

Mr Han 2391

Chapter 2391: Without Even Glancing at Him

At this moment, more and more people had already entered the venue.

The people who had entered after were household names from all over the world.

There were top stars, top directors, and top producers.

Oren even recognized the manager of a top-paid male celebrity, Bauman.

There was also the boss of the management company where Oren was from, Rowell.

He saw Bauman and Rowell walking over together.

At this moment, Oren could not afford to be bothered with Lu Man.

His own future was all he could think of.

As he was preparing to go up to them, he saw Bauman and Rowell walking straight over. They looked like they were coming to greet him.

Oren was shocked, but he was still aware of his own limitations. He was considered not bad in school.

However, once he was placed in Hollywood, he was extremely lacking.

These two people were important characters and were unlikely to specially come over to greet him.

As his boss, Rowell definitely knew him.

But it might not be the case for Bauman.

He saw Bauman and Rowell coming nearer and nearer until they were in front of him. Sure enough, they stopped beside him.

Without even glancing at him, the two of them greeted Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling.

Bauman smiled and said, "Mr. Han, I heard that the Han Corporation is planning to film part two of your fantasy movie, 'Universe.'"

"I've already approved the proposal," Han Zhuoli said. "It's not only part two, but part three has also been placed on the agenda. It will have a different lead. I hope that the lead can link with the leads from the previous two movies."

Bauman and Rowell listened until their eyes shone.

"Then what about the selection of the lead...?" Rowell asked.

The first part of the fantasy movie, "Universe," which was created by the Han Corporation, had established Cao Jingcheng's position as an international A-list celebrity.

International A-list celebrity!

So many actors in the country wanted to break into Hollywood but could not do so.

Regardless of the number of times they went, they always returned in low spirits following a failure to achieve their ambitions. Not to mention becoming an A-lister or B-lister, if one were able to merely gain a foothold, it would be enough for them to have status in their own country for a long time.

Although those domestic actors who'd had a part in Hollywood movies only revealed their faces and had just a few lines, they were still being favored by their own people.

What more if they could attain a ranking in Hollywood?

There had never been an Asian actor who could become an A-lister in Hollywood!

Cao Jingcheng originally could be considered as a lower-middle B-lister internationally.

Even so, this had already allowed Cao Jingcheng to become the top person domestically.

Many people did not favor the first part of the fantasy movie, "Devil Warriors," that was developed by the Han Corporation before its release.

Due to many factors, including the production company and many domestic films being produced here earlier, the movie was not acknowledged.

The factors also included not trusting the movie's special effects, plot, and quality.

There were all kinds of reasons. Before it was screened, it had been fiercely ridiculed by the media.

But after it was screened, "Devil Warriors" became the underdog. The box office was not ideal on the first day.

As the media had collectively given it poor reviews earlier, the audience did not think well of it.

But there were also people who were of a mind to ridicule it when they watched the movie. They were prepared to scoff at it after watching it.

Who knew that after watching the movie, they would feel that...

It was really good.

And they started to praise it.

Gradually, the news spread by word of mouth and things became better and better.

Hence, many of the audience were curious to find out whether the news was true and went to watch it.

In the end, they discovered that the movie was really very good.

The plot was full and the rhythm was just right.

People were attracted by the filming method and the use of the lens.

Furthermore, as Cao Jingcheng was the male lead in this movie, he went from an international B-lister to an A-lister.

Chapter 2392: Please

Although he was only a low-end A-lister, this was sufficient for the citizens to get excited.

They finally had a celebrity standing stably on the world stage.

They finally had their own representative!

Sweep across the globe!

The Han Corporation also swiftly signed a contract with Cao Jingcheng. Cao Jingcheng would take on the identity of the lead and act in at least four parts of “Devil Warriors.”

As for other roles he had taken on for other movies, they would be separately considered.

Bauman and Rowell saw the success of “Devil Warriors.” This was something unprecedented.

If the movie had failed, then there was nothing to talk about.

But if this kind of movie series succeeded, its development would be unlimited!

They discovered that the ambition of the Han Corporation was more than this.

They wanted to use the movie to create a small world. And “Devil Warriors” was one part of it.

If the Han Corporation really developed this kind of world, the impact would be great!

It didn’t matter how far-reaching or distant the plans were.

With just the benefits that everyone could see...

These benefits were absolutely considerable.

If all the movies were linked, one would not be able to watch one part without watching other parts.

Hence, one would have to watch all parts of the movie series.

Regardless of how lousy their movies in the future would be, one would have to watch them. Otherwise, one should not have started watching at all.

This ambition was too big.

But for an unknown reason, Bauman and Rowell felt that Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling could do it.

They were capable of bearing such ambitions.

After hearing Rowell ask about the selection of the lead, Han Zhuoli said, “We are preparing for it. It’ll officially start next week. Besides inviting some actors with the right schedules for the audition, anyone can also sign up for it and try.”

Bauman was not very interested in “Devil Warriors.” After all, Richardson was one of the few A-list actors in Hollywood, and he wouldn’t match with Cao Jingcheng in “Devil Warriors.”

But he was interested in the movies that were linked to “Devil Warriors,” as revealed by Han Zhuoli just now.

The Han Corporation was impressive in the way that, although they would first promote actors from their own country, the entire cinematic universe would involve all continents and races.

Naturally, it would not leave the Western continent out.

For movies with the Western continent as the storyline, Western actors would definitely take on the lead.

Richardson could indeed give it a try.

“The plan for your three parts...?” Bauman asked.

Han Zhuoli smiled and said, “I still can’t reveal it now. It’s a secret. I’ve already said so much by telling you about the third part.”

Han Zhuoli knew what Bauman meant. Hence, he said, “Regardless of which part, I’ll definitely inform you if there’s a suitable role. Soon, the Han Corporation will also announce it to the public.”

Rowell did not mind it. There were more young actors in his company who could start with supporting roles. Hence, he decided to go back and let them try.

As long as one had a role in the movie and his character did not die, there would be a possibility of taking on a resident role. Sooner or later, he would become the lead one day.

Or he would become the lead for a sequel.

As Oren happened to be at the side, Rowell hurriedly pulled him over and introduced him to Han Zhuoli. “Mr. Han, what a coincidence. This is an actor from our company.”

“Oh?” Han Zhuoli raised his eyebrows. It was really such a coincidence.

He had just pondered about him tonight and he appeared.

Han Zhuoli nodded and said, “Let’s not talk about business tonight. Furthermore, I’m not a professional. I’ll hand over the selection of the lead to our director for the series.”

“Of course, of course,” Rowell hurriedly said.

Oren could tell that Rowell actually had the intention to please him.

Chapter 2393: Officially Started

When Rowell bade farewell to Han Zhuoli and the others, Oren also followed him and left.

It was because he had a lot of doubts.

“Mr. Hefheim,” Oren asked, “why were you so polite to Han Zhuoli? They have only just entered our circle. Is it worth it to...?”

Oren dared not to say the word “please.”

But Rowell understood what he meant.

He turned around and smiled as he glanced at Oren. He wondered why he didn’t realize in the past that Oren was actually a fool.

Of course, it was because he was the boss and Oren was not someone important in their company.

He naturally did not know Oren well.

However, seeing Oren's performance tonight, Rowell gave him an "X" in his heart.

It was better not to introduce such good resources to an idiot like him.

It didn't matter if he was foolish and had offended others, but it would not be good if he implicated the company.

Oren had the capabilities.

But this was Hollywood, and the competition was too great.

Hollywood had never been short of capable actors. There were still many people in their company waiting for their chance to become famous.

Nevertheless, Rowell still reminded Oren, "If you have this kind of thinking, you won't go far here. Don't ever underestimate the Han Corporation. Why couldn't other companies come in, but theirs could?"

"Why didn't our investors enter their country, but theirs came in here instead?"

Without a doubt, there were some policy reasons that were restraining them.

But it was also because their competition on this side was already very fierce; hence, they could not spare time for other matters.

It was also because they were consciously standing at the highest point and were disdainful of competing with the next few levels.

"But anyway, they have come over instead of us going over," Rowell said. "So you are not qualified to look down on others."

He wondered where Oren had gotten his superiority from.

No matter what, they were playing with capital.

But he was still purely an actor to date.

On what basis did he dare to look down on Han Zhuoli?

Hence, if one did not stand tall, he could not see far.

Rowell finally glanced at him.

He had already said it so clearly. It would depend on Oren himself whether he could understand it.

The charity banquet ended. As Lu Man was far away in America, she only paid attention to the domestic entertainment news occasionally.

As there was no news of her recently, she also paid less attention to it. Hence, she did not know that her look had been fiercely praised by netizens.

This Chinese style design had amazed the Westerners, who were usually biased towards the aesthetics of the Chinese style.

It was still very difficult for them to recognize Asian faces.

It was also not easy for them to remember Lu Man's face. However, they were amazed by her look.

They did not confuse Lu Man with others.

After all, she was Han Zhuoli's wife.

Three days after the charity banquet ended, it was Sunday, which was the day of the official start of the exchange competition.

The school gave every student who took part in the competition two tickets so that they could invite their friends and relatives to come and support them.

As the families of the rest of the team members couldn't travel across the ocean and come over to cheer them on for various reasons, they had given their tickets to Lu Man.

The tickets were just enough for everyone from the Han family, Wang Juhuai, Xia Qingwei, Gao Zishan, and Dong Qinrong, whom Lu Man had earlier promised to give tickets to.

As Wang Yanglin's manager and assistant were present, he had to reserve tickets for them. Hence, he did not give his tickets to Lu Man.

The remaining ones were Zheng Tianming, Xiao Chen, Xiao Zhang, Xiao Guo, and Wei Zhong.

There were not enough tickets.

Hence, Lu Man had paid for their tickets from her own pocket.

Anyway, buying tickets directly through the school internally was simpler than having to snatch tickets from the officials.

Chapter 2394: Made Ten Trips to the Washroom

It's true that it was only a competition among the students themselves.

However, the team members from New York University had many of their own fans. Hence, there was a huge demand for the tickets.

The night before the competition, Han Leilei and the others were so nervous that they couldn't sleep.

All of them hugged their scripts and didn't want to let go. They wished so much that they could read their scripts the whole night.

They were already so familiar with every word, and even every punctuation, in their scripts.

They were not only familiar with their own lines and the punctuation in their lines, but they had also achieved this standard for the whole script.

Although this was the case, they were still so nervous that they couldn't sleep.

"What if I can't perform well tomorrow?" Sun Mengying nervously asked.

"Perform as usual and don't wish for an exceptional performance. Just follow our usual standard during rehearsals," Zhang Xiaoying said. "Our usual performance during rehearsals may not be considered as

incredible, but at least Robert and Hayer have given us a passing grade. This shows that our performance is watchable.

“Don’t be afraid of not performing well. We have practiced so many times and are already so familiar with it. The movements for the performance are already in our subconscious. By just moving our hands, we’ll naturally perform everything.

“Hence, It’s not possible for us to not perform well. The worst that could happen is that we give an ordinary performance. We’ll have to see if we can perform better than usual,” Zhang Xiaoying said.

After hearing those words, Sun Mengying became a little more calm.

Of course, she still felt nervous in her heart. It was impossible for her nervousness to disappear just by listening to a few words.

Furthermore, her nervousness made her heart beat even faster.

But at least she could feel slightly more at ease.

Sun Mengying looked at Zhang Xiaoying admiringly. “Xiaoying, how can you be so calm! I really admire you.”

She was indeed someone who had entered the entertainment industry very early and was used to big occasions.

Hence, her experience was really different.

Han Leilei just came out from the washroom. When she heard Sun Mengying’s words, she looked at Zhang Xiaoying.

The moment Han Leilei looked at her, she laughed. “What about her is calm! Look at her fingernails. She has clutched her hands until they have turned pale.”

“Ah?” Sun Mengying took a look...

And saw that Zhang Xiaoying’s hands had been interlocked when she spoke to her.

As she had used strength to interlock her hands, her fingertips had turned pale.

Sun Mengying felt that if she touched her hands now, she might feel the sweat in her palms.

Sun Mengying: “... ”

Even Zhang Xiaoying, who was used to big occasions, was also nervous.

Hence, Sun Mengying felt that she wasn’t alone.

As Zhang Xiaoying had been exposed by Han Leilei, she furiously said, “You’re talking about me? Why don’t you count the number of trips you have made to the washroom tonight? I have been counting for you. It’s 11:30 now. Since 9 o’clock until now, you have already made 10 trips to the washroom within two and a half hours. On average, you made a trip every 15 minutes.”

Zhang Xiaoying was really direct to have said this.

After drinking and eating a little, Han Leilei had had to relief herself immediately.

Han Leilei: "..."

"Are you bored? You even counted the number of times I went to the washroom. Can't I go to the washroom to wash my hands?" Han Leilei felt uneasy as she spoke.

"I'm not nervous. I just want to divert my attention." Zhang Xiaoying pouted her lips.

Han Leilei: "..."

You're nervous and want to divert your attention. But you diverted your attention to counting the number of trips I made to the washroom!

As the two of them teased each other, Sun Mengying, who was at the side, let out a chuckle.

Zhang Xiaoying and Han Leilei looked at Sun Mengying together.

Sun Mengying stuck out her tongue and immediately made a gesture of surrender as she raised her hands beside her ears.

Chapter 2395: She Is Not Bad Actually

"So everyone is nervous," Sun Mengying said. "Then I feel much better."

Zhou Li brought over a hot cup of cocoa. "Do you all want to drink a hot cup of cocoa? Drinking something sweet can make you all feel a little more relaxed."

"Good idea." Sun Mengying also went to make herself a cup of hot cocoa.

Then Zhou Li sat opposite Sun Mengying's original seat.

Their dormitory living room was actually more like a small-scale activity room.

Some table games were placed on the coffee table.

Beside the coffee table, there was a sofa as well as cushions.

It was convenient for everyone to gather and sit around the coffee table. There was no chance of everyone not having enough seats.

Zhou Li was sitting on the cushion at this moment. As she held her hot cup of cocoa, she said, "Frankly speaking, I saw the news in the past and heard my high school classmates and friends around me say that Xiaoying had always been unable to get along with Lu Man. There were also some other gossip. Because of that, I'd felt that Xiaoying might not be easy to get along with."

Zhou Li smiled and said, "I didn't expect that it was completely not like that after we really got together. We really cannot believe in a lot of gossip."

"What? She was indeed originally not easy to get along with. When Lu Man had just entered the school, she had even taken the lead to ostracize and make things hard for her."

"..." As Zhang Xiaoying's dark history was being mentioned, she became furious and said, "Han Leilei, why do you keep uncovering my dark history tonight? Can't you be a good classmate?"

Han Leilei chuckled and said, "Sorry. I can't control myself. It's mainly because I'm too nervous."

When Han Leilei saw Zhou Li and Sun Mengying each holding a hot cup of cocoa and looking very comfortable after drinking it, she also went to make a cup for herself.

Lu Man simply boiled a pot of hot water and placed it on the coffee table. Then she took the cocoa powder over.

Anyone who wanted to drink the cocoa could just make one and didn't have to make an extra trip.

As the competition was tomorrow, Lu Man did not return to the hotel. Instead, she stayed at the dormitory.

This made it convenient for her to prepare together with her teammates.

It was also convenient for everyone to mention the areas that they could practice and improve on.

After Lu Man sat down, Zhang Xiaoying said to Han Leilei, "You're nervous, but why do you keep talking about me?"

Han Leilei hurriedly begged for mercy. "Alright, alright. I'll choose someone else to talk about."

Han Leilei said to Zhou Li again, "Actually, in the beginning, I also felt that Zhang Xiaoying was quite hard to get along with. Furthermore, there were always a few willing people around her boot-licking and flattering her."

Zhang Xiaoying was speechless.

"But after I got to know her longer, I discovered that although she is a little proud, she is open and direct when handling matters. She would not resort to tricks and would do things the proper way. Moreover, when she lost, she would admit it and think of a way to win. She wouldn't slander or frame you just because she had lost. She also wouldn't think highly of herself.

"Anyway, her temper is real. Hence, she's not bad, actually," Han Leilei said.

At least Zhang Xiaoying would not backstab you.

It was very rare to find this kind of character anywhere. Not to mention, this entertainment industry was like a dog-eat-dog world.

Although Zhang Xiaoying always lost to Lu Man, she had completely put into practice the words "let our capabilities speak for us."

Zhang Xiaoying was quite impressive just now. At this moment, she was being praised by Han Leilei again until her face turned red.

"Although her temper is a little bad, regardless of whether you work with her, compete with her, or become friends with her, you can rest assured that she won't play tricks behind your back and backstab you," Han Leilei said.

"Don't even get me started on the entertainment industry. In every industry, there are always bosom friends who become enemies. They can snatch your boyfriend or even your hubby," Han Leilei said.

Chapter 2396: The More We Care, the More Tragic Our Loss

“There are so many examples of people falling out with each other for their own interests,” Han Leilei said. “So, this trait of Zhang Xiaoying, I think, is even more rare to find. At least I would rather interact with people like her who would always quarrel with you but won’t harm you.”

“...” The corners of Zhang Xiaoying’s mouth twitched and she said, “Han Leilei, are you praising me or mocking me?”

The others could not help but start laughing.

Lu Man smiled and said, “Why aren’t you all going to sleep? Get enough rest so we can be prepared for the competition tomorrow.”

“I can’t sleep.” Guo Hai sighed with a glum look on his face.

He normally did not avoid smoking or drinking alcohol.

Because of his acting career, he needed to accommodate the character profiles in the shows.

He had acted as a rebellious teenager before, and he had learned to smoke for this role.

The good thing was that drinking happened more frequently. After all, aside from gatherings with friends, there were all kinds of social dinners to attend.

If one was in the industry, participating in these gatherings was inevitable.

But he rarely smoked.

For tomorrow’s competition, Guo Hai suppressed the temptation to smoke or drink for this whole month, just to preserve the condition of his throat.

At this moment, he clutched his head with a glum look and said, “I’m also worried that I won’t be able to put on my best tomorrow. What if I get so nervous on stage that I forget my lines?”

“Okay, then, what’s the first sentence of the script on page 20, line 8?” Lu Man asked.

Guo Hai was stunned for a moment. As if he reacted reflexively, he already said out loud without waiting for him to coordinate his actions, “You already have both feet stepping in a pool of blood. Just let the blood of murder submerge your knees.”

“See?” Lu Man smiled and said, “This isn’t even your line, and you can already say it out loud immediately. You can just think of a random line on your own. Will the line appear in your mind instantly?”

Guo Hai gave it a thought, and it was true.

“Even if you were to feel nervous tomorrow and your mind blanks out, the lines are already etched in your mind. You won’t forget them no matter what, so don’t worry.” Lu Man laughed and said, “If you all continue not being able to sleep because you’re so nervous and end up with dark eye circles around your eyes tomorrow, your skin won’t look good either, so you might not even be able to put on makeup properly.”

“Aish!” Tan Mingxiao rubbed his face and said, “It’s really because I think our four schools seem to have exceptionally high expectations for us this time. When I was chatting with my classmates, I heard one of them say that there are already rumors in the country, saying that we are the batch that has the highest chances of winning.

“Actually, I want to keep a relaxed attitude. Even if we can’t win, it’s fine. But the more we care, the more tragic our loss will be,” Tan Mingxiao said somberly.

Lu Man stood up without a word. No one knew what she went to do.

When she returned, she was holding two bottles of red wine in her hands.

“Come,” Lu Man said. “Bring your cups over. Red wine helps with sleeping. Let’s drink some—not to the point that we get drunk, but just to get a little tipsy. We must relax and have a good night’s rest. Or else, given everyone’s condition right now, we have already lost even without going for the competition. There’s not even a hint of a possibility that we can win.

“I know that even if I say it’s only by relaxing that we can put on a good performance during the competition, that only then can we perform to our normal capabilities or something along those lines, you all definitely won’t take those words in,” Lu Man said. “So, let’s have a drink and make ourselves sleepy and drowsy from drinking. That way, we can’t think of anything else.”

Han Leilei was a little hesitant at first, but then, she felt that there was no point keeping up with such a mentality either. They could not just feel nervous for the whole night.

So in the end, she went to bring her cup over.

Lu Man poured half a cup for them each and said, “If it’s not enough, you can pour some more. I don’t know how well each of you can tolerate alcohol.”

Some people had low alcohol tolerance, so they might fall asleep just after one or two mouthfuls.

“Actually, you all don’t need to feel so stressed, because the biggest pressure lies on me,” Lu Man said before taking a sip of red wine.

Chapter 2397: Just a 24-year-old Young Lady

“I’m not afraid of you all scolding me for this. Anyway, the country thinks we have a chance at winning this time around, but the person whom everyone really has high expectations for is me. After all, I am the person who led the National Film Academy to victory once before,” Lu Man said as she smiled.

Although she said that, no one got angry.

Because everyone knew that Lu Man was actually trying to take away some of the pressure weighing down on their shoulders.

Guo Hai and the others were not from the same school as Lu Man. Those who had not interacted much with her before also had a certain level of understanding about Lu Man after interacting with her during this period.

They knew that Lu Man actually never boasted about her achievements and was a very humble and low-profile person.

But people better not come finding trouble with her.

Or else, the traditional Chinese virtue of humility would instantly be cast aside to god knows which country by Lu Man.

Besides the fact that she could crush you to death in conflict, if you lost to her once, she could use those results to anger you to death.

It was precisely because they understood her that they knew, Lu Man was not showing off to them at this moment.

Even Zhang Xiaoying did not get angry because of this.

They knew that Lu Man was trying to relieve some of the pressure they felt.

“So...” Lu Man smiled and took a sip of red wine before saying, “If we really lose, the commentators will surely place most of the responsibility on me. They will say that I didn’t lead the team well, that I was too proud and arrogant, that I got ahead of myself just because I produced some achievements, that I might have just gotten lucky when I won previously.

“They will tell me not to pretend to be the boss if I’m not capable.” Lu Man smiled as she spoke. “I can think of all that they will say. So, with me holding off the cannons in front, what do you guys have to be afraid of?”

“They don’t understand at all and will just be spouting nonsense,” Wang Yanglin said, feeling helpless. “They don’t have that capability themselves, they’re only good at typing away on their keyboards.”

Lu Man smiled and said, “I say all these to let you all know that no matter what happens, I will still be there to hold off the most intense cannons, so you all don’t need to be too nervous.”

“Then this will be too unbecoming of us. There’s still a few of us grown men over here. How can we let a girl like you stay ahead to hold off everything when something happens?” Wang Yanglin said.

“Exactly,” Xu Chuansheng said. “Even if we really lose, we’re all in this together.”

“Let’s stop with all this depressing talk,” Sun Hezhou said. “Let’s adjust our mindsets properly first and perform as usual. Even if we lose, at least we’ll have no regrets. If we get too nervous because we treat this with such high importance and end up not performing well, then that would really be so aggrieving.”

Just look at Howard and the others from that time. Wasn’t it really aggrieving?

So everyone poured some wine for themselves again and drank until they were slightly tipsy, then quickly went to sleep.

They slept, relaxed, and adjusted their mindsets properly.

Once everyone had all dispersed, Lu Man sighed.

Although she had urged everyone to go and rest, in fact, she herself could not sleep either.

She felt the pressure and was worried that she would not do well.

Lu Man then went to the balcony to get some fresh air, but she ended up receiving a video call from Han Zhuoli.

“Why aren’t you sleeping yet?” Han Zhuoli asked, seeing that Lu Man answered so quickly.

Lu Man laughed as she asked, “You thought I was sleeping? Then why did you give me a video call?”

“I just wanted to check if you slept early.” Han Zhuoli’s reason was very justified. “Don’t tell me you’re too nervous that you can’t sleep?”

“A little?” Lu Man said. “Everyone’s expectations are too high. If we lose, there will be too many people who are disappointed.”

Han Zhuoli stared at Lu Man on the screen. She was only just a 24-year-old young lady, after all.

She had always been under a disproportionate amount of pressure for her age.

Chapter 2398: Quiet Down

Her peers, most of them had just graduated from university and had only stepped into society for at most a year.

They were still newcomers to society, each of them with their own share of pressures. But there were not many like Lu Man who had so many eyes, so much responsibility and pressure all focused on her.

There would surely be some. After all, in this wide universe, there were so many people.

But these people were extremely rare in numbers.

Lu Man’s maturity this entire time, as well as her courage in forging forward like a tank, never conceding defeat, had allowed her to charge ahead intensely with success all the way, almost making people forget that she was just a 24-year-old young lady.

“Go back to your bedroom to rest. I’ll watch you,” Han Zhuoli said. “Or else, while your classmates are all having a good rest, you’ll end up being the one with a pair of dark eye circles around your eyes and in a bad condition.”

Lu Man nodded. She did not turn off her video and chatted with him as she went back into the apartment.

She had already washed up and bathed before this.

At this moment, she lifted the covers and got on the bed. “As long as I casually chat with you, I won’t feel so nervous.”

She wrapped herself with the soft and fluffy blanket, leaning against the soft pillow. She was wrapped warmly all over. Slowly, her thoughts also began to quieten down.

Han Zhuoli was thinking at first that if she still felt so stressed, he would go and find her.

But he saw how quickly Lu Man adjusted now.

Although it took away his worry, he still felt quite regretful that he lost a reason to go and look for her.

Lu Man unconsciously closed her eyes and fell asleep, even forgetting to turn off the video call.

Han Zhuoli did not make a sound the entire time and just watched her sleep quietly.

After staring for quite some time and confirming that Lu Man was completely sound asleep, he then ended the call and turned off the video camera.

The next day, when Lu Man woke up early in the morning, the sky was still very dark outside. A ray of light had just started peeking through the sky.

She was comforting her teammates verbally, yet in fact, the pressure she felt was not any less and was actually greater than theirs.

The moment she opened her eyes, she could not fall back asleep anymore.

Lu Man then quietly got up. Afraid that she would disturb the others from their sleep, she did everything carefully with light movements, not daring to make a sound at all.

After washing up, she opened the door to go to the living room and ended up seeing Tan Mingxiao and Guo Hai donning exercise outfits, about to head out.

The two of them also heard Lu Man's door opening and turned to see her come out.

Guo Hai asked in astonishment, "Lu Man, you woke up so early?"

Lu Man laughed helplessly. "You guys aren't the only ones feeling nervous. Actually, I feel nervous too. I woke up very early and couldn't fall asleep anymore. You both are—"

"We plan to go out and run a few rounds to calm ourselves down. If we don't, we will feel too anxious," Guo Hai said.

Hence, the two of them headed out first to have a run.

The hostel apartment was equipped with a small kitchen, which ran on electricity.

Lu Man fried an egg for herself and toasted two pieces of bread, then put avocado spread on the bread to make a simple avocado toast.

She then paired it with a cup of coffee to make it into a simple breakfast.

She had just taken two bites when Zhang Xiaoying and Han Leilei came out.

It looked as if the two of them did not just wake up, so Lu Man asked, "The two of you woke up long ago?"

Han Leilei said, "I read through the script again. I was afraid that I will disturb you all, so I read in my room."

Zhang Xiaoying said, "I woke up early, but I was afraid that coming out will make some sounds that will wake the others up, so I didn't come out the entire time. When I heard that there was some sound outside, I knew that someone was already up, so I came out to take a look."

Yet the moment Zhang Xiaoying said that, the others all came out as well.

Looks like everyone woke up early.

After Guo Hai and Tan Mingxiao came back and ate their breakfast, all of them practiced for a while more before Robert and Hayer both arrived.

Chapter 2399: Use Flattery as a Weapon

The bunch of them rambled on because they were worried about their own performance.

After hearing out everyone's worries, Robert said, "Your worries are all very normal. When Hayer and I first went up on stage officially at Broadway, we also felt very nervous. And at that time, the two of us could only act in minor roles with only a few lines.

"We already felt nervous with that, much less you guys." Robert smiled and said, "So today, just before you all go on stage, we won't rehearse anymore. Let's do some relaxed performances to loosen up yourselves."

"Just now, when you guys were rehearsing, your performance was already not open and relaxed enough. But because your performance was still quite good, we're afraid that you guys might not perform as well if you're too relaxed, so we didn't bring it up," Hayer continued. "But now, you all are really way too nervous, which won't do any good for the competition in the afternoon. So, let's all relax ourselves now."

"We call it relax, but this is related to performing as well. You all don't have to worry that being too relaxed will affect your performance in the competition," Robert said. "This is also one of the methods we commonly use."

It was similar to a game format, but they still needed to perform.

Gradually, everyone indeed relaxed quite a bit.

When the time came for the audience to be seated in the venue, Lu Man and the others also went backstage to prepare.

Robert and Hayer did not immediately go to the seating area but followed them backstage, likely with the intention of boosting their morale with their presence.

Shi Xiaoya applied makeup for Lu Man backstage.

At the seating area, the four principals from the four schools had also arrived.

They especially came to watch this exchange competition and cheer for their respective schools.

The two teams used different dressing rooms. Before the performance officially began, the students from either side did not have a chance to bump into each other.

The Han Family people also arrived early on at the venue.

Xia Qingwei carried her child and sat together with Wang Juhuai.

The audience members were waiting when, suddenly, a commotion occurred.

Gao Zishan and Dong Qinrong actually came.

The two of them came during their private schedules and did not announce it publicly, so even the fans did not know.

Only the audience who had arrived at the venue and who happened to be their fans started exclaiming in surprise.

It was really worth going on this trip!

They did not just come to see the performance, they even managed to see their own idols!

Gao Zishan and Dong Qinrong first came over to greet Principal Liu and the other three principals.

"I didn't expect that both of you would come too," Principal Zhang said, smiling.

"We met Lu Man at the charity gala and told her that we would like to come and watch the competition," Gao Zishan said. "Both of us are very interested in Lu Man's performance, so we came here to watch."

"We won't talk about winning." Dong Qinrong smiled as she said, "But we are really looking forward to the young people's performance."

Principal Liu smiled with a grimace. "In the domestic media side, I don't know who had purposely hyped it up, actually saying that this time, the chances of us winning were very high."

Principal Lu also frowned and said, "Yeah. Although this time, we are all looking forward to Lu Man's performance quite a lot, we aren't expecting that their chances of winning would be very high. We also told this to Lu Man and the others in private as well, that we don't ask for them to win, just for them to lose a little more gracefully. To try their best to reduce the gap between both sides and not be crushed utterly. For some reason, the domestic media seems to think that they will win for sure this time."

Gao Zishan thought about it and said, "Then I think there might be someone behind the scenes who doesn't like one of the students in the team and wants to use this chance to use flattery as a weapon against them."

As for who was the person being disliked, she felt that the probability of it being Lu Man was the highest.

Chapter 2400: Won't Be So Shameless

Principal Liu thought so too. He was about to say something when another round of commotion began.

When they turned to the source of the sound, they saw a bunch of people jostling around someone.

They could not see exactly who it was because that person was completely surrounded by people.

But very soon, they heard someone exclaiming in surprise, “Bourbotte! It’s Bourbotte! He actually came!”

“What is he here for? Just to watch the competition? Or to be a judge?”

These were questions that Principal Liu and the others were curious about.

Principal Zhang frowned and said, “Their school probably won’t be so shameless, right?! They clearly know that Bourbotte and Lu Man have had a conflict before. If Bourbotte is really here to be a judge, then Lu Man and her team can forget about getting any good results.”

Bourbotte would definitely not give any high marks.

It was not because he thought the worst of Bourbotte. It’s that Bourbotte’s magnanimity was really not that great.

“If Bourbotte is really here to be a judge, we will go and protest together,” Principal Lu said. “Their school would really be shameless.”

Luckily, Bourbotte was not here to be a judge.

They saw Howard going to welcome Bourbotte and sitting down with him in the audience seating area.

Not long after, the four judges were escorted in by security guards and sat at the panel.

When everyone took a clear look at the judges the school had invited this time around, everyone cheered out loud!

It was actually the world-renowned director, Chamberlain.

“It’s Chamberlain!” Even Dong Qinrong was awed. “I didn’t expect them to approach Chamberlain. They really spent a lot this time.”

By doing this, they were competing with the National Film Academy.

Previously, at the exchange competition in your National Film Academy, you guys have approached domestic directors and actors, as well as Robert and Hayer.

You think that your panel of judges was impressive?

This time, we have just invited Chamberlain over!

Who’s the more impressive one? Isn’t it obvious now?

Chamberlain—Hollywood’s top-notch director and an internationally acclaimed big shot director.

He had directed only a total of five films, but every film entered the Global Top 100 list of blockbuster films by box office sales.

And the most impressive part was, the total box office sales of all his five films combined ranked no. 1 globally!

This was enough to show how impressive Chamberlain was.

Following right after Chamberlain was Hollywood's top-notch actor, Lenard.

"I heard his film commission rates are already as high as 60 million USD," someone exclaimed.

Beside Lenard was the female celebrity, Zoey.

The last judge was the famous stage play director, Grijec.

Grijec might not be as familiar to the audience and not as impressive-sounding as the first three judges.

But to the people who learned performing professionally, his reputation was comparable to Chamberlain's level.

The audience members all stood up and started snapping photos frantically.

The security officers could only struggle to maintain order.

Not long after, Robert and Hayer also came over.

As their tickets came from Lu Man, Robert and Hayer sat together with Gao Zishan, Dong Qinrong, and the Han Family members.

Han Zhuofeng sat beside Han Zhuoli.

Ever since he came here, Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling had been busy working.

Han Zhuofeng did not laze around either. He did not follow Old Mrs. Han and the others to tour around the place.

It was Han Zhuoli who had found a famous director who happened to be directing a film during this period.

Han Zhuofeng then followed and learned alongside the director.

An opportunity like this was probably one that many people would not be able to get in their whole life.

As the youngest in the Han Family, Han Zhuofeng had this kind of privilege.

He could already learn from famed domestic directors when he was in the country.. Now that he came here, he could continue learning from an internationally acclaimed big shot director.