

**Mr Han 691**

**Chapter 691: Seeking the Size of Lu Qi's Emotional Trauma Right Now**

“But this still has to do with Lu Man’s ministrations. If it was another movie, it would have been beaten down by Attack Force long ago. Especially since some directors in this country are extremely spineless. Even in the face of Bourbotte and the others’ insults, they still praised them as a great god. Therefore, if such a matter happened to another director, they would probably have just admitted defeat and quietly allowed Attack Force to hit them down, letting them continue to flaunt and dominate in our country’s movie industry, earn buckets and buckets of money yet continue to look down on us.”

“But Lu Man, Ji Cheng, and the others’ blood and character couldn’t stand such a bad habit. Because of Lu Man’s stunning public relations techniques, not only did she bring Red Tiger’s box office up once more, but she even helped other locally-produced movies’ box office reach a new height. Therefore, I call these two months the Blooming Spring of Locally-Produced Movies. Therefore, it is indeed wrong that Lu Man’s fans give all the credit to Lu Man alone.”

“However, Lu Man haters also ignore Lu Man’s effort and give all the credit to the director. That’s inappropriate too. Just as the main cast of Red Tiger said, all of them put in the effort, so the credit belongs to everyone. As Lu Man was around, she seized the right opportunity and changed from being passive to being active. She used Attack Force to raise Red Tiger’s box office again and instead let the blockbuster Attack Force end up as a flop. This is not something that anyone can do. Therefore, Lu Man did help a lot in this. Now, Greedy Wolf Operation’s and Red Tiger’s box office have brought the local movie market to a new height.”

“Holy! Amazing god! 666!”

“Brother, you are really objective.”

“I received a piece of news that back then, Lu Man was found at the last minute and helped the Red Tiger team tide through an urgent crisis. To thank Lu Man, Ji Cheng signed a contract with her wherein she would receive a share of the box office. Probably back then, Ji Cheng himself didn’t think that Red Tiger would be so impressive. He must have thought that it would be pretty good if it could hit a billion, but he didn’t know that it would actually reach 8.9 billion. Therefore, Lu Man struck gold this time. She has become a rich lady, and she could even stop filming.”

“Please don’t let Lu Man stop filming, her acting is really reliable. Putting aside her ability to make things popular, she does have good acting skills herself. With Lu Man mixing in the entertainment industry, it has become so exciting and fun. If Lu Man leaves the industry, the excitement would be halved. What fun would there be to speak of?”

“This point tells us that a good person will be rewarded!”

“Lu Man is loyal and upright, and now she has been rewarded.”

“Hahahaha, I just want to ask, do you regret, Lu Qi? Back then, you refused to join the cast because you wanted a little more salary, and you threw away such a good character. Now, look at Lu Man, she is thriving so well. If you hadn’t done that, even if your salary wasn’t as high as Lu Man’s, at least you

would have gotten your popularity back. Unlike now, where there's no difference between you and a salted fish."

"Comment above, you are wrong. If it were Lu Qi, Red Tiger wouldn't have such a high box office like now and Lu Qi's still wouldn't have increased her popularity. Therefore, opportunity and ability are both very important. Of course, without Lu Man, Red Tiger wouldn't have had a problem getting four to five billion at the box office. Lu Qi could still have used Red Tiger to increase her popularity, and it might even have been higher than her previous peak. What a pity, she was too near-sighted. You can't regret anything in life."

"I just want to know how much Lu Qi is regretting it right now."

"Seeking the size of Lu Qi's emotional trauma right now."

## **Chapter 692: She Deserved It**

"She deserves it! Seeing that Lu Qi's career is still dead, I can stop worrying."

Xia Qingyang saw that piece of news and shrieked in shock.

It made Lu Qiyuan and Lu Qi jump in shock.

"Why are you getting so shocked and scaring people?" Lu Qiyuan asked, annoyed.

Recently, he'd really been getting more and more annoyed with Xia Qingyang.

In the past, when Lu Man the disobedient "enemy" was in the house, Lu Man could not compare to Lu Qi in any way.

Her studies weren't as good as Lu Qi's, her work wasn't as good as Lu Qi's, and she also wasn't as smart and quick-witted as Lu Qi.

All day long, Lu Man had been like a block of wood, boring and uninterested. She also kept pulling a face at home, like the whole family owed her something.

Moreover, with Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi constantly subtly putting Lu Man down, it made Lu Qiyuan look down on Lu Man.

Every time, when he occasionally got a little more satisfied with Lu Man and felt that maybe Lu Man wasn't as bad as he thought, Xia Qingyang and Lu Qiyuan would start to brainwash him and make Lu Qiyuan even more sick and annoyed of Lu Man.

Lu Man originally did something good, but it would also become bad.

Sometimes, Lu Qiyuan would also think about Xia Qingwei.

He would remember that Lu Man was his and Xia Qingwei's daughter. She was the eldest daughter whom he loved so dearly back then.

But once again, without leaving any trace, Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi would start talking about how bad Lu Man was and get rid of all the thoughts in Lu Qiyuan's mind.

As they had a common enemy, Xia Qingyang always appeared as the victim. Every time, it was her and Lu Qi who were being bullied by Lu Man.

It made Lu Qiyuan feel that Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi were both gentle, kind, but weak and easy to bully.

Back then, Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang were both against Lu Man. They used both of their fighting powers on Lu Man.

As for Xia Qingyang, since it is always darkest under the candlestick, Lu Qiyuan couldn't see Xia Qingyang's flaws.

And even more, because Lu Man was always "bullying" her, he felt that Xia Qingyang was gentle and weak, just like she was when he first met her.

The two of them had a common "enemy," and so they were each other's greatest ally. Hence, all the more that they couldn't see each other's flaws.

Eventually, Lu Man left the Lu family and her life even got better and better, thriving and prospering.

Not only did she become a god-like character in the public relations industry, but the movies she was the lead in only got better and better.

Her first movie, Greedy Wolf Operation, was the previous record-holder of the highest box office, and her second movie, Red Tiger, became the new record-holder of the highest box office.

She created her own record and broke her own record.

Lu Man's career got better and better while Lu Qi's only got worse and worse.

Xia Qingyang's energy and spirit were greatly unlike before. She was always unsatisfied with this and that, always chasing Lu Qiyuan to think of a solution, yet making him embarrass himself over and over again.

Without Lu Man's "veil" that beautified her, Xia Qingyang revealed her true colors, leaving nothing hidden.

Lu Qiyuan could no longer find any trace of gentleness or attractiveness from Xia Qingyang and got more annoyed with her.

Xia Qingyang was still in the shock that Lu Man had created and didn't notice the difference in Lu Qiyuan's tone.

"It's Lu Man. The internet is saying that the contract Lu Man signed with Red Tiger agreed to give her a share of the box office. Red Tiger's box office is more than 8.9 billion. Even though we don't know how much Lu Man's share is, even if it's just a small percentage, it's already a lot of money!" Xia Qingyang said.

Lu Qi was violently shocked. "Where did they say that?"

"On Weibo." Xia Qingyang looked at it. "It's already on the top trending. You can go and take a look at it yourself."

Lu Qi hurriedly went onto Weibo to take a look and naturally saw the netizens mocking her too.

### **Chapter 693: She's Earned Money, So She Has to Be Filial to You**

Lu Qi herself also thought about it a countless number of times. Lu Man's role was originally hers. If she hadn't gone against her words and despised that the salary was low but acted in it instead, then the person that the netizens would be discussing so intensely about and whose popularity had blown up would have been her, not Lu Man.

As long as her popularity went up, why did she even worry that the salary was low?

"It's all because of you!" Lu Qi blamed Xia Qingyang. "If you didn't keep telling me that the salary was too low and got me to go against my word and threaten them, then that role would have been mine! Lu Man wouldn't even have had the chance to steal the limelight! All of Lu Man's success and glory right now would have been mine and I would not be getting ridiculed and mocked right now!"

Xia Qingyang's expression looked uncomfortable and unnatural. This matter really did make her feel quite guilty and sheepish about it.

At the start, she'd been too greedy and felt that the salary shouldn't be so low and should be higher. That cost Lu Qi to lose a chance to make a comeback.

But suddenly, Xia Qingyang started to become self-confident and self-righteous. She puffed out her chest, lifted her head, and stood in front of Lu Qi. "How could you blame me? Why don't you look at how much salary Lu Man is receiving? Hmph, they just made it sound nice. What 'helping out readily'? Back then, they praised Lu Man like she was a beautiful flower, saying that she was helpful, saying that she didn't put on airs, saying that she knew how to be grateful. How much praise they gave her back then was how much they were mocking you. But in reality? Lu Man wanted a contract that had a share of the film box office! It's a lot higher than what you asked for!"

"With this box office of 8.9 billion alone, how much could Lu Man even get? Tens of millions is only a small figure, it could even hit hundreds of millions! The three million that you asked for back then is just peanuts compared to that. And you even blamed me?"

"I think that the crew cooperated with Lu Man to take advantage of you! Lu Man snatched your role and even acquired a good reputation of being grateful and helpful. With Lu Man's salary right now, do you think it was wrong for me to ask for a higher salary for you back then?"

Lu Qi's expression kept changing; she was conflicted. She knew that this was purely Xia Qingyang finding an excuse to get herself out of it, and she was just fooling her.

But Xia Qingyang really made it sound too good. Lu Qi couldn't help but believe it.

Moreover, she did indeed think that if she hadn't been replaced back then and had gotten to act Lu Man's role, she would be very popular right now.

"Qiyuan," Xia Qingyang said pitifully. "Qi Qi was cheated by Lu Man. Qi Qi is such an innocent child, how would she have the wits and schemes to fight against Lu Man?"

Even though Lu Qiyuan was very annoyed with Xia Qingyang right now, he did agree with her regarding this.

Xia Qingyang lowered her head and secretly rolled her eyes. She said, "Qiyuan, Lu Man has become a rich and wealthy lady right now. She isn't doing worse than any boss of a small company."

"What are you trying to say?" Lu Qiyuan asked coldly.

"Why don't you get Lu Man to fork out the money to let Qi Qi film a show?" Xia Qingyang saw that Lu Qiyuan frowned and didn't immediately agree. Hence, she quickly added, "Even if she doesn't give it to Qi Qi, she could give it to you! Lu Man is your daughter. She's earned money, so is it even possible for her to give it to others? She should give it to you!"

"She's earned money, so she has to be filial to you. Your company is facing some financial difficulties right now, so it would be perfect for you to use Lu Man's money to tide you over now. As a daughter, since she has the ability, isn't it right for her to help her father out?"

Lu Qiyuan heard it and felt that, finally, Xia Qingyang had said something reasonable after all this a while.

"Qiyuan, now that the company is only doing so-so, you don't have much ability to support Qi Qi, I understand that. But Lu Man can! As long as she gives you the money and you can tide over this financial problem, wouldn't you be able to support Qi Qi too?" Xia Qingyang said while hurriedly giving Lu Qi a look.

#### **Chapter 694: Idea**

Lu Qi quickly played along. "Dad, Older Sister might have moved out of this house, but she is still part of our family. Her surname is Lu, she is your daughter, she wouldn't be able to change that even until she dies. Even if she changed her surname, could she even change the blood flowing through her veins? You gave her that blood, you gave her her flesh and bones, she is your daughter forever, no matter how hard she tries to deny it!"

"In the past, she was incapable and relied on you to raise her. Didn't you just do it without any complaints? Is it even reasonable for her to ignore our family now that she is rich? She is ultimately still a part of our family, she should play a part for this family," Lu Qi said. "I know that she doesn't like me and Mom, it's fine if she doesn't care about us. But shouldn't she be filial towards you?"

Lu Qiyuan genuinely felt that Lu Qi made sense.

In the past 23 years, he had always been raising Lu Man.

He raised Lu Man for so many years. Now, as his daughter, shouldn't Lu Man be filial towards him and repay him?

"Sigh!" Xia Qingyang sighed pretentiously. "Even in a typical family, when the children work and earn some money, they would still buy some gifts for their parents. She is your daughter. You can definitely get all of the money she earned too, not leaving a cent for her, right?"

Xia Qingyang originally wanted to make her words sound more persuasive, but who'd have guessed that Lu Qiyuan's face would darken instead?

The corner of Xia Qingyang's mouth twitched a little. It looked like Lu Qiyuan was already thinking of getting all of the money Lu Man had earned.

Haha, this man sure was shameless.

Did he think that she hadn't realized that Lu Qiyuan had been distant and impatient towards her recently?

That's impossible. They were a married couple who lived together and saw each other every day. After living with him for so many years, how could she not have even realized this change?

She just didn't say it, that was all.

"No matter what, it's rightfully a matter of fact for her to give you some of the money she earned. Your company is temporarily faced with some difficulty, she should help you," Xia Qingyang said.

This statement made Lu Qiyuan feel very relieved and calm after hearing it.

"Dad, I've never mentioned it all this time, but aren't I in the same class as Lu Man right now? Now that Lu Man is getting more and more famous, it makes me seem like a joke in class." Lu Man laughed bitterly. "Those classmates are still laughing and ridiculing me. I really feel... feel like I can't live on like this anymore."

Xia Qingyang hugged Lu Qi sadly, her heart aching. "Why didn't you tell us about it?"

Lu Qi looked hesitantly at Lu Qiyuan. "You were already very busy and had to worry about the company. How could I still bother you with this?"

Lu Qi laughed bitterly. "Since I'm already like this now, my career is all ruined, I'm a joke wherever I go. If it were back then when it first happened, perhaps I wouldn't have been able to take it. But right now, I'm already used to it."

After Lu Qi said that, Lu Qiyuan's heart ached even more.

"How about this?" Xia Qingyang suggested. "I have an idea that, even after Qiyuan gets Lu Man's money, would help Qi Qi make a comeback even without him spending a single cent on Qi Qi again."

"What's the idea?" Once Lu Qiyuan heard that he wouldn't have to spend any money again, he immediately became more proactive and supportive.

In the past, his company was still operating well and their profits were rather optimistic, so, naturally, he didn't have to pity the money he was spending to nurture Lu Qi.

Moreover, with Lu Man around as a comparison, Lu Qiyuan had always felt that Lu Qi was the one who deserved the nurturing and developing.

Honestly, both of them were his daughters. No matter how biased he was, he shouldn't have gone to this extent and only nurtured Lu Qi alone.

Ultimately, this was still because he didn't want to spend twice the amount of money and had decided to choose between Lu Man and Lu Qi.

### **Chapter 695: Lu Man Found a Rich Boyfriend**

Moreover, with Xia Qingyang whispering by his ear on the bed every day, he felt even more that Lu Qi was amazing and that Lu Man was just a piece of grass. He had already fulfilled his utmost duty and was being benevolent by not letting her starve.

To Lu Qiyuan, when treating a "trash" like Lu Man, he should save his expenses.

And after Lu Man left, Lu Qiyuan only wanted to focus on nurturing Lu Qi. Yet Lu Qi's career fell into the slumps and he'd had to invest a large sum of money on her once again.

However, just at this time, his company faced problems.

His stream of business deals started to take a pause. Some clients started cancelling their orders, and even some of his old and loyal clients chose not to work with him anymore.

The company's profits had drastically shrunk by half in the short span of six months!

And this was still after Lu Qiyuan worked hard to salvage the situation. If he'd been careless, they might even have lost 70%.

Under such circumstances, no matter how much he loved Lu Qi, he was still unable to invest a large amount on Lu Qi to help her make a comeback.

Therefore, when Xia Qingyang told him of it, Lu Qiyuan eyed Lu Man's money without hesitation and planned to take it.

Moreover, even if he got the money from Lu Man, it still might not be enough to fill the hole in the company.

As for Lu Qi, he still couldn't help her.

Xia Qingyang considered that too and said that she had an idea.

Lu Qiyuan looked at Xia Qingyang excitedly. Xia Qingyang said, "Actually, you don't even need to spend a single cent. Look, Lu Man filmed Greedy Wolf Operation and got to know Sun Yiwu. She filmed Red Tiger and got to know Ji Cheng. And it seems like she is really quite close to them too. When there were bad comments about Lu Man on the internet, Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng would even personally step up and speak for her. This means that Lu Man must be able to ask them for help!"

Lu Qiyuan seemed rather intrigued and Xia Qingyang continued on, "As long as we get Lu Man to talk to Sun Yiwu or Ji Cheng, that would be good. Right now, Lu Man's connections are so amazing. Not everyone could have such a good relationship with big directors. Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng right now are the top directors in the country, people would all try to get on their good side. Even if they aren't filming anything, just with their status in the industry alone, they could just have a word with some directors.

Would none of them have any shows for Qi Qi to act in? Impossible! And forget about talking to any directors, they could even have a word with production companies!”

Lu Qiyuan nodded in agreement. This way, not only would Lu Qi have a chance to film something, but he also wouldn't have to spend his own money. It was perfect.

“And, Dad,” Lu Qi called. She waited for Lu Qiyuan to look at her, then she bit her lips and said, “Lu Man found a rich boyfriend.”

“Rich?” Xia Qingyang scoffed nonchalantly. “Could they be richer than Zhengbai's family?”

Lu Qi pursed her lips and said, “I don't know whether they are richer than the He family, but it seems to me that her in-laws seem to have quite the status. Even our principal was so polite to them, so it does indeed seem like they have high status. If they didn't, our principal wouldn't have such an attitude.”

He was still the principal of the National Film Academy. No matter what, he was at least of a Bureau-Director level 1 .

“You've even met her in-laws before?” Lu Qiyuan asked in surprise.

“Previously, her boyfriend drove a Mulsanne to send her to school and some students saw that. They spread a rumor that she was somebody's mistress, but the seniors of her boyfriend's family all went to school in the end to prove that it was Lu Man's boyfriend who sent her and that Lu Man was not someone's mistress. From their tone back then, it seemed like his family was pretty rich,” Lu Qi explained.

### **Chapter 696: Where Did They Move to?**

Xia Qingyang couldn't hold back her bitterness. “To think that Lu Man's luck is only getting better and better. She filmed movies and became more popular. Ever since she entered the entertainment industry, she has had a smooth-sailing career and even found a boyfriend with a pretty good background.”

But the fact that their family background was better than the He family's, Xia Qingyang still couldn't believe.

She just wouldn't believe that that little b\*tch Lu Man would be so capable.

He Zhengbai liked Lu Qi, which was very normal.

Lu Qi was so outstanding, why wouldn't he like her?

But Lu Man could not compare to Lu Qi in every way. Her boyfriend probably had an ordinary family background and just had a little bit of money, but not enough to be significant.

“What good family background? She is of such a low standard, how amazing could the person who likes her be?” Lu Qiyuan couldn't believe it either.

Seeing both of their reactions, Lu Qi didn't speak out about her own strange feeling about this either. It would be useless anyway.



Lu Qiyuan stood up. "I will go look for Lu Man now."

Xia Qingyang rolled her eyes twice and grabbed Lu Qiyuan's elbow. "Why are you going there personally? Just make a phone call. She is younger, how could you be the one who has to go through so much effort to look for her? She should come back herself instead."

Lu Qiyuan was extremely prideful. He couldn't tell her that Lu Man wouldn't listen to him.

Hence, he took out his phone, searched for Lu Man's contact number, and called her.

As expected, no sound came through his phone at all. The call didn't even get through.

Lu Man had blocked him already.

Lu Qiyuan pursed his lips. He called Xia Qingwei and, likewise, the call didn't get through.

Lu Qiyuan's fury just got stronger and stronger. "This damned brat!"

Xia Qingyang saw that Lu Qiyuan was indeed infuriated by Lu Man. She pretended to advise him. "Alright, don't be angry, it's not the first time that she's doing this."

Yet that only made Lu Qiyuan even more furious.

It was precisely what Xia Qingyang wanted, to make Lu Qiyuan find Lu Man, fuming at the top of his head. Lu Man should never dream of ever having a good life!

Lu Qiyuan stormed out of the house, furious and grumpy. He drove his car and went to where Xia Qingwei used to stay.

"Xia Qingwei!" Lu Qiyuan rudely banged on the door with all his strength.

"What are you doing?!" Not long after, someone inside the apartment opened the door.

However, it was a complete stranger who appeared. It was a man who looked like he was about 40 years old and another unfamiliar woman who stood behind him and looked like she was about the same age as the man.

"The f\*ck is wrong with you? Are you here looking for trouble?" the man said angrily.

His body was at its peak, muscular and strong. He was much taller and more well-built than Lu Qiyuan. Right now, he was glaring ferociously at Lu Qiyuan.

Lu Qiyuan frowned. He looked at the man and woman in the apartment unkindly. "Who are you? Why are you here?"

"Who the f\*ck are you, then?" the man said loudly. He raised his chin up and pointed at the ground. "This is my home! You came running here like you were seeking vengeance and banged on my door. What do you want?"

The man turned around and said to his wife, "Call the police!"

"What? This is your home?" Lu Qiyuan questioned. "How could this become your home?"

"I bought this house legally and rightfully. How could this not be my home? You're crazy!"

Lu Qiyuan froze for a minute and asked solemnly, "Then what happened to the people who used to live here?"

"How would I know? Leave now! If not, I will not be polite!"

This time, the neighbor opposite overheard the ruckus and opened the door. "Why is it you again?"

Clearly, Lu Qiyuan was not a stranger to him anymore.

Lu Qiyuan tightly clenched his jaw. "What happened to that mother and daughter who used to live here?"

"Haha," the neighbor laughed coldly. "They have already moved out a long time ago. You should stop harassing them too. They have already moved out, they are finally free of you."

"Where did they move to?" Lu Qiyuan asked solemnly.

Chapter 697: Tonight, Just Wait

"How would I know?" Lu Qiyuan steeled his face, which was green with anger. The neighbor said, "Don't you have an inkling why they didn't even tell you that they moved? Hoho, even though I really couldn't bear seeing my longtime neighbor move away, I still have to say, they did the right thing! With an ex-husband like you who keeps coming back all day long looking for trouble, even I would have moved and gotten rid of you as soon as possible. Why would they even tell a scumbag like you where they moved to? For you to visit them over the Lunar New Year?"

The man behind him overheard and said with disdain, "No wonder you've come here and immediately banged on my door like a madman, as if you are chasing me to repay a debt. You think your ex-wife would still stay here? With your attitude, any sane human would move. Hmph!"

After he spoke, he closed the door with a loud "bam."

Right now, Lu Qiyuan completely didn't know where to look for Xia Qingwei. He didn't have any clues at all.

He thought about going to the school to look for Lu Man, but it was Saturday today, a school holiday. Lu Man definitely wouldn't be in school.

He could only head back and ask Lu Qi for her class schedule and find Lu Man at the school.

And right now, Lu Man was at Han Zhuoli's home, preparing the longevity noodles for his birthday.

Han Zhuoli sat at the bar and watched. "You said that you would celebrate my birthday for me. Are you just going to cook me a bowl of noodles and that's it?"

"..." Lu Man also felt a little apologetic about it. "I honestly couldn't think about how to celebrate it. I..."

When she was a child, she did celebrate her birthday when she was one and two years old, but that was when she couldn't remember anything. What could she remember from a birthday she had when she was younger than two years old?

After that, Lu Qiyuan used the excuse that he was busy with work, but in reality, he already had a little family with Xia Qingyang and had already forgotten about her birthday.

Back then, Lu Qiyuan's company had just started. Xia Qingwei couldn't give her a really grand birthday celebration either. Therefore, it was only on her birthday that she would cook a bowl of longevity noodles and buy a birthday cake too.

During her birthdays, it was only her and Xia Qingwei. Lu Qiyuan was never there.

And eventually, Lu Qiyuan divorced Xia Qingwei.

Xia Qingyang brought Lu Qi into the family. Who would still remember her birthday?

Xia Qingwei's health wasn't good. Even if she remembered, Lu Man also wouldn't have let Xia Qingwei make a grand affair out of it.

Therefore, she never celebrated her birthday after that.

She didn't know what to do when it came to celebrating birthdays. She didn't know how to celebrate her own birthday, nor help others celebrate theirs.

The only thing she knew was that on her birthday, Xia Qingwei would cook her a bowl of noodles.

However, Lu Man didn't tell anyone about all these things.

Everything was good right now; it was meaningless speaking about the past.

However, Han Zhuoli thought about it. After he met Lu Man for the first time, he got Zheng Tianming to investigate on Lu Man.

He investigated in detail everything that had happened to Lu Man since she was a child. While he might not know about such details like birthdays, from Lu Man's smile yet silent reaction, he could roughly figure it out.

Han Zhuoli regretted what he had blurted out without thinking just now and suddenly stood up. Propping himself up against the bar table with both his hands, he leaned forward and moved close before Lu Man's eyes.

Lu Man jumped in shock. She almost cut the noodles wrongly.

Han Zhuoli quickly held her hand steady. "To be honest, it's good enough to have you celebrate my birthday with me. At night..."

He lowered his voice. His sexy laughter breathed into her ear. "You are the best birthday present."

Actually, this was pretty good too. He didn't want any surprises. It was good enough if the two of them spent a warm and cozy birthday at home together.

Lu Man smiled at Han Zhuoli. "Tonight, just wait."

Han Zhuoli blinked. He was indeed a little unsure. "So is there or is there not?"

"Just wait and see."

Han Zhuoli was really helpless. He pinched her nose angrily.

### **Chapter 698: Birthday Present**

Han Zhuoli's birthday passed by just like this, simple, cozy, and peaceful.

But this was the first time he'd tasted Lu Man's handmade longevity noodles. The two of them didn't even move to the dining table. They just squeezed at the narrow bar table, side by side.

Lu Man smiled sweetly at him.

The decorative light hanging above the bar table was glowing faintly yet warmly, surrounding the two of them in a warm glow.

Lu Man rested her chin cutely on her hand, grinning happily as she watched Han Zhuoli eat his noodles.

Han Zhuoli felt that this birthday was surprisingly even more heartwarming than any other more exciting ones he'd had in the past.

Under this faint light, it seemed like there was only him and Lu Man in this tiny world, and time seemed to slow down.

He remembered that Lu Man's birthday was on December 16. It was soon too.

At night, after they returned to their room, Lu Man was washing up when Han Zhuoli came to pester her. "Where's my birthday present?"

It didn't seem like he was here for an actual birthday present. His breath fell onto the side of her neck and her earlobe. "Are you making yourself the birthday present?"

Han Zhuoli's hands wrapped around her waist from behind and placed them on her belly. "I want to open my present."

"I prepared a birthday present for you!" Lu Man hurriedly stopped him, not letting him move.

While she ran out.

After a while, she ran back, and with her was a box shaped like a rod.

"Birthday present." Lu Man handed the box over to Han Zhuoli.

Han Zhuoli opened it. It was a fountain pen. The brand was surprisingly the one that he frequently used.

"You can use it when you work," Lu Man explained and raised her eyebrows at Han Zhuoli. "I remembered that when Dai Yiran went to the company for the first time, while you weren't there, she snuck into your office and took the fountain pen that you were using then and was even going to kiss it. If I hadn't gone in in time, she might have actually placed her lips on it."

Han Zhuoli broke into a smile. "After I heard about it from you, I threw that pen away."

“Anyway, that incident reminded me, so I bought you a fountain pen. You have to carry it with you wherever you go. As long as you are writing, use this. Even if there are other women who are as disgusting as Dai Yiran and thinking about kissing your pen, this pen was a gift from me, so it’s different.”

“Alright.” Han Zhuoli carefully placed the fountain pen in his briefcase. “I will carry it with me always, I will bring it along wherever I go. I will only sign with this.”

Lu Man suddenly looked at Han Zhuoli. “I’ll go to the bathroom for a while.”

Then, she lowered her head and walked away in a rush. Han Zhuoli was finding it a little strange; he couldn’t understand what Lu Man meant with that look.

Whereas Lu Man was carefully taking out a thin-strapped chiffon dress from where she hid it in one of the pockets in her bathrobe.

She had bought that secretly on the internet. God knows how embarrassed she was when the item arrived.

During that time, she was still in class. Auntie He had received the delivery at home.

Thankfully, Auntie He usually wouldn’t open the box of her own accord.

However, when Lu Man came back, she was so embarrassed that she felt that Auntie He was looking at her differently.

The chiffon material was light and translucent. It couldn’t hide anything, but the slight hidden feeling gave it a mysterious and hidden beauty. It was exceptionally exciting.

Lu Man urgently tugged the hem of the dress a little. This was a little more revealing than it looked like in the photograph online.

Lu Man braced herself, put on her pajama robe, and went out again.

“What did you do?” Han Zhuoli asked strangely.

Lu Man gave a seductive smile to Han Zhuoli and walked towards him. She pointed at the belt robe at her waist. “You’re not going to open your present?”

Han Zhuoli sucked in a deep breath. He got excited and scooped Lu Man into his arms.

Unexpectedly, Lu Man hid away before he could. She already knew what he was going to do.

Han Zhuoli blinked, his face stunned and confused.

Lu Man couldn’t help but laugh. He was too adorable like that, even washing away her own nerves.

## **Chapter 699: Reminder**

Blushing, she pointed at the belt of her robe.

Understanding what she meant, Han Zhuoli walked over. Anticipating yet nervous, he swallowed. This was the most nervewracking and exciting moment in his life amongst all the times he'd opened a present. He reached out and pinched the belt of Lu Man's pajama robe.

The silk robe was smooth and silky. With just a gentle tug, the belt around her waist loosened. The collar of her pajama robe opened up, revealing a corner of her translucent nightdress.

Han Zhuoli suddenly held his breath. He completely didn't expect that Lu Man would be like this!

He was so nervous that his finger started trembling. Moving his hand to the collar of her robe, he gently moved it aside while trembling, revealing what was inside.

That half-revealing, half-covering body, that extreme beauty hidden behind a fog appeared before his eyes.

Han Zhuoli's breath started getting heavy and more rushed. Finally, he took all of her pajama robe off.

Revealing that sexy nightdress.

His long arms wrapped around her slender waist and suddenly pulled her close into his embrace.

Her entire body was so soft.

"I really like this present." Han Zhuoli wrapped his lips around her earlobes. "This is probably the best present I've received in the 31 years of my life."

Lu Man had already melted into a puddle of goo in his arms, her eyes dazed and distant because of his hands.

Han Zhuoli rubbed the thin veil covering her skin. He kissed her everywhere over the thin cloth.

This little fox, how did she think of that?

He loved it!

Yet, the result of Lu Man doing this not only made Han Zhuoli extremely excited for the entire night. Even on the next day, Sunday, she was also pressed into the bed by Han Zhuoli almost for the entire day as he refused to let her go.

Thankfully, at noon, Auntie He, feeling very embarrassed, stood outside the door and asked if they were awake and whether they wanted lunch. Only then did Han Zhuoli finally stop.

After they had lunch, Lu Man received a phone call from her old neighbor.

Yesterday, Lu Qiyuan went to Xia Qingwei's old place and couldn't find her.

The neighbor said that he didn't know where Xia Qingwei was.

He indeed didn't know, but he had Lu Man's contact.

In the past, Xia Qingwei had been ill and lived alone. How could Lu Man not have worried? Hence, she'd given her contact details to their neighbor.

She asked him to look out for her a little. He didn't have to do anything else, just to call her in time if anything happened to Xia Qingwei.

To be honest, this was still the first time the neighbor called her.

"Hello." Lu Man picked up her phone.

"Lu Man, I'm the old man who was your neighbor back where you used to live," the old neighbor said.

"Hello, I know that. I saved your contact number." Lu Man hurriedly said, "What's the matter?"

"That father of yours came here yesterday," the old neighbor said. He originally wanted to call him that shameless sc\*mbag father, but he changed his words ultimately.

"I don't know whether to tell you about it since you have already moved out. Yesterday, after discussing it with my wife, we still felt that we should let you know, so that you could be mentally prepared," the old neighbor said. "Yesterday, he came looking for you, but I don't know what's the matter either. Anyway, he just started banging on the door crazily the moment he came. From that behavior, it looks like he isn't going to be friendly. It's definitely something bad."

"I am sincerely so sorry about it, it must have disturbed the new owner too. Please help me to send my apologies to them too," Lu Man said.

"Sigh, they also understand. Even if they were angry with what your father did, they would only get angry at him. It has nothing to do with you," the old neighbor said. "Alright, I'll pass on your thoughts to them."

"Thank you very much," Lu Man said. "And thank you for letting me know so that I could be mentally prepared. Because of us, your lives have been disturbed too. I'm really sorry."

### **Chapter 700: Direct Nomination**

"Hey, we weren't disturbed at all, and besides, you have already moved, he wouldn't come again anymore." After the old neighbor mentioned this, he didn't say anything else.

Lu Man thanked him again and hung up the phone.

"What's the matter?" Han Zhuoli asked.

Lu Man told him about it. "He would probably try to find me in school on Monday. Since I already know about it beforehand, he couldn't possibly find me."

"Oh, so that's what is going on. Don't worry, he won't be going on Monday," Han Zhuoli said as he smiled.

"Why?" Lu Man was curious.

"This is such a coincidence too. I didn't know that he was thinking of looking for you, but I just couldn't stand letting him have a good life," Han Zhuoli said. "So I will let a factory in the south have some problem crop up. He'll probably have to go resolve it on Monday."

Of course, it would be useless even if he went there.

That factor processed the raw materials for Lu Qiyuan's company. It was the most important part of the Lu Corporation, the part that was indispensable to them.

Han Zhuoli, of course, wouldn't just cause a small trouble for him.

In fact, that factory was already being investigated in detail. Lu Qiyuan had been building his business for over 20 years. Clearly, with that character of his, he wouldn't be picky about reliability and trust. There were many aspects wherein that factory would not pass, and they were even cutting corners. They couldn't even pass all the various tests.

If they kept digging further into it, that factory could probably just close down.

Therefore, this time, it would be enough to make Lu Qiyuan go into a huge panic.

Of course, the end result would still be the same.

How could Han Zhuoli continue to let Lu Qiyuan lead a good life?

He will let Lu Qiyuan continue fretting and worrying.

Han Zhuoli was still holding back a little. He couldn't just hit Lu Qiyuan to death with one strike.

If he did, if Lu Qiyuan went bankrupt and had nothing to do, he would go looking for Lu Man for trouble every day all the more.

But he couldn't let Lu Qiyuan lead a peaceful life.

His company would be unable to earn any money, and his life would only get worse, but he would always give him a little hope, let him busy himself over it for nothing, giving him a false image that he was still the boss of a big company that he'd been in the past.

That would be good enough.

As expected, on Monday, Lu Qiyuan didn't even go to the school to look for her.

The school started preparing for the Chinese Arts Championships.

Teacher Liang smiled as she said, "I see that you have also signed up to take part in this year's inter-school Chinese Arts Championships."

"Yes." Lu Man nodded.

"About this, the principal called a meeting and had a discussion with us. Because of your outstanding academic results and your outstanding performance in both *Greedy Wolf Operation* and then *Red Tiger*, you don't have to take part in the school's internal auditions this time around. The school will directly leave you a placing. You just need to focus on preparing for the inter-school competition," Teacher Liang said, smiling.

Lu Man didn't expect that the school would even give her this special benefit.

Even if the school didn't give her this special benefit, she was also confident that she would be chosen.



But since the school was showering her such goodwill, she was also much happier and relaxed.

When she returned to class, she saw that there were many people crowding around Zhang Xiaoying's desk.

Lu Man raised her eyebrows and asked Zheng Yuan, "What are they busy doing?"

"They are discussing the school's direct nominations. For every inter-school Chinese Arts Championships, each school has two direct nominations who don't need to take part in the school's internal auditions and directly participate in the inter-school competition. These two placings are given to the students who have the most outstanding performance and greatest contribution to the school. Of course, it is also common that no one would be nominated because, while there might be quite some students who were already famous before entering the school, there weren't a lot who had a huge contribution to the school. I also don't know how the school judges what a 'huge contribution' is either, but anyway, their standards must be very high. If not, they wouldn't usually leave the nominations empty and would rather nominate no one than give it to someone." After all, they might as well nominate someone since they could.