

Pill Maker 1231

Chapter 1231: I'm Not Afraid Of You

Pei Rong paused briefly. He had always wanted to get into Deputy Chairman Qin's inner circle, but Deputy Chairman Qin could not be bothered with him. Even though he had offered to lend Deputy Chairman Qin his family's ancient medical texts, all he got out of Deputy Chairman Qin was a thank you.

Pei Rong gathered his thoughts and nodded. "I don't know that much about her either."

"Don't worry about it." Fu Cheng squeezed his phone in his pocket as he pondered.

Before long, Fu Cheng brought Pei Rong into Deputy Chairman Qin's office. Fu Cheng told Deputy Chairman Qin that Pei Rong had intel about Huo Yao before leaving.

When Fu Cheng got downstairs, he ran into Fu Ya before he had even stepped out of the hall. She was on her way into the association and was in a huge hurry.

"Is it over?" asked Fu Ya the moment she saw him. Since she was anxious, she was speaking quickly.

The moment Fu Cheng saw Fu Ya, he felt annoyed. He disregarded her question and grabbed her by the arm tightly and dragged her out of the hall.

Fu Ya tightened her fists as he dragged her off before wresting her hand free.

Fu Cheng paid no attention to her reaction. He simply stared at Fu Ya coldly. "You traitor. You deliberately sabotaged me. What are you going to get out of it? I don't understand."

Fu Ya was not present in the hall, but the moment she received a text message from Huo Yao, she had an inkling about what happened. She was unsurprised that Fu Cheng would question her.

Fu Ya scoffed and said, "You are hilarious. Did I tell you to cheat during the exam? Why didn't you think about the consequences when you decided to cheat?"

Fu Cheng laughed angrily. "This is different. You know this exam meant a lot to me. How could you get me into..."

Fu Ya did not want to waste time talking to Fu Cheng. She was not here to see him anyway. She raised her hand and interrupted. "Enough. You asked for it. It is nobody's fault but your own. I know that the maker of the medicinal pills came over. Is she still around?"

Her work place was some distance from the association and there was a traffic jam on the way here, so it took her some time to get here.

Fu Cheng kept blaming Fu Ya for getting him into trouble, but she did not give a hoot about his predicament. Instead, she kept asking about Huo Yao. It was the last straw on the camel's back. He raised his hand and wanted to slap her. "You ingrate!"

Fu Cheng slapped her hard without holding back the slightest. Fu Ya narrowed her eyes as his hand came toward her. Just as it was about to land on her face, she grabbed Fu Cheng by the wrist and held it even harder.

In an instant, Fu Cheng was caught by surprise and staggered by a step as a sharp pain came from his wrist. It was so painful that he instinctively arched his back as he looked into Fu Ya's cold eyes.

They were so cold that they sent chills down Fu Cheng's spine.

Fu Cheng was startled by her reaction. It was the first time his cousin had ever retaliated so strongly that he could not help feeling threatened.

"I did not take things to heart all these years, but it doesn't mean I'm afraid of you, got it?" said Fu Ya softly.

Fu Cheng trembled involuntarily and was unable to respond.

Fu Ya pursed her lips. Someone was coming over, so she quickly let go of Fu Cheng's wrist. She straightened the scarf on her neck unhurriedly and went back to normal. She even smiled and nodded at the person walking past them.

Moments later, Fu Cheng finally snapped out of his shock.

Fu Ya veered her eyes after the person had left. She turned to look at Fu Cheng. "Now can you answer my question?"

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Chapter 1232: He Doesn't Need It

Fu Cheng felt very annoyed. If not for the pain on his wrist, he might have thought that he was imagining things when Fu Ya grabbed him by the wrist. He inhaled deeply and said in a cold tone, "Why are you asking me? How would I know?"

Fu Ya turned to leave on hearing this. She did not enter the building. Instead, she walked out of the association.

She should have known better. Even if she had rushed over, she might not get to meet Huo Yao in person.

Fu Ya sighed sadly.

Fu Cheng watched from behind as his cousin left the association. Even though he was very annoyed by her, he did not run after her.

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Meanwhile, inside the restaurant's private room.

Chairman Wang said to Min Yu, "I haven't seen you in a year. How's your health doing?"

"Hmm," acknowledged Min Yu as he poured tea for Huo Yao. He replied after a moment. "Thank you for your concern, Chairman Wang. I'm much better now."

Chairman Wang was caught by surprise. He glanced at Huo Yao and instantly knew what Min Yu meant.

Huo Yao was an unrivaled physician and Chairman Wang had witnessed the miracles she could perform first hand.

Chairman Wang smiled and said, "Well, I am glad you are fine now. I feel bad about being unable to treat your condition."

Huo Yao was replying to her text messages: [Sure. I don't mind meeting.]

Since Fu Ya was unable to meet Huo Yao at the Apothecaries' Association, Fu Ya texted Huo Yao about catching up in person.

Huo Yao sent out a text message as Chairman Wang talked about a prescription. After Huo Yao put her phone away, she raised her head and looked at Chairman Wang. "Sorry. What prescription were you talking about?"

"I was talking about Young Master Min's prescription," replied Chairman Wang.

Huo Yao tilted her head slightly as she looked at Min Yu with her eyes narrowed thinking about whether he needed more treatment.

Min Yu leaned into the seat backrest lazily. When Huo Yao looked over, he raised his brow slightly. His face looked gorgeous under the chandelier. Huo Yao had placed her hand on his knee under the table. He held her hand and grazed her palm gently with his finger tips.

Huo Yao's cheek twitched. She veered her eyes and said to Chairman Wang, "He doesn't need it anymore."

She had already performed acupuncture on him. If he did not get into any fights or overexert himself, he would not suffer a relapse.

Chairman Wang nodded without continuing with the subject.

Before long, the waiter served the food.

Halfway through dinner, Chairman Wang received a call. He left the room to answer it. When he came back, he clearly seemed preoccupied.

Huo Yao glanced at him and said, "Do you have to go somewhere? It's fine if you have to leave."

Chairman Wang simply laughed. He picked up his chopsticks. "Something went wrong with some Chinese herbs intended for export. It can wait."

Huo Yao did not keep probing. She lowered her head and continued eating.

The three of them quickly finished dinner.

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Chairman Wang waited for Huo Yao and Min Yu to get into the car before he got into the assistant's car. He said solemnly, "I recall the herbs were in storage. How could something go wrong?"

The assistant came back to the association after sending Mi Wei to the airport. Ever since he got back, he had been trying to handle the problem. He shook his head and replied. "The warehouse person said that it was a fire."

Chairman Wang frowned. "It's rainy season in City Huai in May and June. The chances of the place encountering a fire are almost non-existent. Investigate the matter. Find out who the culprit is."

"I have already sent people to investigate the matter. Three quarters of the herb was lost in the fire. We need to hand over the goods in two days. It is impossible for us to make up the difference in two days," said the assistant worriedly.

Nothing like this had happened in the association before.

Chairman Wang went quiet for a couple of minutes before he asked. "Do we still have any stock of the herb then?"

"Yes, we do. Not a lot though. It isn't enough to make up the difference," replied his assistant.
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Chapter 1233: A Scheming Man

Chairman Wang pressed his brow and said, "Speak to our contact overseas and see if they can give us more time to hand over the goods."

"Uh huh. I suppose it is the only thing we can do." The assistant paused before he continued. "We can only hope they won't make things difficult for us."

Chairman Wang looked out of the window worriedly. He sighed and said, "I hope so too."

The assistant glanced into the rear-view mirror and stopped talking since the chairman was in no mood to chat.

Chairman Wang's phone rang in his pocket after the car went some distance. He took out his phone and answered it. After hanging up the phone, he raised his head and told the assistant, "Let's go back to the association."

The assistant quickly acknowledged the chairman and drove back to the association.

After 20 minutes, Chairman Wang got back to the Apothecaries' Association. Several leaders of the association were waiting for him in his office. The moment he entered the place, they asked him about the herbs' accident. They wanted to know what they were going to do about the matter.

Chairman Wang sat down and said unhurriedly, "I will speak to our contact personally and see if they can give us more time. Can any of you go over to the herb storage facility?"

The leaders of the association looked at each other. Everyone was hesitant and no one was keen upon going. By volunteering to go, it was as good as taking responsibility for the problem. Also, the volunteer would have to replace the missing herbs. Since it was a sensitive problem, it was hard to handle. If the problem was not handled well, the volunteer could potentially get criticized for it.

Half a minute later, Deputy Chairman Qin raised his hand. "I'll go."

Chairman Wang looked at Deputy Chairman Qin.

"Since I was involved with striking the deal, it makes sense for me to go," said Deputy Chairman Qin enthusiastically.

Chairman Wang pondered briefly before he nodded. "Okay. Thanks, Deputy Chairman Qin. We will await your good news then."

"In that case, I'm off. I will get someone to book me a flight for tonight." Deputy Chairman Qin stood up and quickly went on his way.

Chairman Wang stood up and said a few more words to Deputy Chairman Qin. Before long, the leaders of the association left his office.

"That's odd. Considering Deputy Chairman Qin's personality, he would never have volunteered to take responsibility for problems like this." Moments later, the assistant stood beside the chairman and spoke softly.

Only Chairman Wang and his assistant were in his office.

Chairman Wang narrowed his eyes and asked. "Was he the only person taking care of the herbs used for the Apothecaries' exam?"

The assistant contemplated and nodded. "That's right. Pardon me, but I don't see the connection here."

Chairman Wang stood up and headed out. He said mildly, "The two things are not connected, but I'm sure he isn't entirely innocent about Fu Cheng's cheating."

The assistant instantly caught the chairman's drift.

He felt something was off when Deputy Chairman Qin volunteered to help with the problem. It made complete sense now. He was hoping to shirk responsibility regarding Fu Cheng's cheating by volunteering to help with the problem.

Sure enough, the man was a wily old fox.

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Huo Yao got called to the office by Liu Qian the moment she arrived at school the next day.

"This is a contract matter. Shouldn't the teachers and university handle it? Why do I have to go?" asked Huo Yao quizzically.

Liu Qian was organizing documents in the office.

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Chapter 1234: Perfectly Evolved

Huo Yao looked at Liu Qian quietly and tutted inside. "Liu, you have changed."

In the past, Liu Qian used to be a down to earth man. These days, he kept bringing up the cash award and talking about money. It was really too much.

Liu Qian disregarded it when Huo Yao called him by his name directly. "Are you going or not?"

Huo Yao did not want to go to the institution. "Fine then."

But... he had already used the cash award to bait her. What else could she say?

"In that case, go straight to the administrative office at 1:00 pm. Mr. Jin will take you there. You remember him, right? He went with us to the institute previously," said Liu Qian.

Huo Yao gestured okay before she asked. "Just me?"

Liu Qian cleared his throat and said, "Mr. Qi is going as well."

"I see." Huo Yao pursed her lips.

Liu Qian was powerless. "Someone from the department has to go along with you."

Huo Yao nodded patronizingly. "Uh huh."

Liu Qian went speechless.

"In that case, I'm leaving," said Huo Yao.

Liu Qian knew that she did not want to go to the institute and with Qi Hui no less. Since the decision was in Prof Liu's hands, he could not say no. He sighed without saying a word and waved his hand.

Huo Yao arrived at the administrative office on the dot in the afternoon.

Qi Hui and Mr. Jin were already chatting there. When Qi Hui saw her, he raised his hand and checked his watch.

She was quite on the dot.

Couldn't she have showed up earlier? Qi Hui frowned. Since Mr. Jin was around, he didn't react and simply veered his eyes. He said to Mr. Jin, "Now that she is here, let's go."

Mr. Jin nodded.

Before long, they got into the car.

After getting into the car, Huo Yao put on her earphones and played video games without listening to Qi Hui and Mr. Jin's conversation.

A text message notification appeared on Huo Yao's phone. She tapped on it after she was done with her video game.

Lei Xiao said: [Get this. I have insider information that the National Academy of Medicine is going to produce the analysis solution in large quantities for experimentation.]

If they wanted to produce it on a large scale, they would need lots of subjects for human testing. This was the standard protocol for any medicine. Sadly, the experiment was intended to alter the human genetic structure.

Huo Yao frowned upon seeing the text message. She composed a reply: [Are you people insane?]

Lei Xiao was eating. The moment he saw her response, he made his stand clear: [I have nothing to do with this. I was not involved.]

He could tell that Huo Yao was not a big fan of the experiment.

Huo Yao replied: [Humph.]

Lei Xiao's cheek twitched: [Are you angry?]

Huo Yao looked out of the car window with her eyes utterly cold. When Lei Xiao sent another text message, she finally veered her eyes.

Lei Xiao wrote: [Some sacrifices have to be made in the name of Science. Once you get used to it, you will get over it.]

Lei Xiao was a virus researcher, but he had to conduct similar testing as well. There was no avoiding it.

Initially, only animal testing was conducted. He had seen patients suffer unbearable pain from his medicine during the second phase of human testing.

Huo Yao asked: [Does the National Academy of Medicine have support from some foreign medical institutes?]

Lei Xiao was obsessed with research, so he hardly paid any attention to the National Academy of Medicine.

He simply replied: [I suppose? Experiments like this tend to require a lot of collaboration. That way things would be easier.]

After the last text message, Lei Xiao stopped talking about human testing.

He changed the subject and said: [Oh yes. Apparently, there are people in this world with special physical conditions, giving them particularly high physical indicators. As far as I understand, they are perfect specimens to become drug test subjects since they are perfectly evolved.]

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Chapter 1235: I Can't Help

Huo Yao's face instantly turned colder the moment she heard what Lei Xiao said. She quickly composed herself and replied: [I have never heard about them before. Who told you such nonsense?]

Lei Xiao replied: [My colleagues were gossiping about it. They think the perfectly evolved human might really exist and have tried looking for them, but I am on your side. I think it's pure bullshit.]

Huo Yao acknowledged mildly.

Before long, she ended the conversation with Lei Xiao. She spun her phone as she looked out of the car window with her mind drifting away.

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The car arrived at the National Research Institute of Science and Technology an hour later.

After getting off the car, Mr. Jin and Qi Hui were led to the office while Huo Yao was shown to the laboratory.

Wei Yong was already at the laboratory. Since he had a lot of questions about the numbers for Huo Yao, he had sent his assistant to handle the contract signing.

A simulation of brain activity could be seen on the screen in the laboratory. Wei Yong was typing on the keyboard as he asked Huo Yao. "I am fascinated by the computing you have done on it. For some reason, I was unable to break it down. Why is that so?"

Huo Yao glanced at the screen nonchalantly as she stood beside Wei Yong and replied mildly. "The calculations are like a blueprint to a house. If you try to break them down, it will ruin the system."

Wei Yong's hands paused. He turned to look at Huo Yao. "Do you mean I can't extract it freely and use it on other smart systems?"

Huo Yao replied. "That is right. You can't break it down and use it elsewhere."

Wei Yong frowned. This meant the system was fixed.

After spending lots of money buying the research, it could only be used on one robot. It was not what he wanted.

"Is there anyway to change this?" asked Wei Yong.

Her slender form stood where she was without moving and her expression looked completely normal.

She said, "Since AL is a pretty new field, there is limited research done for it. We were very lucky to have created the system. I'm afraid the things you are asking for are impossible for us to achieve."

Wei Yong felt a little disappointed. Then again, this AL system was definitely the first of its kind in the industry, so it was already considered quite a breakthrough in the field.

He could only take things a step at a time right now.

Wei Yong did not continue asking her about breaking down the system for application elsewhere. Instead, he asked her about the gene database. "When we tried to perform gene replication using the system, we were unable to achieve 100% success. Why is this so?"

Wei Yong stood up and gestured for Huo Yao to take a seat and give it a shot.

In the past, he would never have allowed an outsider to lay an eye on their work. However, he made an exception today.

In any case, he had told the assistant to include a non-disclosure clause in the contract.

The moment anyone leaked the institute's proprietary information, a suit would follow.

Huo Yao did not sit down at the computer. "I don't know either."

Wei Yong was caught by surprise. He promptly said, "Isn't Biology your specialty?"

Huo Yao turned her head to look at Wei Yong. She said normally, "This was a group effort. I am unable to help you just by myself."

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Chapter 1236: Smiled And Apologized

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Huo Yao was implying that it was no use getting her to come to the National Research Institute of Science and Technology alone. She was unable to help.

Wei Yong almost instantly caught Huo Yao's drift and looked annoyed.

He could tell that the young woman had a key role in the research project. Moreover, he had done some investigation about the young woman and knew she was very gifted.

She was simply pretending that she was oblivious.

Wei Yong asked a few more questions, but kept getting the same response from Huo Yao.

She kept claiming that she was unable to help. If he wanted to know more, she suggested he speak to Liu Qian since he was in charge of the research project.

Wei Yong was unable to squeeze a single answer out of her and felt very annoyed inside.

He certainly did not see this coming when he had requested to see her alone. She was far more devious and tight lipped than the average university student.

Since Wei Yong was unable to squeeze more information out of Huo Yao, he led her out of the laboratory without keeping her. After showing her out, he did not stay in the laboratory either. Instead, he headed over to the conference room.

When he got there, he was still annoyed.

His assistant had already signed the contract with Mr. Jin. When Wei Yong came over, the assistant noticed Wei Yong was in a bad mood and felt a little puzzled. He greeted Wei Yong reverently without probing though.

Mr. Jin and Qi Hui also greeted Wei Yong when they saw him.

"All done signing the contract?" Wei Yong pulled out a chair and took a seat.

The assistant nodded. He placed the contract in front of Wei Yong. Wei Yong did not look at the contract. Instead, he looked at Qi Hui and Mr. Jin, thinking about the interaction he had with Huo Yao. "I am impressed by your student."

Judging from his tone, it was not a compliment. Mr. Jin and Qi Hui looked at each other quizzically. Qi Hui finally asked. "What do you mean?"

Wei Yong pursed his lips. He leaned into the seat back rest. "Nothing. She is a very eloquent young woman."

Qi Hui did not know what Huo Yao had done to annoy Wei Yong. He knew that Huo Yao was a proud young woman, so he felt she must have offended Wei Yong earlier by being rude.

He promptly smiled apologetically and said, "Huo Yao is young and speaks without thinking. I apologize if she has spoken rudely. Please don't take it to heart. I am sure she doesn't mean it. I will talk to her about it when I see her."

Mr. Jin frowned instantly.

Wei Yong waved his hand and said magnanimously, "Don't worry. It was nothing."

Qi Hui chatted for a bit longer until Wei Yong's mood lifted a little. Qi Hui heaved a sigh of relief inside.

Why didn't Huo Yao know better? Wei Yong was not some random teacher in the university. How could she talk back to someone working in the National Research Institute of Science and Technology?

Qi Hui had to help clean up after Huo Yao messed up, so he could not help griping inside.

She might be a genius, but her research was nothing without this collaboration with the institute.

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After going to the bathroom, Huo Yao did not go back to the conference room. Instead, she went out for some fresh air. Since there were some benches next to the flower terraces outside the building, she took a seat there.

She took out her phone and checked the research team's chat group.

Dai Jie and the others often raised questions related to the research project in the chat group. Since Huo Yao had nothing to do, she started making suggestions to solve their problems.

She was wearing a white down coat today. Her furry collar made her face look even more petite. Her slightly wavy hair was tied up in a loose bun. Her beauty made her stand out even though she was just sitting there.

Meanwhile, a young man was standing by the window in the president's office looking at her white silhouette.

so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 1237: Paying Min Yu With Min Yu's Money

President Xue was sitting on the couch behind the man, talking. "I haven't asked you for any help in years. This time, it is a very important project. If you can help me take care of the equipment, it would help a lot. Can you help?"

The man continued standing at the window looking down without turning back. He kept looking out of the window until Huo Yao raised her head. He finally turned slightly and looked at President Xue. "What were you saying?"

President Xue went speechless.

He looked at Min Yu angrily. Min Yu finally connected the dots and asked. "Is the institute working on something with Tsing University?"

President Xue did not understand why Min Yu suddenly brought this up. He paused briefly before he replied. "We need a third generation smart robot with independent thinking for a deep sea exploration project. In order to do so, we plan on using AL."

This must be the reason Huo Yao was here at the institute.

Min Yu pondered briefly. He quickly nodded and replied. "Okay."

"Do you mean you will help take care of the weapons?" asked President Xue cautiously after swallowing some saliva.

Min Yu nodded and seemed open to the suggestion. "Uh huh."

President Xue had come up with a lot of ways to convince Min Yu to help. He was even prepared to act pitiful. Now that Min Yu suddenly agreed, he could not help feeling astonished and did not know what to say.

He could not believe his ears. Did his disciple really agree to help? He had shockingly agreed to help without putting up any resistance.

President Xue was still reeling in surprise when Min Yu said, "Well, I don't work for free."

After snapping out of his shock, President Xue promptly nodded. "We can pay you."

His disciple was a rich man and did not need money. Why would he suddenly mention money? Since Min Yu was willing to help the institute, President Xue certainly did not mind paying the guy.

After all, Min Yu had donated a lot of money to the institute, so President Xue was as good as paying Min Yu with his own money.

Before long, President Xue called his assistant to prepare the contract. He was afraid his disciple might change his mind at any time.

He could only trust Min Yu after he had signed the contract.

When Min Yu noticed President Xue's reaction, he shook his head. He turned to look out of the window. Someone was sitting at the seat earlier, but it was now empty.

He raised his brow. After veering his eyes, he retrieved his phone from his pocket.

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Huo Yao sat outside briefly before heading back to the lounge. Shortly after she had taken a seat, her phone rang in her pocket. She had received a text message.

Min Yu asked: [When are you leaving?]

Huo Yao blinked in disbelief when she saw the text message: [???]

After sending the text message, she received a call in a split second and she answered it promptly.

"I mean when are you leaving the institute?" came Min Yu's voice over the phone.

She was stunned. She glanced at the door and asked. "Are you at the institute?"

Min Yu replied. "Uh huh."

Huo Yao was caught by surprise, but she did not probe. She simply said, "I don't know either. The school representatives are here to sign a contract. Once they are done, I can leave. I suppose they will be done soon."

Min Yu placed his hand on the window sill and rapped his fingers gently before he said, "I need about ten more minutes here. Shall we leave together?"

Huo Yao gave it some thought and felt it was a great suggestion. "Okay. Call you when I can leave."

Min Yu acknowledged in response.

Qi Hui and Mr. Jin were done signing the contract, so they walked toward her.

Mr. Jin parted his lips and wanted to tell Huo Yao they were ready to leave, but Qi Hui interrupted him. "What have you done this time? Why is Mr. Wei unhappy with you?"

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Chapter 1238: Prejudice

Qi Hui's questions came off sounding as though Huo Yao had done something wrong.

Huo Yao tilted her head sideways and looked at Qi Hui coldly without responding.

Qi Hui shook his head speechlessly. "Do you think you can get cocky because the institute is interested in your research project? The institute has far higher status than Tsing University. Do you know the consequences of offending someone from the institute?"

"Mr. Qi." Mr. Jin did not like Qi Hui's tone of voice when he questioned Huo Yao, so he interrupted Qi Hui.

Qi Hui glanced at Mr. Jin. "You don't understand. She is... Sigh. Never mind. I can't be bothered helping her."

The moment he finished his sentence, he veered his eyes away from Huo Yao and walked off.

The atmosphere instantly felt very awkward, but Mr. Jin felt Huo Yao was not a rash young woman. He simply cleared his throat and explained. "Mr. Wei looked annoyed when he came over."

Huo Yao replied coldly. "Did he have to take it out on me just because someone was in a bad mood?"

Mr. Jin said, "I am sure there must be some misunderstanding, so don't take it to heart. We are done signing the contract. Shall we leave?"

"No, thanks. My friend is giving me a ride," replied Huo Yao mildly.

Mr. Jin was caught by surprise. "Your friend? Do you know someone from the institute?"

Huo Yao acknowledged without explaining in detail. "Uh huh."

Mr. Jin was an observant man. From the moment he laid eyes on Huo Yao, he could detect her powerful aura. She was far more composed and confident than the other students.

She was undoubtedly not as naive as Qi Hui made her out to be.

Mr. Jin snapped out of his thoughts and did not insist. "Okay. Take care then."

Huo Yao nodded.

Before long, Mr. Jin left the lounge. When he walked out of the building, Qi Hui was standing by the trash can at the entrance, smoking. He could not help frowning when Mr. Jin walked out alone.

Mr. Jin paid no attention to Qi Hui's reaction. He told Qi Hui that Huo Yao was getting a ride from a friend.

Qi Hui put out the cigarette on the ashtray on top of the trash can. The moment he heard what Mr. Jin said, he asked quizzically, "Does she have a friend from the institute?"

"That's right." Mr. Jin nodded

Qi Hui could not believe his ears. "Do you think she might cause trouble? After all, she came to the institute with us. Even if she knows someone from the institute, I don't think its right to leave without her."

"Mr. Qi, why do I have a feeling you have some prejudice against her?" asked Mr. Jin rhetorically.

Qi Hui promptly replied. "I have nothing against her. I just don't like her cocky attitude. Just because she is the top scholar, doesn't give her the right to behave this way."

Mr. Jin patted his shoulder and said, "Geniuses have every right to be proud. Come on. Stop picking on her."

Qi Hui choked upon hearing this.

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Meanwhile, at the president's office.

President Xue's assistant was done writing and printing the contract. He entered the office and wanted to hand it to the president, but Min Yu took it from him and said, "Pen."

After snapping out of his shock, he hurriedly went over to the table, retrieved a pen and handed it to Min Yu.

Min Yu did not even bother to read the contents of the contract and promptly signed his name on the last page.

The entire process took no more than ten seconds.

President Xue took the contract from Min Yu and kept looking at it in a daze. Everything felt so surreal. so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 1239: Just Average

President Xue was in a daze when Min Yu stood up from the couch. He took his jacket from the side and said, "Mr. Xue, I have to go now."

President Xue snapped out of his thoughts. He raised his hand and checked the time. "Are you leaving already? Won't you stay for a little longer? I was hoping you could check out the parts in storage."

Min Yu nodded and replied. "I'm busy. Maybe next time."

President Xue did not insist. Since Min Yu had already signed the contract, he could not go back on his word. "Fine. Next time then."

"Uh huh," acknowledged Min Yu before quickly leaving the office.

President Xue veered his eyes when his disciple was completely out of sight. He looked at the contract in his hands and paused briefly before instructing his assistant. "Tell Prof Yang about the change in plans. We aren't going with proposal two anymore. Tell him we will go ahead with proposal one."

The assistant looked at President Xue in surprise. "Didn't we already do a simulation and conclude that proposal one was too difficult to execute?"

President Xue smiled as he shook his head. He replied. "That was before we could find someone to build the submarine."

The assistant thought about Min Yu's talent and cast a knowing look at President Xue. He nodded and responded. "In that case, I will notify Prof Yang about the change in plans immediately."

"Go on." President Xue waved his hand as he spoke

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Meanwhile, Huo Yao received a text message telling her to wait for him at the lobby.

An employee in the lobby knew she was from Tsing University and the institute was partnering with them on a research project. He reminded her not to walk around the institute randomly before leaving the lobby.

She stood with her head lowered looking at her toes with both hands in her jacket pocket. Her posture seemed very relaxed.

Min Yu saw Huo Yao the moment he got out of the lift. He paused briefly and headed toward her. "Did you wait for long?"

Huo Yao raised her head the moment she heard his voice. She looked at him brightly. "Not really. Just a few minutes."

Min Yu nodded. He reached his hand into Huo Yao's jacket pocket and held her warm hand. "Let's go."

Huo Yao went quiet.

Min Yu held her hand as they headed to the parking lot. On their way there, they did not encounter anyone else. He seemed to know his way around the institute, so Huo Yao said in surprise, "Do you work for the institute?"

"Not really." Min Yu pondered before he explained. "My teacher works here."

Huo Yao nodded knowingly without probing further.

"I know your school is collaborating with the institute. Are you in charge of it?" asked Min Yu after glancing at Huo Yao.

Huo Yao shrugged. "Nope. I am here to answer some questions for the institute."

"I am sure you are brilliant either way." Min Yu raised his brow.

Huo Yao raised her chin slightly and spoke modestly. "Just average."

Min Yu smiled without saying a word.

Before long, the two of them arrived at the parking lot.

After getting into the car, Min Yu asked as he started the engine. "Are you going back to school?"

"Hang on. Let me check." Huo Yao took out her phone and sent Liu Qian a text message.

Liu Qian was probably busy, so he only replied ten minutes later telling her she did not have to go back to school.

Since it was still early, Huo Yao sent Fu Ya a text message. After deciding on the meeting location, she told Min Yu, "Can you take me here? I am meeting someone."

She showed Min Yu the GPS location of the place where she was meeting Fu Ya.

Min Yu glanced at the address and asked randomly. "Are you meeting that Lei guy?"

Huo Yao spun her phone as she looked sideways at Min Yu. "Huh? Do you mean Lei Xiao?"

Chapter 1240: Is It Really You?

"Maybe. I can't remember his name," said Min Yu in a completely normal tone.

Huo Yao straightened her coat and answered. "It's not him."

Min Yu acknowledged softly.

Huo Yao glanced at him. Why did he keep asking funny questions?

*

The car arrived at the address 40 minutes later. It was a small restaurant with a quiet atmosphere.

Min Yu looked at the small restaurant through the car window. It was 4:00 pm, so there were hardly any patrons in the bar.

Just as Huo Yao undid her seatbelt, her phone chimed with a text message from Fu Ya. She was asking if Huo Yao had arrived.

She lowered her head and replied to the text message before she said to Min Yu, "I am meeting a girl, so it's inconvenient for you to join us. Don't bother waiting."

Min Yu veered his eyes. "Sure."

Huo Yao nodded and opened the car door to get off. Before long, she entered the bar entrance and went out of sight.

After Huo Yao entered the restaurant, the employee standing at the cashier automatically raised her head and welcomed Huo Yao.

The restaurant was relatively small and light music was playing in the background. Huo Yao glanced around and noticed that no other patrons were in the restaurant. Just as she was about to speak, the curtain on the left opened.

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A young woman hurriedly walked out and said casually to the employee, "It's my friend..."

The young woman paused mid-sentence and was promptly stunned when she looked at Huo Yao standing at the door.

Huo Yao was a beauty and she was clearly in her twenties. Fu Ya had always assumed that her online friend was an old man.

Fu Ya scratched her neck in disbelief. A long while later, she finally asked quizzically. "Is it you?"

Huo Yao looked at Fu Ya. In comparison, Huo Yao was unsurprised by her reaction. "Did you wait for long?"

Fu Ya was still reeling in astonishment. "Is it really you?"

"Why don't you wait and see if anyone will show up looking for you then?" Huo Yao raised her brow.

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Since she had a powerful aura, her words sounded genuine.

Fu Ya cleared her throat. Even though Fu Ya was a few years older than the young woman in front of her, she could not help feeling restrained. She pointed at the curtain and said, "Why don't we take a seat?"

Huo Yao nodded.

Fu Ya stepped aside courteously and pulled away the curtain as she gestured for Huo Yao to enter the private room. She said to the waitress, "Tell the kitchen to prepare some snacks. We don't want any alcohol. Just juice will be fine."

After placing the order, she entered the private room and closed the engraved wooden door behind her.

Fu Ya sat down cross-legged in front of the low table before she finally looked at Huo Yao. She said in astonishment, "I always thought you were a middle-aged man in his forties."

Owing to the incident at the Apothecaries' Association, Fu Ya had already found out Huo Yao was very young and still a student, but she still could not help feeling amazed looking at her.

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Huo Yao nodded and said mildly, "You are not alone."

Fu Ya touched her nose as she contemplated. No one would have expected that Huo Yao was an unrivaled physician at such a young age.

Images flooded her mind. After some time, she said deeply, "Thank you for saving me from those people."

Fu Ya was leaning her hand against the low table and her wrist could be seen. There was a faint scar on her wrist.

Huo Yao glanced at the scar and replied calmly. "I just happened to be there. You don't have to take it to heart."

Fu Ya smiled and continued thanking Huo Yao.

The waitress knocked on the door making Fu Ya gather her thoughts. She stood up to open the door and took the food from the waitress before closing the private room door again.