

Mr Han 1681

Chapter 1681: Even Worse

Yet now that they'd heard Old Mrs. Han and Shen Nuo's conversation, these people finally realized that there was probably no such issue!

The elders of the Han Family were extremely pleased with Lu Man!

As Lu Man's biological Mom, Xia Qingwei was not even as confident as Old Mrs. Han and Shen Nuo.

Based on how confident the mother- and daughter-in-law pair was about Lu Man, they were not just being confident, they were being overly protective of Lu Man.

Everything about Lu Man was good. Everything about Lu Man was right. If you did not engage Lu Man to act in a film, you were the one with bad taste.

Did this sound like unhappiness towards Lu Man?

They were clearly pleased beyond words with her!

At this moment, Deng Xu, who was standing on the stage, laughed heartily and said to Tan Xiaoyun, "How could he not be anxious? Quickly, set on it, lest someone else snatches her away."

After that, Deng Xu turned to say to Xu Jiashan, "But it's no use. You asked too late. After watching their last rehearsal today, I already told Lu Man that she has to be my next production's female lead. No matter how busy she is, she has to leave some time out for me seeing how I came to help out this time around."

After Deng Xu said that, the whole venue fell silent for a moment before a huge outburst of clamor and chatter erupted.

Deng Xu's words carried even more weight than Xu Jiashan's.

Xu Jiashan only said that there was a role suitable for Lu Man, but he did not say which role it was exactly. It was not even confirmed if it was a lead role.

The role would definitely be a significant one; this was what Xu Jiashan said before.

And only for significant roles would two or more actors be assigned to take turns acting out that role.

But a significant role was still a far cry from a confirmed female lead role.

Even so, when Xu Jiashan mentioned it just now, it made people extremely shocked as well.

It was because everyone felt that even if it was not a lead role, a significant role alone would be good enough for a student.

Furthermore, Lu Man did not have enough representative works to show in her portfolio.

Yet she could still get such an opportunity. She was already considered extremely lucky.

More importantly, it would be fine even if she was only given a minor role.

To be able to act in Xu Jiashan's plays was a chance to expand one's networks and connections in itself. It could also allow one to have more opportunities to act in many more productions.

Compared to this, acting in a minor role was nothing.

Who knew that before the shock that Xu Jiashan had brought about could abate, Deng Xu would prove to be even worse, directly securing a female lead role for Lu Man!

And he did not even think twice about trading this with the personal favor this time around.

From Deng Xu's tone, it sounded as if he was still pleading with Lu Man to agree.

That was Deng Xu's play!

It had always been actors pleading to act in it.

Acting in Deng Xu's productions implied a 70-80% chance of winning an award.

Even if one acted in a supporting role, one might also have the chance of winning a Best Supporting Female Lead award.

At the very least, one would get a nomination, and that would also add a layer of prestige.

To be able to act in Deng Xu's productions was a very rare opportunity in everyone's eyes. Even actresses considered to be in the "Best Actress" category like Gao Zishan, Dong Qinrong, and others would not give up such an opportunity. If they had the chance, they would even now take the initiative to seize that chance.

Who knew, Deng Xu had actually invited Lu Man much earlier on.

He did it even much earlier than Xu Jiashan did.

If Xu Jiashan had not invited Lu Man on the spot, everyone would not have known that Deng Xu had invited Lu Man way before this.

Lu Man smiled and said, "It is my honor to receive recognition from both Director Xu and Director Deng. I am very thankful and grateful to both directors for offering such good opportunities. I will definitely participate in them."

Xu Jiashan was at first still afraid that Lu Man would not have time to come over and act in his play since she had chosen Deng Xu.

Chapter 1682: This Is Cheating

Hearing this now, he instantly relaxed and quickly smacked the board as he said, "Alright, then, it's all set."

As if he was afraid Lu Man would reject it.

Everyone was stunned.

Did he need to do that?

Every other person would plead for a role. Yet when it came to Lu Man, it was the director pleading for her to act.

What right did she have?!

Even if her acting was pretty good, it was not to that extent, right?!

The looks on the faces of the exchange team were terrible.

No matter how arrogant they presented themselves usually, they had to acknowledge Deng Xu's skill.

He was an internationally acclaimed director, after all.

Deng Xu's name was known even as far away as Hollywood.

They just did not expect that the NFA had actually invited Deng Xu to be a director, just to direct a 20-minute show!

Leo said angrily in a hushed voice, "They actually found a director like Deng Xu. This is cheating!"

"These people are being so shameless just to win!" Colleen also cursed in a low voice.

The students from the NDA became unhappy the moment they heard that. They scoffed one after another as they said, "They are scared now and no longer as arrogant and condescending as before."

"How is inviting a famous director to guide them considered cheating? Then won't they be cheating when they invite famous teachers to teach them usually? What a joke."

"Haha, they are panicking now, not as confident as before that they would win comfortably. This time, they're scared that they would lose. In the psychological aspect, they have already lost."

"Just waiting for the result now. After their performance, if they lost, I will definitely mock them hard. Let's see if they can still be arrogant then!"

"This is the first time I'm actually fervently hoping that Lu Man will win."

"Me too. Actually, thinking about it feels quite satisfying. As long as it's not on us, watching Lu Man giving other people a slap in the face actually feels so good."

The others laughed along as well.

They were speaking in Mandarin and did not control their volume judging how the exchange team would not be able to understand what they said. So they simply spoke in the same volume as they would when chatting usually.

As they chatted, a few people started laughing.

When Howard and the others heard the laughter coming from the back, it sounded like mockery to them no matter how they thought about it.

Although they could not understand what they were saying, their intuition told them that those people were not speaking well of them and were plainly mocking them.

Howard said angrily, "The competition isn't over yet, what are they so arrogant about?! As if we would lose!"

"Don't bother yourself about them. We'll use the results to speak for us," Shana said.

"Right." Leo nodded. "This performance by the NFA is not bad, but it's just because it's better than expected, so there's an element of surprise to it. But if you actually think about it, the only one who really stands out is Lu Man. The only person Deng Xu and the judges are praising is also only Lu Man. So in actual fact, their capabilities as a whole are still average. This competition depends on the capabilities of the team as a whole."

The exchange team began chatting fervently among themselves.

Luzern was silent and did not speak a word. His expression was serious.

These students still did not notice that and were still chatting among themselves. They were all saying some self-consolatory words to encourage themselves.

They were not as totally confident as they had been before.

Now that their attitude had changed, their aura was gone as well.

This actually exposed their lack of confidence instead.

Their behavior now was as if they'd met a very strong opponent and did not have the confidence that they could beat the other party.

They could only try their best to console themselves, to hypnotize themselves, as if demeaning the other side so much would boost their own confidence.

This was a completely different state of mind compared to what they had in the beginning when they looked down on the other party from the bottom of their hearts.

Luzern knew that their team's mentality had already collapsed.

Chapter 1683: Invite

In this way, their actual performance capability would suffer another setback.

Actually, he too did not expect the National Film Academy to perform so well. It was completely out of their expectations, and it dealt them with a sudden blow.

At this moment, the host actually had not asked the people from the NFA to step off the stage.

After Xu Jiashan's and Deng Xu's invite, Robert actually joined in on the fun and said, "Lu Man has very good stage presence, as if she was born to perform on stage. Her performance on stage was masterfully controlled. If I wasn't sitting here and knew that you are still a student, I would never believe that you are one. I will definitely think you are an actress with many years of acting experience on stage."

Lu Man smiled as she thanked him.

Robert was then heard saying, "If there's a chance, I would really like to see you on stage at Broadway. I heard that your English is pretty good too. Judging from your words, I can also tell that you are someone

with big plans for yourself. If there comes a day you think that the time is ripe, I hope you can come over to Broadway to take a look.”

Robert did not immediately say that he would invite her over.

After all, Robert could only recommend Lu Man to go over at most. Given how saturated the talent pool was over there, Lu Man might be the *crème de la crème* here and be the most eye-catching, but over there, she still had to work her way up from the bottom.

Going there to develop one’s career, be it in language or acting skills, Lu Man still needed to improve on both first.

Or else, if she went there, her career might not become as advanced as it would be here.

The way Robert said that was also really in consideration of Lu Man.

If Lu Man was really keen, then she could work her way up steadily from now on to make a name for herself. Once her starting point was high, her development would naturally take a different course.

Lu Man understood Robert’s intentions and said, “Thank you. I will definitely work hard and meet you again on that stage.”

Seeing that Lu Man actually understood his intentions, Robert felt even more admiration for her.

If it was someone else who was slightly more narrow-minded, or someone who could not read between the lines, that person might just feel that he was giving a cheap talk and did not have the intention of helping at all.

He might even have to be hated by that person and develop a grudge against them.

But Lu Man understood Robert’s intentions instantly and knew that he meant well.

Or else, if she went now, even if Robert was around, Lu Man would not be valued and would be ostracized.

Besides wasting time, she would also miss the most opportune time to develop her career in the country.

Robert was very happy that Lu Man was not only excellent in acting, she was also a smart person.

As for Robert’s words, the audience did not have much of a reaction to them.

After all, not everyone could understand Robert’s kind intentions. They would just think that he was saying good things to sound polite.

Only a small number of people could see that Robert truly admired and had good intentions towards Lu Man.

Dong Jingxi, who had been switched out, was also hidden amid the sea of people in the audience at this moment.

She came here to watch them make a joke of themselves.

When she came, she felt that even though the school's team would not be able to win with her in it, at least she was already one of the few most capable students in the school.

Still better than Luo Yijun.

Using Luo Yijun to replace her would greatly disadvantage the team, so they would definitely suffer a worse defeat.

So what if Lu Man was there?

Could she carry the whole team's capability all by herself?

So she wanted to come and see how badly this team would lose.

She wanted to see the looks of regret on the faces of the principal and those other people!

Alas, she felt increasingly dumbfounded the more she watched. Leave aside the fact that Lu Man had been given such high praise by the judges, who'd even secured roles for her in a film and a play right there and then.

Chapter 1684: "Granddaughter-in-law and Daughter-in-law" Double Brag

Given Deng Xu's skills, it might just become another internationally-acclaimed film.

When that time came, won't Lu Man just go with the flow and enter the international film industry?

Even the others did not make any mistake and performed the whole show very well.

Dong Jingxi could only hope that the exchange team was even more capable to douse Lu Man's arrogance!

Lest Lu Man got so arrogant that she forgot her place!

So what if she got the spotlight today?

Won't they still lose in the end?

To make herself feel good, Dong Jingxi totally did not care whether the school won or lost.

On this side, Lu Man and the others were finally asked to leave the stage by the host.

They did not return to the participants' seating area immediately but went backstage to remove their makeup first.

Seeing Lu Man and the others leave, Old Mrs. Han said to Shen Nuo again in a small voice, "Looks like that director, Deng Xu, has pretty good taste. No wonder he can win so many awards. So he had long since made an agreement with Lu Man to make her the female lead."

Shen Nuo smiled and said, "Yes, yes. No wonder he is a famous director. There's a reason why he could win so many awards."

Everyone else: "..."

What in the world?

He won so many awards because he produced good films, right?

What had that got to do with Lu Man?!

This was really their first time seeing this kind of “granddaughter-in-law and daughter-in-law” double brag!

Was everyone in your Han Family so shameless when bragging about your own family members?

Xia Qingwei really could not help it and covered her face as she laughed and leaned against Wang Juhuai’s shoulder.

On this side, when Lu Man and the team returned backstage to remove their makeup, they happened to bump into the exchange team that was about to go up on stage. One really could not avoid one’s foes.

Shana was in the lead. When she saw Lu Man, she lightly nodded her head. Her attitude was not that good either.

Previously, Shana did not have any conflict with Lu Man.

But just now, Robert actually said such a thing to Lu Man.

You know, Robert was invited over by their school, but Robert had never once invited her before.

Could it be that in Robert’s eyes, her acting could not even compare to Lu Man’s?

Even if she did not feel any emotion towards Lu Man before, she now felt that she had been placed at a lower standard compared to Lu Man, so she subconsciously came to see Lu Man as her competitor.

Shana did feel that her thinking was pretty ridiculous.

When the competition had ended, she would return to the US.

She would forever be standing on the world stage, but Lu Man would only be able to develop her career on this small domestic stage.

Their starting points were different to begin with. The disparity in their future development would simply grow bigger and bigger.

Lu Man had nothing to compare to her.

But at that moment, Shana still felt unhappy that she actually lost to her in this aspect.

At least over here, Shana treated Lu Man as her competitor.

As for Howard, who was behind Shana, his eyes were no longer his, and neither was his nose.

When they walked past the NFA team, Howard said coldly, “Don’t be too happy. You think you’re so great just because you got a few praises from the judges? This is a team competition, it’s not enough if just one person performs well. You guys still can’t make it as a whole.”

Everyone got angry when he said that.

They did not even say anything. Howard was always the one provoking trouble every time. As the saying goes, “the person who provokes a fight first is always wrong.” Howard simply deserved a horrible end.

They just did not understand. Where did this bunch of people get their sense of overwhelming superiority from time and again?

No one provoked them, yet they were itching for trouble.

Li Zeyu could not hold it in and was about to mock them back, but Lu Man said coldly, “My classmates all acted very well. If not for them, this show would not have achieved such a great effect. The competition judges our acting skills, not how well we boast. I hope your performance will be as good as your boasting.”

Chapter 1685: False Bravado

“As to which team will have performed better in the end—” Lu Man paused for a moment, then smiled slowly, “it’s not up to you guys to decide. If you are so confident, you don’t need to purposely look for your own presence with us. We also have an idiom called ‘false bravado.’”

“It’s very much like how you guys are behaving now.” The curve of Lu Man’s smile was clearly not big, yet it gave off a strong impression of mockery.

Li Zeyu and the rest were originally furious with Howard and those people for looking down on them, and they had been putting up with it all along.

They knew that their capabilities really could not compare to that of the exchange team, so they did not have the confidence to rebut either.

But they really performed quite well today, and it even gave them hope of winning.

So this time, they could not take Howard’s provocation no matter what.

That was why they wanted to speak out and quarrel with them just now.

Yet now that they’d heard Lu Man say that, everyone suddenly felt enlightened by perfect wisdom.

No wonder they felt that something was amiss just now.

Although they felt that Howard’s words sounded no different from how he had been in the past, they still felt that there was something off about his attitude.

Little did they expect that they were the ones panicking now!

“HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!” Everyone came to that realization and burst out laughing. “So they’re just faking bravado. Are they scared now?”

“Hahahahaha! If you’re scared, tone it down, don’t come here and shout ‘til your throat turns sore. Are they dumb or what?”

Everyone’s grievances finally poured out to be completely vented at this moment.

Just one word: invigorating!

After Lu Man reminded them, they turned to look at Howard and his bunch and felt as if they were staring at a bunch of weaklings.

Everyone on the exchange team: "..."

What kind of look of theirs was that?!

They actually stared at them with their noses up in the air, completely reversing their roles around.

Howard's feisty temper was about to have an outburst right there and then.

Yet at this very moment, a volunteer student came over to usher them and remind them that they had to quickly go up on stage.

"Enough. Let's just go quickly," Leo coaxed Howard. "Let's win the competition first, then we'll come and deal with them. Lest some people forget their place after getting a few praises from the judges."

Lu Man pursed her lips. He was obviously talking about her.

But the exchange team had already lost confidence, so Lu Man could not be bothered to quibble with them.

The exchange team quickly hurried up on stage.

Lu Man sat down to remove her makeup. Being on stage required thick makeup, or else the audience would not be able to see anything at all.

So in such a short while, Lu Man already felt like her skin could not breathe from the thick layers of makeup.

She quickly took the makeup remover to remove the makeup.

Xu Ziyi and Zheng Yuan both sat beside Lu Man. Zheng Yuan also removed her makeup while saying, "What's up with Shana's attitude towards you just now? Although she was quite aloof towards you previously, she wasn't like that just now. She looked so hostile. That's so weird."

Lu Man also noticed it but did not take it to heart. If she bore a grudge against whoever was hostile to her, that would be too tiresome.

"I don't know what happened to her all of a sudden either." Lu Man shook her head and said, "But we don't need to be bothered. Who cares what she thinks?"

Lu Man smiled and took some water to wash her face clean. "Anyway, they will leave after the competition. We won't be in contact with them for a long time. Even if we come into contact in the future, that's a thing for the future. And after today, it's hard to say how our respective development paths will turn out."

Lu Man used a disposable soft towel to absorb the water on her face. "To put it in a bad way, no entertainment industry would be an easy place to become successful. Hollywood will only be more cruel than our domestic industry here."

Chapter 1686: Did She See Wrongly?

“There’s no need to think about it in detail. Just thinking roughly about it, we can already come up with many so-called teen idols who became famous at a young age, only to have their fame fade into oblivion afterward. Their celebrity-making factory is impressive, but they’re especially fast with regeneration and renewal as well. If you did not have a specialty that could make the audience remember you and didn’t try to think of ways to expand your own acting paths, there are not many years left to carry on with the teen idol image. You will be replaced by even cuter and more popular teen idols later on.”

“So, even though Shana does look very impressive now, whether she can maintain this standard still depends on the choices she’ll make in the future.” Lu Man gently massaged the skincare products on her face as she said, “These choices sound easy to make, but not everyone is courageous enough to take that step. That’s because even if they made a choice, it does not guarantee success. The pressure they will be subjected to in the process is way too great. So whether I can still meet her again in the future, that’s still hard to say.”

Lu Man only talked about Shana’s development, but not her own. It was obvious that she was confident that she would definitely stand on the international stage and advance her career very well.

But no one doubted or was surprised by this.

After all, Lu Man had the backing of the Han Family. Getting to that stage was something that had already been set in stone.

If there was any artiste that could make it to the top, be it male or female, the one with the most likelihood of doing so might really just be Lu Man.

“Quickly pack your things. Let’s go and see how the exchange team is performing,” Lu Man reminded them.

“Oh, right!” Zheng Yuan quickly picked up her pace as she said, “Almost forgot about the important matters.”

Lu Man was done packing and was waiting for Zheng Yuan.

Zheng Yuan was done in a jiffy and quickly picked up her makeup bag, then walked back to the participants’ seating area with Lu Man.

The performance by the exchange team had just started not too long ago.

Zheng Yuan felt that it was off the more she watched. “Say... given their standards, how did they have the shamelessness to look down on us so much?”

Zheng Yuan couldn’t be blamed for saying that.

The performance by the exchange team this time was really not that good.

“What kind of acting is that from Howard?” Someone had already started cursing. “With that shitty acting of his, he still dares to be so arrogant to us? His acting is even worse than the normal students who did not get through the school’s selection!”

“I watched the films that Howard acted in before,” Zheng Yuan said in a low voice to Lu Man. “It’s a totally different level compared to now. By right, he shouldn’t be performing at such a standard. This is way too bad. It’s even worse than mine.”

“It’s his mentality that had collapsed. If his mentality is not right, his performance will surely be affected.” Lu Man understood it.

He first had his future acting career affected by Han Zhuoling, and then suffered another blow from the National Film Academy’s super-good performance.

Howard totally could not concentrate now.

“Did you notice? Even Shana is out of it. Her acting is so unnatural, it feels a little excessive and aggressive,” Zheng Yuan said.

Thanks to Teacher Yao and Teacher Hong’s usual teaching style, they fully understood their own shortcomings.

At the same time, it also trained them to have eagle-sharp eyes, so they were able to spot very quickly which aspect of the other party’s acting was off.

Although they might not necessarily act very well themselves, at least they could tell at once where the flaws were.

That was Teacher Yao and Teacher Hong’s goal. Even if they were not able to immediately correct their own flaws, at least they would know what their flaws were and could try their best to correct those flaws.

“Why do I feel like Shana and Howard are both stealing glances furtively at Lu Man?” Xu Ziyi was not very sure about this and felt that maybe she saw wrongly?

Chapter 1687: Too Sinful

But she noticed it for a long time, and she also noticed that Shana and Howard really could not help but keep glancing over at Lu Man from time to time. Although she couldn’t be sure if they were really looking at Lu Man, if she thought about it, besides Lu Man, they probably would not look at anybody else.

“Could it be that they want to win against Lu Man so much that it affected their usual performance because they were so bothered by it?” someone boldly suggested.

Everybody: “...”

If that was true, that would really be too sinful.

She’d forced those two capable teen idols to such an extent out of the blue.

Leaving aside Howard’s character, his acting skills were really quite good.

Although Shana was cold and aloof, she ultimately did not offend anyone. In terms of acting, it was needless to say that she was considered quite good among the new generation of Hollywood celebrities.

Yet just because of Lu Man, they suddenly fell short of their usual performance.

What an injustice, don't you think so?

"I think they could have been too affected by Lu Man. Lu Man performed too well in the previous show and won unanimous praise from the judges. Even those two people from Broadway praised Lu Man to the heavens. Shana and Howard had always looked down on us. Although Shana never said it out loud before, her attitude quite said it all. How could the two of them allow themselves to lose to Lu Man? So they want to perform even better on stage, but they ended up losing touch with their most natural performance."

"This was Lu Man creating pressure on them. The more they minded it, the worse they performed."

People around already started analyzing the situation, and they actually hit the nail on the head.

"Say, you guys. In this case, will Lu Man leave a trauma on them?" someone asked out of curiosity.

"I don't think so..." someone else replied doubtfully.

"Think about it. It's fine if they looked down on us so much previously. Now that they've seen Lu Man standing in the limelight, they did not want to lose anymore. Yet the more they did not want to lose, the more they minded it, and the worse they performed. Just looking at their current condition now, it won't be strange if they lost this competition." That person then said, "But why would they lose the competition? It's still because they cared too much about Lu Man."

"Whatever the reason for them not being able to win against Lu Man this time, it will be a fact that they lost. They came in with high spirits and brimming with confidence. Yet in the end, they will leave dejected and depressed. And they'll have lost to the people they had looked down on all along. If you were in their shoes, won't this be such a big blow?"

"Yeah..."

"And a trauma?"

"Actually yeah."

"That's for sure. If not, why would they be so concerned about Lu Man? Actually, now that they're acting worse than usual on stage and keep staring at Lu Man, it shows that they are already traumatized."

"What a sin. They came all the way here and suffered such a huge trauma from Lu Man. Initially, if Lu Man had performed well and they also performed well, it would still be fine. At most, their skills would just be on par, and it might even motivate their will to win. Given their arrogance and condescending attitude, they'd only feel that it's unacceptable for them to be on par with Lu Man, but at least they won't have a mental breakdown. But looking at the situation now, it seems like they're in for an ugly loss. If they can't step out of this traumatic defeat, then things would be really interesting."

"Sad, damn sad. In this case, Lu Man really sinned big this time around! The two of them were originally Hollywood's rising new stars. Yet after coming here, Lu Man just made a handicap of them with one competition. What an injustice indeed."

Chapter 1688: Merciless Mockery

Lu Man: "..."

Zheng Yuan snickered at the side. Why did listening to what they said sound so interesting?

Lu Man said in embarrassment, "How could it be that exaggerated. Winning or losing is very common."

"Usually, when we lose to Lu Man, we would really feel unhappy. But now that we see the exchange team people also losing to Lu Man, why does it feel so good?" someone said with a laugh.

"Yeah. This is the first time I realize how good it feels to see Lu Man fighting it out with other people."

Lu Man: "..."

The principals naturally also saw the abnormal condition of Shana and Howard.

"Could it really be because of Lu Man?" Donghua Academy of Drama's principal asked out of curiosity.

Everybody: "..."

Principal Liu laughed awkwardly. "Haha."

However, they, along with the various school leaders among them, could not help but turn to look at the teacher-in-charge of the exchange team.

Luzern: "..."

Although he could not understand what they were saying, Luzern could also sense that it was related to Lu Man.

What a sin!

Luzern could not help but look at Lu Man.

They came here and ruined two of their school's students. Who would believe them if word got out?

People who knew would say that they merely came over on exchange.

People who did not know would think that the standards here were so high that their team was sent to deal with the Big Boss of the scene but ended up going back crippled from the experience.

The performance on stage was really too terrible to watch.

Before they knew it, the performance ended.

Old Mrs. Han tsked and said, "This performance isn't all that good."

Principal Liu was overjoyed deep down. As long as the hearts of the judges were not so biased, their school looked set to win.

His heart seemed to have been on an elevator during this period.

At the start, it was in the lowest level, thinking that they would lose for sure. He did not have much hope either, as long as they did not lose too badly.

Yet when he discovered that Deng Xu came, he knew they definitely would not lose too badly and might even be the best-performing among the four schools.

He'd achieved his original goal.

Yet today, when he watched the performance and realized that the performance was really quite good, winning seemed like a plausible idea, and so his heart was elevated up a little bit more.

And now, seeing the mess of the performance by the exchange team, Principal Liu seemed to have envisioned the scene where the National Film Academy's school flag would be displayed on their school's honor wall, and he almost sputtered out laughing.

Now, when he saw that victory was near, his heart had been elevated to the highest level.

The exchange team's performance ended. The whole team stood in a single row, all with an ugly expression on their faces, waiting for the judges to give their comments.

They themselves knew that their performance this time was a mess.

Xu Jiashan shook his head and smiled awkwardly before he said, "This time, why don't we let Robert and Hayer speak first?"

After all, they were guests. Although the other party's performance today wasn't so good, if Xu Jiashan said that out loud, there was a real concern that people might say he was purposely finding fault with them.

So he might as well let Robert and Hayer speak first.

Based on their previous commentaries, both of them were quite impartial in their judgments.

Even if they spared a thought for the pride of the exchange team, they would not go so far as to be biased.

Robert nodded politely, but when he turned to the exchange team, his face fell instantly.

"For your performance this time, I'm very disappointed," Robert said bluntly.

The faces of the students from the exchange team reddened as they stood on stage.

They performed badly—it could even be said that they had performed terribly.

They felt as if they had been stripped naked at that moment, standing in front of everyone and receiving their merciless mockery.

"I don't know what you guys were performing. Especially Shana and Howard. I watched both of your films before. You both acted quite well in them, but your performance just now, it totally doesn't match with your capabilities in the films."

Chapter 1689: Really Feel Like Beating Him Up

"I find it very strange. Do you guys think this is a small competition, and your opponents are not worthy of your attention, so you decided to do some flippant acting? Or is it because you feel too stressed that you're unable to handle it?" Robert asked.

Over his dead body would Howard admit the second point.

Stress?

Just Lu Man alone, what stress could she bring to him?!

Right after that, Robert was heard saying, "When you guys were acting, I noticed that your gazes would shift towards the audience from time to time, and you totally could not focus your energies fully on the performance on stage. You guys did not integrate yourselves into your characters and were unable to fuse your characters with yourselves. It's like a shell of a body that is unable to completely fuse together with the soul. It looked strange and unnatural."

"You guys made me watch an utterly crappy and horrible performance. Your performance brought your school and your teachers shame, enough to make the audience misunderstand and think that the acting majors in your school do not live up to their reputation."

Robert's words were very harsh.

But a few school leaders turned to look at Principal Liu again.

Even Robert could tell that Howard and Shana were out of it.

They kept looking at the audience. Who were they looking at?

They were clearly looking at Lu Man!

What sin!

She drove two perfectly fine students to such a state, such that they performed so ridiculously.

Principal Liu smiled amiably and even felt a little delighted.

Everybody: "..."

Looking at him really made them feel like beating him up.

Robert shook his head in disappointment and did not wish to continue anymore.

This could be called a trashy performance.

Robert still saved some face for them.

Robert gestured for Hayer to speak.

Hayer said, "No matter what happened offstage, no matter how nasty you're feeling at the moment, or how much pressure you're under, even if the world collapsed on you, even if you got a terminal illness and did not have many days to live—if you can't handle it, don't come up on this stage. Focus on handling your personal matters. Make sure you've adjusted your mentality first. If you need to treat your illness, go get it treated. But if you still choose to stand on this stage ultimately, then the moment you come up on stage, you have to forget everything else. The only thing that matters is the performance, the role, and the world on this stage. After you come up on stage, you are the character on this stage, not yourself."

“But clearly, you guys were not able to do that, so you let us watch an extremely disappointing, ridiculous, and buffoonery performance.”

“I’m done.” Hayer’s expression was cold. He had clearly been utterly disgusted by this performance.

When it was Xu Jiashan’s turn, he said, “Robert and Hayer basically said all that I wanted to say. Both of them are very outstanding and professional actors. Their comments hit right on the spot. As actors, both of their comments are even more relatable. I hope you can all remember the words that these two seniors have said to you.”

It would not be good for Xu Jiashan to say any more things.

Tan Xiaoyun said, “Today, you guys did not perform well, but don’t feel despondent because of this. You should seize this opportunity to improve yourselves. This was an opportunity to expose your weaknesses, which you have neglected all along. It’s not just in acting, but also in your mentality. I hope this incident doesn’t serve as a blow to you all, but rather, serve as a motivation and drive for you all to improve.”

Everyone felt really uncomfortable deep down. The results were not even announced yet, and she actually just deemed that they would lose.

The emcee came up on stage to ask the exchange team to step off stage first.

Chapter 1690: Don’t You Feel Embarrassed Enough?

Shana pursed her lips. Even she could not help but be angry.

Previously, when Lu Man and that bunch were on stage, the judges had had so much to say.

The emcee even had so many things to ask. All of them let Lu Man’s team stay on the stage for so long.

But when it came to them, each of the judges only said a few lines, and they were asked to leave.

As if they had nothing else to say.

The others had thought all along that Shana had been decently polite to Lu Man. Although she was not friendly or passionate, she did not behave like Howard.

Actually, this was how it appeared because Howard served as the comparison. Without Howard as a comparison, Shana’s attitude had not been so obvious.

One would eventually realize that her attitude was not that polite, after all.

That kind of aloofness was more like a belittlement. It was actually even more arrogant than Howard’s boastfulness.

As they performed badly, they got unanimous criticism from the judges.

Everyone was in a bad mood and returned to the dressing room with sullen faces.

The moment they went in, everyone else exploded.

“The performance this time was so bad. I never expected that we would flop because of Shana and Howard.”

“We already expected that Howard would not be in a good condition. After all, something like that happened to him right before the competition, so we were all prepared. But Shana, you’re really such a disappointment!”

“I just don’t understand. Howard, if you dislike Lu Man, use your skill to thrash her. In the end, you’re all talk and nothing else. You provoked her but ended up with nothing to show at all, and you even looked so scared. When you really go up on stage, you’re nothing at all.”

Howard had been pent up with enough anger and frustration, yet now, he was still being mocked and blamed by everyone else.

“Enough, you guys! As if I’m the only one to blame for losing the competition!” Howard shouted angrily. “Why don’t you guys think about how you guys are not that good at all? If you guys were of high caliber, you won’t need to push the blame on me and Shana alone. Even if both of us have times when we were out of it, wouldn’t it be fine if you guys could prop us up? But you guys couldn’t do it! And you still have the cheek to talk about me!”

“As if before the competition, you guys never looked down on Lu Man and the others. Now that you lost the competition, you guys act as if you never said those words before, as if I said all of them? Didn’t you guys say any of those things?” Howard retorted angrily.

Shana, who had been silent all along, said in a somber voice, “I had indeed performed badly this time. I’m sorry.”

Shana’s attitude was much better than Howard’s. The others did not cling on to her faults and refuse to let go as they said, “Everyone makes mistakes. Anyway, you’re not the only one at fault this time around.”

“So you mean it’s all my fault?” Howard got angry the moment he heard that.

“Enough!” Luzern rushed backstage and said. “I heard you guys arguing when I was outside just now. When you came here, you were all complacent and did not respect anyone. Now that you lost, you start quarreling here, as if other people cannot hear you guys. Don’t you feel embarrassed enough?”

Luzern’s face fell as he walked in. “What did I tell you guys before the competition started? No matter how weak the opponent is, you have to give your all. Don’t think that just because you have no rivals on par with you, you can underestimate your opponents. Look what happened now? Not only is your opponent not weak, they are actually very strong. And you guys, you lost so disgracefully. From your pride to your guts, it’s a complete disgrace!”

Luzern took a deep breath and exhaled heavily. Seeing that they finally became silent, he then said, “Alright. Things have already happened. At this point, it’s quite certain that you guys lost the competition. The only thing we can do now is to present ourselves well. Don’t lose your manners on top of losing the competition.”