

Mr Han 1651

Chapter 1651: Scared

What is he pretending for!

Let's not talk about the passersby in life. The entertainment industry alone has a congregation of the top beauties in the country.

The female celebrities that are around 40 or 50 years old and look graceful and elegant would at most look as young as 30-plus years. There are not many of them to speak of, but there are still a few that could be named.

As the big boss of the entertainment industry, you are acting like you had never seen one before in front of us?

Continue acting!

Please don't stop!

Lu Man even felt a little guilty from Han Zhuoli's praise.

She had to give it to him for being able to say such words when facing her old, yellow face made so with all that makeup.

To highlight her haggardness and tough life, Shi Xiaoya even drew wrinkles at the corners of her eyes, as well as under her eyes.

She also darkened the tone of the skin around her lips.

Even if she looked into the mirror and imagined herself to be prettier than she actually looked, Lu Man still felt that she really did not look good like this.

Yet even when she looked like this, Han Zhuoli could actually still praise her.

Lu Man blushed in embarrassment at this moment, but her makeup completely covered it up.

"Big Brother, you came as well." Lu Man looked at Han Zhuoling, all smiles.

Her mood had not been affected by Howard at all, and she was still in the mood to tease Han Zhuoling with her gaze.

The corners of Han Zhuoling's lips twitched. Previously, whenever Lu Man saw him, she would always behave reservedly and did not dare to talk much to him. Don't think he couldn't tell.

Now, she wasn't scared of him at all.

The moment Han Zhuoli came, he only had eyes for Lu Man. Now that Lu Man had reminded him of it, he finally recalled that Howard was here as well.

He turned to look at Howard with a condescending smile as his lips curved slightly. "From what you said, you can do whatever you want in Hollywood and stop anyone from going there if you don't want them to?"

Howard's face turned beet red. He only said that because Shi Xiaoya did not appreciate his offer, which made him upset.

He thought that since the students here had never seen the world before anyway, he could say whatever he wanted to say, right?

Yet he ended up boasting about something he could not actually do.

"I didn't say that." Howard reacted quite fast. "Of course I'm not that powerful, but my words were directed at Shi Xiaoya."

"Perhaps I can't do whatever I want in Hollywood, but to prevent a small-time makeup artist like her with no background from making it out in Hollywood, that's something I can still do." Howard purposely bit his tongue and said that just to protect his pride.

"Oh, really?" Han Zhuoling, who had not spoken a word ever since he came in, coldly remarked.

Howard's heart started pounding.

What was happening?

It can't be that they would really help Shi Xiaoya just because Shi Xiaoya was on good terms with Lu Man, right?

What kind of joke was that!

Not like the Han Family was doing charity.

Although the Han Corporation had wide connections, if they really wanted to help someone, all it would take was putting in a word for them.

It sounded easy, but even putting in a word was very precious.

Owing a favor under the Han Corporation's name was not simply an issue of money anymore, it was about an exchange equal in value for both parties.

To return the favor, it would definitely not be easy.

Hence, he never thought that the Han Family would stand up for an ordinary friend of Lu Man's.

The Han Family members were not idiots!

Howard continued to put up a strong front and pretended to be calm as he asked Han Zhuoling, "You are?"

Han Zhuoli chuckled and said, "He's my elder brother. Both of us completed the acquisition of Cyre Pictures together back then."

Howard felt as if he had been choked.

"So it's First Young Master Han." Although Howard had never seen Han Zhuoling before, he had heard of Han Zhuoling's name.

Not just in business, even in Hollywood, Han Zhuoling was quite famous as well.

Previously, when their exchange team first arrived, an evening welcome party was held at the National Film Academy.

Chapter 1652: Help Out

Although Han Zhuoling came then, he did not go out of his way to introduce himself.

The people from the exchange team did not notice him before.

Hearing Han Zhuoli introduce him, many of them looked over.

When the Han Corporation acquired Cyre, from pre-acquisition to post-acquisition, the series of methods undertaken had been decisive and effective.

Although the media unanimously denounced the Han Corporation's development in Hollywood, people in the industry still saw it as a historic moment.

Han Zhuoling's name also appeared frequently. Although the media did not report about him excessively, the media insiders were not unfamiliar with his name.

Now, they finally really took a good look at Han Zhuoling's appearance.

They thought to themselves: so this was that First Young Master Han.

"You said you can't do other things, but you can still make sure that Shi Xiaoya can't make it out in Hollywood, right?" Han Zhuoling still remembered this. As if to say he did not forget it after the topic was changed, he brought it up again.

How would Howard not be able to tell that from Han Zhuoling's tone, he was clearly standing on Shi Xiaoya's side?

He just did not understand. Why did they want to help Shi Xiaoya?

Howard smiled and asked, "Mr. Han keeps holding on to my words. Don't tell me you want to hold it against me?"

"From start to end, I was only talking to Shi Xiaoya." Howard's words here were actually him admitting defeat. Everyone present could tell that.

He'd singled out Shi Xiaoya precisely because he did not want to offend Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling.

Lu Man was part of the Han Family, but Shi Xiaoya was not.

He was not rude to Lu Man, so the Han Family had better not come at him for that.

Han Zhuoling probably did not care about what he meant and asked again, "So, what do you think about how much weight the words of the Han Corporation holds over on your side?"

Howard bit his tongue and could not bring himself to answer.

Weight of words?

It would definitely not be small. The Han Corporation was very smart. They did not directly enter Hollywood but used Cyre Pictures as a shell to occupy.

Cyre Pictures was an established, veteran brand, after all, and it was once a major film production company, so they still had quite a huge influence in Hollywood.

If they needed teams, they would get it; if they needed people, they would get that as well.

As for the operations over there, they could not be more familiar with it and did not need the Han Corporation to research on it from scratch.

If they were to talk about the weight of their words, it would surely be huge.

Could the words of a mega film company not carry huge weight?

With this comparison, he was merely nothing more than a shrimp.

Ever since he came here, he had maintained an arrogant disposition and belittling attitude towards the students here.

He was simply above them.

If he admitted that the Han Corporation also carried quite a bit of weight in their words, it was akin to him admitting defeat and slapping himself in the face.

But as to not admitting it, he really did not have the guts to do that either.

It was as if Howard was being forced to the edge of a cliff right now. If he took a step back, it would be death, but he could not run away either.

He just stood there for all to see, feeling extremely awkward.

The longer he did not reply, the more embarrassing it was.

The truth was, even if he did not reply, his attitude now already an answer from him.

Howard felt so awkward standing there. His embarrassment now paralleled how arrogant he'd been before.

In front of Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling, how would he have any pride left?

Shana sighed. She stopped the makeup artist from putting on her makeup further and stood up to walk over.

"Mr. Han," Shana greeted as she came over.

Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling did not have too much of a reaction.

In the fans' eyes, she was a popular idol, and because it was hard to see her usually, they felt like seeing her now was like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

But in Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling's eyes, Shana was just a minor celebrity.

Just like how Howard perceived the students at the National Film Academy.

Chapter 1653: Shielding Shortcomings

No, it was not even comparable to that.

Howard's perception of the students at the National Film Academy simply resulted from his conceitedness.

Probably like how Shana viewed the C- or D-list artistes in her country.

In Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling's eyes, Shana also belonged to such a category.

Hence, both of them really did not need to give much face to Shana.

"Howard is the one at fault, saying such improper words. Please don't hold it against him," Shana said with a smile. "Howard is young and impudent. He will take note in the future."

Howard could not get over his pride. He was just about to insist stubbornly when Shana secretly pinched him and threw him a warning look.

Han Zhuoling plainly glanced at Shana, and Shana gave a sweet smile at Han Zhuoling.

Seeing Shana's smile, Shi Xiaoya felt a little unhappy.

Han Zhuoling's gaze did not really stay on Shana's face for long. Instead, he asked Howard, "Then do you still stand by what you said just now about not letting Shi Xiaoya make it out in Hollywood?"

Howard did not give a direct answer but just said, "Shi Xiaoya said it herself. I won't be able to stop her right now. I will have to wait until she has really gone there to further her career to see if I have the ability to stop her then."

Howard looked at Shi Xiaoya unhappily and said, "I'll give you the same words as well. You can wait and see until then, see whether I am capable of that or not."

Shana frowned. This Howard was really way too prideful.

Whenever something concerned his pride, he would throw away his intelligence just to keep his pride.

His words were clearly avoiding the important and dwelling on the trivial. When Shi Xiaoya really wanted to go to Hollywood to advance her career, he would still stop her.

Did he really think other people couldn't tell?

But even this kind of behavior was already an admittance of defeat for Howard.

It was quite rare too.

Shana could only smile and say, "This is just a misunderstanding. We are all young and impetuous now, it's hard to say what we can do next time. Howard also took back what he said earlier. Mr. Han, don't you both think so—"

Han Zhuoling laughed. "Actually, I also want to see if you have such an ability in the future."

When Howard heard that, he thought that the matter had blown over, so he smiled and said, "Then why don't we wait and see?"

Han Zhuoling smiled, but that smile crossed his face in a flash. It was very short-lived.

But the sound that rumbled in his throat sounded indescribably soothing.

He did not reply to Howard and just made a call.

He called Tong Chunian. “For the new films that have just started production and have had the roles confirmed, as well as those where actors are still being chosen for the roles, confirm the name lists and check if, among the confirmed lists, there is Howard Gibson’s name. For those where roles are still being cast, he will not be on the registration list. For those with confirmed roles, swap him out if he has been confirmed. For the roles that are to be auditioned, if his name is on the list, remove it as well. He doesn’t need to go for the audition anymore.”

Tong Chunian felt that this name sounded familiar. He thought for a moment and asked, “Is he one of the students in the exchange team from New York this time around?”

“Yes,” Han Zhuoling said.

Tong Chunian replied that he understood and immediately went to handle it.

When speaking to Tong Chunian, Han Zhuoling spoke in Mandarin.

Thinking that Howard would not understand, he saw a volunteer student by the side and gestured to him as he said, “Are you in charge of translating?”

“Yes,” that student immediately replied.

This was his first time being so close to Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli, so he was a little nervous.

“Translate what I just said for him to hear,” Han Zhuoling said.

He could clearly say it himself, but he just did not want to bother translating it for Howard to hear.

Howard did not deserve such good treatment.

Chapter 1654: Wait and See

Of course, that student knew what Han Zhuoling had just said.

He did not expect that the Han Corporation was already so powerful now.

In the past, they only called the shots in the domestic scene and no one dared to offend them.

Now, they had even extended their influence to Hollywood.

When he looked at Lu Man, the volunteer student’s gaze became instantly filled with admiration.

They could not afford to offend her—they simply could not afford to.

In the past, the Han Corporation was already at the head of the domestic industry. Ever since she’d publicly announced her relationship with Han Zhuoli, Lu Man’s status in the country had become that of someone who could not be easily offended.

Yet now, the Han Corporation had even stretched its reach over to Hollywood to do even greater things!

Lu Man’s untouchable scope had extended even wider now.

Han Zhuoling spoke personally. No matter how big the pressure was, the volunteer student could only brace himself and translate the original words for Howard.

Howard was dumbstruck!

He had really signed up for auditions for some films to be produced by Cyre Pictures. It's true that there were many films shot within a year, not just the ones produced by the Han Corporation.

However, there were only a few film production companies of good caliber out there that split the market largely among themselves.

For example, out of so many films, one-quarter of the films were produced by Cyre Pictures. If this quarter was removed completely, what was left was just three-quarters.

Among the remaining three-quarters, they still had to choose films that were suitable for themselves.

There were so many actors developing their careers in Hollywood. Each audition was like crossing a single-log bridge, a difficult trial.

Even with Bourbotte backing him, it was not a foolproof guarantee.

It was as if Han Zhuoling had adjusted Howard's acting career from "normal" to "difficult" level.

Cyre Pictures was only beginning its path to restore its former glory right now. Once it had regained its peak, Howard's career would not simply be stuck at "difficult" level anymore.

Howard's emotions were in a mess now. His mind was filled with messy thoughts, and he could not speak a word for a moment.

Right at this moment, Tong Chunian called back. "Young Master Ling, it's all done. For the roles that are confirmed, he did come for auditions before, but he did not get through. This saved us a lot of trouble. For some films that are planned to start production, Howard had indeed come for auditions for some of them before, but his role is not confirmed. I have already spoken with Cyre. Howard's performance is not necessary for the director, so they also agreed on their end."

Han Zhuoling ended the call feeling satisfied and said to Howard, "As for your future achievements, we shall wait and see."

He returned Howard's exact words to him, but the meaning of the words was completely different.

Howard was obviously very confident about his future development. That was why he'd asked them to wait and see.

But Han Zhuoling had directly cut Howard out of all the chances to participate in films produced under the Han Corporation. As for what he meant when he said "wait and see," it was just filled with sarcasm.

The Han Corporation stepped in to interfere and cut off many opportunities for Howard, so they would wait and see what would become of Howard next time.

The worst fear was that Han Zhuoling would keep an eye on him and prevent him from advancing his career at all.

That would really make good of his reply to “wait and see.”

Seeing that Howard’s expression was really not looking good, like he was not thinking rationally anymore, Shana was really afraid that this would affect his condition during the performance later.

What a time for something to happen, really. Trouble had to happen now, right before the performance, of all times!

Shana secretly chided Howard for being an idiot.

She really did not understand. Even if he did not get over his grudge with Lu Man, at least that was because of Bourbotte, and at least there was a reason to do that.

But what was he doing right now, trying to create trouble for Shi Xiaoya?

Just to embarrass Lu Man?

If he was so capable, he should just attack Lu Man straight up!

Chapter 1655: The Person You Were Picking on Wasn’t Me

Taking it out on someone else was certainly intriguing.

Yet, if he succeeded, things would be fine. In the end, this Shi Xiaoya did not even want to bother with him.

He ended up not being able to embarrass Lu Man, much less being able to make things difficult for Shi Xiaoya. Instead, he got himself on the Han Corporation’s watchlist.

The Han Corporation did not look for other people and did not contact their connections, so they did not need to owe favors and could already give Howard a hard time just with their own capabilities.

Bourbotte had quite a high status, but compared to a huge company like this, how would his influence count?

But what Shana could not understand until now was why Han Zhuoling was so persistent in making things hard for Howard.

Was he simply standing up for Lu Man, or did he do it for Shi Xiaoya?

After all, Shi Xiaoya was the person who’s most directly involved in this matter.

Shana glanced at Shi Xiaoya, and then at Han Zhuoling, but she could not tell anything just from looking at the two.

She kept her thoughts at the back of her head. The most important thing now was to stabilize Howard’s emotions and prevent him from affecting his delivery during the competition.

She wondered if the other party did it on purpose, purposely messing with Howard’s emotions at this moment.

“Mr. Han, Howard is at fault in this matter. But he’s still young and not mature enough. You also see how he’s like now, he’s also scared. He knows he’s wrong,” Shana said in an appeasing tone.

No matter how prideful Howard was, he would not dare to express it now.

No matter what Shana said, he did not rebut.

Howard was so nervous right now that his mind was in a mess. His mind no longer cared about the competition and was solely focused on worrying about his future.

He hated that he could not buy the flight tickets immediately to fly back and find Bourbotte to ask him what exactly he should do.

His heart was no longer here.

“Please don’t take it against him, alright?” Shana nudged Howard. “Aren’t you going to apologize to Lu Man?”

If not for the fact that Howard’s acting was one of the best in this team and that if something really happened to him, the ability of the team would really suffer a huge setback, Shana would not even care about this.

But her saying this now was also to confirm whether Han Zhuoling was really doing this to stand up for Shi Xiaoya or not.

Howard minced his lips. He still could not take it lying down.

His original intent for coming here was really to embarrass Lu Man. Yet not only did he fail to do that, he even had to apologize to Lu Man now.

But to protect his own future, he still bore with it and struggled to speak as he said, “Lu—”

“No need,” Lu Man said coldly. “You don’t need to apologize to me. I’m not even the person you were picking on just now, right?”

Lu Man glanced at Shana with a condescending smile before saying to Howard, “Even if you want to apologize, you should apologize to the person you were really rude to. What are you apologizing to me for?”

Shana’s reminder clearly neglected Shi Xiaoya.

Lu Man’s glance seemed to have seen through Shana completely, which stirred a sudden sense of guilty conscience in Shana’s heart, one which she struggled to suppress.

However, because of Lu Man’s attitude, Shana failed to achieve her original motive.

She could not read Han Zhuoling’s attitude on this.

However, after Lu Man said that, Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli did not speak, so it was clear that they agreed with her.

Howard suddenly got a rude awakening.

They want him to apologize to Shi Xiaoya?

Impossible!

He was already very unwilling to bend down to Lu Man, but at least he could comfort himself that he was bending down not to Lu Man, but to Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling, who were backing Lu Man up behind her.

But now, they wanted him to apologize to a mere makeup artist like Shi Xiaoya?

And he had been so high and mighty just now. In his eyes, he and Shi Xiaoya were simply in different leagues.

Chapter 1656: Do as You Wish

He had scorned her so much just a few moments ago, yet they wanted him to apologize to Shi Xiaoya now?

Shana quietly nudged Howard. Could it be that he really did not care about his future anymore?

Right now, Han Zhuoling only stopped Cyre from choosing him for roles.

It would be hard to guarantee that Han Zhuoling would not use his own connections to stop other companies from choosing him too.

Pride and face were all illusory things. What really belonged to one was one's own future.

There was no need to sacrifice your own future for something so trivial in the moment.

He who understands the times is a wise man. If he bent down now, his humiliation would only be momentary. It was better than a setback that would lead to total ruin.

Howard clenched his teeth, and his hatred for Lu Man deepened.

He was about to apologize to Lu Man just now. Great minds that thought alike would have just glossed over this, yet Lu Man just had to be so unyielding.

Lu Man did not even suffer any loss. Why was she joining in the fuss?!

Furthermore, Shi Xiaoya, the person who was directly involved, did not even say anything. What was Lu Man speaking up for her for?!

Didn't she see that Shi Xiaoya didn't have any opinions?!

This meddlesome thing!

Howard hated Lu Man to the core now. He was certain that Lu Man did this on purpose. She just wanted to embarrass him and did not want to let him off.

Howard clenched his teeth and said to Shi Xiaoya, "I'm sorry, I was rude to you."

He glanced at Han Zhuoling. Seeing that he had no expression on his face and did not appear moved, he suppressed his emotions and continued saying, "It's like what Shana said. I am young and impetuous, so I didn't consider my words properly before saying them. It was immature of me to say those things to you just now."

Howard took in a deep breath and said, "Miss Shi, please forgive me."

How would Shi Xiaoya not be able to see the unwillingness and remorseless attitude on Howard's face? There was no point even if she said she forgave him.

So she did not want to forgive him.

Shi Xiaoya turned to look at Han Zhuoling, seeking his approval silently.

Lu Man and Han Zhuoli watched their interaction from the side and took note of Shi Xiaoya's subconscious reliance on Han Zhuoling.

Lu Man was smiling gleefully as she tickled Han Zhuoli's palm. When Han Zhuoli looked over, she winked at him.

Looks like it was not only Big Brother who had feelings for Shi Xiaoya.

Very luckily, their feelings were mutual.

Shana also noticed that Shi Xiaoya's first reaction was actually to look at Han Zhuoling.

And when she turned to look at Han Zhuoling, Han Zhuoling's expression instantly became gentle, as if he became a completely different person from the cold and icy person he was before.

Han Zhuoling said in a gentle voice, "Do as you wish. Just do whatever you think is right. You don't need to think about the rest."

Shi Xiaoya immediately flashed a smile at Han Zhuoling before she turned to Howard. "I think you're not sincere about apologizing to me, so forget it. I don't need your apology. Even if you apologized to me today, it's not sincere, and after this, you will still continue to think of ways to make things difficult for me in future."

Howard did not expect Shi Xiaoya to actually think things through so well. Black ink could almost drip from his sullen, darkened face.

Shi Xiaoya laughed when she saw his reaction. "See, you're not really sincere about apologizing to me."

"If I sincerely apologize to you, will you forgive me?" Howard asked.

"If not for the orders that Young Master Ling gave earlier on, would you have apologized to me?" Shi Xiaoya asked.

Howard hesitated for a moment, and Shi Xiaoya said, "You don't need to answer me, because we both know what the answer is. And even if Young Master Ling revoked his earlier orders, I won't forgive you either. I'll also return the same words you said just now back to you. Let's wait and see how my career develops and whether you can or cannot stop me from advancing my career."

Chapter 1657: Such an Intimate Greeting

"Now, I need to continue putting on makeup for Lu Man." Shi Xiaoya checked the time. "You should probably start preparing as well, or else there wouldn't be enough time."

How would Howard be in the mood to prepare for the competition? He already appeared to be panicking slightly. "Mr. Han, I have already apologized to her. She's the one who refused to forgive me no matter what. I'm at fault in this matter."

Howard could not care less anymore. He'd even apologized in front of everyone and felt his scalp turning numb.

All the boasting and arrogant pretense he'd put on ever since he arrived until now, all of it culminated in the embarrassment of today.

"Please don't take it against me, I am the narrow-minded one," Howard said. "I am very sincere about acting as one of the characters in Cyre Pictures' films. Please give me this chance."

Han Zhuoling raised his eyebrow and said, "Did you think that if Xiaoya forgave you, I would retract my orders?"

Shi Xiaoya was startled.

She did not hear properly the rest of the things that Han Zhuoling said. Her mind was just preoccupied with how he'd called her "Xiaoya" just now.

Her ears were still ringing with his voice calling her "Xiaoya." She could not hear anything else.

Unknowingly, her face reddened, and her hands started to tremble ever so slightly.

Lu Man secretly pinched Han Zhuoli to make him look down.

She then whispered into his ear, "How does Big Brother usually call Xiaoya? Did he always address her so intimately?"

Han Zhuoli tsked at her and replied in the same hushed voice, "No! He always went 'Shi Xiaoya,' 'Shi Xiaoya,' and even earlier before that, he called her Miss Shi. Don't you see how Shi Xiaoya is completely scared stiff?"

Lu Man glanced over. Indeed, Shi Xiaoya seemed to have fossilized on the spot. She was rooted to the floor, looking dazed and silly.

"Judging from Shi Xiaoya's reaction, that is definitely the first time Big Brother called her that way," Han Zhuoli said in a low voice.

Lu Man was stunned. "I really couldn't tell that Big Brother was the tsundere type. He just changed the way he called her unknowingly, and he even made it sound so natural to other people."

She did not expect that when Han Zhuoling was being thick-skinned, it would be quite surprising to others.

Not just Lu Man and Han Zhuoli, everyone else noticed that Han Zhuoling had changed the way he called Shi Xiaoya.

Shana quietly shifted glances between Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya.

Howard was even more shocked.

He had thought that Shi Xiaoya was close to Lu Man.

He even found it strange just now. No matter how close Shi Xiaoya was with Lu Man, Han Zhuoling would not go to such lengths just to help Shi Xiaoya.

He even stepped out personally to make sure he was dropped.

Yet now that he heard Han Zhuoling calling her so intimately, what was there for Howard not to understand?

Looks like Shi Xiaoya's relationship with Han Zhuoling was much better than her relationship with Lu Man!

Howard really regretted it now. He just wanted to bully a weakling at first and show off his prowess, yet he never expected to stub his foot on an iron board.

Han Zhuoling seemed to have gotten addicted to calling her that way and continued saying, "Whether Xiaoya decides to forgive you or not has nothing to do with my decision. Even if she forgives you, I won't change my decision just now. Just like what Xiaoya said, you may have apologized now, but it was not sincere. Don't even talk about how you didn't even bother to pretend like you cared just now. Even if you pretended to apologize sincerely, it would just be a silent endurance for the time being. You would still be unhappy deep down. When you are safe after you go back, you would then think of ways to deal with her."

Han Zhuoling scoffed mockingly. "I won't believe that your temper that has remained unchanged for decades of your life will suddenly change with the few words you said just now."

Chapter 1658: Eyes Blurred

He was just scared.

Howard's face swelled beet red.

He had been fooled!

Yet in front of Han Zhuoling, he did not even dare to make a single sound about his unhappiness.

Howard clenched his fists, shaking from anger.

He had never been bullied so badly like this before!

Right at this moment, someone happily called, "Man Man."

Everyone turned and saw that Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei had come.

Dean He accompanied them by the side.

Principal Liu had to stay outside to continue welcoming guests. He was really unable to get away, so he did not come over with them.

When Shana and the rest saw Wang Juhuai, they were instantly shocked.

Even though the bunch of them had held their noses high ever since they came here and looked down on everything they saw, when they saw Wang Juhuai, they still could not contain their excitement.

Why would Wang Juhuai come here!

Just now, when Wang Juhuai said “Man Man” in Mandarin, they all understood the pronunciation.

However, the intonations of Mandarin Chinese were still a little difficult for them to understand.

So it was difficult for them to connect “Man Man” and “Lu Man” in that instant.

“Dad, Mom.” Seeing both of them come, she immediately took quick steps over and asked, “Why are both of you here? There are many people here and it’s messy. What if you knocked into something here or there?”

“It’s fine, we just came over here to take a look and will leave soon. The school has especially arranged a lounge for your mom. I’m here protecting her, so don’t worry,” Wang Juhuai said as he smiled. He then saw Lu Man’s face clearly and said, “Aiyo, my precious daughter’s face had been so covered with makeup, I almost couldn’t recognize you.”

“Dad, you’re still the most honest one,” Lu Man said to him. “Zhuoli just told me that I still look good even if my face was full of makeup like this. His words are too fake, he’s just saying it to please me.”

Han Zhuoli suddenly got arrowed in the knee, making him a little stunned.

Wang Juhuai burst out in laughter. “He’s not wrong. Although I can’t recognize you, you’re still my pretty daughter.”

Everybody: “...”

Haha, Lu Man did not just have a husband who was crazy about pampering his wife, she also had a father who was crazy about protecting his daughter.

The eyes of these two people must have been blurred.

They could actually say such things.

Lu Man was quite pretty normally, but with this makeup, she really could not be said to look good.

Her face shape was still there, but her whole face just became uglier.

Yet these two people could actually say that she was pretty. That was too much.

Seeing Wang Juhuai like this, people who did not know might just mistake Lu Man to be his biological daughter.

When they came just now, the sounds of people talking inside had reverberated out as well.

Although they did not know the cause, they could also guess that it was definitely Howard who kicked up a fuss and caused the unhappiness.

Dean He did not ask for an explanation.

Anyway, they were not the ones on the losing end. It was clearly Howard who suffered.

If he asked for an explanation, he would inevitably have to plead for leniency for Howard out of courtesy. He would not do such a thing.

Hence, Dean He acted as if he did not know anything and said as he chuckled, "How's everyone's preparation coming along? The performance is about to start now. The exchange team is the last team to perform. The first up on stage will be the Donghua Film Academy's students. Everyone, plan your time properly. Don't make a mad rush just when you're about to go up to perform."

"The students who are done preparing but are not the first to perform, you all can proceed to your seats at the competition area and be seated first. The friendly competition is about to officially begin soon," Dean He said, smiling like an old fox.

Shana could not think of asking Dean He for help either at this moment. All her attention was now on Wang Juhuai.

Chapter 1659: Against the Heavens

"Mr. Wang," Shana greeted.

Wang Juhuai looked over. He found Shana a little familiar, but he did not know her well.

Although she was a popular teen idol now, Wang Juhuai had never taken note of such things, especially now that he had been staying in the country.

Those who had relations with him were all big shots. As for the kind like Shana, Wang Juhuai really did not have much chances to get to know them.

"Hello, I am Shana." Shana introduced herself and immediately talked about a few films that she had acted in before.

Wang Juhuai had a slight impression of them and replied, "Hello. If there's a chance, I will listen to your songs."

"That would be my greatest honor. If there is anything I lack in, please feel free to correct me," Shana immediately said. "I've always hoped that I would have a chance to meet you. I never expected that I would be able to see you here today. You and Lu Man are—"

"She is my daughter," Wang Juhuai replied politely.

The moment he said that, Howard's face really turned into ashes.

When Lu Man was chatting with Wang Juhuai just now, they were naturally speaking in Mandarin.

Though he saw how both of them looked close to each other, Howard could not understand what they were saying.

Now that he'd heard Wang Juhuai introduce her in English, how could not help but suck in his breath?

With that, how was he supposed to humiliate Lu Man and avenge Bourbotte?

Lu Man's family ties, weren't they going against the heavens?!

Shana was also stunned for a moment, but she was also quietly relieved that she had not offended Lu Man before.

They did not have much interaction before, so there was no chance of offending to speak of.

“Mr. Wang, I wonder if I can have the honor to invite you to write a song for me?” Shana seized the opportunity to ask.

Howard could not even contain his contempt towards her.

Wang Juhuai had never written a song for any singer, not even the world’s most famous singers or for the classical bel canto singers.

Wang Juhuai’s music mostly appeared in films.

Up until now, among all the films that Wang Juhuai had composed music for, none of them had ever flopped.

It was the same be it blockbuster films that required massive spending, literary films with deep meanings, or social impact films. The former generated massive success at box office sales while the latter ones garnered an immense reputation and public praise.

The difference between a good and a bad film is determined by everything from the script, directors, actors, clothing, makeup to props, etc. None of the components could be lacking. The true insiders only needed to see the staff list to get a sense of the film’s quality.

And as long as they saw that the music composer was Wang Juhuai, the insiders would know that this film would not go too wrong.

Even for composing music, Wang Juhuai also looked at the productions he was composing for.

To invite Wang Juhuai, it did not just require money, quality was even more important.

It was evident how difficult it was to invite Wang Juhuai.

And to be able to invite Wang Juhuai to compose music for one individually, it had only happened once, which was for the world’s best pianist.

It was at a concert for a special segment that surprised the audience with the performance.

It was only afterward that people learned that the piece was composed by Wang Juhuai.

Yet Shana, a singer who had just risen to popularity, wanted to invite Wang Juhuai to compose a song for her?

One had to say, she was really courageous.

Wang Juhuai politely rejected her without being rude. “My wife is pregnant. I need to focus on caring for her this period, so I have put a hold on all my work. I can’t say for sure when I will resume my work. After all, when the baby is born, I also have to take care of the baby.”

This reason was...

Shana did not even know how to counter it.

Did he even need to care for the child?

It was clearly an excuse to reject her.

However, Wang Juhuai was not lying either.

He had just finished composing music for a film.

Back then, Xia Qingwei had just been confirmed to be pregnant, so Wang Juhuai took a long break from his work and was now finally done composing it.

He then put all his work on hold afterward to focus on accompanying Xia Qingwei.

Chapter 1660: Immense Pressure

Dean He very timely said, "I think Mrs. Wang looks a little tired. Why don't we go and rest first?"

"Yeah, Mom. Go and rest first. I will be done in a while. I'll go over to look for you guys when I'm done," Lu Man said.

Wang Juhuai agreed, lest they continue being pestered if they stayed behind.

So they left together with Dean He.

Shi Xiaoya continued applying makeup for Lu Man and Howard did not dare to say anything now.

He was just bottled up with anger and looking for a place to vent.

When he turned to go back, he saw Shana and laughed mockingly at her. "You are quite courageous to even dream of asking Wang Juhuai to compose songs for you. I think it'll be faster if you just dreamed about it."

Shana replied furiously, "Howard! I helped you so much just now, yet you're turning on me right after? How ungrateful!"

"Helped me?" Howard sat down angrily in his seat. "Were you helping me? You embarrassed me so much just now. I even apologized, but what happened?"

His pride was all gone!

With that, Shana still had the decency to say that she'd helped him?

Shana was fuming with rage. "Sure, sure, sure. I was even in the wrong for helping you. Fine! I won't care about your matters next time! I won't care whatever happens to you! Hah, I helped you, and yet you bit my hand almost immediately after. What the hell!"

You're worse off than a dog!

Shana sat down huffily in anger.

Both of them fell out with each other, both fuming at the top of their heads.

In contrast, Lu Man's side had an atmosphere that felt good.

The volunteer students brought two chairs for Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling so that both of them could sit down.

Or else, since both of them were so tall, if they just stood there, it would really make people feel pressured.

Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling very tacitly sat on both sides.

Han Zhuoli sat by Lu Man's side, and Han Zhuoling naturally sat by Shi Xiaoya's side.

Lu Man chatted with Han Zhuoli as she let Shi Xiaoya do the final adjustments to her makeup.

Shi Xiaoya felt immense pressure over on her side.

Han Zhuoling was sitting there. He actually did not take his phone out to work but was watching her apply the makeup.

Shi Xiaoya's heart was thumping. She wanted to ask, what was so interesting about her applying makeup? And didn't he feel bored?

Being stared at by Han Zhuoling like this, she could not concentrate and there were times when her hand was not steady enough when she was drawing.

Shi Xiaoya really could not stand it any longer and asked resignedly, "Young Master Ling, don't you need to work right now?"

Lu Man and Han Zhuoli held in their laughter. Even Shi Xiaoya knew how much of a workaholic Han Zhuoling was.

"My work is all done." Han Zhuoling felt puzzled and asked, "Why would I work when I'm here?"

Shi Xiaoya thought to herself: it's not like she had never seen him work on his phone.

She then heard Han Zhuoling explain, "I don't work all the time, you know."

Not like he was really a robot.

"Oh." Shi Xiaoya merely replied that and did not say anything else.

She tried her best to focus on Lu Man's face and realized that her face seemed to lack a bit of something.

After thinking for quite some time, Shi Xiaoya went to find pictures of the original cast of *After Sunset*.

Lu Man's makeup was not exactly the same as the original actress'.

After all, their faces were not the same, so there were still some changes needed when it came to the details.

What the makeup needed to accentuate, which parts it needed to cover, were all different.

There was no way to make it completely identical.

However, the overall look and feel already matched very well with the film.

But Shi Xiaoya still felt that something was missing.

A flash of light crossed her mind as she finally recalled it. She immediately searched for her brown gel eyeliner and dotted uneven spots under Lu Man's eyes, on her nose, as well as on the sides of her cheek.

Shi Xiaoya explained to Lu Man, "The original actress in the film was under the sun all day long but obviously did not have the means to put on any sunscreen or do anything to shield her from the sun, so there would surely be a lot of dark spots on her face."