

Full-Level 801

Chapter 801: A Reminder

Soon, Zhu Bixuan divided the local specialties brought by Ye Leng'an and began eating snacks directly from a bag she tore open.

As for Zhou Cui'an and Ling Weiwei, they each took their portion and returned to their seats.

"Not bad!" Zhu Bixuan complimented as she ate, glancing at Ye Leng'an. "Leng'an, where did you get these? They're really good!"

"I got them during a holiday trip to a small town," Ye Leng'an replied with a faint smile. "They're a specialty from there. Though the town is a bit remote, the environment is nice. If you have time, you should visit. The scenery is beautiful."

"Really?" Zhu Bixuan seemed intrigued. "I'll go check it out next time. I was so bored during the last holiday break, just stayed home for days."

"I'll recommend the place to you." Ye Leng'an nodded. "You can go whenever you want."

Zhu Bixuan nodded eagerly, then suddenly remembered something. "Oh, Leng'an, do you know? The school belle selection results are out, and Murong Yumeng won. Those voters really have no taste."

Ling Weiwei and Zhou Cui'an paused, turning their attention to Ye Leng'an.

Ye Leng'an raised an eyebrow, unfazed. "Oh, I see."

Observing Ye Leng'an's calm demeanor, Zhu Bixuan couldn't contain herself. "Leng'an, why are you so composed? Don't you find it unfair? You're much better looking than Murong Yumeng, but they chose her. And some even say you're ugly and don't deserve to be compared to her. It's outrageous."

"Let them say what they want." Ye Leng'an chuckled, shaking her head. "You don't need to care about these things. Didn't I tell you before? I don't care about them at all."

Seeing Ye Leng'an's indifference, Zhu Bixuan muttered a few words and fell silent. After all, the person involved didn't seem bothered, so she refrained from commenting further.

Ling Weiwei pursed her lips, her expression complex as she glanced at Ye Leng'an. Zhou Cui'an wore a smile but seemed lost in thought, her eyes betraying uncertainty.

"Because it's not necessary!" Ye Leng'an glanced at Zhou Cui'an, speaking meaningfully. "Besides, we're here at university to study. Other matters aren't as important, right? And whether someone is the 'school belle' or not won't affect their resume. So, there's no need to dwell on it."

Zhou Cui'an's smile froze, murmuring in agreement. She couldn't shake the feeling that Ye Leng'an's words were directed at her. Was it because she'd changed so much that she felt the need to remind her to focus on studies rather than frivolous matters?

Feeling indignant, she couldn't help but resent the implication. What was wrong with wanting to dress up a bit? Why did Ye Leng'an, who spent lavishly on designer bags without batting an eye, have the right to judge her? And who said her mind wasn't on her studies? Just because Ye Leng'an came from money, did that give her the right to look down on her? She earned her own money and had every right to spend it as she pleased.

With resentment flickering in her eyes, Zhou Cui'an pondered.

Ye Leng'an hadn't anticipated stirring up so much thought with just a few words. But her intention was to caution Zhou Cui'an. She believed it wasn't easy for her, coming from a small town to Capital University. She didn't want her to lose herself in the allure of the capital's lifestyle and lose sight of her goals.

Of course, she only mentioned it because they were roommates. She wouldn't say more. Their friendship only went so far.

Zhu Bixuan remained oblivious to the tension, continuing to chat about recent holiday events.

Ye Leng'an occasionally chimed in, thanks to Zhu Bixuan's presence, maintaining a pleasant atmosphere in the dorm.

Zhou Cui'an contributed to the conversation, masking her thoughts effectively.

As for Ling Weiwei, although she didn't engage, she didn't show any discontent either.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door, and a stranger appeared.

"Who are you?" Zhu Bixuan questioned, eyeing the unfamiliar girl cautiously. "What brings you to our dorm?"

The unexpected visitor raised everyone's guard.

"I'm sorry, I'm here to find Ye Leng'an," the girl apologized with a smile. "Is she here?"

Upon hearing her name, Ye Leng'an frowned. "I don't think I know you."

Sure enough, Ye Leng'an didn't recognize her. Moreover, she'd been on leave recently. It was too coincidental for someone to come looking for her right after she returned.

"You're Ye Leng'an?" The girl seemed taken aback by her appearance, not expecting her to be this good-looking.

For a moment, she too seemed lost in thought.

"Do you need something?" Ye Leng'an furrowed her brow, asking.

As if awakening from a dream, the girl quickly spoke up, "No, it's not me looking for you. It's Senior Sister Murong. She asked me to help find you. She's downstairs right now, saying she needs to talk to you. Are you able to go down for a moment? She's waiting below the dormitory!"

Chapter 802: Waiting

As soon as the words fell, all eyes in the dormitory turned to focus on Ye Leng'an.

Just moments ago, they had been discussing the matter of Murong Yumeng, and Ye Leng'an had remained silent. But now, hearing that Murong Yumeng was looking for her, they all wondered when they had met.

They were all certain that the Senior Sister Murong the girl referred to must be Murong Yumeng. In Capital University, only Murong Yumeng could command such respect as "Senior Sister Murong" from so many.

Facing the collective gaze, Ye Leng'an seemed oblivious, her focus still on the girl. She frowned slightly. "Are you referring to Murong Yumeng?"

How could she forget any interaction with Murong Yumeng? Back in the small town, their encounters were anything but pleasant. So, Murong Yumeng seeking her out now raised suspicion.

"Yes, it's her!" The girl nodded vigorously. "You better hurry down! Senior Sister Murong is waiting!"

She couldn't afford to let Ye Leng'an continue dragging this out, otherwise, Senior Sister Murong might think she was unreliable! She finally had a chance to impress Senior Sister Murong, she couldn't mess it up.

Senior Sister Murong was a member of the Murong family. If she could leave a good impression on Senior Sister Murong, it would be greatly beneficial for her future.

The urgency in the girl's voice prompted Ye Leng'an to respond. "I understand. I'll go down shortly."

Though she wasn't sure of Murong Yumeng's intentions, it seemed necessary to make the trip. Linger here would attract undue attention.

"What? You still want to delay?" The girl's incredulity was palpable. "Didn't I say it? Senior Sister Murong is downstairs. Why keep her waiting? Are you going to make her wait?"

"Hey, what's with the attitude?" Zhu Bixuan interjected before Ye Leng'an could respond. "It's Senior Sister Murong who's come to find her! It's not like Leng'an's begging for her. Can't she wait a bit longer?"

"Do you even know who Senior Sister Murong is?" The girl retorted. "She's not only from the Murong family but also the president of our school's student council! What right do you have to make her wait?"

The girl's words ignited Zhu Bixuan's anger, but before she could retort, Ye Leng'an intervened.

"In that case, tell her not to wait." Ye Leng'an's tone was icy. "You can inform her that if it's not convenient, she should leave. And if you're trying to impress Murong

Yumeng, that's your business. But don't assume everyone is like you. Tell Murong Yumeng I'll be down shortly. If she can wait, she can. If not, she can leave."

"You..." The girl's face flushed with frustration. "You're being unreasonable. You're just a freshman, what's there to be arrogant about?"

With that, she stormed off.

"Leng'an, when did you meet Murong Yumeng?" With the girl gone, Zhu Bixuan's curiosity got the better of her. "Why didn't we hear about this before?"

Zhou Cui'an and Ling Weiwei, silent until now, were listening intently, clearly curious too.

"Not really." Ye Leng'an shook her head. "Just a chance encounter while traveling in a small town. And it wasn't pleasant."

With nothing to hide, she laid it all out.

"Just like that?" Zhu Bixuan was incredulous. "Then why did she come to you?"

"Who knows what's on her mind?" Ye Leng'an shrugged indifferently. Then, she began packing her things, appearing unrushed.

"Uh..." Zhou Cui'an hesitated. "Leng'an, should you go down to meet Senior Sister Murong first? After all, she's our senior. Isn't it impolite to keep her waiting?"

She found Ye Leng'an overly nonchalant. This was Murong Yumeng, a member of the Murong family. If Murong Yumeng sought her out, she'd drop everything to meet her immediately.

Though Ye Leng'an had her reasons, Zhou Cui'an doubted every word. If there was no connection with Murong Yumeng, why would she come to the dormitory?

"What's wrong with that?" Ye Leng'an replied calmly. "I didn't ask her to come find me, nor did she inform me beforehand. Should I drop everything just to accommodate her?"

"Exactly." Zhu Bixuan slammed the table in agreement. "Who does she think she is? A princess? Just one command, and everyone has to obey."

"But, Senior Sister Murong..." Zhou Cui'an hesitated.

"She has nothing to do with me," Ye Leng'an stated flatly. "I'm not expecting any favors from her. So why should I bend over backward for her?"

Zhou Cui'an's expression soured; she felt mocked by Ye Leng'an's words.

Even Ling Weiwei, though silent, wore a mocking expression when looking at Zhou Cui'an.

And Zhu Bixuan, usually carefree, sensed something amiss.

For a moment, the dormitory's atmosphere turned peculiar.

Ignoring Zhou Cui'an, Ye Leng'an finished packing and, after about fifteen minutes, descended the stairs slowly.

She wasn't sure if Murong Yumeng was still there, but having agreed, she proceeded nonetheless.

Chapter 803: An Opportunity

Originally, she thought Murong Yumeng wouldn't wait downstairs. However, when she arrived, she found her sitting in a nearby pavilion, waiting.

Murong Yumeng sat upright, a sign of her upbringing in a prestigious family. Not playing with her phone, she instead gazed towards the dormitory direction, displaying no impatience.

A hint of gloominess flickered in Ye Leng'an's eyes as she approached Murong Yumeng.

In fact, Murong Yumeng had seen her the moment she descended. Yet, she remained seated, deeming it unnecessary to rise and greet.

Capital University's dormitory rules were strict; outsiders couldn't enter casually. Only dorm residents could invite guests.

Though she could enter if she wanted, seeking out Ye Leng'an was already a concession. Going up personally would be too much. Plus, she didn't want their conversation overheard.

So, she had someone call Ye Leng'an out. She didn't expect her to be so ungrateful, making her wait.

A hint of displeasure flashed in Murong Yumeng's eyes, though she masked it with a polite smile.

"Junior Sister Ye, you're here!" Murong Yumeng greeted Ye Leng'an warmly, inviting her to sit.

Despite her inward disdain, she maintained her composed demeanor. Firstly, to advance her agenda with Ye Leng'an, and secondly, her façade was too ingrained to falter.

Ye Leng'an, observing Murong Yumeng's calm demeanor, raised an eyebrow thoughtfully but without surprise. She sat across from her without ceremony.

"Senior Sister Murong, why seek me out?" Ye Leng'an got straight to the point.

"Considering our relationship, there's little to discuss."

Murong Yumeng nearly lost her smile but quickly regained composure. "Junior Sister Ye, surely you jest," she chuckled. "Our past issues were trivial. Besides, it's been so long; any disagreements have long dissolved."

Seeing Murong Yumeng's swift adjustment, Ye Leng'an raised an eyebrow. "So? Senior Sister Murong, why the visit? Not attempting to bond, are you?"

Even Murong Yumeng wouldn't believe such insincere words!

Though Ye Leng'an's attitude was brusque, Murong Yumeng maintained her cool. "Junior Sister Ye, no need to be sharp. I harbor no ill will. In fact, before we met, I'd heard of your exploits. Quite impressive to be a young college entrance exam topper."

This she'd learned later.

Once an ordinary girl from the capital, Ye Leng'an was exposed as an imposter and ousted. Yet, the revelation caused little stir. Her academic prowess led to this year's college entrance exam triumph.

Being the top scorer did turn heads, but not for elite families like theirs.

Regardless of academic excellence, their futures paled in comparison. The top scorer's finish line might just be their starting point.

But about Ye Leng'an's fiancé, she drew a blank. Whether due to the fiancé's secrecy or her informant's incompetence, she couldn't find out.

However, Ye Leng'an's fiancé undoubtedly hailed from a wealthy family, evident in his haughty demeanor.

Ye Leng'an's opulent lifestyle was surely courtesy of her fiancé.

Knowing all this, she felt disdain for Ye Leng'an. To her, Ye Leng'an was with her fiancé solely for money. Without them, Ye Leng'an might struggle to afford university.

Observing Murong Yumeng's wavering gaze, Ye Leng'an remained unswayed. "So, Senior Sister Murong, you came to see what the top scorer looks like?"

"Junior Sister Ye, your grades are commendable. But to make a mark post-graduation, good grades won't suffice." Murong Yumeng smiled, continuing, "As you may know, I'm the student council president. Any interest in joining?"

Confident, she believed no student could resist. After all, Capital University was prestigious, and joining the student council was a boon.

But joining wasn't easy. Despite many applicants, few succeeded.

She'd offered Ye Leng'an a golden opportunity; she'd be wise to seize it. Otherwise, opportunities like this were scarce.

"The student council?" Ye Leng'an blinked. Meeting Murong Yumeng's confident gaze, she replied slowly, "Sorry, I'm not interested."

Chapter 804: Rejection

After listening to Ye Leng'an's response, Murong Yumeng couldn't maintain her careful smile any longer. "Junior Sister Ye, did you perhaps mishear what I said just now?"

She couldn't believe her ears. Ye Leng'an had actually refused her. How was that possible? She dared to claim that no student in the entire Capital University could resist such temptation.

"I heard you loud and clear." Ye Leng'an's lips curled into a smile as she continued, "Senior Sister Murong, weren't you inviting me to join the Student Council? Since you've extended a formal invitation, I naturally have to formally decline."

With Ye Leng'an's answer confirmed, Murong Yumeng didn't furrow her brows. "Junior Sister Ye, do you know how many people in the whole school want to join the Student Council? Being a part of it would add a splendid note to your resume."

"I'm aware, but I'm not interested." Ye Leng'an shrugged, indifferent. "Besides, I have plenty of other things to do. I simply can't spare the time to juggle Student Council responsibilities."

"Junior Sister Ye, the Student Council's tasks aren't burdensome." Murong Yumeng's brow relaxed as she continued to persuade her. "It's definitely a great opportunity for you. You don't need to rush your decision. Take your time to think it over and give me your answer later!"

Despite her efforts to control herself, disdain leaked onto Murong Yumeng's face.

This Ye Leng'an truly came from a sheltered background. She didn't even know how to seize such a golden opportunity. If it weren't to get closer to Ye Leng'an, she wouldn't have given her a chance! In this school, countless people wanted to join their Student Council and curry favor with her. Yet, Ye Leng'an, in her ignorance, failed to appreciate the opportunity.

"I don't need to think about it," Ye Leng'an replied without hesitation. "Senior Sister Murong, I truly don't need such an opportunity. Please save it for someone else who needs it more!"

Though she didn't understand Murong Yumeng's true intentions, she was sure they weren't good. She didn't believe Murong Yumeng genuinely wanted to build a good relationship with her. After all, all their past interactions had been unpleasant.

Furthermore, she had zero interest in the Student Council. If she were just an ordinary student, perhaps she would consider joining to develop herself. But now, if she had any spare time, she'd rather spend it refining pills than waste it on the so-called Student Council matters.

Ye Leng'an's words wiped the smile completely off Murong Yumeng's face. Her expression soured. "So, Junior Sister Ye isn't willing to give me any face, is that it?"

"Oh, is this an invitation or coercion?" Ye Leng'an asked with a smirk. "Senior Sister Murong, this isn't an invitation, but coercion, isn't it?"

Murong Yumeng's expression darkened further. She struggled to maintain her composure and forced a smile. "Junior Sister Ye, what are you saying? Of course, it's an invitation, not coercion. I just feel it'd be a shame if you miss such a good opportunity."

"Whether it's a shame or not, it's up to the person involved, not others." Ye Leng'an raised an eyebrow. "As long as I don't think it's a shame, then it isn't. Senior Sister Murong, save such a good opportunity for someone else who needs it! Thank you for your kindness, but I decline."

"Since Junior Sister Ye is so adamant, I won't say anything more," Murong Yumeng's smile became stiff. "But my invitation remains valid. If you change your mind, you can always find me."

Ye Leng'an smiled but remained silent.

"Junior Sister Ye, we're all students at the same school." Murong Yumeng took out her phone. "And you might not know! I'm also in the major of Chinese medicine. Let's exchange contact information! If you ever need help or have questions, feel free to reach out. I'll do my best."

Although her invitation for Ye Leng'an to join the Student Council had failed, it didn't stop her from trying to get closer to her.

"I didn't expect Senior Sister Murong to be so kind!" Ye Leng'an blinked and smiled. "Taking care of me like this, even though we've only met a few times. It's quite rare!"

"I just feel like I've hit it off with you." Murong Yumeng smiled sincerely. "I've always wanted a sister like you. So, without realizing it, I just wanted to befriend you. I hope you don't find me too forward."

Ye Leng'an smiled but said nothing more.

Murong Yumeng wasn't sure what Ye Leng'an was thinking, but she asked for her contact information again.

Fortunately, when she asked again, Ye Leng'an still told Murong Yumeng her contact number.

Though today's attempt to recruit Ye Leng'an into the Student Council had failed and Ye Leng'an even mocked her, they had made some progress.

After exchanging some pleasantries, Murong Yumeng and Ye Leng'an departed.

Upon returning to the dormitory and opening the door, the other three occupants fixed their gaze on Ye Leng'an.

"What's with those expressions?" Ye Leng'an remained unfazed by their intense stares. "Are you welcoming me with your eyes?"

"Let's not talk about this."

Zhu Bixuan couldn't keep secrets. Upon seeing Ye Leng'an's return, she immediately approached her, her face full of curiosity. "So, why did Murong Yumeng look for you? Did she give you a hard time?"

"It's nothing." Ye Leng'an shook her head, not hiding anything. She disclosed Murong Yumeng's intentions. "She said she wanted to invite me to join the Student Council."

"What?" Zhu Bixuan exclaimed.

Zhou Cui'an and Ling Weiwei were equally shocked upon hearing this. Zhou Cui'an, in particular, couldn't help but feel a tinge of jealousy.

No one had expected Murong Yumeng to personally extend an invitation to Ye Leng'an. Considering the countless students vying for a spot in the Student Council, the entry requirements were incredibly stringent.

"However, I didn't accept," Ye Leng'an continued. "And then, Murong Yumeng left."

Chapter 805: Her Contact Information

"Leng'an, could you speak more directly?" Zhu Bixuan impatiently glared at Ye Leng'an. "Get to the point!"

However, she soon grasped the significance of Ye Leng'an's words. "You declined? Leng'an, do you realize what you're saying?"

She could hardly believe her ears. Was Ye Leng'an really refusing the chance to join the Student Council?

Zhu Bixuan's astonishment was shared by Zhou Cui'an and Ling Weiwei, both looking at Ye Leng'an with incredulity.

"I just turned down Murong Yumeng." Ye Leng'an chuckled. "What's so strange about that? Do you think I'm obliged to agree?"

"Leng'an, have you grasped the main point?" Zhu Bixuan wished she could shake Ye Leng'an's shoulders to jolt some sense into her. "The point is you turned down the opportunity to join the Student Council. Do you understand what it means to be part of the Student Council at Capital University?"

"Oh, so the Student Council is that impressive?" Ye Leng'an shrugged indifferently. "But that's irrelevant to me, right? Besides, I don't think the Student Council suits me."

"Leng'an, though I dislike Murong Yumeng," Zhu Bixuan said with a serious tone, "getting into the Student Council is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Do you know? Those who get in are the cream of the crop at school. It's a valuable network for the future! And because Murong Yumeng is this year's Student Council president, the Murong family offers several internship positions for graduates annually. That's why many vie for entry. Most in the Student Council secure internships. Moreover, even if it's not for the internship, getting to know those in the Student Council is beneficial. Many are scions of the capital's aristocratic families. These are valuable connections."

"Oh!" Ye Leng'an nodded. "That sounds pretty good."

Though she said this, her demeanor remained calm, seemingly indifferent to the benefits Zhu Bixuan outlined.

Observing Ye Leng'an's composure, Zhu Bixuan was at a loss for words.

“Why are you so indifferent?” Ling Weiwei, breaking her silence, couldn’t help but ask, “Do you realize what a loss it is for you to refuse Murong Yumeng?”

Surprised by Ling Weiwei’s words, Ye Leng’an sensed genuine concern in her tone. Ling Weiwei was evidently speaking for her own good.

Despite their limited interaction, even strained relationship, Ling Weiwei was showing genuine care.

What had happened to prompt such a change in Ling Weiwei? It was a remarkable shift.

Noticing Ling Weiwei’s discomfort, Ye Leng’an didn’t push further. “It’s subjective. I don’t feel like I’ve lost anything.”

Ling Weiwei didn’t press the matter further. However, her regretful gaze betrayed her lingering disappointment.

Zhu Bixuan regarded Ye Leng’an with pity. “Leng’an, you’re really…”

In the end, she struggled to articulate her thoughts.

Ye Leng’an shook her head, amused. “If you genuinely feel it’s a loss, I’ll give you Murong Yumeng’s contact now. You’ll surely get into the Student Council.”

“Sure!” Zhu Bixuan recognized Ye Leng’an’s jest. She played along, “Then give me her number now. I’ll self-recommend right away. Maybe I’ll really make it into the Student Council! I’ll owe you one then.”

“Alright!” Ye Leng’an nodded solemnly, then recited a string of numbers. “This is Murong Yumeng’s phone. Reach out and recommend yourself.”

Hearing the numbers, Zhu Bixuan was taken aback. “You actually have Murong Yumeng’s contact!”

Initially joking, she didn’t expect Ye Leng’an to provide Murong Yumeng’s number. It felt peculiar no matter how she viewed it.

Of course, she didn’t remember the numbers.

“Yes!” Ye Leng’an confirmed, saying no more.

Zhu Bixuan sighed, feeling Ye Leng’an’s refusal was a missed opportunity. However, everyone had their own considerations and choices. As an outsider, she couldn’t interfere too much.

So, she let the matter rest.

Unnoticed by all, when Ye Leng’an shared Murong Yumeng’s number, Zhou Cui’an’s eyes flickered. After Ye Leng’an finished, she too began tapping away on her phone.

As she gazed at the number on her screen, Zhou Cui’an’s expression wavered.

She refrained from speaking, fearing her envy would betray her. She sensed Ye Leng’an wasn’t being pretentious but genuinely didn’t require such opportunities.

While Zhu Bixuan and others might not understand, Zhou Cui’an vaguely realized Ye Leng’an might not need this chance.

If she could spend lavishly without a second thought and afford luxury items, why would she care about an internship? Perhaps her future was already arranged before graduation.

The world was unfair. Zhou Cui'an desired entry into the Student Council to pave her future, but it eluded her. Yet, Ye Leng'an dismissed such a good opportunity without hesitation.

These thoughts stoked Zhou Cui'an's envy. She dared not meet Ye Leng'an's gaze, fearing her feelings would be exposed.

Chapter 806: Staying on Campus

Zhou Cui'an wasn't sure about her mindset, but when Ye Leng'an provided Murong Yumeng's contact information, she couldn't resist jotting down the phone number.

She wasn't certain if obtaining Murong Yumeng's contact details would bring any benefits. However, she was unwilling to let go of such an opportunity.

She was unlike Ye Leng'an.

While she didn't know Ye Leng'an's family background, her lavish spending hinted at a well-off upbringing. But she hailed from a remote mountain village, where she knew she had to strive for her future.

Ye Leng'an returned to her typical university life. Naturally, she didn't stay in the dormitory much.

Being an alchemist, she couldn't confine herself to campus like an ordinary student. She aimed to enhance her alchemy skills whenever possible and, of course, continue her cultivation.

All this was inconvenient to pursue in the dorm. Thus, she had already arranged with the school. They agreed, but with academic performance requirements.

Initially, other dorm mates were surprised, but they gradually acclimatized to Ye Leng'an's uniqueness.

Of course, during the final exams, Ye Leng'an's grades dazzled everyone. She topped all subjects, practically dominating the grade.

After seeing Ye Leng'an's grades, all the professors in the department were tempted, eager to take her in as their personal disciple. However, so far, no one had succeeded.

After the semester, everyone began packing to go home.

Ye Leng'an had already left upon receiving her grades. Ling Weiwei, being from Hu City, had booked a first-class flight and left early. Zhu Bixuan, with her car, planned a leisurely drive home and wasn't in a rush.

Zhou Cui'an, however, didn't immediately pack. Instead, she sat, lost in thought.

Zhu Bixuan, leisurely packing, couldn't help but ask, "Cui'an, what's on your mind?"

Startled by Zhu Bixuan's voice, Zhou Cui'an snapped out of her reverie. "What's up?"

"I was about to ask you the same," Zhu Bixuan said, eyeing Zhou Cui'an. "Why are you hesitating? It's vacation time. Aren't you going to pack and head back?"

Hearing Zhu Bixuan's question, Zhou Cui'an's face betrayed unease. "I'll pack later."

"Then hurry!" Zhu Bixuan grinned. "Remember, in two days, the dorm's utilities will be cut off. Everyone has to leave."

"I know." Zhou Cui'an nodded. Then, she couldn't help but ask, "Bixuan, do you think we can apply to stay on campus?"

Zhu Bixuan was taken aback. "Aren't you planning to go back for winter break?"

"I thought about staying in the capital to look for part-time jobs." Zhou Cui'an admitted with a hint of sadness in her eyes. "But if the school doesn't allow it, I can't stay either. Do you think they'd approve my request to stay?"

"Well..." Zhu Bixuan shook her head. "It's not very realistic. With the holidays approaching, who would you even apply to? Plus, the school might not agree. I've heard many tried before, but the school's regulations are strict, and they seldom grant such requests."

A flicker of disappointment crossed Zhou Cui'an's face. She knew this outcome was likely.

Without staying on campus, she couldn't secure a winter job. After all, rent in the capital was exorbitant. Perhaps her part-time earnings wouldn't cover it.

Moreover, returning home wasn't appealing. Her remote village home demanded constant chores, and she couldn't bear the thought.

Finding a part-time job here could cover next semester's expenses. But returning home meant uncertainty about finances. Her previous earnings were gone, and she needed a solution.

Having experienced the capital's prosperity, she dreaded returning to poverty.

Though factory work was an option, she balked at the idea. As a student at Capital University, she refused to stoop to holiday labor. Plus, after earning well at a luxury store, factory wages seemed paltry.

Long before the holidays, she sought a job offering food and lodging but found none.

She even contacted her previous employer, but they weren't hiring.

Her studies suffered due to this dilemma.

Glancing at her report card, she couldn't believe her decline from top student to mediocre.

When she received her report card, she could hardly believe her eyes. Back in her hometown, she was a top-tier student. Otherwise, she wouldn't have received the admission letter from Capital University. Being academically strong was her biggest advantage. She just didn't expect that after coming to Capital University, all her advantages would disappear.

Thinking about this, Zhou Cui'an felt even more restless.

Seeing Zhu Bixuan casually packing, ready to drive home, worsened her mood.

Despite being roommates, others had it easy. She, the one most eager to stay, faced the toughest time.

Ling Weiwei had already booked a first-class plane ticket early on, Zhu Bixuan had her own car, and Ye Leng'an, being a native of the capital, had gone home early.

Only she, the one who wanted to stay the most, couldn't. While others were living carefreely, she was enduring such hardship.

Chapter 807: Confusion

"Um, Cui'an, why don't you find a job that includes food and accommodation?" Zhu Bixuan had a sudden idea and spoke up, "I heard there are many holiday jobs that provide these benefits, and the pay is decent too."

"But those jobs offering accommodation are in the factory," Zhou Cui'an frowned, "I don't want to work in a factory."

"In that case, there's not much else we can do." Zhu Bixuan shrugged. "I'm just a student myself, so I can't really help you."

Upon hearing Zhu Bixuan's suggestion, Zhou Cui'an's expression turned sour.

She couldn't tell if Zhu Bixuan was being deliberate. Did she look like someone who would work as a factory technician? She was also a student at Capital University, just like them. Why were the others in the dormitory acting so superior and was she the only fit for these menial jobs?

The more Zhou Cui'an thought about it, the more unfair it seemed.

She stood up and walked out.

Zhu Bixuan was startled by this sudden move. Initially, she had wanted to help Zhou Cui'an find a solution. But now, seeing her demeanor, she felt it was best not to interfere.

Though carefree, Zhu Bixuan wasn't naive. She didn't want to involve herself in thankless tasks. Since Zhou Cui'an had already left, she decided not to dwell on it too much. She didn't want Zhou Cui'an to think she was being patronized and ungrateful, as that would make their future interactions awkward.

With that in mind, she pushed aside thoughts of Zhou Cui'an and continued packing, preparing to head home as soon as possible.

On the other side, Zhou Cui'an, now outside the dormitory, couldn't help but stop in her tracks after descending the stairs. She seemed lost in thought. Standing there, she wasn't sure where to go next.

Or rather, she didn't know what to do next. Returning to the dormitory now would be too embarrassing. Especially since she didn't see anything wrong with her actions. Zhu Bixuan's words had clearly belittled her.

Zhou Cui'an wandered around campus.

There weren't many people left; most had gone home after receiving their results. Even those still on campus were preparing to leave, hurrying about their business.

Only Zhou Cui'an seemed burdened, pacing around campus.

After walking for some time, Zhou Cui'an finally sat down at a pavilion. She took out her phone and opened her contacts. Seeing a particular number on the screen, she hesitated.

It was Murong Yumeng's number, overheard from Ye Leng'an. She'd seen it many times but never dared to call.

She didn't know what she was thinking, but seeing the number now stirred something within her.

Murong Yumeng, being from the Murong family, could easily resolve her current predicament. But she also knew Murong Yumeng didn't know who she was, let alone help her.

Still, she wanted to try. Perhaps there would be an unexpected outcome. Even if Murong Yumeng couldn't help, it couldn't get worse than this.

Besides, although she had no personal interaction with Murong Yumeng, she'd heard of her reputation.

Despite being from a wealthy family, Murong Yumeng was humble and polite. She was known for helping fellow students.

With a deep breath, Zhou Cui'an pressed the dial button.

As the phone rang, her heart raced, as if about to burst.

Finally, the call connected, and a puzzled voice came from the other end.

"Hello, who is this?"

Murong Yumeng, on the other end, was surprised to receive an unfamiliar call. She didn't recognize the number.

This was her private number, known to few. If it were someone she knew, they would have introduced themselves. Yet here was a completely unknown caller.

"Um...Hello!" Zhou Cui'an's nerves were on edge. She stuttered, "Senior...Senior Sister Murong, I'm...I'm Zhou Cui'an."

"Zhou Cui'an?" Murong Yumeng's frown deepened at the unfamiliar name. Her tone grew sharper. "Who are you? And how did you get my number?"

She didn't know Zhou Cui'an, nor how the other party obtained her private number.

"Um..." Zhou Cui'an grew even more nervous at Murong Yumeng's stern tone. Her words became jumbled. "I...I... Senior Sister Murong..."

Hearing the disjointed response, Murong Yumeng cut in, "Who are you? What's your motive? If you don't explain, I'll hang up."

At the mention of hanging up, Zhou Cui'an urgently tried to suppress her panic. "Please don't hang up, Senior Sister Murong. You might not know me. I'm Zhou Cui'an, Ye Leng'an's roommate. I got your number from her."

Bringing up Ye Leng'an, she hoped to establish credibility. She knew that if Murong Yumeng hung up, she might lose her nerve to try again. And if Murong Yumeng blocked her number, all her efforts would be in vain.

Murong Yumeng paused at the mention of Ye Leng'an. Then she asked, "You're Ye Leng'an's roommate, right?"

She didn't doubt Zhou Cui'an's claim, but she was skeptical of her intentions.

And was this really Ye Leng'an's doing?

"Yes, I'm really Leng'an's roommate," Zhou Cui'an replied anxiously. "Otherwise, I wouldn't have your number from her."

Chapter 808: Asking for Help

"So you're Leng'an's roommate!" The voice on the other end of the line regained its warmth. "I wonder what brings you to me?"

Murong Yumeng didn't believe a word of what this so-called Zhou Cui'an had said. Although she didn't know who the caller was, it was unlikely that Ye Leng'an had given her number to this girl. However, it was evident that the caller didn't have a good relationship with Ye Leng'an.

Hearing Murong Yumeng's soothing voice, Zhou Cui'an felt somewhat reassured, but she still didn't know how to approach the situation. She and Murong Yumeng had never interacted before, so suddenly asking for her help felt rather abrupt. Would she come across as too needy?

There was no response from the other end for a while. If Murong Yumeng hadn't heard the nervous breaths, she would have thought the call had disconnected.

After some consideration, Murong Yumeng spoke up, "I think it's inconvenient to discuss this over the phone. Shall we meet in person?"

"Is that alright?" Zhou Cui'an was pleasantly surprised. "Then, when would Senior Sister be available?"

"I'm at the school right now," Murong Yumeng said slowly. "How about we meet at a café outside the school in half an hour?"

Zhou Cui'an suppressed her excitement. "Okay, I'll head over right away."

Even after hanging up, Zhou Cui'an remained excited, her hands trembling. She hadn't expected her call to Murong Yumeng to go so smoothly.

Now she needed to figure out how to explain things to Murong Yumeng. Though she hadn't met her in person, rumors portrayed her as a gentle person. So, if she explained her predicament, Murong Yumeng would likely be willing to help.

Zhou Cui'an arrived at the café early, waiting for Murong Yumeng's arrival.

Half an hour passed quickly, but there was no sign of Murong Yumeng. Zhou Cui'an began to feel anxious.

As time went by, her initial excitement turned to disappointment. In the end, her heart grew cold, especially when Murong Yumeng still hadn't shown up.

She didn't know if Murong Yumeng had forgotten their appointment or if something had come up.

Regardless, she didn't dare leave, fearing that Murong Yumeng would arrive and not find her, which would be quite offensive.

Moreover, this was her only chance. If she missed it, she didn't know what to do next. So, she continued to wait.

As time passed, Zhou Cui'an grew increasingly restless. Nearly two hours went by with no sign of Murong Yumeng.

Just as Zhou Cui'an was about to lose hope, a figure suddenly appeared before her, accompanied by a familiar, gentle voice.

"Hello, are you Junior Sister Zhou Cui'an?" Murong Yumeng wore a gentle smile. "I'm Murong Yumeng."

Hearing Murong Yumeng's voice, Zhou Cui'an's spirits, which had sunk, immediately lifted. She stood up abruptly.

A sharp creak echoed as Zhou Cui'an's chair scraped against the floor.

The noise stood out in the quiet café, drawing the attention of others.

Zhou Cui'an realized her actions were inappropriate. Her face turned red under the scrutiny of others, and she felt incredibly awkward as she apologized, "Senior Sister Murong, I'm sorry, I..."

She didn't know why she was apologizing to Murong Yumeng, but she felt like she had done something wrong.

Though disdain flashed in Murong Yumeng's eyes, she maintained her calm demeanor. "It's okay, Junior Sister Zhou. Let's sit down."

The two sat down again.

Murong Yumeng ordered a cup of coffee.

After placing their order, Murong Yumeng turned to Zhou Cui'an with an apologetic expression.

"Junior Sister Zhou, I'm truly sorry. I intended to meet you much earlier, but an urgent matter came up at the Student Council. I had to deal with it immediately and couldn't call you. I'm sorry for making you wait."

"It's alright, really." Zhou Cui'an was touched by Murong Yumeng's apology. She waved it off, saying, "Senior Sister Murong, you're too kind. To be honest, I'm the one inconveniencing you today. I'm just grateful you agreed to meet me."

Murong Yumeng smiled and didn't dwell on it. Instead, she asked, "So, Junior Sister Zhou, why did you call me?"

In truth, Murong Yumeng didn't have any pressing matters. She simply wanted to keep Zhou Cui'an waiting. The longer Zhou Cui'an waited, the more anxious she would become, which would work in Murong Yumeng's favor.

However, seeing that Zhou Cui'an had waited even though she was so late, it seemed she was genuinely anxious.

After hearing Murong Yumeng's words, Zhou Cui'an fell silent. She deliberated on how to broach the subject without sounding too abrupt.

"Junior Sister Zhou, if you have something to say, just say it," Murong Yumeng said calmly. "Since we're already here, there's no need to beat around the bush. If you need my help, just ask. I'll do my best to assist you."

Hearing Murong Yumeng's gentle encouragement, Zhou Cui'an's anxiety eased. She took a deep breath and said, "Senior Sister Murong, I actually reached out to you because I need your help with something. The winter break has begun, and I'm looking for a holiday job. However, those companies don't provide accommodation, and the school doesn't allow overnight stays, so I..."

Chapter 809: Sugar Daddy

During the conversation, Zhou Cui'an lifted her head cautiously to glance at Murong Yumeng. Though she didn't articulate her request, the implications were quite clear.

Across from her, Murong Yumeng maintained a smile but remained silent, leaving Zhou Cui'an feeling increasingly uneasy.

She couldn't fathom what thoughts lurked behind Murong Yumeng's gentle facade. Despite her outward kindness, Zhou Cui'an felt a discomfort in her presence, even an impulse to depart immediately. Under Murong Yumeng's gentle gaze, she felt utterly exposed, devoid of any secrets.

Time seemed to stretch until the waiter finally interrupted the awkward silence by serving the coffee.

Murong Yumeng took a sip before slowly speaking, "So, you want my help, don't you? How exactly do you expect me to help you?"

At the beginning of her sentence, Zhou Cui'an felt a glimmer of relief, but as Murong continued, she found herself momentarily stunned. She believed she had been explicit in her request: she wanted Murong Yumeng to help her find a well-paying job with room and board included.

However, she couldn't bring herself to voice it directly. After all, she and Murong Yumeng were hardly acquainted. Even her invitation today was predicated on the pretext of Ye Leng'an's presence. Otherwise, she suspected Murong Yumeng wouldn't have given her the time of day.

Seemingly oblivious to Zhou Cui'an's discomfort, Murong Yumeng pressed on, "Also, aren't you Leng'an's roommate? Why not approach her? If she asks, her fiancé can certainly assist you."

“Fiancé?” Zhou Cui’an was taken aback, then puzzled. “Senior Sister Murong, are you saying that Ye Leng’an already has a fiancé?”

This revelation caught her off guard. Ye Leng’an appeared so young; how could she already be engaged? Moreover, she had never heard Ye Leng’an mention anything about a fiancé.

“What? You didn’t know?” Murong Yumeng covered her mouth, blinking. “I assumed you’d be aware since you’re roommates!”

“When Leng’an was in the dorm, she never mentioned her fiancé.” Zhou Cui’an chuckled, attempting to mask her surprise. “Perhaps she was worried we’d make assumptions! After all, she’s still quite young!”

Indeed, Ye Leng’an rarely divulged personal details. Hence, despite being roommates, she remained unaware of Ye Leng’an’s family background, only knowing she came from wealth.

Furthermore, despite being from the capital, Ye Leng’an had never invited her roommates over, even after a semester had passed.

“No big deal!” Murong Yumeng smiled. “Frankly, Leng’an’s comfortable life is thanks to her fiancé! There’s nothing to hide!”

“What?” Zhou Cui’an’s eyes widened, processing Murong Yumeng’s words. “Senior Sister Murong, what do you mean?”

Murong Yumeng continued candidly, “It’s no secret. Leng’an’s family isn’t well-off. Without her current fiancé’s help, she wouldn’t be living so comfortably! Without him, she might still be struggling to cover tuition and living expenses!”

Zhou Cui’an’s eyes gleamed after she heard that. “But Leng’an doesn’t seem like she’s from an ordinary family!”

Although she trusted Murong Yumeng wouldn’t deceive her, it seemed improbable. Given Ye Leng’an’s behavior and demeanor, she seemed well-educated, distinct from ordinary families.

“Oh, that’s true.” Murong Yumeng nodded, a tinge of regret on her face. “Leng’an indeed hails from a wealthy family, but some mishaps occurred later, causing financial strain. However, since meeting her fiancé, her life has improved.”

Sugar daddy!

Murong Yumeng’s account summoned those words in Zhou Cui’an’s mind. Reflecting on Ye Leng’an’s lavish lifestyle, a hint of disdain flickered in her eyes.

Initially envious of Ye Leng’an’s affluent background, she now felt superior. She earned her own money, unlike Ye Leng’an, who traded herself for material wealth.

This realization filled her with disdain for Ye Leng’an.

Observing Zhou Cui’an’s expression, Murong Yumeng discerned her thoughts. A glint of darkness flashed in her eyes, though her expression remained neutral. “Something on your mind?”

“Nothing.” Murong Yumeng’s interruption halted Zhou Cui’an’s train of thought. Hastily masking her emotions with a smile, she said, “I got distracted by something else just now, sorry, Senior Sister!”

“It’s fine.” Murong Yumeng shook her head with a smile. “Let’s drop the subject of Leng’an. Junior Sister Zhou, how can I help you?”

Zhou Cui’an appeared conflicted, unsure of what to say.

“How about...” Murong Yumeng pondered briefly before suggesting, “I know of some positions that offer room and board, but the pay might be modest. Would that be acceptable?”

“Of course.” Zhou Cui’an was pleasantly surprised. “Senior Sister, I’m immensely grateful for your help. How could I be picky? Thank you so much for your help.”

Chapter 810: Misunderstanding

Though Zhou Cui’an still didn’t know what kind of job Murong Yumeng had introduced her to, she felt quite excited.

Murong Yumeng was the young lady of the Murong family. No matter how mediocre the job she recommended might be, it wouldn’t be too shabby.

And if the job happened to be within a company under the Murong family’s banner, that would be even better. Given that her home wasn’t in the capital, finding work here after graduation would prove quite challenging. However, if she could land a gig in a major corporation now, everything would change.

As long as she performed well at the company, especially with Murong Yumeng’s recommendation, there might even be more holiday job opportunities in the future. With time, there was a good chance she could land an internship within the company upon graduation, securing her place for the future.

“All right, someone will be in touch with you in a couple of days,” Murong Yumeng said, checking her watch. “It’s getting late, and I have other matters to attend to. I’ll take my leave now.”

With that, Murong Yumeng rose from her seat.

“Okay.” Zhou Cui’an hastily got up, bowing deeply to Murong Yumeng. When she straightened up, her face was filled with gratitude. “Thank you so much, Senior Sister Murong. I wouldn’t know what to do without your help.”

“It’s just a piece of cake.” Murong Yumeng smiled, shaking her head. “Besides, you and Leng’an are roommates. It’s only right for me to help.”

At the mention of Ye Leng’an again, Zhou Cui’an’s smile faltered. After a moment’s thought, she cautiously asked, “Senior Sister Murong, are you close to Leng’an?”

Knowing that Murong Yumeng was granting her this opportunity because of Ye Leng'an, Zhou Cui'an found it hard to articulate her feelings. It felt as though everything she received was somehow connected to Ye Leng'an.

This notion was difficult for her to accept. Moreover, it was clear that Murong Yumeng had a genuine fondness for Ye Leng'an. However, Zhou Cui'an had observed in their dormitory that Ye Leng'an didn't reciprocate those feelings. She couldn't bear to see Murong Yumeng's kindness being taken advantage of by Ye Leng'an.

"In fact, I quite like Leng'an," Murong Yumeng smiled in response. "She seems like a talented and outstanding individual. I genuinely want to befriend her. I even invited her to join the student council before. Unfortunately, she claimed to be too busy and declined."

"Ye Leng'an isn't as good as you think she is," Zhou Cui'an interjected anxiously. "She doesn't like you at all, and she even speaks ill of you. Please don't be deceived by her."

"What?" Murong Yumeng's expression fell as if struck by a blow. "Are you sure about what you're saying? Leng'an is definitely not like that. You must have misunderstood her."

"I didn't misunderstand! If there's any misunderstanding, it's you misunderstanding her. You're mistaken to think she's a good person," Zhou Cui'an insisted urgently. "She already resents you because of the school belle selection. Although she claims not to care about it, she's actually just afraid of losing. From her words, I can tell she doesn't hold you in high regard. Remember when you sent someone to meet her downstairs? You don't know how arrogant she was. She directly told the messenger that you could leave if you couldn't wait. But the truth is, she had nothing important to attend to; she was just lazing around in the dormitory. Her ultimate goal was simply to make you wait."

"No, that can't be." Murong Yumeng shook her head, seeming hesitant to believe the allegations. "Leng'an, she..."

As she trailed off, she appeared unable to continue. Her face bore an expression of sadness as if she had been betrayed by a trusted friend.

"Senior Sister Murong, I didn't want to tell you," Zhou Cui'an confessed, her lips pursed. "But I couldn't bear to see you being deceived by Ye Leng'an. You're such a good person; it's not worth being upset over someone like her."

Murong Yumeng shook her head again, insisting, "Junior Sister Zhou, I know you mean well, but I believe Leng'an is not like that. In fact, if you observe her closely in the dormitory, you'll see that she's genuinely a good person. She wouldn't engage in such two-faced behavior."

After hearing Murong Yumeng's response, Zhou Cui'an felt both anxious and unsure how to persuade her further to believe her. "Senior Sister Murong, everything I've said is true. Otherwise,

I'll tell you everything about Ye Leng'an's behavior in the dormitory. Then you'll see, she's not a good person at all."

Zhou Cui'an was confident she could find evidence to convince Murong Yumeng that Ye Leng'an was not to be trusted.

Murong Yumeng's eyes flashed with a hint of pride, but she shook her head nonetheless. "You don't need to do that. If Leng'an finds out, she'll surely be angry with me."

"Okay, Senior Sister, please don't try to dissuade me," Zhou Cui'an interjected quickly. "What I do in the future is my own business. Don't worry about it. Don't you have other matters to attend to? Don't let me delay you."

"Fine!" Murong Yumeng glanced at her watch once more before speaking firmly. "Junior Sister, I'll take my leave now."

With that, she hastily departed.

Unbeknownst to Zhou Cui'an, as Murong Yumeng turned away, her face displayed no extra emotions. Only a cold, steely glint flickered in her eyes.

At that moment, Murong Yumeng had shed all traces of gentleness. Even her iconic smile had vanished entirely. If anyone had witnessed this, they would never believe that this was the same gentle and charming Miss Murong they knew.

Left behind, Zhou Cui'an didn't immediately leave. Instead, she leisurely sipped her coffee.

She had never experienced such relaxation before, especially since she never drank coffee on ordinary days. Today, she seized the opportunity to bask in the leisurely atmosphere. Meanwhile, she pondered over Murong Yumeng's words.