

Pill Maker 1271

Chapter 1271: Live Specimen Drug Trial

Chen Ming replied carefully. He was unsure if Huo Yulin was trying to make him slip up, so he decided to tell the truth.

Huo Yulin closed his eyes upon hearing this.

Since Huo Yulin did not continue asking, Chen Ming could not help feeling relieved. If Huo Yulin did not get injured, he would have noticed something amiss by now.

For the next few days, Huo Yulin recovered at incredible speed. Only his face remained pale and sickly. He was even able to get out of bed and walk a little. On the surface, it was impossible to realize that he was badly injured.

After Huo Yulin was done answering a call, Chen Ming gave him a cup of water and said, "Time for your meds."

Huo Yulin took the cup, tilted his head back, and drank it all. He said, "Uncle Ming, make arrangements for me. I need to fly out tomorrow. I have two days to go before the neurological conference is over. I need to get there before it's finished."

Chen Ming looked at him worriedly. "You only just recovered, so you shouldn't travel."

"I'm fine. I know what I'm doing," said Huo Yulin. In reality, he was bewildered by his speed of recovery.

Chen Ming glanced at Huo Yulin. Since he knew Huo Yulin was a stubborn man and it was useless to convince him otherwise, Chen Ming could only nod. "Okay then."

Huo Yulin placed the empty cup on the coffee table. There was a bitter aftertaste of Chinese medicine in his mouth. He looked at Chen Ming and asked randomly. "Did the hospital president prescribe this medicine?"

Chen Ming nodded and replied calmly. "Yes, he did."

Huo Yulin said nothing and lay back down in bed.

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Meanwhile, at the National Academy of Medicine.

After conducting experiments for days, Prof Gao and his colleagues finally came up with the analysis solution.

They had been conducting live specimen drug trials.

The drug trial would be done on human or animal subjects. By conducting the trial, they could observe the effects of the medical solution.

"I must say. The solution seems to be a little stronger than the old version," said Prof Gao as he stood in front of the glass container looking at the third lab rat injected with the analysis solution.

"I think so too. When we tested the previous version on lab rats, it wasn't as good," remarked one of the professors.

Prof Gao nodded and smiled for the first time in days. "Let's observe this for a couple more days. If the rat's condition is stable, we can consider doing animal testing on a larger subject."

"I think we can go straight to human testing. I'm sure it is safe enough," said another professor. He paused before he added. "If the analysis solution did not get destroyed, we might have already started with human testing by now. If we keep experimenting step by step, it's going to be a waste of time."

Prof Gao looked at his colleague sternly. "Even though this solution looks fine, its contents are slightly different from the old version. What if..."

Before he was able to finish his sentence, he got interrupted. "I'm sure it is safe for human testing. Moreover, its content is only slightly different from the original version. We can always conduct human testing first and observe its effects before adjusting the concoction."

Prof Gao turned to look at Yuan Huan and his peers. "What do you think?"

His peers looked hesitant to speak, but Yuan Huan said, "I agree that we should conduct human testing. The third lab rat is doing a lot better, so this means the solution is working."

Prof Gao had obtained these handwritten notes from Yuan Huan and they were a real boon for the research, so he was very open-minded about Yuan Huan's suggestions. He pondered for a few minutes and nodded. "Let's do it then."

Chapter 1272: Spend Time Together

Yuan Huan drove the car away from the National Academy of Medicine. When he was no longer in the signal blocker's range, he took out his phone to make a call.

"Uh huh. They are going to use the medicine on human subjects soon. I will send you a report once the results are out."

Yuan Huan was speaking in English, reporting the situation at the National Academy of Medicine. Before long, the call ended.

Yuan Huan was in a good mood. He extended his hand and turned on the music volume in the car. As he listened to the music, his head swayed along with it.

Moments later, his phone rang.

It was a call from Yuan Xi's mother.

Yuan Huan glanced at the caller ID before answering the phone.

The gentle voice of a woman could be heard over the phone. "Huan, are you going to school today?"

Yuan Huan greeted her and replied. "Hi. Nope. Why?"

"Nothing. If you were going to school, I was hoping that you could pick up your little sister. She hasn't come home in ages."

Yuan Huan rubbed the steering wheel with his hands on hearing this. It seemed he ought to hang out with his sister more. He said, "Okay. I have to go to campus later anyway, so I'll pick her up from school."

Mrs Yuan immediately responded. "If it's too much trouble, you can do it some other time."

Yuan Huan pursed his lips and said, "It's no trouble at all. I will come back with her later."

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The moment he finished his sentence, he made a U-turn and headed to the university.

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By the time he got to the campus, it was 30 minutes later.

Yuan Huan pulled up by the roadside, but he did not get out of the car and entered the campus. Instead, he sent Yuan Xi a text message.

After sending the text message, he put away his phone and opened the car window. He leaned against the window with his head tilting sideways against the car seat backrest. He kept looking into the side mirror.

There were hardly any cars parked by the roadside at this hour of the day. Before long, he could see a black car appearing in the rearview mirror. Yuan Huan raised his brow when he saw the driver.

He quickly veered his eyes and rolled up the car window.

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It was none other than Min Yu. He was here to pick up Huo Yao.

He had sent Huo Yao a text message informing her that he was already at the school entrance. He proceeded to look at a drawing without paying any attention to his surroundings.

President Xue from the National Research Institute of Science and Technology had sent him the drawing. He wanted Min Yu to help revise the equipment.

It was a very complicated piece of equipment and there were over 10 000 parts listed in the legend. No ordinary man would be able to comprehend the drawing.

After looking at the drawings, Min Yu felt a little annoyed. In hindsight, this was a really bad idea.

He pressed his brow as he contemplated it. He retrieved a pencil from the glove box and started going through the diagram.

Min Yu finally stopped when someone opened the front passenger seat car door.

Huo Yao put on the seat belt and glanced at the huge drawing. She raised her brow and asked. "Is that an engineering diagram?"

Min Yu put away the pencil and rolled up the drawings. "Nope. This is the blueprint for the research institute's submarine."

Huo Yao blinked and said, "That's very advanced, right?"

"No matter how advanced it is, it was designed by a human being." Min Yu glanced at her. He proceeded to randomly stuff the roll of drawings into a gap on this side and did not care even when it rolled to the bottom of the car seat.

Huo Yao's lips twitched upon seeing this. "I should have taken a video of what you just did and shown it to the people from the research institute. What would they think when they see you abusing these drawings?"

Chapter 1273: Anything But Ordinary

Min Yu raised his brow. "It's just some stupid drawing."

Huo Yao tutted a couple of times. From the looks of it, he enjoyed a high status at the National Research Institute of Science and Technology. Otherwise, he would not be speaking in this manner.

Huo Yao smiled. She raised her head and looked ahead and promptly saw the luxury car in front of them. The car looked very familiar. Thanks to her photographic memory, she quickly recalled the owner of the car.

If memory served her right, Yuan Huan did not come to school this afternoon.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes.

Min Yu looked into the rearview mirror and noticed Huo Yao in deep thought. He automatically looked at the car in front of him and asked. "Is that someone you know?"

Huo Yao veered her eyes. She pursed her lips. "I suppose. Was the car already there when you arrived?"

"I think so." Min Yu pondered and spoke.

Huo Yao nodded and stopped looking at the car. She straightened her sleeves and said, "Let's go then."

Min Yu glanced at her without saying a word. He started the engine and left the university.

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Yuan Huan watched as the car behind him drove off. Remaining in deep thought, he kept touching the black ring on his index finger with his hands interlaced.

After waiting for a few more minutes, Yuan Xi still did not show up. Now that Huo Yao and Min Yu were gone, his patience was worn thin.

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Yuan Huan held up his phone again. This time, he did not send Yuan Xi a text message. Instead, he called her directly.

The moment he called, someone answered the phone. He spoke mildly before hanging up the phone. "You have ten minutes to get here."

He did not give Yuan Xi the opportunity to refuse him.

Yuan Xi was at the hostel. She looked at her phone annoyingly after Yuan Xi had hung up.

Yuan Xi kept pacing around the dormitory for five minutes. She felt scared just thinking about Yuan Huan, but she eventually got off the bed and left the hostel with her little backpack.

She ran all the way to the school entrance. When she saw the car by the roadside, she bit her lip and held her bag even more tightly. She approached the car and opened the back seat door, but it was useless.

Yuan Xi stood outside the car and tried several times. Since Yuan Huan refused to open the back seat door for her, she paused and got into the front passenger seat.

The front passenger seat door opened effortlessly and she could see Yuan Huan's face up close. He was always very composed, so no one knew what he was thinking.

Yuan Xi trembled before getting into the car. After putting on the seat belt, she leaned against the car door as closely as she could without so much as greeting him.

Yuan Huan turned to look at her. "Are you afraid of me?"

Yuan Xi felt scared, but she acted calm and said loudly, "What do you mean scared? I told you my exam is coming, so I need to study. I don't have time to go home."

Yuan Huan spoke mildly as he started the engine. "Don't you think you should say this to your mother?"

Yuan Xi turned her head angrily and looked outside the car window. Why did her mother keep doing this to her? Her mother always got Yuan Huan to help find her. Yuan Huan was a scary man, but her mother was completely oblivious to the fact.

"Oh yes. I just saw your friend," remarked Yuan Huan.

Yuan Xi frowned. She turned around wanting to ask who he was talking about when she suddenly thought about Huo Yao.

"I don't get it. Why are you so interested in an ordinary girl? Why are you paying so much attention to her?"

Yuan Xi could not wrap her mind around it.

They clearly had no interaction whatsoever.

Yuan Huan smiled and replied. "I hardly think she's normal or ordinary."

Chapter 1274: In Your Hands

Huo Yao had a very high IQ and she was surrounded by important people. She looked nothing like an ordinary girl.

Yuan Huan tilted his head sideways and leaned against the seat backrest lazily. He said randomly, "My villa is ready. I will give you a set of keys. You should invite some friends over to hang out at my new place."

Yuan Xi almost instantly knew what he was suggesting.

Yuan Huan was not offering his place so that she could hang out with her friends. Instead, he wanted her to bring Huo Yao.

"Thanks, but no thanks," said Yuan Xi coldly.

Despite her cold attitude, Yuan Huan did not get upset. He simply smiled. "I heard that our parents plan on spending the Chinese New Year abroad."

The moment he mentioned her mother, Yuan Xi automatically felt worried. "Yuan Huan, what are you driving at? Just give it to me straight. I don't like playing games!"

She knew her older brother all too well. He was always in the habit of threatening her and seemed to get a kick out of it.

On the surface, he uttered something completely mundane. In reality, there was an underlying meaning in every word he spoke.

Yuan Huan scoffed and said, "Don't you know? It's dangerous out there. Who knows what might happen while she's on a holiday? What if she encounters some kind of unrest?"

Yuan Xi's eyes instantly turned red. "How can you do that? Even if she isn't your biological mother, she has treated you like her own son. She often treats you better than she treats me. How could you bring yourself to say this?"

"Your mother's fate is in your hands," said Yuan Huan mildly.

Yuan Xi knew what he wanted from her. She kept biting her lip for some time and said, "I won't help you meet Huo Yao. Over my dead body!"

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Yuan Huan stepped on the gas even harder, but his voice remained airy. "Whatever. You know you only have one choice."

Yuan Xi's face turned increasingly pale. She felt cold and terrified by the threat. He had cornered her and she was incapable of retaliating. She felt an overwhelming sense of hopelessness.

She knew her older brother meant what he said.

He was terrifying and ruthless.

Ever since she discovered his true personality, she stopped trying to make friends with others. All these years, she hardly had any friends thanks to him.

She often wondered what would happen if she did not know Yuan Huan's true personality. Perhaps she would not have to live in fear every second of her life.

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Meanwhile, Min Yu drove back to his place.

Chapter 1275: Film Something

Huo Yao opened the study door.

The room had a black and white minimalistic theme. It looked clean and the design was pleasant to the eye. The entire wall on the left was a bookshelf filled with books with a display cabinet at the center of the room. An unknown small exquisite silver object was placed at the center of the display cabinet.

After placing the drawings on the study table, Huo Yao walked over to the display cabinet and looked at the silver object. The moment she saw it, she was stunned.

The object was put together using irregularly shaped metal parts. It did not resemble a special mechanism or weapon, but the shape looked familiar to her. She recalled seeing something just like this back when she was living in the clan.

Huo Yao quietly looked at it before leaving the room quickly.

When she arrived downstairs, the man was still busy cooking in the kitchen. She raised her head to glance at him and went over to take a seat on the living room couch.

Huo Yao thought about the silver object she had seen in this study, so she took out her phone and sent Shangguan Yun a text message.

[Can you help me film the Forbidden Chamber?]

A few minutes later, she did not receive a reply.

Huo Yao did not keep waiting. Instead, she swiped down to Chen Ming's number and called him.

When Chen Ming received the call, he was not in the hospital ward. He told her about Huo Yulin's plans to get discharged tomorrow and his trip abroad for a neurological conference.

Huo Yao said, "It's okay. As long as he does not try to do something stupid again, he'll be fine."

Chen Ming's lips twitched. He had a feeling that Huo Yao was mocking them. He cleared his throat and replied. "Okay then. I will take care of Young Master Yulin."

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Huo Yao nodded. She hung up the phone without speaking further.

Before long, Min Yu was done cooking and had already set the table. He called Huo Yao over to eat.

“You are starting to look like a real chef,” remarked Huo Yao as she ate a piece of pork ribs.

People always said the way into a woman’s heart was through her gut.

Min Yu looked at her sideways. “Thanks for the compliment.”

Huo Yao waved her hand and continued eating with her head lowered.

“How’s your third older brother doing?” asked Min Yu.

Huo Yao spoke with her mouth full. “He’s probably recovering well.”

After all, she had given him medication

Min Yu nodded.

“Oh yes. I saw a silver object on your cabinet in the study. Where did you buy it? I think it looks nice.”

Huo Yao raised her head and asked randomly.

Min Yu raised his brow. “Do you like it?”

Huo Yao smiled. “I think it looks special.”

“I saw it online and made it myself,” said Min Yu.

Huo Yao did not know how she felt after hearing this. Was she disappointed or sad?

Meanwhile, her phone pinged in her pocket. Shangguan Yun had finally replied to the text message.

Y: [I don’t have the key to the Forbidden Chamber, so I can’t get in. Why are you suddenly asking me to do this?]

Huo Yao gathered her thoughts and replied: [Never mind. It’s fine.]

Y: [...]

Huo Yao ignored the message and put away her phone.

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After dinner, Min Yu did not wait for Huo Yao to talk about leaving since he knew she was home alone. Instead, he brought her upstairs to the study with him.

“Take your pick of any book.” Min Yu pointed at the books on the shelf.

Huo Yao acknowledged softly. She looked obedient and the light was reflecting off her beautiful eyes, making them look dazzling.

Min Yu was holding her hand and could not resist pulling her into his arms.

Chapter 1276: I Didn’t Realize You Were Into This

The man was already in front of Huo Yao before she knew it. His face was up close and she could sense his warm breath on her face. He held her by the back of her head and touched her mouth domineeringly.

They locked lips and kissed each other deeply.

Huo Yao blushed slightly and tried to move back, but she was tripped over by a lounge chair behind. She automatically fell backward.

Min Yu embraced her tightly by the waist. As he held her, he placed her on the lounge chair.

He placed his head on Huo Yao's shoulder with his lips pressed on her ear. "I didn't realize you were into this."

Huo Yao went speechless.

Min Yu looked at her deeply and smiled. He kissed Huo Yao's earlobes and slid his hand down to hold her hand. As he held her hand, he circled his finger on her palm before holding it.

Huo Yao trembled gently. She wanted to tell Min Yu to get up, but she could sense him kissing her on the neck. She instantly did not know what she wanted to do.

The temperature kept rising and the atmosphere in the room felt very romantic with the light scattering on them.

After some time, Min Yu finally snapped out of his daze and got off her. The young woman was blushing crimson lying under him on the chair. She looked gorgeous after making out with him.

Min Yu swallowed nervously looking at her and quickly lowered his eyes. He reached his hands out to straighten Huo Yao's clothes.

After he was done, he pulled her up from the lounge chair. When he cleared his throat, his voice sounded husky and restrained. "Why don't you pick something to read? I'm going to do something. Be right back."

He lowered his head to kiss Huo Yao before forcing himself to stand up and quickly leave the study.

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When the door shut behind him, Huo Yao promptly snapped out of it.

She raised her hand to cover her face. It was burning hot and she did not feel like she was herself.

No wonder unmarried men and women were not allowed to spend time alone in the same room. Anything could have happened.

Huo Yao walked up in front of the bookshelf and picked out something to read.

Min Yu came back to the study 30 minutes later. He had already changed and was wearing light-colored homewear.

The moment Huo Yao saw him, she thought about them making out sometime ago and her ears felt warm. As she veered her eyes, she acted completely normal, so it was impossible to detect any embarrassment.

If she could pretend she had thick skin, no one would learn of her embarrassment.

Min Yu laughed quietly when he saw Huo Yao pretending to be calm. He went over to the desk and took a seat.

He laid the drawings on the table, picked up a pen, and started working.

It was very quiet in the room and neither of them spoke much, but they looked good together.

Before they knew it, it was already 10:30 pm. Huo Yao was a little tired, so she kept yawning and looked sleepy.

She put down the book and raised her head to look at Min Yu. He was still working with his head lowered. Since he looked very busy, she left the study without interrupting him.

When she got back from the bathroom, Huo Yao noticed that it was getting late. Min Yu happened to put down his pen. She paused briefly before walking over to him. She spoke without looking at the drawings on the table. "It's getting late, so I'm going..."

Before she could complete her words, Min Yu said, "If you are tired, you can sleep in my room. The sheets have been changed."

Chapter 1277: Worried About Leaving My Girlfriend Alone At Home

Huo Yao went speechless.

Min Yu raised his brow. He had already made up an excuse. He said, "I'm worried about leaving you home alone."

Huo Yao looked at Min Yu suspiciously. "What makes you think that I will be safer with you?"

Min Yu wanted to laugh. He stood up, walked up in front of Huo Yao, and raised his hand to touch the top of her head. "Go to bed. I will sleep in the guestroom next door."

The last thing he wanted now was to be a gentleman, but he did not mind waiting.

"I have to say, you're getting sneakier by the day." Huo Yao looked at him and remarked.

She had already seen through his plot.

"What else can I do? I have to work really hard if I want to date you." Min Yu sighed.

After all, she had a lot of older brothers and they kept looking over her shoulder all the time.

"Sometimes, you can get extremely shameless." Huo Yao yawned. She did not mind spending the night here, so she waved her hand. "I'm going to bed. Don't sleep too late either. Good night."

The moment she finished her sentence, she turned the leave.

Min Yu watched from behind as Huo Yao disappeared through the door. Judging from the expression on his face, he was clearly in a good mood. He turned and sat back down behind the desk.

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It was Saturday the next day, so Huo Yao had no school.

When she woke up in the morning in an unfamiliar environment, she was a little lost. However, she quickly remembered what happened last night.

She curled up in bed and lay in a little longer. She took her phone and played a few rounds of games.

Huo Yao finally woke up and pulled off the blanket at 8:30 am. There were new toiletries in the bathroom. After washing up, Huo Yao put on her jacket, walked out of the room, and slowly went downstairs.

Min Yu was already up and was sitting in the living room.

He was not the only person in the living room. Yang Yi and Zhuo Yun were also there talking about work.

As they chatted, they looked up and saw Huo Yao coming downstairs. The moment they saw her, they instantly stopped talking and looked at her in shock.

They did not expect Huo Yao to be upstairs.

From the looks of it, she had clearly just woken up.

What the...?

Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi quickly veered their eyes. They glanced at each other quizzically before turning to look at Min Yu sitting on the couch.

“M-miss Huo is here. Did you...” Zhuo Yun’s face twitched as he muttered unintelligibly.

Min Yu looked sideways at him and said, “She spent the night here. What’s wrong?”

Zhuo Yun went speechless!

Did she spend the night here?

How could his boss bring up the subject so airily?

Wasn’t she barely 20 years old?

How could he make her spend the night over? He was an animal!

Yang Yi was equally stunned by Min Yu’s words, but he did not show it on his face as blatantly as Zhuo Yun. Even though he agreed that Min Yu was a beast, this was happy news to them.

Yang Yi cleared his throat and said softly as a gentle reminder to his boss, “Miss Huo is still in school. If you really want to do it, it’s better to be safe than sorry.”

Min Yu was puzzled.

“Do what?” Huo Yao was nearby, so she overheard the conversation.

When Yang Yi noticed Huo Yao’s presence, his face went stiff and he did not dare to make eye contact with her. “Nothing.”

Huo Yao glanced at him quizzically. There was something up with them.

Zhuo Yun finally snapped out of his shock and greeted her quickly. The moment he saw her neck, his eyes opened even wider.

Even though he was single, he knew what those red marks were.

Chapter 1278: An Eye Opener

Zhuo Yun thought Min Yu would be a true gentleman. From the looks of it, he was clearly mistaken.

Min Yu detected his men looking at him in disdain.

He stopped looking at Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi. Instead, he stood up and said to Huo Yao, “Why didn’t you sleep in longer? You don’t have school today anyway.”

Huo Yao waved her hand and replied. “Is there any food? I’m a little hungry.”

“Uh huh.” Min Yu nodded before walking to the dining room.

Huo Yao followed behind him.

Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi looked at each other.

“Their relationship is developing much faster than I expected,” remarked Zhuo Yun softly.

Yang Yi said nothing and simply glanced at the dining room. Since he was single, he was jealous that Min Yu already had a girlfriend. Even then, he was happy for Min Yu.

Huo Yao took a bite of the bun and raised her head to glance at Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi. She said to Min Yu, “If you have work to handle, don’t worry about me.”

Min Yu handed her some milk and said mildly, “I’m not busy. What about you? What plans do you have today?”

Huo Yao took a sip of milk and replied. “I’m probably going home.”

Prof Rong had given her a lot of school assignments and she had not finished them yet. If she did not submit her work soon, he might hunt her down in the Biology department.

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Min Yu nodded. He paused and said, “If you have no plans, do you want to go to an auction?”

Huo Yao raised her head on hearing the suggestion. “An auction?”

“An underground auction is taking place today and a lot of rare items will be sold,” explained Min Yu. He recalled the special medicine appearing on the list of auction items and added. “There is also medicine at the auction. Perhaps you might want to check it out.”

“In that case...” Huo Yao was not interested in medicine, but she was more interested in looking at rare items.

Huo Yao felt Prof Rong’s homework could wait. She said, “I’m from the countryside, so I’ve never gone to an auction in my life. This could be a real eye opener for me.”

Min Yu’s lips twitched. She might be from the countryside, but she was nothing like a farmer.

“Okay. The auction starts at 1:00 pm, so we have plenty of time,” said Min Yu.

Huo Yao acknowledged and nodded. She stopped asking about it and lowered her head to continue eating.

Min Yu glanced at her and turned to go back to the living room.

Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi were stunned when they found out Huo Yao had spent the night here, but they had come out of their shock by now. When Min Yu came over, they went back to their previous discussion.

They deliberately spoke softly, so Huo Yao was unable to overhear the conversation.

“We have already set the bait, but no one knows if the guy will show his face.” Yang Yi spoke solemnly with a cold look in his eyes.

Min Yu rapped his fingers on his knee and said, “Let’s just wait and see.”

“The security at the auction is in place. We are just waiting for him to land up. There’s no escape for him this time.” Zhuo Yun narrowed his eyes as he spoke.

Chapter 1279: Not Safe Abroad

Meanwhile, at the underground auction, north of the city.

“Why don’t you head to the private room first? I’ll be there in a minute,” said Min Yu as he looked at Huo Yao. He was dressed in a black coat and a matching turtleneck sweater. He told Zhuo Yun to take care of Huo Yao before leaving.

Huo Yao nodded. Zhuo Yun showed her to a luxurious private room upstairs.

The room was able to offer a lot of privacy. The auction was taking place on the ground floor and everything could be seen from the private room, but no one could look inside the space.

Huo Yao checked out the ground floor from her seat. It was very crowded downstairs. She glanced at the security and surveillance system and had to agree that it was very well done.

They were clearly well prepared for any kind of theft.

Huo Yao veered her eyes. Since the auction had yet to commence, she took out her phone.

When she turned on her phone, she saw a text notification coming from Yuan Xi ten minutes ago.

Yuan Xi had asked her if she had any plans today.

Huo Yao tapped on the screen gently and sent her a reply.

Yuan Xi kept holding her phone waiting for Huo Yao to respond. The moment she saw the reply, she felt relieved inside. She quickly typed: [It's fine. I get it.]

Huo Yao raised her brow. She paused and wrote: [If you need any help, just let me know.]

When Yuan Xi saw the text message, she felt very moved. She tightened her grip on the phone for some time until she was finally able to suppress her guilt.

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She wrote back: [It's nothing. My roommates keep whining and it's simply annoying, so I wanted a change of scenery.]

Huo Yao had heard Yuan Xi complaining about her roommates previously. Since Yuan Xi seemed to be fine, she simply replied with an emoticon.

Yuan Xi did not continue texting Huo Yao. She sat in her chair and went into a daze.

The door was slightly open and Mrs Yuan walked in with a plate of fruit.

"Why aren't you dressed warmly?" Mrs Yuan saw Yuan Xi wearing a thin homewear. After putting down the plate, she quickly went over to the cabinet and retrieved a thick down jacket for her daughter.

Yuan Xi finally snapped out of her thoughts. She raised her head and looked at her mother. "Mom, when did you come in?"

Mrs Yuan reached her hand out to squeeze Yuan Xi's cold hands as she said, "Ever since you got back last night, you've been acting strange. Did something happen?"

Yuan Xi's face was pale and she did not look right. She squeezed a smile and shook her head. "I'm fine. Mom, Yuan Huan said you two are going abroad during the Chinese New Year."

"How could you call him by his full name? He's your older brother after all." Mrs Yuan corrected her daughter.

She pulled over a chair, took a seat, and said, "Yes, we're making plans to go on holiday, but it's not just us. It's going to be a family trip."

Yuan Xi's lips twitched. She held her mother's hand and said, "Why do we have to go abroad? Why can't we just stay here?"

"Your father wants to take us out for some quality family time. The holidays are slightly longer this year, so he decided to take us on a family trip," explained Mrs Yuan.

Yuan Xi bit her lip. She shook her head and implored. "Do we have to go?"

Since Yuan Xi had never acted this way, Mrs Yuan was very puzzled. "Why are you acting so strange?"

Even if Yuan Xi bailed on Yuan Huan and told her mother about his true personality, she would never believe her. Instead, her mother would assume that she was being judgmental about Yuan Huan and get upset about her.

Yuan Xi inhaled deeply. She said solemnly, "Sometimes, things can get dangerous overseas. It's not safe for us to travel."

Chapter 1280: Given Her No Choice

Mrs Yuan smiled on hearing this. "Both you and your brother are overreacting. He said the same thing when we told him about the trip. We're just going on a holiday. What could possibly happen?"

Yuan Xi automatically tightened her grip on her mother's hand. She did not expect Yuan Huan to bring this up. "What else did he say?"

"Not much else. He gave me a card and said I should pick out a gift for myself for the new year." Mrs Yuan's face softened up as she said, "Even though he is not my biological son, he is very thoughtful."

"How could he be thoughtful? If anything, he's a dangerous man! Don't be fooled by him!" blurted Yuan Xi in contempt.

Mrs Yuan noticed the change in her daughter's attitude. A few years ago, Yuan Xi suddenly started developing prejudice against Yuan Huan. She automatically defended Yuan Huan and said, "How could you say such things about your older brother? Is there some misunderstanding between you two? I think you should..."

Yuan Xi pulled her hand back sadly and veered her eyes. Before Mrs Yuan could finish her sentence, she interrupted. "Mom, I want to be alone."

Mrs Yuan parted her lips briefly and sighed. She got up and turned to straighten her daughter's jacket. "Fine."

After her mother left the room and closed the door behind her, Yuan Xi lay prone on the table with her head on her arms and felt exhausted.

Yuan Huan had given her no choice.

No matter what she chose, she did not like the outcome.

She wished everything could come to an end soon so that she did not have to deal with it.

After leaving her daughter's room, Mrs Yuan went downstairs and ran into Yuan Huan coming home.

Yuan Huan noticed the worry on her face. He paused briefly and asked. "Did something happen?"

Mrs Yuan smiled forcibly. "Xi keeps hiding in her room. I don't know why she is in such a bad mood. I don't know what to do about her."

Yuan Huan glanced at the second floor. He turned his black ring gently as he said, "Perhaps she's just stressed out by school work. Don't worry."

Mrs Yuan sighed.

"I'll go check on her." Yuan Huan's voice sounded gentle and refined. He did not seem to mean any harm at all.

Mrs Yuan knew her daughter did not like Yuan Huan, so she wanted to turn down the offer. Since Yuan Huan looked very sincere about helping, she held back. With a nod, she agreed. "Okay then. Please talk to her."

Yuan Huan acknowledged her before going upstairs unhurriedly.

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Meanwhile, at the auction hall.

Zhuo Yun sent for some snacks and placed them on the table beside Huo Yao. Since she was dating his boss, he showed her the list of items available for sale at the auction.

"These are the items going on auction today. Why don't you take a look? If you are interested in anything, feel free to bid for it."

Huo Yao raised her brow. She slowly went through the list of over 20 items. Every single one of them was a real treasure.

Some of the antiques were named in historical records. Also, priceless diamond and jade items were available for sale. When Huo Yao saw the last item on the list, she looked puzzled.

Huo Yao looked sideways at Zhuo Yun. She pointed at the last item in the auction and asked in astonishment. "Is this medicine more expensive than antiques?"