

Pill Maker 61

Chapter 61: Is The Education Association That Mind Blowing?

Huo Yanxi frowned and said, "Why did you bring up Lu Xia again? Are you at the same level as her?"

Huo Yao tapped the table gently with her finger casually and replied. "Aren't you the one who brought her up?"

Huo Yanxi went speechless and felt that there was no way for him to communicate with Huo Yao properly. Still, he drew in a breath and patiently tried to explain to her. "Xiaxia did it for the sake of getting recommendation into Tsing University. What about you? It seems... pointless to participate in the competition with grades like yours."

After pausing for a second, Huo Yanxi added further. "If you have spare time, you should take some tuition. The most important thing for you now is to improve your grades."

Although he was somewhat disappointed with his younger sister, he hoped she could focus on getting onto the right path instead of harboring any fantasies and looking for shortcuts.

Huo Yao casually laughed as she looked at him and replied. "So are you trying to say that I don't have the right to participate in the quiz?"

Huo Yao's laughter sent Huo Yanxi into a flurry. He instinctively answered. "... That's not what I mean. I'm just saying you shouldn't bite off more than what you can chew."

"Sure, I get it," said Huo Yao as she nodded. Then she lowered her head to continue finishing off the bit of porridge left in her bowl.

Huo Yanxi looked at his baby sister. Although she seemed calm and sensible, she deliberately kept a distance from him, which made complicated emotions rise in his heart.

Lu Xia would never have placed him in such an awkward situation and would have at least tried to understand what he said.

The mood at the dining table became somewhat awkward post this conversation.

Huo Yanxi lost all appetite a while later and stopped eating breakfast. Then he looked at Huo Yao and said, "Why don't I hire a tuition teacher for you?"

Huo Yao raised her head quizzically and asked him. "Hmm?"

"Since you're so persistent about joining the competition, I won't talk you out of it. I have a friend who works for the Education Association and might be of some use to you," said Huo Yanxi slowly.

Those who made it into the Education Association were either college teachers with advanced teaching licenses or academics from various fields who had contributed to society. If she accepted guidance from a member of the association, it would save her a lot of effort.

"Thanks, but I don't need him." Huo Yao rejected his offer politely but decisively.

Huo Yao could not fathom why her older brother was so certain that her grades were lousy enough for her to need tutelage from someone belonging to the Education Association.

Huo Yao's rejection caught Huo Yanxi by surprise. He had reckoned that his thoughtfulness would have moved her.

But Huo Yao was completely untouched and even refused Huo Yanxi without a moment's hesitation.

Huo Yanxi looked angry and could not help saying, "Do you know what a boon it is to receive guidance from someone from the Education Association?"

Huo Yao looked at him calmly without saying a word.

Huo Yanxi held his forehead with his hand and felt infuriated by the sight of her indifference.

Then he said sternly, "Do you know..."

It suddenly dawned on Huo Yanxi that Huo Yao had lived in a small county all her life and probably knew nothing about the Education Association. Hence, his voice came to an abrupt halt as he shook his head and said, "Forget it. I don't even know why I bothered trying."

Huo Yanxi stood up and said to Huo Yao, "Since you don't want my help, just forget that I even asked."

He could not be bothered with this little sister of his anymore.

Huo Yao watched as Huo Yanxi flicked his sleeves and left angrily. Then she took out her phone moments later to type a text message and hit send.

[Is the Education Association a big deal?]

Chapter 62: Was Miss Big Shot A Student?

A man had just finished pulling an all-nighter conducting experiments at a graduate school in the capital. The moment he took out his phone, he saw a text message from [Medicine Pill]. He instantly woke up from his daze.

The Education Association?

Was it not the association set up by a bunch of idealistic academics with nothing better to do?

The man had no clue why she asked about it, but he quickly composed a reply: [The Education Association is a talent training ground that recruits talent from all colleges. In terms of status... they are considered pretty respectable. After all, they do contribute to society.]

Huo Yao was suddenly enlightened after reading the message. Then she slowly replied with a single word: [Thanks.]

Oh! She had been wondering how formidable it was. In the end, it turned out to be just a licensed Ponzi scheme.

[Do you have any kids attending school? A senior of mine works as a director at the Education Association. I can help by getting in touch with him.]

The man sent Huo Yao another text message.

Huo Yao went into a protracted silence for a long time with her phone in her hand.

[Miss Big Shot?]

Huo Yao sighed gently and replied: [...No, thanks.]

The man sensed something amiss when he saw the reply. Then he decided that she herself could not possibly be a student.

[Oh yes, a major black market auction is taking place in the capital in a few days. I heard high-grade Seven Leaf Lotus would be up for sale. Didn't you say you were looking for this herb? I have an invitation for the black market auction. If you want to go, I can mail you my invite.]

Huo Yao pondered for a while before her fingers moved again as she typed: [No thanks. I'm too busy with schoolwork.]

The man had sipped some water while he waited for a reply. He got such a shock when he saw the message that water sprayed right out of his mouth.

School?

No time?

Did he hallucinate?

Was Miss Big Shot not an elderly person?

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Perhaps due to Huo Yao and Huo Yanxi's conflict earlier in the morning, Huo Yanxi changed his plans about living at home for now and left without staying even for a single day.

Huo Yanxi looked at Huo Yao somewhat disappointedly before he left.

But Huo Yao was unaffected and continued studying. Song Ning could not help feeling annoyed with her son's actions when she saw how quiet and diligent Huo Yao was.

Song Ning ordered her son not to come back for the time being, out of the fear that Huo Yanxi and Huo Yao's relationship would become even tenser. She did not want it to affect the atmosphere at home.

In the afternoon, Song Ning suffered from a bout of headache, and planned on heading to a traditional Chinese medicine club, which she frequented to get a massage. But Huo Yao stopped her and said, "Mom, let me give you a massage."

Song Ning waved her away as she rubbed her temples and said, "It's okay. Go on and study. I'll get an experienced traditional Chinese medicine physician to give me a massage and apply some acupuncture."

Huo Yao frowned when she heard this. Then she said gravely, “You can’t treat your headache randomly. If the physician doesn’t get the acupuncture point right, it will only make your headache worse.”

Song Ning was surprised. Then she smiled and said, “It’ll be fine. This physician has been giving me massages for years, and he’s pretty good, so don’t worry.”

Huo Yao went quiet. Then she said, “Why don’t you let me try? If the headache persists, you can go to your usual physician later.”

Song Ning thought her daughter was just trying to be filial, so she didn’t turn her down. She went ahead and sat down in the armchair nearby.

At worst, Song Ning would claim that it had stopped hurting and sneak off to visit the physician later when Huo Yao was not looking.

Chapter 63: A Stupid Quiz Without Any Prize

Huo Yao was clueless about her mother’s plans. She waited for Song Ning to sit down before she rolled her sleeves up and started massaging her mother’s temples moderately with her long slender fingers.

Her hands were very dexterous, and an expert would be able to notice that she was rubbing major head acupuncture points with great precision. Even the most experienced traditional Chinese medicine practitioners would not be confident about rubbing some of the acupuncture points which she was currently massaging.

Although Song Ning had sat down and obligingly agreed to her daughter’s request at first, she felt a lot better after Huo Yao pressed her head for a while. Huo Yao did a much better job than the physician whom she had been frequenting for dozens of years.

“Yaoyao, have you learned how to massage before? My headache has almost disappeared after you pressed my head,” said Song Ning with a look of bliss on her face.

Huo Yao continued massaging her mother’s head. Then she replied calmly. “I used to give massages to Grandma.”

So that was the reason Huo Yao was so good at this.

Song Ning was no longer surprised. Her lips curved into a proud smile as she said, “My daughter is the best. Even without official training, you’re much better than those massage parlors!”

Huo Yao lowered her eyes so that her long eyelashes covered her eyes. Then she asked her mother. “Have you been regularly using the pills I gave you?”

“I did. The incense pills were lightly scented and didn’t feel stifling, so they were especially good. I feel the quality of my sleep has improved vastly off late, and even your father’s insomnia got better,” replied Song Ning with a smile.

“I don’t think you’ve started taking the oral medication I gave you, right?” Huo Yao asked her calmly. Despite wording it as a question, she sounded certain.

If Song Ning had started taking medicine, her migraine would not have acted up today.

Song Ning pinched her skirt, sheepishly. She replied meekly after a while. "The medicine... smells too strong and tastes bitter. I can't take it..." After taking the medication once, Song Ning could not bring herself to consume it a second time.

Huo Yao sighed gently. Then she said, "It's for your own good, so you must take the pills."

Song Ning could not help feeling guilty in her heart instantly when she heard her daughter sigh softly, so she hurriedly said, "I promise to take it regularly regardless of how bitter it tastes."

Huo Yao stopped massaging Song Ning and asked her. "Okay. How do you feel now?"

Song Ning opened her eyes and instinctively moved her neck a little. Then she exclaimed in surprise. "It doesn't hurt at all anymore. I feel invigorated!"

Huo Yao raised her brows gently. Of course, it was effective since Huo Yao was the one who had given the message.

Song Ning turned around and gazed at Huo Yao. Then she asked her curiously. "Oh yes! Your elder brother said you signed up for some quiz, didn't he?"

Huo Yao nodded and replied expressionlessly. "A stupid quiz... without any reward."

She gave Song Ning the impression that it was some normal extracurricular quiz, so she said, "Oh, I see. Then you can just take the quiz and treat it as practice."

There was a slight look of annoyance in her eyes. Why did Huo Yanxi have to throw such a temper this morning if it was just a little quiz?

Song Ning raised her head and asked her a few seconds later. "Can I find out more about your quiz online?"

Despite her daughter's claims that it was some dumb quiz, Song Ning had to pay close attention to it since she was her mother.

Although Huo Yao did not understand why Song Ning asked, she replied with a shrug. "I guess so. Just search for the 'National Quiz Contest'."

Song Ning nodded her head with her phone already in hand.

Huo Yao glanced at her and said, "Then I'm heading back to my room."

Song Ning responded without even looking up. "Okay. Go on then."

She had already opened the internet browser on her phone and typed, 'National Quiz Contest'.

Chapter 64: The Preliminary Test

A lot of information about the National Quiz Contest popped up on her phone very quickly.

Song Ning was all smiles when she saw how popular her daughter's quiz was. The moment she hit search, so many hits appeared online.

But Song Ning's smile gradually froze before long.

Did her daughter not say it was a dumb quiz that did not even offer a prize?

How could a quiz that involved city, province, national and international qualifiers, which was co-organized by a few major colleges in the capital and the Education Association be considered insignificant?

Although there was no cash prize, the winner walked off with a recommendation to one of the nation's top universities, Tsing University, and that alone was clearly more impressive than money.

Song Ning was stunned and deeply suspicious that this was not the same quiz that her daughter mentioned.

So she opened her internet browser and ran another search...

The National Quiz Contest was split into many districts, starting from the preliminary tests at the city level, followed by the provincial level before making it to the national stage. Finally, the top five students in the nation would represent the country to compete internationally.

The quiz was not restricted to a single subject, making it far more difficult.

After all, students who specialized in the sciences would be far weaker when it came to the humanities and vice versa.

A preliminary test conducted by the province's Education Association was carried out at the city level prior to the heats, and those who passed it, earned their right to compete.

The preliminary test was taking place on Wednesday, and all the third-year seniors, who had signed up were to take the test in the school examination halls.

There were a total of ten senior classes. Apart from the three people from Huo Yao's Experimental Class, almost every class had sent five to eight contestants.

The vice-principal was very surprised when Chen Yu submitted the application forms.

In a blink of an eye, it was Wednesday.

The test would commence in the morning. The form teacher, Chen Yu, informed Huo Yao of her candidature number before she headed to the examination hall.

Since there were many candidates from the No.1 Middle School, they were split into two examination halls, and Huo Yao was assigned to the second one.

She and the two boys from her class were assigned to the same hall. Boys were not as competitive as girls, so they cheered for her bashfully before going to their seats.

Unfortunately, Lu Xia was assigned to the second examination hall as well.

Since Lu Xia was the school belle, a bright student, and part of a somewhat famous girl band, she attracted a lot of male attention.

Most of the contestants were boys, and barely a third of them were girls. Huo Yao and Lu Xia happened to be the only girls in the second examination hall.

Huo Yao leaned back lazily in her seat while she twirled the pencil in her hand unhurriedly. She did not look up even once when Lu Xia entered the hall. It was as though she was quietly immersed in her own world.

On the other hand, Lu Xia smiled warmly like a dream girlfriend or a goddess. She was very graceful. There was something ethereal about her. In comparison, Lu Xia and Huo Yao's personalities were distinctly different.

"Who do you think is better looking? The campus belle or the new transfer?"

"The school belle. She looks sweet and innocent, is kind to her peers, and has excellent grades."

"I think the new transfer is more beautiful. Although she appears distant, she has such an incredible aura that it is overwhelming for both boys and girls."

"That's true as well. Haha!"

Since Lu Xia was sitting in the first row, she caught wind of the conversation behind her. She lowered her eyes slightly and seemed to be completely indifferent to it.

Chapter 65: Was She Secretly A Genius?

The invigilator came into the hall with the test papers soon after. After briefly bringing some points to the students' attention, he handed out the test.

Huo Yao scanned through the entire test after receiving it. Then she shook her head rather disappointedly before picking up her pen and completing the test slowly.

She had wondered how formidable the Education Association was until she saw the mediocre test paper.

They were given an hour to complete the test, but Huo Yao finished it in 30 minutes. Then she lay on the table lazily.

Huo Yao would have undoubtedly left the moment she finished the quiz if she were permitted to submit her test ahead of time.

Wei Mingzhe was the invigilator of the second examination hall. His impression of Huo Yao was deep but terrible.

He could not help shaking his head mockingly when he caught sight of Huo Yao lying down on the table. She was apparently napping halfway through the test. She was poles apart from the other contestants who were absolutely focused on the test.

Despite Huo Yao's poor grades, she could still have had a positive learning attitude. Even if she entered the school by pulling some strings, didn't she have any self-knowledge of her limits? Did she think that the National Quiz Contest was a child's play?

This was hilarious.

Fortunately, Wei Mingzhe had insisted on refusing to accept her into his class, or else she would have driven him mad.

The test came to an end in 60 minutes. Although Huo Yao was the first to finish the test, she was the last to submit it.

When Huo Yao handed the test to Wei Mingzhe, he did not cast an eye at her or her test paper. Instead, he placed it straight into the document bag before sealing it and leaving the exam hall.

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Huo Yao went to the bathroom after leaving the exam hall before heading back to the class.

The moment she sat down, her deskmate, Meng Ying, leaned over and asked her. "How did the test go, Sister Big Shot? I heard the study committee member and class monitor say that the preliminary test was hard."

Besides Huo Yao, the only other contestants from the Experimental Class were the class monitor and a study committee member.

Huo Yao looked up lazily. Then she said expressionlessly, "Was it tough?"

Meng Ying was dumbstruck and asked in return. "Wasn't it tough?"

Both the class monitor and the study committee member were ranked in the top 20 in the entire level each year, so if they griped about it being hard, it must be true.

Huo Yao replied with a shrug. "Okay, so it was hard."

Meng Ying, "..."

When Meng Ying heard her words, Huo Yao sounded patronizing, arrogant, and a little big-headed.

Meng Ying touched her nose tip and continued. "How many points do you think you can get? Any chance of passing the preliminary test?"

Huo Yao raised her brows gently as she said, "Honey, do you doubt my ability?"

Meng Ying blushed. She felt Huo Yao was becoming more and more of a rogue. She said, "Let's not forget that you're widely under the suspicion of getting into the school through the back door!"

Huo Yao waved her hand nonchalantly and Meng Ying shook her head quietly without asking further.

Was Sister Big Shot secretly a genius, considering how calm she was?

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The preliminary test results would be out the next day at 10:00 am, but Huo Yao was called into the Office of Academic Affairs before they were released.

Several teachers were inside the Office of Academic Affairs.

Other than her class advisor, Chen Yu, Wei Mingzhe, the Dean of Students, and the Vice-principal were also present.

All of them looked particularly grave, especially the Vice-principal and her class advisor.

The Vice-principal looked at Huo Yao as he said coldly, "Huo Yao, you must have heard the gossip about you that is going around the school, right?"

Huo Yao looked up at him without a shred of fear towards his stern attitude. Instead, she asked airily. "The one about me pulling strings to get into the school?"

The Vice-principal frowned. He did not expect the new transfer student to have such an attitude.

Chapter 66: Slander?

"Yes, that's correct. You've blemished the school's reputation by raising doubt in society about our practices. Many parents have lodged complaints about this," said the Vice-principal sternly as he explained the gravity of the matter.

He had chosen to close one eye on account of the Principal, but he did not expect gossip to spread so rampantly on campus. Now it was impossible for him to cover it up.

"It's partly my fault. I thought it was inappropriate when the new school term started. If I knew it would cause such a commotion, I would never have... Sigh!" Wei Mingzhe exhaled with a look of remorse on his face.

Chen Yu glanced at Huo Yao as she stood among them, isolated and helpless. Although it was wrong to pull strings to get into the school, Chen Yu knew that Huo Yao had a great temperament and a positive learning attitude after getting to know her and observing her for so long.

This kid was the one who suffered suspicion, became the center of gossip, and kept getting judged by her peers.

After staying silent for a few seconds, Chen Yu said, "Since it has already happened, there's no point blaming anyone. We should focus on thinking about how to kill the gossip."

The Vice-principal sneered and asked her. "How can we make the gossip go away? Her parents have no choice but to write a letter of apology and remove her from the school."

The Dean of Students anxiously said, "No, didn't I just explain things to everyone? Huo Yao didn't enter the school using a backdoor. Why won't you believe me?"

Since they started discussing the matter of Huo Yao joining the school using a backdoor, he kept helping her clarify the matter. But the Vice-principal unexpectedly failed to believe him and insisted on calling Huo Yao over to the office.

“If Huo Yao didn’t enter the school by using her connections, why is gossip spreading so wildly in school? How can you choose to continue covering up for the Principal now that things have come to this?”

The Vice-principal looked at the Dean bitterly and seemed disappointed by his attitude.

The Dean frowned when he heard his words. Then he said, “Cover up for the Principal? Sir, what are you driving at?”

“I always thought that the Principal was a fair and just man...” said the Vice-principal as he glanced at Huo Yao and sneered. “But I didn’t think he would end up doing something stupid.”

Although he didn’t explicitly state that the Principal was the one who let Huo Yao enter the school, everyone present got his drift.

The Dean seemed to catch on too. Then he angrily burst out laughing as he said, “Sir, although the Principal isn’t in town, isn’t it wrong to slander him?”

The Vice-principal’s expression froze. He had always loathed the Principal’s lofty attitude. Now that the opportunity presented itself, he was certainly going to kick him hard, but he did not expect the Dean to be so blatant with his words.

“Hehe, am I slandering him? Do you think I’ve nothing better to do than to risk the school’s reputation? Since I’m the vice-principal, do you think I can avoid accountability for it?”

The Vice-principal was furious.

In an instant, the atmosphere became awkward.

Wei Mingzhe looked at them both and pondered briefly. Then he said, “Sir, the Vice-principal isn’t targeting the Principal. Weren’t you the one who said Huo Yao was the Principal’s relative on the first day of school?”

The Dean of Students looked at Wei Mingzhe perplexedly and said, “When did I ever say Huo Yao was the Principal’s relative? Wei Mingzhe, you better watch your tongue!”

Chapter 67: Remove Your Daughter From School!

The Dean swiftly recalled his words which he said to Wei Mingzhe on the first day of school. He had mentioned that Huo Yao was invited by the Principal to join the school. In the end, he got anxious after finding out Huo Yao had gone from there, so he left halfway before he finished the conversation.

He wanted to let Wei Mingzhe know how much effort the Principal put in to convince Huo Yao to transfer to their school.

Did Wei Mingzhe misunderstand it in the end?

The Dean rubbed his forehead.

Wei Mingzhe could tell that the Dean had probably recalled the conversation. So he curled his lips and said, “How could I lie in front of everyone?”

The Vice-principal assumed that the Dean was quiet out of guilt, and he smiled maliciously as well. "Stop saying that I slandered the Principal. I can't be held responsible for this!"

The Dean was about to explain when Song Ning and Huo Jinyan hurriedly came in after they received an urgent notification. They walked into the office anxiously and interrupted him right away.

"Sir, what happened to my daughter?"

Song Ning sounded really worried. She rushed over to Huo Yao when she saw her standing there and pinched her shoulders. After checking her up thoroughly, Song Ning heaved a sigh of relief.

She had just received a call from the school for her to come over immediately. The caller sounded so solemn that she was terrified that something awful had happened.

The Vice-principal cleared his throat. Then he looked at Song Ning and Huo Jinyan and said somewhat politely, "You see, we might not be able to allow your kid to attend the No.1 Middle School. After all, coming in through the backdoor has a huge impact. We informed you both to come today to clarify things and have you remove your child from school."

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan both looked at him in astonishment.

"What... what do you mean? Sir, can you make yourself clearer? What do you mean about taking the backdoor?" Song Ning was completely puzzled.

Before anyone else could say anything, Huo Jinyan spoke with a frown on his face, "Didn't the school reach out to my daughter and invite her to transfer here? You even sent my daughter an Acceptance Letter."

He looked upset.

Huo Jinyan usually seemed rather amicable in front of Huo Yao, but he gave off an inexplicably imposing aura when he had an angry look on his face.

Even someone as proud as the Vice-principal felt somewhat shocked by Huo Jinyan's imposing aura. But... what did the husband and wife mean to say?

Were they pretending because they did not want to admit to pulling connections to get their daughter into the school?

This behaviour was simply too disgusting.

Were they acting like this because they were the Principal's relatives?

The Vice-principal laughed angrily and said, "Don't you know best whether she entered the school due to your connections? Do you want to make the Principal hurry back just to confirm this?"

Song Ning was even more baffled. Then she said, "Don't you think you've gone overboard talking like this? Why should we suffer this accusation if we did nothing of the sort?"

Song Ning briefly paused before she continued. "Doesn't the No.1 Middle School have a strict school culture? Don't tell me that you accept backdoor entrants?"

The Vice-principal nearly passed out in anger after Song Ning outrageously countered him with a question. They must be acting recklessly due to their connection to the Principal. He finally managed to stutter a reply. "You're absolutely unreasonable!"

Song Ning watched as the Vice-principal's face turned livid. Suddenly she recalled the grades her daughter had back in the small county and the Acceptance Letter that appeared out of nowhere...

Song Ning felt apprehensive in her heart. Suddenly her overpowering confidence dissipated as though she had been stabbed by a needle.

Oh no, was her daughter in trouble?

Chapter 68: She Had Such An Attitude!

Although Song Ning was flustered in her heart, it did not show on her face. She only looked at her husband beside her and gestured for him to say something quickly.

Huo Jinyan's imagination did not run wild like his wife. When his daughter first showed them the Acceptance Letter from the No.1 Middle School, it never occurred to him that Huo Yao had obtained it through unsavory methods.

After all, the No.1 Middle School was a prominent high school that ranked amongst the top five in the nation, so there was no sense for them to accept someone with poor grades. The school would have to consider its reputation even if someone wanted to pull strings to get in.

Huo Jinyan's face turned cold as he said, "I can assure you that we did nothing of the sort and we don't know the Principal at all. If you want to convince me to take my daughter out of school, then you better show me some evidence."

Huo Jinyan looked at his daughter as she stood there quietly without moving at all. He glanced at the Vice-principal, Dean, and teachers, and his eyes became increasingly cold.

Then he said, "If you can't produce any proof, then don't blame me for telling the media about how the No.1 Middle School bullies its students!"

At the thought that his poor daughter had helplessly suffered this aggressive interrogation on her own before they arrived here, he could not help feeling upset.

The Vice-principal started to lose confidence after he saw the resolution in Huo Jinyan's eyes.

Did they make a mistake?

When Song Ning heard the harsh words her husband uttered, she could not help coughing. Then she said, "Calm down. Maybe this is some misunderstanding?"

Would they not end up slapping their faces if their daughter truly got into the school by pulling strings?

Song Ning was unconcerned about embarrassing herself, but she did not want to hurt her daughter's dignity.

The Dean had just exchanged a few text messages from the Principal. When he heard Song Ning's words, he quickly smiled apologetically and said, "Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Huo, it was all a misunderstanding. I was the one who didn't make things clear enough."

Huo Jinyan narrowed his eyes as he looked at the Dean without saying a word.

The look in Huo Jinyan's eyes made the Dean's heart palpitate. He said quickly, "The Principal specially invited Huo Yao to join the school. It was my fault for not making things clearer to my colleagues and causing her to get misunderstood."

Wei Mingzhe frowned. Specially invited? Was he trying to help get the Principal off the hook again?

Since Wei Mingzhe was not ready to be held accountable, he immediately asked without waiting for the Dean to continue. "Okay, if you say the principal specially invited Huo Yao, then what about her grades?"

The Dean was slightly annoyed when Wei Mingzhe said this. He replied with a scowl on his face. "What's wrong with her grades? Didn't I keep telling you that she scored full marks on her admission test?"

He did not understand what this old stick in the mud was up to. When Huo Yao's parents demanded an explanation, even the Vice-principal did not dare to utter a word. Only Wei Mingzhe obstinately went against Huo Jinyan without recognizing the effort he had made to play the peacemaker.

Wei Mingzhe glanced at Huo Yao. Then he sneered. "Sir, are you sure Huo Yao entered the school with full marks on her admission test? If she were able to score full marks, she wouldn't have fallen asleep halfway through the preliminary test yesterday."

After pausing briefly, Wei Mingzhe continued righteously. "She had such a poor attitude yesterday while all the other contestants were carefully doing the test."

Wei Mingzhe was implying that Huo Yao would not have slept and treated the test so perfunctorily if she had been competent enough to answer all the questions.

Chapter 69: Coming First In The Preliminary Test With Full Marks

Translator: Henyee Translations Editor: Henyee Translations

The Dean looked completely baffled and asked him in a confused manner. "Wei, did you assume Huo Yao had lousy grades because you caught her sleeping during the test?"

It had never once crossed his mind that Wei Mingzhe would be so pedantic.

Wei Mingzhe did not feel there was anything inappropriate in thinking so and he replied in affirmative. "Don't you know how tough the test was yesterday? Even the reigning top student, Yi Lianfan, couldn't finish it as quickly. Can a new transfer from a tiny county outdo him?"

The Dean pressed his fingers against his forehead and felt that Wei Mingzhe's bias was becoming increasingly serious.

Huo Yao stood there in silence the entire time without defending herself. When she suddenly raised her head, there was surprisingly no resentment on her exquisite face. Then she asked no one in particular, in a calm voice. "Aren't the preliminary test results out by now?"

The Dean raised his hand to check his wristwatch. It was exactly 10:00 am. He walked past everyone and headed to his desk without saying a word.

He turned on the computer, logged onto the National Quiz Contest website quickly, and accessed the No.1 Middle School results.

A total of 68 students from the No.1 Middle School took the preliminary test, but only 23 of them passed while Huo Yao surprisingly came first.

The Dean stared at the computer for a long time without blinking.

Wei Mingzhe and the Vice-principal walked up to the computer screen after his protracted silence. They were both stunned when they saw the ranking on the page and the corresponding score.

After Wei Mingzhe composed himself, he grabbed the mouse from the Dean impatiently and muttered. "I can't believe it... How could she have done better than Yi Lianfan? She clearly didn't even take it seriously..."

But no matter how many times he refreshed the page, the person, who stood first with a perfect score of 150 points, was Huo Yao.

Wei Mingzhe's hands trembled and the mouse fell to the ground with a thud.

When the Vice-principal saw those test results, his face turned as dark as Wei Mingzhe's. He looked at Huo Yao with a complicated expression on his face.

The Vice-principal had seriously believed that the Principal let this new transfer in through the backdoor. He was certain she had poor grades and had been waiting to see how she would embarrass the Principal during the quiz.

At this moment, the Vice-principal gave a self-deprecatory smile.

Huo Yao's class advisor, Miss Yu, also hurried over for a look when she noticed everyone's strange expressions. She was stunned when she saw Huo Yao's results on the computer screen.

She had scored full marks!

Were her eyes playing tricks on her?

Had they not been saying that her grades were terrible?

Chen Yu had seen the test yesterday. It was more tricky than the final exams. Moreover, the humanities and science topics were blended together. But the Experimental Class was a humanities class.

Chen Yu was shocked even more. How did Huo Yao get all the science-related questions right?

A student with full marks on this exam would have a considerably outstanding level. Although all-rounded students existed, they were not as crazily good as Huo Yao.

“Wei, do you have anything else to say now?” asked the Dean sarcastically after he recovered from his shock.

Wei Mingzhe suddenly recalled how the Dean had wanted to place Huo Yao in his Rocket Class on the first day of school.

Chapter 70: Huo Yao, You Are Quite The Character

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A bitter smile emerged on Wei Mingzhe’s face. He tasted regret for the first time in his professional life.

If... if Wei Mingzhe did not make false assumptions about her and reject the Dean’s good intentions, then this all-round genius might have become a highlight of his famous teaching career.

But... Wei Mingzhe suddenly looked up at Huo Yao.

The student had stayed quiet the whole time. She neither defended nor explained herself. Her eyes brimmed with indifference as though she was waiting to watch everyone make fools of themselves while they argued about her grades until they were completely embarrassed.

Wei Mingzhe averted his eyes which were filled with ridicule. Regardless of her grades, he was not interested in insensible students like her.

He walked up to Huo Yao and said sarcastically, “Huo Yao, you are quite the character. I’m impressed that you didn’t say a word during this whole time.”

Saying so, he left the office expressionlessly without waiting for the rest to react.

The Dean frowned. Wei Mingzhe was so...

“What do you mean by not saying a word? You were the one targeting her from the very beginning and didn’t give her a chance to explain,” muttered Chen Yu.

She could no longer take it lying down.

When they thought Huo Yao’s grades were poor, they suspected she got into the school using connections. Now that her grades turned out to be brilliant, they ridiculed her for deliberately withholding the fact.

If Huo Yao’s preliminary test results had not been revealed, she would probably still be mired in suspicion.

“What’s up with that teacher? He talked so cynically that it sounded as though my daughter committed a huge mistake.”

Huo Jinyan’s face was dark, and he sounded angry.

He had walked over to look at his daughter’s results as well. She stood first, scoring full marks.

Although Huo Jinyan did not know what the test was all about, the important thing was that there was no need to take the backdoor with grades like hers.

Although it was the school which misunderstood Huo Yao, they still gave them a lousy attitude after her scores were out. They even insinuated that Huo Yao deliberately withheld information without reflecting on their own mistakes!

The Dean could tell that the Vice-principal was starting to feel embarrassed. He sighed helplessly in his heart. He walked up to apologize to Huo Yao's parents and played the role of the peacemaker yet again.

20 minutes later, the Dean was finally done seeing Huo Jinyan and Song Ning off while Huo Yao went back to the classroom.

Only the Dean and Vice-principal remained in the office.

"Mr Wu, I'm not trying to find fault here but why didn't you tell us about this transfer student having such wonderful grades? It's your fault for causing this embarrassment!"

The Vice-principal still felt mortified the moment he recalled Huo Yao's test scores.

The Dean looked indignant and retorted loudly. "Didn't I tell you? I told you so many times, but did any of you listen?"

The Vice-principal appeared a little uneasy as he raised his hand to touch his forehead. He said, "But you didn't make yourself clear, so I took Wei Mingzhe's side... Sigh! Forget it. There's no point arguing over it now."

Then a thought crossed the Vice-principal's mind, and he continued to speak. "Now that the air is cleared, there is no need to tell the Principal about it. He'll be caught up with a lot of work after he returns to the capital, so let's not kick a fuss about it."

The Dean's lips curled up in slight ridicule. Only now did the Vice-principal want to keep it from the Principal. What had he been doing all along?

"Even if I don't report it to him, the Principal will still find out after he returns."

The Vice-principal waved his hand impatiently and said, "Let's take things one step at a time. It's just a minor misunderstanding and not such a big deal."