

Pill Maker 241

Chapter 241: The Collapse Of His Cool Image

Meng Ying shook her head and replied. "No, thanks. I still have a lot of tests to do."

Her cousin did not insist. She leaned her elbow on her knee and put her earphones back on.

Meng Ying smiled. As she moved away, she unintentionally glanced at the phone screen. Suddenly, she halted and turned to look at her cousin's phone again.

Her cousin noticed the strange look on Meng Ying's face and could not help asking her. "Ying?"

Meng Ying was in a daze as she looked at her cousin's phone screen. She hurriedly took her phone out of her pocket and sent Huo Yao a text message.

[Sister Big Shot, is your older brother... a singer?]

Huo Yao had just finished dinner and was on her way up when she received Meng Ying's text.

She stopped and typed: [Uh huh. He's probably an amateur or a cover singer. I have never asked him about the specifics.]

Meng Ying's lips twitched when she saw her reply. She seemed desperate to know the truth and asked boldly: [Mind sending his pic?]

Huo Yao touched her chin. She raised her head to look at her fourth older brother sitting in the living room eating strawberry cake before she replied: [I'll have to ask him.]

Meng Ying: [Nods nods!]

Huo Yao went back to the living room. "Brother Xiang, can I take a picture of you?"

Huo Xiang had just put a piece of cake in his mouth and some cream was smeared around his lips. He was shocked to hear that his little sister wanted to take his picture.

To be honest, he did not like getting clicked. But it was his little sister who asked him, so he couldn't refuse her.

He mumbled to himself. "Wait a sec. Let me pose properly."

"Don't bother. I already snapped one." Huo Yao had quickly taken a picture.

Huo Xiang, who was still thinking about his pose, was dumbfounded. "?"

Huo Xiang was in home wear and had been slouching on the couch unglamorously. His strikingly handsome face was hanging open with a half-eaten strawberry in his mouth and his eyes were bulging out. Accompanied by his fluffy curly hair, he looked goofy and adorable.

Huo Yao felt that it was a rather good picture and nodded to herself as she sent it out.

Suddenly an ominous feeling arose in Huo Xiang's heart. "Yao, have you..."

Huo Yao raised her head and looked at him. “That classmate of mine, whom you met today, asked for your pic.”

Huo Xiang was stunned. “???”

Basically, it wasn’t his little sister who wanted his picture?

More importantly... Huo Xiang lowered his head to look at his outfit before glancing at the strawberry cake on the table. He wiped the cream from the corner of his lips and thought about his earlier expression...

Huo Xiang instantly became upset. He hurriedly put down his fork and went over to Huo Yao without bothering to put on his slippers. “Yao, have you sent the photo?”

“I did,” replied Huo Yao rather heartlessly.

Huo Xiang: “...”

It felt as though he had just witnessed the cool image, which he painstakingly built, collapse.

Meng Ying was dumbfounded when she received the photo and saw the man in the picture. She finally composed herself and sent Huo Yao two messages with complicated emotions surging in her heart.

Meng Ying: [My dear, are you mistaken about what an amateur singer is?]

Meng Ying: [Or do you have some discrimination against cover singers?]

Medicine Pill: [?]

Meng Ying inhaled deeply and suppressed her urge to lose control and kept typing: [Is he really your brother?]

Chapter 242: This Was Not The Outcome He Had Imagined!

Huo Yao touched her nose before she raised her head and looked at Huo Xiang. He seemed to be on the brink of a collapse. Although he looked silly, he was...

Huo Yao: [Isn’t it obvious that he’s my brother?]

Huo Yao and Huo Xiang resembled each other the most in the entire Huo family. No one would have any doubt that they were siblings when they stood side by side.

Meng Ying chuckled: [If he were really your biological brother, why didn’t you know he’s the immensely popular top singer, Lucky?]

Lucky?

From the sound of her message, Huo Xiang was a remarkable singer.

Huo Yao held her phone quietly for two minutes. She tilted her head and suddenly shouted loudly.
“Lucky.”

Huo Xiang shivered inexplicably when he heard Huo Yao call out that name. He instinctively said,
“Yaoyao?”

Huo Yao’s lips twitched. She replied to Meng Ying: [I just wanted to test if you were my brother’s fan or not.]

Meng Ying: [...]

Medicine Pill: [Oh yes. How much is one of his pics worth?]

Meng Ying: [???

Huo Yao must be some monster. Would an average human say such things?

Huo Yao stopped chatting with Meng Ying and opened the internet browser. She searched for ‘Lucky’. In an instant, loads of search results popped up.

No, correction.

All the search results were about her fourth older brother.

No wonder Huo Yao was unable to find Huo Xiang online when she first searched for him. It turned out he was using a stage name.

Huo Xiang was standing right in front of her, so he saw the search results. He suddenly puffed his chest out as a surge of pride arose in him.

Huo Yao quickly put away her phone. She looked at Huo Xiang, who was waiting for her to say something. She lowered her eyes and said helplessly, “Put on your slippers. The floor is cold.”

Huo Xiang: “...”

This was not the outcome he had imagined!

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Time went by swiftly. Before long, it was the day before the National Quiz Contest finals.

The heats were scheduled for Saturday, while the finals were going to take place on Sunday. All the No.1 Middle School students, who made it into the nationals, were sent to the airport by the school on Friday afternoon.

Since the flight was at 3:00 pm, they arrived at the airport at around 2:00 pm and sat in the waiting area after going through the security check.

Huo Yao sat in the furthest corner on her own. She tended to be unsociable. Since she was addicted to music lately, she had been wearing her earphones ever since she left school.

Very few people from the Experimental Class had signed up for the National Quiz Contest, and only two contestants from her class qualified after all the elimination rounds. One of them was Huo Yao, while the other was the study committee member.

The study committee member was a shy boy, so each time he attempted to talk to Huo Yao, he would feel a great deal of pressure. Eventually, he gave up.

The same thing happened to the other students. However, no one found her arrogant. Instead, they felt that this was simply the way elite students should behave.

But Yi Lianfan was not intimidated by her.

“Why are you reading an English book?” asked Yi Lianfan. He saw the book without any Chinese annotations on Huo Yao’s lap, when he sat down beside her.

A look of surprise flashed across his eyes.

Since the music’s volume was not very loud, she could clearly hear Yi Lianfan’s voice when he spoke to her. She removed an earphone before raising her head. “I signed up for the English oral competition.”

Yi Lianfan’s brow arched up inexplicably. “Why did you sign up for a dumb competition like that?”

Was it not more interesting to work on Physics and Chemistry?

“Dumb? I think it’s okay since it comes with a \$100,000 scholarship,” said Huo Yao seriously.

Chapter 243: Want To Say Hi To Miss Huo?

“So you signed up for it because of the prize?” Yi Lianfan instantly realized what she was driving at and was astounded.

Huo Yao nodded and went back to reading her book.

Yi Lianfan could not help taking another glance at the book. Although his English was good, he did not understand even a word when he scanned through her book’s contents.

He suddenly felt a sense of defeat.

Yi Lianfan leaned back into his seat with a sad face. After a moment, he said calmly, “I won’t lose to you in the finals this time.”

Huo Yao flipped the page and replied airily without looking up. “Sure. Good luck.”

Most of the people who said this to her ended up defeated.

So, she could only encourage them.

Time went by swiftly. Before long, the airport staff in the waiting area made PA announcements, notifying passengers to board the flight.

After most of the passengers had boarded, Huo Yao put her book away unhurriedly and stood up. She pulled along the small suitcase which her mother had prepared for her and headed towards the boarding gate. She handed her ID and boarding pass to the staff for scanning.

Huo Yao was assigned a window seat. After boarding, she turned off her phone and pulled up the hood on her sweater. She closed her eyes and leaned sideways.

Two and a half hours later, the flight landed in the capital.

It was past 6:00 pm, and the sky was not completely dark yet.

After they got off the flight, everyone gathered at the arrival gate. Many students from all over the country had arrived at the airport. They were all here for the contest.

Since the National Quiz Contest was being held at Tsing University, most of the schools had booked hotels in the vicinity.

It was no different for No.1 Middle School.

On the other side, Zhuo Yun had just exited the VIP gates and was calling someone when he looked up and spotted Huo Yao among the sea of students.

At first, he thought he was mistaken. But he became certain after another glance.

Zhuo Yun remembered that the Principal had mentioned about him and his students coming to the capital on Friday, but he did not expect to bump into them here.

After hanging up the phone, Zhuo Yun walked up beside Min Yu and pointed towards Huo Yao. "Boss, it's Miss Huo."

Min Yu raised his head and looked into the crowd. He spotted the girl right away. Despite how languid she looked, she had a strong sense of presence and was a sight to behold.

Huo Yao seemed to notice an intense gaze. She suddenly raised her head, and her eyes landed on Min Yu with accuracy.

Min Yu's lips suddenly curved up gently when their eyes made contact.

She was certainly a sharp kid.

Zhuo Yun hesitated before asking him softly. "Shall we go over and say hi?"

Min Yu saw Huo Yao veering her eyes away after taking one look at him. He shook his head. "It's fine. Let's go."

His expression reverted to coldness as he headed out.

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The Dean led the students to the airport car park after everyone arrived. The Principal had already made transport arrangements earlier.

The Principal hailed from an elite family in the capital. He had sent for their family chauffeur to come to pick them up from the airport. The car was even given special access to use the priority lane.

Other than the Yu family's vehicle, there were a few black cars parked behind.

A few serious-looking men stood outside the cars, in an orderly manner as though they were waiting to receive someone important.

Chapter 244: Unusual Cars!

The first black car started its engine just when the Dean came out with the students. The men standing beside the cars started getting in one after another.

A student looked over and noticed that all the license plates were consecutive numbers and shouted out in surprise. "Look at those license plates."

Although he did not say it very loudly, the man who was getting into the car heard him, and turned to stare daggers at him.

The kid instinctively shivered and shrank towards his fellow schoolmates.

Huo Yao looked at all the commotion lazily before shifting her eyes away in a nonchalant manner.

The Yu family's chauffeur hurriedly bowed with respect. After those cars pulled out of the lane, he wiped the cold sweat from his brow and sighed.

He turned to open the minibus door and told the students to climb on, without offering any explanation.

After they boarded the bus, the student who had become frightened earlier, finally composed himself. With fear still lingering on his face, he mumbled softly to his schoolmates. "That guy was so scary. It seemed as though he was an assassin straight out of a drama."

"Totally. His eyes said it all."

Most of the students, who made it to the nationals, were kids from normal families and had never encountered blood or darkness. They were mostly innocent and carefree.

Huo Yao gazed out of the bus's window with a calm and profound look on her face.

Yi Lianfan was sitting beside Huo Yao. He could not help turning to look at Huo Yao when he heard what the two kids sitting in front of them said.

From the moment they laid eyes on those people, she did not seem as startled as the other students. She looked so calm that it felt as though they had merely encountered some ordinary people.

Despite coming from a high standing family in City S and having met many influential people, Yi Lianfan was instinctively afraid when he saw those people. But he hadn't reacted as strongly as the others.

In comparison, Huo Yao seemed far more at ease in the presence of such powerful people.

“Weren’t you afraid earlier?” asked Yi Lianfan softly.

Huo Yao turned her head and answered Yi Lianfan in a serious tone. “Of course, I was.”

Yi Lianfan was baffled. “?”

Did she look afraid to begin with?

Huo Yao’s phone pinged in her pocket.

Min Yu: [Where’s your hotel?]

Huo Yao replied candidly: [Somewhere near Tsing University.]

Min Yu: [Are you revising or coming out tonight? The city sights are pretty decent at night.]

Medicine Pill: [The Principal will probably break my leg if I go gallivanting around at night. (serious face JPG).]

Min Yu laughed gently. The coldness on his face was replaced by slight languor, and the warmth spread through the car.

Yang Yi’s jaw almost dislocated in shock when he caught sight of his boss laughing in the rearview mirror.

What was going on?

He had never seen Min Yu look this way before.

It was awfully scary!

However, Zhuo Yun, sitting in the front passenger seat, seemed accustomed to his boss’s sudden 180 degree change in personality.

He failed to notice the look on Yang Yi’s face. Instead, he turned back to look at Min Yu. “Yu, shall we invite Miss Huo to dinner?”

Chapter 245: Who Was Miss Huo?

Yu?

Yang Yi’s eyes widened instantly and he looked at Zhuo Yun in disbelief. How could he be so audacious as to greet their boss by his first name?

Wait a second...’Miss Huo’?

Who was that?

Zhuo Yun glanced at Yang Yi. “Oh. She is the one who gave the boss that nerve soothing incense stick.”

Yang Yi was aware that Min Yu lucked out and got his hands on a box of premium nerve soothing incense. He was forced to raid Old Master Min’s private collection and steal his prized tea because Min

Yu wanted to thank the person who gave them to him. To this day, Yang Yi did not dare to show his face before Old Master Min.

“What’s Miss Huo’s background like?” asked Yang Yi quizzically.

Authentic nerve soothing incense was extremely rare. Its demanding production required the maker to be well-versed in Chinese medicine since the dosage of each ingredient affected the efficacy of the end product directly.

“A senior student.” Zhuo Yun’s voice and expression appeared calm.

Yang Yi tightened his grip on the steering wheel. For a moment, he thought he heard wrongly about her age.

Was she a member of some hidden family?

Yang Yi turned sideways to glance at Zhuo Yun. Yangyi parted his lips wanting to say something, but Zhuo Yun’s next set of words beat him to it.

“Miss Huo is a great student. She has stood first in all rounds of this contest that she signed up for,” said Zhuo Yun proudly.

Zhuo Yun’s face was filled with the kind of admiration that a poor student had for a top student, ever since he had seen her results in the National Quiz Contest.

Yang Yi: “...”

First, something went wrong with his ears. Now, it was his eyes.

Zhuo Yun saw the look of surprise on Yang Yi’s face and said sternly, “Friend, can you focus on driving? You’re putting all our lives at risk.”

Yang Yi again: “...”

Who was the one blabbering nonstop here?

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At a hotel, 50 minutes later.

Huo Yao got off the minibus with her luggage. The Dean came to her with the card key for her room before long.

Usually, two students were assigned to each room. Only three girls had made it to the nationals, and two of them were from the same class, so they shared a room. As a result, Huo Yao got the room all to herself.

They took the lift to the 16th floor and headed to their respective rooms.

It was a four-star hotel’s standard room, and the place looked clean.

Huo Yao closed the door and looked around before she placed her suitcase inside the wardrobe.

She kept receiving text notifications after she came out of the bathroom, and picked up the phone to check them.

The Dean had just created a chat group and informed everyone to head to the buffet restaurant on the second floor for dinner in 15 minutes.

Huo Yao replied, 'okay', before she set the chat group to 'do not disturb' mode. She rested for a few minutes before heading out.

The Principal and the Dean were discussing something when they caught sight of Huo Yao in the restaurant. The stern look disappeared from the Principal's face.

"This is your first time in the capital, right? Are things okay? Do you have any problems adjusting to the place?" asked the Principal with concern.

Huo Yao nodded gently to the Principal. "I'm good. Thanks for asking."

The Principal smiled and said, "Rest early, so you can be ready for the heats tomorrow morning."

Huo Yao nodded obediently.

The Principal did not go on talking and let her go for her dinner.

After Huo Yao left, the Dean asked him softly. "What are Huo Yao's chances of claiming the top spot in the exam?"

Chapter 246: Are You Still A Student?

The Principal glanced at Huo Yao's receding back before he turned to the Dean. He raised his brow and said calmly, "I am 100% sure."

The Dean was stunned. 100% certain she would get the first rank? Was the Principal that confident?

"But Yi Lianfan only lost to her by two points previously."

The Principal smiled. "Although it was only two points, he won't have an easy time surpassing her this time."

Since she could bring many college education systems to their knees, it was no mean feat to surpass her. Her level of knowledge was well beyond that of the current syllabus.

Yi Lianfan was undoubtedly a straight A student. However, the moment he encountered Huo Yao, he was destined to play second fiddle to her.

The Principal thought himself to be fortunate that he managed to convince Huo Yao to join their school. If she had entered some other middle school, he would have been having a real headache right now.

The Principal gathered his thoughts before he patted the Dean on his shoulder. "It doesn't matter who comes first or second as long as both of them are kids from No.1 Middle School."

"You're right." The Dean laughed.

"I have something to attend to at night. I will leave the kids in your care. Don't let them leave the hotel unless it's something important," said the Principal as he raised his watch to check the time.

The Dean nodded with reassurance. "Don't worry."

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Huo Yao sat down in the corner after taking her plate.

She took out her phone as she ate.

She opened her contacts and tapped on someone called, 'Lei'.

In a minute, she sent out a text: [My dear, shall we meet in person?]

Lei Xiao was eating dinner when he received the text. His hands trembled the moment he saw the message, and his phone almost fell into his bowl of soup.

They had not spoken ever since she asked him about the Education Association. He had not dared to disturb her, but here she was, asking him to meet face to face.

The invitation was absolutely out of the blue.

He had hinted at meeting in person several times in the past but was heartlessly rejected every single time.

Lei Xiao suppressed his shock and hurriedly replied: [Are you in the capital?]

Huo Yao was surprised at how quickly he responded.

She typed back: [Yup.]

Lei Xiao could no longer be bothered with eating.

Instead, he stood up and walked out as he replied: [Just tell me where. I'll come over immediately.]

Huo Yao's hands stilled. Yi Lianfan had come over with his plate while she was typing. He took a seat right across her.

Huo Yao raised her brow at him.

In return, Yi Lianfan glanced at her calmly and said, "The Dean told me to pass on a message. No one is to leave the hotel tonight."

Then he lowered his head and started to eat.

"Mhm. Got it," replied Huo Yao.

She texted Lei Xiao: [Sorry. Not now. I'm taking part in a contest tomorrow, so I have to revise tonight and don't have time to come out. Why don't we meet after the contest?]

Lei Xiao had already reached the door when he caught sight of her last message. He froze in shock yet again.

Contest?

Revision?

Could Miss Big Shot really be a student?

Lei Xiao recalled her talking about studying before as well. He was suddenly dumbstruck. It felt as though something in his head shattered.

After some time, he finally gathered his thoughts and typed with trembling fingers: [Are you a student?]

Chapter 247: Cloud Realm Online Trading

Lei Xiao received a response in no time.

[Yup. I'm a senior student.]

Lei Xiao did not know how he managed to accept this scrap of information. All he knew was that it was going to keep him awake all night.

Things would have barely made sense if she was doing her PhD. But, it was downright bewildering that she was just a middle school student.

Huo Yao did not have a clue about how strongly her words had affected Lei Xiao.

She typed further: [Help me prepare some ingredients.]

Although she was a student, Lei Xiao replied politely: [Of course, just tell me what you need.]

Huo Yao sent him a list of Chinese medicinal herbs and the dosage needed.

A look of surprise flashed across Lei Xiao's eyes when he saw the list of ingredients.

He wrote: [Are you concocting an antidote?]

Huo Yao replied candidly: [Uh huh.]

Lei Xiao typed quickly: [I can get a hold of most of the meds... except for wind eliminating seeds.]

Huo Yao rubbed the surface of her mobile screen. She knew how hard it was to obtain wind eliminating seeds.

After going quiet for two seconds, she replied: [Don't worry about that herb. Send me your shipping address. I'll get it sent over.]

Lei Xiao: [Okay.]

Then Huo Yao asked Lei Xiao for his bank account information and sent him the money shortly.

After ending her conversation with Lei Xiao, Huo Yao pondered for a few moments before she put her phone away. She turned to look at Yi Lianfan, who was eating dinner with his head lowered.

She stood up and said, "I'm going back to rest."

Yi Lianfan nodded. "Okay."

Huo Yao returned to her room. The room was well-equipped and even had a laptop. Huo Yao sat down at the desk and turned the machine on.

Although it was not a high specification laptop, it was good enough to surf the net.

After she turned it on, she opened the internet browser to enter a website address and got in. She went through the two-step verification and finally logged into the Cloud Realm homepage.

Cloud Realm was a high-end online trading website specializing in selling unusual products which were not available in the market.

Transactions related to products, information, and even assassins could be conducted on Cloud Realm. However, it was not easy to become a member here. Only a small quota was offered each year to apply for its various levels of membership.

The kind of transactions, which could be carried out, differed based on each type of membership.

Huo Yao looked at the homepage and did not see any trades that were of interest to her, so she clicked on the VIP section.

She quickly posted a request to buy wind eliminating seeds.

Since Huo Yao was a VIP member, the Cloud Realm administrator linked her post to the homepage and graciously enabled the announcement function.

This meant that all online members would receive Huo Yao's notification instantly. In a word, it was embedded advertising.

Huo Yao raised her brow when she saw the announcement function. The website had certainly caught on with the trends in her absence.

A lot of members were online since most people were off work at night. Before long, someone sent Huo Yao a private message.

The person was a junior member of the Cloud Realm.

Since privacy was a key Cloud Realm feature, transactions were completed with barely any small talk. After a transaction was completed, the website would dispatch its special courier team to deliver the goods, so its members did not have to worry about their addresses getting leaked.

Chapter 248: Level A Mission

The wind eliminating seeds that Huo Yao wanted was a rare Chinese herb, so it did not come cheap. Fortunately, the seller was offering it at a reasonable price. Hence, she quickly bought it and sent the money.

After completing the transaction, the Cloud Realm administrator approached Huo Yao.

Cloud Realm Administrator: [Dear Little Darling, please send me your shipping address.]

Huo Yao's nickname on Cloud Realm was Bold Little Darling.

Huo Yao's hands paused over the keyboard as she looked at the administrator's salutation before sending Lei Xiao's address.

Cloud Realm Administrator: [Thanks, Little Darling! We will deliver the goods sharp at 10:00 am tomorrow.]

Bold Little Darling: [... Okay. Can I ask if there is any way I can lodge complaints about the website?]

Cloud Realm Administrator: [?]

Bold Little Darling: [Dear Little Darling?]

Cloud Realm Administrator: [...]

One minute later.

Cloud Realm Administrator: [Miss Bold, there isn't any channel available for you to lodge complaints on this site. Have a pleasant evening. Goodbye.]

Huo Yao's lips twitched before shutting the administrator's chat box. She noticed her avatar blinking with a new message from someone else. She clicked the message open.

Cool Autumn: [I just saw your post. Are you helping someone buy this herb?]

Bold Little Darling: [Uh huh.]

Cool Autumn: [I see. Bro Little Darling, can I ask you something personal?]

The administrator had called her 'Dear Little Darling', while Cool Autumn addressed her as 'Bro Little Darling'. Huo Yao's face turned dark as she leaned back into her seat. This trashy website was really ruining her image. It was time to change her nickname.

Huo Yao finally typed half a minute later: [Go on.]

Cool Autumn: [Are you from the capital?]

Bold Little Darling: [Nope.]

Liang Qiu scratched his head in surprise on the other end. He pondered for two seconds before he typed: [I recall you took on a level A mission once.]

Huo Yao's fingertips hovered over the keyboard for a few seconds.

In the meanwhile, Liang Qiu sent another message when Huo Yao did not reply: [The city is on a clamp down recently, especially during the cultural relic exhibition.]

Huo Yao raised her brow slightly before she typed: [Oh? I don't have time to look around anyway.]

Liang Qiu's lips twitched. Did she mean that she would have looked around if she had the time?

Cool Autumn: [I'm only telling you about this because we're old friends. Lie low and don't get into trouble.]

Huo Yao stroked her chin. She had no interest earlier, but now her curiosity was piqued.

She could not help asking: [When is the cultural relic exhibition going to be held?]

Cool Autumn: [?]

Huo Yao typed a question mark too, but he had gone offline before she managed to send it.

Huo Yao pursed her lips before she shut the web page. She picked up her phone and glanced at her WeChat chat groups. She placed the phone back on the table and stood up. After taking out a change of clothes from her suitcase, she headed to the bathroom.

The next day.

Huo Yao woke up early in the morning and went down to the buffet restaurant after washing up.

There were barely any other patrons in the restaurant at this hour.

Other than Huo Yao, Yi Lianfan was the only other schoolmate at the restaurant.

Yi Lianfan was surprised to see her. He placed food on his plate and asked her. "You're up early as well. You couldn't sleep last night because of the contest?"

Huo Yao glanced at Yi Lianfan. He had dark eye rings and appeared tired. Clearly, he had experienced a restless night. She had no intention of hurting his feelings, but she replied bluntly. "Nope. I'm used to waking up early."

Chapter 249: The National Quiz Contest Begins

Yi Lianfan's hand paused. He had a feeling that Huo Yao was out to get him and turned to look at her. However, she looked completely normal, so he veered his eyes away.

Was he being oversensitive at the moment?

"Oh yes. After the exam, do you want to go and explore Tsing University together? My cousin studies there, so he can show us around," said Yi Lianfan casually.

Huo Yao was holding two plates of food. "No, thanks. I'm busy in the afternoon."

Yi Lianfan did not insist.

The other students came in for breakfast before long. Huo Yao did not go back to her room but headed straight downstairs to the lobby to wait.

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The exam started at 9:00 am, and the hotel was only 150 meters away from Tsing University. All it took was a few minutes' walk to get there.

Since Tsing University was no ordinary school, there were many areas that were strictly off-limits to students.

The Dean gave them last-minute reminders as he led them to Tsing University, especially not to wander around the campus when they got there.

Tsing University was the number one university in the country, and it was every student's dream to study here. Just standing outside its gates, looking at the inspirational stone steles stirred passion in their hearts. The school's century year old history filled them up with deep veneration.

Huo Yao raised her head and looked at the Tsing University plaque hanging over its lofty entrance. She did not know how the others felt, but she was certainly overwhelmed with emotions right now.

Sure enough, it felt entirely different to study on campus.

Huo Yao had never experienced it previously. In this moment, her love for studying was reiterated even further. She looked at the place reverentially.

Soon, all the contestants reached Tsing University in an orderly manner. Few teachers of Tsing University were waiting at the gates to receive them.

Due to strict rules, each student had to go through registration before entering. Also, they needed to produce their National Quiz Contest ID cards, or else they wouldn't be allowed in.

The serial numbers on their cards were their exam hall seat numbers.

The seating was a random arrangement and was not based on their results. Huo Yao's number was 11 while Yi Lianfan's was 40, so they weren't going to be sitting in the same exam hall.

Since they were the students with the greatest potential this year and were from the same middle school, they had been segregated intentionally.

Before long, all the students participating in the contest were led to the teaching building in the west wing by the Tsing University's teachers.

After entering the exam hall, all other nonessentials like their phones had to be handed over. There were infrared monitors placed at the entrance, making it impossible to smuggle in cheat sheets or gadgets.

Huo Yao found her seat in the third room from the back. All the contestants had already entered by now. She realised that she was the only girl out of a dozen contestants in the hall.

She was the only flower amid a sea of trees!

Shortly after, the invigilator walked in with the question papers and handed them out one after another.

After Huo Yao received the paper, she skimmed through the questions. Half of them were related to chemistry, while the rest were from the field of physics. Judging from the questions, they seemed tricky and profound.

Huo Yao raised her brow slightly and a serious look arose in her eyes. The last few rounds of the contest had been a child's play. Finally, the examiners came up with tougher questions. This was more like it.

Fortunately, she did not share her opinion out loud. If the invigilator or the other contestants had found out her true thoughts, they would have lynched her.

Chapter 250: Phenomenal Speed

Huo Yao picked up her pen and wrote her name down on the test paper before she began.

The first half of the paper's questions were a combination of arts and sciences and covered a broad spectrum. This section tested not only her memory but also her understanding. Anyone with lesser knowledge might not even be able to comprehend the questions.

A lot more time was allocated for the heats than the previous exams. The contestants were given three hours to finish this paper.

An hour into the contest, most of the students were still working on the comprehension and multiple-choice questions, but Huo Yao had already started working on the trickier questions at the back.

The invigilator kept walking around the room and checked on the students from time to time.

Huo Yao was the only girl in the exam hall. She seemed particularly calm and was miles apart from the other nervous looking students. Hence, the invigilator could not help going over to check on her.

A look of surprise emerged on the invigilator's face when he saw Huo Yao already attempting the last section. He couldn't help but check his watch.

Did she finish the other questions in an hour?

Her speed... was simply phenomenal.

The invigilator remembered the examiners saying that the questions were too hard and the students might not have enough time to complete this paper.

Even school teachers might be incapable of completing the contest in the allotted time, let alone these contestants.

The invigilator glanced at the name on the answer sheet curiously.

Huo Yao.

Since the invigilator was one of the people in charge of the contest from the beginning, he was well familiar with Huo Yao's name.

Huo Yao had ranked first during the preliminary contest, city heats, and finals...

Due to Huo Yao's mind blowing performance, she had already garnered a lot of attention from the teachers who were involved in the organization of this contest.

If she could maintain her performance in the heats and finals, she stood a high chance of becoming the national champion this year.

The invigilator felt excited just thinking about it, and his eyes burned with hope when they landed on the top of Huo Yao's head. However, he only stood there for a while before walking away with his hands behind his back, out of fear that he might disturb her.

Huo Yao put down her pen an hour later.

The main questions at the back had certainly been challenging. Also, she had to come up with a solution keeping in mind the middle school syllabus. Hence, she spent extra 30 minutes using more indirect solutions.

Eventually, Huo Yao turned in her answer sheet an hour before the allotted time.

All the other students were stunned to see Huo Yao submit her script so early. The contest worked on an elimination basis, and only the finest students in the country had made it into the nationals. Huo Yao's actions had undoubtedly placed immense pressure on them.

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Huo Yao walked out of the exam hall.

Since it was Saturday or perhaps due to special arrangements, she barely encountered any Tsing University students after she went downstairs.

The administrative area was right next to the teaching building. This is where all the teachers were waiting there for their students.

The office door was open, and there was a large window by the side, so everyone had a clear view of what was going on outside.

The Dean was interacting with teachers from other schools.

"Hmm? Did someone hand in their script early?"