

Pill Maker 1181

Chapter 1181: It's Too Late

Song Zhi felt annoyed. He looked at Chen Ming and growled. "Get out of my way."

Chen Ming glanced at him sideways. Even though Chen Ming seemed calm, Song Zhi inexplicably felt threatened and automatically trembled.

Song Zhi had forgotten about this scary man.

He instinctively retreated a step without daring to give chase.

"You have one day to sort out the inheritance belonging to Mrs Huo," said Chen Ming mildly.

Song Zhi was furious and wanted to say it was impossible, but Chen Ming interrupted him.

"If you refuse to do it yourself, I don't mind helping you. Let me warn you that my help does not come free and I seriously doubt that the Song family can afford my services." Chen Ming looked threatening to begin with. No one had the slightest doubt that he meant what he said.

"Why should we? Who do you think you are?" said Song Qi, biting her lip.

Chen Ming glanced at Song Qi. "Don't worry. That includes you as well." He turned to look at Song Zhi. "Remember. You have only one day to settle this. If you are late, I don't think you will like the consequences."

The moment he finished his sentence, he turned to leave.

His men also followed behind him.

After Chen Ming and his men were gone, it felt as though someone had released the pause button and the noise in the hall resumed.

"My bad, Young Master Song. I have something to attend to at home, so I have to go."

"We have to leave too."

"My apologies, there is no other option."

"..."

The guests kept excusing themselves one after another. Before Song Zhi and Song Qi could try to make them stay, most of them were long gone.

Now that Min Yu had walked out on them, no one else was going to stay.

They wanted to introduce Huo Yao to their circles as a member of the Song family, but it had turned into a nightmare.

No one wanted to offend the Min family unless they had a death wish and wanted to get kicked out of the capital.

The Min family used to be politicians until Min Yu took the family business global. Although he was not a politician, he had far higher status than anyone else in town.

Everyone took their cues from the Min clan.

The Song family was in trouble now. Even though the Song family had driven Song Ning out of the clan, her daughter ended up being acquainted with the Min family.

It was no wonder they desperately wanted to mend fences with Huo Yao. Sadly, the Song family was no longer good enough for her.

Other than Mr. Zhou, all the guests were long gone.

Song Qi looked at the empty banquet hall. She turned pale and felt powerless. "How could Ning's daughter know someone from the Min family?"

Did Huo Yao not grow up in the countryside? Did she not recently move to City S before moving to the capital?

How could Huo Yao suddenly know all these influential people?

Song Qi could not wrap her mind around it. Just thinking about it made her mind want to explode.

Song Zhi's eyes looked red as he questioned Song Qi. "Did you botch the investigation or something?"

If Song Zhi knew Huo Yao was friends with someone from the Min family, he would never have offended Huo Yao.

Song Qi looked at Song Zhi. She was sick of his questioning attitude. Every time something went wrong, he would blame it on her.

Song Qi inhaled deeply before she answered coldly. "Enough already. If you have a problem, why didn't you do it yourself? When we found out Huo Yao was friends with the chairman of the Apothecaries' Association, why didn't you check again? Is it not a little too late to blame it on me? Did you think I would purposely sabotage myself?"

Song Zhi felt furious. Song Qi was right. Why did he not investigate deeper personally when he discovered that Huo Yao was friends with the chairman of the Apothecaries' Association?

It was simply too late to point fingers at anyone now.

Chapter 1182: A Strange Girl

Song Zhi and Song Qi deeply regretted their actions. The lawyer was still around. He looked at Song Zhi and finally said, "Mr. Song, I suggest you sort out your assets and make arrangements to hand over Miss Ning's share of the inheritance as soon as you can."

When Song Zhi heard Mr. Zhou's voice, he realized the lawyer was still around. He parted his lips wanting to speak, but Song Qi walked over and responded aggressively. "Mr. Zhou, how could you? We

paid you so much money to hand over the will, but you gave us a fake one and gave the original to an outsider.”

Song Qi looked at Mr. Zhou coldly. When someone from the Min family showed up at the banquet, she thought that everyone would quickly forget about the audio file and the will. Unexpectedly, Min Yu was friends with Huo Yao. Now, everyone in town would know about the will even before the night was over.

Other than the audio file and the will, people were bound to speculate and talk about how she replaced Song Ning and married into the Ji family.

Although most people had a lot of nice things to say about Song Qi, there were a few ladies she did not get along with. Now that the matter was exposed, they were bound to take the opportunity to strike her while she was down.

Song Qi had painstakingly upheld a gracious image, but it was ruined in just one evening.

Mr. Zhou frowned powerlessly. “Sorry. I never expected the will to see the light of the day.”

Song Qi scoffed. “What good is your apology? You ingrate! Have you forgotten how we helped you?”

Mr. Zhou lowered his head while Song Qi cursed him. After she was done throwing her temper at him, he finally said, “No matter what, I suggest you sort out your assets and hand over Miss Ning’s share of the inheritance. It is all for your own good.”

“Nonsense. Even if she has the will, 20 years have passed, so the will must have already expired. If she plans on fighting for the inheritance while my father is sick, then she is sorely mistaken. She is not getting a dime out of the Song family!”

Song Qi spoke coldly. Her husband’s family were no pushovers.

She did not appreciate threats and would never compromise, especially threats from the likes of her detestable older sister.

Mr. Zhou knew what Song Qi was like, so he sighed when she refused to heed his advice. He stopped talking. “In that case, I hope you do not regret your actions.”

The moment the lawyer finished his sentence, he bowed and apologized before slowly leaving the hall.

The frail man looked particularly lonely as he left.

Song Qi looked at the lawyer mockingly. “That wuss.”

Song Zhi broke his silence and said, “Mr. Zhou is right. Huo Yao is friends with Min Yu. If the Min family decided to get involved, then...”

Song Qi interrupted Song Zhi before he could finish his sentence. “You are overthinking it. If the Min family wanted to help, do you think she would have to produce the audio file and the original will?”

The Min family was no ordinary elite family. They hardly got involved with other powerful families. Moreover, Song Qi was certain that Min Yu would not sway his principles for the sake of a girl.

“The Min family aside, don’t you think Ning’s daughter is very strange? Where did she get the recording from? How did she send it to everyone anonymously? Has it dawned upon you yet?” asked Song Zhi deeply.

Chapter 1183: Min Jian Relegated To The Ranks Of An Outsider

Song Qi felt uneasy the moment Song Zhi brought up the audio file. She replied. “That’s easy enough. She just had to pay a hacker to get the file for her.”

Song Qi suddenly took out her phone, accessed her cloud, and checked those invisible folders which she had. There used to be dozens of pictures saved in the folders, but they were now completely empty.

They were all pictures of Song Ning. The very same pictures she had told Zhu to print and courier to Huo Yao previously.

Song Qi turned off her phone and looked worried. Song Zhi was probably right. There was something strange about Song Ning’s daughter.

Song Qi rubbed her forehead impatiently as she kept wondering if the audio file was still on her computer. She turned to look at Song Zhi and said, “I am going home first.”

Song Zhi was equally worried now that their family scandal was out and Min Yu had walked out on their banquet. After Song Qi left, he went back to the Song residence as well.

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After leaving the banquet hall, Min Yu took Huo Yao downstairs to the second floor. His private room was on the second floor.

Min Jian had arrived over 10 minutes ago. When they entered the private room, he was already sitting at the table and fiddling with something.

“Yu, why can’t I get this right?” Min Jian raised his head and looked at the entrance randomly. He spoke when he saw Min Yu standing at the door before quickly veering his eyes.

Min Yu glanced at the object in Min Jian’s hands and cleared his throat hard. He moved sideways slightly and blocked Huo Yao’s view as he said, “I forgot to tell you. An outsider is here to dine with us.”

Huo Yao raised her brow upon hearing this. An outsider?

The moment Min Jian heard his nephew’s voice, he raised his head to glance at the entrance. Since there was someone behind Min Yu, he quickly took the canvas bag from the chair beside him and placed the parts inside.

Why didn’t Min Yu mention that he was bringing friends?

After Min Jian was done putting away the parts, he straightened his back and looked stern. The moment he saw it was a young lady following behind Min Yu, his expression froze.

This young lady certainly looked familiar.

Before long, Min Jian remembered seeing her at the Ministry of National Security.

Min Yu took off his coat and placed it on the rack. He proceeded to take Huo Yao's coat as well and did the same. He pulled out a chair and gestured for her to take a seat before he said unhurriedly, "This is my uncle. You can call him Uncle Jian."

He introduced Huo Yao to Min Jian before sitting beside Huo Yao.

"How do you do, Uncle Jian?" Huo Yao nodded and greeted the man confidently.

When Min Jian saw the pretty young lady, he promptly suppressed his stern aura. He cleared his throat and smiled slightly. "Nice to meet you!"

Min Jian squeezed his hands awkwardly on the table. After glaring at Min Yu coldly for inviting Huo Yao without warning, he said uneasily, "Pleasure to meet you. Sorry, I wasn't prepared, so I didn't come with a gift. I will make up for it in the future."

Huo Yao shook her head and wanted to turn down the offer tactfully. "Thanks, Uncle Jian, but..."

Before she was able to turn down Min Jian, Min Yu interrupted her. "Uncle Jian, it is fine if you don't have a gift. You can always transfer her some money as a red packet."

Huo Yao was speechless.

Min Yu sat with his arm leaning against Huo Yao's seat backrest lazily as he reached his other hand into his pocket for his phone.

Chapter 1184: Min Jian Has Plenty Of Money

Min Jian's phone rang in his pocket before long.

Min Yu put down his phone and raised his head to look at Min Jian. "I have just sent you her number."

It was pretty clear what he wanted from his uncle.

It was alright to come empty-handed. If his uncle did not come prepared, he could just give her a red packet.

Min Jian went speechless.

Huo Yao's lips twitched. She turned to look at Min Yu. He was simply... shameless.

Min Yu raised his hand and straightened out her hair casually with a calm look on his face.

When Min Jian caught the public display of affection, he was shocked. After he snapped out of his daze, he shook his head speechlessly. He took out his phone and added Huo Yao's number to his address book.

Huo Yao took out her phone and added Min Jian's number as well.

Min Jian was very generous and sent Huo Yao \$88, 888. Since Min Yu had introduced Huo Yao to him, he must like her a lot.

He glanced at the girl and found her to be decent and pleasant. She was far better than the other rich ladies of high society.

The moment Huo Yao received a notification of the transfer, she felt apprehensive. She was deeply traumatized by the red packets which people kept sending her.

Min Yu leaned toward Huo Yao slightly and said softly by her ear, "Just accept it. Uncle Jian has plenty of money to go around."

Huo Yao had a feeling that he was mocking her for being broke. She went quiet.

Huo Yao paused for a second before she solemnly accepted the money. She raised her head, looked at Min Jian, and said in a serious tone, "Thank you, Uncle Jian. Feel free to call me if you need my help."

Min Jian felt intrigued by her words. It was the first time anyone offered to help him. He smiled and told her not to take it to heart.

Before long, Min Yu called the waiter over to order.

Min Jian did not usually speak much, but he had an enjoyable conversation with Huo Yao over dinner. After they were done eating, he told the waiter to bring in some red wine.

Min Yu did not drink. Instead, Huo Yao drank with Min Jian.

After all, the man had just given her a lot of money.

Min Yu called Min Jian's chauffeur when he was starting to get drunk.

"Young Master Min, I will send Director Min back," said the chauffeur and nodded to Min Yu.

"Uh huh," acknowledged Min Yu. He glanced at the black canvas bag beside Min Jian. "Hang on." He walked over to take the bag and handed it to the chauffeur.

The chauffeur took the bag and left the private room without asking what its contents were.

In an instant, only Min Yu and Huo Yao were left in the private room.

Min Yu turned to look at Huo Yao deeply and noticed that her cheeks were slightly flushed from the drinking. He pinched her cheeks and asked deeply. "Are you drunk?"

"Impossible." Huo Yao glanced at him sideways and flicked his hands aside. Even though her face was pink, her eyes looked bright and clear and she did not seem drunk at all.

Min Yu sighed disappointedly. "That's too bad then."

Huo Yao disregarded the look on his face. After raising her hand to check the time on her watch, she walked to the side and retrieved her jacket. She said as she put on her coat, "Let's go. I need to go somewhere."

"Where?" asked Min Yu.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes. She buttoned a coat button and replied mildly. "The hospital."

Min Yu looked at her in surprise. However, he did not probe and simply replied. "I will send you there."

Huo Yao did not turn down the offer and acknowledged him softly before leaving the private room. Before long, they left the restaurant and headed toward the First People's Hospital.

Chapter 1185: Better To Be Less Of A Gentleman

Huo Yao had already made arrangements in the hospital, so she went straight to the hospital ward.

A patient was lying on the hospital bed with his eyes tightly closed. Even though the patient was so weak that his chest hardly moved, the machines beside him clearly indicated that there was a heartbeat.

Huo Yao walked up beside the bed and glanced at him coldly. She pulled up a chair, sat down. She placed her fingers on Old Master Song's pulse.

After she was done taking his pulse, Min Yu spoke up in astonishment. "I thought you did not want to help them."

Huo Yao retrieved silver needles from her bag without so much as raising her head. "Wouldn't it make things interesting if he was alive?"

Old Master Song would come to no good end. Wouldn't it be great if he could see it with his own eyes?

Huo Yao had already applied acupuncture to the old man. Moments later, she said airily, "Moreover, I am a doctor, so it's my job to save him, right?"

Min Yu glanced at her. Even though she made absolute sense, it was creepy to hear it from her mouth.

"Can he be saved?" asked Min Yu.

Huo Yao tilted her head sideways and applied one more silver needle. "Have you ever seen someone with Alzheimer's?" She paused before she continued. "The sort where the patient is completely capable of seeing and hearing, but he just can't do anything else."

Sometimes, patients had a very poor quality of life, so it would be a blessing to die.

Min Yu quickly caught her drift but said nothing. He simply walked over to the side and waited for her.

Huo Yao finally put away her needles about 10 minutes later. She looked at the statistics showing up on the machine beside the patient. Some of the figures had started out lower than normal, but they were gradually climbing now.

Huo Yao veered her eyes. She squeezed her wrists and walked up to Min Yu. "We can go now."

"Uh huh," acknowledged Min Yu.

Min Yu reached his hand out to hold her right wrist. He rubbed it gently as they walked out of the hospital ward.

They took the lift downstairs and walked out of the hospital. After walking in the night breeze, the wind made the scent of alcohol disappear from Huo Yao.

Even though Huo Yao's wrist was no longer aching, Min Yu continued massaging it. She contemplated before looking at him sideways.

His black coat was open and he was wearing a black turtleneck sweater making his well-chiseled features appear even more defined. When she looked at him sideways, his face was flawless.

People with gorgeous looks were undoubtedly very captivating.

Huo Yao commented in her heart.

Min Yu opened the car door for her when they got to the parking lot. After Huo Yao got into the front passenger seat, he started the engine, but his phone suddenly rang in his pocket.

He took out his phone and glanced at the caller ID before answering the call.

After the call got through, his mother's gentle voice came from over the phone. "I heard that you brought a girl over when you had dinner with your uncle tonight."

"Uh huh," acknowledged Min Yu. "Did you call just to ask about her?"

"Is she drunk?" asked Nie Su after staying quiet for a few seconds.

Min Yu leaned against the car window and rubbed his brow. "What kind of man do you think I am?"

Nie Su sounded a little disappointed. "Sometimes, it is better to be less of a gentleman."

Min Yu went speechless.

"I have to go." Min Yu cleared his throat and hung up without waiting for his mother to reply.

He tossed the phone into the box by the side, turned the steering wheel, and left the hospital.

On their way back, he kept thinking about what his mother said.

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Meanwhile, Song Qi hurried back to the Ji residence.

The moment she got home, she turned on her computer.

Chapter 1186: Someone Might Steal Your Man

Song Qi had set a password for her computer and some of her more important documents were further encrypted by professionals.

Before long, Song Qi located her invisible folder. After entering the password, she realized that the pictures and audio file were gone. She instantly looked worried.

When the files disappeared from Song Qi's cloud, she could still convince herself that it was a security issue. However, the files had disappeared from her computer altogether.

Song Qi tightened her grip on the mouse just thinking about it. She refused to believe what she was seeing and searched through every drive on her computer in the hope of locating the files somewhere else.

She could not find anything on any of the drives.

Song Qi flung the mouse aside frustratedly and rubbed her brow. After sitting quietly for a few minutes, she put down her hand. Even though there was bright light hanging overhead, her mood was absolutely foul.

Song Qi had underestimated the girl. She was surprised that Huo Yao was capable of stealing her data without leaving a trace. No wonder Huo Yao did not react when she sent her the pictures previously. She was planning to do this all along.

Someone knocked on the door interrupting Song Qi's thoughts. She stood up and went over to answer the door.

"Mom, are you alright?" Ji Ya was at the door. When Ji Ya's mother came home, she looked flustered and went straight upstairs, so Ji Ya came to check on her.

Song Qi composed herself when she realized it was her daughter. She looked at Ji Ya and shook her head. "I am fine."

Since Song Qi looked completely normal, Ji Ya smiled and said, "Okay then."

Song Qi looked at her daughter's beautiful face. Ji Ya looked refined and gentle. Song Ning's daughter looked arrogant. The two of them had completely different styles.

She did not understand why someone from the Min family would have anything to do with the likes of Huo Yao.

Song Qi pondered briefly. She suddenly reached her hands out and adjusted Ji Ya's collar and pretended to speak randomly. "Oh yes. I recall you visiting the Min residence once. Have you gone back yet?"

"I've been a little busy recently. Why are you suddenly asking?" asked Ji Ya perplexedly.

Song Qi acted normal as she replied. "Just asking." She paused before pulling her hands back and saying softly. "Sometimes, girls need to take some initiative. Otherwise, someone might steal your man."

Ji Ya did not know how to respond. "Mom, why have you been talking funny recently?"

Ji Ya clearly did not understand Song Qi's kind intentions. Song Qi sighed inside disappointedly. Ji Ya was not scheming at all. It was impossible for Ji Ya to handle Huo Yao on her own.

"If you like something, you should fight for it. The same goes for people." Song Qi patted Ji Ya's shoulder. "If you stay quiet, you might lose out."

Ji Ya knew what her mother was trying to say. She lowered her eyes and did not want to continue listening to her mother give her lessons about life. She nodded patronizingly. "Okay. Have an early night. I still have to work on my thesis, so I am going back to my room."

Song Qi could only stop harping on this. "Okay then. Have an early night. Don't stay up till late."

“Uh huh.” Ji Ya nodded before turning to leave.

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The next morning, Song Qi received a call from the hospital after she came downstairs. She looked delighted after receiving the call.

She hurriedly told the chauffeur to bring the car over.

Song Qi was changing her shoes when the butler came over with a few packages. He looked at Song Qi and said, “Madam, your packages are here.”

Chapter 1187: A Miracle That He Woke Up

Song Qi was rushing to get to the hospital, so she simply waved her hand when she heard what the butler said. “Just leave it there. I have to get to the hospital now.”

The butler nodded and acknowledged her reverently.

After Song Qi was gone, the butler placed the packages into the cabinet and went back to his business.

Song Qi arrived at the hospital 30 minutes later.

Song Zhi had already received news from the hospital earlier. He had arrived around ten minutes ago, and was already inside the hospital ward.

The hospital president was standing beside the bed and speaking to him. “Old Master Song is out of critical condition. We will transfer him to a normal ward later.”

“Does this mean my father will recover well?” asked Song Zhi anxiously.

The hospital president nodded. He pointed at the statistics on the hospital equipment and said, “In theory, we expect him to recover. Once the report is out, I will let you know, Mr. Song.”

“Thank you so much,” said Song Zhi politely.

“You are welcome.” The hospital director smiled. “Old Master Song was really lucky to recover on his own. This is quite the miracle.”

Song Zhi looked at his father lying on the bed.

Song Zhi was prepared for the worst when Huo Yao refused to give his father treatment. He really did not expect his father to recover on his own.

Song Zhi heaved a sigh of relief. He walked the hospital president out of the room.

After he came back, he felt a lot better about the situation.

As long as his father was alive, there was a chance to get his father to alter the will.

Song Qi felt relieved when she heard about her father’s situation. She sighed in relief as well. “From the looks of it, our father is fine.” She paused thinking about the incident last night.

After a beat, she continued. “Since Dad will regain consciousness soon, don’t bother doing it.”

She was referring to the inheritance transfer. Chen Ming had told Song Zhi to sort out the estate and hand over Song Ning's share.

Song Zhi was in a dilemma. He didn't respond to her. He could not help thinking about how Mr. Zhou urged him to do it twice before he left.

Song Qi knew what Song Zhi was thinking. She said, "Mr. Zhou is just a coward. How could you take his words seriously?"

"It's not that. I am just worried about the Min family." Song Zhi looked at her solemnly. "We have to consider the Min family's stand."

"Stop thinking about it. Our father will regain consciousness soon. When he does, do you think he would want to split the family estate and share it with someone whom he has severed ties with for decades?" asked Song Qi insistently.

Song Zhi felt that Song Qi's words made sense as well. Even though he was Old Master Song's son and they were in a patriarchal society, Old Master Song refused to give him any real power. Song Ning was still a married daughter and an estranged one. He was sure that Old Master Song would never agree to it.

The doubts in Song Zhi's mind promptly dissipated. He walked out of the hospital ward, called his lawyer, and told him to stop working on the asset transfer.

In the afternoon, Old Master Song's medical report was out and everything was normal.

Moreover, Old Master Song had regained consciousness. Although he could only open his eyes and was unable to speak at all, everyone felt it was normal.

It took them a few days before they realized there was something wrong with Old Master Song.

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Huo Yao did not tell Song Ning about going to the banquet. When she came home, she acted as though nothing had happened.

Since Old Master Song was doing well, Song Zhi did not bother harassing Song Ning to get Huo Yao to treat the old man. Song Ning was puzzled by Song Zhi's reaction.

Chapter 1188: A Chance Encounter

Chen Ming had given Song Zhi a day to sort out the inheritance. He sent men to see Song Zhi a day later, but they got driven out of Song Zhi's property.

Chen Ming called Huo Yao to update her about it.

Song Ning had forced Huo Yao to go shopping, so they were at the mall when he called. Huo Yao glanced at Song Ning while the latter checked out some jewelry. Huo Yao quietly left the store and answered the phone.

Chen Ming told Huo Yao about the situation. "Since he refuses to hand over the inheritance, shall we..."

He stopped mid sentence.

Huo Yao leaned against a glass railing in the atrium, tapping her fingers gently and said slowly, "Uncle Ming, please handle it then."

Chen Ming pondered and asked. "Would Madam get upset if we touched them?"

Huo Yao looked up at the jewelry shop window display and veered her eyes. She told him gently, "Competition happens all the time. If it was not us, it could be anyone else."

Chen Ming cleared his throat. Miss Huo was undoubtedly an educated young woman. Even though the chief steward kept claiming to be civilized, they were getting sick of hearing it.

They did not talk for long and quickly hung up the phone.

Huo Yao put away the phone. She leaned against the railing with her elbows and stood quietly for a while until Song Ning waved for her from inside the jewelry shop. Huo Yao finally walked over.

Song Ning had already selected dozens of sets of jewelry for her. They were all the latest designs. She was holding a diamond necklace in her hand. She put it on her daughter's neck and said, "Try this."

Huo Yao looked at the huge dazzling diamond on the necklace and smiled like a pauper. "Never mind. I am already wearing a necklace."

She pulled out the necklace under her black sweater and showed it to her.

"It's jewelry, so the more the merrier." Song Ning forced Huo Yao to put on the necklace. She checked out the necklace a couple of times before she nodded and responded. "This looks okay. Let's try some more."

Huo Yao went speechless.

After trying a few sets of jewelry, Huo Yao could no longer take it. She pretended that she needed to use the bathroom and left the jewelry store.

When Huo Yao was on her way to the bathroom, she thought to herself. She was genuinely not built for shopping.

She would rather hang out at home and read any day.

Huo Yao spent ten minutes in the bathroom. Song Ning had already paid for the jewelry by the time she got back. There were dozens of small boxes in her huge shopping bag.

Huo Yao looked at the store manager as he beamed from ear to ear. She wondered if the guy would beat her up if she asked for a refund now.

Before long, Song Ning dragged Huo Yao into the next store to buy more luxury goods. Song Ning's daughter hated shopping, so it was hard for Song Ning.

Now that Song Ning was in the capital, it was only right for her to help stock up for her daughter.

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Meanwhile, Song Qi could finally relax now that her father was on the road to recovery. She told her husband to go shopping with her.

She had not gone to the mall in half a month, so she had bought quite a few things.

Just when she was about to enter her favorite luxury boutique, she saw Song Ning inside the store picking out clothes through the window.

Song Ning was well maintained, so her complexion was in far better condition than any of the other rich ladies in high society. Also, she had a very elegant aura.

Song Qi frowned and halted in her steps. She did not expect to encounter Song Ning at the mall of all people.

Song Qi stood where she was without moving. Her husband had taken a couple of steps when he noticed she did not catch up. He turned to look at her and asked quizzically. "What's wrong?"

Chapter 1189: A Problem

"I don't like the clothes in this store. Let's check out some other brands," said Song Qi to her husband. She looked completely normal.

Ji Kaiyang felt puzzled, but he did not take it to heart. He simply halted and acknowledged Song Qi.

Song Qi felt relieved. She held Ji Kaiyang's arm intimately as she raised her head and glanced at Song Ning. They proceeded to enter the store next door.

Even though they had entered some other boutique, Song Qi's mind kept drifting. She kept thinking about Song Ning.

She had completely lost her mood to shop.

After Song Qi entered the fitting room to try an outfit, Ji Kaiyang took a call. He looked serious after answering the phone. Then, he paced up and down with the phone in his hand.

When Song Qi walked out of the fitting room, she wanted to get her husband's opinion, but he looked a little worried, so she held her tongue. She walked over and asked her husband. "Did something happen?"

Ji Kaiyang halted briefly. He looked sideways at Song Qi. "Something happened at the investment firm."

Song Qi frowned. The investment firm belonged to Song Qi. Her family had given it to her when she got married. All these years, Ji Kaiyang had been taking care of it. The moment she heard about a problem, she asked him, "Is it serious?"

"Two investors pulled out their investment. For now, it's fine," replied Ji Kaiyang mildly.

Song Qi felt relieved to hear this. "I am glad it isn't serious. Just find two other investors to make up for the shortfall then."

"Uh huh." Ji Kaiyang nodded.

Song Qi straightened her clothes. She pondered and said, "Why don't you go back to the firm and find out what happened?"

Ji Kaiyang also felt the same way, but he pretended that it wasn't a big deal and replied. "It's fine. I will shop with you for a little longer."

"It's fine. Work is more important. Why don't you go ahead?" Song Qi pushed him gently and gestured for him to leave.

Usually, she would not let him leave, but today was special.

Ji Kaiyang said nothing and simply gave Song Qi a credit card before he left.

Song Qi watched from behind as Ji Kaiyang left. After he got to the escalator, she veered her eyes and went back into the fitting room.

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Ji Kaiyang's assistant called just as he was about to get onto the escalator, so he went over to the railing at the atrium and took the call.

The assistant was calling about the investment firm again. This time, the assistant sounded a little bit more anxious. Ji Kaiyang frowned as he listened. He told the assistant he was on his way to the firm before hanging up the phone.

Ji Kaiyang put away the phone. He wanted to take the escalator down. When he looked up, he inadvertently saw someone wearing a white coat coming down from the third floor on the escalator and promptly froze. He kept staring at the woman.

Wasn't that Song Ning?

Ji Kaiyang was stunned. By the time he snapped out of his shock, the woman was nowhere to be seen.

He stood where he was for a couple of seconds. He shook his head and decided that it could not have been Song Ning. He stopped lingering and took the down riding escalator.

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After Song Ning was finally done shopping, she reached her hand out to pull her daughter's hand, but she could not find her daughter's hand.

Song Ning turned to see her daughter carrying countless shopping bags. She looked at the things in disbelief. "Did I buy all that stuff?"

Huo Yao smiled calmly. "It's fine. You have plenty of money to burn."

Song Ning could detect her daughter mocking her, so she looked at Huo Yao quietly.

Song Ning cleared her throat sheepishly. She inadvertently noticed something, so she turned back to take a second look at Huo Yao. She looked at her daughter's hair which was casually done up in a bun.

Although her daughter was beautiful from all angles, she felt Huo Yao could be better.

Chapter 1190: Send A Picture To Make Up For It

Song Ning mused over the thought briefly. After making up her mind, she dragged her daughter into a posh salon at the end of the corridor.

Against her will, Huo Yao was tortured for almost five hours. She deeply regretted agreeing to come out to begin with. When the deed was done, she finally came back to life.

“My daughter looks good from all angles.” Song Ning crossed her arms looking at her daughter happily.

Her long dark hair was now styled in a wavy French perm. Her bangs were a little curly and looked trendy. Since her hair was naturally brown, it accentuated her flawless complexion. She looked confident and unrestrained with her brows slightly raised.

Huo Yao looked at herself in the mirror. Even though her mother had insisted on doing this, she was unaccustomed to it.

Huo Yao lowered her head when her phone chimed. It was a text message from Min Yu. She quickly replied: [All done.]

When Huo Yao was getting her hair done, she texted him to pass time.

Min Yu raised his brow and texted back: [Let’s have dinner with your mother.]

Huo Yao pulled her slightly curled hair behind her ear. She looked at Song Ning as she paid the bill at the counter and replied: [No, thanks. We are going straight home.]

Min Yu sighed gently and wrote: [In that case, why don’t you send me a picture to make up for it?]

Huo Yao agreed promptly. She turned sideways and took a picture of her mother paying at the cashier. She had perfectly captured the receipt.

She nodded before tapping send.

Min Yu’s lips twitched when he saw the picture. He was speechless.

Song Ning saw her daughter holding the phone smiling when she was done paying the bill. She asked her quizzically. “Why are you so happy?”

Huo Yao shook her head. She had received a notification informing her of the fund’s transfer. She tapped to accept the money before she stood up. “Can we go home now?”

Song Ning’s lips twitched. If she insisted on shopping further, she felt Huo Yao might throw a fit.

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By the time they got home, it was 9:00 pm. Huo Yao went back to her room after having dinner.

After washing up, she turned on her laptop and accessed Cloud Realm. She checked on her post in the commodities marketplace. Although she had heard back from a lot of people, none of them was her target.

Huo Yao signed off from the website.

After sitting quietly for a couple of minutes, her phone chimed on the table. It was a text message notification.

Huo Yao glanced at the phone. She paused before slowly holding up her phone. Since it was Liu Qian texting her, she sat up slightly and replied: [Yes?]

When Liu Qian heard back from Huo Yao, he called her on the phone.

Huo Yao answered the phone.

“The National Research Institute of Science and Technology just called. They want the team to go over tomorrow. Please get ready.” Liu Qian spoke excitedly over the phone.

“Uh huh,” acknowledged Huo Yao calmly. She contemplated before she asked. “Are they personally giving us some prize money?”

Liu Qian’s lips twitched. “This is serious.”

“Okay, Mr. Liu. I will get ready,” replied Huo Yao in a serious tone.

Liu Qian had thought that he might have to calm Huo Yao down and encourage her not to be nervous. The moment he heard Huo Yao’s calm reply, he did not know what to say.

Liu Qian rubbed his brow. This was not what he expected at all.

When he had called Dai Jie and the others, they were so nervous that their voices trembled.