

Mr Han 1511

Chapter 1511: Shamelessly Go After

"You can." Tong Chunian nodded. He led Xiao Zhang towards the office and said, "Although Young Master Ling did not say it, he canceled all his schedules before you came back just to wait for you."

"Then what should I do? Young Master Ling gives this such a high importance, yet this result..." Although he was not responsible for it, Xiao Zhang still felt a lot of pressure.

"What else can we do? Of course just tell the truth." Tong Chunian thought it was still fine. "Anyway, he's wooing a girl. How would he succeed at the first try? There definitely needs to be a process to let the girl see your sincerity."

Tong Chunian patted Xiao Zhang's shoulder. "Don't worry. Young Master Ling will understand."

"..." Xiao Zhang turned and stared at Tong Chunian with a conflicted look on his face. "Are you sure Young Master Ling will understand? He's never wooed a girl before. The first time he actually liked a girl, he got rejected just like that. You think he will still understand?"

Tong Chunian: "..."

These words sounded so reasonable.

"Enough. Even if he doesn't understand, you're not responsible for it either. Do you think Young Master Ling will actually blame the wrong person?" As to this point, Tong Chunian was still very confident about it. Han Zhuoling was not the kind to casually push the blame to others.

Xiao Zhang thought so too and scratched his head. "Actually, I'm just afraid that Young Master Ling will feel sad."

Seeing how he'd canceled his schedules just to wait for this result, he must have been really looking forward to it.

"Young Master Ling will be able to take it!" Tong Chunian had the utmost confidence in Han Zhuoling.

Furthermore, Han Zhuoling knew from the start that he made the lady angry, so he should know that it would not be that easy to coax the lady back.

"He will definitely be mentally prepared." After saying that, Tong Chunian did not give Xiao Zhang a chance to hesitate and knocked straight on the door.

After two knocks, Tong Chunian opened the door. "Young Master Ling, Xiao Zhang is back."

"Young Master Ling." Xiao Zhang braced himself and went in.

Tong Chunian closed the door and waited outside.

Seeing Xiao Zhang's expression, Han Zhuoling knew that this trip was definitely not a successful one.

"How is it? Did you deliver the flowers?" Han Zhuoling asked.

Xiao Zhang nodded slowly and said, "I delivered it, and I personally placed it in Ms. Shi's hands. She also saw the card that you wrote. After reading it, she just said 'understood.'"

Xiao Zhang told Han Zhuoling all that Shi Xiaoya said without leaving out a single word. He even told her how she told him not to go to such trouble next time.

"That's all?" Han Zhuoling asked further.

Xiao Zhang nodded. "That's all."

Han Zhuoling thought to himself that that young girl must be really angry this time.

If sending flowers did not work, what should he do?

While Han Zhuoling was feeling troubled over this, he suddenly recalled Han Zhuoli's words.

Coaxing a girl who's angry with you is like wooing a girl. You just need to be thick-skinned and shamelessly go after her.

Han Zhuoling instantly felt as if he'd caught on to something.

If sending flowers once didn't work, then he will send them a few more times. Send them every day, until Shi Xiaoya stops being angry.

"I got it. You'll still go to the flower shop tomorrow, buy the flowers, and give it to her personally," Han Zhuoling said. "I will write another card tomorrow. You'll give it to her together. It will be the same as today. You must hand it personally over to her. Whatever she says, come back and report to me."

"Yes," Xiao Zhang answered and walked towards the door. He was already in front of the door before he smacked his head and suddenly recalled something.

"Young Master Ling, I also heard something," Xiao Zhang said.

"What is it?" Han Zhuoling got his spirits up again.

"Ms. Shi will attend the welcome dinner hosted by the National Film Academy for the exchange students from New York University. I heard her assistant saying that Jiang Yuhan wants to hire her to do her makeup. However, Ms. Shi intends to ask Lu Man first. If Lu Man did not need her services for this, she would agree to Jiang Yuhan's request. Either way, she will definitely be attending this dinner," Xiao Zhang said.

Chapter 1512: Suddenly Want to Go

He knew that as they were the head of the entertainment industry, the school had also invited Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoli would definitely be attending, because Lu Man would be there.

Han Zhuoling had rejected the invite previously and did not intend to go.

It was because Han Zhuoli alone was already quite an influential figure. If he went as well, it would seem as if they were giving too much attention.

If he had the time, he might as well do some other work.

But now that Shi Xiaoya was attending as well, things were very different.

He did not know if Han Zhuoling would attend because of Shi Xiaoya, but Xiao Zhang felt that he still needed to let Han Zhuoling know about it, whether he wanted to go or not.

Han Zhuoling paused for a moment before he nodded. "I got it."

Xiao Zhang was curious. So was he going or not?

He struggled with his curiosity as he walked out of the door.

The moment he closed the office door, Xiao Zhang was pulled to the side by Tong Chunian.

Tong Chunian could not contain his curiosity. "How did it go? What's Young Master Ling's attitude towards this?"

Xiao Zhang said in a relaxed tone, "We worried for nothing previously. Young Master Ling indeed lives up to his name. He is strong!"

Xiao Zhang gave a thumbs up and said, "He even said to continue sending flowers tomorrow! Judging from Young Master Ling's attitude, as long as Shi Xiaoya is still angry, he will keep sending flowers!"

This was starting to have the spirit of a rich man wooing a girl.

Tong Chunian said in admiration, "Tell me, how is Young Master Ling so smart? He's never wooed a girl before, yet the moment he does, he's actually so good at it. He even knows how to learn by analogy. He's not just good at working, he even learns so fast when it comes to wooing girls!"

"Why else would he be Young Master Ling?" Xiao Zhang also chimed in admiration.

Han Zhuoling did not know that his two subordinates were imagining how easily enlightened he was about the skills for wooing girls.

But in reality, that's not true!

At that moment, the office line on Tong Chunian's desk rang. Tong Chunian told Xiao Zhang, "Young Master Ling is looking for me. I'll go in first."

"You carry on with work." Xiao Zhang left after saying that.

Tong Chunian quickly entered Han Zhuoling's office. "Young Master Ling, you asked for me?"

"Did the National Film Academy invite me to attend the welcome dinner for New York University exchange students previously?" Han Zhuoling asked.

"Yes. Back then, you felt that since Young Master Han was going, you won't need to go, so you rejected the invite," Tong Chunian said.

Han Zhuoling tapped his index and middle fingers on the table before he said, "Reach out again. Tell them that my original schedule has been canceled, so I have the time to go now."

Tong Chunian's face was filled with undisguised surprise. Han Zhuoling never liked to attend such events. He would always not go whenever possible and would only attend those that he had no choice but to attend.

Why did he suddenly want to go when he clearly rejected it previously?

Tong Chunian thought about it but still could not wrap his mind around it. He then agreed and did not ask the reason for it.

He went out and contacted the organizer again. When the other party learned that Han Zhuoling was also going, he was overjoyed.

Han Zhuoli was already giving them enough face. Now that both the big shots from the Han Corporation were going to appear, this level of influence was almost reaching that of an important awards ceremony. Could he not be excited?

After ending the call, Tong Chunian went to report to Han Zhuoling. "Young Master Ling, I've already contacted them. The other party is extremely happy."

Could they not be?

Han Zhuoling nodded and Tong Chunian went out to work.

Tong Chunian told Xiao Zhang about this matter to let him be prepared.

Xiao Zhang was elated when he heard. "Young Master Ling is really going! He didn't say anything just now, so I couldn't guess anything. I thought he wasn't intending to go."

"What do you mean? You know why he's going?" Tong Chunian immediately asked.

Xiao Zhang told him that Shi Xiaoya was going as well. "Luckily, I was being more careful and walked especially slowly, so I managed to hear this. I thought that no matter whether Young Master Ling is going or not, this is still a chance, so I mentioned it to Young Master Ling. I didn't expect that Young Master Ling would actually decide to go."

Chapter 1513: Feels... a Little Disappointed

This also showed that Shi Xiaoya's status was really different in Han Zhuoling's heart.

Both of them exchanged a knowing look.

After Xiao Zhang left, Shi Xiaoya carried the flowers with her into the office.

Guo Yujie found her a vase from somewhere and said, "May I help you put them in?"

Shi Xiaoya stared at that big bouquet of flowers. Han Zhuoling's face appeared in her mind again.

"I have nothing to do anyway. I'll do it myself," Shi Xiaoya said.

"Okay." Guo Yujie smiled and went out.

Shi Xiaoya snipped off the thorns on the roses and trimmed the branches a little before inserting each stalk carefully into the vase.

When she was done, she then sat down and saw the card that had been placed on the table by her.

Shi Xiaoya picked up that card. Previously, when she took out the card in front of Xiao Zhang, she only took a quick look at it and did not look at it carefully.

Actually, she did not know how carefully she could look at it either. There were only six words in total.

When she first saw those six simple words, there were only three words in the content: "I am sorry."

She could not describe how she felt when she first saw this card.

She'd felt... a little disappointed.

She did not know what she was disappointed about either. What could she expect Han Zhuoling to write for her?

Was he supposed to write some romantic words for her?

What even!

Shi Xiaoya shook her head hard. They did not have that kind of relationship and were not lovers who had a fight. What romantic words would there be?!

How did she have such expectations?

No, she wasn't expecting anything!

It's just... just... Even if it's an apology, he should at least write something more!

"I am sorry." They were just three words. What was she supposed to tell from that?

Shi Xiaoya's gaze landed on the three words, "I am sorry." For some reason, she seemed to be able to tell that the pressure he exerted when writing that was different from his sign off.

The handwriting was the same, so she could tell that Han Zhuoling wrote it himself.

For some reason, with that knowledge, she instantly felt a little happy.

Shi Xiaoya lightly smacked her head. She felt that she was a little embarrassing.

He merely wrote a personal card for her, and it was a total of six words. Three of the words were actually his name and she was already happy.

His name where he signed off felt bold and strong. The tip of his pen was sharp, but at the sharp points, the ends were nicely tipped and not too piercing.

Seeing his writing made the image of his face leap up from the card.

It was really like how one's handwriting resembles the person.

It was just like his personality. Domineering, aloof, and reserved.

But compared to this signature, the three words, "I am sorry," seemed to carry with them some hesitation.

It was as if Shi Xiaoya could see his hesitation before writing those words.

Her fingertips traced every stroke of his name. That face suddenly appeared without warning on the card itself, as if her fingertips were tracing his facial features.

Shi Xiaoya got a shock and immediately retracted her hand, her face burning hot.

It was as if she got scalded. She pinched this card and hesitated for a while before putting it back into the envelope. She did not throw it away but put it properly in her drawer.

Zheng Tianming and Tong Chunian were on good terms. Both of them were chatting over lunch. Tong Chunian did not say that Han Zhuoling bought flowers to woo a girl, he just unintentionally mentioned that Xiao Zhang had something on.

When Zheng Tianming learned that Xiao Zhang had gone to the florist to collect flowers, he'd already guessed it when he thought about it himself.

So he went back and told Han Zhuoli about this.

Han Zhuoli laughed when he heard this.

His Big Brother actually got enlightened so fast.

Han Zhuoli did not care about his work anymore. He threw the files on the table and went straight to Han Zhuoling's office.

He knocked on the door twice symbolically. The rushed knocks did not await a response from Han Zhuoling before Han Zhuoli pushed the door open and walked in.

Chapter 1514: He Really Knows?

As he closed the door, he said, "Big Brother, you sent flowers?"

Those words were so random.

However, Han Zhuoling still understood him at once.

"How did you know?" Han Zhuoling casually asked. He did not feel that anything was up.

"Zheng Tianming heard that Xiao Zhang went to the florist and guessed it." Han Zhuoli sat opposite Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Ever since he came back to work, Han Zhuoli had especially loved coming to his office.

"You sent flowers to Shi Xiaoya?" Han Zhuoli smiled and asked, "What's her reaction?"

"I put a card in the flowers and apologized to her again. She accepted the flowers, but she just said she understood and did not say anything else. Looks like she's still angry." Han Zhuoling stated things as they were. He wanted to hear Han Zhuoli's opinion on it as well.

"That's a good sign," Han Zhuoli said as he smiled.

Han Zhuoling sat up even straighter and even rolled his chair forward slightly. However, he suddenly felt something was off and quickly retracted his slightly excited expression.

The corners of Han Zhuoli's mouth twitched a little. Luckily, he remembered it was not good to tease Han Zhuoling too much and left some face for him.

"Think about it. If she was really that angry with you, she wouldn't even have accepted your flowers much less read your card patiently in front of Xiao Zhang," Han Zhuoli said. "So, this is a good sign. You just need to work harder and you will definitely be able to coax her."

Han Zhuoling felt encouraged and puffed up his chest. "That's what I thought too. So I will continue sending flowers tomorrow and send them until she completely forgives me."

Han Zhuoling thought to himself that he couldn't just keep giving flowers, but it was already a huge improvement for Han Zhuoling to have such an awareness.

"But what did you write in the card?" Han Zhuoli asked curiously.

Han Zhuoling glanced at him. His face was cold and arrogant as he said, "I just wrote 'I am sorry.' What else can I write? My apology is very sincere. I just want to let her know that I am very sorry."

Han Zhuoli: "..."

Haha!

"You should at least say a few nicer words aside from 'I am sorry,' right?" Han Zhuoli was almost speechless. "'I am sorry,' those are only three words. That would really seem insincere."

"Is that so?" Han Zhuoling touched his chin subconsciously. "Understood."

Han Zhuoli: "..."

What did he understand?

Did he really understand?

The Han Zhuoli at present totally did not realize that back when he was at the hospital asking Mo Jingsheng and Chu Tian, he also said himself that he "understood." Back then, Chu Tian and Mo Jingsheng also had the same thoughts as he did now.

Han Zhuoli felt that it was not good to continue being with Han Zhuoling. He was afraid he would be influenced by Han Zhuoling as time went by.

After coming out of Han Zhuoling's office, he happened to hear Tong Chunian confirming Han Zhuoling's schedule for next Friday over the phone.

Han Zhuoli did not take it to heart at first. He was already a few steps out when he suddenly heard Tong Chunian mention the welcome dinner to be held at the National Film Academy.

Han Zhuoli thought to himself that his Big Brother was really a tsundere male.

He knew that Han Zhuoling rejected the dinner invite previously.

He thought that it was reasonable too.

If he went, it was simply for the personal reason of supporting Lu Man. But no matter what, as the CEO of the Han Corporation, his status was enough to grace the event.

With another Han going, the turnup might seem a little too grand.

He did not expect that Han Zhuoling would want to go again.

Han Zhuoli did not rush to leave now.

When Tong Chunian was done with the arrangements, he saw that Han Zhuoli was still around and immediately stood up and greeted, "CEO."

Han Zhuoli nodded. He walked a little closer and asked in a small voice, "My big brother is attending the welcome dinner at the National Film Academy this Friday?"

Chapter 1515: Biological Mom

"..." Tong Chunian thought to himself, *CEO, if you want to ask something, just ask. This gossipy expression has you looking like you're a thief and it really ruins your image.*

"Yes." Tong Chunian nodded. He suddenly understood what Han Zhuoli was asking about and got closer, saying in a small voice, "It was when Young Master Ling sent Xiao Zhang to give Ms. Shi flowers. Xiao Zhang heard Ms. Shi and her assistant discussing work matters and could tell that Ms. Shi would also be attending the welcome dinner at the National Film Academy. Xiao Zhang told Young Master Ling when he came back, and that's why Young Master Ling changed his mind."

Han Zhuoli was excited. "I didn't expect Xiao Zhang to be so smart."

Tong Chunian laughed sneakily and did not dare to say that Han Zhuoling finally got enlightened, so they definitely had to support him. Wherever they could help him, they would surely give their all to do so.

"Alright. Both of you did well for this matter. For this month, aside from Big Brother, I will give both of you a bonus on my side as well." Han Zhuoli patted Tong Chunian's elbow.

Tong Chunian was so surprised that he was stunned. He did not expect to receive such benefits even while helping his boss.

Instantly, he felt even more full of pride. He decided that he would definitely be Boss' good aide!

When Han Zhuoli left, Tong Chunian immediately shared this good news with Xiao Zhang.

Xiao Zhang was so happy that he almost wanted to just stay at Shi Xiaoya's workplace and not come back anymore, so that he could report to Han Zhuoling about the latest situation with Shi Xiaoya round the clock.

As Han Zhuoling was back, and because Han Zhuoling was single, Han Zhuoli did not have any business gatherings at night after he got off work.

Han Zhuoling's biological mom, Lin Liye, personally said to let Han Zhuoling help Han Zhuoli take on more business gatherings.

Lin Liye's original words were, "Anyway, you're single now, you have the time, and you don't have a wife waiting for you to come home every day and watching over you. Zhuoli is different. He has Lu Man waiting at home for him. Furthermore, both of them are now preparing for pregnancy, so it's better for Zhuoli to abstain from drinking alcohol as much as possible. So you should help him out more regarding such business gatherings."

Han Zhuoling: "..."

She could almost be said to be his biological mom.

Lin Liye was his biological mom, after all, so she shouldn't set traps for her son like this either.

But in order to make Han Zhuoling leave his bachelor's life, this was the only way to go.

She just wanted to let Han Zhuoling know that it was because he was single!

If he had a family and a wife to care for, then she definitely would not let him be like this.

But now, whose fault was it that he's free?

If he wanted to rest, then he should quickly get married!

Lu Man also admired Lin Liye. Not one of the women in the Han Family were simpletons indeed!

This kind of convoluted country-saving strategy, this kind of thinking, was something most people could not think of!

It even started off with setting a trap for her own son.

Hence, ever since Han Zhuoling came back, aside from the usual business gatherings, Han Zhuoli had become much more relaxed.

Of course, he could not throw all of these gatherings to Han Zhuoling.

He would still share the burden with Han Zhuoling, but the demand on him was still much lighter compared to when Han Zhuoling had yet to return.

Han Zhuoli came back to Yi Garden first. Xia Qingwei's stomach was growing bigger by the day.

She was almost five months pregnant now. Her stomach was round and protruded, making Lu Man and Wang Juhuai especially nervous.

Especially since Xia Qingwei was getting on in years. Her being pregnant like this was really a little startling.

It was Xia Qingwei who was actually in a good mental state.

Because she really did not feel uncomfortable at all.

From the initial stages of pregnancy until now, the child in her tummy had been very understanding.

Until now, she did not experience any morning sickness. It was just like at the start: when she suspected she was pregnant, it was only because her period was late for many days. Aside from that, there were no other unusual signs.

Chapter 1516: Turn All EQ into IQ

Up until now, there were no other visible differences apart from her ballooning stomach.

But Wang Juhuai was still on edge, insisting on bringing her to the hospital for checkups every fortnight and constantly feeding her nutritious bird's nest soup.

But he didn't dare give too much nourishment, lest the baby became too big and she would have a hard time carrying and delivering it.

Wang Juhuai had already discussed it with her. She should go for a C-section at her age; otherwise, she wouldn't have the strength to deliver.

Han Zhuoli and Lu Man drove home after having dinner there.

On their way home, as he drove, Han Zhuoli told Lu Man about Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya.

Han Zhuoli was all-smiles. "Big Brother won't admit it and insists that he simply wanted to apologize to Shi Xiaoya and ask for her forgiveness, but when had Brother spent so much effort on a woman before in all these years? That isn't how you beg for forgiveness."

Han Zhuoli said, "Big Brother's temper is such that he wouldn't care whether the other party forgave him after he had apologized.

"And now? He's bent on getting Shi Xiaoya's forgiveness." Han Zhuoli snickered. "When has he ever cared about someone else like this? He doesn't care about men, much less those other random women. He's just lying to himself. He's the type of guy that just forms an impression at first, and then he increasingly cares about the other person, sinking deeper and getting more lost in his feelings. When he finally understands, he'd already be in too deep."

Lu Man looked in amusement at Han Zhuoli, who spoke with an air of an experienced person.

"Were you like this with me too?" Lu Man asked with a raised brow.

"Yep. I was only curious. Why did you climb through my window, seek my help, then kiss me and leave, seemingly not wanting to take responsibility for your actions?" Han Zhuoli laughed.

He had checked her and her background thoroughly and anticipated her next move.

The price for his curiosity was giving her his heart.

"Big Brother has yet to be enlightened." Lu Man smiled. "It's quite incredible, now that you think about it. He's 33 yet inexperienced in matters of the heart."

Han Zhuoli burst out laughing. His Big Brother had turned all his EQ into IQ to be used for work.

Lu Man's countenance suddenly changed. "Oh, if only you've told me earlier! Shi Xiaoya called me in the afternoon, asking if I needed her to do my makeup on the gala night. I don't need to make an appearance, I just need to be seated below as a student, so I rejected her offer, lest she missed out on other job opportunities. If I had known, I'd have agreed!"

"It's fine." Han Zhuoli held her hand. "Jiang Yuhan had approached Shi Xiaoya before. She seems to be a guest for the gala. Shi Xiaoya was afraid that she wouldn't be able to help you if you approached her after she had promised to help Jiang Yuhan, so she called to enquire. If you don't need her services, then she'll take on Jiang Yuhan's offer. The ending's the same either way—she'll be there during the gala night. Even if she's not among the guests, she'll be backstage helping Jiang Yuhan with her cosmetics."

As Han Zhuoli spoke, he parked the car in the garage and got down with Lu Man.

Rubbing his chin, he thought aloud, "Now that I think about it, I've seen Shi Xiaoya interact with Brother only once. It's during the previous film festival, when Big Brother got his face scratched and Shi Xiaoya had to cover it up. What about you?"

Lu Man nodded. "Same, I've seen it only once that time."

Chapter 1517: Second Wave of Publicity

"I can't wait for next time, then." Han Zhuoli laughed. "I'm going to observe them on the gala night."

The next day, Shi Xiaoya came to her office as usual.

She didn't accept any job offers today. She was going to fly over and gather with the production team of *Survivor* to film the second episode, so she didn't want to commit to other long-term projects.

Thinking of the harsh conditions during the filming of *Survivor*, Shi Xiaoya had decided to give herself a break and rest for a couple of days.

She especially asked Chi Xingrui about it and was notified that Han Zhuoling wasn't going to join the second filming, but he was going to join again probably for the fourth or fifth week, according to the production team's estimation.

When Shi Xiaoya heard this, she didn't know if she's relieved or disappointed.

A netizen had already revealed a snapshot of the latest information for the first episode of *Survivor* on the Net today.

But according to the director, the netizen was someone hired by the production team and asked to reveal it, as a form of publicity.

And according to Lu Man, this could create a sensation for the show.

By the time the show was filming for the third episode, the first episode would have been broadcast.

The Net was already abuzz with guesses on who would be invited as hosts for *Survivor*.

The production team had approached a number of marketing accounts and released a few name lists of possible MCs.

In order to attract more attention for the show, the names of the actual hosts were in there, along with a few who were placed in there to attract fans.

And now, the release of a few pictures and the latest information regarding the show was the second step of publicity.

But the information wasn't complete either; not all of the hosts were revealed.

There was also another method when revealing the hosts.

Heavyweights like Zhang Shuidong and Han Zhuoling could not be revealed for sure. They had to be kept as trump cards and used for the grand finale of the publicity.

As for hosts like Qin Zigou, who wasn't that influential, there was no point in divulging him at once either since he couldn't attract masses of fans.

Hence, the production team first unveiled Zhang Jian, Lin Yantao, and Liu Chuanhui.

One was a popular young actor with good acting chops. He naturally had lots of fans.

One was a mature, stylish man with real acting skills, coupled with numerous good productions under his belt. He had joined other variety shows before but never as a host, so he would be fresh in the netizens' eyes.

And Liu Chuanhui had never joined any variety shows before, focusing instead on his career as an actor. Though his die-hard fans might be fewer than those of the other two, the audiences love him.

His normal audience-fans were much more numerous than those of Zhang Jian and Lin Yantao combined.

With the three of them revealed, the netizens became extremely enthused and hyped about *Survivor*.

Moreover, the three of them were in the list of possible hosts released previously, so the netizens immediately went digging into the lists.

The celebrities on the lists were all well-loved by fans one way or another.

The netizens thought they weren't being played for fools, nor like they were being tricked, so everyone was happy.

Furthermore, the pre-revealed hosts were so attractive, not to mention the ones saved for last.

The netizens were really no fools. Having seen so many tricks before, they knew that the ones revealed earliest by the production team weren't the best ones.

They looked at the three's standings in the industry and knew that they were well-liked enough, but they weren't high up in the lists.

For such shows, there would be one or two top-lister hosts invited to guarantee the viewership.

So, the netizens were anticipating eagerly.

Done watching the first wave of publicity for *Survivor* in her office, Shi Xiaoya couldn't help but think that when the report that Han Zhuoling had joined the show went out, the netizens would be in for a treat.

Chapter 1518: Draw the Line

Putting down her phone, Shi Xiaoya adjusted her camera and secured it on the camera stand.

After fixing the angle of her lighting board as well, she then began filming a makeup tutorial using the new products.

When she had wrapped up the filming, taken down the camera, and was about to review the shot, someone knocked on her door.

"Enter." Shi Xiaoya placed the camera aside and was met with a big bouquet of roses rather than with Guo Yujie.

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

What was going on?

"Ms. Shi," Xiao Zhang called gaily.

Guo Yujie understood things the moment she saw Xiao Zhang arriving with the flowers, and so she had knocked on the door and let Xiao Zhang go in by himself.

"Mr. Zhang." Shi Xiaoya hurriedly stood, gazing at the flowers in his arms in surprise.

Xiao Zhang said politely, "You're too kind, Ms. Shi. Calling me Xiao Zhang will do."

He then went straight to the business: "This is from Young Master Ling to you. He instructed me to personally hand it to you."

Shi Xiaoya accepted the roses in a daze. She thought once yesterday was enough; who knew he would continue sending her flowers today?

What was he thinking?

Shi Xiaoya found it hard to believe and link such romantic flower-sending endeavors to Han Zhuoling. She said, clarifying, "Is it really from Young Master Ling?"

"Of course." Xiao Zhang quickly explained, "Why would I lie about Young Master Ling? Plus, I wouldn't dare use Young Master Ling in a lie!"

Shi Xiaoya smiled. "Sorry. I was just too shocked."

Xiao Zhang nodded in understanding. Shi Xiaoya being shocked meant that she understood Han Zhuoling.

That was good.

"Don't forget, there's a card inside too," Xiao Zhang reminded her.

“Oh, okay.” Shi Xiaoya didn’t know how to react anymore, only nodding woodenly.

And Xiao Zhang just stood there waiting.

“...” Shi Xiaoya’s lips quivered at the corners. “Don’t suppose you’re waiting for me to read the card?”

Xiao Zhang plastered on a smile. “It’s better if you’ve read it and I can help bring your words to Young Master Ling.”

Shi Xiaoya: “...”

Han Zhuoling’s such an aloof person. Why was his subordinate the complete opposite?

Seeing that Xiao Zhang was adamant about staying, Shi Xiaoya could only take out the card.

This time, Han Zhuoling had written slightly more than yesterday.

“I am sorry. Will you forgive me?” It was still signed off with his name, Han Zhuoling.

Compared to the hesitation revealed in the lines “I am sorry” yesterday, the words were written strongly today.

Shi Xiaoya put the card on the table and gave a wan smile. “I understand. Please tell Young Master Ling that there’s no need to take it to heart and send flowers every day. I’ve already put the matter behind me. It’s fine.”

Xiao Zhang mulled over Shi Xiaoya’s words and guessed that with her distant demeanor, she seemed keen on drawing the line clearly between her and Han Zhuoling even if she wasn’t angry with him anymore.

“Alright, then, I won’t bother you any longer. Good day.” Xiao Zhang smiled and left.

He returned to the Han Corporation and immediately reported to Han Zhuoling’s office.

Though Han Zhuoling’s EQ might be less than half his IQ, he could still grasp the meaning of Shi Xiaoya’s words.

“She’s...” Han Zhuoling knocked on his table a few times. “Brushing me off, and she wants me to stop sending her flowers?”

Xiao Zhang: “...”

Chapter 1519: Here to Challenge

Right, Han Zhuoling’s direct enough.

“Probably... yes.” Xiao Zhang considered something and said carefully, “I think Ms. Shi seems to want to have less contact with you, though she isn’t angry with you. That is... she wants to widen the gap between you two. She naturally wouldn’t be bothered by someone unrelated to her.”

Bang! Han Zhuoling slapped the table forcefully.

Damn widening the gap!

Widen what gap!

He had already apologized with all his heart and she still wished to distance herself from him?

Xiao Zhang was startled by the slap and took a few steps back, looking at Han Zhuoling's frightfully glum face.

He then heard Han Zhuoling say, "Continue sending the flowers tomorrow! Come take the card from me still."

"Yes." Xiao Zhang nodded hurriedly.

Han Zhuoling was still in a bad mood when Xiao Zhang left.

Shi Xiaoya was too heartless!

Both of them had had a pleasant conversation before.

It's fine if she was furious, but her denying any relations with him was going too far!

In the blink of an eye, it was the night of the welcome party.

The exchange students from New York University had arrived a day before in B City, but considering the time difference, they were given time to rest up in the hotel yesterday.

This morning, the team was touring the National Drama Academy before going to the National Film Academy in the afternoon.

At 2 PM, the exchange students entered the school compound on a bus.

"OMG!" someone shouted.

"What is it?"

"Look at the one by the second window. Is that Shana Mottsee?"

"What? Let me see!"

"Seems to be her!"

"She's the fresh face recently promoted by Walter's Company. I've even watched her teen romance movie recently, and she's so pretty in there!"

Walter's Company was known for creating stars, especially teen idols.

Every couple of years, they'd promote a new teen idol—usually aged 16.

As long as they were being packaged by Walter's Company, they would be well-loved by the youngsters.

Previous idols promoted by Walter's Company were now still active in Hollywood, and most had made successful image changes, no longer restricted by their previous status as a teen idol. This proved how successful Walter's Company was in packaging and promoting their idols.

And Shana Mottsee was someone whom Walter's Company had started heavily promoting in the last couple of years.

Kicking off her career with a youth-themed American TV series, they then slowly had her expanding into big-budget movies where she could show off her singing and dancing skills, as well as release her own album on the side.

Last Christmas, a youth romance movie called *Farewell Christmas Eve* that she starred in premiered, and as she was one of the good-looking leads, this pushed her to greater popularity.

"This summer, she's having a new film called *Magic Destinies*, and the male lead is so handsome! I'm going to watch it no matter what."

Lu Man and her three friends walked together, hearing the chatterings of the other students.

Someone else gushed, "No idea if we'd have any chance to ask for her signature and take a photo with her."

Lu Man followed the fingers of the students and glanced over, only managing a measly glimpse before the bus went into the parking lot.

Inside the bus, a golden-haired boy scoffed, "What a load of bumpkins. Shana, they're all looking at you."

Shana smiled lazily. "How boring. No idea why the school insists on sending us here. There aren't many real actors in the entertainment industry here, and even those who have filmed before couldn't compete with us with their acting skills. Why are we still going to compete with their students? We're on totally different levels."

Chapter 1520: Bourbotte's Nephew

"Then why did you still come? I'm curious why the school views this seriously, even wanting you to lead the team. It's giving them too much face," another student commented.

"I'm free anyways, and I've been on a break recently, so I thought I should come and see," Shana said. "See what a country with a rich and ancient history looks like. I'm rather curious about their culture too, but forget about the acting. I'll just treat it like I'm on tour."

"Moreover, the school might just be putting on a show," another brunette said. "At the very least, they want to give the impression that the school is viewing this seriously."

"That's right." Shana chuckled. "Over at NYU, the senior Oren is leading. Their exchange team sent to NYU is already the top students from this country—they seemed to have been picked from across the nation, so with Oren at school, it's up to me to lead here. Had our senior Oren come personally, I'm afraid they'd have had to lose even worse. "

"How boring." The fair-haired boy yawned lazily. "Don't they know their own standards? How come they're still coming to us every year to be humiliated?"

Someone else assented. "So we'll just make it quick. If we win quickly, we can still tour the country. I want to see the legendary Great Wall."

Everyone nodded fervently at this suggestion.

“Alright, a quick one it shall be. No need to bother about their pride, we just have to show them the difference,” one student piped in. “Ha, they think it’s enough to send their students to us to learn annually? Let them know that it’s useless no matter how much they learn—they can dream on.”

Everyone laughed gleefully.

Even the teacher leading the team didn’t think their words were wrong.

Wasn’t the difference in abilities between both parties plain as day?

But the teacher still said, “Be that as it may, you still shouldn’t underestimate the enemy. We must use our full abilities to win. This will ensure a good victory, one won without question, and let them know the difference in skills between them and us. Our aim isn’t to underestimate them and win only by a slim margin, a questionable victory. No matter how weak our opponent is, we still have to showcase our best abilities, get it?”

“Understood.”

“Yes.”

“Got it.”

Everyone promised to do their best.

“What’s her name... Lu what... that I heard foiled *Attack Force*?” Who knew if he’d really forgotten Lu Man’s name or if he was displaying his scorn for her? The honey-haired boy had asked this lazily and disdainfully.

“Lu Man,” someone reminded him. “Really, Howard, how can you keep forgetting her name after so many times?”

This was spoken by a slightly plump boy. Teasing and mockery of Lu Man laced his words.

Everyone knew that Howard had asked on purpose, not because he really forgot her name.

“Haha, who cares what she’s called? When *Attack Force* came here, she was such an upstart,” Howard said idly. “She made a good movie an embarrassment here. I’m here to meet her.”

The plump boy replied, “And here I was wondering why you’d volunteer to sign up for this.”

Everyone knew that Howard was Bourbotte’s nephew, and because of Bourbotte, he’d entered the entertainment industry at a young age. He was a child actor, but he didn’t fall from grace after he grew up like many other child stars. He might not be shining as much as Shana or Oren now, but he had a good career waiting in the future.