

Mr Han 1721

Chapter 1721: Open Your Eyes Wide and Look Properly

"I... I'll go and change out of the wedding dress," Lu Man said. "The wedding dress is very nice, the measurements are just right too. There's no need to adjust anything."

Han Zhuoli knew that she was nervous.

They were outside, and in someone's work studio. Of course, he could not do anything.

But Lu Man really looked too beautiful in this. He could not even bear to look away.

He finally let go of her and Lu Man turned to go back to the fitting room.

When Qin Zigou saw her, he immediately stopped her and called out, "Hey, Lu Man, don't change out first. I'm not done yet here."

Lu Man turned and stopped to stare at Qin Zigou.

Qin Zigou laughed. "How can the wedding dress that I designed be so simple? If it was done just like that, why would you need to look for me to design it? If that's the case, I would be tarnishing my own reputation."

The assistants then came back and invited Lu Man to stand on the stage.

Right in front of her was a full-length wall mirror.

The two assistants stood at the back to arrange the tail of the dress for Lu Man.

The full extent of the tail of her dress was finally laid out in full, spread out in a fishtail style on the floor.

Afterward, one of the assistants came carrying the veil and put it on for Lu Man.

The veil was actually as long as the length of the dress, and it fell in layers over the long tail of her dress behind Lu Man's head.

After arranging it properly for her, the assistant stepped aside.

Qin Zigou said as he stood beside Han Zhuoli, "Now, open your eyes wide and look properly. Make sure you don't blink your eyes."

Needless for him to say, Han Zhuoli's eyes never shifted away from Lu Man from start to end.

When he was hugging her just now, he just wanted to take off her wedding dress with his own hands.

But looking at Lu Man wearing a wedding dress in full view from a neither-near-nor-far distance made her seem so refined as well.

As if she stepped out from the snow.

Hearing Qin Zigou's reminder now, Han Zhuoli did not dare to blink even more and fixed his eyes squarely on her.

Lu Man also heard Qin Zigou's words and was very confused.

Until the assistant pressed on the switch, and the curtains indoors slowly closed.

The thick and heavy curtains blocked out all the light from outside, so no light could shine through.

But the lights were still brightly lit indoors.

Hence, the brightness was not really affected.

The other assistant was already waiting in front of the switch.

At the same time when the curtains closed, that assistant turned off the switch, turning off the lights in the room as well.

The room was in complete darkness, as if it was nighttime.

Then, that assistant pressed on another switch.

A faint glow of light suddenly lit up above Lu Man's head.

It turned out that the ceiling above her had a single spotlight as well, just like those on theater stages, and it only shone on the stage in the room.

When the light shone, Lu Man was encapsulated within its glow.

And the tail of the wedding dress Lu Man was wearing actually sparkled with faint dots of light.

They seemed just like little fireflies shining brightly, creating a dreamlike illuminating effect, making it seem so unreal.

And the veil on Lu Man's head glittered as if there were diamonds on it. The bits and pieces of light seemed to all merge together. If she walked, it would definitely look like there were stars chasing her.

Everyone was awestruck.

This was not the assistants' first time seeing it.

But even if they looked at it again, they still could not help feeling awestruck.

Lu Man stared into the mirror and gaped, but she could not utter a word.

It was too beautiful!

Han Zhuoli also did not expect that Qin Zigou actually put so much hidden thought into this wedding dress.

Seeing both of them looking so awestruck gave Qin Zigou a huge sense of achievement.

Chapter 1722: One of a Kind

He really liked seeing his customers looking stunned by his designs.

Lu Man could not help moving her dress around.

As she moved, the white spots of light moved along with her. Looking at it makes it seem like a kind of special effect.

She could not help but shake the veil slightly and turn her head from left to right.

The diamond-like shine on her veil also glittered magically with her movements.

Qin Zigou's voice rang out at this moment. "Considering the fact that when you are walking on the red carpet during the wedding, the light will be quite dim all around, and the light will only focus on the bride and groom, I think just a simple white gown would be too simple and it won't stand out."

"After all, marriage is the biggest event in one's life. The moment you don a wedding dress, that is also a woman's most beautiful moment. Just being clad in a white dress is not enough. We have to make everyone focus their attention on the bride, not even leaving her for a moment."

"To be honest, when walking the red carpet, most guests actually won't really focus their attention solely on the bride. But in my view, the bride should be the star of the whole event, and she should not be lacking in anything."

"So I added white fluorite stones and glass species jadeites similar to the size of my fingertips but not all being of the same size into the muslin veils on the dress," Qin Zigou explained.

He asked Han Zhuoli to walk closer and pick up a part of the outer layers of Lu Man's dress at the tail.

"The stones are hidden in the muslin veils, so it will be hardly noticeable from the outside. Because of the weight of the fluorite and jadeite, the cascading effect of the dress is maintained even though there are several layers of veils on it. When you are walking, the tail of the dress will sway, which will look really pretty. The luminosity of fluorite is slightly better, so it is inter-weaved with the jadeite. High-quality glass species jadeite will shine brightly under strong light in a dark environment. If only jadeite was used, the illumination effect would not be so strong."

"But the luminosity of fluorite might seem a little too obvious in the dark. If the light on the wedding venue shines on it, it especially might be too blinding, so it is mixed together with jadeite. When Lu Man is walking, the jadeite and fluorite stones shine at the same time, giving people the illusion that there is a white light shining through the dress. But in fact, this is just the two stones reflecting light off each other."

Qin Zigou put down Lu Man's wedding dress and pulled a piece of her veil to show Han Zhuoli and Lu Man.

Under the only source of light in the dark, what Qin Zigou was referring to became more obvious. "On the head veil, however, lightness is the key. When Lu Man is walking on the red carpet, the veil would sway and move lightly towards the back. Hence, these stones can't be used, including diamonds. Those would all be too heavy."

"Hence, the head veil is sewn with silver thread. These silver threads have been infused with platinum through special technology, so it's much brighter than normal silver thread. On top of that, the silver thread is also mixed with a bit of gold thread. It's not present in every thread. Just as long as the silver thread is shining, a little bit of gold thread would be mixed in it to give off the feeling that there's a little bit of it here and there. A full dress in white and silver might seem a little plain, so adding some gold thread as embellishments would make the overall look more harmonized," Qin Zigou explained everything one by one in a detailed manner.

After hearing him explain these things, Han Zhuoli and Lu Man understood what was going on with this wedding dress.

They had to admire Qin Zigou's attention to detail. How was he so ingenious as to be able to come up with all these?

This was really a one-of-a-kind wedding dress.

Even Lu Man hoped that when she was wearing her wedding dress, she would be the most beautiful, be it herself or the wedding dress.

She also looked forward to having a unique wedding dress that other people would not be able to buy even if they wanted to, a wedding dress that no one had ever worn before.

Chapter 1723: Do You Know Where They Went?

She did not expect that Qin Zigou would really be able to design one like that.

Han Zhuoli smiled widely as well. Luckily, he'd looked for Qin Zigou.

Luckily, Qin Zigou designed such a special wedding dress.

Although the materials were quite expensive, why would it matter?

Only then could this be worthy for Lu Man.

The assistants turned on the lights and opened the curtains.

With the light turned on, this wedding dress looked back to normal again, and one could not see the previous glamor of it now.

Lu Man could already imagine how awestruck the guests would be on her wedding day.

"Thank you," Lu Man said it to Han Zhuoli first.

To thank him for putting in so much thought and secretly preparing such a special wedding dress for her.

Then, she turned to Qin Zigou to thank him. "Thank you, for designing such a wonderful wedding dress for me. I never expected that it could turn out to be so beautiful."

Lu Man felt so touched that she was about to cry.

She finally realized why so many girls would cry the moment when they put on their wedding dress.

Qin Zigou smiled and said, "That's also because Brother Han has no lack of money! He didn't even set a budget for me and let me do whatever I wanted to do, all so that I can unleash my imagination fully and turn it into reality. If it was someone else, I wouldn't dare to be so unrestrained."

"Really, thank you so much," Lu Man said. "I really didn't expect that... a wedding dress could be like this. At first I thought that I would just like the style of the wedding dress a lot. But now, this really exceeded my expectations way too much."

Qin Zigou was very happy too. Nothing could make him happier than knowing that his own design received so much acknowledgment from others.

After seeing how precious this wedding dress was, when Lu Man returned to the changing room to change out, she became even more careful with it.

In the end, she changed out of the wedding dress and placed it properly into a huge box.

Han Zhuoli then took the box and left with Lu Man.

On the way back, Han Zhuoli was driving. Lu Man felt bored, so she would turn to look at the scenery outside the car from time to time.

Suddenly, Lu Man's gaze was fixed on something.

She saw that by the roadside, Lu Qi and He Zhengbai walked into a wedding dress shop.

It was quite a huge one, and quite a famous one as well. Lu Man remembered that it also custom-made dresses, but it was just not comparable to Qin Zigou's level.

She did not expect that Lu Qi and He Zhengbai were also getting married.

Lu Qi took leave from school, and He Zhengbai was no longer in school as well.

Hence, she had really not heard anything about them for quite a while.

More accurately, it should be said that Lu Man had never heard from He Zhengbai and the Lu Family ever.

It could be said that she had actually forgotten about these two families.

If she did not see them walking into a wedding dress shop now, Lu Man would totally have forgotten that the two of them existed.

She had so many things on her plate now and there were many other things she had to oversee as well, so why would she have the time to dig up news about the Lu Family's situation?

But thinking about it, she had been the one who had been forced back then to leave school to be Lu Qi's assistant.

But now, it was actually Lu Qi's turn to take leave from school.

"What are you staring at?" Han Zhuoli noticed that Lu Man was staring outside, and her gaze seemed to be following something.

"I saw Lu Qi and He Zhengbai just now," Lu Man explained. "I actually forgot about the two of them. They haven't appeared in school for quite some time as well, so when I saw them just now, I was quite shocked."

Lu Man said secretly, "Do you know where they went?"

"How would I know?" Han Zhuoli laughed. "Don't tell me, they went to a hotel?"

He would not suspect that Lu Man still had feelings for He Zhengbai.

He and Lu Man's relationship had already reached this stage by now. Leaving aside the fact that they were already married, even before their marriage, both of them only had each other in mind and would not leave each other's side or fall in love with someone else.

Chapter 1724: Could It Be Real Love?

As for He Zhengbai, that scum, how would Lu Man possibly have such bad taste as to like him again?

Han Zhuoli knew that Lu Man brought it up now probably because she felt it was interesting.

"What?" Lu Man laughed. "I saw them entering a wedding dress shop. I didn't think that they were getting married as well."

In her previous life, Lu Qi and He Zhengbai did get married.

But their life trajectory was completely different from now.

In her previous life, Lu Qi's career in the entertainment industry was very smooth-sailing, and she became an A-list celebrity.

He Zhengbai also became a pretty well-known director himself.

Both of them were very successful in their lives and careers, so there was nothing bad about it.

Lu Qiyuan's company also continued operating well and did not run into any incidents.

Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang's relationship had also been quite good.

Not like in this lifetime where Lu Qiyuan suffered a stroke. Even if he recovered, his health had been dealt a blow.

And he got tired of Xia Qingyang.

And the Lu Corporation was going on a downward spiral, looking like it would go bust any moment.

Lu Qi had already been marginalized to the periphery of the entertainment industry, and He Zhengbai did not have any films to direct.

Be it in their lives or careers, none of it was a smooth ride.

They had too easy lives in their past life; they did not have any conflict between them, even though their marriage involved their personal interests as well.

But because of the presence of the He Family's business and the Lu Corporation, both of them stood to gain from each other at least.

These personal interests seemed to be hidden under a wonderful superficial appearance.

Those conflicts and ugliness did not surface.

As to whether they knew about it directly involving themselves, and whether they knew it well deep down, no one could know.

But given how dumb she was in her previous life, she really could not tell.

But in this life, Lu Qi and He Zhengbai's conflicts were way too many, and they all erupted early on.

In her previous life, He Zhengbai switched to be with Lu Qi precisely because he realized that Lu Qi was Lu Qiyuan's biological daughter and that the Lu Corporation would eventually go to her.

Compared to the unloved Lu Man, Lu Qi clearly had more value.

But in this life, these things which He Zhengbai cared about no longer existed.

The Lu Corporation was going downhill and might even need to rely on the He Family's support to be sustained.

Lu Qi also fell out of favor with Lu Qiyuan after doing some stupid things time and again.

On top of the fact that Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang's relationship ran into problems, he no longer accepted their flaws and loved them all the same.

Hence, for the interests that He Zhengbai sought after in his previous life, he was not able to get a single one of them from Lu Qi in this life.

Given Lu Qi's current situation, don't even talk about getting into the A-list. It was hard for people to even remember that she existed in the entertainment industry.

It was difficult for He Zhengbai to use Lu Qi's fame to publicize himself too now.

In this life, whatever He Zhengbai wanted was all gone. He and Lu Qi actually wanted to get married?

Could it really be true love?

Lu Man voiced out her thoughts directly. She did not have other feelings for He Zhengbai and was totally not scared of it.

As for Han Zhuoli, she would just speak her mind.

"To tell the truth, given their selfish personalities, I really did not think that they will get married." Lu Man sputtered out a laugh and said, "I thought that given their personalities, they would break up and fall out with each other sooner or later."

Han Zhuoli only then understood what Lu Man was getting at.

He said, "The Lu Corporation ran into problems long ago. Probably around the time when Lu Qiyuan had a stroke and was hospitalized. At that time, the Lu Corporation's operations also seemed a little strange. Their company's accounts, I'm naturally not privy to it. I could check if I wanted to, but I'm personally not interested in it. The only reason why I know about their company's situation is because the Lu Corporation's precarious situation now is all being forced out by the Han Corporation."

Chapter 1725: Refuse to Let Go

Did they really think that despite Lu Qiyuan bullying Lu Man so badly before, Han Zhuoli would not do anything about it?

He did not forget to take revenge for Lu Man.

So, the Lu Corporation was being forced to the verge of collapse by the Han Corporation.

Actually, as long as Han Zhuoli wanted to, he could totally make the Lu Corporation fold.

But he did not do it. He deliberately wanted to keep the Lu Corporation in a precarious state, nearing the point of collapse but not quite yet.

He wanted to give Lu Qiyuan hope but also let him constantly be disappointed in spite of that hope.

But seeing that he still had some hope, he would not give up.

This was as good as saying that Han Zhuoli hung a picture of a biscuit in front of Lu Qiyuan.

It was constantly drawing Lu Qiyuan to it, constantly giving him hope that he could catch up with it, and once he did, he could make a comeback.

However, Han Zhuoli was only baiting him with it, letting him continue to have hope but never letting him catch up.

But given Lu Qiyuan's conceitedness and greed, he would never give up and would only spiral deeper and deeper into it.

Han Zhuoli purposely wanted to keep Lu Qiyuan preoccupied.

He would not be able to make much money and would waste his time slogging off, but he'd still have quite a bit of motivation to work hard.

Otherwise, if Lu Qiyuan's company really could not hold out or completely went bust, Lu Qiyuan would come back to find trouble with Lu Man ultimately when he had nothing left to do and could not take the blow of his company's collapse.

And if the Lu Corporation really folded, He Zhengbai would immediately ditch Lu Qi.

Who knew if he would come back and pester Lu Man again?

Although Lu Man would not be bothered with him, with such a pest around, it would still be annoying.

He'd abandoned Lu Man for Lu Qi back then, and Lu Qi went through many pains before she finally managed to seduce him.

The two of them really took many pains to be together no matter what. How could they break up so easily?

Even until death, he had to tie these two together.

Since He Zhengbai was only insisting on being with Lu Qi for the Lu Corporation.

Then he would keep on using the Lu Corporation to bait He Zhengbai so that he would stop coming up with wicked ideas and focus on seducing Lu Qi and keeping her by his side.

And as for the real situation of the Lu Family, Lu Qi was very clear about it.

Now that the Lu Family was in a precarious state, Lu Qi naturally had to cling on even more tightly to He Zhengbai.

So these two people going into a wedding dress shop together did not surprise Han Zhuoli at all.

And what Lu Man did not know was that Lu Qiyuan had tried to look for him quite a few times already, but those times, he did not even get to see his face before he was stopped by the security guards.

It was not that Lu Qiyuan did not try looking for Lu Man before.

But when Lu Man was in school, she would always have Xu Hui and Zhou Cheng with her, and Xiao Guo would come and fetch her after school.

Zhou Cheng and Xu Hui's stalking and anti-stalking skills were top-notch. As long as someone was watching them, both of them would notice it instantly.

Hence, Lu Qiyuan probably did not have any chance of getting close.

And when Lu Man went to Yi Garden, Wang Juhuai also knew Lu Qiyuan was not in a good state now. Not only was he worried that he would come and harass Lu Man, he was also worried that he would pester Xia Qingwei.

Now that Xia Qingwei was pregnant, it was the most critical period.

How could he give Lu Qiyuan the chance to pester them?

Hence, Wang Juhuai also arranged for men to be stationed in the vicinity of Yi Garden.

Same went for the Han Family villa.

Hence, Lu Qiyuan went one big circle and did not have a single chance of getting close to Lu Man.

Lu Man had not heard news of the Lu Family up until now, not because the Lu Family people were ashamed and deliberately kept it from her, but because Han Zhuoli prevented all these possibilities from happening so that Lu Man's life would no longer be disturbed by the Lu Family.

Hearing Han Zhuoli's words, Lu Man immediately understood. "So no matter what He Zhengbai wants to do, Lu Qi would refuse to let He Zhengbai go no matter what."

Chapter 1726: Definitely Support

Han Zhuoli nodded.

Lu Qi was Xia Qingyang's daughter, and she more or less inherited Xia Qingyang's seducing skills.

But now, both of them still did not know that there was one more catch as to why Lu Qi and He Zhengbai were able to make it to the point of marriage.

He Zhengbai needed to use Lu Qi to make sure the Lu Corporation fell into his hands completely.

While Lu Qi needed to use He Zhengbai to transfer all the funds in the Lu Corporation over to herself.

Both of them could be said to be on the same boat right now, both of them needing each other.

Now that Lu Qiyuan had recovered and returned to work in the Lu Corporation, Lu Qi would not be able to do things as freely as she could compared to when Lu Qiyuan was still hospitalized back then.

She also had to think of a way to cover up the problem with the accounts, to prevent Lu Qiyuan from noticing.

This time was only because she happened to see Lu Qi and He Zhengbai, so Lu Man thought of the both of them.

But she only caught a glimpse of them and said those few things to Han Zhuoli about them before Lu Man stopped bothering about them.

When they went back home, Lu Man received a message from Hu Zhonghui. "Lu Man, you're on the top search charts again."

"How come?" Lu Man thought it was strange. She did not attend any activities recently, so why would she make it to the top search charts?

"It's the competition with the exchange team," Hu Zhonghui replied excitedly. "Because your show was directed personally by Director Deng Xu, the news media originally went because of Deng Xu to report on him. But the audience recorded your live performance and uploaded it online. Although the video quality is not very clear because it's recorded by phone, the judges' comments for you could be heard clearly."

"Be it Deng Xu, Xu Jiashan, or those two actors from Broadway, all of them had high praise for you. Afterward, the school even uploaded an official video of it. So the performance quality of all the other teams was even more apparent. In this way, since you got unanimous praise from the judges, you got on the hot search topics."

Hu Zhonghui smiled and said, "Take a look at it yourself. Because of this, someone revealed that our school had never won against the students from New York University before, so the victory this time was all the more meaningful."

After ending the call, Lu Man went to look at it.

It was rare that the comments this time were mostly positive.

"In the past, people said that Lu Man relied on Han Zhuoli. Why don't they take a look now? Director Xu Jiashan has had a good reputation all this time, and he had only been in the field of theater, which does not overlap with the entertainment industry side. He does not rely on the Han Corporation for anything either. He can't possibly need to give the Han Corporation face, right? Furthermore, those two actors from Broadway, don't tell me they have to bow to the pressure of the Han Corporation as well? Don't be ridiculous! Is it so hard to admit that Lu Man is outstanding?"

"I watched the complete version of the video once. Even if I did not watch closely, I could also tell that the NFA acted better. And after hearing the judges and Director Deng Xu's comments, I deliberately went back again to rewatch Lu Man's performance and realized that their comments were right. The second time I watched, I still could not help but focus my attention on Lu Man. So for the third time, I reminded myself to better not look at Lu Man. Even when Lu Man was the main focus of the scene, I would also look at other students, and I noticed that just like what the judges said, each time Lu Man switched the focus back onto herself, it was always when her classmates' performance were lacking."

“Lu Man could be said to really be considerate of the big picture. She would give way when she was supposed to, and she could accurately capture an appropriate moment when the other party was lacking to shift the audience’s attention away. Even if I’m just a normal audience and never learned acting before, I too knew that this should be quite difficult to do.”

“When is Lu Man going to act in plays? I will definitely buy tickets to support her.”

Chapter 1727: Invite

“I usually watch plays from Sesame Theater, because they’re lighthearted and humorous. Director Xu Jiashan’s plays have some depth, but they’re a little too solemn. Work and life is already quite busy and tough, I don’t want to make my heart feel even heavier during my entertainment and leisure time. But this time, even I want to go and support Lu Man. If Lu Man is participating in the next play, no matter how heavy the topic is, I will want to go and watch. I really want to see Lu Man’s live performance.”

“This is crazy. Our Man had just become so wildly popular in the film scene, now she is about to go into the field of theater. I wonder if the theater scene is harmonious? They better not be like some other people who have been so petty previously.”

Lu Man did not know whether to laugh or cry. Director Xu Jiashan only proposed an invitation.

Be it the exact role and script, she had not even seen it for herself. Whether she would really act in it or not, she was not sure of it herself too.

The netizens were already discussing it as if it would definitely happen.

Of course, there were also haters who said, “It will be quite nice if your Man didn’t go and pollute other people’s plays.”

Lu Man shook her head. She probably did not care at all about these comments.

She browsed through the comments to get a sense of what was being said. There was nothing really new about the comments, so she stopped looking at them.

Who knew if it was a coincidence or not, but she had just topped the news today when Xu Jiashan personally called her.

When Lu Man saw the unknown number, she thought it was a harassment call at first.

When she answered it, she heard the other party say, “Hello, Lu Man, I am Xu Jiashan.”

“Director Xu, hello,” Lu Man quickly said.

“I asked for your contact number just now and just called so presumptuously.” Xu Jiashan smiled and said, “I was too happy previously, so I forgot about such an important thing as asking for your contact.”

“It’s like this. Didn’t we agree earlier on to let you come and act in my new play?” Xu Jiashan said.

“Whenever you’re free, you can come by and we can have a detailed chat on the roles, as well as the contract, how many times you will perform, and all these sorts of things.”

Lu Man did not expect Xu Jiashan to look for her so quickly and said, “Director Xu, I didn’t expect you to look for me so soon. It’s like this, my school doesn’t allow Year Threes and below to go out and accept

acting jobs. And I would still have to make a trip to New York next academic semester to continue participating in the competition there. So as for the play, I will have to report it to the school first and wait for the school leaders to agree.”

“Certainly,” Xu Jiashan said understandingly. Also, he felt that as long as Lu Man was the one raising a request, the school leaders of the NFA would not reject it.

“I will ask now and get back to you thereafter,” Lu Man said.

Xu Jiashan had already contacted her personally. She naturally had to react equally positively.

After ending the call, Lu Man called Principal Liu and told him about this.

Principal Liu immediately said, “Go! Of course you have to go. When Director Xu invited you that day, I already thought about it. The best is if you can go participate in it before your competition. In this way, it can serve as a very good learning opportunity to improve your skills.”

“A play has very high demands for stage performance and adaptability in live performance. It’s not like a drama or film, where you can NG and retake it if you forgot a line. For plays, as long as you are up on stage and have started acting, even if you forgot the script, you have to adapt and think on the spot to come up with a line. Even if you are stuck, you have to think of a way not to let the audience notice, to make the performance flow smoothly. To be honest, it’s much harder than filming a drama or film. It’s rare for one to get this opportunity. It would be fine if it was a normal play, but this is directed by Xu Jiashan. It’s such a rare opportunity, so you must definitely participate in it.”

“Professional theater actors with rich experience in theater works participate in his plays. Very capable film or drama actors also do so. An opportunity like this where you can learn from both sides is really quite a rare occurrence.”

Chapter 1728: It Won’t Be a Good Thing for You

“Basically, when it comes to Xu Jiashan’s plays, newcomers have very little chance of getting admitted. It’s much better than you studying in school. Although the school does not allow Year Threes and below to go out and casually take on acting jobs, I already said before during that time when you and Zhang Xiaoying had a scandal that if there was really a rare opportunity, the school would not stop students from accepting that rare opportunity,” Principal Liu said. “Don’t worry, just go. If anyone raises doubt, I will come out to handle it.”

Lu Man said her thanks and ended the call before giving Xu Jiashan her reply.

The two of them agreed that she would go to Xu Jiashan’s theatrical company on Tuesday to take a look before confirming which role and how many times she was to act for.

Xu Jiashan’s plays toured all over the country.

In the selected cities, there would be a few runs of the productions.

It was not just for appearance’s sake, but also because it was rare for the audience to be able to see those renowned actors’ performances up close, so each show would be sold out and the tickets would all be snatched up during the pre-sales.

The next day was Monday.

Lu Man went to the theater company to meet Xu Jiashan according to their agreed time.

When she reached Xu Jiashan's office, Xu Jiashan showed the script to Lu Man.

"This is not the final script, there are still some minor edits to be made. So after the roles are confirmed, which is around the end of the month, we will start rehearsals officially. Before the New Year, we will commence our debut show in B City and see the audience's reaction to it. After the New Year's break, we will start going on the tour performance in other locales," Xu Jiashan said. "I chose a few roles for you. You are quite flexible, so there are no fixed roles that you can play. I looked through the roles, and there are three roles you can take on where the effect will be the best. You can take a look at these three and see which one you are more keen on."

"The number of parts is almost the same across these three roles, but they're not leading roles. They're probably second- or third-line roles, but it's hard to say for now, because the script still needs to undergo some edits," Xu Jiashan explained. "I am very confident in your acting and admire your acting a lot as well, but you're a newcomer, after all. I can't bear to give you a role that has too few parts. But if I gave you a role that has too many parts, I'm afraid those experienced actors wouldn't be able to stomach it. It won't be a good thing for you."

Lu Man nodded. "I understand. Actually, when I agreed to your invitation, I did not think that I would get a role with a lot of parts either. I didn't even think of getting a second- or third-line role. I was talking to my principal about this, and it's just like what he said. To be able to participate and act in your plays is already a very rare opportunity. The purpose of my coming over is to learn. Whether the role is significant or not, it doesn't matter to me."

Xu Jiashan laughed and said, "You may say that, but I don't want to waste your talent as well. It's mainly because you are a newcomer, and even though you have experience acting on stage, that was only a 20-minute short play. You haven't acted in a proper, complete play with numerous scenes and so do not have much experience in that. That's why I didn't dare to assign a role with too many parts for you at first as well. When you've become more familiar with the performance methods of theater, you can take up the challenge of acting in more significant roles."

Xu Jiashan paused for a moment before he smiled and said, "But given your standard, I believe your rise in the entertainment industry will be very fast. When the time comes, there will be a bunch of people waving their scripts at you for you to act in their shows. You'll be too busy by then and won't have many opportunities to come and act in plays anymore."

"In my view, theater is a very specialized place for honing one's acting skills," Lu Man said. "It's still too early to talk about the future now, but if there really comes a day when I am that busy, no matter how busy I am, I will still take out some time to act in theatrical plays."

"Hahahaha, I'm content just with these words you said." Xu Jiashan then talked more about the details with Lu Man.

Chapter 1729: A Little Off

“This is the contract. You don’t need to rush to sign it either. You can bring it back and see if there’s any issue. If there is, we can talk about it, and once we confirm that there are no more issues, we can sign the contract,” Xu Jiashan said.

Lu Man did not reject it and agreed to it before putting away the contract.

She decided to go back and take a proper look at it.

“Come, I’ll show you around our company,” Xu Jiashan said. “After a month or so, you will be coming here to rehearse.”

Lu Man stood up and followed Xu Jiashan out.

Xu Jiashan toured Lu Man around each part of the company.

“This is where we usually rehearse,” Xu Jiashan said. “This is the big stage, used for the final rehearsals. Everyone is gathered together to put up a complete production. But because we also have some talented artistes from the film and drama fields that come here to act, sometimes their schedule does not allow them to stay here to rehearse every day. Sometimes, when the timings don’t match, we have a few other smaller rooms. Those are for them to rehearse individually.”

Xu Jiashan then brought Lu Man to see a few small practicing rooms.

It was basically similar to the ones at the NFA.

“Director Xu.” In one of the training rooms, a female actress was rehearsing. When she saw Xu Jiashan, she came over.

Lu Man was not familiar with actors in the theater scene. Even if they were famous actors, Lu Man did not know many of them.

All the more, she did not know who the person before her was.

“Teacher Wu,” Xu Jiashan politely greeted. “This is Lu Man. She will come in for our next play. I’m showing her around to familiarize her with the place.”

“Hello, Teacher Wu.” Lu Man did not know what she taught, but since Xu Jiashan called her that, she just followed along.

Teacher Wu smiled and said, “Director Xu actually personally brought you over to familiarize you with the surroundings.”

Lu Man smiled but did not say anything. Hearing this Teacher Wu’s tone, it sounded a little off.

Xu Jiashan seemed to not be able to tell and continued saying, “Although Lu Man is new, her acting is not lacking at all. It’s rare that I met such an outstanding newcomer after so many years, so I can’t miss this chance. Teacher Wu, didn’t you watch the video online of Lu Man’s performance?”

Wu Jingli smiled. “I saw it. It’s not bad for a newcomer. It’s good for her to come to the theater to hone her skills.”

Wu Jingli glanced at Lu Man and asked Xu Jiashan, “Is her role confirmed?”

“Lu Man will play the role of Man Yun,” Xu Jiashan said.

Wu Jingli’s face changed immediately. Lu Man was a newcomer and was still a student. For her to be able to come in and act in Xu Jiashan’s plays, Wu Jingli felt that Xu Jiashan could very likely be doing it on Han Zhuoli’s account.

And that Xu Jiashan only agreed because Han Zhuoli asked.

Spotted Lu Man’s acting skills, he said? She did not believe it.

She was just a student. How good could she be?

She felt that if it’s just to give Han Zhuoli face, it would be enough if he just randomly gave Lu Man a small role.

As long as Lu Man came in to participate, she would be able to learn many things. This was already a huge benefit.

Who knew that Xu Jiashan would actually give Lu Man such an important role?

And Man Yun was a role she had always wanted to play.

From the first time she saw the script until now, she’d been mentioning to Xu Jiashan before that she wanted to play the role of Man Yun.

She knew the lead role was out of the question. Even the most experienced actors from the film and drama fields would not be guaranteed a lead role if they came asking for it.

But these kinds of second- or third-line roles that were also quite significant, these had always been her roles to play.

Yet this time, he directly gave it to Lu Man!

Chapter 1730: Ultimately, She’s the Incapable One

Why should she get it?!

She wanted to see how Lu Man would perform in that role!

No matter which industry, people who were incapable yet still came in with special rights and hoarded resources were always disliked.

In Wu Jingli’s eyes, Lu Man was such a person.

But in front of Xu Jiashan, Wu Jingli did not feel good expressing that out, so she smiled patronizingly and said, “Then, Director Xu, I will carry on with my rehearsal.”

Wu Jingli went back to the training room. After Xu Jiashan showed Lu Man around, he sent her out and said, “Wu Jingli’s acting skills are not bad. She probably feels that you are young, so she could not take it that you took such an important role the moment you came in.”

If something like this happened right at the start before choosing the role, Lu Man would probably take a step back and choose a less important role.

Anyway, she was just here to learn.

But now, the role had already been fixed, and she did like the role of Man Yun and was confident that she would be able to act it out well.

At this point, she would not back down.

“I know,” Lu Man said confidently. “Thank you, Director Xu, for your faith in me and for entrusting such an important role to me. I will definitely act it well. I am confident about this.”

For Xu Jiashan to pick out three characters for her to choose from, this was already not the kind of treatment that normal actors received.

“As long as I act well and use my capability to speak for me, this kind of superficial targeting would at least not exist. As for what other people are thinking deep down, I have no right to interfere with that.” And can’t be bothered with it either.

“I didn’t think that not only is your acting good, even your thinking is very transparent.” Xu Jiashan shook his head and laughed. “It’s probably because you have such an astute mind that you’re able to have a good grasp of your acting.”

Lu Man took the script home with her.

As the script was not finalized yet, Lu Man was not in a rush to memorize it but was first focused on familiarizing herself with the story, analyzing the role of Man Yun, and thinking of how to interpret this role and have an image of this role in her heart.

When Han Zhuoli came back, Lu Man showed him the contract.

“You take a look and see how it is. I looked through it and don’t think there’s a problem,” Lu Man said.

Han Zhuoli took over the contract and said, “I think Xu Jiashan wouldn’t resort to setting traps for you in the contract.”

Xu Jiashan was not that dumb.

With Han Zhuoli around, Xu Jiashan would not insert any loopholes into the contract.

Or else, if it was someone else who was a newcomer like Lu Man, how would he let her take the contract back to scrutinize it and renegotiate whatever she felt was not appropriate?

It was impossible, and the contract would surely contain quite a lot of unequal clauses.

It was up to you to sign it.

Han Zhuoli directly sent a copy of the contract to his lawyer.

“But which role did you choose?” Han Zhuoli took over the contract that Lu Man was passing to him and casually flipped through it.

“Take a look. Besides the lead role, which other characters do you think stand out the most?” Lu Man said as she smiled.

Han Zhuoli really started looking seriously at it.

“Probably Man Yun,” Han Zhuoli said. “Although I only started looking at it, at least the moment she comes out, the show becomes quite interesting.”

“Yeah. I chose her. Director Xu let me choose whichever I wanted,” Lu Man said. “I didn’t think someone else was also eying this character. I probably already offended one person before I officially went in.”

“What’s wrong with that? Ultimately, she’s the incapable one. If her acting was that good, Xu Jiashan would not have agreed to giving that role to you just because of your background. The first thing he has to ensure is the quality of the play. He took the initiative to let you choose among these three characters, so it shows that he thinks you are up to the task and are more suitable than anyone else,” Han Zhuoli said without minding it at all.