

## Superstar 1361

### Chapter 1361: Documentary Interview: A Day in the Life of Zhang Ye!

On the fourth day of the new year.

In the morning, the newspapers went on sale.

“Birth of a Heavenly King!”

“Zhang Ye mightily ascends to summit!”

“Showbiz could be entering new era!”

Many celebrities offer congratulations on Weibo!”

“Zhang Ye reaches new popularity high!”

Switching on the television, it was all news of Zhang Ye as well.

Central TV: “Tonight, A Date with Yan Mei will have a special feature episode. The famous interview host, Yan Mei, shall be taking a step into Zhang Ye’s house to bring everyone the realest side of him. They will be following Zhang Ye around for a day to document his private and work life on camera. Are you ready for Zhang Ye’s first appearance since he became a Heavenly King?”

On Weibo.

“Wow!”

“It’s coming, it’s coming!”

“Haha, A Date with Yan Mei is coming!”

“I’m really looking forward to the interview.”

“Right, I’ve never seen Zhang Ye in his daily life before.”

“It’s his debut appearance on a show after becoming a Heavenly King!”

“I have been watching this show. It’s rather interesting!”

“I just want to see Wu Zeqing!”

“Pfft! Actually, me too. Chief Wu is so beautiful!”

“If Zhang Ye’s wife had abandoned public office to join the entertainment industry, she would definitely be much more popular than this fellow!”

“Hahahaha, agreed!”

“Just for Chief Wu alone, I have become a flamer-turned-fan of the SARFT!”

“Pfft, the interview is with Zhang Ye. Can you guys be serious?”

“They should already be filming it now, right?”

“Let’s wait for tonight to watch!”

“+1!”

...

At home.

It was past 7 AM.

Zhang Ye was up very early today because he had an appointment for an interview. However, he did not expect that Yan Mei and her team would be even earlier. He had just opened his eyes when the doorbell downstairs rang.

“Oh, they’re here?”

“I think so.”

“Can you answer the door, Old Wu?”

“OK.”

Wu Zeqing went to open the door.

Zhang Ye yawned as he made his way down the stairs. He and Yan Mei were already very familiar with each other as they had worked together during the Spring Festival Gala.

Outside the door, a casually dressed Yan Mei was standing there with a smile. Behind her was only a single cameraman. The camera was already on and recording. From the time Yan Mei had knocked on the door, the camera was already recording. They were here to document Zhang Ye’s day at home and work after all, so it would surely be recording throughout the day.

Yan Mei smiled and said, “Chief Wu, happy New Year.”

Wu Zeqing smiled. “You’re here? Come on in.”

The camera focused on her for a short while.

“Ay, sorry to disturb you.” Yan Mei stepped into the house and said with her head lowered, “I have to change into slippers, right?”

Zhang Ye came up to them and said generously, “Hai, there’s no need. Just walk around as you like and treat this as your own home.”

The camera shifted focus to Zhang Ye.

Yan Mei smiled and said, “Director Zhang, I’ll be following you around today. Wherever you go to, I’ll be coming along too. Whatever you eat, I will be having it as well, so please do take care of me.”

Zhang Ye said, “That depends on how big of an appetite you have.”

Yan Mei smiled. “I can eat quite a lot.”

Zhang Ye said, "Then let me think if I should take care of you."

The few of them laughed.

Yan Mei said, "There's actually nothing too special about today's interview, just go on with your daily life as usual and chat with me when you can spare some time. You can ignore me when you're busy, but I'll be following and observing you."

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "Just go on with my daily life as usual?"

Yan Mei nodded and smiled. "Yes, we want to capture the realest side of how you live."

Zhang Ye turned around and walked away. "Alright."

"Oh? Where are you going?" Yan Mei was taken aback.

Zhang Ye said, "I'll head back to bed for another two hours. I usually sleep until 9 AM."

Yan Mei giggled, "Pfft!"

The cameraman also burst out laughing!

Wu Zeqing grinned. "Ignore him, that's how he is."

Zhang Ye was just kidding anyway, so of course he didn't really head back to bed.

Yan Mei looked at Wu Zeqing. "Is your husband always like this?"

Wu Zeqing laughed and said, "Yes, he's usually like this, always joking."

Yan Mei asked, "May I look around your house?"

"Sure, please feel free." Wu Zeqing did not stay with them and headed off to make breakfast.

Upstairs.

Yan Mei and the cameraman came up.

Zhang Ye was brushing his teeth in the bathroom when he saw her coming up. He mumbled with the toothbrush still in his mouth, "Old Yan, you two haven't had breakfast yet, right?"

Yan Mei said, "Not yet."

Zhang Ye said happily, "It's not that I'm bragging, but you should try my wife's cooking. I guarantee you that you won't want to leave after today." He spat out the toothpaste foam without a care, then rinsed his mouth and spat out the water before saying again, "Don't doubt me; I'm not lying."

Yan Mei said, looking forward to it, "You're making me hungry."

Zhang Ye wiped his face and stepped out in his slippers. "You're hungry? Come, let's go."

Breakfast was ready.

Yan Mei said politely, "Thank you, Chief Wu."

Wu Zeqing said, "No need to be so polite."

Yan Mei said, "Do you usually make the meals at home?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "I don't really have time to cook often. He's busy with his work and I'm busy with mine as well, so we don't usually get to have dinner together."

Zhang Ye was really showing off. "Here, take a bite."

"Sure." Yan Mei picked up the chopsticks and tasted the food. She then gave a surprised expression. "This is really too good!"

Zhang Ye laughed heartily. "See, I wasn't lying, right?"

Yan Mei immediately turned to the camera and said, "It's not that I'm being flattering here, but this is so good that I could die."

Zhang Ye boasted, "You still haven't had a taste of my wife's specialty dishes. Let's wait for lunch so that you can find out for yourself what I mean."

Ring, ring, ring.

At this moment, Zhang Ye's cell phone rang.

He picked it up and said, "Old Ha, what's the matter—OK, OK—Yes, I understand. Let's talk when I get back to the office—alright, sure."

They hung up.

Zhang Ye said to Old Wu. "Something has come up at the studio. I have to go back to the office for a bit."

Wu Zeqing asked, "Will you be back for lunch?"

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "I'll have to see. I might not be able to if it gets busy over there."

After breakfast, Zhang Ye put on his jacket and left.

Yan Mei and the cameraman followed him into the car.

In the car, Zhang Ye stepped on the accelerator and drove out of the neighborhood. Then, he turned his head to the front passenger seat where Yan Mei was sitting and said, "Sometimes, I feel sorry for my wife. A lot of times after she's finished cooking, and just as I'm picking up my chopsticks to eat, I receive a call about some urgent matters that I have to attend to immediately. There are times when I really feel like taking a break for half a year, but it's not something that I can do. People like us who do this for a living, can we really just take a break whenever we want? Are we just going to ignore the viewers? Abandon our work? Disregard the fans? There are so many people waiting to see us, and so many people depending on us for their livelihoods as well, so how can we just drop everything without a care? We have to get to our feet even if we're paralyzed!"

Yan Mei sighed and said, "I have it a little better than you. My workload is not that great, although it does get quite busy at times and I can't go home since I travel for work."

Zhang Ye asked, "Old Yan, are you single?"

Yan Mei smiled and said, "I'm currently single. My marriage broke down precisely because we couldn't understand each other's work commitments. I don't think I'll settle down again before retirement."

The atmosphere became a little heavy.

Both of them understood this feeling quite well.

Zhang Ye was driving along when he suddenly started talking to himself.

"Worried my affection breaks my vows, <sup>1</sup>

"Still fearful of beauty's allure in seclusion.

"In this world, who can fulfill both callings?

"Faithful to Buddha, faithful to you."

Yan Mei fell silent. This poem had mercilessly struck at her heart!

The cameraman also drew in a deep breath.

"Director Zhang."

"Eh?"

"May I request for a piece of calligraphy from you?"

"What calligraphy?"

"The poem you just recited."

"Sure, I'll get someone to send it over to you after I write it down."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome."

### **Chapter 1362: A song called 'The Clown'!**

Later that morning.

Jiaomen East.

In the neighborhood the studio was located, Zhang Ye's car got surrounded by reporters the moment it drove in.

A large number of fans were also crowding around and shouting Zhang Ye's name.

"Zhang Ye!"

"Please give me an autograph!"

"Congratulations to you!"

“Heavenly King!”

“Heavenly King!”

“Zhang Ye, I love you!”

It was bustling and alive in the neighborhood.

In the car, Yan Mei was wordlessly marveling at this. It was the first time she was witnessing Zhang Ye’s popularity up-close. “What do we do now?”

Zhang Ye was clearly very familiar with such situations. “Just stay in the car and wait.”

He opened the car door and got down to walk towards the fans. He signed autographs for them one by one while answering questions from the reporters who were standing close by their audio recorders and microphones out. Soon after, Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others rushed forward to take over the task of handling the reporters. Meanwhile, Zhang Ye finished signing autographs for the fans and also satisfied all requests of taking photos with them. In the end, he excused himself from his fans, and they were also very understanding about it, parting to let him through.

“Thank you!”

“Thank you, Teacher Zhang!”

“Love you to death!”

“Lord Zhang, I’ll always support you!”

“Teacher Zhang, I just enjoy watching you scolding people!”

“Haha, I finally have a picture together with Teacher Zhang!”

“I even got to touch his hand! Heehee, I’ve decided not to wash my hands for the next three days!”

Zhang Ye got back onto the car and drove in.

Yan Mei did not quite understand the situation. “Are you like this every day?”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “What do you mean?”

Yan Mei asked, “Don’t you avoid the reporters?”

Zhang Ye said, “If I have urgent matters to attend to, there’s no choice but to avoid them. But if I’m free, I’ll answer as many questions as I can. The larger news agencies and TV stations can easily schedule an appointment for an interview, just like in your case. But the smaller media outlets don’t even have a chance to do so, so it isn’t easy for them too. Some of them start staking out at 5 AM during the winter while it’s snowing heavily just for a chance to ask some questions but might not even get any work accomplished for their efforts. I just have to answer some simple questions that they pose or do an impromptu interview with them, none of which takes up too much time. But because of that, they might be able to keep their jobs and bring home the bacon for their families, so what does it matter to me to just say a few extra words to them?”

Hearing that, Yan Mei was taken aback!

She was really taken aback!

Yan Mei said, "Director Zhang, this is the first time I've heard such words from a celebrity. You're such a kind person."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Kind? There aren't too many people who would describe me as that."

They got out of the car.

Yan Mei shook her head. "Nobody would give autographs and take pictures with their fans one by one either, especially for a celebrity of your status. I've heard before that you never reject your fans' requests for autographs and pictures, but I thought that was just a rumor. Now that I've seen it for myself, I finally believe it. You're really kind."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "It's not easy for someone to like another person. So just based on that, if they request an autograph, would it really be right to reject them? It's not a matter of whether I am kind or not, haha. I also do not think that I'm a kind person anyway. All I keep doing is taking advantage of other people every day. You just haven't seen how I get scolded by them."

Ha Qiqi and the others returned after they finished handling the reporters.

Everyone went upstairs together.

Zhang Ye said as he walked, "I've always been someone who would not let others be happy if they made me unhappy. If they make me happy, I'll surely make them happy as well. We only have status as celebrities because of the fans and the ordinary folks supporting us. It's all due to them that we are who we are. Otherwise, we couldn't have the good food and clothes that we have. If someone saw you on the streets and called out to you: 'Hey, Zhang Ye, can I take a picture with you?', would you just turn your head and leave? If that happened, that person would probably be very disappointed in you for their entire life. It's just a few seconds of your time; surely it wouldn't hurt to make someone happy if you could spare it, right?"

Yan Mei sincerely said, "I've learned something."

She now realized that Zhang Ye was different from all the other celebrities that she had interviewed before!

No fronts.

No hypocrisy.

No deceit.

This was just someone who was very sincere, even if he had some shortcomings here and there.

When they got upstairs, Zhang Ye began working.

Yan Mei stayed close by to observe. No one was bothered by her presence.

His work today required his urgent attention. The executive director of the Spring Lantern Festival Gala <sup>1</sup>, which would be taking place in a few days, had come to seek advice from Zhang Ye. Even if

Director Shen was much older than him, and was also a veteran gala director of Central TV, he still came over with the sincere hope that he could learn something from Zhang Ye.

"Little Zhang, you've gotta help me out!"

"Old Shen, take a seat."

"Help me look at this skit."

"Alright, let me go through it."

"I think it's not too bad, but it still feels like something is lacking."

"Oh, I've gone through this skit by Old He before."

"Yes, it's one of the skits that was submitted for the Spring Festival Gala's first approval session."

"Then I'll share with you my personal views on it. I think that the problem with this skit lies here—"

He kept working until noon.

After Director Shen left.

Zhang Ye said to Yan Mei, "Let's go, back to my place for lunch."

But Ha Qiqi said, "Director Zhang, the advertisers will be arriving very soon."

Zhang Ye asked, "There's still more work?"

Ha Qiqi nodded and said, "You've just broken into the S-list, so two of our endorsement advertisers would like to make some changes to their ad campaigns. They want to make use of your ascension into the S-list as part of their ad campaign, but since their advertisements were planned out by you, they're requesting that you go through it first. They only dare to submit it if it's to your agreement."

Zhang Ye checked his watch. "When are they arriving?"

Ha Qiqi said, "In 15 minutes."

Zhang Ye looked at Yan Mei helplessly, "Are you fine with eating box lunch?"

"I'll have whatever you're having," Yan Mei said with a smile.

Zhang Ye called Little Wang over. "Bring us meals quickly. We still have lots of work to attend to after lunch."

Then he called Old Wu.

"Old Wu, we won't be able to go back for lunch."

"It's fine."

"Eat by yourself, don't wait for me."

"Alright, what about dinner?"



"I'm not sure, we'll see how that goes."

At 2:30 PM.

The advertisement matters were finalized and tied up.

Zhang Ye was just about to take a break when something else popped up.

His Weibo account and official website were attacked by hackers. Initial investigations judged that the attack was carried out spontaneously by the fans of the previous Heavenly King who had been replaced by Zhang Ye.

"What are the losses like?"

"There isn't really much of a loss, but the effect from the attack is pretty big."

"Your Weibo account has really been hacked this time."

"Pfft! Director Zhang has said that his account was hacked so many times in the past. It looks like it has happened for real this time!"

"You guys still have time to crack jokes? Damn, hurry up and handle the issue!"

Past 3 in the afternoon.

The issue was finally resolved.

Zhang Ye said to Yan Mei, "So how is it? Wasn't it really boring to follow me around for today's interview? I don't really have much to do here except to deal with crap."

Yan Mei smiled and said, "It's indeed quite different from what I was expecting."

Zhang Ye looked at his watch. "Is the interview ending soon?"

Yan Mei nodded. "Thank you for your time today, Director Zhang. Congratulations again for getting into the domestic S-list. I also wish that you can continue going higher and further from here."

Zhang Ye said happily, "Thank you."

Yan Mei looked at him and said, "So at the end of it all, there's one last question I have for you. I've been thinking about something all this while during the interview, but I just can't figure it out, nor could I come to a proper conclusion. Therefore, I would like to ask you: What do you think being a celebrity means?"

What did it mean to be a celebrity?

What was a celebrity?

This was quite a difficult question to answer.

Ha Qiqi looked at Zhang Ye.

Little Wang glanced over.

Zhang Zuo, Wu Yi, and the others sat down to listen.

After some thought, Zhang Ye suddenly raised his head and looked at a wall with a mask was hanging from it. It was the mask of The Clown from his time on King of Masked Singers. He had kept it with him all this time and hung it on the wall. He asked, “Old Yan, do you know about this mask?”

Yan Mei smiled and said, “It’s The Clown’s mask.

Zhang Ye said without warning, “Would you like to listen to a song?”

Yan Mei did not catch his drift. “Listen to a song?”

Zhang Ye laughed and said, “Would you?”

Little Wang raised her hand. “I wanna, I wanna!”

Wu Yi laughed and said, “Of course!”

Tong Fu applauded. “Director Zhang, hit us with it!”

Yan Mei looked at him. “Of course I’d like to listen to it.”

Zhang Ye walked over and picked up a guitar. However, he did not sit down, leaning against the wall as he strummed the strings.

Everyone was applauding and cheering as they waited for Zhang Ye to showcase his singing!

...

On the same night.

A Date with Yan Mei was broadcast.

Zhang Ye’s interview had been edited into an hour-long show. Countless people were sitting and watching TV as they waited to see Zhang Ye’s first appearance on television since reaching the summit. They were all looking forward to seeing what Zhang Ye would say to the world.

His mother was watching.

His father was watching.

His sisters were watching.

Wu Zeqing was watching.

Zhang Yuanqi was watching.

Zhang Xia was watching.

Ning Lan was watching.

Yao Jiancai was watching.

The other Heavenly Kings and Queens were watching.

Everyone in the entertainment circle was watching.

The country's citizens were all watching.

They thought that Zhang Ye would be extremely happy!

They thought that Zhang Ye would be in high spirits!

They even thought that Zhang Ye might speak conceitedly during the show. Reaching the summit of the entertainment circle was something that many celebrities would never achieve in their lives!

But that didn't happen!

There wasn't any of that at all!

When that song played, when that sorrowful melody sounded from the television, everyone was stunned agape as they watched Zhang Ye play the guitar and sing onscreen. Sorrowful? Why was it a sorrowful melody? Celebrity? What did it mean to be a celebrity?

Zhang Ye's was singing in a deep voice <sup>2</sup>.

"Applause rings out amid the shouts and cheers.

"Smiles welling up along with tears.

"The rising curtain delivers you happiness.

"The falling curtain reserves solitude for him.

"How much practice and how many tears,

"Does it take to stand right here?

"The pain of failure, the encouragement from success.

"Does anyone know how much time and effort it took to progress?

"The clown.

"The clown.

"He who turns sadness into delight.

"And presents it to you."

On TV.

The camera cut to Yan Mei. Everyone could see that tears were flooding down her face!

Watching TV.

Fan Wenli looked shocked!

Zhang Xia's eyes reddened!

Chen Guang sighed as he stared out the window!

Zhang Yuanqi closed her eyes and thought of many things!

Yao Jiancai sighed and sniffed!

His mother looked at her son and felt very heartbroken!

Dong Shanshan was stunned and her tears started falling for some reason!

“The clown.

“The clown.

“He who turns sadness into delight.

“And presents...it...to...you.”

A Date with Yan Mei concluded.

But a lot of people watching TV could not calm down for the longest time!

Many of them had been deeply moved by this song called “The Clown”!

What was a celebrity?

Perhaps this was what it meant to be a celebrity!

### **Chapter 1363: Competing for heaps of the highest awards!**

The next day.

There were reposts all over Weibo!

It was also heavily reposted on everyone’s Moments!

Zhang Ye’s interview was on fire!

The poem and song were extremely touching!

In the impressions of many people around the country, Zhang Ye had always been a comedian. He was often known for starting trouble, taking advantage of people, and dealing many face smacking moments to others. He also entertained the public from time to time and had some stunning works as well, which were either amazing, funny, or wondrous. He was always able to bring laughter and joy to everyone. A lot of people would break out into laughter the moment they saw him. So they subconsciously thought that Zhang Ye would also be the same in his private life.

But after watching A Date with Yan Mei.

When they saw the most authentic side of Zhang Ye’s daily life.

When that poem was presented in a self-questioning sort of way.

When that song was sung with a sorrowful voice.

Many of the people fell silent. A lot of people also teared up over it. A song Zhang Ye sang spontaneously at his studio had touched many of them!

...

At the studio.

Everyone was replaying the interview from yesterday even though they had already watched it countless times.

When Zhang Ye arrived, everyone gathered around him and started chattering away.

"Director Zhang, good morning!"

"Director Zhang is here, Director Zhang is here!"

"Did you watch the interview last night?"

"The effects of the show were amazing!"

"I cried a total of two times yesterday. Once was during your singing here at the studio, and the other was when I went home to watch the show on TV. 'The Clown' was sung so well!"

"Yeah, it was so stunning!"

"They're also talking about it to no end on the Internet!"

"A lot of celebrities reposted the link to last night's show."

"The results of your interview are great."

"Our Heavenly King's debut show was a great success!"

Zhang Ye had not expected that this interview would cause such a big stir either. In his previous world, The Clown had always been a song that he liked very much. However, it wasn't exactly mainstream, and its popularity was clearly not comparable to that of "Spring Days," "Because of Love," and many of the other classics. When he heard Yan Mei asking him what it meant to be a celebrity, he got a jolt of inspiration and thought of this song that he sang to them. Who could have thought it would get such a great response?

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "If I knew, I would have sung it better."

Ha Qiqi said, "It was already very good."

"How was that good?" Zhang Ye shrugged. "I didn't even tune the guitar or play it properly. And I also forgot to warm up my voice before singing."

But Zhang Zuo disagreed. "That's what makes it realistic."

Little Wang agreed, "Right, that was why it managed to touch so many people!"

Ha Qiqi said, "Correct, this song isn't exactly suitable to be sung in a 'proper' manner."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright then." He checked his watch. "What time is the awards ceremony?"

Ha Qiqi said, "It's still early, but we have to get your makeup done in advance. The makeup artists at the awards ceremony are not good enough, so we'll be bringing our own over."

Zhang Ye sighed. "I'm not an idol. Why would I need to put on makeup?"

Little Wang said anxiously, "How will that do? You're now a Heavenly King, so your status is very different."

Ha Qiqi laughed. "Right, we know that you dislike having makeup on, but this is unavoidable. The awards ceremonies over the next few days are all quite important and will require you to dress up properly for it, so please just regard it as a form of respect."

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, "Alright, I'll let you guys handle things."

The studio's team was growing larger and larger, and they had also recruited a dedicated makeup artist of their own.

The makeup artist was a woman who had joined Zhang Ye's team for some time already. However, she hadn't really been put to work much. This was actually her first time seeing a celebrity who didn't like having makeup done. Moreover, he would even glare whenever there was any mention of having him get makeup. This left the female makeup artist with not much work to do. All she did was sit around all day, and this nearly drove her crazy. But she was finally able to get a chance to do something. Her eyes had turned green from all the waiting.

Putting on makeup.

Removing the makeup.

Putting on makeup again.

Changing the hairstyle.

She came up with four different styles for him.

The female makeup artist was finally able to get her money's worth at doing her job.

Zhang Ye could only roll his eyes as he let her fiddle with his hair.

Ha Qiqi was looking at something in her hands as she said to him, "Director Zhang, the interview yesterday came at just the right time and has addressed our most urgent concern so far. When you ascended into the S-list during the night several days ago, I had a look at the popularity score rankings. We were in seventh and last place, and we weren't that far off from that ex-Heavenly King who had been squeezed out by you on the S-list. The two of you were only separated by a very small difference in the popularity scores, and he could have easily caught back up to you if he experienced any breakout in his popularity, so it was still a very dangerous position to be in. It was not that safe and we couldn't relax yet. Although there hasn't been any precedent of a Heavenly King or Queen dropping off so shortly after making it into the S-list due to an aggregation effect, it isn't guaranteed."

Little Wang blinked. "Would we become the most short-lived S-lister then?"

Tong Fu shot her a glance. "That mouth of yours! Don't jinx it!"

Little Wang hurriedly "spat away" her words. "Me and my big mouth!"

Zhang Ye acknowledged her, thinking about how he never considered this point. "How much are we in the lead by?"

"Not by much." Ha Qiqi said, "But after yesterday's interview went viral, it helped us to put out the fire that was approaching and even gave us a push to open up a gap. But if we want to play it safe, we have to gain at least an 80% lead over our rival. Therefore, we must secure a few of the awards in the coming few days."

Zhang Zuo laughed and said, "It's a good thing that Director Zhang has had quite a bit of work this year."

Ha Qiqi said, "That's right. We were nominated for many of the awards, so we have a chance of fighting for them."

Zhang Ye said, "It looks like these awards are really quite crucial. Alright then, let's contend for as many as possible. We aren't going to reject any of them!"

After the new year, it was time for many Chinese awards ceremonies to be held. A lot of the highest awards ceremonies were concentrated and given out during this period of time. It was unnecessary to mention how great of an honor the highest awards would bring. This was the greatest affirmation that a celebrity could get, and the awards would also be a contributing factor to their popularity scores. So there was still a possibility that there could be some changes in this period. If that ex-Heavenly King took home several of the highest awards given out and increased his popularity score by 30%, he could surpass Zhang Ye's current popularity score and regain his place among the S-listers! But of course, the highest Chinese awards would only have an effect on the Chinese celebrity rankings. On the Asian and international celebrity rankings, there wouldn't be any effect. A similar attribute was included in the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index, but that would only be contributed to by a win in an Asian or international awards ceremony.

...

Elsewhere.

At the ex-Heavenly King's team office.

At this moment, they were only known as the top A-list celebrity's team.

"Can we still fight our way back up?"

"There's still hope!"

"Yes, there's still a chance!"

"If we can win two or three awards, we can reclaim the spot that we lost!"

"Zhang Ye has no works in the area of films!"

"Everyone, let's do our best!"

"There won't be any problems for sure!"

"Let's fight it out with Zhang Ye!"

“We have to regain our spot on the S-list!”

...

The battle for the highest awards kicked off!

Everyone in the media, the industry, and even the public were waiting to see how it would turn out!

### **Chapter 1364: The annual Most Popular Celebrity of the Year Award winner is announced!**

On the news.

“A flurry of awards to be presented to their winners!”

“Will Zhang Ye be able to keep his Heavenly King status?”

“The annual Most Popular Celebrity of the Year Award has turned into the Most Watched Celebrity of the Year Award!”

“Who will be the biggest winner of the year?”

“The battle for the awards will be unveiled tonight!”

“It’s time for an assessment of the celebrities’ past year!”

“Who will take the top honors?”

...

In the evening.

Outside the venue of an awards ceremony.

Many reporters were present. It was a gathering of the stars and their fans were screaming for them.

One by one, the celebrities’ cars arrived and they got out of their rides before heading into the venue.

“Ah!”

“Sister Zhang is here!”

“Sister Zhang is so beautiful!”

“Sister Zhang, Sister Zhang, I love you!”

“Wow, it’s Jiang Hanwei!”

“All the best, Old Jiang!”

“I love you!”

“Ah, it’s Sect Leader Huo!”

“Sect Leader Huo waved to me!”



“God, Sect Leader Huo looked at me!”

The reporters’ DSLRs were snapping away.

The fans were shouting in a frenzy around the perimeter.

Zhang Ye’s car was also lining up outside to get in. Whenever he spotted someone familiar through the windows, he would wave at them with a smile. Today, he had only brought along Ha Qiqi and Yang Shu, who was acting as his chauffeur. When he first saw that some celebrities would bring their families to walk down the red carpet together, he pondered whether he should also bring Old Wu with him. But after some consideration, he decided to scrap the idea. It was better not to show off in such a way. It might still be OK if this was a private event, but since his wife was an executive at the SARFT, it would surely be better for her not to accompany him in to work-related events. Zhang Ye was also afraid that it would scare the organizers.

A car pulled up beside his and the car’s window rolled down.

It was Ning Lan’s smiling face. “Yo, Teacher Zhang.”

Zhang Ye also rolled his window down and pretended to say politely, “Yo, Teacher Ning.”

Ning Lan smiled and said, “How does it feel to be a Heavenly King?”

Zhang Ye sighed and said, “I still don’t know if I can keep the title.”

“I need to discuss something with you,” Ning Lan suddenly said.

Zhang Ye asked, “Discuss what?”

Ning Lan said, “I quite like the song ‘The Clown.’ I would like to cover it and have a shot at the music scene to test my chances, so can we discuss the authorization of that?”

Zhang Ye shrugged. “Sure, just sing it if you like.”

Ning Lan said, “Alright, you’re great! It’s settled then!”

Zhang Ye said happily, “It’s no big deal.”

Ning Lan then waved at him. “Alright, I’ll go ahead then.”

Zhang Ya was taken aback. “Damn, did you just cut in line?!”

“Hahaha.” Ning Lan’s car had already driven in front of his.

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes.

When they reached the front, it was finally their turn for the red carpet walk.

Ning Lan got off the car. She walked down the red carpet with an extraordinary air and waved to her fans who were standing on both sides, triggering squeals from them!

“Ning Lan!”

“It’s Ning Lan!”

“My Goddess!”

“Ning Lan, I love you!”

Ning Lan was very eye-catching in her long white dress. Her long legs and long stride allowed her to travel several meters in just a few steps.

When her car drove off, Zhang Ye’s car pulled in and stopped there. As Yang Shu was not a professional chauffeur, her driving skills were really not that great. She tried for a long time to bring the car to a stop with some jarring movements and got so nervous that she was sweating all over her forehead. Finally, she managed to stop it right beside the red carpet. But this display made many of the staff and reporters at the venue roll their eyes.

Who is this?

Can’t you hire a better driver?

Why did you get a female driver to send you here?

When the car door opened, Zhang Ye appeared!

The reporters were dumbfounded!

What? It’s Zhang Ye’s car?

Pfft! You’re a Heavenly King, can you not be such a comedian?

“It’s Zhang Ye!”

“The new Heavenly King has arrived!”

“Quick, get more pictures!”

“Yeah, take more pictures of him!”

In the whole of the current Chinese entertainment industry, Zhang Ye was clearly the celebrity who attracted the most attention. No one else came close. So the reporters present would obviously give him special attention!

Zhang Ye maintained his smile as he walked forward. He looked at the people on both sides of the red carpet and waved to them just like the other celebrities had done before him.

The fans screamed!

“Zhang Ye!”

“The scammer has arrived!”

“What do you have to say about the five deceptions?”

“Haha, you still dare to come here today?”

All of a sudden, someone started booing with a “yi”!

With that, this sound started ringing out in the venue!

“Yi!”

“Yi!”

“Yi!”

“Hahahaha!”

Everyone hooted!

The reporters were taken back before cramping up with laughter!

Ning Lan, who was walking ahead of him, nearly stumbled!

Chen Guang, Zhang Xia, and some others who had just entered the venue were also bent over in laughter when they heard the ruckus outside!

Zhang Ye nearly fainted! Your sister! What kind of reception did the other celebrities get when they arrived? They were all being cheered for! So why is it that when I arrive, all I’m getting is this fucking hooting! And all of this is even getting recorded on video!

However, the crowd was still unsatisfied.

“Our booing isn’t in unison!”

“Yeah, it sounds really messy!”

“I suggest we do it again!”

“Sure!”

“Agreed!”

“Support!”

“Get ready, everyone! One, two, three—”

“Yiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!”

There was shouting everywhere!

Followed by loud laughter!

This interaction had never happened before!

Zhang Ye was dismayed and nearly vomited blood.

When Ning Lan saw this, she stopped in her tracks and waited a while for him. Then, when Zhang Ye caught up to her, she gently linked arms with Zhang Ye and finished walking the red carpet together with him. This helped to diffuse the situation a little for Zhang Ye.

Ning Lan whisper-giggled, “I’m a loyal friend, aren’t I?”

Zhang Ye also chuckled. “Nice, I didn’t give that song to you for nothing then.”

Ning Lan laughed, "Hahahaha."

...

At the back.

There was a car not too far away.

The expression on the ex-Heavenly King's face was a sullen one. He seemed to be thinking about something.

However, his agent and assistant were both delighted at the sight of Zhang Ye getting booed.

"Look, the public did not forget about how he deceived them!"

"Yes, it looks like we really have a chance this time."

"As long as Zhang Ye does not get crowned the most popular male celebrity, our chances of returning to the S-list are much higher. The importance of this award is tremendous."

"Look at the fans' attitudes towards him. How can he possibly be popular?"

"Yeah, he's offended too many people."

...

Inside the venue of the awards ceremony.

Several of Zhang Ye's friends were waiting at the front for him.

When Zhang Ye arrived, they immediately got down to making fun of him.

Zhang Xia said in amusement, "Why is your entrance always different from others?"

Zhang Ye said in dismay, "Grandma Zhang, let's not bring that up right now, shall we?"

Chen Guang belly laughed. "This is the first time I've encountered a situation like this. Aiyo, let me laugh awhile longer!"

Huo Dongfang also came over. "Teacher Zhang, what's with those lousy social relations of yours?"

Xiaodong, Amy, and Li Xiaoxian were also laughing over there. "Director Zhang, you've opened all of our eyes today."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Laugh all you want. This bro is not going to bother arguing with you people." He harrumphed and went off to find his seat.

Row 1, Seat 5.

Where was it?

Oh, over here!

In the end, he bumped straight into Zhang Yuanqi and her manager, Fang Weihong.

Zhang Yuanqi said with a laugh, "I heard that the people were booing you in unison when you walked down the red carpet just now?"

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "Why does everyone seem to know about this? Who's the one spreading rumors?"

Fang Weihong laughed loudly.

A good deed goes unnoticed, but a scandal spreads far and wide.

In no time at all, the celebrities and staff at the venue were all happily talking about this.

"Hey, did you hear about it?"

"About that incident involving Teacher Zhang?"

"Yeah."

"Hahahahaha, of course I heard about it."

"It's killing me it's so funny."

"Yeah, I laughed so hard I couldn't breathe!"

"Teacher Zhang is indeed the biggest oddity in the domestic entertainment circle."

"Something like this can only happen to him."

"Didn't you see the dumbfounded looks on the reporters' faces? Even they've never come across something like that before!"

Soon, the awards ceremony officially started.

Talking.

Speeches.

Performances.

An hour later, the main show began!

The biggest prize of the night was finally going to be presented.

"Next up is an award that a lot of people are looking forward to the most. It is also the most important and prestigious award today. We will be revealing the winners of the Most Popular Male and Female Celebrity of the Year Awards without any further ado."

"The Most Popular Female Celebrity of the Year Award goes to—Zhang! Yuan! Qi!"

Applause sounded from the audience.

"Congratulations!"

"Sister Zhang, congratulations!"

"A well-deserved winner!"

“We already guessed it would be you!”

“Congratulations!”

Not long after.

“Next, we will be announcing the winner of the Most Popular Male Celebrity of the Year Award!”

“And the winner is—”

“Who will the award go to?”

“The winner is—Zhang! Ye!”

Instantly, applause thundered!

“Wow!”

“It’s been won by Zhang Ye!”

“Congratulations!”

“Director Zhang, congratulations!”

“That’s so amazing!”

“Hahaha, we’re in for a treat!”

“This is a huge prize!”

“Teacher Zhang, you’re the winner of the award this year!”

Zhang Ye was very surprised!

Many of those at the venue were also very surprised!

The Most Popular Celebrity of the Year Award was one of the highest awards the entertainment circle gave out. Those who received this prize were the most reputable and popular celebrities around. Zhang Ye? He had the popularity, and he had the qualifications as well. But did he have the reputation? Pfft! Was there even a less reputable celebrity in the entertainment circle after him?

In the second row.

That ex-Heavenly King did not say a word at all.

His agent and assistant sitting beside him were both dumbfounded!

“How is that possible!”

“Why is it him?”

“How is he even popular?”

“That’s right! Didn’t the people just boo him?!”

“This is impossible!”

At this moment, that ex-Heavenly King looked at them and sighed. “Can’t you two see? The people were only booing him because they like him from the bottom of their hearts!”

His agent was stunned!

His assistant also fell silent!

Booing him because they liked him?

They liked him from the bottom of their hearts?

### **Chapter 1365: Target: The Asian S-list!**

Two days later.

Shanghai.

The annual Music Awards Ceremony was held.

The stars gathered and the awards were given out one after another.

“The nominees for the Best Lyrics Award are: Chen Guang, ‘A Small World’; Zhang Ye, ‘Exaggerated’; Zhang Ye, ‘I Really Love You’; Zhao Yunji, ‘Blossom of a Dream’; Sun Tiandong, ‘White Birch.’ And now for the announcement of the winner for this year’s Best Lyrics Award—the winner is...Zhang Ye! ‘Exaggerated!’”

Applause rang out!

Everyone gave their congratulations.

“Congratulations!”

“Haha, congratulations, Director Zhang!”

“This is a good start!”

“There was no doubt that Teacher Zhang would win this award!”

“Yeah, he has written so many good songs this year.”

“Yeah, if we really base it on the quality of the lyrics, it wouldn’t be too much even if Zhang Ye had ten of his songs shortlisted for the Best Lyrics Award.”

“For this award, Old Chen is still not a match for him.”

“Zhang Ye has total dominance here.”

“It’s time for the song composition award.”

“Let’s see who wins the Best Composition Award.”

Moving on.

The next award was announced.

“The nominees for the Best Composition Award are: Zhang Ye, ‘I Am What I Am’; Shu Han, ‘A Little Dance Tune’; Zhang Ye, ‘Because of Love’; Xu Qi, ‘Boundless Spring.’ Now to announce the winner of this year’s Best Composition Award. And the winner is...Teacher Zhang Ye! ‘Because of Love!’”

There was applause!

“Wow!”

“Another one!”

“Impressive, Teacher Zhang!”

“Director Zhang, you owe us three meals now!”

“You’ve won both the annual lyrics and song composition awards! Only two people have achieved this in the history of the music awards!”

“Yeah, only two people have won it simultaneously!”

“Don’t worry, there’s still the Song of the Year Award up for grabs.”

“Yeah, Zhang Ye might just become the first person in history to win all three of those awards!”

Finally, it was time to announce the Song of the Year Award.

“And the award for Song of the Year goes to—”

“Which is the first song that comes to everyone’s minds?”

“Which song will it be?”

“I hereby announce that the award for Song of the Year goes to—‘The King of Karaoke!’”

Applause rang out through the venue!

A lot of people even gave a standing ovation and cheered Zhang Ye!

“This song is truly good!”

“He’s gotten the trifecta!”

“It’s the first time that this has happened!”

“Three of the most important awards have been presented to Zhang Ye!”

“It’s a pity that he did not win the Best Arrangement Award as well.”

“Other than the Best Newcomer, the Best Arrangement, the Best Band, the Best Group, and some of the other awards, Zhang Ye has gotten all that he could get!”

“Zhang Ye is definitely the biggest winner tonight!”

...



The next day.

Nanjing.

The Film Awards Ceremony was held.

The Best Actor, the Best Actress, the Best Director, the Best Screenwriter, the Best Adaptation, and other film awards were given out.

All of these awards naturally had nothing to do with Zhang Ye.

...

And the day after that.

At night.

The annual Best Director Award was given out.

This was a directing awards ceremony that was independent of the film industry awards.

"The annual award for Best Variety Director goes to—Zhang Ye!"

"The annual award for Best Film Director goes to—Li Ke!"

"The annual award for Best Director goes to—Zhang! Ye!"

This announcement for the final award shocked many industry insiders!

"What?"

"The Best Director Award was given to Zhang Ye?"

"Ah?"

"That is way too surprising!"

"The darkest dark horse has won!"

"This is a top award that covers all of the other Director Awards. It's usually given out to a film director since the artistic qualities of a film definitely surpass those of the variety and TV industries. It's always been the case every year, so why was it given out to a variety director this time? This is unprecedented!"

"It wasn't given out to a variety director."

"Then what is it for?"

"The highest honor in directing was given out to the gala director!"

"You mean the Spring Festival Gala?"

"So that's how it is!"

"You've enlightened me!"

“It makes sense if that’s the case! So it was presented to the executive director of the Spring Festival Gala!”

“With the heights that this year’s Spring Festival Gala has reached, the presentation of this award is indeed faultless!”

...

On the same night.

At another awards ceremony that was held at the same time.

“The award for Best Dance goes to—”

“There’s absolutely no suspense to who’s winning this prize.”

“And the winner is—’Thousand-Hand Guanyin!’”

The “Thousand-Hand Guanyin” was awarded the highest prize in the dance category!

As the choreographer and planner of this dance, Zhang Ye went up on stage to accept the award with Qi Xiaomei and a representative of the deaf-mute dance troupe.

...

Another day later.

At the venue of an awards ceremony.

“Next, we will be announcing the Outstanding Artist of the Year Award.”

“And the winner is—Zhang Ye!”

...

One.

Five.

Ten.

Over several days, many awards were given out.

In this time, Zhang Ye collected so many awards that his hands went soft.

Of the many awards given out, only a few of them counted as the highest awards and would count towards the popularity score in the celebrity rankings. Most of the other awards did not contribute any points to a celebrity’s popularity, like the Most Outstanding Artist of the Year, which may sound quite important, but was in fact just a prize that was given out by some local organizations rather than being some national award. Then, there were the awards like the online Most Talked About Person Award or the Most Popular Weibo Figure Award, which Zhang Ye also won, and could still be considered honorable prizes. This clearly showed the affirmation from the organizations and the people of Zhang Ye, so it didn’t really matter whether it would contribute to the popularity scores or not.

All kinds of random accolades.

All kinds of mainstream prizes.

All kinds of the highest awards.

Zhang Ye had won a total of twelve of them and was ranked third among all of the celebrities to receive an award!

...

The netizens were very surprised:

“Zhang Ye is on a crazy streak!”

“Why is he winning so many awards!”

“With him winning all of those awards, can he even fit everything in his house? Hahaha!”

“Last year was a harvest for Zhang Ye, ascending to the S-list and winning all kinds of awards. There isn’t anyone else who’s had it more glorious than him.”

“Yeah, even though Sister Zhang has garnered more prizes than Zhang Ye, most of her awards are related to the film industry. Zhang Ye wasn’t even involved in any films or TV series, but if he really acted in them and didn’t do too badly, he would likely get more awards than Sister Zhang.”

“That ex-Heavenly King can’t catch up anymore!”

“Yeah, their popularity scores have pulled apart from each other!”

“Zhang Ye has finally stabilized his position in the domestic S-list rankings!”

“It’s the new year now. What do you guys think Zhang Ye will do?”

“Who knows?”

“He’s already near the top in the domestic market, right?”

“Could Zhang Ye be gunning for a place in Asia next?”

“That sounds likely!”

...

On this day.

The final awards ceremony concluded.

At night, Zhang Ye drove home. The moment he opened the door to the villa, he jumped at the sight before him. The interior of the large house had been decorated and brightly lit!

Pop!

Pop!

Confetti streamed down!

A big crowd of people were applauding and screaming!

“Director Zhang!”

“Congratulations!”

“We’re here to celebrate for you!”

“Let’s enjoy this together!”

“Hahaha!”

“We were fantastic last year!”

Wu Zeqing stood on the side with a smile and watched everyone as they enjoyed themselves. Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, Little Wang, Tong Fu, and the other employees from the studio had all come over. All of them looked really happy.

Zhang Ye also smiled. “What’s with all of this?”

Ha Qiqi said, “We’re here to throw you a party, of course.”

Zhang Ye said happily, “Well, thank you.”

“There’s also a cake.” Little Wang hummed a tune as she pushed the cake over. “Director Zhang, please cut it.”

Zhang Ye looked at Old Wu. “Did you arrange this?”

Wu Zeqing smiled. “It has nothing to do with me. It was them who arranged this for you.”

Zhang Zuo laughed and said, “You’ve reached the summit of the entertainment circle, yet we still haven’t officially thrown a party for you. Now you’ve won so many awards, of which five are even the highest awards! This has helped our popularity score pull away by a large distance and there isn’t a need to worry about being caught up to. We can finally celebrate in peace now.”

“Let’s have some cake.”

“Here comes the wine.”

“Come, cheers!”

“Everyone, cheers!”

It was extremely lively inside the house and everyone was very excited.

Becoming a Heavenly King!

Winning countless awards!

These were the results and harvests of Zhang Ye’s past year!

Ha Qiqi, who had had a few sips of red wine, was already starting to ramble quite a bit. "Director Zhang, we've already achieved the goals that were set last year, and even completed them beyond expectations. Now that the 'Reach the Summit' plan has been realized and we're into the new year, why don't you set a new target for us? What shall we do this year? Which direction should we head in? We're at your disposal!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "This year? It's probably time to make a push in Asia?"

Everyone's eyes lit up.

"Asia?"

"Alright!"

"We should have aimed for the Asian region long ago!"

"Compared to the popularity we've domestically, we're still quite far behind on the Asian stage."

"Yeah, we might also be on the A-list in Asia, but our ranking is very far at the bottom. Moreover, once we head out of our own country, we're actually not that well-known to others. We're actually just somewhat on par with the other Asian B-listers because a large part of the popularity score is influenced by our ranking domestically. Since our popularity score in the country is rather high, it was this that pushed us up forcefully on the Asian rankings."

"Right, there's potential for development in Asia!"

"Yes, there's a lot of potential actually."

"Alright then, it's settled!"

"We'll listen to Director Zhang for orders."

Everyone got very excited and was full of confidence like never before.

Ha Qiqi said, "What a coincidence then, Director Zhang. We've just received an invitation at the studio that we haven't had time to tell you about. An event is about to take place in Asia, and since you haven't traveled out of the country before, why don't we take this opportunity to make an appearance in Asia? We can increase our visibility, and maybe scout out some opportunities along the way?"

Zhang Ye agreed, "That sounds great."

Ha Qiqi nodded. "Alright, I'll reply to them then."

"Come! Let's make another toast!"

"Our target is the Asian S-list!"

"Alright, the target is to become an Asian Heavenly King!"

"Cheers!"

"Cheers!"

And just like this, the goal for this year was set!

## Chapter 1366: Taking a trip to Korea!

In the blink of an eye, the Lunar New Year had passed.

A new year was beginning.

On this day, Zhang Ye took on his first job since the turn of the year. He was scheduled to fly to South Korea to take part in an annual charity banquet. This was one of the most watched charity auction events organized by the Red Cross Society and featured many celebrities who came from all over Asia. The exposure gained from taking part in this event was pretty good and one could do charity while increasing their visibility in the Asian region as well. It was a win-win situation for all those involved. The organizers would also be rotated each year, with China being the host two years ago, while Japan took last year's event. This year, it was Korea's turn to organize the charity auction and it was slated to be held in Seoul.

At the airport.

In the lounge for first-class passengers.

Zhang Ye was here by himself today. When he arrived, quite a few people in the lounge turned to look at him and were pointing their fingers and whispering, clearly having recognized who he was.

"That's Zhang Ye."

"Eh, it's really him."

"What is he doing here?"

"Is he taking part in the Asian Charity Banquet?"

"He's going too?"

"Yes, you all can read the papers."

There were several newspapers on the table:

"The grand Asian Charity Banquet will be held soon!"

"Heavenly Queen, Xu Meilan, confirms her attendance!"

"The Chinese celebrity team will have a grand lineup!"

"Will the Chinese celebrity team take the top honors?"

In the lounge, Zhang Ye found a spot with no one and sat down.

At this moment, several familiar faces also came in.

They looked around the place.

"Hey."

"It's Teacher Zhang."

“Come, come, come, let’s go over there.”

It was the three beauties of the Spring Garden girl group.

Zhang Ye smiled and waved to them. “You’ve arrived?”

Xiaodong said in surprise, “And where are you headed to?”

Zhang Ye blinked and said, “Seoul.”

“You’re going too?” Amy was happy to hear that. “I didn’t know that you were going.”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “I only agreed to it two days ago.”

Li Xiaoxian smiled. “Teacher Zhang is an Asian A-lister, and he’s even more popular than the three of us in Asia, so how can they not invite him?”

Zhang Ye waved it off and said, “That’s only because of my domestic popularity score pushing me up in the rankings. I’m not really well-known in Asia.”

Soon after, Chen Guang also arrived.

Xiaodong waved. “Brother Chen, over here.”

Chen Guang was taken aback. “Lord Zhang is here too?”

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. “Yeah.”

Chen Guang asked, “You’re going too?”

Zhang Ye said in amusement, “Hey, why is everyone asking the same thing the moment they arrive. Why can’t I be going? But true, it’s this bro’s first time going abroad.”

Chen Guang asked interestedly, “I had thought that you would never consider going overseas to develop your career, but how about this? It looks like you’re thinking of aiming for the Asian region in the future too?”

Zhang Ye laughed and said, “I’ll just try and see how it turns out.”

Some more people arrived.

A-list film star Ning Lan.

A-list film star Jiang Hanwei.

A-list film star Big Qi.

And there was also the singer who had just made his comeback in the entertainment industry, Zhao Wuliu.

Nothing needed to be said for Ning Lan. The relationship between Zhao Wuliu and Zhang Ye was also quite good since they already knew each other from I Am a Singer. Jiang Hanwei and Zhang Ye were also old acquaintances, having fought before and gotten into a car crash as well. They were the type to not be on speaking terms even when they met. Meanwhile, Zhang Ye was not familiar with Big Qi. He would

always see him at every year's awards ceremonies but had never spoken to him before. Now that they had met here, the two of them shook hands and made small talk. With this, they could be considered as having officially met.

The people here were all rather popular celebrities in the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index, with the highest ranking ones being Ning Lan, Jiang Hanwei, and Zhang Ye. Spring Garden was slightly below them, while Old Chen and Big Qi were ranked further down in the middle to bottom of the Asian B-list rankings. Oh right, there was also an exception here. Zhao Wuliu had retired from the music industry for too many years and was no longer considered a popular figure. But even if they were to consider his former popularity in the Asian Celebrity Rankings, it was quite obvious that it wasn't that high either.

Perhaps sensing everyone's doubts, Zhao Wuliu laughed and said, "I'm definitely not popular enough to attend the Asian Charity Banquet, but there's another event at Seoul tonight. It's the International Heavy Metal Music Festival, and Old Chen will be going to it as well."

Chen Guang smiled and said, "Yes, that's right."

Amy exclaimed, "Hey, why didn't they invite me?"

Chen Guang said, "It's not like you do rock 'n' roll."

Amy giggled, "But I have a rock 'n' roll heart."

Zhao Wuliu said, "If you guys have nothing to do tonight, everyone can attend the music festival and have a look."

Ning Lan said, "Sure, we'll go have a look."

Big Qi said, "Alright, let's go together."

Zhang Ye said, "It's fine if they didn't invite Spring Garden to take part in the festival, but why didn't they invite me? This bro has also played and sung rock 'n' roll!"

Zhao Wuliu was taken aback. "Oh yeah, why didn't they invite you?"

Ning Lan laughed and said, "Because he has terrible social relations."

All of a sudden, a woman's voice sounded from behind them. "Teacher Zhang, much less the Heavy Metal Music Festival, you were nearly rejected by the Korean organizers of the charity banquet."

It was Heavenly Queen Xu Meilan!

She was an alluring woman with graceful beauty!

Like Zhang Ye, she was one of China's seven S-list stars!

Xiaodong was amused. "Sister Lan, what do you mean?"

Xu Meilan laughed lightly as she explained, "When the higher-ups appointed me to lead the Chinese celebrity team this time, I followed up on many issues with them. I heard that Teacher Zhang's visa application was rejected twice as they said that he had anti-Korean sentiments, so it wasn't approved. In the end, after some back and forth, it was finally passed."



Ning Lan laughed, "Pfft!"

Xiaodong laughed, "Hahaha!"

Li Xiaoxian asked, "Anti-Korean sentiments?"

Chen Guang said, "Well, Zhang'er did beat up a Korean star two years ago and argued with him as well. During the Internet livestream a few months ago, he also went on the Go server and humiliated quite a few Korean GMs."

Amy said, "I'm convinced by no one in the entertainment circle except for Teacher Zhang!"

Everyone was tickled.

Teacher Zhang was someone who brought chaos along with him wherever he went.

In these few years, just how many people had he offended?!

Jiang Hanwei rolled his eyes. He was also one of those who had been offended by him.

Big Qi did not interject since he wasn't really that familiar with Zhang Ye, so he naturally wouldn't crack a joke at Zhang Ye's expense.

Zhang Ye sneered. "The more they don't want me to go, the more this bro wants to go over to have a look."

Xu Meilan finally put her hand out. "Teacher Zhang, I've been hoping to meet you."

Zhang Ye shook her hand. "Teacher Xu, I've been hoping to meet you too."

Xu Meilan said, "It should have been you leading the team this time since such work is better suited for a male comrade."

Chen Guang said in an undermining tone, "Who would dare let Zhang'er lead the team?"

Amy said, "If Teacher Zhang were to lead the team, he would surely lead everyone down the drain."

Xiaodong nodded in seriousness. "Right, I'll be less worried if it were Sister Lan leading the team."

Zhang Ye was speechless.

Everyone laughed.

Zhang Ye was familiar with the well-known Xu Meilan. This was only their first meeting, but Zhang Ye's first impression of her was quite good. At the very least, there weren't any communication problems between them and that was good enough for him.

There was still some time until the flight.

All of them sat down together and started chatting.

Xu Meilan didn't come by herself. She had a male companion dressed in normal clothes following her like a shadow. At a glance, anyone could tell that he was her bodyguard.

Zhang Ye did not know whether he got the wrong impression, but he felt that this person was always subconsciously looking over at him. From the time when he arrived with Xu Meilan, this feeling was already there.

Zhang Ye suddenly turned to look at him.

The bodyguard was startled, then tore away his gaze and even had to wipe away cold sweat.

Zhang Ye got curious. He wondered what on earth was he up to. Why are you suddenly getting all nervous about for no apparent reason?

Ning Lan said, "Sister Zhang and the others will be arriving tomorrow, right?"

Xu Meilan said, "Yes, we're the first group flying over. The other group will arrive tomorrow. I'll contact Sister Zhang tomorrow and we'll meet up at the hotel."

All of a sudden, two passengers in the lounge with them headed over.

"Teacher Zhang, may I have an autograph?"

"Sister Lan, can we get a picture together?"

The bodyguard, Sun Aixi, immediately blocked them off with his body. "Apologies, please turn around and leave."

But when Zhang Ye saw this, he said, "They're just here for autographs. Why stop them?"

Sun Aixi was taken aback and quickly put his hands down to let the two passengers pass.

Everyone was at a loss for words. Aren't you Sister Lan's bodyguard? Why are you so easily ordered around by Zhang Ye as well? But even if they found this rather strange, they didn't take it to heart.

After signing the autographs.

Jiang Hanwei said, "Old Xu, did you only bring one bodyguard with you? Where are your assistants?"

Xu Meilan replied, "Yes, I'm going over to attend a charity event. Tongues will wag if I bring too many people with me. Look at you guys. Aren't you also bringing hardly anyone with you?"

Chen Guang laughed and said, "I came here by myself."

Xiaodong said, "My assistant flew over on an earlier flight."

Ning Lan also brought only her agent with her.

Li Xiaoxian asked in wonder, "Teacher Zhang, you didn't bring anyone with you?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm used to being on my own."

Chen Guang said, "It's different abroad, especially in Korea. You're not that well liked there, so even if you don't have your agent or assistant with you, surely you should have brought along your bodyguard with you."

Zhang Ye casually said, "There's no need for that."

Jiang Hanwei glanced at him and understood what he meant by not having a need for that.

Xu Meilan added, "There's nothing wrong with being a bit more careful. It's not really that safe over there, and if something bad really happened, the organizers might not even be of much help to us."

It was almost time to board the plane.

Everyone gradually got up and headed over to the boarding area.

Xu Meilan turned to her head to her bodyguard and said, "Nobody brought their bodyguards along, and there aren't too many people in the entourage either. I'll have to trouble you a little for this trip to Korea. Other than me, could you also please take care of everyone else's safety? I'm the team leader, so I must ensure that everyone gets there and comes back safely." With a pause, she smiled and said, "Especially Teacher Zhang Ye. He's not popular in Korea, so I'm afraid that something might happen to him. Please keep an extra eye on him."

Amy heard that and added, "Yes, you must prioritize Teacher Zhang's safety."

The bodyguard's name was Sun Aixi and he was a seventh generation disciple of the Sun Family Style. Even though it wasn't a large sect, he was still trained in formal martial arts from a legitimate school. He began his training at a young age and was employed after Xu Meilan had offered a large sum of money for his services. He was also the person in charge of her security detail and has always been very trusted by the Heavenly Queen.

But when he heard what they said, Sun Aixi couldn't help but wipe away sweat. "Surely there's no need, right?"

Xu Meilan was taken aback. "What's the matter?"

Protect him?

It would be more appropriate for this master to protect me!

He can beat ten of me with just one of his hands!

With my level of kung fu, it wouldn't even make him bat an eyelid if I were to show my skills to him!

Sun Aixi smiled wryly and said, "Sister Lan, there's no need to worry. With Master Zhang around, as long as it's not a firearm threat, our team's safety definitely won't be compromised."

Xu Meilan looked at him. "Master Zhang?"

Sun Aixi shut his mouth.

Xu Meilan said, "Old Sun, can you explain?"

Sun Aixi dabbed at his sweat. "Sister Lan, I can't talk about it."

Xu Meilan said puzzled, "Why are you addressing him as Master Zhang?"

Sun Aixi turned silent and pretended not to have heard her.

When Xu Meilan saw this, she did not inquire any further. She looked off into the distance at Zhang Ye's receding figure with a hint of curiosity in her eyes. This man seemed like he contained quite a few secrets. So much so that even the captain of her security detail had great respect for him? It looked like this man was not simple at all. How interesting.

### **Chapter 1367: Zhang Ye's legend in the martial arts community!**

On the plane.

Zhang Ye was sending voice messages to his mother while preparing to board the plane. His conversation to her was so funny that the people around him were nearly cramping up with laughter. They heard him saying, "Aiyo, Mum, you don't have to worry at all. I'm just going on a trip abroad; nothing could possibly happen. Rest assured that I'll abide by the principles of respect and tolerance on my trip this time. If they don't respect me? Then I will still respect them. If they still disrespect me? I will still respect them. If they still continue disrespecting me? I will still continue respecting them? And if they still insist on disrespecting me? Then dammit, I'll friggin' take it up with them—they can't keep on disrespecting me, don't you think?"

Ning Lan laughed. "Hahahahaha!"

Xiaodong laughed. "Hahahahahaha."

Xu Meilan also couldn't hold in her laughter anymore.

Wherever there was Zhang Ye, there would always be laughter and a relaxed mood. Wherever this fellow went, it would always sound like he was giving a crosstalk.

The flight attendants on the plane were pleasantly surprised when they saw him.

"Wow!"

"Teacher Zhang?"

"Teacher Zhang, you are here?"

"Let me get your luggage for you!"

"Teacher Zhang, your luggage, your luggage, leave your luggage to me!"

This was a China Airlines flight. When Zhang Ye boarded the plane, several of the flight attendants immediately surrounded him. They fought to help him with his stuff and hung the group of celebrities behind him out to dry.

Zhang Ye was a little embarrassed. "There's no need, there's no need."

Amy said in a speechless manner, "Look at the treatment he is getting."

Xiaodong said, "We're all sitting first class, so why is the treatment so different?"

Big Qi laughed and said, "Teacher Zhang is a lifelong honorary passenger of China Airlines. He doesn't even need to pay for his flights. Years back, he saved a plane of passengers and flight attendants, so it's obvious that he would get different treatment from them."

Ning Lan remembered this and said, "Oh yes, that's indeed the case."

A flight attendant informed the captain.

The captain also came out to greet him. "Teacher Zhang, welcome!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "There's really no need to be so polite."

The captain said, "That won't do. We can neglect anyone, but we must never neglect your presence. Teacher Zhang, I've gotten married, and my bride is one of the flight attendants you saved."

Zhang Ye said in surprise, "Oh? Was it the slim one or the plump one?"

The captain smiled and said, "The slim one."

Zhang Ye said, "Whoa, you're a blessed man. Congratulations!"

The captain said, "Thank you. It was all because of you that I could marry her. I'll bring some wedding candies to you later!"

Zhang Ye was also very happy about this and felt a sense of achievement.

In the first-class cabin.

Everyone got seated. Sun Aixi was helping everyone in the group with their luggage.

Li Xiaoxian said, "Thanks, Brother Sun."

Sun Aixi gave a sincere smile and said, "You don't need to be so polite, Teacher Li."

Xiaodong was on her tiptoes trying to put her luggage away. "Brother Sun, I'm also having some trouble over here."

"Don't bother yourself with that, Teacher Xiaodong. I'll do it for you," Sun Aixi said, taking on everything himself.

Xiaodong smiled. "Thank you."

Sun Aixi said, "Sister Lan just instructed me. I'll be in charge of the team's safety, so everyone can look to me if there's any trouble on the road."

Ning Lan asked curiously, "Old Sun, are you a veteran?"

Usually, bodyguards were veterans.

When Xu Meilan heard that, she smiled and said, "Old Sun isn't one. He's actually a serious martial artist and has great kung fu. It wouldn't be easy for five people to get near him."

Amy said in surprise, "He's that powerful?"

Sun Aixi blushed a little. "No, no, I'm not."

Big Qi asked, "Is there real kung fu in this world?"

Sun Aixi explained, "We tend to just call it Chinese martial arts."

Xiaodong smiled and said, "Then between you and Uncle Jiang, who is better at martial arts?"

Everyone in the entertainment circle knew that the Asian kung fu superstar Jiang Hanwei was borne with a martial arts background and really had the moves to back him up. In the eyes of many, Jiang Hanwei was someone who was the most skilled in kung fu within China because he was the only martial artist that they knew of. None of them have heard of any other more skilled practitioners before, so whenever the media and news wrote any reports related to kung fu masters, they would always think of Jiang Hanwei first. This was a publicly recognized fact.

Jiang Hanwei looked at him. "Which sect do you belong to, Master Sun?"

Sun Aixi said, "The Sun Family Style."

Jiang Hanwei said in surprise, "Eh, Master Sun He is your?"

Sun Aixi said, "He is my second uncle."

Jiang Hanwei smiled and said, "Then let's have a friendly spar sometime when you're free."

Sun Aixi said, "Sure, I'll seek Master Jiang's guidance when there's an opportunity."

Then they started to chat.

However, Zhang Ye was not interested in this conversation at all. In fact, he wasn't even listening to what they were saying. He was making use of the time before the plane took off with his head lowered and laughingly messaging Wu Zeqing on his phone.

Ning Lan was sitting next to him.

Ning Lan smilingly said, "They're talking about kung fu. Aren't you interested in hearing what they have to say? When I got detained by those people during my filming and you went to help me get out of that situation, I remember hearing those martial artists addressing you as Master Zhang?"

Zhang Ye said in an unfocused manner, "Ah? Ah."

Ning Lan said, "You also know a little bit of kung fu?"

Zhang Ye answered as he texted on his phone. "Ah, I know a little."

Xiaodong turned around in surprise, "Teacher Zhang knows it too?"

Chen Guang said in amusement, "Don't listen to his bragging."

Amy giggled. "Why do I find it so unbelievable? Looking at the physiques and demeanors, it's obvious that only someone like Master Sun is a true practitioner of the martial arts."

Jiang Hanwei did not say anything.

Meanwhile, Sun Aixi was almost pissing his pants. He hurriedly said, "No, no, that's not how it is!"

Big Sis! Please don't praise me, alright! In front of someone like him, who dared to be called a master? He is the one who is the true Chinese martial arts master! And he's even the master of Taiji Fist, which had been lost for over a hundred years until recently! Even if Master Jiang and I were to combine our strength, we wouldn't be a match for him. This is someone who has even sparred with a martial arts grandmaster before. He's a monster who single-handedly swept aside the entire Zhou Family Style School, Huashan Sect, Emei Sect, Wudang Sect, Shaolin Monastery, Kongtong Sect, and a dozen other sects! He's someone who would instill fear to people in the martial arts community just at the mention of his name!

You want to compare me with him?

Aren't you putting me to shame that way?!

Sun Aixi was at a loss. He couldn't talk about the incidents involving Zhang Ye, so he was really hoping that he could crawl into a hole somewhere and avoid all the questioning.

Finally, Zhang Ye finished chatting. He tossed his cell phone onto his chair and then got up to go to the lavatory.

One minute.

Two minutes.

He finished his business.

When he opened the door to step out, Zhang Ye got surprised.

A dark figure suddenly showed up outside the door.

It was the Heavenly Queen's bodyguard.

Zhang Ye thought that he was waiting to use the lavatory as well, so he stepped aside and said, "It's yours."

No one else was around.

However, Sun Aixi did not go in. He turned serious and gave a fist and palm salute as he said respectfully, "The Sun Family Style's seventh generation disciple, Sun Aixi, pays his respect to Master Zhang."

Sun Family Style?

Was it a small sect?

Zhang Ye was startled. "You know me?"

Sun Aixi continued saluting him with great care and said, "I was fortunate to have heard from my elders regarding Master Zhang's deeds. That martial arts community's big battle on the peak that day was witnessed by one of my elders too. He even had the honor of fighting alongside Master Zhang and saw for himself Master Zhang's glory. Every time when I think about it, it always gets my blood pumping." With a pause, he quickly said, "Sister Lan asked me about your matters just now, but I know about the

rules of the martial arts community, so I didn't mention anything to her. Don't you worry about that. I'm not someone who's ignorant of the rules."

Rules?

You know about them?

But I don't know about them!

What martial arts community's rules are you talking about?

Zhang Ye was a fellow who had never regarded himself as part of the martial arts community. He was just an artist in show business. Back then, he had only gone to take on the various large sects because he was left with no choice. Who would have thought that after that, there would be a legend about him being passed down within the martial arts community? Further, the people in the martial arts community were even saying nothing about it and trembled at the mention of that incident.

Why don't you all just talk about it!

No one is saying that you aren't allowed to speak about it!

You all have got to help this bro out by promoting the incident so that I can gain even more popularity!

If the martial arts community knew that this was how Zhang Ye thought, they would probably cough up blood!

Actually, the so-called martial arts community's rules were just referring to how if you knew something, then you'd know it. That was all down to you being qualified enough to know about it, and if you didn't, that just meant that it wasn't something that you should know about. For example, people like Sister Lan and the rest of the entertainment circle's celebrities. They were not part of the martial arts community, so these were things that no one would tell them about. At least, Sun Aixi could not tell them, because this involved too many people and was an event way beyond his comprehension. Besides, he did not have the seniority yet, so of course he couldn't go around shooting his mouth off as he liked, especially not to outsiders. Matters of the martial arts world were only meant to be known by those from the martial arts world. That was the rule.

Sun Aixi said respectfully, "If there's a chance in the future, I hope I can receive some pointers from Master Zhang."

Zhang Ye could only give a fist and palm salute and say, "You're too kind with your words."

Sun Aixi was overjoyed. "Then I take it that you've agreed?"

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "Ah? Well, sure."

### **Chapter 1368: There's no heavy metal music in China?**

The plane took off.

It was soaring tens of thousands of feet up in the air.



Ning Lan closed her eyes and slept.

Xu Meilan was reading a book.

Chen Guang and Zhao Wuliu were discussing tonight's music festival.

"Old Zhao, which song did you prepare?"

"Bobo."

"Oh, that one."

"There's some difficulty to it, so it will have to depend on my condition. What about you?"

"I don't really know too many heavy metal songs either. I'll probably go ahead with 'Chariot.'"

"Neither of us are true metal singers, so we'd be forcing ourselves to sing in that style."

"But we have no heavy metal to call our own in China."

"Yeah. Hai, in the end, we still have to do covers of other singers' songs."

"There are some heavy metal songs that came out in our country in recent years, but they're still not mature enough to be called good. We're still starting, so let's take it slowly. I'm sure there will be a day when we can finally have good songs of our own."

"Hopefully so."

Zhang Ye was wearing an eye mask to nap and had overheard their conversation.

Surely not, right?

China does not have any heavy metal music to call its own?

Then what is the heavy metal scene like internationally?

He got curious about this. After all, he wasn't from this world and had slowly gotten to understand many matters in China. But there were still a lot of things he did not know about in the international scene. Since he was now thinking about aiming for the overseas market, he would naturally have to start getting a picture of how things worked abroad, especially for things like the style of music, as well as the culture. This was the other objective that Zhang Ye had for this trip to Korea. He was going to scout for intel.

An hour.

Two hours.

The plane landed. They had arrived in Korea.

Seoul.

The airport.

When they came out to Arrivals, they were met by someone from the charity banquet's organizers. Perhaps there was also a leak in the news, so a lot of Korean fans and Chinese international students could also be seen standing in wait.

"Ah!"

"Xu Meilan!"

"Xu Meilan!"

"Jiang Hanwei!"

"It's Xiaodong!"

A lot of people were shouting in Korean.

Many of them were even holding up signs and cheering for their idols.

Zhang Ye could not understand nor read the Korean letters, but he could still sense that no one was shouting his name. This showed that there was a significant drop in his popularity once he got out of China. In China, Zhang Ye was of equal status to Heavenly Queen Xu Meilan. He would have all kinds of fans surrounding him where he went, like at the airport lounge where two passengers approached Zhang Ye and Xu Meilan for their autographs and pictures. However, once they arrived in Korea, Xu Meilan was still enjoying the same kind of attention while Zhang Ye was not as well-known anymore, with his popularity dropping by a notch. Without mentioning Xu Meilan, even Jiang Hanwei, Xiaodong, Amy, and the others were more popular than Zhang Ye. It was to the point that a lot of the people did not seem to know who Zhang Ye was as they did not even cast a glance at him.

On the bus.

Zhang Ye looked out of the window and took in the exotic scenery, feeling very relaxed.

Ning Lan asked, "You seem to be in a good mood, don't you?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Yeah, it's rare that I can go somewhere without getting recognized."

Xiaodong rolled her eyes and said, "But you're an Asian A-lister."

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "I'm at the bottom of the A-list, and it's also only because of the stats that I'm in it."

"There are also lots of people who know you here." Chen Guang said, "But it's just that not many of them are fans of yours. This is because you haven't had any art that's made it overseas, nor did you participate in any of the regional Asian activities."

Amy said, "But coming back to the point, the people who have the greatest influence and popularity in the Asian region are mainly the Korean celebrities. Of the Asian Heavenly Kings and Queens, over half of them are Korean stars. The Korean entertainment industry is world famous. From their selection criteria, to the training and promotions, all of it is quite professionally handled. I feel that we're lacking compared to them in this area."

Jiang Hanwei spoke at this moment, "The Korean celebrities are indeed very popular. They might not have many successful examples on the international stage, nor do they have that many international superstars, but they have it really good in Asia. Just using China as an example, as long as a Korean star has a good act and is slightly better looking, they'll be quite popular in China. At the very least, they can develop pretty well in our market. But for our own celebrities, if they're thinking of expanding into the Korean or Japanese markets and doing well, that becomes a really difficult thing to achieve."

The bus traveled down the road.

Everyone chatted along the way.

Reaching the hotel.

Unpacking their luggage.

Eating.

By the time everything was done, it was already afternoon.

They had free time now since the charity banquet would be held tomorrow. Since everyone had nothing to do, they decided to accompany Chen Guang and Zhao Wuliu.

"Shall we leave?"

"Alright, let's head to the heavy metal music festival to see what it's about."

"I hardly ever listen to metal."

"Old Chen and Old Zhao will both be singing?"

"Yeah, don't mind us if we embarrass ourselves."

"Haha, we'll be cheering both of you on from the audience."

After arranging for the transportation and an interpreter, they set off for the venue.

...

Later that afternoon.

A little after 5 PM.

At a venue in Seoul, the music was pumping hard.

They had gone in via the back entrance and were ushered to the VIP seats.

Once they got in, Ning Lan covered her ears. "It hasn't started yet, right? Why is it so noisy then?"

Amy laughed. "This is exactly the kind of atmosphere they're aiming for. Heavy metal music is very enjoyable to listen to. You need to feel it with your heart. It's a pity that we don't have many songs in our country. Most of the performances we have are just imitating what they do overseas and are only covers of foreign songs."

Big Qi asked, "What about Korea and Japan?"

Amy was a professional musician, so she naturally knew about the scene. She explained, "Korea and Japan also have their own styles of heavy metal. For example in Japan, their style is closer to that of the earlier heavy metal scene. Meanwhile, for Korea, I personally do not feel that they have a very clear style. What they do is forcefully switch English heavy metal songs into Korean. But if you want to say that that's Korea's very own genre of heavy metal, then I guess it wouldn't be wrong either."

Xiaodong said, "It's only China that doesn't have their own identity of metal to speak of."

Amy said, "There's nothing we can do about that. This is a path that we have to slowly find our way in. We have to see how we can use the Chinese language to bring about our very own style of metal. It may sound very simple, but it's in fact far too difficult to achieve."

There wasn't a style of metal that belonged to China?

They were talking about this again?

This was already Zhang Ye's second time hearing this today.

He was getting more and more curious about what this world's heavy metal scene was really like.

The audience filed into the venue. There were Chinese international students, Koreans, and many Westerners attending the event. The scene was bouncing and everyone was dressed in very unique ways. Some of them were more alternative, while some were fully dressed in leather jackets and leather pants. Some people had dyed their hair all kinds of different colors. A majority of the crowd were young adults, and they were all pretty unique in their own ways.

20 minutes later.

Everyone had been admitted.

The International Heavy Metal Music Festival officially began.

A Korean band came out onstage.

The moment they appeared, loud screams rang out from the audience!

It was in Korean. They were all shouting the same thing.

Obviously, Zhang Ye and the others did not understand what was being said.

The interpreter who had come along smiled and explained, "They're calling out the band's name: Storm."

Zhang Ye remarked, "Thunder didn't come with them?"

Amy rolled her eyes and said, "This is one of the most popular heavy metal bands in Korea."

Xiaodong shouted, "They're starting!"

Xu Meilan looked to the stage curiously. She wasn't really someone who listened to heavy metal music either.

All of a sudden, the stage lights flashed and dazzled!

Violent music rocked the arena!

Guitar!

Bass!

It set the arena off!

All the shouting was in Korean. They couldn't understand what was being sung and could only feel the music.

Amy was an expert in this area. She said loudly, "This is really quite good!"

Xiaodong also knew a little about this. "This metal voice, their lead singer has got a really good voice!"

Xu Meilan quietly listened in appreciation.

Ning Lan was sitting with her legs crossed and covering her ears. She found the noise unbearable.

Only Zhang Ye had a different expression from the others. He was stunned.

The second band came out!

It was a heavy metal band from Japan!

They were followed by a third band, which was one of the American representatives!

The fourth band was from Finland!

The fifth one was from England!

In the audience, many of the Chinese international students were hooked by the performances. They were waving their hands wildly to the music!

"This is awesome!"

"What a great song!"

"I like Storm so much!"

"It's still more amazing to hear it live!"

"Yeah, it was really worth the effort to come here today!"

"Have Chen Guang and Zhao Wuliu made their appearance yet?"

"Soon, soon!"

"It's a pity that we don't have any heavy metal music to call our own!"

Xu Meilan gave her evaluation.

Jiang Hanwei and Big Qi were also discussing the performances.

Only Zhang Ye alone was stunned as he listened to the bands perform one after another!

That was it?

Was that it?

Damn, and I was wondering how special the heavy metal scene would be after listening to everyone talking today. I thought that this world's heavy metal music would be very different from my previous world. Well, isn't it the same, after all? Isn't this just ordinary heavy metal?

They didn't have something like this in China?

Are you kidding me?

### **Chapter 1369: Zhang Ye saves the day!**

In the music festival arena.

The music was restless and the fans were screaming!

Amy was getting all excited and also started screaming!

Xiaodong was following the beat and humming along.

Only two people were behaving differently from the others. One of them was Ning Lan as she could not stand this kind of music. The other person was Zhang Ye. He had a speechless expression and did not seem at all interested in the performances.

Li Xiaoxian asked, "Teacher Zhang, you don't like this?"

Zhang Ye looked at her and said loudly, "Ah?"

The music was too loud.

Li Xiaoxian also said loudly, "You don't like this?"

Zhang Ye grimaced and said, "They're all singing in foreign languages. I can't understand a thing."

Amy turned around and shouted, "This is what real heavy metal is!"

Zhang Ye simply responded with a hur hur.

Ning Lan was amused and gave a hur hur of her own.

Amy said in surprise, "This is so good!"

Seeing Amy constantly praising the foreigners, Zhang Ye started to ignore her.

You call this good?

It's so very normal!

Then, screams came from the Chinese celebrity team.

"It's Old Chen's turn!"

"It's time for Old Chen to sing!"

"Let's go!"

"Bravo, great singing!"

"He hasn't even started yet."

"Haha, I was just shouting in advance."

Only then did Zhang Ye raise his head.

Ning Lan stopped covering her ears as much.

Since this was Chen Guang's performance, they would definitely have to listen to it.

Chen Guang was still considered quite popular in Asia. It wasn't that high, but it could not be considered low either. Some of the Korean fans who liked rock 'n' roll, as well as many of the Chinese international students, liked him a great deal. But of course, he couldn't be compared to the local Korean celebrities and those rock 'n' roll stars from the West. Be it for cultural or political reasons, in Japan or Korea, it was still the local stars and Caucasians who were more popular with the crowd. This was a phenomenon that was very difficult to change.

The music played!

The band was an in-house one since Chen Guang and Zhao Wuliu did not have their own bands. Neither were professionals when it came to singing heavy metal songs and were just representing the Chinese rock 'n' roll scene as guests today.

Chen Guang started shouting.

"If you look around!

"We're like!

"Stars!

"In the sky!"

Amy called out, "This is pretty good!"

Xiaodong smiled and said, "It's this song!"

Li Xiaoxian had also heard it before. "It's that classic heavy metal song from America."

Jiang Hanwei said, "Old Chen has got really good vocals."

Zhang Ye was actually quite looking forward to it at first, but he became annoyed listening to it.

Good vocals? What's so good about that? Old Chen isn't suited to singing these types of songs. As someone who sings pop rock, why are you even getting yourself involved in heavy metal?

Their group had a portable WiFi hotspot on them.

Zhang Ye searched the Internet for this world's heavy metal music. There weren't too many subgenres, and they had gotten off to a slower start compared to Zhang Ye's previous world. They were late by at least 20 years in development over here, so it was no wonder that Zhang Ye found it a little awkward to listen to. It was also no wonder that the China of this world still did not have any heavy metal music to call their own yet. So it was all down to the late development of metal in this world that the scene hadn't matured enough. This International Heavy Metal Music Festival was only in its fifth year, so compared to the other genres of music, metal was in its infancy.

Of course, describing it as still in its infancy was something that only Zhang Ye could say. This was because he had experienced the growth and maturity of metal in his previous world. He had listened to many, many classics by so many different bands. This was why he had the qualifications to evaluate this matter in such a way. But to the people of this world, the current heavy metal scene was at the forefront of things. Naturally, no one would feel that it was still in its infancy, since none of them had witnessed any mature forms of metal. Perhaps in another few years, or a decade, they would finally see that day arrive.

Chen Guang finished singing.

Next up, even more bands took to the stage to perform. The bands were all heavy metal bands from all over the world. The tension in the arena was growing by the second.

Ning Lan was about to vomit from listening to the performances. She yelled, "Can I ask? When are we leaving?"

Amy said, "We're only halfway through! Sister Ning, continue listening; feel the music with your heart! You'll definitely feel the soul of heavy metal!"

Ning Lan rolled her eyes. "Feel the music with my heart? I can't appreciate it even if I use my kidneys to listen!"

Zhang Ye was amused by this. Likewise, he too was unable to appreciate the performances.

Mistakes.

Roughness.

There were blemishes in every performance that he listened to.

And most crucial of all, he could not understand anything in English and Korean. There was even a band that sang in Spanish, leaving this fellow even more confused. An international music festival with heavy metal bands from so many different countries singing in their own languages. All of them had their own form of metal, all except for China? A great country like ours still had to cover other people's songs? This fact made it even less meaningful. There was absolutely no sense in participating at all.

Then Zhang Ye suggested, "I think it's about time to leave."

Ning Lan said, "Yes, yes, it's really too noisy here."

While they were talking, the Korean band onstage suddenly started singing.

Big Qi was taken aback. "'Bobo'?"



Li Xiaoxian exclaimed, "Didn't Teacher Zhao say on the plane that he was planning on singing this song?"

Amy was stunned. "Did he?"

Xiaodong also remembered that. "I think he did."

Zhang Ye frowned and said, "Don't they all have a preset song list for music festivals like this? Surely they wouldn't let two groups of people sing the exact same song, right?"

Amy said, "That's right, what's going on here?"

Xu Meilan said, "Could something have happened?"

At this moment, everyone's cell phone sounded.

Amy cried out, "Look at the group chat on your phones!"

Zhang Ye asked, "What group chat?"

Amy said, "We made a group for those of us who were on the plane."

Everyone took out their cell phones to have a look. It turned out that Zhao Wuliu had sent the message. He should currently be backstage and would be making his appearance onstage after a few more songs finished!

In the group.

Zhao Wuliu: "Anyone? Is anyone here?"

Xu Meilan asked: "What's the matter, Old Zhao?"

Amy: "Why is somebody else singing your song?"

Zhao Wuliu started cussing: "Goddamn motherfucking hell! That Korean band changed their song at the last minute by choosing to play 'Bobo' instead. Even the organizers were not informed of this, and it was only found out after the band had gone onstage. This is the only song that I have prepared, and I have no backup songs that I can use. I don't think I can go onstage to sing anymore!"

Jiang Hanwei typed: "What about changing to a different song?"

Zhao Wuliu: "There's no time left. It's an in-house band who's playing my set, and we only practiced this one song earlier. Besides, I'm also not an expert in heavy metal, so I don't really know that many songs. Furthermore, my English isn't good either. Even if I'm better at it than Director Zhang, it's still not by much. If I chose a different song, how could I memorize the lyrics? I would have to correct all my pronunciations, so there's no way I can rush it. That group of Koreans are horrible people!"

Xu Meilan suggested: "What about Old Chen?"

Zhao Wuliu: "He only had one song prepared as well."

Amy said: "Then what can be done?"

Zhao Wuliu said: "That is why I'm calling for help. Do any of you here know metal? Any song would do, even if you only know one! Hurry and come stand in for me! I need someone to help me out!"

Xu Meilan said: "Alright, we got it, let us discuss it for a bit."

Zhao Wuli said: "We only have 10 minutes left!"

Overseas, everyone was still very helpful within the group.

And besides, it was very difficult to say that the Koreans did not deliberately cause this.

Being the leader of the group, Xu Meilan naturally took the responsibility. "Now that everyone knows about the trouble Old Zhao has just encountered, how should we handle this?"

Ning Lan threw up her hands. "I can't even sing pop songs well, all the more so for heavy metal."

Jiang Hanwei said, "I don't know rock 'n' roll either."

Big Qi expressed, "I'm even worse: I'm totally tone deaf."

Xu Meilan looked at Amy. "Amy, you know a little about heavy metal, don't you?"

Amy was almost in tears. "I'm only good at talking about it. I don't know how to sing it."

Xiaodong added, "Not too many people know how to sing heavy metal. Even if there are, our members of Spring Garden don't have the vocals to do so."

They were an idol group, not some rock band.

Xu Meilan turned to look at the last person. "Teacher Zhang?"

Zhang Ye smacked his lips. "Heavy metal?"

Xu Meilan asked, "Can you do it?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "I guess I'm OK."

Ning Lan was the first one to show her disbelief. "You know how to sing heavy metal?"

Big Qi also said in surprise, "Isn't your English really bad?"

Amy said, "Teacher Zhang, are you for real? Have you ever listened to heavy metal?"

Zhang Ye thought to himself, When I started listening to heavy metal, you weren't even conceived yet!

### **Chapter 1370: The shocking debut of 'Dreaming of the Tang Dynasty'!**

They were pressed for time!

They had to race against the clock!

"So who's going on?"

"Only Teacher Zhang can do it."

"There's no time left. Old Zhao is still waiting, so let's hurry up and decide. We're in a foreign country, and every move we make will affect our country's image. We cannot afford to lose here."

“Didn’t Teacher Zhang already say that he can do it?”

“Then it’s settled.”

“Teacher Zhang, we’re depending on you.”

Everyone came to an agreement.

Zhang Ye looked at them. “I’ll be taking the stage then?”

Amy sighed. “There’s no one else anyway.”

Zhang Ye nodded and said, “Alright, but I don’t have a band.”

Xu Meilan said, “A band?”

Big Qi said, “Yeah, how are we going to handle the band issue?”

Suddenly, Zhang Ye asked, “Amy, I heard that you can play the drums?”

Amy was taken aback. “Ah? Ah, yes, I can.”

Zhang Ye looked at Xiaodong. “Sister Dong, your skill on the bass hasn’t been lost, right?”

Xiaodong was dumbfounded. “Ah? It’s still OK.”

Zhang Ye glanced at Li Xiaoxian. “Classmate Xiaoxian, you can still play the guitar, right?”

Li Xiaoxian was taken back. “Uh, I guess.”

Zhang Ye snapped his fingers. “Alright, our band has been formed!”

Everyone was dumbfounded.

The members of Spring Garden exclaimed, “No, we can’t do it. This is a heavy metal performance. We haven’t even tried much of rock ‘n’ roll before, much less heavy metal. Teacher Zhang, please don’t pull us down with you. You should get someone else, or maybe borrow a band from the organizers?”

Zhang Ye glanced at them. “Do you guys think that I’m asking you because I want your level of playing? It’s just that there isn’t anyone else I can ask and the organizer’s in-house bands are all foreigners. It’s not like I had any practice in advance with them, nor can I properly communicate with them about the tune. There isn’t enough time either, so the three of you will have to make do!”

Big Qi said, “Yeah, there are only the three of you amongst us who are professional musicians.”

Ning Lan laughed and said, “Surely you all can’t expect Old Jiang and me to do it, right?”

Xiaodong finally crumbled. “Alright.”

Amy was on the verge of tears. “I’ll give it a try.”

Zhang Ye then called them over. “I’ll briefly explain it. I’ll be the lead guitarist, so Xiaoxian will accompany me. This is how the melody will sound like in general: When I increase the pitch, you’ll follow me—Sister Dong, this is your part—Amy, I don’t care what you do, just improvise—It doesn’t matter

whether you can remember it or not as long as you keep up with my rhythm. Don't mess up the tempo; hold steady. When we reach verse b, repeat these notes. All good?"

He explained and wrote it.

The members of Spring Garden were stunned.

Amy exclaimed, "Which song is this?"

Xiaodong also asked, "Why doesn't it feel like I've heard this melody before? Does this song exist?"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Why do you care what song it is. I'm the one singing it."

Li Xiaoxian was the most obedient one. "OK, I got it, Teacher Zhang."

Zhang Ye checked his watch. "Come on, let's go!"

Xiaodong facepalmed. She could only bite the bullet and follow Zhang Ye.

Amy clenched her teeth and stared. It was like she was staring Death in the eye.

Ning Lan watched as they walked into the distance and laughed. "These guys, why do they look like they're walking onto the execution grounds?"

Big Qi said worriedly, "W-Will this work?"

Xu Meilan smiled and said, "Whether it works or not, it still has to be him."

Big Qi said, "I'm just afraid that with Teacher Zhang's English, he'll make a fool of himself. Singing a song in English and pronouncing it wrong would be so embarrassing. There are so many foreigners watching in the audience today."

Jiang Hanwei kept shaking his head. This last-second band was too thrown together.

Backstage.

Zhao Wuliu was pacing around.

Chen Guang was also with him to discuss a way to handle the problem.

At this moment, Zhang Ye arrived with his people. "When do we go on stage?"

Chen Guang was startled. "What are you guys doing here?"

Xiaodong gave a wry smile. "We're here to save the day."

Zhao Wuliu was astounded and surprised. "This is great! We must depend on our own people at such crucial moments! Teacher Zhang, are you the lead singer? Do you really know heavy metal?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I know a lot."

Chen Guang said, "Can you sing in English?"

Zhang Ye smiled but did not say anything.

Zhao Wuli said, "Regardless, I'll go and tell the organizers so that we can switch out."

He brought along the interpreter to look for them and settled it after much discussion.

During this time, Zhang Ye seized the opportunity and communicated further with the members of Spring Garden about the song. He spoke to them on when to get into the flow and when to increase the power, detailing everything to them. It was a good thing that they were all longtime friends and had also performed on the same stage before, so they had some mutual understanding.

At this moment, a Korean staff member came over from the other side and said a few words.

The interpreter immediately relayed, "It's your turn!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "Comrades, let's go!"

Xiaodong said, "Alright!"

Amy said, "Hell, let's do this!"

Li Xiaoxian said, "I'm gonna try my best too!"

Chen Guang called out to him, "Hey, why didn't you change your clothes? You're still wearing those Chinese clothes!"

But Zhang Ye just reached up and adjusted the collar of his Chinese jacket <sup>1</sup>. "There's no need to change!"

Chen Guang looked really helpless and dared not imagine what sort of a performance they'd give.

The four of them took a deep breath backstage before Zhang Ye stepped up and led the others onto the stage!

It was a large venue!

There were nearly 10,000 people in attendance!

Everyone's attention was suddenly on them!

...

The American audience.

"What?"

"Who is he?"

"I don't know."

"Why do those clothes look so weird?"

"Is he Chinese?"

...

The Korean audience.

“Ah, isn’t that Spring Garden!”

“It’s them. That’s Xiaodong, Amy, and Li Xiaoxian.”

“Did they come to the wrong place?”

“Yeah, this is a heavy metal music festival, not some pop concert!”

“Who is that guy?”

“I know him, it’s Zhang Ye!”

“What? He is that Zhang Ye? That Heavenly King from China?”

“Yeah!”

...

The Chinese international students.

“Ahhh!”

“Zhang Ye!”

“It’s Zhang Ye!”

“Damn, what is that guy doing here?”

“Even Spring Garden is here?”

“What are they doing up there? Where’s Teacher Zhao Wuliu?”

“Why is there a change to the lineup?”

“How can Zhang Ye possibly know how to sing heavy metal!”

“That’s right. This fellow’s English cannot even be compared to a middle school student’s!”

“Is he wearing a tangzhuang?”

“That’s an updated form of it, right? How is he going to perform a heavy metal song wearing that? Shouldn’t he at least change into leather pants?”

“Pfft, what an unprofessional guy!”

“He must be trying to create trouble!”

...

The heavy metal bands from the different countries were all shaking their heads.

Especially the bands from Japan and Korea. They were very opinionated.

“What is this?”

“Are they even here to sing heavy metal?”

“You wouldn’t think so just by looking at them.”

“Where did they pop out from?”

“Are they Chinese? But China has no metal of their own.”

“They’re definitely going to cover a song. How uninteresting.”

“Of all the acts that this music festival is featuring, why did they choose to invite the Chinese? Are they trying to mess around?”

“Just because the song they prepared was performed by someone else, they don’t have any other songs they can perform? Trash tier.”

“What do you mean?”

“One of the Korean bands changed songs for their performance, which clashed with one of the songs the Chinese selected.”

“That happened? So they can’t sing it anymore? And had to change their lineup? Well, I guess it’s not surprising. The Chinese don’t have their own metal. How many songs could they possibly know?”

...

In the VIP seating.

Chen Guang and Zhao Wuliu came over to join the others.

Ning Lan told them, “Take a seat, it’s about to start.”

Chen Guang was not looking forward to this at all.

Zhao Wuliu’s heart was pounding as he silently cheered them on.

Xu Meilan’s pair of beautiful eyes were staring at the stage.

Big Qi shouted, “Come on! Come on!”

...

On the stage.

Zhang Ye stood there calmly.

Xiaodong and the others were behind their instruments.

Seeing the audience muttering, hearing the lukewarm applause from them, Zhang Ye was very unhappy. The bands that appeared before them did not receive the treatment that they were getting. Was it just because of his Chinese jacket? That they assumed he didn’t know heavy metal? Just because he was Chinese, they thought that he didn’t know heavy metal?

Zhang Ye found this ridiculous and sighed.

Thinking back to the prosperous Great Tang, how mighty was China back then?

What did we not have at that time?

What could we not do at that time?

Who was not convinced by us at that time?

Change clothes?

Change into something that would befit metal?

Don't be stupid!

Today, this is what I'll wear!

Today, I'm dressed in this Chinese jacket!

I'll let you all listen to China's heavy metal!

Zhang Ye's electric guitar rang out!

A deafening melody filled the arena. It was a melody that carried a strong feel of heavy metal in it as it stirred everyone who heard it up in surprise. All of them raised their heads and stared straight in a stunned manner at Zhang Ye who was up on stage!

The sound of the bass came in.

The drums started playing as well!

The melody's pitch was getting higher and higher!

Zhang Ye's face had a reminiscent look on it. He suddenly shut his eyes and a voice that was heavily laced with a sense of heavy metal suddenly rang out across the venue. The moment he opened his mouth, the entire audience at the venue exclaimed. The foreign Chinese students were dumbfounded, Chen Guang was dumbfounded, Xu Meilan was dumbfounded, Ning Lan was dumbfounded, and even the trio of Spring Flower Garden who were playing with Zhang Ye were so shocked that they nearly took their hands off from their instruments!

Zhang Ye sang <sup>2</sup> .

" Chrysanthemum, sword, and wine! <sup>3</sup>

"Infused into the noisy garden via coffee!

"Another nation worships the ancient moon at a sun altar!

"The Kaiyuan <sup>4</sup> golden age charms people!"

Everyone was stunned!

It was in Chinese!

Jesus!

Why was it in Chinese!



Chen Guang and Zhao Wuliu looked at each other, stunned!

Ning Lan gasped!

Big Qi stared with wide eyes!

Xu Meilan leaped to her feet!

Zhang Ye sang in his head voice <sup>5</sup> .

"The wind! Can't blow away sorrow! <sup>6</sup>

"Flowers! Can't satisfy nostalgia!

"The snow! Can't reflect the land!

"The moon! Can't fulfill old dreams!"

He then raised his right hand and unfurled his fingers, singing loudly.

"Our fate's imprinted in the lines of our palms!

"Tonight is sober and dreamless!

"Following my destiny, going toward a myth!

"Dreaming of the Tang dynasty-y-y-y!"

A dream?

Of the Tang dynasty?

A majestic picture was painted for all to see!

Instantly, the Chinese international students stood up and started screaming madly!

The Western audience stood up in shock. How was this possible!

The Korean audience was at a loss for words as they gave expressions of disbelief!

God!

This was China's heavy metal?

This was China's very own heavy metal music?!

But that was impossible!

Didn't China not have its own heavy metal music!

This was not possible at all!

Why does this song sound even more complete than our heavy metal music?

A lot of people were stunned!

Zhang Ye sang loudly.

“Tonight’s goblet reflects the bright moon!

“Feudal peoples, a busy Silk Road!

“Tonight’s goblet reflects the bright moon!

“A collection of treasures and talented people!

“Tonight’s goblet reflects the bright moon!

“The smell of paper and ink, the artist’s soul flooding out!

“Tonight’s goblet reflects the bright moon!

“Heroes radiating courage to the universe!”

Amy could feel her blood pumping as she drummed furiously!

Xiaodong was playing the bass and was captivated by the music!

Zhang Ye suddenly switched to an operatic style of singing and growled.

“Reminiscing about golden ages!

“Close friends from all over the world!

“A vision of a borderless world!

” If only millions of manors could be built! 7 ”

He fist-pumped his right hand!

Chen Guang raised his hand!

Zhao Wuliu raised his hand!

Big Qi raised his hand!

Even someone like Ning Lan who did not enjoy heavy metal got caught in the moment and raised her right hand!

The atmosphere had hit a fever pitch!

The entire venue responded!

One hand!

100 hands!

1,000 hands!

Zhang Ye took a deep breath and howled.

“Our fate’s imprinted in the lines of our palms!

“Tonight is sober and dreamless!

“Following my destiny, going toward a myth!

“Just like returning to the Tang dynasty in a dream-m-m-m-m-m-m!”

This magnificent scale!

This resplendent sight!

These overwhelming emotions!

These towering heroics!

It was crazy!

Everyone had gone crazy!

Chen Guang and Zhao Wuliu could feel their pulse coursing!

The Chinese international students’ tears were streaming!

This is our very own style of heavy metal!

Today, China has finally truly gained its own identity in heavy metal music!

...

On this day.

On this date.

This pioneer heavy metal piece from China in Zhang Ye’s previous world, this most classic heavy metal piece that made everyone go crazy over it, “Dreaming of the Tang Dynasty” debuted!

Dressed in a Chinese jacket.

And with “Dreaming of the Tang Dynasty.”

Zhang Ye roped in Spring Garden with him and shocked Asia!