

Pill Maker 641

Chapter 641: Here To Compete For Huo Yao's Attention

Fang Ting was blown away by the truth. She turned off her video repository application and tapped on her WeChat conversation with Huo Yao.

She quickly composed a long message for Huo Yao. Just as she was about to click send, she felt a little shy.

Before she knew Huo Yao was Huo Xiang's little sister, she could speak to her uninhibitedly and call her Yaoyao affectionately, but now...

Fang Ting deleted the text message. She went quiet for a few seconds and a thought crossed her mind. She swiped through her address book and found Huo Tingrui's details.

Fortunately, she merely blacklisted Huo Tingrui and did not delete his details altogether.

Fang Ting exhaled before she removed Huo Tingrui from the blacklist and sent him a text message: [Hi, Mr. Huo. This is Fang Ting. What kind of interests does Yaoyao have?]

Since she was a professional groupie, she had to know everything that there was to know about the subject of her adoration.

She felt that it was inappropriate for her to ask Yaoyao directly, so she could only get more information from the man whom her mother had tried to matchmake her with.

Fang Ting continued to send Huo Tingrui several more text messages asking about Huo Yao.

She proceeded to wait nervously for his reply.

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Huo Tingrui was driving when he heard the text message notification going off, but he did not check his phone right away. But more notifications kept coming, so he retrieved it finally from the car door compartment.

Huo Tingrui unlocked the phone and tapped on WeChat. He could not help narrowing his eyes when he saw the sender's name.

Was he not blacklisted by Fang Ting?

She must have suddenly texted him now that she had finally decided to come clean about her feelings for him.

Huo Tingrui sneered softly.

Huo Yao could not help looking up to glance at Huo Tingrui when she caught him sneering.

There was a red light up ahead, so Huo Tingrui gradually slowed down. He tapped on his phone to see the contents of the text messages when his car came to a halt.

After Huo Tingrui was done reading all the text messages asking about Huo Yao, he could not help chuckling.

Previously, he thought that Fang Ting liked him. From the looks of it, he could not have been further from the truth.

Fang Ting kept affectionately saying 'Yaoyao' and made it sound as though Huo Yao was her little sister.

That was his little sister and not Fang Ting's!

Huo Tingrui replied coldly: [My little sister is only interested in studying.]

He threw the phone into the compartment with a clang the moment he finished replying to the text message.

Huo Yao was resting her eyes when she heard the ruckus. She could not help opening her eyes to look at Huo Tingrui. She noticed that he looked unusually cold, so she asked him quizzically. "What's wrong?"

The traffic light had turned green, so Huo Tingrui continued driving. After some time, he turned his head and said with a straight face, "You should do your best to avoid the Fang family."

Huo Yao did not know where this was coming from.

Huo Tingrui did not go on with the conversation and remained annoyed for the rest of the journey.

Huo Yao simply felt that he had nothing better to do.

After reaching home in the afternoon, Huo Yao ignored Huo Tingrui who was acting weird. She took the Chinese herbs that Min Yu had passed her this morning and proceeded to refine the medicine.

She had been looking for high-grade Seven Leaf Lotus for a long time. Since it was an extremely rare ingredient, she needed more time to think about how to use it in a prescription, so she decided not to do anything with it for the time being.

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Meanwhile, on the other end, Lu Xia received a call from an unknown number asking to meet her at a restaurant downtown for high tea.

Lu Xia told the chauffeur to send her to the restaurant entrance at 3:00 pm sharp, but she did not enter punctually. Instead, she waited for ten minutes inside the car before getting off.

Chapter 642: I Detest Huo Yao

The staff promptly led Lu Xia to a private room after she entered the restaurant.

Only one person was inside the private room. Lu Xia entered to see her playing with the phone with her head lowered, so Lu Xia was unable to see the person's face right away.

Lu Xia narrowed her eyes before she closed the door behind her.

The woman sitting in the private room raised her head when she heard the door shut. "You are late."

It was none other than Shen Si's cousin, Wu Miao.

Wu Miao put her phone away and straightened her long wavy hair. She pointed at the empty seat across her and motioned at Lu Xia to take a seat.

Since Lu Xia had watched 'Countryside Life With My Family', she immediately recognized Wu Miao. Also, Wu Miao had graduated from No.1 Middle School last year.

Even though they ran in completely different circles, Wu Miao suddenly asked to see her today.

Lu Xia pulled out a chair and sat down unhurriedly. She removed her mask and cap and placed them by her side.

Wu Miao leaned her hands against the edge of the table and looked at Lu Xia. "It is such a pity for you to get buried by your agency considering how talented you are."

Lu Xia frowned as coldness swept across her eyes. She was just a small-time actress with no acting skills to speak of. How could she have the audacity to ridicule her?

If Lu Xia did not get stigmatized online, Wu Miao would never have given her such an attitude.

Lu Xia secretly inhaled. She suppressed her displeasure and asked mildly. "Why did you want to see me?"

Wu Miao pursed her red lips, picked up the floral tea by the side, and took a sip. "I have something to ask you. Didn't you used to be siblings with Lucky?"

Lu Xia remained expressionless. "I am sure you know what happened to me online previously."

She was implying that Wu Miao was asking the obvious.

Wu Miao could tell Lu Xia was losing her patience. If Lu Xia was still an up-and-coming singer in the entertainment industry, Wu Miao might have been far more courteous to her. However, Lu Xia was nothing now.

"I just want you to confirm it." Wu Miao leaned into the seat with an arrogant look on her face.

She did not look as thoughtful as she did in the program.

"What for? Do you think I am some joke?" Lu Xia pursed her lips.

"You are mistaken. Since we were from the same high school, I am your senior, so I just want to be friends." Wu Miao smiled.

Lu Xia's exquisitely made-up face remained distant. She could undoubtedly detect her insincerity. "If you have something to ask, get to it now. Stop beating around the bush."

"I want to know more about Lucky's little sister." Wu Miao put aside her hypocrisy.

After she saw information about Lu Xia when she was at her cousin's place, she wanted to call Lu Xia out for a chat. Sadly, she was held back by work until now.

Since she happened to be in town today, she decided to ask Lu Xia out.

Initially, Lu Xia had thought that Wu Miao was here to ask about Huo Xiang. But Wu Miao unexpectedly wanted to learn more about Huo Yao. Lu Xia contemplated for a few seconds before she said, "Why do you want to know more about her?"

Wu Miao's eyes went cold and she did not bother to hide her feelings towards Huo Yao. "Because I hate her."

Lu Xia had previously plagiarized Lucky's music, so she must be on bad terms with him. Otherwise, he might have brought Lu Xia to 'Countryside Life With My Family' and not Huo Yao.

Lu Xia was surprised to hear this.

Even though she had watched the program, she did not finish watching it completely since she might feel agitated. Hence, she knew nothing about Wu Miao and Shen Si's feud with Huo Yao.

Chapter 643: Mislead Her

Wu Miao noticed the look of surprise on Lu Xia's face and sneered before she said, "Didn't you see the show?"

Lu Xia pursed her lips quietly.

Wu Miao did not go on with the subject. Instead, she asked her. "What is her real name? Is she really studying at No.1 Middle School?"

Perhaps since Wu Miao was not a fan of Huo Yao either, Lu Xia did not look as cold as before. "Uh huh. Her name is Huo Yao and she is a senior at No.1 Middle School."

She was in fact a Huo.

Wu Miao pursed her lips. She thought about what a braggart Huo Yao was on the program and asked. "How are her grades? Are they any good?"

Lu Xia narrowed her eyes and went quiet for a few seconds before she replied. "She used to be my family's foster daughter. When she was living in the countryside, my parents had to spend money to get her into high school."

Wu Miao instantly frowned when she heard this. "Since she had to pay to get a spot in school, how did she end up in No.1 Middle School?"

Did Lu Xia think she was stupid or something?

Lu Xia looked outside the window into the distance mildly before her eyes landed on Wu Miao's face. "Anyone can get in with the right connections."

Lu Xia paused before she added. "After she got into No.1 Middle School, she started to have brilliant grades. Any student from the school can tell you how famous she is."

Wu Miao felt a little confused. One moment, Lu Xia was saying she had to pay for a spot in high school in the countryside. But now, Huo Yao was famous in No.1 Middle School for having good grades.

"If you want to make trouble for her, I suggest you stop. You cannot outdo her," said Lu Xia nonchalantly.

It seemed as though she was looking down on Wu Miao.

Wu Miao narrowed her eyes and sneered. "Are your foster parents regular office workers?"

Lu Xia lowered her eyes. From the looks of it, she was another one of those people who had conducted a brief investigation on the Huo family. Why should she bother reminding them if they were so eager to make trouble for Huo Yao?

Regardless of whether Wu Miao's ruse worked or not, it would serve to irritate Huo Yao.

"Although they are office workers, it doesn't mean Huo Yao doesn't have her own connections," said Lu Xia mildly.

She paused as she pondered before she asked. "I guess you have never met her in private before."

She knew Huo Yao did not show her face on the live telecast and always wore a mask.

Wu Miao answered. "Nope."

If Wu Miao had known Huo Yao, she would have investigated Huo Yao thoroughly. She would not have to come to ask Lu Xia.

Lu Xia narrowed her eyes and made an intelligent guess. After all, Huo Yao was such a show-off. Despite mocking Huo Yao in her heart, she kept a straight face. "She is very pretty."

She was trying to imply pretty girls like Huo Yao usually had dirty connections.

The moment Wu Miao heard this, she connected the dots and realized what Lu Xia was trying to say.

The Huo family might be ordinary folks, but Huo Yao was a very pretty girl. She spent some money to get into a high school in the countryside, so she naturally got a spot in No.1 Middle School through her connections. As for her grades, she could create a false impression as long as she had a strong backer.

Wu Miao thought about Lucky's career. All these years, he remained the top most singer in the entertainment industry. It was probably because he had a strong backer as well. This meant Lucky and his little sister had the right connections.

Wu Miao shook her head before she looked at Lu Xia and smiled ambiguously. "You certainly have a lot of inside information."

Lu Xia lowered her head to drink some tea and said calmly, "Because I don't like them either."

Wu Miao curved her lips into a smile. Lu Xia's hatred for them was evident.

Chapter 644: Close To Fang Chen

Translator: Henyee Translations Editor: Henyee Translations

Lu Xia and Wu Miao did not go on chatting for long.

After leaving the restaurant, Lu Xia recalled something and told Wu Miao solemnly, "I still want to remind you not to offend Huo Yao. You can't afford to provoke her."

It was Wu Miao's second time hearing Lu Xia say that she could not afford to offend Huo Yao. Although Lu Xia had told Wu Miao a lot about Huo Yao, Lu Xia never got around to explaining why she could not offend Huo Yao.

It was human nature to be curious. Moreover, Wu Miao did not appreciate the suspense. She narrowed her eyes and asked her. "Why can't I offend her? Is her backer very powerful?"

The Wu family had been landlords in the city for generations and were far richer than the Huo family. Also, they were connected to the Shen family in the capital. Hence, Wu Miao could not help turning a deaf ear to Lu Xia's repeated suggestion to steer clear of Huo Yao.

Lu Xia put on her mask and cap unhurriedly to reveal only her ambiguous eyes. She looked at Wu Miao for some time before she finally uttered. "Yes, they are very powerful."

Wu Miao frowned.

Lu Xia pursed her lips under her mask and added. "She is close to the city mayor, Fang Chen."

The moment she finished her sentence, she walked up to the roadside, opened the car door to get in, and told the chauffeur to drive without waiting for Wu Miao to speak.

Wu Miao stood where she was with Lu Xia's words echoing in her ears.

Fang Chen, the city mayor?

Since Wu Miao followed the news, she knew of Fang Chen.

The Wu family flourished in the city and had friends in the government, but they were regional directors at best. The city mayor was completely out of their league.

Was Lucky's little sister closely connected to Fang Chen?

Although Wu Miao found this inconceivable, she felt that Lu Xia would not have brought it up if they did not have the ties. After all, no one would have the guts to make up stories about the highest-ranking official in the city.

Moreover, Lucky became a top celebrity with a massive following at such a young age. Also, he did not have any scandals all these years. No one would believe it if he did not have a powerful backer.

Based on all this evidence, Lu Xia seemed to be telling some truth, but she could not believe everything she said.

Wu Miao gathered her thoughts. She planned on finding out more from her junior at No.1 Middle School.

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Huo Yao spent the entire afternoon refining medicine and only came out of the room at almost 6:00 pm in the evening. She looked exhausted when she came out with two little bottles of medicine in her hand.

She rubbed her forehead as she walked up to the couch in the living room and sat down. She leaned back lazily and exhaled deeply.

Huo Yulin was sitting in the living room. He put down his book and looked at Huo Yao. "Mom said you have been working all afternoon in your room using that new apparatus."

"Uh huh," acknowledged Huo Yao softly.

A few seconds later, she felt a little less tired and sat up straight.

First, she handed one of the pill bottles to Huo Yulin. "This is a new medication I came up with for your insomnia. Why don't you give it a try? You will have to take one pill each night."

Huo Yulin could not help looking surprised to hear this. He quickly took the pill bottle, twisted the bottle cap open, and took a whiff. He could smell Chinese herbs in the bottle, but he could not tell what the pills were made of.

Since he did not study Chinese medicine, he knew very little about Chinese herbs.

Huo Yulin felt a warm sensation in his heart as he held the bottle. A faint smile appeared on his typically expressionless face. "Thanks."

Huo Yao raised her brow before handing him a second bottle of medicine. "This is for our eldest uncle. It is for curing his old ailments. Since I don't have his address, can you send it to him for me?"

He had given her a bracelet, so she ought to send him a gift to thank him.

Chapter 645: Reported

Huo Yulin took the pill bottle and acknowledged her.

Huo Yao yawned before she curled up on the couch lazily.

Refining medicine was a particularly exhausting affair. A lot of focus was required to make high-quality medicine.

Huo Yulin noticed how tired she was, so he did not speak further. He got up to pour her some warm water before sitting down quietly.

He proceeded to pick up his book and continued reading.

In an instant, the living room became quiet until a phone call broke the silence.

Huo Yao's phone was ringing. She pulled it out of her pocket unhurriedly to see an unknown number calling.

Her fingers paused for two seconds before she answered the phone. A middle-aged man's voice quickly came through.

The moment Huo Yao heard him talking, she frowned and hung up altogether.

What was with all this sudden enthusiasm? People from the Lu family kept trying to get in touch with her recently. This time, it was Lu Hongwen.

In less than a minute, her phone rang once more with the same number appearing on the screen.

Impatience swept across Huo Yao's face before she rejected the call.

Huo Yulin raised his head to glance at her.

Huo Yao detected him looking at her, so she waved her phone. "I've been getting a lot of phone calls from scammers."

"You should install some anti-harassment software," said Huo Yulin softly.

"I will do it now." Huo Yao nodded. She tapped on her phone and blacklisted the number.

Meanwhile, at the Lu family.

No matter how many times Lu Hongwen called his foster daughter, he was unable to get through. His face looked annoyed when he realized that Huo Yao blacklisted him.

He tossed his phone onto the coffee table with a clang.

He Xiaoman was sitting beside him. She was startled and frowned. "What's with your temper?"

Lu Hongwen did not answer her. Instead, he turned to look at her and asked. "Can you call up Huo Yao?"

He Xiaoman pursed her lips before she replied coldly. "She blacklisted me after she returned to her biological family."

"Did you get blacklisted as well?" Lu Hongwen frowned even harder.

He did not expect his cowardly and easygoing foster daughter to undergo such huge changes in her personality.

He Xiaoman noticed him saying that he was also blacklisted, so she could not help asking. "Don't tell me that you have been trying to call her all this time?"

Lu Hongwen acknowledged her words softly.

He Xiaoman shook her head. "Stop looking to get insulted. Our family isn't good enough for her anymore, so you can forget about getting her to help you."

"Not good enough for her?" Lu Hongwen pursed his lips. Since she was such an ingrate, she could not blame them for turning against her.

In any case, it was impossible for Lu Corporation to win the government project.

He Xiaoman glanced at him and found his expression to be a little scary. She wanted to probe but was too scared to ask, so she shut her mouth.

Her husband had already been giving her a hard time recently.

On the same night, an anonymous report was sent to the disciplinary department. Also, a letter revealing ethical problems was sent to the news agency.

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It was the weekend the next day. Huo Yao and Huo Xiang were scheduled to appear on 'Countryside Life With My Family' as usual.

The mission for today was simply insane and all the guests were deadbeat. After they were done filming the program, everyone joked about beating up the director.

Wu Miao spent the day quietly observing Huo Yao.

Chapter 646: Why Create Trouble For Yourself?

Wu Miao had called up a junior in No.1 Middle School to ask her in detail about Huo Yao after her conversation with Lu Xia. Judging from the things he had told Wu Miao, Lu Xia was not lying about Huo Yao being a famous straight-A student.

She did not anticipate Huo Yao to have such fantastic grades.

Huo Yao raised her head and glanced at Wu Miao when she detected her gaze while she was chatting with Yin Hai and the others.

Wu Miao had been secretly looking at her all day.

She could tell something was wrong with the way Wu Miao kept looking at her.

Wu Miao contemplated for a few seconds. She glanced at Huo Yao who was wearing a mask and said to her gently, "Oh yes. The live telecast is over and the cameras are off. Even though we have worked on so many episodes together, we have yet to see you with your mask off. It's the perfect time to show us now."

It made sense for Huo Yao to refuse to show her face when the cameras were on. However, Wu Miao was making the request in private. If Huo Yao turned Wu Miao down, it would make Huo Yao seem pretentious.

Wu Miao smiled ambiguously.

The atmosphere instantly intensified the moment she finished her sentence.

Yin Hai glanced at Wu Miao and frowned. This young woman was certainly a troublemaker.

If Huo Yao was keen to show her face, she would have done it eons ago. What made Wu Miao think Huo Yao wanted to do it now?

Wu Miao was undoubtedly putting Huo Yao in a spot by asking hard to do it.

Yin Hai paused before he spoke up for Huo Yao. "I think her mysterious aura is pretty good."

Huo Yao raised her brow and glanced at Yin Hai. The veteran actor was a very thoughtful man.

Although Xiao Moling and his brother were equally curious about Huo Yao's appearance, they could sense how inappropriate Wu Miao's suggestion was. They stepped forward and agreed with Yin Hai.

Wu Miao could not help feeling annoyed. Were all of them blind? Why did they like someone as pretentious as Huo Yao?

Huo Xiang suddenly sneered. "If my little sister takes off her mask, some people might develop an inferiority complex."

He was clearly calling Wu Miao ugly.

Since no filming was going on, Huo Xiang did not bother being nice. Also, he could not stand by and watch as they put his little sister in a spot.

Were they fit to see his little sister's face?

Wu Miao instantly looked utterly embarrassed. For a moment, she bit her lip and did not know what to say.

"Let's go. Tong is waiting for us outside," said Huo Yao to Huo Xiang as she put her phone away.

She did not even glance at Wu Miao.

Huo Yao turned to say bye to Yin Hai, Xiao Moling, and the others courteously. "My brother and I will be making a move. After the show is over, we should meet up and have dinner."

Yin Hai and Xiao Moling instantly knew what she was driving at. They glanced at Shen Si and Wu Miao before they agreed.

Before long, Huo Yao and Huo Xiang left.

Shen Si and Wu Miao were utterly disregarded and felt extremely awkward.

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Before long, the two of them got into the car angrily.

"Why did you have to lose your cool and make trouble for the country bumpkin? Wasn't that embarrassing?" said Shen Si angrily as she pressed her forehead.

Shen Si had told Wu Miao repeatedly not to be bothered by Huo Yao. Things finally went smoothly today, but Wu Miao ended up causing trouble and causing embarrassment for the two of them.

Shen Si shook her head. Sometimes, she was really blown away by how stupid her cousin was.

Wu Miao bit her lip. "How was I to know that Yin Hai and the others would leap to Huo Yao's defense?"

"You idiot," scolded Shen Si uncontrollably.

She lost all her grace and composure.

Wu Miao knew Shen Si was annoyed, so she kept her mouth shut and did not retort. Instead, she lowered her head to look at her phone.

Chapter 647: The Hottest Scandal Online

Translator: Henyee Translations Editor: Henyee Translations

Shen Si was even more annoyed when Wu Miao refused to say anything as a form of explanation. She turned to look out of the car window speechlessly. From now on, she was not taking this idiot to appear on any program with her.

After she brought Wu Miao to appear on the entertainment program with her, the stupid girl had almost destroyed her image.

Wu Miao felt annoyed after getting scolded by her cousin. She casually opened her social media account.

Wu Miao tapped on her private messages to see dozens of messages from encouraging fans and felt slightly better after reading them.

Although there were people out there scolding her, they were in a minority. A lot fewer people were dissing her in comparison to when the entertainment program was aired.

Wu Miao turned off her private messages and automatically tapped on the main page to check out the hottest posts online.

Before long, she caught sight of a post about some government official getting involved with a high school student and questioning his lifestyle choices.

It was currently the top post with over a million hits.

Wu Miao could not help thinking about Huo Yao when she saw the subject of the post. She pursed her lips and tapped on the post.

The contents of the posts were short and came accompanied with pictures. Wu Miao was awestruck when she saw the young woman's face.

Although the pictures were taken at a long distance and slightly blurry, it was clear that the young woman was gorgeous.

Wu Miao expanded the photo for a closer look and could not help finding her familiar.

Also, the man beside her was wearing a mask and only a bit of his face was visible.

It was impossible to tell who he was.

Wu Miao tapped on the comments and saw the hottest comment that had already been read over hundreds and thousands of times and was stunned.

She expected someone to divulge information about the girl in the photo. Instead, someone had spilled the masked man's identity.

The man wearing a mask was none other than the highest-ranking official in the city, Fang Chen.

Wu Miao was blown away by this information. She clicked back on the contents of the post and studied it before tapping on the accompanying photos.

After blowing them up and scrutinizing the young woman's features for a long time, she finally gathered her thoughts. No wonder she found the girl in the photo to be a little familiar. She was the country bumpkin, Huo Yao!

Wu Miao held her phone tightly as she raised her head and looked at her cousin sitting beside her. She moved towards her before placing her phone in front of her eyes. "Take a look at this."

Shen Si was still angry, so she said annoyingly, "What now?"

"Look at the pictures. Look at the girl closely." Wu Miao sounded excited.

Shen Si glanced at Wu Miao before taking the phone. Her eyes landed on the screen for some time before she tossed the phone back to Wu Miao. "Get to your point. Don't show me stupid photoshopped pictures."

Wu Miao noticed her cousin did not recognize the young woman and said hurriedly, "Don't you think this girl resembles Lucky's little sister a lot?"

She deliberately placed a finger under the photo to block half the young woman's face. "See?"

Shen Si looked at the image on the phone once more. She was instantly stunned. The girl in the photo did not just resemble Huo Yao a little. Instead, it was definitely her.

Shen Si snapped out of her shock and pointed at the image. "Why are you showing me the image?"

Wu Miao kept trying to show Shen Si the image and did not tell her the contents of the news.

She backed out of the photo unhurriedly as she gloated and said to Shen Si, "Lucky's little sister's reputation is finished!"

Chapter 648: Add Fuel To Fire

Shen Si quickly read the contents of the post before she tapped on the comments. Before long, she turned to look at Wu Miao. "No one recognized Lucky's little sister."

Most of the comments were talking about Huo Yao's good looks. Huo Yao's reputation was not at risk like Wu Miao said.

"Even though no one recognized her yet, it doesn't mean it will last forever. Look at how we ended up recognizing her." Wu Miao blinked her eyes.

Moreover, she had other private social media accounts. She could do the public a favor by enlightening them.

Shen Si narrowed her eyes. She knew what Wu Miao was trying to say.

It undoubtedly felt like an explosive scoop if people found out that the high school student having improper relations with the city mayor was Lucky's little sister.

After all, Huo Yao and Huo Xiang had gained a massive following on the entertainment program. If their fans found out about their questionable lifestyles, it would ruin their reputation and they would be done for.

Just the thought of it made Shen Si glee with joy.

Shen Si smiled slightly. She turned to ask Wu Miao. "When did the news come out?"

Wu Miao checked the time. "It's been up for about 10 minutes."

All it took was slightly over ten minutes before it became the hottest post online. Shen Si narrowed her eyes. "Then you have to quickly make the public know that the girl in the picture is Lucky's little sister."

Wu Miao raised her head and looked at her cousin quizzically. "Why?"

Shen Si glanced at her. "Are you an idiot? Do you think it is that easy to post the mayor's dirt online? Wouldn't this be a major scandal for them?"

The post had been online for about ten minutes and was yet to be removed. This meant that the mayor had yet to notice its existence. Otherwise, he would not allow it to end up becoming the hottest scandal online.

Wu Miao quickly realized what Shen Si meant. "I will sign into my private social media account."

It was the perfect chance to ruin the country bumpkin, so she was not about to pass up the opportunity.

Wu Miao logged out of her main social media account as she spoke.

Shen Si crossed her legs and glanced at Wu Miao. She paused and reminded Wu Miao. "Be careful. Don't let anyone find out it's you."

Wu Miao acknowledged her without raising her head. "Got it. You can count on me."

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Meanwhile, Lin Shuwen had just sorted out some documents and was about to call for a department meeting when his subordinate ran into the office anxiously.

"Secretary Lin, the... is making the headlines on social media."

Lin Shuwen detected something amiss with his subordinate's expression, so he took his phone and glanced at it. He promptly frowned. "This is a complete lie. Who posted it?"

"A reporter from a reputable local news agency posted it," said his subordinate hurriedly.

Lin Shuwen narrowed his eyes with a stern look radiating from behind his spectacles.

It was not posted by an anonymous account. Instead, a well-known news agency posted it. From the looks of it, the culprit was certainly eager to make trouble.

Lin Shuwen smiled coldly and said, "How dare they post such unfounded news? Do they have a death wish?"

He handed the phone back to his subordinate and headed out as he said, "Get the network management team to handle the post immediately. Come back and report it to me once it is done."

"Okay." Lin Shuwen's subordinate could not help trembling when he sensed the threatening aura radiating from the secretary.

They had recently received word that Fang Chen stood a high chance of getting transferred to the capital, so the political atmosphere was extremely intense.

Chapter 649: Premeditated Slander

Fang Chen was a decisive man. He became the highest government official in this city at a young age. After becoming a government official for barely a few years, he had made a lot of accomplishments, so it made sense for him to get transferred to the capital.

Fang Chen was young, so all the old-timers in city hall had an issue with his success. In terms of experience, Fang Chen could not surpass them.

Fang Chen was waiting for the order to get transferred. If his public image got damaged at his stage, his transfer might get affected.

Regardless of the post's veracity, it would have a deep impact on his career.

Lin Shuwen walked into Fang Chen's office.

Fang Chen was on the phone, so Lin Shuwen quietly stood by the side without talking. He took his phone out of his pocket and tapped on his social media application.

The comment with the largest number of hits had divulged Fang Chen's identity. Judging from the pictures, Fang Chen could not be identified since he was wearing a mask and the photo was very grainy.

Instead, Huo Yao's entire face was very clear. However, no one else had learned of her identity yet. From the looks of it, this slander was clearly premeditated.

Someone was purposely slandering Fang Chen.

After Fang Chen hung up the phone, he raised his head to look at Lin Shuwen and glanced at the phone in Lin Shuwen's hand. "Are you here to talk to me about the latest online post?"

Lin Shuwen was caught by surprise. "Do you already know about it?"

Fang Chen acknowledged him softly and placed his phone on the desk. "My master just called to talk about this."

Lin Shuwen instantly realized how Fang Chen came to know about the post. "What did he say?"

Fang Chen leaned into the chair. His gorgeous face had a lot more color than before. He glanced at Lin Shuwen and said, "He has faith in my character."

Lin Shuwen heaved a sigh of relief to hear this.

Fang Chen's master was an important government official in the capital. Fang Chen had his master to thank for his success since he was carefully groomed by his master. Also, it was his master who had recommended his transfer to the capital.

Of course, Fang Chen was genuinely a talented government official. Otherwise, his master would not have recommended him.

If their superiors did not react too strongly about the post online, his transfer would go smoothly.

"Get someone to take care of the post. Do your best to avoid disturbing Miss Huo," said Fang Chen.

The post was clearly out to get him. However, Huo Yao was facing the camera when the picture was taken. If her classmates and teachers caught sight of the post, it would cause damage to her reputation.

"Uh huh. I have already given the order to have it taken down. Also, people are investigating the culprit behind this," said Lin Shuwen as he nodded.

Someone knocked on the door and Fang Chen said, "Enter."

"Deputy Mayor Yang has called for an emergency meeting. Please come over," said Deputy Mayor Yang's secretary standing by the door.

Lin Shuwen turned to look at him. Just as he was about to say something, Deputy Mayor Yang's secretary left the room politely without giving him the chance to ask more.

Lin Shuwen frowned. The man had a blatantly arrogant attitude.

"Let me go check it out first," said Lin Shuwen deeply after contemplating.

Deputy Mayor Yang was always friendly to Fang Chen on the surface but hated Fang Chen in reality.

Now that he had suddenly asked for an emergency meeting, he must be up to no good.

Chapter 650: Deleted The Post First

Fang Chen rapped his fingers on the table gently as he pondered deeply for a few seconds. He stood up and said, "I would like to see what they are up to."

Lin Shuwen glanced at him and followed behind him without saying anything.

Lin Shuwen did not go in with him when they got to the meeting room. He stood at the door waiting for him.

He noticed people from the disciplinary department inside the room through the gap in the door when Fang Chen had entered.

Lin Shuwen stood for a while before he recalled the incident online. He headed back to the office and made a few calls.

After giving his orders, Lin Shuwen received another phone call the moment he put down the phone. He glanced at the caller ID to see that it was Fang Ting.

"Is my brother busy? Why didn't he answer?" Fang Ting sounded anxious.

“He is in a meeting. Do you need something urgently?” asked Lin Shuwen.

Fang Ting scratched her head. “Well, I am not calling him because I need something. Have you seen the post about him on social media?”

Lin Shuwen reckoned Fang Ting might be calling about this, so he replied. “Uh huh. I already told people to take care of it. I am guessing the post ought to have gotten removed by now. Don’t worry about your brother...”

Before he finished his sentence, Fang Ting interrupted angrily. “I am not worried about him. I am worried that my sister might get implicated by him!”

Lin Shuwen went quiet. “...”

“Your sister?” asked Lin Shuwen quizzically moments later.

Was Fang Ting not Fang Chen’s only sister? How could Fang Ting have another sibling?

“I am talking about Yaoyao. The news is claiming that she has inappropriate relations with my older brother!” replied Fang Ting.

Lin Shuwen did not watch entertainment programs or follow entertainment industry news. His lips twitched as he contemplated.

Huo Yao was from the Huo family.

How could she be Fang Ting’s sister?

“Even though the post has disappeared, my sister has already gotten implicated. It is all my brother’s fault. Never mind. No point talking to you about it. Tell my brother to call me when he is free. Bye.”

Lin Shuwen went into a daze as he listened to the mechanical dial tone on the phone.

It felt as though he and Fang Ting were concerned about completely different matters.

Lin Shuwen scratched his head before calling the network management team to confirm that all posts about Fang Chen had been deleted so that the news would stop spreading.

“Huh? Do you mean the post was already deleted when you tried to take care of it? Okay. Got it.”

Lin Shuwen hung up the phone quizzically.

Was Fang Chen’s master behind this?

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“Yu, I have deleted the post about Miss Huo and Fang Chen online.”

Yang Yi sat with a laptop and tapped on the keyboard rapidly as he spoke. He paused before he continued. “A lot more other posts about Miss Huo have popped up online. I feel as though someone was behind these posts popping up at this time.”

Although he was a hacker, he could not control every single post or comment on social media. There was simply too much information out there. Even if he actively tried to put an end to this, it was impossible to get them all.

Min Yu narrowed his eyes as he spun his phone and said, "Find out who did it."

Yang Yi continued looking at the computer monitor. "The posts were all made using anonymous accounts. Let me check their IP address and see if I can get a rough location."