

## Pill Maker 171

### Chapter 171: A Token Of His Identity

Before long, the kitchen sent across several more dishes. Huo Yao unhurriedly folded her assignment and put it aside.

Only then did Old Mr. Yi notice that Huo Yao was dressed in the No.1 Middle School uniform. He could not help asking her. "Are you studying at the No.1 Middle School?"

Huo Yao nodded.

"Miss Huo is a senior this year, so she doesn't have time for anything else other than school," explained Zhuo Yun in a deliberate tone.

Old Mr. Yi suddenly realized why the young lady had rejected his offer so directly. He smiled and said, "I get it. I get it. You're a senior. Since you're at the turning point of your life, you should focus on your studies."

He paused and said, "I have a grandson studying in No.1 Middle School. I asked him to learn how to make medicinal cuisine from me, but he's also not interested."

"He's still young and wants to have fun," said Zhuo Yun with a smile.

"Exactly," sighed Old Mr. Yi.

He glanced at the medicinal dishes on the table and quickly stood up to look at Min Yu and said rather politely, "In that case, I will give you some privacy to finish your food."

Min Yu nodded slightly.

With a smile, Old Mr. Yi left the private room.

A while later, Zhuo Yun finally looked at Huo Yao and said, "Miss Huo, do you know what kind of opportunity you just passed up?"

Huo Yao raised her brow and looked at Zhuo Yun without replying to him.

"Sigh. The Yi family has a very high status in City S. If you can become Old Mr. Yi's disciple, you and your family can do as you please in City S. Moreover, Old Mr. Yi is a member of Apothecaries' Association..." said Zhuo Yun before he suddenly shut up when he got to the association.

He recalled that Huo Yao grew up in a small town, so she probably did not know what the Apothecaries' Association was.

In the end, he swallowed the things he was about to say about it and concluded. "Getting connected to the Yi family is nothing but a godsent opportunity."

Zhuo Yun further added in a composed manner. "You won't even have to worry about getting into a good college."

"Oh," said Huo Yao as she shrugged nonchalantly before lowering her head to continue eating.

Zhuo Yun was dying to see Huo Yao's look of regret for giving up the opportunity, but she left him speechless, "..."

Had he not made himself amply clear?

Why did Huo Yao have no reaction whatsoever?

Min Yu glanced at Zhuo Yun indifferently and said, "Just eat."

Zhuo Yun rubbed his nose. He felt as though he was the only person who had felt excited by Old Mr. Yi's offer while neither of them gave a hoot about it.

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After dinner, they left the medicinal cuisine restaurant.

They had barely walked out of the door, when a waiter came chasing after them to hand Huo Yao a token of Old Mr. Yi's identity. "Old Mr. Yi wants you to have this."

Huo Yao took the box and opened it. There was a custom made identity nameplate inside.

Min Yu glanced at it. A look of surprise swept across his handsome face. Then he said softly, "Keep it. This card is very useful."

Huo Yao raised her brow and looked at Min Yu and she joked. "Can I get a discount on eating here with this?"

Min Yu twitched his lips. "You can say so."

"Okay," said Huo Yao. She put the card away calmly and told the waiter. "Please thank Old Mr. Yi on my behalf."

Zhuo Yun had just brought the car over and got off to help his master with the car door. Their nonchalant words drifted into his ears and left him speechless again, "..."

It was Old Mr. Yi's identity nameplate. How could they call it a discount card?

Was it them who were crazy, or were Zhuo Yun's ears playing tricks on him?

## **Chapter 172: A Chance Meeting!**

Meanwhile, in the kitchen.

"Old Mr. Yi, why did you give the young lady your token?" asked the middle-aged man enviously.

He gave Old Mr. Yi a complicated look.

He had worked for this man for years, but had never seen him think so highly of anyone. Moreover, Huo Yao had turned down his generous offer to become his disciple.

Old Mr. Yi was getting ready to make the soup one more time after receiving Huo Yao's pointer.

He replied to the middle-aged man without even looking up. "No harm in having one more friend."

“But there was no need for you to...”

Old Mr. Yi interrupted the middle-aged man and said, “You are too narrow-minded and lack good judgment about people.”

His hands paused and he shook his head gently. “Do you think Young Master Min’s friend is someone who doesn’t know anything?”

Regardless of how the young lady denied knowing anything about Chinese medicine, how could Min Yu be a shallow man? Would Old Mr. Yi not have lived his years in vain if he could not detect the low profile they were trying to maintain?

The middle-aged man went quiet. Although he felt that his mentor’s words made sense, how much pharmacology could a teenage girl really know?

The man pursed his lips without paying any heed to Old Mr. Yi’s words. But, in the end, he did not go on with the subject.

After all, the old man was genuinely getting on with his age.

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Zhuo Yun sent Huo Yao back to her estate soon.

As she got off, she bumped into Song Ning and Huo Jinyan, who had just returned from their new villa.

When Huo Yao saw them, she subconsciously stood still and spoke up without closing the car door. “Mom, Dad?”

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan had told the driver to drop them outside the estate near the fruit store. The two of them were on their way back with a bag of fruit. They were stunned when they saw their daughter getting out of the black car.

Song Ning looked inside the car instinctively after she composed herself. Even with the streetlamps on, it was too dark for her to see the passenger’s face. She could only tell that it was a man.

“Did you just come back from having dinner with a friend?” asked Song Ning quizzically.

Huo Yao replied softly. “Mhm.”

Then she turned to thank Min Yu without introducing him and shut the car door, effectively cutting off her parents’ line of sight.

Zhuo Yun sat in the driver’s seat, thinking that he did not want Huo Yao’s parents to see Min Yu. He heaved a sigh of relief and swiftly started the engine.

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan watched as the car left. After some time, Song Ning finally asked her daughter. “Why didn’t you invite your friend upstairs?”

Huo Yao’s stunning face looked aesthetically pleasing under the dim streetlamps. She went over to help Song Ning carry the fruit bag and said, “It’s too late at night, so it wasn’t convenient.”

Song Ning touched her nose and asked her softly. “Is it a guy?”

“Yup,” said Huo Yao frankly. A thought crossed her mind, and she deliberately added. “He used to give me tuition!”

Song Ning was surprised even more. “Your tuition teacher?”

Huo Yao nodded and continued to speak with a straight face. “I used to do badly at school in Fuxian County. Fortunately, he gave me some tuition.”

Song Ning could not help recalling how Huo Yao’s teacher said that she had poor grades when Song Ning went over to Fuxian County last year to check on her daughter’s situation.

She figured that he was the one who helped Huo Yao with school and hurriedly said, “Oh! Why didn’t you say so earlier? How could you do this? We ought to thank him for helping in pulling your grades up so much!”

Huo Jinyan listened quietly with a strange look on his face.

### **Chapter 173: Suspicious Of The Tuition Teacher’s Motives**

Although the car looked average, its license plate was unusual. Since it consisted of continuous numbers and was issued from the capital, Huo Yao’s tuition teacher was no ordinary man.

Moreover... was he not Huo Yao’s tuition teacher from Fuxian County? What was he doing here?

Huo Jinyan touched his chin. It was a mystery.

Song Ning turned around and saw him in deep thought. She could not help tapping his shoulder and asking him. “Jinyan?”

Huo Jinyan turned to look at his daughter and wanted to ask about her tuition teacher, but was worried that she would misunderstand his intentions.

So he changed his mind and said, “Your mother is right. We should seriously treat your tuition teacher to dinner.”

Huo Yao waved her hand and nodded patronizingly. Then she helped to carry the fruit into their estate.

The three of them went upstairs.

After reaching home, Huo Yao handed her father the tea which Min Yu had given her. She said, “For you.”

The tea had been packaged in a beautiful paper bag. Huo Jinyan asked as he removed it from the bag. “What’s this?”

“Tea,” replied Huo Yao before walking to the refrigerator to put the fruit inside.

Huo Jinyan recalled his daughter asking him whether he wanted Da Hong Pao. He instantly raised his brow and beamed as he opened the packaging completely and said, “My daughter is the best. Did you get me...”

Before he finished the word 'tea', his voice immediately stopped as though someone had hit a pause button.

Since Huo Jinyan was a tea lover and collector, he could tell at a glance that the tea in the box was a collectors' item.

The special airtight seal alone cost a bomb. Moreover, there was an old, yellowed label on the box. This tea must be very rare.

Huo Jinyan gulped. He suddenly did not dare to open the box.

Huo Yao came out of the kitchen to see her old man holding the box with a strange expression on his face, so she could not help asking him. "Dad, what's wrong?"

Huo Jinyan raised his head to look at his daughter. Then he pointed at the box of tea and said, "This tea..."

"Hmm?" asked Huo Yao as she walked closer and looked at the tea in his hands.

"What's wrong with the tea?"

Huo Jinyan noticed how calm his daughter was, as though they were talking about some ordinary tea here. He touched his nose and asked softly. "Where did you buy it from?"

"I didn't buy it. My friend gave it to me."

Huo Jinyan instantly recalled the owner of the car with a special license plate who sent her back tonight. "Did your tuition teacher give it to you?"

"Mhm," said Huo Yao right away.

Then she paused and said, "He was the one who gave me the Longjing too."

Huo Jinyan was stunned. "But wait. Didn't he used to give you tuition? Why would he give you such good tea?"

It made sense if a student gave gifts to her teacher, but it seemed inconceivable for a teacher to give his student such expensive tea as a gift.

Huo Yao was a little confused.

She knew very little about tea and its prices. She had merely accepted Min Yu's offer since her father liked drinking it.

After Huo Yao gathered her thoughts, she replied indifferently. "He might have liked the handmade sandalwood incense that I gave him."

After all, her incense sticks were priceless!

Huo Jinyan's lips twitched violently upon hearing his daughter's response. No matter how good her sandalwood incense was, it probably was not worth as much as this tea, right?

Huo Jinyan was now extremely suspicious of her tuition teacher's true motives.

## **Chapter 174: Revision Notes By Courier**

Huo Yao overlooked the complicated look in her father's eyes and remembered the package she had received days ago. She went to the cabinet and took it out.

She had assumed that it might be some Chinese medicine, but it turned out to be a set of revision notes.

She had given her new address to only one person.

Huo Yao flipped through the notes with a look of disdain. How lousy were they! What was the guy thinking?

Did she look like she needed this?

Huo Yao shook her head speechlessly. She stuffed them back into the courier bag and wanted to toss it into the bin. But a second before she did, she suddenly saw the shipping label on the bag, and her hand paused.

Although no sender's address was provided, the courier indicated that it was sent from the same city.

Huo Yao's eyes narrowed slightly. Her friend was not the one who had sent this.

She decided not to throw the revision notes. Instead, she removed the shipping label from the courier bag and went upstairs.

Huo Yao walked into her room and turned on her laptop. She typed in a few keywords and soon located the sender's address based on the tracking number.

Lu Ziming from the Lu residence?

Huo Yao leaned back lazily into her chair. Light from the laptop screen reflected on her face.

She had taken a look at the revision notes, and they seemed similar to the questions used for the National Quiz Contest. But... why did that idiot send her these revision notes?

Was Lu Ziming trying to make trouble?

Huo Yao crossed her arms and had an intriguing look on her face. Soon, she turned off her computer. Then she placed the revision notes into her sling bag which she usually carried around.

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The next day.

At the Lu family.

Lu Xia stood at the doorway and was to head to school. A piece of paper fell from the hallway cabinet's drawer and landed on the ground when she opened it to take her keys.

Lu Xia bent down to pick it and noticed that it was a courier bill. She took a second look at it and got a shock when she noticed the shipping address written on it.

She knew this address well and was stunned to see who the recipient of the package was.

Huo Yao!!!

Lu Xia held the courier bill tightly. She recalled Lu Ziming's arrogant attitude a few days ago and could not help laughing mockingly.

How wonderful of her younger brother to send the revision notes to the person she hated the most.

Lu Xia inhaled deeply and suppressed the rage rising in her heart. She took the courier bill and left the house.

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Huo Yao bumped into Lu Xia when she got to the school. Lu Xia shot daggers at Huo Yao through her eyes. It seemed as though she had stolen something from Lu Xia.

Although Huo Yao found it strange, she was not bothered by it.

The Rocket and Experimental classes were in the same building but on different floors. After bumping into each other at the school entrance, they quickly went their own ways.

They treated each other like air.

After Huo Yao topped the level for the monthly test, she became a superstar in the class. Many of her classmates tried to chat with her but gave up because of her cold aura.

But some of them refused to give up and approached her with their Mathematics test papers, asking her how to solve some problems. Unfortunately... they were overwhelmed by her extraordinary logic.

Although it was easy enough for her to solve them, her classmates were sad. They were incapable of grasping her explanation and felt as though they were speaking a completely different language.

Meng Ying did not attend school this morning. Huo Yao found it odd, so she called her during lunchtime.

## **Chapter 175: His Injury Isn't That Serious**

Maybe Meng Ying was busy or did not have her phone with her, but she did not answer.

Huo Yao stopped trying and sent Meng Ying a text instead. Meng Ying only replied to her during the second period after lunch.

[Sorry, I just saw your text. Dad got into a traffic accident, and I had to take care of him.]

After Huo Yao saw the text, she stepped out of the classroom to call Meng Ying even before the class was over. This time, Meng Ying picked up quickly.

Meng Ying's choking voice came over the phone. "Yaoyao, the doctor said that Dad suffered serious injuries and might become... a vegetable..."

Huo Yao held the phone and kept listening to Meng Ying cry. When Meng Ying was almost done, Huo Yao asked her. "Where did your father get hospitalized?"

Since Meng Ying was on the verge of breaking down, she answered everything Huo Yao asked, blankly.

After Huo Yao obtained the hospital address, the school bell rang. She said, "Don't be too sad. Uncle will be fine. I'll come by after school. I have to go to class now. See you later."

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes after she hung up and headed back to class.

Meng Ying put her phone away. She smiled sadly as she looked at her mother standing anxiously outside the ICU. She hoped her father would be able to recover, but the doctor's words had heartlessly shattered all their hopes.

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After school, Huo Yao hailed a cab straight away and headed to the hospital.

Meng Ying looked like a lifeless doll when Huo Yao found her. She was sitting on a chair outside the ICU. Her face was bereft of color and her eyes were swollen. She regained some life when she caught sight of Huo Yao.

"Yaoyao, you're here."

"Mhm," said Huo Yao as she looked at the pitiful Meng Ying. She subconsciously touched Meng Ying's head before she asked unhurriedly. "How is your dad doing?"

There was something soothing about Huo Yao's bright, unsullied eyes. It did not cross Meng Ying's mind that it was pointless to tell Huo Yao about her father's condition since she was not a doctor. Instead, she held Huo Yao's left hand and told her everything that the doctor said.

After Huo Yao heard the details, her expression relaxed a little.

His injury was not as serious as it seemed.

Mrs. Meng came in from outside and saw her daughter talking to a tall, slender girl about her husband's condition. She suppressed her sadness and walked over to interrupt Meng Ying. "Ying, don't worry your friend by telling her so much."

Mrs. Meng turned to look at Huo Yao and was stunned when she finally caught sight of her.

She recalled how her daughter often talked about her stunning and brilliant deskmate. Meng Ying's words of admiration had aroused her and her husband's curiosity. Her husband had told his daughter to invite her friend over to their home in the coming days.

Thinking about her husband, made Mrs. Meng sad again. She smiled forcibly in a polite manner and said, "I'm sorry. Meng Ying is simply too upset."

Then she paused for a moment and added. "Meng Ying's father is still in ICU and is not ready for visitors, but thank you for coming over to the hospital to see him."

Huo Yao nodded. "Auntie Meng, it's no trouble at all. I'm sure Uncle Meng will recover soon."

The rims of Mrs. Meng's eyes turned red. She was afraid that she might cry in front of the girls, so she said, "I'll leave you two to chat."



## Chapter 176: Trust Me, A Miracle Will Happen

Huo Yao turned her gaze away from Mrs. Meng and sat down beside Meng Ying again. Since Huo Yao was not much of a chatter, she consoled Meng Ying without embellishing her words. "I'm sure your father will regain consciousness."

Meng Ying smiled sadly and said, "I hope so."

Huo Yao patted her shoulder and replied solemnly. "Trust me, a miracle will happen."

Meng Ying gazed at Huo Yao for a while before she continued. "Even though you're not a doctor, I don't know why your words have given me such peace of mind."

Huo Yao raised her brow and said with a smile, "Child, you made the right choice to trust me."

Then she cleared her throat and continued speaking. "Your dad is currently in a state of self-hibernation after experiencing severe trauma. Once his internal and external injuries have recovered, we can stimulate his nerves. It will be a matter of time before he regains consciousness."

Meng Ying did not quite grasp what Huo Yao said. Although she did not understand what Huo Yao meant by self-hibernation, the words, 'regain consciousness', instantly gave her a ray of hope like a light illuminating the darkness.

But soon, her expression turned dark. Even the hospital president had said that there was only a miniscule chance that her father would regain consciousness. Since Huo Yao was not a doctor... she was probably just consoling her.

"Thanks." Meng Ying did not know what else to say other than that.

Huo Yao looked at Meng Ying without explaining anything further. She left from there after staying with Meng Ying for a while.

Before leaving, she said to Meng Ying, "I'll visit your father after he gets transferred from ICU to the general ward."

Meng Ying did not put much thought into it. She assumed that Huo Yao was being polite because they were friends and did not refuse her. She agreed absentmindedly and walked downstairs with Huo Yao.

Huo Yao hailed a cab for home after leaving the hospital.

While sitting in the cab, she recalled that Huo Tingrui was still abroad.

She pulled out her phone and texted him: [Brother Tingrui, are you done? When are you coming home?]

Huo Tingrui's flight was about to take off when he received his sister's text.

Before turning off his phone, he quickly replied: [I'm making a transfer at City B. I'll arrive at around 9:00 pm tonight. Baby Girl, are you coming to pick me up?]

The moment she saw the words, 'Baby Girl', her eyes narrowed.

She heartlessly rejected him: [No, I have to study.]

Huo Tingrui felt a little sad when he saw her reply. Why could he not compare to studying??

Huo Tingrui sighed and replied: [Fine. You can wait for us at home.]

When Huo Yao caught sight of the word, 'us', she asked him quizzically: [Aren't you coming back alone?]

Huo Tingrui: [Nope. Xiang's coming home too.]

Huo Yao contemplated for two seconds before swiftly texting her brother: [Okay. 9:00 pm tonight, right? I'll see you at the arrival hall.]

Huo Tingrui was shocked by the 360 degrees change in her attitude. He resentfully looked sideways at Huo Xiang, who was sitting next to him, with his cap covering half his face.

He chuckled mirthlessly. Huo Yao must have suddenly changed her mind because she found out Huo Xiang was also coming back, right?

Huo Xiang sensed the murderous look in his brother's eyes, so he asked him quizzically. "Brother Tingrui?"

Huo Tingrui sneered before turning his head away, sulkily.

Huo Xiang, "???"

## **Chapter 177: Foiling Huo Tingrui's Plans**

The plane landed slightly after 9:00 pm.

They had to make a transfer at City B on their way home from City M. It had been a ten hour long flight. Huo Tingrui was completely exhausted.

But his sister was waiting for him, so the moment he got off the plane, he quickly moved ahead, leaving Huo Xiang and Tong Yu in the dust.

Tong Yu looked at Huo Tingrui's receding back and the adrenalin rush he was showing. He was secretly impressed by his stamina.

After telling Huo Xiang to hurry up, Tong Yu chased behind Huo Tingrui and said, "Tingrui, wait up."

However, Huo Tingrui showed no signs of slowing down when he heard Tong Yu and picked up his pace instead.

Tong Yu was flabbergasted. He turned to ask Huo Xiang softly. "Do you find anything bizarre about Tingrui's behaviour?"

Huo Xiang raised his head to look at his second older brother with a complicated look in his eyes.

Huo Tingrui was acting beyond weird and Huo Xiang thought as though his brother was on a roller coaster ride.

An inexplicable murderous vibe kept floating from Huo Tingrui.

"Maybe he's anxious to go home," said Huo Xiang calmly after some time.

Tong Yu looked at Huo Tingrui who was certainly charging full steam ahead. Perhaps his biological brother knew better?

But the anxious Huo Tingrui slowed down soon and asked them when they caught up. "Xiang, are you leaving through the VIP lane?"

He purposely did not tell Huo Xiang that their little sister was here to pick them up.

Huo Xiang looked at him and was about to tell him that it was alright for him to take the ordinary lane since his fans did not know his schedule.

But Huo Tingrui's voice swiftly arose again. He said, "I'll see you at home. I don't want your fans to spot you because of me." Huo Tingrui adjusted his spectacles and showed consideration towards Huo Xiang.

Tong Yu smiled and interrupted him. "Tingrui, you can take the VIP channel with us."

Huo Tingrui choked on his words. He had been so focused on sending Huo Xiang on his way that he overlooked this vulnerability.

He miscalculated!

Huo Tingrui did not want to take the VIP exit. After all, his little sister was waiting at the arrival hall. But he was not keen on leaving through the ordinary lane with Huo Xiang, either.

He cleared his throat and waved to Tong Yu. "It's fine. There's no need to go through the trouble..."

"It's no trouble. It will save you half the time if you take the VIP exit," interrupted Tong Yu.

Huo Tingrui, "!!!"

Was Tong Yu a professional saboteur?

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Tong Yu paused and added further. "Also, our company car is already waiting at the parking lot."

Fury seethed from Huo Tingrui's eyes from behind his spectacles the moment he heard Tong Yu!

AHHHH! He should have just gotten rid of them earlier. Why did he shoot himself in the foot?!

Huo Tingrui inhaled deeply. Despite getting obstructed yet again, he kept a straight face and replied. "No thanks. My driver is waiting for me outside."

His driver, Huo Yao was waiting at the arrival hall!!

A look of understanding swept across Tong Yu's face and he stopped convincing Huo Tingrui to take the VIP lane.

Tong Yu looked at Huo Xiang and said, "Why don't you go straight home with Tingrui? Since your fans don't know about your schedule, I don't think anyone will recognize you dressed like this if you take the ordinary lane."

Huo Tingrui, "!!!"

Heavens! How could this keep happening to him???

## **Chapter 178: The Worst Failure**

Tong Yu keenly sensed a murderous aura directed towards him when he finished his sentence. He raised his head and looked at Huo Tingrui instinctively, but the latter was wearing a refined smile on his face and seemed innocent.

He veered his eyes away quizzically and felt that his senses must be playing tricks on him since he had been in the flight for too long.

Huo Tingrui wanted to drive them away, but they ended up stuck together. He sighed in his heart before walking towards the arrival hall without saying a word.

He looked dejected from behind.

Soon, all three of them walked out of the arrival hall.

There were a lot of people in the arrival hall, so Tong Yu stood close to Huo Xiang to prevent him from getting recognized, with an almost instinctive vigilance.

Although Huo Tingrui wanted to blow Huo Xiang's cover shortly after they came out, he automatically walked next to Huo Xiang to help shield him from some curious gazes as well.

Huo Yao was standing at the end of the crowd with a black mask on her face. She raised her hand and waved the moment she caught sight of Huo Tingrui and Huo Xiang.

Since Huo Xiang had barely spent half a day with Huo Yao, he did not recognize her right away. Moreover, she was wearing a mask.

Huo Xiang only recognized her in astonishment when Huo Tingrui walked over and stood in front of her.

"Did you wait for a long time?" asked Huo Tingrui rather gently. He sounded completely different than when he spoke to his brother.

"Not too long," replied Huo Yao as she pursed her lips. Then her eyes landed on Huo Xiang, and she greeted him. "Brother Xiang."

There was still a look of shock in Huo Xiang's eyes. After he composed himself, he said, "Mhm."

Then he subconsciously looked at his second older brother standing besides him.

Huo Tingrui had already seen this awkward situation coming, so he calmly looked away when Huo Xiang glanced at him.

Huo Xiang, “???”

“Hey, Yao. Do you remember me?” asked Tong Yu.

He beamed when he spotted Huo Yao. This helped in alleviating the uneasiness in the atmosphere.

Huo Yao nodded and said, “Hello, Mr. Tong Yu.”

A look of surprise swept across Tong Yu’s face as he said, “Wow. You have a good memory and even remembered my name.”

Tong Yu recalled that he barely spent five minutes with Huo Yao when he previously brought gifts to the Huo residence.

Huo Yao smiled while Huo Tingrui disdained Tong Yu for making a fuss over such a small issue.

His sister was a straight-A student. How tough would it be for her to remember one name?

Huo Tingrui cleared his throat and interrupted. “Let’s go. The airport is too crowded. We can talk at home.”

Then he walked off.

After Huo Tingrui reached the exit, he watched all the cars drive off outside until the road became empty. He suddenly recalled that there was actually no car waiting for them.

Huo Tingrui, “!!!”

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He turned to see Huo Xiang and Tong Yu staring at him as though asking him where the car was?

The situation became really awkward.

Tong Yu composed himself in the end and retrieved his phone. He said, “I’ll get the assistant to bring the car over.”

Huo Tingrui pressed his forehead. Today must be the worst failure of his life.

After Tong Yu came back after making the call, he glanced at Huo Tingrui before looking at Huo Yao. He recalled how Huo Tingrui had used all kinds of excuses to refuse his suggestion regarding use of the VIP lane and also his attempts to get rid of Huo Xiang and him. His lips twitched suddenly.

Tong Yu felt that he was onto something.

## **Chapter 179: You Don’t Look Well. Are You Sick?**

Huo Xiang’s car came over. Since it was a large MPV, there was enough space for all of them.

Huo Yao got onto the car first while Huo Tingrui helped Tong Yu load the luggage. Huo Xiang hesitated before getting into the car to sit next to Huo Yao.

Huo Tingrui instantly glared sideways at Huo Xiang, when he got on after loading the luggage. He was occupying the seat next to their little sister.

Tsk, that cunning Huo Xiang!

Huo Xiang was nonplussed when Huo Tingrui rolled his eyes at him again, “???”

Tong Yu caught sight of Huo Tingrui’s expression. He glanced at the silly and clueless Huo Xiang and shook his head before moving to get into the front passenger seat.

Good luck to Huo Xiang!

The car left the airport and headed to the Huo family’s estate.

Huo Xiang removed his mask after getting into the car. Despite his cold and untalkative personality, he had a rather good impression of Huo Yao from that one time they dined together.

Huo Xiang placed his hand on his knee and rubbed his long fingers on it randomly. He glanced sideways at his little sister every now and then. He wanted to start a conversation but did not know what to say.

Also, Huo Tingrui had not found time to chat with his younger sister yet. After being abroad for so many days, there was a lot of work waiting for him at the company, so he kept exchanging texts with his assistant.

Huo Yao sensed Huo Xiang’s furtive stares. She lowered her eyes before turning to look at Huo Xiang unhurriedly. Immediately, she noticed how wan and sick he looked.

Huo Yao frowned. Her eyes inadvertently glanced at his hand on his knee and spotted traces of a needle puncture. Although it had healed quite a bit, she managed to see it.

Huo Yao asked him casually. “Brother Xiang, have you been filming abroad?”

Huo Xiang looked at Huo Yao. Although he did not know how his little sister knew that he had gone abroad, he guessed Huo Tingrui must have told her about it.

Huo Xiang composed himself and pursed his lips. A calm and somewhat stiff smile appeared on his cool face and made him look more approachable. He said softly, “Mhm.”

Huo Yao immediately questioned him in an expressionless voice. “You don’t look well. Are you sick?”

Huo Xiang’s face froze for a second, and even the hand on his knee instinctively clenched into a fist.

Huo Tingrui swiftly interrupted from behind and said, “He’s just exhausted from being stuck on the plane for over ten hours.”

Huo Xiang’s hand relaxed.

He did not want the rest of the family to find out about his health problems.

“Okay. Make sure you have a good rest after you get home. Nothing’s more important than your health,” said Huo Yao as she lowered her eyes and acted like she believed them.

“Mhm, I know,” replied Huo Xiang with a bitter taste in his throat. Then he looked out of the car window at the street lamps rapidly retreating against the speeding car.

The car finally reached their estate in about 50 minutes.

Tong Yu removed the luggage and left with his assistant.

Right after Huo Xiang picked up his luggage, Huo Yao reached over to grip him by his wrist casually and said, "Brother Xiang, let me help you."

Huo Xiang was stunned.

Huo Yao let go of him quickly. Then she turned to hold the luggage by its handle and pulled it away from Huo Xiang.

The entire process took no more than a few seconds.

### **Chapter 180: Heartless Younger Siblings**

Huo Xiang composed himself and watched as his younger sister pulled his luggage. He laughed and shook his head, trailing behind her. He said, "Thanks, Yao. I really could have done it myself."

Huo Yao pulled his suitcase and went ahead in silence.

Huo Xiang let her do it since she insisted.

Huo Tingrui stood with his hands on his hips after getting overlooked by Huo Yao and watched them leave. Then he glanced at the suitcase next to his feet and felt upset.

Was he not her biological brother?

He had a suitcase too!

Huo Tingrui stood where he was for some time until both of them almost disappeared. Neither of them even turned to notice that their second older brother was left behind. In the end, Huo Tingrui walked into the estate on a huff.

His siblings were so heartless!

\*

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan found out from Huo Yao that their second and fourth sons were coming home today, so they were waiting for them.

The moment they came home, Song Ning went over to help with the luggage and said, "Xiang, you must be exhausted, right?"

Huo Xiang shook his head and bowed. "Mom, Dad."

"Have you eaten? I saved you and your sister some food," said Song Ning concernedly.

Huo Tingrui stood speechlessly at the door, "..."

Dinner for Huo Xiang and Huo Yao?

Was Huo Tingrui not her son?

After Huo Tingrui got continuously ignored, he could not help wondering if he still had any importance left in this family.

Thankfully, he was not wholly forgotten as his father finally said, "Tingrui, what are you doing standing at the door in a daze?"

Huo Jinyan glanced at his second eldest son with a mocking look and teased him for contracting Alzheimer's disease at such a young age.

Huo Tingrui, "..."

It really seemed he no longer had a place in the family!

Song Ning was too distracted to talk to Huo Tingrui. After she caught sight of Huo Xiang's thin face, she was heartbroken.

She pulled him into the living room and took a closer look at him before she said, "Why do you look so tired? You must have been working too hard."

She sensed something amiss the last time Huo Xiang was home. Since Tong Yu assured her that Huo Xiang was fine when she called to check, she did not keep probing.

Huo Xiang lowered his eyes slightly and replied. "I'm just tired from the long flight. I'll be fine tomorrow."

Huo Yao glanced at him. Her expression became slightly solemn as she recalled her diagnosis when she secretly took his pulse downstairs.

Her fourth older brother suffered not only physical damage but also something else.

Huo Yao contemplated before she said, "I'm heading back to my room. I still have a few more things to revise."

"Oh, okay," said Song Ning as she nodded. But she quickly asked her a question. "Yao, did you have dinner?"

Huo Yao nodded. "Yes, I did."

Then Huo Yao bowed before heading upstairs.

Song Ning veered her eyes away from her. She looked at Huo Xiang and said sadly, "Sigh. Your sister loves to study. All she does when she gets home is to study and revise. She's like a nerd who doesn't indulge in any recreational activities."

Huo Xiang looked towards his sister's back. He had not expected his little sister to be so studious.

He thought that she must be passionate and diligent about studying because she grew up in a small town.

Instantly, Huo Xiang liked his little sister a little more.

Huo Yao, who had just been labeled a diligent student, went straight to her desk and turned on her laptop.



