

Pill Maker 51

Chapter 51: Nerve Soothing Incense Sticks

Still baffled, Min Yu said nothing in reply.

Grandma Yang forced a smile and went on. "This morning, Yaoyao came, and bought me so many things. But neither of us expected that my daughter would come... My daughter is mean, and she never liked Yaoyao."

"My daughter used harsh language. So, Yaoyao stayed here for less than an hour and left in anger."

"Yaoyao must be angry. That must be why she is not coming in person to drop this."

Grandma Yang teared up, and would not let go of Min Yu's arm as if letting him go would mean that he would not listen to her and abandon her. Grandma Yang was blaming herself.

Min Yu got a general idea of what happened. No wonder that girl asked him to help her deliver the box.

But, given how mature the girl was, she would not be so easily displeased.

When Grandma Yang stabilized a bit, Min Yu comforted her tenderly. "Grandma Yang, don't worry so much about it. Huo Yao is just worried that she will run into your daughter if she comes again. That is why she asked me to bring this to you."

Grandma Yang listened to his explanation with a pinch of salt. "Do... do you mean it?"

Min Yu nodded. He was a man of integrity, and his deep eyes seemed to contain a persuasive power that made people trust him.

Grandma Yang's disturbed mind miraculously calmed down. She picked up the wooden box from the side table.

She flipped open the clip-on button although Min Yu was still here. When she saw the incense sticks inside, a warm smile spread over her face, unknowingly.

Her granddaughter was not abandoning her. She still cared about her.

She had sensed her grandmother's troubled sleep and despite being wronged by her foster mother, she still asked Min Yu to send her the incense sticks.

Grandma Yang wiped her tears off and closed the box. She said to Min Yu, in an embarrassed voice, "I forgot myself for a moment there. Sorry."

Min Yu was still staring at the wooden box in Grandma Yang's hand. After a moment of contemplation, he said, "It's okay. I understand."

"Yaoyao is a good kid. She could figure that I was suffering from insomnia, so she bought those nerve-soothing incense sticks for me... Alas, my daughter is not fortunate enough to be Yaoyao's mom."

Grandma Yang heaved a long sigh. She staggered to a cabinet, opened a drawer and put the wooden box inside.

Min Yu listened patiently as Grandma Yang continued to chat. There was something on his mind, but no one knew what it was.

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Half an hour later, Min Yu left Yang Qiuhua's apartment.

Zhuo Yun noticed that Min Yu got into the car in a preoccupied manner. He couldn't help but ask. "What happened?"

Min Yu looked up and gave Zhuo Yun a casual look. "Nothing."

Zhuo Yun did not pursue the topic any further.

Min Yu tapped his finger on his knee every now and then. All of a sudden, he came up with an idea. He took out his phone and sent Huo Yao a message telling her that he had finished the task.

Huo Yao probably did not have her phone with her at that time because it was 10 minutes later that Min Yu finally got a reply. It was a simple one with merely two words, 'Thank you'.

Nothing else.

Min Yu grinned. He must have grown used to Huo Yao's indifferent attitude.

He began to type another message: [Where did you buy the nerve-soothing incense sticks for your grandma? Someone in my family is suffering from insomnia as well.]

Chapter 52: The Icy Eye Candy, Huo Yao

Huo Yao was busy studying. Having said thanks to Min Yu, she put her phone away. After she received this new message from Min Yu, Huo Yao fell into contemplation.

A moment later, she typed in her response: [I bought it online from a random store. I can send you the link if you want.]

Huo Yao opened a shopping app, fumbled through the 'Favorites' folder, and found a store. She copied the link and sent it to Min Yu on WeChat.

Min Yu looked up the store the link to which Huo Yao had sent him.

The store had three crowns as its rating and sold a variety of goods. This was not a store specializing in incense products. But the sandalwood and agilawood incense were in boxes that did appear to be similar to the box which he gave to Grandma Yang. The price was cheap, around two hundred for a box.

Min Yu did not find the same kind of incense in the store. But, he was sure that the nerve-soothing incense sticks had most likely been bought from this store.

If those incense sticks were indeed that unique and special, why would they be sold in this online store at such a low price?

Min Yu closed the app. A disappointed smile played on his lips, and the glow in his eyes dimmed. There might be something else that he was feeling other than despair at this moment.

It had been half a month since Huo Yao enrolled in No.1 Middle School.

She behaved in a carefree manner and rarely communicated with her classmates. She never participated in any school events. To her teachers, her quietness was a representation of her cleverness and good behavior. However, her classmates interpreted this as proof that she was a piece of icy eye candy.

Her classmates did not know about her academic record. Moreover, her beauty was breathtaking. Therefore, she began to be widely acknowledged as the icy eye candy.

At the same time, because of doubts about her academic records, a rumor that, 'the icy eye candy only got into the school because she bribed someone' started flying around in the class.

Since Huo Yao was oblivious to the outside world, this rumor naturally escaped her attention.

On the contrary, her deskmate, Meng Ying, was enraged after she heard this gossip. In a fit of rage, she almost went to argue with others. At the same time, Huo Yao was busy reading books and studying both, during classes and breaks. Meng Ying had to finally admire Huo Yao's composure.

Meng Ying rested her chin on her hands and gazed at Huo Yao with a serious face. Finally, she spoke up, "They are all wrong about you. You are not a piece of icy eye candy."

Huo Yao closed the book which she was reading and cast her sight on Meng Ying. Huo Yao raised her eyebrows. "And?"

Meng Ying found Huo Yao's casual bearing quite enticing. She gulped before she answered with indignation. "You are clearly a bookworm!"

Huo Yan played with the corner of her book and gave a meaningful answer. "The only way to improve one's intelligence is by studying."

Meng Ying heaved a sigh. "I have a feeling that you are implying I am stupid, but I have no proof for this."

Huo Yao smiled but said nothing more. Her phone began to vibrate all of a sudden, and the screen lit up. Two new messages of money transfers popped out.

Huo Yao was starting to get a headache on a daily basis now.

This again. It had been almost half a month. Her parents would transfer her some money at exactly the same time, every single day. It was as if her parents had more money than they could spend.

Meng Ying just happened to see her phone through the corner of her eye. Staring at the two messages, Meng Ying could not help but say, "Today is another day that my eyes have been blinded!"

Huo Yao, "..."

That was right. It had been several days since Meng Ying discovered that her deskmate received a large amount of money every day. Ever since then, her initial shock had given way to numbness.

Chapter 53: Pulling Strings

“Huo Yao, come clean. Is your family crazily wealthy?” Meng Ying sounded jealous.

Huo Yao darted her a look and picked up her phone without batting her eyelashes. Right in front of Meng Ying, Huo Yao unlocked her phone, opened up WeChat, and accepted Ms. Song and I Am Huo Yuanjia’s transfers. She could not look any more indifferent.

Meng Ying, “!!!”

Good god! She wanted to swap with her deskmate’s life. She would take away all of her money on WeChat, and more than that, she would keep Huo Yao’s wealthy parents to herself!

“Alas. Comparisons are odious.” After a moment, Meng Ying sighed, pretending to be sad. “How come I don’t have wealthy parents who would pamper me in this manner?”

Huo Yao tilted her head and casually fixed her bangs with her finger. Her crystal clear eyes glistened with enchantment. “Don’t be sad about your parents not being wealthy. You still have the chance to become a wealthy mother to spoil your daughter.”

“Pff!”

Meng Ying gave Huo Yao a thumb up. Anyone who said that her deskmate was an icy beauty was in the wrong. Listen to her. Huo Yao obviously had a clear mind and a sharp mouth.

Meng Ying thought of the rumors that she was hearing these days. She moved her butt closer to Huo Yao and adopted a more serious tone than before. “Anyways, there has been some gossip about you. Have you heard?”

Huo Yao asked in a normal voice. “What gossip?”

Meng Ying thought for a couple of seconds before replying. “Someone said that your academic scores are really poor, and you are not even as good as the students in the average classes. As per the rumour, you bribed someone, and that is how you got in here.”

No.1 Middle School was not like Desheng, the elite school next door. The students had to pass tough tests to get into No.1 Middle School and all of them were star students. The rules and principles of No.1 Middle School were really strict.

The Principal was a tough character, famous for being impartial and incorruptible. It sufficed to say that no one could pull any strings to get into No.1 Middle School.

However, in the rumors, Huo Yao was being depicted as the exception who had broken the rules of No.1 Middle School.

Truth be told, spreading the rumor in itself was not the worst thing that had happened. What mattered was that the rumor made it sound as if Huo Yao had sullied the reputation of the school.

During the past few days, Meng Ying had seen how Huo Yao's parents would transfer money in her WeChat account every day. From this, it was not hard for Meng Ying to deduce that Huo Yao came from a rich household. It seemed that for Huo Yao... pulling strings was not entirely unlikely.

Of course, Meng Ying was unwilling to believe this rumor. After all, her deskmate's perfect attitude in studying was fairly evident to her.

Meng Ying's complicated emotions were evident all over her face. Huo Yao grinned and answered her with a question of her own. "Do you believe it?"

Meng Ying shook her head and said immediately, "Me? Of course not. The only thing you do all day long, is study. You are a big ol' bookworm. Anyone else can get in here by bribing someone, but not you."

Huo Yao broke into laughter at this comment and shook her head.

Meng Ying was such an innocent girl.

Huo Yao was completely unaffected by the rumor and Meng Ying sensed that. She said, "Why do I feel that you are not anxious at all, after listening to this?"

Generally speaking, when people heard that they were victims of slandering, anyone would be furious.

Huo Yao kept her gaze on Meng Ying and contemplated in silence. A few seconds later, she gave a brief response. "The wise do not buy rumors."

Meng Ying curled her lips. "I understand that. However, if the rumor keeps spreading like this, I am afraid you can get into trouble. If those idiots make a big scene and the Principal gets to know about it, it will be really bad."

After a pause, Meng Ying thought of something. Her eyes were glowing as she stared at Huo Yao. "I have an idea of how to end the rumor quickly."

Huo Yao was briefly interested. "Oh? Humor me."

Chapter 54: Quiz Contest And Recommendation

"Last week, the school's official online forum posted a notice for the National Quiz Contest which seems to be quite prestigious. There is a municipal preliminary contest, then you move up to the provincial level and then the national level. The top three will join the international contest on behalf of the country."

Meng Ying took out her phone as she told her about it.

Soon, she logged onto the forum and dug out the post, showing it to her. "Here it is."

"The online registration will end in a couple of days. I think you can sign up for this. Since this is a national competition where many outstanding students will come together, I don't think we should aim for the national championship. But, if you can pass the municipal preliminary contest, that will be enough to prove your strength."

Huo Yao cast her eyes on Meng Ying's phone. One glance later, Huo Yao had bent over her desk again. "Boring. Not interested."

Meng Ying's lips twitched. She pushed Huo Yao's arm. "Miss, this is the best way to clear your name. It will be such a shame if you miss the chance."

Huo Yao yawned and closed her eyes. "Pass."

She didn't need to clear her name at all.

Meng Ying heaved a sigh. Her deskmate was such a lazybone who cared about nothing.

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After the second class in the afternoon, Huo Yao was told to go to Chen Yu's office.

Huo Yao always behaved herself in front of Chen Yu. As such, when Chen Yu saw Huo Yao, her forever cold face thawed a bit. "Are you interested in the National Quiz Contest?"

Huo Yao did not understand why Chen Yu would ask her about this contest.

"You have just transferred to the school, and my advice would be that you don't participate in such contests. However, since you have already signed up for it, I cannot talk you out of it. I only hope that you remember to spend more time on your studies. You are a senior year student now. This is one of the most critical years of your life."

Chen Yu shared her sincere words and earnest wishes with her.

Huo Yao wanted to say that she didn't sign up for the contest when all of a sudden, she remembered that Meng Ying had made extreme efforts to try and persuade her into signing up for this, in the morning. After a few seconds of silence, Huo Yao said sure.

Soon, she asked another question. "Ms. Chen, how much is the reward for the first place winner?"

Chen Yu, "???"

She wondered if she was hallucinating.

The strange expression on Chen Yu's face had revealed the answer to Huo Yao. Huo Yao, who had started to become excited about the contest, felt her excitement fizzle out. Even her voice sounded a bit low. "I have to go back to the classroom now."

Chen Yu, "..."

Chen Yu remembered something and shouted to Huo Yao the moment she was about to leave her office. "There is no bonus, but the first place winner can win a recommendation to Tsing University. If you win a prize in international competition, your future will be more than promising."

Tsing University was one of the top three universities in the country. Many people exhausted all their means to try to get into Tsing University. Besides, every year, Tsing University accepted only a limited number of students. Anyone recommended to the Tsing University would not have to take the college entrance exam. That was much more valuable than some monetary reward.

However, Huo Yao showed least interest in this. As a matter of fact, she seemed to be disappointed. She nodded her head without even turning around and stepped out of the office.

Chen Yu watched as Huo Yao went away. Her eyebrows were knitted together. Why did she feel that this new transfer student was not participating for the chance of a recommendation, but for the money?

Chen Yu laughed at herself.

Was she losing her mind? Why would she mention the recommendation to a girl who only got into the school through her connections? What a fanciful illusion! She should have persuaded Huo Yao to do what was within the range of her potential, right?

Chapter 55: Huo Yao's Name Must Go!

After the registration deadline passed, Chen Yu printed out a registration form of the Experimental Classes and submitted it to the Vice-principal.

The Vice-principal looked at the sheet and asked. "Well? How come so few people signed up?"

In total, the Experimental Classes had forty students, but only three signed up for the contest.

Chen Yu forced a smile on her face and explained. "I think it's probably because the students want to focus their minds on their studies instead of spending their time on the contest."

The Vice-principal read through the names. When Huo Yao's name leaped into his sight, he froze for a second. "Is this Huo Yao a transfer student? Why did she sign up for this? Does she not have to study hard to catch up with the schedule here?"

Chen Yu felt embarrassed to answer this question. "She might be looking for a challenge."

The Vice-principal only knew that Huo Yao was specially recruited by the Principal, but had no idea about Huo Yao's academic records. A few days ago, the Vice-principal heard from Wei Mingzhe about this student and her condescending attitude.

"Nonsense!"

The Vice-principal frowned.

"The Education Association takes this contest very seriously. I can deal with it if this transfer student can outperform herself and pass the municipal preliminary contest. However, if she cannot, and other schools find out that we have registered a transfer student just to fill in the numbers, what do you think that will do to our reputation?"

The Vice-principal was serious, and Chen Yu knew what he said made sense.

She said, "I agree, nevertheless... Isn't the registration open for everyone?"

There was no rule against a transfer student participating.

The Vice-principal failed to argue against her using this rational reason. "No matter what, the transfer student's name cannot appear here."

Chen Yu kept silent for a few seconds. "Is that... can we do that?"

The Vice-principal lost his patience. "Of course."

Chen Yu lowered her eyes. She knew that the only reason Huo Yao could come to the school was because she had some strong connections. Judging by the Vice-principal's attitude, Chen Yu could tell that he was not the one who had allowed Huo Yao in. That only left... the Principal?

If Huo Yao found out that she was disqualified for no reason after she signed up, would she go to the Principal to figure things out?

At this thought, Chen Yu suggested, "Should I... ask the Principal first?"

The Vice-principal hurled the form onto his desk grumpily. "Are you saying that I cannot make this simple decision because I am merely the VICE Principal?"

On one side, Chen Yu had to consider the Principal's feelings. On the other, she could not ignore the Vice-principal, either. How hard was this!

Though frustrated inside, Chen Yu had to keep that smile intact on her face. "Sir, that is not what I mean. I just don't think it's okay to disqualify Huo Yao without a proper reason..."

The Vice-principal sneered and waved his hand to cut her off. "Stop. There is no need to go to the Principal, and I will not cross her name off the form. Let it be."

"Sir..."

"Now, if you will excuse me, I have other things to do." The Vice-principal kept a straight face. He picked up the form, walked to the other side of his desk, and tossed the paper into a drawer.

Chen Yu knew that now was not the time for her to argue any further. She walked away, looking embarrassed.

The Vice-principal sat down in his chair, and his expression was awful. After a moment, something came to his mind and his lips curled in a sneer.

He could not wait to see how this transfer student from a remote place ended up humiliating the Principal!

Chapter 56: Sister Big Shot, Have You Offended Anyone?

Huo Yao had no idea that because of the contest, the Vice Principal had categorized her as a delinquent student. Due to the rumor of her getting admission to the school through bribes, apart from her own classmates, even the students of the Rocket Classes and the average classes were beginning to judge her.

She had poor academic records and was only admitted because of some strong connections. She was such a shame to the school!

Such being the case, when her name appeared on the list of students participating in the National Quiz Contest on the notice board, the students started snickering. This was the funniest episode at the beginning of this semester.

[Dear God, who gave the transfer student the courage to sign up for the National Quiz Contest? Isn't she embarrassed?]

[Is she under the impression that she can pull strings at the National Quiz Contest as well?]

[I will bet one penny that she won't pass the preliminary contest.]

[Good heavens. I have a feeling that this time, the shame for our No.1 Middle School will reach far across the province and into the international stage.]

[Alas. Why can't she just enjoy being a piece of eye candy?]

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When Meng Ying saw Huo Yao's name in the list, she was astonished.

"Sister Big Shot, didn't you say that you were not interested in the National Quiz Contest? You turned me down when I told you to sign up that day."

Meng Ying pouted in anger. Her moon-face became even chubbier, like a hamster.

Ever since she found out that Huo Yao would receive money every day, Meng Ying had been calling Huo Yao, Sister Big Shot, and now it had become a habit.

Huo Yao was confused. "Didn't you sign me up for it?"

Meng Ying blinked in sheer puzzlement. "I didn't. I hoped that you could participate, but I sure did not sign you up."

Huo Yao knitted her eyebrows. "Then who did?"

If she knew that it was not Meng Ying who had signed her up for it, she would have turned it down when Chen Yu called her to the office.

Meng Ying pulled her hair and stressed upon her innocence in this matter again. "Sister Big Shot, I did not sign up for you. You have to believe me."

Huo Yao looked at her calmly. "Ok, I believe you."

Meng Ying stuck her tongue out in relief. She was afraid that Huo Yao would not trust her. After all, participating in the National Quiz Contest was not a joking matter.

Meng Ying tilted her head and thought for a bit. Then, she began to tap into her detective skills. She analyzed the situation and said, "Is it possible that someone did this on purpose to see you embarrass yourself?"

Huo Yao gave no response and kept her eyes downwards.

"All the participants of the contest are straight-A students. Imagine this. Someone signed up for you assuming that your score is bad with the intention that you will disgrace the No.1 Middle School and will no longer be able to stay here. Sister Big Shot, think about it. Have you offended anyone recently?" Meng Ying crossed her arms in front of her chest. She had come straight to the heart of the issue.

Huo Yao remained composed. "Does it count if someone is envious of my good looks?"

She managed to use an earnest tone.

Meng Ying rolled her eyes at her. "Please take this seriously. I cannot analyze the problem when you are behaving like this."

Huo Yao looked at her and said, "Oh."

Then, she bent over her desk and closed her eyes.

Meng Ying, "..."

Sister Big Shot was different from other people in dealing with things, drastically so.

Meng Ying heaved a sigh. "Do you want to go to the Female Devil and explain this to her?"

The Female Devil was a nickname the students had given to Chen Yu behind her back.

Huo Yao answered without opening her eyes. "Nope."

That came as a surprise to Meng Ying. She wondered aloud. "Are you saying that you are going to participate in the contest?"

Chapter 57: Strive For A Prize At The Provincial Level

"Yes." Huo Yao answered. She had already moved on from the question of who signed up on her behalf.

Meng Ying blinked. Though she did not believe that Sister Big Shot did not get admission in the school through connections, she didn't think her academic records were that outstanding.

The other participants for the contest were basically the top 10 students from different classes. Sister Big Shot's name on the list was like a drop of poison in a tun of wine. No matter how good she was, the straight-A students would steal all her thunder.

"Are you up for this, Sister Big Shot? This contest is not a joke. Do you know how many people are waiting to see you embarrass yourself?" Meng Ying tried to talk Huo Yao out of it.

After all, quitting now was less humiliating than to fail the first preliminary contest.

Maybe Meng Ying had been nagging her for so long that Huo Yao eventually opened her eyes. She put her hand on the edge of her desk to pull herself up, and slowly moved in closer to Meng Ying in a somewhat aggressive manner.

Her eyes were sparkling, and her voice was magnetic. "Do not ever ask people if they are up to something."

Sister Big Shot's face was right under Meng Ying's nose. The latter could see every expression on the former's amorous, exquisite face. Huo Yao's voice sounded ambiguous and enchanting.

Meng Ying felt as if her heart was about to leap out from her throat, and she could not do anything about it.

Under Huo Yao's gaze, Meng Ying covered her face with her hands and moved back to her seat. "Well, Sister Big Shot, don't look at me with your seducing eyes next time. I am afraid you are going to turn me gay."

If she did turn gay, she would never hear the end of it from her parents.

Huo Yao chuckled. Finally, she had freed herself from Meng Ying's never-ending nagging. She bent over her desk again and even covered her head with the chemistry textbook.

Sitting next to her, all Meng Ying could say was, "!!!!"

Sister Big Shot, you would lose all your friends this way!

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In the meanwhile.

"Xiaxia, do you know how overly arrogant that Huo Yao is?" Chang Yingying was dying to share her gossip with Lu Xia who was doing her test paper, quietly.

Lu Xia stopped writing and put her pen down. "What?"

She looked at Chang Yingying, baffled.

"She has signed up for the National Quiz Contest. Can you believe it?" Chang Yingying could not hide the excitement and sarcasm in her voice.

"I wonder who gave her the courage. So many people are waiting to see her fail."

Lu Xia raised her pretty eyebrows, tilted her head, and gave a reasonable answer. "Anyone can sign up for the contest. Why would anyone laugh at her?"

"You don't know this. People are saying that she used money to exert some influence to get into our school. How dare she sign up for the contest with her sorry scores? Don't you think this is ridiculous?" Chang Yingying sneered.

Lu Xia fell silent for a few seconds before she turned to Chang Yingying again. "Yingying, the rumor that Huo Yao pulled strings to come here was not spread by you, was it?"

Chang Yingying evaded her looks, feeling a bit guilty. However, she sounded confident. "No. I would never do that."

Lu Xia put on a soft smile. "I am glad that it wasn't you. Anyways, Huo Yao is my sister. No matter how bad her scores are, I don't want to see people discussing her or laughing at her."

Chang Yingying had a look in her eyes that said, "I knew it".

“Xiaxia, I know you have signed up for the contest as well. You must strive to win a prize at the provincial level!”

She encouraged Lu Xia sincerely.

Chapter 58: Did Sister Big Shot Come From A Mountain Village?

Lu Xia fixed the strands of hair that had fallen on her cheeks and lowered her head. Sitting there, she was like a painting with a soothing look.

She puckered her lips in a smile and said, “I will try my best.”

“Winning is not a problem for you. Look at your scores!” Chang Yingying never missed a chance to praise Lu Xia.

But Lu Xia remained untouched. “All the participants are the most outstanding students from all around the country.”

“Don’t worry. To begin with, our school is one of the top-ranking high schools in our country. As for outstanding students, without a doubt, you are one of them.”

Chang Yingying blinked. After two seconds, she went on with a giggle. “Think about it. You are a famous young celebrity after you went to the Star Training Camp. If you can win a prize at the provincial or the national level, you will win over so many more fans.”

The fact that Lu Xia studied well and was at No.1 Middle School had been made public by her agency to set up her persona. More than half of her fans were students.

Imagine this. A girl who was pretty and kind, who could sing and dance and could win a place at the National Quiz Contest, would be a perfect goddess for countless people!

Just the fact that Lu Xia was a girl brimming with youthful sunshine, could make her a star among all the schools.

“But things are not looking so good for that fake daughter, Huo Yao. I am thinking that she will be utterly humiliated this time.” Chang Yingying said this as if she could see that happening already.

Lu Xia smiled but said nothing in return.

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After school, that day, Huo Yao and Meng Ying left together. As they approached the gate, they could see Lu Xia standing not far from them. She was wearing sunglasses and appeared to be waiting for someone.

As soon as Meng Ying saw Lu Xia, her gossipy nature began to roar and wanted to burst out of her. She whispered to Huo Yao. “Did you see the girl wearing sunglasses?”

Huo Yao gave her a look and replied. “Yes?”

"She is our school's celebrity campus belle, Lu Xia. Sister Big Shot, you must have watched the show 'Star Training Camp', right? She is the most popular contestant on that show."

Huo Yao tilted her head and asked Meng Ying. "Are you a fan of hers?"

Meng Ying shook her head at once. "I am not. Don't you think that everything about her screams fake and pretentious? She is just so artificial. Do you know what I mean?"

"Mm." Huo Yao mumbled and after a few seconds, she said, "I never watch talent shows."

Meng Ying stared at her in shock. "No way. Sister Big Shot. From what kind of remote mountain village did you come? How come you never watched any talent shows?"

Huo Yao grinned. "Can watching talent shows help me with my studies?"

Meng Ying did not know what to say. This was such an enlightening question that penetrated into her very soul.

"Also, don't discriminate against anyone coming from remote villages. They may turn out to be lions and tigers." Huo Yao added something that carried much deeper meaning.

Meng Ying somehow felt that she and Sister Big Shot were not having a conversation on the same topic.

They walked out and went past Lu Xia.

Huo Yao did not spare even a look towards the other girl in this entire time. Huo Yao was tall, and was carrying her backpack on one shoulder. Her delicate face was pretty much expressionless. Every inch of Huo Yao was demonstrating that she was even cooler than a boy.

The sunglasses helped cover up the dying glow in Lu Xia's eyes. She waited for a second and stopped Huo Yao. "Huo Yao, Brother Yanxi is coming and picking me up, today. Let's go together."

As soon as those words were out there, Meng Ying, who was with Huo Yao, went into complete shock.

The celebrity campus belle knew Sister Big Shot's name and she mentioned something about a brother and used "us"...

Meng Ying felt that she had stumbled onto something huge.

Chapter 59: Troublesome Baby Sister

Huo Yao finally stopped and turned to face Lu Xia. "No. I will take the bus." Huo Yao refused coldly with a lukewarm look on her face.

Before the sound of her voice died down, she had looked away and walked toward the bus station without haste. She never said another word to Lu Xia.

Meng Ying, the onlooker, realised that she had stumbled across a big news, and went running after Huo Yao at once. "Sister Big Shot, wait for me."

Lu Xia's smile froze on her face, but since she was wearing the sunglasses, she still appeared calm.

She watched as Huo Yao went further and further away. Her grip on her purse had tightened.

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“Sister Big Shot, you know Lu Xia, don’t you?” Meng Ying was convinced of the answer to that question.

Huo Yao arrived at the bus station, but the bus had not arrived yet. She gave a perfunctory answer to Meng Ying who was dying to dig up the dirt. “Kind of.”

“Is she... your relative?” Meng Ying blinked. She had made a brave guess. A few seconds later, before Huo Yao could answer, Meng Ying suddenly pulled a long face.

“Oh, no, I am doomed. Sister Big Shot, I have said so many mean things about Lu Xia just now. Will you tell her?” At this very moment, Meng Ying felt that something was pinching her heart.

After all, at No.1 Middle School, there was quite a large fan following of Lu Xia. Those fangirls could drown anyone who spoke against their idol, with their saliva.

Huo Yao was amused. “Don’t make such a big fuss about this.”

The strong tension which Meng Ying had felt a few moments ago, disappeared without a trace immediately. “Listen, you have no sense of humor whatsoever.”

Right then, the bus that Huo Yao took everyday, arrived. She got into the line, took out her transportation card and asked Meng Ying. “Are you sure that you want to follow me all the way... to discuss if I have a sense of humor?”

Meng Ying suddenly realized what she was doing. She slapped herself on her head which was filled with gossip. “Oh, crap. Why did I follow you to the bus station? My dad is waiting for me at the gate.”

With that, she darted a look at Huo Yao with hidden bitterness and ran off.

Huo Yao chuckled.

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Lu Xia had got onto Huo Yanxi’s car. After they indulged in some small talk, Lu Xia spoke in an offhand manner. “Brother Yanxi, I have signed up for the National Quiz Contest. The Education Association is paying close attention to this contest and the top 3 students at the national contest will be recommended to Tsing University.”

Huo Yanxi turned around to look at her in surprise. “This sounds interesting. Try your best, and see if you can win.”

Lu Xia lowered her head and gently flickered the furry ball pendant on her bag, “Sure. I saw that Yaoyao has signed up as well.”

Huo Yanxi suddenly tightened his grip on the steering wheel. “What is she doing signing up for the contest. Considering her score, isn’t that a waste of her time?”

He frowned in annoyance.

"I think she might be looking for a challenge. It's okay. Just think of this as an extracurricular activity for her to broaden her mind." Lu Xia replied with a gentle smile.

Huo Yanxi only shook his head as a reply. His baby sister was turning out to be a source of trouble.

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Huo Yanxi took Lu Xia to dinner and then dropped her off at the Lu Family.

When he left the Lu Family villa, it was still early. He thought about it and drove to the Huo Family.

Song Ning was applying a moisturizing facial mask when the doorbell rang. She was surprised to see her oldest son standing outside when she went to answer the door. "Yanxi. It is so late. Did something happen?"

Huo Yanxi went inside and looked around before he answered his mom. "I have finished the project. I am planning on staying here for a couple of days."

And then, he asked. "Where is Huo Yao?"

Chapter 60: Why Sign Up For The Contest?

Song Ning looked at her son oddly and immediately warned him. "You want to see your baby sister? What lousy idea is breeding in your head, now?"

Last time, after they parted on bad terms, her damn son only called her once and that too, to tell her to discipline her daughter. He had never come back after that.

Huo Yanxi curled his lips in frustration. "Mom, do you have some misunderstanding about me? I am just asking about my sister."

Song Ning removed her facial mask. Her face managed to demonstrate her disdain to him. "I think you know better than anyone if I have misunderstood you."

Huo Yanxi, "..."

"Forget it. I am done talking to you. I have to continue my facial. Suit yourself."

With that, Song Ning went to her bedroom. After a moment, she halted and turned around to look at Huo Yanxi.

Song Ning had a serious expression on her face and said, "Do not disturb your sister. She studies very hard every day."

Then, she went away, leaving only Huo Yanxi and her husband, who was watching TV, in the living room.

Huo Yanxi looked at his father. He was about to say something when his father stood up, picked up the remote to shut the TV, and then stretched out his arms. He said, "I got up too early in the morning. I am so tired now. Yanxi, don't stay up late. Good night."

His deep yawn had blurred his voice.

Post that, Huo Jinyan hurried back to the bedroom, leaving no time for Huo Yanxi to reply.

Huo Yanxi, "..."

It had been days since he came home. Already, both his parents loathed him?

Depressed, Hou Yanxi went upstairs. He darted a glance at Huo Yao's bedroom and paused for a second. Eventually, he looked away and went to his bedroom.

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The next day was Saturday. There was no class. However, Huo Yao still woke up early to go for her morning jog.

When she came back, she went up to her room. While walking past Huo Yanxi's bedroom, someone pulled the door open all of a sudden, which startled Huo Yao.

Huo Yanxi was still in his pajamas. Since he had just woken up, even his eyes were not fully open. As soon as he opened his door, the sweaty Huo Yao leapt into his sight. Instantly, he was fully awake. "Where did you..."

Huo Yao had recovered from her astonishment and answered calmly. "I just came back from jogging."

This answer took Huo Yanxi aback. After all, this was the weekend. Most people would choose to sleep in.

After that, Huo Yao nodded to Huo Yanxi, politely and said, "I'm gonna go now."

Huo Yanxi stared at her absent-mindedly as she stepped away.

Twenty minutes later.

Huo Yao had come down for breakfast. She was enjoying her meal quietly, eating without haste.

Huo Yanxi sat across her. Every now and then, he could cast a look at her. He wanted to chat but failed to find a topic. This was really awkward for him.

Maybe, Huo Yao could no longer endure his occasional gaze. She put down her spoon and looked straight into his eyes. "Do you have anything you want to say to me?"

Huo Yanxi cleared his throat. All of a sudden, he remembered what Lu Xia said yesterday. "I heard that you signed up for the National Quiz Contest."

Huo Yao was baffled and asked. "How do you know?"

"Lu Xia mentioned it yesterday." Huo Yanxi didn't think he needed to hide this. So, he answered honestly.

Huo Yao raised her eyebrows and simply said, "Oh."

She should have expected this.

"Why do you want to participate in this contest?" Huo Yanxi intended to add words like "the senior year is important and participating in this contest is a waste of time", but he held back eventually.

Huo Yao giggled and answered with a question of her own. "Have you said those words to Lu Xia? What did she say?"