

Pill Maker 1481

Chapter 1481: Suspect She Was Not The Same Person

Zhuo Yun quickly followed behind Min Yu. “No, we haven’t found her yet. I have to say though that things are starting to feel strange. We tracked Lu Xia down to a particular state before she disappeared into thin air.”

Min Yu pursed his lips. “Oh really?”

Zhuo Yun looked at his boss cautiously before he continued. “Since there were lots of powerful people in the state where she was last seen, I reckon someone important was helping her.”

Min Yu thought about the strange things Lu Xia had mentioned to him when they were at the wake in the countryside. A knowing look swept across his eyes as he said, “Did you investigate her background?”

Zhuo Yun did not quite get his drift. “What do you mean? Are you referring to her life before she found out that she was swapped at birth?”

“Uh huh,” acknowledged Min Yu as he nodded mildly.

“Not really. I only investigated Miss Huo’s background before this timeline,” replied Zhuo Yun. “If anything, Miss Huo seems to have changed more between the two of them.”

Min Yu lowered his eyes slightly and said, “Investigate Lu Xia as well.”

“Yes, Boss,” acknowledged Zhuo Yun. Out of curiosity, he simply had to ask. “Why do you suddenly want her background investigated?”

The two of them had already walked out of the Weapons Bureau building. The sun outside was bright. It reflected off the bureau logo of an imposing eagle and gave off a gold glint.

After they got in front of the car, Min Yu finally came to a stop and answered Zhuo Yun. “I suspect she’s not the same anymore.”

The moment he finished his sentence, he opened the car door and got into the car.

Zhuo Yun stood motionlessly. He could not wrap his mind around his boss’s answer.

What did he mean by that?

How could someone change?

Chapter 1482: What Are You Going To Do When You Have A Son?

The estate was brightly decorated with red lanterns and the atmosphere was very festive.

Ever since 8:00 pm, people had started letting off firecrackers one after another in the estate. There was no better way to welcome the new year.

Huo Yao strolled unhurriedly around the estate with the dog. As they walked under the street lamps, they left shadows behind them. Her phone suddenly rang in her pocket.

Huo Yao halted slightly, held the dog leash with her other hand, and retrieved her phone. After checking the caller ID, she pressed the button to answer.

“What are you up to?” Min Yu’s cool voice came from over the phone. There were firecrackers going off, but Huo Yao could hear his voice clearly.

Huo Yao was surprised by the call. Goofy happened to wrestle himself free of the leash and dashed off.

After snapping out of thoughts, she smiled and shook her head. She spoke as she ran after the dog. “I’m babysitting for my Second Older Brother.”

Min Yu could tell she was out walking, so he asked. “Are you out in the estate?”

Huo Yao acknowledged softly. Since Goofy was able to run very fast, he disappeared in the blink of an eye. She shouted a few times, but he refused to come back, so she could not help feeling annoyed.

“It’s so troublesome to have a dog,” complained Huo Yao. Hardly any other residents would come out for a walk at this hour, so she decided to stand under the streetlamp and wait for Goofy to come back on his own.

Huo Yao hardly lost her cool or complained. Min Yu could not help smiling as he teased her. “It’s just a dog and you are already cribbing. What’s going to happen when we have a son?”

Huo Yao went speechless.

Huo Yao was quiet for a couple of seconds before she disregarded his teasing and changed the subject. “Why aren’t you watching the TV?”

She could tell he was located in a very quiet place right now.

“I’m not watching any TV,” said Min Yu softly as he looked at the young woman standing under the streetlamp. She was wearing a long and thick down jacket and looked like a penguin.

Min Yu’s eyes turned soft looking at her. He was exhausted but recovered slightly looking at her.

He slowly walked toward Huo Yao.

Huo Yao lowered her head and looked at her toes as she talked on the phone, so she failed to notice anything behind her. She said, “If you can, you should catch the Chinese New Year gala. My fourth older brother is appearing on it.”

Min Yu’s voice suddenly came from behind her. “Uh huh. I know.”

It did not sound like his voice was coming from the phone but right behind her.

Huo Yao hastily raised her head and turned around. A handsome man with a cool aura walked toward her.

She was completely astonished by his presence and her hand froze holding the phone by her ear.

Min Yu walked closer and reached his hand out to embrace her as she stood in astonishment. "What's wrong? Have you suddenly gone daft?"

Huo Yao finally snapped out of her shock when she smelled his cool scent. She placed her phone in her pocket and asked. "What are you doing here?"

Min Yu's face came close to Huo Yao's as he embraced her. "I wanted to see you."

Huo Yao could sense her heart racing after hearing his words, so she lowered her head. She could see their shadow on the ground from the street lamp overhead.

"When did you get back?" Huo Yao spoke softly as she held the man by his waist.

Min Yu paused briefly when he felt her embrace before he answered. "In the afternoon."

Chapter 1483:

Min Yu had just arrived in town in reality.

After taking care of his matters at the Weapons Bureau, he did not go back to the Min residence. Instead, he boarded a long-haul flight and went straight to Huo Yao.

Min Yu had no intention of telling her the truth.

Huo Yao raised her brow and let go of him the moment she heard what he said. She looked at him and asked. "Why didn't you call me if you came back in the afternoon?"

Min Yu cleared his throat as he looked at her smile.

Goofy had unknowingly run back toward Huo Yao. He was looking at them with his head tilted. His deep brown eyes looked innocent as he wagged his tail happily.

Huo Yao took Goofy's leash and asked. "Have you eaten dinner yet?"

Min Yu glanced at the silly-looking dog at the end of the leash. He held Huo Yao's hand and said pitifully, "Nope."

Huo Yao saw it coming. She took out her phone annoyingly and wanted to order take out using the phone. Sadly, most of the decent eateries had already closed and the remaining ones had lousy reviews.

Huo Yao gave up ordering take-out. Instead, she raised her head and suggested. "Do you want to eat at my place? I think we still have food."

"I'm not sure. I'm worried I might get driven out of your place," said Min Yu teasingly. He paused and added. "I know a place where I can still eat at this hour."

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Before long, the two of them walked out of the estate with Goofy. He had grown relatively big by now.

There were some shops outside the estate. Even though most of them were closed, a handful of them were still open.

Min Yu and Huo Yao found a dumpling eatery. The owner was from out of town, but he did not go back to his hometown for the Chinese New Year, and had decided to continue operating the business. His entire family was watching the Chinese New Year gala on the television in the eatery.

The owner was surprised when patrons entered the place. He was about to stop them from bringing a dog into the eatery but changed his mind when he saw the young handsome couple.

He figured it was unlikely for any other customers to come at this time of the day, so he changed his mind about the dog. After taking their order, he went to the kitchen to prepare the food.

After the eatery owner was gone, Huo Yao smiled ambiguously at Min Yu and teased him. "You're from a powerful family, but you're here eating dumplings. This is unbelievable."

Goofy quietly lay prone beneath the table. He was particularly well behaved.

"Why care about what others think?" Min Yu raised his brow as he poured Huo Yao a cup of tea unhurriedly.

Huo Yao tutted to herself. She noticed the exhausted look on Min Yu's face, so she asked. "Where were you?"

Even if he had taken a flight from the capital, it was only two hours away from here, so it made no sense for him to be tired.

"Country M," replied Min Yu candidly.

It all made sense now. Huo Yao nodded as she contemplated. Country M was over ten hours away by plane, so it was natural for him to feel exhausted.

Huo Yao lowered her eyes and felt moved. The atmosphere in the brightly lit eatery suddenly felt soft and serene.

Before long, the dumpling eatery owner served a freshly made plate of dumplings on the table. Since it was Chinese New Year's eve, he even gave them two appetizers for free.

Since Huo Yao had already eaten dinner, she quietly sat there and watched Min Yu.

Halfway through dinner, her phone rang. Her second older brother had called asking when she was coming home.

Huo Yao glanced at Min Yu before she answered. "I'll be a little late."

The moment she finished her sentence, she hung up the phone.

Chapter 1484: Something Had Changed About Her

Min Yu did not eat much. He put down his chopsticks and asked. "Did your older brother call?"

Huo Yao nodded. She paused for a couple of seconds and said, "It's fine for me to go back a little later."

A discreet smile appeared on his face as Min Yu looked at her intently.

He waved the eatery owner over and footed the bill.

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By the time Huo Yao got home, 30 minutes had already passed. Her fair face was now slightly ruddy, especially her lips which were radiant.

Song Ning scrutinized her daughter closely. Something had changed about Huo Yao after she got home. Her eyes suddenly landed on her daughter's neck as she asked. "Did you wear a scarf when you went out?"

Huo Yao straightened her scarf calmly and replied. "Yes, I did."

"Oh really?" Song Ning had a nagging feeling that she was missing something here.

She did not recall her daughter owning a scarf in this color.

"Uh huh. You probably didn't notice it." Huo Yao walked up in front of the refrigerator and retrieved a bottle of coca cola. After drinking something cold, she finally cooled down slightly.

Huo Yao was a candid young woman, so Song Ning was completely unsuspecting.

Since Song Ning decided to drop the questioning, Huo Yao quickly went back to her room without staying back to watch the television program.

By the time she was done washing herself up, the fireworks outside had reached a climax. Huo Yao opened the curtains and looked at the brilliant fireworks in the sky and went into a daze.

For a moment there, it felt as though Old Madam Yang was still around.

Each Chinese New Year, she would sit with Old Madam Yang in the yard and watch the fireworks.

Huo Yao suppressed the dryness in her throat.

The sound of people counting down to the Chinese New Year could be heard. When the countdown got to zero, she muttered. "Happy Chinese New Year, Granny."

Before she knew it, her words were swallowed by the commotion of the fireworks outside.

Huo Yao's phone rang as it sat on the table. She continued standing in front of the window briefly before she turned to go back inside.

She picked up the phone and answered it.

"Happy Chinese New Year," said Min Yu over the phone.

Huo Yao was just feeling emotional thinking about her grandmother, but she was promptly distracted when she heard his voice. She held the phone and replied. "Happy Chinese New Year."

Someone knocked on the door. Huo Yao raised her head, hung up the phone, and walked to the door.

After opening the door, she saw Huo Yanxi standing outside. His face was lowered awkwardly since he felt sorry about his previous actions. He had already prepared a red packet for Huo Yao, so he promptly handed it to her. He said softly, "Happy Chinese New Year."

Huo Yao noticed Huo Yanxi acting cautiously in front of her. He used to be biased against her, but those days were long over. Now, he was filled with regret for his misjudgment and would do anything to make up for it.

She went quiet for a couple of seconds before she reached her hand out and accepted the red packet. "Thanks, Big Brother. Happy Chinese New Year."

Even though Huo Yao's voice sounded cool and distant, Huo Yanxi could sense something different about her.

He raised his head and looked at Huo Yao in an attempt to verify the truth.

"Are you..." Huo Yanxi wanted to speak, but he suddenly lost his words. After trying for some time, he eventually gave up.

"Take care. Good night, Big Brother," said Huo Yao calmly. She closed the door leaving Huo Yanxi at a loss.

Moments later, Huo Yanxi snapped out of his daze and suddenly looked at the door hesitantly.

Chapter 1485: Things Are Complicated In The Capital

Huo Tingrui was leaning against the door in the neighboring room and happened to see Huo Yanxi's happy profile. He could not resist quipping. "I told you so, right? She might bear a grudge, but she's not entirely heartless."

If Huo Yanxi had done this sooner, Huo Yanxi and Huo Yao would never have had an estranged relationship.

Huo Yanxi straightened his back and snapped out of his thoughts when he heard what his little brother said. He turned and said calmly, "It's getting late. Have an early night."

Huo Tingrui smiled ambiguously as he raised his brow and glanced at the smile on Huo Yanxi's face.

Huo Yanxi pretended not to see the look on Huo Tingrui's face and simply returned to his room calmly. After closing the door, the smile on his face became even deeper.

Huo Yanxi could sense his phone vibrating nonstop in his pocket. He had received Chinese New Year wishes from some friends and employees.

Huo Yanxi was in a good mood, so he gave everyone who was texting him a generous red packet.

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It was the first day of the Chinese New Year the next day, so Huo Yao's parents gave her a thick red packet when she got downstairs according to custom.

Other than her family, she also received a lot of red packets via WeChat from her teachers, professors, and her senior brothers from the Physics department.

Huo Yao kept watching as the money in her WeChat wallet kept going up. She felt fortunate that the people in her social circle were very rich and were happy to share their wealth.

Just from the red packets she had collected, she could afford to pay the downpayment for an apartment in the capital.

After eating glutinous rice dumplings for the Chinese New Year, Huo Yao took Goofy out for a stroll. When she walked outside the neighboring villa, she raised her head and glanced at it before she quickly veered her eyes.

Min Yu had left for the capital after seeing her last night.

Huo Yao walked Goofy in the estate for nearly an hour before she went home. After handing the dog to the maid, she went to the living room.

Huo Yanxi and Huo Tingrui were sitting in the living room chatting about something.

Huo Yao quietly sat down in the corner on the couch and took out her phone. There were still a number of unread text messages.

Meng Ying had sent her a text message asking her to hang out.

Huo Tingrui could be heard talking.

"Oh yes. I plan to set up a new office in the estate you're staying in." Huo Tingrui turned to look at Huo Yao. Since he was wearing his glasses, he looked very refined.

Huo Yao was sending text messages with her head lowered. After some time, she raised her head and asked in surprise. "What do you mean?"

Huo Tingrui nodded. "I started considering setting up an office in the capital ever since last year. One of Big Brother's clients needs money, so he wants to give up his office space."

Huo Yao stopped replying to her text messages. It finally made sense. No wonder they kept talking about start-up capital recently.

She pondered briefly before she replied tactfully. "The political situation in the capital is very complicated. It won't be easy to conduct business there."

Even though the Huo family had friends in the capital, most of their connections were in City S. Shangguan Hou already knew that she was from the Huo family. If her second older brother moved to the capital, it might expose him to a degree of danger.

She was able to protect herself, but not him.

"I'm against this move." Huo Yao pondered and spoke solemnly.

She gave him a serious look and looked like she meant what she said.

It was the second time Huo Tingrui had seen his little sister speak with such a serious look on her face. The first time he ever caught this expression on her face, he was kidnapped because of a case.

Chapter 1486: Aren't Good Enough For Her

Huo Tingrui adjusted his glasses and said, "I'm just thinking about it for now."

Huo Yao raised her brow and acknowledged him without making further comments.

Huo Yanxi watched their interaction and noticed that Huo Tingrui took her advice very seriously. He was both astonished and envious of them.

He was envious that they could speak so candidly.

Huo Yao failed to detect the look on Huo Yanxi's face.

Instead, she lowered her head and replied to Meng Ying's text message: [Not today. Maybe in a couple of days.]

Her fourth older brother was coming home at 4:00 pm today and she had promised to pick him up from the airport.

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Meanwhile, in the garden of the Meng residence.

When Meng Ying received a reply from Huo Yao, she quickly agreed to meet in a couple of days. She raised her head and looked at her cousin sitting across from her. "When are you leaving?"

Meng Jue continued typing in the code on the computer without so much as looking up. He replied mildly. "In a couple of days."

"I see," said Meng Ying. She lay prone on the table and continued. "I didn't realize you were leaving so soon. I wanted to introduce you to my friend."

Meng Jue's hands finally halted the moment he heard what Meng Ying said. He looked at her profoundly. "Is this the reason you kept failing in your first term in university?"

Meng Ying paused briefly and did not quite catch his drift. Moments later, she suddenly blushed in embarrassment.

Meng Jue was as mean as ever. No wonder no one wanted to date him!

Meng Jue shook his head. He was wearing an orange jacket which brought out his fair complexion. He veered his eyes and continued writing the program on the computer.

Meng Ying scratched her head and said, "My friend is nice and pretty. Also, she's so smart that she was the top scholar during the college entrance exam and was offered a guaranteed placement at Tsing University. To be honest, I think it's kind of embarrassing to introduce you to her."

Meng Jue went speechless.

"The moment you stand beside her, anyone with eyes can tell you aren't good enough for her," continued Meng Ying with her lips pursed.

Her cousin undoubtedly had the brains. His only flaw was his showy personality.

Meng Jue was in the IT business. Meng Ying did not understand why her cousin did not look like the typical IT nerd.

Meng Jue could sense his temples throb infuriatingly. He regretted giving her a red packet for the Chinese New Year last night.

He did not want to continue listening to her annoying voice, so he shut his laptop, stood up, and walked out of the room.

Meng Ying leaned against her chin. She shouted with Meng Jue's back facing her. "I'm meeting my friend in a couple of days. Will you come along?"

"I'm not going," answered Meng Jue coolly.

"If you don't go, it's as good as losing a hundred million," said Meng Ying as she sneered dramatically.

Meng Jue cleared his throat. Did she want to talk about money?

If he wasted half a day going out with his cousin, the damage was probably over a hundred million.

Meng Jue could not be bothered talking to his cousin and quickly disappeared out through the door.

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Huo Yao drove over to the airport to pick up Huo Xiang in the afternoon.

Since it was the first day of the holidays, most of the people were home and the airport was fairly empty. After getting off the flight, Huo Xiang put on his mask without disguising himself further, but no one recognized him.

Before they got to the arrival gate, he raised his head and saw Huo Yao standing there. Tong Yu was walking beside him, so Huo Xiang said a few words to Tong Yu before quickly walking toward his little sister. "Did you wait for long?"

Huo Yao had only gotten to see the little princess on television for nearly half a year. For some reason, his skin was slightly darker than before, so he looked a little more mature and stronger.

"Hey," greeted Huo Yao.

Chapter 1487: Causing A Distraction

Huo Xiang reached his hands out and embraced Huo Yao. The moment he sensed how much thinner she felt, he was sorry for her. "You have lost a lot of weight."

"I might have put on weight in the right places," replied Huo Yao.

Huo Xiang's throat felt dry looking at Huo Yao. He patted her on the back and said, "I'll be on leave for some time. We can go out and have some fun."

Tong Yu came running after Huo Xiang pushing the luggage trolley and happened to overhear Huo Xiang's last sentence. After greeting Huo Yao, Tong Yu said annoyingly, "Your older brother is such a wilful little princess."

Huo Yao's lips twitched. "Huh?"

"We were offered brand ambassadorship, but he refused to take it. Do you know how much money he threw away?" Tong Yu did a quick count and gestured a number in the air. "It was enough money to pay for a three-room flat in the capital."

Huo Yao halted in her steps abruptly.

She had received so many red packets for the Chinese New Year that she could afford the downpayment of an apartment in the capital. However, Tong Yu had just told her that the money Huo Xiang had thrown away was enough to buy a three bedroom flat in the capital in full.

Huo Yao sighed and said to Tong Yu, "Is it too late to change my mind about joining the entertainment industry?"

Huo Xiang went quiet.

Tong Yu smiled. "I'm more than happy to help you, but I feel bad about distracting you from school."

Huo Xiang made up his mind not to let Huo Yao speak to his talent agent in future. He took the luggage trolley from Tong Yu. "Yu, why don't you go back and have an early night? I can take my little sister home."

The moment he finished his sentence, he pulled Huo Yao's arm and walked off.

Tong Yu stood where he was and felt completely puzzled.

Huo Xiang could have given Tong Yu a ride home.

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The two of them got back home from the airport slightly after 5:00 pm.

Dinner was not yet ready by the time they got home. Huo Yao's phone rang, so she retrieved it from her pocket. She raised her head and glanced at her family members chatting in the living room before taking out her phone.

J asked: [Are you free? Can you help me with my program?]

Huo Yao glanced at the text message and replied that she was not free.

J promptly wrote: [I know you're free.]

Huo Yao: [...]

J continued: [I've already sent it to your mailbox.]

Huo Yao thought about what Tong Yu had shared at the airport about Huo Xiang's potential brand ambassador deal, so she typed: [I don't work for free. You have to pay me.]

J retorted: [I thought we were friends.]

Huo Yao pursed her lips and composed another text message expressionlessly: [Don't you keep calling me Daddy? If you're my son, you should treat me with respect and be good to me, right?]

J went speechless: [Fine. You win.]

Before long, Huo Yao received a text message notifying her of a bank transfer consisting of a six-figure sum. She could not help sighing to herself. Every now and then, people could pay large sums without so much as batting an eye.

She accepted the money and replied courteously: [I will turn on my laptop and check it out later. If you have any other questions in the future, feel free to get in touch.]

J felt exasperated: [...]

Huo Yao put away her phone happily.

Before long, the maid informed them that dinner was ready.

Other than Huo Yulin, the rest of the family was here, so it was turning out to be a happy gathering. The atmosphere over dinner felt good.

When Huo Yao was done eating, she went upstairs.

She turned on her laptop after returning to the room.

She could see an encrypted zipped file attached to an email and quickly downloaded its contents.

Huo Yao did not even bother asking for the password. She simply opened a program to crack the password. In just ten seconds, she managed to decrypt the code.

The file contained an AI program.

When she saw the program, Huo Yao suddenly recalled Liu Qian mentioning that DO Corporation had reached out to him last year.

Chapter 1488: I'm Very Poor

Huo Yao moved her mouse nonchalantly. Moments later, she opened WeChat on her laptop and sent J a text message.

[Are you planning to simulate human genes in your fourth-generation robot?]

J was busy, so he only had the chance to look at her message approximately ten minutes later.

J replied: [Uh huh. If we add this to your independent database, we can effectively combine the smart system and AI. This means the robot will have the highest logic and processing ability in the world.]

Most of the smart chips and systems available in the market came with in-house databases with a degree of restrictions in terms of application.

The creation of robots with independent thinking was absolutely groundbreaking.

J felt excited just thinking about his grand plans. When Huo Yao finally responded to him, it was like pouring a bucket of ice water over his head.

[Anything is possible in our dreams, right?]

J went speechless: [...]

Huo Yao leaned against her chin and paused briefly before she finally sat up straight and composed a text message: [I have to say that you're going in the right direction. In roughly 50 years, you can probably succeed.]

J retorted: [What would you know?]

Huo Yao's eyes drifted away as the dim light from the laptop screen bounced off her face, giving her a mysterious aura.

She snapped out of her thoughts and looked at the chat dialog box on the monitor without answering. Instead, she asked: [Someone must have brought up this suggestion, right?]

J replied: [Uh huh. One of my partners mentioned this.]

Huo Yao was unsurprised, but there was nothing she could do about it. She dropped the subject and started talking about the flaws in J's programming.

Before long, she turned off the laptop. When she got up to head to the bathroom, her phone rang as it sat on the table.

Huo Yao turned her head back and glanced at her phone. Shangguan Yun had just texted her and she promptly picked up her phone.

[Congratulate me. I'm finally free.]

Huo Yao frowned slightly and sat down in her chair: [What do you mean?]

Shangguan Yun lay prone on the bed as she typed slowly: [The elders decided to let me come out.]

Huo Yao frowned even harder. She paused briefly before she gave Shangguan Yun a voice call.

“Why did they suddenly decide to let you come out?” asked Huo Yao the moment the call got connected.

The moment Shangguan Yun heard Huo Yao’s voice, she instinctively composed herself. “I asked them to let me out and they agreed.”

Huo Yao looked at her laptop and asked. “Did something happen at home?”

“Nope. I have been begging them to let me out since two years. Perhaps they finally got tired and decided to release me,” explained Shangguan Yun hurriedly.

She had to agree that it was out of character for the elders to compromise.

Huo Yao knew that Shangguan Yun would never lie to her, so she promptly replied. “In that case, watch your back.”

Shangguan Yun got up from bed. “What do you mean? Don’t you care about me? Aren’t you worried that something might happen to me?”

“I didn’t know you had the same IQ as a pig,” retorted Huo Yao.

Shangguan Yun said huffily, “Of course not. Are you trying to insult me?”

“I’m glad you caught my drift,” sneered Huo Yao.

Shangguan Yun went speechless.

Huo Yao shook her head and ended the call. She paused briefly before she lowered her head to compose a message swiftly.

[I forgot to mention something. I’m very poor!]

Chapter 1489: Lu Xia’s Transfer

Huo Yao had nearly forgotten that Shangguan Yun was a big spender.

Huo Yao pressed her brow. She suddenly felt it was a bad idea to stop unblocking Shangguan Yun’s number.

It was probably not too late to blacklist Shangguan Yun now.

After receiving the text message, Shangguan Yun composed a text message telling Huo Yao that she was a very smart woman and had recently made a large sum of money. When she was ready to send the message, she received a notification informing her she had to request authorization in order to communicate with Huo Yao.

Shangguan Yun felt puzzled.

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Huo Yao went out to meet Meng Ying as planned a couple of days later.

She did not want to go for a walk, so the two of them made plans to rendezvous at a restaurant serving high tea.

"You look so different. Also, you've lost a lot of weight!" After they were done taking their orders and the waiter had left, Meng Ying made a passing remark.

Huo Yao raised her brow with a solemn look on her face. "In theory, if you're observant by nature, you shouldn't keep failing at school in your first term."

She had just checked out her social media and saw a post containing a screenshot of Meng Ying's term results.

Meng Ying covered her face. She was more or less immune due to her cousin's meanness, but she could not help feeling embarrassed when it came from Huo Yao.

She cleared her throat and made an excuse. "It's normal to fail some subjects, right? It's all part and parcel of university life."

Huo Yao smiled ambiguously at Meng Ying.

The waiter came in with a pot of tea interrupting the conversation. Meng Ying smiled sheepishly as she poured Huo Yao a cup of tea and changed the subject.

Meng Ying always followed gossip closely. Even though they had not seen each other in ages, she spoke candidly. "Oh yes. Do you know which university Lu Xia ended up attending?"

Huo Yao took a sip of tea. She did not expect Meng Ying to bring up Lu Xia. She paused and asked. "Where did she go?"

"She was in the same university as me. Also, she majored in computing just like me." Meng Ying pursed her lips and continued. "Strangely, she transferred somewhere else after studying for half a term."

Chen Ming had already reported about this when he investigated Lu Xia, so Huo Yao already knew about this. She simply nodded and acknowledged Meng Ying.

"I heard she transferred to an Ivy League school abroad and even changed courses. You should have seen the cocky look on her face when she left school." To this day, Meng Ying felt disgusted just thinking about the cocky and pretentious look on Lu Xia's face.

She was done discussing the topic after a while.

Chapter 1490: Spoken For

Meng Ying chuckled as she brought up introducing someone to Huo Yao.

"I'm not interested," said Huo Yao nonchalantly. Meng Ying looked at her at a loss, so Huo Yao added. "I'm spoken for."

Meng Ying was dumbfounded.

Meng Ying promptly caught Huo Yao's drift. Huo Yao did not say she had a boyfriend. Instead, Huo Yao simply said she was unavailable, so this meant she must be very serious.

"Is this a genius thing? Do geniuses always map out their futures entirely?" Moments later, Meng Ying sighed and asked.

Only half a year had passed since Huo Yao started university, but she was now officially attached to someone.

Meng Ying was still single, so she could not help feeling sad for herself.

"I'm not sure either. For a start, I would never allow myself to fail at anything," replied Huo Yao languidly.

Meng Ying raised her hand and wanted to slap herself.

She regretted bringing up the subject.

Before long, the waiter sent their order over.

The two of them spent slightly over an hour hanging out at the restaurant before they paid and left.

"How did you get here?" Huo Yao turned to look at Meng Ying as they walked out of the restaurant.

"I took the subway." Meng Ying had already taken out her phone to call her cousin.

Huo Yao nodded. "Are you going home or what? I can give you a lift."

"I'm good. I can send my cousin a text message to pick me up. It won't take long for him to get here." Meng Ying smiled.

Huo Yao waved her hand. "Fine. See you then."

"Bye-bye."

Meng Ying watched from behind as Huo Yao walked to the parking lot until Huo Yao disappeared out of sight and veered her eyes. She was about to make a call when someone appeared in front of her.

Meng Ying raised her head and noticed it was Meng Jue. She was caught by surprise. "How did you know I was here?"

Meng Jue glanced at her and spoke in disdain. "Are you leaving or not?"

Meng Ying touched her nose awkwardly when she detected the disdain in his voice. "Uh huh."

In hindsight, she was probably lucky that Meng Jue did not want to get introduced to Huo Yao today. Considering his annoying personality, Huo Yao might have reconsidered their friendship.

Meng Ying ran to follow behind Meng Jue.

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Huo Yao spent the rest of the holidays at home. She was delighted to pass time doing nothing. If she was not needed at school, she did not mind idling around until the term officially started.

On the tenth day of the Chinese New Year, Huo Yao took a flight back to the capital at 1:00 pm.

When she arrived, it was 3:30 pm.

Min Yu already knew about her return, so he was waiting for her at the airport.

Before Huo Yao had walked out of the arrival gate, she already saw the man standing in the crowd.

He was dressed in a dark coat with a black mask covering half his face. Since he gave off a cool imposing aura, no one dared to raise their heads to look at him or even stand nearby.

Huo Yao walked out into the arrival hall and went toward him pulling her suitcase along. "Did you wait for long?"

"Not really." Min Yu took the luggage from Huo Yao with one hand and held her palm with the other. He said, "You look a lot better now."

Huo Yao acknowledged him as they headed out of the airport. She raised her head and glanced at his profile. "Have you been very busy?"

He looked very tired.

"A little. Things will wind up soon." Min Yu explained.

Huo Yao nodded. "You have to take care of yourself."

Min Yu tightened his grip on her hand slightly in acknowledgment.

Min Yu had parked the car near the exit. After putting the luggage in the boot, Min Yu got into the car.

Before long, they drove home.