

Mr Han 251

Chapter 251: It's Not So Easy to Make It in the Entertainment Industry!

Lu Man's lips that were kissed pink, plump and full because of him paused in front of his Adam's apple. Without heading towards the spot Han Zhuoli was pointing at, she sucked at his protruding Adam's apple.

After her lips left, a red patch lingered on his Adam's apple.

Satisfied with her work, Lu Man grinned. "Done."

Han Zhuoli did not have to look in the mirror to know what had happened.

Because of this girl, his erection that he had barely managed to hold back just now stood up again.

If he had known better, he wouldn't have started this fire.

He smacked Lu Man's bum, resigned. "Cheeky!"

Recalling the cunning look that had flashed across her eyes just now, this little girl clearly did this on purpose!

At that position, his shirt collar completely could not hide that mark.

Lu Man smiled happily as she had succeeded. She then buttoned up his shirt collar again and arranged his tie neatly too.

As expected, the red mark she left behind was still exposed.

Feeling resigned, Han Zhuoli stood up to take a look in the mirror.

This little girl did leave it at a rather artistic spot. It was right in the center, perfectly symmetrical.

"I really have to leave." Lu Man was standing near the door. Her cunning behavior looked as if she was a small cat testing her limits by the edge of danger, ready to run away any time.

Han Zhuoli laughed because of her look. He walked over and pinched her soft cheek. "What will I ever do with you?"

Lu Man looked at him from head to toe and fixed her gaze at his lower half, "You're done?"

"..." Under her burning gaze, Han Zhuoli felt like he was starting to get excited again. "I'll see you out."

Han Zhuoli walked Lu Man to the office and stood at the door. "You don't have to do anything when you head back. I will personally tell Wu Lize that you have to take leave."

He did not wish to give Wu Lize any chance to say anything to Lu Man.

Even if Lu Man did not like Wu Lize, he was still unwilling to give Wu Lize the slightest chance.

As soon as Lu Man returned to the office, Xia Mengxuan's furious eyes landed on Lu Man, her gaze filled with reluctance and hatred.

She had just received a call from Ye Xuanxuan who had told her that it was very likely that Lu Man was chosen by Sun Yiwu to take over the role of the original third female lead.

Also, Ye Xuanxuan had herself seen Lu Man, the CEO, Sun Yiwu, and the others sitting together discussing something. Other than discussing the taking over of the role, they could not have discussed something else.

Xia Mengxuan just could not understand why Lu Man was so lucky.

Clearly, she was there too, but how could Sun Yiwu choose Lu Man?

Was he blind?

"Lu Man." Sister Li had a pretty good relationship with Lu Man, and now it was suitable for her to ask. "Director Sun Yiwu really wanted to you take the role?"

"Yes." Lu Man nodded her head without any qualms since she would have to take leave for a long period of time starting tomorrow, her colleagues would find out sooner or later. "I've already signed the contract, I'll be joining the crew tomorrow."

"Aiya!" Sister Li was so surprised and happy that she didn't know how to react, "Then you... you are going to become an actress, and join the entertainment industry?"

"No." Lu Man shook her head and frowned a little, "Actually, I haven't properly thought through exactly what I'll do. It's just that this is an opportunity and I want to give it a try. I haven't decided whether I will continue filming or come back to work after filming this movie."

"Then are you saying that after filming, you will return?" Sister Li was shocked. Such an amazing opportunity was laying right in front of her. Other girls would have started imagining how they will finally achieve their beautiful dream of becoming famous, yet why was Lu Man still so calm!

"Mm, I'm only taking a week off work."

"Tch, do you really think that you can become famous by filming just one movie?" Xia Mengxuan said, her tone strange and weird. "Sister Li, have you forgotten how many unpopular artistes there are in our company? Many people have filmed several shows yet they still haven't become famous. It's not so easy to make it in the entertainment industry!"

Chapter 252: I Thought You Were Different

"It's not so easy, so don't be in such a hurry to try to gain the director's attention! You sure are shameless to cut the queue and even fight with others."

Chen Shimian seemed to have recalled something and started chuckling. "Oh right, Xia Mengxuan, what did you say earlier? Wasn't something like following a friend to the audition, and getting chosen instead? Weren't you talking about Lu Man?"

Sitting at her own seat, You Lili giggled secretly to herself. Xia Mengxuan had said so to her just now and treated her like an accompanying piece to contrast herself. It sure was great now, in the end, Lu Man was the one who had accidentally got the chance.

Even Brother Zhang could not help but laugh secretly.

Sister Li grinned as she said to Lu Man, “Lu Man, after filming this movie, no matter what happens, we are all here, cheering on for you. If you think it’s boring to film and think of returning, we will always welcome you back. If you wish to continue acting, I want to wish you in advance to become popular in one-shot. After you become famous, don’t forget us, come back to visit whenever you’re free.”

“Lu Man.” Just then, Wu Lize appeared at the door of his office, “Come over for a moment.”

“Sister Li, I’ll head over first,” Lu Man said.

Sister Li smiled and nodded. “Go along.”

Then Lu Man entered Wu Lize’s office.

Right now, Wu Lize’s expression looked complicated. “Just now, the CEO called and helped you to take time off. I’ve heard that you’re going to star in a film?”

Lu Man nodded. “Yeah. Director Sun Yiwu thinks that I’m quite suitable. I’m sorry that I’ll have to take so much time off work.”

Wu Lize hesitated a little, wanting to speak but swallowing his words again. “Lu Man, are you and the CEO... Is the CEO wooing you?”

Lu Man’s expression did not change, and she did not reply to Wu Lize’s question. This was her private matter, it was a little sudden and too intrusive of Wu Lize.

“Manager Wu, if there’s nothing else, I’ll be heading out first.”

“Hold on!” Wu Lize hurriedly called. “I’m sorry, I was asking a bit too much, but I really wanted to know. The CEO treats you differently from others. I don’t believe that you can’t tell.”

Lu Man pressed her lips unhappily. “Manager Wu, I believe that this is my private matter.”

Previously, Wu Lize had snatched away the chance for her to fight for the Best Newcomer Award because of his own personal feelings, but in the end, she still managed to get it. She did not wish to fuss about what had happened, but that didn’t mean that she was glad to let Wu Lize point fingers at her personal life, questioning her over and over.

“Right now, I’m also talking about my private matter too.” Wu Lize pressed onto the door, not letting Lu Man exit. “I just want to know if the CEO confesses to you, will you accept him?”

Lu Man was a little taken aback. She raised her eyebrows slightly in confusion.

“Let’s say,” Wu Lize steadied his breath, “Could you reject the CEO too because of your boyfriend?”

“No,” Lu Man replied instantly with a smile.

Wu Lize looked at her in disappointment. “Lu Man, I never expected that you would be such a person. I thought you were different.”

“Manager Wu, you have misunderstood.” Lu Man said humorously, “He is my boyfriend, he is the same person that I told you about before. I do not need to reject him because of my boyfriend and neither do I have to abandon my boyfriend to accept him. I’ve only rejected you because of him.”

At that moment, Wu Lize froze violently. His eyes widened in shock, disbelieving what he had just heard.

“This is my private matter and I did not wish to talk about it initially. From the start till now, I’ve only been dating Brother Han. He is my boyfriend, there is no one else. There is no such situation where I will abandon my boyfriend because of him, if that’s what you’re thinking.”

Chapter 253: Are You Someone to be Ashamed of?

Wu Lize was so shocked that he was completely stunned for a moment, his hand was stuck frozen to the door.

So Lu Man peeled his hand off the door. Before opening the door, she said to him, “Regarding this matter, I don’t wish to broadcast it to everyone. If we want to announce it publicly, we will do so ourselves. I hope that someone who has nothing to do with this would not talk about this.”

That person was precisely Wu Lize.

“Don’t worry, I’m not such a blabbermouth,” Wu Lize sounded bitter, his voice hoarse.

Besides, this matter not only involved Lu Man. If he spilled the secret, it would make Han Zhuoli unhappy and that wouldn’t be beneficial to him either.

“However, Lu Man, although you treat me as a stranger, I treat you as my friend. Have you ever thought that since you are already together with Han Zhuoli, why hasn’t he publicly announced your relationship? Are you someone to be ashamed of?”

Lu Man was done with Wu Lize relentlessly discussing her private life and replied impatiently, “It was my decision not to announce it. Since I’m working here, it will be very inconvenient to let others know. From the junior staff to upper management, they will all treat me differently and some might even want to exploit my relationship with Brother Han to get what they want. I can’t help him much, but I can’t be a hindrance to him either, so I chose not to be public, but I did not purposefully hide it. Like right now, after you asked me, didn’t I proudly tell you about it? He doesn’t mind things like this.”

By the time Lu Man finished speaking, her expression had already turned solemn and cold.

Without waiting for Wu Lize’s reaction, she left.

“Why...” Wu Lize mumbled to himself in the office.

So, from start to the end, he had lost to the same person, Han Zhuoli.

Now that he remembered, every time when something important happened, as long as Lu Man was there, Han Zhuoli would be there too.

For the Nan Yin Charity Night, they had never left together with Han Zhuoli.

Yet this year they had unexpectedly set off from the company together. Turns out that it was in fact because of Lu Man.

Zheng Tianming had even intentionally distracted him away, letting Han Zhuoli and Lu Man get in the same car.

Also, the time when Lu Man worked overtime, he had originally wanted to accompany Lu Man but was strangely called away for some weird reason by Zheng Tianming.

After he left, did Han Zhuoli come too?

It turned out that traces of their relationship had always been left behind. The two of them have been together since a long time ago.

Yet, like a fool, he had secretly crushed on Lu Man and knew nothing.

At night, after work, Lu Man did not eat out with Han Zhuoli and both went home together instead.

When they entered, Xia Qingwei was in the kitchen preparing dinner.

Wearing an apron, she lifted her spatula, "Y'all are home! I'm just about to finish cooking, wait for a minute."

"Mom, let me help," Lu Man quickly changed her shoes and entered the kitchen, rolling her sleeves up.

"There's no need to, you've been busy for the whole day already. Go and take a seat with Xiao Han, stop trying to mess me up." Xia Qingwei chased Lu Man and Han Zhuoli out to the living room and returned to the kitchen after that.

After ten minutes, she placed the dishes for dinner on the table.

"Mom, you've heard of Director Sun Yiwu, right? Lu Man scooped a bowl for Han Zhuoli as she asked Xia Qingwei.

"Of course I have." Xia Qingwei drank the bowl of soup Lu Man had served her just now. "I don't know many directors, but I do know Sun Yiwu, he's such a famous director."

Lu Man smiled as she explained, "Today, he came to our office to scout for an actress. The third female lead in the film that he is currently filming got injured and is hospitalized, so she can't continue filming. He could only change the actor on short notice. It just so happened that I got chosen."

"Ah?" Xia Qingwei blinked in confusion. "You're going to act? No, I remember that Sun Yiwu was always filming action films, right! That's so dangerous! The third female lead was already injured and hospitalized, it must be difficult to film it right!"

Chapter 254: Why Would There Even Be a Good Car in This Poor Area?

Xia Qingwei said anxiously, "You shouldn't go then, it's too dangerous!"

"Mom, all those were accidents. If it was really dangerous, how could Big Brother Han let me go?" Lu Man quickly gave a look to Han Zhuoli.

"Mom, it's really true. If it's dangerous, I won't let her go," Han Zhuoli immediately said.

Regarding anything concerning Lu Man, Xia Qingwei trusted Han Zhuoli more than Lu Man herself. "If Xiao Han says so, then I'll trust you."

Lu Man was resigned. Xia Qingwei actually trusted Han Zhuoli more.

Actually, Xia Qingwei felt that Lu Man would only share her joy with her but not her worries since Lu Man was always afraid that she would be worried.

So even if it really was dangerous, Lu Man wouldn't tell her either.

On the other hand, Han Zhuoli would always cherish Lu Man, he cared for Lu Man more than Lu Man herself.

Hence, regarding any matter concerning Lu Man, she was willing to believe in Han Zhuoli.

"Then, in the future, are you thinking of joining the entertainment industry?" Xia Qingwei was concerned and worried. "Being in the entertainment industry is like swimming in murky waters. Putting Lu Qi's terrible scandal aside, these few years, I've seen quite a lot of gossip. It's dark in there. I'm afraid that others will take advantage of you."

"Mom, I haven't decided yet. I'm only going to film and give it a try. Since Director Sun Yiwu has chosen me, I'll just go and give it a shot. It's like a chance for me to consider other options, more directions to develop my career," Lu Man explained, "Besides, I'm only acting as a third female lead. So many people have acted as female leads yet they couldn't get famous. I'm just the third female lead, how could I suddenly burst into popularity?"

"Mom, aren't I here too?" Nowadays, Han Zhuoli was calling her 'Mom' very fluently. "Those people in the entertainment industry don't have someone behind to support them, so naturally they will try to sleep their way to the top and use all sorts of dirty tricks to harm others. But with me around, who will dare to hurt Lu Man?"

"That's true too." Thinking about Han Zhuoli's status, Xia Qingwei was assured again.

At that instant, she felt that Xiao Han was honestly too reliable.

No matter which industry Lu Man worked in, as long as Han Zhuoli was there, she wouldn't be exploited!

Right then and there, Xia Qingwei no longer had any more concern. "Alright then, Mom will listen to you. Do what you like. You can choose whatever you want to do in the future too."

After Han Zhuoli finished eating, he sat around for a while and then took his leave, afraid that he might disturb Xia Qingwei from being able to rest.

Moreover, since Lu Man would be filming soon, Xia Qingwei won't be able to see Lu Man for quite some time, so he wanted to leave some time for the mother and daughter duo to have a proper talk.

Thus, Han Zhuoli drove off and just left. Right behind him, another Benz stopped.

In that car, Xia Qingyang was in the back seat and from the space between the driver's seat and passenger seat in the front row happened to see the car driving off. Feeling strange, she mumbled, "Since when was there such a nice car in this poor place?"

"Mom, what did you say?" Lu Qi did not hear her clearly.

Just then, Xia Qingyang pointed ahead. "There, the car that just drove off, isn't that a Bentley? Why would there even be a good car in this poor area?"

"It was probably just passing by, it doesn't have anything to do with us." Displeasure was written all over Lu Qi's face. She chased, "Don't care about that car, let's go to Lu Man's house quickly."

"Right." Xia Qingyang alighted. The driver opened the boot and took out a fruit basket.

Xia Qingyang took it over and instructed the driver to wait for them there. Carrying the fruit basket, Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi headed to Lu Man's home.

"Why didn't you get Dad to come along? With Dad along, would Lu Man dare to do anything?" Lu Man complained as they walked.

"Are you dumb! Lu Man completely doesn't listen to your father now. You still can't tell? Other than letting off some steam by scolding Lu Man, your father has long since been unable to control Lu Man from that time at the hotel when Lu Man was hit in the head by you but woke up again to see you trying to frame her but failing miserably. After that, has your father even once succeeded in making her do anything?"

Chapter 255: Like She Has Changed her Soul or Something

"I think I finally understand it. Lu Man usually just lets your father scold her however he wants, then she will just go along with her life doing what she wants to do and never listen to your father as honestly she also won't lose on anything upon getting scolded by him. Right now, in Lu Man's eyes, your father is just an empty shell!" Unhappiness was all over Xia Qingyang's face. "I really can't understand how Lu Man suddenly became so difficult to deal with!"

Was she still that same dumb and stupid step-daughter of hers in the past?

She used to do whatever she told her to and had never resisted or fought back.

But now?

It was like Lu Man had practically started over her whole life. Her life only got better and better, it was a completely different life from the one she had in the past.

"Hey, why do you think Lu Man changed so much?" Feeling unfair, Xia Qingyang turned around and asked Lu Qi who was just behind her.

She always felt that Lu Man's life should not be like this, it would only be right if Lu Man's life was very pitiful.

She always felt that everything that belonged to Lu Man right now should only belong to Lu Qi.

It felt like the tables had turned and Lu Qi was leading Lu Man's life instead.

Xia Qingwei's apartment was in an old building. Despite being six floors high, there was no lift, and the stairwell was very cramped too.

Therefore, Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi were walking in single file.

Some floors had lights, while others did not, it was alternating between dark and bright.

Lu Qi always despised this poor, dingy place. It felt like a slum.

"How would I know!" Lu Qi wasn't distracted, she stared at the path beneath her cautiously. If she knew this was going to happen, she wouldn't have worn her heels today.

"I always feel like there's something strange and weird about this." As if she realized something, Xia Qingyang suddenly lowered her voice. "Like she... like she has changed her soul or something..."

On the floor that they were at, it just happened that it wasn't lit. The only light streaming into the pitch black stairwell came from the weak, flickering light from the floor above.

Their shadows were cast weakly onto the staircase, twisted and warped out of shape by the edged steps.

Such an environment was already slightly creepy and when Xia Qingyang suddenly spoke in a low voice, it was rather terrifying.

Lu Qi's hair stood up. Rubbing her arms, she said unhappily, "Mom, what rubbish are you saying! What do you mean by all this weird supernatural stuff! It sounds unbelievable! Stop talking about it!"

A shiver crept down Xia Qingyang's spine as well, making her tremble. It did sound rather ridiculous when she thought about it too and she said quickly, "Alright, alright, I won't talk about it anymore."

At the same time, Xia Qingwei and Lu Man did not know that Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi were visiting. After the two of them sent Han Zhuoli off, Lu Man stopped Xia Qingwei from doing anything. "Mom, go and take a rest. You've already made dinner, let me wash the dishes."

"No, you've been all busy at work for the whole day, how could I still let you work after you get back home? I was at home and did nothing anyway, this little chore means nothing," Xia Qingwei stood up and headed towards the kitchen.

Even though Lu Man never talked about it, Xia Qingwei knew that Lu Man was definitely having a tough time in the company.

Lu Man had joined the company midway and did not have the educational background. She definitely must be dealing with a huge amount of stress.

She had also heard that Lu Man had taken on a particularly difficult assignment not long ago. And had seen Lu Man staying up late every night after work.

This child was already under so much pressure so Xia Qingwei just wanted her to be able to have a good rest when she came back home.

“Mom, you don’t have to fight with me for this, I’m really not tired. No matter what, I will be washing the dishes. If we keep fighting over this, who knows when I would be able to finish washing the dishes.” Lu Man held Xia Qingwei back.

Xia Qingwei was resigned. “Alright then. But, only this time.”

Lu Man smiled but did not agree to anything.

Heading towards the kitchen, Lu Man proceeded to wash the dishes. Even Xia Qingwei did not stay in the living room alone and headed to the kitchen instead and sat by the side.

Seeing that Lu Man said, “Mom, your health is getting better now and we’ve already paid back our debt. Whether I continue working in the public relations department or go into acting, my income will be a lot better than when I was working as Lu Qi’s assistant, our lives are going to get better and better. Once we aren’t so cash-strapped, I’ll buy a dishwasher. When I’m working overtime and can’t get back home in time, leaving you to be alone at home, just don’t wash the dishes yourself.”

Chapter 256: Have You Thought About Going Back to University?

“Later on, I’ll buy a robotic sweeper and a robotic mop too, so that you won’t have to bend your back while using a broom to sweep the floor.”

“There’s no need, what’s the point of spending money on those things?” Xia Qingwei hurriedly disagreed. “Life is indeed a lot better now. I think that I’ll save up some parts of your salary, one part will be deposited in the bank while the other can be saved for your dowry.”

“Mom, you’re saving up for that way too early.” Lu Man’s hand slipped and almost dropped the bowl she was washing.

“It’s not. I can see how serious Xiao Han is towards you. I believe that he isn’t an irresponsible child either. While the future might be hard to tell, but somehow I still feel that you two will be together for a very long time.” Xia Qingwei smiled. “Even if I put everything I’ve just said aside, no matter who you get married to in the future, we will still have to prepare your dowry, we can’t skimp on that. Mom doesn’t want you to be unable to stand up tall and straight at your in-laws’ place, letting your mother-in-law make life difficult for you because of your dowry.”

In the future, if she was to marry Han Zhuoli, although their family could not be compared to the Han Family at all, she still had to put in her greatest effort too.

Most importantly, it was to let the Han family see their sincerity and that Lu Man was not some cheap girl wishing for riches and honor.

When she thought about the Han family, Xia Qingwei’s heart sank slightly.

This was something that she had always overlooked. Now that she was talking about the dowry, she had finally remembered it.

Such a grand family like the Hans had a status that she could hardly even imagine.

Who knew if the Han family would think that Lu Man's family background was too ordinary and be unwilling to accept her?

Extremely worried about that, Xia Qingwei's heart felt heavy, but she dared not speak about it, afraid that it would stress Lu Man too.

"Oh right, Man Man, have you thought about going back to university?" Xia Qingwei changed the subject.

Lu Man paused for a moment and turned around. "go back to university?"

"Yes, you only asked for a break from school but you didn't quit school entirely. You still have 10,000 yuan left from the Best Newcomer Award. How much is your salary from the film?"

"200,000 yuan." Lu Man said, "As I'm a newbie, and have zero experience, my pay is very low. Actually, I possibly wouldn't even have this 200,000 yuan at all, they would have just paid me around a 5-digit sum and that's all. However, Big Brother Han kept insisting so the other party agreed to pay me according to what the injured actress was paid."

"In that case, I've done the math, even if you don't go to work, we will have enough for your school fees and our daily expenses for the next three years." Lu Man had attended one year of school before leaving, so if she were to return, she would start from Year Two and it will only take another three years.

No matter how capable Lu Man was, without a degree to support her, it wouldn't bode well in the long run.

In the future, if she wanted to further and develop her career, her educational background would always hinder her, a weakness that others would use against her.

Xia Qingwei did not know that this shortcoming of hers was already attacked and used against her when Lu Man had joined the Public Relations department.

Lu Man was a little interested in the plan, "I will consider it properly."

Even if she were to return to school, she wouldn't choose fashion design.

She would be a newbie in the fashion design industry. After graduation, she would have to start from the bottom all over again, starting as a designer's assistant. She wouldn't be able to earn much and couldn't support the family.

It was unlike the public relations industry, even if she returned to school, since she had also won the Golden Finger Award it would be on her resume and she could start with a much better job after graduation.

Right after Lu Man finished speaking, the doorbell rang.

"Who is it? Could it be that Xiao Han had left something behind?" Xia Qingwei mumbled to herself as she stood up to open the door.

As Lu Man was washing the dishes, it was inconvenient for her to go.

“Coming,” Xia Qingwei called. Reaching the door, she opened it and froze.

Chapter 257: Don't Try and Dirty Our House with Your Filth!

Who knew that Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi would be the ones standing behind the door!

“Elder sister,” Xia Qingyang called, grinning from ear to ear. “You’re home? Have you eaten?”

As she spoke, she tried to enter the house.

However, Xia Qingwei stopped them right at the door. “Why are you here! You are not welcome here!”

“Elder sister, please don’t say that. You are my elder sister, I’m here to visit you and Man Man,” Xia Qingyang was smiling as if she was trying her best to suck up to Xia Qingwei.

Xia Qingwei frowned. “You don’t have to. You haven’t come over once in ten years, there’s no need for you to visit now either.”

After she spoke, Xia Qingwei harshly closed the door in their face.

Xia Qingyang hurriedly pushed against the door. By her side, Lu Qi helped too.

“Older sister, please don’t do this, we are sisters after all. I’ve brought Qi Qi along to visit you too, please let us in,” Xia Qingyang said.

“Hmph! Back then, when you seduced your own brother-in-law, why didn’t you think about the fact that I am your elder sister? You’ve already been married to him for ten years, yet this is the first time you’ve thought of visiting me. I don’t dare to have such a sister relationship with you. Go away!” Xia Qingwei said furiously, “You mother-daughter duo, don’t dirty our house with your filth!”

“Elder sister, speak softer!” Xia Qingyang’s expression immediately changed.

It was fine for her to be embarrassed, but her daughter was a big celebrity, she couldn’t let others know and cause another scandal for her.

Xia Qingwei laughed coldly. “If you’re scared of embarrassing yourselves, then get the heck out of here! Besides, I don’t care about anything anymore, I’m not afraid of embarrassing myself. If you insist on staying here, I’ll tell everyone about your dirty deeds, I’m not afraid of others making fun of me!”

Hearing the ruckus coming from the door, Lu Man took her gloves off, afraid that Xia Qingwei was being downtrodden.

“Mom, what’s going on?” She walked over.

Xia Qingyang still wanted to stop Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi, as she did not wish to let Lu Man see them lest she feels uncomfortable. “It’s nothing, just some strangers.”

“Lu Man, it’s me! It’s me and Qi Qi!” Xia Qingyang took the opportunity and called hurriedly.

“Elder sister, it’s us!” Lu Qi called too.

Seeing them, Lu Man could roughly guess the reason why they had come.

“Why are you here?” Xia Qingwei asked coldly.

Seeing that the situation did not seem optimistic and probably they won't be able to enter today, Xia Qingyang could only talk about it at the door, “Lu Man, I've heard that you've been chosen by Director Sun Yiwu to be the third female lead in his new film?”

Lu Man raised her eyebrows and mocked her sarcastically, “You sure hear about the news very quickly.”

They knew about something that happened this afternoon so soon.

Lu Man did not know that it was Ye Xuanxuan who told Ye Xiaoxing and then Ye Xiaoxing told this Lu Qiyuan.

Ye Xiaoxing was fired and even now, she had still not found a suitable job.

She could not get into any of the good companies now, but as she already had experience working in Han Corporation, she did not want to join a very small company that would pay her a meager salary. Hence, she could only stay at home and keep hating Lu Man.

When she heard the news from Ye Xuanxuan, she immediately told Lu Qiyuan, thinking that she could ruin Lu Man's chance.

Lu Qi could not even get an offer and Lu Man was thinking of filming?

No way!

When Xia Qingyang heard about it and realized that it was indeed true, she was extremely furious and livid. She thought to herself that Sun Yiwu must be blind, refusing so many other actors and choosing Lu Man instead who was an outsider not even from the industry.

“Lu Man, aren't you working well in the Han Corporation public relations department? Why are you becoming an actor? Let me tell you, it's not easy being an actor, and it's difficult to survive in the entertainment industry too, it's not as glamorous as it looks. You should just stay in the Public Relations department and work hard, I've heard that you've even won the Golden Finger Best Newcomer Award recently, isn't that quite good? Why give all of that up?”

“How is it any of your business what career I choose?” Lu Man scoffed, “I didn't even know that you cared so much about me.”

Chapter 258: Why Don't You Give This Role to Your Younger Sister Instead

“Lu Man, I am your step-mother, after all, and also your aunt. We've been living together for so many years, there must be some feelings and ties between us too, right?” Xia Qingyang replied politely and bashfully.

“Haha!” Xia Qingyang laughed sarcastically. “Stop trying to praise yourself!”

Lu Qi tugged onto Xia Qingyang's shirt sleeve, then used her chin to point at the fruit basket in Xia Qingyang's hand.

Xia Qingyang remembered and hurriedly shoved the fruits basket at Xia Qingwei, "Elder sister, this is a small gift from us."

Lu Man side-eyed the fruit basket, it was quite a joke.

Xia Qingyang had been a rich lady for ten years already, yet she was still so stingy and a miser.

She may have called it a fruit basket, but the fruits inside were just apples, bananas, some oranges. Whose fruits basket would be like this?

Even an average ordinary person would consider this fruit basket as a cheap gift!

Xia Qingyang scoffed, "Xia Qingyang, who are you trying to disgust? This small gift? You think that our family is so poor that we can't even afford apples, and would care for this 'gift' of yours?"

She had a favor to ask of Lu Man yet she was still so stingy, she sure was shameless!

This was exactly Lu Qiyuan's taste. He actually liked such a miser and stingy woman.

Doesn't he find it embarrassing to be out together with her?

Only someone like him could fall for someone like her and they sure were a perfect match.

"Lu Man, that role to you is something that you can do without with. Even if you don't go into acting, you won't have much losses too. You have a bright future waiting for you in the public relations industry, why don't you give this role to your younger sister instead," Xia Qingyang said, not feeling shameful or guilty at all. "Qi Qi is doing so badly right now, she desperately needs such an opportunity to make a comeback!"

"Lu Qi despises a third female lead role, right? In the past, didn't you guys tell me that she only wants a female lead role? And at most, a second female role who had almost the same screen time as the first female lead would do." Lu Man raised her eyebrows.

"Isn't that for a television show? It's different from a movie." Lu Qi said, "Moreover, this is Director Sun Yiwu's movie. Let alone a third female lead, I'm even willing to just have a chance to just appear in it."

Even in Lu Qi's prime, she would be willing to do so, let alone in such a pathetic situation that she was in right now.

"That's right, Lu Man, you are Qi Qi's older sister, you have to help her somehow." Xia Qingyang said to Xia Qingwei, "Elder sister, please try to persuade Lu Man too. We are a family, after all, we should help each other out! In the past, it might have been a little unpleasant between us, but that's all in the past now, we have to look ahead to the future too, right? When Qi Qi gets better, she will definitely help Lu Man too. If Lu Man really wants to enter showbiz, then Qi Qi can help her out too, getting some opportunities for Lu Man and let Qiyuan's management company promote Lu Man too. Then, both sisters can look out for each other in the entertainment industry, wouldn't that be great?"

Right now, Xia Qingwei really wanted to spit in her face, this shameless and thick-skinned creature!

Help Lu Man?

Who would believe her!

If she really wanted to help Lu Man, she wouldn't have forced Lu Man to stop school and be Lu Qi's assistant paying her a measly 2000 yuan each month.

Leaving Lu Man with no choice but to suffer in the Lu family, just so that she could save up for Xia Qingwei's medical bills.

Whereas, now that Lu Man was in Han Corporation, she earned 8000 yuan a month and even won a cash prize of 60,000 yuan, moreover, Lu Man even had the opportunity to star in a film.

Look at the life Lu Man led back in the Lu family, and the life that she was living now!

Xia Qingyang still had the cheek to say that she will help Lu Man!

"No thank you!" Xia Qingwei's eyes were red with anger. "When you could have helped Lu Man, you made her Lu Qi's slave. Was that your definition of helping? I dare not let you guys help her!"

Back then she didn't have much ability and couldn't help Lu Man in any way, but now she would definitely let the Lu family trio have a taste of what Lu Man had suffered. All these years, she had always suppressed her anger and never said a single word, but not anymore.

Chapter 259: Will You Pay For My Penalty For Breach Of Contract?

But this time, it made her so angry that her heart hurt.

How could Xia Qingyang dare to be so thick-skinned, coming here and even wanting Lu Man to give the role to Lu Qi!

"What do you take the director and the producers as?" Lu Man said coldly, "I have already signed a contract with the film crew, if I breach the contract I need to pay 10 million yuan. You want me to give my role to Lu Man, then will you pay my fees for breaching the contract?"

"10... 10 million yuan?" Xia Qingyang was shocked and tongue-tied, "Why... why is it so much..."

Although the Lu Family could afford to pay 10 million yuan, her heart ached for it.

What right did Lu Man have she wished that upon breaching the contract the Lu Family should pay for her?

"Elder sister, you're a newcomer, so what you're earning from the film shouldn't be much right?" Lu Qi's heart also ached, she was just like Xia Qingyang, wanting benefits but not willing to pay a cent.

When she was 16 years old and had first entered the industry, she was still a newcomer and had no resources at all. Lu Qiyuan had spent money on her, and it was a monetary loss for the first three years of her career.

By the time she turned 20 years old, she had finally become a B-list celebrity, yet because of the scandal, she could even manage to earn back the money spent on her and even till now she had been unable to turn around her current state.

So upon hearing this amount of 10 million, her heart ached tremendously.

"It's not a lot," Lu Man nodded casually. "Because I'm a newcomer, and have no experience in acting, the other party only agreed to pay me 50,000 yuan for filming the movie."

"So little?" Xia Qingyang was shocked.

"It's the same salary as that of the previous actress, so if Lu Qi succeeds me, it will also be 50,000 yuan." Lu Man said, unmoved, "After all, it's a film directed by Sun Yiwu. Many people would rather not get paid and just want an opportunity to act in it. That's how good he is. The pay is not that important, I could either take it or leave it since there are already several other people vying for that role."

Xia Qingyang twitched her lips unhappily, "That's still too little."

"Furthermore, he wants a person with a background in martial arts because there are a lot of high difficulty martial arts moves in the movie. You should know that the original actress was injured because of this, that's why Director Sun Yiwu was left with no choice but to change the person, otherwise, it won't be me acting isn't it?" Lu Man said coolly, "Lu Qi has no martial arts background right, she hasn't even learned dance before, don't say that I won't let her, but even I let her replace me, can Lu Qi do it?"

"Then you have a background in martial arts?" Xia Qingyang asked instantly.

"I really did learn it before," Lu Man said nonchalantly.

Xia Qingyang had never been bothered about what Lu Man was doing, and hence when Lu Man said that she had learned it before, she really could not find anything to refute her and say that Lu Man was lying.

"Can't she just randomly hit? As long as it looks around the same it'll be alright." Xia Qingyang pursed her lips. "Isn't acting all like that these days?"

"Lu Qi, I think it's better if you teach your mom a bit about Director Sun Yiwu. Otherwise in the future, if she ever accidentally meets him and offends him, don't blame me for not reminding you." Lu Man laughed coldly.

"Mom," Lu Qi also felt that it was embarrassing, she especially could not stand being embarrassed in front of Lu Man, "Director Sun Yiwu has always expected actors to execute the moves, the fists must hit the flesh, this way the actions when filming are more realistic and attractive, making people like them more. If anyone can't do it, they must work hard to do it or they will be replaced by someone else, there is no exception."

"So strict!" Xia Qingyang let out a breath.

"Otherwise, how could he become a famous director?" Xia Qingwei smiled coldly.

Lu Qi had also heard of how strict director Sun Yiwu was and that the original actress who was the third female lead was sent to the hospital because of her injuries.

Hence, Lu Qi also instantly backed off, she did not want to injure herself before even managing to make a comeback.

Whereas, Xia Qingyang rolled her eyes and pulled on Lu Qi, saying in a low voice, "Who knows if what Lu Man is saying is really true. Just because she says that the penalty of breaching the contract is 10 million yuan, we should believe that it is 10 million yuan? Perhaps she's lying to us to make us retreat!"

Chapter 260: Don't Come Back Lacking An Arm Or A Leg When You Go To Film

Lu Qi briefly glanced at Lu Man before pulling Xia Qingyang to a corner at the other side and said softly, "The manager of one of my sisters from the entertainment circle has relations with Director Sun Yiwu's assistant, I can request her to help ask about it."

"Then ask quickly," Xia Qingyang hurried her.

Thus, Lu Qi instantly called her Xu Yiai, a friend from her circle of close friends, who was also a B-list actress, "Xiao Ai, is your manager by your side right now?"

"..."

"Really? Then that's great, I want to ask for her help, could she help me contact Director Sun Yiwu's assistant?"

"..."

"No, no, I'm not trying to get a role, do you still remember Lu Man? She got chosen for the third female lead role. She told me that the cost of breaching the contract is 10 million yuan, so could you please ask your manager, Sister Chen, to help check whether it is true, don't let her lie to me."

On hearing that it was just for that and not to request her manager to help get a role for her, Xu Yiai willingly agreed, "Alright, wait for a bit, I'll ask Sister Chen to ask."

Since it was trivial request Sister Chen agreed.

Xia Qingwei was nervous and secretly asked Lu Man, "Is the fee for breaching the contract really as high as 10 million yuan?"

Lu Man pressed onto Xia Qingwei hand, "We'll talk about it in a while."

After a while, having got the information Sister Chen returned. After she finished telling Xu Yiai about it, she instructed her, "Slowly distance yourself a bit from Lu Qi, her reputation is very bad right now, if you get too close to her, you'll be brought down as well. Also, quickly pull yourself out from her circle."

"Alright, I don't dare to leave too fast because I'm scared that people will say I'm not loyal, and that I hit her when she's down so I can only do it slowly," Xu Yiai said.

"As long as you know what to do, it's alright, but do it as fast as possible. I just helped you get a reality show, be careful, don't let her ride on your popularity," Sister Chen instructed.

Xu Yiai hurriedly agreed, then replied to Lu Qi, "Qi Qi, Sister Chen went to ask just now, it is indeed like that. Because the filming schedule is tight, they're scared Lu Man will regret and refuse to film, which would affect their filming, hence they set the contact breaching fees very high. It's to prevent the worst from happening, you must know, that the movie is very tough to film."

As soon as Lu Qi heard it, her heart felt cold, "I know now, thank you, convey my thanks to Sister Chen."

After she hung up, Lu Qi's facial expression turned ugly as she nodded at Xia Qingyang, "It's really like that."

"Then... then let's just give it up, why do we need to pay the cost of breaching the contract when Lu Man is the one breaching the contract," Xia Qingyang pursed her lips unhappily, completely forgetting that she was the one who pleaded for Lu Man to breach the contract just now.

When Lu Man heard it, she could not help but smile coldly.

Although Lu Qi was unwilling to give up, she still chose to give up, "It's just a salary of 50,000 yuan and also it will be very hectic so I don't want it. Even when I film an episode of a television drama, the pay is at least 100,000 yuan."

"Exactly." Xia Qingyang also felt that it was not worth it. "Let's not do it."

The way Xia Qingyang spoke was as if it was their choice to not take the role and Lu Qi could go if she wanted to.

"Since it's like this, we won't make life hard for you," Xia Qingyang's expression changed, now that she had no use of them, her face instantly turned cold, "Qi Qi, let's go."

Pulling Lu Qi to walk a few steps, she suddenly stopped and turned her head back, "Elder sister, I advise you to control Lu Man. For just 50,000 yuan, she's willing to give up her life. Don't come back lacking an arm or a leg when you go film. The money you earn won't be enough to treat your illness."

Xia Qingwei was so angry that she was trembling, "Nothing good ever comes from a dog's mouth!"

"Mom, don't say anymore," Lu Qi looked like she was trying to prevent a fight, but who knew that what she was actually trying to do by then saying, "They don't have it easy as well, after all, they are poor so when they have such an opportunity they must tightly grasp onto it, even if it's for just 50,000 yuan, they're willing to do anything. They all have their own troubles, it's not that they want to take the risk, but they don't have the power to choose right? We should just go."