

Marry A Sweetheart And Get Another Free: President, Please Sign This!

Chapter 26: Short-legged Frog

“You can tell just by looking at her outfit. As a designer, she dresses so poorly. How can she design anything that looks good?”

“I wonder what the judging panel was thinking!”

Many people were looking at Luo Chenxi with a strange gaze due to Zuo Xiaoqing’s provocative remarks. They began discussing amongst themselves.

Luo Chenxi lowered her head to look down at her outfit.

She had just moved into the Mu family yesterday, so she did not even have the time to pack her luggage. She realized that she was still wearing yesterday’s outfit because she had run out of time that morning.

In addition, she was not a wealthy person. As a result, not a single piece of her clothing was branded. They were all bargain goods.

At the very least, she did match her outfit meticulously. She was clean and tidy, and her outfit accentuated the strong points of her figure perfectly. How could they call her poorly dressed?

Luo Chenxi was rendered speechless. She could not be bothered to pay attention to these people.

However, Zuo Xiaoqing took a quick stride and stopped her in her path before continuing to pester her. “Luo Chenxi, if I were you, I wouldn’t come here to embarrass myself today! Do you think that you’re still the design genius back in high school? Stop dreaming! You’re already crippled after studying in that trash university for four years! You’re no longer worthy to compete against Ivy League graduates like me!

“If you’re truly in need of money, why don’t I introduce you to a job in a Taobao shop? You can design some sketches for them and they’ll even pay you \$20 a piece!”

Luo Chenxi had not only been an elite student in high school, but she was also pure and beautiful. She had been the prettiest girl in the school and was the goddess of many

male students. In the end, she had even been accepted into the Royal Academy of Art in Country Y which was reputed to be the 'holy grail of art'.

It had made Zuo Xiaoqing so jealous that she could not sleep for many nights.

Now that Luo Chenxi was unkempt and troubled, it was great. She was not only expelled by the Royal Academy of Art in Country Y and could only return to her home country to study in a low-class university, but she also could not even afford a decent branded outfit!

It was finally Zuo Xiaoqing's turn to show off and flaunt her prowess!

Upon hearing her words, Luo Chenxi finally turned her head around and sized her up. Flattered, Zuo Xiaoqing shifted her standing angle intentionally in order to let Luo Chenxi look at her branded outfit clearly.

Luo Chenxi's lips curled up ever so slightly. "Zuo Xiaoqing, I suppose your dress is from SL's new spring collection, isn't it? SL's design this year utilizes the contrast of black and white and neat lines to bring out one's simple elegance and lead the fashion trend in our country this year..."

Zuo Xiaoqing was even more flattered by her words. "It seems like you have rather good foresight. What a waste that you can never afford this in your lifetime!"

Luo Chenxi had an extremely sympathetic expression on her face as she heaved a sigh. "Even though the outfit looks great, the waistline is too low. A tall person in this dress would look very elegant, but on a person with short legs, this is a tragedy! Matched with a pair of mid-top leather boots, it would even separate one's already short legs into three portions and make the person look no different from a frog."

1

Upon listening to her comment, Zuo Xiaoqing's expression froze. She lowered her head and looked down at her pair of mid-top leather boots on her feet, her temper rising at once

"Luo Chenxi, how dare you call my legs short? How could you even call me a frog? You're seeking doom!" She turned red with rage as she charged forward and was about to hit Luo Chenxi.

Luo Chenxi had a startled expression and said in all apparent innocence, "Calm down. Please calm down! I was only saying that this outfit is difficult to match. This is something that every designer should know, isn't it? Don't assume that I was talking about you!"

Chapter 27: It Was Simply The Scene Of A Car Crash

Many people around them could not refrain from chuckling in secret.

“She’s right. That dress is bound to make a short person’s legs look shorter and that woman even matched with that kind of boots. I wonder what’s on her mind.”

“I guess she hasn’t realized that her legs are short, huh?”

“That’s impossible. Doesn’t she know in her heart how she looks? It’s a compliment to her to say that she looks like a frog. Actually, her legs aren’t just short but they are thick as well. She looks just like a toad!”

“How can a person like her become a fashion designer when her outfit is so poorly matched?”

Zuo Xiaoqing was trembling in rage upon hearing the sarcastic remarks.

Luo Chenxi had obviously pointed out her short legs in her comment earlier. Moreover, any other fashion designer would know that she was mocking Zuo Xiaoqing’s poor professionalism. Could Zuo Xiaoqing be unaware of such common sense?

However, Luo Chenxi did not point out the person’s name in her comment. If Zuo Xiaoqing were to come forward and hit her, then she would be assuming that Luo Chenxi was talking about her.

Zuo Xiaoqing thought about how she had spent a fortune to buy an entire set of SL’s newest spring collection in order to flatter the executive officers of SL Holdings. Now, besides her money being wasted for no purpose, her action outsmarted herself and turned her into a frog!

If the judging panel of the competition could see her outfit now, they would certainly regard her lack of professionalism.

Zuo Xiaoqing had nowhere to ventilate her pent-up anger, so she straightaway delivered a kick toward Luo Chenxi’s chair in an attempt to kick the chair over and caused her rival to fall over.

Fortunately, Luo Chenxi was a Taekwondo black belt holder. Swiftly, she jumped up with agile movements as soon as she saw Zuo Xiaoqing move.

“Zuo Xiaoqing, you should watch your step! I wonder if ruining the chairs in SL Holdings will affect the result of the competition.”

As soon as she stood up, everyone's eyes lit up.

Luo Chenxi was 175 centimeters tall and was a whole head taller than Zuo Xiaoqing. Her pair of long legs were slim and straight. The proportion of her figure was so perfect that she was no less inferior when compared to the hottest supermodel in the world.

Standing by her side, Zuo Xiaoqing appeared to be even shorter with a thick waist and short legs. Both of them actually looked like a combination of a swan and toad. The contrast was too obvious.

The situation was more than just awkward. It was clearly the scene of a car crash.

Zuo Xiaoqing had embarrassed herself immensely, so she could no longer care about anything else. The only thought on her mind was to beat up Luo Chenxi.

Meanwhile, the door to the meeting room opened suddenly.

"What's happening? What's with the clamor?"

The participants quietened down as soon as the SL staff appeared.

"It seems like all of you are already prepared. Now, those people whose names are called will follow me to the next room for the audition. The rest of the people shall stay here and wait. Please remain quiet."

As he was speaking, he called out the name of a designer and brought the person out.

After the departure of the staff, Zuo Xiaoqing finally remembered her purpose of going there today. She glared at Luo Chenxi ferociously before she returned to her seat.

The audition went much faster than the participants could imagine.

The designer that was first called for the audition returned after a few minutes with a dejected look on her face.

The few people that came back later on had similar expressions.

"Number twelve, Xing Chen. Please follow me."

Luo Chenxi carried the portfolio and followed the staff into the meeting room next door.

A few tables were placed in the front of the meeting room with seven to eight judges seated behind the tables. A few of them were head designers at SL.

A middle-aged man with a small mustache picked up Luo Chenxi's information and screened through it. He frowned at once. "You graduated from, uh...this Haicheng

School of Fine Arts. What kind of university is that? How come I've never heard of it before?"

Chapter 28: You're Young But You're Quite A Big Talker

Luo Chenxi said in a neither haughty nor humble manner, "It doesn't matter which university I graduated from. My work is more important."

Upon listening to her reply, the few judges appeared to be rather astonished. They gazed into one another's eyes for a moment.

The man with the small mustache said, "You're young, but you're quite a big talker. I'd like to see what kind of impressive work you have that makes you so confident of yourself!"

He procured the portfolio Luo Chenxi brought. With a nonchalant smile on his face, he opened a page casually and could not help feeling slightly stunned. He appeared to be rather astonished to see the work.

"This is..."

He immediately flipped over to the second page.

His eyes widened in surprise. He stared at the portfolio in his hand for a long while. However, it was as if he had gone mad. He eagerly flipped over to the third page, the fourth page, and so on...

Soon, he finished flipping through the portfolio that consisted of over twenty pages.

The rest of the judging panel was surprised by his reaction. They inquired closely one after another, "Andy, what's going on? How is Miss Xing Chen's design? Why don't you explain it to all of us quickly?"

However, the man with the small mustache was oblivious to their questions as his attention was fully absorbed by her work.

After the first round of reading, he flipped the portfolio to the first page and began to read it from the start once again. This time, he was reading with closer attention than before. As he went through it, he was shaking his head in awe.

"The design of this is truly...truly genius! How did she come up with this design?"

“This is the artwork of a master!”

“That’s unexpected. That’s really unexpected!”

The rest of the judges began to have an itching heart after hearing the man with the small mustache muttering. They refrained from interrupting for a short while before they gathered around him at last.

“What sort of design is that actually? Show us!”

“Everyone here is a judge of this competition. Why are you holding on to the portfolio and refusing to share it with us?”

The man with the small moustache grabbed the portfolio with great effort and refused to let go. However, he lost to the numerous judges around him at last and the portfolio was seized away.

The rest of the judges formed a circle to look at Luo Chenxi’s portfolio together.

Frankly, they assumed that their fellow judge’s reaction was exaggerated. After all, they were the designers of the top fashion brand of the country. How could they not have seen some impressive designs in their lives? Why did they have to behave like inexperienced hotheads that got excited over some trifle genius’s creativity?

However, they were on the edge of their seats soon after they opened the portfolio and studied a few design sketches meticulously.

“Andy wasn’t actually exaggerating. It has already been years since I’ve seen such a genius designer!”

“Is this really the design of that young girl? She looks like she has just graduated recently though!”

“This can’t be. We must take this portfolio and show it to Chief Sheng personally!”

A designer with blonde hair picked up Luo Chenxi’s portfolio before turning around and walking out of the meeting room.

Luo Chenxi was feeling rather proud of herself after seeing her portfolio so highly sought after. However, she was stunned at once when she saw that her portfolio was about to be taken away. “Wait, where are you taking my portfolio?”

The man with the small mustache leaned on the table and said weakly, “Miss Xing Chen, don’t worry. He’s only taking your portfolio to show to Chief Sheng.”

“Chief Sheng? Who’s Chief Sheng?”

“How many Chief Shengs are there in our SL Holdings? It’s our chief designer, Sheng Yu of SL Holdings, of course!”

It was Sheng Yu!

Luo Chenxi was stunned upon hearing the name.

Shen Yu was the most honored and reputable designer now. Any design of his would result in a hunt by the men and women in the country. An haute couture dress that he personally designed could be sold for millions.

Was the blonde going to show her portfolio to Sheng Yu?

Chapter 29: Where Did The Fly Come From?

Even though Luo Chenxi was very confident about her work, she did not expect her work to be worthy enough to alert an important expert of the profession like Sheng Yu.

After the blonde-haired man left, a few designers surrounded Luo Chenxi and asked her some questions.

In the end, the man with the small mustache said, “Miss Xing Chen, we’ll still need to continue the audition for the rest of the participants. Will you please head to the next room and wait for a while? Chief Sheng will be back in about an hour.”

“So...did I pass the audition?”

“Passed, passed, of course, you’ve passed!” He nodded repeatedly.

He considered for a moment before he reminded her by saying, “Next, you have a month to prepare. You’re going to transform your designs into ready-to-wear garments. You must make the best use of the time and perform well. I’m putting high hopes on you!”

Luo Chenxi thanked the man before she returned to the meeting room next door.

The participants were called into the audition one by one. The process lasted for an entire morning.

Most people appeared miserable when they came back from the audition. One could make a guess of the audition results based on their expressions.

Zuo Xiaoqing was beaming with joy when she returned to the meeting room. The only thing missing from her face was the words 'I passed the audition'.

She could not help sniggering aloud when she saw Luo Chenxi sitting quietly in the corner without making a sound. "I thought you were very talkative earlier. Why aren't you talking now? I bet you know how poor your level of professionalism is, don't you? The Chinese Style Competition is a contest of designers' expertise and not appearance. Some people are...hmm, too confident of themselves."

Luo Chenxi swept her gaze over Zuo Xiaoqing. "Where did the fly come from? Why is it buzzing about noisily all the time?"

"Who did you just call a fly?" Zuo Xiaoqing demanded in rage.

All of a sudden, the door of the meeting room was pushed open once again.

The designer with the small mustache walked over and swept his gaze over the crowd once. "The audition for the first batch of participants has already ended. I'm going to announce the results on behalf of the organizing committee."

Upon hearing that, everyone perked up. They sat upright and looked at him in anticipation.

"Number 1, Chu Heng. Number 3...Number 7...Number 12, Xing Chen...Number 16...Number 20, Zuo Xiaoqing. The six aforementioned participants have qualified for the semifinals of the competition. You'll need to prepare many things for the semifinals. Every participant is to produce a series of ready-to-wear garments and accessories. Afterward, you'll be contacted by our staff. Please head back and get ready."

The man then turned around and was prepared to leave when he was done with the announcement.

Zuo Xiaoqing was on the edge of her seat after hearing the audition results. She stood up with an astonished expression and called out to the man, "Wait, Teacher Andy. Please hold on. Is there any part of the announcement that you've mistaken?"

Even though many designers were fond of using monikers and not their real names just like how Luo Chenxi did not use her real name for registration, Zuo Xiaoqing had seen the number listed on Luo Chenxi's portfolio earlier and knew that her number was Number 12.

Luo Chenxi had actually passed the audition as well! That was utterly impossible!

The audition was different from the preliminary round.

During the preliminary screening, every participant would only need to provide five design sketches. It was genuinely possible for Luo Chenxi to pass the preliminary round by luck with her art foundation from high school.

However, every participant was required to bring along an entire portfolio during the audition. The content of the portfolio should not just contain design sketches but also the design idea for the entire fashion series, the structure of every piece of garment, fabric, material quality, pattern, and so on.

The world of fashion design was not based upon one's creativity as imagined by the layman. The art of making a garment was completely different from just drawing a few sketches.

Many laymen could draw design sketches that looked genuinely beautiful. However, when the design was produced as a ready-to-wear garment, it was utterly incapable of achieving the same effect as the sketch. That would end up as a failed design.

The process involved lots of professional knowledge and flow paths that could only be learned in the reputable academies of fine arts. It was utterly impossible for Luo Chenxi to learn about these from her low-class university.

Chapter 30: Surely Involved With Something Scandalous

"What questions do you still have?" asked the man with the small mustache named Andy.

Zuo Xiaoqing pointed to Luo Chenxi and said aloud, "Is there a mistake in the audition results? I'm acquainted with participant Number 12. She's a graduate from a tier-3 university. She doesn't have the slightest idea about fashion design, so how can a person like her possibly pass the audition?"

Andy could not help being stunned for a moment when he realized that Zuo Xiaoqing was pointing at Luo Chenxi. He did not expect that the person she was complaining about would actually be participant Number 12 whose work was the most astonishing out of all!

He swept his gaze across her. "Miss Zuo, are you doubting the foresight of our SL Holdings' designers? In reality, participant Number 12, Miss Xing Chen's work is the most outstanding out of all the participants in this contest!"

"Wha-what?"

Upon listening to his comment, all the participants on the scene were surprised.

No one expected Luo Chenxi to receive such a raving review despite her poor education background.

Zuo Xiaoqing's face was flushing scarlet. She recalled how she had still taunted Luo Chenxi earlier and claimed that she would never pass the audition. Andy's words were akin to a ferocious slap on her cheek!

'Participant Number 12's work is the most outstanding...' What does that mean?

Could Luo Chenxi's work be even better than hers?

Her portfolio had actually been amended by a reputable international designer through her commission!

Zuo Xiaoqing grew more recalcitrant the more she thought about it. "Teacher Andy, there must be something wrong with Number 12's work. It is absolutely impossible that it's her own original work!"

Upon listening to her words, Andy frowned. "Miss Zuo, are you saying that...Participant Number 12 has used someone else's work as submission in the competition? Do you have any evidence?"

It would be a grievous matter if participant Number 12's design sketches had not been drawn by herself. After all, it involved the reputation of the Chinese Style Competition. Andy's expression turned solemn.

Zuo Xiaoqing was tongue-tied at once.

Evidence? How could she have any evidence?

She was only saying that because she could not stand seeing Luo Chenxi being accepted into the semifinals. She had been impulsive...

She choked on her words for a long while before she managed to come up with something. "Her...her educational background is precisely the evidence! She graduated from a trash university, so how can she possibly produce a decent design?"

Luo Chenxi stepped forward as well. She walked to Zuo Xiaoqing's side and said in a slow and steady manner, "Zuo Xiaoqing, how is that considered evidence? How is one's design skills related to one's education? If that's the case, there's no need to organize the Chinese Style Competition anymore. They might as well take out the participants' academic certificates and arrange them from top to bottom. What's the purpose of the competition then?"

Andy found Zuo Xiaoqing's accusation to be absurd as well.

"This is completely out of your wild conjecture. It isn't considered evidence. Miss Zuo, please mind your language and manners. It is an extremely appalling behavior to defame your fellow competitor. If this continues, I'm going to have to disqualify you." His comment sounded extremely serious.

Zuo Xiaoqing's expression alternated between being red with rage and pale with fear. She felt extremely wronged in her heart. She felt that she was right in every way. Luo Chenxi was obviously a good-for-nothing, so how could she have possibly produced work that was better than hers?

Were the designers of SL Holdings blind?

Andy lectured her for a short while before he turned around and was about to leave again.

Zuo Xiaoqing clenched her teeth then she called out once again, "Please wait, Teacher Andy! I have evidence! I was participant Number 12's schoolmate. I know that she was accepted into the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Country Y in the past. However, she was expelled by the academy afterward due to inappropriate behavior!"

"What? Is that true?" Andy widened his eyes in surprise.

Zuo Xiaoqing recognized his interest, so she hastily continued to speak, "Teacher Andy, you are aware of this, aren't you? All the top academies of fine arts in this world set a high bar for entry requirements, but they don't expel students easily. Moreover, the incident happened due to inappropriate behavior. I bet participant Number 12 was surely involved in something scandalous!"