

Full-Level 471

Chapter 471 - 471: Gloating 3

Before this, although Huangfu Ruiling held great power, he had not considered taking the position of the family head. He didn't know why, but recently, he had suddenly changed his mind and removed Huangfu Jingzhang from the family heads position.

Hearing Nangong Xiyu's words, Zhongyu Liuyings expression stiffened. After she reached out to adjust her hair, she smiled and responded, "Sister-in-law, you've got it wrong. We are talking to Ruiling to discuss the family head transition. Besides, we are his parents. It's perfectly normal for us to seek him out. I'm not sure who's been gossiping without understanding the situation, causing you to misinterpret."

Nangong Xiyu's face then displayed a hint of mockery. "So, that's how it is. Seems like I made a mistake. But, sister-in-law, now that the big brother has stepped down as the family head, you've also given up your role as the family matriarch. In the future, you can relax and enjoy life. You won't have to worry about family matters anymore."

She couldn't believe that Zhongyu Liuying didn't value the power she held. All along, Zhongyu Liuying had taken pride in her status as the matriarch. Despite Huangfu Ruiling having taken away most of the family's authority, he hadn't shown any interest in the internal responsibilities. As a result, Zhongyu Liuying had complete control over these domestic affairs. However, she was now required to relinquish all her power.

In contrast to Huangfu Jingzhang, who had merely lost a title, Zhongyu Liuying had lost not just a title but also real influence. Nangong Xiyu couldn't believe that Zhongyu Liuying was as calm as she appeared.

As expected, after hearing Nangong Xiyu's words, Zhongyu Liuyings face immediately revealed a trace of displeasure. But she managed to force a smile, saying, "Sister-in-law, you're overthinking it. Although Ruiling has taken over as the family head, he hasn't married yet. I'll continue to manage the domestic affairs of the family for his sake."

In any case, she was unwilling to let go of her authority. Moreover, although Huangfu Ruiling was poised to become the family head, he hadn't specified how to handle the internal matters. As the family heads mother, she was obligated to help him with his worries, right?

Thinking about this, Zhongyu Liuying appeared more self-assured.

Hearing Zhongyu Liuyings response, Nangong Xiyu couldn't help but curse in her heart, but she concealed it on her face. "However, I'll still need to check with Ruiling later. After all, such matters should not be taken lightly!"

She didn't believe that Huangfu Ruiling would simply allow Zhongyu Liuying to manage domestic affairs indefinitely.

"No need." Zhongyu Liuying couldn't help but raise her voice, but she quickly realized that she had overreacted. She hastily composed herself before continuing, "Sister-in-

law, are you doubting my words? I am Ruilings mother, and that's a fact. Can't a mother manage the family's internal affairs for her own son?"

Originally, Huangfu Ruiling probably didn't care much about these issues, which was why he hadn't brought them up. If Nangong Xiyu raised the topic, Zhongyu Liuying might truly lose her authority within the family.

A hint of disdain crossed Nangong Xiyu's face, but she still wore a smile.

"Sister-in-law, I'm not doubting you. However, we must still follow the Huangfu family's traditions. The family internal matters have traditionally been managed by the family matriarch. However, if the family head is unmarried, the family head will make the choice. Although you are the family head's mother, you must adhere to the Huangfu family's rules."

Zhongyu Liuying's expression immediately darkened. When she looked at Nangong Xiyu, there was even a hint of threat and warning. "But don't forget, no matter what, Ruiling is my son. There are no grudges between mother and son overnight."

Upon hearing such a threatening remark, Nangong Xiyu smirked disdainfully.

"You've misunderstood me. I didn't say anything. I just plan to adhere to the Huangfu family's rules. Of course, if you think I'm mistaken, I won't say more. But some things are better expressed openly. Without the orders of the new family head, I don't know whether to listen to you or not.."

Chapter 472 - 472: Gloating 4

She wasn't afraid of Zhongyu Liuying! Even though Zhongyu Liuying was Huangfu Ruilings biological mother, the true nature of their relationship was well-known within the Huangfu family. If there were any chance of reconciliation, they wouldn't have remained at odds for so many years. Seeing Nangong Xiyu's gloating expression, Zhongyu Liuying ground her teeth in intense hatred.

Just as the two conversed, Huangfu Ruiling once again appeared at the banquet, with Ye Lengan by his side.

The attention of everyone in the room was involuntarily drawn to them. Huangfu Ruiling, seated in a wheelchair, wore a perfectly tailored black suit, which accentuated his elegance. His fair complexion, sharp features, and deep, captivating eyes exuded an aura of nobility and grace. Even in a wheelchair, his charm couldn't be concealed.

Ye Lengan, pushing the wheelchair, wore a flowing white evening gown. The silky gown gracefully enveloped her delicate figure, shimmering like a flowing river. The gown was adorned with small pearls, forming delicate floral patterns, lending an air of sophistication and regality. Her ethereal presence complemented Huangfu Ruilings elegance, and she was far from being overshadowed.

It could be said that when these two were together, they resembled a perfect couple, their beauty and elegance undeniable. Many of the women present couldn't help but feel jealous.

After tonight's event, Huangfu Ruiling would officially become the head of the Huangfu family. Looking around, he was arguably the youngest family head among the top families in the capital.

Despite his youth, Huangfu Ruiling held tremendous power. This meant that marrying him would immediately elevate one to the position of the Huangfu family's matriarch. What a tempting prospect! Even Huangfu Ruiling's disability and the need for a wheelchair couldn't extinguish the fervor of their admiration.

In addition to his charisma, Huangfu Ruiling was unmatched in all other aspects. He was young, handsome, and wielded significant power. He was, in every sense, the ideal husband.

Yet, the person standing by his side was a relative unknown, not even hailing from a wealthy family, which only fueled the jealousy of the onlookers.

Sensing the fiery gazes of the elite young women in attendance, Ye Lengan spoke softly, "Ruiling, it seems you're truly a popular candidate for an ideal husband! Look at how many people are eyeing my spot in this gathering. If glares could truly kill, I'd probably have been torn to shreds long ago!"

"Don't speak nonsense," Huangfu Ruiling said with a slight frown upon hearing her description. "Those people have nothing to do with me, and you needn't be concerned. If you don't like it, I can have them removed."

"Please don't," Ye Lengan hastily intervened. "I'm just joking. On an occasion like this today, even if those women are envious and jealous, they can't harm me. Moreover, I quite enjoy these envious glances. It means my taste is excellent, as I've found a top-notch man like you!"

Huangfu Ruiling couldn't help but smile at her description of him.

The people below couldn't hear Ye Lengan and Huangfu Ruiling's conversation, but they could observe their expressions. When they saw the affectionate expression on Huangfu Ruiling's face, many of the young ladies' hearts shattered. Initially, they had entertained hopes, but the expressions exchanged between Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan signaled the difficulty of infiltrating their relationship.

Huangfu Jingzhang noticed this, too. However, unlike others, his present sentiments were a mix of disdain and disillusionment.

He had already lost his position as family head due to Ye Lengan's presence. Hence, he naturally didn't hold any goodwill towards Ye Lengan. However, he refrained from voicing his discontent now, as provoking the resentment of Huangfu Ruiling, this abominable offspring, could be detrimental.

Zhongyu Yiran was also present at the event.

She was clad in an elegant evening gown, which enhanced her already ethereal beauty. With a hint of pallor on her face, she exuded an even more pitiable charm, tempting several men.

These men were unaware of Zhongyu Yiran's background but knew she was always by Mrs. Huangfu's side and surnamed Zhongyu. This indicated that she likely belonged to the Zhongyu family, making her a suitable match for marriage. Moreover, her exquisite beauty made her even more alluring.

Zhongyu could sense the heated gazes of those men and didn't feel bothered. Instead, she felt a sense of accomplishment.

From their eyes, she understood that she effortlessly commanded men's attention.

However, when she saw the intimate interactions between Ye Lengan and Huangfu Ruiling, jealousy nearly compelled her to bite her silver teeth.

Nevertheless, she quickly regained her composure. She was well aware that her goal tonight wasn't Huangfu Ruiling but Huangfu Ruixiang. Moreover, this opportunity was singular. If she let it slip, her prospects of marrying into the Huangfu family in the future were almost nonexistent.

Furthermore, a failed attempt could lead to irrevocable consequences, as Zhongyu Liuying would undoubtedly not spare her.

With these thoughts, her eyes gleamed with determination.

If there was one person who was the most shocked, it would undoubtedly be Zheng Anyang.

Originally, he wasn't slated to attend this banquet. His elder brother, the current patriarch of the Zheng family, should have attended with his wife. In general, he had little interest in these types of events.

However, this time, his elder brother and sister-in-law were abroad and couldn't make it back, so he had to attend.

He never expected to encounter his student at an event like this..

Chapter 473 - 473: Power of Domestic Affairs 1

Zheng Anyang had never expected to see Ye Lengan here. Previously, he had heard rumors about Ye Lengan, so he had always thought that Ye Lengan was an adopted daughter who had been chased out of the Ye family. However, when he saw Ye Lengan give the Ye family 50 million without even blinking, he knew that he had underestimated her. Yet, he couldn't quite fathom the true nature of her.

Now, suddenly seeing her here, and with her accompanying Young Master Huangfu – or rather, the soon-to-be patriarch of the Huangfu family – he was genuinely taken aback. These two individuals, who appeared to have no connections, had somehow come together.

No one would believe they were merely friends; their intimate behavior suggested a couple deeply in love. For a moment, he found himself genuinely admiring Ye Lengan. She had managed to capture the heart of the normally aloof Huangfu family's young master, Huangfu Ruiling. Huangfu Ruiling was not the type to be easily moved.

Although he was taken aback, Zheng Anyang had no intention of approaching or greeting Ye Lengan. After all, this wasn't the most appropriate occasion.

The handover ceremony proceeded smoothly. However, everyone present understood that Huangfu Ruiling was now in full control. The so-called handover ceremony was merely a formality.

Huangfu Jingzhang's reluctance was evident to nearly everyone. He maintained a stern countenance, devoid of any smiles, and was disinclined to engage in prolonged conversations. This lack of

enthusiasm did not come as a surprise to the guests. After all, Huangfu Jingzhang was only in his fifties, and he could have held the position of family head for another ten to twenty years. However, now, he had been compelled to relinquish his position.

No one felt inclined to defend Huangfu Jingzhang. History had always been about winners and losers. In every aspect, Huangfu Jingzhang was inferior to Huangfu Ruiling. Even when he was the family head, real authority rested in the hands of Huangfu Ruiling. This transition simply made everything official.

After the handover ceremony, many approached Huangfu Ruiling to greet him. As the undisputed head of the Huangfu family, it was essential to build a good relationship with him.

Of course, not everyone was entitled to approach and greet Huangfu Ruiling.

From a distance, Huangfu Jingzhang watched with teeth-gritting envy as Huangfu Ruiling was surrounded by well-wishers. His muttered curses revealed his frustration and disdain for Huangfu Ruiling. However, regardless of his personal feelings, the course of events was now set in stone, and the family elders mostly sided with Huangfu Ruiling.

By himself, Huangfu Jingzhang was powerless.

On the sidelines, Zhongyu Liuying contemplated comforting her husband but struggled to find the right words. Her concerns also weighed on her mind she worried whether her authority within the family would be taken away. Consequently, her emotions were in turmoil.

“Sister-in-law, why are you still standing here?” Nangong Xiyu approached them with Huangfu Jingxian, wearing a smile. “The handover ceremony has concluded, and it’s time for you to congratulate Ruiling. Besides, you haven’t inquired whether Ruiling intends to retain your control over the family’s internal affairs.’

Nangong Xiyu’s words stiffened Zhongyu Liuying’s body, and she regarded Nangong Xiyu with a displeased expression. “Nangong Xiyu, you don’t need to meddle in this matter. Ultimately, the management rights of the domestic affairs won’t end up in your hands.”

Her unspoken message was that Nangong Xiyu was overstepping her bounds, verging on interfering in other people’s affairs.

“Sister-in-law, that’s not a fair thing to say.” Nangong Xiyu maintained her composure, smiling as she spoke. “After all, I’m also part of the family. I need to know who will be in charge of me in the future! Right now, Ruiling hasn’t explicitly stated whether the management rights of domestic affairs will remain in your hands.. In the future, should I follow your lead, or should I not?”

Chapter 474 - 474: Power of Domestic Affairs 2

“I’ll find an opportunity to clarify this matter in the future.” Zhongyu Liuying raised her head and coldly glanced at Nangong Xiyu before continuing,

“Sister-in-law, don’t worry so much. If you have time, focus on taking care of Ruihang. We don’t want him to cause any trouble that could harm the reputation of our Huangfu family.”

Hearing Zhongyu Liuying mention her son’s shortcomings, a dark glint flashed in Nangong Xiyu’s eyes, though she didn’t let it show on her face and maintained her smile. “Why wait for the future? Today’s occasion is just right, isn’t it? If you can’t bring yourself to ask, I can certainly do it for you.” However, Zhongyu Liuying seemed to underestimate the situation. No matter how troublesome her son might be, he still quite respected his own parents. Zhongyu Liuying’s son was indeed impressive. But now, her outstanding elder son had directly seized her husband’s position as the family head.

Did Zhongyu Liuying truly believe she could still act arrogantly in this situation? Even though Huangfu Ruiling was her son, there was hardly any affection between them.

“Do you think you’re meddling too much?” Zhongyu Liuying’s expression grew cold. “Or do you believe that as the biological mother of the current family head, I can’t handle the domestic affairs?”

Huangfu Jingzhang spoke as well, not targeting Nangong Xiyu but addressing Huangfu Jingxian. “Jingxian, you should take care of your wife. Some matters are beyond her purview.”

Now that he had lost his family head position, he couldn’t let his wife lose her control over the domestic affairs. Besides, he could sense that Nangong Xiyu was intentionally causing trouble.

He hadn’t held his younger brother and sister-in-law in high regard. In his memory, Huangfu Jingxian had been a hedonistic son who excelled at revelry and entertainment. However, after getting married, he had toned down his lifestyle considerably. Now, he felt an air of provocation as his brother’s wife pressed on.

“Big brother, I think Xiyu has a point.” Surprisingly, Huangfu Jingxian stood by his wife’s side. “Some matters should be clarified, especially when they concern power. We can’t afford to be careless.”

Hearing Huangfu Jingxian’s rebuttal, Huangfu Jingzhang was taken aback. Until now, his younger brother had been somewhat submissive in his presence. Yet now, he dared to openly contradict him, which was preposterous.

Contemplating this, Huangfu Jingzhang gave his younger brother a warning look.

Huangfu Jingxian remained unafraid and practically dismissive. Their brotherly relationship was neither close nor strained; it was simply ordinary. Even when his brother had been the family head, he had mostly accepted his orders. However, now that his brother had relinquished his position, did he still need to be accommodating?

The tense atmosphere attracted the attention of those nearby, who observed without daring to draw close. They couldn’t overhear the conversation, but they sensed something amiss in the atmosphere.

At that moment, Li San approached and announced, “Master, Second Master, Madam, and Second Madam, the family head has requested your presence.”

Hearing this, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuyings expressions immediately darkened. On the other hand, Huangfu Jingxian and Nangong Xiyu showed no change in expression and promptly followed Li San.

The four of them soon stood before Huangfu Ruiling.

Facing Huangfu Ruiling, despite being their elders, they struggled to assert their authority. Even Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying couldn't display their parents' authority in front of him, and they even felt a sense of unease under the gaze of his piercing eyes.

Seeing that the four of them remained silent, Huangfu Ruiling said to them, "Say it! What's going on? You almost started a quarrel in the banquet hall.. Do you realize that your actions could harm the reputation of the Huangfu family?"

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His tone was very calm, but the words he spoke left them without room for rebuttal.

"In fact, nothing has happened," Zhongyu Liuying quickly spoke with a smile.

"We were just discussing some matters, and there may have been some disagreements, so it's just a misunderstanding for outsiders."

She wanted to quickly resolve the situation and avoid mentioning the power of domestic affairs in front of Huangfu Ruiling. She had a premonition that bringing it up at this moment would not yield the desired outcome.

Nangong Xiyu, on the other hand, was not going to let her have her way. She spoke directly, "Ruiling, you may not be aware, but we are discussing the management of the domestic affairs. As you know, the authority over domestic affairs has always been held by the matriarch. However, since you're not yet married and the position of the matriarch is vacant, there's a question of who should take charge of domestic affairs."

As soon as Nangong Xiyu spoke, Zhongyu Liuying knew that the outcome wasn't going to be favorable. Nangong Xiyu had always opposed her in the past, and now, she couldn't stop Nangong Xiyu from continuing in this situation.

"Domestic affairs?" Huangfu Ruiling, in his speech, involuntarily looked at Ye Lengan who was beside him.

Ye Lengan would likely become his future wife. However, they were still just a couple, not yet married, so she couldn't manage it. Moreover, Ye Lengan had her own affairs to attend to and didn't have time for these matters.

Ye Lengan also noticed Huangfu Ruilings gaze and couldn't help but roll her eyes. Could it be that he was targeting her? She had no interest in these matters.

The others also noticed Huangfu Ruilings behavior.

Zhongyu Liuyings heart immediately tensed. She felt that Huangfu Ruiling wouldn't assign the power of domestic affairs to Ye Leng'an, right? If that were the case, she would strongly object. Ye Lengan wasn't part of the Huangfu family and had no authority to handle these affairs.

The others couldn't help but frown.

"Ruiling, since you're not married yet, I'll work a bit harder and continue to help manage these chores!" Zhongyu Liuying said anxiously. "After all, I've been in charge and know the processes well. When you get married in the future, I'll hand over the authority to your wife."

She believed her reasoning was solid, and Huangfu Ruiling couldn't come up with a counterargument.

"That's right. Let your mother continue to manage it," Huangfu Jingzhang also chimed in. "If we suddenly change management, it may cause confusion. Having your mother continue is the best arrangement for now."

Nangong Xiyu remained silent, but there was a mocking expression on her face. Clearly, she was ridiculing Zhongyu Liuying's wishful thinking.

Huangfu Ruiling ignored Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying and turned to Ye Lengan, asking, "So, Aryan, what do you think will be a good arrangement?"

No one expected Huangfu Ruiling to entrust the decision to Ye Lengan.

"Ruiling, this is a matter of the Huangfu family. It might not be convenient for

Miss Ye to get involved." Huangfu Jingzhang expressed his concerns. "So, it may not be suitable for you to seek her opinion."

Huangfu Ruiling glanced at Huangfu Jingzhang and calmly stated, "I am the current family head, and I have the authority to make decisions. None of you have the room to comment."

Such straightforward words left Huangfu Jingzhang's face changing between green and white. He had wanted to unleash a string of curses upon his unfilial son, but he realized that Huangfu Ruiling was already the family head. His initially forming words immediately retreated.

The Huangfu family was a large clan with strict rules of hierarchy. In a family, the most important figure was undoubtedly the family head. Everyone ranked below the family head. Now that Huangfu Ruiling had assumed the role of family head, publicly scolding him would be an act of insubordination. In the most severe cases, it could lead to expulsion from the Huangfu family.

Of course, he was Huangfu Ruiling's father, and he didn't believe that Huangfu

Ruiling would expel him from the family. However, it was always better to be cautious. Moreover, his relationship with Huangfu Ruiling wasn't particularly

amicable..

Chapter 476 - 476: Power of Domestic Affairs L,-

Ye Lengan maintained a stoic expression as she noticed all eyes focusing on her. She rolled her eyes, a glint of curiosity flickering in her gaze. With a smile, she spoke, "Actually, I think what Auntie said makes sense. She has been managing domestic affairs all this time, and I believe she is the best person to continue doing so."

Zhongyu Liuyings face immediately lit up with joy upon hearing this, but her happiness was short-lived. Ye Lengan continued, "However, it's said that one should not interfere in matters they are not responsible for. Continuously burdening your mother might tire her out. So, I suggest she continues to oversee it, but we should find someone to assist her. This way, they can work together and keep each other in check."

After Ye Lengan's words, Zhongyu Liuyings expression turned as sour as if she had eaten a dead fly. She hastily responded, "I'm not tired at all. I can handle it by myself, and there's no need to involve others. That will only create more confusion."

She was determined not to share her power with anyone. She had grown accustomed to making decisions and enjoying full authority.

Nangong Xiyu, who was committed to opposing Zhongyu Liuying, chimed in, "I think Miss Ye's suggestion is excellent. This way, Sister-in-law won't have to be burdened. Moreover, Ruixiang has grown up, and in a few years, he might get married. She also will need to find a good wife for him. She won't have the energy to focus on these trivial matters."

Zhongyu Liuying reiterated, "I don't need assistance."

However, even with Zhongyu Liuyings objections, the final decision rested with Huangfu Ruiling. As the head of the family, he would make the ultimate

Unfortunately, Huangfu Ruiling didn't even spare her a glance. His attention remained fixed on Ye Lengan. "An'an, who do you think is a suitable candidate?"

Seeing the sly glint in Ye Leng'an's eyes earlier, he knew that she was up to something. Indeed, her suggestion was a plot to disrupt Zhongyu Liuyings position. It was clear that this idea would frustrate Zhongyu Liuying, who would have to share her authority now.

Ye Leng'an's lips curled into a smile, and she shifted her gaze to Nangong Xiyu, who had been at odds with Zhongyu Liuying. "I believe the most suitable candidate would be Second Auntie. After all, she has been a part of the Huangfu family for many years, and she must be well-acquainted with those domestic affairs. She'll be able to assist Auntie effectively."

With this statement, all eyes turned to Nangong Xiyu, who couldn't believe her ears. She hesitated and said, "Me?"

She couldn't believe how she had been hit by such a significant opportunity. Originally, when she proposed the transfer of power in domestic affairs, it was just to dampen Zhongyu Liuyings enthusiasm. From the beginning to the end, she never thought she would obtain authority over domestic affairs. She was well aware that even if Zhongyu Liuying stopped managing domestic affairs, the management rights would never fall to her, as the second auntie.

Ye Lengan affirmed, "Yes, you. I believe Second Auntie will certainly be able to manage the affairs of the back residence together with Auntie."

Zhongyu Liuying immediately opposed the idea. "I object. She has no experience in handling these matters, and I'm afraid she won't be able to handle them. I can manage it by myself, and there's no need for someone else to intervene and create chaos."

She couldn't fathom a scenario where Nangong Xiyu would take away half of her power. Especially since Nangong Xiyu had consistently opposed her; now, she would be on equal footing with her, which was difficult to accept.

Regardless of Zhongyu Liuyings objections, the final decision rested with Huangfu Ruiling as the family head. Under the watchful eyes of everyone, he looked at Zhongyu Liuying before making the announcement. "Starting today, the Huangfu family's domestic affairs will be jointly managed by Mother and

Second Auntie. If you cannot reach a decision, bring it to me for a final ruling."

Zhongyu Liuying couldn't help but close her eyes at this proclamation. She had not anticipated the extent of Ye Leng'an's influence on Huangfu Ruiling. Even something as significant as the management of domestic affairs was now decided by Ye Lengan.

She regretted having given birth to Huangfu Ruiling; she should have known he would turn out to be such a disobedient child. She wished she had only Ruixiang, a filial son.

Nangong Xiyu, on the other hand, was thrilled with the decision. She wore a smile on her face and immediately assured Huangfu Ruiling. "Ruiling, if you trust me this much, I'll do my best. You can rest assured that I'll manage domestic affairs with your mother in the future. And once you and Miss Ye get married, I'll immediately hand over the authority to her."

Nangong Xiyu understood that her share of power wasn't due to Huangfu

Ruilings trust but was a result of Ye Leng'an's suggestion. She was returning

the favor with kind words and was well aware of how highly Huangtu Ruiling regarded Ye Lengan.

As expected, after Nangong Xiyu's words, Huangfu Ruilings expression softened.

Huangfu Jingzhang, who disagreed with the decision, didn't have the opportunity to voice his opinion. The icy gaze of Huangfu Ruiling silenced him.

Zhongyu Liuying gazed at the triumphant Nangong Xiyu, her eyes revealing a touch of gloom. Nangong Xiyu had celebrated too early. She had invested years of effort into managing domestic affairs, and she wasn't going to let Nangong Xiyu take it away without a fight.

At that moment, she was already contemplating how to outmaneuver Nangong Xiyu and make her regret her decision..

Chapter 477 - 477: Something Happened 1

Just as Zhongyu Liuying was still secretly plotting, Ye Leng'an suddenly spoke again, "Ruiling, there's still one more question."

As soon as Ye Lengan opened her mouth, Zhongyu Liuyings brows twitched involuntarily. She had a feeling that whatever Ye Lengan was about to say wouldn't be to her liking.

"What is it?" Huangfu Ruilings tone was gentle when talking to Ye Leng'an.

"It's about Auntie and Second Auntie jointly managing domestic affairs," Ye Lengan said with a smile, "Both of them have equal authority, which can provide checks and

balances and mutual supervision, which is a good thing. However, conflicts may arise between them, and if they disagree frequently, you'd have to make many decisions. In the end, won't you effectively be in control of the domestic affairs? So, I think that if they end up managing it in a chaotic manner, you should be prepared to make decisions."

Huangfu Ruiling's eyes betrayed a hint of contemplation, and he added, "If the two of you can't handle it, regardless of who's causing trouble behind the scenes, I'll take back that authority. Furthermore, I'll bring back Butler Ford from abroad to assist you."

Although he described it as assistance, it was clear that he intended to supervise to prevent any mischief from either of them.

This left Zhongyu Liuying seething with anger. She hadn't even begun her actions, and Ye Leng'an's words had already rendered her plans unworkable. If she did try to undermine Nangong Xiyu secretly, the ultimate outcome would be the revocation of both their powers. Moreover, with Ford in the picture, any covert actions on her part would be exceedingly challenging.

This Ye Lengan was truly their nemesis. No, it was more accurate to say that she was the bane of their entire family. As long as Ye Lengan was around, their lives would be far from easy.

Upon hearing this decision, Nangong Xiyu didn't feel any discomfort. Instead, she was elated and said with a smile, "Ruiling, rest assured, Sister-in-law and

I will ensure the smooth management of domestic affairs. You have nothing to worry about."

Initially, she hadn't thought much of the situation. However, upon witnessing

Zhongyu Liuying's displeased expression, she suddenly understood. Zhongyu Liuying was undoubtedly contemplating clandestine mischief. However, all her avenues were now blocked.

If Zhongyu Liuying indeed intended to act covertly, then she could go ahead and try. Nangong Xiyu didn't mind. Half of the management authority over domestic affairs was essentially a gift to her. If something did happen, she'd ensure it was exposed, and then she'd willingly hand over the management authority alongside Zhongyu Liuying.

Nangong Xiyu was unsympathetic and wondered if Zhongyu Liuying had the determination for such a move.

After the matter was settled, everyone dispersed, and the banquet continued. However, the expressions of those present varied.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying wore expressions as though they had swallowed a bitter pill. In contrast, Huangfu Jingxian's complexion was fine, and Nangong Xiyu was beaming with joy. It seemed that they had encountered something delightful.

Looking at Nangong Xiyu's cheerful countenance, Zhongyu Liuying had an urge to scratch her face. If it weren't for Nangong Xiyu's interference, she would still firmly control the management of domestic affairs. Now, not only was she sharing half of her authority, but she couldn't take any actions. How could she feel comfortable with this?

Nangong Xiyu completely ignored Zhongyu Liuyings displeasure. She moved around the banquet like a butterfly, engaging in cheerful conversations with others.

Of course, many people noticed her radiant expression and inquired whether something good had happened.

Nangong Xiyu didn't conceal anything and openly shared the news about her imminent acquisition of half of the management authority over domestic affairs. Subsequently, everyone began to shower her with compliments.

Soon, this news circulated throughout the entire banquet hall. It provided a clear understanding to everyone. The current head of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Ruiling, did not have a good relationship with his parents.. Otherwise, why would he entrust half of his mother's authority to his Second Auntie? Wouldn't it be better to let his biological mother continue managing it? It was evident that he didn't have full confidence in his biological mother!

Chapter 478 - 478: Something Happened 2

Even if Zhongyu Liuying didn't hear, she could probably guess the idle gossip these people would engage in next. However, she had no way to stop Nangong Xiyu because what the latter spoke was the truth.

Huangfu Jingzhang's expression was also unpleasant. While Huangfu Ruilings actions were directed at Zhongyu Liuying, it felt like a slap to his face. He inwardly resented the fact that if only Huangfu Ruiling had died during that incident, none of this would have occurred today.

Simultaneously, he held a grudge against Zhongyu Liuying. If only she had convinced Ye Leng'an back then, tonight's handover ceremony wouldn't have taken place, and he would still be the nominal head of the Huangfu family. This could have brought him both prestige and benefits.

Furthermore, if Zhongyu Liuying had been capable enough to protect what was hers tonight, the second branch wouldn't have managed to seize half of her power.

At this moment, Zhongyu Liuying didn't notice Huangfu Jingzhangs dissatisfaction. After scanning the venue, she noticed her youngest son's absence and felt puzzled. "Jingzhang, where do you think Ruixiang has gone?

The banquet hasn't been underway for long. Why would he be missing?"

"How would I know?" Huangfu Jingzhang's tone carried a hint of impatience.

"He's already grown up. He won't just get lost. Why do you care so much?"

"I just find it strange," Zhongyu Liuying murmured. "The banquet hasn't been underway for long, and Ruixiang wouldn't leave at this time."

"If you have time now, focus on thinking about how to retain the power within your grasp!" Huangfu Jingzhang said irritably. "Although you and Nangong Xiyu are in charge now, the specifics aren't settled. Think about what to do next! "

Sensing Huangfu Jingzhang's dissatisfaction, Zhongyu Liuying refrained from further discussion but took the words to heart, contemplating her next steps.

On the other side, the atmosphere between Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an improved considerably as they chatted and laughed.

"I could tell your mother was quite upset with you just now!" Ye Leng'an's tone carried a touch of schadenfreude. "She's probably really angry with you. And not just your mother, but your father too, I imagine."

"If I remember correctly, wasn't it your suggestion in the first place?" Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow and smiled. "Why is all the blame on me now?"

"But, the final decision-maker is you!" Ye Leng'an argued confidently. "And, don't forget what day it is today! You just took the position of family head away from someone and now you're taking half of the power of domestic affairs. No matter how one looked at it, you're the one inviting trouble!"

Huangfu Ruiling responded with an affectionate smile, unperturbed by Ye Leng'an's twisted reasoning.

"Let's not dwell on that." Ye Leng'an changed the subject. "When does the Hidden World Family Competition begin? I'd like to apply for leave early."

"In about a month's time," Huangfu Ruiling replied. "All the major families will send their elite descendants to participate. The rewards this time are much richer than before, so the major families are all eager to make a move."

"There are rewards?" Ye Leng'an expressed surprise. "I thought it was just an ordinary competition!"

"Of course, there are rewards," Huangfu Ruiling explained with a smile. "If it were merely a regular competition, the major families wouldn't pay much attention to it. The Family Competition is designed to motivate the descendants of major families to excel. It occurs once every four years, with all the major families contributing to the rewards. The winning family gets to claim the prize."

"So it's a paid competition!" Ye Lengan nodded seriously. "No wonder you all seem to take this competition so seriously."

"It's not just about the rewards; it's also about standing out," Huangfu Ruiling continued. "If you perform well in the Family Competition, you can attract the family's attention, and perhaps even receive special training.. Who doesn't want to seize such an opportunity!"

Ye Lengan nodded and inquired, "Don't say so much, just tell me directly, what is the reward for this year?"

"It's the priority mining right for a spirit stone mine." Huangfu Ruilings eyes sparkled. "This time, the reward isn't provided by the major families, but by the Enforcement Team. They've discovered an untouched spirit stone mine in the Hidden World. Although we don't know the quality of the spirit stones inside, it has never been mined before. The family that secures first place in the family competition will have the mining rights to the spirit stone mine for three years. After that, the spirit stone mine will be returned to the

Enforcement Team.'

"That kind of reward is indeed very enticing." Ye Lengan was also taken aback. "I didn't expect the Enforcement Team to be so generous! However, I've often heard you mention the Enforcement Team. What's their status in the Hidden World?"

"The Enforcement Team is equivalent to the governmental department in the mortal world," Huangfu Ruiling explained. "They manage all the affairs in the Hidden World and have established numerous rules. Everyone in the Hidden World must adhere to the rules set by the Enforcement Team, or they'll face penalties."

Ye Lengan understood and continued to ask about the Hidden World. Huangfu Ruiling patiently provided explanations without any sign of impatience.

Their conversation was filled with laughter and flowed harmoniously. However, this harmonious atmosphere was suddenly disrupted.

A servant with an unusual expression hurried over. She didn't dare to approach directly and stopped in front of Li San, whispering a few words to him.

Li San frowned, then walked over and stood in front of Huangfu Ruiling, looking like he wanted to speak but hesitated.

"If you have something to say, just say it," Huangfu Ruiling said calmly.

"There's no need to beat around the bush.'

Li San promptly spoke up, "Master, something has happened. Young Master Ruixiang and Miss Yiran, they... they were discovered together."

"Cough, cough, cough!" Before Huangfu Ruiling could react, Ye Lengan choked on her saliva. "You mean they were found in bed together?"

This was truly a big surprise! What on earth had happened to lead to such an unexpected development?

“Um...” Li San glanced at Huangfu Ruiling and continued, “Madam is very upset now and wants to drive Miss Yiran away. The banquet is still ongoing. How should we handle this situation?”

After a moment of consideration, Huangfu Ruiling said, ‘Let’s go and see for ourselves.’

Li San led the way, and Ye Lengan followed. Soon, the three of them arrived at the room upstairs.

Upon entering the room, the oppressive atmosphere inside was palpable.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying sat on the sofa with stern expressions, clearly furious. As for Huangfu Ruixiang, he sat on another sofa, his brow furrowed in contemplation. Only Zhongyu Yiran stood there, her face still flushed, her eyes brimming with tears that seemed on the verge of falling at any moment. Her hair was disheveled, and her clothing appeared disordered as if hastily thrown on.

Seeing this, Ye Lengan couldn’t help but silently condemn Huangfu Ruixiang in her heart. Regardless of the circumstances, the two of them had ended up in bed together. However, since it was two people discovered, Zhongyu Yiran shouldn’t be left standing there as if she were the guilty party.

Of course, her sympathy wasn’t directed at Zhongyu Yiran, because if her guess was correct, everything that had transpired today was likely orchestrated by Zhongyu Yiran. She simply couldn’t tolerate Huangfu

Ruixiangs indifferent attitude.

“Ruiling, you’ve arrived at the right time,” Zhongyu Liuying immediately said as soon as she saw Huangfu Ruiling. “Take Yiran away from here now. I don’t want to see her again.”

She could never have anticipated what had unfolded today. She had originally intended to find a room to rest, but upon entering, she stumbled upon Huangfu Ruixiang and Li Yiran on the bed together. Moreover, the room was filled with the scent of intimacy, leaving no room for doubt about what had happened between the two of them..

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This was utterly unacceptable to her. Throughout, she had treated Zhongyu Yiran as her own daughter. She had even contemplated that after Ruilings marriage, he could accept Yiran as his lover.

However, what she had just witnessed was beyond belief. Li Yiran slept with her youngest son. Previously, Li Yiran had shown a strong interest in Huangfu Ruiling. But now, she suddenly became entangled with Ruixiang. Wasn’t she playing around with her two sons?

This was something she simply couldn’t tolerate. She even felt that if Li Yiran continued to bear the surname Zhongyu, it would be an insult to the family name.

Zhongyu Yiran, or rather, Li Yiran now, heard Zhongyu Liuyings words and her face turned pale in an instant. She certainly didn’t miss Zhongyu Liuyings address to her.

She had acquired the surname Zhongyu by currying favor with Zhongyu Liuying. But now, Zhongyu Liuying had stripped her of this surname, which was also evident that Zhongyu Liuying harbored deep hatred for her.

“Could someone please tell me what exactly happened?” Huangfu Ruiling paid no attention to Zhongyu Liuying and asked, “Huangfu Ruixiang, you speak.

What happened?”

“Um...” Huangfu Ruixiang looked troubled. “Honestly, I don’t remember it clearly. I just recall being quite drunk. After I entered the room, I noticed there was a woman in bed. Then, in a moment of impulsiveness...”

“This must have been Li Yiran’s scheme,” Zhongyu Liuying interjected before Huangfu Ruixiang could finish. “She plotted to get into Ruixiangs bed to marry into our Huangfu family.”

“No, that’s not true!” Li Yiran looked distressed as she swiftly defended herself. “I was resting in my room at the time. But Ruixiang suddenly barged in, and then... I tried to resist, but Ruixiangs strength was overpowering, and I couldn’t fight back.”

“B*tch.!” Unable to contain her anger upon hearing this, Zhongyu Liuying stood up and slapped Li Yiran. “You were the one who lured Ruixiang, yet now you speak as if you’re a victim. I must’ve been blind to keep a wretch like you by my side.”

“No, Auntie, that’s not true.” Li Yiran shook her head repeatedly, tears streaming down her cheeks.

“Enough, Mom.”

At this point, Huangfu Ruixiang stood up and pulled Li Yiran behind him. He spoke, “We haven’t fully grasped the situation. There’s no need to get worked up.”

Li Yiran stood behind Huangfu Ruixiang with her head bowed, her facial expression hidden. At this moment, she was filled with uncertainty. Everything had played out quite differently from her expectations. She had believed that after sharing a bed with Huangfu Ruixiang and making a scandal, he would marry her.

She could tell that Huangfu Ruixiang held a favorable impression of her. That was why she had orchestrated everything. However, the events that had unfolded had taken her by surprise. Despite the incident, Huangfu Ruixiang had never mentioned taking responsibility and hadn’t even intervened when Zhongyu Liuying slapped her. Though he was standing in front of her now, he remained silent.

“Ruiling, this situation must be resolved promptly,” Huangfu Jingzhang spoke up. He glanced at Li Yiran, who stood behind Huangfu Ruixiang, his eyes betraying a hint of disdain. “Give Li Yiran some money and send her away!”

He didn't have a deep impression of Li Yiran. Previously, she had frequently sought to curry favor with Zhongyu Liuying by following her around. He hadn't paid it much mind. To him, it was simply the addition of one more person.

But now, Li Yiran was involved with Huangfu Ruixiang. This was unacceptable to him. A lowly girl like her could never marry into the Huangfu family.

Fortunately, from the beginning until now, Ruixiang had never expressed any intention to marry Li Yiran. In this respect, he was quite satisfied. At least, his son remained clear-headed and understood the type of person suitable for a partner.

"No, I don't want to leave." Li Yiran reached out and tightly grabbed Huangfu Ruixiang's hand, pleading, "Ruixiang, please don't send me away. Let me stay by your side. I'm willing to do anything you ask."

At this moment, she felt a great sense of insecurity. She realized that everything was different from her plans. She had assumed that Huangfu Ruixiang would definitely react in some way.

She knew that one way or another, she couldn't be sent away. If she were sent away now, her chances of ever entering the Huangfu family would be completely dashed.

Huangfu Ruixiang turned his head and looked at Li Yiran with teary eyes. He couldn't help but feel sorry for her. He reached out his hand to wipe her tears.

However, just as he made his move, Zhongyu Liuying yanked him away.

"Li Yiran, you're right in front of us, yet you dare to seduce Ruixiang,"

Zhongyu Liuying sneered. "Let me tell you, don't think that by manipulating Ruixiang, you can marry into the Huangfu family. It's impossible. An orphan like you dreaming of becoming the young mistress of the Huangfu family is absurd."

"I didn't do that. I really didn't." Li Yiran vehemently shook her head, attempting to refute Zhongyu Liuying's accusations.

On the side, Ye Leng'an was watching with great interest. This was like a real-life melodrama within an affluent family! She hadn't forgotten the bet she had with Huangfu Ruiling. However, from the current perspective, her odds of winning seemed slim.

Huangfu Ruixiang didn't seem to have any intention of marrying Li Yiran. It appeared that Li Yiran was truly too hasty, acting recklessly without fully understanding what Huangfu Ruixiang thought of her. It was turning into a disastrous misadventure.

"Ruiling, say something!" Zhongyu Liuying turned to Huangfu Ruiling and urged, "Give the order now to send Li Yiran away. Just seeing her makes me uncomfortable."

Huangfu Ruiling paid no heed to Zhongyu Liuying and looked at Huangfu Ruixiang, saying, "You're one of the parties involved. Now, tell me your thoughts."

Li Yiran immediately lifted her head and gazed at Huangfu Ruixiang expectantly, waiting for him to say what she desperately wanted to hear.

At this moment, she was incredibly anxious. She knew that Huangfu

Ruixiang's next words would determine her fate. If Huangfu Ruixiang truly abandoned her, she would be sent away, and her chances of ever entering the Huangfu family would be gone forever..