

## Pill Maker 81

### Chapter 81: Are You Hoping Huo Yao Will Come?

After the old lady regained consciousness, Huo Yao went back to the Huo residence.

By the time she arrived, it was 8:00 in the morning. Although Huo Yao turned up slightly later than usual from her run, Song Ning did not suspect that she had been out all night. She merely presumed Huo Yao ran for a longer time today.

Huo Yao did not tell Song Ning about it either. After going back to her room for a quick shower, she changed and took out a box from her wardrobe. She opened it to reveal dozens of bottles and removed a light blue porcelain one from the box.

Huo Yao placed the bottle in her bag and went downstairs immediately. She told Song Ning briefly about her grandmother's situation and rejected their offer to visit her. Then she headed out in a hurry without even eating her breakfast.

Huo Yao arrived back at the hospital 20 minutes later.

But she caught sight of He Xiaoman, Lu Xia, and an approximately 15 year old boy standing inside the ward's door. She instinctively halted in her steps looking at them.

"Mom, why didn't you tell us about your relapse? If the nanny didn't call to tell me, I wouldn't have found out about it," said He Xiaoman as she rubbed her forehead.

She was really upset but did not dare to speak harshly to her mother, considering her condition.

Yang Qiuhua sat on the bed with barely any color on her face. She seemed to dislike the people in the room and kept up an indifferent expression.

"I'm okay. I don't need you since there are doctors and nurses here to take care of me. Carry on."

Yang Qiuhua did not know when Huo Yao would come back. She was worried that if she bumped into these people, she would end up getting bullied again.

When He Xiaoman heard her mother talking like this, she became annoyed and said, "Xiaxia and Ziming came to visit you with me the moment we found out you were hospitalized. Do you have to be so unreasonable towards all of us?"

Yang Qiuhua only looked out of the window without uttering a word.

He Xiaoman felt helpless. She found it unfathomable why her mother kept going against her.

"Mom, calm down. Grandma can't get upset," said Lu Xia as she walked up to He Xiaoman and shook her head.

Lu Xia turned to look at her grandmother before pulling up a chair nearby to sit by her bedside. Then she held the old lady's hand and said gently, "Grandma, don't get upset with Mom. She's just very concerned about you."

Lu Xia's words helped He Xiaoman calm down a little. Moreover, she was Yang Qihua's biological granddaughter, so Yang Qihua was clearly no longer as stiff when she turned to look at Lu Xia but she still remained indifferent.

"I'm fine. Take your mother and brother with you and leave," said Yang Qihua as she subtly pulled her hand out from her grasp.

Lu Xia withdrew her hand but continued persuading Yang Qihua gently. "How can doctors and nurses do a better job of caring for you than your family?"

Yang Qihua became instinctively agitated the moment she heard Lu Xia, so she retorted. "But I don't need it. I have Yao..." She realized midway that she had almost slipped up and swiftly held her tongue.

Unfortunately, He Xiaoman already caught on and asked her furiously. "Are you hoping that Huo Yao will come?"

Yang Qihua looked elsewhere and replied in a casual manner. "So what if I do? You were such a bully towards her the last time!"

He Xiaoman angrily laughed as she said, "Me? A bully? Don't you know why I chased her away?"

But right after, she changed the subject and continued. "Fine. Since you're so protective of her, then tell me does she know you're sick? Did she come to the hospital to take care of you?"

He Xiaoman pointed at Lu Xia and said, "No, she didn't. Take a close look. Xiaxia is the one visiting you and taking care of you. She's your real granddaughter!"

## **Chapter 82: Genuinely Hated Huo Yao**

Yang Qihua's face turned pale as she bit her lip. Lu Xia stood up at that moment and tugged at He Xiaoman's arm and said, "Mom, calm down. Since Grandma wants Huo Yao to take care of her, then we can call her over. Although Huo Yao isn't Grandma's biological granddaughter, they must have feelings for each other after living together for so long. Don't get into a fight with Grandma on my account. We should focus on Grandma's recovery instead."

Lu Xia forcibly smiled before she turned to retrieve her phone from the purse.

He Xiaoman felt even angrier when she heard her daughter. Seeing Lu Xia with her phone, she swiftly snatched it from her hand.

"Why are you calling her? Why are you so stubborn? You came here to take care of your grandmother after skipping an important official event. Why do you have to call that girl over? Are you naïve or plain stupid?" He Xiaoman asked her disappointedly.

"Mom, it's okay..." replied Lu Xia as she attempted to take her phone back. But when she looked up, she saw Huo Yao standing at the doorway. She was stunned.

The moment He Xiaoman detected something amiss with Lu Xia's expression, she glanced towards the door as well. She was caught by surprise too but she quickly composed herself and spoke with her face downcast. "What are you doing here?"

Yang Qiuhua had spotted Huo Yao as well and looked at her anxiously. She was unsure about how much of their conversation Huo Yao had heard. Out of fear that there might be a misunderstanding, Yang Qiuhua hurriedly said, "Yaoyao stayed with me all through the night."

"All night?" He Xiaoman asked as she turned to look at the old lady with a look of disbelief on her face.

"Mom, are you saying this to help her? If she stayed with you all night, why didn't you say so earlier?"

Now it was clear that Yang Qiuhua was hiding something from her daughter.

"Would you have believed me if I did? Would it change your mind about chasing Yaoyao away?" Yang Qiuhua muttered almost to herself.

Yang Qiuhua merely wanted to convince them to leave before Huo Yao got here. She did not expect Huo Yao to come back so quickly.

When He Xiaoman heard her mother, she couldn't help but use a self-deprecating tone. "Am I such a terrible daughter to you?"

Yang Qiuhua averted her eyes and did not want to respond.

"Mom," interrupted Lu Xia at this moment. She shook her head at He Xiaoman before quickly walking over to the door to pull Huo Yao in.

In a pleasant tone, she said, "Yaoyao, come on in quickly. Grandma has been waiting for you."

Huo Yao glanced at Lu Xia indifferently and avoided her hand. She walked into the hospital ward before Lu Xia could touch her. Huo Yao went straight to the old lady's bedside without saying anything to He Xiaoman, either.

She looked at her grandmother and said rather calmly, "Didn't I tell you not to get angry? Are you misbehaving again?"

Yang Qiuhua gazed at Huo Yao's calm face and subconsciously cringed. She muttered softly. "I wasn't getting agitated. I'm okay."

Huo Yao cast her a thoughtful smile and said, "If you were fine, you wouldn't have suffered a relapse last night."

Yang Qiuhua did not dare to speak any further and looked at her meekly.

She was unafraid of anyone throwing a temper at her, except for Huo Yao.

Lu Xia lowered her eyes and clenched her fists when she witnessed this scene. No matter how well she performed in front of the old lady, it seemed Yang Qiuhua did not give a damn about her.

Lu Xia genuinely loathed Huo Yao.

Lu Ziming had been quietly playing with his phone all this time without saying a word, but he suddenly looked up at Huo Yao and a look of surprise surfaced in his eyes.

Was this still that stupid and cowardly big sister of his?

### **Chapter 83: Acting Like The Loving Sister**

Lu Ziming was He Xiaoman's favorite child. Since a young age, he had always been a bright child. In the Lu family, almost everyone pampered him dearly. Hence, he developed a willful personality and treated everyone rudely. He was now a classic arrogant and ill-bred young man from a rich and powerful family.

Lu Ziming and Huo Yao had barely seen each other since they did not grow up together. When He Xiaoman occasionally sent for Huo Yao to come home during the Chinese New Year, the willful Lu Ziming would take the opportunity to bully and frame her.

Most of the members of the Lu family detested Huo Yao because of Lu Ziming.

"Hey, you coward. Why didn't you greet me when you came in?" asked Lu Ziming arrogantly as he placed his phone in his pocket.

Huo Yao did not even bother to look in his direction. She merely turned around to take a clean glass and poured some water in it. Then she put the medicine she brought from home into the glass at an angle which was hidden from everyone.

Lu Ziming walked around the table to reach Huo Yao. He said, "Hey, I'm talking to you! Are you deaf?"

Lu Xia's lips twitched when she witnessed this. She appeared to eagerly wait for Lu Ziming to make trouble for Huo Yao.

The glass swirled in Huo Yao's hand for a moment. Then she turned around as though Lu Ziming was not there and handed the water to the old lady. She said, "Drink some water."

Lu Ziming was terribly annoyed about being ignored. He raised his hand to snatch the glass from Huo Yao just as his grandmother was about to take it and said, "Lu Yao, how dare you..."

But suddenly Lu Ziming sensed a pain on his wrist before he could finish his sentence. He was swiftly yanked so hard that he staggered and fell on the ground. When he looked up to see Huo Yao's frosty eyes, he instinctively shivered.

"Didn't your mother teach you any manners?" asked Huo Yao as she towered over Lu Ziming with a cold light glinting in her deep eyes.

Despite her soft tone, a threatening aura radiated from her.

Fear ran through Lu Ziming's heart as though he was a tiger's prey. Despite the pain in his wrist, it could not compare to the panic that Huo Yao's eyes were sending to his veins. He mumbled in a trembling tone. "Let... Let me go."

When Huo Yao saw how cowardly Lu Ziming had turned out to be after he was outdone, she sneered at him contemptuously. "Don't be a bully if you don't have the guts. You're such a wimp."

Then she let go of Lu Ziming's hand.

Lu Ziming's face had turned ghastly pale. There was something hovering at the tip of his tongue as he held his aching wrist, but he did not dare to speak up. It seemed as though he had gotten quite a shock.

Lu Xia composed herself and glanced at Lu Ziming before walking over to stand in front of him.

She said gently, "Huo Yao, how can you hurt a kid? Lu Ziming used to be your little brother after all!"

Huo Yao raised her brow as her eyes landed on Lu Xia's face. She playfully laughed and said, "Are you acting like a loving sister coming to her little brother's aid now?"

Lu Xia frowned. "You..."

Lu Ziming shoved Lu Xia aside before she could finish her sentence. He was already incredibly embarrassed by Huo Yao and felt that Lu Xia was only worsening the matter. In the end, he glared at Huo Yao furiously and left the room in a huff.

Lu Xia felt somewhat embarrassed by his actions and stood stockstill.

Moments later, Lu Ziming came back to the door and said, "Mom, why are you still hanging around here? If someone wants to take care of Grandma, then leave her to it."

Saying so, he turned to leave for good without bothering to look back.

Since He Xiaoman had always indulged her son, she chased after him, not even stopping to reprimand Huo Yao.

Lu Xia was left behind to suffer the mortification all alone in that moment.

## **Chapter 84: Isn't Min Yu Your Tutor?**

Since He Xiaoman and Lu Ziming had left, Lu Xia naturally had no reason to stay, so she found an excuse and left awkwardly as well.

After they left, the old lady quickly looked at Huo Yao and explained. "Yaoyao, I didn't tell them that you visited me at first because..."

Huo Yao handed over the glass of water to Yang Qiuhua and interrupted her calmly. "I get it. I'm not angry. You don't have to be so nervous."

Yang Qiuhua instantly felt relieved. She took a sip of water and realized that it was her usual medication. She could not help looking up at Huo Yao in surprise. "Did you go back to get my medicine?"

Huo Yao replied nonchalantly. "Mhm."

She pulled a chair over with her foot and sat down lazily before she continued. "Why haven't you been taking the medicine which I gave you?"

Yang Qiuhua tightened her grip on the glass subconsciously. Her eyes wandered around the ward without daring to look straight at Huo Yao as she replied. "I did take them..."

Huo Yao smiled ambiguously looking at Yang Qiuhua without saying a word.

This smile of Huo Yao's terrified Yang Qiuhua the most. Although she had already come up with an excuse, she could not bring herself to say it and was defeated by Huo Yao's imposing presence. She sighed and continued softly. "I didn't purposely skip the medicine. The pills disappeared."

Huo Yao tapped on the armrest with a look of languor in her eyes. A few seconds later, she said indifferently, "The Lu family must have taken them."

Yang Qiuhua nodded after a long time. She knew it was impossible to hide anything from Huo Yao.

"Fine, forget about it. Let's talk about why you suddenly suffered a relapse last night," said Huo Yao softly. It sounded as though she was talking about something mundane.

But Yang Qiuhua knew this nonchalance was a sign that Huo Yao was already very angry. Yang Qiuhua went quiet for a while before she smiled bitterly and said, "I called up Xiaoman because the pills had gone missing. Other than the nanny and me, she was the only other person who might have known about their whereabouts."

Despite her vague response, it was evident what had transpired. Huo Yao rubbed her forehead. She sighed helplessly and said, "You can call me directly when you run out of the medicine the next time."

Yang Qiuhua hung her head and concealed the sadness in her eyes.

Huo Yao did not badger her any longer. Instead, she changed the subject and asked her in confusion. "What's up with Min Yu? Why did he end up sending you to the hospital last night?"

Yang Qiuhua was surprised by how Huo Yao addressed him. But she replied with a nod. "I might have accidentally dialed his number when I had a relapse. Little Mr. Min is such a kind man. You must give him my thanks."

She mentioned nothing about how lonely she felt in this unfamiliar city. She could not rely on her daughter, and her dearest granddaughter now had a family of her own. Min Yu was the only other person she knew here, the only person she could call.

"Little Mr. Min?" Huo Yao asked as she tilted her head with a look of befuddlement. "Why are you referring to him as a teacher?"

"Erm... Isn't he your tutor?" Yang Qiuhua asked her in surprise.

Huo Yao blinked. Although she was unaware of why Yang Qiuhua misunderstood their relationship, it saved her a lot of explaining, so she acknowledged it. "Yes, he's my tutor."

When Yang Qihua heard Huo Yao, she unsuspectingly sighed and said, "He's a pretty good tutor. You used to be at the bottom rung in school all the time, but he turned your grades around drastically. Yaoyao, you must invite him over for dinner so that we can thank him properly."

Huo Yao, "..."

## **Chapter 85: Do You Know How Much My Pills Are Worth?**

Min Yu was far away in the capital when he suddenly sneezed. His handsome features looked particularly pale, and only his eyes remained deep.

"Master, are you feeling..." asked Zhuo Yun worriedly.

Min Yu raised his hand and said, "I'm fine."

"The auction starts at 6:00 pm. Do you want to go back to the manor for a rest first?" Zhuo Yun asked, his voice still held concern in it.

"It's okay. Go straight to the event," said Min Yu with a cool look in his eyes.

Then he paused and looked sideways before continuing. "We must keep a close eye on everyone who turns up at the auction."

Zhuo Yun replied with a nod. "I understand. The moment he turns up, we will get him."

Min Yu adjusted his cuffs casually. After a long time, he said calmly, "I sure hope so."

"If he still needs that medicine, he will definitely turn up tonight," said Zhuo Yun softly with a dark expression on his face.

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Huo Yao watched as her Grandmother finished her medication. After they chatted for a while, the old lady fell asleep. She was getting older and was feeling unwell as well, hence this was to be expected.

Huo Yao tucked her in and walked out of the hospital ward before long.

Shortly after Huo Yao reached the ground floor, she bumped into He Xiaoman. No, from the looks of it, He Xiaoman had been purposely waiting for Huo Yao.

"Come with me. I have something to say to you."

He Xiaoman did not sound too severe since they were in a crowded place, but her face remained arrogant.

Huo Yao raised her brow at her domineering command.

He Xiaoman had already walked out towards the flower bed. Huo Yao contemplated for a few seconds as she watched her receding back. Then she followed her with a sigh.

"Tell me, what medicine have you been giving my mom?" asked He Xiaoman with a frosty look in her eyes as though Huo Yao was a criminal.

Huo Yao stood with her hands in her pant pockets and appeared unconcerned. Instead of answering her, she asked in return. "Why? Is there something wrong with them?"

He Xiaoman laughed angrily at her response and retorted. "It doesn't come with any packaging or instructions or manufacturer's information. How can you give dubious pills like those to an elderly woman? Are you trying to kill her, Huo Yao?"

"Dubious medication?" Huo Yao suddenly laughed at the words.

She looked at He Xiaoman's quizzical face unhurriedly with her profound eyes and said, "Do-you-know-how-much-my-pills-are-worth?"

Huo Yao spoke very slowly with a deliberate pause in between each word and sounded sarcastic.

He Xiaoman was taken aback by her attitude. She composed herself after a while and sneered. "No matter how expensive they are, the effectiveness of those pills is questionable."

How much could folk cure be worth? Huo Yao must be joking!

He Xiaoman paused before she spoke again. "Moreover, I showed it to a doctor, and even he said that Mom couldn't take such folk remedies randomly. It does nothing but stress her heart and is as good as chronic poison to her. Mom has always had stable physical indicators. If it weren't because of these pills, why would she have a sudden relapse last night? Huo Yao, if anything happens to her, you are to be blamed!"

Huo Yao pursed her lips into a smile. These accusations failed to annoy her. She merely said, "Was the doctor whom you showed the pills to, myopic and unlicensed?"

He Xiaoman, "..."

Huo Yao smiled as she shook her head. She could not be bothered wasting her time convincing He Xiaoman, so she turned and left from there without speaking.

By the time He Xiaoman composed herself, Huo Yao had already gone away, leaving her livid and fuming.

## **Chapter 86: Seriously Damaged**

Huo Yao went to the nurses' station to leave some instructions before leaving the hospital.

Although Yang Qihua suffered a sudden relapse, Min Yu had managed to send her to the hospital just in time. Since she had Huo Yao's medication now, there was nothing to worry about.

Huo Yao spotted a familiar silhouette on her way out of the hospital and instinctively stopped. With a frown, she tried to recognise the person.

Was he not Huo Xiang's agent, Tong Yu? Since they had just met yesterday, Huo Yao still had some impression of him.



She narrowed her eyes and scoured through the crowd, but Huo Xiang was nowhere to be seen.

It did not necessarily mean that Huo Xiang was at the hospital just because his agent was. After all, he said he would be flying to a neighboring city to film a MV. At this hour of the day, he was probably in flight.

Huo Yao swiftly veered her eyes away and left the hospital without lingering on.

Shortly after she left, a man wearing a baseball cap and a black mask walked out of the bathroom located on the side.

Tong Yu went up to him with a report in hand and said, "Xiang, the hospital president, and the neurologist are waiting for you."

Huo Xiang's eyes landed on the report in Tong Yu's hand. His eyes remained dim as he said, "Let's go."

Tong Yu knew that it was hard for Huo Xiang to muster the courage to visit the hospital, so he patted his shoulder and said, "A miracle can always happen."

Huo Xiang laughed in self-deprecation.

They headed to the office quickly, where the president and a neurology expert were waiting for them.

Tong Yu bowed to both of them politely before he handed them the report.

Few minutes later, the hospital president removed his spectacles and said somewhat regretfully, "Severe spinal cord injury takes three to five years to make a full recovery. What's more, you have spinal nerve damage... this will impact your rate of recovery greatly."

The neurology expert added to the president's diagnosis. "I am afraid what he said is right. As you know, there are nerves in our entire body. If there is damage to the nerves, you might suffer from sensory problems or could end up getting paralyzed. Judging from your examination report, your spinal cord injury is moderate, so we can only suggest taking a conservative approach for the treatment. Unfortunately, we can't guarantee that you will make a full recovery. Even if there is a chance that you get cured fully, you will no longer be able to do any major strenuous activity."

Huo Xiang clenched his fists when he heard them. He had thought that he was already numb after hearing such diagnoses countless times, but it always ended up stabbing him fiercely.

"Isn't there any other treatment?"

Tong Yu's eyes turned red as he asked the question. He had pulled major connections to get in touch with the hospital president and the neurology expert because this hospital was considered to be the top most in the country in this field.

He had hoped to hear something different from this hospital!

"My apologies, there are no other options."

Tong Yu wanted to say something more, but Huo Xiang pulled his arm. Huo Xiang bowed to the president and the neurology expert and said politely, "I get it. Thanks."

Instantly, he turned to leave from there without waiting for them to respond.

Huo Xiang looked frail from behind. There seemed to be a depressed and hopeless aura emanating from him. It was really heartbreaking to watch him.

Although the doctor had seen plenty of patients with bad spinal nerve damage, the neurology expert sighed helplessly. His eyes suddenly landed on a magazine kept on a side table beside him.

He hastily recalled something and shouted, "Hang on."

## **Chapter 87: Genius Doctor Lin**

The neurology expert picked up the magazine and swiftly flipped through it as he said, "Although our hospital isn't capable of treating you, someone from overseas might be able to help with your case."

Huo Xiang was already at the door. When he heard the doctor's words, he swiftly turned around and asked him. "Who?"

The neurology expert held the magazine in mid-air and pointed at a photo. He said, "This guy is the Chinese medical genius, Lin."

Huo Xiang's eyes landed on the photo in the magazine. Instantly, he was stunned.

"Lin won multiple international medical awards when he was only 19 years old. His medical research has caused major sensation in the medical industry. He specializes in neurology. If he is willing to help, you might have a chance to recover."

The neurology expert spoke with such admiration that it was clear he held Lin in high esteem.

Tong Yu looked delighted the moment he heard the expert's words. He asked the person eagerly. "Can we take this magazine with us?"

The neurology expert generously handed it over to him and continued speaking. "I have heard that Lin is rather eccentric and doesn't readily provide consultations, but you can give it a go."

Tong Yu thanked him as he took the magazine from his hand. At this stage, he could not be bothered with the doctor's eccentricity. The important thing was that Huo Xiang had a chance to attain recovery.

Even if Lin did not readily see patients, Tong Yu had to find a way to make him agree.

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After leaving the hospital, they got into the car. Tong Yu hugged the magazine without the usual anxiety visible on his face.

"Huo Xiang, don't worry about your spinal cord damage. We have a real chance now. If we can find Lin, you will be able to return to the stage soon. I checked online, but there isn't much information about this guy," said Tong Yu as he browsed on his phone.

Huo Xiang was still overwhelmed with the shock of seeing the photo, so he did not hear a word that Tong Yu uttered.

A while later, Tong Yu's hopeful face became grave once more as he said, "Lin does seem to have an odd temperament. Rumor has it that he doesn't help unless... it's a world-class rare disease."

Tong Yu turned to look at Huo Xiang and said softly, "Huo Xiang, we..."

Huo Xiang finally collected himself. He eventually interrupted Tong Yu softly and consoled him. "He will help me."

Tong Yu narrowed his eyes. He found Huo Xiang's sudden confidence incomprehensible and asked him suspiciously. "What do you mean?"

Huo Xiang took the magazine from Tong Yu and flipped it over to Lin's photo. He removed his black mask and held the magazine up. After that, he asked his agent in a mild tone. "What do you see?"

Even though Huo Xiang's actions confused Tong Yu further, he repeatedly compared the picture to Huo Xiang's face.

After a few moments, he said quizzically, "Both of you are equally handsome? Eh, Xiang. At a time like this, how can you have the mood to care about who's more good looking?"

Huo Xiang's face turned dark. He gritted his teeth and rubbed his forehead. Then he said with gritted teeth, "Don't you think we resemble each other a lot?"

Tong Yu scrutinized the photo again and replied carefully. "Now that you mention it, you do look like each other..."

He suddenly froze and a look of disbelief emerged on his face. "Don't tell me he's..."

After Tong Yu seemed to understand what Huo Xiang was driving at, he closed the magazine and put his mask back on. He said, "Let's go."

## **Chapter 88: Definitely Be a Hit**

Shortly after Huo Yao got back from the hospital, Huo Yanxi suddenly arrived home.

It had been days since Huo Yanxi parted with his younger sister on a bad note. Although he was no longer angry, he felt unhappy inside, so he behaved indifferently when he saw her.

"Didn't Xiang come home yesterday?" asked Huo Yanxi as he looked around the living room and asked Song Ning while she was cooking in the kitchen.

Song Ning looked at him quizzically and said, "He told us that he had to fly to City B to film a MV. Did you come home looking for him? Since you're here, why don't you have lunch before you leave?"

Huo Yanxi replied with a shake of his head. "Mhm. It's nothing. I just haven't seen him in a while and thought he would be resting at home for some time."

"I called you yesterday, but you missed it because you were busy I guess." Song Ning responded angrily.

Huo Yanxi coughed in an uneasy manner.

"Have you eaten though? Lunch will be ready soon. You can chat with your younger sister in the living room in the meanwhile."

Song Ning paused before she added. "Watch your temper. Yaoyao is your biological sister, so don't be harsh and judgmental towards her."

Huo Yanxi wanted to refuse staying back, but he swallowed his words after hearing his mother's last sentence.

Huo Yao was sitting cross-legged on the couch and seemed completely engrossed in reading a book. When Huo Yanxi sat down besides her, she did not even seem to notice him.

Huo Yanxi's eyes turned dim. He assumed that she was deliberately ignoring him, so he did not talk to her, either. Instead, he picked up the TV's remote control.

The sound of the television playing broke the silence in the living room quickly.

Huo Yao glanced up briefly before going back to her reading. She was clearly unaffected by the outside world.

Huo Yanxi did not intend to watch television. Despite Song Ning's insistence on showing some patience towards his sister, he was incapable of giving in and talking to her, so he kept changing channels aimlessly.

Neither of them noticed what was airing on the television.

Suddenly, a variety show on the Mango Station caught Huo Yanxi's attention. It was because Lu Xia was on television.

Lu Xia specialized in both singing and dancing. She was very lively when she performed and was the mainstay of the girls' group. The camera stayed on her almost for the entire time throughout the program. She seemed to glow like a natural celebrity.

Even Huo Yanxi, who did not usually watch variety shows, could not help feeling impressed at her talented performance. Lu Xia was bound to become a hit in due time.

After the performance ended, the host moved onto other segments of the show. Since Lu Xia was the most popular member of her group, the host naturally interviewed her for longer.

"My lovely Xiaxia, what do you like to do in your free time other than train?" asked the host.

Lu Xia smiled sweetly with her exquisitely made-up face on the television and replied politely. "Other than training, I spend most of my time studying. After all, I'm still in my senior year."

"Haha, doesn't everyone just adore Xiaxia for being so diligent?" said the host as she teased Lu Xia on camera.

The host briefly paused before she smiled and asked her further. “I heard you signed up for the National Quiz Contest and ranked 6th in the country in the preliminary test. How do you feel about that, Xiaxia? Would you like to share with us what motivates you?”

## **Chapter 89: Truly A Straight-A Student And The Goddess Of Studying**

Huo Yanxi raised his brow with a look of surprise when he heard the host.

Although Huo Yanxi was aware of his foster sister’s good grades, ranking 6th in the country during the National Quiz Contest’s preliminary test went beyond being ‘good’.

She was truly a straight-A student and the goddess of studying.

Lu Xia remained calm and modest as she answered the host’s questions unhurriedly. “The preliminary test results mean nothing. I will continue to do my best and perform well for the final quiz so as not to disappoint any of you.”

The host beamed widely as she changed the subject and started interviewing the other members of the group.

Huo Yanxi stopped watching the interview. Instead, he fished out his phone and texted Lu Xia on WeChat.

[Congratulations on coming 6th in the country.]

Lu Xia happened to have her phone with her at the time.

When she saw Huo Yanxi’s text, she thought for a few seconds before she replied: [Thanks, Brother Yanxi. Cute face emoticon. How did you get to know about my result?]

Huo Yanxi smiled and replied: [I just saw you on a variety show.]

Lu Xia’s fingers paused, then she wrote: [Haha, does Brother Yanxi watch dumb shows like these? I thought you checked it on the official website for the quiz.]

Huo Yanxi could not help asking in surprise: [Does your quiz have an official website?]

Lu Xia narrowed her eyes and replied: [Of course. If you want to check on a student, you need to enter his or her candidate number, or else it’s simply too much trouble to scroll through the entire ranking list. After all, there are so many middle school students in the country who participated.]

Huo Yanxi wrote: [That’s true. When’s the next round? Don’t forget to tell me about your scores.]

Lu Xia sent another cute emoticon over and wrote: [Sure thing. The next round happens next week. I’ll text you when my scores are out.]

Huo Yanxi replied: [Good luck!]

Song Ning yelled that lunch was ready, so Huo Yanxi stopped chatting with Lu Xia and put his phone away. When he stood up, he glanced at Huo Yao shutting her book calmly.

The cover page of the book was entirely in English without a single Chinese annotation. It looked like serious reading.

Huo Yanxi was startled. Despite his relatively good command of English, he was incapable of figuring out the subject of the book at a glance.

His younger sister was able to look so engrossed reading this English book. She had been undistracted even when he turned on the television.

She was simply too pretentious.

If Huo Yao was reading a normal English textbook, he would have thought nothing of it, but...

Fine, she sure was very good at acting studious.

Huo Yanxi shook his head speechlessly and headed to the study to tell his father that dinner was ready.

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At the dining table, Song Ning ignored her firstborn son and kept placing food in her daughter's bowl.

"Yaoyao, eat more. You've been reading so much that you've lost weight," said Song Ning heartbrokenly.

The other kids hung out with their friends over the weekends, but their daughter just kept studying. If this went on, Huo Yao would genuinely become a nerd.

When Huo Yanxi heard Song Ning saying that Huo Yao had been studying hard, he cast a weird look at her.

Everyone read books that were related to their middle school studies. But what was his little sister reading?

He could not bring himself to appreciate his mother for this unconditional indulgence of her daughter.

## **Chapter 90: Huo Yanxi Got His Face Slapped**

Since Huo Yanxi did not want to listen to his mother go on exaggerating about Huo Yao's studies, he changed the subject and asked her casually. "Didn't Yao sign up for the National Quiz Contest? How did you fare in the preliminary test?"

Huo Yanxi looked at Huo Yao and continued to speak without waiting for her reply. "Xiaxia signed up for the quiz too. Her results were pretty good and came in amongst the top 10."

He did not say Lu Xia came in 6th, so as not to embarrass her.

Huo Yao's eyebrows twitched slightly but she didn't speak up.

Song Ning and Huo Jinyan did not seem surprised at all when they heard this. Instead...

"Oh, Xiaxia did pretty well," said Song Ning as she nodded patronizingly.

Huo Jinyan also commented rather calmly. "Lu Xia always did well in school. It's no surprise that she made it into the top 10."

But no matter how well Lu Xia did, she could not surpass their daughter!

After all, their girl scored full marks and came in first!

When Huo Yanxi saw his parents' lackluster response towards Lu Xia's results, he raised his head to look at them. They had reared and doted on Lu Xia for over a decade after all. Even if she was not their daughter by blood, they did not have to be so unenthusiastic about the whole thing.

Were they worried about Huo Yao's feelings because she did not perform as well as her?

Huo Yanxi twitched his lips. But the moment the thought crossed his mind, his father's voice quickly reached his ears.

"Our Yaoyao is the best though. She transferred from a small county middle school and scored full marks before she even acclimated to the city's education system. She has made our family proud!"

Huo Jinyan was beaming and looked honored. His face had the expression which seemed to say, 'I have the smartest daughter on earth'.

"That's right. She came first in the country!" said Song Ning excitedly with her chin raised in pride.

When Huo Yanxi heard his parents, he raised his head to look at them in shock and asked in a whisper. "Full marks? Top in the country?"

Song Ning innocently blinked when she detected Huo Yanxi's disbelief. She said, "Yes, that's right. Didn't I tell you about it?"

Huo Jinyan solemnly glanced at his wife. "It might have slipped your mind."

"How can that be? Doesn't she have awful grades?" Huo Yanxi blurted out instinctively.

Song Ning raised her brow as she glanced at her oldest son and asked him. "Who told you Yaoyao had bad grades?"

She clearly forgot that she used to think Huo Yao had lousy grades too.

Huo Yanxi was confused for a moment.

"If you don't believe us, then go and check online. The ranking list appears the moment you run a search," sneered Song Ning.

She was clearly expressing her disappointment over her son's distrust towards his younger sister.

The moment Huo Yanxi heard his mother, his face went so stiff that he almost could not keep his chopsticks upright. He did not reach for his phone to check the ranking because he knew that his parents would never joke about this.

Complicated emotions ran through Huo Yanxi as he glanced at Huo Yao while she quietly ate.

He had always thought that his little sister was a bad performer and even believed that she obtained the No.1 Middle School Acceptance Letter through unsavory means.

When Huo Yanxi first heard that Huo Yao signed up for the National Quiz Contest, he had thought she was messing around because of his preconceptions about her. He had believed that he was doing her a favor by offering to hire a tuition teacher for her. When she turned him down, he had judged her for being arrogant and for aiming too high.