

Pill Maker 221

Chapter 221: Lu Xia Apologizes

The Principal kept a neutral face and was unmoved by Chang Yingying's begging. "Everyone has to pay the price for their mistakes. You should have considered the consequences prior to putting out the post."

Chang Yingying's face blanched before she started crying again.

The Dean of Students shook his head helplessly and said, "It's too late for regrets. Go back to class. We will decide on your punishment after a discussion."

Chang Yingying left the office dejectedly.

The Dean watched her leave and sighed. "Why did she spend all that energy on slandering a school mate instead of concentrating on her studies instead?"

The Principal was indifferent and said nothing.

Before long, Lu Xia came to the office.

Although she came up with many excuses on her way here, she was still panicking in her mind. Only after receiving her father's text, did she finally calm down.

As a result, there was not a shred of nervousness on her face when she entered the office. She bowed politely to the Principal and teachers, displaying as if she was not the source of the vile accusation.

At that moment the Principal could tell how scheming she was. It was certainly no mean feat for a young girl to stay calm under such circumstances.

"Why did you instigate Chang Yingying to pick on Huo Yao online?" This time, it was not Wei Mingzhe but the Principal leading the questioning.

Lu Xia looked at the Principal. His stern, dignified manner left her in awe of him. She squeezed her hands to calm herself before replying unhurriedly. "It was my fault. Huo Yao is the Lu family's foster daughter. She asked my father to get her those notes from his friend, who works for the Education Association. My father couldn't refuse her and mailed them to her when he received them."

"I felt it was unfair to cheat, so I mentioned it to Chang Yingying privately. I didn't think that she would post it on the school forum because she wanted to highlight the injustice in this situation."

With a sad smile, Lu Xia bowed deeply to the Principal and teachers. In a soft voice, she said, "I'm sorry. Please don't punish Chang Yingying too harshly. She did it because of me. I'm willing to take full responsibility for letting my tongue slip."

She seemed particularly sincere when she apologized.

Since Lu Xia was in the Rocket Class, she undoubtedly possessed good grades. Also, Wei Mingzhe was keenly aware of how her results had improved in leaps and bounds during the last semester. Hence, he felt a little moved when Lu Xia took the initiative to take the liability upon herself.

Despite having already embarrassed himself, Wei Mingzhe looked at the Principal and spoke up for Lu Xia. "Even though Lu Xia was at fault, the culpability lies elsewhere as well. Like she mentioned, Huo Yao used to be the Lu family's daughter. Although she mentioned the truth about the notes, it doesn't mean anything. Also..."

Wei Mingzhe paused and turned to look at Lu Xia. "Did you just say Huo Yao asked your father to get her the National Quiz Contest notes?"

Lu Xia nodded firmly without any hesitation. "In order to explain things, I rang up Dad and asked him to come over. He should be arriving anytime soon. He can explain everything to you when he's here."

Wei Mingzhe had been utterly disgraced earlier when the Principal showed him the book containing the contest notes. After he heard what Lu Xia said, a glimmer of hope rose in his heart.

He was desperately looking for validation that he did not make false accusations against Huo Yao.

Chapter 222: My Foster Daughter Is A Bad Student

The look in the Principal's eyes altered slightly when he heard Lu Xia's explanation. His lips curved into a smile and he walked over to the window with his hands behind him.

"I'd like to know what your father thinks of this matter," replied the Principal indifferently.

Lu Xia looked at the Principal's back and could not help feeling slightly uneasy. But then she thought about her father's text and relaxed again.

Wei Mingzhe contemplated before pitching in. "Shall we call Huo Yao over to clarify things as well?"

Did Wei Mingzhe want to see her getting maligned by both her foster father and sister?

The Principal kept gazing outside the window without even turning around. He replied in a deep voice. "There's no need."

Lu Xia let go of her tightly clenched hands when she heard the Principal.

Before long, her father arrived at the school. He entered the office with a bright smile on his squarish face. "Sorry, I was caught in a jam."

Lu Xia wanted to speak up, but her father glanced at her, gesturing at her to stay calm.

He had met the Principal before. Looking at him now, he said apologetically, "I'm so sorry that my foster daughter's actions caused such a commotion at school. In reality..."

Everything he said sounded similar to what Lu Xia had expressed, but it just felt more credible when it came from him. Especially when he was talking about how badly Huo Yao performed at her previous school.

"To be honest, my foster daughter always stood last in the previous school but she insisted on participating in the National Quiz Contest. Hence, I committed a folly and helped her cheat," confessed Lu Xia's father with his head lowered, seeming to be particularly remorseful.

The Principal looked at him, and an inconspicuous look of mockery emerged on his face. Just as Mr. Lu was about to continue with his charade, he asked him in a mild manner. "Mr. Lu, are you saying that Huo Yao performed badly at school?"

Lu Xia's father was taken aback at the change in topic but he nodded in affirmative. "That's right. Honestly, she only made it into high school because I pulled some strings."

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that he was trying to imply that Huo Yao got into high school because of his influence.

Wei Mingzhe was hoping that Mr. Lu could prove that he did not wrongly accuse a student, but his brows scrunched up tighter and tighter as he listened to the man.

It was one thing if Huo Yao cheated during the National Quiz Contest, but paying to get her a high school placement was a different matter... It was starting to sound deliberately malicious now.

Lu Xia immediately realized her father had said the wrong thing when she noticed the strange look on the Principal and Wei Mingzhe's faces.

She had not told her father how Huo Yao had been performing excellently ever since she entered the school.

Lu Xia's lips parted, but the Principal's voice beat her into silence. "That's such a strange coincidence since I had a hard time getting Huo Yao to come to No.1 Middle School."

Mr. Lu was stunned. "Erm... How can that be? Are you joking? With those terrible grades of hers..."

Since No.1 Middle School was one of the top five middle schools out of thousands in the country, only the elites could get in.

However, the Principal just implied that he went out of his way to get Huo Yao to enter the school.

It sounded absolutely ludicrous and made no sense. Mr. Lu was sure about Huo Yao's potential despite paying little attention to her grades.

The Principal was so angry that he laughed. A look of sarcasm emerged on his stern face. "Mr. Lu, are you saying I don't even have the basic judgment despite being the principal of No.1 Middle School?"

Chapter 223: Are These Grades Considered Lousy?

Mr. Lu's confidence trembled for a moment and he clenched his fists. Giving a weak smile, he said, "You're mistaken. That wasn't what I meant."

The Principal's eyes turned cold. He picked up a stack of test papers from the office table and handed them to Mr. Lu. "Please take a look. Are these grades considered poor?"

Mr. Lu's eyes landed on the test papers. He hesitated for a second before taking them from the Principal.

These were Huo Yao's last month's exam results along with a printout of the No.1 Middle School entrance exam. She had taken the exam online and attained full marks in it.

Also, there was a result slip containing her total score for each subject. Shockingly, Huo Yao was first in all the tests.

Mr. Lu's face lost all its color as he looked at Huo Yao's perfect grades and ranking written in bright red. He flipped through the sheets a few more times, worried that his eyes were playing tricks on him.

"Do you think someone with grades like hers needs to cheat using some stupid notes?" The Principal was openly mocking him now.

"Erm... This is impossible. Her grades were never this good," muttered Lu Xia's father as he shook his head.

Even if his foster daughter made a vast improvement, there was no way she could top the level.

The Principal seemed to have known that Mr. Lu would not believe him, so he picked up another sheet of the test papers. "Fine! Mr. Lu, why don't you take a look at this?"

It was a photocopy of the recent National Quiz Contest.

"Mr. Lu, you might not understand the questions, but you can always ask your friend at the Education Association to look at it and see if Huo Yao used the methods found in the notes to answer the questions."

Despite the Principal's calm tone, his imposing voice sounded stern.

Mr. Lu's strategy had been to push all the blame on his foster daughter. Since the Lu family raised her for 17 years, she could repay their charity by taking the fall this once. At worst, he would have made up for it with money in the future.

After all, his biological daughter's future was at stake, and he did not want her records to be tarnished.

Mr. Lu looked at the test paper in his hand, and a sour taste rose in his heart. He had not foreseen his foster daughter doing so well in school, going so far as to gain the Principal's favor...

"Mr. Lu, are you still going to push blame onto Huo Yao?" sneered the Principal coldly with no intention of sweeping things under the rug.

Since he was the one who invited Huo Yao to enter the school, no one was allowed to slander her.

But Mr. Lu had already done so, so it was too late to retract now. If he took his words back at this moment, it was as good as slapping his own face.

He pressed his temple with his fingers and looked at the Principal. Just as he was about to speak, the Principal's phone rang.

The Principal frowned when he saw the caller ID. He walked over to the window to answer the phone.

It was from the Education Association.

Two minutes later.

“... Okay. I understand.”

After the Principal hung up the phone, his deep eyes became even darker. He walked up to Mr. Lu and said, “The matter regarding the National Quiz Contest notes ends here.”

Mr. Lu heaved a sigh of relief when he heard this. He had called his friend, who was the Secretary of the Education Association before he came here.

It appeared that his friend had made the call to the Principal.

The Principal looked at Mr. Lu coldly. “But Lu Xia is no longer allowed to participate in the nationals.”

Chapter 224: She Would Accomplish Nothing If She Couldn't Keep Her Cool

Lu Xia stared hard at him in disbelief when she heard the Principal's decision.

Mr. Lu was dumbstruck as well. He quickly composed himself and said, “How can you stop my daughter from participating in the nationals? She didn't do anything wrong!”

The Principal laughed coldly. “You ought to know fully well why Lu Xia has to be kicked out of the National Quiz Contest. If I keep investigating the notes, do you think that's the only punishment she would get?”

Lu Xia was still a rookie in the entertainment industry and could not afford to sully her name. Moreover, if word got out that the Education Association was directly involved in giving out National Quiz Contest notes, even the Ministry of Education would have to get involved and investigate the matter.

Mr. Lu suddenly broke out in cold sweat.

“I accept the punishment.” Before Mr. Lu could say a word, Lu Xia agreed to the Principal's decision.

Although she was unhappy, it was the best possible outcome for her. Even if she made it into the finals, she would just stand at the bottom rung, so there was no point wasting her time on it.

Mr. Lu glanced at his daughter but did not say a word.

Wei Mingzhe smiled in self-deprecation. He was probably incapable of ever holding his head high in front of the Principal henceforth.

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Lu Xia walked her father out of the school after leaving the office.

“Why didn't you tell me about Huo Yao's grades?” asked her father in a grave voice.

Lu Xia clenched her fists and replied softly. “I don't know her well.”

Mr. Lu halted and turned to look at her expressionlessly. “Do you think I'm dumb?”

After things turned out this way, if he was still incapable of seeing the truth, he would have lived all these years in vain.

Lu Xia's face blanched when she made eye contact with her father's icy gaze. "I..."

"You'll never accomplish anything if you can't maintain your composure," said Mr. Lu indifferently before he left.

Was she really incapable of any accomplishments?

Lu Xia mocked herself as she watched her father leave.

Would she have ended up like this if Lu Ziming did not secretly send the notes to Huo Yao?

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Huo Yao went to the Principal's office at midday.

"Are you going to keep looking at me so guiltily?" Huo Yao sat in the chair and did not know whether to cry or laugh at the Principal's stricken gaze.

He had been like this for the past five minutes.

The Principal coughed before he finally said, "I invited you into No.1 Middle School, but sadly you kept getting slandered."

Huo Yao's hand was lying leisurely on the armrest. "Outstanding people attract a lot of jealousy. You don't have to feel sorry about it."

The Principal's lips twitched at the sound of that. He went quiet before he sighed. "I didn't know that you had a history with the Lu family."

He made no direct mention of her being the foster daughter of the Lu family.

Huo Yao pursed her lips and said nonchalantly, "I'm a Huo now."

She severed ties with the Lu family with a single sentence.

"In the end, you suffered injustice," said the Principal sadly.

The Lu family had a nouveau riche background before they established the Lu Corporation and rose through the ranks to become one of the city's rich and powerful families. Now, they were powerfully connected, considering how easily the matter of cheating in the National Quiz Contest was swept under the rug.

Although the Principal wanted to fight for Huo Yao's innocence, it would do Huo Yao no good if he persisted with the investigation, especially now that the Education Association was also involved. After all, the Huo family was just a bourgeois family. They were powerless and could not pit themselves against an elite family.

He could not bear seeing such talent getting buried by those men of means.

After weighing it in his heart, he had no choice but to cave in.

Chapter 225: Was Huo Yao Acquainted With The Min Family?

A thought crossed the Principal's mind and his expression suddenly became grave. "If you encounter trouble in the future, you can come to me. I have plenty of friends in this city."

If anyone knowing him heard this, they would definitely be shocked.

The Principal was originally from the capital and hailed from the influential Yu clan. Even though it was not the most powerful family in the capital, they were highly respectable. They were definitely a hundred times better than the Lu family, to put it bluntly.

By making this offer, Huo Yao was now under the Yu clan's protection.

Huo Yao smiled. Although she needed no one's protection, she replied sweetly. "Thank you, Sir!"

The Principal became slightly emotional seeing her like this. He recalled what happened with Lu Xia today and he could not help reminding Huo Yao. "Sometimes, it's no good to live so straightforwardly. You have to be a little cautious."

Huo Yao raised her head to glance at the Principal. She touched her nose when she saw him looking at her earnestly. It seemed her façade as a model student was a big success.

"It's the national exam next week, so work hard. I'm counting on you to get into the finals," reminded the Principal.

If Huo Yao could perform well at the International Quiz Contest, it would certainly be a boon to her. In the future, she would never have to compromise again when facing things like her foster father's accusations.

After all, the world was filled with influential people, so she would only stop getting slandered if she could rise to the top.

Huo Yao did not realize the Principal's kind intentions. She merely gestured 'okay' and said, "Don't worry. I will definitely come back with an international trophy."

She paused before she continued. "But you can't have my trophy."

She had to give it to her grandmother for sure.

The Principal's lips twitched. He knew that she was competitive, so he did not want to hurt her feelings. "There will be a lot of superbly talented competitors in the final contest."

Huo Yao raised her brow and replied arrogantly. "That will make things fun."

Someone knocked at the door, so Huo Yao stood up. "Okay then, I'm heading back to class."

The Principal stood up as well. "Go on."

Huo Yao walked up to the door and opened it.

The man knocking was the Dean, who stood there with two familiar faces behind him.

Huo Yao was surprised to see them.

“Miss Huo,” said Zhuo Yun in evident astonishment. But he quickly composed himself and greeted her courteously.

Min Yu looked at Huo Yao with a gentle expression and said, “Did I interrupt your conversation?”

Huo Yao walked out and said casually, “Nope. We were done. I was leaving anyway.”

Min Yu nodded. His striking features lost some of their usual indifference.

The Dean could not help enquiring softly. “Do you know each other?”

“Uh huh.” Zhuo Yun nodded. “Miss Huo is friends with my boss... Young Master Min.”

A look of surprise emerged on the Principal’s face after he walked out and heard this. Did Huo Yao really know Young Master Min?

Judging from Zhuo Yun’s attitude, he seemed to be treating her with a degree of respect. That seemed rather inconceivable.

Huo Yao nodded to Min Yu and Zhuo Yun without speaking further. Then she looked at the Principal and said, “I’m off.”

“O-okay...” The Principal nodded in a daze. He finally gathered his thoughts and courteously invited Min Yu into the office.

Chapter 226: Does He Want To Attract The Enemy?

The Principal took out his good tea from the cabinet and made some for his esteemed guest. Then he sat down and looked at Min Yu. “Young Master Min, how long are you planning to stay here for?”

Min Yu picked up his teacup and blew its contents before taking a sip. “I don’t plan on going back for now.”

The Principal laughed. “Old Master Min called me a couple of days ago.”

The moment he mentioned Old Master Min, a look of guilt emerged on Zhuo Yun’s face while he stood behind Min Yu.

“He’s just bored,” replied Min Yu indifferently leaning against the couch. His nonchalance appeared innately dignified.

The Principal’s lips twitched. Min Yu was probably the only person who would dare to say such things about Old Master Min in the entire capital. He recalled Min Yu and Huo Yao’s conversation, and asked him curiously. “You seem rather close to Huo Yao from our school.”

Min Yu said gently, “Mhm. She used to be my next-door neighbor for a period of time.”

Next door?

The Principal touched his chin. Was Huo Yao not from an average family? How did she end up living next to him?

“Why was she here?” asked Min Yu without noticing the baffled look on the Principal’s face.

With this question, the Principal recalled the vile things that transpired earlier in the day involving the Lu family. He told Min Yu briefly about how Huo Yao got slandered for cheating.

Min Yu’s striking face remained indifferent and seemed rather emotionless. He tilted his head and said intriguingly, “Is the Education Association in the habit of doing whatever they want these days?”

The Principal picked up his teacup and took a sip. He sighed gently and said in a mocking manner, “Plenty of people in the Education Association have started resorting to cheap tricks to get what they want. It’s so common now that I’m resigned to it.”

The Principal paused for a moment and then said, “I’m going to the capital next week. Is there anything you want me to pass along to the Old Master?”

Min Yu looked at him profoundly. “It’s okay. I’m going back next week as well.”

The Principal looked at him in surprise.

“We are putting the Western Zhou jade on display in the cultural relic exhibition hall,” said Min Yu softly.

The Principal suddenly opened his eyes wide. “Why has Old Master Min decided to put the Western Zhou jade on exhibition? Is he trying to cause an uproar in the trade?”

Jade carving technique was at its peak in the history of jade during the Western Zhou period. High-quality jade was rare, so these were priceless.

The Min family’s jade was almost flawless. So many people had their eyes on it in the past, but all their efforts came to no good end.

“Are you going back to guard the antiques in the exhibition hall personally?” The Principal swiftly realized.

“You can say so,” replied Min Yu calmly.

The cultural relic exhibition was held once every two years. All the items on display were rare antiques from across the nation. The Min family was in charge of hosting it since they were the only family capable of ensuring the relics’ safety.

However, no matter how heavily guarded the exhibition was, there were moments when they had been caught off guard. The Principal recalled the incident from two years ago and suddenly had an inkling as to why Old Master Min wanted to display the Western Zhou jade this time.

“Are you trying to attract the enemy with the Western Zhou jade?”

Min Yu’s deep and cold eyes narrowed into sharp slits. “No one can touch our territory and expect to escape unscathed.”

The Principal’s hands trembled. Even though he was much older than Min Yu, he could not withstand the cold murderous aura radiating from this guy.

After he composed himself, he changed the subject. “When are you going back to the capital?”

"Next Friday." All the coldness in Min Yu's eyes dissipated, making him seem completely harmless as though that murderous look was nothing but an illusion.

Chapter 227: Why Say No To Money?

The Principal laughed and said, "I happen to be going on Friday too."

Min Yu looked at him. "Why don't I get Zhuo Yun to pick you up, so we can head back together?"

The Principal waved his hand. "It's okay. There's no need to go through the trouble. I'm taking some students along with me."

Min Yu raised his brow. "For the National Quiz Contest?"

"Uh huh. But how did you know?" The Principal was rather surprised.

Min Yu smiled. "Someone mentioned it to me a couple of days ago."

The Principal nodded his head and went on to chat about other things.

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Huo Yao went straight to class after leaving the Principal's office. She did not bother to guess why Min Yu was here to see the Principal.

"Why did the Principal ask to see you in his office?" enquired Meng Ying as soon as she settled back into her seat.

Huo Yao retrieved a book written entirely in English from her desk. "It's the nationals next week, so he told me to study hard."

Meng Ying leaned her chin against her hand. "That's it? Nothing else?"

"That's all," replied Huo Yao without lifting her head from the book.

Meng Ying frowned when her eyes landed on the English book. She tried her best to read a line but instantly felt giddy. Although her English was pretty decent, why could she not understand even a word of it?

She rubbed her eyes, and inexplicably felt defeated.

Not bothering about it any longer, Meng Ying said, "Didn't he tell you to study hard for the contest? Why are you reading an English book then?"

Huo Yao flipped a page and replied in an indifferent tone. "Oh! I am taking part in an English oral competition."

Meng Ying touched her nose. "English oral competition? Why did you sign up for the competition?"

She naturally knew about this competition since the English teacher mentioned it a few days ago in class. At that time, no one had raised their hand to sign up for it.

English oral skills were hard to train for and could not be accomplished by rote. In order to take part in the competition, the spoken English had to be grammatically accurate and smooth. The person would not be allowed to bring any notes on stage. It was as good as giving a presentation without any preparation.

No, it was harder than presenting without notes. After all, she had to translate Chinese into English.

“The champion will receive a \$100,000 scholarship,” said Huo Yao solemnly.

Why would she say no to money?

Meng Ying recalled how Huo Yao received \$20,000 by bank transfer every day. A complicated emotion arose in her heart. After a long time, she finally asked her friend. “My dear, do you need money?”

Huo Yao pressed the book with her hand and turned her head to nod seriously. “Is there anyone who thinks they have too much money?”

Meng Ying’s lips twitched. Heavens! Huo Yao’s bizarre question left her bewildered and speechless.

Huo Yao’s lips curved gently when she saw Meng Ying becoming tongue-tied. She went back to reading her book. Suddenly she looked at her and said, “Do you follow celebrities?”

“Huh?” The subject of the conversation changed so quickly that Meng Ying was into a daze. She nodded after a moment. “Of course, I do. Why did you suddenly ask this?”

She recalled Huo Yao saying she was not the least bit interested in celebrities previously.

Huo Yao contemplated for two seconds before asking her. “Have you ever heard of Huo Xiang? He’s a singer.”

“Huo Xiang? Singer?” Meng Ying shook her head. “I’ve never heard this name before.”

“Okay, sure,” said Huo Yao quietly.

Now she was certain that her fourth older brother was not a famous celebrity.

Meng Ying glanced at Huo Yao, who had gone back to reading. Huo Yao was never the sort who gossiped, so... who was Huo Xiang?

Chapter 228: An Unknown Singer Who Only Sang Covers

Meng Ying scratched her head. She took her phone out and opened the internet browser before she asked. “Sister Big Shot, this Huo Xiang that you were talking about, how do you write the character, ‘Xiang’?”

“The one that means lucky,” said Huo Yao without looking up.

Meng Ying searched, ‘Huo Xiang’, online. Many results came up, but none of them were related to celebrities.

So Meng Ying put her phone down and said, "Is Huo Xiang someone you know? I couldn't find him online."

"Maybe he isn't that famous," replied Huo Yao casually.

Meng Ying said, "There are a lot of singers who only do covers, and their voices sound pretty good as well. Except for being not as famous, they are as talented as professionals."

She thought that the person, whom Huo Yao was talking about, was probably an obscure cover singer.

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Meanwhile, this small-time cover singer, Huo Xiang, sneezed suddenly.

"Did you get so comfortable resting at home that you even caught a cold?" Tong Yu was holding a document while talking to Huo Xiang.

Did he get too comfortable?

Huo Xiang rubbed the itch in his nose helplessly.

His parents took turns on a daily basis to disregard him. If word got out, it would be an utter embarrassment.

"This is the contract for a live variety show. Take a look," said Tong Yu as he handed the contract to Huo Xiang.

Tong Yu paused and added in a serious tone. "I think this variety show suits you. By taking it on, it will allay all doubts circulating in the company regarding your physical condition. It will also give you an excuse to avoid live performances in the near term."

Huo Xiang's face went dark. He shut the contract and tossed it onto the coffee table without even bothering to read it. "You know I don't do variety shows."

Tong Yu pressed his forehead when he saw Huo Xiang acting stubborn again. "Do you know who the variety show's director is?"

Huo Xiang looked away with complete disinterest.

"He is one of the most talented variety show directors in the industry. Almost every project he directs is a hit. So many people are dying to get casted, but he has personally invited you. How can you reject his offer?"

Tong Yu really wanted to crack open Huo Xiang's head and see what on earth he was thinking.

"Given my condition, I can't do anything even if I go on the show," said Huo Xiang frustratedly.

"Condition? What condition? Other than being incapable of doing anything strenuous, there's nothing wrong with you. Now that you mention it, your face has gotten fatter after you started resting at home."

How dare Huo Xiang say he was in bad shape? Ptooey!

Huo Xiang touched his face quietly. "..."

“You have to go to the variety show. It’s non-negotiable,” said Tong Yu decisively with a grave expression on his face.

Huo Xiang might be unaware of how influential director Qu Yi was, but Tong Yu knew it well. He was not about to let Huo Xiang wriggle out of it this time.

Huo Xiang raised his head and looked at Tong Yu. “Do I have to?”

“Yes, absolutely. I never forced you to attend variety shows before, but this time it’s different. You have to do as I say.”

Huo Xiang went silent for a few moments before he finally signed the contract.

Tong Yu heaved a sigh of relief. He worriedly put away the contract out of fear that Huo Xiang might change his mind.

“Oh yes, I nearly forgot. You have to bring a family member to the show. Of course, you can bring a friend too if none of your family members are suitable. I recall your foster sister recently participated in the Star Training Camp and was quite popular. Maybe you can ask her.”

It was best to bring a celebrity along for the show since it would help market the show and increase its popularity.

Tong Yu had already chosen the family member in his mind before he came to Huo Xiang with the contract.

Chapter 229: Appear On A Variety Show With His Little Sister

The moment Tong Yu brought up Huo Xiang’s foster sister, Huo Xiang scowled fiercely. With almost zero hesitation, he said, “Nope.”

Tong Yu was surprised. He noticed Huo Xiang’s face turning angry. “Erm... Aren’t you going to ask Lu Xia to appear on the show with you?”

“I’m not close to her,” said Huo Xiang indifferently.

Tong Yu touched his nose. Not close? They grew up together, for heaven’s sake. Who was Huo Xiang trying to kid?

Tong Yu contemplated all this in his head but did not continue talking about Lu Xia. Instead, he asked him with a perplexed expression. “Then who will you take along? Someone from the industry? Or some other artist in the agency?”

Huo Xiang suddenly gave Tong Yu a strange look. “Didn’t you say I have to take a family member?”

Was his biological sister not family?

“Yes I did.” Tong Yu nodded. Someone crossed his mind, and his eyes opened wide with amazement. “Don’t tell me you want to take Brother Tingrui for the show?!”

Huo Xiang: “...”

“Tingrui is a famous lawyer in the industry. Although he isn’t as popular as a celebrity, he occasionally appears in magazines. I think Tingrui is a good choice.”

Tong Yu crossed his arms as he continued to run the analysis. Then his expression changed, and he looked at Huo Xiang quizzically. “Since Tingrui isn’t your biggest fan, he probably wouldn’t make an appearance on the variety show, right?”

Huo Xiang’s face became unsightly. “Who said anything about inviting Brother Tingrui?”

“Huh... Were you talking about your oldest brother then?” Tong Yu blinked and found it inconceivable.

“My baby sister.”

Huo Xiang paused and clarified. “My biological sister.”

Tong Yu finally realized which sibling Huo Xiang was referring to. He slapped his forehead and said, “Oh yes. How could I forget about our little sister? If she joins the show... tsk tsk... she will undoubtedly become one of the star attractions.”

After all, Huo Xiang and Huo Yao’s striking good looks alone were unsurpassable.

The more Tong Yu mulled over it, the more exhilarated he became.

Huo Xiang glanced at him. “Don’t be happy too soon. My little sister is in her senior year, so she might not have the time.”

“Don’t worry. The show is still in its planning stages. Since it will be a live telecast, it will probably get filmed on weekends and won’t affect your sister’s studies.”

“She might not be open to it.”

“That’s easy. Give me her number. I will take care of it,” said Tong Yu and took out his phone.

Huo Xiang looked at Tong Yu’s actions but did not pass on his little sister’s number to his agent. Instead, he pursed his lips and said after some time, “Forget it. I will ask her myself.”

Tong Yu put away his phone without giving it much thought. “Sure, then it’s settled. If you can’t convince her...”

Before Tong Yu could finish his sentence, Huo Xiang raised his hand and interrupted him. “I am her older brother. Of course, I can handle it.”

Tong Yu did not go on when he noticed the confident look on Huo Xiang’s face. Before long, he took the contract and left the Huo residence.

Huo Xiang sat on the couch and took out his phone. He sent a text message to his little sister.

[Yao, can you do me a favor?]

Although Huo Yao was still in class when she received the text, she replied immediately: [What favor?]

Huo Xiang sat up straight. He quickly composed his reply, tapping his fingers on the screen. However, upon reading it, he felt that it was inappropriate and deleted it. Then he repeated the process several times without sending even a single reply to Huo Yao.

Huo Yao looked at the top of the screen and saw that Huo Xiang was still typing the message. After it continued for a few minutes, she sent him a question mark.

Chapter 230: All Kinds Of Strange Dudes With Peculiar Dressing Sense

Huo Yao placed her hand against her chin. After she waited for a long time, he finally replied.

Huo Xiang: [Never mind, it's okay.]

How could he have come up with this after typing for so long?

So Huo Yao sent him another question mark.

Huo Xiang: [Class must be starting. I won't hold you up then.]

Huo Yao put down her phone. Her fourth older brother certainly was behaving strangely today.

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Huo Yao's phone rang after school before she made it to the school entrance. It was her fourth older brother calling.

She picked up quickly and said, "... I'll be out in two minutes."

"Is someone from your family picking you up?" asked Meng Ying casually.

Huo Yao placed her phone back inside her pocket. "Yup, it was my older brother."

Meng Ying glanced at Huo Yao's breathtaking profile. She could not help touching her chin as she said, "Your brother must be very handsome!"

Huo Yao raised her brow and looked at her from the side. "That goes without saying."

Meng Ying blinked. She suddenly felt offended.

Was Huo Yao pushing Meng Ying around because she did not have a big brother?

She trotted behind her and wanted to see what her sibling looked like.

Before long, they walked out of the school gates.

Meng Ying scoured the place. Her eyes landed on a man covered from head to toe standing by the roadside. Instinctively, she said, "Tsk tsks. These days, there are all kinds of strange dudes with peculiar styling sense."

Huo Yao glanced in that direction and her lips curved upwards.

"Sister Big Shot, where is your older brother?" asked Meng Ying.

Huo Yao indicated towards the strange guy whom Meng Ying was just talking about.

Meng Ying's mouth dropped open instantly. After a long time, she finally stammered. "No way... Don't tell me that's your older brother?"

How could someone as exquisite as Huo Yao have such an odd brother?

There was nothing in common between them.

Huo Yao coughed. Even if Huo Xiang was not famous, she could not make fun of him for acting like he was a top celebrity. She walked towards Huo Xiang and turned to look at Meng Ying.

She said airily, "Yup, that's my older brother."

Meng Ying: "..."

This was awkward.

Nonetheless, Meng Ying followed behind her curiously.

"Brother Xiang," called out Huo Yao softly after coming closer.

Huo Xiang automatically looked away from his phone when he heard his little sister's voice. "That was fast."

He was wearing a mask and sunglasses.

"Mhm." Huo Yao nodded.

Huo Xiang paused when he noticed Meng Ying standing beside Huo Yao and asked politely. "Is this your classmate?"

"Yup, Meng Ying sits right next to me," introduced Huo Yao briefly.

Since Huo Yao brought her classmate along, they must be quite close. Hence, Huo Xiang removed his sunglasses to reveal his sparkling, upturned eyes and nodded slightly to Meng Ying. "How do you do?"

Huo Xiang looked very cool at this moment. He gave off a striking aura even when only his eyes and forehead were exposed.

Meng Ying was astounded. After she gathered her thoughts, she shyly nodded and said softly, "H-hi!"

Heavens, he was clearly gorgeous and far from strange.

No wonder he covered himself from top to toe.

But why did Huo Yao's older brother seem so familiar? She seemed to have encountered him before.

Meng Ying scratched her head but couldn't seem to recall him.