

Pill Maker 121

Chapter 121: A Pure Misunderstanding

Min Yu was unsurprised by Huo Yao's question, knowing how incredibly sharp the girl was.

"Yes, I did," admitted Min Yu without withholding the truth.

The tension in Huo Yao's heart seemed to slacken finally. Although she was not worried about her grandmother doing something rash, she at least needed to know where the lady was.

"Your Granny called me yesterday. She probably doesn't want you stuck in between her and the Lu family, so she asked me to send her home," explained Min Yu concisely.

"I get it," said Huo Yao as she sighed gently.

She certainly appreciated the old lady's intentions. After a few seconds of silence, she composed herself and asked him. "Where is she now?"

Min Yu raised his hand to check his watch and said, "She ought to be home by now."

Then he added as if he knew that Huo Yao might worry. "Don't fret. I especially got someone to send your grandmother home. Nothing will happen to her."

Huo Yao first went, "Mhm," but then suddenly looked up at Min Yu solemnly and said, "Thanks."

Min Yu raised his brow and spoke in an unbridled tone. "Do you have to be so formal, my savior?"

Huo Yao glanced at him and vaguely smiled and replied. "Oh by the way, Mr. Min, since when did I have you as my tuition teacher?"

Min Yu shrugged and explained in a lazy manner. "It was a pure misunderstanding."

Huo Yao chuckled. She placed the old lady's letter into her pocket before she turned to head out of the hospital.

"Then please continue to keep it that way."

Her voice drifted as she waved her hand and walked away.

Min Yu thoughtfully smiled before he turned to trail behind her.

After leaving the hospital, Huo Yao took out her phone to check the time and discovered it was dead.

She placed it back in her pocket and contemplated for a couple of seconds before raising her head and asking Min Yu. "Did you drive to this place?"

"Hmm," said Min Yu as he glanced at her quizzically.

"My phone's battery has died and I don't have any cash. Why don't you help me one more time by giving me a lift home?" asked Huo Yao bluntly.

Min Yu raised his brow and said, "I thought you were going to buy me dinner."

“How can you let a penniless middle school student buy you dinner? Is it-okay-for-a-tuition-teacher-to-do-that?” asked Huo Yao as she enunciated her last few words distinctly.

Min Yu’s lips twitched. He replied with a tiny smile on his face. “Shall I buy you dinner instead?”

But Huo Yao rejected him lazily. “Forget it. My folks are going to get worried if they can’t get hold of me.”

“Let’s go then,” replied Min Yu as he rubbed his forehead without teasing her further.

They got into the car quickly.

Min Yu sat with a hand on the steering wheel while he leaned his elbow against the window. He kept his head tilted as he pressed his temples non-stop. His face was abnormally pale with a trace of fatigue visible on his features.

Huo Yao glanced at him calmly before she casually asked. “Not getting enough rest?”

“Is it that obvious?” asked Min Yu with a relatively deep voice as he looked sideways at her.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes. She hastily connected the dots about him going to the capital a few days ago and her grandmother’s matter. She suddenly said in astonishment, “Don’t tell me that you rushed back in the middle of the night to help Granny?”

Min Yu kept rubbing his temples but avoided the subject and said, “I finished my work, so I naturally had to come back.”

Huo Yao immediately turned silent.

Chapter 122: Check It If You Don’t Believe Me

Moments later, she looked at Min Yu and calmly said as though it was not a big deal, “The nerve-soothing incense, which I bought online for Granny, worked quite well. Come by the school, post the classes in a couple of days, and I’ll pass some to you.”

Min Yu recalled the incense online shop whose link she had shared with him previously. He shook his head and laughed.

After a moment, he said, “It’s fine. I’ll be alright after resting for a few days.”

Huo Yao touched her nose tip and nodded. “Okay...”

But she paused and added as an afterthought. “If you change your mind, let me know.”

“Mhm,” said Min Yu gently without taking it to heart.

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Twenty minutes later, Huo Yao thanked Min Yu before heading into her estate.

The sky was already dark. Huo Yao went upstairs and opened the front door to enter the apartment and spotted Huo Yanxi, who had not been home in a long time. He was sitting on the couch with his arms crossed. His face was livid.

A light gun powder scent floated in the air.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes and put her sling bag on the cabinet.

Huo Yanxi looked at Huo Yao and hastily stood up. He looked at her angrily and said, "Can't you just cut it out?"

"Son, calm down before you talk," said Huo Jinyan deeply with a frown on his face.

Though Huo Yao was completely unruffled by Huo Yanxi's blatant line of questioning, there was no warmth in her eyes.

"This is odd. What outrageous act have I committed this time to piss you off so badly?"

The moment Huo Yanxi saw Huo Yao's indifference, he seethed with even more anger. "How can you have the cheek to ask this question? Where have you sent Lu Xia's grandmother?"

Huo Yao recalled the numerous calls which He Xiaoman made to her and roughly guessed the reason for his anger.

Since Old Madam Yang did not go back to the Lu family and Huo Yao had visited her apartment the same day, the Lu family conveniently surmised that Huo Yao had hidden her away after getting her discharged from the hospital.

After all, Huo Yao seemed the most likely suspect.

Huo Yanxi inhaled deeply in the face of his sister's silence. He did his utmost to control his emotions before he said, "I know you are close to Xiaxia's grandmother, but you can't take her away without saying a word."

Huo Yao smiled playfully and said, "I'm curious as to who told you that I was the one who took Old Madam Yang out of the hospital. Was it Lu Xia? Hmm?"

Huo Yanxi frowned and retorted haltingly. "She just called me..."

But before he could finish, Huo Yao interrupted, "You were so certain I was the one who took off with her the moment she called you. What if I said I wasn't the one who took her?"

Huo Tingrui raised his brow slightly when he heard Huo Yao. His baby sister was undoubtedly good at rhetorical debate.

Although Huo Yanxi was stunned by her question, he swiftly regained composure and said, "Fine. Since you insist that you didn't take her away, why didn't you answer the Lu family's phone calls and even turned off your phone? Aren't you inviting the Lu family's suspicion by doing this?"

Huo Yao found this even more hilarious. She calmly retrieved her phone from her pocket and pressed its power button several times. A low battery icon appeared on its screen before it automatically powered off.

“See that? It’s out of battery,” replied Huo Yao airily.

Then she handed her phone to Huo Yanxi and continued somewhat sarcastically. “If you don’t believe me, why don’t you check it yourself?”

Chapter 123: Figure Out Who Your Real Family Is

Huo Yanxi’s eyes landed on Huo Yao’s phone, but he did not take it. Moments later, he looked sideways and said deeply, “If you truly didn’t take her grandmother away, then why did you keep disconnecting Lu family’s calls?”

“Isn’t it normal to hang up on them? Yao’s foster mother always ill-treated her. Why should she answer just because they called her? This logic is crazy,” said Huo Tingrui calmly from the side.

“Yes, exactly. Tingrui is right. If it were me, I wouldn’t have merely cut her call. I would have blacklisted her eons ago,” said Song Ning. She did not like the Lu family at all.

Huo Yanxi looked at Huo Tingrui with a rather complicated expression on his face. It was one thing if their parents pampered their little sister blindly, but even his sharp second brother was...

Moments later, Huo Yanxi shook his head and said disappointedly, “I don’t care if you indulge her, but she has to answer for what happened to Xiaxia’s grandmother, no matter what.”

Huo Yanxi’s gaze landed on Huo Yao once more as he said, “Come with me to the Lu family. Since you didn’t have anything to do with the matter, then you can explain...”

Before he finished his sentence, his phone rang. He paused and instinctively glanced at the caller ID.

It was Lu Xia. Huo Yanxi did not go on. He picked up the phone and answered it. “Hello, Xiaxia...”

“Brother Yanxi, we found Granny. She went back to her hometown in Fuxian County. Sorry, my mother misunderstood Yaoyao. It was my fault for overreacting. I shouldn’t have called you because I couldn’t get a hold of Yaoyao. I hope I didn’t cause you any trouble...”

Lu Xia’s delicate voice came through the phone. She sounded apologetic, on the brink of tears, and filled with remorse.

Huo Yanxi recalled how he furiously grilled and accused Huo Yao a few moments ago and his mind instantly went blank.

Did Huo Yanxi misjudge her again?

“... Brother Yanxi, are you there?” asked Lu Xia cautiously and somewhat pitifully when she failed to hear Huo Yanxi respond after a long time.

Huo Yanxi closed his eyes and replied. “Okay.”

Then he hung up without speaking further.

Lu Xia could not help feeling vexed when she heard Huo Yanxi’s cold answer. She held onto her phone tightly for a long time before she let go.

Huo Yanxi was no longer as aggressive when he turned his eyes towards Huo Yao again. His lips parted, but it felt as though something had blocked his throat. It felt unbearable. After a long time, he did not manage to squeeze even a word through his teeth.

Huo Yao calmly looked at the complicated expression on his face and said indifferently, "It appears you found out what truly happened."

"I..."

"I'm heading upstairs," said Huo Yao without giving Huo Yanxi the chance to speak any further. She glanced at her parents and second older brother in the living room before heading up the stairs unhurriedly.

"Brother Yanxi, we all know you have always been close to Lu Xia. But let me remind you that you have to figure out who your biological family is," said Huo Tingrui indifferently before he went upstairs too.

Huo Yanxi's face burned in shame the moment he heard his brother. He felt sapped of all energy. His phone slipped from his hand and fell to the ground.

Chapter 124: Futile To Explain

Huo Jinyan stood up to pick up the phone and placed it on the coffee table. Then he patted his son's shoulder and left the room without saying a word.

Song Ning sighed rather disappointedly. "You're too biased against Yaoyao. She's your biological sister and not an outsider, but you refuse to trust her. If you were sensible and more rational, things like this wouldn't have happened."

Huo Yanxi clenched his fists and a slight look of shame emerged on his face.

Since Lu Xia had called him to complain tearfully, Huo Yanxi blamed Huo Yao almost without any hesitation. He subconsciously thought his younger sister was a huge troublemaker. No matter how close Huo Yao was to her grandmother, how could she take her away without saying a word to anyone?

But what happened in the end?

Huo Yanxi's lips curved up in self-deprecation. He questioned her aggressively, but it turned out to be a misunderstanding.

In comparison to his foster sister, other than leaving him repeatedly speechless, Huo Yanxi had nothing good to say about his pretentious biological sister.

Even though his opinion improved after she got full marks in the quiz, he was yet again disappointed by her indifference and refusal to explain.

Although the events that transpired today were a dead ringer for the previous episode... he was the one who refused to admit that even if she offered an explanation, he would not have believed her.

Disbelief was still the first thing that surfaced in his mind when she had asked him whether he would believe her if she said that she wasn't the one who took her grandmother away.

Yes, it was futile to explain since he refused to believe her. If it were him, he would not have bothered explaining either.

Huo Yanxi wiped his face and smiled bitterly.

Huo Yao walked out of the shower with her hair still dripping wet. She picked up her phone while it was charging as she blow-dried her hair with a hairdryer. She pressed the power button, and the phone came back to life in a few seconds.

Many notifications for messages and missed calls bounced on the screen. Among them were texts and calls from Huo Yanxi and some unknown numbers.

Huo Yao checked them all. Then she turned off the hairdryer and decided to call her grandmother again. This time, her phone was not unreachable.

The call went through very quickly.

Huo Yao held the phone without saying a word. Her grandmother did not speak either. Other than the slight noise of breathing, it was very quiet.

After a while, Huo Yao said gently, "Granny."

"Mhm, I... I'm here," replied the old lady. She seemed to have dropped something, and there was a loud noise that almost completely drowned out her voice.

Huo Yao rubbed her forehead helplessly. She pulled up a chair to sit down and sighed. "Are you going to keep letting me listen to you tip things over?"

The noise suddenly disappeared from the phone.

Two seconds later, the old lady meekly explained. "Cough... I was just about to pour myself some water and dropped it accidentally."

Huo Yao's brows quirked up. She languidly leaned back into the chair and the warm light in the room scattered on her face.

Then she said in a warm and unrestrained manner, "Mhm, I get it. Say no more."

Old Madam Yang, "..."

Chapter 125: Min Yu Is A Good Guy

Huo Yao was well aware that the old lady pulled this trick each time she wanted to hide her emotions.

Huo Yao leisurely tugged on the partially dried hair hanging over her shoulder and played with it.

She said in a casual manner, "You're getting pretty good, aren't you? You even dare to run back home on your own without telling me."

The old lady was startled when she heard Huo Yao and replied sheepishly. "I didn't come back alone. Little Mr. Min got someone to send me home."

Huo Yao sneered and said, "How long have you known him for? If he was a con man, what would happen to you?"

The old lady felt guilty but suppressed the sour feeling in her mouth as she replied softly. "I know Min Yu is a good guy."

"Don't ever write a letter and run off again. Just tell me where you want to go. It's not like I'd stop you, alright?"

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes a little and said in an unusually solemn voice, "With me around, no one can force you to live where you don't like."

Huo Yao knew that He Xiaoman had wanted her grandmother to move to the city, but she refused her again and again. Her grandmother would never have compromised if Huo Yao did not move back to the Huo family.

The old lady had to live in the city unhappily because of Huo Yao's selfishness.

Huo Yao wanted to take care of this old lady because of her close proximity with the host.

The old lady choked with emotions and agreed. "If Xiaoman puts you in a spot again, don't worry about me. Do whatever you want. Don't suffer in silence."

Huo Yao said calmly, "That's why I keep saying that you have a heart problem. It is because you overthink."

The old lady was worried that she might feel even worse if they went on chatting, so she muttered softly. "Okay okay. It's getting late. I want to sleep."

Then she hung up without waiting for Huo Yao to say goodnight.

Huo Yao shook her head and laughed when she heard the beep on the phone. She put it down and continued blow-drying her hair.

Before long, someone knocked at her door.

Huo Yao straightened her hair before opening it.

"Brother Tingrui?"

Huo Tingrui stood there with his hands behind him. He looked even more refined without his rimless glasses.

He pursed his lips into a smile and said, "You probably haven't had dinner, right?"

Huo Yao was rather surprised and said yes.

Huo Tingrui turned sideways and raised his chin to glance at the stairs and said, "Come, I'll cook something for you."

He paused for two seconds and added. "Brother Yanxi is gone, so don't worry about things being awkward."

Huo Yao agreed right away. "Then thanks, Brother Tingrui."

Very quickly, the two of them went downstairs. It was almost 10:00 pm, so Song Ning and Huo Jinyan had already gone back to their room.

Huo Tingrui rolled up his sleeves and opened the fridge to check the contents. Other than some eggs and a tomato, there were no other ingredients. He touched the tip of his nose and looked at Huo Yao.

He said, "We're out of ingredients. Will stir-fried tomato and scrambled eggs noodles do?"

"It's fine. I'm not picky."

"Okay," replied Huo Tingrui as he nodded.

Then he retrieved the eggs and tomatoes from the fridge and continued. "Go sit in the living room. I'll be done in a jiffy."

Although Huo Yao nodded, she did not leave. She leaned lazily against the wall with her arms crossed and watched the man cook in a methodical manner.

Chapter 126: Are You Teaching Me How To Conduct Myself?

Ten minutes later Huo Tingrui put the noodles in a bowl. He placed it on the table and said, "Go on and try it."

Huo Yao picked up her chopsticks and took a bite. She raised her head to say, "Not bad."

Huo Tingrui sat down next to her. He raised his brow and said, "Of course. I started cooking when I was eight."

That meant he had cooked for over ten years and was an experienced cook.

Huo Yao could not help mulling over it.

She was blowing up her clan's pharmaceutical laboratory when she was eight.

"Oh yes. After you went to the bathroom at the hospital yesterday, Granny told me to take care of you. I found it odd and wanted to tell you, but it slipped my mind," said Huo Tingrui apologetically.

He continued after a moment with regret clear in his voice. "I didn't know she was trying to leave. If I were more careful, this might not have happened."

Huo Yao's hand stilled. She looked at Huo Tingrui, who was blaming himself.

She said calmly, "It's not your fault. It would have happened even if you did manage to prevent it from happening this time. She couldn't get used to living in the city, so it was better for her to go home."

Huo Tingrui shook his head and said with a bitter smile on his face, "I was trying to comfort you, but you ended up consoling me."

Huo Yao smiled. She lowered her head and continued eating.

Huo Tingrui looked at his quiet little sister and felt emotional.

Huo Yao did not panic and remained calm in the face of Huo Yanxi's fierce questioning. If the same thing had happened to Lu Xia, she would have bawled her eyes out and ended up causing a misunderstanding.

They said kids who cried, got candy. Hence, it was no surprise that his baby sister's calm, stubborn, and proud personality made her lose out.

Huo Tingrui sighed inwardly. but chatted with Huo Yao casually without bringing up Huo Yanxi.

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The next day, Huo Yao walked out of the exam hall after the final integrated arts paper. Lu Xia came walking over when she spotted her in the corridor.

"Let's talk," said Lu Xia. Though she looked at Huo Yao with a normal expression, her tone was condescending.

Huo Yao looked up and replied impatiently. "I'm not free."

Saying so, she made a move to brush past Lu Xia.

Lu Xia narrowed her eyes before she turned and followed her. She said in a raised voice, "No matter what, you have gone back to the Huo family, so stop getting involved with Granny. That will be best for both our families. After all, you don't want to see everyone getting upset because of you, right?"

Huo Yao paused in her steps. She glanced at her sideways with a cold look.

She asked Lu Xia in a lazy voice. "Are you teaching me how to conduct myself?"

Lu Xia was startled by the look in her eyes. But she quickly composed herself and continued indifferently. "I'm just trying to tell you not to be greedy."

Huo Yao smiled as she digested her words and replied. "That sounds novel."

She snorted gently before calmly walking away.

Lu Xia stood in her spot and frowned as she watched Huo Yao leave. She suddenly recalled Huo Yanxi's unusual reaction last night when she had called to explain. After contemplating for a moment, she turned to walk down the stairs.

Lu Xia retrieved her phone from the desk after returning to the Rocket Class. She composed a message and sent it to Huo Yanxi.

Chapter 127: I Apologized To Her

No reply came even after ten minutes.

Lu Xia became extremely frustrated since this had never happened before, so she sent him another text after some thought: [Brother Yanxi, see you at our usual spot.]

Huo Yanxi was in a daze staring at his phone after receiving Lu Xia's text messages.

He instinctively wanted to reply Lu Xia after receiving the first message, but his fingertips froze when he recalled what Huo Tingrui said last night. For a long time, he did not manage to type a word.

Huo Yanxi had indulged Lu Xia since childhood and was keenly aware of her personality. Even after she returned to the Lu family, he never treated her as an outsider and trusted her wholly.

Huo Yanxi rubbed his forehead. He opened the second message Lu Xia sent and went into a deep thought. Then he took his car keys from the drawer and left the office.

In a private room on the second floor of a western restaurant in the city.

Lu Xia got the chauffeur to send her here after school. She had been at the restaurant since 5:00 pm. She had been waiting for an hour now. Her heart kept sinking as she looked out of the window and watched the sky turn dusky.

Huo Yanxi had not replied to any of the texts from Lu Xia. She did not know if he was busy or deliberately avoiding her. It seemed ever since their phone conversation last night, something had quietly changed.

Lu Xia held her phone, wanting to call Huo Yanxi, but suppressed her urge repeatedly. In her heart, she kept telling herself not to panic and to stay calm.

The private room door finally opened at around 7:00 pm.

Lu Xia hurriedly stood up when the sound came and ignored her phone when it fell onto the table. She bit her lips to control her emotions and spoke up in a slightly choked voice. "Brother Yanxi, I thought you weren't coming."

Huo Yanxi instinctively wanted to console her when he saw the pitiful look on Lu Xia's face. In the end, he looked away and replied in a normal tone. "Sorry, I was held up by a client."

Lu Xia's face turned slightly pale. She swayed and subtly held onto the chair for support. Sniffing, her gaze turned downwards.

She shook her head and said meekly, "It... It's okay. I didn't mind the wait."

Huo Yanxi clenched his fists but didn't say anything. He pulled out a chair and sat down without looking at her. Then he casually picked up the menu and asked. "What would you like to have? It's my treat today."

Very quickly, he pressed a bell for the waiter.

"Anything's fine," replied Lu Xia softly.

"Then let's have our usual," said Huo Yanxi. He closed the menu and raised his head to order a few dishes from the waiter.

The moment the waiter left, Lu Xia turned her gaze towards Huo Yanxi.

He was sitting across her with an impassive face.

She said softly, "Brother Yanxi, are you angry with me over what happened last night? I know I was too anxious. I shouldn't have assumed that Yaoyao took Granny just because I couldn't get in touch with her. I kept thinking about it last night and didn't sleep a wink. I was so worried that I caused you trouble. I wanted to apologize to Yaoyao today, but she didn't want to see me... Brother Yanxi, I'm sorry. You can scold me if you like since it was all my fault."

Lu Xia choked while speaking. Her face was bereft of color and she seemed dreadfully pitiful.

Chapter 128: Probably Overthinking It

Huo Yanxi looked at Lu Xia's face. Her face used to glow but now looked sallow, and her red eyes were filled with regret. She even threw aside her usual concern for image and only kept explaining the matter over and over again.

Complicated emotions surged through Huo Yanxi's heart. His lips parted, and he wanted to say something, but Huo Yao's proud face flashed before his eyes. She had been cold and did not even bother to explain when she was misunderstood. She was as stubborn as a hedgehog.

A while later, Huo Yanxi finally said, "It's over. You don't have to bring it up again. As for your apology..."

Huo Yanxi paused before he continued. "It's fine. Yaoyao won't take it to heart."

Lu Xia lashes fluttered down slightly.

She asked him in a cautious manner. "Are you sure it's okay? After all, I was the one who made... Brother Yanxi, don't worry about me. If it can appease Yaoyao, I'm willing to do anything."

Huo Yanxi subconsciously frowned but shook his head. "It's fine."

Lu Xia's heart leaped up. She suddenly could not see through his attitude.

Very quickly, the waiter knocked at the door. Although Lu Xia wanted to probe Huo Yanxi further, she could only stop and put on her sunglasses before the waiter came through the door.

The waiter left after serving the food, and Lu Xia removed her shades.

Lu Xia glanced at Huo Yanxi, who had lowered his head and started eating his steak. She realized that she could no longer keep talking about the same topic, so she picked up her cutlery too and ate absent-mindedly.

In an instant, the private room became very quiet. The two of them said nothing and ate with their minds preoccupied.

After dinner, Huo Yanxi went to settle the bill. Lu Xia put on her shades and mask once again to avoid getting recognized.

Lu Xia looked at Huo Yanxi after they left the restaurant and opened her mouth to speak.

But Huo Yanxi beat her to it. "Where do you want to go?"

"I want to go home," replied Lu Xia gently.

Huo Yanxi nodded and said, "I'll send you back."

As he headed to the car park, Lu Xia watched him from behind. It felt as though they had gone back to the good old days when there was no rift between them. She narrowed her eyes and composed her emotions.

She was probably overthinking the whole matter.

Twenty minutes later, Huo Yanxi sent Lu Xia to the Lu family villa entrance.

"Brother Yanxi, be careful on your way home. I'm going in," said Lu Xia gently as she undid her seatbelt.

Huo Yanxi nodded. He did not start the car right away after Lu Xia left. Instead, he looked at the enormous Lu family villa through the gap in the gate's design.

The decorative lights along the wall flickered dimly. The three-story villa seemed like a small castle and showed off the Lu family wealth.

Huo Yanxi suddenly twitched his lips and his eyes turned dark. He sat there with his hand on the steering wheel for a long time before he drove off.

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Lu Xia changed into her indoor shoes after entering the villa. She bumped into Lu Ziming, who was coming downstairs, in the foyer. She frowned and didn't greet him.

Their father was sitting on the couch in the living room and watching the television.

Lu Xia walked over and greeted him sweetly. "Dad, I'm home."

He raised his head and glanced at Lu Xia with a smile on his plump face. He nodded and asked her casually. "Mhm. Why are you so late tonight?"

Chapter 129: No One Is As Two-Faced As You

Lu Xia's lips parted, and she was about to speak, Lu Ziming interrupted. "What else could she be up to? She was probably out on a date!"

Lu Ziming scoffed frivolously. He walked into the living room and plonked onto the couch lazily.

“Date? What date?” asked their father as he sat up straight.

The smile on his face dissipated. He narrowed his eyes and peered at his daughter.

A look of annoyance flashed across Lu Xia’s face briefly but she hurriedly explained. “It’s nothing. I had dinner with a friend, so I came back late.”

Her father never liked it when Lu Xia wasted her time on frivolous things. The only reason he was pleasant to her was because of her celebrity status.

“Tsk. With your boyfriend, right?” asked Lu Ziming with a cheeky smile before he raised his brow and continued. “I saw everything from upstairs.”

Lu Xia glanced at Lu Ziming coldly and retorted. “Stop spouting nonsense to Dad. It wasn’t my boyfriend. That was just the foster brother I used to live with, Huo Yanxi.”

“Heh! Since you aren’t biological siblings, who knows what’s going on between the two of you,” said Lu Ziming.

Lu Xia’s face turned dark, but she could not do anything to Lu Ziming since their father was around. She could only reply angrily. “Are you my biological brother? Do you have to speak so offensively every time?”

Lu Ziming chuckled while lying on the couch. He propped his legs up on the couch, and said, “You are no sister of mine. When you first came back, you despised the Huo family so much. Why did you suddenly change since then? Tsk tsk. No one is as two-faced as you.”

Lu Xia’s face froze.

“Enough, Lu Ziming! How can you talk to your elder sister like this?” said their father as he glared at Lu Ziming. Although he was reprimanding him, he did not sound stern.

Lu Ziming’s lips twitched. Since he dare not misbehave with his father around, he did not continue bickering with Lu Xia.

His eyes landed on Lu Xia. There was clearly a look of annoyance on his face. “Are you close to your foster family?”

Lu Xia squeezed her hands and forced herself to reply calmly. “No, we’re not. I spend all my time studying or going for practice. Occasionally, we get in touch and meet up for dinner. We don’t have much contact other than that.”

Her father veered his eyes away and cleared his throat. “I understand if you can’t help caring about your foster family, but it’s best to avoid staying in touch with the likes of them. They are useless to you and will only end up lowering your standard. Xiaxia, do you get what I’m driving at?”

Lu Xia lowered her gaze. She composed herself and said, “Mhm. I’m going back to my room, Dad. I want to do some reading and prepare for the upcoming contest.”

Lu Ziming sneered at her covertly.

Lu Xia caught his look but ignored him.

The moment their father heard about the National Quiz Contest, he recalled a matter and continued to speak. "Oh yes. After class tomorrow, head over to the Education Association. Uncle Xue has prepared some revision notes for the contest. Behave nicely when you see him."

Lu Xia was lost and asked him with a perplexed look. "Uncle Xue?"

"Ha, I forgot to tell you. Uncle Xue is the Chairman of the Education Association," explained her father.

Lu Xia's eyes opened wide. A look of joy surfaced on her face as she said, "Thanks, Dad!"

Chapter 130: How Could She Cheat?

Lu Xia's father smiled and said, "Don't disappoint me."

"Don't worry, Dad. I will definitely come back with great results," said Lu Xia in high spirits.

There was no way Huo Yao could fare better than her now that she had her hands on the Education Association 'notes'!

A fighting spirit suddenly lit up in Lu Xia's eyes.

"Okay. Go back and study then," said her father as he waved his hand impatiently.

Then his eyes landed on the television set once more.

"Mhm," said Lu Xia gently before she turned and headed for the stairs.

After she left, Lu Ziming put down his legs lazily and sat up straight. He looked at his father and asked him with a frown. "Dad, don't tell me you got her the answers for the contest?"

He was certain that something was fishy about the so-called notes.

His father glanced at him with indifference and said, "Kids shouldn't poke their noses in others matters."

"Dad, do you know what you're doing? This is cheating!" said Lu Ziming angrily. He twisted the sofa cushion hard before hurling it on the couch resentfully.

So be it if she could not do well! How could she cheat?!

Although Lu Xia was a good student when she first came back to the Lu family, she did not perform as well as she was doing these days. Was their father pulling cheap tricks for her?

His father said with displeasure, "What do you mean by cheat? Don't you revise before your exam? Don't you buy revision materials?"

"How can these two things be the same?" asked Lu Ziming on a cold chuckle.

His father pressed his forehead and replied in a tired manner. "Enough. Stop sitting around to argue with me. Go back and sleep. You still have school tomorrow."

Lu Ziming disappointedly shook his head and ran back to his room on a huff, without saying a word.

He stared hard at the ceiling while he lay in bed. It was unfathomable why his parents lost all principles after Lu Xia came back to the Lu family.

His previous older sister from the countryside certainly did not cause as much trouble.

Lu Ziming could not help recalling the way Huo Yao embarrassed him at the hospital. He sneered and suddenly sat up to grab his phone from the side and found Huo Yao's number.

He had purposely checked his grandmother's phone for Huo Yao's number when he visited her at the hospital recently and saved it.

Lu Ziming stared at the string of numbers in his contact list for a long time while his finger hovered hesitantly over the dial button. Then he rubbed his head in frustration and sent her a text message instead.

[Hey, you scaredy-cat. Are you awake?]

[You scaredy-cat. I haven't settled the score for what you did at the hospital. Just you wait. I won't let you off so easily!]

After sending these two messages, Lu Ziming waited but no reply came. He angrily tossed his phone onto the pillow. Then he laid on the bed and pulled up the blanket over his head in a petulant manner.

Huo Yao only read Lu Ziming's texts the next morning.

What a dumb kid!

Huo Yao shook her head when she saw those text messages. She immediately deleted them without taking them to heart.

After washing up, Huo Yao suddenly recalled the condition Min Yu was in the previous day. Although he clearly turned down her nerve-soothing incense, she had to return his favor.

It was easy to make nerve-soothing incense, but it was hard to obtain the ingredient which she needed. If she replaced it with some normal material, it would lower its efficacy.

Huo Yao mulled over this matter while changing into her uniform.

Huo Yao came down and looked at Huo Jinyan while they were having breakfast. In a normal voice, she asked him. "Dad, is there a medicine ingredient market nearby?"