

Pill Maker 611

Chapter 611: He Was Once Kidnapped

The smile on Huo Jinyan's face disappeared when he heard his daughter's question. He went quiet for a while before he replied. "Yulin was kidnapped when he was 12 years old."

He ended up like this after the abduction.

"A kidnapping?" Huo Yao was stunned.

Even though she had suspected it previously, she did not think it really happened.

"Uh huh. We didn't live here back then. Your third older brother was kidnapped for some reason. By the time we found him... he was half dead."

At 12, he was held captive for three days, and was tortured in captivity.

Huo Yulin was just a child, so every second of the time spent with his abductors was etched into his soul and was pure torture even till date.

Even though he was saved, the bright lively child was forever lost.

Huo Jinyan's voice turned deep and even trembled slightly. However, he did not share the finer details.

The moment he said it, there would be grave implications. Moreover, he did not want his daughter to know about their family's history.

The atmosphere in the car became slightly tense. Huo Yao noticed her father looking unusually serious, so she did not ask him any further.

Memories of the abduction were too painful for any one to recall.

After some time, Huo Yao said softly, "Well, it's all over now. Brother Yulin will get better."

"Uh huh." Huo Jinyan turned to look out of the window as he composed himself.

For the rest of the journey, neither of them said a word.

Before long, the car arrived at the estate.

A normal-looking car was parked outside the villa. It seemed that their guest was already here.

Huo Yao got off the car, entered the house, and changed into her slippers.

The guests were sitting with their backs against the door. Hence, Huo Yao was caught by surprise when she came over and saw them.

"Oh. This is my daughter, Yaoyao." Song Ning introduced Huo Yao to her friend.

Huo Yao nodded politely. "Hi."

She proceeded to nod courteously at the young woman sitting beside her mother's friend.

The young woman was none other than Fang Ting, whom she had encountered at the matchmaking event previously.

She was also the same woman whom her mother wanted to match-make Huo Tingrui with, previously.

Mrs. Fang smiled as she looked at Huo Yao and said gently, "Your girl is very pretty."

Song Ning raised her brow. "That goes without saying. She takes after me."

Fang Ting smiled like a lady as she sat beside her mother and barely said a word. However, her eyes lit up the moment she saw Huo Yao.

This young lady was certainly pretty.

However, she felt awfully familiar to Fang Ting.

Song Ning told her daughter to chat with Fang Ting. Huo Yao put down her school bag and walked over to sit down beside Fang Ting.

"Have we met..."

Before Fang Ting could finish her sentence, Huo Yao promptly interrupted her. "No, we haven't met before!"

Since Huo Yao looked so serious, Fang Ting swallowed her words mid-sentence. "... I see. I must be mistaken."

"Mhm." Huo Yao nodded.

Huo Yao certainly could not let Fang Ting know that she was the playboy's younger sister.

Fang Ting scratched her head. Although she felt that something was amiss, it was awkward for her to probe the girl. After all, she was just here to have dinner with her mother.

Before long, Huo Tingrui came back to the villa. His face froze when he came in and saw the young lady sitting on the couch.

Chapter 612: Your Knees Are Going To Suffer

Oh god! What was this woman doing at his place?

Huo Tingrui felt that he was imagining things.

Huo Tingrui was not alone. Fang Ting was chatting with Huo Yao but went mute the moment she saw him.

She did not expect to see the playboy whom she met at the matchmaking session previously. From the looks of it, he was clearly her mother's friend's son.

Fang Ting went dizzy.

She automatically remembered how she got into an argument with Huo Tingrui at the matchmaking event.

She called him a playboy when he chatted with every woman at the matchmaking session.

She even said his outfit was a rental when she noticed him wearing high-end designer goods.

Fang Ting suddenly pressed her forehead when she realized how rich his family was.

Who would have expected a wealthy guy like him to show up at a common matchmaking event held outdoors in a park? It was completely out of place for him to do it.

Was he there to fool around?

Huo Yao noticed the expression on her second older brother's face as well as Fang Ting's uneasiness and blinked thoughtfully.

Song Ning stood up and introduced her son to her friend without noticing Huo Tingrui and Fang Ting's awkwardness.

The moment Mrs. Fang saw Huo Tingrui, she liked him. He seemed cultured and ought to be a composed and restrained man.

She immediately stood up and nudged Fang Ting. "This is Fang Ting. Do you know each other?"

Mrs. Fang had gotten her daughter to join the matchmaking event previously, but Fang Ting did not tell her anything about it, so she did not know if they had met there or not. Hence, Mrs Fang deliberately asked her about it.

Fang Ting was already awkward to begin with. Now that her mother suddenly asked, she felt even more uneasy.

She replied patronizingly without even looking at Huo Tingrui. "Nope."

The moment Huo Tingrui heard her claiming they had never met, he gritted his teeth. This woman scolded him at the matchmaking event. How could she pretend that they had never met?

After he was forced to greet the Fangs, Huo Tingrui pulled Song Ning aside. He gritted his teeth as he said, "Mom, didn't you say your friend had a legal question for me?"

Did his mother think that he did not know she was trying to matchmake him?

"Boy-girl relationships have legal problems as well," said Song Ning sternly.

Huo Tingrui was on the brink of tears when he heard his mother's bullshit. "Mom, please let me off. Since Yulin is home, why don't you introduce her to him?"

Song Ning glanced at him. "Cut it out. Fang Ting is pretty, well brought up, and comes from a good family. You aren't good enough for her. Just count your lucky stars that I am introducing her to you."

Huo Tingrui went speechless. "..."

Well brought up?

Was he not good enough for her?

"That's it! Go entertain our guests. Your knees are going to suffer if you do anything wrong," said Song Ning with an ambiguous smile on her face.

Huo Tingrui was taken aback.

He sneered in his heart and felt again he did not have a place in the family.

Song Ning drove Huo Tingrui back into the living room. He had no choice but to sit beside Huo Yao.

Fang Ting and Huo Yao were chatting about the entertainment industry and the most popular live telecast that was airing now, 'Countryside Life With My Family'.

The moment Huo Tingrui took a seat, Fang Ting's voice clearly paused before she continued as though he did not exist. "... I really like Lucky's little sister."

Fang Ting was a friendly girl and strongly felt that she had seen Huo Yao somewhere, so she did not hold back when they chatted.

Huo Yao promptly went quiet and looked serious when she heard what Fang Ting said

Chapter 613: Three Demons From Hell At Home

Huo Yao glanced at Fang Ting as she contemplated that Lucky's little sister was sitting right in front of this person.

Huo Tingrui coughed before he turned his head. He quickly overlooked his displeasure when he first saw Fang Ting and said, "Who did you say you liked?"

Huo Tingrui naturally knew about his little sister appearing on Huo Xiang's live telecast since he had watched it as well.

Fang Ting was not keen on talking to Huo Tingrui because of their encounter at the matchmaking event. Also, she knew what her mother was trying to do by bringing her here. Hence, she did not say a word to him.

Huo Tingrui did not get upset. Instead, he raised his brow and said, "Do you know who the girl wearing a mask on the program is?"

The moment he uttered those words, Huo Yao placed her hand on her stupid second older brother and looked sideways at him. "Brother Tingrui, are you trying to misbehave again?"

Huo Tingrui smiled sheepishly before he shut his mouth.

He had made a mistake. There were three bosses in his family.

Fang Ting looked at Huo Tingrui quizzically and finally said, "What did you mean by that? Do you know her?"

Huo Yao turned to look at Fang Ting and smiled. "No, we don't."

She texted the little princess to come back later.

Huo Tingrui's lips twitched.

Fang Ting did not keep probing and took out her phone.

Huo Yao patted her second older brother's shoulder and gestured at him to entertain their guests before she stood up and headed upstairs.

She went past Huo Yulin's room after she reached the landing. Since his door was slightly open, she paused for a couple of seconds before she knocked on the door.

Before long, he told her to enter.

Huo Yao entered to see Huo Yulin with his glasses on as he sat in front of the computer at the desk. He seemed to be busy typing something.

Huo Yulin stopped working and clicked save before he shut the desktop. He removed his glasses and looked at Huo Yao. "You are back!"

Huo Yulin was not a social person, so he had been hiding upstairs in his room the moment the guests arrived.

Huo Yao walked over and sat down on an empty chair beside him. "Uh huh. Are you busy?"

Huo Yulin glanced at the computer before he replied. "Not really. Since I was free, I decided to continue working on a thesis. I am behind the deadline."

Huo Yao nodded.

"Oh yes. The acupuncture you did for me this morning was really effective. There must be something different about your technique, right?" Since Huo Yulin was a doctor, it was normal for him to realize that something about her method was distinct.

Huo Yao swung her legs as she said, "Chinese medicine is all about technique. Although all acupuncturists use the same acupoints, the effects differ using different techniques."

"That makes sense. From the looks of it, you are a highly skilled acupuncturist. Are you planning to major in Chinese medicine?" asked Huo Yulin.

"Nope. I will probably major in biology." Huo Yao shook her head.

She already knew everything there was to know about Chinese medicine. If she had to pick a major, she wanted to choose something new.

Huo Yulin was caught by surprise. After all, girls barely chose research since they found it to be dry. Secondly, research was a dangerous occupation. It was hard to walk down the path without talent and confidence.

Huo Yao looked at him and said, "Shall I do some psychological therapy on you at night?"

Huo Yulin went quiet for a few seconds. "I just suffer from a lack of sleep, so I don't need psychological treatment."

Huo Yao detected his aversion towards therapy. Since he could not be rushed into or forced to do it, she changed the subject and said, "Oh yes. I heard you saying that our eldest uncle is unwell."

Chapter 614: She Suddenly Wanted To Disown Huo Tingrui

Huo Yulin did not expect his younger sister to remember the conversation he had with Huo Yanxi previously.

He said, "He had to undergo a few major operations in his youth. Also, he suffered from a lot of injuries. The outcome of all the damage his body had taken only surfaced in old age."

Huo Yao quickly caught on that her eldest uncle was hurt in his youth. Since most people tended to fall ill, her eldest uncle seemed to have quite the story.

Huo Yao contemplated what to give him to ease his condition and came up with something.

Huo Yulin looked at Huo Yao's hands as she leaned against the chair. Since her jacket sleeves were rather long, he was unable to see her wrist. He paused before he asked her. "Oh yes. Did you wear the bracelet he gave you?"

Their eldest uncle especially told Huo Yulin to ensure she wore the bracelet when he passed it to him.

Huo Yao gathered her thoughts and acknowledged her brother before she shook her head. "I'm a student. I can't wear bracelets to school."

Huo Yulin contemplated for a couple of seconds and said, "Ok. Just wear it when you can."

Huo Yao acknowledged her brother gently. Her phone rang and she picked it up to have a look. "We need to go down for dinner."

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After dinner, Mrs. Fang did not continue staying. She told Fang Ting and Huo Tingrui to exchange contact numbers before leaving.

Fang Ting blacklisted Huo Tingrui after she got into the car.

She was only going through the motions for the elders and did not want his number.

Song Ning grabbed Huo Tingrui's hand and said, "You should send Fang Ting a text message to help improve her impression of you."

Huo Tingrui pressed his forehead. Since his mother refused to let it go, he sent a smiley face emoticon right in front of her. "Are you happy now?"

After Huo Tingrui clicked send, he did not even bother to look at the screen since he was doing it under duress. He held the phone up in front of his mother right away so that she could see.

A few seconds later, Huo Tingrui took his phone back. "Can I go now?"

Song Ning turned to pull his arm. "Hang on."

Huo Tingrui felt a headache coming on. "What now?"

"Did you blacklist her?" Song Ning saw a red exclamation mark on the screen.

"How can that be?"

"Then why is there..." said Song Ning.

She stopped mid-sentence and realized that it was her son who had been blacklisted.

Huo Tingrui looked at her quizzically before he tapped on his phone.

Huo Tingrui's face instantly looked annoyed when he saw the red exclamation mark on the screen and a rejection notification.

They had just exchanged contact numbers, but she blacklisted him the moment she left.

The woman had certainly succeeded in making him angry.

Song Ning glanced at him quietly.

She suddenly wanted to disown Huo Tingrui when she figured out how much Fang Ting disliked him.

Mrs. Fang kept asking her daughter about her impression of Huo Tingrui.

Fang Ting kept her head lowered no matter what her mother asked and said, "... Uh huh. He's okay."

Mrs. Fang noticed how perfunctory her daughter's tone was and knew that her plans to matchmake Fang Ting had failed. She could not help feeling disappointed.

"Mom, my brother is coming home today." Fang Ting had just received a text message from her older brother asking them when they would get home.

The moment Mrs. Fang heard this, she looked happy. "Really?"

She told the chauffeur in the front to step on the gas pedal.

The car arrived at the Fang residence 20 minutes later.

Chapter 615: Fang Ting, Fang Chen

Mrs. Fang saw her son sitting in the living room the moment she entered the house. "When did you get back? Why didn't you give me a call?"

Fang Chen was on the phone. He merely raised his hand and waved when he heard her voice.

His mother promptly went quiet. She turned to take off her jacket and hung it on the coat rack.

After some time, Fang Chen finally finished the phone call. He raised his head to glance at his mother and little sister and replied unhurriedly. "I only just got back home."

"Have you been busy lately? Your face looks a lot skinnier." Mrs. Fang could not help feeling sad seeing how skinny her son's face was.

Fang Ting walked up to Fang Chen and sat down beside him. She held him by the chin and scrutinized him. "She's right. Why have you lost so much weight? Are you sick or something?"

He was completely skin and bones.

Fang Chen answered with a straight face, "I have been traveling around a lot, so it is normal that I lost some weight."

Since Mrs. Fang knew what a workaholic her son was, she could only sigh.

The Fang family had a history in politics. After having generations of politicians in their family, Fang Chen was particularly accomplished. He became the city mayor at a young age, so he was naturally busy.

"Have you eaten yet?" asked Mrs. Fang.

Fang Chen shook his head. "I didn't have the time to eat."

Mrs. Fang felt heartbroken. She hurriedly stood up. "Let me make you some noodles."

Mrs. Fang quickly went into the kitchen.

Fang Chen turned to look at Fang Ting with his brows raised. "Did you go for a matchmaking session?"

Fang Ting did not anticipate her serious-looking brother to tease her. She waved her hand and curled up on the couch. "Don't even talk about it. It was absolutely embarrassing."

If even their mother showed great respect for the family, they must be a powerful family. Hence, Fang Ting kept a surprisingly low profile while they were at the Huo residence.

Fang Chen smiled. "You are still young, so you don't have to be in a hurry to get married."

"I'm not the desperate one. It's all her!" Fang Ting pointed at the kitchen. "I finally realized why she gives me such a hard time. If you were home, she would have forced you to get married. Now I'm suffering two-fold."

Fang Chen's face twitched, but he stayed quiet.

He was not going to say anything about his mother forcing his little sister to go for matchmaking sessions.

Before long, Mrs. Fang placed a bowl of noodles on the table and told Fang Chen to eat.

Fang Chen was dressed in a loose-fitting down coat, so it was impossible to see his body other than his face.

Shortly after he sat down and picked up his chopsticks, Mrs. Fang came next to him. "It's not like the temperature is cold indoors. It's inconvenient for you to eat noodles with that thick coat on. Take it off so that I can hang it up for you."

Fang Chen's hand froze before he said, "No thanks. I am suffering from a slight cold, so I would prefer to have it on."

Mrs. Fang pulled her hands back and pulled out a chair and joined him. "Go on and eat."

Fang Chen acknowledged his mother. He pulled down the sleeves a little to ensure they covered the back of his hands.

Mrs. Fang frowned when she noticed his surreptitious actions. She suddenly grabbed his hand and pulled up his sleeve.

The moment she saw the sinister-looking veins on his arm, Mrs. Fang went ghastly pale. Her voice trembled as she said, "W-when did this start?"

Fang Chen did not expect his mother to suddenly pull his sleeves up, so he was caught by surprise. He pulled his hand back. "I am recovering well, so don't worry."

Mrs. Fang looked at Fang Chen and her hands trembled on the table. "I am asking when did it start?"

Chapter 616: Early Warning: Her Cover Was About to Get Blown

Fang Chen would have probably continued hiding his condition from his family if he had not met Huo Yao.

Since he was recovering well after taking her prescription, he said candidly, "About half a month or so, but I am already recovering."

Mrs. Fang did not hear her son finish his sentence. All she heard was that he had been suffering from the condition for over half a month.

Half a month... Her husband passed away within half a month after contracting this condition.

Regardless of what they tried, it was completely futile.

Mrs. Fang was shattered thinking about this. She had not imagined that her son would suffer the same condition.

Mrs. Fang suddenly grabbed Fang Chen's arm and said hopefully, "Come on. We are going to the hospital now. Considering how advanced medicine is, I am sure you can be cured..."

Judging from the way she looked, Fang Chen quickly realized that she knew about the condition. He stood up and patted her shoulder.

He spent approximately 30 minutes before he finally managed to calm Mrs. Fang down.

She looked at Fang Chen in a daze. "Are you really going to be okay?"

Fang Chen nodded and replied. "Why don't you call Shuwen and ask? He knows my condition the best."

Mrs. Fang wiped the tears from her face but did not call Lin Shuwen to ask.

Instead, she held Fang Chen's hand for a long time and remembered something before she hurriedly said, "That friend of mine whom we have dinner with tonight... One of her sons has come back from abroad and he is a highly revered doctor."

Fang Chen said no to getting examined by this doctor immediately.

Regardless of how famous he was, he was not a Chinese physician, so the treatment would be useless.

Mrs. Fang refused to take no for an answer. She needed him to do it so that she could have peace of mind. She disregarded Fang Chen's refusal and took out her phone to call Song Ning.

Fang Chen raised his hand and rubbed his forehead. Since he was incapable of convincing his mother otherwise, he let her do as she pleased.

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Song Ning was caught by surprise when Mrs. Fang called. Since Mrs. Fang said her son was seriously ill, she did not turn her down right away and agreed to check with Huo Yulin.

After hanging up the phone, Song Ning looked at Huo Yulin sitting on the couch and contemplated before she said, "Remember that friend of mine who came over for dinner? Her son has a strange illness. She asked if you could examine him."

Huo Yulin's hands froze as he held his phone. He had already overheard her conversation. "I specialise in neurology, so I might not be able to help."

Song Ning told her friend just that earlier, but Mrs. Fang insisted that Huo Yulin look into her son's condition. She felt a headache coming on.

Huo Yulin noticed that his mother was in a spot, so he contemplated for a couple of seconds before he said, "Why don't you get her to send the medical report for me to see?"

Song Ning felt that was a good idea. "Okay. I will ask her to send me the medical report."

"Uh huh." Huo Yulin stood up. "I'm going back to my room."

Huo Yao was still in her bedroom doing her homework. After finishing the third test paper, she leaned into the chair's backrest and rubbed her aching shoulders.

A thought crossed her mind, so she took out a piece of blank paper and a pen to swiftly make a list of Chinese herbs. All of them were considered to be rather rare.

Huo Yao took pictures of her list before swiping down the address book on her phone. She saw the note that she had added to Old Mr. Pei's number.

He could give her a 30% discount on Chinese herbs.

Huo Yao sighed before swiping down the list of contacts and opening Min Yu's chat.

She had almost forgotten about this cash cow.

Chapter 617: Consider It A Gift

Huo Yao composed a text message and sent it.

[My dear neighbor, can you do me a favor?]

After some time, Huo Yao did not hear back from Min Yu, but she was not anxious. Instead, she stood up, and went to the closet to get her pajamas. Then, she headed into the bathroom.

She tapped on her phone as she dried her hair when she came back.

However, there was still no reply.

Huo Yao rubbed her phone. She did not even notice when water from her hair dripped onto her phone screen.

In practice, Min Yu ought to have replied to her text message a long time ago. What was going on today?

Was the cash cow dumping her?

Huo Yao suddenly felt a little upset as she placed her phone on the table, picked up the hairdryer, and blow-dried her hair.

She kept glancing at her phone every now and then.

However, her phone lay quietly on the table until she went to bed.

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Meanwhile, at City S's largest underground trading market.

A black car was quietly parked by the roadside outside the market. It was a completely inconspicuous vehicle, so no one noticed its presence.

"... Someone else attacked the Huang family's strongholds first, and took over them. Everyone escaped."

Yang Yi's solemn voice came across the phone.

"Did someone get to the strongholds first?" Zhuo Yun frowned and his voice sounded particularly deep.

Yang Yi was dressed to fight. A murderous aura radiated from him in the darkness. He scrutinized the place where a fight had just broken out before he coldly said, "I don't know for sure."

"Come back." A cold voice came from his earpiece promptly.

"Okay," replied Yang Yi before he raised his hands and signaled the men to retreat.

Yang Yi walked out of the underground trading market. The old dim street lights shone on him and a long shadow was cast behind him. He strode quickly towards the black car, opened the door, and got in.

The car drove off leaving behind the old market.

After the car had gone some distance, a few people walked out from the fork road at the other end of the market.

"Are you really going to give the territory to the Min family for nothing?" It was none other than Huang Yin whom Min Yu had just met a few days ago.

Despite his scholarly air, there was a somewhat evil look in his eyes.

The man standing in the front took out a handkerchief unhurriedly to wipe the blood from his hands. "Certainly. Why not? Consider it a gift."

Huang Yin briefly went quiet. Just as he was about to ask something, the man with coarse facial features in the front turned sideways. "I should be the one asking you if you are willing to give up your family!"

Huang Yin pursed his lips. "It's just some lousy dingy places."

"Heh."

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Yang Yi removed his earpiece and wrist guards once he was inside the car and loosened his collar. "I checked out the place earlier. Although it was rather chaotic, it did not appear like a fight with outsiders broke out all of a sudden. Instead, it looks more like internal conflict."

Min Yu sat in the back seat with his legs crossed and was leaning into the seat lazily. He glanced out of the window. "It was Huang Yin."

"Huang Yin has a backer," said Zhuo Yun with confidence. "I dug deeper and learned that he might have gone abroad when he disappeared two years ago."

"From the looks of it, things are getting interesting. I just don't understand why he didn't take over the territory and instead, handed it over. Perhaps his backer deliberately told him to give it to us." Yang Yi narrowed his eyes.

"Who knows?" Zhuo Yun pursed his lips.

His phone was vibrating inside a box beside him where he left it earlier.

Zhuo Yun glanced at the phone.

Chapter 618: Huo Yao Takes Advantage Of Him Yet Again

Zhuo Yun looked sideways and said, "Huang Yin just sent me a text message."

Yang Yi picked up the phone and looked at it. His solemn face looked puzzled. "Consider it a gift?"

"Is he trying to show goodwill?" Zhuo Yun held the steering wheel as he tried to figure out the person's intention.

Min Yu tapped his fingers and asked him. "What time is it?"

Zhuo Yun was caught by surprise before he replied to say it was 11:00 pm and asked him quizzically. "Is the timing of the text message important?"

Min Yu glanced at Zhuo Yun before he veered his eyes away and rested them.

Yang Yi rolled his eyes at the idiot.

Zhuo Yun went speechless. "..."

The car arrived at the estate 30 minutes later.

Min Yu placed his jacket on the couch before he headed to the fridge for a bottle of water.

After heading back to the living room, he glanced at his phone on the coffee table and bent over to pick it up.

He tapped on it to see a few message notifications.

He realized that Huo Yao sent him a text around two hours ago.

Min Yu raised his brows. His fingers hovered over the text message, but he did not reply. Instead, he turned off the phone.

The kid should be already in bed by now.

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The next day

Huo Yao got up first thing in the morning as usual. She glanced at her phone on the table before turning to walk to the closet and retrieved a set of sportswear.

She left the villa and started jogging around the lake.

Since it was early in the morning, barely anyone else was exercising like her. Only a few people could be seen occasionally and most of them were familiar faces.

Huo Yao ran a few rounds before she slowed down. Her fair face looked flushed after the workout. However, her breathing remained even and she was not gasping for air.

She checked her wristwatch and started to run in the direction of her home.

The cold wind swept past, leaving her loose hair fluttering in the wind. Huo Yao suddenly detected something in the air and narrowed her eyes. She turned and took one step back. "It's you?"

She was caught by surprise to see Min Yu's face, but she quickly regained composure.

Min Yu was about to place his hand on Huo Yao's shoulder when she turned around and interrupted him. He naturally put his hand down and said, "Are you exercising?"

Huo Yao glanced at him before continuing to head home. "Why don't you go ahead? I am going home."

Min Yu raised his brow slightly when Huo Yao seemed reluctant to talk to him. Instead, he followed behind her. "I went out last night and left my home phone behind."

Huo Yao did not halt and simply acknowledged him softly.

Min Yu walked up to her side with his eyes looking straight ahead. "You said something about needing my help."

Huo Yao contemplated before she looked at him sideways. "I need some Chinese medicine."

Min Yu did not hesitate and replied immediately. "Sure. Just send me the list."

Huo Yao paused and an awkward look suddenly appeared on her face. "... They might be a little expensive and hard to find."

Min Yu's lips twitched when she talked about how much the herbs were worth. They were probably not that hard to find. Instead, they must be quite expensive.

He cleared his throat and replied. "I will do my best to obtain them at the lowest price."

Huo Yao raised her brow and added. "... Also, I might need a large quantity."

Min Yu looked at her with his deep eyes. "Sure. That's fine."

"Then, thanks." Huo Yao waved her hand. "Bye-bye."

She walked nimbly through the doors of her villa.

Min Yu smiled mildly as he shook his head and headed back next door.

Chapter 619: Someone Is Looking For You

Huo Yao entered the villa.

Song Ning glanced at her and said, "You seem to be in a good mood."

Huo Yao picked up the glass of milk on the table and took a sip and muttered. "Really?"

"Uh huh," replied Song Ning solemnly before she turned to enter the kitchen.

Huo Yao pulled up a chair and sat down to quietly eat her breakfast.

After she was done with breakfast, she went back to her room to wash up. She opened her drawer to retrieve the list of Chinese herbs that she had made yesterday and contemplated for a few seconds.

She proceeded to take a pen and added a dozen more herbs.

After she was done revising the list, she deleted the photo she took last night and took a photo of her new list with an entire page filled with the names of Chinese herbs. She tapped on her phone and sent the photo to her neighbor.

Huo Yao happily put her phone away, took her school bag, and left the room.

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Meanwhile, Min Yu acknowledged receipt of Huo Yao's message before he tapped on it for a look.

He did not know much about Chinese herbs, so he sent them to Zhuo Yun after taking a brief look without much thought.

Zhuo Yun had just come back from outside with breakfast in his hand when he heard his phone ping. He placed the breakfast on the dining table and called Min Yu over to eat before he pulled out his phone.

His eyes instantly opened wide when he saw the list of Chinese herbs.

Zhuo Yun raised his head and looked at Min Yu as he walked over. He opened his mouth hesitantly. "... Does Miss Huo want these Chinese herbs?

Since Huo Yao's handwriting had a lot of character and stood out distinctly, Zhuo Yun instantly recognized it at a glance.

Min Yu glanced at him calmly before he sat down and acknowledged softly. "Uh huh."

A few seconds later, he added. "Get these herbs asap."

Zhuo Yun scratched his head and looked worried. "Some of these herbs are hard to find."

The first few Chinese herbs on the list were still okay. However, dozens of Chinese herbs at the bottom of the list were rare and expensive.

Zhuo Yun had learned a little about rare herbs when Min Yu was battling his illness. If he was not mistaken, it was near impossible to get his hands on them.

Min Yu replied without so much as raising his head. "In that case, it means they are out there."

Zhuo Yun's lips twitched. Although Min Yu's words made sense, it felt as though he wanted to satisfy Huo Yao unconditionally.

In ancient times, Min Yu would be considered a bad emperor.

Min Yu detected Zhuo Yun giving him strange looks, so he turned to glance at him.

Zhuo Yun veered his eyes. "... Okay. Got it. I will get the herbs asap."

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In the afternoon, at school

Huo Yao was having lunch with Meng Ying in the school canteen.

Sometime later, someone from their class came over. "Huo Yao, someone is waiting for you in the broadcasting room."

Huo Yao raised her head to look at her classmate quizzically.

Her shy classmate lowered his eyes and did not dare to make eye contact with Huo Yao and said, "I think she is your mother."

Was her mother looking for her?

Huo Yao narrowed her eyes and thanked her classmate for passing the message.

Before long, her classmate left. Meng Ying bit her chopsticks and looked at Huo Yao. "Why don't you hurry over since your mother is here?"

Huo Yao contemplated for a few seconds and said, "There is no hurry."

If her biological mother needed to talk to her, she would have called directly.

Since Huo Yao did not seem anxious, Meng Ying said nothing. She proceeded to lower her head and continued eating.

After lunch, Huo Yao headed to the broadcasting room while Meng Ying went back to class.

Chapter 620: Did You Sabotage Us?

Two students in charge of broadcasting were sitting inside, chatting softly.

A woman could be seen standing inside through the glass window. She was dressed in a camel-colored long wool jacket with an exquisite designer purse in hand.

The students in charge of broadcasting noticed Huo Yao when she entered the room. Since they were also seniors and she was famous in school, they both recognized her.

“Hi, Huo Yao.”

Huo Yao nodded politely to the students in the broadcasting room.

He Xiaoman was standing in front of the window with her back facing the door when she turned to look at Huo Yao warmly. “Hi, Huo Yao.”

Huo Yao glanced at He Xiaoman coldly. He Xiaoman’s unexpected friendly voice sent chills down her back.

One of the students inside the room was from an ordinary class while the other one belonged to the Rocket Class. The student from the Rocket Class recognized He Xiaoman and knew that she was Lu Xia’s mother.

Each time there was a parent-teacher conference, this lady would turn up in a high profile manner, leaving an impact on others.

Why would Lu Xia’s mother want to see Huo Yao?

In the past, people had speculated about Huo Yao and Lu Xia’s relationship on the school forum when they were both in the National Quiz Contest. However, no one had any real answers, so everyone was particularly curious about the two of them.

No matter how curious the students in the broadcasting room were, they felt awkward staying in the room, so they quietly left and gave them some privacy.

He Xiaoman turned to walk up to Huo Yao after the two students left and said, “Yaoyao.”

Huo Yao squeezed her ear lobe and took a step back and said coldly, “Get to the point.”

He Xiaoman seemed accustomed to Huo Yao’s reaction. However, she continued to smile. “I treated you badly in the past, but I will change from now on...”

Huo Yao raised her hand and interrupted her. “Whose mother are you?”

He Xiaoman’s lips froze.

Huo Yao parted her lips and said, "What would Lu Xia think if you came over claiming you were my mother?"

"No matter what, you have lived in our family for over a decade. Do you really have no feelings for us?" said He Xiaoman in a soft voice.

Huo Yao looked at her coldly with an ambiguous smile on her face. "Are you sure that I lived under one roof with you for over ten years?"

"My mother has raised you all these years. Do you deny that?" He Xiaoman averted her eyes guiltily.

Huo Yao nodded. "What does that have to do with you? As her daughter, you did not think twice to use her. How could you have the cheek to do that?"

He Xiaoman quickly realized that her mother must have called Huo Yao.

Huo Yao flicked her fingers and appeared impatient. "I didn't come to listen to your bullshit. If you have a heart, then stop trying to manipulate an old lady using those ploys you learned in the Lu family. She is getting on her age and should just be left in peace to enjoy her retirement."

The moment she finished her sentence, she turned to leave.

He Xiaoman was utterly embarrassed by Huo Yao and was unable to keep up the pretense the moment she recalled something. "I have a question for you. Did you sabotage us when we wanted to bid for the government project?"

Huo Yao had already walked up to the door but halted briefly when she heard this and looked at her perplexedly.

He Xiaoman walked over to her. "Initially, we had a high chance of winning the bid. Did you do something to thwart our plans because you couldn't stand the sight of our success?"

He Xiaoman was having a hard time in the Lu family ever since their failed meeting with Lin Shuwen, so she could not resist looking for her foster daughter.