

## Pill Maker 371

### Chapter 371: The Truth You've Been Waiting For

Huo Yao and Huo Xiang left Old Mr. Yi's restaurant after dinner. By the time they reached home, it was already past 10:00 pm.

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan had already retired to their room.

Only Huo Tingrui sat in the living room. The moment he saw them, he looked at them with a distinct look of resentment. "About time you came back."

He sounded very angry.

Huo Yao glanced at him coolly.

Huo Tingrui was flabbergasted. "!"

How dare she give him attitude when she was the one who came home late?

"Brother Tingrui, we simply went out for dinner," explained Huo Xiang.

Huo Tingrui scoffed sarcastically. "Does our home food taste bad?"

Huo Xiang said nothing. Based on his observation, he had a keen grasp of Huo Tingrui's sense of dark humor and how he would secretly sabotage others when he became jealous.

"Oh yes. Xiang, what's going on online?" Huo Tingrui stopped arguing, and a solemn look emerged on his sophisticated face.

Huo Xiang pursed his lips gently before he explained in a calm voice. "Someone slandered me."

Huo Yao poured herself a glass of water. She leaned against the kitchen cabinet with her eyes narrowed.

Huo Tingrui frowned and said, "I already told someone to draft a legal notice, so don't worry."

Since he knew his little brother best. It was sheer nonsense that he would steal his bandmate's work.

"Thanks, Brother Tingrui."

Huo Tingrui waved his hand and asked him. "How did your song land up in his hands in the first place? Did your assistant betray you?"

Huo Xiang thought about the complete audio file that Xiang Nan had in his possession and the preliminary demo which he made just this afternoon. He suddenly exhaled deeply and said, "Nope. The song is still in my hands."

Huo Tingrui was puzzled. "Then, where did the online version come from?"

Huo Xiang shook his head. "I don't know, either. In reality, I only completed the song this afternoon, and no one was there at that time. However, the audio file Xiang Nan posted online yesterday is almost identical. It's simply mind-boggling."

Huo Tingrui frowned. "Do you mean he happened to compose an identical song?"

"Maybe. Or else, there's no way to explain why both songs are the same." Although Huo Xiang found it inconceivable, it was the truth.

"If they are identical, things might get tougher. But it doesn't matter since a fake is a fake." Huo Tingrui had never lost a case before.

If they sent the song for professional appraisal and took it apart for analysis, they were bound to find some loophole.

The process simply needed more time.

"I'm certain that Xiang Nan is incapable of writing my song. Even if he possessed the unfinished version of the song, it's impossible for it to end up identical to mine," said Huo Xiang firmly.

Since everyone's songwriting style was different, it could not be easily imitated.

Huo Tingrui nodded. "I trust you."

Huo Yao listened to them quietly. After she finished drinking water, she stood up and said, "Brother Tingrui, Brother Xiang, have an early night. I'm going upstairs."

Huo Yao went back to her bedroom.

She turned on her laptop and typed on the keyboard rapidly. A few minutes later, Huo Yao closed her laptop. She stood up to retrieve her pajamas from her closet and walked into the bathroom.

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A post entitled, 'Here Is the Truth You Have Been Waiting For', flooded all online platforms to become the top search late at night. The servers were paralyzed, and network engineers were pulled out of their beds in the middle of the night to restore them.

## **Chapter 372: Weibo Exploded**

The article, 'Here Is the Truth You Have Been Waiting For', was posted by a Weibo user called 'You Lose If You Get Serious'. No other Weibo activity existed for the account since it was created today.

It was clearly a secondary Weibo account.

The contents of the post were short and sweet. It contained only a single audio file with Xiang Nan and Lu Xia tagged on it right at the end.

The audio file contained the conversation Lu Xia and Xiang Nan shared over the phone.

"Your older brother came knocking on my door and asked where the song came from."

"It's your music. What are you afraid of?"

"I'm very curious about how you obtained this audio file."

"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."

...

The recording was clear and did not contain any noise, so Lu Xia and Xiang Nan's voices could be easily recognized.

All the netizens went into a furor after they finished listening to the conversation. It was simply mind-blowing when they heard Xiang Nan mention Lu Xia's older brother.

[Oh god! Lu Xia is Lucky's little sister? Did she steal her older brother's music and gave it to someone else to ruin him?]

[It's simply stupefying that the little sister sabotaged her older brother!]

[Hold on. Lucky Charm appeared on the entertainment program with his little sister. If Lu Xia is his little sister, doesn't it mean the girl on the program was Lu Xia? But she doesn't seem like Lu Xia to me.]

[They clearly have a different aura. The girl on the entertainment program was cool. But look at how lame and pretentious Lu Xia is. If they were both Lucky Charm's little sisters, why did they end up being poles apart?]

[I used to think that Lu Xia was pretty cool. Not only was she kind, but she was also a straight-A student from one of the top schools. After hearing this recording, I can only say no one is as fake as her!]

[I think Lu Xia definitely knows Lucky Charm. She must have been upset that Lucky Charm appeared on the live stream program with his little sister and not her, so she stole his new track and gave it to Xiang Nan out of spite.]

[She is such an evil woman!]

[Xiang Nan is as vile as Lu Xia. He stole his captain's song and accused him of plagiarism. It is absolutely shameless!]

[We should diss both these bitches. They are disgusting. They took us for a ride.]

...

The comments on Lu Xia and Xiang Nan's Weibo homepages exploded instantly.

Xiang Nan was in the studio writing music, so his phone was on silent mode. Despite the countless calls that his agent and assistant made, he heard nothing.

When he opened the studio door, he was surprised to see his agent, Jin Xuyuan, standing at the entrance. Xiang Nan removed his earphones unhurriedly. "Xuyuan, what brings you here at this hour?"

Xiang Nan noticed something amiss with his agent's expression, and an ominous feeling instantly rose in his heart. "Did something happen?"

Jin Xuyuan walked closer to Xiang Nan and looked at him with a cold and solemn expression. "Haven't you checked Weibo?"

Xiang Nan was stunned. He replied quickly. "Nope. I was writing music, so my phone was on silent mode."

"Then, look at it now." Jin Xuyuan's voice was devoid of any warmth. God knew how he felt when he heard the audio file on Weibo.

At first, he thought that his artiste was just a little cocky. But, he turned out to be such a dunce. First, he stole Huo Xiang's song. Then someone listened in on his conversation and recorded it.

### **Chapter 373: An Apology Post And Pushing The Blame On Lu Xia**

Xiang Nan picked up his phone from the table under Jin Xuyuan's cold stares. He tapped on Weibo and accessed the new post which he was tagged to.

The instant Xiang Nan heard the audio file, he felt the earth shift under his feet. The phone slipped from his hand and fell on the table with a clang.

Four words flashed in his head: He was done for!

Jin Xuyuan pressed his forehead. "Why were you so stupid? Don't you know that some things can't be shared over the phone?"

Xiang Nan's face was ghastly pale. "I-I-I didn't realize. I wasn't thinking."

"To think I kept supporting you. You have destroyed your career with your own hands by doing this," said Jin Xuyuan with a grimace.

Xiang Nan staggered back. He grabbed Jin Xuyuan's arm anxiously and said, "I didn't know things would end up like this. You must help me..."

Jin Xuyuan yanked his arm from Xiang Nan's grasp. "Did you bother to tell me before you posted the audio file online yesterday? Don't you have the brains to know whether it was the right move?"

"I was misled by Lucky's sister. She had promised me that nothing would go wrong," muttered Xiang Nan.

Jin Xuyuan scoffed. "Promised? How could she guarantee anything? She was clearly exploiting you to ruin Huo Xiang. Can't you see? You were cannon fodder for her."

Xiang Nan wiped his face. He was at a complete loss. His mind kept buzzing nonstop.

If he knew things would end up this way, he would never have posted the song online recklessly.

Jin Xuyuan could not help sighing when he saw how desperate Xiang Nan looked. He had been Xiang Nan's agent from the start, so after a beat, he said, "Xiang Nan, you were too anxious. I have told you earlier as well. You will become the leader of Phenom sooner or later. I told you to be patient. How could you lose your cool like this?"

Xiang Nan parted his lips. "I..."

Xiang Nan felt jealous, angry, and anxious when he saw Huo Xiang's popularity rise sharply after appearing on the program. Hence, he wanted to see Huo Xiang lose his standing and reputation. But could he say this openly?

Xiang Nan could not tell Jin Xuyuan about it. Or else, Jin Xuyuan would think he was narrow minded.

Jin Xuyuan shook his head as he rubbed his forehead somewhat powerlessly. In a decisive voice, he said, "You will post a public apology online now and push all the blame onto Lu Xia."

He had listened to the audio file carefully and looked at the comments on Weibo. Although Xiang Nan's fans had scolded him badly, most of the netizens blamed Lu Xia. Hence, Xiang Nan could only push the liability on Lu Xia.

Even if Xiang Nan's image could not be whitewashed right away, there was plenty of time for that. Scandals like this erupted in the entertainment industry all the time. After a few new ones would surface, this would become old news, and no one would care about it anymore.

Although Xiang Nan was eager for quick success, he had some talent, so all was not lost. It was just a pity Jin Xuyuan could no longer do the things that he had planned for Xiang Nan previously.

Jin Xuyuan felt awfully annoyed just thinking about it.

On hearing what his agent said, Xiang Nan instantly realized that Jin Xuyuan had not given up on him. Hence, he instantly pulled himself together. "I will post an apology now."

"Remember to make it clear that you were misled by her. You must emphasize you are also a victim," reminded Jin Xuyuan.

Xiang Nan glanced at Jin Xuyuan as coldness swept across his eyes. "Got it."

Since Lu Xia did not think twice before sabotaging him, he certainly would not let her have it easy.

## **Chapter 374: Getting Blacklisted And Boycotted Online**

Lu Xia's phone rang frantically after she went to bed.

Lu Xia frowned and opened her groggy eyes. She picked up the phone from her bedside table to see that it was from her agent. She looked at it quizzically before she answered the phone.

"Brother Tian?"

Her agent said angrily over the phone, "Xiaxia, are you nuts? Why did you steal your brother's new track and gave it to Xiang Nan?"

Lu Xia was instantly shocked to hear this. "Brother Tian, what are you talking about? What do you mean I stole his new song?"

Her agent rubbed his forehead and said furiously, "Go and check Weibo. Your conversation with Xiang Nan was recorded and leaked online. You have gone viral on Weibo and are hogging the headlines thanks to this audacious stunt you pulled."

Brother Tian hung up the moment he finished his sentence.

Initially, Brother Tian had thought that his artiste was smart, but she ended up being such a brainless girl. He was genuinely blind!

He was highly suspicious about whether Lu Xia and Huo Xiang were actually siblings. Would Lu Xia have wrecked his career if they were?

Lu Xia went into a daze for two seconds as she listened to the dial tone before she opened Weibo.

Out of the ten hot searches on Weibo, eight of them were about her and Xiang Nan.

Lu Xia tapped on the post, 'Here Is the Truth You Have Been Waiting For'. She went into a state of shock after she heard the audio recording.

Someone had tapped her conversation with Xiang Nan.

Lu Xia was stupefied. After listening to the recording, she called her agent. However, he did not pick up the phone.

"How did it get recorded?" muttered Lu Xia to herself. Everything was okay till last night. Her ex-sibling hid like a coward and did not dare to explain himself.

How could this recording have gone viral in a matter of hours?

It must have been Xiang Nan. Other than him, no one else could have recorded it.

Lu Xia anxiously called Xiang Nan. However, she kept receiving an automated reply saying his phone was not within the service area.

Xiang Nan had blacklisted her.

Lu Xia swiped through Weibo and saw the apology that Xiang Nan had just posted.

Xiang Nan asserted his innocence in the post. He claimed to be duped by Lu Xia. As per him, she was the scheming and wicked mastermind behind everything. He had pushed all the blame on her.

Lu Xia bit her lip in disbelief.

She could not believe Xiang Nan did that.

She checked her private messages and the comments on her Weibo homepage. Everyone was dissing her and saying that she ought to get blackballed.

Lu Xia sat limply in bed, without any color on her face. Her hands were trembling. She felt as though something was choking her, and she had trouble breathing.

How did things end up like this?

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She remained sleepless all night.

Xiang Nan had put the entire responsibility on Lu Xia, and her agent refused to answer her calls. Lu Xia headed downstairs, looking weary and feeling terribly upset.

However, He Xiaoman walked over angrily the moment Lu Xia reached the living room and gave her a resounding slap before Lu Xia could even greet her.

“Just look at what you’ve done! Your scandal is all over the internet.” He Xiaoman was furious.

She had received phone calls from some rich women, whom she was not particularly close to when she woke up this morning. The first thing they mentioned was the reprehensible act that her lovely daughter had committed.

Their blatant mockery left her utterly embarrassed.

Lu Xia covered her face. She looked at her biological mother in disbelief.

She was being boycotted and blacklisted all over the internet, but her mother did not show even a bit of concern. Instead, she slapped her as though Lu Xia had committed some heinous crime.

### **Chapter 375: What Has It Got To Do With Me Since You Were The One Who Did It?**

“I spent so much effort in grooming you. How could you disgrace the Lu family in such a manner? How could you have done this to me?” said He Xiaoman disappointedly with a livid look on her face.

Lu Xia pursed her lips gently. “What have I done? I’m a victim here. Mom, couldn’t you have at least asked before you started scolding me?”

Lu Ziming walked over and shook his head. “I just knew that something was amiss when I heard you say that nothing would go wrong on the phone last night. You were genuinely scheming something.”

Lu Xia glanced at Lu Ziming coldly. She was certain now that her little brother had something to do with the huge temper her mother was throwing at her.

He Xiaoman’s voice came from behind. “I wouldn’t have slapped you if I didn’t already know what happened. Your conversation has been posted online. What else is there to explain? You have utterly disgraced the family. What do you have to say for yourself?”

Lu Xia pressed her lips together and clenched her fists tightly. She had started talking about their reputation again. It was always about reputation!

Nothing was more important than their reputation to her mother.

“If you believe that the news spreading online is true, why bother asking me about it?” asked Lu Xia with a gentle laugh.

“What’s with your attitude?” He Xiaoman frowned.

Lu Xia said nothing and kept her eyes lowered. A palm print could be seen on her cheek. Her face had been pale to begin with, but now she looked even more pitiful.

He Xiaoman looked at Lu Xia quietly for a moment. She did not go on scolding her and merely waved her hand and said, “Enough. Tell your agent to suppress the news asap. Don’t let it affect our family name.”

She did not want her employees gossiping about how scheming her daughter was when she went to work.

He Xiaoman turned to leave the room.

Lu Xia looked at He Xiaoman's cruel, receding back. Her eyes became increasingly cold before she veered them away. Then, her gaze landed on Lu Ziming's face. "Are you happy now?"

Lu Ziming frowned. "You were the one who did it. What has it got to do with me?"

Would such a scandal happen if Lu Xia did not keep trying to create trouble?

Lu Xia glanced at Lu Ziming expressionlessly before she headed out of the door.

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Huo Xiang woke up to see a lot of missed calls from Tong Yu. He called his agent back quizzically.

The phone got through before long.

"Yu? Why did you call last night?"

Tong Yu was sitting in front of the computer. He looked energetic despite not having slept a wink all night. "Have you seen Weibo recently?"

Huo Xiang instantly knew what he was talking about and said, "I know about what happened on Weibo."

Tong Yu raised his brow. "Oh, do you already know?" He thought that Huo Xiang went to bed last night without seeing the new post.

Huo Xiang walked up to the French windows and opened the curtains. "Uh huh. Brother Tingrui has already drafted a letter."

"You're right. We do need to send Xiang Nan a legal notice. First, he accused you of plagiarism. Now he is making a public apology and claiming that he was misled. He is so hypocritical for trying to portray himself as a victim. It is simply disgusting."

Tong Yu paused before he said, "Tsk tsk. If apologies were any good, we would have no use for lawyers."

"Uh huh. So, I don't want to... No, wait. Yu, what apology are you talking about?" asked Huo Xiang in confusion.

What apology?

What did he say about being misled?

It sounded as though they were talking about completely different matters.

### **Chapter 376: Suddenly Gave Him The Creeps**

"Xiang Nan's apology." Tong Yu scratched his disheveled hair. "What did you think I was talking about? Didn't you say you have initiated the legal process?"

"Huh? Xiang Nan's apology? Why would he apologize?" Huo Xiang was completely lost.

"You didn't check Weibo last night, right?" asked Tong Yu in surprise.



"Nope. I slept early," replied Huo Xiang.

Tong Yu finally realized why Huo Xiang was reacting the way that he was. So, he went ahead and explained it to him. "Xiang Nan confessed that your little sister instigated him to do this. She stole your song and gave it to him, which means that the mastermind trying to ruin your reputation online was none other than your little sister."

He added after two seconds. "Don't get confused. I'm talking about your foster sister, Lu Xia."

Huo Xiang frowned instinctively. "Do you mean Lu Xia was the one who gave my track to Xiang Nan?"

"Uh huh." Tong Yu leaned back into his chair. He crossed his legs and said, "Didn't you sever ties with your foster sister? How did your song end up in her hands?"

"She didn't steal my song," said Huo Xiang after going quiet for a long time.

Although he had no love for his foster sister, it was not in his nature to malign her.

"How can that be? Go check out the number one post on Weibo. It contains a recording where Lu Xia has confessed to the theft," said Tong Yu.

He assumed that Huo Xiang was trying to be nice to Lu Xia.

Huo Xiang frowned even harder. "Let me listen to it first."

"Sure. Swing by the office later. We have to settle things with Xiang Nan," said Tong Yu.

"Okay."

Huo Xiang hung up the phone. He pulled out the chair and sat down in front of his computer before accessing Weibo.

He found the post that Tong Yu had been talking about.

After listening to the audio clip, Huo Xiang went into a complete shock.

Lu Xia was really the person who gave the new song to Xiang Nan.

But??? How did she come to possess the song if he had finished composing after her leaking it?

Huo Xiang suddenly got the creeps. He gingerly touched the goosebumps on his arm.

He shook his head and quickly went through Weibo to check Xiang Nan's apology. His lips stretched into a cold smirk.

If Xiang Nan had candidly confessed to his crime, it would show that he still had some conscience. However, he pushed all blame onto Lu Xia. It was clear that Xiang Nan was immoral since he ruthlessly severed ties and blamed Lu Xia for everything.

Huo Xiang put away his phone before he cleaned up and headed downstairs.

Everyone was in the dining room having breakfast.

Huo Xiang walked over and sat down.

He was preoccupied with the events that had transpired on Weibo and seemed particularly distracted during breakfast. He tried to pick up a bun twice but dropped it on the table.

Huo Yao picked up the soya bean milk and took a sip before looking sideways at him. "Brother Xiang?"

Huo Xiang was jolted into attention when he heard his little sister's voice. He gathered his thoughts and hurriedly nodded. "Yes, Yao?"

"Look at how distracted you are," said Huo Yao nonchalantly.

Huo Xiang squeezed his chopsticks with his hand. He looked up at his parents as they sat across them. It did not seem like the right time to talk about Lu Xia since they were in front of them, so he shook his head and said, "I didn't sleep well."

### **Chapter 377: It's Her Nature**

Huo Yao raised her brow without exposing him. She stood up after finishing the last sip of soya bean milk. "I'm done."

Huo Jinyan stood up since he was done eating as well. "Let's go. I'll send you to school."

The two of them left home before long.

Song Ning went back to her room to wash up and change.

Only Huo Tingrui and Huo Xiang remained at the dining table.

Huo Xiang raised his head to look at his second older brother and said, "Brother Tingrui, someone posted an audio recording on Weibo last night and cleared my name."

Huo Tingrui had not seen Weibo, so he was surprised to hear this. "What recording?"

He pulled out his phone and opened the application.

A complicated expression emerged on Huo Tingrui's face when he heard the audio file. He did not think his ex-little sister was capable of pulling this off.

Although he was displeased when Lu Xia could not wait to leave the Huo family, he thought she was doing it out of vanity because of how rich her biological family was. Hence, he let it go eventually.

Huo Tingrui did not expect her to be so wicked that she would seek revenge on them by attacking Huo Xiang's reputation and future. If this recording did not surface, things would not have fallen to Huo Xiang's advantage. Even if Huo Tingrui managed to defend his little brother in court, nothing could have been done to undo the damage already inflicted on him.

This was no longer simply a question of being pretentious or willful but a matter of character.

"I can't believe she ended up like this," sighed Huo Tingrui.

Huo Xiang knew whom his second older brother was referring to. He replied somewhat expressionlessly. "It's in her nature."

It was in his foster sister's nature to destroy things that she could not possess.

"What do you plan to do?" Huo Tingrui raised his brow and glanced at Huo Xiang.

Huo Xiang put down his half-eaten breakfast. Moments later, he said, "Everyone has to be held accountable for their actions. She ought to have considered the consequences before she did it."

"Okay," said Huo Tingrui quietly before he continued. "I think we should send this audio file to Brother Yanxi."

Huo Xiang knew what he was driving at. After all, Huo Yanxi had always been close to Lu Xia. If Lu Xia convinced Huo Yanxi to help her again, it would certainly affect the atmosphere at home.

"I'll swing by his office later," said Huo Xiang.

"Uh huh." Huo Tingrui paused before he said, "Since Mom and Dad don't look at Weibo, there's no need to tell them about this."

If they found out the daughter whom they doted on for over ten years ended up framing their loved ones, that would be quite heartbreaking for them.

Huo Xiang nodded before he lowered his head and went quiet.

Forget it. They still had to figure out how Lu Xia came into possession of his song. Maybe they could tell their parents after they found out about it.

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News about Lu Xia framing Lucky exploded online last night, so most of the students were talking about it at school.

Since Meng Ying was the only person in class who knew Huo Yao was Lucky's biological little sister, Meng Ying did not let Huo Yao off.

"How did your brother's song end up in Lu Xia's hands?" After listening to the recording, Meng Ying could not help finding Lu Xia's words odd. Hence, she kept thinking about this.

Huo Yao glanced at her and smiled ambiguously as she shrugged. "Supernatural powers?"

Meng Ying's lips twitched. "Sister Big Shot, please treat my question seriously."

### **Chapter 378: Huo Yao, Do You Have Two Mothers?**

Huo Yao sat up straight. "Do I look like I'm patronizing you?"

Meng Ying glared at her. Huo Yao sure as hell was patronizing her!

"I don't know either." Huo Yao shrugged.

"Fine. I seriously used to think Lu Xia was pretentious, but I didn't imagine that she would be so evil. She stole your brother's track, gave it to someone else, and accused him of plagiarism."

Meng Ying tutted before she continued. "Fortunately, the recording got posted online. Otherwise, there's no way your brother could have cleared his name. I wonder who on earth it was. How could he have managed to obtain a recording like this?"

Huo Yao raised her brow and said proudly, "Maybe this god is right under your nose."

Meng Ying smiled without taking Huo Yao seriously. She went on to say, "Sister Big Shot, you should pray to this god. After all, his recording saved your brother's career."

Huo Yao looked at her quietly without talking.

"Lu Xia didn't come to school today. I reckon she is too embarrassed to come anymore after this scandal hit the roof. She really asked for it," sighed Meng Ying.

Huo Yao contemplated. Given her personality, Lu Xia was certainly embarrassed but not enough to skip school.

The last period in the afternoon was self-study.

Huo Yao was doing revision when her homeroom teacher asked to see her.

After they left the classroom, Chen Yu asked, "Huo Yao, I have a question. Do you have two mothers?"

Huo Yao looked puzzled. "Huh?"

Since Chen Yu had seen Song Ning before, she found it strange when another woman claimed to be Huo Yao's mother. Hence, she told the woman to wait at the office while she checked with Huo Yao.

Chen Yu coughed before saying, "A woman claiming to be your mother came looking for me. She goes by the name He."

Huo Yao instantly realized who it was. She said with a calm expression, "She is my foster mother."

Chen Yu noticed the cold look on Huo Yao's face and said, "She's in my office now. Do you want to see her?"

Huo Yao contemplated for two seconds and nodded.

He Xiaoman must be here because of what happened to Lu Xia. Even if Huo Yao refused to see her, He Xiaoman would make other excuses and come knocking on her door. Hence, Huo Yao might as well deal with it once and for all.

Before long, Huo Yao followed Chen Yu to her office.

Chen Yu let Huo Yao into her office before going next door and told Huo Yao to look her up if anything went wrong.

Huo Yao thanked Chen Yu before entering the office.

He Xiaoman was sitting on a chair. Her superbly made-up face seemed particularly elegant and her perfume wafted throughout the office. When Huo Yao turned up, she looked at her coldly.

Huo Yao looked at her and cut to the chase. "Yes?"

He Xiaoman frowned when she detected the complete lack of respect in Huo Yao's tone. She stood up and said coldly, "Aren't you even going to call me Mom?"

Huo Yao pursed her lips and looked at her teasingly. "Madam He, you must have a poor memory. Have you forgotten the bitter fallout we had at the hospital?"

He Xiaoman had not foreseen such blatant arrogance from Huo Yao. Her face instantly sank. "You rude child!"

### **Chapter 379: It Seems You Want To Do It The Hard Way!**

Huo Yao crossed her arms and stood where she was with a glacial look in her amorous eyes. He Xiaoman's indifferent and proud demeanor weakened immediately.

He Xiaoman clutched her purse before giving her a disdainful look. She cleared her throat. "Let me get to the point. An audio recording of Xiaxia's conversation with someone went online simply because she was used. Go back and tell your brother that this matter ends here. Don't go too far and make it difficult for all of us."

She only learned today that one of the Huo family's sons was a celebrity. Judging from the pretty boy's garish pictures online, he did not seem like a serious artiste.

"Are you dreaming or something?" said Huo Yao nonchalantly.

He Xiaoman did not care about her foster daughter's attitude. She straightened her curly hair and replied calmly. "You should think about it carefully for the sake of your older brother's career."

She was starting to throw up blatant threats.

Huo Yao looked at her quietly.

He Xiaoman glanced at her before she continued. "Oh yes. Your parents are just regular office employees, right? If your brother is willing to post an announcement online to clarify matters, I can let those parents of yours work at a subsidiary office of ours. As for their salary, it will definitely beat what they make now."

Although that couple had pretended that they did not give a hoot about the cheque she offered them, most probably they had been insatiably greedy and expected more.

Huo Yao recalled how her lovely parents kept transferring tens of thousands to her randomly and the so-called unlimited black card, which she had yet to touch...

She asked the arrogant woman in front of her. "How much can Lu Corp pay?"

A proud look appeared on He Xiaoman's face instantly. She pondered for a few seconds and said, "\$5..."

Huo Yao raised her brow. "\$50 000?"

He Xiaoman was about to say \$5000 but went speechless. "..."

Huo Yao rubbed her chin before she added in a scornful voice. "That isn't much."

After all, her old man was capable of buying a luxury car worth tens of millions with his so-called quarterly bonus.

Hence, \$50 000 did not sound like much.

He Xiaoman laughed angrily. "\$50 000? Do you think my business is some charity?"

A \$5000 paycheck for a normal employee was already a generous sum. How could she dream of getting \$50 000?

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes. "You can't even afford to pay \$50 000. What kind of business are you operating?"

He Xiaoman felt as though something was choking her when she heard Huo Yao's statement. A long while later, she inhaled deeply and said, "Think about it carefully. Your brother's future and your parents' jobs are on the line..."

Huo Yao raised her hand. "Sorry. Threats don't work on me."

"It seems you want to do it the hard way!" He Xiaoman lost all her patience.

Huo Yao nodded and said airily, "I'm super scared."

He Xiaoman frowned and stammered. "You..."

Chen Yu was anxious as she waited next door. She felt instinctively that Huo Yao's foster mother was not a very nice person, so she walked out worriedly.

The moment she reached the door, she heard her student saying she was scared.

Chen Yu's face instantly sank. Huo Yao was always such a good kid that every family would love to have her. How could her foster mother threaten her?

This was too much.

Chen Yu walked into the office and interrupted sternly. "Madam, please don't hold her up any longer since she has classes to attend."

### **Chapter 380: If She Isn't Coming To School, She Should Apply For Suspension**

He Xiaoman frowned when Chen Yu interrupted her. She looked up at Chen Yu and caught sight of her solemn expression. Despite her displeasure, she did not want to lose her cool in front of an outsider, so she glanced at her foster daughter and left without saying a word.

After He Xiaoman left, the stern look on Chen Yu's face disappeared. She walked up to Huo Yao and patted her shoulder as she comforted her. "Huo Yao, don't be scared. You are in school now, so your foster mother wouldn't dare to try anything funny."

Huo Yao looked at Chen Yu. Her lips twitched when she noticed how protective this small and weak Chen Yu was being towards her.

She nodded her head obediently. "Thanks, Miss Chen."

"Don't mention it. If you have any problems, just let me know." Chen Yu looked at her with her maternal love swelling inside.

It was too bad she had a son. If she had such a pretty daughter, she would laugh even in her sleep.

Huo Yao only smiled.

Chen Yu raised her hand to check her watch. "School's almost over. Why don't you head back?"

"Okay."

The school bell rang shortly after Huo Yao got back to class. She packed the half-done test papers that the teacher handed out today before leaving with Meng Ying unhurriedly.

Huo Yao received a text message from her mother after she walked down the classroom block.

Her mother was picking her up today but had yet to arrive due to a traffic jam, so she told her to wait at the school gate.

\*

After He Xiaoman left Chen Yu's office, she headed over to Wei Mingzhe's.

"Lu Xia didn't come to school today." Wei Mingzhe sat at his desk with a pen in hand and marked homework without even looking up.

Ever since the National Quiz Contest, Wei Mingzhe was removed as the Rocket Class homeroom teacher and even lost his title as an outstanding teacher. Hence, he gave He Xiaoman a particularly cold attitude.

Would he have ended up being a laughing stock amongst the teachers if not for all the trouble that the Lu family caused?

He Xiaoman detected Wei Mingzhe's coldness and assumed that he was merely busy. When she heard her daughter did not attend school today, she could not help frowning and ask him. "Didn't she come to school?"

Wei Mingzhe pursed his lips. "No, she didn't. If she doesn't want to come for classes, you should apply for temporary suspension."

He Xiaoman glanced at him. "Mr. Wei, don't you find it inappropriate to speak like this, considering you are her homeroom teacher?"

In any case, her daughter was among the top students in the level. But judging from his attitude, he looked like he could not wait for her daughter to leave the school.

Wei Mingzhe's hand froze. He put down his pen and looked up before he said expressionlessly, "Thanks to the Lu family, I am no longer the Rocket Class homeroom teacher."

He Xiaoman had not paid much attention to the events surrounding the National Quiz Contest. She was startled by his reaction and promptly assumed he was giving her an attitude because of the audio recording online. Hence, she said, "Erm... my daughter was a victim."

Wei Mingzhe sneered coldly in his heart. A victim?

She framed someone and pretended she was innocent. Some kind of victim that was.

He pressed his forehead. This entire family surprisingly lacked morality.

Wei Mingzhe did not want to talk to He Xiaoman any longer, so he said impatiently, "Sorry. I'm busy, so I don't have time to chat."

He was clearly telling her to make herself scarce.

The atmosphere became incredibly awkward. He Xiaoman glanced at Wei Mingzhe as he immersed himself into correcting the homework books. Her expression remained frozen as she left angrily without saying anything.