

Mr Han 781

Chapter 781: Since You Are Already Engaged, Stop Changing Your Mind Frequently

And so, she had never celebrated her birthday properly.

After a long while, she no longer cared about her birthday.

She did not even think that people would care about it.

It seemed like, ever since she could remember, she did not have any awareness of when her birthday was.

Because of that, she did not even mention anything about celebrating her birthday to Han Zhuoli, not even giving any hints.

Han Zhuoli looked at Lu Man, his heart feeling pain like it had been pinched.

This girl, she was very strong a lot of the time, but sometimes, she made his heart ache so much.

After noticing that his gaze was not quite the same, Lu Man raised her head to look at him. She was about to ask what the matter was when a sound of surprise interrupted her. "Young Master Han!"

Lu Man looked over and saw that Ni Xue was at the entrance of the theater and had called out in shock.

Lu Man realized only then that they had somehow already reached their destination.

Han Zhuoli slightly frowned, not able to remember who Ni Xue was.

Ni Xue's gaze could not help but look towards Han Zhuoli and Lu Man's hands.

She had seen the two of them walk over just now. Why was Lu Man walking together with Han Zhuoli?

When she saw Han Zhuoli frown, Ni Xue's heart could not help but stop for a while.

Seeing Han Zhuoli frown and look cold really made people feel nervous.

"Young Master Han, I'm Ni Xue. I'm a student who's entered the finals in the Chinese Arts Championships this time, and I'm in Year Four student at the National Film Academy," Ni Xue said, carefully introducing herself.

Han Zhuoli just coldly nodded at her.

Ni Xue could not help but be curious, but she did not dare to ask Han Zhuoli anything and could only ask Lu Man, "Did you meet Young Master Han on the way here?"

Without waiting for Lu Man to answer, Han Zhuoli said, "Let's go. I want to go backstage to see the students participating in the competition today."

Ni Xue understood then. It seemed like Lu Man had met Han Zhuoli on the road today and especially came over together with Han Zhuoli.

Han Zhuoli originally wanted to go backstage to take a look, and that was why he was with Lu Man and did not chase her away.

Ni Xue felt unhappy in her heart. This Lu Man was really too thick-skinned, sticking to Han Zhuoli when she saw him.

How shameless!

Ni Xue looked down on Lu Man in her heart as she walked next to Han Zhuoli's other side.

The whole way backstage, she kept wanting to make conversation with Han Zhuoli.

But it was a pity that Han Zhuoli ignored her and did not respond to her much all the way there. It was just Ni Xue being one-sidedly excited, and it seemed like she was speaking to herself.

Han Zhuoli was just finding an excuse to send Lu Man backstage. Otherwise, if he'd let Lu Man walk together with Ni Xue alone, he would really not have been at ease.

After entering the backstage, they found that most of the students competing had already arrived.

Han Zhuoli simply said some encouraging words, then left.

Ni Xue took out her script and wanted to look through it again, but this was just a reaction in her nervous state.

The truth was, with the practice she'd done these past 10 days, she had long memorized those lines very well.

Looking at it again at this time was just a habit. She wanted to make sure there was no mistake at all.

After reading a few lines, Ni Xue found she could not really absorb them.

Turning around to see that Lu Man had just found a seat, Ni Xue suddenly thought of something.

Anyway, she had already practically eaten the script. If she wasn't going to look at it, she would not let Lu Man look at hers either.

Perhaps when Lu Man went on stage, she would make a mistake.

Ni Xue was thinking that way and walked over. "Lu Man."

"Senior Ni," Lu Man calmly called.

Ni Xue looked at the engagement ring on her left hand. "I heard that you are already engaged."

"Yes." Lu Man nodded.

"Then why are you still bothering Young Master Han?" Ni Xue suddenly raised her voice to let everyone who was preparing backstage hear it. "Since you are already engaged, stop changing your mind frequently."

Lu Man raised an eyebrow. To win, Ni Xue really would do anything.

Chapter 782: Are You So Scared of Me?

“Senior Ni, did you think that by telling me this before the competition, you could mess with my emotions and make me commit a mistake when acting on stage?” Lu Man looked at her, face expressionless. “Are you so scared of me?”

Ni Xue’s expression changed, and her face turned white and then red.

The people who had been shocked at Ni Xue’s words, upon seeing Ni Xue’s reaction, started to suspect things.

Just now, they had almost believed Ni Xue’s words.

But after hearing Lu Man’s words, they felt that what Lu Man said had logic.

It was very possible that Ni Xue was saying those things to mess up people’s hearts.

When they saw Ni Xue’s reaction, it seemed to prove Lu Man’s words.

“What rubbish are you saying?! How can I be scared of you?!” Ni Xue paused, then hurried to explain, “Messing with your emotions to make you commit a mistake on stage? I’m not so dirty!”

Lu Man seriously nodded. “In any case, even if you really thought that, you didn’t succeed.”

Ni Xue: “...”

Why were this person’s words so angering?!

“Lu Man!”

Zheng Yuan, Pan Xue, and Han Leilei ran in.

“Why did you all come over?” When Lu Man saw the three, her mood became a lot better.

The three of them had heard Ni Xue’s words just now.

They were not familiar with Ni Xue, but looking at Ni Xue’s actions, they did not have any good impressions of her.

When Pan Xue rushed over, she had taken the chance to squeeze Ni Xue aside, not allowing her to stay here and bother Lu Man.

Zheng Yuan and Han Leilei just happened to take up the places next to Lu Man, and even if Ni Xue wanted to come over, she could not.

Lu Man saw what the three were doing and could not help but smile. Inside her heart, she felt very warm because of the actions of these three.

“We came over to see you,” Zheng Yuan said. “To cheer you on before the competition.”

“We’ll leave after we say some things to you. We won’t bother you and distract you from looking at your script,” Pan Xue said.

"It's no bother. I was not planning on looking at my script," Lu Man explained and moved some stools over for them to sit.

There was only that bit of space backstage, and there were not a lot of seats, but because there were a lot of people, the organizers had prepared a lot of round stools to meet the numbers.

"You aren't looking at your script?" Han Leilei was shocked. "You're not nervous at all?"

"Nervous? Of course I'm nervous. You can only concentrate when you're feeling nervous," Lu Man said as she smiled. "However, in these 10 days, I've memorized the script completely. There is no need to look at it anymore at this time. Basically, after I see the first word, I know the paragraphs that follow. If I look at it any more, then I'll have to puke. It's better to properly adjust my emotions and pacing right now, because when I get on stage, only then can I reach my best state."

Lu Man did not purposely avoid letting anyone hear her when she was speaking, and Ni Xue heard it clearly.

She felt dumb. Could it be that running to make trouble for Lu Man just now in order to not let her see the script was useless work?

"Ah, then we'll go first. Properly adjust your emotion," Zheng Yuan said, then clenched her hands into fists towards Lu Man. "Good luck!"

"Alright."

After sending Zheng Yuan and the rest off, Lu Man returned to her own seat, closing her eyes to adjust her own emotions to slowly cultivate her emotions.

This was to make her emotions reach the most suitable and fullest state before she got on stage.

Teacher Wan, Teacher Fang, Teacher Yao, and Teacher Hong also went backstage.

Not just to look at Lu Man, but also to look at Ni Xue and Li Zeyu.

In case they were met with some problems in terms of performance, they could solve it in time.

And at that moment, in front of the stage, the audience members were slowly getting seated.

It was different from the previous two rounds. The finals with the top ten would be recorded and broadcasted on Xing Ke Station's webpage.

Chapter 783: Even Though He Regretted It, He Needed To Hold His Tears in

The broadcasting time was a week before *The Performer* broadcasts, serving as a kind of pre-broadcast promotion for the show.

But this was a competition among schools organized by the schools, and Xing Ke Station was not participating in the production.

Because of that, there were no tricks like those often seen in Xing Ke Station, and aside from the participants and judges, there were no celebrity guests.

When all the audience members arrived, the organizers stopped letting people in and the security officer closed the entrance.

The various school principals sat on their VIP seats.

After a while, they saw from the VIP entrance one person walking in.

There were people in the audience who exclaimed, "It's Sun Yiwu! It's actually Sun Yiwu!"

"Could it be that he's going to be a judge today?"

"Oh my gosh! If he's a judge, that is too grand!"

"It's really not bad for a director to be a judge, they can see a lot of problems that actors cannot."

However, they guessed wrongly.

They did not think that Sun Yiwu would be seated at the VIP seats.

Principal Liu and the rest hurriedly stood up. "Director Sun."

"Director Sun!"

"Director Sun!"

Everyone stretched out their arms, wanting to shake hands with Sun Yiwu.

Sun Yiwu shook hands with them one by one to be polite. "I especially asked Young Master Han for tickets so I could watch."

The principals were all quite shocked at the unexpected favor. They did not think that Sun Yiwu was going to be watching their competition.

After all, Sun Yiwu was an A-list director. After filming *Greedy Wolf Operation*, his gaze should be on the international stage.

Given how the competitors were students whose performance skills were yet to be mature, they did not think that this kind of small-scale competition would get the attention of a director on the level of Sun Yiwu.

Sun Yiwu smiled and said, "Because Lu Man is in the finals, I'm here to cheer her on."

Hah!

Lu Man's relationship with Sun Yiwu was that good?!

Sun Yiwu had specifically come to watch the competition for Lu Man?!

He's here just to support Lu Man at the event location!

There were a lot of celebrities who'd worked together with Sun Yiwu before, but no one had received the kind of treatment that Lu Man did!

"I'm just here to watch Lu Man's performance," Sun Yiwu said as he smiled. "Everyone, relax a bit."

The smile of Principal Zhang from the National Drama Academy was ugly.

Lu Man's relationship with Han Zhuoli was one thing. Why were her other personal connections so good?!

Principal Zhang once again regretted letting Lu Man go before.

But even though he regretted it, he needed to hold his tears in. He couldn't let Principal Liu see him as a joke!

"I wish we'd known you were coming earlier. It would have been good to have you as a judge," Principal Yang of Nan Hua Media University said, smiling.

Sun Yiwu smiled and waved his hand. "I'm just here as her elder, as well as an audience member to cheer her on."

Her elder?

To be Lu Man's elder?

Everyone was shocked in their hearts again!

Lu Man's relationship with Sun Yiwu was that good?!

And in the end, Sun Yiwu had not been sitting for very long when someone said in surprise, "It's Ji Cheng!"

Everyone looked over. It was Ji Cheng, who'd brought his wife along, and his wife was holding the hand of their daughter, who was in her first year in primary school.

Principal Liu and the rest hurriedly stood up to greet them.

They did not know either that Ji Cheng would come today!

Although they were sitting in the VIP area, they did not know that there would be other people in there with them.

"Director Ji!" Principal Liu called.

The other principals refused to be left behind and went up to greet them.

Ji Cheng shook hands with all of them. "You all are being too polite."

"I did not think that Director Ji would also come!" someone said.

When Principal Zhang heard it, he had a strange feeling that Ji Cheng's arrival had something to do with Lu Man.

Following that, he heard Ji Cheng laugh and say, "I told Lu Man beforehand that I'll come to see her in the finals and that she should properly perform."

Chapter 784: Han Zhuoli Is to Be a Judge

Everyone was shocked. He was actually another one who'd come to see Lu Man!

And Ji Cheng did not come alone. He had even brought his family to support Lu Man!

Lu Man had acted in two movies in total, but she had such good relations with both directors!

And by Ji Cheng bringing his family along, one can see how close he was to Lu Man without any dirty things being involved. They were really just proper friends.

It was very different from how a lot of things were in the entertainment industry!

They saw Ji Cheng's wife, Liang Yuhan, smile and say, "I don't know what I should say about this person. During the preliminaries, he told Lu Man that he would come to watch only the finals. That meant that Lu Man could not not enter the finals. I said that I wanted to come to take a look at the preliminaries and cheer Lu Man on, but he refused to come, insisting on waiting for the finals."

Ji Cheng laughed and said, "I had confidence in Lu Man. I knew back then that she would definitely be able to enter the finals. If she were not able to enter the finals, wouldn't that have been embarrassing?"

Ji Cheng and Liang Yuhan's words indicated that they were full of confidence and very much close to Liang Yuhan.

This relationship probably could not be described simply as being "good."

Actually, Ji Cheng would be embarrassed by what he said if Lu Man did not get first!

Towards Lu Man, he was just that confident!

Ji Cheng's family was invited to sit.

Because Sun Yiwu and Ji Cheng's family came one after another, the principals could not help but look towards the entrance again, with the wrong feeling that there might be someone coming at any time.

Of course, this was a wrong line of thought.

After a while, the competition officially started.

The emcee followed her normal routine and came up to introduce the six judges today.

After the emcee introduced the five teachers, Ma Xianghuan, Lian Fang, Huang Yilun, Zhang Guangtao, and He Shuxin, she said, "This time, we'll have a slight change in our judging panel. Besides these five teachers, the seat of the Han Corporation's artist department manager, Mr. Hao Zhonghai, would be taken over by the CEO of the Han Corporation, Mr. Han Zhuoli!"

Hearing this introduction, the audience exploded.

The CEO of the Han Corporation was actually personally being a judge!

It seemed that he really wanted to find talents to sign on to his company in the finals.

Upon hearing the emcee's words on stage, the students backstage became all worked up.

Most of them had their own management company and could not sign a contract with the Han Corporation. Also, the Han Corporation was unlikely to help pay the breach of contract fees for them.

Even so, the Han Corporation could still sign contracts with them to film shows, movies, or dramas.

This was what the Chinese Arts Championships had promised before.

And the two students from Donghua Academy of Drama and Donghua Film Academy did not belong to a management company right now.

Hence, the fact that Han Zhuoli was sitting on the judges' seat was even more important for them.

Ni Xue's gaze floated towards Lu Man again.

No wonder Han Zhuoli went backstage just now. So he was going to be a judge today.

If he was coming to see the students competing today, it was even more understandable.

The Han Corporation did not pick people based just on their acting skills. As Manager Hao said before, they had to consider many different criteria.

In front, Han Zhuoli stood up from his judges' seat and slightly bowed to let the audience see him.

At that moment, the large screen behind the emcee lit up, showing how the backstage looked.

Lu Man was currently quietly sitting on the sofa, earphones in her ear, her eyes closed as she cultivated her own emotions.

The camera did not stay on Lu Man, but even when it was filming others, Lu Man's face would still appear at an inconspicuous corner.

Han Zhuoli's eyes could not contain any other. Even if the camera was focusing on another person, he could not see them. His gaze kept following Lu Man, who kept appearing in the corner of the screen.

Chapter 785: Everyone Knew the Truth

Even if it was only two-thirds, or even one-third, of the side of her face, he could recognize her with one look.

No matter from which angle, his girl was so pretty. She had no bad angles at all.

Lu Man closed her eyes to cultivate emotions, not caring about the camera at all and looking very calm.

On the other hand, the other contestants were all experienced members of the entertainment industry. They knew how to attract the camera to them and how to attract the topic of conversation to them, basically how to show themselves off.

Yang Ruitian from the National Drama Academy chattered on and expressed that she was especially nervous, continuously showing some exaggerated actions, covering her face sometimes and laughing loudly at other times.

Ni Xue held her script in her hands, taking a deep breath. "I don't know when I'll go on stage. Please hurry and let us draw lots. If the results come out faster, I'll feel relaxed earlier."

“Hahaha, whether you die early or later, it’s all dying,” Yu Lexin of the National Drama Academy said from the side while laughing.

Zhou Li from Donghua Academy of Drama pressed her two hands over her heart. “Everyone present is my senior. They have experience in front of the camera and a lot more on stage. I’m really very nervous.”

Everyone was competing to be the most humble.

It was like in Junior High where the students who told their classmates in the day that “I never study, I always play at night” would actually study as soon as they got home and even stay up late.

Everyone knew the truth!

Everyone was thinking that in their hearts about others, and no one really trusted what they said to the camera.

Finally, the camera turned to Lu Man again to give Lu Man a special feature.

This camera was not like the one at Xing Ke Station, which helped give a beauty filter to celebrities.

This was a hundred-percent HD camera.

Even while filming from far away, it can make people look uglier by ten times, never mind special features.

No one knew how the boys maintained their skin, which was even more beautiful than the girls’. They looked even better with makeup.

On the other hand, after being filmed by the HD lenses, the girls’ faces were shown to be a bit oily, and their pores and imperfections were all shown clearly.

When the audience saw that on the big screen, they said in shock, “Oh my gosh, why aren’t they as good-looking as before?”

“Of course, the cameras before were not so HD.”

“There were no such special features in the cameras used before! The whole big face taking up a whole screen, that’s too scary.”

“This camera is too evil, not giving people a way out.”

Yet when the camera landed on Lu Man’s face, it also zoomed in on her face to feature it.

But her white and fine skin did not have a single flaw. Her pores could not even be seen.

Lu Man did not know that the camera was already facing her. Her thin and long fingers were holding her forehead, and she had her eyes closed as she immersed herself in the music.

“Lu Man,” the other emcee who was backstage called her.

Lu Man opened her eyes and took out the earphones, a bit unhappy that her emotions were being disrupted.

“Lu Man, the other contestants are all especially nervous, but from what I can see, you don’t seem to be nervous. You’re even closing your eyes to rest,” the emcee said, smiling.

Lu Man said seriously, “I’m also very nervous. I’m scared that my emotions won’t be on-point on stage. So here, I’m not closing my eyes to rest, I’m listening to music to cultivate my emotions.”

Lu Man pulled out her earphones from her phone to let people hear the music she was listening to on her phone.

It was the background music for the part she was about to perform.

It was just that everyone did not have any impression of it and could not tell from which movie and which part it was from.

However, they could hear the suppressed and dark feelings from the music. After listening for a while, they were made to feel like it was hard to breathe.

The emcee could not help but show a look of admiration. They had been there for quite a while already.

Chapter 786: She Is Very Low-Key

Before they started to film, Lu Man was already listening to the theme music. She’d been listening all the way until now, meaning she’d spent such a long time just to cultivate her emotions.

“Have you been listening to this song all along?” the emcee asked.

The music was still playing on the phone. Lu Man nodded. “Yes. I’m scared that my emotions will not be full enough when I get on stage. I need to use this music to suppress my emotions.”

“Oh my gosh, could it be that you were listening to that song the whole time just now?” the emcee asked, surprised.

“Yes.” Lu Man nodded.

“That’s too oppressive. How can you stand it?”

Lu Man smiled. “Being able to immerse oneself into the character and becoming that person during the performance is the best.”

The audience admired yet could not stand the music.

“Oh my gosh, if I have to listen to that music, I would not be able to stand it. Furthermore, having to listen to it for so long, what will I do if I develop depression?”

“Look at those other people, acting pretentiously because they’re already used to how things go on variety shows. Lu Man is such a unique and refreshing person.”

“That’s right. Those people are wily old foxes, presenting themselves with full effects. Only Lu Man is seriously preparing before the competition and not trying to play the same tricks as them.”

“They’ve all said that Lu Man keeps trying to make a hubbub about things, but Lu Man has always been the kind of person who’d go, ‘if you make trouble for me, I’ll use you to increase the popularity of my movie.’ But if you think about it carefully, Lu Man had never automatically schemed to make her show or herself talked about. When no one is bothering her, she is very low-key.”

After hearing the audience member’s words, everyone thought:

Hey, that’s true!

Right now, wasn’t Lu Man also preparing in a low-key manner?

If it were not for the emcee seeking her out, she really would not have drawn much attention.

Everyone else was trying to snatch screentime, but Lu Man was steadily staying in the corner and not moving at all.

Han Zhuoli was seated on the judges’ seat, and because it was the frontmost one, no one saw his expression at that moment.

Han Zhuoli was concentrating on the Lu Man on the big screen. He liked it a lot, no matter how he looked at her. He wished he was backstage right now, not just looking at her through a screen.

Ma Xianghuan also turned and told Huang Yilun, “Lu Man is not bad. Her mentality is not crooked.”

Huang Yilun smiled and said, “I don’t know which order Lu Man will come out to perform in. When you two see her performance, you will understand.”

“Hahaha, these last few days, you’ve kept brainwashing us to promote her acting as being good. Aren’t you worried that our expectations will be too high and that, when Lu Man performs, that might cause her to be not up to our expectations?” Lian Fang knew that Huang Yilun was doing it out of goodwill.

He probably thought that Lu Man’s acting skills were really not bad compared to those from the new generation and was very shocked by it. And with his love for talent, he kept praising Lu Man in front of them.

But men were careless.

Huang Yilun was doing it out of goodwill, but they were scared that the ending would be bad because of his goodwill.

Lian Fang felt that Huang Yilun’s review of Lu Man was high because Huang Yilun’s expectations were low at the beginning.

Because Lu Man was a student, Huang Yilun had put the expectations he’d have for a student on Lu Man.

And in the end, Lu Man’s performance turned out to be great, totally exceeding the standards of a student.

Because of that, Huang Yilun felt that Lu Man was especially good and gave her an especially high review.

But he forgot that because of that, because he kept praising her in front of her and Ma Xianghuan, their expectations had become too high.

If Lu Man's acting skills were not as outstanding as they thought, they might be disappointed. If that difference was too obvious, the marks they'd give might be lowered.

Because of that, Lian Fang prepared herself. No matter what Huang Yilun said, she would lower her expectations and remind Ma Xianghuan to do the same, to prevent them from giving unfair marks to Lu Man later.

Chapter 787: Lu Man's Debut (1)

The emcee backstage passed the remaining time to the emcee on stage.

The emcee said, "Now, the finals of the Chinese Arts Championships is about to start. I have introduced the panel of judges, so now, let me introduce the contestants who've entered the finals."

"Coming from the National Film Academy: Li Zeyu, Ni Xue, Lu Man."

"Coming from the National Drama Academy: Chen Cong, Yu Lexin, Yang Ruitian, Chang Yachen."

"Coming from the National Media University: Ceng Hao."

"Coming from Donghua Academy of Drama: Zhou Li."

"Coming from Donghua Film Academy: He Yue."

"The order of the finals would be decided by drawing lots as well," the emcee said. "Please look at the big screen."

Backstage, the drawing of lots started.

Surprisingly, Lu Man drew the last number and was to be the grand finale.

When the order of performance was chosen by drawing lots, the first to perform would have the greatest pressure, but the last to perform would not be much better off.

The first to perform would often have lower marks.

Additionally, there were 10 performances today, and each performance would be 20 minutes long. There would be five minutes of rest time in between, and that meant that by the time Lu Man's turn came, the competition would have been ongoing for around three to four hours.

Whether it was the audience or the judges, whether it was their brain or their body, they would all be very tired, and their ability to admire art would also be exhausted.

Lu Man was the last to perform and could be even more at a disadvantage than the first to perform.

And the first to perform was Chen Cong from the National Drama Academy.

Reaching the top ten, everyone had good acting skills, and the pressure of the competition was increased.

To not give the participants stress, the judges for the finals would first give marks but not show them. After every round, they'd key in the marks into a system and store it there.

When all the performances were done, they would show the marks together.

This was to prevent the marks from being shown too early and affecting the mindset of the participants.

Chen Cong, who was performing first, was acting the role of Kang Xi1

The third to perform was Ni Xue. The script she drew was from *Thirteen Hairpins*.

The good thing was that there were no chances of drawing the same script this time.

After Ni Xue finished performing, she was praised by the judges.

"Ni Xue managed to demonstrate the characteristics of going through a lot without losing her strength of character."

"In terms of line delivery, it's still a bit lacking. Please take note when practicing lines next time. That will bring your performance up another level."

"Thank you, Teachers." Ni Xue smiled as she thanked them. These kinds of comments were very good.

After all, if the judges giving marks would point out only the good points of the performance, then what would be the use of having them? She understood this.

Ni Xue smiled as she returned backstage.

She had already finished performing, and the judges were very approving of her performance.

Ni Xue was totally relaxed, and upon entering the backstage, she could not hide her gloating.

Seeing the people who had yet to go on stage to perform, she could not hide how she already thought she'd be the winner and smiled to encourage everyone. "Good luck, everyone."

Haha!

Everyone smiled coldly in their hearts, looking down on her gloating look.

The competition had yet to end; she had yet to win, but she was already acting like she was a winner. It was really too funny.

Lu Man did not even look at her and kept her eyes closed.

Ni Xue sat down next to Lu Man, fully relaxed.

At that moment, a worker came to call Zhou Li from Donghua Academy of Drama. "Student Zhou Li, prepare yourself. It's your turn to go on stage."

Every time they heard the sound of the audience clapping, the people backstage knew that the performance had ended and that it was time for them to prepare to go on stage.

After she'd been waiting a long time, it was finally Lu Man's turn.

Chapter 788: Lu Man's Debut (2)

Before Lu Man came on stage, everyone else's performance had already ended.

Everyone displayed their best performance, and right now, they were all comfortable and relaxed, only waiting for the release of the final results.

Since they had already put in their biggest effort, they had no regrets.

Besides, everyone felt that their performance was not bad and thought that it was very likely that they could win first place. They completely didn't feel that they performed worse than anyone else.

Perhaps it was because they had performed extremely well while the others' performances weren't really outstanding either.

Their self-confidence was high up in the clouds. They even felt that Lu Man could not perform any better than they did.

"Student Lu Man, it's your turn. Please get ready," said to Lu Man by a staff member who appeared backstage.

Lu Man removed her earphones and tidied up her costume. She held her head high, puffed up her chest, and walked calmly out of the backstage.

Surprisingly, at this time, she was already in character.

She was just like the queen who was proud yet fragile, troubled, and conflicted.

The lights on stage still weren't lit up, but a melodious dance tune had started playing, dragging people into that age of unrest, which was also extravagant and hectic.

Right after that, the stage lights lit up and everyone in the audience gasped in shock.

There were so many actors on stage!

Wearing suits and evening gowns, they were dancing to the tune, chatting and whispering to each other. It was a grand and extravagant scene.

In such a setting, Lu Man appeared elegantly, wearing her evening gown. Under the dazzling golden lights, amid the clattering of wine glasses and the chattering, she stood up and caught the attention of everyone in the audience by surprise.

With lazy steps, Lu Man staggered and tumbled her way through the crowds.

As she walked past each person, the other person's lines became clearer and louder.

Each teacher's performance seemed ordinary, but they knew how to hold back and be very nuanced, making Lu Man stand out.

Lu Man walked to a table by the side. The guests were dancing not far away from her, but once Lu Man sat down at the table, she singled a place out for herself.

She didn't say a single word, but through the large screen, the audience looked at Lu Man's face and felt like they were already looking at a queen who was about to go crazy.

Lu Man picked up the flower in front of her and plucked the petals. Her eyes losing focus, she stuffed the petals into her mouth while only looking at the flower in front of her.

At that moment, Pu Yi introduced his wife to everyone. Just after the audience's attention was caught by it, someone said all of a sudden, "Quick, look!"

And everyone looked towards Lu Man again.

As she was eating the flowers, a trail of tears started flowing out of her left eye.

Her eyes were still staring wide, but she didn't utter a single sound, only stuffing more flowers into her mouth even more anxiously.

Tears streamed down her face. She appeared numb, but it also felt like she was desperately close to the edge of insanity.

Even Pu Yi's sudden lines didn't snatch away the limelight from Lu Man.

It was like both sides were two separate camera shots. The audience had to look here and there.

In just a few minutes, the scene was silent yet loaded.

As Lu Man cried, she smiled and started eating the stem of the flower. Pu Yi, acted by Teacher Fang, stormed angrily and darkly towards Lu Man.

"Why aren't you properly enjoying? Why?"

Lu Man twisted the stems around her hands and said strangely, "Mr. Amakasu is the most powerful person in the whole of Manchuria."

Teacher Fang asked, unable to understand, "What are you saying? You are unable to believe that I could become the emperor again, but I am."

Lu Man twisted the flower stem and scoffed. "You're foolish."

Teacher Fang sat down and didn't look at Lu Man. "Do you know what it means to be the queen? You are the queen."

...

There was a trail of tears still clinging onto Lu Man's face, glittering under the lights. She gritted her teeth and laughed coldly. "I'll never return to Japan."

Chapter 789: You Managed to Pillage All the Teachers in the Performance Major

"Then go back to your room!" Teacher Fang said coldly.

Lu Man immediately stood up, but she took a glass of wine from the waiter's tray and raised it up high. "Long live the Emperor!"

"Long live."

She said it very sarcastically. That trail of tears was still streaming down her face, and her curvaceous figure was swaying.

The guests around her suddenly shouted together, "Long live!"

The voices were so loud and grand, yet it was also very sarcastic.

"Bam bam!" A loud sound exploded right after that. Brilliantly shining golden streamers burst out, and the lights on stage darkened in an instant.

After several minutes of silence, while the staff members were still cleaning up the props on stage, thunderous applause suddenly erupted from the audience.

The staff members on stage were not ready at all and jumped in shock. They almost dropped and smashed the props they were holding.

They hurriedly moved the props away. As they walked past the contestants' lounge backstage, Ni Xue and the others came out of the door.

"Why was there such loud applause?" Ni Xue asked in surprise of the staff members who were moving the props.

When it had been their turns, after each performance, the applause was just out of politeness, not as thunderous as it was right now.

And the applause was still going on and had yet to stop.

The staff member too had yet to recover from his shock just now. "After Lu Man's performance, this happened. When I was cleaning up the props on stage just now, it shocked us all too."

The staff member didn't have time to talk any longer and hurriedly moved the props away.

Everyone walked out subconsciously from the lounge, moving closer and closer towards the stage.

While they couldn't really see what was going on in front of them, the closer they got to the front of the stage, the louder the applause became. It still didn't stop even after such a long period of time.

"Lu Man always delivers such a unique performance."

"I thought her Wu Zetian performance last time was her best work, but who'd have known that her Wan Rong would be such a strong performance too!"

"Oh my gosh, watching her act as Wan Rong, I completely can't remember her Wu Zetian from before. I originally thought that she had brought Wu Zetian back to life again and that, in the future, no matter what role she acted, I would subconsciously be dragged back to when she acted as Wu Zetian. Yet this time, there wasn't a single trace of Wu Zetian. She really is like who she's acting as!"

"That's right. Wan Rong and Wu Zetian were different. Wu Zetian was an emperor, ruthless and ready to kill, and filled with schemes to gain power and unify a kingdom. Be it battle tactics or her aura, it was all different. Wan Rong, on the other hand, was the last empress, unable to find any happiness by the side of a puppet emperor. She didn't receive conservative education and looked towards freedom, yet she was ultimately 'imprisoned.' Her body or her spirit would never be free. She and Wu Zetian are two

extremes. She is too sorrowful. I completely didn't expect that Lu Man would perform Wan Rong so well. I even wish that Lu Man could act as her in a proper production, not just in such a short segment."

And this time, when they looked back up on the stage, they saw that Lu Man was standing right in front while rows and rows of teachers stood behind her. This scene was so majestic.

Zhang Guangtao was familiar with them and started saying, "Hey, Teacher Wan, Teacher Fang, Teacher Yao, Teacher Hong..."

Zhang Guangtao called out a series of names. "They are all familiar faces. Lu Man, you sure are impressive, you managed to pillage all the teachers in the performance major."

All the teachers: "..."

How could he say that?!

What did he mean by "pillage"?!

"This time, it's really all thanks to all the teachers' help," Lu Man said as she smiled.

"This performance had been arranged by Teacher Wan, right?" Zhang Guangtao turned around and spoke to the other judges. "Teacher Wan is a teacher from our National Film Academy's Performance Major as well as a director in Sesame Theater. Some of the highly-acclaimed theater shows by Sesame Theater were all directed by Teacher Wan.

Chapter 790: Mr. CEO, How Could You Look at Lu Man Like This?

"No wonder the scene had been arranged very professionally. It was really delightful." He Shuxin smiled and nodded. "While it followed the script of the movie, there were very few traces of the movie. It was more like I was watching a mature theater performance. It was very suitable for this stage."

Ni Xue and the others were all listening from behind and couldn't help but start feeling angry.

Lu Man invited all the best teachers from their school's performance major, so how could the scene not be good?

"Lu Man, thank you for letting us watch such a satisfying performance," He Shuxin said. "And thank you to all the teachers. Your performances just now were really on-point. It was like everyone stayed within their square on the chessboard and didn't step out of place. If someone had gone out of line, this performance would have been flawed, but none of you did, and you all had a really good grasp of your performance."

Huang Yilun applauded for Lu Man once more. "The previous time I worked with you, you acted as Wu Zetian. Back then, I was already wondering, how could such a young lady of your age have such a good grasp of a female emperor? Back then, I was already really shocked, but I also wondered if you would be tied down by that character. In the end, today, you once again performed an almost-crazy Wan Rong so well. You showed her helplessness, her hesitance. You have captured in your bones the essence of how she mocked the puppet emperor who was being controlled and lied to by the Manchuria government. Empress Wu's self-confidence was high up in the clouds, but Wan Rong was sorrowful and trapped. She

didn't have any say in her life at all. Her entire life was controlled, and under her frailty, she could only escape from reality."

"Watching your performance, I couldn't even see you bringing in anything from your previous characterization of Empress Wu. There was not a single trace. You were exactly what you acted, and you weren't tied down by the roles that you've played before. This is something that many actors couldn't do." Huang Yilun gave a thumbs-up to Lu Man. "It was really impressive. This was not only an extremely expressive and emotional performance, but it was also an especially high-class one."

"That's right, it was a high-class performance," Teacher Lian Fang said. "I was wondering what word to use to describe it. After hearing what Xiao Huang said, I realized that 'high-class' was an extremely apt word. Not only Lu Man, but also the teachers, all of you had given us an extravagant performance!"

"It could even be considered as a textbook-level performance," Teacher Ma Xianghuan praised. "I was watching not only Lu Man's performance just now but also paying attention to the teachers' performances. All of you were right on-point and brought us all back to the scene of that time. No wonder you are all teachers of the National Film Academy!"

"Alright, who wants to know what CEO Han has to say?" the emcee asked.

Han Zhuoli smiled softly; his gaze that fell onto Lu Man's face was so gentle.

The emcee was standing right next to Lu Man and was also in the area where Han Zhuoli's gentle look was being directed at.

Even though she only received a bit of it from the corner, she couldn't help but blush.

Mr. CEO, how could you look at Lu Man like this?

She was already feeling a little uncomfortable from the corner. What more Lu Man?

The emcee looked at Lu Man hurriedly but realized that Lu Man was much calmer than she was.

It was as if Han Zhuoli's look was only an illusion of the emcee.

However, in reality, Lu Man had curved her eyes slightly too and returned the same gentle look at Han Zhuoli.

"Lu Man's performance was really amazing." He was proud of her. "This was the best performance of the day!"

Such high praise. That also meant that to Han Zhuoli, the previous nine performances couldn't compare to Lu Man's!