

## Pill Maker 331

### Chapter 331: We Should Keep A Low Profile

Huo Yao glanced at her fourth older brother as he looked completely depressed. She coughed dryly before she glanced around the apartment and changed the subject. "Mom, why is our stuff missing?"

She had already noticed some decorations to be absent when she came home, including the antiques and art that her father was so proud of.

"Because we're moving!"

Huo Yao was stunned by the news. "Moving?"

Song Ning nodded. "Yup. We've lived here for decades. Since the place is getting old, it's about time we move."

Huo Yao touched her nose and contemplated for two seconds before she said, "So you were busy recently because you were out house hunting?"

"We bought this place a long time ago. It just needed some renovation," explained Song Ning.

"I see," said Huo Yao as she leaned into the couch lazily. "When are we moving?"

"Tomorrow, since it's an auspicious day."

"Okay."

Huo Yao paused before she asked her. "What is my room like..."

"Don't worry. I renovated it just like your current room. It's exactly the same, so you won't have problems getting used to it," said Song Ning as she smiled smugly at how thoughtful she was.

Huo Yao: "..."

"After we move to our new place, you can invite your friends over since the place is pretty big," muttered Song Ning.

Huo Yao glanced at her quietly. How could that be the main reason they were moving?

"Oh yes. Yao, what did your tuition teacher say about my suggestion?" asked Huo Jinyan when he recalled this.

"He's not free," rejected Huo Yao expressionlessly.

Huo Jinyan stayed quiet for a second. "Why don't you give me his number?"

Huo Yao pressed her forehead and pretended that she hadn't heard him before getting up. "I'm going back to my room. I have school tomorrow."

She headed upstairs.

"What tuition teacher?" asked Huo Xiang quizzically.

Huo Jinyan glanced at his son and said angrily, "It's not like you know him. Why are you so nosey?"

Huo Xiang again: "..."

He certainly was not their biological child.

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The next day in school.

"Sister Big Shot, I can't believe you went to film an entertainment program. Don't tell me you are going to join the entertainment industry?" asked Meng Ying the moment Huo Yao got to school.

Huo Yao looked at her lazily. "You're overthinking it."

"It's a waste for a straight-A student like you to join the entertainment industry. You shouldn't do it," said Meng Ying.

Huo Yao held her chin up with her hand and pursed her lips. "I'm not interested."

Meng Ying recalled the live stream yesterday and could not help gossiping. "Wu Miao genuinely graduated from No.1 Middle School. You don't know about her because you weren't here at the time. That girl is super disgusting. She joined the students' council to undermine her friend."

Huo Yao raised her brow.

"But she ended up getting kicked out after two days. How dare she show off? It's hilarious. If she knew how you were faring in No.1 Middle School, I'm sure it would be a real slap on her face." Meng Ying shook her head as she spoke.

Huo Yao placed her index finger over her mouth and gestured for silence. "We should keep a low profile."

Meng Ying's lips twitched. She spotted Huo Yao taking out a book to read and could not help asking angrily. "My dear, you already have a guaranteed placement at Tsing University. Do you still have to study so hard? Why can't you enjoy your extracurricular time?"

Huo Yao glanced at her. A thought suddenly crossed her mind, and she said, "I have a surprise for you. I think you will like it."

### **Chapter 332: Aren't We Poor?**

Meng Ying looked at Huo Yao. She felt Huo Yao looked like she was up to some mischief. "What surprise?"

"You'll know in a few days." Huo Yao smiled ambiguously.

Meng Ying touched her nose as her heart throbbed. "Why do I have a bad feeling about it?"

It felt more like a scare to her.

"How's your father doing?" Huo Yao changed the subject.

The moment she brought this up, a look of gratitude emerged on Meng Ying's face. "He's recovering quickly. He was discharged a couple of days ago. Sister Big Shot, your meds were super effective. Thank you."

Her mother had shown the medicine to a professional and was told that it was really effective. Moreover, he had told her that those pills were hard to obtain in the market, and came at a steep price.

Huo Yao raised her brow and said, "That's great."

"Mom wants to buy you dinner on one of the days. You ought to be quite free now, right? How about dinner at my place tonight?" Meng Ying's eyes gleamed as she invited Huo Yao with all her heart.

"Not tonight. I'm shifting places." Huo Yao shook her head.

"Oh, are you moving? Where to?" asked Meng Ying curiously.

Huo Yao went quiet for two seconds. "I don't know either."

Meng Ying: "..."

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After school, Song Ning picked Huo Yao up in their new car.

Huo Yao's temples throbbed when she spotted the familiar estate entrance ten minutes later. She turned her head and looked at her mother. "Is this where our new house is located?"

Song Ning swiped the card and the automatic door opened smoothly. "Yup. We have owned this place for a few years but never used it."

Huo Yao looked out of the car window. After making a few turns, it finally pulled up in front of a villa. She narrowed her eyes and looked at the next door villa.

This world was certainly full of surprises.

Huo Yao got off the car and looked at the place for a long time. She turned her head to look at her mother, who was walking over after parking the car, and asked her sadly. "Mom, aren't we poor?"

Song Ning's lips twitched. She recalled how her daughter had enquired at that time whether they were rich and how she misunderstood them to be poor. Both Song Ning and Huo Jinyan had found it hilarious. Neither of them had explained their family's actual financial situation to her yet.

Song Ning cleared her throat and said, "We bought this house a few years ago when the prices were low, so it really isn't that expensive."

Huo Jinyan claimed it was cheap when he purchased a car worth millions. Now here her mother was professing that this extravagant villa was affordable... A look of suspicion emerged on Huo Yao's face.

Song Ning felt a little uneasy from Huo Yao's strange looks. She pretended not to see her daughter's expression and walked into the villa.

Huo Yao trailed behind her, only to see opulence oozing from every corner of the house. She could not help sighing.

Was her family really not supposed to be poor?

“Do you like how it looks?” asked Huo Jinyan when he saw his daughter come in while he was busy displaying his stuff.

Huo Yao nodded quietly. The place was worth a bomb, so what else could she say?

Song Ning walked over. “Here is the access card for the estate entrance and the villa key. Oh, the password for the door is your birthday. Take them first in case I forget about it later.”

Song Ning went on to unpack.

“Why don’t you check out your room upstairs? Take a right, it’s the largest one located at the end of the corridor.” Huo Jinyan removed a vase from a box and placed it on the cabinet by the door.

Since her parents were busy sorting out the stuff and she was of little use to them, Huo Yao headed upstairs. She walked to the end of the corridor and entered the room.

### **Chapter 333: Did He Look Like He Was Broke??**

The moment she opened the door, she was besieged by a sea of pink. Sure enough, it was the same decor as her old room.

Huo Yao pressed her forehead. She opened the balcony door and walked out. After glancing around, she noticed the villa next door and was stunned.

She veered her eyes away quickly before heading back into her room. All her belongings from the old apartment were already here, so she started to unpack.

She received a text notification halfway through.

Huo Yao walked over to pick up her phone and saw it was a text from Huo Yulin.

Lin: [Yao, I have sent the revision material. It will probably reach in a week. Let me know when you receive it.]

Huo Yao’s lips twitched instantly.

She had just gotten assailed by the pink room, and now her third older brother was tormenting her with the study material.

Huo Yao replied quickly: [Brother Yulin, we just moved today. Did you mail it to the old address?]

Huo Yulin was caught by surprise: [Yeah. Why the sudden move?]

Huo Yao pulled out a chair and sat down before she texted: [Mom and Dad said it was time to shift places.]

She paused before adding: [It doesn’t matter if you sent it to the old address. I’ll just tell the delivery guy to bring it over when he calls.]

[Okay. Send me the new address.]

Huo Yao retrieved the villa access card her mother had given her and sent Huo Yulin the address printed on it.

[Oh yes. I sent you the incense a few days ago. It should be arriving soon.]

[Sure. Thanks, Yao.]

Huo Yulin stopped chatting after sending the last text message. He put down the phone, leaned his head against the couch, and looked up at the ceiling. He suddenly found the place empty.

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Huo Yao managed to straighten out her room slightly before heading downstairs.

Her father was standing at the door talking to someone when she came down. Huo Yao threw a glance at him and then veered her eyes away. She turned to enter the dining room.

There were over ten dishes on the table, which had been ordered in.

Song Ning set the table as she said, "Yaoyao, ask your brothers about when they are coming home. Couldn't they have come back earlier since we are moving today?"

"Okay."

Huo Yao retrieved her phone from her pocket and called both of them. Before long, she hung up and said, "Brother Xiang is almost here. Brother Tingrui just left work and will be home in 30 minutes or so."

"Are you hungry? You can start without them if you are," asked Song Ning.

"I'm good." Huo Yao shook her head.

She poured a glass of warm water, leaned against the wall lazily, and looked at her father. He had just finished the conversation at the door and was walking back in.

"Are they asking to buy the house again?" asked Song Ning after glancing at her husband.

Huo Jinyan came closer before shrugging helplessly with his palms in the air. "Yeah. I've already rejected them so many times, but they refuse to give up."

Song Ning's lips twitched. "What's wrong with them? Why do they want our place so badly?"

"In any case, they look like dumbasses to me. They were willing to pay two times the market value. Wouldn't it be smarter to buy a brand new place? I really don't get it." Huo Jinyan shook his head.

Moreover, did he look like he needed money?

They were simply obtuse!

"You had better be careful. Don't open the door for them anymore. What if they are scammers?" said Song Ning as she frowned seriously.

"Yeah, got it." Huo Jinyan waved his hand.

Huo Yao listened quietly without contributing to the conversation.

### Chapter 334: An Unknown Caller? An Online Friend?

Huo Jinyan turned to look at his daughter, who was in deep thought. He could not help asking her.  
“Yao?”

“Huh?” Huo Yao raised her head.

She continued, “Mom’s right. Stop letting stupid people into the house.”

Four faces emerged in Huo Jinyan’s head automatically.

Before long, Huo Xiang arrived home. The moment he walked into the living room, he caught his father giving him strange looks.

Huo Xiang touched his nose and looked around. “Isn’t Brother Tingrui back yet?”

“Not yet.” Huo Jinyan turned away impatiently before walking up to his daughter to sit down next to her.  
“I used the incense in the cupboard last night and slept really well.”

Huo Yao put her phone down. “Uh huh. You can use it when you have trouble sleeping.”

“Where did you buy the incense from?” asked Huo Jinyan curiously.

Huo Yao looked up at him. “I made it.”

Huo Jinyan wanted to give his insomniac friend a couple of boxes for his impending birthday but closed his mouth when he heard what his daughter said.

Huo Yao noticed the hesitant look on her father’s face. “What is it?”

“My girl is an outstanding all-rounder,” replied Huo Jinyan as he beamed.

Huo Xiang had just come back from the fridge with a bottle of water when he heard his father complimenting his sister like a fanboy.

“...”

Did he have to do this nonstop? Did he have to keep hurting his son?

Huo Tingrui came home before long and Huo Yanxi came back with him as well.

Huo Yao was playing with her phone, so she only noticed him a while later and raised her head to greet him.

Although her voice was cold, it did not sound awkward. Instead, she was distant and courteous.

After greeting him, she lowered her head once more. She was tapping her phone screen and looked like she was chatting with someone.

Huo Yanxi looked at her. He wanted to sit down beside her but changed his mind since it appeared like she did not want to be disturbed.

The atmosphere at the dining table remained awkward.

Huo Yao kept checking her phone from time to time while she ate. She kept sending texts and seemed to be busy.

Huo Xiang leaned over and glanced at her phone as he sat beside her. He did not manage to see the contents of her texts. Instead, he saw the name of the contact.

An unknown caller?

“Yao, who are you chatting with?” asked Huo Xiang with a frown.

“An online friend,” replied Huo Yao vaguely as she chewed her food.

Although her voice was not loud, everyone at the table heard she was chatting with an online friend.

Huo Yanxi raised her head and glanced at her.

“An online friend?” Huo Xiang put down his chopsticks.

“Uh huh.” Huo Yao failed to notice everyone’s expression and only casually explained. “He sells stuff.”

“Is he a scammer?” asked Huo Xiang worriedly.

After all, most online transactions did not require texting. Although his little sister was smart, he had to remind her.

Huo Yao raised her head and glanced at him before replying two seconds later. “Nope.”

“That’s good. There are a lot of highly skilled scammers on online platforms, so you have to watch out,” said Huo Xiang seriously.

Huo Yao’s lips twitched before acknowledging him patronizingly.

Huo Xiang would probably be beaten to death if her friend heard this.

Huo Yao turned her head to look at Song Ning. “Mom, someone will come over in a couple of days to install the system. Can you let them in?”

### **Chapter 335: Failed To Hack**

Song Ning was clueless. “What system?”

“A CCTV security system,” explained Huo Yao.

“Oh, sure.” Song Ning nodded before she recalled something and quickly said, “But we already installed a security system.”

Huo Yao picked up her soup and took a sip before responding. “It’s fine. Let them check it anyway.”

Song Ning did not turn down her daughter’s offer. The technician her daughter hired could just go through the motions and check their system.

After all, they had already installed the best security system available in the market.

Huo Yao went upstairs after dinner. Before long, the preoccupied Huo Yanxi followed her.

Huo Yao had just sat down at the table when a knock came at her door. She raised her brow before she walked over to open it.

Huo Yao interrupted him indifferently. "You don't have to apologize. I didn't take it to heart."

Huo Yanxi instantly felt stifled in his heart and clenched his fists.

If his little sister had questioned his actions or complained about them, he might have felt better. Instead, it seemed that she did not care at all. Only a stranger would say things like that.

The look in her eyes felt like sharp daggers cutting through him.

He was only her biological older brother and nothing else.

Huo Yanxi sensed his throat going dry and darkness swept across his eyes. A while later, he finally said, "I'm sorry for being judgmental about you. Whether or not you choose to forgive me or disregard it like you said, I will accept the outcome."

Huo Yao acknowledged his words softly. She tucked some stray hair behind her ear. Then she glanced at her watch and said, "It's getting late. I have homework to do."

Huo Yanxi did not carry on with the conversation. He apologized once more before turning to leave.

Huo Yao glanced at him but felt nothing after he left. After closing the door, she went back to her table. She turned on her laptop, and opened a document. A command box popped up on her screen. She typed a string of characters on the keyboard, and the monitor went dark. Shortly after, characters moved quickly inside the command box.

Huo Yao stared at the symbols coldly and pressed the keyboard occasionally to halt the process and revise the coding.

Three hours later, she zipped and encrypted the modified SOC drivers before restarting the computer in safe mode.

She typed quickly in the safe mode, but a red exclamation mark appeared before long.

"I failed to hack into the system!" Huo Yao's fingers paused. Her lips curved into a ruminative smile.

After contemplating for a few seconds, Huo Yao opened another command box and used a different method. A few minutes later, she forcibly sent out the encrypted, compressed files. Then, she covered her tracks and turned off the computer.

She got up and retrieved her pajamas from the closet before going to the bathroom.

A minute later, her phone started beeping with text notifications on the bedside table.

### **Chapter 336: Security System From An Unknown Company**

Huo Yao picked up her phone after coming out of the shower. Her lips twitched when she saw the text notifications on it.



Unknown Caller: [Are you done yet kid? Shouldn't you be doing your homework at this hour of the day?]

Unknown Caller: [I just created a firewall, but you hacked it. Did you have to do it?]

Unknown Caller: [It was one thing for you to send the files forcibly, but did you have to encrypt them as well?]

Unknown Caller: [Did you think I couldn't crack it?]

The text messages were sent ten minutes ago.

After Huo Yao was done reading the messages, another message came.

Unknown Caller: [Damn you. Hurry up and give me the password.]

Huo Yao leaned against the table. After a minute, she replied unhurriedly: [Do you admit defeat?]

Unknown Caller: [Fine, you win. Send me the address. I will send someone to install the system tomorrow.]

Huo Yao quickly sent her new address.

A minute later, Huo Yao received a reply: [Dude, is this private property?]

Huo Yao: [Of course. Did you think it's the National Defense Building or something?]

The man sitting in front of the computer could not help cursing when he saw Huo Yao's text message.

Huo Yao: [The password is 23333. Be sure to stick to your word. Bye-bye. I'm going to do my homework.]

Unknown Caller: [...]

Huo Yao put down her phone happily. She walked up to the dressing counter and started blow drying her hair. After that, she climbed into the bed with a happy sigh.

It was a peaceful night.

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After Huo Yao went to school the next day, the doorbell rang at the Huo residence slightly after 1:00 pm.

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan had just finished lunch and were about to rest when they heard the doorbell chime. Huo Jinyan looked at the monitor at the door and saw two unknown men. He contemplated briefly before walking out.

"You are?" asked Huo Jinyan through the gate without opening it.

"Hi, is this the Huo residence?" The middle-aged man in the front bowed politely with a black case in his hands.

"Yes, it is," replied Huo Jinyan as he nodded.

"We are here to install a security system. Here are our credentials. Is this a good time for you?"

Huo Jinyan recalled her daughter mentioning last night that some technicians would be here to install a security system. Were they the ones?

His eyes landed on their credentials. The company name was written in English with a diamond-shaped logo on the side.

He had never heard about them before.

Maybe it was not a renowned company.

Huo Jinyan quickly veered his eyes away and opened the door.

The two men had parked their vehicle inside the villa and walked in with the black case.

Huo Jinyan glanced at the car outside and noticed that it was a rather ordinary Volkswagen before closing the door.

After going back into the house, Huo Jinyan saw them opening the black case deftly before retrieving a laptop, equipment, and cables.

He recalled that they had already installed a system, so he said tactfully, "We already installed a security system, so you just need to check if there are any problems with it."

After all, her daughter was the one who hired them, so it did not seem right for him to tell them to leave.

The technician only smiled without saying a word and continued to work.

Huo Jinyan did not get in their way. Instead, he stood by the side and looked at the laptop screen curiously.

### **Chapter 337: Their Daughter Had Unusual Friends**

Strings of numbers leapt to life on the laptop monitor as the technician typed away rapidly on the keyboard.

The equipment in the black case automatically assembled itself into a small rack with a button flashing in red. It resembled the infrared scanner he had seen on television programs... This all seemed like cutting-edge technology.

Huo Jinyan watched them work but was incapable of figuring out what they were actually doing. He recalled that the security system gadget in their hands looked completely different in terms of operation. He was taken aback

Did it not usually only involve some computer software and CCTV installation?

His security system technician certainly did not fiddle on the computer like this.

Huo Jinyan touched his nose. He felt increasingly puzzled. He walked over to his wife in the living room and asked her. "Was it very complicated when we installed the security system?"

Song Ning only took a glance at the technicians. Since she was no IT expert, she merely shrugged. "Maybe they specialize in software."

"Perhaps," replied Jinyan hesitantly.

An hour later, the technicians finished installing the system. After installation, they briefly taught Song Ning and Huo Jinyan how to operate it before they left.

Huo Jinyan held his phone and looked at the application that resembled a diamond. When he opened the application, he could access all the surveillance footage of their home. Also, it came equipped with some other very novel capabilities such as single-click police dispatch, automatic power cut-off, and night vision surveillance activation.

More importantly, the moment someone activated the infrared scanner, they would receive a notification on the application instantly. Every aspect of security was covered in this app.

It was certainly far smarter than the so-called best security system in the market.

Huo Jinyan raised his head in a daze. He looked at his wife. "Where on earth did our girl hire them from?"

Song Ning was looking at the application on her phone and was still learning how to use it. "Didn't she say last night that an online friend helped her?"

"Although it was her online friend, why didn't he let us pay him?" asked Huo Jinyan perplexedly as he touched his chin.

Huo Jinyan had asked about payment before they left, but they said no fee was required.

"Maybe Yaoyao paid for it online already," replied Song Ning without looking up.

Huo Jinyan felt that this was the only plausible explanation, even though it felt a little odd.

Huo Jinyan scratched his head and said, "Do you think our daughter's friends are all very special?"

Song Ning finally looked up. "Huh?"

Huo Jinyan looked at her and said, "Let me break this down for you. First, she gave us meds which she had got from her friend. Xiang asked an expert and confirmed that they were priceless. Secondly, the tuition teacher of hers also gave us two boxes of tea that are unavailable in the market. Also, one of them is a collector's item worth an inestimable amount of money. Thirdly, the technicians who installed the system for us today might look normal, but they were anything but normal after a closer scrutiny."

Song Ning glanced at her husband. "Stop analyzing our daughter. You should reflect on yourself. If you weren't so idiotic, our daughter wouldn't need to upgrade the security system."

Huo Jinyan instantly shut his mouth.

He coughed awkwardly before leaving the place quietly. "I want to figure out how to use this software.

Song Ning: "..."

## Chapter 338: The Surprise

At night.

Huo Yao saw the newly installed security system at the entrance and the infrared scanners on the walls when she came home and raised her eyebrow. That was fast.

After entering the house, she stood at the entrance in front of the system and tapped on the screen.

Huo Jinyan walked up to her when he realized that his daughter was looking at the security system. "I forgot to tell you that two guys came to re-install our security system today."

"Uh huh." Huo Yao pulled her hand back.

"It can do much more than the security system I installed, but there are some features I'm unsure about," said Huo Jinyan a bit sadly.

The technicians had only taught him the basic functions. Despite spending all afternoon trying to figure out how to use the other details, he failed to grasp it fully.

Huo Yao raised her brow. "Let's go in. I'll teach you."

"Okay."

Huo Jinyan nodded and followed his daughter into the living room. After sitting down, he took out his phone and turned on the application and said, "These are the ones I didn't dare to touch."

Huo Yao took the phone and explained to him patiently how to use it.

Huo Yao pressed her forehead and looked at her father, who had yet to fully grasp the system.

Initially, she thought that the system was too simple when she had looked at it at the door. However, she had overestimated her father's abilities.

Huo Jinyan glanced at his daughter warily and said somewhat sheepishly, "Am I stupid?"

Huo Yao noticed how cautious he looked and sighed in her heart. "It's not your fault. The application is a little complicated," replied Huo Yao with a straight face.

The moment Huo Jinyan heard her, he instantly said, "I knew it. I said it was too complicated, but your mother said I was stupid."

Huo Yao nodded quietly.

"If I were stupid, would I have a daughter as smart as you?" Huo Jinyan straightened his back.

Huo Yao: "..."

Sure, if that's what her father believed.

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The revision material from Huo Yulin arrived two days later. Huo Yao asked Meng Ying for her address and delivered one box to her house.

She had used the same-day delivery, so it arrived at Meng Ying's house that day itself.

The Meng family had already tried to invite Huo Yao over for dinner a few times. Since Huo Yao couldn't turn them down, she went over to Meng Ying's place after school that afternoon.

The Meng family came from a scholarly background and resided in a small, classic bungalow. People staying in such residences usually had a certain degree of history.

The moment Huo Yao entered their home, Meng Ying's parents were delighted to see her and chatted comfortably with her. Meng Ying had to wrestle Huo Yao from her parents' clutches, and drag her away to save her from their nagging.

Meng Ying brought Huo Yao to her room. She felt puzzled when she spotted the huge box lying there. After she opened it and saw all the study material inside, she was so stunned that she could hardly breathe.

Meng Ying turned to look at Huo Yao who was leaning against the door lazily. Meng Ying recalled the things Huo Yao mentioned a few days ago and how she asked for her address yesterday.

"PFFTT... Sister Big Shot, is this your surprise?"

Huo Yao nodded. "I did the calculations. If you do one test paper a day, you can finish them by the time you take the college entrance examination. You're welcome."

Meng Ying was dumbstruck. "!!!"

One test paper a day? Was she a monster!

Huo Yao raised her brow and said, "Of course, if you want to do two test papers a day, you are free to take the other two boxes I have."

Meng Ying's lips twitched.

### **Chapter 339: An Authentic Brush Painting!**

"Where did you get all this revision material from?" asked Meng Ying inexplicably.

Judging from Huo Yao's grades, did she have any use for this revision material?

Huo Yao glanced at her. "Don't ask."

Meng Ying went quiet.

Before long, Meng Ying's mother came over to invite them for dinner. The moment she learned that Huo Yao had sent the box of study material over, her impression of the girl soared even higher.

After all, it was rare to encounter a classmate willing to take the effort to help a friend pick out revision material in this day and age.

Meng Ying almost lost her breath and passed out when she saw her mother's reaction.

She was in such a spot.

Even though Huo Yao had hurt her, her parents sang praises about Huo Yao.

After dinner, Huo Yao left on the pretext that she was busy and had to go home. On her way out, Meng Ying's father gave her a gift. Since she was unable to turn him down, she accepted it politely.

It was packed in a wooden box, and she did not open it while she was at the Meng residence. After she got home, she casually placed it on the table and went to the fridge to get a bottle of water before heading upstairs.

Huo Jinyan came out of the room when it was past 10:00 pm and noticed a wooden box on the table. He paused and picked it up.

The wooden box had quaint carvings on it and resembled the boxes that Huo Jinyan used for storing Chinese calligraphy and brush painting. Sure enough, he found a brush painting lying inside when he opened it.

Huo Jinyan removed it from the box and opened it slowly. His eyes opened wide when he saw the contents of the painting. It was "Playing Zither under the Pine" by Zhao Mengfu from the Yuan dynasty.

Since Huo Jinyan was a connoisseur in Chinese calligraphy and brush painting, he knew it was an original the moment he saw it. In an instant, he became excited.

"What are you looking at," Song Ning walked over and glanced at the painting before she looked at the wooden box on the table. "Did Yao give this to you?"

Her daughter had been holding this box when she came home earlier.

Huo Jinyan had yet to recover from his shock. He raised his head in surprise. "Does this belong to Yao?"

"Uh huh." Song Ning nodded her head.

Huo Jinyan went into a daze. Why did his daughter keep bringing home such extraordinary things?

Song Ning noticed something amiss with his expression. She could not help looking at the painting, which looked rather old. "Whose work is it?"

"It's a Zhao Mengfu original!" Huo Jinyan deeply inhaled before he rolled the painting back up and replaced it in the box carefully.

Song Ning pursed her lips thoughtfully. Anything that her husband treated with such care and attention ought to be a real treasure.

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The next day.

Huo Yao saw her father sitting in the living room when she went downstairs. He did not look good. He had dark circles beneath his eyes and looked like he had not slept well last night.

She walked up to him. "Didn't sleep well last night, Dad?"

"It's worse than that. He didn't sleep a wink all night." Song Ning brought a glass of milk over and gave it to Huo Yao.

Huo Yao's lips twitched. "What happened?"

She noticed that her father was holding something. It was the gift Meng Ying's father insisted on giving her last night.

"Where did you get this from?" Huo Jinyan placed the wooden box cautiously on the coffee table.

"Oh. My classmate's father gave it to me. What's inside? I haven't looked at it yet," said Huo Yao calmly.

Huo Jinyan's lips twitched in disbelief. Again? It was a gift from someone again...

### **Chapter 340: Huo Yulin's Psychiatrist**

"It's a painting." Huo Jinyan opened the box and removed the painting before displaying it with a flourish.

Huo Yao was only interested in a few antiques and was not much into calligraphy and brush paintings. As a result, she didn't have an in-depth knowledge about them. "Is there anything wrong with it?"

"It's Zhao Mengfu's original from the Yuan dynasty. Since all his works are rare, they don't come cheap," explained Huo Jinyan.

Huo Yao was surprised. Then she composed herself and said nonchalantly, "I see. In that case, you can store it with the rest of the paintings."

After all, her medicine was not cheap either.

Huo Jinyan saw how calm his daughter appeared to be. She seemed to treat the precious painting as just a piece of paper.

His lips parted. Huo Yao seemed to have read his mind and said, "Don't worry, Dad. It really came from my classmate's father, so it's fine."

She headed to the dining room and started eating breakfast.

Huo Jinyan touched his nose as he gazed at her from behind. "This kid is so..."

"Enough. Her friend's father must have had good reason to give her such a fine painting. Moreover, she's a sensible girl," said Song Ning.

What else could Huo Jinyan say? He took the painting to the storeroom and stored it lovingly amongst his antiques.

He could always arrange for a meeting and offer the man an antique in return for his generosity.

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Meanwhile, on the other end.

Huo Yulin was lying on his back in the chair. His eyes were closed tightly, and his face was almost devoid of color. His arm trembled as it rested on the armrest, and his body twitched from time to time.

His psychiatrist sat next to him with cold sweat on his forehead. "Lin, wake up. Don't keep succumbing to your nightmares. You have to overcome them."

Two minutes later, the psychiatrist noticed that Huo Yulin was still incapable of waking up and was becoming worse. Hence, he retrieved his medical flashlight and shone it into Huo Yulin's eyes.

In an instant, the trembling man opened his eyes. He pushed the psychiatrist aside before staggering into the bathroom.

He turned on the tap and rinsed his face with cold water. He felt better and completely awake only after five minutes of such ministrations.

He looked at his pale face in the mirror. His face had gotten a lot thinner in comparison to the time when Huo Yao met him.

Huo Yulin wiped his face before walking out of the bathroom. He headed back to his chair and lay on his back as he stared at the ceiling.

"You may leave." He said to his psychiatrist.

His psychiatrist looked at him and sighed. "Lin, you can't resist the fear in your heart. If this goes on, your condition will keep deteriorating."

Huo Yulin pursed his lips before he closed his eyes without talking anymore.

The psychiatrist shook his head. "I'm going. If any problem arises, give me a call."

Before long, the door clicked shut. Huo Yulin slowly opened his eyes. They were bloodshot as he had not slept well in ages.

His phone pinged a notification, lying on the table nearby. Huo Yulin lay in the chair for a few minutes before he got up slowly to walk over.

It was a text message from his little sister.

[Brother Yulin, I received the revision material. Have you received my incense?]

Huo Yulin's hands paused. He had been in the laboratory for two days straight and only came home now. If any deliveries came during this time, they would have been placed in the villa's cabinet.

He narrowed his eyes slightly before he left the room with his phone.