

Pill Maker 301

Chapter 301: A Slap On The Face

Huo Yao headed back to her seat and sat down.

Song Ning was about to ask her daughter who it was when she looked up to see her eldest son walking in. She instantly shut her mouth and glanced at her daughter cautiously.

Huo Yanxi and Huo Yao had been involved in a major conflict previously.

Song Ning coughed dryly before putting down her chopsticks. "Yanxi, what brings you here? Have you had dinner?"

The moment she finished her sentence, Huo Tingrui, Huo Xiang and Huo Jinyan stopped eating and all looked up at Huo Yanxi as he walked in. They reacted just like Song Ning and identical expressions appeared on their faces.

Then they automatically glanced at Huo Yao. They seemed worried that she might feel upset.

Huo Yanxi seemed to feel a little sad when he witnessed this and his throat went even drier with anxiety. After a while, he nodded to Song Ning. "Yes, I have."

The atmosphere felt awkward and Song Ning did not know what else to say.

It was Huo Tingrui who broke the silence. "Brother Yanxi, why did you come back at this hour? Did you have something to tell us?"

Huo Yanxi did his utmost to make himself sound natural as he spoke. "Uh huh. I saw the news online about Xiang getting injured. Is it true?"

Huo Xiang's chopsticks nearly fell from his hands.

Since Song Ning was not in the know about Huo Xiang's situation, she immediately laughed and said, "Nope, he isn't. Your little brother is perfectly fine."

Huo Yanxi looked at Huo Xiang. He certainly did not seem hurt like what the rumors seemed to claim, so he could not help feeling relieved. "That's good."

Huo Xiang coughed before he hurriedly looked up and said, "It's all rubbish. It will die down in a few days."

"Sure." Huo Yanxi did not go on probing him further.

The dining room went quiet after they ran out of conversation subjects.

Huo Yanxi suddenly felt redundant standing where he was. He inhaled deeply before he smiled forcibly. "Enjoy your dinner."

Then he headed to the living room. On his way, he went into a daze when he spotted the trophy sitting in the display cabinet as well as the two certificates hanging on the wall.

Huo Yanxi walked over to see that one of them was for coming in champion for the National Quiz Contest while the other was for coming first in a national English oral competition.

Champion of an English oral competition...

Huo Jinyan had just walked over after finishing dinner to see his eldest son looking at the certificates in a daze. He recalled taking a video of his daughter's contest today, so he reached for his phone.

He unlocked his device and tapped open the short video. He patted Huo Yanxi on the shoulder. "Have a look at this."

He wanted Huo Yanxi to look at the video and see how impressive his baby sister was, instead of misjudging her blindly all the time.

Huo Yanxi lowered his eyes to watch the video.

He saw how confident and proud she appeared to be as she stood on the stage and spoke English fluently. It seemed as though she was glowing. Anyone could tell how brilliant she was.

Huo Yanxi was stunned. He suddenly recalled laughing at her pretentiousness in his heart when he saw her reading an English book a long time ago .

But look how things turned out? This video seemed to be mocking him for his foolishness.

Huo Yanxi shifted his eyes away before the video finished.

Huo Jinyan raised his hand to pat his eldest son's shoulder. He did not go on talking. Sometimes, it was best if he figured things out on his own.

The next day after school, Huo Yao's phone kept vibrating nonstop.

Chapter 302: Sounding Her Out

Zhuo Yun was the one calling.

Huo Yao picked up the phone as she slung her bag over her shoulder.

"Miss Huo, the herbs are ready." Zhuo Yun sounded extremely courteous.

Huo Yao replied in surprise. "So quickly?"

"Uh huh." Zhuo Yun paused before he put on a bold face and said, "I'm at your school gate. Are you free now?"

"Sure. Give me a few minutes. I'll be right over," said Huo Yao.

Zhuo Yun was delighted and said, "Okay okay okay."

Although Yang Yi should have stayed with Min Yu, he unexpectedly followed Zhuo Yun to come to No.1 Middle School. He sat in the front passenger seat as he thought about the results of his investigation regarding Huo Yao.

Zhuo Yun was spot on. She was just an ordinary middle school student who got swapped at birth and grew up in a small town. Other than this, nothing new was discovered in his investigation. For instance, he could not find out who she studied Chinese medicine with. It seemed almost as though she was born with the skill.

Huo Yao was certainly mysterious.

Huo Yao bumped into Lu Xia shortly after she came down her classroom block.

The moment Huo Yao ran into her, she thought of all the people she could encounter, it just had to be her nemesis.

“Who are you?” asked Lu Xia as she stared dead straight at Huo Yao the moment she saw her.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes bafflingly. “Are you stupid or what?”

“If you are the real Huo Yao, it’s impossible for your grades to be this good, let alone make it into No.1 Middle School.” Lu Xia wanted to sound Huo Yao out.

She had to know whether Huo Yao was reborn just like she was.

However, Lu Xia did not detect the slightest reaction from Huo Yao after she finished her sentence. Huo Yao did not show any signs of anxiety and guilt, which people typically felt after getting caught.

The outcome was completely different from what she imagined.

Lu Xia frowned.

“Why aren’t you saying anything? Are you too afraid to admit it?” said Lu Xia again.

“You’re nuts,” said Huo Yao impatiently before ignoring Lu Xia and walking off.

Lu Xia looked at Huo Yao from behind with her cold eyes. In the end, she did not chase after her.

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Inside the car.

“Miss Huo, the herbs...” Zhuo Yun looked into the rearview mirror as he drove.

Huo Yao was talking to Old Mr. Pei on the phone. She did not even look up when she heard Zhuo Yun. “Head straight over to Old Mr. Pei’s place.”

“Okay.” Since Zhuo Yun knew where Old Mr. Pei lived, he changed direction quickly.

Old Mr. Pei asked Huo Yao about the equipment she needed and took a bunch of pictures and sent them to her.

Huo Yao tapped the pictures open for a look. Although he had a lot of equipment, she could not help feeling unsatisfied. Since this was not her clan's pharmaceutical laboratory, she could not be picky. Hence, she forced herself to pick a few items reluctantly.

Old Mr. Pei: [May I watch while you refine medicine?]

The text was worded particularly humbly.

Ever since Old Mr. Pei saw the medicine Huo Yao gave Min Yu the other day, he could not wait for Huo Yao to come over to concoct the medicine. His family thought he was going nuts.

Huo Yao replied: [Okay.]

Old Mr. Pei beamed from ear to ear after he received Huo Yao's reply. He hurriedly told his servants to prepare the equipment Huo Yao needed to use.

They arrived at Old Mr. Pei's place 30 minutes later.

Zhuo Yun had placed the herbs in the car before he came to pick Huo Yao up at her school. After they got out of the car, he carried the wooden box containing the herbs. Then he and Yang Yi entered the Pei residence following Huo Yao.

Chapter 303: The Little Monster Was A Consummate Apothecary

The Pei family's pharmaceutical laboratory was rather big. Huo Yao glanced around but did not waste any time. She told everyone except Old Mr. Pei to leave the place.

Old Mr. Pei wanted to assist Huo Yao, but he swiftly realized he did not have the opportunity to do so.

The young woman deftly ground the ingredients before heating the medicine. Each step was done with great accuracy. She was making medicine, so the herbs and their dosage were crucial.

Old Mr. Pei never dreamt that he could have the chance to observe the preparation of an ancient prescription in his life. Also, it was a young teenage girl doing it without the slightest error. Judging from the way she controlled the dosage and her technique, she looked as though she had done it a million times.

Huo Yao removed the medicine from the furnace 30 minutes later. A total of 20 pills appeared without a single failure.

The laboratory was filled with the smell of herbs. After Old Mr. Pei recovered from his daze, his eyes landed on the pills. He walked over and picked up one of them to scrutinize it. There was only one word for it – perfection.

These pills were considered grade S+ grade or maybe higher as per the Apothecaries' Association.

Old Mr. Pei glanced at Huo Yao, who seemed tired. She was an 18 year old consummate apothecary. And what did this mean for the industry? If members of the Apothecaries' Association ever found out about her, they would probably go bonkers!

Also, she used merely three hours to produce 20 pills...

Old Mr. Pei trembled as he placed the medicine inside a pillbox. Then he suddenly broke the silence in the pharmaceutical laboratory.

“Huo Yao, no, Little Master, do you accept disciples? Although I’m old, I’m quite talented.”

Huo Yao had just taken a sip of water when she could not help spitting it out.

She almost sprayed the water right onto Old Mr. Pei.

“...”

Huo Yao took a minute to calm down. “Old Mr. Pei, you’re too kind.” Then out of fear that he might keep harping on the subject, Huo Yao hurriedly opened the door with the medicine in hand and nearly ran out.

What kind of luck was this? Why did people keep wanting to be her disciple?

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Huo Yao stood outside until Yang Yi and Zhuo Yun, who had been waiting on the side for her, came over. “Miss Huo, is the medicine ready?”

Huo Yao passed the pillbox to Zhuo Yun. “It’s done. I only managed to make a few. Try not to use them so quickly.”

Old Mr. Pei stood on the threshold when he heard this. He staggered and almost tripped at the door. Did this sound normal?

Only made a few???

Was the output of 20 pills considered less in a single attempt???

Did the little monster know that even a senior apothecary could only make five or six pills at best using the same amount of raw material she had?

Old Mr. Pei never felt as hurt as he did today.

Zhuo Yun was stunned when he opened the pillbox. Although he was not an apothecary, he had a basic understanding of the profession. Also, he knew it was impossible for so many pills to be made at one go.

So, Zhuo Yun instinctively turned to look at Old Mr. Pei standing behind Huo Yao.

Old Mr. Pei coughed when he made eye contact with Zhuo Yun. He walked up to slap Zhuo Yun on the shoulder. Then he snapped the pillbox lid shut. “Do you want the efficacy of such precious meds to degrade?”

Chapter 304: Couldn’t Min Yu Compare To A Box of Pills?

Zhuo Yun was stunned. Despite almost getting his finger clipped by the pillbox cover, he did not mind it.

Old Mr. Pei felt that he could not be the only one suffering the shock, so he sneered. "Do you know how much Huo Yao's meds are worth?"

Zhuo Yun shook his head and had no clue.

"The Apothecaries' Association would grade this as above grade S+. Do the math yourself," said Old Mr. Pei as he stroked his beard.

S+ grade medicine was very rare at the Apothecaries' Association. They were not only extremely hard to refine, but they were also exceptionally effective.

For instance, a man with a terminal illness or on the brink of death might not get completely cured after taking S+ grade medicine, but he could live for over decades. Hence, such medicine was obviously incredible.

Moreover, S+ grade medicine was not solely used for treating sickness.

Zhuo Yun was beyond shocked, and a tsunami flooded his mind. He had once seen S+ grade medicine at a black-market auction. They started at \$5 million for one pill!

Zhuo Yun looked down at the pillbox in his hands. Old Mr. Pei could not have lied about it, so... Zhuo Yun's limbs instantly went weak. He turned to look at Yang Yi standing beside him. "Yi, can you support me? I don't know why I feel a little giddy right now. Maybe it's because I haven't had dinner yet."

Yang Yi's hands were shivering too. He was equally shocked as Zhuo Yun.

Old Mr. Pei looked at Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi's look of astonishment with relish. The blow Huo Yao gave him dissipated inexplicably.

It certainly felt great to see others suffer from shock.

Huo Yao looked at Old Mr. Pei quietly. She discovered that people became more mischievous with age.

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Zhuo Yun went back to Min Yu's villa after dropping Huo Yao home.

Both he and Yang Yi looked lifeless when they saw Min Yu and even walked as if in a stupor.

Min Yu's face was no longer sallow today. He raised his brow and looked at Yang Yi and Zhuo Yun. "You two..."

Zhuo Yun prodded Yang Yi. "Give him the meds."

Out of fear that his hands would go weak, he had given the honor of carrying the medicine to Yang Yi.

Yang Yi removed the tiny pillbox, which was wrapped several times within his jacket, and placed it on the coffee table.

Min Yu glanced at them before he reached out to pick up the pillbox rather casually.

The instant he touched the pillbox, Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi hurriedly reminded him.

"Yu, be careful."

“These meds are super precious.”

Min Yu went speechless.

“...”

He was the mighty one... How could he not compare to a box of pills???

Were they nuts?

Zhuo Yun touched his nose before he muttered softly. “Old Mr. Pei said these pills that Miss Huo made are S+ grade.”

Min Yu’s hands paused. Was the kid capable of making S+ grade medicine?

Despite the surprise in Min Yu’s heart, his face remained calm. Then he opened the pillbox.

There were at least 20 of those pills inside.

Min Yu: “...”

A minute later, Min Yu closed the box nonchalantly and placed it on the table. “Did Miss Huo say how they should be taken?”

He sounded pretty composed.

“Oh! She said that these were all she could make at the moment and told you not to finish them too quickly,” replied Zhuo Yun courteously.

These were all she could make???

Min Yu was flabbergasted.

“...”

Exhale.

Chapter 305: Boss Should Offer Himself To Miss Huo

“Yu, what gift are you going to give Miss Huo to thank her this time?” asked Zhuo Yun quickly.

He had already contemplated what other rare objects his boss had, including those antiques in his collection. However, he felt they were not good enough.

Yang Yi glanced at Zhuo Yun. He seriously found Zhuo Yun’s actions traitorous, even though he also felt reluctantly that Zhuo Yun made sense.

Min Yu pursed his lips and did not feel like replying to Zhuo Yun at the moment. “Are you too bored or something?”

Zhuo Yun touched his nose. “It’s not that. I was just asking.” Then he smiled sheepishly.

Yang Yi recalled how ordinary and old the estate was where Huo Yao lived. He could not help suggesting, "Why don't we gift a house to Miss Huo?"

Zhuo Yun's eyes instantly lit up. "That's a great idea. Even better if she could stay next door and be neighbors with us."

Zhuo Yun recalled how Min Yu's next-door neighbor rarely resided there. Although they seemed to be renovating recently, they would probably be willing to sell it if they offered them two times the market rate, right?

Zhuo Yun instantly said enthusiastically, "Why don't I check with your next-door neighbor and see if they are interested in selling their place?"

It was not a bad idea to be neighbors with a consummate apothecary!

Min Yu pressed his forehead when he heard their conversation. Then he took the pills and got up. He headed upstairs without bothering to respond.

After Min Yu went up to the second floor, Zhuo Yun looked at Yang Yi and suddenly said, "I think it's more practical for Boss to offer himself to Miss Huo."

Yang Yi: "..."

Was he crazy?

Time went by swiftly. A month after the National Quiz Contest came to a close, the International Quiz Contest date was announced.

It was going to take place at the end of the month.

Since the International Quiz Contest was much harder than at the national levels, the Principal obtained some questions from the past contests for Huo Yao and Yi Lianfan to practice. Huo Yao spent all her time practicing for about half a month.

The entertainment program that Huo Xiang had agreed to participate in, 'Countryside Life With My Family', finally declared the filming time. It was almost clashing with Huo Yao's International Quiz Contest.

They were taking place one after another, one at the month-end and the second at the beginning of the next month.

Before long, it was time for the International Quiz Contest.

The International Quiz Contest was being held in Country M. Huo Yao's third older brother, Huo Yulin, whom she had yet to lay eyes on, happened to reside there.

Hence, two days ahead of the contest, her folks contacted Huo Yulin and told him to pick his baby sister up at the airport and send her to the hotel personally.

Huo Yao did not want to go through the trouble, but Song Ning insisted, so she agreed.

Since Huo Yulin and Huo Yao were both reserved people, they only interacted briefly after exchanging their phone numbers. After verifying the flight time, they did not converse any further.

Huo Yao and Yi Lianfan were the only people in No.1 Middle School who made it into the International Quiz Contest. However, this time, the Principal was not going to accompany them. Instead, a teacher from Tsing University would be taking the lead.

All five contestants were to meet at the airport in the capital. The other three students arrived around the same time when Huo Yao and Yi Lianfan got there.

The flight to Country M was scheduled for 6:00 pm, and the flight was 15 hours long.

Due to the time difference, they would arrive at around 1:00 am in the morning.

After getting off the plane, Huo Yao pulled out a jacket from her bag. The temperature in Country M was at least five to six degrees lower from her native place.

She took out her phone and turned it on.

Chapter 306: Her Third Older Brother

Auto-roaming was already activated on her phone. Shortly after Huo Yao turned it on, she received a text from Huo Yulin.

Lin: [Have you disembarked?]

Huo Yao buttoned her jacket before she replied: [I just did.]

Lin: [Okay.]

Huo Yao locked the phone screen and placed the phone in her pocket. Then she took her luggage and headed out with the other contestants.

A few minutes later, they walked towards the exit.

Since it was not crowded at the airport at this hour, Huo Yulin walked over the moment he saw Huo Yao come out.

“Y-Yao...” Huo Yulin sounded a little lukewarm when he called his little sister, perhaps because they were meeting for the first time.

Huo Yao went into a daze when she saw this tall skinny third older brother with skin so fair that he looked like he had not gone out in the sun for years.

After a while, she finally greeted him. “Brother Yulin.”

Huo Yulin nodded. His slim handsome face was expressionless. He ended up looking somewhat stiff and unnatural probably because he was trying to be friendly.

Huo Yao touched her nose. She glanced at the other students nearby and said, “Brother Yulin, we can talk when we get to the hotel.

Huo Yulin nodded. "Will get my car." Then he walked ahead.

Huo Yao told her teacher about the situation. Then she obtained the hotel address and left with Huo Yulin.

Inside the car.

Huo Yao sat in the front passenger seat. She did not play with her phone and sat with her hands on her knees. There was some stray hair falling from the side of her face, and she appeared elegant and quiet.

Huo Yulin leaned into the car seat and looked at her from the corner of his eyes every now and then.

His biological little sister was not what he had imagined. Huo Yao was calm, and gave off a languid aura. She did not seem like a typical vain girl.

Huo Yulin cleared his throat and broke the silence in the car. "How long will the contest last for?"

Huo Yao glanced at him sideways and said unhurriedly, "Two days."

After a pause, Huo Yulin said eventually, "I will get someone to show you around."

Huo Yao raised her hand and pulled the stray hair behind her ear. She did not take it to heart when she heard her third older brother say that he would get someone to show her around instead of going with her personally. She only replied indifferently. "It's fine. The teacher has probably made plans."

Before coming here, Huo Tingrui had already told her about her third older brother's personality.

He was cold, unsociable, and did not like being close to people or talking to them. He had a slight case of misanthropy.

If her family hadn't kept pressuring him, he might not have even turned up at the airport today.

Huo Yulin looked at Huo Yao through the rearview mirror with a nonchalant look on her face. He parted his lips and wanted to speak but finally explained after a long time. "I'm not comfortable going to crowded places."

Huo Yao replied with a shrug. "Yeah, it's fine. Don't worry about it, Brother Yulin. I will explain things to Mom and Dad."

Huo Yulin heaved a sigh of relief.

The car was completely silent. Huo Yao took out her phone and lowered her head to tap the screen with her slender fingers. She quickly sent her father and mother a text to tell them she had arrived safely.

Huo Yulin looked at his little sister again and labeled her as an understanding person in his heart.

Before long, the car arrived at the hotel that the school had booked.

Huo Yao opened the door and got off the car. She automatically went to the boot and unloaded her luggage. Although Huo Yulin wanted to help, he was not needed.

Chapter 307: Huo Yao Was A Pretty And Gentle Little Sister

Huo Yao took the luggage and closed the boot in one fluid motion. Then she automatically stood one meter away from Huo Yulin and said sweetly, "Brother Yulin, go on. It's getting late. Thanks for coming to pick me up."

Huo Yulin noticed how far his little sister was standing like she was deliberately keeping a distance and instinctively scratched his head. In the past, he wouldn't want anyone to be too close to him. However, he inexplicably felt annoyed in his heart at the distance between them now.

"Ok, I-I'm off." After living abroad for so long, Huo Yulin was a little slow when he spoke in mandarin.

"Uh huh." Huo Yao nodded without trying to hold him back.

Huo Yulin stood where he was for a few seconds before he finally moved and reached for the driver's seat door. Before he entered, he raised his head and looked at Huo Yao.

Huo Yao smiled at him. She looked very pretty and gentle. Huo Yulin subconsciously squeezed the door handle when he saw this. "I-I'm really going, okay?"

"Sure. Goodnight, Brother Yulin." Huo Yao raised her hand and waved at him.

"G-good night." Huo Yulin's face inexplicably went warm. Then he got into the car.

He looked sideways into the rearview mirror as the car pulled out after starting the engine. Huo Yao was still standing at the hotel entrance and gradually became smaller until she was invisible.

Finally Huo Yulin veered his eyes away from the rearview mirror. His little sister did not feel repugnant to him.

After Huo Yulin's car had gone away, Huo Yao entered the hotel with her luggage. The other students had already arrived and had gone to their rooms.

The moment she entered the hotel lobby, she caught sight of Yi Lianfan standing at the reception. He walked over when he spotted her and retrieved a card key from his pocket and handed it to her.

Huo Yao took the room card and thanked him.

Yi Lianfan pursed his lips. "Welcome. Good luck for tomorrow."

Huo Yao took the card key and pulled her luggage towards the lift as she said calmly, "All the best to you too."

Yi Lianfan watched from behind as Huo Yao left. He paused for two seconds before he straightened his back and followed quickly behind her. "Can you help me with some more solutions?"

Huo Yao pressed the lift button and looked at Yi Lianfan helplessly. She raised her hand and pointed at her watch. In a solemn voice, she said, "Friend, do you know what time it is? Do you want to go to the competition tomorrow and lose because you didn't rest tonight?"

She was a little terrified of Yi Lianfan. Ever since she had explained a problem to him, he kept coming to her with questions at school in the freetime. He clearly treated her like a cow and milked her at every opportunity.

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Yi Lianfan coughed. "Fine. Then let's talk after the exam."

Huo Yao went quiet.

"..."

The lift doors opened with a chime. Huo Yao exited expressionlessly and refused to respond to him.

Yi Lianfan's room was right next to Huo Yao's. She swiped the card key, opened the door, entered, and swiftly closed the door behind her.

Yi Lianfan: "..."

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After Huo Yulin went back to his place, he sat on the couch and snapped his fingers. Before long, an AI housekeeper came over after pouring a glass of water.

He took the water and had a sip. Then he contemplated before taking out his phone.

Chapter 308: Huo Tingrui's Little Sister Wasn't Cute At All!

It was around 4:00 am back at home. Huo Tingrui picked up the phone with a frown. He inhaled deeply to suppress his anger when he saw that it was his little brother calling.

"Yeah, Yulin?"

Huo Yulin squeezed the glass cup. Then he went silent for two seconds before he said, "I saw Yaoyao today."

Huo Tingrui lay prone on his pillow and sounded nasal when he said, "Hmm? Get to the point."

"Brother Tingrui, are you close to Yaoyao?" asked Huo Yulin exasperatingly slowly.

Huo Tingrui's heavy lidded eyes opened instantly. "She is naturally the closest with me."

No one could replace his status in their little sister's heart!

"Perfect. Then do you know what she likes?"

Huo Yulin had sat on the couch thinking for a long time. Since it was the first time he met this biological sister of his, he felt bad about not giving her a gift.

Huo Tingrui instantly replied. "She likes to study!"

When Huo Yulin realized what she liked, he said, "Oh! She likes to study?"

"Yeah. She doesn't do anything else except study. Couldn't you tell what a nerd she was when you met her today? She's not cute at all," said Huo Tingrui without skipping a beat.

Huo Yulin recollected how his little sister seemed to have a scholarly air about her. But... but was she not adorable?

He thought she was okay!

“Anything else?” asked Huo Yulin again.

“Nope!” said Huo Tingrui firmly. Then he paused and recalled how resistant his little sister looked when people gave her red packets, so he cunningly added. “Oh yes. Yao likes it when people send her red packets.”

Oh, so she liked money.

Huo Yulin went into a daze. Then he replied quickly. “Oh, okay. I get it. Thanks, Brother Tingrui.”

“Then I’m heading back to sleep. Don’t disturb me again,” said Huo Tingrui before he hung up.

He tossed his phone on the bedside table before pursing his lips a little into a smile. The anger of getting woken up from his sleep inexplicably dissipated immediately.

Huo Yulin held onto his phone. First, he sent a text to his assistant telling him to gather study material for a senior with great urgency, the more, the merrier.

He contemplated before opting to transfer money and sent her \$99 999 instead.

Lin: [A gift for you.]

Lin: [Brother Tingrui says you like red packets.]

Lin: [I can’t give you as much using red packets.]

After coming out of the shower, Huo Yao wanted to check her phone one more time before sleeping. Then she suddenly got buried by a huge bank transfer yet again.

Money again.

This penchant for transferring money was certainly in their DNA.

When did she ever appear like she liked red packets?

Huo Yao’s face instantly looked a little angry. Her second older brother was trying to be funny again.

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The next day, Tsing University’s teacher led all the contestants to the Olympic Center Building in Country M.

They got off the car, stood outside the building, and looked up at the skyscraper. All the people who could go in were talented students. Before they even entered, they felt an inexplicable sense of pressure.

Since this was an international contest with over 20 countries participating, students from all over the world had already gathered outside the building.

Chapter 309: Huo Yao, Do You Think You Can Make It Into the Finals?

The access to the building had yet to open since there was still some time before the commencement of the International Quiz Contest.

The teacher gathered everyone and went over the rules and things they should take note of, one last time. He looked a lot more solemn than he did during the National Quiz Contest.

Since it was an international competition, it was not just a matter of their abilities but also, their national pride. In an instant, the teacher triggered a sense of competitiveness in the participants.

Huo Yao looked at the Olympic symbol at the top of the building once more. She smiled subconsciously. On closer scrutiny, her eyes were ablaze with immense fighting spirit.

She had studied a lot of unusually complicated questions, and it was time to inspect the result of her efforts.

At 9:00 am sharp in Country M, over 100 contestants from all over the world entered the exam hall in an orderly manner.

Out of the ten exam halls, Huo Yao was assigned to hall number ten. Yi Lianfan and the other three contestants were also placed at the same location. However, it seemed mighty odd for all of them to be assigned to the same hall.

Huo Yao sat on her seat as she twirled her pen gently. It made no sense for them to get sent to the same hall.

Suddenly, she overheard the conversation between two neighboring foreign students and found out how the seating had been arranged.

They were assigned to each hall based on their country's previous performance at the International Quiz Contest. Only the countries that did poorly or did not even make it into the finals got assigned to the last two halls.

In other words, the students in halls nine and ten belonged to countries that did not get ranked in the previous International Quiz Contest.

Hence, it did not matter to the organisers that the students from the same country got assigned to the same hall.

Huo Yao leaned against her chin, wondering how they could look down upon them in this manner.

The competitive streak in her eyes blazed even more wildly.

Before long, an invigilator with blonde hair and blue eyes came in with the test papers. She looked cold and seemed to treat all the contestants with contempt.

Huo Yao scanned the paper quickly after receiving it. Sure enough, it was over two times harder than at the national level.

Huo Yao exhaled before she picked up her pen and started.

She adored doing tricky questions just like she liked treating tough illnesses. Otherwise, it felt boring.

The test was three hours long. There were a total of 200 points, and the passing marks were set at 160. The standards of this contest were considered to be extremely high.

During the last International Quiz Contest, almost 300 people had participated, and less than 80 contestants made it into the finals, let alone get a rank.

Three hours went by swiftly. The moment the bell rang, the invigilator told them to put down their pens and got them to leave.

It felt as though they could not stay even a second longer.

After Huo Yao exited the hall, she followed the signboard and found her way to the bathroom before she went downstairs.

Everyone was waiting for her downstairs.

Huo Yao walked over unhurriedly to see everyone looking dejected, even Yi Lianfan looked a little sullen. She touched her nose as she wondered if everyone botched the quiz.

“Huo Yao, do... do you think you can make it into the finals?” asked the teacher hoarsely in low spirits.

He had already asked the students about the contest. Although results had yet to be released, other than Yi Lianfan, there was basically no hope for the rest of them.

Chapter 310: A Slap On The Face

The moment the teacher asked her, all eyes turned to look at Huo Yao. She was the most capable student among them and the one with the highest chance of making it into the finals. Although they had been unsuccessful, they hoped she could bring glory to their country.

Now was not the time to be concerned with their personal accomplishments but was a matter of national pride.

Huo Yao did not know whether to cry or laugh. She cleared her throat and straightened her back before she said, “Don’t worry. I will win this for us.”

Her confident and arrogant voice was a stark contrast to the gloomy mood they were in.

Yi Lianfan had been on tenterhooks till now and finally relaxed when he heard this. He knew that everyone could get eliminated except Huo Yao.

The teacher’s sullen face instantly lit up with hope when he heard this. His lips quivered as he asked Huo Yao softly. “How many marks do you think you’ll get?”

Hopefully she will get 160 to 170 marks. As for achieving the full score... the teacher did not even dare to dream of it. The International Quiz Contest was at a completely different level from the nationals.

Huo Yao raised her brow and said proudly, “Full marks!”

“F-full marks...” stammered the teacher.

“Yes!” Huo Yao was very confident about her answers today.

This time, Huo Yao did not have to worry about giving out solutions which lay out of the scope. It felt liberating and awesome. She would be doing herself a major injustice if she did not score full marks.

The teacher looked at Huo Yao with a complicated expression. He felt as though Huo Yao was overreaching here.

Yi Lianfan quietly looked at how astonished the teacher and students appeared to be. He finally did not have to suffer the shock on his own.

The teacher remained stunned for a long time when he saw the result in the afternoon.

Out of 300 students, only one person scored full marks, Huo Yao. There was a ten mark difference between Huo Yao and the student from Country M who had stood second. It was not simply a matter of ten points difference.

In a contest like this, the score gap was five marks. Hence, Huo Yao had over a 60% chance of becoming the champion tomorrow during the finals by being ten marks ahead.

In the past, it was hard even to get ranked, let alone achieve the championship.

The more the teacher thought about this, the more he felt his blood pressure rising. He inhaled a few times before he finally calmed himself down. Then he took out his phone and called home with Huo Yao's results.

The International Quiz Contest results were not available online for now, so the teachers back home had been waiting for them impatiently.

When the Principal heard Huo Yao stood first with full marks in the heats, his amazement could rival that of the Tsing University teacher in Country M.

He recalled having a chat with Huo Yao and asking her to just come back with any ranking. He had held back from wishing to win any medals. Although these were just the heats, it probably would not be too far off from the final outcome.

The Principal felt as though it was a tight slap on his face.

Also, he was in the middle of a meeting now. All the teachers became curious about the call when they spotted the look of shock on the Principal's face.

After the Principal finally gathered his thoughts, he glanced at the teachers and realized he had lost control of himself. He quickly composed himself and reverted to his usual stern self before he said unhurriedly, "Oh, it was a call from someone from Tsing University."