

Mr Han 831

Chapter 831: She Is Basically a B*stard!

“You are crazy! Your salary is only tens of millions, but Yi Lu Culture is a company—it’s worth hundreds of millions! You want to use your salary of tens of millions of yuan to exchange for my company? What are you thinking?!” Lu Qiyuan was extremely furious. Stop dreaming!

Lu Man pretended to be shocked and widened her eyes. “Oh, so it’s worth so much money? You should sell the company, then. That way, it can fill any holes in Lu Corporation right now.”

Lu Qiyuan violently choked. He never did expect that Lu Man was actually waiting for this opportunity!

“My tens of millions of salary completely wouldn’t be of much help, right?” Lu Man said as she smiled. “Don’t you just want my money? Let me tell you, it’s impossible!”

“Lu Man, could it be that you’re not going to acknowledge me as your father anymore?” Lu Qiyuan questioned.

“Yes, I’m not!” Lu Man said it directly. “I wanted to stop acknowledging you long ago. So, no matter what happens, don’t come looking for me ever again!”

All of the blood in Lu Qiyuan’s body rushed to his head, turning his face a bright shade of red. Even the whites of his eyes became bloodshot.

“You are my flesh and bone, how dare you not acknowledge me?” Lu Qiyuan shouted loudly. “Let me tell you, Lu Man, you can’t just stop acknowledging me just because you say so! You are my child, so don’t ever think about cutting yourself off from me, Lu Man! I raised you until you’re so big, it’s right and reasonable that you give me money!”

The ruckus attracted quite some people who wanted to know what was going on. Unknowingly, they had formed a circle around them.

Xia Qingyang took advantage of the situation and said to the observing crowd, “Quick, come and judge for yourself! How could someone not acknowledge their own father? This is Lu Man! The Lu Man who filmed *Greedy Wolf Operation* and *Red Tiger*! She is so impressive now, she is rich now, and she’s just forsaking her father! She is basically a b*stard!”

Zhou Cheng was so angry he wanted to move forward. In the past, he’d never hit a woman, but he was about to make an exception this time.

Lu Man held him back and told him not to be impulsive.

If Zhou Cheng made a move, it would really be her fault.

Lu Man only said to Lu Qiyuan, “You want her to just keep crying and whining like a shrew? I was originally thinking of giving you money, but now I’ve changed my mind.”

Lu Qiyuan didn't know whether or not Lu Man was being serious. Worried that she was just fooling him, he said, "Tell me where you and Xia Qingwei are staying at now, then I will stop Xia Qingyang from making a ruckus."

Lu Qiyuan was a fool at that moment too.

Lu Man wouldn't carry so much money around with her either.

Even if he wanted Lu Man to give him the money first, it was impossible.

In that case, he'd rather find out where Lu Man and Xia Qingwei were staying so he would never have to worry that he couldn't find Lu Man again.

With Xia Qingwei holding her back, Lu Man didn't want Xia Qingwei to be harassed, and so she would have to give him money.

It looked like Lu Qiyuan too knew that he was harassing Xia Qingwei.

"Shut up!" At that moment, Principal Liu hurriedly rushed over with Han Leilei following behind.

Zheng Yuan and Pan Xue were so shocked that both their mouths turned into the shape of "O." They didn't think that Han Leilei would actually ask Principal Liu to come over.

Just now, when Han Leilei ran back to the school to ask for help, there weren't many security officers around and there was only one left guarding the school gate.

Hence, Han Leilei planned to ask a teacher for help, but just as she was heading upstairs, she saw the Dean and Principal Liu coming down together.

At that moment, Han Leilei couldn't even care about what punishment the school would give Lu Man after this incident. After all, with Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang causing a scene at the school gate, the school leaders would find out eventually. There was no need to hide it.

Therefore, Han Leilei hurriedly told them about the incident.

Once Principal Liu heard about it, he immediately ran towards the school gate. He was even more nervous than Han Leilei.

It made Han Leilei stunned in confusion for a moment.

Chapter 832: Small Matter

"Shut up!" Principal Liu appeared.

Xia Qingyang jumped in shock after Principal Liu shouted at her all of a sudden. Subconsciously, she stopped talking.

Right now, the people crowding around them were students from the National Film Academy. Principal Liu said loudly to them, "Stop being such a busybody! Hurry up and move aside, don't block the entrance of the school."

Right then, a security officer who had been quietly hiding away from the scene quickly ran over.
“Principal.”

Xia Qingyang heard it. It turned out he was the principal.

Aha!

She immediately stepped forward. “You are the principal, right? Please say something about this. Lu Man is a student from your school. Your school would even want a student like this? She doesn’t even want to acknowledge her own father!”

Principal Liu laughed coldly. “Who are you two? Why did you run over to our school to pretend to be the parents of our students and cause all this trouble?”

Xia Qingyang’s face twisted. She anxiously said, “We are not pretending. It’s true! He’s Lu Man’s father!”

Xia Qingyang pointed at Lu Qiyuan and said, “We are Lu Qi’s parents. Just call Lu Qi out and you will know.”

“Hurry up and leave! Stop causing so much trouble here!” Principal Liu shouted. “Those who know Lu Qi will also know that she comes from a rich family. Her father is the old CEO of a big corporation, and her mother is a rich lady. How could they possibly be like you two, shouting about at our school entrance? How could her mother be like you, a shrew shouting and causing a scene at the school entrance? Since I don’t believe you, I can just call Lu Qi out and ask her if it is true or not!”

Lu Qi was indeed around. However, after hearing Principal Liu’s words, she hurriedly hid away.

Someone saw Lu Qi and asked, “Lu Qi, are those people at the school gate your parents?”

Lu Qi took a couple of steps back to hide and hurriedly replied, “No.”

With how Xia Qingyang was behaving, even she felt that it was embarrassing.

Moreover, Principal Liu had already said those words. If she did go out now and tell the truth, she would be losing face too along with them. No way would she do that.

When she heard those words, Xia Qingyang’s old face turned red. Principal Liu’s words made it difficult for her to admit or deny anything.

What if she admitted that she and Lu Qiyuan were both fakes and came here to frame Lu Man and extort money from her?

Wouldn’t that mean that she had really become a shrew?

And Lu Qiyuan would become a useless bum too!

Xia Qingyang gritted her teeth angrily. She was feeling so suffocated that her heart started to ache, so frustrated that she couldn’t catch her breath.

This Principal Liu sure was infuriating!

Principal Liu saw that Xia Qingyang was indeed stunned and shocked. Hence, he said loudly, “Let me tell you two, Lu Man is an outstanding student from our school. She is the school’s model student, and she

has brought a lot of honor to our school! As the principal, on behalf of the school, I don't allow you to slander Lu Man!"

Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang felt extremely choked up. Principal Liu tossed Xia Qingyang aside and walked towards Lu Man, separating Lu Qiyuan away from her and pretending to be unintentionally blocking him.

"Lu Man, leave first. Leave this to me," Principal Liu said.

Lu Man took a look at Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang and said apologetically to Principal Liu, "Sorry that I've caused so much trouble to you and the school."

"It's nothing." Principal Liu didn't mind.

Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang were just shouting and causing a small scene. They still had some shame left and were really afraid that if their identities were revealed, they would really lose face.

It was good as long as they still wanted to save some face.

People who wanted to save some face was always easier to deal with.

To Principal Liu, this was just a small matter.

Before becoming the principal of the National Film Academy, he even volunteered with the elderly and youths and worked in the slums. What thug or useless bum had he not seen before?

Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang could still have their way with Lu Man.

After all, Lu Man was young. While she was smart, she still lacked experience when it came to such matters.

But he was highly experienced!

Chapter 833: You Want to Stay and Continue Embarrassing Yourself?

When it comes to being difficult and dealing with rascals, even ten Xia Qingyangs wouldn't be his match.

"Go back, you don't have to stay here. Don't worry, they won't cause much trouble here," Principal Liu said.

"Alright, thank you so much," Lu Man said. After waving goodbye to Han Leilei and the rest, she went into the car.

Xiao Chen drove off. Zhou Cheng sat in the front passenger seat while Lu Man sat behind.

Lu Qiyuan saw that Lu Man had already left. Hence, without a word, he dragged Xia Qingyang and went into the car.

Xia Qingyang couldn't understand. "How could we just leave like this? That principal just wronged us, we haven't—"

“You want to stay and continue to embarrass yourself?” Lu Qiyuan glared at Xia Qingyang unhappily. “Since when did you start behaving like a shrew?! You even shouted and caused such a scene!”

Xia Qingyang shuddered. She didn’t know whether it was because she was getting older or something else.

It was getting more and more difficult to hide her true character.

When she was younger, she sure hid it well.

But now, as she got older, she started getting too lazy to pretend.

Her daughter was all grown-up, and Lu Qiyuan was getting old too. She didn’t want to pretend and hide her true nature forever, unable to be free. That was too tiring.

She was already at this age. She wanted to just be more free for once.

Moreover, she didn’t know why either, but sometimes, even when she really wanted to hide it, she didn’t have the energy to do so and, unknowingly, it was exposed.

Xia Qingyang pursed her lips and said, “If I hadn’t done that, how could I have threatened Lu Man? Since you can’t bring yourself to do it, don’t I have to? I did want to be soft and gentle, but nobody gave me such an opportunity!”

Lu Qiyuan was stunned. He didn’t expect that Xia Qingyang would say that.

Was she blaming him for being useless?

But in the past, Xia Qingyang always said that he was the man with the most ability!

She praised him every day, treated him as the sky, and endearingly relied and depended on him no matter what.

“Are you blaming me?” Lu Qiyuan asked coldly.

“I’m not blaming you.” Xia Qingyang looked sad and misunderstood. “I’m just doing my best to help you. I know I can’t do anything because I’m uncultured, but all I care about is you, all I want to do is to help you. As long as I can help you, no matter what I become, no matter how embarrassing I have to be, all of that doesn’t matter. But now you’re despising me? No matter what I become, it’s all so that I can help you!”

“In the past, Lu Man was an id—” She wanted to say that Lu Man was an id*ot and almost blurted it out. She suddenly recalled how she used to pretend to act and how she used to talk and immediately changed her words. “A good and honest child. She would always listen to what we say. I didn’t have to worry about the company too back then, and everything was going smoothly in the family. Of course I would gladly be a little woman who wouldn’t care about anything, a woman who was gentle like water.”

“But right now, I don’t even know why Lu Man had become so bad. Not only does she not care about what happens in the family, but she even caused harm to you and to Qi Qi. Now, she has harmed the company to this state, and Qi Qi doesn’t have any shows to film either.”

For her to say that Lu Man had made Lu Qi have no shows to act in was understandable.

However, for her to say that Lu Man had caused the dire state that Lu Corporation was in now, that was really unfair to Lu Man.

That had been caused by Han Zhuoli!

Lu Man really didn't do anything.

However, even if Xia Qingyang had said that, Lu Qiyuan also wouldn't think that it was wrong and wouldn't rebut.

Even if they were things that Lu Man had never done before, he could blame it on her too.

Lu Man didn't know about it, but even if she did, she probably wouldn't care about it either. So many tricks had been done on her, one more wouldn't itch.

Xia Qingyang sniffled her nose pitifully. "Now that the family has reached this state, I can't help you when it comes to work and can only worry for you. I'm also scared that you'd have a bad opinion of me, that you'd think that I can't help in any way and despise me. So right now, all that I could do, even if it's just a little, I will be willing to do it."

Chapter 834: Lose Him

"Even if I have to toss this face of mine aside, as long as I could help you and help our family, I would go all out. I have no ability, I am uncultured, and I'm not smart. All I wanted was to help you. Do you think I wanted to lose face? If I blamed you, would I help you?" Xia Qingyang said pitifully.

Lu Qiyuan looked at her suspiciously. However, seeing that Xia Qingyang was crying genuinely and sincerely, the anger he was feeling earlier started subsiding.

"I got it," Lu Qiyuan said. "I know that you wanted to help me. It's alright, I don't blame you."

Xia Qingyang glanced at him and asked, "Where are we going now?"

"I'm following that car Lu Man is in," Lu Qiyuan explained. "I want to see exactly where she and Xia Qingwei moved to."

In front of them, Xiao Chen saw the rearview mirror and said to Lu Man, "Lu Man, buckle up your seat belt."

Lu Man fastened her seat belt and asked, "What's the matter?"

Xiao Chen glanced at the rearview mirror again and said, "Lu Qiyuan is following our car. I have to lose him."

Lu Man turned around. As expected, she saw Lu Qiyuan's car.

"He wants to know where my mom and I moved to," Lu Man said solemnly.

"This disgusting dog, he sure is shameless. Looks like he still thinks that Mr. Han hasn't caused him enough trouble," Xiao Chen mumbled.

“Will you be able to lose him? He definitely can’t find out where we’re staying,” Lu Man said.

“Don’t worry.” Xiao Chen was very confident. “I drive for Mr. Han. How would I not be able to do something as simple as this?”

Just as he finished talking, Xiao Chen suddenly made a sharp turn and drove into a small alley.

The alley was very narrow, and it looked rather unassuming.

Looking at it from afar, one would think that it was the entrance to a factory.

Only after turning it would one realize that it was a narrow alley.

“Old Zhou, help me to check the traffic lights,” Xiao Chen said.

Zhou Cheng took out his cell phone and opened up some unknown app.

After clicking on it, it displayed a map of all the roads around the area.

Everything was clearly displayed on it, even whether the traffic lights on the road were red or green and how many seconds were left until it changed.

Lu Man turned around and saw that Lu Qiyuan made a turn there too.

Xiao Chen didn’t expect that he would be able to lose Lu Qiyuan here.

When Lu Qiyuan turned, he saw the tail of Xiao Chen’s car disappearing into a track to the right.

Lu Qiyuan hurriedly chased after it, but when he turned right, he realized that it wasn’t the car that Lu Man was sitting in!

He could only test his luck and choose another road and turned towards it.

But how could he even still see the shadow of the car that Lu Man was in?

Lu Qiyuan stopped the car by the side of the road. Angrily, he hit the steering wheel hard.

“We lost him.” Xiao Chen looked into his rearview mirror and saw that Lu Qiyuan’s car was no longer there.

Lu Man also turned around and looked about, then let out a sigh of relief.

Only then did Lu Man remember to ask Zhou Cheng, “Big Brother Zhou, why did you go to our school?”

Zhou Cheng smiled and explained, “Mr. Han knew that Lu Qiyuan had come back from the south. He was scared that he would harass you and told me to go over to check. A lot of the contracts his company had were returned and a lot of their orders were canceled. His factory in the south has completely fallen and all his hard work there was now for naught. However, some orders are still not complete, and his own company is unable to produce them. He could only find another factory to do the work. Right now, he has dumped all his money in the replacement factory, but he doesn’t have any new orders after that either. Hence, right now, Lu Qiyuan is in a terrible situation.”

It made sense to Lu Man now. No wonder Lu Qiyuan was even eyeing her salary. He was really running out of time.

“Don’t worry, right now, Mr. Han is looking for something else to make him busy,” Zhou Cheng said. Previously, he’d sent Lu Qiyuan off to the south and tormented him for a long time over there.

Chapter 835: Not Disturbing

Lu Qiyuan came back and immediately looked for Lu Qiyuan. This time, Han Zhuoli would probably send him off to somewhere even farther.

Lu Man was guilty. Han Zhuoli was already pretty busy and tired from his work at the Han Corporation.

But he still had to spend the energy to help her deal with Lu Qiyuan.

Lu Man pinched the bridge of her nose. She should start thinking about how to settle the problem of the Lu family and prevent them from harassing them again.

“Oh right, this incident today where Lu Qiyuan and Xia Qingyang came to find me, please don’t tell my mother about her in case she gets angry again,” Lu Man instructed.

Xiao Chen and Zhou Cheng both agreed.

“Do you two still have anything on after sending me back?” Lu Man asked again.

“Nothing. My task today was to protect you,” Zhou Cheng said.

“I have nothing on too. Mr. Han would need the car only at night after his work,” Xiao Chen said.

“Since both of you are free after this, why don’t you come over to my place for lunch?” Lu Man said with a smile. “Anyway, it’s already noon. Both of you were originally planning to eat out too, right?”

“Ah, would that be convenient?” Zhou Cheng’s eyes were sparkling. He still remembered Lu Man’s culinary skills. It was first-rate!

It was a pity that he only had it once. From then on, the lunchboxes that Lu Man had prepared for him and Xu Hui were all snatched away by Han Zhuoli.

However, even just that one time was enough to make it unforgettable and make him yearning for more.

It was honestly too delicious.

Xiao Chen had never tried it before, but he helped Han Zhuoli to snatch it.

He deeply knew the high praise Zhou Cheng and Xu Hui had for Lu Man’s cooking skills.

Lu Man saw that Zhou Cheng was obviously so happy that he was rubbing his hands. She smiled and said, “However, my mom is making lunch today. When we head back, it would already be past 12. It’ll be too late for me to cook, so my mom has already prepared the food and is waiting for me.”

How would Zhou Cheng and Xiao Chen mind? “If it’s not too troublesome, then we would have to disturb you two.”

"It's not," Lu Man said, smiling.

When she bought the apartment, it came with a basement carpark.

Xiao Chen parked the car in there. Then, along with Zhou Cheng, he followed Lu Man back home.

As Xia Qingwei often hung out with Old Mrs. Han and Shen Nuo, Xiao Chen wasn't a stranger to her.

This time, seeing that Zhou Cheng was here too, Xia Qingwei was pleasantly surprised. "Xiao Zhou, it's been a while since I've seen you."

"Hello, Auntie, how has your health been?" Zhou Cheng asked as he smiled.

He followed Xiao Chen into the house. Lu Man passed them indoor slippers for guests.

"I'm doing very well now, so well that I've already forgotten that I used to be sick and that my body was weak," Xia Qingwei said, also smiling.

"Xiao Chen and Zhou Cheng went to the school to fetch me. They have nothing on after this, so I asked them to come over to our place for lunch," Lu Man explained.

"Sure sure sure, then I'll add two more dishes," Xia Qingwei hurriedly said.

Xiao Chen and Zhou Cheng were both healthy men; they would definitely have a huge appetite.

As it was usually only her and Lu Man during lunch, she didn't prepare a lot of dishes.

"Auntie, please, you don't have to." Zhou Cheng stopped her. "It's already rather impolite for both of us to come here emptyhanded. We are already intruding, please—"

"Oh gosh, look at you two, why are you being so polite!" Xia Qingwei's face turned stern. "It's no trouble at all. There's some ready-made cooked food at home now, and I've bought some deli at the market today too. I just need to slice them up, it's no trouble at all. If you're so polite with me now when you and Xiao Xu used to always stay at the hospital to protect me, I would have to properly be polite with you too."

Xia Qingwei had already said that, so naturally, Zhou Cheng stopped insisting.

Lu Man led the two of them into the living room to sit. "It's really not troublesome at all. You don't have to be so uptight."

Chapter 836: You Have to Admit It When You Are Less Skillful Than Others

Clearly, just as Xia Qingwei had said, it wasn't troublesome.

After a while, she prepared three plates of food.

There were already three other plates of dishes that Xia Qingwei had cooked before.

Zhou Cheng and Xiao Chen ate them, and everyone praised that it was delicious.

"Oh right, are you going to sign the contract with that show *The Performer*?" Xia Qingwei asked.

"I didn't sign it. One senior of mine didn't sign it either, but the other three people did," Lu Man said.

"Why? Is it that... that they didn't let you two sign it? What happened?" Xia Qingwei asked, shocked and flustered.

Hence, Lu Man explained everything regarding the contract to her. "That's why I can't sign it. To me, signing such a contract and joining the show has no benefit."

"Right, you can't sign it." After Xia Qingwei heard the reason, she stood on Lu Man's side. "I support you regarding this matter."

In the afternoon, Han Zhuoli came to pick Lu Man up after work. Lu Man told this whole incident to Han Zhuoli as well.

Coincidentally, on the way back to Han Zhuoli's home, the old mansion called them too. They also remembered that Lu Man was going to join *The Performer*.

Clearly and patiently, Lu Man explained everything from start to end to Old Mrs. Han.

"Sigh. I thought that I could see more of you on television, but it's right that you didn't join it. If you did, you would be taken advantage of!" Old Mrs. Han said angrily. "Are there still any TV shows that aren't fake?! Let's not watch such shows!"

Helpless, Lu Man coaxed Old Mrs. Han for a really long time until she finally became happy again. Only then did she hang up the phone.

Two weeks before the program started airing, the finals of the Chinese Arts Championships was finally uploaded onto Xing Ke Station's app.

Originally, since they were trying to hype things up for *The Performer*, the production crew discussed if they should still leave any screentime for Lu Man and Li Zeyu, who didn't sign the contract to join the program.

Ultimately, they still decided to leave screentime for them. After all, *The Performer* still had to release an announcement separately, stating that Lu Man and Li Zeyu won't be joining the program.

The netizens already knew that Lu Man won first place while Li Zeyu won third place.

If they edited out their performances just because they didn't join the program?

Not only would the video be incoherent, but they might even be scolded by the audience for being petty and small-minded.

It really would be rather ugly if they didn't air both their performances just because they weren't participating in the program.

Ultimately, the video was still released in its entirety.

The reception was very good.

Even though Lu Man and the others weren't very popular, they each still had a rather sizeable number of fans.

Just these fans were quite a lot, and they added a lot of views to the video.

Nonetheless, netizens who didn't watch the performances live were ultimately still the majority.

There were also netizens who did watch it live but wanted to watch it in detail once more through the app.

After all, they couldn't watch it in as much detail live as they could when watching it in the video. They had missed out on quite a bit.

As a fan, how could they not watch their own idol's performance in detail?

Eventually, once the video was released, Li Zeyu's fans and Ni Xue's fans started fighting.

Li Zeyu's fans felt that Li Zeyu's performance was so much better than Ni Xue's.

"It was only 0.1 point, what a pity! I don't think that Ni Xue acted better than Li Zeyu."

"Beating him by just 0.1 point doesn't mean anything. This was completely due to luck. Ni Xue just got more of it."

Ni Xue's fans were unhappy too. They insisted that Ni Xue did act better.

"Please stop being such drama queens, Li Zeyu's fans. You have to admit it when you are less skillful than others."

"So what if it's just 0.1 point? In a competition, 0.1 point still creates a gap. Our Ni Xue did act better, don't just disregard 0.1 point. If not, since Li Zeyu is so capable, why didn't he get 0.1 point higher than our Ni Xue?!"

Chapter 837: I Have No Regrets in My Life for Being a Fan of Lu Man

The two groups of fans were fighting very heatedly, but no one questioned Lu Man's victory.

Because she truly deserved it.

Lu Man acted really well. Her final score was also much higher than others, such that other people could barely catch up to it.

"On the day of the finals, I went to watch it live. I was really blown away when I watched it live. However, after all, there weren't so many changes in camera angles, no zoom-in scenes, and so I couldn't really watch certain parts as clearly. This time, after watching Lu Man's performance once more through the camera lens, I see many more parts that I didn't notice back then. I really have to say that Lu Man put in a lot of effort into her performance. This time, through the zoom-in angles, I noticed a lot of fine details. She was really amazing."

"I went to watch it live too. Be it the teachers who helped act in Lu Man's performance or Lu Man's own acting, I was so blown away by them."

“After watching Lu Man’s performance, I have no regrets in my life for being a fan of Lu Man.”

“Honestly speaking, I’m not Lu Man’s fan, I’ve always been neutral towards her. However, watching her winning performance this time, I think I’m starting to understand why Director Sun Yiwu chose her despite her having no performance experience at all. She really has natural-born talent.”

“That’s right, talent. We’ve all forgotten about this point. From the time Lu Man acted in *Greedy Wolf Operation* until now, only around a year’s time had passed. When Lu Man acted in *Greedy Wolf Operation*, her performance was already quite surprising. However, back then, perhaps you could say it was thanks to Director Sun as he taught her well. But don’t forget, since Lu Man entered the National Film Academy until now, it has only been about a year. She has only had one year of proper performance training, and her acting has improved so much. What Director Sun said back then was right, Lu Man was born to be in this industry.”

Even the fans of Ni Xue, Zhang Xiaoying, and the fans of those who were against Lu Man, after watching Lu Man’s performance, still couldn’t find anything to nitpick on.

“Quick, look at the statement released by *The Performer’s* official Weibo account!” A netizen directly reposted the statement released on *The Performer’s* official Weibo account.

The statement was as below:

The top five students from the Chinese Arts Championships, which was organized by the 23 schools and co-organized by Xing Ke Station, won the opportunity to join The Performer and have a chance to compete with 30 top celebrities using their skills.

Previously, the production team of The Performer has contacted the top five students.

Of these, Chang Yachen and Yang Ruitian from the National Drama Academy as well as Ni Xue from the National Film Academy have already agreed and signed the contract with The Performer. As for Li Zeyu and Lu Man from the National Film Academy, they have chosen to leave the program due to various reasons.

The production team of The Performer would like to express their regret here, and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

Thank you.

“What? Lu Man won’t be joining *The Performer*?”

“Li Zeyu won’t be participating in it either?”

“What’s going on? Leaving due to various reasons? What reasons? Why?”

“It’s common if one person chooses not to join it. Perhaps they could have some reason like conflicting schedules or something, but if two people both aren’t joining, then there must be something else going on.”

“Could it be that there are some things happening behind the scenes?! Why are the two people with the best acting skills not joining?”

“They finally made it to the top five after so much effort. Didn’t they put in so much hard work just so they could enter *The Performer* and compete? Why did they suddenly decide not to join?”

Li Zeyu’s fans all blew up.

“Xiao Yu, why are you quitting? It’s such a good opportunity!”

“This time, it looks like *The Performer* has invited a lot of currently popular celebrities. From popular young stars and budding starlets to people who have won the Best Actor or Best Actress award. Even the guest judges are all big shots from the acting world.”

Chapter 838: Shady Behind-the-Scenes Dealings

“That’s right. Also, I heard that to ensure the fairness of the competition, the judges do not have any power to vote in *The Performer*. They will only comment and give feedback after the contestants’ performances, letting them know whose performance stood out the most, who deserves to be particularly taken note of, or who still had any flaws and areas they need to work on. The voting is completely up to the audience. Everyone has their own voting machine; they would never fake it.”

“That’s right. Moreover, the audience also doesn’t have to wait until after the end of everyone’s performances to vote. They can vote whenever they want in the middle of an actor’s performance. Even before that actor finished their performance, as long as the audience thinks that he acted well, they can vote for him. The number of votes will be shown live on the screen. When the next actor performs, if the audience thinks that he acted better than the previous person, they can continue voting for him. But in actuality, every member of the audience only has one vote. If someone voted twice, they would automatically deduct one vote from the previous actor, and the vote will go to the one who performed later. At the very end, they would look at the results again.”

“These rules are pretty good. It could best reduce the possibility of any chances of faking anything. It would be clear to anyone who got how many votes and how many people were supporting them.”

“But there’s a flaw too. The actor’s own popularity would be very important. If there are fans of a particular actor in the audience who really liked him, then no matter how his performance was, they would like it irrevocably. Wouldn’t that be bad?”

“Wait wait wait, we aren’t discussing the voting system of the program right now. We are talking about why Xiao Yu chose not to take part in *The Performer* after getting into the top five of the Chinese Arts Championships after so much effort.”

“We are all old fans of Xiao Yu. We all know very clearly about Xiao Yu’s recent schedule and activities. He didn’t schedule any activities recently, and his health is fine. Brother Zhang Hai even revealed in the past that Xiao Yu was very confident about entering the top five. And for the sake of participating in *The Performer*, even before the results of the Chinese Arts Championships were out, he’d especially freed up his schedule. It was obvious that he was very confident that he could get into *The Performer*. He had already prepared everything long before. But why did he choose to give it up right after he was confirmed to join *The Performer*?”

“That’s right, you make sense. Why isn’t Xiao Yu joining it?”

“Could it be that something bad happened behind the scenes of *The Performer*? If not, why would Xiao Yu not join it out of the blue?”

“That is very possible! If that’s the case, that really matches our Xiao Yu’s personality of being upright and honest. He could care less about playing along with the production crew’s behind-the-scene workings and decided not to join it.”

“Anyway, there must be some problem. If there was no problem with that program, then why didn’t Xiao Yu join it? Xiao Yu had always been looking forward to this opportunity.”

“Xiao Yu is really too upright and honest!”

“Xiao Yu, when would you come out and chat with us?! What exactly is going on?”

Li Zeyu saw that his little fans could actually guess right amidst their blind speculations and started feeling a little anxious.

Even though he didn’t join *The Performer*, he didn’t want to completely cut off all ties with the production team.

Especially since Xing Ke Station was one of the top television stations in the country. As long as it was a television show or a variety show on Xing Ke Station, it would definitely be insanely popular.

How impressive were they?

Even if it was some brainless, disgusting show, Xing Ke Station could even make it blow up.

Let alone the actors in it.

As long as you appeared on a Xing Ke Station show, that meant that you have a huge chance of gaining exposure.

Even if you couldn’t become super popular, at the very least, you could let the audience remember your name and not forget about you.

Chapter 839: They Have Never Joined a Fandom That Was So Peaceful and Calm

In this fast-paced and ever-changing entertainment industry, that was already very rare.

Therefore, no matter what, Li Zeyu wouldn’t want to offend Xing Ke Station either.

Helpless, he hurriedly appeared in his fan group chat. “Everyone, please stop speculating.”

“It’s Xiao Yu!”

“Xiao Yu has appeared!”

“Xiao Yu, quickly tell us! Why aren’t you joining *The Performer* anymore?”

“That’s right. We were all still looking forward to it because we thought you’d be in it.”

“In the past, you were doing well and you were really looking forward to joining *The Performer*. Why did you suddenly back out?”

Li Zeyu was really helpless. He couldn't tell his fans the truth either.

His little fans were very easily agitated. If they found out about the truth, things would blow up and it would really be a difficult mess to clean up.

Therefore, Li Zeyu could only say, “Don't get too anxious, everyone, and stop speculating. It's because of my own personal reason. I just wanted to rest a little for now.”

“Huh? Xiao Yu, your health isn't good?”

“No, it's not that it's bad, I'm just a little tired and need to have a good rest and recharge myself properly. The Chinese Arts Championships had completely let me learn about my own shortcomings. Even though I managed to get third place, the distance between me and the winner is really too great. Lu Man has only started learning performance for a year yet she was already so outstanding. I have been studying it for three years already and my improvements have been so slow. I can't even win against my own schoolmate, so how could I compete against those big shots? There is too much of a difference between our abilities, I'm just a little scared that I wouldn't be able to learn much because the gap is too great. There is too much that I would have to learn.”

“Even though the second place won against me by only 0.1 point, if the other party could get a higher score than me when she performs better than her usual standard, then what about me? Could it be that I have just continued steadily as I always have? I'm looking for a breakthrough, so I temporarily can't worry about joining a variety show. I'm sorry, all of you were looking forward so much to it before, but I've only disappointed all of you,” Li Zeyu said.

“We're not disappointed, not at all! No matter what your decision is, we will support you.”

All his fans started leaving behind messages of support.

Li Zeyu couldn't tell them about what happened behind the scenes of *The Performer*, but he didn't want to lie to the fans, so he could only say that.

While Li Zeyu's fans were speculating all sorts of things, Lu Man's fans were very peaceful.

When her fans found out that she wouldn't be joining *The Performer*, they were all very surprised too.

However, only a few new fans raised their questions.

“Why is Lu Man suddenly not joining? She is the winner of the Chinese Arts Championships. She can enter *The Performer* with the good result of being the winner. That's good for her.”

“People on the internet are saying that it could be something bad that happened behind the scenes. Is that true?”

At that moment, Lu Man's old fans appeared. “Whether or not anything happened, all we have to do is believe in Lu Man.”

“That’s right, all you newcomers might not know, but as an old fan, all of us know that Lu Man’s decision has never been wrong.”

“That’s right. Lu Man must have her own reasons for doing this. She also must have her reason for not saying it right now, so we just don’t have to ask. Believing in her will do.”

“If Lu Man thinks that she can say it, she will definitely say it.”

“That’s right. Anyway, I was going to watch *The Performer* only for Lu Man. If Lu Man is not joining it, then I won’t be watching. I will support whatever Lu Man does.”

“Ah, is that so?” The new fans realized that they had never joined a fandom that was so peaceful and calm. “Alright, I got it.”

“Sorry, I’m new here so I don’t know much. I’ve got it. I will stop asking, then.”

The new fans calmed down quite a bit because of the old fans’ reasonable attitude. Surprisingly, they had also become so reasonable and understanding.

Chapter 840: Explanation

Many new fans who hadn’t managed to say anything were all really surprised too. No other fandom had ever been so logical and reasonable.

Even though the fandom was calm and peaceful, the netizens who weren’t fans were still the majority.

They weren’t a fan of anyone and were all just neutral. Of course, there were also haters mixed among the crowd.

All of them kept raising their questions on the internet, guessing at why Lu Man and Li Zeyu would choose not to join.

“If only one of them left and chose not to participate, then that’s fine. But now that two of them aren’t joining, do you think there’s nothing fishy going on? I don’t believe it.”

“Li Zeyu has come out to explain.”

All the netizens flocked to Li Zeyu’s Weibo to read his explanation.

They weren’t Li Zeyu’s fans. Besides, they were just interested in watching things unfold and didn’t mind blowing the situation up even more.

Many of them said, “This reason won’t convince me.”

“Everyone says that Li Zeyu is the type who is very serious, focuses on his acting, very wholesome and caring, and morally upright, but I don’t believe in this type of character set-up. There definitely must be something fishy going on.”

“Either they couldn’t agree on the contract or they couldn’t come to a consensus on the pay.”

“Looking at the guests invited to *The Performer*, just based on how high-ranked they are, many celebrities are fighting so hard trying to find a way to take part in it, why would Li Zeyu reject it just

because he thinks his own acting skills weren't good enough? Then why did he work so hard to get into the finals back then?"

"Only his little fans would believe his explanation."

Just as more and more speculations started spreading on the internet, it gradually started becoming disadvantageous to The Performer as well.

The production crew of The Performer had an urgent meeting.

"How exactly did you talk to them?" the executive director of the production team, Ge Guangzhen, asked Xu Yaojie.

"What other way could I talk to them? I just passed them the contract and asked them to sign it. Originally, they were all prepared to sign it, but who knew that that troublemaker Lu Man would keep harping on the conditions in the contract and insist that we give them an explanation? If we didn't and if we did not agree to change the contract, then she wouldn't sign it." Xu Yaojie complained, "What rights do they have to ask us, the production team, to change the contract for them? Them getting to participate is their honor. I wouldn't agree to it, so Lu Man refused to sign the contract. She even encouraged the others not to sign it either."

Xu Yaojie added fuel to the fire by saying all these things.

Because of the incident about the contract, Lu Man had completely offended him.

He gave Lu Man a contract to sign only because he thought highly of her. And she actually thought that that gave her the right to talk about conditions with the production team?

If not for Lu Man's questions, the others also wouldn't have hesitated when signing the contract. Li Zeyu also wouldn't have followed Lu Man and would have signed the contract.

However, Xu Yaojie didn't dare to tell Ge Guangzhen that he had told Lu Man and the others that the production team had already decided on who would win or lose each round of the competition.

Back then, it was because he was feeling very superior and good about himself. He was too smug and complacent and had carelessly revealed it.

But who asked Lu Man to keep harping on one condition in the contract and refuse to let it go?

She just kept insisting on getting an explanation.

Anyway, even if Lu Man signed the contract, she would have found out about it sooner or later.

Even if he said it out, it shouldn't be a big deal either.

Even if Lu Man wanted to spread the information, she wouldn't have any proof anyway.

"Director Ge, from the start, before they even signed the contract, Lu Man already looked like a disobedient kid to me. If we got her to join the production team, it might cause even more trouble. There are so many people dreaming of joining our show but can't. Do we still have to beg a couple of students to do so?" Xu Yaojie said.

Hands behind his back, Ge Guangzhen paced around. "Hurry up and release a statement or something, telling everyone that their not joining the show has nothing to do with any behind-the-scenes dealings. Stop letting the netizens speculate."

"Li Zeyu has already come out and explained," Assistant Director Wang said. "Should we contact Lu Man too and also get her to explain so the netizens would stop speculating? It's not doing well for our show's reputation."