

## Mr Han 1701

### Chapter 1701: Suddenly Felt Threatened

"Oh, right. What's the next episode you are participating in? Have you decided?" Shi Xiaoya asked.

Han Zhuoling nodded. "I'm going for the third episode."

He was different from other people. The other guests' roster was determined by the director team before discussing with them about their schedule and timings.

But for Han Zhuoling, he was fully in control to decide.

He could film whichever episode he wanted to film.

And he just needed to promise that he would film for at least four episodes.

Now that Shi Xiaoya had asked, Han Zhuoling just told her that he would be going for the third episode and would tell Lu Dongliu about it later on.

Although Shi Xiaoya said it was impossible for her to like guys like Cheng He who were much younger than her, Han Zhuoling still could not feel at ease and wanted to go and take a look personally.

Thinking about that, Han Zhuoling suddenly felt threatened.

He was really afraid that Lu Dongliu had already found someone else to record the third episode and did not have a spot for him.

So Han Zhuoling immediately found Lu Dongliu's contact number and called him.

"Young Master Ling?" Lu Dongliu was extremely surprised that Han Zhuoling would personally call him.

At this moment, Lu Dongliu was so nervous that he totally forgot Han Zhuoling was also a guest on the show, *Survivor*. He just thought that maybe there was something the production team did that was not appropriate for Han Zhuoling to actually personally call and question him.

"Director Lu." Han Zhuoling sounded very polite actually, although his voice remained cold as usual.

"Have you confirmed the guestlist for the third episode of the show *Survivor*?"

"We are settling on the name list now and discussing the timing with the guests. We should be able to confirm it officially by tomorrow," Lu Dongliu said.

"Add me to the third episode. I'm going to participate in it," Han Zhuoling said.

Lu Dongliu was stunned for a moment.

What was happening?

Han Zhuoling actually volunteered to come and participate in the show?

He still thought that Han Zhuoling really disliked coming to attend the show and had to have the production team to discuss with him before he could agree to leave some time out to come over.

Lu Dongliu had already been mentally prepared that Han Zhuoling might not even finish recording the minimum number of four episodes.

Who'd have expected he'd actually receive a call personally from Han Zhuoling to express his wish to participate in the third episode's filming.

Han Zhuoling volunteered himself, so there was no reason for Lu Dongliu to reject him. He quickly said, "Good, good, good. I will go and make arrangements. You're really good at making jokes, there will definitely be a spot for you."

After a moment's pause, Lu Dongliu felt a little nervous and asked very uncertainly, "Young Master Ling, for our show's filming up 'til now, do you think there's any problem with it?"

"There's no problem at all," Han Zhuoling said. "In the variety show aspect, you are the expert. I won't interfere."

With Han Zhuoling's words, Lu Dongliu could finally put his heart at ease.

"Then I will contact your assistant, Mr. Tong, to make the final confirmations on the details," Lu Dongliu said.

"Sure." Han Zhuoling hung up after he finished speaking.

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

So it was only decided when he said he wanted to go and participate in the third episode.

The moment he said he wanted to go and record the third episode, he immediately called Lu Dongliu.

Han Zhuoling tapped his fingertips against the steering wheel again. "The filming period for the third episode isn't confirmed yet, right?"

"Not yet," Shi Xiaoya said. "They need to arrange all the guests' schedules before they can confirm the final filming period."

Han Zhuoling nodded. "Then after they've confirmed it, we can go to the filming together."

"Sure." Shi Xiaoya nodded in surprise.

She forgot about this.

Previously, in the first episode, she was not close to Han Zhuoling and did not know that he was going to participate in the show.

So they went there separately.

### **Chapter 1702: Caught Off Guard by This Blame-shifting**

Now that she and Han Zhuoling were on quite good terms, it was quite nice that they could go together.

And with Han Zhuoling by her side, Shi Xiaoya just felt exceptionally secure.

Even if the journey was quite simple and she could manage on her own, it just felt different with Han Zhuoling around.

Even if there was some small mishap, as long as Han Zhuoling was by her side, she did not need to fear.

Hearing Han Zhuoling suddenly mention it on his own accord, Shi Xiaoya smiled happily and nodded her head in agreement without hesitating.

Seeing how happy Shi Xiaoya was just because of what he said, Han Zhuoling also smiled with his gaze.

Not long after, they arrived at Sheng Yue.

Han Zhuoling parked the car and got off together with Shi Xiaoya. When they reached the door, they happened to see Han Zhuofeng's car also stopping at the entrance.

Han Zhuofeng got off the car and saw that Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya actually happened to have just arrived as well.

"Big Brother," Han Zhuofeng greeted. "Miss Shi."

"Hello," Shi Xiaoya greeted.

"What a coincidence, we actually reached the entrance at the same time." Han Zhuofeng gave a goofy smile.

Han Zhuoling thought to himself, "Coincidence?"

Han Zhuofeng did not leave much later than them, after all.

"Let's go in," Han Zhuoling said. He walked together with Shi Xiaoya while Han Zhuofeng walked on the opposite side of Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuofeng felt that something was off the more he thought about it. He had a nagging feeling that Han Zhuoling had purposely ditched him.

He glanced at Han Zhuoling, and then at Shi Xiaoya quietly from the side.

As they were walking, Han Zhuofeng suddenly said, "Big Brother, don't tell me you pretended not to see me and ditched me just to sit in the car alone with Shi Xiaoya?"

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Shi Xiaoya's heart skipped a beat and almost jumped out of her throat.

She got so shocked that she was at a loss for words. She gaped and felt so nervous that she was trembling.

Han Zhuofeng really... really knew how to joke around. Haha!

Han Zhuoling maintained a straight face and said, "I really didn't see you."

Just based on how talkative Han Zhuofeng was, he would definitely not let him sit in the same car with him!

He even came to be a third-wheel and totally had no social awareness at all.

“Haha.” Han Zhuofeng clearly did not believe it. Seeing Han Zhuoling denying it to the very end made him angry!

The three of them were led to the room that the Han Family booked by the manager.

Old Mrs. Han and the others had already arrived, but they only just arrived too.

Seeing that Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya actually came in together with Han Zhuofeng, Old Mrs. Han threw an accusing look at Han Zhuofeng.

Han Zhuoling was together with Shi Xiaoya—what was he sticking with them for?!

“Zhuofeng, did you come together with your Big Brother and Xiaoya?” Old Mrs. Han asked.

“I didn’t!” Speaking of this, Han Zhuofeng was prepared to air his grievance. “After the competition ended, didn’t I go to the washroom? Yet when I came out, you guys were all gone. Speaking of this, Grandma, why didn’t you wait for me to come before you left?”

Old Mrs. Han felt a little guilty when she heard that. Could she say that she forgot about her own grandson because of Lu Man and Shi Xiaoya?

She definitely could not say that.

So Old Mrs. Han quickly shifted the blame. “Oh, really? I thought your mom would wait for you, so I left with your grandpa first!”

*With your biological mother around, your grandma naturally needed not worry.*

*Even your biological mom forgot about you, you still hoped that I would remember you?*

*Haha!*

Lin Liye was completely caught off guard by this blame-shifting from Old Mrs. Han and immediately said, “I didn’t drive my own car here, I came in the same car as your second aunt.”

Lin Liye thought about it and felt that coming over in Shen Nuo’s car yet still shifting the blame to her really was a little unfaithful.

### **Chapter 1703: Great Pretense**

Hence, Lin Liye added, “How boring would it be if you came along with us? I was thinking your Big Brother is still around anyway, right? So we just left first. Who knew your brother wouldn’t wait for you?”

As Lin Liye said that, she even threw an accusing look at Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling: “...”

Haha, a family of actors. Brilliant!

Han Zhuofeng pursed his lips and said, “Big Brother didn’t wait for me either. I called him, but he pretended not to hear and just drove off.”

At this moment, Old Mrs. Han and Lin Liye cheered for Han Zhuoling in unison deep down.

Great pretense!

Looks like Han Zhuoling really had feelings for Shi Xiaoya.

Just like how when he was afraid that Shi Xiaoya would get on Shen Nuo's car, he quickly took the initiative to drive Shi Xiaoya.

And afterward, to sit alone in the same car with Shi Xiaoya, he even pretended not to see Han Zhuofeng.

Han Zhuoling had really improved. He even knew how to ditch his own younger brother to woo a girl.

He had a bright future ahead!

Looks like the Han Family's eldest granddaughter-in-law was within reach.

Just like how Han Zhuofeng did not believe that Han Zhuoling did not hear him, Old Mrs. Han and the others did not believe it either.

Han Zhuoling still maintained a straight face and said, "I really didn't hear."

Shi Xiaoya felt that she should put in a word or two for Han Zhuoling and said, "I did hear someone calling out faintly, but I didn't hear clearly because the wind was howling quite loudly. I even turned back to look, but I didn't see anyone, so I thought I misheard, so we really didn't hear."

Han Zhuoling curved the corners of his lips ever so slightly. Look, even Shi Xiaoya chose to stand on his side.

At critical moments, Shi Xiaoya was still very protective of him!

Han Zhuofeng snorted. Both his elder brothers were the kind who'd neglect their younger brother when smitten with new love!

Back then, Han Zhuoli had made him slog his guts out just because of Lu Man, and he even raged big time at him once because he told him not to be disrespectful to Lu Man.

Now, Han Zhuoling no longer saw him as his younger brother anymore since he had Shi Xiaoya.

Han Zhuofeng felt his heart turn cold.

"Quick sit, sit down. We have just ordered food and will be able to eat very soon. You're all hungry, right?" Old Mrs Han said.

Everyone sat down, leaving Shi Xiaoya the last to sit. In the end, she could only sit on the empty chair beside Han Zhuoling.

So Shi Xiaoya went to sit beside Han Zhuoling.

Now, she was even closer to Han Zhuoling than she was with Lu Man.

So sitting beside Han Zhuoling actually made her feel more comfortable.

It was just that meeting the elders in the Han Family for the first time made her feel a little reserved.

After the dishes were served, Shi Xiaoya felt quite shy reaching out to take food.

Only when the dishes were turned to reach her side did she eat a little more.

Although she ate some light snacks earlier on, those snacks would make one feel a little full after eating some of it. It would be filling for the moment, but one would feel hungry again not long after.

Shi Xiaoya buried her head and only ate the dishes that spun and reached her spot.

Han Zhuoling noticed that and asked in a low voice, "Is there anything here that doesn't suit your taste?"

As for Shi Xiaoya's tastes, Han Zhuoling was already more or less familiar with them.

After the dishes were served, he lightly scanned across them and felt that there should not be anything that Shi Xiaoya did not like to eat, but there were not a lot of dishes that she especially liked either.

"Nope." Shi Xiaoya shook her head. "Everything is quite good."

"Don't feel shy and only eat the food that's in front of you," Han Zhuoling said.

Sometimes the food that reached Shi Xiaoya were only some small appetizers. It was fine to eat some of it to stimulate appetite, but there would not be much of a taste if she ate those all the time.

Thinking of how Shi Xiaoya might feel embarrassed to reach out and spin the serving table, he said, "Tell me what you want to eat, I'll spin it over for you."

"No need—"

Before Shi Xiaoya could finish, Han Zhuoling said, "Look at Lu Man. Han Zhuoli is the one spinning the food over for her. Same for Mrs. Wang, so you don't need to be polite with me on this."

#### **Chapter 1704: Tips of Her Ears Twitched**

Shi Xiaoya subconsciously looked over.

Han Zhuoli and Wang Juhuai were indeed taking food for Lu Man and Xia Qingwei.

Both of them did not need to say what they liked to eat; the men knew it very well.

When they saw something which they felt was not bad, they would also take some for Lu Man and Xia Qingwei to try.

"But—" Shi Xiaoya immediately felt that something was wrong.

Both of them were a couple. How could she trouble Han Zhuoling to do that?

But before she could finish speaking, Han Zhuoling had already picked a piece of matsutake tofu and placed it on her small plate. He noticed that she did not eat a lot of meat, but he remembered that meat was Shi Xiaoya's favorite, so he picked a piece of baked lobster and steak for her.

Seeing that Shi Xiaoya's soup bowl was empty, he spun the table around to get the matsutake soup in front of them and helped her fill her bowl with soup.

Han Zhuoling seemed really familiar and skilled at doing this, and he was so focused on taking food for Shi Xiaoya that he did not notice the astonished gazes of the others.

Unknowingly, the room had quietened down.

Leaving Han Zhuoling taking food for Shi Xiaoya and asking in a low voice, "What else do you want to eat? Tell me. You don't have to be shy. I can help you spin the table."

He lowered his volume for Shi Xiaoya to hear, and he even lowered his head to lean in closer to her.

The moment he leaned close, she could smell the cologne on his body. It smelled really nice. It was a very alluring smell that matched his elegance really well.

As she breathed in, Shi Xiaoya could not help but feel a little lightheaded. Her heart started beating faster, and her face heated up, spreading to her ears.

His low, smooth voice also flowed into her ears. His voice seemed to have a physical effect, tickling her ears and making them tingle with an itch.

Furthermore, when he spoke, his breath that was caressing her ears felt so hot, as if it brought an electric feeling together with it.

The tips of her ears reddened and could not help but twitch at the same time.

Shi Xiaoya felt so embarrassed, so she kept her head low and did not dare to look at anyone.

Right after Han Zhuoling finished speaking, he lowered his eyes and noticed her reddened ears. The sight of them twitching was so cute, and his breath could not help getting slightly hotter.

His gaze darkened as well.

He saw Shi Xiaoya shake her head but not daring to look at him as she said with her head lowered, "Enough, it's a lot already."

The others could not help but quieten down and watch the interaction between the two.

Was this still the Han Zhuoling they knew?

Pampering and soothing someone until they felt embarrassed to watch them.

And he even knew how to take food for her and care for her so meticulously.

So, it was not that he did not know how to love. It was just that he had not met the right person all along.

Lin Liye got so emotional that her eyes turned red, and she tried her best to control her emotions.

Seeing that Han Zhuoling could finally love a girl wholeheartedly, and that that girl was also a good girl, she felt overjoyed.

Finally, Han Zhuoling did not need to be alone and lonely anymore.

After that previous failed marriage, Lin Liye had always felt that she owed Han Zhuoling too much.

Things were good now, and she could finally put her heart at ease.

Shen Nuo quietly patted Lin Liye's shoulder and held her hand to comfort her.

Lin Liye smiled and very quickly regained her composure. She concealed her emotions so that Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya could not tell.

Seeing Han Zhuoling being so caring towards Shi Xiaoya, she never expected that there could be such a side to him.

She instantly felt very heartened.

Shi Xiaoya felt so nervous that she could not even be bothered to notice anything unusual in the room. She could only focus on eating and lowered her head to try her best to eat.

On this side, Han Zhuoling seemed to be addicted to feeding her.

As long as he saw that Shi Xiaoya's plate was going to be empty soon, he would start picking food for her again.

### **Chapter 1705: Did He Not Mind at All?**

So that Shi Xiaoya's plate remained filled all the time.

Unknowingly, Shi Xiaoya noticed that she had stuffed herself too full...

By the time she could react, she felt utterly embarrassed and quietly used her hand to cover her stomach.

Her small belly had already become protruded from eating.

Right at this moment, Han Zhuoling picked a piece of codfish and placed it on her plate.

Shi Xiaoya really could not eat anymore, so she said to him in a small voice, "I really can't eat anymore."

Han Zhuoling looked at her. She had indeed eaten quite a lot just now.

He lowered his gaze and noticed that she was covering her stomach, so he nodded and stopped picking food for her.

Next, she watched as he took her plate over and placed it in front of himself, then just used her plate and finished eating whatever was left on it.

Shi Xiaoya was so shocked that she widened her eyes. She felt as if her whole body was burning up and felt really embarrassed.

He... Why did he just use her plate to eat directly?

Although she was quite careful when eating, because Han Zhuoling was beside her, Shi Xiaoya was very mindful of her image and was very afraid that if she ate sloppily, she might embarrass herself in front of Han Zhuoling.

Anyway, she just hoped that she could present herself better in front of Han Zhuoling and leave a better impression.

So even though there was a lot of food on her plate, it did not look sloppy.

It looked more like a buffet style platter with a mix of food on a plate.



But no matter what, that was still a plate she'd used before. Did he not mind at all?

Shi Xiaoya felt like her blood was rushing to her head.

Han Zhuoling seemed to finally notice Shi Xiaoya's gaze and turned to ask in confusion, "What's wrong?"

Shi Xiaoya had no choice but to swallow her words back down and not speak a word.

He did not even mind that she used the plate before, so what else could she say?

"You still want to eat?" Han Zhuoling asked again.

Shi Xiaoya quickly shook her head and said, "I'm full already."

"Then why are you staring at me?" Han Zhuoling asked again.

"Nothing, it's nothing." Shi Xiaoya fixed her gaze on the teacup before her and stopped staring at him.

Han Zhuoling curved his lips slightly and continued eating the food on Shi Xiaoya's plate.

Old Mrs. Han, Shen Nuo, and Lin Liye exchanged glances among themselves.

They were really stunned by Han Zhuoling.

At first, they thought that it was a huge improvement for Han Zhuoling to be able to like someone at all.

Who knew that he would not stop there? He even knew how to take care of that person.

Just look at his tricks. His tricks came out one by one—what a self-taught genius!

His improvement was at a really amazing speed, and he did not seem to be putting on the brakes any moment soon.

They and Old Mrs. Han all expressed that their gossip mentality could not really keep up with Han Zhuoling's speed.

Shi Xiaoya only noticed now that the room had quietened down.

The moment she looked up, she noticed everyone looking towards her side.

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

Old Mrs. Han laughed awkwardly, "Haha," and said, "Xiaoya, how old are you this year?"

Old Mrs. Han had watched Shi Xiaoya's videos and even looked up Shi Xiaoya's profile before, but her exact age was really not revealed online.

"I'm 24 now." Shi Xiaoya quickly picked up her teacup and drank a sip of tea.

"How did you get into the makeup line of work?" Old Mrs. Han asked.

"Just... I am quite interested in colors. When I watched movies before, there would be all kinds of makeup, including injuries and special effects makeup. I was young back then, so I really thought they were injured. Afterward, when I watched a behind the scenes video, I realized that actually, those were all drawn with makeup," Shi Xiaoya said. "So I became quite interested in these things."

“Afterward, events like Christmas and Halloween also became trendy in the country. Whenever it was Halloween, we would put on some makeup for fun and do a getup with friends just for fun. From there, I learned how to draw some ghost or monster makeup looks, as well as vampire makeup, etc. Subconsciously, I became more and more interested in things like these.” When Shi Xiaoya mentioned her own job, she slowly relaxed as well.

### **Chapter 1706: It's Not Just Doting**

“When I was in university, I actually majored in Fine Arts and specialized in oil painting,” Shi Xiaoya said. “At that time, I was just a beauty blogger. All those techniques and whatnot, I learned them on my own, but luckily, because I also learned oil painting, I felt that the face is like a canvas. In that sense, what I learned was quite applicable as well.”

“My family never once interfered in my hobbies and are very supportive of me. They said that if I did not like to work in the family business, then I can just do whatever I liked. As long as it's a proper career, there was nothing wrong with that.”

“And when I was a beauty blogger, I also managed to make some fame for myself and was a brand ambassador for some brands as well. That could be considered one of the first steps towards my career,” Shi Xiaoya said. “My big brother saw that I really wanted to continue along this path, so he found someone through his connections to contact my teacher, Liu Jingping, to see if I could be his disciple.”

Old Mrs. Han smiled and said, “Your big brother is really not bad, he really dotes on you as a younger sister.”

Han Zhuoling thought to himself, “It's not just doting.”

“Although the teacher did not agree right away, he at least agreed to see me. The moment he saw me, he tested me on the spot, felt that I was alright, and accepted me as his disciple,” Shi Xiaoya explained.

“It's one thing for your brother to connect you to meet with Liu Jingping, but you have to be competent as well, to make Liu Jingping accept you as his disciple,” Old Mrs. Han said.

But she had to say that Shi Xiaoya's family background had some effect.

If it was a normal person, it would be impossible for them to even meet Liu Jingping.

Even if they really wanted to be his disciple, they would not have the connections to meet Liu Jingping.

Luckily, Shi Xiaoya's family background was quite good, and her big brother had enough connections to set a higher starting point for Shi Xiaoya.

Of course, it was true that Shi Xiaoya was competent enough.

Or else, if when Liu Jingping tested her, he found that she was totally incompetent, she might actually have disgraced her big brother.

Shi Xiaoya did not hide how she managed to find her teacher. She had indeed relied on her family background and on her big brother's help to be able to meet Liu Jingping. There was nothing to hide about that.

Although Yuan Yina did not know of Shi Xiaoya's family background, it did not stop her from being jealous of Shi Xiaoya.

Yuan Yina had thought that Shi Xiaoya was just lucky all along to be able to become Liu Jingping's disciple. Furthermore, her career up 'til now could be considered quite smooth-sailing as well.

However, Shi Xiaoya also felt that she had been quite lucky.

Being born in the Shi Family, with a family background that could support her in giving her the freedom to choose whatever she wanted to do, and parents who would support her and give her enough freedom to do what she wanted to do, as well as a big brother who doted on her to no end...

It was precisely because of these things that it made her feel that she really had it easier than most people.

She always felt that she had been especially lucky.

It was evident how Shi Xiaoya gracefully explained without hiding anything.

She was unlike some people, who clearly relied on their family's fortunes but refused to admit it and insisted that they made it out by themselves.

Old Mrs. Han could never stand such behavior.

Was it so embarrassing to admit that you received help from your family?

To be honest, even if you really wanted to rely on your own efforts, you would more or less be sheltered by your family.

Even if you did not rely on your family for help, when you were outside, did people know of your background?

Did they know that you were some rich man's son or daughter?

If that was the case, they would surely be more courteous to you simply because of your family background.

No matter what, you would still benefit from a certain level of protection offered by virtue of your family's influence, so things would still go more smoothly for you.

### **Chapter 1707: Not Quite Competitive Enough**

Saying things like not wanting others to deny your abilities because of your background was just childish.

But Shi Xiaoya was not like that. She openly acknowledged the help her family gave her, and she was very thankful for her family's kind intentions. Not once did she try to separate herself from her family.

Just based on this alone, Old Mrs. Han already felt a lot of admiration for Shi Xiaoya.

"Then when did you start being a makeup artist for other people officially?" Old Mrs. Han asked out of curiosity. "Like... erm... doing makeup for celebrities? Basically, the starting point of your career. When did it start?"

"It's when I was 22. I was in my fourth year of university and could do internships outside. There happened to be an opportunity to compete for a spot in a production crew for a drama, so I won the competition and joined the production crew," Shi Xiaoya said.

"Wow, you're only 24 years old now. So from the time you officially started until now, it's only been two years, right?" Old Mrs. Han remarked.

"It's because of the help I received from family and friends. I've known Qin Zigou since I was young, so we are on very good terms," Shi Xiaoya said.

Old Mrs. Han was startled. "Qin Zigou, the one from the Qin Family?"

"Yes."

"Aiyo!" Old Mrs. Han slapped her thigh. This was not too good!

Qin Zigou was younger than Han Zhuoling, and his looks were comparable to Han Zhuoling's as well.

He even had the benefit of being childhood playmates with her. No matter how she viewed it, she just felt that Han Zhuoling's competitiveness was not quite enough.

Instantly, Old Mrs. Han felt that Han Zhuoling's attentiveness just now was not enough anymore. He needed to work even harder!

"What's wrong?" Shi Xiaoya asked curiously.

"Nothing, nothing." Old Mrs. Han waved her hand. "You go on. What's with you and that Qin Gouzi?"

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

How did Old Mrs. Han know Qin Zigou was called Qin Gouzi?

Old Mrs. Han did not know what Shi Xiaoya was thinking, or else she would definitely tell Shi Xiaoya: of course the Qin Family's Old Madam told her!

"He wanted to go into fashion design, so both of us worked together. Our work is quite complementary, so we opened a work studio together. I had just started out then. If I'd been a normal newbie, how would I have had the ability to start a work studio by myself?"

She would surely need to work her way up slowly.

If she'd started her career off on such a huge scale but was not able to develop it in reality, who would dare to be like that?

"It's because of my family, and Qin Zigou's connections, that our work studio became so successful. When he designs clothes for other people, he will call me along to do their makeup. When I do the makeup for other people, I will also call him over to style their outfits," Shi Xiaoya explained in detail. "Just like that, slowly, we were able to work our way up until now."

"Actually, it still boils down to the fact that you guys were capable enough," Old Mrs. Han said.

"Connections will run out eventually. If your skills were really not good, nobody will be willing to run the risk of getting bad service, right? If they got tricked into it once and felt that it was not good, they

definitely won't come back to you. It's still your capabilities that earned you recognition and reputation, such that word slowly spread around about you both."

"Or else, no matter how close you are, it still won't work. If you are not capable enough yet you insist on going to them, it might actually disgrace your family and friends."

Shi Xiaoya smiled and nodded.

All along, she'd felt that her journey had been so smooth in part because of her family.

Sometimes, she also suspected that if not for the help from her family, she definitely would not have been able to make it to her current standards.

But hearing Old Mrs. Han's confirmation of her capabilities, Shi Xiaoya felt an indescribable joy.

### **Chapter 1708: Isn't My Performance Obvious Enough?**

Originally, she still had some doubts about herself, but now, they'd settled down as well.

Right at this moment, Shi Xiaoya's phone rang.

Shi Xiaoya took it out and said to everyone, "My big brother is calling. I'll go out for a moment to answer the call."

Old Mrs. Han smiled to let her be casual and not be so polite.

Shi Xiaoya took the phone and hurried out of the room.

After the door to the room closed, Old Mrs. Han quickly asked Han Zhuoling, "What's up with Qin Gouzi? Zhuoling, can you make it or not? She even has a childhood sweetheart around, are you sure you can win against him?"

"I know him. He's on very good terms with Xiaoya," Han Zhuoling said. "But they are just friends and don't have that kind of relationship, not even a hint of romance between them. Or else, the two of them would have been together long ago. Their relationship wouldn't have remained the same for so many years."

"Really?" Old Mrs. Han thought about it and felt a little embarrassed about putting Han Zhuoling down.

Han Zhuoling's competitiveness was a bit low.

He did not know how to coax people with a glib tongue, and he was quite old, and it would be his second marriage.

Counting with her fingers, he really was not as competitive as Qin Gouzi.

Qin Gouzi was young and looked handsome. His family background was impeccable, and it would be his first marriage.

And he was even childhood sweethearts with Shi Xiaoya.

"Really." Han Zhuoling nodded. "I know that."

Old Mrs. Han thought to herself, "What do you know? You're so slow and haven't even wooed her yet."

“Aiya!” Lin Liye exclaimed in surprise. “You finally admitted that you like her!”

Han Zhuoling: “...”

He took a sip of tea and said, “Isn’t my performance obvious enough?”

Lin Liye tsked and was about to tease Han Zhuoling. Who knew, Han Zhuoling would admit to it so fast that Lin Liye could not think of what to say in time.

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On this side, Shi Xiaoya took her phone and walked to the corridor to answer the call. “Big Brother, what’s the matter?”

“Just calling you to ask how you are. I haven’t been to see you after you came back from recording the show,” Shi Nancang said. “How was your time in Man City? Did you get used to it?”

“It’s okay. The things I brought kept me warm enough, and the production team also took the weather into consideration, so the filming time each day wasn’t very long. I was quite tired when I just came back, but I’m good now,” Shi Xiaoya said as she smiled.

“Big Brother, where are you right now? Why does the background sound so noisy?” Shi Xiaoya asked further.

“I’m eating at Sheng Yue. Regarding your Weibo incident before, I’d asked my friends to help out. Since they are all in B City now, I asked them out for dinner,” Shi Nancang said. “Then I’ll go outside to talk to you, lest they’re so noisy and affect the phone call.”

The moment Shi Xiaoya heard that, she realized that Shi Nancang was at Sheng Yue as well.

They better not meet!

Or else, how was she supposed to explain to him that she was eating together with the Han Family?

It did not sound right no matter how she explained it, right?

Just as she was thinking about that, she saw Shi Nancang coming out from the room diagonally opposite.

Shi Xiaoya: “...”

Shi Nancang: “...”

“What are you doing here?” Shi Nancang asked before he realized he was still on the phone with her.

Shi Nancang quickly hung up the phone.

Shi Xiaoya was dumbstruck too. Who would have thought that it would be such a coincidence—they were almost directly opposite each other.

She was really to blame. Why did she come out to answer the call for nothing?!

“I... I’m also eating here with my friends...” Shi Xiaoya said as she ended the call guiltily.

**Chapter 1709: Are You Still Human?**

Shi Nancang subconsciously thought that Shi Xiaoya was eating together with her work studio colleagues.

After all, they booked a whole room. There would surely be a lot of people.

“Big Brother, did you drink?” Shi Xiaoya quickly changed the topic, afraid that Shi Nancang would ask who she was eating with.

“I drank a little, but it’s fine. I’m not driving. I’ll ask the chauffeur to come and fetch me.” Shi Nancang did not think much about who Shi Xiaoya was eating with either.

Because never in his dreams would he imagine that Shi Xiaoya was eating with the Han Family members.

“Okay, but drink less too. You won’t feel comfortable if you drink too much,” Shi Xiaoya reminded him.

Shi Nancang felt really comforted by his younger sister’s concern and happily agreed. “Don’t worry. Oh, right, what time are you guys ending? It’s so late already, don’t go home alone. Tell me once you’re done, I’ll send you back.”

“There’s no need. Aren’t you having a gathering with your friends? It won’t end so quickly, right?” Shi Xiaoya quickly said. “We’re not drinking, and we will leave after eating dinner. We’re leaving soon. Also, I’ll be calling a car from the company to fetch me back. Don’t worry.”

“Alright, then.” Shi Nancang thought about it and said again, “But just give me a call when you end, so that I know what time you’ll reach home. Then I can be assured.”

“I got it!” Shi Xiaoya waved at Shi Nancang and said, “Quick, go back in.”

As she said that, Shi Nancang’s friends were also urging him to come in.

The door to Shi Nancang and his friends’ room opened, and a young man walked out.

He was around the same age as Shi Nancang and was tall and handsome. He had a resigned smile on his face.

When he saw that Shi Xiaoya was around, he said in surprise, “Xiaoya is here too? Are you here to find Nancang? Come on in.”

“Brother Shen, I came here to eat with my friends, and I happened to bump into my big brother,” Shi Xiaoya said with a smile.

“What a coincidence.” Shen Shi’an smiled and said, “I haven’t seen you in a long time. When you are free next time, I’ll treat you to a meal.”

Shi Xiaoya took it that he was being polite and did not take it to heart, so she carelessly agreed on the spot, “Sure.”

The moment Shi Nancang saw that, he immediately said, “Aren’t you eating with friends? I’m assured now that I’ve seen you. Quick, go back in.”

“Okay.” Shi Xiaoya waved at them and said, “Then I’ll take my leave first, Big Brother. Bye, Brother Shen.”

Shen Shi'an smiled and waved back at Shi Xiaoya, until Shi Xiaoya returned to her room.

Shi Nancang narrowed his eyes and looked at Shen Shi'an cautiously. "You punk, it's not the first day you've met my younger sister. Why are you suddenly asking her out for a meal?"

Shen Shi'an: "..."

*Shit, forgot this dude is a serial younger sister control freak.*

Shen Shi'an rubbed the space between his eyebrows helplessly and said, "She was still young last time, so I treated her like a younger sister. But now that she's grown up, I realized that, when she smiled at me, her smile goes all the way to my heart."

Shi Nancang cursed in his heart. "I treat you like a friend, but you actually want to flirt with my younger sister!"

Shen Shi'an: "..."

"Why do you make it sound so ugly? What do you mean flirt? I have decent good feelings for your younger sister. If possible, I am very serious about dating her with marriage as the prospect," Shen Shi'an said helplessly.

"My younger sister is still young!" Shi Nancang said angrily. "Are you still human?"

"..." Shen Shi'an raised his eyebrow and said, "I mean, your younger sister is already 24 years old. It's not like she's underage. I like her, and I want to woo her. What's wrong with that? How am I inhuman because of that?"

### **Chapter 1710: I'm Also a Decent Match**

Shi Nancang "hmped" at him.

Shen Shi'an sighed and said to Shi Nancang helplessly, "Tell me honestly. Besides the fact that I like your younger sister, what else about me is bad?"

Shi Nancang checked him out from top to toe. Besides that point, there was really nothing bad about Shen Shi'an.

He did not have the bad habits of those rich playboys, was morally upright, serious about handling his family business, did not fool around, and had a very clean private life as well.

He could be said to be young and capable.

"To tell the truth, I am quite popular across various families and have been on the top list for blind date matches. I'm young and not too old for your younger sister, but I am still older than her and can dote on her. My private life is very clean, and I won't casually fool around with other women. You know all these too."

"I'm serious about my work, and I can helm my family's business in the future. Even you wouldn't want your younger sister to find a common man and suffer hardship together with him. Although you have your family to back her up so her life will not be too hard no matter what, male inferiority will always be a thing. We're all men, and we know that very well. When the two of them have a huge disparity



between them, especially when the wife has a higher status than himself, not many men would really not mind it at all. Conflicts after marriage would only increase, and whatever feelings they have would slowly be erased.”

“But if you found someone who’s on par in status, you don’t have to worry about those rich playboys who won’t treat her well.” Shen Shi’an smiled at Shi Nancang as he said, “I don’t have any of those bad habits. I am your friend as well. No matter what, you can still keep an eye on me. If anything goes wrong, you will know immediately. So if you thought about it, I am still quite a decent match, right?”

After Shen Shi’an said that, Shi Nancang really seriously thought about this possibility.

He had to admit, Shen Shi’an was right.

He would not be assured if it was other people.

What if that person was a playboy?

What if he lied to Shi Xiaoya?

His younger sister was a little ditzy sometimes, so she had to find a man who would really treat her well.

Or else, if that man really did something untoward to her outside, given Shi Xiaoya’s personality, she would not be able to find out, and it was not possible for him to keep watch on them all the time.

As for Shen Shi’an, it could be considered that he really knew him inside out.

Both of them were childhood friends, so Shen Shi’an and Shi Xiaoya were not unfamiliar with each other either.

The most important thing was that Shen Shi’an’s character was really trustworthy.

After so many years, he had never seen him fool around, so his character was really quite good.

If he really had to introduce someone to Shi Xiaoya, Shi Nancang would really think that he should find someone he was familiar with, so at least he knew the person and felt that the person was quite decent.

And besides Shen Shi’an, the others did not seem that suitable either.

His few brothers liked to play and make a ruckus. They were not mature enough, so how could they take good care of his younger sister?

Shen Shi’an continued, “Think about it, take it as you’re giving me a chance. Most importantly, it depends on your younger sister. What if your younger sister isn’t interested in me?”

Shi Nancang laughed disdainfully. “True. My younger sister might really not like you.”

Shen Shi’an rolled his eyes at him.

He won’t stoop to the level of a younger sister control freak.

However, he was also only at the good impression stage in his feelings for Shi Xiaoya.

The first thing he was attracted to was naturally her looks.

Men were all visual animals.

If she was pretty, they would naturally be attracted.

But Shi Xiaoya was also cute, so Shen Shi'an felt that that was quite good.

But his feelings were not very deep either. It was just a first impression in which he felt that she was not bad.

If Shi Xiaoya did not have any feelings for him, he would not feel too disappointed either.