

Full-Level 891

Chapter 891: Half a Year

After voicing her thoughts, Zhongyu Lingshan's tone unwittingly carried a hint of resentment. "Zhongyu Jiarui is truly more adept at causing trouble than solving it! With her actions, our Zhongyu family and the Huangfu family will surely become sworn enemies."

Master Zhongyu wore a similarly displeased expression. "Zhongyu Jiarui is indeed foolish, but ultimately, it's because of Ye Wanwan's manipulation."

Though angered by Zhongyu Jiarui's foolishness, his ire was clearly directed more towards Ye Wanwan's exploitation.

"Father, do you believe Ye Wanwan truly carries the bloodline of the Ye family?" A glint of contemplation flashed in Zhongyu Lingshan's eyes. "There's a hidden implication in Ye Leng'an's words. Moreover, Master Ye and his wife didn't deny it."

If that were indeed the case, then there would be quite a spectacle to behold in the future.

Previously, Ye Wanwan was Master Ye's only daughter, admired by many because of her cultivation talent and alchemical prowess. She was undoubtedly one of the foremost women among the top ten families.

Though her reputation suffered after some underhanded tactics during the Family Competition, her engagement to Murong Xingrui helped salvage it to some extent.

No one expected Murong Xingrui to agree to the engagement, despite Ye Wanwan's tarnished reputation. To many, it was a display of true love.

Now, the revelation of her potential non-Ye lineage promised even more intrigue. At the very least, she couldn't afford to be as arrogant anymore. She might even have to tread more cautiously.

"Don't dwell too much on this matter," Master Zhongyu interjected, shaking his head. "Whether Ye Wanwan belongs to the Ye lineage is inconsequential. What matters is whom the Ye family is willing to recognize as their young lady."

It wasn't just him, the entire Hidden World's major families were watching. Ultimately, whether Ye Wanwan was of Ye lineage was merely gossip for outsiders.

If there were any repercussions, it would likely only affect the Murong family. Murong Xingrui and Ye Wanwan were engaged, making her lineage crucial to them. If Ye Wanwan wasn't of Ye lineage, it might jeopardize the engagement.

"Ye Wanwan is accustomed to being arrogant. If her true identity is exposed, she might lose face," Zhongyu Lingshan remarked with disdain. "She won't be able to put on airs in front of others anymore."

“Stay out of Ye Wanwan’s affairs.” Master Zhongyu redirected the conversation. “How’s your plan progressing? It’s been a while. Has Huangfu Ruiling shown any interest in you?”

He was aware of Zhongyu Lingshan’s plan. It was his assistance that enabled her to gather extensive information about Ye Leng’an and convincingly impersonate her.

However, it seemed their efforts had borne no fruit so far. Huangfu Ruiling showed no signs of reciprocation.

“Father, we mustn’t rush,” Zhongyu Lingshan asserted confidently. “If Huangfu Ruiling were so easily swayed, we wouldn’t have needed to delve into Ye Leng’an’s habits. I’m employing a gradual approach. I want Huangfu Ruiling to realize that while I resemble Ye Leng’an, I’m far more suited to be the matriarch of the Huangfu family.”

In her view, Ye Leng’an paled in comparison to her in every aspect. As the legitimate daughter of the Zhongyu family, she received a top-notch education and possessed exceptional cultivation talent and abundant resources. Contrasted with the foolish Zhongyu Jiarui, she was undoubtedly a distinguished young lady of the Zhongyu family.

Had it not been for Ye Wanwan’s existence, she would have been the most outstanding young lady in the Hidden World. Hence, she harbored no fondness for Ye Wanwan.

She believed she was superior to Ye Leng’an in every way. Even if Ye Leng’an was truly Master Ye’s daughter, what of it? How could a girl raised in the mortal world compare to her, a young lady nurtured by her family since birth?

Huangfu Ruiling was the head of the Huangfu family, so he would undoubtedly make the best choice. After all, besides her appearance, Ye Leng’an had nothing on her.

Master Zhongyu offered no objection, nodding in agreement. “You know what you’re doing. But remember, I’ve given you only half a year. If Huangfu Ruiling doesn’t respond within that time, you’ll have to heed my arrangements.”

He had no qualms about Zhongyu Lingshan’s plan. However, if there was no progress, he couldn’t allow the situation to continue as it was. He would find another suitable marriage for Zhongyu Lingshan.

Compared to Zhongyu Jiarui, he placed greater value on Zhongyu Lingshan. However, he wouldn’t allow her to act recklessly. He could provide opportunities, but if they didn’t yield the desired outcome, adjustments must be made promptly.

Upon hearing her father’s words, a hint of impatience and unease flickered in Zhongyu Lingshan’s eyes, but she nodded nonetheless. “Rest assured, Father. I will capture Huangfu Ruiling’s heart within half a year.”

“Good.” Master Zhongyu nodded satisfactorily. “That’s what I want to hear.”

Zhongyu Lingshan lowered her head, and her mood had soured.

She knew her father spoke the truth. She only had half a year left. If she couldn't win over Huangfu Ruiling, she'd have to accept her father's arrangements.

It left her feeling resentful. In her eyes, the best choice in the entire Hidden World was undoubtedly Huangfu Ruiling. Marrying him would make her the matriarch of the Huangfu family, a position even marrying any other family's heir couldn't compare to.

At times, she even envied the foolish Zhongyu Jiarui. Despite her incompetence, she still managed to get engaged to the one she liked, even if she didn't appreciate Nangong Xuyao's status.

It seemed she had to quicken her pace. Otherwise, her marriage would be at her father's mercy.

Chapter 892: No Divorce

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Leng'an had only stayed in the Hidden World's Huangfu family for two or three days before receiving news from the mortal world.

"What's wrong?" Ye Leng'an raised an eyebrow, looking at Huangfu Ruiling who sat opposite her. Curiosity tinged her tone as she asked, "Did something happen in the mortal world?"

Although Huangfu Ruiling's expression remained unchanged, she could still sense an abnormal undercurrent in his voice – one that only emerged after receiving the news from the mortal world. This indicated something must have occurred there.

He raised his head, his demeanor calm as he simply stated a fact. "Huangfu Ruixiang and Zhong Yating have decided not to divorce."

"What?" The calm on Ye Leng'an's face shattered as she widened her eyes, her expression carrying a trace of disbelief. "I didn't expect Huangfu Ruixiang to make such a decision. But don't your parents object at all?"

If Huangfu Ruixiang chose not to divorce solely because of the child in Zhong Yating's womb, Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying were not the type to compromise for a grandchild's sake. Otherwise, Li Yiran would have become Huangfu Ruixiang's official wife long ago by relying on her child for status, leaving no room for Zhong Yating.

Huangfu Ruiling shook his head and continued to explain, "Zhong Yating had a miscarriage to save Huangfu Jingzhang's life. Moreover, this incident caused her to lose the ability to bear children. Therefore, Huangfu Ruixiang cannot divorce Zhong Yating at this juncture."

"What?" Ye Leng'an sucked in a breath of cold air, her tone filled with shock. "Zhong Yating is truly ruthless to herself! She was even willing to sacrifice the child in her womb, all to cling to her position as Huangfu Ruixiang's wife. She's really something!"

Indeed, Ye Leng'an had never thought such coincidences existed in this world. On one hand, Huangfu Ruixiang wanted a divorce; on the other, Zhong Yating now had a miscarriage to save Huangfu Jingzhang. No matter how she looked at it, Zhong Yating's scheming undoubtedly played a part.

“Regardless of how this came about, the reality is that Huangfu Ruixiang can no longer divorce Zhong Yating,” Huangfu Ruiling said lightly. “As for the rest, it has nothing to do with us, so we needn’t concern ourselves with it.”

Ye Leng’an nodded seriously. “However, is it true that she lost her ability to be a mother?”

“It is indeed true.” Huangfu Ruiling nodded. “The doctor who diagnosed her belongs to the Huangfu family. Zhong Yating had only recently married into the family and held no real power, so bribing the doctor was impossible. Her infertility is a fact. However, whether the physicians in the Hidden World can cure it remains unknown.”

Ye Leng’an shook her head, feeling a tinge of regret. “Zhong Yating probably went overboard! She likely didn’t expect such an outcome herself!”

The miscarriage might have been part of Zhong Yating’s scheme, but such severe consequences were likely beyond her expectations.

“No matter what, it was her own choice.” Huangfu Ruiling said indifferently. “Moreover, Huangfu Ruixiang can only have her as his wife from now on. Perhaps that alone is enough compensation for her.”

“True.” Ye Leng’an nodded. “In this lifetime, Huangfu Ruixiang can never rid himself of Zhong Yating. The most disappointed person right now is definitely Li Yiran.”

Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow but said nothing more.

As for Ye Leng’an, she treated it like mere gossip and did not comment further. After all, this matter had little relation to her.

At this moment, although the Huangfu family’s ancestral mansion in the mortal world had regained its calm, it remained a sleepless night within its walls. No matter who it was inside the old residence, their moods were foul.

Huangfu Jingzhang and Zhongyu Liuying felt extremely complicated emotions, especially Huangfu Jingzhang.

Previously, Zhong Yating’s supposed rescue had been fake, but this time around, it was an indisputable truth. Especially now that Zhong Yating ended up in such a state, it became even more impossible for Huangfu Ruixiang to divorce her.

Zhongyu Liuying’s mood was similarly poor. At this moment, she felt vexed. Why hadn’t they pushed for Huangfu Ruixiang’s divorce from Zhong Yating earlier? Why did they have to drag it out until now?

Otherwise, even if something happened to Zhong Yating now, they would have other means to compensate her rather than trapping Ruixiang in a marriage he could never escape.

The couple lay on the bed, neither speaking nor sleeping.

Huangfu Ruixiang's feelings were even more complicated. He did not know what he felt at this point, only that after such an incident, Zhong Yating could be his only wife going forward.

Thinking of this made him feel utterly conflicted, for he had planned to take a wife of equal status after divorcing. Now, all those plans dissipated into nothing.

At this time, Zhong Yating remained unconscious, unaware that she had lost her ability to bear children.

If one were to ask who felt the most aggrieved, it would undoubtedly be Li Yiran.

She never expected Zhong Yating to have a chance at turning the tables like this and through such drastic means no less. Now, Huangfu Ruixiang's divorce had become an impossibility.

A sense of loss washed over her. She had done so much, yet it all amounted to nothing in the end. It was not that she never suspected this entire incident to be Zhong Yating's self-orchestrated ploy.

But now, she could not find a single shred of evidence.

Did this mean she had to watch helplessly as Zhong Yating firmly occupied the position of Huangfu Ruixiang's wife? Would she forever remain a lover who could not see the light, constantly suppressed under Zhong Yating's heel?

Especially now that Zhong Yating was Huangfu Jingzhang's lifesaver, would she not grow even more arrogant within the Huangfu family? What status would Li Yiran herself have left?

The thought almost suffocated her.

However, the sole consolation was that Zhong Yating lost her ability to be a mother. Because of this, her own son's status should become even more secure.

At the very least, before Huangfu Ruixiang took any other lovers, this was his one and only son.

Chapter 893: Attending the Banquet

Within the banquet hall of a grand hotel in the capital, the interior was lavishly decorated. The men and women at the banquet wore appropriate haute couture gowns, their faces adorned with suitable makeup and gracious smiles. They gathered in groups, some engaged in lively conversations and laughter, while others raised glasses in merry chats. Moreover, the entire banquet scene appeared occupied solely by the younger generation.

At a glance, one could discern this as an upper-class banquet, a gathering exclusively for the youth of high society.

The moment Zhou Cui'an stepped into the banquet hall, she felt an overwhelming sense of displacement.

She wore the gown from the luxury shop.

Although the dress had been somewhat soiled earlier, she had found a way to clean it. After washing, it seemed to differ slightly from its original state, but unless closely inspected, the difference remained indiscernible.

Before this, Zhou Cui'an had never imagined a garment incapable of being washed or dry-cleaned. It was only at that moment she realized the vastly different world occupied by the upper class compared to her former environment. For others, clothes worth tens of thousands were worn merely once or twice before being discarded.

Such behavior left her speechless, yet simultaneously fueled the wild ambition growing within. She, too, yearned for such a life – to spend lavishly without financial worry, unburdened by monetary concerns.

Today's banquet presented her with the perfect opportunity.

Before meticulously preparing herself, the reflection in the mirror had filled her with confidence. Never had she witnessed such an exquisite version of herself. For that fleeting moment, she felt this lifestyle best suited her.

However, from the instant she stepped into the banquet, all her fantasies seemed to shatter instantaneously. Observing the scene before her, she felt utterly incapable of blending in, even contemplating an immediate departure.

“Junior Sister Zhou, you've arrived!”

Just as Zhou Cui'an wavered in unease, a familiar voice rang out, instantly transporting her from the depths of unease to elation.

Gazing at the approaching Murong Yumeng, she felt her previously restless heart suddenly calming.

“Senior Sister Murong,” Zhou Cui'an greeted politely while secretively observing the banquet from the corner of her eye.

Arriving before Zhou Cui'an, Murong Yumeng's gaze flickered with disdain upon taking in her attire, though her face bore a surprised smile. “Junior Sister Zhou, you look so beautiful! I almost didn't recognize you just now!”

Zhou Cui'an's attendance in this gown was expected, yet Murong Yumeng had not anticipated her directly cleaning the stained collar – evidently, an imperfect attempt, leaving wrinkles that rendered the entire dress appearing cheap.

As anticipated, some qualities were ingrained, not so easily altered.

Upon hearing Murong Yumeng's words, Zhou Cui'an shyly lowered her head, feeling somewhat embarrassed. “You must be joking. How can I compare to the others?”

This was not humility, but the truth.

Before entering, she may have possessed confidence, yet from the moment she stepped into the venue, all assurance crumbled. However, it simultaneously fueled her ambition's unrelenting growth

Murong Yumeng concealed the mocking gleam in her eyes before continuing, “Junior Sister Zhou, come with me. I'll introduce you to some friends!”

After that, she led Zhou Cui'an further inside.

Though striving for composure, Zhou Cui'an could not entirely mask the excitement in her eyes as she followed beside Murong Yumeng.

A gentle smile graced Murong Yumeng's face, yet her eyes held utter disdain, coupled with a hint of excitement.

Ambition was preferable. Only if Zhou Cui'an proved sufficiently greedy could Murong Yumeng better utilize her. Were she truly without desire, another candidate would need to be selected.

Soon, Murong Yumeng brought Zhou Cui'an before a group of young men and women, proceeding with introductions one by one.

Observing those introduced by Murong Yumeng, Zhou Cui'an could not help but feel inferior. Even among them, the most ordinary, Xiao Lingling, hailed from a wealthy household. Only she originated from an impoverished village.

Such disparity caused her heart to race.

Yet, it did not instill any desire to retreat. Instead, it solidified her resolve to remain in the capital and gain entry into upper-class society.

After the introductions concluded, Murong Yumeng smiled at Xiao Lingling. "Lingling, this is Junior Sister Zhou's first time attending such a gathering. Please take good care of her!"

"Of course!" Xiao Lingling approached Zhou Cui'an, taking her hand with a beaming smile. "Junior Sister Zhou, let me show you around!"

Attending her first such occasion, Zhou Cui'an appeared exceptionally reserved, uncertain of how to conduct herself. Thus, she could only follow Xiao Lingling.

However, her most familiar acquaintance present was Murong Yumeng. After receiving Murong Yumeng's affirming nod, she departed with Xiao Lingling.

Not long after their departure, an ordinary-looking man wearing a haute couture suit stepped forward, his gaze trailing the departing Zhou Cui'an as a roguish smile played upon his lips. "Yumeng, who is that girl you brought today? She doesn't seem to be from our circle!"

Though average in appearance, the speaker was no ordinary individual. Those attending this banquet could not possibly hail from commonplace families. This man, Huangfu Shaohua, belonged to a collateral branch of the Huangfu family.

Despite his branch status, his father held a prominent position in Huangye Group, granting him a certain reputation within this circle – enough for even Murong Yumeng not to address him by name.

The gentle smile Murong Yumeng had previously worn before Zhou Cui'an was gone, her expression now one of nonchalant amusement. "Just a girl from some small town. Her family must be quite poor, though she is a top student at Capital University. Why, have you taken a liking to her?"

As she spoke, Murong Yumeng regarded Huangfu Shaohua with a faint, mocking smile. "If I recall correctly, you normally prefer women of seductive charm and voluptuous figures. To fancy such a plain, insipid girl, are you changing your proclivities?"

Chapter 894: Feeling Guilty

A self-satisfied, debonair smile spread across Huangfu Shaohua's face as he continued, "I've had enough of the fancy feasts. Now I want to taste some simple, homely dishes! Why? Can't I take an interest in this girl?"

If Murong Yumeng insisted on shielding Zhou Cui'an, he could only back off. After all, this girl was her guest, and it wouldn't do to act rashly. Otherwise, he'd be openly defying Murong Yumeng, which wasn't worth it over a woman.

Besides, while he was interested, Zhou Cui'an wasn't indispensable. It was better to clarify first.

Murong Yumeng spread her hands nonchalantly. "If you like her, suit yourself, I don't mind. Besides, this Zhou Cui'an would probably be delighted!"

"Oh, so she's a status-seeker!" Huangfu Shaohua scoffed in realization, his expression carrying a hint of disdain. "That's good. Anything money can solve isn't a problem."

With that, he picked up a wine glass and strode off in the direction Zhou Cui'an had departed.

Watching Huangfu Shaohua's retreating back, Murong Yumeng turned unconcernedly and rejoined her friends.

As for whether Zhou Cui'an would be taken advantage of, Murong Yumeng couldn't care less. Moreover, Zhou Cui'an harbored no small ambition. She might even relish such an opportunity!

With this thought, Murong Yumeng chatted amiably with her friends, unburdened.

The entire night felt like a dream to Zhou Cui'an. Never had she imagined attending such a high-class event, dressed beautifully and conversing with the capital's elite like a young heiress.

Yet what delighted her most was meeting a certain man from the Huangfu family at the banquet. Although a mere branch member, he represented an existence once far beyond her reach. But now, this Huangfu Shaohua openly displayed an interest in her.

After the dinner, Huangfu Shaohua escorted Zhou Cui'an back to her dormitory. Even upon learning she wasn't a wealthy young lady, his demeanor remained unchanged.

Before departing, Huangfu Shaohua even obtained Zhou Cui'an's contact details of his own accord.

Returning to her dorm room, Zhou Cui'an couldn't help but smile sweetly. At this moment, her heart brimmed with gratitude toward Murong Yumeng.

For it was Murong Yumeng's invitation that enabled her to encounter Huangfu Shaohua. Though ordinary-looking, he cut a dashing figure in his high-end suit, a million-yuan watch adorning his wrist, coupled with his luxurious sports car – the perfect image of a suave heir.

In Zhou Cui'an's eyes, Huangfu Shaohua embodied her ideal partner. If she could marry him, she would ascend directly into the capital's highest echelons of elite society.

She hadn't forgotten how Huangfu Shaohua addressed Murong Yumeng by name, revealing that despite being a branch member, his status was no mere trifle.

Reflecting on this, a glint of resolute determination flashed across Zhou Cui'an's eyes.

No matter what, she had to secure Huangfu Shaohua and become his wife. Then, she could stand proudly before Ye Leng'an, forcing her to defer.

At this moment, Ye Leng'an remained utterly oblivious to Zhou Cui'an's fanciful delusions.

After a few days in the Hidden World, Ye Leng'an and Huangfu Ruiling returned to the mortal world.

Though the New Year hadn't entirely passed, the festive atmosphere had considerably waned in the capital. Upon their return, the two decided to dine out.

However, much to their surprise, they encountered the Ye family at the hotel's entrance.

Ye Li's earlier dejection was gone. His entire demeanor exuded vigor now. Lin Wanqin remained by his side, her attire unchanged from before, bearing no signs of financial hardship afflicting the Ye family.

Among those accompanying them was their son, Ye Anyun, though Ye Xiyuan was nowhere to be seen.

Witnessing the Ye family in such a state, a flicker of doubt flickered across Ye Leng'an's eyes.

The moment Ye Li noticed her presence, he swiftly averted his gaze, acting as though he'd seen nothing before brushing past Ye Leng'an with his family in tow.

His manner exuded an inexplicable sense of guilt.

After entering the private dining room, Ye Leng'an remained preoccupied with thoughts of the Ye family.

Huangfu Ruiling poured a cup of hot tea, placing it directly into Ye Leng'an's hands.

The sudden warmth jolted Ye Leng'an from her reverie. Glancing at the teacup, she felt a tinge of exasperation. "What are you doing?"

"Thinking about the Ye family?" Huangfu Ruiling arched a brow. "Don't dwell on it overmuch. Have some tea first."

Ye Leng'an shook her head in amusement but sipped the hot tea before speaking. "I just find it strange. Previously, the Ye family already teetered on the brink. I thought they'd gone bankrupt, yet now they appear unaffected by any turmoil."

Back then, had circumstances not driven Ye Li and Lin Wanqin into a corner, they wouldn't have sought her out.

However, after her rejection, she no longer paid them any heed. Thus, upon witnessing their seemingly unchanged state today, she couldn't help but feel perplexed.

“I’ll have someone investigate,” Huangfu Ruiling said flatly. “But why this sudden interest in their affairs?”

“I just sense something amiss.” Ye Leng’an struggled to articulate her feelings. “Clearly, I feel detached from the Ye family’s matters. Yet when I saw Ye Li today, I don’t know why, but he seemed...guilty.”

It was this inexplicable sensation that kept drawing her thoughts back to the matter.

She cared not what became of the Ye family or whether they rebounded. Her ties to them had long been severed. However, an uncanny feeling persisted nonetheless.

Upon hearing her words, Huangfu Ruiling frowned before gently patting her hand. “Alright, I shall have this looked into first. If anything comes to light regarding the Ye family’s current circumstances, we’ll discuss it then.”

Ye Leng’an nodded, saying no more.

Chapter 895: Dragging Her Down

Inside the adjacent private room.

Today, Ye Li took his wife and children out for dinner, but Ye Xiyuan was notably absent.

During the recent turmoil in the Ye family, Ye Xiyuan refused to seek help from Nangong Riming. Since then, Ye Li had practically disowned her.

Rumors had it that Second Madam Nangong was pregnant and due to give birth soon. This put Nangong Riming in an awkward position within the family. Given his lackluster achievements, he was already undervalued.

Ye Xiyuan had made a brief visit to the Ye family afterward, presumably to reconcile. However, Ye Li paid her no heed, not even granting her an audience.

On the other hand, seeing Ye Xiyuan’s weary appearance, Lin Wanqin, though hesitant, felt a pang of sympathy. Yet, she dared not voice her feelings, bound by her husband’s stance.

During today’s family gathering, Ye Li purposefully omitted to invite Ye Xiyuan. He now acted as if she didn’t exist, curious to see how she’d fare if she married Nangong Riming.

What was meant to be a joyous occasion was marred by the unexpected encounter with Ye Leng’an, casting a shadow over the gathering.

Except for Ye Anyun, who remained unaffected, both Ye Li and Lin Wanqin seemed preoccupied.

However, being a man, Ye Anyun failed to notice his parents’ unease.

When Ye Anyun stepped out of the room, Lin Wanqin couldn’t help but voice her concerns. “Honey, do you think Ye Leng’an suspects us?”

Encountering Ye Leng’an today made her feel guilty for her previous actions, almost betraying Ye Leng’an.

“Don’t speak foolishly,” Ye Li warned, his tone stern. “We have nothing to do with Ye Leng’an anymore. Besides, we haven’t done anything that could be considered betrayal.”

“But, we...” Lin Wanqin stopped herself mid-sentence, realizing something. Though still uneasy, she didn’t press further. “I can’t shake off the feeling that Ye Leng’an’s gaze was peculiar when she saw us. What if she knows something?”

“As long as you keep quiet, she’ll never find out,” Ye Li said coldly. “And if we happen to meet again, you mustn’t show any guilt. Ye Leng’an is sharp. Acting suspiciously will only raise her suspicions.”

“I understand.” Lin Wanqin nodded. Though still uneasy, she managed a smile. “Honey, what do you think those people are planning to do with that thing?”

“What concern is it of ours?” Ye Li glanced at her before continuing, “From now on, forget all about it, whether the matter or the item.”

Ye Li’s expression grew graver. “Remember, we survived this crisis because of the friend we once helped. That’s the only reason, understand?”

Lin Wanqin nodded. She wanted to say more but stopped upon seeing Ye Anyun return.

Only Lin Wanqin and her husband knew about the incident; they’d kept their son in the dark. And they intended to keep it that way.

After intentionally putting aside their encounter with Ye Leng’an, Ye Li’s family enjoyed their meal in peace.

However, their tranquility was disrupted when Ye Xiyuan suddenly barged in halfway through. It was Lin Wanqin who had disclosed the news to her, hoping to mend the relationship between father and daughter.

However, Ye Li had no intention of forgiving Ye Xiyuan. He promptly kicked her out of the room and warned Lin Wanqin sternly. If she repeated her actions, she’d be evicted from the family to join Ye Xiyuan.

After this stern warning, even if Lin Wanqin felt a pang of guilt, she didn’t dare help Ye Xiyuan again.

Locked outside the room, Ye Xiyuan’s face was clouded with gloom. She hadn’t anticipated her father’s callousness. It seemed he truly no longer considered her his daughter.

A true merchant, concerned only with profits. Just because she hadn’t sought Nangong Riming’s help during the family crisis, they now refused to acknowledge her.

But had they considered her precarious position beside Nangong Riming? Without a powerful family backing her, she’d have no place by his side were it not for her advantage of being reborn.

They, as her parents, couldn’t assist her but instead dragged her down.

And now, they were willing to sever ties over a trivial matter.

Had they not considered the significance of the Ye family? Holding onto Nangong Riming would elevate the Ye family even further, wouldn't it?

Even if the Ye family hadn't fully recovered, as long as she remained Nangong Riming's fiancée, her father and the others wouldn't suffer. Right?

Moreover, hadn't the Ye family also recovered now? From this, it could be seen that the situation last time wasn't as exaggerated as her father claimed!

What imminent danger? It was all hyperbole!

However, she knew her father held a grudge against her now. Dismissing it wouldn't be easy.

But she firmly believed that once she married Nangong Riming, her father would eventually forgive her. After all, to someone like her father, benefits were paramount.

Of course, there was another crucial aspect. She needed her maternal family. Otherwise, she wouldn't stand a chance once she married Nangong Riming.

Lost in thought, Ye Xiyuan glanced up and caught sight of a nearby private room's door opening. A waiter entered, bearing dishes.

Through the gap, she saw the diners inside. They were none other than Ye Leng'an and Huangfu Ruiling.

At that moment, Ye Leng'an seemed troubled, while Huangfu Ruiling appeared to be comforting her, even feeding her directly.

Chapter 896: Her Fear

Such a scene suddenly was quite a shock for Ye Xiyuan.

It had been a long time since she last saw Ye Leng'an. Or perhaps, she had almost forgotten about her by now. Meeting her again so suddenly, she was momentarily taken aback.

Soon enough, she regained her composure, followed by a surge of intense jealousy and resentment.

Facing Ye Leng'an, she felt like a joke. She was supposed to be the chosen one, yet because of Ye Leng'an, she had been pushed to this extent.

Despite being young and beautiful, she found herself groveling to a despicable man like Nangong Riming. Meanwhile, Ye Leng'an was able to be with a young talent like Huangfu Ruiling.

She had even had the chance to shine in the college entrance exam. However, all because of Ye Leng'an, she had become a complete laughingstock.

Despite her heart being filled with hatred, Ye Xiyuan gritted her teeth and suppressed the anger about to erupt from within. She turned and left.

She knew full well that in Ye Leng'an's presence, she was nothing but insignificant. If a conflict were to arise, she would undoubtedly be the one at a disadvantage.

Her focus now was not to continue squabbling with Ye Leng'an, but to live her life to the fullest.

With these thoughts in mind, Ye Xiyuan hastened her steps, taking advantage of Ye Leng'an's distraction to swiftly leave the hotel.

Little did she know that Ye Leng'an had already noticed her presence the moment she passed by.

After the waiter left, Ye Leng'an sighed. "Ye Xiyuan is like a cockroach that just won't die! But, her patron, Nangong Riming, must be having a hard time too!"

"Second Madam Nangong is already pregnant, about to give birth," Huangfu Ruiling replied casually. "And, I've confirmed it at the hospital. It's a boy. So, Nangong Riming is in a rather awkward position."

Previously, Nangong family's second branch had no sons, making Nangong Riming the heir of the second branch. However, now that Second Madam Nangong was pregnant, the child would rightfully inherit. Moreover, with the powerful backing of Second Madam Nangong's maternal family, Nangong Riming, as an illegitimate child, was no match.

Even Second Master Nangong had his mind focused on the upcoming child, with no time for Nangong Riming.

Hearing this news, Ye Leng'an's mood undoubtedly lifted. She picked up a piece of meat and happily took a bite. "Then Ye Xiyuan must be having a tough time, right?"

"She's still repeating her studies," Huangfu Ruiling replied. "But her mind is not on studying now, but on Nangong Riming. She's hardly attending school regularly. At this rate, she won't make it to university this year."

Ever since he learned of the feud between Ye Leng'an and Ye Xiyuan, he had kept an eye on Ye Xiyuan. So when Ye Leng'an asked, he was ready with the answer.

"What a waste of the chance God gave her." Ye Leng'an smirked mockingly. "But does she really think Nangong Riming is someone she can rely on? How naive!"

After a moment of thought, Huangfu Ruiling asked, "So, what do you plan to do about Ye Xiyuan?"

Ye Leng'an's smile turned cold. "When she loses everything, it's time for her to pay for the mistakes of her past life."

She never intended to let Ye Xiyuan off; she was her inner demon from a past life. Destroying this inner demon was necessary for her breakthrough in cultivation.

In the Hidden World's Ye family.

Ye Yikun was sitting in his courtyard.

Standing before him was Ye Wanwan.

At this moment, Ye Wanwan kept her head low, a hint of fear in her expression. Perhaps because her body hadn't fully recovered, her complexion remained pale, looking as though she might collapse at any moment.

In reality, her condition wasn't good at all. According to the doctor's advice, she should be resting in bed.

However, her grandfather had instructed her to come over as soon as she woke up. She didn't dare hesitate and hurried over.

She knew that her recent foolish actions would surely anger her grandfather. So, before coming over, she had mentally prepared herself to face his stormy scolding.

However, ever since she entered the courtyard, her grandfather had remained silent, not uttering a word to her, nor scolding her.

This didn't ease her at all; instead, it made her even more uneasy.

If her grandfather scolded or cursed her now, it would mean he still had expectations for her. But now, with his silence, she feared he had already decided to give up on her.

The thought of being abandoned filled Ye Wanwan with endless panic.

Finally, after a long silence, Ye Yikun spoke, "Ye Wanwan, do you know what you did wrong this time?"

Ye Wanwan's heart skipped a beat, and she immediately sobered up. "Grandfather, I was wrong. I shouldn't have falsely accused Ye Leng'an."

She wasn't sure if her answer was what her grandfather wanted, but one thing was clear. She was truly in the wrong this time.

"No, that's not what I want to say. You didn't have the strength to do so, yet you provoked her." Ye Yikun's cold gaze landed on Ye Wanwan. "Do you know that because of your ignorant actions, the Ye family is now in the middle of the storm?"

Ye Wanwan opened her mouth, but she didn't know how to explain herself. She couldn't say anything.

"There's one more important thing." Ye Yikun's tone became even colder.

"Because of this matter, your identity is about to be exposed. Are you not planning on getting married to the Murong family?"

As soon as he said that, Ye Wanwan's face turned even paler as if she would collapse at any moment.

That was what she was most worried about at the moment. Previously, she had always hidden her identity in front of Murong Xingrui, but now everything was exposed.

Chapter 897: Appease

On this particular evening, Ye Wanwan's mind was in disarray, unsure of what steps to take.

For now, she could use her recovery as an excuse to avoid meeting Murong Xingrui. However, such an excuse wouldn't hold forever. Besides, Murong Xingrui might eventually come to visit, and then they would have to face each other.

The mere thought of this troubled Ye Wanwan deeply.

Silence hung heavy in the air.

Neither Ye Yikun nor Ye Wanwan dared to break the silence, each lost in their own turmoil.

Up to this point, Ye Wanwan remained uncertain about her grandfather's thoughts and feared he might have given up on her. She worried that her actions had tarnished the Ye family's reputation, jeopardizing her standing within it.

Finally breaking the silence, Ye Yikun fixed his gaze upon Ye Wanwan and spoke with indifference, "Ye Wanwan, you've truly disappointed me this time. Ye Leng'an posed no real threat to you, yet you foolishly sought to implicate her. In doing so, you not only humiliated yourself but also brought disgrace upon the entire Ye family. Now, I can't help but question whether it was a mistake to help you when you lost your cultivation."

His words left Ye Wanwan feeling weak in the knees. She knelt before him, her voice trembling with fear. "Grandfather, I was wrong. Please give me another chance!"

As she spoke, Ye Wanwan's voice quivered with apprehension. She understood that her grandfather's judgment weighed heavily upon her, far more than that of her parents.

While her parents' affection provided some solace, her grandfather's disapproval struck at the core of her identity within the Ye family. Crossing his threshold of tolerance had placed her in peril of expulsion, a fate she dreaded.

The prospect of leaving the Ye family left her feeling utterly bereft. Those she once looked down upon would become unattainable, and the loss of her cultivation hung over her like a specter.

Observing Ye Wanwan's supplication, Ye Yikun remained unmoved. His eyes betrayed no emotion as he granted her a reprieve. "Ye Wanwan, I'll give you one more chance. I won't intervene with the Murong family. You must resolve it on your own. If you lose this marriage, there will be no reason for you to remain in the Ye family. Furthermore, if such an incident occurs again, you'll be cast out of the Ye family. Additionally, you must return everything the Ye family has bestowed upon you."

With a definitive response at last, Ye Wanwan breathed a sigh of relief. Yet, the coldness in her grandfather's gaze sent a shiver down her spine.

Unable to comprehend how she mustered the strength to leave her grandfather's courtyard, Ye Wanwan soon found herself unconscious upon departure.

When she awoke, she was back in her own courtyard.

Her mother, Lian Mengzhu, sat beside her bed, her expression etched with concern.

Seeing Ye Wanwan awake, Lian Mengzhu's relief was palpable. Yet, her tone remained apprehensive. "Wanwan, how are you feeling now?"

In truth, Lian Mengzhu wanted to ask about the events in her father's courtyard and why Ye Wanwan fainted upon leaving. However, she refrained from asking, fearing it might agitate her daughter further and hinder her recovery.

Struggling to sit up, Ye Wanwan leaned against the headboard, her complexion pallid. Despite her delicate appearance, she lacked vitality.

“I’m fine, Mother. You needn’t worry,” she reassured, her disappointment evident as she glanced around.

She hadn’t expected her father to neglect her in her time of need. Was it because of the banquet incident that he now distanced himself from her?

Sensing Ye Wanwan’s thoughts, Lian Mengzhu reassured her, “Your father was present when you fainted earlier. He had to attend to an urgent matter, which is why he left. He still cares for you.”

Upon hearing her mother’s comforting words, Ye Wanwan’s spirits lifted slightly.

Regardless of their veracity, her mother’s willingness to console her affirmed her place in her heart.

Gently stroking Ye Wanwan’s hair, Lian Mengzhu advised, “Wanwan, don’t dwell on it. Focus on recuperating. Your health is paramount. As for other matters, we’ll address them in due course.”

Ye Wanwan nodded obediently, refraining from further comment.

To ensure Ye Wanwan’s rest, Lian Mengzhu departed after a brief exchange. Yet, as soon as the door closed, her smile vanished, replaced by a furrowed brow.

Actually, those words she just said were indeed meant to appease Ye Wanwan.

Because of what happened at the banquet, her husband still harbored some resentment. Although he still cared deeply for Wanwan in private, he didn’t come over.

She also had complicated feelings.

However, seeing Ye Wanwan’s pale, bloodless face, and considering all the ups and downs over the years, she couldn’t bring herself to be stern. After all, Wanwan was the child she had raised.

She did want to inquire about what happened at the banquet, but she also worried it might affect Ye Wanwan’s recovery, so she held back.

With these thoughts in mind, Lian Mengzhu couldn’t help but sigh deeply and shake her head in resignation.

Afterward, she went to find Ye Hongxuan. There were some matters she needed to discuss with her husband.

Chapter 898: An Overwhelming Change

Time flew by quickly. In the blink of an eye, the new year was over. Winter vacation ended, and it was time to go back to school.

After the winter break, Ye Leng’an successfully obtained her driver’s license. For convenience, she drove straight to school.

However, this didn't cause much of a stir. Previously, considering the university's relatively simple environment, she had bought a modest car costing just two to three hundred thousand. Although not cheap, such a car wasn't very conspicuous on campus.

After all, this was the capital, and many families could afford cars. A vehicle worth a couple hundred thousand wasn't particularly eye-catching at the university.

Ye Leng'an returned to the dormitory a day early. The moment she entered, she saw Zhu Bixuan and Ling Weiwei already packing their belongings. Clearly, these two had come back a little earlier than her.

"Leng'an, you're back!" Zhu Bixuan greeted her first. "How was your winter vacation?"

"Not bad." Ye Leng'an smiled and nodded. "When did you two get back?"

"Just now." Zhu Bixuan complained as she packed, "Almost a month away, and these blankets smell musty now. Not enough time to air them out properly."

Hearing Zhu Bixuan's grumbling, Ye Leng'an just smiled, saying nothing more.

Ling Weiwei quietly packed her own things, her demeanor calm – a far cry from the arrogant attitude she had at the start of the school year.

Observing this new Ling Weiwei, Ye Leng'an couldn't help marveling inwardly. University really could change people!

When Zhou Cui'an first arrived, she came across as an earnest, honest girl. Yet now she seemed to have become vain. Conversely, Ling Weiwei, initially presumed to be an arrogant brat, appeared much more composed these days.

"Hey, Zhou Cui'an isn't here yet!" Zhu Bixuan remarked after looking around. "I thought she'd be the first one back! I heard she stayed in the capital for a holiday job. Why is she so late?"

Upon hearing this, a sharp glint flashed across Ye Leng'an's eyes. She set down her things and began unpacking, not uttering a word.

For a while, the three roommates busied themselves with their respective tasks in the small dorm room, occasionally exchanging a few words in the harmonious atmosphere.

However, at that moment, the door abruptly swung open, and Zhou Cui'an barged in wheeling her luggage, shattering the peaceful ambiance.

After the winter break, Zhou Cui'an had undergone a drastic transformation. Her face was dolled up with exquisite makeup, and she wore a well-fitted branded dress. Her previously straight long hair was now styled in big curly waves, and an expensive-looking diamond bracelet adorned her wrist.

One could say Zhou Cui'an had completely reinvented herself, shedding her former simple, rustic demeanor to become a modern city belle.

Surprise flickered in Ye Leng'an's eyes. She could tell Zhou Cui'an's entire outfit easily cost over a hundred thousand. No holiday job could possibly earn that much in just one winter vacation.

Zhou Cui'an strutted into the room, head held high and chest puffed out, radiating an air of confidence as she beamed at her three roommates. "Didn't expect you all to be back so early!"

During this time, Zhou Cui'an had lived quite comfortably. Ever since attending that banquet, she frequently met up with Huangfu Shaohua for dates. The clothes she now wore were all gifts from him.

After a few such outings, she had already agreed to become Huangfu Shaohua's girlfriend.

Since becoming his girlfriend, she felt her life had peaked. Huangfu Shaohua was very generous, often lavishing her with expensive gifts and taking her shopping. This made her feel like she had ascended into the capital's high society.

Not long after getting together with Huangfu Shaohua, she had already become his kept woman. She had no regrets about this and had even resolved to find a way to tie him down as his official wife.

She was different from Ye Leng'an. She would never stoop so low as to become someone's secret mistress. Now that she had become Huangfu Shaohua's woman, she was determined to marry him properly.

Thinking this, Zhou Cui'an shot Ye Leng'an a disdainful look.

Unlike Ye Leng'an, she definitely did not want to end up currying favor with some old man just to lead an affluent life.

Although Murong Yumeng had never explicitly stated that Ye Leng'an's so-called fiancé was elderly, Zhou Cui'an was convinced he must be an old man.

Otherwise, why had she never seen this supposed fiancé come looking for Ye Leng'an? Moreover, Ye Leng'an had never breathed a word about him!

If he truly were some young, eligible bachelor, how could he be too shy to meet people?

Bewildered by Zhou Cui'an's strange gaze, Ye Leng'an ignored her and continued unpacking.

"Wow, Cui'an, you seem completely different!" Zhu Bixuan exclaimed in astonishment. "What did you do this winter vacation to earn so much money?"

There was no ulterior motive behind Zhu Bixuan's words – merely curiosity.

However, Zhou Cui'an appeared to have misunderstood, freezing momentarily before smiling and explaining, "I didn't buy these. They're all gifts from my boyfriend."

As she spoke, she shot Ye Leng'an a smug glance.

She wanted Ye Leng'an to know she was no longer the impoverished Zhou Cui'an of the past.

Previously at the mall, Ye Leng'an had so humiliated her. Zhou Cui'an remembered it all too well and would definitely not let her get away with it.

“You have a boyfriend?” Zhu Bixuan sounded surprised. “I didn’t expect you’d get one in just this winter break!”

Neither Ye Leng’an nor Ling Weiwei reacted – not even sparing Zhou Cui’an a glance as they busied themselves, leaving her words hanging.

This irked Zhou Cui’an, who smiled and said outright, “Yes! I met him at a banquet. Come to think of it, if not for Leng’an, I might not have had such an opportunity!”

Chapter 899: Her Boyfriend

Suddenly called out, Ye Leng’an was momentarily stunned. She never expected this matter to involve her. Raising an eyebrow, she didn’t respond, though the confusion was clear on her face.

Zhu Bixuan glanced between Ye Leng’an and Zhou Cui’an, a hint of gossip in her eyes. “Cui’an, what’s going on here? Don’t tell me Leng’an brought you to that banquet?”

Though she said that, it was meant as a mere joke. From their interactions last semester, she knew Ye Leng’an and Zhou Cui’an shared no deep bond – just pride at most. Under such circumstances, she couldn’t imagine Ye Leng’an having the leisure for that.

“No, that’s not it.” Zhou Cui’an shook her head, a sarcastic edge to her voice. “Because of Leng’an, I got to know Senior Sister Murong! You probably don’t know, but she introduced my winter job. She even brought me to a high society banquet. That’s where I met my current boyfriend. You see, all thanks to Leng’an!”

Realization dawned in Ye Leng’an’s eyes. She had a rough idea of what happened, though she didn’t expect Zhou Cui’an to get entangled with Murong Yumeng.

She just didn’t know Murong Yumeng’s true intentions and didn’t believe that woman performed good deeds every day.

“Why are you hanging around Murong Yumeng?” Zhu Bixuan couldn’t help but frown. “She...”

Before she could finish, Zhou Cui’an cut her off. “Senior Sister Murong is a good person who’s helped me a lot. Unlike some people who clearly could help but chose to watch me suffer instead.”

As she spoke, Zhou Cui’an shot Ye Leng’an a pointed look.

She hadn’t forgotten the mall incident. If not for Ye Leng’an’s refusal to help, she wouldn’t have been left in that humiliating situation. They were all roommates! Yet Ye Leng’an heartlessly abandoned her to face that ridicule alone.

Had Senior Sister Murong not intervened, Zhou Cui’an might’ve truly ended up at the police station, her plight made public knowledge. If that happened, she couldn’t possibly remain at this university.

Compared to Ye Leng’an’s inaction, Senior Sister Murong was a kind fairy.

Seeing Zhou Cui'an's expression, Zhu Bixuan wanted to say more but was stopped by Ling Weiwei.

"Bixuan, don't," Ling Weiwei calmly interjected. "Cui'an's not a child anymore. She has her own judgment. As outsiders, we shouldn't advise her too much."

Zhou Cui'an clearly wouldn't listen to anyone else – she had convinced herself Murong Yumeng was good. If so, why bother playing the villain?

Understanding Ling Weiwei's point, Zhu Bixuan finally chose to remain silent after glancing at Zhou Cui'an's demeanor.

However, Zhou Cui'an clearly had no intention of dropping it. Eyeing the other three with a hint of smugness, she continued, "In a few days, when I have time, I'll ask my boyfriend to treat you all to dinner! We can meet up then, so you'll recognize him on the street. Oh, I haven't even told you my boyfriend's name! It's Huangfu Shaohua, from the Huangfu family – one of the four major families of the capital."

Upon hearing this, Zhu Bixuan and Ling Weiwei immediately looked at Zhou Cui'an, eyes wide with disbelief.

Although not capital natives, they'd heard of the four major families – not just the capital's elite aristocracy, but among the entire nation's nobility. One had to know Murong Yumeng's fame at Capital University stemmed largely from her own Murong family belonging to that esteemed quartet.

Who could have imagined Zhou Cui'an's boyfriend hailed from the Huangfu family? What insane luck was this?

Ye Leng'an didn't outwardly react much, but hearing Huangfu Shaohua's name did make her eyes flicker with surprise.

Seeing the shock on Zhu Bixuan and Ling Weiwei's faces filled Zhou Cui'an with satisfaction.

All this time in the dorm, her family background paled in comparison to the others. For that reason alone, she always felt inferior to her three roommates.

But now, everything was different. She was Huangfu Shaohua's girlfriend now, set to marry into the Huangfu family. By then, she would indisputably be the one living best. Perhaps the others might even come currying favor!

However, Ye Leng'an's indifference still irked her.

"Leng'an, I hear you seem to have a fiancé too. Is that true?" Zhou Cui'an immediately turned her sights on Ye Leng'an, a smile playing on her lips. "Why don't you bring him out together when the time comes? It'll be good for everyone to get acquainted!"

She didn't believe Ye Leng'an would willingly bring out her so-called fiancé. Just some rich old man, no doubt. If truly introduced, everyone would know she was a mere plaything for the wealthy elderly.

“Leng’an, you’re actually engaged?” Zhu Bixuan exclaimed in surprise. “How come you never mentioned it before?”

“Nothing worth mentioning,” Ye Leng’an said evenly. “We got engaged that summer after graduating high school. He keeps a low profile and doesn’t like meeting strangers.”

Seeing Ye Leng’an’s reluctance to elaborate, Zhu Bixuan laughed awkwardly, rubbing her nose before falling silent.

However, Zhou Cui’an clearly had no intention of letting it go. “I see! No wonder you can afford such a comfortable university life, Leng’an. Your fiancé’s family must be loaded to let you splurge like this.”

She believed that Ye Leng’an made it sound so pretty, but was obviously unwilling to introduce him! If he truly existed, why would Ye Leng’an hide him so?

Now Zhou Cui’an was even more convinced that Ye Leng’an’s supposed fiancé was definitely some shriveled old codger. Or perhaps afflicted by some condition.

Otherwise, why would Ye Leng’an be so averse to even mentioning him?

Not being fools, Zhu Bixuan and Ling Weiwei could sense the sarcasm in Zhou Cui’an’s words. Worriedly, they looked towards Ye Leng’an.

Chapter 900: Fate

Facing such sarcasm, a cold glint flashed in Ye Leng’an’s eyes. She then looked up at Zhou Cui’an. “What happened between me and my fiancé is none of your business. I don’t care where you heard this from, but don’t try to provoke me. Otherwise, the consequences will definitely be more than you can handle.”

Ye Leng’an’s abrupt change startled Zhou Cui’an. She didn’t know why, but seeing Ye Leng’an like this suddenly made her feel guilty and afraid.

However, she quickly regained her composure and glared defiantly at Ye Leng’an. She said self-righteously, “Ye Leng’an, why are you overreacting? What I said is the truth! Could it be that you’re so angry because I hit the nail on the head?”

She wasn’t afraid of Ye Leng’an’s threats! If Ye Leng’an’s so-called fiancé was really that powerful, how could he have never been mentioned before? The person willing to give Ye Leng’an so much money to spend was probably some nouveau riche or old man!

Now that her boyfriend was from the prestigious Huangfu family in the capital, what did she have to fear? Ye Leng’an should be the one worrying now.

“Why would I be angry?” Ye Leng’an looked at Zhou Cui’an with a faint smile. “Zhou Cui’an, your matters have nothing to do with me. It’s best you don’t meddle in my affairs either. If we mind our own business, life will be better for all.”

Although they had conflicts before, Ye Leng'an hadn't taken them to heart. She just wanted to live her university life peacefully without too much interaction with Zhou Cui'an.

However, if Zhou Cui'an refused to behave, then she wouldn't reject teaching her a lesson on proper conduct!

"You..." Zhou Cui'an's face flushed red. She took a deep breath, struggling to suppress her anger, before slowly saying, "Ye Leng'an, don't think you're so great. If you really are that powerful, then you shouldn't have to rely on your fiancé! And don't forget who my boyfriend is. Let me tell you, if you provoke me, I'll make sure you can't survive at Capital University."

Ye Leng'an shrugged nonchalantly. "Then go ahead and try. See if you can really make things difficult for me here."

After saying that, she stood up and left the dorm without even looking at Zhou Cui'an again, appearing exceptionally casual.

Zhu Bixuan and Ling Weiwei exchanged a glance, put down what they were holding, and also walked out.

For a moment, Zhou Cui'an was the only one left in the dorm.

Watching the others leave one by one, Zhou Cui'an's expression darkened. She didn't expect that no one in the dorm would take her side, especially now that they all knew her boyfriend was Huangfu Shaohua, yet they still dared to treat her like this.

Thinking about it, no matter what, she couldn't calm down. If this wasn't the dorm, she might have shouted to vent her anger.

She vowed inwardly that she would make Ye Leng'an pay.

In the past, she still had some reservations, but now that she had Huangfu Shaohua backing her, she wasn't afraid of Ye Leng'an at all. She had to teach Ye Leng'an a lesson, so she would know not to bully her.

At that moment, her phone rang with a crisp tone. Seeing the number on the screen, Zhou Cui'an's expression changed immediately. The gloomy look on her face cleared up, replaced by a smile. When she spoke, her tone became gentler by a few degrees.

"Senior Sister Murong, what's the matter?"

Half an hour later, at a cafe outside school, Zhou Cui'an and Murong Yumeng sat across from each other, both with smiles on their faces, appearing to get along very well.

"Cui'an, you and Shaohua are together now, aren't you?" Murong Yumeng smiled and teased, "I didn't expect you two to progress so quickly!"

She wasn't a naive little girl. With just one glance, she could tell that Huangfu Shaohua had already succeeded.

It seemed that Zhou Cui'an was really greedy and vain! In such a short time, she was taken down by Huangfu Shaohua. Her willpower really wasn't very strong!

Unfortunately, Zhou Cui'an didn't understand one thing. The easier it was to obtain, the less likely a man would cherish it. Their honeymoon phase shouldn't last long.

Zhou Cui'an was completely unaware of Murong Yumeng's disdain. After hearing those words, she was only happy. She lowered her head shyly and said gratefully, "I should thank you, Senior Sister! If it weren't for you, Shaohua and I wouldn't have had the chance to get to know each other! Thank you so much."

Murong Yumeng shook her head with a smile and said, "Shaohua and I are friends, and you're my junior. I'm very happy that the two of you can be together. Actually, I didn't do anything. It's fate that you two are together."

Hearing Murong Yumeng's words, Zhou Cui'an felt very sweet.

Looking at Zhou Cui'an's demeanor, a hint of mockery flashed in Murong Yumeng's eyes. Then, she changed the topic. "Oh, by the way, school started today. How does it feel to be back on campus?"

The smile on Zhou Cui'an's face disappeared instantly.

Seeing the change in Zhou Cui'an's expression, Murong Yumeng asked with concern, "Junior Sister Zhou, what's wrong? Did something happen?"

"It's nothing." Zhou Cui'an shook her head. After thinking for a moment, she still said, "It's just that when I returned to the dorm today, I had a small conflict with Ye Leng'an."

A flash of surprise appeared in Murong Yumeng's eyes, but her face was full of astonishment. "How could this be? You and Leng'an are both good-natured people. How could there be a conflict between you two? Is there some misunderstanding?"

"Senior Sister Murong, don't be fooled by Ye Leng'an. You have no idea what kind of person she really is. She's definitely not as innocent as you think," Zhou Cui'an said anxiously. "It's better for you to stay away from her in the future. Otherwise, if you get hurt by her, it'll be too late for regrets."

"Leng'an isn't that kind of person," Murong Yumeng quickly said, "She's just cold by nature."