

Superstar 1161

Chapter 1161: 'Beijing Welcomes You' makes its debut!

Not long after.

A call from the Organizing Committee arrived.

Vice President Qi Yihai immediately said: "Teacher Zhang, pick someone else."

Zhang Ye said: "Lillian is the most suitable person."

"This person you picked is too difficult to get." Qi Yihai kept shaking his head. "We don't have the budget for that. It's really difficult to invite an international superstar like her."

Zhang Ye said: "Can't you play the emotional card?"

Qi Yihai said: "She might not buy it."

Zhang Ye blinked. "What about the sentimental card?"

Qi Yihai thought about it. "You're suggesting that we use her grandmother as a reason?"

Zhang Ye said: "I'm not suggesting that. This is the job of the Organizing Committee. I am only offering some advice, that's all. I don't care about the other things, nor do I have power to do so."

Qi Yihai couldn't come up with a reply.

Lillian was British and around the age of thirty. She was a famous singer and actress, as well as one of the top two international stars. Almost no one would not know who she was at the mention of her name. Even Zhang Ye, who was not from this world originally, had heard of her name on multiple occasions over the years, so it was obvious just how famous she was. Compared to someone like Zhang Ye who couldn't even make it out of Asia, her popularity was way, way higher than his. She was definitely a legend in the industry!

Worth mentioning was the fact that Lillian's paternal grandmother was Han Chinese. Although Lillian had the standard British look, she had a quarter Chinese blood flowing in her. This was the reason why Zhang Ye chose to invite her. Although Lillian didn't seem like she came to China often, nor had she held any concerts here before, according to reliable sources, she knew how to speak Mandarin. It was rumored that she could speak up to eight languages, so it was even rarer to have someone like her. Of course, no one really knew whether this rumor was true. It could just be the media cooking up news. The media these days said whatever they wanted. If you could say "yes," or "baka," they would immediately claim that you were proficient in many different languages.

They spoke a little more.

Finally, Qi Yihai was left with no choice. "Alright, we'll try. But I can't guarantee anything. We can only try our best to invite her!"

Zhang Ye said: "Thanks."

Qi Yihai laughed. "But I have a small favor to ask."

"What is it?" Zhang Ye asked.

Qi Yihai said, "Can you write us another song to be used for the promotion of the Olympic Games?"

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Isn't there already one? The one that was performed together by the six celebrities?"

Qi Yihai said, "Yes, the promotional song was released some time ago, but it didn't have that great an effect. Its propagation was so-so and not many people have heard it. We studied why it was like that and believe that it was down to the content of the song, so we hope that you can write us another one. This time, we want it to be better and more effective. We've contracted close to a hundred influential celebrities in the country to perform this song together in a music video."

Zhang Ye asked: "When do you need it by?"

Qi Yihai said: "The sooner the better."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright, I will get it to you by the afternoon."

Qi Yihai was stunned. "But it's already afternoon."

"I know," Zhang Ye said.

Qi Yihai was very happy. "Alright, that's what we admire about Teacher Zhang the most. You're always so efficient. You've given us a great deal of help this time, so let me thank you on behalf of the Organizing Committee!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said: "I'll be waiting for your good news too then."

"Alright!" Qi Yihai said.

After hanging up, Zhang Ye got to work.

A promotional song?

Which song should he use?

It looked like there was only that one?

...

An hour later.

The Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games received the musical score from Zhang Ye via fax.

After the professional music team and officials of the Organizing Committee saw it, they all applauded and praised it. Almost immediately, it was decided that they would use this song!

"How awesome!"

"Yeah, does he not need any inspiration to create a piece of music?"

"He really can write any kind of song!"

Very soon, the organizing committee got started with the production work for the promotional song's music video. It was obvious that they couldn't get close to a hundred celebrities into the recording studio to film the music video. That would be too chaotic, and also impossible to schedule. After all, they were all big name celebrities in the country and were very busy with work. Therefore, the music video was filmed in batches. Every person or group would record a short segment before it got edited together in post-production. This was a diplomatic mission, so it was specially handled and arranged. The celebrities were also very accommodating and got down to work without objections. Everyone was giving their best for the Olympic promotional work!

And so, a music video that included scores of celebrities only took a day and a half to complete. All of it was done before the opening ceremony rehearsal!

On TV.

Online.

On the radio.

They were all playing a song called "Beijing Welcomes You 1"!

Lyrics: Zhang Ye.

Composer: Zhang Ye.

Xiaodong: "Greet another rising sun, the air a brand new, fun one."

Li Xiaoxian: "Changing air but constant interest, tea's full for everyone."

Amy: "Our doors are always open; we're waiting to embrace you."

Shu Han: "A hug and we'll be close as glue, this place you'll come to love."

Zhang Ye: "Beijing welcomes you, we've got everything ready for you."

Chen Guang: "The flowing charm is full of spirit and energy."

Fan Wenli: "Beijing welcomes you, so let's share a breath under the sun."

Zhang Xia: "And write a new beginning on this land."

There were the new generation singers.

There were the Heavenly Kings and Queens.

There were the veteran singers.

Gathering so many big names together to sing the same song was something that had never happened before. It was the Beijing Olympics that brought them together!

The people who heard it all shouted in satisfaction!

"Great song!"

"This is so good that I'm gonna die!"

"This song is such a classic!"

"Yeah, compared to that promotional song called 'Be Victorious,' this is so much better. The feeling of the song is also good as it portrays our intent to welcome guests from all over the world!"

"The lyrics and melody are by Zhang Ye!"

"Awesome!"

"I'm looking more and more forward to watching Zhang Ye's performance during the opening ceremony!"

"I wonder what song he'll sing?"

"I don't know, they're keeping it a secret!"

"Yeah, the lockdown on the news this time is really strong. What's more, we don't even know if the song will be sung by Zhang Ye alone or as a duet with someone else. In any case, I'm anticipating it!"

On this day, "Beijing Welcomes You" spread all across the country!

Whether it was the lyrics, melody, or the array of stars singing, this song had reached an unprecedented high. Riding the wave of hype surrounding the Olympics, it immediately took the number one spot across all the major music charts. It was simply unstoppable. In a short period of time, the music video had been watched 600-700 million times!

Then, almost without any warning!

A piece of news that would excite anyone was released!

An announcement was made concurrently on News Simulcast, Xinhua News, and the official website of the Olympic Games Organizing Committee: "The international superstar, Lillian, has accepted the invitation of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games. She will be arriving in Beijing a day before the opening ceremony and will be performing the theme song with Zhang Ye during the Olympic opening ceremony!"

Screams!

Astonishment!

Craze!

The people were all getting excited!

"Ahhh!"

"My God!"

"Lillian? That Lillian?"

"I'm a braindead fan of Lillian! Holy shit! Holy shit! Holy shit! Lillian will be coming to Beijing? She'll be performing with Zhang Ye?"

"How's that possible!"

"The Organizing Committee is so awesome!"

"Yeah, they're so great!"

"Even Lillian has been invited?"

"Lillian, my goddess!"

"Hey, hey, hey! They're really upping the stakes this time!"

No one did not know Lillian!

This news was too shocking and exciting to everyone. Lillian would be attending the Beijing Olympic opening ceremony. She was being so respectful!

Compared to the people's enthusiasm, the local show business was kind of stunned. They were all aware of how famous Lillian was but had never worked with her before. In the past, there were Chinese entertainment companies who had wanted to invite her to the Mainland to hold a concert, but those invitations did not even get a response! Li Ke, one of the country's most famous directors, even invited Lillian to guest star in one of his movies. It was only a guest role that would take at most a day of filming and paid 40 million RMB, but Lillian still rejected it.

This was an international superstar!

A person whose presence was revered by all!

And now that she was coming to China, the first person she'd be working with turned out to be Zhang Ye? This made many of Zhang Ye's foes in the industry burn with hate!

However, Zhang Ye, who was at the center of it all, remained quite calm. After all, he couldn't truly be said to be from this world. He had never heard Lillian's songs when he was young, nor watched her movies. He only caught up on those when he got here, so it was very difficult to grasp the admiration that people from the industry had gradually developed for her. That was why his feelings for her weren't that strong. But if he was going to work with Angelina Jolie from his previous world, he would probably be excited to no end. That was because he grew up watching her movies, and his admiration for her had gradually developed over a decade or two!

Thus, Zhang Ye was very calm when Qi Yihai called.

"It's settled!" Qi Yihai said.

Zhang Ye smiled and said: "Alright, thank you for your hard work, President Qi!"

Qi Yihai gave a bitter laugh. "We spent a lot of effort this time and specially flew a team over to Britain to speak to Lillian and her talent agency. The process was extremely difficult, so I won't talk too much about that. But the good thing is that we managed to invite her, although she can't take part in the opening ceremony rehearsal tomorrow due to a scheduling conflict. She can only arrive one day before the actual opening ceremony, so I hope there's enough time for you two to get things sorted out before then."

Zhang Ye said: "There'll be enough time. We're both used to performing live, so that won't be a problem for us. But of course, she'll have to learn the song first."

Qi Yihai said: "That's for sure. We've already sent the song to them. Or rather, if it weren't for this song of yours, Lillian's team would probably not have agreed to it so readily. They were also very happy with it. Since she can't make it tomorrow, it won't be necessary for you to join in the rehearsal either. We'll just head straight into the opening ceremony performance. The stage has been set up. We're just going to wait for the performance now. I'm really starting to look forward to the opening theme song performance on the day of, so don't disappoint us!"

Chapter 1162: Before the opening ceremony!

Ten days later.

There was only a day left until the Olympic Games began!

On the streets and alleys of Beijing, more and more foreigners could be seen walking around. They were all touring the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, and other tourist attractions. The foreign contingents had started arriving some time ago and checked into the Olympic Village. Under the constant bombardment by the media, the atmosphere surrounding the Olympics had reached its peak. There was practically no other news being reported other than the Olympics, like the latest updates on the athletes and the opening ceremony.

It was likewise in the foreign media.

The South Korean media: "Ahn Yoonhee suffers an injury in training and could miss the Beijing Olympics!"

The Japanese media: "Famous swimmer Obata chosen as the contingent's flag bearer!"

The North Korean media: "The motherland's contingent vows to surpass China and America in the gold medal tally for first place!"

The English media:

Lillian to attend the Beijing Olympic opening ceremony!"

The Canadian media: "The most beautiful woman in Britain, Lillian, will be performing the Olympic theme song!"

This was a day that belonged solely to the Olympics!

The entire world had their eyes on Beijing!

...

In the Olympic Village.

At the main stadium of the Olympics.

After many workers finished remodeling the performing stage, they added some final decorations and confirmed that everything was in place. On the enormous big screen, some unrelated visuals were displayed to test the camera angles and equipment. Judging from the tense atmosphere, they were in full preparation mode for the main event.

But Zhang Ye was totally at ease. He sat in the audience and took a call.

"Son, get hold of a few more tickets!"

"Didn't I already get them for you and dad?"

"It's not enough. Big Sis Zhou from the neighborhood came to me and asked if she could have one too."

"Heh, do you think I'm selling cabbages in the market? Even I can't get so many tickets for myself."

"Try to ask for a few more. Everyone would like to attend the opening ceremony. And there's your Auntie Chen and Auntie Li too. All the neighbors came to ask me, so how can I not get the tickets for them?"

"Oh, alright. I will try to ask for more."

"Oh, and get Lillian's autograph as well!"

"I haven't even met her in person yet, and I'm not sure what time her flight will arrive either."

"Just ask for it!"

"OK, I understand."

A little while later, he received a few more calls.

Liao Yiqi called.

"Teacher Zhang."

"Ai, Classmate Spinach."

"Can I ask you for a favor?"

"Don't put it that way. Just tell me what you need."

"Can you can me an autograph from Teacher Lillian?"

"Oh damn, you want one too?"

"Yeah, I've liked her for many years!"

"Sure, I'll ask for you when I get the chance."

"Thank you so much! Haha, let me buy you a meal someday. Just choose the place!"

Then Grandma Zhang Xia called, asking for the same thing.

"Grandma Zhang."

"Little Zhang, has Lillian arrived in Beijing yet?"

"I don't think she's here yet."

"Can you get me an autograph?"

"Whoa, you want one too?"

"My granddaughter likes her very much, almost to the point of being fanatical. She asks me every day, so I really have no choice but to ask on her behalf. You're the one who can get closest to Lillian, so of course I have to ask you."

"Sure. I'll get one for you."

"Thank you, hur hur."

This was not the first time he was receiving these calls. Over the past ten days, he had been taking countless calls from his friends on his cell phone or on the office line at his studio. Most of them were regarding the international superstar, Lillian. This led Zhang Ye to discover in shock that he had so many friends and their families who were Lillian's diehard fans. For example, Yao Jiancai's wife, Chen Guang's eldest niece, Amy, as well as his own three sisters. It could be seen just how charming Britain's most beautiful woman was. This made Zhang Ye look even more forward to working with her. He wanted to see just what kind of a person this legendary international superstar was.

Executive Director Li Ke led a group of the staff past him.

Zhang Ye greeted him and asked, "Director Li, has she arrived yet?"

Li Ke looked at his watch. "She should be here soon. Her flight arrived two hours ago, so she's probably already on the way."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright, I'll go for a smoke then."

Li Ke said in a speechless manner, "This place doesn't allow smoking. I need to go handle some work, so I'll tell you when she's here. The duet that you two will be performing is the most important segment of the opening ceremony, so it must be perfected by today. We've readied a place for you two to rehearse. I'll be off now."

Zhang Ye waved goodbye and got up to head out of the stadium.

Outside, there were people working everywhere, as well as security personnel deployed. Together with a large number of volunteers, it wouldn't be nice if he lit a cigarette here. So he walked on. Some of the volunteers secretly came looking for Zhang Ye to get his autograph. There were also some workers who quietly came over to take pictures with him. Other than times when Zhang Ye had urgent matters to attend to, he would rarely reject such requests. Once he satisfied everyone, he put on his sunglasses and found an empty corridor.

He looked to the left, then to the right.

There was no one around. Great, this place would do!

Zhang Ye took a cigarette and a box of matches out. He struck a match and lit the cigarette before starting to smoke in satisfaction. This fellow had been constantly talking about how he wanted to quit smoking and drinking, but that was just pure talk. He had never, ever taken any action to do so. He had smuggled in the matches with much effort. The security checks when coming into the Olympic Village and Stadium did not allow any lighters to be brought in. They were very strict with the checks, even on those who were working here. Zhang Ye already knew all this as he had been here several times, so he just stuffed the matches inside the cigarette pack. After all, the security personnel would not really check him so thoroughly since he had status. That was the only reason why he managed to smuggle it in.

Suddenly, he heard footsteps from behind!

Zhang Ye quickly flicked the cigarette away and extinguished it under his feet. This was not something to be proud of at all in the first place. If Zhang Ye was exposed to have been smoking in the Olympic Stadium even though he knew it was against the rules, it would surely be sensationalized in the news. He was just about to leave when he realized that the click-clack of the high heels was beside him.

"Hey."

A woman's voice sounded.

Was she calling out to him?

Zhang Ye turned his head as a reflex and was surprised. It was a very tall Caucasian woman whose auburn hair was very conspicuous. She didn't look very old but was not young either. She had a pair of sunglasses on that were even more oversized than Zhang Ye's, so he couldn't really make out her exact age.

A foreigner?

Which country's athlete was she?

Or could she be a foreign coach?

Zhang Ye looked at her and stammered in his broken English, "Y-Y-You are c-c-calling me?" He pointed to himself.

The ginger woman smiled and said, "Yes."

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "How...helping...you?" Even his grammar was a mess!

The redhead was taken aback. "What?"

Zhang Ye was still throwing out what he was trying to express word by word. If a foreign athlete needed help, he couldn't just ignore it. But this fellow's English could only be described as atrocious. It was so broken that not even a Chinese citizen would be able understand him, let alone a foreigner!

While Zhang Ye was figuring out which words to use, the redheaded foreigner said something very surprising!

She smiled and said in the Beijing dialect 1, "I say, bro, your English isn't all that put together. I think it's better that you stick to using Mandarin. You must be a Chinese friend, right?"

Zhang Ye was dumbfounded!

The redheaded woman elegantly took out a cigarette and waved it at Zhang Ye. "It's nothing, actually. I just wanted to see if I could borrow a light since I saw you smoking. My lighter was nipped during the security checks."

Dumbfounded, Zhang Ye threw his matches to her.

The ginger woman caught it in midair. "Haha, thank you."

After she lit her cigarette, she leaned back against the wall and started smoking. Then she threw the matchbox back to him.

Zhang Ye caught it, but he was still in a state of shock. It was like he had seen a ghost. Can you imagine a Caucasian woman speaking the Beijing dialect fluently? Damn, your Pekingese is even better than mine! Nipped? You even know how to use that word?

Was this woman some kind of god?!

Zhang Ye was shocked beyond belief!

Chapter 1163: Hello, fellow smoker!

In the corridor.

She was smoking gracefully while holding a cigarette pack between her fingers. Zhang Ye glanced at the words on it but did not know what brand it was. It was likely that this was a foreign brand for women as the cigarettes looked very slim.

Zhang Ye lit up another cigarette and said, "Did you grow up in Beijing?"

The redhead turned to look at him. "No, but my Chinese teacher is from Beijing."

"I see." Zhang Ye said in admiration, "You really learned it well."

The redheaded woman laughed. "I guess. I do have some talent for languages."

Zhang Ye gave her a thumbs up.

Now she asked, "Are you an athlete?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "No, I'm not."

"A volunteer?" she asked.

Zhang Ye shook his head. "I'm not that either. I'm just nobody to be concerned about."

She said, "Are you a local?"

Zhang Ye said, "That's right."

"I can hear it," she said with a smile.

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "If I didn't see you and just heard your voice, I would've thought that you were a local too."

She smiled.

The two of them began to chat, lulls here and there.

Fellow smokers enjoyed one of the most intimate relationships in the world. Be it men or women, young or old, it was not a relationship that was separated by geographical boundaries. Once they came together, even without having to say a word, they would instantly know if the other person needed a cigarette or a light with just a simple gesture to which the other person would unconditionally provide. After that, they would be thick as thieves and puff as they talked about everything under the sun.

They finished smoking their cigarettes.

The Caucasian woman shook the cigarette pack in her hand. "Do you want to try mine?"

Zhang Ye did not stand on ceremony with her. "Sure, I'll have one." As he took one, he passed his cigarettes to her. "Have you tried this before? It's flue-cured tobacco."

The Caucasian woman took a cigarette from him like it was the most natural thing in the world. "I haven't. I'll give it a try. When I start work in a while, I won't have time for a cigarette break. I better have a few more while I still have the chance."

"You're right about that." Zhang Ye laughed.

The two smokers were each more hardcore smokers than the other as they lit up another cigarette.

But midway through their second cig, the fire alarm above them suddenly blared, perhaps due to the corridor being filled with too much smoke!

Ring ring ring ring ring ring!

It was followed by the distant shouting of employees and security guards!

"Huh?"

"What's the matter?"

"Where's the fire?"

"What's happening?"

"It's coming from Zone 2!"

Zhang Ye and the redheaded woman were caught off guard. They had not expected that the fire alarm would be so sensitive. When they heard distant footfalls sprinting over, the two of them instantly gave each other a look of understanding before turning and diving into a janitorial closet!

Zhang Ye slammed the door shut!

The redhead stubbed out her cigarette.

They could hear footsteps outside the closet!

The redhead put her finger to her lips. "Shh."

Zhang Ye understood and nodded. He also did not wish to get caught red-handed as this was not something to be proud of.

They could hear sullen voices outside the door!

"Who was it?"

"Who was smoking in here?"

"Don't they know that smoking is not allowed in the stadium? How did they bring a lighter in? What was security doing! What if something serious happens as a result of their carelessness?"

"Find the person! They definitely wouldn't have gotten too far!"

"Aren't they trying to make trouble like this!"

Hearing the scolding outside, Zhang Ye was too embarrassed to make a sound.

When the footfalls trailed off, the redheaded woman asked, "Are they gone?"

Zhang Ye pressed his ear against the door and listened. "They're gone."

The redheaded woman smiled and said, "We nearly got caught by them."

Zhang Ye said, "The alarm went off with just a few cigarettes? How can this piece of crap be so alert? When did the alarms in this country become so sensitive?"

"Next time, let's find a place with a window. This wouldn't have happened if the smoke dispersed outside." The redhead smiled at him. "I've got to run. Do you wanna meet up for a smoke in a bit?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yeah, but why don't I give you the matches?"

The redhead said, "How could I possibly? Why don't we do it this way? Let's arrange to meet again at this place in two hours? I reckon I'll be busy until night. I sure won't be able to bear it if I don't smoke a few."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright."

After the fellow smokers set a time to meet, they departed and went their own ways.

Zhang Ye pretended like nothing had happened as he strolled back to the stage. When he got back, someone came looking for him anxiously!

It was Assistant Director Zhou from the opening ceremony program team. "Professor Zhang, where did you go?"

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "I went to the bathroom just now."

Assistant Director Zhou hurriedly said, "Let's go, they've already arrived!"

"Who's arrived?" Zhang Ye had totally forgotten.

"Teacher Lillian's team!" Assistant Director Zhou pulled Zhang Ye along as they quickly walked toward the other end. "Her team arrived a long time ago, and everyone is waiting for you!"

Zhang Ye said evenly, "I've also waited for them for a long time, so why can't they wait awhile for me? Director Zhou, we don't need to be in such a rush."

Assistant Director Zhou didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "You're really great. I think you might be the only person in the world who's not taking things with Teacher Lillian seriously!" He knew what Zhang Ye was like in that he was way too good at offending people, so he reminded him out of worry, "I'm telling you, Professor Zhang. This collaboration was only made possible because the various parties have all spent a great deal of effort on making it happen. It was not easy to get Teacher Lillian to come to Beijing. We don't care if you offend other people, but please don't ever, ever offend our foreign guest!"

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, "Listen to what you're saying. Am I that kind of a person?"

Assistant Director Zhou thought to himself who else would be that kind of person if you were not!

In an office.

When they opened the door, the room was full of people.

The Chinese side consisted of Executive Director Li Ke and the officials of the Organizing Committee. Meanwhile, the other side were all Caucasians and probably from Lillian's team. However, Lillian herself was nowhere to be seen.

Zhang Ye came in. "Director Li."

Director Li grumbled, "Did you go and smoke just now?"

An Organizing Committee official said, "Professor Zhang, were you the one who caused the alarm to go off earlier?"

Zhang Ye said in surprise, "Ah? What alarm? I don't know. I was just in the bathroom and didn't hear any alarms. What happened?"

The person from the Organizing Committee said skeptically, "It wasn't you?"

Zhang Ye played dumb and said, "What about me?"

"Oh, it's nothing then." The person from the Organizing Committee dismissed him with a wave.

Li Ke said, "Let me introduce you. This is Teacher Lillian's team." He was also meeting them for the first time, so he could only give a brief introduction.

At this moment, the door opened again!

A redheaded woman walked in.

Immediately, a Caucasian woman from their side asked her something in English, probably about why she had been gone for so long.

The redhead smiled and said in English, "It wasn't easy finding the bathroom."

Then, the redheaded woman saw Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye saw her as well.

When the two of them spotted each other, they were stunned!

A person from the Organizing Committee smiled and pointed at Zhang Ye, speaking in English, "This is Teacher Zhang Ye, who will be performing with Teacher Lillian." Then he introduced her to Zhang Ye as well. "This is Teacher Lillian. Would you like to get to know each other a little?"

Zhang Ye took off his sunglasses with a blank expression.

The redhead also took off her sunglasses!

A jaw-dropping, stunning face that made everyone stare in astonishment was revealed. She had auburn hair, a tall figure, and big eyes with a color of European origins. Her skin was also frighteningly fair, although it was not the kind of delicate fair skin that Asians had, but the kind that was unique to Caucasians. Most worth mentioning was the view of her chest. There was once a study that compiled the statistics of countries with the biggest women's breasts sizes around the world. Britain topped the list and was indeed worthy of its reputation, as could be seen here!

This was the most beautiful woman in Britain?

This was one of the top international superstars in the entertainment industry?

It was her?

It actually turned out to be her!

Lillian stretched her hand out with a smile while she continued to look at him.

Zhang Ye could not help but laugh as he stuck out his hand and shook her hand.

A thought cropped up in their minds.

Hello, smoking buddy.

Chapter 1164: Because I'm his mother!

The next day.

On the day of the Olympic opening ceremony.

There was wave after wave of excitement online!

"Cheering y'all athletes on!"

"Go for first place in the gold medal tally!"

"Eagerly awaiting the opening ceremony!"

"Lillian, my goddess!"

"This is going to be Lillian's debut performance in China!"

"There are only two more hours to go! I can't wait!"

"Lillian! I love her so much!"

"Hey, didn't we forget about Teacher Zhang?"

"Why should we care about Teacher Zhang! Even if you don't follow that guy, he'll still stir up something big every now and then, and you can see him on the news every other day. But it's different for Lillian. This is her first time coming to China to perform. It's going to be a historic moment!"

"Pfft, that's true."

"I'm still looking forward to hearing Zhang Ye's new song."

"They kept it under wraps really well. No one knows what kind of song they'll be singing."

"Lillian seems to have just arrived in Beijing yesterday. I wonder if they can pair well together? I'm very worried about them."

"I'm also very worried. But what I'm worried about is that bad temper of Zhang Ye's. Hopefully, he won't end up fighting with Lillian's team. We all know that when Zhang Ye flies into a rage, he doesn't give a damn about anyone!"

"Dammit, previous poster, don't jinx it!"

"Now that you brought it up, I am starting to get a little worried!"

...

At the venue of the Olympics.

Little did they know, Zhang Ye and Lillian were getting along splendidly.

The two of them were in a lounge with a window that had access to the open air. As this place was in a very remote area of the Olympic venue and everyone was busy with the ongoing events at the main arena, hardly anyone came over here. The lounge's window was open at the moment, and smoke was constantly dispersing out from inside.

Zhang Ye had a cigarette in his mouth as he pointed at the music score and said, "Let's do it according to how we did it in yesterday's rehearsal."

Lillian held a cigarette between her fingers and said, "Alright, maybe I'll go an octave higher over here."

"You're still going higher?" Zhang Ye said, "I guess that's fine, but I'm not going an octave higher. My next register up doesn't sound good, although I can still reach it if I want to."

Lillian nodded and said, "Then it's settled. After our smoke, let's run through it once more."

Zhang Ye said, "OK."

On the day of the opening ceremony, in all the years of the Olympics, probably the only ones who dared to smuggle in matches and secretly smoke at the stadium were Zhang Ye and Lillian!

...

In the Olympic Village.

As there was still plenty of time left for the athletes to proceed to the stadium where the opening ceremony was to be held, the athletes from the various countries stayed in their respective apartments to chat, train, or rest.

At the Chinese table tennis team apartment.

"They're definitely ruining the theme song by letting Zhang Ye sing it."

"His singing is so terrible to listen to!"

"I wonder why they let him sing a duet with Lillian!"

"Just watch! If he ruins the song, it'll reflect so poorly on our Chinese people!"

At the Chinese gymnastics team apartment.

"Why is everyone on the Internet talking about the theme song that Zhang Ye and Lillian will be singing?"

"Because Lillian is an international superstar!"

"Actually, Zhang Ye isn't bad either."

"What do you mean he's not bad? He's totally a hooligan!"

Many of the athletes and coaches who were involved in the scolding battle with Zhang Ye were grumbling and complaining. The skit on Beijing Television's Spring Festival Gala, "Playing it Up," had caused many of those in the Chinese sports world to become Zhang Ye's "enemies for life." They would not be satisfied if they did not criticize him some!

...

The Central TV live coverage had already begun!

There were a total of three people in the live coverage studio and one of them was Yu Yingyi. If Yu Yingyi's popularity had not soared because of the Go war between humans and machines some days ago, she would not have had the opportunity to take part in this Olympic live coverage event. At most, she would have been assigned to conduct interviews on the ground rather than being placed within the live coverage studio as one of the hosts.

The famous commentator, Zhao Zhi, said, "We can see that every country's leader has entered the venue."

Yu Yingyi smiled and said, "According to the information we received, the Beijing Olympics has the highest participation of world leaders in all the years that the Olympics have been held. It is also going to have the highest number of countries around the world who are broadcasting the Olympics on television and giving the most coverage of events in the history of the games. That is the beauty of sports and the charm of the Olympics!"

It was getting closer and closer to the opening ceremony!

The stadium was filled with several tens of thousands of people, and nearly all seats were occupied. This was astonishing and pumped everyone up! It was the first time that China was hosting the Olympics. As a first time host, they warmly welcomed every country's delegation to the country. With so much attention from the whole world focused on them for the first time, this was not something that they had experienced before. The Chinese were all hoping that this Olympics would go down in the annals of history!

Zhao Zhi said, "Today is a historic moment!"

Another commentator said, "Yeah, I'm already getting excited."

Yu Yingyi said, "Let's switch to a view of the grounds, where we will be interviewing the live audience."

They switched over to the cameras on the ground.

A Central TV reporter appeared on camera.

He smiled and said, "Thank you to our hosts in the studio. I'm currently at the National Stadium, which is the main venue of the Olympics. Everyone can see that the seats are full. Over here, the majority of the audience are locals. But we also have some foreign friends who specially came from overseas to support their countries' athletes. I will now interview some of them to understand what their expectations for this opening ceremony are." He turned around and walked into the audience.

The cameraman followed.

The live broadcast was being televised across the country.

The Central TV reporter pointed his microphone at a foreign woman and said, "Hello."

She was part of a group that consisted of other foreigners. When they saw the camera, they immediately waved and screamed madly at it.

The reporter asked in English, "What do you look forward to most during the opening ceremony?"

That foreign woman immediately yelled, "Lillian! Lillian, of course! She's my idol for life! I love her!"

The Central TV reporter found a Chinese young adult next. "Hello."

The young adult faced the camera nervously. "Hello."

The Central TV reporter asked, "The opening ceremony is about to begin. What do you wish to see most?"

The young adult answered without any hesitation, "I only wish to see Lillian!"

The reporter asked, "Why?"

The young adult gave a shy smile and said, "Because she is my goddess! I've listened to all of her songs and watched all the movies she acted in!"

The reporter laughed and said, "It looks like you are a diehard fan of hers. Alright, thank you."

After that, the Central TV reporter interviewed a few more people.

"Lillian!"

"Lillian, of course!"

"I'm only here to see Lillian!"

As expected, everyone talked only about Lillian!

...

The people watching the live broadcast on TV were amused.

"I only want to see Lillian, no one else!"

"Did you expect that I would want to see Zhang Ye? We're already bored of him! Haha!"

"How can Teacher Zhang compare to our Lillian!"

"You can ask a hundred people and they'd all tell you that they're here to see Lillian as well."

...

At the stadium.

The Central TV reporter smiled into the camera and said, "It looks like this most beautiful woman from Britain is far too popular. I'll keep asking around to see if there's anyone with a different answer."

He found an auntie to interview.

The auntie was on her cell phone, her head down.

The Central TV reporter walked up to her and said, "Hello, auntie."

She was taken aback. "Hmm?"

The reporter asked, "Who do you most look forward to seeing during the opening ceremony?"

The auntie answered, "Zhang Ye."

That Central TV reporter was jarred by her answer. "Great, we finally have someone saying something different. So why are you looking forward to seeing Zhang Ye? Is it because you're looking forward to hearing his new song?"

The auntie said, "Nope."

The reporter probed, "Then is it because his duet partner is Lillian?"

The auntie said, "Nope."

The reporter asked dumbfounded, "Then why are you looking forward to seeing him?"

The auntie looked at him as though he were a fool of some sort. "Because I'm his mother!"

The reporter stumbled and nearly fainted!

The audience watching the live coverage laughed hysterically!

"Aiyo, I can't take this anymore!"

"Hahahahahaha!"

"How funny is that!"

"Can it be any funnier than this! Pfft!"

"This freaking answer is going to be such a classic line!"

"I nearly pissed myself laughing!"

"Hahahaha! I'm in stitches!"

In the live coverage studio.

Zhao Zhi said in a stunned manner, "Is she really Professor Zhang's mother?"

Yu Yingyi stopped holding back her laughter. "Yes, I saw Auntie when I was attending university. After this many years, she still looks as young as ever."

When the audience heard that, they laughed even harder!

Just how coincidental could it get!

In a stadium with several tens of thousands of people, the reporter had actually interviewed Zhang Ye's mother and even asked such a silly question!

Chapter 1165: An Olympic theme song that astounds the world!

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

His relatives nearly collapsed from laughter.

His first uncle said, "Look!"

His second aunt said, "Big Sis is on TV!"

His third uncle said, "It's Central TV's live coverage of the opening ceremony!"

The interview segment was recorded and went viral on social media. Many of the common folk were amused every time they watched the gif due to the reply, "Because I'm his mother." This caused Zhang Ye's mother to become a meme just an hour before the Olympic opening ceremony was to commence. She enraptured everyone and nearly dampened the serious atmosphere surrounding the Olympics!

They were indeed mother and son!

Each was funnier than the other!

The netizens were laughing so much they couldn't close their mouths. They were loving this!

...

But this minor episode was not enough to distract from the main event.

An hour later, the Olympic opening ceremony finally began!

The entire world was watching it unfold on the live broadcast!

The entire audience stood up!

Everyone had their hands in the air!

"Five!"

"Four!"

"Three!"

"Two!"

"One!"

As the entire audience counted down with the sunset to welcome the arrival of the night sky, it was lit up by countless fireworks launched into the sky! This was not the Beijing Olympics that Zhang Ye was so familiar with back in his previous world and was an entirely new opening ceremony over here. There were no fireworks that formed the footsteps "walking" in from a distance 1 , but a new choreography that consisted of golden stars exploding open in the night sky before extinguishing and then reigniting!

The golden stars rose higher and higher!

Every ignited firework exploded with a circumference larger than the one before it!

The 3D effect was incredible and the visuals were stunning. Just this fireworks show at the start of the opening ceremony amazed the entire world's audience!

The audience at the stadium had an even more intense experience. Just looking up into the sky, they could see dazzling, huge, golden stars exploding one after another over their heads!

Now the music played!

The Olympic theme song's melody floated through the stadium!

A light flickered to life in the middle of the stadium that had just turned dark. The spectators were stunned to discover that there was a large model of the globe that wasn't there before. There were a myriad of colors on it, depicting the oceans, continents, and countries of the world. It looked exceptionally beautiful under the lighting and was even spinning slowly without pause. There were two shadowy figures standing on a stage atop the globe. When the light worked its way over to them, their faces were illuminated for everyone at the stadium, as well as all over the world, to see.

Zhang Ye was standing on the left!

Lillian was on the right!

Piercing screams echoed throughout the stadium!

In the audience, Zhang Ye's parents were staring fixedly at the stage!

Zhang Ye's three sisters jumped up from their seats to wave and cheer!

The hosts on Central TV's live broadcast stopped talking!

All over the world, people who were watching TV also went silent!

At center stage!

Zhang Ye and Lillian stood atop the globe and looked at each other and smiled.

Zhang Ye's hand was trembling a little, not because he was nervous, but because he was excited. He had never before been on such a big stage with so many people listening to him sing. All he could see around him were lights, cameras, and tens of thousands of shadowy figures. He could not see their faces, but he knew that the entire world was watching him at this moment. He also knew that many of them were waiting to see him make a fool of himself. However, the more it was this way, the better his state of mind became and the more fighting spirit he had.

He lightly raised his microphone and shook everyone with his Mandarin singing!

"You and me, from one world.

"We are family.

"Travel, dream, a thousand miles.

"Meeting in Beijing."

He was singing in the tenor register!

His range went very high!

The live audience was startled!

The home viewers were also dumbfounded!

They had never heard Zhang Ye sing like this before, they really had not!

Even Li Ke and his program team who were in the wings were stunned by the singing. Even during the rehearsals, they did not hear Zhang Ye sing it so well!

Zhang Ye smiled as he raised his other hand in a welcoming gesture.

"Come together.

"Put your hand in mine.

"You and me, from one world.

"We are family."

The stadium exploded!

Shouts!

Applause!

Screams!

All kinds of sounds were mixed together!

Then, Lillian raised her microphone. When she sang in English, she pushed the atmosphere to its peak again. It gave countless people watching TV goosebumps!

"You and me, from one world.

"We are family.

"Travel, dream, a thousand miles.

"Meeting in Beijing.

"Come together.

"Put your hand in mine.

"You and me, from one world.

"We are family."

The two of them looked at each other.

Then Lillian sang again.

Simultaneously, Zhang Ye raised his microphone.

"You and me, from one world.

"We are family."

They harmonized!

Lillian had switched to singing in Mandarin!

The foreign audience was stunned!

The stadium audience went crazy!

The two of them smiled as they sang.

"Travel, dream, a thousand miles.

"Meeting in Beijing."

Lillian sang in English, "Come together."

Zhang Ye sang in Mandarin, "Put your hand in mine."

They sang together in English.

"You and me.

"From one world.

"We are family!"

The atmosphere hit a fever pitch!

"Ahhh!"

"This is so awesome!"

"Lillian sang in Mandarin!"

"Zhang Ye actually sang in English!"

"It's so good I'm crying!"

"They sang so well!"

With this song, they had astounded the entire world!

...

The British netizens.

"How moving!"

"That Chinese singer is really good!"

"Was the song written by him?"

"What's his name?"

...

The Japanese netizens.

"The lyrics were really well written!"

"It's no wonder Lillian would accept the invitation to take part in the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics!"

"This song is absolutely world-class!"

"Zhang Ye? Isn't that the Go player?"

...

The Thai netizens.

"How nice!"

"I never expected there to be such a nice opening theme song!"

"It's really quite nice!"

...

On Central TV's live broadcast.

The famous commentator, Zhao Zihao, said, "How wonderful. Teacher Zhang Ye and Teacher Lillian's duet has officially commenced the start of the Beijing Olympics. This is the first time on the international Olympic stage that China has been heard. This is the Beijing Olympics. We have arrived!"

Yu Yingyi also exclaimed, "This is so amazing!"

...

There were only cheers from the Chinese netizens!

Many of the overseas audiences and media were also full of praise!

The song?

The performance?

Their singing skill?

The lyrics?

It was all impeccable!

With this, the athletes and coaches from the sports world who had a feud with Zhang Ye and were grumbling about him singing the Olympic theme song no longer uttered a word! It was at this moment that many people realized why the Organizing Committee had chosen Zhang Ye for the performance. They finally understood why the organizing committee had chosen to use Zhang Ye's song, "You and Me," despite the opposition of those in the sports world!

That was because the opening theme song could only be this!

No other song could top this!

Both Zhang Ye and Lillian had performed the opening theme song brilliantly!

Chapter 1166: Soaring in the Asian popularity rankings!

The opening theme song ended!

The applause in the stadium was deafening!

As there were still many performances lined up behind them for the opening ceremony, Zhang Ye and Lillian hurried off the stage. When they reached backstage, staff from the Organizing Committee and program team were already waiting there for them.

Bba bba bba bba!

Someone led the applause for them!

"You sang wonderfully!"

"Nothing else comes close to this song!"

"It sounded much better than during rehearsal!"

"Teacher Zhang, you're great!"

"Teacher Lillian, thanks for coming here from so far!"

"On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I thank you for being here!"

"You've both contributed a near perfect opening theme song for the Beijing Olympics!"

"Professor Zhang, Teacher Lillian, you did a great job!"

Actually, most of the Organizing Committee's staff were here for Lillian. They had already received news that she would be flying away from Beijing tomorrow. As an international superstar, Lillian's schedule was packed to the brim, and she was already practically booked well into the next year. This was why they were very grateful to her for pushing back her work to specially fly to Beijing to sing in the Olympics.

Lillian and the supervisor shook hands. "It's my pleasure."

The supervisor from the Organizing Committee said, "I hope we can work together again in the future."

Lillian smiled and said, "Sure."

As there were still many events lined up and work left to be done, the staff members departed very quickly. The opening theme song, "You and Me," was the most important segment and had kicked off the opening ceremony to a good start. Many of the Organizing Committee's people heaved a sigh of relief knowing that the work left was just going to get easier from here. They knew that the Beijing Olympic opening ceremony would surely finish without a hiccup. They should be able to hold a satisfactory performance for the entire world to see!

They could hear the music coming on in the stadium from backstage.

There were still going to be performances by troupes, an all-star combined singing segment, speeches to be given, the Parade of Nations 1, and so on and so forth.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Shall we go to the front to watch the ceremony?"

Lillian shrugged. "I'll be leaving on a flight tomorrow. This is my first time visiting China, so I would like to go visit some places."

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Whoa, you're leaving this soon?"

She said, "Yeah, there's still a lot of work waiting for me."

Zhang Ye said, "But I haven't even managed to play host to you."

Lillian said, "Why don't you recommend a few places that look pretty at night?"

"What's the point of recommending?" Zhang Ye said, "I'll bring you around instead! It's not like you know anyone here."

Lillian laughed. "Sure, then I'll follow you around?"

Zhang Ye snapped his fingers and said, "Leave it to me. I'm really familiar with the place."

Lillian said with some anticipation in her voice, "Alright. Let me get changed first."

"I'll get changed as well, so I'll see you in a bit. I'm going to take you all over the 'Four-Nine City 2' for your enjoyment." Zhang Ye didn't intend on going around in this stage costume of his either.

An hour later.

The opening ceremony was still ongoing, and there were still fireworks being launched.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye and Lillian had already gone to Gulou, Wangfujing and Tiananmen Square 3 during this time.

Zhang Ye had changed into a casual outfit of a T-shirt and shorts. In the dark of the night and with his sunglasses on, there was almost no one who could recognize him. Lillian had also changed into her casual wear. She was in a long, white dress and wearing black, eight-centimeter stilettos. But even though it was just an ordinary long dress, it still looked absolutely stunning on her. With her figure that was even better than a model's, and matched with her flaming auburn hair and Caucasian appearance, everyone would definitely do a double-take when they saw her.

"What a beautiful foreigner!"

"Damn, it's a goddess!"

"Ah, is that Lillian?"

"What? Lillian?"

"Heavens! What is she doing here?"

"Is that Zhang Ye beside her?"

"Teacher Zhang! My prince!"

There really were some people who managed to recognize them!

Five bodyguards and staffers on Lillian's team immediately came over to stop anyone from getting too close. Zhang Ye and Lillian had no choice but to hurry elsewhere. With such a famous international superstar beside him, there would be no way to move around after being spotted.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "You're too famous in this country."

Lillian gave him a look and said, "I think you're the one who's more famous."

"Compared to you, what am I?" Zhang Ye shrugged.

Lillian chuckled. "Is that so? Well, at the least, I've heard of you overseas."

At this, Zhang Ye was stunned. "Hah? You've heard of me?"

Lillian lit a cigarette and started smoking in the car. She laughed and said, "Yes."

Curious, Zhang Ye asked, "Where'd you hear about me?"

Lillian replied, "My grandmother mentioned you once. She's from Beijing, and I learned my Mandarin from her. She has been paying attention to you all this time."

Zhang Ye was flattered. "Thank your grandma for me."

"Sure, I'll pass the message along when I get back." Lillian smiled. "If you ever come to Britain, remember to phone me. I'll definitely take care of you. You're the first friend I made in China."

Zhang Ye responded in kind, "OK. If you come to China again, I'll arrange everything for you. It was a little too rushed this time, so I couldn't really bring you anywhere fun."

Lillian said, "You must."

"That's right, please help me sign a few autographs."

"Huh?"

"I've been asked to request for some."

"So you're doing all this with a motive?"

"Of course. I can't just take you around without getting something in return, can I?"

"Hahaha, OK."

It was getting very late.

After getting the autographs and exchanging their numbers, the two fellow smokers cemented their friendship and parted ways. Neither of them knew when they would meet again.

It could be soon?

Or it could be a long time from now.

But they would definitely meet again. Zhang Ye was very confident of that. That was because he knew that he would definitely get to her level someday. He would surely step out from Asia and onto the international stage to stand at the top of the entertainment industry—this was what his goal and beliefs had always been.

...

On the same night.

The opening ceremony ended.

The news gradually reported on it.

"A Perfect Opening Ceremony!"

"An opening theme song that earned the praise of the world!"

"Lillian and Zhang Ye dazzle and appear hand in hand!"

"Host's slip of tongue while commentating!"

"The different styles of each nation's delegation!"

"Lillian and Zhang Ye spotted smoking at Gulou!"

"Eyewitnesses say that Zhang Ye and Britain's most beautiful woman were seen at Wangfujing!"

"The start of a friendship between Lillian and Zhang Ye?"

The netizens were commenting on things as always.

"Lillian's a smoker too?"

"You didn't know? Lillian has always been a smoker."

"The photos are proof. Pfft, these two standing by the roadside and smoking make for the perfect picture!"

"So Teacher Zhang brought Britain's most beautiful woman out sightseeing? I'm so jealous!"

"I guess Zhang Ye's popularity is going to grow again this time?"

"It sure will. He has sung for the entire world!"

"It looks like Zhang Ye has reaped the greatest benefit this time at the opening ceremony! He's really too lucky. If it weren't for the Olympic opening ceremony requiring a song change with only a few days to go, the theme song would never have become Zhang Ye's to sing. Then, all the more he wouldn't have had the chance to team up with Lillian for it!"

Midnight passed.

The Chinese Celebrity Rankings Index was updated.

The majority of the rankings did not change much. Yu Yingyi, who was one of the hosts for the opening ceremony, moved up several places in the rankings, while a few celebrities who were part of the all-star singing segment experienced a big boost to their popularity scores. Other than them, Zhang Ye was the one most worth mentioning. He was still in first place on the A-list rankings, but his surge in the popularity score had left the person in second place far in his wake. He was getting closer and closer to becoming a Heavenly King of the S-list rankings!

However, Zhang Ye's greatest popularity change was on the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index!

The moment the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index was updated, a lot of people were completely dumbfounded!

Zhang Ye, who had only been in the middle of the Asian C-list rankings, had gone on to be a forerunner on it within one night. He was not far from the Asian B-list rankings! What did this mean? It meant that with just one song at the Olympic opening ceremony, in just those four minutes required for the song to be performed, Zhang Ye's popularity score in the Asian region greatly soared!

Chapter 1167: The crowd goes ballistic!

The next day.

It was the first day of the Olympic Games.

The staff of Zhang Ye's Studio were in a celebratory mood the moment they arrived at work. The studio was established with the core mission and aim of pushing Zhang Ye to a further and higher place in the industry. Everything was centered around Zhang Ye's popularity and image, which was why when Zhang Ye had been selected to sing the Olympic opening theme song after the studio had just been operating for a few days, and with his performance with Lillian being very successful, it helped him leave a good impression on the world's audience and get all around praise from many people. With that, his popularity in China, as well as Asia, soared. This made the studio staff extremely excited and full of hope for the future.

The business operations were also starting to get busy.

The phone lines in the studio were ringing nonstop. Some of the calls were from television stations or reporters seeking interviews, and some were invitations to collaborate on all kinds of projects.

A little after 9 in the morning.

Zhang Ye arrived at work.

Ha Qiqi and the others immediately gave him a status report. The tabulated data and information were given to Zhang Ye with very detailed statistics. This was the advantage of having a team. "Director Zhang, your Weibo followers increased by a million overnight. 'You and Me' was really successful. The live performance music video has already reached number one on the Top Chinese Music Chart, and the second placed song, 'Beijing Welcomes You,' is also your song!"

Little Wang exclaimed, "Mighty, Mighty Director Zhang!"

Wu Yi laughed and said, "Your ranking also went up in the Asian popularity charts!"

Zhang Zuo said, "Yes, a lot of the foreign media has mentioned Director Zhang's name in their reports as well. This is quite a historic breakthrough for us, even though it's unlikely that the foreigners will become your fan with just one song. But at least it's good that you've shown yourself on the world stage for a start."

Zhang Ye had a look at the statistics and said with a laugh, "Great work, everyone."

Ha Qiqi smiled and said, "Your reputation now is great. All the news reports about you at the moment are fairly positive, so I suggest that we build up your reputation during this period. We have to strike while the iron is hot in order to turn around that past negative image of yours. That will help the media and public change their impression of you."

Zhang Ye blinked. "Why do that?"

Zhang Zuo replied, "We analyzed earlier during a meeting that your next target would definitely be to reach the S-list rankings. Only by getting into the highest rankings domestically and becoming a Heavenly King can you continue progressing further in the Asian and international scene. Therefore, our target for you is to first get to the top within China. According to past information, all of those who manage to get into the S-list and become Heavenly Kings and Queens have one thing in common. That

is, their reputation and public image are all fantastic without an exception! For example, Zhang Yuanqi and the other Heavenly Kings and Queens. It applies to all of them. That was why we concluded that the prerequisite to reaching the S-list rankings was that, and exactly what you're lacking in and also where you're unable to compare to against the Heavenly Kings and Queens. We can work hard toward that target from now on, although it's unlikely that you'll reach that level anytime soon. But at least we can see whether you can go further with a better reputation and image."

Having a team was just different.

Zhang Ye nodded in agreement. "OK, that makes a lot of sense."

Ha Qiqi smiled and said, "Then let's head in this direction with our PR campaigns? If there are any charity or public service events to attend, you'll have to accommodate them for us."

"Sure, just decide as you will." Zhang Ye did not have any objections.

After confirming his direction for the short term, everyone started getting to work.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye made his rounds in the office before subsequently looking at his watch and leaving to drive off.

His image? Alright then, he would have to watch his public image a little more carefully during this period of time then!

...

On the live broadcast of the Olympics.

There was global coverage worldwide.

The first day of events had already begun.

The Chinese netizens were getting extremely excited. Everyone was looking forward to Team China's performance at the Beijing Olympics.

During every previous Olympics, Central TV Sports Channel's viewership rating would outdo all the other programs by a large margin. During this period of time, everyone would only pay attention and have eyes for the Olympic Games. Further, it was even held in Beijing this year in their own backyard. As the hosts, everyone's enthusiasm was even greater than it had ever been. There were people who were camping at their televisions, and some who took time off from work to attend the events!

On Weibo.

"Looking forward to the first gold medal!"

"Who will get the first gold?"

"Come on, athletes!"

"There are so many events with a gold medal up for grabs today!"

"Haha, the fencing event has already started!"

"The qualification round for shooting has started as well!"

"I predict that we'll get at least two gold medals on the first day!"

"There's a chance of getting three gold medals too. There are a lot of events that we're good at on this first day!"

The media was also busy doing a gold medal analysis for China!

Shooting?

Fencing?

Or would it be some of the other events?

A lot of those in the media had prepared their reports beforehand. All they were waiting for was for Team China to score their first gold medal on this first day of the events before publishing their news reports!

...

At the live coverage studio of the Olympics.

The shooting event was taking place.

Commentator Zhao Zhi said, "Dear viewers and friends, we're about to begin with the Women's 10-meter Air Rifle event 1. China's athletes, Qi Xue and Li Chen, placed first and third respectively in the earlier qualification round to qualify for the finals. In the next round of this competition, the first Beijing Olympic gold medalist will be crowned. Can the Qi-Li duo take the first Olympic gold for Team China? Let's wait and see!"

A former Olympic champion, Zhang Chuxia, was also present in the live coverage studio.

Zhao Zhi said, "The competition is starting!"

Zhang Chuxia shouted, "It's the first shot, come on!"

"Good one! Qi Xue has shot a 10.2 2 ! Oh, Li Chen has made a mistake on her first shot. She has only scored 9.2 points for her effort. But that's fine, there's still a chance!"

The second shot.

The fifth shot.

The eighth shot.

After several more shots, the results were wilder than anyone's expectations!

Li Chen was performing very badly today and was no longer in the running for a medal. Meanwhile, Qi Xue had fallen to third place after committing a very serious mistake on one of her shots. She was now 2.1 points away from the first place!

Zhao Zhi said, "Things aren't looking too good!"

Zhang Chuxia said, "Let's see how the last few shots go. The team has been too nervous!"

"You can do it, Qi Xue! All the way!"

Whoosh!

After the shot was taken, everyone gasped loudly!

It was over!

The gold medal was no longer possible!

In the end, Qi Xue could only manage a bronze!

Zhao Zhi said, "What a pity!"

Zhang Chuxia sighed, "Hai, the pressure was too stressful."

Watching TV, the home viewers were also crying out in pity!

...

In the next few hours.

The mood of the viewers and China's delegation could only be described as being down in the dumps!

They lost the shooting gold medal!

They lost the fencing gold medal!

They also lost the swimming gold medal!

"First Gold Still Not Here!"

"What is wrong with the Chinese team?"

"Only Hope of First Day Gold Rests on Weightlifting!"

"Go for it!"

"Come on, this is our backyard we're talking about!"

"Don't be too stressed, just do your best!"

"Our weightlifting team should be the favorites for gold, right?"

"Yes, this event should not have any surprises!"

"Come on, get the first gold already! Let's give everyone a boost to their spirits!"

According to the preliminary statistics, Central TV Sports Channel's Olympics coverage had already reached an astonishing 43% viewership! That was to say, for every 100 televisions in the country, close to half were tuned in to the live broadcast of the Olympics. The viewership ratings of the Olympics coverage in other countries around the world were very good as well and were maintained at a very

high level everywhere. If they were to translate the ratings to individual viewership numbers, this would probably be the highest rated Olympics meet in history!

And because of that, all the more the Chinese viewers were looking for that gold medal to boost their morale!

There was only weightlifting left!

They had to win gold!

...

At night.

On the live broadcast.

A commentator said, "We're going to bring you the live coverage of the Men's 62 kg weightlifting event next. Li Jiaxi, the defending world champion who is representing China, will be taking on the other athletes very soon. In this event, the Chinese athlete has the absolute strength to win. But he still has to be very wary of the North Korean athlete, who is expected to be a strong rival!"

The competition venue was packed to bursting.

There were a lot of Chinese flags in the stands and wave after wave of cheers could be heard from the crowd!

Zhang Ye was wearing his sunglasses as he arrived late for the event. He had quietly sneaked in through the staff entrance.

His third sister waved. "Brother!"

His second sister exclaimed, "Aiyah, why have you only just arrived?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "I was blocked at the entrance by reporters. Has it started already?"

"Soon," his eldest young sister said with a sunken expression. "This is the last chance to get a gold medal today. I hope nothing goes wrong!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Don't worry, he's got this."

His first uncle and aunt said, "Little Ye, get seated quickly."

"Alright." Zhang Ye sat down.

He had actually been at the Olympic venue the entire day. He first brought his parents to watch shooting before taking Chenchen to catch fencing afterwards. In the end, there were no gold medals won in those events. Zhang Ye was also getting very anxious. Although the country's obsession with getting gold was somewhat extreme, this was still a competition after all, so who wouldn't wish to win a gold medal here?

Zhang Ye shouted, "Come on!"

The people around him also started shouting.

"You can do it!"

"Go Li Jiaxi!"

"Get our first gold medal!"

"We're depending on you!"

The live broadcast cameras suddenly turned to face Zhang Ye.

In the live coverage studio, both of the commentators were laughing.

"Hur hur, they've given Zhang Ye a profile shot. We can see that Teacher Zhang has also brought his family to watch the events. Oh, there's someone there wearing a hat. If I'm not wrong, that should be the singer, Han Fang. Eh, Director He is here too? Look. He's nodding at Zhang Ye. Looks like our celebrities are also very concerned about the Olympics."

"It's starting. They're going to begin with the snatch 3 !"

"The first one up is the South Korean athlete."

"The second to go will be the Australian athlete."

After several people, it was finally the Chinese team's turn!

"Oh, it's Li Jiaxi's first lift and he's already trying for 162 kg!"

"Let's see how this goes. Come on! Li Jiaxi! You can do it!"

"Good one, now lift it up!"

"Great!"

The entire venue was cheering!

Zhang Ye shouted, "Good showing!"

The three sisters were also shouting excitedly!

"Oh, the North Korean athlete upped the weight to 166 kg and has succeeded in lifting it as well!"

"Li Jiaxi will also be attempting 166 kg this time, but the snatch is not what he's good at. Let's see how this one goes....Oh! He did it! He succeeded!"

The crowd erupted into applause again!

The two commentators' startled and surprised reactions made the viewers watching the live coverage feel extremely jittery as well!

When the snatch was completed, Li Jiaxi and the North Korean athlete tied on weight lifted and advanced into the clean and jerk tied for first place!

Li Jiaxi's first clean and jerk ended unsuccessfully before he managed a 190 kg lift on his second attempt!

Meanwhile, the North Korean athlete actually requested to lift a weight that seemed impossible for him on his third attempt—190 kg. In all his previous competitions, he had never attempted such a weight!

Zhang Ye's third sister cursed, "I hope it drops and crushes his feet! Crush his feet!"

Zhang Ye said to her, "Whoa, you're really ruthless!"

The third lift was also going to be the North Korean athlete's final lift. He only had this one chance to succeed!

The North Korean athlete grappled with the bar and brought it up to his chest. The enormous weight was pressing against him so heavily that he was trembling. It was obvious that he was almost about to give way. But suddenly, the North Korean athlete exerted his strength and jerked the bar over his head. However, his hands were not steady and his legs kept wobbling about. After bracing for a moment, he dropped the bar onto the ground!

The commentator said agitatedly, "He didn't hold still!"

The former weightlifting champion said, "We've won, we're the champion—"

But at this moment, the North Korean athlete suddenly jumped up excitedly and let out a howl onscreen. He rushed off the stage to his coach, and they shared a hug!

The commentator said in surprise, "What happened?"

The former weightlifting champion said in disbelief, "What? The referees gave a single red light and two white lights 4 for the result. Did he succeed? The North Korean athlete managed the lift? If the North Korean athlete also succeeded in lifting 190 kg, then with their attempts being the same weight and his body weight being lighter than Li Jiaxi's, he would get the victory!"

The crowd at the venue was stunned!

The Chinese team's coaches were also stunned!

One of the coaches was so mad that he immediately went to appeal the result. However, the weightlifting event for this Olympics did not allow for appeals. The referees sent the Chinese coach back to where he came from.

The commentator said, "What an extremely odd call that was!"

The former weightlifting champion said, "Yeah, it's simply unbelievable!"

The commentator said, "But Li Jiaxi still has a chance! If he can manage to lift 191 kg for his final attempt, he'll still be crowned as the champion! Go Li Jiaxi! Come on, Team China!"

All of the pressure was now on Li Jiaxi!

The next second, Li Jiaxi took to the stage with the entire crowd cheering for him!

Standing in front of the bar, Li Jiaxi roared to encourage himself. Then he squatted down and gripped the bar. He clenched his teeth and adjusted his breathing!

Up!

The commentator said, "Good one, now bring it up!"

The former weightlifting champion shouted, "Come on!"

The commentator said loudly, "Bring it up! Bring it up!"

Li Jiaxi cleanly jerked and raised the barbell over his head. But as it was incredibly heavy, his legs slightly gave way under him. For a moment, he did not manage to stand still. After he adjusted his footing a little, he held the position. He trembled as he held the bar over him and stayed in that position for two seconds!

The crowd went crazy!

Zhang Ye said, "He's won!"

His eldest younger sister's eyes were brimming with tears. "He's won! We won!"

The director and singer in the stands also stood up and yelled!

The commentator became even more excited. "He's won! Li Jiaxi managed to withstand all that pressure and succeeded! He withstood—" The commentator was suddenly stunned. "What? Wait a moment. What's happening?"

The entire venue fell silent!

The referees seemed like they were discussing something!

Then the North Korean athlete and coaches jumped for joy and hugged as they cheered!

The Chinese athlete, Li Jiaxi, stood there looking stunned!

For his lift, two of the three referees gave a red light!

It was a failed lift!

This lift did not succeed!

The referee team consisting of an Australian, a South Korean, and a Canadian had given a judgment that dumbfounded everyone!

The North Korean athlete had won the gold medal!

Li Jiaxi could only come in second!

Third place went to an Australian athlete. This was also a breakthrough for Australia in weightlifting!

The Chinese coaching team was enraged as they rushed up to the referees!

The crowd was furious as they started yelling angrily!

"Motherfuckers!"

"What the hell are they doing!"

"What kind of judgment is this?"

"Are you all playing dirty now?"

The Central TV commentator also exclaimed, "What's going on here? Can anyone tell me what's going on?"

The former weightlifting champion said angrily, "This has got to be an incorrect call! This doesn't make any sense at all! Let's see how their negotiation goes. The Organizing Committee's people have joined in the discussion as well!"

At the referees' panel in the venue, the referees were whispering to each other!

The Australian referee kept waving his hand!

The South Korean referee also looked like he was saying something.

Finally, the outcome was decided. The referees did not change their decision!

The North Korea athlete roared and beat against his chest to show that he was the champion!

Li Jiaxi could only walk off the stage silently. His eyes reddened as tears flowed down his face!

The commentator said, "A man does not cry easily! But at this moment, our Olympic hero is crying here in Beijing. We don't know what we can say anymore!"

The former Olympic champion said, "This is too unreasonable. If the referees were being strict and insisted that Li Jiaxi's lift was against the rules, then that lift by the North Korean athlete would be a 100 percent against the rules too! It just doesn't make any sense to have different standards for different athletes! What's with that? What are the referees doing?"

The commentator sighed. "The results have been decided. We must accept this outcome!"

But the former Olympic champion said, "I can't accept this! If this was because of us not being good enough, then such a result would be fine. If we have been erratic in our performance today, we can also let that go. But tell me, what's with this? I really can't accept something like this! I believe that many others are feeling the same too!"

The live coverage was still being broadcast!

There was still the medal ceremony to be held later on.

Suddenly, Zhang Ye stood up and pointed at the referees, yelling, "Idiots!"

This voice was so loud that it was deafening within the enclosed area of the arena!

That famous television drama director, He Qidong, also stood up when he heard that. "Idiots!"

The singer, Han Fang, scolded, "Idiots!"

Zhang Ye's second sister: "Idiots!"

His third sister: "Idiots!"

More and more people started standing up!

More and more of them pointed at the referees and scolded them in anger!

At this moment, all the Chinese in the stands were enraged!

The infamous "Peking University Scolding" was now echoing in an Olympic setting!

That Australian referee looked over to the stands, knowing that the crowd was scolding them. However, he just smiled and did not say anything. The South Korean referee also had an indifferent look, while the other referees also behaved like nothing had happened. After the competition ended, they even started chatting and laughing with one another.

This behavior made the Chinese people even angrier!

They clearly had something against the Chinese team!

For a time, the scolding in the stands got even louder!

"Idiots!"

"Idiots!"

"Idiots!"

When Zhang Ye's eldest younger sister saw Li Jiaxi crying, she nearly cried as well. "This is so infuriating! I'm so pissed off! Isn't that as good as bullying? They can't do things like that!"

What kind of temper did Zhang Ye have?

This fellow was someone who would blow up at the slightest provocation!

He hated this sort of injustice the most in life. "These foreign bastards!"

Not far away from him, Director He Qidong said, "They're doing this on purpose!"

This judgment call was simply too blatant. There was basically no way it could have been an incorrect judgment!

"Fuck their grandpas! How dare they act in this way? Alright then!" Zhang Ye turned around and stomped off. He simply said to his uncle and auntie, as well as his three sisters, "I'm going outside for a bit!"

"Where are you off to?"

"Brother?"

His three sisters were also quite taken aback by this.

In the blink of an eye, Zhang Ye had walked out of the competition venue.

If it were a matter of skills, it would have been fine!

If this Olympics were held in another country, then so be it!

But this was Beijing! This was the Beijing Olympics!

In our territory and on our doorsteps, did you all think that I would fucking let you bully us? Fuck all of you!

Chapter 1168: The referees get beaten up!

Meanwhile.

Some countries were celebrating their victories.

Some countries were reflecting on their results.

But the Chinese delegation and the common folk of the country were all enraged by the Men's 62 kg weightlifting event. Even most of the media outlets in China were annoyed at the results!

"China ends first day of events without gold medal!"

"The Chinese delegation repeatedly misses out on gold!"

"An incorrect call in weightlifting?"

"Li Jiayi painfully loses the gold medal!"

"Team China's gold medal stolen by referees!"

"A failed appeal? Did the refs go blind?"

"The Australian referee had already made an incorrect call against a Chinese athlete four years ago! "

"Four years ago, it was Ding Lei. This time, it's Li Jiayi?"

"Just how has Team China offended this Australian referee?"

The weightlifting medal presentation had not even begun yet, but the news reports were already spreading everywhere!

Central TV's live coverage had switched from the venue to broadcasting the live coverage studio. The scene of the audience scolding "idiots" in unison at the venue was really unsuitable to continue being shown on live television.

The venue was very chaotic.

The weightlifting team's head coach had already gone to the Organizing Committee's officials to lodge a complaint. This Olympics was organized by them, but to have the foreign referees so blatantly and deliberately make such misjudgments on the first day of the events, who could bear it?

They were clearly smacking their faces!

They were clearly smacking China's face!

The first day events of the Olympics had ended. When the many coaches and athletes of the different sports for Team China heard about this incident, they all went to watch the replay of the weightlifting event. Then many of them started to step forward in anger!

The table tennis team's main players posted on Weibo: "Li Jiaxi deserved to be the champion!"

The badminton team's assistant head coach criticized sternly: "Li Jiaxi did not lose because of himself or his opponent, but because of the referees!"

The men's weightlifting team's coach: "Strongly questioning this decision!"

And celebrities from all over spoke up too!

Yao Jiancai's Weibo: "This is goddamn match fixing!"

Huo Dongfang's Weibo: "This corruption is too blatant, isn't it?"

Chen Guang's Weibo: "What the hell is this?"

Famous director, Li Ke: "This is the Beijing Olympics! Do you have any respect for us? Shouldn't they ban these types of referees?"

Grandma Zhang Xia: "Why couldn't they initiate an appeal against the decision?"

The Chinese athletes were all criticizing it!

The celebrities were all criticizing it!

The netizens were also criticizing it!

"Bastards!"

"How can they be such bullies!"

"Did they gang up on us?"

"I'm so angry! That was such a shocking and maddening decision!"

"Four years ago, there were already issues raised about some of the referees deliberately targeting our Chinese team. At that time, the relevant organization penalized them for their actions. So why is it that a portion of those people can still appear in the Olympics ref pool? How can they blatantly cheat the Chinese team of its chances like this? Who gave them the authority to do something like that? Who allowed this to happen and condoned their actions that have seriously damaged the spirit of sportsmanship? Such referees should be banned for life!"

"Fuck! This is really making me want to beat someone up now!"

"Even an idiot can see that we were the ones who should have won!"

"That last lift was a proper one! There was nothing wrong with it!"

"Well scolded, Zhang Ye! They're really a bunch of idiots!"

"I also saw Zhang Ye leading the scolding on the live broadcast!"

"What's the use of scolding them? The gold medal has already been lost! This is too difficult to stomach!"

"When Li Jiaxi cried on the live broadcast, my wife cried along! This is too depressing! My heart aches for him!"

This incorrect call was very controversial!

Whether it was the Chinese delegation or the citizens, none of them were having it!

Some foreign media outlets also gave a very objective assessment after watching the competition.

A British media outlet reported: "Unable to understand the decision behind the Men's 62 kg weightlifting event. It looked like the winner should have been the Chinese?"

In the Spanish media: "A huge controversy in the weightlifting event. After viewing the slow-motion replays, the North Korean athlete's lift at the end clearly ran afoul of the rules. Meanwhile, the Chinese athlete's lift was thought to be a good one after analysis by several professionals. All of them said that there were no issues with it and that it should not have been faulted."

The Portuguese media: "In the finals of the weightlifting event, the referees made a big mistake. However, the gold medal has already been awarded and won't be changed!"

The Russian media: "After four years, the Chinese weightlifting team has again fallen victim to the same Australian referee in the finals of a different weight class!"

A lot of the foreign media also expressed their shock and disbelief at the matter. This sort of a clear-cut incorrect call could only be committed by an amateur referee. How could something like this happen in the Olympics?

But the award ceremony was already over!

The gold medal winner could not be changed!

That was this world's rules for the sport of weightlifting!

Yet at this time, the Australian media continued adding fuel to fire!

An Australian media outlet said openly: "The Chinese audience is making a spectacle of themselves in the stadium by verbally abusing the referees. Such behavior makes us very worried about this year's Beijing Olympics. The outcome of the competition cannot be changed, and this is what it means to compete in a sporting event. The results are unpredictable, so why don't they try to accept it and learn from their mistakes?"

After the competition.

An Australian reporter interviewed the Australian athlete who won the bronze medal.

The athlete shook his head and expressed, "I'm very disappointed with the behavior of the Chinese today. They delayed the proceedings of the competition for so long just because they couldn't take a loss. I think we should be the ones protesting instead!"

That made a lot of people even more furious!

On Weibo, there were wave after wave of criticism!

"They even want us to just accept it?"

"Fuck your grandpa!"

"The Australian ref deliberately made a bad call against us and they're asking us to learn from our mistakes?"

"Fuck your grandpa!"

"Ptui!"

"What dogshit is this!"

"Ahhh! I'm so mad!"

"I'm gonna blow my top!"

"They're being way too arrogant!"

The incident blew up!

But other than cursing and swearing, the athletes, coaches, and citizens could do nothing about it. They were all full of pent-up anger that could not be released anywhere!

A similar scene had happened four years ago. At that time, after the gold medal was lost, the incident died down after some time. Could the same thing happen again at this year's Beijing Olympics? The referees would just be let off with a pointless warning and punishment before everything went back to how it was?

Of course, this affair was not over yet!

Even if everyone else agreed to it, Zhang Ye wouldn't!

...

Night had fallen.

But the lights were still shining brightly within the Olympic stadium.

Zhang Ye used his special staff pass that was issued to him for yesterday's opening ceremony to gain access to the place through the staff entrance. He strode into the area where the crowds were not allowed to enter. Even though the competition events for the day were over, this place was still restricted!

Across from him at the exit of the stadiums, five referees were walking out.

The leader of the group was that Australian referee who took charge of the weightlifting event earlier. Beside him were the other foreign referees involved in today's event!

"#\$%^&*()."

"...#\$%^&*()!"

They were saying something, probably in English, but Zhang Ye could not understand them as they spoke very fast. Well, with that English of his, he probably would not understand even if they spoke slowly.

The Australia referee was beaming.

The South Korean referee had a calm look on his face.

Beside them, there was a referee who looked a little worried.

All of them wore different expressions and were heading out of the stadium toward Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye did not even look at them as he slowly strode in their direction swinging his arms. He was even humming and singing the song "Beijing Welcomes You."

The atmosphere felt really normal.

The workers and volunteers who were passing by did not sense anything peculiar either. It was the same for those weightlifting referees. The Australian referee suddenly took a look at his watch before saying something in English to the others. The five of them nodded and quickly picked up their pace. They probably had to rush off somewhere as there was still a lot of work to be done post-competition.

But right as they were passing Zhang Ye!

They were passing him but did not make it past him!

Zhang Ye was still humming the tune when he suddenly stuck his leg out. The Australian referee, who was walking very quickly, didn't even have time to react and tripped. He lost his balance and felt like his body's weight was arrested as he fell forward! He yelled while flailing about, hoping to grab onto something. As a result, he grabbed onto the South Korean referee beside him and pulled him down as well! Then another referee, who was behind them, knocked into Zhang Ye's shoulder "accidentally." He felt a very strong impact collide with his shoulder as he fell over with a horrified look and landed on top of the other two referees without warning!

The Australian referee's face smashed against the ground. His nose instantly started bleeding!

The South Korean referee fell over as well and his arm snapped against the ground. He clutched it and shrieked in pain!

The third referee fell onto his back!

The fourth referee was knocked into a table next to him!

After the fifth referee fell down, he even got crushed under two other referees who were clearly heavier than 80 kg. His eyes rolled back as he nearly fainted from the pain!

One second!

In just a mere second!

As they passed each other, only Zhang Ye made it past them while the five referees cried out loudly as they found themselves sprawled out on the ground. None of them stood back up!

It was too fast!

It was really did happen in just the blink of an eye!

It was so strange it was scary!

When many of the volunteers and workers, as well as some of the other foreign referees and athletes around them, heard their screams, many of them either looked over to see what was going on or rushed over!

"Damn!"

"What happened here?"

"The weightlifting referees got beaten up!?"

Several female volunteers screamed!

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye's figure had drifted away. All that was left of the incident was a chaotic crowd that had gathered around the five weightlifting referees wailing in agony!

Chapter 1169: The surveillance footage gets brought to light!

It was extremely chaotic onsite!

The five referees were lying on the ground all swollen and bruised. They were wailing and in so much pain they could not get back up on their feet. All of them had been stunned by the fall!

"Ah!"

"Fuck!"

"My leg!"

"Help! Help!"

The Australian referee was crying out for help.

However, just as the volunteers and Chinese athletes around were about to instinctively help him up, they realized who he was and stopped in their tracks. Instead, they took out their cell phones to record the dumbfounded weightlifting referees!

"The refs got beaten up!"

"They're the referees from the weightlifting event!"

"Quick, come and see this!"

"Record it!"

"Damn, who did this?"

The security guards came running over as well!

Some employees on the Organizing Committee also rushed over!

"What's going on?"

"How did something like this happen?"

"What went on over here?"

"Hurry, help them up first!"

"Where's the medical staff? Let them have a look!"

"They're fine, they didn't suffer any fractures!"

More and more people gathered. Even some of the media arrived to take a look!

Everyone who saw it could only feel a sense of shock and disbelief. This was an Olympic venue, a place with the highest security. How could something like this have happened? How could do it? Who could be so brazen? Who could be so bold!

The media was dumbfounded!

The Organizing Committee staff were dumbfounded!

The local and foreign athletes were dumbfounded!

Beating up referees at an Olympic venue? No one had come across something like this before!

...

Back at home.

His parents were cursing at the television!

His father said, "Good thing we didn't go watch the weightlifting event tonight, else I'd have been so pissed off!"

His mother said, "Those foreigners are such bastards! How dare they pick on us in our backyard? Who gave them the guts to do that? Who gave them the authority?"

The criticism on the Internet was still going on!

The entertainment industry was criticizing it!

The Chinese media was criticizing it!

The netizens were criticizing it!

"Is there no place to reason this out?"

"These people should just die!"

"Brothers, let's dox 1 those fellas!"

"Someone's already identified those five refs!"

"Fuck, who wants to go with me to confront them?"

"Fuck! Let's go fucking beat them up!"

"Yeah, we won't take this lying down!"

"Count me in! I'll go as well! I've really been enraged today!"

"Go? How are we going to go? That is a restricted area in the Olympic grounds. Can any of you even make it inside?"

"So we're just going to do nothing about it then?"

Ever since the weightlifting event finished, the people cursed and scolded, for a full hour. But all of a sudden, countless news reports appeared. It had come so suddenly all the netizens were caught unawares. Everyone was tongue-tied!

"Five weightlifting referees assaulted!"

"An unexpected incident in an Olympic stadium!"

"Referees fall and injure themselves, or perhaps it was caused by someone else!"

"Police Investigating!"

"Could the surveillance footage shed a light on what really happened?"

"Just what happened in the stadium?"

On Central TV Sports Channel: "Oh, we have just received a piece of news..."

Beijing Television: "An incident has taken place in an Olympic stadium. Let's take a look at a video footage!"

A video recorded at the scene was shown!

The five weightlifting referees who were earlier on television in all their swagger looked miserable in the video clip. Some of them were bleeding from the nose, and some of them had bumps on their heads as all of them laid on the ground crying out in pain!

With this, it became very lively on Weibo!

In an instant, the video clip was Liked over 200,000 times!

The netizens were so delighted they seemed to be welcoming the new year!

"Wow!"

"Hahahaha!"

"This is too awesome!"

"Serves them right! They fucking deserved it!"

"What goes around comes around! Who does Heaven forgive?"

"What a release! This is such a goddamn release!"

"Aiyo, I'm laughing like crazy! This feels so good!"

"Damn, the referees got beaten up in an Olympic stadium? I thought that place was out of bounds to the regular people? Who beat them up then? Just what is going on here? Let me Like this a million times first before I go check it out!"

"Could it have been a volunteer who did it?"

"Haha! All I want to say is, well done!"

"Which hero did this? Let us prostrate in worship to that person!"

"That was too goddamn brilliant!"

"This is the greatest piece of news I've seen this year!"

Yao Jiancai Liked the Weibo video. "Haha!"

Zhang Xia gave it a Like too!

Zhang Yuanqi's manager also hit Like!

Huo Dongfang Liked it!

A Heavenly King Liked it!

A certain Heavenly Queen posted a winking emoticon in response!

The Beijing Times forwarded the post!

The official Weibo of a Beijing district police station Liked and forwarded it before immediately deleting all traces of both!

The people did not have much qualms about their reactions to the incident, but the entertainment industry celebrities and officials had to be careful about what they did or said. That was because they were public figures and anything they said could be seen as wrong. But they were also using their own methods to express their attitudes regarding the incident!

Zhang Ye's father was startled. "The referees were beaten up?"

His mother yelled in approval, "Well done! Well done!"

How truly satisfying!

The incident made so many people feel very happy!

Although there were also many experts and media putting on a show by stepping forward to criticize such actions, the general public was not bothered. Everyone was just intrigued by who could have done this and if it was done by one of the volunteers or workers. Or perhaps, one of the Chinese athletes or coaches?

The foreign media was also giving a lot of attention to this matter!

"Police investigating and checking surveillance footage!"

"According to eyewitness accounts, no fighting in the stadium!"

"Injured referees lodge complaint to Organizing Committee!"

"Were they beaten up? Or was it just an accident?"

"The truth shall be revealed soon!"

...

Later that night.

At Zhang Ye's Studio.

Zhang Ye drove back here hastily. When he came in through the door, he saw that Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others were actually still in the office. They were all chattering and watching television.

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Whoa, working overtime?"

Ha Qiqi quickly said, "Aiyo, Director Zhang, why did you get back this late?"

Zhang Zuo said in a good mood, "We just saw some news that made all of us so happy that we don't intend to go home yet."

"This wouldn't be included in the overtime pay, right?" Zhang Ye said stingily.

"Why are you bringing up overtime pay, Director Zhang? You're too much of a penny-pincher." Little Wang said joyfully, "Have you watched the news yet? Something big has just happened! Those weightlifting referees got injured!"

Zhang Ye shrugged and said, "Of course I know."

Wu Yi laughed heartily. "They're currently investigating which hero did it!"

"That was so cool!" Little Wang said, "I hope the surveillance cameras did not manage to record anything. Otherwise, that person might get into trouble. If it's an athlete from our country, they're likely to get banned from competing."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Don't worry, an athlete didn't do it."

Ha Qiqi immediately said, "Director Zhang, quickly go and give the Weibo post a Like. We're currently working on gaining you a good public image, so you shouldn't miss out on latching onto an opportunity like this."

Zhang Zuo nodded. "That's right, you should say a few words on your Weibo or at least post a status update."

But Zhang Ye waved it off. "No need."

"Why not?" Ha Qiqi was taken aback.

Suddenly, the scene on Central TV's live broadcast changed. It was still showing a recap of today's Olympic Games events before it cut back to the studio. Then the host said, "We interrupt this broadcast to report that we have just received an important update on the injured referees. We have gotten our hands on footage that will reveal what happened at the scene."

The video footage was shown on the broadcast!

The country's citizens were jolted!

"Who did it?"

"Quick, let's have a look!"

At present, the number of people watching and waiting in anticipation was uncountable.

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others also crowded around the television.

Then, the figures of five referees appeared in the surveillance footage, the exact ones who had been injured in the incident. They could be seen walking in a hurry and were even chatting and joking with one another. The next second, a key figure appeared in frame. As the two sides approached each other, right as they were passing each other, what happened was not as described by the news involving a violent beating or a fight scene as imagined by everyone!

It happened in a flash just as they passed each other!

The young man in the surveillance footage maliciously stretched out a leg to trip one of them!

The next instant, the country's citizens were dumbfounded as they saw the five referees chaotically fall to the ground!

The young man had his hand in his pockets and even sounded like he was humming a song. The surveillance footage then got a close up shot of the young man, leading to everyone in the country reacting like they had their tails stepped on!

Ha Qiqi turned around in shock!

Little Wang shrieked!

Zhang Zuo and Wu Yi also stared in shock at Zhang Ye, who was standing behind them!

It was Director Zhang!

The person in the footage was actually Director Zhang!

Everyone in Zhang Ye's Studio nearly fainted!

Ha Qiqi stood up by supporting herself with the table. "Director Zhang, it was you?!"

Zhang Zuo was nearly in tears. "Director Zhang, didn't we already agree on generating a positive public image for you? We just talked about it this morning!"

Zhang Ye was also feeling a little embarrassed. "I was too impulsive."

Ha Qiqi said angrily, "No, you did it knowingly!"

Zhang Ye gave a hollow laugh. "You all should already know this temper of mine. I won't do it again."

Everyone in the studio could only give each other looks and sigh. Alright then, it looked like they would really have to get back to work and put in some overtime. They should have known better that it wouldn't be that easy being a part of Zhang Ye's management team. Everyone in Zhang Ye's Studio smiled bitterly as they prepared to welcome the impending storm!

Chapter 1170: The Leg of God!

At Zhang Ye's parents' house.

His parents were watching the news in high spirits.

"It's been revealed!"

"They're showing the surveillance footage!"

"Eh, doesn't this person's back look a little familiar?"

"Damn, isn't that Little Ye!"

His parents were stunned!

In the Olympic Village.

Many of the athletes and coaches were watching the live broadcast as well.

"Beautiful!"

"That was such a godly trip!"

"Ah!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Fuck, it's Zhang Ye!"

All over the country, scenes of people getting dumbfounded were playing out. When they saw that figure of a person and Zhang Ye's face, when they saw that malicious leg stick out, everyone wore a look of shock at first before it turned to one of amusement. Everyone realized that they were not surprised at all. The person who did it was Zhang Ye? That was perfectly within expectations for him. Zhang Ye had more than enough past cases when it came to such disreputable behavior. He had always been a person whom everyone hated and loved at the same time!

Weibo exploded once again!

But this time, the netizens were all one-sidedly giving their Likes to Zhang Ye!

"Aiyo, what the heck!"

"It's Teacher Zhang!"

"Ahhh! It's Zhang Ye!"

"This is cracking me up!"

"I was wondering who had the balls to attack the referees in an Olympic stadium!"

"Yeah! I was rather shocked to know that there was a hero who took things into their own hands! So it turned out to be Teacher Zhang!"

"I'll give him a Like! I'll give Teacher Zhang a year's worth of Likes for that!"

"I've watched the video five times. It's so awesome!"

"That leg trip was simply perfect!"

"Tripping five people over with a leg! Oh my god! How did Zhang Ye manage that?"

"Who knows! That leg trip was just too godly, damn it!"

"How shocking! This is the goddamn Leg of God!"

The leg he stretched out in the video was too wicked and too precise. It was like he had used a computer to accurately work out the required force and execution angles as he lightly tripped one of them to send all five referees sprawling out onto the ground. It really dumbfounded countless viewers. Even many of the foreigners had been shocked by this video clip. If there was a tripping event in the Olympics, then this person would definitely deserve to be the champion. Have you ever seen anyone who could trip five people with just a light swipe of their leg? This leg was simply...

Yes!

It was the Leg of God!

As Zhang Ye had played that amazing "Hand of God" during the "war between humans and machines" against PeterGo, the audience got their inspiration from there and aptly gave a resounding name to this move—the "Leg of God"!

It was so awesome!

It was quite the release!

"Teacher Zhang is so impressive!"

"As expected of Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye, I just love that fiery temper of yours!"

"Zhang Ye is so domineering!"

"I've always scolded Zhang Ye in the past, but I must give him a Like today!"

"There's nothing to say. That leg trip was too good!"

"Zhang Ye put his leg out and tripped them for our nation!"

"He tripped them with such style! You can see how good he is just from that trip alone!"

"Hahahaha! I knew it must be him! Who else could do something like this other than Zhang Ye? No one else would have the guts besides him!"

"This is what I call a real man!"

"Just with that trip alone, I'll only be convinced by Zhang Ye in showbiz!"

"Aiya, don't cause any more trouble. Why aren't you guys worried for Teacher Zhang? The police are investigating the affair. This is very serious, so Teacher Zhang better not get implicated somehow!"

"Previous poster, stay calm."

"Haha, what are you so worried about!"

"Zhang Ye has done so many things in the past that are even more extreme than this, but have you ever seen that fellow get into any trouble? He's still doing as well as ever! It's not like he's beaten anyone up. He only tripped one of them, what's the big deal? Teacher Zhang has been through a lot, so don't worry about him. He knows what he's doing. Do you take him for a pushover?"

"But it'll still affect his image."

"Does he have an image to begin with?"

"But if the foreigners start criticizing him..."

"You're so funny, big sis! This is Zhang Ye we're talking about! When has Zhang Ye ever been afraid of anyone criticizing him? He's just like a rock in the privy—hard and stinky!"

"Alright, I'll stop worrying."

There was a heated discussion on the Internet!

Though to be more accurate, everyone was delighted at the reveal!

Meanwhile, the media reports could not possibly be so blasé. Even if some of the Chinese reporters were applauding this action, they couldn't write that in their reports!

The Chinese media: "Zhang Ye appears in surveillance footage!"

The British media: "The culprit is the singer of the Olympic opening theme song?"

The Australian media: "Shock! Indignation! Objection!"

The South Korean media: "Was the Chinese superstar retaliating?"

The Canadian media: "Unbelievable! A never before witnessed behavior!"

The Chinese people were not surprised as they all understood Zhang Ye very well!

But the foreigners were very dumbfounded. No one could imagine that the Chinese celebrity who had represented Beijing to sing at the opening ceremony with Lillian would actually trip someone over like this!

What the hell was that?

What kind of a person was he?

And what did he fucking sing in the opening theme song?

You and me, from one world. / We are family!

From one world, your sister!

We are family, your sister!

Why was what you sang and what you did an entirely different thing altogether!

Now that they listened to the song again, it really made many of the foreign media and athletes unsure about how to react!

When those injured weightlifting referees saw the video, they finally understood why they had been injured and how they had fallen down. They became so indignant they immediately lodged a complaint and protested to the higher-ups. They requested for the assailant to be seriously punished so that they could be given a fair answer!

However, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games did not show any indication of issue them with one and only said that the matter had already been referred to the police.

Sensing that the Organizing Committee was not proactive on the issue, the five referees became furious!

But if they stopped to think for a bit, they were the ones who had deliberately done something as insulting as making an incorrect call in an event at the Beijing Olympics that caused the Chinese team to lose a gold medal. That had affected the Chinese athletes physically and psychologically. The citizens were also angered that this decision was not made in the spirit of sportsmanship. Now that something has happened to you all, you're demanding that the Organizing Committee give you a fair answer? You are demanding for an explanation to be given? Does that make any sense! Aren't you all expecting a little too much! Do you all think that the world revolves around you?

Further, this issue had nothing to do with the Organizing Committee!

Who was Zhang Ye?

A coach? He wasn't!

An athlete? He wasn't!

He wasn't even a worker here!

Zhang Ye was not under their jurisdiction at all. He wasn't an official of the Olympics and had only come to perform the Olympic opening theme song as a guest, so anything after that had nothing to do with them. If they really wanted to say anything, then he would at most be considered as a normal audience member. What authority could the Organizing Committee possibly have over him?

So those referees could only pin their hopes on the police!

A lot of people were also curious about how the police would handle this matter!

...

In the studio.

There was a knock on the door, and they saw four police officers standing outside.

Little Wang's expression changed. "You all are?"

The old policeman who was in charge showed his credentials and said sternly, "Hello, we're from the Chaoyang District Police Station, is Zhang Ye around? We would like to ask him some questions."

Zhang Ye walked up to them. "I'm here."

The old policeman nodded at him. "Hello. Regarding the incident that took place at one of the Olympic venues today, we have identified that you were involved after checking the surveillance footage. Is that correct?"

Zhang Ye said, "It was me."

Ha Qiqi immediately said, "Please talk to our lawyer about this. We won't be answering any questions for now!"

But Zhang Ye waved her off. "It's fine." Then, he said to the police officers, "Ask away."

The old policeman said, "Thank you for your cooperation."

Zhang Ye smiled. "It's my duty."

The old policeman asked another question. "At 8:10 PM tonight, did you go to Olympic Venue No. 3 because you lost your way? Or did you go there for other reasons?"

Zhang Ye answered honestly, "I went there to look for the five referees, of course."

"Director Zhang!" Ha Qiqi tugged at him.

The old policeman acknowledged him and turned to the policeman beside him who was recording the statement. "He lost his way."

That young policeman nodded and recorded it.

Zhang Ye: "..."

The studio staff: "..."

The old policeman looked at him. "In the surveillance footage, you were seen sticking your leg out. Was it intentional? Or unintentional? Did you trip over something on the ground? And lost your balance thus making you stick your leg out to steady yourself?"

Zhang Ye spoke the truth, "I definitely did it on purpose. I was there for them."

"OK." The old policeman turned to the younger policeman and said, "He tripped over something at the time, so he stuck out his leg as he tried to regain his balance."

The young policeman recorded the statement.

Zhang Ye: "..."

Ha Qiqi: "..."

Zhang Zuo: "..."

Five minutes later, the police were done with their questioning.

They had recorded a statement that was completely different from what Zhang Ye answered!

The old policeman said, "There wouldn't be any criminal liability for this issue. Those referees did not suffer any serious injuries. It was mostly just scraped skin and the like. The surveillance footage wasn't that clear either. At most, you'd be asked to cough up the medical expenses as compensation, but that wouldn't cost much anyway. Alright, if there are any new developments to the case, we might come over again or ask you to come down to the police station to assist with the investigation. Since we're done questioning, that's all for today. We won't be disturbing you all any longer. We still have other matters waiting for us to handle when we get back."

Ha Qiqi hurriedly said, "Let me see you all off!"

"There's no need," the old policeman said with a smile.

Ha Qiqi whispered, "Thank you."

The old policeman waved at her. "We're just doing our jobs. There's nothing to thank me for. We're off then."

As Ha Qiqi was the head of external affairs in the studio, she walked the police officers downstairs and saw them off from there.