

**Mr Han 1221**

**Chapter 1221: Han Zhuoli Personally Asks**

He had personally contacted Gao Zishan, Dong Qinrong, and Cao Jingcheng.

The three of them were considered to have the least interests involved amongst the panel of judges.

To be honest, in the country's entertainment industry, the scope was limited to a certain extent. No matter who you looked for to be the judge, there would surely be some inevitable sliver of connection between the judges, works, and actors.

The top directors and actors that had power in the country all happened to have good productions in their hands.

This was an unavoidable conflict of interest. The organizers could only try their best to find people with the least conflict of interests involved to be the judges.

It just so happened that Gao Zishan and the other two judges did not have any productions that aired this year.

However, the three of them definitely had their own close circle of friends within the industry. Could there not be any bit of bias involved when they were judging the productions?

This was hard to say.

Furthermore, the famous directors among them had productions that were selected for the film festival.

Those directors that did not have films selected for the film festival would not have enough status or reputation to be on the panel of judges.

What could they do?

Luckily, Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng were considered to be more professional and knew that they should avoid gossip.

He just did not expect Liang Chengbing to cause trouble.

Gao Zishan and the other two judges were on the fence and did not want to offend either party, so they just objectively described what had happened back then for Ke Kebo to judge on his own.

Based on the trio's descriptions, Ke Kebo could tell that Liang Chengbing was indeed the problem.

When most of the judges had voted "yes" and there was no evidence of flouting rules of fair competition, it was indeed too much of him to activate a crucial veto vote simply because he personally did not like the result.

However, Ke Kebo did not immediately come to a decision. It was because he had his reservations and needed to consider the big picture.

If he wanted to remove Liang Chengbing, it would be fine if it was done secretly. However, if someone knew about it and decided to pursue the reason for Liang Chengbing's removal, this would surely put this year's film festival in a bad light and greatly affect the prestige and reputation of the film festival.

This was a time when the Fei Yue International Film Festival needed international recognition. The scale of the Fei Yue International Film Festival was not fully built up yet, and it did not have enough international influence. Compared to those established film festivals, there was still a huge gap.

They really wanted to carve their home brand on the international stage. Hence, they had to make sure that no such scandals like these came out.

This was also the reason that Ke Kebo had yet to make up his mind and agreed with Executive Dong to meet Liang Chengbing.

Now that Han Zhuoli had specifically requested to meet him, Ke Kebo had a gut feeling that it had something to do with the film festival's judges.

Although he had that thought, he still felt that it was a little ridiculous and did not dare to believe what he had guessed.

After all, he could not fathom how Han Zhuoli was related to any of the judges involved in the film festival.

Was it because of Yan Zhiqing?

The Yan Family and the Han Family were on good terms.

Ke Kebo could not think of a plausible reason on his own, but since Han Zhuoli personally asked, Ke Kebo could not reject him.

"If Young Master Han asked, I will surely agree," Ke Kebo said with a smile.

"Mr. Ke..." Liang Chengbing anxiously interjected.

Executive Dong also spoke. "Brother Ke..."

Liang Chengbing had pleaded with him, and he was also the one who'd asked Ke Kebo out.

Now that Ke Kebo was about to ditch them and talk with Han Zhuoli, it would look bad on Executive Dong as well.

Ke Kebo said, "You guys should wait here first. I will go and talk to Young Master Han. You both can order the dishes first."

He'd already said as much. No matter how unhappy Liang Chengbing and Executive Dong were, what else could they say?

Ke Kebo laughed as if he did not sense their unwillingness and said to Han Zhuoli, "Young Master Han, please."

## **Chapter 1222: Complete Withdrawal**

Han Zhuoli smiled slightly and nodded as he side-eyed Liang Chengbing.

Liang Chengbing seemed to sense the sarcasm in Han Zhuoli's look.

Could it be that Han Zhuoli was going after him?

It couldn't be, right?

A mere director like him could not afford to offend Han Zhuoli. Hence, he had always been very polite towards Han Zhuoli. How could he have offended Han Zhuoli?

His most recent encounter with Han Zhuoli was at the road sealing incident.

However, he had been very polite towards Han Zhuoli from start to end and did not do anything that was out of hand.

No matter how he drew the connections, it led to nowhere.

Liang Chengbing could not wrap his head around it.

Furthermore, Ke Kebo had already gone out with Han Zhuoli and turned towards the room that Zheng Tianming had booked.

The moment he came in, he realized that there were already dishes prepared on the table.

Han Zhuoli was that confident that he would surely choose to come with him.

"Mr. Ke, please have a seat." Han Zhuoli gestured towards the dining table.

Ke Kebo remained confused even as he sat down.

When Han Zhuoli sat down, Ke Kebo asked, "Young Master Han, I wonder what I..."

"It's related to the judges of the film festival," Han Zhuoli calmly said. "On this matter, consider it as my exceeding my duties and interfering with this. However, I heard from Zhiqing what Liang Chengbing had done. I strongly feel that he is really not suitable to continue being one of the judges for the film festival this time."

Ke Kebo was shocked. Han Zhuoli would never have interfered with anything regarding the international film festival in the past.

No matter how many films or artistes from the Han Corporation were nominated, Han Zhuoli would not interfere with it. He would not even ask more than a word about it.

Why did he come personally to find him this time?

Han Zhuoli turned the ring on his left ring finger twice and said, "I have never interfered with anything in the past years. It was because the judges in the previous years were considerably fair. Since the judges are people, there would surely be some subjectivity involved. However, the judges from the previous years have all kept their biases within the scope of the rules and did not cross the line. As for those subjective reasons, I can understand. However, this time around, matters have gone a bit overboard."

Han Zhuoli said coldly, "The organizers gave each of the judges one chance to veto a decision because they wanted to prevent some unethical behavior. It is not a chance for the judges to abuse their power. Liang Chengbing has already crossed the line."

"The Fei Yue International Film Festival is led by the Han Corporation, and we have shares in it as well. Once something goes wrong, this would definitely deal a huge blow to the reputation of the Han

Corporation.” Han Zhuoli lowered his voice and said, “Mr. Ke, since the Fei Yue International Film Festival wants to build up its own reputation, it surely has to make everything fair and transparent. Don’t bury a time bomb for the sake of a rat. As for me, I won’t let a mere rat’s shit tarnish the reputation of my Han Corporation. The Fei Yue International Film Festival isn’t just your matter alone, it is a matter of the Han Corporation. The products that the Han Corporation invests in cannot taint the reputation of the company.

“I won’t play around with the reputation of the Han Corporation. If this film festival is a place for children to play in and if it will indulge Liang Chengbing who’s disrupting the order of the judging panel, then for the sake of my company’s image, I will cease to work with the film festival. The films that the Han Corporation produces, as well as the artistes under our company, will no longer participate in the film festival.

“If the organizers of the film festival do not deal with Liang Chengbing’s matter and manage to get away without being exposed by sheer luck, then the Han Corporation will completely withdraw from the film festival next year. If you’re not lucky and Liang Chengbing’s matter got exposed, then the Han Corporation will request for all our artistes and productions to pull out of this competition.” Han Zhuoli slowly said, “Of course, this is only if the organizers do not deal with Liang Chengbing’s matter.”

### **Chapter 1223: Turned Cold**

Ke Kebo did not speak a word. His face was somber.

Han Zhuoli was not giving him a choice.

If the films produced by the Han Corporation, as well as the artistes under the company, all pulled out of the film festival, then what would be the point of holding the film festival?

There were not many international films that participated in the film festival to begin with. Most of them were homegrown films. However, if more than half of the industry did not participate, what was the point of the remaining few participating?

In that case, the film festival would have long lost its glamor and prestige, turning into a laughingstock instead!

What’s a film festival that only had a small minority of homegrown films participating in it?

Who would acknowledge the awards that it gave out?

If that were to happen, the film festival would be lifeless.

The second possibility was that Liang Chengbing’s incident would get exposed and the Han Corporation would immediately withdraw. It would even make the Han Corporation seem especially upright and disdainful of partnering with them.

No matter what the situation was, it would just be detrimental to the film festival while leaving the Han Corporation untouched. The Han Corporation might even receive the applause of the public.

Furthermore, Ke Kebo felt that even though Han Zhuoli did not mention it, it did not mean that he would not expose Liang Chengbing.

If Han Zhuoli could personally come and make things so clear to him today, he surely did not intend to keep Liang Chengbing.

If he did not agree to him and Han Zhuoli exposed Liang Chengbing directly, things would play out like in the first scenario.

Ke Kebo thought of all these within a short time.

“Young Master Han, it’s not that I don’t want to kick Liang Chengbing out of the panel of judges. However, the impact would be too great if I do that.” Ke Kebo explained helplessly, “The official publicity channels of the film festival have already publicly announced the list of judges previously. If we announce that we are removing Liang Chengbing now, we would surely have to give everyone an explanation. I’m afraid that this would create a negative impact on the film festival.”

Han Zhuoli tapped his fingertips on the table. “So Mr. Ke agrees that we should remove Liang Chengbing’s status as a judge?”

Ke Kebo said hesitantly, “If it is possible to avoid leaving a bad image on the film festival, if there wasn’t this layer of consideration, I will surely be willing to remove Liang Chengbing’s status as a judge.”

Han Zhuoli nodded. “You have Wei Zilin’s contact. Hire him to handle the public relations of the film festival. I assure you that this matter will not only have no negative impact on the film festival, but it will even give the film festival a good reputation.”

Ke Kebo was shocked. “I am aware of Mr. Wei’s PR capabilities. However, I’m afraid that Lin Yi won’t have time to come and work for us. From what I know, Lin Yi’s schedule is already fully packed until the end of the year.”

Furthermore, Wei Zilin very rarely handled things personally.

He had thought of looking for Lu Man before. However, Lu Man was one of the shortlisted actresses in the film festival’s name list.

To avoid gossip, Ke Kebo had ditched that idea.

Similarly, Han Zhuoli did not introduce Lu Man because of this consideration.

It was fine if people did not know. If they did, Lu Man would be accused by others of exploiting her position for personal gain, even if she got selected fairly.

“I have already given Zilin a heads up,” Han Zhuoli said. “As long as you go and find him, he will accept this case.”

“I understand.” Ke Kebo nodded. “Then from now on, Liang Chengbing will no longer be a judge in the film festival.”

Han Zhuoli smiled in satisfaction and poured a glass of red wine for Ke Kebo. “What do you think about staying here for a meal, Mr. Ke?”

“Hahaha, it is my honor to be able to have a meal with Young Master Han,” Ke Kebo said with a laugh. He gave Executive Dong a call right in front of Han Zhuoli.

“Brother Ke.” On this side, Executive Dong had immediately picked up the phone when Ke Kebo called. Executive Dong also felt extremely unsettled when Ke Kebo was suddenly called away by Han Zhuoli.

### **Chapter 1224: Placating**

However, compared to Liang Chengbing, he was still much more relaxed.

Liang Chengbing’s heart was hanging just by a thread and he did not dare to relax at all.

Now that Ke Kebo finally called, Liang Chengbing’s heart immediately leaped up to his throat as he fixed his gaze on Executive Dong.

“Brother Dong,” Ke Kebo said as he smiled. “My apologies, I think I might have to chat for quite a while with Young Master Han. You guys can go ahead and eat. Don’t wait for me. When you’re done, you both can go back first and get on with what you have to do.”

Executive Dong knew something was not right when he heard that. They had not even talked about anything here and Ke Kebo just asked them to go back.

Who knew what Han Zhuoli had said to him on the other side?

“Brother Ke, Director Liang has important things to discuss with you today as well,” Executive Dong immediately said. “You can carry on on your side and talk to Young Master Han about whatever you need to discuss. You don’t need to worry about us. We will just be waiting for you here. When you’re done chatting, we can talk again.”

On the other end of the phone, Ke Kebo’s smile faded. “Brother Dong, I think you should be able to understand what I mean. I can’t talk about Director Liang’s matter. I know the purpose of you calling me over tonight, but don’t put me in a spot. To tell you the truth, between him and our film festival, I would prioritize our film festival. I can’t possibly ruin the good reputation of our film festival that had been built up over the years, or the reputation of the filmmakers in the country, simply because of him alone.

“Furthermore, this matter was his fault to begin with,” Ke Kebo said in a low voice. “Brother Dong, I treat you as a friend. That’s why I’m telling you my real thoughts. As for Liang Chengbing, just forget it. Brother Dong, since I treat you as a friend, you shouldn’t put me in a spot either.”

Executive Dong knew then that this matter had reached a point of no return.

Ke Kebo’s attitude was not like this previously. He did not know what Han Zhuoli said to him that made Ke Kebo become so resolute on this.

“I got it,” Executive Dong said. “Then I won’t make things difficult for you anymore.”

Anyway, he was just a middleman.

He had already done what he needed to do for Liang Chengbing.

After ending the call, Executive Dong sighed and said to Liang Chengbing, "Director Liang, Brother Ke has something on and can't come over anymore."

"But..." Liang Chengbing got anxious. "Didn't we already agree on this? Why did Mr. Ke suddenly change his attitude?"

Liang Chengbing naturally guessed that Han Zhuoli might have said something to Ke Kebo.

However, Ke Kebo was the only person who could help him now.

"This isn't something I can control either." Since he had fulfilled his duties, Executive Dong did not want to discuss the matter further. "Let's call it a day. I'll head back first."

Liang Chengbing said anxiously, "Executive Dong, you can't just leave like that."

Liang Chengbing hurriedly grabbed Executive Dong's elbow and said, "About my matter—"

Executive Dong politely retrieved his elbow from his grip and said, "You asked for my help and I have indeed helped you. I helped you to ask Brother Ke out and my job is done. However, some changes happened along the way and that's something beyond my control."

Executive Dong walked to the door and said, "Director Liang, that's all for now."

After saying that, Executive Dong left in a hurry, as if afraid that Liang Chengbing would continue pestering him.

Liang Chengbing could not make Executive Dong stay, but he did not leave either.

He just waited there for Ke Kebo to come out.

After a long time, when Ke Kebo had eaten his fill, he came out together with Han Zhuoli.

Liang Chengbing immediately went up to greet him. "Mr. Ke."

Ke Kebo pretended to be surprised as he stared at Liang Chengbing and said, "Director Liang, why haven't you gone back?"

Liang Chengbing glanced at Han Zhuoli before saying to Ke Kebo, "Mr. Ke, I was waiting for you all this while. I wonder if you have time to spare now?"

### **Chapter 1225: Didn't You Taste It Just Now?**

Ke Kebo said awkwardly, "I'm afraid I don't."

Ke Kebo glanced sideways at Han Zhuoli uncomfortably and said, "Director Liang, I already know what you want to talk to me about."

Liang Chengbing thought there was a glimmer of hope and said, "Then why don't we..."

"No need, no need." Ke Kebo smiled and said, "I really cannot make it tonight. Let's meet again another day. As for your matter, I will remember it. Don't worry."

Hearing Ke Kebo's words made Liang Chengbing feel as though he did not need to worry and could just continue being a judge.

It was as if he had not been affected by Han Zhuoli.

Or did Han Zhuoli come and find him for something completely different?

Liang Chengbing looked at Han Zhuoli and asked, "Young Master Han, does the Han Corporation have a new investment in the film festival?"

Han Zhuoli looked over coldly and said, "It's still in the preliminary planning phase."

Liang Chengbing nodded and heaved a sigh of relief. It looked like the matter Han Zhuoli came to look for Ke Kebo for was really not related to him.

That's good.

"Alright, then, I won't disturb you anymore." Liang Chengbing finally relaxed and smiled. "Mr. Ke, when you're free, I'll invite you over again for dinner."

Ke Kebo smiled at him. But when would he have the time?

That was hard to say.

He should just placate Liang Chengbing first and think about it later.

As if afraid that Liang Chengbing would continue to pester him, once he walked out to the entrance of Sheng Yue, Ke Kebo said, "Young Master Han, Director Liang, I will take my leave first."

"Goodbye, Mr. Ke," Han Zhuoli said politely.

Liang Chengbing thought of taking the chance to leave together with Ke Kebo.

However, Ke Kebo did not give him the chance. Once the chauffeur drove over, Ke Kebo immediately got inside the car.

After sending Ke Kebo off with his gaze, Han Zhuoli said to Liang Chengbing, "Goodbye, Director Liang."

Liang Chengbing gaped. In the end, he could only force out a reply and say, "Young Master Han, goodbye."

Seeing Han Zhuoli enter his car, Liang Chengbing had a nagging feeling that something was off, but he could not put his finger on it.

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Han Zhuoli walked to the villa. The moment he entered the villa, he saw that Lu Man was already waiting at the front door.

"You're back? Did you drink?" Lu Man had already placed the slippers out for Han Zhuoli and leaned over to take a sniff.

There was a light scent of red wine on him, which was not a bad smell.



Han Zhuoli chuckled. "I just had a bit of red wine."

Before Han Zhuoli changed his shoes, he pulled Lu Man into his arms and lowered his head to kiss her on the lips.

The scent of red wine on the tip of his tongue mingled with her breath.

He lowered his head with his lips still on hers as he asked softly, "Didn't I?"

Lu Man sucked on her lips and tasted the scent of red wine in her breath.

Whether it was because he kissed her or because of the taste of the red wine, her face started to redden.

"Quick, change out of your shoes and clothes. I'll make some honey water for you," Lu Man said.

Han Zhuoli obediently let go of Lu Man and changed out of his shoes. He then went upstairs to the bedroom to change into comfortable clothes.

Lu Man took the cup of honey water upstairs for him and asked, "How was dinner? Did you just drink and not eat?"

"I ate a bit and did not drink much." Han Zhuoli drank some of the honey water before pulling Lu Man into his arms. "Didn't you taste it just now?"

Lu Man was really afraid that she would spill the cup's contents with her hands on the cup and Han Zhuoli hugging her like this.

Thinking of the taste in her mouth just then, Lu Man's body heated up. He didn't drink a lot, yet it seemed like she was the one who drank a lot instead.

"I think you didn't drink a lot either," Lu Man said weakly.

Han Zhuoli chuckled softly, his laughter exceptionally melodious.

Lu Man subconsciously glanced up and saw the nice curve on the corners of his lips. His smile was hard for anyone to handle. Coupled with that melodious laughter of his, it made Lu Man become even more soft.

### **Chapter 1226: Preparing for Pregnancy**

"I remember your words. Drink less alcohol and drink more soup for nourishment," Han Zhuoli said in a low voice.

Lu Man did not have much dating experience and did not know if there were many men like Han Zhuoli who would take their wife's words so seriously, remember it by heart, and actually do put these words into action.

She felt that that could not be the case.

Otherwise, why would there be so many women out there cursing at their own boyfriends or husbands?

Men like Han Zhuoli were the rarest of the rare.

He was like a national treasure.

Lu Man loosened her grip on the cup. Luckily, Han Zhuoli was also holding on to the cup.

Han Zhuoli gulped down the remaining honey water in the cup all at once.

Lu Man then cupped Han Zhuoli's face as her eyes curved in a bright smile.

"Why are you so happy?" Han Zhuoli laughed.

However, seeing her so happy made him happy too.

"Because of you." Lu Man simply felt that she could not love him enough. "How is my husband so nice?"

Han Zhuoli instantly tightened his arm around her waist and flipped around and caught her in his embrace. "That's because my wife is nice and lovable too."

As he said that, he planted a kiss on Lu Man's lips.

His lips imparted the sweet taste of honey and red wine, making her intoxicated by it.

Lu Man subconsciously wrapped her arms around his neck as his hands searched for sparks all over her body.

Wherever his palm touched, it left a burning hot sensation. It made her breathing hitch and her chest heave intensely.

Subconsciously, Lu Man began to imitate Han Zhuoli's hand movements and let her hands roam around his chest and back.

When she was about to reach his crotch, Han Zhuoli suddenly stopped.

Lu Man let out a whimper and wanted to lean in more.

Han Zhuoli kissed her lips. It was as if he was intoxicated by this lass. He could not get enough of her no matter what.

"Year Two is almost over, right?" Forget it, there's still two more months before the summer break.

Lu Man was still in a daze and her brain had already stopped working.

When she heard Han Zhuoli's question, she merely answered reflexively, "Yeah."

As to how long more until the school break, her mind was still in a daze so she could not figure it out either.

Han Zhuoli took a deep breath but still felt a little restless. "Then when you're in Year Three, we can start to prepare for pregnancy."

When Lu Man heard that, she immediately sobered up.

She actually could not wait to give Han Zhuoli a child either.

After all, Han Zhuoli was not young anymore.

Although the elders in the family did not mention it, they were also anxious about it.

Furthermore, giving birth to a cute and round little baby sounded wonderful.

“Why don’t we start preparing now?” Lu Man lowered her head as she twitched her fingers, wanting to remove the “raincoat” that was covering “little Han.”

Han Zhuoli quickly grabbed her hand and prevented her from creating trouble.

He was having a hard time holding it in right now. He did not want to meet his end the moment she unzipped him.

He would not be able to bear that shame.

“We agreed to wait until you’re in Year Three,” Han Zhuoli said. “Since we want to prepare for pregnancy, we have to take it seriously and prepare properly for it. We won’t do things without preparation.”

“Then why are you telling me now?” Lu Man poked at him and said, “You made me anxious for nothing... Actually, it’s the same even if I give birth in Year Three.”

“There’s no rush.” Han Zhuoli finally managed to restrain his urge and took a deep breath in satisfaction before he said, “We just got married. We should enjoy some time as newlyweds as well.”

When they give birth to a child, even if they hired someone to look after the child, it would still be different from now when it was just the two of them.

Han Zhuoli yearned for a child as well, not because he wanted to carry on the family line but simply because he wanted a child with Lu Man.

Thinking of his little bundle of joy with Lu Man made him feel that it would definitely be cute and have both of his and Lu Man’s unique traits.

### **Chapter 1227: Replacement**

On his child’s face, he would be able to see a shadow of himself as well as of Lu Man.

Thinking about it seemed really romantic.

Hence, he felt a little conflicted deep down as well.

He would just wait until Lu Man was in Year Three before thinking about this seriously.

Afterward, Lu Man could no longer speak. Her body was trembling, and so was her voice. She could not even utter a word coherently, much less a full sentence.

Even until the rain stopped, Han Zhuoli was still hugging Lu Man and would not let go.

He did not withdraw either and just continued being entwined with her.

Lu Man felt warm in his arms while she was wrapped around him in a different sense, making him feel warm as well.

Whenever Lu Man moved, she could feel his passion.

That was a very strange feeling. It was not uncomfortable; instead, it actually made her sensual.

Lu Man did not dare to move and drew circles around his chest with her finger as she blushed. "Why don't we start preparing for pregnancy once my summer break comes? I did a lot of research on this. There are many things to take note of when preparing for pregnancy as well."

"During your summer break?" Han Zhuoli asked as he looked at Lu Man.

"Yeah. I calculated. My summer break is around one a half months long. This is not the period to get pregnant, but it's for us to first prepare our bodies to our best condition and wait for the baby to come. If we are lucky, we might be able to give birth to the baby in spring. It's when the weather is the most comfortable, not too cold or hot. Furthermore, I can stay at home during the summer break as well."

Universities don't restrict students from getting pregnant now. It was allowed as long as they were of legal age.

Circumstances at present were not as restrictive as before.

Because of Han Zhuoli, Principal Liu definitely would not make things difficult for Lu Man on this matter.

Furthermore, society is much more open now. Students would also not be judgmental on this matter.

Han Zhuoli thought that it was not a bad idea either. The timing would be just right for Lu Man to recover and graduate. After that, she would be able to act in shows without delaying her career either.

However, it was not up to them when she would be able to conceive.

"I'll listen to you," Han Zhuoli said as he played with her soft and slender finger.

However, thinking of how they would have an annoying little bundle in the near future after they start preparing for pregnancy during the summer break...

It made Han Zhuoli feel a little troubled.

He wanted to have a child with Lu Man, but he did not want to have a troublesome kid who would disturb his time with Lu Man either.

Han Zhuoli thought about it and felt that they could just leave the child to Old Mrs. Han's care.

Anyway, Old Mrs. Han would love it. With the nanny around, all Old Mrs. Han needed to do would just be to play with the baby.

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The next day, Sun Yiwu received a call from Ke Kebo.

"Director Sun, after some discussion, we have decided that Liang Chengbing indeed does not have the right to continue being a judge in the film festival. Hence, we have agreed to remove Liang Chengbing's name from the list of judges. We have already urgently contacted Director Chen Zilong. He will replace Liang Chengbing as the judge," Ke Kebo said.

“Alright. When would Director Chen assume his post?” Sun Yiwu asked.

“He can be the judge from today onwards. Can the panel of judges resume their work as of today?” Ke Kebo asked.

“Of course,” Sun Yiwu said. “I will contact the others right now and resume work this afternoon.”

“Alright, then, I will let Director Chen know,” Ke Kebo said.

After ending the call, Sun Yiwu immediately called Ji Cheng and Yan Zhiqing. They each contacted Gao Zishan and the other two judges.

At the same time, the official publicity channels of the film festival also announced that due to regrettable reasons, they had already removed Liang Chengbing’s status as a judge and would replace him with Chen Zilong.

Liang Chengbing had yet to see this notice. He was preparing to go to the judges’ office for the film festival and work as per normal.

### **Chapter 1228: Did You Forget About Lu Man?**

Ha!

Didn’t Sun Yiwu’s trio go and report him?

Was that of any use?

Wait until he appeared at the office today. He would piss the hell out of them.

Alas, he had just changed into his shoes and had not even stepped out of the house when he received a call from Ke Kebo.

“Mr. Ke.” Liang Chengbing smiled as he greeted him. “Why did you call me? I was just preparing to head to the judges’ office.”

Ke Kebo said politely, “It’s like this. After discussing with the organizing committee, we have decided to revoke your status as a judge on the panel. You will be replaced by Chen Zilong. We have already announced this to the public. Director Liang, you need not come over. You can just concentrate on your work at hand.”

Liang Chengbing’s expression changed. He was utterly stunned and his phone almost slipped out of his hand.

“Mr.—Mr. Ke, what do you mean by this? You didn’t tell me about this beforehand. You removed me just like that? You even announced it to the public directly. Isn’t this too much?!” Liang Chengbing was furious.

Furthermore, Ke Kebo even personally told him not to worry last night.

Did he mean for him to leave without worries?

Liang Chengbing gripped his phone and wanted to go and find Ke Kebo when he heard Ke Kebo say, “Yesterday when Young Master Han was around, there were many things that were not convenient to

be spoken about. Furthermore, I wanted to save some face for you, Director Liang. It won't look good if other people heard about your matter, and it would sully your reputation as well. Director Liang, I'm being considerate of you, you should spare a thought for me too.

"It's a fact that you abused your authority. If I kept you and the matter got exposed, the reputation of our film festival would be ruined. I can't ruin the whole film festival just because of you," Ke Kebo said in a low voice.

"You don't believe me?" Liang Chengbing was still stubbornly obstinate about it.

"Haha, how do you expect me to believe you like this? I already went to check before. Can you still deny this?"

"Even if that's the case, wouldn't it be fine as long as no one said it? Those few judges won't say it publicly. They're judges of the film festival—if the reputation of the film festival was affected, they would be the biggest losers. The awards are all decided upon by the judges. If something happens to me, they won't be able to get away with it unscathed either. They will be seen as accomplices or complicit in my abuse of authority. I won't have a good end, but they won't be any better off." Liang Chengbing did not even bother covering up for himself anymore. He just directly admitted that he was abusing his authority. "If they are smart, they won't leak this out. Doing so will not benefit them in any way."

Ke Kebo was so enraged that he wanted to laugh.

He was only thankful that he listened to Han Zhuoli and kicked Liang Chengbing out of the panel of judges.

Otherwise, given the shameless and wayward practices of Liang Chengbing, who knew what other scandals might have come out of the film festival this time around?

Clearly, if he kept on Liang Chengbing, abusing the one vote veto would have only been the start.

Given Liang Chengbing's attitude just now, he knew that Liang Chengbing thought nothing of this incident.

He might possibly do worse things in the future.

Ke Kebo was especially regretful now. Why did he even choose Liang Chengbing to be one of the judges in the first place?

Ke Kebo pursed his lips and said, "The other judges might choose to cover up the incident for their personal interests and not inform the public about this. However, did you forget about Lu Man, the direct victim of your actions this time?"

"Because of you, she lost the chance to be selected into the nomination round for the Best Supporting Female Lead. Given Lu Man's temperament, she will definitely not take it lying down. Have you forgotten the things she did in the past and the results that she achieved?" If he forgot, Ke Kebo did not mind reminding him of it. "Other people won't say much, but Lu Man won't keep quiet about it. Hence, we have no choice but to revoke your appointment as a judge."

**Chapter 1229: Hearing It Makes People Really Angry!**

“Such a huge film festival is afraid of Lu Man?” Liang Chengbing scoffed angrily.

“Yeah, we are really afraid of Lu Man’s capabilities. She doesn’t need to go against the film festival on anything. She just needs to make sure our film festival’s reputation goes down the drain. This is something she will surely be able to do.” Ke Kebo admitted bluntly, “Director Liang, in the official public announcement, we did not state the reason why we changed the judges to save face for you. Just take it as if your credentials are not good enough. If you insist on pursuing the matter, we can then only reveal the true reason to the public.”

Ke Kebo already said as such. What else could Liang Chengbing say?

He could only end the call in anger.

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Sun Yiwu and the rest returned to the office of the judges and met Chen Zilong to start work.

Lu Man saw the announcement online regarding the cancelation of Liang Chengbing’s status as a judge and knew that this was the result of Han Zhuoli going to find Ke Kebo yesterday.

She did not know how Han Zhuoli did it. He even managed to interfere with an internationally renowned film festival.

Han Zhuoli’s explanation was this: “The Han Corporation also has investments in this film festival.”

Lu Man: “...”

Then, was there any aspect of the entertainment industry that the Han Corporation was not involved in?

Han Zhuoli thought about it seriously and said, “I don’t think so.”

Lu Man: “...”

Hearing that would make anyone really angry!

But it was really impressive!

As it was Sunday today, both of them did not have much to do, so they went to the family home to visit Han Zhuoli’s grandparents.

The two elderly people had also seen the latest episode of *Classic X Files*.

The moment Lu Man stepped into the house, Old Mrs. Han immediately raised her thumb at Lu Man and said, “Xiao Wang performed brilliantly this time! With this, I won’t need to ask you how your mother and Xiao Wang are doing again. One look and I can tell that they are doing well.”

Lu Man smiled and nodded. Her eyes were filled with unbridled joy.

Xia Qingwei was doing well now and could spend her life with the love of her life. Lu Man was certainly the one who felt happiest for her.

“Yeah. Their relationship is really good right now. Both of them are so considerate towards each other and think about each other all the time. They haven’t even quarreled with each other until now.” Lu Man was smiling so much that her eyes curved into crescents as well.

Wang Juhuai totally pampered Xia Qingwei like she was a young lady. No wonder Xia Qingwei was looking younger and younger of late.

“I think Xiao Xia and Xiao Wang are in their honeymoon period, so I didn’t ask to see them. Once their honeymoon period is over, I will ask them to come over and have a chat with us,” Old Mrs. Han suggested.

“Sure.” Lu Man nodded and said, “I will let Dad and Mom know when I get back.”

Hearing how naturally Lu Man said the word “Dad,” Old Mr. Han could tell that she was not just pretending to be close to him during the show.

Based on Lu Man’s attitude, he could tell that she really treated Wang Juhuai like her father.

She did not dislike him at all, and one could tell they were close from the way she spoke of him.

“You formally call Juhuai Dad now?” Old Mr. Han asked.

“Yes.” Lu Man smiled warmly. “This was something I did not consider properly, and Dad even had to mention it himself. I’m sure you both are aware of my dad and mom’s situation. That’s why I was afraid that my status would be a thorn in his heart. If he saw me, he might be reminded of his regrets back then and I might become a wall between him and my mother.

“I was the one who was too narrow-minded. My dad is someone with a very generous heart and who’s a very forgiving person. He does not care who my father is. He only recognizes my mother as the woman he loves, and me as the daughter of the woman he loves. Hence, he treats me like I am his biological daughter. No matter what, he will always consider things for me from the point of view of a father.” Lu Man was still very touched when she thought about it now. “He’s such a wonderful parent at home—he is the role model and father figure I had always dreamed for. I am most willing to call him Dad.”

### **Chapter 1230: Attached Earlobes**

Old Mrs. Han sighed. “Juhuai has it hard. He doesn’t have his own children, yet he can still dote on you as if you were his own daughter. Speaking of which, everyone in your family of three had it hard. That’s why you three became a family now. Juhuai doesn’t have a daughter, so fate gifted you to him as his daughter. Your biological father is as good as non-existent, that’s why you have such an outstanding father like Juhuai now. This is truly a happy ending for you all.”

Just as they were chatting, Lin Liye brought Xia Yixin over and Xia Yixin came in carrying her son in her arms.

The moment she saw Han Zhuoli and Lu Man, Xia Yixin was a little shocked. She seemed to recall something right then and her face fell.

“You both are here.” Old Mrs. Han sounded rather enthusiastic.

When Xia Yixin sat down, Old Mrs. Han started playing with Han Linkai, who was in Xia Yixin’s arms.



Lu Man noticed that the beeswax pendant that Xia Qingwei had gifted to Han Linkai was not worn by him anymore.

Lu Man was not bothered by it though. That kind of accessory need not be worn all the time.

Alas, Xia Yixin seemed to sense Lu Man's gaze or something and suddenly turned to Lu Man with a strange smile on her face. "I didn't expect Zhuoli to be here too. You both seem to be together all the time."

Lin Liye felt that Xia Yixin's words sounded strange and said, "They are newlyweds, of course they must be together."

"What I mean is that although today is a Sunday, Zhuoling is still out busy with work. He always leaves the house early and comes home late. Zhuoli is actually so free?" Xia Yixin was obviously jealous.

Wherever Lu Man went, Han Zhuoli would follow her. No matter how busy he was, he would still take the time out to accompany her.

She even heard that when Lu Man went out to film, Han Zhuoli almost did not sleep even though he was super busy with work in B City, just so that he could squeeze out time to go and keep Lu Man company.

But what about Han Zhuoling?

He seemed to have never-ending work and would always refuse to stay by her side.

Han Zhuoli's face immediately hardened. He did not hold back at all and said, "Man Man has a good temper and is considerate of me. She never willfully asks me to accompany her and even hopes that I can get more rest whenever I have the time. She's such a lovely wife who is so considerate of me—of course I have to spend more time with her."

Xia Yixin's smile almost turned lopsided. Han Zhuoli was saying that she was not lovable and was instead inconsiderate!

Even Lin Liye, who had such a good temper, was displeased. She turned and lowered her voice as she said to Xia Yixin, "If you don't know how to talk, don't open your mouth! Zhuoling is busy and doesn't have time to keep you company. If you have any grievances towards him, go back and tell him that. Even if you want to quarrel with him, I won't side with him. Don't take your anger out on Lu Man for no rhyme or reason!"

Xia Yixin lowered her head and kept quiet, but her unhappiness was written all over her face.

Lu Man thought it was strange. "Big Brother didn't return to Europe?"

"I didn't let him go," Old Mrs. Han said. "Both of us are already so old. Who knows how much time we have left to keep our children by our side with us? He doesn't have to personally helm the company in Europe. Just let him stay here and spend more time with the family so that he doesn't keep spending time on work and neglect his family."

Lu Man nodded, and her gaze fell on Han Linkai, who was in Xia Yixin's arms.

Han Linkai turned to play with Xia Yixin's hair. Lu Man noticed that Han Linkai did not have detached earlobes.

She turned to glance at Han Zhuoli, and then at Lin Liye, before looking at the two elders.

The Han family members seemed to all have detached earlobes, but Lin Liye did not.

Lu Man thought that perhaps Han Linkai took after Lin Liye.