

Pill Maker 1521

Chapter 1521: We Are Good People

The men looked at her in surprise.

The man in the lead looked at Huo Yao as well. In hindsight, it was astonishing for a young woman to come over all alone. Also, she seemed completely unafraid of them judging from her imposing aura. It appeared as though she had zero respect for them.

“Who are you anyway?” The man standing in the front ignored Huo Yao’s words. He looked at her intently and wondered if she was from a powerful family.

Huo Yao said nothing. She simply narrowed her eyes looking at the boy in the corner.

Shangguan Yun instinctively felt scared and quickly got up. “Don’t be mad at me. I’ll take care of this immediately.”

When the man heard what the young man said, he automatically turned around and looked at him. He instantly detected something to be amiss. Before he knew it, he fell straight to the ground.

He was not alone. His subordinates standing around Huo Yao also slumped to the ground powerlessly one after another.

Fear emerged in the man’s eyes. He did not understand what was going on and why this was happening to him.

The young man patted his hands as he walked over and everyone promptly realized the young man must have done something to them.

The young man had blatantly made trouble on their territory without the slightest fear, so he must possess a powerful background. They were simply fooled for a moment by his innocent looks.

Shangguan Yun did not even bother looking at his ‘captor’. Instead, he ran up to Huo Yao and smiled ingratiatingly. “I have to say that the drugs you gave me were pretty effective.”

Huo Yao stepped back in contempt. “Step aside. I don’t know you.”

“Yes, you do. Stop pretending,” said Shangguan Yun solemnly.

Huo Yao turned around and walked off with a look of disdain on her face.

Shangguan Yun touched his nose and quickly followed behind her. Just as he was about to walk, someone pulled his leg from behind.

His captor had pulled him by the leg. He used all his might as he asked. “What have you done?”

Shangguan Yun turned to glance at the man with an innocent look on his face. “Don’t worry, okay? We are good people. The effects of the drugs will wear off in 30 minutes.”

The man nearly wanted to cough blood the moment he heard Shangguan Yun’s claim.

The boy had ruined their casino business, but he acted as though he had nothing to do with it. Now, he had drugged them. It was unfathomable for someone like him to feign kindness.

How could he have the audacity to say this?

Shangguan Yun kicked the man's hand aside and started walking out nonchalantly. He paused and turned to say to him. "To be honest, I prefer using poison. Infact, I like using colorless odorless poison that can kill instantly."

His captor did not know what to say.

Shangguan Yun disregarded the look on his captor's face. He turned and saw Huo Yao had already reached the door, so he quickly caught up with her.

Only the gangsters remained in the room. None of them uttered a word or tried to call for help as they slumped into deep thought over Shangguan Yun's final words.

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When Huo Yao and Shangguan Yun left the room, no one was standing guard in the corridor any longer. The two of them walked straight to the lift and went downstairs effortlessly.

A few men were standing in the main hall. The moment they saw Huo Yao and Shangguan Yun, they simply glanced at them without stopping them.

In their opinion, Huo Yao and Shangguan Yun looked weak. Their boss would not have released them unless everything was settled satisfactorily.

Before long, the two of them walked out of the street known for underground activities and left calmly.

Chapter 1522: Are You That Poor?

Huo Yao hailed a cab from the roadside. After telling Shangguan Yun to get into the car, she got in as well.

Shangguan Yun started speaking the moment he got into the car. "What's going on? Can't you even afford your own car?"

Huo Yao could sense her temples throbbing, but she suppressed her temper and gave the driver an address.

She took out her phone, changed it to computer mode, and wiped all traces of their presence in the area. When she was done, she put away her phone.

Shangguan Yun sat beside Huo Yao obediently. When she was done, he retrieved a bank card from his pocket hesitantly and handed it to her sheepishly.

Huo Yao glanced at the card before looking at Shangguan Yun quizzically.

"I want to get you a car." Shangguan Yun smiled.

The young man had a clear flawless complexion. When he smiled, his dimples could be seen as he smiled at Huo Yao placatingly.

Huo Yao felt a little moved inside. She took the bank card and placed it in her bag. She paused briefly and added. "You have to give me all your money from now on."

Shangguan Yun's lips twitched. "Are you that poor?"

Huo Yao lied through her teeth and replied. "Uh huh. I'm so poor that I have to live off my scholarship."

Shangguan Yun knew nothing about Huo Yao's current financial situation but he had a feeling it was not as bad as she made it sound.

When they finally got back to the estate and saw the massive villa she called home, Shangguan Yun nearly wanted to explode.

Even though he did not attend school, he had complete internet access, so he knew the outside world very well.

This place was clearly a massive villa. Was she really poor?

Huo Yao had already entered the password. When she noticed Shangguan Yun had no intention of coming with her, she turned to glance at him. "Hey."

Shangguan Yun pondered briefly and felt that she had swindled money off him. "Give me back the card."

Huo Yao raised her brow. "Am I your Big Sis?"

Shangguan Yun wanted to deny it, but he did not dare to utter a word.

Huo Yao leaned against the door with her head tilted. "Are you coming in?"

Shangguan Yun scoffed out loud before walking into the villa with his chest pushed out.

She shook her head powerlessly and closed the door behind them.

When they walked past the garage, Shangguan Yun spotted Huo Yao's sports car and instantly wanted to explode again.

It finally dawned on him that he had made a huge mistake. He was a fool to believe a word she had said.

Shangguan Yun followed behind Huo Yao annoyingly and entered the villa.

The maid hurriedly came over when she heard someone enter the villa. When she saw Miss Huo coming back with a young man, she could not help feeling curious.

Since it was not right for her to probe, she simply poured Shangguan Yun a glass of water and walked away.

Only Huo Yao and Shangguan Yun remained in the living room.

Shangguan Yun looked at Huo Yao as he held his cup and said, "I need some time to get used to your new face."

Huo Yao raised her brow. "This was how I looked previously."

Shangguan Yun was also aware of the family's special abilities, so he sighed sadly.

Huo Yao glanced at him and said in disdain, "Aren't you a little too young to sigh?"

Shangguan Yun was rather accustomed to Huo Yao's disdain and did not take it to heart. Instead, he raised his head and looked around the villa. When he saw the smart robot in the distance, he put down his cup, stood up, and walked over.

He looked at it before tapping on the smart robot's control panel. The moment he tapped on it, he lost interest.

Shangguan Yun went back to sit down. "I thought it was something new you made."

He did not expect the smart robot to be outdated and have very low technology.

Chapter 1523: Fell Into Yet Another Wolf's Den

Huo Yao sat on the couch with her phone in hand sending text messages. The moment she heard what Shangguan Yun said, she raised her head and glanced at him. "I've been retired for years."

Shangguan Yun went quiet for 30 seconds and said, "It was for the best."

Huo Yao might be armed with the best technological skills, but it was a bad idea to reveal them.

Huo Yao paused briefly and instantly caught his drift. She smiled and replied. "There will come a day when all this comes to an end."

Shangguan Yun looked at Huo Yao in surprise, but she had gone back to using her phone with her head lowered.

After Huo Yao was done sending her last text message, she put down her phone. "Oh yes. Where's your luggage?"

"At the hotel," replied Shangguan Yun.

Huo Yao nodded. "Which hotel? I will get someone to pick up your luggage. You can stay at my place for a couple of days."

"Are you sure? I don't want to cause any inconvenience." Shangguan Yun looked at her hesitantly.

Huo Yao raised her brow and said, "You're family. Happy to have you."

Shangguan Yun promptly smiled. On his way here, he could not help thinking about Huo Yao's new family. He was not sure how she would feel about his presence now.

From the looks of it, his worry was unnecessary and Huo Yao was still the same woman he knew.

Huo Yao continued. "After all, you've already paid the rent. How could I let you sleep on the streets, right?"

Shangguan Yun went speechless. He promptly felt he had made a mistake about her.

Huo Yao smiled. After asking Shangguan Yun for the hotel address, she gave Chen Ming a call and told him to collect the luggage.

When she was done, she showed Shangguan Yun upstairs.

There was a guest room next to hers. The moment she learned Shangguan Yun had left the clan, she had instructed the maid to prepare the guest room for him.

“What do you plan on doing now?” Huo Yao pulled open the curtains in the room. She turned to look at the young man as he gazed around curiously.

“I don’t have any plans. The clan leader said I could take my time. She magnanimously gave me indefinite leave.” Shangguan Yun walked up to the chaise lounge chair and lay down comfortably.

“What do you mean by indefinite leave?” Huo Yao narrowed her eyes. Shangguan Tong did not like the outside world, so she had never allowed Shangguan Yun to leave home previously.

This time, she unexpectedly allowed Shangguan Yun to leave home indefinitely, so something did not feel right.

Huo Yao leaned against the window with her arms crossed as she asked. “Did anything happen at home before you came out?”

Shangguan Yun raised his head and looked at Huo Yao with his eyes beaming brightly. He sat up, shook his head, and replied. “Nope. Didn’t you already ask me about this? I spied on the clan leader and the elders and concluded nothing was wrong.”

“I see.” Huo Yao knew it was not in his personality to lie, so she decided that she was probably overreacting.

“Why are you so worried?” Shangguan Yun tilted his head and looked at her.

Huo Yao snapped out of her thoughts and looked at his innocent eyes. She simply smiled and changed the subject. “Since the clan leader has let you come out, why don’t you consider attending school?”

The moment she brought up school, Shangguan Yun thought about all the ancient texts lying in his room and felt deeply traumatized. He replied in annoyance. “No way.”

Huo Yao raised her brow. “I’m sure you’ll love school.”

Shangguan Yun went speechless.

“Go get some rest. I will make arrangements to sort out your identity,” said Huo Yao before walking out of the room.

Shangguan Yun did not know what to say. He had just escaped from gangsters, but he had a feeling he had entered yet another wolf’s den!

The next day, Qi Hui went to see Wei Yong. They had arranged to meet at the same place as before.

"I only found out about the patent application after the teacher told me about it."

Qi Hui smiled apologetically as he explained to Wei Yong.

Wei Yong tapped his fingers on the table and listened quietly. He seemed a lot less angry than Qi Hui expected, so Qi Hui felt relieved.

"Mr. Qi, this is not your fault. I can totally understand why he did it," replied Wei Yong calmly.

Qi Hui smiled without saying a word.

"No matter what, he should've told you. We have made plans based on your words, so this doesn't look good on you." Wei Yong looked at Qi Hui and responded coolly.

Qi Hui instantly became worried. Even though Qi Hui did not send in the patent application personally, he lowered himself and nodded. "You're absolutely right, Mr. Wei. I totally agree."

Wei Yong picked up his teacup and took a sip of its contents unhurriedly. "This patent means a lot to President Xue."

Qi Hui froze briefly. He naturally knew about President Xue.

He was a first-class national researcher and had a lot of accomplishments under his belt. It seemed surprising for the man to take such an interest in this research project.

Qi Hui instantly felt annoyed and could not help cursing Liu Qian inside. If Liu Qian mentioned the patent earlier, it would have saved everyone the trouble.

Qi Hui inhaled deeply and said apologetically, "I'm sorry about this, but there's nothing I..."

Before Qi Hui could finish his sentence, Wei Yong's assistant interrupted Qi Hui from the side.

"Oh yes. I recall the applicant still has a chance to revoke the application as long as the official certification has not been released, right?" asked the assistant quizzically looking at Qi Hui.

Qi Hui looked at the assistant. He had considered this option previously, but it was probably impossible to make Liu Qian revoke the patent application judging from his attitude.

He might even go to Zhao Lian for help and that would only make things worse.

If Liu Qian escalated the problem, the university administration might catch wind of it. When the time came, he could kiss goodbye to his position as department head.

Qi Hui raised his hand and rubbed his brow before he said, "I doubt that's possible at this stage since the school already knows about this."

Wei Yong glanced at Qi Hui. He already expected this response from Qi Hui. He put down his teacup and said calmly, "Well, patent application revocation isn't the only way out."

Qi Hui hastily raised his head on hearing this.

Wei Yong pursed his lips and said unhurriedly, "I have already spoken to the representative from DO Corporation."

The moment Qi Hui heard what Wei Yong said, he caught Wei Yong's drift.

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Qi Hui and Wei Yong did not talk for long. Before long, they left the teahouse.

The sky outside looked cloudy. On Qi Hui's way back to the university, it started raining halfway, but he did not go home and went to school instead.

Liu Qian was still in the office, working. The school term was commencing in a few days, so he was a little busy.

After placing a stack of documents into the drawer, someone knocked at his office door.

Liu Qian raised his head to see Qi Hui standing at the door. He paused briefly before he snapped out of his thoughts.

"Hi, Mr. Qi," greeted Liu Qian in a cool tone.

Qi Hui disregarded Liu Qian's lack of enthusiasm and stepped into the office. He glanced at the bookshelf by the side before he veered his eyes and said, "I need to talk to you."

Chapter 1525: The Solution

Liu Qian looked at Qi Hui quietly and said in a firm tone, "If you're here to talk to me about the patent, then don't even bother starting. I'm not going to revoke the application."

Qi Hui glanced at Liu Qian and said, "That's not why I'm here."

Liu Qian was stunned. This seemed completely out of character for Qi Hui.

Qi Hui turned and walked up to an armchair by the side and sat down. He leaned his arm against the armrest and said, "I've already spoken to Mr. Wei. He has agreed to forgive us for the patent problem."

Liu Qian frowned automatically. He could not believe Qi Hui's lousy choice of words.

The system was created by his students, but Wei Yong made it sound as though they had stolen the institute's work.

Liu Qian promptly felt annoyed. "Oh really? What do they want now? I'm sure this doesn't end here, right?"

Qi Hui crossed his legs and leaned into the armchair backrest and said, "Have you started planning for DO Corporation's project?"

When Qi Hui suddenly brought up DO Corporation, an ominous feeling emerged in Liu Qian's heart in an instant. "No, not yet. Why are you asking?"

Qi Hui pointed at the chair beside him. "Calm down. Take a seat first. What could I possibly do? I'm on your side, remember?"

Liu Qian automatically clenched his fists as they hung from the sides of his body, but he did not sit down as asked. "Just give it to me straight. Don't bother beating around the bush."

"Mr. Wei mentioned that they will be taking over DO Corporation's project," replied Qi Hui unhurriedly.

Liu Qian promptly sensed something snap inside.

After some time, he finally composed himself and asked. "Why's the institute taking over the project?"

Qi Hui looked at Liu Qian quizzically. "How would I know? DO Corporation has partnered with the institute before. Is it not normal for them to contact Mr. Wei directly?"

"Even if they have worked together previously, the company representative has already reached out to me..."

Before Liu Qian could finish what he wanted to say, Qi Hui laughed coldly and interrupted. "What are you trying to say? Are you insinuating that I have something to do with this?"

"That was not what I meant." Liu Qian gritted his teeth.

Qi Hui narrowed his eyes and said, "I don't care about your communication with the company. I'm just here to pass a message for Mr. Wei."

Qi Hui's attitude made Liu Qian's fury reach its climax instantly.

He was not stupid, so he could tell what Qi Hui was driving at.

He was threatening that they would be removed from the project if Liu Qian insisted on keeping the patent.

If they insisted on keeping the patent, they had to give up DO Corporation's project. To put it simply, they would not only lose their patent, but would also lose the opportunity to work on the project.

Qi Hui continued. "In reality, it is not a loss for you if DO Corporation works directly with the institute. Things will still proceed normally project-wise, but you will just have to answer to Mr. Wei. Do you have to be stubborn? Can't you see this is a great opportunity?"

Liu Qian looked at Qi Hui mockingly. "Why should we?"

The patent belonged to his students and he had already started communicating with DO Corporation about the project. He did not understand why the National Research Institute of Science got involved.

Moreover, they were not allowed to oppose and had to work with the institute.

Qi Hui did not want to continue talking to Liu Qian, so he stood up. "Enough. I'm done saying my piece. Why don't you think about it? I have to go now."

He walked out without giving Liu Qian the opportunity to react.

Chapter 1526: Find Schools For Him

Liu Qian stood at the door until Qi Hui was completely out of sight before he veered his eyes sadly.

He slumped into his seat powerlessly. DO Corporation wanted to work with them and it was good news, but things were working out badly.

He did not know what to say to his students.

Liu Qian raised his head dejectedly.

His phone suddenly rang.

Huo Yao had called him.

Liu Qian inhaled deeply holding his phone. After composing himself, he answered the phone.

"I'm done going through DO Corporation's files and will send you an email shortly. I think you can probably use it for your discussion with them," said Huo Yao unhurriedly.

Liu Qian felt increasingly dejected. After some time, he acknowledged gently and said, "You could have taken more time to do this."

"I can't help it. I'm a very efficient person." Huo Yao raised her brow as she spoke. After saving her file, she opened her mailbox and sent him a file. "All done. Please take a look at it."

"Thanks then." Liu Qian could hear his email beeping.

"How did the thesis go? Did it get accepted?" asked Huo Yao.

After all, it was the first thesis she had ever written, so she should show more interest in it.

Liu Qian lowered his eyes and replied, "I think we should hear back from them anytime. Don't worry. I'm sure they'll accept your paper."

Huo Yao nodded. She failed to detect anything amiss with Liu Qian. She paused before asking. "Oh yes. Are there any middle schools in the capital which accept previously home-schooled students?"

He paused before he asked in return. "Hmm... Do you mean someone who didn't attend school at all and was homeschooled the entire time?"

Huo Yao touched her nose. "More or less. He's not very smart, so I think an average public middle school will do."

Liu Qian could not recall any middle schools off the top of his head. "Let me ask around. I'll get back to you soon."

"Thanks for helping," said Huo Yao.

"No trouble at all." Liu Qian smiled as he hung up the phone.

The moment he hung up the phone, the smile on his face disappeared.

Liu Qian sat quietly for a couple of minutes before he opened his email on his phone and looked at Huo Yao's file.

He always knew that Huo Yao was a true genius. He had some questions about the project, but she had addressed most of them in her file.

He felt proud of his student and sorry about the patent.

Liu Qian put away his phone. He had already made up his mind.

Since he had already submitted Huo Yao's article to the journal, nothing could go wrong with the patent application. Otherwise, it would deeply affect her reputation.

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After hanging up the phone, Huo Yao turned off her computer and walked out of the room.

When she got to the stairs, she could hear the maid praising Shangguan Yun downstairs.

Huo Yao's lips twitched. She shook her head and continued walking downstairs.

"Are you done?" Shangguan Yun was busy teaching the maid how to buy stocks. When he saw Huo Yao, he promptly put away his phone and straightened his back obediently.

Huo Yao glanced at him. "I know you're up to no good again."

"This is serious. I'm making money so that I can buy nice things for you," said Shangguan Yun.

The maid stuck her thumb up at Shangguan Yun and was mighty impressed by his glib tongue. She smiled and walked away.

Huo Yao was immune to Shangguan Yun's words. She raised her hand and checked the time before she said, "We're going out."

Chapter 1527: A New Identity

Shangguan Yun looked at Huo Yao cautiously. "Where are we going?"

She had mentioned finding him a school previously.

Huo Yao took out her phone and sent a text message. She replied without raising her head. "You'll know when you get there."

Shangguan Yun touched his nose and felt a little apprehensive. "Must I go?"

Huo Yao glanced sideways at him before she walked out of the villa without saying a word.

Shangguan Yun gave up trying to stop her and quickly followed behind Huo Yao like a little tail.

Before long, Huo Yao parked the car outside the police station.

Shangguan Yun looked out the window at the police station. He did not understand the reason Huo Yao had brought him here, but he did not dare to probe and quickly got out of the car.

Chen Ming was already waiting at the police station entrance. When he saw Huo Yao, he walked over and nodded reverently. "Hi, Miss Huo."

He glanced at the young man standing behind her curiously.

He was a good-looking young man. When he stood behind Huo Yao, he could not help feeling that they bore a striking semblance and looked just like siblings.

"Hi, Uncle Ming," greeted Huo Yao as she nodded. She pointed at Shangguan Yun standing beside him and introduced the boy without giving any explanations. "This is Huo Yun."

Chen Ming looked at Shangguan Yun and smiled genially without stopping to probe. He retrieved some paperwork from his bag and handed it to Huo Yao. "Here is what you wanted, Miss Huo."

Huo Yao took the documents from Chen Ming. After going through its contents, she closed it and said, "Thanks, Uncle Ming."

Chen Ming smiled as he shook his head. "You're welcome. I have already made arrangements with the staff. We just need to take a photo for the ID."

He showed them to the police station.

Just as Huo Yao was about to take a step, Shangguan Yun pulled her by her coat. She turned and asked. "Yes?"

Shangguan Yun's eyes lit up. He glanced at the paperwork in Huo Yao's hand before looking at her. "Are you getting my ID done?"

Huo Yao raised her brow. "What else?"

Shangguan Yun cleared his throat. He let go of Huo Yao and remarked. "Even though the name sounds dumb, I can live with it, I suppose."

Huo Yao glanced at him and caught the smile on his face, so she knew it was just bullshit.

Before long, they entered the police station. Chen Ming took Shangguan Yun to get his fingerprints and photo taken. Huo Yao did not go with them and simply waited outside.

She stood in the corner looking at her phone.

When she opened her WeChat, she discovered that someone had added her as a new contact.

The moment Huo Yao saw the name, a look of surprise swept across her eyes. She promptly accepted the verification request.

Huo Yao paused before she sent a text message: [Aunt Tong, is that you?]

Shangguan Tong answered: [Uh huh.]

She had sent a succinct reply in her usual style. Huo Yao pursed her lips slightly and typed: [How's your health?]

Shangguan Tong's face softened up as she replied: [I'm good]

[Perfect.] Huo Yao pondered briefly before she continued: [Oh yes. Aunt Tong, Yun is with me.]

Tong: [I know.]

Huo Yao tapped on the screen gently and wrote: [I'm thinking of sending him to school. I want to let him get a taste of normal life. What do you think?]

A sad feeling emerged in her heart as Shangguan Tong looked at the text message. After some time, she raised her head and replied: [Go ahead.]

Huo Yao knew the clan leader's personality well. Even though she looked cold on the surface, she was a good person inside. For some reason, she was always strict with Shangguan Yun ever since he was a child and never let him leave home.

She once suspected whether Shangguan Yun was Shangguan Tong's biological son for being so severe with him.

Chapter 1528: Like A Brother

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes as she contemplated. She had just tested the waters, but Shangguan Tong readily agreed to her proposal. It was really out of character for her to react this way.

Huo Yao composed a message and asked: [Aunt Tong, did something happen at home?]

Shangguan Tong cleared her throat. After her usual coughing had subsided, she replied: [What could have possibly happened? It's not like anyone could enter and make trouble, right?]

Huo Yao tapped her foot on the ground gently. Her white coat brought out her flawless complexion: [Don't do anything stupid, okay?]

Shangguan Tong always knew that she was an observant young woman. [No, I won't.]

She paused and added: [Take care of him. He always liked you, so he trusts you.]

Shangguan Tong sounded as though she was saying her last words before dying. Huo Yao could not help frowning. She raised her head and glanced at Shangguan Yun while he did the paperwork for his ID. She finally texted Shangguan Tong succinctly: [You know he's like a brother to me.]

Shangguan Tong smiled without texting further.

She tapped on a long-time photo on her phone. The photo was taken in low resolution and she looked sad looking at it.

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After putting away the phone, Huo Yao narrowed her eyes in deep thought.

"All done." Shangguan Yun walked over and looked at Huo Yao sideways. He noticed the serious look on her face, so he asked in concern. "What's wrong?"

Huo Yao snapped out of her thoughts and looked at Shangguan Yun. She simply raised her hand to touch his head. "Nothing. I'm just thinking about what level to start you for school."

Shangguan Yun's ears promptly slumped powerlessly. "Do I really have to attend school?"

"What do you think?" said Huo Yao ambiguously.

Shangguan Yun let out a long helpless sigh. "I just want to make money. I don't want to go to school."

Huo Yao raised her brow. She knew Shangguan Yun was a smart boy and tended to get lucky. "I'm sure you can do both once you put your mind to it."

Shangguan Yun glanced at her miserably. Sure enough, she was no family!

Huo Yao smiled without saying a word. She simply reached her hand out, placed it on his shoulder, and left the police station.

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Liu Qian managed to shortlist some schools a couple of days later. Once he was done, he sent the list to Huo Yao.

"These are pretty decent public schools with healthy rates of graduation, but he has to go for an interview," said Liu Qian over the phone.

"Okay. Got it." Huo Yao thanked him for the list. She trusted his recommendation.

"I happen to have an empty schedule for the next couple of days and I know the teachers there, so I can take him over and check them out."

Huo Yao agreed that it would make things a lot easier since Liu Qian knew the teachers there, so she said, "Thanks a lot."

Liu Qian smiled. "You're welcome. Oh yes. I know people in No.1 Middle School as well. We can try applying there too."

In Liu Qian's opinion, Huo Yao was a genius, so her little brother was probably equally smart.

Huo Yao knew Shangguan Yun's personality and limits well, so she promptly interrupted Liu Qian without hesitation.

"It's okay. Considering his standards, I think it's best if he attends junior middle school."

Shangguan Yun was sitting beside Huo Yao and he felt puzzled.

Liu Qian's lips twitched. "Fine. See you at school tomorrow morning at 9:00 am."

"Okay."

After Huo Yao hung up the phone, she turned to see Shangguan Yun staring at her, indignantly looking hurt.

Huo Yao went speechless.

Chapter 1529 Huo Yao Was No Ordinary Student

Huo Yao and Liu Qian met up at the No.3 Middle School's entrance the next morning.

"Is this your younger brother? I can see some resemblance to you." Liu Qian looked at the young man standing beside Huo Yao as he smiled and spoke.

Huo Yao raised her brow. Liu Qian was saying random bullshit as usual.

Shangguan Yun promptly grinned with his pearlie whites showing. "Hello, Sir."

"You don't have to be nervous. Just be calm." Liu Qian nodded and spoke genially.

He always had a soft spot for obedient-looking students. When he first encountered Huo Yao, she looked just the same. He only found out about her hidden talent to annoy him after getting to know her well.

Liu Qian pondered inwardly before showing them into the school.

The term only officially started in a couple of days, so it was quiet at school.

Liu Qian's friend taught in the tenth grade. Huo Yao thought about it and decided that Shangguan Yun should try for tenth grade as well.

Shangguan Yun was a little old for tenth grade, but he had zero foundation. If not for his age, Huo Yao had even considered sending him to primary school.

Liu Qian chatted with his friend briefly before the teacher retrieved the test paper and brought Shangguan Yun to the office next door.

"Don't worry. The paper for the tenth grade should be quite easy." Liu Qian knew Huo Yao was worried since she kept looking at the door.

"I know," acknowledged Huo Yao as she veered her eyes. She was not worried about the test. Instead, she was more worried that Shangguan Yun might pull something funny on the teacher all in an effort to avoid attending school.

"Has he really never attended school before?" asked Liu Qian.

"He wasn't well, so he was home-schooled." Huo Yao had already prepared an excuse before coming here.

Liu Qian bought her excuse and was completely unsuspecting. "Is he okay now?"

Huo Yao nodded. "Uh huh. Thanks for asking. He's good now."

Liu Qian's phone rang in his pocket, so he stopped talking to Huo Yao and took out his phone.

When he saw the caller ID, he froze briefly before he answered the phone anxiously.

Huo Yao raised her brow. She hardly ever saw Liu Qian react this way.

Before long, Liu Qian was done with the phone. He was beside himself with joy as he looked at Huo Yao and said excitedly, "That was a call from the journal. Your paper was accepted."

Huo Yao nodded calmly on hearing the news. "That was fast."

Liu Qian's lips twitched at her lackluster reaction. "This is your first article and it just got selected for publication in an important journal. Why aren't you the least bit excited?"

Huo Yao pursed her lips before she put on a fake smile. "Look at me. Super happy."

Liu Qian went speechless.

He veered his eyes away from Huo Yao. He really wanted to give her a piece of his mind. Instead, he held his phone and told the other team members about the good news.

The rest of the research team felt delighted by the news and it was a normal reaction, but Huo Yao was no ordinary student.

Shangguan Yun was done with the written exam and interview 30 minutes later. Liu Qian's friend brought the boy back to the office.

Something seemed wrong about the teacher's face.

Huo Yao glanced at the teacher and could sense the veins on her forehead throbbing. Even without asking, she had a bad feeling about this.

"How did the interview go?" asked Liu Qian in concern the moment he noticed the strange look on his friend's face.

Chapter 1530 Holding Him Back

The teacher glanced at the student standing behind him and said annoyingly to Liu Qian, "Are you messing with me?"

Liu Qian was stunned and did not understand what his friend meant.

But his friend did not bother explaining and simply held up the test script and handed it to Liu Qian. "Just look at this."

Liu Qian took the test script from his friend. When he saw Shangguan Yun had gotten all the answers right, he raised his head in surprise. "What's wrong? Didn't he get everything right?"

Huo Yao was clearly surprised to hear this. For a moment there, she assumed Shangguan Yun had failed to answer even a single question.

The teacher inhaled deeply and continued. "Look at the test carefully."

Liu Qian lowered his eyes. After some time, he finally caught the heading at the top of the page.

[College Entrance Exam Mock Test (4)]

It was a college entrance exam paper.

Liu Qian's friend taught the tenth grade, but the boy was able to do twelfth-grade questions. His lips twitched. He finally realized why his friend had reacted strangely after Shangguan Yun was done with the test.

Liu Qian turned to look at Huo Yao. "Didn't you say your brother isn't very bright?"

Huo Yao was about to say yes, but the moment she made eye contact with Liu Qian and saw the serious look on his face, she promptly swallowed her words awkwardly. "I suppose you can say so."

Liu Qian went speechless.

Huo Yao cleared her throat. She took the test paper from him and finished reading its contents in roughly a minute.

It was a senior year mock test and he had gotten all the answers right.

Huo Yao thought about the strange look on the teacher's face. She raised her head to look at Shangguan Yun and asked in a puzzled tone. "How could you have gotten them all right? What have you done?"

Shangguan Yun went quiet.

Liu Qian and his friend were equally speechless.

Huo Yao sighed and continued. "If you really don't want to attend school, I won't force you."

The teacher could not resist saying in defense. "Hang on. It sounds as though you don't pay much attention to the boy. I personally supervised him when he took the test. I can assure you he didn't try to cheat."

Huo Yao abruptly stopped talking and felt completely astonished.

From the sound of it, the boy had hidden academic potential.

The teacher felt puzzled by the look of shock on Huo Yao's face.

Liu Qian snapped out of his daze and said in an annoying tone to Huo Yao, "Considering his academic potential, you're holding him back if you stick him in the tenth grade."

"That's right. This test paper consists of previous college entrance exam questions, and he was able to finish them effortlessly. There's no reason why he can't join the top class in the twelfth grade," said Liu Qian's friend firmly.

If the teacher taught the twelfth grade and had a student like Shangguan Yun, he would have a record-breaking performance professionally.

"Why don't you let the boy decide?" Liu Qian paused briefly and said to his friend.

The teacher nodded. Before he left, he reminded Huo Yao to pay more attention to her little brother.

Huo Yao smiled as she listened to the teacher.

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The three of them proceeded to leave campus.

When they got to the parking lot, Liu Qian looked at Huo Yao. "Why don't I make an appointment to meet the teacher from No.1 Middle School? I'm sure the boy can get accepted effortlessly."

Huo Yao glanced at Shangguan Yun.

Shangguan Yun straightened his back and said, "Your call."

Liu Qian shook his head powerlessly. He paused and said, "If you trust me, just leave your brother with me. I will take him to No.1 Middle School now."

Shangguan Yun reckoned that her patience was probably wearing thin. It did not help that the teacher had just reprimanded her. He hurriedly stood beside Liu Qian and said voluntarily, "I can go for the interview on my own."