

## Superstar 1091

Chapter 1091: Please put your hands up and wave them for me!

The rain continued to fall!

The wind was still blowing!

But the atmosphere in the stadium had somehow reached its highest point!

"Ah!"

"This is so good that I could die!"

"Zhang Ye is so awesome!"

"Where did he get all those songs from!"

"Yeah, how did he write all that!"

"Could he have written them beforehand? Or did he come up with it spontaneously?"

"Damn, surely he couldn't have made that up on the spot, could he?"

"Then why does every line in the songs fit the atmosphere here so well?"

"Who knows!"

"This is what you call genius!"

"I love him to death!"

"A singer like that, a guy like that, how could anyone not like him!"

"Zhang Ye! Zhang Ye! Zhang Ye!"

On the stage.

Zhang Ye was already experiencing shortness of breath as he made his way down the stage. However, he did not look like he was tired at all. In fact, he kept smiling even though the raindrops were hitting his face. It was like he was totally unaware of it.

Han Qi was getting anxious. "Teacher Zhang, rest for a bit!"

Zhang Ye waved her off and said in a hoarse voice, "Do you have water?"

"Yes! Yes! I'll go get it!" Xiao Lu ran off to get some water.

Fan Wenli came up to him with an umbrella. "Director Zhang, you're like this." She gave him a thumbs up and continued, "Whether it's your singing, personality, or character, I'm really impressed by you."

The other singers and guests looked deeply at Zhang Ye.

They all knew that recording wouldn't continue anymore, so there was no need for them to perform. The cameras had been stopped, so even if you continued to sing, there wouldn't be anyone other than the ten thousand-odd audience members at the venue watching. Was there a need to continue singing? Was there a need to do so much?

Zhang Ye was feeling extremely thirsty, and he gulped down three mouthfuls of water.

Han Qi and Xiao Lu stood around him with umbrellas as they used towels to wipe his face and hair, wet from the rain.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I'm different from you guys. All of you are better qualified and started at a better position than me. About my matters, Old Yao should know them the best."

Yao Jiancai was also present today. When he heard that, he laughed and said, "Back when Little Zhang and I were banned, we couldn't get any work and could not even take any commercial appearances. You could say that we were left with no options at all. Do you guys know what we ended up doing? We went to join the Crosstalk and Skit Competition. At that time, the stage was much smaller than this place that we're at now. There were also much fewer people in the audience, probably around a hundred to two hundred at most. We knew very well that Central TV might cut our scenes in the broadcast, but we still practiced day and night without rest and took our crosstalk performance very seriously. Every joke segment was rehearsed and tweaked so many times. You wouldn't know how it felt, but as long as there was a single audience member watching, we would definitely do our best and put on a good show."

Zhang Xia was silent.

Chen Guang was silent.

Liao Yiqi, Zhao Qiquan, and the others were also silent.

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "So after that time, Little Zhang and I changed a lot. Picking what shows to appear on? Acting like big shots? Both of us know very well that we were not qualified to do so."

But now, they could do so.

They were qualified to be picky!

They could behave like big shots if they wanted to!

However, the motivation they experienced during those days was something they would never forget for the rest of their lives. When they were at their wits' end, when everyone had left them for dead, when they were faced with so many sets of cold and doubting eyes offstage, someone had actually shouted their names in excitement, cried for them, and cheered them on. It was like a wisp of fire in the ice plains that was so heartwarming. From that, they knew they had not been totally given up on yet and that there were still people waiting for their return! That kind of feeling just couldn't be described with words. It was truly an unforgettable experience for them!

During our most difficult times, all of you accompanied us by encouraging and supporting us.

So now that you guys wanted to continue listening to us sing?

How could we not sing for you!

What reasons could we have for not wanting to sing for you!

Zhang Ye picked up his microphone and smiled. Then he went up onto the stage again.

Looking at his receding figure, Fan Wenli, Amy, and the others suddenly felt in awe of him!

The audience was screaming.

"He's coming!"

"Zhang Ye is coming back on again!"

"He still hasn't left! He hasn't gone yet!"

Applause rang out all of a sudden!

Round after round of applause. Some people even threw aside their umbrellas to clap with all their might!

Hearing the applause and seeing the excited crowd, Zhang Ye suddenly thought of many past incidents. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

Then, he raised his microphone.

Zhang Ye crooned 1 :

"Once again, I drowned in the sound of applause.

"You looked so excited in front of me.

"In the dark,

"the world has seemed to have stopped turning.

"Our hands are not needed for our hearts to embrace."

The audience froze!

Is this song...written for us?

Are you...singing this song for us?

Suddenly, Zhang Ye walked off the stage and strode toward the audience. Then he took out some foldable umbrellas and raincoats he found backstage and opened up one to hand to a female audience member who was sitting there in the rain and constantly shouting Zhang Ye's name.

That teenage girl was startled, and she immediately teared up. "Teacher Zhang!"

Zhang Ye handed the umbrella to her and sang:

"If I get lost in the storm one day.

"I know that you will heal the pain and allay it."

He handed another umbrella to a middle-aged audience member.

"Perhaps our worlds are always going to be a bit unique.

"But I know that you will stay with me through the bleak and shrieking storm!"

The teenage girl covered her mouth and started crying!

He walked another two steps before giving out a raincoat to a couple who was here with their child.

He did not open an umbrella for himself!

He did not put on a raincoat for himself!

Zhang Ye just sang loudly.

"Please raise your hands and wave them again for me!

"Then I will know just where you are standing!

"Life passes in a hurry!

"I hope we can share our glories!

"I hope our dreams will never fail!"

Pandemonium spread through the crowd!

Some of them started crying!

Someone raised their hands and waved them about!

Followed by a second person!

10 people!

100 people!

1,000 people!

"Please raise your hands and wave them again for me!

"Then I will know just where you are standing!

"Perhaps one day I'll get too old to sing or to walk!

"But I will still offer you my sincerest smile!"

All of a sudden, Zhang Xia led the way and walked over as well!

Fan Wenli!

Liao Yiqi!

Chen Guang!

Amy!

Li Xiaoxian!

All of them gradually followed as well!

They each held an umbrella in their hands and walked toward the audience. Then they handed them to the audience members who were still standing in the pouring rain and exposed themselves to the weather in the process of doing so!

A male fan was overwhelmed by this. "No, I can't accept this!"

But Fan Wenli did not say anything and just gave the umbrella to him.

Then.

Zhao Qiquan!

King of Oddity!

And all of the other singers also followed along!

Zhang Ye continued singing.

"Much thanks for going through thick and thin with me.

"Thank the Heavens

"that I have you to understand me.

"I'm grateful that we can still smile

"through our tears.

"Although we must treasure every single moment we have together!"

The rain overhead seemed to have stopped.

Zhang Ye looked up and found that there was an umbrella over him.

He continued walking forward and another umbrella opened for him!

With every step that he took, another umbrella opened up over his head!

Zhang Ye did not know why, but his hands started trembling and his eyes also reddened from out of nowhere.

Fan Wenli, Zhang Xia, Chen Guang, Amy, and the others had come forward and were standing together with Zhang Ye!

Zhang Ye sang loudly.

"Please raise your hands and wave them again for us!

"Then we will know just where you are standing!

"Life passes in a hurry. / I hope we can share our glory. / I hope our dreams will never fail!

"Please raise your hands and wave them again for us!

"Let us keep the love burning in our hearts!

"Perhaps one day I'll get too old to sing or to walk!

"But I will still offer you my sincerest smile!"

This was the last song of the day!

It was the last song on King of Masked Singers!

But this was not the end yet!

Believe me, anytime you guys need me.

I will surely be there!

I will definitely be there!

Everyone was waving their hands!

Everyone was waving their hands for them and shouting their names over and over again!

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Fan Wenli!"

"Li Xiaoxian!"

"Zhao Qiquan!"

"Zhang Xia!"

"Chen Guang!"

This song had elevated the concert to new heights!

A single person had made a stadium of 10,000 people wave their hands for him!

Chapter 1092: Celebrity Rankings Index maintenance completed! Zhang Ye's ranking!

The next day.

Saturday night.

Today was the broadcast of the King of Masked Singers' closing concert!

Those who did not have the chance to attend the live recording were all waiting at their televisions. They switched their channels to Beijing Television and were nervously looking forward to the start of the broadcast. They were anticipating it so much because they really wanted to listen to Zhang Ye, Fan Wenli, Li Xiaoxian, and the others' sing again, especially since it was a live concert as well as the farewell concert of King of Masked Singers. As some of the singers did not take off their masks to reveal

themselves until the grand finals last week, everyone was still left wanting for more. They were nervous because everyone knew that there was a sudden downpour in Beijing last night and that the concert venue was in an open-air space!

So how could they sing?

How did they manage to record?

Would they stop the concert halfway through?

The show started broadcasting.

The singers made their appearances one by one.

Sure enough, a light spattering of rain could be seen on television screens halfway through the concert. There was also a very strong wind gusting!

Dong Shanshan announced onstage that recording would be cut short.

"As expected!"

"Why didn't they carry on recording!"

"Uh, it ended just like that?"

"Surely not, right?"

"I haven't heard enough yet!"

"How can this be? Has it really ended?"

"I've been waiting the entire week and they only sang those few songs?"

"It can't be helped. The rain was really too heavy."

"Right, we have to be understanding too and not blame them for it."

However, just when everyone started discussing this and when many of them were about to change the channel or turn off their television, they suddenly heard a singing voice coming from it. It stunned everyone!

...

"True Heroes".

"Inside of my heart, I once had a dream.

"To make you forget all of your anguish with my singing."

...

"Superhero".

"You say that I am your superhero!"

"As well as your occasional guest punching bag!"

...

"Three Days and Three Nights".

"I'm won't get tired at all!

"I have danced for three days and three nights!"

...

Old Zhang's home.

Ning Lan and Fang Weihong were also here today.

Watching Zhang Ye on the television playing and singing simultaneously in the rain, they were all stunned!

Fang Weihong couldn't help but say, "This is really nice to listen to!"

Ning Lan exclaimed, "Those songs were all written by him?"

Zhang Yuanqi laughed and said, "Ning Lan, I think there will be a threat to your spot in the Celebrity Rankings Index this year."

"Hmm? Ning Lan blinked and said, "Surely Zhang Ye couldn't be on such a heaven-defying streak, could he? My popularity gained this year should be quite good. I have taken seven movie projects, and I'm now at second place on the A-list rankings. Zhang'er's popularity ranking is still not updated since the system is still undergoing maintenance. Even if they include all the songs that he sang today, he couldn't possibly jump straight from the bottom two places of the A-list to the front few, could he? No one has ever done that before!"

Fang Weihong, who also seemed very optimistic about Zhang Ye's chances, said, "There was no such precedence before, but that doesn't mean that it won't happen. You can't use common sense with him!"

...

At Peking University.

Summer break had arrived, but a lot of the students did not go back home. It was not that they were unable to get hold of the bus tickets, but that many of them wanted to stay behind to finish watching King of Masked Singers!

At the moment, uproars occurred in many of the dormitories!

Many students were screaming one after the other!

"That was so exciting to watch!"

"Ahhhh!"

"Professor Zhang is so cool!"



"I can feel my blood coursing through my veins in excitement!"

"Me too! I had an eargasm!"

"How exhilarating! That was so damn exhilarating!"

...

When the last song was performed, the emotions of every single viewer around the country watching on Beijing Television reached a crazy high!

"Much thanks

"for going through thick and thin with me.

"Thank the Heavens

"that I have you to understand me.

"Please raise your hands and wave them again for me!

"Then I will know just where you are standing!"

Zhang Ye's fanbase numbers exploded!

The most direct indicator was the number of followers on his Weibo, which had already reached an alarming 25 million people. In the few days after Zhang Ye had taken off his mask during the King of Masked Singers grand finals, his follower count on Weibo had increased by about a million per day. It could be said that this growth was defying the heavens to the extreme!

"Zhang Ye, you're fantastic!"

"Teacher Zhang, we should be the ones thanking you! It was you who went through thick and thin with us! It's you who understands us!"

"As long as you're around, we'll raise our hands and forever wave them for you!"

"Right, forever!"

"What an impact!"

"Why wasn't I present that day?!"

Back at home.

Zhang Ye was currently on the phone with Hu Fei.

Zhang Ye said in surprise: "Why did it get broadcast?"

Hu Fei laughed and said: "How could we not include such impactful scenes?"

Zhang Ye said nervously: "I thought you stopped recording?"

"We did say so at first. But when you opened your mouth to sing, I quickly got the staff to turn on all the cameras." Hu Fei laughed and said: "If this part had been lost, it would have been such a shame."

Zhang Ye gave a wry smile and said: "The musical accompaniment was not clear enough and the noise from the rain was so loud that it affected the microphone's reception. My singing was also just average, so I'm not satisfied with how I did."

Hu Fei said: "Look at how the stadium was at the time. There were so many people who were moved by the performance, and you're still saying that it's only average? Everyone, including me, felt that it was very good. I can guarantee that even if you had recorded the songs in a studio, you would not be able to get such a good atmosphere like we had from the live audience. The musical accompaniment could be improved on and the environmental noise like the rain could be removed, but we won't be able to replicate the same kind of atmosphere and impact it had on the audience. Therefore, this is already the best version there is!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "I guess. You're the executive director, so your say is what matters."

...

On the same night.

At 12 AM.

Weibo buzzed with activity.

"It's almost out!"

"Are the latest celebrity rankings out yet?"

"Not yet."

"I wonder if Zhang Ye's name will be there after the rankings are refreshed today."

"It hasn't been fixed yet? Didn't they say it would be out by this week?"

"Yeah, it's already Saturday. Why hasn't it been updated yet?"

"How much will Zhang Ye's popularity score increase by?!"

Many of Zhang Ye's fans were waiting at their computers and constantly refreshing the ranking index. They really wanted to know what Zhang Ye's ranking was now!

It wasn't only Zhang Ye's fans.

There were also netizens from everywhere else.

And those industry insiders from the entertainment industry.

Everyone was getting really curious because Zhang Ye's performance on King of Masked Singers was simply too shocking. The show had created yet another viewership legend with the published nationwide viewership rating of the grand finals' live broadcast standing at 3.89% and setting a new record in the process. Coupled with several billion views online throughout the entire run of the show, it could be said that the majority of people had watched the show. Together with the farewell concert, everyone was wondering just how popular Zhang Ye had gotten!

At 12:05 AM.

The rankings were suddenly updated!

There were exclamations throughout Weibo!

"The rankings are out!"

"The updated rankings are out!"

"It has been updated!"

"Zhang Ye's name is in there!"

"The rankings have been fixed!"

"Holy shit! Quickly have a look!"

On the latest Celebrity Rankings Index, Zhang Ye's ranking had vanished from the last two places on the A-list rankings!

He overtook one person!

He overtook five people!

He overtook ten people!

Jiang Hanwei.

Huo Dongfang.

Zhang Ye jumped past all of them in one leap!

At this moment, Zhang Ye's name glittered at the third spot on the A-list Celebrity Rankings. There were only two people ahead of him. One of them was a superstar who was ranked first on the A-list and the other was Ning Lan, who was ranked second!

He had reached the top of the A-list rankings!

Zhang Ye had reached the top of the A-list rankings in the span of one night!

He was nearing the S-list Heavenly Kings and Queens in front of him!

No one had experienced such an explosive one-time surge in their popularity before. At the level of the A-list Celebrity Rankings, the difference in the popularity scores that separated each position was enormous. Some people might be able to jump from the E-list to the C-list celebrity rankings overnight, but the popularity score difference for such a jump would probably not even compare to the difference in popularity scores between the last and third to last places on the A-list Celebrity Rankings! At the level of the A-listers, every step taken was fraught with difficulty! It would require a massive leap in popularity in order to surpass the person ahead in the rankings. As such, before the appearance of Zhang Ye, there hadn't really been any major changes in the A-list Celebrity Rankings for many years!

But now the wolf arrived!

On this night, Zhang Ye's ranking moved up by more than 10 spots!

The netizens were shocked.

"Oh my God!"

"Third? He's ranked third in the A-list rankings?"

"Zhang Ye has entered the ranks of the superstars?"

"Holy shit, that was too fast! That was too fucking fast!"

"Dammit! Zhang Ye is really too heaven defying!"

"The difference between an A-list celebrity's popularity score can be huge and on a completely different level. A celebrity at the bottom of the A-list rankings would at most be considered a big name or big shot. Only the top three A-list celebrities are considered superstars! And yet, Teacher Zhang reached that spot in just one night? I'm floored!"

"This is too frightening!"

"Teacher Zhang has ascended to the thrones of the superstars!"

"How long has it been since he was promoted to A-list? And now, he's almost reaching the top?"

"Ahhhh!"

The industry was also in a state of shock!

They had thought about how Zhang Ye's popularity might surge by a lot, and that it might even be an unprecedented kind of surge. But still, they never expected it to increase by so much!

Third in the A-list rankings?

A domestic superstar?

This was simply unbelievable!

China's ranks of superstars had actually ushered in a "raffish" ...host!?

Chapter 1093: The Superstar's Crew!

The next day.

Early in the morning.

The weather was clear and there were clouds drifting across the sky outside the window.

Some people went to bed early last night and did not know about what had happened after midnight. It wasn't until this morning when they woke up that they realized that something big had happened in the entertainment industry. It was already everywhere in the newspapers!

"Zhang Ye joins ranks of superstars!"

"Third ranked A-list celebrity!"

"Shooting to fame overnight! An unprecedented rise!"

"The popularity score that took the entire rankings system down!"

"Zhang Ye's ban lifted!"

"King of Masked Singers: Zhang Ye's best move!"

"Zhang Ye returns!"

"Zhang Ye's friends offer congratulations!"

"Many in industry speechless and have yet to express thoughts!"

It was also as lively over on Weibo!

"What?"

"Zhang Ye rose to third in the A-list rankings?"

"Damn, what happened while I was asleep?"

"Congratulations, Teacher Zhang! This is such exciting news!"

"Zhang Ye the Mighty!"

"Teacher Zhang, work harder and move up further, to the S-list!"

"Pfft, I think it's better to forget about the S-list. He only just experienced a breakthrough in his popularity, but it hasn't stabilized yet. Let's wait for Teacher Zhang to consolidate his position first. Only then will he be considered to be among the superstars."

"This is so awesome!"

"So there are actually so many people who like him?"

The country was still in a state of shock!

Everyone was discussing this turn of events, be it on the television, newspapers, or online. Even in the streets, the discussions were all about Zhang Ye.

...

At his parents' house.

Zhang Ye was actually quite calm at this moment.

His phone had woken him up early in the morning and it hadn't stopped ringing since.

His old classmate, Yu Yingyi:

"My superstar classmate, how are you?"

"Ha! Are you poking fun at me?"

"Can I ask you how you're feeling right now?"

"I just feel like sleeping for a while longer. I've been tired out by all that has happened in recent days."

"You've gotten really popular now. You're the most popular host in the country right now. There has never been a professional host who has ever reached the level you're at now. This has never before happened in the history of hosting either. Haha, you've really done the bunch of us old classmates proud this time, and also brought glory to us broadcast hosts!"

"Whoa, are my contributions that great?"

"Of course, so you should treat us to a meal."

"Hai, was that what you were really after, woman!"

Ning Lan's call:

"Congratulations."

"Thank you, Sister Ning."

"Please have mercy on me. You're right behind me in the rankings."

"Oh, come on. I can't possibly surpass you."

"You say that. I'm just afraid that you'll suddenly pass me the moment I take my attention off you. I've decided to take on another two film projects this year. The momentum of your popularity is way too strong."

"I'm still far behind you in terms of our popularity."

"It's not that great a difference anymore. Are you trying to blindside me and then suddenly deal me a heavy blow?"

"Damn, am I such a person?"

"Did you think you had a good reputation? Haha!"

Liao Yiqi.

Chen Guang.

Fan Wenli.

Yao Jiancai.

Dong Shanshan.

Zhang Zuo.

Ci Xiufang.

More than a dozen friends called to offer their congratulations.

After a full hour of receiving calls.

Zhang Ye was no longer feeling sleepy. He hummed a ditty and got out of bed to wash up. Looking out into the living room, he shouted twice and found that his parents were not home. His mother had probably dragged his father out somewhere to boast. He smiled at the thought of that but was actually already quite used to it. Then he checked the fridge and took out some leftovers to reheat for breakfast.

What was different about being a superstar?

To him, it didn't feel like there was any difference.

Just look, he still had to eat leftovers.

He was not exactly prepared for this surge in his popularity either. He might seem rather calm now, but he was really not prepared for it. He had suddenly reached third place on the A-list rankings? If this had happened to anyone else, they would also be in for a shock. Thinking back now, Zhang Ye had set a goal for himself this year to see if he could climb up into the A-list rankings. But he never thought he would only need a few months to get there. And who would have thought that he would even make it to third place after just another few months of being on the A-list rankings! He had as good as jumped several rungs, each time further than the last. It was no wonder that the industry insiders and netizens found it difficult to accept since even Zhang Ye himself was quite stunned by it!

At this moment, Rao Aimin called.

To return a very big favor, Old Rao had now taken on the role of Zhang Ye's agent. Although Old Rao had quite an unreasonable personality, did many things quite half-heartedly, and also possessed a sharp tongue, she still handled many of Zhang Ye's matters diligently. At least, she had never let him down when it came to his work.

Old Rao: "What are you up to?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "I just finished eating."

"You're still in the mood to eat? I haven't slept a wink since last night!" Rao Aimin immediately started scolding: "Did you have nothing better to do than go onto King of Masked Singers? Why did you have to go and sing? Now that you've become so popular, I'm starting to get all kinds of inquiries. Do you know how many calls I've taken in these past few days? Huh? Over 200! Seven film crews invited you to take part in their productions, eight television stations wanted to cooperate with you on some shows, nine music companies were hoping to sign a contract with you, and 60-plus commercial performance leads came knocking on your door. There were also some other calls which I don't really remember anymore!"

Zhang Ye hurriedly said: "It was hard on you, hard on you."

Rao Aimin said impatiently: "Are you gonna take any of those offers?"

"Not for now. I want to rest up for a period of time first." Zhang Ye said: "Besides, I haven't thought of what I want to do next, so let's wait it out for now."

"Alright, I understand then." Rao Aimin even instructed at the end of the call: "Don't get any more famous than you already are. It's good enough. Don't overdo it."

Zhang Ye didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Eh?"

Rao Aimin suggested: "If you're free and have nothing to do, go and scold more people and get into more fights. Make yourself less popular. Alright, I'm hanging up!"

Zhang Ye said: "It's only for a while. It'll get better as soon as the popularity dies down."

An agent requesting for her celebrity client to not get too famous? To go and scold more people? Get into more fights? What the fuck, what kind of requests were those? In the entire industry, perhaps only Rao Aimin would say something like that!

However, Zhang Ye was not angry about this. Old Rao was never really an agent to begin with. She was just an amateur agent who did things according to the mood she was in. He got Rao Aimin to be his agent simply for the reason of "protection." He had made too many enemies and offended too many people. If he had appointed someone else to be his agent, Zhang Ye would definitely be worried about them. What if something were to happen or his enemies wanted to take revenge? If that happened, Zhang Ye would have brought harm onto others. But if it was Old Rao, he wouldn't have to worry. She had more or less fully recovered from her injuries by now, so not even several dozen people would be able to get close to her. Further, she could help Zhang Ye turn down some work as well. This made things much simpler for Zhang Ye. Otherwise, he would have had to handle everything and answer all the calls by himself. Even if there were 25 hours in a day, it wouldn't be enough, so he could only trouble Old Rao with this for the time being.

Ring, ring, ring.

It was a call from his junior sister.

Yang Shu said: "Senior Bro, do you need me around today?"

"I don't. What are you planning to do?"

"Then I won't go over to your place. I'm teaching shadowboxing now."

"Don't get into trouble with the Urban Management Bureau 1."

"Ah, OK."

Right now, Zhang Ye's team was simply a motley crew of people.

The four of them could basically be labeled as the oddest team of people in the entire entertainment industry.

The star, Zhang Ye: The publicly acknowledged most wondrous person in the entertainment industry.

The agent, Rao Aimin: A martial arts grandmaster without a proper job. A well-known hooligan of the martial arts world who hopes daily for Zhang Ye's popularity to drop.

The bodyguard-cum-chauffeur, Yang Shu: A rash woman who only thinks of making Taiji Fist famous again. Often found giving out pamphlets to the elderly in the closest neighborhoods and asking them to take up Taiji shadowboxing, dealing a blow to the town square dance group that was just starting to get popular!

Logistics, Wu Zeqing: The only normal person among all of them.



Hai.

This was what made up a superstar's crew. Sometimes, Zhang Ye even felt that it would be too embarrassing to speak of this to others.

It would be a long road ahead.

There was still much left to do.

Chapter 1094: Zhang Ye's request for leave!

Later that morning.

His parents were still not home yet.

He watched television.

Listened to music.

It felt like a pretty good way to spend his time.

Zhang Ye was ready to give himself half a month of break and not take on any jobs for the moment. He would just not bother with anything and rest up for a period of time. Every time he had a major breakthrough in his career, Zhang Ye would do this afterwards. It could be said that this was a habit of his, and the media and citizens had also gotten used to this casual attitude of his. Further, now that Zhang Ye had successfully gained entry into the ranks of the superstars, he would need to rest for an even longer period of time. As the saying goes, to rest is to prepare for a stronger challenge ahead. After he had taken a long enough break, he would go back and continue causing a stir in the entertainment industry. He still needed to think of a way to get to the top of the A-list rankings, so how could he not recharge first?

Ring, ring, ring.

The calls kept coming. There were reporters seeking interviews and advertisers who bypassed his agent to get in touch with him directly to invite him to take some commercial filming. Zhang Ye rejected all of them.

He decided to make an announcement on Weibo.

Zhang Ye: "Applying for half a month's leave. I will not be taking any work in this period of time so that I can get some rest. If there are any urgent matters, please contact my agent."

After he posted it, Zhang Ye called Wu Zeqing.

"Old Wu, where are you?"

"I have a meeting today in the suburbs."

"You're so busy on a Sunday too?"

"Is something the matter?"

"I miss you. What time will you be back from the meeting?"

"It should end at around 3 or 4 in the afternoon, but I need to go back to my parents' place first. They arranged a blind date for me again, so I need to go back to sort it out them."

"They're still arranging blind dates for you? Have you told them about us yet?"

"I've brought it up before but did not mention who you were. I told them that I have a boyfriend and that he has a successful career. I also mentioned that you have quite a good character and are a little younger than me. My mother was quite alright with it and did not say anything, but my father was pretty against it. He did not even ask who you were and just objected to it, so I'll still need to work on him a little."

"Hai, that's tough."

"Let me get everything settled here first before I bring you to formally meet my parents."

"Alright, give me a call tonight after you're done with everything."

"OK."

A blind date?

He would have to seize the chance and quickly marry Old Wu. That was what mattered the most!

After hanging up, he continued browsing through Weibo and was met with a bustle of activity.

Countless netizens had replied to his post!

"Applying for leave again?"

"Pfft, Teacher Zhang is so wilful!"

"With your popularity soaring, now's the best time to make more money. Why are you applying for leave at such a crucial time?"

"In all of showbiz, only Teacher Zhang would do something like this!"

"Hahaha, isn't this how he's always been?"

"Not approved!"

"Right, your leave is not approved!"

"I won't agree to it either!"

"Rejected!"

"The reason for your leave request is inadequate!"

"Rejected! Rewrite your application!"

"Heehee!"

Quite a number of people started bantering.

When Zhang Ye saw this, he didn't know whether to laugh or cry. You guys aren't even allowing me to take a leave of absence? If I don't take some time off to rest and spend time with my girlfriend, she'll run off soon!

He posted an update to his request for leave. "I've nearly forgotten what my girlfriend looks like. I would like to go and see her, so please approve of my leave."

This was a very famous reason to request leave in Zhang Ye's previous world.

When this was posted, a lot of the media personnel and fellow industry peers were taken aback!

"Ah!"

"Zhang Ye has a girlfriend?"

"Who is it? Who is it!"

"Damn, this is big news!"

"There was no news about this before though?"

"When did it happen?"

Suddenly, a lot of netizens started disproving him.

"Don't listen to his crap!"

"Teacher Zhang just likes to brag and talk nonsense!"

"Hahaha, this leave request has really tickled my funny bone!"

"Pfft, Teacher Zhang. Are you really in such a miserable state? You even forgot what your girlfriend looks like?"

"I don't believe it!"

"The issue here is that you need to have a girlfriend first!"

"What is Zhang Ye's criteria for a partner?"

"Right, don't brag anymore. Tell us your criteria and we'll help introduce someone to you."

"Do you want someone pretty?"

"Long or short hair? Big or small eyes?"

"Teacher Zhang, could you be requesting leave to go on a blind date? I'm cramping up from laughing!"

"My sister is really pretty. Let me matchmake the two of you!"

"What are the things you're looking for? Tell us!"

Zhang Ye's request for leave post had suddenly attracted a lot of attention. He was currently very popular and there was a lot of attention on him. But no one expected Zhang Ye to throw out a poem at

the next second. A lot of people who saw it were shocked. The beauty of this poem was simply too intoxicating!

Zhang Ye's Weibo:

Carrying an umbrella, all alone.

Pacing up and down this long, long

rainy alley on my own.

I yearn to meet

a girl who is like the lilac,

resentful and downbeat.

She has all

the colors of the lilac,

the fragrance of the lilac,

the sorrow of the lilac.

Wistful in the rain,

wistful and halting,

she paces down this deserted, rainy alley,

holding an umbrella

just like me,

and just like me she

silently trudges,

aloof, sullen, and brooding.

Silent she approaches,

nearing and casting

a glance like a heavy sigh.

She drifts past

as if just a dream,

as if just a hazy dream, downcast.

As if a lilac

passing through a dream,

this woman passes by my back;  
She silently goes far, farther,  
and reaches a toppled fence,  
leaving this rain lane.

In the rain's mournful song,  
her colors wash away,  
her fragrance dissipates.

Gone, washed away, even her  
eyes that heavily sigh,  
her lilac lachrymose.

Carrying an umbrella, all alone.

Pacing up and down this long, long  
rainy alley on my own.

I yearn to meet  
a girl who is like the lilac,  
resentful and downbeat.

The netizens were dumbfounded at reading it. Damn, he really could just compose a poem on a whim!

Yet, this was really, incredibly beautiful!

The woman described in this poem was truly beautiful!

All at once, the comments blew up!

"This is the most artistic request for leave that I've ever seen!"

"My heart aches for Teacher Zhang!"

"The woman who's like a lilac has already gone far ahead. Teacher Zhang, hurry up and chase after her!"

"Approved!"

"Approved!"

"You can take your leave now!"

"Teacher Zhang, we'll allow you to go on your break!"

"Hurry and go!"

"Go for it!"

A woman who crossed paths and then headed off into the distance had captivated a lot of the netizens. They did not know which unlucky girl Zhang Ye had set his eyes on, but they definitely had to be supportive of such an important encounter of love!

Only a few people from the literary circle could not resist criticizing Zhang Ye. Their literary upbringing was clearly much higher than the common folks!

Someone from the Writers' Association sighed: "What a good poem! But to use such a good poem in a place like this! Isn't, isn't this too great a waste!"

A person from the CFLAC 1 said angrily: "How could the beauty of this poem be so simple? There's clearly a much deeper meaning to it! How could Zhang Ye use something so grand as his request for leave?"

"What a waste of talent!"

"I'm so angered that I laugh!"

"This Zhang Ye! Having all that talent but using it so carelessly! He pisses me off!"

One of his poems had once again generated heaps of controversy!

Zhang Ye actually understood much better than them that this was not a poem about a girl. It did not just refer to a lilac girl, but more about the vague hopes and desires of a person. But to Zhang Ye, Wu Zeqing was currently all of his hopes and desires.

In his eyes, Old Wu was that lilac girl.

What can anyone do about that?

Bite me?

Chapter 1095: The strangeness of the Lucky Halo!

In the suburbs.

In a conference hall.

During the meeting's intermission, Wu Zeqing suddenly overheard the people beside her whispering while holding their cell phones. There were mentions of Weibo, Zhang Ye, poetry, and something about a request for leave?

She went online to check.

The poem "Rainy Alley" appeared before her eyes.

The colors of the lilac.

The fragrance of the lilac.

A girl who is...like the lilac?

She read this poem five times over before breaking out into a grin. A lot of people around her were stunned from reading this poem as well.

Her cell phone rang.

It was a call from her family.

"Zeqing."

"Dad."

"What time will you be back this afternoon?"

"4 or 5 PM."

"Alright, drive safe."

...

Noon.

Back at home.

Zhang Ye's parents called to say that they were at a relative's place and would not be coming home for lunch. Zhang Ye ended up eating leftovers again for lunch. He sighed to himself at the sorry state of things. He looked at his watch and saw that it was still too early for Old Wu's meeting to have finished. Moreover, she still had to go back to her parents' place in the evening, so it would have to be at least 8 PM before he could get to see her today.

So what should he do in the afternoon?

As a matter of fact, this fellow did not really have any hobbies at all. Ever since he'd graduated, he had always been working, day in and day out. Even when he took leave from his work, he did not really know what to do.

It's time for the lottery then.

Zhang Ye had so many Reputation Points right now that it was even shocking to him.

He activated the Lucky Halo (Upgraded) and chose the Lottery Draw (One) option to play. He decided to place 1,000 additional stakes to see if he could get any new items!

100 million Reputation Points were spent just like that!

The lottery draw began!

The wheel started to spin!

Soon after, the needle came to a stop in the Skills Category region!

[Go Skill Experience Book] × 1001.

Go 1 ?

What would I need this for?

Zhang Ye was speechless. Had the Lucky Halo lost its effect? But thinking about it, similar situations had happened too. The luckiness effect of the Lucky Halo was not 100% effective. Out of a few hundred times, there would be an occasional, ineffective occurrence. So he wasn't too bothered by it. He started to study the Go Skill Experience Books as he "ate" them one by one. When he came to the last skill experience book, a familiar looking notification popped up, just as he had expected. He had encountered this before!

The Go skill has been maxed out!

He was unable to learn it any further!

Zhang Ye decided not to play Lottery Draw (One) anymore. Since he hadn't tried his luck in Lottery Draw (Two) for quite a while now, he decided to spend another 100 million Reputation Points on it.

He opened the Lottery Draw (Two) interface.

A familiar looking slot machine appeared.

This was the lottery draw that required 10 million Reputation Points per try. If he placed nine additional stakes, that would expend 100 million Reputation Points immediately. But Zhang Ye did not feel the pinch anymore since he had a ton of Reputation Points.

The draw began!

The slot machine started cycling!

One by one, the icons slid past the screens!

Then it slowed, slowing and slowing!

Zhang Ye's Lucky Halo (Upgraded) was still activated. He did not mind what items he would get from the draw as long as it didn't turn out to be empty. Otherwise, these 100 million Reputation Points would go down the drain.

The slot machine came to a stop. The result came out!

Skills Category Treasure Chest (Medium)!

The medium-sized golden chests were about twice as big as the small chests. When he opened them up, the Skill Experience Book inside turned out to be much larger than the ones in the small treasure chests. It seemed that this was the first time Zhang Ye got a skill experience book from Lottery Draw (Two). But when he saw the name of the skill experience books, he was dumbfounded!

[Go Skill Experience Book] × 10.

Your sister!

It was still Go?

He immediately gave it a try and flipped open the first skill experience book. The book dissolved into glowing light particles and surged directly into Zhang Ye's mind. He could clearly sense that his skill had leveled up, and there was no system notification to say that it couldn't be learned. It looked like his



previous guesses were right. For the Lottery Draw (One)'s Skill and Stats Category items, some of them would max out at a hundred, while some would max out at a thousand. But in Lottery Draw (Two), the enlarged skill experience books in the medium-sized treasure chests would still continue to increase his experience. However, that increase would no longer be exponential and the effect lessened the more he "ate" them. The 1,000 smaller Go Skill Experience Books that he had just studied cost the same as the 10 larger ones, at 100 million total Reputation Points each. But the 10 larger skill experience books clearly did not have as great an effect as when he "ate" the smaller ones.

This was actually quite normal. To cite an example: A weightlifting beginner could easily go from lifting 25 kg to 50 kg. But to get to lifting 75 kg from 50 kg, it would only get more difficult. Then, to get from lifting 100 kg to 125 kg, it would be even harder. Once it got close to human limits, it would almost be impossible to achieve. The great thing about Lottery Draw (Two)'s prizes was that it could allow the user to continue increasing the skill level even though the base limits had already been reached. It might seem like the growth rate was negligible, but the actual growth was not the same. This was a really important discovery!

Stamina?

Strength?

This meant Zhang Ye could still get to a higher level in those stats!

Zhang Ye was rather happy to have gained a further understanding of the game ring. But still, he felt that this skill experience book for Go was a bit of a scam. Oh right, the Lucky Halo was still activated.

Just as he was about to deactivate the Reputation Points sucking item, he heard a shuffle of footsteps at the door. With a swish, an ad pamphlet was slotted in through the gap at the bottom of the door.

He deactivated the Lucky Halo and walked to the door to pick up the pamphlet.

Xuanwumen Go Club?

Recruiting members?

Play for free for two hours by showing this pamphlet?

Zhang Ye suddenly realized that there was something going on. Logically, the Lucky Halo would not usually fail. Moreover, the Lucky Halo he was using was an upgraded version, so the effects should be much stronger. Even if it had failed to work properly once, it shouldn't happen twice in a row. Further, someone had even handed out a Go club pamphlet through the door?

Could there be some deeper meaning to this?

Since he did not have anything to do, he immediately decided that he would head there to have a look.

...

Later that afternoon.

Xuanwumen.

As it wasn't far away, Zhang Ye slow jogged over so that he could get some light training in as well. But as he got recognized by people three times along the way, he quickly turned into the alleyways to hide from the attention. Very soon, he reached his destination.

A traditional air exuded from the Go club building that spanned two stories.

He pushed opened the door and entered the building. It wasn't a large place and felt more like a café.

An old man sat at the reception desk.

"Hello, young man."

"Hello."

"Is this your first time here?"

"Yes. This pamphlet says that I can play two hours for free?"

"Let me take a look, please? Oh yes, you can play for free. It's on the second floor."

Clack, clack. He could hear the clink of the Go stones being played upstairs.

Zhang Ye went upstairs to take a look but saw that there weren't too many people at the club. Those who were here were basically just the elderly, so he took off his sunglasses. Since his fanbase did not include the elderly, he thought that it would be fine to just wear his surgical mask as he probably wouldn't get recognized by anyone here. If he had been wearing his aviators inside, it would have made him stand out even more.

He found a spot where no one was at and sat down. Then he started laying out the stones based on a game record 2 .

Zhang Ye had learned about Go way back then. Of course, he didn't learn it professionally. He only joined those compulsory interest-based classes where they made you learn activities like Xiangqi 3 , badminton, and soccer during elementary and middle school. For some reason, he chose to learn about Go back then. It was because of those classes that he had gained a basic knowledge of Go, although his knowledge was just on how to play it. Though he'd read many game records, he still couldn't grasp many of the basic concepts and wasn't exactly interested in the game either.

Five minutes.

Ten minutes.

He sat there by himself. No one came to look for him to play him, nor did he go to anyone seeking to play them. He simply wanted to find out what was going on with the Lucky Halo today.

Suddenly, someone came upstairs.

He turned to look and saw an old man in his fifties. He was wearing in a Chinese tunic suit and dressed very smartly. His eyebrows were pretty bushy, and he looked like he had quite the temper.

When he arrived, the people in the Go club immediately stopped playing.

"Yo."

"Teacher Changhe."

"What a rare guest!"

"What brought you here today?"

"Did you argue with your daughter again? Haha!"

"Or did you get chased out of your house by your wife?"

The several old men were definitely old acquaintances from the looks of it, bantering the moment he arrived.

That old man who was addressed as Teacher Changhe scowled and rolled his eyes. "You all better keep it down. Do you think I won't slaughter all of you on the Go board? Who wants to have a go? Come on, I'll let you have a handicap of three stones!"

A middle-aged man laughed and said, "We wouldn't dare to play against you even if you gave us a handicap of five stones. Who hadn't heard of your great name all those years ago, Changhe 9-dan?"

Teacher Changhe did not like what he was hearing. He harrumphed, "You make it sound as if no one knows who I am now!"

An old man said in amusement, "You have students everywhere, and so many of them are even national players. I'm sure the entire world knows who you are. Does that sound better to you? There's a popular saying that goes 'a good man does not harp on past glories.' You've been retired for so many years. Why are you still so competitive?"

Teacher Changhe said with a laugh, "But I'm still stronger than the several of you old fogies. You tried so hard all those years ago and still couldn't make it as professional Go players. At most, you're known as dominant players among amateurs!"

9th dan?

A Go 9-dan?

Zhang Ye was taken aback. There was actually such a highly skilled player in this small Go club?

A 9th dan is one of the highest honors in the Go world. Even if one was old or retired, a 9th dan's strength was still at the level of a professional and would definitely be considered a person of distinction in the Go world. What was such a high ranking person doing here in a small, amateur Go club like this one?

Changhe 9-dan said, "I'm not going to continue bantering with you all. I still have something to handle here. Where's Old Lu? We arranged to meet at this time, so where is he?"

"Old Lu just left."

"Ah?"

"I think his wife fell sick."

"That old fogey! I told him that I had something important to discuss with him! How can he delay me like this!"

"What's the matter, Teacher Changhe?"

"Nothing, it's nothing."

Changhe 9-dan was looking pretty unhappy.

Where else could he go to find someone at a time like this?

Suddenly, he glanced over in Zhang Ye's direction. "Eh? Who's that young man?"

An old man looked over. "We don't know him. He just came in a short while ago, I think he's here to play Go? But he didn't approach anyone to play against and has just been laying out stones from a game record all this while."

In this Go club that basically consisted of only the elderly, a young man walking into the premises naturally caught their attention. However, no one went over to interact with him.

Changhe 9-dan walked over to him and had a look at the Go board. His curiosity was piqued and he took a closer look at it. His eyes lit up. "Why have I never come across a game record like this one before?"

Zhang Ye looked up at him and said with a smile, "I was placing them down willy-nilly. I forget where I saw it."

Of course he wouldn't have come across it before. That was because this game record was from a match between two Go masters from Zhang Ye's previous world. Zhang Ye was just replaying that match.

Changhe 9-dan sat down across from him and scrutinized him "You're a beginner?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "More or less."

Changhe 9-dan asked, "How good are you?"

"I'm OK, I guess," Zhang Ye said conservatively.

The several old men in the Go club were all amused at this reply. OK? How confident!

Changhe 9-dan narrowed his eyes. "Alright, let's play a match."

Zhang Ye thought a little. "Sure."

"I'll let you have a handicap of two stones. Come on!" Changhe 9-dan took the whites stones for himself.

Chapter 1096: Zhang Ye's blind date?

In the Go club.

The atmosphere livened up.

"Quick, let's go and watch."

"Changhe is playing."

"I haven't seen him play Go in a very long time."

"I'll go and watch as well."

"Why is he playing against a young man?"

"I don't know."

The game began.

Zhang Ye was given a handicap of two stones. He did not say anything and just smiled as he started playing his first moves 1 .

Changhe 9-dan made his move. "How should I address you?"

Zhang Ye played a knight's move 2 . "You can call me Zhang."

Changhe 9-dan followed up with another move. "Where do you stay?"

"At Caishikou." Zhang Ye played a diagonal move 3 .

Changhe 9-dan's eyebrows jumped as he said, "Oh, that's not far away. I live in the area as well. Not bad, you're pretty good. Let me test you further."

Clink.

Clink.

The stones were placed down onto the board very quickly.

The two of them were seemingly playing a fast game, taking very little time to think in between each move.

As Zhang Ye was given a handicap of two stones, he naturally had the greater advantage and that manifested right from the beginning of the game. However, Changhe 9-dan was a professional and had even stood at the top of Go world before. By the midgame, he had gradually clawed back from his disadvantage, exciting the nearby spectators.

"What a great move!"

"This move is really beautiful!"

"Teacher Changhe is still as skilled as ever!"

Changhe 9-dan even chatted as he played. "Haha. Compared to those past years, I'm no longer as skilled. I'm getting on in age and my mind can't function as fast as before."

An old neighbor of his laughed and said, "The main issue is that your temper has grown and your play has become less steady as before."

Someone who did not agree with that said, "But compared to his previous playing style, Teacher Changhe's attack has become much stronger."

An old man had a look at the Go board, then said, "This young man is pretty good. For an amateur to play so well against Changhe is already quite something. If he puts in more effort and practices, he might even be able to turn professional!"

"That might not be the case."

"Right, don't forget that he was given a handicap of two stones."

"The gap between them is still pretty wide."

"This young man has potential."

There were all kinds of evaluations.

The first match ended.

Without even the need for adding compensation 4 , Zhang Ye had lost.

But Changhe 9-dan was very happy. "That was a very enjoyable game. In recent years, other than professional players, there have rarely been any amateurs who can play so well against me."

Zhang Ye smiled.

Changhe 9-dan's interest was piqued. "Come, come, let's play another game. I will give you a handicap of two stones as usual."

Although Changhe 9-dan was very familiar with the old neighbors here, he seldom played with them. This was because the difference in their levels was so huge that even giving a handicap would not resolve the issue. He would usually play Go with his disciples instead or go on Internet Go servers to look for his old friends who were professional Go players to be his opponents. But to him, the feeling of playing online by clicking on a mouse was clearly not as good as the real thing. So now that he had met this young man who could compare to him, he naturally would not allow him to leave.

They started a new game.

Changhe 9-dan won again!

Zhang Ye was not bothered by this either. It was as if he was not being serious at all.

However, the others around definitely did not think of it any other way. They thought that this young man had already given his all in order to achieve such results against a former 9th dan Go master.

After three rounds, Changhe 9-dan banged on the table and laughed heartily. "Alright, young man! You'll do." Then, amid everyone's confused gazes, Changhe 9-dan pulled Zhang Ye toward the exit. "Let's go! Come with me!"

Zhang Ye was stunned. "To where?"

"To my place."

"Are we still going to play?"

"No, we won't be playing anymore. Haha!"

"Uncle, I still have something to attend to."

"Whatever it is that you have, you need to postpone it. I'm depending on you to save the day!"

Zhang Ye was at a loss for words. Without even knowing what was going on, he had been dragged to the entrance of a courtyard house 5 by the old man. Once inside, he didn't see anyone else in the courtyard and was unsure if the entire place belonged to the old man's household. Very quickly, he was then dragged off into the northern house by the old man.

In the house.

A middle-aged woman preparing some vegetables looked up, slightly startled. "You're back?"

Changhe 9-dan said with a laugh, "I'm back. Are you preparing dinner?"

Li Qinqin looked at Zhang Ye. "Is this young man Old Lu's son? That's not right. I saw him last year. He doesn't look like that?"

Changhe 9-dan waved her off. "Don't talk about that Old Lu. He'd too unreliable, standing me up at the Go club. There, didn't I still manage to find this young man at the last minute? We even played two rounds of Go together and I found out that he's quite good. I would consider him to be one of the better amateur players around. It's just a shame that he's a bit old. If he were 16, 17 years old, I would definitely have taken him as my disciple."

Li Qinqin grumbled, "You're always doing things like that. Look at him. He doesn't even know what's going on and you've dragged him here. You're really something."

Zhang Ye gave a wry smile. "Auntie, what is going on?"

Li Qinqin apologized, "Child, please go back. This has nothing to do with you."

"Why're you making him leave!" Changhe 9-dan waved her off. "Never you mind. Our daughter will be back soon. Just make dinner. I'll take charge of this myself."

Li Qinqin didn't know how to react. "You do that."

Changhe 9-dan said, "So what if I do? I just dislike that guy our daughter found for herself."

Li Qinqin shook her head and said, "You don't even know who he is."

"Isn't it enough knowing what his job is?" Changhe 9-dan grunted, "Anyway, I won't agree to it. I'll definitely foil her plans!"

Zhang Ye was confused by what was going on.

Changhe 9-dan's next line scared the living daylights out of Zhang Ye. "Kid, when my daughter gets back, I'm arranging for you two to have a blind date. Do have a good chat with her."

What?

A blind date?

Why would I have a blind date!

Zhang Ye was floored. "I already have a girlfriend."

Changhe 9-dan said, "Uh-huh, that's fine. My daughter definitely won't have eyes for you anyway."

Zhang Ye was floored again. "Uncle, why doesn't that sound right at all to me?"

Li Qinqin blinked. "Young man, what's your job?"

Zhang Ye took off his surgical mask.

Li Qinqin said curiously, "Why do you look a little familiar?"

Changhe 9-dan looked at him and nodded approvingly. "Mhm, your looks are average but you're classy. Otherwise, why would there be a saying that those who play Go don't lack for class? So what do you do for a living?"

Man, you two really don't know who I am?

Zhang Ye had to nonchalantly say, "I'm a teacher."

Li Qinqin probed further, "What subject do you teach?"

Zhang Ye said, "Mathematics."

"A teacher? That's not bad!" Changhe 9-dan nodded and said, "You even teach mathematics? No wonder you could play Go so well. Mathematics and Go are interrelated. I know some math professors from Peking University who are also quite good at Go."

Bro, I am from Peking University!

Li Qinqin studied Zhang Ye, then said, "It's just that he's too young."

Zhang Ye made to leave. "I really can't do this, so I'll be leaving."

But Changhe 9-dan grabbed him. "Get back here. Do you know how beautiful my daughter is? Huh? Let me tell you this! If you leave now, you'll regret it forever! You are a Go player as well. Don't you know the traditions of our Go world? In times of trouble, aid arrives from all over. You must know that, right? Sit down. No matter what, you must have dinner before you leave. What if, and I'm saying what if, my daughter really likes you? Then that would be a blessing that you've earned through your previous eight lifetimes! Of course, that likely won't be the case." Beaming with joy, he could not help but continue, "You do not know how outstanding my daughter is. She is beautiful, she works as..."

In the end, Zhang Ye was persuaded to stay.

Or rather, he had been held back by force.

Zhang Ye was starting to feel ill at ease and was almost in tears. I'm having a blind date? If this gets out and Old Wu learns about it, I'll die without knowing how I died! Are you trying to get me into trouble?!

This Lucky Halo is really too much!

I've totally been scammed!

This is simply—



All of a sudden, footfalls came from the entrance of the courtyard.

Li Qinqin's eyes lit up. "Our daughter is back!"

Changhe 9-dan gave Zhang Ye a wink and said, "Perform well and act natural. When you see what my daughter looks like in a while, don't get too shocked. She's really beautiful!"

The footsteps were getting closer and closer.

The silhouette of a person was visible in the courtyard.

Li Qinqin went up to her with a smile. "You're back?"

Changhe 9-dan asked, "Where did you park your car?"

The woman smiled and said, "I parked it at the entrance of the alley."

Then, when the woman spotted Zhang Ye inside the house, she was stunned!

When Zhang Ye saw the woman standing outside the house, he was stunned as well!

Holy shit!

Old Wu?

Chapter 1097: This is my boyfriend!

In the courtyard house.

The two of them stared at one another and saw the shock in each other's eyes. Zhang Ye could not have expected that the woman who came in would turn out to be Old Wu even if he were told this a hundred times over!

What was this?

What was going on?

Zhang Ye's jaw dropped!

Wu Changhe patted Zhang Ye on the shoulder and pointed at the woman who just came in. With a smile, he introduced, "This is my daughter, Wu Zeqing. What do you think? She's good, right? Hur hur, look at you, you're all dumbfounded at seeing her. I was just warning you a moment ago." He was clearly very pleased and proud, thinking that Zhang Ye had been stupefied by his beautiful daughter. "My daughter is a civil servant. She's an official, and an important leader at that, hahaha. Guess which organization she's from. Hmm?"

"Eh?"

Wu Changhe asked again, "Guess! I'm sure you won't be able to guess!"

Zhang Ye didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

Guess?

I won't be able to guess, my ass!

We've known each other for a long time!

Wu Changhe did not even wait for Zhang Ye to guess as he simply announced the answer. "Haha, my daughter is currently an executive at the SARFT. As for what position she holds, you two can talk about it in detail afterwards. I won't go on further about it." Then he looked at Wu Zeqing and said, "My daughter, this is Little Zhang. A young and promising man who can play Go as well as him at his age is rarely seen. He's considered quite outstanding when it comes to the ranks of the amateur players. I only met Little Zhang by chance today and played a few games with him. It felt great playing against him! Although he paled in comparison to me, and I beat him by quite a large margin even though I gave him a handicap of two stones, he was still quite outstanding. Oh, and can you guess what his job is? Take a guess."

Play Go?

Just met each other?

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "What's his job?"

"A teacher! He's a university professor!" Wu Changhe laughed and said, "What a good job that is! Can you guess what subject he teaches? Hmm?"

Wu Zeqing said, "Chinese."

Wu Changhe shook his head. "Nope, he teaches mathematics."

Zhang Ye wiped his sweat away and said, "About that, I—"

Wu Changhe was an impatient man. "Don't be so wishy-washy. Quickly shake hands and get to know each other, hurry."

Shake what hands?!

Zhang Ye did not know what to say anymore.

It was Wu Zeqing who put out her hand first, in a gentle manner. "Hello, Teacher Zhang."

Zhang Ye forced a smile. He had no choice but to shake her hand in return. "Hello."

Li Qinqin pulled her daughter into the house. "Don't stand out here. Let's talk inside. Zeqing, how long ago was it since you came back home? You should come back to visit us more often."

"I'm too busy at the office and can't get away sometimes." Wu Zeqing glanced at Zhang Ye and said, "Feel free to sit and make yourself at home."

Eh?

Their daughter's attitude wasn't too bad?

It seemed like her attitude had changed?

Li Qinqin looked at her daughter with great surprise.

Wu Changhe was quite happy as he thought that his daughter would be very resistant to the idea of this blind date. "That's right, have a seat. Make yourself at home and don't stand on ceremony with us!"

Sweat started beading at Zhang Ye's forehead. "Alright."

The atmosphere was very awkward!

At least Zhang Ye felt that way!

So this is your father?

So this is your mother?

So this is your house?

Holy shit!

Only now did he realize what had happened, and it wasn't that the Lucky Halo that was ineffective. Instead, it had "coincidentally" helped him to meet his future father-in-law. Further, as luck would have it, he was dragged along by his future father-in-law who needed him to step in for someone else to go on a blind date with his daughter! Thinking about it now, he remembered that Wu Zeqing had mentioned on the phone that she would be going back to her parents' home in the evening as her father had arranged another blind date for her! But he could never have expected that the man who came for the blind date would turn out to be him. Just what the heck was this! This was way too dramatic!

Zhang Ye really was not mentally prepared at all. If he knew that he would be coming to Wu Zeqing's home today, he would have bought things and gotten some gifts no matter what. He had never expected that his first time visiting Old Wu's home would happen under such circumstances that would leave anyone at a loss!

The four of them sat down.

Li Qinqin brewed a pot of tea. "Come, have some tea. I'll go make dinner."

Wu Changhe said, "Yes, just chat among yourselves. Don't worry about us." Even though he said that, he did not move away and continued to sit beside them.

Wu Zeqing looked at Zhang Ye and said with a smile, "You can even play Go?"

Zhang Ye coughed and said, "I learned a little when I was in school."

Wu Changhe added, "He's very good."

Zhang Ye immediately said, "No, no. It's just a hobby and I'm only an amateur."

"Look at Little Zhang. He's so modest," Wu Changhe praised.

Li Qinqin rolled her eyes at her husband. "Don't disturb them. Come and help me with dinner."

Wu Changhe said, "You do it. I want to have a little chat with the young ones."

"Auntie, why don't I come and help you?" Zhang Ye swiftly stood up.

Li Qinqin immediately smiled and said, "No need. You two can carry on talking. The food has already been made and dinner will be served in a bit."

Frankly, Old Wu's character was closer to Li Qinqin's. She was gentle and took after her mother in the looks department, with their eyes and nose looking exactly alike. Of course, she also inherited some behavioral traits from her father. For example, she was quite authoritative when it came to work, like him. Old Wu might be gentle, but she was never meek.

Before long, dinner was ready.

Wu Zeqing went to help her mother bring the dishes out.

Wu Changhe asked Zhang Ye in a low voice, "How is it? My daughter's not bad, eh?"

Zhang Ye nodded firmly. "She's really good!"

The dishes were served.

Wu Changhe said loudly, "Actually, my daughter cooks very well. Even her mother cannot compare to her culinary skills. She can make any kind of dish and they'll all be delicious!"

Li Qinqin said with a laugh, "If you don't like to eat something, don't eat it."

Wu Changhe laughed heartily. "How can that do? Come, Little Zhang, try your auntie's cooking. Oh yes, what do your parents do?"

Zhang Ye sat up straight and said in a serious tone, "My parents are ordinary workers."

Li Qinqin said, "Mmm, that's good. The labor workforce consists of the most honorable people."

Wu Changhe nodded. "In fact, we're just an ordinary family as well and are not fussy about such things. We're not insistent on looking for someone who is a government official. Or someone rich. Or require them to be from a family of comparable status. Our family does not have such a mindset as we are very casual people, you know?" He looked at Zhang Ye and said, "We're mainly looking for someone who has a good character and a stable career, like being a teacher. Then, of course, my daughter has to like him as well and they should share something in common. That's all that matters."

Zhang Ye did not dare utter a word.

Wu Zeqing did not show much of an expression and continued to eat.

Wu Changhe looked at his daughter. "My daughter, what do you think of Little Zhang?"

Wu Zeqing nodded. "He's quite good."

Li Qinqin was taken aback. "What do you mean by he's quite good?"

"I'm quite happy." Wu Zeqing smiled.

Li Qinqin gasped in surprise. She felt that her daughter was behaving differently today. In the past, whenever she had a blind date, she would not even turn up to meet the person. When it got unavoidable and she had no choice but to meet them, she would always come up with some excuse, like being needed back at the office, before leaving quickly. So why now was she inviting Little Zhang to have

a seat and telling him to make himself at home? She even said things like how she was happy with him? This had never happened before! Did the sun rise up from the west today?

Wu Changhe was also very surprised. "Oh? Then...there's a chance to progress further?"

Wu Zeqing smiled as she scooped some food for both her parents. She said, "Dad, you really know how to choose someone. From a sea of a billion people, even if you narrowed down the range to only Beijing, there are still more than ten million people to choose from. In the end, you just had to bring the most unlikely guy back here."

"Hmm?" Li Qinqin blinked several times.

"What do you mean by that?" Wu Changhe was also confused.

Wu Zeqing pointed at Zhang Ye and said, "The two of you really don't know who he is?"

Zhang Ye gave a hollow laugh.

Wu Changhe said, "I know. He's Little Zhang."

The elderly couple really did not watch much television nor paid any attention to the matters surrounding the entertainment industry.

Li Qinqin suddenly stared at Zhang Ye. "I found him somewhat familiar right as he came in. It's, it's like I've seen him somewhere before."

Wu Zeqing put down her chopsticks and said with a smile, "Then let me reintroduce him to you. The gentleman before you is indeed a university professor. That's not false. It's also true that he teaches math. But the two of you definitely do not know that he holds a title at Peking University and that he is an associate professor in the Math Department."

Li Qinqin was startled. "Peking University? Didn't you used to be the vice president of Peking?"

Wu Changhe stared with mouth agape. "Associate professor? How can there be such a young associate professor at Peking University?"

Wu Zeqing continued, "At the same time, he's also a lecturer in the Chinese Department at Peking University and holds the title of Visiting Associate Professor at Media College. He's as real an academic as you can get." She then paused when she saw her parents' stunned faces. She added, "By the way, he still has some other identities as well. For example, he's a calligrapher, a famous radio host, a famous variety show director, a famous documentary director, a famous singer, a musician, an actor, a famous poet, a famous author, a lawyer, and so on and so forth."

Wu Changhe jumped to his feet!

Li Qinqin asked in surprise, "Th-The two of you already know each other?"

They had figured out who this man was!

Someone who held all these titles in all the nation—there could only be one!

The next moment, Wu Zeqing held onto Zhang Ye's arm very naturally and introduced him calmly to her parents, "This is Zhang Ye, my boyfriend."

Li Qinqin opened her mouth wide. "Ah?"

Wu Changhe panicked. "What did you say?"

"This is your boyfriend?" Li Qinqin didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

They finally understood why their daughter had said those things that didn't make sense to them earlier! From the millions of people in Beijing, Wu Changhe had actually dragged his daughter's real boyfriend whom he had always objected to to their home for a blind date with his daughter! What was the damned probability of that?

Wu Changhe nearly vomited a mouthful of blood!

Chapter 1098: I will give you a handicap of two stones!

This was too dramatic!

And it was too unbelievable as well!

How could there be such a coincidence?

Even in television dramas, there wouldn't be such a fucking coincidence!

In an instant, Wu Changhe flew into a rage as he banged on the table and pointed at Zhang Ye. "So you're the rascal that duped my daughter? You still have the cheek to sit here? Huh?"

Zhang Ye sat there in a daze. "Huh? Didn't you tell me to make myself at home?"

Wu Changhe said furiously, "What makes you think that this is your home? Go back to wherever you came from! Get up, get up right now!"

Zhang Ye wiped his sweat away and stood up obediently.

Wu Changhe pointed at him and said, "You got me good, you rascal. Did you plan all of this? You knew that I would be going to the Xuanwumen Go club today? Did you go in advance to lie in wait after my daughter tipped you off? Then insist on following me home, leading to this situation? Huh? Was it you?"

Feeling wronged, Zhang Ye said, "Bro—no, Uncle, I didn't even know where you lived and Old Wu has never even mentioned to me who you are, so how could I possibly know that you were going to the Go club today? And it just so happened that Uncle Lu's son whom you were looking for did not show up? It's not like I'm a fortune teller or something. Besides, I did not insist on following you home. It was you who dragged me here. I didn't even know what was happening!"

Wu Changhe said angrily, "You're still denying it?"

"But it was really you who dragged this young man here," Li Qinqin spoke fairly. "When Little Zhang found out that he was here for a blind date, he even wanted to leave. But you blocked the door and refused to let him go."

Wu Changhe didn't say anything.

It was clear that this was just a coincidence!

Li Qinqin muttered to herself, "Could it really be fate?"

Wu Changhe yelled, "What fate!"

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Dad, let's eat for now." Then she pulled at Zhang Ye for him to sit down and continue eating.

Wu Changhe said, "Do you think I still have an appetite?"

But Wu Zeqing was still as calm as ever. She even gave some food to Zhang Ye. "Try this. My mother is also very good at making chicken wings. She taught me all my culinary skills."

"Oh." Zhang Ye had a taste and said, "Mmm, delicious!"

Wu Changhe shouted, "I won't agree to this anyhow! I won't allow it!"

"Keep it down." Li Qinqin smacked her lips and said, "Little Zhang has come as a guest. Besides, after all's been said and done, you were the one who dragged him to our place."

Wu Changhe quibbled, "I was deceived by him!"

Wu Zeqing looked up. "Dad, can you sit down and eat for now? We'll return to this after dinner. We can't solve anything on an empty stomach, don't you think?"

Wu Changhe sat down angrily. But he did not take another bite of food as he was not in the mood to eat anymore. He had found Zhang Ye to be pretty pleasing to the eye before this. After all, there weren't that many young people who would put in the effort to play Go. But at this moment, Wu Changhe found Zhang Ye to be very unlikable no matter how he looked at him. He wished that he could grab a rolling pin and chase him out of the house!

Wu Zeqing's mother did not have any negative feelings for Zhang Ye. On the contrary, she seemed to be quite interested in him.

Li Qinqin looked at him. "Little Zhang, the two of us don't usually watch television and couldn't recognize you just now, but we've heard a lot about you on more than one occasion. Your reputation precedes you, so I was really curious about you and have always wanted to meet you. But I never expected that we would meet under such circumstances."

Zhang Ye said respectfully, "It's an undeserved reputation that was given to me by the public. Auntie, I've actually wanted to pay you a visit for a long time, but there hadn't been an opportunity to do so. If I knew that I would be here today, I would have brought something along. I feel bad that I didn't get gifts."

Li Qinqin asked, "How many people are in your family?"

Zhang Ye said, "There's only my parents and me."

"You don't have any siblings?"

"I'm an only child."

"How did you get to know my daughter?"

"The first time we met was on a plane. Old Wu invited me to teach at Peking University when she was still the vice president. That was quite a while ago."

Li Qinqin blinked. "How long have you two been together?"

Zhang Ye coughed and said, "About a year."

"We didn't even know about it." Li Qinqin gave her daughter a look.

Wu Zeqing laughed. "How would I dare let you two know when Dad is like this?"

Li Qinqin smiled. "That's true."

Wu Changhe raged and addressed her by name, "Li Qinqin, whose side are you on?"

Li Qinqin replied, "I think Little Zhang is quite good. I don't know much about the entertainment industry nor do I know any of those celebrities. But I've still heard of Little Zhang's name many times before. Even though he is young, he has many accomplishments. Moreover, I heard that Little Zhang helped out a lot with Little Mo's and Little Chubs' (Fat Sis) companies. It's all because of his help that their companies managed to do well. Didn't they mention that during our last meal together? They were especially thankful to Little Zhang, saying that if not for him, their companies would have gone bust! Little Zhang has given his best and really done a lot for our family."

Zhang Ye was extremely touched!

He did not expect that Wu Zeqing's mother would actually speak up for him!

Wu Changhe said angrily, "I'm telling you, I will declare this first: I will not accept this, definitely not. So what if he is very accomplished? No matter how accomplished he is, he is still someone in the entertainment industry! Don't you know what sort of people are in that industry? There are hardly any good people in there! That industry is just a messed up place! The age difference and earnings are both not issues here. But no matter what, she mustn't get married to someone in the entertainment industry! Are you trying to push our daughter into a fiery pit of suffering?"

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Then you can think of him as a university professor."

"I can't do that." Wu Changhe said, "That is not his main career!"

Wu Zeqing said, "Aren't you making things difficult for me this way? When I said that I found someone, you told me that you were not fine with it. Alright, now that you've brought someone back and I accepted him, you're telling me no again? Dad, I can make my own decisions and know what I'm doing. If it's someone I like, no one can talk me out of it."

Wu Changhe said angrily, "Why are you so naïve? Don't you know what kind of reputation this Zhang Ye has? His character is already questionable. How can you marry a person like him?"

At this, Zhang Ye could no longer just listen quietly.



Zhang Ye's eyebrows jumped as he interrupted, "Uncle, I won't say anything if you criticize me on other matters. But if you say that my character is questionable, I won't accept it."

Li Qinqin looked at Zhang Ye in surprise.

Wu Changhe had a bad temper, but so did Zhang Ye.

There were issues that he could back off on.

There were issues that he could give in to.

But some things, he had to speak up when something needed to be said!

Wu Changhe stared at him. "You won't accept it?"

Zhang Ye said slowly, "It's not that I don't respect my elders. But if you say that my character is questionable, I must definitely take it up with you. I can't pretend that I didn't hear it."

The two of them immediately started to quarrel!

They had quite an exchange of words, but neither of them was willing to give in!

Li Qinqin quickly mediated by saying, "There's no problem with Little Zhang's character. He saved a lot of people during the plane hijacking incident back then. Didn't you also say it just now? That he plays Go exceptionally well. You've said that those who can play Go well never have bad characters."

Wu Changhe sneered, "He plays well? You really believe the words that I casually said? By that skill of his and me giving him a two stone handicap, I can still beat him by 6 points and above without needing to wrack my brains. His Go skill is so lousy. How well could he possibly play! Judging by his Go technique that was full of rashness and unsteadiness, it would be a wonder if his character can be good!"

Wu Zeqing put down her chopsticks and wiped the corners of her mouth with a napkin in an even manner. "Enough. Little Ye, let's go."

Li Qinqin said, "Stay awhile longer and eat more."

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "If we continue eating, these two will soon start a fight. Little Ye and I will go back."

However, Zhang Ye was not about to leave just yet. "That won't do. We have to clear up this matter about my character first. Uncle, I can sense that you're deliberately targeting me."

Wu Changhe couldn't help but laugh. "You still don't want to admit that you play a lousy game of Go?"

Zhang Ye said, "Does that mean that a person who can play Go well will automatically have a good character?"

"Of course. Go is a kind of self-cultivation. Those who exploit others by taking advantage of the situation and people with questionable characters would never be able to play it well." Wu Changhe grunted.

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright then, let's use Go to sort it out. We'll play another match. Are you fine with that?"

Wu Changhe was amused. "You still want to play against me? You're far from as good as me! Even if you practiced for another 50 years, you still won't be a match for me! You couldn't beat me even if I gave you a handicap of two stones!"

However, Zhang Ye's next line stunned everyone in the house!

Zhang Ye said, "This time around, let me give you a handicap of two stones!"

There was a Go board with specialized seats in the house. Having said that, Zhang Ye walked right over and sat down. He took the white stones 1 and looked at Wu Changhe. "Go ahead."

You're giving me a handicap?

Of two stones?

Wu Changhe nearly burst out laughing!

Li Qinqin gave a bitter laugh. "Little Zhang, your uncle here was ranked as a 9th dan in Go back in his day."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Auntie, I know that."

Wu Changhe laughed in anger. He sat down heavily on the side of the black stones. "Alright, you think that you can beat me just because I didn't play seriously just then? Haha!"

Zhang Ye said with a smile, "What a coincidence. I wasn't playing seriously either."

The atmosphere became really tense!

The conflict between these two escalated!

Li Qinqin knew that she could not dissuade them, so she did not say any more and spectated. She was no stranger to Go. Although she was not good at playing, she still knew how to watch a match of Go.

It was the same for Wu Zeqing. She quietly walked to the rear of Zhang Ye. She understood Go as well, of course.

Wu Changhe didn't try to be polite nor have the bearing of a one-time 9th dan professional player. He grabbed two black stones and slapped them down on the Go board with a sneer. "You're giving me a handicap of two stones, right? Good! Let's see how you're going to play!"

Li Qinqin frowned. "Changhe, what are you trying to do?"

Wu Changhe said, "He was the one who spoke arrogantly first and gave me a handicap of two stones. I'm just abiding by his wishes." He said to Zhang Ye, "Come, let me see what you look like when you get serious!"

Taking the white stones, Zhang Ye's expression had already changed. It was a completely different look from the way he was while at the Go club in the afternoon. It was as though he had totally become another person now.

Clink!

Zhang Ye placed his stone!

Wu Changhe glanced at him as he laughed and placed his stone too.

Knight's move.

A move followed.

Horizontal stretch 2 .

Placement 3 .

Another knight's move.

Followed by another move.

Extension 4 .

As he played, Wu Changhe kept mocking, "What lousy moves. Do you even know how to play? You even want to make a diagonal move over here? What's the point of doing that? Have you ever seen any professional players play like that? You're a total amateur!"

But gradually, Wu Changhe's words lessened until he did not have anything to say.

Li Qinqin was stunned!

Wu Zeqing suddenly smiled!

That "diagonal move" that Zhang Ye made just now had made Wu Changhe break out in a cold sweat!

Holy shit!

What kind of move was that?

This way of playing had rarely been employed by anyone in the past!

Wu Changhe's expression changed.

...

Two hours later.

Their match lasted a full two hours.

Zhang Ye placed the last stone down with a loud clink.

Wu Changhe's face had turned green from anger!

How could that be possible!

Just how could that be possible!

Li Qinqin also looked at Zhang Ye in disbelief!

He lost!

Wu Changhe had actually lost!

And he even lost after given a handicap of two stones!

Zhang Ye said, "You were saying earlier that those who can play a good game of Go would surely have a good character? So it looks like my character isn't that bad after all, huh?"

Chapter 1099: Arranging a battle against his future father-in-law!

In the house.

The three of them were stunned by Zhang Ye's Go skill!

You won?

How did you manage to win?

Nowadays, Wu Changhe was admittedly no longer that commanding Changhe 9-dan from 20 years ago. His Go skill had regressed and he was already way off from the peak of his prowess. Go might seem like it was a game that many middle-aged people and the elderly played. But in fact, the top players in the world were all young people. At least, there weren't many that were past the age of 40. However, if one used to be an elite player in the Go world, they would still be an elite player now. Even if their skills had regressed, it would still not be easy to beat them. They were still regarded to be at the professional level and definitely not just at the level of those who had recently turned professional. Even if Wu Changhe had underestimated his opponent by not being serious at the start, this should still not have happened! It still did not make any sense at all!

Giving a handicap of two stones?

And he still won?

For a professional Go player, this was as good as demolishing your opponent!

Because for a professional Go player, there shouldn't be talk about giving handicaps at all. Although there was a difference in each person's skill, the difference would never call for giving a two stone handicap. What was the difference indicated by two stones? That would probably be the difference between a high level amateur and a low level one, or the difference between a professional Go player and a high level amateur Go player!

Li Qinqin said in astonishment, "Little Zhang. Y-Your Go skills are so advanced?"

Wu Changhe angrily banged on the table and stood up. "How devious! You rascal, you're too devious! So you were only pretending this afternoon when we played each other? You were only trying to lower my defenses around you!"

Zhang Ye said, "In any case, I've won."

Wu Changhe said angrily, "What do you mean you won! If I had known you were at the level of a professional Go player, I would have played properly against you! I wasn't being serious at all just now!"

Zhang Ye spread his hands. "It's your problem that you were not serious. I still won anyhow."

"You despicable rascal!" Wu Changhe raged. "You did that on purpose! You must have done that on purpose! Moreover, do you know how many years it has been since I've dabbled in a handicap game? That was a sneak attack! A sneak attack!"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes.

Wu Zeqing said with a laugh, "Dad, are you a sore loser now?"

Wu Changhe stared with eyes wide. "Me? A sore loser? Haha, what a joke! If I were to play him seriously, would I possibly lose? My daughter, you're looking down a little too much on your father! At just the mention of my name in the Go community, who wouldn't be afraid of me? If this rascal didn't pull a fast one on me, he wouldn't have won even if I gave him a handicap of five stones!"

Five stones?

Give me a handicap?

Hur hur!

Zhang Ye sneered!

Li Qinqin also rolled her eyes at her husband. "Alright, enough with your bragging."

"You think that I was bragging? Huh?" Wu Changhe said exasperatedly, "Look at this boyfriend that our daughter found. Haven't you seen? He's so devious! I will never approve of him! She can look for any other person, but she must never find a boyfriend like him! He has a questionable character. Let me say this again: His character is too questionable!"

Li Qinqin smacked her lips and said, "He played against you fair and square, and even gave you a handicap of two stones. What do you mean by he's devious? The way I see it, it's your skill that has dropped. You were not a match for him."

Wu Changhe was getting annoyed. "I wasn't playing seriously! If I had, he would surely have been scared to death!"

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Alright, alright, you weren't being serious just now." She pulled at Zhang Ye. "Let's go. Dad, Mom, we'll be leaving now."

Wu Changhe stopped them. He pointed at Zhang Ye and said, "What's the matter? Running away after you've resorted to dirty tricks? Don't run away if you are so good!"

Li Qinqin tugged at her husband. "That's enough."

Zhang Ye had wanted to leave with Old Wu, but when he heard that, he stopped in his tracks and turned around. "I won't leave then. If there's anything you're unhappy about with respect to the game, you can set the rules and I'll accept them."

Wu Changhe laughed furiously. "Alright, kid! You've got balls!"

Wu Zeqing pulled at him. "Little Ye."

Wu Changhe said, "Come on, let's battle it out!"

Zhang Ye said, "Let's do it!"

Wu Changhe said loudly, "Come on then!"

Zhang Ye said, "Alright!"

However, how could Li Qinqin and Wu Zeqing let them play against each other? These two were already on the verge of fighting. No matter who won, it would still cause a fallout. The two of them hurriedly tried to stop them!

Li Qinqin pulled her husband away and said, "You're a good player, alright? You're a really good player."

Wu Changhe fumed, "He couldn't beat me in the first place!"

Zhang Ye was now unhappy. "But I already did."

"That's because you resorted to dirty tricks!" Wu Changhe said angrily.

Wu Zeqing also held Zhang Ye back. She didn't know how to react and said, "Why are you trying to argue with my dad? Let's go already." She dragged Zhang Ye out to the courtyard.

In the end, the two of them continued to argue from either side of the door.

Wu Changhe shouted, "Get back here. Let's play another match!"

Zhang Ye rushed back into the house. "Alright, I'm up for it!"

"I'll give you a handicap of three stones this time!"

"No need! How 'bout I give you a handicap of four stones!"

"I'll give you a handicap of five stones!"

"I'll give you a handicap of six stones!"

"I'll give you a handicap of ten stones!"

"I'll give you a handicap of twenty stones!"

Eventually, the handicap went up to 200 stones!

The two of them started talking big. In Go, each player would have at most 181 stones to play, so how could they possibly give a handicap of 200 stones! They were basically just bragging to the skies!

Li Qinqin was floored. "You two are really something!"

Finally, Wu Zeqing managed to pull Zhang Ye away.

Just before he stepped out of the courtyard house, he heard Wu Changhe shout, "If you're that great, let's battle again tomorrow! I'll show you what Go is all about! Are you up for that?"

Zhang Ye turned around as he was being dragged off. "Sure, I'll be back tomorrow!"

Wu Changhe said, "You're a whelp if you don't show up!"

...

Outside.

In the alley.

Wu Zeqing's face was covered with sweat from pulling Zhang Ye away from the argument. She did not usually exercise much and did not have much strength either, so having to pull Zhang Ye out of the house took a big toll on her.

"Oh, you!" Wu Zeqing shook her head and smiled.

Zhang Ye harrumphed, "Old Wu, it's not that I'm not giving you face today. But if your dad wants to accuse me of having a questionable character, I won't take that lying down."

Wu Zeqing changed the topic. "Since when did you know how to play Go?"

Zhang Ye said, "I've always known how to."

"You can even beat my dad?" Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Although, he really wasn't being serious today either. He started that game very casually and allowed you to gain an advantage. It was only because of that that you managed to narrowly beat him."

Zhang Ye said, "Even if your dad got serious, I still won't lose!"

Wu Zeqing said, "That would have to be under the condition of having no handicaps." She took his hand. "Let's go. We didn't even have a proper meal. When we get back, I'll cook for you. After that, let's play a round of Go as well."

"You can play too?"

"I've been playing ever since I was seven years old."

"How good are you?"

"So-so, I guess."

...

A short distance away in the house.

Li Qinqin started complaining to her husband, "Look at you. Why did you have to argue with the children?"

"It was him who started it first!" Wu Changhe sat down and took a sip of tea. He was still quite fired up from earlier. "How dare he pretend to be an amateur in front of me? He was too devious!"

Li Qinqin laughed and said, "I saw his skill just now too. Even if you had been serious and did not give him a handicap, you might not necessarily beat him. Zeqing's boyfriend this time is really something. He's just as legendary as they reported in the newspapers. He's such an astonishing person. I just wonder why his Go skill is so advanced. Logically, it's not something that can be practiced with just one

or two years of play. As a celebrity, where does he find time to practice Go? But I heard that the mathematical conjecture proof that he proposed has almost been verified. He should be the greatest mathematician in the country now, and also a globally recognized world-class mathematician. With the interlinked relationship between Go and math 1, it's still within reason that he can play so well. This Little Zhang is really such a marvel. It's no wonder that our Zeqing, who usually sets her sights really high, would like him. I heard that he also got into singing a while ago? I think he even became the champion? And he's already a superstar in the country? It seems like he's really good at everything."

Wu Changhe stared at her. "Did you get duped by him too? He's not good! Not even close!"

Li Qinqin said, "Alright, alright, he's not good. You're the best, hur hur."

This meeting today was truly too funny.

Thinking about it, Li Qinqin couldn't help but find it funny. How could there be such a huge coincidence in the world?

Chapter 1100: The Internet Go server!

The next day.

Early in the morning, 6 or 7 o'clock.

At home, Zhang Ye's mother was already awake while his father was still sleeping.

"Mom, I'm going out."

"Where are you going now?"

"I have some serious business to attend to."

"It was past 8 when you got home last night. Come back earlier tonight."

"Got it."

"You don't have much to do at work anyway, so why are you still always going out every day."

Zhang Ye thought to himself how he really had serious business to handle. This was a matter concerning his marriage!

Outside Old Wu's villa.

Zhang Ye had driven over and used the key to open the door. He changed into his slippers with familiarity and placed the still warm breakfast onto the dining table. He looked up the staircase and called out twice. No one responded. She was probably still asleep.

He headed upstairs and opened the door to Old Wu's bedroom.

A whiff of perfume greeted him as he stepped into the room.

The room was very clean and tidy. Even the clothes Old Wu had taken off had been carefully folded and stacked before being placed at the side. The topmost piece was a nude bra, with a skirt and pale



pantyhose placed beside it. These were what Old Wu had been wearing last night. Lying in bed under her blanket, Wu Zeqing's eyes were closed. Her sleep posture was very beautiful and elegant. A woman's upbringing and her family environment could sometimes be seen from their sleeping posture. Some women might look very elegant during the day. But once asleep, their true colors would be revealed by their sprawled out legs and snores. However, Old Wu's gentleness was something that was etched deep into her bones. She looked especially nice and ladylike even while she was sleeping.

"Old Wu?"

"..."

"Old Wu?"

"Hm?"

"Wake up."

Wu Zeqing was finally awake.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It's past 7."

Wu Zeqing covered her mouth and yawned a few times, then said with a slight smile, "You're here?"

"Yeah, I bought breakfast. Come downstairs and eat." Zhang Ye said, "After you're done eating, help me call your parents. I'll go over during the day since your dad is waiting for me."

Wu Zeqing laughed and said, "You're still thinking about that?"

Zhang Ye said, "Of course. Your dad scheduled a match with me, I must definitely show up. He already said that if I don't go, I'll be a whelp. So of course I'm still thinking about it!"

Wu Zeqing said, "Alright, I understand. I'll send you over later."

"Don't you need to work?" Zhang Ye was taken aback.

Wu Zeqing smiled. "I'll take the day off, I guess. I'll be worried if you go there alone. If you start arguing with my dad again, my mom won't be able to hold off the two of you for sure."

Zhang Ye harrumphed, "If I can't argue, I will let my skill speak for itself. If I lose, he can scold me or beat me up however he wants. But if I win, your dad will have to take back his words about my character being questionable! Just ask around. Who wouldn't give a thumbs up when they hear the mention of the name Zhang Ye? Why did my character even get called into question?"

"Right, a thumbs up." Wu Zeqing pulled aside the blanket and had a slow laugh as she slowly moved her slender legs off the side of the bed. She put on her slippers and got up. "Go eat breakfast first. I need to wash up."

Zhang Ye urged, "Quick, Old Wu. I can't wait any longer."

Wu Zeqing said, "Hur hur, I understand."

"Or why don't you make the call first," Zhang Ye said impatiently. "Then we can head over right after breakfast!"

Wu Zeqing had no response.

After eating.

Wu Zeqing called her parents' house.

...

At Old Wu's parents' house.

The telephone in the living room rang.

Li Qinqin and Wu Changhe were both not fond of sleeping in. Although they were retired, they still usually got up quite early. Li Qinqin was already making breakfast.

"Hello?" Li Qinqin answered the call.

Wu Zeqing said: "Mom, you're up?"

Li Qinqin said: "Zeqing, yes. I'm making breakfast right now."

"Is Dad around?"

"He is. What's the matter?"

"Zhang Ye came over to my place and insists that he wants to go over today. Didn't Dad arrange for them to play another match? He insists on showing up."

"Eh? I'll have to check with your dad about that first."

Li Qinqin walked into the courtyard.

Wu Changhe was doing some stretching and exercises. "Who called?"

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "Our daughter. She says that Little Zhang wants to come over."

Wu Changhe's expression sank. "What does he want to come here for?"

"Didn't the two of you arrange to play another match today?" Li Qinqin didn't know how to react. "You said that you would give him a handicap of 190 stones, and he said that he would give you a handicap of 200 stones."

At this, Wu Changhe gave a sneer and said, "Don't let him come over. I won't see him!"

Li Qinqin said, "But didn't you both arrange a meeting?"

"I just don't like seeing him. I can't be bothered to play Go with him!" Wu Changhe turned around and continued exercising.

Li Qinqin smacked her lips. "You said that whoever didn't show up would be a whelp."

Wu Changhe said coldly, "He thinks that he can play against me with that skill of his? He's still way off. Perhaps if he trains another 20 years in his next life, he could stand a chance playing me!"

Li Qinqin didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Changhe, are you afraid that you'll lose another match to him and won't be able to show your face around?"

When she said that, Wu Changhe laughed on end. "Me? Lose? I'd lose to him? Ai, Li Qinqin, why are you so funny today? I'm not going to play him for the sake of our daughter, do you understand? Can't you see? If I were to get serious, I could beat him even with my eyes closed! Me? Afraid to lose? Hahahaha!"

She went back into the living room.

Li Qinqin conveyed the message exactly as it was said.

Wu Zeqing was amused. "These two, ai."

Li Qinqin also said with a laugh: "These two grown men have really similar tempers. They're both feisty and want to save face for themselves."

Zhang Ye was nearby listening to the conversation. His ears perked up and he got so close to Old Wu that his cheek was almost touching hers. Then he whispered, "Ask about me, ask about me."

Wu Zeqing laughed and said: "Mom, what do you think of Little Ye?"

"My view?" Li Qinqin thought about it before answering: "I think he should be quite alright. I rather like him as he is quite smart, is knowledgeable, and speaks what he feels. Hur hur."

Zhang Ye was touched by this!

His mother-in-law was the best!

Just look at how insightful she was!

What about that future father-in-law of his? Ai, how can there be such a big difference when it comes to comparing the two of them!

The call ended.

Wu Zeqing said, "I don't think it will be a problem with my mother. She seems pretty satisfied with you. But it should be quite troublesome with regards to my dad. Alright, let's just rest well at home today. You won't be needing to go to my parent's place since my dad does not want to see you."

He's afraid that he'll lose to me!

Wu Zeqing and Li Qinqin probably still did not quite understand it. After all, their Go skills were limited and they were not great at the game. But Zhang Ye understood quite well. He was sure that Wu Changhe also knew very well that he was trying to avoid Zhang Ye so that he wouldn't need to play him!

Zhang Ye suddenly asked, "That's right. Old Wu, does your dad usually play Go online?"

Wu Zeqing said, "Yes. He doesn't go to the Go club often since the skill there isn't high and the people there are not able to play against him. He usually only plays against those disciples of his or the other elite Go players who have retired like him. Besides that, he also goes online to search for an opponent to play against. With the Internet so advanced nowadays, the Internet Go servers are expanding their user

base. Many of our domestic professional Go players, and even those from Japan and Korea, go online to search for opponents to play against."

"Which server does he play on?"

"It's called the Online Go Server 1 ."

"And what is his username?"

"Wu Changhe, his real name."

"Alright, I got it."

"Why are you asking?"

"It's nothing. I was just asking out of curiosity."

You want to avoid me?

Then I will search you out!

Zhang Ye was already as good as in a fight with Wu Changhe now!