

Superstar 1151

Chapter 1151: Can you be a little bit more mindful!

At 9 in the morning.

On Central TV News Channel, Beijing Television News Channel, Jinshi Morning News Broadcast, and a dozen other television stations, every one of them simultaneously announced an important piece of news: "We interrupt this broadcast with a news update. Our station's reporters have just received news about the proof to one of the famous Math Problems that had caused quite a sensation throughout the field of mathematics. There has been now been a major breakthrough, with an update coming from the World Mathematics Association's Dale's Conjecture verification team. A press conference will be held later today at 1 PM Beijing time in Peking University. Our station's reporters will be following up with details when the event begins and update our viewers on the latest developments!"

They did not say everything in full.

Nor was it thoroughly explained.

But that announcement alone was more than enough!

The common folk were not stupid. How could they not know what this was about?

Then, Zhang Ye's army swept across Weibo!

"Heavens!"

"Oh my God!"

"Zhang Ye's proof has been validated?"

"It's been confirmed?"

"That's really awesome!"

"Teacher Zhang has really freaking become a preeminent world-class mathematician!"

"Has there ever been a preeminent world-class mathematician who hailed from China? There have only been a handful of world-class mathematicians, right? And most of them are dead now!"

"I don't know. There wasn't any classification like this in the past, so there was no such label as a 'preeminent world-class mathematician.' After it was implemented, China has only had Zhang Ye who has been labeled as such. But nowadays, as long as a mathematician can solve a major math conjecture or make an important contribution to the global field of mathematics, they are conferred the title of preeminent world-class mathematician. That title is definitely in the bag for Zhang Ye! There shouldn't be more than 40 people in the entire world who have obtained the title! While those who have this title and are still alive shouldn't number more than 20!"

"How exciting!"

"Yeah, our country's mathematics world shall have a major figure from now on!"

"Teacher Zhang is going to be on fire again!"

"Hahaha, he was already barely holding on to the first place on the A-list celebrity rankings and was almost going to be surpassed. In the end, everything just worked out nicely and Teacher Zhang is finally going to be able to gain a foothold in his ranking! This time, he is definitely going to gain a lot of popularity again. I just wonder if it would allow him to start breaking into the international celebrity's popularity ranking list!"

"Let's wait for the press conference then, it's all only guesses for now!"

"What do you mean it's all guesses? Even a fool can see what's going on!"

"Yeah, why else would they hold a press conference for?"

"Congratulations, Zhang Ye!"

"This is really Zhang Ye's year, isn't it? Haha!"

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Peking University.

The students were already on vacation, so there shouldn't have been much people around at the school.

But when Zhang Ye drove over, he saw a crowd of cheering people the moment he reached the school gates. There were some people in the crowd that he knew and some that he didn't!

When they saw the car arriving, everyone rushed forward and surrounded it!

When Zhang Ye stepped out of the car, Dean Pan immediately gave him a bear hug. It was an extremely tight hug as he patted Zhang Ye on the back thumpingly. It was obvious that Old Pan was extremely happy today!

Pan Yang said, "Congratulations!"

Zhang Ye nodded. "Thank you."

Han Henian also came forward to give Zhang Ye a hug. "Congratulations, Professor Zhang!"

This was Zhang Ye's former love rival, but that was already a thing of the past. "Thank you, Teacher Han."

Xin Ya, Old Wu's best friend, also came up to him. "I won't be hugging you, but congratulations anyway!"

"Same to you." Zhang Ye said with a smile.

Xin Ya said in a smiling way, "What has it got to do with me? You're from Peking University while I'm from Tsinghua University."

Zhang Ye said amused, "Professor Xin, why are you still so narrow-minded about things?"

Xin Ya rolled her eyes. "You just can't say anything good, can you? Can't you see that I'm just making a joke? Now that you have reached the pinnacle, it has given an invaluable boost to our Chinese mathematics world! Who wouldn't be happy for you?"

Zhang Ye said, "Thank you."

Over there, a British female mathematician named Jennifer came forward with a smile. She gave him a hug and said, "Congratulations, my Chinese friend!"

Zhang Ye said, "Thanks, my British friend."

Wang Yiming.

Fellow Wan of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

A young German mathematician.

A French mathematician that Zhang Ye knew from before.

And so on and so forth. There were too many of them and they were all present here today to applaud Zhang Ye!

"Zhang, you are really awesome!"

"I welcome you to visit Germany and be our guest!"

"My friend! You're a great mathematician!"

"Congratulations! I knew that your proof would definitely be proven right!"

Many reporters have also gathered around, and the number was only getting more and more. A lot of them rushed over to the school immediately after receiving news about this and had wanted to get first-hand information about the matter. There were even many foreign faces within the reporters, including the Japanese and Americans!

However, Zhang Ye did not take any interviews. The press conference was scheduled for the afternoon, so of course he could not talk about it right now. Therefore, he followed Dean Pan and the others into Peking University and left the reporters waiting outside.

On the way in.

Xin Ya said, "In this past year, we've all really been tired out badly. It's not too bad for us since we're stationed in Beijing, but for those in the verification team who are from other countries, they keep having to fly around. They would head back to their own countries for a few days before coming back here to continue on the verification work again. Don't even think of not giving a treat today, you have to make it up to us for our suffering!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "That's of course, it has been hard for everyone."

That French mathematician smiled and said in English, "Zhang, I hear that you're a big star in China. My wife likes Miss Zhang Yuanqi a lot and her movies are really very popular back in my country too. Can you help me to get an autograph from her? I think my wife would definitely be very happy if you could!"

Zhang Ye smiled and patted him on the shoulders, "No-pra-bo-lem!"

The French mathematician was dumbfounded. "What pra-bo-lem?"

Xin Ya was left speechless by that. She translated for them and said, "He just means 'no problem'."

A Russian mathematician who was a burly man laughed when he heard that. "Zhang, you better not speak in English. Your English standard is really too atrocious!"

Everyone laughed.

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Don't talk about me, you're not any better yourself."

The Russian mathematician laughed heartily.

At this moment, Fellow Wan found him. "Professor Zhang, are you interested to join us at the Chinese Academy of Sciences?"

Zhang Ye was taken aback for a bit. "Someone has already asked me that before."

"I know." Fellow Wan said sincerely, "I heard that you rejected the offer, so I'm here to invite you again."

Zhang Ye thought about it for a moment before saying with a wry smile, "Let me think about it again."

Fellow Wan could only say, "Alright, I'll be waiting for your news then."

As there were a lot of people here, Fellow Wan did not speak further about this. The Chinese Academy of Sciences was an academic institution. It was different from those companies or television stations which could use money to attract people to join them. To be able to get admitted into the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the most important prerequisite was ability. The second thing would be that one would have to join willingly. This was not something that could be forced.

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1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The press conference started on time!

A dense crowd of Chinese and foreign reporters had already filled up the entire venue. There were a lot of video cameras set up for a live broadcast, as countless cameras flashed clickingly across the floor.

Zhang Ye sat down at the middle of the stage.

Fellow Wan, Dean Pan, Xin Ya and those mathematicians of the verification team were all gathered beside him!

In front of the television, the viewers were already unable to wait!

"How many press conferences has Zhang Ye attended in these past few days already!"

"He has been hogging all the news headlines across the country in recent days!"

"That's so impressive!"

"Quickly announce it!"

"Yeah, we're all waiting!"

Zhang Ye's parents were watching in anticipation!

His relatives were also waiting excitedly in front of their televisions!

Then, there was also Ning Lan, Xiaodong, Li Xiaoxian, Chen Guang, Fan Wenli, Yao Jiancai, Zhang Yuanqi, Wu Changhe, Li Qinqin, Rao Aimin, Yang Shu...

Although they could already guess what it was about!

Although there was already no suspense to it!

But for some reason, everyone was still waiting eagerly in front of their televisions, just so that they could see and hear it for themselves!

Fellow Wan adjusted the microphone before announcing loudly, "This morning, we have finally wrapped up the validation work for Dale's Conjecture. I hereby officially announce on behalf of the verification team that Zhang Ye's proposed proof has been fully validated without any errors!"

In an instant, the sound of applause broke out!

The Chinese reporters were applauding with everything they had!

The foreign reporters also gave a round of enthusiastic applause!

The clapping went on for a very long time. It lasted for a full minute before gradually stopping. Many of the foreign mathematicians were even standing up and giving Zhang Ye the thumbs up! For the past year, Zhang Ye had barely taken part in the verification process as he was the one who had originally proposed the proof, so it wasn't proper for him to get personally involved in it. But at the very least, he would still spend some time to go down to verify some key parts of the proof. After such a long period of contact, these foreign mathematicians had generally gotten to know Zhang Ye better. Even the two American mathematicians who had had a conflict with Zhang Ye before were already having a very harmonious relationship with him. As such, they spared no effort in sending him their blessings and congratulations!

It was time for the Q&A session.

A female American reporter raised her hand.

Pan Yang who was chairing the conference pointed at her. "This lady here."

The female reporter asked, "Mr. David, can you tell us why the verification process for the proof to Dale's Conjecture has taken so long to complete? Why did it drag on for a year?"

A translator repeated the question in Mandarin.

The American mathematician, David, clearly knew this reporter. "Miss Denise, you might not be familiar with the verification process for a mathematical conjecture. It is very tedious work and requires a lot of meticulous going through. What's more, Dale's Conjecture is different from the other mathematical conjectures in that it is one of the major Math Problems of the mathematics world. As such, the workload would definitely be much greater. Luckily, Zhang has provided us with very clear formulas and detailed notes about it. That has greatly cut down the amount of time that we needed to validate the proof. Otherwise, it would have taken much longer to complete. Zhang Ye is really very great." He

looked at Zhang Ye, then said, "He is one of the youngest, most talented and greatest mathematicians that I have ever seen!"

Zhang Ye smiled and nodded at him to express his thanks.

Comrade David was indeed nice!

Then, a barrage of the reporters' hands shot up again!

Pan Yang pointed out at a French reporter.

The French reporter said, "Professor Zhang, there are people who say that the validation of the proof to Dale's Conjecture is a very historical moment in mathematics. They also claimed that you're the hero who saved the Chinese mathematics world by allowing the Chinese mathematicians to have a renewed chance of being seen by the world again. According to what I know, there are already five to six mathematics organizations who have actively sought out Chinese mathematicians to join their new projects or research in the past year. All of that was undoubtedly to your credit. I interviewed a young mathematician earlier and he said that you were the mathematics world's hero. What do you have to say to that?"

That was indeed the truth. In recent international mathematics projects around the world, there has really been quite a number of Chinese mathematicians taking part in them. If anyone claimed that this wasn't because of Zhang Ye, even a fool would not believe that!

Fellow Wan looked towards Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye did not even think it through and directly answered, "I'm not a hero, I'm really not one. There are many heroes in the mathematics world, some of whom you can see and others that you don't know about. Everyone here harbors a dream and has a sincere passion for mathematics. Speaking about the past, there have been countless mathematicians in China who have done a lot. In the future, there will also be many young mathematicians appearing who will lead the world forward. It was our predecessors who have supported the mathematics world up to this stage step by step, and it will be down to the future generation to lead the Chinese mathematics world forward step by step. Who am I in all of these? I'm not anyone at all. If there are any heroes to speak of, it should be them instead!"

His words were concurrently translated!

When then French reporter heard that, he immediately stood up in awe and started clapping!

The German reporter beside also clapped hard!

Those other foreign reporters who heard it were also praising it inside their hearts!

But the bunch of Chinese reporters nearly fainted onto the ground!

Fellow Wan: "...\$%^&*() !"

Pan Yang felt like vomiting blood!

Xin Ya also very nearly fell off from her chair!

The viewers in front of the televisions were left looking confused!

Those words...why did those words sound so goddamn familiar, huh?

Fuck, didn't you say something similar to this during yesterday's press conference for the war between humans and the machines? And it even fucking sounded like the original speech from then?

Everyone had to take their hats off to him!

They were really left kneeling to him!

Just what kind of an occasion did you think this was? This was a press conference that was going to be broadcasted to the entire world!

Can you be a little bit more mindful!

Can you fucking be a little bit more mindful!

Chapter 1152: The only dual faculty professor in Peking University!

The netizens nearly pissed themselves laughing!

There were all kinds of bashing on Weibo!

"That Zhang Ye!"

"How could he still joke around at a setting like that?!"

"Pfft, how can he be so funny!"

"Hahahahaha, that shameless behavior is what I like most about him!"

"Aiyo, how amusing!"

"Teacher Zhang is such an oddball!"

"Yeah, if it were anyone else, who wouldn't speak mindfully on such an occasion? Who wouldn't get nervous and speak cautiously? But just look at him, he even dares talk that much bull in front of the whole world. Didn't he say the exact same thing at the press conference yesterday after the war between humans and machines! Weren't those words what he said about the Go world too? He really isn't afraid that the global mathematics world would get pissed and strip him of his title! I'm already trembling just from hearing it! Only Zhang Ye could do something like this!"

"Hai, this isn't even anything serious!"

"It's not like Zhang Ye has not done anything more ridiculous than this before!"

"Haha, that's just how he is and I've got used to it!"

"If Teacher Zhang were to start behaving seriously, then that would be too uninteresting!"

"I like him!"

"Teacher Zhang has brought glory to our country! So don't pick on him over such minor things!"

"When has a live broadcast involving Zhang Ye not ended up with him causing a big incident? When has he not scolded others? He did not even write a poem or scold anyone this time, so let's just be content. Teacher Zhang has toned it down a lot!"

"Pfft, I'm actually unable to refute the previous poster!"

There were all kinds of reactions to the speech. But overall, everyone was able to accept what happened. If it were any other celebrity or mathematician who said something like that, they would definitely be cursed to death or get doubted by countless people. However, since it was Zhang Ye who did this, everyone realized that they had already gotten used to it and weren't the least bit surprised. Those who facepalmed or vomited blood due to what happened all ended up laughing at it in the end.

Half an hour.

An hour.

The live broadcast of the press conference had concluded.

The press conference was broadcast live across the country. At the same time, it was also relayed very quickly throughout Asia and the international scene!

For such huge news like Dale's Conjecture being proven by a Chinese mathematician, it was impossible that it would not get reported at the international level. There was only issue the issue of how much coverage each country would give to it!

Everyone dispersed.

Xin Ya pulled Zhang Ye aside as she rolled her eyes at him and said, "Can you be a little more mindful of that lousy mouth of yours?"

Zhang Ye was stunned. "Ah? What's the matter?"

Dean Pan also came up to him. "What do you think is the matter!"

Wang Yiming didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "We really have to give it you!"

"What about me?" Zhang Ye was confused.

Xin Ya stared at him and said, "Didn't you realize that when you answered the first reporter's question, your answer sounded somewhat familiar? Huh?"

When Zhang Ye thought about it, it dawned on him. "Yes, yes, it really does feel a little familiar!"

Han Henian gave a wry smile and reminded him. "At the Go press conference yesterday... "

Only then did Zhang Ye realize it. He facepalmed and exclaimed, "Aiya, I think I already used that speech yesterday. Heh, no wonder it felt so familiar. I was wondering why I was speaking so fluidly!" He really did not do it on purpose. This fellow had been too busy recently and everything was coming together at once. With so many reporters questioning and interviewing him, he would even sometimes forget what he had just answered with. "Hai, great wits have short memories!"

"Pfft!"

"Who would refer to themselves as a great wit?"

"Never mind, it's already been broadcast. Let's just leave it as is."

"Yeah, your reputation stinks anyway, so no one will care."

Many of the local mathematicians present started talking about this among themselves.

Zhang Ye could not keep listening and cleared his throat. "Why would my reputation stink? That reporter asked me if I was a hero. Surely, I can't say that I am one and ask them to quickly kowtow to me, right?"

Everyone laughed in derision!

Who would want to kowtow to you!

Dean Pan laughed and said, "Alright, stop with the bantering already, Professor Zhang. I still have some proper business that I need to speak to you about."

"What is it?" Zhang Ye asked.

Dean Pan gave a hearty laugh. "It's about something good!"

Zhang Ye nodded and said, "If it's something good, I'm all ears."

Dean Pan said, "Alright then, come with me."

After everyone else left, Dean Pan and some heads of the Math Department headed back to their faculty. They went into someone's office where Pan Yang looked around in a drawer before taking something out of it. Then he handed a document to Zhang Ye and said with a smile, "Have a look at this."

When Zhang Ye took a look, he was startled. "An application for a promotion to professor?"

Dean Pan nodded. "That's right."

This professorship was unlike the previous professorship!

Zhang Ye was already an associate professor in Peking University's Math Department. But this application was a recommendation to promote Zhang Ye to a full professorship in the Math Department. There really was a big difference between being an associate professor and a full professor. Be it the pay, qualification, or status in the profession, these two positions couldn't be lumped together. Furthermore, this was a full professorship at the Math Department of Peking University. How many full professors were there in the entire School of Mathematical Sciences? There was practically none who were younger than 45!

Zhang Ye was feeling a little embarrassed. "Hey, is this appropriate?"

Dean Pan said, "If you think you're ready, I'll submit the application. I'm not sure if it'll get approved, but this was unanimously decided by us at the School of Mathematical Sciences after we had a meeting."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "My associate professorship at that time was also a one-off exception, wasn't it? I've only assumed that position for a year, but I'm up for another promotion to full professor? Won't

the others gossip about this? I'm only 25 years old. Which university has a 25-year-old associate professor in their ranks? Not to mention a 25-year-old full professor at Peking University?"

Dean Pan simply said, "If you think that it's not appropriate, let's just drop it."

"Don't! Don't mind me!" Zhang Ye panicked. "Old Pan, since you've already brought out the application form, how can you just take it back like this? Submit it, of course you must submit it! Would I be afraid of people gossiping about this? If I was bothered about people talking bad about me, I would have died 200 times in the past few years!" This statement was actually quite true.

Old Pan?

Dean Pan rolled his eyes!

Zhang Ye joyfully said, "Then it's set!"

Dean Pan said, "We still have to see if the higher-ups agree to it or not."

"You are such a reputable person, so how won't the heads of the school agree to it?" Zhang Ye felt that Old Pan was quite loyal, and would think of him if something good came up. The title of a full professor was going to be more practical and useful than anything else!

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Later that afternoon.

At Zhang Ye's parents' house.

The moment he reached home, his mother stopped him and chided him!

She even wished she could pull him by the ear. "Why weren't you more mindful of your words at such an important occasion? You can even copy your own thank you speech? Are you intending to drive me to my grave?"

Zhang Ye said, "It just slipped my mind, alright?"

His mother pointed at the computer. "Look at the people online. They're all ridiculing you, and several experts have already criticized your actions. They said that your attitude toward academia is not correct and that you were just fooling around!"

Zhang Ye smiled and shrugged. "I have so many enemies. If I don't get criticized by eighty to a hundred people each day, I might even think that the sun rose from the west. If they want to criticize me, then just let them do it. Why should we care about them? By the way, Mom, Dad." He looked at his parents and announced to them, "They're looking to promote me to a full professor at Peking University!"

His parents exclaimed in astonishment!

His father said excitedly, "Has it been confirmed yet?"

His mother stared and her jaw dropped. "Are you serious?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Yes, but it hasn't been given yet. I assume that there shouldn't be any problems."

His mother said anxiously, "Don't assume things like that! This is an important matter, so has it been confirmed or not yet? Don't make me and your dad happy for nothing!"

"I'm quite certain it'll be given," Zhang Ye said.

His mother instantly beamed with pride. "Good! Good! That's great! I must quickly tell your grandpa and grandma about it!" As she spoke, she went over to the telephone and picked it up and made a call.

"Hello, Mom...ai...have you seen the news? That's right. The conjecture has been proven. Little Ye is now a preeminent international mathematician. Also, inform Dad and the others that Little Ye is going to get promoted to full professor at Peking University....It's true! Why would I lie to you!"

In the media, there were already some news reports that were gathered from the grapevine!

Over here in China, no news could stay hidden for long. Everything was linked and the complex web of relationships was just too intertwined. There would always be some people who were just very well-informed about things!

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon!

Peking University finally made a public announcement. "Zhang Ye has been appointed as a full professor at Peking University's School of Mathematical Sciences!"

But to everyone's surprise, that was not the end of it!

Peking University: "Zhang Ye has been appointed as an associate professor at Peking University's Chinese Department!"

After being part of the Chinese Department for two years, he had also been promoted to an associate professor from his lecturer role?

A full professor of the Math Department?

An associate professor at the Chinese Department?

He had now become Peking University's only dual department professor?

Chapter 1153: Sitting firmly at the top of the A-list!

News of Zhang Ye was once again carpet bombing the country!

This was happening for the umpteenth time over the past few days!

"Zhang Ye gets promoted to full professor!"

"China's Youngest Full Professor!"

The youngest math professor in history emerges!"

"Peking University's Astonishing Act!"

"Peking University's Chinese Department confers the title of Associate Professor to Zhang Ye?"

"The first dual department professor in Peking University's history!"

"An unprecedented occurrence: A 25-year-old becomes a full professor!"

"At press time, Peking University has yet to issue a statement!"

A glowing honor has been bestowed onto Zhang Ye!"

"Together with his title of visiting associate professor at Media College, Zhang Ye is perhaps the person with the most professorships in the country!"

The Goof Group blew up.

Ning Lan: "Professor Zhang, time to come out and distribute red packets!"

Xiaodong: "Professor Zhang, time to come out and distribute red packets!"

Huo Dongfang: "Professor Zhang, time to come out and distribute red packets!"

Zhang Ye did not send a one-cent red packet this time, instead giving out a big one!

Amy was the quickest to claim hers and got the highest amount as well. "Wow, thank you, boss!"

Zhang Ye sent a smiley face.

Ning Lan: "Haha, thank you, Professor!"

Xiaodong: "We're rich! Congratulations, Professor Zhang!"

Huo Dongfang: "I've lost count of how many times I've congratulated you these past two days. If we include you being a visiting associate professor at Media College, this is your third professorship title! Not to mention showbiz, even in the academic and education fields, there isn't anyone who has more professorships than you do!"

Zhang Ye sent an embarrassed emoticon and said: "Thanks, everyone."

Xiaodong said in a depressed way, "What's important here is that Teacher Zhang doesn't even conduct any lessons!"

Li Xiaoxian: "Pfft, that's indeed so!"

Xiaodong said wryly: "This is what makes me so speechless. A teacher who doesn't even conduct lessons was actually promoted to a full professor in the Math Department, and an associate professor in the Chinese Department. I don't even know what to say anymore. Thinking back to when I had just graduated, I was thinking of becoming a graduate student, but I didn't manage to make it! But in comparison?"

Fan Wenli: "Congratulations!"

Chen Guang: "Treat us!"

Online.

The netizens also found this to be ironic and ridiculous!

"A full professorship?"

"Impressive!"

"Peking University has really made an exception for him?"

"I feel that Teacher Zhang deserves the full professorship at the Math Department since it was he who solved Dale's Conjecture. But as for the associate professorship over in the Chinese Department? What's with that? Has this guy even been giving any lessons?"

"I think he hasn't been there for a year already!"

"Pfft, that's right!"

"In any case, congratulations to Professor Zhang!"

"Face-smacking Zhang has gained another few titles for his list!"

"If this goes on, no one will be able to stop him in the future!"

"Yeah, Teacher Zhang's qualifications are almost surpassing the Heavens. He's adding on to his titles and protective charms one after another. But what can we say about that? He is really that capable after all!"

"This calls for a celebration!"

"Rejoice and spread the word!"

At home.

Very soon, Zhang Ye received a call from Chang Kaige.

Chang Kaige: the dean of Peking University's Chinese Department.

"Dean Chang," Zhang Ye quickly asked: "What's this about my appointment?"

Chang Kaige said with a laugh: "Are you talking about the title?"

Zhang Ye said: "Yes, I didn't even receive any news about that and I've suddenly become an associate professor?"

Chang Kaige said: "Everyone already knows about your contributions to the cultural world. How many good pieces of work have you come up with over the years? I heard that the textbooks are going through a review and update. Who knows if your essays and poetry might also be included in them this time? So what's the big deal with conferring you the title of associate professor in the Chinese Department? Is that too much for you?"

Zhang Ye said feeling rather awkward: "The important thing here is that I've never really conducted any lessons."

"Giving lessons is not a measure of how knowledgeable one is." Chang Kaige said supportively: "We've long been thinking of appointing you as an associate professor, but the pressure at that time was too great. When you were still around at Peking University, that scolding incident involving the foreign

dignitaries had a great effect and caused a lot of anxiety for everyone. So they suppressed and downplayed the incident at that time. But now that you've already been restored to your duties at Peking University and with the momentum brought along by your proof of Dale's Conjecture, the Chinese Department went ahead with the application for you to be appointed as an associate professor. We submitted the application together with Old Pan, and to our surprise, the school heads handled this matter specially and approved of it right away."

Zhang Ye blinked. "The school heads?"

Chang Kaige knew what he was thinking. He advised: "That affair happened so long ago. They suspended you from duty because they had no choice. So you should understand how it is by now? Other than a few people, whether they are the school heads, teachers, or students, they all of see you as one of our own. Therefore, don't feel so bad about it anymore. If you're free, come back often to have a look around and teach some classes. Besides, I believe that the school heads approved of your appointment to associate professor mainly because they also wanted to make it up to you for that time."

That decision back then to suspend Zhang Ye had caused a very great difference of opinions!

Some teachers thought that Peking University had handled it well and that a teacher who led students to scold others should definitely be suspended. Some teachers felt that it wasn't the right thing to do as Zhang Ye had contributed a lot to Peking University after all. Besides, he had done it for the students while the Japanese dignitaries had also behaved quite idiotically. They were at fault in the first place. After Zhang Ye's departure, this incident died down gradually. It wasn't until the incident at the previous student recruitment exercise that everyone was reminded of Zhang Ye's good side again.

If it weren't for him, those college entrance exam scholars would all have been taken away by Tsinghua University! It was Zhang Ye who came charging and smashing cars, snatching the students back while bearing the brunt of the scolding! At that moment, a lot of the teachers and school heads who did not used to like Zhang Ye no longer had any reason to speak ill of him!

The way he handled that incident was very generous and chivalrous!

He was dedicated to Peking University!

Zhang Ye immediately said: "Dean Chang, please don't say that. That incident was down to my personal behavior, and I know that I didn't act in the right way. But I've said what I've said, and even if it happens again, I would still scold them all over again. I've never spoken badly about our Peking University in any situation before, so why would I want to blame them for anything then? Am I such a petty person?"

Chang Kaige nodded in agreement. "Then I have no worries."

Zhang Ye smiled and said: "In any case, thank you."

"There's no need to thank me, I didn't do much at all." Chang Kaige said: "Teacher Su and Old Zeng are always talking about you. Find a day when you're free and let's meet up someday."

Zhang Ye said: "Let's not wait for someday. We should go with the flow rather than try to force things. Let me treat everyone tonight!"

Chang Kaige replied: "Alright, then we must definitely have something good since you're treating!"

"No problem!" Zhang Ye said happily: "I'll invite Dean Pan and the others as well then?"

Chang Kaige said: "You're the boss! We'll show up as long as you invite us!"

Zhang Ye said: "Sure!"

For such a happy occasion, Zhang Ye definitely had to treat everyone. He immediately made some calls and invited several teachers from the Math Department and other departments of Peking University that he knew. Whether it was Su Na or Professor Zeng, he hadn't seen them all in a very long time. Now that he could meet them again, they definitely had to enjoy a good meal together!

...

On the same night.

At midnight.

The Celebrity Rankings Index was updated!

Zhang Ye's name was still clearly at the number one spot of the A-list rankings. He did not budge from it at all while the gap between second place was slowly widening! The validation of the proof to the mathematical conjecture had really come at the right time. It allowed Zhang Ye to gain a proper foothold on his shaky popularity and helped him sit firmly at the number one spot. It seemed like it would be very difficult for him to fall off from there in the short term unless Ning Lan and the other person were to experience a similar explosion in popularity like Zhang Ye had today!

But how many Zhang Yes were there in the entertainment industry?

What he had done was not something that just anyone could replicate!

Chapter 1154: Zhang Ye's Asian Popularity Ranking!

Over the next two days, Zhang Ye was so busy with treating all of his friends, bringing them around to enjoy a good meal, that he didn't go back home at all. In recent days, he had caused quite a big stir. First, he prevailed over PeterGo. Then, his proof of Dale's Conjecture was finally validated. On top of that, he was appointed as a full professor at Peking University. He also secured his foothold of the number one spot on the A-list celebrity rankings. With all that coming together and adding in the previously accumulated events, the results could finally be seen now. The entire country's media outlets were making mention of Zhang Ye's name without stop for a few days. This pushed his popularity up by quite a lot, which led to many celebratory feasts!

For example, with China Qiyuan.

For example, with his extended family.

For example, with friends like Yao Jiancai, Chen Guang, and the others.

For example, with his colleagues from Peking University.

And for example, with Rao Aimin, Yang Shu, and Chenchen.

How many meals was that already?

Later on, Dong Shanshan, Yu Yingyi, and the group of his old classmates also arranged to have a meal together with Zhang Ye to throw him a party. But as Zhang Ye was really unable to squeeze any time out from his schedule, they settled for having breakfast together.

At Dong Shanshan's villa.

His old classmates were all seated around the dining table and staring at the fried dough sticks and soy milk on the table, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

Zhang Ye said, "Eat, eat, don't stand on ceremony with me. I just bought them, so have it while they're still hot!"

Dong Shanshan laughed and said, "Why would we stand on ceremony with you for over some lousy breakfast?"

Yu Yingyi rolled her eyes. "This is the first time I'm seeing someone treat others in this way!"

Wang He also said in a speechless manner, "Zhang'er, aren't you playing us for fools like this!"

Ma Xufei fumed while glaring, "I object! I strongly object to this!"

He Kui laughed from beside them.

"Hai, I really haven't had much time recently, and you guys are also going to be busy with your own work next week, so we could only decide on this morning to gather together like this. I have other appointments planned for this afternoon and tonight. Since we're all old classmates and know each other quite well, what's there to be so formal about. Don't dismiss breakfast as not fitting of a feast. Soy milk and fried dough sticks are really expensive too," Zhang Ye explained as he rubbed his temples. He had been drinking so much these past few days that his brain was hurting.

Yu Yingyi sighed. "Alright, we'll just have to make do. Squeezing a meal out of Professor Zhang is already an achievement. He's indeed quite busy these days, and I can testify to that."

Zhang Ye laughed. "Right?"

He Kui rolled his eyes. "You two are singing the same tune now, eh?"

Yu Yingyi said happily, "That's right. Just doing the commentary work for those three games that Zhang'er played helped me gain quite a lot of popularity, although this girl might not be comparable to Classmate Shanshan yet. But amongst the country's sports hosts, I'm considered as one of the more popular ones, haha. In the future, if there are any sports events that you all would like to attend, just let me know. Big Sis will help to get the tickets for you guys. It's not that I'm trying to brag, but with just a phone call from me, everyone is pretty much willing to give face to me."

He Kui said enviously, "Right now, it seems like only the three of you are doing well."

Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, and Yu Yingyi were the three referred to, of course.

Yu Yingyi said, "Compared to Zhang'er, who dares say that they're doing well."

Zhang Ye quickly said, "Ha, don't you guys tread on me like this."

Dong Shanshan drank some soy milk and gave him a look. "You're at the top of the A-list. Another step forward and you'll be in the S-list rankings. What plans do you have?"

"Hai." Zhang Ye shook his head. "I've not thought of any yet."

Dong Shanshan blinked several times. "You're probably going to get into the international rankings, right?"

Zhang Ye spread his hands. "I'm not even popular on the international stage, so I can't climb onto that list for sure. I don't even have any works that are known on the international scene, so I'll just take it step by step."

S-list.

Asia.

International.

There was still a long road ahead!

...

Meanwhile.

The news of Dale's Conjecture being proven was gradually spreading across Asia.

The Japanese netizens.

"What?"

"Why does this name sound so familiar?"

"Zhang Ye? Isn't that the man who played Go?"

"Oh yes, it's that guy from the war between humans and machines!"

"No wonder! So he's really a mathematician!"

The Korean netizens.

"Dale's Conjecture has been solved?"

"When did it happen?"

"Long ago? So it was him who solved it!"

"Why is this guy so good?"

"Is he really the smartest person in the world?"

...

That night.

A major incident happened again in the Chinese entertainment industry.

Almost without warning, and to everyone's surprise, when the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index was updated, Zhang Ye's name appeared on the Asian C-list rankings!

The Asian Celebrity Rankings Index. This was not a celebrity ranking list under the jurisdiction of China and the SARFT. It was overseen by a different authority and was a list of rankings that one wouldn't be able to get into if they did not have a certain level of influence around Asia. Every person that was in the rankings were well-known stars in the Asian countries and the index was segmented into four grades. They were respectively:

Asian S-list rankings.

Asian A-list rankings.

Asian B-list rankings.

Asian C-list rankings.

The statistics used in the rankings were not based solely on the number of fans that one had. Otherwise, with the population of China being so large, any random B-list celebrity would easily be qualified to be called a big shot around Asia. This rankings index was not that superficial. The number of fans one had was still the main statistical data—that was definitely necessary, of course. But there was also the status of whether their works won any awards, their qualifications, as well as how large their influence around the Asian region was. Combining all of those statistics, it would make it very difficult for someone to gain a place in the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index. This was especially true for celebrities from China and Japan. Currently, the celebrities in the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index were mainly Koreans!

For example, Korean star Lee Anson, who was sent flying by a kick from Zhang Ye, was in the rankings. He was in the Asian C-list rankings!

Lee Anson was actually very popular back then in China, although he was sent packing afterwards due to that incident. However, the base of his popularity was still there. Coupled with him doing quite well back home in Korea for the past two years, and having many fans in Japan and other Asian countries who loved him, those statistics made him a big shot as an Asian C-list celebrity! In contrast, although Zhang Ye was very well-known by everyone back in China and enjoyed a high level of popularity, he was still relatively unknown in Asia. He had never released any major works that were propagated into the Asian region, so his influence in the region was much more limited!

But this time, Zhang Ye had suddenly made it into the rankings!

And it wasn't just at the bottom of the Asian C-list rankings. He had appeared in the middle of the rankings!

There was a celebration across Weibo!

Zhang Ye's fans cheered!

"Damn!"

"He has made it to the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index!"

"He's finally there!"

"Teacher Zhang has blown up!"

"It was definitely due to the Go incident and the mathematical conjecture being proven!"

"Yeah, I was wondering why with Teacher Zhang's popularity in the country, he still hadn't made it onto this index. Look at Ning Lan and Xiaodong of Spring Garden, they've been in the Asian rankings all this time. So why was there nothing from Teacher Zhang? And now, I see that he has finally started his chapter in Asia!"

"Hahaha, congratulations!"

"Teacher Zhang's been having a year to remember since a few days ago!"

"Teacher Zhang can finally become more popular outside of the country! This is worth being happy and congratulated for!"

"Asian C-list rankings? Isn't that a little low?"

"It is a little low. Ning Lan is behind Zhang Ye by a little within China, but she's already a B-lister in Asia. Uh, but we can't really put it that way since Sister Ning's movies have always done very well in Asia. Along with being screened domestically, the box office earnings throughout Asia are also quite good. So of course she has an advantage there! As for Teacher Zhang's works, they're basically only known within the country, so there aren't too many people from the other Asian countries who know about him!"

"You still call that popularity of his low? Don't forget that Teacher Zhang has beaten up a Korean celebrity and scolded those Japanese dignitaries. Don't you remember the stir it caused back then? Just how badly had he been boycotted by those two main countries in Asia at that time? The Asian media was basically unwilling to report any news about him at all. So now that he has made it into the Asian C-list rankings, you should know just how heaven defying Teacher Zhang has been! He's totally unstoppable!"

"He's truly awesome!"

"Tossing flowers in celebration!"

"This is going to be an extremely important step for him!"

"Starting today, Zhang Ye is an Asian star!"

The fans sent in their congratulatory messages!

The media outlets were fighting to get their first reports out!

Zhang Ye's friends and family also called to congratulate him!

He had been getting so many such calls these days that he lost count of how many times he had been congratulated. It felt like everyone was constantly congratulating him one after another every other day!

Chapter 1155: Establishing Zhang Ye's Studio!

Several days later.

Zhang Ye finally had some free time.

The news couldn't possibly revolve around him every day. After a few days of hype by the media, everything returned to normal. That was because an even more important event was approaching!

The Beijing Olympics!

There were a little more than two weeks to go before the Olympic Games began!

This was going to be the single largest event in recent times for China. The media outlets had been reporting this for the past few days. They reported on things like who would be the invited guests for the opening ceremony, who would make up the contingent for Team China in the games, which sports stars could not participate due to injuries, and so on and so forth. The Olympics atmosphere was getting hyped up. Although there was still some time until the start of the Olympics, one could clearly sense that there were more and more foreigners around the streets. There were people of all nationalities around.

In all of China, Zhang Ye was perhaps the last one who knew about this. This fellow had only happened to catch a glimpse of the news this morning before finding out about it with a shock!

Zhang Ye wore an exaggerated expression of surprise. "Beijing Olympics?"

His father looked at him and asked, "What's the matter?"

Zhang Ye said, "They're holding it in Beijing this year?"

"Yeah!" His mother said, "Didn't they bid for the rights many years ago?"

Zhang Ye simply nodded when he remembered that this was no longer his previous world. Too many things had changed over here, like the bidding rights for the Olympics and the year that it would be held. Back in his previous world, the bid to be the host country had since long been won, and the Beijing Olympics had been successfully held.

His mother asked, "Oh, don't you have a classmate working at the Central TV Sports Channel?"

"Yeah, Yu Yingyi," Zhang Ye said.

His mother smiled and said, "See if she can get us some tickets for the events."

Zhang Ye said, "I'll ask her. You're interested in going and watching?"

His mother said, "Of course we have to go and watch. It was not easy to win a bid to organize the Olympic Games. Since it's being held in our country, shouldn't we go and give our support? Aren't you going?"

Zhang Ye threw up his hands. "Why would I go and watch it! It's not like you don't know about the relationship between me and the sports world."

His mother smacked her lips and said, "That's true. Which industries have you not offended?"

After the table tennis interview incident, and the resulting scolding battle and skit that called upon the "rejection of prostitution, gambling, and table tennis," the fight between Zhang Ye and the sports world reached a fever pitch. Many of the sports world's executives, coaches, and athletes gnashed their teeth in hatred of Zhang Ye. This was well-known to everyone.

Zhang Ye sat on the sofa and watched the news for a while. After he had a look at some of the famous athletes of this world, he stopped paying attention to the news. He did not really know most of them anyway. He turned to thinking about what he should be doing next. Zhang Ye was feeling a little overwhelmed after his popularity had soared so quickly in recent times, making him the top A-list celebrity in the country, as well as breaking into the Asian C-list rankings. However, he knew that he would have to take it step by step from here. This little bit of achievement was really incomparable to what his target was. The road ahead was a very long one, and he was still too far away from becoming an international celebrity.

What should he do next?

Which direction should he work towards?

Zhang Ye was still undecided. As such, he drove to Rao Aimin's place after he finished eating breakfast. He wanted to ask Old Rao if there was anyone who wanted to work with him recently.

At Old Rao's place.

The moment Zhang Ye stepped into the house, he was given a tongue-lashing!

Rao Aimin pointed at him and said, "I'm telling you, kid, I'm quitting as your agent. Go find someone else who wants this shitty job. Are you trying to tire me out? You're just staying at home with nothing to do and idling around as you like. Meanwhile, I have to take calls for you even when I go to the bathroom! Do you want to die?"

Chenchen walked in. "Zhang Ye, you've angered my aunt."

Zhang Ye said nervously, "What's going on?"

Rao Aimin slid her cell phone to him. "Just look at how many calls I've taken in these past few days."

Zhang Ye had a look at it and also thought that it was a little too much. There were more than a hundred calls. He quickly put on a placating smile and said, "Big Sis Rao, I know it was hard on you. Can't you see that I'm here now because I care about you? Here, take this Brain Gold supplement regularly." He placed the Brain Gold on her coffee table and said, "Oh yes, has there been any suitable work for me recently?"

Rao Aimin said, "Yes."

Zhang Ye's eyes lit up. "What kinda work?"

Rao Aimin pointed at the bathroom. "The toilet broke, get it fixed!"

Zhang Ye was speechless.

At this moment, Yang Shu opened the bathroom door. "Ai, Senior Bro, you're here?" She wiped her hands clean and said, "Master Rao, the toilet has been fixed."

Chenchen gave her a thumbs up. "Old Yang, well done."

Rao Aimin said, "Look at Little Yang! And then look at yourself! Other than posturing for the media every day, what do you know? If you keep stirring up all that commotion, who is going to handle the fallout for you? Won't they just come calling me for answers? You're pretty habitual in giving out my number to whoever you like!"

Zhang Ye lamented, "But you're my agent."

"Just hire someone better qualified already," Rao Aimin said.

Zhang Ye said, "Please endure it a little. I know it's been hard on you."

Yang Shu immediately said, "That's right, Master Rao. It isn't easy for Senior Bro either, so please help him out." At all times, Yang Shu was on his side.

Rao Aimin exclaimed, "Then do you think it's easy for me?"

Zhang Ye said, "How about I give you a higher percentage of the earnings?"

Rao Aimin howled, "Have you ever taken any commercial appearances? How much money can you earn in a year? Depend on your earnings? Then I'd have starved to death ages ago!"

Zhang Ye gave a wry smile and said, "If you quit now, where on earth am I going to find an agent? I don't know that many people, and I don't trust them either."

Rao Aimin said, "In any case, I've already got too much on my hands!"

Suddenly, his cell phone rang.

It was a call from Ha Qiqi.

"Director Zhang!"

"Ai, Sister Ha."

"Where are you?"

"I'm at a friend's place. What's the matter?"

"Everyone has quit their jobs and plans to go join up with you."

"Ah?"

"Will you take us in?"

"What happened? Come over first!"

Twenty minutes later, a group of people gradually arrived at Rao Aimin's house.

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, Little Wang, Wu Yi, Tong Fu, and some others were all from Zhang Ye's old team. The longest serving member had worked together with him on The Voice, while the more recent ones worked on A Bite of China and the Documentary on Air Pollution in China together with him. This was the best program team in the TV show industry!

Zhang Ye wondered, "Why did everyone quit?"

Zhang Zuo replied, "Old Ha and I did not renew our contracts after it ran out, so we were considered to have left by ourselves. Little Wang was sacked over a minor matter. The higher-ups skipped over Director Yan's authority and got her fired."

Little Wang said angrily, "I only rebuked someone from Central TV Department 1!"

Wu Yi said, "I resigned out of anger!"

Zhang Ye looked at the others.

Tong Fu said, "Since everyone left, I followed suit."

Little He added, "I prefer working with Director Zhang, so I resigned too!"

"Director Zhang, we'll listen to your plan!"

"Yeah, we'll all listen to you!"

"There's no way we can continue working there! All of us used to be on your team, so the higher-ups are always picking on us! They kept making things difficult for us and treated us with a bad attitude. Who would want to tolerate their behavior!"

Everyone started complaining!

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, "But you all are the industry's best program team. How can they just let you guys leave like that?"

Ha Qiqi said bitterly, "Director Zhang, not many people know about us even though we are the industry's best program team. To put it bluntly, how can we still claim to be number one if you're not on the team?"

Zhang Ye waved it off. "Take a seat and tell me more."

Chenchen waved to them. "Old Ha, Old Zhang, Old Wu."

Zhang Zuo smiled and said, "If it isn't our Little Leader."

Little Wang said joyfully, "Ah, Chenchen has grown taller!"

Chenchen replied, "Mmm, I guess I did."

Zhang Ye introduced everyone to his assistants. "Some of you might have seen them before and some have not. This is Rao Aimin, my agent. This is Yang Shu, my bodyguard." Then he introduced Ha Qiqi and the rest of the others one by one to Rao Aimin and Yang Shu. "When you weren't around for those six months, I had some trouble juggling my show's production work and taking care of the child. At that time, I brought Chenchen with me to Central TV where everyone helped take care of her. They all treated Chenchen quite well."

Rao Aimin acknowledged him and said lightly, "Stay for the afternoon. I'll make lunch."

Ha Qiqi quickly said, "Sister Rao, there's no need to trouble you."

However, Zhang Ye said, "Don't stand on ceremony with her. Old Rao is a very good cook. You'll all regret it if we don't stay for lunch."

"We? Did I say that I want you to stay for lunch?" Rao Aimin said.

Zhang Ye pretended not to have heard her. He turned to ask Tong Fu, "How did Huang Dandan's surgery go?"

Tong Fu smiled and said, "She's recovering quite well. She even kept saying that she wanted to come and join you, but I stopped her."

Zhang Ye said, "That's good. She should rest up for now, so don't let her get back to work yet."

Little Wang said fervently, "Director Zhang, let's pull off another big one this time!"

"Whoa." Zhang Ye said in amusement, "Are you planning on robbing a bank?"

Little Wang coughed and said, "We can do something on a smaller scale too. We're jobless anyway. If you don't take care of us, we won't have anywhere left to go."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Didn't I say this before? If you all don't have anywhere to go in the future, just come look for me and we can plan something. I was so looking forward to you all coming and join me. It's not easy to build another team that has such a deep bond and understanding. It's Central TV's loss that they did not keep all of you in the company. Let me do a headcount. One, two, three, four, five...There's a total of 13 people. Good, so almost the entire team is here."

Ha Qiqi laughed and said, "Basically everyone on the old team is here."

Tong Fu raised his hand. "And some from the new team."

Zhang Ye decided, "Alright, I'll take everyone who wants to join me!"

Ha Qiqi asked, "Then what are we looking at doing?"

Zhang Zuo asked, "Yeah, what should we do?"

They all knew Zhang Ye well. There was a very strong friendship and trust after working together for such a long time. This was not purely about tapping on the interests that each one of them could offer. The reason why everyone came to Zhang Ye the moment they left the Central TV Documentary Channel was not because they had nowhere to go. There were endless people in the industry trying to poach them, yet they were all here because they still wanted to work with Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye was quite happy that his old team that had swept through the entertainment industry was now reunited. When he thought about Rao Aimin's earlier complaints of being too busy, Zhang Ye suddenly had an idea. This idea was probably one that he had in mind since a very long time ago!

Zhang Ye suggested something astonishing. "Let's set up a studio!"

Ha Qiqi was taken aback. "A studio?"

Zhang Zuo said in surprise, "Aiyo, that is a good idea!"

"Right, all the A-list celebrities have their own studios!" Wu Yi said.

Little Wang clapped her hands and said, "I'll join!"

"Me too!"

"Count me in!"

"Haha, and me too!"

"Follow Director Zhang's lead! And he'll give you meal to eat!"

"A studio is a great idea!"

"I've been waiting for a long time for this day!"

Chapter 1156: Hiring a bodyguard for the studio?

Owning a studio was a sure sign of being an A-list celebrity. Some of the top B-list celebrities would also set up their own personal studios as long as they could afford to maintain one. This was equivalent to a small talent agency that would handle artist related affairs like promotions and PR work. For those slightly larger celebrity studios, they would even incorporate production and distribution functions. The only difference was that an agency was responsible for multiple artists, whereas a celebrity studio usually serviced a single celebrity. This was the main difference between the two.

Zhang Ye asked Rao Aimin, "Big Sis Rao, what do you think?"

Rao Aimin spoke like a layman, "What's the use of opening a studio?"

It would be of great use," Zhang Ye quickly replied.

Rao Aimin asked, "What sort of great use?"

"The great use is of course..." Zhang Ye paused and turned to Ha Qiqi. "Uh, what sort of great use?" He was unable to explain what it was good for.

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others were floored. How could you not know when you were the one who suggested it?

You're an Asian celebrity, but why are you still so ignorant?!

Little Wang was perceptive of the situation and immediately explained, "Big Sis Rao, the idea of opening a studio is so that everyone would be working around Director Zhang to support him. We would all be working towards the same goal. As for the kind of work it handles, it may include things like being the contact point for people who are interested in having Director Zhang make a commercial appearance, or having specialized personnel discuss and come up with solutions in the event of emergency PR. There would also be people handling requests for media interviews and other similar activities, so you wouldn't be required to take on such tasks in the future. Since you're Director Zhang's agent, you'd only be required to handle the important issues at hand. All the other minor details and work can be delegated to us to handle. As for who would handle which areas of work, we'll discuss that at a later time."

Zhang Ye repeatedly agreed, "That's right, that's right. In any case, you won't have to do much in the future. There won't be anyone chasing or calling you up every other day."

Rao Aimin sneered. "Why should I believe you?"

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "That's really how it is! Why would I lie to you!"

"I'm already been tricked into it by you once," Rao Aimin said.

Zhang Zuo also persuaded, "Sister Rao, with us sharing the workload, our efficiency will be much higher."

Tong Fu said, "Actually, Director Zhang should have already set up a studio long ago. In all of show business, he's the only A-list celebrity who does not have an agency or studio!"

Wu Yi nodded and said, "Yeah! Once he has a team to support him, Director Zhang would no longer need to personally handle any emergency PR or issue any public statements himself! He is an Asian celebrity now, so if he still doesn't have a studio to deal with his affairs, he won't be able to cope once the workload gets heavier! If some foreign projects come along or the foreign media approaches him, he wouldn't be able to handle them with that English of his. It would be for the best if we could have a dedicated translator to handle all of this. Of course, it would take some time for the team to slowly improve."

Zhang Ye said to Yang Shu, "Little Yang, what about you?"

Yang Shu said without thinking, "Wherever Senior Bro goes, I go."

"Good." Zhang Ye nodded. "Then that's that!"

An agent.

A bodyguard.

A chauffeur.

An assistant.

A videographer.

A secretary.

A director.

A technical director.

Business operations.

Counting all that, a team had practically been fully assembled!

His old group of team members were all very skilled and were basically a complete team that transferred straight over from the television station. They were not missing any roles that a complete program team would have. After they transferred over to the studio, there shouldn't be any drastic changes to their roles. At the very least, their job functions in the team would still be unique. Since this

was the same team that produced, promoted, and did the public relations for The Voice and A Bite of China, they did not need to waste any time to get to know each other. They were already quite familiar with one another!

Since everything clicked, the matter was settled!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Since we've decided to establish a new studio, I'm not sure about how we should get things rolling. If anyone has any suggestions, please bring it up."

Ha Qiqi asked, "Where will the studio be located?"

"Yeah, we have to rent a place for the office and get the business registration done as soon as possible." Zhang Zuo said, "But the rental prices for office space these days are not cheap."

Zhang Ye's eyes fell upon Rao Aimin.

Rao Aimin gave him a look. "What are you looking at me for!"

Zhang Ye asked, "Old Rao, do you have any spare apartments?"

Rao Aimin pursed her lips and said, "No."

"That can't be." Zhang Ye pointed out knowingly, "Isn't that duplex not rented out yet? The one on the top floor with over 200 square meters of floor space."

Little Wang exclaimed, "There's such a big place?"

Wu Yi said in surprise, "Sister Rao owns another apartment?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "All the units in this apartment building belong to her. This is quite a good place as the units are dual-purpose apartments that we can use to register as our company's address."

Rao Aimin immediately said, "Dream on, kid. How much are you going to pay me?"

Zhang Ye said, "Don't mention money. That could hurt our friendship!"

Rao Aimin rebutted, "Don't mention friendship. That would hurt my money!"

Zhang Ye was left with no choice. Seeing that she was not willing to give in, he could only say, "Alright then, will it do if I rent it from you at the market rate? I've never come across someone as stingy as you!"

"You should have said so earlier." Rao Aimin looked around and found a key. She threw it to him. "Take proper care of the place. Don't damage my apartment!"

Zhang Ye and the others headed upstairs to view the unit.

When they opened the door, they astonished by what they saw!

Although the unit was not considered big, there were two floors of around a hundred square meters each. It was renovated very well and had a little bit of European style furnishing in it. All of the furniture was also new. Once the beds and cabinets in the bedrooms were cleared and replaced with desks, the office would almost be fully equipped without needing any further renovations. Since their studio would

only be operating with about a dozen employees for the time being, they did not require too big an office, like those housed in an office building.

Little Wang praised, "This place is good, this place is good!"

Ha Qiqi also liked it a lot. "There's more than enough space!"

Zhang Zuo smiled and said, "Then let's go ahead with the plan. Starting from today, our company's name will be known as 'Zhang Ye's Studio'?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes!"

Ha Qiqi asked, "Do we still need to hire any more staff?"

"What roles do we need?" Zhang Ye asked.

Tong Fu coughed. "We still require bodyguards, don't we?"

Yang Shu said, "Aren't I the bodyguard?"

Tong Fu said, "Uh, I'm afraid that one bodyguard is not be enough for Director Zhang. He has offended too many people, after all. Now that he has gotten this popular, if he were to meet with any trouble while participating in public activities, or if the fans get too passionate, or if he gets surrounded by too many reporters, something could easily happen to him."

Ha Qiqi nodded. "Right, so should we hire another two bodyguards?"

Yang Shu didn't like the sound of that. She frowned and said, "With me around, who could get near my Senior Bro?"

Little Wang blinked. "Sister Yang, don't tell me you know kung fu?"

Yang Shu gave a slight smile. "I know a bit of Taiji Fist."

Little Wang said in amazement, "Really? Like the one in the movies?"

Yang Shu scoffed. "The Taiji Fist that you see in the movies are all fake. If you want to learn it, I can teach you. I'm giving lessons daily in the neighborhood below our apartment. Do you want to come? It's free to join. Taiji Fist is a superior type of martial arts. Not only can it strengthen the body, it also can..." She rattled on and on. She launched into a sales pitch on Taiji Fist like what she had been saying to the elderly in the neighborhood every day.

Little Wang said, "You're that awesome?"

Yang Shu smiled and said, "My senior bro is even more awesome."

It was obvious no one understood what she meant.

Wu Yi asked curiously, "Senior Bro? This form of address..."

Zhang Zuo guessed, "You graduated from Media College too? Are you Director Zhang's junior at school? Eh, when did Media College start giving martial arts lessons? I've never heard about that!"

Yang Shu said, "Huh? What junior at school?"

Zhang Ye interrupted, "Alright, there's no need to recruit any more bodyguards. She's enough."

Everyone gave Yang Shu a skeptical look but did not say anything more.

What could such a small woman possibly do?

None of them knew how strong Yang Shu was at this point in time!

Unbeknownst to them, now that Zhang Ye's Studio had been established, the role of bodyguards was going to be the least of their concerns!

With Zhang Ye, Yang Shu, and Rao Aimin around, would there be any in this world who would dare barge in? Even if a martial arts grandmaster were to come attacking, they would arrive standing but leave the place on a stretcher. Zhang Ye's Studio was a much safer place than the Huashan Sect, Shaolin Monastery, and all other large sects. Be it the name of Rao Aimin or Zhang Ye, they were both fearsome existences in the martial arts world who would send anyone running!

Chapter 1157: The studio officially opens!

Several days passed.

Zhang Ye's Studio was officially registered and opened for business.

Although the place was not big and there were not a lot of employees yet, with Zhang Ye's reputation staked on it, the company immediately became one of the biggest celebrity studios the moment it started operating.

Zhang Ye's parents came to visit.

Little Wang served them tea and hot water. "Auntie, Uncle, have a seat.

His mother looked around. "Good, very good."

His father commented, "Yup, it's a pretty nice place."

"Where's my son?" His mother asked.

Ha Qiqi smiled and said, "Director Zhang went out to pick someone up. I'll show you around."

His mother nodded. "Alright, let's go have a look around!"

Zhang Zuo asked, "By the way, Auntie, shall we light some firecrackers? So that there'll be a more festive air for the opening?"

His mother waved him off. "There's no need. Little Ye doesn't like it so boisterous, so it's fine as is."

"Grandpa, Grandma." Chenchen skipped over.

"Ai, my little Chenchen. Did you miss Grandma?" Zhang Ye's mother took Chenchen by her hand with a wide smile. "Come, come upstairs with Grandpa and Grandma and have a look."

The first floor was the reception area. There was a sofa, a television, a kitchen where meals could be made, and even a rather large bar. Behind it, the wine cabinet was stocked to the brim with liquor bottles. This cabinet was newly installed by them, and the entire place was dazzling. There was also a small conference room that had been modified from an existing guest room and was separated from the rest of the area. On the second floor, there were a few standalone office spaces. Everyone would be working from here in the future. The phone and internet connection networks had also all been wired in.

Most worth mentioning was the balcony on the second floor. In the entire apartment complex, only the duplex on the top floor had this feature. The balcony was over ten square meters, so it wasn't small at all. It was resurfaced with a fresh lawn, and they had ordered some customized swings that were installed just this morning. Long rattan benches were placed out on the balcony as well. Looking out from the balcony, one could see the city down below and the endless sky hanging overhead. It wouldn't be a problem if they were to hold an occasional gathering out here. The view from here was gorgeous.

Soon after, Zhang Ye returned with Yao Jiancai beside him.

Little Wang quickly said, "Teacher Yao, hello!"

"Teacher Yao!"

"Teacher Yao is here?"

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "Hello, everyone!"

Little Wang said, "Director Zhang, Auntie and Uncle are both here. They're out on the balcony upstairs."

"OK, I got it." Zhang Ye was all smiles. "Old Yao, how's my place?"

"It's pretty awesome!" Yao Jiancai said, "It's quite cozy here and much better than my agency, that's for sure." He then turned to the bar. "Whoa, you've got this much alcohol here? Shall we open a bottle?"

Zhang Ye pointed at the drinks. "Just have whatever you like, don't stand on ceremony with me."

Little Wang was still employed as the office assistant in the studio. "Which bottle should I open?"

"The cheapest one!" Zhang Ye said.

Yao Jiancai was speechless.

At this moment, another group arrived outside!

Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi came in with a laugh.

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Yo, we have distinguished guests."

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "You didn't even invite us to your studio's opening?"

"Hai, I hadn't planned on inviting anyone at all. I only sent a message to all my friends to inform them about it." Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I didn't expect that you'd come!"

Yu Yingyi said in amusement, "Since we know about it, of course we'd have to come over to congratulate you."

Dong Shanshan said to the delivery person outside, "Just place the flower basket outside the door. Yes, that's it, thank you."

There were two flower baskets, one each from Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi.

Yao Jiancai stretched out his hand and said, "Teacher Shanshan."

"Teacher Yao, it's been a while." Dong Shanshan smiled and shook hands with him.

"This is?" Yao Jiancai had seen the sports commentator before but couldn't remember her name.

Zhang Ye introduced, "This is a classmate of mine and Shanshan's. Gorgeous Beauty Yu, Yu Yingyi."

Yu Yingyi smiled and said, "I dare not call myself 'gorgeous.'"

Dong Shanshan said amused, "But you are fine with 'beauty'?"

"Of course." Only then did Yu Yingyi finally shake hands with Yao Jiancai. "It's our first time meeting, Teacher Yao. Nice to meet you. I've watched all of yours and Zhang'er's crosstalks no less than five times. I still laugh every time I watch them. The two of you are definitely the best crosstalk partners in the industry!"

Yao Jiancai chuckled, "You're too nice. Little Zhang and I only went to take part in the crosstalk competition after we were forced into a dead end."

Suddenly, even more people arrived.

"Is it here?" The trio of Xiaodong, Li Xiaoxian, and Amy came in wondering if they got the right place.

Zhang Ye immediately went up to greet them. "Whoa, you're all here?"

Xiaodong smiled and said, "Teacher Zhang, congratulations."

Zhang Ye gave them a fist and palm salute. "You too, you too."

Amy said, "Our flower basket has been placed outside the door."

"Alright." Zhang Ye said, "Just leave it there."

Xiaodong pointed behind herself and got someone to carry in a box of items. "I brought you a box of red wine."

Amy giggled and said, "Sister Xiaodong has collected all that for many years. She's not even willing to open a bottle for herself."

Xiaodong waved it off. "It's a gift for Director Zhang, I must be willing to give it out!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "You're this generous? Thank you."

Li Xiaoxian covered her mouth and laughed. "Sister Xiaodong means to say that since you have your own studio now, we'll be coming over often to have a drink. So she might as well store the wine here."

Zhang Ye said, "So you're taking this place to be a storage place for your wine now? Ha, I get it. Feel free to come over anytime; I'll certainly welcome you. Treat this place as your own from now on."

Yao Jiancai said, "Alright, I'll come over to have a drink every day then."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "I wasn't talking to you."

Everyone laughed.

Chen Guang and Fan Wenli were both overseas, so they specially called to offer their congratulations. Even though they were not here, they sent over some gifts that were pretty heavy. Then, there was also Grandma Zhang Xia. She couldn't find time to come over today, so she purposely got her son to send over a flower basket. There was even calligraphy that was written by Grandma Zhang herself. And Ning Lan, the skit actress Ci Xiufang, Central TV Documentary Channel's Yan Tianfei, Beijing Television's Hu Fei, China Qiyuan, and so on and so forth. In the end, there was even a flower basket sent by the Heavenly Queen, Zhang Yuanqi. The official Weibo of Zhang Yuanqi's Studio also posted a message: "Congratulations on the establishment of Zhang Ye's Studio."

Zhang Ye's Studio also set up its own Weibo and got a verification tag for the account.

For some other industry insiders who were not that close or well acquainted with Zhang Ye, they also offered their congratulations online.

"@ZhangYeStudio."

"Congratulations, Teacher Zhang!"

"Wishing your company's business success in scaling new heights!"

"Hoping you flourish and expand throughout the world."

"Rich blessings for a smooth sailing business."

There were a few of these messages, while the rest were all replies and likes by the netizens!

All of Zhang Ye's good friends in the industry that could be seen had been seen. It might seem like there were a lot of them, but it was really only those few people. He didn't really have any friends in the entertainment industry. Any C- or D-list celebrity probably had a much better social network than he did. Whenever someone's company was established, or whenever someone got married, they could easily invite over half of the entertainment industry to attend. But this sort of turnout could never happen to a fellow like Zhang Ye!

Oh, actually, it shouldn't be put that way.

Zhang Ye felt that if he were to die someday, he could almost definitely attract the entire entertainment industry to turn out for his funeral, and the number of wreaths that he would receive would probably line all the way from his house to Tiananmen Square!

Chapter 1158: The first big project!

That night.

Zhang Ye was laying down on the balcony outside the studio and stargazing. He poured himself a glass of red wine. There was a cool light breeze blowing. Eh, but there were just too many mosquitoes.

With a team of his own now, Zhang Ye no longer had to worry about how a lot of things were run. He felt relaxed and at ease now, but had one small regret—he had spent too much! The rental, the renovations, the equipment, the utilities, and the payroll, Zhang Ye had to pay for all that out of his own pocket. With such a large family to support now, he would surely have to improve further from here. He could only bring everyone together and slowly move forward now!

What should he do next?

After resting for so many days, it was time to start work again!

The window opened and Chenchen's head popped out. "Zhang Ye, I'm going to bed."

"Go on then," Zhang Ye said.

"Tell me a bedtime story," Chenchen said.

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Go, go, go get Yang Shu to tell one to you."

Chenchen pouted. "Zhang Ye, you're so lazy." Then she turned around and went off.

Ha Qiqi also poked her head out and said with a bitter smile, "Director Zhang, why are you still lying around? We're almost dying from being so busy."

Zhang Ye sat up. "Hey, I thought that you all had already knocked off. What are you guys still doing here?"

Ha Qiqi said, "Our studio has just opened for business, so there are a lot of people trying to contact us. They're looking for you to collab on movies, TV series, or are trying to ask you for a song, or accept some commercial appearances. We received so many calls that we lost count. But so far, there has been nothing that caught our eye. There was an offer to play the second male lead with a pay of 10 million RMB, but we're totally uninterested in that."

Zhang Zuo also stuck his head out the window. "Director Zhang, at least give us some direction. Just what kind of projects are you looking to work on?"

Zhang Ye said, "A big project."

"What would you call a big project?" Zhang Zuo questioned.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "The bigger the better, of course!"

At his level, he could already be considered one of the top few celebrities in the country. Although he still couldn't compare to those Heavenly Kings and Queens, he was at the level where he could choose which projects he wanted to take. In the industry, there were those who picked their jobs based on the amount of money offered and would work for whomever paid them more. Then, there were those who picked their jobs based on relationships. If they had a good relationship with the crew, they'd help out over there. Meanwhile, Zhang Ye mainly based his decisions on whatever would bring him more

popularity. Whichever project was bigger, whichever one that would allow him to gain more popularity, he would definitely prefer those over the others.

Suddenly, he heard Little Wang shouting, "Director Zhang! Director Zhang!"

Ha Qiqi was startled. "What's the matter? What is it?"

Little Wang came running over. "There's a big project! It's a huge project!"

Zhang Ye said, feeling rather interested, "Do tell."

Little Wang panted, "Someone has asked you for a song!"

Zhang Ye immediately lost interest. He shrugged and said, "Didn't I say that I don't casually write songs for others unless I have a really good relationship with them?"

Little Wang said anxiously, "This one's different!"

Ha Qiqi looked at her. "How much are they offering?"

Little Wang said, "I don't think they're paying anything."

Zhang Zuo didn't know how to react. "They're not paying and want Director Zhang to write them a free song? Do you know how much one song of Director Zhang's can fetch? Even if it were Sister Zhang, she wouldn't ask Director Zhang to write her a song for free!"

However, Little Wang's next words shocked everyone!

Little Wang said loudly, "It's the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games 1 that is asking for the song! It's for the Olympic theme song! They said that it would be used during the opening ceremony of the Olympics!"

"What?"

"What did you just say?"

"The Olympic theme song?"

"Holy shit!"

"That's really a big project, fucking hell!"

"Aiyo, did they really approach us?"

Little Wang said, "Yes, really!"

Everyone became very excited!

It was for the Olympics!

It was for the Olympics that was held once every four years!

The Olympics that would be broadcast live all over the world!

Wu Yi said loudly, "Director Zhang, you must take this job! Even if they aren't paying, you must take the job! This will greatly affect your popularity!"

Ha Qiqi said excitedly, "It's going to add very good credentials to your résumé! If you take this project, you won't have to worry for the rest of your life! I could never have expected that we would be approached with such a huge project so soon after our opening! How many people are competing to get on the Olympic opening ceremony, and still, they wouldn't get a chance at something like that!"

Zhang Ye narrowed his eyes. He hadn't expected that the Organizing Committee would come looking for him. He raised some doubts about the offer. "We're slightly less than two weeks away from the opening ceremony of the Olympics, aren't we? Hadn't everything already been planned long ago for the opening ceremony? They can't possibly be starting to prepare for it at the last minute. How many years ago was it since they won the Olympic bid? How can they possibly be thrown off balance in their planning at a time like this?"

Zhang Zuo was startled. "Yeah, the rehearsals are already about to begin."

Little Wang said, "I don't know about that. I, I didn't ask."

Zhang Ye asked again, "Did they only mention that they wanted me to write a song?"

"Yes," Little Wang replied.

Zhang Ye said, "They didn't mention anything about me singing it?"

Little Wang said, "I...don't think they did."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Are you sure that the call was from the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games?"

"I've already verified it with them. The caller was the head of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games," Little Wang said.

Zhang Ye said, "Alright, then let them know that since this is not a small matter, I will need some time to consider it."

Little Wang was dumbfounded. "Consider?"

Wu Yi nearly fainted. "You still need to consider for an offer like that?"

"Director Zhang, this is too good an opportunity to be missed!" Zhang Zuo was also nearly driven mad.

"This is the Olympics we're talking about! The opening theme song for the Olympics! What is there still left to consider? If you miss this chance, it would really be a big loss. Our country is probably only able to host one Olympic Games in the near future. This is the only chance where we can showcase ourselves to the entire world! Aiyo, just...just what are you thinking?"

But Zhang Ye said, "Little Wang, just tell them that."

"OK." Little Wang could only helplessly obey the orders. She left to make the call.

Then, Zhang Ye said to everyone, "It's not that I don't wish to take on the project. For a huge project like this, even if I have to suffer a big loss, I would still take it on. But think about it for a moment. It doesn't

mean that I would get to sing the song even if I wrote it. If I were to promise them so quickly, then when I finish writing the song for them and don't get to sing it during the opening ceremony, who will I go to for answers?"

Zhang Zuo analyzed, "Surely not, right? Since they came looking for you, that would mean that they want you to sing it too, isn't that so?"

Zhang Ye waved his hands and said, "There's nothing impossible about that. After being in the industry for so long and coming across all kinds of people, you can see from the news that I have always been getting into fights over such incidents. How many people have I scolded? For things like this, I am more experienced than any of you. We can't make any promises in a hurry, so just drag it out a little for now. I believe that something has cropped up over on their side, so they needed to change the song at the last minute. Otherwise, based on my relationship with those from the sports world, do you think they would lower their heads and come to me for help? There's definitely something going on here."

Ha Qiqi was convinced. "Director Zhang has a valid point there."

Wu Yi said anxiously, "But what if..."

Zhang Zuo said, "Yeah, don't let the opportunity slip away!"

Zhang Ye said calmly, "Just wait a little and see how it goes. If it's really ours, this chance will never get away. But coming back to the point, if there's really no song to be sung at the Olympics, even if they don't want me to sing it, I would still write one for them. This is a matter of national affairs, and this bro is not such a narrow-minded person. It wasn't easy for China to organize an Olympic Games. The next time it happens again would probably be decades to a century later. We can't allow it to fail in the hands of our generation."

He would still fight for what was needed!

He still had to do what was necessary!

This had always been how Zhang Ye handled things!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright, it's time to knock off. Everyone has worked hard today."

After everyone left, Zhang Ye stayed around. He laid down outside on the balcony and flipped on a colored lamp. Then he picked up a score and twisted the felt-tip pen in his hand before writing down a few words.

Chapter 1159: Zhang Ye is going to the Olympic opening ceremony!

The next day.

There were already stories in the news!

At Jiaomen East, Zhang Ye's Studio.

Little Wang was holding several copies of newspapers in her hands and shouting, "Here are today's papers!"

Everyone gathered around her while Zhang Ye also came over to have a look.

"Olympic Opening Ceremony Rehearsal Delayed!"

"A major problem might have befallen the Olympic opening ceremony!"

"Last-minute change of singers and theme song for opening ceremony!"

"Jiang Hanwei not destined to perform opening theme song?"

"Who will land the Olympic opening theme song?"

On the Internet, the netizens were also extremely surprised by the news!

"How did something like this happen?"

"It's already so close to the start of the Olympics!"

"The foreign Olympic contingents are already gradually arriving to Beijing!"

"Why did the theme song suddenly get changed? What was wrong with the previous one? I thought that they had already confirmed that it would be performed by Jiang Hanwei and Shu Han? Damn, wouldn't Old Jiang and Sister Shu have worked in vain then!"

"I wonder what's going on?"

"They're changing the lineup and song so suddenly?"

"Is there still time for that?"

"Then who's going to take over?"

"This is going to be a very lucrative job. There's definitely going to be a lot of people eyeing this chance!"

"Yeah, heads will probably roll when everyone contends for the song!"

The citizens were very concerned. After all, this was the first time that China was hosting the Olympics. It would be the only time in history that this was happening, so who wouldn't want it to be carried out flawlessly?

The entertainment industry's artists were also very concerned. Who could take the stage to sing the one and only opening ceremony theme song for the Olympics? This was incredibly important for an artist, especially those who harbored thoughts of stepping into the international stage. The lure was too enticing!

At the studio.

Ha Qiqi exclaimed, "So something really did happen!"

The moment she finished speaking, there was a knock on the door.

Little Wang went to answer it. Then, she got a shock. This was because there were seven or eight people standing outside the door in suits. At a single glance, it was clear that they were officials. She didn't

know most of them, but there was one person in the group she recognized immediately. This person was very famous!

—Li Ke!

He was one of the most famous film and television directors in China. This "one of" did not refer to being one in dozens, but one in only four people. When mentioning Chinese film directors, he would definitely rank within the top three. Even on the international stage, Li Ke's works had pretty good results. Right now, the post he held was the executive director of the Olympic opening ceremony!

"Is this Zhang Ye's Studio?"

"Yes."

"We're from the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games."

"Ah, please come in."

Little Wang led the group of people inside.

Zhang Ye also walked up to them slowly.

Li Ke smiled and stretched out his hand. "Director Zhang, I'd been looking forward to meeting you."

Zhang Ye shook hands with him. "I wouldn't dare to call myself a director in front of you, Director Li."

Li Ke was also in the Celebrity Goof Group. He occasionally joined in the conversations, and the two of them had chatted as well. Although they hadn't met, they were not exactly strangers either.

Then, Zhang Ye noticed that the famous lyricist and composer, Wang Zhuishu, was also part of the group. "Old Wang?"

Wang Zhuishu and Zhang Ye had known each other through King of Masked Singers and their relationship was considered alright.

Wang Zhuishu gave a wry smile. "Teacher Zhang, you're really something!"

Zhang Ye played dumb. "Ah? What about me?"

Wang Zhuishu said helplessly, "Let me make some introductions first. This is Qi Yihai, the vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games."

Qi Yihai smiled and said, "Teacher Zhang, I've been looking forward to meeting you for a long time."

Zhang Ye smiled back. "If I knew that President Qi was visiting today, I would have gone downstairs to welcome you!"

Li Ke joked, "So you wouldn't have gone to welcome us if it was just me?"

"Haha, of course I would have, of course I would have," Zhang Ye laughed.

Afterwards, the rest of the people were introduced. Other than one person who did not seem too friendly, probably because he was from the sports world, the others all greeted Zhang Ye politely. If it were just a normal celebrity, there wouldn't be a need to be so polite. However, as they had come to

Zhang Ye for a favor, and with his status different from other normal celebrities since he held three professorships from two universities, everyone had to politely greet him as "Professor Zhang" or "Teacher Zhang." They wouldn't address him as "Little Zhang" or directly by his full name.

After a simple exchange of a few words, Zhang Ye got the studio employees to move upstairs, leaving Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and Little Wang behind with him. Ha Qiqi was now in charge of external communications for Zhang Ye's Studio, while Zhang Zuo was in charge of the internal communications. Meanwhile, the reason for Little Wang staying behind with them was because she had to serve drinks to the guests.

Everyone got seated.

Wang Zhuishu said, "Director Zhang, have you reached a decision yet?"

Zhang Ye blinked. "What decision? Oh, I remember. You mean about the song!"

Wang Zhuishu rolled his eyes.

Zhang Ye said, "May I ask why you all approached me?"

The vice president of the organizing committee looked at him. "Teacher Zhang, I won't hide this from you. There were some problems with the theme song for the opening ceremony. There's a problem with the personnel, as well as with the song. I won't go into detail, but suffice it to say that all the songs that were previously lined up have been rejected. We feel that the lyrics and the melody were completely unsuitable for performing at this sort of an international stage. Like for one of the songs, Chinese elements were too heavily emphasized. This should have been a good thing since it would showcase the charms of our country. But then, it kind of felt unsuitable for the Olympics. After much deliberation, our Organizing Committee feels that we should have something that is a little more international sounding. But there has been nothing suitable so far, and we have already dragged this on for too long."

Wang Zhuishu added, "I wasn't able to help either. I've already written seven or eight drafts for proposal, and so have some of our country's other musicians. A song that is more international sounding is what's making this so difficult. The score for the music is not easy to create, so that's where the problem lies. We were all out of ideas. Then, later, when Director Li mentioned you, I suddenly remembered that writing songs is a specialty of yours. So Director Li and I recommended you to the Organizing Committee."

Is writing songs my only specialty?

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I can sing well too." His words carried a double meaning.

Wang Zhuishu simply nodded.

Li Ke smiled but did not say anything.

An executive from the sports world frowned.

But it was Qi Yihai who spoke, "I know that. My daughter is a fan of your singing. She likes you so much that she doesn't even listen to me anymore, hai."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Did I just get implicated in something that I don't know about?"

However, Qi Yihai said, "I don't like her chasing after celebrities and idols, but you're an exception. I've always admired Teacher Zhang's principles concerning major issues."

Zhang Ye did not know how to respond to that.

So he listened to Qi Yihai continue, "We're getting closer and closer to the day of the opening ceremony. There isn't much time left. Director Li and Teacher Wang told me that if anyone could come up with a new song in a short period of time, then it would only be you, Teacher Zhang. I agree with what they said, so that's why we came over today to pay you a visit. We wanted to know if you can come up with a song for us. Our requirements for the song is that it has to sound like it was written for the international stage in mind, has to have a nice melody, be able to spread positive energy, and also showcases the bearing of our country."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Your requirements are not simple."

Qi Yihai said, "That's why we came looking for you."

Wang Zhuishu asked, "Director Zhang, do you think you can do it? It's really urgent!"

Zhang Ye thought about it and told Little Wang, "Little Wang, go to my office and take out the document from the first drawer on the right. Bring that to me."

"OK!" Little Wang very quickly returned with what he wanted.

Zhang Ye gripped the score and placed it on the table. "Everyone, please have a look at this song."

What?

There's already a song?

Damn, isn't that too fast! We know that you're the quickest draw around, but isn't that still way too fast! Are you a machine gun or something?

Everyone was very surprised. Even Ha Qiqi and Zhang Zuo did not know about it!

"You and Me"?

Wang Zhuishu took the score and immediately started humming!

Qi Yihai, Li Ke, and the others watched and listened to him very seriously!

Ten minutes later.

Everyone was stunned!

Li Ke laughed. "Good! It's really good!"

An organizing committee official praised, "This is great!"

Wang Zhuishu banged the table. "This is it! This totally sounds like a theme song that was tailored for the Beijing Olympics!"

Zhang Ye said, "Well, I did write it specifically for the Olympics."

Wang Zhuishu had no reply.

Zhang Ye asked with a smile, "President Qi, what do you think?"

Qi Yihai gave him a thumbs up. "It's impeccable! Teacher Zhang is really as good as everyone says!"

Zhang Ye said, "That's good then."

Qi Yihai was also a smart person. He looked at him and said, "Teacher Zhang, we definitely want this song. You won't have written this in vain. Just tell us what requests you might have."

Zhang Ye said, "I only have two requests. No, I shouldn't say that they're requests since this is a national affair. I only have two wishes. The first one is that I hope to be the one to sing this song since I believe that I should be the one to sing my own song. I could perform it to the best that way. Second, I hope that I am allowed to pick the partner for the part of the female duet."

The person from the sports world immediately said, "No way!"

Zhang Ye looked at him and vaguely remembered from the introduction earlier that his surname was Qian. He was a chief of some bureau it seemed.

Chief Qian said, "The song performers have already been decided. It will definitely be performed by Jiang Hanwei and Shu Han. The two of them rehearsed the opening theme song for a very long time."

Zhang Ye said, "But hasn't the song been switched now?"

Chief Qian looked at him. "We still have to consider the two teachers' feelings."

Zhang Ye asked in return, "If you wish to be considerate of the teachers, I can understand that. You can handle that however you deem fit, but don't use my song to do it. You sound like you're taking things for granted from the way you speak."

"Did I ever say anything like that?" Chief Qian was also getting annoyed. "These Olympics are a matter of national importance. It's a diplomatic mission, so can't you just write a song for someone to sing? Can't you even make a small sacrifice for the country?"

Zhang Ye said, "I can make sacrifices for sure. For my country and its people, I can do a lot of things. Furthermore, it won't just be paying lip service like what you're doing. Everyone knows how much I have done in the past, so don't resort to using moral coercion to pressure me! Why do I have to be the one to do everything and still be the one making sacrifices? Why is it that some people do not have to do anything and still get to bask in the glory of others? In the end, I still have to be insulted like I did something wrong?"

Chief Qian raged, "You!"

Ha Qiqi quickly held Zhang Ye back. "Director Zhang!"

All of a sudden, they started arguing. This had always been Zhang Ye's style. No one present found this to be odd. They all knew just how ill-tempered Zhang Ye could get, and there was nothing they could do about it.

Qi Yihai looked at the two of them helplessly. "I also know about the disagreements between Teacher Zhang and the sports world from back then. So it's still going on? Hur hur."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I suppose it's not over yet. Please forgive me, President Qi. I don't mean any harm, but it's just that I'm rather blunt and offend people easily."

Qi Yihai thought to himself, Was that being blunt? It sounded more like every word was cutting! However, Qi Yihai's impression of Zhang Ye was still pretty good. He wasn't a member of the sports world and had been assigned here to lead the committee. He also knew about the cold relations between the sports world and Zhang Ye, but that was none of his business, and he wasn't bothered by it either. What he needed to do was just to ensure that the Olympics would be properly organized and that the opening ceremony could be carried out without a hitch. That was all.

Li Ke was on Zhang Ye's side regarding this matter. "Director Zhang's singing is much better than Old Jiang's, and he's also more popular than Old Jiang."

Chief Qian reiterated, "But in terms of international popularity, Teacher Jiang is much more well-known, and his movies are also quite influential overseas. This is an international stage, so we have to consider all these factors. And his partner for the song, Shu Han will definitely..." He started gesturing.

Li Ke did not like hearing that. "Chief Qian, I think I'm the executive director here?"

After getting snubbed, Chief Qian flushed red with embarrassment!

Zhang Ye also spoke at this moment. "President Qi, you can make the decision?"

"Of course I can," Qi Yihai said.

Zhang Ye nodded. "If the Organizing Committee is really against it and doesn't find me suitable to represent our country on stage, that is fine. Just take the song, and we'll carry on with our lives as they were. It's all fine. This is my country's Olympic Games, so long as I can make a contribution, I won't ask for anything more than that."

Chief Qian said, "President Qi!"

Another person on the Organizing Committee said, "President Qi, we..."

Qi Yihai gave Zhang Ye a look and suddenly said with a smile, "Alright then. Just by those words of yours, I will fulfill your two wishes. Director Li, what do you think?"

Li Ke said, "I don't have any objections."

Qi Yihai said, "Alright, I will let the higher-ups know about this, so it's settled!"

Zhang Ye stood up and put out his hand. "Let's work well together."

Qi Yihai laughed heartily and shook his hand. He said, "You'll have to start making preparations immediately. With the time extension, we're only three days away from the rehearsal for the opening ceremony."

Chief Qian looked annoyed!

The other Organizing Committee members looked at one another!

Let Zhang Ye sing the Olympics opening theme song? Isn't that as good as slapping the face of the sports world! Who didn't know that Zhang Ye had scolded a large number of coaches and athletes of the sports world? He even deliberately used a skit to insult them. But now? He was going to represent the sports world and perform onstage? Would that work out? Hai, whatever. Since President Qi had decided, it was all set. They just had to make the opening ceremony happen, and everything would be decided in the best interests of the country.

Meanwhile, those people from Zhang Ye's Studio nearly screamed from the excitement!

He had done it!

He had really done it!

Director Zhang was going to represent the country and take to the stage for the Olympic opening ceremony!

Chapter 1160: International Superstar Lillian!

On the same day.

The news was leaked.

"Olympic Opening Ceremony Song Confirmed!"

"Zhang Ye to open the Games with a rendition of the theme song!"

"The Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games unanimously agrees to use Zhang Ye's song!"

"Zhang Ye joins the opening ceremony to replace Jiang Hanwei and Shu Han!"

"The Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games has verified the authenticity of this news!"

When the netizens saw these headlines, all of them expressed their disbelief!

"Teacher Zhang?"

"Damn, surely not, right!"

"How can it possibly be him!"

"I don't believe this!"

"I don't believe it either, it can't be him!"

"I have a friend working with the Organizing Committee. I heard that this matter has been confirmed, and their management already held a meeting to approve Teacher Zhang's song. He'll be the one performing it as well!"

"Pfft, but don't they know about his relationship with the sports world?"

"Yeah, Zhang Ye is going to open the games with his performance? Can it get any more ironic than that? Would those people from the sports world agree to this? I was thinking earlier how this slice of pie could land in anyone's plate but Zhang Ye's. After that fearsome war of words with the sports world during the new year, there hasn't been much of such large-scale scolding battles in showbiz! Goddammit, what kind of song could Teacher Zhang have come up with to make the Organizing Committee decide this?"

"Who knows!"

"This is going to be really interesting!"

"Yeah, we'll have a good show to watch again, hahahaha!"

"I feel that Zhang Ye is quite a suitable candidate for this!"

"Why?"

"Because Go can also be generally considered as a form of sports? Teacher Zhang is the greatest Go player in the world right now, and he can also sing well, so it's very normal for him to get chosen!"

"Uh, there's a point to that."

"Did Professor Zhang turn on the 'hogging the headlines' mode again?"

Immediately, some of those athletes who were involved in the scolding battle against Zhang Ye awhile back started protesting!

The head coach of the table tennis team angrily expressed on Weibo: "How can they use someone who is so disrespectful to sports as the singer of the opening theme song? I simply cannot understand this!"

A table tennis player: "Unacceptable!"

A badminton player: "Zhang Ye is representing the country and singing? This must be a mistake!"

But afterwards, the table tennis team's head coach deleted that Weibo post, perhaps because the Organizing Committee had talked to him?

Actually, they couldn't be blamed for feeling so shocked!

Even Zhang Ye's friends and relatives were finding it hard to believe!

A phone call from his mother came chasing after him for answers!

"Little Ye!"

"Mom."

"Did you get asked to perform the Olympics opening theme song?"

"Hur hur, yes."

"Has it been confirmed?"

"Of course."

"Aiyo, that's great! You're my good son!"

"So I'll be quite busy during this time and probably won't be home for a while."

"That's fine! No problem! Just do what you need to and quickly finish the song. You'll need to practice too, so please don't come home until everything is done! You must sing well at the opening ceremony! It's on the world stage!"

"I understand."

Ning Lan also called him in shock!

"Sister Ning."

"Zhang'er, are you serious?"

"The Olympics theme song you mean? It's true."

"How did you do it?"

"They didn't have a song, so they came to look for me to write one."

"Will you be performing it as well?"

"Yes, probably because they were moved by my charm, haha."

"What charm do you have! By the way, my new movie will be screening soon. Do help me to advertise it a little on your Weibo when the time comes."

"No problem."

Chen Guang's call:

"Just what song do you have?"

"Haha, it's a secret."

"You're really too fearsome, I suppose Jiang Hanwei must hate you to the bone now!"

"You say it like he didn't hate me before this."

"I am just in shock. How could it be you!"

The calls kept coming in from his friends. While everyone was in disbelief at the news, they were also very happy for him. That was because everyone knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be able to perform a song for the Olympic opening ceremony in their own nation. There likely wouldn't be another such chance in several decades. Even the Heavenly Kings and Queens did not get selected; even a veteran like Jiang Hanwei whose social network spanned far and wide in the industry was not chosen. All of that showed just how fierce the competition was to perform the theme song. This was not something that could be achieved with just popularity and social ties. Sometimes, it also needed some luck, and Zhang Ye happened to get the role!

The Go battle!

The mathematical conjecture!

King of Masked Singers!

There was no doubt that those three battles had led Zhang Ye to where he was right now!

If Zhang Ye did not know how to compose songs, if he did not use his astonishing singing skills to become the champion of King of Masked Singers, if he didn't make an appearance during the war between humans and machines, if there wasn't an announcement that Dale's Conjecture had been proven by Zhang Ye and spread his name across the world a little, then it could probably be said that this chance to sing the theme song at the opening ceremony would not have come his way. None of those factors could be missing from the equation. It was all down to Zhang Ye slowly building up his popularity and fame that helped the Organizing Committee to decide to use him in the end!

This was perhaps what luck was about!

This was also the result of Zhang Ye's hard work all this time!

The Olympic opening ceremony. There was without a doubt the largest platform that Zhang Ye would ever perform on so far. Although it was only one song, it was enough. This was the best chance to show himself to the entire world!

...

Later that afternoon.

In the studio.

Zhang Ye was alone in his office browsing through some information. He was currently trying to choose a partner to sing with, someone who would be sharing the Olympic stage and performing the song alongside him. Back in his previous world, that version of " You and Me 1 " performed by Liu Huan and Sarah Brightman was simply too amazing. Zhang Ye's singing style was quite different from Teacher Liu Huan's style, but he was also quite inclined to finding a foreign female singer to perform with. Only then would the charm of this song be brought out. But the problem was that Zhang Ye did not know anyone. He did not know who he could look for!

Joss?

Molly?

These were the more well-known female singers of this world!

But thinking about them, Zhang Ye could only shake his head and strike them off his list of choices. These two people did not have a clear attitude towards the Chinese. One of them was less mainstream and was rumored to be hard to get along with, so he would surely have to avoid getting such international celebrities. Zhang Ye would not dare to invite them no matter how popular they were. He had to play it safe first and foremost. His ideal choice would be someone who liked the Chinese, followed by their popularity and singing skills. But it wasn't easy to find international celebrities who were friendly towards the Chinese these days.

Who should he look for?

Who would be the most suitable?

After browsing for a long time, a name finally appeared in front of Zhang Ye's eyes.

The office door opened.

Ha Qiqi said anxiously, "Director Zhang, the Organizing Committee is rushing us again."

Zhang Zuo stood up and said, "They called three times and were asking if you had anyone in mind. The day of the rehearsal is almost here, and it's a race against time!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "I've picked someone."

Ha Qiqi blinked. "Who?"

Everyone looked over!

Zhang Ye calmly answered, "Lillian."

Everyone was shocked!

"Huh?"

"What?"

"Who did you say?"

Zhang Ye repeated, "I said, Lillian."

Ha Qiqi gave a dry laugh and said, "Director Zhang, are you joking with us?"

Zhang Ye said slightly irked, "I'm not joking."

Zhang Zuo was dumbfounded. "Which Lillian?"

"The most famous Lillian in the world of course." Zhang Ye said.

Everyone was speechless.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "What's the matter? Is there a problem?"

Little Wang wiped her sweat away. "W-Would we even be able to invite her?"

Wu Yi said, "This woman you're talking about is too much of a big shot!"

Zhang Zuo said with a forced smile, "She's not only too much of a big shot. She's simply too...This woman you're talking about ranks in the top twenty of the international superstars!"

Everyone thought that Director Zhang was being too bold!

But what Zhang Ye said next left them unable to rebuke him. "It's not like we're the ones who will need to spend money to invite her, right? We have the Organizing Committee for that. Let them invite her, let them spend the money, what do we have to worry about!"

Everyone was floored!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It's settled then. Make the call!"

Ha Qiqi had to acknowledge him. She turned around to make a call to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games.

As expected, when the person over at the Organizing Committee heard it, they reacted in exactly the same way as them!

The person from the Organizing Committee said: "Who did you say?"

Ha Qiqi replied: "Director Zhang says he would like to invite Lillian."

The person from the Organizing Committee nearly vomited blood!

Lillian?

What the heck!

Are you trying to bankrupt us!