

Full-Level 941

Chapter 941: Paying the Price

Looking at Zhou Cui'an's ferocious expression, Ye Leng'an couldn't help but laugh. "Zhou Cui'an, don't treat everyone else like fools."

"Ye Leng'an, no matter how you put it, you just won't let me off the hook, will you?" There was a hint of resentment in Zhou Cui'an's eyes. "Why are you so cruel? Do you know how hard I worked and how much effort I put into getting into Capital University? Why would you ruin my future over such a trivial matter?"

"A trivial matter?" Ye Leng'an's expression turned cold upon hearing Zhou Cui'an's words. "Zhou Cui'an, you keep saying you know you're wrong, but now you're describing your slanderous actions as trivial. Is this how someone who acknowledges their mistake behaves?"

"Ye Leng'an, you're simply going too far."

Zhou Cui'an finally realized that Ye Leng'an had no intention of letting this matter go. Even after she had apologized and admitted her mistake, she still intended to pursue it. Since that was the case, she saw no reason to continue bowing down to her.

"I've already been sincere enough. You're just heartless. And now, you're using all sorts of excuses to cover up your actions. Let me tell you, if you won't let me live in peace, I won't let you either."

"Zhou Cui'an, everyone must pay the price for their actions. It's only by paying the price that one learns a lesson and knows what they can and cannot do in the future." Ye Leng'an looked at Zhou Cui'an, sneering. "As for how you plan to make me suffer, I'll wait and see."

With that, she walked past Zhou Cui'an and left the classroom.

She didn't want to waste any more time dealing with Zhou Cui'an, especially when the other was being so persistent.

Watching Ye Leng'an's confident departure, Zhou Cui'an's eyes reddened with hatred. Clenching her fists and gritting her teeth, she emitted an intense aura of animosity.

For Ye Leng'an, Zhou Cui'an's actions were just a minor incident, having no real impact on her.

However, after this incident, discussions about it in the school grew increasingly heated. Opinions were divided but generally fell into two camps.

Some believed that Ye Leng'an's actions were justified. Everyone should face the consequences of their actions. The internet was not above the law. If someone did wrong, they should bear the repercussions. Others felt that since Zhou Cui'an had admitted her mistake, Ye Leng'an shouldn't continue to press her. Instead, she should forgive her classmate with a broader mind.

This incident sparked unprecedented attention to cyberbullying. Many individuals began to think twice before posting, considering whether their words were true and their potential impact on others.

Observing the changes in the school forum, the school leaders were pleased. It solidified their determination to use this incident as a lesson for all students.

The trial between Ye Leng'an and Zhou Cui'an proceeded swiftly. Ye Leng'an did not attend but instead entrusted her lawyer to represent her fully. As for Zhou Cui'an, although she had also hired a lawyer, it was undoubtedly clear that she lost the lawsuit.

The outcome of this trial was predictable, as Ye Leng'an had ample evidence on her side. When Zhou Cui'an posted the message, it was merely an act of personal vindication, lacking any evidence to substantiate the truthfulness of her post.

The court rendered its verdict, not only requiring Zhou Cui'an to publicly apologize to Ye Leng'an but also ordering her to provide a hundred thousand in compensation for mental distress.

On the day of the trial, although Ye Leng'an did not appear in court, she also did not attend classes. Instead, she skipped the entire day and remained in her villa to rest.

With Ye Leng'an absent from class, Huangfu Ruiling naturally didn't go to work at the company. Instead, he stayed with Ye Leng'an at the villa, enjoying some quality time together.

At that moment, the two of them were nestled on the sofa watching a movie. Huangfu Ruiling lounged on the sofa, exuding a lazy and sensual aura, while Ye Leng'an lay with her head resting on his thigh.

As they quietly watched the movie, a warm and sweet atmosphere enveloped them, tinted with intimacy. However, just as the movie continued to play, the sharp ringing of a phone shattered the cozy ambiance.

Ye Leng'an picked up her phone and answered the call. After a brief conversation, she ended with a simple "Got it" before hanging up.

Huangfu Ruiling reached out, stroking her hair. "Was that a call from the lawyer?"

Today was the day of the court hearing. Considering the swift legal proceedings, the case should have reached a verdict by now.

"Indeed." Ye Leng'an attempted to nod but found it awkward in her current position, so she abandoned the idea. "The court has made its decision. The matter is considered resolved."

After relaying the court's verdict, Ye Leng'an continued, "I don't particularly care about the one hundred thousand compensation for mental distress. However, the public apology is necessary."

A shadow passed over Huangfu Ruiling's eyes as he remarked, "There's something else you might find interesting. Huangfu Shaohua is getting married."

"What?" Ye Leng'an almost sat up upon hearing the news, but Huangfu Ruiling quickly calmed her down. She settled back down and asked eagerly, "How is this happening so suddenly? I don't recall you mentioning this before!"

“It’s a perfectly normal affair, isn’t it?” Huangfu Ruiling raised an eyebrow. “The marriage between Huangfu Shaohua and Xiao Ruowen, the third daughter of the Xiao family, has long been arranged. Now that they’re not getting any younger, planning to tie the knot seems perfectly reasonable, doesn’t it?”

“Really?” Ye Leng’an narrowed her eyes, gazing at his flawless face above her. “Why do I feel like there’s more to this than meets the eye?”

Chapter 942: The Matter is Resolved

“That’s an overanalysis on your part.” Huangfu Ruiling met Ye Leng’an’s gaze directly, showing no sign of evasion. “The decision to marry or not is a matter for Huangfu Shaohua’s family to decide, and it has no bearing on anyone else.”

A hint of amusement flickered in Ye Leng’an’s eyes before she continued, “You’re right. Since we’re already engaged, it implies an intention to marry. Choosing to marry now is simply following the natural course of events.”

She was almost certain that Huangfu Ruiling had orchestrated something. Otherwise, why would Huangfu Shaohua choose to marry at this particular time?

Nevertheless, Zhou Cui’an must be deeply affected by this! Not only did she lose the lawsuit, but now her so-called boyfriend was also getting married. However...

“Ling, now that Huangfu Shaohua has decided to marry, does that mean he will settle down?” Ye Leng’an suddenly asked. “Otherwise, wouldn’t that be fair to Miss Xiao?”

“Don’t worry about others.” Huangfu Ruiling shook his head. “This is a marriage alliance, and everyone knows what it entails. However, both Huangfu Shaohua and Xiao Ruowen will definitely behave themselves in the near future. After all, they can’t afford to disgrace their families, can they?”

Upon hearing Huangfu Ruiling’s response, Ye Leng’an didn’t press further. Her previous inquiry was merely casual, and she wasn’t overly concerned about others’ affairs.

“Alright, let’s drop the subject of others,” Huangfu Ruiling said, turning to the person in his arms. He raised an eyebrow, his lips curling into a smile. “An’an, instead of concerning yourself with others, wouldn’t it be better to focus on us?”

“Huh?” Ye Leng’an was taken aback by Huangfu Ruiling’s sudden remark. “What could there be between us?”

She couldn’t imagine anything significant happening between them. Despite their busy schedules, they always made time for each other. Moments like this, where they enjoyed each other’s company, were cherished.

Furthermore, they rarely quarreled. In times of disagreement, Huangfu Ruiling always deferred to her, making arguments unlikely.

So, Huangfu Ruiling's unexpected question left her momentarily puzzled.

Observing her confusion, Huangfu Ruiling chuckled before continuing, "I'm referring to our marriage, An'an. Do you think we could tie the knot sooner?"

They had discussed this matter long ago. Huangfu Ruiling was eager to marry, but Ye Leng'an preferred to wait until after graduation. Though not young mentally, she had only recently come of age. Therefore, she was in no rush to wed.

The outcome was predictable. Huangfu Ruiling would never go against Ye Leng'an's wishes, agreeing to marry her after graduation.

However, news of Huangfu Shaohua's impending marriage stirred something in him. Despite orchestrating it, he now desired to marry Ye Leng'an sooner.

Rising to sit beside Huangfu Ruiling, Ye Leng'an smiled. "I think we should stick to our original plan for marriage. Besides, I'm enjoying our current days! But..."

A mischievous glint sparkled in Ye Leng'an's eyes as she continued, "Ling, if you treat me better, I might be swayed to marry you sooner!"

Seeing her playful expression, Huangfu Ruiling knew her words held little sincerity. Nonetheless, he gazed at her lovingly, promising, "Alright, I'll treat you better. So well that you'll never want to leave me, and we'll spend our lives together."

"Because there's no one else who'd treat you as well as I do." He kept the last sentence to himself, silently reciting it.

Having decided on her, Huangfu Ruiling wouldn't allow her to leave. He'd use his love as leverage to ensure she stayed with him forever.

"That's the spirit." Ye Leng'an nodded earnestly, patting his shoulder affectionately. "You're indeed a quick learner!"

Observing her playful demeanor, Huangfu Ruiling remained silent, enveloping her in his embrace. It felt as though he was holding a precious treasure.

After the trial, Zhou Cui'an left the courthouse in a daze, returning to her hotel by taxi.

Entering her hotel room, she collapsed onto the floor, her expression contorted with anguish. "Ye Leng'an, you wretched woman. I won't let you off the hook."

Although she anticipated the verdict, receiving the court's ruling intensified her hatred towards Ye Leng'an.

Her animosity was directed solely at Ye Leng'an.

Despite offering sincere apologies and even kneeling to admit her wrongdoing, Ye Leng'an remained obstinate, insisting on legal action.

Now, she not only had to issue a public apology but also compensate Ye Leng'an with a hundred thousand for emotional distress. It was unbearable for her to accept.

Despite her newfound financial stability as Huangfu Shaohua's girlfriend, she resented giving Ye Leng'an any money.

Now that the court had ruled against her, she feared the school's punitive measures. Losing the lawsuit would likely result in harsh consequences from the school.

She was at a loss for what to do. Especially since Huangfu Shaohua, who could have aided her, was unreachable.

Lost in thought, Zhou Cui'an's phone suddenly rang in the silent room. Picking up her phone and seeing the flashing name on the screen, a glimmer of hope flickered in her eyes.

Chapter 943: A Breakup fee

"Shaohua, where are you?" Zhou Cui'an's voice echoed through the phone as soon as the call connected. "Why haven't I been able to reach you? What's going on?"

On the other end of the line, Huangfu Shaohua's face twisted with impatience at Zhou Cui'an's barrage of questions. "Zhou Cui'an, could you please be quiet? You're really annoying!"

Startled by the sudden rebuke, Zhou Cui'an hesitated but refrained from expressing her frustration. Instead, she spoke humbly, "Shaohua, are you feeling alright? If something's bothering you, please tell me."

"Tell you?" Huangfu Shaohua's voice dripped with sarcasm as if he found Zhou Cui'an's concern utterly ridiculous. "Do you think you can actually help me with my troubles, Zhou Cui'an? Understand your place. What exactly do you think you can do for me?"

These words left Zhou Cui'an speechless, flooding her with a wave of self-doubt and anguish. She hadn't expected such hurtful words from the person she had relied on so completely, especially after being abandoned once before.

His words felt like daggers piercing her heart.

Zhou Cui'an's silence failed to elicit any sympathy from Huangfu Shaohua, who coldly declared, "Fifteen minutes. Blue Mountain Cafe. Be there. If you're late, there's no need for us to meet again."

With that icy remark, he hung up.

Zhou Cui'an didn't have time to dwell on her emotions. She hurriedly prepared herself and dashed to the Blue Mountain Cafe. She was genuinely afraid that any delay would spell the end of her relationship with Huangfu Shaohua.

Upon entering the cafe, Zhou Cui'an spotted Huangfu Shaohua sitting conspicuously, appearing nonchalant as he idly played with his phone.

Taking a moment to check her appearance in the mirror, Zhou Cui'an approached Huangfu Shaohua with a gentle smile. "Shaohua, I'm here. I'm sorry for keeping you waiting."

Her demeanor, so obedient and sweet, betrayed no hint of the scolding she had received earlier.

She understood her position all too well now and knew she had no leverage over Huangfu Shaohua. She was, after all, at a disadvantage in their relationship.

Seeing Zhou Cui'an's arrival, Huangfu Shaohua glanced up but made no move to stand. Instead, he simply gestured towards the empty seat across from him. "Sit."

Once seated, Zhou Cui'an ordered a cup of coffee.

When it arrived, however, she didn't touch it, her mind preoccupied with unease.

Though initially elated by Huangfu Shaohua's call, her journey to the café had left her with a sense of foreboding. She couldn't fathom why he had avoided her until now or why he sought her out immediately after the lawsuit.

Zhou Cui'an remained silent as Huangfu Shaohua slid a check across the table towards her.

Her eyes widened at the sight of the million check, her expression devoid of joy. The ominous feeling in her heart grew stronger as she forced a smile. "Shaohua, what's this? Why suddenly give me money? I have enough."

"We're both adults," Huangfu Shaohua replied, his gaze cold. "I don't believe you're oblivious to what this is."

"Shaohua, what do you mean?" Zhou Cui'an's voice trembled as she dared to voice her suspicion, unwilling as she was to accept it.

"A breakup fee," Huangfu Shaohua stated plainly. "Although our time together was short, we were happy. Consider this one million a parting gift. And I'll settle your credit card debts from these past months. Let's part ways amicably."

"No!" Zhou Cui'an shook her head, her eyes pleading with Huangfu Shaohua. "Have I done something wrong? Tell me, and I'll change. Give me a chance. I'll do anything, but please don't leave me."

But Huangfu Shaohua remained unmoved by her pleas. He met her gaze with indifference. "Zhou Cui'an, I thought you were smart. You should understand that once I've made up my mind, there's no turning back."

"No, Shaohua, don't leave me," Zhou Cui'an implored, pushing the check away. "I can't live without you."

"You mean you can't live without my wealth and power, right?" Huangfu Shaohua's expression remained unchanged, but his words dripped with sarcasm. "You know why you're with me. You've spent a lot of my money these past months."

These words caused Zhou Cui'an's expression to darken. She hadn't realized Huangfu Shaohua had always viewed her in this light. Yet, at this moment, she found herself unable to offer any rebuttal.

"I suggest you accept this gracefully," Huangfu Shaohua continued, glancing at the check on the table. "For you, a million is a significant sum. And considering the money I've spent on you, it's fair to say we're parting on good terms."

He felt no deep attachment to Zhou Cui'an. After all, she wasn't particularly outstanding. He had only pursued her for amusement. Unfortunately, she had offended someone she shouldn't have, and he was on the brink of marriage, necessitating an end to such dalliances.

Otherwise, he might have considered prolonging their affair.

"Shaohua, may I ask why?" Zhou Cui'an looked up at Huangfu Shaohua earnestly.

"Why did you suddenly decide to break up with me?"

"Does it matter?" Huangfu Shaohua replied indifferently. "Even if I tell you, what difference would it make? Regardless, my decision to end things with you won't change."

Chapter 944: Someone You Can't Afford to Offend

"I understand," Zhou Cui'an spoke with a mournful tone, "But if you're going to break up with me now, you should at least let me know the reason! I can't bear this vague breakup."

She knew she shouldn't pry at this moment. Even knowing the reason wouldn't change the outcome. Yet, she still wanted to know.

Perhaps, a glimmer of hope lingered in her heart. Maybe, after knowing the reason, there would still be a thread of hope.

Seeing Zhou Cui'an's unwavering demeanor, Huangfu Shaohua couldn't help but furrow his brow. After some thought, he spoke, "I'm getting married soon, so it's time for us to part ways."

Hearing Huangfu Shaohua's words, Zhou Cui'an felt as if lightning had struck her. She hadn't expected such a reason. She already knew about Huangfu Shaohua's fiancée. At that time, she even thought she could outshine her and take her place.

But she never expected Huangfu Shaohua to break up with her for that woman.

Suddenly, as if realizing something, Zhou Cui'an looked up abruptly at Huangfu Shaohua and said, "Shaohua, let's not break up, okay? Even if you're getting married, we can still be together! I don't mind. And I don't need any status. Just let me stay by your side."

The school had already given her a major demerit. Most likely, she wouldn't be able to clear it before graduation. In other words, this punishment would haunt her for life.

By then, even if she graduated from Capital University, she wouldn't land a good job. Her future was already doomed to mediocrity.

But, if she was with Huangfu Shaohua, things would be different. Even if she was just his lover, she could live comfortably. Moreover, with Huangfu Shaohua's connections, she might even find a job at Huangye Group. Even if it was just an entry-level position, it was better than working in an ordinary company.

"Zhou Cui'an, what nonsense are you talking about?" Huangfu Shaohua remained unmoved. "Do you think that just because you're willing to be my lover, I'm obliged to

keep you by my side? Let me tell you, there are plenty of women who would be my lover. Each of them is stronger than you!"

With these words, Zhou Cui'an's hopes were shattered.

Zhou Cui'an's face turned grim, but she still wasn't ready to give up. "Shaohua, I refuse to believe that you feel nothing for me. Remember, we've had many happy days together."

"Zhou Cui'an, don't overestimate yourself." Huangfu Shaohua sneered. "Who do you think you are? What gives you the right to stay by my side? And besides..."

At this point, Huangfu Shaohua's tone turned even more mocking. "I'm not a fool. I know what you're after. You want to stay by my side because you can't bear to lose this comfortable life. Zhou Cui'an, don't be too greedy. This one million is already generous enough for you."

Zhou Cui'an turned pale, feeling the embarrassment of her intentions being exposed.

But evidently, Huangfu Shaohua remained unimpressed.

Glancing at Zhou Cui'an, Huangfu Shaohua continued. "I'll pay off your credit card until today. Any expenses after that are your responsibility. You'll have to foot the bill yourself."

With that, he stood up, ready to leave.

But before he departed, he issued a final warning. "Zhou Cui'an, considering our past acquaintance, let me give you a piece of advice. Some people are beyond your reach. Take care of yourself!"

And with that, he turned to leave.

Hearing his words, Zhou Cui'an was taken aback. She didn't even notice the check on the table. Stepping forward, she grabbed Huangfu Shaohua's hand. "Wait, don't go."

Huangfu Shaohua, who had intended to leave, was suddenly stopped in his tracks. Irritation flickered in his eyes as he looked at Zhou Cui'an. "Zhou Cui'an, have you finished? Can't you understand human speech?"

"Shaohua, what did you mean?" Zhou Cui'an asked anxiously. "When you mentioned someone you can't afford to offend, were you referring to Ye Leng'an? Who is she?"

For some reason, Ye Leng'an was the first person she thought of after hearing Huangfu Shaohua's words.

It could be said that her current predicament was all because she had offended Ye Leng'an.

"Zhou Cui'an, stop causing a scene," Huangfu Shaohua snapped, shaking off her hand. "We have nothing to do with each other anymore. Stop making a fuss."

"Shaohua, are you breaking up with me because of Ye Leng'an?" Zhou Cui'an stared at Huangfu Shaohua, hoping to find an answer in his expression. "Are you in a hurry to break up with me because I offended Ye Leng'an?"

“Zhou Cui’an, I’m warning you. You should stop now,” Huangfu Shaohua warned. “I’m willing to part amicably with you now because we had a good relationship before. If you continue causing trouble, don’t blame me for being impolite.”

With that, he pushed past Zhou Cui’an and swiftly left the café.

Left standing in place, Zhou Cui’an was stunned. Although she didn’t receive a clear answer, she was convinced that Huangfu Shaohua was rushing to break up with her because he feared offending Ye Leng’an. Otherwise, even if Huangfu Shaohua got married, she could still be by his side.

“Ye Leng’an, it’s you again. Why do you always have to sabotage my happiness?” Zhou Cui’an muttered with a ferocious expression. “I finally met such a good man. Why do you have to ruin everything for me?”

If Ye Leng’an hadn’t insisted on digging deeper, none of this would have happened.

Thinking of this, Zhou Cui’an’s hatred for Ye Leng’an deepened. At this moment, she even harbored thoughts of killing Ye Leng’an.

The people in the coffee shop were shocked by Zhou Cui’an’s ferocious expression.

Even the waiter approached, asking if she needed assistance.