

Mr Han 1291

Chapter 1291: Won't It Scare Someone to Death?

"Hence, the quality of a film is still decided by us professional filmmakers. The audience? The box office sales? Those are all inaccurate. Some with good box office sales probably even bought those sales. Director Zhang, everyone in the industry knows what was going on with the box office sales for your film, *Fighting Hero*."

"It's all because someone framed you. If not for that person who purposely created trouble and pulled some tricks, your box office sales would surely have been higher. Of course, your original box office sales are already very high. It already broke the records of the country's box office sales," Liang Chengbing said.

Despite *Greedy Wolf Operation* and *Red Tiger* competing with him, the box office sales of *Fighting Hero* was actually quite good.

But because the box office sales of *Greedy Wolf Operation* and *Red Tiger* surpassed each other one after the other, it gave the domestic public unrealistic expectations for the box office sales of *Fighting Hero*.

They were made to feel that box office sales below one billion yuan was trashy and that 20 or 30 billion worth of ticket sales were considered the norm.

But what was the reality?

Up until now, *Greedy Wolf Operation* and *Red Tiger* were the only two films that achieved such high rates.

Furthermore, Lu Man had acted in both of these films.

Thinking about it made Liang Chengbing's stomach hurt.

"If not for Lu Man messing things up, the box office sales would surely have been higher." Liang Chengbing just straightforwardly mentioned her name now. "The box office sales for the film had been so good on the first day."

"However, it's fortunate that the judges judge based on the film itself rather than on the box office sales. To be honest, your film has to be watched quite a few times for its deeper meaning to be understood. If you watch it only two times, there will always be some details that would be left out. I myself at least watched it quite a few times," Liang Chengbing said. "I can tell how much effort you've put into this film."

Liang Chengbing pretended to feel sorry for him and sighed. "Aye, it's such a pity."

What he meant was that, if not for Lu Man, with the high box office sales and the awards from the film festival, his film would have gained more recognition.

However, because of Lu Man, no one bothered to watch the film that Zhang Lun produced with hard work and effort.

No one cared about Zhang Lun's efforts at all.

His hard work and efforts were wasted and trampled on just like that.

Zhang Lun's face fell sullen. He glared sideways at Lu Man before smiling at Liang Chengbing. "Let's not talk about these things anymore. There will surely be professional judges to assess our films."

"Right, that's exactly what I mean," Liang Chengbing said and laughed heartily.

At that moment, the other directors and actors came and chatted with each other.

Yet, not a single one of them greeted Lu Man.

It was obvious that they were all on good terms with Zhang Lun and Liang Chengbing.

As the top directors in the country, Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng were arranged to sit in front.

When Sun Yiwu saw this, he said unhappily, "How did the organizers arrange our seats? They placed Lu Man so far back. By right, the whole production crew should sit together."

Ji Cheng said, "Come, let's go and sit with Lu Man."

Sun Yiwu had just prepared to get up when he laughed and said, "There's no need anymore. Lu Man's parents are here."

When he heard that, Ji Cheng turned around and saw Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei entering the venue and walking in this direction.

"A pity Han Zhuoli is not here," Sun Yiwu said in a small voice. "Or else, if he comes over there to sit, won't the sight scare someone to death?"

However, even without Han Zhuoli, Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei were enough.

Wang Juhuai just sat beside Lu Man like the statue of a deity, not moving at all.

Wang Juhuai had always had an artistic and graceful demeanor. This was the first time his face hardened and he put on an expression that made him seem highly unapproachable.

There were many people who were very excited and looked forward to getting to know him when they found out that he was attending the awards ceremony.

Chapter 1292: The Kind That Was More Reliable Than Biological Fathers

In the end, Wang Juhuai was presently pulling a long face, so no one dared to come over.

They did not know what Wang Juhuai was angry about, but they did not dare to come and get on his nerves.

"Dad?" Lu Man laughed as she greeted him.

"Don't worry, we are here. We will stay by your side," Wang Juhuai said. "We won't stoop to the level of those people. What kind of people are they even?!"

The people who were huddled together with Liang Chengbing and Zhang Lun at first: "..."

Damn, they totally forgot that Wang Juhuai was Lu Man's stepfather now and that he was the kind who was even more reliable than a biological father!

It was really because everything happened too fast and people had not really adjusted to it.

Aside from *Classic X Files* the previous time, Lu Man never appeared together with Wang Juhuai again.

Hence, it was very easy for many people to have forgotten this and think that Lu Man was still that newcomer with no background or connections.

Now that Wang Juhuai was sitting beside Lu Man without moving at all, they suddenly reacted.

Lu Man was Wang Juhuai's daughter!

Instantly, they felt a sense of unease.

They quietly distanced themselves a little from Zhang Lun and Liang Chengbing and started to feel conflicted about who they should side with.

Shi Xiaoya was going to find Lu Man at first, lest she sat there by herself feeling awkward.

However, now that Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei were there, she need not go there to lend her presence.

"I'm going to the washroom," Shi Xiaoya said to Cris and walked to the washroom outside the venue.

At that time, Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling just finished walking the red carpet but did not enter the venue directly.

It was because Han Zhuoli received a call from the identification center.

Previously, he wanted to go to the identification center with Han Zhuoling to get the results. Han Zhuoling did not mind exposing his identity, so they could get the report earlier using their identity as the Hans.

However, neither of them had the time to go there as they were busy dealing with the Xia Family.

This matter was put on hold just like that.

Now that the results from the identification center had come out, they called Han Zhuoli.

"Wait for a while," Han Zhuoli said. "I will ask another person to answer the call. You can just tell him the results of the test."

Han Zhuoli passed the phone to Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling simply said, "You can speak now."

Right after saying that, his expression did not change at all.

Not long after, Han Zhuoling ended the call.

"How is it?" Han Zhuoli asked.

He really hoped that that child was Han Zhuoling's. Even if bringing the child back would require a bit more effort, he still hoped for it.

Alas, things did not turn out as he had hoped.

Han Zhuoling said, "He is indeed not my child. They will send the report to my house later on."

"Who knows how that child will turn out growing up with a father like Chen Zefeng?" Originally, when he was a part of the Han Family, he would have been pampered, loved privately, but taught many things in public. Although they would be strict, he would still grow up in the care of his family.

However, this was not for sure now since he was in the care of a father like Chen Zefeng.

"You don't have to blame yourself," Han Zhuoling said. "I had someone tail Chen Zefeng. After he accepted the money, he did not lack the resources to provide for the child, so the child is still doing fine. Although he did not do his best for the child, he did not abandon him either. He found a nanny to take care of the child and returned to the police force again."

Han Zhuoli nodded.

It would be fine as long as he did not abandon the child.

As for what would happen to the child when he grew up, that was not something they could care about anymore.

After all, that child was not from the Han Family.

"I will keep sending people to keep watch. If Chen Zefeng treats the child badly or wants to abandon him and keep Xia Zhancheng's alimony for himself, my men will take the child and find another reliable family that is willing to adopt him and send him there."

Chapter 1293: Oh, Her Reputation!

Han Zhuoli did not think that Han Zhuoling would do such a thing in secret.

However, he could put his heart at ease now.

However, that child was not part of the Han Family after all, so it was impossible to bring him back to their side and raise him.

They also got entangled with two despicable people like Chen Zefeng and Xia Yixin for nothing.

Shi Xiaoya never thought that she would hear this piece of information about the Hans just by going to the toilet.

But she did not want to know about it at all!

After all, for the Hans, this was definitely not something glamorous.

Han Zhuoling announced his divorce, and rumors abound outside. However, those were only guesses.

The Han Family did not explain anything because of that.

After all, these things were not nice to hear, and it was the private affairs of the Hans as well.

The Hans was not obliged to explain anything to the world and was unwilling to say much about it either.

Now that she suddenly heard about the private matters of the Han Family, she suddenly got a bad feeling.

These were not things that she should have heard.

Shi Xiaoya could only shrink her shoulders as much as possible and try her best to inch up against the wall to reduce her presence.

She hoped that Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling could quickly go into the venue and not discover her presence.

“Let’s go in,” Han Zhuoli said.

Han Zhuoling nodded and walked off with Han Zhuoli.

Shi Xiaoya heaved a sigh of relief.

They finally went in.

Alas, Han Zhuoling had taken only two steps when he suddenly stopped.

Han Zhuoling said, “I remembered that I have some other matters to see to. You can go in first.”

Han Zhuoli was worried about Lu Man, so he nodded when he heard that and walked in first.

Han Zhuoling waited for Han Zhuoli to enter the venue and disappear into the crowd before suddenly turning around.

Whether it was a coincidence or not, Han Zhuoling actually stared in the same direction where Shi Xiaoya was.

Shi Xiaoya froze on the spot. She hated that she could not squeeze herself into a crack in the wall right there and then and got so nervous that she held her breath.

She did not know if Han Zhuoling noticed her.

Probably not!

She was hiding at the corner of the wall and did not show her head.

She’d been about to turn around the corner when she heard Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling talking, so she did not even dare to show her face.

And yet, she did not know why, but there was not a single soul around here.

That was probably why Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling were talking over here.

Shi Xiaoya held her breath and widened her eyes. Right after that, she actually saw Han Zhuoling walking over towards her!

Shi Xiaoya kept on chanting in her mind, “He didn’t see me, he didn’t see me, he didn’t see me...”

She suddenly got tongue-tied.

Because Han Zhuoling was already standing in front of her.

Shi Xiaoya: “...”

Han Zhuoling was tall and charismatic, standing with his back straight and his eyes slightly lowered as his gaze was fixed on Shi Xiaoya, who was pushing herself up against the wall.

She looked really dumb and funny right now.

She was tightly plastered to the wall with her palms pressed on it just like a lizard. Did she think that she could melt into the wall just like that?

“Mr... Mr. Han,” Shi Xiaoya stammered in guilt. Her whole body became so stiff that she forgot how to move.

She actually just continued talking to Han Zhuoling like that with her body still leaning desperately against the wall.

Han Zhuoling: “...”

How exactly did she become the top makeup artist in this state?

“Are you planning to talk to me like this?” Han Zhuoling stared askance at her.

Shi Xiaoya blinked and did not react for a while.

Under Han Zhuoling’s gaze, things became more and more awkward.

In the end, she finally, awkwardly, realized that what she was doing was... utterly dumb!

Shi Xiaoya shut her eyes in exasperation.

If anyone asked her how she was going to die next time, she would probably have two answers.

She would either be scared to death by Han Zhuoling, or die from her own stupidity.

Oh, her reputation!

If Cris found out how stupid she was being in front of Han Zhuoling, he would surely laugh at her to no end.

Chapter 1294: Isn’t This Person a Fool?

Sorry, she made the Shi Family lose face.

Han Zhuoling: “...”

This lady’s mind just flew to some unknown place again right in front of him.

What on earth was this person thinking in her mind all day?

“How much did you hear just now?” Han Zhuoling asked coldly as he saw how Shi Xiaoya remained in that position, plastered against the wall.

Was she not going to stand properly?

Shi Xiaoya finally got down from the wall and stood straight. “Mr. Han, I’m sorry. I didn’t eavesdrop on you on purpose...”

Shi Xiaoya immediately pointed to her back and said, “I came out from the washroom and saw you both talking. I felt that... you probably won’t want others to find out, so I didn’t dare to come out.”

Shi Xiaoya regained her usual composure and took a deep breath.

She looked up and tried her best to look straight into Han Zhuoling’s eyes to show how sincere she was. “I won’t say I didn’t hear anything, because that would be a lie, but I can promise you that I won’t say a single word to others about what I heard.”

Shi Xiaoya actually really admired Han Zhuoling’s magnanimity.

From what he said to Han Zhuoli just now, she could tell that Xia Yixin’s child was really not Han Zhuoling’s.

If this had happened to any other man, they probably would not have been able to take it.

However, Han Zhuoling could actually continue caring for that child’s life and send someone to ensure that the child was safe.

Such magnanimity and sense of responsibility were not something most men could have.

So what if he had been made a cuckold by his wife?

Shi Xiaoya still felt that men like Han Zhuoling were true men.

She would not pity him because of this, and neither would she gossip about him secretly. She just felt that a man like Han Zhuoling was really precious.

At that moment, her courage rushed to her head. She stared into Han Zhuoling’s sharp eyes fearlessly and simply said, “Also, you’re really very nice. That’s very nice of you actually, I really like it.”

Han Zhuoling: “...”

He stared at Shi Xiaoya in shock. This lady was not just dazed, but she was quite daring as well.

To put it more bluntly, she was the bold but stupid kind.

Was she trying to confess to him just now?

He had never seen a woman who dared to say that she liked him in front of his stern face.

Were all girls nowadays this daring?

Shi Xiaoya hated that she could not just seal her lips right after she said that.

Seeing the stunned expression on Han Zhuoling’s face, Shi Xiaoya knew that he had misunderstood.

Her lousy mouth was to blame for all this!

In front of Han Zhuoling, Shi Xiaoya lightly slapped her own mouth and said, "No... It's not like that. Mr. Han, that's not what I meant. I just have a loose mouth and said things that sound ambiguous. It's not that I like you, I admire you."

Han Zhuoling: "..."

This was a confession, right?

Shi Xiaoya shut her eyes tragically and said, "I... that's not... that's not what I meant. I just think you're being a true man like this."

She quickly waved her hand and said, "I'm definitely not mocking you!"

These words would sound like sarcasm to a man who had been made a cuckold.

His wife had an affair and even had a son with another man.

Now she was telling him to his face that he was being a true man. If other people were to hear it, they would also think that she was mocking him.

But for Heaven's sake, she really wasn't!

She did not know why, but in front of Han Zhuoling, she felt like she'd forgotten how to talk.

Whatever she said came out wrong. Even her actions became exceptionally stupid.

"I just think you're really very good. Xia Yixin is probably blind, or if not that, she's probably a fool!" Shi Xiaoya said.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Wasn't this person before him a fool as well?

Chapter 1295: Was That Fool Trying to Confess to Him?

It's rather funny hearing a fool calling someone else foolish.

She was such a goofball, yet she dared to call someone else goofy.

Han Zhuoling's eyes shone with a rare smile. His crinkling eye corners softened his whole aura.

The slight lift on the corners of his mouth also made him look less stern.

A pity Shi Xiaoya had her eyes closed in frustration, therefore missing the change on Han Zhuoling.

When she finally opened her eyes, she dared not lift her head and her face was flushed red. "Sorry for the interruption!"

When she was done, she almost wanted to bow to Han Zhuoling.

Fortunately, she thought that that move was too wimpy, so she gritted her teeth and rushed past Han Zhuoling with her head lowered.

She was gone like the wind. Han Zhuoling merely blinked and she had already disappeared from sight.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Haha, he bumped into a goofball today.

But... was that fool trying to confess to him?

Han Zhuoling rubbed his chin. He never expected that he would gain a young lady's fancy when he'd just returned from abroad.

Interesting.

Han Zhuoling chuckled and shook his head before reverting back to his usual stern self.

Luckily, Shi Xiaoya could still find her way back. She returned to her seat with her head kept low.

Cris did not notice at first, still preoccupied with his conversation.

He realized she was keeping her head bowed only when he turned back to look at her.

"What is it? Why is your head so low?" Cris asked curiously.

Shi Xiaoya was still yet to recover from her embarrassment.

Frankly, she had never been so abashed in her life before.

Cris saw that she refused to lift her head nor reply to him after repeatedly trying to get her attention, and he was beginning to get worried. "Xiaoya, what's wrong? Did someone bully you?"

Seeing that her head was still lowered, Cris assumed that she was crying and began to get anxious. "What happened?"

"Aiya, it's nothing." Shi Xiaoya saw that he was mistaken and looked up.

Seeing that she wasn't crying and nor did she look bullied, Cris let out a sigh of relief and relaxed.

"Why is your face so red?" Cris asked curiously.

Shi Xiaoya covered her face. "It's fine, I just did something really embarrassing just now."

Cris raised his brow in interest. "What embarrassing thing? Tell this brother of yours so I can have a laugh over it."

"Sheesh!" Shi Xiaoya pushed him aside.

When Han Zhuoling saw Shi Xiaoya and Cris "flirting" with each other as he entered the room, his face darkened before he returned to his seat.

Han Zhuoli had seen that Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei was still with Lu Man so he never went over.

Just then, he saw Han Zhuoling walking over with a grim expression, like he wasn't happy about something.

Both of them arrived right after each other. What could have upset Han Zhuoling?

“Big Brother?” Han Zhuoli called out uncertainly.

“It’s nothing,” Han Zhuoling said as he glanced coolly towards Shi Xiaoya’s direction.

She and Cris were sitting together and talking. Though they stopped play-fighting, the way they spoke to each other displayed the closeness and good chemistry between them.

Over at Lu Man’s side, Wang Juhuai sat at the side waiting for a young actor named Li Zhengqin, who was supposed to be here, to come over.

Seeing that Wang Juhuai was sitting on his seat, the young actor was both flustered and flattered.

Probably feeling more flattered, since it was Wang Juhuai who was sitting at his place!

Others wanted to chat with Wang Juhuai but had no idea how to approach him.

Wasn’t this an opportunity for him?

Li Zhengqin hurried over. “Hello, Mr. Wang, hello! I’m Li Zhengqin. Never thought that I would bump into you here tonight, it’s such an honor.”

Chapter 1296: Almost Kneeled for Wang Juhuai

“Hello.” Wang Juhuai saw that he had just arrived and that he wasn’t among the people who ostracized Lu Man previously, so Wang Juhuai was still quite friendly towards Li Zhengqin.

“Why are you...?” Li Zhengqin wanted to ask why Wang Juhuai was sitting on his chair.

Then he saw Lu Man and recalled that Wang Juhuai was Lu Man’s stepfather.

Now that Li Zhengqin knew the reason, he found himself more unable to say anything out loud than before.

Lu Man saved him from the difficult situation. “Dad, you’re sitting on his spot.”

“Oh?” Wang Juhuai turned and realized that the chair had Li Zhengqin’s nametag pasted on it. “Sorry for sitting on your seat.”

“It’s fine, it’s fine.” Li Zhengqin waved his hands hurriedly.

He thought that Wang Juhuai would leave now, but instead, Wang Juhuai said, “Why don’t we swap seats?”

Oh my goodness!

Master Wang, please!

Li Zhengqin almost kneeled for Wang Juhuai.

Wang Juhuai’s status guaranteed a seat in the first row for him.

And him, a nobody sitting on the fifth row, to swap seats with Wang Juhuai and sit on the first row?

Wang Juhuai might dare to think it but he would not dare to sit!

Tonight's award ceremony was to be live-streamed in many major streaming platforms. If the camera sweeps the first row and captures him, a nobody, sitting there, wouldn't the Internet be in ruckus?

Wang Juhuai's seat was at the center of the first row.

With Han Zhuoli and others like him.

It's the center of the center!

Surrounded by all the big bosses.

He really would not dare to sit there.

"Mr. Wang, I dare not! It's inappropriate." Li Zhengqin was frightened.

"What's inappropriate?" Wang Juhuai said. "I'll just tell the organizer."

Wang Juhuai immediately called Ke Kebo over. "Mr. Ke."

"Mr. Wang, what can I help you with?" Ke Kebo said politely.

Wang Juhuai was naturally polite too. "Mr. Ke, this is my daughter, Lu Man."

Ke Kebo had heard of this, so he hurriedly said his hellos to Lu Man politely.

"It's like this. Man Man's arranged to sit here, but she doesn't know anybody around her," Wang Juhuai said. "My wife and I wish to sit here and accompany her."

"Oh, that's not appropriate. Mr. Wang, you're the VIP, a very important guest we invited for this occasion. Not to mention, the cameraman would find it hard to capture you if you're to sit here," Ke Kebo said.

When he heard this, Wang Juhuai's face turned dark. "Then why did you all arrange for Man Man to sit here? She's here with the production crews of Greedy Wolf Operation and Red Tiger. The rest of the production crews are all seated in front, but you organizers have placed her seat here. Are you bullying this young lady?"

"No, no. It's all a mistake," Ke Kebo hurriedly said. "It's a mistake on our part."

They did not know about Wang Juhuai and Lu Man's relationship when they were doing the seat arrangements earlier.

Liang Chengbing had made use of his connections and got the seating planner to arrange Lu Man's seat further back.

But the seating planner did not dare to go overboard because, although Lu Man's status as a celebrity was not significant yet, she was popular enough. And with two works of hers nominated, the seating planner did not place her too far back.

But since Liang Chengbing had requested it, the other party had to give him face as well.

And so, the seating planner had arranged Lu Man's seat this way—within limits.

But those who were established in the entertainment industry like Liu Chuanhui and Zhang Jian, the seating planner dared not treat like this.

As for the main cast and crew of Greedy Wolf Operation, Zhang Shuidong was an award-winning actor, so he would naturally be placed at the front.

Chapter 1297: I Sit Where Lu Man Sits

And thus, the current situation, where Lu Man sat alone on the fifth row.

As the main organizer, Ke Kebo would not notice such trivial matters like seating arrangements.

He'd just give a simple glance to confirm that things were done right.

Mostly, he'd pay attention to making sure that celebrities who had broken up before were sat separately, that the current partner and exes were not put on the same row, that artistes who had major grudges with each other were also on different rows, et cetera, et cetera.

It was tedious enough to pay attention to these, so obviously, he would not bother looking for Lu Man's position.

And after the father-daughter relationship of Wang Juhuai and Lu Man was exposed, the organizing team became busy with another round of arrangements and forgot about the seating arrangements.

And hence, the current situation.

"Your mistake, is that it?" Wang Juhuai said lowly. "Whatever. I don't want to make any more trouble. I'll just sit where Lu Man sits."

Ke Kebo: "..."

How was this not making any more trouble?

Was it appropriate for Wang Juhuai to sit here?

They finally managed to invite Wang Juhuai to their film festival, but if the cameras couldn't get him on screen, wouldn't it all be for nothing?

If Wang Juhuai was staying by Lu Man's side, Xia Qingwei would obviously sit here as well.

Just then, the celebrity who was supposed to sit on the chair Xia Qingwei was sitting on arrived.

Ke Kebo saw that and said, "Mr. Wang, if both of you insist on sitting here, then the seats of these two would have to be changed too."

"That's easy. We'll just swap with the two of them," Wang Juhuai said.

Ke Kebo: "..."

The celebrity who had just arrived was still in a daze about what was going on.

How did it get to having to swap seats with Wang Juhuai?

He wished to sit on the first row, but he didn't dare to!

Wang Juhuai felt like he should not make things difficult for others, so he said, "Or you can just add two more chairs here."

Ke Kebo: "..."

Did Wang Juhuai think this was a hotel?

To just anyhow plug the gaps!

He realized for the first time that Wang Juhuai was actually impossible to deal with!

Lu Man could not help quirking her lips at the exchange.

Her heart warmed up and got filled with love and joy.

But it was also hard for Wang Juhuai, a musician, to play the part of a difficult "customer."

Meanwhile, a fellow employee walked over and whispered into Ke Kebo's ears. "Chairman Ke, Young Master Han said we can add a chair in the first row."

Ke Kebo took a glance; there were not that many people in the first row.

Adding one chair to the first row was far easier than letting Wang Juhuai sit on the fifth row.

"Alright, let's just do it that way." Ke Kebo nodded at the employee.

The employee did as told.

Ke Kebo then told Wang Juhuai, "Mr. Wang, this was indeed a mistake on our part. Our employee has gone to add another seat on the first row."

He then turned to Lu Man, saying, "Lu Man, dear, go seat on the first row. It's also appropriate for you to sit there tonight."

She would have a "Best Newcomer Award" to back her up anyway, so at the very least, shifting her seat forward would not be too problematic.

Lu Man smiled slightly, nodding her agreement.

Just as the employee was about to place the additional chair beside Wang Juhuai's...

Han Zhuoli stopped him.

"Put it here," Han Zhuoli said.

The employee was surprised. Filled with curiosity, he did as he was told, putting the chair beside Han Zhuoli.

However, the seating position was no big deal either since the seating order went from Wang Juhuai, Xia Qingwei, Han Zhuoli, then Han Zhuoling.

Chapter 1298: The VIP Among the VIPs

Meaning, Lu Man's seat was added between Xia Qingwei's and Han Zhuoli's.

“Alright, let’s sit at the front,” Wang Juhuai said to Lu Man.

When Lu Man got up, Wang Juhuai chuckled at Ke Kebo. “Sorry for the trouble!”

“It’s nothing, nothing. It’s our mistake anyway,” Ke Kebo replied with a smile.

And Wang Juhuai hence brought Lu Man and Xia Qingwei towards the front, utterly satisfied.

Liang Chengbing could do nothing but stare as Lu Man walked past him and sat at the center of the first row.

The center of the center! The VIP among the VIPs!

Li Zhengqin and Ke Kebo both heaved a sigh of relief, having finally sent the big boss on his way.

The two of them were probably the only ones there still having a good mood.

Liang Chengbing saw Lu Man striding past him; he himself was seated at the fourth row, but Lu Man went to sit at the first!

Only some famous directors and local actors beyond the A-listers were seated at the sides of the first row.

From afar, all one could see were award-winning actors and actresses.

Next to the center of the first row were extremely influential big bosses within the movie industry like Han Zhuoli, or world-renowned masters like Wang Juhuai.

And in the midst of all these people, Lu Man appeared out of nowhere.

Wasn’t that infuriating?!

What’s more, Lu Man stopped just as she passed Liang Chengbing.

Though she wasn’t using her hands, he could still see that she was counting the rows.

One row, two rows, three rows...

Lu Man stopped when she got to Liang Chengbing’s row.

“Well, do excuse me, Director Liang.” Lu Man smiled lightly.

Liang Chengbing’s face turned purple in his anger.

Excuse what?

It’s not like she was with him at first!

In the end, the Lu Man that he looked down upon actually went to sit at the center of the first row.

Making him look like some unknown amateur director.

The others who were previously greeting and conversing with Liang Chengbing and Zhang Lun were now re-evaluating Lu Man in their minds.

Who would have thought that Wang Juhuai actually cared about her that much?

Lu Man walked to Han Zhuoli and couldn't stop her laughter.

Han Zhuoli pointed at the chair beside him. "Sit."

Lu Man sat down without qualms, totally unpressured.

Others were wondering, why wasn't she afraid when sitting next to Han Zhuoli?!

Not long after that, the award ceremony started.

A male and female emcee walked out.

When it was time to present the award for the Best Director, the male emcee said, "Please look at the screen."

The screen showed the nominees' names for the Best Director Award.

And Liang Chengbing's name did not appear in any of the five up there.

Liang Chengbing's expression was ugly. Not winning was within his expectations, but to not even have a nomination? It was too much!

Every time a nominee was announced, a spotlight would shine on the person so that the camera could capture him or her easily.

But Liang Chengbing had had none.

He waited with a dark expression until the Best Movie award came on and the screen started playing the nomination list.

In the end, his *Sounds of Winter* was not up there either!

Liang Chengbing was so angry that he nearly left the venue.

And any actors who were involved in his movie were similarly not nominated for the rest of the major awards, like the Best Male/Female Leads and Best Supporting Male/Female Leads!

Liang Chengbing thought that this was a personal attack!

No wonder he was arranged to sit in the fourth row!

Probably because they didn't need any of his shots.

"Now, let us announce a new award that our festival has created just this year—the Best Newcomer Award!" the male emcee said.

"This is the first time the film festival has set up such an award, and it's the first time we're presenting it," the female emcee continued. "It's meant to encourage the new actors in the film industry to create better films, and for more audience to recognize these newcomers."

Chapter 1299: She Dared to Sit When Wang Juhuai Asked Her to

"Let us welcome Dong Qinrong to present the award!" the male emcee said loudly. "Qinrong, please!"

Dong Qinrong walked gracefully out from the backstage to the front.

There was only one presenter, Dong Qinrong, for the Best Newcomer Award, and as usual, she should start the introduction with some humor.

Dong Qinrong said a few lines naturally, and though they weren't that funny, the audience members below played their part and laughed loudly.

"And now, let us look at the nominees for the Best Newcomer Award," Dong Qinrong said. "Please look at the screen."

On the screen, a short introduction for Lu Man, Qiao Luna, Ni Xue, Chang Yachen, and Fu Kaiqi appeared, respectively.

Finally, pictures of the five were shown on the screen.

The spotlight also shone on the five of them below the stage.

Qiao Luna and Ni Xue came in late, so they missed the scene where Wang Juhuai had forcefully moved Mu Huan's seat from the fifth row to the first.

The two of them were on the fourth row, and when the camera landed on Lu Man, Han Zhuoli, who was next to her, also entered the shot.

Both of them were stunned. When did Lu Man get to the first row?!

They were all similarly nominated for the Best Newcomer Award, and Lu Man's position was not even as high as theirs. How could she sit in the first row?!

Just because of Wang Juhuai, she's all impressive now?

So, she could ignore all the rules already, was that it?!

Both their faces turned black at that.

All five newcomers were personally told by the organizing team about their nominations.

So, everyone smiled properly in the shot, not showing a hint of surprise.

Liang Chengbing never thought that Lu Man would really be nominated for the Best Newcomer Award.

But then, there were Sun Yiwu, Ji Cheng, and Yan Zhiqing helping her.

Ha!

How shameless. Previously, she had disagreed with how a production team had internal agreements, but now, didn't she get nominated due to her relations?

If it weren't for Sun Yiwu and the others, how could she have gotten nominated?!

Wang Shuyi mumbled at the side, "Lu Man is qualified to get nominated for the Best Newcomer Award? When there are so many other newcomers who're more hard-working and have better acting skills than she does? The film festival actually chose Lu Man as a nominee. How unfair this is."

Wang Shuyi was seated between Liang Chengbing and Jiang Yuhan, who heard him and said, “That’s right. And she’s even sitting in the first row. Who gave her the gall? Even if Wang Juhuai is her stepfather, she still really dared to sit when Wang Juhuai asked her to? She’s not afraid of how the netizens and acting veterans are going to blast her, huh?”

“Haha, given what Lu Man has done in the past, I can see that she’s just a youngster who’s still wet behind the ears. No inkling of what she should or shouldn’t do, as if she’s the best in the whole world. She’s never lost so she doesn’t know fear. She’ll learn after she’s suffered a loss,” Liang Chengbing said strangely.

“That’s right. Just like this time, even though it was Wang Juhuai who insisted for her to sit in the first row, she actually really dared to go. What a joke!” Qiao Luna piped in at the side. “Didn’t even care who else are sitting in the first row. Even the likes of Sun Yiwu and Gao Zishan are seated towards the side. Wang Juhuai let her sit in the middle and she does it? How big is she, even?”

The seats were split into three sections at the venue.

Left, right, and center, each segment divided by a path.

And the A-listers in the entertainment industry like Gao Zishan were seated at the left and right segments.

While the likes of Sun Yiwu—including those bigshot international directors and a few of Hollywood’s A-listers—were seated towards the middle.

Chapter 1300: She’s Not Even Marginally Qualified

Only the big bosses of the entertainment industry such as Han Zhuoli could sit at the center segment.

Take Han Zhuoli, for example—he did not simply dominate the local entertainment industry. The Han Corporation’s influence globally was also ever-expanding.

It had recently just acquired a Hollywood old-name big production company and became its greatest shareholder.

From then on, the Han Corporation had been able to have some solid influence within Hollywood.

With such power, there were no doubts over Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli sitting at the center.

But this also served to emphasize the significance of the center seat.

Not to mention Wang Juhuai with his distinguished position.

Xia Qingwei came with Wang Juhuai. As his wife, it made no sense to separate them both.

So no one made any comments about her sitting there.

But Lu Man was different.

She was Wang Juhuai’s stepdaughter. With the “step” word in there, they seemed detached in relations in the eyes of the others.

In this case, it was highly inappropriate for Lu Man to obstinately follow Wang Juhuai and sit in the first row.

Especially when her seat was stuffed there purposefully afterward and she was not supposed to be there originally.

So many people were there. Who felt that that was fair?

“Indeed. Under such circumstances, anyone who knows their worth would’ve rejected. Lu Man’s not qualified to sit there. She should’ve rejected Wang Juhuai’s proposal then and not have made things hard for the organizers,” Wang Shuyi said.

Though that was what he said...

If it had been them in that situation, who would have declined?

All of them yearned for the chance to sit at the center, regardless of how they were going to be lambasted after that.

It should be noted that this award ceremony was being live-streamed.

The many local and international A-listers who came were extremely eye-catching.

Many netizens were watching the live-stream for their idols.

A seat on the first row, especially beside Han Zhuoli, was especially eye-catching for the camera shots.

Though they were all saying Lu Man shouldn’t have gone over and should’ve rejected the offer automatically, in reality, they all yearned with all their hearts to be able to replace Lu Man.

“Director Liang, d’you think Lu Man can win the Best Newcomer Award?” Wang Shuyi asked.

He was quite a ridiculous person actually.

Lu Man had problems with Zhang Lun and Liang Chengbing, but never with Wang Shuyi.

Wang Shuyi was simply trying to curry favor from Zhang Lun since he was Zhang Lun’s disciple.

As long as Lu Man was involved, he too would get involved.

Yet in reality, Lu Man had never made trouble for him.

He was the only one treating Lu Man as the enemy and being active about it.

Liang Chengbing sneered. “Her? She’s lucky to get nominated. As I’ve said before in an interview, there are far more outstanding newcomers than her. Many of these newcomers can’t even get nominated, all squeezed out of the competition by Lu Man—this is already very unfair. To win the Best Newcomer Award? She’s not even marginally qualified. Let’s wait a few years, then see.”

Wait a few years?

Lu Man would no longer be a newcomer in a few years. What Best Newcomer Award would there be for her?

Liang Chengbing spat on Wang Shuyi. “You too, for asking such a question. You go and ask around among the attendees, who thinks Lu Man can win?”

Liang Chengbing’s voice was not soft by any means, and the people behind and in front of him all heard his words.

Those who heard all scoffed at him.

Speaking of the competitiveness for the Best Newcomer Award, Liang Chengbing was totally wrong. Lu Man was the one who was most likely to win.

Her time in the industry was the shortest, the newest newcomer among all the newcomers.

But her results were spectacular. Every event and on-screen appearances ever since her induction was a record-breaking existence.