

Mr Han 2361

Chapter 2361: Looking for Someone

There were dozens of theaters all over the street.

And this street was collectively known as Broadway.

Broadway was divided into Inner Broadway and Outer Broadway.

Inner Broadway was from Street 44 to Street 53.

Outer Broadway was from Street 41 to Street 56.

Classic, popular, and commercial repertoires were staged in Inner Broadway.

In contrast, some experimental, not well-known, and low-cost repertoires were staged in Outer Broadway.

Robert and Hayer were naturally in Inner Broadway.

But the two of them would occasionally perform in Outer Broadway.

They often received some pioneering and niche scripts.

The theaters had hoped that they could come and perform so that the popularity of their repertoires would be raised and more people would watch them.

Both of them would really look at these scripts. If they really came across good ones, they would also accept them and perform in Outer Broadway. It was just that the number of performances was few.

Xiao Guo stopped the car at the entrance of the theater that was written on Robert's name card. He let Lu Man alight from the car before looking for a place to park it.

Lu Man then entered the theater alone.

The place where actors usually rehearsed was definitely out of bounds for people.

When Lu Man looked at the recent performances, she saw that there was a performance of "The Phantom of the Opera" that night. Robert happened to be performing in it.

Hence, Lu Man went to enquire if she could buy tickets for tonight.

She didn't expect to be lucky as there were still tickets for the box.

Lu Man then bought two tickets.

The rest of them had their own activities.

The two elders, Shen Nuo, and Lin Liye had already gone for a tour with the chauffeur, who drove them in a camper van.

Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya naturally had their own couple dates.

Not to mention Wang Juhuai and Xia Qingwei.

Lu Man thought for a while and took Robert's name card out. "Is Robert here now?"

The opposite party saw that Lu Man actually had Robert's private name card.

Robert also had two types of name cards. One type was for official business collaborations, and the other type was for personal friends.

Robert's number was on this card, but Lu Man did not call him. It was obvious that she wanted to personally meet him.

"He's rehearsing. I'll bring you in," the opposite party said.

Lu Man didn't expect the opposite party to agree so quickly.

On the way, Lu Man directly questioned the opposite party in curiosity.

The opposite party didn't expect Lu Man to be so straightforward in her question, and he liked her temperament.

Hence, he smiled and explained, "This name card that Robert had given you is his private name card. The fact that he has given it to you shows that you're someone with whom he's personally on good terms. Hence, I naturally won't stop you. Moreover, Robert's personal number is on this card, and you didn't call him. You wanted to come here and give him a surprise, right?"

Lu Man explained, "I'm a student from the National Film Academy. Robert and Hayer previously came over to be judges. They saw my performance and gave me this name card. They said that I could come over and take a look if there was a chance to do so. I just arrived here yesterday and thought of seeing him today."

The opposite party did not think that Robert and Lu Man had any kind of relationship between men and women at all.

This was because Robert liked men.

Hence, it was impossible for him to like Lu Man.

He had really thought highly of Lu Man's performance.

Furthermore, Robert was an upright person. He would never use the reason of "guiding" anyone, and giving anyone a chance, or doing anything to obtain all kinds of benefits.

Robert's character was acknowledged as good in the circle.

A short while later, they reached the place of rehearsal in the theater.

It was the same as Lu Man's theater in her country.

They rehearsed on the stage. The audience seats were below the stage.

That staff member said, "They're rehearsing now and can't be interrupted."

Chapter 2362: Do as the Natives Do

The opposite party glanced at the time. "It's almost their break time. There's roughly another ten minutes more."

Lu Man understood him and said, "I'll sit here and wait for a while. Thank you for bringing me over. Sorry to have disturbed you."

"No problem. If there's nothing else, I'll go back to work," the opposite party said.

He had just finished speaking when someone's voice was heard. "Lu Man?"

The two of them looked back together and saw Hayer walking over.

The staff member then greeted Hayer. Lu Man also quickly got up.

"I saw you just now, but I wasn't certain. I was wondering why you would appear here and thought that I had recognized the wrong person. I didn't expect that it would really be you," Hayer said, smiling.

Following that, he hugged Lu Man warmly.

It was very common for the people here to greet one another in such a warm manner.

Lu Man was also not coy and did what the natives do.

"The four performing schools in our country have selected ten people to form a team of exchange students to come to New York University to study. I'm one of them. However, as I just got married, I did not follow the team over. My husband had settled his work in the country and followed me over this time," Lu Man explained.

When that staff member saw that Hayer and Lu Man knew each other and that they looked so warm with each other, he was even more certain that Lu Man's relationship with Robert was good.

He also did not immediately leave when he saw Hayer.

When he heard Lu Man say this, he said with surprise, "You're actually married! Are you an adult?"

As Lu Man had a small frame and did not put on make up, she really looked like a minor to them.

Lu Man was slightly embarrassed. "I'm already 24."

"Oh gosh, I really couldn't tell," the opposite party said with surprise. "Asian girls like you all really look very young. I completely can't tell your age."

"Ha ha ha, so why did you come here?" Hayer asked.

"I just reported to school today. I was also thinking that since I'm already here, I'll have to see you and Robert. Furthermore, I indeed have a matter to ask if you have the time," Lu Man said.

While they were talking, Robert's side had finished rehearsing and they were going to have a break.

Upon seeing that, Hayer shouted as he waved to Robert, who was preparing to go backstage. "Robert, look, see who's here!"

When Robert heard Hayer, he looked over.

He saw Lu Man from far and was surprised and happy.

He immediately got down from the stage and smiled as he ran toward this side.

“Lu Man!” Robert shouted with surprise and gave Lu Man a big hug.

When the staff member who previously brought Lu Man over saw this, he knew that his earlier judgment was right.

The relationship between Robert and Lu Man was indeed very good.

Lu Man also didn’t expect to meet Robert more than once.

Robert had left after being a judge.

But after meeting Robert again, she actually did not feel unfamiliar with him at all. Instead, she felt even more joyful.

This was probably that legendary sense of feeling like they’re old friends at the first meeting.

“I didn’t expect you to really come.” Robert was so happy that he could not close his mouth.

Lu Man said, “I even bought tickets for ‘Phantom of the Opera’ tonight. I saw that you’re performing.”

“Ha ha ha ha ha!” Robert laughed loudly. “This is a drama that I’ve acted in for many years. Besides feeling nervous the first time I went on stage, I never felt nervous ever since. But I suddenly feel very nervous knowing that you are watching the performance tonight. I’m very afraid that I won’t act well and disappoint you.”

Chapter 2363: You Are Treating Yourself as an Outsider

“Please don’t say this.” Lu Man smiled and said, “I don’t believe that you won’t act well.”

Robert looked at the time and said, “It happens to be mealtime now. Come, let’s go have a meal and slowly chat.”

“You have a performance tonight, so you’ll have to protect your voice. Can you just eat anything?” Lu Man asked.

She had also acted in stage plays before and was aware of this.

Stage actors were very protective of their own voices.

“I can’t really eat. I can only have some light vegetables. But it’s not a problem to see you all eat,” Robert said.

“Better not. Why don’t we have a good chat after your performance tonight?” Lu Man smiled and said, “I bought two tickets. I’ll be attending with my husband.”

Hayer also waved the ticket in his hand. “I’ve also bought a ticket.”

Hayer was not taking part in “The Phantom of the Opera.” As he did not have other repertoires tonight and was free, he wanted to come over and watch Robert’s performance.

Robert smiled as he complained, “The two of you have a way to contact me. If you want to watch the performance, I could have given you all tickets. Why do you need to buy them?”

“Right. Lu Man said that she had come over to ask if we have any spare time,” Hayer said. “What’s the matter?”

“It’s like this. Our student exchange team has come over to study. There’ll be an exchange competition in one week. However, we are unable to find any teacher who’s willing to help us rehearse,” Lu Man said. “Hence, I wanted to ask you two whether you have any spare time. If you have no time, do you know of any stage actor who is free to help us?”

When she saw Robert’s rehearsal just now, she felt that Robert and Hayer were probably very busy.

“It’s a small matter.” Hayer waved his hand. “My play had just ended yesterday. I don’t have any performances this week, so I can help you all rehearse.”

Robert also smiled and said, “Me too. After tonight’s performance, there’ll only be another round next week. If it clashes with my rehearsal, both Hayer and I can stagger our timing to help you all rehearse.”

Lu Man didn’t expect Robert and Hayer to agree so readily.

These two people were god-level figures on the Broadway stage.

“Thank you. Thank you so much!” Lu Man was grateful and touched. “I... I don’t know what to say. I don’t know how to show you both my gratitude.”

She originally thought that if she could have Robert recommend an experienced stage actor, one who did not have to be famous, to help guide them, it was already sufficient.

However, she didn’t expect Robert and Hayer to agree to personally guide them so directly and forthrightly.

They did not even ask about the details like the students’ situation, capabilities, and standards, etc. They had agreed just like that.

“Hey, you are treating yourself as an outsider,” Robert said. “This is also not a big matter. Instead, I want to complain. If not for this matter that you require our help with, were you not planning to come and look for us?”

“No!” Lu Man hurriedly waved her hand to deny it. “I originally wanted to come and look for you both, and it so happened that I have this matter too. I also thought that it would be too insincere to talk to you through the phone. Hence, I came over to take a look first. Even if you two were not around, it’s also good for me to come and enrich my knowledge.”

“Hahaha, I’m kidding,” Robert said. “After my performance tonight, we’ll look for a cafeteria and slowly talk about the details. It’s common for the people here to have dinner later, especially those people who come here to watch performances. They like to have drinks after watching the performances. Hence, the cafeterias nearby are open until very late.”

Chapter 2364: Very Unaccomplished

"I happen to know of a restaurant nearby that serves really good food. It's very suitable for drinking and chatting over a meal," Hayer said.

Hence, the three of them agreed on that.

Lu Man still had to go and find Han Zhuoli first. Robert then went backstage to rest and Hayer accompanied him.

She reached the company. This was Lu Man's first time coming to the Han Corporation's company over here.

There were much fewer Asian faces and many more Western faces, so it looked quite fascinating too.

Zheng Tianming also accompanied Han Zhuoli to come over. He did not come over at first.

But Han Zhuoli realized that he was still used to Zheng Tianming coming over to be his assistant, so he called Zheng Tianming over.

When they were about to arrive, Xiao Guo notified Zheng Tianming in advance.

So when Lu Man arrived, Zheng Tianming was already waiting at the door.

The employees passing by saw Zheng Tianming coming down to fetch Lu Man personally, and judging from Lu Man's Asian-looking face, they easily guessed that she was either Han Zhuoli's wife or Han Zhuoling's girlfriend.

Anyway, not long after Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling came, they'd learned that Han Zhuoli was married and that Han Zhuoling also had a girlfriend.

But judging from how Zheng Tianming was the one who came down, this lady was most likely Han Zhuoli's wife, their Mrs. President.

Indeed, not long after, they got confirmation.

Colleagues who went on business trips to the company's headquarters in the home country confirmed that this was, indeed, Lu Man, Han Zhuoli's wife.

Everyone could not help but gasp. This Madam was way too young.

Had she come of age yet?

Who knew that their CEO who was so accomplished at a young age actually liked such a young lady.

Even Han Zhuoli did not expect that after simply having Lu Man come over to the company to accompany him, he would get a bad reputation of liking underage girls.

Wasn't this aggrieving?

Lu Man entered Han Zhuoli's office and did not expect that Han Zhuoli had just got done with his work and was packing his things.

"Why did you only come now?" Han Zhuoli pulled her over.

“Our exchange team couldn’t find a teacher to come and help us rehearse. The teachers at school either aren’t willing to take up this unrewarding task or they had work and had no time. So I just went to the theater where Robert is at, thinking of asking if he can introduce an experienced stage actor to come and help us rehearse,” Lu Man explained.

“After all, we are going to act out a scene from Shakespeare’s play. Be it in culture or performance method, the teachers here would be more suitable. If there’s really no choice, then we can ask teachers from our country to come over. That’s what the teachers in the country think as well, so they didn’t come over at the start.

“Surprisingly, the moment I mentioned it, Robert and Hayer agreed very readily. The two of them would personally come and guide us with our rehearsals,” Lu Man said as she smiled.

“Why didn’t you come and ask me to help?” Han Zhuoli asked.

“If I asked you for help, even if you found an experienced stage actor or director, we’d still have to see if the person had the time,” Lu Man said.

Hollywood had many actors who would also go and participate in stage performances, so they were quite experienced with stage performances too.

“But as for the actors here, the constraints on them are not as big as they are in the country. They won’t be like those in our country who will help at once,” Lu Man said. “I was thinking, if Robert and Hayer’s side didn’t work, only then could I come and ask you for help to see if we could find someone.”

“You, seriously. Every time, you will resolve the situation by yourself first, making me feel very unaccomplished, unable to help you do anything,” Han Zhuoli said, feeling a little dejected.

Chapter 2365: What Is This Thing?

“Who said so? If not because I have you backing me up, how can I be so fearless as to dare to provoke anyone without feeling scared at all? Where does my confidence come from? Doesn’t all of this come from you?” Lu Man smiled and said, “If not for you, I won’t dare to be so arrogant.

“Actually, I know that I am just exploiting your power when intimidating others.” Lu Man did not beat around the bush about this at all and had acknowledged it openly.

Anyway, she was just relying on Han Zhuoli’s presence.

Her capability was one thing. With Han Zhuoli around, she could then not be afraid of those people taking revenge.

Even if she had not publicly announced her relationship with Han Zhuoli, Han Zhuoli had been her boyfriend, fiance, and now husband.

This status would not change.

He would not have held back from protecting her just because they had not publicly announced their relationship before.

She was never afraid of other people taking revenge and could even confront them to their face.

And this was precisely because Han Zhuoli ensured that she always stood on the winning ground the entire time.

It was because she felt so secure knowing that she had a backer that she could be completely fearless without worrying about needing an escape route or suffering the consequences.

If she was all by herself, fighting her lone battle, then she would not have dared to be so daring.

Every step she took, she would have had to consider the consequences of failure.

Every step had to have all kinds of backup plans, and she'd choose the plan where she would lose the least if she failed. Yet such plans would surely return the least rewards if she won too.

She would just be playing it safe.

She would expend her effort and would definitely not have it so easy as she did now.

There were always people who say that she relied on Han Zhuoli, that without Han Zhuoli, she would not have been so arrogant and achieved the accomplishments she had now.

Actually, she felt that those people were right too.

It was indeed so.

Everything she had now, it was all because she had Han Zhuoli.

So, such comments were never denied by her, and she never defended herself against them.

Because she felt the same way too.

Han Zhuoli then also felt that he was not completely useless.

He pulled Lu Man over to give her a kiss and asked, "What do you want to eat for dinner?"

Although they came as one big family, they'd all formed their own small circles.

So the others did not disrupt their couple time at all.

"Ah, right. I even bought tickets to Broadway." Lu Man took them out from her bag and ended up taking out the slip of notebook paper on which Oren had written his phone number as well.

Han Zhuoli did not notice it at first. After all, it was just a random piece of paper, and the part of it sticking out was blank.

Lu Man herself forgot too.

When she took out this piece of paper, she even felt confused. When did she have that extra piece of paper in her bag?

"When did I get this paper?" Lu Man mumbled to herself, and she even opened up the paper in front of Han Zhuoli.

Yet the moment they saw Oren's name written on it, his phone number written at the back...

"What is this thing?" Han Zhuoli instantly regained focus.

He simply took the piece of paper and said, "Oren?"

Han Zhuoli muttered the name a few times but did not recall who Oren was.

"Ah, I remember it now. Today, when I went to school, I had the chance to attend a class. Oren is a student from their acting major, and he has a bit of fame. He said that if our exchange team needs any help, I can look for him, then he left his number behind. I didn't think it was good to just throw it away in front of him, so I just put it in my bag first. Then I ended up forgetting about it."

The last sentence Lu Man said sounded really pleasing to Han Zhuoli.

Lu Man did not intend to keep it at first, and because she did not care about it, she forgot about it afterward.

But seeing Oren's sneaky intentions, Han Zhuoli scoffed. "Hah, he only gave out his number today. This shows that he didn't give it to your classmates previously. If he had, he won't have needed to give it to you again today."

Chapter 2366: He Did a Good Job as a Husband

"If he really wanted to help, he would have helped long ago. Why did he need to wait until you came to talk about helping and even specifically give you his number?" Han Zhuoli scoffed and said, "That sl*t."

This was the first time Lu Man had heard Han Zhuoli scolding someone like this, and he was even calling a man a sl*t, which made her feel dumbstruck.

Right after, she started laughing.

"You could still laugh when you're already on someone's mind!" Han Zhuoli said with his teeth clenched.

After saying that, he caressed Lu Man in his embrace.

This little girl, why was she always on other people's minds wherever she went!

He did not even get such attention from others. It was actually Lu Man who did.

They couldn't even stop for a moment with it!

Lu Man was laughing non-stop in Han Zhuoli's arms. She laughed until her shoulders shook.

"Him being concerned about me has nothing to do with me. I won't bother about him." Lu Man raised her head from Han Zhuoli's arms and said, "Aish. But you are really impressive, you got the point instantly."

"There's no use sweet-talking me," Han Zhuoli said, gritting his teeth. He then tightened his arms around her waist and said, "My wife is on someone else's mind right now. I am angry."

"What's there to be angry about? This shows that you married a very charming wife." Lu Man blinked and said, "Shouldn't you be happy about that?"

"I can't be happy. I want to go and make that sl*t dispel that idea," Han Zhuoli said with a dark expression.

Yet this made Lu Man laugh even more.

She tiptoed and kissed Han Zhuoli on the chin. "When he gave me the number at first, I really didn't think of this. I didn't notice it previously, but the incident this time reminded me of it.

"I then realized that after I got married to you, my sensitivity in this aspect seems to have dulled quite a lot. He suddenly expressed his goodwill, but I didn't think he had me on his mind. I just felt that he didn't have good intentions, but I didn't know what he was planning."

Did Oren fall in love with her at first sight?

Lu Man definitely did not believe that.

She did not think she had such a huge charm.

She thought that Oren probably just wanted to have fun and look for some thrill.

Lu Man honestly told Han Zhuoli everything about Oren.

"This afternoon, when I was coming back, I ran into Oren again on campus. But at that time, Han Leilei was beside me. When Oren was chatting with us along the way, his intentions became a little obvious, and that's why I noticed."

As for Oren wanting to call her Lu or Man, Lu Man did not mention anything.

Seeing that Han Zhuoli was already quite angry, she just told him about Oren's intentions. As for that matter, forget it. Who knew how angry Han Zhuoli would get if he found out?

Lu Man was more concerned that her reaction was so slow.

This was really not good.

Han Zhuoli tore up Oren's number without even thinking about it and threw it into the rubbish bin.

Seeing that Han Zhuoli still had a dark look on his face, Lu Man said, "I think it's probably because you and I are together that I don't need to worry about anything. And I am already very contented to have you, so my sensitivity towards this aspect seem to have gotten reduced quite to nothing. As for other people expressing their interest or whatnot, I can't feel it at all. If not, I wouldn't only notice after Oren made it so obvious later on today."

Lu Man's words finally coaxed Han Zhuoli to smile happily.

Why was Lu Man dense when it came to romance?

That was because she did not give a damn at all about other men.

So, no matter how the other party expressed interest, she did not sense it at all.

This was also because he did a good job as a husband.

Chapter 2367: Shouldn't You Feed Me?

He did not make Lu Man feel displeased about any aspect of her married life. Actually, she thought that with marriage, her life had become even more complete and wonderful.

Most importantly, she only had him as her husband in her eyes, so she would not be able to receive any signals from other men.

The last point was the point that made Han Zhuoli the happiest.

Han Zhuoli then caressed Lu Man thoroughly.

Lu Man suddenly got carried up by him. When he turned, she felt that everything around her was spinning.

After a few seconds, she was placed on the office desk that was originally behind Han Zhuoli.

Han Zhuoli placed his long arms on both sides of her body on the office desk, trapping her in between.

“What do you want to eat tonight?” Han Zhuoli asked in a low, joking voice.

His unhappiness just now had been cast aside.

But his expression made Lu Man think that he was actually saying, “I want to eat you tonight.”

“How about we go and eat hotpot?” Lu Man asked. “I am sick of eating Western food here, it feels horrible.”

Lu Man really pined for Chinese food now.

Spicy and sour noodles, sweet and sour pork, handmade noodles, skewers, snail rice noodles, and even pickled vegetables, beef noodles, and Lao Gan Ma chili, she missed all of them.

But the Chinese food here was really not nice to eat.

To cater to the taste buds of the locals, the taste was completely different from authentic Chinese food.

And the dishes were the same few ones.

Governor Tso’s chicken was even a dish that had never been heard of before in the country, and it was completely not to her liking.

So now, Lu Man really missed the rich flavors of her country.

“Okay,” Han Zhuoli agreed with a smile.

He packed his files and brought Lu Man to eat hotpot.

At the mention of hotpot, one had to talk about Yan Beicheng, the glutton.

As he loved to eat Chongqing hotpot, he just opened his own hotpot store in the country.

And started a restaurant chain that could not be stopped.

Then, he opened a hotpot restaurant overseas.

According to Yan Beicheng, he simply wanted to let all his fellow compatriots abroad be able to eat authentic local flavors.

Hence, even if he had opened a hotpot restaurant overseas, he never intended to adjust to local taste buds and make any changes to the taste.

Yan Beicheng's original words were, "I opened it for Chinese nationals. If the others can't stand it, then they shouldn't eat it. Why should we make our fellow compatriots' taste buds suffer just because of them?"

Hence, no matter where, Yan Beicheng's hotpot restaurant was super authentic.

Although in some places, business was not as good as a result, Yan Beicheng said, "Your brother can afford the loss."

The hotpot restaurant Han Zhuoli and Lu Man went to was a hotpot restaurant Yan Beicheng had opened in New York.

The two of them ordered the classic yuan yang pot.

Although Lu Man liked spicy food, she could not stand putting all the vegetables into the pot filled with chili oil, which would make the vegetables extremely spicy.

Lu Man picked up a slice of beef from the pot of chili oil. The moment she put it in her mouth, the fragrant and rich spiciness instantly spread in her mouth, filling it up.

She could finally have a taste of her hometown, which made Lu Man so touched that she almost cried.

Lu Man could not help but close her eyes in satisfaction and even smiled.

"It tastes so good!" Lu Man said in satisfaction. "I really have to thank Yan Beicheng for opening such an authentic hotpot restaurant here."

"Why don't you thank me who've brought you here to eat hotpot?" Han Zhuoli was jealous.

"You are my husband. Shouldn't you feed me?" Lu Man said very naturally.

Han Zhuoli thought she was right too.

She would only thank Yan Beicheng because she was not close to him.

Thinking about that made Han Zhuoli feel very good.

The two of them chatted happily, feeling content with the authentic flavor of this hometown dish.

Chapter 2368: Plan

Thus, they did not see that at the other side of the restaurant, at a table far away from them, there actually sat Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun.

Wang Qianyun had noticed Han Zhuoli and Lu Man way earlier than Lin Jinshu.

The moment they came in, Wang Qianyun had already seen them.

The jealous rage in Wang Qianyun's eyes seemed as if they would flare out of her eyes.

Who knew that they could even run into Han Zhuoli and Lu Man together when they came out for a meal!

She did hear about Lu Man representing the National Film Academy and coming to participate in the exchange team competition.

But she did not expect that Han Zhuoli would actually come as well.

How much did Han Zhuoli like Lu Man?

He actually liked her so much that he could not bear to be apart from her even for a moment?

Even when Lu Man came to the US, he also wanted to come along!

Previously, when the exchange team came over, Wang Qianyun had even gone to ask around.

She finally found a job again. It was still at a film production company. It was not as big as Maxus Company, but it was also an up-and-coming company that could not be belittled.

It was still in the same industry, so it was easier to ask about this matter there.

She then learned that Lu Man did not come over and only the other nine people came.

The reason was that Lu Man was a newlywed and prioritized her family more, so she would only come over later.

“Hah!” Wang Qianyun scoffed. “That husband and wife are really very loving, eh? Lu Man pushed back the date of her arrival here, and Han Zhuoli left his work in the country behind to come and accompany her.

“I just don’t know if he will be accompanying Lu Man the whole way or would just be here for one or two days,” Wang Qianyun said with a face full of jealousy.

“We are clearly in the same restaurant. From the moment he came in, I already saw him. But he probably doesn’t even know I’m here!” Wang Qianyun was so furious that she trembled.

She once thought that she had been so close to Han Zhuoli.

Every time Han Zhuoli went to see Wang Juhuai, she was always there. She had interacted with Han Zhuoli at such close proximity, yet she was unable to get closer to his heart the entire time.

And now, they were clearly in the same restaurant, separated by a few tables, but Wang Qianyun felt that she was so far away from him.

Lin Jinshu also looked towards Han Zhuoli and Lu Man’s side and said, “They are already about to have the competition. You should start preparing now.”

“Don’t worry. I am just waiting for that day,” Wang Qianyun said. “And you, are you prepared?”

“Of course.” Lin Jinshu’s face hardened. “Even if I can’t get Wang Juhuai, I won’t let that sl*t Xia Qingwei have him so easily either!

“But for my plan to be executed, your plan has to succeed first,” Lin Jinshu said. “The moment one of us fails, it will affect the other.”

“Don’t worry,” Wang Qianyun said in a low voice. “Back then, I’d had no choice but to come back to hide temporarily. I have been waiting for Lu Man to come over all this time. I’ve already waited for so long, we can’t fail no matter what this time.”

Lin Jinshu then glanced at Han Zhuoli and Lu Man’s side and then said in a hushed voice to Wang Qianyun, “Let’s go first. Don’t let them see us.

“Before our plans are implemented, we must first keep a low profile. Han Zhuoli and Lu Man are way too smart. If they see the two of us now, they will surely keep their guard up,” Lin Jinshu warned.

Having not seen Han Zhuoli for so long, Wang Qianyun indeed could not bear to leave.

Although Han Zhuoli probably did not know of her presence there, Wang Qianyun still wanted to look at Han Zhuoli a little while more.

“As long as the plan succeeds, you have many chances in the future. Why bother with this little bit of time?” Lin Jinshu urged.

Wang Qianyun also knew the importance of being cautious now.

Chapter 2369: Distance

She had witnessed Lu Man’s capabilities before.

Han Zhuoli was fearsome enough, but Lu Man’s brains weren’t just for show either.

She really had to be more careful.

Wang Qianyun didn’t persist. Both called the waiter over softly to quickly pay their meal before exiting.

As they were waiting for the tab, they even turned their heads away from Han Zhuoli’s and Lu Man’s direction in their nervousness, fearing they would be spotted.

When the waiter finally came back, Lin Jinshu settled the bill and pulled Wang Qianyun out.

Wang Qianyun asked Lin Jinshu worriedly at the door, “They didn’t notice us, right?”

Lin Jinshu didn’t dare turn back at this time, fearing her strange action would draw stares.

But through the glass door’s reflection, she could barely make out Han Zhuoli’s area.

“No,” Lin Jinshu said. “Let’s go.”

Hence, both made a hasty escape.

Lu Man and Han Zhuoli both truly had no idea that the other two were in the same restaurant as well.

Both finished their hotpot and drove to the theater.

It was Lu Man’s first time, be it watching “The Phantom of the Opera” live or being in such a theater.

Even though she had come in the afternoon, everything was still new and curious to her when entering a proper concert hall.

The couple entered the VIP box located on the second floor.

Information about tonight's opera and the details about each act were placed at the side.

Further below was each actors' introduction.

Robert was the Phantom in this play.

The Phantom was to be masked throughout the play, meaning that the actor would be unable to fully express himself through his facial expression.

He could only portray his character through his body language and lines.

How deep an impression the audience was left with would be entirely up to the actor himself if the audience had not read the novel.

This placed a huge challenge on the actor.

Hence, Robert getting the role of the Phantom was a testament to his brilliant acting skills.

Lu Man even spotted Hayer sitting at the opposite side. He spotted them in return and waved at them with a huge grin.

She returned the gesture.

After a wait of nearly half an hour, the show started on time.

The lights dimmed, and only the stage spotlight was left on to draw focus to it.

Lu Man didn't expect Robert to be so good at singing as well.

Even if he was wearing a face mask and one was unable to see his face, the audience could still understand his character from his body language and tone.

And some even neglected the fact that he was masked.

The mask's features were fixed, but with Robert's acting, the mask seemed to come alive.

With their own emotions, it was as if the audience could see Robert's face through it.

All forgot about the mask resting on Robert's face, and it was as if they were looking at Robert's own face all this while.

Lu Man knew that there was a distance between her own acting and that of such a top-tier actor.

But seeing it with her own eyes made her realize how great that gap was.

Everyone was fully immersed.

When the performance ended, the applause was thunderous.

The clapping didn't stop until the curtains had closed.

Then, the actors returned to the stage thrice to give their thanks.

Chapter 2370: Laid Her Cards on the Table

Afterward, Lu Man followed Han Zhuoli to the backstage.

Hayer arrived too after Robert was done removing his makeup and changing clothes.

“Why so late?” Robert asked. “I’m already done changing, and now you get here.”

Hayer wiped his brow. “Got recognized by the fans on the way, so I got delayed by signing autographs and taking pictures.”

“Hahaha, look how exhausted you are. Let’s go for dinner!” Robert laughed.

“Come, come, follow me. I’ll lead the way.” Robert waved his hand.

Hence, the three others followed Robert to his recommended restaurant.

The restaurant’s atmosphere was one Lu Man liked.

Not elegant, but lively.

It was not a bar, but almost every diner had a big cup of beer and a few typical American dishes.

“We have a melting pot of food culture, from English, French, Portuguese, Italian, and such, and we’ve tweaked the recipes until they became dishes suiting our tastes and are specialties here. This restaurant is quite authentic, and beer goes well along with the food,” Hayer said.

The waiter came over, and Robert was responsible for ordering the dishes.

New York steak, beef satay, creamy baked mixed meat gratin, French country chicken soup, with fries as a side dish.

The diners all chatted happily as they ate, and the ladies even laughed heartedly, though not too loudly, with slightly exaggerated actions. But everyone knew they were relaxed here.

“Oh, right, tell me about your exchange team’s situation,” Robert said.

Lu Man first explained why the teachers never came over to help.

She also told him about their team’s standards.

Robert and Hayer would discover that when rehearsing with them anyway.

Hence, Lu Man directly laid all her cards on the table with Robert and Hayer.

She also made clear why those teachers were unwilling to help them rehearse. It was precisely because they were afraid of ruining their own reputation.

As top-tier actors, Robert and Hayer would naturally want to protect their reputations.

So Lu Man revealed everything at first to let both know their team’s situation.

It’s still not too late for them to back out now.

And if they did, Lu Man could understand.

Robert and Hayer could read between the lines, and both had no intention to go back on their word.

They had already expected it when they agreed.

Since they had witnessed it when they were judges at the National Film Academy previously.

Though the students who'd stayed at the school might be slightly worse than the ones in the exchange team, Robert and Hayer were both experienced.

Accounting for the differences, they could estimate the actual standards of the exchange students.

It wouldn't exceed their expectations.

"Understood. We'll go over tomorrow and do a simple test first to see the average standard, then do adjustments according to your classmates' standard and lay out a suitable script."

A difficult script was a challenge to their acting skills.

A good script, on the other hand, would be wasted if the actors were too subpar and made it rubbish.

Hence, apart from directing them, they needed to simplify the script until it suited Lu Man's classmates' abilities.

"However, that's too unfair for you," Robert said, "because you're capable of dealing with a brilliant but complicated script. Simplifying the script will restrict you, and no matter how good you are, you can't go beyond its upper limits."