

## **Pill Maker 281**

### **Chapter 281: Don't Piss Off Huo Tingrui**

The text messages and missed calls were sent by Huo Tingrui and Huo Xiang.

The two of them were waiting for her at the airport.

Huo Yao replied to a text before she headed towards the arrival gate with her luggage.

Before long, Huo Yao got past the checkpoint and spotted Huo Tingrui right away. She quickly headed towards him.

“Brother Tingrui.”

He took her luggage and the big paper bag from her hand. He said with concern, “You must be exhausted.”

“I’m good.” Huo Yao raised her brow and looked around before asking him. “Where’s Brother Xiang? Didn’t he come with you?”

The moment Huo Yao brought up Huo Xiang’s name, his face went dark. He replied angrily. “That dumbass is waiting in the car.”

Huo Yao’s lips twitched. She could sense that Huo Tingrui was peeved with Huo Xiang.

“I told him to wait at home, but he insisted on coming along. Hehe... What do you think would happen to a ‘shared boyfriend’ like him in a public place?”

Huo Tingrui gritted his teeth. At the thought of how Huo Xiang’s fans almost squashed him into minced meat, he had the impulse to beat him up.

Huo Yao glanced at Huo Tingrui quietly after he referred to Huo Xiang as a ‘boyfriend for rent’. The way he described Huo Xiang left her speechless.

Huo Yao gently cleared her throat. “Don’t be mad. Brother Xiang has a lot of fans, so it’s natural for people to recognize him.”

Huo Tingrui suddenly felt even madder when he heard Huo Yao defending him.

Ever since Huo Xiang had moved back in with them, Huo Tingrui rapidly lost the attention coming his way.

A few minutes later, they arrived at the airport’s parking lot.

Huo Tingrui saw his brother opening the door with the intention of getting out of the car. He instantly glared at him. “Are you trying to make trouble again?”

Huo Xiang’s feet instantly shrank back in when he heard Huo Tingrui’s scathing voice. Just as he was about to say something, a suitcase suddenly got shoved into the car, and he had no choice but to shift in further.

“The trunk is full!”

Huo Tingrui placed the luggage and the paper bag into the back seat expressionlessly before shutting the door with a thud.

Huo Xiang was dumbfounded. “???”

“Yao, sit in the front,” said Huo Tingrui as he opened the front passenger seat door for her.

“???”

Huo Yao slid into her seat quietly. She glanced at the back seat through the rearview mirror and shook her head helplessly when she caught sight of the stunned look on Huo Xiang’s face.

Her silly fourth older brother always got bullied.

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It was already 10:00 pm when they reached home. Her parents were waiting in the living room, each holding a tube of fireworks.

Shortly after Huo Yao walked in through the door, the two of them pressed the tubes in unison. In an instant, colorful streamers and glitter burst out with a few pops.

“Congratulations, you genius.”

“Well done! Well done!”

The two of them beamed brightly as they took turns to hug their daughter.

Huo Yao was stunned by the unexpected welcome from her parents. A few streamers fell on her head. She looked at the smiles on her parents’ faces and the corners of her lips automatically curved upwards.

Reaching the living room, she took out the paper bag containing the gifts that she had bought at the airport and gave one to each of them.

“Yao, you gave Brother Tingui a fountain pen. Why did I get this?” came Huo Xiang’s stifled voice.

## **Chapter 282: The Huo Family’s Straight-A Student**

Huo Xiang opened the gift pack, and it swelled into a panda plush toy. He looked at Huo Yao with sad puppy eyes.

Huo Yao coughed drily. “The panda is our national treasure and an auspicious symbol. Don’t your fans call you their mascot? I thought it was meaningful.”

“That’s different!”

Huo Xiang felt that he had lost his image as an older brother. He seriously suspected that Huo Yao was treating him like a younger brother.

No, correction.

Maybe she did not even see him as a younger brother. This plush toy was a kind of gift that only girls liked.

Huo Tingrui suddenly felt great satisfaction when he saw how depressed Huo Xiang was.

In reality, it hit Huo Xiang harder when the blow came from Huo Yao.

Huo Yao parted her lips and wanted to say something but was interrupted by her father.

“You don’t want it? Why don’t you give it to me then? I don’t have any cute things to place on my bed.”  
Huo Jinyan glanced at his youngest son.

Huo Xiang was crushed under his father’s pressure and muttered softly. “I didn’t say that.”

“She already got you something, so stop being picky,” sneered Huo Jinyan.

Huo Xiang was appalled.

“!!!”

He was swiftly losing any and all significance in the family.

Song Ning put her perfume aside and asked her. “Yao, did you receive a trophy?”

Huo Yao nodded. “Uh huh.”

She went to her luggage and opened it to remove the trophy, certificate, and the guaranteed admission letter for Tsing University.

Although the trophy and certificate were both symbols of glory, the guaranteed admission letter for Tsing University was priceless.

Song Ning could not help recalling how she was suspicious initially when her daughter had shown her the confirmation letter of admission into No.1 Middle School.

Song Ning felt her face burning up in shame at the memory.

Her daughter now had guaranteed placement in Tsing University even though she had yet to take the college entrance exam. This daughter of hers was genuinely full of surprises.

“I have to take some pictures and post them on social media so that everyone can see our family genius!”

Huo Jinyan took out his phone and placed the trophy, certificate, and Tsing University’s admission letter together before taking several pictures from all angles. Then he combined them into a three by three grid image and posted it online.

Huo Yao smiled and let him be. She looked exhausted and yawned. “Mom, Dad, Brother Tingrui, and Brother Xiang, I’m heading up to my room to rest. I have to wake up early for school tomorrow.”

“Sure.”

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After Huo Jinyan posted the picture online, a bunch of people left comments, praising Huo Yao.

Lu Xia also was a contact on his social media. The moment she saw the trophy, certificate, and Tsing University's admission letter, she felt like squeezing the phone to bits.

It was Huo Yao! Why was it her again? Her phone had been flooded with Huo Yao's name today.

Everyone on social media kept talking about how Huo Yao ranked first in the National Quiz Contest and even in the class chat group, they were discussing the same thing. It felt as though she became everyone's goddess after being declared the national champion.

Lu Xia felt utterly disgusted when she saw everyone commending her nonstop. They seemed to have forgotten how judgemental they used to be about Huo Yao just a few days ago.

Useless bunch of people!

Lu Xia flung her phone away. She tossed and turned restlessly on her bed. Huo Yao used to be mediocre in Lu Xia's past life. It was unfathomable how she could end up completely different in this lifetime!

### **Chapter 283: Hated The Gods For This Injustice**

Huo Yao used to be a lousy student, but she shockingly transformed into a genius this time around. She used to have a meek personality and kept getting bullied at school. Instead, everyone admired her now, and her past life had undergone a complete change.

Did Huo Yao get reborn too?

This possibility had crossed Lu Xia's mind several times. However, she thought otherwise whenever she saw how indifferent and oblivious Huo Yao looked and behaved.

Yet all signs seemed to suggest that when Huo Yao came from the countryside and returned to the Huo family, she underwent a major personality change.

In her past life, Huo Yao did not get into No.1 Middle School or join the National Quiz Contest, let alone get the guaranteed admission into Tsing University.

But now, not only was Huo Yao studying in No.1 Middle School, she was also exceptionally brilliant. Hence, Lu Xia could not help reconsidering the possibility.

Since Lu Xia could experience rebirth, then why not Huo Yao?

Lu Xia was exasperated with the gods for serving her injustice. Since she was given the opportunity to be reborn, why did it happen after she returned to the Lu family?

In comparison to the Huo family, the Lu family was nothing. Would it not have been perfect if Lu Xia did not return to the Lu family? Then Huo Yao could have continued being their daughter.

Lu Xia closed her eyes and forced herself not to think about something that she could not change. Since she had the memories from her past life, she would certainly be able to overcome all adversities.

She could only hope that Huo Yao was not reborn like her.

Lu Xia was destined to have a sleepless night.

On the other side, Huo Yanxi was unable to sleep too.

He was standing on the balcony with his eyes gazing into the dark sky. It was as gloomy and cold as his mood.

He had seen his father's social media post.

The photo seemed to mock him for being a stupid brother who had failed to understand his little sister and judged her wrongly.

He did not know what to think or do the moment he saw the picture.

In the future, perhaps there was nothing that he could do to make up for the damage he had caused by being supercilious and suspicious of Huo Yao.

Huo Yao's cold and distant eyes kept appearing in his mind frequently. He felt as though she was quietly blaming him. He did not dare to go home also because of his past behaviour.

His presence would only serve to disturb their peace.

Huo Yanxi opened his exhausted eyes as his hands instinctively reached into his pocket for the cigarette box. Belatedly, he realized that he was out of cigarettes, and there was a pile of cigarette butts by his feet.

Huo Yanxi tossed the empty cigarette box on the balcony, self-deprecatingly. He returned to his room after standing outside quietly for a long time.

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The next morning.

Huo Yao washed up after she woke up and went downstairs.

She spotted the trophy on display in a glass cabinet when she got to the living room. Also, the certificate was hanging on the wall despite how much it clashed against the interior design style.

Huo Yao's lips twitched.

Huo Jinyan was reading the newspaper when he saw Huo Yao looking at the trophy. He could not help thinking about all the envious words his peers had left on social media since last evening. A smug look re-appeared on his face.

He recalled something and said, "Yaoyao, your Mom and I talked about it. We want to organize a celebratory party for you. You can invite your classmates and friends as well."

He could not wait to let everyone know how brilliant his baby girl was.

## **Chapter 284: Huo Xiang Takes The Antidote**

Huo Yao went to the side and poured some water for herself. She took a sip and said, "Forget it."

A party cost money. Treating people to dinner also cost money.

Meanwhile, Huo Jinyan had already come up with a guest list and location. He instantly raised his head and looked at his daughter when she refused him. "Huh? Why not?"

Huo Yao leaned against the wall lazily. "It's just a little contest, not worth spending money on."

Since no prize money was offered for the National Quiz Contest, she would be losing out even more if they threw a party.

Huo Jinyan tried to explain to her. "Yao, our family is..." But he failed to utter the words that they were quite rich.

Huo Yao raised her hand in mid-air and interrupted him solemnly. "Dad, we should keep a low profile."

Huo Jinyan's lips twitched hard.

"..."

In the past, Huo Jinyan was the one saying such things. However, he felt inexplicably depressed when he heard his daughter telling him the same thing.

Huo Yao had already turned to head towards the dining room. Huo Jinyan sat on the couch frustratedly. It felt as though he had a treasure that he could not show off. It was simply too depressing.

Huo Tingrui and Huo Xiang came down for breakfast one after another.

Huo Xiang walked over and greeted them before he automatically sat down next to his younger sister.

Huo Tingrui pursed his lips. Huo Xiang was such a man whore!

He sighed and sat down on the other side quietly.

Huo Yao drank some milk before she turned to scrutinise Huo Xiang. His face looked okay. The poison did not seem to have spread further, so he must have been religiously taking her medicine.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Huo Xiang blinked. His fine curly hair and the sleepy look on his face made him look confused and adorable.

Huo Yao squeezed her hand and suppressed the impulse to ruffle his hair. She lowered her head and nibbled on a bun. "Nothing."

"Oh!" Huo Xiang was dejected. He thought that Huo Yao was going to tell him that he was looking handsome today.

Huo Yao finished her bun before taking a piece of tissue and wiping the corner of her mouth. She removed a small glass bottle of medicine from her jacket's pocket and placed it next to Huo Xiang.

Huo Xiang paused before he picked up the bottle. "What's this?"

Huo Tingrui glanced over from across the table as well.

Huo Yao raised her brow. "You have accumulated a lot of excessive heat lately due to Yin deficiency. I got you something to clear the heat and expel the toxins."

Huo Xiang's eyes landed on the glass bottle. It had no label, so it did not appear like any of the oral medicines available in the market.

"Yao, I have excessive heat in my body too. Did you get me any medicine?" interrupted Huo Tingrui, who felt rather jealous at the moment.

Huo Yao gave him a sinister smile and said, "I can give you some acupuncture treatment."

Huo Tingrui quickly shook his head. "No, thanks."

Every time his sister smiled like this, it was awfully creepy.

Huo Xiang had already opened the bottle cap. He could smell a mild Chinese medicinal scent when he took a whiff. It was not pungent at all.

Huo Yao slowly leaned back into the seat with one hand resting at the edge of the table. Despite looking relaxed, her quiet posture gave Huo Xiang the jitters.

He recalled her looking like this when he did not take the medicine that she had given him the first time. In an instant, he asked her cautiously. "Do I take it directly?"

"Uh huh," replied Huo Yao softly with her slightly upturned eyes looking languid.

### **Chapter 285: Get Another Checkup (1)**

Huo Xiang veered his eyes away from her. He inhaled deeply before he tilted his head up and drank the medicine.

He expected the medicine to taste bitter and unpalatable. However, he discovered that it had barely any odor or taste.

Huo Xiang picked up a glass of water after taking the medicine and took a few sips.

Huo Yao was finally at ease when she saw him finish the medicine. She checked the time on her watch and got up. Then she said sweetly, "I'm off to school."

She looked completely different from earlier when she had told Huo Xiang to take the medicine.

The door closed with a click before long. Huo Xiang could not help sighing. "Brother Tingrui, don't you think Yao gives off such a scary vibe when she gets serious?"

Huo Tingrui glanced at him. "Nope."

Even if she did, he would never admit to it since it would be embarrassing for him to accept that his younger sister gave him the jitters.

Huo Xiang suddenly straightened his back and moved his hand to touch it. A warm sensation was spreading throughout his injury. His expression altered in surprise.

Huo Tingrui noticed something different with Huo Xiang's expression and could not help asking solemnly. "What's wrong?"

Huo Xiang tilted his head sideways as he pressed his back again. However, he did not feel the usual sharp pain he got from the slightest touch. "That's odd. My injury suddenly feels warm after taking her meds."

Huo Tingrui thought about the drug Huo Yao had given him. After he took them, his occupation-related health problems stopped acting up. He felt a lot more energetic than usual.

Huo Tingrui suddenly turned to Huo Xiang and spoke in a serious tone. "Go to the hospital for a checkup." Then he paused and added. "I don't think our baby sister would give you meds for no reason."

All that talk about clearing heat and expelling toxins was sheer nonsense.

Although Huo Yao only reunited with the Huo family recently, Huo Tingrui instinctively felt that she was special.

Huo Xiang lowered his eyes and squeezed his hands slightly.

Ever since he returned from Huo Yulin's place, he had forced himself not to think about his health. However, he was keenly aware of how he lay in bed at night thinking about the same thing over and over again – he was a cripple.

Huo Xiang had rejected Tong Yu's offer when he attempted to convince Huo Xiang to see a Chinese physician a few days ago. Despite learning from Tong Yu how expensive and rare his little sister's medicine was, Huo Xiang had instinctively resisted treatment.

After suffering enough disappointment, he had lost all hope.

Even though Huo Xiang had learned to accept facts, he felt a sliver of hope from how his body was reacting to her medicine at this moment.

Perhaps he could give it another shot?

Huo Xiang gathered his thoughts before he nodded to Huo Tingrui. "Mhm. I'll get it done tomorrow."

Huo Tingrui was relieved to see that Huo Xiang was receptive to his suggestion. He added as an afterthought. "I'll come with you."

"Don't worry. Tong Yu can accompany me. He happens to know a famous Chinese physician," said Huo Xiang.

"Fine. Call me if anything happens," said Huo Tingrui without insisting any further.

"Sure." Huo Xiang nodded. Then he took the medicine bottle from the table and placed it in his pocket.

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Tong Yu could not help feeling shocked when he heard that Huo Xiang wanted to see a doctor. He quickly rang up the Chinese physician, Old Mr. Pei, whom he had encountered at the hospital previously, and made an appointment.

Tong Yu and Huo Xiang arrived at Old Mr. Pei's Chinese medicine hall slightly after 2:00 pm.

## Chapter 286: Get Another Checkup (2)

Old Mr Pei was not there yet. However, he had told his employees to expect a patient, so Tong Yu and Huo Xiang were led into the waiting room.

Tong Yu kept looking at the door every now and then. He fidgeted in the chair, looking nervous.

After leaving the hospital, Tong Yu had done some research on Old Mr. Pei and discovered that he was far more revered than his friend made him out to be.

He descended from a family with a long history of Chinese physicians, and was a master of Chinese medicine. However, the highly venerated physician barely saw any patients these days, so it was hard to get an appointment.

Tong Yu had been unsure whether Old Mr. Pei would find time to see Huo Xiang when he called earlier today. Fortunately, he had agreed right away.

He looked at Huo Xiang and reminded him again. "Huo Xiang, you have to be polite later. You're very lucky that a master like him is willing to see you."

Huo Xiang muttered an acknowledgement with a mask on his face.

Old Mr. Pei finally arrived finally at 3:00 pm. His apprentice brought Huo Xiang and Tong Yu into Old Mr. Pei's personal examination room.

Tong Yu nodded respectfully to Old Mr. Pei after the door closed. Then he pointed to Huo Xiang and said, "Old Mr. Pei, this is my friend."

He paused before he explained further. "My friend can't take off his mask..."

Old Mr. Pei waved his hand. "No problem. Take a seat."

Huo Xiang sat down and Tong Yu placed some documents on the table. "Here are all his medical records from his previous check-ups."

Old Mr. Pei put on his glasses and picked up the medical reports. A few minutes later, he put the documents down without saying anything and gestured for Huo Xiang to extend his hand.

Old Mr. Pei removed his hand after checking Huo Xiang's pulse. "Your pulse seems strange. You were recently poisoned, right?"

Tong Yu went quiet for two seconds and said, "My friend hurt his back a few months ago. At that time, the doctors at the hospital said that it was no big deal. After that, he ended up suffering from spinal nerve damage due to some unknown reason, but no poison was found as a part of the examinations."

Old Mr. Pei stroked his white beard and pondered for two seconds. He said, "I told you earlier, right? Some poison is undetectable through blood tests during the early stages of poisoning."

Tong Yu scratched his head. "You said my friend was suffering from spinal nerve damage because he got poisoned. Does this mean he will recover once it is neutralized?"

It was Old Mr. Pei's turn to look at Tong Yu quizzically. "His poison has been neutralized."

“Huh? Neutralized? What do you mean?” Tong Yu was stunned.

“If I’m not mistaken, the poison was recently treated, right?” Old Mr. Pei’s eyes landed on Huo Xiang. Although Old Mr. Pei phrased it as a question, he sounded absolutely certain.

Huo Xiang went into a daze. He instantly thought about the medicine that his sister had given him this morning.

The moment Tong Yu heard Old Mr. Pei’s diagnosis, he said, “Was it because of that medicine? The one you helped me check previously? That’s the only medicine he has been consuming off late.”

Tong Yu remembered that Old Mr. Pei had mentioned that Huo Yao’s medicine could counter the poison and was good for nerve injury.”

Old Mr. Pei could not help recalling how undiscerning Tong Yu had been about that medicine. He inhaled deeply and did not want to look at him. Even his voice became slightly heavier. “Maybe, if those are the only meds he took.”

### **Chapter 287: My Little Sister Is A Lucky Mascot**

Old Mr. Pei paused as he thought about Huo Xiang’s pulse before he added. “But I think you must have taken some other meds too, right?”

His words were directed at Huo Xiang.

Huo Xiang went quiet for two seconds before retrieving the glass bottle from his pocket and placed it on the table. “Uh huh. Please help me see if this medicine is for relieving excessive heat or an antidote.”

Although he had taken the medicine, there were still some remnants stuck in the bottle.

Old Mr. Pei opened the bottle, and took a whiff. His eyes opened wide as he looked at Huo Xiang excitedly. He asked in an urgent voice. “Where did you buy this?”

Huo Xiang had an inkling the moment he saw how excited Old Mr. Pei was. He went quiet for two seconds before he replied. “A friend gave it to me.”

“Is your friend a medical student?” asked Old Mr. Pei hurriedly.

“No, she isn’t.” Huo Xiang felt somewhat uncertain in his heart when he replied.

His little sister had given him both the medicine. If she knew nothing about Chinese medicine, how did she know he was poisoned and even gave him the right antidote?

A lot of questions were running through his head. However, he could only suppress his curiosity for now since Old Mr. Pei was here.

Old Mr. Pei put the glass bottle down. “Okay.” Then he stopped probing.

Old Mr. Pei knew in his heart that anyone capable of making such medicine was no ordinary Chinese medicine student and was probably far more talented than him.

"I have a question. If the poison has been neutralized like you said, does it mean my nerves are okay now?" Huo Xiang clenched his fists tightly as he looked at the old man like he was his last ray of hope.

Tong Yu hurriedly chimed in. "Yes yes. He is an entertainer and gives public performances all the time. Can he do strenuous activities like dancing?"

Old Mr. Pei picked up his red date wolfberry health drink and took a sip. He replied in a roundabout manner. "Your friend is a medical genius, but it seems you know very little about him."

He should not have had to answer such a rookie question.

Huo Xiang could understand what Old Mr. Pei was implying, so he stood up and nodded. "Thanks for everything."

Old Mr. Pei waved his hand. "There's nothing to thank me for. I was no help at all."

Old Mr. Pei asked them a few more questions before Tong Yu and Huo Xiang left the medical hall.

After they got into the car, Tong Yu started the engine and asked Huo Xiang. "Where did the antidote come from?"

Huo Xiang was still holding the glass bottle in his hand, looking at it with his eyes lowered. "My little sister gave it to me."

"I thought only Brother Tingrui knew about your problem. How did your baby sister..." Tong Yu was puzzled.

Huo Xiang looked at his agent with a complicated expression. "Stop asking. I don't have any answers either."

To begin with, he only took his sister's medicine because he found her scary. How could he tell him this, considering how embarrassing it was?

Tong Yu glanced at Huo Xiang in disdain. "How can you be so clueless about your younger sister? You're a terrible brother."

Huo Xiang: "..."

"No matter what, you should be glad that she is your younger sister," sighed Tong Yu sadly.

Huo Xiang suddenly laughed. Yes, his baby sister certainly was his lucky mascot.

Ever since she came home, everything seemed to change.

Huo Xiang's phone rang. His brows furrowed when he caught sight of the caller ID.

## **Chapter 288: Blacklist Lu Xia**

Tong Yu could not help glancing sideways at Huo Xiang when he let the phone ring non-stop with no intentions of answering it. "Who is it?"

Huo Xiang rejected the call before he replied rather coldly. "A scammer."

“Oh, I get those a lot too. Just blacklist the number,” said Tong Yu casually.

“Mhm.” Huo Xiang hung his head and looked at Lu Xia’s name in his call history. His fingers paused for a few seconds before he blacklisted her number.

Huo Xiang raised his head after turning off his phone and asked him. “Oh yes. When does the filming for Mr. Qu’s show start?”

“The producers haven’t contacted me yet. I’m guessing that it will start at the end of the month,” said Tong Yu slowly.

He contemplated briefly before he suddenly gave a cold laugh. “Luckily, you have recovered completely. Jin Xuyuan keeps trying to make me give up the slot to Xiang Nan ever since he found out Mr. Qu invited you to appear on ‘Countryside Life With My Family’.”

Xiang Nan’s agent, Jin Xuyuan, had tried to make Huo Xiang leave Phenom previously.

“Even if I had been unwell, I won’t have given up the slot. Huo Xiang leaned into his chair with a chill in his eyes.

He was going to appear on the show with his baby sister, so it meant a lot to him.

“Don’t worry. Even if he tried to compete for the slot, Mr. Qu might not be interested,” sneered Tong Yu.

Huo Xiang softly said, “Mhm.”

He looked out the car window and noticed that they were heading towards the company. He glanced at Tong Yu. “I’m still on vacation.”

“Aren’t you well already? Why don’t you go back? Your fans are still waiting for you to release a new album. Have you done any songwriting while you were home? Have you been practicing piano? Also, you haven’t touched your Weibo for over a month, right?”

In an instant, Tong Yu started blathering nonstop.

Facing his agent’s interrogation, Huo Xiang calmly replied. “I have slogged for you for years. Based on the amount of leave a regular office employee gets, I should still have at least one more month of leave, right?”

Tong Yu glanced at Huo Xiang in disbelief. “I can’t believe you said that. Did I ever stop you from taking leave?”

“In any case, I will be on vacation until Mr. Qu starts filming.” By now, Huo Xiang was accustomed to hanging around at home doing nothing. He wanted to rest for as long as he could. After a moment, he continued with a smile. “Enough of this. Take me to No.1 Middle School. It’s almost time for my little sister to get done with her classes.”

Tong Yu: “...”

Hehe, if he did not know better, he would have thought that his little sister was three years old.

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Lu Xia finally mustered the courage to call Huo Xiang again after class. But he hung up right away.

She initially thought that he was occupied, so she called him again after her last class. All she got was a message saying he was not within the service area.

Even a fool could tell that he had blacklisted her.

Lu Xia looked particularly upset. Her face was pale and weary, devoid of her usual proud glow.

She had not slept well last night after seeing the picture that her foster father posted online. Today, her agent called and urged her to get in touch with Huo Xiang about appearing on the entertainment program. After she gathered the courage to call Huo Xiang... she ended up getting blacklisted by him.

Lu Xia would not have tried to beg Huo Xiang personally if Huo Yanxi did not sound him out and told her about Huo Xiang's aversion to letting her join the show.

Lu Xia inhaled deeply and took out a small bag from her desk.

Shortly after leaving the classroom, Lu Xia's phone rang in her pocket. She halted and pulled out her phone.

### **Chapter 289: Your Brother Is Hurt**

A distinct look of disappointment emerged on her face when she saw the caller ID on the screen.

She had thought that it was Huo Xiang.

Lu Xia's fingers paused before she picked up the phone. She spoke gently as she walked out of school. "Brother Tian."

"Have you convinced your brother?" asked Brother Tian candidly.

Lu Xia tightened her grip on her phone. "He seems to be busy. I couldn't get in touch with him."

Brother Tian frowned and said, "You have to act quickly. I heard your older brother has already signed the contract for the entertainment program."

Lu Xia knew Huo Xiang was definitely appearing on the entertainment program, but he was uncontactable. What else could she do?

"Sure. You know how busy he can get. Sometimes, he takes a long time to reply," explained Lu Xia unhurriedly with her eyes slightly lowered.

The moment Brother Tian heard her, he found it odd. He went quiet for a couple of seconds before he asked her. "But I heard your brother was hurt and resting at home."

"I don't think so," replied Lu Xia almost instinctively.

In her previous life, she recalled Huo Xiang getting hurt. Things ended up really serious for him, and he even had to give up his career as a singer.

She attempted to recall the timeline of this happening but to no avail.

In her past life, she was oblivious to the Huo family's genuine financial situation. She had felt deeply gratified by suddenly becoming a rich family's daughter and experienced a major ego trip when she found out that her biological family was wealthy. Hence, she abandoned the Huo family and immediately reunited with the Lu family.

Hence, Lu Xia paid no attention to the Huo family after she reunited with the Lu family. She only found out how loaded the Huo family was after many things happened at the Lu family.

Sadly, it was too late for her by then.

Her agent's voice came from the phone once more, making Lu Xia snap out of her thoughts.

"Well, I only heard about it. Since you're his little sister, your info must be solid."

Brother Tian was oblivious of the Lu and Huo families' history. He merely knew that Lu Xia was from a rich family and her older brother was a top celebrity.

So he remained completely unsuspecting of Lu Xia. He only found it strange occasionally that her older brother never once offered help with her career.

"Sure. I'll keep trying." Lu Xia did her best to sound normal.

"Fine. Talk again." He quickly hung up.

Lu Xia looked up and told herself that she had to keep trying. Even if she did not get along with her fourth older brother, he must have some feelings for her since they were siblings for over a decade.

Lu Xia's mood lifted slightly. She put her phone back into her bag and continued heading out the school gate.

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In the car.

Tong Yu looked at No.1 Middle School's entrance. "When is our baby sister coming out?"

There were hordes of students outside the gate, but Huo Yao was nowhere to be seen.

Huo Xiang was sitting in the backseat looking at Weibo when he checked the time.

"She should be here soon," replied Huo Xiang before touching his mask and preparing to get out of the car.

Tong Yu hurriedly called him back sitting in the driver's seat. "Wait up! Why are you getting off? Everyone's going to recognize you in this outfit."

Tong Yu paused. "Don't you remember the sensation you caused when you picked her up at the airport last night?" continued Tong Yu angrily.

## **Chapter 290: An Encounter**

The marketing team had called Tong Yu in the middle of the night because his celebrity was trending online.

People thought he was picking up his girlfriend at the airport.

Ptooeey!

Tong Yu shook his head speechlessly before he said, "Stop making trouble and stay in the car."

Then Tong Yu opened the car door and got off.

He stood by the car with his hands in his pant pockets and waited.

Lu Xia looked at the spot where her family chauffeur usually parked when she got to the school entrance, only to see Tong Yu standing by the roadside.

At first, Lu Xia found him slightly familiar. After she thought more carefully, her eyes opened wide. He was Huo Xiang's agent, and they had met a couple of times before.

He was clearly waiting for someone. Was he waiting for her?

A slight wave of excitement swept across Lu Xia's eyes. She straightened her hair before walking over to Tong Yu unhurriedly.

Lu Xia went closer. "Hi! You're my fourth older brother's agent, Mr. Tong, right?" She smiled and greeted him.

Tong Yu had noticed Lu Xia coming towards him from a distance. For a moment, he could not recall who she was. He straightened his body and nodded politely to Lu Xia when he realized who she was. "Hi."

Lu Xia glanced at the car behind him. It did not dawn on her that Huo Xiang might be sitting in. Instead, she veered her eyes and looked at Tong Yu once more and said, "Mr. Tong, Brother Xiang..."

The moment she started to ask, Tong Yu pointed at the car. "He's inside. Do you want to see him?"

Lu Xia was stunned to hear this. Judging from his words, Tong Yu was not here looking for her.

If he was not looking for her, he must be here for... Huo Yao.

Lu Xia thought about how Huo Xiang had blacklisted her, and she almost could not keep a straight face. Her mind spun swiftly. Then she nodded quickly and walked over to knock on the glass window without waiting for Tong Yu to say anything.

Huo Xiang's face turned cold when he saw Lu Xia. He pressed the car window button until it was halfway open to reveal only his eyes and forehead.

"Yes?" His voice sounded cold and distant.

Lu Xia clenched her hands so tightly that her nails almost cut through her flesh. She pursed her lips and looked particularly pitiful when she forced a smile. Her face had been pale and weary to begin with.

"Brother Xiang, I called in the afternoon but couldn't get through. Were you busy?" said Lu Xia softly as she bit her lip.

Tong Yu could not help glancing at Huo Xiang quizzically when he heard this.

If memory served him right, Huo Xiang's phone only rang once in the afternoon. He even asked Huo Xiang who it was, and was told that it was a spam call.

"Yeah, I was busy." Huo Xiang was unmoved by the pitiful look on his foster sister's face. He had seen through her manipulative ways a long time ago.

Lu Xia was shaken by Huo Xiang's utter disregard for their ties, and her face became even paler.

"Brother Xiang, are you still angry about the mistakes I made?" Lu Xia swallowed her pride as she continued. "I'm sorry. I was too young to realize what I was doing."

Huo Xiang pursed his lips but was annoyed. "There's no need to call me brother since we aren't related by blood. As for what happened in the past..." He chuckled before speaking any further. "It doesn't matter."