

Full-Level 711

Chapter 711: There's Definitely No Place for You

The people present were taken aback, as no one expected Ye Yikun to be at a disadvantage against Huangfu Ruiling. The sudden act of Huangfu Ruiling standing up from the wheelchair added to their astonishment.

"Father!" Ye Hongxuan turned around, rushing to Ye Yikun's side. He reached out to support him, expressing concern, "Are you alright?"

Despite his father's uneasy appearance, Ye Hongxuan was unaware of the circumstances.

Ye Wanwan had fainted on the ground, and Lian Mengzhu stood by her side.

Had Ye Hongxuan not dismissed the servants upon Ye Leng'an's arrival, a crowd would likely be gathering now.

With Ye Yikun holding onto Ye Hongxuan for support, he looked at Huangfu Ruiling with visible shock. "Who are you?"

Standing beside Ye Leng'an, Huangfu Ruiling's cold eyes were fixed on Ye Yikun, akin to observing a lifeless body.

His previous attack had already been merciful; otherwise, Ye Yikun wouldn't be standing there with his wits about him. This was due to the blood relation between Ye Yikun and Ye Leng'an.

"Old Master Ye, how is this any of your concern?" Ye Leng'an's tone was casual, in stark contrast to Ye Yikun's seriousness. She wore a bright smile as she continued, "Moreover, you surely can't be unaware of who we are!"

Ye Yikun was wary as he looked at Huangfu Ruiling. "Your level of cultivation is impossible. If the Huangfu family had such a formidable figure, it would have become widely known. Who are you?"

Though reluctant, Ye Yikun acknowledged Huangfu Ruiling's strength.

"Why so much nonsense?" Ye Leng'an rolled her eyes impatiently and added, "And don't think about blackmailing us! You attacked first, and we were merely defending ourselves."

Even if the Ye family decided to investigate further, they wouldn't be afraid. The truth was clear to anyone with discernment.

Ye Yikun, feeling his blood boil, almost spat out a mouthful of blood. "You ingrate! I am your grandfather."

Truly, having not been raised by his side, the blood relation meant nothing when it came to genuine affection. She was indeed a heartless person, watching her own grandfather get injured without a shred of concern, even making sarcastic remarks.

At this moment, Ye Yikun had completely forgotten that he was injured because he had initiated an attack on Ye Leng'an intending to harm her.

Ye Leng'an, unperturbed, responded with a mocking tone, "I dare not claim that. Didn't you just say it? Ye Wanwan is your granddaughter. Don't mistake identities."

"Look at your daughter." Ye Yikun vented his anger on Ye Hongxuan, "You actually want her to return to our Ye family? She wants to ruin us!"

He hadn't expected Ye Leng'an to destroy Ye Wanwan's dantian without warning. Now, with Ye Wanwan crippled, he wondered about the implications for her marriage with the Murong family.

"Father, Leng'an is just..." Ye Hongxuan sighed bitterly, wanting to defend Ye Leng'an but finding himself at a loss for words.

"But what?" Ye Yikun continued mercilessly, "Even if Wanwan isn't your biological daughter, you've raised her for so many years. Now that she's been ruined by Ye Leng'an, don't you feel sorry for her at all?"

Ye Hongxuan bowed his head, choosing not to respond further.

On the other side, Lian Mengzhu, glancing at Ye Wanwan in her arms and then at Ye Leng'an, felt a complex mix of emotions.

Upon discovering that Ye Leng'an was her biological daughter, she felt guilt and had planned to make amends when they reunited.

However, Ye Leng'an had destroyed Ye Wanwan's dantian without warning. This was something she couldn't accept.

While Ye Leng'an claimed self-defense due to Wanwan's initial attack, Lian Mengzhu thought her actions were hasty. She even suspected that Ye Leng'an, resentful that Wanwan had taken her identity for so many years, used this incident as an opportunity to vent her frustrations.

She knew she shouldn't harbor such thoughts about her own daughter, but she couldn't control her emotions. Especially seeing that Ye Leng'an seemed to lack any feelings for her biological mother, resentment grew.

Yet, despite her dissatisfaction with Ye Leng'an, her hatred for her younger sister, Lian Zixin, was stronger. Despite treating Lian Zixin well, she had used her trust to secretly swap their daughters. How could she not hate her?

Ye Leng'an remained calm, looking around before focusing on Ye Yikun. With a cold smile, she continued, "Old Master Ye, what kind of person I am has nothing to do with you. As for your Ye family, the threshold is too high for me to reach. So you don't have to worry about me returning to the Ye family."

Beside her, Huangfu Ruiling's eyes exuded coldness as he looked at the Ye family members.

Such a family was unnecessary for An'an. If not for dealing with Ye Wanwan's situation, they shouldn't have come to the Ye family.

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Ye Yikun remained skeptical. "Do you really think I'll believe these words? If you didn't want to return to the Ye family, why acknowledge the family? Don't act so high and mighty. The reason you're standing here is to claim the position of the Ye family's

young lady, isn't it? Let me tell you, as long as I'm around, there will be no place for you in the Ye family."

Earlier, Ye Yikun considered it merely adding one more person. Now, witnessing Ye Leng'an's arrogance, he realized they couldn't allow her to enter the Ye family. Who knew how many waves she'd stir up?

Ye Leng'an laughed coldly. "Speaking the truth seems quite challenging in this world! Old Master Ye, you're like someone in a well, thinking everyone in the world cares about your Ye family, right?"

Chapter 712: I'll Be There Anytime

"You insolent..." Ye Yikun was so infuriated that he could barely articulate his words. "Ye Leng'an, you wretch! Let me make it clear; you'll never gain the acknowledgment of the Ye family in your entire life."

"Father, Leng'an is just..." Ye Hongxuan began, but he was promptly cut off by Ye Yikun.

"Ye Hongxuan, Lian Mengzhu, let me solemnly tell you both that Ye Leng'an will never step through the doors of the Ye family," declared Ye Yikun with an icy demeanor. "Your daughter is Ye Wanwan. Remember that."

Since the details of Ye Leng'an's actions were known only to those present, outsiders remained oblivious. Despite Ye Wanwan's current disabled state, being in the Ye family with its alchemists and precious elixirs offered a high chance of her eventual recovery.

Moreover, Ye Wanwan had been raised and educated by the Ye family since childhood and was now engaged to Murong Xingrui. Unlike the arrogant Ye Leng'an, she was better suited to be the Ye family's young lady.

Unnoticed by others, the unconscious Ye Wanwan displayed a subtle smile after Ye Yikun's words.

Despite their dissatisfaction with Ye Leng'an's recent behavior, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu found it too cruel not to acknowledge her as their daughter. Therefore, they intended to intercede.

However, before they could voice their plea, Ye Yikun's subsequent words left them speechless.

"If you can't bear to part with your daughter, then leave the Ye family with her." Ye Yikun's voice was frigid, almost freezing. "Choose for yourselves. Stay in the Ye family or depart."

There was no need for contemplation; Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu would never abandon the Ye family. Their decision was unequivocal.

The two cast guilty glances at Ye Leng'an, internally justifying that their choice wasn't driven by a desire for the Ye family's power. Instead, leaving would subject their family to the disdain of others. Moreover, having been the Ye family's leaders for years, they had made enemies. Leaving the Ye family meant being unable to protect their daughter.

Staying in the Ye family remained the best option for them. They could still assist Ye Leng'an discreetly.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's decision was within Ye Yikun's expectations. Looking at Ye Leng'an, a hint of ruthlessness flashed in his eyes. "Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Leng'an, today you've harmed someone in the Ye family. Don't blame me for being impolite."

Seeing Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's evasive reactions, Ye Leng'an felt no sadness. She smiled and said, "Wonder how Old Master Ye plans to be impolite? Didn't you already make a move just now? Or was that attack a mere joke?"

Ye Yikun's expression grew uglier with each sarcastic remark. Coupled with his injuries, he was on the verge of collapse.

"Very well, very well." Ye Yikun laughed in anger. Gazing at Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an, malice flickered in his eyes. "I'll inquire with the Huangfu family. Let's see if they want to be enemies with us, the Ye family."

"So what if we're enemies?" Huangfu Ruiling directly confronted Ye Yikun. "Our Huangfu family isn't afraid to be at odds with the Ye family. Furthermore, Old Master Ye, don't forget you initiated the attack."

"Huangfu Ruiling, what qualifications do you have to speak here?" Ye Yikun laughed heartily, as though he had heard the funniest joke. "Can you represent the Huangfu family? You're just a Huangfu family disciple. Do you have the right to challenge me?"

"I can represent the Huangfu family." Huangfu Ruiling's tone remained cold, his gaze unwavering. However, his words made everyone's eyebrows twitch. "If the Ye family truly wants to declare war on our Huangfu family, then I will represent the Huangfu family in the fight."

Upon hearing this, Ye Yikun, Ye Hongxuan, and Lian Zixin couldn't help but look at Huangfu Ruiling, their eyes reflecting uncertainty as if pondering something.

"Huangfu Ruiling, Huangfu Ruiling!" Ye Yikun mumbled softly. Suddenly, a spark illuminated his mind. He raised his head and looked at Huangfu Ruiling, and his eyes revealed astonishment. "You're Huangfu Ling!"

Initially a mere conjecture, Ye Yikun was shocked by his own words after uttering them.

Seeing that Huangfu Ruiling, standing across from him, offered no denial, his widened eyes betrayed disbelief.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu, too, stared at Huangfu Ruiling in shock.

Until now, it seemed that only members of the Huangfu family had seen Huangfu Ling's true face. Moreover, Huangfu Ruiling's formidable cultivation surpassed even the Huangfu family's Grand Elder. Such a person couldn't be insignificant in the Huangfu family.

Combined with the resemblance in names between Huangfu Ruiling and Huangfu Ling, it strongly suggested they were the same person.

In the past, Huangfu Ruiling had always been in a wheelchair, and no one had considered such a possibility.

But now, Huangfu Ruiling stood up. Perhaps it was more accurate to say he had never sat in a wheelchair; it had all been a ruse.

“Old Master Ye, Ye Leng’an is my fiancée.” Huangfu Ruiling looked at Ye Yikun and continued, “She will also be the future matriarch of the Huangfu family, so she doesn’t care about being the young lady of your Ye family. You don’t have to worry about this.”

Still reeling from shock, Ye Yikun felt the urge to vomit blood upon hearing Huangfu Ruiling’s words.

“Old Master Ye, the matter has been resolved.” Ye Leng’an glanced at Ye Wanwan, who had “fainted” on the ground. Her lips curled into a mocking smile. “Ye Wanwan wanted to destroy my talent and cultivation. I’m just giving her a taste of her own medicine. You don’t have to feel too wronged. Also, I’m at the Huangfu family’s place. If you want to avenge Ye Wanwan, I’ll be there anytime. However, let me make it clear in advance that I won’t show mercy to you because of that little bit of blood relationship. After all, I can be a very vicious woman.”

Chapter 713: News Spreads 1

After departing from the Ye family, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an returned to the Huangfu family. Given the severed ties with the Ye family and their public exit, Huangfu Ruiling opted not to remain in the wheelchair.

Witnessing the pair entering the Huangfu family, the disciples were astounded. When Huangfu Ruiling left, he was wheelchair-bound, yet upon his return, he stood tall. Moreover, both walked towards the family head’s courtyard, successfully gaining entry.

Entering the family head’s courtyard wasn’t a casual affair; it was guarded by a forbidden spell. Nevertheless, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an effortlessly made their way in. Reflecting on their names, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an – Huangfu Ling and Ye An’an – one could easily draw connections.

Swiftly, news of Huangfu Ruiling assuming the role of the Huangfu family’s head, Huangfu Ling, spread throughout the entire clan and beyond.

Grand Elder Huangfu Haochang, upon hearing the news, inadvertently sprayed out the tea he was sipping. Hastily, he made his way to Huangfu Ruiling’s courtyard.

Indeed, in the outer courtyard, he witnessed Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an enjoying tea leisurely. They appeared carefree, sipping tea, nibbling on snacks, and chatting as if unaware of the speculations outside.

“Grand Elder, what brings you here at this time?” Ye Leng’an, observing Huangfu Haochang not far away, raised her eyebrows and teased, “Could it be you’re here for a cup of tea?”

After a glance at Huangfu Haochang, Huangfu Ruiling withdrew his gaze, saying nothing.

Huangfu Haochang, seated, remarked, “You two seem oblivious. Do you not know what’s happening outside?”

“Huh?” Ye Leng’an’s eyes flashed with doubt. “We haven’t done anything!”

Despite causing a commotion at the Ye family, the matter shouldn’t have spread so quickly. Moreover, the Ye family would likely attempt to cover up such an embarrassing incident.

Without ceremony, Huangfu Haochang poured himself tea before continuing, “It concerns the family head. Almost everyone in the Huangfu family now knows that Huangfu Ruiling is the family head, Huangfu Ling.”

He then drank the tea, and his eyes widened in shock. The tea seemed to open his pores, absorbing spiritual energy. The fragrance indicated that the tea was extraordinary. Pouring another cup, Huangfu Haochang savored it, saying, “Excellent tea!”

“This is herbal tea.” Ye Leng’an smiled. “Grand Elder, if you like it, I’ll pack some for you when we leave later.”

The Grand Elder’s eyes lit up. “That’s wonderful. Thank you, Miss Ye.”

He marveled at the fortune of the family head in finding such a remarkable fiancée. When Miss Ye became the matriarch, the Huangfu family was bound to thrive.

Ye Leng’an grinned. “Grand Elder, do you think people outside already know Ling’s true identity?”

“Yes.” The Grand Elder nodded. “When Master returned, he didn’t hide anything and came straight to this courtyard. How could those outside not have guessed it? But...”

At this point, he turned to Huangfu Ruiling, asking, “Master, you don’t intend to continue hiding, right?”

“There’s nothing to hide,” Huangfu Ruiling said casually. “Previously, I just didn’t want to deal with some trivial matters, so I always wore a mask. Now that they know, it’s fine.”

He had never considered hiding anything; it was all a matter of coincidence. Even if others knew, he didn’t find it significant.

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling’s words, Huangfu Haochang sighed in relief. Pride crossed his face as he said, “We should let those outside know that our Huangfu family’s head is young, promising, and possesses formidable cultivation. It’ll inform them that our Huangfu family will only grow stronger.”

In the Hidden World, only the Huangfu family had such a young family head, and his cultivation was powerful and mysterious.

Even when several elders joined forces, they couldn't be certain of holding their ground against the family head. Moreover, that was without the family head deploying any hidden cards. If the family head were to truly use the trump cards at his disposal, it was likely that the entire Huangfu family wouldn't stand a chance.

After the Grand Elder's words, Ye Leng'an found it amusing. "It can't be that exaggerated! Even if they knew Huangfu Ruiling was the head of the Huangfu family, it would only be a topic of discussion outside."

The Grand Elder didn't elaborate, merely smiling and shaking his head. Then, he suggested, "Master, since you've revealed your identity, wouldn't it be better for you and Miss Ye to hold a grand engagement ceremony?"

Though the entire Huangfu family knew that Miss Ye was the Master's fiancée, an engagement ceremony was still necessary. It was a declaration of sovereignty to those outside, informing them who the future matriarch of the Huangfu family would be.

Chapter 714: News Spreads 2

After hearing the Grand Elder's proposal, Huangfu Ruiling's brow moved slightly, and a hint of interest appeared in his expression.

He turned to Ye Leng'an and asked, "Anan, what do you think?"

He found the suggestion appealing, but he respected Anan's opinion. If she disagreed, he wouldn't insist.

Ye Leng'an was momentarily surprised by Huangfu Ruiling's words but quickly nodded. "It's fine; you can arrange it!"

Since they were planning an engagement ceremony in the mortal world, having another one in the Hidden World seemed reasonable.

With Ye Leng'an's approval, a glint of satisfaction crossed Huangfu Ruiling's eyes. He then turned to the Grand Elder, saying, "Arrange this matter promptly and prepare a detailed plan. I'll review how to proceed later."

"Alright, I'll go now."

The Grand Elder acted swiftly. After receiving the order, he stood and left.

However, after taking a couple of steps, as if recalling something, he turned back and shamelessly asked Ye Leng'an for the promised herbal tea.

Thinking the Grand Elder had more to say, Ye Leng'an chuckled but obliged. A small, exquisite tea can appeared on the table with a wave of her hand.

Recognizing it instantly, the Grand Elder eagerly pocketed the jar like a treasure and left, content.

Within a short day, news of Huangfu Ruiling becoming the head of the Huangfu family had spread throughout the Hidden World. Even smaller families were aware, causing a greater shock to the larger families.

For the major families, this revelation was more profound. The Huangfu family patriarch had always been mysterious, appearing suddenly one year and taking control before anyone could react.

Surprisingly, few in the Huangfu family opposed this, and the elders supported Huangfu Ling. In Huangfu Ling's absence, the Grand Elder handled all clan affairs, never harboring thoughts of usurping power.

While many knew of Huangfu Ruiling, an inner sect disciple with significant strength despite being disabled, they hadn't connected him with Huangfu Ling until now.

Huangfu Ruixiang, also an inner sect disciple, heard the news promptly. Initially, he dismissed the idea that Huangfu Ruiling and Huangfu Ling were the same person, but the sudden revelation made it seem true.

Feeling as if fortune had smiled upon him, Huangfu Ruixiang couldn't help but smile at the thought of his elder brother being the patriarch.

Though their relationship was somewhat distant, the blood ties couldn't be ignored. As the younger brother of the Huangfu family's head, his future position in the clan was evident.

Returning from the training ground, many greeted him, well aware of his brother's newfound status. Despite his good mood, seeing Zhong Yating made Huangfu Ruixiang's joy vanish.

"Why are you here again?" He frowned, expressing clear displeasure. "Didn't I tell you not to come unless it's important?"

Unperturbed by his dislike, Zhong Yating wore a bright smile. "I heard the news and came to congratulate you."

Though aware of Huangfu Ruiling's high status, Zhong Yating hadn't expected him to be the patriarch.

Feeling exceptionally fortunate, she believed her choice in Huangfu Ruixiang was exceptional. Now, she was practically the daughter-in-law of the Huangfu family patriarch.

With this identity, entering the inner sect would be effortless. Her judgment seemed impeccable.

"What does this have to do with you?" Huangfu Ruixiang's cold gaze focused on Zhong Yating. "Zhong Yating, don't forget you engaged me under false pretenses. Why try to benefit from our engagement now? Your audacity knows no bounds."

Previously unworthy, Zhong Yating was even more unfit for him now that Huangfu Ruiling's identity was known. Engaged or not, he held no affection for her.

"Ruixiang, how can you say such things?"

Faced with Huangfu Ruixiang's sarcasm, Zhong Yating remained unfazed. Not a hint of sadness crossed her face, and there was no change in her complexion. "Regardless, we are already engaged. Moreover, I've made it clear; no matter what happens, I won't agree to annul our engagement. If you want to break it off, there's only one way – you'd have to kill me!"

As she spoke, a trace of madness and triumph flashed across her face. "Do you dare? Do you dare to kill me? Even if Huangfu Ruiling is your elder brother, he won't be able to save you if you really kill me!"

Hearing such a threat, Huangfu Ruixiang felt a surge of anger. He glared at Zhong Yating, teeth clenched, and retorted, "Zhong Yating, do you truly believe I wouldn't dare to lay a finger on you?"

"Ruixiang, I know you dislike me," Zhong Yating said, unbothered. She extended her hand, caressing Huangfu Ruixiang's chest with a hint of allure. "But don't you think I'm the perfect wife for you? I can assure you that after we're married, I won't interfere with your affairs outside. Few women can promise that, right?"

Chapter 715: The Engagement

In the face of Zhong Yating's temptation, Huangfu Ruixiang's expression remained unchanged. He simply pushed her away and spoke disdainfully, "So many women want to marry me now. Do you genuinely believe you have any advantages? Do you possess profound cultivation or come from a distinguished family? What makes you think you can be my wife?"

Zhong Yating, unfazed by the sudden push, maintained her smile. "So what? Anyway, I'm your legitimate fiancée now, and I'll be your wife in the future. Don't forget, our engagement ceremony was approved and ordered by your elder brother. So, if you really want to abandon me afterward, I'll have to talk it out."

Huangfu Ruixiang's face darkened. "Zhong Yating, don't think you've truly gained the upper hand. We're engaged, not married. Even if we were married, divorce is still an option. Do you truly believe this elusive engagement ceremony makes you my wife? That's just a dream."

"Alright!" Zhong Yating said indifferently. "Then go tell your brother you want to annul the engagement with me! Also, enlighten him on why we're getting married. Let him know how his younger brother plans to scheme against him."

Huangfu Ruixiang's eyes flashed with coldness. "Zhong Yating, are you courting death?"

"No, I'm just reminding you." Zhong Yating smiled. "I came to congratulate you today and discuss something important. Ruixiang, let's get married!"

"What?" Huangfu Ruixiang seemed to hear something unbelievable. "Zhong Yating, do you know what you're saying?"

"Of course, I know!" Zhong Yating nodded. "We're engaged now. Getting married is a natural progression. Is there a need to make such a fuss?"

"Zhong Yating, I think you're crazy," Huangfu Ruixiang said in disbelief. "You know what I'm thinking, yet you still want to get married. You must be daydreaming!"

Completely unaffected, Zhong Yating continued, "It doesn't matter what you think. It doesn't matter what I think. What's important is how outsiders view us. Now that we're a loving couple in the eyes of outsiders, isn't it natural for us to get married?"

Huangfu Ruixiang was furious but had no way to refute it.

“Ruixiang, I’ll find time to talk to our parents and elder brother about marriage,” Zhong Yating continued. “As for the wedding, don’t worry. Given elder brother’s support for our engagement, he should approve of our marriage too.”

“Zhong Yating, you dare!” Huangfu Ruixiang appeared fierce on the outside but weak on the inside.

“Huangfu Ruixiang, no need to resist. It’s destined that we’ll be together.” Zhong Yating said with certainty. “We’re tied together now. In the future, don’t even think about getting rid of me.”

With that, she turned around and left, ignoring Huangfu Ruixiang’s reaction.

However, it was obvious that she was in a good mood. She walked with the wind, humming a song.

The people she met along the way all stopped to greet her.

After Zhong Yating’s announcement, almost everyone in the Huangfu family knew she was Huangfu Ruixiang’s fiancée. Now that there was news that Huangfu Ruiling was the head of the Huangfu family, didn’t that mean Zhong Yating was about to marry into the Huangfu family?

Therefore, even though she was just an insignificant disciple, she became an existence everyone wanted to curry favor with.

Especially now, seeing Zhong Yating leave Huangfu Ruixiang’s room happily, it was clear how close they were. The matter of their marriage seemed set in stone!

Not long after the news that Huangfu Ruiling was the head of the Huangfu family was revealed, the Huangfu family announced another important news. Huangfu Ruiling was about to hold an engagement ceremony with his fiancée, Ye Leng’an.

As soon as this news spread, it immediately attracted a wave of gossip.

Previously, Huangfu Ruiling had announced to the public that Ye An’an was his fiancée. Now, it seemed Ye An’an was also an alias. The real name should be Ye Leng’an.

When they received the news that Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an were about to get engaged, the other families began to inquire about the invitation.

After the Family Competition, the Huangfu family had obtained the priority to mine the spirit stone mine. It was obvious the Huangfu family would benefit greatly from the mining in the next few years.

Over the years, the Huangfu family had become the number one family in the Hidden World. Now, it was even more secure in this position. Who didn’t want to be on good terms with the Huangfu family?

At this moment, the Ye family had also heard the news.

Unlike the Huangfu family’s jubilant mood, the Ye family appeared to be shrouded in dark clouds.

No one knew what had happened, but the Ye family's old master, Ye Yikun, was seriously injured and was still recuperating. The young lady of the Ye family, Ye Wanwan, was also seriously injured on the same day.

Everyone was guessing what the reason was. However, they couldn't figure it out. Of course, no one dared to discuss this matter openly.

At this moment, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu naturally knew the news. However, when they learned of this news, they were happy at first, but what followed was melancholy and worry.

In the courtyard, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu sat opposite each other. Both of them did not look too good. The hot tea in front of them had already turned cold, but the two of them did not care.

After being silent for a while, Lian Mengzhu could not help but speak up, "Hongxuan, do you think when Leng'an and Huangfu Ruiling are engaged, we..."

"Don't even think about it. We can't attend in the name of her parents." Ye Hongxuan naturally knew what Lian Mengzhu wanted to ask. He cruelly dispelled all of Lian Mengzhu's fantasies. "Father will definitely not let us do this. More importantly, Leng'an probably doesn't want to acknowledge us as her parents either!"

After saying that, he could not help but smile bitterly. It was obvious that he was not in a good mood.

Chapter 716: Barging In

After hearing Ye Hongxuan's words, Lian Mengzhu couldn't contain her tears any longer, and they began to flow uncontrollably. "That's my daughter, the one I bore for ten months, and now I can't even attend her engagement as her mother."

The realization of this fact unleashed a torrent of sorrow within her, intensifying her resentment towards Lian Zixin. It was all Lian Zixin's doing.

The sister she had always cherished had turned her own biological daughter into a stranger. The inability to even recognize her now fueled her deep-seated anger.

Observing Lian Mengzhu's grief, Ye Hongxuan also felt uneasy. Despite that, he tried to console her. "Don't dwell on it too much. Pretend you know nothing. Let the past remain in the past."

Though challenging, that seemed to be their only recourse. In addition to paternal opposition, there was also resistance from Ye Leng'an, who showed no inclination to acknowledge their relationship.

Lian Mengzhu, hearing Ye Hongxuan's words, became even more despondent. Her tears seemed uncontainable.

Witnessing Lian Mengzhu's sorrow, Ye Hongxuan couldn't bear it. Yet, he was at a loss on how to continue comforting her and could only be there for her in silence.

At that moment, a servant cautiously entered, glancing at Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. Uncertain whether to speak, she hesitated.

Clearly unprepared for this situation, she speculated whether the Master and Madam had quarreled, but the scene before her suggested otherwise.

“What’s the matter?” Ye Hongxuan urged the servant to speak.

“Master, Madam,” the servant hesitated before speaking, “Mrs. Yan is here and seems anxious to see Madam.”

Lian Mengzhu’s hatred flared up at the mention of Lian Zixin’s name. “She dares to show her face.” She seethed. “If it weren’t for her, Leng’an...”

“Mengzhu!” Ye Hongxuan interjected, stopping her. He shook his head gently and advised, “Say no more.”

This matter had been silenced by an order from his father, and the truth of Ye Wanwan’s switch had not leaked out. Few within the Ye family were aware of it, and they couldn’t risk it becoming public.

Heeding Ye Hongxuan’s warning, Lian Mengzhu snapped out of her anger. Still, her face expressed lingering resentment. “Let her go; I don’t want to see her.”

With Lian Mengzhu’s response, the servant promptly retreated.

However, she couldn’t shake her perplexity. Mrs. Yan had always treated her sister well, even bringing gifts every visit. But now, Madam claimed not to want to see her. It was an inexplicable turn of events.

As a mere servant, she decided against overthinking. It was better to avoid knowing more than she should to prevent jeopardizing her job.

“If you don’t want to see her, then don’t.” Ye Hongxuan reached out to hold Lian Mengzhu’s hand, offering, “Don’t let these people affect your mood.”

Nodding in acknowledgment of her husband’s concern, Lian Mengzhu complied.

Suddenly, a commotion reached them, announcing the arrival of Lian Zixin.

“Sister, sister!” Lian Zixin barged in, calling out.

The servants and disciples refrained from stopping her; after all, she was Madam’s sister. Though Madam currently refused to see Lian Zixin, a reconciliation was unpredictable.

Capitalizing on this, Lian Zixin boldly entered.

Upon her entrance, she noticed Lian Mengzhu and hurried over, complaining, “Sister, look at these servants. They dared to stop me from seeing you. You must punish them.”

The servants and disciples, standing respectfully, held their silence.

Lian Mengzhu’s face contorted in displeasure. She scolded them, “Have you all not eaten? If you can’t stop one person, what use will you be in the future?”

Her words stunned everyone present, especially Lian Zixin. She could hardly believe such words came from her sister’s mouth.

Feeling unjust, the servants and disciples struggled to find words in their defense.

“Mengzhu, let it go.” Ye Hongxuan looked at Lian Mengzhu and suggested, “Clarify things with her. Otherwise, such incidents will continue.”

After his advice, he gestured for everyone else to leave. He then nodded at Lian Mengzhu and exited the courtyard, leaving the space to the sisters.

Soon, only Lian Mengzhu and Lian Zixin remained in the courtyard.

Once a bit arrogant, Lian Zixin now dared not even breathe loudly. She had come to seek answers but hadn’t expected Lian Mengzhu to refuse to see her.

Lately, she felt that her life was taking a turn for the worse. First, there were issues in various aspects of the Yan family’s business, keeping Yan Kai busy and overwhelmed every day.

Then, unexpectedly, Chenlang and Xiaolei returned to the Yan family these past few days, only to be sent back by the Ye family.

Perplexed by what was happening at home, she couldn’t figure it out despite much contemplation. That was why she decided to visit today, hoping to get an explanation from Lian Mengzhu.

However, what she didn’t anticipate was Lian Mengzhu’s refusal to even see her.

Feeling a sense of panic, Lian Zixin struggled to find words.

“Lian Zixin, don’t come here again.” When Lian Mengzhu looked at her sister, all warmth had vanished, replaced by cold indifference. “I don’t want to see you anymore.”

“Sister, did I do something wrong to make you angry? Please forgive me just this once! I promise I won’t do it again.”

Lian Zixin’s eyes betrayed her panic. She extended her hand, attempting to grab Lian Mengzhu’s sleeve, recalling that this gesture had always led to forgiveness in the past.

However, to her surprise, Lian Mengzhu didn’t even spare her a glance, simply waving her hand to push her away.

Chapter 717: Severing Ties

Lian Zixin was taken aback, a bit dazed. She lifted her head, staring blankly at Lian Mengzhu, seemingly unable to fully comprehend.

“Sister, what’s going on?” Lian Zixin’s face carried a look of grievance. “If I’ve truly done something wrong, just tell me straightforwardly. Don’t treat me like this!”

For some reason, she felt a sense of panic in her heart. Especially with Lian Mengzhu’s current attitude, it made her feel scared. In the past, regardless of her mistakes, Lian Mengzhu had never treated her this way. Could it be that the truth had been exposed?

Upon careful consideration, Lian Zixin found it unlikely. If the matter had truly come to light, the Ye family wouldn't be so calm. Moreover, if there were any movements, Ye Wanwan should have found a way to send her a message as a reminder.

"Do you know what you've done? Do you really not know?" Lian Mengzhu stared at Lian Zixin, who was still pretending, with a cold smile. "I've indeed underestimated you. I never expected that all this time, you've harbored such hatred towards me!"

"Sister, what are you talking about?" Lian Zixin anxiously spoke. "How could I hate you? You've always been the best to me. I've always cherished that."

"Then how did you repay me?" Lian Mengzhu couldn't contain her emotions. Standing up, she unleashed her anger on Lian Zixin. "You replaced my daughter with your own, allowing her to enjoy everything in the Ye family, while my daughter was discarded to the mortal world. Do you want to ensure we can never recognize each other for a lifetime?"

After listening to Lian Mengzhu's outburst, Lian Zixin was completely bewildered. Standing there, she felt a chill rising from her feet. Soon, she sensed as if she were immersed in ice-cold water in the dead of winter, her entire body freezing, unable to utter a word.

Observing Lian Zixin's state, Lian Mengzhu showed no sign of mercy. She continued, "Lian Zixin, don't call me sister anymore. I'm not your sister. Also, from now on, don't come to the Ye family. I'll make it clear – if you come again, don't even think about crossing the doorstep."

At this point, she had no emotional attachment to her sister. If anything, it was pure hatred. Particularly today, upon learning that Ye Leng'an was about to get engaged, she, as her biological mother, couldn't even offer a few words of advice. She truly wished to eliminate Lian Zixin.

"No, I..." Lian Zixin was in a state of panic. She hurriedly tried to explain, but she didn't know what to say.

"Lian Zixin, there's no need to defend yourself here. I won't believe anything you say anymore," coldly stated Lian Mengzhu. "As for the Yan family, they're being suppressed because of your mistake."

Hearing such words, Lian Zixin understood everything. The Ye family must have known about the past events, leading to their suppression of the Yan family. Her two children, Chenlang and Xiaolei, being expelled from the Ye family was also the consequence of this revelation.

"Sister, I was wrong. I truly admit my mistake." Lian Zixin immediately knelt down, crying and pleading with Lian Mengzhu. "I was confused back then, which led to such actions. Sister, please forgive me this time! I promise to spend the rest of my life making amends for this error."

She knew she had to secure Lian Mengzhu's forgiveness, or the Yan family would be in jeopardy. Not only that, but her children would have no future.

“Make amends?” Lian Mengzhu’s tone almost turned icy, as if she had heard a joke. “How will you make amends? I want your life now. Can you give it to me?”

After hearing Lian Mengzhu’s words, Lian Zixin didn’t know how to respond. Despite her claims of making amends, she had no idea how to do so. Moreover, giving her life to Lian Mengzhu was impossible.

Even ants fought for survival; she, too, valued her life greatly.

Seeing Lian Zixin’s demeanor, Lian Mengzhu understood everything.

“Lian Zixin, leave!” Lian Mengzhu looked at the kneeling Lian Zixin without a trace of softening. “From today onwards, you’re no longer my sister. Whether it’s you or the Yan family, it’s none of my concern.”

“Sister! I know I was wrong. I truly know I was wrong.” Lian Zixin cried bitterly. “I won’t complain no matter what you do to me. But the Yan family and my children don’t know anything. I beg you, spare them!”

Setting aside the Yan family, Chenlang and Xiaolei were still young. If they were continually suppressed by the Ye family, their lives would be ruined.

With things having reached this point, she was prepared to accept any punishment. However, she couldn’t let her children suffer.

Lian Mengzhu sat down again, looking at the kneeling Lian Zixin. Her eyes lacked the warmth from the past. Suddenly, she reached out and slapped Lian Zixin forcefully.

Lian Zixin was caught off guard by the sudden slap, almost unable to react in time. Feeling a burning pain on her cheek, her ears began to buzz.

Then, a cold voice sounded in her ear.

“If I spare your children, what about my daughter?” Lian Mengzhu said sinisterly. “You ruined my child, and now you’re asking me to forgive your children. Are you daydreaming?”

Lian Mengzhu’s merciless words shattered Lian Zixin’s last hope. Her whole body felt cold as she weakly sat on the ground. Her lips were pale, presenting the appearance of someone who had lost their soul.

However, she seemed to recall something and suddenly asked, “What about Wanwan? What are you going to do to her?”

If she had ended up like this, wouldn’t Wanwan be even more pitiful? Now that the Ye family knew about Wanwan’s identity, would Wanwan be expelled?

“Wanwan has nothing to do with you anymore.” Lian Mengzhu’s lips curled into a smile as she continued, “She’s already my daughter and will forever be my daughter.”

Chapter 718: Getting Close

Lian Zixin left the Ye family in a state of despair, caught off guard by Lian Mengzhu's heart of stone.

Before her departure, she had hoped to meet Ye Wanwan. However, the response she received was Ye Wanwan's unwillingness to see her. Helpless, she had no choice but to leave the Ye family.

As she stepped through the main gate of the Ye family, Lian Zixin couldn't help but glance back.

Once, she was the cherished younger sister of the Ye family's matriarch. Every time she visited the Ye family, she was treated as an esteemed guest and showered with flattery. But now, she was cast out like garbage, and the prospect of entering this luxurious mansion again seemed bleak.

Furthermore, the chances of encountering Ye Wanwan again were slim. However, she found solace in the fact that despite the exposed truth, Ye Wanwan wasn't expelled from the Ye family. Nevertheless, she had permanently lost her daughter.

Though Ye Wanwan remained in the Ye family, the future treatment she would receive remained uncertain. Regardless, Lian Zixin lacked the ability to do anything for Ye Wanwan now. Additionally, challenges awaited her from the Yan family and her children; the storms ahead were unpredictable.

If asked if she regretted her actions, she certainly did. However, her regret wasn't about swapping the two children; rather, it was about not directly eliminating the child back then.

Yet, everything had changed, and the irreversible facts dictated her present situation. Thus, she departed with a heart full of resentment and indignation.

Meanwhile, Ye Wanwan, recovering in her room, wasn't faring well.

With a pale complexion, sunken eyes, and dry lips, she resembled an elderly person on the brink of death after losing her cultivation.

Previously, despite the exposure of the truth, she was content that her grandfather acknowledged her identity. Her engagement to the Murong family ensured her continued status as the Ye family's young lady, even after Ye Leng'an crippled her cultivation.

However, the unfolding events exceeded her control. The revelation of Huangfu Ruiling as the head of the Huangfu family and Ye Leng'an's impending engagement ceremony with him posed a severe threat. If her grandfather entertained the idea of recognizing Ye Leng'an, she would be in deep trouble.

Now bereft of advantages and cultivation, her alchemy skills faced severe setbacks. Her hopes hinged on her grandfather's identity, and she felt like a convict awaiting sentencing.

Upon learning of Lian Zixin's desire to meet her, Ye Wanwan promptly refused. She needed to establish clear boundaries to avoid unfavorable judgments from her parents and grandfather.

As for Ye Yikun, recovering in his courtyard, news of Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an's engagement prompted him to spit out another mouthful of blood, inciting chaos once again.

Ye Leng'an, at the center of the rumors, remained the most composed individual.

Her engagement with Huangfu Ruiling was scheduled, with ceremonies in the Hidden World and the mortal world. Subsequently, she would enter university.

In the Hidden World, the Grand Elder and other elders organized the engagement ceremony. Huangfu Ruiling offered suggestions, while Ye Leng'an, the main protagonist, carried on as if nothing had happened.

Yet, Ye Leng'an felt that her leisurely life irked the heavens. They sent someone to disrupt her life – Zhong Yating.

Although Zhong Yating, an outer sect disciple, had no right to meet Ye Leng'an, her status as Huangfu Ruixiang's fiancée and Huangfu Ruixiang being Huangfu Ruiling's younger brother facilitated her entry.

Observing Zhong Yating's attempts to curry favor, Ye Leng'an thought it was time to reorganize the Huangfu family. Some individuals needed a reminder to respect the head of the family.

Zhong Yating accompanied her with a smile, trying to get closer to Ye Leng'an while constantly flattering her. However, when she saw Ye Leng'an's expressionless face, her heart couldn't help but waver, completely unable to fathom what the other was thinking.

In reality, if it weren't for the urgency of marrying Huangfu Ruixiang, she wouldn't have rashly approached Ye Leng'an.

Originally, she intended to find Huangfu Ruiling. However, she was well aware that she might be expelled before even catching a glimpse of Huangfu Ruiling's presence.

Hence, she had to resort to indirect methods, bribing a servant and claiming to be Huangfu Ruiling's future sister-in-law. She pretended to come here to build a relationship with Ye Leng'an, managing to sneak her way in.

She knew that as long as Ye Leng'an could help her, she could quickly marry Huangfu Ruixiang. However, she genuinely couldn't decipher what the other was thinking.

Chapter 719: Her Scheme Foiled

Ye Leng'an listened absently as Zhong Yating kept on chattering. In reality, her mind was elsewhere, and not a single word registered.

Zhong Yating had almost talked herself hoarse, only to realize that the person in front of her seemed completely unresponsive. She cautiously looked at Ye Leng'an, pondering whether she should just be straightforward. Despite her continuous hints, it seemed like she didn't grasp the implications.

Sensing the gaze from Zhong Yating, Ye Leng'an turned and looked at her, saying directly, "You've said so much today. What's the purpose of your visit? Just speak up! There's no need to keep beating around the bush; I don't have the patience to go in circles with you."

Hearing Ye Leng'an's candid words, Zhong Yating's face showed a hint of embarrassment. She hurriedly responded, "No, I just..."

"If there's really nothing to say, then please leave!" Ye Leng'an straightforwardly issued an eviction order. "We're not acquainted, and there's not much to discuss."

"Sister-in-law, I'm about to marry Ruixiang, and soon we'll be family." Despite feeling dissatisfied with Ye Leng'an's behavior, Zhong Yating understood the principle that

circumstances outweighed personal feelings. She continued with a forced smile, "We'll be sisters-in-law; wouldn't it be better to get to know each other sooner?"

Ye Leng'an found these pleasantries dull. "I doubt you understand the bond between the two brothers. Even if you marry Huangfu Ruixiang, our interactions won't be substantial."

In one sentence, Zhong Yating's prepared words were stifled, unable to find an outlet.

"Zhong Yating, I'll give you a chance." Ye Leng'an looked at her, continuing, "Just tell me your purpose. This chance is a one-time offer."

Anxious after Ye Leng'an's words, Zhong Yating didn't hesitate and immediately said, "I want to marry Ruixiang. I hope you can help me."

"What?" Ye Leng'an doubted her ears for a moment, wondering if she misheard. "Do you know what you're saying?"

Was Zhong Yating expecting her to act like Huangfu Ruixiang's mother? Huangfu Ruixiang's marriage had nothing to do with her. Was there something wrong with her head? Speaking about such matters to her was pointless!

"Ruixiang and I want to get married soon, so we hope to have your and Big Brother's approval." Zhong Yating quickly continued, "Sister-in-law, you... shouldn't have any objections, right?"

"When you get married is your business," Ye Leng'an said indifferently. "Just like during the engagement. If you want to get married before us, I have no objections. Decide for yourselves."

"Really? That's great." Zhong Yating's eyes gleamed with joy. Then, as if facing a dilemma, she cautiously looked at Ye Leng'an before continuing, "Then, Sister-in-law, can you help inform Big Brother? After all, considering my status, it's not appropriate for me to meet Big Brother directly."

Wanting to settle the marriage today, even if Huangfu Ruixiang wanted to object, it would be futile. So, regardless, she had to convince Ye Leng'an to assist her today.

Speaking ambiguously now, Zhong Yating hoped Ye Leng'an would think Huangfu Ruixiang had already agreed to the marriage.

"This is a small matter." Ye Leng'an looked at Zhong Yating with a half-smile. Ignoring her expectant gaze, she continued, "Just ask Ruixiang to talk to Ling. Even if the brothers are a bit estranged, it's still more convenient for them to discuss than us!"

Zhong Yating's eyes brightened at the first part of the sentence. However, the latter part brought her from heaven to hell. Her smile became somewhat unpleasant. "Wouldn't this be too much trouble for Big Brother? Also, Ruixiang..."

“Marriage is your affair. How can only you talk about it?” Before Zhong Yating could finish, Ye Leng’an interrupted, “So, let Ruixiang speak for himself! A man should take responsibility!”

Unable to refute, Zhong Yating could only maintain a forced smile. “Then... I’ll let Ruixiang do it!”

Despite her smiling face, anxiety filled her heart. She realized her plan for the day had failed.

Ye Leng’an was unexpectedly unyielding. If Huangfu Ruixiang was willing to speak, why would she waste so much time here?

She didn’t know if Ye Leng’an genuinely felt it wasn’t appropriate for her, a woman, to discuss such matters, or if she saw through her intentions, prompting such a request.

“Do as you please.” Ye Leng’an nodded and calmly said, “If there’s nothing else, leave. I still have things to attend to; I won’t chat with you here.

It was a clear order to leave. If she couldn’t understand, she’d be a fool. Though reluctant to leave, Zhong Yating didn’t want to stay any longer. She stood up and bid farewell, “Then, I won’t disturb you anymore. If Sister-in-law wants to chat, you can find me anytime. We’ll be family soon, so there’s no need to be polite!”

Ye Leng’an waved her hand, not offering a reply.

Glancing around, Zhong Yating left reluctantly.

The disparity between where she lived and where Ye Leng’an resided was like heaven and earth.

As an outer sect disciple, she wouldn’t even qualify to enter the Huangfu family’s residence if she weren’t Huangfu Ruixiang’s fiancée. However, Ye Leng’an lived in the best courtyard, with attendants and the finest food and drinks.

Although she and Ye Leng’an were married to brothers, their treatment was vastly different. Despite envy and jealousy, she accepted the reality. Moreover, Huangfu Ruixiang was already the best match she could find.

Regardless, she had to marry Huangfu Ruixiang.

Watching Zhong Yating leave, Ye Leng’an couldn’t help but sigh.

A perfectly good day had been wasted.

However, judging from today, Zhong Yating wasn’t an easy opponent. Was Huangfu Ruixiang lucky or unlucky? Why were all the women he encountered like this? In the future, when Zhong Yating faced off against Li Yiran, who knew what kind of scene would unfold?

Chapter 720: Only Belonging to Each Other

Thinking about it, Ye Leng’an couldn’t help but chuckle.

“What’s on your mind? Why the joy?” Just at that moment, a familiar voice sounded from behind. Ye Leng’an turned around to find Huangfu Ruiling slowly approaching.

“You’re back!” Seeing Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Leng’an rushed forward and embraced him, smiling radiantly. “Why are you back so early? Is everything settled?”

Huangfu Ruiling immediately wrapped his arms around Ye Leng’an’s waist. “I’ve discussed the general requirements with the Grand Elder; he’ll handle it. If any issues arise, he’ll seek guidance.”

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling’s words, Ye Leng’an found it amusing. “Who would have thought that, in the end, the most relaxed individuals would be us, the soon-to-be-engaged main characters.”

“The Grand Elder will be delighted,” Huangfu Ruiling said casually. “The other elders seem excited too. It’s been a long time since the Huangfu family had such a joyful occasion. They just want to have some fun.”

Ye Leng’an burst into laughter. “You manage to make the ‘hands-off boss’ sound so refined!”

Huangfu Ruiling was somewhat speechless. He lightly tapped her forehead with his hand. “How can you say that?”

Ye Leng’an stuck out her tongue and didn’t say more.

“What were you laughing about?” Huangfu Ruiling asked. “I came back and saw you giggling alone. Did something happy happen?”

“No, Zhong Yating came over just now,” Ye Leng’an replied with a hint of helplessness. “She dragged me along and chatted quite a bit.”

“Zhong Yating?” Hearing the name, Huangfu Ruiling had no recollection. “Is she your friend? Why haven’t you mentioned her before?”

“No!” Ye Leng’an was somewhat speechless. “She’s your brother’s fiancée. Don’t forget, you helped organize their engagement ceremony in the mortal world!”

After Ye Leng’an’s explanation, Huangfu Ruiling recalled. However, he corrected, “I didn’t organize it. The hotel manager did it; I only gave the order. But why did she come to you? I don’t recall you having a good relationship,” he asked.

To be precise, they hadn’t exchanged many words.

“You are right, we have no relationship.” Ye Leng’an smiled and shook her head, continuing, “She came today to have me tell you about her marriage to Huangfu Ruixiang.”

“Marriage?” Huangfu Ruiling frowned in surprise. “Is Huangfu Ruixiang planning to get married?”

He hadn’t expected Huangfu Ruixiang to be interested in Zhong Yating, let alone planning to marry her.

“I don’t know Ruixiang’s plans, but Zhong Yating is eager to get married,” Ye Leng’an said, looking at Huangfu Ruiling. With a smile, she added, “With a big brother like

you, how could Zhong Yating not want to hold onto Huangfu Ruixiang, a wealthy husband!"

Huangfu Ruiling frowned even more. "Even if Ruixiang is my younger brother, he won't receive any special treatment in the Huangfu family."

"That's your perspective, but outsiders don't know." Ye Leng'an curled her lips in a sarcastic smile. She continued, "After your identity was exposed, many people found out Ruixiang is your younger brother. They're openly or secretly trying to curry favor!"

"Those people have too much free time." Huangfu Ruiling's eyes flashed with a cold light. "It seems the family needs a good clean-up."

"It's indeed time for a cleanup." Ye Leng'an rolled her eyes. "Today, a servant took the liberty of bringing Zhong Yating directly to me."

Huangfu Ruiling took note and planned to have someone handle these matters later. Then, as if remembering something, he looked at Ye Leng'an in his arms and suddenly asked, "What do you plan to do about the Ye family?"

"Huh?" Ye Leng'an was surprised. Clearly, she hadn't expected Huangfu Ruiling to bring up the Ye family suddenly. "What's the matter?"

She had no intention of returning to the Ye family. Moreover, the Ye family had no intention of acknowledging her. Ye Yikun had made it clear that Ye Wanwan was the young lady of the Ye family. Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu also seemed reluctant toward Ye Wanwan.

Therefore, she didn't think she had any connection with the Ye family now.

"We're engaged. Should we invite them?" Huangfu Ruiling asked. "You decide."

Ye Leng'an raised an eyebrow, speaking nonchalantly, "As usual is fine. If the Huangfu family usually invites the Ye family, there's no need to exclude them this time."

Huangfu Ruiling nodded. Then, as if remembering something, he continued, "This time, there's no need to invite the Ye family. After the incident at the Ye family last time, while the Huangfu family and the Ye family aren't enemies, they can't be as friendly as before."

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling's words, Ye Leng'an was surprised for a moment. Then, she nodded indifferently. "It's up to you. I have no objections."

"After the ceremony, I've arranged things for the mortal world," Huangfu Ruiling continued. "It will be held before your school starts."

Ye Leng'an pursed her lips into a smile. Then, teasingly, she said, "Why in such a hurry? Afraid I'll run away?"

"I won't give you a chance to escape." Huangfu Ruiling's eyes flashed with a trace of darkness. "No matter what happens in the future, you're mine and can only be mine."

“Why not say you’re mine?” Ye Leng’an tilted her head, smiling. She continued, “Don’t tell me you’re a male chauvinist too? Do you want to treat me as your exclusive possession?”

“You’re not an object. You’re my lover, my other half. I’m yours, and you’re mine.” Huangfu Ruiling’s voice was soft but resolute. “We belong to each other.”

It wasn’t a poetic declaration, but when Ye Leng’an heard it, she couldn’t help but feel a surge of sweetness in her heart.

She reached out, hugging Huangfu Ruiling’s neck. Then, she nodded with a smile. “Yes, we belong to each other and only to each other.”