

Mr Han 2321

Chapter 2321: Got Goosebumps

Oren was the idol in many people's hearts, but he was still young and a little more inexperienced.

Compared to a mature man like Han Zhuoli... suffice it to say that they each had their strengths.

But if they were to really be compared, Oren really did not have much of a chance.

Would Lu Man risk it just to have some thrill with him?

Helena did not think so.

Albertine's smile became even more creepy as he said in a small voice, "Buddy, if you really succeed, you have to tell me. Even if you can't share, you can at least tell me about the process."

Albertine then glanced at Helena and said to Oren, "If you strike, it will definitely work. That Lu Man woman is really too arrogant. But it's just as well. Usually, the more arrogant a woman is, the more spice there would be when you do it."

Oren intuitively understood his point and laughed.

Although they were not too close to each other, Lu Man still felt a little uncomfortable.

As if someone was looking at her.

It's true that there were probably only a few people in the classroom who were not looking at her right now.

Many people were curious about her.

But curious or furtive looks would not make her feel uncomfortable.

At this moment, she felt as if she was getting goosebumps, and she felt really uncomfortable.

Lu Man turned her head, wanting to look for the source of that discomfoting stare. Unexpectedly, the moment she turned, she happened to meet Oren's gaze.

Lu Man could instantly confirm that the gaze that made her uncomfortable just now came from Oren.

Because the moment her gaze met Oren's, she instantly got goosebumps again, which she really did not like.

Lu Man frowned and did not look back again.

But that uncomfortable feeling persisted, so she knew that Oren was still staring at her.

Lu Man felt a little annoyed.

At this moment, the school bell rang.

Professor Howell also entered the classroom at the sound of the bell.

As there were not many people in the class to begin with, Howell had long become familiar with the students there.

This was true even after the exchange students came over, because there were only nine of them.

To Westerners, the faces of Asians were a little difficult to differentiate.

But Howell was a very conscientious and serious teacher.

He was also one of the teachers that Han Leilei and the others mentioned before, the ones who would teach them.

Although he had high demands in class and was very stern, he was also a very responsible teacher.

As long as students were willing to learn and put in the effort, no matter who they were or what kind of standard they had, he would be willing to teach them.

He believed that as long as people tried and as long as they improved, that was a reward in itself.

Hence, Howell had also memorized the faces of the exchange students.

In this way, when a new face like Lu Man suddenly appeared in class, Howell could tell at once.

His face darkened a little.

As for Lu Man's record, he'd naturally heard his fair share of it.

His colleagues talked quite a lot about Lu Man as well.

Some of them admired Lu Man's acting skills and felt that she was indeed capable with some strengths in her acting skills, so if she could continue developing well moving forward and hone her acting skills, her future was one to look forward to.

But there were some people who were not happy with Lu Man. They felt that she was still so young yet was too arrogant for her age.

Actually, the most important thing was, they were not pleased that she could actually defeat their school's exchange team, which made the school feel really disgraced.

But Howell did not think the same.

He did not care who'd won or less. Who made it a rule that you always had to win, that you must always be the winner and that other people must never win against you?

When he saw Lu Man's competition video, Howell also admired her very much too.

He really wanted to see what effect it would produce if he taught Lu Man their acting techniques over here.

At first, Howell had really been looking forward to it.

But he did not expect that Lu Man would actually put off coming for so long.

Chapter 2322: I Can Do It

Lu Man did not come until today.

But there was only a week or so left until the official competition.

Very clearly, Lu Man had planned to come over just for the competition and had not intended to come here to learn.

Howell then had to agree with the views of some people.

Lu Man thought too highly of herself.

She thought that just because she'd won once, she could not be rivaled anymore, that no one would be able to teach her anymore.

She really underestimated their school's standards too much.

She actually put on such a big shot attitude and only arrived at the last moment, as if she could win against their school's students the moment she came.

This kind of pride and arrogance made Howell really dislike her.

He would not be annoyed with a student of average caliber. As long as the student was willing to work hard, he would not be annoyed with them no matter their level.

What he really disliked was students who did not want to work hard.

Like Lu Man.

So, before Lu Man came, Howell had already had a strong, preconceived bad impression of her.

Today, when Lu Man arrived at school, the news immediately spread throughout the campus.

So when he came in and saw a new face, even without any introduction, he could guess Lu Man's identity.

Howell placed his teaching files on the table and looked at Lu Man as he said, "We have a new face in class today."

Lu Man immediately stood up and said, "Hello, Professor, I am Lu Man. I am an exchange student from the National Film Academy."

Howell nodded. "Okay, take your seat."

"We will start our class proper now," Howell said. "In the previous class, I'd already talked about the content we will be going through for this class. Now, then, the people whose names I'll call, come up and draw lots to pick the character you will be playing."

Howell did not even bother asking whether the students had memorized the script properly or not.

If they did not memorize it well, he would know when they performed later.

Whoever performed badly need not act anymore after this.

As for Howell's words, no one raised any questions or objections about it.

After Howell said that, he happened to cast a glance at Lu Man.

Afterward, he started calling out names, and one by one, the students went up to pick their lots.

“Lu Man,” Howell called.

Han Leilei did not expect that though Howell clearly knew that Lu Man had just arrived today and would definitely not have made any preparations, he’d actually call her up.

Han Leilei braced herself and said, “Professor Howell, today is the first time Lu Man is attending this class. She didn’t know beforehand what we will be doing for class today.”

“So, you mean that it’s okay that Lu Man hasn’t memorized the script, and she need not go up on stage to perform today?” Howell asked her back.

Howard and the other people who disliked Lu Man all revealed gleeful smiles.

“I just think that, since Lu Man did not know about this previously, is it possible if she can watch from the side first for this class? And start from next class onwards?” Han Leilei asked.

“If she can’t complete her performance because she didn’t know about this, then she could have just skipped this class. Since she came to this class, I don’t care if she was also present before or not, she has to abide by the rules here,” Howell said expressionlessly, without any intent of giving her any leeway.

“If you can’t perform, please leave my class,” Howell said.

Lu Man held Han Leilei back and said, “I can do it.”

After saying that, Lu Man went to pick a role.

She did not pick the main character, but this one still had quite a few lines.

The lines of supporting characters like this were actually the most difficult to memorize.

Because when memorizing the script, one would inevitably memorize the lines of the main characters first.

As for the remaining supporting characters, one would very easily forget their lines.

And Lu Man had not attended the classes at all previously.

Chapter 2323: Express Goodwill

Everyone drew their lots, and Howard had also picked another average supporting character.

With this kind of format, it actually did not matter whether one was the main character or not, because the challenge was equally big.

Like what was said previously, because you didn’t know which role you would pick, you would have to memorize every character’s lines.

In contrast, because the main character had many lines that flowed more smoothly, they were actually a little easier to remember.

In this way, acting as supporting characters was actually more difficult.

And you had to guess which roles you would get because you did not know who you would eventually pick. For some roles that are more packed with emotions, you would also have to prepare more properly.

As each character had their own unique points, the difference was very big. Some were even on the opposites of two extremes.

Having to switch between the different unique points of the various characters made the difficulty even greater.

In Howell's class, the supporting roles were actually more difficult to act out than the main roles.

Hence, no one would celebrate just because they'd picked the main characters.

Similarly, no one would feel that they were on the losing end for picking a supporting character.

And over here, with Howell, there was no distinction between the main and supporting characters. As long as you could play your character well, you would pass.

Shana frowned and walked over to Lu Man, saying in a small voice, "It's still possible for you to back out now. After you go back, ask your fellow students for the class requirements. If you insist on staying today, forget about forgetting your lines. Even if you fumble just a bit, you can forget about attending this class anymore next time."

Lu Man did not expect that Shana would come and warn her.

If it were someone else, they might misunderstand that Shana saying this so directly was out of ill intent to mock her.

But Lu Man knew that Shana sincerely came over to warn her. If not, she would not even mention subsequent classes.

Lu Man smiled and said, "It's fine. I chose to stay because I have the confidence."

Shana shook her head. "You don't know, but Professor Howell is very strict. It won't be enough if you'd just memorized the script. You must be able to reach the standard where you can go up on stage to act."

Seeing how confident Lu Man looked, Shana guessed that perhaps Lu Man had really memorized the script.

But even this alone made her shocked.

This was not some casual poetry from a textbook for Lu Man to be able to memorize it the first time she came.

Shana suddenly felt that perhaps their previous loss was not such an injustice, after all.

But she still warned her, "Professor Howell has some prejudice towards you. He is a very conscientious teacher who likes students who work hard. He hates those who are arrogant and conceited just because they are talented. You didn't come before now, so even some teachers feel that you think it doesn't matter if you don't come over here to learn, just because you won against us previously. They think that you just needed to come over here to win another competition.

"At first, Professor Howell was really looking forward to meeting you. But because you didn't come for so long, he surely must feel that you are like what most people said. That's why his attitude towards you had been so cold since just now. If not, even though he is strict, he would not act like such a cold person."

Lu Man did not expect that Shana would say this much to her.

Lu Man replied sincerely, "Thank you for telling me all this."

She gave Shana a friendly smile and said, "But as much as possible, I always avoid doing things that I am not confident in doing. I chose to stay now, and though I don't have the confidence that I will be the best, I think there will be no problem when it comes to being able to continue participating in subsequent classes."

Shana felt that the confidence Lu Man showed was rare in Oriental peoples like them.

Most of them were very humble, or at least, they appeared to be very humble.. Even if they had that confidence in their hearts, they rarely spoke about it.

Chapter 2324: Your Mentality Is Quite Resilient

In contrast, whether the people here really had the confidence or not, they would always say they had the confidence.

For some reason, Shana felt that Lu Man was not boasting and that she really had the confidence.

And Shana even felt that Lu Man was being humble with what she said.

For some reason, Shana just had that feeling.

She even felt that it was ridiculous that she had such a thought.

She wondered what made her think that Lu Man had such huge confidence.

She shook her head and said, "Since you have the confidence, then I won't say anything more."

"Many thanks." Lu Man sincerely thanked her.

"Yo, Shana, since when were you on such good terms with Lu Man?" Howard had seen earlier that Lu Man and Shana were talking.

He thought at first that the two of them were just exchanging formalities.

Unexpectedly, seeing their expressions, it actually looked like they were on quite good terms, and they'd even started smiling.

Howard felt it was really ridiculous. Did this Shana not have any sense of shame?

She had been defeated by Lu Man previously. Now, she was actually chatting happily with her and not taking it to heart at all.

Howard scoffed as he walked over. Seeing Lu Man holding a script in his hand, he said, "What? You're really going up on stage? Don't embarrass yourself even more out of a moment's spite."

Lu Man pursed her lips and said, "You should just mind your own business. What's the use of being arrogant in front of me? I hope you can continue being arrogant after your performance. Don't be like how you were in the previous competition, acting so arrogant as if you won Best Actor at the Oscars, yet in the end..."

Lu Man did not continue and just laughed dryly.

But this was enough to agitate him.

Previously, how arrogant Howard had been, that was also how embarrassed he felt after the competition.

Lu Man felt really curious. As the saying goes, people learn from their mistakes. Why did Howard never learn?

He perfectly described the saying, forgetting past pains once the wound has healed.

But she was not going to remind Howard of that.

Howard's face reddened in anger. "Who's the one being arrogant right now? I want to see how well you can act! Don't get scolded until you can't even show your face later!"

Lu Man nodded. "I am also very curious about your performance. Don't embarrass yourself again later in front of us. If you embarrass yourself once more, if I were you, I won't even have the gall to appear before us ever again. How thick-skinned must you be to be able to lose time and again and still challenge other people as if nothing had ever happened? I have to say, your mentality is really quite resilient."

Lu Man had no intention of stopping once she'd started berating him. "You are the one who clearly lost because you're not capable enough, yet you still have the gall to come and mock other people. How exactly do you do it, can you teach us?"

Howard: "..."

Why was this woman's mouth so vicious!

Han Leilei and the others were originally worried that Lu Man would be disadvantaged, so they'd stayed near Lu Man and did not leave.

Yet the moment they saw that, they thought, was Lu Man the kind who would suffer a loss?

They were all worried that Howard would become too infuriated by Lu Man.

When she heard Lu Man's words now, Han Leilei also nodded and added, "Yeah, teach us!"

“We also know that, except for Lu Man, the capabilities of the rest of us in the exchange team really cannot make the cut. So we all kept a very low profile and hid our tails between our legs.” Han Leilei continued while smiling sarcastically, “Not every student in your esteemed school is of such high caliber either. There will always be some who are of very high caliber and some who are of low caliber. We didn’t go up to those students of low caliber to mock them for it.. After all, we might be even worse than them.”

Chapter 2325: Kneel Down to You, and Slap Myself Twice

“We have this self-awareness and this understanding. You, however, lost so badly the previous time. In normal circumstances, shouldn’t you train and keep a low profile to wash away your humiliation? You haven’t even cleared your past humiliation and you are already being all obnoxious and gleeful in front of Lu Man.”

Han Leilei said with admiration, “You’re really not an average person indeed!”

Han Leilei’s talking skills were actually more impressive than Zheng Yuan’s and Pan Xue’s.

Pan Xue was just short-tempered. She was a simple person who always liked to talk in a straightforward manner.

But when it came to quarrels, Pan Xue would not win.

She would always find herself speechless due to the other party’s rebuke, and she would only think of how she should have rebutted after the incident.

Whenever this happened, it was always Han Leilei who’d help Pan Xue rebuke the other party.

Howard shook angrily from their retorts.

At this moment, Oren came and pressed down on Howard’s shoulder. “We’re about to start preparing. Settle your emotions. Don’t let them get led askew by other people again such that they would affect your performance once more.”

These words made Howard come to his senses.

He got a shock in his heart and heaved a sigh of relief.

He almost got affected by Lu Man again.

He quickly settled his emotions and took deep breaths quite a number of times before he said to Lu Man, “Looks like we don’t need to wait until the competition anymore.”

“Hold up.” Lu Man raised her hand and continued, “Don’t say that. It sounds as if you can actually participate in the competition.”

Howard: “...”

This damned b*tch!

She never let off any chance to mock him!

Why did it not occur to him that if he had not come and asked for trouble first, would Lu Man be so rude to him?

The calm that Howard had finally managed to achieve fell apart once more.

In a moment of recklessness, Howard said, "You just wait, I will show you my true capabilities this time!"

"Will I really see it? That's not the first time you said it," Lu Man said mockingly.

"Lu Man, we can compete this time. If you win, whenever I see you, I will be all respectful and polite, and I won't say a single nasty word, including to your teammates," Howard said. "But if you lose this time, stop acting all arrogant in front of me!"

"If you lose, you will kneel in front of me and slap yourself twice. Then we will be equal for all the arrogant pretenses you put up in front of me previously," Howard said.

When Han Leilei and the others beside Lu Man heard that, they were all furious.

Han Leilei almost could not hold back and nearly went up to just slap Howard twice.

Lu Man appeared calm, but her gaze was as cold as ice.

She had not been serious with Howard at all previously.

No matter how much Howard provoked her, she just treated him like a clown.

She just treated it as if Howard was acting in front of her and played along with him, taking it as if she was killing her boredom.

But Howard's words just now crossed the line.

Lu Man scoffed and said, "If I lose, I have to kneel down to you and slap myself twice, but if you lose, you will at most stop saying nasty things in front of us. Do you think this bet of yours makes sense?"

Howard did not get baited this time and just asked her back, "You don't dare? You're scared now?"

"In this life of mine, I still haven't learned how to write the word 'scared,'" Lu Man said coldly. "I am asking that our bets be the same. I agree, if I lose, I will kneel down to you and slap myself twice."

"Lu Man!" Zhou Li could not help but call out to her.

The others also broke out in a sweat nervously for Lu Man.

Han Leilei did not speak because she did not want to be a hindrance to Lu Man at this critical moment.

If she persuaded her now, it would be akin to riding on others' prestige and killing her aura.

Chapter 2326: If You Lose, You Kneel

But Han Leilei was also worried and nervous for Lu Man.

Previously, when Lu Man had just entered the National Film Academy, she'd also made a bet against Zhang Xiaoying and other people.

But they were all girls and were classmates, so the bets did not go overboard.

At most, whoever lost would be more polite to the winner after that.

There was never anything like what Howard wanted. He actually wanted the person to kneel down and slap herself!

Who would be able to stand losing that much dignity?

And Howard actually wanted to put Lu Man, a girl, into such a difficult spot.

She felt before that he was just arrogant and had low EQ.

But now, she was simply disgusted by him!

Even Howard's classmates felt that Howard was being too much like this.

In the past, when Howard and the others mocked Han Leilei and the rest, no one ever stood up for them.

But this time, someone could not help but say, "Howard, isn't this a little too much? No matter what, there's no need for her to go down on her knees and slap herself. It's just a bit of conflict."

Howard scoffed and said, "She suggested this herself. Since she dares to court her own death, how can I not grant her wish?"

Shana frowned. "Howard, where did your gentlemanly attitude go?"

Must he push a girl like Lu Man into a corner like this?

And Howard was also being unreasonable.

Even Shana could not stand it.

"My gentlemanly attitude is not for this woman." Other people felt that Howard was being unreasonable, but Howard thought he was being quite reasonable.

"I want to let her know that to be arrogant, you must have the capability in the first place." Howard pointed at Lu Man as he said that.

Lu Man was completely annoyed now. "Right back at you."

"Exactly!" Han Leilei added. "As if you weren't arrogant even before you lost that previous competition. In the end, though, after all your arrogance, you still lost. You lost the competition, yet you're still being arrogant even before competing now. What right do you have to call Lu Man arrogant?"

"Exactly. Just who is the one being arrogant now?" Zhou Li said.

Lu Man did not give Howard a chance to speak and just said, "You want me to go down on my knees and slap myself to apologize after I lose? Sure. But you have to do the same. I don't need you to be any more respectful to us after that, or stop saying nasty things in front of us. I only ask that you similarly kneel before me and slap yourself twice, then say that you won't dare to be arrogant anymore in the future."

“And it will be in front of everyone,” Lu Man said. “Of course, the same goes for me. If I lose, I will say these in front of everyone too.”

Lu Man did not ask for Howard to become more respectful or anything after he lost.

Because kneeling down in front of everyone and slapping yourself was a very disgraceful thing to begin with.

If not carefully dealt with, it would become a trauma for a lifetime.

After suffering such a huge loss, even if she did not ask it of Howard, he would not have the gall to be arrogant in front of them anymore from then on.

“Fine!” Howard agreed without even thinking at all.

If this was another time, when Lu Man was being so confident, the other party would have to think about it no matter what.

Why would Lu Man agree to such a bet so easily if she was not confident about it?

But he was surrounded by a crowd of onlookers right now, so Howard had been pressured until he had no chance of backtracking.

Even if he wanted to go back on his word, there was no chance of it anymore.

And Lu Man would definitely not give him that chance either.

He had such a great time provoking her, and he’d provoked her all the way until he ended up in this situation. How could Lu Man let him off?

Seeing that both Howard and Lu Man had agreed, there was not much left for others to say.

But Han Leilei could not help but hold on to Lu Man’s elbow the entire time in worry.

At this moment, Howell walked over.

Chapter 2327: Just Headstrong

Everyone was here, so how could Howell not have heard the words that Lu Man and Howard had said.

“Professor Howell!” When Shana saw him, she immediately called to him. “Professor, shouldn’t you stop them?”

“As long as it’s not a bet that goes too far between students, I don’t need to stop them,” Howell said.

He looked at Lu Man again.

He did not expect that as soon as Lu Man came, she’d already cause such a scene.

But it was indeed Howard who had provoked her first.

Even if he did not have a very good impression of Lu Man, Howell would not put the blame on Lu Man for this matter.

They were two separate issues.

“I won’t stop you both on this,” Howell said to Howard and Lu Man.

He then asked Lu Man, “Do you need me to go and find two more teachers to come over and be judges? Don’t worry, the people I find will definitely judge fairly.”

This was their school, after all, so Howell felt that Lu Man and the others might not be assured about the fairness of the judgment.

He even planned to push back this class or to specially apply for a separate timing to let Lu Man and Howard compete.

And then head out of the school to find a few old friends of his.

His old friends were also actors within the industry. There were stage actors among them, as well as film and drama series actors.

Perhaps they might not be as well known, but they still had their reputations in the industry.

Lu Man smiled and shook her head as she said, “You can be our judge, I trust your judgment.”

Lu Man’s words, even to Howell, sounded good.

His impression of Lu Man was not very good at first.

But when he saw that Lu Man did not back down and really planned to perform with the other students in class, looking very confident, he then knew that Lu Man indeed was prepared.

Howell then thought that he had to put aside his prejudiced views towards Lu Man first, then see how she’d behave from today onwards.

Yet he then saw right after that how, when faced with Howard’s provocation, Lu Man did not back down at all.

She actually confronted Howard to his face and was not scared at all.

This kind of personality was the kind that Howell really liked!

She was just headstrong, just charging forward, and completely did not know what retreating was!

You want to slap my face?

Impossible!

At this moment, Howell actually liked Lu Man a little.

This little lady, at least temperament-wise, really hit it off with his own personality.

He would have to see if she had the capability to match that personality of hers.

Or else, if she was like Howard, who only had a temper but did not have an actual right to be arrogant, she would only end up embarrassing herself.

Out of his admiration for Lu Man's temper, Howell was willing to help Lu Man within the boundaries of what he could do.

Yet he did not expect that Lu Man would simply ask him to be the judge, which saved them a lot of trouble.

Lu Man agreed so readily and was even more decisive than most men.

Howell's mood also got better as he said, "Okay, you can trust me. Rest assured, I will definitely give a fair judgment."

After Howell said that, he clapped his hands and reminded everyone, "Alright, if everyone is prepared, we will start now!"

They had not rehearsed before and completely had to rely on their understanding of their roles.

Thus, the performance was naturally not so harmonious, and there were some awkward parts here and there.

After it ended, Howell started giving his feedback.

"Although this isn't an official performance and just practice in class, you all have to perform with the mentality you'd have when presenting a perfect piece, not merely fighting your own battle just so that you can make yourself stand out even more.

"You have to spare a thought for your opponents more and think of how to act out your roles well together.. What you all need is chemistry," Howell said.

Chapter 2328: Would Not Look Good

"Shana's performance was not bad. You left a very big space for your opponent with an awareness that you had to cooperate with each other," Howell said. "But as the opponent who's paired with Shana's role, Luca, you completely didn't seem like you wanted to cooperate at all. She cooperated with you, but you treated both your roles as your own individual performance. For this performance, you failed. Shana gets an A."

Shana smiled in relief while Luca's expression darkened.

Howell was also telling the students that he had a set of scales in his heart and did not need them to present themselves in an exaggerated manner.

As long as they settled down and acted their parts well, he would see it.

Howell gave feedback to everyone, one by one.

When he spoke to the exchange students, Howell even gave them encouragement.

"You all did very well. Compared to when you all just came in, the improvement is significant. But you all still have a big room for improvement, so don't stop here." After Howell pointed out each student's flaws in their performance, he then encouraged them.

"Han Leilei got an A, Zhang Xiaoying an A, Zhou Li a B+..." Howell gave their marks one by one.

The worst also got above a B.

Someone asked, "Professor Howell, although they've improved, their performance still lags behind others by a lot. How can they get such a good grade like an A? At least with Han Leilei and Zhang Xiaoying, when compared to Shana, they still have much to improve on."

Howell did not get angry and patiently explained, "Capability is one part of it, but the student's improvement also has to be taken into consideration. If they can improve, it shows that they are working hard and have taken in whatever I said to them previously. In their performance this time around, they'd corrected all the flaws that I pointed out to them before. Even if there were new flaws, it still showed that they'd listened to my words and tried to overcome their flaws.

"Compared to when they just came, their improvement is very big. Even if they can't compare to Shana now, given the margin of their improvement, sooner or later, they will be able to catch up to Shana. If you guys don't work as hard as them, always thinking that they can't compare to you, then the day will come when they will exceed you all.

"No matter how their performance was like today, their hard work deserves the grades they got now. Moreover, their performance today was quite good as well," Howell said.

His words made other students who had doubts in their hearts unable to speak.

Han Leilei and the others exchanged glances, and all saw the excitement in each other's eyes.

Their improvement had been acknowledged, and their hard work had reaped rewards.

Although they still could not compare to Shana and the others, at least their gap was narrowing.

Someone acknowledged their hard work, their efforts, which was what made them the happiest about.

And their efforts had really reaped rewards because they had improved!

Lu Man was also happy for them.

The result of the exchange competition was not that important.

Perhaps it did concern their schools' reputations.

But in fact, they lost every year, so even if they lost once again this time, the loss to them really would not be very big actually.

In contrast, Howard and the others treated the result of this competition more seriously.

It was precisely because they had never lost before that, all the more, they needed to maintain their standard. Once they lost, they would feel extremely embarrassed.

The previous time, for instance, after their exchange students went over to the National Film Academy and lost so badly, they kept getting mocked by others after they returned.

The pressure that they were under was actually equally high.

They could not lose. If they lost, it would not look good.

And Lu Man and the others did not have such huge pressure on them. It would certainly be good if they won, but losing was not such a serious matter for them.

Chapter 2329: A Fail

Anyway, this would not be the first time they'd lost. To put it more precisely, they had never won before.

One more loss was within the boundaries of what they could accept.

In this way, the mentalities on both sides were different, so it became such that Lu Man's side was more stable.

Although the results of the competition were not important, they came precisely because they could improve themselves.

Which was why now, when they saw that everyone had improved, they thought that at least they did not come for nothing.

This was already a huge benefit.

After Howell gave feedback one by one, the only ones left to give feedback to were Lu Man and Howard.

Everyone gave Howard and Lu Man space.

The two of them suddenly found themselves standing in the center spot.

Howard had been so arrogant previously, looking really confident.

But when it really came to the moment, he was actually very nervous.

"As for the competition between Howard and Lu Man..." Howell stared at the two of them.

Howard stared at Howell nervously, his breath quickening rapidly.

Howell said, "Lu Man's performance stands out more."

"That's impossible!" The moment Howell's words landed, Howard had cried out in agitation. "How can I be worse than her!"

"Because you had the wrong mentality. You wanted to show yourself off too much, so the more you acted, the more exaggerated it became, which became really incompatible with the whole performance." Howell did not seem to care about Howard's complaints at all and said, "This was a performance that required everyone to cooperate together to complete. It's not an individual show of yours. Even the main character can't just focus on expressing himself or herself, much less you."

"Lu Man did not have any direct lines with you, but the student that did have lines that matched with Lu Man cooperated really well with her, so their performance was very compatible and they were completely immersed in the world of the play."

"That's true." Scarlett, the student that had lines that matched with Lu Man, said, "Acting together with Lu Man felt especially comfortable. Previously, I'd watched Lu Man's competition video and did not

really feel anything. But when it was my turn to go up with her, I realized that we could cooperate so well.

“I didn’t know Lu Man beforehand and had never rehearsed with her either. The performance this time was our first time acting together on stage. I could totally feel that our chemistry was being controlled by Lu Man. She was willing to cooperate with me, to give me more chances to express myself. Subconsciously, I also returned the favor and cooperated even more with Lu Man, such that both of us made each other’s performance flow even more easily.

“Lu Man made me appreciate that, actually, with a good matching actor, performing becomes such a comfortable thing to do.” Scarlett gave Lu Man a friendly smile and said, “Thank you so much. I won’t comment on the team’s capability, but based on individual capability, I am really not your match. You are very capable.”

“For a partner actor to be able to sense my goodwill and reciprocate, this is also something that is very rare to come by.” Lu Man smiled and said, “I am also very happy to have worked with you. You were really great.”

Scarlett smiled happily.

Howell nodded and said, “But Howard, you gave your partner actor a very difficult time. When you performed, you were completely unable to let him exercise his skills. You kept on showing yourself off, disrupting the pace of the stage performance, so he could only keep adjusting himself to cooperate with you.

“Yet you didn’t understand his good intentions. Each time, after he cooperated with you, you started changing the pace again, getting worse with each time, forcing your partner into a corner until he had no space to maneuver at all. This kind of performance looks really ugly. There’s nothing nice to watch about it.”

Howell then said, “Howard’s partner, Fred, B+. Howard, you failed.”

Chapter 2330: A+

Howard’s face reddened immensely. He actually failed!

He was aiming for an A!

Howell’s grading had always been strict, so he had never given an A+.

Hence, A was the highest.

Howard was aiming for the highest grade to begin with!

As he’d lost badly at the National Film Academy, he’d always felt that it was because his mentality had been affected, which had nothing to do with his real capability.

Before Lu Man came, his performance had also been quite normal the entire time.

Hence, he’d summoned all his energies just to win against Lu Man.

Alas, thought he'd finally got such a chance, he failed!

Howard's face turned beet red as he clenched his fists tightly.

Everyone knew that the results of Howard's competition with Lu Man had already been revealed.

Howell's feedback for Lu Man was so good, so Lu Man would probably get an A too.

Even if she did not, she would not fail at least.

Anyway, she would surely score higher than Howard.

"Scarlett and Lu Man had cooperated with each other and accommodated each other. This is very rare to come by. But at the start, when Scarlett first stepped on stage, her emotions were not quite there yet, so she did not manage to link the previous scene very well with the present, causing a bit of an awkward break, but it was not too obvious. So, Scarlett gets an A," Howell said. "Scarlett, look back and think about your performance when you first came up on stage, see if you can find a better way to perform."

"Yes." Scarlett could not hide her excitement. This was the best grade she had achieved this semester.

Scarlett knew that it was Lu Man who led her along to make her performance flow even more smoothly.

Because when she first entered the stage, without Lu Man leading her along, her performance there had not been that good.

But as her interaction with Lu Man started, she got led along better and better by Lu Man. That was why she could have such good results now.

Scarlett was also very grateful to Lu Man.

Hence, she gave Lu Man a grateful smile.

"Lu Man, you made no mistakes at all during the whole performance and could cooperate with good chemistry with your partner actor. It's just that you still lack a bit of the emotions necessary for a Shakespearean play. Of course, this is not something that a newcomer actor can achieve. It requires many years of stage performance experience, as well as thorough examination and mastery of theatrics." Or else, there would not be so few of those renowned Shakespearean play actors. This was not something that could be achieved overnight.

"I look forward to you putting on an even more mature performance. As you grow older and develop a different interpretation of the play, you will gain a different understanding of it and perform it in a different way," Howell said. "This time, I give you an A+."

Lu Man's performance this time had made Howell change his impression of her.

At first, he'd felt that Lu Man became arrogant and conceited because she'd achieved some results, but that, actually, her true capability might not be that good.

But now, at least for her current age, or even if she were ten years older, her acting was really very outstanding.

What Lu Man needed now was more experience performing.

That, and a deep understanding of each individual character, as well as the different methods of acting.

Actually, those were things that could not be addressed in just a few classes.

Hence, Howell changed his earlier impression of Lu Man.

But when Howell gave her an A+, it still made everyone shocked.

This was the first time Howell had given an A+ grade!

It was not that he'd never given it before, but it was a very rare occurrence.

But for their batch, this was truly the first time!

Yet this first time was actually given to an outsider!

"Professor Howell, according to your feedback to Lu Man, she still has room for improvement. Then why did you give her an A+?" someone asked.

"Do you think A+ is considered full marks?" Howell asked.