

Mr Han 2401

Chapter 2401: Opportunity

Hence, Han Zhuoling also said before, "If you can't achieve much even with such convenient terms, then it's not justifiable."

However, having said that, the two brothers still had to support those that should be supported.

When the Han Corporation planned to film "Devil Warriors 2," Han Zhuofeng had been arranged to take on the position of deputy director.

It would be different from how he had been observing and learning previously. He was allowed to participate this time and had to complete all the tasks by himself.

They had already made plans. When Han Zhuofeng graduated, they would set aside some funds for him to personally try and direct a play.

Profits or losses did not matter. What's most important was to let Han Zhuofeng gain experience.

It was reckoned that only Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuoling could fork out such a sum of money just for Han Zhuofeng to gain experience.

Robert and Hayer walked over.

Of course, the four principals knew that Robert and Hayer had helped the children rehearse for free.

Principal Liu gratefully said, "A big thank you to both of you for coming to help the children rehearse during the most difficult period for our team. The students had reported the rehearsal situation each day to us. They said that the two of you had taught them a lot and that they had benefited so much."

"Don't be so polite. We also have nothing much to hide, and what we've taught does not suit everyone. We still hope that they can maintain their fundamentals and raise their foundation. Furthermore, they themselves have fumbled around and improved. Anyway, they will improve sooner or later. It's good to teach them in advance and it's not necessary for us to hide anything," Hayer said with a smile.

The group sat together as they talked. Old Mrs. Han could only watch and wait for Robert to praise Lu Man. However, after he finished speaking, he had no intention of praising Lu Man.

Hence, Old Mrs. Han cleared her throat and said, "Robert, how is our Lu Man's performance?"

As Robert looked at Old Mrs. Han's gaze that was filled with expectations, he said, "Lu Man has always performed well.

"Oh, right, I thought of inviting her to be a guest performer for a play in our theater. Although it's not an important role and she'll only appear in one scene with only a few lines, the experience will be different on the Broadway stage. Since Lu Man is here, she can give it a try."

Upon hearing that, everyone from the Han Family was happy.

Although her part in the play would be small, it wasn't a place where just anyone could go.

This was a recognition for Lu Man.

This opportunity was not for the purpose of making Lu Man become famous. Instead, it was to let her have an experience.

It was like Han Zhuofeng learning from a big-time director.

After about 20 minutes more, the performance officially started.

The students from New York University were the first to go on stage.

The order of the performance was determined by balloting. Lu Man had been the representative to draw a lot.

However, there were only two rounds. Hence, it did not matter who went first.

Those who got on stage and performed first could put their pressure aside and focus on watching the others' performance.

Even if their performance wasn't good, it would be useless to feel depressed at that point. They might as well relax.

However, it was also easy for those who went on stage first to not be in good condition.

Those who went on stage in the second half would feel the pressure throughout and would not be able to relax.

If the students from New York University performed too well, it might even affect the second group's performance later.

But it could also give them more time to adjust their emotions and make it convenient for them to be absorbed in their roles.

In short, there were pros and cons.

In the end, Lu Man picked the second half.

The team members felt that this was destined.

The team from New York University would be performing a fragment from Shakespeare's famous tragic love story, "Romeo and Juliet."

Chapter 2402: Consider Yourselves as Being Tactful

It could be seen that their team's capability was indeed very strong.

Although one could not say how incredible their performance was, their foundation was very solid.

Their performance was steady on stage, and they had also controlled the rhythm well. The performance was not messy.

It was considered an ornamental performance.

But the flaw was that the performance was overly conforming to the norms.

“They have performed so well. Even if our performance is stable, we’ll tie with them at most,” Xu Chuansheng worriedly said.

However, Guo Hai had adjusted his mindset well. “It’s also not bad to tie with them. Actually, having a tie is the best result that I expect.”

It was fine as long as they did not lose too badly.

“I’m afraid we may not even have a tie,” Sun Hezhou said in a low voice.

“Don’t be so negative,” Lu Man said. “I wonder if they considered learning the lessons from the second-string team previously and did not dare to make themselves stand out too prominently. In the end, as they had retrained themselves too much and were a little too cautious, they did not have enough highlights.

“As long as they still have shortcomings, we’ll have a chance,” Lu Man said.

After hearing Lu Man’s words and seeing how calm she appeared, Sun Hezhou became a little more confident.

They could watch the performance on stage through the screen at the back stage.

The first team finished performing.

Lenard was the first to give a review. His views were the same as Lu Man.

The other judges also felt that the first team had many areas of improvement. But overall, they had passed.

As the judges were top directors and actors, their requirements were also strict.

This kind of performance was only considered a pass to them.

Just as the judges finished their reviews, Lu Man and the others were informed to prepare to get on stage to perform.

The ten of them went behind the curtain to wait. Soon, they saw Oren and the rest coming down the stage.

When they were on stage just now, they had appeared very modest.

But the moment they came down, their faces became black.

“Do those judges know how to review! Even if we have areas of improvement, we are also not as mediocre as what they’ve said.”

“If our performance can only be considered as conforming to the norms, what about the performance of those people from the exchange team? Won’t they be below standard?” Jared sneered.

“I originally thought that we could win beautifully. Who knew that the judges would actually give such reviews?” Zac said.

“You all better talk less. Be careful not to let the judges outside know. Otherwise, they won’t have a good impression of us. They are not ordinary people and can affect our future,” Ashley said.

She didn’t remind them about such matters out of the kindness of her heart.

It was just that they were a team now.

If these words really reached the ears of the judges, they wouldn’t go and distinguish between the ones who had spoken ill of them and those who didn’t. Instead, they would think that the whole team was involved.

Ashley was afraid of being implicated.

In any case, the others had listened to her and did not talk further.

They even glanced at Lu Man and the rest.

Would these people spread what we have said?

However, Lu Man did not even look at them. Who would be in the mood to care about what they say at this important moment? It was more important to perform well for their show first.

The fact that Lu Man ignored them did not mean that the morons would let it pass.

Albertine narrowed his eyes and asked Lu Man and the others, “Did you all hear what we said just now?”

Lu Man, who was in front of the others, coldly said, “We are busy preparing to go on stage. We simply cannot bother listening to what you all have said.”

“Consider yourselves as being tactful.” Albertine gazed at them disdainfully.. “Even if you all have heard it, pretend that you didn’t hear anything and forget it immediately.”

Chapter 2403: Despicable Means

“If word of this really spreads, it could only be you all who must have leaked it out. We won’t let you all off.”

If this had taken place another time, Lu Man would have been interested to ask him how he was going to deal with them.

But it was not the time to get entangled now.

Lu Man did not say anything and looked straight at the stage in front. She took deep breaths without leaving any trace.

“I’m talking to you!” Albertine frowned and said, “What attitude is this!”

“We have to prepare to go on stage to perform and don’t have the time to talk about all this useless stuff,” Lu Man coldly said. “When you all were on stage, we sat far away and kept silent. We did not disturb or affect your performance.

“So please also have the decency to leave now and not affect our mood for the performance,” Lu Man coldly said.

Han Leilei could not help herself from worrying that Albertine was planning to create trouble here and mess up their mood and rhythm so that they wouldn't perform well.

This was too despicable!

Shana said, “Albertine, let's leave first. They are about to go on stage.”

“Shana, which side are you on?” Albertine coldly asked.

Helena pulled Shana over. “Albertine, what are you doing? They are going on stage soon. Should you be disturbing them?”

Albertine was reminded by their words.

Yes, if I create trouble now and affect the mood of the exchange team, it would disturb them from their immersion and they won't be in the right emotional state when they get on stage. The exchange team will then likely lose.

Albertine sneered. “I'm not leaving! If you all lose, it means you all are weak. What has it got to do with me? Isn't the shifting of emotions the most basic thing? A qualified actor should be able to immerse in their role within seconds. Don't blame your incompetencies on me. If you are easily affected, you are not worthy to be an actor and even more unworthy to be our opponent.”

Lu Man narrowed her eyes. Albertine was really planning to use despicable means.

“Despicable!” Guo Hai furiously said.

“If you all have absolute capabilities, why would you come here to create trouble?” Tan Mingxiao said mockingly. “Or are you actually afraid so you purposely came here to disturb us?”

“Afraid? Afraid of you all? Are you all worthy?” Albertine mocked.

“Go away. Stay away from us. We have to prepare to go on stage,” Lu Man warned him. “This is the last time I'm telling you.”

“I don't want to go. What can you do to me?” Albertine felt that Lu Man was just frightening him.

Shana had seen Lu Man's responsiveness and the methods in her employ to handle matters.

Any kind of impromptu emergency was nothing to her.

Shana felt that if they did not leave, they would be at a disadvantage.

“Helena, let's go. Don't create trouble here,” Shana said to Helena quietly.

Helena was quite righteous and said to the others, “We're leaving. You all better leave together with us.”

Helena was on good terms with Shana and had heard about Lu Man from her.

She knew that Lu Man was not to be trifled with.

People like Helena who had a straightforward temper were the most envious and fearful of people who were smart.

The rest of them hesitated. Eventually, Julia, Alfron, and Catherine left with Shana and Helena.

The remaining ones did not leave.

They had also guessed Albertine's intention and felt that this idea was not bad.

Didn't Lu Man also use despicable means previously to affect their performance?

They were only returning back what had been done to them.

Chapter 2404: If They Had to Die, They Wanted to Drag Someone Down with Them

Furthermore, it could make them perform poorly and disgrace themselves.

Why not?

Alfron was the only man to follow Shana and the others to leave. Seeing that, Jared said mockingly, "Useless trash, go and mix with the women, then!"

"Aren't you all leaving?" Lu Man asked.

"We are not. What can you all do to us?" Albertine disdainfully said. "Beat us up?"

Lu Man smiled. "Why should I dirty my hands to deal with b*stards?"

Following that, Lu Man rushed up the stage and shouted, "Albertine! You all are too despicable! We are about to go on stage to compete. On what basis are you all stopping us?! Are you all so afraid of losing? If you depend on despicable means like this, it won't be glorious even if you win!"

Han Leilei was the closest to Lu Man. Soon, she reacted to Lu Man and acted according to her motive.

She also hurriedly shouted and signaled everyone to follow her.

It was alright if they couldn't be heard clearly from outside. It was fine as long as their shouts could be heard on this side.

The rest of them also understood and yelled one after another, "You all are too much! Are you all so afraid of losing?"

"I really wonder whether you all had also used despicable means to win in the competitions in those previous years!"

Everyone on Lu Man's side said something. It was chaotic and noisy as each of them yelled.

They were also not afraid of spoiling their vocal cords, which would affect their performance shortly.

Anyway, they had already been affected by Albertine and the others. It had not been easy for them to adjust their emotions so as to immerse themselves in their roles. However, Albertine had ruined it all.

Following this, they did not know what would happen when they got on stage. Hence, they might as well shame Albertine and the others now.

To put it bluntly, even if they had to die, they also wanted to take others down with them.

Albertine was confused by their sudden actions. "What are you all doing! What is this!"

When the others sensed that something wasn't right, they hurriedly pulled Albertine to leave.

Guo Hai, one of the five men in the team, also reacted quickly.

As Shana had already pulled some people away earlier, only five people remained here.

Guo Hai and the other men blocked the remaining five people here and did not let them leave. It was simple for them to do so.

Besides practicing performance techniques these last few days, the people on Lu Man's team had also practiced their vocals.

Their vocal practices these past few days were not in vain.

At least their voices were loud and had spread to the stage very clearly.

The audience seated far might not be able to hear them that clearly.

But the audience seated in the front half of the theater had heard them.

The four judges looked at one another in shock. Hence, Chamberlain sent someone to enquire. "What's going on? What's happening backstage?"

The principal frowned and hurriedly got up. At that moment, a staff member from the school walked toward him and said something in his ear.

When he heard it, the principal's face changed. He hurriedly went backstage with someone.

Chamberlain was curious and also followed to have a look.

The other three judges also followed them.

Lu Man then warned the others, "Someone's coming!"

When Guo Hai and the others heard this, they hurriedly retreated.

They didn't want others to think that they were attacking the people from the other team. That would not be good.

As soon as Guo Hai and the others retreated, Albertine and the rest wanted to leave immediately.

But just as they were about to leave, the principal had already brought someone in and saw both parties having a standoff.

"What's happening?" the principal asked with a sullen face. "The noise from you all had spread to the front of the stage."

Principal Liu and the three principals also followed behind.

They had to follow!

As they were in someone else's territory, they were afraid that their own students would be at a disadvantage.

"What's happening?" Principal Liu asked Lu Man.

Chapter 2405: Is This Another of Lu Man's Traps

As Lu Man looked calm and was not anxious at all, Principal Liu thought to himself, Is this another of Lu Man's traps?

However, when the rest of them looked over, Lu Man immediately became furious and her face even turned red from anger.

"After they had finished performing and came back, Albertine said that they had obviously performed very well, but the four judges said that their performance was very mediocre. Hence, how could they show that they had the ability to crush and defeat us?"

Lu Man still remembered Shana's and Helena's good intentions.

She knew that if she had mentioned more people, the judges would likely believe that Albertine's whole team had thought this way.

Just like what Ashley had said, the judges would not differentiate who had said what.

They would only look at them as a whole.

This was unfair to Shana and the others who did not say anything.

Hence, even though Lu Man knew that Albertine and a few others had said those words, in order to protect Shana and the rest, she could only take it out on Albertine.

The rest of them were considered lucky.

"You!" Albertine was so furious that he stared until his eyes were like bronze bells.

Didn't Lu Man say that she was busy preparing to go on stage and did not hear anything just now?

In the end, she turned around and betrayed him by telling everyone what they had said.

Despicable!

"Did you really say this?" the principal asked Albertine with a sullen face.

Albertine then noticed that the faces of the four judges looked very bad.

"No, I didn't. I... "

Lu Man interrupted Albertine and continued to say, "When he said those words, we were standing here and preparing to go on stage. His teammate had reminded him not to say such words. Then he realized what he had done. But when he saw us, he was afraid that we would spread what he had said. Hence, he came and warned us not to tell anyone."

When Lu Man talked about Albertine's teammates, everyone discovered that team one had been split into two factions.

Five people were in one faction that had stayed far away from trouble. The other five people were in the second faction. Albertine and the rest of them belonged to this faction.

Ashley was unlucky. She had obviously warned Albertine.

But because she also did not have good intentions toward Lu Man and the others, she was swayed by Albertine's behavior. Hence, she did not leave with Shana and the others just now and even stayed by Albertine's side. Hence, she was misunderstood by the judges.

When the rest of them saw these two factions, they would naturally think that Shana's faction was the one that had warned Albertine.

It was obvious that they were unwilling to participate in this disgraceful matter. Hence, they had retreated.

Naturally, if Lu Man and her teammates wanted to settle account or bear grudges, they would not include Shana and the others.

And Lu Man had planned all these.

Even if Shana and the rest of them couldn't understand Lu Man's intention immediately on the spot, they became aware of it after the matter and were extremely grateful to her.

Of course, these came in later.

Lu Man continued to say, "I said that we were busy preparing to go on stage to perform and were simply not bothered with what he had said. But he still pestered us endlessly.

"As we were only performing a small segment of a drama, there was no time for us to prepare our emotions according to the development of the story. We could only prepare our emotions in advance based on the characters' personalities and emotions in this segment. The moment we went on stage, we had to immerse ourselves in our roles immediately.

"I had also told Albertine that before they went on stage, our team had sat far away as we were afraid of disturbing them."

Chapter 2406: Bullies the Weak but Fears the Strong

"This is out of our respect for our opponents and for this competition. No matter what our capabilities are, we need to give our best to ensure that the competition is a fair one. Of course, it's also to avoid the possibility that they would shift the responsibility to us and think that we were purposely causing trouble before the competition if they ended up not performing as well.

"I also made it very clear that we gave them a very good pre-competition environment, hoping that they too can respect us. At such a critical moment when we are just about to go up on stage, they shouldn't come and pester us over these things."

Lu Man acted as if she was laughing in anger and said, "But not only did my words not manage to dissuade Albertine, they seemed to have reminded him that he can seize this chance to disrupt the emotions that we finally managed to prepare and bring out, all in order to make us lose focus on stage, unable to get into character at the first instance.

"No matter what we said, he refused to listen and did not intend to be reasonable at all," Lu Man said. "The emotions we built up for this performance had been completely disrupted. We quarreled with them in anger, raising our voices a little, and that's why we alarmed everyone," Lu Man finished off saying.

The faces of Principal Liu and the others instantly darkened. "Your students are too much of a bully!"

"She's spouting nonsense! I didn't!" After his shock, Albertine could finally tell that Lu Man was pushing all the blame on him!

If Lu Man had said that it was their whole team, at least there would still be people who could shoulder the blame together with him.

But now, Lu Man had singled only him out.

If they were to pursue the matter, him taking full responsibility for this would be much more severe than having a few people take the blame together!

"A coward who bullies the weak but fears the strong! Where did the arrogance you showed when we were the only ones around go?" Tan Mingxiao said loudly. "Now you don't even dare to admit it after you did it."

"Enough!" the principal shouted.

The moment his voice rang out, a flurry of clicking sounds was heard.

When they turned to look, they saw that so many reporters had also followed them over since god knows when.

As the annual friendly exchange competition's reputation was slowly increasing, so was its popularity.

In the top team itself, there were up-and-coming new generation actors. And with word that Han Zhuoli's wife, Lu Man, was participating, the competition this year received exceptional attention from the media.

The school was naturally happy about this.

Even Principal Liu and the few other principals were also very happy that so many reporters came this time.

They hoped to use this chance to publicize the country's acting industry more.

Who knew that such a thing would happen when there were so many reporters?

Their top team's students had resorted to underhanded means just to win the competition.

They were clearly a bunch of people who always boasted about their own capabilities and never looked upon the exchange team as equals.

But when it really came to the competition, they actually used such despicable means.

What did this show?

It showed that the top team actually still lacked confidence deep down and were still scared that the exchange team might win.

They kept claiming that the exchange team's capability could not make the cut and was miles apart comparatively.

But to do something so despicable like this, they had actually already confirmed the exchange team's capabilities in their hearts, showing they were just afraid to lose.

Chamberlain's expression was so stern that it was scary. He said to Albertine and the others, "You all make me very disappointed.

"If it's about our feedback, you can feel indignant about it and doubt it. But even if we learn of those doubts, we won't bear a grudge so pettily. But you all actually resorted to cheap shots backstage, trying to obstruct your opponents and ruin the fairness of the competition.." Chamberlain shook his head and said, "I feel ashamed on all of your behalf."

Chapter 2407: A Sure-win Situation

"Even if you all perform better than them because of this, I won't think that you all won," Chamberlain said.

"I am really sorry," the principal said to Lu Man and the others, as well as to Principal Liu and the rest. "They are too unbecoming. I will just disqualify their competition results."

"So we will win by a walkover?" Lu Man asked back and shook her head as she continued, "This is not what we want.

"How is this considered a win? A win like this would not be honorable. Just like what we said previously, we respect the competition and the opponent. No matter whether we win or lose, we just want a fair chance," Lu Man said. "If we lose, we have to lose fairly. If we win, we have to win honorably too."

Lu Man turned and asked her teammates, "What do you guys think?"

"I agree!" Guo Hai nodded in agreement. "Winning without competing, that will make other people mock us for getting a free win, saying that it was not based on our real capabilities. Wherever we go, people will still mock us and be disdainful of us."

"We still want to go up on stage. Even if we lose, we will admit defeat. After hearing the feedback from the panel of judges about our shortcomings, we will go back and correct them. We will keep correcting our shortcomings and improve ourselves. There will come a day when we can surpass those who boasted about their own capabilities and looked down on us," Tan Mingxiao said.

“If we lose this time, at least we will lose fairly. If we win, we will also win honorably,” Han Leilei said.

And even if they lose, won't the outside world still mock the people in the top team for winning dishonorably?

No matter what the capability of the exchange team was, without the top team's disruption, they might similarly still have lost.

But there were no ifs.

The top team had really disrupted them.

So, the moment the exchange team lost, most people would put most of the responsibility on the top team's behavior.

In this way, the top team would have been the one to win dishonorably.

But if, she was saying if...

If luck was on their side and they won...

Then other people would say that the top team's disruptive behavior could not even stop the exchange team from winning. What would that show?

It would show that the exchange team's capabilities were indeed very strong.

The top team would no longer be able to make the cut.

Resorting to underhand means just to win and ending up still losing, and losing even more disgracefully at that.

At first, because of Albertine's disruptive behavior, the people in the exchange team were extremely disgusted by him and felt really upset.

But because of what Lu Man did, the situation had been turned instantly around.

Now it became such that no matter whether they won or lost, it would not be a bad thing for them at all.

Even if they lost, no one would blame them.

The pressure and the stress they felt previously all disappeared.

They could completely relax and perform. As long as they did not perform too badly, there should be no problem at all.

Everyone thought about it and felt that this was really an advantageous thing on so many levels.

Whether they won or lost, it would still be considered a win for them.

Since they felt no pressure, then the nervousness they felt at first was all gone. They could completely relax and could face the performance in an even more relaxed manner as well.

Everyone expressed that they were more willing to go up to compete.

Perhaps their capabilities might not be as strong, but they would not run away from this.

“Well said!” Principal Liu praised in a loud voice. “These are our students, this shows our sportsmanship!”

Lu Man and the others had especially spoken in English so that the others could understand as well.

The four judges nodded in admiration and said, “Very good. You all are very good.”

Chamberlain finally gave a smile and said, “I very much look forward to your performance. No matter what your capabilities are now, I believe that in the future, your capabilities will surely become very strong.”

Grijec smiled and said, “Then we’ll go back and prepare ourselves while we wait for their performance.”

Chapter 2408: Nicely Done

“Okay.” Zoey nodded, then asked Lu Man and the others, “So do you guys need to start preparing yourselves again? We can give you all some more time.”

Lu Man looked at the others and asked, “How long do you all need to readjust your emotions?”

Everyone discussed and decided to ask for 10 minutes.

If the time was too long, the audience might not be able to wait.

They also needed to spare a thought for the competition.

Ten minutes was really not a long time. The emcee also had ways to entertain the audience, so it would not be an issue.

When the four judges saw that the exchange team’s request was not only adequate but also mindful of others, their impression of the exchange team became even better.

Lenard and the other three judges discussed and said, “Why don’t we give them 15 minutes? How’s that?”

Five more minutes wasn’t to be laughed at. It could make them feel even more at ease.

This also showed that Lenard’s impression of the exchange team was very good. He had even taken the initiative to ask for more time for them.

The exchange team was the victim to begin with. If not for what happened, they would not need extra time now.

Thus, within permissible limits, the others were also willing to make things easier for the exchange team.

So the other judges also agreed.

Chamberlain asked the principal, “Is this arrangement okay?”

“Of course,” the principal said.

He said to the people from the exchange team, "My utmost apology to you all. This time, our school's students did something that completely lacked sportsmanship. You all defended the spirit of fairness of the competition, which I find admirable."

After he said that, the principal then said to Albertine, "As for you all, I am very disappointed. You all didn't just shame the school, but you've shamed yourselves even more. Do you really think that winning in this way will prove your capabilities?"

"If you all could win in the first place, why do you need to resort to these cheap shots? Because you can't bear to see others doing well? If you all lacked confidence in yourselves, then what did you base your arrogance on usually?" The principal's face was beet red. He did not expect that such an embarrassing thing would happen this year. He did not even have the face to meet people now.

"I am utterly disappointed in you all!" the principal said.

Albertine's face was ghastly pale. He did not expect that they would not even need evidence and just take things at face value.

Chamberlain reminded them, "Let's just go back first. The audience is still waiting."

Lenard said in a low voice to the principal, "Don't forget to give a nod to the reporters. If they really report on this, the loss will be too great."

The principal had been badly infuriated by Albertine.

Now that he heard Lenard's reminder, he instantly remembered that and quickly thanked him, "Many thanks for the reminder. I will go and settle that immediately."

Lenard and the three judges returned to the panel.

The emcee went up on stage to entertain the crowd and said that there had been an incident backstage, so the audience would need to wait for 15 more minutes.

Luckily, they had invited quite a few performance guests over.

After all, just watching two performances was a little simplistic.

The school had invited a few singers.

They tweaked the flow of the program schedule at the last minute to let the singers go up on stage to perform first.

Shi Xiaoya had remained backstage all along to help tidy up Lu Man's makeup and hairdo.

So she had witnessed the whole incident unfolding and went to a corner to quietly give Han Zhuoling a call. She told him about it.

She told them not to worry, that everything was within Lu Man's control.

That was why Han Zhuoli did not rush backstage.

Meanwhile, backstage, the principal and the judges had left.

Principal Liu suppressed his smile and said to Lu Man, "Nicely done."

After saying that, he left with the other three principals as well.

Albertine stood rooted to the ground in a daze, as if he had frozen on the spot.

Lu Man did not bother herself about him either. Now that they had an extra 15 minutes, they did not wait around idly behind the curtains.

Chapter 2409: A Dogfight, How Entertaining

They found a spot far away from Albertine to start getting into character and building up their emotions all over again.

The principal was also afraid of Albertine now, so he specifically sent people over to prevent Albertine from going over to cause trouble again.

But Albertine was really not in the mood now to do that either. He could not care about that.

There was a saying that went, to try to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice used to lure it. This was exactly what Albertine had done.

The people who originally stood together with Albertine to obstruct the exchange team now all started piling the blame on him.

"It's all because of you. Now, no matter what we do, we are in the wrong and are completely at a disadvantage!" Jared accused.

"Didn't you say something just now? Who was the one who mocked Alfron for being a coward?" Albertine said angrily. "Now you're blaming it all on me? Don't think that just because Lu Man didn't expose you, you guys really didn't do anything!"

Zac said, "Albertine, what are you doing? If you hadn't been so reckless as to go and provoke them, how would things have ended up like this? If we hadn't stood on your side, you would even have blamed us for not being united and would have called us cowards."

Ashley said, "I was really implicated by you! We clearly didn't say anything and it was all just you saying those things. But just now, when the principal and the judges saw us standing together with you, they immediately thought that we are all in on this with you. Even if Lu Man didn't say our names, they still won't believe that we didn't do anything!"

"Great. Now, even if we win, our reputation still won't be good. We clearly could have won based on our own merit, yet other people would still think that it's because we resorted to dirty tricks. No matter what we do, it won't be seen in a good light," Oren also complained.

Oren did not stand on Albertine's side just then, but he did not stand together with Shana and the others either. He stood on Albertine's side, slightly further behind him, and just watched coldly from the sidelines, waiting for a good show.

The moment Lu Man could no longer handle it and started panicking, he would then have made a move.

Alas, Lu Man actually had ways.

In the end, not only did Albertine end up worse off, but Oren was also implicated.

Although he stood further behind Albertine and those people, he had clearly still been thought of as being in it together with Albertine.

Previously, when Lu Man repeated what Albertine had said, he had been really worried that the judges would remember that and have a bad impression of him along with the others as well.

Albertine flew into a rage and bellowed, "You guys are all blaming me now? Why didn't I see any of you stop me then? Didn't you all do it as well just now? When Shana said to walk away, why didn't you all leave with her?"

"You guys didn't leave because you also wanted to use these cheap tricks to affect their performance. So don't push all the blame on me!" Albertine shouted loudly.

Lu Man and the others had already found a spot as far away as possible to get into character.

But the backstage area was only so big. So the exchange team could still hear Albertine and the others talking, as well as their shouts.

But now that their mood was different and their stress and pressure had been lifted, they were not afraid of being disturbed anymore.

The uglier the quarrel on Albertine's side was getting, the happier the exchange team felt.

Seeing them in a dogfight was really so entertaining.

They also easily built up the emotions they needed to get into character.

At the 13-minute mark, Han Leilei checked the time and reminded everyone to go and prepare.

So everyone proceeded to the area behind the stage curtains together.

When they passed by Albertine and the others, they took a big roundabout.

They just leaned with their backs pressed against the wall, trying their best to keep their distance from Albertine.

The others: "..."

Why were the people from the exchange team behaving in such a manner?

When someone came to notify them to prepare to go up on stage, the exchange team was already done preparing.

Chapter 2410: This Show, Who Directed It?

They heard the emcee's announcement.

The spotlight on the stage in front of them shone over, and they finally went up on stage.

As they felt no pressure in their hearts, they were in just the perfect state of relaxation.

It actually brought out their best state.

If they went up on stage with the mentality they had before Albertine had caused a ruckus, they might not even have performed as well.

But because they felt that even if they lost, no one would blame them because of this, they could actually perform up to their usual standards, and even better.

The performance then came to an end.

Chamberlain nodded and said, "Earlier on, there was a situation backstage, but you guys were able to adjust your states so quickly and get into character once more. Well done. Of course, there are still some shortcomings. I can tell that your script has been simplified."

Lu Man nodded and said, "Our capabilities are not strong enough. With our current capabilities, we are not able to act out the original script very well. We can only simplify and reduce it to a scope that we can manage. In doing so, we had to take away some of the brilliance and essence of the original work. I look forward to a day when we will be able to completely and successfully perform the original work in its complete form."

"It's not just you all. Even for someone who had acted in numerous productions, no one can confidently say that they will definitely be able to re-enact and bring out the essence of the original work completely. And no actor will dare to say that he or she has expressed all the unique features, the deepest and most soulful parts of the original work's character fully.

"I also acted as Hamlet before, but really, when I was done acting that role, I was not satisfied with my own performance either. At that time, I was very arrogant. Given the me back then, I was actually not capable enough to take on such a role. Rather than insisting on acting out such a complicated role, if your tone and manner of speech are not skilled enough, you might as well perform within a scope that you can manage. Simplifying it a little is not a bad thing to do."

Zoey smiled and said, "I look forward to seeing you all perform a more complete version of this play."

Grijec pushed up his glasses and said, "Although your script had been simplified, in this way, you all were also able to completely be in control of the stage, and you didn't let the performance get out of your control. The pace throughout was managed very well, and the flow did not break. It was as if there had been an invisible string in your hands from start to end, with each of you pulling it along bit by bit."

Grijec smiled and said, "But as I watched the way you all reorganized and adapted the script, I felt that it was done in a very experienced manner. And your positions on stage, with the pauses between each of you, did not look like the work of a novice either. And there are some habits in the positioning which I find quite familiar too.

"May I ask, for this show of yours, who directed your performance?" Grijec asked.

Lu Man smiled and said, "It's Robert and Hayer."

Grijec exclaimed "Oh!" in surprise. If Lu Man said that, it was definitely the two people that he knew and not some other people who had the same names.

“I say, that’s why it looked so familiar!” Grijec laughed and said, “The two of them were actually the ones who directed the performance for you all.”

“You all don’t know. Robert has a small habit when it comes to stage positions. There are many times when he’d walk to the side and turn around, then he would habitually pause for up to a second. It’s not a very significant habit and is very difficult to notice. But I worked with him on quite a few shows before, so I noticed this point. And now, I also see this practiced by your male lead here.”

Wang Yanglin smiled in embarrassment as he said, “When Robert was guiding me, I just learned it.. But I didn’t know this was his habit, I just thought that this was the way to act it out, so I just learned it as well.”