

Mr Han 891

Chapter 891: Did You Want to Hit Me and Kill Me?

“If something really happened, we old fellows would no longer be there and Zhuoli would be alone. But if someone was there with him to deal with it, all the responsibility and stress would not be placed on him. It must be someone who’ll be able to advance and retreat together with him, without caring about the benefits to their own family, someone who can separate oneself from them. It cannot be someone who doesn’t know anything, who places all hopes on him, and who even causes trouble for him.”

Old Mr. Han stared at Han Dongping. “I know you have your own schemes. Was it not enough that you schemed for your son’s wedding? Now you are even thinking of scheming for Zhuoli’s wedding? But Dongping, Zhuoli is the next head of the Han Family. His marriage is not something you can scheme for. You don’t have the right to!”

“I know that you have a few choices that you want to pick from, and you want to force one onto Zhuoli. You feel that if he’s not happy with that one or this one, there will definitely be someone he’ll be satisfied with. But Shen Nuo is right. No matter what, Zhuoli is not your son—he is Xijin’s son. Even if the elders should decide the matter, that is still not your duty.” Old Mr. Han sneered. “I don’t know what you are thinking, feeling like you can make the decisions for Zhuoli. What do you take me and your mom for? What do you take Xijin and Shen Nuo for? You are unhappy with Lu Man, so you want to think of ways to break them up?”

Old Mr. Han was at the side of the table at the moment, placing down the family book before then taking up a paperweight from the table and turning around to smash it towards Han Dongping.

Han Dongping was shocked. Although he was not sure what was flying over, when he saw a lump of something dark, he instinctively avoided it.

When the paperweight fell on the ground with a loud sound, only then did he find out what that was.

He looked at Old Mr. Han, still shocked. “Dad, did you want to hit me and kill me?”

If that really hit his head, his head would really have been broken and there would definitely have been blood!

“It won’t have killed you, but if you will stop after I smash you, then I’m very willing to smash you!” Old Mr. Han said angrily. “The look you were giving Lu Man just now was too dark. Han Dongping, if you dare to do anything to Lu Man, I would no longer acknowledge you as a member of the Han Family!”

Han Dongping was shocked. “I did not think of doing anything to Lu Man! What do you mean by that, Dad? Are you kicking me out of the family?”

“Do you think I won’t? Hindering the Han Family’s progress, not having the same goal as us, scheming to harm one’s family members—if things are like that, why would I leave you be? You’re a time bomb.” Old Mr. Han was shorter than Han Dongping.

He was already old. His head, which was full of white hair that was not dyed, looked like it would not be able to stand a hit.

But at that moment, standing in front of Han Dongping, he was like a giant.

Han Dongping clenched his hand into a fist, loosened it a few times, then clenched it back again a few times.

Old Mr. Han did not need to wait for his answer. "Lu Man is someone whom I and your mom, Xijin and Shen Nuo, and even Zhuofeng accept. Even though the two of them haven't gotten married yet, we already treat her as the daughter-in-law of the Han Family. You, watch yourself."

After saying that, Old Mr. Han walked out of the study, leaving Han Dongping be.

Han Dongping was so angry that he wanted to throw things to get rid of his anger. He held it back for a very long time before he left.

When Old Mr. Han came out, the atmosphere in the living room was quite stiff.

Although they did not hear Old Mr. Han scolding Han Dongping, they'd heard a loud sound that had reached the living room.

Old Mrs. Han saw something, then suddenly smiled. "I looked at the Chinese calendar."

Lu Man found it strange. What was Old Mrs. Han looking at the Chinese calendar for?"

The stiff atmosphere just now that was caused by Old Mr. Han's words became lively again.

Chapter 892: Getting a Marriage Certificate

"Your wedding. Based on what we've discussed before, we can wait to hold it after graduation, but isn't it better if you get your marriage certificate first?" Old Mrs. Han called out, "Auntie Sun."

Auntie Sun instantly brought over the Chinese calendar.

Old Mrs. Han flipped through it. "There is no suitable time today, but after the New Year's holiday is over, the ninth day is suitable. It's good for marriage and marrying out, as well as for getting engaged."

Han Zhuoli nodded. "It just so happens that the wedding ring I ordered for Man Man is going to be here this week."

The wedding ring was one that Han Zhuoli had specially ordered for Lu Man, and so it needed some time.

"Then that's just right. You two can go back and discuss it with Xiao Xia to see if it's suitable or not," Old Mrs. Han said.

However, she knew too that Xia Qingwei would definitely be alright with it.

Han Zhuoli turned to ask Lu Man, "What do you think?"

Lu Man was not expecting it. They had not been engaged for long yet they were going to get their marriage certificate already.

After getting their marriage certificate, the two of them would be actual husband and wife.

Before this, even though they were living together, they had yet to marry or get that certificate. Thus, Lu Man still felt that her identity was just Xia Qingwei's daughter.

No matter how intimate she was with Han Zhuoli, they were only fiance and fiancée, they were just lovers.

Actually, the sense of belonging was a little lacking.

But now that they were to be married, she and Han Zhuoli would totally become a family.

They'd be calling each other husband and wife. And though the two of them would still be staying together with no change from before, it felt different.

They would attain a level of intimacy that was difficult to describe.

In the future, after they give birth to a child, their family would become even more complete.

Now that she heard it, thinking about it still made her feel that it was a bit unreal.

Lu Man nodded. "Alright."

Her nod meant that after the New Year, the two of them were going to officially get their marriage certificate.

They were going to start a new life.

Han Dongping came out and just heard what they were saying.

Old Mrs. Han took a look at him, then looked away.

Did he really think that she was blind, not seeing the gaze Han Dongping was using to look at Lu Man?

She just pretended not to see it and was planning on knocking his head after everything was over.

It was Old Mr. Han who could not control himself and directly called Han Dongping into the study.

Otherwise, after everyone left, she would have scolded Han Dongping.

Old Mrs. Han's sudden mention of having Han Zhuoli and Lu Man get their marriage certificate, that was purposely said for Han Dongping to hear.

Let him stop thinking of making trouble.

If it were just making trouble, it was alright, but seeing Han Dongping's gaze just now, Old Mrs. Han was really scared he would do something that would harm Lu Man.

Because of that, her original plan had been to let Han Zhuoli and Lu Man decide on how to do it herself.

Now, she could not help but automatically bring it up earlier.

It was to let Lu Man be totally recognized by the whole family.

Of course, she could not keep hiding it from Han Dongping.

Lu Man was going to get married into the family.

Xia Yixin looked at Lu Man, lowered her gaze, and started to play with her child.

In the afternoon, they all left the old family house one by one.

Han Dongping angrily left the house.

Just after he left the house, before they got into the car, he could not help but question Lin Liye. "Did you know about Lu Man and Han Zhuoli being engaged since a long time ago?"

Lin Liye was just about to say something when Han Dongping's big hand waved about. "Don't tell me about how you just found out today. What the Old Mrs. Han says, I don't believe! So you're all a family and hid it just from me. I'm the only outsider, huh?!"

Han Dongping had received a big shock today.

Being pointed at by Old Mr. Han and scolded dumb, and also being the last person to find out that Han Zhuoli was actually engaged to Lu Man.

He felt like he was abandoned outside by his family.

He had always had a feeling of superiority, and he got very affected by what Old Mr. Han said today.

Chapter 893: What Kind of Thing Is She?

Lin Liye had ways to deal with him and gently convinced, "I really did not know, I never hide anything from you, ever. If I knew about it, how could I not have told you?"

Han Zhuofeng felt tired in his heart as he convinced his father alongside his mother. "That's right, Dad, we all did not know. Never mind me and mom, even big brother, who is never at home, also learned the news only today, right? But he did not react that much. For us, it's just finding out that Second Eldest Brother got engaged to Lu Man. It's just that simple."

Lin Liye said gently, "If there's anything, let's go back home and discuss. If Dad and Mom saw us at the doorway, it will not be good."

Lin Liye knew how to make Han Dongping calm, and Han Dongping coldly said, "I'll believe you all for the moment!"

Lin Liye got inside the car with Han Dongping. Han Zhuofeng drove his own car over, but he did not feel at ease leaving Lin Liye's side, scared that if Han Dongping threw his temper at Lin Liye, no one would be able to help her, and so he followed them.

Han Zhuoling brought Xia Yixin and his son and drove another car.

After getting inside the car, he started it, then Han Zhuoling looked at Xia Yixin and said, "What? Do you have an opinion on Lu Man?"

Xia Yixin trembled, guiltily hiding it with a smile. "No. Today was the first time I'm seeing her. What kind of opinion can I have?"

Han Zhuoling looked at her coldly, the corner of his lips twitching upwards. "No matter what thoughts you have, be honest and swallow it back down, then forget all about it."

Xia Yixin hugged her son while hesitantly saying, "What are you saying? Do you distrust me that much? Lu Man has no relation with me at all, so what can I do?"

Han Zhuoling laughed dryly, then suddenly extended his hand towards Xia Yixin.

Instinctively, Xia Yixin nervously avoided it by moving backward.

Han Zhuoling's fingers touched the little hairs that were in front of her ear. "What are you scared of?"

Xia Yixin licked her lips, then said, "You suddenly reached out. It scared me."

"Ha!" Han Zhuoling smiled mildly. "I remember that your relationship with Dai Yiran is not bad."

Xia Yixin suddenly turned her head. She did not think that Han Zhuoling would know about this!

Dai Yiran was her close friend. Back when she married him, Han Zhuoling was busy with work, and during the daytime, she was alone at home. Even when she met with Dai Yiran, she would not tell Han Zhuoling.

After that, she followed Han Zhuoling to Europe and occasionally talked to Dai Yiran over the phone, but it was all when Han Zhuoling was not around.

Who knew that Han Zhuoling actually knew about this too!

"Zhuoli is about to get married. You should stop thinking about helping your close friend," Han Zhuoling said coldly. "What kind of thing is she? She's not even worthy of being married into the Han Family."

Han Zhuoling pursed his lips. If it had been up to him, Xia Yixin would also not have been deemed as worthy.

Xia Yixin was introduced by Han Dongping.

Han Dongping introduced Xia Yixin to him first, and after that, he planned on matchmaking Han Zhuoli and Dai Yiran, but Han Dongping's judgment was really bad.

The reason he'd agreed back then was that, first, he had no one he liked at that time and was not interested in liking people. He was more interested in earning money.

The second was that, even though Xia Yixin was dumb, she was obedient and easy to control, which was a good thing.

If he would only have found a dumb but disobedient woman, and one who's even arrogant and hard to control, it's better to just stick to Xia Yixin.

So he agreed.

For him, women were easy to control and can be used to carry on the family line. They had no other use.

As long as they satisfied these two points, it was the same whoever he married.

Han Zhuoling gave all his love to the family business.

He just liked that kind of thing. What was he to do?

But Dai Yiran was not the same. Dai Yiran was the second kind, dumb but disobedient, and even arrogant and hard to control.

Chapter 894: Invitation for an Explosive Program

If that kind of woman entered the Han Family, she was going to harm them.

“This New Year, while you are in B City, be good and don’t contact Dai Yiran too much. Do you understand?” Han Zhuoling said.

Xia Yixin was quite scared of Han Zhuoling. She nodded and said, “Alright.”

Han Zhuoling glanced at her, not knowing if she really was listening to him.

Han Zhuoli left the family house with Lu Man and returned to Xia Qingwei’s place.

Han Zhuoli told Xia Qingwei about how they were going to get their marriage certificate as soon as the New Year holiday was over.

As expected, Xia Qingwei was very supportive. “It’s good that you are getting your marriage certificate.”

After they get their marriage certificate, the two children staying together would be normal and expected, right?

Furthermore, Han Zhuoli is not that young anymore. Lu Man is young, it doesn’t matter for her, but Han Zhuoli is older. It’s better if he gets married earlier.

Han Zhuoli did not know—even his mother-in-law felt that he was quite old!

The three of them were chatting when Lu Man received Hu Zhonghui’s phone call.

“Lu Man, just now, Dong Hua Station contacted me, wanting you to join their *Classic X Files* show,” Hu Zhonghui’s voice could not hide her excitement.

Classic X Files was an old and famous variety show of Dong Hua Station. When it was just released, it was extremely explosive and managed to win against all the variety shows at that time.

Now that it was the fourth season, although it’s not as popular as when it first aired, it was still in the top three among the Friday night variety shows.

The show was classic, and every season, they picked a part of a classic movie, mostly old movies, as well as the best works of the big directors in recent years.

The show would invite the original cast of the movie or drama so they could compete in various areas with new actors.

Enacting a crying scene within 10 seconds, using different emotions to act out a foreign script, or breaking down the script of the original show based on one's understanding—what was being tested was the actor's basics in terms of lines.

The new generation of actors will be separated into two teams, and the show will use lot-drawing for them to choose the part they would be performing. They would then have to find their own guest actors to perform the part of the script of the movie again.

That was the time for the actors to show their connections: by finding friends in the industry or the seniors in the same company.

Anyway, it was just that you had to think of a way yourself.

Every episode, the audience would anticipate what mysterious guest the guests would bring.

This part of the show became the most classic and the most anticipated part.

In the end, the original show's actors will choose which team wins.

Winning or losing was not as important for this show as it was for *The Performer*. The most important thing for them was the process.

Classic X Files kept on being popular until its fourth year. No one could compete with it in the same time slots.

Xing Ke Station and Dong Hua Station were old competitors. Originally, the variety show slot on Friday night had always been Xing Ke Station's, but since Dong Hua Station came up with *Classic X Files*, Xing Ke Station had lost its position as the sole ruler of the variety shows.

Because of that, *The Performer* was released to go against *Classic X Files*, hoping to get back the first place in viewership ratings for the same time slot.

Classic X Files aired at 9 on Friday nights, and thus, *The Performer* also aired on Friday night.

Xing Ke Station spent a lot of effort to finally think of a proposal for *The Performer*, wanting to suppress *Classic X Files*. Who'd have known that Lu Man would pop up? Before *The Performer* even aired, it was already half-dead.

After that incident happened, never mind winning against *Classic X Files*—if they were able to ensure that their viewership ratings wouldn't flop, that was already worth being happy about.

Classic X Files's first season's sponsorship fee was originally 50 million yuan, but now, in the fourth season, it had increased to 450 million yuan.

Chapter 895: It Was Our CEO in the Car Just Now?!

The Performer had managed to get Wei Feng's main sponsorship for 500 million yuan with much difficulty. They had been planning that, after the show started to air and the response was good, they would directly expose the amount that they received to slap *Classic X Files*'s face.

Who'd have thought that with Lu Man involved, the 500-million-yuan main sponsorship would fly away and be reduced to 40 million?

Given their viewership ratings, it didn't look like they would be able to fight, and even in terms of their main sponsorship fees, they could not compare.

"It's not an actual competition. The results of the competition are more for entertainment purposes," Hu Zhonghui said. "It doesn't matter what the result is. I feel that this opportunity is not bad. A lot of young actors want to go on this show. What do you say?"

"I also think that it's not bad. I can participate," Lu Man said.

"If you think it's fine, then I'll reply to them. The other party said that if we are willing to participate, then they will come over to properly talk in detail with us," Hu Zhonghui said.

"Alright," Lu Man agreed.

It just so happened that Lu Man was having a holiday right now. As she wanted to participate in some shows, it would be very convenient.

After hanging up the phone, she told Han Zhuoli about the matter.

Han Zhuoli nodded to express his support. "This show is not bad. Although it's very much for entertainment, it doesn't ignore the basics of acting. Using the basis of entertainment and yet still emphasizing on spreading the spirit of acting—the last part is not really a true competition. Because of that, the guests don't really care about winning or losing. As there are no consequences to either winning or losing, there are no inner workings."

Thus, on the second day, the assistant director of *Classic X Files* personally came down from the East of China to B City, checked in, and rested for a while.

In the afternoon, they set an appointment to meet with Lu Man in the cafe on the first floor of the hotel.

Lu Man brought Hu Zhonghui along for the appointment. Because it was Sunday, Han Zhuoli was also resting at home, and so he directly sent Lu Man to the hotel.

Upon reaching the entrance of the hotel, Han Zhuoli said, "Chat slowly, there is no rush. Make sure to talk about all the details. I'll wait for you here and drive you home later."

"Then I'll try my best to finish discussing with them quickly," Lu Man said. She could not bear to let Han Zhuoli wait for too long.

He was normally busy. It was rare that he could rest.

Han Zhuoli rubbed Lu Man's hair. "Go on in."

Lu Man got down from the car. Hu Zhonghui was already waiting at the entrance of the hotel.

Seeing Lu Man, she hurriedly waved. "Lu Man, come over."

"Is that assistant director already here?" Lu Man asked as she walked over.

“Not yet. He’s staying here, so he’ll directly come down and will be quick. I’m scared that he’ll wait long as that’ll cause us to leave a bad impression, so I was going to tell him when we arrived,” Hu Zhonghui explained and took out her phone to call the director.

“Director Chi, hello, I’m Hu Zhonghui. Lu Man and I have already reached the hotel,” Hu Zhonghui said.

Lu Man thought in her heart, *This assistant director’s name is really quite interesting.*

Director Chi Director Chi1, causing people to think it sounds like “late.”

After hanging up the phone, Hu Zhonghui casually asked, “Did the driver send you over?”

“It’s Zhuoli who sent me,” Lu Man casually said.

Hu Zhonghui was suddenly alert. “F*ck, it was our CEO in the car just now?!”

“...” Lu Man was a bit muddled by Hu Zhonghui’s sudden exclamation. “Ye... yes.”

“I just knew it, I just knew it.” Hu Zhonghui was extremely regretful. “Of course it’s our boss who sends you personally. I actually did not go up to greet him.”

Lu Man laughed. “If you want to, when we leave later on, we can send you home. You can greet him all the way back.”

Upon hearing that, Hu Zhonghui almost shook her head off. “No no no no no, I can go home by myself! There’s no need for the boss to send me!”

Chapter 896: Challenge Guest

It could be said that her desperation for survival was really strong.

If she really let Han Zhuoli send her and held him up from properly spending some alone time with Lu Man, she would feel that it would be a miracle if she could even still keep her job.

She had finally become a manager, and Lu Man’s ability was strong as well. She generally didn’t have to worry about her much. Most of the time she was like a casual onlooker who just had to watch what was happening.

There was no other manager who was as relaxed as she was.

Of course, she would have an occasional scare or two, but hadn’t Lu Man perfectly settled them all already?

Entering the cafe in the hotel, they saw there were booth seats inside. Even though there wasn’t a door, each booth was rather spacious and there was a sizeable distance between them all.

The booths formed a circle, leaving only a small gap about the size of two people at the entrance. There was quite a lot of privacy and was a very suitable place for business matters to be discussed.

Lu Man and Hu Zhonghui had just arrived. Before they could even sit down, the assistant director from Dong Hua Station arrived.

“Director Chi, nice to meet you, hello,” Hu Zhonghui hurriedly called and shook Assistant Director Chi’s hand.

Lu Man also bowed slightly and shook Assistant Director Chi’s hand, saying, “Nice to meet you, Director Chi.”

“No no no, just call me Assistant Director Chi, that will do.” Assistant Director Chi said with a chuckle. “An assistant director is an assistant director. If our executive director heard you, he would really think that I’m trying to fight for his spot. Besides, it’s all my surname’s fault. Director Chi sounds just like ‘late.’”

Assistant Director Chi was rather helpless too. “When I really become a director, if I’m still called ‘Chi Dao,’ even though it sounds a little weird, at least that’s actually what I should be called. I’ll just live with it the, but for now, never mind that hahahaha.”

From their first impression of him, Assistant Director Chi seemed pretty nice, at least much better than Assistant Director Xu.

Xu Yaojie hadn’t even reached that position but had already started becoming arrogant and looked down on others. He really was near-sighted.

No matter what this Assistant Director Chi was thinking about, at least in front of others, he was still polite.

“Come, come, take a seat.” Assistant Director Chi smiled and said, “This is my name card. My family name is Chi, and my name is Xingrui.”

“Miss Hu must have told you roughly about what’s going on. Let me elaborate more about it in detail.” Chi Xingrui ordered three cups of coffee and said, “I’m the assistant director for Classic X Files. May I know how much you know about our show, Lu Man?”

“I’m a loyal fan of Classic X Files. Even when I couldn’t watch each episode on the television, I would still watch the replay on the online application. As for the professional details about the show, I might not be so sure about it. Let me tell you what I know about Classic X Files as a member of the audience,” Lu Man said with a smile.

She elaborated accurately and in great detail every single part of the show, as well as all its classic activities and segments.

This let Chi Xingrui feel that Lu Man wasn’t just being polite to him when she said that she was a loyal fan.

Whether she was indeed a loyal fan or she crammed everything into her mind at the last minute, it still really showed her sincerity.

Chi Xingrui nodded in satisfaction. He felt that this young girl Lu Man was pretty good. He also didn’t know what The Performer was thinking for stubbornly going against her.

“So, you’re right. Even I have nothing much to add on.” Chi Xingrui said with a smile. “We’ve seen your performance in Greedy Wolf Operation and Red Tiger, as well as in the Chinese Arts Championships. Therefore, we wish to invite you to become one of the challenge guests for our show for one episode.”

A so-called challenge guest was an up-and-coming young actor paying homage to a classic and challenging an original actor's performance.

"If you confirm that you're going to participate, then that episode would be aired on the fifth day of the Lunar New Year," Chi Xingrui said.

Chapter 897: Fight Head-on

Lu Man slightly raised her eyebrows and said, "It couldn't be that you're thinking of going right up against *The Performer*, right?"

"Hahahahaha!" Chi Xingrui burst into laughter. "Indeed, you do live up to your name!"

This young lady was really quick-witted.

He had just mentioned the airing date of the show and she was already able to glean so much.

Chi Xingrui also stopped hiding or evading. "Yes. Back when Xing Ke Station designed their show, *The Performer*, it was also meant to go up against our show, *Classic X Files*. Both shows are about discussing and nurturing the current actors' acting skills. Their choosing to let guests battle over their performances of classic film scenes and scripts is honestly also a way of paying homage to the classics."

"Xing Ke Station and ours are old rivals. All these years, we at Dong Hua Station have been doing pretty well in the variety shows, and so Xing Ke Station couldn't sit still either." Chi Xingrui took a sip of his coffee. "Usually, when we invite guests to join our show, we wouldn't be on such short notice. We would do so at least one month before. We need to give the artistes time to plan their schedule."

Chi Xingrui was being very honest with Lu Man. "I'm not going to lie to you either. This time, Xing Ke Station has aimed straight at our station and wanted to use the viewership ratings at the same time slot to attack us, so we definitely won't be happy about this. Originally, we were honestly really worrying over this. After all, our show has been going on for a while and the audience will definitely be a little tired of it. It definitely wouldn't be as exciting and fresh as their new show, which could ignite the audience's curiosity. Yet, who could have expected that *The Performer* would go awry and that you would be precisely one of the main stars of this incident?"

"While *The Performer's* reputation is going downhill now, we have received news that their cast on their first broadcast will be really eye-catching," Chi Xingrui said.

Lu Man asked in surprise, "According to what I know, the actors who were winners of Best Actor or Best Actress awards have all left the show. Additionally, those old-time actors who cherish their own reputation also stopped participating in it. How impressive could their cast be?"

She had a list of the cast of *The Performer* with her. Da Xiong had given it to her, but it wasn't entirely complete.

"You are looking only at those with solid acting skills." Chi Xingrui said with a smile. "But don't forget, there are still those big-time popular actors. *The Performer* really went all out this time. This time, they have pumped serious money to invite Xu Jingfeng. His pay is the highest. Additionally, they have also invited the male and female leads from the two most popular idol dramas right now. As both shows are

currently really popular, their popularity haven't faded yet, and the audience really likes both male leads. Wu Guan even managed to become an A-list just because of this. No matter how their acting skills are, just based on their popularity, they can attract a huge wave of fans. All these people will be appearing in the first episode."

"Originally, when *The Performer* faced problems, we weren't too worried about it. But right now, we're not so sure. Their premiere's viewership ratings might very likely hit us hard."

"Therefore, your production team decided to invite me?" Lu Man smiled and shook her head. "But there's no point getting me onboard. I'm at most only a C-lister right now. I do have fans, but my fanbase isn't large enough. My popularity can't even compare to those other stars. I can barely compare with B-listers."

Chi Xingrui never thought that she would be rather humble.

If any typical person were to have Lu Man's success, it was inevitable for them to feel a little proud and think that they are extremely incredible.

They would think that that they are close to beating a B-lister and can head straight towards the A-list, and if they just worked a little harder, that they could become an international superstar.

On the internet, Zhang Lun and those other people always talked about how Lu Man always disregarded others, was arrogant and proud, and didn't clearly know where she actually belonged.

Even though he knew that they were always just hating on Lu Man, he couldn't help but be a little affected by their words and think that if so many people were talking bad about Lu Man, they must have their own reasons.

Chapter 898: Beat Down

Even if they were exaggerating, there would at least be some truth in it.

It couldn't be that there was no truth in it at all and that they were just blindly hating.

However, after seeing Lu Man today, he realized that that wasn't the case at all.

Lu Man was intelligent, knew her boundaries, and was very clear about her own knowledge.

She knew where she stood and how she should behave, and she wouldn't overstep her boundaries.

At least, in this aspect, Chi Xingrui had a pretty good impression of Lu Man. She wasn't like what those other people had said about her.

"That's right. But you are the expert in this field. You could probably guess our intentions," Chi Xingrui said and smiled.

Lu Man smiled. She knew that the other party wanted to see exactly how much ability she had. "Then I'll just say it boldly. If I say anything wrong, please don't laugh at me. When you head back and talk to the head director about me, please spare some thought."

“Hahahaha!” Chi Xingrui gestured a “please” gesture. “I promise you. Go ahead and say it.”

“Because of my conflict with *The Performer*, the matter about its internal workings got exposed. Right now, to the netizens, I’m standing on the opposing side of *The Performer*. Speaking about it from a bigger scale, from the Chinese Arts Championships to *The Performer*, I’ve always been standing on the opposing side of unfair competitions. Therefore, if I participate in any competition-like shows, that would precisely speak about the fairness of that competition.”

“Of course, *Classic X Files* itself isn’t really a competition-based variety show, so this problem doesn’t exist for you. However, because the conflict between me and *The Performer* is really big, and *The Performer* is aiming straight to defeat your show and specially decided to air at the same time slot, the motive is very clear. Also, with my participation as a guest on that show on the same day as the premiere of *The Performer*, it would instantly bring the competition between the two shows to a whole other level. It would let *The Performer* know that your show knows about *The Performer*’s intentions and that your show is not afraid of the competition. Asking me to join is to fight head-on with them.”

“Also, because of my conflict with *The Performer*, when netizens find out that I’ve joined your show, it would seem really exciting and interesting, so they will definitely follow it more closely. Whether they watch your show or watch *The Performer*, or follow both parties’ viewership ratings, no matter who wins or who loses, it would definitely raise the popularity to yet another higher level. This would be a good thing for your show.”

“Also, one more point, I’m just boldly guessing here.” Lu Man sipped a bit of her coffee. “All along, I’ve been using the trends to create topics and raise the box office earnings. Thinking about it, I see it could be used for viewership ratings too. Because of my success during the past few incidences, could it be that your show is hoping to have my help to beat *The Performer* down too?”

Chi Xingrui was a little taken aback for a moment. Then, right after, he burst out into laughter. “I didn’t think that you would have even guessed that. The last point is our production’s team small little thought. Having you say it out like that is still a little awkward.”

Lu Man smiled and said, “I don’t really mind. Besides, it’s good to lay it out clearly. Doing so would make our cooperation even more convenient.”

Chi Xingrui was surprised. “Are you agreeing to it?”

Lu Man smiled and said, “I don’t seem to have a reason not to agree. Also, to be honest, I really don’t want *The Performer* to make a comeback. Not because they have offended me—actually, it does not even have anything to do with the show itself. I have another reason. However, it’s just that right now, that reason seems to be tied closely to the show, so I might as well do it too.”

She wanted to let the Lu Corporation lose out, so *The Performer* had to lose out.

Chapter 899: Don’t Say It Even If You Have Figured It Out

Chi Xingrui’s reaction was extremely fast. He instantly remembered that the sponsor for *The Performer* right now had become the Lu Corporation.

He couldn't hold it back and blurted out, "Could it be because of the sponsor?"

Lu Man smiled happily. "Assistant Director Chi, don't say it even if you have figured it out!"

"Hahahaha!" Chi Xingrui just laughed a little but hurriedly stopped.

They had only had a couple of sips of coffee but he had laughed quite a lot. He needed to hold back a little.

Chi Xingrui pressed against the corner of his lips, trying to flatten it down. He said, "Alright, then, it's a win-win situation for us. We want to let *The Performer* flop right at the start of their premiere, so much so that they can't make a comeback, while you want to let that person lose out by beating *The Performer* down. That's pretty good, pretty good."

Chi Xingrui came here prepared. He took out a contract from his briefcase. "This is the contract. Your pay will be 500,000 yuan."

Hu Zhonghui's eyebrow twitched a little. This pay was a little high!

Even though Lu Man had two high-grossing films in her portfolio, her own individual popularity and net worth weren't too high.

It was like you appeared as a small character in a movie that grossed billions at the box office. You couldn't say that because this movie's box office was good, you, a small character, would be popular too.

However, Hu Zhonghui didn't say it out loud. Of course, it would be best if the other party was willing to give Lu Man a higher pay.

Yet, even though Hu Zhonghui didn't say anything, Lu Man spoke instead. "Why are you paying me so much? My current net worth doesn't seem to deserve an appearance fee of 500,000 yuan."

It was different from moonlighting.

When moonlighting, taking part in some advertising work or some company annual event, etc., the pay would be a little higher.

However, for a major station like Dong Hua Station—and it was one of their popular variety shows—taking part in it meant that you will gain exposure, that you will increase the public's recognition of you. All of these can't be measured with money.

Moreover, *Classic X Files* had always invited really popular artistes. For those who were like Lu Man right now, it would still be rather difficult for them to be able to get on that stage.

Therefore, if your net worth couldn't make the mark, don't even bother about thinking of getting a high appearance fee or anything.

Chi Xingrui didn't expect that Lu Man would be this honest. He smiled and said, "Indeed, our production team had set your appearance fee as 200,000 yuan."

Lu Man nodded. That should be the normal price.

If the pay was too high, not only would Lu Man not feel that she had benefitted from it, she would even be a little shocked and suspicious.

Why would something so good just fall from the sky for nothing?

Chi Xingrui saw that Lu Man's reaction right now was still as calm. His impression of her just got better.

Because of their old grievances with Lu Man, Zhang Lun and the others were always rather biased against her.

Originally, he thought that there would always be some partial truth to their words.

However, from the looks of it now, those bunch of people didn't say a single word of truth at all!

Lu Man completely wasn't like what they said.

Meeting her today, he finally realized how big of a difference Lu Man was in person as compared to how they were talking about her.

Lu Man was steady, calm, and knew her boundaries. She could see the situation very clearly and knew her own worth.

Honestly, thinking about it carefully, no matter what she did, they had honestly all been within her area of control and ability. She had never stepped across that boundary.

When other people looked at her behavior, it seemed as if she was being very high-profile and had completely overstepped, but in fact, she had always been in control of her own behavior. It only looked as if it was high-profile, but she had never overstepped.

She went against Zhang Lun on a very high profile battle, but she was actually representing *Red Tiger* when she went against Zhang Lun.

She was a small-time actress. Indeed, she cannot be compared with Zhang Lun, but *Red Tiger* could, right?!

Therefore, she used *Red Tiger* to defeat Zhang Lun.

The ultimate winner was actually *Red Tiger*. However, because she was the one doing the act, others felt like she was obnoxiously and arrogantly going against Zhang Lun.

It was the same towards Bourbotte too. She used *Red Tiger's* entire team to fight against Bourbotte. She wasn't delusional and obnoxious to feel that she alone could be compared to Bourbotte.

Chapter 900: Suspect Lu Man

However, because she led the netizens along, they appeared overtly massive and strong. Hence, people couldn't help but blame all of this on her again.

But honestly, the final beneficiary was still *Red Tiger*. Meanwhile, Lu Man was still a C-list actress.

Lu Man smiled calmly and didn't say a word. Chi Xingrui saw Lu Man's reaction and felt that she probably already knew what the remaining 300,000 yuan meant.

Chi Xingrui smiled and said, "The remaining 300,000 was decided by our show's director. The 200,000 yuan is your appearance fee for participating in the show. The 300,000 yuan is your pay for helping in the public relations for our show. Of course, this 300,000 yuan is only the public relations fee for one episode. We calculate according to the episode."

"Calculate according to the episode?" Lu Man didn't say anything, but Hu Zhonghui couldn't quite understand.

Chi Xingrui explained and said, "*The Performer* and we are rivals. However, no one knows how their viewership ratings will turn out either. We will still have to see how the first episode turns out. If, in the first episode, we can hit them down and defeat them, that means that no matter what, they would never be able to overtake our show. We then won't need to do any more publicity or public relations work. However, if we lose on the first episode, or if we won but not by a big margin, then we will have to trouble Lu Man for the next few episodes. We will pay her accordingly based on each episode, until we are finally able to beat them down."

That also meant that perhaps they might need Lu Man for the entire season. When they finally manage to deal with *The Performer*, their partnership with Lu Man would end.

Hu Zhonghui blurted out, "Then aren't you afraid that Lu Man would just keep dragging things out, holding *The Performer* at the brink of death but not killing them entirely for an entire season?"

Chi Xingrui laughed out loud mindlessly. "Say, are you really Lu Man's manager? Aren't you afraid that after what you said, we would regret it and suspect Lu Man?"

Hu Zhonghui instantly covered her mouth and looked at Lu Man nervously.

Lu Man broke into a smile. "He's just scaring you, but you should pay more attention next time too. You are my manager, so you should side with me more instead. Don't just blurt out everything you're thinking."

"I was too careless, too careless," Hu Zhonghui hurriedly said.

It was honestly because Chi Xingrui's behavior was too down-to-earth and straight-forward that she forgot both of their positions.

Lu Man smiled and shook her head. Hu Zhonghui was her manager. If she had to manage some other celebrity, Hu Zhonghui's mind would long be unable to catch up.

She really didn't know why someone as innocent as Hu Zhonghui would think about becoming a manager.

Hu Zhonghui laughed dryly. "Your public relations fee right now is even higher than your appearance fee as a celebrity."

Chi Xingrui smiled a little and explained, "Do you not know about Lu Man's status in the public relations industry right now? Looks like she already has equal status as Wei Zilin. In the entertainment industry, perhaps Lu Man is almost a C-list actress, but in the public relations industry, she is already this."

Chi Xingrui stuck his thumb up.

“The price of 300,000 yuan per episode matches Lu Man’s current net worth in the public relations industry,” Chi Xingrui said.

Honestly, in their field, they were also spreading a rumor. If any production team or show sought out Lu Man, it would be like tying down a top public relations personnel.

They could no longer pay Lu Man like she was purely just an actress only. They still had to factor in her status as a top public relations personnel and the publicity that she would bring the show.

Right now, there were quite a lot of shows that were just observing. They had not invited Lu Man yet because they felt that it was rather pricey having to pay her, a C-list actress, a B-list actress’ fee.

What if the show didn’t even need to do any public relations work or publicity, then wouldn’t they lose out?