

Mr Han 1641

Chapter 1641: Not Hiding Anymore

Lu Man continued cheekily, "I merely wished to know Big Brother's reaction. Ask him to come before and after telling him that Xiaoya's going to the competition."

Han Zhuoling's face was always so hard and unsmiling. It made others eager to witness the changes in his expression, and obviously the good kinds.

Han Zhuoli put down his pen. "Now that you mentioned it, I want to see it too. Wait while I call him over."

"Isn't it better if we went?" Lu Man said. It was embarrassing to call Han Zhuoling over just for this.

"Big Brother's smart. If we went to him, he'll know that it's for other matters and there'll be zero chances of seeing his expression break," Han Zhuoli explained. "He'd reckon it's about work if we called him over."

Lu Man: "..."

Her husband was truly clever.

Hence, Lu Man watched as Han Zhuoli dialed. "Brother, I have something to discuss with you. Could you come over?"

Han Zhuoling gave a "Yes" readily and hung up, arriving soon after.

He entered and saw Lu Man.

Both stared at him with the same Cheshire grins.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Hook, line, and sinker.

Han Zhuoli had said "something," never specifying if that "something" was work-related or private affairs. Han Zhuoling thought it was about work matters and came over innocently.

From the way they're smiling, it was obviously not a work-related matter.

"If there's nothing, I'll be going," Han Zhuoling said stonily.

"Wait!" Han Zhuoli flew over and shut the door behind Han Zhuoling, stopping him. "Since you're here already, don't leave in a hurry! Let's have some chat about nothing."

Han Zhuoling: "..."

His eyebrow jumped.

Who wants to have a simple chat with him during office hours!

Was this how Han Zhuoli usually managed the Han Corporation?

Of course, Han Zhuoling had full confidence and trusted in Han Zhuoli's capability.

Han Zhuoli managed the Han Corporation so well, it only had profits year after year.

But if he could achieve this much just by chatting, imagine how much more he could do if he focused solely on work! The Han Corporation uniting the whole local entertainment industry and targeting Hollywood next was a matter of time!

Han Zhuoling was heartbroken.

Han Zhuoli dragged Han Zhuoling to sit as he sat next to Lu Man.

“What’s the matter?” Han Zhuoling asked.

“The exchange competition between NYU and the four schools is starting at 7:30 pm this Sunday.” Han Zhuoli smiled and said, “Are you going?”

Han Zhuoling looked curiously at Han Zhuoli then at Lu Man, and it dawned on him. “Shi Xiaoya’s going too?”

Han Zhuoli: “...”

Lu Man: “...”

Big Brother’s not bothering to hide anymore?

Han Zhuoli leaned forward. “Whatabout it, Brother? You’re only going if Shi Xiaoya’s going too?”

Han Zhuoling quirked his lips. “Since you both know that, you can drop the pretense.”

Lu Man discovered sadly that she couldn’t use Shi Xiaoya to tease Han Zhuoling anymore.

Han Zhuoling’s not hiding anymore and was admitting his feelings now?

No, that’s not it. He finally understood his feelings now?

“Brother.” Han Zhuoli asked what Lu Man was wondering, “You finally realized that you like Shi Xiaoya?”

Han Zhuoling raised his brow. What did he mean by “finally”?

Unless they realized it even earlier than he did?

Han Zhuoli spilled the beans. “We realized that ever since the beginning. Think about it—you’ve never treated anyone else differently apart from Shi Xiaoya. Though you think that you aren’t being obvious, it’s clear to us after making the comparison.”

Chapter 1642: Like Her a Lot

“It wasn’t that obvious in the beginning,” Lu Man piped in, “but the more you interacted with her, the more special you treated her. We saw it clearly from the sidelines.”

“That’s right, we don’t even need to know you that well. You don’t even spare a glance for other women usually, but what about Shi Xiaoya? This explained everything!” Han Zhuoli spread his hands.

“...” Han Zhuoling raised a single brow, feeling slightly uncomfortable. “That obvious?”

Han Zhuoli and Lu Man nodded in unison.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

He cleared his throat, and the secretary Yang Fangtong entered with tea, placing it in front of Han Zhuoling.

After she left, Han Zhuoling picked up the tea and sipped it, saying, "I do like her a lot."

"So are you going this Sunday?" Han Zhuoli pressed. "Man Man asked Shi Xiaoya to do her makeup that day and reserved two tickets for her. She and her assistant will be staying to watch the competition."

"I'll go." Han Zhuoling looked at Lu Man. "Remember to reserve a seat for me next to Shi Xiaoya."

Actually, the school would reserve a seat for him directly if Han Zhuoling wanted to go. There was no need to reserve tickets.

But Shi Xiaoya's seat was definitely not in the guests-of-honor's row, and Han Zhuoling wanted to sit with her.

As for Han Zhuoli, the school had already arranged a seat for him in the guest-of-honor row.

Lu Man was seated with the other competitors, so she couldn't sit with Han Zhuoli.

"No problem!" Lu Man agreed readily.

Soon, it was the day of the competition.

Shi Xiaoya and Guo Yujie arrived three hours prior.

The scene Deng Xu chose from "After Sunset" depicted a scene with people from all walks of life.

As the lead, Lu Man was someone who traveled from the country to work in the city, using the money earned to search for her missing younger brother.

Her brother was one of the few from the village who'd managed to make it into a university in the city, and her family had spent every single money they had and barely managed to pay for his first year of study.

Yet her younger brother went missing a year later.

Many said that her brother had died, but the female lead didn't believe that.

Bringing the few clothes that she owned and clenching the few cash she had to travel to the city, she'd left to seek her brother.

She retraced her brother's footsteps, working in her brother's university as a cleaner by day and cleaning a private clubhouse by night.

Step by step, she retraced everywhere he went, looking for clues diligently.

In the movie, the female lead's makeup was dull and dirty.

This was because she only ate a plain bun a day to scrimp on money.

Half for breakfast and half for lunch, and nothing for dinner.

Sometimes, she could sneak leftovers from the school canteen.

She saved every penny she could to use in finding her brother.

And the scene to be performed today was about what Lu Man saw after exiting the school at night, all the way to the private clubhouse.

From the cleaning job the lead engaged in, to waiters, leaders, managers, to escort ladies in the bars, and more—

Everyone had their own masks and own stories; everyone had their own goals.

A whole day, and it was just about people from all walks of life.

The main character had long-term malnourishment, and apart from being neat she did not have any other attraction. Her face was naturally a sickly yellow, her lips dry and pale.

Chapter 1643: What Are They Talking About?

These needed to be accomplished by Shi Xiaoya.

Shi Xiaoya went backstage and met with Lu Man.

Director Deng Xu came over himself as well.

Shi Xiaoya saw him and greeted quickly, “Director Deng.”

“Oh, it’s Xiaoya.” Deng Xu was no stranger to Shi Xiaoya. “Who knew you’d be here? Who are you doing makeup for?”

“Lu Man,” Shi Xiaoya explained.

Deng Xu wasn’t surprised. Among all the competitors from the four schools, only Lu Man could be the one to successfully invite Shi Xiaoya.

“Haha, I’m assured with you doing the makeup for Lu Man.” With that, Deng Xu busied himself with other matters.

Shi Xiaoya chose a yellowish foundation with a darker undertone for Lu Man to bring out the unhealthy yellow tinge of the lead’s face.

“I’ve seen ‘After Sunset’ before to see how other makeup artists created the cosmetics for the movie,” Shi Xiaoya said as she worked. “But there’s lighting and filters used for the movie, so makeup in the movie cannot be replicated exactly for makeup for a stage production.”

Lu Man could only feel Shi Xiaoya working away on her face with a brush.

She watched herself transform in the mirror—from having healthy glowing skin to having a dull yellow one.

Moreover, she looked natural, as if she was under-nourished and abused recently.

Her cheeks even appeared sunk in under her eyes.

She then saw Shi Xiaoya touch things up here, sweep a bit there, and dark spots appeared around her eyes and hairline.

“You’re incredible!” Lu Man gasped.

Just then, the NYU exchange students entered.

The school did not offer any special treatment for anyone like providing an individual dressing room for this competition.

Everyone was having their makeup done in this general dressing room.

If there wasn’t enough space, then they’d have to squeeze a bit or vacate a spot if they were done with their makeup.

Of course, this would not happen under the current circumstance.

Because most students in every team from each school were still nobodies, and no one would go and fight with the “legends” in their teams.

For instance, Lu Man and Shana, who were the best. They naturally sat in front of a proper dressing table, accompanied by the lighted makeup mirrors.

If there weren’t enough chairs, they would move one over temporarily and make do with the mirrors brought by the makeup artists.

The main leaders of each team could still have seats.

The New York exchange students entered when Lu Man was halfway done.

They had just finished changing into their clothes and getting props for their performance.

Judging by their costumes, they would probably be acting in some Shakespearean play or something.

Shana and Howard sat in front of the few dressing tables while the rest of them sat at the hastily arranged temporary tables and chairs at the center.

Shana had invited a makeup artist whom she’d worked with frequently, and the artist especially flew from the States.

The rest worked with local makeup artists they’d recently invited.

Howard sat and saw that the students from the other four schools were looking either enviously or jealously in Lu Man’s direction.

He waved a volunteer student over and asked, “What’s the matter? What are they talking about?”

The student explained, “They’re discussing Lu Man’s makeup artist.”

“Oh?” Howard took a glance interestedly. “Lu Man’s makeup artist is very famous?”

“That’s right.” The volunteer student looked proud too. “She’s called Shi Xiaoya, and many award-winning actors want her to do their makeup for them. She is probably one of our country’s most famous makeup artists.”

Chapter 1644: Recommend

Howard raised his brow, asking his makeup artist who was about to start, “How d’you compare to that Shi Xiaoya?”

The exchange team obviously wouldn’t have approached some novice makeup artists. They sought out those famous makeup artists who work for the local celebrities too.

The other party gave a dry laugh. “If we really had to compare, Miss Xiaoya is definitely better than me.”

How could others compare?

Shi Xiaoya had done makeup for award-winning actors, and she would even do the advertisements for big brand names.

As long as it went under Shi Xiaoya’s promotion, that product would certainly be well-liked by the masses, even going out of stock.

Meanwhile, the most that a makeup artist like them could do was to teach some makeup techniques if they’re invited to some variety show.

Someone like her was in a completely different league than Shi Xiaoya.

Howard immediately drew a long face upon hearing it. “How much better? How much worse?”

The other party was feeling so awkward she could sink into the ground. Knowing that she’s worse than Shi Xiaoya should have been enough. Who knew that Howard would be so insistent on the details?

Must he force her to admit how much worse she was than Shi Xiaoya?

Howard understood immediately looking at her expression.

“I have no need for you anymore.” Howard waved her aside disgustedly and rose, walking towards Lu Man.

Lu Man had her back to Howard, and the mirror couldn’t catch him in its angle, so she had no idea he was coming.

But Shi Xiaoya saw, and she whispered to Lu Man as she continued her work, “Howard’s walking this way. Seems like he’s targeting you.”

Indeed, Lu Man soon saw from the mirror that Howard was coming over, arrogance plastered on his face.

And then, he stopped by Lu Man and Shi Xiaoya.

“Lu Man,” Howard called.

Lu Man turned to look at him and gave a small nod. “Mr. Gibson.”

“You’re almost done with your makeup, right?” Howard asked her.

Howard had the height advantage because he was standing while Lu Man sat.

Plus, because Howard’s build was like that of many other Europeans, he appeared average in the movies when everyone beside him was around similar size.

But he was especially outstanding right now compared to them.

He made Lu Man and Shi Xiaoya appear exceptionally petite.

It was as if he was looking down on them with his top-down view.

Uncertain of what Howard was up to, Lu Man replied, “Not yet, I’ve just started.”

Howard obviously disbelieved her words, turning to Shi Xiaoya. “How far is her makeup done?”

Shi Xiaoya answered as she worked on, “There are still many details to be done.”

She knew that Howard’s on bad terms with Lu Man, seeing his attitude.

Shi Xiaoya would naturally support Lu Man at these times.

In truth, Lu Man’s makeup was nearly done. There were only some minor details left to be touched up if unsatisfactory.

Seeing Shi Xiaoya’s skills, Howard knew that other makeup artists couldn’t compare to her.

Just a few simple strokes and Lu Man looked as if she had changed her face.

She could make a name for herself sooner or later with such skills in Hollywood.

“Why do I see that you’re almost done? There’s nothing left anyway,” Howard said. “I have a makeup artist here. You can let her finish up.”

Lu Man raised her brow. “What do you mean?”

Howard gave a smug laugh, ignoring Lu Man. He turned to Shi Xiaoya. “So? Any interest in doing my makeup? If you do it well, I can recommend you to the production teams of Hollywood. You’ll have more space to develop over there.”

Chapter 1645: Threaten

“Your entertainment industry’s too restrictive. You might have a big country with a huge population, but your film industry’s developing really slowly. There’s no future for you here if you stay. It’s true that you’re at the top now, but if you continue staying here, you’ll be a frog in a well.”

Howard said conceitedly, “You’ll never know how big the international stage is if you don’t go and see it. Hollywood’s not just a dream for actors, it’s also where you people who work in related industries yearn to develop your careers in and achieve success.

“Wang Juhuai’s so respected and popular over here—isn’t it because he made a name for himself globally and won the Oscars before?” Howard continued.

Lu Man quirked her brows. Did Howard know the person he was speaking of was now her dad?

Back when the Bourbotte incident happened, Wang Juhuai had yet to return.

Hence, Howard did not know of Wang Juhuai and Lu Man's relationship, only knowing that the lass called Lu Man was really ignorant and arrogant.

And then, Wang Juhuai went public with his reconciliation with Xia Qingwei, becoming Lu Man's stepfather.

But the news only circulated within the country.

Wang Juhuai never went back to the US nor accepted any interviews.

Even if the States had any news of him, it wouldn't be as wide-spread as it was locally.

Howard was still shooting his mouth off. "Staying here will only confine you to a small space and it won't help you in your career at all. Instead, you'll become stagnant and even decline. Only Hollywood could offer much more challenges. Our screenwriters are constantly innovating and writing new topics, and you'll have countless new makeup styles to discover and create."

Howard gave a haughty laugh. "Frankly, we're at least 50 years ahead of you guys in terms of innovation, be it for films or dramas!"

Lu Man: "..."

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

Both admitted that the themes for Hollywood's films and television shows were far more advanced, and they didn't have stringent criterias like the local industry did, with clearly graded films.

Hence, they naturally had much more freedom in choosing what to film.

But Howard was too belittling with his words.

Howard looked arrogantly at Shi Xiaoya. "So? Do makeup for me and I can introduce you to Hollywood production crews. The company I'm in is planning to shoot a disaster film. I can recommend you, and even if you're not head of the department, you can learn from the sidelines. It should be extremely educational for you."

Howard pointed lightly in Lu Man's direction. "As long as you do makeup for me now, I can recommend you. My makeup artist can handle the rest of her makeup."

Howard spoke confidently, as if Shi Xiaoya would agree for sure.

"Sorry, I was invited by Lu Man, so I won't do makeup for anyone else halfway through. Lu Man employed me, so she's my boss currently." Shi Xiaoya didn't stop her movements as she spoke. She couldn't waste Lu Man's time just to speak with Howard.

"No matter what industry it is, this is the most basic professionalism," Shi Xiaoya said coldly.

Howard's face tightened. Who could have guessed Shi Xiaoya would reject him?

Moreover, he could see very well that Shi Xiaoya was clearly almost done with Lu Man. She could just leave Lu Man alone by now.

“Think carefully. If you miss this chance, you’ll stay in your small circle forever. Even if you wish to expand your career in Hollywood, you won’t have the chance as long as I’m there. You do makeup for me, and I recommend you. Otherwise, don’t even think about going to Hollywood in the future!” Howard threatened lowly.

Chapter 1646: Looking Down on Him

He also did not think highly of Shi Xiaoya either.

It was just that Shi Xiaoya was the best here.

But most importantly, he just wanted to annoy Lu Man.

He wanted to watch Lu Man swallow the bitter pill of humiliation and disgust her to death!

She might be quite capable in the country, and he knew who Lu Man’s backer was as well.

Han Zhuoli, right?

He was the top figure in the whole of their country’s entertainment industry chain. It was no wonder then that Lu Man could dare to be so arrogant.

However, once she stepped out of this place and went to Hollywood, what would she, Lu Man, be?

Howard wanted Lu Man to know that there was someone out there better than her, and somewhere out there better than her country.

Lu Man was arrogant and only used the best for everything, so he would take all those things away.

Howard had been very confident when he came over.

He knew that the people in the entertainment industry here all cracked their brains and dreamed of going to Hollywood to advance their careers.

Their Hollywood was the best in the world.

It was the goal these people worked towards on the silver screen, their land of dreams.

He believed that as long as he mentioned there would be such a chance for them there, the other party would definitely hold on to it without hesitation.

Who would let go of such an opportunity?

Hence, Howard had been very confident when he asked. He never expected the possibility of Shi Xiaoya rejecting him.

“I’ve thought very clearly about it,” Shi Xiaoya said in a cold voice. “It’s impossible for me to abandon my client to go and do makeup for someone else all of a sudden. My professional ethics do not allow me to do that. If I did that, I won’t be able to advance my career even in this country, much less go to Hollywood. No one would think highly of me—even I would look down on myself. Furthermore, with

such a stain on my reputation, you think that even if I really went to Hollywood to advance my career, the people there won't reject me because of it?"

Of course they would.

Howard's face stiffened.

"Besides this, even without your recommendation, I can similarly develop my career on the international stage based on my own capabilities. Without your appearance, this was my original plan as well," Shi Xiaoya said coldly. "You said if I rejected you, you would stop me from going there to develop my career."

Shi Xiaoya chuckled. "It's good to have confidence, although I don't believe you. Given your current capabilities, you won't be able to do this. Perhaps you can in the future, but if so, you can save these words for the future when you are actually qualified to use them. Perhaps you can wait and see, see if you'd be able to stop me when I try to advance my career at the international stage next time."

Shi Xiaoya was only one step away from saying explicitly that Howard did not have such capability and did not have enough clout to do that.

That was indeed true. If these words came from Han Zhuoli or Han Zhuoling, given their influence in the country, they might really be able to do it.

But for a young actor that had not even acted in a proper role before to dare to make such big threats to her shamelessly, he was really treating people like fools, as if they did not know anything about Hollywood.

Howard's intestines were churning from her words.

This damn b*tch. She was looking down on him!

He was about to mention Bourbotte's name when Lu Man waved her hand as if she was swatting a fly and said, "I know, your uncle is Bourbotte, right!"

Lu Man's words shoved whatever Howard was about to brag about right back down his throat.

"I'll send him back the same way he came the previous time. Perhaps he has a certain level of influence in Hollywood, but not everyone supports him. The various camps over on your side are fighting endlessly. You really think that based on Bourbotte's influence, you will be able to do anything? Even if Bourbotte himself was standing here now, he wouldn't dare to say such big words as you did," Lu Man mocked him coldly.

Chapter 1647: Want a Child

Howard did not believe that there would really be someone who would not care about his or her future prospects and sound so righteous.

But very quickly, he understood why.

Howard scoffed at Shi Xiaoya and said, "Do you think that Lu Man's background is bigger, so you want to cling to her? You think she will ask Han Zhuoli to use their company's resources to clear a path for you at

Hollywood? Stop dreaming! It takes a lot of money and various other resources to promote someone there. You think that as long as you pacify Lu Man, Han Zhuoli would waste so much effort just for you?"

Howard said mockingly, "I advise you to think carefully on who is more worth relying on!"

Shi Xiaoya felt that this young man in front of her might have something wrong in his mind.

She did want to venture overseas to advance her career, but that was simply because she wanted to embrace bigger challenges.

But she really was not that insistent to the point that she had to do it.

When she felt that she was ready in the future to advance her career overseas and Howard really had that capability to stop her, then she would just stay in the country.

She really did not want to bother with the cheap antics of some people.

Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling happened to be working overtime today, so both of them came over together after they were done with work.

The elders of the Han Family had arrived as well.

Old Mrs. Han had long wanted to see Shi Xiaoya in person. She heard from Lu Man that Shi Xiaoya would also stay back to watch the competition, so how would she be able to sit still?

She immediately asked Han Zhuoli to request for a few more tickets from the school and brought Shen Nuo and Lin Liye along as well. They're now just waiting to see Shi Xiaoya in a moment.

Even Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei came as well, to support Lu Man.

Xia Qingwei's stomach had become a little bigger, so Wang Juhuai supported her carefully along the way.

There were quite a lot of fans among the teams from the four universities.

Lu Man, Fu Kaiqi, and Li Zeyu were the three with the most number of fans. The rest of the participants also had their own fanbase. Hence, the tickets sold very well.

On top of that, the exchange team had Shana on board. This being a rare appearance of an internationally famous artiste, it attracted much attention from various media companies as well.

There were many reporters on scene today.

Many of the reporters saw Wang Juhuai protecting Xia Qingwei as they came in and all followed them over.

Luckily, they still remembered that Xia Qingwei was pregnant and was of advanced maternal age, so everyone was very mindful and did not dare to come too close. They all very understandingly gave Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei enough safe distance between them.

The reporters' questions all revolved around Xia Qingwei's pregnancy.

"How many months pregnant is Mrs. Wang?"

“Did you go and check whether the baby is a boy or a girl?”

Wang Juhuai answered their questions patiently. This was a good thing, and the reporters were very mature as well. They did not crowd around them, so Wang Juhuai was in a good mood and answered the questions one by one patiently.

As to whether the baby was a boy or a girl, Wang Juhuai smiled and said, “We didn’t ask the doctor. To us, whether it’s a boy or a girl doesn’t matter, so we decided to keep it a surprise at birth. If we know early on, it wouldn’t be as meaningful anymore.”

“Don’t you need to prepare baby clothes and the like in advance based on gender?”

“It doesn’t matter.” Wang Juhuai could be said to have a “Buddhist temper.” “How can you tell the gender of a young baby the moment when he or she is born? We can just buy some gender-neutral colors for that. Children grow up very fast as well, so we would need to buy new clothes very soon. We can make the changes then.”

After airing their concerns about Xia Qingwei, the reporters then asked about Lu Man. “Lu Man and Young Master Han have been married for some time. I wonder when both of them are intending to have children?”

Chapter 1648: Support

Although Lu Man had a career in the entertainment industry, in such big families, they surely care a great deal about having offspring and would not let Lu Man delay childbirth just for her career.

However, Wang Juhuai did not answer this for Lu Man and Han Zhuoli.

He remained all smiles and looked like he had a good temper as he said, “This is the affair of them young people, so let them both decide. Anyway, on this matter, both of our families have a mutual understanding to let the younger people take things at their own pace and not pressure them. What era are we living in now? We are not as traditional or conservative as you people think.”

The reporters could only laugh along with him. How would they know how the people in the big families thought?

Anyway, whatever Wang Juhuai said, they would just listen.

Principal Liu personally came over to welcome Wang Juhuai. There were many people today, so he was deeply afraid that something might happen to Xia Qingwei here.

“We prepared a resting room for Mrs. Wang. Mrs. Wang, why don’t you head over to take a rest first? There are many people here, and huge groups of people will come in as audience in a moment, so there will inevitably be some jostling. Why don’t we wait for the audience to be seated? And when the competition is about to start, both of you can then proceed to the VIP area to take your seats,” Principal Liu explained.

Because of Wang Juhuai, the school especially arranged for them to be in the VIP seating area.

“Alright.” Wang Juhuai was worried at first as well, but hearing that Principal Liu had made such arrangements, he found it was quite suitable.

"I wonder if it's okay for me to go backstage now? I would like to go and see Man Man," Xia Qingwei asked as she smiled.

"Of course, that's no problem." Principal Liu smiled and said, "There aren't many people backstage now. The students are still preparing in the dressing room. Both of you give me a moment, I will ask someone to bring you both over."

Meanwhile in the dressing room, Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling came straight the moment they arrived.

One was looking for Lu Man, the other was looking for Shi Xiaoya.

Earlier on, when both of them came out of the company together, they drove over together and parked their cars together at the parking lot. Even their cars were parked side by side.

It was rare that Han Zhuoli did not tease Han Zhuoling.

After getting out of the car, Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli walked to the backstage area together. They were so in sync, yet Han Zhuoli still did not seize the chance to tease him.

When both of them reached the door of the dressing room, they arrived just in time to hear Howard shamelessly making big threats against Shi Xiaoya.

Han Zhuoling's face fell. He suddenly asked Han Zhuoli in English, "Didn't the Han Corporation acquire Cyre Pictures?"

Cyre Pictures was also one of Hollywood's veteran film production companies. It used to dominate the industry for a period of time and had produced many classic films.

Of the global top 100 films made in the film industry's history, there were also films produced by Cyre Pictures.

It was just that when the Hollywood trends changed in recent years, Cyre Pictures did not seize the best opportunities in time and made strategic mistakes.

Adding to that, their previous two films also made huge losses, reducing the competitiveness of Cyre Pictures in the market.

Many of the major film production companies in Hollywood were starting to attract foreign investors, and although the quality of domestic films still had quite a big gap to close with that of Hollywood, it did not stop the rich bosses in the country from investing in these Hollywood film companies.

A few of the major film companies in the country had more or less invested in shares in some of the film production companies in Hollywood, just that they had fewer shares and did not have much of a say as a shareholder.

Now, there was only the Han Corporation that seized the chance to take over Cyre Pictures and become its largest shareholder.

Afterward, in all the movies and films produced by Cyre Pictures, when the introduction broadcasted the logo of the production sponsors, the Han Corporation could forever be placed first, and it would also be the biggest sponsor.

Due to the Han Corporation's investment, Cyre Pictures could regain their strengths and finish producing a fantasy film within two years' time, which achieved critical success in global box office sales, securing the foundation of the Han Corporation's development in Hollywood. It also restored Cyre Pictures back to its former glory as one of the big film companies.

Chapter 1649: Mock

Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling were swift and decisive in deciding on using this fantasy film as their first film release, creating a fantasy film universe that belonged exclusively to Cyre Pictures.

They were very ambitious. They first created the film universe according to Western tastes, before slowly incorporating oriental elements, and finally adding purely Eastern films. In the end, by bridging the Western and Eastern elements, they would be able to create a globalized film universe.

The films of the future would no longer have African-Americans or whites as the main characters, but would add in Asian characters to be the main characters.

Asian faces in films would no longer be just side characters, or just portrayed in some casual scenes to cater to the film industry here and achieve high box office sales.

The films in the film universe were all connected to each other. It would not do if you missed out on one film.

Want to understand the next film?

Sure, then you must first watch the Eastern film that came before it.

In this way, the films in the country, and the people in the films, would naturally be assimilated into global films in a very good position and in a very natural way.

This was Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling's ambition.

The film that had achieved huge success before was already in talks of filming a second movie to it and to try to incorporate domestic actors into it.

"Yeah." Han Zhuoli nodded. "Didn't you finalize this with me?"

Han Zhuoli had also replied to him in English very tacitly.

Hearing how Han Zhuoling suddenly spoke in English to him, he understood Han Zhuoling's intentions immediately.

Hence, Han Zhuoli was very cooperative.

The moment he said that, Han Zhuoling scoffed and said, "I even thought our acquisition failed. The Han Corporation's presence in Hollywood is so low, to the point that others would look down on us."

Both of them did not lower their volumes, and they were just standing at the doorway of the dressing room.

There were other people chatting among themselves in small voices, but Lu Man and the rest were nearer to the door.

Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling's normal talking volume was just loud enough to be heard by them all.

Furthermore, both of them spoke in English, so it was clear that he was saying that for Howard to hear.

Howard also heard them and understood what they meant.

He turned to look at the doorway and saw Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling. Howard stiffened up completely, trying to look fierce but was utterly scared out of his wits deep down.

In contrast to how arrogant he was just now, upon seeing that Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling had come, he was no longer so capable.

What Han Zhuoling said just now was true. The first film released through Cyre Pictures after the Han Corporation acquired it saved Cyre Pictures from its awkward position in the past, achieving huge success.

It was such a big issue, so how would the people in Hollywood not know about it?

It was precisely because he knew that Howard had only dared to direct his attacks towards Shi Xiaoya earlier on.

No matter how much he disliked Lu Man, he would not dare to show it openly.

Right from the start, he just wanted to create some trouble and make Lu Man look bad.

For example, the first day when he came to the National Film Academy and observed Lu Man's class from the sidelines, he already asked for Lu Man to come up to perform.

Also when he volunteered to be part of the exchange team, it was also because he wanted to thrash Lu Man with a harsh defeat.

In this way, Lu Man would become someone who'd lost to him, and she would have lost to him through fair competition.

Even if Han Zhuoli was unhappy, there was nothing he would be able to do about it.

However, in other times, Howard would not dare to make trouble for Lu Man directly, and he would certainly not be able to put her in a spot.

He then directed his attacks on Shi Xiaoya, intending to make Shi Xiaoya abandon Lu Man at the last moment to come and do his makeup for him, thus embarrassing Lu Man.

After getting rejected by Shi Xiaoya, his anger got to his head, but his words were only directed at Shi Xiaoya all along. He still really did not say a single bad word about Lu Man.

Chapter 1650: Beauty Lies in the Bones, Not the Skin

He did not expect that Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling would actually be unhappy even with this?

He had seen only Han Zhuoli before, and only on the news.

Back then, when the Han Corporation acquired Cyre Pictures, it was also quite a shocking event in Hollywood.

This was the first time foreign investors came in and directly used their veteran, established film production companies.

The Han Corporation's acquisition of Cyre Pictures foreshadowed that they would have a spot in the Hollywood scene.

There were many things that would no longer be a special right of the locals there.

This game had already been joined by major foreign investors.

However, during the initial phases of their entry, there was a lot of bad talk going on.

It was because the people there did not look favorably on them. They felt that the domestic film industry of these investors were comparably backward, yet these people wanted to make money in Hollywood?

Back then, the news media all frowned upon them and published provocative headlines that opined how the Han Corporation would not last long before folding the company quietly.

By selling themselves to the Han Corporation, that would be the biggest mistake Cyre Pictures had made in their history, right above the huge losses suffered from the previous two failed films, which were enough for them to pack their bags and return to their hometowns.

The Han Corporation could hold their ground quite well. They did not rush to prove themselves immediately, and they did not rush to try and turn the fortunes of Cyre Pictures around.

They just set their hearts down to producing films. One really had to admire Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling for their guts.

Without certainty of the outcome, they dared to invest in such a big film.

But the end result also proved to everyone that Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling had made the right choice. Both of them had a good eye and were daring enough to strike it out and take a gamble.

One film was enough to help Cyre Pictures successfully turn itself around, as well as give a big slap to the faces of those people who spoke badly of them previously.

Being at the helm of the Han Corporation, from the Han Corporation's acquisition of Cyre Pictures and even during the period in which everyone did not think well of them, Han Zhuoli had been on the news and media all day long during that time.

And when the Han Corporation managed to successfully turn the fortunes of Cyre Pictures around all at once, it was like a miracle was created. Han Zhuoli's photos were also plastered rampantly across various major media outlets.

Hence, Howard was not unfamiliar with Han Zhuoli.

Westerners could not really tell apart East Asian faces.

There were often times when they mixed someone up with somebody else, even though to Asians, those two people looked completely different.

Under such circumstances, Howard could still clearly recognize Han Zhuoli. This just showed how deep his impression of Han Zhuoli was.

It probably had something to do with Han Zhuoli's facial features as well.

His facial features were more defined—unlike most Asians who tend to have gentler and flatter features, meaning they did not have any features that were significantly protruded.

Howard naturally also saw Han Zhuoling, who was beside Han Zhuoli.

From the similarities in their facial features, Howard could guess that both of them were probably brothers or related by blood.

Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling walked over together. Lu Man held Han Zhuoli's hand and said, "My face doesn't look good right now, but you've seen it all."

Han Zhuoli laughed and said, "Anyway, when you go up on stage later, I'll still be able to see you. That aside, even with makeup on and your original looks covered, your facial features can't be covered."

Han Zhuoli gently pinched her soft fingers and said, "I finally know what it means when they say beauty lies in the bones and not the skin. I see how that looks like."

Han Zhuoli had a face that seemed as though he had never seen beautiful women before, as if to show that it was really his first time seeing someone like Lu Man!

Everyone in the room who heard that was stunned.

They just came here to do their makeup. It's fine if they had to be stuffed with a mouthful of dog food, aka PDA[1], yet they had to watch Han Zhuoli's utterly shameless performance on top of it!