

Pill Maker 551

Chapter 551: Couple Slippers

Min Yu coughed gently when he saw Huo Tingrui staring at him like he wanted to eat him alive. He turned and helped speak up for him, "Your brother doesn't mean any harm."

Even though Huo Tingrui was played, he had to keep smiling.

This asshole!

Huo Yao looked sideways at Min Yu and smiled ambiguously.

Min Yu's eyes remained cool and he said nothing. He headed to the cabinet by the side and opened the drawer to retrieve two books. "These are for you."

Huo Yao raised her brows as her eyes landed on the books. The cover contained only English and was entitled, 'Clinical Psychology'.

Huo Yao took the books from him. They consisted of two volumes and were the original version in English. She raised her head somewhat surprised. "How did you know I have been reading about Psychology lately?"

"You talked about it previously," said Min Yu calmly. He was tall and seemed dignified just standing there.

Huo Yao recalled chatting about it on her way home when she got a ride from him from the library. She did not give it much thought at that time. "This series is really rare, so I appreciate it. Thanks."

Min Yu looked at her and smiled. "Welcome."

Huo Tingrui instantly felt like he was nothing but air as he sat on the couch. He promptly stood up and asked. "What books are these?"

Huo Yao looked at him sideways before she held the books up to show him the covers.

The moment Huo Tingrui spotted their English titles, he had an awkward look on his face.

Oh god! He could not even understand the titles.

Even though Huo Tingrui really wanted to know what books they were, he pretended he understood the titles since there were outsiders present. He pursed his lips and said, "Aren't they just some English material? If you want more of those, I can get you as many as you want."

Huo Yao glanced at him quietly. "Brother Tingrui, I suggest you stop talking."

Huo Tingrui went speechless. "..."

Huo Tingrui veered his eyes when his sister spoke to him in disdain. He lowered his head and spotted his little sister's slippers before he turned to glance at Min Yu's.

They were the same design but in different colors.

Huo Tingrui proceeded to check out the slippers on his feet. His head started buzzing nonstop. After some time, he turned to stare at Min Yu with daggers in his eyes.

This dude certainly harbored evil intentions for his little sister!

Min Yu raised his head when Huo Tingrui looked at him murderously.

Huo Tingrui glared at Min Yu before he looked at his sister. "Yao, let's trade slippers."

Huo Yao was caught by surprise and looked at him quizzically.

Where was this coming from?

"Come on. You can wear mine," said Huo Tingrui solemnly.

He decided to take off his slippers first and placed them in front of his sister's feet out of fear that she might refuse.

If the man wanted to take advantage of Huo Tingrui's little sister, he had to get past him first!

Huo Yao went speechless. "..."

At Huo Tingrui's insistence, Huo Yao finally took off the slippers.

Since women's shoes were far smaller, half of Huo Tingrui's foot remained outside the slipper after he forced his foot into it. Huo Yao raised her hand and pressed her forehead.

She could not bear to look at this sight.

Despite the discomfort, Huo Tingrui felt triumphant. He could finally raise his chin smugly and cast a provoking eye at Min Yu.

Min Yu's lips twitched as he glanced at the ill-fitting pink slippers on Huo Tingrui's feet.

Chapter 552: Such A Poser!

Huo Tingrui's phone rang. He pulled it out to see that it was their father calling, so he cautiously stepped to the side in his pink slippers before he answered the call.

Huo Yao suddenly sighed as she looked at her stupid second older brother. She turned to look at Min Yu powerlessly. "Sorry about this."

Min Yu cleared his throat and said thoughtfully, "Your brother actually means well."

"It is kind of you to speak on his behalf." Huo Yao glanced at him.

She raised her head to look around and asked casually. "Where's your grandfather?"

"I sent him home," said Min Yu calmly.

Huo Yao nodded in relief.

“Old Mr. Pei called me a couple of days ago and told me about a patient you helped to treat.” Min Yu’s eyes looked cool and seemed to be chatting casually.

Huo Yao turned to lean on the couch armrest with coolness in her eyes. “Well, I didn’t do it for nothing.”

Min Yu raised his brows thinking about the money-grubber she was. A few seconds later, he added. “Old Mr. Pei has organized a lunch especially for you. Flower Haven at 12:00 pm tomorrow. Will you go?”

Huo Yao frowned slightly. Just as she was about to speak, Huo Tingrui came back after finishing the call only to see his little sister sitting so close to Min Yu. He promptly looked angry and walked over.

Huo Tingrui reached his hand out to pull his little sister to the side and stood in front of her warily. “It’s getting late. It’s time for us to go.”

Huo Yao touched her forehead and stopped talking.

Min Yu stood up straight. He did not carry on asking Huo Yao about lunch. Instead, he nodded politely to Huo Tingrui. “Okay.”

The moment Huo Tingrui saw Min Yu acting in a gentlemanly manner, he scoffed in his heart at the poser he was!

“Don’t bother walking us out.” Huo Tingrui raised his hand and turned his head. “Let’s go, Yao.”

He took Huo Yao’s hand and dragged her out of the villa without even giving them a chance to say goodbye.

After they left, Zhuo Yun promptly stopped pretending to sweep the floor. He picked up the mop and walked over. “Your second older brother-in-law is a tough nut to crack.”

Min Yu was thinking about the look on Huo Yao’s face when he mentioned Old Mr. Pei’s lunch invite. He could not help narrowing his eyes when he heard what Zhuo Yun said. “What do you mean by second older brother-in-law?”

Zhuo Yun coughed. “I meant Miss Huo’s second older brother.”

Min Yu glanced at Zhuo Yun calmly without responding. Instead, he said, “Go find out who Old Mr. Pei got her to treat.”

Zhuo Yun was surprised to hear this request. He said nothing when he caught sight of the serious look on his boss’s face and swiftly acknowledged before he went to investigate.

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The moment they left the villa door, Huo Tingrui put on the airs of an older brother and started to educate her. “I’m telling you. From now on, you should steer clear of him. I have a bad feeling about him.”

He felt furious thinking about the way Min Yu acted vulnerable as soon as she showed up. Worse, his little sister even wore matching couple’s slippers with him. He was undoubtedly up to no good.

His little sister was only 18!

Huo Yao glanced at him in silence before she walked home.

Huo Tingrui touched his nose. Every time his little sister looked at him that way, he inexplicably got scared. Despite all the things he wanted to say, he did not dare to utter another word.

Instead, his eyes landed on the books in Huo Yao's arms.

Chapter 553: Her Adorable Image Was Just An Illusion

"What books did he give you?" asked Huo Tingrui.

Huo Yao halted in her steps and raised her brows. "Do you finally admit that you can't read the title?"

"... It's not like I was an English major," said Huo Tingrui uneasily.

Huo Yao nodded ambiguously. "That's the same excuse people use when they are ignorant."

Huo Tingrui suffered a personal attack from his genius little sister.

Before long, they arrived home.

Huo Jinyan sat in the living room and narrowed his eyes when he saw them walk in. He said to Huo Tingrui, "Come over here. We need to have a little chat."

The moment Huo Tingrui heard his father, he trembled. Even though he did not know how he had provoked his father, he instinctively grabbed his little sister's arm. "Why don't you join us?"

Huo Yao glanced at him a couple of times quietly before she pulled her hand away heartlessly. "Weren't you very cocky sometime ago, when we were next door?"

Huo Tingrui was on the brink of tears. This was his biological father they were talking about here. If he pulled the same stunt in front of him, he would probably lose both his legs right away.

"Ahem..." Huo Yao cleared her throat and said, "Here's a tip for you."

"What?" asked Huo Tingrui as though he had found hope.

Huo Yao placed her books on the dining cabinet. She wagged her finger for Huo Tingrui to come over and headed to the fridge. She opened the fridge door unhurriedly and pointed at an object inside. "You should use this."

"What..." Before Huo Tingrui finished his sentence, he caught sight of the huge durian inside the fridge and became fossilized.

Huo Yao patted him on the shoulder and said with a straight face, "Brother Tingrui, I think this would help."

Huo Tingrui turned to look at his little sister. Sure enough, his little sister's adorable and thoughtful appearance was just an illusion.

How could she ask him to kneel on a durian?

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Huo Yao pretended not to see his expression. She retrieved a bottled drink from the refrigerator and opened it before she raised her brow. “Shall I take the durian out?”

Huo Tingrui went speechless.

She must be some kind of demon!

He suddenly felt like running away from home.

Huo Jinyan could be heard from the living room asking Huo Tingrui to hurry up. Huo Tingrui scratched his head before he went back to the living room, bereft of all hope.

Huo Yao leaned against the door frame and smiled. She was in a good mood.

She took out her phone and sent Min Yu a text message: [I will go tomorrow.]

She was talking about Old Master Pei’s lunch arrangements since Huo Tingrui interrupted their discussion earlier.

After having the drink, Huo Yao told her parents before she went upstairs. She completely ignored the desperate look in her brother’s eyes.

Huo Tingrui was finally released by Huo Jinyan after a whole hour of interrogation. Just as he was about to return to his room, he caught sight of the books that Huo Yao had forgotten on the dining cabinet. He promptly halted.

Huo Tingrui contemplated for two seconds before he walked over and picked them up. He flipped through their contents to see that they were completely filled with English words. He was clueless about them.

Huo Tingrui felt stupid again. Did they not have the same parents? Why was she so much smarter?

Huo Jinyan wanted to pour water for himself when he saw his son standing there in a daze. He could not resist walking over. He asked his son when he spotted the English book in Huo Tingrui’s hand. “Can you read this?”

Chapter 554: It Was Time For Huo Yulin To Come Home

Huo Tingrui was left hurt once more as he glanced at his father quietly. It was clear from the look on his face that he did not want to discuss this.

He pulled out his phone and turned on the internet browser to take a picture of the book cover and ran an image search.

Although he did not understand the contents of the book, he could get it translated electronically.

Huo Jinyan came back with a glass of water to stand behind his son. “What book is this?”

Huo Tingrui's phone swiftly translated the text on the image. He was stunned when he discovered the book was entitled, 'Clinical Psychology'.

He finally composed himself after some time and raised his head to mutter to his father. "It's a psychology book."

Huo Jinyan asked him quizzically. "Clinical psychology? Why are you reading these books?"

Huo Tingrui put his phone down and explained. "It belongs to Yao."

Huo Jinyan was caught by surprise. Why would his daughter read these books?

She was just a senior. Would she need to study psychology?

Huo Tingrui recollected something and a tender look appeared in his eyes suddenly. It dawned on him that his father would not know the reason she was reading such books. "It's because Yulin is undergoing psychological treatment."

His little sister kept doing things behind their backs quietly.

In the same situation, his ex-foster sister, Lu Xia, would probably never remember that her older brother needed psychological therapy, let alone read about it.

Huo Tingrui felt a bit depressed.

Huo Jinyan looked a little morose when he heard Huo Tingrui talking about his third son. His eyes landed on the books in Huo Tingrui's hands and promptly knew what Huo Tingrui was driving at.

Although his daughter might not be of any help to Huo Yulin by reading these books, she was genuinely concerned about him.

Huo Jinyan's eyes misted over a little. He held up the glass, and tilted his head back. He took a big gulp of water to squash the sour taste rising in his throat. After staying quiet briefly, he said, "Take a pic and send it to your third younger brother."

Huo Tingrui looked at him in surprise.

Huo Jinyan had already composed himself as he sneered. "Show him how worried his little sister is. After gallivanting overseas all these years, it's about time he came home!"

He flung his hands before he went off with the glass of water and seemed a little proud from behind.

Huo Tingrui could not help laughing and he shook his head. He veered his eyes from his father and looked at the book again. He felt that it was a good idea.

He held the books and took a picture on his phone for Huo Yulin.

After sending the picture, he told Huo Yulin that their little sister was reading this stuff.

Perhaps Huo Yulin was occupied when Huo Tingrui sent the message, so he did not reply right away. Hence, Huo Tingrui put his phone back in his pocket and went upstairs with the books.

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It was Saturday the next day.

Huo Yao found the time to solve the questions that the Head of Math had given her previously and did two tests for some other subjects. At slightly past 10:00 am, she received a call from Min Yu.

Since Huo Yao had already told her parents that she was going out for lunch, she went downstairs and left the villa right away after hanging up the phone.

Min Yu's car was parked outside the villa. Huo Yao straightened her jacket before she opened the back seat car door and got in.

Chapter 555: Single All His Life

Min Yu was dressed in a black woolen jacket today. His complexion was fair to begin with, and this contrast in color accentuated his dignified aura.

After Huo Yao got into the car, she blatantly admired his good looks for a while before she shifted her eyes away calmly.

Min Yu sat with his hands placed casually on his knees and his legs crossed. He turned his head sideways and looked at Huo Yao after she checked him out. "Are you happy with what you see?"

Zhuo Yun had already started the car engine. He secretly looked into the rearview mirror and felt he was getting accustomed to how thick-skinned his boss could get these days.

Huo Yao leaned against the door lazily with her hand against her forehead. She did not seem shy at all as she nodded and commented. "You look good."

Min Yu raised his brow. "That's it?"

Huo Yao rubbed her temple and looked contemplative for some time before she replied. "You are gorgeous."

Min Yu was flabbergasted.

"Cough cough..." Zhuo Yun could not resist coughing.

They could not expect a tomboy like her to say anything out of the ordinary.

She would just speak candidly and leave men speechless.

Also, she was a genius doctor. Prodigies like her tended to be blunt without beating around the bush.

Huo Yao leaned into the seat with her eyes gleaming and suddenly asked him. "How old are you?"

Min Yu's lips twitched but he didn't reply. It was Zhuo Yun who answered on his behalf from the driving seat.

"He is 24. He's single and has never had a girlfriend in his life!"

Since Zhuo Yun was concerned about his boss's love life, he pounced on the opportunity to sell the product... Correction, to promote his boss to Huo Yao.

The moment Zhuo Yun finished his sentence, Min Yu pressed his forehead.

From the looks of it, he must be going too lenient on these guys. How dare Zhuo Yun tease him?

Huo Yao raised her brow. "Aren't you interested in women?"

Zhuo Yun was taken aback. How could she misinterpret his words like this?

He felt that Huo Yao had a deep misunderstanding about what being single meant.

Before long, Huo Yao's voice came once more as she pursed her lips and put on a serious look. "If you need my help, I can prescribe some medicine."

Since they were neighbors and he had transferred her a lot of money, she did not mind prescribing something for him at no charge.

Min Yu's face instantly looked annoyed.

Zhuo Yun coughed dryly from the driver's seat and glanced behind sadly.

He felt awful for Min Yu.

He had already been single for so long. Now that he had a target, she kept hurting his feelings.

"... Thanks." After some time, Min Yu finally replied coldly through gritted teeth.

Huo Yao waved and said magnanimously, "You are welcome. We are neighbors after all."

Min Yu went quiet.

Huo Yao's brows rose upwards. She turned her head towards the car window and opened it. A light breeze entered the car and made her bangs flutter. Min Yu was unable to detect the smile in her eyes.

Flower Haven was a posh clubhouse with good privacy, so a lot of elites liked to dine there.

Despite the slight traffic jam, they were not late and arrived a few minutes before 12:00 pm.

Zhuo Yun went to park the car while Huo Yao and Min Yu alighted and entered the reception area on the ground floor.

The reception manager was speaking to some customers when he spotted Min Yu walking in. He walked over and greeted Min Yu politely.

Chapter 556: I Think I Just Saw Miss Huo

Huo Yao walked behind Min Yu. She heard her phone ping when she was getting out of the car, so she was replying to a text message with her head lowered.

Pei Feng was waiting for them downstairs and had just come back from the bathroom. He looked a little excited when he spotted Min Yu.

Even though Min Yu did not seem to like him when they crossed paths at the Yi residence, he did not take it to heart. Considering Min Yu's high status, it was understandable for him to have an eccentric temper.

Pei Feng quickly walked over and bowed to Min Yu reverently. "Hello, Young Master Min."

Min Yu glanced at Pei Feng calmly without saying a word. He turned to look at Huo Yao behind him. Since she was still texting, he remained standing and seemed to be waiting for her to finish.

Pei Feng frowned briefly. However, he said nothing as he stood beside Min Yu quietly and watched.

Huo Yao detected them looking at her. After she was done typing the last word and hit send, she looked up. "Why did you stop walking?"

Her eyes landed on Min Yu's face as she spoke quizzically.

"I'm waiting for you to finish," said Min Yu calmly in a cool tone.

The reception manager was stunned when he got a clear look at Huo Yao's face.

Huo Yao pursed her lips as she put her phone away. She finally noticed Pei Feng standing beside them. She merely glanced at him before saying to Min Yu, "It's okay. Don't worry about it."

Pei Feng did not try to greet Huo Yao. Instead, he continued smiling. "Let's head upstairs."

He gestured for them to go upstairs.

Min Yu looked at Huo Yao. His exquisite face looked elegant as he said, "Ladies first."

Huo Yao smiled ambiguously and walked in front of Pei Feng without trying to be polite.

Their behavior left Pei Feng feeling awkward briefly.

Min Yu had high status, but he had deliberately let an ordinary young woman walk ahead of him. He must be trying to tell Pei Feng something.

All Pei Feng cared about was Min Yu's impression of him, so he kept flattering him and did not care about anyone else, especially Huo Yao.

After all, it did not cross his mind that Min Yu would fancy an ordinary young woman like her. However, from the looks of it now... Pei Feng composed himself before he turned to follow behind Min Yu.

After they went upstairs, the reception manager spent some time calming himself before he finally took out his phone and tapped on the management level chat group.

He sent out a text to the group: [I think I just saw Miss Huo.]

The moment he sent the message, the chat group with over 500 people exploded.

Manager Wang Ocean Trading (Capital): [God. I'm so green with envy.]

Flower Haven General Manager (Province Y): [Looks like you are going to get promoted!]

Forte Mining General Manager (Province B): [Sigh. All I can do is dig ore.]

Fishery District Manager (Province A): [The only thing I'm fit to do is fish.]

Real Estate District Manager (Province C): [I'm only worthy of selling property.]

Logistics District Manager (Country M): [I can only sail.]

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After the reception manager saw the bursts of jealousy inside the group chat, he smiled. He did not reply and put away his phone and hurried to the second floor, waving to the general manager.

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Old Mr. Pei was chatting with Fang Chen and Lin Shuwen while they sat on the couch. The moment he saw Huo Yao and Min Yu enter the private room, he stood up and walked over. "Little Master Huo, Young Master Min, welcome."

They walked in at 12:00 pm sharp and were quite punctual.

Chapter 557: There's No Need To Trouble Miss Huo!

Min Yu nodded. "Hello, Old Mr. Pei."

"Hi, Old Mr. Pei," greeted Huo Yao.

Old Mr. Pei nodded and smiled. He took a few steps into the room and pointed at Fang Chen and Lin Shuwen as they sat on the couch. He introduced them. "This is the city mayor, Fang Chen, and his secretary, Lin Shuwen."

Old Mr. Pei turned to look at Fang Chen and Lin Shuwen. "He is Young Master Min. Since you already know Little Master Huo, I will spare the introduction."

After Huo Yao's treatment, Fang Chen's face was no longer as pale and he was starting to gain a little weight. Even though he was still skinny, it failed to conceal the powerful politician's aura emanating from him.

He stood up and walked up to Min Yu to reach his hand out and said with a smile, "How do you do, Young Master Min?"

Min Yu's eyes looked cool and sharp like a proud eagle. He glanced at Fang Chen unperturbed and did not reach his hand out to shake his hand. Instead, he merely nodded in acknowledgment.

Fang Chen did not seem upset. He subtly pulled his hand back before he looked at Huo Yao standing beside Min Yu. "Hi, Miss Huo."

Huo Yao had a rather good impression of Fang Chen since he was very decisive about paying her, so she looked at him briefly before she said, "You seem to be recovering well."

She sounded relatively warm.

Min Yu noticed the warmth in her voice.

"I have you to thank for that." Fang Chen smiled.

Despite his illness and his sickly appearance, he was really good-looking. Since he had a very refined aura, he seemed easy to get along with when he was not discussing work.

Huo Yao nodded and waved her hand casually. "You are too kind."

Since Huo Yao only met him today, she paused for two seconds before she said, "I will check your pulse later one more time."

Just as Fang Chen was about to nod and agree, Lin Shuwen promptly looked anxious. He hurriedly interrupted. "It's fine. There's no need to trouble Miss Huo. I think he's recovering well, so there's no need to trouble you!"

Fang Chen was puzzled.

Lin Shuwen turned his head and looked at Fang Chen solemnly. "Mr. Fang, I trust her skills. Since she already said you would be fine if you take her prescription, I have confidence you will recover!"

It cost a seven-digit figure each time she examined a pulse. Even if Fang Chen was rich, he could not go on throwing his money away!

Fang Chen touched his forehead and said softly, "Can you stop talking?"

Lin Shuwen stepped aside indignantly and shut his mouth.

Fang Chen coughed dryly and looked at Huo Yao. "... Sorry about that."

Huo Yao raised her brow and replied. "I get it. After all, he learned his lesson and doesn't want to spend more money."

Lin Shuwen went speechless.

He certainly felt offended!

Before long, Old Mr. Pei invited everyone to take a seat.

Since they had ordered ahead of time, Old Mr. Pei told Pei Feng to tell the waiting staff to bring in the food.

Pei Feng walked out.

Huo Yao sat beside Min Yu. She did not talk much and spent most of her time listening to Old Mr. Pei and the others talking. Every now and then, Old Mr. Pei would throw the conversation her way and she would raise her head to respond.

She kept an exceptionally low profile.

"Why didn't Young Master Rong come?" asked Lin Shuwen when it suddenly occurred to him that Pei Rong was not present.

Chapter 558: No Interest In The Apothecaries' Association

Old Mr. Pei picked up the teapot and filled everyone's teacups before he said, "He has gone back to Apothecaries' Association to get ready for his promotion exam."

Lin Shuwen did not seem surprised. After all, he was present when Pei Rong mentioned wanting to try for advanced apothecary.

He smiled before he said flatteringly, "Judging from his abilities, I'm sure he will make it."

Old Mr. Pei shook his head. "Only one or two apothecaries are able to get promoted to advanced apothecary at the Apothecaries' Association each year, so it is really down to his luck."

"Well, it really isn't purely a matter of luck. He can't do it without talent," commented Fang Chen after he contemplated for two seconds.

Lin Shuwen felt slightly relieved when he heard Fang Chen unprecedentedly saying something nice. He had reminded Fang Chen to foster a good relationship with the Pei family before he came today, especially Pei Rong.

He simply did not expect Pei Rong to leave for the capital so soon.

Despite Lin Shuwen's disappointment, he raised his head to look at the young woman sitting across from him and suddenly felt it might be a good idea for Pei Rong to be away. Otherwise, the subject of how Pei Rong changed Huo Yao's treatment plans was bound to come up.

After all, he had not told the Pei family about them inviting Huo Yao to examine Fang Chen a second time.

Lin Shuwen composed himself and chimed in. "Anyone who is accepted by Apothecaries' Association is a one in a million talent."

The moment Huo Yao heard what Lin Shuwen said, she raised her head slightly.

She had some memory of Apothecaries' Association and their apothecary skills were pretty normal.

How could Lin Shuwen call their members rare talent?

Huo Yao pursed her lips briefly.

Old Mr. Pei turned his head sideways and looked at Huo Yao. "Are you interested in getting into the Apothecaries' Association? Considering your apothecary skills..."

Huo Yao interrupted him before he finished his sentence. "Nope."

She tapped her fingers on the table gently and seemed laid back.

Lin Shuwen raised his head and looked at Huo Yao in shock. Did she know what the Apothecaries' Association was? How could she express her disinterest so decisively?

Also, Old Mr. Pei was talking about her apothecary skills when he got interrupted.

Was she an apothecary too?

Was she a 17 to 18 year old apothecary?

The thought crossed Lin Shuwen's mind briefly before he shook his head and decided it was impossible.

Although Old Mr. Pei was disappointed, the Apothecaries' Association was probably nothing to her considering Huo Yao's medical and apothecary skills.

Probably other than the chairman, no one else was her match.

It did not matter whether she joined the Apothecaries' Association or not since Min Yu was backing her. Regardless of her ordinary family background, she did not have to worry about getting a target painted on her back.

Before long, Pei Feng came back into the private room and sat down next to Old Mr. Pei. He wanted to sit closer to Min Yu, but judging from his attitude towards him earlier, he decided to keep a safe distance.

Although Pei Feng was mercenary in nature, he had a keen eye. Pei Feng knew that Min Yu would not have come if not on account of his father.

Pei Feng poured himself some tea quietly.

Lin Shuwen kept checking his wristwatch for the time and seemed preoccupied.

Fang Chen turned sideways and looked at him quizzically. "Do you have somewhere to go?"

Lin Shuwen glanced at Huo Yao before he said softly, "Mind if I leave for a second?"

Chapter 559: A Huge Entourage Of Staff

Lin Shuwen paused before he added. "Someone wants to see me. Since he is at this clubhouse, I will be back in a jiffy."

Fang Chen did not probe him for details. "Sure. Go ahead."

"Uh huh." Lin Shuwen nodded before he stood up and said to Old Mr. Pei and the others, "One moment, please."

He happened to bump into the wait staff sending in the food on his way out of the private room.

There were a total of seven to eight people coming in with dining carts of food as they filed in one after another.

Lin Shuwen was startled by the huge entourage of servers. He finally composed himself after everyone sent the food into the private room.

He had been to Flower Haven previously but had never witnessed such a high level of service. It felt as though they were serving an emperor.

Lin Shuwen shook his head. He swiftly shook the crazy thoughts out of his mind before he headed to the other end of the corridor.

Huo Yao's foster father had asked to meet Lin Shuwen at Flower Haven. Initially, Lin Shuwen wanted to turn him down. Since Old Mr. Pei organized lunch here as well, he changed his mind.

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Meanwhile, inside another private room.

Lu Hongwen, He Xiaoman, and Lu Hongwen's friend who worked in the government had been waiting for Lin Shuwen since 11:00 am.

Lu Hongwen kept looking at the private room door every now and then as he checked his watch for the time and clearly looked nervous. "Do you think there is a chance Mr. Lin will stand us up?"

He Xiaoman sat in her chair nervously as well. "Let's wait for a bit longer. Maybe he is caught in a jam."

"Mr. and Mrs. Lu, don't be anxious. Since Secretary Lin has agreed to come, he won't stand you up. He said he would arrive around 12:30 pm, so he ought to be here soon." He could tell that they were worried.

Lu Hongwen laughed uncontrollably as he looked at his friend. "It is not that I am anxious whether he will turn up. I am more nervous about what to say to him when I see him since we don't know much about his personality."

His friend took a sip of tea unhurriedly. "Secretary Lin is a straightforward guy, so you should make your point."

"Okay. We are counting on you to help us convince him later." He Xiaoman beamed as she looked at her husband's friend.

"Uh huh," acknowledged Lu Hongwen's friend. He paused for two seconds and added. "I am not that high ranked and have never spoken to Secretary Lin in person before."

Lu Hongwen promptly replied. "You are so modest. I am already very impressed that you can arrange this meeting."

"Uh huh. This means that your superiors hold you in high regard," He Xiaoman chimed in.

Even though Liang Jun felt flattered, he shook his head modestly and said nothing.

The private room door suddenly opened and Lin Shuwen appeared. Liang Jun stood up right away. He was clearly a little anxious.

Liang Jun walked over and greeted Lin Shuwen courteously. "Secretary Lin."

Liang Jun was a middle-aged man in his forties and he had never met Lin Shuwen before. Hence, Lin Shuwen assumed he was Huo Yao's foster father the minute he laid eyes on him.

Although he was not as courteous to him as he was to Huo Yao, it was considered polite of him.

"Hi, Mr. Lu," said Lin Shuwen as he nodded.

The moment Liang Jun heard his words, he was stunned. He quickly composed himself and said awkwardly, "Secretary Lin, I'm Liang Jun. This is Mr. Lu."

He proceeded to point at Lu Hongwen as he walked over.

Chapter 560: All Problems Could Be Solved With Money

Lin Shuwen looked at Lu Hongwen and greeted him. "Hello, Mr. Lu."

Lu Hongwen did not expect the mayor's secretary to be so young. Lin Shuwen looked like he was in his thirties at best and seemed easy to get along with.

Lu Hongwen nodded quickly and said politely, "I have heard so much about you. Thanks for making the time to see us."

Lin Shuwen had encountered all walks of people in his life. Regardless of officials and entrepreneurs, he could discern their personality with just a few looks.

In all honesty, he was somewhat annoyed when Huo Yao's foster parents immediately put on their ingratiating behaviour.

He had visited the Huo residence previously, but her biological parents were easy to get along with and seemed refined.

Lin Shuwen coughed. He was a little disappointed in his heart. However, he suppressed his irritation on account of Huo Yao and only pursed his lips and said, "My pleasure."

Lu Hongwen did not know the thoughts running through Lin Shuwen's mind. He extended his hand and gestured for him to take a seat. "Secretary Lin, why don't you take a seat first. We can talk over lunch."

The moment Lin Shuwen entered the room, He Xiaoman pressed the bell for the service staff to send in the food.

Since Lin Shuwen did not intend to eat lunch with them, he stood where he was without walking over. Instead, he cut to the chase and said to Lu Hongwen, "Mr. Lu, why don't you get straight to the reason why you wanted to see me. I am kind of busy."

It was clear that he was tactfully turning down the invite to eat with them.

Lu Hongwen had taken a few steps forward. The moment he heard what Lin Shuwen said, he turned back. He glanced at Liang Jun and recalled what he said about cutting to the chase when talking to Lin Shuwen.

Lu Hongwen assumed that Lin Shuwen was genuinely busy, so he said straightforwardly, "I invited you here to talk about the old city district bid. Lu Corporation has prepared a really strong proposal..."

Lu Hongwen glanced at He Xiaoman and cued for her to bring the proposal over.

Lin Shuwen had an inkling regarding the reason why Lin Hongwen had invited him to lunch.

He did not reach out to take the proposal. Instead, he said, "Mr. Lu, the project has to undergo the usual bidding process. I am only in charge of following up on the bidding. The final decision of who the project goes to does not lie in my hands."

Even though Lin Shuwen tended to curry favor with the powerful, he was just like Fang Chen when it came to work ethics. He never used his power for personal gain. He was desperately suppressing his urge to walk out of the room altogether.

He only continued standing there because Lu Hongwen was Huo Yao's foster father and she had saved Fang Chen.

If not for Huo Yao, he would not have even turned up for this invitation today.

Lu Hongwen's hand froze in mid-air with the proposal in hand. He looked at Lin Shuwen.

Initially, he thought that the fact that Lin Shuwen agreed to meet him today was a sign of affirmation for Lu Corporation's work. He did not expect Lin Shuwen to turn down his request to help without even looking at his proposal.

Lu Hongwen froze for a moment until He Xiaoman nudged his arm. He finally snapped out of his daze and turned to glance at her.

He Xiaoman looked at him before she retrieved a card from her designer purse and quickly placed it in Lu Hongwen's hand and indicated that he should give it to Lin Shuwen.

He Xiaoman had a simple explanation for this. The only reason Lin Shuwen blatantly refused to help was that they did not bribe him.

In her opinion, all problems could be solved with money. If money did not work, it meant that the amount was not enough.