

Full-Level 881

Chapter 881: Defending His Fiancée

“Ye Leng’an, at this point, you still dare to threaten Wanwan here.”

Before Ye Wanwan could say anything, Zhongyu Jiarui couldn’t help but speak out, “Let me tell you, all the major families in the Hidden World are here. Don’t think you can act recklessly.”

“Zhongyu Jiarui, since this matter has nothing to do with you, please refrain from speaking,” Ye Leng’an looked coldly at Zhongyu Jiarui. “If you continue to meddle here, don’t blame me for being impolite.”

As she spoke, Ye Leng’an’s gaze slowly fell on the injured wrist of Zhongyu Jiarui. The threat in her eyes was unmistakable.

That icy stare felt like a piercing arrow straight to the heart. Feeling the waves of pain from her wrist, Zhongyu Jiarui couldn’t help but shiver, taking a few steps back.

Seeing Ye Leng’an threaten his daughter like this, Master Zhongyu was also furious. However, before he could say anything, Ye Leng’an’s gaze once again landed on Ye Wanwan.

“Ye Wanwan, you haven’t answered me yet!”

Facing Ye Leng’an’s relentless pressure, Ye Wanwan pressed her lips tightly together. An unknown glint flashed in her eyes, but she refrained from directly answering Ye Leng’an’s question.

“Miss Ye, why are you being so aggressive?” When Murong Xingrui saw this, he couldn’t help but defend his fiancée, “Wanwan has already told the truth. As a victim, why should she endure your interrogation? Don’t think that just because of your relationship with the Ye family, you can...”

“Xingrui!”

As Murong Xingrui spoke further, Ye Wanwan felt a twinge of anxiety. Just as Murong Xingrui was about to reveal Ye Leng’an’s identity, she hastily intervened. She couldn’t allow Ye Leng’an’s background to be exposed here, whether for her own status or due to her grandfather’s strict orders.

Hearing the urgency in her voice, Murong Xingrui couldn’t help but furrow his brows. He looked down to see Ye Wanwan gripping his wrist tightly, shaking her head gently, her eyes pleading.

Though he didn’t understand why Ye Wanwan chose to yield, he couldn’t continue speaking under her beseeching gaze.

A hint of sympathy flickered in Ye Leng’an’s eyes as she glanced at Murong Xingrui.

Perhaps Murong Xingrui still didn’t grasp the true nature of his fiancée! Or perhaps, he was unaware of the schemes within the Ye family. It seemed he was still too young to suspect Ye Wanwan’s peculiar behavior!

Even if Murong Xingrui was slow to catch on, he could sense Ye Leng'an's peculiar gaze. Was the other party sympathizing with him?

A strange sensation stirred in his heart, but now wasn't the time to dwell on it.

Ye Wanwan lifted her head, meeting Ye Leng'an's gaze directly. "Ye Leng'an, I no longer intend to pursue this matter."

Having her parents stand by her side was already the day's greatest surprise for her. Moreover, with Huangfu Ruiling backing Ye Leng'an, even if Ye Leng'an had truly harmed her, she wouldn't face any consequences. Her parents wouldn't seek retribution for her sake.

So, putting an end to this matter now was for the best. Moreover, by her own initiative, it would showcase her magnanimity and deepen her parents' sense of guilt.

"Ye Wanwan, it seems you're certain that I lack evidence, hence your audacity in accusing me!" Ye Leng'an sneered. "But how can you be sure I won't be able to handle you?"

Seeing Ye Leng'an's composed demeanor, Ye Wanwan's heart skipped a beat. But she quickly regained her composure. She was certain there had been no one else in the restroom at the time except for her and Ye Leng'an. Even Zhongyu Jiarui had entered later, despite her adamant claims.

Therefore, Ye Leng'an definitely lacked any evidence to prove her innocence.

"I've decided not to pursue this matter any further. What more do you want?" Ye Wanwan's expression betrayed her anguish. "Must you force me to admit that I went so far as to harm myself just to frame you?"

With those words, all sympathetic gazes turned to Ye Wanwan.

Especially when they recalled the bloodstains on her body and her pallid complexion when she emerged. Even her breathing seemed faint, making it impossible for her to have self-inflicted such injuries unless she had a death wish.

Such severe injuries, despite having taken medicinal pills, would likely require a long period of recovery. It was unlikely that anyone could be so ruthless towards themselves!

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's hearts ached even more. They couldn't help but feel a hint of resentment towards Ye Leng'an. Though they encouraged Ye Wanwan to speak the truth, they never intended to harm Ye Leng'an! Why was Ye Leng'an pressuring Wanwan like this?

To everyone's surprise, shortly after Ye Wanwan finished speaking, Ye Leng'an nodded solemnly. "It seems you're aware of your place!"

"Ye Leng'an, don't go too far." Ye Hongxuan couldn't bear it any longer. He stepped forward, shielding Ye Wanwan. "Wanwan is already injured. What she needs now is healing and recuperation, not to be pressured by you step by step."

Even Lian Mengzhu sighed helplessly. "Ye Leng'an, we understand that you harbor resentment, but you shouldn't have laid hands on Wanwan. Now that she has decided not to pursue the matter, we hope you can understand and stop being so aggressive."

She spoke in veiled terms because her father had strictly forbidden any mention of the relationship between Ye Leng'an and the Ye family. However, she was deeply disappointed in her biological daughter, Ye Leng'an.

Though they were biological siblings, the difference was significant without growing up together. Growing up in a small wealthy family in the mortal world, Ye Leng'an lacked the demeanor of a young lady from a prominent family. Moreover, her personality was too sharp. This wouldn't bode well for her future.

Though Huangfu Ruiling could tolerate it, he was still young. But what about in the future? Once the sweetness faded, had Ye Leng'an considered what her path would be?

Chapter 882: Disappearance of Bonds

Protected by her parents, Ye Wanwan lowered her head, a smug smile playing on her lips. However, she remained vigilant; she was now the victim and couldn't afford to give anyone leverage.

Huangfu Ruiling's gaze lingered on Ye Leng'an. Only when he saw no signs of disappointment on her face did he finally relax. And perhaps it was just his imagination, but he felt that Ye Leng'an faced the situation not with sorrow, but with a hidden sense of joy.

Indeed, Ye Leng'an was currently immersed in a sense of joy. Just moments ago, when Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu stood before her, uttering those harsh words, she could sense that the faint bond between her and her parents had vanished completely.

Despite her reluctance to return to the Ye family or acknowledge her biological parents, the bond of blood was unbreakable, inherent from birth. It was this bond that had allowed her to recognize Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu as her biological parents.

However, with the escalating conflicts, the bond between her and her biological parents seemed to be fading. Yet, faint as it was, it still existed, recognized by the natural order.

But just now, she felt that the last trace of connection between them had disappeared entirely. In other words, even though there was a blood relationship between her, Ye Hongxuan, and Lian Mengzhu, there was no longer any familial bond. It was a kinship severed by the decree of the heavens.

Ye Leng'an's gaze turned sharp as she looked up at Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu, her aura unmasked. "Master Ye, Mrs. Ye, if you wish to protect your daughter, it's your business, not mine. But I am not her mother, and I have no obligation to indulge her. The one seeking justice in this matter is me, not her. We've reached this point, and if you cannot provide a reasonable explanation, then from now on, the Huangfu family and the Ye family will have no further dealings."

Her words caused an uproar. Although Ye Leng'an had caused harm to Ye Wanwan, resolving it lightly wasn't impossible, especially since the Ye family seemed willing to reconcile for reasons unknown. However, to everyone's surprise, it was Ye Leng'an who refused to let it go.

Furthermore, the matter had escalated to involve two families. Mishandling it could lead to enmity between the Ye and Huangfu families.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's expressions turned sour. They hadn't expected Ye Leng'an to speak this way.

But what startled them even more was Ye Leng'an's undeniable presence, making them want to evade her. And as Ye Leng'an spoke, Huangfu Ruiling remained firmly by her side, showing implicit support. Ye Leng'an's existence not only failed to bridge a connection between the Ye and Huangfu families but sowed enmity between them.

Meanwhile, Ye Wanwan, the other party involved, couldn't help but feel panicked.

Though she was certain Ye Leng'an had no evidence, she couldn't shake off her fear, especially with two families involved. If mishandled, it would anger her grandfather.

"Ye Leng'an, you've gone too far." Murong Xingrui gritted his teeth. "Wanwan is already injured, and yet you're here threatening her! There must be closure to this matter."

As Murong Xingrui spoke, anger flashed in his eyes as he looked at Ye Leng'an. "Zhongyu Jiarui can testify that you injured Wanwan. You claim to seek justice. Why? Because you think Wanwan's injuries aren't serious enough for you?"

Ye Wanwan didn't feel relieved hearing Murong Xingrui's defense. Instead, she felt guilty, not daring to meet his eyes, afraid her deceit would be discovered.

"I didn't harm her." Ye Leng'an raised her head, a smirk playing on her lips. "This was all orchestrated by Ye Wanwan herself. She injured herself to frame me. However, you're right about one thing – I do think her injuries aren't severe enough. It's simply unacceptable for her to remain conscious."

"Ye Leng'an, you've crossed the line." Ye Wanwan stepped forward from behind Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu, her face filled with grievance and anger. "I've decided not to pursue this matter, yet you're still here, accusing me unjustly. Are you trying to drive me to my death?"

Tears streamed down her face uncontrollably.

A weeping beauty was always pitiable.

Though Ye Wanwan's appearance couldn't rival Ye Leng'an's, she was still beautiful, especially with her face pale from injury. Her current stubbornness contrasted with her flowing tears.

Her appearance evoked sympathy from everyone present, who wanted to comfort her, especially when compared to Ye Leng'an's formidable presence.

So, many couldn't help but side with Ye Wanwan.

If not for Master Zhongyu's intervention, Zhongyu Jiarui might have stepped forward to defend her best friend.

“You’re crying so pitifully.” Ye Leng’an sneered, her mockery evident. She spread her hands, her expression dripping with sarcasm. “But what can we do? I really do have evidence to prove this was all a staged act!”

Her words stunned everyone, their gazes shifting between Ye Leng’an and Ye Wanwan, unable to reach a conclusion.

However, the revelation of evidence in Ye Leng’an’s possession left them intrigued.

If not for Murong Xingrui’s support, Ye Wanwan might have collapsed already. Yet, she forced herself to remain composed, suppressing her urge to flee.

“Ye Leng’an, stop playing games,” she retorted. “You were the one who hurt me, and the truth cannot be changed.”

Though Ye Wanwan appeared composed on the outside, her heart was already in turmoil. She kept replaying the scene in the restroom, wondering if she had left behind any incriminating evidence.

However, the more she panicked, the less she could remember. She even began to doubt if there had been anyone else in the restroom with her.

Regardless, at this point, she had no choice but to stick to her story. If she didn’t, all the efforts her parents had made to protect her that day would be in vain.

Observing Ye Wanwan’s silent demeanor, Ye Leng’an suddenly chuckled – not a cold smirk, but a bright, albeit malicious, smile. “Ye Wanwan, you see, I have a peculiar habit. Whenever I find myself in a compromising situation, I always leave behind a little evidence. From the moment I saw you in the restroom, I sensed trouble, so I immediately took out the Image Stone. How about this? I’ll reveal everything that happened in the restroom and let everyone judge for themselves. What do you say?”

While speaking, Ye Leng’an produced a stone – the Image Stone.

Similar to mortal world video recorders, the Image Stone could capture images. However, unlike video recorders, it required spiritual energy to function, making it somewhat impractical.

Given the convenience of devices like video recorders and smartphones, the use of Image Stones was rare. It was unexpected that Ye Leng’an would employ one.

Ye Wanwan’s eyes fixated on the Image Stone in Ye Leng’an’s hand, her body trembling involuntarily. She hadn’t anticipated Ye Leng’an’s cunning move to secretly record everything.

Yet, what terrified her most wasn’t her fabricated act but the words she had exchanged with Ye Leng’an in the restroom.

If her parents and Murong Xingrui witnessed her state, their image of her would shatter. They would all despise her.

If anyone understood Ye Wanwan’s current state, it was Murong Xingrui. Sensing her trembling in his embrace, he felt her fear.

With Ye Leng'an producing the Image Stone, revealing its contents would provide the best evidence. What was Ye Wanwan afraid of?

Was everything Ye Leng'an said true? Was her injury merely a staged act? Was that why she feared being exposed?

Ye Leng'an continued to smile brightly. "Ye Wanwan, tell me. Shall I reveal everything that happened in the restroom and let everyone see who caused your injury?"

"No!" Ye Wanwan instinctively protested.

Her voice was piercing, her forehead drenched in sweat, her complexion even paler than when she was injured. She was on the verge of collapse, supported only by Murong Xingrui.

Her sharp cry drew everyone's attention. Seeing her condition, suspicions arose.

"Hehe, what's wrong with you?" Ye Leng'an's mischievous grin widened. "Are you afraid to reveal your true self, hence opposing the release of the recording?"

Ye Wanwan's gaze remained fixed on the Image Stone, panic and tension evident. She wanted to destroy it but knew she lacked the strength. Even if she succeeded, everyone would see her guilt.

She was at a loss, trapped in a dilemma.

"Wanwan, what's happening?" Zhongyu Jiarui looked at her with concern. "Has your injury worsened?"

"Shut up." Master Zhongyu silenced Zhongyu Jiarui, glaring at her like a fool. "From now on, if you utter another word, you'll be confined to the family estate. You'll need my permission to leave."

Could this fool not see Ye Wanwan's guilt? No one present was naïve. They all noticed Ye Wanwan's unease since Ye Leng'an revealed the Image Stone.

Clearly, the stone's contents were damning for Ye Wanwan. That's why she was nervous and opposed its release.

Regardless of whether Ye Leng'an shared the recording, everyone could tell Ye Wanwan had orchestrated her injury.

Only Zhongyu Jiarui, that fool, still believed Ye Wanwan was the victim.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's gazes held disappointment when they looked at Ye Wanwan. They had reached the same conclusion as others.

However, Lian Mengzhu was still reluctant to believe Ye Wanwan's actions. She turned to Ye Wanwan. "Wanwan, tell me what happened."

Ye Wanwan remained silent, afraid to speak. Everything she said would be wrong.

At this moment, she wished she could faint and escape everything.

But before she could act on this thought, Ye Leng'an shattered her reverie. "Don't faint, Ye Wanwan. If you do, I'll release all the Image Stone recordings."

Ye Wanwan immediately snapped back to reality, determined not to faint.

Chapter 884: Being Injured Again

Even though the contents of the Image Stone hadn't been revealed, everyone understood the situation. Yet, the standoff persisted, with neither Ye Leng'an nor Ye Wanwan making the next move.

"Alright, Wanwan, I'll give you a chance." Ye Leng'an blinked as if struck by a sudden idea. "Since I have no desire to publicize the messy relationship between me and the Ye family, I'll let you speak the truth. In return, I won't release the video. How about it?"

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's proposal, everyone perked up.

It was unsettling to recall the rumors circulating in the Hidden World that Ye Leng'an was a descendant of the Ye family. However, the Ye family had already issued a statement denying any association with Ye Leng'an. So, what other secrets lay hidden?

Speculations ran wild among the crowd.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's expressions turned grim.

At this point, how could they fail to see the truth? They never imagined that today's events were all orchestrated by Wanwan.

Suddenly reminded of their earlier defense of Wanwan and their harsh words towards Ye Leng'an, they felt a pang of guilt.

Raising their heads, they looked at Ye Leng'an once more, filled with remorse.

Yet, Ye Leng'an paid no heed to their apologies, not even sparing them a glance. Her focus was entirely on Ye Wanwan.

"Have you made your decision yet? If not, then let me reveal the truth of this matter!"

Ye Leng'an slowly raised her hand while speaking, preparing to infuse her spiritual energy into the image stone to expose its contents.

"No," Ye Wanwan interjected upon seeing Ye Leng'an's actions. She couldn't hold back any longer. "I'll confess. None of today's events have anything to do with Ye Leng'an. It was all a scheme orchestrated by me to frame her."

As she spoke, hatred filled her gaze when she looked at Ye Leng'an. She never expected to be pushed to such lengths by Ye Leng'an.

Now, she didn't dare to meet her parents' eyes, fearing their disappointment. The joy she felt earlier for her parents standing by her side had vanished completely.

Although everyone had already guessed the truth, hearing it from Ye Wanwan was still shocking. They never imagined that all of this was Ye Wanwan's doing.

Truly, hell hath no fury like a woman scorned! Ye Wanwan was ruthless in her attempt to frame Ye Leng'an, even at her own expense! Despite her injuries appearing severe, she would likely require a lengthy recovery. Yet, all of this was to frame Ye Leng'an.

However, along with the shock came doubt. Why would Ye Wanwan frame Ye Leng'an, even at her own expense? What grudge existed between them? Or was there a hidden feud between Ye Leng'an and the Ye family

“Wanwan!” Zhongyu Jiarui couldn't believe her ears. She seemed unable to accept what she was hearing.

Recalling her previous defense of Wanwan and her constant criticism of Ye Leng'an, she felt like a fool.

Ye Wanwan lowered her head, unable to meet anyone's gaze. She feared seeing disdain in their eyes or even disgust in her fiancé's.

“Alright, Master Ye, Mrs. Ye.” Ye Leng'an casually stowed away the Image Stone and turned to Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu with a smile. “I've given you the explanation you sought. Are you satisfied? However, what about the explanation I seek?”

As she spoke, her smile faded, and she took on a sharper demeanor.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu couldn't help but blush. At this moment, they lacked the courage to meet Ye Leng'an's gaze. They didn't know how to face her.

Just moments ago, they had nearly insulted Ye Leng'an in their defense of Ye Wanwan. But now, the truth had slapped them in the face.

It turned out that everything they thought had wronged Ye Wanwan was her own doing. And Ye Leng'an was the innocent victim.

They knew they had lost their daughter completely.

Seeing Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's silence, Ye Leng'an didn't press them further. She turned her gaze to Ye Wanwan and sneered before asking, “And what about you, Ye Wanwan? What do you plan to do now?”

Startled by the sudden address, Ye Wanwan looked up, suppressing her inner hatred. “Ye Leng'an, what more do you want?”

She had already been pushed to this point by Ye Leng'an. What else did Ye Leng'an want? Did she really intend to push her to her death before relenting? Even though Ye Leng'an was framed for this incident, it was Ye Wanwan who suffered the injuries. Why continue to press her?

“I don't take losses lying down,” Ye Leng'an retorted, rolling her eyes. “Since you've claimed I injured you, wouldn't I be at a disadvantage if I didn't? So...”

Before anyone could react, Ye Leng'an unleashed a burst of spiritual energy, aiming directly at Ye Wanwan.

“I might as well make your lies a reality!”

With those words, a surge of energy struck Ye Wanwan's chest, mirroring her previous injury.

Even Murong Xingrui, who had been supporting Ye Wanwan, was caught off guard, forced to witness Ye Wanwan being injured once again.

Clutching her chest, Ye Wanwan felt a sharp pain, followed by a metallic taste in her mouth. Then, she couldn't hold it back and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Even without a doctor's diagnosis, she knew her injuries were serious. And now, compounded by this new injury, her entire body ached.

"Wanwan!"

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu screamed in unison.

Although Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu were deeply displeased by Ye Wanwan's plot against Ye Leng'an, it didn't mean they were willing to stand by and watch Ye Leng'an harm Ye Wanwan.

Especially now, it was an undeniable fact that Ye Wanwan was injured, even if it was part of a scheme. The consequences of being injured by Ye Leng'an again were clear.

Immediately, everyone gathered around Ye Wanwan, expressing concern for her injuries.

Ye Hongxuan hastily produced numerous pills and fed them all to Ye Wanwan. However, despite their efforts, her complexion remained grim.

Fortunately, perhaps because Ye Leng'an hadn't gone for the kill, Ye Wanwan's injuries, though severe, weren't life-threatening. Nevertheless, she would require a lengthy period of rest to recuperate properly. Otherwise, there was a risk of leaving underlying health issues.

There was no sympathy on Ye Leng'an's face. "Ye Wanwan, how are you feeling? You're the one I injured, so now you can tell everyone that you were hurt by me."

Ye Wanwan clutched her chest, unable to utter a word. However, her eyes revealed her intense hatred towards Ye Leng'an.

"What, giving up the act?" Ye Leng'an glanced at Ye Wanwan, blinking. She smirked and said, "Haven't you always enjoyed putting on a show of magnanimity and victimhood in front of everyone? Why not showcase your acting skills now? Although I must admit, you're more pleasing to the eye like this. Your usual pretense is quite repulsive!"

The onlookers cast complicated glances at Ye Wanwan. Until now, she had always been perceived as gentle, kind, and magnanimous. However, tonight's events shattered that image for everyone. It seemed this side of Ye Wanwan was also ruthless! Otherwise, why would she harm herself and falsely accuse Ye Leng'an?

Recollections of the previous Family Competition surfaced in everyone's minds. After that incident, Ye Wanwan had seemed much gentler. Consequently, most had nearly forgotten about it. Now, due to tonight's events, those memories resurfaced. Everyone was beginning to see Ye Wanwan in a new light.

Though Ye Wanwan was in pain, she could sense the peculiar gazes directed at her. She could almost envision that by tomorrow, news of tonight's events would spread throughout the entire Hidden World. The image she had worked so hard to maintain and the impression she had finally managed to reverse were now completely shattered.

But what frightened her the most was not knowing how her parents viewed her now. She was also worried about Murong Xingrui's opinion.

"Leng'an, this is Wanwan's fault," Lian Mengzhu couldn't help but interject. "However, she's already been punished. There's no need to kick her while she's down."

She too felt that Ye Wanwan's actions were unjustifiable. However, with Ye Wanwan now injured twice, she might need an extended period of bed rest. This was a severe consequence, and there was no need for Ye Leng'an to continue taunting her.

Moreover, she felt Ye Leng'an's sudden attack was uncalled for. Though Ye Wanwan was initially at fault, she had been pressured into revealing everything, which completely humiliated her. For Ye Leng'an to strike at this point was a bit much.

Though dissatisfied, she knew Ye Leng'an's opinion of them had likely soured due to recent events. So, she refrained from blaming her, lest their relationship worsen.

Seeing Lian Mengzhu speak up, Ye Hongxuan immediately cut her off. "Mengzhu, say no more."

Though Lian Mengzhu didn't intend her words as reproachful, they sounded like it to outsiders. Hence, his reprimand.

It should be noted that Mengzhu's words only pushed Ye Leng'an further away.

"Master Ye, Mrs. Ye, now that the truth has come to light, shouldn't the Ye family also explain to our Huangfu family?" Ye Leng'an changed tack, her expression growing serious. "This matter shouldn't be taken lightly!"

"There's no need to blow this out of proportion!" Lian Mengzhu's tone carried a hint of urgency. "Wanwan has admitted everything, and she's been injured by you. What more do you want?"

She hadn't expected Ye Leng'an to escalate the matter to involve both families. If that were the case, even if Wanwan returned to the Ye family, she would undoubtedly still face punishment.

Ye Hongxuan's expression soured, but he didn't directly confront Ye Leng'an. Instead, he turned to Huangfu Ruiling. "Master Huangfu, do you share the same view?"

He held onto a glimmer of hope. After all, feuding between two families was no trivial matter. As the head of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Ruiling should prioritize the bigger picture, regardless of how much he favored Ye Leng'an!

"What An'an wants is what I want." Huangfu Ruiling stepped forward, embracing Ye Leng'an. He surveyed the crowd before speaking in a measured tone. "An'an is my fiancée and the matriarch of the Huangfu family. From now on, everything she says and decides represents our Huangfu family."

At his words, everyone's eyes widened in astonishment as they reassessed Ye Leng'an's status within the Huangfu family.

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an were merely engaged; they weren't even husband and wife yet. But for Huangfu Ruiling to grant Ye Leng'an full authority to represent the Huangfu family was a significant show of power. Had he thought this through?

Those who had attended Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an's engagement banquet knew that Huangfu Ruiling doted on Ye Leng'an greatly. However, they hadn't anticipated his doting to the extent of relinquishing the entire Huangfu family's authority to her.

It seemed everyone would need to reevaluate Ye Leng'an's position in Huangfu Ruiling's heart

At the very least, Ye Leng'an was someone not to be trifled with!

Though in pain, Ye Wanwan remained lucid. Thus, she heard Huangfu Ruiling's words clearly.

A surge of jealousy towards Ye Leng'an welled up within her. Especially upon hearing Huangfu Ruiling bestow such immense power upon Ye Leng'an, she nearly spat blood once again.

Chapter 886: Twin Sisters

Huangfu Ruiling's stance only worsened the already grim expression on Ye Hongxuan's face. He hadn't expected Huangfu Ruiling, as the head of a prominent family, to join in the antics with Ye Leng'an.

"Master Huangfu, Miss Ye, let's not overdo it," Murong Xingrui spoke up, still standing by Ye Wanwan's side, lending her support. "Forgiveness should be extended where possible. Wanwan has already been severely injured. Why continue pressing her step by step?"

He still harbored feelings for Ye Wanwan. Otherwise, he wouldn't have persisted in this marriage despite the circumstances. Even knowing that Ye Wanwan wasn't as innocent as he'd believed, he couldn't bring himself to be ruthless.

Furthermore, Ye Wanwan was still his fiancée. As a man, if he couldn't even stand up for his betrothed, it would be utter incompetence.

"Step by step?" Ye Leng'an's response seemed to treat Murong Xingrui's words as a joke. She looked at Murong Xingrui with a smile and said, "Young Master Murong, really? Who do you think brought about this situation?"

Murong Xingrui was at a loss for words.

Because the mastermind behind all this was none other than Ye Wanwan.

Ye Leng'an wasn't expecting an answer from Murong Xingrui, so she continued, "Everyone must pay for their actions, even Ye Wanwan. She's no longer a child. If she dared to falsely accuse me like this, she must have the courage to face my retaliation!"

Murong Xingrui couldn't help but furrow his brow at Ye Leng'an's aggressive demeanor.

No matter how beautiful Ye Leng'an was, he couldn't appreciate her arrogance at that moment. He disliked such a domineering and flamboyant woman.

Glancing at the visibly weakened Ye Wanwan, Murong Xingrui then turned to Ye Leng'an. "Miss Ye, while what you say holds some truth, both you and Wanwan are twin sisters. You shouldn't be so aggressive considering your blood ties."

Although Ye Wanwan had repeatedly warned him not to reveal this matter, given the current circumstances between the two families, it seemed futile to keep it hidden, didn't it?

Ye Wanwan couldn't find her voice at the moment. Her grip on Murong Xingrui's sleeve conveyed her feelings.

She hadn't expected Murong Xingrui to expose the truth so blatantly in public.

This was just an excuse provided by her grandfather, and she was certain that Ye Leng'an would never acknowledge this excuse. Now that Murong Xingrui had bluntly revealed the matter, wasn't he essentially forcing Ye Leng'an to reveal the truth?

She could almost imagine that by tomorrow, the entire Hidden World would know that she was not the real young lady of the Ye family but an impostor.

The reason she had been willing to publicly admit to framing Ye Leng'an was simply to conceal the truth of this matter. But now, because of Murong Xingrui, everything she had done had become a joke.

Murong Xingrui's words caused an uproar. Who would have thought that attending a social event today would lead to such a revelation?

At this moment, everyone recalled the rumors in the Hidden World. But hadn't the Ye family issued a statement? Why were they now claiming that Ye Leng'an was indeed a member of the Ye family and even a twin sister of Ye Wanwan? What was the truth behind all this?

"Twin sisters?" Ye Leng'an smirked and said with interest, "So that's what Ye Wanwan told you! But it's a pity. While there is some blood relation between me and Ye Wanwan, we're not twin sisters. We're more like cousins!"

Hearing this, Murong Xingrui felt perplexed. Cousins? So, Ye Leng'an should be the daughter of Ye Wanwan's mother's sister!

He couldn't help but glance at Ye Wanwan in his arms as if seeking answers from her.

Though Murong Xingrui found it strange, he never doubted Ye Wanwan's identity. He could see how much Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu cherished her. If she weren't their biological daughter, how could they treat her like this?

Ye Wanwan kept her head low, unable to meet Murong Xingrui's gaze. She was completely at a loss for words. Even if she could speak now, she wouldn't know how to explain herself.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu felt uneasy the moment Murong Xingrui spoke those words. But now that it was out, they couldn't erase them from everyone's minds.

Ye Hongxuan's mind raced, but he couldn't think of a plausible explanation.

“Curious, aren’t you?” Ye Leng’an suddenly wore a bright smile. “Do you know why Ye Wanwan has been trying to frame me all this time? Because she doesn’t want me to return to the Ye family. She fears that my return will affect her status. Do you understand now?”

After hearing this, Murong Xingrui’s expression changed drastically. He looked at Ye Wanwan in disbelief before turning to Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu. With difficulty, he asked, “Uncle, Aunt, what does this mean? Wanwan, she...”

He wasn’t naive, so he understood what Ye Leng’an meant. If Ye Leng’an was a member of the Ye family, then Ye Wanwan couldn’t be. Or rather, she couldn’t be a direct descendant of the Ye family.

Most importantly, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu hadn’t denied anything. This meant that what Ye Leng’an said was true.

Others in the room pieced together the puzzle.

Chapter 887: What a Pity

Ye Leng’an stopped there, not elaborating further.

Those present at tonight’s banquet were no ordinary individuals. Members of these prominent families had the means to investigate matters thoroughly. Moreover, the fate of Lian Zixin was now evident to all. Even if the complete truth eluded them, the twists and turns were discernible.

Ye Wanwan was infuriatingly exasperating.

Although Ye Leng’an hadn’t divulged everything, her selective disclosure only served to itch at the curiosity of others. Ye Wanwan was certain that once she returned tonight, most, if not all, present would dispatch inquiries to uncover the truth. Her true identity was on the brink of exposure.

What was the point of concealing her background all this time, only to confess to all her crimes tonight?!

Ye Leng’an, she was truly ruthless!

Observing Ye Wanwan’s gaze brimming with animosity, Ye Leng’an suddenly chuckled. Retrieving the Image Stone from earlier, she regretfully remarked, “I just realized that I hadn’t infused this Image Stone with spiritual power. Hence, nothing that occurred in the restroom was recorded!”

With a pretentious sigh, she added, “Ah, what a pity indeed. Otherwise, I could have left you a keepsake!”

Upon hearing this, Ye Wanwan couldn’t restrain herself any longer, vomiting blood twice before collapsing.

“Wanwan, Wanwan!”

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu anxiously called out to her.

Subsequently, Murong Xingrui swiftly picked up Ye Wanwan and departed.

Despite his myriad of questions, he understood the urgency of the situation. Ye Wanwan was gravely injured and required immediate medical attention. As for the future, that could wait.

Furthermore, he needed to promptly return and inform his father about tonight's events.

Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu naturally departed with them, deeply concerned for Ye Wanwan. However, before leaving, they cast a complex gaze at Ye Leng'an.

Ignoring their stares, Ye Leng'an remained at the banquet, unfazed by the unfolding events.

Although the Ye family had left, the indelible impact of the night's occurrences lingered. Conversations about the incident echoed throughout the venue.

However, discussions were restricted to the confines of gossip, with none daring to seek confirmation from Ye Leng'an. Nor did anyone cast odd glances her way.

On a balcony within the venue, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an stood, admiring the scenery.

Many who sought conversation with Huangfu Ruiling hesitated after witnessing this scene, opting to withdraw cautiously.

Handing a glass of juice to Ye Leng'an, Huangfu Ruiling softly consoled, "Don't dwell too much on tonight's events."

Hearing this, Ye Leng'an couldn't help but chuckle. "Do you really think I'd be saddened by Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu's attitudes?"

"Their attitudes don't signify anything," Huangfu Ruiling replied, his words uncommonly stiff.

"I think you're the one overthinking, not me." Ye Leng'an smiled brilliantly, contrasting her earlier cold demeanor with genuine joy. "You know as well as I do that there's no sentiment between us. Actually, I'm quite content today. With the last thread of connection between us severed, there's no longer any association between us."

Huangfu Ruiling understood immediately. Witnessing Ye Leng'an's genuine joy, he remained silent. However...

"After tonight, your ties with the Ye family will likely be exposed soon. What's your plan?"

"So what if it's exposed?" Ye Leng'an shrugged nonchalantly. "After tonight, no one will believe I have any affiliation with the Ye family! Moreover, don't forget, the Ye family previously declared to everyone that they have no relation to me."

That was why she decided to reveal Ye Wanwan's identity tonight. Otherwise, Ye Wanwan would be like an annoying cockroach that wouldn't die.

Huangfu Ruiling reached out, embracing Ye Leng'an's shoulder. He spoke slowly, "Alright, tonight's over. Do you plan to remain in the Hidden World or return?"

"Let's stay here for a few days." Ye Leng'an decided after a moment of thought. "You can handle matters here, and I want to visit tomorrow to see if there are any special spiritual plants."

Huangfu Ruiling nodded. "Then I..."

Before he could finish, Ye Leng'an interrupted, "No need. I can go alone. You should stay in the family and handle those matters properly. Otherwise, the Grand Elder will be in tears."

Thinking of the Grand Elder's occasional complaints, she found it amusing.

Seeing Ye Leng'an's resolute demeanor, Huangfu Ruiling could only nod.

On the other hand, aside from the Ye family, the Zhongyu family also departed early.

With such an incident unfolding and Zhongyu Jiarui injured, Master Zhongyu naturally didn't wish to linger at the banquet.

However, his decision to leave wasn't solely due to Zhongyu Jiarui's injury but also the unbearable embarrassment of facing the mockery of others.

Clearly, the perpetrator behind all this was oblivious to Master Zhongyu's anger.

Upon returning to the Zhongyu family, Zhongyu Jiarui couldn't contain herself and immediately began crying out in pain. She incessantly clamored for the doctor to come and attend to her injuries, fearing any potential aftermath on her wrist.

Her exaggerated behavior made it seem as if she had suffered grave injuries, demanding immediate attention from everyone.

Chapter 888: Unease

After the events that unfolded tonight, Master Zhongyu, who had been compelled to leave prematurely, was already in a foul mood. Seeing Zhongyu Jiarui's appearance now only added to his irritation. Without hesitation, he grabbed the teacup from the table and hurled it at Zhongyu Jiarui.

"Ah!"

Startled by the sudden attack, Zhongyu Jiarui let out a shriek. But upon realizing that it was her father who threw the teacup, she fell silent immediately.

"Father, I..." Zhongyu Jiarui struggled to speak, her voice trembling, "I didn't mean to, I just..."

"You dare to cry out in pain here!" Master Zhongyu's gaze turned icy as he looked at Zhongyu Jiarui, his voice chilling. "Do you even realize what you've done today? Because of you, our Zhongyu family is now practically at odds with the Huangfu family. You've created a powerful enemy for our family. Are you pleased with yourself?"

His cold words drained Zhongyu Jiarui's face of color. She opened her mouth to speak but could only offer a feeble defense. "I was misled by Wanwan, Father. It wasn't my intention..."

"Your intentions are irrelevant. What matters are the consequences." Master Zhongyu's tone lacked any warmth as he regarded Zhongyu Jiarui, more like an enemy than his own daughter. "Your mind is simple, I don't blame you for that. But

you lack self-awareness. I can't help but wonder how someone as foolish as you came into being."

If he had known Zhongyu Jiarui was such a fool, he would have drowned her at birth to avoid being deceived by her foolishness.

As Zhongyu Jiarui faced her father's biting words, she could not muster a single word in retort, only enduring his reproach.

Yet, her suffering wasn't solely mental; there was physical pain as well. The throbbing ache in her wrist served as a reminder of her injury, the prospect of lingering repercussions gnawing at her mind.

Her utmost desire now was swift treatment to alleviate her physical agony.

In this moment, she couldn't help but harbor resentment towards Ye Wanwan. Tonight's events were orchestrated by her, and Zhongyu Jiarui realized she was merely a pawn in Ye Wanwan's game. She hadn't anticipated such exploitation from someone she had treated so kindly. Worse still, she suffered an injury because of Ye Wanwan's actions, yet received no sympathy in return.

As Ye Wanwan, now injured, was taken back, she was surely being showered with concern. Yet here Zhongyu Jiarui stood, enduring pain and blame unjustly.

Ye Wanwan had no inkling of Zhongyu Jiarui's animosity towards her. Even if she did, it would be futile. Since collapsing at the banquet, she remained in a state of unconsciousness.

Upon returning to the Ye residence, chaos ensued once more. Who could have foreseen returning from a banquet unconscious and gravely injured?

Finally, when Ye Wanwan's condition stabilized, Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu breathed a sigh of relief. Subsequently, Murong Xingrui took his leave.

His departure didn't prompt further inquiry, a relief for Ye Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu, who struggled to explain. Yet, what followed wasn't relief but a heavier burden. Ahead lay a more daunting challenge.

Observing Ye Hongxuan's grave expression, Lian Mengzhu couldn't help but ask, "Hongxuan, do you think we should explain to Father?"

Ye Hongxuan sighed deeply. "This matter has escalated too much. Even if we remain silent, Father will soon learn of it. Moreover, news of Leng'an and Wanwan's background may spread in the Hidden World soon. We must seek Father's counsel on this."

"But Wanwan..." Lian Mengzhu's worry was palpable. "Father might blame her!"

"Today's incident was caused by Wanwan."

Ye Hongxuan's tone carried a hint of anger. "If she hadn't acted as she did, she wouldn't be in this predicament. She's solely responsible for the consequences she faces."

Though concerned about Ye Wanwan's injuries, he was infuriated by her behavior. Especially since tonight's events further distanced them from their biological daughter.

“But Wanwan is already in this state.” Lian Mengzhu’s anger was tempered by concern. “If Father punishes her again, I fear she won’t bear it.”

“Father knows how to handle this. We needn’t interfere.” Ye Hongxuan shook his head, then continued, “Rest early. I’ll inform Father of tonight’s events. It’s best he hears it from us, or his anger may only worsen if he hears it elsewhere.”

Lian Mengzhu wanted Ye Hongxuan to speak up for Ye Wanwan. However, considering their father’s disposition, she withheld her words.

After years of marriage, Ye Hongxuan understood Lian Mengzhu’s intentions. But in this matter, there was little they could say.

Moments later, Ye Hongxuan recounted the banquet events in full detail, devoid of personal bias, to his father.

After listening, Ye Yikun’s expression remained unchanged, his inscrutable gaze revealing nothing of his thoughts.

Ye Hongxuan stood quietly, his heart filled with unease. Despite his father’s lack of anger, the uncertainty was more unnerving. Unable to anticipate his father’s reaction, he felt increasingly anxious.

Yet, he dared not rush his father, nor did he dare to speak on Ye Wanwan’s behalf. Such actions could backfire.

Chapter 889: The Collision

It seemed like an eternity before Ye Yikun finally spoke, “Don’t mention anything to anyone for now. And as for your second brother and the others, tell them to keep quiet too. As for Wanwan, once she wakes up, have her come over to my place.”

Ye Yikun’s tone remained calm, giving no hint of his thoughts at the moment. However, this only added to the unease in the air.

“Father, what about the Murong family?” After some consideration, Ye Hongxuan asked, “Murong Xingrui was present throughout tonight’s events. He must be suspicious by now. We might not be able to keep this from the Murong family any longer.”

“We’ll leave the Murong family aside for now.” A glint flickered in Ye Yikun’s eyes. “Even if they come to know about Wanwan’s background and consider calling off the engagement, it won’t happen that quickly. They also have their pride. Ending the engagement over such a reason would only make them a laughing stock.”

Hence, as long as Wanwan had the means, there was still a chance to win back Murong Xingrui.

Ye Hongxuan didn’t add anything further.

After giving his instructions to Ye Hongxuan, Ye Yikun waved him off.

Once out of Ye Yikun's courtyard, Ye Hongxuan breathed a sigh of relief. He had been on edge while facing his father. Now, the tension dissipated, leaving him feeling almost drained.

Yet, despite leaving his father's presence, his mind was fraught with doubts. Even before reporting to his father, he had anticipated his anger. He had even prepared himself to plead. Though he had voiced his discontent with Wanwan in front of Lian Mengzhu, she was still his child. He couldn't help but feel concerned. Hence, he had decided to persuade his father to let Wanwan rest for a while, even if it meant facing his father's wrath.

But he hadn't anticipated his father's surprisingly patient response upon learning of tonight's events. Though he couldn't fathom the reason, it brought him relief.

Still, it didn't alleviate his worries. With so many attendees at the banquet, news of the incident would surely spread. From tomorrow onwards, he'd have to strategize to minimize the fallout.

On the other side, the day after the banquet, news of the incident quickly circulated within the Hidden World. Speculations about the relationship between Ye Leng'an and the Ye family were rife.

The Ye family remained silent, offering no statements or clarifications.

As for Ye Leng'an, she remained uncharacteristically quiet, preoccupied with her own affairs.

Huangfu Ruiling stayed back at the Huangfu family to attend to urgent matters. Meanwhile, Ye Leng'an visited the herb store to scout for new spiritual herbs.

Unfortunately, rare spiritual herbs were hard to come by, and she returned empty-handed.

Although she didn't find any rare herbs, she stocked up on medicinal herbs. With the winter break underway, she often spent her time refining pills in the alchemy room, depleting her stocks quickly. Hence, this trip was an opportunity to replenish her supplies.

Satisfied with her purchases, she relaxed. All her herbs were safely stored in her storage ring.

With her shopping done, she wandered the streets, feeling somewhat bored. Eventually, she decided to head home. She planned to stay at the Huangfu family for the next few days to continue her alchemy practice.

During the New Year period, she hadn't devoted much time to alchemy. Now, with some days in the Hidden World, she could restock her inventory.

As she quickened her pace, she rounded a street corner, only to almost collide with someone.

Swiftly evading, she watched the other person tumble to the ground.

Upon closer inspection, she recognized the other – it was an acquaintance!

"Miss Zhongyu, what a coincidence!" she remarked as she helped Zhongyu Lingshan up. An enigmatic glint shimmered in her eyes. "But who would've thought we'd meet again under these circumstances!"

Her gaze flickered to Zhongyu Lingshan's injured hand.

Perhaps due to the fall, Zhongyu Lingshan seemed unsteady as she stood, her hand bearing bruises. Despite her discomfort, she maintained a smile.

“Miss Ye, it’s you!” Zhongyu Lingshan’s eyes betrayed a hint of reluctance, but she greeted Ye Leng’an politely. “I apologize for almost colliding with you earlier. Are you alright?”

It was unfortunate. Zhongyu Lingshan had spotted Ye Leng’an from a distance earlier. Having returned to the Hidden World just last night, she hadn’t attended the banquet. Consequently, she was unaware of the events that had unfolded. Her intention in confronting Ye Leng’an today was to create a chance encounter, feigning an accident to injure her slightly. Then, she planned to apologize and escort Ye Leng’an back to the Huangfu family, seizing the opportunity to meet Huangfu Ruiling.

Yet, she hadn’t expected Ye Leng’an to react so swiftly, turning the tables and becoming the injured party herself.

“Miss Zhongyu’s vision seems rather poor!” Ye Leng’an quipped with a smirk. “Such a wide road, yet you failed to notice someone as big as me. As a cultivator, your reflexes seem lacking!”

Despite her resentment at Ye Leng’an’s taunts, Zhongyu Lingshan gritted her teeth, unable to retort. “It was my mistake, Miss Ye. I apologize to you once again. I hope you won’t hold it against me.”

Chapter 890: She Caused Trouble Again

Ye Leng’an’s gaze swept over Zhongyu Lingshan from head to toe before she spoke again, “Miss Zhongyu, your condition doesn’t look good.”

Zhongyu Lingshan’s expression stiffened for a moment, her smile becoming strained. She wasn’t seriously injured, but she could feel the twist in her ankle. Even standing still, she felt a dull ache.

“I’m fine!” Zhongyu Lingshan pretended to be strong. “If Miss Ye has something to attend to, feel free to leave!” She hissed in pain as she spoke.

Her brow furrowed in pain, evident in her expression. It was clear she was enduring discomfort.

In such a state, leaving Zhongyu Lingshan alone wasn’t an option.

Quickly, Zhongyu Lingshan revised her plan. If Ye Leng’an was willing to escort her home later, she could use the opportunity to express gratitude to the Huangfu family.

“It’s good that you’re fine!” Ye Leng’an nodded, seemingly oblivious to Zhongyu Lingshan’s pain. “Then I’ll take my leave!”

Her departure caught Zhongyu Lingshan off guard, intensifying her anxiety.

“Miss Ye, wait!” Zhongyu Lingshan hurriedly called out.

Ye Leng’an turned calmly. “Anything else, Miss Zhongyu? I’m in a hurry.”

In truth, she had no pressing matters. She simply didn’t want to waste time with Zhongyu Lingshan here.

Their relationship wasn’t close enough to catch up.

Though Zhongyu Lingshan forced a smile, she revealed her discomfort. “Miss Ye, I think I’ve sprained my ankle. Would you be willing to help me get back?”

Ye Leng’an smiled slightly, then delivered her answer slowly. “I’m sorry, but I’m not inclined to.”

This unexpected refusal left Zhongyu Lingshan bewildered. “Miss Ye, what did you say?”

“Miss Zhongyu, I didn’t expect your hearing to fail at such a young age.” Ye Leng’an’s tone carried regret. “But let me repeat myself. I declined your request.”

“Why?” Zhongyu Lingshan’s voice rose, then she realized her outburst and quickly composed herself. But her expression remained troubled. “Miss Ye, this is a small favor to ask. Why refuse so firmly?”

“It’s not difficult, but I choose not to.” Ye Leng’an shrugged. “So, Miss Zhongyu, it’s better not to push me.”

Zhongyu Lingshan felt her composure slipping. “Miss Ye, aren’t we at least friends? You...”

Ye Leng’an raised a hand to interrupt her. “Hold on. Let me clarify. We’re not friends; we’re merely acquaintances. And...”

She glanced at Zhongyu Lingshan with a half smile. “I believe you’re not fully aware of what happened last night. Speaking to you calmly is already a courtesy. Don’t expect more.”

The mention of last night’s events alarmed Zhongyu Lingshan. While she had heard the commotion in her courtyard, she didn’t know its cause.

It seemed related to Ye Leng’an. But what exactly happened?

She resolved to ask her father upon returning. She couldn’t let anything disrupt her plans.

As Zhongyu Lingshan pondered, Ye Leng’an had already departed.

When Zhongyu Lingshan came to her senses, Ye Leng’an was nowhere to be seen. Fuming, she stomped her foot, grimacing in pain. Remembering her injury, she promptly called for help.

Upon returning home, she took medication and treated her ankle. Though not fully healed, it was much improved – no longer painful.

She promptly headed to the main courtyard.

Master Zhongyu was surprised by Zhongyu Lingshan’s visit but greeted her warmly. “Lingshan, why are you here now?”

His tone conveyed surprise and affection.

Unlike with Zhongyu Jiarui, he was pleased with Zhongyu Lingshan. She had always shown promise in cultivation and had contributed significantly to the family.

Thus, he treated her more favorably.

“Father.”

After bowing respectfully, Zhongyu Lingshan spoke urgently, “I came to ask you about something. Did something happen at last night’s banquet?”

Master Zhongyu's expression shifted at her question. His demeanor turned serious, indicating trouble.

However, his concern wasn't directed at Zhongyu Lingshan.

Seeing his reaction, Zhongyu Lingshan felt a pang of foreboding. "Did Zhongyu Jiarui cause trouble again?"

Though she hadn't attended the banquet, she knew her sister had.

Master Zhongyu nodded and recounted the events of the banquet.

Hearing this, Zhongyu Lingshan couldn't help but mutter, "That fool! Is she trying to sabotage me?"

Master Zhongyu was puzzled. "Why are you suddenly asking about this? Did something happen?"

Zhongyu Lingshan nodded and recounted her encounter with Ye Leng'an.