

## Mr Han 1661

### Chapter 1661: More Interesting than Your Work?

Regardless of how many among the audience members would even notice this detail, she would try her best to show it, all to boost Lu Man's performance.

Yet right at this moment, Han Zhuoling suddenly spouted, "Watching you do makeup is quite interesting."

Shi Xiaoya's hands trembled. She almost ruined the spot she was drawing.

Why did Han Zhuoling suddenly say that out of nowhere?

Shi Xiaoya's face heated up. She then heard Han Zhuoli ask, "More interesting than your work?"

Han Zhuoling actually thought about it seriously for a moment and said, "It is more interesting than my work."

Han Zhuoli: "..."

Lu Man: "..."

*It has come!*

The person who could make Han Zhuoling give up his work and even make him feel that something else was better than his work—she had appeared!

Han Zhuoli was so frustrated now. He actually did not manage to record Han Zhuoling's words.

How precious would that recording be!

Shi Xiaoya did not know how to respond to this. Luckily, Han Zhuoli was the one who'd asked, so Shi Xiaoya pretended as if she did not hear it. She took the chance to quickly use an egg-shaped sponge to dab gently on the spots dotted with the brown gel eyeliner on Lu Man's face which have not dried completely. This made the spots look more natural and complementary with her wax yellow skin tone, making it look like her natural sunspots.

"It's done." Shi Xiaoya was quite pleased with this effect. She passed a mirror to Lu Man so that she could see more clearly. "What do you think?"

Lu Man looked left and right before nodding her head in delight as she smiled and said, "This looks very good."

When she was done dressing up, she prepared to go and see Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei.

Han Zhuoli naturally went with her.

Everyone was relatives with each other, so Han Zhuoling followed them as well.

Shi Xiaoya planned to go to the audience seating area to find her seat and wait for the competition to start. She walked out of the dressing room and said to Lu Man and the trio, "I'll head over to the audience seats with Yujie first."

Lu Man did not even manage to ask it in time before Han Zhuoling asked, “Why are you going there?”

“To sit down... and wait for the competition to start,” Shi Xiaoya replied, feeling very strange.

Or else what could she do?

“You’re not coming with us?” Han Zhuoling asked.

“...” Shi Xiaoya paused for a moment before she said, “You guys are going to see Mr. Wang and Mrs. Wang. It might not be appropriate for an outsider like me to tag along.”

“How are you an outsider?” Lu Man blurted out.

Seeing Han Zhuoling’s gaze shoot over in a flash, Lu Man laughed awkwardly before she quickly changed her tone and added, “You’re my friend. What’s wrong if you came along to meet them?”

“The situation in the dressing room was too messy, I didn’t have the chance to introduce you to my dad and mom,” Lu Man said to Shi Xiaoya. “Now that it’s quieter and there’s quite some time before the show starts, don’t be in a rush to go out. Just come along with us.”

Guo Yujie could tell what Lu Man wanted to do, so she pretended to receive a call at this moment and said to them, “I’ll go and pick up a call. When I finish talking on the phone, I’ll go straight to the audience seating.”

Before Shi Xiaoya could say anything, Guo Yujie clutched her phone and ran off.

So Shi Xiaoya could only go with Lu Man and the two men.

Lu Man and Han Zhuoli naturally walked side by side.

Han Zhuoli wanted to hold Lu Man’s hand, but Lu Man stopped him. “Don’t hold my hand.”

Lu Man showed her hands to Han Zhuoli and said, “To match the skin tone on my face with my hands, Xiaoya also colored my hands. If you hold my hand, some of the color would get onto your hand.”

Han Zhuoli looked and saw indeed that her originally fair and smooth hands had been completely colored yellow.

The back of Lu Man’s hands had always been very fair—so fair that her veins could be seen.

Now that it was colored yellow, nothing could be seen anymore.

### **Chapter 1662: What Do You Do When a Girl Gives You the “Good Person” Card?**

“After my performance, the first thing I’ll do is to wash my hands clean. Having foundation all over my hands feels way too uncomfortable,” Lu Man said as she looked at her hands.

Both of them walked in front while Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya walked at the back.

Shi Xiaoya mustered her courage to give thanks. “Young Master Ling, thank you for just now, for standing up for me.”

“It’s fine.” Han Zhuoling pinched his fingers together and said, “Anyway, you don’t need to worry. It’s impossible for anyone to make things difficult for you.”

Shi Xiaoya could not help but look up at him.

As both of them were walking side by side, Han Zhuoling was right beside her, so she had to turn her head.

But because Han Zhuoling was way too tall, when she turned her head, she still had to raise her head up high to see his face.

Doing this made her neck feel a little strained.

But when she saw Han Zhuoling's side profile, that uncomfortable feeling in her neck unknowingly faded.

When this man wasn't talking, his eyes looked so strict. There was not much difference compared to the first time she saw him.

It was because, after many interactions, she was not afraid of him anymore. Even when he looked strict when he was not speaking, she actually felt that his face looked a little more gentle.

And no matter what his expression was, he just looked very good.

Her gaze was way too obvious, so Han Zhuoling really could not pretend that he did not notice.

He finally could not stand it and turned to look at her, questioning her silently.

When he was looking at her, that seemingly cold and stern face instantly mellowed into gentleness.

Even though there was no obvious expression on his face, he could simply let others see the change in it.

His sharp eyes became gentle, and his gaze was filled with patience.

Shi Xiaoya did not expect him to suddenly turn around. She was caught off guard and totally forgot to react, so she just stared straight back into his eyes like this.

Under his gentle gaze, she could not help but think that that ex-wife of Han Zhuoling's was really silly.

He was such a good man, yet she did not even know to cherish him.

If she did not even like Han Zhuoling, what kind of man did she even want to find?

In Shi Xiaoya's eyes, Han Zhuoling was already extremely, indescribably good.

Such a fine man. What exactly was Xia Yixin thinking, to betray and to hurt him?

When faced with Han Zhuoling's silent, gentle probe, Shi Xiaoya shook her head as her face heated up. "Nothing. I just think that... you're really very good. Really."

Han Zhuoling's throat rumbled for a moment. He felt his mouth run dry and his body heat up to the point of piping out smoke, as if there was a big fire urn burning in his body.

He retracted his gaze. If not for the fact that Shi Xiaoya was still around, he really felt like grabbing Han Zhuoli to ask, "What should I do if I've been given a 'good person card'[1] by a girl?"

Shi Xiaoya also turned her head back and tried her best to look straight ahead.

She felt so nervous that she quietly kept taking deep breaths.

This was her first time praising a man so directly.

Would Han Zhuoling think that she was too thick-skinned and too unreserved?

Shi Xiaoya regretted her impulsiveness right after. Her guilty conscience made her even more scared of talking to Han Zhuoling.

And Han Zhuoling?

He was still thinking about how he got the “good person card” for no reason just now.

What exactly did he say or do to be given the “good person card”?

Wasn't that such an injustice?

Both of them each harbored their own thoughts, not talking all the way until they reached the lounge prepared by the school for Xia Qingwei.

Seeing that one more person had come along, Wang Juhuai smiled and asked, “Is this your friend?”

“Yeah.” Lu Man smiled happily as she said, “This is Shi Xiaoya. She came to help me put on makeup today. There have been quite a few times that my makeup was done by her. She's the best makeup artist in the country. Now that I think about it, we're quite fated as well. In the show, *Survivor*, she is also Big Brother's makeup artist.”

### **Chapter 1663: Don't Let Me Know Who Did It!**

“Oh?” Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei both turned to look at Shi Xiaoya.

Shi Xiaoya quickly greeted the two of them.

If Lu Man said that, it was obvious that she was not just on good terms with her.

How smart were the two of them, after all? They immediately connected Shi Xiaoya with Han Zhuoling.

With Wang Juhuai standing in front to protect her, Xia Qingwei could fearlessly shift her gaze between Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya.

The more she looked, the more she felt that the two of them really gave off that kind of feeling.

Standing together, they looked very compatible as well.

The school reserved a guest room for Xia Qingwei to rest in, so the guest room was quite spacious. Xia Qingwei was heavily pregnant now, so it was quite comfortable for her to sit on the sofa as well.

The school had even especially prepared drinks and light snacks for them.

Not long after, Old Mrs. Han and Old Mr. Han also brought Lin Liye and Shen Nuo over.

The four of them came in and said their greetings.

This time around, Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye both could not care enough to start small talk with Xia Qingwei.

Both of them fixed their gazes on Shi Xiaoya with sparkles in their eyes.

During this period, both of them had had their fair share of watching Shi Xiaoya's videos, and they were even more intense than Shi Xiaoya's ardent fans.

Previously, when Shi Xiaoya uploaded a photo of the baby lobster sticks and got teased by fans who shipped her together with Han Zhuoling, among the huge army of fans, Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye were mixed in as well.

Both of them had gathered momentum even more intensely than anyone else.

Afterward, it attracted Yuan Yina's paid posters who said that Shi Xiaoya was trying to cling on and make things up, which angered this mother- and daughter-in-law pair to no end.

Both of them lashed back at her furiously, and they even told Lu Man about this in their casual chats with her.

Lu Man was a professional in this area and could spot the problem at once, so she told Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye about the paid-posters issue.

Lu Man said that it was very likely someone had hired paid posters to intentionally smear Shi Xiaoya.

This made Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye furious.

Although afterward, Han Zhuoling had stepped up to deal with Yuan Yina, he did not tell Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye about this, so both of them still did not know that it was Yuan Yina who had hired the paid posters.

Old Mrs. Han even said angrily, "Don't let me know who did it! Or else I'll hire paid posters to smear her to death!"

Hence, Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye could be said to be super familiar with Shi Xiaoya.

They recognized her the moment they came in.

Meanwhile, Shen Nuo sat beside Xia Qingwei and started chatting with her, asking her in detail about her recent situation.

"I'm doing well now." Xia Qingwei smiled gently. "It's just that I'm expected to be due nearing the Lunar New Year, so it's a little troublesome."

"It's not troublesome," Shen Nuo said as she smiled. "This is good, actually. Everyone will return to their hometowns to celebrate the Lunar New Year. B City would be almost empty. There will be fewer people and not many cars on the road. If the baby is really due then, going to the hospital will be fast as well. The roads will not be jammed either. In my opinion, I think the best would be to deliver during the Lunar New Year holiday, so there wouldn't be much of a delay for everything. And you're going to Chu Tian Hospital, so even if it's during the New Year, there's no fear of a lack of good doctors. There aren't only local doctors there, but also doctors hired from abroad."

"And the local doctors mostly live in B City. Even if they are really not around during the New Year, there's still the doctors from abroad. They are not that excited about celebrating the Lunar New Year,"

Shen Nuo said. "The leave that Chu Tian arranges for those from abroad are based on the foreign holidays, so in that way, no matter what holiday it is in the country, we can be assured that there will be good doctors around."

After hearing what she said, Xia Qingwei also felt that if she could really deliver her baby during the New Year holiday period, it would be quite good as well.

At least the things she worried about would no longer be a problem.

#### **Chapter 1664: This Young Lady Is?**

Meanwhile, over at Old Mrs. Han's and Lin Liye's side, both of them pretended as if they had never seen Shi Xiaoya before.

Especially Old Mrs. Han, who acted so exaggeratedly. "Aiya! Who is this young lady? You look so unfamiliar."

Shen Nuo: "..."

There were many people around, so if one spoke softer, one would not be easily heard.

Xia Qingwei finally asked a question she had always been curious about: "That Miss Shi is—"

Shen Nuo could not help but chuckle. Seeing how Shi Xiaoya's attention had been completely turned to Old Mrs. Han, she explained in a soft voice to Xia Qingwei, "Judging from that tone, our Zhuoling has feelings for Miss Shi. You know too, that child usually seems like his mind has not opened up, and he's never put his thoughts on women, as if love to him was non-existent. It made our Old Madam and my elder sister-in-law anxious to no end."

Xia Qingwei also shook her head and chuckled. She knew too about Han Zhuoling's previous marriage.

Judging from how Han Zhuoling had handled that matter, she knew that Han Zhuoling was an especially good person.

Righteous and responsible.

He appeared quite cold and aloof on the surface, but in reality, he valued relationships a lot.

It was just that he was a very reserved person and did not express anything, so one rare good thing was to be able to let the other party see the good in him beneath his cold appearance.

If the other party could be patient and not back off just because of his initial aloofness, but patiently wait and interact with him, as well as have an eye to appreciate the many great things about him beneath his cold exterior...

Then the person would discover that he had so many virtues, and that he was quite precious.

Once the person really got to know the good about him, the person would not be willing to let go.

If she took one step further and was able to make him fall in love with her, then she would definitely win his heart and soul, which would not change until death.

To be able to make a man like this fall in love with you was a kind of good fortune.

At first, Xia Qingwei had been unfamiliar with Han Zhuoling and did not know about his good or bad sides.

But because there was Han Dongping as a leading example, Xia Qingwei held a reserved attitude towards Han Zhuoling and did not interact much with him.

But after his divorce, Xia Qingwei completely changed her perception of Han Zhuoling.

She also sincerely hoped that Han Zhuoling could find true happiness.

Xia Qingwei said in a low voice, "Zhuoling is a good man. Previously, regarding the issue with Xia Yixin, it was Xia Yixin who lacked judgment and taste. She clearly had such a good husband, yet she did not know how to cherish him and let go of such a good man with her bare hands. This also shows that she is not fated to be with Zhuoling. This was probably a different kind of fate. If not for that matter previously, how would Zhuoling fall in love with Miss Shi?"

"If he did not get a divorce earlier on, Zhuoling might not even throw a second glance even if it was towards Miss Shi. To put it differently, just when Zhuoling finally sincerely liked a lady and realized that he liked Miss Shi, he would already be married. Given how much Zhuoling stands by his principles, he definitely would not do anything to betray his marriage, and he would rather suppress himself. He might not even be able to fall in love in his lifetime then."

"If Xia Yixin had been a good person, at least she could have made Zhuoling fall in love with her, and that would still have been fine. But Xia Yixin, that woman, she even—" Xia Qingwei smiled and continued, "So that's why, luckily, he got a divorce previously. Or else now, Zhuoling would be in a difficult spot."

Shen Nuo had not thought so deeply before. After Xia Qingwei said that, she then realized that that was the case.

After understanding what was going on between Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya, both of them then turned to look at Old Mrs. Han at the same time.

Old Mrs. Han had just asked Shi Xiaoya who she was and Lin Liye followed suit as well, all the while smiling happily at Shi Xiaoya, as if she could not bear to take her eyes off of her.

#### **Chapter 1665: This Kind of Reaction Is Actually Even More Scary**

"Are you Zhuoling's friend?" Lin Liye asked.

Shen Nuo was clutching her forehead at the back.

These two, they were going even more overboard now than back then when Old Mrs. Han dragged her along to see Lu Man.

At least back then, when she and Old Mrs. Han first saw Lu Man, they even put up an act for a while and did not ask questions so straightforwardly.

When asked that by Lin Liye, Shi Xiaoya had a feeling that something felt weird.

Usually, in such a situation, the subconscious move would be to ask if she was Lu Man's friend, right?

When asked if she was Han Zhuoling's friend, Shi Xiaoya thought about it. Both of them had had two meals together before, after all, and her home still had two of Han Zhuoling's ties.

Although Han Zhuoling did not say it, both of them could be considered friends. It won't be considered as her... own imagination, right?

Shi Xiaoya subconsciously turned to look at Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling did not give her any hint. He wanted to see how she would reply.

When Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye saw that, they were utterly excited.

There was definitely something going on!

Shi Xiaoya's act of subconsciously turning to ask for Han Zhuoling's opinion—why did that look so sweet!

If this was a normal relationship, this would not happen!

Most importantly, Han Zhuoling actually did not deny it!

He did not cut off any ties with her either!

With the interaction between them, it did not seem like there was nothing going on at all.

Shi Xiaoya nodded very hesitantly. "Yeah... I guess?"

Old Mrs. Han said, "Aiyo! Yes means yes, no means no. Why are you even asking a question?"

Shi Xiaoya could only bite her tongue and say, "Yes."

"Aiyo, this is too rare!" Old Mrs. Han very affectionately held Shi Xiaoya's hand directly, pulling her closer towards her. "It's rare that our Zhuoling even learned how to find a girlfriend!"

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

*Old Madam, did you forget to use the correct word?*

*Female friend[1]. It's female friend, not girlfriend!*

"How long have both of you known each other?" Lin Liye asked excitedly.

"..." Shi Xiaoya found it increasingly weird, but she still answered honestly. "The first time we met, it's probably at the Fei Yue International Film Festival. It's that time when Lu Man won an award."

"Wah, you've both known each other for quite some time then," Old Mrs. Han said, exchanging glances with Lin Liye gleefully.

But in actual fact, both of them felt like Shi Xiaoya and Han Zhuoling really had not known each other for long.

They were just afraid that if they said that, Shi Xiaoya might misunderstand that they did not like her.

The mother- and daughter-in-law had chemistry. Even if Old Mrs. Han said that, both of them could still tell the real thoughts of the other party from their eyes.



Within such a short time, Han Zhuoling could already fall in love with this person. This was definitely true love!

It was plain to see that Shi Xiaoya was already feeling very uneasy, especially because Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye were too affectionate.

The people from the Han Family knew exactly where this affection came from, but to Shi Xiaoya, it was just very strange.

Though it was the first time she was meeting the two elders in front of her, they just smiled at her all the way and refused to let go of her, as if they were eyeing her like she was some rare thing. Most importantly, they stopped speaking!

Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye just stared at Shi Xiaoya happily, smiling as they stared at her, and their smile never once faltered.

But aside from smiling, they did not say anything else.

Both of them had a very simple thought. Han Zhuoling finally managed to fall in love with a lady, and the two of them were worried that they would scare her.

But they never thought before that... this kind of reaction was even more scary!

Shi Xiaoya could also tell that perhaps the two elders might have been mistaken about something.

She had a faint guess but felt that it was quite unlikely. This guess was something she did not even dare to think about.

Even just guessing about it required a lot of courage.

### **Chapter 1666: They Just Wanted to Starve**

But seeing their reaction, she really could not think of any other possibility.

Just as Shi Xiaoya was wracking her brains trying to think of how to explain herself, Han Zhuoling suddenly said, "Grandpa, Grandma, Mom, Second Aunt."

Han Zhuoling's voice was really a lifesaver.

Shi Xiaoya heaved a sigh of relief as she heard Han Zhuoling ask, "Have you all eaten before coming?"

"No," Old Mrs. Han said. "Doesn't the competition start at 7:30 pm? We'd decided to come early. Considering the travel time to reach here, we were afraid there would be a jam, so we left the house at 5:30 pm. We felt that eating at 4:30 pm would be a little too early, so we decided not to eat. We're thinking of eating after watching the competition, which would be around 9 pm. That won't be too late."

Han Zhuoling nodded. Who knew this question would instigate Old Mrs. Han again?

Old Mrs. Han clasped Shi Xiaoya's hand and did not seem willing to let go at all. "Xiaoya, have you and Lu Man eaten?"

Shi Xiaoya smiled and replied, "We haven't either. We were afraid there would not be enough time, so we put on the makeup earlier and did not have time to eat. Lu Man was afraid that eating would smear the makeup, so she did not dare to eat at all."

Who knew, the moment Shi Xiaoya said that, Han Zhuoli would produce dime-sized sandwiches out of the blue, which were kept in a box for freshness.

Each sandwich had a small toothpick stuck into it.

Han Zhuoli was heard saying, "Man Man, eat some first."

Hearing this sound, everyone turned over and saw Han Zhuoli carrying the sandwich box and feeding Lu Man one of the sandwiches that had a toothpick stuck into it.

They even heard him explain, "I expected that you wouldn't have time to eat, and it won't be convenient to eat dim sum when waiting for your performance later. I can't possibly let you starve before going up on stage, so I asked Auntie He to prepare it and send it over at noontime so that I can bring it over."

Lu Man was about to eat, but she realized that everyone's gaze was fixed on her.

The others have not even eaten yet, but she was here enjoying her own food, which was really not very appropriate.

Lu Man said in a small voice, "I'll just eat two pieces to satiate my hunger. Grandma and the rest haven't eaten yet."

"Don't worry, I ordered food from the school vicinity, it will arrive soon," Han Zhuoli said. "We can all feel free to eat. You don't need to worry about the makeup smudging."

Old Mrs. Han's palms were itching. She felt like smacking Han Zhuoli.

Who asked him to order food?!

They just wanted to starve!

Only then could they have an excuse to drag Shi Xiaoya along to eat after the competition had ended!

Luckily, Han Zhuoli was also quite mischievous now. The moment he heard Old Mrs. Han say that, he knew what she was planning, so he naturally would not spoil her plan.

Han Zhuoli smiled and explained to Old Mrs. Han, "I didn't order a proper meal. By the time the food is delivered, the competition would have started a long time ago, so I just ordered some small dim sum to ease our hunger first. Once the competition is over, we can go and eat a proper meal."

Han Zhuoli naturally would not let the elders think badly of Lu Man.

He was good to Lu Man, but he could not make the elders dislike Lu Man because of what he did.

All along, the elders of the Han Family were very loving and protective of Lu Man, but Lu Man was also very mindful and would not do anything that would make the elders uncomfortable no matter how much they adored her.

“That’s not bad, not bad.” Old Mrs. Han nodded in satisfaction, thinking to herself that Han Zhuoli had become quite astute now!

A married person was really different.

Lu Man happened to be sitting beside Shen Nuo. Shen Nuo smiled and said to Lu Man, “You don’t need to be so mindful about everything. We are not so petty.”

Lu Man smiled and nodded before preparing to eat the sandwiches without worry.

### **Chapter 1667: Agitating Single Dogs**

She was about to take the toothpick from Han Zhuoli, but Han Zhuoli dodged and said, “I’ll feed you. Don’t your hands have makeup on too?”

Lu Man thought so too and let Han Zhuoli feed her instead.

However, in front of so many people, even if it was because her hands were not convenient to use, it was still quite embarrassing.

Who knew Han Zhuoli would come up with a new script to feed his inner imagination. As he fed her, he suddenly opened his mouth and went, “Ah—”

Like he was feeding a child.

Lu Man: “...”

Lu Man was blushing profusely.

If it were only the two of them, Lu Man would really play along with him, since it’s quite fun.

But now, how could she do that?

In Han Zhuoling’s eyes, Han Zhuoli was just agitating single dogs right now!

Han Zhuoling glanced at Shi Xiaoya. She was still being held up by Old Mrs. Han to chat.

Old Mrs. Han was now asking about her family.

Wang Juhuai laughed and glanced at Han Zhuoli, as if he did not have a wife of his own.

Wang Juhuai took the thermos bottle in front of him from the coffee table. He’d brought this here.

He poured out a bowl of bird’s nest for Xia Qingwei. “Qingwei, have this first. It’s just perfect to have on an empty stomach, and it makes you feel well. It’s nutritious and just right.”

Han Zhuoling: “...”

This father- and son-in-law pair. Who were they doing it for?!

Wang Juhuai even smiled as he explained, “Previously, we went to the hospital for a checkup. The doctor said that the baby’s weight is very well managed. At this point in time, it’s all the more important to control the baby’s weight so that it would not be too big, and it’s important to control the blood sugar

level of the mother as well. To control the weight of the baby and ensure enough nutrition, I replaced dinner with bird's nest soup. It's filling, yet one won't put on weight from it."

"Whenever we leave the house, I've been bringing it everywhere we go, for her," Wang Juhuai said happily.

He then placed the spoon to Xia Qingwei's mouth and said, "Here."

He was also about to feed Xia Qingwei.

Everybody: "..."

Xia Qingwei really felt embarrassed.

Han Zhuoli and Lu Man were young at least. Even if they were feeding each other and it looked a little sappy, at least the scene looked nice.

A handsome man and a beautiful lady couple—how attractive they looked.

However, the two of them were a middle-aged old couple. Their image was not attractive but probably an eyesore.

"I'll eat it myself." Xia Qingwei moved to take the bowl.

As the weather was cold, the bird's nest soup was deliberately heated up to be hot before being placed in a thermos bottle.

Luckily, the cover that was used as a bowl was heat-insulating as well, so it would not be too hot to hold.

Wang Juhuai also reacted like Han Zhuoli, dodging to not let Xia Qingwei take it. "Sitting down requires a lot of effort even for you. Don't take the bowl."

"It's fine, it doesn't matter." Xia Qingwei insisted not to let Wang Juhuai feed her.

They were so old already. How ridiculous would they look?

Seeing her insistence, Wang Juhuai did not dare to continue pushing and pulling with Xia Qingwei, so he obediently passed the bowl to her.

However, he still held the bowl from underneath, afraid that Xia Qingwei would not be able to hold it properly.

"If you find it heavy, just pass it to me. I'll help you hold it, and you can take the spoon and drink it by yourself," Wang Juhuai said further.

Xia Qingwei threw an amused glance at him. It was just a bowl. Why would it be heavy?

"Got it." Xia Qingwei smiled and said in a small voice to him, "We're outside now. There are so many people, how embarrassing. Wait until we get home."

Wang Juhuai still felt a little disappointed at first. Xia Qingwei did not want him to help, so his passion had no avenue for release.

Yet now that he heard Xia Qingwei's low voice, he instantly brightened up and immediately nodded.

He looked so silly. He no longer had that public image of the graceful Master Wang.

Within such a short time, the snacks that Han Zhuoli had ordered also arrived.

### **Chapter 1668: You Can Also Call Me Mom**

There were small bread, sandwiches, cream puffs, ladyfinger biscuits, and others.

There were not many of each, but there was a lot of variety.

They could eat a bit first and have a proper meal after the competition had ended.

Or else, they would not need to eat dinner anymore after stuffing themselves with these.

Old Mrs. Han took a ladyfinger with her left hand while keeping her hold on Shi Xiaoya's hand with her right hand without letting go.

Shi Xiaoya's palms were sweating from being held by Old Mrs. Han.

However, this time, Shi Xiaoya did not even dare to look at Han Zhuoling.

Previously, when she merely glanced at him, it seemed like it made Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye misunderstand.

Han Zhuoling rubbed the space between his eyebrows resignedly. "When the competition ends in a while, you can come and eat together with us."

They were going as a family to eat. How inconvenient would it be if she went as an outsider with them?

"Thank you for the offer, but I won't go and impose upon you all," Shi Xiaoya said.

"How is this imposing upon us?" Lin Liye quickly added, "You are Zhuoling's friend, so you're not an outsider to us. You can even call me 'Mom.'"

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

Lu Man: "..."

Xia Qingwei: "..."

Shen Nuo: "..."

*Elder sister-in-law's schemes are really 666[1]\*\*!*

Shi Xiaoya could not take it any longer, so in the end, she still turned to Han Zhuoling with question marks all over her face.

On her face was clearly written, "Do all your friends call your mother 'Mom'?"

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Han Zhuoling turned to look at Lin Liye helplessly, thinking to himself that she should restrain herself a little and not scare Shi Xiaoya away.

Lin Liye chuckled and said, “Don’t be nervous. Our kids don’t really have a lot of friends, so those that could actually be friends with them—the feat is really not easy, so their ties must be quite good. But all their friends, we don’t treat them as outsiders at all.”

Shi Xiaoya nodded. So that was what she meant.

“Our Zhuoling doesn’t look very amiable, but he’s actually a very good person,” Old Mrs. Han praised.

Han Zhuoling adjusted his tie uncomfortably.

If this went on, even he would not feel comfortable standing there anymore.

This was the first time that the First Young Master Han was standing there as if he was standing on a nail. His gaze was shifty and he looked very unsettled.

“It’s precisely because he looks so cold and icy that no one dares to get close to him. It’s rare that he could find a friend. Usually, he would just be with his brothers, but there’s also Xiao Chu and the rest whom he’s on good terms with. That’s because they understand him and are not afraid of him. But those who are not familiar with him would just think that he is hard to get along with just from looking at him. In fact, though, he’s really nice.”

Shi Xiaoya nodded sincerely and was unknowingly lured into Old Mrs. Han’s trap.

Lin Liye watched how Shi Xiaoya nodded while unconsciously looking so dazed and cute, and she began to like her more and more. She quietly gave a thumbs up to Old Mrs. Han.

This little girl was innocent and did not have other intentions—that’s why she was so easily abducted!

Lin Liye glanced gleefully at Han Zhuoling. He’d finally developed good taste.

“So, don’t even talk about him having few male friends. There are only so many in total. As for female friends, aside from you, we haven’t seen him being on good terms with any other females.” Old Mrs. Han’s artful use of language was extremely well-invoked.

Within a few words, she let Shi Xiaoya know that aside from her, Han Zhuoling had never had much of a relation with other women.

Shi Xiaoya did not really think too deeply about Old Mrs. Han’s previous words though, but when she heard Old Mrs. Han say that, her heart still swelled with happiness secretly.

Yes, she knew he was not the kind to be on good terms with just anyone, especially when it came to girls, and he seemed like someone who would not take notice of girls at all.

### **Chapter 1669: In Such Moments, Don’t Add to the Mess**

But hearing Old Mrs. Han confirming this to be true, Shi Xiaoya still felt happy.

She did not even know how cute she looked when she could not help but smile secretly. Han Zhuoling saw how she looked when she did that and it colored his gaze with gentleness.

“That’s settled!” Old Mrs. Han seized the chance to say. “When the competition ends, you are not allowed to leave by yourself. You can come and eat with us first.”

After eating, they'd let Han Zhuoling send her home. How natural and convenient was that?

Shi Xiaoya did not have time to say anything before the door to the room was knocked on.

Shortly after, a volunteer student came in and reminded them that the competition was about to start and that they could go in to take their seats.

The school had even especially sent security officers over to escort them over.

Lu Man separated from them at the audience seating area and went to the participants' seating area to take her seat.

Zheng Yuan saved a spot for her so the two of them could sit together.

Not long after she sat down, the exchange team also came to take their seats in a line.

The exchange team had been arranged to sit on the first row.

As students from the official hosting school, Lu Man and the others very graciously sat on the fifth row.

The remaining three rows were left for the students from the other three schools.

Every team occupied a row at the side.

When the exchange team came over together, Lu Man noticed that Howard did not look good. He was frowning and seemed troubled. Clearly, he was still affected by what had happened earlier and had not recovered from it.

Even when his classmates on the same team spoke to him, he did not answer them.

When he saw Lu Man, he seemed to think of it again.

However, his buddy held him and said, "Don't cause more trouble at this time!"

"You're not the one in trouble!" Howard said furiously.

Shana was about to say something, but thinking about how ungrateful Howard had been earlier on, she resisted the urge and turned her head away, thinking that it would be better not to look at him at all.

The teacher leading the team, Luzern, said, "Howard, you need to quickly adjust your temper now. Don't let it affect the competition in a while!"

"I can't adjust my temper!" Howard was like a provoked gorilla now, as if he had just been injected with steroids, thrashing about and wanting to cause trouble somewhere. "This didn't happen to any of you, so of course you guys don't care!"

"Each of you only cares about the competition result. Aside from asking me to focus on doing well for the competition, what else do you guys know how to do?" No one cared about his well-being at all!

Luzern was so furious that he hated how he could not just kick Howard out of the team.

Given his current state, don't even talk about helping, he might even drag them down and disrupt the entire team's performance flow.

Howard knew how to be scared now and was panicking like a headless fly.

Where did his earlier arrogance go?

If he had not provoked others earlier on, how would he have ended up in this state?

It was clearly he who'd caused trouble for himself, yet he wanted to drag the whole team down.

Up until now, he still had not realized the severity of the consequences if they lost the competition.

Luzern did not expect Howard's mind to think anything clearly, so he told him straight up, "Do you think this competition is not important, and that even if we lose it would be fine? That compared to your own future, this seemingly friendly competition held for fun doesn't matter at all?"

Howard did not reply, but the slightly crazed look on his face said everything.

Luzern scoffed mockingly. "Howard, oh Howard. Use your brains! Why don't you think about how the students from these schools have never won against our school's students before? Right now, this is our school's first time sending an exchange team over to compete. If we lose in the worst-case scenario, how embarrassing would that be?"

#### **Chapter 1670: You Think Han Zhuoli Will Do This?**

"How would the media report about it? They would not only say that our school could not make it. You and Shana, especially—since you are the most popular and well-known on our team, they would scold both of you as well."

"If your acting can't even surpass that of these students, how can you make it in Hollywood?" Luzern pointed to the audience behind and said, "These people here, they are all small fries and have no recognition at all. The best actors and actresses in the entertainment industry here already find it very difficult when they go to Hollywood to develop their careers. These students are probably ten Oscars away from the best actors and actresses here. Yet if you guys lose to these small fries, how do you think the media will view you all?"

"That your acting is worse than theirs? Which production will hire you guys then?" Luzern scoffed mockingly. "Hah, there'd be no need for Han Zhuoling to say a few words to hinder your career, you'll have already dug your own grave. You still think that it doesn't matter whether our team wins or not in this competition?"

Howard's face changed. He finally understood the severity of the matter.

But would this calm his mentality?

That was impossible.

Even if Luzern said that, Howard still could not get over thinking about his own future.

As for the outcome of the competition, Howard felt that even if his performance was mediocre, he would still be better than those students.

Even if he did not perform well, his teammates could also instantly knock out the other teams.



Luzern was just making things sound serious. He was thinking too highly of those people.

When Luzern saw Howard's reaction, how could he not tell what Howard was thinking?

Just based on how arrogant Howard was, how much he looked down on others, if not for Bourbotte's presence, he would not have been able to survive in Hollywood all this time.

But it was probably because of Bourbotte that Howard came to think so highly of himself, and this aggravated his obnoxiousness.

Seeing that what he'd said did not get through, Luzern lowered his voice and said, "If you still can't get that in your head, then go and find Lu Man now. If you do not, Han Zhuoling won't be the only one finding trouble with you."

"You only offended Shi Xiaoya previously, and Shi Xiaoya and Han Zhuoling's relationship is still uncertain. They could be on very good terms, or it could be that even though they were not on such good terms yet, Han Zhuoling is already out to ruin your future," Luzern warned. "Meanwhile, Lu Man and Han Zhuoli are a married couple. If Han Zhuoling could directly hinder your future because of Shi Xiaoya, given Han Zhuoli and Lu Man's relationship, if you go and offend her now, what do you think Han Zhuoli will do?"

Howard's aggrieved eyes were turning bloodshot with blood veins creeping into view.

He wanted to find trouble with Lu Man at first, yet in the end, he'd made himself so aggrieved that he wanted to die.

"Think carefully!" Luzern said in a low voice. "Now, quickly adjust your mentality. Perform well when you go up on stage later! If you drag down the whole performance and implicate the acting careers of the other students, when we go back, I will definitely write a report to the school! I'll see how the school punishes you."

The thing that made Luzern most vexed and annoyed was that, in the whole team, Shana and Howard's acting skills were really the best, which meant that Howard was naturally assigned to be the male lead.

His role was so huge. The moment his performance slipped, it would be a disaster for the whole team.

As time passed, the friendly competition finally started officially.

The audience seating was already filled with fans who came to watch. They were all raising their phones excitedly, zooming in to take photos of their idols.

In the country, Lu Man's fans were still the most numerous. Although Shana was very famous, everyone at most felt that she was a huge star, but they were not really loyal fans of hers.