

**Mr Han 511**

## **Chapter 511: Red Tiger Is Going to Flop**

After finishing all of her exams, Lu Man placed all that behind her and focused on the publicity for Red Tiger.

Today, Lu Man brought Hu Zhonghui and He Mengmeng along to Ji Cheng's office.

"Lu Man, take a look. You were busy preparing for your exam before this so I felt bad distracting you," Ji Cheng said as he let Lu Man see some of the recent news.

Lu Man indeed had not paid attention to it earlier. Her focus was on preparing for her exam, and she didn't even go online.

In the end, she saw an interview between a reporter and Qiao Luna.

Qiao Luna said, "At first, *Red Tiger* invited me to act as the female lead and at the same time, *Fighting Hero* had also invited me too. However, even I thought that *Red Tiger* was still rather risky too. Also, *Fighting Hero* had Director Zhang Lun, and a Best Male Actor Winner, Ou Jingzong, and many other talented actors. Be it the cast or the production, I will definitely choose *Fighting Hero*. It would give me more room to perform and learn a lot more from the seniors."

Reporter: "Apparently, *Fighting Hero* is also intending to contend for this year's Academy Awards for Best Foreign Film."

"That's right, and many people are supporting it too. After all, Zhang Lun is a world-class director. He was named as one of the few directors in the nation who could vie for an Oscar. All these years, Director Zhang had never let go of his pursuit for an Oscar. I believe in Director Zhang and I wish to go towards a bigger stage together with Director Zhang."

"So, what you're meaning to say is, *Red Tiger* can't even compare to *Fighting Hero*?" The reporter asked, trying to stir something up.

Qiao Luna paused and said, "Isn't that obvious? We definitely have to support locally-produced films and I wish for *Red Tiger* to yield great results too. However, Director Ji Cheng is a newbie, after all, and has much to improve to be at par with Director Zhang Lun. This is his first movie too, so no matter how it's shot, I will definitely support. However, I still have to say, there's still quite a large gap between *Red Tiger* and Director Zhang Lun's *Fighting Hero*."

Qiao Luna added, "It's not that I think *Red Tiger* won't do well. It's just really unfortunate that it's going to clash with *Fighting Hero*. However, this is also an opportunity for him, an opportunity to fight with a great director. He has the chance to learn from a great director, so that's great!"

Thinking that she was very smart, Qiao Luna had used the word "fight" in a pun.

Throughout the whole interview, Qiao Luna looked as if she was rather humble while answering questions, but she was dropping hints everywhere about how she despised *Red Tiger*.

Ji Cheng's assistant Xiao Cheng sneered, "Every time I see this interview I just get furious. There must be something wrong with Qiao Luna. It's normal for her to praise Zhang Lun and *Fighting Hero*, she can feel free to praise them to her heart's content. But what gives her the right to diss on *Red Tiger*? What gives for her to snide on Director Ji?"

On the internet, similar one-sided comments kept appearing.

"Red Tiger is going to flop."

"Meeting *Fighting Hero*, *Red Tiger* is dead."

"Why doesn't *Red Tiger* reschedule its release."

"I look forward to *Fighting Hero*. I don't plan to waste a movie ticket on *Red Tiger*."

"How good of a movie can a B-list actor film? Anyway, I don't plan to watch it."

"Why can't Ji Cheng just focus on acting? Why is he trying to be a director? Does he think that it's easy to fool us and cheat us of our money?"

Lu Man quietly finished reading all of it and said, "Amongst these, some of them are real netizens, but there's quite a lot of them who are fake too."

When she was working in public relations, she had worked with many media accounts. Naturally, Lu Man had trained herself to get hawk-eyed, and now she could easily tell who was fake in just one look.

"Are we just going to let them ruin the reputation of our movie like this?" Xiao Cheng's eyes were blood red from anger. "Do they even know how hard it was for us to film this movie! If we're going to compete, we should do so fairly! Why do they get to ruin us like that! It looks like all our effort for so long is all going to go to waste."

## **Chapter 512: A Slap in the Face**

"Did you invite Qiao Luna to act before in this?" Lu Man asked.

She already didn't have a good impression of Qiao Luna. Back then when they were in the First Class lounge at the airport, it was obvious that it wasn't the first or second time Qiao Luna's assistant behaved that way.

If Qiao Luna really wanted to stop her assistant, then her assistant wouldn't have such an attitude either.

That meant that Qiao Luna herself was problematic too.

"In the past, I only had an inclination to do so. I listed a few female celebrities that I wanted first, but before I could even contact Qiao Luna, she had already agreed to join the cast of *Fighting Hero*. Perhaps she heard something along the grapevine that I was planning to invite her or something," Ji Cheng explained.

"That means that you've never invited her. Then that will make things easier." Lu Man directly used *Red Tiger*'s official Weibo account to post something.

“Recently, Miss Qiao Luna had stated in an interview that the production team of Red Tiger had invited Miss Qiao Luna to act as the first female lead in Red Tiger . Here, we would like to state that we have never sent any invitation to Miss Qiao Luna before. Perhaps Miss Qiao Luna was mistaken or something. In order to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings, we would like to explain ourselves here.”

Once this post was sent, the netizens were the ones delighted, always wanting new gossip.

“This clearly a slap in her face.”

“Qiao Luna previously said that she rejected Red Tiger’s invitation. After that, Red Tiger denied that they ever invited Qiao Luna. Exactly who is speaking the truth?”

“Why do I find this familiar? As if I’ve seen this somewhere else before?”

“To the comment above, please refer to the matter about Yu Xingzhou and Bai Shuangshuang. That’s right, I find something like this strangely familiar too.

“I find it a little strange. Qiao Luna’s interview was days ago. Why did Red Tiger only release this statement only today? Could it be that Red Tiger is lying? Or they really didn’t know how to reply, so they waited so long to reply?”

“Who the heck is lying! Red Tiger didn’t make any move before this because they were waiting for our Goddess of Fury to come back from her break.”

“That’s right. Our Goddess of Fury, Lu Man was busy with her final exams at the Film Academy. She just finished her exams today.”

“That’s amazing. Lu Man just finished her exam today and Red Tiger released an official public announcement. I can’t help but think that this announcement was written by Lu Man.”

” Red Tiger ‘s announcement is so fierce and sounded really strong too. I am able to see a shadow of Lu Man between the lines.”

“Hahahahaha. That’s right. It really does look like something Lu Man would say.”

“What? Someone said that Red Tiger ‘s official account would lie? Let me tell you, if Lu Man had consented to this announcement, then it definitely isn’t a lie. In the past, for Yu Xingzhou’s and Bai Shuangshuang’s case, which one of the posts that Lu Man posted was actually a slander? None! Everything Lu Man posts is true!”

Because Lu Man joined in, a surprisingly large portion of netizens who were originally supporting Qiao Luna started supporting Lu Man and Red Tiger instead.

“Lu Man’s first movie! Definitely supporting!”

This was Lu Man’s fans’ reaction.

Xu Ningxian had long ago started gathering the fans in their private chat. “The movie still hasn’t been released yet. How would they even know whether it’s going to be a flop? They only know how to spout rubbish when they open their mouths!”

A netizen suddenly sent a picture. “Oh gosh, I must be going blind. Look at what I saw!”

The netizen sent a picture of all the movies' schedule.

Fighting Hero and Red Tiger were both in the period of pre-order sales. The number of screening schedules for each movie for the week was also released.

"I just bought tickets to both Fighting Hero and Red Tiger. Whether the movie is nice or not, only those who watch it will have the right to criticize it. I also went to see the schedules for the screenings. The number of screenings for Red Tiger is thrice more than Fighting Hero!"

### **Chapter 513: Made a Mistake Doing Something Else out of Good Will**

The netizen also attached a screenshot of a website showing the screenings for both the movies.

*Red Tiger* was clearly in the first place, and there was a rather quite a big gap between them and *Fighting Hero* was in second place. Clearly, *Red Tiger* was way ahead in the lead.

Since *Fighting Hero* was directed by the great director, Zhang Lun, it was already highly anticipated before it premieres. However, in the end, it had only managed to get slightly more scheduled screenings than a low-budget movie in third place.

The media and netizens were all shocked. Since when did Director Zhang Lun's movie not come in the first place?

How did it lose to *Red Tiger* this time?

Looking at it more closely, the cinema operator which scheduled the least number of screenings for it was Han Corporation Cinemas.

However, Han Corporation Cinemas took up more than half of the market share.

Having lost their spots in Han Corporation Cinemas, for *Fighting Hero* it was equivalent to losing more than half of their box office!

Immediately, someone interviewed the person-in-charge of Han Corporation Cinemas. The President of Han Corporation Cinemas said, "When scheduling the screenings, we've watched both *Fighting Hero* and *Red Tiger*. Both directors did a pretty good job. However, this time, based on our professional and expert analysis, we think that *Red Tiger* would do better. *Red Tiger* was shot pretty well this time, it's definitely above average and won't lose out to Hollywood films. I can't say anymore, otherwise, I would spoil the movie for others and Director Ji Cheng will come looking for me. Anyway, I can say with much assurance that if the audience buys a ticket to watch *Red Tiger*, it will definitely be worth their money and they won't lose out."

Everyone was left speechless. This was like an official advertisement!

Usually, when cinema operators schedule their films, they decide on the quality of the movie. Otherwise, if they were to schedule more screenings for a bad movie, it won't earn much at the box office and would leave the theatre empty, and the cinema would lose a lot of money too!

Therefore, if that really was the case, *Red Tiger* was really much better than *Fighting Hero*?

Because of the words of the Han Corporation Cinemas' President, all the netizens started posting pictures of their ticket for *Red Tiger* .

"Already bought the ticket. Waiting to watch it."

On the other hand, *Fighting Hero* which already had really few screenings was no longer in the limelight. Their pre-order sales have already flopped.

Zhang Lun was extremely livid, he directly called Qiao Luna's manager. "Is Qiao Luna crazy! Why did she have to drag *Red Tiger* down while promoting *Fighting Hero* ! Now she has made it look like *Fighting Hero* is a complete joke!"

"Director Zhang, I'm sincerely really apologetic about it. Qiao Luna didn't think it would happen either. She only made a mistake because she was doing something else out of goodwill," the manager hurriedly explained.

Qiao Luna had originally wanted to suck up to Zhang Lun. After all, considering Zhang Lun's status in the movie industry, Qiao Luna was willing to offend Ji Cheng, purely because she thought that no matter how much Ji Cheng tried to develop his career, he would definitely never reach Zhang Lun's status and success.

Yet unexpectedly, right after she spoke, Han Corporation Cinemas directly slapped her in the face!

She was an artiste under Han Corporation! What's wrong with Han Corporation!

Therefore, Qiao Luna directly got her manager to complain to the company. However, Manager He from the Artiste Department said, "I was just about to look for Qiao Luna to settle the score. It's her own business to try to suck up to Director Zhang, but *Red Tiger* is also a movie in which the company is investing. Why did she look down on *Red Tiger* so much? If *Fighting Hero* is really that great, did she still have to diss on others? There's no point complaining about this. Warn her to be careful with her words in the future. The company still hasn't decided on how to punish her for her behavior, and yet she still has the cheek to complain to the company?"

Embarrassed, the manager hung up the phone and passed on Manager He's words and meaning to Qiao Luna. "You were really too foolish and brainless this time!"

"Originally, it's a no-brainer that *Red Tiger* can't win *Fighting Hero* !" Qiao Luna said stubbornly and discontentedly. "How could those bunch of people from *Red Tiger*, with their likes, still have the cheek to compete against Director Zhang."

#### **Chapter 514: A Bit Slower**

"Alright, now that's even better, not only you haven't managed to curry favor with Zhang Lun, but now you also have to wait for the company's punishment."

In the end, very soon Han Corporation announced her punishment.

All of Qiao Luna's events for half a year were canceled.

"Why did they have to do this! Didn't I just say something wrong?" Qiao Luna was unhappy, she wanted to directly look for Han Zhuoli to complain.

Hence, as Qiao Luna came directly to the company, Zheng Tianming was made to welcome her. "Coincidentally, our CEO is very busy today and has no time. If Miss Qiao makes an appointment next time, I'll arrange a time."

"Assistant Zheng, my issue is really nothing big, the company is making a mountain of a molehill."

If it were someone else, Zheng Tianming would have directly told them that the company had given Red Tiger a 2 billion yuan guaranteed box office.

But with Qiao Luna's EQ, she would turn around to post this online and let the netizens feel that Han Corporation was suppressing other movies just to help protect the Red Tiger's box office, and the public sentiments about Red Tiger would worsen, so what could he do?

Hence, Zheng Tianming smiled and said, "Miss Qiao, you're a big shot now, and your career is going smoothly, did you forget the rules of the company? If a celebrity does something wrong, they have to accept the company's punishment. In public, a celebrity needs to watch their words and think before they do anything. Don't think that just because you have a bit of reputation, you can be arrogant. Before this, there were a few celebrities who were banned by the company, did you forget about them? If I were you, I would take this time to calm down and focus on how to maintain your image in public."

"Moreover, this order came directly from the CEO, so even if you find the CEO, it would be of no use," Zheng Tianming said with a cold smile on his face.

Embarrassed, Qiao Luna's face flushed red. She was in a cage of anger, unwilling to admit her fault and accept that she was really becoming a bit arrogant just because she was popular and famous.

"Alright." Qiao Luna could only grit her teeth and leave.

But could she give up like that and not have any events for half a year?

Impossible.

Actually, half a year duration was not very long.

The punishment imposed by Han Corporation wasn't unfair or too harsh.

However, Qiao Luna did not share the same thoughts; being away from the public eye for half a year, what would she do if someone took her place?

What would she do if her popularity fell?

Moreover, these days there was an influx of new talent in the entertainment industry with many of them gaining popularity quickly. So no matter what, she couldn't let her popularity decrease!

She had to find a way!

Meanwhile, Zhang Lun's Fighting Hero had yet to premiere and their reputation was already being flushed down the drain; with the public mocking him, he was bursting with anger and instantly contacted his publicity team, ordering them to come up with some ideas.

"How about this, we sell a tragic story. Let the audience know that it was hard for us to film, and even after so much effort when it came to showtime, we received unfair treatment."

“Alright, let’s do that!” Zhang Lun agreed. “Hurry!”

While the publicity team was discussing on the plan, someone exclaimed, “Hurry look at the Internet!”

Finding his outburst strange, everyone quickly took a look.

“F\*ck! We were a bit slower!”

“It’s Lu Man, it’s definitely Lu Man who did this!”

They all saw the lengthy Weibo post from the assistant director of the Red Tiger .

“Our Red Tiger production group has filmed for three months. Initially, Director Ji Cheng found a lot of actors suitable for the roles, however, none of them even gave us a chance to discuss the script. Finally, when we found an experienced actress, she threatened to not join the crew on the first day of the shoot for a pay hike. Therefore, left we no choice, we had to change the female lead at the last moment. We continuously faced trouble in every stage of filming. It can be said that ever since the Red Tiger started filming, we have continuously encountered trouble.”

“However, when faced with the tough filming condition, all of these became small things.”

The assistant director’s words were very sincere, making several hearts ache as they read it.

Especially when they read how Ji Cheng had been injured a few times, and also how Lu Man’s had had bleeding blisters.

### **Chapter 515: Spouting Rubbish**

Even all the main actors insisted on not using a body double.

After the assistant director finished posting, he asked worriedly, “There’s no problem with this, right?”

“It’s alright,” Lu Man said politely.

“It’s the first time that I’ve directly gone against Director Zhang Lun. Despite the guilt, I am getting a thrill.” The assistant director rubbed his hands together.

Lu Man was already wanted to have a direct confrontation and go against Zhang Lun!

Before this, which one of Zhang Lun’s movies did he not get the best showtime slots?

Ignoring what the audience said, the entertainment circle was full of respect and praise, there was no way to live for other movies airing at the same time.

“It’s not just you, I’m also nervous.” Ji Cheng rubbed his hands together in anticipation. “This is my first time directing a movie, and in the end, even before the premiere, it’s such big news. All the other directors respect and fear Zhang Lun, whereas here I am, attacking Zhang Lun on my first debut as a director. No matter what the outcome is, I can boast about this for a year to others.”

“Zhang Lun probably cannot hold back anymore.” Lu Man smiled cunningly.

As expected, very soon, Zhang Lun retorted through a Weibo post. "I never imagined that I would face such a treatment where the allotment of showtime slots would be so unfair. Want to suppress us out by not giving us any prime slots? Would a good movie be buried like this? Now the movie theaters keep airing those low budget, horribly filmed movies, causing the audience to lose confidence in locally produced movies, when will this messy corruption stop?"

Instantly a lot of fans supported it.

"Our popularity cannot compete with Director Zhang's. A single sentence from him beckons several followers." Ji Cheng sighed.

At that moment, Lu Man contacted a few famous media accounts with whom she had worked earlier.

Not long after, these accounts started to post online.

Suddenly, *Eight Skin Entertainment* posted two photos on Weibo.

Since *Fighting Hero* had a high budget and was a big production, they had spent all their money on special effects, so most of the movie scenes were filmed in front of a green screen.

Hence, all the photos from the set of *Fighting Hero* were in front of a green screen.

On the other hand, *Red Tiger* was filmed outdoors with real knives and guns, and all the actors were really fighting.

*Eight Skin Entertainment* only put one line as the caption: "As to who had a harder time filming, it is obvious with just one look."

Seeing that post, all the netizens burst into laughter.

"Hahahaha, this Zhang Lun still has the nerve to say how hard it was for him to film? One is filming indoors in front of a green screen, blowing air-con and having delicious meals. While the other is in the northwest, getting blown by wind and sand, eating packed meals that also have sand along with it, so now who really had a harder time filming? Did they really think that netizens were dumb?"

"Zhang Lun: I don't care I don't care, if you don't give me prime slots, I will act shamelessly!"

Seeing the netizen's mockful, sarcastic comments, Zhang Lun flew into a rage.

"These people don't know anything! They are just spouting rubbish!" Furious, Zhang Lun's face flamed.

At that moment, Qiao Luna posted again on Weibo. "I apologize for my inappropriate words in the interview, I should not have mentioned other movies. But I still support *Fighting Hero*, and I sincerely invite the audience to watch it in theatres, don't be misled by some comments on the Internet."

Shockingly, at that moment, Zhang Xiaoying also came up in support. "I support Sister Luna. Sister Luna, you are not wrong, it's clearly someone scheming against *Fighting Hero*. Don't forget that the female lead for *Red Tiger* is Lu Man, and she has been a PR professional before this. She's the best at stirring up trouble for others, scheming against others to make her movie a hit! Everyone, please don't fall for it."

At that moment, many people who liked Qiao Luna and Zhang Xiaoying stood up for them.



A director with a verified account on Weibo posted. "One should film their movie with utmost sincerity, I reject schemes, it's better to focus on talent and not scheme in the film industry."

### **Chapter 516: Look At How Lu Man Is Embarrassed**

Another director who wanted to curry favor with Zhang Lun also posted. "Haha, I really don't know what kind of methods *Red Tiger* used to get the prime slots. I just want to say that this is very unfair, I first want to boycott *Red Tiger* and boycott *Lu Man* for her schemes and manipulative actions of making her film popular."

"Did Lu Man think that since her first attempt at gaining fame through manipulation and schemes was a success, she would succeed every time? Let me tell you, if you do it too much, it would make everyone feel disgusted!"

"Haha, surely a PR professional would have so many schemes, now we who film our shows with talent and sincerity really cannot compete with them."

"Lu Man, don't bring your public relations expertise over here."

Director Guild: "Director Zhang is one of the most outstanding directors in our country. It wouldn't be strange to call him a national treasure. Whereas, Lu Man is so sly that she can only resort to schemes for popularity. She not only disrespected Director Zhang but also harmed the prospects of a wonderful movie by an excellent director. Lu Man, it's enough! Stop with your schemes!"

Seeing all the posts deriding them, Xiao Cheng boiled with rage. "F\*ck! What kind of people are these! They wanted to suck up to Zhang Lun, so not only are they stepping on us with all their might, but also on Lu Man. With just a single post on Weibo by Zhang Lun, all of them rushed to scold us, waving their flags and sucking up to him, how disgusting!"

There were also a few people who might have been hired to slander Lu Man or were actual netizens who didn't know the real truth. "Seeing Lu Man scheme once again is quite interesting, but if she keeps on doing this every single time, it's disgusting!"

"Let your talent speak for you! There's no meaning in using these scheming tactics to gain fame, are we idiots?"

Some netizens who were originally sitting on the fence also started to side with Zhang Lun.

However, there were also some who criticized honestly. "Zhang Lun's imagination has declined over the years. In the recent few years, he always wanted to enter Hollywood, and from his movies, it can clearly be seen how he sucks up to the Western movies. If we want to see blockbusters, we can directly watch Hollywood movies, why would we want to watch his movies, which don't have any?"

"Ever since Hong Men started, Zhang Lun's movies only have special effects, there is no longer any story involved."

"Haha, you guys are hired by Lu Man, right? How shameless! As for whether Zhang Lun's movies are good or bad, all the real netizens know. You paid posters, shut your mouth!"

“I’m just expressing my view, so now I’ve become a paid poster? Is it that only those who support Zhang Lun are the real netizens, while those who speak against him are paid posters? I’ve learned something new today!”

Finally, Lu Man’s fans had enough of it. “Goddess of Fury, please say something! Don’t let them be too arrogant!”

Xu Ningxian also beckoned a group of fans to support Lu Man.

However, these directors along with Qiao Luna, Zhang Xiaoying, and several fans of other celebrities completely overpowered Lu Man’s fans.

At that moment, a netizen called Slender Master Hand also posted. “I’m a student at the National Film Academy, and I happen to be in the same class as Xiaoying and Lu Man. Lu Man acts very haughty and arrogant in the school merely because of her good grades. She often speaks brazenly, saying that she would totally oppress Xiaoying and the other students in terms of grades for the end of semester exams.”

Just from the name, Lu Man could guess that this was probably Yu Jingxian.

At that moment, with Yu Jingxian taking the lead, a lot of Lu Man’s classmates came forward to prove Yu Jingxian’s words true.

This made the netizens feel that everything was really true.

“Too arrogant, it seems like, with just a bit of fame, Lu Man has already become so snobby that she forgot her place.”

“Students, once your rankings and exam results are announced, remember to post them online, then see how Lu Man is embarrassed!”

Xu Ningxian: “Lu Man is not this kind of person at all!”

“She might not be in the past, but how can you be sure that she did not change given that she is a bit famous?” Someone questioned.

## **Chapter 517: Lu Man Forced Us Into A Dead End**

On the other hand, Zheng Yuanshi and her two friends were also seething in rage. Zheng Yuanshi even called Lu Man. “Lu Man, did you see the trending news on Weibo?”

“I saw it and I never imagined that just a promotion post would lure out so many hate comments from people.”

“They are just too much! Isn’t it enough to already insult and mock at school that they had to slander others online too? I’ve already told Pan Xue and Han Leilei, even though it’s just three of us and our words won’t hold much value against theirs, we will also stand up for you,” Zheng Yuanshi said with determination, anger evident in her voice.

“Don’t! Didn’t you see how the netizens don’t hold back at scolding people? Till now, you all have been an ordinary student and never faced such a situation before. If you stand up at this time, you’ll definitely get mocked and scolded harshly by the public. Don’t let those netizens harm you!” Lu Man convinced.

“But aren’t you scared?” Zheng Yuan asked with concern.

“I’m just used to it. After going through it quite a few times, it doesn’t affect me at all. Similarly, if you all had such an experience before then I wouldn’t have stopped from standing up for me. However, some netizens tend to take it too far and it would feel uncomfortable upon reading those hateful comments. So tell Han Leilei and Pan Xue not to say anything at this moment,” Lu Man persuaded, “I understand that you want to help, but they can’t even touch a hair on my head.”

However, Zheng Yuanshi stayed silent on the phone; it was obvious that she was unwilling to give in.

Finding her defiance sweet, Lu Man smiled and said, “Anyway, I still have a lot of confidence in myself. As for the exam grades, I’ll definitely leave them behind, including Zhang Xiaoying. At that time, all those who are badmouthing me right now won’t have the face to post the result. So at that time, regarding exposing the result online, I’ll hand over the task to you guys.”

“You have so much confidence?” Zheng Yuanshi was shocked.

She really admired Lu Man; Zheng Yuanshi didn’t have the courage to even say such words with confidence.

Even if Zheng Yuanshi was really confident in her heart, she would not dare to say it out loud because she would be scared that the results might not be what she expected them to be.

However, her fear clearly indicated that she was still not confident enough!

Hearing her shocked tone, Lu Man said, “I worked very hard and prepared well for the exams, and I also know that I did well in the exams exam, that’s why I am so confident.”

“Haha, I really admire you, you are so clear-headed and determined. Moreover, once you have decided on something, no matter what, you achieve it! I won’t even dare to think of this!” The diffident Zheng Yuanshi said, “Alright, since you’re already so prepared, then we’ll just wait for the results before making any move.”

“Alright.” Lu Man thanked Zheng Yuanshi for her concern and then hung up the phone.

“Lu Man, what do we do now?” Perturbed, Xiao Cheng asked worriedly.

Lu Man calmly opened Weibo and reposted Red Tiger’s promotion post from their official Weibo.

“Our movie has got the prime airing slots only because the theaters are sure about the standard of our movie. It’s not strange for them to give more air time to a high-quality movie. Getting the prime slots is not your birth-right! For the very first time you haven’t gotten the prime slots, if you start scolding, criticizing, bashing people, claiming you are getting unfair treatment, then what about the other high-quality movies which never got the prime slots in the past, isn’t it worse for them? As to how Red Tiger is, I welcome everyone to go to the theaters and confirm. Whether it’s good or bad, you can only tell after you’ve watched it. If Red Tiger’s ratings are not good, the prime showtime slots would also be reduced. Everything depends on what the audience says.”

“Lu Man posted on Weibo!” The publicity team of Fighting Hero rushed to announce.

Seeing Lu Man’s strong riposte, Zhang Lun fumed in rage. “This arrogant brat! Even though she did not specifically name the person, she’s obviously talking about me!”

The publicity team head could only stop Zhang Lun from reacting hastily. “Director Zhang, you can’t start arguing with her now, otherwise, it would be just to her advantage, and would help her promote Red Tiger!”

“Then what can I do? Should I let her continue to be arrogant?” Zhang Lun lashed out at him.

Feeling helpless, the publicity team head sighed. “Lu Man has forced us into a dead end. If we don’t say anything, we are silently admitting that her words are true and would, in turn, appear as a joke. But if we argue back, she would be in the limelight and she would keep reminding people to watch Red Tiger.”

### **Chapter 518: Played Into The Hands Of A Little Girl**

So, no matter what they did, all the benefits would land up in the hands of *Lu Man* and *Red Tiger* !

How did it come to this!

Giving it a thought, they realized that they played right into the hands of Lu Man!

Could it be that right from the start, Lu Man had already planned everything out?

At that moment, the publicity team finally understood the feeling of those people who had gone against Lu Man.

The unwillingness to admit defeat yet the strong sense of helplessness at the end.

Zhang Lun’s assistant Wang Qiu tried to appease him. “Director Zhang, don’t lower yourself to Lu Man’s standards. If you personally argue with her, you would be giving her too much face! She’s just some small character trying to gain fame. Being able to air her movie at the same time as yours must have used up all her luck of three lifetimes. Now, if you fight with her, you will be a cat’s paw!”

Even the publicity team lead chimed in, “Right, Director Zhang, let’s not talk to her anymore, we can’t let her play us into her hands only to bring more attention to her movie. Else, what will we become?”

*Stepping stones for her!*

Although Zhang Lun was reluctant to give up, in the end, he could only grit his teeth and let it be.

Alright!

He would remember this *Lu Man* !

This time he was played into the hands of a little girl, however, the next time he would turn the table!

In the end, the official Weibo account for *Fighting Hero* only published one line. “Let the box office sales speak.”

In Ji Cheng's studio, Xiao Cheng patted his chest, "My heart was about to jump out. It's my first time going against such a big director."

On the other hand, Lu Man was used to it, she had gone against many famous people!

So no matter how much the netizens bashed her for being scheming, Lu Man's goals were still accomplished.

Aside from the small group of audience who honestly looked forward towards watching *Red Tiger*, the larger group of netizens who were eagerly waiting for *Red Tiger* and Lu Man to be embarrassed, also decided to buy tickets so that having watched the movie till the end, they could openly insult *Red Tiger* and say that there was nothing good about it at all. Hence, several people pre-ordered tickets for *Red Tiger*.

On Friday night, Lu Man herself had booked two tickets for *Red Tiger*. The first screening was at midnight, and Lu Man planned to watch it with Han Zhuoli.

On the other hand, Zhang Lun's *Fighting Hero* had their premiere a long time ago, but Ji Cheng felt that *Red Tiger's* fanbase wasn't big enough so there was no need to have a fancy premiere ceremony. Moreover, in the end, ticket sales would speak the most.

So, at night, Lu Man accompanied Han Zhuoli to the old family house for dinner.

Since it had been a long time since Lu Man and Han Zhouli had visited them, Old Mrs. Han had especially invited them over for dinner.

Hearing that Lu Man and Han Zhuoli had already booked the tickets for the first screening at midnight, Old Mrs. Han said, "Midnight is way too late, we can't hold on till that time. Zhuoli, book the tickets for tomorrow. I will go with your grandfather."

Seeing that Old Mrs. Han and Old Mr. Han had the heart to support her, Lu Man was elated and instantly thanked them sweetly.

Seeing Lu Man act so modest, Han Zhuofeng harrumphed, "It's such a mess on the Internet, your movie has to have good results, otherwise, I will be too embarrassed at school."

Instantly Han Zhuoli shot him a dark look. "Whether Lu Man's movie results are good or bad, what does that have to do with you?"

Even if it concerned anyone, it was concerning him.

Han Zhuofeng's mouth twitched. "She went around everywhere telling everyone that I'm her boyfriend's younger brother! Now the whole school thinks of us as relatives, so how can it not concern me?"

This left Han Zhuoli stunned for a while; his eyes glistening and a curious, blissful smile on his face as he asked coyly, "What did you tell people?"

"..." Seeing Han Zhuoli's proud, gloating face, Lu Man suddenly did not want to say at all.

Yet the Old Mr., Han was also grinning ear to ear and asked eagerly, "Yes, what did you tell people?"

“...” Feeling helpless, Lu Man explained, “Weren’t you sick before? At that time, Zhuofeng came to my class looking for me. Zhuofeng had just entered school, yet he had already become popular in the school like a male idol, and others happened to misunderstand my relationship with him, so I explained to everyone that he is my boyfriend’s younger brother.”

### **Chapter 519: Distasteful Personality**

“Misunderstood the relationship between you two?” Han Zhuoli squinted at Han Zhuofeng. “And yet you didn’t know to explain yourself to others?”

Han Zhuofeng: “...”

Could it be that all the praises of good work belonged Lu Man while he only deserved the blame for the bad?

“How would I know that those people would be so stupid!” Han Zhuofeng lashed out.

“In the future, in school, remember to call Lu Man sister-in-law,” Han Zhuoli instructed him.

“...” However, Han Zhuofeng stubbornly refused to relent. “I haven’t acknowledged her yet!”

“Did we ask you to acknowledge her?” Old Mrs. Han rolled up her sleeves, ready to give this brat a good beating. “You terrible kid! Your older brother finally got a girlfriend and you dare to stir up trouble?”

Han Zhuofeng: “...”

In this family, why did the granddaughter-in-law seemed to have a higher status than their biological grandson?

Agreeing with Old Mrs. Han, Han Zhuoli quickly passed the feather duster over.

In the past, he would be hit by this same feather duster. Now, it seemed like this same feather duster would especially be used to hit Han Zhuofeng.

“Are you going to call her that or not!” Old Mrs. Han raised the feather duster threateningly.

Han Zhuofeng: “...”

“Sis... Sister-in-law...” Han Zhuofeng called out woefully.

“Remember to call her like that too in school! Don’t let other people misunderstand ever!” Han Zhuoli ordered.

Even though Lu Man was only older than Han Zhuofeng by one year, when the two of them stand side-by-side, it looked like they were of the same age. Moreover, Lu Man and Han Zhoufeng looked more like a couple than when Lu Man was with him.

Therefore, Han Zhuoli couldn’t help but worry.

Just now, he even got to know that Lu Man’s classmate had actually misunderstood Han Zhoufeng to be Lu Man’s boyfriend. How could that be!

Moreover, Han Zhouli was quite older than Lu Man. Now he understood why it was bad to find a younger girlfriend. It made him feel too insecure!

No matter what, he had to make it such that with one look, others could tell that he and Lu Man were a couple.

Just then, Ji Cheng called Lu Man.

Lu Man picked it up. "Director Ji?"

"Lu Man, other cinema operators have started increasing the screenings for Zhang Lun and reduced our screenings to accommodate them!" Ji Cheng said anxiously.

"Which cinema operators?" Lu Man asked.

"Qi Cheng Cinemas, Tai Yi Cinemas, Happy Fortune Cinemas, and Jizhou Cinemas," Ji Cheng said, "All these cinema operators together almost make up to the market share of Han Corporation. Although they still can't beat Han Corporation, all of them have increased screenings as much as they can for *Fighting Hero* and reduced ours. Now it's only 3% of the screenings for us."

Furious, Ji Cheng grumbled. "Perhaps they only gave us that 3% just for the namesake. It's to avoid any consequences if someone were to find out about this as it will affect their reputation. However, giving us only 3% is the same as not giving us anything at all. Haha, I admit defeat, this Zhang Lun is too distasteful. He thinks that it's his birthright to have more screenings and unfair treatment is handed out to him if others are given more screenings. Right now, summing up all his screenings, it's a lot more than *Red Tiger*, why isn't he tooting his own trumpet?"

Even though Han Corporation reduced the number of screenings for *Fighting Hero*, Han Corporation didn't reduce it like a landslide.

However, the other three cinema operators were different, they drastically reduced the screenings of *Red Tiger* and they were barely left with anything.

Moreover, although the market share of the other three companies when summed up was still lesser than Han Corporation's, since they had drastically reduced the number of screenings of *Red Tiger* to almost nothing, they almost gave an entire day's worth of screenings to *Fighting Hero*.

Hence, now *Fighting Hero* had about the same number of screenings as *Red Tiger* instead.

"However, now it will still be based on ticket sales. This competition would also be considered fair too," Lu Man said calmly.

"But Zhang Lun's character is way too distasteful and disgusting!" Ji Cheng said in annoyance and frustration.

"But we naturally won't just stand around and do nothing as that way we will just be letting them take advantage of us." Lu Man said, "Ji Cheng, leave this matter to me."

"Alright! I was just waiting for you to say this." Hearing that Lu Man had a plan, Ji Cheng finally let out a sigh of relief.

Hanging up the phone, Lu Man apologized to Old Mr. Han and Old Mrs. Han.

## Chapter 520: Target

“What’s the matter?” Although Old Mrs. Han had overheard a couple of words in Lu Man’s conversation, she couldn’t really understand it.

Hence, Lu Man roughly explained the situation to them. Old Mr. Han said, “Just make the call here. It’s alright. Call them while you eat, don’t delay such an important matter. You don’t have to worry that it will disturb us.”

Therefore, Lu Man didn’t leave the dining table. Right in front of everyone, she called Eight Skin Entertainment.

Amongst the few media gossip accounts, since she had first worked with Eight Skin Entertainment, she was well acquainted with them and cooperating with them was even better.

Moreover, the owner of this account was pretty reasonable and was a smart person. He would get things done instantly and it was a pleasure working with him.

Hence, he was the first person that Lu Man thought of. When the call was answered, Lu Man could clearly hear the other party chewing something.

“Sorry for disturbing you during your meal,” Lu Man apologized instantly.

“Don’t worry.” *Eight Skin Entertainment* owner said. He quickly drank a gulp of water and swallowed everything down before speaking, “People in our line of work don’t really have a fixed meal time, anyway. When some work pops up, we have to keep everything aside. Isn’t it the same for you too? What’s up? Is there some work for us?”

“It’s just a small matter for which I need to trouble you.” Lu Man quickly explained to him about how the other three cinema operators had scheduled the screenings of Zhang Lun’s movie. “Since right now the total number of screenings of *Fighting Hero* is comparable to that of *Red Tiger*’s, there’s no reason to let the netizens think that if *Red Tiger* does well at the box office, it’s because they have an advantage over *Fighting Hero* in terms of the number of screenings. Right now, the two movies are at the same starting point. So, they would be compared only on the basis of ticket sales. Moreover, no matter which party loses, they can’t blame it on the scheduling of the screenings either.”

Otherwise, although the screenings of *Fighting Hero* would stealthily increase, the netizens would still be kept in the dark about it. So, even if *Red Tiger* really did better than *Fighting Hero* at the box office, others would also think that *Red Tiger* won unfairly, and they would be unjustly wronged.

“I understand.” *Eight Skin Entertainment* finalized the plan with Lu Man and hung up the phone. The very next moment, he started typing a Weibo post.

After not long, Lu Man saw that *Eight Skin Entertainment* released a Weibo post.



“The screenings of *Fighting Hero* have surprisingly been increasing quite furtively. As expected, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. This time around, Director Zhang must be over the moon.” With this caption, he posted a screenshot showing the percentage of screenings of *Fighting Hero* .

Unexpectedly, at that moment, Lu Man’s fans reacted surprisingly quickly too. They even perfectly inherited Lu Man’s style of dissing people.

“Oh ho ho, Director Zhang must be unhappy. Only his movie can have the most number of screenings. If any other movie has the same number of screenings as his, it’s unfair!”

“Now if they lose out at the box office, they can’t blame it on the number of screenings.”

At the same time, there were also some spectators who remained perfectly neutral, just curious and eager to watch the drama unfold.

“This time Director Zhang is really putting himself up on a pedestal. Moreover, at the time of deciding the release date for *Fighting Hero*, he didn’t even care about the other movies that were scheduled to be released around the same time as his. After all, isn’t he a famous director? Those other movies released at the same time indeed can’t really compete with his movie. However, a famous director causing such a huge ruckus just for having prime screening slots really looks a little ugly. Originally, if the box office couldn’t turn out as well as expected, he could at least blame it on the unfair treatment and the fewer screenings of *Fighting Hero* . However, now both the movies are starting out at the same point as none of them are losing out in terms of the number of screenings. So, if the box office still turns out badly, coupled with what happened in the past, it sure will be really embarrassing for him.”

“Why is it always so exciting with Lu Man around?”

“Thanks for the above comment for reminding me. Lu Man really is pretty annoying like this.”

With that comment, some of Lu Man’s fans were rather unhappy. “Why are you dragging Lu Man into this for nothing at all?”

“Haha, if there really wasn’t anything wrong with Lu Man, what are people always targeting her every single time? Then that must be because she is too problematic. Otherwise, why would she be the only target out of so many people in the world?”

“I agree with this!”

For the very first time, Lu Man’s fans were a little tongue-tied.