

## **Pill Maker 201**

### **Chapter 201: S+ Grade Medicine**

Old Mr. Pei inhaled deeply. He told himself not to get angry with someone who did not know any better. In a composed tone, he asked the person. "Is this medication intended for someone who got poisoned recently?"

Poisoned? What poison?

Tong Yu looked bewildered. He shook his head and said, "No, my friend only suffers from a nerve injury."

Old Mr. Pei frowned and said, "Impossible. The main use of Yuqing pills is to prevent poison from spreading further. Also, it protects poison from attacking the nervous system temporarily. If he wasn't poisoned, why would he have to take this?"

Tong Yu scratched his head. He merely wanted to know whether the medicine was safe for consumption or not. What was all this talk about poison?

They were living in modern times here. But why were things starting to sound more and more like that from a fantasy novel?

Moreover, medicine was so advanced these days. If Huo Xiang genuinely got poisoned, they would have found out about it when he underwent a full body examination previously. Why would they have left it untreated till now?

Tong Yu's friend cleared his throat and said, "Tong Yu, this is Old Mr. Pei, whom I mentioned previously. He is a very talented Chinese physician. In fact, he is considered to be the best Chinese physician we have in City S."

Tong Yu was startled by the news. Admiration automatically emerged on his face as he hurriedly bowed and apologized to Old Mr. Pei. "Sorry for being rude, Old Mr. Pei."

In a respectful tone, Tong Yu replied to Old Mr. Pei's question solemnly. "My friend's younger sister gave this pill to him. I was wondering whether it was safe for consumption, so I brought it over to get it examined. Also, my friend underwent several check-ups at the hospital, and they confirmed that he only suffers from a spinal injury."

Then Tong Yu turned his gaze towards the hospital president and continued speaking. "I think that you've seen my friend's lab test results, right?"

The hospital president indeed recognized Tong Yu. He nodded and said, "He's right. The patient only had spinal injuries."

Old Mr. Pei went quiet for two seconds before continuing. "Let me put it this way. This medicine is considered S+ grade medication as per the standard of the Apothecaries' Association. Barely anyone is capable of making it, so I'm not joking when I say it's priceless."

Tong Yu was not much aware about the demarcations in the Chinese medicine field, so he was clueless about how precious this S+ grade medicine was. However, the hospital president understood it clearly and was dumbstruck when he heard Old Mr. Pei's words.

The Apothecaries' Association's medicine was categorized into A, B, C, and D grades. A was considered to be the top medication category while B and C class medicine came in second, and D class medicine was ordinary medication. However, grade D medicine was still considered to be high-end to average people.

S class medicine was a special category of medicine made by using ancient prescriptions. Since there were only a handful of apothecaries specializing in that, they had higher status than the others and garnered a lot of respect everywhere they went.

S class medication was already precious enough, so it was inconceivable how rare S+ grade medicine was.

It was no wonder that Old Mr. Pei was so thrilled when he first saw the medicine.

Tong Yu went into a slight daze. He kept thinking about what Old Mr. Pei said about the medicine being priceless.

Although he knew nothing about the Apothecaries' Association, he sure knew what priceless meant.

It was the same as Huo Xiang's albums getting sold out each time they hit the shelves. No one could get even a single extra copy, no matter how rich they were.

Tong Yu touched his nose and asked the old man. "So is this medicine... that expensive?"

Old Mr. Pei glanced at him and replied with blatant disdain. "A thousand of you can't compare to one S+ pill."

Tong Yu became speechless. "..."

The man was too much!

## **Chapter 202: Not For Sale**

"You said your friend suffers from a spinal injury. Other than suppressing poison, Yuqing pills are also good for nerve injury, so it will definitely work on him," added Old Mr. Pei very quickly.

Tong Yu felt relieved when he heard this.

"But I suggest that your friend get his blood tested. Some slow poisons are undetectable during early stages," said Old Mr. Pei calmly.

Since the drug was precious and had highly specific properties, no one would give it to a patient without such needs.

The truth had started to become clearer.

Tong Yu narrowed his eyes as he contemplated his words. He bowed to Old Mr. Pei and said, "Can you examine my friend? Don't worry. We will definitely pay whatever your consultation fee is."

Although Huo Xiang's third older brother was a neurology expert, he had not discovered any signs of poisoning. However, he could not help feeling worried when he heard Old Mr. Pei's words.

After all, Chinese and Western medicine were completely different from one another. What if Old Mr. Pei managed to cure Huo Xiang?

Old Mr. Pei looked at Tong Yu before his eyes landed on the medicine inside the clear pill bag in his hands. In a mulling tone, he said, "I don't mind seeing your friend, but I have a favor to ask."

Tong Yu could tell what Old Mr. Pei was driving at, so he said immediately, "Thank you, Old Mr. Pei. I will ask my friend's sister right away about the place where she got the meds from."

Old Mr. Pei nodded with a look of anticipation in his eyes.

Since Tong Yu did not have Huo Yao's phone number, he could only call Huo Xiang.

The call went through quickly, and Tong Yu briefly explained the situation to Huo Xiang.

"I'll ask my baby sister," replied Huo Xiang.

Tong Yu hung up the phone. He recalled bumping into Huo Yao at the hospital earlier and could not help sighing. He would have brought her along if he saw this coming.

\*

Huo Yao was already in a cab when Huo Xiang called her.

Huo Yao put on her earphones and answered the call. "Brother Xiang."

"I want to ask about the place where you bought the medicine for me. I feel it's quite effective."

Huo Xiang did not mention anything about Tong Yu's call to her.

If his little sister found out that Tong Yu had asked a doctor to check the medicine, it might hurt her feelings.

Huo Yao looked out of the car's window. It was no coincidence that Huo Xiang asked her about this, considering she had just bumped into his agent at the hospital. She replied in a crisp voice. "My friend gave me the meds, but they aren't for sale."

Huo Xiang went quiet. He couldn't think of any way to probe her further and said, "Oh okay. When are you getting home?"

"In about ten minutes," replied Huo Yao.

"Take care."

Huo Xiang hung up the phone and called Tong Yu to share every word his little sister had said.

Old Mr. Pei fell into a silence. Despite his disappointment, he could understand the other party's decision. Moments later, he handed the pill to Tong Yu.

He seemed reluctant and sad when he returned it to him.

Tong Yu also extended his hand awkwardly. However, the moment he recalled how priceless Old Mr. Pei said the medicine was and how suitable it was for Huo Xiang, he could not bring himself to give it away.

He placed the pill inside his pocket with barely any guilt.

Since Old Mr. Pei was a highly respectable Chinese medicine physician, he certainly would not miss this one pill.

### **Chapter 203: A Genius Doctor?**

Old Mr. Pei took the initiative to ask Tong Yu for his phone number.

After Tong Yu left, the hospital president looked at Old Mr. Pei rather solemnly and said, "Pei, do you think someone in the Apothecaries' Association made this medicine?"

Old Mr. Pei sat back on the couch. He picked up a cup of tea from the centre table and took a sip. "I don't think so."

"Even He Shu can't create S+ medicine like this. I happened to see such medicine once because a friend of mine had some. It was a pity that he purchased the medicine from an online auction website. No such medicine has been sold in the last two years." Old Mr. Pei's gaze drifted into the distance.

Ancient prescriptions were difficult to refine. Even if any apothecary could produce them, only a small number of them could make them at an S+ grade level!

A look of shock emerged on the hospital president's face again. He Shu was an advanced apothecary in the Apothecaries' Association and an ultimate master. If even he was incapable of making this medicine... then what kind of genius was this mysterious person?

No wonder Old Mr. Pei asked Tong Yu for his phone number earlier.

"I thought all talented apothecaries were in the Apothecaries' Association. I didn't think there were geniuses existing like this one outside," sighed the hospital president, moments later.

Old Mr. Pei stroked his grey beard and said profoundly, "There are always stronger people out there, so we shouldn't be complacent. The Apothecaries' Association is nothing compared to the hidden families."

The hospital president went into complete silence. Some things were inconceivable to him and out of his reach.

\*\*

After Huo Yao got home, she ate quickly before heading to her room.

Huo Yao took out her phone after taking a bath and made a video call to Old Madam Yang. Before long, the woman picked up.

The old lady's familiar face appeared on the screen. Huo Yao was drying her hair with the dryer in one hand. With a tiny smile on her face, she said, "You look a lot better."

The old lady held the phone, looking like a gleeful child waiting to be praised. She beamed and replied in a joyful tone. "I've been taking your meds regularly."

"Good. Did the Lu family force you to go back to them again?" asked Huo Yao casually.

"No, they haven't. Everything's okay, so don't worry." Old Madam Yang reassured her.

Suddenly, she recalled something and said, "Yaoyao, I heard our neighbors saying that someone has been asking around about a highly-skilled doctor."

Huo Yao's hands paused. Her eyes had narrowed into slits.

"I recall you saying that the master you knew was a Chinese physician, as well. Could they be looking for him?" continued Old Madam Yang.

"Probably not," said Huo Yao calmly.

"Oh, okay then. Also, I helped you pack the stuff in your room since I had nothing much to do."

Huo Yao pursed her lips and distractedly said, "Mhm."

Huo Yao ended the video call with her grandmother 20 minutes later. and stood up to remove the piece of paper which Yi Lianfan had given her from her jacket's pocket.

She looked at the physics question on it in a resigned manner.

She picked up her pen and started working on it.

\*\*

Lu Xia had just gotten home after meeting up with her bandmates.

Her parents and Lu Ziming were sitting in the living room. Her parents looked upset, and she could sense the undercurrents in the atmosphere.

Lu Xia frowned. She looked at Lu Ziming's smirking face and could guess why her parents were angry.

She composed herself and walked over to greet them as usual.

"Dad, Mom."

He Xiaoman looked up and could not help asking her. "Why was your National Quiz Contest result so lousy this time?"

## **Chapter 204: She Couldn't Even Compare To Huo Yao**

Sure enough...

Lu Xia pursed her lips and then said good-naturedly, "I think I was pretty lucky to make it into the national finals."

But her father frowned severely. "Didn't my friend from the Education Association give you the notes? Also, what's going on with Huo Yao? She stood first with full marks. Why couldn't you outdo even the likes of her?"

Lu Xia knew that her father would say that. She laughed gently and explained in a mellow voice. "I did get the notes, but my fantastic little brother gave them away to her secretly."

Lu Ziming quickly stood up and denied her accusation hotly. "How can you blame me for your bad performance? Do I have nothing better to do than steal your notes and give them to Huo Yao? Aren't you going too far?"

Lu Xia did not continue clarifying. Instead, she removed a courier bill from her bag and said calmly, "You sent this, right?"

"What's this?" He Xiaoman stood up and took the courier bill from her hand. She turned her head sharply to look at Lu Ziming when she noticed he was the sender, and Huo Yao was the recipient.

A look of guilt emerged on Lu Ziming's face subconsciously the moment he saw the courier bill, but he stubbornly denied it. "I didn't send anything!"

Lu Xia looked at Lu Ziming disappointedly and shook her head. "Lu Ziming, I know you don't like it that I'm your older sister, but you didn't have to give the notes to Huo Yao. How can you disregard Dad and Mom's feelings and embarrass them?"

The moment Lu Xia brought this up, her father's face became even more sullen. He snatched the courier bill from He Xiaoman and turned to look at Lu Ziming. "You punk!"

Their foster daughter's grades had been so poor that she didn't even make it into a key high school in the county. How could she have attained full marks in the National Quiz Contest? Now, this explained it all.

Lu Ziming was so startled that he became speechless when he saw how angry his father was.

Their father pressed his forehead and roared loudly. "Do you know how hard I worked to help your sister get these notes? How could you do that? Are you stupid or something?"

He Xiaoman was worried that her husband would hit their son, so she hurriedly stood in front of Lu Ziming and said, "He made a silly mistake..."

"Xue said he would help Xiaxia find a master when she went to the capital for the nationals. Look at what has happened now. She is ranked last on the list. How can she find herself a master with this score?"

He was at a loss for words due to anger.

There were many powerful families in the capital, and all of them were much more powerful than the Lu family. If they managed to get connected to even one of them, the Lu family's status in City S would rise to a whole new level.

Hence, Lu Xia's father had racked his brains to help pave the way.

He Xiaoman's face sank while her brain kept buzzing. She did not know what to say.

Lu Xia looked at these parents of hers who only cared about their reputation and interests. She said calmly, "If you have nothing else to say to me, then I'm going to my room."

Her father looked at Lu Xia but did not say anything in the end.

\*\*\*

The next day.

Shortly after Huo Yao entered the class, Yi Lianfan turned up at the back door. Since Huo Yao was seated in the last row, he walked right in even though he didn't belong to this classroom.

"Do you have the answer?"

Huo Yao glanced at him expressionlessly. She removed a book from her bag and said, "Don't give me any more science questions and ask me to solve them. I am an arts student now."

Then she impatiently pulled out a piece of paper from the book, with the solution written on it.

## **Chapter 205: She Took Only One Night To Solve The Question**

Yi Lianfan's lips twitched but he maintained his nonchalant attitude. As his eyes landed on the piece of paper, his indifferent appearance altered swiftly.

The question that he had given her was from last year's International Physics Olympiad. The question was incredibly difficult and only one student was able to solve it.

Shockingly, the steps written on Huo Yao's paper were much simpler than that of the student who answered it last year and was deemed a genius. Also, the way she solved it was a completely different method.

Even though Yi Lianfan had tried various ways, he could not believe that the question could be solved in this manner. If this solution got posted online, countless elite students would feel sorry for themselves.

Some of the students came over when they spotted the previous top student looking for the newly crowned top student. Everyone wanted to see what was written on the paper.

The entire class was startled to see that it was an incomprehensible physics equation. Everyone in the class was dumbfounded and a bit disappointed.

It certainly was not a love letter. It was completely beyond them how the minds of both these geniuses worked.

Yi Lianfan looked at Huo Yao with a complicated expression on his face. However, she did not bother giving him a glance. Instead, she took out an English textbook indifferently and started to read it.

Yi Lianfan's lips parted but it took him a while to ask her the question which was on his mind. "Why are you in an arts class when you are so good in science subjects?"

Huo Yao replied airily without even looking up. "It doesn't matter what class I'm in."

Yi Lianfan was nonplussed. "..."

He was the only person who used to speak so arrogantly in the past. Now that he heard it from someone else, he felt like whacking Huo Yao.

He left the Experimental Class shortly after.

"Did the God of Study, Yi Lianfan, mean that Huo Yao's level of knowledge is superlative? Did I get it right?"

"There's no argument. It's a fact."

"Wow. I have a whole new level of respect for Huo Yao today."

...

Yi Lianfan was on his way back to the Rocket Class when he suddenly halted. After a moment, he changed his path and headed to the physics teacher's office.

The physics teacher was preparing for class and was surprised to see Yi Lianfan.

Yi Lianfan placed the piece of paper with the solution on the teacher's table. "Sir, take a look at this."

The physics teacher picked up the paper. The moment he saw the question, he subconsciously said, "Isn't this the hardest question from last year's Physics Olympiad that almost all students failed to crack?"

"Yes, it is."

The physics teacher studied the solution carefully. Soon, a look of shock emerged on his face. He raised his head after reading it and said excitedly, "Did you come up with this solution?"

Yi Lianfan shook his head. "It wasn't me."

After an imperceptible pause, he said, "It was solved by Huo Yao from the Experimental Class."

The physics teacher's hands trembled. "Is Huo Yao the one who stood first in the entire level during the monthly exams?"

"Yes, she's the one." A look of admiration surfaced on Yi Lianfan's face subconsciously.

"I couldn't solve it after working on it for a week. All she spent was one night."

The physics teacher's eyes suddenly opened wide in disbelief. "One night?"

This question was so hard that even a physics teacher like him, who had spent years researching the subject, would need a day or two to solve it. But Huo Yao did it in a single night...

The physics teacher's mind went into an overdrive. He did not know what to say.



## Chapter 206: Cheating During The National Quiz Contest

If this was any normal physics question being solved by an arts student, it wouldn't have shocked the physics teacher as much.

But this question was created after the combined effort of several Ivy League professors in the USA and was so complex that it went far beyond the boundaries of textbook physics.

Hence, the only student who managed to solve it last year had already been scouted by several famous universities, even though he had yet to take his national college entrance exam.

Despite being an arts student, Huo Yao's solution was shockingly simpler. She was crazily talented and was an absolute physics genius.

But how did such a genius end up in an arts class?

The physics teacher found it such a crying shame. He picked up the piece of paper and walked out while waving to Yi Lianfan. "Go back to class."

Yi Lianfan was taken by surprise. He watched as the physics teacher left the office at top speed and disappeared. He really wanted to ask the teacher to return the solution to him before going away.

\*

The physics teacher rushed over to the principal's office. "Sir, I have something important to discuss with you... Erm! Oh, Wei. You're here too."

Wei Mingzhe was halfway through talking to the principal when he caught sight of the physics teacher and stopped talking. He looked at the physics teacher and said, "Yup, I'm here to report a matter to the principal."

"Oh! Why don't you go ahead first? I'll wait outside and talk to the Principal after you're done."

The physics teacher noticed that something was amiss with the atmosphere in the Principal's office. He put the piece of paper behind his back and turned to leave the office.

But Wei Mingzhe called him back. "It's okay. It's not a private matter, so you don't have to leave."

The physics teacher glanced at the Principal, who pointed towards a chair in front of him. The physics teacher pulled out the chair and sat down before shifting his attention back towards the piece of paper again.

Wei Mingzhe veered his eyes away from the physics teacher and looked at the Principal. "Since someone reported that Huo Yao cheated during the National Quiz Contest, I think we need to investigate it properly. After all, this isn't a normal school exam. If word gets out, it will affect the No.1 Middle School's reputation."

The physics teacher immediately looked at Wei Mingzhe when he mentioned Huo Yao's name.

What was this about her cheating during the National Quiz Contest? What was going on?

The Principal looked at Wei Mingzhe. From the moment he stepped into the office complaining about Huo Yao, the Principal's eyes had lost all their warmth.

Wei Mingzhe was the one who blew up the matter when Huo Yao was under suspicion for taking the backdoor. It almost made him lose this brilliant student whom he had painstakingly invited to join the school.

This time he came to report that Huo Yao cheated during the National Quiz Contest. He did not understand what Wei Mingzhe was trying to do since Huo Yao had already been declared the winner during all the previous rounds of the National Quiz Contest, one after another. Moreover, she topped the level during the monthly school exam. How could he continue to suspect and harass her?

What on earth was he thinking?

The Principal inhaled deeply. "Wei, let me ask you this. Are you really certain that Huo Yao is unethical and is bad at studies?"

Wei Mingzhe pursed his lips. "That's not what I mean. Since someone brought this to my attention, it's my responsibility to tell you about this matter."

The Principal coughed gently. "Your responsibility? You don't even trust our students and you are talking to me about responsibility?"

"How can this be the same? I know you were the one who invited Huo Yao to enter the school, but you can't be so biased towards her, right?" said Wei Mingzhe stubbornly.

## **Chapter 207: Anyone Could Have Done It But Not Huo Yao**

The Principal felt that Wei Mingzhe was hopeless. He laughed coldly and said, "Fine. If someone reported it, then show me the evidence."

Wei Mingzhe seemed to have anticipated that the Principal would enquire about the person who reported it.

With a shrug, he said, "This is a question of a student's privacy. I can only say that Huo Yao definitely got her hands on the National Quiz Contest notes in advance."

The Principal looked at Wei Mingzhe strangely when he mentioned the National Quiz Contest notes. His lips parted, wanting to say something, but Wei Mingzhe beat him to it.

"I am not denying that I have my own suspicions about Huo Yao as well. She's an arts student. How can she do better than Yi Lianfan in the science subjects? Moreover, I have seen the quiz questions of the last round. Most of them were tricky science questions. If she didn't have the notes in advance, I don't think an arts student could have answered them," said Wei Mingzhe firmly.

He had been in the education field for decades and seen all kinds of students. All rounded students certainly existed, but if he could not tell when a student was cheating, then he would have worked in the education field all these years for nothing.

A perplexed expression suddenly appeared on the physics teacher's face when he heard Wei Mingzhe. He glanced at the question in his hand and contemplated for two seconds. In the end, he decided that he ought to say something.

He stood up and walked over to Wei Mingzhe and handed him the piece of paper. "Ahem. Wei, take a look at this."

Wei Mingzhe had just gotten to the crux of his conversation with the Principal, so he was a little angry for the interruption, but he patiently took the paper from the physics teacher. "What's this..."

Before he finished his sentence, his eyes became glued onto it.

Although Wei Mingzhe was a maths teacher, his grasp on physics was quite good, and he taught the subject to the lower level classes. He was deeply astounded when he saw the physics question and the accompanying solution beneath it.

A little while later, Wei Mingzhe raised his head to look at the physics teacher and asked him. "Who solved this?"

"Yi Lianfan gave this to me," said the physics teacher unhurriedly.

The Principal could not help coming over to look at the piece of paper which was filled with symbols and equations. He could see that it was a physics question but did not quite understand it.

Although the Principal had no idea what the physics teacher was driving at, he did not interrupt the man.

The moment Wei Mingzhe heard Yi Lianfan's name, a look of surprise emerged on his face. "Did Yi Lianfan solve this? Even the kid who got scouted by all those Ivy League colleges didn't solve it in such a simple and brilliant manner, right?"

A sea of emotions flooded in Wei Mingzhe's heart.

"Yi Lianfan is probably the only person in No.1 Middle School capable of coming up with such a brilliant answer..."

Before he could complete his sentence, the physics teacher interrupted him. "He didn't come up with the solution."

Wei Mingzhe was stunned. He stared at the physics teacher for a second and then asked him in a slightly wavering voice. "It wasn't him? Then who was it?"

The physics teacher took the paper back from Wei Mingzhe and smoothened its creases with his fingers like it was a treasure. He eventually said in a neutral voice, "It was Huo Yao."

Wei Mingzhe's eyes had an incredulous expression in them. He immediately shook his head in denial. "Impossible! This was in the last year's Physics Olympiad. How could she have solved it? You must be joking, right?!"

Wei Mingzhe would anyday believe that someone else did it than Huo Yao. He simply found it inconceivable that she was so capable.

## Chapter 208: Were These The Notes You Were Talking About?

The physics teacher looked at Wei Mingzhe oddly and asked in a mocking tone. “Why can’t Huo Yao do it? Wei, aren’t you a little too biased against her?”

His question left Wei Mingzhe dumbfounded. A few seconds later, he finally managed to reply. “You have researched in the field of physics for years. Don’t you know how tough this question is? She is just an arts student...”

Although the Principal was not an expert in the subject, he knew how erudite the Physics Olympiad questions were. He could not hold himself back when he heard Wei Mingzhe dismissing Huo Yao’s talent repeatedly just because she was an arts student.

He said, “Wei, you might have forgotten that I wanted to place her in your Rocket Class initially.”

His underlying meaning was that she was a science student who got assigned to an arts class because Wei Mingzhe had refused to accept her.

Wei Mingzhe suddenly felt so defeated when he heard the Principal’s words that he almost staggered in shame.

He was reluctant to even think about this matter, forget admitting that he was the one who forced Huo Yao out of the Rocket Class. Each time this new transfer student did well, he would choose to ignore the result. He would not listen or talk about it, and bury his head under the sand.

But the moment the Principal brought it up, it struck his mind like a thunderclap, ripping open his self-deceit.

Since the physics teacher knew nothing about Wei Mingzhe’s previous actions, he just told the Principal about his reason for coming here in such a hurry.

“Do you mean to say that Huo Yao was always a science student? No wonder she’s brilliant in physics. I was just wondering why such a talented student was assigned to an arts class. I came here to bring this to your attention and suggest that you transfer her to the science class instead.”

The Principal could not help glancing at Wei Mingzhe when he realized how sensible the physics teacher was. In a mild tone, he said, “You have a good eye.”

Wei Mingzhe’s face turned even paler.

“Oh! It almost slipped my mind due to this minor disruption. Wei, weren’t you talking about the National Quiz Contest notes?”

The Principal went up to his desk and opened a drawer to retrieve a notebook. He tossed it on the table. “Were you referring to these notes?”

Wei Mingzhe’s eyes landed on the notebook. After a few seconds of silence, he extended his hand and picked it up before opening it hesitantly.

The Principal leaned against his desk with a calm look in his eyes. "Huo Yao passed it to me a few days ago. She said someone mailed it to her home. Since she had no use for it, she handed it over to me. I was just thinking about photocopying it and sharing it with all the students."

Wei Mingzhe flipped a few pages. It contained various types of questions and answers for the National Quiz Contest, along with the past questions.

Wei Mingzhe raised his head and stammered. "Erm..."

"Oh yes! Huo Yao also told me that she found the solutions mentioned in it to be too long-winded and outdated. Out of concern that someone might kick a fuss about these notes being in her possession, she wanted to inform me that she solved the question paper using other methods..."

The Principal paused and acted as though he was mulling over something troublesome for a few seconds.

After a pause, he said in a bland tone, "Since we are to investigate the matter, I will head over to the Education Association at noon and ask to see Huo Yao's test scripts. I will make a copy of it and let all the teachers compare them to these notes."

Wei Mingzhe's face blanched. He put the notes down and felt as if his legs had turned into jelly.

The physics teacher looked at Wei Mingzhe and shook his head sadly. Then he picked up the notes and flipped through them before smacking his lips in disappointment.

## **Chapter 209: Counterattack**

"Based on Huo Yao's problem-solving methods, these solutions are honestly too much of a hassle. Moreover, questions like these are probably child's play to her."

The physics teacher commented without batting an eyelid.

After all, she was a genius who could effortlessly solve the Physics Olympiad questions.

The Principal looked at Wei Mingzhe calmly. "Wei, are you still going to insist on getting Huo Yao investigated for cheating?"

Wei Mingzhe stood where he was and did not know what to say. He realised that all the respect he gathered as a teacher during the past many years, had dissipated completely now in front of his colleague and the Principal.

The room was absolutely quiet.

The physics teacher glanced at them. He coughed awkwardly and broke the silence.

"Sir, please consider my suggestion. It's a waste of talent for Huo Yao to stay in the Experimental Class. I don't mind even if she attends only my classes," said the physics teacher.

The Principal had no intention of persecuting Wei Mingzhe. He certainly cared about the matter, but Wei Mingzhe would feel worse if the Principal stopped at the right time. This sense of shame would manifest into humiliation and follow him for life.

The Principal composed his thoughts and looked at the physics teacher. "You probably have to ask her yourself. I suggested to her that she transfer classes, but she rejected my offer."

Wei Mingzhe's hands trembled.

"Fine. Let me check with her. We can't put such a great talent to waste," said the physics teacher.

The Principal smiled without speaking further.

\*\*

Huo Yao went back to the classroom shortly after she finished lunch in the afternoon. She lay lazily on the table with a book covering her head.

Right then, an anonymous post appeared on the school's forum. The post claimed that Huo Yao cheated during the National Quiz Contest and had obtained the answers in advance. It also revealed Huo Yao's previous results while she was studying in the small county.

The forum instantly exploded when everyone saw Huo Yao failing almost every subject as per that report.

[Are her grades... for real?]

[What's going on? Rumors about Huo Yao keep spreading. Hasn't she proved herself enough?]

[Then again, isn't Huo Yao an arts student? I heard that most of the questions in the latest round of the National Quiz Contest were related to science. Just think about that.]

[I just became Huo Yao's fan, but I can't be sure now after looking at this post. Does anyone know anything more about this matter?]

...

Within a few minutes, the news had already received 100 comments.

Meng Ying hurried back to the classroom with her phone in hand. She walked over and removed the book kept on top of Huo Yao's head. She couldn't help grimace when she saw the party involved having an afternoon nap nonchalantly. "Sister Big Shot, we're in trouble."

Huo Yao turned her face towards Meng Ying but continued to lie on the table. She looked at Meng Ying groggily and seemed angry that Meng Ying had disturbed her.

Meng Ying swallowed her saliva and placed the phone in front of Huo Yao's eyes. "Someone has claimed that you cheated during the National Quiz Contest. As per this post, you keep coming first because you have all the answers in advance."

Huo Yao gave a quick glance at Meng Ying's phone. She closed her eyes and replied in a bored tone. "This is so stupid."

Then she felt around for another book and opened it to cover her head with it.

Meng Ying's lips twitched. The suspect was completely calm while Meng Ying was fretting.

She did not dare remove the book again and only said, "Although I think this is dumb as well, they posted it on the school forum. If you allow them to tarnish your name, what will the other students think? The culprit is clearly trying to chase you out of No.1 Middle School!"

This was so irritating!

Huo Yao removed the book from her head and suddenly stood up angrily before walking out.

### **Chapter 210: Was She Unaware Or Acting Dumb?**

Meng Ying was startled by Huo Yao's sudden actions. She hurriedly chased after her and asked her breathlessly. "Sister Big Shot, where are you going?"

Huo Yao replied in a calm voice without stopping or turning back. "Going to find somewhere else to sleep."

Meng Ying's temples started to throb.

In her opinion, Huo Yao certainly did not seem like she was going somewhere else to sleep. A murderous aura radiated from Huo Yao. She was clearly going to kill someone.

Meng Ying disregarded her flippant words and decided to follow Huo Yao.

Before long, Huo Yao arrived at the Rocket Class with Meng Ying trailing behind her.

There were very few students in the Rocket Class at the moment. Lu Xia and Chang Yingying had also just gotten back to class. The two of them were sitting at their desks, chatting and playing with their phones. They seemed to be in a good mood.

Huo Yao stood at the entrance and glanced at the class before spotting Lu Xia in the third row. She entered the room expressionlessly and walked right up to her.

In a neutral tone, she said, "Do you have nothing better to do?"

Lu Xia had not noticed them appear in the class. She raised her head when she heard Huo Yao's frosty voice from overhead. Although she was clearly stunned, she quickly composed herself. "What do you mean?"

Huo Yao looked at her coldly and said in an impatient manner, "Stop acting like a dumbass. First, you sent me the notes, and then you smeared me online in the school forum. Can't you do something smarter?"

Meng Ying was standing at the door when she heard Huo Yao swearing and could not help laughing. "PFFFT..."

It felt as though she had just witnessed the cool and restrained Huo Yao's image suddenly disintegrate.

Lu Xia became furious. She stood up and replied equally coldly. "You better watch your words. What notes? What smear campaign online? I don't know what you're saying!"

Huo Yao scoffed. "Do you really not know, or are you just acting dumb?"

Lu Xia furrowed her brows.

Chang Yingying had not expected that Huo Yao would come to their class. She was clearly here because of the online post.

The moment she thought about the post on the school forum, a sense of guilt swept across her eyes because she was the one who did it without telling Lu Xia.

But Chang Yingying thought about the things that Lu Xia had told her previously and swiftly regained confidence. She stood up and looked at Huo Yao in disdain.

In a smug voice, she said, "You cheated during the National Quiz Contest, and now it's all over the school forum. How can you have the cheek to blame Xiaxia for it?"

Lu Xia suddenly turned around to look at Chang Yingying the moment she finished her sentence. "What post?"

Chang Yingying coughed and took out her phone to log into the school forum. She showed Lu Xia the latest post which now had over 1000 comments on it.

Lu Xia swiped through the page. The more she looked at it, the more her heart sank.

Chang Yingying was such an idiot.

Although Lu Xia did not want Huo Yao to steal the limelight, she had no intention of publicizing the matter of the National Quiz Contest notes. After all, she obtained them through someone working for the Education Association, so she stood to gain nothing by drawing attention to this matter.

Lu Xia inhaled deeply and put the phone down. Then she looked at Huo Yao calmly. "I didn't post it. Moreover, if you didn't do anything wrong, you have nothing to fear. There's no point complaining to me about it."

Huo Yao smiled. She suddenly leaned against Lu Xia's desk nonchalantly. With a fake smile on her face, she said, "It doesn't matter who posted it. From the moment it appeared online, you were destined to have to pay for your foolishness."

Lu Xia frowned. An ominous feeling swiftly rose in her heart.

Huo Yao sounded so arrogant as if everything was well within her control.