

Mr Han 2381

Chapter 2381: Why Are They So Troublesome

But ultimately, the addition of Robert and Hayer still gave them some pressure.

The school finally learned of this matter as well.

“All this time, didn’t the exchange teams always look for teachers within the school to provide guidance? Why did they go and look for Robert and Hayer directly this time?” This matter alarmed the principal, who asked someone to find out more about the details.

The principal’s secretary said in a troubled tone, “I just went to ask. The students from the exchange team went to look for teachers yesterday, but they all got rejected. It was probably because of this that they thought of going out of the school to look for someone.”

The principal massaged his temples, feeling like he had developed a headache. “Doesn’t this show that no teacher in our school is willing to do it? They came to learn, to participate in the competition. Yet when they needed to learn and to compete, no teacher was willing to teach them. Then what’s the point of them coming over?”

“If word goes out, won’t our school become the butt of jokes? We welcomed the exchange students over, but we were thinking of ways to suppress them at the same time. We don’t even want to cooperate with them on the matter of assigning a teacher to guide them in their performance for the competition. It looks as if we can’t afford to lose.”

The principal stood up in anger and paced back and forth around the office desk.

The principal’s secretary consoled him and said, “Their capabilities are so far off from that of our students, we don’t need to use such methods to suppress them at all. We won’t lose at all, so no matter how impressive the teachers they found are, they won’t be able to win against us. This is because the gap between both sides is way too huge. It is not something they can achieve at all just based on any other matter within such a short period of time.

“I think everyone understands this point and won’t think that we are purposely trying to suppress them,” the principal’s secretary said.

The principal said in a vexed voice, “It’s precisely because of this that things are even more troublesome. Everyone knows the gap between both sides. They know that the exchange students won’t be able to defeat us no matter what. Yet even when things are like this, we still want to make things difficult for them. This makes us look so ungracious.

“Ungracious and lacking confidence,” the principal said. “The gap between our capabilities is clearly so big. We can clearly win for sure, but being so petty like this makes it look as if we are afraid that they will ambush us. It shows that we are lacking confidence in our current capabilities and are being nasty.

“And the teachers in our school are not professional enough. It’s not that they don’t want to teach the other party because they are afraid that they will win. They are scared that if the other side loses too badly, it will ruin their own reputation, so they didn’t want to teach them. If word of this goes out, it will

sound like our school's teachers are only willing to teach students with strong capabilities and don't care about the weaker students at all. Since they are so unprofessional, who will be willing to come to our school in the future?"

The principal scratched his head in vexation. "All these things, why are they so troublesome!"

The principal paced left and right in big strides and said, "The previous exchange students who came over from their side did not have so many issues. Why is there so much fuss this time around?!"

"Actually..." The principal's secretary hesitated for a moment.

The principal turned and asked, "Actually what?"

"Actually, before Lu Man came, those exchange students were quite quiet," the principal's secretary said. "Previously, because their capabilities were really too weak, they had been mocked by many students, who said their capabilities really could not make it. But as much as they were angry, they didn't really do anything and behaved quite honestly.

"And this was a matter among the students, so we didn't interfere either," the principal's secretary said. "I know that the exchange students certainly felt the injustice in their hearts, but they didn't make a scene at all.

"And then Lu Man came.." The principal's secretary felt tired just thinking about it. Why was there a thorn like Lu Man among this batch of exchange students?

Chapter 2382: Extremely Nasty

"She had only just arrived yesterday and she had already made a bet with Howard. Howard had already lost to her once before," the principal's secretary said. "When the second-string team went over for the exchange competition, they lost to the National Film Academy's team."

The principal felt a headache coming when he recalled this. "She was in that previous competition too?"

"Yes," the secretary replied. "Lu Man didn't come to our school along with her team. She only just arrived yesterday. So when the second-string team went over for the exchange, Lu Man was there too and participated in the competition. And then..."

"I know, I know. They won," the principal said in dejectedly. "Don't repeat it again."

"..." The secretary then said, "The moment she came yesterday, from what I know, it was Howard who challenged her first. Lu Man accepted Howard's challenge and won once again."

The principal felt even more dejected and frustrated.

The principal was so enraged that he slammed the table and said, "Is our school's second-string team standard only this high? If they lost once, it could be because they were unlucky, or they didn't manage to exercise their potential to the fullest and other reasons. But to lose twice in a row, that just means that his capabilities don't cut it!"

The principal asked, "As I recall, Howard is considered to be of quite a good caliber within the second-string team and ranks closer to the top, right?"

The secretary knew it a little better than the principal and said, "At that time, Shana went over from the top team to lead that team, so aside from Shana, he is the one with the strongest capabilities in that team."

"Yet in the end, he lost to Lu Man?" The principal was furious.

"..." The secretary could not bear to agitate him even more as he said, "And he got defeated instantly."

"That means his capabilities don't cut it!" The principal slammed the table in anger. "So this is the second-string team? In the past, even our second-string teams could instantly defeat those exchange students. Yet this year, we even lost twice in a row! Are they too proud and not motivated to improve themselves such that their capabilities fell short? Or if not that, what is it?"

"Judging from what I see, it's not that the second-string team fell short but that the National Film Academy rarely produced a student like Lu Man. If not for Lu Man, the second-string team would still have defeated them in an instant," the secretary said.

"Continue telling me. Howard lost, and then what happened?"

"They made a bet before their competition. Whoever lost will have to kneel down to the other party and slap him or herself, then promise not to provoke the other party in the future. This bet was suggested by Howard himself." And it had always been Howard one-sidedly provoking her. "Yesterday, after Lu Man won, she really insisted on making Howard kneel down and slap himself."

"Howard was willing to do it?" the principal asked.

"What could he do? He said that in front of so many people. I heard he wanted to just gloss over things, but Lu Man did not let him. Her teammates also surrounded Howard."

After such a huge embarrassment, the principal felt his head ache.

"I asked around. Lu Man is not an easy target to provoke back in their country. Quite a lot of people have suffered at her hands," the secretary said. "So... it's also only after Lu Man came that issues started cropping up non-stop. Robert and Hayer were also asked to come by Lu Man."

The principal felt unbelievably suffocated in his heart.

What grudge and hatred did the National Film Academy bear with them to send such a character over?

They were to blame for not investigating properly beforehand either, for not treating this with as much importance, thinking that things would not be any different even if the other party sent someone over.

They underestimated their enemy!

They underestimated their enemy!

They actually let the National Film Academy send such a person over.

The National Film Academy was really... extremely nasty!

“Principal, what do we do now?” the secretary asked. “Regarding what you worried about at the start, our school’s teachers were indeed scared that it would ruin their own reputations so they refused to teach the exchange students. Yet Robert and Hayer came. They are not afraid of getting their own reputations ruined at all.. As such, we really ended up falling between two stools.”

Chapter 2383: Luckily, Lu Man Arrived Late

“Let me think about it.” The principal clutched his head, feeling his head hurt.

The secretary thought for a moment and suggested, “Why don’t we send another teacher over? We can say that the teacher can be an assistant to Robert and Hayer.”

“No.” The principal instantly rejected this suggestion. “Sending anyone over now is too late. Aren’t we obviously admitting that we purposely did not arrange to send a teacher to the exchange team? Previously, those teachers were not free, yet oh, now that Robert and Hayer came, they suddenly have the time?”

The principal thought about it and sighed. “Forget it, just let this matter be. We don’t need to send teachers over either. Anyway, they’d already invited Robert and Hayer. If we send someone now, that would just be unnecessary.”

The principal was not assured. This Lu Man only arrived yesterday and had already made such a big fuss.

In the blink of an eye, she’d put their school in such an awkward position.

If she stayed on for a few more days, who knows what else would happen?

At this moment, the principal already felt a little lucky—lucky that Lu Man arrived late.

If she came right from the start together with the team, she might even have subdued the students who had mocked their exchange team.

The principal tapped his fingers on the table and said to his secretary, “Do a check on the information you can find about Lu Man in their country.”

“Sure.” The secretary went out to handle it.

On Lu Man’s side, they had already started officially rehearsing.

With Robert and Hayer around, things indeed ran more smoothly.

They first gave the team members a topic each to perform.

They then assigned their character roles based on their performance.

Unsurprisingly, Wang Yanglin became the male lead and Lu Man the female lead.

Oren and those students from the top team also got aggravated by this. Robert and Hayer’s arrival had made them feel nervous.

Although they did not say it, they all worried a little in their hearts that they might just get ambushed and defeated by the exchange team if they were not careful.

After their first day of rehearsals ended and they returned to the hostel, Wu Zilin was already gone.

Seeing that even if he stayed, Lu Man would still not let him get any advantage at all, Wu Zilin finally stopped wasting time here.

As rehearsals filled up their schedules, before they knew it, the day of the Mega Charity Gala arrived.

Lu Man had been so busy that she forgot to prepare a gown.

Each year's Mega Charity Gala would have a designated theme.

This year's theme was ancient civilizations.

This theme was really easy to explore and play around with.

Most countries had their own ancient civilizations with a long and rich history.

The generations of culture, aesthetics, and trends were all very charming.

But Lu Man had been too busy and forgot about it.

When Wang Yanglin asked her what design style she would be wearing tonight, Lu Man then remembered about this matter.

For get-ups in galas like these, there were of course people who wore ready-made apparel, but as long as it was an artiste of high caliber, they would mostly get designers to specially design a piece for themselves to wear.

It was clearly too late for Lu Man to find a designer now. She could only hope to go around looking in stores to see if she could find a suitable ready-made gown.

She thought that, if that was really not possible, she could go to Chinatown to find a cheongsam as well.

As she thought of that and sat in the car that Xiao Guo had driven over, Lu Man returned to the hotel first.

Yet the moment she stepped in, she saw that Han Zhuoli was there too.

"Why did you come back so early today?" Lu Man asked in surprise.

After coming here, Han Zhuoli became a little busy.

As he did not oversee the operations here personally previously, there were many things he needed to understand from scratch after coming over.

And he wanted to use this chance to take over the control of the company here as well.

So, during this period of time, he and Han Zhuoling had both been very busy.

Chapter 2384: If You Become a Good-for-nothing, I Will Support You

Han Zhuoli pulled her over and flicked her forehead casually. "You really forgot."

Lu Man laughed guiltily and pulled Han Zhuoli along as if he was a genie, then hugged his elbow as she asked, "What should I do? I totally forgot about attending the Mega Gala, so I didn't even prepare a gown. There's still time to buy one now, but I'm just worried that I won't find a suitable one."

He witnessed her tilt her small face and stare pitifully at him with a look filled with reliance.

Before this gaze from Lu Man, Han Zhuoli even felt, was he someone who could do anything in Lu Man's eyes?

But luckily, this time, he really did not disappoint his wife.

"Seeing how you're so busy that you couldn't care about other things, rehearsing in the day and practicing on your own at night, how would you remember the gala?" Han Zhuoli said. "I have already asked Qin Zigou to design a gown for you early on. The gown has already been sent over. The styling team will bring it over in a moment.

"But it's a pity Xiaoya has to put on makeup for Yu Mingshu, so I can only find someone else for you," Han Zhuoli said.

Lu Man was so delighted, and she did not dare to believe that Han Zhuoli had actually resolved this burning issue of hers just like that.

"Hubby! You're just like a god!" Lu Man let go of Han Zhuoli's elbow and hugged Han Zhuoli's waist as she said, "How do you think of everything! It's precisely because you think of everything for me that I'm so ditzy as to just casually forget about attending the gala."

She just felt that no matter what happened, Han Zhuoli was always around.

No matter what happened, Han Zhuoli could resolve it for her.

"If you act like this, I might become more and more muddle-headed, thinking that, anyway, you will clean up my mess after me," Lu Man said, feeling worried and alarmed. "What if I become a good-for-nothing because of this?"

Han Zhuoli chuckled and said, "If you become a good-for-nothing, I will support you."

Lu Man thought to herself, didn't he support her all along?

As the two of them spoke, the doorbell rang.

It was the styling team that Han Zhuoli hired.

Qin Zigou came as well.

Although the makeup artist was not Shi Xiaoya, whom he had always partnered with, this gown was designed by Qin Zigou himself.

So Qin Zigou also came personally.

Gao Zishan and Dong Qinrong each had their own brand sponsors, so what they wore were the gowns provided by their respective brand sponsors.

Wang Yanglin had a collaboration with a brand now and was competing to become that brand's ambassador, so he did not dare to casually wear another brand or designer's apparel.

Unlike Shi Xiaoya as a makeup artist, if the artist had a brand sponsorship, she would just use that brand's products, which was unrelated to her work as a makeup artist.

Qin Zigou was even thinking that if there was really no other option, he could only look for foreign artistes who had no brand sponsorship clashes to ask if they were willing to wear the outfits he'd designed.

But Qin Zigou still preferred letting domestic artistes don his apparel, as they would be able to better highlight his designs.

But alas, there were only a total of four domestic artistes invited this time around.

When he thought of Lu Man, he instantly thought that he could let Lu Man give it a try.

It was such a coincidence that Han Zhuoli came to look for him.

So just like that, they agreed to have Qin Zigou design a gown for Lu Man.

Lu Man first let the stylists do her makeup and hairdo before changing into the gown that Qin Zigou had designed.

Qin Zigou's design integrated elements from the traditional Han Chinese dress.

It was accompanied by blue and white porcelain embroidery embellishments—simple yet elegant and graceful.

Han Zhuoli's outfit similarly had elements of traditional Han Chinese costume styles integrated into it mixed with modern-day fashion styles, making him look refined and graceful as well, which matched perfectly with Lu Man.

Chapter 2385: Narrow Road

Lu Man felt that this Mega Charity Gala was actually just a large-scale costume party.

And she had never actually seen Han Zhuoli wear such an outfit.

He looked like a graceful gentleman from ancient times, like frost under the moon.

If Han Zhuoli had the long hair of ancient Chinese men, bundled high up, he would really look like a jade-like young master.

The two of them set off for the gala. On the way there, Lu Man asked, "Where's Big Brother?"

"Xiaoya wants to go together with Big Brother after doing makeup for Yu Mingshu, so he's just waiting there directly for Xiaoya to finish work," Han Zhuoli explained.

The guests invited to the Mega Gala included famous people from the culture, sports, and entertainment sectors.

From actors, singers, and models to athletes such as basketball stars, rugby stars, baseball stars, etc.

Lu Man did not really keep up with the sports scene, so she really did not know many people.

She and Han Zhuoli walked the red carpet. Lu Man was naturally not very famous here, but Han Zhuoli was getting more and more famous.

Coupled with the huge box office sales for the films that the Han Corporation had invested in, this young and talented CEO had already become a popular figure within the industry.

It was not just industry insiders, there were also many of his fans among the netizens.

So the moment Han Zhuoli and Lu Man went up for the photo-taking session, all kinds of cameras focused and zoomed in on them.

The fans who came to cheer for their own idol originally also did not miss this chance to snap a few shots of Han Zhuoli and Lu Man.

If anyone knew Lu Man here, it was probably because of how Lu Man had chased Bourbotte back previously.

But because Lu Man's exposure here was quite low, coupled with the fact that Westerners really had very low ability to differentiate between Asian faces, Lu Man's fame was not affected negatively by Bourbotte's incident.

After the issue gradually died down, people also gradually forgot about Lu Man.

Even previously, when Lu Man led the National Film Academy's team to win against Howard and the others, that was circulated only within a small, professional circle in the industry.

Most people actually did not really care about this, so they did not take it to heart.

Besides attending as an actress, Lu Man also attended as Han Zhuoli's wife.

The lady boss of this film entertainment empire, the Han Corporation, stood with a very imposing aura beside Han Zhuoli.

Not long after the two of them walked the red carpet, they saw Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya coming over as well.

The organizers also considered Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling's relationship, so they'd specially arranged for them to be seated at the same table.

Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya had just sat down when Han Zhuoling said, "Just now, when we were outside, we saw that Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun came as well."

Lin Jinshu was entering the fashion industry now. She found quite a few supermodels to advertise her brand, and they become its ambassadors.

Meanwhile, Wang Qianyun had started leading artistes after she entered her present company, so she came along with the artistes.

Lu Man thought to herself that Han Zhuoling seemed to have become a little gossipy now too.

But even though she did not expect Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun to come, if they really bumped into each other, Lu Man was not scared either.

Not long after, they saw Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun coming in.

The two of them seemed to be looking for their own seats, but their gazes ended up landing on Han Zhuoli and the others who were seated over here.

When the two of them saw them there, they actually walked straight over.

They did not look awkward at all, as if nothing unhappy had happened between them at all.

And Wang Qianyun's expression appeared very normal. She did not show her obsession and infatuation with Han Zhuoli either.

Lu Man still remembered that Wang Qianyun could be considered to have returned in shame back then.

Yet within this period of time, she had thought things through on her own?

Lu Man did not quite believe it.

Chapter 2386: We Don't Know You At All

Wang Qianyun had pestered Han Zhuoli previously and persisted for a long time. Yet now, after being back for a short while, she'd already thought things through?

Lu Man didn't think Wang Qianyun was such a sensible person

"Brother Han, Lu Man, what a coincidence." Wang Qianyun stood by their table.

Han Zhuoli gave Han Zhuoling a look.

Lin Jinshu didn't spot the exchange between the brothers.

Wang Qianyun was fixated on Han Zhuoli, and so she did not notice Han Zhuoling.

As for Lu Man and Shi Xiaoya, they were focused on Wang Qianyun's reaction.

Thus, nobody actually saw the silent communication between Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli.

In the end, after Wang Qianyun finished speaking, before Han Zhuoli could open his mouth, Han Zhuoling sneered, "Who are you calling Brother Han?"

Had it been someone else, it would have sounded like teasing.

But Han Zhuoling's icy expression ensured that no one misunderstood his obvious displeasure.

Hearing this, Shi Xiaoya knew Han Zhuoling was helping Han Zhuoli avoid a sticky situation.

The smile froze on Wang Qianyun's face as she began cussing out internally.

She had barely managed to plaster on an appropriate smile when she walked over just now.

It was a smile that she'd practiced for a long time at home.

It was all in preparation for meeting Han Zhuoli officially. She wanted to portray herself as being magnanimous, like she had really left the past behind her.

But she forgot, and a single “Brother Han” had exposed all her intentions.

If she really had no motives towards Han Zhuoli, there were many other forms of addresses such as Mr. Han and Young Master Han that could have clearly distinguished the relationship between them.

“Brother Han” made them all felt discomfited.

Hence, Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling could sound out her motives.

Han Zhuoli didn’t want to spare Wang Qianyun any chance to talk to him.

So Han Zhuoling had spoken up.

Being unfamiliar with Han Zhuoling, Wang Qianyun didn’t dare to be thick-skinned and presumptuous.

As she faced Han Zhuoling, Wang Qianyun’s upturned lips quivered, struggling to maintain her smile. “Mr. Han.”

“Who are you calling Mr. Han?” Han Zhuoling asked snidely.

“You, naturally,” Wang Qianyun replied, slightly frustrated.

Han Zhuoling curled his lip. “You address me as Mr. Han but call my brother Big Brother Han? Such a big difference?”

“I’m unfamiliar with you, so...”

Han Zhuoling cut in, “So you know my brother really well?”

Without waiting for Wang Qianyun’s answer, he turned to Han Zhuoli. “How come I’ve never heard you mention this person before?”

“I don’t know her at all. Obviously, I won’t talk about her.” Han Zhuoli smiled blandly.

Han Zhuoling nodded, turning to Wang Qianyun. “Since you’re unfamiliar with each other, then you should address my brother as Mr. Han. Otherwise, others will misunderstand and think you’re on close terms with us. They might assume that giving you benefits can allow them to gain something from us. You’d be taking all the advantages and ruining our reputation.”

Wang Qianyun: “...”

This man, how was he so vicious?!

Lu Man was also witnessing Han Zhuoling’s vicious mouth for the first time and it was really... impressive!

In her mind, Shi Xiaoya grumbled—if this man had not been ruthless with his words, would she have been angered by him back then?

Han Zhuoli waved his hands, chasing her away. “Please stand further away, we don’t know you well.”

Shi Xiaoya smiled. "That's right. Now that the Han Corporation is expanding well, many want to work with us and gain from the Han Corporation. You standing here can easily lead to misunderstandings."

Chapter 2387: Misunderstanding

They took turns speaking, and with a few short sentences, they managed to make Wang Qianyun into someone who takes advantage whenever she could, meaning she was standing here on purpose to let others misunderstand the situation.

Upset, Wang Qianyun wanted to say something to defend herself.

To make them stop belittling her.

But before she could, the other diners in this table all arrived.

All of them greeted Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli.

Then they were introduced to Lu Man and Shi Xiaoya.

Lu Man aside, since the Han Corporation was well-established here, any good movies they were investing in in the future would naturally have a role for Lu Man.

And Han Zhuoling's purpose in bringing Shi Xiaoya here was to introduce her to more people within the industry.

Just like in the industry back home, it's all about the connections over here.

Any work for important events, any help for Shi Xiaoya's career—all of these were connections.

Han Zhuoling wasn't hoping that these people could help Shi Xiaoya.

After all, whatever she wanted to do, he'd help her settle everything.

For instance, when Shi Xiaoya wanted to enter Hollywood's movie production team as a makeup artist, Han Zhuoling had also paved the way for her.

But knowing more people was always advantageous.

When they were all introduced to each other, the guests then looked towards Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun. "These two are..."

They clearly assumed the Lin Jinshu, Wang Qianyun, and the Han brothers were acquainted.

Han Zhuoli looked mockingly at Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun, as if saying, "See? Others misunderstand, don't they?"

He then said, "We don't know them at all. They probably felt happy seeing their countrymen here and came over to say hi."

Han Zhuoli might have put it this way, but the guests could read between the lines.

Many overseas Chinese were present too, not only as guests but also as the celebrities' staff.

So why didn't they go to them?

They likely stood here on purpose to let others misunderstand.

Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli couldn't very well just shoo them away and embarrass them.

Didn't Han Zhuoli leave their pride undented when he explained things as such just now?

As expected, they had mistakenly assumed Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun knew Han Zhuoli and the others.

Hence, this handful of guests all politely but distantly greeted Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun.

Not wanting to alert Han Zhuoli, Wang Qianyun didn't continue pestering him and left with Lin Jinshu.

Since Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli, the two heavyweights were here, and the other dinner guests were also famous figures, the organizer seemed to want an East-West exchange.

So every table had a few Asian faces.

It's the Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli couples over here, and Gao Zishan and Dong Qinrong over at the other side.

Wang Yanglin was at another table.

Wang Yanglin's table had both popular Hollywood and Japanese upcoming idols.

Gao Zishan and Dong Qinrong came together, and upon seeing Han Zhuoli and the others, they went to greet them.

The guests at the same table all clearly felt the difference in the attitude with which Han Zhuoli treated them and Lin Jinshu and Wang Qianyun just now.

This was real familiarity.

Lu Man and Shi Xiaoya also said their hellos.

"You both walked the red carpet together?" Han Zhuoli asked.

"I walked first. Zishan was a few people behind me, so I waited for her," Dong Qinrong said with a smile.

Gao Zishan was on pretty good terms with Dong Qinrong.

Chapter 2388: That's the One Who Gave You His Number?

Additionally, the two didn't clash in their image. They had different target audiences, and each had their own standing as brand ambassadors.

So both had little competition going on and maintained their good relation.

"Oh, is your exchange competition starting soon?" Gao Zishan asked.

"That's right, it'll be this Sunday," Lu Man answered.

Gao Zishan smiled and said, "Qinrong was telling me we shouldn't hurry back this time around. Because of the gala, brand activities, and a few other shows to attend, we'll be staying a bit longer this time, at least for half a month."

“Then we remembered, don’t you have a competition too? Principal Liu wanted to invite Zishan and me as guests during the friendly competition at the National Film Academy. Pity we couldn’t make it. Zishan was filming and I was overseas then,” Dong Qinrong added.

“But we watched the video of your competition afterward, and more’s the pity that we couldn’t watch you all perform live.”

“Moreover, though Qinrong and I were from different batches, both of us were chosen as part of the exchange team before.” Gao Zishan smiled bitterly. “But regretfully, we all lost. It’s been something we couldn’t put behind us. Now that there’s a chance with a suitable timing, we want to cheer you on right there.”

“Both of us feel that this is the likeliest time for us to win for the first time ever,” Dong Qinrong said. “We’re optimistic about you!”

Optimistic about Lu Man, not the whole team.

But this was enough.

Their team back then had lacked precisely a leader and unity.

Their acting had needed polishing back then, and they had slowly explored and practiced step by step. Plus, they could work with famous directors and constantly improved until they were where they were today.

But they weren’t a match to Lu Man when they were her age.

Lu Man was elated, not expecting Gao Zishan and Dong Qinrong to automatically say they wanted to go.

“We’d be so honored for both of you teachers to come and watch us compete.” Lu Man beamed.

Gao Zishan smiled. “So many years have passed and we have no idea how going to the exchange competition works. Do we need tickets or something to watch live?”

“They’ll be selling tickets to the public,” Lu Man said, “but you both won’t need to. I’ll reserve good seats for you.”

Lu Man asked about their contact channels and both provided their hotel names.

When she got the tickets, she’d send someone over to deliver them.

Dong Qinrong and Gao Zishan frequently worked with foreign actors, so they saw many familiar faces here.

They chatted for a while more before going away to say their hellos to others.

Lu Man had just sat down when she saw Oren.

She had no plans to point him out to Han Zhuoli.

Yet someone greeted Oren just then, and they could hear his name from a distance.

Han Zhuoli was now extremely sensitive to the name “Oren,” so he turned instantly upon hearing it, eyes locking on him.

“That’s the one who gave you his number?” Han Zhuoli asked.

“What happened?” Han Zhuoling had heard him.

Han Zhuoli spoke in Mandarin so the other diners didn’t understand, but he didn’t lower his voice, so Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya both heard him.

“Who gave Lu Man his number?” Han Zhuoling immediately asked.

Han Zhuoli quickly pointed Oren out for Han Zhuoling. “It’s that wretch, harboring ill intentions towards Lu Man.”

Chapter 2389: Short-sighted

When he heard this, Han Zhuoling’s expression darkened and he scoffed, “Seems he really doesn’t know how to spell the word ‘scared.’”

Han Zhuoling raised his brow. “So you’re not doing anything and letting him off so easily?”

Han Zhuoli smiled, saying, “The company’s not just mine to do with as I pleased.”

Han Zhuoling rolled his eyes at him. “Act all you want, but why didn’t you say this when you were helping Lu Man?”

Han Zhuoli snickered. “Weren’t you still overseas back then? Now that you’re here, we can discuss everything, whatever happens.”

“Cut to the point.” Han Zhuoling sniffed. “Aren’t you just asking for my agreement? Still trying to beat around the bush with me?”

“Oh no, no,” Han Zhuoli said. “I’ve wanted to ask you long before. Seeing him today was just a coincidence.”

Han Zhuoling then looked towards Oren, sneering. “Does he think our Han Corporation has no influence here, so he dares to hanker after Sister-in-law?”

Han Zhuoli casually took out his phone. “Then let’s have him see whether or not the Han Corporation has any say here.”

Han Zhuoli spoke as he dialled Zheng Tianming’s number.

“Young Master Han.” He picked up immediately.

“Give me all of Oren’s recent activities and events,” Han Zhuoli ordered.

“Already done,” Zheng Tianming replied.

As soon as Han Zhuoli had mentioned this matter to Zheng Tianming, the other man had already made moves without hesitation.

He’d known Han Zhuoling would agree.

Han Zhuoli knew it too, but it's better to at least ask Han Zhuoling.

Hence, Zheng Tianming was ready. They could strike the moment Han Zhuoli told Han Zhuoling.

"That's fast." Han Zhuoli gave Zheng Tianming's efficiency a thumbs-up.

As for dealing with Oren, Zheng Tianming had plenty of experience.

He'd done it so many times in the past.

He was especially adept at dealing with Lu Man's enemies.

"I've already sorted out all the Han Corporation-related events Oren has. None is directly related to the Han Corporation, but there are some under companies that are working with us, as well as some subsidiary companies and production companies, etc., that Han Corporation has stakes in. I've also sorted out events by brands that the other seven great families have invested in," Zheng Tianming said.

So Oren was really short-sighted.

He thought that since the Han Corporation had just entered Hollywood, it wasn't stable.

A foreign company, an easy target of bullying.

And he had no work with the Han Corporation, so he wasn't afraid.

When in fact, the Han Corporation had numerous subsidiary companies spread across various industries that did not openly collaborate with their parent company.

Some were sole subsidiaries, others were joint ventures with stakes.

And some were good working partners.

And they wouldn't offend the Han Corporation just for a celebrity.

The outcome was clear.

Plus, the Han Family was part of the eight great families, and their ties were strong.

Each family was also involved in many different industries.

If the eight great families worked hand in hand, then the scale and magnitude of work they're involved in would be beyond imagination.

Oren as a foreigner had no idea how great the power of the eight great families was.

But everyone back home, including the big bosses, all made their moves carefully.

Because they knew all too well.

If they offended one family, they also offended the other seven.

As long as one family told another family about it...

Chapter 2390: About to Face a Gruesome Garroting

For the eight great families, it's only a simple matter for them to help, no loss whatsoever.

But such a small thing, with the combined efforts of two or more families, would become a terrible nightmare!

So Han Zhuoli only had to tell Qi Chengzhi, Chu Zhaoyang, and the others.

And the other families would refuse to work with Oren.

Any brand activities, ambassadorships, and advertisements under their companies would give Oren no work.

Oren was not one to miss anyway.

Even without him, there'd be others.

He wasn't irreplaceable.

Plus, Oren wasn't popular enough to be fought over.

He too had to compete with others for resources and brand ambassadorships.

This was more than enough to make Oren suffer.

Many foreign brands seemed so distant and mighty, but in reality, Chinese companies had stakes in at least 70% of them.

Some had even been silently bought over by their companies.

The eight great families had such situations too.

Hence, Oren had no inkling that he was about to face a gruesome garroting.

Oren had finished chatting with others when he swept the room and spotted Lu Man.

The unknowing man walked over with a smile.

He was deluded, imagining he had some sort of relationship with Lu Man already.

In front of Lu Man's husband, someone who was influential...

He stood in front of such a person and gave Lu Man a small smile, which gave him a whole other sense of satisfaction.

"Lu Man." Oren walked over, greeting Lu Man.

Shi Xiaoya gave this poor guy a silent prayer.

He had no idea that he was going to be in hot waters soon enough, so he was still strutting about like a peacock in full display to make sure none missed him.

How fearless!

Even if Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli knew nothing about it before, couldn't they understand Oren's intention now?

Lu Man rose politely.

Han Zhuoli stood too.

Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya also rose to their feet.

The four stood together. Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli both towered at nearly 1.9 meters or 6 feet tall.

Oren suddenly felt surrounded.

Though Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli weren't showing a cold expression, their neutral faces were daunting already.

Typically, one of them was intimidating enough, let alone both combined.

Lu Man pretended to know nothing as she introduced him to Han Zhuoli. "This is Oren, considered my schoolmate."

And to Oren, "This is my husband."

"Hello." Han Zhuoli nodded blandly.

"Hello, how do you do?" Oren replied politely. "Do you have work too, Mr. Han? So you came with Lu Man?"

"No, I accompanied her here today," Han Zhuoli answered. "If she came to such a distant place alone, I'll worry about her. She knows no one here. What if she got bullied?"

Oren gave a dry laugh. "You are such a loving couple."

"Naturally." Lu Man beamed at Han Zhuoli.

Her gaze was so cool towards Oren, but her eyes shone so brightly as if they're filled with stars when she turned them onto Han Zhuoli.

Her eyes were filled with only Han Zhuoli. Nobody else mattered.

Oren doubted his charisma for the first time ever.

Even if Lu Man was married, could she really care about no one else?

If that's the case, then Lu Man had really not seen the world.