

Pill Maker 41

Chapter 41: Dispirited Grandma

Huo Jinyan immediately began to counter his wife's words with logical reasoning. "I suggest that you give up on this idea. The day our daughter came back, you consciously distanced yourself from Xiaxia. You even told her to start calling you Aunt Song. Are you under the impression that Xiaxia was not hurt by your words?"

Song Ning produced a weak smile.

She said, "I was mad at Xiaxia that day. She knew that Yaoyao had just come back from the countryside and she deliberately rubbed that in Yaoyao's face. If there were other people around, they would belittle Yaoyao because of this. Yaoyao would have been the one upset if I hadn't used those harsh words on Xiaxia. Don't you think?"

Taking a deep breath, Song Ning continued. "Xiaxia grew up in our family. Though she is not our biological kid, I have always treated her as my child. Do you think that I am happy to see her sad?"

She treasured both the girls but Song Ning could not deny that she cared more about her biological daughter. That was the power of a blood bond.

Besides, Song Ning had raised Lu Xia for 17 years and never treated Lu Xia unfairly. On the other hand, Song Ning's biological daughter, Huo Yao had supposedly been raised by a wealthy family. But the truth was that she was abandoned and sent to that remote county by the Lu Family.

It was her grandmother who took care of Huo Yao since childhood. As a result, Huo Yao became a stay-at-home child, who grew up in a harsh environment. How lonely Huo Yao must have been when she was a kid!

Every time these thoughts came to her mind, Song Ning would feel her heart ache for her daughter. Now that her biological daughter had come back, Song Ning wanted to try her best to make up for the years gone by.

Song Ning felt herself sinking into a swirl of guilt. Huo Jinyan put his arm around her shoulders and comforted her in a gentle voice. "Yaoyao is a good kid. Everyone likes her and Yanxi will, as well. Give it some time."

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It was Sunday. Huo Yao bought some presents before her visit to Yang Qiuhua.

Yang Qiuhua was living in an apartment for the elderly in the downtown area. The community had a nice environment. Without schools or large shopping malls around, this community was quiet and suitable for the elderly.

He Xiaoman was a mean and pretentious person. But, she did treat her mom well.

Before Huo Yao reached the place, she called up Yang Qiuhua and informed her about her visit. Soon after she rang the doorbell, the door was opened.

Yang Qiuhua teared up when she saw Huo Yao. Hurriedly, she asked Huo Yao to come inside.

The apartment was spacious and the decoration was of good quality as well. The place had all the necessary appliances, yet somehow, it seemed lonely.

Huo Yao took all of this in a glance. Her grandma was busy, getting her fruit and water. She was so ill at ease as if she were the kid here.

“Grandma, take a rest. Come, sit down and talk to me.”

Yang Qiuhua sat on the sofa and rested her eyes on Huo Yao. After a long time, she finally began to talk. “You look good. I can tell that your parents are treating you well.”

Huo Yao smiled and replied. “Yes, indeed. They wanted to visit you along with me. But I refused, in case it would be an intrusion.”

Yang Qiuhua nodded and said, “Maybe another day. Ask them to come and visit when time permits. Today, I just want to have a good chat with you.”

Even Yang Qiuhua’s wrinkles were brimming with happiness at this moment. However, the dark circles under her eyes were more pronounced and she appeared to be low on spirits.

Huo Yao grabbed her hand and put her finger on Yang Qiuhua’s wrist. “Have you been having trouble sleeping?”

Afraid that Huo Yao would be worried, Yang Qiuhua said hastily, “No. I have been sleeping just fine.”

As a matter of fact, ever since Yang Qiuhua arrived here, she was facing trouble falling asleep, every night.

Huo Yao asked her another question right after. “Have you been taking your medicine on time?”

Chapter 42: Scared Of Her

Yang Qiuhua nodded without hesitation, like a student answering the teacher’s question. “Yes. I didn’t forget what you had told me. I have been taking them regularly and haven’t missed the dose even once.”

Huo Yao took her finger back. “Do you still have the incense that I gave you?”

“Yes... I use some every night.” When Yang Qiuhua answered this question, she was visibly hesitant.

Huo Yao grinned wickedly. “If you had, you wouldn’t have experienced palpitations and insomnia.”

Yang Qiuhua lowered her head at once. It was some time before she continued. “Actually when I moved here, I forgot to bring the incense with me.”

A dark glint arose in Huo Yao’s eyes. But she still sounded composed and asked in a casual voice. “Is that so?”

Every time Yang Qiuhua saw her granddaughter speaking in a serious tone, her heart would start to race. Still, Yang Qiuhua worked up the courage to say, “Yes. I am not lying to you.”

Huo Yao smiled. She did not refute it even though Yang Qihua was visibly hiding something. She got up and stood behind Yang Qihua. She began to rub her grandmother's head with her long, slim fingers. "Relax. Let me give you a message."

Yang Qihua wanted to say that she didn't need to do this. However, she held herself back when she saw the expressions on Huo Yao's face.

Yang Qihua didn't know when it happened but now she felt a bit afraid of her granddaughter when the latter was serious. Yang Qihua felt like she could never hide anything from her granddaughter ever.

Yang Qihua was the senior. However, somehow, she felt like she was the kid in this relationship.

Half an hour later, Huo Yao stopped the massage and asked her gently. "How do you feel?"

Yang Qihua opened her eyes. Embarrassed, she answered with a smile. "It was so comfortable that I fell asleep."

Then, she turned to look at Huo Yao's hands. "You were doing this for such a long time. You must be tired by now."

Huo Yao picked up the cup kept on the side table and sipped some water from it. "Not really. I will get you some incense the next time I come."

"Sure." Yang Qihua nodded happily.

Incense was not what she desired. She was just happy that her granddaughter would come again to see her.

Yang Qihua felt much better today. She talked for a bit with Huo Yao, and then went to the kitchen.

"I bought your favorite things today. We have ribs and yellow croakers. I will go and cook them. Just hang in the living room for now. We will have lunch soon..."

Huo Yao gazed at her grandma as she went on and on. Huo Yao's mind began to wander to the past. This was just like when they lived in the small county city.

Huo Yao had nothing to do, so she walked around the room and then went to the kitchen. She leaned against the door frame and watched as her grandma prepared lunch.

Out of the blue, the doorbell rang.

Since Yang Qihua was still cooking, she told Huo Yao to get the door. It could be the guy delivering bottled water.

Huo Yao opened the door and saw a few people standing outside. She was not particularly surprised.

"What are you doing here?"

It was He Xiaoman and Lu Xia at the door, with a Lu Family butler who was carrying several boxes of foods and medicines of highly nutritious value.

He Xiaoman pulled a long face, the moment she saw Huo Yao.

But Huo Yao only spared a casual glance in her direction. She turned around and went into the apartment without even greeting He Xiaoman.

“So rude!” He Xiaoman snorted.

Lu Xia didn’t expect to meet Huo Yao here, either. She calmed He Xiaoman down whose mood had turned sour. “Mom, relax. Let’s go inside.”

Yang Qiuhua turned the gas to a simmer and came out of the kitchen. “Yaoyao, is it the water guy...”

She wasn’t able to finish her sentence when she saw He Xiaoman. The smile froze on her face.

Chapter 43: Grandma Thrashing People

Yang Qiuhua couldn’t help it and blurted out, unhappily. “What are you doing here today?”

Then, as if she had just seen Lu Xia, she added. “Oh, Lu Xia is here as well.”

She gave them a perfunctory welcome.

Lu Xia’s face clouded immediately but she still greeted the old lady with a smile.

“Why can’t I be here? Are you trying to say that Xiaxia and I are the outsiders and should not be here?” He Xiaoman was so angry at her mom that she almost burst into a cackle.

Yang Qiuhua mumbled under her breath. “You should have called before you came here.”

If she knew that He Xiaoman would stop by with Lu Xia today, she wouldn’t have asked Yaoyao to come.

“Xiaxia bought so many presents for you. Why can’t you treat her better? Mom, you cannot pick sides like this!”

He Xiaoman was convinced that Huo Yao must have cast some spell over Yang Qiuhua. She was so cold to her biological granddaughter while she liked the fake granddaughter, tremendously. What was her problem?

“Did you ever treat Yaoyao well?” Yang Qiuhua retorted.

He Xiaoman put her hand over her forehead. “Never mind. I don’t want to argue with you. I just want you to be impartial. That is all what I wish for.”

Yang Qiuhua couldn’t take it anymore and fully mobilized her dissing abilities. “Who wants to argue with you? It is you who came like you wanted to interrogate me. You have spoiled my good mood.”

He Xiaoman’s face turned pale. Seeing this, Lu Xia hurried over to Yang Qiuhua and smiled. “Mom, didn’t you buy a set of jadeite jewelry for grandma? Let’s take it out no, please.”

Lu Xia directed the butler to bring the box. She held Yang Qiuhua’s arm with a bright smile and said, “Grandma, let’s sit down. Why don’t you try on this jewelry and see if you like it. ”

With Lu Xia as the smooth talker, Yang Qiuhua’s sullen mood eased out quite a bit. She didn’t resist when Lu Xia took her to sit down on the sofa.

However, she didn’t extend her hand to try on the jadeite bracelet which Lu Xia had brought out.

She didn't think twice before refusing it and saying, "I am too old for these things and I didn't like them to begin with. Put it back in the box."

Lu Xia's outstretched hand paused in mid-air. She could not force the bracelet on her grandma now that she sounded so determined. Embarrassed, Lu Xia put the jewelry back in the box.

Soon, Yang Qiuhua shifted her gaze to Huo Yao who was sitting on a recliner, playing with her phone. The look in Yang Qiuhua's eyes softened. She said, "Yaoyao, take a look. Do you like this?"

Huo Yao was startled by the sudden reference to her. She looked up and blinked in a daze.

Immediately, He Xiaoman turned hopping mad. She came over and said, "Mom, she is a student. She cannot wear jadeite jewelry!"

Yang Qiuhua curled her lips and replied. "She may not be able to wear it now, but I can give the set to Yaoyao's biological mom!"

He Xiaoman glared at her. "Mom, are you losing your mind? Do you know how much I spent on the jadeite?"

Yang Qiuhua stared back at her. "Weren't you giving these things to me as a gift?"

She was implying that she could give the jewelry to whoever she wanted, since it was hers.

"I gave it to you as a gift, but you are not supposed to hand the set out to other people!"

He Xiaoman took a deep breath to refrain herself from flying into a rage.

Yang Qiuhua was about to refute it when Lu Xia beat her to it. She darted a glance at Huo Yao and said, "Grandma, my mom specifically picked out this jewelry for you, and the price is quite high. It is not appropriate for you to give this to other people as a gift. How about this? I will go to the mall to pick out another present for Yaoyao to take back with her. "

Chapter 44: Is Three Hundred Thousand Enough?

He Xiaoman knew that Lu Xia was trying to give her a way out. However, it was against her will to spend any money to buy a gift for that bumpkin girl of the Huo Family.

He Xiaoman sneered and turned her gaze towards Huo Yao. "Taking advantage of a kind old lady to get money out of her, is your ultimate goal, isn't it?"

Huo Yao raised her eyes to meet her eyes. The casual expression remained undeterred on her tender face. She was least affected by what was happening around.

He Xiaoman frowned as she went on venting her frustration at the girl. "You can tell me directly if you want money. Do you think it is nice to dupe an old lady?"

Yang Qiuhua was afraid that Huo Yao would be upset by these mean words and scolded her daughter at once. "Xiaoman, how dare you say such things?"

He Xiaoman's face shrunk at her mother leaping to the girl's defence. She scowled and said, "Mom, stay out of this."

Then, He Xiaoman strode over and peered at Huo Yao who was still sitting comfortably on the recliner. "Tell me. How much money do you need? Do you want one hundred thousand, two hundred thousand? I believe three hundred thousand will be enough for your family to live well for a few years, right?"

Huo Yao raised her eyebrows and gave a malicious smile in return. She was leaning against the recliner chair lazily, and was not intimidated by He Xiaoman's aggressive manner at all. She tucked her loose hair behind her ear before standing up slowly.

"Only three hundred thousand? I thought that you were going to offer me at least thirty million. This means that you don't value this enough whether I have fooled your mom or not."

Huo Yao's voice was gentle, and she did not even try to hide the disappointment in her tone.

He Xiaoman felt that Huo Yao was spitting out nonsense. A sharp burst of angry laughter came out of her mouth. "Hmm, thirty million? I do admire your imagination."

But Huo Yao looked at her as if she were staring at a fool. "You mean you cannot even afford thirty million? If it were me, I would be too ashamed to say the words which you just uttered. Terrible!"

He Xiaoman's blood boiled with rage. Huo Yao was supposed to be a country bumpkin. When did she become such a sharp contrarian?

Huo Yao was not in the mood to waste any more time with He Xiaoman. She turned to Yang Qihua and said with regret, "I am sorry Grandmother, but I cannot spend the rest of the day with you."

Yang Qihua knew that Huo Yao was not willing to hang on but she wanted Huo Yao to stay. However, given He Xiaoman's attitude, Yang Qihua understood that she could not persuade Huo Yao to do so.

Never mind.

Yang Qihua heaved a sigh and produced a forced smile. "It's okay. Another time. And, don't let He Xiaoman's words bother you."

Huo Yao nodded and left from there.

As soon as Huo Yao was gone, He Xiaoman snorted. "Mom, you cannot let her come here from now on. Look at how arrogant she is. She didn't treat me with any respect!"

Yang Qihua was really annoyed by her daughter's nagging. She stood up without saying anything, went to the kitchen, and turned off the stove.

She stared at the vegetables in a daze, which she had prepared lovingly for Huo Yao. Eventually, Yang Qihua wiped a few tears from her eyes and stepped out of the kitchen. She paid no heed to He Xiaoman and Lu Xia, who were still in the living room. She went to her bedroom and slammed the door shut.

He Xiaoman was taken aback by her behaviour. After a few seconds, she began to complain. "What is she doing? What is she angry about?"

Lu Xia looked at the closed door and whispered. "Maybe grandma just likes Huo Yao too much."

He Xiaoman was in a terrible mood. “How stupid she is to not be able to differentiate between fish eyes and pearls!”

Chapter 45: Unidentified People?

Huo Yao left her grandma’s apartment, hailed a cab, and went back to the Huo Family.

After she arrived, she saw some shiny and formal male shoes by the door. Were her parents entertaining guests?

She thought for a few seconds and then put the house keys back in her bag. Hua Yao turned towards the elevator, and pushed the button. Since the elevator was still on this floor, the door opened at once, and Huo Yao went back in.

Reaching the ground floor, she took a seat on the bench kept outside. Her looks were spectacularly eye-catching and whoever went by her, even kids, could not stop sneaking repeated glances at her.

Huo Yao was wearing a hooded sweatshirt. To avoid becoming the center of attention, she put on the hood and took out her phone. Soon, no more people would stare at her.

Huo Yao played several rounds of a multiplayer online battle arena game which she had downloaded some time ago. She logged off from the game after a while because the game was not challenging enough. Suddenly, she remembered a certain someone and opened her WeChat.

She only had a few friends on WeChat. She browsed through the contact list and unblocked the person nicknamed [Y] whom she had once found annoying. She sent a message to that person after thinking for a bit.

Medicine Pill: [Be careful in the near future. Do not go out if you don’t have to.]

That person must be online right now because the moment her message was sent, Y had typed many replies already.

Y: [OMG, finally, the big shot has remembered me.]

Y: [You have no idea what I went through recently. I was in hell!]

Y: [I am always hungry, and I don’t have enough clothes to wear. I had to stay on my knees in the ancestral hall. So exhausting.]

Y: [Please, can you help me get out of here? I miss the air outside.]

Medicine Pill: [... You must not be worn out enough if you still have so much energy left to type these many words.]

Y: [???? Are you serious?]

Medicine Pill: [Logging off now.]

Y: [Hold on. What did you mean by telling me to be careful? Can you be a bit more specific?]

However, when the last message was sent, the reply that Y received was a red exclamation mark with the words, “Message delivery failed. Message delivery denied.”

Y: [???] #!

Again the same message.

Y: [(ΩΔΩ)] #!

And again, the message delivery had failed, and been denied!

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Huo Yao logged out of her WeChat. She looked up and saw a few bulky men in identical black suits stepping out of the lobby. The person leading the group carried a silver color, coded case.

These people looked like a bunch of hooligans who had just finished collecting their fees. They walked in an orderly array and created a vibe that warned everyone to stay away. The residents in the neighborhood walking by looked wary of them.

Huo Yao squinted, and by chance, she happened to notice their shining shoes. How intriguing.

But the men failed to notice Huo Yao. They headed straight to the garage from the lobby. They knew the way well, so they must be familiar with the neighborhood, and must have come often.

Huo Yao frowned. After those men were out of her sight, she stood up. She thought for a bit, and then went back to the building. Getting inside the elevator, she went home.

When she exited the elevator, she saw that those shining black leather shoes were gone from outside her house's door.

Huo Yao made sure that she had wiped off the questions from her face before she took out her keys and opened the door.

Chapter 46: Debt

Song Ning was tidying up some cartons in the living room when Huo Yao's unexpected coming back startled her. The account book slipped off from her hand and fell to the ground.

Song Ning's face froze in genuine surprise. She quickly picked up the accounts book and stuffed it into one of the cartons and said, "Yaoyao... why are you back so soon? Didn't you say you were going to spend the day with Grandma Yang?"

Huo Jinyan was wearing glasses and holding a calculator. He looked at his watch and asked Huo Jinyan in confusion, as well. "Honey, you've only been out for a couple of hours. Did you forget something?"

Huo Yao gave a fleeting glance towards the paper carton placed in front of Song Ning and replied with a straight face as if she had not noticed anything out of place. "Grandma Yang had visitors, so I came back."

Song Ning answered. "Oh, I see..."

"Then you haven't had lunch yet, right? Your dad and I didn't know that you were coming home for lunch, so I haven't cooked anything yet. Wait a moment. I am going to clean this up and make lunch." Song Ning added quickly.

Having said so, Song Ning placed a few accounting books into the carton quickly, along with her husband's calculator.

"Put those things back in our bedroom. I'll go and cook lunch." Song Ning said to Huo Jinyan.

"Right away." Huo Jinyan replied as he put down his glasses.

He picked up the cartons, and went upstairs.

Huo Yao stared at his back, for a moment, in wonder. Then, Huo Yao followed Song Ning to the kitchen.

She helped Song Ning trim some vegetables and, at the same time, asked a seemingly random question. "Did you have any guests over today?"

Song Ning shook her head. "Nope. Why do you ask?" Did her daughter run into their accountants? Song Ning thought to herself.

Huo Yao kept her eyes down, and replied in a calm tone. "I saw some clean slippers in the shoe cabinet just now."

There was nothing out of the ordinary in her voice.

Song Ning's hand trembled slightly. "I cleaned the shoe cabinet this morning. Your dad interrupted me in the middle of it. I might have forgotten to put those extra slippers back because of that." She explained, smilingly.

"Mm." Huo Yao said. A few seconds later, she brought up another topic. "Mom, I met a group of guys dressed in dark suits, downstairs."

Again, Song Ning's hand trembled. She was about to give another explanation when she heard Huo Yao's voice, one more time.

Huo Yao looked at Song Ning with a solemn look and said, "Those people looked fierce and violent, the kind of people who give threatening calls. Mom, do we owe someone money?"

Song Ning felt guilty in her heart and shook her head in negative. "No, we don't owe anyone money!"

After a pause, she asked in a quiet voice. "The people whom you mentioned, do they really look scary?"

"Yes. They don't look like good people." Huo Yao gave an honest answer.

Song Ning was going to say, "They are just our company's accountants, not someone pressing us for money."

But she swallowed back those words after Huo Yao's reaction.

Indeed, her husband was right. The people from their company had a terrifying look. Song Ning believed that Huo Yao would be scared even if she were to tell her that they were simply accountants. Maybe, Huo Yao would even wonder if her parents were running some illegal business.

No. I cannot let Huo Yao find out the truth.

Song Ning made up her mind in that minute. Her countenance betrayed nothing unusual as she said, “I think probably someone living on this floor has borrowed money from a loan shark. Remember to avoid those people next time when you see them.”

Huo Yao turned around to look at Song Ning. Huo Yao’s long eyelashes cast a faint shadow over her eyelids, hiding her expressions. She didn’t ask any more questions and pulled out the last batch of the vegetables from the basket.

Chapter 47: Be Careful Not To Scare Her

After lunch, Huo Yao went back to her room, leaving Song Ning and Huo Jinyan in the dining room by themselves.

Song Ning remained seated at the table, delaying the washing of utensils. She stayed there so that she could tell her husband about her conversation with her daughter which happened earlier in the kitchen.

“I think our daughter believes that we owe people money.” Song Ning rested her elbow on the table, looking worried.

Huo Yao hadn’t pressed her with too many questions post that. Nevertheless, Song Ning instinctively believed that Huo Yao must have misread some signs.

Huo Jinyan looked at her and asked. “Is it really that bad? She just happened to run into our accountants downstairs.”

Song Ning shook her head. “No, that’s not it. Her first question for me was if we had any guests over today.”

“I think you are overthinking this. She might have just asked those questions casually. Besides, I don’t think Yaoyao is an overly sensitive girl.” Huo Jinyan was still taking it casually.

“I certainly hope so.” Song Ning heaved a sigh.

All of a sudden, her eyes began to sparkle and she proposed a new idea. “How about we give her another bank card? That way, she will not misunderstand that we owe people money.”

Huo Jinyan actually found this to be feasible. But he suddenly remembered something and said, “She has not used the black card that I gave her last time, even once.”

Song Ning raised her eyebrows but then replied with a shrug. “That is not a problem. I can just withdraw some cash for her.”

“Cash won’t work, either. That day, when I was driving her to school, I wanted to withdraw some cash on our way. But she told me that all young people nowadays use phones to pay their bills. Cash is not convenient.” Huo Jinyan shook his head and vetoed this idea.

“Well... how about we transfer some money to her on WeChat? Right! Why did I forget about WeChat?” Song Ning tapped her head. She hurried up and went to the living room to get her phone.

She had befriended Huo Yao on WeChat a long time ago. Soon, she found Huo Yao's name on the contact list and clicked on the 'transfer' button while discussing with her husband. "How much do you think I should give to Yaoyao? Half a million? A million?"

Huo Jinyin frowned and shook his head. "Don't be so over the top. You will scare her."

After all, the Huo Family had always been abiding by the rule of maintaining a low-key appearance and staying away from ostentatiousness. Not even Lu Xia knew about the actual wealth of the family. It was her belief that the Huo Family was merely an average one.

Of course, had Lu Xia been observant enough, she would have noticed that nothing in the Huo Family was average.

Song Ning rolled her eyes at her husband. "Why didn't you think of keeping a low profile when you gave her the black card the other day?"

Huo Jinyan cleared his throat and pretended that he didn't hear his wife's question.

Song Ning thought for a bit and proposed. "How about I give her a hundred thousand? That is low-key enough, right?"

Huo Jinyan agreed. "Sure."

Song Ning typed in the amount which she was about to transfer. She clicked on 'Confirm' and saw a message popping out about the transfer limit.

"Are you kidding me? I cannot transfer so much money at one time." Song Ning's face became clouded.

What kind of crappy restriction was this? This was going to sabotage her effort to remove her daughter's misunderstanding. It was very important that Huo Yao should not get a wrong impression of her family.

Huo Jinyan stroked his eyebrow and said, "How about you give her ten thousand every day? In this way, our daughter can receive pocket money on a daily basis. She will be much happier. Don't you think?"

Song Ning nodded and confirmed the new transfer amount while saying, "Yes. That is a good idea. I believe that this will bring me closer to my daughter."

When Huo Jinyan heard his wife's thoughts about growing closer, it got him thinking. Without saying anything, he took out his phone as well.

Chapter 48: Two Large Transfers Of Money

Huo Yao was in the midst of pulling out her suitcase, which she had brought back from the county, from the closet when she heard her phone chime.

But she didn't go and check her phone immediately. Instead, she took her time to open her suitcase and dug out a long, rectangular box from it.

The box contained incense sticks as long as the length of one's finger. There weren't too many left in the box, but they should be enough to last Grandma Yang a month or two. Huo Yao closed the box and put it on the desk.

At that time, she heard the notification of her WeChat again.

She only picked up her phone after she had placed the suitcase back into the closet. Surprised, she saw two messages informing her of money transfers.

She unlocked her phone and opened WeChat.

The two transfers were from her mom and dad, who were currently sitting downstairs. They had sent identical sums of 10,000 yuan respectively, which was quite a lot.

Huo Yao rubbed her forehead. Her parent's actions befuddled her. She held her phone and spent a long time thinking about something. Eventually, she sent her parents two question marks instead of accepting the transfer.

Soon, Ms. Song, which was Song Ning's WeChat name, sent a message: [Honey, this is your allowance for next week. Come on, accept it. Kisses~ Mommy loves you~]

Huo Yao stared at her mother's reply, silently.

A few seconds later, she wrote back: [... I still have money.]

Ms. Song: [No problem, just take it. It's from mommy. There is no harm for a girl to have a bit more money.]

Ms. Song: [Honey, if you don't take it, I will have no other choice but to buy you more clothes with this money!]

Huo Yao looked at the closet full of clothes, still in mint condition. Her mouth twitched. She clicked the button to accept the money, immediately.

At the same time, she saw a message from her father, as well.

I Am Huo Yuanjia: [Honey, last time you told me that cash was not convenient to use. Hence, I went to the bank to activate my online banking account. I have just added that to my WeChat. Come on and accept this money.]

Huo Yao was speechless.

I would have believed you if the story was a little more authentic sounding.

Soon, she began to type her reply.

Medicine Pill: [If I don't accept it, you are going to give me the money in another way, aren't you?]

I Am Huo Yuanjia: [Wow, baby, you are so smart!]

Medicine Pill: [... Alright.]

Therefore, Huo Yao received two large sums of money, despite still being puzzled about the reason for it. As a matter of fact, in the following days to come, she would receive her parents' transfers regularly and forcefully, which they referred to as, 'allowance'.

Huo Yao ended her conversation with both of them and turned around to face her desk. After a few seconds, she pulled up a number from the contact list and made a call.

Soon, the call went through, and she heard a deep and refreshing male voice. “Kid, to what do I owe the pleasure of this call?”

Huo Yao curled her lips at the word ‘kid’. However, since she was going to ask him for something, she didn’t bother to correct the nickname. “Are you busy? I need some help.”

Min Yu waved his hand to stop his men from continuing with their reports. He leaned against the chair and went on. “Do tell. What do you need me to do?”

Huo Yao did not beat around the bush and came straight to the point. “Help me send something to Grandma Yang.”

Min Yu initially thought she had encountered something grave but her demand was unexpected.

Min Yu didn’t say anything for a while which Huo Yao interpreted as that he was unwilling to help out. “Never mind. I know you are busy.”

Saying so, she was ready to hang up.

Chapter 49: Do You Trust Me?

“Listen, kid, you need to work on your patience limit.” Min Yu seemed to have sighed in between his comment. His gentle voice brushed past her ears like a breeze.

Huo Yao moved her finger away from the call disconnect button on the phone. She rolled her eyes and asked again. “So, are you going to help me?”

Min Yu grinned. “Are you in a rush?”

Huo Yao thought about it and gave him an honest answer. “Not really. But, if you have time today, it’ll be the best.”

“Sure. Text me the address. I will send someone to pick it up.”

“Thank you. I’ll send you the location later. ”

Huo Yao ended the call as soon as she finished speaking. She opened up her WeChat and found the contact number of the ‘neighbor boy’. Without any hesitation, she sent the location of her community to him.

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Min Yu received Huo Yao’s message, and replied with an ‘OK’. He looked up and saw his subordinates who were standing not far away from him. Every one of them looked shocked.

Min Yu squinted and the kind expression on his face faded away, instantly. “That will be all for today. Dismissed.”

His voice was cold.

So cold that his subordinates trembled. Quaking with fear, those subordinates looked away and hurried out without making any sound.

Zhuo Yun was the last to leave, and Min Yu stopped him.

“Zhuo Yun, I need you to pick something up.”

Zhuo Yun halted, and gazed at his boss in silence for a few seconds. Post that, he asked, with extreme caution. “Picking something up from Huo Yao?”

Min Yu twirled his phone and answered. “Mm.”

The look on Zhuo Yun’s face was complicated. Nonetheless, no matter how many questions he had, he couldn’t dare ask even one of them. He nodded as a reply and turned around to leave.

The moment Zhuo Yun was about to step out of the door, Min Yu, who had been leaning against his chair, stood up all of a sudden. “Never mind. I will go myself.”

Zhuo Yun, “...”

Are you still the boss that I know?

**

Twenty minutes later, Min Yu arrived in Huo Yao’s neighborhood.

He sent Huo Yao a WeChat message to inform her of his arrival. Soon, he saw a slender girl coming out from the aged iron gate.

He lowered the car window and gazed at the girl as she came closer. A trace of curiosity was visible in his handsome face. “Why don’t you go to your grandma’s house yourself since it’s the weekend?”

Huo Yao gave him the wooden box and answered calmly. “Today is not a good day.”

Min Yu glanced at the wooden box and then grinned at Huo Yao. “Your foster mother wouldn’t let you visit, right?”

Huo Yao glared at him. It was some time before she gave a response. “For those who don’t know better, would think that you have planted a surveillance camera around me.”

Min Yu chuckled and shook his head. “Your family’s problem is obvious. It’s not that hard to figure out.”

Huo Yao clasped her fists like a swordswoman from the ancient times. “Thank you for helping me out. I will buy you dinner someday.”

Min Yu raised his eyebrows. “Do you honestly have so much trust in me?”

Huo Yao was about to go back when she heard his question and halted. A gentle breeze was flowing, bringing some hair to her cheeks.

She tucked the loose hair behind her ear and cast her eyes on Min Yu. A distant smile sprang on her face. “That’s not the reason. Actually, this thing is not so expensive.”

With that said, she left. What a tsundere girl!

Chapter 50: Huo Yao's Extraordinary Ability?

Even though the girl was walking further and further away, Min Yu kept gazing in her direction. After a long time, he recovered and broke into a laugh, shaking his head. How tsundere was she!

Zhuo Yun was on the driver's seat, and had witnessed his boss's reaction by looking through the rear view mirror. Hou Yao's arrogance didn't seem to annoy Min Yu, at all. Again, Zhuo Yun asked himself if this person indeed was his boss.

Someone must have switched his boss with an impostor!

"Go." Min Yu cast a glance at Zhuo Yun. The former's voice had turned indifferent, nothing like the warm honeyed version from a few minutes ago.

Zhuo Yun, "..."

Nope. His boss has not changed.

Zhuo Yun started the car and, at the same time, threw a glance at the wooden box which Min Yu was holding.

Out of curiosity, Zhuo Yun said, "This box seemed to be pretty old. I wonder what is inside."

Min Yu lowered his eyes. The box was made of sandalwood with relieve on its edges. The corners of the box looked worn down, and the color of the box was deep. Therefore, it did appear to be from ancient times.

However, a mark on the edge of the box seemed to be familiar. Min Yu thought hard for a minute. He seemed to have seen it somewhere.

Deep in thought, Min Yu touched the lever on the box but eventually decided not to look inside. He put it on the seat and looked outside through the window. He cautioned Zhuo Yun in a soft voice. "Curiosity killed the cat."

Zhuo Yun, "..."

Does this Huo Yao possess some extraordinary powers?

About half an hour later, Zhuo Yun drove Min Yu to the community where Grandma Yang lived.

"I'll go and drop it." Zhuo Yun shifted the gear into parking and unfastened his safety belt.

Min Yu cast his sight on the wooden box. "No. Let me. You wait here." Min Yu turned down Zhuo Yun's proposal.

This answer startled Zhuo Yun yet again. He took a second to calm himself down before he cautioned Min Yu. "Be careful."

Min Yu glared at him. "Don't be so high-strung all the time."

Then, Min Yu got off with the wooden box in his hand. In the car, Zhuo Yun touched his nose and grumbled. "Being vigilant is my second nature!"

**

Min Yu got into the elevator and soon arrived on Grandma Yang's floor. He pushed the doorbell button.

About a couple of minutes later, the inner door opened. Grandma Yang opened the security door after she saw the person standing outside, clearly. "Min Yu, I am glad to see you here."

Min Yu smiled politely at her. "Hi, Grandma Yang."

"Come on in."

Grandma Yang found a pair of clean slippers for him and said, "How did you find time to come today? Do you not have classes?"

Min Yu changed into the slippers and followed Grandma Yang into the living room. "I have the afternoon off, so I could come and see you."

Min Yu took a look at the living room and gave her the wooden box. "Grandma Yang, Huo Yao asked me to bring this to you this afternoon."

Grandma Yang was holding a cup of water which she was about to give to Min Yu. His words startled her. Her hands trembled, and the cup fell from her hand to the ground. With a clang, the cup broke into pieces, and water spilled everywhere.

Min Yu put the wooden box on the side table and said, "Grandma Yang, let me take care of it."

He reached out and helped Grandma Yang to the sofa. He was about to go and clean up the broken glasses when Grandma Yang grabbed his arm.

Her face was pale. She stared at Min Yu, lips trembling. With tremendous efforts, she managed to shake a full sentence out of her mouth, "Yaoyao... She won't come to see me anymore, is it?"

To his surprise, Min Yu found that Grandma Yang looked badly shaken up at this moment.