

Mr Han 791

Chapter 791: This Daughter-in-law Is Too Naughty

Ni Xue and the others heard it loud and clear from backstage. This was Han Zhuoli's highest praise today.

He didn't have much comment for each person, saying only one short sentence. Neither did he have a really positive review. It was only for Lu Man that he finally said around two sentences.

All the students backstage felt a little unhappy. Right after that, the emcee told Lu Man to return to the lounge.

And everyone hurried to rush back to the lounge.

When Lu Man returned, everyone looked at Lu Man curiously and hesitantly.

Ni Xue's face was dark. She didn't want to talk to Lu Man.

Earlier on, she thought that her performance was not bad. Because she'd picked the same show as Lu Man last time, even though the script was different, the character was the same. Hence, others kept comparing the two of them and said that she wasn't as good as Lu Man.

Ni Xue had been extremely angry about it and had been suppressing it for a really long time. She definitely had to fiercely toss Lu Man aside in today's competition and give her a harsh slap on the face.

Those people who said that she wasn't as good as Lu Man, let them see exactly who was the lousier one!

Yet today, in the end, even if you added all the applause after every single person's performance, it probably still wouldn't be louder than Lu Man's.

Everyone was frustrated but curious too. They didn't know exactly what scene Lu Man performed.

Zhou Li quietly reminded He Yue, "In a while, the competition will be broadcasted on Xing Ke Channel. Just take a look then and you can find out."

Even though her voice was low, quite a few people overheard it.

They suddenly realized, *That's right!*

They can find out then.

This time, they heard the emcee on stage inviting them all to return back up on stage. They knew it was time for the scoring.

Just as they stood up, staff members came over to call them.

According to the order of their performance, they went up on stage.

On stage, the emcee asked them if they were nervous.

When she asked Ni Xue, Ni Xue rolled her eyes mentally and thought, how could she not be nervous?

That question was practically rubbish.

“Hehe,” she laughed lightly. “I am really exceptionally nervous.”

The emcee sneakily asked Lu Man. Lu Man saw her and smiled.

Even though the Han Corporation invested in the Chinese Arts Championships, they only invested their money. They didn’t care about the details of the event.

Therefore, the organization of the competition, the competition process, and the casting were all decided by the school.

Only heavens knew who picked this emcee, who was so clueless.

It’s one thing for her to be unable to control and manage the stage, but she even asked such useless and boring questions.

Lu Man still remembered that in the previous competition, when Sun Changfang and the others were still the judges, because the emcee had tried to stir up trouble, Sun Changfang and the others could seize the opportunity to make their comments worse and worse.

Lu Man looked at the emcee, smiling but not really feeling it. The emcee’s heart skipped slightly. She didn’t know why she felt extremely nervous when Lu Man looked at her like that.

“If I say I’m nervous, would you announce the scores sooner?” Lu Man asked as she smiled.

“Haha, the scores are almost all tallied up, I have to ask every single person,” the emcee said, also smiling.

“Oh.” Lu Man nodded. “Then I’m not nervous.”

Emcee: “...”

How could she follow that up?

At her seat, Old Mrs. Han was extremely amused.

Even Han Xijin didn’t know whether to laugh or cry and shook his head. “This daughter-in-law is too naughty.”

“Hmph!” Old Mrs. Han huffed. “Isn’t it all because this emcee kept trying to stir up trouble? Her hosting skills are really too lousy. Just one statement from Man Man and she is all choked up and unable to continue. She really is bad.”

Getting stuck by Lu Man’s statement, the emcee also didn’t feel like asking anyone else questions and went straight into announcing the scores.

“Chen Cong from the National Drama Academy, who performed first. Judges, please show your scores.”

Zhang Guangtao: “8.7.”

He Shuxin: “9.0.”

Huang Yilun: "9.0."

Chapter 792: It Was Like Ni Xue Was on Steroids

Ma Xianghuan: "8.9."

Lian Fang: "9.0."

Han Zhuoli: "8.8."

"For the National Drama Academy student, Chen Cong, the total score for this round is 53.4!"

"Next up is the second act, Li Zeyu from the National Film Academy. Judges, please show your scores."

Zhang Guangtao: "9.2."

He Shuxin: "9.1."

Huang Yilun: "9.0."

Ma Xianghuan: "8.9."

Lian Fang: "9.0."

Han Zhuoli: "8.9."

"For the National Film Academy student, Li Zeyu, the total score for this round is 54.1!"

Chen Cong's face darkened. He'd already lost his chance at getting first place.

On the other hand, Li Zeyu's heartbeat quickened. His score was only 0.7 marks higher than that of Chen Cong, but there were still eight students after him. It will be a little difficult.

The emcee asked, curious, "The judges seem to be much stricter with their scoring this round compared to the previous two rounds."

In the previous two rounds, every judge gave Li Zeyu and Chen Cong at least 9.0 marks or higher.

He Shuxin smiled and explained, "In the past, there were more people competing. There were still many students who didn't have that much experience performing on stage. We couldn't hurt their self-confidence with our scorings; hence, the scores from each judge were generally higher. This way, the students who performed better would naturally have much higher scores."

Everyone understood what He Shuxin meant.

Previously, all the scores had been raised higher.

Those who were quick-witted couldn't help but look towards Lu Man.

He Shuxin said that previously, the scores were all raised higher, but half of Lu Man's scores had been pulled up by He Shuxin, Zhang Guangtao, and Manager Hao while the other half was pulled down by Sun Changfang, Liu Lijin, and Li Lingmei.

With both sides canceling out, Lu Man's total score probably wasn't raised by much.

The other people on stage also realized it and felt uncomfortable from the stares.

He Shuxin continued, "But the situation is different now. The competition has already entered this stage. There are only ten students left on stage. They are the top of the top chosen from the tens of thousands of students from 23 different universities after rounds and rounds of competition. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that each one of them was chosen out of tens of thousands. This time, we would have to be strict with our scoring."

The emcee nodded. "I see."

To be honest, she was also asking this on behalf of the students.

If not, they would also find it strange how their marks seemed to have fallen short when they used to be pretty high.

"Then next up, the third performance tonight, Student Ni Xue from the National Film Academy. Judges, please show your scores."

Zhang Guangtao: "9.1."

He Shuxin: "9.1."

Huang Yilun: "9.0."

Lian Fang: "9.0."

Ma Xianghuan: "9.0."

Han Zhuoli: "9.0."

When the scores were out, everyone was shocked.

"Ni Xue's marks are so high!"

"She acted pretty well. Lu Man should be feeling stressed. I think that there is a high chance that Ni Xue could clinch the first place."

"No way, Ni Xue didn't act as well as Lu Man."

"Who said that? Ni Xue acted pretty well. Besides, getting first place is not entirely based on acting. You have to consider all aspects. Ni Xue is popular. She has more experience than Lu Man, and her acting isn't bad. A well-rounded and holistic individual like her, no matter which angle you look at, she should still be first."

At this moment, the emcee said, "For the National Film Academy student, Ni Xue, the total score is 54.2!"

Her score was higher than Li Zeyu's by only 0.1!

This victory was way too close!

"She actually surpassed Li Zeyu!" The audience was shocked.

“Li Zeyu acted really well. What a pity.”

“No choice. It was like Ni Xue was on steroids today. She was exceptionally good.”

Chapter 793: It's Lu Man's Turn

“That's right. It's not that Li Zeyu did not act well today. His acting skills have always been good, and he had always maintained a certain standard. It's just that Ni Xue performed very well today, even better than she did the previous two times.”

“Li Zeyu has no chance for first place anymore, what a pity.”

“There's still the top five.”

“The fourth to perform, Zhou Li from Donghua Academy of Drama. May I invite the judges to show your marks?”

Zhang Guangtao: “8.7.”

He Shuxin: “8.6.”

Huang Yilun: “8.5.”

Lian Fang: “8.6.”

Ma Xianghuan: “8.6.”

Han Zhuoli: “8.5.”

It was surprising that not a single judge gave a score above 9 points.

Zhou Li's heart sank instantly. It looked like it would be hard to even get into the top 5.

“For Zhou Li of Donghua Academy of Drama, the total score is 51.5!”

Zhou Li's heart totally sank.

After that, Yu Lexin of the National Drama Academy got 52.4, Yang Ruitian got 53.5, and Chang Yachen got 53.9.

He Yue of Donghua Film Academy got 52.1.

And from the National Media University that people did not expect to do well, Ceng Hao actually got 53.2.

This pushed Yu Lexin of the National Drama Academy, Zhou Li of Donghua Academy of Drama, and He Yue of Donghua Film Academy down.

Taking note of the marks that had already been announced, they already had an idea of their rankings.

Zhou Li, He Yue, and the others who were ranked far below knew that they no longer had a chance.

“As of now, here are the marks’ ranking from the lowest to the highest. Donghua Academy of Drama, Zhou Li, 51.5. Donghua Film Academy, He Yue, 52.1. National Drama Academy, Yu Lexin, 52.4. National Media University, Chang Yachen, 53.2. National Drama Academy, Chen Cong, 53.4. National Drama Academy, Yang Ruitian, 53.5. National Drama Academy, Chang Yachen, 53.9. National Film Academy, Li Zeyu, 54.1. National Film Academy, Ni Xue, 54.2.”

Everyone suddenly realized that the National Film Academy had totally won against the National Drama Academy.

As of now, the first and second places were both from the National Film Academy, and the National Drama Academy was taking only the third and fourth places.

And Lu Man’s results had yet to be announced.

They did not know what the judges would award her, but the audience felt that Lu Man’s marks would definitely not be low.

She acted so well!

No matter what, the top four had already gotten the ticket to *The Performer*.

And Chen Cong’s position was awkward,

Unless Lu Man’s score was lower than his, he was as good as eliminated.

And even Chen Cong himself felt that Lu Man’s marks would definitely not be lower than his.

Towards entering the top 5, Chen Cong had no more hope.

The one who cared the most, the one who was the most nervous, was Ni Xue.

She was currently in first place and scored higher than Li Zeyu by a bare 0.1 marks. She was in a lot of danger.

She was just continuously muttering in her heart, hoping that Lu Man’s marks would be lower than Li Zeyu’s.

“Now, the last student is Lu Man from the National Film Academy. May I invite the judges to show their marks?” the emcee said at that moment.

Practically everyone looked towards the six judges nervously. The whole place was extremely quiet, the atmosphere nervous and oppressive.

Zhang Guangtao showed his marks first: “9.5!”

The first score given was already much higher than the rest!

Ni Xue’s heart sank, feeling a bit cold.

The first teacher had already given such high marks. What about the rest?

She could only hope that Zhang Guangtao was being biased when giving marks and that the other teachers would definitely not give such high marks!

She was hoping they would lower Lu Man's marks.

At that moment, He Shuxin was the second to show her marks: "9.5!"

Chapter 794: Han Zhuoli Giving Marks

Another 9.5!

Everyone's heart sank.

There were people in audience seats who shouted in shock, "The f*ck, Lu Man is going up the heavens!"

Huang Yilun: "9.5!"

Did these judges discuss it beforehand?!

The audience was shocked. Giving high marks was one thing, but the other three gave the same marks.

Then, they looked at Lian Fang's score: "9.6!"

So high!

Ma Xianghuan: "9.4."

"Oh my gosh! When Teacher Ma Xianghuan was giving marks before, his maximum was 9.0, right?!"

Giving a 9.4, that was a really high score!

"Lu Man deserves those marks. Teacher Ma Xianghuan is already quite strict. If it were me, I would have given her even higher marks."

"That's why you're not a judge!"

After that, they heard the emcee say, "May we invite CEO Han to show his marks?"

Han Zhuoli's face was calm as he showed his marks.

But the other people there were not calm.

The emcee was scared that her eyes were going blind. She blinked and then looked again.

Ni Xue exhaled. Why did Han Zhuoli give Lu Man such high marks?!

Thinking about the time before the competition, how Han Zhuoli had walked with Lu Man backstage, Ni Xue suddenly came up with a thought that was right out of the Arabian Nights Did Lu Man and Han Zhuoli have a private relationship?

But instantly, she threw away that thought.

She did not know why. Perhaps it was that she did not want to think of that possibility inside her heart, not willing to believe that Lu Man would have a relationship with Han Zhuoli.

Then she heard the emcee say, exaggerated as she was in shock, “9.8! CEO Han gave Lu Man a score of 9.8!”

Before this, Han Zhuoli was like Ma Xianghuan. The highest score he gave was only 9.0, and most of the other marks he gave were even lower than Ma Xianghuan’s.

And in the end, he gave Lu Man 9.8!

They thought about Manager Hao. During the first round, he gave a 9.8, and during the second one, he gave a 10.

Was there something wrong with the people from the Han Corporation?

All of them were giving Lu Man such high marks!

“For the National Film Academy student, Lu Man, the total score is 57.3!” the emcee said excitedly.

The full score was 60, and Lu Man was lacking just 2.7 points to get full marks!

“I saw that the teachers all gave Lu Man quite high marks, even Teacher Ma Xianghuan, who normally grades very strictly, gave a high mark of 9.4. Compared to the marks Ma Xianghuan had been giving before, 9.4 was already considered very high.”

Compared to Sun Changfang, who purposely gave low marks and used the excuse of being strict to do so, Ma Xianghuan satisfied people with the marks he gave.

Which part was not good, which part was lacking, which part could be done better, and how to do it better, he stated it all very well.

He was different from Sun Changfang, who only knew how to say it was not good but not why it was not good.

And he was an old artist. It was very understandable that he had strict expectations when it came to the performing arts.

“Haha, to tell you the truth, before the competition today, Comrade Xiao Huang kept praising Lu Man in front of me and Lian Fang. He was saying that her acting skills are good, that its standards were not at all like the one someone her age should have. Lian Fang was scared that Xiao Huang would raise her expectations too high and that it would not be fair to Lu Man. She kept reminding me to keep a calm heart and not place too high an expectation on her. To tell you the truth, I myself also felt that no matter how good Lu Man’s acting skills were, she might not fit the high review Xiao Huang had given her. Perhaps his expectations had been too low before, and thus, he was surprised that Lu Man actually acted quite well. That might have led to his review of Lu Man being overly high.” Ma Xianghuan smiled and said to Lu Man, “Lu Man, my words, please don’t be unhappy upon hearing them.”

“I won’t.” Lu Man smiled mildly. When they saw it, it caused people to feel that she really did not care.

Chapter 795: I’m Not Scared That You Will Become Proud

Ma Xianghuan smiled and said, "But after watching your performance, I realized that Xiao Huang's comments about you were too low. Lu Man really acts very well. So I gave 9.4, but it's not high at all. Lu Man's performance deserves 9.4 or 9.6. It was just that I discussed it with Lian Fang and we decided that between the two of us, she'll give 9.6 and I'll give 9.4. The remaining 0.2 had been withheld because I'm scared you will become proud."

When the audience heard that, they all laughed.

They did not think that even though Teacher Ma was so old, he'd still understand Internet phrases quite well.

But after he said that, Han Zhuoli's 9.8 did not seem exaggerated at all.

Based on Ma Xianghuan's words, giving any high mark was suitable!

But the emcee still had to ask Han Zhuoli about it.

After all, it was rare that Han Zhuoli would personally be a judge. Not asking anything felt like a waste.

The camera turned to zoom in on Han Zhuoli and display his face on the big screen.

That handsome face with no bad angle at all appeared in front of people's eyes like that, letting the audience see his face clearly.

There were quite a lot of girls in the audience, all showing a heart hand sign, swooning at Han Zhuoli's handsomeness.

Just looking at his hand holding the microphone, at his long fingers as beautiful as jade, at his joints obviously showing, anyone who had a hand fetish would not be able to hold themselves back.

"I'm not scared that you will become proud. The remaining 0.2 marks, I'll give it to you next time," Han Zhuoli said, his voice holding a smile, his black eyes focused on Lu Man. These eyes looked as if they contained stars, causing people to feel weak looking at them.

The emcee stood by Lu Man's side and was not directly looked at by Han Zhuoli, but she felt her legs go weak. She did not know how Lu Man managed to still stand with her expression not changing.

Anyway, the audience was no longer calm.

"My gosh! I can't take it anymore! His voice is so nice! I want to hear him say goodnight and good morning to me, I want him to call me darling!"

"This man's hands are too nice! I can't stand it anymore I can't stand it anymore! How can there be someone so good-looking?!"

"Domineering CEO character, young and single, mature and knows the world, thin waist and long legs, big and lively equipment1."

"..." The person at the side was stunned. "Wait, how did you know his equipment is big and lively?"

“Didn’t you hear before? A man’s equipment is proportional to his height. Furthermore, he’s so handsome. All he needs to do is stand in front of me, he doesn’t need to do anything, and I’ll automatically climax. Furthermore, I bet he’s a human flesh pile driver!”

This was the first time that Lu Man was standing on stage while directly talking to Han Zhuoli.

Before this, Han Zhuoli had always looked at her from the audience seats in a low-key way.

But now, he was sitting on the judges’ seat, his eyes bright and starry, with undisguised tenderness in them.

In front of everyone, he was speaking in riddles with her.

Old Mrs. Han clicked her tongue and said in a low voice to Shen Nuo, “This boy knows how to seduce people so well. Why did he find a girlfriend only at such an old age?”

“It’s probably because he met Lu Man,” Shen Nuo said while smiling.

“Right, right, right.” Old Mrs. Han nodded in agreement. “He’s quite persevering.”

“Thankfully, he persevered,” Xia Qingwei said, her voice holding a smile. “Otherwise, Man Man would not have met him.”

Lu Man could not help but squint at Han Zhuoli.

There was someone in the audience who said, “Am I imagining things? I keep feeling that when Han Zhuoli said that to Lu Man, it was like joking between a couple. He even made an appointment to be a judge for her next time. What, next time, is he going to give her full marks?”

“Pei pei pei! Impossible, my male god is single!”

“Friend, how long have you not gone on the Internet for? Your male god announced his engagement a long time ago already.”

On stage, the award ceremony began.

The top ten all received an award, and the top five entered *The Performer*.

Chapter 796: Celebrate Birthday Together

The school principals gave the awards to the last five placers while the guest judges gave them to the top five placers.

Han Zhuoli took the trophy and certificate. He walked towards Lu Man and handed the trophy and certificate to her.

When Lu Man received them, blocked by the certificate, Han Zhuoli actually grabbed her palm right in public.

Lu Man softened and almost dropped the trophy.

Thankfully, Han Zhuoli caught it in time.

“Happy birthday,” he said suddenly.

Lu Man violently looked towards him.

In her surprise, her mouth widened slightly.

Today was her birthday. She had actually forgotten about that.

He actually knew?

Han Zhuoli silently raised his eyebrows.

She knew his birthday. Wouldn't it be unreasonable if he didn't know hers?

Ni Xue looked over suspiciously.

Just now, it seemed like Han Zhuoli had said something to Lu Man.

But the surroundings were too messy. All around was the sound of the music. She totally couldn't hear anything clearly.

The emcee emphasized once again that the top five would be able to join *The Performer*. Then, she congratulated the top ten students once more and let them head off stage and return to the backstage to change out of their costumes.

Until now, Lu Man and the others were still wearing their performance clothes.

Lu Man changed her clothes and cleaned herself quickly.

She took off the hairpin she used to match with her gown and tied her hair up into a clean and comfortable ponytail.

The others had also finished changing but haven't left yet. Ni Xue saw Lu Man and couldn't help but ask, “Lu Man, just now, when Mr. Han was presenting the award to you, what did he say to you?”

“How's that any of your business?” Lu Man didn't spare her any face in front of everyone. “You sure are a busybody.”

“How could you talk like that!” Ni Xue stormed angrily.

Ultimately, just as she finished speaking and before she could continue, someone called for Lu Man. “Lu Man!”

Right after hearing that voice, everyone was shocked and dazed.

Why did this voice sound so familiar?

Right after that, they saw Sun Yiwu walking in.

“Director Sun!” Lu Man was surprised and delighted. She didn't expect that Sun Yiwu would actually come to the backstage.

In front of all the students, Lu Man also felt sheepish calling Sun Yiwu “Uncle Sun” so blatantly.

Who'd have known that Sun Yiwu's face would turn ferocious as he immediately asked, "What did you call me?"

Lu Man broke into a smile. Plucking up her courage, she could only say, "Uncle Sun."

What?

What... what did Lu Man call him?

Uncle?

Sun Yiwu was her uncle?

What kind of joke was that?!

The two of them didn't even have the same surname!

Could it be that Lu Man debuting with *Greedy Wolf Operation* right away was because she was Sun Yiwu's niece all along?

"Hahahahaha. So you performed this today!" Sun Yiwu gave a thumbs-up to Lu Man. "You didn't make me or Old Ji lose face! We came here to cheer you on. It wasn't a wasted trip at all!"

As Sun Yiwu spoke, he was holding onto a little box that was wrapped very delicately. "Today is your birthday, and you managed to clinch the first place today too. It's double the joy! Happy birthday."

Lu Man received the present in surprise. She didn't know what to say. "Uncle Sun..."

"You silly child. You don't have to be so polite with me." Sun Yiwu smiled. "In the future, you will receive birthday presents every single year."

"Thank you, Uncle Sun." Lu Man looked at the box in her hands.

She still didn't know what was in it, but that didn't matter. What mattered was the thought behind this present.

It had really... really been more than ten years since she had received a birthday present.

She even almost forgot how it felt like to receive a present.

"You silly child, why are you so touched by this?" Sun Yiwu rubbed Lu Man's hair and shouted out of the door, "Where's Old Ji? Why isn't he here yet? He sure knows how to take his time!"

"He isn't here yet. You can open up my present first," Sun Yiwu said as he smiled.

Lu Man opened up the present. It was a ladies' watch.

Chapter 797: How Could We Not Come?

"Look at what's on the watchstrap," Sun Yiwu urged her.

Lu Man took a look. On the strap, Lu Man's name was carved, as well as the two words, "Happy Birthday."

Lu Man was so moved she was about to cry and hurriedly put on the watch on her left wrist.

It was like the metal watchstrap had been measured. It was the perfect size for Lu Man.

The silver watchstrap on her fair and slender wrist appeared so clean and fresh.

“Coming, coming.” Ji Cheng and Liang Yuhan entered together with their daughter.

“Lu Man, congratulations!” Liang Yuhan came and immediately pulled Lu Man into her arms and hugged her. “Happy birthday.”

Everyone in the lounge was extremely confused and shocked.

Not only was Sun Yiwu here, Ji Cheng even brought his entire family along!

Even Ji Cheng’s wife seemed to be so close to Lu Man!

Liang Yuhan released Lu Man from her arms. The little princess of the Ji family struggled as she lifted up the cake box.

She was small and her arms were short. She lifted the cake high up above her head, but it was only slightly higher than Lu Man’s waist.

“Auntie Man Man, happy birthday!” Ji Simian said, her voice soft and sweet.

Lu Man hurriedly took the cake from her. Ji Cheng smiled and said, “Your sister-in-law made this for you this morning.”

“Then you must have woken up so early,” Lu Man hurriedly said to Liang Yuhan.

The finals started very early in the morning. In that case, Ji Cheng and his family would have had to leave their home early in the morning too. Then how early would she have had to wake up to make the cake?

“All this wasn’t troublesome at all. I just made a simple cake. I didn’t spend much time,” Liang Yuhan said as she smiled.

“Cut it quickly later. Your sister-in-law’s baking skills are extremely amazing,” Ji Cheng said.

“Thank you, sister-in-law.” Lu Man was so grateful she almost couldn’t hold back her tears any longer.

Liang Yuhan quickly stretched her hand out and held onto Lu Man’s. “Hey, you can’t cry. It’s such a joyful occasion.”

Liang Yuhan poked Ji Cheng. “Hurry up and take out the present.”

“We didn’t bring just a cake.”

Ji Cheng grinned widely as he said, “Lu Man, happy birthday.”

Lu Man received the present. Ji Cheng sighed as he knew how difficult it had been for Lu Man to reach where she was today. “In the future, you have to stay happy. You have us, and you have your man too!”

“That’s right.” Ji Cheng couldn’t ruffle Lu Man’s hair like Sun Yiwu did. After all, Sun Yiwu was Lu Man’s senior, but at Ji Cheng’s age, it wasn’t really appropriate. It would be easy for someone to make a mountain out of a molehill over this.

Liang Yuhan didn’t worry that much. She hugged Lu Man. “I know how you feel. In the past, no one remembered your birthday. But it’ll be different from now on. You have so many of us here.”

“And us too, sister-in-law. You can’t forget about us too!” Liu Chuanhui and the others hadn’t entered the room yet but their voices had already traveled in.

Liu Chuanhui walked in. Behind him was Zhang Jian’s manager, Xiao Liu.

“Lu Man, happy birthday!”

“Why are you—” Lu Man couldn’t believe it. Her eyes were clouded over by a thick layer of tears.

“Your birthday is such an important occasion, how could we not come? I had an event today, so I couldn’t come to watch your competition. But on my way here, I heard that you won the first place, and today was your birthday too. It’s great that these two joyful occasions happened together!”

Liu Chuanhui gave her his present. Lu Man couldn’t even hold all the presents now.

Thankfully, Hu Zhonghui and He Mengmeng were both there. He Mengmeng found a bag from somewhere and placed all the presents inside.

Zhang Jian’s manager, Xiao Liu, quickly said, “Brother Zhang is filming on-site so he couldn’t rush down. But when he heard that it is your birthday today, he especially told me to bring your present over.”

Chapter 798: Became the Backdrop for Lu Man

Everyone felt even more numb the more they listened on.

Right now, they weren’t curious about what presents Lu Man had received. They felt only that it was weird that it was just a birthday, yet Lu Man managed to attract so many people to especially come over to celebrate it for her.

Did they have to treat this birthday with so much importance?

Who hasn’t had a birthday before?

In an instant, all of the limelight today was snatched away by Lu Man.

She was the winner, and now, two extremely popular big directors in the nation both came to watch her competition. They came here just for Lu Man and even especially gave her a birthday present.

Who else was receiving such a treatment?

Originally, the top five should have all been basking in the spotlight. Ni Xue in the second place should have received a lot of attention too.

But right now, they all just became the backdrop for Lu Man.

The happiness from receiving their placing, and their joy from successfully making it into *The Performer*, all disappeared.

Compared to the excitement going on where Lu Man was at, they felt very insignificant.

“Lu Man, come here.” Liang Yuhan pulled Lu Man out of the door.

Ni Xue and the others saw that Lu Man left but couldn’t hold back their curiosity. They stomped their feet a little yet still followed after her.

Lu Man was led to the entrance of the theater. Parked right at the entrance was Han Zhuoli’s car.

However, Han Zhuoli wasn’t there. Xiao Chen stood in front of the car. When he saw Lu Man, he quickly opened the car door at the back.

Lu Man suspiciously looked at everyone.

Liang Yuhan only smiled and pushed Lu Man towards the car door. “Hurry up and get in.”

Lu Man looked into the car. Han Zhuoli wasn’t inside.

She was feeling strange too and wanted to ask why Han Zhuoli wasn’t there.

Just then, Xiao Chen said to her, “Lu Man, Mr. Han is still waiting for you.”

Han Zhuoli clearly wasn’t in the car. Hence, it was obvious that he wasn’t waiting for her in the car.

Who knows where he was waiting for her?

This feeling was really strange.

Just now, they were both standing on stage together, but now, Han Zhuoli had gone to some unknown place and was waiting for her.

Lu Man could only enter the car, her stomach filled with curiosity.

She bade goodbye to Sun Yiwu and the others. Sun Yiwu grinned and fought to hold back to say something like “see you in a while.”

Xiao Chen started the car and drove off. In the car, Lu Man couldn’t control her curiosity. “Grandpa, Grandma, Uncle, Auntie, and my mom, did they all go home?”

Lu Man mumbled, “I still haven’t gotten the chance to greet them.”

Xiao Chen smiled and said, “Mr. Han has his plans.”

Lu Man blinked. Was this man going to give her a birthday surprise?

Lu Man lowered her head and played with the strap of her bag. Inside the bag were the presents that Sun Yiwu and the others gave her.

She still didn’t know what surprise this man had prepared for her. He was all secretive and mysterious.

If not for Han Zhuoli, she would have forgotten that today was her birthday.

She had never properly celebrated it since she was young.

Now, all of a sudden, someone wanted to properly celebrate her birthday. Lu Man suddenly felt rather nervous.

This was the first time she would properly celebrate her birthday. She completely never had any experience like this before.

Right now, as she thought back, she realized that Sun Yiwu and the others definitely couldn't have known that it was her birthday.

It must have been Han Zhuoli who told them, to let so many people celebrate her birthday with her.

Towards her birthday, she didn't feel anything much all along. When she was younger, she used to anticipate and looked forward to it, but eventually, she got used to not celebrating it.

However, now, there was someone who was putting in so much effort to prepare and create a surprise for her. Lu Man held onto her chest. Inside, her heart was burning furiously, beating and jumping strongly and quickly.

Someone had placed her in his heart, cradling her in his hand and treasuring her.

She didn't know how long the car drove for before it finally stopped. Lu Man was so sleepy that she fell asleep in the car and didn't see the view outside of the car window.

"Lu Man." Xiao Chen woke Lu Man up.

Lu Man rubbed her eyes. Recently, she had honestly been too tired. She was always tensed and focused. She was practicing all the time and didn't dare to slack off the least bit.

Chapter 799: Not Afraid of Spoiling You

Today, the results were finally out, and she instantly felt her entire being relax.

"We've arrived?" Lu Man was still in a daze.

Xiao Chen thought to himself, *If Mr. Han saw that Lu Man was this tired, he might feel so much heartache that he would just directly wave his hand and cancel the birthday surprise and let Lu Man rest first.*

However, now that Han Zhuoli wasn't around, Xiao Chen said to Lu Man, "We're here."

He got off the car first and went to open the door for Lu Man.

Lu Man had been asleep all along and didn't see it. Now, she finally realized she was actually in front of a castle.

The tall and grand entrance stood before her. She raised her neck up to look at it and realized that her neck was getting sore.

"This..."

Xiao Chen smiled and said, "Please head in, Mr. Han is waiting."

Lu Man entered from the grand entrance that was open. Inside was a huge garden, which was almost as big as a plaza.

It felt soft beneath her feet. Unknowingly, she was already walking on a red carpet.

Lu Man followed the red carpet and finally walked to the huge door in front of the main hall.

In front of the door stood someone wearing a tailcoat who looked like a housekeeper. He stood tall and straight and was smiling politely and warmly at Lu Man. It was completely like a scene from a movie, where he looked like a butler working for a British aristocrat. It made Lu Man feel like she was in a different place and time.

The butler who was wearing a black tailcoat gestured a "please" to Lu Man. "Miss Lu Man, welcome."

Confused and dazed, Lu Man smiled at the butler. After she entered, right in front of her was a spiral staircase right in the middle, splitting the hall into two.

Han Zhuoli was standing right in the middle, wearing a tailored suit.

It wasn't as over-the-top as an evening suit. It was just a suit that he would usually wear, but it was still charismatic and attractive, making her heart pound furiously.

Lu Man froze on the spot. She didn't even know how to move forward.

Han Zhuoli saw it. Hiding his smile and feeling resigned, he pulled her hand. "Happy birthday, my princess."

"You..." Lu Man's voice felt like it was stuck in her throat.

Han Zhuoli stood beside her. The two of them were very close to each other. Even though he wasn't hugging her, it still looked like he was already caging Lu Man in his arms.

His shadow fell across Lu Man's body, completely covering her. It was like he had spread a pair of invisible wings, enveloping her with them tightly.

"They say that women should be treasured like a princess. But you were born into the Lu family. You should have been treated like a rich princess, but a certain scumbag didn't know how to treasure you," Han Zhuoli said in a low voice. "From now on, you are my princess."

Lu Man looked at Han Zhuoli, not blinking at all. She was afraid that if she blinked even just once, she would have one less second to look at him.

This man... How could this man be so perfect?

Her eyes were covered by tears, foggy and hazy.

Through the thick layer of water, this handsome man stood.

Han Zhuoli couldn't stand to watch her cry, not even with tears of joy. "Why are you crying?"

Lu Man shook her head. "If you keep doing this, I'm scared that I will be spoiled to death by you," she mumbled quietly. Suddenly, with tears in her eyes, she smiled. "But now that I'm used to being spoiled by you, I'm scared of nothing."

Actually, she knew it herself too. To dare to directly argue with someone, to be afraid of no one, wasn't it all because she had Han Zhuoli supporting her?

"Then continue to be spoiled by me." Han Zhuoli gently wiped away the tears clinging onto her eyelashes. "I'll first spoil you like a princess, then I'll spoil you like a queen."

Han Zhuoli thought about what he said, felt that it was a little weird, and broke into a smile first. "Anyway, I'm not afraid of spoiling and pampering you. Whoever made you unhappy, just continue to fight with them. You have me."

The tears filling up Lu Man's eyes couldn't be held back any longer. They all fell.

Chapter 800: Thankfully, She Didn't Miss Him

"How could you be so nice?" Lu Man couldn't control it anymore. Her voice breaking, she cried. She wasn't just sobbing silently anymore. She just couldn't keep it in any longer.

She was like a child who had suffered tons, wailing and bawling greatly.

Han Zhuoli was shocked and quickly embraced her.

"What's going on? Don't cry!" This man who'd already mastered the art of saying such romantic words saw her crying and instantly forgot everything.

He was completely confused, dazed, and flustered.

All he knew was to hug her. He didn't even know how to coax her. All he did was put in all his effort to try and stop her from crying, his heart extremely anxious and flustered.

This man was usually so calm and steady, it seemed like nothing could make him lose his composure.

Yet right now, he was flustered beyond belief and was stuttering and tongue-tied. His talent for glibness was useless right now.

Why was that so?

It was all because of his concern for Lu Man.

As long as she was crying, he would be flustered.

In his eyes, in his heart, it was all Lu Man. Right now, he was so anxious, so careful.

However, this made Lu Man cry even harder instead.

It wasn't because she felt like she had suffered; it was because she was moved.

She had never been so cherished by someone. No one had cared for her so much before.

Looking at him flustered because of her, Lu Man melted into a gooey mess. The more she melted, the more she felt touched, and the more she wanted to cry.

Eventually, she bawled even harder. She couldn't hold her tears back anymore.

This really scared Han Zhuoli tremendously. "What's exactly going on? I'm celebrating your birthday for you today, I wanted to give you a surprise, not to make you cry. Why are you feeling sad? Who made you suffer? Tell me!"

It made Han Zhuoli wonder even harder if, after the competition ended, she had suffered when he wasn't around!

Because thinking back, when he was around her, it was like nothing had really happened.

Lu Man shook her head. "No, it's... it's because... how could you be so good..."

Huh?

Han Zhuoli was confused. Why would she cry because he was good?

Han Zhuoli hugged Lu Man helplessly. "You didn't suffer?"

"No." Lu Man finally calmed down a little. That made Han Zhuoli worry a little less.

However, as he watched her bead-like tears still falling non-stop, Han Zhuoli's heart felt bitter too.

"I was just thinking, if, at the start... what if I hadn't agreed? If, back then, I hadn't taken that step, hadn't gotten together with you, would I not have th[a]

Didn't she almost miss him once before?

In her past life, when she was framed at the hotel, he was right next door but he didn't know about her existence.

And she was unconscious. She couldn't escape in time, and neither did she get the chance to meet him.

The two of them missed each other just like that.

In her past life, he would have never known about her existence forever.

Thinking about that, her heart felt extremely painful.

Her experiences in both lifetimes were completely different.

In this life, she met him. He cared for her and pampered her. She got to experience how good he was.

Other than him, she could never find another man who would treat her so well.

Once she thought about not having him by her side, her heart would start aching.

Even though she would never experience what she had gone through in her past life and even though the path she had taken in this life was different...

She still felt pain on behalf of herself in her past life.

If, back then, she'd not been completely knocked out, if she could have climbed to the room next door, how good would that have been?

Even if, back then, he hadn't liked, at least she could still have seen him once.

Lu Man suddenly shivered. She was really afraid that this was just a dream. A dream after her death.

That once she woke up from this dream, nothing would have changed.

[a]Please supply the rest of the paragraph. Thanks.