

Pill Maker 921

Chapter 921: Qi Hui Has A Bad Temper

Liu Qian looked at Huo Yao. A long while later, he finally said, "You were the one who corrected the data in the test scenario on the computer the other day!"

This time, he spoke with absolute certainty.

Huo Yao went quiet. "..."

He ended up discovering what she had done.

"You already know how to use the software, right?" asked Liu Qian when Huo Yao did not answer.

Huo Yao cleared her throat. "... Just a little?"

Liu Qian. "Humph."

He would be an idiot to believe her words.

Huo Yao veered her eyes and did not want to answer his questions, so she continued walking.

Liu Qian just knew it. He asked as he followed behind her. "Did you already know Jiang Mingyue? Did you get into a fight previously?"

Since he was no fool, he could tell that Jiang Mingyue had something against Huo Yao.

Huo Yao shrugged. "We graduated from the same middle school. I happened to see her once just before I graduated. As for conflict..." She paused before she straightened her back. "... She is probably jealous about how outstanding I am."

Liu Qian's lips twitched. Huo Yao was not just brilliant, she was also shameless.

"From now on, I suggest avoiding Jiang Mingyue if you can," said Liu Qian after contemplating briefly.

Huo Yao tilted her head and looked at Liu Qian.

Liu Qian narrowed his eyes and simply said, "Jiang Mingyue is Mr. Qi's favorite student. Let's just say he doesn't have... a good temper."

Liu Qian remembered Huo Yao opting for the same division as Jiang Mingyue previously. Judging from what Huo Yao had pulled off today, she could rival Jiang Mingyue any day in the field of Biology.

Although Liu Qian did not know why Qi Hui refused to accept her into his division, people were complicated creatures. Jiang Mingyue might just make trouble for Huo Yao out of jealousy.

Huo Yao answered with a nod. "Okay. I don't have a good temper either."

The moment Liu Qian heard what she said, he could sense his blood pressure rising again. "I mean it. Other than Jiang Mingyue, it would do you good to avoid Mr. Qi as well."

Huo Yao nodded casually and did not take it to heart.

Liu Qian could tell Huo Yao did not take him seriously. He sighed inwardly and did not continue with the subject.

Liu Qian raised his hand to check his watch. He recalled Zhao Lian requesting to see him, so he waved to Huo Yao and headed for Zhao Lian's office.

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When Liu Qian got to the office, Prof Zhao was in the middle of a video call, so Liu Qian came out of the office and stood in the corridor to wait.

Liu Qian encountered a teacher from his division who looked a little upset, so Liu Qian stopped to check on him.

"Mr. Qi said someone touched his files, so he threw a huge temper during our meeting today," answered the teacher and smiled sadly.

Liu Qian glanced at the teacher quickly. "Who would have done it?"

"That's right. Would anyone dare to touch his things? He probably thinks it's one of us." The teacher shook his head.

Liu Qian was accustomed to this treatment. He could only pat the teacher's shoulder.

After Zhao Lian was done with his call, he invited Liu Qian into his office. Liu Qian stopped chatting with the teacher and went in.

Zhao Lian poured Liu Qian a glass of water and handed it to him before he sat down beside Liu Qian and said, "I just found out that someone took your research funds."

Liu Qian was stunned. He did not expect Prof Zhao to call him over to discuss this since he knew Prof Zhao was not in charge of funding.

He replied with a shrug. "It's okay. Mr. Qi said he will return it when he receives funding."

The moment Zhao Lian heard what Liu Qian said, he went quiet briefly before he answered.. "I think he probably won't be returning it."

Chapter 922: Stole Money From Bioinformatics

"Not returning anymore? What do you mean?" Liu Qian squeezed his knees for some time before he composed himself and asked.

A few days ago, Qi Hui wanted Liu Qian to help Jiang Mingyue with her experiment and had threatened to withhold funding if he refused to do it. However, Qi Hui ended up going against his word and stole the funding entirely.

Zhao Lian also looked a little annoyed.

Qi Hui had approached him asking to borrow Bioinformatics' funding previously, but he did not agree to it. He even warned Qi Hui not to do it, but he ended up asking Prof Liu about it behind his back.

In reality, the government funded millions of dollars every year for research. This funding would not even be enough to purchase basic research equipment. Moreover, the government usually provided funding in the hundreds of millions.

Zhao Lian gathered his thoughts and said, "The university has decided to hold the funding for your division. You have to apply for it when you need funding."

The moment Liu Qian heard about this, veins popped up on the back of his hands for a long time before they subsided. "Does that mean the division won't get any funding this quarter?"

Zhao Lian raised his head and looked at Liu Qian. "I'm sorry."

Zhao Lian was the most senior professor in the Biology department. Also, he was a senior member of the research institute. Other than research, he did not have to do any actual teaching. Naturally, he was not in charge of money.

Since Zhao Lian had interacted with Liu Qian several times, he knew that things were hard in Bioinformatics, so he specially called Liu Qian over to speak to him about this.

Liu Qian smiled sadly as he shook his head. He ought to have guessed what Qi Hui would try to do with the funding.

"I am working on a research project, so I need thorough data analysis. I think you are perfect for the job. We might just be able to develop new methods to collect large amounts of data," said Zhao Lian with a serious expression on his face.

Liu Qian stopped thinking about the funding for now. He was briefly stunned before he asked. "New methods of data collection?"

"Biological computers are already being used widely. Data management is trending overseas. Biomimetics is also an up and coming subject," said Zhao Lian.

Liu Qian raised his head and looked at Prof Zhao.

Zhao Lian stood up from his seat to retrieve a set of documents which he had prepared in advance and turned to give it to Liu Qian. "Why don't you take a look at this and tell me what you think?"

Liu Qian looked at the documents and paused for a couple of seconds before taking them from Prof Zhao.

After opening the folder and reading the first page briefly, he suddenly looked at Prof Zhao. "You..."

Zhao Lian looked calm as he said, "Your division has been quiet for a long time. It's time for you to do something new."

The moment they started working on the project, they would need funding. Liu Qian suddenly realized why Prof Zhao asked to see him today and even brought up the funding matter.

Liu Qian held the folder tightly as he stood up and bowed at Zhao Lian. "Prof Zhao, thank you so much."

Zhao Lian was uninvolved in department administrative matters, so funding was not within his job scope. But he could help in another way!

Zhao Lian waved his hand and smiled. "Good luck."

Liu Qian acknowledged softly before looking at the documents in his hands.

The division had kept a low profile for so long that everyone else was starting to think they were pushovers.

Zhao Lian told Liu Qian to take a seat. A thought crossed his mind and he asked. "Oh yes. There is a freshman called Huo Yao in your division, right? The top Arts scholar. Do you know her?"

Chapter 923: A Dark Horse

Liu Qian was briefly surprised when Prof Zhao brought up Huo Yao before he nodded.

"How is she doing? Do you know?" Zhao Lian had wanted to see Huo Yao for some time now. She was in military training earlier and then he was held up, so he did not have the chance to catch up with her till now.

Since he had encountered Liu Qian today, Zhao Lian decided to check on Huo Yao.

Liu Qian thought about how Huo Yao surpassed Jiang Mingyue at the laboratory today, making Jiang Mingyue completely speechless. He cleared his throat and said, "She is doing well."

Zhao Lian raised his brow slightly the moment he heard this feedback. He felt curious. "What do you mean?"

Liu Qian contemplated for a couple of seconds before he told Zhao Lian about the events that had transpired at the laboratory today and added. "I think this young woman is a real dark horse. She can rival Jiang Mingyue if not better."

Zhao Lian nodded before he lamented. "Her Math, Physics, and Chemistry are very good. Also, she has excellent reasoning. Last year, she participated in the International Quiz Contest and was the champion. Even our professors could only solve the Science questions and come up with the right solution after some time.

Liu Qian normally did not pay much attention to the International Quiz Contest. The moment he heard what Prof Zhao said, he was impressed and said, "No wonder she was able to come up with a 3D model in a matter of minutes without drafting any calculations in the laboratory."

"A few minutes?" Zhao Lian was shocked.

"That's right. All she took was a few minutes," said Liu Qian as he sighed without noticing Zhao Lian's expression.

Zhao Lian instantly went quiet. Moments later, he said in a stifled tone, "I need at least ten minutes doing 3D modeling. Are you sure she did it in a matter of minutes?"

"It is true. I was standing right behind her. She completed it in a blink of an eye," said Liu Qian seriously.

Zhao Lian picked up a glass of water and took a sip to calm his nerves. He raised his head to look at Liu Qian. "Why did she end up picking your division anyway?"

Liu Qian went quiet.

Was there anything wrong with Bioinformatics?

"... She opted for Biotechnology, but she did not get a spot there and got automatically transferred to my division." Liu Qian pondered before he brought this up.

Zhao Lian frowned on hearing this.

He recalled telling Qi Hui to keep an eye on Huo Yao's admission. However, Qi Hui said Huo Yao was the one who picked Bioinformatics.

Since Liu Qian said she was automatically given a spot in Bioinformatics, it must be true then. Also, Qi Hui was in charge of Biotechnology, so... Zhao Lian narrowed his eyes thoughtfully.

Liu Qian glanced at Zhao Lian and noticed the strange expression on his face. He did not know what Zhao Lian was thinking and ended up asking quizzically. "Prof Zhao?"

Zhao Lian snapped out of his thoughts. He shook his head before he said solemnly, "Since she is now in your division, you should do your best to groom her."

Liu Qian knew what Prof Zhao meant. "That goes without saying."

He paused before he stood up and said, "Prof Zhao, if that is all, I will be heading out now."

Zhao Lian acknowledged him softly. Since he had work to do, he did not continue with the conversation and simply waved his hand.

Liu Qian nodded.

Before long, he went back to the office with the documents in hand.

Shortly after Liu Qian went out of the door, he exhaled deeply. He thought about the division's research funding while he walked. He intended on taking the lift and going downstairs before heading home, but he decided to press the button for the third floor.

Qi Hui's office was located on the third floor.

Chapter 924: Member Of The Apothecaries' Association

Qi Hui's office door was closed when Liu Qian got there. He hesitated briefly before knocking on the door.

After waiting for roughly two minutes, Liu Qian did not hear any answer from inside the room. So, he went to the office next door. This time, there was someone in the room.

"Mr. Qi, is probably giving a lecture now," answered someone in the office.

"Thanks." Liu Qian left the place after hearing this.

He did not wait for Qi Hui to return.

Liu Qian felt that there was probably no point trying to get Qi Hui to cough out the funding. After all, he was on good terms with Prof Liu, so there was almost zero chance of recovering the funds.

Liu Qian went home with the documents from Prof Zhao.

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Meanwhile, on the other end.

Fang Chen had told Lin Shuwen to buy the Chinese herbs which Huo Yao required. Most of the Chinese herbs in the prescription were ready, and only a few rare items were unavailable in the market.

Lin Shuwen had a lot of trouble getting his hands on the remaining herbs, so he made a list of the ones which he was unable to obtain and showed it to Fang Chen.

“Oh yes. I forgot to tell you. Some of the herbs might only be available at the Apothecaries’ Association.” Fang Chen put down his pen and looked at Lin Shuwen when he finally recalled Huo Yao bringing it up.

“The Apothecaries’ Association?” The frown on Lin Shuwen’s face eased up slightly. “Pei Rong is a member of the Apothecaries’ Association, so we can probably get the stuff we need with his help.”

Fang Chen nodded.

“I recall Pei Rong was made an advanced apothecary last year. We did not reach out to him ever since the promotion. I wonder if he will refuse to see us.” Lin Shuwen pondered briefly before raising his concerns.

Fang Chen had distanced himself from the Pei family ever since seeking treatment from Huo Yao. Although Fang Chen had gotten transferred to the capital, the Apothecaries’ Association remained very prestigious.

Moreover, Pei Rong was not as approachable as Old Mr. Pei.

Fang Chen narrowed his eyes. “No matter what, my teacher needs the herbs. Even if he doesn’t want to see you, you must find him.”

“Uh huh. How about this? Shall I call Old Mr. Pei and get him to talk to Pei Rong?” asked Lin Shuwen.

If it were for anything else, Fang Chen would probably avoid disturbing Old Mr. Pei. Since these were special times, he acknowledged him and said, “Okay. Do your best to gather all the Chinese medicine as soon as possible.”

Fang Chen paused as a thought crossed his mind, so he continued. “If Pei Rong asks why we want the medication, don’t let him know about my teacher’s condition. Just tell him I am helping someone to buy the herbs.”

Lin Shuwen said, “Pei Rong is an advanced apothecary. Also, he has the backing of the Apothecaries’ Association. If Miss Huo is unable to treat Mr. Li, we can at least have a backup plan.”

Lin Shuwen trusted Huo Yao’s medical skills, but he was accustomed to having an alternate path.

Fang Chen raised his head and looked at Lin Shuwen sternly. "There's no need. If Huo Yao is unable to treat him, then there is no chance Pei Rong will succeed."

Lin Shuwen opened his mouth briefly. Since Fang Chen trusted Huo Yao's medical skills and was so persistent, he did not keep harping on the subject. "Fine. I will get in touch with him now."

"Uh huh," acknowledged Fang Chen mildly before he lowered his head and continued working.

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After Lin Shuwen got in touch with Old Mr. Pei, he heard back from the old man shortly after and proceeded to give Pei Rong a call.

Thanks to Old Mr. Pei speaking on behalf of him, Pei Rong agreed to meet without hesitation.

The two of them arranged to meet at a members-only restaurant in the capital.

Chapter 925: An Advanced Apothecary

By the time Pei Rong reached the restaurant, Lin Shuwen had already been waiting for 30 minutes, but he did not appear impatient.

"Hi, Young Master Pei." Lin Shuwen reached his hand out to greet Pei Rong.

Ever since Pei Rong had passed the test and gotten promoted to advanced apothecary last year, he looked even more energetic and confident. He touched Lin Shuwen's hand gently before pulling his hand back. "Hi, Secretary Lin."

Lin Shuwen narrowed his eyes the moment he saw Pei Rong and smiled courteously. He took a seat and handed Pei Rong the menu.

Lin Shuwen had not told Pei Rong or Old Mr. Pei about the Chinese herbs he needed over the phone. After Pei Rong was done ordering and the waiter had left, he turned to look at Lin Shuwen.

He smiled and said, "Secretary Lin, you could have told me directly over the phone and didn't have to go through the trouble of buying me dinner."

Although things sounded polite on the surface, Lin Shuwen knew exactly what Pei Rong implied.

He was reminding Lin Shuwen not to bother getting Old Mr. Pei to send the message.

Sure enough, he was right about Pei Rong.

People's attitudes changed with their social status.

Lin Shuwen cleared his throat and got straight to the point. "You are right. I genuinely need your help."

He retrieved a piece of paper containing a list of Chinese herbs from his briefcase and handed it to Pei Rong.

Pei Rong took the list and looked at it. "What's this?"

"Mr. Fang's friend needs these Chinese herbs urgently. Since you have high status in the Apothecaries' Association, I was hoping you could do the favor and help me obtain them," said Lin Shuwen politely.

Pei Rong looked at the list of Chinese herbs. He could recognize all the herbs on the list. They were very expensive and were mainly used to neutralize poison while two of the herbs were good for recovery.

Hardly any members of the Apothecaries' Association would use these herbs to refine pills since they were particularly rare. They were usually used to make S class medicine.

There were hardly any S class apothecaries in the Apothecaries' Association.

Pei Rong put down the piece of paper. He narrowed his eyes and simply said, "Can I ask why you need the ingredients?"

Had Fang Chen suffered a relapse?

Then again, judging from the prescription, it was unlikely.

Pei Rong could still remember Fang Chen had received treatment from the young woman with whom his father was acquainted. Also, he had studied her prescription and even refined C to B grade pills using the prescription.

Lin Shuwen remembered Fang Chen telling him not to tell anyone about his teacher's condition, so he shook his head before he said, "Mr. Fang gave me the list, but I don't know why he wants it. I have tried to buy the Chinese herbs off the market, but they are only available in the Apothecaries' Association. That is the reason I reached out to you."

Pei Rong glanced at Lin Shuwen. He knew Lin Shuwen was an expert at politics, so he was slick and sly. Even though Lin Shuwen knew what the herbs were for, he would probably not tell him.

Pei Rong looked concerned. "These herbs are genuinely available in the association. Since they are very rare, I am not sure if the chairman will let me have them."

Lin Shuwen smiled and said, "Young Master Pei, you are already an advanced apothecary, so I am confident that he thinks highly of you, and you probably won't have any problem obtaining them."

Ever since Pei Rong was promoted to an advanced apothecary, everyone kept ingratiating themselves onto him. Even though he enjoyed the flattery, he was not stupid. "No promises, but I will do my best to ask around."

He did not give 100% assurance of success.

"Great. Thank you so much." Lin Shuwen nodded slightly.

Pei Rong looked at the piece of paper once more with his eyes narrowed.

Chapter 926: Find Some Other Way

Pei Rong turned to look at the piece of paper and remained thoughtful.

If it were any ordinary Chinese physician, he would not know how to use these herbs. Even his own father rarely used them.

He was an apothecary, so he had a keen grasp of these rare Chinese herbs and their intended application.

Despite Pei Rong's curiosity, he knew Lin Shuwen would never tell him the truth, so he did not keep probing the guy.

After all, considering his accomplishments and status at the Apothecaries' Association, he could not be bothered with such minor details.

Pei Rong and Lin Shuwen parted ways after dinner.

Pei Rong went straight back to the Apothecaries' Association after seeing him. He handed the piece of paper containing the Chinese herbs Lin Shuwen needed to his disciple and instructed him to collect them from the inventory manager.

In the past when he was an intermediate apothecary, he only had the right to request rare Chinese herbs once a month. He also needed to indicate details of the medication he intended to produce.

After he became an advanced apothecary, he had free access to the herbs and was no longer bound by all this red tape.

Despite the change in Pei Rong's status, he was keen on being friends with Fang Chen.

After all, he was transferred to the capital at such a young age, so he was bound to have a bright future in the political scene.

"Oh yes. There's a package for you. I think it was sent from home. I have left it in the cabinet for you."

Just as the disciple was about to leave, he recalled something and turned to point at the cabinet and spoke reverently.

Pei Rong paused when he heard this. He waved at his disciple for him to leave before walking over to the cabinet to retrieve his package.

The package was sent from City S.

Pei Rong narrowed his eyes before he opened it.

The package consisted of an old yellowed book filled with prescriptions and medical theory.

Pei Rong cautiously opened the book and took a look at the prescriptions inside.

He had been researching ancient prescriptions of late.

The Pei family came from a line of doctors, many of them used to be renowned, so a lot of medical texts had been handed down through the generations.

In the past, he had tried reading this medical book as well, but he could not grasp it. Also, there were plenty of medical books at the Apothecaries' Association, so he eventually lost interest in the book.

Since Pei Rong kept hearing the deputy chairman talking about ancient prescriptions recently, he recalled the book belonging to his family, and told someone to send it over.

He was always strong in medical theory. By the time he was 20 years old, he had joined the Apothecaries' Association. Over 20 years have passed since then and he had finally become an advanced apothecary.

It was probably very hard for him to keep advancing from now on at this level, so he had to find some other way to do it.

Before long, his disciple came back with the Chinese herbs.

"Master, are you planning to make more medicine?" asked his disciple as he handed a box to Pei Rong.

"Nope," answered Pei Rong mildly.

He took the box, opened it to check its contents briefly, closed the box, and handed it to his disciple. He said, "I will give you an address tomorrow. I need you to send it over."

The moment his disciple heard his instruction, he was a little surprised, but he did not dare to probe. Instead, he nodded and said, "Oh yes. Master, I bumped into the deputy chairman on my way back. He would like to see you."

"Hmm?" Pei Rong looked at his disciple. "Did he mention why?"

"No."

"Okay." Pei Rong stood with his hands behind him. He mused briefly before heading out.

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The next day, Lin Shuwen received the Chinese herbs from Pei Rong. After calling to check if Huo Yao was free, he sent the Chinese herbs to Tsing University without wasting any time.

Chapter 927: Couldn't Compare To Money

Huo Yao glanced at the Chinese herbs to ensure that everything was in order before she said to Lin Shuwen, "I will use the Chinese herbs to make some medication. Come by to pick them up from me at the school this time tomorrow."

Lin Shuwen only knew Huo Yao for her exceptional medical skills. Since he did not know she was also an apothecary, he could not help feeling startled by this information. "Miss Huo, do you know how to refine pills?"

Huo Yao raised her brow.

Lin Shuwen realized his question was redundant, so he cleared his throat and nodded. "Okay."

"In that case, I am leaving." Ever since Lin Shuwen and Fang Chen got transferred to the capital, he hardly had any personal time left. He was mainly afraid of getting caught slacking and giving people the opportunity to complain about them.

Huo Yao glanced at the black car parked by the roadside before waving her hand. "Sure."

"Uh huh." Lin Shuwen nodded. Just as he was about to turn and leave, he suddenly remembered something and halted.

After contemplating for two seconds, Lin Shuwen turned back and pointed at the box containing Chinese herbs in Huo Yao's hands and said, "Oh yes. Miss Huo, I did not show anyone else your complete prescription."

Huo Yao looked at Lin Shuwen and was briefly stunned. After she realized what he was saying, she smiled and did not take it to heart. "It's fine. Not everyone understands my prescription."

Ancient prescriptions could get very tricky. The slightest change in the dosage, refining, and consumption would lead to variations in efficacy. Even with the complete prescription, it was hard to succeed in making it.

This is the reason apothecaries were hard to come by and even fewer could grasp ancient prescriptions.

Lin Shuwen finally felt relieved before he went on his way.

After Lin Shuwen had driven off, Huo Yao walked over to the roadside unhurriedly. She was carrying the box and walked up to the black car.

The front passenger seat car window gradually wound down to reveal a gorgeous man with bright beautiful eyes sitting in the driver's seat. Huo Yao touched her nose before she opened the front passenger car door and got in.

The car gradually drove off.

"Was someone looking for you?" Min Yu turned to glance at Huo Yao and the box in her hands with his eyes slightly narrowed.

"Uh huh." Huo Yao nodded.

She placed the box in the back seat nonchalantly and kicked it gently so that it would move in. "You know him too. It was Fang Chen's secretary."

Min Yu raised his brows slightly and asked in a mild tone. "Why does he want to see you?"

The car window was open. Huo Yao lazily placed her arm on the car window and tilted her head sideways at Min Yu before answering. "To give me money."

No wonder she was in such a good mood.

Min Yu suddenly could not help feeling upset when he realized this.

He surprisingly could not compare to this tiny bit of money.

Min Yu seemed to be in a bad mood as he drove them back to the estate. After Huo Yao got out of the car, she glanced at him quizzically. What was with this temper?

He was having such a mood swing.

During this time, Huo Yulin had been working long hours in the laboratory and only came back late at night, so Huo Yao had to eat dinner elsewhere almost every day.

After entering the house, Huo Yao changed into a pair of slippers. She wanted to head to the living room and wait for the food to be ready.

However, Min Yu dragged her into the kitchen this time. There were fresh vegetables lying on the kitchen counter. He gave her a pair of gloves and said, "You have a job to do."

Huo Yao blinked quizzically. She lowered her head and glanced at the gloves in her hands before she raised her head to look at Min Yu in surprise. "Me? Do you want me to wash the vegetables?"

Chapter 928: Future Mother-In-Law

"That's right."

Min Yu nodded without looking at her. He rolled up his sleeves and went to the refrigerator to take some pork ribs before walking up to the stove and nimbly retrieving a chopper placed next to it. He placed the pork ribs on the chopping board and quickly cut them into small even pieces.

Huo Yao felt bewildered by the murderous aura radiating from Min Yu.

Huo Yao quietly put on the gloves and obediently took the vegetables to the sink and washed them. As she washed the vegetables, she kept telling herself not to annoy Min Yu since he was throwing a temper.

She felt she was already going above and beyond for this free meal.

After Huo Yao was done washing the vegetables, she took off her gloves and saw the pork ribs already stewing on the stove. Just as she was about to leave the kitchen, she could hear him talk.

"I have a package in the cabinet outside. Can you help me get it?" Min Yu spoke without even raising his head.

Huo Yao touched her nose as she acknowledged him.

"You have to use an app on my phone to collect the package. Since my hands are dirty, come over and take it out yourself. I will tell you which app it is," said Min Yu before he raised his left arm and gestured for her to take the phone from his left pant pocket.

"Uh huh," acknowledged Huo Yao softly before walking over.

She lifted up the corner of his shirt slightly and extended her hand into his pant pocket. After feeling around slightly, she found the phone, pulled it out, and asked. "What is your password?"

Min Yu looked at Huo Yao. Her head was lowered and there was some loose hair hanging over her face making her look relaxed. He cleared his throat before he uttered six digits.

After locating the application, Huo Yao gestured okay before she walked out of the kitchen with the phone.

The courier cabinet was located on the left corner outside the villa, and was pretty nearby.

Huo Yao turned on the phone and quietly stood where she was for a moment before she tapped on the application.

She scanned the courier cabinet screen with the phone and the cabinet door automatically opened in a second. There was a relatively small yet weighty package inside the cabinet.

Just as Huo Yao was about to take out the package, the phone in her hand rang. Someone going by Nie was calling. She paused briefly and was about to answer the phone when she realized it was not her phone.

She pulled her hands back and ignored the call. Instead, she retrieved the package from the cabinet and went back into the villa.

When she got to the corner, she raised her head and saw a woman standing at the door. The woman was holding her phone and seemed to be making a call.

Huo Yao halted briefly. The phone in her hand was still ringing.

Nie Su was still in the middle of making a call when Huo Yao walked over. The moment she heard the familiar ringtone, she automatically glanced at the phone in Huo Yao's hand.

Nie Su hung up the phone and the phone in Huo Yao's hand also abruptly stopped ringing.

Nie Su went quiet.

Huo Yao failed to detect Nie Su's reaction. She simply wondered if she were here to visit Min Yu, so she walked over to her holding the package and asked politely. "Are you looking for someone?"

Nie Su put down her phone and raised her head to look at the young woman right in front of her. She had gorgeous features and her eyes were particularly bright, unsullied, and beautiful. It was clear that Huo Yao was a good girl.

Nie Su suddenly thought about what her brother-in-law had said about the university freshman whom her son was courting.

This young woman clearly looked young.

Had her son already started dating her?

Nie Su wondered briefly. She recalled how her son warned her to stay out of it, so she smiled and nodded.. "Uh huh. Is this the Nies?"

Chapter 929: A Pathetic Amount Of Money Left In The Bank

Huo Yao turned thoughtful the moment she heard the name. "The Nies?"

Nie Su nodded. She glanced at the villa and asked. "Is this their place?"

Nie Su had a scholarly aura and a genial voice, so it felt she meant it.

Huo Yao contemplated for two seconds before she asked. "Are you in the right place?"

Nie Su checked the unit number on the side and said, "Uh huh. Zone C, Unit 101. This is the place, isn't it?"

Huo Yao instantly realized that the lady was lost. "This is zone A. Zone C is the row behind."

Nie Su looked in the direction Huo Yao was pointing and instantly said awkwardly, "My bad. This is my first time here, so I didn't realize I was in the wrong place."

Huo Yao shook her head and smiled. "Don't worry about it. It is understandable for you to get confused since you are new here."

"Uh huh. Thank you so much. In that case, I'll be on my way." Nie Su wanted to chat more, but she did not want her cover to get blown, so she waved to Huo Yao and left.

"You're welcome," answered Huo Yao. She turned to enter the password before going into the villa without thinking much of it.

Shortly after getting into the car, Nie Su watched as the young woman disappeared through the door. Nie Su thought to herself that she was spot on as she rubbed the steering wheel with her hands.

The girl was stunning and seemed nice. It was no wonder the girl did not fancy her son. If she were in the same position, she would not be interested in her son either.

Nie Su contemplated quietly.

She glanced at the villa once more before driving off happily.

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Huo Yao came back to the dining room with the package. Min Yu walked out of the kitchen after he was done making one dish. He put down the food and looked at her. "What took you so long?"

Huo Yao put the things down on the table and said candidly, "Someone lost her way, so I helped her."

"Lost her way?" Min Yu narrowed his eyes slightly.

"Uh huh. She wanted to go to zone C, but ended up in zone A," said Huo Yao as she returned the phone to him. "Oh yes. Someone was calling you earlier."

Min Yu did not continue asking about the person who had lost her way. Instead, he took the phone, checked the call history, and saw the caller was Madam Nie. He did nothing and simply put down his phone before going back into the kitchen.

After dinner, Huo Yao thought about how temperamental Min Yu was today, so she volunteered to do the dishes.

Huo Yao clapped her hands and walked out of the kitchen after placing the dishes inside the dishwasher.

Min Yu was opening the package which Huo Yao had collected earlier. Inside the box, there was a lot of bubble wrap.

Huo Yao glanced at the watch on her wrist and raised her head to walk over beside him. She casually glanced at the contents of the box and said, "I am going home. I have..."

After Min Yu opened the bubble wrap, a pile of black unassembled metal components appeared inside the package. She paused mid-sentence before she continued a second later composedly. "... work to do."

Min Yu raised his head and failed to detect the brief pause in her sentence. He raised his brow and looked at her. "What work could you possibly have?"

Huo Yao sighed. She thought about how she had inadvertently tapped on a bank notification on Min Yu's phone earlier when she was collecting the package. Just thinking about Min Yu's bank balance gave her low self-esteem.

"You will never understand how hard it is for working-class people." Huo Yao sighed miserably. She veered her eyes, waved to Min Yu, and headed for the door. "I'm leaving. I have work to do."

Chapter 930: That's Before You Showed It To Me

Min Yu raised his brow and watched from behind as Huo Yao strode off. He shook his head and smiled when he caught the jealous tone in her voice.

Min Yu veered his eyes and turned to look at the parts lying on the table from the package. He paused briefly before extending his hand to touch them. He pulled up a chair and started to take a close look at the parts.

A black handgun was assembled in about ten minutes. It was different from the other weapons available from the black market. It was distinctly exquisite and simple in design.

Min Yu pulled the trigger. Although there were no bullets inside the gun, it did not make a single sound when used, so it was clear there was very little recoil.

The person who designed this weapon seemed to be pretty smart.

Min Yu smiled thoughtfully before taking out his phone to make a call.

Before long, the call got through.

"Uncle Jian, this thing you sent me, where did it come from?" Min Yu turned the gun nonchalantly as a profound look rose in his eyes.

Min Jian took out a cigarette and lit up before he said in surprise, "Did you manage to assemble it?"

Min Yu nodded as he looked at a pinhole on the gun and answered. "Uh huh. It is a rather interesting weapon."

The moment Min Jian heard this, he said, "This came from the black market. I heard it is even more powerful than top-grade K9. It is relatively silent and comes with very little recoil. However, no one has succeeded in assembling it."

Min Yu crossed his legs lazily. "That's before you showed it to me."

Min Jian's lips twitched. "I realize you are getting more shameless by the day."

"Thank you for the praise," acknowledged Min Yu before he asked. "Can you find out who manufactured the weapon?"

"I don't know either. The gun simply appeared out of nowhere." Min Jian felt puzzled just thinking about it.

They had an excellent intel department who hardly came back empty-handed, but they unexpectedly couldn't get any information on the gun.

Min Yu narrowed his eyes slightly and paused for two seconds before he said, "I will get Yang Yi to send it over in a couple of days."

Min Jian raised his brow. "Sure. I would like to see if it lives up to its name."

"It probably does." Min Yu was not very keen on the gun. Before long, the conversation ended.

Min Yu thought about Madam Nie's previous calls as he rubbed the gun in his hand, so he called her back.

However, all he got was a notification informing him that he was unable to get through.

Min Yu frowned slightly. A few minutes later, he called again, but it was the same.

Min Yu went quiet.

Did his mother blacklist him?

**

Huo Yao went home with the box of Chinese herbs. She thought about the parts she saw at Min Yu's place as she changed her shoes.

After changing into her indoor slippers, she noticed another pair of shoes in the shoe cabinet.

Huo Yao raised her brow and walked into the living room.

Huo Yulin was sitting on the couch with a laptop on his knees. After tapping the touchpad, he closed the laptop. He raised his head nonchalantly. "You're back."

Huo Yao looked at him for a couple of seconds before she nodded.

"Have you had your dinner?" asked Huo Yulin.

Huo Yao certainly could not tell her brother about her freeloading since it was embarrassing, so she simply answered. "I ate outside."

