

Superstar 1581

Chapter 1581: The entire nation's citizens get shocked!

In the auditorium.

The awards ceremony ended and the crowd dispersed.

Instantly, the reporters made a mad dash towards Zhang Ye.

"Teacher Zhang!"

"Fellow Zhang!"

"Please, don't go yet!"

When Zhang Ye saw this, he hurriedly avoided them.

General Li happened to come over.

"Old Li," Zhang Ye said.

General Li smiled and said, "Congratulations."

Zhang Ye smiled. "Since the news is now public, the confidentiality clauses should be invalid now, right?"

General Li took out several documents and gave them to him. "These three are invalid, but the rest are still in effect. As long as you're alive, they won't be invalid."

Zhang Ye shrugged. "Alright, I understand."

From nearby, quite a few scientists also came over and surrounded him.

"Fellow Zhang."

"Congrats, congrats!"

"Our research institute has encountered some technical difficulties for a dynamics issue. We can't seem to overcome it. Can we ask which day you might be free? Can you come over to our research institute to have a look?"

"Fellow Zhang, will you be free tomorrow? Let me buy you dinner!"

Zhang Ye became very highly sought after all of a sudden.

Xin Ya squeezed her way to the front. She said in astonishment, "Professor Zhang, what is it with you?"

The venue descended into chaos!

...

On Weibo.

The netizens were still analyzing the situation.

“It’s still not announced yet?”

“The awards ceremony should be ending soon, right?”

“I wonder who won?”

“I don’t know.”

“I just received news that Fellow Chen was only awarded a consolation prize.”

“All other awards are just consolation prizes. They’re only there as the bridesmaids to the Highest Science and Technology Award, which is the true highlight of the ceremony!”

“So when are they gonna announce it?”

A lot of people were waiting.

A lot of people were watching the buzz.

A short while later, the news was announced!

On the television.

In the papers.

Online.

The news blew up!

“More than 10 science awards have been announced!”

“Zhang Ye takes home the Highest Science and Technology Award!”

“Zhang Ye wins the highest honor in science and technology!”

“Zhang Ye’s résumé shocks everyone both at home and abroad!”

“Zhang Ye fulfills the dreams of the people for an aircraft engine!”

“Zhang Ye develops dozens of advanced international technologies!”

“Zhang Ye: The youngest research fellow of the Two Academies!”

“Zhang Ye’s speech: ‘Bu I long to use the sword I carry, / For the State, oh, the barbarians I’ll bury!’”

“During his sentence of over three years, Zhang Ye has actually been working for the country all the while!”

“Zhang Ye to become the most successful scientist in the country?”

The news was too shocking!

It shocked so many people that they thought they had been reading fake news!

...

At Yao Jiancai's house.

The entire family was stunned.

"What?"

"Uncle Zhang?"

"How is it him!"

"The highest award in science?"

...

At Beijing Television.

"Ahhh!"

"Didn't they say that Zhang Ye's nomination was just to round off the numbers?"

"H-How did he end up getting it!?"

"What the heck!"

"Developed an aircraft engine?"

"Designed a fighter jet?"

...

At his old classmate's house.

"Holy shit!"

"Quick, come and see this!"

"Zhang'er, he's crazy!"

"The president presented him with an award!"

"They're showing a recording from the venue!"

...

At Li Shao's studio.

"Shit!"

"Why is it him again!"

"Yeah, why is it him again!"

"He can even qualify for an award like this?"

"Fuck! What happened!"

...

At an entertainment company.

“How scary!”

“He’s absolutely unstoppable now.”

“So that latest self-developed fighter jet was actually a project led by Zhang Ye!”

“Has he really crossed over to the field of science?”

“And he has even reached the summit of the scientific community too?!”

...

At the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

“Zhang Ye is one of us?”

“So it was him?”

“He joined the Chinese Academy of Sciences long ago!”

“My idol! He’s so amazing!”

“So this is the person who’s been hailed as the smartest person to exist in several hundred years?”

...

At Zhang Ye’s Studio.

“This is absolutely crazy!”

“Director Zhang has won the highest prize in science!”

“I knew it! I was wondering why Director Zhang insisted on waiting longer before reopening his spot on the popularity rankings!”

“We can finally reopen our spot!”

“Just how much popularity will this bring to Director Zhang?”

“I don’t know, but he’s definitely going to be on the level of a Heavenly King!”

...

Online.

“There’s really no one in the world who can stop him!”

“Teacher Zhang—no, I should be addressing him as Fellow Zhang instead!”

“So he has actually been doing so many things since he got sent to jail!”

“Why can’t I seem to believe it!”

“I can’t believe it either.”

“Is this some sort of tall tale?”

“Is Teacher Zhang really so awesome?”

“That poem is too domineering!”

“What a good ‘For the State, oh, the barbarians I’ll bury!’”

“My blood is also racing from that!”

“Teacher Zhang is mighty! This is truly a contribution that will fucking benefit the future generations!”

“Yeah, this sort of an important award is worth far more than 10 awards earned in the entertainment circle. Zhang Ye has really made a great contribution to the might of our country! Patriotism isn’t simply talk. It has to be acted on!”

“Ahhhh, I’m so in love with Zhang Ye!”

“This is what you truly call a star!”

...

On the way home.

Calls kept coming in from his family and friends!

Zhang Xia.

Chen Guang.

Hu Fei.

Ha Qiqi.

Ning Lan.

Xu Meilan.

Dong Shanshan.

“Zhang’er, you weren’t resting even when you were in prison!”

“Hahaha, I guess.”

“Aren’t you being too clever? You can even dabble in the field of science and technology?”

“Just doing my part for the people.”

“What on earth happened?”

“Hur hur, I’ll explain it in detail in the future.”

Up ahead, he had arrived back at home.

Xin Ya’s car came to a stop outside as the villa’s gate opened.

Zhang Ye's parents, Wu Changhe, and Li Qinqin all came rushing out!

"Little Ye!"

"Damn, what is going on?"

"How did you win it!?"

"Hurry up and tell us!"

The four of them were very anxious and excited!

When the scene showing Zhang Ye accepting the award from the president was broadcast on television, they were the people in the entire nation who were the most surprised!

Li Qinqin grabbed Xin Ya and asked, "Little Ya, did that really happen?"

Xin Ya said with a bitter smile, "It's real. They really did give him the award."

Behind them, Wu Zeqing came out holding their child. She smiled and said, "Let go inside and talk."

But Wu Changhe couldn't wait a second more. He stared at Zhang Ye. "Tell us right now! You're really too good at keeping a secret! Have you never spoken the truth before!"

Zhang Ye laughed and threw up his hands. "Dad, what do you mean by I've never spoken the truth before? I was just held back by the confidentiality clauses that I've signed off on. I couldn't talk about it until they were canceled." Now he could talk about it. "In any case, this was what happened. When I was in prison, the government insisted on recruiting me to help them out. As such, I helped them out by tackling a few technical difficulties that they had, and dabbled in developing an aircraft engine, a radar system, guided missiles, and the like. Why else did you think I was able to get released in half the time from my original sentence? It was all because I got a sentence reduction."

The lot of them came back into the house.

Zhang Ye related the events of the past few years to them.

Everyone listened to him, expressing surprise and astonishment at times, and getting dumbfounded at other times!

Xin Ya had to take her hat off to him as well. She was speechless and astonished by how capable Zhang Ye was!

You can even do that?

That's even possible?

Building an aircraft?

Manufacturing an engine?

Designing a radar system?

And you even know about missile technology too?

Why the fuck do you seem to know about everything!

Chapter 1582: Three professorship titles!

Noon.

The news of the State Science and Technology Awards was all over the television.

On Central TV.

On Beijing Television.

On Shanghai Television.

On Jiangsu Television.

There was a constant bombardment of this news!

And the more reports there were, the more detailed the information became!

On a military show.

An active colonel said excitedly, "Developing a fifth-generation fighter jet on our own is something that many other developed countries are still unable to achieve. This is a qualitative leap in standards for our country's military, so I'm hailing Professor Zhang as a technological hero. He has made a great contribution to our country. In fact, there are also a few other technologies like the radar system the Americans still do not have, yet we do! It was forcefully pulled out of nowhere by Professor Zhang! We're now the only country to have this technology and are at the forefront of this area in the global arena!"

The host said, "I can see that Colonel Sun is very excited about this."

"Yes, I'm extremely excited and also very proud of this."

"Then in your opinion, what status does Zhang Ye have in the field of science and technology?"

The colonel answered without even thinking, "He's currently the most outstanding scientist in China!"

The host followed up with, "Do you mean he is the most outstanding scientist, or one of the most outstanding scientists?"

The colonel laughed. "I dare not say that no one else comes close, but I can confidently say that no one can replace Professor Zhang's role in the field of science and technology in China!"

...

Back at home.

Xin Ya stayed behind for lunch.

Zhang Ye was in the living room playing with his daughter.

"Daddy, catch me!"

“Boo! The big bad wolf is coming!”

“Heehee! The big bad wolf can’t catch me!”

“Watch out, the big bad wolf will catch and eat you!”

“You can’t catch me! Daddy can’t catch me!”

One was running away.

And the other was chasing after.

The father-daughter pair was nearly turning the house upside down. Several of the chairs had fallen onto their sides.

His mother had a headache. “Rascal, sit down and take a break.”

Li Qinqin was preparing lunch and laughing as she said, “Just let them be since Little Ye and the child are both so happy today. I’ll clean up the house afterwards.”

His mother looked at them and said with a laugh, “Those two.”

Half an hour later, lunch was ready.

Li Qinqin called out to them, “Little Ye, Sisi, it’s time to eat.”

His mother nagged, “Hurry up and come over quickly.”

“Coming.” Only then did Zhang Ye carry his daughter over.

Sisi was panting in exhaustion, and her head was full of sweat.

His father said, “Sisi, eat.”

Sisi said breathlessly, “Pops, I’m tired.”

Wu Changhe side-eyed him and said, “It was almost time to eat. Why did you let the child run around so much?”

Zhang Ye shrugged it off. “It’s good to exercise a little.”

Xin Ya rubbed Sisi on her head sympathetically. “You must’ve had really bad luck in your past eight lifetimes to have a father like this.”

Everyone laughed.

Wu Zeqing carried the child over to wipe off her sweat. While doing that, she asked Xin Ya, “Has your application to the Chinese Academy of Sciences been approved yet?”

Xin Ya smiled and said, “There’s no news of that yet.”

Wu Zeqing smiled. “Why don’t you get my husband to help you with that?”

Zhang Ye played dumb. “Help with what?”

His mother said, "Aren't you a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Sciences?"

Zhang Ye said, "About the approval of new research fellows, my words don't count for anything."

Xin Ya said in annoyance, "You've won the Highest Science and Technology Award. Even if there are a hundred research fellows at the academy, you still rank at the front, not to mention that you're also a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Engineering too. Of all those who are Two Academies fellows and still alive, there aren't more than five, including you, in the whole of China. So how can your words not count?"

Wu Zeqing chuckled and said, "Enough, Little Ye, don't tease Little Ya anymore."

Only then did Zhang Ye say, "Actually, I already knew about your application to be a research fellow. I've spoken to those that I know. Fellow Chi Jr., Fellow Chi, and Fellow Zhou will surely cast their votes for you and help speak up for you."

Xin Ya said happily, "That's more like it!"

Wu Changhe asked, "Kid, do you really intend to stay and work in the scientific field?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I will do whatever can make me famous. It has nothing to do with the industry."

Li Qinqin said, "How much popularity will you be able to get this time?"

"I don't know." Zhang Ye said, "I've gotta wait until they reopen my spot on the popularity rankings."

His mother said, "When are you going to reopen it then?"

Zhang Ye said, "I'm also waiting for news of it."

They all chatted for a bit.

Li Qinqin suddenly raised her glass and said, "Come, Little Ye, let's drink."

Zhang Ye hurriedly picked up his glass and said, "Let me give you a toast."

Li Qinqin smiled with a pleased look. "For you to have achieved what you've achieved, Mom is very happy for you."

"Thank you, Mom." Zhang Ye respectfully clinked his mother-in-law's glass and downed the drink. "I will work even harder from now on so as to not disappoint the expectations that the Party and country have for me."

His father nodded. "Well said!"

When Xin Ya heard that, she started wondering to herself.

You've already built an aircraft!

And you still want to work even harder?

Damn, don't tell me you intend to build a spaceship next?

Ring, ring, ring.

Zhang Ye's phone rang.

When Zhang saw the caller ID, he smiled and answered the call.

On the other end of the line was Dean Pan Yang of Peking University's School of Mathematical Sciences.

"Hello, Fellow Zhang."

"Dean Pan, long time no see. Oh no, I should be calling you President Pan instead. I heard that you were promoted during these few years. You're now the vice president of Peking University?"

"Haha, I'm still nothing as compared to you. Coming back after four years, you took the Highest Science and Technology Award just like that!"

"I was just lucky, just lucky."

"There's no need to be humble. Anyway, I'm looking for you for something."

"Please speak."

"About the professorship at Peking University, why don't you continue on in the position?"

"Ah? Didn't I resign from my post a few years ago?"

"That's why I'm reinviting you."

"I had better not. I don't have time to give any lessons."

"There's no need for you to give any lessons. As long as you agree, I'll get someone to send the appointment letter to you by tomorrow. It's settled then. I'll take it that you've agreed whether you like it or not. I didn't say anything when you resigned a few years ago. I knew that you must've been afraid that you'd drag Peking University down over the hacking incident, so let's not talk about that anymore. Since you're back, don't turn down the offer. Peking University will forever be your home."

"Sure, alright then."

"Haha, great, then it's settled!"

After hanging up.

Another call came from Media College.

"Professor Zhang."

"President Chen."

"I've sent off the appointment letter for your professorship. Don't forget to accept it."

"Ah? I'll become a professor just like that? You should have at least informed me beforehand."

"Is there a need to do that? You're a student who went through the doors of Media College, so you're forever a member of our Media College family. This professor position was originally yours anyway. I

didn't agree to your resignation back then, so as it happens, we're rejecting your resignation from back then. You're still a professor of our school."

"Damn, alright then."

"Little Zhang, you've done well these past few years. You've done really well. You didn't embarrass your alma mater at all!"

"Ahem, President Chen, I've been involved in scientific research and development for the past few years. I didn't do anything regarding broadcast at all—"

"Our university also teaches physics, mathematics, and aviation—uh, I think there's no aviation course yet, but we'll have it in the future. Where did you develop your talent? At our school, of course! You were developed and trained by Media College, isn't that so?"

"Ah, yes, yes, it's all due to my alma mater."

"Remember to say it like that to the media as well."

"Pfft, I understand."

However, that was not the end of it.

After putting the cell phone down and attempting to get back to lunch, it rang again.

But this time, the call startled Zhang Ye.

It was from General Li.

"Fellow Zhang."

"Old Li, what's the matter? Didn't we meet at the Great Hall earlier?"

"So you mean I can't look for you for other matters?"

"Haha, of course you may, please go ahead."

"I am at the National Defense University ¹ right now."

"National Defense University?"

"Yeah, it's my alma mater. I was pulled aside by the school's president right after a meeting. He bought me a meal and spoke to me for such a long time. Only then did I realize it was because he wanted to look for you about something."

"What does the National Defense University want with me?"

"They would like to invite you to join the National Defense University as a professor. It's a full professorship too, not an associate one."

"Professorship? But the National Defense University is the highest educational institute for military affairs. Shouldn't that be a military rank? I'm not in the military."

"There are civilian professors too."

“Damn, why me again?”

“What do you mean again?”

“Ahem, it’s nothing.”

“They understand that you’re busy, and that their invitation to you to join the National Defense University after you’ve won the Highest Science and Technology Award might feel like it’s a bit of an afterthought, as though your efforts are there for the picking, so they feel a little embarrassed about it. That’s why they found me to talk to you about whether you’re willing to join the university. They even said that you basically wouldn’t need to give any lessons. It’s fine to just show up over there once in a while, and you won’t need to worry about anything else. It’s just going to be a title, so what do you say?”

“If that’s the case, it’s fine.”

“Alright, I’ll help you say yes to them then?”

“Sure.”

The call finally ended.

Zhang Ye walked back to the table and sat down.

His mother said in annoyance, “Why are you so busy?”

Li Qinqin smiled and said, “Little Ye has just won the highest award and is currently in the news, so he’s busy.”

Xin Ya asked, “Who was that? Look at how gleeful you are.”

Zhang Ye grinned. “It’s from a few universities. Peking University, Media College, and National Defense University all approached me to take on a professorship role with them. I ended up agreeing to it since I wouldn’t suffer any losses and it would help me with my popularity too.”

Xin Ya was stunned. “The National Defense University also came looking for you?”

Zhang Ye said, “Yeah.”

Li Qinqin said happily, “That is a good thing!”

Xin Ya said helplessly, “You’ve become so sought after! The National Defense University is the military’s highest educational institute in the country, but even they’re fighting to get you to join them?” Pausing for a moment, she sighed and said, “But that’s not exactly surprising either. You’ve attracted so much attention this time. The Highest Science and Technology Award that hadn’t been given out for the past two years was even won by you, so it’s only expected that they’re fighting over you. If you join them as a professor, it will also be an honor for their schools, and they’ll be able to rub off of your glory.”

Sometimes, comparisons were torture.

Xin Ya had spent her entire life doing mathematics research. It was so during her school days and also the same after she had graduated. She was now almost 40, yet she still hadn’t managed to get the title

of a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. For now, she was still just a researcher with the academy. But Zhang Ye? He was a celebrity who had graduated with a broadcasting major, someone who totally had no relation to the scientific community and had never stayed long in a field of work. Instead, it was someone like that who was appointed a research fellow at the Two Academies, as well as securing professorship titles at the various key universities of China. He even reached the summit after having won the Highest Science and Technology Award, so what would you make of that?

Several years ago, Zhang Ye had lost all his honor when he left.

Several years later, when Zhang Ye returned, he regained all of that glory and even more!

A Two Academies research fellow!

Three professorship titles!

This was totally unprecedented!

What could time do about him?

This guy was absolutely unable to be measured with any common sense!

...

After lunch.

Xin Ya said goodbye.

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Do you need me to see you out?"

Xin Ya said with a laugh, "Sure."

Wu Zeqing acknowledged, "OK."

Zhang Ye even urged from behind, "Old Wu, come back in quickly after you see her out. The appointment from the National Defense University has been sent over already, and it's full of words. Help me take a look at it."

Wu Zeqing gave him a smile. "Sure, why don't you put it down."

His mother stared at him. "Don't you know how to read it yourself?"

Zhang Ye said, "My wife is better at such things than I am."

His mother harrumphed, "Without Zeqing around, I doubt you'd be able to survive."

Outside.

The two of them walked to Xin Ya's car, which was parked outside.

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "What did you want to talk about?"

Xin Ya looked at her. "When you got married to Zhang Ye, I've mentioned that you two might not be right for each other. I'm taking back those words of mine."

"Why did you suddenly think about this?" Wu Zeqing asked.

Xin Ya laughed. "I just wanted to get it out since I remembered. I'm not as good as you when it comes to choosing a man. I'm just curious how you managed to snag such a great person out of the crowd."

Chapter 1583: A change is coming to the entertainment circle?

It was the weekend.

In the morning.

Old Wu took a rare day off from work while Sisi was on summer break from kindergarten. The mother and daughter were up early in the morning, leaving Zhang Ye still lazing in bed. He wouldn't get up no matter what.

"Daddy, Daddy."

"What is it?"

"Daddy, get up."

"Let your father sleep another two hours."

"Mommy said that you aren't a good child if you laze around in bed."

"Daddy is not a child."

"Get up quickly, Daddy."

"Then come and give Daddy a kiss."

Zhang Ye was being shameless.

Sisi was getting anxious.

Wu Zeqing slowly walked to the bedside and said with a smile, "How are you not a child? You're a child through and through. How old are you? Shouldn't you be setting an example to our child? Hur hur." She then carried Sisi onto the bed. "Give Daddy a kiss and ask him to get up."

Sisi gave Zhang Ye a kiss.

Zhang Ye turned over and said, "Your Mommy has to give me a kiss as well."

Wu Zeqing smiled and lowered her head to kiss him as well. "There."

Yawning, Zhang Ye finally stretched himself and sat up in bed. His outstretched arms wrapped around his wife and daughter and he hugged them. "Say, this bro's days are so comfortable. Every day is such a wonderful day. I wouldn't exchange such a life even if I were offered the position of president." He then took his cell phone from the bedside table and opened the camera app. He selected the selfie mode and said, "Quick, let's take a family picture together."

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "But I haven't washed up yet."

Zhang Ye said, "My wife is good-looking even if she hasn't washed her face yet."

“Oh, you.” Wu Zeqing was left with no choice.

When Sisi saw herself on the screen, she revealed a very cute look.

Kacha!

Zhang Ye laughed heartily and said, “It’s done. I’ll put it up on Moments!”

With just a few taps, he uploaded it.

Almost instantly, quite a few people in his Moments liked the picture.

Yao Jiancai replied: “Sharenting¹?”

Fan Wenli replied: “Minister Wu is so beautiful!”

Ning Lan replied: “You’re showing off your wife and sharenting so early in the morning? Should you really be doing this?”

The deputy station head of Central TV replied: “Your daughter is so cute.”

Xiaodong replied: “Wow, Sisi is such a good girl. I want to give her a kiss! *drooling emote*”

Amy replied: “Minister Wu still looks so good without her makeup? So jealous *tableflip emoticon*”

The response was very enthusiastic.

Zhang Ye was very happy.

This was exactly the effect he wanted!

As a result, this fellow was getting the hang of this feeling. After breakfast, Wu Zeqing started playing with Sisi. They would go out into the yard to play on the swing, water the plants, play with Sisi’s new toys, and let her try on her new clothes. Wu Zeqing was unlike Zhang Ye. Zhang Ye’s enthusiasm would only last a short while. He could play with the child crazily for half an hour before feeling tired and pulling himself out of the situation. But Old Wu could play with the child for an entire day, even squeezing in cooking in between. She was meticulous as a person. Perhaps this was the difference between a father and a mother.

The mother and daughter were happily playing while Zhang Ye took pictures of them. Sometimes, he would take pictures of his wife, and sometimes, he would take pictures of his daughter.

Five pictures.

Ten pictures.

A hundred pictures.

His Moments started filling up with his posts.

The text that he posted along with the pictures were also particularly poetic.

“Mommy is the best in the world.”

Tap, tap, tap. He attached nine photos of Old Wu to the post.

“My daughter is a good little girl.”

Tap, tap, tap. He attached nine photos of Sisi to the post.

“Mother and daughter are my two treasures.”

Tap, tap, tap. He attached nine photos of Old Wu and Sisi to the post.

“While Daddy is only a blade of grass.”

Tap! He attached a single photo of himself nestled in a corner.

The people on Zhang Ye’s Moments were going crazy.

His eldest younger sister: “Pfft, Brother is obsessively posting pictures of his wife!”

His third sister commented: “And also obsessively posting his daughter’s pictures too!”

Grandma Zhang Xia commented: “Little Zhang has gone crazy.”

His mother commented: “Why are you posting so many updates? Do you have nothing better to do?”

At the beginning, everyone was liking his posts and replying to them. After all, Zhang Ye didn’t usually post much on Moments. But when he posted his 10th post on Moments, the number of people liking it had become significantly fewer. By the time he reached his 20th post, barely anyone gave him any more Likes or commented on them. Oh, but it wasn’t totally no one. There was still a person who was tirelessly liking and commenting on his posts. Whenever Zhang Ye posted something, he would like it. He didn’t miss out on any of the posts.

This guy was Supervisor Ke.

A department head at the Central Publicity Department.

Supervisor Ke was also going crazy. Wu Zeqing was his supervisor and his direct boss. Due to the TV series the Central Publicity Department had funded, he had added Zhang Ye to his contacts. When he saw all those posts of his boss and her daughter, how could he possibly not like them and add a comment? Supervisor Ke was well-known at his workplace for going on a spree with his Likes. As long as it were anyone in his Moments, he would always make sure to press Like on their posts. This was a habit for him. If he could always press Like on the posts of his normal colleagues, how could he not Like the posts that his direct boss was in? That wouldn’t be acceptable. This was a mistake that Supervisor Ke would obviously not commit. But as things would have it, Zhang Ye posted several dozen updates onto his Moments today. As such, he also liked all several dozen posts and would wrack his brains to think of what to comment on each of them.

Supervisor Ke: “It’s been hard on Minister Wu. She works hard at the office and also has to take care of her child on the weekends.”

Supervisor Ke: “Sisi is so adorable. She’s becoming prettier and prettier.”

Supervisor Ke: “What flowers are these? They’re nice.”

Supervisor Ke: “Where did you buy this toy? It’s nice!”

Supervisor Ke: "This outfit suits Sisi great. It's nice!"

Supervisor Ke: "This hairpin on Sisi's head—It's nice!"

For the entire morning.

Zhang Ye didn't feel tired at all from his postings on Moments.

However, Supervisor Ke was almost burnt out by it. His eyes had turned green with nausea!

...

Noon.

During lunch, Wu Zeqing finally checked her cell phone.

Old Wu said helplessly, "Just how many times did you post? I browsed through five of them already, and I'm still not done."

Zhang Ye said, "I don't remember, but it's not a small number."

"Oh, you." Wu Zeqing smiled as she shook her head.

Zhang Ye casually switched on the television. When it came on, it was a news report about the State Science and Technology Prizes. It seemed like the momentum of this news wouldn't die off for at least a week. However, it could be deduced from this point that the people and the media were all in shock and disbelief over Zhang Ye becoming a great scientist. From a notorious hacker, he had now turned into a hero of science. This contrast couldn't be greater, so everyone definitely found it difficult to accept at the moment.

Wu Zeqing asked, "You're still not planning to reopen your popularity ranking?"

Zhang Ye said, "I'm still waiting for Sister Lan's news."

They had been friends for many years, so there was a need for this. He also understood that it was the best opportunity to reopen his Chinese popularity rankings right now. Prestige, topicality, reputation, he was at the pinnacle of all that at this moment. In fact, his current reputation was even better than before he got imprisoned. To say that his popularity had doubled from that time would not be an exaggeration.

Perhaps it was a blessing in disguise. Back then, Zhang Ye's popularity had reached a bottleneck, especially his Chinese popularity. The highest he got to at that time was around the sixth place of the S-list rankings. Based on the order of that, he didn't even manage to get into the top five in China. Moreover, Zhang Ye had pushed it to the extremes. Even if he were to continue with his efforts at that time, he would probably not have seen too great of a change in one or two years. However, after consolidating for several years and with that rapid era change in the entertainment circle, Zhang Ye could still stand here and regain the popularity that he once had. In fact, it was even higher than that, close enough to the point that he had hopes of catching up to the seat of the person at the top. This was a miracle that no one else could replicate. His name was a legend in the entertainment industry!

He was only one step away.

And this was a step Zhang Ye wasn't sure he could take.

Ring, ring, ring.

His cell phone suddenly rang. It was from Xu Meilan.

Zhang Ye answered: "Sister Lan?"

On the other end, Xu Meilan said with a chuckle: "You've been waiting a long time, haven't you?"

"It's fine, I'm not anxious," Zhang Ye said with a laugh.

Xu Meilan said: "Thank you. This time, Big Sis owes you a great big favor. If there's anything you need in the future, just tell me."

Zhang Ye was startled to hear that. "Your movie has premiered?"

Xu Meilan said: "It premiered two days ago."

Zhang Ye exclaimed: "Ah? Then how's your popularity ranking?"

Xu Meilan giggled. "You didn't check the popularity rankings, right?"

"Nope."

"True, you were busy posting on Moments all morning. Hur hur, Big Sis has risen to sixth on the S-list rankings. I'm no longer in last place, so hurry up and reopen your ranking. I don't want to delay your matters for too long." She said sincerely: "I hope that you will be able to soar to the Heavens this time. Of all the celebrities from back then, it all depends on you now."

Zhang Ye belly laughed and said: "Sure, I'll be counting on your blessings then."

After hanging up.

Wu Zeqing asked, "Is it time?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Sister Lan's matter is dealt with. She's now second to last on the S-list rankings. Even if my popularity score is ahead of hers and pushes her back down the rankings, she will still get to keep her Heavenly Queen status." Rubbing his hands together, he took a deep breath. "But I really do feel a little nervous right now. This bro has been doing so much recently, but what if I can't even get back on the S-list? What if I still remain below Sister Lan in the rankings? That would be so embarrassing. Where will this bro hide his face if that happens?"

But Wu Zeqing said, "Don't think too much."

Zhang'er said, "Alright, I'll listen to my wife."

Wu Zeqing asked, "Are you going out now?"

"Yes, I'll head to the studio for a bit," Zhang Ye said.

Wu Zeqing said, "Come back early."

Zhang Ye said, "OK."

It was the calm before the storm.

This was what many of those in the entertainment circle who were well-informed were feeling. Perhaps a change might really be coming to the entertainment circle soon!

Chapter 1584: The competition for first place in the entertainment industry!

In the afternoon.

At the studio.

When the door opened, Zhang Ye came walking in.

Looking at the inside, not a lot of people were at work today. Only four or five people were on duty as it was a Saturday today. The rest of the staff were all on their weekend break.

“Director Zhang?”

“What are doing you here?”

“Aren’t you supposed to be on your day off today?”

“Haha, I saw your posts on Moments.”

“Why aren’t you at home accompanying your child?”

“Yeah, we’re here.”

Then Zhang Ye said, “Sister Lan’s matter is settled.”

Tong Fu said in surprise, “So quickly?”

“I think Sister Lan’s box office earnings for her new movie are pretty high,” Zhang Ye said with a laugh.

Little Wang was taken back. “Ah, we didn’t notice at all, then—”

Zhang Zuo said, “Hurry up, call Old Ha and Old Zuo back.”

Little Wang replied, “Understood, I’ll call them immediately!”

Soon after, Ha Qiqi and Zhang Zuo drove back to the office in a hurry.

Zhang Ye instructed them, “Old Ha, you were the one liaising with the popularity rankings agency all this while, right? Let them know that my popularity ranking spot can be reopened.”

Ha Qiqi smiled and said, “Alright! I’ve waited a long time for this!”

Zhang Zuo was also extremely excited. “It’s finally time!”

Zhang Ye said, “Brother Zuo, can I trouble you to make a trip to the media outlets?”

Zhang Zuo obeyed. “Will do, I’ll handle it.”

Zhang Ye clapped his hands and said, "Everyone, let's buck up. Whether we succeed or not will all depend on this day!"

"Got it!"

"Alright!"

"Director Zhang will prevail!"

At this moment, the staff of Zhang Ye's Studio were filled with great fighting spirit!

They also wanted to know how far Director Zhang could go this time!

...

Very quickly, the news got out.

The official Weibo of the popularity rankings agency announced some news. "We have just received the latest news from Zhang Ye's Studio. Teacher Zhang has decided to reopen his spot on the popularity rankings (the subject hasn't had his popularity score updated in three and a half years). Our staff are already working on it, and we're stepping up our efforts to process the relevant information and data. We will tentatively be reopening Teacher Zhang's popularity ranking spot at 7 o'clock sharp this evening. For updates of any changes, please follow our Weibo, thank you."

A tossed stone creates a 1,000 ripples!

The media erupted!

The industry blew up!

The public was in chaos!

"Zhang Ye reopens his popularity ranking?"

"Show business circle to experience a change soon?"

"How much popularity does a former Heavenly King have left?"

"Can Zhang Ye stage a glorious return?"

"What a bombshell!"

"Stormy times for the entertainment circle again!"

...

At an entertainment company.

"Oh my God!"

"He's really reopening his popularity ranking?"

"This is big news!"

“I was wondering why my eyes have been twitching for the past few days. I should’ve known that something big was gonna happen!”

“Zhang Ye is coming back and bearing ill will!”

“How will it end up now that he’s reopening his popularity ranking?”

“No one knows for sure!”

...

At Central TV.

“He’s reopening it?”

“This is too sudden!”

“It’s not exactly sudden. Actually, he had wanted to reopen his rankings earlier.”

“Yeah, it was expected that his ranking would get suspended after the hacking incident from before. But now that he’s been released from jail and even made such a great contribution to the country’s scientific and technological advancement, there’s no reason why they would continue suspending his ranking. So then, why did he reopen it at this time?”

“Could it be because of Xu Meilan?”

“Based on Zhang Ye’s character, that’s really a possibility!”

...

At a male idols’ gathering.

“What?”

“There’s really such a thing?”

“This is bad, let’s leave. I have to make a trip back to the studio!”

“Let’s leave together. Hai, I don’t have an appetite anymore.”

“I thought that he didn’t care about the popularity rankings.”

“If his popularity ranking really—uh, surely it won’t happen, right?”

“There’s still Guan Zhaohua holding down the fort at the top.”

“Yeah, Brother Guan is currently at the top of the domestic popularity rankings.”

...

At Guan Zhaohua’s studio.

“This is bad!”

“Zhang Ye is going to reopen his popularity rankings!”

“Will it affect us?”

“It shouldn’t. He can’t possibly be that popular, right?”

“Yeah, no matter how awesome Zhang Ye is, he returned just a while ago. He hasn’t been involved in the entertainment circle for nearly four years. There’s no reason he can affect us!”

“He’s still very dangerous. That fellow is a legend, after all!”

“Let’s get prepared!”

“Hurry up, contact the media to issue a write-up about us!”

...

At another Heavenly Queen’s studio.

“Why is he coming out and creating trouble for us at this time?”

“Xu Meilan has just risen to the sixth spot of the S-list, and he’s choosing this time to reopen his popularity ranking? Then aren’t we in great danger? We’re in the seventh spot! That’s the bottom of the S-list!”

“We can’t let Zhang Ye get into the S-list!”

“Get in touch with the media outlets that we’re close to and see if they can dig up some dirt on Zhang Ye and publish it?”

“You’ve got it wrong. No media outlets would dare to publish such news on Zhang Ye at this time.”

“Pay them!”

“This isn’t a matter of money! Don’t you know who Zhang Ye’s wife is?”

...

At Yao Jiancai’s house.

“Hahahaha!”

“Uncle Zhang is almighty!”

“This kid is finally back!”

“I guess a lot of people in showbiz won’t be able to sit still any longer.”

...

At Xu Meilan’s studio.

“You can do it, Teacher Zhang!”

“I hope Teacher Zhang wins!”

“Teacher Zhang has given us a lot of help this time in our fight against the male idols and in the popularity rankings. Sister Lan is so fortunate to have a friend like that.”

“Yeah, Teacher Zhang is such a loyal friend.”

“That’s of course. Don’t you know how many years their friendship goes back?”

“I hope that Teacher Zhang score an opening victory!”

...

At Xiaodong’s house.

The trio of Spring Garden were all here.

“Teacher Zhang is finally moving!”

“This is such great news!”

“He should have reopened his rankings long ago!”

“It’s too critical to have a spot on the popularity rankings!”

“Yeah, by reopening his popularity rankings, it will disrupt the current state of showbiz!”

...

In the Go world.

“All the best!”

“Lord Zhang’s making a push on the popularity rankings, we oughta give him all our support!”

“Lord Zhang, you can do it!”

...

In the advertising world.

At Li Xiaoxiao’s house, she was currently chatting with several of her close friends.

“Xiaoxiao, come and watch the news!”

“Is the news real?”

“Zhang Ye is going to go on a rampage again!”

“You’re speaking like he hasn’t been going on a rampage ever since he came back.”

“But it’s different this time. The popularity rankings are the true standard for measurement of everything.”

“I don’t like this Zhang Ye. Back in the advertising war against our Xiaoxiao, he came up with that slogan of ‘Family Spring, a rather sweet thing’ and caused her to get held back by so many years! It angers me just mentioning it!”

“Yeah, our Xiaoxiao was the best person of the advertising and marketing world back then, yet Zhang Ye as a host had to come and mess things up for her. How infuriating!”

“Hur hur, but he’s really capable.”

“Xiaoxiao, why are you speaking up for him!”

“I’m just stating the facts.”

...

At Xinhua News.

“What’s supposed to come will still come.”

“Are they going for a win this time?”

“Who’s Zhang Ye gonna be stacking up against this time?”

“The male idols, I guess?”

“No, he’s going after all of the domestic celebrities!”

...

Zhang Ye’s fan club.

In a group chat.

“Teacher Zhang is going to smack faces again!”

“Hahahaha, I’m so looking forward to it!”

“Zhang Ye is the best!!”

“He’s taking action when it’s the right time. Go fuck them up!”

“Come on! My large saber is again again again again again again again again again again again again again again unable to endure the thirst!”

...

On Weibo.

“I’m in shock!”

“I’m really anticipating it!”

“Sister Lan’s movie has just had an explosive box office opening. She just moved up to sixth place in the S-list and Zhang Ye is reopening his popularity rankings? This is clear as day!”

“So he was waiting for Xu Meilan!”

“I knew it. So that was why he didn’t reopen his popularity rankings earlier!”

“What a loyal person Zhang Ye is!”

“This is what you call a real friend!”

“@ZhangYe Thank you on behalf of Sister Lan!”

“The righteous Lord Zhang!”

“Teacher Zhang is a real man!”

“I am the vice president of Sister Lan’s fan club. On behalf of all her fans, I thank Teacher Zhang. From now on, we will forever be allies and share weal and woe together. @BigSaberBro If there’s anything you need us for in the future, just speak!”

“Yao Jiancai’s fan club is here to show our support!”

“Dong Shanshan’s fan club is here to show our support!”

“Ning Lan’s fan club is here to show our support!”

“Awaiting the final outcome!”

“Right, let’s wait for the results together!”

...

This day was destined not to be a quiet one.

A single Weibo post from the popularity rankings agency had turned the entire entertainment circle upside down!

Everyone knew that after today, the current state of the Chinese entertainment circle would end up going through a turbulent change!

Chapter 1585: The latest popularity rankings are revealed!

The outside world was in chaos.

Demons.

Monsters.

All of them came crawling out at this moment.

The entertainment industry had seen two different eras in recent years and undergone two huge waves of changes. The first was when the veteran artists such as Zhang Yuanqi and some other celebrities ruled the industry many years ago. With Zhang Yuanqi’s retirement from the entertainment circle, an era ended with her withdrawal. Afterwards, most of the veterans of that era also left the public eye. The only person who had somewhat managed to maintain her popularity from back then was Xu Meilan. The entertainment industry ushered in a new era. It was the era of the male idols led by Guan Zhaohua. His popularity with the public and the media had pushed the Chinese entertainment circle to a whole new level. These days, the shadows of these male idols and hunks were seen everywhere, from variety shows to television series, to films—

Until Zhang Ye returned from serving his sentence.

Until Zhang Ye announced his comeback.

A lot of things changed overnight.

Shock!

Astonishment!

Disbelief!

Was this the end of the male idols' era?

Could it be that tonight would usher in a third wave of changes in the entertainment circle and welcome a new era?

Back when Zhang Ye debuted, he boarded at the tail end of the train of Zhang Yuanqi's era. During that era of the entertainment industry, Zhang Ye's name was always going to be an indispensable part of it, with his story always a legend of that time. However, he was not the protagonist of that era. Zhang Yuanqi, Xu Meilan, and a few others were the main people who had founded that era of the Chinese entertainment circle and ruled it for a full ten years. At that time, Zhang Ye had still not reached the height of his status.

But that situation had changed.

An era belonging to Zhang Ye might very well be coming soon!

They might just be witnessing the arrival of the entertainment industry's third revolution!

...

The media turned serious!

The atmosphere in the entertainment circle had become very tense!

The people were all counting down in their minds!

There were still two hours to go!

There was still an hour to go!

It was 6 o'clock in the evening.

The popularity rankings were about to be refreshed!

...

In the evening.

At home.

Zhang Ye arrived home in a leisurely mood.

"You're back?" Wu Zeqing had already prepared dinner. The dishes were all on the table.

“Why haven’t you two eaten yet?” Zhang Ye looked at the table.

Sisi replied, “Mommy said that we had to wait for Daddy to come home first.”

Zhang Ye quickly got seated and exclaimed, “Aiya, why did you have to wait for me? Quick, let’s eat. Look at how hungry my daughter is.”

Sisi looked at Wu Zeqing. “Mommy.”

Wu Zeqing smiled. “Daddy is home now. We can start eating.”

Sisi let out a cheer and started gobbling down her food.

When Zhang Ye saw this, he smiled. She warmed his heart.

After dinner, Sisi went back to her bedroom to play.

Zhang Ye helped Wu Zeqing out with the chores. He washed the dishes and cleaned the table.

Old Wu said nonchalantly, “Mom called twice this afternoon. She’s concerned about the Popularity Rankings Index.”

“My mom always loves worrying for nothing.” Zhang Ye laughed and said, “What’s the use of her asking you about that? Even I don’t know what the results will be after the popularity rankings are refreshed.”

Wu Zeqing looked down as she washed the dishes. “This afternoon, I suddenly got reminded of something from the time when I was serving in the lower levels. Do you want to hear about it?”

Zhang Ye said in surprise, “Sure.”

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, “Well, I used to be the head of the city’s ideological control department. Before I was appointed, I didn’t think much of it. All I wanted to do was to get my job done. I thought it would be easy, but in fact, it didn’t work out to be simple. The stress that I had at that time was really quite bad. The people under me were all waiting for me to get some results, so I had to handle a lot of matters by myself, including socializing with others and solving issues, all because I was the head of the department. If any problems surfaced, others would say that I was not capable enough, hur hur. So even now, I do not think that that was a good position to be in. Sometimes, the higher you climb, the easier it is to trap yourself in an unfavorable position.”

Zhang Ye was taken aback. He blinked for a bit and then smiled. “I understand what you’re getting at.”

But Wu Zeqing just smiled and said, “I didn’t say anything.”

After the dishes were washed.

Wu Zeqing pulled Zhang Ye out to the yard.

The moonlight.

The lawn.

The long bench.

The two of them sat shoulder to shoulder as they looked up and admired the moon.

“Are you prepared?”

“I am.”

“It will only get harder from here.”

“As long as you’re by my side, I’ll walk this path even if it means going through trials and tribulations!”

The look in Zhang Ye’s eyes turned even more determined.

Wu Zeqing smiled. “Little Ye.”

Zhang Ye said, “Hmm?”

Wu Zeqing said, “I haven’t heard you recite a poem for me in a while.”

Zhang Ye gave a slight smile and grabbed Old Wu’s hand. Then he looked up at the moonlight.

He understood Old Wu’s intentions and knew that she was worried for him. Zhang Ye knew clearly that if he were to take this step forward, it would be into a whole new world. The opponents he would be facing were going to be the top international stars from around the world. Zhang Ye had never seen that world before, nor had he experienced the dangers of it before. Perhaps every step would have to be taken with great difficulty. Perhaps he wouldn’t even make a mark even if his head was broken and bleeding.

Yet, he was truly ready for it.

He was willing to go into that “world” to have a look around!

He was willing to give it a shot on behalf of all the Chinese celebrities!

Zhang Ye recited:

“I’d be the whitewater

“Flowing through mountain streams,

“Over rugged streambeds,

“Splashing over the rocks...

“So long as my beloved

“May be a little fish,

“Swimming in my rolling waves,

“Happy and fancy-free.

“I’d be the wild forest

“On either river bank,

“Facing the howling winds

“And bravely fighting them...
“So long as my beloved
“May be a little bird,
“Nesting in my foliage,
“Dense, on branches warbling.
“I’d be the wrecked ruins
“Atop the mountain peaks.
“This silent destruction
“Does not make me depressed...
“So long as my beloved
“May be green ivy vines,
“Clinging to my crumbling walls,
“Climbing ever upwards.
“I’d be a thatched cottage
“Hidden in a valley.
“The cottage’s roof torn,
“Pounded by the weather...
“So long as my beloved
“May be a lovely flame
“Inside of my fireplace.
“She gently flutters there.
“I’d be the frazzled clouds,
“Graying and tattered flags.
“In the vast open skies,
“Floating without a care...
“So long as my beloved
“May be the rose sunset
“Shining upon my pale face,
“Burning with bright brilliance.”

A smile appeared on Wu Zeqing's face. "That's really nice."

This was a poem about love.

A poem from his previous world called "Lennék én folyóvíz" by Sándor Petőfi ¹. Zhang Ye's current thoughts, moods, and emotions were all contained within this poem.

He'd be those rapids!

So long as Old Wu was by his side.

Domestically?

Asia?

The world?

He dared to take on everything and turn them upside down!

Wu Zeqing tightly gripped his hand. "I'd be that little fish, that little bird, and that ivy too. I'll walk with you, no matter how far you wish to go."

Zhang Ye said happily, "That's great!"

Di di di.

The alarm that Zhang Ye had set earlier went off.

It was 7 PM.

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "It's time."

Zhang Ye took a deep breath and grabbed his cell phone to check the Popularity Rankings Index.

...

At the same moment.

In the media.

Among the celebrities.

Among the people.

Everyone was also anxiously refreshing the Popularity Rankings Index.

At the next moment, all of them saw it. The rankings were updated!

The Chinese Popularity Rankings Index:

Celebrity rankings:

First: Zhang Ye.

Second: Guan Zhaohua.

Third: Ai Fei.

In that instant, the entire nation burst into an uproar!

Zhang Ye had reached the summit!

It was the birth of the king of the new era!

Chapter 1586: To see other summits dwarfed, and savor the scene!

The Popularity Rankings Index was published!

There was an uproar across the nation!

Zhang Ye's name was boldly inked in first place!

It wasn't the first place of the A-list rankings!

It wasn't the first place of the other categories!

But the first place of the entire Chinese popularity rankings!

...

At Zhang Ye's parents' house.

"It's my son!"

"It's Little Ye!"

"He's in first place! He's in first place!"

"We're not dreaming, are we?"

...

At Ning Lan's house.

A few of his friends were gathered here.

"First place!"

"It's Zhang Ye's name!"

"Oh my God!"

"He has reached the summit! This fellow has really reached the summit!"

...

At an entertainment company.

"Even the male idols are unable to stop him?"

"There's going to be a change of eras!"

“But the times have already changed!”

“I can’t believe that it’s him!”

“He’s someone who left the industry for four years!”

“Hai, a legend is still a legend.”

...

At a media outlet.

“Something big has happened!”

“There’s really going to be a change!”

“Hurry! Work on the draft report!”

“A few years ago when Zhang Ye was sent to prison, everyone thought that it was all over for him. Everyone thought that it would be impossible for him to make a comeback again. But who could have thought that after four years, the domestic popularity rankings would actually be ruled by him? If this is a joke, then this joke has gotten way out of hand!”

“I’m still in a state of shock!”

...

At Zhang Ye’s Studio.

“Ahhhh!”

“Hooray, Director Zhang!”

“We did it! We really did it!”

“I feel like crying!”

“Director Zhang is too fucking awesome!”

“We’ve won!”

...

At a male idol’s studio.

“But that’s impossible!”

“This—oh my God!”

“Has he really reached the summit?”

“How did it turn out to be him! How can it be!”

“It’s over! Guan Zhaohua has been pushed down by him!”

...

At Guan Zhaohua's studio.

"We're no longer in first place?"

"How is he so popular!"

"This doesn't fucking make any sense at all!"

"Damn, what do we do now!"

"Surpass him, of course! We have to catch back up!"

"Look at the gap between Zhang Ye's popularity score and ours, look at that number. In the short term, there's no chance that we can possibly catch back up to him. His popularity right now is simply too high!"

"This is illogical! This is totally illogical!"

...

In the Go world.

"Minister Wu's husband has really reached the summit!"

"How freakishly awesome!"

"Lord Zhang is so domineering!"

"The entertainment circle is finally presided over by Lord Zhang!"

...

At the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"How could it—"

"Damn, someone from our Chinese Academy of Sciences has actually reached the summit of the domestic popularity rankings?"

"Ah? Is Zhang Ye considered one of our academy's people?"

"Why not? Isn't he a research fellow from our academy?"

"Uh..."

...

At Central TV.

"It's a change of dynasties!"

"Yeah, a new state of showbiz has arisen!"

"Now that Zhang Ye has reached first place in the domestic popularity rankings, it will be really difficult to say how our showbiz's future will pan out."

“With Zhang Ye’s temper, it might just signal that chaos will be breaking out in the international scene soon!”

“Or perhaps he might bring the Chinese entertainment industry towards a brighter future?”

“Brighter future?”

“Zhang Yuanqi’s era of celebrities did not achieve it, and neither did Guan Zhaohua’s era of celebrities succeed, so can Zhang Ye do it?”

...

On Weibo.

The netizens went crazy!

“This is too exciting!”

“An oddity of a generation, a legend of a generation!”

“I’m so happy for Teacher Zhang!”

“Ahhhh, I’m so fucking excited!”

“It’s been eight years, eight whole years! I’ve been with Teacher Zhang since the beginning. I’ve liked him ever since he debuted and followed him all the way til now. I’ve personally witnessed how Teacher Zhang has made it thus far in these eight years, and it has really not been easy at all. It has been so difficult for him! There hasn’t been a celebrity like Zhang Ye before, and there won’t be another like him in the future either!”

“I’m also a fan of Guan Zhaohua’s, and I like Ai Fei too. They’re both so good-looking and without a blemish to their reputations, so who could dislike them? But when it comes to one’s verve, courage, and charisma, they’re lacking by far as compared to Zhang Ye! Therefore, I’ll accept that Zhang Ye has taken the top spot of the domestic popularity rankings!”

“There has never been anyone so ordinary-looking who has taken the number one spot in the domestic popularity rankings!”

“But I find Zhang Ye to be very attractive!”

“Hehehe, I feel so too!”

“Whether a person is attractive or not doesn’t depend on their looks alone!”

“Motherfucker, I only like people like Zhang Ye. I love seeing him scold people, love seeing him write poems, love seeing him stir up trouble, and love seeing him cross over to all the different fields and shocking the eyeballs out of others. Pfft, aren’t I asking for it?!”

“Congratulations to Zhang Ye!”

“Congratulations on starting your reign, Teacher Zhang!”

...

It blew up in the outside world.

Countless people sent their congratulations.

At home.

Zhang Ye's cell phone was exploding with calls, together with the landline at home, Old Wu's cell phone, and Old Wu's parents' cell phones.

Ha Qiqi screamed excitedly: "Director Zhang, you're amazing!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "It was all to the credit of everyone!"

In the call, Little Wang could be heard crying. She sobbed: "We've finally reached the top! The top! Director Zhang! I knew you could do it!"

Zhang Ye said: "If not for you guys, I couldn't have gotten to where I am."

Zhang Zuo snatched the phone and said: "We didn't do anything at all. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't have witnessed such a situation either! You were the one who brought us to the summit!"

Tong Fu also shouted from the other end of the line: "You were the one who made it possible for us!"

Wu Yi said loudly: "Director Zhang! Thank you!"

Little Wang was still crying. "You've worked hard!"

Yao Jiancai.

Ning Lan.

Zhang Xia.

Chen Guang.

Hu Fei.

Dong Shanshan.

Zhang Yuanqi.

His three sisters.

His aunts and uncles.

His family and friends were all congratulating him!

There were even a lot of unexpected people who sent him messages on Weibo.

The male idol, Hai Yifei: "Congratulations, Teacher Zhang!"

The former most popular celebrity, Guan Zhaohua: "Congratulations!"

A newly crowned Heavenly Queen posted on Weibo: "Fully deserving of being the number one!"

At this moment.

On this day.

In the entire country.

In the entire media.

In the entire entertainment circle.

Perhaps some were sincere and some not so. But practically everyone still came forward with congratulations!

Zhang Ye couldn't help but sigh.

Eight years.

It had been eight years.

The grievances that he had felt.

The difficulties that laid in his path.

The ups and downs he had been through.

Along the way, he had experienced so many incidents, too many twists and turns. Sometimes, when he thought about the suffering he had gone through years ago, he felt like he was telling a story. Even Zhang Ye himself did not know how he had made it through all of that. In fact, he couldn't believe it at all. Did he really come this far by himself?

He had been banned by the industry more than 10 times!

He had been detained at a police station!

He had crossed paths with death on a hijacked airplane!

He had been besieged by several hundred people from the martial arts world!

He had been sent to jail!

He had bade farewell to the entertainment circle!

If he had to experience these things again, he didn't know if he could get through it all. But here he was, leading his team step by step towards the highest place in the Chinese popularity rankings. He had reached the peak, the pinnacle, the spot where he was the most popular celebrity in the country!

Countless people came to congratulate him!

Zhang Ye was surging with emotion!

At this moment, Zhang Ye got reminded of a poem that he posted before.

It was Du Fu's "Admiring the Mountains."

How to describe the Revered Peak?

Towering over all Shandong with endless green.

Heavenly beautiful splendor Nature gathered;
the shaded north side cut off from the south side's sheen.
Clustering clouds cleanse the cracks in the heart,
eyes strain watching homebound birds fly through the ravine.
Someday I shall ascend your highest heights
to see other summits dwarfed, and savor the scene.

This was a promise he made back then. Today, Zhang Ye had finally made it!

Chapter 1587: Zhang Ye barges into a livestreaming channel!

Sunday.

In the morning.

At Zhang Ye's eldest younger sister's house.

The entire family had gathered here today. His maternal grandparents, his uncles, and his aunts.

When Zhang Ye's parents arrived, everyone congratulated them joyously.

His third aunt said, "Congratulations! Little Ye has finally reached the top!"

His second aunt laughed heartily and said, "This is a joyous occasion for our family!"

His second uncle said, "Yeah, when I saw the news last night, I couldn't believe it!"

His grandma also said excitedly, "This is great! I haven't doted on this grandson of mine for nothing."
She still asked in disbelief, "Has my grandson really gotten first place on China's popularity rankings?"

His mother laughed and said, "That's right! In the whole of China, there's no one with higher popularity than Little Ye. He's in first place. It can't get more real than that."

His grandpa hurriedly asked, "Where's Little Ye?"

His father said, "He should be on the way."

His first uncle laughed and said, "Little Ye has just gotten to the summit, so he should be quite busy handling matters. There's no rush."

His mother smiled widely and said, "What can he be busy with? He's the most popular celebrity in the entire country. He's already at the top. Even if he wants to go higher up, there's no place to go any further. It has been so many years. It's time the kid gets a good rest. I told him yesterday to rest for a period of time."

His grandma said immediately, "That's right."

His third sister took out her cell phone and said, "I'll send a message to Brother to hurry!"

His second sister had also just arrived. "Where's Big Sis?"

His first uncle pointed upstairs. "She's streaming. Some livestreaming company paid her to stream on their platform, but her allocated time is not up yet, so she can't go offline. Don't disturb her."

At this moment, the doorbell rang.

Zhang Ye and Wu Zeqing brought Sisi and Chenchen over.

At this moment, the entire household turned lively.

"Grandma, Grandpa!"

"Hey!"

"Bro, why are you so late!"

"Haha, traffic, lots of traffic!"

"Little Ye, congratulations!"

"Thanks, First Uncle,"

"Chenchen is here too?"

"Yes, she's here to scrounge."

"Bro, I want a red packet!"

"Ah? What red packet?"

"You're the number one person in show business. Surely it wouldn't be nice if you didn't give out some red packets to your younger sisters, right?"

"Hahaha, sure, I'll give, I'll give."

"Wow, long live Brother!"

"Zhang Ye, I want one too."

"You girls, all you know is how to scam me of my red packets!"

"Hehehe."

It was a lunch party for the entire family today, as well as Zhang Ye's celebratory feast. Originally, they had agreed on holding it over at Zhang Ye's house at the villa. However, they decided to change it to Cao Dan's place, his eldest younger sister's new house. His eldest younger sister was a very popular celebrity in China as well. She was known as the top Internet celebrity in recent years and was doing very well. Naturally, her economic status wasn't too bad either. With events and commercial performances to attend almost every day, she was probably even richer than Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye looked around the house and said, "This place is not bad."

His first aunt smiled and said, "It was only because you pointed your sister in the right direction years ago."

“I was just leading her in, but it was still down to her own capabilities that she got there.” Zhang Ye looked left and right. “Where’s Dandan?”

His mother said, “Your sister is streaming at the moment.”

Zhang Ye chuckled. “She knows that I’d be here, yet she’s still busy streaming?”

His first uncle said with a laugh, “It’s a job she took on some time ago.”

...

Upstairs.

On the second floor of the duplex.

There was a specially constructed studio up here that Cao Dan had always used to record her videos. The livestreaming event that she had today was also being carried out here.

Cao Dan’s sweet voice rang out inside the room.

“I’m really not good at singing.

“Haha, I can’t dance either.

“Believe me, you guys definitely don’t want to see me dance.

“Aiya, I’m getting really hungry.

“Yes, I have lunch with my family today.”

She chatted on and on.

Over 4 million viewers were online watching the stream!

The fans were crazily typing in the chat and sending donations ¹.

AK has sent a car.

SleeplessNights has sent a flying kiss.

The fans:

“Everyone, send in your donations!”

“Otherwise, Dandan is going to get trashed by the other streamers!”

“She’s still third in the donation rankings?”

“Pfft, they’re teaming up to take on Dandan.”

“Dandan, hurry up and ask for donations! Or else we’re gonna fall back into fourth place.”

“This platform is home field for those streamers. It would be surprising if they didn’t receive a lot of donations from their fans!”

“Dandan, hang on! You had better not sing or dance. If not, you’ll drop even further down the donation rankings! We all know how ‘good’ your singing is!”

“Enough, alright!”

“Hahahahaha!”

Cao Dan wasn’t an ambitious person. She only said with a smile: “It’s alright. You guys can donate if you like, but it’s fine even if you don’t. Just come to the livestreaming platform more often in the future to support our streamers. This is the largest livestreaming platform in the country at the moment. If I have time in the future, I will come often as well.”

The fans chatted.

“Dandan is such a nice person.”

“They’re stepping on our heads.”

“No, this won’t do. We have to help Dandan get first on the donation rankings!”

“Right, it would look really bad on us if she loses!”

“I’d feel ashamed too. Let’s support Dandan!”

“Hai, even the mighty dragon is no match for the native serpent?”

“But our Dandan is still a B-list celebrity!”

Another wave of donations filled the screen.

For a short while, she was pushed into second place of the donation rankings before dropping back down again.

...

In a different livestreaming channel.

The donations here were even crazier.

This was Qiqi’s channel, the big sister of this livestreaming platform.

The fans chatted.

“Hahaha, this feels great!”

“We’re first on the donations leaderboard!”

“We gotta give it another push!”

“Qiqi is my true goddess. Bring Cao Dan down!”

“A goddess from elsewhere wants to compete with our platform’s own goddess?”

“Supporting Qiqi. We’ll send you soaring to the skies!”

Qiqi covered her mouth as her eyes reddened. “Thank you, thank you to all the big brothers. Ahhh, what do I do, I’m gonna cry.” Then she blew a few kisses to everyone.

...

In another channel.

In Xiaoling’s livestreaming channel.

Xiaoling kept asking for donations.

“Big brothers, you can do it!”

“Keep the donations coming in!”

“I want to fight for first place today, so please allow this willful girl to have her way once!”

“Whoever gets onto the top three of my donation rankings will get my cell phone number in your private messages!”

...

In a group chat.

It was a private group chat for the platform’s streamers.

“Qiqi is in first place.”

“Xiaoling is in second place!”

“Poor Cao Dan.”

“These whales are sending donations in like crazy.”

“Qiqi’s and Xiaoling’s incomes for the day are probably going to exceed a million RMB, right?”

“Cao Dan can’t possibly catch up. The gap is too wide.”

“Cao Dan doesn’t urge her viewers to donate either.”

“Let’s see if there will be any big reversal near the end.”

“Sister Cao is done for.”

Many of the platform’s streamers.

Many of the platform’s users.

Everyone had their attention on this matter.

...

At Zhang Ye’s eldest younger sister’s house.

In the living room downstairs, they were making lunch in the kitchen.

Zhang Ye leaned back onto the sofa and did a Beijing Sprawl ². “Is the food ready yet? I’m hungry.”

His mother gave him the look from the kitchen. “Then why don’t you get over here and help out?”

Zhang Ye said lazily, “I can’t move, I’m tired.”

Chenchen gave a hur hur. “Zhang Ye, you’re such a lazy ass.”

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, “Come here and take care of the child. I’ll go and help Mom.”

“I can’t,” Zhang Ye said shamelessly.

His first aunt laughed and said, “There’s no need for you two to do anything. Just wait for the food.”

His father checked his watch. “Little Ye, go and get your sister. It’s almost time to eat.”

Zhang Ye ordered Chenchen, “Go, ask your Sister Dandan to come down.”

Chenchen got angry. “Why are you so lazy?”

His grandma was so amused that she gave him a look. “Go on, don’t just sit around. You can eat more if you move around a little.”

With her saying that, Zhang Ye finally stood up and went upstairs.

...

Back upstairs.

In the studio.

The battle was entering a fever pitch.

The fans were yelling.

“Charge!”

“Keep donating!”

“Can someone send a spaceship ³ ?!”

“Dandan is really going to lose!”

“Damn, Qiqi has linked up with someone to do a joint stream!”

“Xiaoling has also gone to get support!”

“WindsAreBlowing? That’s a really popular streamer!”

“Their ranks on the donation leaderboard have gone even higher!”

“Getting support from others? They’re making it look like our Dandan doesn’t have friends or something!”

“Pfft, I think Dandan-jiang ⁴ really doesn’t have any friends on this streaming site.”

“It’s over. The headlines tomorrow will surely be: ‘The most popular Internet celebrity can’t win against the local platform streamers!’”

When Cao Dan saw what her fans were typing, she said with a smile: “Everyone, please don’t worry about that. The other streamers are just doing their jobs. This isn’t a big deal.” Then she looked at the comments again and said, “Pfft, where am I going to get outside support from? My short videos have offended quite a few people, so it’s not like you guys don’t know how poor my social relations are.”

At this moment, the door behind her opened.

Zhang Ye pushed the door and entered, then said listlessly, “Hurry up and go downstairs for lunch.”

Cao Dan turned around, startled. “Bro?”

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, “What are you still doing?”

“I-I’m streaming.” Cao Dan blushed in embarrassment. She was shy, so be it livestreaming or recording videos, she never liked doing it while her family and friends were around as she found that awkward.

Zhang Ye blinked several times before walking over, interested. “Let me have a look.”

Cao Dan hurriedly stood up to block him. “Aiya, what are you looking around for? There’s nothing to see here.”

Zhang Ye said, “Can’t I just have a look?”

Cao Dan’s face was burning. She said, “There’s gonna be trouble if you show your face!”

This was a livestream.

The stream delay was no longer than a second.

At this moment, Cao Dan’s channel went silent!

One second!

Two seconds!

Three seconds!

In that instant, the livestreaming channel blew up!

The fans screamed in surprise!

“Ahhh!”

“Fuck! Fuck!”

“Who is that?”

“Zhang Ye?”

“What did I just see?”

“Oh my God, Zhang Ye?”

“The most popular celebrity in the country?”

“Dandan, what’s going on there?”

“This—this—”

“I’m going crazy!”

Cao Dan turned around and had a look at the monitor. She knew that this secret couldn’t be kept hidden any longer. She couldn’t help but facepalm. Then, without caring about Zhang Ye, she sat back down on her chair, helpless, and pulled the microphone over. “Uh, so about that.”

The fans pressed her.

“What’s going on?”

“What is Zhang Ye doing at your place?”

“What an interesting situation this is!”

“Dandan, you’ve really roped someone in for support!”

“*faints* Can your support be any more impressive than this!”

“I’m in genuflection of Dandan!”

“Dandan, you’ve won. You even managed to invite the number one person in showbiz?”

“When we asked you to call for aid, we were only joking! But you really found someone?”

Cao Dan didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. She explained: “I didn’t get any outside support. We have a family gathering today, and everyone came over for lunch. He...he’s my cousin.”

The fans were stunned!

“Cousin?”

“Your cousin is Zhang Ye?”

“Zhang Ye is your relative?”

“Damn, why haven’t you mention this before!”

“This—this is big news!”

“I’m shocked too!”

“Dandan, to think that you have such an impressive relative!”

“This is truly unfathomable! You are truly unfathomable!”

“Fuck!!!”

Chapter 1588: Your sister!

One spread to ten.

Ten spread to a 100.

The entire livestreaming platform burst into an uproar!

...

In Xiaoling's channel.

The channel was in an extremely boisterous state at the moment.

Airplanes!

Cars!

Tanks!

The donations kept flooding in!

Xiaoling made a heart with her hands and said gratefully: "Thank you, Brother Little Zhou and Brother Dafei. You are all so kind to me. How far am I away from first place?"

The fans replied.

"You aren't that far from it!"

"You're catching up, awesome!"

"Since Xiaoling covets first place, we'll get you first place!"

"Right! Everyone, do your best and donate as much as you can!"

The streamer holding a joint stream with Xiaoling was also canvassing for donations on her behalf. As that person was also a very popular streamer on the platform with many fans, a lot of people responded to her calls for donations to Xiaoling.

But suddenly, a lot of talk appeared.

In the chat.

"Stop donating."

"Sister Xiaoling, let's just forget it."

"Cao Dan has also invited someone onto her channel to support her!"

"Quickly go and have a look at Cao Dan's channel. Something big has happened!"

Xiaoling was startled. "What happened?"

The streamer who was helping Xiaoling smiled and said: "Even if she has roped in someone to help, so be it. Everyone is competing fair and square. We'll just see who is more capable in the end. What's the big deal?"

HEHE sent a fainting emote. "What's there to compete for!"

Bluesky520 sent a sobbing emote. "Even if all the streamers of the platforms in the country were to join forces, they would also not be able to compete with that person!"

Xiaoling was taken aback. "Even if all the streamers in the country were to join forces?"

Xiaoling's supporting streamer mocked: "Unless Cao Dan invited God Zhang Ye over!"

Xiaoling burst out laughing as well.

Invite Zhang Ye?

Are you kidding me?

The fans replied.

"She has really invited him!"

"It's really Zhang Ye!"

"It's him in person! It's the real deal!"

Xiaoling was stunned. "That's impossible!"

Xiaoling's supporting streamer was dumbfounded. "Are you joking?"

All of a sudden, Xiaoling's channel moderator shouted: "Damn! What the heck! What the heck! I took a look in Cao Dan's channel! Goddamn, Zhang Ye is really there!"

Everyone was stunned!

Xiaoling's jaw dropped so low her molars could be seen!

...

In Qiqi's channel.

Qiqi said in surprise: "I'm no longer in first place in the donation rankings? What happened?"

The fans chatted.

"What?"

"Wasn't she in first place just now?"

"Who jumped up into first place then?"

"It's Cao Dan?"

"She was in third place just a while ago!"

Qiqi's supporting streamer was suddenly taken aback. She had just received a screenshot sent by the other members of the streamers' group chat. When she saw this screenshot, she nearly fainted. She

couldn't help but look up at Qiqi, who was sharing the other half of the screen and said: "Sister Qiqi, I doubt we can catch up."

Qiqi asked: "Why?"

Qiqi's supporting streamer was sweating. "Cao Dan has invited Teacher Zhang Ye over!"

"What?" Qiqi nearly spat out a mouthful of blood!

Damn, surely she doesn't have to go that far, right!

This is just a competition for the platform's donation rankings!

We're just a small livestreaming platform!

It's not like we're competing to get the best actress award!

Nor competing to be the king of singers!

Why would you invite the number one person of the entertainment circle over a donation ranking?

Thinking about this, Qiqi nearly spat out another mouthful of blood. After holding it in for a long time, she finally shouted: "I'm not streaming anymore. I'm going offline!"

The fans shouted.

"Ah?"

"Where are you off to?"

"Qiqi, don't go!"

"Why are you going offline?"

Qiqi said excitedly: "Do you need to ask? I'm going to watch that godly person on stream!"

...

In the streamers' group chat.

"It's really Zhang Ye!"

"Lord Zhang is so handsome!"

"Are Cao Dan and Zhang Ye really related?"

"This will surely be the entertainment headlines for today's news!"

"Pfft, this will be super interesting to watch!"

"Yeah, it's turning into something big this time!"

"Compete with Cao Dan on the donations ranking? What's there still to compete on!"

"If it were any other celebrity, that would still be something to fight for. Be it Cao Dan, Shu Han, or even Ning Lan and Dong Shanshan, everyone would still have a fighting chance if it were them who came.

After all, this is our home field and territory. But if it's Zhang Ye—then how are we supposed to fight against him? That's the boss of the entertainment circle! The number one!"

"I'm genuflecting to Cao Dan!"

"This person that she has roped in to help is totally unprecedented!"

"Ah, Qiqi has gone offline?"

"What? Sister Xiaoling has gone offline too?"

"@Qiqi, what's going on?"

"Yiyi has gone offline too?"

"Damn, all of the streamers who were streaming just now have all gone offline? Where did they go off to?"

...

In Cao Dan's channel.

5 million!

6 million!

7 million!

In the blink of an eye, the number of viewers in the channel had surpassed 10 million people. They were not only made up by the subscribers of the platform, even a lot of other people who didn't usually watch streams came to have a look when they heard about this news.

Live.

Cao Dan looked on helplessly.

Zhang Ye stood beside her and put his head up to the camera. Then he smiled and said: "Thank you, everyone, for giving my cousin so much support in these past few years." He then touched Cao Dan's head and said: "If there's anything my sister lacks, please bear with her. Treat it as giving me face."

Cao Dan turned her head away and said in embarrassment, "Brother, hurry and eat."

"Ah? I haven't said enough yet," Zhang Ye said.

Cao Dan pushed him away. "That's enough. This is my channel."

The chat was blowing up.

"Come quickly to see someone godly!"

"I'm kneeling to Dandan!"

"This is too surprising! I never expected to see Zhang Ye!"

"Lord Zhang, congratulations to you!"

“Right, you’re finally the number one!”

“Love you to death!”

“Zhang Ye, Zhang Ye, I <3 u!”

“Dandan, can we get Zhang Ye’s signature?”

At this moment, many of the popular streamers also appeared!

Qiqi said excitedly: “Damn, it’s really him in person! Lord Zhang! I want an autograph! I want an autograph! I’m your hardcore fan! Ahhhh!”

Xiaoling also commented: “It’s really God Zhang!”

Xiaoxue said: “I’m ending my stream too!”

Another male streamer: “Quick, come and see God Zhang for yourselves!”

Another female streamer: “Heavens! This is the closest I’ve ever been to Face-smacking Zhang!”

The donation notifications were pinging one after another!

Qiqi has sent an aircraft carrier!

Xiaoling has sent an aircraft carrier!

Xiaoxue has sent an aircraft carrier!

The people in the channel didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

“What is Qiqi doing here as well?”

“Sister Xiaoling is here too?”

“The popular streamers are all here? Weren’t they all streaming earlier?”

“Pfft, the lure of Zhang Ye is too great.”

“So everyone is a fan of Zhang Ye!”

“This is such a rare sight to see!”

“Yeah, when have we ever seen so many popular streamers going offline from their channels to come to another one, then sending aircraft carriers as a show of support! Before this, they were all fighting to get first place in the donation rankings!”

Zhang Ye said in confusion, “How much is an aircraft carrier?”

Cao Dan explained, “It’s equivalent to 10,000 RMB!”

Zhang Ye smiled and said: “Thank you, Qiqi. Thank you, Xiaoxue. Thank you, Xiaoling.”

Cao Dan also said immediately: “Thank you, everyone.” When she saw the number of viewers in the channel, Cao Dan laughed and said: “What? There are already 10 million viewers watching? I said it just

now that for every 1 million viewers we get, I'll hold a lucky draw. Including the number of times I owe you all from just now, uh, we still have to hold seven lucky draws? What prizes would everyone like?"

Everyone started shouting.

"Zhang Ye's autograph!"

"Zhang Ye's nudes!"

Most were requesting these two items.

Only Qiqi said something different. "I want God Zhang's calligraphy!"

Everyone was stunned for a moment before coming around!

"Yeah, that's right!"

"Make the prize his calligraphy!"

"Zhang Ye's words are worth ten thousand taels each!"

"Yeah, there are only two words if it's his autograph!"

"With a calligraphy piece from him, we'd be rich!"

"Hahahaha, good suggestion!"

Cao Dan was also amused to see that. She looked to the side and said, "Bro, you asked for it, so you better handle this yourself."

Zhang Ye said, "Huh?"

A peaceful livestreaming session ended on an extremely high note.

This was Zhang Ye's first appearance since taking the number one position of the entertainment circle. From it, a lot of assumptions could be made. This momentum, this influence, this appeal, Guan Zhaoxia didn't have it, nor did Ai Fei. In the entire entertainment industry, only Zhang Ye wielded all of that!

...

Half an hour later.

Downstairs, everyone had already started eating.

Finally, Zhang Ye and Cao Dan joined them.

His mother complained, "What were you two doing? What took you so long?"

His first aunt asked her daughter, "You were streaming for so long?"

Cao Dan said helplessly, "It was all Brother's fault. He insisted on showing his face on stream, and everyone now knows that he's my brother. In the end, so many people joined the stream to watch."

"Isn't that good?" His grandma said, "Let's see who dares to bully you in the future."

Cao Dan giggled. "No one bullied me before this anyway."

His third sister suddenly waved her cell phone around and said, "Damn! The news has already reported about it!"

His second sister said, "Sis, you're in the headlines!"

Cao Dan was taken aback. "Ah, so fast?"

His first aunt said smilingly, "That's of course. Don't you know how popular your brother is now? He has just taken over at the top spot, so anything that is related to him right now will end up in the headlines for sure."

...

The media these days caught wind of everything too quickly.

"Zhang Ye appears in a live stream!"

"Zhang Ye actually turns out to be Cao Dan's cousin?"

"A great exposé! The most popular Internet celebrity is actually Zhang Ye's cousin!"

"Zhang Ye makes a special appearance for Cao Dan!"

"The impressive family circumstances the most popular Internet celebrity hails from!"

Soon after, this news was broadcast on television as well!

...

On Weibo.

The netizens were having a great laugh!

"I really didn't expect this!"

"I wouldn't have believed that these two were actually cousins even if my life was threatened!"

"Dandan is so cute. How could she be Zhang Ye's sister?"

"I only know now that when we used to curse at Zhang Ye with 'your sister,' we were actually scolding Cao Dan!"

"Hahahaha!"

"My sympathies for Dandan!"

"In the future, let's not scold Zhang Ye with 'your sister'!"

Chapter 1589: World news!

At the start of this day, Zhang Ye got his studio to make a Weibo post announcing his break from work. He turned down all work and events in preparation to stay at home to accompany his family and catch up with his classmates. Ever since his comeback, he hadn't been idle. He was involved in shooting a television series and participating in a singing competition, so he hadn't had a chance to catch up with many of his old classmates and friends. Having not met them in over four years, he didn't know how much everyone had changed. By reaching the summit of the entertainment circle, Zhang Ye had finally fulfilled the goal he had been striving towards for many years. So it was about time for him to get some rest.

In the following days, he attended dinner parties every day.

...

Dong Shanshan's house.

It was a party with his old classmates from university.

"Wow, Zhang'er is here!"

"Haha, Classmate Yu Yingyi, you haven't changed."

"Yo, you still remember this old classmate of yours?"

"Listen to what you're saying. Are you ridiculing me?"

"Well, that's what you get for not meeting up with us sooner after you came back."

"Well, wasn't I really tied down before this?"

"But you didn't forget about meeting up with Shanshan?"

"Hey, Wang He, you're still alive?"

"But of course. I'm flourishing."

"Zhang'er."

"Hah! Hu Feifei!"

"You're a big star now!"

"Hahaha, I guess I'm doing not too bad."

Wang He, Yu Yingyi, Dong Shanshan, Hu Feifei, He Kui, Ma Xufei, Xiaoqian—his old classmates were all here today. Everyone kept teasing each other and laughing happily.

Suddenly, Dong Shanshan walked down from the upper floor of the villa. "Zhang'er, there's someone here who I want you to meet."

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Meet who?"

Everyone looked at Zhang Ye. "Haha, guess!"

Dong Shanshan smiled. "I'll give you 10 seconds to guess."

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "I really don't know. Which of our former classmate is here?"

Dong Shanshan turned her head and looked to the stairwell. She sang some notes. "Dadada dunnn¹!"

At the next moment, the figure of a woman appeared at the stairs. The woman seemed visibly excited as she looked at Zhang Ye. She covered her mouth as she made her way down the stairs step by step.

Zhang Ye was stunned. "Sister Qiu!

Qiu Yumei said, "Zhang'er!"

Zhang Ye rushed up to her. "Damn! You can walk? Your legs have healed?"

"Yes, they've healed," Qiu Yumei said as her eyes reddened.

Dong Shanshan said with a smile from the side, "Sister Qiu listened to your advice and went to the hospital that Zhang Yuanqi recommended for her treatment. After you were sentenced, Sister Qiu had wanted to come back on several occasions, and a few of us went over to America as well to persuade her not to. As a result, during the middle of last year, Sister Qiu suddenly returned to the country. She appeared in front of us without a wheelchair or anyone supporting her."

Hu Feifei smiled and said, "We were all stunned on the spot!"

Wang He said, "Little Qiu might not be able to exert herself with any running, but she doesn't have problems with walking anymore. We're all so happy for her." He pointed at Zhang Ye. "To say nothing of the other things, you handled this matter really beautifully. You're one loyal friend alright!"

Zhang Ye was still in disbelief. He crouched down in front of Qiu Yumei and stared at her legs. "You really can walk now?"

"I really can walk." Qiu Yumei wiped tears from the corners of her eyes. "Zhang'er, thank you. If it weren't for you, I would have to lie in a bed for the rest of my life."

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "Do we still need to talk like this? Quick, walk a few more steps and let me see."

Qiu Yumei walked around for him.

Zhang Ye laughed in great surprise. "This is great!"

Qiu Yumei smiled and said, "I've gone back to work as a broadcast host at the radio station. I'll return the debt I owe you with the money I earn."

Zhang Ye said happily, "There's no need to."

But Qiu Yumei said, "That won't do, I have to return it."

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "It's not like you don't know what Sister Qiu is like."

"Alright then." Zhang Ye said, "Return it slowly if you must. I have no urgent need for the money."

Xiaoqian grinned and said, "What a happy day this is! Let's have a drink, everyone!"

He Kui slapped his thigh. "Alright, we're not going home until we're drunk!"

Ma Xufei shouted, "To Zhang'er!"

Zhang Ye toasted, "To Sister Qiu!"

Everyone shouted, "Not going home until we're drunk!"

...

The next day.

At the prison Zhang Ye had served his sentence in.

"Aiya, Teacher Zhang!"

"Haha, how's everyone doing?"

"What are you doing here?"

"Didn't I say it four years ago? That when I got released, I would treat everyone to a meal? I'm always true to my words."

"Everyone, gather quickly! Teacher Zhang has returned to visit us!"

"Lord Zhang, how did you come in?"

"Haha, I'm so familiar with the military command here. Would I not be able to gain entry into your prison? Don't worry, I already filled out all the formalities before coming in. I have a pass, alright?"

"Where's the warden? Quickly get the warden!"

"Let's go, come on. I'm treating everyone today!"

"We can't do that, Teacher Zhang. We still have to work."

"Then we'll have the staff lunch together!"

"W-Wouldn't it be bad luck for you to eat here?"

"What bad luck? It's not like I've never eaten the food before!"

"Hahaha, alright!"

The prison guards were all very excited. They really did not expect that Zhang Ye would keep a simple ceremonial promise to them after all these years.

...

The next day.

At China Qiyuan.

"Ah, Lord Zhang!"

"Damn! Lord Zhang is here!"

"Hurry out, everyone!"

Everyone came out.

9-dan Li Yi.

8-dan Hu Liang.

Xu Han.

Tian Weiwei.

At Sanya, Zhang Ye had only met up with Tian Weiwei, Chen Ying, and the batch of younger professional Go players. He did not get to see many of the older veterans who had battled alongside him years ago. Many of them had retired and become coaches, so Zhang Ye rather missed them.

“Old Li, Brother Hu, Brother Xu, you’re all around too?”

“Wow, what brought you here?”

“Haha, I missed you guys! It’s my treat today. Let’s go and eat!”

“Who are you treating?”

A group of young Go players at the Qiyuan were all looking at Zhang Ye in admiration. Looking at this legendary God of the Go world, their eyes were shimmering brightly.

Zhang Ye said, “Everyone, of course!”

With that, all of the young Go players cheered!

Tian Weiwei couldn’t do anything about that, so he said to the young Go players, “Alright then, since Lord Zhang has given the word, everyone can go. Hai, you were all supposed to practice today.”

Everyone cheered again!

Zhang Ye patted Tian Weiwei on the shoulder and said with a smile, “Don’t always be thinking about practicing. Go is a never-ending journey of learning, so it’s better to practice a combination of effort and ease. Oh yes, I heard that you became the world champion in some tournament recently? Congratulations!”

Tian Weiwei blushed. “Stop teasing me.”

9-dan Li Yi also looked at Zhang Ye and said, “In a competition without you, is there a point in winning?”

Chen Ying giggled and said, “You’re the uncrowned king of the Go world. No matter who wins in a competition, no matter who gets presented a trophy, the sense of fulfillment is not that great anymore. Everyone knows that as long as they can’t win against you, any championship titles won are essentially pointless. That’s why we’ve started instilling a target for everyone these days—and that is to beat you.”

Zhang Ye said in amusement, “Sure, I’ll welcome any challengers.”

...

Meanwhile.

Abroad, the news surrounding this matter spread very slowly.

Perhaps this was done intentionally. Or perhaps no one was bothered about it. The news of Zhang Ye becoming the most popular celebrity in China only reached the shores of other countries after a few days.

Japan.

“What?”

“Who?”

“Zhang Ye?”

“Why does this name sound a little familiar?”

“Yeah, it sounds very familiar, doesn’t it? I seem to have heard it somewhere before?”

“Damn! Is it that Zhang Ye?”

“The one who was crowned an Asian Heavenly King years ago? The one who drew the comics?”

“It’s really him!”

“Damn, didn’t he go to jail?”

“The number one person in the Chinese popularity rankings?”

“Why is it him?”

...

Korea.

“Ah? Zhang Ye has been released?”

“How is that possible! Wasn’t he sentenced to prison for many years?”

“Yeah, it isn’t time yet!”

“It’s not impossible that he got an early release. But it has been so many years. How did he manage to become the number one person of Chinese showbiz?”

“What happened?”

“That damned hacker, is he trying to make trouble again?”

“Seriously protesting it!”

“How can this guy be number one?”

“The Asian Celebrity Rankings Index still has him blocked from their rankings!”

...

America.

“Zhang Ye?”

“Who’s that?”

“The Chinese Celebrity Rankings Index has seen a change in its leaderboard?”

“I know him!”

“Goddammit, that’s the person who’s known as the most dangerous hacker in a hundred years!”

“It’s him?”

“The Panda Burning Incense and CIH viruses’ creator?”

“The hacker with the highest bounty in the world?”

“He managed to snag the top spot of the entertainment circle in China?”

“With such a large population in China, how did he manage to do it?”

“He’s been released from jail?”

...

Russia.

“Zhang Ye?”

“Scientist?”

“When did he become a scientist?”

“He built a fighter jet? Oh my God!”

“Wasn’t he a world-class mathematician?”

“I heard of him a few years ago too. It seems like he’s very famous in both China and Asia.”

“Is he on the International Celebrity Rankings?”

“Let me see. He’s not on it yet.”

“The Chinese entertainment circle is indeed quite weak in the international arena. Their number one person can’t even make it into the C-list of the international celebrity rankings. It’s so for Zhang Yuanqi, it’s so for Guan Zhaohua as well, and even Zhang Ye is the same too.”

“The celebrities of China have always had a very poor influence on the world stage.”

...

England.

“I know that he can play Go.”

“He can not only play it, he’s basically a god in the Go world!”

“Yeah, I heard that he came out tops against the American-made AI, PeterGo! It was his second victory against it!”

“Yeah, America’s AI technology has fallen flat in his presence.”

“He has become the most popular celebrity in China?”

“Looks like there will be something interesting to look forward to.”

“Yup, I think he has a good relationship with Lillian, the most beautiful woman in England!”

“Being the most popular in China doesn’t actually mean a thing. Let’s wait and see how far he can go on the International Celebrity Rankings before we pass any judgment.”

...

In the international news:

“China’s entertainment circle sees a change in its top spot!”

“The number one hacker returns?”

“Zhang Ye: A celebrity with a tainted past!”

Zhang Ye’s climb to the top of the Chinese entertainment industry had shocked the entire industry and the country’s citizens. However, it did not make much of a ripple on the global stage.

On this day, many countries’ news carried a short report about this matter. It was only then that a lot of people remembered there was still such a person in China. However, it did not cause much of a sensation. The influence of China’s entertainment industry was quite weak and was pretty much common knowledge. If not for Zhang Ye’s identity as the world’s number one hacker, a world-class mathematician, and the number one person in Go, this news would probably not have made waves. No one would actively go and check news regarding a Chinese celebrity.

Chapter 1590: The International Celebrity Rankings Index!

A few days later.

Beijing.

At Zhang Ye’s Studio.

It was 6 in the morning when Zhang Ye arrived at the studio by himself. The entire office was still empty at this time, so he had to unlock the door with his own key. In his roughly 10 days of vacation, he had met up with the friends he wanted to meet and rested enough as well. From his state of mind to his physical well-being, Zhang Ye was currently in his best form. Hence, he ended his 10-day break slightly earlier than planned. This fellow had never been someone who could sit idle. He would be itching to go if he didn’t work for a day.

Reach the summit?

Become number one?

To others, this might have been the final goal.

But for Zhang Ye, his goal wasn't just that. He still had a very long journey ahead of him.

There wasn't anyone at the office yet?

How about a lottery draw then?

Since he had nothing to do, Zhang Ye brought up the game ring's interface to have look at his total Reputation Points first. During the three to four years of his sentence, the Reputation Points in his game ring had mostly stagnated. Each time he used it, the points would only get lessen. As such, Zhang Ye did not really dare to use it much during that period as he couldn't bear to spend the points. But now, in just a short amount of time, his total Reputation Points had soared once again. The amount of Reputation Points that he got from reaching the top had exceeded his expectations.

So he opened up Lottery Draw (Three).

The virtual stone platform suddenly appeared in the air.

It cost 100 million Reputation Points per draw—buy!

The platform lit up, and at the same time, Zhang Ye activated the Lucky Halo (Ultra) in extravagance.

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

His Reputation Points went down very quickly. It decreased so fast that Zhang Ye was feeling the pinch.

At this moment, the platform flashed as a large golden treasure chest suddenly appeared in the center. Zhang Ye deactivated the Lucky Halo and quickly opened up the Treasure Chest (Large).

[World Languages Skill Experience Book] × 427

Item Description: A skill experience book to learn the main languages of the world.

When Zhang Ye saw this, he let out a hearty laugh. "Beautiful!"

World languages!

Russian?

English?

French?

Korean?

And there were even 427 of such skill experience books?

This was enough for Zhang Ye to gain an instant mastery of quite a few world languages!

This was what he needed the most right now!

Without even thinking, Zhang Ye studied all of them.

Soon after, it was time for work.

Ha Qiqi and Little Wang were the first to arrive.

Little Wang said, "Eh, the door's unlocked? Who's here so early in the morning?"

Ha Qiqi pushed open the door and had a look. "Aiyu, Director Zhang?"

Little Wang said in surprise, "You're back from your break already?"

Zhang Ye was in a rather good mood. He smiled and said, "Yes, I decide to come back early."

Zhang Zuo also arrived shortly after them. "Weren't you supposed to take a two-week break?"

"I couldn't keep staying at home." Zhang Ye greeted them and said, "Everyone, do whatever you need to do and eat breakfast quickly. We will start the meeting at 8 AM sharp."

"Sure."

"Got it."

Everyone knew that this meeting was very important as it would set the direction of Zhang Ye's future plans. Having reached the summit of the Chinese entertainment circle and secured the number one position, how they proceeded from here and what work they would take would all depend on Zhang Ye's intentions. Furthermore, they had a feeling that Zhang Ye was probably going to make another big move.

8 AM.

In the conference room.

All of the studio's staff except for one person who was on medical leave were in attendance.

Zhang Zuo said, "Everyone who is around is here."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright, we'll start the meeting then."

Ha Qiqi smiled and said, "Are you setting the direction going forward?"

"Yes." Zhang Ye then said something astonishing. "Everyone has worked hard during this period. We fought the battle for the top position really well. I've thought about the path that we will be taking from here. I would like to take on the international entertainment industry head-on and try my luck there, to have a look at what it is all about. At the very least, I would like to earn a spot on the international celebrity rankings."

Little Wang was stunned. "Take on the international entertainment industry?"

Tong Fu wiped sweat away and said, "But we haven't even stabilized our domestic position, have we?"

"Why would we need to stabilize our domestic position?" Zhang Ye questioned.

Tong Fu said, "Shouldn't we wait a little while?"

Zhang Ye shook his head. "I'm not waiting."

Everyone knew that Zhang Ye's goal had always been the international entertainment circle, and Zhang Ye had never hidden his ambition from them either. Everyone was prepared for this, yet when they reached this step, just as they had to make a decision on how to move forward towards that goal, everyone still couldn't help but feel apprehensive.

Would it work out?

Would they really be able to do it?

In China, once you entered the top three positions of the domestic entertainment circle, it was as good as gaining the qualifications to take on the international arena. Zhang Yuanqi had also made an attempt and had succeeded in doing so as well, but it didn't last for long. She only managed to get into the last place of the international C-list rankings for a short while before dropping back down after failing to secure her position. Afterwards, she never managed to get back onto the rankings. Xu Meilan had also attempted it as well. However, she couldn't even get a position on the international celebrity rankings. Many generations of Chinese celebrities had gone down this path, and without exception, none of them succeeded. It was as if this were some sort of curse that no one could secure a footing in the international stage of the entertainment circle.

So as time passed, a lot of celebrities no longer chased after the international dream. For example, both Guan Zhaohua and Ai Fei, who were previously the top two people of the Chinese entertainment circle, did not even think about taking on the global stage. After getting to their positions, all they concentrated on was making money in the Chinese market and around Asia. Therefore, even though the era of the male idols seemed glamorous and was said to have pushed the standard of the Chinese entertainment industry to a higher level, it in fact caused the Chinese entertainment industry's influence on the global stage to weaken. The gilded front was just an illusion.

Zhang Ye said, "It's time someone did something. If the others won't do it, I will. We cannot just sit comfortably in our position and not push forward."

Ha Qiqi said, "This is a path that no one has successfully taken before."

"I know," Zhang Ye said with a smile, "but there still has to be someone giving it shot."

Zhang Zuo said in worry, "In our domestic conquest, there was at least a reference, and we could see how the others before us did it. But every step starting here, there are no precedents and experiences that we can fall back on. We have to depend on ourselves to surge forward no matter what lies ahead of us."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Yes."

Little Wang said yearningly, "To become an international celebrity—"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Is everyone still willing to continue walking with me?"

Ha Qiqi laughed. "As if you need you ask!"

Zhang Zuo also laughed. "Wherever you're headed, we're headed there too!"

Tong Fu clenched his teeth. "We're at your command!"

Wu Yi said, "It's just the international celebrity rankings, isn't it? Let's give it a try then!"

Little Wang said, "Right, when have we ever feared anyone? Even if no one else succeeded in the past, it doesn't mean that we can't achieve it!"

For a moment, everyone expressed their stance.

The International Popularity Rankings Index.

Also known as the International Celebrity Rankings Index!

This was a hall of fame with the highest honors in the world.

The rankings index was divided into four tiers.

The S-list.

The A-list.

The B-list.

And the C-List.

The international C-list celebrity rankings was the lowest entry barrier for an international star.

Zhang Ye's target was to get onto the international celebrity rankings to claim a spot for Chinese celebrities!