxuan said, though not feeling particularly optimistic. "No matter what, we're her biological parents. That bond can't be changed, nor can it be severed."

He wasn't sure if he was reassuring himself or Lian Mengzhu.

"Yeah." Lian Mengzhu nodded. Then she asked suddenly, "What about Father's instructions? It seems like Leng'an won't attend his birthday banquet."

"Just tell the truth when we get back." Ye Hongxuan sighed. "We've tried our best to convince Leng'an. If she refuses, there's nothing more we can do."

Lian Mengzhu nodded silently.

The couple sat in silence for a long while before finally getting up and leaving.

Meanwhile, after leaving the cafe, Ye Leng'an took a taxi to Huangye Group.

"How did it go?" Huangfu Ruiling asked as Ye Leng'an entered, rising from his seat to join her on the sofa. "Have Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu left?"

He had already guessed that Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu were the ones seeking Ye Leng'an when the driver came back to report.

"I think it went okay, but..." Ye Leng'an pursed her lips and smiled. "They might not be feeling too good."

However, this wasn't her concern.

"Oh." Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow. "Seems like the conversation didn't go well."

"Well..." Ye Leng'an shrugged. "I've told them straight up that everyone should mind their own business from now on. I'm getting a bit impatient with dealing with them."

Huangfu Ruiling could already imagine the reaction of Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. "If you don't want to see them, I'll find a way to ensure they can't come back to the mortal world!"

"That's unnecessary." Ye Leng'an shook her head. "Let them do as they please. But I won't be as accommodating next time. Did you know? They actually came this time to invite me to Old Master Ye's birthday banquet. Aren't they afraid I'll upset him?"

"Old Master Ye's birthday banquet?" Huangfu Ruiling understood. "Even the Huangfu family in the Hidden World has been invited. I plan to go take a look. Will you come?"

"You want to go?" Ye Leng'an was surprised. "I thought you'd send Grand Elder for such an event!"

"Remember how Ye Wanwan suddenly regained her cultivation and even improved it?" Huangfu Ruiling asked. "Why not take this chance to find out?"

"That makes sense." Ye Leng'an nodded. "It would seem too abrupt if we went to investigate the Ye family directly. I should have accepted Ye Hongxuan's invitation today if I had known earlier."

"It doesn't matter." Huangfu Ruiling chuckled, shaking his head. "If you accept Ye Hongxuan's invitation, you'll attend as a daughter of the Ye family. But if I accompany you, it'll be different. You'll be there representing the Huangfu family. That carries a different significance."

"True." Ye Leng'an agreed. "But the Ye family is indeed very pragmatic."

At this, a cynical smile crept onto Ye Leng'an's lips. "Old Master Ye swore he'd never acknowledge my identity. But how long has it been? As soon as he found out we were engaged, he sent Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu to emotionally manipulate me. Do they think I'll yearn for parental love?"

"Old Master Ye is a competent leader but not a good relative," Huangfu Ruiling remarked lightly. "He prioritizes the family's interests too much."

“I don’t like him, but I dislike Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu even more.” Ye Leng’an’s expression turned indifferent. “They take everything for granted. They actually believe Ye Wanwan and I can coexist peacefully. Do they think I can forget that Ye Wanwan’s biological mother switched us? Or do they think Ye Wanwan can forget that I crippled her Dantian?”

So sometimes she found Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu quite ridiculous. Although she and Ye Wanwan weren’t enemies, they could never be good sisters. In fact, they could only be adversaries. She’d bet that Ye Wanwan would want to get rid of her now.

“Perhaps it’s just their wish,” Huangfu Ruiling said lightly. “They hope you and Ye Wanwan can fulfill it for them.”

“What a joke,” Ye Leng’an scoffed. “Who do they think they are? Do they have the right to demand anything from me? Just because of some distant blood tie? It’s simply wishful thinking.”

“Alright, if you don’t like them, just avoid seeing them in the future.” Huangfu Ruiling reached out and patted Ye Leng’an’s shoulder, smiling. “You’re my wife. You have the right to be willful. Whatever happens, I’ll always stand by you.”

“You’re mistaken.” Ye Leng’an lifted her head, looking at Huangfu Ruiling with a sweet smile. “Even if I’m not your wife, I’m still me. I still have the right to be willful. If I want to, I can. And if I don’t want to, no one can force me.”

Chapter 773: Unexpected Visitors

After the departure of Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu, life for Ye Leng’an returned to tranquility as if nothing had happened.

However, Huangfu Ruixiang’s life wasn’t as peaceful. Due to the jealousy between Zhong Yating and Li Yiran, he felt like he was caught in a dilemma, no matter whose side he took, it seemed unappreciated in the end.

Of course, despite the intense quarrels between Li Yiran and Zhong Yating, they didn’t dare to go too far. After all, they were well aware of their social status and feared provoking Huangfu Ruixiang, which would benefit no one.

During these days, Ye Leng’an found Huangfu Ruixiang’s troubles quite amusing, almost like listening to a story.

However, when some issues arose that involved her, it didn’t feel as enjoyable anymore.

Due to the National Day holiday, the school was closed for seven days. Apart from Zhou Cui’an, who couldn’t afford the travel expenses, everyone else went home. Ye Leng’an was no exception; she returned to her villa.

During these seven days of rest, she planned to make progress. She had already reached the peak of the late stage of the Nascent Soul Stage and aimed to see if she could achieve the Demigod Stage during this time.

For three consecutive days, she remained in her room. Having informed Sister Li beforehand, she was undisturbed during this time.

Three days later, Ye Leng'an woke up with a furrowed brow. Despite making attempts at breaking through, she felt frustrated as if there was a thin barrier preventing her progress. Despite touching the edge of the Demigod Stage, she couldn't seem to break through.

Feeling restless and somewhat defeated, she decided to halt her cultivation. She understood that continuing without calming her mind would be fruitless. Moreover, prolonged frustration might lead to adverse effects.

After taking a shower and changing clothes, Ye Leng'an descended the stairs. Despite not needing to eat, she still preferred the routine of three meals a day.

Having skipped meals for the past three days, she felt a genuine appetite now. Therefore, after freshening up, she headed downstairs to have Sister Li prepare something for her.

However, upon arriving downstairs, she was surprised to hear from Sister Li that someone had been looking for her for the past three days, visiting several times.

Unable to reach Ye Leng'an, Sister Li refrained from allowing the visitors in without instruction. Consequently, the visitor lingered at the doorstep each time before leaving. Now that they had returned, Sister Li was uncertain whether to invite them in. Upon seeing Ye Leng'an, she promptly informed her of the situation.

Upon hearing that, Ye Leng'an was taken aback but instructed Sister Li to invite the visitors in. She was curious to see who was persistently seeking her out.

In the living room, Ye Leng'an nibbled on the snacks prepared by Sister Li while awaiting the visitors.

Given Ye Leng'an's unpredictable movements these days, Sister Li always had snacks prepared, fearing she might feel hungry upon coming downstairs.

As Ye Leng'an leisurely savored her snacks, Sister Li entered with the visitors. Seeing them, Ye Leng'an furrowed her brow.

The visitors were none other than Ye Li and Lin Wanqin.

Seeing the unexpected guests, Ye Leng'an was puzzled. She hadn't anticipated their visit, especially not for three consecutive days.

Recalling that their paths shouldn't cross anymore, she wondered why they were here.

Respecting the guests, despite their past discord, Ye Leng'an politely invited them to take a seat.

Ye Li and Lin Wanqin complied.

However, after sitting down, they appeared somewhat reserved, exchanging glances but neither initiating conversation.

Ye Leng'an, however, seemed more at ease, being in her own home. Nonetheless, she was curious about the purpose of their visit.

Considering their previous animosity, their visit couldn't possibly be merely social. Even a fool wouldn't believe that.

With Ye Li and Lin Wanqin remaining silent, and Ye Leng'an refraining from questioning, the living room atmosphere became uncomfortably quiet.

It was only when Sister Li brought tea that the silence was broken.

After Sister Li left, Ye Li and Lin Wanqin exchanged glances. Finally, taking a deep breath, Lin Wanqin spoke first.

"Leng'an, I heard you've been admitted to university, is that true?" Lin Wanqin's tone was somewhat dry. "I didn't expect you to excel to this extent, sitting the college entrance exam in your first year of high school and emerging as the top scorer. We're all very proud of you!"

Hearing this, Ye Leng'an found it amusing. She nodded lightly and replied, "Yes."

It was a simple response, and then silence followed.

Ye Leng'an was almost certain that Ye Li and Lin Wanqin had come with a request. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been so polite, almost flattery-laden, in their approach.

Ye Li and Lin Wanqin had hoped to engage in casual conversation to ease the atmosphere before broaching the main topic. However, Ye Leng'an's curt response left them unsure of how to proceed.

Unrushed, Ye Leng'an continued to enjoy her snacks while observing the awkward demeanor of Ye Li and Lin Wanqin. She was eager to discover the purpose behind their shameless persistence.

"Leng'an." Ye Li rubbed his hands, sporting a smile. "It's been a while since we've seen each other. Your mother and I have missed you. Despite our past conflicts, we can't deny that we raised you for over ten years."

Chapter 774: Asking for Help

"That's right! Leng'an, lately I've been reminiscing about the past," Lin Wanqin quickly chimed in. "Back then, we truly poured all our efforts into you because you were our biological daughter. We..."

Ye Leng'an raised her hand, halting Lin Wanqin's words. "There's no need to play on emotions here. We all know the state of our relationship. It's unnecessary and frankly tiresome."

Ye Li and Lin Wanqin's faces turned visibly sour at her blunt words. Although they had anticipated this reaction before coming here, facing it directly was still difficult.

Straightening his expression, Ye Li got to the point. "Leng'an, we came here today with a request for your help."

"I refuse," Ye Leng'an interjected without hesitation. "I don't agree."

This immediate rejection caught Ye Li off guard. “You haven’t even heard our request yet. Why reject it so hastily?”

“That’s right,” Lin Wanqin added anxiously. “It’s just a small matter, and it would be effortless for you. Hear us out before deciding.”

“No need,” Ye Leng’an replied coolly, shaking her head. “Regardless of what you want, my answer remains the same. Our relationship is over, and I have no interest in rekindling it.”

“Leng’an, don’t be so quick to refuse,” Ye Li urged. “This could benefit you as well. It’s a win-win situation for us.”

“I highly doubt there’s any win-win situation between us,” Ye Leng’an retorted with a hint of sarcasm. “You’re not fooling anyone by suddenly being humble. We both know the reality of our relationship. Your sudden humility is merely a result of needing something from me.”

“Leng’an, let us finish,” Ye Li persisted urgently. “The Ye Group is currently facing financial difficulties. If you invest, I can arrange for you to receive a 10% stake in the company. It’s a good deal for you, isn’t it?”

Ye Leng’an suddenly realized the purpose of Ye Li and Lin Wanqin’s visit. Previously informed by Huangfu Ruiling, she knew the Ye family was on the brink of collapse. It seemed that moment had arrived. Otherwise, Ye Li and Lin Wanqin wouldn’t have swallowed their pride to seek her help.

“Understood.” Ye Leng’an nodded. “And I still refuse. There’s no need to convince me further.”

“Why?” Ye Li’s voice rose in frustration. “This could benefit you too. You know the Ye Group is profitable. This is just a temporary setback.”

“Let’s cut to the chase.” Ye Leng’an reclined lazily on the sofa. “You think the Ye Group’s situation is a secret? Everyone who needs to know already does. If there were truly good prospects, why would you turn to the wrong daughter? And don’t assume I’m unaware of your intentions. Your confidence in reviving the Ye Group through my investment is solely because of Huangfu Ruiling. As soon as the news of Huangfu Ruiling’s fiancée investing in the Ye Group spreads, the company will have substantial backing. Your flattering words are just an attempt to exploit me.”

This blunt truth left Ye Li and Lin Wanqin red-faced and speechless. They felt exposed, unable to hide their intentions.

“Leng’an, please help us,” Lin Wanqin pleaded, standing up and kneeling before Ye Leng’an. “Consider it a token of gratitude for my years of care for you. Isn’t that reasonable? Besides, it’s not difficult for you.”

“Don’t bring up the past,” Ye Leng’an replied coldly. “Remember, you accepted five million to sever our ties. We have no relationship now, and there’s no need to reminisce. I won’t waste any more time.”

Ye Li and Lin Wanqin’s expressions darkened considerably, and when they looked at Ye Leng’an, there was a hidden but palpable sense of resentment in their eyes.

“Some feelings cannot be bought.” Lin Wanqin addressed Ye Leng’an, still unwilling to give up. “From childhood to adulthood, I took care of you. Have you forgotten all of that? Do you remember when you were sick as a child, and I took care of you tirelessly? None of this can simply vanish because of a few words from you.”

As Lin Wanqin recounted the past, Ye Leng’an’s expression remained unchanged, showing no signs of being moved. In fact, she continued to eat the snacks prepared by Sister Li as she listened.

Her relaxed demeanor stood in stark contrast to Lin Wanqin’s emotional plea.

Seeing Ye Leng’an’s response, Lin Wanqin found herself at a loss for words. She felt like a clown, dancing in front of Ye Leng’an and becoming the subject of her amusement.

In front of Ye Leng’an, she had lost all her dignity.

“You’re done?” Ye Leng’an remarked as Lin Wanqin fell silent. Setting aside the pastries in her hand, she brushed off the crumbs and continued, “You can leave now. Goodbye. I won’t see you off.”

Ye Li and Lin Wanqin exchanged a glance but showed no intention of leaving. Clearly, they were not willing to depart just yet.

Chapter 775: The Last Threat

Seeing that Ye Li and Lin Wanqin hadn’t left, Ye Leng’an didn’t urge them. She wanted to see what tricks the two of them had up their sleeves.

“This is the last time,” Ye Li looked at Ye Leng’an and pleaded. “Just consider it the final time you’re helping us. I promise we won’t bother you again. Moreover, from now on, we’ll pretend we don’t know you. Even if we see you, we’ll avoid you.”

“Why do you have to keep bothering me?” Ye Leng’an shook her head, finding it amusing. “Do I seem like an easy target to you? Or do you think I’m foolish enough to give you a large sum of money with just a few words? Is my money just something I stumbled upon, so I deserve to fill your holes?”

“We don’t think like that. We’re truly desperate.” Lin Wanqin remained kneeling, her posture showing her desperation. “Other than you, there’s no one else who can help us now. So, please, help us one last time!”

Ye Leng'an remained unmoved. "Instead of begging me here, why don't you go back and beg Ye Xiyuan? Isn't that a better option? She's Nangong Riming's fiancée now. Nangong Riming is from the main branch of the Nangong family. He can definitely help you."

This was something she couldn't understand. Even if Sun Wan'er was pregnant and Nangong Riming had lost his influence, he would still be influential. If Nangong Riming had been willing to help, it wouldn't have been difficult for the Ye family to survive this crisis.

As soon as she said this, both Ye Li and Lin Wanqin looked embarrassed. They remained silent, unable to answer Ye Leng'an's question.

How could they not have considered what Ye Leng'an had said? In fact, they had already approached Ye Xiyuan from the beginning. However, what they never expected was Ye Xiyuan's evasiveness and eventual rejection.

When they heard Ye Xiyuan's rejection, they could hardly believe it. But that was the reality. Even if they were unwilling to admit it, their own daughter was ungrateful.

"Leng'an, please help us one last time." Lin Wanqin's tone was pleading. "You used to consider us as your parents. Consider this as ending our relationship and helping us for the last time."

If it weren't for his pride, Ye Li would have knelt down as well. However, he still had his dignity as a man. Even though he was asking for help, he wasn't willing to completely lose face.

"Why are you wasting time here?" Ye Leng'an looked at them coldly. "There's no point in discussing feelings between us after everything that's happened. The emotional plea won't work on me, and I'm not interested in the benefits you mentioned. Do you really think continuing to waste time here is productive? You might as well go back and think of a solution. Otherwise, you could just declare bankruptcy. Maybe you'll salvage something in the end."

This was sincere advice. Whether they listened or not was up to them.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's cold and heartless demeanor, Ye Li couldn't help but feel resentful. "After all we've said, you still refuse to help, right?"

"Yes." Ye Leng'an nodded. "I thought I made myself clear. Do you have trouble understanding my words?"

"You..." Ye Li was furious. "So, you've been playing with us from the beginning just to see us embarrassed, right?"

"Ye Leng'an, how can you be so heartless!" Lin Wanqin, seeing Ye Leng'an's unwillingness to help, stood up and pointed directly at Ye Leng'an, scolding her. "I treated you so well, but just because of some minor incidents later on, you nullified all the goodwill we had. How can you be so cruel?"

“Retract your finger.” Ye Leng’an’s demeanor shifted from nonchalant to serious. “I hate it when people point fingers at me. If you don’t want your hand anymore, I can help you remove it.”

“How dare you!”

Although she said so, Lin Wanqin’s tone lacked confidence. Especially when she saw Ye Leng’an’s cold gaze, she couldn’t help but shiver. So, she withdrew her hand.

But in that moment, she felt like she lost face. However, she didn’t dare to challenge Ye Leng’an’s limits again.

“The fact that I let you in today is solely due to our past relationship,” Ye Leng’an said coldly. “You have some nerve continuously challenging my boundaries. Do you think I’m easy to manipulate?”

As she spoke, Ye Leng’an dropped her carefree demeanor. She exuded authority, appearing more like an experienced leader than a teenager. In her presence, people didn’t dare to lift their heads casually.

Under such pressure, Ye Li couldn’t help but feel overwhelmed. He wanted to say something, but nothing came out when he opened his mouth.

Lin Wanqin felt that even breathing was difficult under Ye Leng’an’s cold gaze.

Ye Leng’an called out, “Sister Li, show them the door.”

Upon hearing Ye Leng’an’s voice, Sister Li promptly entered. She spoke politely but firmly, “Please, both of you.”

This blatant dismissal made Ye Li and Lin Wanqin’s expressions sour.

Before leaving, Ye Li glared at Ye Leng’an. “Since you’re heartless, don’t blame me for being ruthless. You’ll regret your actions today, Ye Leng’an.”

Facing Ye Li’s threat, Ye Leng’an sneered. “Alright! I’ll wait and see how you’ll make me regret it. But let me remind you, know your place. Otherwise, you’ll end up worse off.”

With a snort, Ye Li left with Lin Wanqin.

Chapter 776: An Encounter While Shopping

Ye Li and Lin Wanqin’s arrival didn’t greatly affect Ye Leng’an. Perhaps because in her heart, she had already severed all emotional ties with these two individuals!

However, there was no progress in her cultivation, and she was feeling somewhat restless. So, after finishing her meal, she decided not to continue with her practice and instead opted to go shopping.

Ye Leng’an’s objective was clear. She hailed a taxi and headed straight to the largest high-end shopping mall in the capital, diving into full-on shopping mode. Store after store, she made purchases without hesitation, not even bothering to try on the items.

This frenzy of shopping lifted Ye Leng’an’s spirits considerably.

Meanwhile, the staff at these luxury stores greeted Ye Leng'an as if she were a deity, their warmth and hospitality difficult to resist.

Most of the items Ye Leng'an purchased were arranged to be delivered directly to her home. Only a few smaller items she carried with her.

However, despite their diminutive size, these items were exorbitantly priced. So, when she walked into other stores with these bags in hand, the staff immediately recognized her purchasing power and eagerly attended to her.

Thus, Ye Leng'an continued to move from one store to another. When she entered a high-end handbag boutique, she unexpectedly encountered a familiar face.

“Cui'an, are you working part-time?”

Seeing Zhou Cui'an dressed as a salesperson, Ye Leng'an was genuinely surprised. She hadn't anticipated running into Zhou Cui'an here. While she knew Zhou Cui'an hadn't gone home, she hadn't imagined she would be working part-time here.

However, with the ongoing Golden Week holiday, the foot traffic and customers in the mall were naturally higher than usual. Hence, even prestigious brands were hiring part-time staff these days. After all, they didn't require as many salespersons on regular days.

Of course, even for part-time roles in luxury brands, certain standards were upheld. After all, these sales staff represented the brand's image.

Zhou Cui'an's appearance was a stark departure from her usual plain look. With delicate makeup and a smart suit, she exuded a fashionable air. Though her skin was slightly tanned, she appeared much more attractive than usual.

“Leng'an, it's you!” Zhou Cui'an was also taken aback. However, upon seeing the Patek Philippe bag in Ye Leng'an's hand, a flicker of darkness crossed her eyes.

Nonetheless, she maintained a smile. “I happened to see the job advertisement earlier. Since I won't be home for the next few days, I decided to work part-time here.”

Initially surprised when she got selected, Zhou Cui'an had thought she stood no chance, given the stiff competition and the fact that others were far more attractive than her. However, she was chosen in the end, likely because of her status as a student at Capital University.

Dressing up and working in a shopping uniform for the first time, she could hardly believe her transformation. These days, she had encountered many wealthy individuals splurging and had seen numerous luxury brands. In a way, she felt she had become more refined.

However, upon seeing Ye Leng'an today, she felt as though she had plummeted from the heavens to the earth. It was as if awakening from a dream, realizing she was still the same old servant girl. She could never ascend to the lofty status of a princess.

“That's great.” Unaware of Zhou Cui'an's inner turmoil, Ye Leng'an merely saw a classmate. “Perfect, show me around!”

She intended to assist Zhou Cui'an. After all, it made no difference whom she approached while shopping. However, the level of service varied. Accompanying her this time should yield a decent commission.

The other sales staff in the store eyed Zhou Cui'an with envy.

From the moment Ye Leng'an entered, they had their sights set on her. Although her attire was unremarkable, the bags she carried from top luxury brands caught their attention.

With their experience and sharp eyes, they could tell the bags were authentic. Clearly, the customer had just visited these luxury stores and made purchases. Therefore, she was a lucrative customer.

What disappointed them was that before they could approach her, she called out the name of the part-time worker. They knew each other.

Though envious of the part-timer, none of the sales staff dared to disturb her. Provoking a customer and receiving complaints would be more trouble than it was worth.

On the other hand, Zhou Cui'an was unaware of the sales staff's thoughts. She didn't feel as elated as they imagined.

Being by Ye Leng'an's side made her feel like her servant.

Despite Ye Leng'an's lack of arrogance and harsh words, and even though she treated her as an equal, Zhou Cui'an couldn't shake the feeling of inferiority.

"Cui'an, what's on your mind?" Seeing Zhou Cui'an lost in thought, Ye Leng'an spoke up. "Is everything alright?"

"I'm fine," Zhou Cui'an smiled and replied, masking her thoughts. "Just got lost in thought for a moment. By the way, Leng'an, which one would you like to see? I'll let you try it on!"

"No need."

Ye Leng'an shook her head and pointed to a few bags she fancied. "Just these. Please wrap them up for me!"

Witnessing Ye Leng'an's straightforwardness, Zhou Cui'an was speechless. She asked incredulously, "Leng'an, are you sure? Aren't you going to try them on?"

Although Zhou Cui'an had worked in a luxury store for several days, she had never encountered such a decisive customer. Without even trying them on, she decided to make a purchase. These bags couldn't be returned. Once bought, there was no turning back. Hence, many customers would deliberate before making a purchase.

She should have been pleased with the customer's decisiveness. However, the fact that this decisive customer was her roommate left her feeling conflicted.

Chapter 777: Snagging a Rich Husband

Ye Leng'an was unaware of Zhou Cui'an's complex feelings; she simply shook her head. "No need to try, just help me wrap them up!"

Zhou Cui'an didn't say anything further. She directly took the bags Ye Leng'an had indicated to the counter.

Ye Leng'an was decisive, pulling out her card to pay the bill. After bidding farewell to Zhou Cui'an, she left her address for delivery and departed.

Watching Ye Leng'an's carefree departure, Zhou Cui'an's expression was complex, blending joy, envy, and a hint of burgeoning desire.

Although both were students at Capital University and even shared the same dormitory, their fates were starkly different. Ye Leng'an casually splurged hundreds of thousands on bags while Zhou Cui'an found herself serving like a maid. This brewed a hint of dissatisfaction within her.

Simultaneously, she yearned for such a life – free from worries about tuition or living expenses, able to browse luxury stores without price constraints.

As soon as Ye Leng'an left, the salespeople swarmed in. One experienced colleague spoke up sarcastically, "Oh, Xiao Zhou, I bet you made quite a profit from that sale! Probably tens of thousands, if not more. Even if you don't treat us to dinner, at least afternoon tea!"

Zhou Cui'an snapped back to reality. Seeing her colleagues gathering around, she smiled and agreed. "Alright, I'll treat you all to afternoon tea. What would you like?"

She could tell their envy stemmed from Ye Leng'an's commission. Despite being a part-time job with a few days left, she planned to continue. Thus, she opted to maintain good relations to avoid future repercussions. Plus, her commission today was significant; treating them to tea was only a fraction of it.

Hearing Zhou Cui'an's words, everyone's mood lightened, and they began discussing what to eat.

One colleague sighed, "Xiao Zhou, your friend is truly wealthy! Spending over a hundred thousand on bags without hesitation. And did you see the Patek Philippe in her hand? Conservatively estimating, her spending today will surpass a million."

Zhou Cui'an's eyebrows twitched. "Really? How do you figure?"

"Don't doubt it," the colleague retorted, irked by Zhou Cui'an's disbelief. "Didn't you notice? She left her address for delivery. She probably visited multiple stores beforehand, all with home deliveries. Clearly, she's spent quite a bit already. Plus, she looks like she's going to continue shopping. So, her spending today must be over a million."

With a hint of superiority, she continued, "Xiao Zhou, this is a fundamental skill for us salespeople! Keep at it, and you'll develop this discernment too."

Zhou Cui'an smiled but remained silent.

Unfazed by Zhou Cui'an's lack of response, the colleague continued, "But, Xiao Zhou! Having such a friend is definitely beneficial for you. Stay on her good side and see if you can attend those upper-class events with her. At those events, if you manage to snag a wealthy husband, you'll be set for life."

With that, the crowd began to jest. But for Zhou Cui'an, those words planted a seed of contemplation.

Meanwhile, Ye Leng'an seemed much relieved after spending the day shopping.

Upon returning to the villa, most of her purchases had been delivered and piled up in the living room.

Sister Li had received many deliveries but refrained from organizing them without Ye Leng'an's consent. Seeing Ye Leng'an return, she sought instructions on handling the goods.

Ye Leng'an reclined on the sofa, waving her hand nonchalantly. "Just put them in the utility room for now. I'll sort them out when I have the time."

With Ye Leng'an's directive, Sister Li began tidying up the living room.

As she did, Huangfu Ruiling strolled in from outside.

Sometimes, Huangfu Ruiling stayed overnight at the villa, though they occupied separate rooms. Despite Ye Leng'an's mature mentality, she was still young in this life.

No matter how uncontrollable Huangfu Ruiling might be, he would never cross any boundaries with her. Of course, he also couldn't bring himself to harm her.

The two of them would usually hug and kiss each other, but as for deeper communication, it hadn't happened yet, at least for the time being.

Hence, Huangfu Ruiling's fingerprints and facial features were recorded, granting him easy access to the villa.

Seeing the piled-up bags in the living room, Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow and sat beside Ye Leng'an. "Feeling down?"

This was clearly Ye Leng'an's spree. Such extravagant shopping likely aimed to lift her spirits.

"I'm alright, just a bit restless," Ye Leng'an replied, shaking her head. "You know, I've been trying to break through to the Demigod Stage these past few days. But for some reason, I'm always a little short."

Frustrated, she refrained from further cultivation to avoid adverse effects.

Chapter 778: Traveling

Huangfu Ruiling's eyes flickered with understanding. He reached out his hand, touching Ye Leng'an's head, and smiled as he spoke, "If there's no way to break through successfully, then let's temporarily hold back! Cultivation is something that can't be rushed."

"I understand," Ye Leng'an nodded. "That's why I didn't continue my cultivation today. Instead, I went shopping to release some pent-up frustration."

Huangfu Ruiling chuckled softly before continuing, "We still have a few days left on our vacation. Why don't we go on a trip together and relax? You mentioned before that you wanted to go out for a bit. This is a perfect opportunity to change our mood."

“Sure!” Ye Leng’an agreed without hesitation. Then she asked, “What about your schedule? Are you done with everything?”

“I’ve arranged everything smoothly.” Huangfu Ruiling raised his eyebrows. “Even if I’m not around, everything will proceed as planned. If there are any emergencies, Li San will inform me.”

“Is Li San not coming this time?” Ye Leng’an felt a bit surprised.

Previously, Li San would always accompany them and help with the arrangements.

Huangfu Ruiling reached out, embracing Ye Leng’an’s shoulder, and softly said, “This time, it’s just the two of us.”

“That sounds good.” Ye Leng’an nodded in agreement. “It’s also a chance for us to spend some quality time together.”

With their plans settled, Huangfu Ruiling promptly arranged for plane tickets.

While a private jet would have been more convenient, the sudden nature of their trip made some procedures cumbersome. Booking regular plane tickets seemed simpler.

Soon, they were seated in the first-class cabin of the plane.

Despite traveling low-key, they didn’t venture far, choosing instead to visit an antique town in the south.

Even though it was just the two of them, Huangfu Ruiling took care of all the arrangements. Upon landing, a car awaited them at the airport, transporting them directly to a homestay.

“Why did you choose a homestay?” Ye Leng’an glanced around at the quaint atmosphere of the place, raising her eyebrows in curiosity. “I thought, given your personality, you’d opt for a five-star hotel!”

“This place was recommended by the general manager of the local Huangye Group branch.” Huangfu Ruiling draped his arm over Ye Leng’an’s shoulder as they walked. “I thought you’d appreciate this choice.”

“I really do.” Ye Leng’an nodded, admiring the scenery as they entered. “It’s beautiful here!”

The establishment had the structure of a traditional courtyard house, surrounded by houses with a spacious garden in the center, featuring various flowers, ponds, rockeries, and courtyards reminiscent of ancient times.

“Using such a place as a homestay is quite clever,” Ye Leng’an couldn’t help but remark. “Do you think the owner can turn a profit?”

“Don’t worry about the owner.” Huangfu Ruiling chuckled. “Since he’s opened this homestay, he’s bound to make money.”

The person guiding them quickly chimed in, "Madam, you may not know this. This homestay is different from the usual ones. It's famous in the area and almost a landmark in this town. People come here all year round. However, the rates here are not cheap, more than double that of regular five-star hotels. Additionally, there's a pond where guests can fish, but it's for an extra fee. So, Madam, despite being a homestay, it's quite lucrative."

This person was the manager of the public relations department at the local Huangye Group branch. The general manager had intended to come personally but had to handle an important business matter.

"Ah, I see." Ye Leng'an smiled and nodded, then turned to Huangfu Ruiling. "If we're free tomorrow, let's go fishing!"

"As long as you're up for it." Huangfu Ruiling's face lit up with a fond smile. "Tomorrow morning, we'll explore the town and come back in the afternoon for fishing."

"Sounds great!" Ye Leng'an nodded eagerly.

After seeing Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an off to their rooms, the manager left.

Being engaged, they naturally shared a room this time, although they still slept in separate beds.

"Why don't you freshen up first?" Huangfu Ruiling tousled Ye Leng'an's hair, speaking gently. "There's an event in town tonight. I'll take you there."

"An event?" Ye Leng'an perked up with interest. "I'll go get ready and change. Then we'll head out. You should get ready too!"

They had booked the most luxurious suite in the homestay, so there were multiple bathrooms available.

Soon, both of them were washed up and changed into casual attire before heading out.

However, when they reached the reception desk in the lobby, they found a commotion with several people arguing, attracting a crowd.

"Do you guys not understand human language?" A stylishly dressed girl stood before the counter, exuding arrogance as she addressed the seated staff. "I've told you, I want the most luxurious suite here. Why are you giving me the runaround?"

"Miss, we're not refusing you."

Despite the rude attitude, the staff member maintained a smile. "It's just that our most luxurious suite has already been occupied. We have no other choice. However, we have other luxurious suites available, equally comfortable."

"I've already said it. We only want the most luxurious suite." The girl remained unyielding. "Do you know who's staying there tonight? It's the young lady from the Murong family. Is your small homestay daring to go against the Murong family?"

Chapter 779: Murong Yumeng

Initially, Ye Leng'an hadn't intended to get involved in the commotion at the counter. However, after hearing a few words, she realized that the commotion was related to her. So, she decided to stay, holding Huangfu Ruiling's hand and standing to the side, waiting to see how the homestay would respond.

The staff member maintained a formulaic smile and repeated the same response as before, "That room is already occupied, miss. Perhaps you should consider choosing another room."

Seeing the unyielding attitude of the waiter, the girl slammed the table, "You..."

But before she could finish, she was interrupted by a female voice behind her, "Lingling, is it ready?"

With the sound of the voice, a girl in flowing white attire entered from outside. With delicate features and a graceful demeanor, she looked like a refined young lady nurtured from genuine wealth and status within a prominent family.

The arrival of this woman instantly captured everyone's attention.

"Senior Sister Murong, it'll be ready soon." The previously arrogant girl immediately changed her demeanor when faced with the woman in white, adopting a much humbler stance and even speaking with a hint of flattery, "Please wait a moment."

The girl referred to as Senior Sister Murong by the arrogant girl, who was none other than Murong Yumeng, wore a delicate expression on her face at that moment, tinged with a hint of impatience. "It's just booking a room, what's taking you so long?"

At this point, a few other young men and women arrived, standing behind Murong Yumeng. One of the men spoke up, "Xiao Lingling, what are you doing? Is it really that difficult to book a room?"

The expressions of the others weren't much better. They had been here for quite some time, and yet they still hadn't secured a room. Xiao Lingling had volunteered to book one earlier, but it had been nearly half an hour, and still no luck.

"Very soon," Xiao Lingling replied, turning to the staff member with a worsening attitude. "You've seen it. Is this your idea of service? Keeping us waiting like this. Let me tell you, if you don't get us a room soon, I'll file a complaint against you."

Xiao Lingling was starting to feel anxious.

This trip was attended by young masters and ladies from the prominent families in the capital. Her family was just an ordinary wealthy family, and she wouldn't normally have any contact with these prominent heirs. However, as a student at Capital University, she had met Murong Yumeng by chance. Through her deliberate flattery, she had become Murong Yumeng's follower.

It was because of Murong Yumeng that she was even able to join this group. Therefore, upon arriving here, she took care of everything, including booking the rooms.

Even before coming here, she had heard Murong Yumeng mention wanting to stay in the most luxurious suite in this homestay. Hence, her current dilemma.

“Miss, no matter how many times you ask, and no matter who comes, I have the same answer. The most luxurious suite you want has been booked, and the guest has already checked in,” the staff member said, unyielding. “I’m not authorized to ask the guest to give up their room. Even if you complain, my answer will remain the same.”

Xiao Lingling was furious at the waiter’s response. However, she couldn’t lose her temper in front of so many people. Nevertheless, her eyes held a deep resentment towards the staff member. Clearly, she now detested him because of this incident.

After glancing at Xiao Lingling, Murong Yumeng stepped forward and addressed the staff member with a gentle smile. “I’m sorry, my friend is a bit anxious. Actually, the main purpose of our trip is to stay in the most luxurious suite. I’ve seen online that the room offers the most beautiful view. Since this is a rare trip for us, I wonder if you could help. Of course, I won’t trouble you. I just want to know who booked that room. Perhaps we could negotiate with them to see if they’d be willing to switch.”

Although it was the same request, Murong Yumeng’s attitude was much more pleasant. Coupled with her humble words, no one felt she was being domineering

However, Xiao Lingling couldn’t help but shiver when Murong Yumeng glanced at her.

Observing from the sidelines, Ye Leng’an couldn’t help but smile intriguingly. Then, she turned to Huangfu Ruiling and asked, “Ruiling, do you think the staff member will divulge our information?”

Although she asked the question, she had already noticed the wavering expression on the staff member’s face.

A glint of cunning flashed in Huangfu Ruiling’s eyes before he spoke firmly, “Yes.”

“Just as I suspected.” Ye Leng’an smiled. “Murong Yumeng truly understands how to manipulate people’s minds!”

First, she revealed her identity through Xiao Lingling, and then she lowered her stance while speaking to the staff member, making him feel flattered. Now, he perceived Murong Yumeng as even more approachable.

Under such circumstances, he obviously wouldn’t refuse a request that wasn’t too excessive.

Sure enough, the staff member began to waver, albeit with some reservations. “However, our homestay has rules. We cannot casually disclose guests’ information.”

Murong Yumeng wasn’t angered by his attitude. She continued to smile and said, “Why don’t you first communicate with those guests? Inform them that we are willing to offer double the price as compensation and book another luxurious suite for them. Ask if they would be willing to switch. Is that acceptable?”

For her, any problem that could be solved with money wasn’t a problem at all.

Thus, she couldn’t fathom why Xiao Lingling, that fool, couldn’t handle even such a small matter properly. As expected, those from less privileged backgrounds had never experienced the world.

Although Xiao Lingling didn't hear any reprimand, her expression revealed her displeasure.

Chapter 780: They'd Think It Was Your Doing

The staff member hesitated; after all, they had rules and couldn't disturb guests. However, the young lady's demeanor before him was exceptionally pleasant, and she belonged to the Murong family.

Although their small town was somewhat remote, it wasn't backward. The four major families in the capital all had branches in the city. Naturally, he understood the Murong family's status and found it difficult to refuse.

Murong Yumeng didn't press but patiently awaited his response. Yet, her face exuded calm confidence, evidently not expecting rejection.

"Alright then!"

The staff member nodded and picked up the phone to call the room. Since the guests had just checked in, they were likely still there.

If they had gone out, he wouldn't dare disturb them on their private line. Otherwise, he might receive complaints for disrupting their leisure.

"No need to call."

Ye Leng'an held Huangfu Ruiling's hand, stepping forward with a smile. "We're here! As for the room, no need to inquire. We're content with our current one."

"It's you!" Murong Yumeng immediately recognized the person stepping out. "What are you doing here?"

Not only Murong Yumeng but Xiao Lingling, too, felt a surge of jealousy seeing Ye Leng'an. "Ye Leng'an, you..."

Realizing the two knew her, Ye Leng'an was surprised. "You are..."

She couldn't help but doubt her memory. She thought she had a good memory, yet she couldn't recall them, let alone any acquaintance.

However, they clearly knew her and even called her name, though not in a friendly tone.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's perplexed expression, it was apparent she didn't recognize them.

Murong Yumeng's eyes flashed with a cold gleam, yet her face maintained a faint smile. "Junior Sister Ye, you may not know me, but I've heard of you. I'm also a student at Capital University, a senior in my third year. My surname is Murong. If you don't mind, you can call me senior sister."

"Yumeng, she must have done it on purpose," Xiao Lingling immediately interjected, her gaze toward Ye Leng'an filled with jealousy and hostility. "Even if you don't know me, you must know Yumeng. What are you pretending for now? You're so shameless, still trying to compete with Yumeng for the title of school belle."

With such impolite words, a hint of hostility flashed in Huangfu Ruiling's eyes as he looked at Xiao Lingling, the coldness in his gaze sending shivers down one's spine.

Though Xiao Lingling was unaware of what was happening, she suddenly felt a chill rising from the soles of her feet, causing her to shrink back involuntarily.

Upon hearing Xiao Lingling's words, Ye Leng'an realized. "You're Murong Yumeng."

She had heard about this school belle from Zhu Bixuan back in the dormitory. At that time, she hadn't paid much attention, as she wasn't interested in such matters. Who would have thought she would encounter Murong Yumeng here? Was this considered fate?

"Lingling, quiet." Murong Yumeng reprimanded Xiao Lingling, then turned to Ye Leng'an with a smile. "Junior Sister Ye, please pardon her. She's not good with words. Allow me to apologize on her behalf."

"Hehe, Senior Sister Murong, your friend isn't exactly young!" Ye Leng'an smirked sarcastically. "At this age, still unable to speak without offending. If people didn't know better, they'd think it was your doing!"

Murong Yumeng really knew how to put on an act! Xiao Lingling was obviously a tool in her hands. If she truly intended to stop Xiao Lingling from speaking, she would have spoken up long before Xiao Lingling finished, instead of pretending to apologize afterward.

Murong Yumeng's expression changed briefly at Ye Leng'an's blunt words, though she still wore a warm smile. Glancing at Ye Leng'an, she appeared apologetic, even toward a liked junior.

"I apologize for not considering it," Murong Yumeng said to Xiao Lingling, then turned to persuade her. "Lingling, you were at fault today. You should apologize."

Although Murong Yumeng's face showed no hint of blame, and her tone was very gentle, Xiao Lingling's eyes still flashed with a hint of panic. Then, she looked towards Ye Leng'an and obediently apologized, "I'm sorry for my rudeness."

Despite her apology, Xiao Lingling's face betrayed unwillingness, clearly forced.

Ye Leng'an completely disregarded such a perfunctory apology, not even glancing at Xiao Lingling. Instead, she looked at Murong Yumeng and continued, "Earlier, Senior Sister Murong seemed to be looking for us, right? Now that we're here, why not talk face-to-face?"

"So you booked the most luxurious suite!"

Murong Yumeng understood now, noticing Ye Leng'an wasn't alone; she was with a man.

When her gaze fell on him, she was stunned.

Though he wore casual clothes, he exuded a noble aura, accentuated by his perfect features. His mere presence demanded attention. She couldn't fathom why she hadn't noticed him earlier!

Seeing Murong Yumeng's lingering gaze on Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Leng'an's eyes darkened with displeasure. Stepping forward, she blocked Huangfu Ruiling. "Senior Sister Murong!"

She didn't appreciate Murong Yumeng eyeing Huangfu Ruiling, feeling like someone was coveting her man.

Huangfu Ruiling was taken aback by Murong Yumeng's gaze. Unexpectedly, before he could react, Ye Leng'an had already stepped in to block his view.

Such evident jealousy surprised Huangfu Ruiling, a glint of delight flashing in his eyes.