

## **Pill Maker 1501**

### **Chapter 1501: Leader Of The Shangguan Clan**

It was a file about someone named Mi Tong.

Huo Yao recalled that the clan leader used Mi Tong as an alias.

She wondered if the files were about the head of the Shangguan clan.

Huo Yao rubbed the mouse as she pondered. After she was done reading the file, she learned that her third older brother did not have much intel about Mi Tong. She discovered that Mi Tong was last seen at the National Academy of Medicine, so she found it intriguing.

Regardless of Mi Tong's true identity, she could tell that he was the reason her third older brother had returned from abroad and joined the academy.

Huo Yao paused briefly before she closed the file and turned off the laptop.

Huo Yao got up and left her third older brother's room. She went downstairs to get herself a glass of water.

After Huo Yao had finished with her glass of water, she retrieved her phone. She swiped down to Mi Wei's number and gave him a call.

She was in luck. After ringing a couple of times, someone answered the phone.

"Hi! Why did you call?" Mi Wei was in the Chinese garden watering his poisonous plants.

Huo Yao leaned against the couch armrest without sitting down. She looked outside the French windows at the garden and said, "How's the family head doing?"

Mi Wei paused briefly the moment he heard what she said. He felt puzzled when Huo Yao suddenly brought up the subject. "She's good. Why are you suddenly asking?"

"I was just thinking about her old ailment. Did the meds you brought back work on her?" asked Huo Yao automatically.

Mi Wei promptly caught what she said. "Did you already know that I was at the Apothecaries' Association? Did you deliberately leak the intel so that I would buy the meds?"

It finally dawned on Huo Yao that she had blurted the wrong thing. She went quiet.

Mi Wei continued. "I thought we were family. Did you have to con me?"

He was not angry that she lured him into buying the medication. He was just upset that he had to pay an astronomical sum for it.

Huo Yao pulled the phone away from her ears and raised it into the air. "Hello? Hello? You're breaking up! I can't hear you."

Mi Wei felt puzzled.

He checked the wifi signal on his phone and confirmed that he had full bars. He instantly said with veins throbbing on his forehead, "Enough. I won't make you cough out the money anyway."

Huo Yao held the phone by her ear promptly. "I think your connection's back on."

Mi Wei went speechless.

Huo Yao cleared her throat and said, "I recall she left home once a few years ago. Ever since she returned home, she suffered from this condition, right?"

Mi Wei went quiet for a couple of seconds before he replied. "Nope. You got it wrong."

Since his voice sounded normal, it was impossible for Huo Yao to tell if he was telling the truth. "Oh really?"

"Uh huh," acknowledged Mi Wei softly. He paused before he continued. "The clan is plagued by difficulties. No one ever comes to a good end. From the moment she was born, she was destined to take on this burden. This has already started taking a toll on her constitution ages ago."

A solemn look emerged on Huo Yao's face. Moments later, she said mildly, "I don't believe in destiny."

Mi Wei felt a twinge in his heart. He raised his head and said, "Stay safe."

"That goes for all of us..." said Huo Yao with her eyes slightly lowered without finishing her sentence.

Mi Wei naturally read her mind. He smiled sadly and quickly changed the subject. "Oh yes. Yun has left the clan. I know he wants to look you up. Has he called yet?"

Huo Yao's cheeks twitched. She suddenly recalled the two missed calls from the previous night.

## **Chapter 1502: Second Time Leaving Home**

"I haven't receive any calls from him yet," replied Huo Yao with a straight face.

Huo Yao was not worried about Shangguan Yun getting lost. After all, the guy had the best luck ever. If anything, she should be more worried about her wallet. He seemed to have an uncanny talent for making her part with her money.

"Okay then. Just keep an eye out for his call. The guy has only gone out once in his life and has zero street smarts. Don't be shocked if he does something stupid," said Mi Wei.

Huo Yao raised her hand and rubbed her brow before she replied patronizingly. "Okay then. I have to go."

Mi Wei parted his lips briefly before he said, "Bye-bye."

After hanging up the phone, Mi Wei stood quietly in the herb garden for a few minutes. A few minutes later, he put down his watering can and left the garden.

Mi Wei went to the main compound where the family head resided, but she was not there. He pondered briefly before he went to the ancestral hall located behind the compound.

Tablets belonging to their family ancestors could be found in the ancestral hall. Three sticks of incense were still burning in the incense burner located on the altar. Someone had clearly placed them there not long ago.

Mi Wei walked up in front of the altar, reached his hands out to touch the incense burner and a stone door gradually opened on the right-hand side. He stepped through the door once it was open.

After walking downstairs for some time, he finally reached the end of the steps and a large stone room came into sight.

Only a single stone table was placed at the center of the stone room without any other embellishment. A slender woman with her long hair done up in a simple bun stood in front of the table.

Mi Wei glanced at the woman from behind before he quickly walked toward her.

Shangguan Tong kept looking at the stone table. As Mi Wei approached her, she pressed a button on the table and the scene in the room promptly changed.

The ceiling transformed into a starlit sky and it felt as though they had entered an alternate universe.

Shangguan Tong looked up at the sky and smiled mockingly before she said, "Shall we destroy this?"

Mi Wei raised his head and looked at her in surprise. "Why?"

Even though Shangguan Tong seemed young, she looked weary and completely numb. "I'm tired."

When Shangguan Tong returned home a few years ago, she was covered in injuries. Ever since then, she became a lot quieter and even stopped going out. Even though he did not know what happened to her, it must have been bad.

"Did you make up your mind when you agreed to let Yun out?" asked Mi Wei softly with his hand on the table.

Shangguan Tong went quiet and looked at Mi Wei for some time without giving him an answer. "Why did you want to see me?"

"Yu just contacted me asking about your health."

Shangguan Tong's face softened up. "She has gone through a lot. I hope things can go well for her from now on."

Mi Wei nodded. "I'm sure things will work out fine for her. I wonder why she suddenly asked about your health. Perhaps she was trying to sound me out."

"What do you mean?" Shangguan Tong did not know why Huo Yao would suddenly mention this. "What did she say?"

"Nothing much really. I always have trouble reading her mind. Perhaps she was just concerned about you," replied Mi Wei.

Shangguan Tong narrowed her eyes and said nothing as she went into deep thought.

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After hanging up the phone, Huo Yao went back to her room and continued working on her paper.

Shortly after she created a new word document, her phone rang with a text message notification.

She glanced at her phone screen. It was a text message from her dear neighbor, so she tapped on it promptly. He had just sent her a business card.

### **Chapter 1503: A Hitch With The Patent Agreement**

Huo Yao asked: [Who's number is this?]

Min Yu replied: [Our mother.]

Huo Yao went speechless: [...]

Huo Yao rubbed her brow. Before long, a red dot appeared on her WeChat. Someone had added her number to their account.

She paused briefly before she tapped on the red dot. She could promptly see a new user ID in the dialog box bearing the same name as the business card.

Huo Yao did not know what to write.

She could sense a headache coming on as she added the number to her contacts.

She glanced at her phone book briefly before she sent a smiley face emoticon and said hello.

Nie Su had seen her future daughter-in-law once previously. In her impression, Huo Yao was a nice, kind-hearted young lady.

Min Yu had mentioned that Huo Yao had trouble writing her thesis, so she sent a few text messages to give her some tips.

Nie Su followed up with one more text message: [If you still have trouble with your paper, just get Yu to bring you over. I can help you in person.]

Huo Yao scratched her head and promptly thought of a thousand ways to kill Min Yu for doing this to her. After some time, she replied to Nie Su: [Okay.]

The moment Nie Su heard back from Huo Yao, she called her son and made him promise to bring Huo Yao over to the old residence for dinner.

Min Yu raised his brow. "Did she really say okay?"

Nie Su replied huffily. "Did you have to make her sound bad? She's a nice girl."

Min Yu pondered for a couple of seconds. "Fine then."

After hanging up the phone, he sent Huo Yao a text message. A red exclamation mark appeared on his WeChat shortly after he sent it.

[The other party has turned on friend verification. You are not her friend, so please request verification first...]

Min Yu went speechless.

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The next morning at 9:00 am, Qi Hui went to the meeting punctually. When he arrived, Wei Yong was not there yet.

He sat in the private room waiting for Wei Yong to arrive.

Wei Yong finally arrived at 9:30 am. "Sorry. The traffic was bad."

The assistant stood beside him and looked around cautiously.

Qi Hui naturally did not mind. He simply smiled and shook his head. "Don't worry about it. I only just got here anyway. What would you like to drink, Mr. Wei? I will call for the waiter."

Wei Yong waved his hand. "No thanks. I have to get somewhere later, so let's cut to the chase."

Qi Hui could tell that Wei Yong was a very busy man, so he wasted no time. He retrieved the authorization agreement from Liu Qian and said, "Sure thing. Please sign on this."

Qi Hui handed Wei Yong the document as he spoke.

When Qi Hui handed Wei Yong the document, Wei Yong frowned. He quickly read it before he put it down on the table without signing it. He simply asked. "Mr. Qi, did you bring the official stamp?"

"Yes, I did." Wei Yong had texted Qi Hui yesterday telling him to come with the official stamp, but Qi Hui could not wrap his mind around it.

Wei Yong nodded. He turned to gesture to his assistant. "Something's wrong with the authorization agreement. You have to use my version."

"Is something wrong?" Qi Hui was caught by surprise. He was at a loss. Before he came over, he checked to confirm that the paperwork was in order.

Wei Yong acknowledged politely.

Wei Yong's assistant took out the authorization agreement and handed it to Qi Hui.

Qi Hui glanced at Wei Yong before he lowered his head and looked at the agreement in his hand. The more he read the agreement, the more startled he felt.

Before he was done reading the document, Qi Hui raised his head and said in surprise, "Mr. Wei, is there some mistake with the authorization agreement?"

## **Chapter 1504: A Smart Man**

The system was created by his students, so they should be the ones authorizing the institute to use their work.

The authorization agreement from Wei Yong was the other way around. It indicated that the institute only gave them the authorization to discuss the subject and was not allowed to use it anywhere else.

A bold notion emerged in Qi Hui's mind. Did Wei Yong plan on stealing the work?

"What do you mean by mistake?" Wei Yong failed to take notice of the shock on Qi Hui's face. Instead, he simply tapped his fingers on the table and spoke deeply.

"The project belongs to the institute and it's classified, but we're giving you the right to discuss it at the academic level. Did you know how many times I had to ask my boss before it was approved?"

He did not understand why Qi Hui was not happy.

Qi Hui was good at reading expressions. He could tell clearly that Wei Yong wanted to steal the work and pretend he was a generous soul. Sadly, he could not expose Wei Yong and offend him in the process.

Qi Hui clenched his fists slightly and tried to fight for the university's work. "I know the main project belongs to the institute, but the students in my faculty have developed the system..."

Before Qi Hui was able to finish his sentence, Wei Yong interrupted him. "Even though we have invited you to collaborate with us, the institute retains full ownership. Mr. Qi, we are a nationalized institute. Are you sure you want to go against the government?"

Qi Hui promptly smiled uneasily the moment he heard what Wei Yong said. "Mr. Wei, you're mistaken. That was not what I meant. I'm really not sure about the authorization agreement. I'll have to bring the agreement back and see what Prof Liu has to say about it."

"I don't have the time," replied Wei Yong mildly. He clearly looked annoyed.

He paused briefly before he said in a calm tone, "Mr. Qi, you are a smart man. This is just an authorization agreement. Do we really have to keep debating over it?"

An awkward look emerged on Qi Hui's face. "Let me call Prof Liu and ask him about this."

Wei Yong tilted his head sideways and glanced at his watch before he said, "Fine then. You need to settle this ASAP. In five minutes, I'm leaving."

"Okay then," acknowledged Qi Hui as he nodded. He got up from his chair, took the authorization agreement, and went outside to make a call.

Wei Yong sat in his chair without moving.

After Qi Hui stepped out of the room, the assistant contemplated for a couple of seconds before he remarked softly. "I wonder if he's smart enough."

Wei Yong pursed his lips and said, "Don't worry. I'm sure he will sign it the moment he's done with his call."

The assistant looked at Wei Yong. Since Qi Hui often tried to associate himself with Wei Yong, he knew Qi Hui was not a man of strong principles.

Men like him tended to defer to authority.

Meanwhile, on the other end.

Qi Hui looked at the authorization agreement in his hand as he called Prof Liu. "If we approve this agreement, Liu Qian's students will lose the right to use their research freely."

Without the right to use their research, they would never be able to use it in the future. Otherwise, it was as good as breaking the law.

Qi Hui lowered his eyes. Liu Qian mentioned yesterday that DO Corporation was interested in the AI system. Before Prof Liu could answer, Qi Hui continued. "If we don't approve this, we'll probably have trouble answering to the institute. After all, the project belongs to the government."

### **Chapter 1505: Mention Deliberately**

Prof Liu went quiet for a few seconds before he replied. "Since the authorization agreement gives Liu Qian's students the right to discuss their research at the academic level, let's just sign it. This is no big deal."

In reality, Prof Liu knew what Wei Yong was trying to do. He simply did not want to offend the institute for the sake of an authorization agreement. If he did the institute the favor now, he could get into their good books in the future.

Qi Hui smiled when Prof Liu gave his approval. He acknowledged reverently before hanging up the phone.

Before long, he quickly went back to the private room.

"How did it go?" asked Wei Yong unhurriedly as he watched Qi Hui take a seat.

Qi Hui smiled and retrieved the official department stamp from his briefcase. "Prof Liu gave me the green light to sign this. Let me get right to it then."

The assistant glanced at Wei Yong knowingly. Sure enough, his boss was right.

Qi Hui quickly imprinted the official stamp on the last page of the paperwork.

The form was a duplicate, so Qi Hui handed one copy to Wei Yong's assistant. After chatting briefly with Wei Yong, he paused and spoke as though he was bringing up some random subject. "Oh yes. I hear DO Corporation has taken an interest in the system."

Wei Yong was about to say goodbye and leave, but he swallowed his words the moment he heard what Qi Hui said. He asked in surprise. "How did DO Corporation know about the system?"

Qi Hui picked up his coffee and took a sip. "I'm not sure either. They probably want to use it on their gen four robots."

Wei Yong knew that DO Corporation was working on their 4th generation robots as well since the company had previously partnered with the institute.

Qi Hui glanced at Wei Yong and asked. "Why didn't the company reach out to the institute? I thought you knew about this, Mr. Wei."

Wei Yong smiled calmly and replied. "I genuinely haven't heard about it yet."

Qi Hui did not harp on the subject. He raised his hand to check his watch. "Mr. Wei, I know you're a busy man, so I don't want to hold you up."

Wei Yong contemplated briefly before he stood up. "In that case, I'll be on my way. Talk again."

"Sure thing." Qi Hui nodded and stood up.

Wei Yong waved his hand and stopped Qi Hui from walking him out and quickly left the cafe.

Qi Hui watched from behind until Wei Yong disappeared out of sight. He did not leave immediately and sat down instead.

He reached his hand out and picked up Liu Qian's authorization agreement. He looked at it deeply before he smiled sinisterly as he ripped it into shreds.

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After getting into the car, Wei Yong went into deep contemplation, thinking about Qi Hui's words. Moments later, he raised his head and said to his assistant, "I want you to go to the Intellectual Property Office and talk to Secretary Wang."

The assistant glanced through the rearview mirror. "Aren't you going Mr. Wei?"

Wei Yong acknowledged softly and said, "I'm heading back to the institute. Hand the paperwork to Secretary Wang and tell her to settle the patent application as soon as possible. I want it done in half a month."

"We have all the paperwork we need for all stages of the application review. I'm sure we can settle the application quickly." The assistant had a lot of experience applying for patents, so he knew what he was doing.

Wei Yong narrowed his eyes and said, "Just get it done asap."

## **Chapter 1506: An Honest Woman**

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Huo Yao spent two days doing nothing except working on the thesis. Even though she lost a little hair in the process, she finally managed to finish it.

After going through her work, she felt it was acceptable and sent it to Liu Qian's e-mail account.

Huo Yao stretched and got up from the chair. She could hear someone knocking on her door.

It was her maid.

"Excuse me, Miss Huo. Your friend is here to see you."

Huo Yao raised her brow as she leaned against the door frame. "What friend?"

The maid nodded and replied. "It's the handsome man who came over previously."

Huo Yao promptly knew whom she was referring to.

"I invited him to come in, but he said he wanted to wait outside," continued the maid.

Huo Yao paused for a couple of seconds and said, "Got it."

She turned to go back into her room, changed out of her pajamas, and headed downstairs unhurriedly.

When she got to the door, she could see Min Yu dressed in black standing outside with his head lowered and both hands in his pants pockets.

He raised his head when he noticed someone approaching him. The moment he saw her, his expression softened.

Huo Yao opened the door and asked calmly. "Young Master Min, are you here to pick me up?"

Min Yu looked at her and said, "My mother says you're nice."

Huo Yao nodded and lapped up the praise. "Your mother is such an honest woman."

Min Yu's lips twitched. "Are you having dinner at my place?"

Huo Yao glanced at him lazily.

"Madam Nie says you've already agreed to dinner," added Min Yu calmly.

Huo Yao promptly recalled her text conversation with his mother. She pushed some stray hair behind her ear. "Fine. Let me get changed then."

She turned to go back into the villa. After taking a couple of steps, she halted and turned around to ask. "Oh yes. What does your mother like?"

Huo Yao felt it was inappropriate to give his mother a bottle of pills. She reckoned his mother might drive her away the moment she received it.

(☺...☺)

Min Yu raised his brow. "I've already prepared the gifts."

Huo Yao acknowledged softly.

She veered her eyes and took out her phone as she went back inside.

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Meanwhile, at 6:00 pm.

As Nie Su walked out of the kitchen, she checked the entrance. She could not help feeling nervous about meeting the young woman officially for the first time.

Prof Min came over to get himself a glass of water. When he saw his wife's reaction, he could not help laughing. "Don't worry. I've met her before. She's a fine young lady."

"That goes without saying, right?" Nie Su nodded. She paused before she turned and looked at her husband quizzically. "Have you met her? When?"

Prof Min did not tell his wife that he was hospitalized after going for an archaeological expedition last year, but now he inadvertently mentioned it. He hurriedly made an excuse. "I happened to run into them last year."

Nie Su was completely unsuspecting and simply said, "I told you to prepare gifts yesterday. Is it all settled? This is the first time we are officially meeting her, so I don't want anything to go wrong."

Prof Min heaved a sigh of relief before he nodded and said, "Don't worry. I have already prepared a gift."

Nie Su acknowledged softly.

Someone could be heard at the door.

Nie Su had done up her hair in a bun. She hurriedly checked it and ensured that everything was in order before heading to the door.

Min Yu entered through the door first holding a gift box. He handed it to his mother. After walking over, Nie Su disregarded the gift and looked straight at Huo Yao standing beside him. "Yao, right? Come on in."

Min Yu went speechless.

## **Chapter 1507: The Old Man Was At It Again**

Nie Su was exquisitely dressed today and gave off a refined aura.

The moment Huo Yao saw Nie Su's face, she promptly recognized her and paused briefly. "Auntie..."

When she ran into the woman outside Min Yu's place, she had claimed that she was there looking for the Nie residence.

Huo Yao hastily looked at Min Yu as he stood beside Nie Su. They clearly resembled each other.

Her cheeks twitched subtly as she pondered.

When Nie Su saw Huo Yao's reaction, she knew Huo Yao must have recognized her. She cleared her throat and said, "Why don't we talk inside?"

Huo Yao nodded obediently and walked behind Nie Su.

Min Yu raised his brow when his mother ignored him and followed behind them carrying the gift box.

When they got to the living room, Prof Min got up and greeted Huo Yao. "Welcome."

"Hello, Uncle Min." Huo Yao nodded slightly. When she caught sight of an old man sitting beside Prof Min, she paused briefly and said, "Hi, Grandpa Min."

Even though Old Master Min was already 80 years old, he was in good shape and looked hale and hearty.

He beamed brightly as he waved at Huo Yao. "Come over and let me take a good look at you."

Huo Yao tightened her fists uncontrollably and said nothing.

The old man was at it again.

Nie Su and Prof Min failed to detect the atmosphere between Huo Yao and Old Master Min. They simply assumed that Old Master Min was very pleased with his future granddaughter-in-law.

Since the food was already prepared, Nie Su glanced around and said, "Why don't we eat first? We can chat over dinner."

Everyone headed to the dining room.

Old Master Min made Huo Yao sit down beside him. Over dinner, he kept talking to her. Since he was in a good mood, he even told Prof Min to open a bottle of red wine.

Huo Yao also had a few drinks. After a few drinks, her face looked slightly red, but her eyes remained clear, and she did not seem drunk.

Instead, Old Master Min felt a little giddy, so a servant helped him to his room to rest after dinner.

Nie Su noticed the blush on Huo Yao's face and felt worried that she might get drunk, so she made her some honey water. "Are you okay?"

Huo Yao shook her head and thanked her for the honey water. She was not a good drinker, but it was okay for her to have a few drinks.

Since she genuinely looked alright, Nie Su felt relieved. She sat down beside Huo Yao and paused briefly before she said, "Oh yes. How did your thesis go?"

Huo Yao held the glass of honey water in her hand and replied. "Thanks for the tips. I've already finished it and submitted it."

Nie Su smiled and said softly, "No worries. We're family."

Huo Yao lowered her head and drank the honey water quietly. She looked like a sweet girl.

Nie Su sneered inwardly. Her son was very lucky to meet Huo Yao. She wondered how her stupid son managed to find such a sweet young woman.

The two of them went back to chatting.

Prof Min and Min Yu were talking upstairs. When they were done, Min Yu came downstairs and went to the living room. He looked at Huo Yao's face and said mildly, "Mom, it's getting late, so I have to send her home."

"Already?" Nie Su raised her head and checked the clock on the wall. It was 9:00 pm sharp. She turned to say to Huo Yao, "We have plenty of spare rooms around. Why don't you spend the night here and head back tomorrow instead?"

Huo Yao looked at Nie Su. Before she was able to say anything, Min Yu's voice came from behind.

### **Chapter 1508: Really Not Drunk**

"She has a curfew. If she gets home any later than 10:00 pm, she'll get scolded," said Min Yu with a straight face.

Huo Yao's cheeks twitched involuntarily.

Nie Su had taken Huo Yao as a decent and docile young woman. "Okay then. Yao, do come by more often if you can."

She patted Huo Yao's hand and did not try to keep her.

Min Yu glanced at Nie Su and said, "In that case, we're leaving."

Huo Yao got up. She nodded politely to Nie Su and said goodbye before heading out with Min Yu.

After stepping out through the door, the cold wind gusted toward them. Huo Yao automatically pulled her collar together. The wind made her feel less drunk.

Min Yu glanced at her. "Are you cold?"

Huo Yao shrank her neck under her coat and said in a muffled tone, "I'm okay."

Min Yu took off his coat and covered her with it. "It will get warmer once we get into the car."

Huo Yao lowered her head and acknowledged him.

Min Yu raised his brow. "Are you drunk?"

Huo Yao promptly raised her brow. She stared at him with her beautiful eyes looking slightly drunk before she smiled. "Are you joking? How could I be drunk?"

Min Yu held Huo Yao's hand and nodded. "Uh huh. You're not drunk at all."

Huo Yao frowned. "I'm really not drunk!"

After they got to the garage, Min Yu opened the front passenger car door and placed his hand on the car frame so that she would not hit her head when she got in.

Huo Yao reached her hand out and placed it on the car door without getting into the vehicle. His coat had already fallen to the ground, but she failed to detect it. Instead, she reiterated slowly. "I'm not drunk."

It was the first time Min Yu had ever seen her being so insistent. It seemed like age-appropriate behavior from her for once. He bent over, picked up the coat, and put it back on her. "Okay. I know."

"You're patronizing me." Huo Yao pushed Min Yu aside and got into the car on her own. She attempted to pull the seat belt beside her several times but still failed.

Min Yu noticed that she was genuinely drunk. He smiled before helping her with the seat belt. After he was done, he covered her with his coat and closed the car door.

He walked around the car and got into the driver's seat.

Before long, they left the Min residence.

When they got back to the estate, Huo Yao was already fast asleep in the car.

Her phone rang several times on the way home. The last time it rang, Min Yu had already pulled up in front of her villa. After parking the car, he finally retrieved the phone from her coat pocket and answered it.

The last few calls were from Huo Yao's maid. Min Yu said a few words before hanging up the phone.

Before long, the main entrance opened and the maid walked out worriedly.

Min Yu got out of the car, walked over to the front passenger car door, and carried Huo Yao out of the vehicle gently.

The maid glanced at Huo Yao worriedly. "Did she drink a lot?"

"Not much. I think she has low alcohol tolerance," replied Min Yu mildly before carrying her into the villa.

The maid followed behind them without daring to probe further.

After entering the villa, Min Yu carried Huo Yao straight to her room. When he had finally placed her on the bed, the maid asked. "Is Miss Huo alright?"

Min Yu answered as he covered Huo Yao with the blanket. "She's fine. Don't worry."

The maid finally felt relieved. She looked at Min Yu before she cleared her throat and thanked him. "Thank you for bringing her home. I can take it from here."

"Good." It was inconvenient for Min Yu to stay, so he got up to leave. Huo Yao suddenly flipped over and pulled down the blanket.

## Chapter 1509: Glad He Insisted

Min Yu went back to her and patiently covered her with the blanket properly. When he pulled his hands back, Huo Yao extended her hand, grabbed his palm, and held it at her chest. "Don't go."

She spoke softly like an abandoned child and sounded pitiful.

Min Yu tightened his grip on her. Even though he could not hear her clearly, he could guess what she was saying.

He sighed softly before sitting down by the bedside. He raised his head and said to the maid, "I'll leave after she falls asleep."

The maid simply nodded and quickly left the room.

They had the room to themselves finally.

Min Yu veered his eyes and looked at Huo Yao's face. She was frowning hard, so he used his other hand to smoothen her forehead.

After she had fallen asleep and stopped frowning, he finally pulled his hand back.

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The next day, Huo Yao woke up first thing in the morning.

She looked at the ceiling and instantly went into a daze.

Huo Yao gradually recalled last night. She blinked her eyes as she contemplated. Even though she did not know how she made it home, she did not recall doing anything stupid.

Huo Yao finally exhaled deeply.

She had to say she had low alcohol tolerance and was a bad drinker.

Huo Yao rubbed her brow briefly before she pulled up the blanket and got up. She took a fresh set of clothes and went to the bathroom.

After washing up, she went downstairs.

The maid was making porridge in the kitchen. When she saw Huo Yao, she poured Huo Yao a glass of warm water. "Miss Huo, are you awake? How do you feel?"

Huo Yao took the glass of water and said, "Thanks. I'm good. Sorry about last night."

The maid smiled as she shook her head and explained. "I was no help at all. Your friend took care of you most of the night."

Huo Yao went quiet for a couple of seconds and then asked tentatively. "Did I do anything stupid last night?"

"Not really," replied the maid.

Huo Yao heaved a sigh of relief.

The maid continued. "You kept pulling your friend's hand and he could only leave at around 1:00 am."

Huo Yao's lips twitched awkwardly. It was unimaginable for her to keep pulling Min Yu's hand. The maid must be mistaken! It was impossible for her to do this!

Huo Yao left with the glass of water calmly and refused to admit to such actions.

Her phone rang in her pocket.

Huo Yao instinctively sensed the veins on her forehead throb. After pausing for a few seconds, she eventually took out her phone.

When she saw a text message from Liu Qian, she automatically felt relieved and answered the phone.

"This is a good paper. I have already submitted it to the journal. They'll probably get back to me in five days after reviewing it. I think the chances of acceptance are very high," said Liu Qian happily.

Huo Yao had claimed that she did not know how to write a thesis, but he was glad he insisted. Judging from her work, she knew what she was doing.

Her article was surprisingly at par with other papers published in major journals.

Huo Yao lowered her eyes in deep thought. She was still thinking about last night. Since she was preoccupied, she answered Liu Qian nonchalantly. "That's good then."

Liu Qian's lips twitched. He disregarded Huo Yao's clear lack of enthusiasm and said, "Oh yes. I forgot to mention something. I applied to patent the system and I have confirmation of approval. I reckon we can probably receive the official certification in a few months."

## **Chapter 1510: A Problem With The Authorization Letter**

Huo Yao finally snapped out of her thoughts. She replied in surprise. "That was fast."

If her memory served her right, it usually took one to two years to complete the entire patent filing process.

"I happened to know someone." Liu Qian beamed as he spoke.

He had already started communicating with a representative from DO Corporation. When Qi Hui came back with the authorization letter from the National Research Institute of Science and Technology, they could officially start working on the new project.

Huo Yao could sense Liu Qian's good mood even over the phone. She raised her brow and congratulated him.

"Oh yes. Have you checked out the contents of the thumb drive yet?" asked Liu Qian.

"Just slightly," replied Huo Yao unhurriedly. "It looks complicated."

After hearing Huo Yao's response, Liu Qian went quiet briefly and then asked. "Do you think it's very hard?"

The maid told Huo Yao breakfast was ready, so she went over to the dining room holding her phone as she replied. "Well, it's not that bad. It really comes down to the company's demands."

"What do you mean?" Liu Qian did not quite understand what she meant.

Huo Yao picked up the spoon and ate some porridge. She acknowledged softly without explaining further. "We can discuss this after you've settled all the details with the company."

Liu Qian nodded. His phone vibrated unexpectedly with an incoming call.

Liu Qian glanced at the caller ID. It was Qi Hui, so he promptly said to Huo Yao, "Okay then. I have another call coming. Talk again."

He tapped on the phone and picked up the incoming call from Qi Hui.

Huo Yao raised her brow and put down her phone.

She paused briefly, picked up her phone again, and switched her phone to airplane mode. She raised her head and told the maid that she had a hangover today, so she was staying home and did not want to see any guests.

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Meanwhile, Liu Qian went straight to school from home after receiving a call from Qi Hui.

When he got to school, it was roughly 10:00 am. He went to the office to put down his briefcase before he went to Qi Hui's office without stopping.

Qi Hui was on the phone when he got there. After Qi Hui was done using the phone, Liu Qian entered the office.

"Morning, Mr. Qi." Liu Qian nodded politely.

Qi Hui acknowledged Liu Qian. He cut to the chase, opened the drawer, and retrieved an authorization letter from the drawer. He placed it on the table and said, "Here you go."

After he was done, he rolled his chair back in front of the computer and started typing. He clearly seemed busy.

Liu Qian knew the new school term was beginning soon, so it was a busy time for everyone. He did not want to disturb Qi Hui any more than he had to.

Liu Qian picked up the document sitting on the table and turned to leave. He lowered his head and flipped through the documents as he walked when he suddenly froze and halted.

Liu Qian furrowed his brow as he went through the contents of the document. The authorization letter was completely different from the version he had given Qi Hui.

He turned and walked back to Qi Hui's desk and said, "Mr. Qi, this doesn't seem to be the same agreement."



Qi Hui continued looking at the computer screen without so much as raising his head. "This is the final version. Prof Liu has personally approved its use."

Liu Qian was stunned. "How could Prof Liu approve this? The system is the fruit of our students' labor. This authorization agreement says we only have the right to discuss it and possess zero ownership. This makes absolutely no sense, right?"