

## Full-Level 811

### Chapter 811: Three Days of Seclusion

She didn't understand why Murong Yumeng had such blind trust in Ye Leng'an. Ye Leng'an was very fake; she clearly just wanted to leech off wealthy individuals, yet she pretended to be an angelic beauty. It was truly shameless.

In the future, she vowed to keep a close watch on Ye Leng'an, ensuring she never got the chance to harm Senior Sister Murong. Senior Sister Murong was such a good person, and Ye Leng'an truly didn't appreciate her.

Meanwhile, Murong Yumeng, having left the café, pulled out her phone and made a call.

Once the call connected, she got straight to the point. "Help me find a regular internship position for someone, and I'll give you the name. When the time comes, you call her to start work. Also, arrange a single dorm for her at the company."

After a moment's thought, she added, "She doesn't need special treatment, but she'll only be there for a month, so pay her the same as a regular employee!"

After a few more exchanges, a hint of calculation flashed in Murong Yumeng's eyes. "Once she starts, make sure to casually mention that she's getting the same pay as a regular employee because of me, got it?"

With a satisfactory response from the other end, Murong Yumeng hung up.

A satisfied smile played on her lips after the call.

Today had been an unexpected delight for her! Initially puzzled by the unfamiliar call, she hadn't expected it to be a godsend.

Zhou Cui'an didn't seem very bright. It shouldn't be hard to manipulate her. A small incentive would earn her gratitude.

It would be much easier to gather information about Ye Leng'an in the future. Perhaps Ye Leng'an never expected to have a pawn planted by her side, let alone one that willingly presented itself.

Meanwhile, Ye Leng'an remained oblivious to Murong Yumeng's scheming. Even if she knew, she wouldn't care; strength rendered her impervious to schemes.

At present, Ye Leng'an was in the Huangye Group, working alongside Huangfu Ruiling.

Approaching lunchtime, Huangfu Ruiling set aside his work.

Normally, he lost track of time when alone and even skipped meals. However, with Ye Leng'an around, work ceased at mealtime.

Ye Leng'an put down the ancient tome and eyed Huangfu Ruiling approaching. She blinked, stretched, and remarked, "Time for lunch?"

Huangfu Ruiling sat beside her, putting an arm around Ye Leng'an. "You're more absorbed than me!"

“This ancient book is really something,” Ye Leng’an said, picking it up. “So I got a bit carried away. But I never expected your enforcement team to have such books on spiritual plants and alchemy.”

The tome in her hands was a gift from Huangfu Ruiling’s enforcement team’s library. Its contents surprised her; she hadn’t seen such plants even in the cultivation world.

Upon reading the content above, she realized that she, too, was lacking in knowledge. Indeed, one should learn throughout life!

“It was probably found in some secret land in the Hidden World,” Huangfu Ruiling surmised. “But since nobody cares, they gather dust in the library.”

Huangfu Ruiling sensed Ye Leng’an’s affinity for the book. Yet, she often got so lost in it that she forgot Huangfu Ruiling’s presence.

Seeing this, Huangfu Ruiling felt a twinge of gloominess. But even if annoyed by Ye Leng’an’s neglect, he wouldn’t act; he knew Ye Leng’an genuinely loved the book.

Unaware of Huangfu Ruiling’s feelings, Ye Leng’an beamed. “This book is so inspiring! So, I’ve decided...”

Huangfu Ruiling felt a foreboding at her words, confirmed by what followed.

“Starting tomorrow, I’ll seclude myself for three days to refine pills,” Ye Leng’an announced. “I’m sure I’ll make a breakthrough.”

Huangfu Ruiling frowned. “You’ve just had a break. Can’t you spend time with me?”

“It’s just three days, not the entire break,” Ye Leng’an reassured, hooking her arm around Huangfu Ruiling’s neck. “Three days is short; they’ll pass quickly. Then I’ll be with you for the rest of the holiday!”

Huangfu Ruiling gazed quietly at her. Eventually, after a myriad of thoughts, it condensed into a sigh. “Well, since you’ve already made up your mind, I won’t say anything more. However, even though you’ll be in seclusion, don’t forget your three meals a day. You shouldn’t forget everything the moment you start refining pills.”

“I promise.” Ye Leng’an nodded, then reminded, “And you too! I won’t be here to supervise, but I’ll check when I come out.”

Huangfu Ruiling chuckled. “I understand. I won’t neglect myself.”

Satisfied, Ye Leng’an nodded. “Good, I trust you!”

“Alright, it’s lunchtime,” Huangfu Ruiling said, his eyes soft with affection. “Let’s go! You wanted Japanese food, right?”

“Yes!”

They got up and left, heading outside.

Chapter 812: Chance Encounter

Because Ye Leng'an fancied Japanese food, the couple headed to a well-known Japanese restaurant. Little did they expect to encounter two unexpected figures as soon as they stepped inside: Zhongyu Liuying and Li Yiran.

What was even more surprising was seeing the two of them holding hands, with Li Yiran seemingly trying to please Zhongyu Liuying throughout. Despite Li Yiran's efforts, their relationship appeared quite amiable, almost resembling that of a mother and daughter.

Upon noticing them, Zhongyu Liuying and Li Yiran were momentarily stunned. Clearly, they hadn't anticipated encountering Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an here.

Zhongyu Liuying's expression flickered for a moment upon seeing them, but she quickly regained composure and uttered in a somewhat indifferent tone, "You're here for a meal too?"

Her demeanor wasn't particularly warm; in fact, it bordered on coldness. Their interaction didn't quite resemble that of a mother and son; it was merely slightly better than that of strangers.

"Yes." Huangfu Ruiling nodded, offering no further response.

His demeanor was much colder compared to Zhongyu Liuying's.

Observing Huangfu Ruiling's attitude, Zhongyu Liuying's expression soured. She was at a loss on how to approach Huangfu Ruiling, not just her son but also the head of the Huangfu family. Moreover, their mother-son relationship was marred by irreconcilable conflicts. She had once hoped time would heal all wounds, yet some things remained unforgettable.

Even without considering past events, it seemed she and Huangfu Ruiling had never been close.

A strange atmosphere hung among the four. While such tension might be expected between strangers, their close relationship only exacerbated the discomfort.

Finally, Ye Leng'an broke the silence. "Shall we proceed with lunch?"

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's suggestion, Huangfu Ruiling merely nodded at Zhongyu Liuying before embracing Ye Leng'an's shoulder and heading straight to the reserved private room, without exchanging more than a few words.

Zhongyu Liuying, who had initially seemed somewhat aloof, instantly became discontented upon witnessing Huangfu Ruiling's actions. Yet, this time, her dissatisfaction wasn't directed at him. She dared not harbor any grievances toward Huangfu Ruiling now, as her other son's future lay entirely in his hands.

Her target of dissatisfaction was Ye Leng'an.

Ye Leng'an's lack of tact was truly baffling. As her daughter-in-law, she had never attempted to reconcile their differences with Huangfu Ruiling. Even on occasions like today, she didn't extend an invitation to her prospective mother-in-law for a meal.

Indeed, someone from a humble background lacked refinement.

If Ye Leng'an were aware of Zhongyu Liuying's thoughts, she would surely have one response: Zhongyu Liuying had been overly indulged and failed to recognize the reality.

On the other side, Li Yiran, noticing Zhongyu Liuying's displeasure, reluctantly spoke up, "Mom, shall we dine elsewhere?"

Perhaps due to dissatisfaction with Zhong Yating, and to incite a conflict between Zhong Yating and Li Yiran, Zhongyu Liuying deliberately elevated Li Yiran's status by permitting her to address her as "mom."

Of course, this didn't imply that she favored Li Yiran over Zhong Yating. Neither Li Yiran nor Zhong Yating were her preferred daughters-in-law candidates. She merely sought to instigate a rivalry between them, hoping they would both suffer in the process. Ultimately, Huangfu Ruixiang might benefit.

Li Yiran, aware of Zhongyu Liuying's intentions, remained unfazed. Given her precarious situation, she too sought to improve her status urgently.

While Zhong Yating could accompany Huangfu Ruixiang to the Hidden World, Li Yiran was relegated to the mortal world. Even with her son by her side, she was at a disadvantage. Clinging to Zhongyu Liuying's favor was her best recourse.

"We're staying here for our meal. Why leave?" Zhongyu Liuying glared at Li Yiran. "We've done nothing wrong, so why should we avoid them? Besides, I'm his mother, and that's an unchangeable fact."

Seeing Zhongyu Liuying's displeasure, Li Yiran dared not say more, lest she draw her ire.

Soon, Zhongyu Liuying and Li Yiran joined them in the reserved private room. However, the atmosphere remained stiflingly silent between them.

In such an atmosphere, Li Yiran felt her stomach knotting with discomfort.

Yet, she had no choice but to endure, aware of her insignificant position in Zhongyu Liuying's eyes. Her only recourse was to remain silent and finish the meal with Zhongyu Liuying.

In contrast, the atmosphere in the adjacent private room was entirely different. Although Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an conversed without laughter, their exchange was mutually responsive. They ate and talked comfortably.

Huangfu Ruiling occasionally showed consideration for Ye Leng'an, appearing remarkably attentive.

As a result, the atmosphere in their private room felt warm, tinged with a hint of affection.

After savoring a tempura, Ye Leng'an spoke slowly, "I never imagined we'd encounter your mother and Li Yiran here! They seemed to get along quite well. Is your mother considering Li Yiran as her daughter-in-law?"

Huangfu Ruiling shook his head lightly. "She's merely a pawn in her game. One willing to be used, the other willing to use."

Ye Leng'an nodded in understanding. "By the way, how's Huangfu Ruixiang faring lately?"

“The Grand Elder’s reports indicate Huangfu Ruixiang has been putting in considerable effort,” Huangfu Ruiling remarked lightly. “However, his talent is limited. Despite his diligence, significant change is unlikely.”

“True,” Ye Leng’an concurred. “Moreover, he wasted too much time previously. Without your pressure, he might never have started striving! Indeed, pressure breeds motivation.”

Yet, in matters of cultivation, no amount of motivation or effort could compensate for lackluster talent.

### Chapter 813: The Rumor

While Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an were having lunch, a sudden ringtone interrupted their conversation. It was Huangfu Ruiling’s phone.

Glancing at the number on the screen, Huangfu Ruiling answered the call, his tone cold, “What’s the matter?”

Ye Leng’an was unable to hear the conversation on the other end, but she saw Huangfu Ruiling’s brows furrow visibly, his expression darkening.

After the call ended, Ye Leng’an put down her chopsticks, looking at Huangfu Ruiling with curiosity. “Is something wrong? You don’t look too good!”

Huangfu Ruiling glanced at Ye Leng’an, his brows still knitted. “Rumors have spread in the Hidden World claiming you’re Ye Hongxuan’s biological daughter.”

“What?” Ye Leng’an frowned upon hearing this. “From the Ye family? Are they willing to reveal Ye Wanwan’s identity? And what about her marriage to the Murong family?”

Shaking his head, Huangfu Ruiling continued, “The rumor is that you and Ye Wanwan are twins, but you were stolen at birth.”

“Heh!” Ye Leng’an scoffed. “The Ye family has quite the scheme! Trying to force me back while still pursuing Ye Wanwan’s marriage to Murong Xingrui.”

“That’s probably Ye Yikun’s doing,” Huangfu Ruiling speculated, “Without his approval, the Ye family wouldn’t spread such rumors.”

“He’s quite cunning.” Ye Leng’an sneered. “But he forgot about me. If they want to benefit, they’ll have to ask if I’m willing. ”

Huangfu Ruiling continued, “Actually, even if you’re unwilling to return to the Ye family, they can still benefit from these rumors. At least those families friendly with the Huangfu family will give the Ye family some face due to our reputation.”

“Truly scheming.” A hint of sarcasm flashed in Ye Lengan’s eyes. “Unfortunately, I’m not someone they can manipulate easily. If they want to gain from me, it depends on my willingness. Otherwise, they’ll have to return as much as they take.”

Huangfu Ruiling asked, “What do you plan to do? Clarify the rumors?”

“Can they be clarified?” Ye Leng’an smiled coldly. “The Ye family spread these rumors knowing I won’t clarify. Because the truth is, I am Ye Hongxuan’s daughter. That’s a fact.”

Nodding, Huangfu Ruiling asked, “What’s your next step?”

“I’ll personally visit the Ye family.” Ye Leng’an blinked innocently. “I think it’s time I had a chat with my dear grandfather.”

“When do you plan to go?” Huangfu Ruiling immediately began planning how to accompany her back to the Hidden World.

“In a few days,” Ye Leng’an replied indifferently. “I still have three days of alchemy to do. I won’t change my plans for this.”

Though she found the Ye family’s matter repulsive, she didn’t let it bother her much. The Ye family held little significance for her beyond a mere blood tie.

Relieved by Ye Leng’an’s response, Huangfu Ruiling realized the matter wasn’t significant to her.

“By the way, Ling, you don’t need to accompany me,” Ye Leng’an said. “I can manage alone.”

Frowning, Huangfu Ruiling disagreed. “I’ll go with you. In case...”

“It’ll be fine,” Ye Leng’an cut him off. “It’s a minor issue. I planned to return the same day. You don’t need to come.”

Though Huangfu Ruiling wanted to argue, he relented after seeing Ye Leng’an’s determination. He understood this wasn’t a major concern. Ye Yikun wouldn’t dare harm Ye Leng’an, and her strength surpassed the Ye family’s.

While the Ye family matter didn’t affect their mood, Huangfu Ruiling decided to spend the afternoon with Ye Leng’an, knowing they wouldn’t have time together for the next few days.

They went shopping and watched a movie like any other couple until returning home after dinner.

The next morning, Ye Leng’an headed straight to the alchemy room after breakfast.

Seeing Ye Leng’an enter, Sister Li didn’t object. She knew she couldn’t enter without her permission and didn’t dare risk it.

She had entered a few times before, each time feeling somewhat uneasy. On one hand, there were many precious medicinal herbs inside, and she worried that accidentally damaging them would be difficult to explain. However, there was another, more critical aspect: the presence of numerous poisonous herbs. She feared that one wrong move could lead to poisoning and endanger her life.

One time, she saw a fat golden worm inside, cute but dangerous. She avoided the room unless necessary.

#### Chapter 814 - 817: Meeting Ye Yikun

Although Ye Wanwan had her grandfather's backing and Ye Leng'an's return shouldn't affect her status, she still worried, especially since Ye Leng'an was not only a true descendant of the Ye family but also engaged to Huangfu Ruiling.

Thinking of Huangfu Ruiling made her heart ache with anger. She had been the first to set her sights on Huangfu Ruiling, but Ye Leng'an had snatched him away in the end. If it weren't for Ye Leng'an, she would be Huangfu Ruiling's fiancée now. With that title, she wouldn't even care about being the Ye family's young lady.

If Ye Leng'an returned, her parents would inevitably side with Ye Leng'an. She genuinely feared losing her parents' love. Even if she continued to feign helplessness, it wouldn't be a sustainable strategy.

However, she was grateful for one thing: her grandfather would always support her. She had that confidence. After all, her grandfather...

Just as Ye Wanwan was lost in thought, she heard the servant report that Ye Leng'an had gone to see her grandfather once again.

Upon hearing this news, her initial panic subsided. She had a feeling that Ye Leng'an's meeting with her grandfather would be unpleasant.

With that in mind, she couldn't help but smile. She ordered someone to discreetly watch Ye Yikun's courtyard from afar and report any developments immediately.

On the other side, Ye Leng'an followed the servant to Ye Yikun's courtyard.

As Ye Leng'an entered the courtyard, she glanced around and couldn't help but smirk knowingly.

Although Ye Hongxuan was the current head of the Ye family, it was clear that Ye Yikun still held the reins. Just looking at the courtyard confirmed it. Though Ye Hongxuan and his wife resided in the main courtyard, this was undoubtedly the best courtyard in the entire Ye family.

Stepping into this courtyard, one could feel a dense spiritual energy, far surpassing that of the entire Ye family. Cultivating here would undoubtedly yield remarkable results.

Moreover, precious spiritual plants were scattered throughout the courtyard, perhaps the most valuable ones in the Ye family.

Soon, guided by the servant, Ye Leng'an arrived at a pavilion in the courtyard, where he saw Ye Yikun enjoying tea at a stone table.

After the servant left, leaving only Ye Yikun and Ye Leng'an in the vast courtyard.

Because normally, the old master wouldn't casually allow anyone in. So, she didn't dare to delay, fearing it might anger the old master, and even more so, fearing she might hear things she shouldn't. At that point, it might even cost her her life. After all, this was the Hidden World, where some lives were deemed worthless.

Ye Leng'an wasted no time. She walked over and sat down in front of Ye Yikun before the latter could speak.

Ye Yikun initially remained silent, intending to exert his authority and unsettle Ye Leng'an.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's sudden visit to the Ye family today, Ye Yikun felt that she had acquiesced and intended to return to the Ye family. He wasn't surprised by her decision.

Though Ye Leng'an was now engaged to Huangfu Ruiling, establishing herself in the Huangfu family solely on Huangfu Ruiling's favor was no easy feat, especially given the stature of the Huangfu family. Only with a powerful maternal family backing her could Ye Leng'an thrive in the Huangfu family.

By spreading such news, Ye Yikun provided Ye Leng'an with a graceful exit.

Ye Leng'an's visit today confirmed the success of his plan. Ye Leng'an's return to the Ye family was beneficial for both parties.

Ye Leng'an would have the Ye family's support, and the Ye family would receive assistance from the Huangfu family.

However, Ye Yikun didn't expect Ye Leng'an to display such rudeness. Before he could speak, Ye Leng'an seated herself directly opposite, displaying no manners.

"Ye Leng'an!" Ye Yikun frowned, his tone tinged with displeasure. "Do you realize how uncouth your behavior is?"

"Does that concern you?" Ye Leng'an shrugged nonchalantly. "Old Master Ye, do you know why I've come to the Ye residence today?"

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Ye Yikun smirked disdainfully. "Of course, I know your intentions. As a member of the Ye family, it's only natural for you to return. However, Ye Leng'an, you must improve your demeanor. Otherwise, people will think poorly of the Ye family."

Ye Leng'an's return was advantageous for the Ye family. However, Ye Yikun found Ye Leng'an's wild nature distasteful, especially considering Ye Leng'an's ruthless actions in the past, like crippling Ye Wanwan's Dantian.

If not for the Huangfu family's face, Ye Yikun wouldn't even allow Ye Leng'an to step foot in the Ye family. However, if Ye Leng'an returned, she would have to obey. She needed to shed her bad habits quickly.

"Pfft!" Ye Leng'an chuckled as if amused. "Old Master Ye, you overestimate the Ye family. Do you think everyone wants to join you? Even if they did, I wouldn't."

"You..." Ye Yikun's anger was palpable at Ye Leng'an's sarcastic remark. He slammed his teacup on the table and narrowed his eyes. When he looked at Ye Leng'an, his dissatisfaction was evident. "Ye Leng'an, if you look down on the Ye family, why did you come today? There's no need to pretend. We all know what you're thinking. Also, don't try to test my limits. Without my approval, you'll have no place in the Ye family."

“Oh, really?” Ye Leng’an’s indifference was apparent. “So what? Do you think I care? Also, when Ye Hongxuan sent someone to inform you earlier, didn’t he tell you the real reason for my visit today?”

Chapter 815 - 818: Clarification

Ye Yikun fixed his gaze on Ye Leng’an, who stood opposite him, with a cold, unyielding expression on her face. The weight of his presence pressed down on the other party, but Ye Leng’an remained remarkably composed. He searched for any hint of emotion on Ye Leng’an’s face, but the latter appeared unnervingly calm, devoid of any visible reaction.

Observing this, Ye Yikun couldn’t help but feel a twinge of unease. Throughout the years, he had been adept at discerning people’s thoughts from their expressions. Even Ye Hongxuan, who had been the head of the Ye family for so long, couldn’t maintain such composure under his pressure. Yet, here was Ye Leng’an, a mere teenager, facing his pressure with unwavering calmness. It was simply inconceivable.

“Who are you exactly?” Ye Yikun’s sharp gaze swept over Ye Leng’an’s figure. “Are you truly the offspring of Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu? Do you carry the bloodline of our Ye family?”

“I wish I weren’t,” Ye Leng’an replied with a faint smile. “Unfortunately, I cannot alter my lineage. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be standing here today.”

Had she known things would turn out like this, she would have kept her identity hidden and dealt with Ye Wanwan directly.

Upon hearing Ye Leng’an’s words, Ye Yikun struggled to contain his anger. “Very well. If you hold such disdain for the Ye family, why have you come here today?”

He hadn’t anticipated that Ye Leng’an’s visit wasn’t motivated by a desire to return to the Ye family. Witnessing Ye Leng’an’s disparagement of the Ye family only fueled his anger further.

“Old Master Ye, I believe you’re aware of the recent rumors circulating,” Ye Leng’an stated bluntly, revealing the purpose of her visit. “I suspect they originated from the Ye family. If so, shouldn’t the Ye family be the ones to clarify the situation?”

At Ye Leng’an’s words, a sharp gleam flickered in Ye Yikun’s eyes. “This isn’t mere gossip, and you know it.”

“Then you’re also aware that Ye Wanwan and I aren’t twins, correct?” Ye Leng’an remarked wryly. “If something so contrary to fact isn’t considered gossip, then what is?”

Ye Yikun regarded Ye Leng’an steadily. “And what, pray tell, do you expect the Ye family to do?”

“It’s quite simple,” Ye Leng’an replied with a smile. “The Ye family merely needs to refute the rumors, asserting that I have no affiliation with you. It shouldn’t be a difficult task for the Ye family.”

“That’s impossible,” Ye Yikun retorted instinctively. “Besides, you are indeed of the Ye family’s bloodline. That’s the truth.”

Due to Ye Leng’an, many families allied with the Huangfu family showed favor to the Ye family, resulting in substantial benefits for them. Since Ye Leng’an was indeed Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu’s daughter, the Ye family had accepted these benefits without reservation.

Clarifying these facts now would only embarrass them.

“Old Master Ye.” Ye Leng’an’s smile grew brighter, but the chill in her eyes deepened. “It’s best not to be too greedy. Let’s not dwell on the past, but we both know it’s impossible for me to return to the Ye family.”

“Ye Leng’an, you’re still young and haven’t considered many factors.” Ye Yikun observed, then sneered. “Although you’re currently infatuated with Huangfu Ruiling, who knows how long this so-called love will last? When that time comes, without any family support, you’ll have no choice but to be abandoned. However, a union between our families would hold far more significance. With a family backing you, you’ll have a stronger foothold in the Huangfu family. Love is fleeting. Consider the practicalities.”

“Heh, Old Master Ye, don’t act as if you’re concerned for me,” Ye Leng’an retorted. “You’ve said so much, but why haven’t you mentioned how much the Ye family stands to gain from this union? Do you desire the return of the Ye family’s bloodline, or do you seek an alliance with the Huangfu family?”

“I don’t deny that the Ye family will benefit.” Ye Yikun conceded.

As an experienced old fox, Ye Yikun’s anger gradually subsided. “However, this arrangement benefits us all, doesn’t it? Furthermore, I assure you that upon your return to the Ye family, you’ll enjoy absolute freedom.”

Previously, he had intended to temper Ye Leng’an’s character upon her return to the Ye family. But now, he had a change of heart.

Ye Leng’an harbored no sense of loyalty to the Ye family, nor did she harbor any affection for her parents, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. In such a case, if they wished for her to return and facilitate a marriage between the Ye and Huangfu families, they could only bind her with benefits.

The Ye family would serve as Ye Leng’an’s support, leveraging the power of the Huangfu family to continue advancing the Ye family’s interests.

However, in the future, the Ye family would not provide Ye Leng’an with any resources. After all, her heart wasn’t with the Ye family; it would be futile to invest in her.

He believed that such terms would be advantageous for both parties, and Ye Leng'an would likely agree to them.

Under Ye Yikun's scrutiny, Ye Leng'an's lips parted, and she rejected without hesitation, "I don't think this idea is very good. I don't wish to be associated with the Ye family, so it's best for everyone to go their separate ways."

"Ye Leng'an, don't be so audacious," Ye Yikun scoffed in anger. "Do you truly believe that your so-called love can tether Huangfu Ruiling for a lifetime?"

"That's my concern. You needn't worry about it," Ye Leng'an responded calmly. "However, the matter concerning the Ye family must be resolved today. So, Old Master Ye, will you agree? Or will you not?"

Ye Yikun couldn't decipher Ye Leng'an's thoughts. He narrowed his eyes and replied slowly, "And what if I refuse?"

#### Chapter 816: The Decision Maker

Upon entering the main hall, Lian Mengzhu was met with an atmosphere of profound silence. Observing the smiling yet aloof Ye Leng'an and the visibly perplexed Ye Hongxuan occupying the main seat, she found herself at a loss, unable to comprehend the situation unfolding before her.

Initially, upon hearing of Ye Leng'an's visit, Lian Mengzhu had felt a surge of excitement. Like Ye Hongxuan, she had entertained the hope that Ye Leng'an's willingness to visit might signify a desire to return to the Ye family.

However, the scene that greeted her upon arrival was far from what she had anticipated.

"What's the matter?" Lian Mengzhu cautiously asked, "What's happening here?"

"Nothing." Ye Hongxuan forced a smile. "We're simply discussing some matters."

Lian Mengzhu found this explanation entirely incredulous. Yet, before she could voice her doubts, Ye Leng'an interjected.

"Master Ye, you still haven't answered my question!" Unfazed by Lian Mengzhu's presence, she persisted with her inquiry. "Is it true that Ye Wanwan and I are twins?"

With those words, Lian Mengzhu immediately grasped the underlying tension in the hall. Feeling a tinge of embarrassment, she began to explain, "Leng'an, this matter was decided by your grandfather. It was meant to protect both of you. We..."

"Are you protecting me or Ye Wanwan? Be clear about your intentions," Ye Leng'an interrupted, her tone disdainful. "No need for lofty explanations. We all know where your loyalties lie.

Lian Mengzhu was left speechless.

Observing Ye Leng'an's demeanor, Ye Hongxuan couldn't help but furrow his brow. Sighing softly, he spoke, "Leng'an, you are indeed our biological daughter, and we do wish for your return.

However, we also raised Wanwan, so I hope you can understand our perspective. Moreover, this was your grandfather's decision, and we cannot oppose it."

Acknowledging this, Ye Leng'an nodded. "It seems I've approached the wrong person. I should be speaking to Ye Yikun, not you."

Her initial intention had indeed been to contact Ye Yikun, not Ye Hongxuan. However, she feared she might not be able to meet him directly.

"What nonsense!" Ye Hongxuan's expression darkened as he chastised Ye Leng'an in a low voice. "That's your grandfather. Who gave you permission to address him so informally?"

"Permission or not, I've already addressed him," Ye Leng'an retorted casually. "So, I should be able to see Old Master Ye now, right?"

"Leng'an," Lian Mengzhu interjected, sensing Ye Leng'an's determination. "Your grandfather has made his decision. There's no need for further discussion. He's our elder, and as such, we must respect him."

"He may be your elder, but not mine." Ye Leng'an remained unmoved. "Please refrain from interfering with my decisions. Since you can't make the call, I'll find someone who can."

Observing Ye Leng'an's resolve, both Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu felt a growing sense of unease. Initially, they had hoped Ye Leng'an's visit signaled a positive turn of events. However, it was becoming apparent that matters were far more complicated. Rather than a return, it seemed Ye Leng'an had come to seek retribution.

"Not planning to let me see Old Master Ye, are you?" Ye Leng'an nodded, then continued, "Very well, I won't waste any more time. However, let me remind you that I came here today as Huangfu Ruiling's fiancée. Is this the Ye family's idea of hospitality?"

Since Ye Hongxuan was dragging his feet, Ye Leng'an didn't mind exerting Huangfu Ruiling's authority.

At the mention of Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Hongxuan's expression darkened. "Are you threatening me, Leng'an? Don't forget, you're my daughter."

"Oh!" Ye Leng'an nodded before pressing on, "So, when can I see Old Master Ye? If he's my grandfather, as you claim, it shouldn't be difficult for me to meet him!"

Whether due to Huangfu Ruiling's influence or Ye Leng'an's persistence, Ye Hongxuan couldn't refuse her request.

Reluctantly, Ye Hongxuan sent someone to seek guidance from Ye Yikun.

Observing this, Lian Mengzhu couldn't help but feel anxious.

In the Ye family, Ye Yikun held absolute authority. Today, it was clear Ye Leng'an had come to confront him. The outcome of their meeting was foreseeable.

If Ye Leng'an managed to provoke Ye Yikun, her return to the Ye family might prove less than auspicious. Especially given Ye Yikun's already unfavorable impression of her.

Despite the trio's shared bloodline, the atmosphere in the main hall remained tense and subdued. Despite being family, they were little more than strangers. Their interactions had been limited, and their time together scarce.

Soon, the servant returned with Ye Yikun's response. "Miss Ye, Old Master requests your presence."

Ye Leng'an wasn't surprised by the summons. From the moment she decided to return, she anticipated Ye Yikun's reception.

With that, Ye Leng'an rose and followed the servant out.

"Leng'an, you..." Lian Mengzhu hesitated briefly before urging, "Show some respect to your grandfather. He's your elder, after all."

She couldn't shake her apprehension about Ye Leng'an facing her father alone. In this family, her father's authority was unquestionable. Leng'an's temperament was sure to irk him.

Ye Leng'an's stride remained unbroken, leaving her intentions unclear.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu exchanged uneasy glances but dared not follow.

Meanwhile, Ye Wanwan, having learned of Ye Leng'an's arrival at the Ye residence, couldn't help but feel a surge of anxiety. Though no one had informed her, such news couldn't remain concealed for long.

As she heard of Ye Leng'an's presence and her parents' departure, a sense of foreboding gripped her. She feared Ye Leng'an's return might be permanent.

Chapter 817: Meeting Ye Yikun

Although Ye Wanwan had her grandfather's backing and Ye Leng'an's return shouldn't affect her status, she still worried, especially since Ye Leng'an was not only a true descendant of the Ye family but also engaged to Huangfu Ruiling.

Thinking of Huangfu Ruiling made her heart ache with anger. She had been the first to set her sights on Huangfu Ruiling, but Ye Leng'an had snatched him away in the end. If it weren't for Ye Leng'an, she would be Huangfu Ruiling's fiancée now. With that title, she wouldn't even care about being the Ye family's young lady.

If Ye Leng'an returned, her parents would inevitably side with Ye Leng'an. She genuinely feared losing her parents' love. Even if she continued to feign helplessness, it wouldn't be a sustainable strategy.

However, she was grateful for one thing: her grandfather would always support her. She had that confidence. After all, her grandfather...

Just as Ye Wanwan was lost in thought, she heard the servant report that Ye Leng'an had gone to see her grandfather once again.

Upon hearing this news, her initial panic subsided. She had a feeling that Ye Leng'an's meeting with her grandfather would be unpleasant.

With that in mind, she couldn't help but smile. She ordered someone to discreetly watch Ye Yikun's courtyard from afar and report any developments immediately.

On the other side, Ye Leng'an followed the servant to Ye Yikun's courtyard.

As Ye Leng'an entered the courtyard, she glanced around and couldn't help but smirk knowingly.

Although Ye Hongxuan was the current head of the Ye family, it was clear that Ye Yikun still held the reins. Just looking at the courtyard confirmed it. Though Ye Hongxuan and his wife resided in the main courtyard, this was undoubtedly the best courtyard in the entire Ye family.

Stepping into this courtyard, one could feel a dense spiritual energy, far surpassing that of the entire Ye family. Cultivating here would undoubtedly yield remarkable results.

Moreover, precious spiritual plants were scattered throughout the courtyard, perhaps the most valuable ones in the Ye family.

Soon, guided by the servant, Ye Leng'an arrived at a pavilion in the courtyard, where he saw Ye Yikun enjoying tea at a stone table.

After the servant left, leaving only Ye Yikun and Ye Leng'an in the vast courtyard.

Because normally, the old master wouldn't casually allow anyone in. So, she didn't dare to delay, fearing it might anger the old master, and even more so, fearing she might hear things she shouldn't. At that point, it might even cost her her life. After all, this was the Hidden World, where some lives were deemed worthless.

Ye Leng'an wasted no time. She walked over and sat down in front of Ye Yikun before the latter could speak.

Ye Yikun initially remained silent, intending to exert his authority and unsettle Ye Leng'an.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's sudden visit to the Ye family today, Ye Yikun felt that she had acquiesced and intended to return to the Ye family. He wasn't surprised by her decision.

Though Ye Leng'an was now engaged to Huangfu Ruiling, establishing herself in the Huangfu family solely on Huangfu Ruiling's favor was no easy feat, especially given the stature of the Huangfu family. Only with a powerful maternal family backing her could Ye Leng'an thrive in the Huangfu family.

By spreading such news, Ye Yikun provided Ye Leng'an with a graceful exit.

Ye Leng'an's visit today confirmed the success of his plan. Ye Leng'an's return to the Ye family was beneficial for both parties.

Ye Leng'an would have the Ye family's support, and the Ye family would receive assistance from the Huangfu family.

However, Ye Yikun didn't expect Ye Leng'an to display such rudeness. Before he could speak, Ye Leng'an seated herself directly opposite, displaying no manners.

“Ye Leng’an!” Ye Yikun frowned, his tone tinged with displeasure. “Do you realize how uncouth your behavior is?”

“Does that concern you?” Ye Leng’an shrugged nonchalantly. “Old Master Ye, do you know why I’ve come to the Ye residence today?”

Upon hearing Ye Leng’an’s words, Ye Yikun smirked disdainfully. “Of course, I know your intentions. As a member of the Ye family, it’s only natural for you to return. However, Ye Leng’an, you must improve your demeanor. Otherwise, people will think poorly of the Ye family.”

Ye Leng’an’s return was advantageous for the Ye family. However, Ye Yikun found Ye Leng’an’s wild nature distasteful, especially considering Ye Leng’an’s ruthless actions in the past, like crippling Ye Wanwan’s Dantian.

If not for the Huangfu family’s face, Ye Yikun wouldn’t even allow Ye Leng’an to step foot in the Ye family. However, if Ye Leng’an returned, she would have to obey. She needed to shed her bad habits quickly.

“Pfft!” Ye Leng’an chuckled as if amused. “Old Master Ye, you overestimate the Ye family. Do you think everyone wants to join you? Even if they did, I wouldn’t.”

“You...” Ye Yikun’s anger was palpable at Ye Leng’an’s sarcastic remark. He slammed his teacup on the table and narrowed his eyes. When he looked at Ye Leng’an, his dissatisfaction was evident. “Ye Leng’an, if you look down on the Ye family, why did you come today? There’s no need to pretend. We all know what you’re thinking. Also, don’t try to test my limits. Without my approval, you’ll have no place in the Ye family.”

“Oh, really?” Ye Leng’an’s indifference was apparent. “So what? Do you think I care? Also, when Ye Hongxuan sent someone to inform you earlier, didn’t he tell you the real reason for my visit today?”

#### Chapter 818: Clarification

Ye Yikun fixed his gaze on Ye Leng’an, who stood opposite him, with a cold, unyielding expression on her face. The weight of his presence pressed down on the other party, but Ye Leng’an remained remarkably composed. He searched for any hint of emotion on Ye Leng’an’s face, but the latter appeared unnervingly calm, devoid of any visible reaction.

Observing this, Ye Yikun couldn’t help but feel a twinge of unease. Throughout the years, he had been adept at discerning people’s thoughts from their expressions. Even Ye Hongxuan, who had been the head of the Ye family for so long, couldn’t maintain such composure under his pressure. Yet, here was Ye Leng’an, a mere teenager, facing his pressure with unwavering calmness. It was simply inconceivable.

“Who are you exactly?” Ye Yikun’s sharp gaze swept over Ye Leng’an’s figure. “Are you truly the offspring of Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu? Do you carry the bloodline of our Ye family?”

"I wish I weren't," Ye Leng'an replied with a faint smile. "Unfortunately, I cannot alter my lineage. Otherwise, I wouldn't be standing here today."

Had she known things would turn out like this, she would have kept her identity hidden and dealt with Ye Wanwan directly.

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Ye Yikun struggled to contain his anger. "Very well. If you hold such disdain for the Ye family, why have you come here today?"

He hadn't anticipated that Ye Leng'an's visit wasn't motivated by a desire to return to the Ye family. Witnessing Ye Leng'an's disparagement of the Ye family only fueled his anger further.

"Old Master Ye, I believe you're aware of the recent rumors circulating," Ye Leng'an stated bluntly, revealing the purpose of her visit. "I suspect they originated from the Ye family. If so, shouldn't the Ye family be the ones to clarify the situation?"

At Ye Leng'an's words, a sharp gleam flickered in Ye Yikun's eyes. "This isn't mere gossip, and you know it."

"Then you're also aware that Ye Wanwan and I aren't twins, correct?" Ye Leng'an remarked wryly. "If something so contrary to fact isn't considered gossip, then what is?"

Ye Yikun regarded Ye Leng'an steadily. "And what, pray tell, do you expect the Ye family to do?"

"It's quite simple," Ye Leng'an replied with a smile. "The Ye family merely needs to refute the rumors, asserting that I have no affiliation with you. It shouldn't be a difficult task for the Ye family."

"That's impossible," Ye Yikun retorted instinctively. "Besides, you are indeed of the Ye family's bloodline. That's the truth."

Due to Ye Leng'an, many families allied with the Huangfu family showed favor to the Ye family, resulting in substantial benefits for them. Since Ye Leng'an was indeed Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's daughter, the Ye family had accepted these benefits without reservation.

Clarifying these facts now would only embarrass them.

"Old Master Ye." Ye Leng'an's smile grew brighter, but the chill in her eyes deepened. "It's best not to be too greedy. Let's not dwell on the past, but we both know it's impossible for me to return to the Ye family."

"Ye Leng'an, you're still young and haven't considered many factors." Ye Yikun observed, then sneered. "Although you're currently infatuated with Huangfu Ruiling, who knows how long this so-called love will last? When that time comes, without any family support, you'll have no choice but to be abandoned. However, a union between our families would hold far more significance. With a family backing you, you'll have a stronger foothold in the Huangfu family. Love is fleeting. Consider the practicalities."

“Heh, Old Master Ye, don’t act as if you’re concerned for me,” Ye Leng’an retorted. “You’ve said so much, but why haven’t you mentioned how much the Ye family stands to gain from this union? Do you desire the return of the Ye family’s bloodline, or do you seek an alliance with the Huangfu family?”

“I don’t deny that the Ye family will benefit.” Ye Yikun conceded.

As an experienced old fox, Ye Yikun’s anger gradually subsided. “However, this arrangement benefits us all, doesn’t it? Furthermore, I assure you that upon your return to the Ye family, you’ll enjoy absolute freedom.”

Previously, he had intended to temper Ye Leng’an’s character upon her return to the Ye family. But now, he had a change of heart.

Ye Leng’an harbored no sense of loyalty to the Ye family, nor did she harbor any affection for her parents, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. In such a case, if they wished for her to return and facilitate a marriage between the Ye and Huangfu families, they could only bind her with benefits.

The Ye family would serve as Ye Leng’an’s support, leveraging the power of the Huangfu family to continue advancing the Ye family’s interests.

However, in the future, the Ye family would not provide Ye Leng’an with any resources. After all, her heart wasn’t with the Ye family; it would be futile to invest in her.

He believed that such terms would be advantageous for both parties, and Ye Leng’an would likely agree to them.

Under Ye Yikun’s scrutiny, Ye Leng’an’s lips parted, and she rejected without hesitation, “I don’t think this idea is very good. I don’t wish to be associated with the Ye family, so it’s best for everyone to go their separate ways.”

“Ye Leng’an, don’t be so audacious,” Ye Yikun scoffed in anger. “Do you truly believe that your so-called love can tether Huangfu Ruiling for a lifetime?”

“That’s my concern. You needn’t worry about it,” Ye Leng’an responded calmly.

“However, the matter concerning the Ye family must be resolved today. So, Old Master Ye, will you agree? Or will you not?”

Ye Yikun couldn’t decipher Ye Leng’an’s thoughts. He narrowed his eyes and replied slowly, “And what if I refuse?”

## Chapter 819: The Threat

Upon receiving Ye Yikun’s denial, Ye Leng’an remained unruffled. Instead, she continued to smile and said, “As for clarifying the situation, that’s entirely up to the Ye family’s discretion. After all, I can’t compel the Ye family to do anything. However...”

At this juncture, Ye Leng’an’s smile widened. “Similarly, the Ye family can’t dictate my actions either. If by chance I happen to divulge something Old Master Ye prefers kept hidden, then please don’t hold it against me.”

Ye Leng'an's words instantly put Ye Yikun on guard. He scrutinized Ye Leng'an, "What do you mean by that?"

"Old Master Ye, since you're reluctant to publicly clarify my lack of association with the Ye family, then I'll simply disclose the truth." Ye Leng'an shrugged, smiling. "Including the circumstances of how Ye Wanwan and I were swapped and the identity of Ye Wanwan's biological mother. I believe such news would certainly stir up quite a commotion, don't you agree?"

"You..." A glint of menace flickered in Ye Yikun's eyes. "Even if you go public, do you think anyone will believe you?"

It had to be admitted that Ye Leng'an had hit a sensitive spot. The fabrication of such a story was precisely to prevent the exposure of Ye Wanwan's true identity.

"Whether others believe it or not is inconsequential." Ye Leng'an shook her head. "As long as the Murong family, especially Master Murong, believes it, wouldn't that suffice? The incidents from the past were riddled with loopholes. It's only because no one doubted them for so many years that they remained concealed until now. With the Murong family's influence, uncovering the truth shouldn't pose much difficulty!"

"You..." Ye Yikun seethed with rage, his gaze towards Ye Leng'an brimming with animosity, and even a hint of murderous intent. "What do you stand to gain from all this? Don't tell me you've decided to forsake your biological parents for the rest of your life. By taking things to such extremes, are you truly intent on severing ties with the Ye family forever?"

"I presume you're well aware of my intentions." Ye Leng'an arched an eyebrow. "If I truly intended to reunite with my parents, do you think I would have come here today to request clarification from the Ye family?"

Unfazed by Ye Yikun's hostility, Ye Leng'an believed herself superior. Moreover, as the fiancée of Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Yikun dared not offend the Huangfu family.

"You truly are ruthless and unfeeling!" Ye Yikun, infuriated, chuckled bitterly. "From this perspective, your absence from the Ye family might indeed be a boon for us!"

He found himself unable to decipher Ye Leng'an's mindset. Logically speaking, someone like Ye Leng'an, with her background, should yearn for the love of her biological parents. Yet, in reality, Ye Leng'an was indifferent to her biological parents.

Back then, the sole reason for exposing the truth was to exact revenge on Ye Wanwan.

"It's good that Old Master Ye sees it this way!"

Ye Leng'an remained indifferent to Ye Yikun's accusations of her cold-heartedness. "Moreover, perhaps you could liken us to be of the same ilk! Blood ties don't hold much significance to you, do they? You even prefer the fake granddaughter, Ye Wanwan, over me, your true granddaughter,

solely because Ye Wanwan can bring greater benefits to the Ye family. Hence, we're all equals in this regard. Let's not mock each other."

This statement seemed to lay bare all of Ye Yikun's innermost thoughts, exposing them to the sunlight.

Ye Yikun took a deep breath, endeavoring to quell the rage in his chest. When he looked at Ye Leng'an, it wasn't as though he was regarding his blood-related granddaughter but more akin to viewing an adversary. "Very well, Ye Leng'an. I hope you won't regret your decision today."

"Everyone must be accountable for their choices, correct?" Ye Leng'an blinked, smiling. "Since it's my decision, I shall never harbor regrets."

"Very well." Ye Yikun sneered. "Then I shall see how an orphan like you fares in the Huangfu family. How long can you bask in Huangfu Ruiling's so-called affection?"

"No need for you to concern yourself with my affairs." Ye Leng'an smiled faintly. "Old Master Ye, you should focus on matters concerning the Ye family! However, since Old Master Ye has spoken thus, I shall interpret it as an agreement to my demands today."

She wasn't taken aback by Ye Yikun's decision.

Though she was involved in the Huangfu family's marriage, it wasn't something within Ye Yikun's control. Thus, even if she could benefit the Ye family, it would be limited.

However, Ye Wanwan was different. Raised in the Ye family since childhood, she still depended on the Ye family. Therefore, marrying Murong Xingrui would undoubtedly bring more advantages to the Ye family.

Most importantly, Ye Wanwan was more compliant than her.

Ye Yikun fixed his gaze on Ye Leng'an. After a prolonged silence, he spoke, "I'll clarify matters as soon as possible."

"Since Old Master Ye has agreed, I'll await the clarification." Ye Leng'an smiled.

"Furthermore, I hope I won't encounter such rumors in the future. Otherwise, I might have to visit your home to seek clarification, wasting everyone's time. That wouldn't be ideal, as everyone's time is precious."

Suppressing the anger within him, Ye Yikun gritted his teeth. "I'll clarify everything. Whether in the past, present, or future, you have no ties to the Ye family. Is that clear?"

"Of course." In stark contrast to Ye Yikun, the smile on Ye Leng'an's face was much warmer and sincere. "Rest assured, Old Master Ye. I can also promise you that, regardless of future events, I won't implicate the Ye family, nor will I have any dealings with you."

With that said, Ye Leng'an rose to her feet. "Now that we've reached an understanding, I won't take up any more of Old Master Ye's time. Also, I hope Old Master Ye will clarify this matter promptly.

Otherwise, if too much time elapses, misunderstandings may arise, and I may inadvertently disclose sensitive information. That wouldn't be desirable.”

Ye Yikun knew it was a veiled threat, but he had no choice but to accept it. “You'll receive the Ye family's clarification soon.”

## Chapter 820: No Relationship at All

After leaving Ye Yikun's courtyard, Ye Leng'an left the Ye family without seeing anyone else.

When Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu heard that Ye Leng'an had left, they couldn't help but pause. Clearly, they hadn't expected Ye Leng'an to make a rare visit to the Ye family only to leave without bidding them farewell.

Meanwhile, Ye Wanwan also received news from the servants about Ye Leng'an's departure from the Ye family.

Upon hearing this news, her brow couldn't help but furrow. Because when Ye Leng'an left, she had a smile on her face.

She didn't know what had happened between Ye Leng'an and her grandfather, but she knew that Ye Leng'an must have been in good spirits when she left.

When Ye Leng'an was in good spirits, her mood was inevitably affected.

Before she could dwell on it further, someone came to escort her to her grandfather's courtyard, saying that the old master wanted to see her immediately.

Upon hearing the servant's words, Ye Wanwan's heart skipped a beat, feeling a pang of guilt. She didn't know why her grandfather had summoned her shortly after Ye Leng'an's departure.

She wasn't sure if Ye Leng'an had said anything detrimental to her. Or perhaps her grandfather had learned about her sending someone to investigate, prompting him to summon her for punishment.

Regardless of the reason, she was about to face an unfavorable situation.

With an anxious heart, Ye Wanwan arrived at Ye Yikun's courtyard. As she stepped into the study, she saw Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu inside.

Ye Yikun was seated behind his desk, his expression inscrutable, making it difficult to discern his emotions.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu, too, were summoned, and they appeared bewildered, unsure of what was transpiring.

Once inside the study, Ye Yikun raised his head to address the three individuals before him and began speaking slowly, “Since everyone is present, I have an announcement to make. This matter concerns only the three of you, hence why I've summoned you here.”

Ye Yikun's words immediately put them on edge.

“Hongxuan, Mengzhu, listen carefully.” Ye Yikun gazed at them with a serious expression, saying, “Starting today, only Ye Wanwan is your daughter. Ye Leng'an has no connection with you.”

The unexpected declaration left Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu visibly taken aback. Their expressions shifted upon hearing Ye Yikun's pronouncement.

"Father," Lian Mengzhu interjected anxiously, "Has Leng'an offended you in any way? You're a forgiving person. Don't take it to heart. She's still young, and we'll guide her properly in the future."

She was unsure of what happened between Ye Leng'an and her father to prompt such a sudden decision! However, it also left her feeling uneasy. She knew her father's decisions were not easily swayed.

"That's right, Father," Ye Hongxuan chimed in quickly, "Don't hold it against Leng'an. I'll make sure she apologizes to you."

Unlike Lian Mengzhu, he wasn't as optimistic. He knew his father well. Ye Leng'an was still engaged to Huangfu Ruiling. Therefore, regardless of his father's feelings towards Ye Leng'an, he would want Ye Leng'an to return to the Ye family to maintain ties with the Huangfu family.

It was because of this that his father intended to spread rumors. It was to provide Ye Leng'an with an out while also exerting pressure on her.

However, now his father had firmly stated that Ye Leng'an would no longer have any ties to the Ye family. It was evident that the conflict between his father and Ye Leng'an was significant, perhaps irreparable.

On the other hand, Ye Wanwan wasn't as preoccupied. If circumstances were different, she'd be tempted to laugh aloud to express her inner joy.

With Ye Leng'an out of the picture, she would forever remain the Ye family's young lady. She no longer had to worry about Ye Leng'an threatening her position.

However, she could sense that her parents wouldn't allow such a thing. Hence, no matter how elated she felt, she couldn't show it.

Thus, Ye Wanwan stood quietly to the side, refraining from expressing any opinions.

In reality, anything she said at this point would be futile. Thus, silence was her best option.

Ye Yikun's expression remained unchanged. After surveying Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu, he continued, "I'm not seeking your opinion but informing you of my decision."

Though his tone was mild, it carried an unmistakable air of finality.

"But, Father..." Lian Mengzhu began anxiously, wanting to voice her concerns further. However, before she could continue, Ye Yikun cut her off.

"No 'buts'," Ye Yikun continued, "If you have objections or still wish to acknowledge Ye Leng'an as your daughter, you're free to leave the Ye family. Once you're no longer part of the Ye family, I won't interfere with your decisions."

Upon hearing Ye Yikun's stern words, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu dared not say anything further, despite their reluctance.

They indeed wanted to acknowledge their biological daughter but were unwilling to leave the Ye family. Leaving would mean they'd lose everything.

Seeing Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's silence, Ye Yikun continued, "Tomorrow, we'll issue a statement refuting the false rumors. Ye Leng'an has no ties to the Ye family. We only have one young lady, and that is Ye Wanwan."

Ye Wanwan was ecstatic but kept her emotions in check.

Ye Hongxuan, resigned, could only agree.

"Grandfather, what about Murong Xingrui?" Ye Wanwan suddenly asked, "I did inform him earlier, but now I've changed my mind. How do I explain this?"

"Simple," Ye Yikun responded calmly. "If Murong Xingrui asks, tell him the truth. Due to being abducted at a young age and being away from home for many years, she lacks any emotional attachment to her parents and refuses to return to the Ye family. Ye Leng'an's stance is firm, and you must respect her decision. Also... Simply put, we don't wish to establish relations with the Huangfu family through such means, nor do we wish to take advantage of Ye Leng'an."