

## Pill Maker 151

### Chapter 151: Is There A Misunderstanding?

Lu Xia sat there for almost 30 minutes, but she noticed that Huo Yanxi was still busy. She stood up and walked over to his desk.

She said, "Brother Yanxi, carry on with your work. It's about time that I went home."

Huo Yanxi's hand froze. He put down his pen and raised his head to look at Lu Xia with an apologetic look on his handsome face. He said, "I'm slightly busy today. Why don't you wait for a little longer? We can eat after I'm done."

Lu Xia's eyes glinted slightly. She shook her head and said in a considerate manner, "It's fine. Work comes first. We can always eat some other time. I'm off."

She swiftly turned towards the door without waiting for Huo Yanxi to respond. Her departing figure seemed a little lonely from behind.

Huo Yanxi watched as she disappeared through the door. He leaned back into the chair and rubbed his forehead. After staying quiet for a long time, he raised his head to grab his phone from the table.

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Huo Tingrui saw two missed calls from Lu Xia after he came out of court. He swiped his finger on the screen and seemed to be contemplating whether he should call back.

But his phone suddenly rang and interrupted his thoughts. He lowered his head to see the call from his older brother and answered it without hesitation.

"Hello, Brother Yanxi. What's up?"

Huo Yanxi had assumed Huo Tingrui to be busy and didn't expect him to answer so quickly. He said, "Nothing much. Xiaxia looked me up and asked when we could hang out."

Huo Tingrui thought about those missed calls from Lu Xia. His expression turned a little indifferent as he replied. "I don't think I can. I'm quite busy off late, so I can't find the time."

Huo Yanxi went quiet for two seconds before he asked him. "Tingrui, do you have some misunderstanding regarding Xiaxia?"

Huo Tingrui was caught by surprise and said, "Misunderstanding? I don't get what you're driving at."

"I had preconceptions about Yaoyao when Old Madam Yang's incident occurred. I misunderstood her, so I might have caused a rift between Yaoyao and Xiaxia..."

Huo Tingrui figured out what his older brother meant by misunderstanding before he even finished his sentence. He could not help interrupting his brother. "Xiaxia called me twice about 30 minutes ago. I was in court, and my phone was with my assistant."

Huo Tingrui paused before he continued in a slightly deep voice. "Moreover, Yao has never brought up Xiaxia before, so there's no misunderstanding to speak of."

He used to think Lu Xia was just a little willful and meant no harm. From the looks of the matter today, he gained a whole new level of understanding about her.

Huo Tingrui shook his head. He did not want a deeper wedge to be driven between them because of Lu Xia, so he said, "Brother Yanxi, if that's all, then I have to go. My client wants to talk to me."

Huo Yanxi could tell that Huo Tingrui was losing his patience, so he did not persist. "Sure. Get back to your work."

Huo Yanxi sat for a long time motionlessly after hanging up the phone.

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Lu Xia went downstairs and flagged a cab to go back to the Lu residence.

He Xiaoman's angry voice came from the living room the moment Lu Xia entered through the door.

She asked her in an impatient tone. "Where did you go all afternoon? The chauffeur called to say that he waited at the gate for a long time, but you didn't turn up. He couldn't even get through to your phone."

Lu Xia gazed at He Xiaoman. Since she was not in a good mood, she replied in an indifferent manner. "I went for my practice. I left my phone in the bag and didn't hear it ring."

## **Chapter 152: Did Huo Yao Bully You?**

He Xiaoman eased up a little and said, "Tell us in advance next time. Or else I will get worried."

"Mhm," replied Lu Xia gently.

Then she walked into the living room and sat on the couch in a distracted manner.

He Xiaoman frowned and said, "Did someone from the company bully you?"

Lu Xia picked up the couch cushion to hug it to her chest and curled her legs up. She shook her head without making eye contact.

"No, they didn't. They are pretty good to me," said Lu Xia in a soft voice.

He Xiaoman had never seen her daughter look like this, so she could not help probe her further. "Did something happen at school?"

He Xiaoman paused as a likely suspect crossed her mind. Her face sank and she said in a thundering tone, "Did Huo Yao bully you?"

Lu Xia leaned her head onto the cushion and did not utter a word. It made her seem even more pitiful.

BANG!

He Xiaoman slammed her cup hard on the marble coffee table and said, "That stupid girl is a troublemaker. She already forced your grandmother to go back to her hometown, and now she's bullying you in school? I don't know what the Huos have been teaching her."

Lu Ziming got a fright when he heard the sound of his mother's cup banging onto the coffee table while coming downstairs.

Lu Xia was startled as well. She raised her head to look at her mother. Lu Xia forced out a laugh and said, "Mom, don't get angry. I'm really okay."

He Xiaoman felt even angrier. "You're simply too kind. You don't even speak up after getting bullied!"

He Xiaoman shook her head and picked up her phone. She swiped through her phone book. With a cold laugh, she said, "How can my daughter get bullied for no reason? I have to call the Huos to see how they..."

Suddenly, Lu Xia was terrified. She hurriedly put down the cushion in her arms and snatched He Xiaoman's phone from her before she hit the dial button. She said, "Mom, I'm really okay. No sense in getting angry about irrelevant people."

He Xiaoman frowned and said, "Xiaxia, give me the phone."

Of course, Lu Xia refused. Lu Xia placed the phone out of her reach before sitting beside her. She patted her mother on the back and consoled her softly. "Mom, I'm really fine. You misunderstood."

She paused for a couple of seconds and changed the subject. "Oh yes. The monthly test results are out. My score is 670 and I stood tenth all across the level."

He Xiaoman's anger dissipated a little after she got distracted by the change of topic. She said with a smile, "Your ranking improved by four to five places. Not bad."

Since her mother's attention was diverted, Lu Xia finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Lu Ziming had been standing at the staircase listening to the conversation. When he suddenly heard Lu Xia mentioning her grades, he scoffed. "She has to cheat even for a contest. This score of 670... tsk tsk... God knows if she earned them herself?"

Lu Xia overheard Lu Ziming's scolding voice finding fault with her. In a tone dripping with sarcasm, she said, "Please use your brains before you speak."

"My bad. I don't know what brains are," said Lu Ziming with a cheeky wave.

Lu Xia shook her head speechlessly before she said, "Lu Ziming, you..."

But He Xiaoman interrupted her in a loud voice. "Enough. Your younger brother doesn't know any better, but what about you? Why get stubborn with him?"

In an instant, Lu Xia's heart sank.

## **Chapter 153: A World-Class Little Brother!**

Lu Xia had always been aware of her status in the Lu family. Her parents adored her on the surface, but it was because she was in a girls group, and they were proud of her celebrity status.

In comparison to Lu Ziming, she was always at fault regardless of what she did or said.

Lu Xia had deeply regretted her decision to come back to the Lu family multiple times. She had never suffered such indignance when she lived with the Huo family.

Yet... Lu Xia's loathing for her foster parents increased after she recalled how they acted impoverished when they were so rich. In comparison to her ruthless biological parents, they were far more hypocritical.

Lu Xia inhaled deeply and suppressed the dreadful memories flooding her mind.

He Xiaoman might have realized how biased she sounded, so she extended her fingers and patted the back of Lu Xia's hand. She said softly, "Your younger brother just has a bad temper and can't hold his tongue. He means no harm, just let him be."

Lu Xia's lips suppressed into a fine line. But after a few seconds, her expressions became normal and she readily agreed to her mother's suggestion.

Lu Ziming walked over and sat on the couch armrest lazily. He asked her in a nonchalant manner. "How much did the scaredy-cat score?"

Lu Xia looked at him quizzically. She had no clue who he was talking about.

"What scaredy-cat?" asked He Xiaoman perplexedly.

Lu Ziming sneered and said, "Lu Yao, who grew up with Granny. Oh no. I forgot she is now a Huo."

At the mention of Huo Yao, Lu Xia's face turned slightly colder.

"Why did you suddenly ask about her?" asked He Xiaoman in confusion.

Lu Ziming looked away while he explained. "I'm just curious. Don't you guys keep saying she has bad grades? I just wanted to know how lousy she is!"

Although He Xiaoman was not interested in her foster daughter's results, she turned to look at Lu Xia since her son wanted to know.

Lu Xia had been in a foul mood all day because Huo Yao topped the level. She could not help sounding impatient when she replied to Lu Ziming's question. "We aren't in the same class. Why would I know her results?"

Lu Ziming detected the anger in her voice. He rolled his eyes and asked perplexedly. "Oh really? Then why did you look as though you were bullied by her when you got back today?"

Lu Xia subconsciously looked at He Xiaoman's face and cursed Lu Ziming thousands of times in her heart when she saw her mother's face turn dark.

She had finally gotten He Xiaoman to turn her attention from calling up the Huo family to question them, but this dumbass shockingly turned the conversation around again. He was really... such a world-class little brother!

Lu Xia inhaled deeply and quickly calmed herself when she spoke. "Of course I don't know. Since I don't know her well, why should I pay attention to her results?"

Lu Xia paused briefly and changed the subject to Lu Ziming instead. She said, "But why do you seem very concerned about her?"

"Care about her? That's nonsense," retorted Lu Ziming immediately.

He was suddenly afraid that Lu Xia would expose the matter regarding his attempt to make trouble for Huo Yao at No.1 Middle School and also how he ended up getting beaten. So after he finished speaking, he stood up and exited the room at top speed.

Lu Xia veered her eyes away in disdain.

He Xiaoman failed to detect the undercurrents surging between her children and suddenly recalled something related to the topic. Turning towards Lu Xia, she said, "Oh yes. I forgot to ask if Huo Yao was eliminated during the last round of the quiz contest?"

Lu Ziming could not help freeze when he suddenly heard his mother's question. He turned around and stood there.

## **Chapter 154: Your Package**

It hadn't occurred to Lu Xia that He Xiaoman would ask again about the contest. She was caught unaware. She replied after a gap. "...I think she got into the next round."

He Xiaoman frowned and said, "She didn't get eliminated even with grades like her?"

Lu Xia replied in a mild tone. "I already told you that her grades are pretty good."

He Xiaoman vaguely recalled Lu Xia telling her so, but she did not take it to heart and only said, "Is it the next round soon? Be sure to study the notes that your father got you from his friend working at the Education Association."

Lu Xia lowered her eyes and replied. "Mhm, I will. I'll head back to my room now."

"Okay, go on," said He Xiaoman with a wave of her hand.

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Song Ning and Huo Jinyan had been caught up with the villa renovations and tended to be out for most of the day. Out of concern that they could not take care of Huo Yao properly, they hired a part-time maid to help with the cooking.

Huo Yao had just come home from school and the maid was ready with the food.

The moment she saw Huo Yao, she hurriedly took off her apron and said, "Yaoyao, I have urgent matters pending at home, so I have to leave. Oh yes, you received a package in the afternoon. I placed it on the cabinet."

The maid quickly left without even waiting for Huo Yao's response.

Huo Yao put down her bag unhurriedly. She glanced at the cabinet but was not anxious to open her parcel.

Instead, she turned to look at the food on the table. She fished out her phone and called Huo Tingrui.

He had started coming back for dinner every day and was usually home by now.

The phone got through, and Huo Tingrui said immediately, "Yao, I won't be home for dinner tonight. I have to go on a business trip for a few days."

Huo Yao detected a note of anxiety in Huo Tingrui's voice. She frowned and said, "Did something happen?"

Huo Tingrui was stunned. He had not expected his younger sister to be so perceptive. His eyes turned darker. "No big deal. Don't worry."

The airport staff was rushing Huo Tingrui to board the plane, so he quickly said, "I have to board now. Talk again soon. See you."

Huo Yao furrowed her brows. However, there was no time to probe him, so she said, "Mhm. If you need my help, let me know."

Huo Tingrui smiled and replied with a smile. "Sure."

Before he hung up the phone, she could hear the airport announcement for flights to Country M.

Huo Yao mulled over it for some time before putting her phone down.

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan came home earlier than usual. They entered in shortly after Huo Yao sat down to eat.

They were discussing the renovations while walking in but stopped talking in unison before they reached their daughter.

Huo Yao looked at them quizzically and asked. "You..."

Song Ning smiled and said, "We've eaten."

Huo Jinyan chimed in. "Yup!"

Huo Yao, "..."

Song Ning tossed her bag casually on the cabinet. She glanced at the living room and asked her. "Hmm? Why isn't Tingrui home today?"

Her son had been home on time every single day to hang out with his sister, so Song Ning was surprised when there was no sign of him anywhere.

"He had to go on a work trip last minute," said Huo Yao.

She did not mention how her brother said that he might be going abroad.

"On a work trip again?" muttered Song Ning without any surprise.

It was as though she was used to him going away on business trips often.

### **Chapter 155: Feels Like You're Hiding Something From Me**

Huo Jinyan walked out of the kitchen with some water. His mood seemed to instantly lift when he heard the news. He said, "After all, he's a man. He needs to focus on his career."

Huo Tingrui had been coming home early every night, fighting with Huo Jinyan for Huo Yao's attention, so his father found him an eyesore.

Song Ning glanced at her husband. Of course, she knew what he was driving at. She said in a complicated tone, "Are you happy now?"

Huo Jinyan beamed brightly and drank the water. Although they had eaten dinner, he still sat at the dining table and quietly watched his daughter eat.

Even though Huo Yao was accustomed to her father's stares, she could not help raising her head to ask. "Dad?"

Huo Jinyan pushed the dishes on the dining table closer to her and said, "Eat up. You've been studying so hard that you have lost weight."

Huo Yao's lips twitched. Since she returned to the Huo family, she had clearly put on weight from all their constant feeding. Was her old man really blind to this fact?

Song Ning spotted slight objection in her daughter's eyes and could not help laughing out loud. "Haha. Enough. If you keep doing that, she's going to protest."

Huo Jinyan cast a doubtful look at his wife and said, "Protest? About what?"

He looked at Huo Yao quizzically. His daughter was clearly obedient.

Song Ning shook her head. She turned to massage her sore shoulders and said, "Stop disturbing her while she's eating. Come over and rub my shoulders."

"Sure."

Huo Jinyan stood up and walked over to the living room with his wife, where he massaged her shoulders deftly.

Huo Yao tilted her head and looked at the husband and wife. A gentle look emanated from her father's eyes while her mother enjoyed the massage. The scene was so warm and harmonious that she could see pink bubbles floating in the air.

Huo Yao quietly veered her eyes away from the unexpected public display of affection.

Huo Yao cleaned up the kitchen after dinner. When she came out, she noticed that Song Ning was not there.

Huo Jinyan had already taken out his Chinese tea set and was brewing the tea which Huo Yao gave him two days ago. When he spotted her, he waved and said, "Come over and have some with me."

Huo Yao compressed her lips. He made it sound as though he wanted to drink wine with his daughter.

"What have you been working on lately?" asked Huo Yao casually as she sat on the couch and reached for the tea.

Huo Jinyan and Song Ning had decided to surprise their daughter, so he could only make a lame excuse. "The company recently landed a new project, so everyone has to work overtime."

"Really?" asked Huo Yao.

She raised her brows with a look of disbelief and said, "Why do I feel as though you are hiding something from me?"

Huo Jinyan's hand trembled while holding the teacup and he almost blew his cover. He coughed awkwardly and looked at her with solemn eyes. "It's true. What can we be hiding from you?"

Huo Yao said with a profound look, "Okay."

Their daughter was too intelligent. Huo Yao made Huo Jinyan feel as though all his years of experience were useless against her. He hurriedly averted his eyes and quietly drank tea.

Huo Yao shook her head and stopped probing.

Her phone beeped in her pocket. She put the teacup down and retrieved the phone. Since it was a text from Min Yu, she quickly tapped it open and read it.

[Your incense worked well. Thanks.]

Huo Yao raised her brow. She leaned lazily against the couch and replied: [Of course. It's a very expensive incense!]

Min Yu had just opened the link which Huo Yao sent him previously for buying nerve-soothing incense. Price: \$299.

## **Chapter 156: Have You Ever Seen Such A Young Physician?**

Min Yu held his phone and looked at the nerve-soothing incense listed online for sale at \$299.

Then he looked at Huo Yao's reply popping up under the notification bar with a sad expression on his face: [Of course. It's very expensive incense!]

Was this \$299 product really the priceless nerve-soothing incense?

A long while later, Min Yu sent yet another text to Huo Yao: [Did you buy your incense from the same online shop which you recommended previously?]

Huo Yao rubbed her chin and thought for a few seconds after she saw his text.

She replied: [No, I got it from someone else.]



Min Yu stared at his phone in a daze. He raised his head and looked at Zhuo Yun. He asked him in a quiet voice. "Have you ordered?"

Zhuo Yun had just paid up, and his screen was still on the payment confirmation page. He instantly smiled and said, "Yes, Yu. I bought all their nerve-soothing incense."

Zhuo Yun had indeed bought all the stock they had.

He put on a smug look and waited for Min Yu to praise him.

Min Yu, "..."

Min Yu rubbed his forehead. He stopped looking at Zhuo Yun and continued texting Huo Yao: [Can you send me the link?]

Huo Yao tapped her screen a couple of times gently. Instead, she wrote back: [Why do you need so much?]

The amount of incense which she made was enough to last him half a year.

Min Yu: [I like it and want to get some more.]

"Yao, who are you chatting with? Aren't you going to drink the tea?" asked Huo Jinyan curiously.

"A friend," said Huo Yao while composing her message.

She looked at Huo Jinyan and said, "It's late. You shouldn't drink so much tea, or else it will keep you awake in the night."

"I'm used to it. It won't affect my sleep," said Huo Jinyan as he happily sipped on. He had been busy with renovation lately and finally had gotten the chance to relax at night. Since he drank tea daily, it made him uneasy if he did not drink it.

Huo Yao veered her eyes from him and continued to reply to Min Yu's text: [If you use too much incense, you will get addicted. I suggest you don't overdo it.]

Min Yu looked at his phone. He glanced at the sandalwood incense burning beside him, its fumes curling into the air. A languid look emerged in his deep hazy eyes.

A while later, he replied: [If I didn't know you were a middle school student, I would've mistaken you for a physician.]

Huo Yao raised her brow and typed: [Have you ever seen such a young physician?]

Min Yu laughed. He did not keep probing her about the link any further. After all, he was already lucky to possess this box of nerve-soothing incense.

Instead, he texted: [I have a box of Da Hong Pao from Mount Wuyi. Do you want it?]

Huo Yao looked at her old man and asked him. "Do you drink Da Hong Pao?"

Huo Jinyan's eyes instantly lit up, and he said, "Of course."

"Okay," replied Huo Yao.

Then she texted Min Yu: [Yes, I do.]

Min Yu: [Then I will bring it to your school gate the day after tomorrow in the afternoon.]

Huo Yao: [Okay. Thanks.]

Min Yu: [Welcome!]

Soon, Huo Yao ended the conversation. She again urged her father to drink less tea at night. Post that she went upstairs.

After Min Yu put down his phone, he instructed Zhuo Yun. "Get someone to send over the Da Hong Pao that the old man has in storage. I want it here by the day after tomorrow."

Zhuo Yun stared wide-eyed at him and asked in a confused tone. "Don't you have a few boxes of collectors' editions? Why are you eyeing Old Master's tea??"

## **Chapter 157: Feels Fake**

Min Yu leaned back into the chair lazily. The lighting from overhead scattered on his perfect features and made his face glow in the light. He asked Zhuo Yun a question instead. "Isn't tea meant to be drunk?"

Zhuo Yun pursed his lips and said, "But Old Master has been saving this tea for decades. If you steal it, isn't he going to flip?"

Steal?

Min Yu gave him an indifferent glance and said unhurriedly, "Then don't let him find out. Since he has been collecting it for decades, he can continue doing it for another few decades."

Zhuo Yun touched the tip of his nose and paid obeisance to his master. His master was undoubtedly brilliant!

"I'll send someone over tonight."

"Mhm," replied Min Yu gently.

Zhuo Yun held his phone and kept thinking about the dozens of boxes of nerve-soothing incense he had just ordered. He had no idea why but he felt somewhat uneasy. He could not help looking at Min Yu and asked him in a hesitant voice. "Yu, did Miss Huo really buy the incense from this online shop?"

Even Old Mr. Pei had said that Huo Yao's incense was priceless. The one sold online went at \$299 per box. No, correction, the shop owner offered them a buy one get one free discount since they were buying so many of them... In hindsight, Zhuo Yun found that this incense felt fake.

Min Yu prodded the sandalwood incense on the side and replied nonchalantly. "Mhm."

Zhuo Yun scratched his head. He bought Min Yu's words and continued. "The shop owner will ship it tomorrow. I told him to send it by air, so you'll probably receive it by the day after."

"Okay. Just deal with it," said Min Yu airily.

Zhuo Yun glanced at Min Yu. Something sounded strange here. But Zhuo Yun did not detect anything amiss.

He was probably overthinking the matter.

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Country M.

Tong Yu spotted Huo Tingrui at the arrival gate shortly after he disembarked and waved at him.

Tong Yu was Huo Xiang's agent.

"Tingrui," said Tong Yu as he smiled and bowed to Huo Tingrui. Then he helped him with the luggage and continued. "I'm so sorry that you had to make a trip to come here."

"It's fine. How's Huo Xiang doing?" asked Huo Tingrui with a grave expression.

"Not... not too good," said Tong Yu bitterly. He inhaled deeply and continued. "Let's talk in the car."

"Okay."

Huo Tingrui walked out of the airport and got into the car with Tong Yu.

"What happened?" asked Huo Tingrui.

"A few months ago, Xiang accidentally hurt his spine during a live performance. We didn't pay much attention to it and thought it was fine. Xiang got hurt again during practice sometime later. It was during a checkup at the hospital that we learned he had already hurt his nerves badly during the previous accident..."

Tong Yu wiped his face and said in a jittery voice, "He could recover if it was simply nerve damage, but we were careless and caused the injury to aggravate. We visited a lot of hospitals after that but they all came up with the same conclusion. He can no longer perform on stage or even do any strenuous physical activity, else the consequences are unthinkable. Huo Xiang was born for the stage. If he gives it up, it's as good as suicide."

Huo Tingrui went silent for a while.

He knew this brother well. Huo Xiang adored performing ever since he was a kid. He had gone against the family's objection. He broke into the entertainment industry on his own, and became a top celebrity without relying on any connection. Naturally, he had faced a lot of hardship during this time.

## **Chapter 158: A World With High Technology**

Why did he encounter such a deadly accident?

Huo Tingrui felt really bad in his heart. He could not imagine what his younger brother was going through right now.

“He had already given up all hope for recovery, but when he realized there was a high chance that the medical genius, Lin, would treat him...”

Before Tong Yu finished his sentence, Huo Tingrui interrupted him when he mentioned Lin. “Wait, are you talking about Lin?”

Tong Yu looked at him and nodded. Then he continued speaking with a complicated feeling. “We only just found out that Lin is your third brother.”

Huo Tingrui pursed his lips and explained sheepishly. “Xiang was too busy, and Yulin has always stayed abroad. Since both are so busy with their careers, it’s natural that there is distance between them, and they don’t know each other well. I am also guilty of the same thing. I only found out that his English name was Lin after he won those medical awards.”

Tong Yu could not help recollecting what it was like when he first met Huo Xiang. He said, “When Huo Xiang first entered the industry, he never talked about his family. I almost thought he was an orphan.”

Huo Tingrui smiled and said, “He is the most aloof person in the family.”

He persisted in standing on his own feet to this day.

“But his fans think he’s a warm and innocent boy,” sighed Tong Yu.

“Fate plays cruel tricks on us...”

Huo Tingrui asked him gravely. “You were saying that Yulin can treat Xiang’s illness, right?”

“We thought he could, but... according to the tests, Lin told us that he won’t be able to do strenuous activity in the future,” said Tong Yu with a sad smile.

Huo Tingrui frowned and said, “So he has abandoned himself to despair?”

Tong Yu nodded. Huo Tingrui certainly knew Huo Xiang’s temperament the best.

“I told him that it’s okay if he can’t dance. He can still go on singing, but he said song without dance is just a soulless performance. After he heard Lin’s diagnosis, he isolated himself and didn’t even want to go for the operation. I can’t convince him, and I’m worried the delay will cause further damage to his spine. I had no choice but to tell you about it. Can you please convince him to undergo the operation?”

Huo Tingrui gazed out the window. Then he said with a deep voice, “I get it. Huo Xiang is my brother. I won’t let him give up no matter what.”

Tong Yu felt a lot calmer after he heard Huo Tingrui’s promise.

He could only hope it would work.

The car reached a European style manor in about 30 minutes. The manor had an outstanding security system. In order to enter, many procedures had to be completed.

The manor belonged to Lin, Huo Yulin. This was his private residence.

It was Huo Tingrui's first time here as well. When he saw the advanced appliances and smart robot butler, he could not help marvelling at them. It was as though he had entered a different world with exceptionally high technology.

"Brother Tingrui, sorry for not picking you up. I was busy."

Huo Yulin had just gotten home from the research institute. He found out that Huo Tingrui had come to Country M after reading Tong Yu's text.

There was frustration in his eyes as he looked at Huo Tingrui. His handsome face was unusually fair. It was the kind of complexion which one got by staying indoors all the time.

Huo Tingrui had not seen this younger brother for years. He walked over and reached out to hug Huo Yulin. In an emotional voice, he said, "Long time no see, Yulin."

### **Chapter 159: Missing Notes**

Huo Yulin never liked having people near him. Even though Huo Tingrui was his biological elder brother, Huo Yulin swiftly retreated backward and put some space in between them quickly.

Huo Tingrui sighed inwardly. Since he was keenly aware of Huo Yulin's personality, he did not get upset. He glanced around his state of the art home and said, "I'm happy to see that you are doing well."

Huo Yulin pursed his lips and attempted to smile, but he was used to being expressionless, so at the moment, his face looked stiff. He turned around swiftly to pour two cups of water for Huo Tingrui and Tong Yu.

"Treat it like your own home," said Huo Yulin.

Huo Tingrui took the water and asked him straight away. "Can Xiang make a full recovery?"

"He can recover, but he can't do any strenuous exercises, especially dancing," said Huo Yulin calmly.

Huo Tingrui went quiet for a long time. Even his multi-award-winning brother, a medical genius, said it was impossible for Huo Xiang to perform, then it must be true.

Huo Yulin glanced at the second floor and said even more coldly, "If he doesn't want an operation, then I suggest that he goes home. I have two junior brothers with excellent medical skills whom I can introduce to him."

Huo Yulin walked over to the couch and sat down. The light from a dazzling crystal lamp hanging overhead, reflected off his face and made his complexion look translucent. He came off seeming to be cold and unfeeling.

Tong Yu instantly felt anxious. After getting to know Huo Yulin these past days, he could tell that he was as eccentric as rumor had it. If the patient in question were not his own brother, he would probably not have helped them at all.

“Yulin....” said Tong Yu.

Suddenly he caught sight of Huo Xiang standing at the staircase, so he instantly shut up.

Huo Tingrui had spotted Huo Xiang too. He turned to see Huo Yulin sitting on the couch with an indifferent expression on his face. He sighed and said, “Let me talk to Huo Xiang.”

Huo Yulin did not utter a word and picked up a magazine to read instead.

Huo Tingrui veered his eyes away and headed upstairs.

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Soon, it was time for the National Quiz Contest city level finals.

It was the eve of the contest.

Lu Xia was preparing to revise, but she scoured her room and could not locate those notes which she got from her father’s friend, who worked at the Education Association.

Lu Xia started to look upset. Recently, she had been going after school to the company to practice till late. After she got home, she was incapable of keeping her eyes open, so she had not been revising off late.

She was certain of placing the notes under her pillow. Where had they gone?

Lu Xia pressed her forehead but suddenly a thought crossed her mind, and she turned to walk out of the room.

Lu Ziming’s room was next door. Lu Xia opened his door without even knocking and walked right in to ask him. “Lu Ziming, did you take my notes?”

Lu Ziming was in the middle of playing MMORPG with his classmate. He did not hear Lu Xia clearly as he was wearing earphones. The moment she entered, he glanced at her before placing his attention back on the game.

Lu Xia went over to snatch his phone and yank out his earphones. Then she demanded in a loud voice. “Hand over my notes.”

Lu Ziming frowned at the interruption and said angrily, “Are you nuts? Hurry up and give me my phone.”

## **Chapter 160: I’ll Never Disgrace Myself!**

Lu Xia did not return his phone. Instead, she stepped back and said, “Return my notes. Or else, you can forget about getting your phone back.”

Lu Ziming looked at Lu Xia in confusion and asked her. “What notes? I’m a junior high student. Why should I take your notes? Are you joking?”

Lu Xia sneered at him. "Lu Ziming, just keep acting. Who else would take my contest notes other than you? I was wondering why you were suddenly so kind to wait for me when I went to the Education Association. Have you been planning this all along?"

"I'm warning you. You can't make unfounded accusations. I told you, I didn't take them. Moreover, haven't you always said how smart you are? Why would you need notes?" mocked Lu Ziming.

In a sneering voice, he said, "Give me back my phone."

Losing patience, he stepped forward in an attempt to snatch it from her hand.

Lu Xia was furious. A second before Lu Ziming grabbed the phone, she tossed it to her other hand and smashed it hard on the door. In an instant, the phone was smashed into smithereens.

Lu Ziming's face turned livid, and he held his fists up angrily. He controlled his urge to hit her and spat out ferociously. "Leave."

Lu Xia got startled by Lu Ziming's expression, but she bit her lip and continued. "I'm asking you for the last time. Where are my notes?"

Lu Ziming looked at her coldly and then suddenly laughed. "Do you want to know where your notes are? Sure. Apologize to me and admit that you wanted to win the contest by cheating."

Lu Xia jeered as she heard him. "Sure enough, you were the one who took them."

Lu Ziming shrugged before he reverted to his wicked and entitled manner.

Lu Xia inhaled deeply and looked at Lu Ziming. Her expression suddenly altered, and she said arrogantly, "Didn't you want me to embarrass myself? Don't worry. It will never happen!"

She turned to walk out. When she got to the door, she halted and suddenly looked sideways. With her teeth clenched, she said, "Even without those notes, I will still get a good result."

'Heh. I can't wait," mocked Lu Ziming.

He glanced at the damaged phone lying on the ground, and his face turned dark again.

Women were such loathsome creatures.

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The next day, the contest was conducted at the Education Center again.

Huo Jinyan and Song Ning did not go to the villa this morning. Instead, they planned to take their daughter to the contest venue, just like they did during the previous round.

Song Ning opened the storage cabinet. Just as she was about to reach in for something, she noticed an unopened package sitting inside. She took it out and saw the name on it.

"Hey, Yao. You have a package," said Song Ning to Huo Yao, who had worn her shoes and was standing at the front door.

Huo Yao looked up. She suddenly recalled that it was the package which their part-time maid collected on her behalf, two days ago. She had forgotten all about it.

Huo Yao shrugged and said carelessly, "It might be from my friend."

"Oh," said Song Ning.

She placed the package back into the cabinet before taking her things and heading out through the door.

30 minutes later, they arrived at the Education Center building.

A big batch of students was eliminated during the city level heats, so there were fewer parents at the building entrance today.

Song Ning watched Huo Yao enter the venue. She wanted to sit at a café nearby with her husband, but someone stopped them while they were leaving.