

## Mr Han 1581

### Chapter 1581: Well-planned

Zheng Yuan opened her mouth coldly to say, "If the director is invited in the name of the school by the principal, then any favors played from thereon will be between the school and the director. If Lu Man intervened, she'd be using Young Master Han's and the Han Corporation's name. It'd become a favor owed between Lu Man, Young Master Han, the Han Corporation, and the director. Wouldn't this be too big of a favor then?"

Zheng Yuan didn't even dare say the rest in front of the school's leaders.

What a big standing Dong Jingxi had, huh, to use the Han Corporation and its people and make them play second fiddle to the school?

Moreover, the students like her were the ones who stood to gain.

Especially Dong Jingxi and the few others, who always lacked the opportunity to work with a big-name director.

But if they got the chance to become acquainted with reputable directors because of Lu Man, then they could easily advance their careers. It was something they could only benefit from.

Dong Jingxi dared to have it all well-planned.

"Don't you understand? That's what Principal Liu meant. This is the school's affair. No matter what favor owed, the school will be responsible for it, not Lu Man, and not the Han Corporation," Zheng Yuan said. "So we can't ask Lu Man to do this."

Principal Liu nodded; Zheng Yuan got his point.

"We can't let Lu Man represent the school?" Dong Jingxi merely wanted to challenge them so that the school wouldn't pamper Lu Man like a precious babe.

But now that her suggestion was ruthlessly denied, not only did she not achieve her aim, she was made to seem like a fool.

This was not her original goal anymore, but Dong Jingxi couldn't back down, determined to gain back her dignity.

"Lu Man's representing the school in the competition. She's part of the group, so can't she do more for the school?" Dong Jingxi said snidely.

Zheng Yuan sneered, "Then why don't you do something too? Aren't you filming as well? Go contact a few directors, then!"

Dong Jingxi gritted her teeth. "If I had Lu Man's connections, I would. But I don't have them, do I? And there's no need to approach other directors. Isn't Lu Man well-acquainted with Director Sun and Director Ji? Approaching any one of them will do. When Lu Man joined *Classic X Files* back then, didn't she invite Director Sun, Director Ji, Du Lin, and even Wang Juhuai? Now that the school needs help, she's not going to do a thing?"

Zheng Yuan curled her lip. "And when she brings a famous director, you'll seize the chance to make yourself known for future work opportunities, is that right? Using Lu Man's effort to benefit yourself, how well thought out."

Dong Jingxi's countenance became ugly. "Lu Man hasn't found anyone yet and you've already planned my future moves for me!"

"Enough!" Principal Liu broke their argument.

However, he didn't step in when Zheng Yuan spoke.

He only intervened when it was Dong Jingxi's turn. His stand was apparent.

Dong Jingxi did not consider things as deeply as Zheng Yuan did just now because she was focused on making things difficult for Lu Man.

But now that she was involved, she knew whom Principal Liu supported when he spoke.

"If Lu Man really didn't care, then she'd be in New York by now, not in a meeting here," Principal Liu said coldly. "This is the school's matter, and if every little thing is passed to Lu Man to deal with, then I might as well hand over my position as principal to her."

Dong Jingxi lowered her head with a dark expression.

Dean He said, "Alright, the most important thing now is unity. If we can't even do this, there's not a chance we can win."

### **Chapter 1582: Smiling at Her Through the Crowd**

"If anyone here only wants to think about their private grudges and how to beat down on the other party instead of uniting to win the competition at this time, then he or she should leave the team right away. This is not a game or a joke. Private grudges have no place at this time and place!"

Dong Jingxi said nothing else after lowering her head, preventing others from seeing the dissatisfaction on her face.

She felt that the school's leaders were favoring Lu Man and were afraid of offending her because of her status. This was extremely unfair.

"Alright, follow Teacher Yao and Teacher Hong back to the practice room first," Dean He instructed.

Everyone got up to leave when a voice sounded from the door, "Sorry to disturb."

It was a voice Lu Man was very familiar with.

She turned in surprise and delight, seeing Han Zhuoli appear by the door.

Secretary Li took quick steps to Principal Liu, whispering, "Young Master Han brought Director Deng Xu over."

Stunned, Principal Liu turned to look and saw Han Zhuoli entering with Deng Xu behind.

Han Zhuoli's eyes first landed on Lu Man, smiling at her through the crowd.

Thankfully, Lu Man wasn't too far from him. Principal Liu and the others were seated according to their positions at an oval table.

And after the first seat sat Lu Man.

"Young Master Han." Principal Liu stood to shake his hand. "You and Director Deng are..."

Han Zhuoli gave a small smile. "I asked Director Deng if he could adjust his schedule and take out three days to help you all out. You can discuss the details with Director Deng."

Even Han Zhuoli couldn't request a director to help direct students for a whole week.

He knew that that was such an unreasonable request.

Deng Xu taking three days off was already a big favor for Han Zhuoli.

Everyone was stunned upon hearing Han Zhuoli's words.

Who was Deng Xu?

Deng Xu was someone who could win awards from both foreign major film festivals and local ones.

Including the Best Director Award and the Best Film.

Deng Xu no longer directed those commercial films. He had his own style no one could imitate.

Though his movies weren't the best-selling, their word-of-mouth reputation was never bad.

This was because there was a large group of loyal fans supporting the movies—not those of the actors but of the director, Deng Xu.

Thus, though the box office might not earn a staggeringly high amount, investors could still earn a significant sum.

The investors looked for more than money, they also cared about reputation and word-of-mouth.

His movies were harder to understand. They needed to be watched a few times and slowly digested, picking apart every detail before you realize that movie made held a meaning.

Such movies were harder to grasp for they lacked the "satisfaction" factor; hence, the box office sales would naturally be lower than those of blockbusters.

But there were loyal fans who never wavered the moment they fell in love with his movies.

Meanwhile, the movies also called for the actors to bring out their best.

Apart from his deep movies and how he swept many awards, Deng Xu was famous for realizing his actors' deepest potential.

But getting to film Deng Xu's movies was difficult.

It's difficult to be chosen, and if chosen, there's constant hardship during filming.

The physical exertion and difficulties were a given, but they also needed to carry on under Deng Xu's strict demands.

How else could Deng Xu bring out the best in his actors?

### **Chapter 1583: Getting Slapped with Reality Fast**

Precisely because of his high demands, he would keep you working on the same thing over and over until you'd nailed it, to his satisfaction.

If you failed to meet his expectations, he would rather stop filming than make do.

There was only 100 percent with him, never 99 percent.

Furthermore, they were such deep movies that required deep acting, highlighting the actors' acting skills.

It could be said that having Deng Xu to coach them, to run them through their scenes, and to direct for them was more than worth it.

There was no other director better qualified than Deng Xu within the country.

That's not to say that other directors were worse than Deng Xu.

Directors more well-known and with more accolades than Deng Xu existed, but not many were as "nitpicky" as Deng Xu, who insisted on getting his perfection.

All in all, Deng Xu was the best candidate.

But Deng Xu was not on Principal Liu's list, for Deng Xu was far more difficult to invite than the listed directors.

Hence, even though he knew Deng Xu was more suitable, Principal Liu didn't even bother to try.

Who knew Han Zhuoli would actually bring Deng Xu over?!

Everyone was shocked.

Especially Dong Jingxi and the other students. They couldn't suppress the excitement and happiness in their hearts; all their emotions were clearly painted on their faces.

They never expected that they could work with Deng Xu one day.

To be coached on acting by Deng Xu!

They didn't even dare dream of it, much less expected it.

It would have been fortunate enough for them to be guided by Deng Xu—who knew they could even act in a scene directed by him?!

Even if it was only to be a short scene, they were beyond excited.

"CEO Han approached me and asked if I had time. I enquired why, and the moment I heard you're competing with NYU's students, I knew I had to make time," Deng Xu said as he smiled. "We can't let them look down on us forever. We have to let them see that our new generation of actors is exceptional too. Our actors are always improving."

“That’s right,” Principal Liu said, all smiles. “Director Deng, I’m really grateful that you came to coach them. It’s their honor and the school’s honor. Regardless of whether they gain victory over the exchange team or not, getting coached by you is something they can only benefit from.”

Principal Liu then thanked Han Zhuoli seriously. “Young Master Han, really, thank you.”

“It’s nothing,” Han Zhuoli replied. “I’m just concerned that Man Man’s too stressed. All her time at home these days is spent studying her opponents’ acting skills. She’s searched for every show the members of the exchange team had acted in and studied every one of them thoroughly. Though she said she was going to do her best to not be pressured even if she couldn’t make it, that’s completely different from what I see.”

Han Zhuoli walked behind Lu Man and pressed on her shoulders just as she was about to rise, stopping her movements.

“She’s doing her best, and I’ll naturally help her.” Han Zhuoli gave a small smile. “Otherwise, I’ll be in agony just watching her work so hard.”

Zheng Yuan covered her snicker with a hand. Who knew that attending a meeting today would lead to getting fed with a bout of PDA?

As she grinned, she raised her brow at Dong Jingxi.

Dong Jingxi was just prattling on about Lu Man’s rottenness, and now, Han Zhuoli had brought Deng Xu directly over.

She was getting slapped with reality fast.

Dong Jingxi glared at Zheng Yuan once before retracting her gaze. She wanted to leave a good impression in front of Han Zhuoli and Deng Xu.

#### **Chapter 1584: Aren’t Some People So Full of Themselves?**

“Director Deng, perhaps you could tell the students what they’re going to do?” Principal Liu suggested.

“Okay.” Deng Xu nodded and faced the students.

Everyone stopped talking and looked at him intently.

“I came with CEO Han today to let you all choose what scenes you want and to settle the allocation of roles,” Deng Xu said. “I’m still not familiar with your acting, so I’ll determine your roles by judging your image and disposition just like in normal auditions.”

Dong Jingxi’s eyes shone. That meant that the main role had yet to be allocated, and it wouldn’t be Lu Man’s for sure, right?

The school thought Lu Man had potential and treated her like the trump card.

If it was up to the school’s teachers to decide, they’d definitely give Lu Man the main character role no matter how she performed or whether she was suitable or not.

Dong Jingxi felt that this was especially unfair.

But now that it's Deng Xu deciding, everything's different.

Though he was approached by Han Zhuoli, judging by his temperament and with others' view of him in mind, he was not likely to give Lu Man the role if he thought she was unsuited for it.

The lead role should be given to the most qualified one.

Dong Jingxi had a good imagination, but if she thought it through, she would have realized that her acting skills couldn't be compared to Lu Man's at all, even if Deng Xu didn't make Lu Man the lead because of Han Zhuoli.

Han Zhuoli noticed Dong Jingxi's reaction and knew what she was thinking.

And laughed in his heart.

He approached Deng Xu for what?

Because he loved the National Film Academy?

What a joke.

Of course it's because of Lu Man.

If Lu Man wasn't here, why would he seek out Deng Xu?

They benefited from Lu Man, okay?

The situation was like this and they still wanted to fight for the lead role?

Obviously, the main character role would be Lu Man's!

If they found it unfair, then they should find some other big-shot director that's even better than Deng Xu themselves.

He's unapologetically biased anyway. Lu Man must be the lead.

Otherwise, were all his efforts supposed to be due to their reputation?

Han Zhuoli sneered. Weren't some people so full of themselves?

Over at the other side, Principal Liu said to Deng Xu, "Then shall we make our way to the classrooms first, Director Deng?"

He originally wanted Teacher Yao, Teacher Hong, and Teacher Wan from the directing school to help prepare the students.

But now that Deng Xu's here, Principal Liu was worried the students would do anything to make themselves known to him.

Working hard and having ambitions were good; Principal Liu wouldn't stop that. He was mainly concerned about students being unable to gauge the extent they could go and making things go awry instead.

He couldn't let his students ruin their careers under his eye, could he?

“Alright, let’s get going,” Deng Xu said.

Hence, Principal Liu, together with Dean He, brought the students to the performing classrooms.

Lu Man stayed until she’s the last one there and walked with Han Zhuoli. “Would you owe Director Deng a favor because of this? I never sought your help because I don’t want you to help the school carry the burden because of me. I want to separate them clearly. School is school, us is us. If the school needs help and I could do it, I’ll help, no questions asked. But I can’t drag you in just because of this.”

Han Zhuoli held Lu Man’s hand and strolled towards the exit leisurely, maintaining a distance from the rest of the group in front.

“I’m not helping the school, I’m doing it for you,” he replied. “There’s no need to draw the line so clearly for these things. Inviting Deng Xu isn’t that big of a favor. Owing and returning favors to one another is typical in this industry, and over time, no one can remember clearly what is paid and what isn’t.”

### **Chapter 1585: Unwilling to Leave After Seeing Her**

“It’s the same for Deng Xu and me. Back in the days when Deng Xu was not yet as accomplished as he is now, investors did not like his movies, feeling that they were not commercial enough. It’s the Han Corporation who supported him, investing heavily in movie after movie.

“So now, whenever we need him, he’ll always do it without hesitation. And the Han Corporation maintains a good working relationship with him. Truthfully, the Han Corporation doesn’t really need his help for anything, so Deng Xu’s been feeling bad, thinking that he never has the chance to repay the Han Corporation’s favor.”

It could be said that without the Han Corporation’s support back then, there would be no Deng Xu today.

“So he was glad I asked him to help this time. I’m not owing him a favor, he’s returning mine,” Han Zhuoli said.

However, Lu Man still thought that the Han Corporation investing in Deng Xu back then was a humongous favor.

And asking Deng Xu to help now to return the favor from back then was slightly unbalanced.

It’s Han Zhuoli’s big loss.

But Han Zhuoli’s doing this for her, so Lu Man didn’t say anything much.

When they reached the classroom’s entrance, Han Zhuoli said, “I still have work to do in the office, gotta go first.”

“Alright, hurry back,” Lu Man replied.

Though it’s a Saturday, Han Zhuoli still had to work overtime.

“Any idea when you are going to finish in the afternoon?” Han Zhuoli asked.

Lu Man shook her head. "Hard to say, but probably won't be too late. We're only confirming things today, so we can't practice immediately. We still have to wait for the script to be edited and such. It's quite a hassle."

Han Zhuoli considered something before saying, "Then give me a call when you're done. If you finished first, let Xiao Guo send you to the family home first and I'll come by later. If I finish first, I'll give you a lift."

"Alright." Lu Man agreed readily.

"Then I'll be going." Having come by, Han Zhuoli was unwilling to leave the moment he saw her.

He was saying that he was leaving, but he took his own sweet time, his legs refusing to move.

He finally grabbed her chin, bending his head to kiss her. "I'm going."

Lu Man didn't know if anyone saw that, but she didn't turn to check, her attention still focused on Han Zhuoli. "Go back faster, the earlier you finish work, the earlier we get to go home."

"Okay." Han Zhuoli smiled and nodded, looking obedient.

"Go on in," Han Zhuoli said.

They were seeing each other every day, but who knew why they were still so lovey-dovey.

Lu Man couldn't get enough of him every day. "I'll watch you leave."

Han Zhuoli squeezed her fingers before finally walking away.

And he would turn every few steps to wave at Lu Man.

When he disappeared from view after turning a corner, Lu Man then entered the room.

Though she wasted some time with Han Zhuoli outside the classroom, it wasn't for long.

Deng Xu was invited by Han Zhuoli, and Dong Jingxi didn't dare fault Lu Man in front of Deng Xu.

"Does anyone have any ideas about what you're going to perform?" Deng Xu asked no one in particular.

Dong Jingxi instantly answered, "Can we use your films? We all love watching your films, and if we can act in them, even if it's for a competition like this, it'd be an honor even if it's a short scene."

Though everyone had similar thoughts, they couldn't say it out in time. Dong Jingxi spoke all that they wished to say.

### **Chapter 1586: Stealing the Show**

So be it if she said it, yet she had to make it sound so cheesy. She was clearly sucking up to him and making it so obvious that it made people feel disgusted.

Zheng Yuan secretly pursed her lips. Xu Ziyi also secretly rolled her eyes.

Dong Jingxi was still trying to sow discord and talk bad about Lu Man in front of Principal Liu just then. Now, Deng Xu was even invited by Han Zhuoli. Why did Han Zhuoli invite him?



Wasn't it also because of Lu Man?

It could not possibly be for the school or for them, right?

In other words, it was precisely because of Lu Man that Deng Xu was standing here and guiding their acting.

Yet Dong Jingxi still had the gall to curry favor with Deng Xu here.

Who knew if she was really dumb or just acting dumb?

In their eyes, Dong Jingxi was just trying to act smart.

At this kind of moment, wouldn't it be better to forge better ties with Lu Man?

But although they despised Dong Jingxi's bootlicking ways, no one wanted to let her steal the limelight either, so they all agreed.

"Yeah, we really hope we can try acting out one of your works."

"Your works can really put our acting skills to the test. We want to give it a try and see how far our acting standards can reach."

Everyone expressed that they wanted to act out one of Deng Xu's films.

Deng Xu nodded and did not reject the idea.

Actually, he also preferred to use his own works to let the students perform.

Not because he was proud of himself, but because it would just not be appropriate for him to re-direct another director's film.

It would be fine if he was not famous, but he was one of the more reputable directors in the country after all.

If he did it well, even better than the original, what would the director of the original film think?

If he directed it worse than the original film director, insiders would know that this was due to differences in style between the two and to various other reasons, but outsiders would just say that he was not as good as that director.

Anyway, no matter what the result was, it would not be good for him.

Since he'd agreed to come over to help, Deng Xu also wanted to use this chance to create some hype for himself.

Usually, this kind of competition would not receive much attention.

But Lu Man was in the competition.

As long as Lu Man was there, Han Zhuoli would definitely support it.

With the added participation of the Han Corporation, it would be difficult to keep this competition low profile as well.

“Let’s confirm the film and the part to perform now,” Deng Xu said. “Which film are you all more interested in?”

“‘After Sunset,’” Dong Jingxi said.

Everyone thought to themselves that Dong Jingxi was pretty good with her choice. This film happened to be a film that Deng Xu won awards for in the Venice Film Festival last year, bagging the awards for Best Director and Best Picture.

Zheng Yuan said to Lu Man in a small voice, “Lu Man, why are you not saying anything?! It was clearly Young Master Han who invited Director Deng, yet Dong Jingxi keeps trying to make her presence known here. How fresh of her.”

Lu Man smiled indifferently. “There’s nothing much to say. Dong Jingxi is just trying to fight for herself. There’s nothing wrong with that.”

But whether she would be able to wrestle something for herself, that was hard to say.

“Anyway, even if she did not say it, ‘After Sunset’ would still have been the film chosen in the end,” Lu Man replied in a small voice.

“Why?” Zheng Yuan asked, perplexed.

She had all along felt that her IQ could be considered high. Especially when placed beside Pan Xue, she came out looking quite smart.

But ever since she got to know Lu Man, Zheng Yuan always felt that her brain was really not working fast enough sometimes.

“Although Director Deng asked us which film we chose at first and everyone wanted to choose his works, in fact, even if no one mentioned it, Director Deng would also have chosen to use his own films for this, because this is the safer option. He is more familiar with his own films and has better mastery over them.”

“I didn’t think of that. And since we’re in front of him, everyone would definitely choose his works,” Zheng Yuan said.

### **Chapter 1587: Change of Person**

Lu Man laughed as she shook her head. “Another thing is that in such circumstances, it would not be suitable for Director Deng to direct another director’s works. Besides the fact that their style might not be the same, once he directs it, people would inevitably make comparisons. If we won, Director Deng would offend others. If we lost, it would ruin his reputation. Either way, it would not be suitable.”

“So there’s this level of consideration as well,” Zheng Yuan said as she came to a realization.

And she did not know that the point that Lu Man had explained happened to be the one that Deng Xu was thinking about in his heart.

“Then what about ‘After Sunset’? Why did you say we would surely have picked this one in the end?” Zheng Yuan asked further.

“Because—”

Lu Man was just about to reply when Dong Jingxi suddenly turned the topic to Lu Man and said, “Lu Man, you didn’t voice your opinion at all this whole time. What are you secretly discussing with Zheng Yuan over there? This matter concerns our team, you should think seriously about this as well and say your thoughts.”

Lu Man pursed her lips slightly. Dong Jingxi actually became smarter in front of Deng Xu and did not directly point fault at her.

It was just that the meaning between the lines implied that she was not listening seriously to what others were saying and did not put her heart on the matter, that she was not being serious enough.

No one here was a fool, so they could naturally tell what Dong Jingxi meant.

Principal Liu’s face fell. In front of Deng Xu, Dong Jingxi actually still did not know to stop.

Lu Man did not bother to be petty like her and said, “I have the same thoughts as everyone else. I also want to try acting out ‘After Sunset.’”

Principal Liu quietly threw a glance at Dean He, Teacher Yao, and Teacher Hong. The four of them left the classroom together and stood by the corridor.

“Principal?” Dean He asked.

“Swap Dong Jingxi out.” Principal Liu really could not stand her anymore. “Everyone else is fine, it’s just her, Dong Jingxi, who keeps trying to pick a fight with Lu Man. Can’t she tell who invited Deng Xu here? Is she just here to find trouble? We haven’t even started rehearsing yet and she already keeps finding trouble non-stop. If we really wait until the rehearsals start, would she even stop then? When that time comes, she would affect everyone’s unity, mess up the rehearsals, and a whole bunch of other problems would surface.

“We should take the chance now to make a change of member before the rehearsals start. If we wait until it starts, it won’t be convenient to switch to someone else anymore,” Principal Liu said.

Dean He and the others all nodded.

If one were to pick on Lu Man, there’s a possibility it was because Lu Man was the problem.

However, since others did not have any problem with her and only Dong Jingxi was the one finding fault with Lu Man, they definitely had to remove Dong Jingxi first.

“Teacher Yao, Teacher Hong, both of you are the most familiar with the standards of the students in the performing arts major. Can you both think of a suitable replacement?” Principal Liu asked.

“How about Luo Yijun?” Teacher Yao said. “She was selected to participate in the Chinese Arts Championships and her standard is around the same as Dong Jingxi, just that she is usually not as high profile as Dong Jingxi. Thinking about it now, perhaps it’s because she is too low profile that we did not think of her at the start.”

Teacher Hong nodded as well. “Luo Yijun is not bad. We can try with her.”

“Then let’s contact her ASAP. I wonder if she’s in school today. It’s best if she is here, then things would be much more convenient.”

As a Year 4 student, Luo Yijun was also taking on jobs outside of school, so she might not be in school every day.

However, whenever they were not working, most students would choose to stay in the school hostels.

After all, the rents in B City were really too expensive. The students were not even famous yet, so for the money they earned to sustain them while living in B City, that would be pretty good already.

One year’s worth of hostel fees would probably only be enough to rent a very small and tight room in a not-so-good environment far away in the outskirts of B City.

And the location of the National Film Academy was right in the heart of downtown B City. Hence, even if they worked outside, most of the students would still choose to come back and stay in school.

### **Chapter 1588: After Sunset**

Of course, this was excluding the students who were already famous.

Teacher Hong immediately went to search for Luo Yijun’s contact.

In the classroom, Dong Jingxi was still unaware that Principal Liu and the others had already decided to swap her out, so she was still so focused on picking on Lu Man.

“Lu Man, you shouldn’t just go along with everyone’s opinions just because we all chose ‘After Sunset.’ Why don’t you say your reason?” Dong Jingxi asked pretentiously.

Lu Man chuckled. She decided to just say what she was going to say to Zheng Yuan just now. “It’s because ‘After Sunset’ is Director Deng’s new film. Although it already claimed some awards earlier last year at a film festival, the film had only just aired this month domestically, and it has only been showing for two weeks. Although it’s already past the initial publicity period for a film screening, this period of time is actually very good for publicity in such circumstances.

“Since the film has already been screening for a while, word about it has already gone out and most of the plot has already been revealed, so it would not affect the film screening even if we act out a part of it. Also, it could coincidentally bring about another wave of publicity for the film. When audience members who had yet to watch the film watched the live performance, they would be attracted to go to the cinemas to watch it.” Lu Man chuckled before adding, “Of course, we have to perform well enough first.

“Director Deng’s films have always had a regular group of audience all along. If we can use this chance to attract even more new fans, then that would be the best outcome.” Lu Man’s words could be said to be worded very artfully.

She did not say that Deng Xu’s film needed to raise its box office sales.

That’s because Deng Xu’s films really did not achieve an especially high box office sales, as that depended on the nature of his films.

She was not saying that his films were directed badly, just that films that were too deep would definitely not be as popular as the usual popcorn flicks.

But if they could make more people like his shows, what's not to love about the plan?

Lu Man's words sounded pleasant, and the meaning was conveyed very clearly as well.

Lu Man paused before giving Dong Jingxi a cold smile and saying, "If you have the time to keep shifting all the attention to me and wasting such time, why don't we spend it to settle things early and start practicing earlier?"

Dong Jingxi's expression looked really ugly.

Deng Xu smiled politely and nodded. "This is really quite a good idea."

"Then let's just choose 'After Sunset,'" Deng Xu said with a nod.

Dong Jingxi did not expect that she'd end up letting Lu Man show off when she intended to make Lu Man embarrass herself.

"There's a part in it which I think is not bad. You guys have enough people and have high acting standards. Similarly, it can be of great help to you all in helping you to develop your acting skills to your full potential," Deng Xu said. "You guys wait for me first, I'll ask someone to send a soft copy over."

After Deng Xu said that, he asked his assistant to get the soft copy of the script and asked someone else to pick that part of the film out and send it over together with the script.

While Deng Xu and his assistant were contacting their work studio, outside, Luo Yijun had hurriedly rushed over.

"Luckily you were in school today," Teacher Hong said and smiled.

This was also probably a chance that Luo Yijun deserved.

If Luo Yijun was filming outside or rushing back, that would have needed time as well, so this chance might really not have landed into Luo Yijun's hands.

When Luo Yijun received Teacher Hong's call and got this opportunity, how would she dare to delay any further? She immediately rushed over without saying anything more. She even ran all the way here and got her stomach so filled with wind that she had yet to steady her breaths, much less say a complete sentence.

"Teacher... Teacher Hong..." Luo Yijun greeted while panting. She realized there were other people as well and immediately greeted them, "Principal, Dean, Teacher Yao."

### **Chapter 1589: Why Are You Here Too?**

Her throat was filled with air, making her throat hurt a little even as she spoke.

"Don't panic, quickly calm down," Teacher Yao said. "It wouldn't be good if this affects your performance when you try out the lines later."

Luo Yijun nodded. She quickly seized the time to regain her composure.

Teacher Hong felt helpless. "You ran all the way here?"

Luo Yijun said in embarrassment, "I finally had this chance, so I was scared I wouldn't be able to get it if I came late."

Teacher Hong and the others did not say anything, but they all thought in their hearts that Principal Liu had made the right decision to do a swap.

With this attitude of Luo Yijun's, she would definitely treasure this chance and be much more reliable than Dong Jingxi.

"Since Luo Yijun is already here, I'll go in to say it," Principal Liu said.

When Principal Liu walked into the classroom, Deng Xu had just received the script excerpt and film clip from his work studio.

He passed them to his assistant, who printed out a few copies to disseminate to the students so that they could try reading the lines.

Principal Liu walked up to Deng Xu and said in a low voice, "Director Deng, my sincere apologies, there are some changes to the student selection on the school's side. I want to swap out the person first before the students start reading the lines and confirming their roles, lest we waste more time."

"Oh?" Deng Xu was worried that some student with an influential background was going to be inserted as the replacement.

As for such backdoor situations, Deng Xu had never really entertained such requests.

It was because he was famous now and had full autonomy over the filming. Plus, he had the backing of the Han Corporation. Even if the Han Corporation wanted to promote their artistes, they would not do such a thing anyhow.

Deng Xu's films had really never been force-fed with well-connected individuals by investors or the likes before.

Principal Liu was not sure if Deng Xu would misunderstand and explained, "I want to switch out Dong Jingxi. Looking at her behavior, I am worried that she would not be able to focus on acting well."

If she spent all her energy trying to pick on Lu Man and stealing the limelight, how much energy would she have left to act?

Deng Xu realized his intentions. How would Deng Xu not be able to see through the intentions of young ladies like Dong Jingxi?

It was just that he was here to help with the rehearsals. The students were chosen by the school, so it would not be good if he intervened too much.

But now that Dong Jingxi was to be replaced, Deng Xu actually felt quite happy.

Just like what Principal Liu had said, he too needed an actor who could focus on acting.

"You already found a replacement?" Deng Xu asked.

Hearing Deng Xu's tone relax, Principal Liu immediately smiled and said, "She's already waiting at the door. As long as you agree, she will be ready to come in."

"The teachers in your school will know better what the students' capabilities are like, so I have no issues on my side," Deng Xu said with a smile.

After talking to Deng Xu, Principal Liu went to find Dong Jingxi. To save her face, he did not say it out in front of everyone but just waved at her and said, "Dong Jingxi, come over for a while."

Seeing the look on Principal Liu's face, she instantly had a bad feeling.

She just felt that it would be nothing good.

She dragged her feet as she dawdled out with Principal Liu and saw that Luo Yijun was actually outside.

"Why are you here too?" Dong Jingxi asked directly.

Principal Liu said, "We discussed for a while just now. There are some changes to the selected list of students for the competition this time. Luo Yijun will be replacing you. I know you still have other work, so you can go and focus on your work first. As for the competition, you don't have to worry about it anymore."

Dong Jingxi's face changed immediately. If it was a teacher from the Directing major that came over to teach them, even if she was replaced, she would not have felt too dejected.

She would be angry. Whoever was going to be replaced would definitely be angry.

But anger simply came about from feelings of embarrassment, without the feeling of having suffered a loss.

But now, Deng Xu was around, a director whom she might not even be able to meet after years of hard work.

### **Chapter 1590: Withdrawal**

Yet she had to be replaced at this time?

How could Dong Jingxi take it lying down?

"Principal, why am I being replaced? The 10 of us had been chosen by the school in the first place. This proves that we are the top 10 students among all the students that have remained in school. You didn't choose Luo Yijun but chose me instead. This shows that my capabilities are stronger than Luo Yijun's. You don't want to keep me, who has stronger capabilities, but want to let Luo Yijun replace me. Why is that?"

Dong Jingxi thought back and forth but could not think of what kind of influential background Luo Yijun had.

Or else she would not need to stay in school now. She would have been too busy to be seen already.

Hence, Luo Yijun was most likely not being stuffed in by someone influential.

Principal Liu said, "I discussed it with the other teachers just now. This competition is very important. Hence, we hope that every student can put all their energy towards acting, rather than spending effort on making nonsensical cheap shots."

Seeing the unrepentant look on Dong Jingxi's face, Principal Liu decided to say frankly, "But this is something you clearly can't do. Given that, even with your capabilities, you can't be deemed fit to remain in this 10-member group."

Dong Jingxi could not accept it. She felt that this was just Principal Liu's excuse.

Her capabilities were clear for all to see. No matter how much her energy had been diverted, her acting skills would not change.

"This is the conclusion we came to at the end of our discussion. We called you out individually so that we can save some face for you in front of the others. I will also explain to them in a while that it's because your manager suddenly accepted a very important job for you, so you had no choice but to withdraw." Principal Liu could be said to have done his best.

Dong Jingxi was prideful, so Principal Liu saved some face for her.

So that she would not need to leave in shame.

If Dong Jingxi was still not satisfied, then he would not be so easygoing either.

Dong Jingxi knew too that there was no use even if she insisted.

Even if she was filled with reluctance in her heart, there was no other choice.

She could only leave.

Principal Liu and the others brought in Luo Yijun. Luo Yijun still remembered that fiery glare that Dong Jingxi gave her before she left. She clearly wanted to bear a grudge with her as well.

But so what?

Since she had the chance, she would grab it.

If her and Dong Jingxi's roles were reversed today, Dong Jingxi would also come and replace her without any hesitation.

It was all for their own career development. In such situations, how would they still spare a thought for the other party's opinions?

Principal Liu told the other students that Luo Yijun came to replace Dong Jingxi and gave the reason that Dong Jingxi had received an important job at the last minute, so she could only withdraw.

Who knew if the others believed it, but Principal Liu did not care either. Anyway, he had already taken care to save face for Dong Jingxi on a superficial level.

The others naturally did not believe it. Everyone took to heart how Dong Jingxi had kept on picking on Lu Man from the start.



They also felt that if this went on, the atmosphere in the team would certainly be too horrible, and it would definitely not be a conducive environment to perform in.

This whole saga started all because Dong Jingxi was dissatisfied with Lu Man and stirred trouble.

Anyway, no matter which angle of consideration was taken, if there was really a need for a replacement, the person replaced would surely be Dong Jingxi.

Hence, everyone knew very well deep down why Dong Jingxi was replaced.

Or else, with such a great condition of having Deng Xu around, how good a job had Dong Jingxi managed to get for her to give up the opportunity to work with him?

Without Dong Jingxi's troublemaking, the atmosphere indeed got better and the developments after that were all very smooth-sailing.

Everyone tried the lines for each character once.

To prevent overlaps, Deng Xu especially picked out different lines and different emotions.

This was a complex task. There were a total of ten roles, and from each role, ten different emotions and lines were picked out.