

## **Pill Maker 311**

### **Chapter 311: Min Yu's Heart Felt Stifled**

If it was a call from someone at Tsing University, it meant the heats' results were out, right?

The teachers waited for the Principal to go on.

The Principal coughed and stopped holding them in suspense. "Only the students from No.1 Middle School made it into the finals."

He paused before he landed the bombshell on them. "Huo Yao was the only student who ranked first with full marks."

The only student who ranked first with full marks?! The moment he finished his sentence, all the teachers were astounded.

Since the International Quiz Contest could not compare with a regular school exam, Huo Yao could only be described as a prodigy.

Chen Yu was at the meeting as well, and her eyes turned red when she heard her student's name.

She had been worried that Huo Yao might not be able to catch up with the studies in the Experimental Class when she first joined the school. As the time went by, Huo Yao surprised Chen Yu time and time again.

On the other side, Wei Mingzhe sat with his head lowered. Upon closer scrutiny, one would be able to see his right hand shivering as it rested on the table.

Huo Yao was first in the nationals and the international heats. If everything went smoothly, she would most likely attain the topmost rank at the international finals tomorrow... A bitter taste emerged inside Wei Mingzhe's mouth.

If only he hadn't been judgmental about Huo Yao in the beginning.

\*

Meanwhile, in the villa.

"Miss Huo's results for the heats are out." Yang Yi sat with a laptop on his lap. The International Quiz Contest scoring system was displayed on the screen.

Zhuo Yun came closer and asked excitedly. "How much did she score?"

"She came first." Yang Yi pursed his lips. "She even got full marks."

Zhuo Yun went into a daze. "Yi, I honestly used to think Miss Huo had the same kind of grades I did while I was in school."

Yang Yi looked at him contemptuously. "How can you compare to her?"

"Sigh! Regular people will never understand geniuses," muttered Zhuo Yun.

Yang Yi logged out of the system before turning off the laptop.

Yang Yi and Zhuo Yun instantly straightened their bodies when they spotted Min Yu coming down from the second floor.

Zhuo Yun coughed and said, “Yu, Miss Huo scored full marks and is ranked first in the heats. She’s absolutely brilliant.”

Min Yu glanced at him. “Do you have nothing better to do today?”

He sat down and leaned into the couch lazily.

Zhuo Yun hurriedly got up. “Oh, I forgot about my appointment with our next-door neighbor to talk about buying their place. Yu, I’m off.”

And Zhuo Yun fled.

Yang Yi stood up and followed behind Zhuo Yun. “I’ll go help him.”

Then he left too.

Their boss had been in an odd mood off late. Each time Zhuo Yun and Yang Yi talked about Huo Yao, he would look at them so coldly that it sent chills down their spines.

Hence, they did their utmost to avoid him.

Min Yu pulled out his phone and sent a text: [Congrats for achieving the first rank.]

Huo Yao was in the hotel when she received Min Yu’s message. She raised her brow and replied: [Thanks.]

She paused before she added: [Are you feeling better?]

Ever since she concocted the medicine for him, she was busy practicing the past quiz questions that the Principal gave her, and did not have time to check on his condition.

Min Yu rubbed the screen before he replied: [Not too good.]

Huo Yao frowned and replied: [?]

Min Yu adjusted his position and replied with a languid expression: [My chest feels a little stifled.]

### **Chapter 312: Do You Know How To Operate Robots, Yao?**

Why was Min Yu’s heart feeling stifled?

Huo Yao touched her chin and contemplated before she replied: [I will check on you when I’m free.]

Min Yu: [Sure. Thanks for taking the trouble.]

Huo Yao only replied with an emoticon and quickly ended the conversation.

Huo Yao’s phone vibrated again when she lay down on the bed and wanted to get some shut-eye.

It was a text from her third older brother.

Lin: [Is the contest over?]

Huo Yao lay prone on the bed and said: [Yeah.]

Lin: [I still have a gift for you. Swing by my place. I'll send my assistant to pick you up at the hotel.]

Huo Yulin glanced at the three huge boxes on the ground before sending the text.

Huo Yao slid her fingers over the screen and caught sight of a notification about the huge transfer Huo Yulin made to her last night. She sighed softly.

Then she replied: [Sure.]

Since he sent her so much money, it did not seem right to turn him down.

Before long, Huo Yao went downstairs with her bag.

\*\*

Huo Yulin's assistant was a foreigner. He was very surprised to hear Huo Yao speak English so fluently. They ended up chatting solely about Huo Yulin on their way to his place.

The car drove into a European style manor 30 minutes later.

Digital verification procedures had to be done at the manor entrance. The assistant deftly completed them before he drove through the gates.

Huo Yao was rather surprised at how modern the manor was. After she got out of the car, the assistant did not enter. Instead, he said goodbye to Huo Yao and left.

Huo Yulin brought Huo Yao into the living room. "Have a seat, Yao."

Then he headed to the kitchen.

Huo Yao did not sit down right away. She looked at the smart system in the living room intriguingly. Since the smart robot detected a stranger in the living room, it came over and an alarm sound started to emit from it.

Huo Yao raised her brow. She pressed a metal button at the top of its head, and it instantly went quiet.

Huo Yulin had just come out with a drink from the fridge. He was caught by surprise by what he saw. He walked over and asked her quizzically. "Do you know how to operate robots?"

Huo Yao glanced at the robot beside her and shook her head, and replied. "It's my first time seeing one."

Huo Yulin did not put much thought into what she said and handed her a drink.

Huo Yao carefully took the drink from him without touching him. Also, she kept a one meter distance between them the entire time. "Thanks, Brother Yulin."

Huo Yulin pursed his lips. Then he pushed the three huge boxes over. "What do you think about this?"

Huo Yao had just opened the bottle cap and taken a sip of water when she saw the three boxes. Her temples throbbed as she wondered whether they were plush toys in there.

She put her drink on the coffee table before she walked over and slowly opened a box. Her expression froze when she caught sight of books, assessments, and test papers.

Huo Yao opened the other boxes one by one to see more study material for each subject. She was completely dumbfounded and did not know what to say.

"Brother Tingrui said you liked to study. I'm not sure if you'll find this material useful. If they aren't suitable, I can get my assistant to obtain more," said Huo Yulin slowly.

He sounded serious about getting the assistant to immediately find her more material if she did not like them.

Huo Yao's lips twitched uncontrollably when she heard Huo Tingrui's name again.

### **Chapter 313: Automatically Keep A One Meter Distance**

The money was one thing, but the test papers were... Huo Yao felt this spelled the end of her sibling relationship with Huo Tingrui.

Huo Yao inhaled deeply before forcing out a smile. "It's good. This is enough. You don't need to get me anymore study material."

"Okay." Huo Yulin was relieved. He added after a moment. "I'll send them over to you soon."

Huo Yao veered her eyes away quietly and agreed halfheartedly.

Huo Yulin moved the boxes to the corner. His pale face seemed even more sallow under the light.

Huo Yao looked at her third older brother thoughtfully. On the way here, his assistant had told her that no one else was allowed inside the house other than a psychiatrist.

Huo Yulin was crazy about research, so he often locked himself up in the laboratory for days without coming out.

Huo Yao gathered her thoughts. She took a sip of water before initiating a conversation with him. "Brother Yulin, do you live by yourself?"

"Uh huh," replied Huo Yulin.

A thought suddenly crossed his mind, and he turned to look at Huo Yao. "How did your contest go today?"

"It was okay. I made it into the finals," replied Huo Yao modestly.

Although Huo Yulin did not pay much attention to the contest, he nodded and commended sincerely. "Wow. You did pretty well."

To avoid awkwardness, Huo Yulin took out his phone and asked her. "What's the contest called? Can I find it online?"

Huo Yao shrugged. "I'm not sure either. It could be accessed back home, but I didn't check it during the internationals."

Huo Yulin put his phone away. He looked up at the clock on the wall and said, "I'm going to cook. Is there anything you don't eat?"

"Nope, I'm not picky."

Huo Yulin nodded without saying much and headed to the kitchen.

Huo Yao sat on the couch and felt bored, so she waved at the robot. Since she happened to be within its sensor zone, it came over slowly.

Huo Yao pressed the buttons on its chest when it reached her. In an instant, some data appeared on the screen on its head. Huo Yao glanced at it before pressing the buttons on its chest again disinterestedly, and the robot returned to stand-by mode.

Huo Yulin spent 30 minutes cooking. Then he set the table and called Huo Yao over to eat.

Huo Yao looked at the three dishes and soup on the table. They looked exquisite. She raised her brow in surprise and was impressed by his cooking skills.

Huo Yulin brought out two sets of cutlery and placed them on the table. He asked Huo Yao which set she preferred before taking the other one. He sat down on the other end of the rectangular table.

Since it was a little hard to reach for the food due to the distance between the two of them, Huo Yao took a random dish placed near her and said, "Brother Yulin, this is enough for me."

Huo Yulin was confused.

"..."

Was there something wrong with his little sister?

Huo Yulin kept looking at Huo Yao subconsciously while they ate. It was the first time he ate like this, so it genuinely felt strange.

Huo Yulin was not in a hurry to send Huo Yao back to the hotel since it was still early. Instead, he turned on the television and sat down on the couch.

After Huo Yao came back from the bathroom, she saw Huo Yulin sitting there. She thoughtfully took the furthest seat from him when she came over.

Huo Yulin went speechless. "?"

Again?

### **Chapter 314: She Was Everyone's Hope**

Huo Yulin sent Huo Yao back to the hotel sometime after 6:00 pm.

Inside the car.

Huo Yao sat on the seat thoughtfully with her phone in hand.

Although she was a little depressed about receiving revision notes from him, he had given her a big red packet, so it was not her style if she did not return the favor.

Hence, Huo Yao turned to look sideways at Huo Yulin and asked him. "Brother Yulin, can you text me your address? I want to send you a box of incense when I get back home."

Since he relied on a psychiatrist to treat his insomnia, he must have a poor sleep pattern. Or else, he would not look so thin.

Although he was not sick, his body certainly would not be able to sustain in the long term.

Huo Yulin was stunned. He composed himself and said, "It's okay. There's no need to go through the trouble."

"I insist. You've already given me a gift, so you can't reject mine," replied Huo Yao sternly.

Huo Yulin instinctively looked at her from the side. Since she insisted so sincerely, he did not reject it. "Sure. I'll send you my address later tonight."

"Okay." Huo Yao nodded satisfactorily. Then she paused and added. "No one suffers from insomnia after using my incense."

Huo Yulin suddenly felt warm in his heart when he heard her talk about his condition.

He had been plagued by insomnia for years. He did not know how his little sister came to know about it. Although incense did not work on him, he did not refuse her offer again. "Okay."

"Do you know how to make incense?" He heard Huo Yao call it her incense.

Huo Yao looked down slightly before she replied rather humbly. "A little."

"Oh yes. When is your return flight?" asked Huo Yulin slowly.

Huo Yao twirled her phone. "I think it's tomorrow afternoon."

Huo Yulin went quiet for a moment before he said, "I'll come see you off."

Huo Yao waved her hand. "It's okay. The airport is too crowded. I'll just go with my schoolmates."

Huo Yulin parted and closed his lips. He had a nagging feeling that his baby sister had some misconceptions about him.

\*\*

The next day.

All the three eliminated students came to cheer Huo Yao and Yi Lianfan. After seeing the results from the heats yesterday, Huo Yao was now their beacon of hope.

Even though Huo Yao did not feel stressed, she inexplicably felt the pressure before entering the exam hall.

The contest ended sometime later. The scores would get released in an hour.

Hence, everyone waited in the lobby on the ground floor for the results.

Huo Yao sat in a corner. In comparison to everyone else's anxiety, she seemed particularly calm. She was chatting with someone on the phone.

It was none other than Tong Yu on the other side.

Filming for 'Countryside Life With My Family' would commence in a couple of days, so Tong Yu wanted to inform her about a few things.

Huo Yao took a note of everything carefully that Tong Yu mentioned. After all, she was about to appear on an entertainment program with her older brother, a top celebrity, so she did not want to be a drag.

Suddenly someone shouted in the hall. "The results are out."

The results were going to be displayed on the LCD screen in the lobby on the ground floor, so the moment someone shouted, everyone looked up in unison at the monitor.

Huo Yao's hand paused, and her eyes moved up slowly.

### **Chapter 315: Huo Yao Was The Pride Of The Nation**

The scores for the International Quiz Contest finals appeared on the screen before long.

st – China – Huo Yao – 200 marks.

nd – Country M...

...

th – China – Yi Lianfan – 173 marks

...

"Yes! We are ranked first. Our country finally achieved the top position."

"Huo Yao, you're brilliant!"

"Boo hoo! I suddenly feel so overwhelmed that I want to cry."

The students beside Huo Yao hugged each other, tears of joy were trickling down from their reddened eyes.

They were here representing the country, not themselves. For them, National glory was far more important than personal achievements.

Even just looking at their country's name at the top made them feel exhilarated.

Huo Yao's lips curved up slightly when she looked at the score on the monitor.

Yi Lianfan turned to look at Huo Yao with an imperceptible look of admiration. Then he said in a deep voice, "Congrats Huo Yao for achieving the first position."

"You didn't do too bad yourself." She genuinely felt happy for him.

Yi Lianfan smiled without commenting on it.

News about Huo Yao becoming the champion at the International Quiz Contest reached home quickly. The people who had just recovered from the astonishment of Huo Yao's heats' results were swept by shock yet again.

Their country had not made it into the finals for god knew how long. The cherry on the top was Huo Yao scoring full marks in the finals. Her name was bound to go down in history as a legend. She was definitely going to be the role model for all aspiring students.

\*\*

Inside the hotel.

Huo Yao packed the gold trophy into her luggage carefully. She could not help smiling when she saw the trophy.

Her grandmother would certainly be delighted when she caught sight of this trophy.

After packing, Huo Yao left the room with her luggage.

Before long, they took a cab and headed to the airport.

An hour before the flight, Huo Yao received a call from Huo Yulin, so she headed out of the waiting area.

"Brother Yulin, didn't I say it was okay for you not to come?" said Huo Yao from one meter away.

Huo Yulin looked at how far his little sister was standing. He could not help sadly smiling as he asked her. "Do you have to stand so far when you talk to me?"

Huo Yao touched her nose.

Huo Yulin walked up to her. When he gazed into his little sister's bright, beautiful eyes, he suddenly felt emotional.

He raised his hand and placed it on top of her head, rubbing it affectionately. "We're biological siblings, you don't have to be so distant."

Huo Yao was always the one who touched people's heads. However, someone stroked her head today and left her stunned.

"!!!"

Didn't Huo Yulin dislike body contact?!!!

Ah! Huo Tingrui had fooled her again!

Huo Tingrui suddenly sneezed and even sensed a chill running down his spine.

After chatting for 20 minutes, Huo Yao checked the time on her wristwatch. Then she said, "Brother Yulin, you should come home to visit us when you're free."

Huo Yulin was taken aback by her request. A while later, he narrowed his eyes and replied softly. "Okay."

He seemed preoccupied.



However, Huo Yao failed to detect his fluctuating emotions. Instead, she said, "It's almost time for my flight. Bye, Brother Yulin."

"Uh huh. Go on. Have a safe trip. Text me when you reach home," said Huo Yulin slowly.

Huo Yao nodded and returned to the waiting area.

Huo Yulin stood for a few minutes. Then he sighed gently before turning to leave the airport.

\*\*

Huo Yao's flight landed back in City S the next morning.

### **Chapter 316: Huo Yao Scared Even Herself When She Got Serious**

Huo Yao slept almost an entire day due to jet lag and eventually woke up at 6:00 that evening.

She washed up quickly before heading downstairs.

She saw Tong Yu sitting in the living room when she came to the living room. She nodded and greeted him. Then she walked over to the fridge to get a bottle of water.

Tong Yu turned to the side and looked at Huo Yao. "You're awesome, Yao. I can't believe you've already gone international and defeated so many powerful opponents."

Huo Yao tilted her head and drank some water before she turned to look at Tong Yu and said indifferently, "I was just performing normally."

Tong Yu's lips quivered. Why did he put himself up to be injured?

"Oh yes. Yao, we start filming the day after. You're okay with that, right?" Tong Yu had waited for half a day at the Huo residence just to tell her about the shoot.

Huo Yao walked over and sat down on the couch before she replied. "No problem."

It was the weekend the day after.

"Great. I already told you about the things to look out for. Just follow your brother's cue," said Tong Yu.

"Uh huh." Huo Yao crossed her legs on the couch. "Isn't there any script or something for the program?"

"Nope. It's filmed as it is." Tong Yu raised his brow before he said somewhat teasingly, "Genius, don't tell me you are having a case of stage fright?"

Huo Yao glanced at Tong Yu lazily. "I'm worried I might steal all the limelight if I get too serious."

Tong Yu cupped one fist in the other hand as a sign of respect to Huo Yao. No one could beat a straight-A student who was as eloquent as her.

He raised his hand to check his wristwatch before he stood up. "Enough. I have to go now. Get in touch with me if you have any questions later."

"Sure." Huo Yao pursed her lips.

After Tong Yu left, Huo Xiang looked at Huo Yao. "Did you meet Brother Yulin?"

“Uh huh. I did.” Huo Yao contemplated for two seconds and asked him. “Why does he stay abroad? Does he ever come home to visit?”

“All his work is based overseas. He’s super busy, so he only visits once every few years,” replied Huo Xiang.

“Okay.” Huo Yao nodded and stopped probing.

\*\*

The next day, Huo Yao visited the Chinese herb market and went again to the medicine hall called Imperial Medicine Store.

Huo Yao handed a list of ingredients to the shop owner. Although it was a long list, they were all common Chinese herbs, so he gathered all of them in no time.

Huo Yao got him to grind everything into powder. She took out her phone and texted Min Yu while she waited there.

She placed her phone back in her pocket after Min Yu confirmed that he was free to meet up with her.

Before long, the shopkeeper finished grinding the herbs. Huo Yao paid him via bank transfer, took the bag, and left. Huo Yao almost bumped into someone who was walking in when she reached the door.

“Hey, Huo Yao. What brings you here?” Old Mr. Pei was surprised to see her.

Huo Yao did not expect to bump into Old Mr. Pei here. She nodded politely before she lifted her shopping bag. “I came to buy some herbs.”

Old Mr. Pei’s eyes glinted. “Are you making medicine? What are you making this time? Do you need help?”

Huo Yao looked at Old Mr. Pei and said quietly, “I’m not making meds, so I don’t need an assistant.”

It was the biggest mistake of her life to let him watch her make medicine previously.

“Oh, I see...” Old Mr. Pei’s face sank instantly, and even his voice sounded disappointed.

“Then when will you need one?”

The man helping Huo Yao with her herbs was Old Mr. Pei’s disciple. The moment he heard their conversation, he gaped at the old man in shock.

### **Chapter 317: Incomplete Prescriptions**

Was there something wrong with his eyes and ears? Did his teacher just offer to be an assistant of a young woman?

Old Mr. Pei’s disciple walked up to him. “Master, what are you doing...”

Old Mr. Pei glanced at his disciple with a look of disdain. “Why are you so dumb?”

The disciple: “?”

Old Mr. Pei ignored him. Something crossed his mind, and he turned to ask Huo Yao. "Are you free right now?"

"What is the matter?" asked Huo Yao helplessly.

This old man was hard to shake off. Even if she left now, he would text her later.

"Come over and take a seat. I have a book I want you to have a look at."

Old Mr. Pei pulled Huo Yao by the arm and made her sit down on a chair like he was afraid she might escape. He turned his head and instructed his disciple. "Hurry up and bring Huo Yao our finest tea!"

Old Mr. Pei's disciple was startled by the harsh tone but composed himself and left quickly to make tea.

Why was his master in such a foul mood?!

Was he not kind and mild-mannered on normal days?!

Old Mr. Pei went behind the counter to unlock a drawer. He retrieved an old, yellowed book and handed it to Huo Yao as though it was his prized possession.

"Go on and have a read."

His disciple could not help opening his eyes even wider when he saw the book in Huo Yao's hand.

His master surprisingly let an outsider read such a rare book!

Wasn't the book usually treated with extreme care?

His disciple could not help looking at Huo Yao again. Where on earth was this young lady from? Why would someone as respectable as his master treat her so courteously?

Huo Yao flipped its first few pages before putting it down.

Old Mr. Pei stroked his beard quizzically when he noticed her actions. "Why did you stop?"

Huo Yao pressed her forehead and said helplessly, "These are all incomplete prescriptions, so they are no good."

Huo Yao wanted to call these prescriptions rubbish. But considering how old he was, she did not want to hurt his feelings. What if he started to cry or something?

Old Mr. Pei instantly looked as if he had anticipated her reaction. After some time, he finally said, "My ancestors handed this book down for generations. I have researched for half my life but couldn't figure out how to prepare these medicines."

Huo Yao looked uneasy. She went quiet for a few seconds before she said, "Since the prescriptions are incomplete, their end products will be imperfect. If it is going to end up ineffective and be a sheer waste of herbs, you might as well dump it."

The moment Huo Yao uttered those words, Old Mr. Pei went into a daze.

He knew what this meant coming from a consummate apothecary.

His ancestors had treated this book like it was a treasure. However, it ended up being garbage... No wonder he failed to grasp these prescriptions.

Huo Yao did not go on when she saw how upset Old Mr. Pei looked. She stood up and said, "I have to go."

She quickly took her herbs and left.

A long while later, Old Mr. Pei gathered his thoughts. His eyes landed on the old, yellowed book, and he smiled sadly. "I'm really getting old."

He took the book and placed it back in the drawer.

His disciple stood dumbfounded with a pot of tea in his hands when Huo Yao left. He turned to look at Old Mr. Pei. "Master, who's Huo Yao?"

Old Mr. Pei glanced at him without saying a word.

"Oh yes. This young woman came before. I even told you about the special herbs she wanted. I recall she wanted to make incense..." muttered his disciple.

Old Mr. Pei's eyes suddenly opened wide.

### **Chapter 318: Give Me Your Hand**

After Huo Yao left Imperial Medicine Store, she went to buy some spices. Her phone started to ring in her pocket when she was done.

It was Min Yu calling.

"Okay. Wait for me at the intersection. I'll be right there."

Huo Yao placed her phone inside her bag. She headed out of the Chinese medicine market before long and spotted the black car parked by the roadside right away.

She headed over to open the back seat door and got in.

Zhuo Yun was driving the car as usual. "Miss Huo, good afternoon." He had started to sound increasingly courteous.

"Hi," greeted Huo Yao politely as well.

Huo Yao looked at Min Yu. He looked fine and seemed to be recovering well, so she could not help narrowing her eyes. "Didn't you say your heart felt stifled yesterday?"

Stifled heart?

Zhuo Yun was puzzled. Why had he not heard his boss talk about this before?

Min Yu nodded with a straight face. Then he pressed his chest and coughed.

Huo Yao said, "Give me your hand."

Min Yu extended his hand obediently towards her.

Huo Yao moved a little towards the center seat. She placed her hand on his wrist, resting her index and middle fingers on his pulse, and looked down slightly.

Min Yu looked sideways at the girl beside him. She looked serious but at the same time, lazy and casual. Before long, the cool sensation on his hand disappeared.

Huo Yao pulled her hand back and said calmly, "You're fine."

Min Yu straightened up as well. "Yeah. I think I'm much better now. Sorry for being a bother."

Huo Yao moved back to the window seat and waved her hand nonchalantly. "It's fine."

Min Yu's eyes landed on the bag beside her. He asked her casually. "Are you making meds again?"

"Kind of." Huo Yao yawned, leaned back into the seat, and muttered. "Tell me when we reach the restaurant."

"Sure."

Zhuo Yun instinctively drove a little more slowly when he noticed that Huo Yao wanted to sleep.

In his eyes, Huo Yao had an even higher status than his boss now.

Many people in the capital would scramble to recruit her if they knew she was a master apothecary.

Zhuo Yun touched his nose as he looked into the rearview mirror. He wondered what kind of dumb luck did his boss have to get acquainted with Huo Yao.

The car pulled up at the restaurant entrance 30 minutes later.

Min Yu looked sideways at Huo Yao and was about to wake her up when she opened her eyes on her own. She still had a groggy look in her beautiful eyes.

Huo Yao rubbed her eyes and said with a hoarse voice, "Have we reached?"

"Yeah."

Huo Yao glanced out of the window and opened the car door.

Before long, the three of them headed into a private room on the second floor.

The waiter exited the room after taking their order.

Min Yu picked up the teapot and poured a cup of tea unhurriedly for Huo Yao. He glanced at her and clearly saw how tired she looked. "Didn't sleep well last night?"

Huo Yao lay prone on the table and said lazily, "I'm okay. It's just jet lag."

"Miss Huo, I've been following the contest you participated in. You were brilliant all throughout." Zhuo Yun gushed.

Huo Yao turned her head and glanced at Zhuo Yun. "It was ok."

Zhuo Yun's lips quivered. She could get full marks with such a nonchalant attitude. Was she going to make those other straight-A students kill themselves if she took it seriously?

Huo Yao's phone rang. She retrieved it before standing up and heading to the door to answer it. "Hi, Dad..."

Min Yu looked up before he raised the teacup and took a sip.

### **Chapter 319: The Bill Has Been Settled**

Huo Yao walked out of the private room. "How did you know I was eating with my friends?" She automatically raised her head and looked outside as she spoke.

Other than the restaurant employees walking around occasionally, there was no sign of her father.

"Ahem. A friend of mine spotted you at the restaurant," said Huo Jinyan somewhat guiltily.

Huo Yao raised her brow. "Oh, really?"

"Uh huh. Why don't you go back to lunch with your friends? Don't let me hold you up," said Huo Jinyan before hanging up the phone.

"I'm actually having lunch with my tuition teacher," explained Huo Yao as she shook her head before her father hung up.

Huo Jinyan hurriedly said, "Was it the tuition teacher who gave me two boxes of tea?"

Huo Yao nodded.

"Hey! Why didn't you tell me earlier? I wanted to buy him dinner," said Huo Jinyan in surprise.

Huo Yao turned to look at the private room. "Don't bother, Dad. He's probably not free."

"How can that be? Go ask him when he's free. We have to thank him for giving you tuition and giving us such expensive tea," said Huo Jinyan solemnly.

"Maybe some other time. I'm going back to eat now," muttered Huo Yao before quickly hanging up.

Would it not mean spending more money if they had to buy Min Yu dinner?

Hell no.

Huo Yao quickly went back to the private room. Her phone beeped with a new text message after she sat down. She glanced at its contents and pressed her forehead in agony.

Huo Yao raised her head to look at Min Yu after inhaling deeply. She raised her head and asked Min Yu solemnly. "Dad wants to buy you dinner to thank you for the tea. If you are not free, I'll just tell him no."

Min Yu's lips twitched.

"Cough cough..." Zhuo Yun almost got choked by the tea he just drank.

It was as good as not asking.

"I'm free tomorrow," replied Min Yu.

Huo Yao raised her brow. "I'm not free tomorrow. I have to go for a shoot."

“Shoot? Shoot what?” asked Zhuo Yun curiously.

Min Yu looked at her too.

“It’s a live telecast program called ‘Countryside Life With My Family’,” explained Huo Yao.

Zhuo Yun took out his phone and searched for the show. He instantly got a few hits for it and started to do some reading.

He discovered that it was a live stream program about celebrities experiencing countryside life with their families.

“The show looks interesting,” commented Zhuo Yun.

“Watch it if you can,” said Huo Yao casually.

Zhuo Yun nodded. He read the description of the show. “Why isn’t your name on it?”

Huo Yao raised her brow. “It will appear tomorrow.”

“Cool. What time does it start airing tomorrow?” asked Zhuo Yun.

“I think around 10:00 am.” Huo Yao remembered Tong Yu mentioning it.

Zhuo Yun took note of the time. Then he downloaded the live broadcast application, which the show was going to get aired on.

The waiter came in with their orders before long.

Zhuo Yun headed out to foot the bill after they were done.

He handed the card and bill to the cashier. She stood up when she saw the private room number and said politely, “Sir, the bill has been settled.”

Zhuo Yun was stunned. “Are you sure?”

### **Chapter 320: You’ll Certainly Be A Hit With A Face Like Yours**

The cashier smiled as she shook her head. “Yes, the bill has been settled.”

Zhuo Yun did not go on asking her any further. He put away his card and returned to the private room quizzically.

Zhuo Yun headed back to the private room and noticed Huo Yao was not around, so he turned to ask Min Yu. “Where is Miss Huo?”

“The bathroom.” Min Yu glanced at Zhuo Yun and replied calmly.

Did Huo Yao foot the bill? But had she not been in the private room all along?

“What?” asked Min Yu when he spotted the odd expression on Zhuo Yun’s face.

Zhuo Yun scratched his head. “The cashier said someone already took care of the bill when I went to pay it.”

Zhuo Yun paused before he continued. "Maybe Miss Huo took care of it."

Min Yu rapped his fingers on the table quietly.

Huo Yao came back to see the strange expressions on Min Yu and Zhuo Yun's faces. She asked them in confusion. "What's with the weird looks?"

"Nothing." Zhuo Yun shook his head. He absolutely could not utter a word about how much he and Min Yu appeared like freeloaders today.

It would be embarrassing if anyone else caught wind of this.

\*\*

After lunch, Huo Yao parted ways with Min Yu and headed home.

She took the ingredients she bought today up to her room and spent almost the entire afternoon inside making incense.

The incense had solidified and was completely dry when she went back upstairs after dinner to check. Then she cut them up and split them into three boxes.

She wanted to send one each to her third older brother and grandmother and save the third one as a backup at home.

Huo Tingrui noticed the incense box right away when Huo Yao placed the extra box in the cabinet downstairs. He hurriedly asked, "Yao, did you make more incense?"

"Yeah. Want one?" Huo Yao took the incense from the cabinet.

"Uh huh." Huo Tingrui nodded.

Huo Yao opened the box and retrieved only one, and handed it to him.

Huo Tingrui took the stick of incense and glanced at the contents of the box. There were at least 20 sticks of incense in there. "Just one?"

Huo Yao raised her head and glanced at Huo Tingrui. She suddenly recalled the three huge boxes of revision material on her way to her by courier, and her face instantly became angry. "If you think it's too less, then don't take it."

Huo Tingrui quickly held the stick of incense behind him. "No, my bad."

Did his little sister have to get so angry? All he wanted was one more stick of incense.

???

Huo Yao snapped the box shut loudly. Then she placed it back inside the cabinet in front of him before she turned to leave.

Huo Tingrui watched as Huo Yao went upstairs. He adjusted his spectacles helplessly, oblivious to how he had offended his little sister.

\*



Huo Yao woke up very early the next morning.

The recording of 'Countryside Life With My Family' was taking place in a small town in City S, and it would take over two hours to drive there.

Since the filming commenced at 10:00 am, they had to start early.

Tong Yu was already waiting downstairs when Huo Yao and Huo Xiang came down by the lift, with a small suitcase.

He stored the suitcase away before they embarked on the trip to Ren County.

Tong Yu glanced into the rearview mirror and said sadly, "Yao, are you really not going to show your face during filming?"

Huo Yao was leaning lazily in her seat. Even though her ponytail had scattered over her shoulders, it did not seem unkempt. "Nope."

"With a face like yours, you will certainly be a hit if you work in the entertainment industry with me."

Tong Yu had hinted several times that he wanted Huo Yao to join the entertainment industry as a celebrity, but she had zero interest in the proposal.

It was such a waste, considering how gorgeous she was.