

Pill Maker 1221

Chapter 1221: Contrary To His Wishes

Deputy Chairman Qin had hinted to Chairman Wang not to blow things up. After all, all the members of the association were present. If things went out of hand, it would serve only to embarrass the association.

Chairman Wang had unexpectedly insisted on proving Fu Cheng's guilt.

Meanwhile, on the other end.

When Huo Yao saw Chairman Wang's text message, she had just finished her exam and was on her way out of the campus.

She saw that it was Chairman Wang calling her on the phone, so she took out her earphones and answered the call right away.

The moment she answered the phone, Chairman Wang stammered and said, "H-Huo Yao, are you free?"

Huo Yao rubbed her forehead before acknowledging softly. "Uh huh."

Everyone was looking at Chairman Wang in astonishment, but he disregarded it. He quickly explained the situation to Huo Yao and asked. "Do you think you can come over now?"

Huo Yao halted in her steps. She did not see this drama coming. She contemplated for a few seconds before she replied. "Fine then. Send me the GPS location and I will come over now."

Chairman Wang heaved a sigh of relief when Huo Yao agreed to come over. He raised his head and looked at everyone. Even though he usually had a genial demeanor, his face was stern.

He glanced at all the people from the association and said, "The creator of the pill will be here in 20 minutes. When the time comes, the truth will be out."

The moment he finished his sentence, Fu Cheng felt worried and his mind went into chaos. He never dreamed that this could happen.

If the maker of these pills genuinely showed up, his results for the exam would get nullified. From now on, he could never hold his head up high in the association ever again. He might even get kicked out of the association if things got serious.

Fu Cheng felt so flustered that he automatically looked up at Deputy Chairman Qin.

Deputy Chairman Qin was so proud of Fu Cheng just moments ago, but now he was furious.

In an effort to help Fu Cheng do well in the Apothecaries' exam, Deputy Chairman Qin had changed the Chinese herbs and provided everything Fu Cheng needed. Sadly, he was unable to concoct any medicinal pills and even cheated by using someone else's pills.

Deputy Chairman Qin inhaled deeply. He turned to look at Chairman Wang. "Chairman Wang, do you really..."

Chairman Wang had already read Deputy Chairman Qin's mind. He raised his hand and interrupted. "I have to be fair."

Deputy Chairman Qin stopped mid-sentence abruptly and did not know what to say.

Chairman Wang paid no attention to Deputy Chairman Qin's expression. He turned to look at Mi Wei and said, "I am so sorry that you have to see this."

"It is fine." Mi Wei shook his head and did not take it to heart. He was holding his tobacco pipe and wanted to smoke badly, but he suppressed his urge.

Chairman Wang sighed and changed the subject. "I did not expect you to suddenly go home. When are you coming back?"

Mi Wei contemplated and replied. "At least ten days to two weeks."

"That's long." Chairman Wang was a little worried about the Chinese herb farm.

"Uh huh. It is a long way from here, you see." Mi Wei paused before he continued. "Don't worry. I have taught all the techniques to the people at the Chinese herb farm, so I am sure everything will work out fine."

Chairman Wang felt a little relieved. "Why did you suddenly have to go back? Did something happen at home? If you need help, just tell me."

Mi Wei smiled candidly. He shook his head and turned down Chairman Wang's offer. "Thanks. Someone is not feeling well, so I am going back to take a look."

Chapter 1222: I Know A Great Doctor

Chairman Wang responded in concern. "Is it serious? What are the symptoms? I am a physician, so I can check to see if we have the right medication for the patient. If we do, you are welcome to take it home for treatment."

Mi Wei gave his thanks and turned down Chairman Wang's medication. "Someone in my family is suffering from an old ailment. It is impossible to treat the condition at the root."

Chairman Wang recalled Mi Wei saying he was from a small village in the South. Since remote villages tended to have poorer medical facilities, it was probably no good for the patient.

He said, "Why don't you bring your family over to the capital next time? Perhaps there is a higher chance of finding treatment here."

Mi Wei knew Chairman Wang meant well. He shook his head and sighed gently. "It's no use."

Chairman Wang recalled that Huo Yao was coming over to the association. Since she was reaching soon, perhaps she could help. He said, "I happen to know an excellent doctor with incredible skills. I will introduce the doctor to you in a minute."

Mi Wei took out his phone and checked the time and saw it was nearly 5:00 pm. He looked at Chairman Wang and said, "Maybe next time. I really have to go."

His flight was at 7:00 pm and he still had to head back to the hotel to collect his luggage. If he did not leave now, he would never catch the flight.

"Sure thing. We can talk about it when you get back," replied Chairman Wang.

Mi Wei acknowledged softly and stood up.

Chairman Wang told the assistant to walk him out. Mi Wei did not say no. Before long, he left with the assistant.

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Meanwhile, Huo Yao walked over to a black car parked by the roadside after leaving campus.

"All done with your exams?" asked Min Yu as he started the engine.

"Nope. I still have a few more subjects to go. The exams will be over in a couple of days." Huo Yao shrugged. She turned on her phone and blew up the GPS location Chairman Wang had sent her. "Oh yes. I can't go home yet. Can you take me here?"

Min Yu took her phone and glanced in surprise. "Are you going to the Apothecaries' Association?"

"Uh huh." Huo Yao nodded.

"Why are you going to the Apothecaries' Association?" asked Min Yu after returning her phone.

Huo Yao leaned into the seat backrest lazily and said softly, "I have to go settle a little problem."

Min Yu raised his brow.

Huo Yao smiled. She took out her phone and opened her WeChat. She scrolled down to Fu Ya's chat group and sent her a text message.

Fu Ya was still at work.

The moment she saw the text message, she replied swiftly: [How did you know? I gave the pills to someone from the Apothecaries' Association.]

Huo Yao rubbed her fingers on the edge of the phone before she replied: [I did not guess it. Your friend is in trouble.]

Fu Ya was caught by surprise. She knew the Apothecaries' exam was taking place today. She felt Fu Cheng would probably use those medicinal pills for the exam. However, he was in some kind of trouble now. After connecting the dots, a bold notion emerged in her mind.

Fu Ya asked promptly: [Don't tell me you are from the Apothecaries' Association as well?]

Huo Yao raised her brow when she realized Fu Ya was from the association too. She replied: [Uh huh.]

Fu Ya scratched her head. Just last year, she had sent Huo Yao equipment for making medicine. She recalled Huo Yao did not live in the capital. How did Huo Yao suddenly become a member of the Apothecaries' Association?

Also, Fu Ya had been a member of the association for two years, but she did not know of any other apothecary in her early 20s.

As Fu Ya contemplated, Huo Yao sent her another text message: [Your friend cheated during the Apothecaries' exam by using my pills and got caught.]

Fu Ya's lips twitched on seeing the message: [There is no such thing as a shortcut. Since he decided to cheat, he does not deserve any pity from me.]

Chapter 1223: A Chance Encounter

Huo Yao crossed her legs. She could tell that Fu Ya did not like this friend of hers.

From the looks of it, they were probably not close.

Huo Yao hummed. Since Fu Ya was not on close terms with the culprit, Huo Yao did not have to be nice.

She put away her phone and stopped texting Fu Ya.

Meanwhile, Fu Ya kept thinking about Huo Yao's text messages and felt a little worried.

Fu Cheng was stupid to cheat using Huo Yao's medicinal pills. If he shamelessly insisted that they were his work and offended Huo Yao in the process, it would not bode well for him.

Fu Ya quickly took off her white robe and took her purse from the drawer. She told her colleague sitting in front of the cashier, "My bad. I have to go. It's urgent."

The moment she finished her sentence, she hurriedly left the Chinese medicine hall without even waiting for her colleague to reply.

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Before long, Min Yu's car arrived at the Apothecaries' Association.

There was a security guard standing at the entrance. No one was permitted to enter the compound without a prior appointment or a member's card.

Chairman Wang had already given Huo Yao her ID card, but she did not have it with her at the moment, so she called Chairman Wang directly.

After hanging up the phone, Huo Yao raised her head and caught Mi Wei walking out with the chairman's assistant.

Huo Yao froze briefly and automatically turned her body sideways to face Min Yu beside her.

She was completely taken by surprise to see Mi Wei.

When Min Yu noticed something amiss with Huo Yao, he asked. "What's wrong?"

“Nothing.”

Huo Yao shook her head. She raised her hand to touch her right ear in an attempt to cover her face. Before long, she put down her hand and realized it was pointless to hide, so she straightened her back and went back to normal.

She had overreacted. Mi Wei could never recognize her!

Mi Wei and the assistant were already very nearby. When Assistant Wang spoke to the security guard, he took a glance at Huo Yao and Min Yu and instantly took notice of them because of their powerful aura.

After taking a quick glance, he veered his eyes and asked the security guard. “Who are they?”

The security guard had heard Huo Yao making a call to Chairman Wang and greeting him. He replied. “I think they are here to see Chairman Wang.”

Although the security guard heard her greeting Chairman Wang, it was not enough for him to let them pass. He needed direct orders to do so.

Assistant Wang nodded. He raised his hand and checked the time again. A notion suddenly crossed his mind, so he secretly looked at Huo Yao. Was she the new deputy chairman?

After snapping out of his shock, Assistant Wang told the security guard to quickly open the door. He walked out and stood in front of Huo Yao. “Are you Miss Huo?”

Mi Wei also followed behind the assistant. He was dressed in a worn-out white robe with a long tobacco pipe hanging from his waist. Since the assistant was talking to someone, Mi Wei stood aside politely without interrupting or rushing him.

Chapter 1224: No One Trusted A Young Apothecary

Huo Yao and Min Yu followed the security guard and entered the association before long.

Assistant Wang finally veered his eyes after they had gone quite a distance.

Even though he knew the new deputy chairman was very young, he could not help feeling astonished when he met her in person.

After composing himself, Assistant Wang looked at Mi Wei and said politely, “Mr. Mi, this way, please.”

“Uh huh,” acknowledged Mi Wei. After walking behind Assistant Wang for a couple of steps, he asked casually. “Who was that young lady?”

“She is a member of the association,” replied Assistant Wang without going into detail.

The young woman reminded Mi Wei of someone. He smiled and said, “She is very young.”

Assistant Wang nodded. He felt equally impressed and said, “Uh huh. She is the youngest person in the association. Also, she was the one who made the pills in question.”

Assistant Wang felt relieved they had stored the medicinal pills in the collection room separately. Otherwise, it would be impossible to prove Fu Cheng was lying.

Mi Wei was surprised to hear this. He did not see the medicinal pills in person earlier. Since everyone spoke so highly of them, he was certain they were very impressive.

Considering her young age, she was quite the apothecary.

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Before long, Huo Yao arrived at the Apothecaries' exam location.

When Chairman Wang received the call from Huo Yao, he was so excited that he was unable to stay seated. Since other people were present, he forced himself to stay calm. After Huo Yao came closer, he finally stood up and wanted to greet her. However, he caught sight of the young man behind her and instantly swallowed his words.

She had mentioned that she would be coming with a friend. He did not expect her friend to be someone from the Min family.

Chairman Wang automatically turned serious. He greeted Huo Yao before acknowledging Min Yu. "How do you do, Young Master Min?"

Min Yu nodded. "Hi, Chairman Wang."

Chairman Wang had not seen Min Yu in almost a year. The last time they met, it was to treat Min Yu's illness. Since a lot of other people were present, it was not the right time to bring it up. He simply greeted them before leading him to a seat.

Other than Deputy Chairman Qin, no one else had ever seen Min Yu before. Everyone was surprised to see Chairman Wang treating Min Yu so courteously.

Young Master Min? Was he from the Min family?

Was he from the Min family residing in the capital?

No one dared to keep looking at Min Yu. Min Yu had an imposing aura, so it gave them the nerves looking at him. They quickly turned their attention to Huo Yao.

"Is she the one who made the medicinal pills?" asked Deputy Chairman Qin first. He had already recovered from his shock of seeing Min Yu.

"That is right." Chairman Wang took the medicinal pills his assistant had retrieved from the collection room and continued. "I could tell the pills were not made by Fu Cheng because I had already received these pills half a year ago and placed them into storage."

Deputy Chairman Qin squeezed his fingers gently as he glanced at Huo Yao.

He said mildly, "I trust Chairman Wang. However, she is simply too young to be an apothecary. I can't help feeling doubtful."

He was implying that even if Chairman Wang wanted to pretend someone else had made those pills, he should have found someone who looked the part.

Huo Yao looked at Deputy Chairman Qin sideways. She simply smiled and said, "Are you jealous that I am better than you?"

Deputy Chairman Qin felt insulted. No junior had ever spoken to him with this lousy attitude.

Chapter 1225: She Is The New Deputy Director Of The Association

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"Even if you are a smart mouth, it doesn't change the facts." Deputy Chairman Qin sneered coldly. "Just because you claim ownership over the pills, doesn't mean you necessarily made them."

"I agree." Huo Yao nodded with ease. Her face was completely calm. "In that case, I suggest getting the cheater to step forward and make the pills now."

Fu Cheng lost his cool. If he had to make more pills, he would definitely get caught. He clenched his fists tightly as he looked at Huo Yao. "Are you joking? I have already made those pills. I don't see why I should refine any more pills. If anyone has to prove themselves, it should be you, right?"

Chairman Wang glanced at Fu Cheng mildly. "Huo Yao is the deputy director of the association. Is that good enough for you?"

The moment he finished his sentence, a furor broke out.

Fu Cheng was not alone, the other leaders of the association were equally stunned.

"Deputy chairman? Chairman Wang, when did we have a new deputy director?" asked one of the leaders of the association quizzically.

Also, it was a young woman no less.

Chairman Wang had already sent someone to bring over the documentation of Huo Yao's membership. He handed it to the leaders for a look. "Although she is an honorary deputy chairman, she has the same amount of authority as any other deputy chairman."

Deputy Chairman Qin took the document from Chairman Wang. The document was dated last month. He raised his head and looked at Chairman Wang. He said, "Why didn't we know anything about the new deputy chairman? Don't you think it sounds a little far-fetched? Why did you produce some random paperwork at a time like this?"

No random outsider could suddenly be made deputy chairman. It was simply ridiculous.

"Far-fetched?" Chairman Wang picked up the pills on the table and asked. "Could any of you make pills like this when you were 20 years old?"

Deputy Chairman Qin threw the paperwork on the table. He laughed and said, "Enough, Chairman Wang. Even if you are determined not to let Fu Cheng win, you didn't have to say the pills were made by

some random person. Did you have to make up a tall story about some honorary deputy chairman? Do you think we are dumb?”

The moment he finished his sentence, the leaders of the association felt awkward, but none of them expressed their opinion.

They didn’t want to offend either party.

Chairman Wang looked at Deputy Chairman Qin. Chairman Wang did not get upset and simply said unhurriedly, “Deputy Chairman Qin, are you saying that I don’t even have the right to invite someone to join the association?”

Deputy Chairman Qin pursed his lips. “That is not what I meant. You naturally have the right to invite anyone you want. I was just saying you should have at least discussed the matter with us before giving someone such a high position. If you allow people like her to join the organization, what would the other people think? Would they be able to take it lying down?”

“Why don’t you finish reading her application before you speak, Deputy Chairman Qin? You should really take a look at her position and authority first.” Chairman Wang remained composed.

Deputy Chairman Qin did not read the application. He simply shrugged and said sarcastically, “Since you are the chairman, you can do anything you want. Does it make a difference whether I read the application or not?”

He instantly made it sound as though Chairman Wang had abused his authority.

Chairman Wang went quiet.

Huo Yao slowly looked at the pillboxes on the table and picked up the one with Fu Cheng’s name on it. She opened it and glanced at the pills inside.

Huo Yao smiled.

Chapter 1226: Shall I Write the Prescription?

Huo Yao closed the box, raised her head, and looked at Fu Cheng.

She said, “Did the person who gave you my pills tell you my pills are very difficult to make?”

Fu Cheng looked at Huo Yao coldly without answering.

After Fu Ya had given him the medication, he had studied the pills for a long time, but he was unable to replicate them, no matter how hard he tried.

Since he did not succeed, he decided to cheat during the Apothecaries’ exam and submitted the medicinal pills as his work.

Huo Yao smiled and said patiently, “How about this? You don’t have to refine the pills. Why don’t you write the prescription to prove that the work is yours?”

Fu Cheng did not let his guard down when Huo Yao suggested that he write the prescription instead. He simply scoffed and said, "Are you joking? How could I write the prescription? What if you stole my prescription?"

Prescriptions meant everything to apothecaries, so no apothecary would share them openly.

"Are you scared? Or do you not know the prescription at all?" Huo Yao paused briefly before she smiled. "How about this? I will write down the prescription."

The prescription was the crux to making the pills. Any apothecary could make the pills as long as they had the real prescription.

Fu Cheng was stunned when Huo Yao offered to write the prescription. He looked at her in disbelief.

Huo Yao paid no attention to Fu Cheng's expression. She simply looked at Chairman Wang lazily. "I need a pen and paper."

Chairman Wang did not know Huo Yao's intentions, and simply gave her what she wanted.

Before long, Huo Yao listed all the herbs needed to make the pills along with each step required for producing the pills. After she was done writing, she put down the pen and handed the prescription to Chairman Wang.

Chairman Wang looked at her lovely handwriting and went into a shock looking at its contents, but he quickly composed himself. His face twitched slightly when he saw the procedure for making the pills. "Is it that easy?"

Huo Yao raised her brow. She had never seen other apothecaries making medicine, so she was not entirely sure. She asked rhetorically. "Is this considered easy?"

Her own method of making the medicine was even more simple. She was worried it was too advanced for the apothecaries here, so she used a slightly more long winded method to make it easier to understand.

Chairman Wang looked at Huo Yao quietly. He had a nagging feeling that his concept of refining medicine was worlds apart from Huo Yao's techniques.

Chairman Wang sighed. He took the paper from Huo Yao and raised his head. Just when he was about to call upon someone to make the pills, he could see his disciple walking over.

"May I try?" He Shu stood in front of Chairman Wang. His disheveled face was filled with curiosity.

Chairman Wang's lips twitched. He did not give He Shu the prescription right away. "Look at how exhausted you are. Are you sure you can do it?"

He Shu nodded. "Yes, I can do it. Since we want to find out whether Fu Cheng made those pills, I am the perfect candidate to make the pills."

Chairman Wang pondered before he agreed. He proceeded to give He Shu the prescription.

He Shu took the prescription and took a quick look at it. He reacted the same way as Chairman Wang. He could not help raising his head to glance at Huo Yao and smiled at her.

Huo Yao said, "If you have any questions, feel free to ask me."

He Shu went quiet.

He Shu left quietly and went about making the medicine.

Chairman Wang took the opportunity to introduce He Shu to Huo Yao. "That's my disciple He Shu... the same guy I gave your phone number to."

The moment he finished his sentence, he picked up He Shu's work in the Apothecaries' exam and handed it to Huo Yao.

Huo Yao took the pills and checked them out. She raised her brow and remarked. "Not bad."

Chairman Wang smiled. "He is just a little stubborn."

"I think that's fine," remarked Huo Yao calmly. She turned to take a seat beside Min Yu.

Chapter 1227: Normal To Have Some Difference

Chairman Wang glanced in Huo Yao and Min Yu's direction without disturbing them. He said to Fu Cheng, "I suggest that you observe the process closely. This way you can see where you stand and figure out if you have the right to say that the pills are yours."

Fu Cheng felt awkward. He stood where he was motionlessly. He felt extremely guilty inside.

Chairman Wang shook his head and stopped looking at him.

He Shu turned off the fire 20 minutes later and cautiously removed the pills from the pill maker.

When he saw eight pills lying inside the pill maker, he felt really defeated.

He usually required at least an hour to make pills and the steps were even longer. Also, the results were not as stable. His best performance was when he had made six A grade pills in a single attempt.

He Shu instantly felt he could not compare to the maker of these pills.

Before long, He Shu brought the medicine over to them.

Chairman Wang did not take the pills. Instead, he gestured for Deputy Chairman Qin to go first. "Deputy Chairman Qin, you did not believe a young apothecary could be capable of making this, right? Why don't you go first and see what she can accomplish?"

Deputy Chairman Qin was stunned and looked awkward.

He Shu handed the pill box to Deputy Chairman Qin, so he had no choice but to take them. A couple of seconds later, he finally opened the pill box. After taking a couple of glances at the pills, he raised his head and wanted to speak, but he was interrupted.

"As we know, even if the same prescription is used, it is normal for some differences to exist."

He Shu paused before he raised his head in Huo Yao's direction. "I apologize. My skills can't compare to hers, so I was not able to produce pills of the same quality."

Deputy Chairman Qin felt absolutely stifled and could not say a word.

The other leaders of the association also felt very curious. They disregarded the shock on Deputy Chairman Qin's face and came over to look at the pills.

"There is a slight difference, but it is negligible."

"Uh huh. It was definitely made using the same prescription."

The leaders of the association were well versed in medicine and prescription. When they saw He Shu's pills, they could no longer keep their mouths shut.

The moment Huo Yao was able to produce the prescription, the truth was already out.

Chairman Wang smiled listening to everyone's remarks. He said solemnly, "Now that the truth is out, just follow the rules. Fu Cheng's exam results are deemed null and void. Also, he will get demoted to a junior member. He is banned from taking part in the Apothecaries' exam for ten years and all his privileges are revoked."

Fu Cheng looked at Chairman Wang in disbelief. He did not mind getting demoted, but he felt strongly against the ban from taking the Apothecaries' exam in the near future. This was no different from expelling him from the association.

"How could you call me a liar just because she was able to write the prescription?" said Fu Cheng with his teeth gritted.

"Do you disagree?" Chairman Wang glanced at Fu Cheng. "Fine. If you can write the prescription, I will deem the pills as yours."

Fu Cheng stumbled. How could he produce the prescription?

"From the looks of it, I doubt you can do it." Chairman Wang smiled.

Fu Cheng's lips parted. "I..."

Deputy Chairman Qin stood up and interrupted him. "Enough, Fu Cheng. You should have seen this coming before you decided to cheat during the exam. You should count yourself lucky that you did not get expelled altogether. Just stop insisting already."

The moment he finished his sentence, Deputy Chairman Qin turned to bow to Chairman Wang and said in a completely reverent tone, "I am sorry for being a bad teacher."

Chapter 1228: Returning The Prescription

Deputy Chairman Qin could always accept new disciples, but he could not lose power and status because of Fu Cheng.

Deputy Chairman Qin knew that things had already gone too far, so he could not let Fu Cheng continue arguing. After apologizing to Chairman Wang sincerely, he looked sideways at Fu Cheng.

He was warning Fu Cheng to cut it out.

Fu Cheng stood where he was in a daze. He stopped trying to defend himself. He knew his master's personality very well.

Chairman Wang pursed his lips without looking at Deputy Chairman Qin and dropped the subject. He simply told the scorekeeper to announce the results. After the results were announced, he dismissed everyone.

Before long, the leaders of the association left as well. When Deputy Chairman Qin was about to leave, he pondered as he glanced at Min Yu.

"I am so sorry about making you come all the way to the association for this," said Chairman Wang powerlessly as he walked up in front of Huo Yao and Min Yu.

Huo Yao smiled at him and clearly did not take it to heart. "It's fine."

Chairman Wang raised his hand to check the time and said, "Since it is getting late, why don't we have dinner. We can chat more over dinner."

Huo Yao had already turned down Chairman Wang's offer several times. She looked sideways at Min Yu. "Are you free tonight?"

"Uh huh," acknowledged Min Yu.

Huo Yao nodded to Chairman Wang and agreed to have dinner together.

Chairman Wang was delighted to hear this. He took out his phone, called the assistant and told him to make dinner reservations. After hanging up the phone and preparing to leave, he saw his stubborn disciple still standing there.

He wanted to come over and talk, but he looked awkward and shy.

Chairman Wang went speechless.

Huo Yao looked in the same direction as Chairman Wang and saw He Shu nearby. She raised her brow and said, "Why don't you get him to join us?"

"I will ask him." Chairman Wang cleared his throat and waved He Shu over.

He Shu was still holding onto Huo Yao's prescription. When he got closer, he nodded to Huo Yao and held out her prescription. "Here is your prescription."

Huo Yao did not take the prescription. "Don't bother. I don't need it."

He Shu was caught by surprise. Prescriptions were top secret in the apothecary trade. In all his years in the business, he had never seen any apothecary offer their prescriptions to someone else.

Huo Yao read He Shu's mind and said, "Prescriptions are only used for reference. We don't have to follow them line by line."

He Shu was caught by surprise by what she said and went into deep thought.

Chairman Wang patted He Shu's shoulder and said, "Enough. If Huo Yao wants you to have the prescription, then just take it. Do you want to join us for dinner?"

He Shu snapped out of his thoughts. He lowered his head and looked at his disheveled clothes and shook his head awkwardly. "I think I will pass."

Chairman Wang looked at He Shu's bloodshot eyes. He sighed and did not insist. He waved his hand and said, "Okay then. Go back and have some rest. Otherwise, it is just a matter of time before you fall sick."

"Uh huh," acknowledged He Shu. Before he left, he halted in his steps and turned to look at Huo Yao.

He asked her nervously. "Can I ask you if I have any questions about medicine in the future?"

He Shu was so nervous that his face was burning.

Chairman Wang had given him Huo Yao's phone number previously, but he refused her help.

He Shu felt very regretful about his previous attitude toward her.

Chapter 1229: No Such Thing As Coincidence

Huo Yao nodded as though she did not notice He Shu's anxiety. She simply replied. "Sure."

He Shu was delighted. "Thank you so much."

Huo Yao replied. "Don't mention it."

He Shu did not linger and quickly left with the prescription.

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After Fu Cheng left the exam hall, Deputy Chairman Qin called him to his office. He stood in the office for a long time waiting for Deputy Chairman Qin to speak, but Deputy Chairman Qin said nothing and simply looked angry.

Fu Cheng stood with his hands beside him, his head lowered. He felt terrible.

"Are you an idiot?" Deputy Chairman Qin scolded him angrily. "I thought you asked me to change the Chinese herbs used for the exam because you wanted to make something that you were good at. I did not expect you to cheat and submit someone else's pills. What were you thinking?"

Fu Cheng said guiltily, "I did not expect the chairman to have the pills."

If he knew that the chairman already had those pills, he would never take the risk even if it meant he could not outdo He Shu this year.

Now, his grand plans had backfired on him and he was demoted and banned from taking the exam for ten years.

Deputy Chairman Qin laughed coldly. "Who do you think Chairman Wang is? Why didn't it cross your mind that he is a very experienced apothecary? Why did you think you could pull off this stunt in front of him?"

Fu Cheng pursed his lips and tightened his fists.

Deputy Chairman Qin pressed his brow angrily. After some time, he finally asked. "What do you know about the girl? Since you could get your hands on her pills, I assume you know her."

The moment Deputy Chairman Qin brought this up, Fu Cheng looked annoyed. "I obtained the pills through other means, but I genuinely don't know her. I also did not know she was an honorary deputy chairman in the association."

Although Deputy Chairman Qin was furious, he remained calm and collected. He narrowed his eyes and said, "You should think about it. Perhaps someone tried to play you."

Fu Cheng had cheated during the Apothecaries' exam, but the pills were surprisingly made by some new honorary deputy chairman.

He did not believe in coincidences.

Fu Cheng thought about his cousin. Fu Ya had given him the pills, but they never got along with each other. If she had done it deliberately to get him in trouble, it made sense.

She was very insistent about moving out quickly. From the looks of it, it was all part of her plan to get him into trouble.

Fu Cheng looked even more annoyed.

Deputy Chairman Qin glanced at Fu Cheng and said, "Do not blame me for not defending you earlier. What else could I say after the honorary deputy chairman suddenly showed up? The battle was already lost. Also, you are my disciple. I bet Chairman Wang had something to do with this. He was probably out to get me."

He could not help but feel suspicious about the entire event, especially the new honorary deputy chairman.

She was very young, but she was able to produce S grade medicine. He naturally did not buy it.

Was it a big deal if she could write a prescription? Anyone could produce dozens of prescriptions if they were prepared, let alone one.

Fu Cheng inhaled deeply. He said softly, "I was overconfident and got careless."

Deputy Chairman Qin scoffed and said, "Well, it's too late to say that now."

Fu Cheng's face instantly turned ghastly pale.

He was right. It was too late to say this now. He was demoted to a junior member. He had lost the basic rights in the association and was unable to refine medicine, so he was no different from an outsider.

Deputy Chairman Qin rapped the table with his fingers gently as he pondered. After going quiet for a couple of minutes, he said mildly, "Why don't you quit the association?"

Chapter 1230: It Is A Wide World Out There

Fu Cheng looked at his master in disbelief and said with his voice trembling, "M-Master, what do you mean?"

If he got kicked out of the society, it was over for him.

Deputy Chairman Qin flicked his fingers and answered nonchalantly. "Considering your situation, it's pointless for you to continue staying in the association. It would be a waste of your talent. Moreover, you would turn into a laughing stock."

"I..." Fu Cheng staggered and felt completely sapped. It was completely hopeless for him.

Deputy Chairman Qin glanced at Fu Cheng and shook his head. He said, "The Apothecaries' Association has been around for a century. Even though it is powerful in the capital, this is not the only place you can be an apothecary."

Fu Cheng felt miserable when he heard his master telling him to leave the association. After some time, he finally snapped out of his daze and raised his head. "What do you mean?"

Deputy Chairman Qin picked up his phone unhurriedly. He tapped on his phone book and sent a number to Fu Cheng. "You are a talented apothecary, so I think the association isn't the only place you can shine in."

Fu Cheng heard his phone chiming with a text message notification, so he quickly took it out for a glance.

"If you want to be better, you can contact this person. Just tell him you came with my recommendation," said Deputy Chairman Qin calmly.

Fu Cheng looked at the business card on his phone and went into a brief shock. His lips parted wanting to speak. He wanted to ask more about this number, but forcibly suppressed his curiosity. "Okay. I will call this person."

"Uh huh," acknowledged Deputy Chairman Qin without speaking further. He waved his hand and gestured for Fu Cheng to leave.

Fu Cheng nodded respectfully and turned to leave the office.

The moment he left the office, he saw Pei Rong leaning against the wall nearby. Fu Cheng nodded as he headed over to Pei Rong.

Pei Rong stood up straight when he saw Fu Cheng coming over. He asked in a soft tone. "Are you alright?"

Fu Cheng shook his head sadly. He was on pretty decent terms with Pei Rong, so he knew that the latter was not here to mock him. "I'm fine. Thanks for asking."

Pei Rong patted Fu Cheng on the shoulder and told him to take it easy on himself. He asked the same question as Deputy Chairman Qin. "How did you know Huo Yao?"

"Huo Yao?" Fu Cheng looked at him quizzically.

"I mean the new deputy chairman," explained Pei Rong.

Fu Cheng asked rhetorically. "Do you know her?"

Pei Rong went quiet briefly before he nodded. "I suppose so. She helped my father treat an important patient last year."

Fu Cheng promptly connected the dots and recalled that the unrivalled doctor recommended by Chairman Wang also went by Huo as well. Since his mind was on the Apothecaries' exam earlier, it did not dawn on him previously.

"Is she very good?" asked Fu Cheng with his eyes narrowed.

Even Pei Rong's father was unable to treat the patient, but the young woman managed to cure the gentleman in just a few sessions. He nodded. "She's a brilliant doctor."

"What about her apothecary skills?" This was Fu Cheng's biggest concern.

"I'm not sure myself. Since the chairman invited her to become an honorary deputy chairman, I suppose she must be equally good," said Pei Rong.

Fu Cheng instantly thought about the conversation he had just had with his master. He narrowed his eyes as he pondered. If the new honorary deputy chairman was as good as Pei Rong mentioned, she could pose a threat to his master's career at the association.

He looked at Pei Rong and said, "My master is very curious about the new honorary deputy chairman. Do you mind telling him what you know about her?"