

Pill Maker 1361

Chapter 1361: He Was In No Hurry

Huo Yao raised her head instinctively when Min Yu's face came close. When she looked into his eyes, her heart skipped a beat. "Nope. I don't know Shangguan Yu."

"I have to say that was a very quick denial." Min Yu raised his brow and remarked lazily.

Huo Yao reiterated with a straight face. "I don't know this person."

Min Yu smiled. "You have so many secrets."

Huo Yao stared at him. She was starting to wonder if Min Yu had too much time on his hands. He had lots of questions and kept getting nosy.

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Min Yu rubbed Huo Yao's head. He could tell she was unhappy, so he stopped asking further.

He was in no hurry since he had plenty of time to find out.

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When Chairman Wang woke up, He Shu was still waiting by the bedside.

He was still holding onto the medication given to him by Assistant Wang. He kept thinking about the things going on at the association with his head lowered, so he failed to notice Chairman Wang.

When the chairman finally called him, He Shu hurriedly raised his head. "Are you awake?"

Chairman Wang acknowledged softly. His face remained pale, and he looked tired.

"How do you feel? The butler mentioned you were in pain. Are you feeling better now?" asked He Shu with a look of concern.

Chairman Wang shook his head. He slowly sat up in bed and asked. "How long did I sleep for? When did you come over?"

"Roughly two hours." He Shu took a pillow and placed it behind Chairman Wang's back. "Oh yes. Huo Yao came over as well."

"Did she?" Chairman Wang was caught by surprise. "Why didn't you wake me up? Where is she?"

"You were asleep, so she didn't want to disturb you. She left after staying for 15 minutes. She's coming over tomorrow to perform acupuncture on you," said He Shu.

"Why would she suddenly come over and visit me? Did you ask her over?" asked Chairman Wang quizzically.

He Shu considered briefly before he decided to tell Chairman Wang about the things that had happened recently. Assistant Wang had told Huo Yao to come by the association today at the invitation of Deputy Chairman Qin. Deputy Chairman Qin had offered to make her an official deputy chairman.

Chairman Wang frowned. He had told the assistant not to disturb Huo Yao. Since Qin Zheng was determined to see her in person, he must want something from her. Deputy Chairman Qin unexpectedly wanted Huo Yao's ancient prescriptions

He Shu opened his hand and showed Chairman Wang the bottle of medicine in his hands. He sighed and said, "Assistant Wang probably agreed to do it so that he could help get this medicine."

Sadly, this medicine was poisonous.

He Shu wondered if Assistant Wang knew about it.

He wanted to call Assistant Wang to clarify the matter, but paused and changed his mind.

It did not matter anymore. His master was a dying man, so it was too late.

Chairman Wang looked at the medicine in He Shu's hands and paused briefly. Judging from what He Shu had just said, he could tell Assistant Wang took great pains to help him. He smiled sadly and sighed. "I really have to thank him for trying so hard."

He Shu went quiet briefly before deciding to tell Chairman Wang more details about the situation. "This medicine does you absolutely no good. Miss Huo has confirmed you're suffering from chronic poisoning thanks to this medicine."

Chairman Wang was stunned.

"This isn't the worst of it. The chronic poison was triggered by something else. Have you taken any other meds recently?" asked He Shu as he looked at Chairman Wang.

Chapter 1362: Hiding Something

Chairman Wang snapped out of his shock. He pondered briefly and shook his head. "Nope."

"Really?" He Shu was not entirely sure about Huo Yao's diagnosis for the time being. Since Chairman Wang's health was at stake, he decided to tell him more just to be on the safe side. "Can you think harder?"

"Did Huo Yao give you this diagnosis?" asked Chairman Wang suddenly.

He Shu nodded. "Uh huh. She said that the chronic poison was triggered, and you aren't doing very well."

He did not dare to tell Chairman Wang he was dying. He did not want to give Chairman Wang any more pressure.

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Chairman Wang tightened his hands slightly as they lay on top of the blanket and went quiet briefly. After some time, he raised his head to look at He Shu. He said with certainty in his eyes, "I'm sure I didn't take any other medicine."

He Shu felt Chairman Wang was not lying either after looking into his eyes. He said, "Perhaps she made a mistake with the diagnosis then."

"Uh huh." Chairman Wang nodded. He further said, "I know my condition well. I've been suffering from these ailments for a long time, so it's no big deal."

He Shu pondered and agreed. After all, Chairman Wang was an excellent physician. He felt a little better after hearing this. He lowered his eyes and looked at the medicine bottle in his hands. He paused briefly before he said, "In that case, you should stop taking this medicine."

He would rather be safe than sorry.

"Sure," acknowledged Chairman Wang without asking anything else about the medication or the Apothecaries' Association.

After chatting briefly, He Shu noticed that Chairman Wang was tired, so he stopped talking to him and helped him lie down in bed.

He Shu was about to leave the room with the medication when he suddenly paused and turned back. He looked at Chairman Wang and said, "Oh yes. I forgot to ask you something. How are Miss Huo's medical skills?"

Chairman Wang veered his head sideways slightly looking at He Shu as the young man stood against the light. He replied with the utmost respect. "Her medical skills are far superior to mine. If you have any medical questions, feel free to seek her guidance."

He Shu became worried. Since Huo Yao's medical skills were that good, this meant she was probably spot on about the diagnosis.

Chairman Wang was hiding something from him.

He Shu parted his lips wanting to speak. Just as he was about to say it, he changed his mind and instead said randomly, "I see. I'll be sure to seek her guidance if I need any help. Rest well."

The moment he finished his sentence, he stepped out of the bedroom. He had trouble walking and his face looked terribly worried.

Meanwhile, inside the bedroom.

Chairman Wang was completely sleepless. He looked at the ceiling overhead for a long time before he smiled sadly.

He genuinely did not realize that those pills contained chronic poison. Even if he did, it would never dawn on him that something was amiss.

In Chinese medicine, poison could still be used as medicine. Also, taking medication long-term often came with certain side effects. Even then, patients were able to recover.

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When Huo Yao went to Chairman Wang's residence in the afternoon, Min Yu tagged along. The butler was there to receive them and welcome them into the living room.

Chairman Wang was waiting for Huo Yao in the living room. When they arrived, he quickly stood up. "Huo Yao, Young Master Min, thanks for coming over."

Min Yu nodded and said, "Hello, Chairman Wang."

Chairman Wang smiled. He invited them to sit down before telling the butler to serve tea.

After Huo Yao took a seat, she raised her head to look at Chairman Wang's face and promptly frowned. Even though only a night had passed, the poison was spreading quickly.

"Did you take those meds again?" asked Huo Yao candidly without making any small talk.

Chairman Wang sat with his hand on the armrest.

The moment he heard what she said, he trembled slightly. He shook his head and replied. "No, I didn't. I've been like this for some time now."

Chapter 1363: Don't Give Yourself Too Much Pressure

Chairman Wang might not have known about the chronic poison, but he knew his condition well.

He was a dying man now, with or without the medicine.

Huo Yao was unsurprised when she heard what Chairman Wang said. A normal physician might have trouble diagnosing his condition, but the chairman ought to know it fully well. She said, "Let me check your pulse."

"Sure." Chairman Wang did not turn down Huo Yao's kind intentions and placed his hand on the bedside table.

"Chairman Wang, if there is anything I can do for you, I'm happy to help," said Min Yu. He was waiting by the side as Huo Yao took Chairman Wang's pulse.

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Chairman Wang looked at Min Yu. He pondered briefly before he said candidly, "I was hoping Young Master Min could help me with something. I'm worried that He Shu will be in a difficult position after I die. If anything bad happens to him, can you help him?"

Chairman Wang's wife had died early and his son and daughter-in-law resided abroad. In a sense, his only concern was He Shu. The guy had zero power and came from an ordinary family, so he was a little worried about his disciple.

He Shu was a gifted apothecary, but if Deputy Chairman Qin became the new chairman, He Shu might be the first person he would take care of.

Qin Zheng was a very vindictive man, and it was impossible for He Shu to go up against him.

"No problem at all." Min Yu nodded. He was from the Min family, so it was easy enough for him.

"Thank you," said Chairman Wang in gratitude with tears in his eyes.

After taking his pulse, Huo Yao discovered that Chairman Wang was in bad shape. She paused briefly without saying a word. She retrieved the metal box containing silver needles from her backpack and opened it.

The box contained silver needles and some gold thread. She retrieved the gold thread. "Let's start the treatment."

Chairman Wang had seen Huo Yao use gold thread for acupuncture on Li Fang previously. He was blown away when he saw her at work. He knew his condition was completely different this time, so he shook his head. "It's okay. Don't bother wasting your time. I know my condition best. Even Hua Tuo can't save me. It's hopeless."

He spoke calmly. It sounded as though he had already accepted his condition.

Huo Yao did not stop. She simply said, "Even though you are a dying man, it will ease the pain. For all you know, you might have a year or two more to live. What's wrong with giving it a shot?"

Chairman Wang was stunned. "A year or two more..."

"Even if you have only one more day to live, we should still try," said Huo Yao. She gestured for the butler to help Chairman Wang into the bedroom.

She would get a free supply of Chinese herbs for as long as he was the chairman of the Apothecaries' Association, but she was not helping him on those grounds. More importantly, Chairman Wang was Elder Yun Duan's disciple.

After helping Chairman Wang into the bedroom, Huo Yao followed behind them holding the gold thread. Just as she was about to enter through the door, someone held her by the arm.

Huo Yao halted promptly. When she turned to look at Min Yu, she caught him frowning. "What's wrong?"

Min Yu raised his head and glanced inside the room before looking at Huo Yao. "Is the same thing going to happen to you again?"

"Huh?" Huo Yao was caught by surprise, but she quickly caught Min Yu's drift. She shook her head and replied. "Nope. I'm just giving him ordinary acupuncture treatment."

Min Yu felt relieved and loosened his hand. "Don't give yourself too much pressure."

Even though Min Yu did not know how Huo Yao managed to save Huo Yulin, he had an inkling even without investigating the matter. It was certainly not easy.

Chapter 1364: Her Acupuncture Technique

Huo Yao looked at Min Yu confidently and smiled. "Got it. Don't worry."

Since Huo Yao knew what she was doing, Min Yu did not harp on the subject any longer.

Before long, Huo Yao stepped into the bedroom.

The butler had helped Chairman Wang remove his shirt. After he was done, Huo Yao told him to leave the room. Even though the butler was worried about Chairman Wang, there was an important guest in the living room, so he went to brew tea for Min Yu.

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Only Chairman Wang and Huo Yao remained in the bedroom. Acupuncture was a long process requiring a lot of concentration, so neither of them spoke.

Huo Yao had used a similar technique on Fang Chen previously as well. It was impossible to remove the poison from Chairman Wang completely. The toxin had already spread throughout his body, so it was impossible to purge it entirely.

She could only try to strike a balance and make the poison coexist with the patient. If she was able to accomplish this, it was plausible for the patient to live for a while longer.

She had never done this before, but she had to give it a shot.

Huo Yao was done 30 minutes later. After she was done performing the Gold Thread Technique on Chairman Wang, she took his pulse.

His pulse was still erratic, but it was slightly better, so her technique clearly worked.

Huo Yao heaved a sigh of relief. She continued guiding the gold thread throughout the patient's system several times. After 30 minutes, she finally removed the gold thread.

Since the patient would be in great pain, Huo Yao had applied a silver acupuncture needle to Chairman Wang's drowsy acupuncture point, putting him to sleep. It helped in alleviating the pain. She was worried that he could not take it.

After removing the silver needle from the patient's drowsy acupuncture point, Chairman Wang opened his eyes and woke up a minute later.

Chairman Wang could sense pain throughout his body, but he genuinely felt a lot better now. He turned to look at Huo Yao. "Is that all? I really feel a lot better now."

Huo Yao disinfected her gold thread as she said, "If you steer clear of any meds that might trigger a relapse, you should be fine for now."

It was the first time she was doing this, so she was not entirely confident about the effect of the treatment. She naturally did not want to give the patient false hope.

“Uh huh,” acknowledged Chairman Wang. “I understand.”

Huo Yao nodded before placing the disinfected gold needles back into the metal box.

Chairman Wang finally noticed Huo Yao’s old metal box. When he saw the quaint pattern on the box, he could not help finding it familiar. He suddenly opened his eyes wide in surprise. Even though he was very weak from the treatment, he gritted his teeth and sat up. He asked excitedly. “May I take a look at your needle box?”

Huo Yao turned to look at Chairman Wang and caught him staring at the metal box in her hands intently. She paused briefly before handing the metal box to him.

The gold thread required special storage since it was more fragile, so she typically did not go out with them. Instead, she took the entire box with her before she came over.

After seeing the flower petal pattern on the box, Chairman Wang raised his head and looked at Huo Yao in shock as he stammered. “T-this...”

Huo Yao smiled and admitted he was right without waiting for him to finish his sentence. “Yes. You’re right.”

Chairman Wang’s sentence halted abruptly as he opened his eyes wide in shock.

He always found Huo Yao’s acupuncture techniques unique. They were nothing like ordinary acupuncture.

When he saw the floral pattern on the box, he was finally able to connect the dots.

If Huo Yao was from the clan, it made sense for her to have spectacular medical skills.

Chairman Wang parted his lips. “Huo Yao...”

Chapter 1365: A Secret

Huo Yao knew what Chairman Wang wanted to say. She glanced at the box and explained without bringing up the Shangguan clan. “I had the good fortune to study medicine under a master previously and my master gave these needles to me.”

She was unsurprised that Chairman Wang could recognize the floral pattern on the box.

After all, he was the chairman of the Apothecaries’ Association and was a very knowledgeable man. More importantly, his master was from the Shangguan clan, so it was normal for him to be able to recognize the pattern.

The story struck a chord in Chairman Wang since his master also came from an unusual background. Unfortunately, he was not very gifted, so he was average in medicine refinement and medical skills.

Chairman Wang knew fully well that he could not compare to Huo Yao. After snapping out of his daze, he returned the box to Huo Yao and stopped probing. He simply said with a serious tone, "Don't worry. Mum's the word."

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He did not know if she was a direct descendant of the Shangguan clan, but even the slightest connection was enough to bring trouble to her.

"Uh huh," replied Huo Yao as she nodded. She did not continue with the subject. "Thanks. Rest early. I'll come by in a few days and give you acupuncture treatment again."

"See you then," replied Chairman Wang.

Just as Huo Yao was about to leave, he paused and hurriedly called her back. "Oh yes. Regardless of your connection to the clan, do not go to the association for now. No matter who asks to see you, just ignore the request."

Huo Yao looked at Chairman Wang quizzically.

Chairman Wang had inadvertently overheard Deputy Chairman Qin's phone conversation before. He said in concern, "Someone is looking for the descendants of the clan. From the looks of it, he's a powerful guy. You are a gifted physician and apothecary, so people might suspect that you're from the clan."

A cold look swept across Huo Yao's eyes. "I get it. Thanks for the heads up. I'll be careful."

Since Huo Yao had taken the warning seriously, Chairman Wang felt relieved.

Huo Yao did not linger in the bedroom and left quickly. Chairman Wang looked at the door worriedly from behind as she left.

He pondered briefly before he quickly grabbed his coat from the side and retrieved his phone. After swiping through his address book, he swiped down to Assistant Wang's number and called him.

He Shu had implied that Assistant Wang might have started working for Deputy Chairman Qin behind his back, but Chairman Wang knew his assistant would never do it.

They had worked together for years, so he knew Assistant Wang well.

Assistant Wang was busy, so he was unable to answer promptly. He finally answered the phone right before the call was about to automatically disconnect.

Before Assistant Wang was able to say a word, Chairman Wang said, "Can you go to the association's medical storage and take out the pills Huo Yao refined previously?"

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Meanwhile, in the car.

Huo Yao thought about the results of Min Yu's investigation yesterday. He had mentioned that the fake Shangguan Yu disappeared near the Apothecaries' Association. Now, Chairman Wang had just told her that someone was searching for people from the Shangguan clan.

It certainly made sense for the culprit to start his search with the Apothecaries' Association.

Huo Yao raised her hand and rubbed her brow. She paused briefly, took out her phone, and sent Shangguan Yun a message asking about Mi Wei's location.

There seemed to be a poor internet connection, so the message did not go out even after a few minutes.

Huo Yao felt puzzled. Then again, there was an unreliable internet connection back in the clan, so she simply tapped on her phone and pressed resend.

Chapter 1366: A Distress Signal

A few minutes after resending the text message, it was still pending.

Huo Yao gently tapped on her phone screen and stopped trying to send it. She did not feel very worried about it.

Mi Wei might be an honest man, but he was cautious by nature, so he probably would not get caught so easily.

Min Yu was driving the car, but he raised his head to glance at Huo Yao. When he noticed her deep in thought, he asked. "Are you still thinking about the chairman's illness?"

Huo Yao snapped out of her thoughts when she heard Min Yu's voice. She put away her phone before she shook her head and replied. "Everyone falls sick and dies one day."

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"Just do your best and don't stress yourself out," comforted Min Yu calmly.

"Uh huh," acknowledged Huo Yao as she looked out the car window. She paused before she raised her head to remove her necklace. "Didn't you want to borrow this?"

Min Yu glanced sideways. Since she had almost fully recovered, he reached his hand out to take the necklace from her and put it in his pocket. "I'll return it to you when I'm done."

"Okay," answered Huo Yao promptly. She did not stop to ask why he wanted to borrow it.

Min Yu did not bother explaining either. He simply said, "Where to?"

Huo Yao checked the time on her wristwatch. "Why don't you take me to the hospital?"

Min Yu nodded. Just as he was about to speak, his phone rang in his pocket.

Yang Yi had called.

He put on his bluetooth earphones lying by the side and answered the call.

"I have news about Prof Min."

A serious look emerged on Min Yu's face. "Really? Where is he?"

Yang Yi told him Prof Min was last seen in a remote mountain in the South. "Since the signal is very poor, our men were only able to get a weak distress signal. No one was able to contact him."

Min Yu looked straight ahead calmly with his hands on the steering wheel. "Make arrangements to continue searching for him. Wait for me to come back."

The moment he finished his sentence, he pressed the bluetooth earphones and ended the call.

Huo Yao tilted her head sideways. "If you're busy, just drop me by the roadside. I can take a cab to the hospital."

Min Yu did not even slow down as he said, "It's okay. I have time."

Huo Yao did not insist on going to the hospital by herself.

Min Yu dropped Huo Yao at the hospital ten minutes later. He did not stop to go upstairs and visit Huo Yulin and drove off instead.

When he got back home, Yang Yi and Zhuo Yun were already waiting for him.

"Is the plane ready?" Min Yu was wearing a black coat with his sleeves rolled up slightly to reveal his slender wrist. He gave off an imposing aura as he spoke.

"All set. We can leave immediately," replied Yang Yi reverently.

Min Yu nodded and said, "Keep it low profile. Don't even tell the family about this."

"Got it." Yang Yi and Zhuo Yun nodded one after another.

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Before long, they walked up to the airplane runway. After getting onto the plane, Min Yu leaned into the couch's backrest as he looked out the window solemnly.

Zhuo Yun came over with a glass of water. "Don't worry. I'm sure Prof Min is fine. Even though the place has weak signals, our men have already checked out the area and confirmed that it is a relatively safe environment."

Min Yu veered his eyes and acknowledged softly.

"The place seems a little strange. It can't be located on the map and the place is marked as a primeval forest. If any choppers try to enter the area, they might get lost," added Zhuo Yun.

Chapter 1367: A Strange Place

The news made Min Yu react for once and he seemed concerned. "What's my father doing there? Do you have any details about the archaeology expedition?"

"No, we don't." Zhuo Yun shook his head. "I hear it's top secret. The Archaeology Association refused to give us any details."

The association refused to tell them details of the archaeological expedition even though the Min family had requested it. From the looks of it, his father was on a very sensitive mission.

This was probably no ordinary primitive forest. Also, it was a top-secret archaeological expedition.

"Someone at the association mentioned something interesting. I heard that the higher-ups in the association are trying to find a device. Apparently, the device is able to achieve time travel."

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Yang Yi came out of the cabin and shared the gossip he had heard. "I wonder if Prof Min is also working on this."

Zhuo Yun raised his head and looked at Yang Yi as he walked over and found this inconceivable. "What do you mean by time travel? Have the people from the association watched one science fiction movie too many? How could they possibly believe this?"

The notion of time travel simply sounded ludicrous.

Yang Yi glanced at Zhuo Yun and said softly, "Is anyone from the association normal to begin with?"

Zhuo Yun touched his nose awkwardly. Did Yang Yi have a death wish? How could he insult the boss's father?

Even though Zhuo Yun agreed, he would not have spoken blatantly.

"In any case, I think this is complete baloney. These academics must have an overactive imagination." Zhuo Yun pursed his lips.

"Perhaps."

Yang Yi looked at Min Yu. Yang Yi did not believe in time travel, so he felt his boss ought to feel the same way. He stopped talking about it and turned to respond. "No matter what, I have to say the expedition team certainly went to a strange place."

Satellites were considerably advanced in this day and age. Even if they were located in a primeval forest, it made no sense for them to lose the signal entirely. Moreover, Prof Min was equipped with the most advanced tracker.

Usually, signals could be blocked for special areas, especially for top-secret government agencies but this forest certainly did not seem to fall under this category.

Yang Yi and Zhuo Yun could not help feeling puzzled.

Min Yu looked into the distance as his eyes drifted away. After some time, he said calmly, "I don't care what's going on in there. Find him."

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Meanwhile, Huo Yao went home after visiting her third older brother in the hospital.

She had promised the Virus Research Institute to help with analyzing the virus. Since she still had some time, she decided to get it done.

She had applied for slightly over a week's leave from the university. As for the research project for the National Research Institute of Science and Technology, Wang Jing and the others kept asking her when she was coming back to school since the institute had been chasing them for an update.

By hook or by crook, she had to go back to school tomorrow.

When it was slightly past 10:00 pm, Huo Yao was finally done coming up with the virus analysis diagram after working all afternoon on it.

She sent the diagram to Lei Xiao via email. After she was done, she stretched her neck and rested for a few minutes. After a while, she remembered something and took out her phone.

She tried sending Shangguan Yun another text message but to no avail.

Huo Yao frowned and put down her phone. She tapped on her keyboard and activated the command box.

After some time, she was finally able to access the clan's network. She discovered that the satellite had been deactivated.

Huo Yao looked at her dark laptop screen as she rubbed her keyboard. This was simply bewildering.

Chapter 1368: Secretly Took Her Pulse

It made sense for the message sending to fail since the entire network was deactivated.

Typically, the clan kept the satellite on. Back in the day, she had ruined the clan's network. Even then, they did not turn off the satellite.

Huo Yao contemplated for some time, but she was unable to wrap her mind around it, so she turned off the laptop.

She hoped everything was fine.

Huo Yao quietly sat with her eyes lowered for some time. She stood up, walked over to the wardrobe, and retrieved her pajamas before going into the bathroom.

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Huo Yao went to school the next day and canceled her medical leave. Since she had class in the morning, she did not go to the laboratory.

Yuan Xi had started attending school a couple of days before. When Huo Yao saw her, she almost could not recognize Yuan Xi. "What the...?"

Yuan Xi used to look healthy, but she had lost a lot of weight and was just skin and bones now. Also, her face and lips were particularly pale. On the whole, she seemed very tired.

Yuan Xi squeezed a smile as she lay prone on the desk. "I'll just consider it a free weight loss program!"

Huo Yao's lips twitched as she shook her head. She pretended to randomly hold Yuan Xi's wrist and examined her pulse. "You have lost so much weight. Aren't your parents worried about you?"

Yuan Xi did not resist when Huo Yao held her wrist. A fleeting sad look appeared on her face before she replied. "They don't have time to worry about me right now."

In reality, she had disappointed her parents when she reacted nonchalantly after her older brother was thrown into the Ministry of National Security. Her parents felt she was heartless for not being concerned.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes as she pulled her hand back. Judging by the look on Yuan Xi's face, she could tell Yuan Xi was depressed. "Did you go for a check-up at the hospital?"

"No, I didn't. I don't like going to the hospital." The moment she saw doctors dressed in white coats, she was reminded of Yuan Huan, so she was instinctively afraid of them.

"Did you take any meds?" asked Huo Yao again.

"Yeah, I did." Yuan Xi simply assumed that Huo Yao was showing concern about her condition. She replied. "My cold is a lot better now, so there's nothing to worry about."

Huo Yao paused briefly before she nodded and said, "I suggest you go for a check-up to the hospital."

"I'm good. I'm sure I'll be all better after taking meds for a couple of days more." Yuan Xi smiled as she spoke.

Since Huo Yao was unable to convince Yuan Xi otherwise, she said, "I want to hang out at your dorm during lunch." She paused before making an excuse. "I need a place to read."

Huo Yao did not have a dorm room at school and her place was very far. Yuan Xi was completely unsuspecting as she nodded and agreed.

The two of them went to eat at the canteen at lunchtime before heading back to her dormitory.

Yuan Xi's roommates were also around. The moment they saw Huo Yao, they turned awkward and did not take the initiative to interact with her.

Huo Yao naturally disregarded their presence. After entering the room with Yuan Xi, she sat down on her bed.

As Yuan Xi offered Huo Yao a bottle of water, she coughed a few times, and decided that it was time for some meds. She walked up in front of the bed, retrieved a small bag hanging by the bed, and took out a pillbox.

Yuan Xi took two pills out and wanted to take her medication. Huo Yao glanced at her before she stood up and bumped into Yuan Xi's hands inadvertently.

Yuan Xi accidentally dropped the pills on the ground.

Huo Yao apologized before she bent over to pick them up.

Yuan Xi did not take it to heart. She shook her head and said, "Don't worry about it."

Huo Yao said with the white pills in her hand. "I'm so sorry. They are dirty now."

"It's fine. There are enough of them." Yuan Xi raised her pill box and retrieved two more.

Chapter 1369: Old Mr. Pei Asks To Meet

Huo Yao glanced at the pills in Yuan Xi's hands and narrowed her eyes solemnly. She asked. "Have you been taking these pills for a long time?"

Yuan Xi picked up a glass of water from the side and took a sip. "Uh huh. It is really good for my cough."

"Since you haven't recovered fully after taking these meds, why don't you consider taking something else?" asked Huo Yao.

Yuan Xi paused briefly. Her mother had prepared the medication, so it did not dawn on her that perhaps it was time to try something else. She promptly replied. "I wouldn't say it doesn't work entirely. I suppose I am to blame since I don't take them regularly."

Recently, the atmosphere at home felt suffocating, so she was unable to take good care of herself.

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"You don't always need medication when you're sick. Sometimes, people recover more quickly without meds," suggested Huo Yao.

When she took Yuan Xi's pulse in the morning, she discovered that her Qi was very weak. She was clearly not suffering from a cold.

If this condition persisted for prolonged periods, she would permanently end up with a weak constitution regardless of how strong she was previously.

Yuan Xi lowered her eyes to look at the medication in her hands. She felt Huo Yao made sense. Even though the medication was able to alleviate the cough, she felt very tired after taking the medicine.

Yuan Xi took Huo Yao's suggestion and placed the pills back into the pill box.

Huo Yao raised her brow. Fortunately, Yuan Xi had the brains to accept her suggestion.

Her phone rang in her pocket. She furtively placed her hand in her pocket and retrieved her phone.

She had received a notification about a new text message.

She sat down on Yuan Xi's bed and tapped to read the message.

It was an audio message from Old Mr. Pei. She had not heard from him in a long time.

Huo Yao was caught by surprise.

After listening to the audio message, she composed a reply: [When did you arrive in town? I'm in class now, but I'm free tonight.]

Old Mr. Pei quickly replied: [I got in this morning. I haven't seen you in ages, so I was hoping we could have dinner tonight.]

Huo Yao pondered briefly. Since she was free tonight, she typed: [Sure.]

Old Mr. Pei was relieved to see her response. After the disrespect his sons had shown towards Huo Yao, he did not have the cheek to talk to her. Since he was in town, he hesitated for some time before he finally made up his mind to contact her and catch up.

Fortunately, she seemed completely normal and was open to meeting up.

Old Mr. Pei thought about Min Yu and sent Huo Yao a text message: [How's Young Master Min doing? Shall we hang out together tonight?]

Huo Yao replied: [Let me ask him.]

Old Mr. Pei said: [Sure thing.]

Huo Yao sent Min Yu a text message. After a few minutes, he did not reply, so he was probably busy.

Huo Yao did not rush him. She was there in the car when Min Yu answered the phone and it sounded like he had something serious to work on. Hence, she told Old Mr. Pei that he would not be able to make it.

The two of them made arrangements to meet at a restaurant in the city at 6:00 pm.

After ending the conversation with Old Mr. Pei, Huo Yao did not continue staying in Yuan Xi's dormitory.

After going downstairs and walking a long distance, Huo Yao retrieved two pills from her pocket.

She pursed her lips as she looked down at them. She deftly crushed the pills to powder using her fingertips. The moment she identified its contents, a solemn look emerged on her face.

This was certainly not cold medicine. Instead, these were hallucinogens.

Huo Yao lowered her hands and the medicine powder scattered in the air.

Chapter 1370: Wanted Something

Huo Yao went to the laboratory after she was done with her last class in the afternoon.

She had been absent from the university for over a week, so there was a lot of work waiting for her. Since she was not around to help, her teammates were making slow progress.

"You're finally back. If you kept this up any longer, we might have lost all our hair by the time you came back." Wang Jing sighed and spoke dramatically.

Dai Jie nodded and said with a straight face, "She's absolutely right. We were unable to make any further inroads into the project without you."

Tang Jun continued typing on the keyboard as they chatted. He finally stopped and looked up at them.

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He scolded them jokingly for being such grovelers before he quickly urged them. "Come on guys. We have to move quickly. The deadline is due in a couple of days. If we cannot finish in time, Prof Liu will pounce on the opportunity to stick more members into the team and that's the last thing we want."

"That's true." Wang Jing pulled out a chair and sat down. She sighed and said, "You have no idea. Mr. Qi has gone to Mr. Liu repeatedly about this. Thankfully, Mr. Liu stayed firm and refused to accept new members."

Huo Yao raised her brow.

Wang Jing continued complaining about it for some time until she suddenly halted. She turned to look at Huo Yao. "Mr. Liu said Mr. Yuan won't be joining us in the future."

"I see. Got it," acknowledged Huo Yao softly, looking completely unsurprised.

Wang Jing promptly asked. "Did you already know about this?"

Huo Yao nodded with a straight face.

After all, Yuan Huan was thrown into the Ministry of National Security, thanks to her. Even if Yuan Huan could get his backer to bail him out of the ministry, he would probably stay out of the public eye from then on.

Wang Jing did not continue with the subject and moved away her eyes. She simply sent all the data she had been working on recently to Huo Yao's computer.

Even though Huo Yao was on sick leave for over a week, she had already come up with plans for the AI system. Since she had to deal with Yuan Huan, she had been procrastinating all that time.

When it was 5:30 pm, Huo Yao was done with fine-tuning phase II of the system. She even helped make some changes to Wang Jing and Dai Jie's part of their work while she was at it.

Huo Yao clicked on the save button after she was done and sent the program to the three of them. She stood up and said, "I have to go. I've already sent you my work. Why don't you take a look at it first and text me if you have any concerns?"

The three of them looked at Huo Yao speechlessly. She had genuinely finished working on the system, so they could only acknowledge her quietly.

After Huo Yao left, the three of them tapped on the program sent by Huo Yao. They had made up their mind to put in extra hours to finish the project.

The moment they were done looking at it, all three of them were dumbstruck.

“Are my eyes playing tricks on me? Did she spend just 1.5 hours to finish the entire system?” asked Dai Jie in disbelief.

Wang Jing rubbed her eyes. “Oh god! This is insane. I seriously suspect she has been acting dumb all this time!”

Tang Jun’s lips twitched. “What do you mean suspect? She definitely did it.”

The three of them glanced at each other before turning off their computers.

They certainly did not have to put in extra hours now. Instead, they could go out and have fun for once!

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After leaving the campus, Huo Yao went straight to the restaurant to meet Old Mr. Pei.

When she arrived, Old Mr. Pei was already there.

“Hi, Huo Yao.” Old Mr. Pei smiled as he stood up from the seat. His beard was grey, but he looked strong and energetic.