

Pill Maker 181

Chapter 181: Never Seen Such An Advanced Poison

Huo Yao's desktop screen was rather empty, and barely any software had been installed on it. She clicked on a water drop shaped icon, and a login popup instantly appeared there.

She entered her password and clicked on the okay button. Something similar to an average instant messenger interface popped up.

Shortly after she signed in, the leaf icon at the corner of the interface started flashing swiftly, indicating that people were looking for her.

Huo Yao glanced at it before turning on the settings to 'do not disturb' mode.

She glanced through the list of people looking for her. Most of them were asking where she had disappeared to, for over a year. She did not bother to reply to any of them.

She opened a chat group in the list. There were approximately 20 people in the chat group, and about half of them were actively chatting.

Huo Yao did not go through the chat history. Instead, she typed quickly.

Medicine Pill: [Have any of you sold Wuyu recently?]

Members of this chat group hailed from all over the world. They had mysterious identities and dealt with the sale of unusual commodities.

Everyone was happily chatting until [Medicine Pill] suddenly turned up. For a moment, no one made a peep as though they were frozen.

Huo Yao looked at her screen, which appeared to be hung, and blinked in surprise. Did they forget about her after she stopped signing in during the year?

After waiting for a while, she typed again.

Medicine Pill: [?]

Everyone recovered from their shock when they saw the question mark which Huo Yao sent.

I'm That Good: [Darn! Medicine Pill, I can't believe you suddenly came back from death after hiding from us for so long!]

Get Rich: [I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me. I didn't think it was real.]

Don't Steal My Lingzhi: [How can the appearance of a big shot compare to that of commoners like you?]

\$100 000 000 Appearance Fees: [I'm glad I didn't go to bed. Or else, I would have lived in regret for the rest of my life!]

...

Huo Yao pressed her forehead as she looked at the chat group while everyone reeled in shock at her return.

Medicine Pill: [So can someone answer me now?]

Don't Steal My Lingzhi: [I don't have any Wuyu. I've only heard of it, but I never laid eyes on it.]

Get Rich: [I sell rat poison. I can never dream of selling something as high-end as Wuyu.]

I'm That Good: [Only a handful of apothecaries are capable of making it, so there's barely any available for sale.]

Since none of them had dealt with Wuyu before, Huo Yao did not linger on and closed the chat group quickly.

Before long, the avatar of [Don't Steal My Lingzhi] popped up, inviting her for a private chat. Huo Yao clicked it open.

She had known this person for a long time, and they were on rather good terms.

Don't Steal My Lingzhi: [My friend, did you ask about Wuyu because something happened to you?]

Medicine Pill: [A friend of mine unexpectedly showed symptoms of getting poisoned by Wuyu.]

Don't Steal My Lingzhi: [Very few people can make Wuyu. Why don't I check with my friend who's a member of the Apothecaries' Association?]

Medicine Pill: [Okay, thanks!]

Don't Steal My Lingzhi: [You're welcome. Mind giving me your number?]

Huo Yao contemplated before sending out her WeChat ID.

Very quickly, her WeChat beeped. Huo Yao quickly verified [Don't Steal My Lingzhi] as a friend. Then they stopped chatting with tacit understanding.

Huo Yao turned off the laptop and got up. She walked over to her wardrobe and took out the suitcase which she had brought over to the Huo residence when she first moved here.

Chapter 182: The Right Diagnosis

Huo Yao opened her box and brushed her fingers over the bottles. Then her habitually expressionless face became grave.

Wuyu was a neurological poison. Although it was not domineering in nature, it could eventually damage all the nerves of the person from the roots.

The poison usually did not get triggered without major injuries. However, it would attack the person like a creeper when he suffered from any neurological injury and slowly attacked all nerves in his body. In the end, the afflicted person would eventually become completely disabled.

The poisoned person would present symptomatic intervals of hysteria and there would be dark patches around his temples. In the middle and later stages, the person would lose body mass swiftly, and inconspicuous red patches would start to appear.

Wuyu was a neurological poison because it tucked itself away in the patient's nerves and was impossible to detect through blood tests.

Huo Yao was surprised that her fourth older brother had gotten poisoned by Wuyu. Based on his current condition, the poison had spread to its middle stage. If the poison was not controlled soon, the consequences were unimaginable.

Currently, she only had the medicine that could control its spread, but didn't have anything to neutralize Wuyu. The antidote was complicated to produce, and another challenge she faced was the lack of equipment.

Huo Yao pressed her forehead. Then she picked a bottle of medicine, which could temporarily help control the poison's effects, and left her room.

Meanwhile downstairs.

Her father was about to go up but halted in his steps when Huo Yao came down. He looked at her and asked her. "Yaoyao, still up?"

"Mhm," replied Huo Yao. She glanced around the living room. "Has Brother Xiang gone up to his room?"

Her father nodded and said, "He said he was exhausted from staying on the plane for over ten hours, so he went to bed."

Huo Yao nodded. "Then you have an early night too, Dad."

Saying so, she turned to go upstairs.

She had spent less than a minute coming down and going back up.

He gazed at his daughter from behind. Huo Jinyan touched his chin sadly. First, his second son came home to get in his way, and now his fourth son. Was it too much to ask to have some quality time with his wife and daughter?

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The next morning.

Huo Yao caught sight of Huo Xiang sitting in the living room when she reached the stairs. She paused before turning back to her room. Before long, she came back out again with the medicine which she had found for Huo Xiang last night.

After reaching the ground floor, Huo Yao went over and greeted Huo Xiang sweetly. "Brother Xiang, morning."

"Morning, Yao," said Huo Xiang as he nodded slightly.

Huo Xiang did seem slightly better after having some rest, but the darkening at his temples remained. Huo Yao stopped scrutinizing him. It seemed she was spot on with her diagnosis last night.

Huo Yao paused before handing the porcelain bottle to him. She said, "This is for you."

Huo Xiang's eyes landed on the porcelain bottle in surprise. He reached his hand out and asked her. "What is it?"

Before Huo Yao replied, their father came walking out of the bathroom and said unsurprisingly, "The invigorator."

Huo Xiang, "..."

Huo Yao, "..."

"Your little sister gave each of us a bottle as a gift when she first returned home. I feel a lot stronger now, after I've taken these."

Huo Jinyan threw a punch in mid-air as he spoke. In the end, he accidentally overturned a piece of wooden ornament, and it fell onto the ground. He blushed awkwardly.

Huo Yao twitched her lips and averted her eyes. She could not bear looking at her father.

Chapter 183: His Daughter Sounded Like A Charlatan

Huo Jinyan smiled as he bent over to pick up the wooden ornament and placed it back on the corner table. Then he acted as though nothing happened and put his trembling hand behind his back. "Your sister's medicine is really great!"

Huo Xiang was surprised to see his father behave in such a silly manner. His eyes landed on the porcelain bottle in Huo Yao's hand.

Was the invigorator a kidney tonic?

Although he had hurt his spine, his kidneys were... In an instant, Huo Xiang felt a little embarrassed.

Huo Yao seemed to have read his mind. She pressed her forehead and said, "These meds are different from Dad's."

Huo Xiang calmed down a little when he heard it was not kidney tonic.

Huo Yao coughed and explained it to him with a solemn look. "These are Yuqing pilluqing pills. They are good for expelling toxins, physical recovery and will help improve your condition."

She did not go into detail about their efficacy. After all, Huo Xiang would not understand the professional Chinese medicine terminology.

Huo Jinyan narrowed his eyes when he heard Huo Yao. He felt there was something curious about his daughter. She often uttered strange things.

Here she was talking about expelling toxins and physical recovery. Why did Huo Yao sound like one of those charlatans who often appeared in the news?

Huo Xiang did not think as deeply as his father. He was only a little surprised when his little sister said that it 'will help improve his condition'.

He looked at Huo Yao in astonishment. When their eyes made contact, his little sister's bright, beautiful eyes seemed omniscient.

Did Huo Yao know he was injured?

Huo Xiang was stunned. Just as he was about to ask her, Huo Yao blinked at him and said in an uncharacteristically grave manner, "Brother Xiang, trust me. You must take these meds. One every three days. Don't forget."

After some time, Huo Xiang gently replied. "Okay. I got it."

Huo Yao could not tell if Huo Xiang had taken her seriously, but she did not go on with the topic. She turned to enter the dining room.

A sad smile swept across Huo Xiang's lips as he held the porcelain bottle.

His little sister gave them to him out of the kindness of her heart. Sadly, his dreams of performing on stage were destined to get ripped from his hands no matter what medicine he took.

He casually put the porcelain bottle into his pocket.

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Before long, Huo Yao finished breakfast and headed out to school. Huo Xiang wanted to drive her there, but their father said he would cause a disturbance due to his celebrity status and stopped him.

In the end, Huo Yao's father sent her to school.

The old man had spent the night worrying that he would need to fight for his baby girl's attention from now on, but he finally felt gratified. He even happily hummed on their way to the estate parking lot.

Huo Yao followed behind him perplexedly. She did not understand why he was so pleased today.

Her old man pointed at the car cover mysteriously when they got to the parking lot and said, "Here, you take off the car cover."

Huo Yao took a glance at it before looking sideways to ask her father. "Did you get a new car?"

"Yeah. We have had that old car for a long time. The company just gave out our quarterly bonus, so I got a new one," replied Huo Jinyan.

He did not mention a word about how he was sparked to do it because He Xiaoman threw a cheque at them.

"Hurry up and take off the cover and check out our new car," urged Huo Jinyan, smiling broadly.

Huo Yao touched the tip of her nose. She extended her hand to pull off the car cover.

Chapter 184: This Car Really Isn't Worth Much!

Huo Yao lifted the car cover, and a flashy flying goddess logo fell into her view. Her hand paused mid-air. A slight look of surprise spread across her face. This was...

A Rolls-Royce?

Huo Yao raised her head and looked at her old man in shock. "Dad, is your quarterly bonus that high?"

"It's okay," replied Huo Jinyan nonchalantly. He looked at the confused look on his daughter's face. Then he cleared his throat and said as a way of explanation, "It isn't as expensive as you think. It's just worth... a million or so."

He recalled how Huo Yao mistook the company accountants as debt collectors, previously. If he told her that the car was worth ten millions, it might give her a scare, so he changed his mind about telling her the truth.

Since his daughter was a nerd who did nothing but study, she probably did not know much about cars.

Huo Yao's lips twitched. She finally pulled the entire car cover off.

In an instant, a sophisticated looking Rolls-Royce Phantom emerged in front of her eyes.

Oh wow! A Rolls-Royce Phantom for a million? Who was the old man trying to fool?

"Are-you-sure-the-car-only cost a million?" asked Huo Yao in surprise. She dragged the word, 'only', for much longer.

Since Huo Jinyan had already lied, it was impossible for him to back out now. He coughed awkwardly and tried to maintain a straight face. Replying in an uncharacteristically solemn tone, he said, "Yes. It just looks flashy but isn't worth that much!"

Huo Yao, "..."

She would be a fool to believe him.

Huo Jinyan did not dare make eye contact with his daughter. Instead, he lowered his head to check the time and said, "It's getting late. Get in. I'll send you to school."

He quickly took out the key and unlocked the door before sliding into the driver's seat.

His face reflected guilt.

20 minutes later, Huo Jinyan and Huo Yao arrived at school. The car was too flashy, so Huo Yao did not allow him to drop her at the school entrance and got off before they reached the gate.

The Lu family's car arrived at the school at the same time. When the chauffeur spotted the Rolls-Royce turning around the corner, he spoke up in surprise. "That Rolls-Royce is a direct import. Anyone who can afford that car must be a big shot."

Lu Xia was using her phone with her head lowered. She only raised her head to look out of the window a few moments after the chauffeur had commented about the Rolls-Royce. The car had left by the time she looked up.

Instead, she spotted Huo Yao walking unhurriedly on the sidewalk and heading for the school.

Slowly, her car went past Huo Yao.

Lu Xia's expression turned angry when she recalled how Lu Ziming had sent the quiz notes to Huo Yao. After a moment, she told the chauffeur to pull up by the roadside.

Lu Xia waited for Huo Yao to catch up. She rolled down the car window and called out to her when she walked by. "Huo Yao."

Huo Yao halted in her steps. A coldness emanated from her exquisite features when she turned to look sideways. There was a nonchalant expression in her deep starry eyes. She raised her brow lazily when she realized that it was Lu Xia calling her.

Intense jealousy swept across Lu Xia's eyes. She clenched her fists on her lap for a moment before letting go and composing herself.

"I suggest you quit the National Quiz Contest before the results are out," said Lu Xia indifferently.

Chapter 185: Who The Hell Do You Think You Are?

The city level National Quiz Contest results were scheduled to be out in a couple of days.

Huo Yao looked at Lu Xia and gave her a spurious smile. A light breeze played with a lock of her hair and made it flutter gently around her mouth. She replied in a lazy manner. "Who do you think you are?"

Her voice was slightly husky and naturally arrogant. Even when she cursed, it did not sound uncouth. Instead, she gave off an impish air.

Lu Xia's expression gradually froze. But then her lips quickly curved into a mocking smile and she said, "Are you getting cocky after attaining the first position a couple of times?"

Huo Yao raised her brow. She had always wondered about the reason why the Lu family's biological daughter sought her attention so desperately.

Lu Xia had already returned to her powerful family and was surrounded by her doting parents. Did she keep posturing like this because she had nothing better to do?

Huo Yao shook her head with disinterest before veering her eyes away. She could not be bothered speaking to her and made a move towards the school gates.

Lu Xia watched Huo Yao walk away with angry eyes.

Lu Xia hated how Huo Yao looked down on everyone. Despite growing up in the countryside, she kept acting cool. Did Huo Yao think she was someone important?

That was hilarious!

Lu Xia wound up the car window and angrily told the chauffeur to drive on.

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After entering the class, Huo Yao noticed that Meng Ying was in school today. She sat down and patted Meng Ying on her shoulder.

Meng Ying was in a daze. In the past, she had always walked over to say hi when she saw Huo Yao. This time, she only managed to gather her thoughts when Huo Yao patted her on her shoulder.

"Sister Big Shot, hi," said Meng Ying tiredly.

Huo Yao looked at how weary Meng Ying looked. Her dark eye rings could almost compare to that of a panda's. She asked her in a gentle voice. "Didn't you get any sleep last night?"

Meng Ying lay prone on the table with her eyes narrowed and replied sadly. "I couldn't sleep. The moment I think about my Dad, I feel awful."

"Take care. Or else, if you fall sick when your father wakes up, he will feel bad. Moreover, you have to take care of your mother," said Huo Yao calmly.

Huo Yao wanted to help, but this was not the right time. After all, Meng Ying's father had just undergone a major surgery and was still in the recovery stage. If she gave him acupuncture at this juncture, he might not be able to take it. Instead, it would be counterproductive.

Meng Ying sniffled and did her utmost to cheer up and said, "Yes, I get it."

Huo Yao smiled. She took out a notebook from her desk, and found the Mathematics notes she had taken yesterday. She placed them on Meng Ying's table.

Meng Ying looked at the powerful writing in the notebook. When she saw the easy to follow methods to solve equations and the main points, she was deeply filled with gratitude and said, "Thanks."

Huo Yao raised her brow and teased her. "My deskmate can't perform too poorly. Or else, it will be a disgrace for me since I'm the top ranked student."

Meng Ying nodded and took the notebook without continuing with the conversation.

Every minute mattered during the senior year. If someone was willing to sacrifice her time and prepare revision notes for her, then that person was a true friend.

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The third period was English. The teacher came in and handed out a test paper before telling everyone to complete it on their own. Then she asked Huo Yao to follow her into the office.

She was used to getting called to the office by her Chinese teacher, Chen Yu, but this time, it was the English teacher. Also, she asked her to do this in the middle of class... so Huo Yao was caught by surprise.

Chapter 186: Would You Do It for \$100,000?

The English teacher was a young female, barely 30 years old. She graduated from Tsinghua University's foreign language department and had the highest rating in No.1 Middle School.

Looking at Huo Yao, she shed her usual sternness, and said, "Don't be nervous, Huo Yao. I called you into the office to discuss something with you."

Huo Yao nodded and replied solemnly. "I'm not nervous."

The teacher was tickled by her response. She cleared her throat and continued speaking. "The Department of Education has organized an English oral competition. Each middle school can send five contestants to participate. You have the best English grades in class, so you..."

The moment Huo Yao heard about the competition, she instinctively looked unwilling. Before her English teacher could finish her sentence, Huo Yao interrupted her. "Ma'am, although my English grades are good, I'm not a strong speaker."

The Principal had convinced her to join the National Quiz Contest. That was not over yet, and now her English teacher wanted her to enter an English oral competition! She was not the least bit interested in competitions which didn't offer any prize money.

Her English teacher looked at her in surprise. "How can that be? Your spoken English ought to be pretty good, right! Or else why would the Principal tell me to submit your name? But I felt it was best to check with you first."

Huo Yao's lips twitched. Did she almost get sabotaged by the Principal again?

Huo Yao inhaled deeply. Then she smiled and said, "The Principal might have gotten confused. Having good English grades doesn't necessarily mean I will do well in the oral competition as well. Since you are a professional, I'm sure you know that they are two separate things."

Her English teacher nodded in agreement and said, "That's true."

"So why don't you get someone else to participate? I'm worried that the Principal might expel me if I bring disgrace to the school," said Huo Yao sternly.

The Principal was on his way into the office when he heard her. He was speechless, "..."

Huo Yao was simply too much. Was he that unreasonable?

The English teacher caught sight of the Principal standing at the door. She greeted him respectfully. "Hello, Sir."

Huo Yao was standing with her back facing the door. She swiftly straightened her back when she heard her English teacher. Then she turned to bow and said calmly, "Hello, Sir!"

She did not seem awkward after getting caught red-handed for teasing the Principal.

He looked at Huo Yao deeply before walking to the centre of the room. "Why won't you join the competition?"

The Principal had not overheard the earlier conversation between Huo Yao and the English teacher.

Huo Yao scratched her head and then replied with a poker face. "I'm not good with spoken English."

"Not even for the sake of a \$100,000 scholarship?" asked the Principal with raised eyebrows.

Huo Yao, "..."

This was definitely a big temptation.

Huo Yao cleared her throat and turned towards her English teacher. "On second thoughts, my spoken English is pretty good. Why don't you count me in?"

It was the English Teacher's turn to become speechless, "..."

That was certainly not what Huo Yao said a minute ago.

"Then it's done," said the Principal, without looking at the astounded English teacher.

He said to Huo Yao, "Come with me to my office."

Saying so, he walked out. Huo Yao nodded politely to her English teacher before trailing behind the Principal.

The English teacher finally recovered from the weird conversation and exhaled deeply.

She had never seen the Principal behave so kindly or any students behave so calmly before him.

Huo Yao was phenomenal!

Chapter 187: Would You Like To Change Classes?

In the principal's office.

The Principal invited Huo Yao to sit on the couch and poured her a glass of water. Then he sat down in front of her and said, "Do you want to shift classes?"

Huo Yao raised her brow slightly in surprise and asked him. "Change my class? Why should I?"

"Since you are strong in the sciences, staying in an arts class would be a waste of your talent," explained the Principal solemnly.

He had initially planned to place her in a science class when the term commenced, but he got held up in the capital. By the time he returned, she had already joined the arts class.

Huo Yao unexpectedly smiled and shook her head, rejecting him. "It's fine. It makes no difference which class I'm in."

She had finished learning all nine middle school subjects eons ago.

The Principal looked at Huo Yao, brimming with confidence. He could not help asking her a little abashedly. "Are you refusing to transfer because of Wei Mingzhe?"

Wei Mingzhe was the class advisor for the Rocket Class, which was a science class. He had refused to admit Huo Yao into his class when the term started.

"Because of him? No, that's not it," replied Huo Yao indifferently.

If the Principal did not bring up Wei Mingzhe, she would have forgotten all about him.

She paused and said jokingly, "If you shift me, Miss Chen Yu is going to throw a fit."

The Principal laughed. He could tell Huo Yao really meant what she said.

"In that case, I won't force you. Do you remember the visitor from the Education Association, Professor Zhao Lian?"

Huo Yao nodded. She had a fantastic memory, so naturally she remembered him. Moreover, the Principal had specially introduced him.

Was he not the honorary member of the Education Association?

"Professor Zhao is Tsinghua University's biology professor. You left a great impression on him that day and after taking a look at your quiz results, he believes that you're highly talented in biology."

The Principal recalled the phone call that Zhao Lian made to him yesterday asking about Huo Yao. Then he smiled and said, "It's a pity that you were assigned to an arts class."

So that was the reason the Principal asked Huo Yao to shift classes out of the blue.

Huo Yao realized finally.

"Considering your learning ability, it truly doesn't make much difference which class you're in," said the Principal, after deliberating over it.

"Professor Zhao has been on the hunt for a personal disciple for long. He has high hopes for you, so you must seize the opportunity. After all, your future lies beyond this little city. The capital has complicated social relations, and it's hard to survive without some connections."

Since real talent was scarce in highly specialized fields, people would rather destroy them than let someone else obtain them.

Once the power balance was upset, it would turn into a bloody battle.

Huo Yao grasped the Principal's worry. She looked at the Principal and replied in a polite voice. "Thank you for your concern and grooming."

Why would a biology professor miles away in Tsinghua University take such interest in Huo Yao? Since the National Quiz Contest was not a professional biology contest, the Principal must have been the one recommending her name.

Although she did not need his help, she was grateful for the Principal's kindness.

The Principal waved his hand and continued. "If you want to thank me, then just make it to the International Quiz Contest."

He was only asking her to make it into the International Quiz Contest finals and not to come back with a medal.

Huo Yao raised her brow. It seemed that the Principal did not know her well enough. However, she did not brag and replied honestly. "That's a cinch."

Chapter 188: Major Change In The Plotline

The Principal could not help shaking his head when he saw how confident Huo Yao was.

He recalled something and said, "I know the city level National Quiz Contest result will only get released in a couple of days, but I'm certain you'll clear it with flying colours. Next comes the national level contest. I found out that it will probably take place next weekend. Tsinghua University and the Education Association will be the organizers, and the contest will take place in the capital. The heats and finals will take place one after another, and the results will be released on the spot."

Huo Yao's eyes glinted when she heard the contest would take place in the capital. She stood up and said, "Alright. Then I'm going back to class."

"Mhm. Go on and study hard," said the Principal waving his hand. A thought crossed his mind, and he added hastily. "Don't forget about the English oral competition. I'm sure you have a strong command on spoken English."

Huo Yao halted and turned to look at the Principal with a complicated expression on her face. He was smiling profoundly. Although she was curious about how he came to know about this, she changed her mind about probing him on it.

A \$100,000 scholarship.

Since Huo Yao's father had just splurged on an extravagant luxury Rolls-Royce, she ought to give him a gift to congratulate him on the new car.

The poverty, which Huo Yao had been expecting, was no more applicable. In the end, her plotline experienced such a major turn around.

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Huo Xiang planned on resting at home for a while, but the upper management unexpectedly caught wind about his injuries and asked him to come to the office.

Meanwhile, in Tong Yu's cabin.

Tong Yu said with a livid face, "Who the hell told them about your injuries? I had blocked the news!"

Though there was nothing wrong with his singing, his inability to offer electrifying performances spelled the end of his career as an artist.

No talent agency would support an artist, who could not generate profits, even if Huo Xiang was already a top celebrity.

Huo Xiang sat in the chair. His face was pallid, and he was visibly unwell. He stared at the table coldly and said after a long time, "Tell them the truth. There's no need to hide it from them."

"Are you insane? If you admit to your injuries, what's going to happen to your career?" retorted Tong Yu softly.

The higher management had already spoken to Tong Yu, but he insisted there was nothing wrong with Huo Xiang. He had claimed that Huo Xiang was only exhausted and would not be making any appearances for the time being!

Huo Xiang raised his head and looked at Tong Yu. He had already abandoned himself to despair and said self-deprecatingly, "Do you think I still have a future?"

"Why not? Even though you can't dance, your voice is perfectly fine. Moreover, you are an unsurpassable songwriter."

Huo Xiang veered his face away.

Tong Yu slammed the table disappointedly for his lack of resilience and said, "Do you have to be so proud? Do you really want to get replaced by some other artist in the company?"

Right then, someone came knocking on the door.

Tong Yu wanted to say more but quickly restrained himself when he heard the knock. He walked over to the door but suddenly turned towards Huo Xiang before opening it.

"Huo Xiang, don't breathe a word about this to anyone. I will handle it!"

Then he opened the door.

Chapter 189: It Will Destroy Your Prospects

Tong Yu thought it was one of his superiors, but it turned out to be a fellow talent agent.

Unfortunately, the two of them were not on good terms.

Tong Yu narrowed his eyes and enquired in a distant voice. "Yes?"

Jin Xuyuan glanced at Tong Yu with a cocky look on his face. He walked past him and entered the office. After two seconds, he said in a cocky tone, "Why don't you close the door so that we can have a little chat?"

The airy voice left Tong Yu frowning, but he quickly shut the door and walked into the room.

Jin Xuyuan sat down on the couch and leaned back lazily as though this was his office. He gave Huo Xiang a thorough perusal before he shook his head and said, "Tsk tsk, it's such a pity."

Huo Xiang had already composed himself before Tong Yu opened the door and currently sported a cold expression on his face. When Jin Xuyuan scrutinized him, Huo Xiang's eyes became even darker.

"Your bright future is about to be destroyed, but neither of you... seem anxious," said Jin Xuyuan.

He was sitting with his legs crossed and made no effort to conceal his glee. He seemed unworried about provoking them.

Tong Yu walked over and replied indifferently. "Stop beating around the bush and get to the point."

"Oh! Everyone in the company knows that Lucky got hurt and won't be able to perform, so I came over to show some concern out of the kindness of my heart. Do you have to get so agitated, Tong Yu?" said Jin Xuyuan heedlessly.

Lucky was Huo Xiang's stage name in the entertainment industry.

Although Jin Xuyuan and Tong Yu were both top-notch talent agents, Tong Yu always managed to surpass him, and his trump card was none other than Huo Xiang. Now that Huo Xiang was in trouble, he wondered how much longer could Tong Yu throw his weight around for.

Tong Yu knew Jin Xuyuan was here to gloat over their misfortune, but he did not get worked up. He flicked his hand in mid-air and said nonchalantly, "Xiang is extremely popular. Everyone is jealous of him, so all sorts of rumors have spread."

Jin Xuyuan suddenly stood up. All the mockery on his face dissipated. With a cold face, he said, "Tong Yu, stop pretending. You know best whether Huo Xiang is injured or not. Since we are colleagues, I don't mind helping you cover it up."

Tong Yu pursed his lips quietly and looked at him indifferently. He knew Jin Xuyuan was about to divulge the true reason for his arrival.

"If Huo Xiang is willing to give up his role as the band leader of Phenom, I will handle all the rumors spreading in the company," said Jin Xuyuan calmly as though he was asking him to take a walk in the park.

Tong Yu's expression instantly sank and he spoke through gritted teeth. "You must be joking, right?"

Jin Xuyuan shrugged and continued in an indifferent tone. "Since your artist is in such a bad shape, wouldn't it be wiser to give up the lead position rather than wait for the company to take it from you? At least, you can save yourself the embarrassment."

Jin Xuyuan paused and then said haughtily, "I'll give you some time to consider it. Call me when you're done thinking. After all, such opportunities wait for no one." He headed for the door before Tong Yu could respond.

Tong Yu was so angry that smoke came out from the top of his head.

After some time, he finally lost control of his temper and roared. "He's hitting us when we're down. How dare he ask for your lead position in Phenom?"

Chapter 190: A Gift From My Little Sister

What did Jin Xuyuan think Phenom was?

It was the most popular and best-selling rock idol band in the country. These guys had even won international acclaim!

Youngsters loved their unique rock style. Every album that they had released in the recent years was really well-received. A new album would get sold out at the pre-order stage, way before hitting the shelves. They commanded a staggering amount of influence in the local music industry.

Huo Xiang was the band leader because of his natural leadership skills, songwriting talent, and flawless performances. It had made him rise to prominence and win him over a hundred million fans.

Jin Xuyuan wanted to profit from their misfortune, hence Tong Yu was naturally furious.

Even if Huo Xiang could never perform on stage again, vermin like Jin Xuyuan had no right to insult him.

“He wants me to let Xiang Nan become the band leader,” said Huo Xiang with feigned nonchalance.

Jin Xuyuan had groomed Xiang Nan from the start. He was also a member of the Phenom but wasn’t the lead singer.

At first, things were peaceful between them, but disparity in their talent left Xiang Nan crazily jealous. Huo Xiang managed to win more fans and signed a lot more endorsement deals.

The moment they caught wind of Huo Xiang’s injuries, they started hatching plans to oust him.

“Although Xiang Nan has some talent, he is too full of himself. The music he composes is flowery and shallow,” said Tong Yu in disdain.

The talent agency wanted him to groom Xiang Nan in the beginning, but he had refused.

Huo Xiang pursed his lips and said nothing.

Tong Yu glanced at Huo Xiang and sighed in his heart. He recalled something and said, “Oh yes! A friend of mine suggested that you try traditional Chinese medicine.”

Huo Xiang was unmoved. Even his third older brother, who was a genius, said he could not dance again, so traditional Chinese medicine...

He shook his head and said indifferently, “Let’s talk about it some other time.”

Tong Yu patted Huo Xiang’s shoulder and said, “I won’t give up even if there is a miniscule chance of success. Go home. Have a good rest and leave the company matters to me. I will take care of it.”

Huo Xiang had signed his artist contract with Chang Entertainment. Although it was not the industry leader, it was a large company that commanded a lot of power and influence.

It had turned many celebrities into huge hits and had abundant resources at its disposal. Plenty of artists wanted Chang Entertainment as their talent agency, but the company had high standards.

Tong Yu had worked in Chang Entertainment for almost ten years. He started as a tiny assistant before becoming one of the company’s top talent agents, so he certainly had the knack. If he was confident that he could deal with the problem, he meant it.

Huo Xiang looked at Tong Yu and said solemnly, “Thanks, Yu.”

Tong Yu waved his hand and replied. “No need to thank me. Just focus on getting better.”

After a moment, Tong Yu continued. “You should avoid going back to your private villa. Jin Xuyuan is up to no good, so you have to be vigilant.”

Huo Xiang nodded and stood up. When he retrieved his mask from his pocket, his hand landed on the medicine bottle that Huo Yao had given him earlier in the morning instead.

He was caught by surprise. He had overlooked it when he left the house and forgot to leave it at home.

Tong Yu noticed it right away and asked him curiously. "What's that? The bottle looks cute."

A slightly warm look emanated from Huo Xiang's face as he said, "It's a gift from my little sister."