

Full-Level 761

Chapter 761: Their Simple Wedding

Upon arriving at the banquet venue, Ye Leng'an held Huangfu Ruiling's hand as they slowly walked in.

At the entrance, only Zhong Yating stood there alone to welcome the guests.

Although a huge wedding poster adorned the doorway, only the bride was present to greet the guests, lending an air of desolation to the scene.

Yet, Zhong Yating's face was adorned with a radiant smile, exuding happiness as any bride would, seemingly unaffected by the circumstances.

Ye Leng'an, drawing closer to Huangfu Ruiling, whispered, "Zhong Yating's resilience is remarkable! To maintain such a cheerful demeanor in these circumstances, facing guests alone without a hint of complaint – truly impressive!"

Arching an eyebrow, Huangfu Ruiling remarked calmly, "Given the wish she fulfilled, it's natural for her to be happy. She can endure this slight discomfort."

Ye Leng'an chuckled and shook her head. "I really wonder what she's seeking. To risk so much just to marry a scoundrel like Huangfu Ruixiang – it's beyond comprehension!"

In her eyes, Huangfu Ruixiang was indeed a true scoundrel. First Li Yiran, now Zhong Yating.

Yet, Li Yiran hadn't been as fortunate as Zhong Yating; at least Zhong Yating could claim a title.

Huangfu Ruiling shook his head, opting not to dwell further. "Let's proceed inside."

Ye Leng'an concurred, and they swiftly entered the banquet hall.

Inside, a somber atmosphere prevailed. The decorations were sparse – a few modest flower arrangements and balloons – hardly enough to set a festive mood. The wedding appeared quite modest.

This was indeed a simple, almost rudimentary, Chinese wedding, with just a few tables set up. While the guests were numerous, they whispered amongst themselves. Huangfu Ruixiang, supposed to accompany Zhong Yating in greeting guests, sat atop the main seat, occasionally glancing towards the door, seemingly eager to leave but restrained, unlike Zhong Yating.

As for Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying, the parents, their faces betrayed no joy. They sat quietly, hardly acknowledging Zhong Yating's presence, devoid of any pretense.

Likewise, seated at the main table was the Huangfu family's second branch. While they shared a table, the divide between the first and second branches was apparent.

Witnessing this, many could discern their dissatisfaction with Huangfu Ruixiang's wedding. Yet, for reasons unknown, they couldn't oppose it, only compromise.

Otherwise, even a regular affluent family wouldn't host such a simple wedding. Huangfu Ruixiang, being the younger brother of the family head Huangfu Ruiling, should have had a more dignified ceremony. Such a small-scale affair left much to be desired.

However, curiosity abounded regarding tonight's bride. To defy the objections of Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying and marry Huangfu Ruixiang, despite the modest wedding, was quite impressive.

Seated at the main table, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an nodded in acknowledgment before engaging in hushed conversation, ignoring the rest.

"It's surprisingly sparse tonight," Ye Leng'an whispered, scanning the room. "These must all be Huangfu family members."

"Yeah." Huangfu Ruiling nodded. "Apart from them, there are no outsiders. Even the entire Huangfu family isn't here."

"It must be hard for Zhongyu Liuying to prepare such a simple wedding," Ye Leng'an remarked, amused.

Indeed, Zhongyu Liuying's disdain for Zhong Yating was palpable. Despite time constraints, the Huangfu family could have organized a respectable wedding. Yet, it had come to this.

"Perhaps they anticipated disruptions during the ceremony and opted for fewer guests," Huangfu Ruiling suggested, "to avoid any unpleasantness."

Ye Leng'an rolled her eyes. "Does she think this setup is aesthetically pleasing?"

Guests were evidently speculating, finding Zhongyu Liuying's actions distasteful.

Huangfu Ruiling's eyes gleamed with scorn. "She believes she's expressing dissatisfaction with Zhong Yating, unaware she's making a mockery of herself."

Such petty tactics were beneath him, yet Huangfu Ruiling wouldn't intervene if Zhongyu Liuying insisted

Ye Leng'an nodded. "Still, Huangfu Ruixiang is spineless. Regardless of his dissatisfaction, leaving Zhong Yating to face this alone today is unacceptable."

Hence her disdain for him.

"He refuses to acknowledge Zhong Yating as his wife," Huangfu Ruiling stated coldly. "Using Zhongyu Liuying's intervention as an excuse to appear helpless."

"Hard to believe someone would fall for such an irresponsible man," Ye Leng'an scoffed.

Huangfu Ruiling's lips twitched, opting for silence.

Next, the two of them didn't continue discussing the topic. Instead, they began chatting about mundane matters and some amusing incidents that had occurred at Ye Leng'an's school in the past few days.

They were just like any ordinary couple, talking and laughing together, making those around them aware of the strong bond between them.

Chapter 762: Wait A Moment

Sitting together at the same table, Nangong Xiyu smiled and remarked, “Oh, Ruiling and Leng’an’s relationship is really good! Looks like your wedding is coming soon!”

Upon hearing that, Huangfu Ruiling’s expression softened. He even responded, “It depends on An’an.”

Huangfu Ruiling’s response surprised everyone at the main table. Even Nangong Xiyu, who had spoken first, did not expect this.

Her initial intention in speaking was merely to establish a good relationship with Huangfu Ruiling. With Huangfu Ruiling now in charge of the Huangfu family, she naturally didn’t expect her son and husband to contest for power. After all, Huangfu Jingxian and Huangfu Ruihang lacked such capability.

However, with Huangfu Jingxian and Huangfu Ruihang now working at Huangye Group, she naturally hoped they would have more opportunities for advancement. This inevitably required support from Huangfu Ruiling’s side.

Thus, she spoke up. She didn’t expect Huangfu Ruiling to actually respond, which left her pleasantly surprised.

For a moment, Nangong Xiyu didn’t know how to respond.

Ye Leng’an smiled and spoke without embarrassment, “There’s no rush. I’m still in university!”

“Even university students can get married now.” Taking Ye Leng’an’s cue, Nangong Xiyu immediately seized the opportunity to continue, “Your relationship with Ruiling is good, so it’s okay to get married early. However, speaking of which, both Ruiling and Ruixiang are already in relationships. Ruixiang got married today, and as for our Ruihang, we still don’t know where his girlfriend is!”

Nangong Xiyu naturally took advantage of this opportunity to continue the conversation, and Ye Leng’an joined in.

She wasn’t blind; she could see how important Ye Leng’an was to Huangfu Ruiling. Flattering Ye Leng’an was definitely more effective than pleasing Huangfu Ruiling. Last time, she was able to smoothly obtain half of the domestic power because of Ye Leng’an.

Under Nangong Xiyu’s deliberate guidance, Ye Leng’an started chatting with her.

She was aware of Nangong Xiyu’s intentions, but such thoughts were only natural, and she didn’t find them offensive. Moreover, now that Nangong Xiyu had already expressed goodwill, there was no need for her to reject it.

Although Nangong Xiyu and Ye Leng’an weren’t engaged in lively conversation, they were getting along well. Compared to Zhongyu Liuying, Nangong Xiyu seemed more like a mother-in-law.

Seeing this, Zhongyu Liuying’s face turned green with envy. However, she couldn’t lower herself to please Ye Leng’an.

Huangfu Jingzhang, on the other hand, looked dissatisfied as he watched Ye Leng'an. In his opinion, since Ye Leng'an was their future daughter-in-law, even if she didn't curry favor with them, she shouldn't be so close to the second branch.

However, no matter how dissatisfied he was, he didn't dare to say anything, fearing retaliation from Huangfu Ruiling. After all, that brat was ruthless to his own kin.

Soon, it was time for the ceremony. Huangfu Ruixiang had already taken the stage, waiting for Zhong Yating to enter.

Although this wedding was simple, it still included the necessary rituals. At the very least, there was no shortage of stage emcees and hosts.

As the music played, Zhong Yating slowly made her entrance from outside.

At this moment, Zhong Yating, like all brides, wore a white wedding dress, held a bouquet of flowers, and had a happy smile on her face. Undoubtedly, she felt truly happy at this moment.

Ye Leng'an, seated below the stage, watched everything on the stage with a cold gaze. Despite the apparent tranquility, this was like the calm before a storm, ready to be shattered at any moment. And once it broke, there would be a tempest.

Otherwise, Zhongyu Liuying wouldn't have arranged such a stage. Despite the simplicity of the wedding, there were still many ceremonies. She couldn't believe there was no ulterior motive.

The ceremony proceeded smoothly. However, because Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying did not approve of the union, there was no segment for the parents to speak.

As for Zhong Yating, she hailed from a remote corner of the Hidden World. She had never liked that place, nor her parents who only held her back. Therefore, since becoming an outer sect disciple of the Hidden World's Huangfu family, she had never returned, nor had she contacted her parents.

So, whether for the engagement or the wedding, she hadn't informed her parents. She felt they weren't respectable enough to be present, and their attendance would only bring her embarrassment. Besides, she had always claimed to be an orphan.

Just as Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating exchanged rings, a sharp voice suddenly pierced the air, capturing everyone's attention.

"Wait a moment!"

With this sharp voice, a woman carrying a baby in swaddling clothes entered from outside.

Though slightly plump, the woman's appearance was unaffected, exuding beauty.

However, everyone recognized her. She was none other than Li Yiran.

Many in the Huangfu family knew of Li Yiran. However, most knew her as someone who once bore the surname Zhongyu. It was rumored she had offended Zhongyu Liuying, leading to her loss of the Zhongyu surname and reverting to her previous surname, Li.

After that, she was seldom seen. Who would have expected her to appear at Huangfu Ruixiang's wedding, carrying a child and seemingly ready to cause trouble?

This unexpected turn of events immediately caught everyone's attention, prompting them to pay close attention to what would unfold.

Those at the main table were well aware of Li Yiran's situation and her child.

Seeing Li Yiran appear with the child, the second branch of the Huangfu family was taken aback. Clearly, this was completely unexpected.

On the contrary, when Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying saw Li Yiran, they exchanged glances and glimpsed a hint of joy in each other's eyes.

Chapter 763: Her Calmness

When Li Yiran appeared, Huangfu Ruixiang was assisting Zhong Yating with putting on the ring, which was already halfway on.

The moment he laid eyes on Li Yiran, he was taken aback. However, seeing the child in Li Yiran's arms stirred within him a strange sensation, akin to the pride of a new father.

He had been aware of the child's birth. Yet, amidst the whirlwind of events during that period, he had been overwhelmed, lacking the energy to attend to the child. He hadn't even spared a glance at the infant.

Of course, the thought of the child had crossed his mind later. However, with Huangfu Ruiling's true identity exposed, Zhong Yating's relentless pursuit, and her insistence on repayment, followed by their impending marriage, he had been consumed with other matters, leaving no room to consider the child.

Had Li Yiran not appeared with the child, he might not have recollected his paternity at all.

At the sight of a beautiful woman holding a child, Zhong Yating immediately felt a surge of vigilance.

The woman was strikingly beautiful. Despite being a mother, her allure remained unmatched.

Her presence at their wedding, claiming no association with Huangfu Ruixiang, was utterly unbelievable to Zhong Yating. She felt an intense sense of foreboding from this woman.

With these thoughts in mind, Zhong Yating promptly approached Huangfu Ruixiang, grasping his hand as if asserting her authority, and questioned, "Who are you? Why disrupt our wedding?"

Li Yiran chose not to address Zhong Yating's inquiry. Instead, tears welled in her eyes as she looked at Huangfu Ruixiang mournfully. "Ruixiang, do you no longer want me? Even if you do not, our child is innocent!"

Her words ignited a commotion among the spectators.

The affair between Li Yiran and Huangfu Ruixiang was known to few. They only knew of Li Yiran's falling out with Zhongyu Liuying, resulting in her expulsion from the Huangfu family. Yet, nobody had anticipated her involvement with Huangfu Ruixiang, let alone bearing his child. It was indeed explosive news!

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying sat unmoved, showing no inclination to intervene. It seemed they preferred the wedding to end abruptly.

The unexpected turn of events surprised Huangfu Jingxian and his family. However, observing the composed demeanor of Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying, they suspected the couple's involvement in this matter.

Regardless, this affair had no bearing on them, so they remained seated, mere spectators to the unfolding drama.

Ye Leng'an leaned on the table, chin resting on her hand, keenly observing the spectacle on stage, thoroughly entertained.

Beside her, Huangfu Ruiling remained indifferent to the proceedings on stage, his gaze fixed on Ye Leng'an, brimming with tenderness.

Meanwhile, on stage, Li Yiran approached Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating with the child in her arms, yet her attention was solely on Huangfu Ruixiang, disregarding Zhong Yating.

"Who are you exactly?"

Li Yiran's indifference further incensed Zhong Yating. "Today is our wedding. If you've come to offer congratulations, you're welcome. If you're here to cause trouble, I urge you to leave."

This wedding, meticulously planned, was not to be marred by anyone. Zhong Yating was convinced of the woman's deep ties to Huangfu Ruixiang. And given the absence of objections from the audience, the child was likely his. But what of it? Zhong Yating sought the position of Huangfu Ruixiang's wife, a title she was determined to claim, regardless of obstacles. Furthermore, even if the child was his, he was merely illegitimate. In time, her own child would rightfully inherit the Huangfu family legacy.

"Ruixiang, look, this is our child," Li Yiran declared, standing before Huangfu Ruixiang. "Since his birth, you've never held him."

Huangfu Ruixiang's gaze fell upon the child in Li Yiran's arms. Seeing the infant's innocent face stirred within him a profound sense of paternal pride. He instinctively reached out, longing to embrace the child.

Sensing Huangfu Ruixiang's intent, Zhong Yating tightened her grip on his hand, restraining him, and preventing him from approaching.

This action snapped Huangfu Ruixiang back to reality. He glanced apologetically at Zhong Yating.

While today's wedding was not of his choosing, he had never intended for Zhong Yating to endure such humiliation. After all, Zhong Yating had been his savior.

Initially elated by Huangfu Ruixiang's gesture, Li Yiran's expression darkened momentarily. However, she maintained her composure. Turning to Zhong Yating, she blinked back tears. "You needn't worry. I'm not here to compete with you. It's just that my child has never known his father since birth. I feel it's unjust for him, hence my bringing him here today. Rest assured, I won't disrupt your wedding. I'm well aware of my place, so you needn't concern yourself with me."

She had initially thought that as soon as she appeared, this woman would surely lose control and create a scene.

Because no matter which woman it was, encountering such a situation on her wedding day, she would definitely not be able to tolerate it. However, who could have imagined that the other party would be so calm, without even a hint of wanting to cause a commotion? She handled everything very calmly, even preventing Huangfu Ruixiang from holding the child.

“But, in fact, you’ve already affected our wedding.” Zhong Yating remained calm, her emotions showing not even the slightest change. “I don’t know what kind of relationship you and Ruixiang have, but today is our wedding. Can’t we deal with whatever issues after the ceremony? Or are you determined to ruin our wedding?”

Zhong Yating’s composed demeanor left Li Yiran somewhat at a loss.

In her anticipation, at this moment, Zhong Yating would surely lose her composure, thus highlighting her pitiful appearance. However, the current calmness of the other party was almost frightening, leaving her momentarily unsure of how to respond.

Chapter 764: Sweet Interactions

However, despite the deviation from expectations, Li Yiran remained composed. She wore a look as if she wanted to speak but hesitated, shedding tears continuously without uttering a word.

Her teary-eyed appearance evoked sympathy from many men present.

Huangfu Ruixiang was among them. When he glanced at Zhong Yating, a hint of reproach colored his tone. “You don’t need to be so aggressive; Yiran didn’t do it on purpose.”

Upon hearing this, Li Yiran felt a twinge of satisfaction, then cast a provocative glance at Zhong Yating out of Huangfu Ruixiang’s sight.

Though furious inside, Zhong Yating showed no sign of it. She turned to Huangfu Ruixiang beside her and smiled lightly. “Ruixiang, I don’t know about what happened among you, this lady, and this child. I don’t mind. After all, who doesn’t have a past? However, today is our wedding, the most important day of my life. I’ve already compromised with everything that happened before. Can’t we just let our wedding proceed smoothly today? Is it too much to ask for such a small wish?”

These words stirred up the little guilt remaining in Huangfu Ruixiang’s heart.

He turned to Li Yiran and said, “Yiran, wait for me in the lounge! We’ll talk after the ceremony.”

Li Yiran was taken aback. She didn’t expect Huangfu Ruixiang’s attitude to change so quickly. For a moment, she was at a loss. “The baby...”

“Take him to the lounge first!” Huangfu Ruixiang made a decisive decision.

Li Yiran felt extremely unwilling. She had chosen to appear at this moment today to disrupt Huangfu Ruixiang’s wedding. However, her appearance had now become a joke.

She still wanted to say something, but Huangfu Ruixiang had someone take her away.

Although her heart was filled with unwillingness and resentment, Li Yiran did not dare to resist. Because if she resisted, she would break her victim image. So, she could only hold the child and obediently follow the others in the direction of the lounge.

Despite Li Yiran's interruption, the wedding continued smoothly, with no further disruptions.

However, the guests below were no longer focused on the wedding; their minds were elsewhere, pondering the relationship between the newlyweds and Li Yiran.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying's faces grew even darker. Seeing the completed rituals, their expressions remained grim.

They were deeply disappointed in Li Yiran. They had hoped for her to disrupt the wedding, but her efforts proved feeble. A few words from Zhong Yating had sent her away.

Indeed, she lacked the stature for such acts, despite having a child as leverage.

Ye Leng'an approached Huangfu Ruiling with an amused smile. "I didn't expect this drama to end so quickly. Li Yiran is truly weak, not on Zhong Yating's level at all!"

Her words stirred guilt in Huangfu Ruixiang, who then decided to send Li Yiran to the lounge to avoid further disturbance.

"Because Zhong Yating's intentions are clear." Huangfu Ruiling observed everything. "All she wants is to become Huangfu Ruixiang's wife and join the Huangfu family."

"Indeed," agreed Ye Leng'an. "Typically, a girl in such a situation would make a scene, perhaps even storm off in anger. But Zhong Yating's unnerving composure is impressive. I wouldn't be able to do the same."

Because if she were to marry, it would definitely be to someone she liked. If betrayed by someone she liked, she wouldn't remain this calm. The wedding wouldn't proceed for sure, and furthermore, she would retaliate fiercely against the person who betrayed her.

"You won't encounter such a situation," reassured Huangfu Ruiling. "I will never do that, nor let you suffer."

Seeing Huangfu Ruiling's seriousness, Ye Leng'an chuckled. She gently pinched Huangfu Ruiling's cheek, saying, "Do you have to be so serious? I'm just making a comparison."

"I'm serious," insisted Huangfu Ruiling, devoid of humor. "No matter what happens, I will never betray you."

Seeing Huangfu Ruiling's solemn expression, Ye Leng'an's smile vanished. After a moment of emotion, she nodded and said earnestly, "I believe you."

Their interaction didn't escape the notice of their tablemates, who had varying reactions.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying were already in a sour mood due to Huangfu Ruixiang's situation. Witnessing Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an's sweetness only added to their frustration.

Ye Leng'an wasn't their ideal daughter-in-law. They envisioned someone more respectful and bridging the gap between them and their son.

However, Ye Leng'an not being a prestigious lady was one thing, but her temperament was even more difficult to describe. She lacked any respect for their prospective in-laws.

Unfortunately, Huangfu Ruiling didn't heed their wishes, choosing to be with Ye Leng'an instead. Their disagreement over a woman further strained their relationship.

But Huangfu Jingxian's family had less complicated thoughts, merely admiring the affection between Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an.

Regardless of the thoughts below the stage, the wedding ceremony proceeded smoothly.

Zhong Yating linked arms with Huangfu Ruixiang, a sweet smile on her face, feeling relieved.

"Shall we check out the lounge now?" Zhong Yating turned to Huangfu Ruixiang, taking the initiative. "I'm your wife now; there are things we need to face together."

Chapter 765: Confrontation

Watching Zhong Yating's concerned expression, Huangfu Ruixiang felt a moment of guilt and a touch of emotion. Thus, despite his reluctance for Zhong Yating and Li Yiran to meet, he acquiesced.

He perceived Zhong Yating as magnanimous, and she had previously expressed her indifference towards such matters. Moreover, regardless of his personal feelings, he and Zhong Yating were now married. Hence, Zhong Yating ought to be informed of these affairs.

After descending from the stage, Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating proceeded towards the lounge.

At the main table, Huangfu Jingzhang stood and addressed Huangfu Jingxian, "Brother, I have some family matters to attend to here. I'll rely on you to oversee the banquet."

Observing Huangfu Jingzhang's actions, Huangfu Jingxian comprehended his intentions. After nodding, he promptly responded, "Got it, Brother." He urged Huangfu Jingzhang to proceed inside.

Nangong Xiyu remained silent but wore an expression of anticipation, relishing the unfolding drama.

Zhongyu Liuying, having a strained relationship with Nangong Xiyu, easily discerned her mocking demeanor. Despite harboring discontent, they were compelled to suppress it for the time being.

Soon, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying departed from the banquet venue.

The onlookers inferred their intent – to handle Huangfu Ruixiang's affair.

As Huangfu Jingzhang and his wife exited, Ye Leng'an turned to Huangfu Ruiling beside her, her eyes gleaming with an unmistakable implication.

Understanding Ye Leng'an well, Huangfu Ruiling quickly grasped her intentions. Amused, he shook his head, then reached for Ye Leng'an's hand, departing from the main table.

Observing this, Nangong Xiyu's curiosity piqued further. With such an opportunity, she eagerly anticipated the spectacle and the chance to ridicule Zhongyu Liuying.

Yet, cognizant of her status, she acknowledged her inability to intervene. Thus, she suppressed her curiosity, continuing to entertain the guests.

In the lounge, Li Yiran sat with the child in her arms, her gaze filled with gloom. She hadn't anticipated such a thorough defeat today. She could envision how smoothly the wedding proceedings outside would progress after her relegation to the lounge.

Zhong Yating's conduct had exceeded her expectations. Despite the significant incident, Zhong Yating remained unperturbed, proceeding with Huangfu Ruixiang's wedding seamlessly.

Zhong Yating's cunning was profound. No wonder she ensnared Huangfu Ruixiang and became his wife. Had she known earlier, Li Yiran would have devised a more meticulous plan.

However, it was too late now. Huangfu Ruixiang had already taken a wife. Li Yiran could no longer aspire to become the Huangfu family's second madam. Nonetheless, she still held a trump card – the child in her arms.

Though an illegitimate child, the family head Huangfu Ruiling had permitted its birth. This child was a scion of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Ruixiang's eldest son.

At this realization, Li Yiran couldn't help but clutch the child tightly. It was her sole advantage over Zhong Yating. She resolved to wield this leverage.

As Li Yiran indulged in her thoughts, the door suddenly swung open. Hastily composing herself, she cast a dependent and sorrowful gaze towards the doorway, awaiting Huangfu Ruixiang's entrance.

As Huangfu Ruixiang stepped in, Li Yiran rose with the child in her arms. However, her joy was short-lived as she noticed Zhong Yating following closely behind.

Upon glimpsing Zhong Yating's pristine wedding attire, a pang of heartache pierced Li Yiran. She realized she might never have the chance to don a wedding gown and become a bride in this lifetime.

Yet, that momentary sorrow swiftly dissipated. Li Yiran swiftly regained her composure, directing a smile towards Huangfu Ruixiang. She then spoke, "Ruixiang, I had no other choice. Unable to locate you, I hurried here upon hearing news of your whereabouts. I did not intend to disrupt your wedding."

After her apology, Li Yiran cast a timid glance towards Zhong Yating, momentarily revealing a trace of jealousy that vanished instantly. "Miss Zhong, please forgive me. I truly did not mean to cause harm. Please understand a mother's emotions; I merely wished for my child to meet his father."

"It's alright," Zhong Yating replied with a gracious smile. "Although Ruixiang never mentioned you and the child before our marriage, now that we are wed, your affairs are mine as well. I understand your rash actions were for the sake of the child, prompting your appearance at our wedding. Fortunately, our wedding remained unaffected. You need not feel guilty. However, in the future, think twice before acting. You not only disgrace yourself but also Ruixiang. I'm sure people outside are already discussing this matter."

Li Yiran's expression nearly changed upon hearing Zhong Yating's words.

She hadn't expected Zhong Yating to remain indifferent despite repeated mentions of the child. Did Zhong Yating truly disregard their existence?

Moreover, Zhong Yating shifted all the blame onto her.

"Yiran, your actions today were reckless," Huangfu Ruixiang added, his previously calm expression now tinged with displeasure. "To bring the baby before so many people – isn't that inviting ridicule?"

Li Yiran's expression remained unchanged and swiftly reverted to normal. When she looked at Huangfu Ruixiang, there was a shy apology on her face, along with an inexplicable sense of camaraderie. "Ruixiang, I didn't mean to. It's just been so long since I've seen you, and I miss you terribly. And our baby..."

At that moment, Li Yiran took a step forward, handing the child to Huangfu Ruixiang. "Take a look. This is our son. You haven't held him since he was born!"

Chapter 766: Being Sisters

Upon hearing Li Yiran mention their child and seeing the infant in her arms, Huangfu Ruixiang's fatherly instincts were stirred, prompting him to reach out and cradle the baby.

Coincidentally, as he held the child, the little one opened his eyes, his round orbs rolling about, adding to his charm.

"Ruixiang, look, he is awake." Li Yiran's face lit up with a smile as she naturally approached Huangfu Ruixiang, leaning against him as they both gazed at the baby. "Surely, he recognizes you as his father, which is why he woke at this moment."

Huangfu Ruixiang remained silent, his face expressing warmth and affection.

At this moment, they appeared just like any ordinary family of three, the parents amusing their child.

Conversely, Zhong Yating, his lawful wife, stood at a distance, seeming like an outsider.

Observing the scene before her, Zhong Yating felt a surge of frustration, gritting her teeth as she faced Li Yiran's taunting gaze, her eyes narrowing in barely concealed anger. She harbored a strong desire to confront the woman before her.

Even though marrying Huangfu Ruixiang had been part of her scheme, today was her wedding day, the most important day of her life. She already felt deeply aggrieved by the simplicity of the ceremony. Now, with Huangfu Ruixiang's mistress ruining the wedding, one can only imagine her mood.

If she could, she would have killed the woman before her on the spot.

However, she knew she absolutely must not act impulsively, as it would only lead to regret. She was well aware that, given her status, she could never have legitimately married Huangfu Ruixiang. Everything that had happened was a result of her scheming.

Even if the woman across from her had borne a child, it didn't change the fact that she was the victor. Because now, she was Huangfu Ruixiang's legitimate wife, the Second Madam of the Huangfu family.

At the thought, Zhong Yating retaliated with a smug glance towards Li Yiran, her eyes even carrying a hint of pity. It was as if she pitied the other woman, knowing that even after bearing a child, she couldn't attain a legitimate status.

At the sight of Zhong Yating's smug expression, Li Yiran nearly erupted in fury. Had it not been for Huangfu Ruixiang's presence, she might have already engaged Zhong Yating in a confrontation.

Just then, the door creaked open once more, revealing Huangfu Jingzhang, Zhongyu Liuying, Huangfu Ruiling, and Ye Leng'an.

For a moment, it seemed the entire main family had gathered.

Soon, everyone took their seats, except for Li Yiran, who remained apart, cradling her child, appearing somewhat out of place.

The first to speak was Zhongyu Liuying, addressing Zhong Yating directly. "Yating, although you're now married to Ruixiang, Li Yiran preceded you. You should address her as 'sister'. Besides, she's now the mother of Ruixiang's child."

These words instantly uplifted Li Yiran, refreshing her spirits. Even the indignation she had felt towards Zhong Yating vanished at that moment.

Of course, Li Yiran understood that Zhongyu Liuying's support stemmed not from genuine fondness for her or a belief in her superiority over Zhong Yating, but merely a desire to suppress the latter.

Upon hearing Zhongyu Liuying's words, Zhong Yating struggled to contain her emotions. She had not anticipated such remarks from her. However, given that Zhongyu Liuying was Huangfu Ruixiang's mother, Zhong Yating found herself powerless to retaliate and could only endure silently.

Huangfu Jingzhang chimed in, "Your mother is right. Now that you're married to Ruixiang, you must fulfill your duties as his wife. Since Li Yiran preceded you, you should address her as 'sister' and learn from her."

Ye Leng'an, who had been observing quietly, couldn't help but feel appalled at Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying's words. While she understood their intent to suppress Zhong Yating, she found their comments deeply insulting.

She dared to argue that had Huangfu Ruixiang married a woman from a similarly esteemed background, such words would never have been uttered. They might have even gone to lengths to prevent Li Yiran from appearing in public.

Upon hearing these words, Zhong Yating seethed inwardly, her frustration palpable. Yet, because Huangfu Ruixiang's parents had spoken, she could not voice her objections and instead glanced at Huangfu Ruixiang, silently imploring him to speak up for her.

Unfortunately, Huangfu Ruixiang remained oblivious to Zhong Yating's cues and simply nodded in agreement. "Father and Mother are right. Yating, you must get along with Yiran in the future.

Suppressing her inner turmoil, Zhong Yating forced a smile and nodded in agreement. "Alright, I understand. I will make sure to get along well with my sister in the future."

This was the path she had chosen, and she would see it through, no matter the humiliation. From this moment onward, she was Huangfu Ruixiang's legitimate wife. In the eyes of others, she was the Second Madam of the Huangfu family.

As Li Yiran observed the unanimous support, she felt a surge of pride. In marrying a wife without background, Huangfu Ruixiang had inadvertently prevented Zhong Yating from asserting dominance. Moreover, Li Yiran had already borne him a child.

Had Huangfu Ruixiang married a wealthy young lady, the situation would undoubtedly have been different.

With a few more traces of sincerity in her smile, Li Yiran addressed Zhong Yating, "Sister, I'll be counting on you to take care of me and my child in the future."

Observing Li Yiran's triumphant gaze, Zhong Yating's eyes flickered with a hint of desolation, but she said nothing more.

Zhong Yating's response was unexpected for Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying, but they couldn't continue to pressure her. It would be unseemly.

Moreover, the wedding ceremony had concluded. Zhong Yating showed no signs of seeking a divorce, so they had to lay off for now.

However, Zhongyu Liuying couldn't bear to see Zhong Yating off easily and added, "Ruixiang, it's been a while since you've spent time with Yiran and the child. For the next few days, you should devote some time to them!"

Chapter 767: Seeking Help

Zhong Yating, who had been enduring, couldn't bear it anymore after hearing these words. She spoke directly, "Mother, Ruixiang and I are newlyweds. Isn't this inappropriate? If Ruixiang wants to spend time with Sister and the child, couldn't it wait a few days? There's no need to do it during our wedding period!"

She had endured everything else, but she couldn't tolerate being taken advantage of like this! If she continued to yield for several days in a row, wouldn't Huangfu Ruixiang's mistress truly overshadow her?

Even Ye Leng'an, who was nearby, couldn't help but be speechless after hearing Zhongyu Liuying's words. Although she knew the other party wanted to suppress Zhong Yating, she couldn't believe such foolish words could be uttered.

"What do you mean?" Hearing Zhong Yating's rebuttal, Zhongyu Liuying's voice immediately rose several notches. "As a daughter-in-law, are you criticizing me, your mother-in-law? You've just married, and you want to assert your authority. You think you're so remarkable!"

“I didn’t...” Zhong Yating wanted to defend herself. “I just think this is unfair, and if this matter spreads, it wouldn’t be good for the reputation of our Huangfu family!”

“Do you think you need to worry about the reputation of our Huangfu family?” Huangfu Jingzhang sneered and said, “You just married into the family. Do you think you carry that much weight?”

Zhong Yating’s face alternated between pale and flushed, feeling extremely embarrassed. She couldn’t help but look at Huangfu Ruixiang beside her, obviously hoping her husband would speak up for her.

However, Huangfu Ruixiang obviously didn’t take Zhong Yating’s side. He looked at her with disapproval. “Yating, how can you disobey Mother like this?”

Huangfu Ruixiang didn’t think much of Zhongyu Liuying’s suggestion. After all, even though he and Zhong Yating were married now, he knew Li Yiran first.

Ever since he went to the Hidden World for the Family Competition and stayed there, he hadn’t been with Li Yiran. He hadn’t even seen his child. Now, he was just planning to spend a few days with Li Yiran and the child. What was wrong with that?

Moreover, when they returned to the Hidden World together, they would have to spend time together.

Hearing Huangfu Ruixiang’s reproach, Zhong Yating felt wronged. She was clearly the victim in this matter! What newlywed couple would want to separate? Moreover, the husband had to accompany another woman. Wasn’t this a blatant slap in her face? If outsiders found out, what would they think of her? And this woman, wouldn’t she be mocking her for the rest of her life because of this?

Li Yiran, who was the beneficiary, held the child. Although her face showed no extra expression, the pride in her eyes was unmistakable.

Although she hadn’t expected Zhongyu Liuying to make such a decision to suppress Zhong Yating, she was the one who benefited this time, so she was very proud.

Zhong Yating gritted her teeth. She didn’t continue to argue with Zhongyu Liuying. She turned her head and looked at Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an beside her, saying, “Brother, Sister-in-law, do you think this is reasonable?”

She could tell that no one present, whether it was her newlywed husband or her in-laws, would stand by her side at this moment. So she could only seek help from Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng’an. Even though she knew the other party might not help her, she was still hopeful.

Huangfu Jingzhang’s and Zhongyu Liuying’s expressions immediately turned ugly. Clearly, they felt that Zhong Yating’s actions were embarrassing them.

Huangfu Ruixiang also immediately looked at Huangfu Ruiling, as if afraid the latter would say something.

Li Yiran, on the other hand, looked guilty. She lowered her head and looked at the child in her arms, not daring to say anything.

Huangfu Ruiling remained expressionless as if he hadn't heard Zhong Yating's words. Or rather, he had no intention of getting involved from the start.

On the other hand, Ye Leng'an was stunned when she heard her name being called. Originally, she had only come to be a quiet observer and watch the show. She didn't expect to be dragged into the situation now.

Facing Zhong Yating's pleading gaze, Ye Leng'an blinked. Finally, she said, "This approach is indeed very inappropriate."

As soon as she said this, Huangfu Jingzhang's and Zhongyu Liuying's expressions visibly darkened. When they looked at Ye Leng'an, their eyes were filled with dissatisfaction.

But because Huangfu Ruiling was present, they couldn't say anything to Ye Leng'an.

Zhong Yating seemed to have received great support and immediately became excited. "Sister-in-law is right."

Ye Leng'an's expression remained unchanged even as everyone looked at her. She cleared her throat and continued, "I'm not taking anyone's side when I say this. I'm just stating a fact. I've never seen a groom spend time with another woman a few days just after the wedding. If such a thing were to spread, people would only laugh at the Huangfu family for not knowing the rules."

Regarding Huangfu Ruixiang's situation, she didn't intend to interfere. However, if she had to speak fairly, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying had gone too far.

No matter which family it was, such a thing was impossible. If Zhongyu Liuying wanted to suppress Zhong Yating, she wouldn't interfere. But if she had to judge such a matter that clearly smeared the Huangfu family's reputation, she would definitely feel that such a method was inappropriate.

Such simple words were like a slap to Huangfu Jingzhang's and Zhongyu Liuying's faces. They hated Ye Leng'an to the point of grinding their teeth.

But before they could say anything, Huangfu Ruiling had already spoken.

"In that case, Ruixiang will accompany Zhong Yating for the next few days!" Huangfu Ruiling announced his final decision. "We don't want outsiders to ridicule the Huangfu family."

With that final decision, no one present dared to voice any more objections.

Li Yiran lowered her head, a trace of resentment and dissatisfaction flashing in her eyes. But the decision was made by Huangfu Ruiling, so she didn't dare to say anything.

As for Zhong Yating, she heaved a sigh of relief. She knew she had offended her in-laws by seeking help from Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an. But the other party had gone too far. She had no choice.

Chapter 768: School Belle Selection

The curtains fell on a farcical spectacle, yet within this drama display, no one emerged as the victor.

However, among the returning guests, speculation about the triangular relationship between Huangfu Ruixiang, Zhong Yating, and Li Yiran had multiplied.

Naturally, such gossip found its way into circulation. Although the attendees at the wedding banquet were predominantly from the Huangfu family, with many mouths present, concealing the truth was implausible. Members of other prominent families secretly rejoiced, thankful they hadn't pursued matrimonial ties with Huangfu Ruixiang, lest they face the current embarrassment.

In the ensuing days, whether due to Huangfu Ruiling's orders or a sense of guilt, Huangfu Ruixiang noticeably improved his treatment of Zhong Yating.

Nevertheless, he still made time each day to visit Li Yiran and the child.

Ye Leng'an remained oblivious to this, unconcerned. Following the conclusion of the wedding banquet, she resumed her role as a regular student, tackling daily military training.

After a week of military training, university courses commenced.

Inside the dormitory.

"I can finally shed this camouflage uniform." Zhu Bixuan sprawled lazily on her bed, though a hint of excitement tinged her languid tone. "The military training is finally over. If it had gone on any longer, I'd have gotten sunburned."

Surveying her skin, now darker by more than a shade, she couldn't help but feel disheartened.

She wasn't alone. Zhou Cui'an and Ling Weiwei also cast glances at their skin, sharing in the collective dismay.

In truth, most freshmen had darkened considerably after enduring a week under the sun. After all, prolonged exposure to sunlight was bound to leave its mark.

"Stop complaining. We got off easy." Ye Leng'an smiled, addressing their concerns. "Military training used to last a month. We're only doing it for a week because of the centennial celebration of the school's founding."

"True." Zhu Bixuan sighed in relief. Then, noticing Ye Leng'an's unchanged complexion, she exclaimed, "Leng'an, why do you still look so pale? What brand of sunscreen are you using?"

After days of sun exposure, she couldn't help but marvel at Ye Leng'an's continued fairness.

Ling Weiwei, usually at odds with the others, also turned her gaze towards Ye Leng'an, seeking answers.

Observing Ye Leng'an's fair complexion contrasted with her own, darker skin, Zhou Cui'an couldn't help but feel a twinge of insecurity.

With no sunscreen to shield her, Zhou Cui'an had become markedly darker than her peers, exacerbating her feelings of inadequacy.

Head bowed, she was lost in thought.

“Don’t you see?” Ye Leng’an tossed her sunscreen towards Zhu Bixuan, dispelling any doubts. “I’ve been using this all along!”

In truth, she hadn’t used any sunscreen; her resistance to tanning was innate. Unable to admit this, she opted for the sunscreen as a convenient excuse.

Catching the sunscreen, Zhu Bixuan inspected it. “I’ve used this brand before. Why didn’t it work as well for me?” she wondered aloud.

Ye Leng’an smiled but remained silent.

Convinced that Ye Leng’an was hiding something, Ling Weiwei muttered under her breath, “Pretentious.”

Though barely audible, Ye Leng’an, as a cultivator, caught wind of it. Unfazed, she chose not to engage, ignoring Ling Weiwei’s comment.

Moreover, since Ling Weiwei didn’t voice her accusation outright, Ye Leng’an pretended not to notice.

“Oh, did you hear? The school belle contest has begun!” Zhu Bixuan suddenly exclaimed, recalling something. “The most popular candidate is Murong Yumeng, a senior from the Chinese department. She’s apparently from the Murong family, one of the four major families.”

“Wow, she’s got it all – beauty, wealth, and status!” Zhou Cui’an couldn’t hide her envy. “I’d love to see what Senior Murong looks like.”

Such elite figures from prestigious families seemed worlds away from their own lives. Thus, envy, rather than jealousy, was her prevailing sentiment.

Though envious of Murong Yumeng, Ling Weiwei refrained from disparaging remarks.

“It’s on the school forum!” Zhu Bixuan whipped out her phone. “Let me check!”

“Ah!”

Startled by something on the forum, Zhu Bixuan’s sudden scream captured everyone’s attention.

“What’s wrong?” Zhou Cui’an asked anxiously. “Did something happen?”

Though dissatisfied with Zhu Bixuan, Ling Weiwei refrained from rebuke. Despite their strained relationship, time had tempered their initial animosity.

“Leng’an, it’s you!” Zhu Bixuan’s excitement was palpable. “Check out the forum. You’ve been nominated for this year’s school belle, and you’re ranked alongside Murong Yumeng.”

As she spoke, she displayed her phone screen for all to see.

Judging from the appearance of the photo, it was likely taken surreptitiously. In the picture, Ye Leng’an was clad in camouflage attire, devoid of makeup on her face, with even her hair slightly disheveled, and her gaze entirely averted from the camera

Yet, despite these factors, the person in the photo was stunningly beautiful, or else she wouldn't have been closely followed by Murong Yumeng.

Ling Weiwei and Zhou Cui'an, too, took out their phones to browse the forum.

"Leng'an, you're amazing!" Zhou Cui'an praised with a smile. "Among all the freshmen, you're the only one to make it into the top ten of the school belle selection.

Though visibly envious, Ling Weiwei held her tongue.

Unperturbed, Ye Leng'an continued her task, indifferent to the accolades. "Is that so? I hadn't noticed."

In truth, she harbored no interest in such matters.

Chapter 769: An Unexpected Visit

"Leng'an, you're really too calm," Zhu Bixuan exclaimed, raising her thumb. "You're still a hot topic on the school forum, you know? Many people think you're much more beautiful than Murong Yumeng."

After all, Murong Yumeng's picture had been heavily edited, while Ye Leng'an's was completely natural. So no matter how one looked at it, Ye Leng'an was definitely superior.

"These things aren't important," Ye Leng'an shrugged, speaking nonchalantly. "Even if I become the school belle, it doesn't earn any academic credits. What's the use?"

Hearing this, everyone present felt somewhat speechless. But upon reflection, it seemed to make sense.

"So!" Ye Leng'an turned to the others in the dorm, continuing, "Though we're in university now, we should still prioritize our studies. The rest doesn't hold much meaning, does it? When you graduate and look for a job, if someone asks what outstanding things you did in university, you can't say you were elected as school belle, can you?"

As soon as she said this, others couldn't help but nod. Though it sounded a bit twisted, it made sense.

"Leng'an, I truly admire you," Zhu Bixuan couldn't help but sigh. "But I have to say, what you're saying really makes sense. I think the school should give you an award, the Best Encouragement for Academic Excellence Award."

Ye Leng'an glanced at Zhu Bixuan and rolled her eyes. "Since I've convinced you, remember to study hard from now on!"

The discussion about the school belle election concluded in the dormitory.

However, though it ended there, it intensified at the Capital University. Murong Yumeng had the highest votes, closely followed by Ye Leng'an, who was almost overtaking her.

The school community was almost split into two factions. One supported Murong Yumeng, believing she was the true school belle, while the other favored Ye Leng'an, considering her far more beautiful than Murong Yumeng. After all, she could match Murong Yumeng with just a bare-faced photo.

But Ye Leng'an, at the center of it all, remained indifferent. Most of her time was spent studying. Even during leisure hours, she'd either be with Huangfu Ruiling or back at the villa refining pills. She rarely stayed in the dormitory, let alone concerning herself with things like the school belle selection.

However, peace was always fragile.

That day, Ye Leng'an had no afternoon classes and planned to visit Huangfu Ruiling first before returning to the villa after dinner.

She had informed the school she could go home anytime, not needing to stay in the dormitory. She also promised to be in the top ten in every final exam, given her top scorer status in the college entrance exam. The school was lenient with her, yet had high expectations.

Arriving at the school gate, Ye Leng'an spotted the driver waiting to pick her up.

Seeing the driver, Ye Leng'an couldn't help but wonder if she should buy a car herself! The idea had crossed her mind when Zhu Bixuan talked about buying one. Having her own car would make transportation much easier than having to rely on the driver every time.

As she pondered, she heard a familiar voice from behind before she could get into the car.

“Leng'an!”

Ye Leng'an frowned upon hearing the voice behind her. Despite knowing about it from Huangfu Ruiling, encountering it in person was still irritating.

Turning around, she saw Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu not far behind her, both wearing expectant expressions.

However, Ye Leng'an's brows furrowed deeply, her tone cold as she asked, “Why are you here?”

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu felt hurt.

Ye Leng'an leaned towards the driver and said, “You can go back now! I'll take a taxi later.”

The driver had no objections and left.

After the driver left, Ye Leng'an walked slowly towards Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. “Let's find a place to sit and talk!”

This was the school gate, with people coming and going. She wasn't interested in being a spectacle here.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu agreed.

Soon, the three of them found a café nearby. They chose a corner booth and sat down.

Ye Leng'an stirred her coffee before looking up at the two opposite her. “What do you want?”

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's direct question, Lian Mengzhu seemed a bit anxious. "Leng'an, we... we've been wanting to talk to you for a while. But the Huangfu family said you had already come to the mortal world. We came to find you specifically."

"Alright." Ye Leng'an's expression remained unchanged as she nodded. "Now that you're here, if you have something to say, say it! Don't waste our time."

As she spoke, she checked the time on her phone.

Before leaving, she had already messaged Huangfu Ruiling. Now, Huangfu Ruiling was probably waiting for her, so she wanted to end the conversation quickly and go to Huangye Group. If she took too long, Huangfu Ruiling would get impatient.

However, the driver had already left, probably reporting the situation to Huangfu Ruiling. As long as he knew Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu were here, Huangfu Ruiling would probably understand the situation.

"Leng'an, why are you so defensive?" Ye Hongxuan frowned. "We're not your enemies; we're your biological parents. You don't need to be so guarded against us. We won't hurt you."

"So?" Ye Leng'an shrugged. "Did you come here just to tell me that? I've never denied it, but what's the point?"

Seeing Ye Leng'an's cold attitude, Lian Mengzhu felt hurt. "Leng'an, I know we haven't interacted much before, so we're not close."

Chapter 770: The Purpose of Their Visit

"Leng'an, can't you be a bit nicer to us?"

Watching Ye Leng'an's indifferent demeanor, Ye Hongxuan's tone carried a hint of resentment. "Indeed, it was our mistake that led you to suffer all these years. But, in truth, your mother and I were also victims. The real culprit is Lian Zixin."

"I know!" Ye Leng'an nodded. "So Lian Zixin has already been punished."

Lian Mengzhu's eyes flashed with understanding. "You did what happened to Zixin?"

She had heard about Lian Zixin's incident before. The Yan family had even sought their help multiple times, but she had never shown herself.

The love she once felt for Lian Zixin had turned into deep hatred. If not for Lian Zixin, she wouldn't have been separated from her daughter for over a decade, let alone become estranged from her. It was already a mercy that she didn't retaliate against her, let alone help her.

However, hearing that it was Ye Leng'an who had done it made her feel a bit uneasy. Using a poison like Drunken Beauty, which was so sinister, was not something an ordinary person would do unless they harbored deep enmity.

“Yes, it was me.” Ye Leng’an blinked, her expression unchanged. “But I didn’t prepare the poison. It was prepared by Lian Zixin herself. I just used it on her.”

Seeing Ye Leng’an casually admitting to it, Lian Mengzhu felt conflicted. On one hand, she understood why Ye Leng’an would take such action. On the other hand, she couldn’t help but think the poison was too harsh. Ye Leng’an was just a young girl, yet she resorted to such cruelty, which wasn’t good.

“Leng’an, even though Zixin was at fault, we have already punished her,” Ye Hongxuan said, realizing Ye Leng’an was the one behind it. “You don’t need to take matters into your own hands. Why tarnish yourself?”

“Heh, if your idea of punishment is simply withdrawing support from the Yan and Lian families, then it’s quite severe.” Ye Leng’an’s tone was mocking. “Besides, I am also a victim in this. I want justice for myself, and no one can deny me that, including you.”

Though she didn’t say the last part aloud, her expression made it clear.

Faced with Ye Leng’an’s detachment and resistance, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu exchanged helpless glances.

They didn’t know how to communicate with this daughter they’d barely known.

“Could you just get to the point of your visit?” Ye Leng’an looked at them and said, “You didn’t come all the way from the Hidden World just to bond with me, did you?”

“Leng’an, why speak like that?” Ye Hongxuan frowned reproachfully. “Regardless of anything, we’re still your parents. Is this how you treat your parents?”

“Yes, it is.” Ye Leng’an appeared indifferent. “Not only my parents, but even my elders receive the same treatment. If you don’t like it, then don’t come near me. Do you think just because we’re related by blood, you can boss me around? If so, don’t blame me for being rude.”

“We’re your parents. What else do you want from us?” Ye Hongxuan struggled to contain his anger. “We want to make amends, but why are you always so hostile?”

Ye Leng’an’s face bore a sarcastic smile. “Make amends? Then how do you intend to make it up to me? Is it by previously refusing to acknowledge my identity, or by continuing to raise Ye Wanwan in the Ye family, presenting her as the young lady of the Ye family to the outside world? Is this your idea of making amends for me?”

She was fed up with these self-righteous individuals. Sometimes, she couldn’t fathom their thoughts. On one hand, they claimed to want to compensate their biological daughter, but on the other, they couldn’t let go of their adopted daughter. Did they really think she and Ye Wanwan could peacefully coexist?

One was a victim, the other was the beneficiary and the perpetrator's biological daughter. Though she and Ye Wanwan weren't enemies, they could never be close.

"We never refused to acknowledge your identity," Lian Mengzhu hastily interjected. "Back then, it was because of your grandfather's orders. As juniors, we couldn't defy them. Besides, Wanwan is a good girl. You two will definitely get along."

Facing Lian Mengzhu's hopeful gaze, Ye Leng'an's lips curved into a malicious smile. "Let me make it clear now: Ye Wanwan and I will never get along. What will you do then?"

Ye Leng'an's words caught Lian Mengzhu off guard.

"Leng'an, why can't you tolerate Wanwan?" Ye Hongxuan frowned, his gaze filled with displeasure. "If you don't want to see her, when you return to the Ye family, I'll ensure Wanwan avoids you. If you're unwilling, she won't appear before you."

Though it would be unfair to Wanwan, she was a sensible child who would understand.

"Let me return and live under the same roof as Ye Wanwan." Ye Leng'an's malicious smile grew wider. "Aren't you afraid I'll ruin her dantian again? She may have been able to repair it this time, but can you guarantee she'll be so lucky next time?"

These words made Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's expressions turn sour. They hadn't expected Ye Leng'an to remain so aggressive even after their concessions.

Indeed, those who grew up outside still needed proper discipline.

Seeing Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's silence, Ye Leng'an took a sip of coffee before speaking again. "Alright, can you tell me your purpose now? Otherwise, I'll have to leave!"