

Pill Maker 361

Chapter 361: Clearly Huo Xiang's Style

"Yu, do you have Xiang Nan's phone number?" asked Huo Yao.

Tong Yu was surprised by the question. He nodded. "I do."

"Send it to me. I need it," said Huo Yao.

"Don't tell me you are going to call him?" Tong Yu automatically assumed she wanted to do it.

Huo Yao pursed her lips. "Nope."

Huo Yao probably was not that sort of person, so Tong Yu nodded and agreed. "I'll text you the number later."

"Thanks." Huo Yao nodded before she left.

Tong Yu shook his head helplessly. Why did he tell Huo Yao so much?

It was not like she could help the situation become better.

Tong Yu drove off before long.

After Huo Yao returned to the villa, she washed up and sat down in front of the desk.

She turned on the computer, created a program, and sent it to Xiang Nan's phone and computer.

Then she went to bed.

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The next day, Huo Xiang did not go to the company. He did not put much thought into it when Tong Yu had called him earlier to tell him to take a break today.

Since Huo Xiang was not done producing his new song, he drove back to his villa.

Huo Xiang had professional music equipment at home, which contained all his past creations. He entered his studio and worked on finishing the lyrics for his new song.

Huo Xiang worked until 5:00 pm before he finally finished the song and left with a demo and headed to the company.

He received a call from his little sister while he was on his way to the company.

Huo Xiang put on his bluetooth earphones and said happily, "Hi, Yao."

Huo Yao could detect the happiness in his voice. He clearly had yet to learn about the rumours on the internet. She asked him. "Brother Xiang, are you home or out?"

"I'm heading to the company right now." Huo Xiang glanced at the song by the side.

Huo Yao pressed her forehead. "Why are you going there at this hour?"

"I just finished the song and wanted to take the demo to the company to make some adjustments," said Huo Xiang candidly.

Huo Yao contemplated for two seconds and said, "Have you written a new song?"

"I've been working for it for over half a year, but I suddenly felt inspired and finished it." Huo Xiang was somewhat sad when he brought this up.

Owing to his health, he had abandoned himself to despair for a long time. Now that he had recovered, it was about time he picked up the unfinished work.

"Oh, I'm so curious about your new song. Do I have the honor of listening to it first?" asked Huo Yao.

Huo Xiang laughed out loud as he said, "You are my little sister. Of course, you can be the first to listen to it. But it's just a demo. Why don't you listen to the final version after I am done producing it?"

"It's fine. Even if it's a demo, it's still your work," said Huo Yao with a straight face.

Her words sounded extremely flattering.

Huo Xiang instantly turned the car around. "Sure. I'll let you listen to it first and head to the office another time."

"Great. Come home. I'll wait for you here," replied Huo Yao agreeably.

"Uh huh. Be there in about 20 minutes." Huo Xiang hung up the phone.

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Huo Yao took a look at Xiang Nan's Weibo homepage while she waited for Huo Xiang. She listened to the song which Huo Xiang was accused of stealing, carefully.

Although she had never learned music, she could appreciate the song. Also, she had been listening to Huo Xiang's music a lot lately, so she could tell that this was clearly Huo Xiang's style.

If anyone was guilty of plagiarism, Xiang Nan seemed to be the more likely culprit.

Chapter 362: The Same Song

Huo Xiang arrived home with the tape about 20 minutes later.

Huo Yao did not notice anything amiss with him. She narrowed her eyes slightly and said, "Brother Xiang, you're home."

"Uh huh," replied Huo Xiang softly before he waved a tape in the air. "Here's my new song, but it's not the final product."

"Sure, no problem." Huo Yao put down her phone.

Huo Xiang walked up to the player and placed the tape inside before playing the track.

Very quickly, his acapella singing could be heard. Since it had yet to get tuned, it was the original version.

Huo Yao listened to it quietly. The song and lyrics were almost identical to the version online.

Huo Xiang stood in front of the player and waited for the song to finish before he raised his brow to look at Huo Yao confidently. "What do you think?"

"It's good." Huo Yao nodded. She paused for a second and said, "Play it again."

Huo Xiang smiled even more smugly before he pressed play again.

After listening to it one more time, Huo Yao asked him. "Has anyone else listened to it yet?"

Huo Xiang removed the tape and walked up to sit next to his sister on the couch. "Nope. Only Tong Yi and my bandmates have heard the unfinished version. You are the first to hear the full version."

Huo Yao touched her chin and suddenly asked him. "Is it possible for your work to end up sounding similar to that of other artists'?"

Huo Xiang smiled as he glanced at his little sister and said, "That depends on how you define similarity. If your song is inspired by someone else's music, then they are bound to sound similar in style. However, it's only considered an imitation of the style."

"What if the music and lyrics are exactly the same?" Huo Yao tilted her head sideways.

"That's impossible. Unless someone on the inside stole the work," said Huo Xiang. Then he looked at her quizzically. "Why are you asking this?"

"I see," replied Huo Yao. "I was just randomly asking since I was curious."

"There's no way that my work will sound similar to someone else's music. I'm not bragging here. In the entire music industry, only other people copy me and never the other way round." Huo Xiang raised his chin proudly.

Huo Yao raised her hand and touched his slightly curly hair. "Uh huh. My brother is the best."

She had an indulgent expression on her face.

Huo Xiang: "!"

She was at it again.

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes and crossed her legs lazily. Huo Xiang had just finished the song today. So, where did Xiang Nan obtain the even more complete version of the song from?

If Xiang Nan laid his hands on Huo Xiang's unfinished song and finished producing it, there was bound to be some disparity present. Even if their work was similar, chances of that happening were one in a million, right?

Moreover, the entire song was exactly the same.

Huo Yao's phone vibrated on the side table. She gathered her thoughts and picked it up to glance at it. Then, she took out her earphones and put them on unhurriedly.

She tapped on a small program in her phone. Before long, a conversation between a man and a woman came on.

She had never heard the man's voice before. However, the woman's voice was particularly familiar to her.

Huo Yao rubbed her earphones gently with her fingers and was surprised.

Chapter 363: Security Risks Exist In Your Account

It was none other than Lu Xia's voice.

The audio file was rather short, not more than a minute long. It did not contain anything suspicious. However, it sounded intriguing when Lu Xia said nothing would go wrong.

Nothing would go wrong?

Did it have anything to do with Huo Xiang?

Huo Yao removed her earphones with a dark, gloomy look in her eyes.

"That's odd. Someone tried to hack my Weibo account."

Huo Xiang looked upset as he stared at a notification on his homepage indicating that security risks existed in his account and it had been taken offline.

Huo Yao glanced at Huo Xiang and smiled teasingly. "Don't tell me you have been surfing porn?"

Huo Xiang instantly looked angry. He looked at Huo Yao and said indignantly, "You are attacking my character here."

He turned his head and attempted to sign in again, but it still did not work, so he became even more upset.

"Is it still not working?" Huo Yao raised her brow gently.

"Uh huh. For some reason, I just can't sign in." Huo Xiang scratched his head and held his phone in front of Huo Yao for her to see. "See? It says my account has been compromised."

"The security risks usually get resolved in a day or two. Don't worry. You can sign in then," said Huo Yao calmly.

"Fine." Huo Xiang stopped trying to log into his main account. Instead, he logged in with another password. "Even if I can't sign into my main account, I have a secondary account. I want to see what happened on my main account and find out how it became a security risk."

Huo Yao went speechless. "..."

Huo Xiang entered his password and logged onto Weibo.

Huo Yao pressed her forehead.

Indeed, it was easy to hack a single account, but no one knew how many secondary accounts someone might have.

Huo Xiang saw all the hot searches about his plagiarism when he wanted to look at his main page. He frowned and tapped on one of the hot search entries.

[The man I liked for years turned out to be like this. He debuted using work he stole from his bandmates. That's absolutely shameless.]

[The leader hasn't stepped forward to explain himself. Is it because he is guilty and doesn't dare to face these accusations head-on?]

[I thought the new song had a nice beat to it when it was promoted recently. I can't believe things turned out this way.]

[I think there must be some misunderstanding here. After all, Huo Xiang hummed the new song a few months ago, so we all know its style. It's possible someone is taking the opportunity to slander him.]

[Xiang Nan already has the full version of the song. What kind of misunderstanding could there be?]

Huo Xiang did not continue reading the comments. Instead, he tapped on Xiang Nan's post.

[After working together for four years, I can no longer stand it. If you have any conscience, please stop being a thief.]

A link for an audio file was provided at the end of the post.

Huo Xiang frowned as he tapped on the audio file. The moment he heard the music, his face sank. Three minutes later, his brows were tightly knit.

Xiang Nan's audio file was almost identical to the demo in his hands. Other than cleaning up the background music, his demo was almost complete.

More importantly, he only completed the song an hour ago. However, Xiang Nan already posted it online yesterday.

Since he was certain that he had never heard Xiang Nan's audio file before, where on earth did the song come from?

Chapter 364: Could He See The Future Or Was This Some Odd Twist of Fate?

Huo Xiang recalled how Huo Yao had asked whether there was any chance for melodies to end up sounding similar after listening to his new song earlier.

He raised his head and looked at Huo Yao. "Yao, did you already know about the plagiarism news online?"

Since he was bound to find out sooner or later, it made no sense for Huo Yao to withhold the truth. Hence, she nodded. "I saw it on Weibo last night."

“So you and Tong Yu were talking about what’s going on online.” Huo Xiang instantly understood their actions from the previous night.

No wonder she wanted him to go away when she spoke to Tong Yu.

“Uh huh.” Huo Yao touched her chin.

She tried to come up with various ideas before consoling Huo Xiang. “Brother Xiang, don’t take those online comments to heart and let it ruin your mood. The truth will come to light sooner or later.”

Comforting others was not her strong suit.

Huo Xiang did not know whether to cry or laugh when his little sister tried to offer solace to him. He put down the phone and said, “Things like this have happened before, so it’s not a big deal for me anymore.”

He paused before he said, “In comparison to the fans’ comments, I’m more shocked about how Xiang Nan’s audio file ended up being identical to the version that I just finished writing.”

His bandmates might have already heard the song while he was composing it, but it was still so strange that Xiang Nan’s final product ended up sounding exactly like Huo Xiang’s, even if Xiang Nan wanted to steal his idea.

Could Xiang Nan see the future?

Or did his work end up exactly the same by some odd twist of fate?

The more Huo Xiang thought about it, the weirder it felt to him. He took his phone, and started walking away.

Huo Yao was surprised by how calm her fourth older brother was. She hurriedly asked him. “Brother Xiang, where are you going?”

“I want to ask Xiang Nan about this,” said Huo Xiang without even turning back.

Huo Yao contemplated for two seconds before she stood up. “I’ll come with you.”

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Huo Xiang arrived at Xiang Nan’s estate 30 minutes later.

Huo Xiang’s heart was filled with lament as he stood outside Xiang Nan’s place. They used to often gather here to discuss music and their future. But sadly...

A sense of melancholy swept across Huo Xiang’s eyes before he pressed the doorbell.

Huo Yao did not go inside with him. Instead, she waited in the car.

Before long, the door opened. However, it was Xiang Nan’s assistant who answered the door.

“Hmm? What brings you here, Lucky?” The assistant stood at the door and was clearly surprised by Huo Xiang’s presence.

Huo Xiang raised his head. His eyes swept past the assistant, and he looked inside the house. "I'm looking for Xiang Nan."

The assistant's eyes glinted a little evasively. "Nan isn't here."

Huo Xiang frowned. "I know he's here. Tell him to come out. I have something to say to him."

"Sorry, Lucky. Nan really isn't back yet."

The assistant paused before continuing. "But Nan told me that if you come here to discuss the plagiarism news, all you have to do is to make a sincere apology on Weibo. After all, you are friends."

Huo Xiang suddenly laughed coldly. "He stole my work and played the 'victim card' online. On top of that, he wants my apology. I'm curious as to where he did he find the confidence to do this."

The assistant touched his nose and said ambiguously, "Although I don't believe you would do such a thing, in reality... Sigh. Everyone is sad that it turned out this way."

He was implying that Huo Xiang should just fess up and stop making things difficult for both of them.

"Lucky, please leave? Nan isn't here. He really feels awful about the news spreading online," sighed Xiang Nan's assistant.

Chapter 365: Where Did The Audio File Come From?

Huo Xiang's face looked cold. He said nothing and walked past the assistant to enter the house instead. Xiang Nan had to be in there.

"Hey, Lucky. Hold on..."

The assistant was unable to stop Huo Xiang, so he closed the door and followed behind Huo Xiang.

After entering the living room, Huo Xiang saw Xiang Nan sitting on the couch as anticipated.

"Where did you get the audio file from." Huo Xiang looked at Xiang Nan and cut to the chase.

Xiang Nan was sitting with his legs crossed. He stood up with calm on his gentle-looking face. "It was my creation."

"No one else is here, so don't bother putting on an act. We both know whether you have what it takes to create such a song," said Huo Xiang deeply.

Xiang Nan sneered. "Are you the only person who is capable of creating songs? Lucky, aren't you being a little too unreasonable?"

Xiang Nan abhorred Huo Xiang for acting lofty as though he was the only person capable of songwriting. Even though Xiang Nan possessed great musical talent, he kept getting eclipsed by Huo Xiang.

Huo Xiang looked at Xiang Nan. Despite working together for years, they ended up being complete strangers. He pursed his lips mockingly. "I don't care whether you are capable of making any music or not. All I want to know is where you got that song from!"

Xiang Nan pursed his lips. His face looked cold as he persisted. "I can write music too! You are the one who stole my ideas."

Huo Xiang looked at him quietly. Moments later, he turned to leave without saying a word.

Xiang Nan watched from behind as Huo Xiang left. However, Huo Xiang had left without saying anything. This was simply out of character for him.

Xiang Nan narrowed his eyes as he thought about the audio file's source. He retrieved his phone from his pocket to open his address book and swiped down to Lu Xia's number, whom he had spoken to, an hour ago. He called her.

Before long, he got through.

"Your older brother came knocking at my door and asked about the source of the song," said Xiang Nan immediately.

Lu Xia had already anticipated this and replied in a serene voice. "It's your music. What are you afraid of?"

"I'm very curious about how you obtained this audio file," asked Xiang Nan.

He had asked Lu Xia about this when she first approached him, but she told him nothing. She had only claimed that she could help him make Huo Xiang lose his standing and reputation.

At first, Xiang Nan did not take her seriously. However, he could not help feeling resentful as Huo Xiang's popularity soared, so he posted the song online.

"You don't have to know where it came from. Now that you possess the complete song, there's no way he can talk his way out of this mess since he has no evidence," said Lu Xia unhurriedly.

She paused and said with absolute certainty, "Trust me. Nothing will go wrong."

The slight sense of uneasiness that Xiang Nan felt gradually faded after he heard the confidence in Lu Xia's voice. "I hope you mean it. Or else, you will get implicated as well."

"You don't have to remind me. Stop calling me," said Lu Xia calmly.

"Okay. I'm hanging up now." Xiang Nan acknowledged her perfunctorily before disconnecting the call.

With Lu Xia's assurance, Xiang Nan stopped fretting over it.

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Lu Xia hung up the phone with a cold look in her eyes. At the thought of all the censure that her fourth older brother was going to face, she could not help smiling.

Who told him to despise her? Who told him to treat her with contempt?

Now that his own song undid Huo Xiang, she wondered how on earth he was going to extricate himself from this situation.

Lu Xia's mood lifted gradually. She turned to walk back into the living room but ended up seeing Lu Ziming standing nearby.

Chapter 366: Maybe There Would Be A Surprise Waiting For Him Tomorrow

Lu Xia frowned. She wondered whether her little brother had overheard her conversation. Then again, it did not matter since he did not know what she was talking about.

Lu Xia gathered her thoughts. She headed towards Lu Ziming and asked him. "Why are you standing here?"

"Who were you talking to?" Lu Ziming frowned and looked at Lu Xia.

He had heard his older sister saying nothing would go wrong since someone did not have any evidence.

Lu Xia glanced at him calmly. "It has nothing to do with you. Mind your own business."

This idiot caused her to be utterly embarrassed the last time.

"What are you plotting this time?" asked Lu Ziming bluntly.

Lu Xia's face turned dark. "Lu Ziming, I'm your biological older sister. How can you say this? What do you think of me?"

She simply did not get it. Even though they did not get along in their past lives, things were never this bad.

"You are too scheming and are no sister of mine," scoffed Lu Ziming before he turned to leave.

Lu Xia was in a good mood, but Lu Ziming ruined it instantly.

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After Huo Xiang left Xiang Nan's place and got back into the car, he seemed dejected.

Huo Yao was wearing one earphone and was listening to a conversation. She looked at Huo Xiang and asked him. "Brother Xiang, did you manage to squeeze anything out of him?"

Huo Xiang exhaled deeply and said with a sad smile, "He said nothing. He kept insisting that the song was his creation. I shouldn't have come here."

Huo Yao raised her brow as she listened to the audio from her phone. "That's not true."

If her fourth older brother did not go knocking on Xiang Nan's door, she would not have managed to hear such an interesting conversation.

Huo Xiang was still feeling emotional, so he failed to pay attention to Huo Yao's words. Instead, he said, "I didn't expect Xiang Nan to behave like this. We used to be good friends who shared everything."

Huo Yao removed her earphones. She extended her hand and patted Huo Xiang on his shoulder. "People change. You have to stop being so kindhearted."

Huo Xiang's eyes twitched. Was she trying to console him again?

Why did it sound like she was looking down on him?

Huo Yao leaned lazily into the car seat before she said generously, "Let's go, Brother Xiang. I will buy you dinner to help you recharge your batteries. You should have a good rest tonight. What if there's a surprise waiting for you tomorrow?"

Huo Xiang glanced at his little sister quietly. He felt that their roles had been reversed again.

Who on earth was the little sister and older brother here?!

However, it certainly helped lift his mood a little.

Huo Xiang started the car. After they left the estate, Huo Yao contemplated before giving him an address.

It was for Old Mr. Yi's medicinal cooking restaurant.

Huo Yao recalled Min Yu saying the restaurant was not open to the public and mainly served regulars with reservations, so she texted Old Mr. Yi while she was on her way.

Old Mr. Yi was naturally happy to know that Huo Yao wanted to dine at the restaurant. He even offered to swing by and whip up a couple of dishes for her to sample. However, Huo Yao turned him down.

Huo Yao was genuinely afraid of these old geezers. They either wanted to take her in as their disciple or become her students. She was starting to get a little tired of turning them down.

Twenty minutes later, the car pulled up outside Old Mr. Yi's medicinal dish restaurant.

Chapter 367: Old Mr. Yi's Discount Card

Huo Xiang walked up to the entrance after parking the car. He was rather surprised looking around. "This place looks pretty charming."

It was decorated in a traditional Chinese style and was called a Chinese medicinal dish restaurant. The place had an old world feel to it.

Huo Yao raised her brow. "They specialize in making medicinal dishes, and the food tastes good."

"It's my first time hearing of such food. Since they are medicinal dishes, do they contain Chinese herbs?" asked Huo Xiang curiously.

"Uh huh. Medicinal dishes are very healthy. Let's go in." Huo Yao led him in as she spoke.

Huo Xiang looked around. He was worried that someone might recognize him.

However, he realized his concerns were redundant after he went in. A screen segregated each table, and it was not very crowded inside.

The waiter had already received a call from Old Mr. Yi, informing him of Huo Yao's arrival, so he politely led them to a private room.

The waiter handed the menu to Huo Yao. An odd expression emerged on her face after she looked at the price of the food. Huo Yao retrieved an identity nameplate from her bag and showed it to the waiter. "I have a discount card. How much discount can I get?"

Old Mr. Yi had insisted that she take it the last time. Fortunately, she took it, or else she would have ended up throwing away a lot of money today.

Every dish on the menu cost a bomb!!

The moment the waiter caught sight of the card and heard her words, he was stunned. He parted his lips but did not know what to say.

It was the first time that someone mistook Old Mr. Yi's identity nameplate to be a discount card. What would Old Mr. Yi think if he caught wind of this?

Moreover, would she need to spend a dime since she had this card?

The supervisor happened to catch sight of the scene while he was standing outside the private room. He shook his head speechlessly.

He could not understand why Old Mr. Yi would give his identity name plate to this young lass, since she clearly did not know the importance of it.

The supervisor was none other than the bloke who had been with Old Mr. Yi when Huo Yao previously visited the restaurant. He believed that Old Mr. Yi had overreacted by treating her

like a VIP after she managed to identify two ingredients in his dishes randomly.

Old Mr. Yi had rung him a while ago to take care of Huo Yao. However, he felt reluctant to serve her when he learned that it was the little lass who came here previously. Hence, he arranged for one of their waiters to serve Huo Yao upon her arrival.

He felt that Old Mr. Yi must be going senile when he caught sight of how cheap and clueless the young lady was.

The supervisor left the private room and headed to the kitchen instead.

Since Little Master Yi was here to hone his cooking skills today, he would rather spend his time teaching him.

After the waiter composed himself, he hurriedly explained to Huo Yao. "This isn't a discount card. You can visit any of Old Mr. Yi's restaurants without prior reservation and dine at no charge if you have this."

Huo Yao's eyes instantly lit up. "So that's what the card is for? No one said anything when they gave it to me."

The waiter smiled awkwardly. Of course, all Huo Yao had to do was present her card.

Huo Xiang almost wanted to cover his face when his little sister asked about getting a discount. It was not like they could not afford to dine here, but his little sister had asked for a concession blatantly...

Was his little sister so frugal because his parents did not give her any money?

Huo Xiang lowered his head and retrieved his wallet from his pocket.

Chapter 368: He Was Swiftly Losing His Status As The Older Sibling

Huo Xiang opened his wallet to take out a card and placed it in front of his little sister. "Use this card. Don't be shy."

Just as Huo Yao was about to pass the menu to Huo Xiang, she saw the card before her.

Huo Yao raised her head and looked at him with question marks plastered all over her face.

Huo Xiang coughed. "Just tell me if you need money."

Huo Yao's lips twitched hard.

Did she look broke?

It was just a matter of principle that she wanted to save money, ok!

Huo Yao pressed her forehead before she said helplessly, "I don't need the card."

She ignored him and went on to order four dishes and a soup before returning the menu to the waiter.

Huo Xiang lamented in his heart when his little sister refused to accept his card. If it were Lu Xia, she would have happily taken it without hesitation and gone on a wild shopping spree.

Huo Yao knew nothing about the thoughts buzzing in Huo Xiang's head. She could not help shaking her head slightly when she saw how silly he looked.

She had no idea how someone as foolish as Huo Xiang could end up being a top celebrity.

Did he get lucky or something?

"Brother Xiang, you can take off your mask. Since this place is extremely private, you don't have to worry about getting recognized," said Huo Yao when she noticed that Huo Xiang was still wearing his mask.

Huo Xiang realized that he had yet to remove his mask.

He placed his mask in his shirt pocket. He asked Huo Yao curiously. "How did you find out about a place like this? Who is Old Mr. Yi that the waiter was talking about?"

"A friend of mine recommended it. Thanks to my friend, the restaurant owner even gave me a discount card. That's all," replied Huo Yao simply.

Huo Xiang touched his nose. Judging from the waiter's attitude, they did not seem to be serving them with such care simply because of the card. However, it was true that the place was quiet and secluded.

"Try some of their pastries. They are good." Huo Yao pointed at the pastry on the table.

Huo Xiang wanted to say no, considering how sweet it looked. However, he placed a piece in his mouth and said after he sampled it, "It's pretty tasty."

“Have more if you like it.” Huo Yao smiled gently.

Before long, the waiter placed the dishes on the table. The soup was not ready yet, so he only sent in four dishes and left.

“The food looks to be easily digestible,” commented Huo Xiang.

“Medicinal dishes are mostly Cantonese food, and they tend to be light on the stomach. However, they are highly nutritious. Such dishes work best for people like you who sing all the time,” said Huo Yao as she placed some food in his bowl.

Huo Xiang sighed in his heart when he caught sight of Huo Yao’s actions.

It felt as though he was no longer the older sibling again.

He lowered his head and decided to eat quietly.

Yi Lianfan poured the soup into a bowl when it was ready. The waiter wanted to take the tray, but Yi Lianfan stopped him.

“Let me send the soup in,” said Yi Lianfan calmly.

He took a day off each week to learn how to cook at the restaurant. Each time he cooked, he would check with the customers about the taste of the food and try to perfect his skills.

The supervisor frowned as he stood beside Yi Lianfan.

Even though Little Master was here to practice cooking, the soup was intended for Huo Yao’s private room. The moment the supervisor recalled how she had criticized Old Mr. Yi, he was worried about the rude things that she might say this time. He hastily said, “Little Master, don’t trouble yourself in sending this bowl of soup. Why don’t you continue cooking?”

Yi Lianfan removed the gloves from his hands and said without looking up, “It’s fine. I can continue cooking after sending the soup in.”

Chapter 369: Why Did This Guy Seem So Close To His Little Sister?

The supervisor sighed gently when he failed to stop Yi Lianfan from going inside the private room, so he followed behind.

Yi Lianfan entered the private room with the tray. The moment he caught sight of Huo Yao, he was stunned.

He did not expect to see her here.

Huo Yao was equally surprised to see Yi Lianfan.

Yi Lianfan went up to the table and placed the soup on it. “It’s such a coincidence, Huo Yao.”

He glanced at Huo Xiang and found him to be somewhat familiar but could not put his finger on where he had seen him before.

Huo Yao raised her brow. Yi Lianfan shared the same surname with Old Mr. Yi, so she promptly said, "Are you Old Mr. Yi's grandson?"

Yi Lianfan was shocked. "Do you know Grandpa?"

"I've met him a couple of times," replied Huo Yao with a nod.

The supervisor glanced at Huo Yao quietly. Old Mr. Yi had given her his identity nameplate. How could she say it so casually that they had only met only a couple of times.

Yi Lianfan suddenly recalled seeing a familiar silhouette when he went back to the old Yi residence. He instantly said in shock, "You went to Grandpa's place for dinner recently, right?"

"Uh huh. Just once." Huo Yao nodded her head. However, she did not encounter Yi Lianfan at that time.

Yi Lianfan just knew it.

A look of enlightenment emerged on his face. Yi Lianfan was rather curious about how Huo Yao became acquainted with his grandfather, considering his nitpicking ways.

Huo Xiang raised his head after being overlooked by the guy. He scanned Yi Lianfan up and down with a cool look on his striking face. He turned to look at his little sister. "Are you classmates?"

"Uh huh. We are in the same level, but not the same class," replied Huo Yao softly.

Huo Xiang narrowed his eyes. The same level, but not the same class. Then why did this dude seem so close to his little sister?

Was the boy harboring evil intentions because of how pretty his little sister was?

Yi Lianfan found Huo Xiang's confrontational looks to be somewhat baffling.

"I made the soup. Can you try it and let me know where I can improve?" continued Yi Lianfan after narrowing his eyes and composing himself.

Huo Yao was shocked. "I'm surprised that you can make medicinal dishes."

After all, he was so young and did not appear like he was a chef.

"Our family heritage must go on." Yi Lianfan shrugged.

Sure. That was understandable.

Huo Yao picked up her bowl and scooped some soup for herself. Just as she was about to sample it, her fourth older brother handed her an empty bowl.

She glanced at him sideways.

Huo Xiang straightened his body. "Give me a bowl of soup."

Huo Yao put down her bowl and scooped some for him, too.

Huo Xiang took the bowl satisfactorily. He took a sip and turned to look at Yi Lianfan. "Do you want to hear the truth?"

Yi Lianfan was caught by surprise before he nodded.

“It’s really so-so. The smell of medicinal herbs is too strong. It feels as though I just drank a huge bowl of Chinese medicine, and my mouth is full of herbs,” remarked Huo Xiang as he shook his head.

His face was clearly saying: Bad review!

Huo Yao picked up the bowl and took a sip before glancing at Huo Xiang threateningly. Then she looked at Yi Lianfan and said, “My older brother is just saying nonsense. He doesn’t know a thing about cooking.”

Huo Xiang was flabbergasted. “...”

Oh no. His little sister was helping an outsider.

Yi Lianfan smiled. He did not seem hurt by the bad review Huo Xiang had just given him.

“The soup is pretty good. Its texture will be better if you put fewer lotus seeds,” commented Huo Yao.

Since she had ordered a common nourishing soup, it was not as demanding as Old Mr. Yi’s other recipes, which needed a lot of care in terms of pairing of Chinese herbs.

Chapter 370: The Top Student Ended Up Being A Chef?

Yi Lianfan recalled how he felt the soup could be smoother when he had sampled it earlier. She was spot on that he had added too many lotus seeds.

“I will take note,” replied Yi Lianfan.

Huo Yao nodded her head. She glanced at the dishes on the table and asked him. “Were you the one who made all these dishes?”

“Uh huh. How did they taste?” asked Yi Lianfan again.

Huo Yao gave him a thumbs up. “You are a talented chef.”

Even though these were common dishes and the amount of herbs required were already standardized, each chef’s cooking tasted different. Yi Lianfan’s food had a great texture.

Huo Xiang pursed his lips sulkily. What talent? Was it not just cooking?

He conveniently forgot that he had found them to be delicious when he ate them earlier.

Yi Lianfan looked proud as usual. Among his generation in his clan, he was already the most talented chef, so he was naturally pleased to hear Huo Yao’s comments.

After all, Huo Yao already defeated him academically, so he had to possess some other skills to uphold his image.

“I will leave you in peace to enjoy your dinner,” said Yi Lianfan.

After he left, Huo Xiang looked at his sister. "This guy seems rather proud."

Huo Yao glanced at him. "He's the top student in the entire level. Of course, he is arrogant."

Huo Xiang was instantly flabbergasted. "Even though he is at the top, he ended up being a chef?"

Absolutely mind-boggling.

"You shouldn't judge someone because of their work." Huo Yao lowered her head and ate the soup.

Huo Xiang touched his nose. "Why do you keep defending him?"

"Weren't you the one who kept targeting him?" Huo Yao raised her head and looked at her fourth older brother helplessly.

Huo Xiang looked away guiltily. "No one's targeting him. I was just stating facts."

Huo Yao said nothing. The more she spoke, the touchier Huo Xiang would become.

Shortly after Yi Lianfan returned to the kitchen, the supervisor beside him could not help saying, "This young lady had said that your grandfather's new dishes were flawed the last time she came."

Yi Lianfan picked up the chopper, but it froze in mid-air as he looked at the supervisor and asked him in surprise. "Do you mean she sampled Grandpa's new dishes?"

The supervisor thought Yi Lianfan found it absurd when he noticed the shock on Yi Lianfan's face. He nodded and continued. "Exactly. Everyone else thought it was perfect, but she kept finding fault with it."

Yi Lianfan recalled his grandfather's need for perfectionism and asked. "Was Grandpa very happy when she said it?"

The supervisor nodded. He even told Yi Lianfan about how Old Mr. Yi gave Huo Yao an identity nameplate.

Yi Lianfan was shocked before he swiftly comprehended what happened. He glanced at the supervisor and could tell that he was biased against Huo Yao. Yi Lianfan smiled and said, "It seems you don't have a keen grasp of my grandfather's personality yet."

Despite Huo Yao's finding fault in the soup, her suggestions made a lot of sense, so his respect for her went up by a level.

From the looks of it, Huo Yao had knowledge of Chinese medicine. Or else, his grandfather would not have invited her to his home to eat.

Yi Lianfan could not help feeling somewhat defeated at the thought.

He was just thinking about how he could not let her surpass him in other areas. But look what happened?

Yi Lianfan could not outshine her. Instead, it was clear that he had to come to terms with the disparity between them.