

# Sweetheart 181

## Chapter 181: Is That Outfit On Young Master Mu... A Work of Xing Chen's?

"My favorite designer is the one whose model appeared second last, Miss Wu Lingshan.

"Her design is graceful and elegant, and it incorporates many retro elements. Be it the fabric used, the embroidery, or the craftsmanship, all these aspects are no doubt first-class. One can see the designer's effort from the final product. This kind of craftsmanship is exactly what young designers nowadays lack."

A male designer in his forties was the first to voice his comments.

A lot of the other judges on the panel also nodded with him.

"Not bad. Wu Lingshan's design is indeed very charming. The integration between various elements is excellent."

"The embroidery on this gown requires a good few days work of at least four to five embroidery workers. Its standard is comparable to or, one might even claim that it might surpass that of a typical customization of a high-end outfit!"

"I, too, will vote for Wu Lingshan. Despite the minor hiccups in her model's catwalk, occasional mistakes like that are normal and therefore shall not be a justification to forfeit a designer's outstanding talent."

The judges gave their comments one after another as they one-sidedly spoke up for Wu Lingshan.

The audience and reporters in the stands slowly became dumbfounded.

"What... what is going on? Why is everyone saying that Wu Lingshan's design is better? Xing Chen's design is clearly miles ahead!"

"That's right, I think so too. But... Since the judges said so, could it just be a problem with our aesthetic standards?"

The host was also a little puzzled, so he asked one of the judges, "Well then, Master Meng, what do you... think of Xing Chen's work?"

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Master Meng was a good friend of Wu Lingshan's father. Naturally, he immediately answered disdainfully, "I have no idea how you could possibly ask such a question! Which part of Xing Chen's horrendously ordinary design could compare to that of Wu Lingshan's?"

"All she had in her was her models' outstanding performance on stage! Mind you, the Huafeng Competition is a competition for fashion designers, not models!"

The others nodded in agreement.

This scene put a smug smile on Wu Lingshan's face.

She could almost see the champion's trophy waving at her!

At this moment, the host turned to Mu Yichen.

“Young Master Mu, it’s truly surprising that you are able to join us today as one of the judges for the competition. May I ask if there is a designer here that catches your eye?”

Everyone quieted down and looked at Mu Yichen.

Even though Young Master Mu had remained silent for the entire time, his presence in the hall was so strong that no one could possibly ignore him.

The cameramen even took close-up shots at the man once every few minutes.

With Mu Yichen’s social status, a few simple words from him would turn out to be significantly more impactful than that of the rest of the judges combined.

Bai Xinxin could not help but take a step forward and turn around to face Mu Yichen.

The gloominess from before was swept away, and all that remained was a bright, sweet smile on her face.

Young Master Mu would definitely speak up for her!

What was the point of those small-time models’ excellent performance anyway? It would not matter in the least, because the person who would be hoarding the limelight today was none other than her, Bai Xinxin!

Mu Yichen took the microphone as he subtly adjusted his posture.

Before he could speak, a girl from the crowd suddenly cried out in surprise.

“Ah! This casual suit that Young Master Mu is wearing, could it be... could it be the one that was posted on Xing Chen’s Weibo?”

“What? Miss, what did you just say?”

The host hurriedly walked over to the girl.

The girl had acted on impulse. Now that the cameras turned to face her, she started becoming a little nervous.

“Ahem, it’s just... I’ve been following Xing Chen’s Weibo, and she occasionally posts some of her latest designs online. I happened to have seen Young Master Mu’s current outfit by chance and it left a deep impression on me because I wanted to have one tailored for my boyfriend...”

### **Chapter 182: Are You Sure He Isn’t Here to Flaunt Your Love for Each Other?**

A huge commotion instantly rose within the media workers’ stand, everyone especially the media reporters started furiously discussing among themselves.

They had been keeping an eye on Luo Chenxi’s Weibo ever since they started following the incident where Wu Lingshan falsely accused Luo Chenxi for stealing the diamond bracelet.

Everyone quickly went on Weibo to confirm the statement.

After they did, they all became amazed.

“It’s real, it really is! This outfit on Young Master Mu is the one Xing Chen posted on Weibo!”

“Let me take a look, you’re right! They do look exactly the same! Even the details on the collar and the cuffs too! They’re totally the same outfit!”

“What? How could this be legit? If that’s the case, isn’t Xing Chen way too capable? She’s even made Young Master Mu put on an outfit she designed!”

For designers who truly wanted to hit the ceiling of popularity, the best way to advertise their work was not to hire supermodels as ambassadors or make their way into major fashion magazines. Instead, it was to have big-time celebrities from all walks of life wear the clothes they designed.

As long as they could gain recognition from major noble families, they would no doubt become famous.

Many designers worked hard to curry favor with the daughters of various noble families and popular celebrities just so that these big shots would fancy wearing their designed outfits just once.

As the hugely famous ideal husband of the nation, countless designers wanted to draw Mu Yichen’s attention toward their design.

However, all of his clothes were custom-tailored in an old tailor shop with hundreds of years of history, so he had never considered trying clothing brands from rookie designers.

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Unexpectedly, this time, not only did Mu Yichen break the convention, he also wore an outfit designed by a rookie among the rookies, Xing Chen!

This was definitely huge news!

As the reporters finally started reacting, they swarmed forward and furiously snapped photographs of Young Master Mu without a care for the fact that they were in the middle of the finals of the Huafeng Competition.

Wu Lingshan and Bai Xinxin were completely stunned on the spot and remained dumbfounded for what seemed like a long time.

Since they both thought that Mu Yichen would support Wu Lingshan, they totally had no idea he was going to wear Xing Chen’s designed outfit to the fashion show!

‘What... What’s going on? No, something must have gone wrong. This must be a coincidence. Yichen must’ve simply grabbed a set of clothing without even looking, so he completely didn’t notice the brand of the outfit he’s wearing.

‘That’s right, that must be it! Yichen must’ve come for me! I have no idea what kind of lowly method Xing Chen used to sneak her designer outfit into the Mu Family. She’s even abusing Yichen’s fame to hype up her own work. I’m sure he’ll definitely not let this despicable person off the hook!’

Bai Xinxin became extremely anxious as she desperately looked for excuses to convince herself.

From the back, Fang Ziqian almost burst into laughter when she vaguely saw Bai Xinxin’s pale face.

She secretly tugged at Luo Chenxi and said in a soft voice, "Little Xixi, do you think Young Master Mu is in love with you? I can't believe he came here as a judge wearing your designs. Are you sure he isn't here to flaunt the your love for each other?"

Contrary to expectations, Luo Chenxi did not have the slightest hint of a smile on her face. Instead, her face was tensed.

"Drop it, I'm so d\*mn frustrated I could die!"

She totally could not wait to whoosh back to the backstage, whip out her cell phone, and wipe that Weibo post off the face of Earth!

What exactly was Mu Yichen thinking?

Did he not put up a face full of disdain when she got him to try that outfit on back then? He even said it was just 'so-so'!

That comment had left a scar on Luo Chenxi, causing her self-esteem to suffer a huge blow.

However, the man ended up coming to the Huafeng Competition while wearing the outfit, so could he be deliberately screwing with her?

At this moment, the host came back to his senses from his shock. He returned to Mu Yichen as he cleared his throat.

"Ahem, what a surprise, Young Master Mu, the outfit that you are currently wearing is designed by the grand finale designer of the day, Xing Chen. Does this mean that you are here to support her?"

### **Chapter 183: Is He Here for Xing Chen?**

Mu Yichen pursed his lips as he swept a glance at Luo Chenxi in her menswear. He could see that she was extremely nervous.

He then nodded and faintly answered, "Yes."

The host asked again, "Then... Please allow me to ask this, how did you come across Xing Chen's design in the first place, and what do you think about her work?"

"I came across Xing Chen's work because..."

Mu Yichen answered slowly. As his deep and magnetic voice broadcasted live on the internet through the cameras, the netizens instantly started losing their minds and furiously commented on the chat sections on various online streaming platforms.

However, halfway through his sentence, he suddenly stopped talking.

Luo Chenxi instantly felt her heart pounding so hard it felt as if it could pound through her chest.

Mu Yichen would not reveal their relationship out of the blue, would he?

He would not be that much of an \*sshole, right?

Aside from the fact that they were not truly husband and wife, Luo Chenxi did not want to abuse her title as Young Madam Mu to push her odds of winning in the competition.

She had been working so hard all this time just so she could win the masses's recognition solely by relying on her own design talent.

If Young Master Mu slipped up now, all her past efforts would be in vain!

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Mu Yichen briefly paused before speaking again, "I, too, noticed Xing Chen's designs from Weibo. I really liked them, which is why we got in touch, and I had her tailor a few sets of outfits for me."

"In my opinion, Xing Chen's design is very much in line with my aesthetic standards. It perfectly reflects the definition of 'elegance', and is without a doubt the first choice for both men and women with a certain specific taste for their outfits."

Mu Yichen's words surprised everyone once again.

The fact that the man attended the fashion show in an outfit designed by Xing Chen had been a clear indication for his affinity toward her design.

Therefore, no one had expected him to go as far as giving such high praise to Xing Chen.

It was an admiration that came from the bottom of his heart.

Meanwhile, the color on Bai Xinxin's face instantly disappeared.

She stared at Mu Yichen's perfectly handsome side profile in disbelief and her pale lips trembled slightly as if she was about to cry.

'Did Yichen really come for that designer called Xing Chen instead of me?'

How... How was this possible?!

There was no way Bai Xinxin could accept how things had turned away beyond her expectations!

Regrettably, Mu Yichen had never really batted an eye at her.

As soon as he finished giving his praise to Xing Chen, he put down his microphone and sat back down with a plain face.

With this, the rest of the judges' faces were filled with indescribable awkwardness.

Just a moment ago, they were looking down on Xing Chen's design for being dull and ordinary. Who would have thought things would take such an unexpected turn in the blink of an eye.

Mu Yichen actually stepped out to prove his support for Xing Chen through his actions and even complimented her highly.

Mu Yichen's praises to Xing Chen hit so hard that their initial criticism backfired like heavy slaps in their faces!

Young Master Mu was publicly acknowledged as the number one noble son of China. Hence, any piece of clothing he wore would immediately become a hit and be wildly pursued by his fans.

A single word of praise from him was more impactful than a hundred words from all the other judges combined.

Despite Young Master Mu's completely different opinion from the rest of the judges, no one would doubt his tastes. Instead, everyone would only assume that the rest of the judicial panel was not fit to be judges because of their low aesthetic standards!

Master Meng was the first to speak after a brief moment of silence.

"Hmm, about that... Upon closer look, Xing Chen's design is indeed very spiritual, unlike Wu Lingshan's exaggerated work. Xing Chen is truly a fashion designer who respects practicality and realism!"

His words acted as a shepherd to the herd as the rest of the judges scrambled to follow suit.

"That's right, that's right! Just like what Young Master Mu said, this is what you call true elegance!"

"A truly successful design will not only be a mere show-off on the runway, but can also be worn practically by many in daily life. From this standpoint alone, Xing Chen's design is clearly ahead of that of Wu Lingshan's."

In just a few minutes, the judges' comments and reviews took a drastic, 180 degree turn.

The judges who initially spoke up for Wu Lingshan started to praise Luo Chenxi in order to please Young Master Mu.

Moreover, it was never a difficult thing to do in the first place, because Luo Chenxi's work was truly excellent!

Back when they sang praises for Wu Lingshan, they had to rack their brains to give their comments as naturally as possible.

Now that they were complimenting Luo Chenxi, most of them commented endlessly as they unknowingly said a bunch of good things about her design.

At this moment, Wu Lingshan, who was standing at her booth, was trembling in anger.

#### **Chapter 184: I'm Giving the Others Zero Points**

"Look at these two-faced people, how can they switch sides so shamelessly?"

These judges were supposed to have been bribed by Wu Lingshan's father so that they would speak in her favour in the competition.

How could they all go back on their words merely because Young Master Mu declared his stand with just a few words?

"Oh, right, Bai Xinxin! Didn't she say that Young Master Mu came for her? So, what's going on right now? Why isn't he speaking up for her in the least bit? Was she just all talk? Did she just screw me over?"

At this moment, the host returned to the stage.

“Alright, now that all the judges have expressed their opinions, let’s have them give the participants their final score.”

The judges lowered their heads and tapped around on their tablet PCs.

Once they finished, the participants’ given scores were all displayed together on the big screen at once.

The designers anxiously turned their heads toward the screen to look at their scores.

“Alright, let’s take a look at the final score.”

The host briefly skimmed the scores on the screen, then his voice started to tremble from surprise.

“As expected, Miss Xing Chen has without a doubt come out first place in this scoring segment! Her given score... is a whopping 100 points, full points! This is the first time in the history of the Huafeng Competition that a participant has unanimously received full points from the entire judicial panel!”

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“Whoa...!”

A wave of exclamation rose from the viewing stand.

Such a tremendous score that broke the convention of the Huafeng Competition was beyond everyone’s expectations. However, given the current situation, it was not a really surprising occurrence.

This was because Luo Chenxi’s design, be it the final product or the performance of the models, had all been beautifully executed to perfection.

In addition, Young Master Mu even spoke up for her in person.

Hence, it was completely normal for her to be given full points.

“The second place goes to Miss Wu Lingshan! Her score is also shockingly high! A good few judges have also given her full points, while her final score totalled up to 82 points!”

Even though the judges bribed by Wu Lingshan’s father ended up being pressured to side with Luo Chenxi, they did not completely forget about Wu Lingshan.

Hence, they still gave Wu Lingshan 10 points.

Unfortunately for her, Young Master Mu was not as generous as the other judges.

The man did not give a d\*mn about fairness, so he only gave his dear wife a whopping 10 points while the rest of the participants were mercilessly given 0 points.

Factoring in a few other judges who gave Wu Lingshan 8 to 9 points, her final score totalled up to 82 points.

Wu Lingshan stared at her score and became gloomy deep down.

82 points was actually a very high score. If only there was no one there to top her score and form a contrast, she would have definitely been satisfied with this outcome.

However, when she looked at the irksome score of 100 points above her name on the screen, she could not bring herself to stomach her defeat no matter how hard she tried!

'The d\*mned Xing Chen, why is she so lucky! I banned modelling agencies from modelling for her, but she surprisingly ended up contracting Shao Mingyi, so I tried hard to get him eliminated from the scene. In the end, Luo Chenxi still managed to find herself a handsome guy who's even more handsome than Shao Mingyi to model for her!

'What's more, she even has Young Master Mu to vouch for her work!

'How did she gain such massive influential power? It took her only a single Weibo post to capture Young Master Mu's attention! What kind of dumb luck is this?'

The fact that Mu Yichen could be having an affair with Luo Chenxi never crossed Wu Lingshan's mind.

After all, with Young Master Mu's wealth and good looks, all he needed to do was to lift a finger, and he would have countless women throwing themselves into his arms.

Surprisingly, even after so many years, there had never been any scandals involving the man, which meant that he must have really high standards.

Therefore, if he only wanted to spend a night with a woman, he would have obviously gone for a supermodel like Bai Xinxin. Why would he even bat an eye at a small-time designer who just graduated from school?

As Wu Lingshan pondered, the host announced the scores of the remaining participants.

Thanks to Young Master Mu giving all of them 0 points, all the other designers had depressingly low scores.

Looking at their dejected expressions, the host hurriedly said, "Dear designers, there's no need for you to feel dejected even if you didn't manage to get high scores. That's because we'll be welcoming an important segment next—the netizens' voting segment!"

Hearing this, Wu Lingshan instantly recovered from her gloomy mood.

'That's right! There's still the netizens' voting segment!'

This segment allowed each netizen to hold two votes, one for supporting their favorite designer and the other to vote against a designer. The final score would be decided after tabulating both categories of the votes.

Since Shao Mingyi had not appeared on stage, the chat boxes on online streaming platforms were still filled with curses directed at Xing Chen.

One could even say that Xing Chen had managed to make enemies off millions of Shao Mingyi's fans.

So, god knows how many would vote against her later!



## Chapter 185: My Dear Prince Charming, Have All My Votes!

“The netizen’s voting segment has already begun since the end of the catwalk session. Now, there are only five minutes left for the netizens to cast their votes!

“When the voting closes, the final vote count will be tabulated based on the total amounts of positive votes versus the negative votes for each designer. The designer who has the highest overall votes will be awarded a full 50 points for this segment, whereas the rest of the designers shall be awarded with points according to their final vote count in descending order.

“Alright, now that everyone is clear about the rules, let’s take a look at the big screen.”

As the host finished speaking, the content on the screen instantly switched.

The vote counts for all ten designers in the competition were displayed on the left side of the screen.

As for the right side of the screen, the camera cut to display the same footage broadcasted online. The overlapping chat box could also be seen on the screen.

Wu Lingshan immediately perked up. She sat up straight and raised her head to look at the screen.

Xing Chen’s vote had probably plummeted all the way down to a negative count!

However, her smug smile instantly froze on her face in the next second. She stared at the big screen in disbelief and almost could not hold back from standing up.

“How is this possible? Why is her score so high? This is unreal!”

On the big screen, Luo Chenxi’s votes soared like a rocket, completely shoving her competitors far behind.

She was already close to the five million vote count mark.

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In contrast, Wu Lingshan, who was second to Luo Chenxi in vote count, was only sitting at around 500 thousand votes. The worst part of it all, this was the best she could achieve despite secretly buying votes with huge sums of money.

Naturally, there was also no need to guess the pitiful state that the rest of the designers were in.

‘How can this be? Are Shao Mingyi’s fans not bothered by his absence at all? How can there be no one to cast votes against her?’

Wu Lingshan forced herself to calm down and turned to look at the detailed statistics at the bottom of the screen.

Then, her face darkened even more.

Luo Chenxi indeed had a lot of votes casted against her. These votes were so frighteningly high that they had already breached the three million mark.

However, she had received way more for votes to make up for it! These votes had even reached more than eight million in number!

That was why her net vote count was as high as five million.

Everyone in the hall was stunned at the numbers displayed on the screen. Such a shocking vote count was unprecedented in the history of the Huafeng Competition!

Sheng Yu, too, had a face full of shock. The first thought that crossed his mind was that Luo Chenxi might have pulled some tricks to steal votes.

He almost wanted to stand up and call for a time-out.

However, as his eyes turned to look at the live broadcast on the right half of the screen, he got stunned.

“Aaahhhhhh! My dear prince charming, have all my votes! Your performance on the runway was simply gorgeous! Here’s a vote for you!”

“So handsome! So handsome! So handsome! Here’s the main point being emphasized thrice, because why not? Now take all my votes!”

“My dear prince charming! Can you talk to us just a little bit? We’ve only seen you modelling, so we have yet to hear your voice!”

The insane hype of the netizens flooding the screen with countless comments on the overlapping chat box was on par with the hype when the netizens thought Shao Mingyi was going to appear next.

The only difference right now was the target of the netizens’ flattery. Instead of Shao Mingyi, the overwhelming amount of praises were completely directed at the rookie male model!

The host was also shocked by the result.

After what seemed like a long while, he finally came back to his senses and turned to Luo Chenxi with a smile. “It seems like we have an unbelievably popular rookie model here with us today. Allow me to humor the fans’ request, no need to thank me, alright?”

The host walked to Luo Chenxi as laughter sounded from the crowd. “Hello, mister model, do you mind telling us your name?”

Luo Chenxi briefly stunned as the microphone suddenly got brought to her mouth.

At first, she expected her task of disguising as a man to end after the runway walk was over. Who would have thought that she would suddenly receive this much attention just from her appearance.

Right now, all the cameras were focused on her.

The live broadcast platform also showed a close-up of Luo Chenxi’s face.

Her slightly hesitant expression immediately triggered a new round of netizens’ comments on the screen.

“Ahhh! He even looks so cute when he’s in a daze!”

“How can he be this handsome? He looks so good from every angle!”

### **Chapter 186: Seducing a Few Million People All At Once**

Luo Chenxi hesitated for a moment before she lowered the pitch of her voice and answered, “My name is Chen Xiluo.”

“Chen Xiluo... as expected, a very masculine name indeed. So, Mr. Chen, do you have anything to say to your fans?”

“Well... I didn’t expect so many people to enjoy my runway performance, this has gotten me truly flattered. Thank you for the support that everyone’s given to me, I’m deeply grateful. You are all the most beautiful and cutest little princesses.”

Luo Chenxi winked at the camera as she spoke.

The corners of her lips curled up slightly, revealing a faintly devilish smile coupled with a hint of childishness that did not overshadow her elegant and calm composure.

The netizens watching the live broadcast behind their screens completely lost their minds.

“What a fitting name for my prince charming, his name sounds just as handsome as he looks!”

“Chen Xiluo, marry me!”

“Prince charming’s voice sounds so nice! I can feel my ears getting pregnant!”

“Ooohhhh! My husband just winked at me! My heart feels as if it could pound through my chest!”

Even the daughters of wealthy families seated in the front row faintly blushed as they got charmed and mesmerized by Luo Chenxi’s handsome face.

In the judicial panel, Young Master Mu stared gloomily at the woman on stage who had gotten full of herself as he felt a stifled throbbing in his chest.

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This woman actually dared to flirt with girls and even winked on camera, right under his nose!

What was more, these shallow girls from behind their screens were losing their minds from wanting to ‘marry’ her so bad just from seeing her on the broadcast!

‘D\*mned woman, have you forgotten that you’re already married? Do you take your husband for a dead man?’

As if this woman had not hooked up enough with men in the past, now, she was even trying to seduce women!

Not to mention a few million of them all at once!

At this very moment, Young Master Mu had long forgotten that he was also a married man carrying the title of “The great ideal husband of the nation”, that he had way more women fawning over him compared to that of his dear wife.

Instead, the only thing in his mind right now was that he felt like he was getting cuckolded in the face more and more intensely.

Mu Yichen really wanted to drag that naughty woman down the stage and cover her face so that no one would be able to take another look at her!

Perhaps Young Master Mu's death gaze was too intense, Luo Chenxi finally seemed to have sensed something while on stage. Thus, she secretly shivered, put away her smile, then silently retreated back to Fang Ziqian's side.

However, her brief moments on camera had already left deep impressions in everyone's eyes.

As the interview ended, a massive chunk of support votes got tossed in her face again. Her vote count shot up by another million in only three minutes.

On the other hand, Wu Lingshan had gone numb from rage at the sight of this scene.

At this point, she knew well that she no longer stood a chance to beat Luo Chenxi.

The grand prize of the Huafeng Competition this time was destined to be a loss for her.

"God d\*mn it! God freaking d\*mn it! How could this be? I tried so hard and spent so much money, I even had my father beg so many people for help! In the end, I can't even compare to a piece of trash who got expelled from the Royal College of Arts! This is outrageously unfair!"

However, no matter how unwilling she was, everything had already become a foregone conclusion.

Wu Lingshan could only try her best to comfort herself in the bottom of her heart. 'At the very least, I'm already holding the second place firmly in my grasp. Although it's not going to feel as glorious as getting the grand prize, the top three winners of every season's Huafeng Competition will receive a lot of attention in the fashion circle, they will also be given a lot of resources to continue venturing in this industry, so I guess that's still fine...'

She tried her greatest to convince herself deep down by repeating these words. She finally managed to sooth her ill mood by just a little bit.

Suddenly, waves of surprised exclamations came from the viewing stands.

"Huh? What's going on? Quick, look, the screen! What's with the second place's vote count? Why is it plummeting so quickly all of a sudden?"

### **Chapter 187: Drop Dead, Wu Lingshan!**

Hearing this, Wu Lingshan raised her head by reflex to get a glimpse at the big screen.

Her heart skipped a beat and she almost shot up on the spot as she saw the content displayed.

Her vote count really was dropping.

The worst part of it all, her vote count was dropping at a shocking rate... Or rather, it was as good as a nose dive down a cliff!

Wu Lingshan felt like she could get a heart attack from the frightening turn of events!

Her vote count which had initially hit as high as 500 thousand plummeted down rock bottom and had fallen through the 400 thousand mark in the blink of an eye.

The numbers fell on and on...

300 thousand...

200 thousand...

100 thousand...

It actually ended up breaking through the zero threshold!

An uproar instantly arose in the hall. Be it the audience, the media reporters or the staff, they were all stirred into chaos.

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Even Sheng Yu had a face full of shock. He immediately made a phone call to question the staff in the backstage about the current situation.

“What’s going on back there? Why did the vote count for the second place drop so much all of a sudden? Did something happen to the counting system? How many times have I warned you about the importance of the system? There is absolutely no room for mistakes when handling it! Are you even taking my warnings seriously?”

The poor staff member answered as he trembled in fear, “Chief... Chief Sheng, this really isn’t our fault! There is nothing wrong with the counting system. The vote count of the second place plummeted because there was a sudden and massive increase in downvotes from the netizens, there are just way too many of them! Our servers are even on the verge of crashing from the overload!”

“What? Then, what exactly is happening here?” There was no way Sheng Yu could have expected such a turn of events.

A sudden surge of votes like this was normally caused by an army of online trolls abusing the internet loopholes to cast their votes unfairly.

However, this had only happened when the top two participants were fiercely competing against each other for the first place.

As for the finals this time, the top three participants were obviously miles apart from each other in terms of vote count, so no amount of votes would do any good to close the gaps between them.

So, why would anyone even bother casting votes illegally now?

The host was also dumbfounded. He was rendered speechless as he stared blankly at the column chart displaying the participants’ vote counts.

Suddenly, his gaze swept to the right side of the screen where the netizens’ comments on the live broadcast were displayed, then his eyes lit up.

“Huh? It seems our dear viewers have finally ended their topic on Chen Xiluo and started talking about Wu Lingshan instead! Now, why don’t we take a look at what they have to say?”

“Hmm, let’s see... Wu Lingshan, you shameless b\*tch... Cough, cough! Erm...”

The host randomly picked one of the comments and started reading the first few words of it. Then, he immediately choked and became embarrassed to continue.

This comment was way too harsh.

He finally realized the dire situation that they were in and quickly gestured for the staff to turn off the live broadcast.

However, it was already too late.

The audience in the hall and the netizens had all seen the swarming comments appearing on their screens.

“Wu Lingshan, how shameless do you have to be to pull a trick as dirty as drugging our dear Young Master Shao just so you can get your hands on the grand prize?”

“How can there be such a b\*tch like you? You actually resorted to unethical means to make up for your incompetence so that you can get an upper hand at your opponent! The worst part of it all, you even dragged Young Master Shao into this!”

“What a misfortune that befell my poor husband, oh, my heart! Just look at his photos on Weibo, he’s been on the drip for an hour!”

“Drop dead, Wu Lingshan! If she wins the grand prize of the Huafeng Competition, we should boycott all of SL Corporation’s products from now on!”

Shao Mingyi’s fans’ hearts were filled with righteous indignation as they continuously blurted out nasty curses at Wu Lingshan.

As they did, they also did not forget to keep up the pace of the downvotes.

Even after breaching the zero threshold, there was still no end to the swarming downvotes. Her vote count kept on plummeting to oblivion.

Negative 100,000...

Negative 200,000...

Negative 500,000...

Negative one million...

### **Chapter 188: Off Her Reputation Goes Into the Sh\*thole**

Throughout the history of the Huafeng Competition, this was the first time a participant’s vote count breached the zero threshold and fell to a negative number.

It was a design flaw overlooked when designing the vote counting system.

The system started to fail after Wu Lingshan's vote count fell below negative one million. It let out beeping noises to indicate an error in the system as the big screen began to flash.

Meanwhile, the audience looked at each other in dismay.

Suddenly, someone figured out something from the comments on the screen.

"Oh, right! Weibo! I remember seeing a comment saying that Shao Mingyi posted on Weibo! Could the downvotes have something to do with this?"

"I think I saw a comment like this too!"

"Quick, get on Weibo!"

On Weibo, Shao Mingyi had once again tagged #Huafeng Competition# on his post and pushed it into the trending tab.

@Shao Mingyi. "My deepest apologies to all my fans, I've let you down for not being able to model for the Huafeng Competition as originally planned and got admitted into the hospital instead. Therefore, I hereby strongly condemn @Wu Lingshan's act of malicious intent—Wu Lingshan has drugged her opponent's model with laxatives in order to gain an advantage at getting the grand prize. Can she really live up to her conscience even if she managed to win the grand prize using such unethical means?"

Shao Mingyi even attached a photo of him getting an IV drip at the hospital below his post.

His face was scarily pale as he looked extremely tired while lying on the recliner.

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How could any of his fans' fragile hearts possibly take it after seeing what he had to go through?

There were already more than 100,000 comments under Shao Mingyi's post. Every single one of them were curses directed at Wu Lingshan. These comments were even more creative and a hundred times more exciting to read than the ones on the big screen!

Although Wu Lingshan already had a hunch on how things would turn out, seeing such a scene unfold with her own eyes still gave her a huge blow.

The color on her face instantly disappeared.

Sensing the strange gazes from the surrounding audience, her lips started to tremble as she tried to defend herself, "No, I didn't do this... It's Shao Mingyi's own fault for ingesting something that upset his stomach, so how can he blame it on me? This... this is straight up slandering! Xing Chen must've been the one who ordered him to do this!"

Wu Lingshan was quick on her wits, she realized that she still had a chance of retaliating since Shao Mingyi did not have any evidence.

Unfortunately for her, the audience were not stupid, so no one believed her.

"That's really funny. Why should Xing Chen work with Shao Mingyi to slander you? Her designs are so good that they managed to capture Young Master Mu's attention. The grand prize had totally been in

her bag from the very beginning. So, why is there a need for her to resort to such underhanded methods?”

“That’s right! Besides, just look at Young Master Shao’s current social status, do you even think it’s possible for a rookie designer to order him around?”

“Look, Young Master Shao made another Weibo post mentioning that he had already obtained the backstage’s surveillance footage at that time. He’s prepared to sue you for intentional poisoning!”

Wu Lingshan broke out in cold sweat when she heard that Shao Mingyi was planning to sue her, so she could no longer maintain her calm composure.

A month ago, she barely escaped the law’s judgement for her acts during the incident with the diamond bracelet, and that was all thanks to that idiot, Zuo Xiaoqing for being her scapegoat.

However, how would Wu Lingshan find herself a new scapegoat this time?

What was more, that incident had already made her lose tonnes of fans and she had not been able to clear her name just yet. This time, she even had Shao Mingyi expose her scandalous act to make things worse for her.

With this, her reputation was definitely taking a nose dive down the sh\*thole.

How was she still supposed to maintain her public image as a beautiful, rich and kind-hearted lady? How would she still make her way to become an internet celebrity designer?

Wu Lingshan felt her vision went black and she almost fainted.

On the other hand, SL Corporation’s staff had finally managed to repair the vote counting system in time.

Thus, the display on the big screen was restored.

The host hurriedly returned to the stage and bowed to the audience and the cameras as an apology.

“We’re terribly sorry for the company’s lack of preparation that caused the voting system to fail and wasted everyone’s time. As of now, the statistics have all been restored. Therefore, please allow me to announce the list of winners of the Huafeng Competition.”

“First place, designer no. 10, Xing Chen!

“Second place, designer no. 6, Si Tu!

“Third place, designer no. 2, Su Yaping!

“Congratulations to them!”

In the past, the hosts would announce the winners of the Huafeng Competition from the last place as they slowly moved up the list before finally announcing the winner of the grand prize.

However, this time, Wu Lingshan’s ridiculously low vote count was too embarrassing to look at. Moreover, she was the daughter of one of SL Corporation’s shareholders, so the host simply skipped this segment and announced the top three winners of the competition.



A huge round of applause sounded from the audience.

At this moment, Luo Chenxi had already forgotten that she was currently disguised as a man. She covered her mouth in excitement as tears welled up in her eyes.

She had been through so much and gone so far for this competition.

It was such a heartfelt moment for her to finally get her hands on the grand prize!

“Next up, let’s invite the Chief designer of SL Corporation, Chief Sheng Yu and the director of Mu Group, Mr. Mu Yichen on stage to hand the awards to our winners!”

### **Chapter 189: Young Master Mu Seemed to Hate Him**

Luo Chenxi’s face briefly stiffened as the host finished. She tried to calm herself down from the excitement and regained her composure.

She immediately noticed the situation going for the worse.

She was still standing right on the runway while being a ‘man’!

How was she supposed to receive the award in this get-up?

What was more, Luo Chenxi was not even sure if it was in accordance with the rules of the Huafeng Competition for her to be modelling while disguising herself as a man.

Seeing that the grand prize was right within her reach, she would rather not cause any random hiccups at the last minute that could potentially screw herself up.

Just as she was hesitating, the winners of the second and third place had already walked up to the stage with faces filled with joy and excitement.

Especially the winner of the third place, Su Yaping, who was grinning from ear to ear.

That was because he originally stood absolutely no chance at winning the third place. Fortunately for him, he managed to climb his way up to this pedestal thanks to Wu Lingshan shooting herself in the foot by trying to be clever and drugged Shao Mingyi.

Thus, her fall became Su Yaping’s sudden path to success, as if he struck gold out of the blue.

Wu Lingshan, too, understood this, so she became so angry that she gritted her teeth. Regrettably for her, there was nothing she could have done.

The host stood in front of the stage and waited for a while, but Xing Chen was nowhere to be seen.

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He tried to urge her, “Miss Xing Chen, please come to the stage to receive your award. You are the undisputed winner of the grand prize today! Everyone of us can’t wait to see just what kind of girl could be capable of such outstanding designs!”

The host waited for another while after he finished.

No one emerged from the row of designers.

The audience, too, finally felt that something was up.

Suddenly, Wu Lingshan came to remember that she had never seen Xing Chen ever since the catwalk segment started!

SL Corporation had reserved this entire row of seats for the designers of the competition. However, Xing Chen had never been sitting here from the very beginning.

Could she... have drunk the drugged water and got admitted to the hospital as well?

Would she be disqualified from receiving her award if she failed to be present?

That would be great!

Wu Lingshan's lips curled up into a cold smirk.

"Miss Xing Chen, is Miss Xing Chen here with us?"

The host tried to urge her again.

At this moment, a tall and slender figure walked over from the runway and stood beside Si Tu and Su Yaping.

"Mr. Chen, what are you... ?"

Luo Chenxi lowered the pitch of her voice. "Something came up at Miss Xing Chen's home, so she had no choice but to head back first. Hence, she instructed me to receive the award on her behalf before she left."

"Ah? Is that so?"

As the host spoke, he turned to look at Sheng Yu. He felt relieved after seeing Sheng Yu lightly nodding his head.

"Alright, let's have our guests come on stage to present the awards to the winners!"

Mu Yichen and Sheng Yu stood up at the same time from their seats and walked up to the stage.

Sheng Yu's seat was relatively close to the stage, so he was the first to arrive at the stairs.

He halted his steps and waited until Young Master Mu came to him. He courteously gestured with his hand for Mu Yichen to go ahead on stage.

From an etiquette point of view, Mu Yichen should also return his courtesy to Sheng Yu.

Who would have known that Young Master Mu did not even sweep so much as a glimpse at Sheng Yu. Instead, he strode forward without looking askance and went up on stage himself, completely leaving Sheng Yu hanging behind.

Sheng Yu instantly felt a little awkward.

For some reason, he kept having a weird feeling today. It was as if Young Master Mu really hated him.

However, he was really puzzled and confused by Young Master Mu's actions.

On the stage, Luo Chenxi stared at Young Master Mu who was walking toward her as her heart pounded furiously.

Mu Yichen had always been extremely handsome during his usual days. However, today, he looked even more dazzling while wearing the casual suit she had designed and sewn with her own hands.

His seemingly moody face with his tightly pursed lips did not affect his handsome face in the least bit. Instead, it gave a feeling of abstinence around him.

Mu Yichen looked at Luo Chenxi with a cold expression and a cold gaze.

Luo Chenxi quickly averted her gaze as she secretly despised herself in her heart.

How could she still be so obsessed with Young Master Mu's gorgeousness in this situation?

Wait, no, that was not it. She was not looking at Mu Yichen. Instead, she was looking at his... outfit.

D\*mn, her work was such a pleasure to the eye. How could she ever look away?

Of course she could not. Nope, she definitely could not. That must be it.

Sheng Yu walked to Luo Chenxi's side and said with a smile, "Even though Xing Chen could not be here in person to receive her award, I still have to congratulate her well-deserved success. Mr. Chen, please be sure to pass on my words to..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Mu Yichen had already taken the trophy from the staff and stuffed it into Luo Chenxi's arms.

By doing this, he abruptly intervened and stood in the way of Luo Chenxi and Sheng Yu.

### **Chapter 190: Gripping Her Hand Tightly and Refusing to Let Go**

Sheng Yu got abruptly shoved to the side while Luo Chenxi caught the trophy in a flurry.

Young Master Mu had a cold and noble, but gloomy expression, as if someone was owing the man a huge sum of money.

At this moment, the host darted over to Mu Yichen and spoke, "Young Master Mu, since your most favored designer has won the grand prize, do you have anything to say to her?"

The host held the microphone close to Mu Yichen.

Luo Chenxi could not help but hold her breath as she waited for Young Master Mu to speak.

Mu Yichen glanced at the woman's disguise and coldly spoke, "Since Xing Chen isn't the one receiving the award in person, I shall keep my comments for her to myself for now."

Luo Chenxi's expression froze.

Was this guy serious? It was his wife winning the grand prize of all things here!

Did he really need to be so rude?

What was with the sudden change in attitude when this man was speaking up for her in the judicial panel just a moment ago?

The situation suddenly became a little awkward.

Thus, the host hurriedly coughed dryly, "Cough, cough... Well then, let's have both our presenters shake their hands with the winner of the grand prize."

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Luo Chenxi really did not want to pay anymore heed to the man, but she understood that everything was currently being broadcasted live. Thus, for the sake of her public image, she reluctantly forced herself to smile and reached out her hand to Mu Yichen for a handshake.

"Young Master Mu, it is my honor to have you personally present the award to me. Thank you very much."

Mu Yichen's lips curled up. He reached out his large hand and wrapped his palm around her hand.

Young Master Mu finally cooperated.

The host heaved a sigh of relief and was prepared to move on the next segment.

It was not until after a while that he realized something felt amiss.

Mu Yichen firmly held the handsome young man's hand on the stage without a sign of wanting to let go.

Five seconds had passed...

Ten seconds had passed...

Twenty seconds...

Luo Chenxi gradually felt awkward and tried to pull her hand back, but the man showed no sign of letting her do so. Instead, he clutched harder onto her fingers.

The host quickly turned to look at Sheng Yu to ask for help.

Sheng Yu was also puzzled.

He was already prepared for his turn for a handshake with Chen Xiluo.

Who would have thought that Young Master Mu would pull something like that. Thanks to him, Sheng Yu was forced to stand where he was awkwardly while waiting for his turn.

Did this not feel strange?

If only it was a beautiful woman like Xing Chen on stage, it would make sense for Young Master Mu to want to hold her hand for a little while more.

However, Chen Xiluo was a man!

Sheng Yu understood that he did not have the luxury to ponder any longer, so he decisively moved on and walked up to the first runner-up, Si Tu for the sake of the broadcast.

“Mr. Si Tu, congratulations on winning second place in the Huafeng Competition!”

Sheng Yu then handed the trophy to Si Tu.

The cameramen also turned their cameras to focus on Sheng Yu.

Meanwhile, the host secretly wiped the cold sweat off his forehead.

Fortunately, thanks to the cameramen quickly turning their cameras away from Mu Yichen and Luo Chenxi, and Young Master Mu’s back blocking the audience’s view, this hiccup that lasted almost half a minute did not affect the broadcast in the least bit.

Seeing that Sheng Yu was walking away from him, Mu Yichen finally let go of Luo Chenxi’s hand.

What the h\*ll was up with this man this time?

Luo Chenxi became so pissed that she glared at him, but the man seemed to not notice her little emotions at all. As he watched Sheng Yu presented the awards to the two remaining participants on stage, he finally walked off the stage at a steady pace.

A thunderous round of applause sounded as this season’s Huafeng Competition finally came to an end.

Young Master Mu’s unusual behavior got Luo Chenxi extremely nervous, so she quickly ran back to the backstage as if she was running for her life right after the curtains dropped.

Mu Yichen was originally holding back his anger as he planned to capture and drag that woman back home to teach her a lesson.

However, he never expected her to slip away so quickly before he even managed to lift a finger!

He took out his cell phone and dialed Luo Chenxi’s number.

No one answered even after the other end of the phone rang more than ten times.

“God d\*mn woman! Playing dead now, huh?”