

## Mr Han 1371

### Chapter 1371: Get Ready for a Slap in the Face

“Excellent results,” Principal Liu commented joyfully. “You’re still ranked first!”

He saw that Lu Man was not at all surprised, as if she had expected this outcome and was totally confident in her own results.

Principal Liu had nothing left to say.

This young lady knew herself a little bit too well.

Many a time, this made people such as him helpless, since they had nothing else to add.

The party involved had already calculated the outcome, and meanwhile, you were at the side blindly guessing. Whether you were betting on the person’s success or failure, the party involved would be unfazed.

The end results would often slap a whole bunch of people in their faces, making a fool out of those wildly speculating people.

“You’ve done exceptionally well.” Principal Liu felt that Lu Man’s results far surpassed the scope of what was taught.

Her capabilities were deeply ingrained in her, so her results would not be affected by trivial things.

No matter how busy she was, as long as she performed like usual, her skill would still be there.

Principal Liu said, smiling, “At first I thought the same as the netizens, that you’re too busy this year to care about exams, but who knew that your results would be this good? How do you find the time to manage everything?”

Lu Man grinned and replied, “There’s always time, it’s not like I never study. I always study at home even when I attend programs or during winter breaks.”

She always had this habit of watching those classic dramas and learning from there.

Lu Man even considered that when she was in her 40s and had accumulated experiences, she’d try her hand at being a director.

Currently, she was still studying acting, and she knew that Rome wasn’t built in a day and it was better to specialize. So she did not purposely go to study those things.

Still, she could not stop herself from noticing how to convey meanings through the camera and lighting and such.

This was helpful not only in learning to act but also for directing.

Not to mention, she had a wanna-be director brother-in-law, Han Zhuofeng. Being around him influenced her to a great extent.

She'd probably heard Han Zhuofeng talk about it so much, and because it helped in her acting, she had gained a deeper understanding regarding shooting and performing.

Principal Liu shook his head and laughed. "Many said that you depended on luck, but they don't know how much work you put in. If everyone could be like you, they'd gain success too."

"Hard work is one thing, but I've got to admit that I'm lucky," Lu Man replied, smiling.

There were many people helping her along the way; she worked hard and had luck.

"You're still first in the year this time," Principal Liu said. "After the results are released to the students, the school will announce it on the website."

When Lu Man was done at the school, she headed home.

And when she went on the Net, she saw netizens fighting each other because of her exam results.

Some claimed that Lu Man would do badly; others supported her wholeheartedly.

"If her results are bad, then you guys are waiting to get slapped. Wouldn't it be ugly if she didn't put in the effort just because she can go to New York?"

"The result's not out yet, why are some people so smug? Are you so sure that Lu Man's results will be bad?"

"Lu Man's constantly on shows and film festivals. She only cared about these things, so how good are her results gonna be? Doesn't the school care? Just because her husband is Han Zhuoli, she gets special accommodation?"

Liang Chengbing joined the fray. "A student should do what a student does—study in school. Or else what's the point of going to school? Just to get a degree? I've never agreed with students attending too many activities."

### **Chapter 1372: The Proof Speaks for Itself**

"Goodness, Liang Chengbing's words stereotyped a lot of people! Lu Man's not the only one who attends events during the term breaks. There's still Zhang Xiaoying, Fu Kaiqi, Chang Yachen, and many others! Director Liang, aren't you attacking too many people at once?"

"Attack Lu Man all you want, Liang Chengbing, but what do you mean by bringing our Kaiqi into this?"

Fans of other celebrities also came out and rebuked Liang Chengbing.

"I must make myself clear, I'm not criticizing anyone else. As to Kaiqi, Xiaoying, Yachen, and the others mentioned by the netizens, I'm familiar with them and have good relations with them. They've only attended the normal events and those didn't affect their individual student lives. I don't think there's a need to be so strict about that. I'm only talking about Lu Man," Liang Chengbing hurriedly explained.

He was out to condemn only Lu Man, not to offend anybody else.

Han Zhuoli had already begun to shut him out.

The Han Corporation had clearly stated that from now on, none of his works would receive the Han Corporation's investment nor appear in the Han Corporation's cinema chains.

The Han Corporation would not prevent any of its artistes from appearing in his shows as long as he had convinced them.

But the Han Corporation's artistes were no fools either. With the Han Corporation's near-monopoly, they had enough films and roles to choose from within their own company.

Filming others' shows were just icing on the cake.

Just like Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng. Though they had their own companies, they were still signed under the Han Corporation, so the two major directors were the Han Corporation's men.

There were also plenty of directors not under the Han Corporation, and Liang Chengbing's not the only one.

Most famous artistes could afford to choose the roles they want, while Liang Chengbing did not want those who couldn't afford to be picky and would accept any roles.

Hence, the Han Corporation had basically cut off the majority of Liang Chengbing's choices.

The other investors were not simpletons either. If the film could not make it to the Han Corporation's cinema chain, the local box office would have already lost at least half its potential earnings.

If even breaking even was risky, then why invest in Liang Chengbing?

As such, Liang Chengbing was stuck in a limbo where he had no shows to direct.

Even though he was not directing now, he did not lack the money thanks to the various investments across different areas such as real estate and hotels, in addition to the money he earned as a director after so many years. He could even retire now.

But to be forced into this circumstance by the Han Corporation made Liang Chengbing very frustrated.

He was a well-known director, yet he was forced into the fringes of the entertainment industry by the Han Corporation.

Since he was already in this state—not in need of money and with no shows to direct—he chose to go all the way and just focus on dissing Lu Man.

He was even crazier than Zhang Lun.

Lu Man's fans were naturally upset. "What's wrong with you, Liang Chengbing?! What d'you mean by others can attend events but Lu Man can't? Pray tell, how does Lu Man's attending shows affect her school life?"

"This is Lu Man's schedule for the year. The proof speaks for itself." One of Lu Man's fans directly posted Lu Man's schedule online.

"The first time Lu Man went on Classic X Files was during the winter break, during the Spring Festival break. There were no lessons then, so what would Lu Man affect by attending the program? The second

time she went for filming, she'd taken only a day off. Even normal students like us take a day off when we're unwell, so what's the big deal about taking a day off? Lu Man has applied for leave only that one day for this whole year; do tell us, how did Lu Man affect her studies by filming? What a joke!"

"Lu Man's attended three events in total this year. The first two when she went on Classic X Files and the third was when she attended the Fei Yue International Film Festival. Haha, I believe everyone knows without me saying, the film festival was held at night, and Lu Man had no lessons then. Now you're saying that Lu Man neglected her studies for filming? Are you eating your words now?"

### **Chapter 1373: Release of the Top Ten Results**

"Classic X Files posted on its official Weibo!" a netizen exclaimed.

Everyone went to take a look and saw that the official Classic X Files account had uploaded the times when Lu Man came for filming.

"Lu Man did not neglect her studies," the Classic X Files official account wrote.

Lu Dongliu reposted this Weibo.

Lu Man's fans were in glee. "Look, even the official account has released the timing. What do others have to say? Liang Chengbing's just a low-class anti-fan!"

"Hahahaha, the production team's proving haters wrong."

"Pitying Liang Chengbing lolol. Got thrashed before by Classic X Files who'd rather invite Lu Man over him, and got thrashed again this time by the production team. Oh, Liang Chengbing, why do you do this to yourself?"

"Look, Lu Man's class counselor has spoken!" a netizen said.

Everyone clicked into Teacher Liang's Weibo main page, and her personal authentication clearly stated that she was a teacher at the National Film Academy.

Teacher Liang wrote, "I'm a counselor in Lu Man's class, and Lu Man will approach me if she needs to apply for leave. I can be a witness that the number of times Lu Man has applied for leave is fewer than that of her classmates. Unless she had especially important private affairs, she wouldn't otherwise apply for leave. And the one and only time she did so was so she could go filming for a program, the reason for which she explicitly told me. It was for the season finale of Classic X Files, which I had personally encouraged Lu Man to attend."

"See, the counselor herself has spoken. What are the others dissing about?! They really have too much time on their hands."

"Likely because Lu Man's Han Zhuoli's wife, so she's buttering her up."

"Haha, what dark thoughts you have, the person above. What kind of life have you experienced?"

"Being fair means currying favor? What type of person are you?! So insistent on criticizing Lu Man, what's up can become down and left become right with your tongues."

“Honestly, it’s also because Lu Man has done things that have set tongues wagging. If she did not go beyond her role as a student and just attended class dutifully, would she have given the chance for others to speak about her? Alright, even if she was relatively low-key this year, let’s not forget the ruckus she created during her first year, plus the long break she applied for to go filming.”

“Person above has nothing else to diss about, do you? Still bringing up stuff from her freshman year. Pretty sure the current topic is raised due to Lu Man’s exam results. But Lu Man scored first for her first-year finals. Don’t forget, Lu Man only started in the second semester, a whole semester less than her classmates. Even when she left for filming, she’d still managed to rank first. What’s there to criticize her about?”

“The National Film Academy has released a statement too.”

Everyone saw that the National Film Academy had reposted Teacher Liang’s Weibo, with the same stance as Teacher Liang, saying that Lu Man did not apply for leave for many days for filming during her freshman and sophomore years.

The one time she went on leave for private affairs was for her honeymoon and had reported to school a week late. But this was nothing for a typical student.

“You can’t judge her differently just because she’s Lu Man. If you insist on Lu Man going to school on time just like other students, then you’ve got to allow her to apply for leave for reasonable causes just like other students!”

“That’s right!”

“Upvote!”

The National Film Academy wrote: “The results for this year are out. We planned to release it during the end of the holidays after the announcement, but since everyone is so curious, we shall now release the top ten results. Please give us a moment.”

There were still some salty netizens. “The National Film Academy really backs Lu Man, eh? As long as there’s some incident, they’ll speak up for her immediately. Do other students receive such treatment too?”

#### **Chapter 1374: Lu Qi Caught Wind of It**

“Stop scorning, person above. You can receive it too if you manage to get Han Zhuoli to marry you. But can you? You can’t, so shut up please.”

“Han Zhuoli’s certainly part of the reason the National Film Academy is backing Lu Man, but there’s nothing to disparage about that since this is human nature. I don’t believe Lu Man’s anti-fans would insist so in front of Han Zhuoli.”

“True, anyone can be a keyboard warrior. What’s more, Lu Man’s done no wrong, so what’s wrong with the National Film Academy supporting her? Wait until Lu Man’s done something wrong and the National Film Academy is still backing her before you diss.”

“But still, when’s the National Film Academy releasing the results? We’re still waiting!”

The netizens started pressing.

The editor of the National Film Academy's official Weibo account was currently in Principal Liu's office.

After getting the results from Principal Liu and scanning them into the computer, the editor then cropped the top ten results and posted it online.

"My god, Lu Man's first again!"

"She's awe-inspiring! Is she still human? Going on shows and fighting Liang Chengbing, getting married in the middle, and the end result is getting ranked first!"

"These words are for the students ranked behind Lu Man. Lu Man's so busy and yet she can still be first. You guys are always at school, why can't you all surpass Lu Man?"

This netizen even tagged a few who didn't like Lu Man, including Zhang Xiaoying, Zhuang Tingting, Fan Xiyue, and the others.

Seriously, this netizen had a good memory.

In the list, except for Zhang Xiaoying who maintained a position within the top ten at the fourth rank, the other two did not even make it to the top ten list.

Being tagged by the netizens made them furious enough, especially those who did not make the list, but they even got snarked by the netizens.

There were so many who did not make it, was there something wrong with the netizen's brain? Why emphasize only them?

"Real smooth. Lu Man's not here, yet her results could still slap faces. She's truly the Goddess of Fury."

"She's ingrained herself as the Goddess of Fury in our hearts."

"My Goddess of Fury wins without any tricks."

"No wonder Lu Man didn't appear. Her results are so awesome. It was just a matter of time for the truth to slap faces. She didn't need to waste her time clarifying herself."

"Lu Man: I may not be here, but my legends are everywhere."

"Hahahahaha, the anti-fans have short-term memories. Doesn't it hurt getting the truth slapped in your faces so many times? Have your faces swollen yet?"

Lu Man looked at all the comments online—every single one, be it the good or the bad.

But even the bad ones could not affect her mood.

One could say that Lu Man had a good stress threshold.

She'd only laughed away the negative comments.

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Lu Qi was not involved in any shows currently, so she specifically went to assist the teachers at the school during the holidays.

She'd hoped to leave a good impression so that maybe one day, a teacher could recommend to her a role to play.

On this day in the staff office, she overheard Teacher Liang chatting with other teachers as she was sorting out the files.

"I heard that Lu Man didn't want to go to New York for the exchange?" Teacher Wang, who used the same office, asked.

Teacher Liang had yet to be informed of the principal's decision, so she would not announce that Lu Man was staying to meet the exchange students from New York University for the time being.

Hence, with her back facing Lu Qi, Teacher Liang nodded to Teacher Wang. "That's right. She is considering her family now that she's married. She didn't want to abandon her family for a whole long year, so she rejected it."

Teacher Liang sighed in disapproval. "I think that it's really a pity. What a good opportunity it is! Though she won't lack the opportunity with Han Zhuoli around her, this was still a chance she'd earned herself. It's more legitimate. It'd only benefit her to learn more when she's still able to explore before her acting becomes fixed."

#### **Chapter 1375: Speaking Bad About Lu Man Again**

"It's better to learn early, and there's so much to learn over there. But Lu Man just doesn't put it to heart." Teacher Liang shook her head. "But to each his own, everyone has their own opinions. Lu Man might be one of those who'd give up everything just for her family and her love. I just lack this opportunity, but if I had it, I'd have seized it with both hands and went, whatever it took. Even if not to learn, it's good to experience more and broaden your horizons, lest we stay only on this tiny piece of land and forget how big the world out there is after a long time."

Teacher Wang laughed. "Oh, you. Already married to your husband for such a long time. An old couple already, the youthful passion is long gone. Wouldn't you feel relaxed to travel and not miss your husband after a year?"

"Lu Man is a young lady and newly married. It's their honeymoon period, so it's normal for her to not bear separating from her husband. Moreover, just like you said, she won't lack any chances with Han Zhuoli behind her. She might not even think much about going on an exchange program to New York," Teacher Wang said. "It's just a mere exchange. If she wanted, Han Zhuoli could even arrange for her to earn her masters and Ph.D. there. An exchange's only for a year, what's the big deal?"

Teacher Liang shook her head, smiling. "I just thought it was a pity. Furthermore, both schools will always have a friendly competition every year. Wouldn't we have a better chance of winning with Lu Man?"

"Alright, this isn't something we should worry about," Teacher Wang said. "We also shouldn't depend on Lu Man for everything. Don't pressure her too much."

Teacher Liang nodded, and the conversation came to an end.

Lu Qi's thoughts had long flown out of the window, and unable to concentrate at her task, she ran over to ask, "Teacher Liang, is what you said true? Lu Man... my sister, she refused the chance to study in New York?"

Teacher Liang's expression changed. How could she forget that Lu Qi was in the office as well?

She knew that Lu Man and Lu Qi had a bad relationship, and as a teacher, Teacher Liang tried not to treat her students based on personal biases.

But she was still unhappy that Lu Qi had heard of this matter.

Of course, she was the one to blame for forgetting about Lu Qi and speaking carelessly.

But since others would know about Lu Man's decision sooner or later, Teacher Liang said, "That's Lu Man's choice, but we have to see if the school agrees. It's not only me, the principal disagrees too. We just have to wait and see how it turns out."

Teacher Liang told Lu Qi, "This matter's still undecided, so don't you spread it around, lest the students get into a tizzy."

Lu Qi smiled. "I definitely won't speak of it. But... I do know my sister. Once she has decided on something, she won't change her mind. Plus, now that she has Young Master Han behind her, she probably doesn't care one bit if others approve or disapprove."

Teacher Liang frowned slightly. In just a few sentences, Lu Qi still managed to speak badly of Lu Man.

Compared to Lu Qi, Teacher Liang obviously liked Lu Man more.

Even though she had Han Zhuoli, she was capable by herself and did things honestly, not all sneaky and condescending.

Based on this one point, she was far stronger than Lu Qi.

After this incident, Teacher Liang decided that no matter what help was needed, she wouldn't accept Lu Qi's even if Lu Qi volunteered.

Or else Lu Qi might hear something else again. How dangerous.

"Haha." Teacher Liang kept her composure. "Anyway, what I say doesn't matter. It ultimately depends on the principal's decision."

### **Chapter 1376: Persistent**

Lu Qi bit her lip. What a pity. Had she used this trick on a male teacher, he might have taken pity on her.

But she was dealing with Teacher Liang, a female, and she would not fall for her trap.

Teacher Liang even despised her style.



Only to hear Lu Qi question, “Ms. Liang, if my sister isn’t joining, then there’d be an empty slot. Will the slot be left for our school or given to the National Drama Academy?”

“Hard to say, because Lu Man won the spot through the Chinese Arts Championships and not through the school’s test. Even if her spot is empty, it’s unclear if it’ll be given to the National Film Academy or to the National Drama Academy, or maybe the two schools will compete for the spot.” Teacher Liang chose her words carefully when dealing with Lu Qi; she always left some leeway.

“But our school has only three places in total, including Lu Man’s, and the National Drama Academy also has three. Originally, we maintained the three spots and never fought for more because Lu Man’s our school’s student. If Lu Man doesn’t go, then our school will be left with two spots. By right, the third spot should still be our school’s, or else our school will be missing a place and that’s not right.”

Teacher Liang gave no reply to that, merely repeating, “My words don’t count either, so we just have to wait for the school’s leaders to speak.”

“But if, I’m saying if,” Lu Qi persisted, “if Lu Man is not joining for sure and her spot is empty, can we fight for it? Through our results?”

Teacher Liang smiled and said, “If I remember correctly, your right to compete for a spot on the exchange program to New York University was removed because of your mistake. Isn’t that right?”

Lu Qi gagged. She had not forgotten that.

It was because Lu Man had the spot and only two were left; she did not have much to compete with, so she gave up.

But now, she knew that there might be a possibility of a slot opening up. Lu Qi felt that she had a chance to compete for it.

Moreover, the punishment was so long ago. She never expected that Teacher Liang would still remember it.

However, Lu Qi was still confident.

Since, apart from Lu Man, the people in the class who could possibly make it were just the usual few.

The school couldn’t not care about their line-up just because of her punishment, could they?

Punishments could be modified, but they could not lose the friendly exchange competition to New York University badly.

Knowing that she was capable but not putting her to use? The school’s leaders were no fools.

They would still consider the picture and put the school as a unit first.

Lu Qi said nothing then. The most urgent matter was to think of ways for the school to cancel her punishment.

She rushed to finish her tasks and left in a hurry.

Totally unlike the previous times when she stayed back to ask this and that, and even asked to treat the teachers to a meal.

She called He Zhengbai the moment she got inside the car. "Zhengbai, where are you? I'll go find you."

"I'm in my office." He Zhengbai glanced at the woman on his lap. As she was about to kiss him, he tilted his head so her kiss landed at the corner of his lips. "What is it?"

"I'm going over now, there's something important going on," Lu Qi said.

He Zhengbai frowned. Because he moved his head, the woman in his embrace kept kissing his face and neck.

"Now? I'm quite busy. Must you come over right now? If there's no hurry, you can come later," He Zhengbai said.

### **Chapter 1377: Recording**

"Just as well, I'm busy during this period and have little time to spend with you. We'll eat together later on, and after dinner, all my time is yours." He Zhengbai made himself sound hoarse and sexy.

Lu Qi was delighted, her eyes shining with desire.

However, she said, "I really have an urgent matter so I'm going to look for you. When we're done, I'll wait for you near your office and won't disturb you until you're done with work."

He Zhengbai pursed his lips in annoyance and looked at the woman in his arms. Pushing her away, he said, "Okay, come over."

After he hung up, the woman looked at him petulantly. "You asked me to come, now you're asking me to go?"

He Zhengbai squeezed her cheeks, saying, "Just let it be for today. I had no idea she'd come suddenly. I'll find you tomorrow."

The woman pouted unhappily.

He Zhengbai laughed. "Don't pout so. I've been spending all my time with you, just one day makes no difference."

"Alright." The woman relented, hearing this. "I'll forgive you this time, seeing that you've been accompanying me. Don't you dare send me away next time."

The woman walked over and grabbed He Zhengbai's hand, pulling it over to her body. "I'm already like this."

He Zhengbai chuckled. "Understood. I'll make sure you can't walk tomorrow."

The woman smirked in return before pecking him on the lips. Rearranging her clothes properly, she then left the room completely unashamed.

The employees in He Zhengbai's office were used to such scenes already.

What's more, she's not the only woman.

He Zhengbai's actions were nothing new either.

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When Lu Qi arrived, He Zhengbai's employees all looked towards her with ridicule in their eyes.

Lu Qi always came in high spirits with her nose stuck high up in the air.

Alas, she was always looked down upon as a joke by the workers, yet she had never noticed.

She thought that the eyes that focused on her every time she walked through the door were ones that were looking up to her and envying her.

Lu Qi knocked on the door and heard He Zhengbai's voice. "Enter."

Lu Qi went in and saw He Zhengbai hard at work behind his desk, dressed smartly and appropriately.

No slips or differences could be seen on He Zhengbai. One could never have thought that just half an hour ago, there was another woman sitting on his lap, about to do indescribable things with him.

At that time, He Zhengbai's clothes had also been messed up, his blouse unbuttoned to the stomach.

But right now, he looked like a total gentleman again.

At this time, He Zhengbai raised his head and saw Lu Qi. He said, "You're here. Give me a moment, I'm about done."

As if he was really busy, he bent his head once more to deal with lord-knows-what business.

Lu Qi put on an understanding, good-girl front and sat on the sofa at the side.

He Zhengbai's eyes flashed. The place where Lu Qi was sitting...

He sneered in his heart; the place was where he and the woman were about to do the deed.

Though Lu Qi interrupted and they hadn't started, they'd been well on their way.

And now that Lu Qi was sitting there, dark and dirty thoughts stirred within He Zhengbai.

He Zhengbai put down the documents in his hands and walked towards Lu Qi.

He was roused by the woman just now, and seeing Lu Qi sitting there, he could not help fantasizing.

The flames of desire he'd put out with much difficulty flared again.

And Lu Qi's here for the taking. How great.

"Zhengbai, you're done?" Lu Qi lifted her head in delight.

Only to see He Zhengbai walking over. She knew what was going on upon seeing the expression on his face.

Every time He Zhengbai had the interest, he looked like this.

Lu Qi felt her mouth go dry; she hadn't had this feeling with He Zhengbai for a long time.

Though both of them did sleep together recently, she felt that He Zhengbai was not fully immersed, not as engaged as in the beginning. He Zhengbai treated her flippantly, as if he was completing an assignment. There was a distinct lack of passion.

But her feelings for He Zhengbai never faded. It got even stronger with time.

As such, she felt anxious when she sensed the changes in He Zhengbai.

Who knew that the feelings would come back at this time?

He Zhengbai's face was filled with lust. It was clear he wanted her badly.

Lu Qi heaved a sigh of relief. She had let her imagination run wild.

Based on how He Zhengbai was looking at her like he couldn't wait to devour her, he was still obviously in love with her.

Lu Qi's face flushed red, her body heating up. "Zhengbai..."

As she spoke, He Zhengbai grabbed her shoulders and kissed her, then took her hand with one of his to show how aroused he was.

Lu Qi blushed and panted, "This... this is your office, the people outside will hear."

He Zhengbai's office did not have good sound insulation.

The previous times Lu Qi came, the open office would ring with laughter during breaks every time the workers grew slightly louder, and she could hear them clearly inside.

He Zhengbai's eyes flashed, his smile growing bigger. "But I can't bear it anymore. I haven't seen you for a few days. Give it to me, Qi Qi."

Lu Qi was cajoled by He Zhengbai and lost her wits in a daze, only feeling that He Zhengbai liked her so much.

Slowly, she consented to He Zhengbai.

He Zhengbai smirked and pushed her onto the sofa.

He flipped her into many different positions—on her back, kneeling, or on him.

Thinking back to the incomplete portion with the woman on the sofa, he got more excited.

Lu Qi could not stop the sounds escaping from her, much less control her volume.

She had lost all her senses now, having long forgotten that she was in He Zhengbai's office and that the sound-insulation was poor.

Her moans caused by He Zhengbai were all carried out into the office.

The male employees in the office got uncomfortable. Lu Qi was beautiful. No matter how out of favor she was now, she was still once an extremely popular celebrity.

One that could only be seen on TV and hardly in person.

Lu Qi's out in the cold now, and that was the reason she turned up here frequently.

Even so, she still had an attractive body.

She did own a beauty worthy of a celebrity, and those artificial beauties were no match.

Her voice was good too. The sounds drifting out went straight into their bones.

Just a mere wall separating them, their boss enjoying a beauty inside while they were stuck outside listening, agitated and thirsty, but unable to see nor touch.

The male workers were all on the edge and wished desperately to go to the restroom to seek release.

All took out their phones and recorded Lu Qi's voice secretly.

It wasn't that they hated Lu Qi despite their constant mockery behind her back. That was only because Lu Qi was being played the fool by He Zhengbai, totally having no idea that He Zhengbai had countless women other than her and still feeling good about herself and looking down on them.

Their current actions had no conflict with their past discussions about her.

Though they could not really do anything to Lu Qi, they surely could fantasize, couldn't they?

By now, a few of the male employees had the same idea to record Lu Qi's voice so that they could listen to it as they find release at home.

A female colleague saw their actions and asked disdainfully, "What are you all gonna do with the recording?"

"Exactly like you thought," a male colleague replied without a hint of modesty.

Perhaps they were affected by the sounds Lu Qi was producing—the male colleagues gradually displayed lecherous expressions, which disgusted their female coworkers.

Among them was a young lady called Chen Yiming.

She actually had a crush on a young lad sharing the office and often found excuses to interact with him.

But now, she saw that the guy was secretly recording Lu Qi's voice as well.

Chen Yiming's face froze in anger. She gritted her teeth as the sounds Lu Qi was shamelessly making kept drifting out.

Moreover, her volume was getting louder and becoming increasingly wanton.

It sounded as if she was crying but not—that feminine moans which would accelerate any man's hearts but women would hate to hear.

Chen Yiming thought about it and secretly used her phone to record Lu Qi's voice.

Obviously, it was not for her to listen to at home.

Since Lu Qi was so cheap, not caring that her shameless sounds were being heard by so many people, she surely wouldn't mind having even more listeners.

As she was recording, she suddenly heard Lu Qi scream He Zhengbai's name, along the lines of how he was so impressive and such. It was as if she was flattering him to satisfy his ego.

Because how many men were truly that great?

She just never thought that she could be so lucky as to record Lu Qi's speaking voice.

It would make it more believable like this when it was uploaded to the Internet.

After a long time, the war inside the room finally ended.

Since Chen Yiming wanted to publicize it for Lu Qi, she had to be fully prepared.

She purposely looked at the time and wrote it down.

When Lu Qi came, she'd also noted the time.

Lu Qi entered He Zhengbai's office and before long, Lu Qi started making those noises, so she could guess the approximate time they started.

She meticulously wrote them down in her phone's Note app.

He Zhengbai got up. He had only unbuckled his belt during the whole process.

His shirt fell out of his pants, and He Zhengbai gracefully tucked it back in as he adjusted his clothes.

Lu Qi was still immersed in the sensation, not knowing what she had done.

She was currently naked on the sofa and soft as a noodle, a stark contrast to He Zhengbai's fully clothed appearance.

It made her lack of self-respect even more apparent while He Zhengbai looked like he was insulting Lu Qi.

But Lu Qi failed to notice all of this. Her eyes were still half-closed and unfocused, her brain empty.

Even if she seemed to be looking at He Zhengbai, in actual fact, her eyes were seeing nothing.

As such, she missed the ridicule in He Zhengbai's eyes when he glanced at her.

It was completely different from the intensity when he was sweating and actively working away on her.

The He Zhengbai right now organized himself, glancing at Lu Qi coolly.

There was no joy or remembrance from doing the deed; there was only boredom.

He looked at Lu Qi as if she was just a tool who threw herself at him and which he used for release.

As for Lu Qi, he had no feelings for her.

He Zhengbai went to get a glass of water as Lu Qi gradually got a sense of her surroundings once more.

She felt uncomfortable seeing that He Zhengbai was ignoring her.

She collected her discarded clothes on the floor silently and put them on before remembering that they were in his office.

Lu Qi grew ashen.

She recalled how she'd completely thrown all propriety out of the window during her passionate peak and how she'd shouted.

It wasn't that she was all that innocent, based on how she usually dressed; when she was with He Zhengbai behind closed doors, she was extremely bold and open to any experience.

Her tactics were part of the reason He Zhengbai was seduced by her.

Lu Man not being liked by Lu Qiyuan was one, and Lu Man not letting He Zhengbai touch her was another.

He Zhengbai was a normal man, so he was obviously repressed and also felt that Lu Man was acting this way because she did not like him enough.

Add in Lu Qi's seduction, and He Zhengbai easily fell into her embrace.

But he had not completely broken off with Lu Man.

Until he was pleasantly surprised by Lu Qi's brazenness in bed. They gradually got bolder and bolder, and He Zhengbai then started drifting away from Lu Man and got together with Lu Qi.

It was precisely because she was always so vocal with He Zhengbai that she forgot that they were in his office and shouted as per usual encouragements such as "Zhengbai, you're so strong" and "Zhengbai, you're so good."

Moreover, she'd always said it loudly and wantonly.

Now that she'd recovered her senses, she then realized that all the sounds she made and words she said were surely heard by the people outside.

Lu Qi instantly felt like she could die of regret.

She was so out of her mind just now that she also forgot all semblance of control.

When she was done tidying her clothes, Lu Qi blushed, her eyes sparkling with a little bit of tears. She threw He Zhengbai a look of shyness and mock anger, grumbling, "The people outside must have heard us."

She flushed red as she covered her ears and shook her head, eyes a little red-rimmed, looking aggrieved.

If it were during their early days together, He Zhengbai wouldn't have borne it and immediately would have coaxed her.

But they were together for a long time now, and He Zhengbai had long been sick of her already.

And he also knew Lu Qi's tricks too well.

Seeing her acting now, He Zhengbai did not feel any love and care, and he was totally devoid of the inclination to comfort her. He even felt like laughing.

Who was she putting on an act for?

He Zhengbai said coolly, "It's okay. So what if the people outside heard you? They wouldn't dare to spread it and wouldn't dare to disrespect you. You just have to pretend that they're not people and ignore them."

Lu Qi choked; she was all ready to curl into He Zhengbai's embrace. Who knew this sentence would pop out instead?

Lu Qi's face fell and she asked unhappily, "Zhengbai, what's wrong with you recently? You've been treating me rather coldly."

He did not even care that they were overheard by the people outside during their throes of passion.

A thought flashed in Lu Qi's mind. Had he really cared, he wouldn't have let anyone else hear or know what they were doing.

Lu Qi could not help but think of Han Zhuoli, who chose to keep his relationship under wraps in consideration of Lu Man's career, just to protect her and not let people gossip after Lu Man's success.

### **Chapter 1378: Rejected**

And then, at the grand ceremony during the film festival, he let everyone know that he and Lu Man were a couple using such a dramatic and romantic way.

Lu Qi could not decide which point to be envious of.

Envious that Lu Man's husband was actually Han Zhuoli or, Lu Man's husband being Han Zhuoli aside, that Han Zhuoli actually treated her so well!

Maybe she was envious of both.

Then she compared him to He Zhengbai, and Lu Qi's face darkened even further.

He Zhengbai realized that he might have been a little bit too cold.

He did not want Lu Qi to fall apart yet.

Their family still wanted more of the Lu Corporation's money.

Hence, He Zhengbai carried Lu Qi to sit on the sofa.

Lu Qi thought of what they both just did and felt shy and furious, but also sweet and regretful; all her emotions were tangled together.

"Don't be angry." He Zhengbai could only soothe her. "I couldn't help myself either. I promise you I won't be like this next time. I'll see you out when you leave. They won't even dare to look at you with me there. I'll tell them to watch their mouths later."



Lu Qi finally felt happier after feeling He Zhengbai's concern.

He Zhengbai then asked, "Oh, right, you came hurriedly to find me. What's the matter?"

Lu Qi finally recalled what she sought him out for and told him about how Lu Man was not going to New York for the exchange. "She emptied a spot, and others will have another opportunity. It's just that I was penalized by the school and lost the right to compete to go on an exchange program. Can you think of any way for the school to remove my penalty?"

Give the school money using the He family name, or as a direct sponsor to the school.

He Zhengbai's eyes flashed. Why would he be willing to fork out the He Family money just for Lu Qi to go for an exchange?

He might have considered it when he still liked Lu Qi.

But all that's left now was Lu Qi's usefulness to him; he wouldn't make such money-losing deals.

"I really want to help you, but recently, my family even stopped my investments. If I told them that I want to help you..." He Zhengbai said helplessly, "I also have no films to make because of Han Zhuoli. I've been surviving on my family's investments. But my dad and big brother stopped giving me money recently, saying that I have no talent in this area so we should stop wasting money and go back to the family business."

He Zhengbai wiped his face in frustration. "So I've been surviving on the little bit of money left from before. I've been busy these few days and have no time to accompany you because I was busy searching for investors. Making plans hoping that someone will invest in my company and my shows, so that I can continue operating. Or else..."

"You're going back to your family's company?" Lu Qi asked.

He Zhengbai shook his head. "What do I know at home? I've always been studying directing. My family has my brother. I have no say in the important matters. They'll only give me the easy jobs. Even if they really give me an important role, they won't be fine with a director who's basically a layman in business.

"Moreover, there's still my big brother. He'd take precautions against me. Even if I really have the skill, he won't let me take the reins." He Zhengbai looked at Lu Qi. "You know that my big brother's taking over the family in the future. When I learned this, I also knew that I can never compete with my brother. That's why I chose to study directing at the National Film Academy, to walk a totally different path from my brother. He'll then know that I have no intention of fighting him and he won't make life difficult for me and not short-change what I deserve."

### **Chapter 1379: Useless Bum**

"I never thought that Han Zhuoli would actually make things difficult for me. I've never reaped earnings, but my dad and brother are the typical businessmen who focus on profits and rates of returns for investments. They'd rather give me money every month to spend lavishly than invest in me endlessly with no return in sight under these circumstances."

He Zhengbai sighed. "So I'm thinking that, if I can't get anyone to invest soon, I'd have to consider acting. I'd bear it even if I was a minor character. It's better than being a loafer and being scorned all day by my dad and brother, to be looked down upon and treated as a good for nothing.

"At least now, I have my own career and it's something I specialized in. They can't compete with me on this. Even if it's difficult and I earn less, it's still my job and I'm not an idler. So, no matter what, I'm never going back. I have to persist." He Zhengbai smiled bitterly. "Qi Qi, it's not that I don't want to help you. But now that they're not even helping me, I..."

"If I had money on hand, I'd help you without a moment's hesitation," He Zhengbai said sincerely.

Lu Qi lowered her eyes to conceal her thoughts.

She never expected that He Zhengbai's position at home would be this bad.

Even if she married him in the future, she'd have nothing to gain.

She had no roles to play while He Zhengbai had no shows to direct.

His family clearly would not help him.

If she were to stay with He Zhengbai, what kind of a lousy life would she live?

They would not be poor exactly.

Both their families would not let them live poorly.

But with their unsuccessful careers, they'd be hanging their head low when they're out socializing.

When speaking of their husbands, hers would be a wealthy scion, true, but with a failing career, he'd also be living on his family's wealth and be unable to help her one bit.

Look at Lu Man—how much did she gain because of Han Zhuoli?

All her achievements right now were given by Han Zhuoli.

Look how high she could hold her head.

Lu Qi was silent for a moment before raising her eyes to look at He Zhengbai. "I really didn't know that your situation is so bad right now..."

Lu Qi acted so kind and understanding. "If I'd known, I wouldn't have made this request to you."

"It's okay, I just didn't want you to worry." He Zhengbai smiled bitterly.

"Then I'll think of other ways. I'll also look out for you, see if there're any ways to help you," Lu Qi said.

He Zhengbai appeared moved, saying, "It's more than enough that you can understand me. On the other hand, it's me that's useless, unable to help you."

Lu Qi thought so too.

She suddenly felt that it was meaningless having a tumble with him just now.

Lu Qi held down her unhappiness and pecked He Zhengbai on the lips.

He appeared more and more like an eye-sore now, the more she looked at He Zhengbai, this useless man.

Useless bum!

On the surface, though, Lu Qi smiled lovingly at him. She stood, saying, "Then I won't bother you anymore. Go back to work. I'll think of something."

He Zhengbai held Lu Qi's hand. "Alright, I'll see you out."

Lu Qi lifted her lips. Though he might be a bit useless, at least he knew how to protect her.

And, hence, under He Zhengbai's protection, Lu Qi and he walked out of the office.

Since they did do it once, Lu Qi's hair and clothes were visibly mussed.

Chen Yiming secretly bent and hid behind the desk partition, adjusted her phone to silent mode, and quickly snapped a few shots of the couple.

### **Chapter 1380: Following**

He Zhengbai sent Lu Qi to the lift. "Don't rush. If there's anything you need help with, let me know."

He then kissed Lu Qi on her forehead and watch her enter the lift.

He Zhengbai kept his smile on before the lift doors closed.

The moment the doors snapped shut, He Zhengbai dropped his facade and revealed his scorn.

Did she think that he never realized the changes in her expression when he spoke of his situation at home?

He spoke the truth, exaggerated though it might be.

His family would give less cash to him, but the cash flow won't be stopped.

He just didn't want to spend money on Lu Qi for nothing.

The amount of money involved would be massive if he went the sponsoring route, or else why would it be called "sponsoring"?

He did not think it worth it to spend so much money just to send Lu Qi to New York.

What's more, Lu Qi merely wanted to remove her penalty. It was still uncertain if she could get the spot for the exchange.

Lu Qi really treated him as a fool.

He Zhengbai went back to his office with a dark expression and dialed a number. "Go and follow Lu Qi these next few days. See where she goes."

Lu Qi kept saying she would think of ways, but she was such a d\*mb b\*tch. What methods could she think of?

She best not be offering her body to someone else.

Though he might be sick of Lu Qi, he did not have any fetish for sharing his girlfriend with somebody else.

If she really offered herself up to others, then he could not be blamed if he treated her without courtesy.

Unexpectedly, Lu Qi actually went to the Han Corporation.

When He Zhengbai heard the report, he couldn't help but be in awe of Lu Qi's brazenness.

What type of woman had Han Zhuoli not seen after all these years?

But only Lu Man had managed to snag him.

It could be said that Han Zhuoli had expectations. His partner need not be perfect, but she must at least meet the criteria he had in mind or he wouldn't have been single for so long.

Did she think Han Zhuoli would fall for her petty tricks?

He Zhengbai sneered, saying, "Remember to tell me if Lu Qi went in or not. If she went in, give me the details of how long she spent in there."

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Meanwhile, Lu Qi arrived at the Han Corporation and was stopped at the front desk without surprise.

She had considered it before. Directly reporting her name would not guarantee a meeting with Han Zhuoli.

So she said, "I'm Young Master Han's sister-in-law. I have matters to bring up to him, but I don't have a prior appointment. I'm meeting my brother-in-law, I don't think there's a need to book an appointment."

Lu Qi had gone in a roundabout way without once mentioning her name.

The receptionist did not have the time to recall that she was Lu Qi.

The first impression was Han Zhuoli's sister-in-law, Lu Man's sister.

When Lu Man came for the interview last time, Lu Qi had followed Lu Qiyuan to the Han Corporation.

But the previous receptionist had resigned, and the current one was new, so she had not seen Lu Qi before.

Though she got looped in by Lu Qi, she did not forget his role.

As long as there's no appointment, nobody could meet Han Zhuoli, not even his sister-in-law.

"Please wait a moment." The receptionist dialed for Zheng Tianming.

If the person without an appointment were someone else, he probably won't even get this call.

Zheng Tianming picked up not long after.

“Assistant Zheng,” the receptionist said. “There’s a woman here claiming to be Mrs. CEO’s sister and wants to meet the CEO.”

Zheng Tianming was a lot faster on the uptake, knowing immediately who she was.

“Please wait.” Zheng Tianming knew in his heart that Han Zhuoli wouldn’t meet her, but he still had to inform Han Zhuoli.