

Mr Han 531

Chapter 531: The Audience Still Knows Best

“Looks like those who haven’t watched it were attracted to watch it. They probably realized that they were cheated after watching it.”

“Actually, even if it’s just to look and admire the celebrities, it was worth it to watch this movie.”

“Who knows how *Red Tiger’s* box office would be?”

” *Red Tiger* hasn’t released anything officially yet. Looks like the box office isn’t ideal.”

“Those good reviews must be Lu Man’s schemes.”

“Looks like Director Zhang still has it in him after all these years. Lu Man’s cheap and lowly tricks can work once or twice, but aren’t useful after a few times.”

“The quality of the movie is the most important. It’s pointless to try to fluff things up.”

Finally, Zhang Lun also couldn’t hold back and reposted the post. “The audience still knows the best. I trust the audience’s judgment, they will never wrong a good movie, they won’t let a lousy movie play them.”

The very next second, several directors reposted it, fawning over Director Zhang. “Supporting Director Zhang!”

Many famous celebrities in the movie industry also reposted, showing their support. “Congratulations, Director Zhang, everyone please support *Fighting Hero* !”

On the other hand, the audience who had watched *Red Tiger* were rather unhappy.

“Sh*t! *Red Tiger’s* box office still isn’t out yet, why are you guys being so obnoxious!”

Someone rebutted instantly. “So what if it came out? It will just be a slap in the face! Try beating a 295 million box office if they can!”

Many big-shot actors in the movie not only sent a Weibo post but also made calls to congratulate Zhang Lun one after another.

The first one to congratulate him was Qiao Luna. “Congratulations, Director Zhang! I saw the box office result of *Fighting Hero* . The film you shot is undoubtedly excellent! Those who dream of trying to compete with you are just making a joke of themselves. They completely don’t know who they are fighting against.”

Hearing Qiao Luna’s sweet talk, Zhang Lun was extremely pleased and happy.

This time, with the results of the box office out, he felt more confident, and so he wasn’t as angry towards Qiao Luna as he was before.

“Hahahaha, Xiao Qiao, your words are too nice.” Feeling extremely happy, Zhang Lun chuckled joyfully and said, “I’ll call you once I confirm the time and date of the celebration party. You definitely have to come!”

“That’s for sure.” Qiao Luna hurriedly laughed along and then carefully apologized. “Director Zhang, I was too irresponsible before and dumb. I don’t know how to speak and implicated our movie, stirring it into a conflict. I have already learned from this mistake, I will be very careful with my words next time.”

Now, Zhang Lun did not mind and said, “Youngsters are competitive and confident. I can understand that. Don’t take it to heart. You are still young, you can’t hold back your words sometimes, I know. Pay more attention next time. Even if you’re really thinking that way at home, you can just subtly hint it with your words, don’t say it so bluntly.”

“Yes, thank you for your guidance,” Qiao Luna hurriedly said.

This time, not only Zhang Lun, even Qiao Luna felt a little elated and relieved.

Because she said something wrong before, she was punished to hide away from the public eye for half a year by Han Corporation. All this while, she had been thinking of ways to make a comeback as she was unwilling to just give in to being hidden away from the public eye for half a year.

Yet, before she could even think of a way, the opportunity actually presented itself to her!

Fighting Hero’s first-day box office was great right from the start! This proved that even though her words were a little distasteful during the interview, it was still the truth.

In front of real talent and capability, everything else was just fluff.

If *Fighting Hero* could continue this prowess, steadily rising up here, then Han Corporation won’t be able to do anything to her either. The punishment of having no activities for half a year would definitely be retracted too.

Since she would be riding high on the popularity of *Fighting Hero*, the company would no longer just hide her away. Instead, they would have to take on more and more activities for her.

After hanging up the phone, Qiao Luna had never felt more joyful and comfortable before.

These past few days, she had been rather depressed and sad. Today, she finally felt relieved and elated. She quickly called her manager to share the good news and took out a new bottle of red wine from the cabinet to celebrate.

Chapter 532: Already Lost

Meanwhile, Zhang Lun hands were starting to become sore from picking up so many congratulatory calls.

Not only fellow directors from the same field, but there were actors and various investors for *Fighting Hero* too.

Fighting Hero's publicity team immediately contacted various media accounts and got them to release news about it all over the internet.

" *Fighting Hero's* first-day box office is almost 300 million, exceeding *Greedy Wolf Operation's* ."

" *Greedy Wolf Operation* must be anxious now. Perhaps they can't keep their status as the highest-grossing locally-produced film of all-time for long."

" *Fighting Hero* is confirmed to register for the nomination for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film."

Looking at all these news coming up non-stop, Zhang Lun felt the exhilaration of victory.

Haha, how could Ji Cheng and Lu Man even dare to compete with him?

The completely didn't stand a chance at all!

Now that both the movies had the same number of scheduled screenings, *Red Tiger* couldn't claim that he was bullying them!

Just then, Wang Qiu's assistant knocked on the door before entering. "Director Zhang, the first-day box office result of *Red Tiger* is out."

"Oh? How much is it?" Zhang Lun asked, wanting to gloat. Between his words, his tone was even a little nonchalant. His face was like a billionaire asking about an employee who only earned thousands, '*how much did you earn today*' .

However, Zhang Lun and Wang Qiu missed the uncomfortable look the assistant had, he was quite hesitant to speak. Right now, everyone was drowning in the happiness of *victory* .

"I asked you a question, why aren't you saying anything?" Wang Qiu grabbed the sheet from the assistant's hand in one swoop. "Why are you dawdling while doing such a simple job."

"Never mind never mind, we are all happy today." Zhang Lun laughed it off. "I will give everyone some cash bonus later!"

"Thank you, Director Zhang!"

"Thank you, Director Zhang!"

Even Wang Qiu thanked him and smiled but when the data on the sheet came into his view, his smile immediately froze on his face. Right after that, his expression took a huge turn.

"Director... Director Zhang..." Wang Qiu stuttered.

"What's the matter?" Zhang Lun frowned. "You even ticked your assistant off just now. Why are you stuttering and hesitant now too?"

After he spoke, he finally realized that there was something wrong with Wang Qiu's expression.

At that moment, Zhang Lun's heart skipped a little, getting nervous.

However, right after that, he felt that this was too ridiculous.

Why was he nervous?

What was there to be nervous about?

His box office wouldn't be so easily beaten by others!

"Is it that there isn't a big gap between our box office and that of *Red Tiger's*?" Zhang Lun smugly thought that he guessed it right, and even consoled him. "This is just the first day. With Lu Man's tricks, the audience went to take a look out of curiosity. *Red Tiger's* box office also wouldn't be too bad too. However, it's hard to say in the future. We will definitely beat them by a great margin for sure. There's no need to be unhappy. Han Corporation scheduled so many screenings for *Red Tiger*. It's hard for the box office to be bad too."

CEO Wang urged too. "Assistant Wang, hurry up and tell us *Red Tiger's* box office result!"

Wang Qiu's hand shivered slightly. It really was hard to speak in front of so many staff members.

When the time comes, Zhang Lun would still be the one embarrassed.

He just directly passed the datasheet to Zhang Lun. "Director Zhang, it's... it's probably better if you see it yourself."

Meanwhile at Ji Cheng's work studio.

They were eagerly waiting for *Red Tiger's* first-day box office.

Moreover, they had already seen *Fighting Hero's* first-day box office.

Thus, everyone in the studio was a little stressed.

Liu Chuanhui and Zhang Jian were both there. Usually, the two of them were very busy, they barely had enough time to finish all of their work.

Today, they had surprisingly rejected all of their jobs and especially came down to the work studio to await for the box office results with everyone.

Since Liu Chuanhui and Ji Cheng were old buddies. he consoled Ji Cheng, "Don't give yourself so much stress. This is your first time filming a movie, you've already won once. Although *Fighting Hero's* box office is really high, ours won't turn out bad either. Moreover, Zhang Lun is such a big director, yet he's not gracious and so petty, hence he has already lost."

Chapter 533: The First Day Box Office Result of Red Tiger is Out!

"That's right Brother Ji." Zhang Jian also tried his best to comfort Ji Cheng too. "The audience gave good reviews. This proves that the audience has already approved of our movie, acknowledging the blood, sweat, and tears we've put into filming it."

Taking in a deep breath, Ji Cheng calmed himself down and said, "I know. Guys, don't worry. No matter what the result is, I will be able to take it."

Then Ji Cheng smiled and thanked everyone. "Thank you, my brothers, for even rejecting the work you had on your hand and coming over to wait for the results together with me. Thank you, everyone."

"Hey!" Liu Chuanhui punched Ji Cheng lightly. "Why are you pretending to be so polite!"

Being sworn brothers for so many years. Wasn't it natural for him to do this?

"Brother Ji!" Xiao Cheng excitedly dashed into the office, holding a data sheet. "Out! It's out!"

"What?" Although Liu Chuanhui and Zhang Jian had advised Ji Cheng to relax and not take any stress, even the two of them were rather stressed too.

Therefore, when Xiao Cheng announced that the results are out, both of them were left dumbstruck and they couldn't even react.

"The first-day box office results!" Xiao Cheng was so emotional that his face was flushed red. "The first-day box office result of Red Tiger! It's out!"

"How much?!" Everybody asked at once.

Xiao Cheng was so excited and emotional that he couldn't even form words. He tried to calm himself down by taking in a deep breath.

Just watching him having such a hard time catching his breath was already making the easily annoyed Ji Cheng so anxious that he really wanted to punch somebody.

"5... 598 million!" Xiao Cheng finally blurted it out in excitement. "Just a little, just a little more and we would break 600 million!"

Just now Zhang Lun's *Fighting Hero's* box office, how much was it?

295 million, almost breaking 300 million?

Pfft!

295 million versus 598 million, haha!

Red Tiger's box office was almost twice the *Fighting Hero's*!

Overwhelmed with happiness, Xiao Cheng's eyes welled up with tears, unable to calm down even for a long time.

No one knew how difficult it was for them to shoot *Red Tiger*, no one knew what exactly they have been through!

Fighting Hero was filmed entirely in front of a green screen in a studio with air-conditioning.

But what about them?

They were blown by the harsh Northwestern desert wind for two months. Over there, whenever they opened their mouths to speak, a gush of sand would fill their mouths instantly.

Not only the male actors, but Lu Man's skin was also blown dry by the harsh wind and sand. Their hands were completely covered in blisters.

Moreover, they even drifted along the Southern Sea for a month. They didn't even see any land for days.

In order to experience life as a soldier, their daily routine of meal and rest hours followed military standards.

Before Zhang Jian and a few other young actors joined the crew, they had to train in the army for three months, just so that they could perfectly showcase the charm and authenticity of soldiers fighting in the battlefield and would not be nitpicked on by professionals.

While filming they even had a weapons and bombs expert on set to give advice. Weapons for long shots, close-up battles, snipers, etc. They had meticulously learned combat skills and weapon knowledge in the army.

All just for one reason. No matter which professional or military expert were to watch the movie, they wouldn't be able to nitpick on any of these details.

Thankfully, their efforts bore fruit.

Everyone's hard work didn't go to waste.

The audience saw their effort and even acknowledged their effort.

However, everyone thought that they might have misheard it. Ji Cheng was entirely in a daze. "How much? How much did you say?"

Xiao Cheng emotionally wiped away the tears from his eyes. "It's 598 million! Just a little, just a little more and we would have hit 600 million! Brother Ji, you didn't hear it wrongly, it is 598 million!"

Liu Chuanhui mumbled, "This... this has broken a record! In the history of all locally-produced movies, no one has ever achieved such a result for their first-day box office! Previously, it was *Greedy Wolf Operation* who had the highest, right?"

Smiling smugly, Xiao Cheng reminded. "Brother Liu, did you forget about *Fighting Hero*?"

With a slightly mocking and gloating tone, he said, "Didn't *Fighting Hero* just break *Greedy Wolf Operation*'s record? However, before they could hold the record for long, it was broken by us."

Chapter 534: Mistake

"Hahahahaha, yes yes yes. *Fighting Hero* completely missed my mind." Liu Chuanhui chuckled.

What did this show?

Clearly, it showed that he didn't give even a d*mn about *Fighting Hero*!

Feeling emotional, Zhang Jian said, "God, am I going to be freaking popular because of this movie?"

Everybody: "..."

At that moment, Zhang Jian's sudden outburst left everyone stunned, but very soon everyone started bursting into laughter and cackling.

Looks like this little kid was really shaken by the news.

“Old Ji, Old Ji?” Liu Chuanhui tugged at Ji Cheng. “Give me a reaction!”

Right now, Ji Cheng had to be the most emotional one out of everyone.

Very soon, Ji Cheng’s eyes had turned red. He pressed his palms on his eyes for quite some time and sniffled.

“I really... really didn’t expect this.”

Overjoyed, Xiao Cheng said, “Brother Ji, our hard work and effort didn’t go to waste!”

“Yes!” Ji Cheng rubbed his eyes and looked at everyone with a serious face.

“Brothers, Zhang Jian, thank you, everyone! Thank you!” Ji Cheng said, “And Lu Man! Thank you! If you hadn’t lent me a helping hand at that crucial time, then I honestly wouldn’t have been able to film this movie at all! Also, Brother Liu, when I couldn’t find any actors, you were the first one who took the initiative and contacted me to act in my film.”

Back then, Liu Chuanhui had given him a call and said that if Ji Cheng didn’t mind, then he, Liu Chuanhui, would act in his film.

“Xiao Zhang, you already had a lot of fans, you could have chosen to film any popular movie too, yet you chose to come here and suffer with me.”

Back then, he needed to find someone who was young to act as a gruff and gangster-like sniper.

Ji Cheng had tried to recruit many young and rising actors, yet all of them either didn’t have the time or didn’t want to act in it and thus rejected him.

It was only Zhang Jian who agreed right away without even hesitating for a single second when Ji Cheng explained the reason he wanted to cast him.

In the past, he didn’t know Zhang Jian well. He thought that he was the same as the young uprising actors who shot only idol dramas and accepted all kinds of activities and variety shows, prioritizing money and fame over quality and talent.

However, Zhang Jian turned out to be completely different from what he expected. This kid was too loyal!

“Lu Man, you didn’t even mind the salary and offered your help without any second thought.”

“Thank you, thank you, everyone! This kindness of yours, I, Ji Cheng, will remember it forever!” Ji Cheng said, feeling overwhelmed.

“By saying all these things, aren’t you treating us like outsiders?” Liu Chuanhui patted him on the shoulder.

“Brother Ji, even if at the start it was me who helped you, right now, you are the one who has helped me!” Zhang Jian grinned from ear to ear.

“This result is not only the result of our hard work, but also because of Lu Man. Without Lu Man’s help no matter how perfect we filmed the movie, we still wouldn’t have an audience to watch it, it would still be for naught,” Ji Cheng said solemnly.

“Right!” Liu Chuanhui nodded eagerly.

“It’s the result of everyone’s combined effort. Every single person has put in their best to achieve this feat. Director Ji worked hard to shoot the film well, Teacher Liu Chuanhui and Brother Zhang put their heart and soul into acting and I just so happened to have the ability in public relations,” Lu Man said modestly.

“Right now, what we need to do is to hurry up and release this result online,” Lu Man reminded.

“Right, right!” Liu Chuanhui nodded in after. “Don’t let Zhang Lun and those people continue being obnoxious!”

Originally, the *Fighting Hero* team wanted to be obnoxious and boastful, they were even going to have a celebration party.

Haha, but they immediately turned into a joke!

“Wait!” Ji Cheng asked Xiao Cheng, “This box office result is correct, right? You didn’t make a mistake, right?”

Even now, he still felt like he was floating amongst the clouds as if all this was a dream and he would fall down from the clouds any second.

598 million!

He wouldn’t even dare dream of it!

Moreover, this was the box office collection on the first day!

“No, I didn’t, it’s correct!” Xiao Cheng said emotionally, “When I got the data, I was also afraid that I made a blunder and confirmed it with all the companies. Only after checking and making sure that it is indeed correct, I shared it with you!”

Finally, Ji Cheng couldn’t hold back and bellowed in laughter. “Go! Release it now! Lu Man, I’ll leave this job to you!”

Chapter 535: Did He Fake This

“Sure.” Lu Man smiled as she agreed.

Now that the results were out, a great weight was lifted off everyone’s shoulder and finally, everyone was in a jolly mood and started joking around.

Liu Chuanhui had a playful smile as he teased. “You have to give Lu Man more money! Not only did she act as your female lead, but she is also in charge of your publicity. I think that you really benefited a lot from getting Lu Man to act in your movie.”

Even Zhang Jian laughed and joined in their banter. "That's right, with such a box office, you can't be stingy, Brother Ji!"

"I won't, I won't!" Ji Cheng chuckled and said, "I'm treating you all to takeaway lunch!"

Everybody: "..."

Even upon achieving such a feat, they were still eating takeaway food?

"Don't we have to strike the iron while it's hot? Right now, we need to focus on publicity. But once everything is settled, I'll treat you guys to an even bigger, lavish meal," Ji Cheng hurriedly added, trying to appease them.

Meanwhile, at Zhang Lun's studio.

Zhang Lun snatched the datasheet from Wang Qiu's hands. Seeing '*Red Tiger's First Day Box Office Collection*' written on it, his eyes widened tremendously, but he still couldn't believe his eyes.

Scrutinizing the piece of paper himself, he looked at each line and counted.

"Impossible!" Zhang Lun lost control and roared. "It must have been a calculation error! They must have added another zero behind!"

How could Red Tiger's box office be this high!

598 million!

According to him, *Fighting Hero's* 295 million box office collection was already high enough!

Moreover, it was just a normal weekend, not the Chinese New Year. Why would the box office be so huge?

"Did he fake this and cheat?" Zhang Lun roared in anger.

Seeing Zhang Lun's furious expression, CEO Wang knew that something was amiss.

CEO Wang grabbed the datasheet from Zhang Lun's hand hastily and was left stunned upon seeing the first-day box office collection of *Red Tiger*.

Compared to *Red Tiger's* 598 million, what was *Fighting Hero's* box office collection even worth?

Previously they even smugly publicized it all over the internet. But now, they had made a fool out of themselves!

They had the same number of screenings, yet *Fighting Hero's* box office collection was just half of *Red Tiger's*!

Extremely furious, CEO Wang's eyes immediately darkened.

"Go and check it. Confirm it immediately. Is this box office data really correct?" Zhang Lun instructed Wang Qiu's assistant.

"I... I will go and check it now," the assistant said as he dashed towards the door.

"Stop," CEO Wang called him. "There's no need to check it."

With the spread of the good reviews online, this box office was rather accurate.

"Checking this would be too embarrassing," CEO Wang said solemnly.

It would be like they couldn't accept their loss.

"*Red Tiger ... Red Tiger* also released this news," Wang Qiu's said weakly.

Trying to calm himself down, Zhang Lun took in a deep breath and took out his phone to check it online.

On *Red Tiger's* official Weibo, "Thank you, everyone, for your support. With your support, *Red Tiger's* first-day box office collection hit 598 million!"

Once this news was released, some of the media accounts which were on good terms with Lu Man immediately reposted it too.

Several official media accounts blew up too.

"Shocking news! *Red Tiger's* first-day box office collection is 598 million! Setting a new record for locally-produced movies!"

"Even all those super-popular Hollywood superhero movies have never achieved such a huge box office!"

"*Red Tiger's* first-day box office collection hits 598 million! The rise of locally-produced movies!"

"How did *Red Tiger* became such a big hit? By word of mouth!"

"Red Tiger has high ratings and high box office as well! Perhaps it can break *Greedy Wolf Operation's* record."

At that instant, Sun Yiwu even reposted *Red Tiger's* official Weibo post. "Congratulations, Brother Ji! You are the pride of Chinese movies!"

Ji Cheng also replied to Sun Yiwu's post. "Thank you, Brother Sun. Since the day I decided to make a movie, you always supported me and had my back. Moreover, when the original female lead refused to act at the last moment, you introduced me to Lu Man. Thank you, Teacher Liu Chuanhui, Thank you, Zhang Jian..."

In his post, Ji Cheng thanked each and every single person. All of his words came from the bottom of his heart and were very heart moving and touching.

Chapter 536: They Have Lu Man!

Very soon, the entertainment account, which Lu Man had contacted back then, revealed the shooting process of *Red Tiger*.

The hardships they faced, their dedication and professionalism made netizens applaud for them.

“I haven’t watched it yet, but just because of their effort I will support it too.”

“Initially, I didn’t like to watch this type of movies but now I’ve decided to support *Red Tiger* .”

“With such an enthusiastic, sincere spirit, why worry that they won’t make a good movie? I’m touched! I’ll definitely watch it!”

On the other hand, some netizens who were having fun watching all this added fuel to the fire. “Director Zhang Lun, come out and say something!”

“Haha, now you must be so ashamed! If Director Zhang Lun didn’t whine in the past about how *Fighting Hero* had fewer screenings than *Red Tiger* , at least now that their box office is lesser than *Red Tiger* , they could have blamed it on the number of screenings. But now that both the films have the same number of screenings, whom can Director Zhang Lun blame?”

” *Red Tiger* is completely crushing them! Terrifying!”

“Seeing so many good reviews, I’m starting to feel curious and actually want to watch it.”

“Referring to the above comment, you must watch it. I just watched it today, and since it’s a weekend tomorrow I plan to bring my parents along to watch it once more.”

“Such a good locally produced movie deserves to be supported. Don’t let the hard work of crew who worked so sincerely go to waste.”

“That’s right, the ticket for *Red Tiger* in the cinema theatre near me costs 20 yuan. I’ll contribute my small strength and support *Red Tiger* .”

“Where’s Zhang Lun? Come out Zhang Lun! @Zhang Lun.”

From this netizen onward, all the other netizens followed suit and started tagging Zhang Lun’s Weibo account.

Poor Zhang Lun was being tagged by every single person on the Internet.

Not only Ji Cheng’s hands were getting sore from receiving congratulatory calls, but Lu Man was also tired now.

From her old colleagues back in the Public Relations Department to Zhang Shuidong and Yu Yanshu with whom she had filmed *Greedy Wolf Operation*, everyone called to congratulate her.

She even received Sun Yiwu’s congratulatory call.

“Congratulations, Lu Man! Hahahahaha! I’m happy, so happy for you!”

“I still have to thank you a lot. If you didn’t sc me at the start, I also wouldn’t have the chance to act in *Red Tiger* ,” Lu Man smiled and said.

“Why are we, uncle and niece, copying each other! Let’s stop thanking each other. We just helped each other, just helped each other out!” Sun Yiwu chuckled happily.

After hanging up the phone, wanting to take advantage of their victory, Lu Man contacted ” *Eight Skin Entertainment* ” and asked them to spread the word about the difficulties *Red Tiger* faced while filming.

Other than the congratulatory calls, Ji Cheng also received a lot of invitations for interviews from various media outlets.

Even Lu Man got an invitation from a reporter who wanted to have an exclusive interview with her.

Meanwhile, at the National Film Academy, Principal Liu saw *Red Tiger's* box office collection and gave a call to Principal Zhang of the National Drama Academy to gloat.

"Old Zhang, did you see the news? *Red Tiger's* results are so amazing, it's scary! Hahahaha, the female lead is a student of my school, did you know that?" Principal Liu said gloatingly, smiling smugly and brimming with pride.

Principal Zhang: "..."

As if he had forgotten something and just happened to remember it Principal Liu suddenly patted his head. "Dear Lord, I forgot that Lu Man was originally going to your school. She even went to report there but looks like she was chased away by you guys. Look at what you have done!"

Principal Zhang: "..."

This Liu had intentionally called to anger him!

"However, I really have to thank you! If your school didn't drive her away, then Lu Man wouldn't have come to National Film Academy. Sigh, look, once she came, she filmed *Red Tiger* and brought such good results. I'm proud, so proud! Lu Man is an excellent student, she has brought tremendous honor to me, the principal!"

Hmph hmph!

In the future, who would dare say that the students from the National Film Academy lacked acting skills!

They have Lu Man!

In the future, who would dare say that the students from the National Film Academy only relied on their popularity!

They have Lu Man!

Chapter 537: Face Still Swollen

"You're welcome," Principal Zhang said, gritting his teeth. "Lu Man just got lucky this time, in the future, luck might not always be on her side."

"She will, she definitely will! With Han Zhuoli around, why wouldn't luck be on her side? Hahaha, Lu Man can film any show she wants!" Principal Liu chuckled merrily.

Principal Zhang: "..."

F*ck, he forgot about that!

“Anyway, I just wanted to express my gratitude.” Principal Liu still felt that he hadn’t angered Principal Zhang enough. “Thank you so much for helping us, hahahahahaha!”

Right now, by making Principal Zhang feel miserable, Principal Liu was improving his mental health.

Anytime Principal Liu felt stressed, he would just anger Principal Zhang to death and would feel relieved of his stress.

Finally, Principal Zhang couldn’t take it anymore. “Smack!” He hung up the phone angrily.

Previously, after Lu Man transferred to the Film Academy, Han Corporation withdrew all of their investments from National Drama Academy. This left Principal Zhang so stressed that he suffered from insomnia as he even had to face more pressure from the higher-ups.

However, the National Drama Academy was still the famous Drama Academy, after all. Fortunately, there were still quite a lot of people willing to invest in them.

After much effort, Principal Zhang finally got some sponsorships to tide them over through this urgent crisis, but they still couldn’t recover from the blow caused by Han Corporation. However, now they were at least slowly getting back on the right track.

Right after that, an online war had erupted between *Red Tiger* and *Fighting Hero* .

At least, back then Principal Zhang still had something to gloat over.

Since Lu Man couldn’t bring any fame to their National Drama Academy, then he wouldn’t also allow Lu Man to help bring honor to Principal Liu of the National Film Academy either.

Honestly, Principal Zhang just couldn’t stand for anything good happening to Lu Man now.

When *Fighting Hero* publicized and celebrated their first-day box office collection exceeding *Greedy Wolf Operation* , Principal Zhang was over the moon seeing Lu Man get slapped in the face.

Yet who knew, in just a couple of minutes, the one getting slapped in the face would be *Fighting Hero* !

Principal Zhang cradled his face. His teeth hurt!

On the Internet, the Great Army of the Goddess of Fury was euphoric and having a celebration.

“Hahahahaha! Now, who’s the one being slapped in the face! Say it, say it!”

“Those who looked down on *Red Tiger* before, and those who looked down on Lu Man, do your faces hurt?”

“Who stood up and targeted Lu Man in the past? Let me take a look!”

After that, the Great Army of the Goddess of Fury tagged them on Weibo one by one.

“Why aren’t you saying anything now? Come out and say something! Is your face still swollen? Has the cat got your tongue now?”

“Where’s Qiao Luna? Weren’t you very obnoxious before? You even brought a bunch of your friends along to attack Lu Man together, condescending *Red Tiger*. Aren’t you so impressive? Only your *Fighting Hero* is so magnificent that only it can vie for an Oscar. Go for it, go for it!”

“Zhang Xiaoying? Where’s Zhang Xiaoying? Didn’t you gather a bunch of classmates to slander Lu Man, come out now!”

Moreover, now that *Red Tiger’s* publicity was settled, they just have to wait for total box office collection results.

If they could maintain this streak, then *Red Tiger* would be the true winner.

When Lu Man was about to leave, she received a call from Han Zhuoli. “Are you done?”

“I’m just about to leave.” Hearing Han Zhuoli’s voice, Lu Man smiled unconsciously.

Although she didn’t notice it herself, Ji Cheng and the others could see that Lu Man was in her indescribably sweet world.

The next moment, Han Zhuoli’s light laughter came through the phone. “What a coincidence, I’m just downstairs of Ji Cheng’s work studio.”

“I’ll head down now,” Lu Man said hurriedly. She then hung up the phone and quickly bade goodbye to Ji Cheng and everyone else. “Call me if there’s anything.”

“Sure, leave quickly.” Ji Cheng smiled as he waved.

He had heard that Han Zhuoli seemed to already be downstairs of his work studio.

When Lu Man came out, she saw Han Zhuoli leaning against the car door. His long legs were casually crisscrossed and it seemed like there was nowhere to place them properly.

Chapter 538: Something was Lacking

His long, slender legs stood out the most!

Wearing sunglasses, he looked handsome as he stood in the sun.

Today was a holiday and B City was usually very dry and hot during the day, making it unbearable to stand in the hot, harsh sun.

Lu Man hurriedly ran over and had to tiptoe to shield his forehead from the sunlight with her hand.

“Why are you standing outside? It’s so hot!” Lu Man raised her head to take a look at him, and could see herself in his dark sunglasses.

Her face full of worry was being reflected on the sunglasses.

Unknown to Lu Man, while facing Han Zhouli she always had an affectionate and worried expression.

She wholeheartedly cared about him and her expression showed it.

It wasn't the same as when she was in a relationship with He Zhengbai.

The Lu Man at that time had too much to think about, too much worry, and too much stress.

Not only was she faced bad bad treatment from the Lu Family, but she was also worried about Xia Qingwei's health, and Lu Qi didn't miss a single chance of bullying her too.

Moreover, she always felt that something was lacking in her relationship He Zhengbai.

Although she did care for He Zhengbai, it wasn't like now where Han Zhuoli's every action affected her.

At that moment, Han Zhuoli took down his sunglasses.

When he was wearing sunglasses, Lu Man could not see his face and kept feeling like his face was a bit cold.

But after taking down his glasses, the two black eyes that were covered by the sunglasses met Lu Man's eyes and the iciness instantly melted away, replacing it with warmth and gentleness.

He lowered his head further, letting Lu Man completely block the sunlight.

He really enjoyed the feeling of being cared for by Lu Man, it was very heartwarming.

Dipping his head further down, Han Zhuoli pecked Lu Man on the lips. "I was scared that if you came out, you won't see me."

Lu Man's eyes were curved into crescents as she smiled and said, "Impossible, no matter where you are, I'll always be able to notice you instantly."

He was just so outstanding! No matter where he went, he stood out among the crowd, making it impossible for everyone to ignore him.

It was even more because of the chemistry between the two of them, that they could easily find each other among the crowd with just one look.

As long as he was there, she could feel that he was nearby.

Her words made Han Zhuoli break out into a smile. "Congratulations, your movie had such high ticket sales."

Lu Man tiptoed and gave Han Zhuoli a kiss. "Congratulations to you too, for not investing wrongly."

"With you there, I definitely would not make a wrong investment," Han Zhuoli said lovingly.

Just like how Lu Man had confidence that she would not let Han Zhuoli suffer any loss, Han Zhuoli had confidence in Lu Man as well.

"Where are we going?" After getting in the car, Lu Man asked curiously.

"We're going out to celebrate." Han Zhuoli looked at her affectionately.

Although Lu Man was curious about where they were going to celebrate and how they were going to celebrate, Han Zhouli refused to give even a little bit of hint.

After leaving the city center of B City, Han Zhuoli drove the car towards the suburbs.

Even the suburbs were developed very well.

These were the Southern suburbs, the other suburbs either had grand commercial areas or residential areas.

Only this southern suburbs had several holiday hotels.

All the famous, grand international chain hotels were located in the same area forming a community of lavish 5-star hotels.

If a person got bored of staying at one hotel, he/she could get out and go to some other hotel without needing even a car for transportation.

After driving onto the uphill mountain road, Han Zhuoli stopped at one of the holiday villas.

Just when the two of them stopped at the villa, the villa's butler was already waiting at the doorway for them.

The employees hurriedly opened the car door for the two of them, and on seeing the two of them get down, the villa's butler bowed.

The butler was wearing a dark black suit, and his actions were very polished, as if he worked for a king.

"Mr. Han, Miss Lu." The butler introduced himself. "I'm the butler of the villa you'll be staying in. While you are here, I'll be in charge of everything about your stay. If you have any requests, please feel free to tell me."

Chapter 539: You Don't Need A Swimming Costume

Lu Man followed Han Zhuoli into the villa which had a big swimming pool in its front yard.

Inside the villa, there was an infinity pool built along the mountains right outside the balcony.

They could get a wide view of the mountains right from the infinity swimming pool.

"I brought Grandfather and Grandma, Dad and Mom, and our Mom over, they are staying at the opposite wings of the villa," Han Zhuoli explained, "Tonight we can celebrate together. Right now, they all are probably still resting."

Lu Man never thought that Han Zhuoli would call all his family members over and made it such a grand celebration.

Lu Man looked at Han Zhuoli incredulously and as she looked at him she suddenly realized that something was wrong with Han Zhuoli's expression.

Lu Man instinctively backed away, but she had yet to take even one step back and her feet were in mid-air when her waist was grabbed by Han Zhuoli as he tightly pressed her into his embrace. "Where are you running to?"

Lu Man: "..."

"The swimming pool is not bad, do you want to go out to play?" Currently, it was the summer season and with just one look at the weather outside, one would find it scorching hot.

"Think about it, relaxing in the pool while you drink some red wine and enjoy the scenic view, doesn't it sound very good?" Han Zhuoli spoke seductively, enticing Lu Man.

Lu Man's heart skipped a beat but she then spoke in a pitiful tone, "I didn't bring a swimming costume."

Suddenly, Han Zhuoli's eyes shone brightly as an evil idea popped up in his mind. He lowered his head next to her ears and upon seeing her red blushed ears, his hot and thin lips started to touch her ear lobe as he whispered, "Anyway, it's just the two of us here, whether you are wearing a swimming costume or not, it really doesn't matter."

Imagining Lu Man naked tantalized Han Zhuoli and his body started reacting as his desire aroused.

On such a hot summer day, he felt that the temperature was soaring too high and his dry lips found her wet, pulp lips.

It was rare that the two of them were here with no one else around to disturb them.

The infinity pool outside the balcony was isolated and completely surrounded by the greenery of the mountains.

They could not see anyone, and no one could see them.

With a great opportunity presented in front of him, how could Han Zhuoli let it slip away?

Lu Man had just opened her mouth to say that she would ask the butler to arrange a swimming costume for her as the hotel definitely sold those.

But who knew that Han Zhuoli would take this chance to directly enter her mouth and kiss her till she could not breathe.

Usually, the summer clothing was light and thin.

Lu Man was wearing a T-shirt and a pair of shorts today, it was quite simple.

Hence it was easy for Han Zhuoli to slide his hand up her T-shirt and his fingers quite skillfully unhooked her bra which now hung loosely on her shoulder yet hidden under her T-shirt.

This left Lu Man speechless and while she took in a deep breath Han Zhuoli had lifted her off the floor.

Very soon, her shorts and her T-shirt were thrown behind, and Han Zhouli grabbed Lu Man's legs and wrapped them around as he carried her towards the pool.

Before Lu Man could even regain her senses, she had already entered the pool.

At this moment, even if she wanted to get out, she would not be able to get out in time.

Han Zhuoli had entered the water with her, and she did not even have on the last layer of clothes. Right now, she was pressed against the pool wall by Han Zhuoli.

Lu Man's last thought was, no wonder this man chose this place!

In the swimming pool, Lu Man felt cool and had an indescribable feeling in her heart.

Pressed against the wall by Han Zhuoli who was completely aroused, Lu Man could not control herself anymore, and in the end, she completely depended on Han Zhouli to stay afloat.

To stay afloat, Lu Man could only use her hands to encircle Han Zhuoli's neck as her legs floated on the water surface.

The sun shone on the blue water, reflecting the rays of light everywhere and Lu Man's legs which were white as milk shivered in the water making Han Zhuoli reluctant to let her go even more.

Chapter 540: I'll Help You Press

Grabbing her legs, he wrapped them around his waist and intertwined their bodies.

In the end, it was only because Han Zhuoli was scared that staying in the water for too long would get them sick and wrinkly, he carried Lu Man out.

By now, Lu Man was so tired that she did not want to move anymore, and it was Han Zhuoli who held her and helped her wash up.

The way he was holding her they might go for another round.

Although Lu Man was completely exhausted, Han Zhuoli couldn't hold himself back, and he really did not want to.

His woman was in his embrace, why did he have to hold himself?

In the end, Lu Man was tortured by him to death.

She was stunned on seeing this man's beastly stamina, he was able to have a go at it even when standing up.

Finally, Lu Man was covered by a towel by Han Zhuoli, and as he carried her to the bedroom, she lay lazily in his arms, drained of every single bit of energy.

Who would have known that as Han Zhuoli carried her and put her on the bed, he would get aroused again!

Right now, Lu Man's face was flushed red.

She kicked his lower leg. "I'm already exhausted! I still need to have dinner with the elders later, don't make me embarrass myself."

"Alright alright alright," Han Zhuoli pulled her into his embrace, "I'll just cuddle you, I won't do anything else."

Such words from Han Zhouli had no credibility at all!

Hence, although exhausted and drowsy, Lu Man forced herself to keep her eyes and cast him a suspicious look.

Han Zhuoli: "..."

Was he that untrustworthy?

Not hesitating at all, Lu Man quickly replied to his reaction, "Yes."

"..." Han Zhuoli really did not know if he should be angry or laugh. In the end, he just kissed her forehead. "I promise, I'll let you sleep well, and I'll just cuddle you, I won't do anything at all."

"Sleep," Han Zhuoli said softly.

Seeing that he sounded really sincere and also the fact that she was too drowsy, Lu Man buried herself in his embrace and slept.

At around five, the Old Mr. Han and Old Mrs. Han came along with Xia Qingwei.

Han Zhuofeng had come there too.

All of them had gathered together while Lu Man was still asleep.

Hearing their voices, Lu Man opened her groggy eyes lightly.

"Grandma and Grandpa are both here." Han Zhuoli had also woken up. "You sleep for a while more, I'll go and accompany them."

Lu Man struggled to get up. "How can I do that, I'm not sleeping. You can go first, I'll come out after I clean up."

Han Zhuoli nodded in agreement, and then caressed her waist. "Are you still in pain? Do you want me to massage it for you?"

"Then I might as well go directly to a spa!" Lu Man rolled her eyes at him. She didn't even want to think about getting massaged by him, she knew the outcome already.

Getting rejected, Han Zhuoli lost his smile. "I'm serious, when we come back at night, I'll give you a good massage."

However, Lu Man really did not dare and hurriedly chased him off.

She hurriedly cleaned up, and endured the soreness, and nagging at Han Zhuoli in her heart as she went out to meet everyone.

Meanwhile, Xia Qingwei was surprised and extremely happy as she never thought that Lu Man would achieve such great feat with just her second movie.

Originally, she had thought that Lu Man was just helping out as she owed them a favor. She never expected that Lu Man could rely on this movie to achieve such popularity and fame.

As it was said, being thankful for others' help is never wrong.

If you know how to give back to others, you will also benefit.

Old Mrs. Han was extremely satisfied with Lu Man too and kept praising Lu Man.

Lu Man herself was embarrassed upon being praised to the skies and felt that the granddaughter-in-law whom Old Mrs. Han was praising was probably not her.

Han Zhuoli chimed in happily, "Of course, Man Man is the best."

Lu Man: "..."

Everybody: "..."

Seeing Han Zhuoli's proud demeanor and his smug expression, Old Mrs. Han did not want to praise her anymore.

"The crucial stage is yet to be faced. It's Sunday today, only if the ticketing sales can increase even more, there wouldn't be a problem anymore. Since on weekdays, people are busy with work, so the ticket sales would probably fall by half," Lu Man said.