

Pill Maker 1571

Chapter 1571 The Thesis

Shangguan Yun looked puzzled as he listened to the mechanical dial tone on the phone.

It was not Huo Yao's style not to take things from him.

Shangguan Yun scratched his head. He pondered briefly before he pulled his suitcase from under the bed.

Shangguan Yun opened the zip to reveal lots of bottles. There were at least a dozen bottles. In the end, he forcibly picked three bottles of the least strong poison from the selection.

He placed them on the table, took a picture, and sent a picture to Huo Yao: [I only have these three bottles. If you want them, I can only give you two of them! *sad face emoticon*]

When Huo Yao heard her phone chime, she was standing on the balcony enjoying the night breeze. She paused for a second before tapping on her phone.

After reading the text message, Huo Yao smiled slightly. Even though she knew the stupid boy was probably lying, at least he did not completely lie about it.

[Keep them close at all times. When I need them, I'll let you know.]

Shangguan Yun simply assumed that she was trying to be funny.

Since she demanded him to have them close at all times, she was probably afraid he would go back on his word!

Huo Yao put away her phone and turned to enter the room. After drying her hair, she did not sleep right away. Instead, she turned on her laptop on the desk.

The men on her tail today were very average at their job. They were clearly common criminals who were paid to do the task.

Their client was clearly not from overseas.

**

Meanwhile, somewhere abroad.

Lu Xia leaned against the wall as she slowly walked out of the laboratory. Her face and her lips were completely pale.

Lu Xia's legs were trembling and she had no strength. She leaned against the wall for two minutes to rest. After the numbness passed, she finally felt better.

Qiao En walked out of the laboratory with a stack of printouts. When he saw Lu Xia resting against the wall, he said in an unusually gentle tone, "Why don't you take a few days off and rest?"

Lu Xia looked at Qiao En without the slightest gratitude. After all, she knew this was all a façade.

Everyone in this laboratory was abnormal.

Lu Xia nodded slightly without the slightest displeasure on her face. "Okay. Thanks, Prof Qiao."

Qiao En wanted to read the report, so he acknowledged her and strode outside.

After taking a few steps, he recalled something and halted. He turned around and said to Lu Xia, "Oh yes. I forgot to tell you. The latest issue of SCI is out. My friend mailed me a copy. If you want to read it, you can get it from my assistant."

Lu Xia's eyes gleamed as she replied. "Got it."

Publishing articles was a real milestone in the life of an academic. Also, SCI was an internationally renowned journal in the field, so it meant a lot for her paper to get accepted by them.

Lu Xia inhaled deeply. She had worked diligently all year. Now, she could finally prove herself!

Before long, she went over to see Prof Qiao's assistant at his office.

Prof Qiao's assistant had just received a text message from his boss, so he knew Lu Xia would swing by to get the journal.

He took the journal, handed it to her, and said happily, "Congrats! You have made Prof Qiao proud."

Lu Xia did not look at the journal right away. Instead, she smiled humbly at the assistant. "You're too kind. I have Prof Qiao to thank for his guidance."

The assistant smiled and returned to work after chatting with her briefly.

Lu Xia veered her eyes and gradually lowered her head.

Qiao En had mentioned that her article was going to appear on the front page of the journal.

Chapter 1572 Bad Luck

Lu Xia also believed her article was good enough to be published on the cover of SCI.

But when she saw the article title printed on the cover, her smile suddenly froze.

It was not the same subject as her paper.

Lu Xia raised her head and looked at Prof Qiao's assistant nearby. She walked over and said, "I think this is the wrong journal."

The assistant put down his work. "How can that be? This is the right journal. Before you came over, I already checked that your paper was in there."

Lu Xia was stunned.

The assistant noticed the look of disbelief on her face, so he took the journal from her. He flipped two pages and held the journal in the air. "See? This is your paper, right?"

Lu Xia looked at the journal and promptly saw her article inside.

"The paper was published as the second article in the issue. This is proof that it was good." The assistant praised Lu Xia for her work.

He was not just being polite. Only papers with high research value were accepted and published in SCI. It was no wonder Qiao En had chosen to accept Lu Xia as his new disciple.

Lu Xia did not take the praise to heart. Instead, she kept thinking about the fact that her article did not appear on the journal cover.

A week ago, she tried asking Prof Qiao about this since he was close friends with the journal editor. She did not understand why her article did not appear on the journal cover.

Lu Xia stood where she was at a complete loss.

She took the journal back. Even though she was not feeling great physically, she did not care. She turned to leave the office without saying a word.

Prof Qiao's assistant looked puzzled.

Her article was accepted by SCI and published. Why did she seem annoyed?

*

Lu Xia took the lift and pressed for the 11th floor. Qiao En's office was located there.

"Yes?" asked Qiao En quizzically when he saw Lu Xia.

Lu Xia pursed her lips and did her utmost to suppress her anger. She handed the journal to Qiao En and said softly, "Prof Qiao, have you seen the latest issue of SCI?"

Qiao En spent most of his time in the laboratory. Every now and then, he read journals when he was free. He took the journal and replied. "Not yet. What's wrong?"

Lu Xia clenched her fists and said nothing.

Qiao En looked at the contents of the cover and proceeded to flip through the journal. Lu Xia's article was the second one in the issue. He felt surprised when he spotted it.

Qiao En naturally knew the reason for Lu Xia's appearance in his office. He cleared his throat and said, "Maybe they had to make some last-minute changes. Even then, your paper was published as the second paper, right?"

"Didn't you mention it would be published as the first article?" Even though Lu Xia knew this was not Qiao En's fault, she could not help asking.

It felt as though someone had stolen her glory, so she naturally had trouble suppressing her indignance.

"The editor did tell me your paper would appear on the cover..." Qiao En opened the journal to look at the first article.

Even though he was not a Bioinformatics major, he had a little understanding of it since it was from the same faculty. After reading the first article, he could not help looking astonished.

The writing itself was average, but the thesis and research were solid. No wonder the journal published it as the first paper for the issue.

“Don’t take it to heart. You are good, but this other paper is a little more special.” Qiao En explained.

Chapter 1573 Just Die

Qiao En was implying that Lu Xia simply had a stroke of bad luck.

Lu Xia did not look at the first article in the journal. After speaking to the assistant, she felt annoyed and indignant, so she was in no mood to read the article.

Qiao En had explained the situation to her, but Lu Xia felt even worse.

He might have claimed the article was special, but Lu Xia knew it was just an excuse.

Qiao En could tell Lu Xia still felt indignant. He put down the journal and asked. “Have you read the first article yet?”

Lu Xia was upset, so she was naturally in no mood to read it. Since she did not dare to throw a temper in front of Qiao En, she replied patronizingly. “I flipped through it briefly, but didn’t read it in detail.”

“Why don’t you have a read? After you read it, you will know why your article was published second.” Qiao En pointed to the table.

Lu Xia looked at Qiao En and picked up the journal.

Before she started reading the paper, she was stunned to see the author’s name on the article.

It was Huo Yao.

It might be someone else with the same name. Perhaps it was the same Huo Yao she knew.

Lu Xia automatically felt it was impossible to be the same Huo Yao but then she thought about Huo Yao’s past glory when they were in middle school and suddenly felt it might be her. Lu Xia felt flustered thinking about this.

She had no interest in reading the first article of the issue. Instead, she raised her head and looked at Qiao En. “Prof Qiao, can you help me with something?”

“Yes?” Qiao En leaned into the seat.

“Can you help check with the journal and find out who wrote the paper?” Lu Xia had to know the answer.

Qiao En glanced at her quizzically.

Lu Xia’s eyes glinted briefly before she said, “I have seen this paper before. I just want to know if the same person wrote it.”

Qiao En frowned slightly before he took out his phone and called his SCI contact.

The call got through before long.

“Yes. I would like to find out more about the author of the first paper.” Qiao En hung up the phone and waited for his friend to check their records.

Before two minutes were through, he received a text message on his phone.

His journal contact had responded.

Qiao En tapped on the message and showed it to Lu Xia. "The contributor is from your country and Tsing University's Biology department."

Complicated emotions flooded Lu Xia's heart.

It was really Huo Yao!

When they were in the same middle school, Huo Yao kept competing and outperforming Lu Xia. Even after they had graduated and gone to different universities, their articles were published in the same journal issue.

This was as dramatic as a television program.

The fury in Lu Xia's heart shot straight up.

Qiao En asked. "Do you know the author?"

Lu Xia bit her lip and nodded. "Uh huh."

"That's quite the coincidence," said Qiao En.

Lu Xia lowered her eyes so that Qiao En could not see the resentment in her eyes. She paused before she gritted her teeth and said, "She's the unusual person that I mentioned to you previously."

The moment Qiao En heard what she said, his face froze promptly. "Do you mean she's..."

"That's right. Just check her background. I'm sure you'll find that she's very unusual," replied Lu Xia candidly.

Since Huo Yao kept annoying her left and right, Huo Yao was better off dead.

Lu Xia laughed coldly inside.

Qiao En knew Lu Xia did not dare to lie. He glanced at a folder by the side.

His research had reached a bottleneck recently. If he changed the subject, perhaps something might change.

Chapter 1574 Only Cared About Money

Qiao En tapped his fingers on the table gently. He pondered briefly and then suddenly said, "Oh yes. The academic conference will be starting soon. I think this is a great chance for you to meet more people. I'm sure it'll be a real boon for your career."

Lu Xia's anger dissipated upon hearing this.

She knew about the academic conference. Since she had transferred to Sirin University for barely a year and had no major contributions, she was not good enough to attend the conference.

Lu Xia paused and said, "Thank you, Prof Qiao."

"Uh huh. Good luck." Qiao En waved at her.

Lu Xia stopped talking about the article and left.

**

After lunch on Monday, Liu Qian called Huo Yao to his office to see him.

"I want to show you something." Liu Qian looked at her mysteriously. The moment he finished his sentence, he opened his desk drawer.

Huo Yao raised her brow. She observed his behavior and asked. "Do you have some money for me?"

Liu Qian had just picked up a journal, but he instantly went speechless.

She probably only cared about money.

Liu Qian took out the journal and handed it to Huo Yao. He said annoyingly, "The latest issue of SCI is out. I just received it, so I called you over to take a look at it."

"I see." Huo Yao promptly lost interest even as she took the journal from him.

"Your article has appeared on the cover of the issue. Do you know what this means?" Liu Qian stood leaning against the table. From the moment he received the issue, he was thrilled and even his voice trembled with excitement.

Huo Yao flipped through the journal. She pondered and replied. "Does this mean the department will give me a cash reward for this?"

Liu Qian parted his lips without saying a word for some time. He looked absolutely stumped after hearing this.

After some time, Liu Qian finally snapped out of his shock with his enthusiasm completely doused. "How could you be talking about money at a time like this?"

Huo Yao shut her mouth.

She had a feeling that the teacher might lose it if she continued talking.

Even though she had ruined the atmosphere, Liu Qian disregarded it and continued. "Your article was accepted and published in SCI. This means the subject and research were solid. After all, not all papers get to appear on the cover of the journal..."

After quietly waiting for Liu Qian to finish, Huo Yao finally said, "Didn't we agree that we should make Dai Jie the author?"

Liu Qian saw this coming. He replied patiently. "I asked him about it. He appreciates the gesture, but he insisted on keeping your name on the article. In the end, I stuck to your name."

Huo Yao rubbed her temple with her finger. Since the deed was already done, there was no point harping on the subject. She nodded and returned the journal to Liu Qian. "Got it, Prof Liu."

Liu Qian looked at Huo Yao with emotions flooding his heart.

He had spent ten years with nothing but bad luck until he finally met her.

“Oh yes. I heard you got promoted, right?” Huo Yao suddenly remembered this.

Liu Qian snapped out of his thoughts and smiled. “Do you know about it already?”

He did not deny the promotion.

Huo Yao raised her brow. “Congrats. Remember to send red packets to the group chat later.”

Liu Qian glared at her. “You really know how to ruin the mood, don’t you?”

Huo Yao replied calmly. “If I didn’t have money troubles, I wouldn’t bother congratulating you, no?”

**

Before long, Huo Yao walked out of Liu Qian’s office. When she went downstairs, her phone vibrated in her pocket.

Chapter 1575 A Trap

Huo Yao took out her phone for a look while she walked to the study room.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes coolly in surprise after looking at the notification.

She was yet to do anything about it, but someone had already tried to get to her.

Just as Huo Yao was about to put away her phone, a call came through.

Li Chenhui was looking for her. “Junior Sister, are you in school today?”

Huo Yao acknowledged him softly.

Li Chenhui already knew Huo Yao’s school timetable. “Where are you? Wen Ping and I want to talk to you.”

Huo Yao blinked quizzically.

Was he with Senior Brother Wen?

She replied coolly. “See you at the library then, okay?”

“Okay.”

Li Chenhui hung up the phone and looked at Wen Ping who was still working on the computer. “She said to meet at the library.”

Wen Ping nodded and quickly saved the data. “All done. Let’s go.”

He pulled out the thumb drive and placed it in his pocket.

Before long, the two of them arrived at the library.

Huo Yao already got them a table inside. When she spotted the two of them, she waved.

“Hi, Senior Brother Li, Senior Brother Wen,” greeted Huo Yao.

She was still holding a copy of the SCI journal in her hands which Liu Qian had forcibly given to her as she left his office.

Li Chenhui sat down, glanced at the journal, and was promptly surprised. "Junior Sister, do you read journals?"

"Every now and then..." replied Huo Yao without explaining in detail.

Wen Ping had a great interest in academic journals and said, "I think the latest issue of SCI is out. Sadly, we can only get them locally in a few months. I'll let you know once I get my hands on it."

Did he want to lend her the journal?

Huo Yao promptly sensed her temples throbbing. She had PTSD about reading books of any kind!

Huo Yao raised her arm and pushed the journal under her arm in front of Wen Ping without hesitation. "Senior Brother Wen, I believe this is the latest issue, right?"

Wen Ping was stunned. He glanced at the cover of the journal, picked up the copy, and checked the publication date. Sure enough, it was the latest issue.

Wen Ping felt very excited to see the latest issue. The journal was very limited in supply and hard to come by. He quickly raised his head and looked at Huo Yao. "Junior Sister..."

Huo Yao cleared her throat and interrupted Wen Ping. "I've already read the issue. Feel free to read it, Senior Brother Wen."

Wen Ping wanted to ask her why she had the latest issue. He paused briefly and did not try to probe. Instead, he held the issue happily and replied. "I'll return it once I'm done."

"Uh huh. Take your time." Huo Yao nodded. She dropped the subject and did not even mention that her article had appeared in the issue. She asked instead. "Oh yes. Why were you looking for me?"

Wen Ping had yet to recover from the joy of getting his hands on the latest issue of the journal when Li Chenhui kicked him under the table and gestured for him to speak.

Wen Ping snapped out of his excitement and finally put down the journal. He retrieved a thumb drive from his pocket and placed it in front of Huo Yao. "Junior Sister, do you mind helping us out? Can you take a look at this data and let us know if there are any problems?"

"Is it the same project?" Huo Yao did not take the thumb drive.

"Uh huh." Wen Ping adjusted his spectacles. "Variable transformation is the topic of discussion at the academic conference. We were hoping to make our work as accurate and flawless as possible. We certainly don't want to embarrass Prof Rong."

Huo Yao was not concerned about embarrassing Prof Rong. The moment Wen Ping mentioned the academic conference, a wary look emerged on her face.

Chapter 1576 I Have A Problem With Rich People

Wen Ping failed to detect the change in Huo Yao's expression. He smiled as he continued. "Also, Prof Rong mentioned that you stood first in the International Quiz Contest two years ago. Very impressive."

Huo Yao was speechless.

Wen Ping suddenly brought up the International Quiz Contest. Sure enough, they came prepared.

Li Chenhui chimed in. "It's such a pity that you're not attending the conference!"

Huo Yao mocked them inside. They were acting like stage performers.

"Uh huh. Also, the conference is held at Sirin University. It's a world-renowned university. Don't you want to check it out?" Wen Ping felt no one could say no to this.

"Is it held at Sirin University?" Something changed about Huo Yao's expression.

That was quite the coincidence then.

Li Chenhui hurriedly nodded. "That's right. Didn't I mention this to you previously?"

Huo Yao looked at him with complicated emotions running through her heart. "No, you didn't."

Li Chenhui scratched his head. No wonder he failed to convince her to attend the conference. He did not mention Sirin University!

Nevermind, this was not important anymore.

"Junior Sister, does this mean you're coming?" said Li Chenhui excitedly.

Huo Yao went quiet briefly and asked him. "How many days will it last?"

"The actual conference goes on for two days, but you probably need an entire week for the trip," replied Wen Ping.

"That's not very long then." Huo Yao tapped her fingers on the table gently as she said, "Let me see if I can take leave from school first."

"Sure." Wen Ping nodded. He paused and said, "If you have trouble getting approval, we can get Prof Rong to speak on your behalf. That might help."

"Uh huh. I'm sure he'll be happy to help." Li Chenhui smiled. "He even offered a reward if any of us can convince you to attend the conference."

Naturally, no one dared to take the reward from Prof Rong.

Huo Yao held her breath promptly. "Why didn't he ask me directly?"

Li Chenhui and Wen Ping were caught by surprise.

Huo Yao said with a solemn look on her face. "It's not about the money. I really want to attend the academic conference!"

Li Chenhui and Wen Ping were bewildered.

She certainly did not look like she wanted to attend the academic conference previously.

Huo Yao felt as though she had lost a million dollars. Before long, she raised her head and looked at the dark sky, and let out a long sigh after leaving the library angrily.

She took out her phone and sent her neighbor a text message: [Life is hard.]

Min Yu happened to be holding his phone at the time: [?]

Huo Yao promptly typed angrily: [I hate rich people!]

Min Yu's lips twitched. He proceeded to tap his fingers on the phone and a WeChat funds transfer notification appeared on his phone.

Huo Yao promptly blinked when she saw the string of numbers on her phone. Before she was able to respond, she received another text message.

Min Yu: [Miss Huo, now I'm poor.]

Huo Yao: [...]

Fine! Rich people could have quite a sense of humor.

...

Li Chenhui and Wen Ping went back to the laboratory.

Rong Jun happened to be there getting something. When he heard that Huo Yao had agreed to attend the academic conference, he was surprised. "How did you make her change her mind?"

Li Chenhui thought about the scene earlier and replied. "She changed her mind the moment she found out that it was being held at Sirin University."

Wen Ping glanced at Li Chenhui as he held a journal in his arms. He glanced at Li Chenhui but did not agree with Li Chenhui.

Huo Yao clearly reacted most strongly when she heard that there was a reward involved.

Chapter 1577 Same Group Of People

Rong Jun was astonished by Li Chenhui's response. "She's not the sort to be interested in Sirin University."

Li Chenhui touched his nose. "Does it matter? Anyways, she's going."

Rong Jun nodded and dropped the subject. Just as he was about to leave, he happened to see the journal in Wen Ping's arms. "Is that SCI?"

Wen Ping lowered his head to glance at it before he nodded. "Uh huh. Junior Sister lent it to me. It's the latest issue."

"Is that the latest issue?" When Rong Jun found out it was the latest issue, he took an interest and did not leave right away. "Let me take a look at it."

Wen Ping handed it over to Rong Jun reluctantly. After some time, he added. "She promised to lend it to me for a few days."

Li Chenhui blinked as he pondered. He did not recall Huo Yao mentioning a deadline.

Rong Jun glared at Wen Ping before he proceeded to open the journal. When he glanced at the first article and saw the author's name, he was dumbstruck.

Did his youngest disciple write it?

When Wen Ping noticed something amiss with Rong Jun, he could not help asking. "Prof Rong?"

Rong Jun snapped out of his astonishment and promptly had a sour taste in his mouth. He shoved the journal back at Wen Ping and said, "The two of you have a lot to learn from her!"

The moment he finished his sentence, he turned to walk out of the laboratory on a huff.

Wen Ping stood where he was with his cheek twitching. "Do you think there was something strange with his tone?"

"I agree." Li Chenhui clearly heard Prof Rong telling them to learn from Huo Yao, but he did not get it.

Wen Ping lowered his head and looked at the journal in his hands.

Rong Jun flipped the issue to the first page and it was still open. After glancing at the page, Wen Ping could not help staring at it.

The latest issue of SCI was usually not readily available locally, but Huo Yao was able to get her hands on it. Wen Ping finally figured out why she had access to a copy.

Li Chenhui glanced at Wen Ping and looked down at the issue as well.

Moments later, Li Chenhui cursed inwardly.

The girl was good.

**

Min Yu came over to the campus to pick up Huo Yao punctually.

"Did you encounter any problems at school today?" asked Min Yu as he opened the car door for Huo Yao.

Huo Yao leaned against the car door casually. After all, he had sent her a red packet to console her earlier, so she looked completely normal now. "Nope. Since I'm a girl, the most special time of the month is when I get my period, right?"

The moment she finished her sentence, she shrugged and bent over to get into the car.

Min Yu's lips twitched.

Before long, the car left the campus.

Huo Yao played with her phone after getting into the car. Every now and then, she raised her head and looked out of the car window.

A car was tailing her.

The exact same thing happened yesterday.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes and stopped playing with her phone.

Min Yu also detected someone following them a long while ago. To be precise, he spotted the tail from the moment they left the campus.

He raised his head and glanced into the rearview mirror. Huo Yao was also looking at the side mirror. This meant she had also discovered the tail on them.

Min Yu stepped on the gas and sped up. He put the car on autopilot, took his phone from the side, and tapped on WeChat to send Zhuo Yun a text message.

"They are here for me," said Huo Yao mildly before she veered her eyes.

Min Yu's hands paused briefly. "How did you know?"

Huo Yao leaned against the car seat lazily and said candidly, "I ran into some people yesterday as well."

Chapter 1578 Sure Had Thick Skin

Min Yu frowned imperceptibly. "Where are they from?"

Huo Yao simply sighed. "I'm probably too talented for my own good. People like me attract a lot of jealousy, don't you think?"

Min Yu glanced at Huo Yao. At a time like this, how could she remain calm? She was genuinely one of a kind.

Since she had no intention of telling the truth, he did not continue probing. He veered his eyes and continued sending text messages on his phone.

Before long, the car drove back to the estate.

Huo Yao raised her head, glanced at the main entrance, and could not help raising her brow.

Min Yu said from the side, "I already told Brother Yulin about this."

Huo Yao turned around and looked at Min Yu. She said in astonishment, "Since when did you get so chummy with Brother Yulin?"

The main entrance automatically opened. Min Yu drove in before he answered Huo Yao unhurriedly. "He probably thinks that I'm the best match for you and the perfect brother-in-law."

Huo Yao looked at him annoyingly. "You sure have thick skin."

Min Yu parked the car and undid his seatbelt as he asked. "Is it not true?"

Huo Yao had found her match. She decided to pretend not to have heard him and opened the car door to get off.

Min Yu smiled and got out of the car.

After entering the residence, Huo Yao changed her shoes. Her phone happened to ring in her pocket right then.

Li Chenhui was calling her.

She answered the phone and said gently, "Hi, Senior Brother."

Min Yu glanced at her before going into the kitchen.

Ever since Li Chenhui realized that SCI had published Huo Yao's article, he felt demoralized.

He cleared his throat before he said, "Junior Sister, I forgot to remind you earlier. Remember to apply for your passport soon."

Huo Yao nodded. "Uh huh. Got it."

"Good. The conference is taking place at the end of the month, so you don't have much time. Wen Ping already gave you a thumb drive which contains a lot of data. Read it if you can. If you don't have the time, don't worry about it. We're just going abroad to gain some experience and meet more people in the industry," said Li Chenhui with a smile.

Huo Yao leaned against the dining table. The moment she heard what he said, she raised her brow annoyingly. She had to do so much work for the conference. She replied casually. "Okay."

Min Yu walked out of the kitchen with a basket of green beans for her to prepare. He placed it on the table without saying a word and went back into the kitchen.

Huo Yao raised her head and glanced at the kitchen with her phone in hand. She turned to look at the green beans on the table and interrupted Li Chenhui before he could continue chatting with her. "Senior Brother, I have to go."

Li Chenhui acknowledged her sheepishly.

Huo Yao put down the phone and pulled out a chair at the dining table. She deftly helped pluck the green beans. When she was done, she carried them to the kitchen.

He was standing in the kitchen with his back straight with a knife in his hand, but he did not seem out of place. Instead, he looked good.

Huo Yao tutted softly and placed the basket of green beans on the table without leaving the kitchen right away.

"Done with the call?" Min Yu did not even raise his head.

"Uh huh. All done." Huo Yao crossed her arms casually. She paused and added. "My senior brother told me to apply for my passport."

Min Yu was caught by surprise. "Passport?" He paused briefly and added. "Are you attending an academic conference abroad?"

He remembered a major academic conference taking place around this time of the year.

Chapter 1579 Very Advanced

Huo Yao nodded. "Uh huh. Do you know about it?"

She sounded quite surprised.

Min Yu raised his head and glanced at her.

Huo Yao did not know what to say when she caught him looking at her in such a manner.

She could sense disdain emanating from him.

Huo Yao changed the subject blatantly. "Can you start cooking? I'm famished."

Min Yu shook his head powerlessly.

After dinner, Min Yu brought Huo Yao down to the basement to look at something.

"What do you think about this model?" Min Yu looked at a metallic object on the table resembling wings.

Huo Yao veered her eyes after taking a single glance. "I have nothing to say."

Min Yu walked over, picked up the model, and rubbed the wings gently. "Looks very advanced, right?"

Huo Yao knew this object did not belong to these times, so it was naturally advanced.

"Where did you find this?" asked Huo Yao.

Min Yu raised his brow on hearing this. "What if I made it myself?"

"In that case, I have to say you're very good with your hands." Huo Yao commended him patronizingly.

Min Yu smiled and put down the model. "What do you think these wings are intended for?"

"How would I know, no?" Huo Yao glanced at him quizzically. "I grew up in the countryside. How could I have seen this?"

Min Yu did not believe her and knew it was bullshit. His phone happened to ring in his pocket.

He turned to take out the phone.

It was Zhuo Yun calling him.

Min Yu narrowed his eyes before he walked out of the room and answered the phone.

"They were here for Miss Huo. The culprits were just common thugs and there was nothing special about them." Zhuo Yun promptly reported about the tail on them earlier.

"What did they want?" asked Min Yu mildly as he held the phone.

"Someone paid a big reward for them to capture Miss Huo. After they succeeded, someone would be sent to take her."

Zhuo Yun paused and said, "Yang Yi located an IP address using the client's details. The mastermind is located abroad. Since a virtual phone was used, we are not 100% sure about the IP address."

Min Yu narrowed his eyes. "Anything else?"

"We have set a trap. Yang Yi has already contacted someone working for the mastermind. I think we will know more about it very soon," replied Zhuo Yun.

"Uh huh. Got it." Min Yu did not continue with the subject and hung up the phone.

He pondered for a few seconds and went back to the room.

**

Meanwhile, on the other end.

Lu Xia just came back from a morning run. Just as she was about to bathe, her phone rang from the bed. She turned to glance at her phone before holding it up.

She frowned the moment she saw the caller ID.

After some time, Lu Xia finally answered the phone. "Yes, Mom?"

He Xiaoman asked after her in concern before she finally said, "About the living expenses for the month..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Lu Xia interrupted her in annoyance. "Okay. I will send you the money now."

Lu Xia did not hang up the phone. She simply pulled the phone from her ear, tapped on an application, and continued speaking to her mother after she was done with the bank transfer. "All settled."

The moment she finished her sentence, He Xiaoman could hear a funds transfer notification ping on her phone. She cleared her throat awkwardly and explained in a sheepish tone. "I didn't call just for money..."

Lu Xia rubbed her brow with a mild look on her face. "If that is all, I have to go. Bye-bye."

Chapter 1580 The Mastermind

He Xiaoman pretended not to hear the coldness in Lu Xia's voice and continued in a hesitant tone. "I need to talk to you about your father. The Lu family..."

Lu Xia's eyes turned icy cold. She was not interested in hearing anything about the family. "Enough. I'm going into the laboratory now."

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

When the Lu family went bankrupt, everyone in the clan blamed it on her. Now that life had taken a good turn for her, the people in her family conveniently wanted her back. Did they think she was an idiot?

Lu Xia scoffed out loud. Just as she was about to put down the phone, it rang again.

She assumed it was still He Xiaoman, so she pressed the power button without even looking at the screen to turn off the phone.

After she was done, Lu Xia felt a lot better and entered the bathroom.

**

Meanwhile, on the other end.

Zhuo Yun spun the weapon in his hand nonchalantly with a foot in the chair and his body leaning forward. He looked languidly at the middle-aged man sitting slumped on the ground.

The middle-aged man looked scared. The moment he heard a notification indicating the phone was switched off, cold sweat broke from his forehead and his body turned cold. He trembled as he looked at Zhuo Yun. "The... the phone is off."

Zhuo Yun narrowed his eyes and said in an intimidating tone, "Is the phone off?"

The middle-aged man cringed as he hurriedly handed the phone to Zhuo Yun. "If you don't believe me, you can try. I really can't get in touch with the person."

Zhuo Yun did not bother taking the phone. Instead, he raised his head to look at Yang Yi nearby. "Yi, what about you? Any headway?"

Yang Yi looked at the laptop monitor with a serious look on his face as he tapped the keyboard quickly. After some time, he finally raised his head. "I've tracked it down."

Zhuo Yun put down his foot from the chair and strode over quickly to Yang Yi. "Where?"

Yang Yi blew up the map on the laptop screen. He had gone as far as locating the exact street address. "Sirin University."

Zhuo Yun was stunned. "Why there? Are you sure?"

Yang Yi's face promptly turned dark.

Zhuo Yun crossed an arm and rubbed his chin with his other hand. He did not quite understand the situation. "Revenge seems the most likely reason for this to happen. Miss Huo usually keeps a low profile. Why would she have any enemies?"

Just as Yang Yi was about to speak, something crossed his mind. He could not help looking at Zhuo Yun.

"Lu Xia."

"Lu Xia!"

Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi spoke in unison.

If someone at Sirin University knew Huo Yao, it had to be Lu Xia. Also, she had good reason to do this.

"I don't get it. If Lu Xia was behind this, why would she attempt abducting Miss Huo while she's abroad?" Zhuo Yun pondered and said, "I don't think it's just vengeance. I'm sure she knows it's not easy for her to seek revenge."

"Let's not forget that someone is helping her," said Yang Yi.

“From the looks of it, this is no simple matter.” Zhuo Yun scratched his head and took out his phone.
“I’m going to call up Boss.”

Yang Yi agreed. He leaned into the seat as he looked at the computer screen.

Miss Huo seemed to have a lot of secrets.

Zhuo Yun was right. If Lu Xia wanted to seek vengeance, she would not choose to do it now. Someone must be helping her.

Moreover, Miss Huo was dating their boss. Perhaps their real target was him.