

Mr Han 1161

Chapter 1161: Do You Think I'm Suitable?

However, he was also unsure about the artistes' schedules. "I will need to ask."

"Ask what?" Wang Juhuai had walked out of the study room and happened to hear what Lu Man said to Han Zhuoli.

Xia Qingwei brought the cut fruits over. Before she went to cut the fruits, she had heard a bit of what Lu Man and Han Zhuoli were talking about.

She placed the fruits in front of them and tilted her head at Wang Juhuai as she said, "Why are you looking for other people? Isn't there someone right here at home?"

"What do you mean?" Wang Juhuai still looked confused and did not know anything.

Xia Qingwei briefly explained, "Man Man will be participating in the finale episode recording of Classic X Files. She needs to find just one mystery guest this time, so she's asking Zhuoli if any of the artistes in the company are free to attend."

Lu Man explained, "I have already looked for Uncle Sun and Older Brother Ji last time. Both of them attended to help me, but I can't keep troubling them. Firstly, both of them are very busy, so I can't keep troubling them. Furthermore, both of them already appeared on the show before. If they attend again, the audience would not feel the novelty again, so the effect would not be as good as the first time around. This won't be good for both of them either."

The moment Wang Juhuai heard that, he pretended to be unhappy as he said, "Am I not high-profile enough to be your mystery guest? I'm actually not the first person you thought of, and you even wanted to find someone else you have no ties with?"

With no ties or interaction to mention, the chemistry between them would definitely be lacking.

Lu Man had certainly thought of this point before, but she had indeed not thought of Wang Juhuai.

She had only recently changed the way she addressed him. They were still a little awkward around each other, which was not something that would go away in a short time.

Furthermore, Lu Man even thought of how Wang Juhuai had never attended such variety shows before as a musician.

When he was in America, Wang Juhuai did not even agree to those famous talk shows when they tried to invite him.

It was obvious that he did not like such things.

If Lu Man asked, Wang Juhuai would definitely agree. However, she did not want to put him in a spot.

Wang Juhuai had the pride of an artiste in him. He just wanted to focus on his career and did not want to spend time on these kinds of things. He could not be bothered to deal with it, even if it was to promote himself.

Lu Man explained this, to which Wang Juhuai said in a blaming tone, “That’s to promote myself, so I can’t be bothered with those things. However, you are my daughter. Of course I have to help you in times like these. If you don’t tell me and go and ask someone else instead, aren’t you treating me like an outsider? Or do you think I’m not suitable? If you feel that the show doesn’t suit me, I won’t go and add trouble. But if you did think that I can be of help but didn’t ask me, I will be upset.”

“So, do you think I’m suitable?” Wang Juhuai asked.

“Of course,” Lu Man said as she nodded. Wang Juhuai was indeed an exceptionally suitable choice. “You are famous for not ever attending these activities. You rejected so many of those who had invited you to their shows. If the last time around was Uncle Sun and Older Brother Ji’s first appearance on variety shows, this time, it would be your first appearance on variety shows internationally. Normally, if the viewership ratings for finale episodes are around 1.8%, with your attendance, the ratings will surely hit at least 2.2% and even above it.”

“Wouldn’t that be even better than the ratings for the episode Director Sun and Director Ji attended?” Xia Qingwei asked in surprise.

“It will,” said Lu Man. “After all, Director Sun and Director Ji are famous only in the country. Dad is famous internationally, so his reputation is on a different level to begin with. Furthermore, the audience is not familiar with Dad. Let’s put it this way. To average audiences, Dad is almost like a God to be worshiped on the altar. Director Sun and Director Ji will still accept interviews and attend publicity events for their movies, movie premieres, and roadshows. There is still a portion of the public that has interacted closely with them before.”

Chapter 1162: A Waste of God’s Gifts

“However, Dad is different. He rarely accepts interviews and never attends any kind of public event. He also stayed overseas for many years, so the public’s recognition of him has all been through unofficial translation carried over from websites from other countries. After all, we can’t access those overseas websites. At least within the country, no one has ever really gotten to know Dad, so they do not know anything about him and will be curious. As long as word goes out that Dad is attending the finale episode of Classic X Files, it would surely become the hottest news at the moment. This is not an exaggeration.”

A great, internationally-renowned musician was certainly no joke.

Even the best exclusive interview show in the country that could interview Wang Juhuai for one full episode would surely shock the whole country.

What more if Wang Juhuai was simply attending a variety show as a mystery guest?

This felt like...

A waste of God’s gifts!

“Saying that the viewership ratings will hit 2.2% is a conservative estimate. In fact, it’s hard for me to say how high the viewership ratings will reach,” said Lu Man.

Xia Qingwei was not just into the entertainment industry now. For Lu Man's sake, she had also started to research on viewership ratings.

For variety shows to surpass 2.0% in viewership ratings was considered excellent results. This would effectively make the show the top one when it came to viewership ratings in the country without a doubt.

The least they could expect was 2.2%, and it might even increase. What kind of concept was that?

They could probably break a record with this!

If Wang Juhuai could go, Lu Dongliu would probably be overjoyed.

"Furthermore, be it in the country or overseas, Dad has never attended any show. Once Dad attends Classic X Files and this news spreads overseas, the international audience would also search for this episode of Classic X Files and watch. Our national shows might just step out into the international stage with this. If Dad goes, I might not be the one benefiting the most from this. I think it will be Classic X Files."

Xia Qingwei immediately said, "Then why are you still considering it? We must let your dad go. If you are going on stage, your dad must go give you support and boost your standing. It's fine if we let the production team glean some advantages. Furthermore, Lu Dongliu had even offended Liang Chengbing for you. Just based on this, we should remember his kindness. He helped us, so we should help him as well."

True, this help was seriously way too huge.

However, Xia Qingwei felt that it did not matter.

If both of them had ties with each other, there would be no way of calculating who helped whom more.

"Exactly, exactly." Wang Juhuai puffed out his chest and stood up straight as he felt exceptionally tall under Xia Qingwei's gaze. "Lu Dongliu helped you, so we should help him with his show as well. That's quite nice. Since you think I'm suitable for this show, it's all settled. I will be your mystery guest. You're not allowed to look for another person."

"Okay," Lu Man happily agreed.

She knew that Wang Juhuai was doing this all for her. Or else, he would not even bother attending such shows.

She really had a complete family now. No matter what happened, either Han Zhuoli or a respectable senior like him would protect and help her.

Lu Man smiled at Xia Qingwei and Wang Juhuai, feeling that her heart was filled with warmth.

Two days passed just like this. Lu Dongliu had yet to ask Lu Man who she found to be her mystery guest.

He felt that even if he were to ask someone else to help find someone, this would take time as well, so he did not ask.

Meanwhile, Liang Chengbing had not received a reply from Lu Dongliu, so he knew that he had probably chosen Lu Man and not him.

Liang Chengbing was very perplexed over this matter.

Chapter 1163: Cursing from Excitement

Was Lu Dongliu an idiot?

As the director of a popular variety show, doesn't he even have the most basic ability to make a judgment?

He chose Lu Man and not him?

He must be crazy!

It could not be that in Lu Dongliu's eyes, he was not worth as much as Lu Man, right?

Haha!

He would surely remember this grudge!

To reassure Lu Dongliu, Lu Man did not hide the identity of her mystery guest like she did previously. Instead, she contacted Lu Dongliu first.

"Director Lu," said Lu Man.

"Lu Man, why did you call? Did you meet with some kind of trouble?" The first thing Lu Dongliu thought of was whether Liang Chengbing had made trouble for Lu Man such that she could not attend the show.

The next thing he thought of was whether Lu Man had trouble finding a mystery guest.

After all, given Lu Man's current state, her connections were indeed limited.

"No, I didn't, don't worry," Lu Man said with a smile. "I called to tell you that I have already found my mystery guest so that you don't have to worry. It's also so that you can prepare the publicity materials in advance."

"Oh?" Hearing Lu Man's words, Lu Dongliu immediately got excited. If he needed to prepare the publicity in advance, the status of this guest must definitely be impressive! "Who is the guest you found this time?"

"Wang Juhuai," Lu Man replied.

"What?" Lu Dongliu thought he had misheard it. He even rubbed his ears and asked again, "Who did you say it is?"

Lu Man could sense Lu Dongliu's astonishment over the phone and held in her laughter as she said, "It's Wang Juhuai. You didn't hear wrongly."

"What the f*ck!" Lu Dongliu could not hold in his shock and excitement and immediately swore. He almost dropped his phone even. "You're really talking about... about..."

Lu Dongliu was at the television station right now. He still remembered he needed to keep it a secret, so he did not actually say out the name.

“Yes,” Lu Man said. “So I will have to trouble you to work really hard for the episode’s early publicity. This is his first appearance on variety shows internationally.”

“What the f-...” Lu Dongliu only realized this when Lu Man reminded him of it!

When Wang Juhuai was overseas, he had never attended such shows before.

Not just variety shows, he had never even attended a proper talk show before!

There were many popular talent shows overseas that were way ahead of those within the country in terms of their style and creativity. Hence, a lot of variety shows within the country had also bought the copyrights of those overseas variety shows.

Those extremely popular talent shows that require professional judges had also invited Wang Juhuai before, but Wang Juhuai had rejected all of them.

He never thought that this time, he would actually want to go on their show!

Lu Dongliu was so excited that he wanted to throw his head back and scream into the sky!

He never thought that by helping Lu Man, she would actually be able to pull Wang Juhuai over!

Who else could Lu Man not be able to invite?

Previously, she’d invited Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng, both of whom had never participated in variety shows before as well.

This time, with Wang Juhuai, it was even more impressive. He had never participated in any variety show in the world!

Lu Dongliu knew that ever since Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng participated in that episode, many other shows thought that Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng had relaxed their requirements and decided to participate in variety shows from then on, so they all started sending them invites to their shows.

However, they had all been rejected.

Ever since attending Classic X Files, they went back to not participating in any variety shows again.

Hence, it showed that it was not because both of them had changed their attitudes, it was entirely because they wanted to give Lu Man face.

Aside from Lu Man, no one else could invite them!

Lu Dongliu felt at that time that if he wanted to invite Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng in his future shows, he might have to invite Lu Man first.

Chapter 1164: He Would Be Willing to Offend Ten of Them

The previous time really helped his show become famous!

However, this time around, it was Wang Juhuai!

“Lu Man, how did you invite him?!” Lu Dongliu was so touched that he almost cried.

Luckily, he chose to side with Lu Man!

Or else, he would have lost the chance at having Wang Juhuai!

Compared to this, why would offending Liang Chengbing even matter!

He would be willing to offend ten of them even!

Lu Man could not help but laugh as she said, “Director Lu, why don’t you calm down first? I’ll call you back later.”

“Alright, alright.” Lu Dongliu realized that he was too excited to think about work now. “I will call you again when I have calmed down.”

Who knew when he would be able to calm down!

Lu Man: “...”

After ending the call, Lu Dongliu immediately jumped for joy. “What the f*ck, Wang!”

“Wow! Wang! Ahh!”

“What the f*ck, how could it be Wang—”

Chi Xingrui happened to push the door open right at this moment and came in. “...”

Director Lu just kept chanting “Wang, Wang, Wang.” It was really scary.

Lu Dongliu: “...”

Lu Dongliu immediately stopped dancing around, but he still could not really contain his excitement. He still brought himself to ask, “What is it?”

“This is the publicity proposal for the finale episode. Please take a look.” Chi Xingrui passed the file to Lu Dongliu.

Lu Dongliu glanced through it and said, “There may need to be some changes to the publicity proposal. Wait for a while first. I will discuss this with Lu Man.”

Chi Xingrui thought that since Lu Man had been in the third episode as well, it would be good to ask her to give her ideas. As such, he did not think much about it.

After Chi Xingrui left, Lu Dongliu paced up and down in his office many times to release a bit of the excitement and agitation he felt in his heart.

If not for time constraints, he really would have wanted to go to the gym in the station and run on the treadmill for a few rounds!

When Lu Dongliu calmed down, he called Lu Man back.

“Director Lu,” Lu Man said as she smiled.

Lu Dongliu sweated a little as he said, “I must have seemed like a joke just now.”

“Not at all. I’m very happy that you’re satisfied with this,” Lu Man said.

“You even invited Wang Juhuai over. I feel that the publicity proposal that we thought of originally cannot be used now. It won’t be fit to publicize Wang Juhuai,” Lu Dongliu said.

“How did you guys plan to publicize it originally?” Lu Man asked.

Lu Dongliu flipped through the proposal as he said, “It’s just like a normal publicity method. We will release the guest list of the finale episode in advance and shoot a teaser.”

That was too unfitting.

“Why don’t we use the publicity method for the third episode instead?” Lu Man suggested. “Just use it as it is without changing anything.”

“Without changing anything? Won’t that seem a bit uninteresting and ordinary?” Lu Dongliu emphasized heavily, “It’s Wang Juhuai, after all!”

His international debut on variety shows!

These six words were said with great importance and prestige. It made one extremely excited!

“It won’t.” Lu Man smiled as she explained, “The publicity for the third episode was used only that one time. If I remember correctly, all the episodes after the third one were not publicized in the same manner.”

“It’s because the publicity for the third episode was mainly because Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng were coming. The people after them were not as famous as they are, so they did not need that kind of publicity and we publicized them normally.”

“That’s exactly why, because it only appeared for that one time, it would leave an impression on the audience. It’s because that kind of publicity was uncommon. As long as it came out, it would definitely mean a famous guest would appear. Or else why would all the previous episodes not use such a publicity method? Using this method again for the finale episode after a few episodes will all the more show that the reputation of the guest will be impressive,” Lu Man said to explain her analysis to Lu Dongliu.

Chapter 1165: Different from the Past

“Hence, as long as such a publicity method came out again, the audience will subconsciously think of it this way. Even if the guest this time was very famous, his status will at least be on par with Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng to warrant the same kind of publicity from the production team,” Lu Man explained.

Lu Dongliu thought about it and felt that this was true.

Looking at it from another perspective, if he were an audience member and saw such a publicity method, he would surely recall the publicity from before immediately.

“Should we make it even grander? This is Wang Juhuai we’re talking about!” Lu Dongliu hated that he could not just pump in all the publicity funds of the production team into this teaser and apply for a bit more funds from the station afterward.

This was Wang Juhuai they were talking about!

For their publicity, they must definitely wave the red flags and sound the gongs and drums!

“It’s just publicity, how grand does it need to be? If we can reveal the identity of the mystery guest right from the start, the publicity can naturally be as grand as it can get. However, the format of our show is set. The mystery guest cannot be revealed before the show, or else there would be no surprise element or highlight to it. So, no matter how grand the publicity is, it won’t really matter,” Lu Man reminded him.

Lu Dongliu smacked his head. He was really so overwhelmed with joy that he even forgot about how his own show works.

Since they could not reveal the identity of the mystery guest, it would be futile no matter how grand the publicity was.

“Hence, it will be good to continue using the publicity method from the third episode. If you feel like something is still missing, you can work on the hints for the identity of the mystery guest. For example, we described Director Sun and Director Ji as making their debut on variety shows the previous time around. This time, we can add the word ‘international’ in front of it!” Lu Man said as she smiled.

Lu Dongliu was elated when he heard that.

This was way too crafty and naughty.

Saying that it was an international variety show debut sounded really impressive.

If Wang Juhuai was introduced right from the start, that naming would be justified and make sense.

However, the point was that netizens did not know.

The phrase “international debut on variety shows” had too wide of a scope.

After all, there were only a bunch of artistes who had achieved international acclaim. There were a few who were well-known in South Korea and participated in some of the variety shows there.

However, when speaking of international fame, the first thing most people would think of was still Hollywood.

Currently, only two people had been to the talk shows there before.

Furthermore, most of the artistes within the country, including the A-listers, had not made a name for themselves beyond the country, much less made an international debut on a variety show.

There were a few famous artistes who had indeed been so focused on their acting careers that they had not even attended any of the variety shows within the country.

In that sense, the scope of the international variety debut was so broad that one would find it hard to make a guess.

“Okay, I will ask someone to prepare it right now!” Lu Dongliu ended the call and could not help but keep rubbing his hands together as his mind was overwhelmed with ecstasy.

Lu Dongliu walked out of his office and clapped his hands to gather the attention of his subordinates. "Come, everyone, please put aside your work for a while and listen closely!"

Everyone stopped what they were doing and turned their attention to Lu Dongliu.

"We are about to record the finale episode of *Classic X Files*. Everyone has the guest list on hand with you. As for the names of the mystery guests, the artistes we invited have already sent them over," Lu Dongliu said.

Team Leader Huang from the publicity team asked, "Lu Man sent hers in as well?"

"Yes, Lu Man sent hers in too," Lu Dongliu said. "Also, the mystery guest that Lu Man invited this time is an extremely huge big-shot. He is renowned internationally. It's different from the past!"

Chapter 1166: I Understand

Chi Xingrui inhaled. For Lu Dongliu to speak so exaggeratedly... "It's someone with even more star power than Director Sun and Director Ji?"

"Probably more important than both of them added together," Lu Dongliu said seriously.

Both Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng were considered top-notch within the country already, yet they'd never had the chance to shine on the global stage.

But Wang Juhuai was world class without a doubt!

"Who is it?" someone asked.

"Yeah, Director Lu, who's so impressive?"

Everyone was curious, but Lu Dongliu only said gaily, "It's a secret! Reporters will surely try to get some information from you all after the publicity, but people will hunger for the knowledge even more if even you all don't know who it is. This will make for better publicity."

Sweat beaded over Chi Xingrui's face. "Director Lu, you must have worked with Lu Man too much. You've become as sneaky and sly as her."

Lu Dongliu took this as a compliment gladly. "Anyway, this guest that Lu Man invited is someone heavyweight, totally unprecedented. If we do it well, the name of our show could even spread beyond these shores and into Hollywood! So everyone must treat this with utmost seriousness this time!"

"That's impressive!"

"Now I'm even more curious as to who Lu Man invited."

"Lu Man really exceeds expectations. She's just entered the entertainment industry and is considered the number one among the C-listers but without expansive connections. How is she able to keep inviting these heavyweight guests everytime? I can't even guess who's even more influential than Director Sun and Director Ji."

Everyone started discussing it.

They did not even dare to consider Wang Juhuai.

A musician who'd never accepted a single invitation to any activities, coming to join their variety show?

What a joke!

They would never believe it even if Lu Dongliu told them it's really Wang Juhuai!

Although Chi Xingrui and the others had no idea who Lu Man had invited, it did not impede them from drafting out the publicity plan.

Since Lu Dongliu already had an idea how the advertisements should go, the hints about the secret guests' identities were all thought up by Lu Dongliu.

Lu Dongliu let Team Leader Huang video call Lu Man and discuss with her how to publicize their program.

They were still paying her the incomes of an actress and a PR officer.

Though Classic X Files had no competitors, Lu Man inviting Wang Juhuai would allow the show's worth to increase exponentially.

So Lu Dongliu could not be stingy to Lu Man.

Moreover, the secret guests were not paid for appearing on their show.

He did not know how Lu Man had convinced Wang Juhuai to come, but their show really could not afford Wang Juhuai's appearance fees. That's why they would not be miserly towards Lu Man.

"It'll be best if ours is publicized the last. We'll start showing the advertisements within a couple of days before the broadcast. An advertisement a day for every guest," Lu Man said.

"And the last is Wang Juhuai?" Team Leader Huang asked.

"Right." Lu Man nodded.

"Won't the audience be sick of daily publicity?" Team Leader Huang was worried.

"It's not like we're spamming their feeds. Just an advertisement a day so that the audience can have a deeper impression every day," Lu Man said.

"Brainwashing ads, I get it, I get it." Team Leader Huang nodded.

Lu Man: "..."

As such, the publicity plan was settled.

On the first day, they publicized Jiang Yuhan and her secret guest.

On the second day, they publicized the famous comedian Zheng Yikun and his secret guest.

On the third day, they publicized the stylish actor with real acting chops, Lin Yantao, and his secret guest.

Chapter 1167: Down-on-Luck Jiang Yuhan

On the fourth day, they publicized Lu Man and her secret guest.

Because the show had yet to be filmed, the final advertisement was yet to be finalized.

Just two days before Lu Man and Wang Juhuai set off to Dong Hua Broadcasting Station to film the program, the Internet suddenly released an expose: “Hot news! I just heard that Lu Man gets paid 500,000 for appearing in one episode of Classic X Files, far higher than the fees of the top B-lister Jiang Yuhan and famous comedian Zheng Yikun! It’s only lower than Lin Yantao. Why does Lu Man get paid this much?!”

“Is that true? Do you have proof?”

“My Goddess of Fury Man gets paid this much because of her ability. Nothing will change even with your jealousy!”

“That’s my big Man Man!”

“She, a C-lister, gets paid more than a B-lister? That’s a bit too much. But most importantly, on what basis?”

“Because she’s the Goddess of Fury Man. Because not only is she an actress, she’s also a top PR officer. Because she helped Classic X Files beat The Performer until The Performer stopped broadcasting.”

“So what? The entertainment industry is based on rankings. Just because of that, she enjoys good relations with the production team, so she deserves higher pay than Jiang Yuhan? Is it that in the future, we don’t need these rankings anymore, we just have to think of ways to get good connections?” a hater of Lu Man said.

“Don’t the other artistes have any opinion on the production team’s behavior?”

Just then, a netizen posted, “OP did not understand the full picture before posting, misleading all netizens. Lu Man’s 500,000 pay was inclusive of her PR work. Lu Man’s a top PR officer, and even those with enough money might not even get to hire her. Her client queue is long enough to circle the earth three whole times. Lu Man joined the program, so they have priority, and they employed her to help with the publicity. You all think Lu Man helped the production team beat The Performer for free? In her pay, her appearance fee is the usual one for a normal C-lister; the rest is all for her PR work.”

“Hahahaha, tremble in fear and jealousy now! In the coming days, every publicity by Classic X Files will all be done by my great Lu Man!”

“So what you all mean is that Lu Man did the publicity for the week featuring Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng?”

“Of course. Who else could have come up with that? If the production team of Classic X Files had had the ability, they would’ve advertised like that ages ago. Why wait for that particular week to start?”

Hearing this, the netizens who wanted to join in on the fray to question Lu Man and ruin the relationship between her and other artistes had nothing else to say.

But that did not mean they’d failed to hit their aim.

At the very least, they managed to incite some people into unhappiness.

Anyway, Jiang Yuhan was definitely upset after seeing these posts.

She already had a lousy impression of Lu Man.

She'd joined *The Performer*, but because of Lu Man, that show flopped.

Many artistes who had joined *The Performer* were implicated because of the program's scandals behind the scenes.

She was affected too, naturally.

But she was lucky. For her, the impact of the implications was not as great as it was with the others, and she had stepped down from the show at first notice.

The fury of the netizens was focused on the production team of *The Performer*, on Lu Qi, and on others while she had successfully withdrawn from the conflict.

And then, she accepted a role in *Sounds of Winter*.

Jiang Yuhan wanted to say that she was rather lucky this year; not only did she escape the implications, she even snagged a role as the female protagonist in a famous director's movie.

With her luck, she could probably try harder and try to push to be an A-lister, and that would probably be achieved as well.

Chapter 1168: Bearing a Grudge

Who knew she would encounter Lu Man again?

By now, Jiang Yuhan probably knew how Qiao Luna had felt back then.

Why did Lu Man keep appearing like a bad penny?!

Everywhere she went, Lu Man appeared too!

Even when she was filming a movie and the production crew sealed off roads, Lu Man was there to interfere as well!

And Lu Man poked her nose into it, going around posting on social media, using her influence to create a ruckus.

Although the fault was ultimately placed on Liang Chengbing and the production crew, the netizens also lost all goodwill towards the actors in the film.

Even she was blamed inexplicably.

Jiang Yuhan wanted to pull her hair out. Why was Lu Man so nosy?!

Twice, Lu Man had caused her career to fall when it should have gotten better. How could she see Lu Man in a positive light?

Originally, they had invited both Jiang Yuhan and Liang Chengbing.

They were supposed to attend *Classic X Files* together as the director and female lead to publicize their movie, *Sounds of Winter*.

Who knew the production team would invite Lu Man too?

She wanted to be like Liang Chengbing and declare outright that if Lu Man was going to be on the show, then she would not appear.

But she did not have the say.

Well, Liang Chengbing did voice his opinion, but who could have guessed that Lu Dongliu would choose Lu Man and give Liang Chengbing up!

Was there something wrong with Lu Dongliu's brain?

But the movie still had to be publicized.

Since Liang Chengbing could not go on the show, she remained.

But Liang Chengbing now bore a greater grudge against Lu Man.

Even Jiang Yuhua felt that Lu Man was an eyesore.

She almost contacted Lu Dongliu to demand an explanation regarding the exposure news on Lu Man's pay.

Luckily, she saw afterward that her fees included her contributions to the PR.

But this did not change the fact that Lu Man's fees were higher than hers.

Not many saw the explanation for the higher fees. Many would just remember that Lu Man got paid more than she did, without remembering the components of Lu Man's fees.

Finally, the day before the program was filmed arrived.

Lu Man, Wang Juhua, and Xia Qingwei set off for Dong Hua together.

Because Xia Qingwei had not been to Dong Hua before and since they arrived a day early, Wang Juhua asked Xia Qingwei to tour with him.

When they reached the airport, Lu Man received a call from Lu Dongliu, saying that Liang Chengbing accepted Xing Ke Station's invitation to appear on their most popular show, *Friday (with the Stars)*.

Friday (with the Stars) did not just simply mean that it aired every Friday at night; the "Stars" also implied celebrities.

And hence, that they celebrated with the celebrities on Friday nights.

Because the show always invited the hottest stars for the period, the show was extremely popular amongst the audience.

"Xing Ke Station definitely knows that Liang Chengbing asked to never appear at the same place as you, the where-you-are-there-will-never-be-him situation, and so they invited Liang Chengbing to compete with us for viewership," Lu Dongliu said. "Xing Ke Station is bearing a grudge against you."

Or why would they invite Liang Chengbing at this time?

Moreover, it was on *Friday (with the Stars)*, which had a same-day telecast as *Classic X Files*.

When *The Performer* was scheduled to broadcast on a Friday, it was on the next slot after *Friday (with the Stars)*.

Friday (with the Stars) was on the 8 pm slot, and *The Performer* had followed immediately after at 9 pm.

Meanwhile, *Classic X Files* broadcasted at 8:40 pm, almost at the same time as *The Performer*, but *Friday (with the Stars)* would not yet be finished by then and would be on their last segment.

It could be said that *Classic X Files* had been sandwiched between *Friday (with the Stars)* and *The Performer*.

But Lu Man had managed to pull up the viewership ratings of *Classic X Files* under such terrible conditions.

Chapter 1169: We Have Nothing to Fear

Friday (with the Stars) was not affected back then, since the audience watched that show first. With the episode coming to an end, the audience would definitely finish watching it.

Moreover, many people did not have high expectations for Lu Man's episode back then, even going so far as to watch *The Performer* first.

Classic X Files then tried the "secret guest" ace card, and after word-of-mouth through the Net, stole the audience from *The Performer*.

Another point to note was that *Friday (with the Stars)* was actually scheduled to broadcast at 9 pm, but to make way for *The Performer*, the station had shifted the broadcast timing for *Friday (with the Stars)* forward.

This showed the high hopes the broadcasting station had had for *The Performer*.

Then *The Performer* stopped airing and underwent changes.

But in reality, the primetime slot on Friday was 9 pm, not 8 pm, since the weekends came after Friday.

Everyone was tired after working for five days. They were banking on going out for relaxation on a Friday night. No one wanted to go home that early.

8 pm was when the party started—when people went out for dinner with friends, went to the movies, went clubbing, and such.

Hence, there were not many youngsters going home at 8 pm to watch television.

Thus, the production team of *Friday (with the Stars)* was especially upset and had a falling out with the production team of *The Performer*.

The diss against *The Performer* never stopped behind the scenes.

So, when *The Performer* flopped and stopped broadcasting, the production team of *Friday (with the Stars)* was the happiest apart from Lu Man and her gang.

Now that *The Performer* was no longer airing, the primetime slot should not be left empty, should it?

And so, *Friday (with the Stars)* got shifted back to its original timeslot.

But because *Friday (with the Stars)* could be considered Xing Ke Station's evergreen program, with its viewership ratings relatively consistent, even if they did have to compete with *Classic X Files*, they would not lose out.

"That's not surprising. Xing Ke Station's too used to getting their way, and after what I did, they felt that they lost face, so they'd definitely find some way to gain it back," Lu Man said.

Lu Dongliu was not worried this time. Not only did they have Lu Man, they even had Wang Juhuai, that major secret weapon!

He said super confidently, "Ha, doesn't matter how this Xing Ke Station creates noise. *The Performer* flopped before. Now, let's make their evergreen show flop as well! With Mr. Wang, we have nothing to fear!"

Lu Man: "..."

Director Lu, aren't you a little too confident!

"Alright, I just wanted to warn you in advance. Since the broadcasting time for *Friday (with the Stars)* is clashing with *Classic X Files*, you better be mentally prepared," Lu Dongliu explained.

"Alright." Lu Man nodded.

Meanwhile, over at Xing Ke Station, Ge Guangzhen heard that it was Chief Hu who personally gave the order and Assistant Chief Wang who invited Liang Chengbing face-to-face to ask him to attend *Friday (with the Stars)*.

It was perfect that Liang Chengbing was holding grudges against Lu Man and Lu Dongliu. When he heard it was to compete for viewership ratings against *Classic X Files*, he accepted readily.

Ge Guangzhen knew the leader of the broadcasting station was harboring anger.

When they lost so terribly to Lu Man previously, it was a huge slap to their face and made them lose dignity.

The Performer, while fully supported by Xing Ke Station, flopped so badly. How could Xing Ke Station still take things peacefully?

Chief Hu was so furious that not only did he give Ge Guangzhen a good reprimand, he also remembered Lu Man.

Ge Guangzhen did tell Chief Hu before to stop antagonizing Lu Man.

She might not be as powerful as Xing Ke Station, but she was too adept at the public relations game.

Chapter 1170: Wang Juhuai Is Here

Can't they just let it go and stop antagonizing Lu Man in the future?

Moreover, isn't it ugly for a big station like you to make trouble for a small-time actor like Lu Man?

Would it be glorious even if you did win?

The netizens would only say that you bullied people!

What's worse is that, if you lost as a big station, you'll lose both your face and any influence you had.

Ge Guangzhen understood the logic clearly now and hated himself for not understanding back then.

He learned only after making a mistake.

He never thought Chief Hu would still want to go against Lu Man after he'd advised him against it.

Ge Guangzhen sighed. Since the leader of the broadcasting station had decided, he could not interfere.

He had done what he could, but if Chief Hu did not heed his words, what else could he do?

Ge Guangzhen looked at the file on his computer solemnly, hoping that Friday (with the Stars) could hang on and beat Lu Man for real.

At least that would not be too embarrassing.

If there was any show across all broadcasting stations that could compete with Classic X Files, which Lu Man was in, it was probably Friday (with the Stars).

The statistics spoke for itself—it was an old show that had managed to keep filming and broadcasting for a decade.

That was especially impressive in this era, which prized continual change and where variety programs kept raising their game.

But Friday (with the Stars) was still able to hang on and maintain its ratings among all the other new and unique variety shows appearing, not losing even against Classic X Files, which was popular for three seasons straight.

This was enough to prove the power of Friday (with the Stars).

Ge Guangzhen stopped his musings and continued with his program planning.

Lu Man and her parents flew to Dong Hua in Han Zhuoli's private jet.

Lu Dongliu wanted to meet Wang Juhuai, but not knowing if it was appropriate, he asked Lu Man. Lu Man rejected politely, saying that Wang Juhuai wanted to tour Dong Hua alone.

So Lu Dongliu banished the idea from his mind.

After reaching Dong Hua, Wang Juhuai did not find himself tired and dragged Xia Qingwei with him to have fun.

Naturally, Lu Man did not want to play gooseberry and remained in the hotel.

Because Wang Juhuai wanted to tour within the city area with Xia Qingwei while the broadcasting station was located somewhere more remote, they booked a hotel near the city area rather than one next to the broadcasting station.

On the second afternoon, they set off to the broadcasting station to get ready for filming.

Xia Qingwei followed as well.

She was rather interested in the filming process of the show, not to mention both her husband and daughter were appearing on stage. How could she not go and support them?

The three of them reached the broadcasting station.

When they entered the building, workers from other departments lost their ability to speak when they saw Wang Juhuai.

“Wang...”

The more Wang Juhuai was recognized by people, the more they seemed to similarly lose their ability to speak.

The moment Chief Lu’s secretary, Xiao Yue, reached level one and saw Wang Juhuai, she immediately turned and ran for the lift after being stunned for a few seconds.

“Chief Lu!” Xiao Yue came rushing in in a hurry, panting heavily but not bothering to catch her breath.

She’d pushed open the door as she called out.

Seeing her like this, Chief Lu did not find it in his heart to reprimand her. “What is it?”

“It’s Wang... Wang...”

Chief Lu: “...”

What’s with her continuous “wang”-ing? Is she a dog?[1]

“Wang Juhuai is here!” Xiao Yue finally said in one breath.

“What did you say? Who’s here?” Chief Lu thought he heard wrong.

“It’s Wang Juhuai, that music guru Wang Juhuai! He’s here at our broadcasting station!” Xiao Yue said excitedly.

Chief Lu stood abruptly. “Why would he come to our station?!”

“He’s with Lu Man. I heard Lu Man was coming to film the finale for Classic X Files. Is Wang Juhuai the secret guest she invited?” Xiao Yue guessed.

[1] The Chinese word for “bark” is pronounced “wang.”