

Full-Level 851

Chapter 851: Continue Watching the Movie

Huangfu Ruiling shrugged and offered no comment. Instead, he waved the movie ticket in his hand and persisted, "Let's not worry about others' affairs. The movie is about to begin. Don't we still need to buy popcorn? Let's make the most of our time!"

"Huh?" Ye Leng'an was taken aback by Huangfu Ruiling's statement. "You still want to watch the movie?"

She had thought their movie plans might be dashed for the day. Yet, despite Li San's call, Huangfu Ruiling had decided to proceed with the movie.

"Why not?" Huangfu Ruiling calmly responded, countering with a question. "If they indeed intend to divorce, they can do so even without our presence. And if they have no such plans, our delayed return won't affect anything, right?"

Overall, he wouldn't alter his plans for these individuals. Especially now, as he was on a date with Ye Leng'an! To him, spending time with her was far more important than these matters.

Ye Leng'an found his logic surprisingly reasonable.

So, the two of them leisurely bought popcorn and entered the cinema. They planned to return to the Huangfu family after the movie ended.

Of course, before entering the cinema, they both conscientiously turned off their phones.

Meanwhile, after Huangfu Jingzhang's call to Li San, he left the study with Zhongyu Liuying, returning to the living room.

The living room was now quite crowded.

Huangfu Jingxian and Nangong Xiyu sat on one side, observing Zhong Yating kneeling on the floor, their expressions neutral. Clearly, though present, they could only serve as elders and witnesses, refraining from expressing opinions.

As for their son, Huangfu Ruihang, his presence would have been entirely inappropriate at this time. After all, his appearance would have turned the occasion into a spectacle.

On the other side, Huangfu Ruixiang sat on the sofa, his face grim as he stared at Zhong Yating on her knees, devoid of any sympathy, only disgust and resentment.

Beside him, Li Yiran whispered words of reassurance, seemingly trying to calm him. Yet, whenever she glanced at Zhong Yating, her eyes betrayed sarcasm and satisfaction.

She had meticulously planned for days before finally exposing Zhong Yating's true nature today. Previously, Zhong Yating had looked down on her as Huangfu Ruixiang's wife.

Now, the tables had turned. Now, she sat in the position of power, while Zhong Yating knelt like a dog, begging for mercy.

If not for the inappropriate setting, she would have burst into laughter to express her inner excitement.

Now that Zhong Yating's true colors were revealed, there was no way she could continue being Huangfu Ruixiang's wife. As for Zhong Yating's willingness to divorce, it wasn't even a consideration.

Zhong Yating had gambled with Huangfu Ruixiang's life. Both Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying could never tolerate such a daughter-in-law.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying also entered the living room and took their seats. They didn't spare a glance at Zhong Yating, as if looking at her would soil their eyes.

"Brother, when will Ruiling be back?" Huangfu Jingxian broke the silence in the living room, voicing the question on everyone's mind. "We must wait for him to return before resolving this matter."

If it were the marriage of a branch member of the Huangfu family, they could decide on their own. However, Huangfu Ruixiang was directly involved. He was not only a direct descendant but also the brother of the current family head. Therefore, it was only appropriate for Huangfu Ruiling to make the final decision.

Hearing Huangfu Jingxian's question, Huangfu Jingzhang couldn't help but remember his recent call that was abruptly ended. His mood soured further. "I've informed him. He'll be back soon."

With a stern glare at Zhong Yating, who knelt there, he bluntly stated, "As for this matter, what other outcome can there be besides divorce?"

"Indeed," Zhongyu Liuying echoed, their faces contorted with anger. "Zhong Yating is heartless. To commit such an act...she doesn't value Ruixiang's life at all. If something were to happen again, who's to say she wouldn't take Ruixiang's life over it! In any case, I'll never allow such a woman to remain by Ruixiang's side."

Huangfu Jingxian and Nangong Xiyu exchanged glances, withholding their opinions. However, deep down, they concurred with the sentiment.

If a woman nearly caused their son to lose his life due to a so-called debt of gratitude, they would never tolerate such malice.

They hadn't expected Zhong Yating to possess such a cold heart beneath her seemingly delicate exterior.

Truly, as the saying goes, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned"!

Meanwhile, Zhong Yating, kneeling on the ground, had long lost sensation in her legs. However, she dared not move.

Her heart was filled with apprehension as she pondered the uncertain future ahead. She never imagined Li Yiran would uncover her past actions.

She couldn't deny it, nor could she afford to. Her deeds left a trail, easily traceable. She managed to deceive everyone before because she was severely injured at the time, with Huangfu Ruixiang constantly by her side. She exploited his guilt to halt the investigation.

She never expected Li Yiran to uncover the truth and expose her publicly, catching her off guard. She didn't even have time to devise a plan.

She didn't know what lay ahead, but she had made too many sacrifices to marry Huangfu Ruixiang. She had suffered severe injuries and nearly lost her life. She wouldn't let anything jeopardize what she had now.

Chapter 852: Waiting

Usually, although Nangong Xiyu and Zhongyu Liuying were at odds, she sided with Zhongyu Liuying on this matter. "Sister-in-law, don't be angry first. Now that you know Zhong Yating's true colors, you definitely can't let her stay with Ruixiang. However, ultimately, Ruiling must make the decision. After all, he is the head of the Huangfu family. Beside..."

At this point, Nangong Xiyu glanced at Zhong Yating, who knelt on the ground, and continued, "Zhong Yating is also an outer sect disciple of the Hidden World's Huangfu family. How she should be dealt with is also Ruiling's decision."

So, Zhong Yating faced not only divorce from Huangfu Ruixiang but also punishment from the Huangfu family. After all, her actions could endanger Huangfu Ruixiang's life.

"It's not unreasonable to take her life for what she's done." Zhongyu Liuying's gaze at Zhong Yating resembled that toward her enemies. "Hmph, no matter what, I won't let her off."

Though unsure why Nangong Xiyu refrained from worsening the situation, Zhong Yating dared not speak up. She knew anything she said now would be wrong.

Li Yiran remained silent since Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying came out, seated quietly beside Huangfu Ruixiang. She understood that speaking up now might make her a target. Even if she refrained from adding insult to injury, Zhong Yating's fate didn't look promising. So, she simply waited quietly for the outcome.

However, she couldn't resist casting a gloating glance at Zhong Yating.

Subsequently, silence fell over the living room. Everyone's mood was heavy, but no one dared to break the silence.

Time dragged on, yet Huangfu Ruiling didn't appear.

"Big brother, what did Ruiling say?" Huangfu Jingxian couldn't help but ask. "It's been an hour. Why hasn't he returned yet?"

An hour had passed since Huangfu Jingzhang left the study, yet Huangfu Ruiling hadn't shown up. Huangfu Jingxian doubted if Huangfu Ruiling had been informed.

Others shared Huangfu Jingxian's doubts. Too much time had elapsed.

Huangfu Jingzhang's expression grew darker, his mood worse than others'. Especially facing Huangfu Jingxian's inquiry, he turned livid.

Having had no communication with Huangfu Ruiling, he couldn't even reach his son without intermediaries. If others found out, it would be embarrassing.

"Perhaps he's delayed," Zhongyu Liuying hastily explained. "Let's wait a bit longer!"

Though her mood resembled Huangfu Jingzhang's, Nangong Xiyu couldn't let them know she couldn't contact Huangfu Ruiling.

Huangfu Jingxian merely grumbled and didn't pursue it further.

They continued waiting for Huangfu Ruiling, with no other options. Ultimately, Huangfu Ruiling had to make the final decision.

While everyone sat still, Zhong Yating remained kneeling for so long that her leg went numb.

Despite her discomfort, she dared not move, aware she was now a criminal and any action would draw criticism.

The waiting was unbearable, especially with everyone doing nothing but waiting.

But no one spoke further.

After an unknown duration, just when they doubted Huangfu Ruiling's arrival, a servant reported that the family head's car had entered the gate.

Learning Huangfu Ruiling had arrived, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying sighed in relief. They had doubts about whether Li San had conveyed their intentions to Huangfu Ruiling. They even worried he wouldn't come. If they waited all day without seeing him, they wouldn't know how to explain to Huangfu Jingxian and Nangong Xiyu.

Everyone awaited Huangfu Ruiling's arrival, except Zhong Yating, whose expression worsened.

Huangfu Ruiling's arrival signaled her trial.

Each person's mood differed. Only Li Yiran's eyes glinted with excitement. She would finally witness Zhong Yating's downfall. After today, Zhong Yating wouldn't be Huangfu Ruixiang's wife anymore.

Huangfu Ruiling entered slowly under everyone's gaze, accompanied by Ye Leng'an.

Seeing Ye Leng'an, no one was surprised. Their relationship was known, and Huangfu Ruiling had spent holidays with Ye Leng'an. So, Ye Leng'an's presence was expected.

Though aware of this, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying's expressions weren't pleasant. They disliked Ye Leng'an and didn't want her to witness today's events. But they knew if they made her leave, Huangfu Ruiling would leave too.

So, they pretended not to care.

Chapter 853: I Want a Divorce

Upon entering, Ye Leng'an could immediately sense the oppressive atmosphere in the living room.

Seeing Zhong Yating kneeling on the ground, she couldn't help but raise an eyebrow. Though unsure of the situation, it was apparent this was no trivial matter.

Especially considering it was the New Year, yet they were willing to wait for over two hours. The severity of the situation was evident.

After Huangfu Ruiling entered and sat on one of the empty sofas, he took a moment to observe before slowly speaking, "What's going on? Getting a divorce during the New Year?"

Ye Leng'an was also curious.

While they had a rough idea that Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating seemed headed for divorce, the exact reasons were unclear. Moreover, it seemed Zhong Yating was at fault from the current perspective.

"Zhong Yating is a malicious woman. If she isn't divorced, Ruixiang will be in danger sooner or later."

Before Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating could speak, Zhongyu Liuying intervened, "They must divorce now. Our Huangfu family can't tolerate such a woman."

As Zhongyu Liuying spoke, her gaze toward Zhong Yating held no softness, only malice and hatred.

Though Zhong Yating seemed to want to speak up, she remained silent. Perhaps she didn't know how to defend herself yet.

"That's right," Huangfu Jingzhang chimed in, echoing Zhongyu Liuying's sentiments. "Zhong Yating is too vicious. She wanted to harm Ruixiang's life. We cannot let her stay."

From the start, he never envisioned having a daughter-in-law like Zhong Yating. Given her humble background and low cultivation, she held no appeal to them.

Had it not been for her saving Huangfu Ruixiang later on, they wouldn't have agreed to this marriage. But now, realizing it was all a deception and that Zhong Yating had plotted against Ruixiang, there was no room for forgiveness.

After learning all of this, how could they possibly tolerate Zhong Yating anymore?

Moreover, Huangfu Ruixiang was still very young. Without Zhong Yating, he could find someone even better. Or rather, with the status of the Huangfu family and the fact that Huangfu Ruiling was the head of the Hidden World's Huangfu family, Huangfu Ruixiang could effortlessly find a girl hundreds of times better than Zhong Yating.

So, there was no need for further discussion – divorce was the only option.

While Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying expressed their opinions eagerly, Huangfu Ruixiang, the principal party, remained silent, leaving his thoughts ambiguous.

Huangfu Ruiling frowned and turned directly to Huangfu Ruixiang. "What about you? Do you also want a divorce?"

"I..." Huangfu Ruixiang had just begun to speak when he was interrupted.

"I don't want a divorce." At this moment, Zhong Yating, kneeling on the ground, spoke up. Her face was pallid, probably from kneeling for too long, and she appeared

on the verge of collapsing as if she might faint at any moment. However, her expression was resolute. "I absolutely won't agree to a divorce."

"It's not up to you to decide whether you agree or not." Zhongyu Liuying glared harshly at Zhong Yating. "To marry Ruixiang, you even orchestrated the attack by a spirit beast to create that so-called debt of gratitude. Have you ever considered that your actions could have killed Ruixiang? After doing such a thing, what right do you have to refuse a divorce here?"

With these words spoken, both Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an immediately understood what was going on.

So, the reason for today's commotion was the exposure of the past life-saving favor!

Zhong Yating was left speechless by the accusations, but she remained firm on one point – she absolutely wouldn't agree to divorce Huangfu Ruixiang.

Seeing Zhong Yating's stubbornness, Li Yiran felt a hint of urgency in her heart. Initially, she thought that once Huangfu Ruiling arrived, he would immediately demand a divorce between Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating. However, now they were at a standstill, and she started to worry about whether something unexpected might happen in the end.

However anxious she felt, she didn't dare to speak at this moment, fearing it might seem like she was kicking someone when they were down. Moreover, she was the one who had exposed Zhong Yating's wrongdoing. If she spoke now, she would come across as overly aggressive.

Seeing that there was no sign of resolution, with Zhongyu Liuying relentlessly criticizing Zhong Yating while she adamantly refused to divorce, and Huangfu Ruixiang remaining silent throughout, Huangfu Ruiling couldn't help but furrow his brows. He spoke up, his tone low and commanding, "Enough, everyone shut up."

His words silenced the room, even Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying refrained from speaking further.

Turning to Huangfu Ruixiang, Huangfu Ruiling asked directly, "This is your marriage. You have the ultimate say. Do you also want to divorce Zhong Yating?"

After a moment's silence and a glance at Zhong Yating, Huangfu Ruixiang nodded. "Yes, I want a divorce."

With Huangfu Ruixiang's declaration, Li Yiran sighed in relief, her excitement palpable.

She had waited so long for this moment. With Huangfu Ruixiang now onboard, Huangfu Ruiling couldn't possibly stop the divorce.

Upon hearing Huangfu Ruixiang's words, Zhong Yating's face turned ashen, her expression bleak. It seemed as though she had lost all hope in an instant, barely holding herself together.

Chapter 854: She Fainted

"What about you?"

Just when everyone thought that the dust was about to settle, Ye Leng'an suddenly spoke. The person she asked was Zhong Yating, who knelt there.

"Why are you asking her?" Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's question, Zhongyu Liuying panicked. She said exasperatedly, "Now that she's done such a thing, it's not up to her to decide whether or not to get a divorce."

The more Zhongyu Liuying looked at Ye Leng'an, the more she found her an eyesore. She thought Ye Leng'an was really too blind. Couldn't she tell that all of them wanted Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating to get a divorce as soon as possible? Wasn't Ye Leng'an trying to cause trouble by asking such a question at this time?

"Why can't I ask?" Ye Leng'an smiled and asked, "Marriage is a matter between two people. Divorce is naturally the same. Why does Huangfu Ruixiang have the final say in a divorce now?"

"I don't want a divorce. I don't want a divorce." Zhong Yating seemed to have grabbed onto a life-saving straw and quickly said, "I will never agree to a divorce."

"You shameless woman." Zhongyu Liuying felt that the upbringing they were proud of was about to lose control in front of Zhong Yating. "You actually dare to say that you don't want a divorce now. You still have the face to say such words."

"Huangfu Ruixiang, did you and Zhong Yating get married because of this life-saving grace?" Ye Leng'an ignored Zhongyu Liuying's clamor. She looked at Huangfu Ruixiang and asked with a smile, "If I remember correctly, your engagement ceremony with Zhong Yating seemed to be earlier than mine and Ruiling's! At that time, you probably didn't have any life-saving grace!"

These words immediately left Huangfu Ruixiang unable to refute. He couldn't possibly say that his engagement with Zhong Yating was just a deal!

Huangfu Ruiling didn't say anything else when Ye Leng'an spoke. He just quietly waited for Ye Leng'an to finish. From the beginning to the end, his gaze never left Ye Leng'an.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying gritted their teeth in hatred. Of course, other than Zhong Yating who was kneeling on the ground, they also hated the meddlesome Ye Leng'an.

In their opinion, if it wasn't for Ye Leng'an's sudden interruption, they might have already talked about divorce.

Li Yiran cursed in her heart. When she looked at Zhong Yating again, the excitement in her eyes had disappeared without a trace, replaced by deep worry. Because she was afraid that today's matter might cause more trouble in the end.

As expected, Zhong Yating's eyes lit up when she heard Ye Leng'an's words. She raised her head abruptly and looked at Huangfu Ruixiang. Then, she said, "That's right. Ruixiang and I are truly in love. We got married because of love, not because of some life-saving grace. Although I did something wrong, it's not to the point where I want a divorce."

After hearing this, Huangfu Ruixiang looked at Zhong Yating with a hint of disgust in his eyes. He didn't expect Zhong Yating to still be so stubborn at this point. It was really annoying!

"Impossible. They have to get a divorce." Huangfu Jingzhang seemed to be unable to watch any longer. He said firmly, "I don't care why they got engaged and married back then. Now that we know that Zhong Yating had ulterior motives and almost harmed Ruixiang to create a life-saving grace, they must divorce."

Zhongyu Liuying didn't say anything else, but it was obvious that she was on Huangfu Jingzhang's side.

Ye Leng'an blinked her eyes and glanced at Huangfu Ruixiang, then at Zhong Yating, who was still insisting on not getting a divorce. She then looked up at Huangfu Jingzhang and said with a smile, "Your thoughts are not important. What's important is the thoughts of the person involved."

Huangfu Jingzhang's face suddenly darkened. He looked at Ye Leng'an and said coldly, "Miss Ye, although you are now engaged to Ruiling, you are not married yet. You are not a member of the Huangfu family yet. Therefore, I think it's best if you don't interfere in this matter."

Although he said it tactfully, his tone was not polite at all. He was just short of pointing at her nose and scolding, "Ye Leng'an, you're not even a member of the Huangfu family. What right do you have to meddle in the Huangfu family's affairs?"

As soon as Huangfu Jingzhang finished speaking, Huangfu Ruiling's cold gaze immediately fell on him. "Since An'an is already my fiancée, then she is the future matriarch of the Huangfu family. She is more qualified to decide this matter than anyone else. Although I address you respectfully as Father, don't forget that I'm the one in charge of the Huangfu family, not you. So, don't try to put on airs in front of me. Otherwise..."

Although he did not finish his sentence, the warning was already very strong.

Instantly, Huangfu Jingzhang's face alternated between green and white. He opened his mouth as if he wanted to say something. However, under Huangfu Ruiling's cold gaze, he seemed unable to say anything.

Seeing that Huangfu Ruiling did not even give Huangfu Jingzhang any face, the others did not dare to say anything more, afraid that the next person to be mentioned would be themselves.

"You're not children anymore," Huangfu Ruiling looked at Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating and said directly, "So, when it comes to matters like marriage, we outsiders can't decide for you. Therefore, you only need to discuss this matter among yourselves. When the time comes, tell me the result directly."

"There's no need to discuss." Huangfu Ruixiang seemed to have figured out something and said directly, "I've already decided. I want to divorce Zhong Yating. I can't accept her scheming against me like this."

Especially when Zhong Yating was scheming, she didn't care about his life at all. She never thought that if something really happened, he would really be in trouble.

He absolutely did not want such a vicious woman to stay by his side. Otherwise, he would not even know how he died.

Zhong Yating wanted to say something more, but just as she was about to get up, she suddenly felt her vision go black and she fainted.

No one could have expected such a turn of events.

Li Yiran shouted directly, "She's just pretending."

Otherwise, how could she have fainted so quickly? She was clearly trying to stall for time.

However, when everyone's eyes fell on her, Li Yiran couldn't help but flinch.

Chapter 855: I Must Divorce You Today

Ye Leng'an slowly withdrew her gaze and glanced at the unconscious Zhong Yating on the ground before calmly stating, "She's not pretending. She really fainted."

As a physician, her expertise far surpassed that of ordinary doctors in the mortal world. With just one look, she could discern that Zhong Yating had truly fainted, not feigned it.

Huangfu Ruiling furrowed his brows, lost in thought.

"Shouldn't we help her up and take her back to her room?" Nangong Xiyu couldn't resist speaking up. "Regardless, we can't leave her lying here!"

Even though she looked down on Zhong Yating after learning about her actions and felt that divorcing her would be letting her off too easily, since they hadn't divorced yet, and Zhong Yating had been forced to faint, it was only proper, both morally and logically, to send her back to her room and have a doctor examine her! Otherwise, it wouldn't be ideal if something were to happen later on.

"She brought this upon herself." Zhongyu Liuying had no sympathy. "After daring to do such things, her mental resilience couldn't be so weak! Fainting now, under these circumstances, is definitely an act."

She paid no heed to Ye Leng'an's words, deeming both Ye Leng'an and Zhong Yating as malicious women. She suspected Ye Leng'an's remarks were merely to aid Zhong Yating. Therefore, she remained unconvinced.

"But didn't Leng'an say just now?" Nangong Xiyu hesitated. "She said Zhong Yating wasn't pretending."

Without looking at Ye Leng'an, Zhongyu Liuying responded with a skeptical tone, "She's not a doctor. How can you be sure she's not talking nonsense? Zhong Yating chose to faint precisely at this moment. Can you believe there's no trickery involved?"

After Zhongyu Liuying's retort, Nangong Xiyu fell silent.

Although she might have debated with Zhongyu Liuying on other matters, she refrained from intervening in today's affair. After all, it concerned their family's matters. Their presence here as the

second branch was only because this issue had been publicly exposed, requiring their elders' involvement.

She foresaw that if Li Yiran hadn't exposed the matter in front of everyone today, even if Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying had learned of it, they would've handled it privately. They would've only learned of the outcome – Huangfu Ruixiang divorcing Zhong Yating.

Unperturbed by Zhongyu Liuying's remarks, Ye Leng'an showed no signs of anger. She didn't even glance in Zhongyu Liuying's direction, as if the words weren't directed at her.

Nangong Xiyu remained silent, and Ye Leng'an's words only strengthened Zhongyu Liuying's resolve. She glanced at Li Yiran before issuing a directive, "Yiran, pour that glass of water on her. I don't believe she can continue feigning unconsciousness."

Initially vexed by her earlier interruption, Li Yiran's eyes sparkled upon receiving Zhongyu Liuying's command. However, her face betrayed reluctance and indecision. It was unclear whether she should comply and pour water on Zhong Yating.

Only God knew that her greatest desire at that moment was to slap Zhong Yating. Yet, pouring water instead was also gratifying. However, if she immediately followed Zhongyu Liuying's orders, wouldn't she appear excessively malicious in the eyes of others? Thus, she opted to wait.

"Why haven't you acted yet?" Zhongyu Liuying's impatience seeped into her tone.

"Can't I even command you?"

"No, Mom. I'll do it right away."

Li Yiran resembled a submissive daughter-in-law reluctantly obeying. Yet, inwardly, she rejoiced.

She believed she could finally retaliate against Zhong Yating for all the indignities she had suffered.

Just as she was thinking this, she couldn't help but feel a bit regretful when she saw the teacup on the table. If only the water on the table was boiling water, how much better it would be!

However, she couldn't pour hot water now; otherwise, it would seem too deliberate.

Soon, under everyone's gaze, Li Yiran poured the water from the cup onto Zhong Yating's face.

In that instant, she experienced an unparalleled sense of satisfaction.

Everyone anticipated that Zhong Yating would awaken, whether she had truly fainted or was feigning it.

Yet, to their surprise, Zhong Yating remained motionless, still unconscious.

A wry smile crept onto Zhongyu Liuying's lips as she observed Zhong Yating on the ground, her mockery intensifying. "Who would've thought, she's quite the actress, isn't she?"

Huangfu Ruixiang, who had remained silent, regarded the unconscious Zhong Yating with disgust and disdain.

Ordinarily, even if someone had truly fainted, being splashed with water would undoubtedly rouse them. Yet, Zhong Yating persisted in her pretense. Huangfu Ruixiang couldn't fathom her audacity.

Had it not been for the alleged life-saving grace, he would never have married Zhong Yating.

Little did he anticipate that this purported life-saving grace was nothing but a ruse, orchestrated by Zhong Yating to coerce him into marrying her willingly.

Now that the truth had come to light, Zhong Yating showed no remorse, instead feigning vulnerability. It was utterly incomprehensible.

Upon witnessing Zhong Yating's demeanor, his resolve to divorce her solidified. He refused to spend his life with such a woman, let alone share a grave with her.

Furthermore, he was still young. Even post-divorce, given his status, finding another woman from an affluent family in the mortal world wouldn't pose a challenge.

With determination, Huangfu Ruixiang said to the unconscious Zhong Yating, "Zhong Yating, stop pretending. Regardless, I must divorce you today. I will not spend my life with someone like you."

Standing nearby, Li Yiran couldn't contain her joy upon hearing Huangfu Ruixiang's words. She knew her objective for the day would undoubtedly be achieved.

Chapter 856: Nearly Killing Two Lives

Zhong Yating remained motionless.

A hint of impatience flashed across Huangfu Jingzhang's face. Clearly, he was deeply disgusted by Zhong Yating's theatrics.

The others' expressions weren't much better.

Even if Zhong Yating had genuinely fainted at the outset, it was implausible for her to remain unconscious after being splashed with water. The signs of her deception were glaringly evident. Was she treating everyone present as fools?

Of course, except for Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an.

Huangfu Ruiling didn't spare a glance at the unconscious Zhong Yating, his demeanor indifferent as if this matter had no relevance to him. Indeed, in reality, it didn't.

As for Ye Leng'an, she stared unblinkingly at the motionless Zhong Yating. After a while, she withdrew her gaze, her eyes showing a hint of surprise followed by keen interest.

Zhongyu Liuying couldn't restrain herself any longer. She stood up and walked over to Zhong Yating, then without hesitation, raised her foot and kicked toward the unconscious Zhong Yating.

She refused to believe that Zhong Yating could continue to feign unconsciousness under these circumstances.

"Wait a moment."

Upon seeing Zhongyu Liuying's actions, Ye Leng'an immediately spoke up to intervene.

Although Zhongyu Liuying heard Ye Leng'an's voice, she paid no heed. She didn't even acknowledge it. Her foot didn't stop, and she even applied more force.

However, to her surprise, the moment she kicked, she felt a sharp pain in her ankle. Losing her balance, she toppled to one side.

“Mother!” Seeing Zhongyu Liuying about to fall, Huangfu Ruixiang immediately got up and rushed towards her, intending to catch her before she fell.

But no matter how fast he moved, he couldn’t match Zhongyu Liuying’s falling speed.

Fortunately, Li Yiran was standing next to Zhong Yating. The moment she reacted, she hurried over and caught Zhongyu Liuying just before she fell.

Seeing this scene, the others finally breathed a sigh of relief.

At this moment, Huangfu Ruixiang also reached Zhongyu Liuying’s side, supporting her still-shaken figure. He then asked with concern, “Mother, are you alright? Are you injured?”

As he spoke, he helped Zhongyu Liuying back to Huangfu Jingzhang’s side and sat her down.

“What happened to you?” Huangfu Jingzhang looked at Zhongyu Liuying, furrowing his brows as he asked, “Why did you suddenly almost fall?”

“I don’t know,” Zhongyu Liuying replied, looking at her ankle. “Just now, I felt something hit my ankle, then I felt a sharp pain and lost my balance. I almost fell.”

“It’s this!”

Suddenly, Li Yiran spoke up, her finger pointing to a small pearl beside Zhong Yating. Zhongyu Liuying had been attacked by this small bead just now, causing her near fall.

Instantly, everyone’s gaze shifted to Ye Leng’an. Clearly, she was now the prime suspect. After all, Zhongyu Liuying was only attacked when she was about to kick Zhong Yating, and the only person who had spoken up to stop her was Ye Leng’an.

Facing everyone’s scrutinizing gazes, Ye Leng’an smiled faintly. She then admitted, “Yes, I did it.”

As she spoke, she even nodded solemnly, indicating her responsibility without any hesitation.

“Ye Leng’an!” Huangfu Jingzhang reprimanded loudly, “Do you realize what you’re doing? Liuying is your future mother-in-law. Just because she didn’t listen to your advice, you resorted to violence. If we have different opinions from yours one day, are you going to kill us?”

The others looked at Ye Leng’an disapprovingly.

As for Zhongyu Liuying and Huangfu Ruixiang, their expressions towards Ye Leng’an were filled with discontent and resentment.

When seeing the crowd’s reactions, Huangfu Ruiling’s gaze turned icy. The chill emanating from him made everyone present shiver involuntarily.

They stared blankly at Huangfu Ruiling’s displeased expression, feeling a bit guilty.

How could they forget? Ye Leng’an was no ordinary person. She was Huangfu Ruiling’s fiancée. Were they provoking Huangfu Ruiling by speaking to Ye Leng’an in such a shameless manner?

Instantly, everyone withdrew their accusatory gazes. However, only they knew what they were truly thinking.

Ye Leng'an acted as if she hadn't noticed anything, still smiling. "I already told her to stop just now. Unfortunately, she seemed not to understand me, so I had to take action myself."

"You..." Huangfu Jingzhang was too angry to continue. "Look, everyone, listen to what she's saying!"

Huangfu Jingxian's tone softened, but he still expressed his disapproval. "Leng'an, even if Sister-in-law didn't heed your advice, you shouldn't resort to such means! Have you considered the consequences if she had fallen?"

Ye Leng'an raised her head and glanced around before slowly speaking, "But she didn't listen to me! If that kick had killed two lives, what then? Who would be responsible?"

"Two lives! What..." Huangfu Jingzhang was about to say something, but as if realizing something suddenly, his voice trailed off.

Suddenly, everyone's attention shifted to Zhong Yating.

Huangfu Ruixiang's eyes widened in surprise, and his gaze instinctively fell on Zhong Yating's abdomen.

Not only his, but everyone else's gaze also landed on Zhong Yating's stomach.

No one was foolish. From Ye Leng'an's words, everyone inferred that Zhong Yating was pregnant.

Except for Li Yiran, whose eyes were filled with shock, suspicion, anxiety, and resentment.

She had planned out everything meticulously, but she had overlooked this one crucial detail. Just when she thought she had Zhong Yating cornered after today, it suddenly emerged that Zhong Yating was pregnant.

Would Huangfu Ruixiang still divorce Zhong Yating now?

Chapter 857: She Is Pregnant

"It's impossible," Zhongyu Liuying immediately objected. "How could such a coincidence happen? She was said to be pregnant at this moment!"

"Fact is fact, isn't it?" Ye Leng'an shrugged indifferently. "Just a moment ago, if you had really kicked her, it might have been a fatal accident. Then, you would have been the one responsible for killing your grandchild."

With these words, Zhongyu Liuying's expression darkened. When she looked at Ye Leng'an, her gaze turned icy. However, when her eyes fell on Zhong Yating, still unconscious on the ground with a wet face, her expression worsened.

"So what if she's pregnant?" Huangfu Jingzhang intervened. "Even if Zhong Yating is truly pregnant, it doesn't change what she's done. Therefore, they must divorce. Our Huangfu family cannot tolerate such a daughter-in-law."

“Huangfu Ruixiang, what’s your opinion on this?” Huangfu Ruiling directly questioned the involved party. “The person lying there now is your wife, carrying your child. She’s still unconscious. What are your thoughts?”

These questions overwhelmed Huangfu Ruixiang. He didn’t know how to respond.

Especially when he saw Zhong Yating still unconscious, a hint of struggle flickered in his eyes, uncertain of his thoughts.

“Ruixiang, what are you thinking?” Seeing Huangfu Ruixiang’s hesitation, Zhongyu Liuying couldn’t help but speak. “Do you still have any attachment to such a woman?”

“But, she...” Huangfu Ruixiang hesitated, a hint of struggle evident in his eyes. “She’s carrying my child...”

If he abandoned Zhong Yating now, wouldn’t that be too heartless?

“If you keep her, aren’t you worried that one day, if she feels provoked, she might plot against you and take your life?” Huangfu Jingzhang intervened calmly, unlike Zhongyu Liuying’s agitation. “Are you not afraid of keeping such a troublemaker by your side?”

Huangfu Ruixiang remained hesitant.

Huangfu Jingzhang wanted to continue, but Huangfu Ruiling interrupted.

His cold gaze swept over the others, and he said lightly, “This is Huangfu Ruixiang’s affair. As bystanders, don’t offer too much advice. Let him decide for himself. If he can’t even handle such a small matter, I wonder what else he’s capable of.”

This statement silenced Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying. They couldn’t interfere anymore, lest they admit Huangfu Ruixiang’s incompetence in resolving such a small matter.

At this moment, Huangfu Ruixiang struggled intensely. He couldn’t make a decision.

“Why don’t we send Zhong Yating back to her room and have a doctor check on her?”

Nangong Xiyu looked at Zhong Yating, lying ignored on the ground. She finally felt a tinge of pity. “Regardless of Ruixiang’s decision, the child in Zhong Yating’s womb is still of our Huangfu lineage. Moreover, she’s pregnant and knelt for so long just now. If something happens to her, it won’t sit well with everyone.”

Although she internally agreed with Zhongyu Liuying’s actions and wanted Huangfu Ruixiang to divorce Zhong Yating, she couldn’t ignore the fact that Zhong Yating was pregnant. If something happened to her, it wouldn’t be good.

“Let’s follow Second Aunt’s suggestion!” Huangfu Ruiling spoke lightly, arranging for Zhong Yating to be taken back to her room and calling for a doctor.

Originally, he had no intention of meddling in this matter.

The child in Zhong Yating's womb belonged to Huangfu Ruixiang. Even the father didn't care, as an outsider, he didn't need to intervene.

However, when he felt his sleeve being tugged by someone beside him, he decided to speak.

Ye Leng'an sat beside Huangfu Ruiling as if nothing had happened, wearing a faint smile. But her thoughts were inscrutable.

With Huangfu Ruiling's directive, Zhong Yating was quickly attended to.

The atmosphere in the living room didn't improve without Zhong Yating.

Because, even at this point, the matter remained unresolved. At least, one party had fainted while the other hesitated.

Li Yiran looked at the hesitating Huangfu Ruixiang beside her with intense hatred.

All along, she knew Huangfu Ruixiang was indecisive. She had exploited this to conceive and give birth to a child. But her luck wasn't good. Unable to rely on her son to elevate her status, she let Zhong Yating surpass her.

What she had once used, she now detested the most.

Because Zhong Yating was pregnant now, she saw Huangfu Ruixiang's wavering, unsure if he would divorce her in the end.

If Huangfu Ruixiang decided against divorce, she would feel like a fool. She had planned so much, only to end up empty-handed.

Thinking of this, Li Yiran glanced toward Zhong Yating's room, her eyes full of bitterness.

Now, all she could do was pray that Ye Leng'an's words were merely casual and Zhong Yating wasn't pregnant. Otherwise, she would become a complete laughingstock today.

Time passed swiftly but also slowly.

After a while, the doctor who had treated Zhong Yating emerged with a smile.

Upon entering the living room, the doctor greeted Huangfu Ruiling and said, "Master, I've examined Second Young Madam. She's fine, but she was emotionally struck, which will slightly affect the fetus. Resting in bed for a week will improve her condition significantly."

Upon hearing this, the crowd wasn't surprised. Ye Leng'an had already disclosed Zhong Yating's pregnancy.

Initially, some had doubts, but now, there were none.

Chapter 858: The Difficult Decision

Following this, the doctor began to explain Zhong Yating's true condition in detail to everyone.

When the doctor said that, despite Zhong Yating fainting, both the mother and child were safe at the moment, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

However, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying did not share the same sentiment. They inwardly lamented why Zhong Yating hadn't miscarried along with her fainting. If she hadn't been pregnant, Huangfu Ruixiang's divorce wouldn't have caused so many complications.

Li Yiran, standing nearby, held the most resentment. She had orchestrated so much to drive Zhong Yating out of the Ye family. Now, with Zhong Yating's pregnancy, all her efforts seemed futile.

All she wanted now was to understand Huangfu Ruixiang's stance, so she could decide her next move.

After the doctor's thorough explanation, he prepared to leave.

He understood that this was an internal matter for the Huangfu family. With news of a divorce suddenly arising, he deemed it best to withdraw.

"Master, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

Now, all attention in the living room was on Huangfu Ruixiang. Especially after Huangfu Ruiling had directly addressed him, no one else dared to intervene.

Seeing Huangfu Ruixiang's indecision, Huangfu Ruiling grew impatient. "Huangfu Ruixiang, what's your decision? Speak up and spare everyone the wait."

Huangfu Ruiling disdained Huangfu Ruixiang's indecisiveness. If it were him, he would have ended things with such a woman long ago. As for the child, he couldn't let the child with her.

Huangfu Ruixiang's procrastination was irksome. His time was valuable, and he couldn't afford to squander it here.

After Huangfu Ruiling's urging, Huangfu Ruixiang felt flustered. But he couldn't vent his frustration on his brother, so he only ruffled his hair in anxiety.

Finally, he bowed his head and said, "Brother, I'm in turmoil. I don't know what to do. Please, don't pressure me further."

Observing this, Huangfu Ruiling grabbed Ye Leng'an's hand and stood up.

Witnessing Huangfu Ruiling's departure, the others hesitated before realizing their intentions.

"Ruiling, are you leaving now?" Huangfu Jingxian asked, puzzled. "But what about this matter..."

Only Huangfu Ruiling could make decisions regarding Huangfu Ruixiang's marriage. With the matter unresolved, Huangfu Ruiling's departure left them at a loss.

"Continuing to argue here won't yield any results, will it?" Huangfu Ruiling said calmly. "Instead of wasting time, let's wait for Huangfu Ruixiang's decision before making further plans!"

With that, he left with Ye Leng'an.

Others wanted to persuade them to stay, but they were at a loss for words. Especially Huangfu Ruixiang, who hadn't made up his mind yet.

After Huangfu Ruiling left, Huangfu Jingxian and Nangong Xiyu bid their farewells.

They had come as elders to observe, not expecting a swift resolution. They decided to return home and await further developments.

Soon, only the main family remained in the vast living room.

Meanwhile, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an left the ancestral mansion and went for dinner.

Huangfu Ruiling still remembered their interrupted date.

Had it not been for Huangfu Ruixiang's matter, they wouldn't have returned today. However, besides wasting time, the commotion proved futile.

They arrived at the restaurant they had booked earlier.

They chose a secluded spot in the dining hall to experience a regular couple's date, skipping the private room.

As they sat down, they found the dishes already served, having ordered them beforehand.

Seeing the array of dishes, most of which were Ye Leng'an's favorites, she couldn't help but feel touched. "Ling, did you order these? How did you know what I like?"

Huangfu Ruiling smiled. "As long as you like them. As for how I knew... there's nothing I don't know if it's something I want to know."

Ye Leng'an chuckled. "Ling, your words sound like lines from TV dramas!"

Huangfu Ruiling's eyes softened at her laughter. "Isn't it said that inspiration comes from life?"

Ye Leng'an laughed again and gave him a thumbs up. "Alright, you're right. I admire you."

When Huangfu Ruiling spoke earnestly, Ye Leng'an was pleasantly surprised

"Let's eat!" Huangfu Ruiling picked up a piece of meat and placed it in Ye Leng'an's bowl. "You must be hungry!"

"I'm okay." Ye Leng'an smiled. "I had a lot of popcorn and soda at the cinema, so I'm not very hungry."

Despite her words, she began to eat slowly. She soon found the restaurant's dishes suited her taste, making her increasingly happy.

As they ate and chatted, the atmosphere was delightful. It was even better than at the ancestral mansion, where tensions ran high. Here, the atmosphere was relaxed and enjoyable.

Chapter 859: He Sneaked in

"I really didn't expect Zhong Yating's actions to be exposed at this time," Ye Leng'an remarked after taking a sip of soup and setting down her bowl. "I wonder who leaked this information."

"It was Li Yiran," Huangfu Ruiling replied directly. "Li Yiran was the one who exposed it."

After recalling Li Yiran's recent behavior, Ye Leng'an had a moment of clarity. "But how could Li Yiran have known about this? She couldn't possibly have investigated these matters."

Li Yiran was indeed quite cunning but evidently lacked such capabilities. After all, she was just an ordinary person and couldn't access information from the Hidden World.

"Li Yi!" Huangfu Ruiling stated plainly. "Li Yi helped her uncover it."

"Li Yi?" Ye Leng'an was momentarily surprised upon hearing this name. "He's truly devoted! Now that Li Yiran has a child, his continued presence by her side shows remarkable loyalty."

Then, she turned to Huangfu Ruiling and asked, "So, can Li Yi still freely enter and exit the Hidden World? I remember he's no longer part of the Li generation."

The members of the Li generation of the Huangfu family were under Huangfu Ruiling's direct jurisdiction and did not need to obey orders from other family members.

Given the privileged status of the Li generation within the Huangfu family, many aspired to join, despite the stringent requirements.

As they were under Huangfu Ruiling's direct jurisdiction, the members of the Li generation were all capable of cultivation and could freely enter the Hidden World. Naturally, they were also aware of Huangfu Ruiling's identities in both the mortal and hidden worlds.

Li Yi was once the leader of the Li generation, the captain, so to speak. However, he had long been expelled from the Li generation. Although he still bore the surname Li, he had severed all ties with the Li generation.

Since Li Yi was expelled from the Li generation, how could he still come and go as he pleased?

"He sneaked in," Huangfu Ruiling explained. "Otherwise, according to protocol, he wouldn't have such freedom."

People from the Hidden World couldn't freely enter the mortal world, and vice versa. This was a strict rule of the Enforcement Team. Going in and out between the Hidden World and the mortal world was akin to traveling abroad in the mortal world, except it was not as straightforward.

As for Li Yi, it was apparent that he sneaked in. Even though he was no longer a member of the Li generation, his cultivation remained, so sneaking in and out of the Hidden World wasn't a difficult task for him.

Ye Leng'an nodded in understanding. Then, she blinked, as if a thought had suddenly occurred to her, and asked, "By the way, Ling, since Li Yi used to belong to the Li generation, he knows that you're the leader of the Enforcement Team. Now that he's no longer part of the Li generation, might he reveal your identity?"

If the Hidden World learned that Huangfu Ruiling, the head of the Huangfu family, was also the leader of the Enforcement Team, it would cause a stir.

"He wouldn't dare," Huangfu Ruiling stated calmly, devoid of worry. "If he wants to continue living, he won't dare to disclose anything."

Thus, he was never concerned about this possibility.

“You never know!” Ye Leng’an countered, despite Huangfu Ruiling’s confidence. “Perhaps one day, he’ll feel he’s lived long enough and has nothing more to lose. Then, he might expose your identity!”

Huangfu Ruiling’s expression remained unchanged. He set down his chopsticks and continued, “He wouldn’t dare. Even if he’s tired of living, he surely still cares about someone in this world. He wouldn’t risk their safety.”

After hearing his words, Ye Leng’an nodded in agreement and gave him a thumbs up. “Alright! I admire your confidence.”

After dinner, they didn’t continue their outing but returned home. Considering the commotion at the ancestral mansion earlier, it was best to retire early and rest.

The next day, Huangfu Ruiling had intended to stay home, but something arose in the Hidden World that required his attention. Although he didn’t need to physically return, he had to coordinate with the Hidden World’s Enforcement Team to resolve the issue.

Since Ye Leng’an couldn’t assist, she decided to go for a stroll.

Despite being the third day of the new year, the mall remained bustling with activity.

People nowadays didn’t confine themselves to their homes during the New Year. Especially the younger generation, they enjoyed going out to socialize.

Ye Leng’an wandered through the mall without any particular purpose.

However, upon reaching a luxury clothing store, she noticed an altercation unfolding inside between a customer and a salesperson.

Such incidents were rare in luxury stores, as customers usually had sufficient financial means and salespeople were adept at handling them. Consequently, salespeople rarely clashed with customers.

Ye Leng’an decided not to intervene, as the matter didn’t concern her. She turned to leave and continued her shopping elsewhere.

Yet, as she turned, a familiar voice called out to her, even addressing her by name.

“Ye Leng’an, wait!”

Startled, Ye Leng’an turned back to see that the person involved in the altercation was none other than Zhou Cui’an.

Seeing Zhou Cui’an there surprised Ye Leng’an. While she had seen Zhou Cui’an buy branded clothes before, she never expected her to be in a luxury store.

It wasn’t that Ye Leng’an looked down on Zhou Cui’an, but she didn’t think Zhou Cui’an could afford clothes from such a store given her financial situation.

Chapter 860: The Conflict

“Ye Leng’an, please don’t leave!”

Zhou Cui'an, who had been arguing with the salesperson, felt as if she had found a lifeline when she spotted Ye Leng'an. Hastily, she called out to her.

Earlier, she had hesitated when Murong Yumeng invited her to a banquet. Initially, she declined the invitation. However, Murong Yumeng's offer was too enticing to resist.

If she were still the naive girl from the countryside, she would never dare attend such an event. However, ever since she worked in that luxury store and witnessed the opulent lifestyle in the capital, she couldn't return to her former simplicity. She was now completely enamored with the lavish life.

She yearned for wealth and freedom, just like those rich young ladies. Although she despised Ye Leng'an for her relationship with a wealthy man, deep down, she envied Ye Leng'an's lifestyle.

Especially when she recalled how effortlessly Ye Leng'an spent hundreds of thousands in the luxury store, she couldn't suppress her longing.

But she was just a girl from a small town with no chance of entering the upper echelons of the capital, let alone finding a wealthy boyfriend.

Murong Yumeng's invitation was her ticket to the elite society, so she couldn't refuse.

However, as the banquet drew nearer, she realized she lacked a suitable dress.

Though she had bought some branded clothes after working at the luxury store, they were mostly casual wear. She hadn't anticipated attending a banquet, so she hadn't considered buying a dress.

She had intended to buy one earlier but forgot due to work.

So today, she went shopping at the mall, armed with over 20,000 from previous kickbacks and an advance on her salary. She now had a total of 30,000.

She believed this sum would suffice for a beautiful dress.

However, the reality was harsh. If she had been shopping in an ordinary branded store, that amount of money would have certainly been more than enough.

However, considering that Murong Yumeng was from the Murong family and the banquet she was attending was surely of high caliber, clothes from regular brands might not be suitable. So, in the end, she gritted her teeth and made her way to the luxury store section. She felt that after spending all her money today, she would definitely be able to afford a dress.

However, in the end, reality taught her a lesson. Her presumed fortune was far from sufficient in the face of those luxury store dresses.

The clothes there were superior, but their prices were exorbitant. Even the cheapest clothes cost tens of thousands, let alone a dress. The cheapest dress was over 100,000.

Seeing the prices, Zhou Cui'an decided to leave.

But before she could, the salesperson approached and enthusiastically introduced her to the dresses.

Zhou Cui'an couldn't bring herself to leave, having once worked in a luxury store herself. She had bowed and flattered customers back then to improve her performance and earn more commission.

Now in the customer's shoes, she found it oddly satisfying.

She enjoyed the attention and kept telling herself she might as well stay since it didn't cost her anything.

With this mindset, Zhou Cui'an let the salesperson lead her to the dresses.

Eventually, she stopped in awe at a black gown. It was stunning, unlike anything she had seen before.

Sensing her interest, the salesperson persuaded her further, even allowing her to try it on. If she didn't like it, that was okay.

The more Zhou Cui'an looked, the more she liked it. Unable to resist, she entered the fitting room with the gown.

When she emerged wearing it, even she was amazed. It seemed tailor-made for her, transforming her into a princess.

But when she saw the price, she snapped back to reality.

The gown cost over 300,00, more than ten times her entire savings.

She changed out of the gown, claiming she didn't like it. As she put it down, she prepared to leave.

But before she could exit, the salesperson caught up, accompanied by others. They surrounded her.

The gown, now stained with foundation, couldn't be let go. The salesperson insisted Zhou Cui'an buy it.

Zhou Cui'an didn't have that much money, and even if she did, she wouldn't spend it all on a dress. So she refused without hesitation

This led to a heated dispute between them.

When the salesperson threatened to call the police, Zhou Cui'an panicked. Just then, she spotted a familiar figure outside the shop and hurriedly called out.

Ye Leng'an hadn't intended to intervene, but upon seeing Zhou Cui'an involved, she paused and entered the luxury store.

Although she didn't know what had transpired, it was clear the store wouldn't let Zhou Cui'an leave. Thus, she followed inside.