

## Pill Maker 661

### Chapter 661: She Is Doomed

Wu Miao parted her lips and shut them before she finally said, "I spoke to Lu Xia and she told me that Huo Yao was close to Fang Chen."

Shen Si instantly laughed. "Wu Miao, are you an idiot? How could you assume they were seeing each other just because she told you that they were close? Can't you see you were misled?"

"Moreover, even if Lu Xia and Lucky aren't biological siblings, they have lived together for over a decade. Despite being siblings for so long, she was capable of leaking her brother's unreleased music to an outsider. Do you think she can be trusted?"

Shen Si pressed her forehead speechlessly. It was impossible to expect a dumbass to grow any brains.

Wu Miao clenched her fists and replied softly. "I didn't believe Lu Xia either. I only bought it after seeing those pictures online."

She unexpectedly got misled by those pictures and ended up causing such huge trouble.

Even if Huo Tingrui did not charge her for this, her career was as good as over the moment the mayor singled her out and criticized her action.

She probably would never have a chance to appear on screen again.

Wu Miao felt weak just thinking about this.

She had never regretted her actions so badly in her life before this. If she did not post Huo Yao's personal information online...

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By the time Huo Yao and Huo Xiang got home, it was already past 9:00 pm.

Huo Yao extended her hand towards Huo Xiang as he walked in beside her.

Huo Xiang cleared his throat before pulling Huo Yao's phone from his pocket and returning it to her.

Since things were looking up online, there was no harm in giving back her phone.

"Are you back?" asked Huo Tingrui the moment they came closer. He had been waiting for them in the living room.

Huo Yao greeted her second older brother before saying hi to her parents who were sitting in the living room.

Huo Jinyan and Song Ning were oblivious to the incidents online. They spoke briefly to their daughter before heading back to their room.

Before long, only the three siblings remained in the living room.

Huo Yao curled up on the couch before she turned on her phone. Instead of checking social media, she turned on her messaging application.

A lot of people had texted to ask after her after seeing what happened on social media.

Among them were her homeroom teacher and the school principal.

Huo Yao replied to them one by one.

Huo Tingrui looked at Huo Yao and finally talked about what happened on social media. "Don't worry. I won't let the culprit who posted your personal information online get away with it easily."

He had already come up with a list of legal implications for their actions and was determined to ensure that the culprit was charged to the fullest extent of the law.

Before anyone decided to bully his little sister, they should have considered whether she had a powerful backer or not.

Huo Yao detected a murderous aura radiating from her second older brother. She raised her brows and asked. "Who did it?"

"It's the girl who appeared on the live telecast with you. I think she goes by Wu or something. She used an anonymous account to post it," replied Huo Tingrui.

Huo Yao was somewhat surprised. In hindsight, it now made sense why Wu Miao kept looking at her when they were filming today.

"In any case, she is doomed," said Huo Xiang expressionlessly.

Huo Xiang did not expect Wu Miao to be the culprit. After all, they were not close. She ended up embarrassing herself when she occasionally attempted to draw attention to herself on the program. Other than that, they never spoke at all, so he did not realize how evil she was.

Huo Xiang crossed his arms and said somewhat quizzically, "I wonder how she got her hands on Yao's information."

## **Chapter 662: Sometimes, We Don't Have To Play Nice**

Huo Yao had not shown her face on the program, so it was almost impossible to obtain details about her such as her school, her home, and even her grades.

Huo Xiang had kept thinking about this on his way home after learning what happened online.

Someone close to the family must have divulged Huo Yao's personal information.

"I don't know either. Someone posted the culprit's IP address online. I tracked the IP address and learned that the posts were done by the damned Wu girl using her phone," explained Huo Tingrui after glancing at his little sister.

Huo Xiang rubbed his chin. "Sounds like Yao is so popular that even random hackers stepped up to help."

Huo Tingrui acted seriously as he nodded. "Uh huh. If not for the IP address, I wouldn't have realized that the Wu girl was behind it."

Huo Yao twitched her lips when she kept hearing the way Huo Tingrui addressed Wu Miao. However, she said nothing and continued replying to Yi Lianfan's text message.

Yi Lianfan texted her: [Someone asked me if I knew anything about your personal life yesterday, so I reckon someone from school leaked your personal information.]

Huo Yao tapped her phone and composed a message: [Got it. Thanks.]

Yi Lianfan replied: [Welcome. It's the least I can do since we're friends!]

After Huo Yao closed her chat application, she went on social media and looked at the post with her personal information on it.

Anyone who was capable of finding information about her life in the countryside and her results was probably someone close.

The answer was abundantly clear.

Her phone suddenly vibrated.

It was a call from the big fat cash cow next door.

Huo Yao glanced at her older brothers chatting with a serious look on their faces. She did not answer the phone right away. Instead, she stood up from the couch and said, "Have an early night. I have school tomorrow, so I have to go to bed."

Huo Tingrui wanted to comfort his little sister a little, but he replied gently when he caught her yawning. "Sure thing. Have an early night."

Huo Yao nodded and went upstairs before long.

Huo Tingrui and Huo Xiang watched as she disappeared upstairs before they finally veered their eyes.

Huo Tingrui finally looked into Huo Xiang's eyes solemnly. "I didn't want to bring it up with Huo Yao around. The Lu family was behind the post about Fang Chen and her."

Although Lu Hongwen and He Xiaoman did not raise Huo Yao, she had been their daughter for years. If she found out that her foster family had ruined her reputation, she would probably be upset.

"The Lu family?" Huo Xiang was rather surprised.

Huo Tingrui scoffed before he continued. "Fang Chen sent me some information earlier. He said that the Lu family had taken those incriminating photos and sent them to the news agency."

Huo Xiang frowned. "Why did they do it? No matter what, she used to be their foster daughter. How could anyone be capable of ruining their foster daughter's reputation?"

"This simply means they are heartless." Huo Tingrui shrugged as he spoke somewhat mockingly.

Huo Xiang went quiet briefly before he continued. "This means, they were probably the ones who divulged Yao's personal information online."

"Uh huh." Huo Tingrui nodded.

His eyes quickly looked stern. "In the past, we didn't make the Lu family answerable for ill-treating Yao on account of Old Madam Yang. However, I think we don't have to bother being nice this time."

Their little sister was being pushed around, so this was no time to play nice.

### **Chapter 663: People Really Hate Me**

Huo Xiang looked at his second older brother and could tell that he was going to ensure the culprit got her just desserts. He couldn't help feeling upset.

Huo Tingrui was a well-connected ace attorney who had friends everywhere. The moment he made the post on social media, he effortlessly changed the situation for Huo Yao.

His little sister got attacked by anonymous fans after joining the program with him. Even the post he made on social media caused more trouble than help. In the end, he and his little sister ended up being attacked even more violently online.

In comparison to Huo Tingrui, he was a good for nothing.

Huo Xiang quietly sat for a moment before he asked solemnly. "Brother Tingrui, do you need me to do anything?"

Huo Tingrui was still thinking about how to get back at the Lu family. The moment he heard Huo Xiang's question, he waved his hand automatically. "It's fine. You can continue being a happy little princess."

Huo Xiang went speechless.

"..."

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By the time Huo Yao reached her room, Min Yu had already hung up the phone, so she called him back.

Huo Yao pulled a chair over and sat down when the phone got through. "Are you calling to console me too?"

Min Yu raised his brow slightly and asked. "Do you already know what happened online?"

"More or less." Huo Yao leaned into her chair lazily and stared at the ceiling before she said deeply, "The people hate me so much online that they even hacked my social media account."

Min Yu went quiet briefly. "... I'm glad everything is alright."

Huo Yao blinked and said, "Do I look like a frail helpless woman to you?"

Min Yu laughed gently. His collar was slightly open and his dark hair was a little disheveled. He gave off a sexy aura. "Certainly not."

He paused before he added. "Your foster parents definitely had a hand in this."

"Uh huh. I think so too," said Huo Yao mildly without the slightest emotion running across her face.

Since it was getting late, they didn't chat for long and hung up after a brief conversation.

The next day, Huo Yao could sense people staring at her the moment she entered the classroom. However, they meant no harm.

It happened to be a self-study class. The moment she sat down, the classmate in front of her turned to ask her excitedly. "Are you really Lucky's little sister?"

Everyone turned their heads in unison and looked at her with complicated emotions running through their minds.

'Countryside Life With My Family' was the most popular program that was currently airing.

80% of her classmates followed the show and at least half of them were Lucky and his little sister's fans. They kept trying to find out more about the girl wearing the mask on the program.

After trying to figure out who she was for weeks, she ended up sitting right in front of them all along. If her details did not get posted online yesterday, they might not have known the truth even after they graduated.

Huo Yao went quiet briefly when everyone looked at her before she said nonchalantly, "If you guys want his autograph, you can collate the requests and let me know."

Huo Xiang did not do ballads. Instead, his music style was on the rock'n'roll side and had a lot of character. It was particularly healing to hear him sing.

His fan demographics consisted mainly of youngsters, especially students. He was the purest and most unaffected idol out there.

The moment Huo Yao finished her sentence, her classmate dropped her question and instantly squealed like a marmot. "Omigod! Yes, please!"

"I want one too!"

"Me too..."

## **Chapter 664: Sell Out Her Older Brother**

Meng Ying looked at Huo Yao with complicated emotions running through her heart before raising her thumb at Huo Yao. She was thoroughly impressed.

Huo Yao certainly lived up to her name as a straight A student. She had successfully distracted her classmates by selling out her brother. The trick was simply brilliant!

Huo Yao raised her brow as she thought about all the nice things her classmates said in the class group chat yesterday after the incident blew up online.

Since everyone was in such a good mood, she decided to be generous and added. "If your friends want one, I don't mind helping you get his autograph as long as you don't take more than three copies."

One of her classmates asked shyly. "Can I ask for a personalized autograph?"

Since Huo Yao did not work in the entertainment industry or chase celebrities, she did not know what it was. She went quiet briefly before nodding. "Okay!"

Whatever it was, it was just an autograph, right?

Her classmate was beside herself with joy. With that, all her friends asked for the same personalized autograph as well.

Meng Ying watched as their classmates went about consolidating the number of autographs required before she turned to look at Huo Yao. "Do you know what a personalized autograph is?"

Huo Yao replied. "Nope."

Meng Ying shook her head when she heard Huo Yao replying so nonchalantly. She proceeded to explain what a personalized autograph was to her desk buddy.

It was an autograph that addressed the fan by name.

Other than public autograph sessions, it was rather easy to get one's hands on a regular autograph. After all, most celebrities had a team of people helping to imitate their autographs. However, the personalized autograph had to be done by the celebrity personally.

Almost 40 students in the class were Lucky's fans. Also, Huo Yao even generously offered up to three autographs per student. That added up to at least 100 autographs in total. Huo Xiang's hand would probably go limp from signing so many autographs.

Meng Ying could not help sighing. Sure enough, she did not know Huo Yao well enough. Other than sabotaging outsiders, Huo Yao did not flinch when it came to selling out her biological brother.

She suddenly felt better about all the revision material Huo Yao threw at her and the competitions that she had forced her to join.

News about Huo Yao giving away Huo Xiang's autograph in the Experimental Class got out before long. Fans from other classes were absolutely envious.

Throughout the first half of the day, no one talked about the online incident yesterday. Instead, people kept talking about Huo Yao giving away Huo Xiang's autograph.

Lu Xia naturally heard her classmates talking about this. Despite her straight face, she looked somewhat annoyed.

Initially, she thought Huo Yao's reputation was bound to get ruined after the things Wu Miao did online. However, nothing came of it.

For a moment, she had difficulty breathing when she saw Huo Tingrui defending Huo Yao online.

Before Lu Xia found out she was swapped at birth, she was accused online when she joined the entertainment industry. However, Huo Tingrui never once spoke up for her like he did for Huo Yao.

The moment Lu Xia heard everyone talking about Huo Xiang's autograph, the fury she suppressed last night started seething once more.

Lu Xia was not even allowed to mention Huo Xiang's name at school before Huo Yao came home, let alone offer his autograph to others.

What gave Huo Yao the right to do this?

Even though she knew she should not think about these double standards, she could not help fretting over it.

Lu Xia was flipping through her book annoyingly when her phone suddenly vibrated in her pocket. She did not feel like answering and could not even be bothered to check the caller ID.

She finally pulled out her phone when it kept vibrating for several minutes.

### **Chapter 665: Beg The Huo Family To Let Us Off**

Lu Hongwen was the one who called her.

Lu Xia stepped out of the classroom and went to a quieter spot before she answered the phone.

"I called you so many times. Why didn't you answer?" The moment the phone got through, her father questioned her angrily.

Lu Xia was already in a bad mood, so after he scolded her, she instantly sounded annoyed. "I was in class. What do you want?"

"The Lu family is dead meat!" roared Lu Hongwen.

It was so loud that Lu Xia felt she was going to become deaf. Moments later, she composed herself and tightened her grip on the phone. "Dad, what did you say? What is going to happen to us?"

"Lu Corporation was seized this morning and the bank has frozen our funds..."

Lu Xia's face turned pale when she heard this. She stumbled and bumped onto the railing while Lu Hongwen kept talking over the phone. However, only five words kept echoing in her ear.

Lu Corporation was just seized.

The Lu family was done for.

Lu Xia looked flustered as she interrupted her father. "Weren't we perfectly fine yesterday? How did we end up being seized today?"

In her past life, the Lu family ended up on the brink of bankruptcy. However, it should happen over a decade from now. Why did it happen so much sooner in this lifetime?

"Humph. We have your wonderful brother to thank for this! Huo Tingrui is a renowned attorney. Why did you tell me that your brothers were good for nothings?"

Lu Hongwen's voice sounded shrill and his face looked absolutely furious.

He had noticed that Huo Yanxi and Huo Tingrui dressed like professionals when he went over to pick up his biological daughter, so he had asked his daughter about their occupations.

She had told him that they were good for nothings who lived off their parents. Even though they seemed decently dressed, it was only a façade.

Also, the Huo family resided in an old estate and drove a beat up Santana, so he had easily believed every word his daughter said.

In the end, Huo Tingrui turned out to be an ace attorney!

Since Lu Hongwen did not surf the internet, he did not know about the events that transpired on social media last night. He only found out when he went to the company's legal department today and received a lawyer's letter.

Lu Xia felt indignant when her father questioned her. She did not get reborn until after she moved back to the Lu family, so she did not remember what she said at that time.

She bit her lip and did not attempt to explain. Instead, she asked. "I don't see why he would want to target Lu Corporation."

She genuinely provided a part of Huo Yao's personal information, but even if Wu Miao exposed her, it was not serious enough for Huo Tingrui to sue Lu Corporation.

Lu Hongwen wiped his face and didn't feel like talking anymore. "Go and beg Huo Tingrui to get our business partners to revoke their suits against us."

Lu Xia's heart constricted as she automatically said, "He won't agree to see me."

After the stunt she pulled on Huo Xiang previously, they had severed all ties with her. If Huo Tingrui considered her as his younger sister at all, this wouldn't have happened.

Lu Hongwen lost his patience. "I don't care what you have to do. If he won't see you, then beg your foster parents. Our family's fate is in your hands. If they do not let us off, you can forget about coming home."

The moment he finished his sentence, Lu Hongwen hung up the phone without giving Lu Xia the chance to speak.

## **Chapter 666: Regret!**

After Lu Hongwen hung up the phone on Lu Xia, her face turned ghastly pale as she listened to the dial tone. She stood frozen in her place for a long time.

How could she have the cheek to beg Huo Tingrui like her father asked her to?

Even if she tried her luck, she would probably get driven out before she could even set her foot inside his office.

Her father told her to beg her foster parents if she had to, but they had already moved and she did not know where to find them. She reckoned they probably would not answer if she called them on the phone.



Lu Xia's eyes turned red and she felt absolutely awful. She went back to class dejectedly when the bell rang at the end of the last period of the morning.

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Meanwhile, in Huo Yanxi's office in the afternoon.

"The deputy CEO just passed me the contract for the takeover of North Star News Agency," said the assistant reverently as he placed a contract on Huo Yanxi's table.

Huo Yanxi sat in the chair with one hand leaning against his forehead. His face appeared slightly pale and he looked tired. After some time, he finally put down his hand and opened his eyes to look at the takeover paperwork on his table.

The assistant asked worriedly. "Mr. Huo, are you okay?"

Huo Yanxi shook his head and said somewhat hoarsely, "I'm fine." He slowly picked up the paperwork.

"I don't get it. North Star News Agency is just a tiny news agency. Why are we taking over them when we do not have any entertainment news operations?" asked the assistant in confusion.

Moments later, Huo Yanxi muttered. "Perhaps I can make up for..."

"Huh?" The assistant could not understand what Huo Yanxi was saying.

Huo Yanxi waved his hand before he quickly put the contract in his drawer.

The assistant did not continue probing.

Instead, he recalled something and said, "Lu Corporation was involved in tax evasion. Also, it is caught up with some legal cases. I recall that your foster sister is from the Lu family. Shall we..."

Before the assistant could finish his sentence, Huo Yanxi interrupted him. "It is a sheer waste of money to take over unethical businesses like those."

The assistant parted his lips for a long time.

In reality, he was going to ask whether they should help Lu Corporation.

"I don't want to hear about Lu Corporation... or anyone from the Lu family from now on," said Huo Yanxi expressionlessly.

Everyone in the Lu family naturally included Lu Xia.

The assistant finally realized that Huo Yanxi had no intention of helping the Lu family.

Even though he was puzzled, it was not his place to poke his nose into Huo Yanxi's private matters, so he simply acknowledged Huo Yanxi and stopped asking.

Huo Yanxi's phone rang as it sat on the table in front of him.

He glanced at it mildly before he frowned slightly and did not answer.

The assistant looked at Huo Yanxi cautiously. He could keenly sense Huo Yanxi getting annoyed by the phone call, so he cringed before quickly taking his leave. He disappeared quietly from Huo Yanxi's office.

The atmosphere in the company had been rather tense of late, so he was worried about infuriating Huo Yanxi.

Since it was lunchtime, the assistant headed to the lift and swiped his card before he took the lift downstairs.

Huo Yanxi's phone rang a few times in a row, but he continued leaning into his chair motionlessly with both hands on the armrest. He seemed to be in a daze.

After some time, the caller finally gave up and his phone stopped ringing. Moments later, the landline on his desk rang.

This time, it was from the ground floor reception.

## **Chapter 667: He Didn't Have To Be So Ruthless**

Meanwhile downstairs

"Mr. Huo might be busy."

The receptionist kept calling until she received an automatic message indicating no one was available to answer the phone before she finally hung up and informed Lu Xia.

She knew Lu Xia was Huo Yanxi's little sister. But Lu Xia did not make a prior appointment, so the receptionist did not dare to break the rules and allow her to go upstairs.

Lu Xia tightened her grip on the phone. Despite calling Huo Yanxi five or six times on his mobile phone, he refused to answer. Although she already saw this coming judging from his earlier attitude, she asked the receptionist to try to get Huo Yanxi on the landline one last time.

Lu Xia laughed in self-ridicule now that she lost all hope.

Initially, she thought Huo Yanxi wouldn't ignore her so blatantly, but it seemed that she had been overoptimistic.

Even though she was Huo Yanxi's foster sister and they used to be very close, she probably couldn't even compare to even a hair strand on Huo Yao's head now.

The receptionist seemed to detect Lu Xia's sadness and wanted to console her. She raised her head and saw Huo Yanxi's assistant coming out of the lift, so she waved at him quickly.

"Mr. Wang."

Mr. Wang raised his head and caught sight of Lu Xia's profile. He halted in his steps before he headed over to the receptionist. "Yes?"

After he got to the reception, he was promptly stunned to see it was Lu Xia.

Huo Yanxi had just brought up the Lu family and here they were already. Mr. Wang thought about the Lu Corporation's situation and the foul mood Huo Yanxi was in and quickly joined the dots. That last call Huo Yanxi received before he left must be from the Lu family.

"Erm... Mr. Huo's little sister is here to see him. Is he busy? I called the internal line, but no one answered," said the receptionist.

Lu Xia looked at Mr. Wang. Her eyes looked tired and her face was pale. She seemed to be absolutely miserable.

The veins on Mr. Wang's forehead throbbed. He nodded to Lu Xia and said, "Mr. Huo is out for a business lunch and isn't around."

The receptionist was puzzled to hear this. "Hmm? I was downstairs the entire time, but I didn't see Mr. Huo leave..."

Mr. Wang cleared his throat and cut her off. "Maybe you happened to miss him. He genuinely isn't in the office now."

"Fine. Maybe I missed him when I was in the bathroom," reasoned the receptionist.

"Uh huh." Mr. Wang looked at Lu Xia and said politely, "Miss Huo, why do you want to see him? I can help pass a message."

Lu Xia pursed her lips and replied coldly. "It's fine."

It was blatantly clear to her that Mr. Wang was hinting at her to make herself scarce.

The moment she finished her sentence, she turned to leave. Two steps later, she halted and turned to look at Mr. Wang. "Tell Huo Yanxi, we have been siblings for over ten years. He didn't have to be so ruthless about it."

The assistant frowned slightly as he watched Lu Xia from behind.

Ruthless?

Those words were simply too strong.

After all, Huo Yanxi did not do anything to the Lu Corporation or the Lu family.

Mr. Wang contemplated before he decided to pass Lu Xia's message to Huo Yanxi via text message.

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Lu Xia stood by the roadside and did not know where to go. She watched as the cars came and went while thoughts swarmed across her mind suddenly.

Memories of her life at the Huo family seemed particularly clear at this moment.

She did not have to live cautiously like she did at the Lu residence. Also, the Huo family was warm and loving, unlike the Lu family. Despite her willfulness, her foster parents and siblings loved her...

Lu Xia felt teary-eyed and was filled with regret.

Sadly, it was too late to regret. From the moment she chose to reunite with the Lu family, this was destined to happen.

All the love she had ever received from the Huo family would disappear without a trace.

## **Chapter 668: No Idea What Kind Of Mess Her Family Was In**

Lu Xia did not go back to school in the afternoon. After walking around outside for some time, she eventually went home.

The house was in chaos when she got back. It felt as though she had arrived in a warzone.

He Xiaoman was all alone in the massive villa as she sat slumped on the couch. Her face was incredibly haggard and she did not look like a member of high society at all. She did not react even the slightest when her daughter entered the door.

Lu Xia put down her designer bag and glanced at He Xiaoman. She proceeded to pour a glass of water, walked up to He Xiaoman, and gave it to her. "Here you go, Mom."

He Xiaoman's eyes were completely listless. After some time, she finally snapped out of her daze and gazed at Lu Xia.

She waved and rejected the water. "What are you doing here?"

The glass of water fell onto the ground with a sharp clang before broken glass and water splashed everywhere.

Lu Xia lowered her eyes without saying a word as she pulled her hand back and turned to pick up the pieces of glass on the ground. She tossed them into the bin nearby.

He Xiaoman was furious when Lu Xia ignored her. A thought crossed her mind and she quickly suppressed her anger.

She got up and pulled Lu Xia up. "Xiaxia, have you spoken to Huo Tingrui about it?"

Lu Xia inhaled deeply before she asked her mother. "What on earth happened? Why would he want to attack the Lu Corporation?"

"It is all your father's fault. Your father sent someone to take pictures of Huo Yao with some government official. He sent it to a news agency and the agency posted them online... We didn't expect Huo Tingrui to end up taking it out on Lu Corporation," said He Xiaoman furiously.

Lu Xia finally caught on to the situation after hearing her mother's explanation.

Initially, it did not dawn on her that the online incident had anything to do with her family. It turned out her father was the culprit who supplied the photo.

Considering Huo Tingrui's temper, it was no wonder he would target Lu Corporation. Now the city mayor, Fang Chen, was also involved.

Lu Xia pressed her forehead. "Dad must be insane. How could he have done something so reckless? It's no wonder we are in such huge trouble!"

"That's why you need to beg Huo Tingrui to let us off. If he agrees to forgive us, there is still a chance for Lu Corporation," roared He Xiaoman.

Lu Xia sneered as she shook her head when she realized how oblivious her mother was about the severity of leaking those photos. "Mom, don't be naive. Huo Tingrui isn't the person who wants us dead. It is the city hall who wants to finish us off."

No one else would have dared to spread dirt on the city mayor! What was her father thinking?

"Weren't they just some random pictures? Why would the city hall want to do that to us? In any case, your father said he sent those photos anonymously. How could anyone find out that we were the ones behind it?" said He Xiaoman deeply.

Lu Xia pursed her lips. "Do you really think we can get away by sending anonymous photos? The person in the photograph is the city mayor. Did you think someone like him would be incapable of finding out the truth?"

He Xiaoman really had no idea what kind of mess her family was in.

"The city mayor?" He Xiaoman was stunned.

All along, she thought it was just pictures of Huo Yao with some random government official.

Since it was the city mayor they were talking about, it made sense for Lu Corporation to suddenly end up being seized.

He Xiaoman suddenly stumbled and sat on the couch. After some time, an idea came to her mind.

She raised her head and looked at Lu Xia as she said hurriedly, "Then why don't you ask Huo Yao to help? She is very close to Secretary Lin. If she is willing to speak on our behalf, Lu Corporation might be able to survive this."

## **Chapter 669: Hopeless**

Lu Xia could not go on listening to her mother and exclaimed. "Mom, can you wake up already? It's too late to beg anyone for help. Who do you think we have just offended? It is impossible for anything to be done now to save Lu Corporation!"

If it was just Huo Tingrui, they might have still stood a chance to change things, but city hall was now involved. This was as good as signing a death sentence for the family.

The moment He Xiaoman heard what her daughter said, her head buzzed non stop and her face gradually lost all color.

Did that mean Lu Corporation was done for this time?

She raised her head and looked around the extravagantly decorated villa. If there was no hope for the company, did it mean their family was dead meat as well?

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Meanwhile, on the other end.

Huo Yanxi laughed in self-ridicule when he saw his assistant's text message.

If not on account of being siblings with Lu Xia for years, would he merely have taken over the news agency that had slandered Huo Yao?

Huo Yanxi raised his head as he contemplated. His phone rang again.

The moment he lowered his eyes and saw the caller ID, he quickly answered the phone. "Hi, Tingrui..."

"Did you take over North Star News Agency?" asked Huo Tingrui with his brows slightly raised.

Huo Tingrui had just taken care of Lu Corporation today and was about to punish the news agency for their actions when he learned that it had already been taken over.

After asking around, he learned that his eldest brother was the one behind the acquisition.

Huo Yanxi went quiet for a couple of seconds before he acknowledged mildly and explained. "Someone already asked us to analyze North Star News Agency for its acquisition risks. I just happened to acquire it recently."

Huo Tingrui smiled and shook his head. He did not expose Huo Yanxi's true reason for the merger. He contemplated briefly and said, "Oh yes. What about the Lu family?"

"I will not get involved with the Lu family. Do whatever you want," interrupted Huo Yanxi right away and made his stance clear.

He did not mention anything about Lu Xia looking for him.

Huo Tingrui heaved a sigh of relief.

Although Huo Yanxi was no longer in contact with Lu Xia and had learned from his previous mistakes, Huo Tingrui could not help feeling worried that Huo Yanxi might cave in and help the Lu family if Lu Xia reached out and begged him.

From the looks of it, Huo Tingrui was overthinking it.

Huo Tingrui stopped talking about the Lu family and changed the subject. "Why don't you come home and have dinner with us?"

A thought crossed Huo Yanxi's mind before he replied mildly. "Maybe some other time. I am kind of busy lately."

Huo Tingrui knew that Huo Yanxi was worried about feeling awkward with Huo Yao around. He tried to talk to Huo Yanxi about it a few times. Since Huo Yanxi kept making excuses, Huo Tingrui stopped trying to convince him otherwise. After a brief chat with Huo Yanxi, he quickly hung up the phone.

Huo Tingrui held his phone and deleted the two missed calls from his call history.

Lu Xia had called him, but he did not answer the phone.

Everyone had to pay the price for their mistakes. They should have considered the consequences before they tried to get Huo Yao in trouble.

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After school in the afternoon, Huo Yao saw Tong Yu standing by the roadside when she left campus, so she walked straight over to him.

Tong Yu was just about to send her a text message. He put away his phone when he saw Huo Yao walking over and straightened his body. "Hi, Yao."

"Did you wait for long?" Huo Yao nodded to Tong Yu.

Tong Yu smiled as he shook his head. "I just got here. Oh yes! Your brother just sent me a text message. He asked if you wanted to listen to his new song at the studio. It so happens he still has some studio pictures of himself at that place."

Huo Yao recalled the list of personalized autograph requests in her bag and nodded in agreement.

Tong Yu sent Huo Xiang a text message to tell them they were coming before they got into the car.

## **Chapter 670: Healing Music**

Huo Yao had been to Huo Xiang's place once before. The moment she entered, she changed into a pair of slippers before Tong Yu led her to the studio.

Huo Xiang was in the middle of recording when he saw his little sister through the glass window. He stopped, took off his headphones, and walked out.

"Hi, Yao."

Huo Yao acknowledged gently before she asked. "Are you done recording?"

"I'm almost done." Huo Xiang picked up the headphones in front of the glass window. "Check out my acapella version and tell me what you think."

He helped Huo Yao put on the headphones the moment he finished speaking.

Tong Yu took another pair of earphones and plugged them into the equipment. He wanted to listen to the song as well. However, Huo Xiang promptly unplugged the earphones.

Tong Yu was caught by surprise. "Little Princess, what is the meaning of this?"

Huo Xiang did not bother to explain and simply pushed Tong Yu out of the studio and slammed the door behind him.

The door almost hit Tong Yu on the nose and he went speechless.

What had he done?

Huo Xiang adjusted his little sister's headphone volume before entering the studio and closing the door behind him. He looked up at his little sister as she stood behind the window and put on the headphones nervously.

Huo Xiang inhaled deeply before playing the song.

Music instantly flowed in the background. She was so thoroughly immersed in his song that she could follow the beat effortlessly without looking at the lyrics.

Even though Huo Yao was not a musician, she was awestruck when she heard her fourth older brother's voice. It was bright, unsullied and felt incredibly soothing. No wonder people loved his music.

After the song was over, she could not help thinking about it.

Huo Xiang came out of the studio and looked at Huo Yao earnestly. "What do you think?"

Huo Yao removed the headphones and stuck her thumb up. "It's great. I was totally immersed in it. When are you cutting your album?"

Huo Xiang felt a little shy when he heard her praise and cleared his throat awkwardly. "It will be released during the winter break. I will hold a concert when it is out."

Huo Yao thought about the timing and realized that meant the album would get released real soon.

Huo Xiang sang a few new songs he had prepared for the album before they left the studio.

After they came out, they could hear music playing in the hall while Tong Yu sat on the couch with his arms crossed and his eyes narrowed. It was as though he was thoroughly intoxicated by the music.

Huo Xiang glanced at Tong Yu before he dissed him for being a poser in his heart.

Huo Xiang went over and turned off the music player. Tong Yu promptly opened his eyes and glared at Huo Xiang. "I was listening to that."

He was not allowed to listen to his new tracks. But why was he barred from listening to his old music as well?

"You are at my place," said Huo Xiang expressionlessly.

Tong Yu turned sideways with one hand on the couch's backrest as he looked at Huo Yao. "Yao, see how childish the little princess is?"

Huo Yao pursed her lips. Although she agreed, she shook her head with a straight face. "I don't think he's childish."

Tong Yu was thunderstruck. "..."

Tong Yu had not seen this response coming from Huo Yao.

Huo Xiang laughed gently. "You can leave."



Tong Yu pretended not to hear him and turned to point at a box on the coffee table. "Yao, here are the pictures he uses for his autographs. There are over 120 copies here. Is that enough?"

"That should do just fine." Huo Yao nodded before she looked sideways at Huo Xiang. "How long will it take for you to sign slightly over 100 pictures?"