

Pill Maker 101

Chapter 101: A Little Sister With A Lot Of Unknown Talent

Huo Tingrui moved his neck and raised his head. Then he got up from the couch and rotated his waist...

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan came out of the kitchen to witness this hilarious scene of their stupid son moving his waist and twitching his butt.

"Tingrui, what are... you doing?" asked Song Ning in shock.

Was their second son usually not refined? Why would he make such uncouth gestures?

It was such an unbearable sight!

Huo Tingrui turned around. He failed to detect his parents' strange expressions and kept on twisting his waist.

Sometime later, he said excitedly, "Yao gave me a bottle of meds. I just took one, and I already feel so relaxed. It's amazing!"

Song Ning twitched her lips. Then she said, "Pay attention to your image!"

"How can you move your body like this?" added Huo Jinyan in disdain.

Huo Tingrui got dissed out of the blue. "???"

Song Ning came over and saw the porcelain bottle on the table. It was similar in design to the one which her daughter had given her previously. It differed in color, so this medicine probably had a different use.

"Yao's meds are genuinely great. The migraine I suffered for over a decade has become a lot better," said Song Ning happily.

At first, Song Ning did not take those pills seriously, but in the end, she ended up slapping her own face severely.

"Really? Why didn't you tell me about it?" asked Huo Jinyan quizzically before Huo Tingrui could enquire about it.

He only knew that his daughter's incense pill was really effective.

Song Ning sat down on the couch and leaned back softly. She said, "I was planning to continue taking her meds for a while longer and tell you after I recovered completely."

Huo Jinyan narrowed his eyes and asked softly. "Is it really that effective?"

He remembered his daughter giving him a bottle of... Although the name of the medication hurt his pride, if it was good, there was no harm in trying it.

"Absolutely! Have you heard me complaining about having migraines lately?" sneered Song Ning softly.

"No, you haven't," replied Huo Jinyan as he shook his head.

“See?” said Song Ning as she shrugged.

Suddenly her eyes landed on Huo Tingrui, and she asked in confusion. “Aren’t you a little too young to have problems?”

Huo Tingrui caught the meaning behind his mother’s words and sensed vaguely that something was amiss, but he could not put a finger on it.

He merely replied with a shrug. “It’s an occupational hazard.”

Song Ning said, “Oh!”

Then she looked away.

It was fine, so long as it did not affect his dating life.

“Yaoyao, where did you get these meds from?” asked Huo Tingrui. He was feeling more and more energetic and was rather curious now.

Huo Yao lowered her eyes and said without skipping a beat, “I know someone who has studied Chinese medicine.”

“Ah, I see,” said Huo Tingrui thoughtfully.

He did not continue asking but said instead, “These meds are so effective. Will there be any side effects though?”

Huo Yao didn’t mind his suspicious question and could understand his concerns.

After contemplating for a couple of seconds, Huo Yao was uncommonly patient as she explained. “The essence of Chinese medicine is that it doesn’t harm our foundation. It works on strengthening it and has little side effects. But of course, too much of anything is poison.”

Although Huo Tingrui was someone with no appreciation for Chinese medicine, he did understand what she meant. Moreover, he firmly believed that his little sister would not give him dubious medication.

“I was rude,” said Huo Tingrui as he scratched his head. He felt embarrassed for distrusting Huo Yao.

Huo Yao raised her brow and said, “It’s abnormal not to have doubts.”

Huo Tingrui smiled. It felt as though his little sister had a lot of unknown talent.

Intriguing!

Huo Jinyan kept listening to them as they spoke. Then his eyes suddenly landed on the cabinet nearby.

Chapter 102: Results For The City Level Heats

“What are you looking at?” asked Song Ning.

She could not help asking when she noticed her husband staring at the cabinet.

Huo Jinyan naturally did not speak his mind. Instead, he slowly veered his eyes away and said calmly, "I'm wondering whether it's bad Feng Shui for this cabinet to be here."

Song Ning's lips twitched and she said angrily, "You're the one who's hindering our Feng Shui."

Huo Jinyan happened to be standing in front of the television cabinet. Although his figure was relatively well-maintained, he lacked exercise, so he appeared slightly plump. Fortunately, he was tall, so it was not glaringly obvious even if he put on weight.

When he heard his wife poking fun at his physique, he appeared indignant. Then he groaned softly. "Sigh, I used to be quite the eye candy in my youth."

But now that he was middle aged, his wife found him fat.

Huo Jinyan turned around to look at Huo Yao and asked him. "Do you have any weight loss meds?"

Huo Yao felt her temples throb. She said, "You need to exercise. Why don't you come jogging with me in the morning?"

When Huo Jinyan heard this suggestion, he shook his head vehemently. It was as though he had heard something awful. He said hastily, "No no no. I think I'm still quite young, so there's no need for morning runs."

He had not worked out in decades, so morning runs would kill him.

He won't go running!

So be it if he put on weight.

"I think our daughter makes a good point," said Song Ning as she nodded and looked serious.

"Sigh, I can't outtalk you. I'm going to my room," muttered Huo Jinyan. He turned to open the cabinet next to him and retrieved a wooden box. Then he covered it like he was hiding a treasure and took it away.

Song Ning noticed her husband's gestures and whispered quizzically. "What on earth is he up to?"

Huo Yao raised her brow and smiled vaguely.

The old man was kind of cute.

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The next day, the results of the National Quiz Contest city level heats came out at 10:00 am.

Meng Ying eagerly took out her phone sharp at 10. She quickly asked as she opened the web page. "Sister Big Shot, tell me your candidate number. I'll check your results."

Huo Yao tilted her head and lazily gave her the number.

Meng Ying entered it and immediately clicked on search. Perhaps because it took some time before the results got updated or due to an overwhelming number of people visiting the website, it took a long time for the page to load.

Meng Ying froze when she saw the scores. Then she blew up the webpage on her phone, out of fear that she misread the scores.

“Oh my, 200 points. Sister Big Shot, you’re incredible!”

Meng Ying was in complete shock.

Huo Yao had scored 150 marks for the written paper, 50 for the three on-site test questions, leading to a total of 200 marks. Her Sister Big Shot actually scored 200 marks!!

How insane was that?

The preliminary test consisted of a single written paper, so it was normal for her to get full marks. Also, the questions were far easier in comparison. But the city level heats were different. It was much harder and consisted of an on-site live quiz, so the chances of getting full marks were non-existent.

But it was undoubtedly explosive that she scored 200 out of 210 marks.

Huo Yao had no clue what crossed Meng Ying’s mind. When she heard the score, she asked with a wrinkled nose. “Only 200 marks?”

She had thought that she would get full marks.

“Only?” asked Meng Ying as she gazed at Huo Yao, who seemed dissatisfied with the outcome.

Then she blinked and continued. “Sister Big Shot, you’re a little big-headed...”

Chapter 103: It’s Not A Question Of Ranking

Huo Yao refused to accept her score. Her eyes turned dim as she furrowed her brows hard and said, “I got all the questions right. There were absolutely no mistakes. How could I get a 10 mark deduction?”

A complicated look crept up on Meng Ying’s face when she heard Huo Yao. Sure enough, she had no clue how a genius’s mind worked!

Since Meng Ying was incapable of answering Huo Yao’s doubts. She hung her head and went back to the National Quiz Contest official web page to look at the national ranking.

Meng Ying took a deep breath to calm her nerves before she tapped on it. The national ranking page swiftly loaded.

st – 250 marks – Huo Yao.

nd – 195 marks – Yi Lianfan.

rd – 193 marks – Chen Jie.

...

Meng Ying did not continue going through the ranking list. She stared fixedly at Huo Yao's name, which was ranked first. Despite knowing Huo Yao would do brilliantly, she was still stunned.

Meng Ying raised her head and placed the phone in front of Huo Yao and said, "Sister Big Shot, stop thinking about those 10 points. You already came in first."

Huo Yao glanced at the list and continued sternly. "It's not about the ranking."

It was a matter of casting doubt on her capabilities.

Meng Ying's lips twitched and she asked. "Why don't you find out what happened?"

Huo Yao felt Meng Ying's suggestion made sense. She stood up and said, "Yup. I can't disregard the inexplicable point deduction just because I came in first."

It was a matter of pride!

Meng Ying, "PFFT..."

No no no, Sister Big Shot, I just said it randomly. Do not treat it seriously!

As Huo Yao left the classroom, Meng Ying covered her face. Fine, she inexplicably found Sister Big Shot cool!

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Lu Xia was about to check her contest results on the phone when she heard someone speak up.

"Xiaxia, do you know what your foster sister's score is?" asked Chang Yingying as she held her phone.

There was a blatant look of shock on her face.

Since Huo Yao had come first during the preliminary test, Chang Yingying paid attention to her score this time as well. She did not even check Lu Xia's score and went straight to the ranking list.

After she saw the results, she hurried over to find Lu Xia.

Lu Xia's hand froze as she held her phone. Yet her expression appeared normal. "Oh? What's her score?"

"It's unbelievable, I tell you. She scored 200 marks!"

Chang Yingying did not know how to describe her mood when she saw the result. She cringed when she recalled how she had suspected Huo Yao of cheating earlier.

There was room for suspicion when Huo Yao scored full marks that one time. But to say that she got these marks from cheating again was as good as raising doubt on the integrity of the contest itself.

After all, the quiz was not held at the school. The city's Education Center had hosted and invigilated it.

When Lu Xia heard Huo Yao's score, her mind went blank. It felt as though something snapped in her, and she could no longer keep her composure. Her face had turned pale.

200 marks... How could she score 200 marks?!

Something must be wrong. It was inconceivable!

Lu Xia's mind was in complete chaos. She wanted to clear her mind and ponder on it calmly, but she couldn't do it.

"Xiaxia, are you okay?" asked Chang Yingying when she noticed Lu Xia's face.

She looked so pitiful in that moment that Chang Yingying slapped her mouth in remorse.

How could Chang Yingying have brought up Huo Yao in front of Lu Xia and upset her?

Chang Yingying smiled sheepishly and quickly clicked on her phone. She said, "Hey, why talk about her? Let me check your score first."

Chapter 104: She Was Here To Irritate Them

Very quickly, Chang Yingying found Lu Xia's score and rank in the list.

She had scored 186 marks and came in 10th in the country.

If Chang Yingying had not seen Huo Yao's results, she would have thought that Lu Xia did really well, but now...

Chang Yingying touched her nose. Recovering quickly, she smiled and said, "Xiaxia, your scores are pretty high as well."

Chang Yingying helped pull Lu Xia out of her mental chaos. Lu Xia forcibly put on a calm expression and asked quietly. "What's my score?"

"You scored 186 and came in 10th in the country."

Chang Yingying clearly sounded subdued when she said this versus when she had spoken about Huo Yao's score.

Lu Xia lowered her gaze when she heard this but then she said indifferently, "Okay."

Lu Xia slid her phone back into her desk and turned around to take out the physics textbook. When she lowered her head, her ponytail hung from over her shoulder and concealed half her face.

Chang Yingying felt bad looking at Lu Xia. She wanted to console her but did not know what to say.

It was all because of Huo Yao.

After stealing 17 years of Lu Xia's life and enjoying the privileges as the daughter of a rich family, she still turned up in City S to irritate her. She was absolutely annoying.

Why could she not stay in the Experimental Class and keep a low profile?

It was infuriating! AHHHHHH!

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On the other end, Huo Yao went straight to Chen Yu's office.

"Huo Yao, just the person I want to see," said Chen Yu. Her stern face subconsciously turned warmer each time she saw Huo Yao.

Huo Yao was surprised. "Mhm?"

"Congratulations for coming first in the city level exam. You're brilliant!" applauded Chen Yu from the bottom of her heart.

Due to the stuffy old Wei Mingzhe having the wrong impression about Huo Yao, she had almost turned away this bright student.

Hmph hmph. This time, Huo Yao came in top in the country again, so that old geezer was probably feeling even more resentful.

At the thought of that, Chen Yu could not help smiling.

Huo Yao went silent and spoke after a few seconds. "Miss Chen, I suspect that there is an error with my score."

Chen Yu was stunned. She asked in concern. "What do you mean by that?"

"I shouldn't have gotten just 200 marks. No, there's no way I would score only 200 marks," said Huo Yao gravely.

PFFFT...

What did she mean by only 200 marks?

The total marks were 210!

Chen Yu looked at Huo Yao with a complicated expression before she asked. "As per you, how much should your score be?"

"Full marks!" replied Huo Yao confidently and tilted her chin.

"Cough cough..." Chen Yu choked.

She genuinely trusted Huo Yao, but based on her understanding of the contest regulations, the probability of scoring full marks was almost non-existent, so...

"Huo Yao, it's okay if you didn't get full marks. Don't be disheartened. In any case, you are still top in the country and have made it to the next round," consoled Chen Yu in a sincere and earnest manner.

Huo Yao did not know whether to cry or to laugh.

She said, "Miss Chen, I don't care about getting full marks. I just want to know why the 10 marks were deducted."

Chen Yu realized that she had misunderstood Huo Yao. She could not help smiling as she replied. "Oh, I see. The people from the Education Association happen to be in the Principal's office currently. I got

distracted and didn't finish what I wanted to tell you. The Principal has asked to see you. You can take this chance to ask him about your scores."

Chapter 105: Self-sabotage

After pausing for a few seconds, Chen Yu was worried that Huo Yao might get nervous, so she added. "Although there are members of the Education Association present, there is nothing to fear. Just tell them whatever they ask you."

Huo Yao nodded and went to the Principal's office quickly.

Two middle aged men were sitting in the Principal's office with him. They were probably the men from the Education Association, whom Chen Yu had mentioned.

Huo Yao glanced at them before she turned her eyes to the Principal and bowed as she said, "Did you want to see me, Sir?"

"Mhm," replied the Principal as he beamed and waved at her.

"Come over. I want to introduce you to a couple of people. These are members of the Education Association. This is the Secretary-General, Tian Ye, and this is their honorary member, Zhao Lian."

Huo Yao nodded at them without the slightest fear or anxiety.

The Secretary-General raised his brow. This young woman looked to be rather calm. He cleared his throat and said, "Huo Yao, right? Can I ask you a question?"

Huo Yao looked at him with her bright eyes and said, "Please go ahead."

The Secretary-General straightened his body before he asked. "Judging from your solutions for both tests, you didn't use the standard methods taught in schools. Did you hire a teacher to coach you?"

His question made even the Principal curious.

"No, I didn't," replied Huo Yao calmly.

A few seconds later, she suddenly asked in return. "Does this have anything to with the 10 points deduction from my city level heats?"

The Secretary-General was shocked that Huo Yao had not undergone any external coaching and also by her keen sense of perception.

He nodded and replied in a calm voice. "Yes, you're right. You should have gotten full marks for both your written paper and on-site quiz, but the last two solutions you gave were beyond the scope. Although you answered correctly, we deducted 5 points each as a matter of principle."

"Beyond the scope?" asked Huo Yao quizzically as she narrowed her eyes.

Zhao Lian cleared his throat and clarified. "It means that you can't use methods that are beyond the middle school syllabus to solve the questions."

"So it doesn't matter even if I got the answer correct?" asked Huo Yao as she frowned.

She had not known about these rules.

Zhao Lian explained further. "Going beyond the scope violates the principles of fairness. Since we didn't stipulate any methods, we only deducted 10 points in total. It would have been unfair to give you a zero on both questions."

Huo Yao fell into silence after she heard them.

Although easier methods were available to her, they insisted that she use more complicated methods to get the answers step by step. It seemed she did not understand the academic circle well enough.

Moments later, Huo Yao said, "So I can only stick to the middle school syllabus when I go for the quizzes to avoid such baffling deductions?"

"In theory, that's how it works," said the Secretary-General with a smile.

Huo Yao rubbed her forehead woefully and replied. "Okay, I get it."

She had sabotaged herself, and it seemed that it was wrong to overperform.

Zhao Lian was quiet all this while but then he raised his head and said ambiguously, "If you can make it to the international level in the quiz, you don't have to worry about going beyond the scope."

A look of surprise swept across the Secretary-General's eyes when he heard Zhao Lian.

Although he was only an honorary member of the Education Association, he was well-connected with all the capital's major associations. Moreover, he was a Tsing University professor.

Was Zhao Lian overreacting by bearing so much hope on a little lass who had displayed her talent for the first time in the preliminary test and heats?

Chapter 106: Her? Join The International Quiz Contest?

The Secretary-General did not look down upon Huo Yao.

When the preliminary test results came out, he had wanted to recommend Huo Yao to Zhang. But later he found out that she was a new transfer from a tiny county.

The new transfer might have an excellent foundation, but the level of education in a small county could not compare to City S.

Even though she lost points for going beyond scope, it displayed her brilliance. But there were plenty of participants hailing from all over the country, and each one of them was good.

Moreover, the Education Association had been organizing this for years, and he had seen his fair share of dark horses who caught up with the rankings later. Although this young woman was impressive, she might be incapable of making her way to the international level.

So the Secretary-General composed himself and did not say anything.

But Huo Yao found it interesting, so she smiled and asked playfully. "Is the International Quiz Contest a gathering of masters?"

Zhao Lian gazed at Huo Yao and went into a daze. He subconsciously nodded and said, "That goes without saying."

The Principal quietly glanced at Huo Yao as he sat there silently. He could not help feeling his chin when he detected the sense of competitiveness on her face.

It was going to be an exciting year for the International Quiz Contestants.

The Principal was curious about this young lady's true talent.

The Secretary-General and Zhao Lian let Huo Yao go back to class soon after, without asking her anything else.

After Huo Yao left, the Secretary-General put down his teacup and looked at Zhao Lian. He said, "Professor Zhao, you seem to think highly of Huo Yao."

Zhao Lian smiled and only said, "Yes, she's a good student."

"But... her? Making it to the International Quiz Contest?"

She might have stood a chance if she were a science student, but she studied arts.... The Secretary-General shook his head.

"You shouldn't look down on others," said Zhao Lian with his profound expression in his eyes.

Then he turned to look at the Principal and said subtly, "You were lucky to meet her."

The Principal's lips curved into a smile. He nodded and said complacently, "That's what I think as well."

The Secretary-General glanced at them and he muttered in his heart. Was there genuinely something special about that art student?

After Zhao Lian took a sip of the tea, he suddenly recalled something. He asked the principal. "Oh yes, did a campus star from No.1 Middle School participate in the quiz too?"

The Principal raised his brow and replied. "Are you talking about Lu Xia?"

"I guess that sounds right," said Zhao Lian as the name seemed familiar.

He looked up at the Secretary-General and continued. "Your Chairman especially mentioned to me about her. How did she do this time?"

"I think she fared alright. Let me check," said the Secretary-General and took out his phone.

After a moment, he said, "She scored 186 points and stood 10th."

When Zhao Lian heard this, he instantly lost interest in Lu Xia. But he didn't let it show on his face and said, "Not too bad. She stands a chance of making it into the national levels."

As the Secretary-General looked at him, he recalled what the Chairman told him to do.

So he said, "Then..."

The Principal interrupted before the Secretary-General managed to say his piece.

"Although Lu Xia always had stable grades, her focus is on a non-academic career," said the Principal indifferently.

"That's true. She might have a brighter future in being a celebrity," said Zhao Lian as he smiled and shook his head.

Then he turned to the Secretary-General and said, "Ye, what did you want to say?"

Chapter 107: An Encounter!

The Secretary-General smiled awkwardly. Considering Zhao Lian's current impression of Lu Xia, it was not a good time to ask him to see her now.

He instantly shook his head and said, "Nothing."

Zhao Lian did not probe him any further. He looked at his wrist watch to check the time before standing up. "We will take your leave now."

The Principal stood up and said, "Sure. Let's have dinner one of the days before you leave for the capital."

"Mhm," replied Zhao Lian. He raised his hand and gestured for the Principal not to walk them out.

The Secretary-General nodded politely before trailing behind him.

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After Huo Yao headed back to the class, she overlooked the strange looks her classmates cast her. These looks kept altering on a daily basis. The first thing Hao Yao did after sitting down was to take out her books.

She had learned her lesson the hard way this time. After losing those ten marks, she believed that she had not studied hard enough and needed to do it better henceforth!

Meng Ying looked at Huo Yao. She was filled with so much fighting spirit that it felt as though Meng Ying might get pierced by it if she went too close. Meng Ying could not help touching her nose.

Since Huo Yao became like this after coming back from the teachers' office, she must have found out what went wrong with the test and was feeling upset about it.

Although Meng Ying could not help Huo Yao with her studies, she could comfort her as her thoughtful deskmate.

Meng Ying glanced at Huo Yao before reaching out to poke her gently on her arm and said, "Sister Big Shot, don't be upset. You made a mistake, but you're still first in the country, so it doesn't make a difference."

Huo Yao tilted her head and looked at Meng Ying with a profound look in her eyes.

She said solemnly, "You don't understand how painful it is for me to answer the questions while remaining in the bounds of the syllabus."

"PFFFT... What, Sister Big Shot? What do you mean by it being too painful for you to answer within scope of the syllabus?" Meng Ying looked slightly stunned.

Huo Yao stared at Meng Ying for a few seconds and then shook her head without speaking further.

Meng Ying was clueless. "???"

She had a nagging feeling that Huo Yao was looking down on her intelligence.

After Meng Ying mulled over Huo Yao's words more deeply, she went into a shock and said, "Wait, Sister Big Shot. Were your answers beyond the defined scope?"

Huo Yao replied sadly without looking up, "Yep. Even though I got the answers right, ten marks were deducted due to it."

Meng Ying was dumbfounded upon hearing Huo Yao's words.

Had it only been imagination on Meng Yao's part that Huo Yao was upset about making a mistake?

Huo Yao would always be Huo Yao, so she couldn't possibly make any mistakes in her life.

Meng Ying looked up at the sky and sighed before quietly taking out her textbook.

If Meng Ying did not buck up, then she would even lose the right to be upset.

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Huo Yao packed up and left after the last class in the afternoon.

Shortly after leaving the block, she coincidentally bumped into Lu Xia.

Although they attended the same middle school, it was only the second time they had encountered each other here. The first time had been at the school's entrance.

No change in Huo Yao's expression occurred. She merely glanced at Lu Xia indifferently before looking away and heading for the entrance.

Lu Xia halted and seemed surprised to run into Huo Yao. She was in a foul mood due to her quiz results, so she had left class a little later today.

If she knew she would bump into Huo Yao, she would have left much earlier.

Despite her annoyance, Lu Xia did not let it show it on her face. Instead, she adjusted her bag's strap before leaving for the school gate, as if Huo Yao was a complete stranger.

But Lu Xia was clearly a lot more heavy footed than usual.

Chapter 108: Where Did The Medicine Come From?

Shortly after leaving the school gates, Huo Yao's phone rang. She pulled it out from her pocket to see it was her grandmother calling, so she answered it without hesitation.

"Hello, Grandma... Okay, I'll be right over."

After hanging up the phone, Huo Yao narrowed her eyes slightly before heading to the roadside to hail a cab to get to the hospital.

Suddenly, a black car came over and pulled up right in front of her. Huo Tingrui's handsome and refined face emerged after he rolled the window down.

Huo Yao looked at the driver in surprise and said, "Brother Tingrui?" Then she glanced at the car logo on the steering wheel quizzically.

Previously, he had driven a BMW, this time it was a Mercedes-Benz.

All those rumors about her older brothers being laggards seemed to come crashing down, once again.

Huo Tingrui failed to detect the look of surprise in his little sister's eyes. Instead, he raised his brow and said, "Get in. I'll give you a ride back."

But Huo Yao shook her head and turned him down. "I'm not going home yet. I have to head to the hospital."

"The hospital?" said Huo Tingrui perplexedly.

"The granny, who raised me, was hospitalized a few days ago, so I'm going to visit her," said Huo Yao without hiding anything.

A grave look appeared on Huo Tingrui's face as he said, "I'll send you there. I can take this opportunity to visit her as well."

Huo Yao contemplated for a moment before taking him up on his offer. She opened the car door and got in. Settling in, she gave him the hospital address.

When Lu Xia walked out of the campus and spotted Huo Yao getting into the black Mercedes-Benz, she could not help narrowing her eyes and her expressions turned stiff for a few seconds. Recovering quickly, she walked towards the Lu family's chauffeured car and opened the car door as well.

"Follow that black Mercedes-Benz," said Lu Xia to the chauffeur from the backseat.

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Huo Yao and Huo Tingrui arrived at the hospital 20 minutes later.

Huo Tingrui felt it was unbecoming to visit a person empty-handed, so he told Huo Yao to head up to the ward first while he went to the nearby supermarket to get some gifts.

Since he was persistent about this matter, Huo Yao let him go gift shopping while she quickly went upstairs.

Other than her grandmother, the attending physician and the hospital president were also present in the hospital room at this moment.

As soon as Huo Yao entered, a look of joy swept over Yang Qiuhua and she said, "Yaoyao, you're here."

Huo Yao had a gentle look in her bright eyes. She replied softly. "Mhm."

She walked over to place her sling bag on the chair by the side while her eyes landed on the attending doctor and hospital president. She turned her gaze towards her grandmother and asked her in a slightly confused tone. "Why did you want to see me?"

The attending physician glanced at the hospital president. Then he got up and said politely, "The thing is, after we gave your grandmother a check-up, we discovered she was recovering very well. So we asked her for the reason and found out that she is taking some different medication."

Huo Yao's expression altered slightly. She had a rough idea of what they wanted to ask.

"I asked Old Madam Yang for some of that concoction in the afternoon. After studying it, I discovered that it was exceptionally good for the heart, so I wanted to ask Miss Huo where you bought it from."

The attending doctor sounded hopeful when he put forward the request.

Huo Yao looked at him as she picked up the fruit knife and pared an apple unhurriedly. Then she calmly replied. "Sorry, a friend of mine made this medicine and isn't keen on selling it."

A look of disappointment swept across the attending physician and hospital president's eyes when they heard her.

Chapter 109: I Didn't Want To Say It, But There's A Problem With The Meds

Despite the disappointment, the attending physician and hospital president were keenly aware of how valuable the medicine was.

Apart from the formula, production time, as well as balance among herbs, all of these required a lot of accuracy. Also, since it was Chinese medicine, it was harder to make it than Western medication, which could be mass produced in factories.

Medicines like this, which demanded special techniques to produce them, were low in volume, and hence, priceless.

Since the attending physician and hospital president knew they would not be able to squeeze any more information out of Huo Yao, they got up to leave from there.

The room door opened at that time and He Xiaoman's expression instantly altered when she spotted the attending physician and hospital president in her mother's room.

Without bothering about Huo Yao's presence, she anxiously looked at them. "Is there something wrong with my mother again?"

The attending physician and hospital president were surprised momentarily. Then the hospital president gathered his thoughts and replied. "No, not at all."

He Xiaoman was instantly relieved to hear that. A small smile emerged on her well made-up face as she said, "I thought something awful happened to Mom, which demanded the hospital president's attention."

The hospital president straightened out the name tag hanging on his coat. He smiled and said, "We merely came to ask Old Madam Yang about the medicine which she takes. That's all."

He Xiaoman was struck by surprise and asked them. "The medicine which she takes? What medicine?"

But the moment He Xiaoman uttered those words, something came to her mind, and her eyes landed on Huo Yao. The courteous look on her face dissipated and she asked Huo Yao in a severe manner. "Did you give my mother that rural cure again?"

Huo Yao glanced at her calmly with no intention of talking to her.

Seeing such behaviour, He Xiaoman rubbed her brows angrily and said, "Huo Yao, didn't I tell you not to give Mom that medicine again? My mother raised you for 17 years, painstakingly. How can you endanger her life like this?"

"Xiaoman, that's nonsense. It's not what you think. Even the doctors said Yaoyao's meds are great!"

Yang Qihua genuinely felt that her daughter was muddle-headed. Whenever the matter was related to Huo Yao, He Xiaoman held severe preconceptions. She had turned into a mercenary ever since she married into a rich and powerful family.

He Xiaoman sneered and said, "I didn't want to tell you that there were problems with her meds, but you continue to make excuses for her so stubbornly..."

The hospital president looked at He Xiaoman inexplicably as he interrupted. "No, Madam He. Are you mistaken?"

He Xiaoman was really furious by now. Despite her annoyance, she dare not take it out on the hospital president. She composed herself for a moment before finding her voice after some time to say, "What do you mean by that?"

"There is nothing wrong with Miss Huo's medicine. If it weren't for this medicine, your mother wouldn't be in a regular ward, but the intensive care unit," replied the hospital president sternly in an impatient tone.

Since the hospital president was a worldly-wise man, he could tell from the way He Xiaoman spoke to Huo Yao that they were not close.

Although he was not interested in getting involved with their family matters, he simply could not stand the sight of He Xiaoman accusing Huo Yao for no reason.

Chapter 110: Are You Feeling Proud Now?

He Xiaoman's eyes opened wide when she heard the hospital president's words. She had a look of disbelief on her face. She was so startled that she could not even speak straight as she retorted. "How... how can that be? I even got a doctor to look at her... her meds. Even the doctor said..."

But the hospital president interrupted her before she could finish her sentence.

"Which doctor did you show it to? Is he one of our doctors? If he is really one of ours, I will fire him immediately! Or does Madam He think that I'm a hospital president in name only and know nothing about medicine?"

The hospital president shook his head speechlessly. People often gave away their emotional and intelligence quotients during heated conversations.

He Xiaoman was mortified and felt utterly embarrassed. The hospital president had been particularly sarcastic in his last two sentences.

He Xiaoman awkwardly parted her lips. Knowing she was in the wrong, she lowered her voice and explained sheepishly. "You misunderstood. That's not what I meant. I was just... My foster daughter grew up in the countryside and knows nothing. How could she get her hands on such good medicine for my mother?"

The hospital president pursed his lips without saying a word and strode out of the room.

The attending physician smiled ambiguously at He Xiaoman before turning to follow the hospital president.

How could a person with such valuable medicine in hand be a clueless country bumpkin?

Even if Huo Yao knew nothing about medicine, just the fact she could obtain this, made her extraordinary.

He Xiaoman watched as the attending physician and hospital president left with angry looks on their face. She motionlessly stood there with awkwardness flitting across her eyes.

After He Xiaoman pondered over what the hospital president had said, she suddenly turned around and looked at Huo Yao.

She gnashed her teeth in frustration and said, "Are you happy to see me embarrass myself in front of the hospital president? Are you happy now?"

Huo Yao's lips curved into an enigmatic smile as she replied. "Didn't I tell you how much my meds were worth?"

He Xiaoman recalled her foster daughter mentioning these exact words a few days ago, and her face instantly turned darker.

"Did you ever tell me what your meds were actually worth?" sneered He Xiaoman.

"Are you feeling proud now? Do you have a great sense of achievement now that you have managed to make a fool of me?"

"Xiaoman, just shut up. It was you who misunderstood, but you're blaming it on Yaoyao. You are getting more and more unreasonable," said Yang Qiuhua heartbrokenly.

She could no longer bear it.

He Xiaoman angrily laughed as she said, "Heh, am I unreasonable? Mom, who is your real family here? Hmmm?"

After a pause, she glanced at Huo Yao and mocked her. "Enough. Since you two can't stand the sight of me, I'll make myself scarce while you enjoy your grandmother-granddaughter bonding."

He Xiaoman spun around and left the hospital ward angrily.

Yang Qiuhua gazed at the door for a while before she veered her eyes away. She reached out to hold Huo Yao's hand and said, "It has been hard on you, my child. I shouldn't have asked you to come over today."

Huo Yao squeezed her grandmother's hand and replied. "I didn't take it to heart, so you don't have to feel bad."

Yang Qiuhua felt even worse after she heard Huo Yao. This child was simply too kind. Each time He Xiaoman misunderstood and reprimanded Huo Yao, she never defended herself because she did not want to hurt Yang Qiuhua's feelings. Regardless of the grievance, Huo Yao accepted it calmly.

Yang Qiuhua sighed deeply before decisively determining in her heart.