

Full-Level 131

Chapter 131: Cheating 3

They were pushing and elbowing, but no one dared to step forward to speak.

Darkness flickered in the eyes of Ye Xiyuan, who took the lead. However, when she looked up again, she had a smile on her face. "Principal and Teacher Qian, I'm sorry to have disturbed you. We'll leave now."

After saying that, Ye Xiyuan dragged Qian Gumeng to leave.

"Xiyuan, why are you leaving?" Qian Gumeng refused to leave. She grabbed Ye Xiyuan and said indignantly, "Ye Leng'an is about to snatch your first place away. Why are you still protecting her like this?"

"It's not like that, Gumeng..." Ye Xiyuan tried to explain, but she couldn't explain it no matter how hard she tried. "Leng'an, she must be strong enough to do that! After all, the qualifier is open to everyone."

"It's true that it's open, but it's hard to say if it's fair or not." Qian Gumeng had a look of disdain on her face. "But how could she possibly pass the qualifier? And even got first place? Who will believe that she didn't cheat?"

She felt disgusted when thinking of Ye Leng'an's face. Li Deze clearly hated Ye Leng'an, but this love-struck fool kept chasing him. In the past, Ye Leng'an claimed to be Li Deze's girlfriend by relying on the fact that the Ye family and the Li family were old friends. Now she thought Ye Leng'an was really shameless.

Fortunately, God was never blind to your tears. It turned out that this kind of person was not some rich young lady at all. She was just a poor girl from the slums that was mistakenly taken away by another family.

If such a person could get first place in the Mathematical Olympiad qualifier, she could even win the Nobel Prize.

Qian Gumeng's words once again stirred up the wrath of the crowd. They ignored the clouded face of the principal and immediately started to clamor, saying that Ye Leng'an cheated, and wanted the school to give them justice.

The noise gave Zheng Anyang a headache. He rubbed his temples and scolded, "Shut up! This is a school, not a market. It's not a place for you to make a ruckus."

Everyone shut their mouths when Zheng Anyang snapped at them.

At this time, Qian Tong stepped forward from behind, looked at the crowd, and asked, "What do you do this for today?"

Just now, he couldn't hear what they were talking about in their heated debate. He could only vaguely hear Ye Leng'an's name but had no idea what was going on.

The students looked at each other, afraid to put their heads above the parapet.

They came here today on the spur of the moment, but in fact, they did not have any evidence. Zhao Yanran was taken to court for slandering Ye Leng'an without any evidence. Although she didn't need to go to jail or pay much compensation, she still had a criminal record. So, they really did not dare to act rashly now.

Qian Gumeng was filled with anger when seeing that those people didn't dare to say anything. She did not expect that these people, who had made such a ruckus earlier, would be like quails now. All of them lowered their heads and did not even dare to say a word.

Qian Gumeng directly stepped forward and looked at Zheng Anyang. "Principal, we have objections to Ye Leng'an's results. We request the school to investigate thoroughly."

"What do you mean?" Zheng Anyang glanced at Qian Gumeng with piercing eyes. "Do you think that there's something fishy about the qualifier this time?" Meeting Zheng Anyang's sharp gaze, Qian Gumeng looked away for a moment, but then she remembered that she was representing justice at the moment, so she immediately raised her head again. "Principal, we're not suspecting that the school is unfair. We just felt that it was impossible for Ye Leng'an to achieve such results. She must have cheated. We all know her grades. Now that she suddenly got first place, such an enormous improvement is unconvincing. Therefore, our suspicions are reasonable." "That's right, Principal. We want a thorough investigation."

"Ye Leng'an must have cheated. It is unfair."

After Qian Gumeng stood out to be the first one, there was a second one. Soon, all the students present expressed their dissatisfaction..

Chapter 132: Cheating 4

Zheng Anyang's face immediately darkened when looking at the crowd. "I didn't see you were so highly motivated in your daily studies. Now you don't allow yourself to lag behind when causing trouble!"

The sarcastic remark made many people present lower their heads.

"Principal, we don't have any other intentions." Qian Gumeng stood up. "We just have some questions, so we want the school to remove our doubts. We don't intend to cause trouble. We just want the truth."

Zheng Anyang looked around, then his gaze fell on Qian Gumeng and Ye Xiyuan who were standing in front. He didn't know which one of the two instigated trouble.

Sensing Zheng Anyang's dissatisfaction, Ye Xiyuan stepped forward with an apologetic smile on her face. "Principal, I'm sorry. It's all our fault. We didn't suspect anyone, and we didn't come to disturb you on purpose. We'll leave immediately."

She looked so natural and generous that it made people think that she didn't want to come over in the first place. She just couldn't dissuade her friend and was dragged here.

"Xiyuan, Ye Leng'an stole the championship from you. How can you still be so calm?" Qian Gumeng looked disappointed. "You are just here to seek justice. What are you afraid of? Why do you have to apologize?"

After saying that, she pulled Ye Xiyuan over and stood in front of her. Then, she looked at Zheng Anyang and said, "Principal, I hope that you can thoroughly investigate Ye Leng'an's cheating scandal. I believe that is also what the students present all want."

Zheng Anyang didn't directly answer Qian Gumeng's question. Instead, he asked, "You said that Ye Leng'an cheated. Where's the evidence?"

Qian Gumeng was lost for words for a moment, but she quickly said, "Ye Leng'an's normal grades are proof. One can progress in his or her studies, but it is impossible to advance by leaps and bounds like this. Therefore, it is reasonable for me to suspect that Ye Leng'an cheated."

"Why can't she have rapid progress?" Zheng Anyang looked unsettled. "Furthermore, you don't have any evidence at all now. Everything was said by you. Do you think it's possible to require the school to have a thorough investigation just based on your suspicion?"

Hearing Zheng Anyang's words, Qian Gumeng was a little anxious. "Principal, you can't shield Ye Leng'an!"

Her remark made Zheng Anyang's gloomy face look even more clouded. He looked at Qian Gumeng with impatience. "You want an investigation, right?"

Fine."

Not only Qian Gumeng but also the other students who came with her couldn't help but smile at Zheng Anyang's reply. They thought that the principal was about to fly into a rage judging from the look on his face. They didn't expect that the principal agreed directly. This was really a pleasant surprise!

The corners of Ye Xiyuan's lips curled up into a triumphant smile when no one else noticed.

However, before everyone could be happy, what Zheng Anyang said next made everyone's floating hearts immediately sink.

"What if it turns out that Ye Leng'an didn't cheat?" Zheng Anyang looked at the students and said, "Then what you did today will be slander against your classmate. According to the school rules, anyone who slanders a classmate should be punished. Are you ready for the punishment?"

Instantly, the entire place fell silent. Many of them had the intention to retreat, and they all regretted coming to the principal's office so rashly today.

Qian Gumeng didn't speak out sternly from a sense of justice as before, and she looked a little annoyed.

She did feel that Ye Leng'an had cheated to get first place. However, in reality, she wasn't confident either. Besides, whether Ye Leng'an cheated or not had nothing to do with her. She didn't even participate in the qualifier. If she was punished for this in the end, it would really not be worth it.

Thinking of this, Qian Gumeng didn't speak anymore. She even lowered her head, trying to make herself invisible.

For a moment, everyone was silent.

Ye Xiyuan didn't show a sign of emotion on her face but felt extremely frustrated in her heart to see that. Even when she saw Qian Gumeng beside her, she couldn't help but feel disgusted.

Qian Gumeng talked with righteous indignation just now, but when she heard that she might be punished, she didn't dare to say anything. Qian Gumeng said that she was Ye Xiyuan's good sister and wanted to seek justice for her. It was simply a joke.

Qian Gumeng wasn't even willing to help Ye Xiyuan with such a small matter and even wanted Ye Xiyuan to help matchmake her and Li Deze. She was really a wishful thinker.

The whole thing was about to be over quietly when Zhao Yanran who had been watching from the side stepped forward. She looked at Qian Gumeng with ridicule. "Qian Gumeng, weren't you the loudest just now? Why are you all mute now?"

How could she let go of such an opportunity to belittle Qian Gumeng? She was in the dark before, but now she and Qian Gumeng were enemies.

"Zhao Yanran, what does this have to do with you?" Qian Gumeng snapped at Zhao Yanran, "Who do you think you are to criticize me here?"

She didn't expect Zhao Yanran to come forward at this time. She didn't have much interaction with Zhao Yanran. If there really was, it was because they all hated Ye Leng'an. In this case, the two of them could be considered to be on the same side. However, Zhao Yanran's remark was clearly targeting her.

Thinking of this, Qian Gumeng couldn't help but glance at Ye Xiyuan beside her.

She had heard about the grudge between Ye Xiyuan and Zhao Yanran. However, Xiyuan told her that it was just a misunderstanding and Zhao Yanran just didn't want to listen to anyone else's explanation. Did Zhao Yanran come out to provoke her at this time because of Xiyuan?

"I don't want to interfere in your matters!" Zhao Yanran was full of disdain. "I just think that a villain like you is really funny. Ye Xiyuan, take a look. Is this your so-called good sister? She kept saying that she wanted to seek justice for you, but now that she heard that there might be punishment, she immediately cowered. Looks like your friendship is really fragile!"

Qian Gumeng was a little anxious when she heard such a provocative remark. She looked at Ye Xiyuan and quickly explained, "Xiyuan, I didn't... I..."

For a moment, she did not know how to explain.

“Gumeng, you don’t need to explain.” Ye Xiyuan raised an understanding smile. “We are in the wrong this time. We can’t suspect Leng’an based on mere speculation. Perhaps after Leng’an left the Ye family, she made great efforts to study to achieve such good results! We have to look on the bright side of everything..”

Chapter 133: The Result 1

Ye Xiyuan’s words made Qian Gumeng’s shaking confidence immediately firm. She looked at Zheng Anyang and said, “Principal, I suspect that Ye Leng’an cheated and I want a thorough investigation. If it turns out that she did not cheat, I am willing to accept the punishment.”

Everyone knew Ye Leng’an’s grades at normal times. Even if she improved by leaps and bounds, it was impossible for her to get first place in one go. Furthermore, Ye Leng’an’s math results had always been bad. Now that she had left the Ye family, she did not even have the money to hire a tutor. How could she improve? It was already good enough that she did not fall behind in her studies.

“Gumeng!” Ye Xiyuan pulled Qian Gumeng over and said with a hint of reproach, “Why are you so impulsive? What if you are really punished?”

Then, she turned around and smiled apologetically at Zheng Anyang.

“Principal, we were too impulsive today. I believe that the school is absolutely fair. The reason why my sister was able to get such good results is that she has such strength. We’ll leave here immediately.

Then, she was about to take Qian Gumeng away.

After Zheng Anyang saw how Ye Xiyuan dealt with matters, a hint of approval flickered in his eyes. He didn’t understand the grudge between Ye Xiyuan and Ye Leng’an, and he didn’t want to get too involved. Ye Xiyuan’s results were not bad, and she knew when to stop. It could be seen that she had been forcefully dragged here today. Therefore, he would not enforce the blame on her this time.

Qian Gumeng refused to leave, especially when she saw Zhao Yanran’s mocking smile. She felt that she couldn’t just leave like this. If she left now, wouldn’t everything she had done just now become a joke? Besides, she knew that Xiyuan was doing this for her own good. However, it was precisely because of this that she wanted to help Xiyuan get justice.

At the thought of this, she shook off Ye Xiyuan’s hand and stood up. “Principal, I request a thorough investigation of Ye Lengan’s results.”

She looked so righteous as if she was doing something great. In fact, she also felt that she was seeking justice for the other students.

Zheng Anyang frowned and looked at the others. “What about you guys? Are you guys going to ask for an investigation as well?”

When they heard that they would be punished, many people had the intention to retreat. However, there were still a few people who were very firm in their stand.

“Very good.” Zheng Anyang nodded, then looked at Qian Tong and said, “Old Qian, register the names of these students now. After the investigation results are out, we’ll see how to deal with them.”

Qian Tong nodded, then took out his notebook and jotted down the names of the students. However, when he saw Ye Xiyuan, he felt a little troubled. He didn’t know if he should register Ye Xiyuan’s name. Even though Ye Xiyuan was standing with the others, she obviously didn’t agree to this matter. She was just brought here.

“Write my name down too!” Ye Xiyuan’s gentle voice said.

“Xiyuan, what are you talking about!” Qian Gumeng quickly stopped her. “This matter has nothing to do with you. You didn’t want to come anyway. You can’t ask him to write your name down.”

Ye Xiyuan smiled at Qian Gumeng. “I’m also responsible for not being able to hold you back. Moreover, you did so because you wanted to help me. How can I stay out of it!”

But no matter what Ye Xiyuan said, Qian Gumeng didn’t agree. She even pushed Ye Xiyuan to leave.

Zhao Yanran standing aside looked at Ye Xiyuan’s hypocritical expression and wished she could help Ye Xiyuan write down her name. However, she was just a bystander this time and did not want to be involved. Moreover, compared to Ye Xiyuan, she hated Qian Gumeng more.

Soon, Qian Tong finished registering all the names. As for Ye Xiyuan’s name, he didn’t add it to the list in the end.

Zheng Anyang looked at the names on the notebook and then glanced at the riotous students, saying, “Now, vote out two representatives. They can go check the surveillance video with us. The qualifier was monitored from beginning to end. You can take a good look and see if Ye Leng’an cheated.”

Qian Gumeng and another student walked into the principal’s office. As for the others, they left. After all, if the principal’s office was surrounded by so many people, it would bring a bad influence..

Chapter 134: The Result 2

However, Ye Xiyuan refused to leave. She stayed outside the door with a worried expression on her face.

As for Zhao Yanran, she didn’t leave but found a place not far to sit down. She planned to stay here and see what would happen to Qian Gumeng.

She crossed swords with Ye Leng’an so many times, and she had always been at a disadvantage. Therefore, she had always hated Ye Leng’an to the bone. However, ever since she had a conflict with Ye Leng’an for the last time, whenever she thought of Ye Leng’an, she couldn’t help but feel a sense of fear in the depths of her heart. Such fear made her not dare to easily go against Ye Leng’an again.

In addition, she knew that Ye Xiyuan had something to do with the reason why she had a criminal record. After she overheard the conversation between Ye Leng'an and Ouyang Xuyan in the cafe, all her hatred was now shifted to Ye Xiyuan and Qian Gumeng.

Especially Qian Gumeng. It turned out that all these years, Ouyang Xuyan had always liked Qian Gumeng. Then, when Qian Gumeng saw her constantly going against Ye Leng'an because of Ouyang Xuyan, did Qian Gumeng secretly laugh at her foolishness?

Now that Qian Gumeng came to the principal's office without any evidence, she was simply looking for trouble. Moreover, the principal was obviously defending Ye Leng'an just now. Qian Gumeng was still so stupid that she couldn't see clearly. She would definitely come to a bad end.

Qian Gumeng and another student called Zhou Jie were sitting on the sofa nervously.

Zhou Jie was ranked eleventh in this qualifier. If they could prove that Ye Leng'an cheated in the qualifier, then Ye Leng'an's qualification to participate in the competition would be revoked. Zhou Jie would then be able to climb up the rank correspondingly and be eligible to participate in the training and competition. Therefore, this time, she came in as a representative.

Originally, when they were outside together with so many classmates and were emboldened by each other, they seemed to be righteous. However, after entering the principal's office, the principal let them sit there and then ignored them.

The principal and Teacher Qian immediately started working. The two of them were holding a paper and discussing something, leaving the two of them just sitting there. They did not dare to open their mouths, feeling even more anxious.

Zheng Anyang naturally noticed Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie's awkwardness, but he didn't talk to them. It was really time to teach the students who didn't focus on their studies and were distracted by other things a lesson.

After an unknown period of time, someone finally knocked on the principal's office door. Soon, the security guard came in with a disc.

Very soon, they began to watch the surveillance video of the qualifier.

They finished watching very quickly. Because it only took Ye Leng'an a very little time to answer all the questions, probably less than half an hour. Throughout the entire process of the exam, she sat there obediently and answered the questions without any unnecessary movements. There was no sign of cheating.

Zheng Anyang and Qian Tong couldn't calm down for a long time after watching the surveillance video. They saw the excitement in each other's eyes when their gazes met.

When they saw Ye Leng'an's answer sheet, they were already very happy. To be able to hand in such a perfect answer sheet, Ye Leng'an was evidently capable in maths.

But now, they realized that such a perfect answer sheet was actually completed in less than half an hour. What did that mean? For most people, it would take half an hour to finish reading the questions. However, Ye Leng'an had already handed in her paper with perfect answers. She was simply a genius!

Now this genius belonged to their school. She was now only in Year One, how much glory would she bring to the school in the next two and a half years?

Zheng Anyang had a smile on his face. He could almost see the long face of the principal of Capital No. 1 High School after Ye Leng'an got first place in the Mathematical Olympiad.

Unlike Zheng Anyang who was excited, Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie's hearts seemed to have sunk to the bottom. They had come with full confidence to find the evidence of Ye Leng'an's cheating. However, after seeing the surveillance video, they couldn't find anything. From the beginning to the end,

Ye Leng'an was answering one question quietly..

Chapter 135: The Result 3

"Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie, you've already seen the surveillance video." Zheng Anyang stopped smiling. "Since it's already proven that Ye Leng'an didn't cheat, then you are slandering your classmates. Your punishment will be announced at the school meeting next Monday."

"No, Principal, I..." Zhou Jie was very anxious and looked like she was about to cry. "I'm not..."

She did not expect such an outcome. However, she knew that once this punishment was recorded in her file, it would be a stain and would have a great impact on her future.

"Principal, Ye Leng'an must have cheated. She knew the answers in advance." Even after seeing the surveillance video, Qian Gumeng still refused to believe that Ye Leng'an didn't cheat. She looked at Zheng Anyang with steady eyes. "Principal, Ye Leng'an only stayed in the examination hall for half an hour, but she got first place. Moreover, when she was doing the questions, she wrote down the answers without thinking. She must have known the answers in advance."

This was a reasonable doubt. While the others were racking their brains, Ye Leng'an only took a glance at the question and started writing the answer. Even the math teachers in the school probably couldn't do this! Also, getting first place in half an hour, wasn't this nonsense?

Although she didn't know how Ye Leng'an managed to get the answers, she was even more certain that Ye Leng'an had cheated.

Zhou Jie's eyes lit up when she heard Qian Gumeng's suspicion.

Zheng Anyang took a glance at Qian Tong as if he wasn't surprised that Qian Gumeng had such doubts.

Qian Tong immediately understood what Zheng Anyang meant. He turned around and walked over to the desk, picking up the paper they had just been looking at. In addition, he took another piece of paper from a corner of the table.

Zheng Anyang took the papers and placed them on the small coffee table in front of Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie. “Take a look. This is Ye Leng’an’s answer sheet. The other one is the standard answers for this qualifier. Originally, I planned to use Ye Leng’an’s answer sheet as a model for everyone. Since you guys are suspicious now, you can watch it first! After you’re done, you’ll know if Ye Leng’an cheated or not.”

Zheng Anyang was calm, but it made Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie’s hearts sink again. They looked at the papers placed not far away from them. They were clearly only two pieces of paper, but at this moment, they seemed to weigh a thousand pounds in their eyes.

After a long time, Qian Gumeng was the first to pick up Ye Leng’an’s answer sheet and the standard answers and began to read them. Then, she realized that many of the answers on Ye Leng’an’s answer sheet were different from the standard ones. Although the result was the same, the process was very different. Did this mean that the teacher had made a mistake when marking the papers?

At this moment, she completely forgot that Zheng Anyang and Qian Tong had been discussing this paper just now, and she was completely immersed in her own discovery, “Principal, Ye Lengan’s solving steps were wrong. Although the answer was the same, some steps were different. This meant that she had cheated. She only remembered the answers but not the steps.”

Zhou Jie was also very excited to hear that. She immediately took the answer sheet from Qian Gumeng’s hand and began to read it. In the end, she had the same discovery as Qian Gumeng.

Qian Gumeng looked at Zheng Anyang and said sternly, “Principal, I don’t know where Ye Leng’an got the test questions and answers. I think we should investigate this properly. Now, it is not just a matter of cheating. It might also involve the leaks of examination papers.”

Zhou Jie nodded vigorously. “Principal, I found myself in agreement with Qian Gumeng. I think the school should give merciless punishment to such behavior.”

Qian Tong looked at the two students in front of him as if they were fools. Only now did he know that there were people who were so senseless. Didn’t they see that he and the principal were discussing Ye Leng’an’s answer sheet? If there really was a problem, why would they be willing to publicize it to all the students and use it as a model?

Zheng Anyang took back Ye Leng’an’s answer sheet and said, “That’s right. Ye Leng’an’s answer sheet has many steps that are different from the standard answers. However, you have to know that these are math questions. There are many ways to answer a question, and the steps can also be different. I know that you don’t understand these steps. However, it doesn’t mean that it is wrong just because you don’t understand it..”

Chapter 136: The Result 4

“Ye Lengan used a lot of equations that you will only learn in university. She has a wide range of knowledge and has even mastered a lot of university mathematics knowledge. So, do you still think that she cheated in this qualifier?”

Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie were speechless.

At this moment, they had no choice but to accept the fact that Ye Leng'an really did not cheat. She had relied on her own abilities to achieve such results. And they were about to pay the price for their actions.

Seeing that Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie were speechless, Zheng Anyang nodded and continued, "Since you didn't refute, it means that you agree with the result. Your punishment will be announced at the school meeting next Monday. You can all go back!"

Qian Gumeng and Zhou Jie were ashen. They stood up lifelessly and left the principal's office.

However, after leaving the principal's office, Zhou Jie hurled her shoulder at Qian Gumeng when walking past her. Then, she apologized blandly and left.

At this moment, she was blaming Qian Gumeng. Because, at the beginning, she did not have such thoughts and plans. Although she was unconvinced, she still accepted the result.

However, it was because of Qian Gumeng's encouragement that she made such a wrong decision. Now, not only was she not qualified to participate in the competition, but she also had to face the school's punishment. It would be impossible for her not to feel resentful.

Watching Zhou Jie leave, Qian Gumeng cursed in a low voice, "Are you f*cking crazy?"

She knew why Zhou Jie was like this, but she also felt that she herself was very innocent. Zhou Jie did this out of her own free will and certainly had her own thoughts. Now, Zhou Jie wanted to blame everything on her. How crazy!

"Gumeng, how is it?" As soon as Ye Xiyuan saw Qian Gumeng come out, she immediately walked forward with concern on her face.

However, compared to Qian Gumeng, she was more concerned about Ye Leng'an's punishment. In her heart, she firmly believed that Ye Leng'an had cheated. Therefore, she had been waiting to see what would happen to Ye Leng'an.

"There's no need to ask." Before Qian Gumeng could speak, Zhao Yanran walked over, gloating, "Just look at her face and you'll know. It looks like she got off to a bad start and suffered a double loss after trying to trick the enemy."

When she saw Qian Gumeng walk out dejectedly, she could guess the result. If they really caught Ye Leng'an cheating, Qian Gumeng would definitely glow with pride. As expected, nothing good would come out of going against Ye Leng'an. It was time for Qian Gumeng to have a taste of this.

Ye Xiyuan was stunned for a moment, then she squeezed Qian Gumeng's hand harder. "Gumeng, is it true? Leng'an didn't cheat, right?"

"It hurts!" Qian Gumeng felt a burst of pain in her wrist. She looked down and saw that Ye Xiyuan was holding her hand tightly.

"I'm sorry!" Ye Xiyuan quickly withdrew her hand and looked apologetic.

"Gumeng, I was worried about you, so I was a little anxious."

Qian Gumeng wasn't angry. She looked at Ye Xiyuan with a dejected expression on her face. Then, she forced a smile that looked quite strange. "Xiyuan, Ye Leng'an didn't cheat. She got that results based on her own strength. When we were in the principal's office just now, we'd already seen the surveillance video and Ye Leng'an's answer sheet."

"Is that so?" The smile on Ye Xiyuan's face froze for a moment, but she quickly recovered. She seemed to be very happy for Ye Leng'an. "I knew that my sister wasn't such a person."

Then, she seemed to have thought of something and immediately looked at

Qian Gumeng with concern. "Then what about the punishment that the principal just mentioned..."

"The principal said that it would be announced at the school meeting next Monday." Qian Gumeng pulled a long face. "I didn't expect that there would be such a stain on my file."

At this moment, she couldn't explain what she was feeling. This matter actually had nothing to do with her. She had done so much just for her good friend. However, Xiyuan had been trying to persuade her not to make a big deal out of it.

Therefore, she really did not know who to blame now. She could only blame herself for being too impulsive.

"You deserve it." Zhao Yanran had a bright smile on her face. "You've done too many bad things, now it's payback time!"

"You..." Qian Gumeng was furious when Zhao Yanran hit her while she was down. "Zhao Yanran, did I offend you? Why are you mocking me? Also, if you hadn't kicked up a fuss here, I wouldn't have..."

"Don't drag me into this." Zhao Yanran laughed coldly. "You didn't do this for me. You know very well why. Aren't you just trying to please Ye Xiyuan so that she can matchmake you and Li Deze? Qian Gumeng, I really didn't notice it before! I didn't expect you to be so infatuated!"

Hearing Zhao Yanran's words, Qian Gumeng was flustered and immediately retorted, "I don't know what you're talking about. Xiyuan and I are good friends. It has nothing to do with anything else. Also, who told you that I like Li Deze?"

She didn't know where Zhao Yanran found out about these things, but she was worried that Ye Xiyuan would have some thoughts after hearing this.

"Hehe, if you don't want people to know, don't do it." When Zhao Yanran looked at Qian Gumeng, there were complicated feelings in her eyes. "You will get your retribution for what you have done. This punishment is the best proof."

"I didn't." Qian Gumeng turned around and looked at Ye Xiyuan. She explained anxiously, "Xiyuan, I don't have any intention of using you. I really treat you as a good friend. I..."

"Gumeng, you don't need to explain, I believe you." Ye Xiyuan smiled gently, then turned around and looked at Zhao Yanran. "Yanran, I know that you misunderstood me because of what my sister said before, so you've been targeting me like this. It's okay to target me, but please don't do that to Gumeng. She didn't do anything. You can't treat her like this just because she's close to me."

"Ye Xiyuan, you're really an angelic b*tch!" Zhao Yanran smiled disdainfully. "Then let me tell you, not only do I hate you, but I also hate Qian Gumeng. So, you have to get used to this in the future.."

Chapter 137: A Strange Village 1

"Zhao Yanran, are you crazy!" Qian Gumeng couldn't help but barked, "You turned out like this because of Leng'an. It has nothing to do with us! If you want revenge, go find Ye Leng'an! Why are you targeting us here?"

"Don't pretend to be innocent." Zhao Yanran smiled disdainfully. "Your tricks can fool others but not me. Qian Gumeng, I'm really looking forward to the school meeting next Monday! It'll definitely be exciting."

After that, Zhao Yanran turned around and left.

Qian Gumeng stomped her feet in anger.

At this moment, in the forest of the southern boundaries.

Ye Leng'an knew nothing about what had happened in the school, and she did not know that the principal had helped her solve a modest problem. She had been in the forest for a few days now, but she could not find the herbs she needed.

At this moment, everyone was resting on the spot.

Ye Leng'an took a sip of water and then looked at Huangfu Ruiling, saying with a frown, "It's not a good idea for us to search aimlessly. The forest here is so big. If we have to search through the forest by mere walking, who knows how long it will take."

If this continued, not to mention three months, even if it was three years, they might not be able to find the Baizhe Wood and the Yuanyang Flower. But Zhongyu Yiran couldn't wait that long.

Huangfu Ruiling frowned. "Is there any other way?"

Previously, he had already sent many people to look for the herbs, but there were no results. They had been in this forest for a few days, but they didn't find anything.

After thinking for a moment, Ye Leng'an said, "Looks like we still have to find the locals of the southern boundaries. I think that there must be some of the locals who have the medicinal herbs we need."

"I've already offered a high price to the locals for the medicinal herbs." Huangfu Ruiling shook his head. "If the locals really had had them, they would have taken them out long ago."

He had already thought of such a method. If they could really get the herbs in this way, they wouldn't be here right now.

After hearing Huangfu Ruiling's answer, Ye Leng'an shook her head in amusement. "Then you are wrong. There should be someone in the southern boundaries who have these two herbs. It's just that you don't know the locals. We are now in the southern boundaries. Anyone who knows and possesses these herbs must raise Gu. These people don't care about money, they care more about their Gu worms. No one will be willing to trade them even if you offer a high price."

Huangfu Ruiling frowned.

Ye Leng'an asked after thinking for a while, "Do you know where Zhongyu Yiran went when she came to the southern boundaries back then? If we can find the person who poisoned her with Gu, it will be even better than finding the medicinal herbs."

Huangfu Ruiling looked at Li San behind him.

Li San understood and immediately replied, "I've investigated before, but I only know that Miss Yiran came to this area. As for where exactly the place is, I can't find out at all."

"There are many villages in the southern boundaries. Why don't we take a look at the nearby villages today?" Ye Lengan suggested, "We can also take a look and see if the people there have collected the two types of herbs we're looking for."

Led by a local, they soon arrived at a village. This village was in the jungle. They wouldn't be able to find it without the help of that local.

Although it was already the 21st century, this village still retained the natural state of the past. There were no brick buildings in the entire village. All the houses were made of wood.

The local walking in front introduced, "The people in this village rarely go out. They have lived here for generations. Therefore, this place still maintained its traditional atmosphere. But..."

The man lowered his voice. "Be careful when you're here. Don't offend the people here. I heard that they are quite vengeful. I don't know what methods they use. Some people who offended them were fine here, but after they returned home, they died in various strange ways. Of course, I don't know if this is true or not. I just heard it from others.."

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Hearing the words of the guide, Ye Leng'an immediately thought of the Gu worms. If what the guide said was true, then the people in this village were very likely to know how to raise Gu worms.

Then three years ago, it was very likely that Zhongyu Yiran had also been here. She might even have been poisoned here.

After Huangfu Ruiling heard these words, he remained very calm, as if he did not notice anything. However, Ye Lengan knew that he probably had the same guess as her.

“Is that so?” Ye Leng’an smiled and said casually, “But the people here are all very sunny and don’t seem to be the ones you said!”

Indeed, although this village looked simple and quaint and the inside seemed very backward, the people here all had smiles on their faces. It seemed that they were very satisfied with this kind of life.

The guide smiled embarrassedly. “Actually, what I said just now was just rumors. I’m not very sure what the actual situation is. The people here rarely go out. Usually, they will only interact with outsiders when they come here.”

“I see!” Ye Lengan looked at Huangfu Ruiling and said coquettishly, “Brother Ruiling, let’s stay here for two days, okay?”

That coquettish voice gave people goosebumps.

Even Ye Leng’an almost couldn’t stand that. However, there was no other way. They couldn’t directly show that they came all the way here to the southern boundaries for the medicinal herbs! Therefore, they disguised themselves as travelers and pretended in front of other people that she and Huangfu Ruiling were family friends, and she was a pampered young lady from an aristocratic family.

Li San and the others couldn’t help but shiver when they saw Ye Leng’an being affectionate. When they looked at Ye Leng’an, their eyes were filled with indescribable emotions.

Huangfu Ruiling, on the other hand, had no change in expression. He just nodded. “Since you want to, then we will stay here for a few more days!”

Li San immediately stepped forward, took out a wad of money from his pocket, and handed it to the guide. “I’ll have to trouble you to help me communicate to see if there’s any place we can stay. We plan to stay here for a few days. Of course, the price is not a problem.”

Though Li San was silent at normal times, after coming to the southern boundaries, he was in charge of almost all external matters.

The guide’s eyes lit up when he saw the thick stack of bills. After taking the money, he said with a smile, “These are all small matters. I’ll go and communicate with the old tribe leader of this village immediately.”

When he accepted the mission previously, he knew this group of people in front of him was very rich. During this period of time, he was even more certain of this idea. Unexpectedly, he was really lucky this time. After completing this mission, he could almost earn the money he earned in the previous whole year.

After the guide left, Ye Leng’an came to Huangfu Ruiling’s side. She bent down and whispered in Huangfu Ruiling’s ear, “No matter what I do later, don’t resist. Do you understand?”

Huangfu Ruiling looked at Ye Leng'an in surprise, but he didn't ask anything. Instead, he nodded to show that he understood. Then, he felt something covering his body. That feeling disappeared in an instant. If he hadn't been paying attention, he might have missed such a change.

However, he remained silent. Even the expression on his face did not change, as if he did not feel anything.

Ye Leng'an raised her eyebrows. She knew that Huangfu Ruiling was suspicious. However, she had no choice. This village was not ordinary. The people inside might have raised Gu worms. Huangfu Ruiling's murderous aura was so strong that even poisonous creatures did not dare to approach them, let alone the Gu worms!

Gu worms survived after fighting with other poisonous creatures. One could imagine how much more powerful those Gu worms were than ordinary poisonous creatures. It was precisely because of the strength of Gu worms that they were more sensitive to danger.

She dared to say that with Huangfu Ruiling's murderous aura, if the people in this village were really raising Gu worms, the Gu worms in the entire village would probably riot when he got closer. At that time, the villagers would probably be alerted before they even entered the village. Therefore, she could only cover Huangfu Ruiling's body with faint spiritual energy, hoping to temporarily cover up the murderous aura on his body..

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As for how long it could be concealed, that depended on how long the spiritual energy would be devoured by the murderous aura.

Thinking of this, Ye Leng'an felt that she really suffered a huge loss this time. She didn't know whether she would still be paid for Zhongyu Yiran's treatment in the future. Now, she had to come all the way to the southern boundaries and use her spiritual energy. No matter what, she would be at a loss.

Above all, it was all her fault for being young and inexperienced back then. She found such a tough guardian for herself without investigating.

Huangfu Ruiling seemed to have sensed Ye Leng'an's low spirits. He gave her an odd look with a frown as if he was wondering why she suddenly became this.

Ye Leng'an shook her head and stopped thinking about it.

Soon, the guide returned with a smile on his face. He looked at Huangfu

Ruiling and Ye Leng'an who were the leaders and said with a smile, "Mr. Huangfu, Miss Ye, I have already asked the tribe leader here. They are very hospitable and welcome you to stay. Also, he warmly invited us to stay at his house!"

Previously, he had become a guide for many other people and took them to other villages which were not as old as this one, but the people in those villages were very enthusiastic. It was obvious that although this village was somewhat isolated from the world, the people here were still as enthusiastic as the people in other villages.

“Is that so? That’s great.” Ye Leng’an was pleasantly surprised. Then, she urged, “Then what are we waiting for? Let’s hurry up there!”

Soon, the group arrived at the best house in the entire village. However, although it was the best house, it was only a little bigger and looked newer than the other houses. It was still made of wood. The only difference was that this house had two floors.

At this moment, a white-bearded old man stood in front of the door with a smile on his face. He looked like an ordinary old man next door.

“Little Hu, these are the guests you mentioned!” The old man, who was also the tribe leader of the village, walked forward and looked at the man in the lead, saying with a smile, “Beautiful and handsome! The most beautiful girl and the most handsome boy in our village can only be considered ordinary-looking in front of you!”

The guide, Little Hu, couldn’t help but reach out his hand and scratch his hair. They began exchanging a few words of greeting with each other.

It was still Li San who came forward to communicate on Huangfu Ruiling’s behalf.

Soon, their accommodations had been decided. Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Leng’an, and Li San stayed in the tribe leader’s house. As for the others, they stayed with the residents next to the tribe leader’s house. After all, there were more than a dozen people in total. The tribe leader’s house could not accommodate them all, so some of them had to stay in other places.

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an lived opposite each other.

After putting away her luggage, Ye Leng’an went to Huangfu Ruiling’s room. At this time, Huangfu Ruiling was drinking tea while Li San was cleaning up.

Ye Leng’an directly sat opposite Huangfu Ruiling. She picked up a teacup, poured herself a cup of tea, and drank it directly. In the end, she marveled,

“Wow, good tea.”

Huangfu Ruiling smiled and shook his head while looking at her, “Can you really tell if it’s good tea or not by guzzling?”

It was rare to see Huangfu Ruiling’s smile. Ye Leng’an stared in amazement for a moment.

She had always known that Huangfu Ruiling was good-looking. Or, perhaps it should be said that in this world, there were not many people who could compare to him. Even though she had been in the cultivation world for so many years, she had never seen such a handsome man.

However, Huangfu Ruiling had always been expressionless in the past, so even if he was very handsome, she didn’t find that attractive. Now, his smile gave her an indescribable feeling as if spring had come and flowers bloomed.

But, at this moment, Huangfu Ruiling really had the ability to make people lost in his charm!

“What’s wrong?” The smile on Huangfu Ruiling’s face disappeared and was replaced by a serious expression when he sensed Ye Leng’an’s absent-mindedness..

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He thought that something must have happened for Ye Leng'an to become like this.

"I'm fine. I was just thinking of something else." Ye Leng'an smiled embarrassedly and changed the topic immediately. "I just felt that this tea was too fragrant) so I wanted another cup."

She cracked a joke and kept laughing, but she was a little annoyed. She did not expect to be stunned by Huangfu Ruiling's smile. It was really embarrassing.

She was caught off guard! It turned out that she was also a hidden love-struck fool! What a sin!

Huangfu Ruiling raised his eyebrows at her expression. Obviously, he did not buy it at all. However, he didn't say anything and just silently poured her another cup of tea.

This time, she didn't drink. Instead, she held the teacup in her hand and smelled the faint fragrance of the tea. Looking at the faint steam, she asked, "Do you think that there's something strange about this village?"

He put down the teapot and said directly, "The people here are too enthusiastic."

She nodded. It seemed that he had the same thoughts as her. According to the guide, Xiao Hu, the people in this village rarely went out. It could even be said that they lived an isolated life here. However, shouldn't people in such a place be very xenophobic? At the very least, they should be very resistant and wary of outsiders.

However, the people here were not on guard against their visit. Instead, they were welcomed very much. And that tribe leader only praised them and didn't even ask about where they came from the beginning to the end. If a stranger came to stay, didn't they ask who the person was?

All of this seemed normal, but the details were weird.

"Although we are not sure that the people in this village raise Gu worms, the only thing we are sure of is..." A hint of seriousness flashed across Ye Leng'an's eyes. "This village isn't as simple as it seems. It can even be said that this place is full of danger."

"It's too early to say anything now." He furrowed his brow. "I'll ask Li San to snoop about in the middle of the night to see if there are any clues."

"Alright." She nodded. "Furthermore, I am also very interested in the tribe leader's motives. He accepted a few outsiders to stay here for no reason. He couldn't do that for money. I always think that he may have other motives."

"Since we're here, let's accept it." He looked very calm. "No matter what his purpose is, it will eventually be exposed. We just have to wait."

"That's true." She nodded. "The tribe leader is very clear that we are only staying for a few days. Therefore, no matter what his purpose is, he will be exposed soon. After all, he does not have much time."

He continued to ask, "What kind of person do you think the tribe leader is?"

"He is definitely not a good person." She said without hesitation, "I feel that he definitely has blood on his hands, in a direct or indirect way."

She could tell that this tribe leader had a blood debt. Therefore, the tribe leader had connections with someone's life, maybe there was more than one person.

He nodded and then became more serious. "If the people here really know how to raise Gu worms, then the tribe leader must know how to do it too. In this case, we may be in a dangerous situation."

At this time, Li San walked over and asked, "Master, do you think we should send more people over? The situation here is unknown. If these people really know how to raise Gu worms, they will definitely be a huge threat to us."

The people they brought here this time were just ordinary people from the mortal world and were hired from the bodyguard company before they set off. Therefore, if they really had a head-on confrontation with these people who knew how to raise Gu worms, he was afraid that they would not have any chance of winning.

"It's fine." Ye Lengan shook her head and continued, "Previously, didn't I give everyone a sachet? As long as you carry the sachet with you at all times, the Gu worms will not be able to get close to you. Of course, if you lose it, then I won't be able to do anything to help."

Before leaving for the southern boundaries, she had already guessed that this might happen. Although they were here to find the medicinal herbs they needed, the herbs were just what they needed to deal with Gu worms. Then they might encounter people who raised Gu worms. Even cultivators might become vulnerable when facing Gu worms, let alone ordinary people!

Therefore, when they were on the plane, she gave everyone a sachet to guard against Gu worms.

Hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Li San looked at the sachet hanging on his waist and heaved a sigh of relief.

Although he had never seen what a Gu worm looked like, as long as it was a worm, it would not look good. So, if possible, he naturally did not want those insects to get close.

At this moment, Huangfu Ruiling suddenly asked, "When did you give out the sachets? Why didn't I know? Where's mine? Why don't I have one?"

Huangfu Ruiling happened to go to the lavatory when she was distributing the sachets on the plane, so he didn't know about this at all. Now that he heard that everyone had sachets except for him, he naturally felt very uncomfortable.

"You don't need it!" Ye Lengan was a little surprised that Huangfu Ruiling would suddenly ask such a question. "Those Gu worms don't even dare to get close to you. Why do you want the sachet?"

Previously, it was because Huangfu Ruiling had a murderous aura. Now, although the murderous aura on his body had been covered, he still had her spiritual energy!

Gu worms were poisonous creatures. They had a natural rejection of clean things like spiritual energy. Therefore, neither she nor Huangfu Ruiling needed the sachet.

“Since everyone has one, give me one too!” Huangfu Ruiling insisted, “You can’t be biased!”

Hearing that, Ye Leng’an felt a little speechless. “But I’ve already given out all the sachets in my hands. Now, there’s not a single one left.”

This was not a lie. She did not prepare too many. Previously, when they were on the plane, they were just enough. She didn’t have another one now.

“When you go back, make me another one!” Huangfu Ruiling spoke emphatically, “Whether it’s the outside or the inside of the sachet, only the one you make personally counts..”