

Mr Han 701

Chapter 701: Could It Be Yan Zhiqing

After hearing Zheng Yuan's explanation, Lu Man finally realized that her direct nomination was surprisingly really valuable.

Lu Qi sat at the side silently. No one bothered with her.

In the past, she was even more successful than Zhang Xiaoying.

She heard Zhuang Tingting at the side speaking to Zhang Xiaoying, not being low-profile at all. "Xiaoying, I think that today's direct nomination will definitely be yours. Didn't your family donate a gym to the school? It allowed the students in our school to exercise and work out there for free. We get to tone our bodies, and there are even specially-trained trainers to teach us. Your family is even planning on building a cinema for our school. I heard that the school didn't plan any major projects this year. Your family's investment can already be considered a big project. If it's about having a huge contribution to your school, I think it applies to your family."

Lu Qi gritted her teeth and thought that, if the Lu Corporation wasn't having any problems that would make Lu Qiyuan be in such a frenzy right now, the Lu family would also have given the school some money. Who would even care about Zhang Xiaoying?!

Zhang Xiaoying seemed to have learned her lesson and didn't dare to be too high-profile, afraid that it would only slap her back in the face in the future.

The corner of her mouth still couldn't help show how smug she was feeling, but she said humbly, "How does this little bit even matter? There are many capable people in the school. I won't talk about others, but Lu Man is one of them. Even though the Lu family can't make it, doesn't she still have her future in-laws?"

Lu Qi pursed her lips unhappily. Just talk about Lu Man if you want to, why did you drag the Lu family into this too!

Zhuang Tingting scoffed coldly. "You said so, too, that that's only her future in-laws. Right now, it looks like they are treating Lu Man well, but as long as they aren't married yet, who knows what will happen in the future? She still hasn't married him, why would they invest so much for her? How could it be possible?"

"I heard that in order for Senior Yan Zhiqing, who's in Year Four now, to come to this school to study, the Yan family built a second library for the school," Yu Jingxian said.

Fan Xiyue said, "But she can't participate in this year's Chinese Arts Championships."

"Huh? Why?" Fang Xuelei asked. "It could be said that she's the signature pride of our school."

Not only did she have the support of the Yan family, but the Yan family also had a relationship with the Han family that was as strong as steel. Yan Zhiqing was also signed by Han Corporation and had received a lot of support and promotion.

And Yan Zhiqing herself had sufficient ability and talent. She didn't embarrass the Yan family or the Han family.

Using her outstanding acting skills and ability to pick good scripts, she'd quickly found a footing in the industry.

As long as it was a film or television show that she participated in, the quality was guaranteed.

Be it the investment or production of the film or television show, or the scale of the cast, it was guaranteed to be good.

The production was professional and meticulously done, and all the actors had good acting skills. They had good chemistry with her, and it was really satisfying when they acted. It also made the audience very satisfied when they watched.

Therefore, every television show that Yan Zhiqing acted in was guaranteed to do well in terms of viewership ratings. They were always at the top spot.

The box office of her films weren't as crazy as those of Greedy Wolf Operation or Red Tiger , but they still did well among its peers.

After all, the box office of locally-produced movies only recently started increasing wildly because of Lu Man.

Yan Zhiqing had even been named as the most likely female actress who could enter the international stage after Gao Zishan.

Therefore, saying that Yan Zhiqing was the signature pride of the National Film Academy wasn't an exaggeration one bit.

"She definitely has outstanding grades, and she's even made a huge contribution too. It was only because of her that the gap between us and the Film Academy didn't become further apart. And all these years, when it comes to producing actors with good acting chops, the National Drama Academy has always produced more. The netizens even said that as long as you look at their acting, you can tell where they had graduated from. Speaking about our school, they always gave off an image that their students are like vases that depended on their looks to earn money. Thankfully, there is still Yan Zhiqing, who've helped maintain our school's reputation. If it comes to who would definitely get the direct nomination this year, it will definitely have to be Yan Zhiqing," Yuan Menghan said.

Chapter 702: Biggest Sponsor

Fan Xiyue shook her head and said, "Didn't you pay attention to the news online? Yan Zhiqing is currently in Egypt filming a Hollywood movie, Anubis . There'd be a clash in her schedule."

"Since that's the case, then it could really only be Xiaoying," Zhuang Tingting said immediately. "This year, there are also two child actors in Year One. Now they have become one of the representative students who have become 'fresh meat' and 'budding starlets.' They have the popularity, but I didn't hear anything about them having a huge contribution to the school. After all, they had only just joined

the school. Even if they thought about it, they still wouldn't be able to do it in time. The main competitors would be from Years Three and Four, but so far, I still haven't heard anything about them."

"Let's take a look first, then see. My family only invested this little bit in the school, it really doesn't count as much when you consider it. Don't talk about this to others or they might laugh at us," Zhang Xiaoying said with a smile, and she even especially side-eyed Lu Man.

But Lu Man completely ignored her.

"Xiaoying, you are becoming more and more low-profile," Zhuang Tingting mumbled. "Unlike some people. They completely didn't even invest any money, yet they are so high-profile, thinking that they are so rich."

Lu Man blinked and said, "I didn't say anything at all, right? Why are you dragging me into this again? Or are people spreading some rumors about me again?"

Han Leilei and the other two were all taken aback and stunned. "No, nothing, I didn't hear anything."

Pan Xue rolled her eyes. "They are clearly crazy. It makes them uncomfortable if they don't drag you into their conversation. You don't have to bother with them."

Zheng Yuan said softly and secretively, "Lu Man, didn't the counselor call you over just now? Was it about the direct nomination?"

Lu Man was really impressed with Zheng Yuan's sixth sense and nodded at her. "It is something about that. The counselor only told me that because I got good grades and because of Red Tiger, they are giving me a placing. I didn't know that a huge contribution was included in this."

Pan Xue waved her hand like it didn't matter. "That is understandable too. Han Corporation is building a theater for our school."

"Not just a theater." No wonder Zheng Yuan was the class chairperson, she knew about all the news. Who knows where she even heard all this from? "Just now, didn't they say that Zhang Xiaoying's family was still going to build a cinema for the school?"

"Yeah." Pan Xue nodded.

"What's the point?" Zheng Yuan rolled her eyes. "Zhang Xiaoying's family is thinking of using sponsorships to bring benefit to Zhang Xiaoying, but they don't want to put in too much money. Think about it, how much would building a gym even cost? They just need to buy some equipment wholesale, that's all. The school's gym also isn't really big or anything. But a cinema is different. The investment would be too much, so they just plan on renovating the old cinema a little. They are still calculating the costs. They think that the investment is too great and want to cut costs, so they are still dragging out the time."

"Now that they have this rich-daddy Han Corporation, why would Principal Liu even care about the Zhang family? He would be too lazy to even bother pushing and pulling back and forth with them. Fix it if you want to; if you can't fork out the money, then don't pretend that you're so cool, okay? You want to make a mark in the school, but you want to save money, do you think you're going to a market? Bargaining with the school? Are you here to sponsor or to gain an advantage? I heard from the senior

who is Professor Xu's assistant that the Han Corporation had already invested money to renovate the cinema. The screens inside, broadcasting equipment, etc., are all going to be changed to the latest one. They are even going to add an IMAX theater. That's because when the representative from the Han Corporation came, Professor Xu went along too."

Even Lu Man didn't know about this matter.

Han Zhuoli didn't tell her about it either.

Mainly because Han Zhuoli felt that this was just a small matter and, after he'd decided, he didn't bother remembering it, so he forgot to tell Lu Man too.

Chapter 703: One Is Marked by the Company They Keep

"If that's the case, since the nominations are out, they should have called someone over long ago. But this time, they only called Lu Man and not Zhang Xiaoying. Looks like Zhang Xiaoying won't be having anything," Han Leilei said.

Pan Xue scoffed. "What could Zhang Xiaoying have? Those people are just fantasizing on their own. Zhang Xiaoying's television show didn't do well yet her family was still stingy. She didn't even have any big contribution."

Zheng Yuan laughed a little in glee, placing her second finger on her lips. "Don't tell anyone that Lu Man got one of the placings. If not, there would definitely be someone who would come looking for trouble and say all sorts of things. When the results are out eventually, hoho, slap them in their faces!"

"Haha!" Pan Xue burst out into laughter. She couldn't hold back how loud she was and everyone looked over.

Pan Xue hurriedly covered her mouth to keep it shut. After everyone else started chatting amongst themselves again, Pan Xue said softly, "Zheng Yuan, you have been around Lu Man too long, you are also starting to like slapping people in the face."

Zheng Yuan: "..."

"Was I not like this before?" Zheng Yuan pointed at her own nose and asked.

Pan Xue and Han Leilei both shook their heads.

"Well, then." Zheng Yuan sighed. "This is called one is marked by the bad company they keep."

"You are the bad company." Lu Man laughed and poked her.

The school's initial auditions, semi-finals, and finals involving ten people would span over six months.

Until the start of the initial auditions, the counselor had never told Zhang Xiaoying that she would be given the direct nomination.

Zhang Xiaoying originally didn't say anything about it, but she always felt that if the school really had to give someone the direct nomination, it could only be to her.

Yet after waiting again and again, she still didn't get it.

Zhang Xiaoying could only enter the initial auditions with the other students. She really felt like her value had dropped. She had actually fallen so low that she was like an ordinary student.

"Xiaoying, I heard that out of the two direct nominations our school has this year, they have given one out." After the semi-finals, Zhuang Tingting had pulled Zhang Xiaoying and said this softly to her.

"Who?" Zhang Xiaoying's expression changed immediately.

Zhuang Tingting smiled secretly to herself. Zhang Xiaoying said that she didn't care about it, but wasn't she still going crazily angry over it, after all?

"I don't know, I couldn't find out. All I know is that they gave one out," Zhuang Tingting said. "Xiaoying, can you definitely pass the school finals?"

"Of course, why?" Zhang Xiaoying looked at her impatiently.

Zhuang Tingting smiled, trying to please her. "If you go to the competition, you definitely can't act alone, you do need someone to be a supporting actor. When that time comes, could you bring me along?"

Maybe she could even let others see her face.

Zhang Xiaoying's face turned cold. She huffed silently.

Not passing the internal audition but still appearing in the inter-school competition, how could something that good happen?

"Didn't you know?" Zhang Xiaoying pretended to be surprised. "The supporting actors are all provided by the official judges. I'll see what I can do when that time comes. If I can use my own classmates, I will definitely bring you along."

Zhuang Tingting agreed happily.

When they returned to the class, everyone was basically discussing the results of the competition.

Half the class was eliminated in the initial auditions. Therefore, those students, including those who also didn't pass the semi-finals, were the least stressed right now. They were just a regular audience being a busybody.

The students who passed the semi-finals were the most nervous.

Yuan Menghan thought about Lu Man. "Lu Man, how did you do?"

Lu Man achieved first place in her first-ever finals examination. Her Performance class' results were even more out-of-this-world. "You definitely did well, right?"

Previously, they had surprisingly forgotten about Lu Man.

Lu Man was just about to say something when the counselor, Teacher Liang, entered the room.

“Now, I will be announcing the list of students who will be entering the finals. It will not only be from your class, but also your juniors from Year One, as well as your seniors from Year Three and Year Four.”

Chapter 704: Lu Man Didn't Get Chosen?

“After the semi-finals, 18 students will enter the finals. For the sake of fairness, equality, and transparency, the finals will be held in the school's main hall. During that time, all the students can come and watch. The judges and teachers will grade them live and announce the results of the finals first-hand. The competition would be completely transparent. Whoever acted well or badly, those as the audience would definitely have their own ranking too.”

“Now, I will be revealing the list of students who will be entering the finals.” Teacher Liang started reading, “Year One Performance Class, Wang Nianru, Fu Kaiqi, Zhang Shanshan, Xu Ziyi. Year Two Performance Class, Zhang Xiaoying, Lu Qi, Han Leilei, Zheng Yuan. Year Three Performance Class, Fu Xuebin, Li Zeyu, Dong Jingxi, Luo Yijun, He Zhangze. Year Four Performance Class, Liu Zijun, Ni Xue, Yang Ruilin, He Zhixuan, Meng Yihan.”

Teacher Liang finished reading the names and said, “I will paste the list of names at the back of the classroom. Who your competitor is and which class they are from are all written clearly so that everyone can get to know each other.”

After speaking, Teacher Liang left the classroom.

The students who were chosen to enter the finals were naturally really happy, but everyone was even more concerned about something else.

“Why isn't Lu Man there?”

“Lu Man actually didn't get chosen? That's impossible!”

“How is it impossible? This shows that the results of her finals were largely due to luck.”

“Maybe she just thought that she did really well in her finals and got arrogant. She became complacent and so her grades naturally fell.”

“Besides, this time, it's purely just based on Performance alone. Many people had pretty good grades in Performance, but their final grades were just pulled down because of the Cultural class. Now, without Cultural Studies to make them lose points, they would naturally do better and push Lu Man's ranking down.”

“Haha, Lu Man was still so showy and impressive recently, thinking that she was so awesome. Even with Red Tiger, she still couldn't get herself a direct nomination,” Zhuang Tingting said strangely. “Xiaoying, it's true, right?”

“...” Zhang Xiaoying really didn't dare to answer. She was genuinely afraid that she would get slapped in the face by Lu Man again.

Her expression wavered as she looked towards Lu Man. Previously, Zhuang Tingting even said that the school had given out one direct nomination.

It couldn't... couldn't be Lu Man, right?

Impossible!

How could Lu Man get a direct nomination?

After all, the school didn't even give her, Zhang Xiaoying, one. Other than her movie Red Tiger having good results, Lu Man didn't have any huge contributions to the school.

It definitely couldn't be Lu Man.

She was really getting dumb, she'd even starting thinking nonsense.

Fan Xiyue, who started bearing a grudge for Lu Man because of the finals examination, also seized the opportunity and mocked her, "If it were me, I would definitely be too embarrassed to face anyone right now. She started out at such a high point, but when it came to the crucial moment, she couldn't do it. Xiaoying is still steady and consistent. Every single time, she would live up to everyone's expectations without fail."

Lu Man raised her eyebrows lightly. "Hehe," she laughed lightly. "You don't have to add a 'if,' aren't you already embarrassed enough to be unable to face me?"

Fan Xiyue's expression changed and she violently turned towards her.

"What are you looking at? Lower your head." Lu Man rolled her eyes dramatically at Fan Xiyue.

Fan Xiyue: "..."

"Pft!" Zheng Yuan and the other two burst out laughing.

Zheng Yuan secretly texted their WeChat group: "Hold on, everyone. Definitely don't tell anyone that Lu Man didn't participate in the competition and directly went straight to the inter-school competitions! Especially Pan Xue, don't be impulsive!"

As the four of them were on good terms, they had already created a little group chat.

Pan Xue sent an emoji that showed she was rolling her eyes. Then she typed, "Don't worry, I will definitely hold it in."

Today, that was all for homeroom. After that, everyone went their own ways.

Chapter 705: Lu Man Sure Was Sly

Lu Man packed her items and was about to leave when Lu Qi chased after her. "Lu Man!"

Lu Man ignored her. Hence, Lu Qi followed beside her. "Don't you think you have lost face because you didn't get chosen to enter the finals?"

Lu Man looked at her sarcastically. "Think whatever you like, as long as it makes you happy."

"Lu Man, Older Sister!" Lu Qi called again. "You... You filmed Red Tiger and received a lot as your pay, right? The internet is saying that you received a cut of the box office."

“Did Director Ji Cheng nod his head and acknowledge that?” Lu Man asked.

“What does that have to do with Ji Cheng?” Lu Qi asked.

“Of course it has to do with him. He was the one who drafted the contract. Whether or not it’s true, he knows best.” Lu Man laughed coldly. “You just believe anything that is written online?”

“Older Sister, just tell me the truth. What’s there to hide between you and me? We are all a family. I will definitely be happy for you if your pay is high. I wouldn’t covet your money either.”

Lu Man looked at her, looking like she was smiling but not really either. “I really didn’t earn that much, it’s just false rumors on the internet. If you don’t believe me, ask Director Ji Cheng yourself when you get the chance to.”

Lu Qi gritted her teeth and said, “Since what they are saying on the internet is fake, why didn’t you clarify?”

“Look at what you’re saying, why do I need to clarify anything? Even if it’s fake, it’s a good thing that the internet is saying that I have a high salary. When the next film comes along, I can rightfully ask for a higher salary, right?”

Lu Qi: “...”

Lu Man sure was sly!

But she was even thinking about her next film?

“Older Sister, didn’t you move recently?” Lu Qi asked again.

Lu Man rubbed her own arm. “Lu Qi, speak properly, don’t call me Older Sister.”

Lu Qi lowered her head and said, “Dad went to look for you guys, but y’all weren’t around. Older Sister, honestly, Dad is still thinking about you and your mother. He frequently complains at home that he didn’t know whether you guys are living well. He even thought about giving you things and giving you some money for your daily expenses, but he is afraid that you guys won’t accept it. Dad genuinely wants to be on good terms with both of you again. He genuinely wants to sit down and have a good chat with both of you. Even if he had already divorced your mother, he still wants to be good to her. Dad found out that he couldn’t find you and was so anxious. Older Sister, where exactly did you move to?”

Lu Qi chased after Lu Man as she walked quickly. She didn’t even notice where they were walking to.

Seeing that Lu Man finally stopped, Lu Qi was happy.

However, unexpectedly, Lu Man said, “I have to leave first.”

Then she saw that she had surprisingly unknowingly walked to the side of a car. Lu Man opened the car door and entered, then asked Xiao Chen to quickly start the car.

Lu Qi was still stunned. The car suddenly drove off and Lu Qi was suddenly thrown down onto the ground.

“Qi Qi!” He Zhengbai hurriedly ran over and helped Lu Qi up. “What’s going on?”

"It's Older Sister. She entered the car and told the driver to do this," Lu Qi said, her face pale.

He Zhengbai looked at Lu Qi's scratched palm in pain. "Are you hurt anywhere else?"

Lu Qi shook her head. "I'm fine, you don't have to worry. I just want to know where Lu Man is staying now. She moved house. She is not staying where she used to."

"That's easy. This time, we will let her run off, but next time, we will be prepared. We can secretly tail her and see exactly where she's staying," He Zhengbai said.

Lu Qi nodded. "Oh, right, did you know? I was chosen to enter the finals. After another round, if I win, I can represent the school to participate in the inter-school competition."

"Really? That's great!" He Zhengbai then asked, "Then... Lu Man?"

"She didn't get chosen." Lu Qi shook her head.

"I just knew it, you are so much more impressive than she is." He Zhengbai saw that Lu Man didn't get chosen and was happy. "Her success from before was only because she got lucky. Do well for this competition and you can make a comeback."

Chapter 706: So It Turns Out That She Was Quite Lousy?

Of course, Lu Man couldn't compare to Lu Qi.

"Yeah, that's what I was thinking too!"

He Zhengbai paused for a moment and said, "Oh, right, how's Uncle's company coming along? I heard that a problem cropped up with the factory in the south, is that right? Is Uncle back yet?"

Lu Qi froze and forced out a smile. "Who did you hear that from? It's all just rumors. My family's factory is still doing well. My dad isn't back yet because he is still really busy. Hasn't it been like this all along? The person who spread this rumor is too ridiculous! My family's company is still doing well."

"I haven't visited Auntie in a while," He Zhengbai then said.

Lu Qi hurriedly clung onto He Zhengbai's arm. "Go back with me, then."

This would let Xia Qingyang stop worrying too.

Because recently, He Zhengbai seldom came to their place. He was busy with directing stuff and wanted to start preparing for a new show. Other people didn't want him to be their director, so he would go at it alone and wanted to do a show with a grand scale.

So he'd been so busy that he didn't have time to date.

Xia Qingyang was always worried that Lu Qi's and He Zhengbai's relationship would change.

Lu Qi had gone through much effort to finally snatch He Zhengbai from Lu Man.

After she heard that Lu Man's current boyfriend was pretty good, Lu Qi thought she definitely couldn't lose. If she broke up with He Zhengbai, she would definitely be embarrassed in front of Lu Man.

Moreover, she couldn't let the He family, this big fat goose, run away again just when it's about to enter their mouths.

Today, she got He Zhengbai to go home with her so that Xia Qingyang could stop worrying and stop nagging by her ear every day.

As expected, when Xia Qingyang saw He Zhengbai, she was extremely happy. She kept pulling He Zhengbai over to talk to him. "Zhengbai, why haven't you come over in such a long time? I have been missing you so much every day."

"I've just been a bit busy lately. I'm studying Directing, so I still want to film my own work. Recently, I've put all my energy in that," He Zhengbai explained.

"You still have to rest no matter how busy you are, don't fall ill. Come back home with Qi Qi more often, I will brew some soup for you to build up your health," Xia Qingyang said.

In the past, he didn't feel it. But it seemed like since Lu Man had left the Lu family, perhaps because Xia Qingyang felt that she didn't have a competitor anymore and started relaxing and getting complacent, all her foolish antics started to show.

She even wanted to build up his health.

It wasn't like his family didn't have what theirs did. Why couldn't he just go to his own home to build up his health?

Why would he still need to come here to wait for Xia Qingyang to help him?

If Lu Qi didn't have some use and value to him, he wouldn't even bother being so friendly with Xia Qingyang.

Talking to Xia Qingyang made him feel like his IQ was dropping.

"Did Uncle say when he was coming back? He's been gone for quite long this time, right?" He Zhengbai asked.

Xia Qingyang froze for a moment, then smiled and said, "Soon, I think."

Yesterday, Lu Qiyuan even made a phone call back. It seemed likely that they wouldn't be able to keep the factory.

It would at the very least be closed and changed. Even his brand "Lu Corporation" would be affected. The Lu family would lose a lot.

"Oh, right, Mom, let me tell you a piece of good news." Lu Qi smiled and said, "I passed the schools' semi-finals and I'm officially in the school's finals. As long as I can get into the top ten, I can represent the school and take part in the inter-school competition."

"That's great!" Xia Qingyang tossed aside the previous conversation topic and happily held on to Lu Man's hand. "I just knew it, my daughter will shine wherever she goes. So what if Lu Man has harmed you? She can harm you for a while, but she can't harm you forever. That's right, did Lu Man get chosen?"

“No.” Lu Qi felt smug. “Today, the counselor read out all 18 students in the school who passed the semi-finals. Lu Man wasn’t one of them. She didn’t pass the auditions.”

Xia Qingyang instantly started smiling smugly. “So it turns out that she was quite lousy?”

Chapter 707: Lu Man’s Face Appeared in His Mind

“I didn’t know either. Perhaps she became proud after successfully filming two movies. Or perhaps she honestly didn’t live up to her name. She looks pretty good in her movies, but the background and other parts of the movie will make her seem better, and with the director’s direction too. However, it’s only her when it comes to the exam, so she doesn’t have that ability.” Lu Qi scoffed mockingly.

“Hehehe, it’s still our Qi Qi who performed steadily and consistently. She has the skill.” Xia Qingyang grinned from ear to ear. “After you pass this inter-school championships, you will definitely shine.”

Leaving the Lu family home, Lu Qi held onto He Zhengbai’s arm. “Zhengbai, where are we going now?”

“You still want to go out?” He Zhengbai was surprised.

Lu Qi was tongue-tied for a moment. “We’re not... not going out?”

He Zhengbai peeled her hand away from his arm. “You’re about to take part in the competition. At such a crucial period, you should properly prepare for it in case any accident happens when the time comes around. Besides, I also have to prepare for the television show that I plan to film.”

He Zhengbai smiled gently. “You should go back soon. Be good, after this period of time, we will have plenty of time to spend together. After my television show starts filming and you get first place in the Chinese Arts Championships after working hard, both our careers will start getting back on track again and there will be fewer things bothering us. We will be more relaxed when we are together.”

Lu Qi pouted. “Alright, then.”

But she still hugged He Zhengbai reluctantly. She lifted her head up, asking for a kiss.

He Zhengbai was initially getting a little annoyed, but when he lowered his head and saw Lu Qi’s beautiful and pretty face, he felt like he ultimately wasn’t losing anything and lowered his head and kissed her.

Lu Qi was pretty. But no matter how pretty she was, you will still get sick of eating such grand meals every day.

He was indeed getting a little sick of Lu Qi.

At most, Lu Qi’s face could still be looked at. It’s fine that she didn’t make him lose his appetite.

But for some strange reason, Lu Man’s face appeared in He Zhengbai’s mind.

In the past, Lu Man had been Lu Qi’s assistant, so every day, she wore a baggy T-shirt and jeans, covering up her figure. She looked like she was as bony as a match and didn’t have any curves.

And also because she was Lu Qi's assistant, while Lu Qi was dolled up prettily and brightly every day, in order to not let Lu Man steal the limelight from her, she even strictly restricted Lu Man to dressing shabbily, the more to make Lu Qi stand out.

And during that time, Lu Man did every single thing for Lu Qi, as diligent as a cow.

She busied herself every day and ran around to all sorts of different places. Saying that her face was skinny and her complexion yellow wasn't an exaggeration at all.

Lu Man back then, under Lu Qi's glowing appearance, was indeed not really outstanding. People wouldn't feel any excitement or interest when they saw her.

In the past, He Zhengbai didn't touch Lu Man because Lu Man had been unwilling.

However, eventually, He Zhengbai really didn't have much of an appetite. Seeing Lu Man's pale and sallow face, he really couldn't kiss her.

But in the end, Lu Man left the Lu family and her life got better and better.

From an unknown time onwards, somewhere he couldn't see, Lu Man had surprisingly been changing.

When he saw her again, Lu Man had become someone he completely couldn't have imagined.

Beautiful, eye-catching.

Her skin was as fair as snow, her small face the size of a palm. Her facial features were exactly where they should be. Her eyebrows were simply perfect; it shouldn't be any thicker, but it shouldn't be any fainter either. Both her lips were red even without lipstick.

Without those baggy clothes and pants hiding it, Lu Man's figure was surprisingly so good.

Her waist was slim and her legs were long. Her pair of long legs wouldn't lose out to a models', even. Her proportions were so good, it was really shocking.

Her waist was so slender it was like you couldn't even hold it.

Once, in school, he saw Lu Man wearing a skirt from afar. It was just above the knee and should have been awkward. It would have been too easy for her to reveal any flaws in her body.

Chapter 708: Like They Were Two Different People

But Lu Man only had good points. It made her calves look even skinnier and even straighter.

Her skirt flew with the wind above her calves, and the sunlight shining on her calves made her skin so fair, as if it was glowing.

The image of Lu Man in his mind became even clearer. The Lu Qi in his arms felt like it was Lu Man. He felt Lu Man's entire body become soft and gentle. He Zhengbai suddenly thought that he was hugging Lu Man and kissed her even deeper.

He placed his hand at the back of Lu Qi's waist and unconsciously squeezed her against his waist, squeezing her harder each time. He put in more and more strength, desperately wishing that he could fit her entirely into his body.

Still wanting more, he suddenly pushed Lu Qi against the wall and kissed her even more fiercely, almost swallowing her up entirely.

While Lu Qi was shocked, she was still really pleasantly surprised. It had been a long while since He Zhengbai had been so passionate with her.

It was like... like he wanted her there and then.

He was so eager, so desperate, so urgent.

Lu Qi originally thought that He Zhengbai's feelings towards her had already started to fade and was thinking about coming up with some plan to tie down He Zhengbai's heart tighter, afraid that He Zhengbai wouldn't like her anymore over time.

Now, it looked like she was just overthinking.

Lu Qi was surprised and elated. She didn't care that they were in public and kissed He Zhengbai back of her own accord. Her hands inched upwards from his waist slowly and roamed around his back.

The words "Man Man" was right at the tip of He Zhengbai's tongue, and just as he was about to moan that name, he pleasantly raised his eyelids slightly to squint at the person in his arms. He was suddenly shocked back into his sense. The person in his arms was Lu Qi!

Lu Man's small and delicate face disappeared, changing into Lu Qi's face.

Back then, Lu Man intentionally hid her beauty to help Lu Qi stand out.

But now, compared to Lu Man, Lu Qi was completely not good-looking enough.

With Lu Man's face contrasting against hers, Lu Qi's face surprisingly seemed rather ordinary.

He Zhengbai suddenly felt like he had lost his appetite and felt that it was boring. He released Lu Qi from his arms.

Yet Lu Qi had been swept along by He Zhengbai just now and was really excited. The kiss suddenly paused and she subconsciously chased after his lips, wanting to continue kissing him, but she was held back upright by He Zhengbai while he avoided her kiss.

Lu Qi frowned. Her face was still filled with intense lust, her eyes dazed and distant. "What's wrong?"

He Zhengbai forced out a smile. "It's nothing. Hurry back and start preparing. I'll be leaving first."

Ditching Lu Qi behind, He Zhengbai hurriedly dashed into his car and left, not even sparing Lu Qi one last glance.

Lu Qi furiously stomped her foot. Even if he didn't admit it, she could still feel that there was something changing between her and He Zhengbai.

She couldn't understand exactly why. At the start, He Zhengbai wasn't really very passionate, but he suddenly became so wild and crazy, so anxious and rushed, like... like when two people first get together. But immediately, he became cold again.

The difference was too great, like they were two different people.

The first battle of the first day of finals of the intra-school competition began. After the competition all ended, they will pick the top nine students with the highest scores.

Even though Lu Man had already qualified to participate in the inter-school competition, Zheng Yuan and Han Leilei were still chasing after the qualification to be able to participate in the inter-school competition, so Lu Man and Pan Xue both went to the venue to support and cheer them on.

Moreover, Lu Man also wanted to see how skilled the other students were.

She knew about the other students in her class, but she wasn't really sure about the situation among the Year Ones, Year Threes, and Year Fours.

Therefore, she wanted to use this opportunity to find out about her competitors' abilities.

They found two seats in the auditorium and sat down. Pan Xue said, "I heard that once the Chinese Arts Championships inter-school competition begins, even though it might not be broadcasted on television, they will still officially sell tickets to the public."

Chapter 709: Do You Still Like Me?

"That's because our school and the National Drama Academy are the top choices for all the 'fresh meat 1' and budding starlets every year. The two Year Ones in our school this year, for instance. Xu Ziyi and Fu Kaiqi are both really popular. Our class has you and Zhang Xiaoying, and there is Li Zeyu and Dong Jingxi in Year Three and Meng Yihan in Year Four. Each and every one of them has a massive amount of fans. Fu Kaiqi and Li Zeyu have an exceptionally large amount. The ticket prices for the sessions that they'll be competing in will definitely sky-rocket."

"Also, the National Drama Academy has Chen Cong, Yang Ruitian, Yu Lexin, and Chang Yachen. They might not be as popular as the ones in our school, but they do have a substantial number of die-hard fans," Pan Xue said, as if she was naming the treasures in her house. "When the time comes, I would see how much the ticket costs. If it isn't too expensive, I will buy a ticket and support you guys there."

This time, the Chinese Arts Championships were held in City B.

As the National Drama Academy has a large theater, the competition will be held at the National Drama Academy this time.

He Zhengbai walked into the auditorium. When he found a seat, he saw that Lu Man and Pan Xue were sitting there chatting.

He didn't know what they were talking about, but Lu Man was smiling really happily. Her eyes were curved into little crescents; her teeth were a neat row of white, and her cheeks were tainted a faint pink.

He Zhengbai's heart fired up. He recalled that day outside the Lu family's house where he embraced Lu Qi and kissed her, but in his daze had imagined Lu Qi as Lu Man instead.

He Zhengbai right now still didn't realize one thing: what you can't get is the best.

Before he could even react, he had started walking towards Lu Man as if he was possessed.

His gaze narrowed straight onto Lu Man.

If it wasn't... if it weren't for how Lu Man was too lousy back then, if Lu Man were just as beautiful back then, as well as so capable, he definitely wouldn't have abandoned Lu Man and went for Lu Qi instead.

Lu Man was speaking to Pan Xue. Her back was facing He Zhengbai so she didn't see him walking over.

Pan Xue saw him and hurriedly tugged onto Lu Man's sleeve. "He Zhengbai is coming over."

Lu Man frowned. She wanted to pretend that she didn't see He Zhengbai.

Pan Xue said, "He looks like he's here to look for you. Should we go sit somewhere else?"

"That would be good too." Lu Man started looking for another seat elsewhere.

"Lu Man." He Zhengbai's voice had already called from behind her, however.

Lu Man and Pan Xue were already both standing up, ready to leave, but He Zhengbai had walked over.

"Lu Man, where are you guys going?"

"Of course to somewhere without you," Lu Man said impolitely.

"Lu Man, even if we couldn't become lovers, we've at least known each other for more than ten years. Can't we just be old friends?" Lu Man probably still haven't forgotten about him, right? If not, why would her reaction be so drastic?

Lu Man said with irritation, "We've only known each other for more than ten years, but there are also people who go their separate ways after knowing each other for more than ten years. Why should I have to be friends with you? Stop annoying me!"

He Zhengbai sighed. "No matter what, Lu Man, you are different to me. If you face any difficulties, just let me know, I will definitely help you out."

Lu Man originally wanted to leave, but she saw that Lu Qi was walking towards them. She curled her lips upwards. "Different? How am I different? He Zhengbai, don't forget, you are together with Lu Qi now."

"Lu Man, I know that you are angry with me, but you are ultimately my first love. I..."

"Do you still like me?" Lu Man asked suddenly.

He Zhengbai's pupils wavered. He didn't expect that Lu Man would ask this so bluntly.

Watching Lu Man stare straight at him in the eye, it was like she... she really still haven't forgotten about him.

Chapter 710: Lu Man Was Just Fooling with Him

She was so straightforward and blunt with him because she was actually still feeling stubborn. In fact, she still couldn't forget her feelings towards him.

Lu Man was actually looking at him with a very calm gaze, but in an instant, in He Zhengbai's eyes, it had become a meaningful and emotional gaze.

He looked at Lu Man and his gaze softened. It became even harder to hide his happiness and excitement.

It turned out that he wasn't the only one who couldn't forget about the other person!

They both still had each other in their hearts, ultimately.

"Man Man, I—" He Zhengbai was so emotional he almost blurted out that, as long as Lu Man was willing to, he would break up with Lu Qi immediately and get back together with Lu Man again.

Besides, the Lu Man now wasn't the same as before.

She was capable, she was pretty, she was now very well-connected because she was now under the Han Corporation and had worked on Greedy Wolf Operation and Red Tiger .

He even received a reliable piece of news that Sun Yiwu had even decided to treat her as his niece.

Based on this relationship she had, if he got together with Lu Man, as long as Lu Man just spoke a bit to Sun Yiwu, he would definitely help him out with his career.

Lu family?

What was the Lu family even worth!

Rumors had it that the Lu family was going to fall. Lu Qiyuan was currently in the south, anxiously stuck in a mess.

That day, he went to the Lu family to figure out if this was true. As expected, he could tell that Xia Qingyang and Lu Qi kept avoiding his questions and tried to change the topics.

Therefore, when he left the Lu family, he went to find someone to investigate this matter.

As expected, something cropped up at Lu Corporation's most important main processing factory.

Because of this, Lu Corporation was almost certainly going to fail.

He was still watching whether Lu Qiyuan could overcome this crisis.

However, he didn't really have much patience towards Lu Qi anymore.

He was becoming more and more sick of her.

Comparing her to Lu Man, he found that the difference between them was really too great.

He Zhengbai was still calculating and planning. Since Lu Man still couldn't forget her feelings for him, and right now he still didn't plan on giving up Lu Qi, then he would secretly date Lu Man first, just like back when he was dating Lu Man and secretly dated Lu Qi too.

When the time was ripe, he would break up with Lu Qi and get the best of both worlds.

He believed that as long as Lu Man still loved him, she would definitely be willing to have to just suffer a little for him.

Just when He Zhengbai was about to confess to Lu Man, Lu Qi's voice called from behind. "Zhengbai!"

Lu Qi was on her way to the backstage to prepare for the competition but ended up seeing He Zhengbai and Lu Man standing together.

She walked over and heard He Zhengbai saying what he did.

Lu Qi was extremely livid. If she hadn't called out to stop him, what was He Zhengbai going to say to Lu Man?

Her instincts told her that He Zhengbai had wanted to confess to Lu Man.

Then, if that happened, what about her?

What would she do?!

She was indeed curious about what He Zhengbai would say, but she was even more afraid of what he would say, so she hurriedly interrupted He Zhengbai.

Lu Qi strode over, her face green with anger.

He Zhengbai turned around in shock and fear. "Qi Qi?"

"Zhengbai, what were you about to say to Lu Man?" Lu Qi asked.

Lu Man laughed sarcastically. "He was probably thinking of telling me that he still hasn't forgotten about it and wanted to be together with me, but he still couldn't break up with you right now, so he could only date me secretly, just like what he did with you back then."

He Zhengbai's face flushed bright red. He didn't expect that Lu Man had already figured out his thoughts.

Now, it was clear as day that Lu Man was just fooling with him!

She must have seen Lu Qi walking towards them just now and intentionally lured him to say those words.

No wonder Lu Man had changed her attitude so suddenly.

He must have been blinded by the rush of happiness and joy he felt just now and didn't see it.

Right now, Lu Man's mocking expression was even more painful to see.

“Lu Qi, keep a good eye on him, don’t let him self-assumingly come out trying to flirt, thinking that he is so handsome and dashing.” Lu Man scoffed and side-eyed He Zhengbai with much contempt.