

Full-Level 401

Chapter 401: The Deal 1

In truth, whether Li Qiaomeng could get out or not, or if something were to happen to her, Ye Xiyuan was completely indifferent. Otherwise, when Ye Anyun had asked for her help, she wouldn't have turned him down so decisively.

However, she now had a brilliant idea. Li Qiaomeng had been locked up for so long, and she may even face the threat of prison. It seemed that the person she hated the most right now should be Ye Lengan! As long as she used it wisely, this could be a very effective tool.

At this thought, a ruthless glint flickered in Ye Xiyuan's eyes. After hearing Ye Xiyuan's plans, both Ye Li and Lin Wanqin found themselves deep in thought. They seemed to be pondering the likelihood of such an approach's success.

After a long pause, Ye Li seemed somewhat swayed, but his face bore signs of hesitation. "There is a certain logic to what you're suggesting. However, what if I manage to rescue Li Qiaomeng, and she continues to bother Anyun? What then? And Isn't Anyun dedicated to helping Li Qiaomeng? Will he let go of her that easily?"

"Dad, you should persuade Brother," Ye Xiyuan suggested. "As long as you lay out the costs and benefits for him, he will surely know what to do. As for Li Qiaomeng, I will visit the Public Security Bureau tomorrow to see her. After all, if we genuinely intend to rescue her, we may need her cooperation."

After a moment's contemplation, Ye Li finally nodded in agreement. "Alright, I'll heed your advice this time. However, I will need to give your brother a piece of my mind."

Ye Xiyuan nodded her agreement. However, Lin Wanqin appeared somewhat concerned. "Xiyuan, you're still recovering. Is now a good time to visit Li Qiaomeng? You don't need to rush. You can go once you've completely recovered.'

Compared to Li Qiaomeng, who had already left a negative impression despite never meeting her, their daughter's well-being was, of course, far more critical.

"Mom, I'm fully recovered now." Ye Xiyuan smiled, shaking her head before continuing, "These were merely superficial wounds."

Despite her continued worries, Lin Wanqin chose not to persist in hearing Ye Xiyuan's reassurance.

At the Nangong family's residence, Murong Yanshu instructed the butler to issue invitations in her name for everyone to bear witness to her acknowledging a goddaughter after coming back.

Upon hearing Murong Yanshu's instructions, the butler paused. "Madam, will the invitation be sent out under your name and not the Nangong family's?"

This surprise came because he remembered that the madam had intended to adopt the goddaughter under the family's name.

“I’ll use my name,” Murong Yanshu said coolly. “Ye Xiyuan saved me, so displaying my gratitude is enough. Using the Nangong family’s name will accord her too much honor.”

Initially, she did plan to take Ye Xiyuan as goddaughter under the Nangong family’s name. However, after Ye Xiyuan accepted today, she changed her mind. She had a good impression of this girl who had saved her, but she seemed too cunning.

Ye Xiyuan likely disliked her decision but masked her discomfort well. Despite her reluctance, upon hearing Xuyao’s approval, she swiftly chose the kindest outcome for herself.

It wasn’t to say that that decision was wrong. It simply left Murong Yanshu feeling uneasy. Admittedly, using the Nangong family’s name to legitimize the adoption had its advantages, but it also held potential implications for the family. This realization led to her sudden change of heart.

After hearing Murong Yanshu’s response, the butler didn’t dare push further. Instead, he set about choosing an auspicious date for the banquet.

Interrupted by an unforeseen incident last time, the New Year’s banquet could use this opportunity for a grand do-over, extending an invitation to the members of all major families.

While Murong Yanshu and the butler were discussing the plans, Nangong

Xuyao strolled in from outside.

His face was solemn, his emotions indiscernible.

“Xuyao, you’re back!” Murong Yanshu waved at him. “Come and sit down first..

Chapter 402: The Deal 2

“Today, I visited the Ye family to finalize the adoption of my goddaughter. Any thoughts about this?” Murong Yanshu said. As she spoke, her gaze remained on Nangong Xuyao, seeking any hint in his expressions. Xuyao used to be quite resistant to this idea. Although he had given his consent later, something about it felt rather unreal to her. Taking advantage of this moment, she wanted to get a clear view of his thoughts.

“That seems fine to me. If it makes you happy, it’s good.” Nangong Xuyao’s face showed no apparent emotions. “This is a trivial matter, no need for any special notification.”

The mere mention of Ye Xiyuan stirred up feelings of disgust in him. His recent feeling of being fooled by her, thinking she was his savior, only deepened his dislike for her.

“Xuyao, are you really okay with this?” Murong Yanshu pressed on, “I’ve already instructed the butler to arrange for a suitable day for this celebration. The party will happen very soon.”

“Mother, such a trivial matter, I genuinely couldn’t care less,” Nangong Xuyao was somewhat speechless. “Or, do you think I should object now? If I do, won’t that make you angry?”

Hearing this, Murong Yanshu simply nodded and carried on, “Your shift in attitude is quite abrupt. One moment, you were starkly opposed, and the very next, you agreed with my terms. I won’t deny it felt a bit surreal.”

“Truth is, I just managed to clear my thoughts,” Nangong Xuyao replied with a smile, although his eyes were filled with a cold intensity. “Many things, and people, aren’t as simple or innocent as they seem. Bottom line, if I’ve made a mistake, I’ll admit to it. Stopping the damage in the early stages is always better than digging yourself into a deeper hole.”

“Xuyao, did something happen?” Murong Yanshu, narrowing her eyes and observing Nangong Xuyao closely, asked, “Or did a misunderstanding arise?”

“Certainly, there has been a misunderstanding,” Nangong Xuyao answered, a cynical smile on his face. “But now, everything has been clarified. They indeed were misunderstandings; everything was a misunderstanding.”

Recalling this, Nangong Xuyao’s gaze was icy cold. He could hardly believe that he had been manipulated and fooled by Ye Xiyuan. But tricking him came with a price. On the banquet day, he intended to deliver Ye Xiyuan a special gift, a gift she would never forget.

Murong Yanshu felt a little puzzled seeing Nangong Xuyao’s demeanor, but she didn’t inquire further. She knew that if Nangong Xuyao wanted to disclose anything, he would do it naturally. She wasn’t the type to pry. Besides, it didn’t look like this matter was a threat to the Nangong family, which made her even more indifferent.

The next day, Ye Xiyuan left for the Public Security Bureau after breakfast.

On the police side, they were quite surprised to know that Ye Xiyuan was there to see Li Qiaomeng. Since the incident, Li Qiaomeng had no visitors. The sudden visitor, who seemed unrelated, was quite unexpected.

Li Qiaomeng was also taken aback when she heard someone had come to visit her. She had been staying in the detention cell since the incident and had no visitors.

Her mother came to see her once, but it didn’t end well.

Each day was distressing for Li Qiaomeng. She was unsure if she would ever get out, let alone plan for the future,

Now, after everything, she was unsure if she could return to school. Although she had threatened her mother about dropping out in the past, she never actually considered it. She knew how much effort she had invested in getting into university.

Furthermore, she firmly believed that attending university was her only way out and her only chance to escape from their impoverished hometown..

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However, now it was all over.

A criminal record meant that the school would certainly expel her. With no university degree and a criminal record, what prospects would she have left? Could she really go back to that impoverished locale and live an inconsequential life for the rest of her days?

She wasn't willing to accept this. She indeed found it hard to reconcile with it.

She was baffled. This situation wasn't a big deal, so why was Ye Lengan so obstinate about it? Ye Lengan, who was so affluent, why couldn't she just let them off the hook? She only borrowed the villa for a bit, not causing any harm!

This issue bore no loss for Ye Lengan. Why couldn't she forgive the mother-and-daughter duo? Additionally, her mother looked after Ye Lengan for a while! How could Ye Lengan be so cold-hearted?

While in the middle of her thoughts, the police had already escorted Li Qiaomeng to the visitor's room. When she saw the person inside, she was somewhat startled. She didn't recognize the girl on the inside, at all.

The girl waiting inside the visitor's room looked very young. Yet, she had an attractive face, and her designer clothes made her look dignified. Clearly, she again was a rich heiress, born with a golden spoon.

However, she was sure, she did not know this person. Hence, she was puzzled, wondering why the other wished to see her.

"Hello, can I ask who you are?"

Li Qiaomeng looked at the wealthy girl sitting across from her, her face filled with questions.

"You don't know me, but, you surely know my brother." Ye Xiyuan faced Li Qiaomeng, who looked pale and haggard, looking nowhere near her early twenties, and casually stated, "My brother is Ye Anyun."

"Anyun!" Upon hearing the name Ye Anyun, Li Qiaomeng instantly became agitated. "Did Anyun ask you to find me? Is he going to get me out?"

Coming to the public security bureau, she finally realized that her boyfriend, Ye Anyun's identity, wasn't as simple as it seemed.

Ye Anyun had tried to get a lawyer for her bail once, but for some reason, it didn't transpire. She had thought that Ye Anyun had abandoned her, but seeing his sister now, she felt as if she had found a lifeline.

"The person who can help you isn't my brother, but my father," Ye Xiyuan said, incredibly calm. "Unless my father chooses to help, our family won't intervene. My brother is still studying, even though he joined the company, but for now, he can't use the family's influence to assist you."

Seeing Ye Xiyuan's demeanor, Li Qiaomeng, initially filled with excitement, gradually calmed down. She clumsily articulated, "Then, what are you saying, really? What's your purpose for coming here?"

She didn't think the girl came here just to tell her that Ye Anyun couldn't assist her. She was sure there was an ulterior motive for her visit. This could probably be her only chance.

"Do you want to be free?" Ye Xiyuan's lips pulled into a tempting smile. "My brother can't assist you, but I'm certain I can."

"I have to get out." Li Qiaomeng, in her excitement, clutched Ye Xiyuan's hand.

"As long as you help me, whatever you want me to do, I'll agree."

She was no fool. She didn't think the stranger would help her out of the kindness of their heart.

"Excellent. I prefer smart individuals. Rest assured though, you'll be perfectly willing to carry out what I want you to do," Ye Xiyuan said, a cold smile curling up the corners of her lips. "You would know why you've been holed up here, facing an imminent sentencing. This is, after all, a trivial matter. If Ye Lengan was willing to settle it, it wouldn't end like this."

Hearing Ye Xiyuan talk of Ye Lengan, a glint of hatred flashed in Li

Qiaomeng's eyes. "She's relying on her wealth, acting cold-bloodedly ruthless, oppressing someone as insignificant as us. Despite suffering no loss, she's now hell-bent on seeking so-called justice."

"Excellent. It seems we share common ground." Ye Xiyuan nodded in agreement. "We share the same adversary, Ye Lengan. I can certainly help you get out. But there is a precondition. You need to assist me in dealing with Ye

Lengan. When the moment comes, you will not refuse anything I ask of you.."

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"Do you also bear a grudge against Ye Lengan?" Li Qiaomeng asked, her brow furrowed in suspicion. "What exactly intersects between you two? I seem to remember..."

Suddenly, as if she had remembered something, Li Qiaomeng's voice heightened. "The person who went last time to the villa seeking Ye Lengan was you."

Back then, during Ye Xiyuan's visit to the villa, Li Qiaomeng had opened the door. However, her mother had eventually stepped in to host the visit, making her forget about having crossed paths with Ye Xiyuan. Unexpectedly, this person turned out to be Ye Anyun's younger sister.

"The grudge between Ye Lengan and me is none of your concern," Ye Xiyuan retorted, a flicker of frost in her eyes. "You just need to answer, are you willing to help me deal with Ye Lengan?"

For a moment, Li Qiaomeng teetered on indecision. On one hand, she desperately wished to abscond from the current situation. Yet, assisting Ye Xiyuan in combating Ye Lengan seemed to make her uncomfortable.

Indeed, Li Qiaomeng was unlike Ye Xiyuan, In the event of serious trouble, Ye Xiyuan could rely on her family's support while Li Qiaomeng had none. Wouldn't the eventual result be the same as the present? If so, what would be the purpose of her departure following their plan?

"I understand your concern," Ye Xiyuan spoke up again, "Even in dealing against Ye Lengan on my behalf, I assure you, your assistance will not be wasted. Take some time to reflect."

"Really?" Li Qiaomeng interjected, suspicion clear in her tone. "Aren't you afraid that I might initially feign acceptance, and later renege upon my departure?"

She indeed harbored such thoughts. Perhaps she should feign acquiescence for now and further strategize once she had left? Nonetheless, she felt sure Ye Xiyuan had a contingency in place. In trepidation, she couldn't help but voice her internal doubts.

"Do you dare?" Ye Xiyuan bit back, a taunting smile playing on her lips. "Ye Lengan trapped you here for a seemingly insignificant accusation. Could you really imagine that I'm unable to do the same? What Ye Lengan can do, so can

Furthermore, don't mistake me for Ye Leng'an's equivocal nature. If I deem it necessary, I can be even more relentless. At least I will assure you that you

will never get the opportunity to depart from here."

Ye Xiyuan's smile sent a chill racing through Li Qiaomeng. She could barely deny that if she conceded at this point, it would be akin to jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire. Nevertheless, if she refused, she'd invite imprisonment. Whichever choice she made, neither seemed beneficial to her.

For what felt like an eternity, Li Qiaomeng remained lost in her thoughts.

Observing Li Qiaomeng's mute form, Ye Xiyuan refused to hurry her. Faithfully, she believed Li Qiaomeng would reach a rational decision in the end.

Finally, after a long moment, Li Qiaomeng turned to look at Ye Xiyuan, her voice laced with hesitance. "Are you truly capable of arranging my departure from here? And the school..."

If she had the means to truly escape her current predicament, her lingering worry would be whether the school would unenroll her as a consequence.

"As long as you can safely extricate yourself from here, there'll be no issues with your academics," Ye Xiyuan calmly stated. "After all, as long as you're lawfully innocent, the school won't dare act recklessly. However, I have no power to prevent your peers' discussions and their gaze."

On hearing these words, Li Qiaomeng clenched her teeth. "If you can assure my safe departure, I can be your pawn. But, you must honor your promise to recompense me. Otherwise, don't blame me for betraying you."

She had already braced herself to face her classmates' raised eyebrows.

"Good." Ye Xiyuan gave a curt nod, continuing, "I can assist you, but you'll need to cooperate."

"What must I do to assist?" Li Qiaomeng urgently queried. "What do we need to do so we can leave here soon?"

"We?" Ye Xiyuan's eyebrow raised curiously.

"My mother and I!" Li Qiaomeng specified naturally, "Don't you plan to rescue us both?"

"Are you deluding yourself?" Ye Xiyuan sneered, "Only one of you can leave.

So, you'd better think it over."

"What do you mean?" Li Qiaomeng looked at Ye Xiyuan in disbelief.

"My meaning is simple. Let your mother take all the blame, and we'll figure out a way to get you out of here," Ye Xiyuan said disdainfully. "Do you really think the two of you can leave here unscathed together?"

"But if it's really like that, then I don't want your help at all!" Li Qiaomeng was quite displeased. "If it's just my mother taking all the blame, what's the point? Aren't you just trying to use us for your benefit?"

"Use you for my benefit?" Ye Xiyuan sat up straight, her eyes filled with disdain as she looked at Li Qiaomeng. "Do you think your mother hasn't considered taking all the blame and letting you go? Can she do it now without our help? If it weren't for us, no one would even listen to what you're saying."

Li Qiaomeng was too naive, thinking that finding a scapegoat would be so easy. Even if her mother was willing to take the blame, someone had to believe it to make it work.

Hearing these words, Li Qiaomeng stiffened, lost in thought.

"Think carefully about whether you want to do as I say or not," Ye Xiyuan said, not in a hurry at all. "But remember, once I leave today, I won't come back.

Your fate will be none of my concern."

"Fine, I agree," Li Qiaomeng finally agreed.

"I'll have someone communicate with your mother later. Just wait for my results." Ye Xiyuan nodded. "And after you're out, I'll give you some money to settle down. But

don't forget, when I need your help in the future, you must assist. Otherwise, I can get you out, but I can also put you back in. Next time, you won't be lucky enough to have someone rescue you."

Under Ye Xiyuan's menacing gaze, Li Qiaomeng couldn't help but shiver, feeling a sense of fear. But in the end, she nodded her head.

Ye Xiyuan was about to leave, but before she could turn around, Li Qiaomeng called her back..

Chapter 405: A Useful Tool 1

Turning back, Ye Xiyuan cast a casual look at Li Qiaomeng and asked, "Is there anything else you require?"

"And what about Anyun?" Li Qiaomeng reluctantly asked, "How is he doing now? Is he still holding something against me?"

"Li Qiaomeng," remarked Ye Xiyuan, as though hearing something amusing,

"Surely you don't still think that anything exists between you and my brother. Even if this current situation didn't exist, there's no chance of anything happening between you two."

Li Qiaomeng's mouth opened as if she wanted to say something but, in the end, she remained silent. She didn't know what she could or even should say.

With that, Ye Xiyuan turned around and departed, leaving Li Qiaomeng sitting there in silence, her thoughts inscrutable. It wasn't until the authorities arrived to escort her back to her cell that the silence was broken.

As it stood, the biggest piece of gossip in the high society was the Huangfu family suddenly deciding to change the family head. No one had anticipated that the Nangong family would make headlines first with their revelation of Mrs. Nangong's plans to adopt a goddaughter before the Huangfu family's banquet was held. The date was set and even preceded the Huangfu family's banquet, showing a clear urgency within the Nangong family.

Invitations to the families had already been dispatched.

Given Ye Lengan's status, naturally, she wouldn't receive any such invitation from the Nangong family. However, Huangfu Ruiling did receive one,

In the living room of the villa, there were only Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan. Huangfu Ruiling sat on the sofa while Ye Lengan lay across it, her head resting on Huangfu Ruiling's lap, an invitation from the Nangong family in her hand.

"Who'd have imagined the Nangong family acting so quickly!" Ye Lengan exclaimed, "The invitations were sent just now, and the banquet is to be held in two days. Is there a rush? Or does Mrs. Nangong genuinely favor Ye Xiyuan that much?"

"I believe the aim is to eliminate any possibilities between Ye Xiyuan and

Nangong Xuyao,” Huangfu Ruiling nonchalantly replied, playing with Ye Lengan’s hand. “As the matriarch of the Nangong family, Mrs. Nangong is not to be underestimated. She’s acting swiftly, precisely because she fears that Nangong Xuyao will take drastic actions because of Ye Xiyuan.”

“Then it sounds like Mrs. Nangong is also against the union of Nangong Xuyao and Ye Xiyuan,” Ye Lengan commented, discarding the invitation onto the table. “I thought that since Ye Xiyuan saved her life, Mrs. Nangong would naturally view her in a different light. Who would’ve thought that even with this supposed life debt, Mrs. Nangong continued to object to the relationship between Nangong Xuyao and Ye Xiyuan? It seems that Ye Xiyuan’s scheming has failed.’

“She has already started seeing Ye Xiyuan differently, otherwise she wouldn’t have agreed to take her as a goddaughter,” Huangfu Ruiling retorted, belittling Ye Xiyuan’s transparent intentions.

“Indeed Nangong Xuyao’s generosity is something to behold!” Ye Lengan marveled. “Despite knowing Ye Xiyuan’s deception at the onset, he acts as if nothing has happened. He even tolerates Ye Xiyuan’s continuous ascension within the Nangong family.”

“The relationship between Ye Xiyuan and the Nangong family isn’t of consequence,” Huangfu Ruiling casually replied. “Have you not read the invitation carefully? It is Murong Yanshu who’s adopting a goddaughter, not the Nangong family. This was a personal invite from Mrs. Nangong.”

“There’s such a distinction?” Ye Lengan commented, surprised. “I really wouldn’t have anticipated that. It seems Mrs. Nangong indeed errs on the side of caution! Even in the face of her savior, Ye Xiyuan, she remains prudent.”

“How can the matriarch of the Nangong family be a simple personality?” replied Huangfu Ruiling. “In her presence, Ye Xiyuan’s little tricks don’t amount to much.’

“Ha, it appears that Ye Xiyuan hasn’t realized this distinction,” said Ye Lengan, amusement apparent in her voice.. “But, what interests me is, what exactly is Nangong Xuyao’s perspective?”

Chapter 406: A Useful Tool 2

“Why should you concern yourself with his actions?” Huangfu Ruiling sounded a touch bitter. “Such a naive individual, he deserved to be taken advantage of.”

“Don’t be arbitrarily jealous,” Ye Lengan impassively responded. “I’m serious. Besides, if you hadn’t brought it up, I would have totally forgotten that I once saved Nangong Xuyao.”

“Seems I shouldn’t have mentioned it at all!” exclaimed Huangfu Ruiling, facepalming. “Whether you knew or not wouldn’t have impacted you.”

“That definitely won’t do,” Ye Lengan quickly retorted, “that’s a medical bill worth a billion! If I merely let it slide, it would pain me greatly!”

Listening to Ye Leng’an’s words, Huangfu Ruiling couldn’t help but lightly laugh. “You’re absolutely right, that medical bill is of significant importance.”

“Enough about all this, what’s the update on your family situation?” Ye

Lengan shifted subjects. “I can’t imagine your father simply agreeing to step down as family head!”

If he were truly amenable, then Zhongyu Liuying wouldn’t have lowered their pride and sought her out.

“He can’t cause any substantial trouble,” Huangfu Ruiling confidently responded.

“Regardless of his current intentions, it really doesn’t matter. Every decision is set in stone. Everyone needs to be accountable for their actions and words. His age doesn’t allow for a possibility of any regrets.”

“He must be extremely dissatisfied!” Ye Lengan chuckled. “I imagine him leaping around trying to stop you!”

“Indeed.” Huangfu Ruiling agreed with a nod, “He is currently persuading the elders of the Huangfu family, hoping they might intervene. He’s also been in contact with the group’s shareholders aiming for a similar outcome.”

Alas, no one was naive enough to accept Huangfu Jingzhangs proposition. Whilst personal benefit was an enticing argument, one needed to evaluate the overall situation. The majority of the Huangfu family’s influence fell under his control; no one dared to oppose him.

“In that case, I should watch this drama unfold!” Ye Lengan laughed.

“Fortunately, this doesn’t coincide with the National Mathematics Olympiad.

Otherwise, it would truly be disappointing.”

If there were indeed a clash with the Olympiad, she would have to grudgingly participate. After all, she had made a promise to the principal in the first place. It was due to this very commitment that she was permitted to miss the previous training session.

Promises were meant to be kept. Otherwise, next time, the principal might not permit her to leave. If that were to happen, it would indeed be lamentable.

“If there’s a conflict of schedule, couldn’t the date be adjusted?” Huangfu

Ruiling proposed indifferently, “Such a small issue can surely be resolved.”

“I’d rather not,” Ye Lengan playfully retorted, sticking out her tongue. “If we were to adjust, I’m afraid of being criticized! Even so, I’m sure your father would be quite grateful if I were to push it back, don’t you think?”

Huangfu Ruiling arched an eyebrow, unable to counter the point. He nonchalantly glanced at the invitation laid on the table, enquiring, “Will you be attending Mrs. Nangongs banquet?”

“Absolutely,” Ye Lengan replied immediately. “I won’t miss such an event!”

Shortly, it was time to return to school. Although she often sought leave, Ye Lengan made a few special exceptions. At the very least, the principal needed to occasionally witness her presence at school.

Both Ye Xiyuan and Qian Gumeng arrived at school the same day. Unusually, they did not appear as inseparable as before, their connection seemed distant.

However, those previously present at Ye Xiyuan’s birthday party were aware of the reasons. Therefore, everyone accepted the change without surprise. Soon, rumors circulated throughout the school. When some students gazed upon Qian Gumeng, their eyes held a strange curiosity though they refrained from malicious gossip.

Qian Gumeng, head bowed, made her way through the school campus. Anytime she chanced a glance at others, she became all too aware of their whispering and pointing fingers. Unable to handle such a transformation, she felt daunted to even lift her gaze to confront others..

Chapter 407: A Useful Tool 3

In fact, many of her former friends were not as enthusiastic as before when they saw her. Some of them even avoided her as if she was something dirty.

In the past, she and Ye Xiyuan were almost inseparable. But now, Ye Xiyuan had said that in order to avoid suspicion, it was best for them not to be seen together too often at school. Otherwise, it would arouse suspicion. If Li Deze

became suspicious and found out they were trying to frame Ye Lengan, it would definitely leave a bad impression on Li Deze.

However, the only thing that made her feel fortunate was that Ye Xiyuan had already promised to help her explain things to Li Deze. At that time, Ye Xiyuan would also facilitate a reconciliation between her and Li Deze.

Just as Qian Gumeng was walking with her head lowered, she accidentally bumped into someone. She was about to reflexively apologize when she saw who it was and almost jumped in shock.

“Ye Lengan, what are you doing here?”

Looking at Qian Gumeng who had collided with her, Ye Lengan couldn’t help but frown. “Do you understand the situation? It’s you who ran into me. What right do you have to shout and scream at me here?”

She hadn't expected to run into Qian Gumeng at this moment. She had been walking down the school path when she saw a message from Huangfu Ruiling. She went to the side to stop and read it and didn't expect to be bumped from behind before she could even reply.

Although it was partly her fault for not being alert enough, the main culprit should be the person who bumped into her, right? However, she was surprised that it turned out to be Qian Gumeng. Moreover, Qian Gumeng was clearly ready to play the victim and complain first.

"Ye Lengan, you still have the nerve to come to school," Qian Gumeng said resentfully. "You've ruined me to this extent, and now you actually dare to show your face in front of me?"

The person she hated most right now was undoubtedly Ye Lengan. At the banquet, although there was no evidence, she just knew Ye Lengan must have slipped that necklace into her bag. If Ye Lengan hadn't framed her, she wouldn't have to face these people's judgmental glances today.

"Qian Gumeng, don't spout baseless accusations," Ye Lengan said much more calmly. "The reason you ended up like this is because you got greedy and wanted to steal Ye Xiyuan's necklace. I didn't tell you to steal anything. What does it have to do with me?"

"Nonsense!" Hearing Ye Lengan's words, Qian Gumeng seemed rather flustered. "I didn't steal that necklace. You framed me. I..."

"I framed you?" Ye Lengan acted as if she had just heard a joke. "Qian Gumeng, why would I randomly frame you? There were so many people at the banquet. Why would it just happen to be you?"

"That's because..." The words were about to come out of her mouth, but she stopped abruptly.

Although Qian Gumeng was angry, she still maintained some rationality. She knew very well that there were some things she could not say. The reason why she was certain Ye Lengan had framed her was because the necklace was originally meant to be used to incriminate Ye Lengan.

"What, you can't say it, can you?" Ye Lengan sneered. "It was you and Ye

Xiyuan who conspired to use that necklace to frame me, right? But in the end, I didn't expect the necklace to show up in your bag. This is what you call harming others only to end up harming yourself! "

"It really is you!" Qian Gumeng said through gritted teeth. "Ye Lengan, you b*tch, I won't let you off."

Hearing the vulgar words from Qian Gumeng's mouth, Ye Lengan immediately slapped her across the face.

A crisp slapping sound rang out, and a bright red imprint appeared on Qian Gumeng's cheek.

As if caught off guard, Qian Gumeng was slapped before she could react, and she felt a fiery pain on her cheek. Even though she couldn't see it, she knew her cheek must be red and swollen by now.

“You hit me!” Qian Gumeng covered her face, as if unable to believe what was happening.

“That’s right, I was the one who hit you,” Ye Lengan said coldly as she looked at Qian Gumeng. There was no longer any hint of a smile on her face. “Qian Gumeng, if I hear such foul language from your mouth again, don’t blame me for what happens next. At that time, I won’t just hit you, I’ll make sure you can never speak another word again..”

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As she spoke, Ye Lengan didn’t bother to hide the cold aura emanating from her.

For a moment, as Qian Gumeng looked at Ye Lengan, she couldn’t help but shudder. However, soon after, a surge of anger overcame her. She rushed forward and raised her hand, intending to slap Ye Lengan. But before her hand could make contact, it was caught by a slender and delicate hand.

Although that arm appeared slender, and the hand petite, at this moment, it gripped her wrist like a pair of iron tongs, rendering her hand immobile. She even felt waves of pain emanating from her wrist, as if it might break at any moment.

“Qian Gumeng, do you want to hit me?” Ye Lengan looked at her coldly. “If you no longer want your hand, just let me know, and I can break it for you.”

“You...” Feeling the pain in her arm, tears welled up in Qian Gumeng’s eyes, and she begged, “Let go of me, Ye Lengan, please, let go.”

Just when Qian Gumeng thought her wrist was about to snap, the pain suddenly vanished.

“Qian Gumeng, don’t attempt to challenge my limits!” Ye Lengan stared at Qian Gumeng, her face devoid of any expression. “Furthermore, I mean what I say. If I hear any more foul language from you, give it a try and see if life as a mute is more pleasant for you.”

While Qian Gumeng tried to deny Ye Lengan’s words, she somehow felt that she wasn’t just making empty threats.

Thinking about this, she shivered involuntarily. However, she soon realized that she might be appearing too weak. Moreover, why had Ye Lengan hit her? Even her parents had never done that!

“Ye Lengan, you’ve openly committed violence in school. I’m going to report this to the principal!” Qian Gumeng gritted her teeth and glared at Ye Lengan.

“Let’s see if the principal will continue to protect you.”

“Feel free to do so,” Ye Lengan replied nonchalantly. “But when you do, don’t forget to explain the whole story. You and Ye Xiyuan tried to set me up, but it backfired,

leading to your own trouble. It would be great if you could let everyone at school know the extent of your collaboration with Ye Xiyuan."

"You..." Qian Gumeng hadn't expected Ye Lengan to show any fear. "It's all just your words, and you have no evidence."

"That's correct; I have no evidence." Ye Leng'an's lips curled into a mocking smile. "Just like you have no proof that the necklace was planted in your bag by me. So, in everyone's eyes, Qian Gumeng, you're a thief. And not just any thief, but someone who stole from her best friend. I think from now on, no one on this campus will want to be your friend!"

Ye Leng'an's words struck right at Qian Gumeng's pain points, nearly causing her to explode. "Ye Lengan, shut up. I'm not a thief. You're the one who did this to me, not the other way around."

"This has nothing to do with me." Ye Leng'an's tone suddenly softened. "Qian Gumeng, think it over. Why did you end up like this? Everything was masterminded by Ye Xiyuan, but in the end, you're the one taking the blame. Right now, you're seen as a thief by everyone, while Ye Xiyuan remains untainted. Is this the kind of friendship you share?"

Hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Qian Gumeng's conviction wavered slightly, but she quickly dismissed it. "No, Xiyuan isn't like that. Ye Lengan, don't sow discord here. I won't fall for your tricks."

"Am I truly sowing discord?" Ye Leng'an's tone remained unchanged as she continued, "Haven't you realized it yet? You're just a tool in Ye Xiyuan's hands. Do you genuinely believe you're good friends? If you were, why didn't Ye Xiyuan step forward to help explain at the banquet? She stood by idly while you faced trouble. In fact, this whole situation was orchestrated by Ye Xiyuan, and you were just an accomplice."

"You..." Qian Gumeng seemed to catch a whiff of a sweet scent but paid it no mind. Her entire focus was on Ye Leng'an's words. When she looked at Ye Lengan, her gaze flickered. "If you know everything, then why did you..."

Why did she frame her? Why her instead of Ye Xiyuan?

Though her rational mind told her that Ye Xiyuan was her true friend, she shouldn't have such thoughts. Yet, she couldn't help herself.

"Qian Gumeng, the person you should be questioning now isn't me, but your so-called good friend." Ye Lengan chuckled lightly. "Even your so-called friend left you in the lurch. She didn't even want to explain for you. Do you still expect others to?"

"No, Xiyuan isn't like that. She's just..." Qian Gumeng attempted to defend Ye Xiyuan but struggled to find the right words.

Perhaps, deep down, she was also blaming Ye Xiyuan.

“Qian Gumeng, it’s time for you to wake up,” Ye Lengan continued. “Think about it. How much have you done for Ye Xiyuan? In the end, you’re the one who takes the fall, while she hides behind you, playing the role of a saint.”

After hearing Ye Leng’an’s words, Qian Gumeng couldn’t help but recall the banquet, the times she stood up for Ye Xiyuan during the math competition, and how she always seemed to end up at a disadvantage.

Everything she did was for Ye Xiyuan, but when trouble arose, she was the only one who suffered the consequences, while Ye Xiyuan remained untarnished.

Ye Lengan drew closer to Qian Gumeng, her voice softening as she continued, “So, Qian Gumeng, don’t delude yourself. Ye Xiyuan has never considered you a friend. In her eyes, you’re just a useful tool..”

Chapter 409 - 409: Falling Out 1

Qian Gumeng continued to shake her head, saying, “No, it’s not like that. Xiyuan considers me a friend. She knows that I like...”

“Friend?” Ye Leng’an’s tone was dripping with sarcasm. “Don’t demean the word ‘friend.’ She clearly knew you liked Li Deze, so why did she keep getting so close to him without any regard?”

“How did you know?” Qian Gumeng’s tone held a hint of disbelief.

“Ye Xiyuan must have told you that she wanted to set you up with Li Deze!” Ye Lengan didn’t directly respond but continued, “But after all this talk, has there been any action? I believe you’re the only one still naively believing in

“Ye Lengan, are you saying all this just to sow discord between Xiyuan and me?” Qian Gumeng raised her head and looked at Ye Lengan.

“You know deep down whether I’m trying to sow discord.” Ye Leng’an’s tone carried a trace of pity. “However, if you choose to continue being Ye Xiyuan’s tool, that’s your own decision and not my concern. But if you cross my path, you should be aware of the consequences.”

After saying that, Ye Lengan straightened up, a smile on her face, and walked past Qian Gumeng, continuing on her way. Clearly, encountering someone she didn’t like hadn’t affected her mood.

However, almost inadvertently, she raised her hand, observing the residue of some powder on it, her smile growing even brighter.

Left behind, Qian Gumeng wore an especially strange expression, even bordering on madness.

Though she didn’t want to believe it, Ye Leng’an’s words had taken root and sprouted doubts in her heart. She kept trying to convince herself that Ye Xiyuan considered her a friend. However, whenever she thought about past events, her fragile trust began to crack.

Ultimately, Qian Gumeng couldn't contain her suspicions any longer and decided to seek out Ye Xiyuan. She desperately needed answers to prove that she wasn't a fool.

At that moment, Ye Xiyuan was in high spirits. News of her upcoming adoption as Mrs. Nangongs goddaughter had spread, and many people were already aware of it.

After all, the invitations had been sent out, and the banquet was just around the corner. She had never considered keeping such news a secret. Today, as she arrived early in the classroom, many students began to fawn over her. Word had already spread that she had a close relationship with the Nangong family's young master due to the previous banquet. Now, with her adoption as Mrs. Nangongs goddaughter, it seemed like she was officially connected to the Nangong family. Naturally, everyone wanted to befriend her.

Facing the flattery of her classmates, Ye Xiyuan was clearly delighted. However, she still maintained her humility and didn't let success go to her head. She responded kindly to everyone's well-wishes.

As a result, everyone's fondness for Ye Xiyuan continued to rise. She was about to become Mrs. Nangongs goddaughter, yet she remained friendly and down-to-earth, without any airs.

Just as the atmosphere was harmonious, Qian Gumeng suddenly burst into the classroom, looking highly agitated. She made a beeline for Ye Xiyuan.

'Qian Gumeng, why are you here?' one of the students spoke up. 'You stole Xiyuan's necklace at her birthday party, and she was gracious enough to let it slide. Do you have the nerve to come and find her?'

'Exactly, if I were you, I wouldn't even show up at school,' another student taunted. 'You're a thief, and you stole from your best friend.'

'I'm not a thief, I didn't...' Qian Gumeng repeatedly shook her head, trying to defend herself. At the same time, she cast a pleading look at Ye Xiyuan, hoping that she could offer an explanation.

'Alright, enough.' Ye Xiyuan raised her hand, silencing everyone. 'I believe that Gumeng isn't that kind of person. She must have had her reasons.'

As she spoke, she kept signaling Qian Gumeng to leave as soon as possible. Simultaneously, she felt a bit annoyed since she had previously advised Qian Gumeng not to approach her at school. What was the meaning of this? Qian Gumeng was here to stir up trouble again..

Chapter 410 - 410: Falling Out 2

Upon hearing Ye Xiyuan's words, those around them immediately began to praise her.

'Xiyuan, you're just too kind-hearted to forgive someone like Qian Gumeng.'

'Indeed! But, Xiyuan, even if you're kind-hearted, it's important who you're kind to! Someone like Qian Gumeng isn't deserving of your kindness.'

“Xiyuan, can you quickly explain for me?” Qian Gumeng, who was nearby, was already feeling flustered. “Clearly, it was you...”

Before she could finish her sentence, Ye Xiyuan interrupted her.

“Gumeng, let’s talk outside!” Fearing that Qian Gurneng might say something irreversible, Ye Xiyuan hastily took Qian Gumengs hand and said, “There are too many people here.”

Seeing Qian Gumeng’s current state, Ye Xiyuan worried that she might spill everything. If that happened, all the preparations she had made earlier would be in vain.

Qian Gumeng appeared as if she wanted to say more, but she was led out of the classroom by Ye Xiyuan.

The students left behind, observing the departure of the two, felt puzzled. At the same time, a strange sensation stirred within them, as if there were some secret between the two. It was at this moment that they couldn’t help but recall the events that had unfolded at the banquet.

It wasn’t until they reached a quiet corner of the campus that Ye Xiyuan released Qian Gumengs hand.

She then made an effort to contain her inner anger and looked at Qian Gumeng. “Gumeng, didn’t we agree not to get too close in school for the time being?”

“Xiyuan, why didn’t you speak up for me back there?” Qian Gumeng didn’t directly answer Ye Xiyuan but countered, “Aren’t we good friends? When I was being wrongly accused, you just stood by?”

“No, Gumeng, didn’t we discuss this before?” Sensing Qian Gumengs discontent, Ye Xiyuan’s voice softened slightly. “If we get too close now, people might suspect that we conspired to frame Ye Leng’an. That’s why she managed to turn the situation around. Wouldn’t everything we’ve done be in vain?”

“But right now, I’m the one suffering, not you.” Qian Gumengs reaction was somewhat intense. She appeared particularly aggrieved at this moment. “You’re still seen as a good person by everyone, but I’ve become a thief in their eyes.

“Gumeng, are you blaming me?” Ye Xiyuan seemed unjustly accused. “Aren’t we good friends? How could you say that?”

“Xiyuan, do you truly consider me a good friend?” Qian Gumeng asked directly. “If you really see me as a good friend, why did you let everyone falsely accuse me?”

Impatience flickered in Ye Xiyuan’s eyes, but she maintained a sincere expression. “Gumeng, if I didn’t view you as a good friend, why would I constantly speak highly of you in front of Brother Deze?”

She knew exactly where Qian Gumengs weakness lay. It was her affection for Li Deze. Unfortunately, things weren’t going as Qian Gumeng hoped. The situation with Nangong Xuyao

had already failed. While she still intended to pursue other eligible bachelors among the four prominent families, Li Deze remained a valuable backup option until a better prospect emerged. At this moment, she had no intention of losing this backup.

Her current words were merely meant to temporarily appease Qian Gumeng. She had no idea why Qian Gumeng was acting so recklessly today. If she truly revealed everything, her image would be tarnished.

“Li Deze?” Qian Gumengs eyes brightened at the mention of his name. “Did you really speak well of me in front of Li Deze? What about this time? Does he know that I’ve been falsely accused?”

“Of course!” Ye Xiyuan fibbed with wide-open eyes. “As soon as this matter was over, I promptly explained everything to Brother Deze. He knows that you were wrongly accused and that Ye Lengan framed you.”

“Really?” Qian Gumengs eyes displayed surprise, but soon she grew suspicious. “Are you trying to deceive me?”

“Gumeng, do you see me that way?” Ye Xiyuan appeared wronged.. “I’ve been trying to bring you two together, and yet you think of me like this!”