

Superstar 1191

Chapter 1191: Uncompromising through the years!

In the auditorium.

The atmosphere at the Welcoming Ceremony was extremely passionate.

"It's almost ending."

"We're already into the final program."

"I heard that Zhang Ye and Dong Shanshan will be performing!"

"Yeah, our seniors are all back!"

"I'm so looking forward to it!"

"Right, I like them sooo much!"

"I heard that they'll be singing, and it's going to be an original too!"

"I applied for Media College this year just because of Zhang Ye!"

"Me too, and we're going to get to see them immediately too!"

The freshmen were all waiting in anticipation. Quite a few of the sophomores and juniors also came to attend today's ceremony. They were also waiting to watch Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, and the other seniors' show!

But unknown to them, the backstage had plunged into chaos!

The staff members kept making calls until their cell phones died.

"No one's answering!"

"Where are they?"

"Why aren't they here yet?"

Ever since the ceremony began, they hadn't seen a trace of them!

Su Hongyan was getting very anxious and pacing back and forth. Suddenly, heavy footfalls sounded. She looked up immediately. "Aiyo! My little ancestors, where have you all been?"

Wang He panted, "We're here!"

Su Hongyan was taken aback. "Hu Feifei's here too?"

Hu Feifei felt extremely agitated. "T-Teacher Su!"

Su Hongyan took her hand. "Where did you disappear to for so long? And the rest of you, why did you arrive in such a..."

Old Wang huffed and puffed. "Teacher, it's difficult to explain!"

Yu Yingyi asked, "Is it our turn yet?"

"It's your turn right now!" Su Hongyan said, "Quickly get ready!"

A distance away, a school official said, "What's there to get ready for? There's no time, just get onstage!"

Zhang Ye said, "Alright, let's go!"

The group of them shouted in unison, "Let's go!"

The stage went dark and the curtains were drawn.

An atmosphere of excitement was building up in the auditorium as everyone knew that the finale was coming up.

"Alumni!"

"Alumni!"

"Alumni!"

"Alumni!"

A lot of people in the audience started shouting!

There were no empty seats in the thousand-person auditorium!

Behind the curtains, Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, and the others were on their instruments. The microphones were also in place.

Xiaoqian smiled and said, "Fellas, how long has it been since we performed on stage together? Do you guys remember?"

"Four years," Hu Feifei said with a smile.

Dong Shanshan's reminiscing could be seen on her features. "Yeah, it's been four years. The last time was during prom in our junior year. Our class sang a song that shocked the entire school as we performed it too terribly. We even got singled out to be criticized!"

Da Hui belly laughed and said, "Then let's shock them again!"

Zhang Ye said, "Fellas, let's tell this story of ours to the underclassmen!"

Hu Feifei put out her hand. "Youth never dies!"

Zhang Ye placed his hand on hers. "Youth never dies!"

Dong Shanshan shouted, "Youth never dies!"

Everyone's hands came together!

"Let's do it!"

"Gooo!"

The curtains lifted!

Su Hongyan and many of the other teachers were sitting in the audience.

The many students of Media College started screaming crazily!

Zhang Ye carried a semi-acoustic guitar and walked to the lead singer's position. Yu Yingyi raised a violin, Da Hui took the drummer's position, and everyone else got into their positions!

Zhang Ye nodded to Da Hui.

Da Hui snapped his fingers for the countdown and played a beat!

Once.

Twice.

Thrice.

The piano played as well.

The strumming of the guitar followed!

Zhang Ye closed his eyes and stepped up to the microphone. He opened the song 1 with a very high note, his voice stunning the entire audience of teachers and students. He sang loudly, "Just where is that world overflowing with flowers? / If it's a real place, then I will find a way to get there."

The second lead vocalist, Wang He, laughed, "I want to tower on the highest peak in that place, / ignoring if there are steep cliffs all around."

While smiling, Dong Shanshan sang, "By living fast and loving hard, death is nothing to fear. / Not living for the sake of others but to be proud of myself here."

Da Hui continued drumming and stuck his head close to the microphone. "I have never chosen to give up on my dreams, / even on days that are broken at the seams."

Old Wang raised a hand. "Perhaps I have no talent!"

Ma Xufei sang, "But I have the simplicity of a dream!"

He Kui had a smile on his face. "I will demonstrate it with all of my being."

Hu Feifei sang emotionally, "Perhaps my mouth is clumsier than my feet!"

Xiaoqian embraced her. "But I'll never stop searching."

Yu Yingyi shouted, "I will give all of my youth without regret!"

All of a sudden, a roar of voices exploded!

The music and rhythm soared!

Everyone who was standing onstage gave a look to the person beside them. Zhang Ye looked at Wang He; Dong Shanshan looked at Yu Yingyi; Xiaoqian looked at Hu Feifei. Then, all of them raised their hands in unison!

They roared together!

There were mad grins on their faces!

"Run forward!

"Despite the side eyes and insults!

"How can you experience all life has to offer without suffering!"

They put down their hands and then pounded their chests.

"Destiny can't make us kneel and beg for mercy!

"Even if!

"Our arms are soaked in blood!

"Keep running!

"With the pride of a pure heart!

"How can you see the beauty of life if you don't stick it out!

"Instead of clinging to life, live passionately, burn brightly!

"Someday it will sprout again!"

Su Hongyan looked totally stunned!

All of the students in the audience also looked very shocked!

The imagery of a "me against the world spirit" and "youthful passion," the story of Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, Hu Feifei, and the others, everyone could seemingly see all of it in this moment!

All of them stood up!

In this very moment, the entire audience was moved!

The auditorium doors had been opened at some point in time, and there were eight or nine police officers who had entered the building. However, they did not go to arrest anyone. They just stood there stunned as they watched the people onstage in shock. Similar to those in the audience, an image was conjured up in their minds as they felt the full effects of the song as well!

Zhang Ye?

Dong Shanshan?

Yu Yingyi?

Wang He?

Just what kinds of people were in this group?

Everyone saw the illusion of a brilliant light flashing before their eyes!

Zhang Ye, Wang He, and Da Hui raised their fists. "Run forward!"

Ma Xufei, Old Wang, and He Kui roared, "Despite the side eyes and insults!"

Dong Shanshan, Yu Yingyi, and Xiaoqian shoutsang in a high register, "How can you experience all life has to offer without suffering!"

Hu Feifei's tears were flowing down her cheeks as she howled while crying, "Destiny can't make us kneel and beg for mercy! / Even if! Our arms are soaked in blood!"

The people onstage were moving closer and closer to each other!

Then they hugged each other by putting their hands over each other's shoulders and screamed as crazily as they could.

"Keep running!

"With the pride of a pure heart!

"How can you see the beauty of life if you don't stick it out!

"Instead of clinging to life, live passionately, burn brightly!"

All of them looked at one another!

Zhang Ye started them off by raising his middle finger and pointing it angrily at the sky!

Dong Shanshan looked up and raised her middle finger!

Hu Feifei put up her hand and raised her middle finger!

All of them raised their middle fingers!

Fuck giving up!

Fuck cowardice!

Fuck reality!

All of them pointed angrily at the heavens and looked up at it.

"For our beautiful dreams!

"Uncompromising through the years!"

Su Hongyan was wiping away her tears!

Many of the students could feel their blood surging!

These were their alumni!

These were their alumnae!

Wonderful! Your story...is just wonderful!

Chapter 1192: Zhang Ye gets arrested again!

Cheers!

Screams!

Applause!

Yells!

The entire auditorium was turned upside down!

"Chasing Dreams with a Pure Heart" was from Zhang Ye's previous world and GALA's most famous song. It was an extremely difficult song to sing as its high notes were almost unreachable by most singers. It was even hard for GALA 1's own lead vocalist. Other than Zhang Ye, everyone else's singing was appalling. They sang from their throats, with some of them even cracking or getting hoarse. There was even someone who sang the lyrics wrong. And yet, somehow, no one listening felt that their singing was bad. Instead, they were so shocked they felt it was even more touching than listening to those who sang with great technique. It was an indescribable feeling!

Some songs were probably not meant to be sung with a good voice!

They depended more on emotions and heart.

A pure heart?

"How awesome!"

"'Destiny can't make us kneel and beg for mercy?' The lyrics are really great!"

"Uncompromising through the years!"

"Alum!"

"Alumna!"

"Ahhhh!"

"This is the best live performance I've ever heard!"

"Why are our alumnae crying too!"

Hu Feifei, Xiaoqian, and a few other girls were bawling on stage. In these few years since their graduation, they had been through too much. Treated with indifference? Setbacks? Hardship? Derision? They did not know how they made it through to where they were now. They never thought that they would be able to gather here again one day and do something so crazy, and also perform such an amazing song!

Several teachers in the audience were sighing.

A former teacher of theirs said, "These children have all grown up."

But another teacher said, "They've not grown up at all."

Su Hongyan smiled and said, "Yes, they're still the same as they were back then. I've never in my life advised a class of students that gave me a headache as bad as they did!"

A female teacher laughed and said, "It's now other people's turn to have a headache over them!"

The performance was over!

The Welcoming Ceremony also came to an end!

Zhang Ye and the others headed backstage.

Wang He said, "That was so cool!"

Da Hui laughed heartily. "I feel like my throat has been split open!"

"That was fun!" Old Wang shouted. "Exciting!"

Ma Xufei said, "We haven't let ourselves loose in so many years!"

Hu Feifei gave a wry smile and said, "For that bit I sang, Xiaoqian had to teach me for so long while we were in the car. But I still couldn't remember all the lyrics and even sang a line wrong, didn't I?"

"Perhaps my hands are clumsier than my feet."

That line was sung as "Perhaps my mouth is clumsier than my feet."

Zhang Ye said happily, "It's fine. That line suited you more, so it's pretty good."

Yu Yingyi rejoiced, "I had such a kickass time singing today!"

Zhang Ye whistled to get everyone's attention and said, "We've finished singing. So let's not keep those people waiting anymore. Let's move out, fellas!"

"Let's go."

"Yeah, let's go!"

"Haha!"

"Time to depart!"

"Whoa, what do you mean by time to depart? That sounds so pessimistic!"

"Then what should I call it?"

"We're just surrendering ourselves."

"That sounds even worse!"

"We should say that we're martyring ourselves instead!"

"Man, you guys are going off on a tangent."

There was no hesitation from everyone as they walked outside in laughter.

A group of police officers were standing outside, not knowing what to do.

A policeman asked, "Brother Li, do we go inside to arrest them?"

The old policeman rolled his eyes. "If we do that at this time, the students will definitely prevent us from leaving."

"Then what do we do?"

"What if they escape? We can't—"

"Yeah, we can't wait around anymore!"

While they were discussing, the police officers suddenly turned their heads in surprise when they saw Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, Hu Feifei, and the others walking towards them in laughter. The police officers couldn't react to this sight. What was going on?

Zhang Ye said, "Sorry about that, officers."

Yu Yingyi said, "We'll be going with you now."

Liu Tie put out his hands. "Do we need to be cuffed?"

Old Wang blinked and said, "Does this count as turning ourselves in?"

The police officers looked at one another. "Aren't you guys going to run?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "We've finished singing and done what we needed to do, so why do we need to run?" Then he looked at two of the police officers and said in surprise, "Why do you two look a little familiar?"

The two of them didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Because we've arrested you before."

Hu Feifei laughed, "Pfft!"

Dong Shanshan and everyone else were also giggling.

"Ah? When?" Zhang Ye was taken aback.

The police officers said, "A few years ago, you beat up someone at Beijing TV. That case was handled by our police station. Even now, the little dark room has that poem you wrote while you were in there."

Zhang Ye said endearingly, "Oh, my old friends."

The police officers gave bitter smiles. Who are your old friends? Can't you give us less trouble to deal with? They really did not want to arrest Zhang Ye, not to mention Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi this time as well. Thinking back to when Zhang Ye was not as famous as he was now, he alone had almost single-handedly turned the police station upside down. There were so many reporters and citizens who nearly flattened their police station to the ground. Just that memory alone made them fearful.

But they still had to handle the case.

One of the police officers sighed. "Get in the car then."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Let's go."

The group of them rowdily followed.

Driving back, the police still felt worried that this group of people would try to escape. They were on full alert to prevent that from happening. After all, Zhang Ye had once created trouble for them at their station. But by the time their police cars arrived back at the station, there were no tricks from Zhang Ye and the others. They did not even kick up a fuss or complain about anything. Instead, they were all very calm and cooperative.

But unbeknownst to them, Zhang Ye had already accepted this outcome.

The last time he was arrested, it was because he had been a good samaritan. It was Beijing Television's Wang Shuixin's son who tried to hit others first that made Zhang Ye hit him in retaliation. He didn't find that to be wrong, so of course he wasn't happy about getting arrested. He definitely had to reason with them as he was not at fault and just did it in self-defense. However, Zhang Ye and the others knew that they were definitely in the wrong this time. It was definitely an offense to beat up other people, so they did not argue against it!

When it was time to admit that he was in the wrong, he would do so!

When he had to answer to his responsibilities, he would never run away!

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Online.

A video of the Welcoming Ceremony at Media College was uploaded to the internet!

"Chasing Dreams with a Pure Heart" went viral!

"It's great!"

"The lyrics are awesome!"

"Who wrote this song?"

"Idiot, it was definitely Zhang Ye!"

"They sang great!"

"Shanshan also knows how to sing? I have a crush on her!"

"Haha, Yu Yingyi was there too!"

"All of Zhang Ye's classmates were there?"

"Their friendship is really admirable."

"So that was what their youth was like! To keep running forward!"

"I could feel my blood race when I listened to the song! It's so intense!"

Not long after, breaking news struck!

It came with nearly no warning or anticipation!

"Newsflash: Zhang Ye Arrested!"

"Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi were taken away to the police station on suspicion of taking part in a gang fight!"

"Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, and others involved in a gang fight!"

This news came like a crash of thunder. It exploded across China, and anyone who heard of it very nearly vomited blood the moment they found out!

They had been arrested?

A gang fight?

Countless people fainted on the spot!

If it were just Zhang Ye involved in the gang fight, we'd believe it. Just at the recent Olympics, he beat up those foreign referees. This fellow would always stir up some trouble every now and then, so we've gotten used to it!

But what are you guys saying now?

Dong Shanshan?

Yu Yingyi?

Those two were involved in a gang fight?

Fuck that! Did you get it wrong?

They are our goddesses, come on!

On Weibo.

"My titanium dog eyes are blinded!"

"Mine too! Oh, my goddess Shanshan!"

"What the fuck, what gang fight?"

"Is this fake news?"

"It's definitely not fake news, but what really happened?"

"Yeah, why did it happen?"

"Zhang Ye is used to getting into fights, but how could Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi have fought as well? Something must've happened, and it must have been a major issue!"

"Zhang Ye, your sister!"

"Bringing our goddesses to a gang fight? Only you would do something like that!"

"Our goddesses have been led astray by you!"

Chapter 1193: A pure heart!

At the police station.

The bureau chief arrived in a hurry.

Zhang Ye acted friendly and said while waving, "Chief, long time no see."

The bureau chief helplessly, "Teacher Zhang, what are you doing here again? I was just going to Tianjin on a business trip when I heard and had to rush back. Spare us, will you? The last incident you stirred up caused chaos at our police station. We were put on the radar of the city's Public Security Department and investigated until I nearly lost my job. It's not that I'm curious, but how have I offended you this time? Why do you keep coming back to haunt me? Can you do that to someone else? Go to another police station? I'll thank you for that, Teacher Zhang!"

Zhang Ye gave a dry laugh and said, "It's not like I know which district you're in charge of."

The bureau chief looked listless. "So what is it this time?"

Ma Xufei said, "It was a misunderstanding, just a misunderstanding!"

Da Hui blinked and said, "Chief, since we're so familiar with each other, can you please let this go?"

The bureau chief rolled his eyes, thinking who they all were trying to act familiar with him. "How am I supposed to let this go? Someone has reported you guys for beating up people in a gang fight out on the public streets. You even hurt quite a few people."

Yu Yingyi asked, "Are their injuries serious?"

The bureau chief looked at the old policeman nearby.

The old policeman gave a bitter laugh. "It's not exactly serious, and they should only be external injuries. But a few of them are insisting on remaining in the hospital. They want to stay the night and get thoroughly examined, so they're definitely not going to let this go."

The bureau chief banged on the table and said, "This matter is very severe."

Hu Feifei stood forward. "It was all because of me; I was the one who led them, so arrest me!"

Zhang Ye said, "Oh come on, you need to be believable when you make such a claim. I was the one who led them."

The bureau chief said, "We already know part of the story from the victims themselves. Now tell me your side of it. We need to take your statements as well."

The old policeman said, "You guys are schoolmates, right?"

Wang He corrected, "Classmates."

Zhang Ye immediately pointed at Hu Feifei. "Our classmate was beaten by that fatass He. It's a case of domestic violence that has happened for two to three years."

Dong Shanshan said, "Feifei, show them!"

Hu Feifei pulled up her sleeves.

A policewoman went over to have a look, then looked at Feifei's neck and took a deep breath before saying angrily, "The blows are this ruthless?" She turned back around and said, "Chief, this is really too much!" A woman would feel for a woman, especially on matters of domestic violence.

Hu Feifei did not say a word.

Zhang Ye pointed at her and said, "Tell me, do you think we can tolerate this? We had to do something!"

The bureau chief smacked his lips. "You still can't beat people up on the streets."

Zhang Ye said, "Then next time, we can beat them up secretly?"

"Of course not!" The bureau chief was floored. "You guys have broken the law."

Zhang Ye nodded and said, "Alright, then let me take responsibility for this alone. Let the rest go."

"Zhang'er!"

"What are you saying?"

"That's pointless!"

"Everyone had a part in it!"

"Right, we'll bear responsibility for it together!"

"Isn't it just getting detained? We'll take it!"

The bureau chief looked at the group of hot-blooded youths helplessly. "You're all pretty loyal." After a pause, he continued asking them about the details of what happened in the evening. Then he gestured to a few of the police officers and asked them to leave the room before saying to Zhang Ye and the others, "We handle several such cases a day, and they're considered neither major nor minor matters. From a moral viewpoint, Little Hu is definitely the victim and the judgment should be biased against you guys. But the way that you guys chose to handle this was very inappropriate. Couldn't you have reported it to the police? Couldn't you have contacted a lawyer to sue him? Why did you have to resort to violence? That's right, Teacher Zhang, aren't you a lawyer yourself?"

Zhang Ye said, "I haven't gotten my license to practice yet."

The bureau chief sighed. "The one who attacks first is the most disadvantaged. Besides, they reported it to the police and have evidence and eyewitnesses as well. Even if I want to help you guys, there's a limit to what I can do. So unless the other party decides not to pursue this, the case won't be dropped. We'll have to go by procedure and detain whoever needs to be detained."

There was a knock on the door.

The bureau chief said, "Come in."

A policewoman said, "Chief, you have a call."

The bureau chief looked over. "Who is it?"

The policewoman looked at Zhang Ye. "It's Zhang Ye's agent, Rao Aimin."

Then another person came in. "Chief, the PR rep of Zhang Ye's Studio, Ha Qiqi, is here."

Soon after, another policeman ran in and said, "Chief, a director at the Ministry of Public Security called to plead for Teacher Zhang."

Ministry of Public Security?

The police officers' eyes twitched.

Zhang Ye blinked several times. He knew who it was. Rao Aimin's junior martial brother must have found someone to speak up for him since he worked at the Ministry of Public Security.

"Chief!"

"The media has arrived!"

"There are more than 30 reporters blocking the main entrance!"

"Chief, there are people from Beijing TV here as well. It's Teacher Dong Shanshan's boss!"

"Central TV Sports Channel's deputy director is here too! They want to bail Teacher Yu out."

They could hear an uproar happening outside.

Especially that loud voice of Ha Qiqi's. It was extremely piercing. "And what are you all arresting him for? Based on what charges! The lawyer is already on the way here! I want to see Director Zhang right now!"

The bureau chief wiped his sweat away and said, "Go and handle it."

The door closed.

Feeling a headache coming on, the bureau chief said, "People from all kinds of places are starting to arrive here. Just look at this, what's going to happen now? Do you think it's easy for me to be a police chief here?"

Zhang Ye said, "I'm sorry about that. Blame it on me, I've really troubled you guys this time."

The bureau chief did not expect to hear such words from Zhang Ye, so he said, "Teacher Zhang, we've crossed paths before. I know what kind of person you are and that you would not hit others for no reason. If I were in your shoes and knew that my good friend was getting abused, I would've done the same even if it meant getting detained! But the problem is that you're too well-known. Everyone in China knows you, and you have so many enemies as well. Now that this matter has blown up on the Internet, we cannot downplay this case even if we wanted to."

Zhang Ye said, "I understand, but as for my classmates—"

"How about this?" interrupted the bureau chief, "You and a few of the leaders of the group can't leave today. As for the rest, I'll give you some face and allow them to leave."

Zhang Ye asked, "What about Hu Feifei?"

The bureau chief thought about it. "She can go back as well."

Zhang Ye immediately said, "Thank you so much!"

"No, that won't do!"

"Right, we won't leave!"

"If we are to leave, we'll leave together!"

Everyone shouted in agreement.

But Zhang Ye said, "That's enough. Is this such a good situation that you guys want to be part of it? Feifei, Xiaoqian, Yingyi, Shanshan, all of you go back first. And the rest of you who can leave, just leave. I'll stay behind here, so don't worry."

Dong Shanshan looked at him. "Are you going to be fine?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "What do you think? It's not like this is the first time I'm here, so just lead them out. By the way, don't let Hu Feifei go back home. Let her stay with you for now."

Dong Shanshan nodded. "Alright, I'll think of a way to get you out of here when I get out."

"OK," Zhang Ye said.

Then Dong Shanshan pulled Hu Feifei and Yu Yingyi away, saying, "Let's go. It'll be hard to get things settled if all of us stay here. Let's go outside and ask around to see how we can get them out."

Wang He waved his hands. "Just hurry up and go."

Da Hui said with a laugh, "Us men aren't afraid of staying here."

Yu Yingyi said firmly, "Wait for us!"

Hu Feifei said through her teeth, "I'll think of something!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "It's fine. At most, we get locked up for seven or eight days."

Hu Feifei said, "I'll definitely get you guys out!"

Zhang Ye waved them off, "Just go."

The female classmates all left.

The remaining people were then sent to the "little dark room."

When he went inside, Zhang Ye started reminiscing. A few years ago, he had written a poem on the wall that plunged the police station into chaos.

The poem was still there!

The faint writing could still be seen on the wall!

Wang He stared at the writing. "Shut are the doors for humans."

Da Hui continued, "Open is the entrance of a dog cage, a high pitched sound is heard—Crawl out and freedom will be granted....Pfft, Zhang'er, you wrote this!"

Everyone was amused!

He Kui suddenly said, "Why not write another one now?"

Several of the police officers who sent them into the room were scared out of their wits when they heard that!

A young policeman shouted, "Don't! Don't write another!"

A policewoman said, "Teacher Zhang, calm down! Calm down!"

Zhang Ye said, "Don't worry, I'm not writing anything this time."

The police officers heaved sighs of relief and walked off with a lingering sense of fear.

Zhang Ye sat down on the floor. "Come on, bros. Take a seat."

Wang He made himself at home and said, "There's nothing to do anyway, so why don't we talk?"

Ma Xufei lay on the floor. "Ah, how comfortable."

Zhang Ye said with a laugh, "Then Old Ma can stay a few more days."

"Forget that." Ma Xufei rolled his eyes and said, "If I can get out of here, I'll definitely go. Who wants to stay in a place like this?"

Zhang Ye said, "So you guys now know how I felt a few years back?"

He Kui said, "Ai, I wonder how many days we'll be in here. We might even get transferred over to the prison?"

Old Zhou whistled and said, "I suppose we're getting badly scolded all over the Internet."

Zhang Ye chuckled. "I bet they're all insulting me."

But this time, Zhang Ye was really wrong about that.

...

On Weibo.

By now, the details of this case had been uncovered layer by layer!

It was true that a lot of people were criticizing Zhang Ye. There were even people of status who were well-respected, consisting of experts and academics who were mainly Zhang Ye's past foes. There were also some people who criticized Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi. However, there were even more people who did not criticize them. On this matter, the people's evaluation of Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, and the others was instead very fair.

"Beating up people is wrong, but it's understandable in this case!"

"Domestic violence should not be tolerated!"

"It was Zhang Ye and Dong Shanshan's old classmate who got abused first. You couldn't see something like this without taking action! Damn, if it were me, I would've beaten up that person too!"

"That He guy indeed went overboard. We can't blame Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi for this incident. Instead, I see them in a different light. They are truly goddesses! They have guts and principles!"

"Right!"

"I'm Shanshan's fan from now on!"

"Think of those celebrities who only care about themselves and act dumb or divert the topic whenever something happens. They only know how to think about themselves first when their friends are in trouble and try not to get implicated. Is there any meaning in being someone like that? I prefer people like Zhang Ye and Dong Shanshan who dare to shout and fight for their beliefs! They were willing to step in and do something based on their friendship with an old classmate. Even if they did wrong, it's understandable why they did it! Don't just come online to criticize others after you hear about a fight!"

"Just on this issue, I have to pay respect to Zhang Ye and Dong Shanshan!"

"For big shot Zhang Ye, and well-known hosts Dong Shanshan and Yu Yingyi, they were willing to put their reputations at stake. It must have really been difficult for them!"

"That He guy deserves it!"

"Zhang Ye should be let off with a slap on the wrist!"

"Right, cut him some slack!"

"What a pity. I had just finished listening to that shocking 'Chasing Dreams with a Pure Heart' and didn't expect that they would really handle things like how they had sung. Thank you, thank you to all of you. You've let us witness many beautiful sights. Zhang Ye, Shanshan, Yingyi, please keep running, forever with the pride of a pure heart!"

Chapter 1194: Released!

The next day.

Some time in the morning.

Ma Xufei woke up groaning, "Aiyo, my waist, it hurts so bad!"

This groaning voice woke up everyone else in the room. All of them saw Ma Xufei, who was lying on the floor, get up while clutching his waist as he moved about stiffly.

Wang He yawned. "What time is it?"

Zhang Ye, who was lying on the table, also woke up. "It's light out?"

Suddenly, the door to the "little dark room" opened.

The bureau chief came in with a smile. "Alright, pack it up, you guys are free to go."

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Huh?"

Wang He was also surprised. "We can go?"

Ma Xufei was stunned. "Aren't we getting detained?"

He Kui rubbed his eyes in a daze. "What? Have we been sleeping for seven days and seven nights?"

Old Wang said, "Pfft, are you a pig? Sleeping for seven straight days!"

The bureau chief looked relaxed. He said, "That He guy you all beat up has dropped the suit. He said that you guys were just fooling around, and the hospital has also cleared them of any serious injuries and said that they'd be fine." He looked at them and said, "Don't ask me why; I don't know the reason either. In any case, you can go now. Your cell phones and personal effects have all been brought over, so come and claim whatever belongs to you."

Zhang Ye laughed. "So we can really leave?"

The bureau chief rolled his eyes. "What's the matter? Don't tell me you've grown fond of staying here? I have to say this, Teacher Zhang. Please don't stir up any more trouble in future. And if you decide to fight someone again, please don't do so in my jurisdiction, alright? For all of last night, our police station was the focus of the nation's attention. It was so stressful that I even considered an early retirement! Please give us a break and stop bringing trouble to our police station!"

They continued talking as they made their way out.

In the police station's yard, quite a few people were waiting!

"Old Zhou!"

"What are you doing here, honey?"

"You jerk! You've been locked up, how can I not come?"

"He Kui!"

"Ah, Dad."

"How old are you? Why are you still getting into fights?"

"Hehe, I got a little impulsive."

Their family members were here to pick them up.

Zhang Ye also knew quite a few of them. "Auntie Sun, Uncle Zhou."

Several of the parents looked at him. "Little Ye, I have to lecture you. You're the most successful one of them all and should be leading by example, so how can you lead them to do something like this?"

Zhang Ye quickly said, "It was my fault, my fault."

But of course, Zhang Ye had the most people coming to pick him up!

Ha Qiqi eyes turned red. "Director Zhang! You made all of us so worried!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry."

His parents were also here and they lashed out at him!

Zhang Ye did not talk back and just listened to them as they scolded him.

Little Wang and the others also hurried over. There were three or four people who came from the studio.

"Director Zhang."

"Have a change of clothes."

"Are you hungry? I brought some food over for you."

"Director Zhang, do you want a drink? It's still warm, quickly drink some!"

"Did you sleep well in there?"

His junior martial sister drove here to wait for him as well. "Senior Bro, I got your car from Media College and drove it here. Master Rao is outside handling the reporters."

A group of people busily waited on Zhang Ye, with some of them giving him something to eat and some of them giving him something to drink. When he choked, someone would instantly pass him a napkin!

His group of classmates were speechless as they watched. Wasn't this treatment far too different from theirs?

He had someone who drove here to pick him up.

He had someone to bring him tea.

He had someone to pour it for him.

When can we reach the point that we can get this treatment too!

They became incredibly jealous as they watched Zhang Ye!

All of a sudden, more people came in from outside. They were Hu Feifei, Dong Shanshan, Yu Yingyi, and a few other female classmates of theirs.

So Zhang Ye said, "Dad, Mom, why don't you two go home first."

His mother stared at him. "I'll pick it back up with you when you get home."

"Alright, alright." Zhang Ye signaled to Yang Shu. "Yang Shu, send my parents home."

"OK." Yang Shu led Zhang Ye's parents away to send them back.

Only then did Zhang Ye ask Hu Feifei, "So what happened?"

Wang He, Ma Xufei, and the others also came over.

"That's right!"

"How did we get released so quickly?"

"Who'd you guys go to?"

"Did that He guy suddenly come to his senses?"

Hu Feifei smiled and said, "The public's siding w. He's under too much pressure and couldn't bear it, so he decided to just let this go as he doesn't want trouble for himself. Who hasn't heard of Zhang'er's reputation? Zhang'er is one of the biggest names in the country, so I'm sure that he's also kinda afraid of him."

Wang He speculated, "That's impossible!"

Ma Xufei said, "Yeah, how could it be that simple?"

The public was on their side this time. The majority of people felt they had their reasons for doing what they did. Although some people criticized them for their wrongdoing, they did not outright express their support for Hu Feifei's husband either. Those who criticized Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, and the others were also scolding Hu Feifei's husband without exception. In fact, they were even more critical of him. Some people dug up He's family background and company situation; even his home address had been exposed. If they were to say that he was under pressure, he definitely was. But that still wouldn't amount to him doing a 180, would it?

Hu Feifei changed the subject and said with a laugh, "Oh yes, I have some very good news to announce. I'm getting divorced! Please congratulate me, everyone!"

"Congratulations!"

"Yeah, congrats!"

"That's a good thing!"

"You should have done this a long time ago!"

But Zhang Ye did not let it go. He needed to clear this up. "So what really happened? Hu Feifei, tell me the truth. Do you really think we're so easily fooled?"

Hu Feifei smiled and said, "But that's really how it was, he couldn't bear all that pressure."

Zhang Ye looked at her. "Are you going to tell me or not?"

Xiaoqian couldn't hold it in any longer. "I'll tell!"

Hu Feifei glared. "Xiaoqian!"

Xiaoqian ignored her and said, "Hu Feifei has already signed the divorce papers. But she won't be seeking any settlement on the condition that He must step back from taking any action on you guys and drop the suit!"

Da Hui was startled. "What?"

Wang He said, "Hu Feifei, aren't you being silly like that?"

Ma Xufei said angrily, "What are you thinking! You should have asked for a settlement! He's abused you for so many years, how can you not get something from him? Why did you do that! However long we're detained, so be it. It's no big deal!"

Hu Feifei smiled. "Well, he doesn't have much money left anyway. His company has been going downhill in recent years and is almost an empty shell now. He even sold off a car and a property recently to pay off his debts. He's in dire straits, and besides, I've also thought it through. I don't want any of his lousy money. I just want to get back to being a host and earn myself a living. Ai, but I think I'm too far behind everyone now. I don't even know if I can make up for the time I've lost over the past few years." She sounded a little hesitant. "Do you guys think that I can still get on a stage?"

Wang He said, "Definitely!"

Yu Yingyi said, "Right! You can definitely do it!"

Zhang Ye praised, "It's good that you've thought it out. You're right, what need do you have for that lousy money of his."

Xiaoqian gave him a look. "Zhang'er, you had better help Feifei find a good job. We're counting on you."

"Don't worry." Zhang Ye, taking it all on, said, "I'll help Hu Feifei contact some people later."

Dong Shanshan also said with a laugh, "Feifei, stay at my place for now. It's boring living by myself anyway."

Hu Feifei did not turn her down. "Sure, I have nowhere to go, so I guess I'll have to disturb you for a few days until I find a place to move to."

"Let's go!"

"We're going back home!"

"Hahaha!"

The police officers at the station got quite moved from watching this.

All of them were willing to get detained just because they wanted to get justice for their classmate!

While one of them was willing to leave a marriage with nothing to her name in order to save her classmates!

Classmates?

What a beautiful term it was!

...

Outside, the reporters had clogged the entrance!

When Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, and the others came out, the reporters rushed up to them!

Zhang Ye gave Ha Qiqi and the others a look that they immediately understood. The studio's staff immediately went up to block the reporters.

"Fellas, run!" Zhang Ye shouted. Hu Feifei and the others instantly widened their strides and ran away from the reporters. Someone started singing, to which Zhang Ye and everyone else loudly sang along with!

"Instead of clinging to life, live passionately, burn brightly!

"For our beautiful dreams!

"Uncompromising through the years!"

Chapter 1195: The prospective daughter-in-law comes to visit!

Later that afternoon.

Slightly before 2 PM.

In the courtyard of the Wu residence.

The courtyard house door was unlocked, and Zhang Ye pushed it open to get in. "Auntie, Uncle, is anyone home?"

Li Qinqin came out from the northern house looking rather surprised. "Little Ye? When did you get released?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I was let out this morning. Auntie, I bought you some fruit. I'll just place it out here in the courtyard." He left them on the stone table.

Wu Changhe also stepped out from the house. "What are you doing here, kid?"

Li Qinqin said, "Quick, let's go inside."

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "I came here to escape from the commotion at home. My parents will nag me if I go back. They've been nagging me the entire morning, and the studio is packed with reporters. If I go back there, wouldn't I just get bombarded with questions? So I can only make my way here to your place to lay low for a while. I've called Old Wu. She said that she'll be coming over in a while too."

Just as he finished speaking.

Wu Zeqing arrived.

"Whoa, that was fast!" Zhang Ye turned around.

Wu Zeqing smiled. "I saw you driving over here. I was right behind you."

Li Qinqin complained to Zhang Ye, "You really made us worried about you."

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, "Hai, Auntie, I'm fine."

Wu Zeqing made him go into the house. "My mom had to go around yesterday asking so many people to find out about your circumstances. She was really hoping that someone could help get you released. You don't even know how worried she was."

Zhang Ye was extremely touched. "Aiyo, Auntie, I'm terribly sorry about making you worry."

Wu Changhe said nonchalantly, "If you know how to be sorry, you shouldn't have taken part in a gang fight."

Li Qinqin gave her husband a small nudge. "Didn't you also check with many people regarding Little Ye's case? You even pushed for me to call up an old classmate who was working at a police station!"

Wu Changhe grunted, "I did that for my daughter."

Wu Zeqing laughed and said, "See how well my parents treat you."

"Thank you, Uncle. Thank you, Auntie." Zhang Ye thanked them sincerely.

Li Qinqin gave her daughter a sharp look. "Only you weren't worried."

Wu Zeqing said gently, "He can handle it himself. Why would I need to worry?"

Li Qinqin said unhappily, "What if something had happened?"

Wu Zeqing laughed. "He knows what he's doing."

"What does he know?" Wu Changhe said in a speechless manner, "Which A-list celebrity out there goes around taking part in gang fights? I've never even heard of that happening before!"

Li Qinqin added, "Right, don't be so impulsive next time!"

Zhang Ye did not know how to answer them.

Instead, it was Wu Zeqing who answered for him. "Since he handled it that way, he must have his reasons for doing so. Alright, let's not talk about this anymore." Then she looked at Zhang Ye. "Shall I make you something to eat?"

Zhang Ye put his hand on his belly. "Yeah, I didn't really eat lunch."

"Alright, give me a bit then." Wu Zeqing headed to the kitchen and busied herself.

Wu Changhe and Li Qinqin both rolled their eyes. Their daughter was really spoiling her boyfriend. After such a big incident, she didn't even direct a word of blame at him. Instead, she even spoke up for him? What was this! They were speaking in such harmony. If it went on like this, wouldn't there be bigger trouble in the future? And they weren't even married yet! If they really got married, wouldn't these two turn the entire Chinese entertainment industry on its head? A showbiz celebrity who loved making trouble, and a woman in a position of power who was coincidentally the authority of the entertainment industry, who could stop them in the future?

After lunch.

Wu Changhe went to power on the computer to play Go.

Wu Zeqing brought Zhang Ye to her bedroom in the west wing. Old Wu didn't live here usually but she would stay over sometimes when it rained after visiting her parents.

The decor in the room was middling, but it was quite clean and tidy.

The moment Zhang Ye stepped inside, he flopped onto the bed. "I'm exhausted."

Wu Zeqing sat next to the bed. "You didn't sleep well while you were in jail? Then get some rest while you're here. You can take off your shoes and put my slippers on."

Zhang Ye blinked several times and turned sideways. He hugged her waist and placed his hands on her leg. Through her black suit pants, he could feel the softness of her leg. "I've been too busy these days, commentating for the Olympics, releasing a music video single, and even getting arrested. I haven't seen you in such a long time. How is everything at work? Have you been busy?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "It's the same as usual. You know, you really should take things a little easier in the future. Don't worry my parents anymore."

"I understand." Zhang Ye said, "Haha, I'll lie low for a while and work on my character. Your parents are really quite good to me. I really hadn't expected that."

Suddenly, the thud of footsteps approached.

It was Li Qinqin. "Zeqing?"

Wu Zeqing turned around. "Mom, come in."

Zhang Ye immediately pulled his hands back and sat up on the bed.

Li Qinqin came into the bedroom and said with a smile, "Is Little Ye tired?"

"No, I feel awake." Zhang Ye smiled.

Li Qinqin nodded and sat down as well. "Zeqing, I had a discussion with your dad just now. The relationship between you and Little Ye is more or less confirmed. I've been thinking of having a meal with Little Ye's parents someday to discuss you two and your wedding. How should it be held? Should it be a grand one or a simple one? Which day should we hold it on? All of that needs to be discussed. When I brought this up last time, the two of you didn't seem anxious about it, so I'm here to hurry you two along."

Zhang Ye grew spirited. "I'm anxious, Auntie, I'm anxious."

Li Qinqin was happy to hear that. "I'm anxious too."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "I still have to pay them a visit, don't I?"

Li Qinqin followed with, "Then when will you go over to Little Ye's place?"

Wu Zeqing thought about it for a moment before saying, "I have to check with my secretary first and see what my schedule's like, and when Little Ye and I can both get a day off to go visit them. Besides, I still have to buy a gift for them when I go over."

Li Qinqin smacked her lips. "Why does it have to be some other day? Aren't you two free today? There's no time like the present, so why don't you do it today? You don't have to worry about bringing a gift. I'll go and do it for you this afternoon. Each of you is busier than the other; do you think it'll be that easy for the two of you to find another free day together? Just do it today!"

Wu Zeqing smiled and looked at Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye immediately understood that she was asking if he agreed. So he said with much anticipation, "I have no problem with that. My parents are both at home. I just need to call them to tell them."

Wu Zeqing nodded. "Alright then."

Li Qinqin said happily, "Great! Zeqing, when you go over, remember to speak nicely. This is your first time paying them a visit, so you have to pay attention and be considerate of everything. Don't forget your manners, understand?"

Wu Zeqing said, "Hur hur, would I not know that?"

Li Qinqin said, "Sure, you know everything!"

Wu Zeqing said, "I'll go and get ready then. I need to change."

Zhang Ye snapped his fingers. "I'll go and make the call!"

It was a rather big affair, but it was settled just like that.

Zhang Ye was getting very excited. Having a girlfriend and bringing her home to meet the parents were two very different things. So he went out to the courtyard and called home.

His father answered the phone.

The moment he heard Zhang Ye's voice, he said, "Where'd you go? You ran away just because we lectured you a little? Hurry up and come back. Your mother is still angry with you."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Dad, I'll be back in the evening. Tell Mom to tidy up the house a little. I'll be bringing someone home."

His father was taken aback. "Who are you bringing over?"

Zhang Ye said confidently, "My girlfriend."

His father was stunned. "You have a girlfriend?"

When his mother heard, she exclaimed as well. "What?"

Zhang Ye said, "I do. Didn't I tell the two of you a long time ago?"

His father immediately said, "OK, OK, we'll get ready. What time will you two get here?"

"Around 5 PM or so."

"OK, I'll let your mom know!"

Chapter 1196: Good kid, beautifully done!

At home.

His parents were currently tidying up the house.

"Why was it so sudden?" his mother muttered.

His father shook his head. "Who knows! He just said that he'll be bringing his girlfriend back and told us to tidy up the house a little."

His mother was sweeping the floor with a broom. "He didn't mention who it was? What's her job?"

His father said, "I don't know. Is Little Ye really in a relationship?"

"It seems like it." His mother said, "I've heard him mention it before, but I thought he was just humoring me. Who would have thought that he was serious about it."

His father quickened his tidying. "Let's hurry up then. We don't want her coming over and seeing our house in such a mess. We have to give her a good first impression."

His mother worried, "Old Zhang, what would you say if we don't approve of the girl who Little Ye brings home? I'm really afraid that he'll bring home someone shady. I'm telling you beforehand, you had better present a united front with me and be on the same side. If it so happens that we find the girl unsuitable, we must firmly oppose their relationship. We can't let our son see a glimmer of hope in convincing us. We must deny him outright since this is marriage we're talking about!"

His father felt a little hesitant. "Let's see who it is first."

His mother said while sweeping the floor, "Alright, I'll go out to buy some groceries then."

"Buy more than usual," his father instructed.

They busied themselves around the house the entire afternoon.

After his mother came home from grocery shopping, she did not pluck or wash the vegetables. Instead, she put everything into the fridge and left some handmade noodles on the cutting board.

His father wondered, "What are you doing? Aren't you going to prepare some food ahead of time?"

His mother said in a petty manner, "I have to hold back a little first."

"Why did you buy the handmade noodles?" His father was puzzled.

His mother whispered, "In case we're not happy with the woman Little Ye brings home, we'll make the noodles for them to eat and just get this meeting over and done with. It'll also be a way to express our attitudes for her."

His father said in a speechless manner, "You're going to serve her noodles on her first visit to our place?"

His mother said, "Well, I have to be prepared for both situations. Whatever, just follow my lead later."

His father looked at his watch. "It's almost time, right?"

"They should be here soon." His mother was finally done prepping. She went over to sit down on the sofa and turned on the television. However, she saw that her son was still being talked about on the news. "Why are they still talking about this? What kind of girl do you think will suit our son the best with that temper of his? He doesn't know how to take care of people and always loves getting into trouble. Would any of the nicer girls want to settle for a guy like him? They would only get scolded every day if they choose to be with him, don't you think?"

His father said, "Little Ye has many good points too."

"Good points like what?"

"He's quite filial."

"Heh, cut the crap."

"What?"

"He's always getting into trouble and making us worried—that itself is unfilial!"

Ding dong, ding dong.

The doorbell suddenly rang!

His father's eyes lit up. "Coming!"

His mother hurriedly got up. "Go, open the door."

The two of them were starting to feel a little nervous. They didn't know what kind of girl to expect behind the door. His mother hesitated for a moment before she pulled open the door.

When it was halfway open, they saw a beautiful, gorgeous face!

His mother was stunned!

His father was also stunned!

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Auntie, Uncle."

His mother quickly said, "Aiyō, isn't this Little Wu? Why's an important chief like you so free to come over today?" They had met at the King of Masked Singers concert and even sat together. His mother had also invited Wu Zeqing to visit them, but who could have guessed that she would come over today?

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "I came to visit you."

His mother gave a wry smile and said, "Aiyā, what a coincidence. My son just called to say that he would be bringing his girlfriend over today. This is really too coincidental. Why don't you come in and take a seat?"

His father hurriedly said, "You came at the right time. Let's have dinner together. Little Wu has been a great help to our son all this time and should not be considered a stranger."

Wu Zeqing smiled.

Zhang Ye's speechless face was finally revealed behind the half-opened door. "Dad, Mom, what are you two talking about? Hurry up and let us into the house. I'm carrying a bunch of stuff and waiting out here!"

His mother said in surprise, "You scared me!"

His father said startled, "Why did you come with Little Wu?"

Wu Zeqing entered the house.

Zhang Ye, who was carrying large and small boxes, dropped everything the moment he got into the house. "Didn't I say that I was bringing someone home?" He pointed at Wu Zeqing. "I was referring to her!"

His mother exclaimed, "Ah?"

His father was stunned. "Don't be ridiculous!"

Wu Zeqing said, "Auntie, Uncle, I've been in a relationship with Little Ye for about a year, but we haven't told you two all this while. I'm really sorry."

His parents were so shocked they couldn't get a word out. Who could have ever thought that his son's girlfriend would turn out to be Wu Zeqing, the Deputy Chief of SARFT!

This...

This...

His father quickly said, "Little Wu, take a seat. Come inside and take a seat."

His mother grabbed him and whispered excitedly, "Is this true?"

Zhang Ye smiled proudly. "Of course it's true."

His mother said uneasily, "You better not have gotten her to pretend to be your girlfriend to trick us!"

Zhang Ye was floored. "You've watched too many soap dramas, haven't you? You and Dad haven't pushed me to get married or given me any pressure at all, so why would I suddenly bring someone back to trick you two? Have I got nothing better to do?"

His mother smacked her thigh. "Good kid!"

His father was steeping tea for Wu Zeqing. "Have some water."

Wu Zeqing took the cup from him. "Thank you, Uncle. I'll help myself."

Then his mother quickly went over and sat beside Wu Zeqing. She held her hand and said excitedly, "Little Wu, you two have kept this secret so well! You really have good taste, you know? This son of mine, put simply, is just the best. He knows how to take care of people and is considerate as well. Most importantly, he's filial! He's especially filial! He knows how to take care of his own problems and never makes us worried!"

His father was taken aback.

What?

This was not what you said earlier!

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Little Ye is pretty good, I know."

His mother bragged, "He's not just pretty good but really good, you know? Although society holds some prejudices against my son, it's because they don't understand him. My son really has a lot of good points!"

Zhang Ye blushed. He changed the subject by saying, "Dad, what are we having for dinner?"

His father said, "Ah, dinner? What are we having for dinner?" He looked at his wife.

Zhang Ye went to the kitchen to have a look. "Eh, why are there only noodles?"

His father said, "Your mother bought that for tonight..."

His mother glared at her husband and said, "What noodles? I bought that for myself to eat tomorrow. It's Little Wu's first time coming to our place, so how can we serve her noodles? Why are you so funny?" She walked to the kitchen and opened the fridge. "Ignore your father, the food's all in here!"

His father was tongue-tied

Didn't you say to prepare for both situations?

What do you mean "ignore me"?

And you're even calling me funny?

His mother said, "I'm going to make dinner!"

Wu Zeqing said, "Auntie, let me do it."

"No, no, no, don't you trouble yourself. Just sit and wait!" Then she shouted, "Old Zhang, come and help me. What are you doing?"

His father walked helplessly into the kitchen.

His mother immediately made eyes at him and whispered, "What do you think of Little Wu?"

His father said, "She's quite good. It's not like we don't know her."

"She's more than just quite good!" His mother beamed. "We must have been blessed by our ancestors! Are you dumb? Why'd you mention the noodles?"

His father said in a speechless manner, "You said to follow your lead!"

Zhang Ye did not understand. "What lead?"

His mother laughed it off and said, "Nothing, it's nothing."

His father said, "It's just that she's much older than Little Ye."

"It's good that she's older!" His mother said, "She can control him that way!"

His father asked him, "What does Little Wu like about you?"

"My charms, of course," Zhang Ye boasted.

His father worried, "Would her parents agree to your relationship?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "They've long since agreed. Her dad is Wu Changhe, don't you know? I've been to their place a few times and they're both pretty good to me."

His mother asked, "They don't object to you?"

Zhang Ye shrugged. "What's there to object to?"

His mother slapped his shoulders hard. "Rascal, you've done something good for once!"

Zhang Ye said happily, "Weren't you lecturing me this morning? You're not angry anymore? You don't mind that I got into a fight?"

His mother laughed hard. "If you can get someone as good as Little Wu to become your wife, I won't care even if you get into fights every day! Good kid, beautifully done!"

Chapter 1197: Zhang Ye gives his first lesson at his alma mater!

On this day.

Early in the morning.

After several days had passed, calm returned to the entertainment industry. There was no news that could be talked about forever. Even an incident of celebrities taking part in a gang fight would blow over after some time. Other things were always happening that would catch the attention of the media and citizens as they moved on to whatever was more interesting. This was what the entertainment industry was all about.

After the news had quieted.

It was peaceful once more online.

However, it was not as quiet in Zhang Ye's house. More accurately, Zhang Ye's mother had been so excited in the past two days she couldn't calm down at all.

His mother kept pacing around the house and would often bring something up out of the blue. Recently, her behavior had been incomprehensible. "Old Zhang, are there any beauty salons nearby?"

His father asked, "Why?"

His mother said, "I want to get a makeover and some beauty care, of course. When the day comes for our son to get married, I don't want to look old and haggard. It wouldn't look good at all, so I have to start preparing now."

His father said, "You look good just the way you are."

Zhang Ye had already gotten out of bed. He said annoyed, "Mom, you've been fussing over this for two days already."

"But I'm really excited!" His mother still couldn't shake off the excitement she was experiencing. "I have to say, an important executive like Little Wu taking a fancy to you, you must really be blessed, you lucky fool. By the way, what time does she get off work today? Would she like to come over for dinner? Try to ask her over again. You really have to work on solidifying your relationship with her so that she won't slip away from you, understand? Little Wu is so beautiful and gentle. She's willing to cook for you and is an important executive as well. You mustn't let her get away!"

His father rolled his eyes. "You've invited her to our place eight times over the past few days, so can't you give her a break for a day or two? You ask her to come over for lunch and dinner every day; do you really think she has nothing better to do? Aren't you being too enthusiastic? You might just end up causing issues if you scare Little Wu away."

His mother stared at him. "I'm just happy to have Little Wu around. What can you do about it!"

Ever since Zhang Ye brought Old Wu home, his mother had felt really happy about everything. She was obviously overjoyed and approved of her prospective daughter-in-law.

"This won't do! I have to make a call!"

"To who, Mom?"

"To the neighbors."

"Aiya, didn't I tell you to keep it a secret?"

"Then I'll give your grandma a call."

"Just don't say anything, alright? If you do, everyone will find out."

"Then just let them find out."

"Old Wu has a special status and I'm from the entertainment circle, so let's wait until we're married before announcing it."

So his mother continued to pace around the house. Every now and then, she would look at her phone or sit down and stomp her feet. "Aiyo, keeping this a secret is killing me!"

Zhang Ye and his father gave each other a look and laughed helplessly. His mother had no other fault other than being a loudmouth and braggart. Now that she was not allowed to speak about his relationship, she had a horrible time trying to hide it.

Then, Zhang Ye's cell phone rang.

Media College was calling.

Su Hongyan said: "Little Zhang, have you left your house yet?"

Zhang Ye said: "I'll be leaving soon."

"Don't forget about today's lesson. We're all waiting for you."

"Don't worry, Teacher Su, I won't forget." Zhang Ye hung up and told his parents, "Mom, keep keeping it secret. Dad, I'm off to give a lesson at school."

...

Later that morning.

Media College.

There was still an hour to go, but the lecture hall was already packed to the brim. A distance away, a lot of people were still making their way over here in a hurry!

"Fuck, the class is full?"

"Look at the time."

"What'd you expect? Don't forget that Zhang Ye will be giving this lesson!"

"And I thought that I got here early. There aren't any seats left."

"Just find a random spot. I'll attend this class even if I have to stand!"

"Yeah, we can't miss out on our alum giving a lesson!"

"Fangzi, over here! I've reserved a seat for you!"

"Ah, Qiqi, you're great! I love you so much!"

"Just buy me a meal after this! Fucking hell, I've been here since 6 AM to get these seats for us!"

"Damn! You really gave it your all!"

Strictly speaking, it was still not the official start of the school semester. The freshmen were still going through orientation and would only complete it by this afternoon, so the quickest that they could start their lessons proper would be tomorrow. However, the school had specially arranged for Zhang Ye to give this class a talk as they had a deeper intent. Looking at this turnout, other than the freshmen students, even the sophomore and junior broadcasting majors were trying to squeeze into the lecture hall for the class. Further, there were also many students from other departments who came to take part in the ruckus.

This was where Zhang Ye stood out from the other teachers.

He was extremely popular.

He had huge appeal.

And everyone liked him very much.

Outside, Zhang Ye arrived and was humming a little ditty.

Su Hongyan, who had spotted him from a distance away, said with a smile, "Feeling good?"

Zhang Ye said happily, "Haha! Good morning, Teacher Su."

Now that Old Wu had officially been introduced to his parents and having gained their approval of her, their wedding was imminent. So how could he not be happy? He was bursting with joy.

The dean of the Broadcasting Department smiled and said, "Professor Zhang, you have an important mission on your hands today."

Zhang Ye nodded. "I understand."

The dean said, "I suppose it isn't necessary for me to mention how important the freshmen's first class is. The school made many considerations before handing this class to you, so we're sure that you would be up to the task. Basically, this is just going to be an initiation class, so there's no need to cover any professional knowledge or topics like that. You just need to help usher the freshmen into university life and spark their interest in our Broadcasting Department, so it would be great if the lesson is a little more fun. You don't have to give a long talk or speech since students these days have a different way of thinking. They no longer fall for the traditional methods."

Zhang Ye said, "Alright."

The dean patted him. "Then I'll leave this to you."

Su Hongyan reminded Zhang Ye, "Hur hur, do well, we'll be listening to your lecture as well."

Zhang Ye said, "Whoa, that's a lot of pressure on me."

One of the department's associate professors laughed. "Motivation comes from pressure."

After chatting for a bit and getting to know many of the other teachers and professors of the Broadcasting Department, Zhang Ye looked at his watch before striding into the lecture hall.

The dean smiled and said, "Come, let's go in and listen together."

Su Hongyan and the others proceeded in behind him.

Many sets of eyes were now focused on the lectern!

"Alum!"

"Teacher Zhang!"

"Professor Zhang!"

"Wow, he's so handsome!"

"I couldn't see him clearly at the Welcoming Ceremony because I was sitting too far away. I can finally have a closer look this time!"

"Who says that Teacher Zhang is only average looking? I think he's handsome!"

"Right! But more importantly, he's got a really good stage presence!"

Applause thundered!

Many of the freshmen were screaming!

Zhang Ye stood on the podium calmly and adjusted the microphone. Then he smiled. "Hello, everyone. I'm your teacher for your first class of the semester and my name is Zhang Ye."

Applause sounded again!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "First of all, I would like to congratulate all of you for standing out amongst so many candidates in the National College Entrance Exam and getting accepted into the top department for broadcasting in the country. I would also like to thank everyone here for choosing to come here, for choosing to attend Media College. Around eight years ago, I was sitting here like all of you right now, watching as my teacher gave me my first lesson in university. I could never have expected that, eight years later, I would have the honor of standing here and doing the same." He spread his hands. "In fact, I did not prepare any lecture material for today. I don't have any notes with me, as you can all see. For this first lesson, I just hope to have a good talk with all of you. So there's no need to address me as 'Teacher Zhang' or 'Professor Zhang.' Just call me 'Alum' or 'Old Zhang;' I'm fine with either of those."

All of the freshmen laughed.

"Sure, Old Zhang!"

"Hahaha!"

Zhang Ye looked below and said, "I would first like to ask a question. Why did you all choose to enter the broadcasting major?"

Immediately, countless hands shot up.

Zhang Ye pointed at a girl. "You there, tell me."

The girl stood up excitedly. "Alum, I chose to study broadcasting because of you. My dream is to become an outstanding host like you in the future!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Your answer doesn't sound like you mean it. I think that even if someone else were standing here, you would say the same thing."

Everyone laughed!

The girl was tickled as well!

Zhang Ye picked another person.

A male freshman stood up. "The reason why I chose to study broadcasting is that I like the profession. I think it's really cool."

Zhang Ye asked a few more people and all of them had similar answers. They just liked it.

Zhang Ye asked again, "Then what do you guys think is the most important aspect required for one to do well in the field of broadcasting?"

"Adaptability?"

"I think it's being a good talker!"

"Good looks?"

"Wit has to be the most important thing!"

The answers they gave were slightly more varied this time.

Zhang Ye looked over them. "Every one of you gave different answers to that question, but my opinion is rather different from yours. I feel that the most important aspect in broadcasting is something that all of you have neglected to mention, language. Not just any foreign language, but our very own Chinese language!"

The students in the audience were taken aback!

The Chinese language?

Mandarin? But who wouldn't have a grasp of that?

Su Hongyan looked at the stage curiously.

Zhang Ye smile and pointed into the crowd. "I can see doubt on many of your faces. Everyone here knows how to speak, and by that, I mean that they know how to speak in Mandarin, of course. Otherwise, you wouldn't have passed the Media College Entrance Exam and be sitting here right now. My guess is that all of you are thinking about how to improve your English and pass the CET-4 1 so that you can all graduate from university. That must be the most important thing on everyone's minds, right?"

Quite a few people nodded.

Zhang Ye said, "Actually, I've never been in favor of English being taught as a core subject, and disagree even more about how we have to gain a Band-4 accreditation to be able to graduate from university. As a broadcasting professional, this is simply a penny wise, pound foolish mindset. It is downright misleading!"

The audience burst into an uproar!

Misleading?

Only Zhang Ye would dare to make that claim!

Su Hongyan gave a wry smile. "Dean."

The dean smiled and said, "I knew that he wouldn't give the lesson by the books. It's fine, let's hear what he has to say first."

Zhang Ye added, "Of course, I'm not simply saying this because my English is bad."

Everyone laughed again!

Zhang Ye explained calmly, "Chinese culture is extremely deep, and all knowledge of it is contained within our language. Starting from today, all of you will be introduced to a series of subjects like vocal lessons, speed reading, extemporaneous speeches, and literature and cultural classes. All of them are based on the Chinese language, yet this most important and basic language has been neglected by everyone. Instead, the English language started getting pushed onto the teaching agenda. In overseas markets, only their homegrown hosts would be competent enough to host their own shows. Likewise,

only a Chinese host would be able to do well for our shows in China. Why is that? It's all down to language itself! In the career of broadcasting, language is the divisive point and also the greatest limitation that one can encounter! Even if we were to learn English great, we still couldn't speak it better than native speakers. By the same logic, even if foreigners learned Mandarin well and work in broadcasting in China, they couldn't match up to us! Language is the greatest competitive edge for a host, but look at what we're doing. Rather than valuing the Chinese language, we're placing more emphasis on the English language and minority languages? And use CET-4 and CET-6 to determine whether the students can graduate or not? What's the meaning of this?"

Quite a few freshmen fell into thought.

Zhang Ye asked, "Have you ever seen any overseas broadcasting majors who are required to reach a certain proficiency in the Chinese language? Have you ever come across any international students who aren't allowed to graduate just because they hadn't reached a certain level in Mandarin? None, right?"

Everyone started shaking their heads.

Of course not!

Why would they have to be tested in Mandarin!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "If they're required to be tested on their proficiency of the Chinese language, then I'll be the first to fight for the right to be the question setter. Let me make it difficult for them. If I can write the HSK-4 2 and HSK-6 questions for them, I guarantee that no matter how proficient they are, they won't be able to graduate. Do you guys believe me?"

The freshmen laughed to kingdom come!

"I don't believe you!"

"What kinds of questions will you write?"

"Yeah, tell us!"

"HSK-4 and HSK-6?"

"If foreigners can learn it well, it wouldn't be difficult."

"Yeah, I've even come across foreigners who have great Chinese."

Zhang Ye said, "So no one believes me?"

Everyone cried out, "No, we don't believe it!"

Zhang Ye said with a smile, "Then let me give you guys a few questions to listen to, and let you think about how profound and deep the Chinese language is."

The freshmen were suddenly anticipating it!

The broadcasting major sophomores and juniors who sneaked in also pricked up their ears. They really did not believe that Zhang Ye would be able to make up questions that would befuddle all foreigners!

Zhang Ye said, "The following are HSK-4 test questions. Please listen to the first one."

With a straight face, Zhang Ye said, "A bird shat on the windowsill. Xiaoming's teacher called to him, 'Xiaoming, go clean the bird poop off.'" Taking a pause, he then mimicked a voice of someone surprised and said, "Xiaoming said, 'Off I go!'"

It fell silent!

The entire lecture hall fell silent!

Su Hongyan: "..."

The dean: "..."

The entire group of freshmen: "..."

Zhang Ye asked in seriousness, "The question is, did Xiaoming do any cleaning or just go off?"

Instantly, the entire audience laughed!

"Hahahaha!"

"Off I go?"

"Fuck that 'off I go'!"

"I'll go off on your off I go!"

"Aiyo, I'm dying of laughter!"

Zhang Ye immediately followed up with, "Now for the second question. As the floor was very dirty, the teacher told Xiaoming, 'Xiaoming, scrub the floor clean!'" Pausing, he then widened his eyes and said, "Xiaoming said, 'Scrub that!'"

Su Hongyan burst into laughter!

The dean nearly spat out a glob of saliva!

Zhang Ye said, "The question is, did Xiaoming scrub the floor or not?"

The students were all rolling on the floor laughing!

"Hahahaha!"

"Your sister, what kinds of questions are these!"

"These kinds of questions would never be understood by foreigners!"

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

"Scrub that!"

Some of them were laughing so hard that tears rolled down their cheeks!

Zhang Ye calmly continued, "Please listen to the third question. Xiaohong asked Xiaoming, 'Do we have to bring pens for today's class?' Xiaoming said—" Zhang Ye mimicked, "'—' Dip pens 3 [Depends]!" He

looked over the audience and asked, "The question is, do they need to bring pens for today's class? If they do, what kind of pen do they need to bring?"

"Hahaha!"

"Dip pens!"

"These questions are way too tricky!"

The people in the audience were in stitches. Many of them were cheering and applauding!

Zhang Ye surveyed the crowd and said, "That was only a HSK-4 test question. Now let's listen to a HSK-6 question. This will be a listening multiple choice question."

Everyone was listening with rapt attention.

Zhang Ye said, "Xiaofang said 4, 'Your sister! Yo momma's Aunt Flo has yet to visit this month. Dis big sis is so worried! This is cheating the Allfather!'"

"Hahaha!"

"Hahahahaha!"

Zhang Ye asked, "The question is, who in this passage would be panicking the most?"

Panicking?

If one's Aunt Flo did not arrive, who would be panicking the most?

Pfft! Does that mean she's pregnant?

Everyone laughed loudly again!

Zhang Ye put up a finger. "A: Xiaofang's little sister."

"Pfft!"

"Hahaha!"

Zhang Ye said, "B: Xiaofang's mother."

"Aiyo!"

"I'm tearing up from laughing!"

"C: Xiaofang's big sister."

"Haha!"

"D: Xiaofang's father."

"I'm laughing my ass off!"

"Yes, her father must be panicking the most!"

"E: Xiaofang's Aunt Flo."

"Hahahaha!"

"Hahahahaha!"

Zhang Ye: "F: Xiaofang herself."

"Hahahaha!"

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "And the last option, Xiaofang's boyfriend...Xiaoming!"

When they heard the last option, many of the freshmen and seniors instantly clutched their stomachs as they let out great big laughs. They were finally convinced. If the HSK questions were written by Zhang Ye, all the foreigners taking it would definitely die. These sorts of questions were simply too wicked. Other than the Chinese, who else could understand them!

Applause erupted!

Everyone was clapping with all their might!

Zhang Ye smiled and said to everyone, "See? Isn't the Chinese language extremely profound and deep?"

Everyone nodded their heads furiously!

"Right!"

"It's so extremely deep!"

"I laughed myself dizzy!"

"Why are you so funny, Teacher Zhang!"

"Aiyo, let me keep laughing!"

Zhang Ye said, "Instead of focusing and placing importance on a language that has brought together several thousand years of Chinese history, we have switched our emphasis to something else. That in itself is already a reckless waste. A host depends on their mouth, which is just a channel to bring across a language. In the following four years of your university life, please make sure you put in the effort to learn Mandarin well, because it's the most important skill that you can have as a host, and a skill that dictates where you stand in the industry!" Then, he looked at his watch before smiling and saying, "Alright, that's all for today's lesson. Class is dismissed."

He turned around and stepped off the podium.

All of the students immediately gave an unending standing ovation!

Su Hongyan chuckled, then stood up as well to clap!

The dean and the other professors of the Broadcasting Department did the same!

How wonderful!

It was truly wonderful!

This initiation lecture was really one of a kind. Whether it was from a professional standpoint or the suitability and interest of the subject, all was impeccable. Although the dean felt that there were some controversial points in there, everyone had their own views on things. They could still find common ground in the lesson, but more importantly, the students' interest was piqued right from the start of the lecture until the very end. There was no point during the lecture where anyone's concentration had lapsed. This was what made the lesson even more impressive!

Having Zhang Ye come and give the first lesson was indeed the correct decision!

From the expressions on the students' faces, it looked like they were looking more and more forward to the official start of their classes. All of them seemed to have a very positive attitude in welcoming the start of the new semester!

After the class ended.

The students walked off in groups.

"That was so cool!"

"Yeah, so this is what it means to attend university."

"Everyone says that all the classes in college are so boring and dry, but it doesn't seem like it!"

"I think so too. That was such a wonderful lesson that I don't understand why the upperclassmen would want to skip their classes."

Nearby, when some of the sophomores and juniors heard this, they couldn't help but smile wryly. Just you guys wait until school has officially started. Then you'll see the reality. In all of Media College, only Zhang Ye would dare and be able to lecture this way! None of the other teachers are like this at all!

Chapter 1198: Officially engaged!

On the campus.

The students dispersed.

Su Hongyan went to look for Zhang Ye. "Zhang'er."

Zhang Ye turned around and said with a smile, "Yo, Teacher Su."

"Are you leaving already?" Su Hongyan asked.

Zhang Ye shrugged and said, "Yeah, class has ended, and I have no other business here."

Su Hongyan looked into his eyes and giggled. "You're a natural at teaching. Do come back again when you're free to give the kids a lecture."

Zhang Ye said in surrender, "Oh, spare me, Teacher Su. Shouldn't you know me by now? I might be good at other things, but I'm no good at giving a serious lecture. It's fine if I just come back occasionally to teach, but if you're thinking about getting me to hold classes every day for the students, I won't be able to do that. Besides, I still have a lot of work to handle on my end, so I'll be too busy for such things."

Su Hongyan glanced at him. "There's some good talent in my class; how about taking them under your wing?"

Zhang Ye quickly said, "Are you trying to bring harm upon them?"

Su Hongyan said in a half-threatening manner, "Will you take them or not?"

"Aiya, I will if there's an opportunity, alright?" Zhang Ye said helplessly.

Su Hongyan smiled and said, "OK, you said it yourself. I'll be sure remember it."

Around them, some students passing by spotted them.

"Ah!"

"Professor Zhang!"

"Alum!"

"Alum!"

"Please give me an autograph!"

"Me too!"

"Alum, I have a question to ask you about your line of work."

"I also have something I'd like to consult you about!"

More and more students were gathering around. Su Hongyan walked off with a smile on her face, leaving Zhang Ye to get surrounded by the group of students. He stood there for a long time, signing autographs for them and answering their questions.

The video of Zhang Ye's lecture was uploaded onto the school's intranet.

Many of the students who did not get into the lecture hall or missed the lesson hurriedly clicked on it to watch. They ended up laughing for the entirety of the video!

"Hahaha!"

"Zhang Ye's lesson is so interesting!"

"It's so damn funny!"

"Chinese is still entertaining to learn!"

"Right, let's study it well!"

"Our alum is so cool!"

Quite a few celebrity teachers had been hired by Media College, and many famous hosts who held honorary teaching roles in the college. However, Zhang Ye was the only associate professor in the entire college whose popularity was one of the highest in the country. Zhang Ye was a singer and a poet as well, so not all of his popularity came from him being a host. But he was a true blue broadcasting graduate, and hosting was his main profession. Since he had won both the Silver and Golden

Microphone Awards as a host, even if he could not be considered a spiritual leader of the hosting world, he would still be one of the top hosts around. Not many people would disagree with that.

Naturally, the students were in awe of him.

Because the man they were facing was not just an associate professor or some celebrity, he was the tallest peak in the Chinese world of hosting.

Ring ring ring. His cell phone rang.

As there were too many people around, Zhang Ye did not hear it. It was a female student close to him who alerted him instead. "Alum, is that your phone ringing?"

"Oh, it's really mine." Zhang Ye took it out and saw Wu Zeqing's name on the caller ID. He excused himself from the enthusiastic students and quickly went away to answer the call. "Hello, Old Wu. I just finished lecturing, what's the matter?"

Wu Zeqing said: "I'm at home now. My mother was just asking me about meeting your parents. Hur hur, she's quite anxious about it, so when is a good time?"

They had already talked about the two families meeting with each other, but the exact date was not set yet.

"Any time is fine."

"Are you done with your work?"

"Yes."

"What about your parents?"

"They're just idling at home."

"Then why don't we let them meet today? You can check with them first."

"No need, it shouldn't be a problem."

"Where should we meet?"

"We definitely cannot go out and have dinner. Everyone would recognize me wherever I went, and your status is special too. Uh, why don't we have it at your parents' place?"

"Sure, just check with your parents if they're busy today. We can always arrange for them to meet in a few days."

"What could they be busy with? My mom has been urging me for the past two days as well. Let's just go ahead with this arrangement. I'll give them a call and let you know after I've confirmed it with them."

Zhang Ye made the call on his drive back home.

"Mom, do you want to meet Old Wu's parents today?"

"What time?"

"How about tonight?"

"Great, that's really great. Your dad and I are free anytime!"

"Alright then, I'll come home to pick you two up. Get ready, alright?"

"Alright, alright, I got it."

When he reached home, his parents were changed and ready.

His father had dug up a tunic suit from somewhere that resembled something from 800 years ago. But wearing it, he looked rather spirited, and it did not look outdated on him at all. His mother was checking herself out in front of the mirror.

His father asked, "How did the lecture go?"

Zhang Ye said happily, "So good that there was critical acclaim."

His mother stood up. "Alright, let's go."

"Eh? You want to go now? We arranged the meeting for dinner tonight, so we can leave later in the afternoon," Zhang Ye said.

His mother grinned and said, "What do you know? We have to go out to buy some gifts first, and I have to get my hair done. This is our first time meeting them, so we mustn't be too casual about it, understand?"

His father, who rarely shared the same opinion as her, agreed, "I need to do my hair too. It's been such a long time since I've dyed it. All my grey hairs are starting to reappear."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright then, let's go."

Buying things.

Dyeing their hair.

Doing makeup.

After going around all day, they finally finished at 4 in the afternoon.

...

At Old Wu's residence.

In the courtyard house.

Li Qinqin kept asking, "Are they here yet? Where are they?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "They should be arriving soon."

Wu Changhe worried, "There's no space left in the yard to park the car. Get Little Ye to drive it to the east entrance and park there."

"He knows." Right as Wu Zeqing finished speaking, there was a knock on the courtyard door.

"They're here! They've arrived." Li Qinqin went outside happily to welcome them.

When the door opened, Zhang Ye and his family stepped into the courtyard.

Zhang Ye immediately introduced everyone, "Auntie, Uncle, these are my parents."

Li Qinqin said very passionately, "Brother, Sister, come in quickly."

Wu Changhe did not have his usual stern look and was all smiles. "Come into the house and have a seat. We're probably older than you two by just a few years, so don't mind if we just address you two as brother and sister."

His father smiled and said, "Big Brother, there's no need to be so courteous to us. I've always liked watching you play Go, and now I've finally gotten the chance to meet you in person."

Wu Changhe's eyes lit up. "Bro, you like to play Go too?"

Zhang Ye's mother smiled and said, "He really liked Go in his younger days and was adamant that Little Ye sign up for extracurricular Go classes during elementary school."

"Then let's play two games later," Wu Changhe said happily.

His father quickly waved it off. "I can't, I'm terrible at Go."

Li Qinqin laughed and said, "Changhe will play anyone he can find. Our neighbors used to like visiting our home, but no one comes around these days."

Zhang Ye volunteered himself. "It's alright, I'll play Uncle."

Wu Changhe rolled his eyes and said, "I'm not playing you."

Zhang Ye laughed.

Next to Zhang Ye's parents, Wu Zeqing chuckled and said, "My dad can't beat Little Ye—that's why he's not willing to play him."

Everyone laughed.

In the house, after tea was served, everyone sat down and chatted up a storm.

"Little Wu is such a nice child."

"Little Ye is very nice too, I like him very much."

"It looks like the two of them have been dating for quite some time."

"Yeah, we only found out about it recently as well."

"Say, why did they have to keep it from us?"

"Hur hur, we wouldn't understand what the children these days are thinking."

Their meeting was arranged with the approval of both sides in regards to the relationship between Zhang Ye and Wu Zeqing. So there were no unnecessary issues brought up during the meeting. His parents liked Wu Zeqing, while Li Qinqin and Wu Changhe had also acknowledged Zhang Ye as their

future son-in-law. As for buying a house? The betrothal gifts? None of them mattered since neither family lacked money, so there were no obstacles in their talks. With this common understanding, it was naturally going to be much easier to handle.

It was time for dinner.

Wu Zeqing and Zhang Ye were in charge of cooking today. Of course, the latter's contribution was as good as negligible. Other than messing around in the kitchen, this fellow was basically no help to Old Wu. He even secretly took a few bites of the dishes before serving them.

At the dining table.

Zhang Ye's mother said, "Big Bro, Big Sis, our children's relationship has progressed this far and we didn't know about it. Regarding their engagement, we wonder if you two have any traditions or practices that you might be particular about?"

Li Qinqin immediately waved her hand and said, "Oh, we're not fussy about that."

His father said, "That won't do. We'll do it according to your traditions; we can't ignore them."

Wu Changhe laughed and said, "We aren't particular about it. When I got married to Zeqing's mom, we didn't even have any betrothal gifts. It was just a meal between two families and the wedding was considered complete."

Li Qinqin asked, "Do you have any traditions that need to be observed?"

His father immediately said, "We're not fussy either. We always meant to do it according to your traditions."

Li Qinqin smiled. "We only intended to have our two families meet for a simple meal to confirm the engagement. That's how we did it back then too."

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "Then does it mean that we're engaged as of today?"

Li Qinqin looked at her husband. "I think it counts?"

Wu Changhe nodded and said, "It does!"

His mother exclaimed, "But we haven't prepared anything. The sweets, alcohol, betrothal gifts..."

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "Those are just a formality, so let's not be too particular about them. We'll talk about the formalities again when it's time to hold their wedding."

His mother said excitedly, "Alrighty then, let's make today the day of our children's engagement!"

Wu Changhe said, "We're one big family now."

Li Qinqin asked, "As for their wedding, do you intend to make it a grand one or a simple one?"

"It has to be a grand wedding!" his mother said.

His father nodded. "Right, we'll hold a grand wedding for them."

Li Qinqin was thinking the same. "Then we'll leave it to you. If there's anything you need our help with, feel free to let us know. We can help out too."

His mother was smiling from ear to ear. "Don't worry, we'll handle everything. I'll check the almanac for an auspicious day when I get home, then we'll set a wedding date for them."

Li Qinqin said, "Alright."

Wu Changhe raised his glass and said, "Brother, a toast."

"Cheers." His father clinked glasses with Wu Changhe.

Wu Zeqing stood up with a smile. "Uncle, Auntie, I can't hold my liquor well, so I'll use this cup of tea in place of wine to toast you two."

Zhang Ye hurriedly raised his glass and said to Old Wu's parents, "Uncle, Auntie, let me toast you two too. In the future, you can summon me anytime you need a hand at home. Just order me around like I'm your own son."

Li Qinqin was all smiles. "Sure, sure."

This was meant to be a meeting over dinner between the two families. But they never expected that this meal would end up as their official engagement party. Zhang Ye was so happy that he drank a lot more glasses of wine!

Chapter 1199: 'When You Are Old'!

At night.

It was past 8 PM.

Zhang Ye's dad and Wu Changhe were having a game of Go in the room. His mother and Li Qinqin were both chatting happily as they discussed how the wedding should be held. Meanwhile, Zhang Ye and Wu Zeqing were spending time together in the west wing.

In the bedroom.

Zhang Ye was finally getting buzzed from drinking too much. He was starting to mumble a lot as he hugged Old Wu's waist.

Wu Zeqing gently massaged his temples for him. "If you can't drink, don't drink that much."

"Hai, I was just really happy today," Zhang Ye said exuberantly.

Old Wu chuckled. "For something that was set in stone long ago, why are you only feeling happy today?"

Zhang Ye laughed, "Haha, that's different. How can we compare setting it in stone with actually being engaged? Today, everything has been officially decided, so I'm finally feeling relieved."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Were you afraid that I would run off with someone else?"

Zhang Ye was amused. "That's not it. I doubt you'd find anyone as good as me anyway."

Wu Zeqing squeezed his temples. "Hur hur, that's true."

There was no joking around.

There was no teasing either.

Just a simple and assuring "that's true."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "If there's anything I am afraid of, there's just one thing."

Wu Zeqing asked, "Tell me."

Zhang Ye smacked his lips and said, "I'm afraid that all of this is just a dream. And when I open my eyes tomorrow, I'll wake up from it just like that."

The meaning behind these words would not be understood by anyone but Zhang Ye. To open one's eyes and see the world totally changed, to come to a place where one was a total stranger, he couldn't finish talking about it even if he had three days and three nights to do so. His experience so far was nothing short of mythical. Even if he were to tell it to anyone, no one would believe him. Sometimes, Zhang Ye really was scared he would wake up one day to find Old Wu no longer around and that everything else would disappear as well.

Old Wu replied, "There are times I feel afraid too."

Zhang Ye looked at her and asked, "What are you afraid of?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "I'm afraid that I'll wake up one day and see that you're still young while I have become old."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "You're so good at taking care of yourself, so how could that happen? C'mon, even if it was about getting old, I would be the one to age first. You're only a few years older than me, so I'd definitely age much faster."

Old Wu suddenly said, "If one day, I were to really grow old, would you—"

Footfalls interrupted her as they approached and the door opened.

Li Qinqin, Wu Changhe, and his parents had all come over.

Li Qinqin overheard the last part of their conversation, so she asked, "What about growing old?"

Wu Zeqing said gently, "It's nothing."

Wu Changhe said, "Your auntie and uncle said that they're leaving soon."

"It's getting quite late, so we'd better get going," his mother said with a smile.

Zhang Ye stood up. "Alright then, Auntie and Uncle, we'll be going."

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "Come over when you're free. There's no need to call, just come as you please."

Zhang Ye grinned and said, "Don't worry, I'll treat this place like my own home and won't stand on ceremony. Oh yes, about that rosewood chair Uncle has, it looks really nice. Can I bring it home?"

Wu Changhe rolled his eyes. "How dare you!"

His mother whacked him on the back. "You're really not standing on ceremony, huh!"

Li Qinqin giggled, "Hahahaha."

Everyone laughed.

At the entrance of the courtyard, Old Wu's family were seeing Zhang Ye's family off.

When they returned back into the house, Li Qinqin casually asked, "Zeqing, what were you and Little Ye talking about earlier?"

Wu Changhe said, "Why are you poking your nose into the lovebirds' affairs for?"

"I'm just asking out of concern." Li Qinqin rolled her eyes at him and said, "Why do you keep involving yourself with everything. Just go and play Go and leave us mother and daughter be."

Wu Changhe harrumphed at them and returned to his room to switch on the computer.

A moment later, Wu Changhe exclaimed from inside his room, "Eh, my daughter, come over quick. Little Ye has just updated his Weibo a moment ago!"

Li Qinqin rushed over as well. "Didn't he just get in the car?"

Wu Changhe said, "He probably updated it from his phone."

Wu Zeqing also went closer and lowered her head to see.

" When You Are Old 1 "

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;
How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;
And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

—Written on September 9th.

—I, Lord Zhang, got engaged!

Li Qinqin smiled. "Oh, that Little Ye."

Wu Changhe pointed at the poem on the screen and said dismissively, "Look at this, how hackneyed can he get? When you're old? When you're old and grey? What day and age is it? Do people still fall for sweet nothings like that?"

Beside, Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "I do."

Wu Changhe was speechless.

Li Qinqin said, "You're just jealous of Little Ye's literary talent. Dearest daughter, you just don't know how your dad wooed me back then. He wrote letters to me and would always start them off with 'My dear comrade Qinqin.' Ooh, it gave me such goosebumps back then."

Wu Changhe was furious. "Li Qinqin, are you looking for a fight?"

Li Qinqin pouted and said, "See, he's panicking now that I've mentioned it."

Wu Zeqing stood there smiling, but her eyes fell back to the poem. In just a short span, she read it many, many times.

...

Meanwhile.

It blew up on Weibo!

When that poem was released, heroes from all over the place flocked to it. Zhang Ye's followers on Weibo had reached more than 10 million people a long time ago. On top of that, he did not usually post on Weibo. And when his Weibo was updated, it was rarely about his current status, pictures, or minor details of his life. It was always either used for writing poems or scolding people. In any case, it would always lead to major events, so the citizens and media personnel always paid close attention to it in case it got updated.

It was the same today.

The moment everyone saw the post, all of them were dumbfounded!

"Holy shit!"

"Teacher Zhang's gotten engaged?"

"What? That's impossible!"

"Someone is willing to marry such an immoral guy? Who would be so bold!"

"Hahaha, could it be that girl who is like a lilac in one of his poems?"

"I guess it should be her! Who could she be?"

"A celebrity? Or could it be just an ordinary girl?"

"Dunno, there's no news at all!"

"Those paparazzi suck at their jobs. Lord Zhang has gotten engaged, but they don't even know who the woman is? We need to give them negative reviews!"

"What a beautiful poem!"

"Zhang Ye's love poems are always different from other people's!"

"It's obvious he's been spoiled happy today. He even called himself 'Lord Zhang'! How shameless can he get! Haha!"

"No matter what, we ought to congratulate Zhang Ye first!"

"Show us her picture!"

"@ZhangYe! Which girl are you marrying?"

"They must have been secretly dating for a long time. Otherwise, they wouldn't have announced the engagement like this. Our media is behind the times, Zhang Ye has kept it too well-hidden!"

"I thought that with Teacher Zhang's temper, he would never find a partner in his lifetime."

"Pfft, I thought so too!"

"I just wonder who Mrs. Zhang is going to be!"

"Come on out, Mrs. Zhang!"

"Summoning Mrs. Zhang, please show yourself immediately!"

The netizens were stirring up a commotion!

Zhang Ye's looks had always been his disadvantage, but there were times when it turned into an advantage for him.

Although his appearance was not remarkable, it was a bit above average. So he clearly could not take the journey of an idol. He could only work harder and put in more effort than the other idols to be able to make a name for himself in the entertainment industry. Every step of his had been extremely difficult. But likewise, now that he had climbed to his current position, it did not really have much of an effect on his popularity even when he announced that he was getting engaged. There was no need for him to hide or keep it a secret. He could openly make the announcement by posting it onto Weibo.

Others would not dare to do so!

Like Dong Shanshan.

Like Huo Dongfang.

Like Ning Lan.

Like Zhang Yuanqi.

Some celebrities would have a clause in their contracts with their talent agencies to not get into a relationship for a certain number of years. All of this was done to prevent them from losing popularity, since some fans were pragmatic and would go to similar celebrities and become their fans if they knew their idol had gotten married. Countless cases happened in which many celebrities lost a great deal of their popularity after announcing their marriage. Of course, there were some who managed to maintain their fan bases, but no one really dared to take such a gamble.

However, Zhang Ye was not afraid of this. He really was not afraid.

That was why he could behave so much more freely than any of the other celebrities.

Chapter 1200: The top few spots of the entertainment industry!

After returning home.

Before they even opened the door, they heard the phone in the living room ringing.

His mother picked up her pace to answer the call. It was from Zhang Ye's third uncle.

"Sis, Little Ye has gotten engaged?"

"Haha, yes."

"Aiyo, why didn't we know anything about this!"

"No one knew."

"Whose family's kid is it?"

"Little Ye won't allow me to say it. He wants to keep it a secret."

"We're all one family. Why's there a need to keep it a secret?"

"Hehe, because my daughter-in-law is someone special."

The calls kept coming one after another. There were calls from his maternal grandma, his uncles and aunties. When they found out about the news, all of them called over in surprise and tried their hardest to find out who his fiancée was. His mother wanted, of course, to say who it was. She had been forcing herself so hard to keep her lips sealed in recent days. But due to the fact that the engagement was very important and of great public concern, coupled with the fact that Wu Zeqing was no ordinary woman, she prevented herself from revealing the secret for the time being.

Zhang Ye was also busy taking calls on his cell phone.

Or, to be exact, he took the initiative to call every one of his friends. He did not wait for them to ask. Instead, he called them to let them know about the good news, happy as a clam!

First, he made a call to Yao Jiancai, his old partner he was on the best terms with.

"Old Yao, I've gotten engaged."

"Don't joke."

"Damn, I really did!"

"You don't even have a girlfriend, so who are you getting engaged to?"

"Heh, who says that I don't have a girlfriend?"

"Kid, are you telling the truth?"

"It's so true that it can't get any more true. Hurry up and congratulate me."

"Congratulations! Ai, which family's daughter was unlucky enough to get picked by you?"

"Your sister!"

Then he called Beijing Television's Hu Fei.

"Brother Hu."

"I saw your Weibo, what's up with that?"

"Haha, I just got engaged."

"This came too suddenly, but it's still good news! Congratulations!"

"Thank you."

"When's the wedding?"

"It should be soon."

"Great, let us know when the date is set. We'll definitely be there!"

"That's a must!"

Over a dozen calls were made, and Zhang Ye informed all those he could inform. When he finally checked his cell phone, the Celebrity Goof Group was also exploding with messages. Everyone in there was trying to guess who Zhang Ye's fiancée was.

Ning Lan: "Haha, who do you guys think is so unlucky?"

Fan Wenli: "lol"

Chen Guang: "Boss Zhang has kept the secret amazingly well. Even I did not know a thing about it!"

Huo Dongfang: "Anyway, congratulations!"

Xiaodong: "Ahhhh, could Boss Zhang just be joking around?"

Chen Guang: "That might be the case too. Hardly anything honest ever spews out of his mouth."

At this moment, Zhang Ye appeared. "It's not a joke, I'm serious."

Amy sent a voice message that said: "You've finally shown yourself! Everyone here is guessing whether she's also in our industry. So then, who is it? I'm so curious!"

Everyone kept flooding the chat group with messages and were constantly asking who it was!

Many of the big name celebrities lurking in the group also came out to observe the ruckus.

Zhang Ye answered: "She's both in and not in showbiz."

Ning Lan: "Do we know her?"

Zhang Ye thought for a moment, then typed up a response with a smile on his face. "You've all probably heard of her, but I'm not sure if you know her personally. I'll keep it a secret for now and announce it when we're getting married."

Director Li Ke: "Are you trying to suffocate us with suspense?"

Fan Wenli: "When will the wedding reception be held?"

Zhang Ye: "Hai, it's not set yet."

Li Xiaoxian laughed. "But I must admit, Teacher Zhang's way of dealing with this is so cool. He can announce such news as he wishes, or get married if he decides to, unlike the rest of us. We even have to keep a low profile when we're meeting up with a male friend as we're afraid that it will lead to gossip and cause our popularity to drop, much less talk about marriage. I really envy Teacher Zhang for that."

Amy sighed. "That's right. Lord Zhang's fanbase is far more dependable than ours. Now that he's reached where he is, he doesn't have to worry about anything else. But for us, we're still unable to get past the issue of marriage. I wonder how many people can get past it."

Ning Lan: "Amy, you're dating?"

Amy: "Would I dare?"

Xiaodong: "Heehee, Amy's thinking of earning more money first before getting married when she no longer has anything to worry about. By then, she'll have officially bid farewell from the entertainment industry."

Everyone started discussing how "celebrities could get married without losing fans" and engaged in deep discussion. Using Zhang Ye as an example, and highlighting many other cases of celebrities in the entertainment industry, they did some analysis before finally arriving at a surprising conclusion—how can a celebrity get married without losing fans?

Hur hur!

Only God would know something like that!

On the very same night, the media was also having a grand ol' time.

"Zhang Ye announces his engagement!"

"The great reveal of Zhang Ye's fiancée!"

"Breaking news! Zhang Ye secretly obtains certificate of marriage!"

"According to eyewitnesses, Zhang Ye often has late night meetings with Dong Shanshan!"

"The exclusive reveal of Zhang Ye's fiancée: university classmate Yu Yingyi!"

There were all kinds of rumors, many of them sounding very official and true. All kinds of expertly photoshopped pictures started appearing as well, but were in fact just random people trying to ride the wave. In the end, they even bamboozled some of the official media outlets who started blindly analyzing things without verifying sources. A lot of people swore they figured out who it was.

Without even looking at it, Zhang Ye knew they had gotten it all wrong. If anyone really knew who his fiancée was, they would never release the news just like that.

...

At night.

After the commotion died down, everyone got on with their own things again.

Zhang Ye browsed the updated Chinese Celebrity Rankings Index and checked on his current ranking. He was still in first place in the A-list rankings and his popularity score had grown by quite a bit again. But looking at the few people in the S-list rankings who were standing at the top of the entertainment industry, he was still not closing in on their popularity score by much. Of those top few people, someone had just played the main lead of a movie that grossed over 300 million RMB in the box office, while another's new TV drama set the country ablaze. There was also someone whose new song had jumped into the middle of the charts on an authoritative international music chart. Every one of them was better than the other.

Zhang Ye was very popular!

But so were the others! They were also building on their fanbases every day!

Although, among those at the top, there was a Heavenly King whose popularity was no longer as great as his younger days and was going downhill without gaining much popularity these days. But a starving camel is still bigger than a horse. With so many years of accumulated popularity, he was not someone Zhang Ye could easily surpass in a short amount of time. The S-list rankings had not been updated in so long. It had always been those few who ruled the entertainment industry and was a place so monolithic that there had barely been any changes to it.

Looking at those familiar names, Zhang Ye made up his mind. After getting engaged, his fighting spirit and motivation were kindled. All he was thinking about was how to break into that monolith and gain a foothold in the S-list rankings.

Impossible?

Unrealistic?

That wasn't something that Zhang Ye was willing to consider!

Because this was something that he had to do sooner or later!

There was still a very large gap between the A- and S-list rankings. If one could really break into the S-list, the position would probably not matter since it was theoretically not much of a difference who ranked higher or lower. They were revered all the same and were at the top of the food chain. But an A-list celebrity was just different from an S-list celebrity. No matter how close one's popularity score was to theirs, the status was just not the same—this was also why Zhang Ye was so stubborn about climbing

to the very top. He had already opened his account on the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index, but he didn't pay much attention to it because he knew that he needed to get to the top in China first. Only with that base could he have a future within Asia and aim for the international entertainment scene. Otherwise, if he were to aim for the international market without having gained a proper foothold domestically, it would obviously not be reliable. Everything had to be done in a fastidious and proper way.

He would just have to put this on the agenda then!

He needed to secure one of these top spots in the Chinese entertainment industry!