

Mr Han 1201

Chapter 1201: Doesn't Matter, Dead or Alive

Xia Qingwei!

Having public displays of affection with another man under the public eye at her age, how shameless!

And when he heard Lu Man call Wang Juhuai "Dad," Lu Qiyuan's breath caught in his throat and could not go down.

He pressed his chest, and his face went from red to purple.

That pocket of air was stuck and he suddenly lost the ability to breathe.

He beat his hands helplessly at his chest.

"Qiyuan!" Stepping out from the toilet, Xia Qingyang saw Lu Qiyuan and immediately went for the bell by his bed.

The doctor and nurses rushed in and gave emergency aid to Lu Qiyuan.

"The patient was provoked," the doctor said unhappily. "Didn't I tell you before? Don't provoke the patient. If he suffers from another attack, it's hard to say if he'll recover. He has yet to recover and he's greatly agitated again. Even if he does recover, it wouldn't be as well as the previous time, and he might even suffer long-term consequences."

Xia Qingyang was shocked. True, she did set Lu Qiyuan up when he was sick...

But she never wanted a disabled husband!

"I don't know, he was watching the TV while I just went to the toilet. Who knew he'd get provoked?" Xia Qingyang explained hurriedly.

The television was still on and the program was running.

As Xia Qingyang was talking, she thought she heard Xia Qingwei's name.

She turned around. Wasn't that Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei on the TV?

Lu Man stood by the side, and the three of them looked like a proper family.

Xia Qingyang then looked at Lu Qiyuan. Did Lu Qiyuan see this and got angry?

Lu Qiyuan had been divorced from Xia Qingwei for over a decade. Could he still be harboring feelings for this ex-wife of his?

He got provoked after seeing Xia Qingwei with Wang Juhuai?

Xia Qingyang looked coolly at Lu Qiyuan.

And she suddenly felt that it's no big deal even if Lu Qiyuan never recovered.

She found it hard to understand Lu Qiyuan.

He was the one who did not treasure Xia Qingwei, and though she did interfere in their marriage, it took two to tango.

It was Lu Qiyuan who had a problem with Xia Qingwei, leading him to divorce her. Xia Qingyang was not the only one at fault.

And now, Lu Qiyuan acted as if he had not forgotten Xia Qingwei at all.

Is there something wrong with him?

Xia Qingyang's expression became normal, and she said calmly, "Then just try your best."

The doctor glanced at Xia Qingyang, unclear as to why her attitude changed so suddenly.

Wasn't she too distant?

But the doctor said nothing.

After the doctor left, Xia Qingyang called Lu Qi in secret. "Qi Qi, you'd better hurry with Zhengbai and transfer more company assets. Your dad watched *Classic X Files* just now and became agitated after seeing Xia Qingwei and Wang Juhuai. When he wakes, he might not make a full recovery. We have to seize the chance and hold more in our hands!"

"Alright." Lu Qi did not even ask after Lu Qiyuan. It didn't matter if he was dead or alive. She did not care a single bit.

"How's Dad now? How long 'til he wakes?" Lu Qi asked.

"You still care about this?" Xia Qingyang fumed. "He got triggered because he saw Xia Qingwei, Lu Man, and Wang Juhuai standing together like an actual family. He clearly still remembers and misses them, and he can't stand watching them belong to another! Serves him right if he dies from anger! Why are you still bothering with him?"

Lu Qi rolled her eyes as she hid in a pavilion in the school. "I'm not worried about him, I just wanted to ask how long before he wakes so that we can do our stuff! After he wakes, we shall see his body's condition. If he's really paralyzed and can't move freely, we can then make bigger moves."

Chapter 1202: Admit Defeat

Xia Qingyang took a few moments before she understood. "I knew you're a clever one. Rest assured, I'll ask the doctor, and when I have a clear answer, I'll tell you first thing."

Xing Ke Station.

Chief Hu was in his office. He did not want to watch *Classic X Files*; he did not want to even contribute a miniscule amount to its viewership ratings.

But when he heard that the secret guest Lu Man had invited was actually Wang Juhuai, he could not help but switch the channel to Dong Hua Satellite TV.

Meanwhile, the director of Friday (with the Stars), Kuang Guanghui, the director of The Performer, Ge Guangzhen, as well as Chief Hu's secretary, Liu Ye, Assistant Chief Wang, and Director Huang were all gathered in Chief Hu's office.

When Chief Hu changed channels, Lu Man's performance had just finished and Fan Yue was interviewing Wang Juhuai onstage.

They tuned in just in time to see Wang Juhuai personally say that he was Lu Man's father.

Chief Hu sucked in air and it got stuck in his throat.

Wang Juhuai... was actually Lu Man's stepfather!

So what if he's only a stepfather?

Wang Juhuai joined a public event—and a variety show at that—despite having not done so before, just to show his support for Lu Man.

The “step-” in the front was redundant. He was as good as being her biological father.

“Chief Hu...” There was a tremor in Kuang Guanghui's voice.

If they had never targeted Lu Man, had resolved their differences, and had invited Lu Man directly, would it have been possible for them to also invite Wang Juhuai?

If so, the one with all the glory now would have been them, Friday (with the Stars), not Classic X Files.

Kuang Guanghui did not know, but when Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng joined Classic X Files because of Lu Man, Ge Guangzhen also had the same thoughts as Kuang Guanghui and was equally regretful.

“Off it.” Chief Hu did not want to contribute anything more to the Classic X Files viewership ratings. “Just be more polite towards Lu Man next time.”

It was you who wanted to make trouble for Lu Man, Kuang Guanghui thought to himself.

He did not have such thoughts at first.

But now, because of Chief Hu's orders, the whole of Friday (with the Stars) was on Lu Man's bad side.

“Chief Hu, what if... what if we invited Lu Man to Friday (with the Stars)? Is it possible that Wang Juhuai would come as well?” Kuang Guanghui asked. “Luckily we did not outright say we were against Lu Man last time, which means we did not really destroy the facade of having relations with her.”

But it was almost the same as destroying all relations with her.

Irritated, Chief Hu coldly said, “Then you go and ask, see if she agrees.”

Kuang Guanghui said it only for fun, as a form of self-comfort.

He, too, felt that Lu Man would not agree.

At least, not now.

He must wait until the day when their relations had warmed over.

Didn't matter what Chief Hu's stance was. He'll represent their group and make peace with Lu Man.

Seeing the good response from the netizens, Xia Qingwei finally relaxed.

It's all thanks to Wang Juhuai.

Who knew his brief appearance could attract so many viewers?

As Lu Man said, the rare is highly sought-after.

Because the next day was a Saturday, Lu Man did not have to attend school.

Han Zhuoli was free too, so both of them did not go home after watching the show and stayed in Yi Garden.

The next day, Han Zhuoli had yet to wake up when Lu Man woke.

Lu Man rose and looked at Han Zhuoli's sleeping face before gently pecking him on his lips.

Chapter 1203: Viewership Ratings

Seeing that Han Zhuoli did not wake up, she knew that he was too tired from work.

Whenever Han Zhuoli was not too busy with work, or if he could spare some time and finish up his important work, he would always make time to keep Lu Man company.

However, it was evident how busy Han Zhuoli was when he really could not afford to set aside his work and rush it no matter how quickly he did it.

Lu Man did not wake him up. She quietly got up and walked carefully so that she would not wake Han Zhuoli from his sleep.

Once she came out of the room, she decided to go to the bathroom outside to wash up.

"You're up so early?" Xia Qingwei saw Lu Man when she came out.

"I got a good rest these few days so I'm not tired and naturally wake up early," Lu Man said after she washed her face. "Zhuoli is still in bed. He's too tired from work these last few days."

"Okay, let him sleep." Xia Qingwei would definitely not mind Han Zhuoli sleeping in. "What do you want for breakfast?"

Lu Man rubbed her stomach and said, "I want to eat youtiao[1]."

"You're really picky," Xia Qingwei said with a smile. "Moving here is nice in all aspects, except that there are no breakfast stalls around. There's nowhere we can buy youtiao here."

"Let's call delivery." Lu Man ran to get her phone. "Next time, if you want to eat anything that's not available in the vicinity, you can order using this. I'll teach you."

Lu Man ordered breakfast while she taught Xia Qingwei how to use the service.

Soy milk, youtiao, shengjian[2] and some delicious appetizers.

Not long after, Wang Juhuai came out after he was almost done packing. "Why do I hear you both talking about good food?"

Xia Qingwei told him about the food that Lu Man ordered for breakfast.

Wang Juhuai's appetite was immediately aroused. "There was no way I could've eaten these things when I was in America. After coming back, I found that they don't sell these in the vicinity, so I haven't gotten the chance to eat them 'til now."

"Alright, you will get to eat them in a while," Xia Qingwei said as she smiled. "I will try to learn and see if I can cook it."

"Homemade ones taste different from takeouts. We can just order takeout if we want to eat it." Wang Juhuai would not want Xia Qingwei to busy herself with these things.

After around 30 minutes, the food delivery came.

When Lu Man brought breakfast into the kitchen to lay it out, Han Zhuoli walked out of the bedroom.

When he did not see Lu Man, he immediately asked, "Mom, where's Man Man?"

Xia Qingwei thought to herself that he really could not leave her even for a while.

"She's in the kitchen."

Han Zhuoli went to the kitchen in a hurry.

Upon seeing him, Lu Man said, "Did I wake you up just now?"

"I heard the doorbell, but it's also because I couldn't sleep anymore." Han Zhuoli walked over and hugged her as he pecked her on the lips. "How would I hear such a faint sound if I was in deep sleep?"

Han Zhuoli also smelled the scent of fried dough. He turned to look and smiled. "I haven't had this in a long time."

"Quick, go and wash up so that you can eat it while it's hot," Lu Man urged him.

Han Zhuoli quickly went back to wash up.

After he was done, Lu Man, Wang Juhuai, and Xia Qingwei had yet to start eating and were waiting for him.

"Do you have a rough idea of the viewership ratings for last night's *Classic X Files*?" Xia Qingwei asked her.

Lu Man thought about it before saying, "From what I could guess, it should be able to hit 2.5-2.6."

"So high?" Wang Juhuai did not know much about the viewership ratings in the country at first, but because of Lu Man, he started to look it up and so he knew that this number was shockingly high.

Lu Man nodded. "I think it should be around there. Actually, I think it's because there were still not that many netizens who knew about it last night and not everyone was constantly online. There are also many people who do not like to watch ads or do not have time to watch and for other reasons would

not watch the show on TV and will wait for the show to be broadcasted online. The actual surge in ratings might actually come from online views.”

[1] Fried Chinese dough sticks.

[2] Small, pan-fried Shanghai steamed buns.

Chapter 1204: Exploded

“Who knows when Lu Dongliu will be able to get the total viewership statistics.” Xia Qingwei could not put her heart at ease as long as she did not know the results.

“It should come pretty fast today. After all, with Dad’s participation, even Chief Lu views it with great importance and will surely urge them to quickly do up the statistics.”

Indeed, not long after they had breakfast, Lu Dongliu called.

Almost at the same time, Chief Lu personally contacted Wang Juhuai.

“Lu Man, the viewership ratings for our show really exploded this time! It’s all thanks to you and to Mr. Wang. Chief Lu went to call Mr. Wang, but you should also help me express my gratitude towards him,” Lu Dongliu said in agitation.

“How high is the viewership rating?” Lu Man was curious as well.

Although she had guessed in her heart, she still wanted to hear the real answer to be assured.

“It’s 2.7014%!” Lu Dongliu’s voice trembled when he mentioned this viewership rating, as if he was about to lose control of himself. “It’s so close! It’s so close to hitting 3! Mr. Wang’s popularity is really too amazing!”

The high viewership ratings this time had indeed nothing much to do with Lu Man.

This was all thanks to Wang Juhuai’s fame.

Lu Man was keenly aware of this and reminded Lu Dongliu as she said, “This time was mainly because my dad had never participated in any shows before this. However, if he attended too many shows, it will reduce people’s curiosity about him and it won’t be so rare anymore. The viewership ratings won’t be as explosive as it was initially.”

“I know, I know.” Lu Dongliu understood. “I think Mr. Wang wouldn’t participate in that many shows either. It’s already very rare that he would come here. It’s precisely because the audience knows this that the viewership ratings are so high. Afterward, our production team will publish the viewership ratings for last night on the official Weibo account. This time, it’s all thanks to you. If not for you, Mr. Wang would definitely not have come to our show.”

“With this viewership rating, it’ll probably be tough for Friday (with the Stars) to catch up,” Lu Man said with a laugh.

“Of course!” Lu Dongliu cackled.

At that moment, someone could be heard saying something about the online views beside Lu Dongliu.

“Lu Man, the statistics for the show will be updated at 12 midnight. Currently, the number of views have already surpassed six million!”

It had only been a few hours!

12 midnight to 1 am could still forcibly be considered a peak period, but after 1 am, there would not be that many people who could watch throughout the night.

At present, the online views actually surpassed six million.

“The show ranks number one on the 24-hour charts. It surpassed the second spot’s Friday (with the Stars) by four million views!” Lu Dongliu exclaimed. “This is only the viewer count for now. From what I know, no other popular variety show is able to achieve such high ratings within such a short period of time. Some shows with pretty good ratings could only achieve this result in a week at best.”

“I see.” Lu Man smiled and said, “Many congratulations to you, then.”

“Aish, isn’t this all thanks to you and Mr. Wang?” Lu Dongliu smiled and said, “Lu Man, I will remember your help this time. I used to feel that I was the one who helped you. Now, it looks like you’re the one who’s been helping me all along. I was still worried about Liang Chengbing making things difficult for you previously, but with Mr. Wang around now, who would dare to target you?”

Lu Dongliu made a promise to her. “I really owe many thanks to you this time for helping the finale episode of our show achieve such amazing results. If you need any help next time, just let me know. No matter what it is, I, Lu Dongliu, will surely do my best to help you get it done.”

It was evident that he really meant what he said and was definitely not just appeasing Lu Man or placating her.

Chapter 1205: The Judges

Actually, both Lu Dongliu and Lu Man knew that despite Wang Juhuai’s reputation, his fame did not have a strong foundation in the country’s entertainment industry.

There were many things that Wang Juhuai could not do as well.

But he could still help out a little.

“You’re being too polite,” Lu Man said. “Alright, I will keep your words to heart.”

“Great,” Lu Dongliu replied jovially and ended the call.

On the other side, Wang Juhuai also finished exchanging formalities with Chief Lu.

Lu Man said, “Dad, this is all thanks to you this time.”

“If you have any more of these things next time, don’t hesitate to ask me,” Wang Juhuai said happily.

Lu Man laughed as she said, “Alright, but I can’t let you show your face too often or you won’t be mysterious anymore.”

At this moment, the official Weibo account of Classic X Files published the viewership ratings for the finale episode last night. There was even a screenshot of the online viewership ratings attached to it.

“What the f*ck, it’s 2.7! This viewership rating is clearly wiping out everything else!”

“When Lu Man’s around, be it the box office sales or viewership ratings, she’d clearly wipe them out!”

“Haha, the person above, you got it wrong. Let’s not talk about the box office sales for now. Including the previous time and this, the views were all dependent on others. Without Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng, and without Wang Juhuai, if it’s just based on her, Lu Man, alone? Haha!”

“The person above, I think you’re the one who got it wrong. Without Lu Man, you think the show can still invite Sun Yiwu, Ji Cheng, or even Wang Juhuai? Don’t be ridiculous!”

“Exactly, just based on Lu Man’s influence alone, she would indeed not be able to achieve such a high viewership rating. However, since Lu Man attended the show and tried her best to invite high-profile guests to boost the show’s ratings, the show surely didn’t invite her in vain. She put in so much effort, shouldn’t that be enough?”

“How high is the viewership ratings for Friday (with the Stars)? Isn’t Liang Chengbing very high-profile too?”

“With such high viewership ratings for Classic X Files, they surely got a sizeable portion of the viewership from Friday (with the Stars). Do we still need to talk about how bad their viewership ratings are now?”

Someone went to boluowang[1] to check and finally got the updated viewership ratings for Friday (with the Stars).

1.3396%.

“Tragic.”

“Cough. Liang Chengbing said he would not participate in any activities with Lu Man. In the end, the show that Lu Man was in had explosive viewership ratings while the show that Liang Chengbing attended had only average ratings. How would this be resolved?”

“Hahahahaha, thinking of this makes me want to laugh. Liang Chengbing wanted to blacklist Lu Man, but in the end, he got blacklisted by Wang Juhuai instead. In the past, Wang Juhuai would never attend such shows. But now, he broke his record for Lu Man. Next time, there will surely be more shows looking to invite Wang Juhuai. When that happens, what will happen to Liang Chengbing?”

“It’s not certain that Wang Juhuai will continue attending those shows. This time, he came precisely because of Lu Man. From what I see, I think if any show wants to invite Wang Juhuai, they will have to invite Lu Man first. Look at Classic X Files. Lu Man has already been in the spotlight twice because of this show.”

“Speaking of that, Classic X Files is the first show that invited Lu Man. As the first person to set the precedent, she surely earned a handsome sum from this.”

“Aish, I thought that it was already pretty impressive for Friday (with the Stars) to have invited Zhang Bo. Who would’ve thought that Classic X Files actually had a scene-stealer like Wang Juhuai? No wonder Classic X Files was not worried at all.”

Liang Chengbing also saw the online comments. He scoffed.

At that moment, the door to the office swung open.

Liang Chengbing looked up and saw that it was Yan Zhiqing.

“Director Liang, Teacher Gao,” Yan Zhiqing greeted.

It turned out that this was the office for the judges of the Fei Yue International Film Festival.

Chapter 1206: Playing Dirty Tricks

Aside from Liang Chengbing, there was also Gao Zishan, Dong Qinrong, Cao Jingcheng, and Zhang Shuidong. They were all judges for the film festival this time around.

Besides Liang Chengbing, Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng were also part of the directors involved as judges for the film festival.

However, as Lu Man’s name was sent in for both Best Female Lead and Best Supporting Female Lead categories, Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng both needed to be excluded from these two categories, so they could only participate as judges in the other award categories.

After a while, Gao Zishan, Dong Qinrong, Cao Jingcheng, and Zhang Shuidong arrived.

Thereafter, Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng came together as well.

“Zhiqing, long time no see.” Sun Yiwu was more familiar with Yan Zhiqing and smiled as he greeted her.

“Director Sun, Director Ji,” Yan Zhiqing immediately greeted them.

“I heard that you were filming for Anubis previously. It’s no easy feat, being able to get such an important role in a Hollywood film,” Sun Yiwu said.

“Please don’t say that. I’m just lucky. I watched your and Director Ji’s movies,” Yan Zhiqing immediately said. “Both of you are now the top renowned directors in the country. I’m afraid I won’t stand a chance to act in any of your future movies.”

“Aish, I just got lucky with the film this time,” Ji Cheng said as he smiled.

That was on top of Lu Man’s actions, which had helped.

If he shot another film, it would definitely not have the same results.

Sun Yiwu laughed as he said, “How can that be? I’m afraid I wouldn’t be able to invite you to act in my films now.”

“You think too highly of me. As long as you give the word, I will definitely come and act in your film. If both of you have any upcoming films, please keep me in mind.” Yan Zhiqing seized the opportunity to say this.

Although she had the Yan family and the Han family as her backing, the families could not entirely control who the directors picked.

Especially since she did not want her family to specially invest in her acting career, she had to be smooth and a little sly when seizing opportunities for herself.

However, Yan Zhiqing also took sides with people.

She knew that Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng were on good terms with Lu Man, so she naturally would not mind being friendly with both of them.

As for Liang Chengbing—

Haha, go to hell!

When he saw that Yan Zhiqing did not bother talking to him aside from an initial greeting when she came in but instead kept flattering Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng, Liang Chengbing's face immediately fell.

Yan Zhiqing obviously thought that he was beneath Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng. She was looking down on him!

Liang Chengbing pulled a long face and said in a low voice, "Since everyone is here, let's start."

Sun Yiwu smiled and Ji Cheng sat down. Yan Zhiqing also went back to her seat.

The staff passed the name list for the various categories to each of the judges.

They needed to vote from the name list the actors or actresses that would get into the nomination round.

Only the ones that have entered the nomination round would be considered to have been nominated.

"Let's start from the Best Film award," Gao Zishan said.

"There's mine and Brother Ji's film in this category. Both of us will abstain from the voting, then," Sun Yiwu said.

Although that was what he said, this round was only the voting to select the list of nominees. Everyone still had to give them face.

Without a doubt, both of them were selected.

One by one, the awards were voted on. Finally, it was time to vote for the Best Female Lead.

Seeing Lu Man's name on the list, Liang Chengbing scoffed.

With him around, how could he possibly allow Lu Man to be nominated?

Ha!

It did not matter whether it was the Best Female Lead or Best Supporting Female Lead.

He would not even let her make it to the nomination round!

So what if she had Wang Juhuai?

Could it be possible that Wang Juhuai would interfere with the panel of judges for the film festival?

Furthermore, with so many guests around to vote, could Wang Juhuai still blame him for anything?

"I don't agree with nominating Lu Man for Best Female Lead," Liang Chengbing said.

Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng's faces immediately darkened.

Chapter 1207: The Veto Power of One Vote

Yan Zhiqing asked, "Why? I watched Lu Man's performance. She acted very well."

"However, her performance as the female lead in the film isn't outstanding enough." Liang Chengbing explained and reasoned, "Red Tiger was a team performance, so there is no obvious bias towards any of the characters. Every character is a main character. Similarly, this diminishes the spotlight on Lu Man's female lead role. She did not fully express her character in the film. There are only five spots in the nomination round. There are other actresses who have acted exceptionally well. If we give one spot to Lu Man, that will be too much of a waste. The films that were nominated this time include those that placed emphasis on the female lead and some tearful art films, many of which had the effect of emphasizing the role of the female lead and allowing the actresses to fully unleash their acting skills. I want to leave this chance to other actresses who are more deserving."

He made it sound so justified and logical that it was impossible for others to say that he was abusing his authority for his own private revenge.

Gao Zishan nodded. "I agree with Director Liang's view."

Dong Qinrong said, "I agree too."

Cao Jingcheng also agreed.

It would be no use even if Yan Zhiqing wanted to choose Lu Man.

In the end, Lu Man did not get nominated for Best Female Lead.

When it came to the voting on the Best Supporting Female Lead, Yan Zhiqing first said, "This time, Director Liang won't object to nominating Lu Man, right? This is for Supporting Female Lead. Lu Man acted really well in her role as the supporting female lead. Despite being a newcomer, she fully unleashed her acting skills. Furthermore, in the name list this time, the importance allocated to the various actresses' roles is more or less the same. I have also watched the performance of others. Lu Man is really one of the outstanding ones among them."

Yan Zhiqing did not try to stand on formalities with Liang Chengbing because of his status as a director and looked at him straight in the eye.

Although Liang Chengbing made it sound so reasonable and justified just now, Yan Zhiqing knew all too clearly that Liang Chengbing was simply abusing his power for his own private revenge.

"I think Lu Man is not bad. I will vote to nominate her for the Best Supporting Female Lead," Gao Zishan said.

"Lu Man's performance in the film is really commendable and outstanding. I will cast a vote for her too," Dong Qinrong said.

Cao Jingcheng also voted for Lu Man.

Whereas Liang Chengbing was purposely picking on Lu Man, the three of them were really looking at things objectively. They were not making things hard for anyone on purpose.

Yan Zhiqing laughed. "I also vote one for Lu Man. In that case, Lu Man will be nominated for Best Supporting Female Lead."

"Hold up!" Just before Yan Zhiqing was about to announce it, Liang Chengbing cut her off.

Yan Zhiqing's face hardened. "Director Liang, what other instructions do you have?"

"I won't dare to give instructions." Liang Chengbing smirked. He could tell that Yan Zhiqing was on Lu Man's side.

He did not know why Yan Zhiqing suddenly wanted to help Lu Man.

Could it be that she wanted to side with Lu Man after learning of her status as Wang Juhuai's daughter?

Was Yan Zhiqing thinking of hitting on Wang Juhuai?

If not that, he really could not fathom why Yan Zhiqing would want to help Lu Man.

These two people had no relation to each other and had probably never worked together before.

"I disagree with nominating Lu Man for Best Supporting Female Lead," Liang Chengbing said in a gloating manner.

Seeing the disgustingly gloating look on his face made Yan Zhiqing really want to tear it up!

"Director Liang, it doesn't really matter whether you agree or not this time. I and the other judges have already cast our votes," Yan Zhiqing reminded him.

"If I remember correctly, each of the judges has one chance to veto the decision of all the judges, right? I am exercising my right to veto now. I want to remove Lu Man's nomination," Liang Chengbing said smugly.

Yan Zhiqing did not even try to put up with Liang Chengbing. She was probably not scared of Liang Chengbing at all.

Chapter 1208: Use Public Means to Deal with Personal Revenges

To be honest, there was no one in the industry who would dare to kill off her career.

Among those there, perhaps it was only she who'd dare to fight against Liang Chengbing.

"Liang Chengbing!" Yan Zhiqing directly shouted his entire name.[1] "You're not being an impartial judge anymore. You're using public means to deal with your personal grudges! You just don't want to let Lu Man be nominated, right?"

"Hmph, I've really never met someone who is as shameless as you," Yan Zhiqing said coldly. "For the nomination of Best Female Lead just now, at least there was some logic and proof. However, right now, we've all voted for her to pass, but you just want to use one vote to deny her right and eliminate her. Don't you dare say that it's because you think she's not good enough!"

With him getting pointed at the nose and shouted at by Yan Zhiqing, Liang Chengbing's face turned green. "I do think that she's not good enough and does not have the right to pass. It's your matter if you people think that she's good. Things like this have always been very subjective. Lu Man didn't meet my standards, so I can't vote for her. It's such a pity that all of you have voted for her to pass, but I just can't let people whom I think are bad to get through."

Yan Zhiqing's eyes narrowed. Her lungs were filled with fury from how shameless Liang Chengbing was. "Because you don't think she's good, she can't pass?"

Yan Zhiqing was so angry she laughed sarcastically. "The point of having a group of judges is to prevent a situation where one person's words goes. Yes, when it comes to judging, the judge's subjective preferences do come to play, and that's why we need to have many judges to judge together to prevent one judge from judging purely based on their own preferences. You're so impressive. If you can just disregard all the other judges' opinions and only let the people you like to pass, then what's the point of having the group of us? Why don't you just judge alone?"

"Yet, you clearly haven't reached that level yet. You're not a top director, and neither have you received credibility from the public, yet you think that you can do whatever you want with your own judgment?" Yan Zhiqing mocked bluntly.

Liang Chengbing was extremely furious, but he just didn't have the ability to offend Yan Zhiqing.

He sat on the chair, acting all cocky and stubborn. "Since the organizers have given me the right to have one chance to override with just my one vote, then I have the right to use it."

For previous seasons of judges, all of them had one chance to use their vote to override the ruling, but none of them would use it so easily.

This right was not for the judges to use it however they wanted to, but as a precaution for a particular scenario.

That is, when the winner indeed didn't have the right to win that award but, because of some private reasons, a very unfair situation was created.

When that happens, if there was anyone in the judges who were upright, they could use their one vote to override the decision.

Therefore, this right was left only for when the judges had to use it no matter what, to ensure that the film festival was fair.

"Everyone fully knows what the organizers' intention for giving us this vote was. It's not for you to use it so easily and however you want to!" Yan Zhiqing roared furiously.

How did this scum Liang Chengbing sneak his way into the judging team?!

He was only just stirring up trouble!

"I just want to use it now, so what?" Liang Chengbing said unreasonably.

Yan Zhiqing's eyes narrowed. Hmph, he wanted to play this trick with her?

He just wanted to play this?

As if no one else would!

Liang Chengbing's film was participating too. She probably doesn't have much say over the others, but she will at least drag down one of his two nominations of Best Film or Best Director.

Yan Zhiqing secretly observed Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng's reaction. She felt that the two of them would be willing to help too.

Therefore, in her hand, she could at least make sure that she had three of this special votes.

Yan Zhiqing's silence misled Liang Chengbing into thinking that Yan Zhiqing felt that she couldn't do anything, and that only made him even more smug.

Sun Yiwu stood up and said coldly, "I didn't expect that such a situation would occur in just the first day of judging. Looks like today's judging can't continue, so let's stop here. We still need to discuss how to handle such a situation. If everyone were to mindlessly use the overriding vote, then how could we continue with the rest of the judging? And what is the point of the impartiality of this competition?"

[1] In China, it is quite rude to address someone by their full name.

Chapter 1209: Wait for the Results

Among the judges, Sun Yiwu had the most powerful voice.

Therefore, it was only most appropriate for Sun Yiwu to say something like that.

However, Liang Chengbing was unhappy. "Wouldn't that be such a waste of time? There are still all sorts of awards that we will have to continue deciding on, right? It has only been such a short time but we have to stop here? All of our time is so precious. Let alone us, the major awards from the film festival will have to be revealed on time too. If this continues, what if we cannot finish judging all the awards in time?"

Ji Cheng said coldly, "Oh, so now you're thinking about how important the judging is? Because of your own selfishness, you used your professional privilege for the wrong means, and now you still have the cheek to question why it has to stop?"

Liang Chengbing slammed the table angrily and stood up. "What do you mean by using my professional privilege for the wrong means? I'm just using my right as judge legally!"

Yan Zhiqing laughed coldly. "Alright, I will report this word for word to the organizers!"

"We will also give feedback accordingly to them," Ji Cheng said.

"Ha!" Liang Chengbing behaved like he wasn't afraid at all. "Just because of that Lu Man? You guys say that I'm not being fair, but are you guys being fair? All of you are in good relations with Lu Man, so you want her to be nominated. But does Lu Man really deserve it? There are plenty of people who are better than her!"

Yan Zhiqing's eyes narrowed and she said coldly, "We felt that you were right and logical about Lu Man's Best Female Lead nomination, so we rejected her. You are still saying that we are being unfair?"

"Never mind, Zhiqing," Sun Yiwu said.

Liang Chengbing raised his eyebrows. He thought that Sun Yiwu felt guilty and was backing out because of what he said.

Yet right after that, Sun Yiwu continued, "There's no point wasting your energy on him. Just tell the organizers everything honestly as it is, let the organizers make their own judgment."

Sun Yiwu then asked Gao Zishan and the others, "Zishan, Xiao Dong, Jingcheng, what do you guys think?"

"I have nothing against it." Cao Jingcheng stood up. "I also feel that it's not quite right. We should just stop here for today's judging."

Gao Zishan stood up as well. "I agree with Director Sun."

Gao Zishan agreed that it was important to be fair with the judging. However, other than that, she still wanted to continue expanding her career in this industry, so she naturally had her own considerations.

Among Sun Yiwu, Ji Cheng, and Liang Chengbing, if she had to pick one person to offend, she would naturally pick Liang Chengbing.

Moreover, there was Yan Zhiqing's background to consider.

If she chose to stand on the same side as Yan Zhiqing, there was nothing wrong with that.

Since the other two had already stated their views, Dong Qinrong also didn't have any other choice. Hence, she followed Gao Zishan and Cao Jingcheng's choice and stood up, saying, "I think that what Director Sun said makes sense."

Seeing that there was no one standing on his side, Liang Chengbing nodded his head over and over in anger. "Alright, alright, alright, then! Let us just wait for the results, then!"

After that, Liang Chengbing strode out of the office.

In the office, he spoke so confidently and assuredly, but the moment he stepped into the car, he immediately called Executive Dong from the organizers of the film festival. "Mr. Dong, I'm Liang Chengbing."

In the office, Gao Zishan first expressed, "I judge purely based on the work and from the acting skills. I'll never bring in any personal feelings. I'll continue doing so for the rest of the judging and would not particularly side with any party."

"I can trust you guys." Sun Yiwu nodded. "When we have to avoid trouble, we will all do the same."

Gao Zishan nodded and smiled lightly. "Then I'll be making a move first. Will we be continuing once the results are out, or will we be continuing tomorrow?"

“Wait for my notice. I’ll rush the organizers to give us a reply as soon as possible,” Sun Yiwu said. “However, we’ve wasted some time because of this, so we might have to work overtime in the future. It will be a bit more difficult.”

Chapter 1210: Had the Same Thought Without Discussing

“That’s ok, I can use this period of time to properly analyze those major works some more,” Gao Zishan said.

While the nominations for many awards had not been decided, there were a few that a lot of people were cheering for. It wasn’t certain whether or not they would finally win the award, but they will definitely receive a nomination.

If nothing went wrong among the judges during the judging, then they would definitely be nominated.

As this was an international film festival, there would naturally be many films from all over the world.

Those films would be vying for those major awards like Best Foreign Film, Best Director, Best Film, Best Male Lead, Best Female Lead, Best Supporting Male Lead, and Best Supporting Female Lead.

All these awards required watching and rewatching the film and the actors’ performances many times for one to make a decision.

“We will do the same too,” Dong Qinrong and Cao Jingcheng expressed.

The three of them decided to wait for the notice. Then, they left.

Yan Zhiqing smiled and said, “Director Sun, Director Ji, shall we find a place to sit down?”

“I had the exact same thoughts.” Sun Yiwu smiled and nodded.

The three of them found a cafe with a private booth where no one could disturb them.

“What do you two think about this incident with Liang Chengbing?” Yan Zhiqing asked. “Let me say my opinions first. Even if we reflect this situation up to the organizers, let’s put aside whether or not the organizers would remove Liang Chengbing from the team. Such official decisions often have much red-tape and will take a long time. By the time they make a decision, we still don’t know how long we will have to wait. If this continues dragging on, our judging work will really be delayed. Perhaps even right before the start of the film festival, they still might not have come to a decision.”

“This is indeed the tricks that the official organizers would pull.” Ji Cheng nodded. He understood it very well.

“Besides, to be honest, everyone is in this industry. I’ve been in this industry for a short time, but Liang Chengbing has been around for quite long, so he definitely has some personal connections. He definitely knows someone among the organizers. When the time comes, there could be some happenings going on internally among the organizers, and perhaps this incident will just be brushed aside and forgotten and not be resolved,” Yan Zhiqing said. “My point is, we should still reflect the situation up to them, but we still have to plan ahead just in case the organizers do nothing, such that in the upcoming judging work, if Liang Chengbing is still in the mix causing trouble, we would know how to handle it.”

Sun Yiwu nodded. "I was thinking the same too."

Sun Yiwu couldn't help but feel comfortable immediately.

Yan Zhiqing was thinking very clearly; she knew what was up.

He felt that interacting with Yan Zhiqing almost felt like he was interacting with Lu Man.

This was the feeling of interacting with intelligent people. It was very comfortable.

No matter what the matter was, everyone had thought it through clearly already. They didn't have to waste more time and energy to explain to the other party.

If the other people didn't understand you, you'd still have to open it up and break it down into pieces to let the other party understand.

Sun Yiwu couldn't help but think that those from the Eight Great Families were indeed different.

Usually, he had never heard anything special about Yan Zhiqing.

Even just a few years ago, Yan Zhiqing had been known for being stubborn. This made it very easy for other people to underestimate her.

They felt that she only had a pretty face and relied on her family, but she alone couldn't do much.

But right now, from the looks of it, that wasn't the case at all!

A lot of people had belittled Yan Zhiqing.

Sun Yiwu thought for a while. Yan Zhiqing didn't have to personally suggest certain things.

He then said, "Even if the organizers do nothing and our judging continues, each of us still has one override vote in our hands."

As expected, he had the same thought as Yan Zhiqing even without discussing it with her.

Yan Zhiqing smiled and said, "I didn't choose to discuss with Gao Zishan and the others and chose the two of you instead. As expected, I didn't trust the wrong people."

"Hahahaha!" Ji Cheng said. "I could tell too. You must have a pretty good relationship with Lu Man, right?"