Superstar 1631

Chapter 1631: Choosing the cast!

The next day.

It was still the weekend.

At Zhang Ye's Studio.

Everyone looked like they had seen a ghost.

"What?"

"What did you say?"

"The funding has arrived? Over 200 million?"

"Director Zhang, th-this is too risky!"

"It was all contributed by your family?"

"What if the movie doesn't do well at the box office? Then what will you do?"

"Yeah, it's too risky. You shouldn't be putting all of your own money into it!"

Everyone in the studio felt extremely pressured. This was all of the savings and property that Director Zhang's family had put into the movie. If they ended up losing money on it, wouldn't it mean that Director Zhang's family would have to sleep on the streets? None of them had expected Zhang Ye to actually do something like this. It was a gamble to the death over the movie. Furthermore, they could not understand why he was so sure that this movie would be successful even though this was only his first time making a movie. He didn't even leave a path of retreat for himself?

"There's no need to talk about this anymore. Making a movie is always a risk that must be taken. Now that the matter has been settled and we have the funding as well, we can finally start the show. Everyone, quickly finish the work that you have on hand. Do whatever needs to be done, and turn down whoever we can turn down. For the next few months, we won't be doing anything else or taking any other jobs. We are going to go all out to make this movie. Our entire studio staff will form the base of the film crew of Wolf Warrior 2."

"Director Zhang, we don't have enough manpower."

"Then go hire more people."

"We don't have any professional filming equipment either—"

"Then go buy some."

"What about the cast?"

"I'll select them."

The tasks were assigned as the film crew officially entered the preparatory phase.

Although many of the studio's staff predicted that they would end up in the film crew of Wolf Warrior 2, they still turned to the Heavens for an answer in their speechlessness when they heard Director Zhang telling them this! A majority of them had come through from television stations and used to make television shows.

But now?

What had they been doing all these years?

Filming documentaries!

Shooting music videos!

Shooting advertisements!

Making television series!

And now, they had to fucking shoot a movie next!

Sometimes, even they themselves felt that they were too ballsy!

In this world, there was nothing left that Director Zhang didn't dare to make them film!

...

At the office.

Zhang Ye flipped open the script and started thinking.

It was time to determine the roles. Which actors should he invite on board?

He picked up a pen and started scribbling on the first page. However, he only managed to write a single line at the top of the page: Wolf Warrior 2 Cast (Draft).

Producer: Zhang Ye

Executive Director: Zhang Ye

Screenwriter: Zhang Ye

Stunt Choreographer: Zhang Ye

Assistant Directors: Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo

Male Lead (Leng Feng): Zhang Ye

Female Lead (Rachel): To be decided

Some of the roles still required further consideration, but he had already come to a decision for others.

So he picked up the phone and called Yao Jiancai.

Du, du, du, the call connected.

"Old Yao, what are you up to?"

"I'm eating out."

"How's your schedule looking?"

"I've got nothing lately, but I'm in negotiations to take part in an upcoming TV series that might start filming next month."

"Have you signed the contract yet?"

"Not yet."

"Don't sign it then. Turn it down and leave your time for me."

"What are you planning?"

"I want to make a movie. I've left a good role for you, and it's a character that only you can play. Other than you, I can't find anyone else who is suitable for it."

"What? You're making a movie?"

Then Zhang Ye made another call to action star Jiang Hanwei.

"Old Jiang, I would like to invite you to take part in a show."

"What show?"

"I'm preparing to make a movie, and there's a role of a veteran soldier that I would like you to play."

"Ah?"

"Are you agreeable?"

"Make a movie? Since when did you start making movies?"

"I just decided on it recently."

"Is it an international-themed movie?"

"No, I'm just going to make an ordinary domestic movie."

The call ended.

He gave Yu Qian's role to Yao Jiancai.

And Wu Gang's role to Jiang Hanwei.

These two were the actors he was absolutely sure about. There was no need for them to audition for their roles. This was because, during the course of filming In the Name of the People, Zhang Ye learned everyone's acting chops, how good they were, and what they could do. He was very familiar with them.

An hour later.

Yao Jiancai and Jiang Hanwei rushed over.

"Are you serious?" Yao Jiancai still had a look of disbelief on him.

Jiang Hanwei also asked, "Are you really thinking about making a movie? You're directing and acting?"

Zhang Ye tossed the script onto the table. "The script is done, and the funding is secured. All we lack now are the actors, so why don't you both take a look at the script."

Yao Jiancai rolled his eyes. "Why would I read the script? Let me ask you this first: Do you even know how to make movies?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Why would I not know how to?"

Jiang Hanwei pointed over at two books that were on his table. "Then can you explain what these books are for?"

The two books were:

How to Make Movies

What is Film?

Zhang Ye was extremely embarrassed. He opened a drawer and threw the two books in. "Aiya, don't be bothered by these minor details. I was just browsing through them."

Yao Jiancai said in a speechless manner, "You don't know a thing about making movies at all."

Zhang Ye boasted, "I really know how to make a movie."

Jiang Hanwei was speechless.

Zhang Ye said, "Just tell me, are you two willing to act in it or not?"

Yao Jiancai said dejectedly, "My contract negotiations are nearly done. Is this movie of yours really reliable?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "If it wasn't, I wouldn't have approached you two. How many years have we known each other? Would I scam either of you? Don't worry, they're definitely good roles. Wasn't it also my first time directing a TV series during In the Name of the People? How did that end up? You two still don't believe in me?"

Yao Jiancai said helplessly, "Alright, I understand. I'll turn down the offer by the other party."

Zhang Ye looked at Jiang Hanwei.

Jiang Hanwei nodded. "Alright then."

Zhang Ye clapped his hands. "Alright, it's settled then."

After the two of them left, Zhang Ye continued to ponder of the roles.

At this moment, Ha Qiqi happened to bring in something.

Zhang Ye called out to her, "Old Ha, I just thought of someone. What's the name of that American star who got replaced by Wilson on Commando 2?"

Ha Qiqi was taken aback. "He's called Jacques."

Zhang Ye decided on the spot. "OK, Jacques, he has a very good image!"

Ha Qiqi had also read the script. She said in surprise, "Are you thinking of getting him to play the main antagonist, Big Daddy? He's an international C-list celebrity! Although he isn't ranked higher than you, he's still an international celebrity. Ours is a Chinese movie, and the role is also a villainous one. Would he even agree to come? Even if you and him were both used to hype up Commando 2, it still wouldn't be easy to get him, right? With the funding we have, we wouldn't be able to give him a large salary either."

Zhang Ye said, "Help me get in touch with him. I'll speak with him myself."

Ha Qiqi said sweating, "You really have to gall to think that way. Alright, I'll go and find out how to contact him."

Very soon, they found his contact.

Zhang Ye directly called Jacques.

"Hello, Jacques?"

"Hi, who are you?"

"I am Zhang Ye."

"Oh, it's you? Zhang Ye?"

"Are you interested in coming to China to make a movie?"

"China?"

"There's a movie that I'm producing, and I think you would be interested in it."

Half an hour.

An hour.

Zhang Ye coaxed Jacques for two full hours.

Something about getting back at Wilson.

Something about taking on Hollywood!

Something about how he must retaliate!

Something about getting into the "billion-dollar box office earnings club"!

When the studio staff heard Zhang Ye's coaxing, they felt really speechless.

Little Wang nudged her chin. "Director Zhang is at it again."

But to everyone's surprise, Jacques was moved by Zhang Ye. "Zhang, I'm willing to accept the role! I'll head to China with my agent tomorrow!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright, Jacques, I'll be waiting for you!"

After hanging up, Zhang Ye said, "It's settled."

The studio staff rolled their eyes or facepalmed.

Ah? You can even do that?

You're too good at cajoling others!

I-Isn't this hoodwinking others?

Billion-dollar box office earnings club? That's over 6 billion RMB!

In the history of the Chinese film market, no more than three movies had earned over a billion RMB! But you're so casually claiming something like 6 billion RMB? Do you get uncomfortable if you don't brag for a day? And the most speechless thing is, Jacques, you actually believed it? Oh my God! Aren't you too honest a person! Don't you know Director Zhang's nickname? He's the internationally renowned Great Trickster!

...

Selecting the actors.

Auditioning.

Buying the equipment.

Renting the venues.

The film crew of Wolf Warrior 2 had quietly been formed.

They were getting closer and closer to the day when the production would start shooting.

...

Several days later.

The news couldn't be contained any longer.

"Zhang Ye wants to make a movie?"

"Shock! Zhang Ye crosses into the film industry!"

"It has been reported that after Zhang Ye's failure to enter Hollywood, he will be acting in a self-directed movie!"

"Movie title revealed: Wolf Warrior 2!"

"Zhang Ye's virgin movie production to start shooting soon!"

"Zhang Ye wants to challenge Hollywood?"

The news was too shocking!

In an instant, all of China was bursting in excitement!

On Weibo.

"Holy shit!"

"Zhang Ye has flipped out!"

"Yeah, he's making a movie himself? He'll be the director?"

"I've already said that Zhang Ye wouldn't just sit around and do nothing after getting played by Hollywood. So Zhang Ye still had such a big trick up his sleeves!"

"Challenging Hollywood?"

"These guts, there's really no one else like him!"

"But why do I feel it won't work? Even if Commando 2 isn't a box office success, it still shouldn't earn less than 500 million USD, right? That's equivalent to 3 billion RMB! Besides, this is the Commando franchise, and with Wilson's name as a famous Hollywood director, it should definitely surpass 3 billion RMB! I think Zhang Ye is only going to shoot a domestic movie, right? How is he going to take on take on Hollywood with that? If he loses, that would be such a loss of face. It would surely affect Zhang Ye's international popularity and further prove Wilson's claims that China's film industry is not good enough!"

"Zhang Ye is laying down everything for this!"

"I heard that he poured all of his family's fortune into funding the movie! He even mortgaged his house!"

"That can't be true, right?"

"It's true. Someone from a bank revealed that Zhang Ye has really mortgaged his property. He has put all his money, honor, and reputation into making this movie! It's like he intends to fucking fight to the death with Wilson and Commando 2!"

"Zhang Ye is a real man!"

"But why is the movie named Wolf Warrior 2?"

"Pfft, how would I know!"

"Yeah, what about 1?"

"Face-smacking Zhang must have gobbled up the first one!"

"This fellow really doesn't follow the fucking rules at all!"

Some people were cheering for Zhang Ye.

Some people were not optimistic about this movie.

In just a short time, the entire country was in a ruckus!

Chapter 1632: The cameras start rolling for Wolf Warrior 2!



In the morning.

It was the official lensing ceremony for Wolf Warrior 2.

All of the cast members were present today.

Zhang Ye stood there looking at everyone, then gave a short speech. "There will no incense table, no red cloth, no sacrificial ceremony for the gods today. We won't be following any of the standard practices of the film industry here, and neither do I believe in them. I've always believed that man will conquer fate. A movie is made by people, not given by the Heavens, so I believe only in people; I believe in you all. I know that a lot of people in the outside world are waiting to see us make a fool of ourselves. They're waiting to step on our faces and spit on us when we fail. Many people around the world do not value us, nor value the Chinese film industry. They never address our Chinese celebrities by their names and always refer to us as 'that Chinese person.' They don't say our movies by their titles either. It always 'this Chinese movie' or 'that Chinese movie.' This is the arrogance and prejudice that the world has against China. Chinese person? Chinese movie? Never mind! That is what I like too! I am a Chinese person, and I will make a Chinese movie to show them!"

Everyone in the audience was listening to him speak.

Then Zhang Ye said loudly.

"Wilson? Fuck your grandpa!

"Commando? Fuck your grandpa!

"Hollywood? Fuck your grandpa!

"Foreign movies? Fuck your grandpa!

"I hereby declare! We have officially started rolling the cameras for Wolf Warrior 2!"

Suddenly, cheers rang out!

Yao Jiancai clapped!

Jiang Hanwei nodded.

Dong Shanshan smiled.

Jacques gave him a thumbs up.

Quite a few people could feel their blood racing!

In the history of all lensing ceremonies for a movie production, there had never been a person who dared to speak like that. Zhang Ye was indeed quite different from other directors. He was someone who dared to say anything and do whatever was necessary!

The lensing ceremony was over.

The movie started its shoot on the very same day.

The lensing ceremonies of other film crews would just consist of the ceremony itself, and they wouldn't officially start the shoot on the same day. At most, they would just capture a few scenes for the sake of it since the important and major scenes would require a lot of preparation. But it wasn't so for Zhang Ye as his lensing ceremony really signaled the rolling of the cameras. He even chose the venue of the ceremony to be near the shooting location. After he finished his speech, Zhang Ye brought all of the cast of the film crew aboard a ship. Everyone was to follow the film crew to carry out the shoot today. Although many of the cast members were not required for the scene today and had free time, Zhang Ye still requested for them to follow the crew. This was because he wanted to quickly get the team to gel and for them to get familiarized with the filming atmosphere and his style of directing. This was so that they could get into the groove of filming as soon as possible.

At sea.

The weather was pretty good.

The ocean breeze was gently blowing.

The cargo ship was moored at a predetermined location in the open ocean. More than 30 African extras were already ready and waiting. The speedboats, rescue rafts, diving equipment, and waterproof cameras were all standing by.

Zhang Ye directed the set.

"I want the speedboats to maintain a distance of 20 meters at all times."

"The extras will run towards here afterwards."

"You, take a fall here, but be careful."

"You, after you're done filming the underwater scene, come up to the surface."

"I need the lifeguards to be vigilant here. Please take care of the situation."

The moment Zhang Ye got down to the scene, he turned serious. It felt as though he were on adrenaline as he started taking care of all small and big matters alike on the set.

The actors were all standing in the distance.

"This set of scenes won't be easy to shoot."

"It might take up to two weeks to complete."

"I don't think so. Director Zhang is well-known for his speed when it comes to filming. It's not like you guys don't know that."

"That's true."

"Is this really the director's first time making a movie?"

"That's right."

"I suppose it is the first time we're meeting as well? Why don't we introduce ourselves to each other?"

"Yes, there are a lot of fresh faces here that I'm not really familiar with."

"Hello, seniors. My name is Sophia. My father is American while my mother is Chinese. I'm still a rookie in the industry, so please be kind to me."

"My name is Ricky, and I'm a stuntman from Hollywood."

"My name is Dolby; I'm also a Hollywood stuntman."

Some introduced themselves in Chinese.

Others introduced themselves in English.

Each of them had been carefully selected for their roles by Zhang Ye. Some of them, like Yao Jiancai, Dong Shanshan, and Jiang Hanwei, had been approached by Zhang Ye over the phone and were friends of his who had worked with him before on previous productions. Meanwhile, others were chosen from a mass audition, like the female lead, Sophia. Then there were some like the American stuntmen who were recommended by Jacques. He knew a lot of people from the years that he worked in Hollywood, so when he heard from Zhang Ye the special requirements that he had for the American action stars, Jacques took the initiative to contact them. He even personally helped Zhang Ye negotiate their pay. Through this, Zhang Ye felt that Jacques was quite a good person.

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An hour.

Two hours.

The preparatory work took the entire morning to complete.

But when the actual filming was just about to begin, an argument broke out.

"No way!"

"That absolutely won't do!"

"Director Zhang, you're mad!"

"I don't agree either!"

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others were all getting anxious.

But Zhang Ye just looked at them. "Are you guys the director or am I the director? Are we going to follow what I said or what you said?" Then he bluntly said, "Get ready, we'll try out a shot first! Everyone, to your positions!"

Ha Qiqi called out, "Director Zhang!"

Zhang Ye shouted, "Begin!"

The cameras started rolling!

The extras started moving!

The speedboat also drove to the predetermined location!

Right at this moment, all of the film crew saw the blur of a person sprint across the ship's deck. He stretched his arms out wide and jumped right into the vast ocean!

Splash!

The person disappeared!

It was Zhang Ye!

Dong Shanshan screamed, "Zhang'er!"

Yao Jiancai was petrified. "Where is he? Where is he?"

Jiang Hanwei rushed over. "What's the meaning of this?! Where's the stuntman?"

Jacques and several of the American actors also started to panic. "Where are the stuntmen? Where's Zhang Ye's stuntman?"

"Why has the director jumped in!" The female lead, Sophia, also started panicking!

At this very moment, everyone was stunned. There were questions marks all over their heads!

Where was the double?

Where was the double?!

Ha Qiqi said with a sunken expression, "He said he didn't want to use a stuntman!"

Jacques hurriedly said, "How is that possible! This is such a dangerous scene. Even in Hollywood, we have our stuntmen handle them! No actor would possibly jump into the sea without any protective measures!"

There was no diving suit!

There was no oxygen cylinder!

There weren't even any diving goggles!

He just jumped in like that?

The people on the ship were going crazy!

"Director Zhang!"

"Come up quickly!"

"Where is he?"

"I can't see him anymore!"

"Quick, someone, save him! Hurry!"

One minute.

Two minutes.

After a full two minutes and ten seconds, a head suddenly emerged from the surface of the water. That person grabbed onto the side of the speedboat and gasped for air. The expression on his face had already changed. The rescue rafts in the vicinity and the rescue team swarmed. They were also worried out of their minds.

Zhang Ye waved it off and shouted, "Tong Fu!"

Tong Fu, who was in full diving gear, swam over. "You scared me to death!"

Zhang Ye reached out and took the camera. "Let me see the footage." After scrubbing through it, he said, "No, the angle is not right. You have to move further back."

Soon after, Zhang Ye reboarded the ship.

As soon as he got on the ship, everyone came over and surrounded him.

Ha Qiqi said, "Are you alright?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "I'm fine."

Zhang Zuo shouted, "Change into some dry clothes first!"

Zhang Ye scraped the seawater off his face. "Another shot!"

Little Wang was so anxious that she nearly cried. "It's too dangerous like this! You're taking such a big risk!"

Ha Qiqi also said, "If anything happens to you, what of the film crew? How are we going to continue shooting the movie? How are we going to answer to Minister Wu!"

But Zhang Ye was not bothered by it. "Nothing will happen."

Zhang Zuo didn't know what to say. "Besides, why does it have to be a long take!"

Jacques asked Dong Shanshan, who was beside him, "What are they talking about?"

Dong Shanshan translated for the American actors. "Something about a long take."

A lot of people did not understand what that meant.

But when the Americans heard it, they were scared out of their wits!

Jacques exclaimed, "Long take?"

Ricky nearly jumped. "No!"

Dolby yelled, "Director, you're risking your life that way. Even a Hollywood director wouldn't dare to lightly use a long take! What's more, this scene is happening in the ocean!"

Yao Jiancai asked, "What does that mean?"

Dong Shanshan said, "I don't know what a long take is either."

Jacques and the others explained it to them.

The "long take" is a shot where the camera would continuously roll throughout a scene without any cuts. Using this scene as an example, after Zhang Ye dived into the sea and wrestled with the African actors in the water to when he surfaced, the entire three minutes or so underwater would be shot in one entire take. There would be no time for him to take a breather, no cuts, and no switch in the sequence. So there wasn't a need to combine the scene in post with the different sequences shot from when he dived into the water and fought with the other characters. This is a commonly used technique in Hollywood, and it helped to create a more realistic scene to the viewer and gave them a better sense of immersion and shock.

There were too many good points!

The advantages were really great!

But the only drawback was that it could be fatal as well!

It wasn't easy to film!

There were even some scenes that couldn't be shot this way!

Yao Jiancai was stunned. "So that's what long take means?"

Sophia gasped. "Holding his breath for three minutes? Who can possibly do that!"

Jacques said, "What's more, he needs to hold his breath in an intense fight scene. You're risking your life like this! Zhang, this is not something you should joke about! No one can film a scene like that!"

Zhang Ye had already changed into dry clothes. "Will the nonessential personnel please step back!"

Jacques facepalmed.

Sophia said, "Director!"

Zhang Ye shouted, "One more shot!"

Three!

Two!

One!

Action!

The next moment, amid everyone's screams, Zhang Ye jumped into the ocean again!

He held his breath!

Dived into the water!

Fought the enemies!

Roped them up!

However, the second take still failed.

This time, the shot went great. It had gone according to Zhang Ye's intentions. But the problem was with Zhang Ye himself in the end, as he was unable to hold that last bit of breath. He choked on a mouthful of water and quickly surfaced. Shooting a fight scene while holding his breath for two to three minutes was even difficult for a martial arts master like Zhang Ye.

Back on the ship.

A change of clothes.

Zhang Ye said, "Again!"

One take!

Five takes!

Ten takes!

Everyone aboard the ship fell silent. On the very first day of the movie's filming, they were already jittery from watching. Perhaps it was only at this moment that they fully realized what Zhang Ye's earlier words really meant. It was absolutely not spoken just for the sake of it!

He was really serious!

He was prepared to risk his life!

Jacques suddenly sighed and said, "If this is how the Chinese film their movies, it wouldn't take ten years before Hollywood gets surpassed."

Chapter 1633: A last-minute actor swap!

Two days later.

Beijing, at home.

"Mommy."

"Mhm?"

"Why isn't Daddy home yet?"

"Your daddy has gone overseas for work."

"I miss Daddy."

"Daddy is very busy, so Sisi must be obedient."

"Sisi will be obedient, but I miss Daddy."

"How about this? I'll video call your daddy so that we can see what he is doing."

"Yay! I want to video call Daddy! I want to video call Daddy!"

Wu Zeqing took out her cell phone and video called Zhang Ye. Although she didn't know whether he was busy or not, she still gave it a try.

Du du-

Du du—

The video call connected.

On the cell phone, Zhang Ye's face appeared.

Sisi said in surprise: "Daddy! Daddy!"

On the other end, Zhang Ye was smiling happily and saying: "Hey, my dear daughter, did you miss Daddy?"

Sisi nodded in response. "I miss Daddy!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said: "Then give Daddy a kiss."

"Muah!" Sisi gave him a kiss.

Old Wu asked: "How's the shoot progressing?"

Zhang Ye said: "It's going pretty smoothly."

Old Wu said: "Why have you become so tan? Are you tired?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "I'm not tired. It's just that I was out in the sun a lot. It's no big deal."

Old Wu reminded him: "Filming an action movie is dangerous. You must watch out for your safety."

Zhang Ye said: "It's not dangerous at all, don't worry."

After chatting for a while, they finally hung up.

...

On the other end.

At a hospital.

Zhang Ye put down his cell phone and looked at the end of the bed.

The doctor and nurses were helping him change his dressing while an IV drip was attached to him.

Quite a few people from the film crew were also standing next to him.

Ha Qiqi said anxiously, "Doctor, how is it?"

The doctor replied, "Fortunately, he didn't break any bones."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "See, I told you guys I was fine. You're getting all worried for nothing."

"What do you mean by you're fine?" Zhang Zuo said, "You scared us to death!"

Jiang Hanwei said with some lingering fear, "It was too dangerous today. What a close shave!"

Dong Shanshan shook her head furiously. "You're too good at lying to your family."

Zhang Ye warned, "It's very normal to get injured on a movie set, so what's the big deal? You guys had better not tell anything to my wife and daughter. I'm really fine."

The doctor said, "You'll be OK after recuperating for a few days in the hospital."

But Zhang Ye said, "That won't do. I'm OK already. I can leave after the IV is empty."

Ha Qiqi said in annoyance, "You have to listen to the doctor!"

Zhang Ye said, "I know my own body. There are still two more sets of scenes scheduled today. Let's hurry up and change venues after we finish with the shoot."

Be it the money.

Or time.

Zhang Ye couldn't afford either of them in his current state.

He had directed many shows before, but it was different this time. Movies were still too huge of a leap forward from the television series and variety shows that he used to film. Furthermore, this was an action movie that required them to shoot their scenes across China and Africa. There were simply too many things to prepare and shoot. The extras, the explosion scene, the props, all of that meant that the movie couldn't be filmed too quickly. Their funds were limited as his own family had pooled together 200 million for the production. Each day they delayed it was money lost, so Zhang Ye had to hurry and make the best of his time.

But sometimes, things happened the more anxious one was.

After Zhang Ye insisted on being discharged from the hospital, an incident happened.

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On the third day after the shoot began, the film crew's final cast member finally arrived. It was the actor who would play the role of the spoiled brat: Song Qi. Due to the role's requirement, Zhang Ye had invited a very popular male idol to join the cast. Although Song Qi was not an S-lister in China, he was still a big star who was a top-tier celebrity on the Chinese A-list rankings and had many contracts on a lot of productions. He had been acting in a movie that had just wrapped up filming. This was the reason why Zhang Ye gave him the green light to join the cast only after he was done with the other production. As such, he was the last member to join the production set of Wolf Warrior 2. Zhang Ye had not worked with Song Qi before, but as his reputation online was pretty good and with Li Ke's recommendation, Zhang Ye decided to invite him to join the cast.

But in fact, this was not the case at all.

On the night after Song Qi arrived with his agent and assistants, Song Qi's agent approached the directorial team.

The agent bluntly said, "Director Zhang, why didn't you get a double for Song Qi?"

Zhang Ye frowned. "There are no dangerous scenes. Why would he need a double?"

The agent said, "No one does a shoot like this. The amount of work is too great. We didn't ask for a high salary in the first place, so this won't do."

Ha Qiqi said coldly, "Song Qi's salary is the highest on the set."

Zhang Zuo also said, "Isn't everyone else doing the same?"

The agent shook his head. "That won't do. We have to ask for a higher compensation."

Zhang Ye asked, "By how much?"

The agent said, "If this is how we're going to do the shoot, then the salary will have to be doubled."

Song Qi's contract was worth 20 million.

By doubling that, it would mean he was asking for 40 million?

Zhang Ye replied, "Impossible."

The agent said, "We don't usually take part in productions that pay us less than 40 million. It's even quite normal to get compensated 50 to 60 million for other movies, and that's currently the market price."

Ha Qiqi said, "You've already signed the contract. Why didn't you bring this up back then? Where's the logic of raising the asking price after the production is already underway? What the hell are you guys trying!"

The agent simply said alright and left.

But when the actual shoot began that night, Song Qi clearly started goofing off.

His expressions were rigid.

His actions were slow.

He was not giving any effort on purpose.

Even Jiang Hanwei was angered by this. "What are you doing!"

Song Qi said, "What about it?"

Zhang Ye lost his temper on the spot. "Get the fuck out of here! Replace the actor!"

Song Qi's agent immediately said, "It's you guys who are requesting a replacement, so that's a breach of contract!"

Song Qi led his agent and assistants off the set.

Zhang Zuo cursed, "What the fuck is this!"

Jiang Hanwei said, "The male idols these days have totally been spoiled by the investors' money." He looked at Zhang Ye and said, "Don't get angry over this. Your injury hasn't healed yet."

It would be a wonder if Zhang Ye didn't blow his top!

He immediately called Director Li Ke and took it up with him: "Director Li, we've known each other for so many years. Are you trying to trick me?"

Li Ke was startled. "Zhang'er, what's the matter?"

Zhang Ye said: "What kind of person did you recommend me! I even asked you which male idol in the industry was most reputable and you told me that Song Qi was OK. OK, my ass! He asked for greater compensation at the last minute and even wanted it to be doubled. When we were filming a scene that required him to perform some rolls, he deemed it tiring and fucking wanted a double to do it instead. When I didn't agree, he acted like a bastard on the set and deliberately acted badly. After shooting for the entire night, there isn't even a single scene that can be used! What the hell!"

Li Ke said with a heavy voice: "That happened?"

Zhang Ye said feeling annoyed: "I've already told him to get lost, so tell me, where am I going to get another actor to save the day?"

Li Ke said in a serious tone: "Zhang'er, I understand. Don't worry, I'll give you an explanation for this matter."

The call ended.

Ha Qiqi said, "We can't blame Director Li for this either."

Zhang Zuo said, "The main issue is who do we get to replace Song Qi?"

Zhang Ye was also considering his options.

...

In a chat group for directors.

Li Ke put out the news. "Don't use Song Qi ever again."

Quite a few directors started asking: "Why is that, Old Li?"

Li Ke gave them an account of the events.

"Such a thing happened?"

"Isn't Little Song's reputation quite good?"

"An actor like this has got real problems with their character."

"Director Zhang has really been taken for a ride."

"Alright, we know what to do."

"This sort of actor can't be used again."

"No one would dare to either."

The actors had their own circle.

And so did the directors. At Song Qi's studio. Song Qi and his people had just gotten off the plane when they got wind of the news through the grapevine. "What?" "Director Zhou's next movie is going to change actors?" "Hasn't the deal already been negotiated? We were going to be the first male lead in that movie!" "I heard that Director Li lost it in the directors' group and said that he wants us blacklisted!" "How can he do that!" Song Qi's expression darkened! Song Qi's agent was panicking! They had not expected the situation to turn out like this! The next day. In the morning. The entire film crew's progress was at a standstill. Without the important cast members on set, they couldn't proceed with the shoot. The role of the spoiled brat was too important to the entire show. So Zhang Ye couldn't be sloppy about it. He needed a suitable person to play the role. Who should he look for? Who could play the role? He didn't sleep the entire night and kept thinking about this. All of a sudden, Zhang Ye thought of a person. It was someone who was even more suited to play the role than Song Qi. However, he didn't know if he could invite that person onto the movie. He hesitated for a long time before he finally called Ha Qiqi over to help him get that person's contact information.

When Ha Qiqi heard the name, she was stunned for quite a while.

They found his cell phone number.

Then called him up.

"Hello, who is this?"

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"I am Zhang Ye."
"Zhang Ye? Teacher Zhang?"
"Boss Qian Jr., how are you?"
"Why did you call me? Are you looking for my dad? He's at the office and his cell phone isn't off either.
Is this about your movie?"
"It's about the movie."
"Regarding the movie's distribution? You can speak directly to my dad then. Based on your relationship
with my dad, it shouldn't be a problem for him to distribute the movie for you."
"It's not that. I'm actually looking for you."
"Looking for me?"
"There's a role that I need you for. Do you think you can help me?"
"What?"
"I'm asking if you can play a role in the movie."
"You're asking me to act?"
"That's right, are you interested?"
The two of them spoke for 30 minutes.
Noon.
The film crew was on their lunch break.
Zhang Ye came over in high spirits and took a boxed lunch to eat together with everyone.
Yao Jiancai was surprised. "Did you manage to get someone?"
Zhang Ye smiled. "I've found a person."
Jiang Hanwei asked, "Who?"
Zhang Ye said, "You'll know when he arrives."
"Surely not, right?" Ha Qiqi exclaimed, "He's really coming?"
Zhang Ye nodded. "It's settled."
An actor asked, "So who is it, Director Ha?"
Ha Qiqi did not know whether to laugh or cry. "You guys definitely can't guess who it is."
Later that afternoon.
```

1:30 PM.

When that person hurried down to the filming location on a private jet, when his figure appeared in front of everyone, all of the film crew members were dumbfounded!

That person suavely waved. "Hi, Teacher Zhang, I'm here."

Zhang Ye stood up and went to welcome him respectfully. "Thank you for coming to save the day."

That person laughed and said, "I'm a good friend, right?"

Zhang Ye shook his hand. "I owe you one."

That person looked to be around 20 years old or so.

He wasn't considered handsome, nor was he ugly.

He wasn't someone from the entertainment circle.

He wasn't a professional actor.

However, everyone on set knew who he was!

"So it's him?"

"I'm gonna faint!"

"What's with this?"

"This!"

He was known by many names.

- -Boss Qian Jr.!
- -China's Richest Son!
- —China's Husband!
- —China's Son-in-law!

The entire film crew was dumbfounded!

No one had expected Zhang Ye to get this person!

Chapter 1634: Who's the real special forces operator here!

The actors of the two worlds were different.

So naturally, the movie wouldn't be exactly the same either.

For example, there were some flashback scenes of Wolf Warrior 1's female lead, Long Xiaoyun, in the movie. This role was still a very important one, but as Zhang Ye was unable to find a female actress who was as unique as Yu Nan ¹, he decided to get Dong Shanshan to play the role instead. Even so, Shanshan

had her own valiant bearing after putting on the military uniform that Zhang Ye found to be very suitable.

Then there was also the role of the spoiled brat who was the son of the owner of an African factory. In Zhang Ye's previous world, even though Wu Jing ² had cast the male idol, Zhang Han ³, in this role, the original person he had hoped to play the character was actually Wang Sicong. However, due to various reasons, Wang Sicong ⁴ did not come on board the movie. In the end, he could only get a male idol. But in this world, Zhang Ye ended up getting the son of China's richest man to play the character. Even though Boss Qian Jr. was not a professional actor, he was still a true-blue affluent second generation. He would definitely be able to bring the true flavor of that in his role and play it better than a professional actor could. Besides, with his status as "China's Husband," his popularity was definitely much higher than most celebrities.

As such, it sometimes depended on luck when it came to casting the right actor in a role. The stars had to align!

Boss Qian Jr.

Dong Shanshan.

Yao Jiancai.

Jiang Hanwei.

Jacques.

Zhang Ye was very happy with this cast.

This was the perfect cast to him.

...

The next day.

"Cut!"

"Very good, this will do!"

"After this set of scenes are done, get ready, everyone. We'll be heading to the barracks tomorrow!"

The dialogue scenes were more or less finished. All that was left were the fight scenes.

But to film the fight scenes, the actors would require some training.

Some movies would simply require the actors to fight each other with some simple props, and then add a tank in during post-production to complete to scene. However, Zhang Ye didn't want to do that. Since he was going to make the movie, he might as well be detailed. So he was prepared to use real tanks and guns for the production. As such, this made it even more demanding on the role that Zhang Ye was playing.

Therefore, after they finished filming here, Zhang Ye started to play the lottery draw.

He opened up the game ring's interface and activated the Lucky Halo (Ultra). What he needed most were skills that would be useful in the production of his movie.

One draw...

Two draws...

Three draws...

[Firearms Marksmanship Skill Experience Book] × 212

[Tank Driving Skill Experience Book] × 67

[Fruit of Strength] × 21

Zhang Ye was very happy to receive these.

Firearms?

Tanks?

These were exactly what he needed. Moreover, the number of skill experience books he received were quite a lot too.

Although he had eaten a lot of the Fruits of Strength before, no one would think there could be too much.

...

The next day.

Early in the morning.

A part of the film crew were getting ready for their trip to Africa.

Another group of actors who were involved in the fight scenes were brought to a military region by Zhang Ye.

A sentry put his hand out and stopped them. "Show your identification."

Zhang Ye rolled down his car window. "I'm looking for Commander Fang."

The sentry recognized Zhang Ye and felt a little agitated. However, he still made a call to check. A minute later, he quickly raised the barrier and let the convoy pass.

In the barracks.

On the drill grounds.

The commander came out personally with a squad to welcome them.

"Fellow Zhang."

"Old Fang, why have you put on weight again?"

"Did I?"

"I remember you were still quite slim when I saw you two years ago. You must have been sitting around in your office, right?"

"No good words ever come out of your mouth, you scoundrel."

"Haha, have you prepared the drill grounds for us?"

"It's all been arranged. I've even found you the instructors too. They're all special forces soldiers in our military command."

"Alright, I'll have to trouble you with some of my people for the coming days. I mainly require them to train their firearms handling and action sequences. Oh yes, where are the guns and tanks that I requested?"

"It's easier to find the guns, but the tanks are a no-go."

"Hey, didn't we already agree on it?"

"I thought you only needed tanks that had been scrapped. We have those, and many film productions request that from us. But how am I supposed to lend you a tank that is still in service? If you feel that the scrapped tanks look too fake, you can add some special effects. Isn't that what everyone else is doing? Who would use a real tank anyway!"

"Nonsense, do you think it doesn't cost money to add VFX? Hurry up and get them!"

"If you're thinking of going into a tank to have a look and fiddle around as you please, I can allow you aboard any of the main battle tanks that are here in my military command. Your status is different since you're not considered an outsider. But I can't allow it to be used for the movie since this involves military secrets."

"I don't need the MBTs. Just get me a few tanks that will be decommissioned soon but can still be driven around. I'm not picky, Old Fang, so you've definitely gotta help me out with this. I have great use for them!"

"Even if I give them to you, you won't know how to drive them!"

"Just get me the tanks and you'll find out."

During his years at the research institute, Zhang Ye had a lot of dealings with people in the military. Commander Fang was one of them, and their relationship was quite good. This was why he could speak without reservations with him. If it were anyone else who came to borrow some tanks to use in a movie production, Commander Fang would definitely ignore them. However, Zhang Ye's status was different, and face had to be given to him.

When the people saw this situation, their hearts turn cold.

Zhang Ye had his way around the barracks!

...



The instructor put down the gun. "And the way you hold the gun when you shoot, your stances, all of you fail! Starting from today, I will teach you how to handle a gun and Instructor Li will coach you on hand-to-hand combat. I don't care whether you're actors or celebrities, or who brought you here. As long as you're in my house, you will have to do everything according to the standards of military training."

Boss Qian Jr. picked on that. "Wouldn't it do as long as we know how to use a gun?"

Jiang Hanwei said, "You mean we're going to do this for real?"

The instructor said coldly, "This was Fellow Zhang's request. If you have any doubts, please go and look for him."

The training began.

Under the scorching sun, the actors couldn't help but feel miserable.

Zhang Ye and the film crew stood there watching.

Ha Qiqi gave a wry smile and said, "Director Zhang, can they really handle such training?"

Zhang Ye said, "They've gotta do it even if they can't stand it. Some of the scenes we shoot have to look realistic. It might be easy to just get a few prop guns and film the scene, but it will be obvious that they're fake. The loading of the magazine, the shooting, all of these actions have to be done professionally. There are a lot of gunfights and fight scenes to be edited in post, so how can they not train?"

Little Wang said in worry, "I'm only afraid that China's Husband will quit the cast."

Zhang Zuo was also terrified of that happening. "Yeah, he's been spoiled since childhood and even takes his father's private jet whenever he travels. Furthermore, doesn't everyone in China know about his temper? Which celebrity in the entertainment circle hasn't been scolded by him before? If he really decides to quit the movie, there's nothing we can do about it."

Ha Qiqi was a little bewildered. "Come to think of it, Boss Qian Jr. doesn't treat anyone with courtesy except for Director Zhang, right?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "I know his father."

Little Wang said, "Ah, so that's why."

Boss Qian Jr. was indeed very polite to Zhang Ye. This was because he knew that he didn't need to care about the other celebrities in the entertainment circle since his family had a share of the entertainment industry with their entertainment companies and movie theater chain. This was why he did not have to give face to any of them. But it was different for Zhang Ye. Be it the identity of Zhang Ye's wife, or the status of Zhang Ye as a Nobel Prize winner, or the relationship between Zhang Ye and his father, he would have to treat him with courtesy at all times. Zhang Ye was the only person to be personally welcomed by his father out in the yard of their house when he went over to visit them. Moreover, the entire world knew that his father, Qian Haitao, was a fan of Zhang Ye's calligraphy too, and Zhang Ye's Preface to the Orchid Pavilion was still up on the walls of their home. Other than his father, no one in the family could touch it.

Noon.

The actors were drenched in sweat and nearly dehydrated.

Zhang Ye came out from the shade at this time. "Get some rest."

The instructor nodded. "Take a break!"

Jiang Hanwei gulped down two bottles of water.

Boss Qian Jr. collapsed into a chair and didn't get up.

Zhang Ye said, "Great work, everyone. Please endure it. Our film crew will be headed to Africa tomorrow to shoot some scenes and won't be back for some time. I'll need you all to continue training until I'm back to shoot the scenes in China. I also hope that by the time I'm back, I'll be able to see everyone's improvement and results."

Jiang Hanwei was much older and couldn't really bear this. "How many days will you be away?"

Zhang Ye said, "If everything goes smoothly, about 10 to 14 days. If progress is slow, maybe an entire month."

Boss Qian Jr. got a little cranky. "Director, if I may say something, you keep telling us to practice this and that, yet you as the main lead have not been practicing at all."

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "I don't need to practice."

Boss Qian Jr. was dumbfounded. "Why don't you need to practice?"

Nearby, the instructor and special forces soldiers all looked at him.

Jacques looked at him.

Jiang Hanwei blinked.

That's right.

Why don't you need to practice?

Zhang Ye shrugged without saying a word. He calmly walked to the shooting range. Looking down, he picked up a gun. Then he swapped magazines and reloaded before raising the gun to take aim.

Bang bang bang bang bang bang!

The soldier reported the scores in shock.

"Ring 10!"

"Ring 10!"

"Ring 10!"

"Ring 10!"

There were a total of seven shots!

All of them hit the bullseye!

Boss Qian Jr. nearly fell out of his chair!

Jiang Hanwei was dumbfounded!

Jacques was dumbfounded!

Ha Qiqi was dumbfounded!

The instructor was dumbfounded!

The special forces soldiers were dumbfounded!

Commander Fang, who was standing in the distance, was also dumbfounded!

The entire drill grounds were silent!

After putting down the gun, Zhang Ye slowly walked back and spread his hands, saying, "I told you I didn't need any practice."

Boss Qian Jr. exclaimed, "Fuck! You're amazing!"

In the distance, the rolling of tank treads suddenly rumbled, making a lot of noise.

Four old tanks that had already been decommissioned slowly drove over. The sound attracted everyone's attention. Ha Qiqi, Little Wang, and many of the others were seeing a real tank for the first time. They were a little awed. They finally understood why Zhang Ye had insisted on using a real tank. A real tank and a tank that was added in with VFX were clearly different.

The tanks came to a stop.

The tank crew crawled out of it.

The soldiers saluted. "Reporting in, Commander. The mission is complete!"

Commander Fang acknowledged them. Then he turned to look at Zhang Ye. "Will these do?"

Zhang Ye was overjoyed. "If you had something this good, you should have brought them out sooner! Why did you keep dancing around the subject!"

Commander Fang said in a speechless manner, "Even if I brought them out, you wouldn't know how to operate them."

But in the next instant, Zhang Ye walked up and touched a tank affectionately. Then he leaped up and got into the cockpit of the tank. Under the stunned gazes of everyone, the tank suddenly started moving after several seconds. The tank rolled along the drill grounds for dozens of meters before drifting and coming to a perfect stop!

Zhang Ye opened the hatch and popped out. "Not bad, I'll take these!"

Everyone was extremely confused!

Commander Fang's jaw had dropped!

Boss Qian Jr. was dumbfounded!

Ha Qiqi nearly vomited blood!

The instructor and many of the special forces soldiers were also stunned by what they were seeing!

What the fuck!

You know how to drive a tank?

And you can even fucking drift it?!

Then they thought about Zhang Ye's marksmanship!

And remembered how Zhang Ye seemed to have flown a civilian aircraft before as well!

These special forces soldiers even started to suspect that Zhang Ye could drive an aircraft carrier away if they got him one!

What kind of person was this!

Are you the special forces operator or are we the special forces operators?!

Chapter 1635: A very scary Chinese film crew!

Soon after.

"Alright, I'll be off then."

"OK."

"Everyone, train hard."

"Ah, OK."

"Oh yes, Old Fang, teach them how to load the tank shells as well."

"Alright, I got it. Don't worry, just leave them to me."

"Thanks."

Then Zhang Ye left with the film crew.

Boss Qian Jr., Jiang Hanwei, Jacques, and some of the American actors couldn't help but stare in awe. The rest of the special forces soldiers were also dumbfounded. Everyone's eyes were fixated on Zhang Ye and the film crew's cars as they drove out of the barracks. It wasn't until they left that the group of people finally came back around. Looking at the target shot full of tens, and then looking at the tank that had drifted to a stop, they realized how infuriating it was to compare people.

Ricky sighed, "The director is ridiculous."

Dolby wiped his sweat off. "This marksmanship, even our SEAL teams are probably no better than this."

"And the tank, can it even drift like that?" Jacques said in a speechless manner, "What does he not know?"

Ricky said, "The director must have specially trained in these areas. He's a military expert who is also involved in the development of military weapons, so it's very normal for him to be familiar with such weapons systems."

When he heard the words "military expert," Boss Qian Jr. nearly wanted to curse and swear.

Dolby forced a smile. "That's right. If we compare martial arts, the director would probably fare much worse than us."

Jacques said, "He doesn't need to know much about martial arts since we're just filming a movie. All the moves are fake and just for show. They're all choreographed fights, although I'm looking forward to sparring with Zhang Ye. When he gets back, the scenes left to shoot will all be action scenes. It'd be good to get to know each other's skills in advance so that we can try to avoid injuring the director."

Boss Qian Jr. turned eager and said, "When he's back, I also want to spar with him!"

The instructor for hand-to-hand combat said, "Then you will all have to practice hard in the coming days."

Jiang Hanwei said in a speechless manner. "It's useless even if we practice hard."

Boss Qian Jr. looked over. "It's useless?"

Jiang Hanwei asked them, "You guys want to spar with him?"

"Yeah." Jacques said.

Dolby also said with a laugh, "We can't beat him at shooting, nor do we know how to drive a tank. But we're action stars, and me, Ricky, and the others started out as stuntmen. What danger have we not been through? We've been sparring with real knives and guns all this time, so we definitely won't do worse than the director."

They were very confident in their skills.

Jiang Hanwei rolled his eyes. "Then go ahead and try him."

They didn't catch the true meaning in Jiang Hanwei's words and even very eagerly tried out a few moves.

Firing weapons.

Hand-to-hand combat.

Loading tank shells.

Their daily training began.

...

Several days later.

Africa.

In the savanna.

There was a tense atmosphere surrounding the film crew.

This was because there were several fearsome lions in a cage not far away.

Zhang Ye stood there and kept reminding, "Today's scene is very dangerous. I'll repeat myself again. Sophia, the rest of the crew, all of you must watch out for your safety. Even though the animal trainers are around, that doesn't mean no accidents can happen when the cage is opened. So once the cameras start rolling, I want all of you to be ready to run for your lives. If the situation does not seem right, don't wait for me to shout 'cut.' I want everyone to run to the safety zone, understand?"

"Understood!"

"Got it. Director!"

Everyone answered in a weak voice.

The female lead, Sophia, was in the jeep and constantly trying to control her breathing.

Many of the cameramen looked pale as a sheet. Only the actress who was about to face the lions looked much calmer than everyone else.

Zhang Ye got into the car and looked at her. "Are you going to be fine?"

Sophia forced a smile. "I think I can handle it."

Zhang Ye said, "Are you ready?"

"I am, Director." Sophia inhaled.

Zhang Ye nodded. "Do you know why I chose you out of so many mixed-race actresses?"

Sophia was taken aback. She shook her head and said, "Honestly, I don't know."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It's because you're ballsy."

Sophia said, "Huh?"

Zhang Ye added in a whisper, "The main reason is that your asking price is low."

Sophia chuckled.

Only then did Zhang Ye shout to the outside, "This set of scenes is very dangerous, so let's aim to finish it in two takes. Alright, let's try the first take!"

The cage was opened.

The lions were let out.

When everything was ready, the animal trainers left.

The cameras started rolling.

Two people were speaking their lines.

Sophia opened the door angrily and stepped out of the car.

The camera followed her, and everything up to here was perfectly going according to script.

However, at this moment, something unexpected happened. For some reason, one of the lions suddenly turned its head to look at Sophia before charging forward. The safety distance set between the beasts and the crew was 50 meters. However, the lion was too quick. Before anyone could react, the lion had already sprinted 20 meters and was getting closer and closer to Sophia. Everyone panicked!

Tong Fu carried the camera and ran!

The employee who was responsible for the fill lighting got so afraid that he screamed!

The animal trainers ran over while hollering!

The other crew members scattered and flusteredly got into the cars to avoid danger!

Ha Qiqi yelled, "Run!"

Zhang Zuo roared, "Sophia!"

Sophia was braver than most actresses. But even if she was brave, she was still a woman. She blanched. She shouted out a vulgarity she had learned from Zhang Ye in recent days. "Fuck your sister!" Then she turned around and started running, but tripped over, which caused her to be even slower in getting out of the way!

"Save her!"

"Quickly, save her!"

"Ah!"

"We're done for!"

Everyone was in a state of panic!

At this critical moment, someone sprang out of a car!

"It's Director Zhang!"

"Director Zhang, be careful!"

"Don't come out!"

"Run! Run!"

"Sophia, get up!"

Sophia leaped off the ground!

That lion was closing in. When the other lions behind saw this, they turned their heads and looked at Sophia. Then they padded over.

Zhang Ye stepped in front of Sophia at this moment.

"Director!" Sophia was very happy to see him and she nearly cried!

In the blink of an eye, the lion pounced!

Zhang Ye stared coldly at it and raised his right hand, imbuing some concealed power into his palm. The moment the lion pounced at Zhang Ye, he moved his feet in the pattern of a Taiji Fish ¹ and instantly shifted himself to the left side of the lion. Without any hesitation, he struck his palm onto the lion's body!

Bam!

It was a soft sound.

In fact, it was so soft that no one could hear it.

But the next second, that majestic lion trembled as a force traveled through it, and it slammed down onto its side. It slid on the ground for a full two meters. Zhang Ye had slapped it right into a bushed area!

Sophia's jaw dropped!

Ha Qiqi was staring with wide eyes!

Little Wang was so shocked that her jaw dropped!

The animal trainers who were running over nearly tripped over themselves!

What the hell!

What kind of strength is that!

A lion?

It was sent flying?

With a slap?!

Silence!

The entire film crew fell silent!

The entire savanna was silent!

Then they saw the lion shaking as it laboriously climbed to its paws. Its eyes glared hate at Zhang Ye. With a loud roar, it looked as though it wanted to attack again!

Zhang Ye simply said one word: "Scram!"

The lion suddenly turned timid and gave a weak growl. Then it spiritlessly turned its head and padded away.

When the rest of the lions saw this, they also slowly turned their heads away. They were behaving like they hadn't seen anything.

Zhang Ye turned around and pulled Sophia to her feet. "Into the car."

As Sophia's knee was injured, she limped along and followed Zhang Ye into the car.

The moment the door closed, everyone in the crew could finally heave a sigh of relief!

Zhang Ye said in concern, "Where are you hurt?"

"I'm fine." Sophia said gratefully, "Thank you! Thank you!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "You're welcome. You're with us to film a movie, and I was the one who brought you guys here, so I have to guarantee everyone's safety. No matter how I brought you over from China, I have to bring you back all the same. That's my responsibility."

Two other cars drove over.

Ha Qiqi said from inside the other car, "Director Zhang, how is she?"

Zhang Ye said with a smile, "Fortunately, everything is fine."

Little Wang's eyes were red. "You guys scared us to death!"

Meanwhile, the rest of the film crew and the African employees were looking at Zhang Ye with a terrified gaze. They had a look in their eyes that suggested they had seen an immortal of some kind. The scene that happened just now was beyond their comprehension and all common sense. They had never seen something like that before!

Zhang Ye asked Sophia, "Can you continue to act?"

Sophia nodded firmly. "Yes!"

Zhang Ye said, "Alright, let's do another take!"

Ha Qiqi said, "We're still going?"

Zhang Ye instructed, "We must guarantee that there will be no mishaps this time!"

"Understood." Ha Qiqi went over to get everything set up and in order.

Zhang Ye then looked down and helped Sophia spray some medicine onto her leg. "Today's scenes have to be shot and completed. There's no way to stop, so let's hang in there a little more. After this set of scenes is done, we'll stop work. There's no need to be afraid, I'm here."

Sophia nodded. "OK, Director."

20 minutes later.

The prep work was complete.

When the cameras started rolling again, the second take went underway.

This time, when Sophia got out of the car, everyone in the film crew took a deep breath as their hearts leaped into their throats. They were all afraid that another accident would happen.

The lions turned around to look again.

Sophia was very tense.

But this time, everyone noticed that Zhang Ye, who was sitting in the car, was glaring daggers at the lions.

The lions looked at Sophia, then looked at Zhang Ye again before quietly turning back again. They went back to doing whatever they were doing. The lion that was beaten by Zhang Ye even let out a whimper.

The African employees looked at one another.

"The lions are afraid!"

"Jesus!"

"Who is this? What kind of person is he?"

"I've worked in the savanna for so many years now, but I've only heard of lions eating people. I've never heard of lions being scared of people!"

"Does a person who can fight a lion with their bare hands really exist?"

"I've seen something unbelievable today!"

"This Chinese film crew is really too scary!"

On this day, a film crew from China had given the local African people an indelible and terrifying memory!

•••

Meanwhile.

On the other side of the planet.

At the barracks' drill grounds.

Boss Qian Jr., Jacques, and several of the others were practicing hand-to-hand combat.

Jiang Hanwei had answered a call. He was stunned for a while before walking back over to the group and saying, "I just received news. The film crew just met with a mishap in Africa."

Jacques was startled. "What happened?"

Everyone crowded around anxiously. "What mishap?"

Jiang Hanwei said, "A lion tried to attack Sophia and there was nearly a tragedy."

Boss Qian Jr. said, "What? Did she get hurt?"

Jiang Hanwei said, "No, she wasn't hurt."

Ricky said in surprise, "She got so lucky?"

Jiang Hanwei looked at him and said, "It wasn't luck. It was Zhang Ye who sent the lion flying with a palm strike."

"What did you say?" Boss Qian Jr. was stunned.

Several of the nearby special forces soldiers were also dumbfounded. "Sent flying with a palm strike?"

Jacques was speechless.

Dolby was speechless.

Everyone at the drill grounds was speechless.

Jiang Hanwei suddenly got reminded of something. "Oh yes, which of you said that you wanted to spar with him?"

Boss Qian Jr. said, "Huh?"

Dolby blinked. "No one said anything like that."

Ricky kept shaking his head, "I didn't say it either. Did you say it?"

Jacques shook his head firmly. "No!"

They were going crazy!

Spar? Spar your sister!

You can even fucking send the king of the savanna flying with a palm strike? Who the fuck would want to spar with you? Even the several of us combined couldn't fucking slap a lion like you did!

Chapter 1636: Wolf Warrior 2 wraps up!

Many days later.

In China.

At a filming location.

Bang! A loud crash rang out!

"Ah!"

"Director Zhang!"

"Director!"

"Where are the paramedics!"

"Get the first aid kit over here!"

"Director, how do you feel?"

During the filming of the tank battle scene, due to a staff member being insufficiently prepared and making a mistake, Zhang Ye got injured once again. This was the umpteenth time that Zhang Ye was

injured on the set of Wolf Warrior 2 since production began. It happened so many times that even the film crew had lost count of it.

Treatment.

Dressing.

Taking care of the injury.

After a great deal of fussing, Zhang Ye was finally able to sit upright with some aid. He waved it off and said, "I'm fine, don't worry. Jacques, get some rest first. We still have the last few scenes to shoot, so let's finish it up in one go."

Ha Qiqi disagreed. "You should recuperate first!"

Zhang Zuo also said, "Yeah, we can't continue filming!"

But Zhang Ye said, "We're filming an action movie. How can you expect there to be no injuries? Don't make such a big fuss over it."

Jacques said, "I watched the footage that we captured earlier and I think it's good enough."

"No, the actions were not done properly." Zhang Ye had seen it as well, but he wasn't satisfied with what they had.

As Zhang Ye was the executive director, no one dared to say anything more.

Actually, during the filming process, a lot of the scenes were captured pretty well. At least, the film crew thought so. Even Jacques and several of the American actors also said that the quality had already reached the level of Hollywood. They felt that there wasn't a need to risk it by reshooting the scenes again because many of the shots were very dangerous to film. However, Zhang Ye did not agree. As long as he felt that the scenes had flaws, he wouldn't accept it and would insist on shooting them until he thought they were perfect. This had always been Zhang Ye's work ethic. He would either do it to his best or not do it at all. He wouldn't allow the Wolf Warrior 2 of his previous world to not even be able to cause a wave over here. He had to make his version worthy of this Chinese movie's name by recreating it in this world his way.

Half an hour later.

They continued shooting.

Ha Qiqi whispered to Jacques, "Take it easy. Don't be too tough when you fight him."

Jacques nodded solemnly. "I understand."

"Take what easy?" Zhang Ye heard that and said, "Just fight as you normally would."

Jacques said, "But you're—"

Zhang Ye smiled. "Same rule applies. No fake moves, let's fight for real."

Zhang Zuo shouted, "You're still bleeding!"

Zhang Ye looked down. "Nice, we can save on the color dye for the makeup."

Seeing Zhang Ye limping, the film crew was very speechless.

Fight for real?!

How are you going to fight for real in your state?

But when the cameras started rolling, and when Jacques and Zhang Ye started fighting, everyone knew they had gotten it wrong. Jacques was even more surprised!

Bam!

Jacques punched!

Zhang Ye dodged sideways and kicked in response!

Jacques used his leg to block it!

However, Jacques ended up paling!

A few blows later, the entire film crew was astonished! Only now did they realize that even though Zhang Ye was injured, even if his bleeding had not completely stopped, none of the action stars on set could outfight him, including Jiang Hanwei, who was resting off to the side. Everyone in China knew that Jiang Hanwei had real kung fu and was a true martial artist since he hailed from the Huashan Sect. So in the eyes of many of the common folk and even those in the industry, Jiang Hanwei was someone they saw as the most skilled at kung fu in China. This was the limitation of their interaction with a martial artist, after all. Although there had also been constant rumors that Zhang Ye knew kung fu, no one had seen it for themselves before. The previous incident in which he smashed two Korean bulletproof car windows were also thought of by the media to have been some trickery or technique that he used. But it was only now that they finally understood that Zhang Ye also knew real kung fu. In fact, it was a very high level of kung fu too.

As for how high level it was?

The crew members had secretly asked Jiang Hanwei this question before: "Teacher Jiang, if you and Director Zhang got into a one-on-one fight and both of you gave everything you had, who would win?"

At that time, Jiang Hanwei answered, "I won't fight him."

Everyone in the crew was startled. "Why not?"

Jiang Hanwei said, "Because I can't beat him."

It was at that time that the crew members finally understood that Director Zhang was actually much stronger than Jiang Hanwei. It was as if the level of his kung fu was unfathomable!

On location.

There was the constant sound of fighting.

"Cut!"

"This shot won't do!" "Jacques, didn't you eat? Another round!" "Cut!" "Another take!" It was very tiring to be a director. It was very tiring to be an actor. But what did it feel like when one was the director and the male lead as well? The suffering and hard work was probably only understood by Zhang Ye! On this day. In the morning. Everyone in the film crew was present. Dong Shanshan, Yao Jiancai, Boss Qian Jr., everyone who could be here was here. They were all very excited as they watched Zhang Ye, who was still filming. Everyone had a different expression on their face. All of a sudden, Zhang Ye shouted, "Cut!" He heaved a long sigh of relief and smiled. "That will do!" The entire film crew burst into cheering! Jacques fell to the ground, feeling dead tired! Zhang Ye also sat down heavily and declared loudly, "I hereby announce: Wolf Warrior 2 has wrapped up filming!" "We're done!" "Awesome! We've wrapped up!" "We're done with the shoot! We've finally finished filming!" "Everyone has worked hard!" "Director Zhang has worked hard!" "It's finished!" "Why do I kinda wanna cry!" "Motherfucker, me too!"

"Everyone has really suffered these past two months!"

Some of them roared.

Some of them really started crying.

They had tasted suffering and bittersweet moments over the course of filming!

Zhang Ye had been injured a dozen times!

He suffered minor injuries eight times and serious injuries four times!

Jacques had suffered a spine injury and couldn't even stand up at one point!

Many of the actors and crew members had fallen seriously ill!

They had been attacked by lions in the savanna!

They had been pushed around by African rebels with guns!

They could still vividly remember everything that had happened, and it was an experience they didn't want to go through again in their lifetimes. They had suffered too much, but they still managed to get past everything with Zhang Ye's guidance. Many of them did not even expect that they would really finish filming this movie!

Hugs!

Joy!

Tears!

It was a jubilant scene.

After catching his breath, Zhang Ye stood up from the ground with great difficulty and went around embracing everyone and thanking them.

"Thank you, you did a great job."

"Thank you, Boss Qian Jr., you did a great job."

"Great work, Jacques."

"Great work, Old Yao."

But every one of them knew that it was Zhang Ye who had done the best and worked the hardest.

When the lions attacked, he was there.

When the rebels held them hostage, he was there.

When a dangerous explosion happened on the set, he was there.

Some of them might have experienced danger on one or two occasions, but it was different for Zhang Ye. He was the executive director and the male lead as well, so he had experienced all the dangers and hardships during the filming process. At a lot of dangerous moments, Zhang Ye even stepped forward to protect everyone. Besides being the film's producer, director, screenwriter, lead actor, and

choreographer, he also had to take on the role of bodyguard. Zhang Ye had really given a lot to the movie.

Jacques gave him a bear hug. "Zhang, it's been quite the pleasure working with you."

"Same." Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I've always felt that you American actors would behave like divas. I didn't expect you to be such a professional. It has changed a lot of my views on things."

Jacques smiled and said, "I always thought that there weren't any good actors in China and that a lot of them depended on their looks to earn a living. You've also changed my opinion of Chinese movies. Before coming to China, we never thought that there would be such an impressive director and actor like you. Zhang, I have a feeling that within ten years, you'll become a world-famous superstar."

Zhang Ye said, "I'll be banking on your words then."

Boss Qian Jr. laughed and said, "Are we going to celebrate? I'll play host!"

Zhang Ye gave it some thought. "We can hold it when the box office earnings come out!"

Boss Qian Jr. said, "Alright!"

Zhang Ye looked at him. "What about the distribution of the movie?"

Boss Qian Jr. patted his chest. "I'll speak to my dad! There won't be any problems!"

The filming of the movie wrapped up.

The actors' work was basically done.

However, the movie still wasn't completed. There was still a lot of work waiting for Zhang Ye.

The post-production.

The VFX.

The editing.

Zhang Ye's battle had just begun!

Chapter 1637: Zhang Ye, King of Posturing!

#

On this day.

In China.

On Weibo.

"I heard that the filming of Commando 2 has already wrapped up."

"Yeah, Hollywood productions move so quickly."

"The commercial films of Hollywood have an ecosystem of their own when it comes to movie productions, and the process is like a pipeline of sorts. Besides, this is the second movie of the franchise,

so of course they wrapped up filming that quickly. It's totally unlike our domestic movie productions that sometimes take up to a year or two to finish. In the end, their box office performances don't even have the results to show for all that effort. Hai, there's really no comparison at all."

"Commando 2 will be out in theaters soon."

"Calling for a strong boycott of that movie by everyone."

"Yes, based on the claims that Wilson made, we must boycott it!"

"Let him have zero box office earnings in China!"

"I heard a rumor that Zhang Ye's movie has wrapped up filming too!"

"What? So fast?"

"Is Face-smacking Zhang on steroids?"

"Didn't Wolf Warrior 2 start filming half a month later than Commando 2?"

"Zhang Ye is really too fucking fast when it comes to filming things!"

"Hahaha, this should be considered slow. Remember In the Name of the People? That fellow only took 10 days to finish shooting it. That's a TV series with over 40 episodes!"

"Is he really thinking of challenging Hollywood?"

"Supporting Zhang Ye! Fuck them up!"

"Damn, can he really beat them?"

"Who cares if he can win or not, just fight them!"

"I'm looking forward to Teacher Zhang's debut film appearance!"

...

Noon.

Back at home.

The welcome banquet had been prepared in advance.

The entire family had gathered here today, and Sisi was even lying on her belly at the first-floor window, looking outside eagerly and listening for the sounds of a car.

A car drove over.

Sisi shouted in excitement, "Daddy! It's Daddy!"

When the door opened, Sisi clambered out!

Zhang Ye had just gotten out of the car when he saw his daughter running to him. His heart melted. He sprinted over to pick her up, laughing loudly as he raised her in the air and spun around a few times. Then he lowered his head and gave Sisi a dozen kisses!

"Daddy!"

"My dear, I missed you so much!"

"Daddy, I missed you too!"

"Good girl, good girl!"

Behind her, his family had also come outside.

Wu Zeqing looked at him and said with a smile, "You've gotten a little tanner."

His mother stared at him and said, "How is this just a little tanner! He's as tan as a black dog's bollocks! If not for the car's license plate number, I wouldn't have recognized you!"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "The sun was really strong in Africa."

Li Qinqin said, "Why did you just get back?"

His father also said, "Yeah, Yao Jiancai and Shanshan both returned much earlier than you."

Zhang Ye sighed. "I was outside of Beijing all this while. After the filming wrapped up, I remained with the VFX firm to supervise their work. Then there was also the editing work to do. I couldn't leave it to the others, so I had to handle it myself. Luckily, it's all done now, haha. Zeqing, I sent the film's footage to the SARFT this morning. Get someone to quickly approve it for me. After that, there are only the publicity, distribution, and screening work left. Everyone will be able to watch it soon."

Li Qinqin asked in concern, "How did it go?"

Zhang Ye said as he followed them into the house, holding his daughter in his arms, "When we just started rolling the cameras, this bro still had some reservations and felt a little unsure about it. After all, it was my first time making a movie, so I didn't know how it would turn out. But after filming wrapped up, when the VFX were added in and the film's editing was completed, haha, don't mention Commando 2, even if Hollywood released a few more blockbusters this year, I would still freaking challenge them!"

Wu Changhe curled his lips.

His family members were also quite skeptical.

As it was time for lunch, the entire family sat down to eat.

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "You haven't been back in two months. Why don't you share a drink with your father-in-law?"

Zhang Ye waved it off. "I can't drink today. I still have a press conference to hold in the evening."

"You must have suffered a lot this time?" Wu Zeging asked.

Zhang Ye sighed. "It was no big deal, no big deal at all!"

His mother muttered, "You even went to Africa. Don't you know how chaotic it is over there?"

"Aiya, it was fine," Zhang Ye said, brushing it off.

His father said, "Your mom is just worried that you'll fail."

Wu Changhe rolled his eyes at that.

Li Qinqin laughed.

All parents are the same. Ever since the day Zhang Ye debuted, Zhang Ye's parents had been worried that their son would suffer. They were worried when he was with the radio station, they were worried when he was at Central TV, they were worried when he got banned by the SARFT, and they were worried when he quarreled with Japan and Korea!

However, in which of those situations did this fellow even suffer once?

Have you all ever seen him getting the short end of the stick?

Worried that Zhang Ye would fail—this was a joke that would keep everyone laughing for an entire year!

...

On the same night.

The venue of the press conference.

The livestreaming equipment had already been set up, and all the reporters were waiting at the scene. The reporters from the Chinese newspapers, online media, and television stations had all descended like a swarm of bees. As too many people were in attendance and the organizers were not prepared for it, many of the reporters could not even get a seat. Even though around 20 chairs were added at the last minute, some reporters still had to stand in the aisles and behind the last row.

It was such a crazy scene.

There had never before been such a turnout for any of the movie press conferences in China!

This was the current state of popularity that Zhang Ye had as an international star, and it further reflected the people's attention and interest for Zhang Ye's debut movie!

Backstage.

Ha Qiqi reminded, "There are still two minutes to go."

"OK." Zhang Ye straightened his clothes.

Zhang Zuo smiled and said, "This is the first promo run we're doing for Wolf Warrior 2, so maybe you should reveal some tidbits for the press. Whether the movie can get hype or not all depends on you now."

Reveal some tidbits?

Well, alright.

Zhang Ye smiled. "I understand."

Ha Qiqi checked her watch. "It's time."

Zhang Ye gathered everyone and said, "Let's go."

Yao Jiancai wasn't here.

Dong Shanshan wasn't here.

Jiang Hanwei and the others were not here either.

There were no actors present today. The press conference was going to be headed just by Zhang Ye and the main production team.

When Zhang Ye and his team appeared, the media at the venue blew up!

"Director Zhang!"

"How do you feel about your first time making a movie?"

"Why is it called Wolf Warrior 2? When are you going to film the prequel?"

"How much money was invested into this production?"

The reporters were all shouting out their questions!

Zhang Ye smiled and answered them one by one.

The press conference was streamed live as well and countless citizens were watching it with anticipation.

From the investment sum, to the filming process, to the actors, Zhang Ye described it all to everyone. He also bragged to the media about how good the movie was. What else was needed for a movie's initial press conference? Nothing but some self-confidence and good old posturing would do. It was only through this that everyone would feel that your movie was going to be worth watching. In this way, everyone would start anticipating it and want to go to the theaters to catch the movie. This was something that Zhang Ye was very familiar with. He couldn't be more familiar with posturing. Once Zhang Ye started posturing, it never ended!

The reporters barrage him with questions.

The questions gradually shifted from the movie to Zhang Ye himself.

A female reporter from Xinhua News asked, "You're probably the celebrity with the highest net worth in China right now. But as everyone knows, you've never accepted a commercial appearance before, so how did you earn your money? Could you share some of the secrets to making money with ordinary people like us?"

The reporters laughed.

They had thought that Zhang Ye would not answer this question.

But to their surprise, Zhang Ye calmly answered, "How to make money? I can talk a little about that. A lot of young people these days have goals in life. For example, it's not wrong to dream about becoming the richest person in the country and is a direction they can work towards. But it's better to set smaller goals first." He raised a finger and said something that would make all of the reporters at the venue and

the people watching the livestream around China want to vomit blood. "For example, I can aim to earn a 100 million first. Then, see how long it takes you to earn that amount of money. Are you planning to do it within three or five years? Once you reach your target, aim for the next goal of earning a billion or even 10 billion."

Set smaller goals?

A 100 million?

1 billion?

10 billion?

Fuck! Set smaller goals, your sister!

Three years? Five years?

I can't even earn a hundred million in my entire fucking lifetime!

Standing next to him, even Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others could feel their legs sway a little as they nearly spewed!

Another reporter said dumbfoundedly, "But to people from ordinary families like us—"

But Zhang Ye answered, "Actually, I don't think I'm that rich either. I'm also from an ordinary family. Years have passed, but our family's lifestyle hasn't changed much at all, other than the house getting a little bigger."

The reporters saw red!

The netizens saw red!

House getting a little bigger?

That's a fucking villa, alright!

Is that just a little bigger?!

And you're even claiming to be from an ordinary family?

Your wife is a minister at the Central Publicity Department!

Ordinary family, your grandpa!

The reporters were dumbfounded and just sat there, not knowing how to continue.

Then a reporter from People's Daily finally broke the silence again. "Teacher Zhang, can you tell us about the greatest mistake you've made?"

Zhang Ye gave it some thought and said, "The greatest mistake in my life must be setting up Zhang Ye's Studio. I had originally planned for it to be a small company and did not expect that there would be so many responsibilities. There are so many matters that I have to resolve on a daily basis, and they take up almost all of my time." Looking at the dumbfounded reporters, he said with a sigh, "In my next life, if

there is one, I wouldn't want to be a celebrity, nor would I want to step up onto the international stage. I just want to do my own thing and enjoy life."

The reporters were going crazy!

Fuck your sister!

Why don't you just die!

Zhang Zuo's lips were trembling!

Ha Qiqi couldn't bear to listen anymore. She hurriedly kicked him below the table.

Little Wang was trying to hold back her laughter so much that she nearly teared up!

Finally, another Central TV reporter stood up to ask, "Teacher Zhang, can you tell us about the most correct thing that you've done in your life? Or something that made you particularly proud? Uh, like having such a good daughter? Or perhaps a beautiful wife?"

This was a very normal question.

The reporters were all thinking that he couldn't possibly talk big this time.

But to everyone's surprise, they underestimated Zhang Ye!

They saw Zhang Ye shake his head with a solemn look. "Actually, I'm not good with faces. I can't tell if someone's pretty or not. Frankly, when I was wooing my wife, it was mainly because her personality attracted me since I don't know if she's considered pretty or not."

When he finished speaking.

All of the reporters at the venue went crazy!

The netizens around the country were all vomiting blood!

Even vomiting blood wasn't enough to express the emotions they were feeling right now!

Will you die if you don't posture? Will you?!

You don't know if Minister Wu is considered pretty or not?

Fuck your second grandma!

Fuck your third grandpa!

You win, Zhang Ye!

You fucking win!

On this day, all of China's citizens were left kneeling!

On this day, Zhang Ye gained yet another nickname!

—King! Of! Posturing!

Chapter 1638: American film vs. Chinese regulations!

That night.

At home.

When Zhang Ye drove home, he saw the speechless looks of his family's faces.

"Dad, Mom, you still haven't left?" Zhang Ye said with a smile.

His father said angrily, "Why do you always speak so recklessly!"

His mother also said angrily. "Can you not brag for once? Huh?"

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, "Wasn't I just trying to promote the new movie?"

His mother stared at him. "You're really good, huh? Aren't you afraid that your wife will punish you?!"

Zhang Ye laughed, "Hahaha!"

"You still dare to laugh!" His mother was infuriated.

From nearby, Wu Zeqing laughed. "Mom, it's fine. Can't you see that he was just joking?"

However, Sisi was having none of it. She had also watched the livestream together with her grandparents. She went right up to her father and tugged on his sleeve. "Daddy, Mommy is pretty!"

Mommy is pretty!"

Zhang Ye dotingly picked her up. "That's right, your mommy is the most beautiful in the world."

Only then was Sisi satisfied. "Mhm."

Wu Zeging also smiled and patted her daughter on the head.

Posturing was an art form.

And today, Zhang Ye had performed it to perfection.

Back in Zhang Ye's previous world, the netizens unanimously elected four people as the Kings of Posturing. These four people ¹ were:

Wang Jianlin², the one who had nothing to his name.

Ma Huateng³, the one who hailed from a normal family.

Ma Yun ⁴, the one who regretted setting up Alibaba.

Liu Qiangdong ⁵, the one who doesn't know his wife is pretty.

This was because these four people had all publicly talked about things that were so unbelievable that it shocked China's citizens. Each and every one of those words they uttered had been laughed at by the people of his previous world, with all kinds of screenshots, all kinds of emotes, and all kinds of ridicule aimed at them. And today, Zhang Ye had brought the famous words of these four people out to use at

the press conference. As a result, Zhang Ye had become the King of Posturing in this world overnight. There were absolutely no competitors at all!

...

In China.

Online.

The netizens were all laughing nonstop!

"Fuck! This fellow is too reckless with his speech!"

"Hahahahaha!"

"Aiyo, I'm dying of laughter!"

"A small goal of a 100 million? I don't see any problems with that, buddy!"

"This fellow is making me so angry that I want to laugh! If you're from an ordinary family? Then maybe we all should just die!"

"Motherfucker, not even the world can hold down this fellow anymore!"

"He's really bragging to the Heavens this time!"

"This is the first time I've seen someone posture so shamelessly!"

"You don't know that your wife is pretty? I can only give it to you when it comes to posturing!"

"Pfft, hahahaha! The reporters at the scene were all crying and didn't know how to respond! This is the first time I've seen a celebrity make a bunch of reporters not want to ask any further questions!"

"This era's King of Posturing has been born!"

"The way he postures is refreshing!"

"Does this fellow intend to drive everyone to their graves?!"

"Yeah, he's obviously fucking showing off!"

"If I can have a wife as beautiful as that, I would die a happy man. I can't believe this fellow had the cheek to say that he doesn't know if his wife is pretty! Oh my god, I'm gonna faint! Why don't you just go to hell!"

"Face-smacking Zhang is beyond redemption!"

"That mouth of Zhang Ye's! Hai!"

"This fellow weighs 60 kilograms, but 59 of them are in his mouth!"

Ridicule!

Speechlessness!

Hilarity!

The four famous quotes from Zhang Ye's press conference instantly resounded throughout China!

Emote packs converted from screenshots of the livestream by some meddlesome netizens went viral across the country and were crazily forwarded by countless netizens. In an instant, China's netizens found themselves anticipating the screening of Wolf Warrior 2 even more. They wanted to find out why Zhang Ye had suddenly become so confident of himself.

The media reports were also spreading like crazy.

"Zhang Ye has face blindness?"

"Zhang Ye: I come from an ordinary family!"

"Zhang Ye's advice to young people: Earn a 100 million first!"

"Zhang Ye's expressions go viral!"

"Zhang Ye's new movie has gone viral even before it is screened!"

Online.

Offline.

The news spread everywhere.

It had to be said that this press conference was indeed such a success. After all, Zhang Ye had held the press conference in order to promote the movie. As a result, Zhang Ye and Wolf Warrior 2 ended up dominating the headlines overnight as their topicalities were pushed right up to the top!

•••

The next day.

Early in the morning.

The Celebrity Goof Group was very active.

This had been the chat group for the top veteran celebrities of the Chinese entertainment circle years ago and was dying out. But ever since Zhang Ye's return, it had miraculously been revived.

Ning Lan: "@ZhangYe are you up yet?"

Shu Han: "Teacher Zhang, come and chat with us. I was doing a shoot yesterday and could only watch the press conference that you held last evening today. Hahahaha, it kept me laughing all morning!"

Amy: "Genuflecting to Lord Zhang!"

To everyone's surprise, Zhang Ye really appeared in the chat. "Sorry for incurring your ridicule."

Chen Guang: "This is the first time I've encountered anyone promoting their movie in such a way!"

Fan Wenli: "Zhang'er, that mouth of yours is beyond redemption."

Zhang Ye: "Hahaha @YaoJiancai @DongShanshan It won't be long until the movie gets a release date. The promotions are already underway, so let's give our best."

Dong Shanshan: "Bye!"

Yao Jiancai: "Hur hur, we can't posture as well as you did!"

Li Ke appeared. "Wishing you a record box office earnings."

Zhang Ye: "Thanks, Old Li."

Li Xiaoxian sent a smiley face. "We also helped you promote your new movie on our Weibo."

Xiaodong: "I forwarded it this morning."

Huo Dongfang: "I've forwarded it as well. All the best for your box office earnings."

Zhang Ye: "Thank you, everyone, thank you so much!"

Ning Lan said in an extorting tone: "If the box office earnings reach 500 million, you'll have to treat us until you're broke!"

Another film director also popped into the chat. "Haha, I agree!"

Zhang Ye smiled as he typed back: "500 million?"

Shu Han: "There's still a chance of hitting that mark."

Yao Jiancai: "I'll be satisfied with 300 million."

In this world, in the mindset of China's citizens and the industry's people, a movie would be deemed quite good if it could cross 300 million in box office earnings. Even for Li Ke and several of the other bigname directors in China, they wouldn't dare to claim that every one of their movies could surpass 500 million, much less for a new director like Zhang Ye.

But clearly, Zhang Ye did not think this way.

300 million?

500 million?

He found it too little even if it was ten times that amount!

This was fucking Wolf Warrior 2 they were talking about!

The Wolf Warrior 2 that had made everyone in his previous world piss their pants!

However, he did not say it publicly in the group. This was because the movie had not even been released yet. For now, he didn't dare to say such big words yet. If Wolf Warrior 2 somehow didn't work out in this world, he would be humiliated. After all, he did not make the first movie and jumped straight to filming the second movie.

Anxiety.

Anticipation.

Excitement.

He was in a very complicated mood right now.

That same day, Zhang Ye had just returned home and did not take any further rest. He brought the film crew out to do more publicity work. Yao Jiancai, Jiang Hanwei, Dong Shanshan, Sophia, and Jacques were also part of the team this time.

Interviews.

Appearing on television.

Posting on Weibo.

The promotional activities were in full swing!

...

Meanwhile.

In America.

Commando 2's promotional activities were also launched around the world. Be it the Hollywood brand, Wilson's reputation, or the Commando franchise's influence, all of those had an immediate impact in hyping up the attention and anticipation of the movie fans of this world.

The movie had already wrapped up filming.

The publicity work and distribution of the movie quickly followed.

The cinemas in the UK placed an importance on this blockbuster film.

The cinemas in France filled their schedules with the movie.

The Japanese theaters also gave the green light for it to be shown there.

The Korean theaters were giving the movie a lot of publicity.

The work on Commando 2 was progressing very smoothly in multiple countries around the world.

All except for one country where it met with multiple obstacles!

At Wilson's office.

A white man came running in, huffing and puffing.

Wilson said, "How's the preparation for the distribution of the movie?"

The man said, "It's going very well in the other countries."

Wilson nodded. "Hehe, that's great."

The man immediately said, "But it encountered some problems in China!"

"What?" Wilson frowned. "It didn't get approved?"

The man said, "Yeah, it didn't! Their censorship board rejected it! They said that our movie has too many gory and violent scenes, so they didn't approve it!"

Wilson was floored. "Gory? Gory my ass!"

The man said angrily, "Yeah, didn't a lot of Hollywood movies also get shown all the same in China?"

Wilson said, "All the countries in the world approved it, all except for China? What are they trying to do?"

Although they'd never placed much priority on the Chinese film market, they still knew that the box office earnings there wouldn't be too bad. At the least, it would be the icing on the cake for them. Besides, who doesn't want to make more money? As such, even though Wilson had made those outrageous claims, he wasn't actually thinking of giving up on the Chinese market.

Wilson clenched his teeth and said, "Edit the movie as per their requests and send it in for approval again!"

The white man sulked, "Understood."

Two days later.

Another piece of news came!

Commando 2's second approval submission had been knocked back as well!

This time, the reason given was: The movie's runtime was too long and didn't adhere to the Chinese requirements.

The film crew of Commando 2 nearly blew their top!

"What do they mean?"

"The movie's too long?"

"This can even be a fucking reason?"

"Holy shit! How can they call a movie with a two-and-a-half-hour runtime too long?"

"What can we do now?"

Wilson decided, "Edit it again! Edit it according to their requests!"

Not long after, Commando 2 was rejected by the censors for the third time!

Wilson said anxiously, "How can it be possible for the movie to keep getting rejected for approval? What was the reason this time?"

The reporting staffer's face had turned green with anger. "They said that our ticket price is too high and that it doesn't adhere to China's requirements, so we were told that we had to lower it!"

Wilson was very dumbfounded to hear that. "Why didn't they just tell us everything in one go! Aren't they deliberately doing this? And what has the ticket price got to do with them? Do they have any say in that?"

The staffer wiped his sweat away and said, "The Chinese censors have a say in everything."

Wilson was so infuriated. "They're taking it too far! Those goddamn Chinese regulations!"

Once!

Thrice!

Five times!

Commando 2 kept getting rejected from showing in China!

In the end, someone from the Directors Guild with knowledge of the matter quietly informed Wilson. This made Wilson see red!

The director said, "Who oversees the approval of films in China?"

Wilson answered, "The SARFT."

The director continued, "And who oversees the SARFT?"

Wilson answered, "I think it's the Central Publicity Department?"

The director asked, "Do you have any idea who Zhang Ye's wife is?"

Wilson was taken aback. "Who is she?"

That person said, "She's a minister at the Central Publicity Department!"

Wilson and the Commando 2 film crew were floored!

They finally realized what was happening behind the scenes. When they decided to use Zhang Ye to hype up their movie, they offended a lot of the citizens and leaders in China!

Wilson nearly cursed out loud!

Fuck!

A hooligan like Zhang Ye who dared to hit someone at the Nobel Prize award ceremony that was broadcast live actually managed to get a wife? And she was even a minister at the Central Publicity Department?

There must be a mistake somewhere, right?!

Chapter 1639: The global premiere date is announced!

In China.

The news spread.

There was praise all over Weibo.

"Commando 2 was rejected for approval seven times?"

"Because the movie's duration was too long? And the ticket price was too high?"

"Hahahaha! Beautifully done!"

"The SARFT is awesome!"

"Pfft, hahaha! I've gotta give a Like to the SARFT this time no matter what!"

"Well done! This is in accordance with the public's opinion! How satisfying!"

"The SARFT did really good this time!"

"It's rare that the SARFT does something that makes everyone want to clap for them!"

"The long reach of capitalism has fallen short again in front of our Chinese regulations!"

"That Wilson basically asked for it by saying that he doesn't care much for the Chinese market. During the press conference, he mentioned that the Chinese film market wasn't good? That it was unregulated? That the box office earnings were low? Sure then, since you people don't fucking care about it? Then don't come! The Chinese market and our citizens don't welcome you either! So what if you're a famous Hollywood director? So what if Commando is a great movie franchise? So what if the entire world is giving you all face? Our Chinese people won't!"

"Yeah, well said!"

"Even if the movie manages to get a showing here, we will ensure that they go back with zero earnings!"

"Supporting the SARFT! Go fuck them up!"

"This news has completely changed my impression of the SARFT!"

In the past, whenever the SARFT implemented its strict broadcast standards on imported foreign television dramas and movies, it would always make the people suffer. Many of the television series and movies that everyone wanted to watch did not get a chance to broadcast in China. When that happened, the netizens would always curse and swear at it. They felt that the SARFT was too harsh and making a fuss out of nothing, that they were being too intolerant. However, it was an unprecedented reaction this time as every netizen in the country was unanimously praising the SARFT for their action.

Well stopped!

Well rejected!

And just like that, Commando 2 lost its chance to be shown in China!

...

America.

Hollywood.

Quite a few directors from the Directors Guild were denouncing this.

"China is outrageous!"

"How can they shut out Commando 2 like that?"

"They're destroying the market this way!"

"Wilson, you cannot just let it slide!"

"We have to fight back!"

"Opposing Hollywood? Where did they find the courage to do this!"

"Isn't Zhang Ye's new movie also showing soon? Alright! We won't let him have it easy in the overseas markets either! Doesn't he intend to challenge Wilson? Isn't he thinking of competing with Hollywood? Heh, take a big step back. Even if his movie has a 0.01% chance of breaking out, as long as his overseas box office earnings are cut off, I want to see how he can fight this fight. Does he intend to depend on the Chinese film market that will at most bring him a few hundred million in earnings? What a joke! Commando 2 will surpass his movie with just two or three days of box office earnings! And that's just based on the box office earnings in America! We don't even need the global box office earnings to beat him! The Chinese market is only so big. Without the global box office to support it, he can't turn the tables!"

"That's right. I'll contact my friend about this. I still have some influence in the industry to speak of!"

"Wilson, I'll help you too!"

"Thanks, everyone!"

Very quickly, many of Hollywood's people took action.

Many people in Hollywood had always had disdain for Zhang Ye and China.

...

China.

At the film distribution company of Qian Haitao, the richest man in China.

Zhang Ye and the company's representative were seated together.

The representative said angrily, "Director Zhang, there definitely won't be any problems with the movie's domestic scheduling, don't you worry about that. However, there are some problems with the overseas distribution!"

Zhang Ye said indifferently, "Why's that?"

The representative said, "We have distribution channels in multiple countries as well as cooperative deals with their theaters. Although the relationships may not be that strong, we are still assured of getting some showtimes. However, a lot of people from Hollywood have suddenly shown up, including the investors of Commando 2 and people from their Directors Guild, and intervened with our overseas distribution of the movie. Many of the theater chains we had already negotiated with have all stated that they won't be importing Wolf Warrior 2 anymore! The overseas distribution has been ground to a halt as a result! If it goes on like this, our overseas showings will be so low that they could be negligible! This—"

Boss Qian Jr. was also around today. He banged the table and stood up. "Fuck! So they want to play such a shady game, huh?!"

The representative said, "They're obviously retaliating!"

But to their surprise, Zhang Ye laughed and said, "It's fine."

"It's fine?" The representative sounded a little startled.

Boss Qian Jr. anxiously said, "Without the foreign box office sales, we will—"

"Are the other distribution plans going smoothly?" Zhang Ye asked.

The representative said in a stunned manner, "Everything else is proceeding smoothly."

Zhang Ye nodded and said with a smile, "That will do then. Great job."

The representative said, "But the foreign box office earnings will definitely take a—"

Overseas box office earnings?

What was hell was that?

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "No worries. If those people from Hollywood like to mess around, let them do it. There's no need to worry about the overseas showtimes."

The representative said nervously, "No need to worry?"

Boss Qian Jr. was speechless.

In the media.

Within the industry.

In the entertainment circle.

Everyone thought that Zhang Ye would flare up over this matter, but to everyone's surprise, he wasn't even bothered!

When Zhang chose to make this movie, he had never even considered the foreign box office earnings. If there were any, so be it. Otherwise, no big deal! He didn't care about it at all. Perhaps some people in the industry thought that if Zhang Ye wanted to challenge Hollywood, it would be impossible to depend on just the domestic box office. The movie would definitely have to be distributed overseas as even many of Hollywood's blockbuster movies had a higher box office earnings globally compared to their own North American market. But unbeknownst to them, Zhang Ye never thought of it this way. Ever since the beginning, he had excluded all of the box office sales of the other regions around the world. This was because he knew exactly the market this movie was aimed at.

North America?

Japan?

India?

The UK?

If his goal was to take over these foreign markets and their box office earnings, he wouldn't have made Wolf Warrior 2, a production that was a Chinese movie through and through.

All he cared about this time was the Chinese market!

He only wanted to use the domestic box office earnings to beat Hollywood!

Of course, Zhang Ye did not tell the distributor about this, nor did he reveal it to the media or the film's actors. Even if he had told them, they would think that Zhang Ye was crazy—although no one in this group of people felt that Zhang Ye was normal to begin with. In many of their eyes, Zhang Ye had always been crazy like that.

If they thought he was crazy, then so be it.

In a person's lifetime, one must do something crazy once!

He was going to get crazy with a billion Chinese citizens this time!

...

In the international scene.

The news was spreading all over the world!

"A Hollywood movie gets blocked in China?"

"Surprise! Commando 2 gets buried in China!"

"Hollywood's Directors Guild protests!"

"Zhang Ye's debut movie to play soon?"

"Zhang Ye's new movie nearly fails to get distributed overseas!"

"An overly confident challenge from China!"

Based on Zhang Ye's current international reputation, he still wasn't that famous. Originally, the news of Zhang Ye's new movie would not have gotten such a huge amount of international coverage. However, with Wilson's reputation, and Commando 2 being such a popular franchise, as well as Hollywood's backing, the competition helped to propel Wolf Warrior 2 into international attention as the media made comparisons between the two movies.

...

On the Web.

There was the sound of ridicule everywhere.

An American netizen: "Are they really trying to challenge us?"

An Indian netizen: "That Chinese man must be cracking an international joke, right?"

A French netizen: "A Chinese movie vs. a Hollywood movie? There's no comparison at all! How can anyone compare these two movies? Isn't that as good as an insult?"

A Japanese netizen: "It was Zhang Ye who tried to challenge them."

A Pakistani netizen: "No, it was Wilson who initiated the challenge!"

A UK netizen: "No matter who provoked whom first, these two movies have gone to war. Commando 2 has lost its chance to screen in China, so there will be quite a big loss in the box office. Similarly, Wolf Warrior 2 has lost its chance to screen in the majority of the overseas markets and suffered even greater losses because of that."

A Canadian netizen: "Zhang Ye is at most an average international C-lister. Although his popularity isn't low, it isn't that high either, so how much could he possibly earn at the box office with a movie that he self-directed and acted in? Look at Commando 2, the two main leads are international A-listers, and there are also a few international B-list celebrities from Japan and the UK joining in as well. The overseas box office sales won't be too bad either. Together with Wilson's brand, heh, I would consider Wolf Warrior 2 to have won if they can even get 10% of the box office earnings of Commando 2!"

An American netizen: "That's right, but you haven't considered the possibility of the two movies showing during the same period. If they are released at around the same time, Commando 2 will crush the Chinese movie based on its reputation and influence. That will make the difference between the two movies even more obvious."

A Dutch netizen: "What is Wolf Warrior 2 about?"

An Australian netizen: "Who knows?"

A German netizen: "Does anyone have a link for Wolf Warrior 1? I'm quite interested in watching it."

A Korean netizen: "There isn't a part one. He shot the sequel right off the bat."

The German netizen: "Huh? He made Wolf Warrior 2 first?"

A Pakistani netizen: "How impressive, my Chinese bro!

An American netizen: "Heh, I just want to see if the Chinese guy has the balls to release his movie at the same time as Commando 2. If he does so, I'll have to give it to him."

Another American citizen: "That's impossible. He wouldn't do that."

A Canadian netizen: "Yeah, that Chinese guy can't be that stupid."

Then quite a few Chinese netizens appeared.

"Is that so?"

"Let's wait and see then."

"Hur hur, see if he has the balls."

The netizens from the various countries were a little startled.

Only the Chinese netizens were smiling. This was because they knew Zhang Ye's temper very well. After so many years, how could they not know what kind of person Zhang Ye was and what his character was like? What kind of temper did Zhang Ye have? The more other people didn't think he would do something or have the courage to do so, the more this fellow would want and dare to do it!

Soon after.

The entire world blew up.

As it turned out, the Chinese netizens were right.

•••

On this day.

Commando 2 announced its global premiere date.

It was going to premiere on the first of next month!

...

Concurrently.

Wolf Warrior 2 also announced its global premiere date.

It was also scheduled for the first of next month!

...

The media was exhilarated!

The industry was dumbfounded!

The public was stunned!

The entire world's attention was now focused on these two movies!

Two movies that had been hyped up before their release beyond anything prior were about to premiere around the world on the same day!

Chapter 1640: Battle of the premieres!

On the first.

It was the day of the premiere.

The entire world's attention was on this.

Today, a total of three Hollywood movies were being released. They were all big productions, and the one that attracted the most attention would have to be Commando 2. A global poll showed that it was the most anticipated Hollywood movie of the year with no others coming close.

The presales results.



"Commando 2 has been released first?" "I think it's due to the time zone differences that Wolf Warrior 2 hasn't been released yet." "I just went to the cinema. Most of the sessions are showing Commando 2." "Hai, even though Zhang Ye's new movie was said to be a global premiere, it's actually showing mainly in China." "There's nothing that can be done about that. Our Chinese movies aren't popular internationally." India. "Haha, let's go in now." "They're playing the trailers, but it should start immediately!" "I'm so looking forward to watching it!" "It's a full house in the cinema. This shows the appeal of Hollywood movies." "After today, Zhang Ye is gonna end up as a joke." In multiple countries. In many of the big theater chains. Moviegoers from around the world were entering theaters. Amid the enthusiastic atmosphere, Commando 2 premiered! Bang! Bang bang! Smash! The movie began with a battle! "Farrow!" "Retreat!" "Retreat already!"

The moviegoers were wearing 3D glasses and staring at the silver screen as characters they were familiar with appeared one by one. Emotions surged through the audience. This was the advantage of a sequel. After the first movie established a certain degree of popularity and fame, the second and third movies were much easier to make.

"Goddammit!"

Memories. The protagonists went their separate ways. The squad regrouped afterwards. The entirety of the movie which ran for two hours was bursting with a classic Hollywood flavor. When the first round of the global showings ended, the moviegoers were left wanting more as they walked out of the theaters. On the Web. Netizens from all over the world were discussing it. "I just finished watching it!" "How did you find it?" "Pretty good." "Yeah, it was a really fun watch." "Wilson's films are getting much better." "Hahaha, the tickets are really worth it. I recommend that everyone watch it." "I thought it was alright. The plot is still the same, so I don't really recommend it." "In reality, it was OK. But since it follows the same format as Commando, the moviegoers will find the experience a little lacking. However, I thought the VFX were really good." "Yeah, the CGI was quite good." "Although it was not as good as I expected, I can't deny that it was a good movie. I bet that the global box office rankings are gonna be dominated by Commando 2 this month." Some were calling it good, while others found it to be average. Everyone had a different opinion of the movie. Although the reviews were mixed, there was hardly anyone who rated this movie as terrible. For a Hollywood blockbuster, that was more than enough. On a movie ratings site. Commando 2's rating saw some changes. -7.1

-7.0

-6.9

In the end, the score stabilized only after dropping to around 6.5.

Although the movie's rating had quietly fallen lower from before, it wasn't by much, and the trend was still considered a normal phenomenon. This was due to a limitation brought upon by the scale and number of moviegoers who reviewed the movie, leading to the score dropping lower than when it was reviewed during the early release sessions. Even so, 6.5 was a score above the commonly accepted standard.

...

The daily global box office real-time rankings.

With the hotly anticipated release of the Hollywood movies, the rankings chart was getting updated constantly.

Real-time statistics:

#1: Commando 2

-Box office earnings: US\$4,257,700

#2: Life of Jimmy

-Box office earnings: US\$2,184,400

#3: Despicable

—Box office earnings: US\$1,981,200

There were a hundred movies on the global box office rankings, and the chart could only show that many of them. It was mainly dominated by Hollywood movies, with some British movies, some French movies, and some Japanese movies on it as well. Meanwhile, two of the top three movies had premiered globally today. The other movie was Life of Jimmy, which had been released last week and was the previous global box office leader until Commando 2 premiered.

Of course, the day had not ended yet.

There could still be some changes in the rankings until then.

...

Wilson's company.

At this moment, the film crew was together and everyone was cheering.

"First place!"

"The reviews are still OK!"

"We're assured of the weekend box office earnings champion!"

"Hahahaha, this is great!"

"Director Wilson, congratulations!"

"You're going to exceed 500 million dollars at the box office again!"

"It's still hard to say."

"We've already earned over 4 million dollars at the box office. In the span of this day, we should be able to reach 20 million dollars in the North American region. Counting all the other regions, it should surpass 40 million dollars, and that's still for the first day of release! It's just the premiere!"

"Yeah, 500 million is definitely not going to be a problem!"

"We can already celebrate it in advance!"

"It's a pity we couldn't get the Chinese market, otherwise it would've been even higher."

"It won't be higher by much. Although it looks like there are a lot of people in China and their market is big, the box office there isn't actually that big, so there's no need to care about it."

"Oh right, what's the update on that Chinese movie?"

"Wolf Warrior 2? It's a joke!"

"Haha, why do you guys care about the Chinese movie?"

"It's not that we care, but didn't it premiere on the same day as us? Our box office earnings are more or less known. All I'm curious about is the look on that Zhang Ye's face!"

"He's probably regretting his decision!"

"Our movie's premiere has already earned over 4 million dollars at the box office in just two hours, how could he not be regretting it!"

"Hahahahaha!"

•••

The box office earnings kept soaring!

The reviews were coming in one after another!

Commando 2 became very popular the moment it premiered!

With the popularity of Commando 2, many of the other movies that were showing in the same period got overshadowed by it. This also led to many people around the world forgetting about Wolf Warrior 2!