

## Pill Maker 131

### Chapter 131: Do You Have A Problem With Me?

Huo Jinyan swallowed the food in his mouth and pondered over it before asking her. "I do know about such a market, but it sells wholesale Chinese medicine. Is that what you need?"

Huo Yao nodded in affirmation.

"Why are you suddenly inquiring about this?" asked Huo Jinyan curiously.

Huo Yao lowered her head and ate a bite of the porridge. After a moment, she replied unhurriedly. "I need to get some medicine."

Huo Jinyan was silent for a few seconds when he received his daughter's brief reply. But he did not probe her further and merely said, "There's money in the card I gave you. Don't be shy about spending it."

Huo Yao's lips twitched and she answered him vaguely. "Okay."

A sad look crept up on Huo Jinyan's face when he noticed that Huo Yao did not take his words to heart.

Lu Xia always tried to squeeze money out of them when she lived with the Huo family. Although they were well-to-do, Song Ning and Huo Jinyan did not want Lu Xia to grow up in a spendthrift and arrogant manner, so they did not give her a huge allowance and never disclosed their family's real wealth.

But the Lu family unexpectedly accused them of ill-treating Lu Xia because of these actions. Also, it became Lu Xia's excuse for leaving them without hesitation for her rich biological parents. In hindsight, it was absolutely ironic.

Although their biological daughter led a hard life, Huo Yao did not buy anything for herself even after they gave her money. She did not use a dime from the bank card and did not spend money frivolously because she thought that they were poor.

It made her parents feel both proud and sad. Their smart and adorable baby girl must have suffered a lot to develop such a personality. Hence her parents decided to do their best in order to satisfy her desires. They wanted to make up for not being there for her all these years.

But... Huo Jinyan could not help letting out a grimace at the thought of his unused black card.

"Sigh!"

When Huo Yao heard her father exhale deeply, she could not help taking a second look at him. She asked him with a frown. "What's wrong?"

Huo Jinyan sighed deeply again and gazed at her begrudgingly in silence with a pitiful look on his face.

Huo Yao, "???"

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Shortly after Huo Yao reached school, she was asked to go to the teacher's office yet again. The student, who passed her the message, told her secretly that the class advisor looked upset. He even warned Huo Yao about the consequences of triggering Chen Yu.

Huo Yao smiled and thanked him before quickly going to the office.

Huo Yao was stunned by the glum look on Chen Yu's face when she entered the staff room. She touched the tip of her nose and wondered. Was it because she did abysmally during the monthly test?

Huo Yao walked over and said obediently, "Miss Chen, you wanted to see me?"

Chen Yu looked at Huo Yao for a long time with a complicated expression. She said glumly, "Huo Yao, do you have a problem with me?"

Huo Yao's lips twitched. She did not know what to say.

"The test results for the monthly test are almost ready. You performed brilliantly in all subjects, except for your language paper..."

Chen Yu paused. She recalled the moment when she first laid eyes on Huo Yao's language paper and could not help wanting to hammer her chest.

Even though she completed the paper and her beautiful handwriting was pleasing to the eye, her grades... left Chen Yu so heartbroken.

## **Chapter 132: Sort Out Huo Yao's Language Grades**

Huo Yao sighed in her heart when she noticed that Chen Yu was about to beat her chest and stomp her feet in anger. It seemed she had undoubtedly failed her language paper.

Chen Yu inhaled deeply in agony before she said, "... You only scored 92 marks. How could you have only gotten 92?!"

The paper was worth 150 marks in total, and 92 was the passing score.

Chen Yu had reason to suspect that Huo Yao held something against the subject which she taught. Otherwise, why would she score only passing marks?

A teacher from another class had marked Huo Yao's paper and even gave her the last two marks because she had great handwriting.

Huo Yao raised her head in surprise and said, "Mhm? So I passed?"

Chen Yu noticed the look of surprise on Huo Yao's face. It was as though... Huo Yao felt that she did rather well. In an instant, she could sense her high blood pressure acting up.

"Huo Yao, if you are unhappy with my method of teaching, you can tell me. But your grades for language are unacceptable," said Chen Yu as she gritted her teeth.

Huo Yao got full marks in all subjects but she barely passed her language paper. It was utterly mortifying for Chen Yu!

(ΩДΩ)

Huo Yao coughed gently and tried to explain helplessly. “Miss Chen, you misunderstand. I don’t have a problem with you. Erm... I’m just really poor in languages.”

Damn! Of all the subjects out there, why was she poor in language?

Chen Yu clutched her heart and felt desperately in need of some pills for her heartburn.

Moments later, Chen Yu said angrily, “I don’t care. You have to work on this. Why don’t you come over to my place during weekends? I can give you tuition privately.”

When Huo Yao did badly in the language paper, Chen Yu felt as though she was holding a brilliant student back.

So Chen Yu decided that even if she went with no rest during weekends, she had to improve Huo Yao’s language grades.

Huo Yao got a genuine shock when she heard the class advisor offering to give her tuition. She composed herself and lied with a straight face. “I don’t think it would be possible. My parents already signed me up for tuition classes for my other subjects, so I don’t have time.”

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan sneezed in unison at home.

Was someone talking about them?

Chen Yu felt worse after she heard Huo Yao.

Huo Yao was clearly only bad at the subject that Chen Yu taught. Instead of working on her weak subject, they got her help for her other subjects. They definitely had a problem with her!

Chen Yu sighed to herself and said in a sincere and earnest manner, “No matter what, you have to work on your language grades or else it’ll affect your college entrance exam.”

“Okay! I will, Miss Chen,” promised Huo Yao right away. Anything to make Chen Yu stop talking about weekend tuition.

Chen Yu glanced at her again. Then she waved her hand and said, “Go back to class then.”

Huo Yao nodded. But she asked before she left. “Will the results for the monthly test be out today?”

Chen Yu had already gone back to her desk and turned to reply. “No. They’ll be released next Monday. We haven’t come up with the total and the ranking yet.”

“Oh, I see,” said Huo Yao and turned to leave.

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Huo Yao had become famous in school after ranking first twice during the National Quiz Contest, so all eyes were on her monthly test scores. Although the monthly quiz was over, the scores had yet to be tallied.

In the meanwhile, the tiny episode of getting called to the office for her lousy language score had spread like wildfire across the senior classes. Someone had maliciously spread the word, and it became the hottest topic in the school.

### **Chapter 133: I Don't Know Her Well, So This Has Nothing To Do With Me**

[I think Huo Yao is an embarrassment. She failed the language paper even though it was the easiest. I'm starting to suspect again that she took the back door to get into the school.]

[How could she have stood first in the National Quiz Contest if she failed her language paper? Mind boggling!]

[Was it because she was assigned to the last exam hall, and there were no good students for her to copy from? Are these her true grades?]

[Sounds about right. After all, she was the one with the most unusual seat during the exam. It seems the school intentionally arranged it.]

[I was wondering if Huo Yao would rank first in the exams, but judging from these language grades... erm... even if she scored full marks in other subjects, it's practically impossible.]

[She did so badly even in the language paper. How can you expect her to do well in other subjects? I think it's a lost cause.]

Almost all the senior classes were talking about this. Even Huo Yao's classmates were discussing the same thing. Of course, Huo Yao was in the chat group, but she had blocked it right in the beginning, so she did not see any of it.

Even if she had seen it, she would not take it to heart.

In the afternoon, post school, Huo Yao wanted to go shopping at the medicine market. It was the same one which her father had told her about, in the morning.

Shortly after she went out of the school gate, a few people suddenly darted over and blocked her path.

"You scaredy-cat, I finally caught you! How dare you not reply to my messages last night."

Standing in the lead was the cocky Lu Ziming, with a raised chin. He was leveling a sly look at Huo Yao at this moment.

Three tall and skinny youths stood by his side, wearing the same expression on their faces.

Coldness emanated from Huo Yao's face when her gaze landed on Lu Ziming.

Lu Ziming could not help feeling creeped out by the look in Huo Yao's eyes, but he quickly looked away in annoyance. Why should he be afraid of this scaredy-cat since he was not alone today?

Lu Ziming chuckled coldly and deliberately clenched his fists. Popping his joints, he said, "I..."

Before he could say any further, Huo Yao interrupted him and said, "Leave, before I get angry."

Her voice was impatient and cold.

The guys standing around Lu Ziming stepped forward aggressively in an instant.

"How dare you tell us to leave?"

"I don't hit girls, or else I would've beaten you to a pulp just for displaying this attitude of yours!"

"You better watch your words!"

Lu Ziming frowned when he saw his classmates' reactions. However, he did not stop them. He crossed his arms and looked on gloatingly.

\*

Lu Xia spotted Huo Yao from afar, getting accosted by a few boys when she left the campus. Her vision was partially blocked and she did not manage to see her brother right away.

Chang Yingying was with Lu Xia and had spotted Huo Yao as well. She raised her brow and smirked.

"Xiaxia, is someone creating trouble for your foster sister?"

Lu Ziming's friends looked like ruffians and were problematic teenagers.

Lu Xia replied with an indifferent look on her face. "I don't know her well, so this has nothing to do with me."

"Tsk tsks. Huo Yao only just moved back. How did she end up offending kids from other schools? This must be some kind of retribution, right?" scoffed Chang Yingying.

Lu Xia pursed her lips and looked away. She said in a freezing tone, "Mind your own business. Let's go."

## **Chapter 134: Beat You Up Each Time I See You**

Meanwhile...

Huo Yao glanced at these stupid, pretentious kids and shook her head with disinterest. Suddenly, she hooked her index finger at Lu Ziming and said, "Come over here."

Lu Ziming immediately recalled how Huo Yao had almost dislocated his wrist in the hospital after singling him out that day. He subconsciously took a step back.

"Coward," said Huo Yao indifferently.

Before Lu Ziming could compose himself, Huo Yao had already darted in front of him and pinched his ear.

“Such bad behavior at this young age. You cut classes, besiege students, and bully the weak. Hmm? Is this what the Lu family has been teaching you?”

Since Huo Yao had yanked Lu Ziming’s ear hard, he felt as though his ear was going to fall off. It hurt so much that he trembled, and all his arrogance dissipated.

“AHHHH. THAT HURTS! God! Let me go!” screamed Lu Ziming.

But it was futile, so he roared at the people beside him. “Hurry up and pull this insane girl away from me!”

The boys standing next to him were dumbstruck. They wanted to pull Huo Yao’s hand away but when they caught her expressionless and unyielding face, they froze instantly. Subconsciously, they did not dare go near her.

Huo Yao’s lips twitched. She pulled Lu Ziming’s ear harder and yanked him closer before slapping him on the back of his head. In a stern voice, she said, “How dare you continue to be a bully?”

Lu Ziming’s head kept ringing from the blow. He was stunned. He instinctively covered his head and didn’t dare to retaliate.

Huo Yao’s lips curved into a cold smile and she said, “Since your parents didn’t teach you any manners, allow me.”

She ruthlessly slapped him repeatedly.

Lu Ziming had never gotten beaten in his life. His ears were in pain, and his head felt dizzy from the slaps. He could no longer go on acting like an arrogant, entitled boy and said, “Stop! I’m sorry. I’m sorry okay?”

Huo Yao paused and narrowed her eyes. She stared at him and asked in a cold voice. “What are you sorry for?”

Lu Ziming glanced at her cautiously. Despite his fury, he did not dare blow up. He could only bite his lower lip and replied in a stifled tone. “I shouldn’t have made trouble for you. I shouldn’t have acted like a bully.”

If Lu Ziming knew that this scaredy-cat had become so fierce, he would never have come looking for her.

Huo Yao scoffed and replied with disdain brimming from her eyes. “It seems that you are not only a coward but a dumbass too.”

Lu Ziming instantly raised his head to retort. But he could not do so since Huo Yao still had a hand on his ear. He shouted morosely. “I’m not dumb!”

“If you aren’t dumb, why did you cut classes and bring a bunch of goons to get even with me? If you aren’t dumb, how did you end up defeated? If you aren’t dumb, why would you keep bullying people like an entitled brat?”

Although Lu Ziming's face flushed crimson red, he was incapable of refuting anything that she said.

"You should count your lucky stars that you aren't my little brother," sneered Huo Yao as she let go of his ear.

If he were her little brother, she probably would have given him a piece of her mind eons ago.

Huo Yao shook her head. She removed a wet tissue from her bag and unhurriedly wiped each finger. She looked at Lu Ziming, who had been slapped dumbstruck, and said coldly, "Don't let me see you again, or else I will beat you up every single time."

With that, Huo Yao left.

### **Chapter 135: You're Retarded**

Lu Ziming continued to be dumbstruck as he stared at Huo Yao's receding back. He hated her and was crazily angry at this moment.

He was furious how this scaredy-cat, whom he had bullied for so long, dared to retaliate against him today. She had become bold enough to hit him. Worse still, she denied that he was her younger brother and did not want to see him again...

The more Lu Ziming thought about it, the angrier he felt. He muttered to himself. "Who the hell wants to be your brother? Dream on, you lunatic!"

"Ziming, are you okay? That crazy girl was too scary. We wanted to help but were afraid that she might hit you harder."

After his friends recovered from the fright, they went over to check on him awkwardly.

Lu Ziming looked furious. That crazy Huo Yao calling him dumb suddenly echoed in his ears as he looked at these friends who bunked classes, got into fights, and bullied other schoolmates all the time.

Lu Ziming could not help feeling agitated. He turned to leave from there without saying a word.

His friends glanced at each other and were at a loss. Did Lu Ziming lose his wits after getting slapped by Huo Yao?

Perhaps due to their deep bond, they could not help turning in unison to look at the majestic No.1 Middle School with a deep history. All of them reached the same conclusion in their hearts.

No.1 Middle School was a great school for grooming such an incredible student. They certainly could not afford to offend her.

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Lu Xia had just gotten inside the car and did not even manage to put down her bag when the chauffeur asked her in surprise. "Miss Lu, isn't that the Young Master?"

Lu Xia raised her head and gazed out of the window. Sure enough, she spotted Lu Ziming from afar.

What was that dumbass doing here?

Right after, Lu Xia saw the teenagers following behind Lu Ziming and got a shock. Were these not the guys making trouble for Huo Yao earlier?

Lu Xia narrowed her eyes. She noticed that they were all dressed in the same school uniform. Were these Lu Ziming's classmates?

Did Lu Ziming bring his friends to make trouble for Huo Yao?

Lu Xia contemplated for a couple of seconds and then told the chauffeur. "Get Lu Ziming to come over."

Before long, Lu Ziming angrily got into the car with his hand covering his ear. The moment he saw Lu Xia, he asked her coldly. "Did you see everything?"

Lu Xia frowned at him and asked a question instead of replying. "What are you doing at No.1 Middle School?"

Lu Ziming's posture relaxed a bit. He looked out of the window and said, "None of your business!"

Lu Xia seemed accustomed to such an attitude and said without the slightest displeasure in her voice, "I'm your big sister. Of course, it's my business."

"Heh. You're so pretentious," scoffed Lu Ziming.

Then he turned to stare at Lu Xia coldly. "I am warning you. You better keep your mouth shut, or else you're going to get it from me!"

Lu Xia inhaled deeply and said, "Lu Ziming, you're already 15. Can you grow up?"

Moreover, Lu Xia did not know that he was one of the people making trouble for Huo Yao. Even if she had known, she would not have been bothered about it.

"You are resorting to cheating for the contest, but here you are telling me to grow up. Are you trying to be funny?" sneered Lu Ziming.

He continued to mock her after a minute. "Oh yes. I nearly forgot. Aren't you on your way to collect the answers now?"

Lu Xia's face immediately turned pale. She shot him a cold look and said, "Lu Ziming, you're so retarded."

### **Chapter 136: He Sounded Harsh, But Probably Felt Bad**

Lu Ziming rolled his eyes when Lu Xia ridiculed him. He turned his gaze towards the driver and said rather impatiently, "Drive."

The chauffeur looked into the rearview mirror cautiously and asked her as he started the engine. "Miss Lu, should I go to the Education Association or send the Young Master home first?"



Lu Xia looked upset. She lowered her eyes to check her watch for the time. She frowned and said, "Send me to the Education Association first. After that, take him home. I will go home on my own, later."

"Okay, Miss Lu," replied the chauffeur.

Lu Xia glanced at Lu Ziming as he sat with his back facing her and kept holding his ear. He rubbed his forehead frustratedly before he turned to look out of the window expressionlessly.

The car pulled up at the Education Association about 20 minutes later. Lu Xia straightened her hair and clothing. She had changed into a presentable ladylike outfit before she left school.

She put on her mask and got out of the car after checking that everything was in order.

The chauffeur saw Lu Xia enter the building and started the engine to return to the Lu residence.

Lu Ziming suddenly raised his head. After not speaking a word during the entire journey, he looked at the chauffeur and said, "Forget it. Find a place to park and wait for her."

Lu Ziming's lips twitched and he muttered softly. "I guess it won't take too long for her to get the notes."

A look of surprise swept across the chauffeur's eyes.

These siblings never got along and had just gotten into a fight. Based on Lu Ziming's temperament, he would never have offered to wait for Lu Xia.

But kids at his age tended to be rebellious and often caused trouble to get attention, so Lu Ziming was probably no different. Although he sounded harsh, maybe he felt bad about picking a fight with Lu Xia.

Soon enough, the chauffeur found an empty slot nearby and parked the car. He contemplated for a second before taking out his phone to send Lu Xia a text message.

Lu Xia came out ten minutes later with a paper bag in her hand.

The chauffeur had been looking at the building all this time and quickly drove over, the moment he spotted her.

Lu Xia placed the bag on the seat after getting in. She removed her mask and looked delighted. It was as though all her previous unhappiness had dissipated completely after her visit to the Education Association.

Lu Ziming glanced at her before his eyes landed on the paper bag. He raised his hand and picked up the bag. He was about to take the notes and books out, but Lu Xia snatched them back.

"Don't touch my things," said Lu Xia coldly.

Lu Ziming scoffed coldly. "Sheesh. Who gives a damn about these answers?"

Lu Xia shook her head and looked at her little brother in disappointment. She did not want him to affect her good mood, so she put on her bluetooth earphones without bothering to explain anything to him.

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Huo Yao headed to the medicine market after teaching Lu Ziming a lesson.

But it was rather late when she got there. Many shops had already closed for the day. The ones that remained opened did not pay her any attention since she was young and dressed in a school uniform.

Huo Yao did not mind this. After checking out a few stores, she realized they only sold ordinary Chinese medicine. Since they did not carry any rare medicine, they were less likely to have what she wanted.

Huo Yao walked out of yet another store with a slight look of disappointment.

### **Chapter 137: Fantastic Memory**

Although the market was huge, Huo Yao surprisingly could not find the medicine she wanted. It simply did not make sense.

Huo Yao rubbed her forehead and continued heading deeper into the market. Soon, a shop called Imperial Medicine Store caught her attention.

Although the shop did not look very big from the outside, there was an antique flavor to its décor, and it had the most unusual shop front in the street.

Once Huo Yao entered, the light scent of sandalwood wafted into her nose, and a look of surprise finally emerged on her face.

The incense was not stifling, sour, or pungent. Instead, it had a refreshing and elegant scent and was of much higher quality than those average incense.

Huo Yao raised her head to look around. The shop had a simple display. Wooden carvings and antiques were displayed in the shop's window. Behind the counter, there was an entire wall of small cabinets with the medicine name pasted on each one of them. A bead curtain hung over the doorway leading to the inner room.

The bead curtain was lifted from inside, and a middle-aged man came walking out. When he saw Huo Yao, he was caught by surprise. He glanced behind before closing its wooden door. He turned to say politely to Huo Yao, "Sorry, the shop is about to close."

Huo Yao could tell that the middle-aged man was trying to get her to leave, so she got to the point and asked him. "Do you have 100 year old tortoiseshell, five flavor concentrate, formasan gum, and dragon bone?"

A look of surprise emerged on the man's face when he heard the names of the herbs.

These were rare Chinese medicines that came at a steep price. All of them were excellent for calming nerves, promoting rest, and conditioning of organs.

Anyone with pharmacology knowledge would not randomly use them in their prescription. If they were not used in the right proportion, they would be rendered ineffective and cause huge side effects.

So people rarely purchased them even though they were precious and effective.

Since the young lady did not appear like a professional Chinese medicine physician, he assumed she must be buying them for someone else.

The man narrowed his eyes. He could tell Huo Yao was a genuine customer, so he replied politely. "Other than the 100 year old tortoiseshell, I have all the rest, but they are low in stock. How much do you need?"

Despite Huo Yao's slight disappointment, she had at least made some headway. She replied with a smile. "300 grams each of the five flavor concentrates and formasan gum and 250 grams of dragon bone.

The man nodded and said, "Yes, I do have that much stock."

He took out a calculator and said, "These medicines cost \$3,20,000 in total."

They were reasonably priced, so Huo Yao took out her phone and asked him. "Do you accept online bank transfers?"

"Yes, we do," replied the man. He went behind the counter to retrieve a card with the bank account number printed on it and handed it to Huo Yao.

Huo Yao only took a glance at the card. In less than two minutes, the man's phone quickly rang.

He retrieved his phone for a look to see a notification for an incoming bank transfer of \$3,20,000. He could not help raising his head to look at Huo Yao in shock.

Did the young lady not merely take a glance at the card number?

Her memory was fantastic!

It was such a long string of numbers!

Huo Yao saw the look of surprise on the shop owner's face. She frowned and said, "Sir?"

The man gathered his thoughts, and hurriedly replied. "Pardon me. I'll pack your medicine right away."

"Mhm."

Huo Yao put her phone back in the pocket. She watched as the shop owner packed the medicine and asked him. "Sir, do you know where I can buy old Indian sandalwood?"

Since the man was well trained in pharmacology. His hand froze when he heard Huo Yao's question.

## **Chapter 138: A Very Special Prescription**

The previous medicines which she had bought were for conditioning organs, but old sandalwood was gentle in nature and helped promote each medicines' characteristics and minimize side effects.

Except... it was an ancient method that was very demanding on the apothecary's judgment and skills. Also, its prescription and method of use were long lost, so barely anyone used it now.

The middle-aged man had heard a little about it because his family had been in the Chinese medicine industry for generations.

It seemed that this young lady must have a Chinese medicine expert in her family.

The middle-aged man gathered his thoughts and replied even more courteously. "I know someone specializing in incense, who sells old sandalwood. His shop is nearby. I can give you his name card. Why don't you go there and check it out?"

If there was no guest in the inner room, he would have taken the young lady there himself. Decent apothecaries were hard to come by, let alone one who was well-versed in ancient prescriptions.

The middle-aged man quickly packed the medicines, found the name card, and handed everything to Huo Yao.

"Thanks."

Huo Yao took her things and turned to leave. The middle-aged man thought for a moment before calling her back. "Although we don't have any 100 year old tortoiseshell, we have 60 year old ones..."

Huo Yao halted in her steps and turned her head sideways to reply indifferently. "It's fine. Although a 60 year old tortoiseshell might be just as good as a 100 year old one, medication is all about accuracy and the slightest difference will have major consequences."

Then she left the store.

The middle-aged man was stunned. He went into a daze for a long time until an old man came out from the inner room.

"Why are you looking so shocked? Hurry up and lock up the store!"

Heng walked up to the door and said, "Master, a young lady just came to buy medicine and had a very unusual prescription."

The old man took out a rather old looking book from a drawer and casually asked with little interest. "Oh? What medicines did she buy?"

Heng told him about the four medicines which Huo Yao had asked for.

"I told her that we didn't have 100 year old tortoiseshells, but she didn't want our 60 year old ones. Then she asked me about the old sandalwood and left..."

The old man looked a little surprised, but he glanced at the inner room and cut Heng off. "Enough. Leave the chit chat for later tonight."

He picked up a few things and went inside.

Heng said, "Yes, Master."

He locked up and followed him into the room.

The scent of sandalwood was far stronger here than outside.

Min Yu leaned lazily into the redwood chair with his hand on the side table. He prodded the incense in the incense burner every now and then with incense chopsticks. Despite his unconstrained and laid back appearance, his face looked sallow.

“Young Master Min, considering your physical condition, other than using medicine to condition your body slowly, I have no other way for treating it now,” said the old man.

Zhuo Yun’s face turned darker as he stood next to Min Yu. He said, “But the medicine seems to be losing its effect. Isn’t there anything else you can try to prevent it from aggravating?”

The man smiled bitterly and shook his head.

He opened that old book and handed it to Zhuo Yun. He said politely, “This book was handed down in my family by my ancestors. There are things we can try in there, but considering my ability, even if I can create the medicine, I can’t be sure about its efficacy or whether it will have side effects on Young Master Min...”

### **Chapter 139: The Legendary Shangguan Clan**

He had studied medicine for decades. If he could come up with a cure, he would have done it ages ago. Why would he have to resort to this ancient book in a powerless manner?

The old man sighed and continued. “You can take this book to the Apothecaries’ Association and get them to take a look. Maybe you will have better luck there.”

Zhuo Yun’s eyes landed on the old man’s book. Just as he was about to take it, Min Yu said, “I can’t take it. Old Mr. Pei, since your ancestors handed it down to you, how can you loan it to me?”

Zhuo Yun felt angry and anxious when he heard Min Yu’s words. and blurted out. “But your illness...”

Min Yu raised his hand and interrupted him. “Didn’t Old Mr. Pei say he could temporarily control my illness? That’s good enough for me.”

He appeared calm and warm.

“If we can find the descendants of the legendary Shangguan clan, Young Master Min’s problems can be easily solved,” sighed Old Mr Pei.

He said in a dispirited manner, “But... no one from the clan has ever shown their faces, so we don’t know if they truly exist.”

Zhuo Yun thought about the results of his previous investigation. He clenched his fists and said deeply, “No matter how far I have to dig, I will find them.”

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Huo Yao shopped for a little longer at the medicine market. She was in luck and found the last medicine which she needed.

After buying all the medicines, she took out the name card that the middle-aged man had given her and located the incense shop.

Due to the low production of old sandalwood, it was rare and fetched high prices. Similarly, there were plenty of fake goods out there.

The incense shop owner assumed Huo Yao was just a clueless young girl and initially used sandalwood with dubious origins to fool her, but she exposed him on the spot. The shop owner realized that she was a connoisseur, so he took out the authentic product.

Huo Yao looked at the old sandalwood. Although its quality was just passable, it was good enough for making incense. She wasted no more time and paid for the old sandalwood. She picked it up without letting the shop owner to even pack it.

The sky outside had turned completely dark and Song Ning had called her a couple of times already. Huo Yao hailed a cab and went home.

It was almost 8:00 pm when she got home.

Song Ning felt gratified for the first time when she saw her daughter coming home with a few shopping bags. She helped Huo Yao with her bags and said, "Girls should shop for some clothes and jewelry..."

But she unintentionally caught sight of the block of wood in the bag and came to an abrupt stop.

Huo Yao changed into her slippers and turned around to see the shock on her mother's face. She asked her in a tentative voice. "Mom?"

Song Ning raised her head. She opened the bag and said sadly, "Don't tell me all you bought was this stupid block of wood?"

Everyone else's daughters bought clothing and jewelry or at least snacks.

But this daughter of hers had shockingly bought a chunk of wood.

How was this ok?

Huo Yao's lips twitched involuntarily. She corrected her mother in a solemn voice. "It's sandalwood."

The sort of sandalwood that cost a bomb.

Song Ning did not care what kind of sandalwood it was. All she cared about was how her daughter's pretty, adorable, and intelligent image had been ruined by this stupid block of wood.

So Song Ning refused to give up and opened the two other bags and rummaged through them. In an instant, she looked even more hopeless.

First, it was sandalwood, now even the two other bags were filled with strange things.

Song Ning shook her head in acute disappointment.

#### **Chapter 140: Is The Apartment Too Small?**

Having a sweet and adorable daughter still remained a distant dream for Song Ning.

She sighed deeply in disappointment. She placed the bags on the cabinet and said, "Yao Yao, can you become a little cuter?"

Then she deliberately blinked at Huo Yao and posed with a victory sign.

Huo Yao glanced at Song Ning's face and felt her head beginning to throb. She conveniently ignored her words and said, "Mom, is there any food left?"

Song Ning sighed again and replied. "Yes yes yes. I saved you some dinner. Come over and eat."

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan had already eaten. Huo Tingrui had to attend a business dinner party and would be back late. Hence, Huo Yao sat alone at the dining table and ate slowly.

After dinner, Huo Yao took the bags from the cabinet and headed towards the staircase. She suddenly turned to look at Song Ning, who was watching the television, and asked her. "Mom, are there any empty rooms or a storeroom here?"

Song Ning raised her head and replied in a casual voice. "Well, there's a storeroom downstairs, but it's filled with a lot of stuff. Is there something you want to put away?"

"Nope. I need to hand make some stuff and need an empty room," said Huo Yao unhurriedly.

"In that case..." said Song Ning as she thought, "Your third older brother's room is vacant. You can do it in his room. It's to the left of yours."

Huo Yao thought for two seconds before she asked her. "Are you sure it's okay?"

Song Ning shook her head and smiled.

"Of course. Your third older brother is overseas currently and doesn't come home much anyways. You may as well use it."

Huo Yao nodded at her and went upstairs without speaking further.

After she left, Song Ning touched her chin and contemplated for a moment. Then she turned to her husband and asked him with a frown. "Do you think our apartment is too small?"

She squeezed her eyebrows even more and said, "Look, we can't even give our daughter her own space. Although her third older brother resides abroad, our daughter will definitely feel bad if she keeps using his room."

Huo Jinyan put down the remote control. He gave it some thought and agreed with her. "How about moving over to Royal Water Bay? The environment's good and the villas are spacious. They come with plenty of rooms, and are close to her school. Even if she wants to invite her friends to hang out, we don't have to worry about them having no rooms to stay in."

"Oh yes. I would have forgotten about the villa at Royal Water Bay if you didn't bring it up," said Song Ning as she slapped her head.

"I will get an interior designer to look at it and see if we need any renovation or new furniture. We must try and move over asap and give our girl a surprise."

Song Ning was a classic action-driven personality, so she executed the plan the moment she decided. After talking to her husband, she picked up the phone and looked for the interior designer's number.

Song Ning made an appointment with the designer for the next day. After she put down the phone, she felt sad for a moment. She looked around and took a deep breath. "We've lived here for more than 20 years, so I feel a little upset about moving."

Huo Jinyan raised his brow and patted her on the shoulder as he said, "This is for the sake of our daughter."

Song Ning thought about her 20 year old home and her daughter's hard life and all the hesitation in her heart dissipated.

"You're right. Although we are used to staying in this apartment, our daughter deserves the best," said Song Ning.

After a pause, she said with a look of regret, "We should have moved before our daughter came to live with us."

Then she might not have misunderstood, assuming them to be in debt.