

Pill Maker 351

Chapter 351: Just An Insignificant Girl

Old Mr. Pei raised his head and looked at his clueless son. He shook his head and sighed. "You are so shallow."

Pei Feng looked upset when his father scolded him for no reason. "But I'm right. My brother is an intermediate apothecary with the Apothecaries' Association. Even he can only make three to four pills at a go. But she could make 20 pills in one attempt, so something must be wrong."

If apothecaries were able to produce a lot of medicine, it meant minimal wastage of ingredients. If they ended up with a small number as the final product, it meant that they had wasted a lot of herbs. However, 100% success... was unheard of.

Old Mr. Pei shook his head again. "You fool!"

He did not bother explaining anything further to his disappointing son. Instead, he headed to his room.

Pei Feng stood where he was and scratched his head as he watched his father perplexedly. He contemplated for a few seconds before taking out his phone to call his older brother.

The call got through quickly.

"Hello, older brother? I have a question for you. Is it possible for an apothecary to produce 20 pills at a go?" asked Pei Feng solemnly.

His older brother frowned. "How is that possible? Even your question is hilarious!"

Sure enough, his older brother agreed that it was impossible.

Hence, Pei Feng briefly told him about what happened earlier today.

"Enough. Don't be upset. Dad was just saying it on account of the Min family. How could you have taken him seriously? Okay, got to go. I'm busy."

Pei Feng put his phone away before long. If it were not for his older brother's high status in the Apothecaries' Association, would their family enjoy such prominence?

She was just an insignificant little girl.

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Inside the car.

"At the Pei residence, I heard you talking about making incense. Do you know how to make incense?" Min Yu raised his brow. Although his voice was soft, it was unclear what he was driving at.

Huo Yao could not help sighing in her heart.

She forgot that she had told her neighbor about not knowing how to make incense. She had even given him a link for an online incense shop.

At the mention of incense making, Zhuo Yun's ears sharpened and he listened carefully. He suddenly recalled all the incense piled in his room which he probably could not finish using in three years.

Zhuo Yun suddenly felt cheated.

Huo Yao was too mischievous.

Huo Yao cleared her throat. "Make incense? I don't know how to. I only know some generic medical prescriptions."

Min Yu laughed gently.

Huo Yao turned to look out of the car window and adjusted her posture. She said, "I'm tired. I'm going to take a nap. Tell me when we reach home."

She covered her head with her hoodie, leaned into the seat, and closed her eyes.

Min Yu pursed his lips gently and glanced at her without saying a word.

After all, this little girl was not about to tell him the truth regardless. She was full of lies.

Zhuo Yun quietly turned off the music in the car.

By the time they arrived at the estate, it was past 10:00 pm. Huo Yao had expended a lot of energy making medicine today, so she genuinely fell asleep during the ride.

As a result, she did not even wake up when they pulled up outside her place. Zhuo Yun turned back and wanted to speak. However, Min Yu raised his hand, so he instantly shut up before turning off the engine.

Min Yu did not wake up the person beside him. Instead, he closed his eyes as well. The black car remained parked outside the villa.

Chapter 352: Caught By Huo Tingrui

In the villa.

Huo Tingrui had just stepped out after taking a shower. He walked up to the window and wanted to close the curtains. However, he noticed a black car outside their place with its engine off.

He glanced at it quizzically before closing the curtains.

Since Huo Tingrui was a little thirsty, he left the room and went downstairs to get a bottle of water.

Huo Jinyan was still in the living room watching the television. Huo Tingrui went over and sat down on the couch before he asked. "It's getting late. Why don't you watch it in your room?"

Huo Jinyan raised his head and glanced at his son. He said, "Your sister isn't home yet."

Huo Tingrui was shocked to hear this. "Really? She hasn't come back yet?"

As per his understanding, his little sister was a nerd. The moment she finished dinner, she would head back to her room to study. It was the only thing she ever did. It was almost impossible to get her to step out of the house.

Even if she had things to attend to, she was always home before 10:00 pm.

She was an incredibly good girl.

"Yeah. I just called her, but she didn't pick up. I wonder what she's up to," sighed Huo Jinyan quietly.

After sending him a text telling him she was going to come home late, she had not messaged him again.

Huo Tingrui felt inside his pocket and suddenly recalled that his phone was upstairs. "I'm going up to get my phone."

He ran upstairs quickly.

Huo Tingrui called Huo Yao when he got a hold of his phone. Sure enough, no one picked up even after he let it ring for a long time.

Huo Tingrui frowned. He opened the curtains and the French window before walking out to stand on the balcony. His gaze fell on the black car which was still parked outside their villa.

Who had parked his car outside their place?

Although Huo Tingrui took a second look at it, he ignored it in the end. He leaned against a balcony railing and sent his little sister a text message.

There was no reply even after five minutes.

Huo Tingrui held his phone and considered whether to get his parents to set a curfew and not allow her to come home later than 8:00 pm since she was a girl.

Huo Tingrui turned and caught sight of the black car's lights coming on. Even though he was not paying attention to it...

... he caught sight of the car door opening. Then a familiar silhouette came into sight. Moreover, a man got out of the car too, but he could not get a clear look at him. Huo Tingrui's eyes opened wide.

Drat! That was his little sister!

Huo Tingrui grabbed his phone and went back in.

He stormed downstairs furiously.

Huo Jinyan looked at his son as he came running down, looking livid. He could not help asking him.

"Where are you going?"

Huo Tingrui. "I'm heading out for a minute."

Huo Jinyan was at a loss., "..."

He did not look like he was heading out. It looked more like he was going out to fight.

He was acting so weird at this hour of the night.

Huo Jinyan shook his head and ignored him.

Huo Tingrui opened the door and sprinted out at top speed. Huo Yao had swiped the card, and the door automatically opened when he got to the door.

Huo Yao was stunned when she bumped into Huo Tingrui. She composed herself and noticed the anger on his face and the indoor slippers on his feet. She could not help asking him quizzically. "Brother Tingrui, what's wrong? Are you going out?"

Huo Tingrui glared at his little sister. He pursed his lips before turning to look behind her. "Where's the car? Who's that stranger?"

Huo Yao was baffled. "?"

Chapter 353: You Are So Annoying

Huo Tingrui ignored his little sister's bemused expression. He walked out of the door and checked both on the left and right, but the black car was nowhere to be seen.

Huo Yao touched her nose and was bewildered. She turned her head and looked at Huo Tingrui. "Brother Tingrui, what car, what strange person are you talking about?"

"I saw everything!" sneered Huo Tingrui as he walked back.

"Saw what?" Huo Yao paused before she recalled. "Are you talking about the car I came home in?"

Huo Tingrui nodded. "Yes! There was a guy!" That was the problem.

He contemplated before adding. "The car was parked outside our door for at least ten minutes."

Sigh! Now she knew what her second older brother was talking about.

Huo Yao shrugged, throwing her palms in the air. She looked at him without any pretense. "Would you believe it if I said that he is just a friend?"

"Of course, I trust you." But he did not trust an outsider.

After all, his little sister was pretty, adorable, and innocent. What if she ended up being stolen by some evil pig?

Huo Yao nodded. "Good. Then let's go inside."

Saying so, she walked into the villa with firm steps.

Huo Tingrui was stunned. That was it?

Was she not going to explain herself?

Huo Tingrui glanced outside once more before he closed the door and followed her.

After they entered the villa...

“Yaoyao, you’re back.” Huo Jinyan did not overthink things like his son when he saw his daughter come in.

“Dad, why haven’t you gone to bed yet?” Huo Yao poured herself a drink.

“I was waiting for you to come back.” Huo Jinyan yawned before he continued. “I’m going to bed now. Have an early rest.”

After Huo Jinyan took two steps, he turned to look at Huo Tingrui and wondered why he looked so angry.

But, the next second, he shook his head and went upstairs.

Huo Yao took a sip of water. Ever since she had walked in, she could sense her second older brother’s eyes following her movement.

She put down the glass and pressed her forehead helplessly. She said, “Brother Tingrui, behaving like this will only drive us apart.”

Huo Tingrui said, “There’s a way we can avoid this.”

Huo Yao glanced at him and didn’t react.

She found him immensely annoying. These words inexplicably rose in Huo Tingrui’s mind when he caught sight of the look in her eyes.

He cleared his throat before walking over to her. “From now on, you have to come home by 8:00 pm.”

“It’s not safe for a little girl to be out at night. When you go out, you can call me to pick you up,” continued Huo Tingrui.

Huo Yao looked at him quietly.

Initially, Huo Tingrui had felt rather justified in his actions, but he suddenly lost his stance when Huo Yao gave him an unfathomable look. His eyes flitted away as he said, “In any case, you can’t take rides from unknown men.”

Huo Yao shook her head. “Brother Tingrui, I’m heading up to my room.”

She did not feel like explaining anything further nor did she want to listen to him ramble on.

She turned to go upstairs but Huo Tingrui followed behind her. “Yao, listen. There are too many bad people in society. You are too young. Don’t get lured by some sweet-talking men.”

Huo Yao walked quicker and was speechless.

“...”

“Also, I wanted to tell you a long time ago. Stay far away from those stupid boys at school. They are up to no good...”

Huo Tingrui kept nagging as he followed Huo Yao to her room. His voice only stopped abruptly when the door closed in his face.

Huo Tingrui: "..."

Was it easy being an older brother?

Chapter 354: Did She Have To Embarrass Her Brother?

Before long, it was time for the second episode of 'Countryside Life With My Family' to be shot.

Filming was taking place in the same village in Ren County.

Huo Yao was dressed in sportswear again, so Huo Xiang also wore activewear from the same brand to compliment his little sister. Since both of them were tall and lean, they looked cool standing together. It made for a perfect picture.

Huo Yao naturally wore a black mask and attracted more attention than Huo Xiang owing to her mysterious appearance.

They arrived at the filming location at 9:30 am.

Yin Hai, Xiao Moling, and Shen Si's teams had arrived as well.

The live stream started on time.

After greeting everyone, the host wasted no time and told everyone about their mission for the morning.

The production team brought out four wicker baskets.

The moment Yin Hai saw the wicker baskets, he said, "I can't help thinking about how Huo Xiang's little sister caught the chickens in the last episode."

Huo Yao's lips twitched when she heard him talk about her.

The host laughed. "Uncle Yin, you're right. These are the same wicker baskets, but we are using them for something different this time."

Shen Si looked at the camera and sighed dramatically. "It looks like we are going to spend the day getting tortured by the production team yet again."

Xiao Moling added with a resigned shrug. "You're right."

"I'm going to pretend that I didn't hear what you said," reacted the host angrily.

He took out waterproof gear from the wicker basket and said, "This is for today's mission."

Yin Hai walked over and asked him with a straight face. "What's this? A diving suit?"

The host: "..."

[HAHAHA! Diving equipment? I can see the host's face cracking.]

[Uncle Yin's family seems to consist of great talkers.]

[Host: This job is tough.]

The host gathered his thoughts and looked at Yin Hai hard before he continued. "That's right. This is diving... Ptooeey... waterproof gear."

"You'll be wearing it to harvest lotus roots this morning. The first team to fill up the wicker basket wins."

Yin Hai's shoulders drooped. "This mission is even harder than killing chickens. The production team really won't give up until they torture all of us to death."

The host looked at Yin Hai quietly. A few seconds later, he placed the largest wicker basket before Yin Hai. "Congrats! You just succeeded in sabotaging yourself."

Yin Hai was dumbstruck. "..."

[HAHA! The host is number one at taking revenge.]

[Uncle Yin: I shouldn't have been such a smart mouth!]

Before long, all four teams changed into waterproof gear. They followed the professional lotus root farmers and walked for about ten minutes to reach a huge lotus pond.

Four small boats were already awaiting the filming crew.

Prior to the start of the mission, everyone spent some time learning how to harvest lotus root before each team went on their way.

Huo Yao pulled her long hair into a bun before she adjusted her mask. She turned to look at Huo Xiang. "Have you learned how to do it?"

Huo Xiang nodded. Even if he failed to grasp it, he had to say that he did.

His fans were laughing at him till now about the chicken slaughtering incident in the first episode. Hence, he was determined not to burden his little sister this time around.

Huo Yao failed to notice his nod and said unhurriedly, "It doesn't matter. Just hold the wicker basket properly."

She had already experienced Huo Xiang's lack of abilities firsthand.

Huo Xiang: "..."

Did she have to embarrass him like this?

Chapter 355: Lucky Charm Is Only Capable Of Riding On Her Success

The lotus pond was not particularly deep, but it was hard to walk through the mud.

After taking two steps, Huo Xiang had already got stuck twice. Huo Yao ended up coming back to help pull him out.

“Follow me. Don’t step in the deep sections of the pond and don’t stand in the same spot for too long,” instructed Huo Yao as she pulled Huo Xiang’s arm. At this moment, she looked like the older brother, while Huo Xiang was the baby sister.

Huo Xiang felt absolutely miserable.

Inside the live stream room...

[‘HAHAHA! Huo Xiang’s little sister is the best. She is becoming more and more like a domineering CEO.]

[Did you see how stunned Lucky Charm looked? It was adorable.]

[Lucky Charm, you have to be strong. You’re her older brother. Or else, your image is gone!]

[Little Sis: You’re only capable of riding on my success!]

[Miss Huo is brilliant! Little Master Huo, hurry up and follow closely behind your older sister!]

[Oh my. Just listen to this guy calling them Miss Huo and Little Master Huo.]

Huo Yao pulled Huo Xiang for some distance before she said, “Let’s start picking lotus root here.”

Huo Yao reached her hand into the mud and pulled out an entire lotus root before long.

Huo Xiang was caught by surprise. “Wow, you’re great. You did it so effortlessly.”

It sure looked easy.

Huo Yao raised her brow. Despite the mask, the confidence on her face was evident.

Huo Xiang suddenly turned to look at the camera next to him and said, “If my little sister can do it, I’m sure I can too. Trust me!”

[HAHAHA! Yes, we sure as hell trust you!]

[We are sure you’re going to botch it.]

[We are certain you’ll end up slapping your own face.]

Huo Xiang mimicked his little sister and bent over to reach into the mud. He felt the lotus stem and quickly pulled hard.

But, not even the lotus tip could be seen, let alone the lotus root.

Huo Xiang twitched his lips but did not dare to look into the camera. He merely muttered. “It’s normal to fail the first time. I’m sure I’ll get it right now.”

After several tries, all Huo Xiang managed to pull out were lotuses. Before long, the villager said, “My boy, please let off my crop. I still have to use it to make a living.

Huo Xiang: “...”

Sure enough, this entertainment program was out to get him.

[Huo Xiang, please stay put and help your little sister carry the wicker basket. If this goes on, you are going to lose the fans.]

[I can sense his desperation through the screen.]

[She sure is a farmer. All this work comes to her so naturally.]

In the end, Huo Xiang gave up altogether. How did it matter if he carried the wicker basket? It was not his first time riding on his sister's success anyway.

Huo Xiang was incapable of even carrying the wicker basket 30 minutes later because it was packed.

Huo Yao saw how tiring it was becoming for Huo Xiang to carry the basket. He had almost tripped a few times in the lotus pond. She shook her head quietly. She rinsed the mud off her hands before reaching out to take the wicker basket.

Huo Xiang watched her carry the wicker basket to the shore effortlessly.

Huo Xiang was flabbergasted. "..."

It seemed as though it was a completely different wicker basket.

After reaching the shore, Huo Yao handed their lotus roots to the production team. She looked at the other teams to see that they were still at it.

Yin Hai's team was slightly faster. But Shen Si's team had only managed to pick three pathetic lotus roots, and all of them were broken.

Huo Yao and Huo Xiang borrowed a bench from the production team and sat by the lotus pond watching them work.

The sight was so beautiful that all the viewers almost burst out laughing.

Chapter 356: Can You Solve A Freshman's Physics Question?

It was already 12:00 pm when the other teams completed the mission. Shen Si's team stood last as expected.

The team that came in last had to cook this time around.

Shen Si and Wu Miao were stunned since they had never cooked in their entire lives.

However, they eventually managed to whip up something for lunch with Yin Hai and Xiao Moling's help.

Huo Yao did not help out in the kitchen. She found it boring to sit around in the yard, so she asked the production team for a pen and paper. She sat at the table lazily to work on a Physics problem.

This question had been sent by the Tsing University Physics professor to her yesterday. Since they exchanged numbers when she was in the National Quiz Contest, he texted her different questions time to time.

The production team did not plan on focusing on Huo Yao. However, many people asked what Huo Yao was doing, so the host walked over to her.

“Are you revising?”

Following the host’s voice, the cameraman gave Huo Yao a close-up.

The piece of paper was filled with equations which looked incomprehensible at the first glance.

“Oh god. I’m completely lost. Are middle school questions so hard these days?” The host craned his neck and looked at the paper for some time. He was stunned.

The live stream room exploded with comments once more.

[Why is she doing revision now? She is clearly trying to create hype!]

[HAHA! I don’t understand it. I highly suspect I’m not in middle school.]

[That looks like a first-year question from Tsing University’s Physics department. Isn’t she in middle school? Why is she doing that?]

[Although I don’t understand the question, her handwriting is lovely.]

[That’s right! It’s a freshman question, and she got it right. If she didn’t have the answer from before, it makes her pretty impressive.]

Huo Xiang took out his phone and looked at the comments in the live stream room. He lowered his head and asked his little sister. “Is this a freshman level question?”

“Uh huh.” Huo Yao acknowledged softly without looking up.

Huo Xiang touched his nose. He should have gotten accustomed to what a genius his little sister was.

Before long, Huo Yao finished answering the question. She took a picture and sent it to the Physics professor.

Shen Si and the others had finally finished making lunch and were bringing the cutlery over. Shen Si saw the host standing next to Huo Yao, so she walked up to them after setting the stuff on the table.

“Hmm? What’s going on?”

The host raised his head and looked at Shen Si before he sighed. “Youngsters are amazing these days. She can even do freshman level Physics questions. It’s incredible.”

A strange expression emerged on Shen Si’s face before she acted shocked as she said, “Are you serious?”

She paused before she smiled and said, “My cousin happens to be a Physics freshman.”

Wu Miao walked out with the plates and looked at her cousin quizzically when she heard her saying that she was a Physics major.

Huo Yao wanted to remain low-key, so she ignored Shen Si. She crushed the paper into a ball and wanted to throw it away.

But Shen Si hurriedly said, "Since Wu Miao is a Physics undergrad, why don't you show her your question so that she can give you a hand?"

Shen Si turned her head and looked at her cousin. She said, "Miaomiao, I remember your grades for Physics are good, right?"

Wu Miao replied modestly. "They are so-so."

Shen Si raised her brow. "Why don't you help her solve the question?"

Chapter 357: She Is about To Slap Her Own Face

Wu Miao was stunned for a second. But she remembered that Huo Yao was just a middle school student, so she instantly nodded. "Sure thing."

Huo Yao's hand froze in mid-air with the crushed paper. She raised her head and looked at them. She smiled musingly under the mask. "Are you sure you want to see the question that I'm working on?"

Judging from Huo Yao's tone, Shen Si thought she was attempting to hide something, so she said with an insincere smile, "This is a chance for us to learn from each other."

Huo Xiang glanced at Shen Si quietly.

"Okay then." Huo Yao spread open the piece of paper.

Wu Miao walked over and took Huo Yao's paper with a modest look on her face. "Although my Physics is average, I shouldn't have any problems solving a middle school level question..."

Before she finished her last words, her sentence came to an abrupt halt.

The live stream viewers instantly started commenting crazily.

[What's going on? Why did she stop talking?]

[This is a look of shock, right?]

[That question looks really hard. Did any of you take a screenshot of it?]

[She's a first-year student. How can she have problems solving a middle school student's work?]

[HAHAHA! It seems she is about to slap her own face.]

Shen Si noticed the strange expression on Wu Miaomiao's face, so she went closer and asked her. "What's wrong, Miaomiao?"

Wu Miao's hand froze in mid-air as she held the paper. When she composed herself, she finally said, "This isn't a middle school level problem. It's a physics research level question, so it's really hard. I'm ashamed to say that I can't solve it. Where did you get the answer from?"

Her words sounded misleading.

Firstly, Huo Yao was just a middle school student, so it was clearly pretentious of her to attempt a freshman question.

Secondly, even a first-year Physics major like Wu Miao was unable to solve the question. Since Huo Yao managed to solve it, she must already know the answer and was deliberately showing off on the program.

“Aren’t you still in middle school? Why are you doing university level questions?” asked Shen Si as she pretended to look shocked.

“Maybe she is a straight-A student. After all, the No.1 Middle School students are incredible,” said Wu Miao with a smirk.

A faint expression of mockery appeared on her flawlessly made-up face.

Shen Si nodded. “That’s true. There are barely any stupid students these days.”

The moment Huo Xiang heard their comments, his face instantly became furious. Just as he was about to stand up, someone pulled him back.

He turned to see his sister beside him.

Huo Yao looked relaxed as she stood up unhurriedly and walked up to Shen Si. She looked at Wu Miao with her deep and lovely eyes. “Why can’t a middle school student work on first-year equations?”

She was taller than other girls to begin with, so she looked particularly lofty when she stood in front of Shen Si lazily.

Shen Si looked into Huo Yao’s eyes and could not help taking a step back when she sensed the coldness in them. After looking at her for two seconds, she veered her eyes away like a coward.

“Didn’t you graduate from middle school?” asked Huo Yao solemnly.

Shen Si parted her lips, but Huo Yao didn’t give her a chance to reply.

“I tend to be blunt. As you said, most people are pretty smart, but not everyone has the brains to think before speaking.”

Huo Yao smiled before she turned to look at Wu Miao. “Don’t tell me you don’t understand Laplace’s equation?”

Chapter 358: Do You Want To Show Your Face?

Wu Miao looked stupefied when Huo Yao threw the question at her. Then Huo Yao took the sheet of paper and taught her Laplace’s equation.

“...so this is the result. Do you understand now?” Huo Yao spoke particularly slowly as though she was a teacher coaching a student and was worried that Wu Miao might not understand.

After her explanation, even the live stream room's netizens knew what the equation was all about, let alone Wu Miao.

[Oh god! Which one of you said she was trying to create hype? She's a middle school student, but she solved a question that the freshman couldn't. Can you still call her pretentious?]

[Shen Si and Wu Miao's faces must be burning in shame now, right?]

[HAHA! She wanted to throw the paper away, but they insisted on butting in. Tsk tsk... Now they ended up embarrassing themselves.]

[Brains are really useful, so I hope Shen Si and Wu Miao can find them too.]

[Huo Xiang's little sister is awesome. She conducted an online class and showed these villains a thing or two.]

Wu Miao and Shen Si had yet to catch wind of the comments in the live stream room. They had stunned expressions on their faces for a long time. Hence, Yin Hai and Xiao Moling tried to help change the topic and ease the mood.

Shen Si and Wu Miao finally realized that they should not have offended Huo Yao. Despite feeling humiliated, they stopped provoking her.

At lunchtime, Huo Yao did not eat with them as usual.

Shortly after she left the courtyard, someone from the production team invited her to eat with the staff.

Huo Yao contemplated for a moment but did not turn down the offer and headed backstage.

Qu Yi was holding a take-out box when he saw Huo Yao come over. He pointed at the table beside him and handed her a box of food. "Take a seat."

He sounded rather easygoing.

An employee looked at Qu Yi quizzically. The director always had a cold and eccentric personality. Why was he treating a young girl like Huo Yao so differently?

"Thanks." Huo Yao nodded politely.

She removed her mask to have lunch.

It was the first time that Qu Yi saw Huo Yao's face. She looked pretty and had an elegant aura. It was clear that they were siblings judging from the likeness between Huo Yao and Huo Xiang.

"It's a waste not to work in the entertainment industry with a face like yours," said Qu Yi after some time.

Huo Yao raised her brow. "You aren't the first one to say this."

"Great minds think alike." Qu Yi nodded in agreement.

Huo Yao smiled politely without responding.

“Would you consider showing your face in the next episode?” asked the director as he raised his head and looked at her.

Huo Yao shook her head and replied without hesitation. “No, thanks. It’s a bother to show my face.”

She paused before adding. “But you can try to minimize my airtime.”

A bewildered expression emerged on Qu Yi’s face. “Most people are dying for more airtime. But you don’t want it.”

“It doesn’t mean much to me since I’m not in this business,” said Huo Yao as she shrugged.

“It’s such a pity!” Qu Yi shook his head.

This young woman was performing well in the show and had become a hot topic. However, she had no interest in entering into the industry.

Qu Yi did not force her and said, “Fine. I get it.”

At worst, he could always give Huo Xiang more airtime.

Huo Yao lowered their head and continued eating quietly.

Chapter 359: Plagiarism

Huo Yao finished eating before long. She stood up and bowed to Qu Yi. “Thanks for the lunch. The food was really good.”

Despite its ordinary packaging, it tasted like a five-star restaurant’s food.

Qu Yi coughed and said, “I’m glad you had your fill.”

Huo Yao did not put much thought into his words and left quickly.

After she went away, Qu Yi’s assistant asked him. “Yi, why are you so polite to this young woman?”

The director would not have given her special treatment just because her brother was a famous celebrity like Lucky.

Qu Yi glanced at his assistant and said, “Why do you think lunch tastes so good this time?”

The assistant instantly caught his hint.

Any guests on the show who invested in the program were akin to god for them and deserved special attention.

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Qu Yi probably took her words, which she had said during lunch, to heart. Hence, there were fewer shots of her in the afternoon after they started filming again. Instead, he focused a lot more on Huo Xiang.

Huo Yao was pretty satisfied with the outcome. After all, her older brother was the star of the show.

A piece of sensational news about Huo Xiang exploded while they were filming.

[Lucky from Phenom is under suspicion for plagiarism.]

Since Huo Xiang had over a hundred million fans, Weibo nearly got paralyzed when the news broke out.

The marketing department did everything they could to suppress the news, but it was futile. Instead, it exacerbated the situation.

On their way back to City S after the shoot, Tong Yu did not dare to tell Huo Xiang about the news on Weibo. However, he was clearly preoccupied while he drove and almost ran a few red lights.

Huo Yao could detect that something was amiss, so she asked him. "What's wrong?"

Huo Xiang suddenly raised his head and looked at Tong Yu with a puzzled look as well.

Tong Yu tightened his grip on the steering wheel and forced a smile. "Nothing."

News about his injury and plagiarism were completely different in nature. Plagiarism might cause Huo Xiang to end up being stigmatized online.

Although Tong Yu did not believe Huo Xiang was a copycat, most innocent celebrities, who suffered malicious slander online, rarely managed to recover their reputation. Even if they did manage to do so, the blemish would stick to them for the rest of their lives.

"Both of you had a long day today. Have a good rest when you get home." Tong Yu changed the subject.

"You're a little weird today," said Huo Xiang as he frowned.

Huo Yao raised her brow and looked at Tong Yu.

"No, I'm not. Why would I be weird? You're mistaken," denied Tong Yu as he laughed.

"Really? I have a feeling you are hiding something from me," said Huo Xiang quizzically.

Tong Yu's voice sounded even more nonchalant. "You're overthinking it. If anything had happened, I would have told you ages ago. Why wait until now, right?"

Huo Yao took out her phone and checked Weibo. The moment she tapped on it, she saw a deluge of topics related to Huo Xiang's plagiarising. She tapped open his Weibo homepage and noticed that the number of followers had decreased dramatically.

Huo Yao glanced at Tong Yu thoughtfully. She reckoned that he wanted to keep this from Huo Xiang for now.

She turned to look at Huo Xiang. "Brother Xiang, stop worrying. Also, can you lend me your phone?"

Huo Xiang passed it to her right away.

Chapter 360: A Copycat Will Always Be A Copycat

Huo Yao took his phone and looked at the screen intently. She tapped it gently for a while. Huo Xiang did not know what she was up to when he saw her actions. Instead, he turned to look out of the car window.

Before long, Huo Yao returned his phone.

Huo Xiang took his phone and glanced at his homepage before putting it away.

Tong Yu's car pulled up outside the Huo residence slightly after 10:00 pm.

"Brother Xiang, go on inside. I want to talk to Yu for a minute," said Huo Yao to Huo Xiang after they got off the car. She seemed calm, and he did not notice anything amiss in her deep eyes.

Huo Xiang looked at his little sister in confusion. "Is there something that I can't know?"

Huo Yao raised her brow. "Just do it."

Huo Xiang was flabbergasted.

"..."

But, then he walked away quietly.

Huo Yao opened the front passenger car door, and got in.

"Who is Xiang Nan?" asked Huo Yao candidly.

Tong Yu was initially surprised before he answered. "Have you checked Weibo already?"

Huo Yao rapped her fingers on her knees unhurriedly. "Uh huh."

Tong Yu went quiet, and his face looked upset. "Xiang Nan is a member of Phenom. They used to be really tight, but a rift appeared between them as Huo Xiang's popularity soared..."

This sounded like a classic story of how jealousy made the man change beyond recognition.

Huo Yao learned about the whole thing in the next one minute.

"Your brother couldn't have plagiarized Xiang Nan's work. Since they are in the same band, it's normal for their styles to be similar. Moreover, Xiang Nan isn't that good, so Huo Xiang is way out of his league," scoffed Tong Yu.

Huo Yao nodded calmly. "I think so too. Could Brother Xiang's work have accidentally ended up in his hands?"

Tong Yu scratched his head. "I'm not sure about that. Since they are in the same band, it's wholly possible, considering it's a new song they are still working on."

"How can we prove my brother's innocence?" asked Huo Yao.

Tong Yu smiled sadly. "Both parties will need to produce strong evidence."

He paused before he added. "But it's strange how Xiang Nan's work seems to be better than Huo Xiang's version. I have heard your brother's song earlier. His version wasn't complete like Xiang Nan's, so the netizens are already starting to take Xiang Nan's side."

Hence, Huo Xiang was in a precarious situation.

Tong Yu believed in Huo Xiang's abilities. Also, it was not in his personality to copy someone else's work. Something must be wrong here. However, he was unable to find evidence, so he felt depressed.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes. "A copycat will always be a copycat."

Tong Yu sighed deeply. "Sigh. I will keep trying to crush the news. We can't let this fester."

Huo Yao turned to look at him. "Thanks for working on it."

Tong Yu waved his hand. "It's nothing. It's my job. Oh yes. Can you find some way to keep it from him for now? I will tell him about it after it dies down a little."

"Sure." Huo Yao nodded. "Call me if you have any updates."

She opened the car door and got off.

After taking two steps, she turned to knock on the car window.

Tong Yu lowered the window and looked at Huo Yao with a raised eyebrow.