

## **Superstar 1671**

### **Chapter 1671: A Man vs. Wild Special!**

Five episodes.

Ten episodes.

Twenty episodes.

One month.

Two months.

The show was getting more and more popular.

Zhang Ye's international popularity was also ever-changing.

He was advancing every week on the International C-list Rankings.

24th place on the C-list.

20th place on the C-list.

11th place on the C-list.

Everyone knew that the higher one was on the international celebrity rankings, the more popularity they would need in order to advance. There might not be a big difference between the 100th place and 99th place celebrities on the international C-list, but once you reached the forefront of the International C-list Rankings, the difference in popularity scores between the rankings would get further and further apart. Don't mention advancing a dozen spots in one shot, just advancing by one position was already a very tough achievement. The other international celebrities were not idle either and would definitely not be waiting for the others to catch up. But even so, over the past two months, Zhang Ye still managed to advance close to twenty places.

This was obviously a very shocking matter. However, a lot of people did not feel too surprised about it.

In these two months, the international entertainment circle had seen drastic changes and many excellent works had emerged.

Novels, songs, movies. Some newcomers rose to fame, some washed-up celebrities returned for a second shot, while some popular celebrities fell off their altars. But when it came to the television show industry, only Man vs. Wild was worth a mention. Ever since its premiere broadcast, it had monopolized the entire television show industry. During these two months, Zhang Ye might not have had any contributions in other areas, like writing a novel, composing a song, or making a movie. However, his work in the television industry alone was more than enough. With Man vs. Wild, he had given more than what was necessary. Currently, Zhang Ye had ascended to the top of the global television industry.

...

On this morning.

At the studio.

Ha Qiqi was at a loss “Are we really going to end it?”

Zhang Zuo said anxiously, “Do reconsider, Director Zhang.”

“Yeah, we have only done 20 episodes!” Little Wang yelled in protest. “Although it has achieved heaven-defying viewership ratings around the world, there are still many countries where it hasn’t reached the top. Shouldn’t we at least make a few hundred more episodes?!”

Zhang Ye was amused. “A few hundred more episodes? Can you really grasp the concept of what a few hundred episodes entails? For just twenty episodes, we’ve already spent two months working on them. Are you saying that we shouldn’t be working on anything else for the next few years and only shoot Man vs. Wild? First, we don’t have the time, and second, viewers will get tired of it. Even the best shows shouldn’t be watched so often, and there will be a time when viewers get weary of it. I’ve seen the viewership ratings, and I think that the numbers for the past few episodes have peaked. There shouldn’t be much room for growth. In fact, yesterday’s episode is already reflecting a downward trend, so that indicates the show’s momentum has already reached its limit.”

Tong Fu said, “Are you really willing to give it up?”

“Let’s just end the first season here.” Zhang Ye smiled and said, “When the viewers are no longer tired of the show, who knows, we might go on to shoot a second season. However, we can’t tweak the format much further, so making more episodes is actually rather pointless. It would get very repetitive, and that’s not how I like it.”

Little Wang said, “But you’re almost into the International B-list Rankings!”

“Yeah.” Ha Qiqi took a look at the rankings. “You’re already in 11th place.”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “I can bear with not being home much for two months, but are you guys up for that physically?”

Tong Fu had gotten very tan.

Zhang Zuo had become thinner.

Wu Yi lost even more weight.

Everyone had really suffered a lot over the past two months.

Tong Fu stiffened up and said, “I can still take it.”

Wu Yi also said, “Let’s do it again, Director Zhang! Everyone can take it!”

Zhang Zuo said, “That’s right! It would be such a pity otherwise. Even if we have to end the first season, we should finish it off with a bang! It wouldn’t be our style if we didn’t do it that way!”

Zhang Ye said, “Make it a big ending?”

“Right!”

“Let’s do it, Director Zhang!”

“We’ll give it our all for one final time!”

“We haven’t gotten first place in American viewership yet!”

“We’re not yet first place in Japan and Korea either.”

“Yeah, I’m not ready to give up until we’re first in those countries.”

“We’re in our most glorious period right now, and our international influence and fame are their highest as well. If we don’t fight for it now, who knows when we’ll get another chance?”

Everyone started expressing their views on the matter.

Zhang Ye had his own way and style when it came to doing a show. For example, the original version of Man vs. Wild in his previous world was indeed made up of several dozen episodes and ran for several seasons. But Zhang Ye did not do it the same way because he felt that it was sufficient to extract just the most interesting and exciting parts of the show. If he shot more than what was required, it would only become a burden to his reputation and hasten the viewers’ fatigue of the show. Therefore, he felt that it was good enough to finish the show here. However, his studio’s staff were also right in their views. There really weren’t too many opportunities to reach the top of the global television industry. Blinking for a bit, he suddenly had an idea.

Zhang Ye said, “You guys really want to finish this off with a bang?”

Everyone nodded their heads.

Zhang Ye acknowledged, “Alright, then how about this? We’ll still go ahead with our original plan to finish up Man vs. Wild, but we will add in a few more episodes at the end and call it the Man vs. Wild Special.”

Ha Qiqi was taken aback. “A special?”

Little Wang said dumbfoundedly, “What do you mean?”

Tong Fu said, “Yeah, special in what way?”

Zhang Ye smiled. “I’ll invite some celebrities to come with me to survive in the wilderness.”

“Ah!”

“This is good, this is good!”

“Damn, what a wonderful idea!”

“This will definitely work!”

When everyone heard that, they couldn’t be more excited. They didn’t know who Zhang Ye would invite, but just the thought of it was already something to look forward to. If the special was filmed well, they would definitely give an additional boost to the viewership ratings that had already peaked. As long as the celebrity guest lineup was good, it would surely work!

On the same day.

Zhang Ye made a few calls.

It was very important to find the right celebrity guests. As his social network wasn't good and he didn't know a lot of people, there were only a few people he could think of.

...

America.

Jacques was currently on set for the filming of a show.

"Hello, Director."

"Jacques, what are you doing?"

"Haha, I'm filming a show."

"I heard that you've taken roles with several Hollywood productions, and their box office earnings are quite good too. I haven't congratulated you for that yet."

"Hollywood is placing more and more importance on the Chinese market. The slap that Wolf Warrior 2 dealt them has woken them up. Actually, it's only because of my popularity in China that I managed to secure several good offers. Speaking of that, Director, I really have you to thank for it."

"You're welcome. Oh yes, I was looking for you regarding business."

"Please, go ahead."

"Do you want to come on Man vs. Wild?"

"Huh?"

"Are you interested?"

"Doesn't that show only star you?"

"I've added in a special episode and would like to invite a few celebrities to join me on my adventures."

"Haha, of course it won't be a problem for me."

"Alright, it's settled then. Set aside your time for me. We'll start filming next week."

"Alright."

...

England.

Lillian's house.

A call arrived.

"Hi, fellow smoker?"

"Lillian, what are you up to?"

"I'm just at home."

"Whoa, you don't have any events today?"

"Hur hur, I gave myself a vacation. Can you hear it? I'm watching Man vs. Wild right now. I didn't have time yesterday, so I'm watching the rerun today."

"How do you find it?"

"It's quite good."

"Are you interested in being my guest then?"

"Guest? For Man vs. Wild?"

"Yes, but I wonder if I can convince an international superstar like you to take part in the show."

"Your show is so popular around the globe, so it shouldn't be difficult for you to invite a guest on the show, right?"

"I'll take that as you're willing then."

"Sure."

...

China.

At Heavenly Queen Xu Meilan's studio.

"Sister Lan."

"Zhang'er, what made you think of calling me?"

"We haven't met in a while. Wanna get together?"

"Are you sure you have time for that? Don't you have to go out into the wilderness?"

"I'm waiting for you to go with me next week."

"What do you mean?"

"I'm doing a special episode and would like to invite some celebrities to survive in the wilderness with me."

"Ah?"

"So how about it?"

"Who have you already invited?"

"Jacques and Lillian."

"Your show has gone international. Will it be OK if I go?"

"What's there not to be OK about? You're an Asian Heavenly Queen!"

“But beyond Asia, who would know me?”

“That might not be true. Even if they don’t know you now, they’ll know you soon enough. So then, I’ll take it that you’ve agreed? I’ll fill you in with the details when we meet up.”

“OK.”

The call ended.

Her studio staff all looked over not knowing what was going on.

Sister Lan’s agent also asked, “Was that from Director Zhang?”

Xu Meilan nodded.

Her agent asked, “What was that about the wilderness?”

Xu Meilan laughed and said, “He’s going to do a special episode and would like to invite me as one of his guests to go on a wilderness adventure with him.”

Her agent was stunned. “Zhang Ye’s inviting you to go on Man vs. Wild? Who are the other guests?”

“Lillian and Jacques,” Xu Meilan said.

Immediately, the studio’s staff screamed in excitement.

“Lillian?”

“Lillian’s going too?”

“That’s an international A-list superstar!”

“Oh, I nearly forgot! Director Zhang and Lillian are friends!”

“Has Director Zhang really invited us?”

“Director Zhang is such a loyal friend!”

“Yeah, Man vs. Wild is such a popular TV show around the world. If we can also appear on it, that would mean global exposure for us. Heavens, we finally have a chance to step onto the international stage!”

“Director Zhang is a true friend!”

“Director Zhang is definitely one of our people! He actually thought about us when a good opportunity arose!”

## **Chapter 1672: I thought you people were vegetarians?**

Several days later.

The news spread.

China.

“The first season is coming to an end?”

“No!”

“I haven’t had enough of watching it.”

“Yeah, give us some more episodes!”

“We still haven’t seen Face-smacking Zhang eat an aircraft carrier!”

...

America.

“What?”

“A Man vs. Wild Special?”

“What does that mean?”

“I heard many celebrities will be guest starring.”

“Are you serious?”

...

The UK.

“Lillian’s going too?”

“The UK’s most beautiful woman is participating in Man vs. Wild?”

“Jesus, I have a bad feeling about this!”

“Me too, but I’m also looking forward to it at the same time.”

“Good luck, Lillian! Lillian, you must endure!”

...

Japan.

“There are so many celebrities participating?”

“I must catch the upcoming episodes!”

“I like Xu Meilan.”

“I love Lillian! My goddess!”

...

Korea.

“He even managed to bring Lillian onto the show?”

“It seems like Zhang Ye’s got a pretty big influence.”

“It’s also because Man vs. Wild is super popular.”

“Jacques is another tough guy! Let’s see what kinda sparks fly when he meets Zhang Ye.”

“When does it air? I really want to watch the next episode!”

...

Meanwhile.

Somewhere abroad.

The filming started.

The entire crew had already set up camp in the wild.

Zhang Ye was recording his opening narration. “Today, I’ll be welcoming yet another adventure. But unlike before, I’ll be doing it together with a few friends of mine. For the next three days, I’ll be trying to survive together with them and find our way back into civilization. This will be an extremely tough test for them, as well as for me, so please wish us luck.”

Lillian.

Xu Meilan.

Jacques.

The three guests were already dressed in their full gear.

Xu Meilan asked, “Are we setting off now?”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “Yes.”

Jacques looked left and right. “You guys are doing this for real?”

“What do you mean by for real?” Zhang Ye asked.

Jacques said, “Are we really going to depend on ourselves to survive for the next three days? There won’t be any food? Or water? Are we supposed to look for all of that ourselves?”

Zhang Ye nodded. “Of course.”

Xu Meilan smiled and said, “That seems like quite a challenge.”

Lillian spoke at this moment. “Zhang’er, did you bring any cigarettes?”

Zhang Ye said in amusement, “Believe me, in another two hours, you won’t be thinking about smoking. Let’s go, it’s time to set off. We need to look for a high point to observe the surrounding terrain. After that, we’ll decide on a plan to survive for the next few days. Everyone, get ready, our adventure is about to begin.”

Everyone started marching off.

An hour.



Two hours.

Three hours.

Zhang Ye had to shoulder the responsibility as the team leader and take care of his teammates at every point in time. This was also quite a challenge for him because the team was made up of people who had no experience in surviving in the wilderness. They usually ate and drank well and were all more pampered than the last, so this made the challenge even harder for him.

On the first day.

The performance of his teammates was already leaving him speechless.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Look what I found!"

Xu Meilan rolled her eyes and said, "It's a bug."

But Zhang Ye said, "No, this is protein."

Lillian had a look. "Nah, that's just a bug."

Zhang Ye corrected her, "It's food. Come and have a taste."

Lillian flipped her hair. "I wouldn't eat something like that even if you tried to kill me."

Xu Meilan also said firmly, "Count me out as well. I'm a vegetarian."

Zhang Ye blinked. "Why don't I roast it for you two?"

"We won't eat it even if it's cooked." The two women expressed a firm stance against it.

Zhang Ye simply shrugged and looked to Jacques. "Jacques? Wanna have a bite?"

Jacques gulped. "I-I guess I'll give it a try?" He took the unknown bug from Zhang Ye and brought it towards his mouth in fear.

The next second, the tough guy was kneeling!

Jacques started vomiting!

He vomited like he had never vomited before!

Zhang Ye facepalmed. "You didn't even manage to bulk up on your protein intake and you're already puking your guts out?"

Jacques yelled, "I'm not eating that anymore! Absolutely not! It's too disgusting!"

Lillian laughed and said, "I told you not to eat it."

Zhang Ye said, "Then are you guys just gonna stay hungry?"

Xu Meilan said calmly, "Scientific evidence shows that humans can go seven days without food."

Lillian laughed and added on, "And three days without water."

Hearing that, Zhang Ye laughed. "Well, alright."

At night.

The three guests were each assigned a mission.

Xu Meilan and Lillian were in charge of setting up the shelter.

Meanwhile, Jacques would help Zhang Ye build a snare.

"It's done!"

"We've caught something!"

"Haha!"

The two of them returned, having caught a rabbit.

Xu Meilan said, "What a cute bunny."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I'll leave the rabbit to you guys while I start the fire."

Jacques was hungry. "Let's eat it quickly. I'll slaughter it."

Lillian gave him a look. "I think you should set it free."

Jacques said, "Huh?"

Xu Meilan chipped in, "Right, we can't eat it. It's too cute."

Lillian curled her lips and said, "Jacques, if you eat such a cute rabbit, I'll look down on you."

"How cruel!" Xu Meilan harrumphed.

Jacques was extremely embarrassed. He immediately turned on Zhang Ye. "Zhang Ye was the one who caught it. It has nothing to do with me. Actually, I don't want to eat it either. I don't like taking lives."

Lillian nodded and said, "That's the spirit, quickly release it then."

Jacques quietly released the rabbit under the egging of the two women.

Zhang Ye who was standing far off in the distance trying to build the fire noticed it as well, but he didn't stop them and just smiled slightly. Sun Kuang, who was filming this, exchanged a look with Zhang Ye. They both smiled.

The shelter was built.

The four of them laid down on the dry grass bedding.

"The night is so beautiful."

"Yeah, it's just that I feel a little hungry."

"It's not just a little, I'm extremely hungry."

"I thought that there would be some wild vegetation out here."

“Let’s bear with it a little. It’s only going to be for three days.”

“Yeah, we’ll get used the hunger very quickly.”

“Only a fool would eat a strange bug like that!”

The three of them were encouraging one another.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye was already fast asleep and snoring.

The next day.

Early in the morning.

When Zhang Ye woke up, he discovered that no one was around. Then he heard some shouting and cheering in the distance. It turned out to be from Lillian and Xu Meilan. It was only then that he realized that the three people had woken up earlier than him, or perhaps they had not slept a wink at all for the entire night? So he got up and went outside to have a look. If he didn’t do that, it would have been fine. But upon seeing them, he was utterly dumbfounded.

Lillian was shouting, “Catch it!”

Xu Meilan’s eyes were bloodshot. “It ran over there!”

Lillian yelled, “Jacques, what are you doing! Speed up!”

Xu Meilan said, “Don’t let it get away!”

Meanwhile, Jacques was pouncing around in the grass. “I can’t catch it! Ah! There’s a snake over here!”

Lillian’s eyes lit up. “The snake will do too!”

Xu Meilan roared, “Catch it! Catch them all!”

Zhang Ye said in a stunned manner, “What are you three doing?”

Jacques said, “Aiyo, Director Zhang, come over and give us a hand!”

Xu Meilan said, “Why did you only just get up!”

Lillian said, “Catch it, Zhang’er! We’re all depending on you for breakfast!”

Sun Kuang was capturing the entire scene from the side. He was laughing hard as he filmed them. This scene had tickled him pink.

Zhang Ye said in amusement, “I thought you people were vegetarians?”

“What vegetarians?!” Lillian swallowed and said, “If we have to eat meat, we’ll still eat meat!”

Zhang Ye asked again, “Didn’t you say that scientific evidence shows that humans can go seven days without food?”

Xu Meilan said, “Science can be wrong sometimes.”

Zhang Ye was speechless.

Feeling helpless, Zhang Ye could only help them out. When the expert got down to work, it was clearly very different from these amateurs. He caught a rabbit again today, which might have been the same rabbit from yesterday. On top of that, he also caught the snake.

The three guest hosts' eyes were turning green from hunger.

"I'll go and look for firewood!"

"I'll start the fire!"

This time, there wasn't a need for Zhang Ye to say anything more.

With their assistance, the first big meal since they came out into the wilderness was cooked.

Lillian gorged herself!

Xu Meilan also had no qualms for her image.

Jacques kept saying "this is so delicious" as he ate the food.

On the other hand, Zhang Ye did not even manage to eat a few bites of food. However, he had a smile on his face. That's right, this is starting to feel more like a wilderness survival show.

### **Chapter 1673: Zhang Ye's first English song!**

During the day.

Inside a valley full of blooming flowers.

"Zhang'er, is this edible?"

"No."

"Zhang'er, how about this one?"

"That's poisonous."

"I'm so hungry."

"Think of something, quick."

The energy they gained from breakfast had already been expended. As they traveled, every one of them experienced how difficult it was to survive out here. When they watched the show on television, they didn't think much of it. But now that they had been thrown into the wilderness, they finally realized how difficult everything was. If they didn't have Zhang Ye to depend on, they knew very well that they wouldn't make it out of here alive.

"Look."

"What?"

"Honey bees."

“Honey bees?”

“That means there’s definitely a beehive nearby. Come, let’s follow them!”

“A beehive?”

Eventually, they found the beehive.

It was located in an extremely secluded spot.

Jacques said excitedly, “It’s over there!”

Lillian asked, “What do we do now?”

Xu Meilan said, “How are we going to get it down? There are too many bees!”

“We’ll have to divide up the work now.” Zhang Ye started assigning the tasks. “Sister Lan, go and look for some dried branches or grass. I want something very flammable.”

Xu Meilan nodded. “Alright, leave it to me.”

Zhang Ye said, “Lilian, I taught you how to use the hand drill method to make a fire yesterday.”

Lillian nodded and said, “I’ll give it a try.”

Zhang Ye said, “Jacques, you and I will go up to the beehive.”

Trembling, Jacques said, “We won’t get stung, will we?”

Zhang Ye said, “That’s why we’ll need to prepare some clothing to cover up any exposed areas on our bodies.”

“OK, I’ll go look for some,” Jacques said.

Soon after, some dry grass was set on fire.

Zhang Ye and Jacques brought the burning grass towards the beehive.

Xu Meilan said, “Come on, you guys can do it!”

Lillian called out to them, “Be careful!”

Every one of them was extremely hungry, so they were drooling at the thought of feasting on the honeycomb.

Smoking the beehive.

Baking it with fire.

The bees started escaping in all directions.

Zhang Ye found an opportunity and used a tree branch to pick up the hive before turning around with it and running off. As he ran, he called out to Jacques, “Hurry! Run, run!”

Jacques scampered down the tree but stumbled.

Xu Meilan blanched. "Get out of there!"

When Lillian saw the bees flying towards them, she turned tail and fled as well!

Ten minutes later.

At the campsite far away, the four of them returned.

Zhang Ye, Jacques, Xu Meilan, and Lillian had all been stung by the bees. Some of them had been stung a few times, and that was already relatively little. Zhang Ye, being at the front line, had been stung over a dozen times, and his face was swollen. It was especially bad around his eyes where the clothes could not cover. But at this moment, none of them cared about this. They were all staring at the beehive while salivating buckets.

Zhang Ye started to distribute it.

One piece for you.

One piece for me.

The three of them immediately chowed down on it after receiving a piece and were smiling so widely that their eyes narrowed.

Xu Meilan exclaimed, "Why does it taste so good!"

Lillian said, "What a delicacy!"

Jacques was crying out, "This is awesome! This is so awesome!"

In fact, the honeycombs that were sold in the market were all processed to make them taste better and increase their shelf life. It would definitely be much more delicious than this honeycomb that they were eating. The four of them must have tasted that kind of honey before, but the only reason they found the honeycomb they were eating now to taste better was mainly because of the environment they were in. This wasn't something they could buy with money. But obtained through their team effort, it tasted better to them.

Zhang Ye asked, "Do you three have a different view of survivalism now?"

Jacques nodded. "It's such a good feeling to be alive."

Xu Meilan said, "I used to think that being alive couldn't be more ordinary a thing. You should know that people like us work under great stress, and thoughts of taking the easy way out can happen occasionally. But in these two days, I haven't felt that way. Being alive—it's such a sacred thing."

Zhang Ye said, "Do you know what place this is?"

Jacques was taken aback and shook his head.

Xu Meilan also shook her head.

Only Lillian answered, "A war took place here.."

Zhang Ye nodded. "This place has been through a war. Several thousand lives were lost due to an artillery barrage, and many of those who died were children and young soldiers no older than 18. They were all laid to rest here forever."

No one said a word.

There was silence.

The atmosphere was a little grim.

All of a sudden, Zhang Ye bent over and crouched down. He dug at the ground under a tree and picked up a dirt stained badge from underneath it.

There was blood on it.

And a name as well.

The badge belonged to someone named Andy.

Jacques was startled. "This is?"

Zhang Ye said softly, "Let's all go for an afternoon nap."

Lillian said, "OK."

Xu Meilan tugged at Jacques and walked away together with him.

The three of them went to get some rest.

But Zhang Ye remained behind. He held the badge and stayed silent.

Half an hour.

An hour.

The celebrity guests who were sleeping soundly were suddenly awoken.

"Hear that?" Xu Meilan said.

Lillian said, "What's that sound?"

Jacques said in surprise, "Who's that singing?"

Lillian and Xu Meilan were awoken by a singing voice.

They came out from the campsite and checked around the area to look for the source of the voice. Then they saw Zhang Ye and a sight they would not forget for the rest of their lives. Zhang Ye was clutching the bloodstained badge in his hand. He stood at the highest point in the secluded valley and was looking into the clear blue sky. His crisp voice rang throughout the valley.

Zhang Ye gently sang <sup>1</sup> .

"Mama, take this badge from me.

"I can't use it anymore.

"It's getting dark, too dark to see.

"Feels like I'm knockin' on Heaven's door

"Mama, put my guns in the ground.

"I can't shoot them anymore.

"That long black cloud is comin' down.

"Feels like I'm knockin' on Heaven's door.

"Knock, knock, knockin' on Heaven's door.

"Knock, knock, knockin' on Heaven's door.

"Knock, knock, knockin' on Heaven's door.

"Knock, knock, knockin' on Heaven's door."

...

Zhang Zuo.

Wu Yi.

Tong Fu.

Sun Kuang.

The film crew all came over.

It was a rock song.

But there wasn't any guitar.

There wasn't any accompaniment either.

There was only a sorrowful voice ringing out in the valley. It almost sounded like the voice was breaking through the clouds and drifting off to a faraway land. It was a feeling that was so indescribable that even Lillian, who was a professional singer, was stunned on the spot when she heard it. It was mesmerizing!

The valley.

The clouds.

The singing.

The badge.

Everyone was in a state of shock!

The voice that was knocking on Heaven's door was also tugging at their heartstrings!

**Chapter 1674: Ascending to the altar!**



On this day.

In the morning.

The Man vs. Wild Special was finally broadcast.

Due to the participation of several big name celebrities, the attention on this show was at an unprecedented level.

On TV: "Hello, everybody. Today, I'll be welcoming yet another adventure. But unlike before, I'll be doing it together with a few friends of mine. For the next three days, I'll be trying to survive together with them and find our way back into civilization. This will be an extremely tough test for them, as well as for me, so please wish us luck."

...

China.

"Hahaha!"

"It's starting, it's starting!"

"Wow, it's Lillian!"

"My goddess, she's so beautiful!"

"Wow, Sister Lan has actually appeared on the show without any makeup. How bold!"

"Jacques is pretty handsome too!"

...

Japan.

"He caught a bug!"

"What kind of bug is that?"

"Who knows!"

"It's been eaten by Zhang Ye again!"

"Jacques is gonna try it too?"

"Pfft, Jacques puked his guts out!"

"This guy is so weak! And I thought he was supposed to be some tough guy from Hollywood!"

...

Korea.

"The tough guy has been left kneeling!"

“Everything pales in comparison.”

“Yeah, Zhang Ye is truly too fearsome of a person!”

“No tough guy in the world would dare to eat like the way he does!”

“Well done, Lillian! Don’t eat it!”

“Come on, Sister Lan! You can’t eat it!”

“Don’t fall for Zhang Ye’s tricks!”

...

The UK.

“Oh my God!”

“Lillian and the others went out to hunt by themselves!”

“They’re trying to catch a snake!”

“Oh my God! My goddess!”

“I thought they were vegetarians?”

“They must be terribly hungry!”

“They’re eating, they’ve started eating with Zhang Ye!”

...

America.

“There’s no water around.”

“Yeah, they couldn’t find a water source.”

“Ah, what is Zhang Ye doing?”

“Pee?”

“Holy fuck!”

“He’s drinking it! Zhang Ye is drinking pee!”

“I’m gonna puke!”

...

Australia.

“Jesus Christ!”

“Does he need to go that far!”

“He really fucking drank it?”

“Jacques is also drinking pee! Pfft, he’s puking again!”

“That Chinese female celebrity also puked after taking a whiff of it!”

“Only Zhang Ye will drink something like that!”

“This cunt! Not even the world can stop him!”

...

France.

“This is so thrilling!”

“This is why it’s so fun to watch Man vs. Wild.”

“Right, if you can’t find a water source in the wild, the only choice left would be to drink urine. Believe me, when it comes down to it, a lot of people would make this choice as well.”

“Ah! Lillian drank it too!”

“Yeah, she really drank it!”

“Well done, Lillian!”

“I’m afraid Lillian’s fans will be hunting down Zhang Ye soon!”

“Hahahaha!”

...

Russia.

“Those are honey bees!”

“They’ve been stung!”

“The four of them are in such a miserable state!”

“Their faces are all swollen.”

“They’re finally getting some decent food.”

“Wow, that honeycomb looks so delicious.”

“Yeah, I’m drooling.”

“The scenery is so beautiful.”

...

In Germany.

“It’s a badge?”

“There’s even blood on it.”

"I remember where this place is!"

"It's the place where young soldiers were once deployed!"

"Hai, a lot of soldiers are buried there."

"I'm feeling down now."

"Many of them were still children."

...

India.

"Listen to that!"

"Someone's singing!"

"Who's singing?"

"Look!"

"It's Zhang Ye!"

"He's over there!"

"Everyone has come out into the valley!"

...

"Mama, take this badge from me.

"I can't use it anymore.

"It's getting dark, too dark to see.

"Feels like I'm knockin' on Heaven's door."

...

When the singing rang out.

The entire world fell silent.

Everyone was looking at their screens in astonishment and looking at the man who was singing in the valley.

Some people were stunned!

Some people were dumbfounded!

Some people closed their eyes and listened!

Some people's tears started falling uncontrollably!

This was a very famous and classic rock song from Zhang Ye's previous world. It could even be called as one of the most classic rock songs of all time. The song's name was "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," and it had been covered by multiple international superstars and Chinese celebrities. Meanwhile, the version Zhang Ye had performed was even more special as there wasn't any music accompaniment. He had sung it a cappella, yet it was precisely because of this that gave the song an even greater "wow" factor!

...

China.

"It's an English Song!"

"Zhang Ye sang an English song!"

"Is this his first ever English song?"

"Yeah, it is!"

"So he can really sing in English!"

"It's such a nice song!"

...

America.

"Why does he know how to sing?"

"I don't know, but his singing doesn't sound like an amateur's!"

"And he even sang a cappella! That really tests a singer's skills!"

"This guy has absolutely got to be a professional singer!"

"I just found out that he can sing as well. Also, I've never heard of this song before!"

"Was it composed by him on the spot?"

"He's that great?"

...

Australia.

"How nice!"

"I'm a little touched!"

"I teared up listening to it!"

"For the first time, it finally feels like he's a Nobel Peace Prize laureate."

"Yeah, this is clearly an anti-war song."

"It was really great!"

“You don’t usually get to hear such a heartfelt song!”

...

The Netherlands.

“He’s called Zhang Ye?”

“I’m getting more interested in this Chinese celebrity!”

“He’s too talented at too many things.”

“I have a feeling that this song is gonna get really popular around the world!”

“The episode has ended.”

“I wanna hear it again!”

“Has it been released as a single?”

...

That same day.

The entire world burst in an uproar!

Man vs. Wild blew up once again!

“Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door” also unexpectedly became very popular across the world!

This was something that Zhang Ye and the staff at his studio had not expected. When Zhang Ye sang the song, he had done so spontaneously and did not plan on recording it as part of the show. But at that time, the film crew had brought over their cameras when they heard the singing, so when Zhang Ye saw that it wasn’t too badly performed, he included it in the final cut of the episode. He had not expected such a great reaction to it. This song was actually getting spread around by countless people, celebrities, and media outlets all over the world.

At the studio.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Ha Qiqi exclaimed, “The song is getting spread everywhere!”

Little Wang said in shock, “This is so crazy!”

“Does this make it a package deal?” Zhang Zuo was very amused. “We were just working on a TV show, but it ended up launching Director Zhang’s international music career as well?”

Tong Fu said gleefully, “This song’s arrival is so timely. When Director Zhang beat up someone at the Nobel Prize award ceremony and stirred up so much trouble, the Nobel Prize Committee must’ve hated him to the bone. With the release of this anti-war song, we can finally consider ourselves acquitted.”

On the same night, the viewership ratings were released.

America: #1!

Japan: #1!

China: #1!

Korea: #1!

The UK: #1!

Man vs. Wild had actually gotten first place in the viewership ratings ranking across multiple countries!

### **Chapter 1675: Ascending to the International B-list Rankings!**

Online.

“It has ended!”

“The season has ended!”

“It was such a great show!”

“Yeah, I’ve never watched such an exciting show before!”

“It got first place in the viewership rankings of multiple countries!”

“The show’s viewership ratings are so scary!”

“I can’t bear to see it end!”

“I really hope that it will continue airing!”

“Let’s congratulate Zhang Ye! Face-smacking Zhang has really done it this time!”

“Did you guys see what the foreign media wrote about him?”

“Haha, I saw it!”

“—The man at the top of the food chain!”

“Pfft, that’s a really apt nickname for him. There’s really nothing that this fellow doesn’t dare to eat!”

...

On this day.

From the premiere broadcast to the season finale.

After a full three months of broadcast, Man vs. Wild finally came to an end.

When the special final episode ended, a celebratory feast was finally thrown. It was only then that everyone could afford the time to gather and celebrate this historical moment. Be it for Zhang Ye, for Central TV, for the industry, or for China, this was a show that would go down in the annals of history.

The people from Central TV.

The industry insiders.

They were all here today.

Director Meng came over with his glass raised. "Director Zhang, congratulations."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "And the same to you!"

Director Meng said, "Come, let me toast you!"

Zhang Ye said, "No need to be so polite, Director Meng."

Yu Yingyi stood up. "Zhang'er, let me toast you as well."

Zhang Ye clinked glasses with her. "Alright."

A person from Central TV said, "I wish you great success in the future. It was all thanks to you this time. You're very capable!"

"Yeah, who would've thought that such a day would come for a show from China!" Director Meng laughed heartily. "Director Zhang, honestly speaking, you're the only person in the industry whom I will take my hat off to!"

Zhang Ye said politely, "Haha, thank you. It was all down to the combined efforts of everyone. My job was just to film and edit the show. The rest of the venue arrangements, manpower allocation, and publicity were handled by Central TV. The show couldn't have gotten popular if any of that were missing. So let me offer a toast to everyone, cheers!"

"Alright!"

"Director Zhang, cheers!"

"Let's work together again in the future should any opportunities arise!"

"Sure, no problem."

It was very boisterous at the drinking table as everyone toasted each other amid laughter and chatter. In the past three months, everyone had gone through an unprecedented experience. This feeling of them rising up above the clouds was simply too fantastic. The glory and pride that they had earned was simply something that could not be bought with any amount of money.

Zhang Ye was also very happy today. He drank around eight glasses of rice wine all by himself, and no one could stop him. To tell the truth, it was very risky for him to make this show in the first place. Back in his previous world, Man vs. Wild was actually a foreign television show and Zhang Ye had forcefully ported it over to adapt into a Chinese show. Now that he had gained such good results, he was also very surprised by it himself. It could be said that in the many years since his debut, this was the project that brought him the most popularity. The stars had aligned perfectly for him this time.

Yu Yingyi smiled and asked, "Have the international celebrity rankings been refreshed yet?"

Zhang Ye checked his watch. "I don't think it has?"

"It's about to be updated." Ha Qiqi said anxiously, "I wonder what it will be like."



A person from Central TV said, "It's definitely won't be a problem."

Director Meng said, "Just three days ago, Director Zhang reached third place on the C-list, right?"

Ha Qiqi nodded. "That's right."

Director Meng looked at Zhang Ye. "If you manage to break into the international B-list, you're going to create history again. China has never had a celebrity who reached the heights that you're at. Not mentioning China, even for the other celebrities from other countries, there aren't that many of them who can reach the International B-list Rankings either!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Who knows what will happen? Let's just wait and see."

The International B- and C-list Rankings were two entirely different concepts. Even if someone was ranked at the top of the C-list, they were still just a C-lister. They would still be lacking by a tier compared to a B-lister. This time, Zhang Ye had used Man vs. Wild to ascend to the top of the global television industry, so of course he also wished that this show could push his popularity up by another level. He and his staff at the studio had had their eyes on the International B-list Rankings for a very long time and had been waiting for this day since then. It was such a rare opportunity. Zhang Ye was also hoping that he could muster up and break through to the next level in one shot. If he were to miss out on doing so, it might be a very long time before he could make another attempt on ascending to the International B-list Rankings. There might not be such a good chance again within the year.

The popularity rankings were about to be updated.

Zhang Ye was full of anticipation.

The studio's staff were starting to get anxious as well.

...

America.

"It's out!"

"The International Celebrity Rankings Index has been updated!"

"Let me see, let me see!"

"Oh my God!"

"This—"

...

Japan.

"The index has been published!"

"What ranking is Zhang Ye at?"

"Uh, have a look for yourself."

"Ah, he's not on the C-list anymore?"

...

Korea.

“He’s made it into the B-list rankings!”

“The International B-list Rankings!”

“Heavens, China has finally gotten an international B-lister?”

...

China.

“He really went up!”

“Hahahahaha!”

“Lord Zhang is almighty!”

“I knew it! I knew it!”

...

At Zhang Ye’s maternal grandma’s house.

“He did it! He succeeded!”

“Little Ye is an international B-lister now!”

“Are you serious?”

“Look at it yourself!”

...

At the celebratory feast.

“Hahahahaha!”

“You’ve ascended to the B-list! You’ve done it!”

“You’ve really reached the B-list rankings!”

“Director Zhang, it’s your treat!”

“We’re going to continue eating tomorrow, and it’s going to be your treat!”

...

The international celebrity rankings.

The results were finally revealed!

Zhang Ye’s name had disappeared from the International C-list Rankings. By the time the index was updated, his name was among those in the International B-list Rankings. Although he was in last place,

although this was the very tail end of the International B-list Rankings, a B-lister was still a B-lister. What it represented was entirely different from before. If an international C-lister was regarded as having only made inroads into the international entertainment circle and was at the periphery, then an international B-lister could be described as truly having become a core member of the international entertainment circle. The title, popularity, status, qualifications, all of that was on a different level!

The media erupted!

The entire world was in a heated discussion!

“The International Celebrity Rankings Index has been updated!”

“The man at the top of the food chain has ascended to the International B-list Rankings!”

“China’s first international B-list celebrity!”

“A Chinese celebrity’s popularity soars!”

“Zhang Ye’s path of defiance!”

“Zhang Ye: an all-around artist?”

“Just how far can Zhang Ye keep going?”

In the past few months, Zhang Ye’s international popularity had been skyrocketing. His popularity score was ever-changing by the day. On the day the season ended for *Man vs. Wild*, he finally broke into the International B-list Rankings and completed a major milestone in his career.

To the staff of Zhang Ye’s Studio, they had long heard from Zhang Ye himself that his final goal was to reach the highest spot in the international entertainment circle. At the time, they just listened to it as a joke and weren’t too bothered by it. But they realized now that Zhang Ye had actually been serious at that time. Over the years, he had really made it to the spot that no one else dared to aim for!

The International B-list Rankings!

This was just like a dream!

## **Chapter 1676: Taking on Hollywood!**

Several days later.

Overseas, on an island.

This was a world-famous vacation resort. Today, Zhang Ye had brought his wife and daughter, his parents, his cousins, his parents-in-law, and his staff from the studio here for a vacation. The whole lot of them booked all of the rooms at the only hotel on the island.

Blue skies.

White clouds.

Crystal clear seas.

The sand.

The coconut trees.

Everything was very beautiful.

“Wow!”

“This is so beautiful!”

“Boss, isn’t this a little too extravagant?”

“Haha, everyone, let loose and enjoy yourselves! We’re on vacation for the next few days!”

“Oh yeah!”

“Long live the boss!”

“Director Zhang is so generous! We can finally get a vacation!”

“I love the sea! This is such a nice place!”

“We’re the only ones here! This is so awesome!”

Everybody was intoxicated by the beauty of this place.

Some of them went straight out to sea to swim while others returned to the cottage by the sea to sort out their luggage. Cao Dan, Zhang Ye’s eldest younger sister, even started livestreaming while taking a stroll along the beach. She was fiddling around with her cell phone on a selfie stick as she chatted with her fans on the stream. It was getting really boisterous all around.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “Dad, Mom, how do you like the place?”

His father nodded. “It’s so beautiful.”

His mother muttered, “Just how much did all of this cost?”

“Aiya, it’s not much,” Zhang Ye said.

Li Qinqin smiled and said, “Sister-in-law, wanna go for a swim?”

His mother immediately said, “Alright, let’s go.”

Wu Changhe said, “I won’t be joining you two.”

Li Qinqin said, “Then play some Go with your son-in-law.”

Wu Changhe rolled his eyes and said, “I’m not gonna play with him.”

Zhang Ye laughed, “Haha.”

His second sister shouted from the sea, “Brother! Come and teach us how to swim!”

Zhang Ye smiled and shouted back at her, “You guys play by yourselves for now. I’ll teach you all in a while. Don’t go out too far into the sea, it’s very deep. Just stroll along the shore for now!”

His third sister yelled, "We're all waiting for you! Hurry up!"

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Why don't you go play with them for a bit?"

Zhang Ye laid on the deck lounge not wanting to move. "I'm so exhausted from the past few months, and I have yet to recover. Let me relax a little first." He gave a lazy yawn and said, "I'm so sleepy."

Sisi said childishly, "Daddy, I'm going to play with Sister Chenchen."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Go on, go on."

Chenchen pulled Sisi by her hand, and they headed off together to play.

Zhang Ye was lying down with his eyes closed and felt very comfortable. Seeing his family so happy, he was also very happy. He had been too busy during this period and was hardly home. Most of his days were spent out in the wilderness in order to film the show. Now that the show had ended its run, and he had also risen onto the International B-list Rankings, he was finally able to get some good rest. So he decided to bring his family and colleagues here to the island for a vacation. As they said, there had to be a proper work-life balance.

An hour.

Two hours.

Everyone was enjoying themselves and there was laughter all around.

Soon after, Ha Qiqi and the others came back to the beach.

"Director Zhang." Ha Qiqi asked, "Are we really going to rest for the entire week?"

Zhang Zuo said, "We're afraid that you'll slip off the International B-list Rankings."

"Yeah." Little Wang said worriedly as well, "It wasn't easy getting up there, so we had better not get pushed back down after spending just a few days on it. That would be so embarrassing."

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "That won't happen. I've already seen the popularity scores on the rankings. Although we're currently in last place on the B-list, there's still a significant difference in popularity between me and the number one C-list celebrity. I dare not say that it will remain the same for the next month or two, but we definitely won't be surpassed by that person in a week. Everyone has been working hard for some time now, so enjoy yourselves while we're here. Don't think about work. I haven't really organized any trips over the years, so now that we have an opportunity to do so, let's not waste it."

Ha Qiqi laughed and said, "Sure, we won't hold back on enjoying ourselves then."

Little Wang said, "Director Zhang, can we drink the liquor in the hotel?"

Zhang Ye gave the go-ahead and said, "Drink as you like, eat as you like, it's all on me."

"Wow!" A few of the younger employees cheered. "Director Zhang is almighty!"

Ha Qiqi said helplessly, "Do the few of you only know how to eat and drink?"

But Zhang Zuo still couldn't relax. Sometimes, the higher one's position was, the more stress they had. There were some matters that he couldn't not think about. "What's our next step going to be?"

Ha Qiqi also asked, "Do you have any plans?"

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

Ha Qiqi said, "The higher we climb, the harder it is to go on."

"That's for sure." Zhang Ye laughed and said, "But the harder it is, the more we have to go on."

Little Wang said excitedly, "Our next step is definitely to make a push for the International A-list Rankings."

Wu Yi sighed and said, "The International A-list Rankings, that was something that we didn't used to dare think about. We've actually gotten so close to it already?"

Zhang Ye said, "Actually, it's still very far away. Getting from the International C-list to the B-list Rankings was still relatively easy. But to get from the International B-list to the A-list Rankings, it's almost an insurmountable task to complete. Lillian herself is an international A-list superstar, but compared to her, I still lack too much popularity. When we get back, the first task will be to stabilize our footing in the International B-list Rankings. Afterwards, we can start considering what options we have. The main thing we need are the right opportunities."

Ha Qiqi sighed and said, "The best choice is still to make a movie."

Zhang Zuo agreed, "Yes, in the international entertainment industry, movies are ranked at the very top. If we want to increase our popularity, the fastest way would be by making a movie. Unfortunately, we have no say in Hollywood. It's not a place where we can come and go as we please. Although we also recently had quite a few offers from Hollywood to join their productions, most of them are only looking for you to be in a supporting role. Those who can offer you the main lead are the smaller productions with a lower budget, so let's not even mention your chances of getting approached to direct a movie. They wouldn't have the guts to do so even though you directed a domestic movie that got close to breaking the global records and a TV show that became very popular around the globe."

Hollywood?

Movies?

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Hollywood would be crazy if they really approach me to direct a movie."

Ring, ring, ring.

Ring, ring, ring.

Zhang Ye's cell phone rang.

From the caller ID, he saw that the call was coming from the richest man in China.

"Hello? Boss Qian?"

"Teacher Zhang, where are you?"

“I’m on a vacation overseas.”

“I haven’t congratulated you on reaching the international B-list yet.”

“Hai, who knows if I might fall off of it in a few days.”

“You won’t. I have enough faith in you to know that.”

“So what is it, Boss Qian? Is something the matter?”

“What are your plans from here on out?”

“Hur hur, I haven’t thought of them yet.”

“What if I want you to make a movie for me?”

“But I don’t really have a good script for a domestic movie right now.”

“It’s going to be a Hollywood movie.”

“Hollywood? What do you mean?”

“I’m in the midst of acquiring a Hollywood studio, and we’ve entered the final stage of negotiations. The studio isn’t exactly a large one, but it’s also not small. So I’m calling to give you a heads up. When the deal is completed, I want you to make a movie for me. You’ll be the director, and I’ll leave the casting and editing to you as well. I’m not going to interfere with the production at all. Go ahead and film anything you want. Even if the final box office earnings are just OK, it’s fine with me. So how about it?”

“Haha, it’s a deal.”

“Alright then, it’s a deal.”

### **Chapter 1677: Acquiring a Hollywood studio!**

A few days later.

On Weibo.

The news got out.

“Have you heard?”

“China’s richest man is buying out a Hollywood studio!”

“I heard about it too.”

“That’s probably just a rumor, right?”

“No, it should be true. It seems like the deal is almost complete.”

“Qian Haitao is too rich!”

“If he can successfully buy it, many of our Chinese celebrities will get a chance to enter Hollywood.”

“There are some media outlets saying that Qian Haitao has already invited Zhang Ye to help him out.”

“Wow! Is that really true?”

“If Zhang Ye were to make a movie in Hollywood, that would definitely be big news!”

“Face-smacking Zhang is going to make a Hollywood movie? I will definitely watch it!”

“I’m also looking forward to it. Even with the military-themed domestic movie that Face-smacking Zhang made, he was still able to use it to break into the Top 100 global box office movies of all time. If he were to really make a Hollywood blockbuster, just how fucking crazy would the box office earnings be? It’s very possible that it would break Wolf Warrior 2’s record! In the past, Zhang Ye has always done unconventional things like poetry, crosstalk, calligraphy, Go, hacking, math, etc. But if he really wishes to keep advancing in international showbiz, he will need to depend on making movies. This time, Face-smacking Zhang is finally going mainstream!”

...

Back at home.

The family had already returned from their vacation.

Old Wu asked, “Do you want to bring this?”

Zhang Ye answered, “Yes.”

“I’ve also packed some gastric medicine for you.”

“Aiya, that won’t be necessary.”

“Just bring it along.”

“Alright. Pack in a few more clothes as well.”

“OK.”

Wu Zeqing was packing for Zhang Ye.

His mother said in a speechless manner, “You’re going off again so soon after coming back?”

“I’m just packing in advance.” Zhang Ye said with a chuckle, “I’m still waiting for the confirmation from Old Qian, so I’ve got to be ready to set off at a moment’s notice. I don’t want to get blindsided by lack of preparation.”

His father said, “Why don’t you rest a few more days?”

Zhang Ye laughed and said, “I’ve already rested for a week, it’s time I got back to work. Otherwise, my popularity is going to fall and I’ll drop back into the C-list. It’s fine, I won’t be too worn out this time. It’s just making a movie in Hollywood anyway. Once I’m done there, I’ll head home immediately. It’s my first time making a Hollywood movie, so this is a rare opportunity for me.”

Sisi said, “Daddy, you can do it!”

Zhang Ye gave his daughter a kiss. “Thanks, my dear!”



His mother said, "Will the staff from your studio be going as well?"

Zhang Ye nodded. "Yeah. I'm bringing them with me."

His mother asked, "Why can't you shoot the movie in China?"

His father also asked, "Yeah, why do you have to insist on going to America?"

Zhang Ye explained, "It's different. Making a Hollywood movie isn't just about where you shoot it. There's also the facilities, personnel, technical skills, distribution channels, and publicity efforts to consider. They have a lot of equipment that isn't readily accessible here, while their personnel and technical skills are also top-notch. As for the distribution of the movie, there is a need to consider the overseas market as well. That's why I still have to go to America. Why else do you think Old Qian is spending so much effort to acquire a Hollywood studio? What he really wants is to get ahold of is their technical facilities and distribution channels. Perhaps in the future, I can choose to shoot a movie wherever I want after bringing our people over there to learn from them."

His mother curled her lips. "Learn from them? As if!"

His father said, "Your mom is afraid that you'll go there and start trouble again."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I won't."

Even Wu Zeqing, who was beside them, couldn't help but smile when she heard that.

They still understood Zhang Ye very well. What learning? They were quite sure that Zhang Ye absolutely did not hold such a belief. They also knew that Zhang Ye was going to America this time simply because he wanted to cause trouble there. They had already seen too many such incidents happen before. This fellow would always cause chaos in whichever industry he went into. Just look, he had basically turned the television industry upside down over the past few months, and now, he was thinking of taking on Hollywood again. However, they were still supportive of Zhang Ye's choice. The influence of Hollywood movies in the international entertainment industry was so obvious that even a three-year-old kid knew about it. This could be seen by how 90% of the current crop of A- and B-listers in the international entertainment industry had come through from Hollywood movies.

He rested.

He prepared.

He waited.

Zhang Ye was ready to leave at any moment. Even now, countless choices were popping up in his mind as many classic movies from his previous world kept flashing by. He could pick any one of them with his eyes closed and still be confident that he could shoot a Hollywood movie that would stun the world. Zhang Ye had been thinking of entering Hollywood for a long time. However, the chance to do so hadn't presented itself. Now that it had, he didn't know how to select which movie he wanted to film.

This movie?

Or that movie?

He kept going through his choices.

...

America.

Wilson's company.

"What?"

"One of our Hollywood studios is getting acquired by China?"

"They've already commissioned Zhang Ye to make a movie?"

"Is that fellow really coming to Hollywood?"

"Dammit! I don't like him!"

"Me neither. Over the years, Director Wilson has only had one movie, *Commando 2*, underperform at the box office. It was precisely Zhang Ye who ruined that record!"

...

Japan.

"Zhang Ye is going to Hollywood?"

"The day has finally come?"

"I knew that the day would come, but I never expected it to arrive so soon."

"If he manages to establish himself in Hollywood, won't he become unstoppable?"

"Yeah, but he's already as good as unstoppable now."

"The showdown between Zhang Ye and the Hollywood big shot directors is finally going to happen."

...

The UK.

"Zhang Ye should still be considered a newcomer to Hollywood, right?"

"I guess so. After all, he hasn't directed a Hollywood movie before."

"There's a huge gap between Chinese movies and Hollywood movies, so there shouldn't really be much to worry about, right?"

"But don't forget this: He never made any movies prior to the Chinese movie."

"Yeah, for someone who has never made a movie before, he broke into the Top 100 global box office movies of all time with the very first movie he directed and acted in. It would be a wonder if Hollywood isn't worried about him!"

...

Russia.

“I heard that there are people from the Directors Guild making a commotion.”

“What are they making a commotion about?”

“It seems like they’re trying to block the acquisition by the Chinese company.”

“There are indeed a lot of difficulties in the way of this acquisition deal.”

“Haha, so those big shot Hollywood directors also have something to fear?”

“The man at the top of the food chain has turned his sights on Hollywood!”

“I’m actually looking forward to what kinds of works he produces.”

“This could very well determine how far Zhang Ye can go in the international entertainment industry.”

...

There was uproar in the outside world.

There was international buzz.

People from all over the world turned their attention to this acquisition deal. In fact, they were even a little overly concerned about it. If it were an American CEO acquiring the studio, or an English company doing so, there wouldn’t be a problem at all, nor would it cause such a big hubbub. It was such a big issue because a Chinese company was looking to acquire the studio. The ownership of a medium-sized Hollywood studio could eventually affect the status quo of the international entertainment industry, so be it the media, the common folk, the industry, or the celebrities, everyone would naturally pay attention to this matter and wait to see what the outcome would be.

Some people were pleased.

Some people were excited.

Some people were worried.

Some people protested.

There were all kinds of reactions from people.

### **Chapter 1678: An animation studio?**

On this day.

America.

Los Angeles International Airport.

In the evening, an airplane slowly descended.

Zhang Ye said, “How was everyone’s sleep?”

Tong Fu smiled and said, "We all got enough sleep on the plane."

Ha Qiqi asked, "Director Zhang, do we need to get in contact with Boss Qian?"

"No." Zhang Ye smiled and said, "He's probably busy now. We'll go ahead and hang out by ourselves first."

Little Wang said in a rush, "I'll go get the luggage, I'll go get the luggage!"

Zhang Zuo said, "Transportation has already been arranged."

Zhang Ye stretched. "Alright, let's go."

They had chartered a minibus to take everyone from the studio directly into the Los Angeles suburbs where the world-renowned entertainment capital was—Hollywood.

The coast.

The old theaters.

The movie theme park.

The Hollywood Walk of Fame <sup>1</sup>.

Zhang Ye led his team to visit the attractions and traveled the entire Hollywood area just like the usual tourist. For Zhang Ye, this was only a so-so experience. This fellow was never really into foreign culture anyway, so he just went around with the others and joined in the fun. However, the rest of the studio was visibly excited. For example, Little Wang and Little Zhou both had stars in their eyes when they arrived at the Walk of Fame. They were yelling as they ran up to it to take pictures with the handprints and autographs of their favorite foreign celebrities. Throughout the tour, they behaved as though they got an adrenaline rush.

Little Wang giggled and said, "When will Director Zhang have his name and handprints imprinted here as well?"

Little Zhou said, "Soon, very soon. Director Zhang's handprints will surely be installed here in the future."

There was also a Walk of Fame in this world, and it was the highest honor that could be given to a celebrity in this world.

However, Zhang Ye had to be a wet blanket by saying, "Forget it, just look at all the stars on the floor. Whoever visits this place would be stepping all over them, so why would I want my name to be put here? As for the handprints, these people really don't have any awareness of their security. What if they leave their fingerprints in the concrete and have their bank credentials stolen as a result?"

Ha Qiqi was speechless.

Zhang Zuo was speechless.

Little Wang was speechless.

Every one of them was very speechless in regards to Director Zhang's sense of security.

Further down, they found the star with Lillian's name on it.

Zhang Ye immediately went up to it and stepped on the star, then took out his cell phone to take a picture. After that, he sent it to Lillian.

A moment later, he received Lillian's reply: "Get lost!"

When Zhang Ye saw it, he laughed out loud.

On the sidewalk, quite a few foreign tourists recognized Zhang Ye.

"Quick, look."

"That man looks very familiar!"

"Is that Zhang Ye?"

"It's him! It's that Chinese celebrity!"

"Wow, he really came to Hollywood?"

"I like him a lot!"

"Me too! Man vs. Wild is a very good show!"

"I like his Gone With the Wind."

"Did he really come to Hollywood to make a movie?"

Many of the foreigners had taken out their cameras to take photos of him, and several pretty ladies also came up to him to graciously ask for an autograph and picture together. Naturally, Zhang Ye did not reject them. He obliged everyone's requests and got a new understanding of his fame overseas as well. From the time he turned into an international B-list celebrity, he realized that his fame and influence was different from before. If this were the past, he wouldn't possibly get so much attention even if he were out walking the streets overseas.

This event also surprised many of the studio's staff.

Ha Qiqi whispered, "Director Zhang is really an international star now."

Zhang Zuo sighed and said, "Yeah, there are so many people who know about him now."

"It's more than that." Little Zhou said, "Director Zhang has many foreign fans now."

Little Wang said proudly, "That's true, who do you think our Director Zhang is?"

Tong Fu said excitedly, "After we enter Hollywood, our popularity will surely go higher and higher."

"We haven't even made the movie yet." Zhang Zuo laughed and said, "Be more modest for now."

Ha Qiqi said, "Just look at these names on the Walk of Fame. If we want to make it to the top of the international entertainment circle, we definitely have to make a movie."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Two hours later.

A call arrived from China's richest man.

Zhang Ye answered: "Boss Qian."

Qian Haitao sounded a little tired. "You've arrived?"

"Yes," Zhang Ye answered.

Qian Haitao said: "Shall we meet?"

Zhang Ye said: "Is the deal not done yet?"

Qian Haitao said: "Let's speak when we meet."

Zhang Ye said: "OK."

After hanging up, everyone turned serious.

Ha Qiqi said nervously, "What is it, Director Zhang?"

Zhang Zuo said in surprise, "The deal didn't work out?"

Zhang Ye shook his head. "I don't know. But with how Old Qian spoke over the phone, there's likely some problem."

"How could this happen?" Little Wang said, "Boss Qian isn't short on money and made the best offer as well. There shouldn't be any other companies who can compete with him to bid for the studio, right?"

Zhang Ye said, "Acquiring a Hollywood studio is sometimes not just about the money."

Everyone got onto the minibus and headed straight to Qian Haitao's hotel.

But while they were on the minibus, the news came out.

Just as Zhang Ye had expected, the acquisition deal met with a major stumbling block.

Ha Qiqi's face sank. "We might have come to America for nothing this time!"

Little Wang said in shock, "What happened?"

"Have a look for yourselves." Ha Qiqi handed them the cell phone with the news on it.

The news was already talking about it.

All over the world, people were already discussing this news.

...

China.

"The acquisition fell through?"

"How can that happen!"

“The Directors Guild went on a demonstration to block it?”

“They even sent an American official to act on the matter?”

“They aren’t allowing a Chinese company to buy a Hollywood studio?”

“Damn, they’re going too far!”

“There was even an official intervention on the matter?”

“There was also price gouging involved?”

...

France.

“As expected, it didn’t go through.”

“It seems like they’re not letting China step into Hollywood’s territory.”

“An official intervention is such a last-ditch effort.”

“Hollywood’s stance on this is tough!”

“It looks like Zhang Ye has failed to enter Hollywood again.”

“Yeah, he failed to do so the previous time with *Commando 2*. Seems like he has no luck with a Hollywood debut.”

...

Russia.

“The Chinese company has still gained something out of this.”

“They might not have acquired the film studio, but they did manage to buy an animation studio.”

“The price they paid for it was too great though.”

“Yeah, it’s only an animation firm. There’s not much they can do with it.”

“Animated films barely make a dent in the box office earnings.”

“I suppose acquiring the animation studio is more of a symbolic statement.”

...

Japan.

“Zhang Ye has gone to Hollywood?”

“Seems like he has already arrived.”

“It looks like he’s gonna have to return to China again.”

“This fellow’s journey in showbiz has not been smooth at all.”

“The deal was already sealed, yet they still lost it.”

“The strong objection in America still played a key role in stopping the deal.”

...

America.

At the Directors Guild.

“We’ve succeeded!”

“Hahahaha!”

“We’ve finally shut out the Chinese company!”

“Well done!”

“But we still allowed them to get away with one of our animation studios.”

“An animation studio doesn’t matter much. Animated films don’t make much of an impact at the box office anyway.”

“Our protests still had a huge effect!”

“We won’t allow Hollywood to be a mouthpiece for the Chinese!”

“That’s right. If they’re so capable, go ahead and make an animated film! Let them suffer an enormous loss! Hahahahaha!”

### **Chapter 1679: Zhang Ye wants to make an animated film!**

At night.

In a hotel in Hollywood.

Zhang Ye brought his people over. Qian Haitao and his acquisition team were currently putting away the contractual documents. They had probably just finished the negotiations, and every one of them had a look of frustration and anger. There was a sense of defeat in their expressions. Boss Qian Jr. was also here, and he was currently cursing and swearing.

Boss Qian Jr. shouted, “Those bastards!”

One of the managers said angrily, “No one does things the way they do!”

Qian Haitao looked towards the door. “Teacher Zhang, you’re here?”

Zhang Ye nodded. “I just arrived.”

Boss Qian Jr. roared anxiously, “Director Zhang, have you seen the news yet?”

Zhang Ye acknowledged, “I saw it on the way here. What happened?”



Boss Qian Jr. said angrily, "Don't bring it up. Those Hollywood bastards teamed up to take us down. They marched in protest and made trouble until the government stepped up. With just a statement, they denied our acquisition. Right now, none of the Hollywood studios dare to sell their company to us anymore. It doesn't even matter how much we offer them. In the end, Dad had no other choice. There's no such thing as stepping back on a business plan that has been announced, so we had to settle for the next best thing. In the end, he forked out a large sum of money to buy an animation studio instead. The scale of the studio isn't big either, yet the price was so high. This acquisition deal can be considered a failure. Motherfucker, I'll be at odds with those Hollywood executives forever!"

Qian Haitao frowned. "Rascal, be quiet and talk a little less."

Boss Qian Jr. rolled his eyes in anger.

It could be seen that Qian Haitao was someone who had been through a lot. "In the business world, things are always unpredictable. It's often not as simple as you think." Then he looked at Zhang Ye and apologized, "I'm afraid I've made you come here for nothing this time. The plan was originally proceeding quite well, but who could have thought it would go so awry? I'll take full responsibility for it. I never expected that Hollywood and the Directors Guild would have zero tolerance for our Chinese companies. I wasn't even sure that we could seal the deal for the animation studio, but luckily, Hollywood already has an established system. No one really watches animated films, and the box office performance for such productions is not high either, so the deal has more of a symbolic significance for us. From here on out, we can only try to see if we can transform the animation studio into a movie studio. We might have ended up using a different way to help our country, but I doubt we can make much of an impact within the next two years."

A manager said, "We apologize for this, Director Zhang."

Zhang Ye said, "It's fine."

Someone arrived from outside.

The youth said, "Boss Qian, the press conference is about to begin."

Qian Haitao said, "Alright, I'll head over once I'm ready."

Very quickly, Qian Haitao brought his people downstairs to join the press conference.

Leaving the group of people from Zhang Ye's Studio looking at one another.

Ha Qiqi sighed, "Hai, let's go back then."

Little Wang said angrily, "Why is it so difficult when we just want to make a movie!"

Zhang Zuo looked at Zhang Ye. "Should I book the plane tickets back now?"

"Wait a bit first." Zhang Ye said, "Let's go down and have a look too."

Tong Fu was taken back. "What else is there to see?"

Zhang Ye said, "I want to know if Old Qian can hold up."

...

In the meeting hall downstairs.

The venue of the press conference.

Many foreign reporters had their equipment up in anticipation.

By now, the news of how China's richest man had failed in his acquisition of a Hollywood studio had spread around the world. It had made it into many of the entertainment news reports and who knew how many people were laughing at them right now.

An American reporter smiled and said, "First, congratulations on your successful acquisition."

Qian Haitao smiled. "Thank you."

That American reporter asked, "It's a pity that the other Hollywood studio could not be brought under your company's fold. I heard that this was because there was some pressure from various parties, so do you have any opinions on that?"

Qian Haitao shook his head. "I don't wish to answer this question."

A female reporter said, "Acquiring Star Moon Animation Studios is the first step that your company has taken in Hollywood. Can you share with us your future plans?"

Qian Haitao said, "Acquiring the studio is to make movies, of course."

A male reporter said, "As far as we know, two of Star Moon's animation directors resigned awhile ago. They were also the only two contracted directors of the company, so it can be said that Star Moon doesn't have any directors. Therefore, if I may ask, can your company come out with any movies?"

Qian Haitao said, "You don't have to worry about that."

Quite a few reporters started laughing.

"Has Zhang Ye already arrived in Hollywood?"

"About the project that you guys were slated to work on together, has it been canceled?"

"When will Zhang Ye head back to China?"

"What kind of productions will Star Moon participate in next?"

"Will you all be getting a Chinese animation director to start a project?"

"Does China have any animation directors?"

"Why did the Hollywood Directors Guild collectively boycott against you?"

"Have you considered that it was a mistake for you to acquire an animation studio?"

Question after question, it was like these reporters were on adrenaline as they kept asking all of the questions Qian Haitao and his people did not wish to answer. Perhaps to these reporters, the Chinese were really suckers for money. They had come so far from China to Hollywood and spent such a big deal of money just to end up acquiring an animation studio that no one really wanted to buy. This was clearly a losing deal no matter how they saw it. And it was precisely because this was a losing deal that no

government officials intervened with the Chinese company from acquiring the Hollywood animation studio. Otherwise, they wouldn't even be able to acquire any companies at all.

The expressions of the Chinese team didn't look good.

Outside the venue, the people from Zhang Ye's Studio were also getting infuriated.

Little Wang said, "They're pushing it too far!"

Tong Fu said enraged, "Are they done yet!"

Boss Qian Jr. rolled up his sleeves and was about to head inside. "Fuck!"

Fortunately, he was held back by Ha Qiqi and Wu Yi. "Calm down! Calm down!"

Only Zhang Ye was not angered. In fact, this fellow seemed to be very amused after listening to all of those questions.

Taking a large stride, Zhang Ye went up to them.

Ha Qiqi was startled. "Director Zhang!"

Zhang Zuo was dumbfounded. "What are you trying to do?"

Tong Fu said in panic, "Aiyo!"

None of them could have expected what Zhang Ye was planning to do this time!

On the stage, Qian Haitao and his team were also stunned for a bit.

In the audience, the reporters' eyes lit up!

It was Zhang Ye!

He had finally appeared!

This was going to get interesting!

Just as they were about to continue asking those hurtful questions, Zhang Ye went ahead and picked up a microphone from the table. He said something to them that left them all in shock!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Let me answer the questions that you all raised earlier. Of course my cooperation with Boss Qian isn't over. When will I return to China? I have no plans to do so in the short term. What kind of projects will Star Moon be working on next? We're going to make an animated film! Does China have any animation directors? Of course we do! Coincidentally, the person standing right before you is one of them. In the coming days, I'll be working with Boss Qian to make a Hollywood animated film!"

The reporters were shocked!

Qian Haitao was stunned!

Boss Qian Jr. was dumbfounded!

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others were also startled!

An animated film?

You want to make an animated film!?

Originally, Zhang Ye had come to Hollywood this time to make a live-action movie, and he also made advance preparations for it.

But making an animated film?

Who says he doesn't know how to?

This bro is gonna show you that it can be done all the same!

### **Chapter 1680: The animation film production is initiated!**

The press conference ended.

Some reporters hurriedly left the venue.

Some reporters hurriedly made some calls.

And there were some reporters who had shocked looks as they stood there in a daze.

This breaking news had come too unexpectedly! Zhang Ye was already a true blue international B-list celebrity now, and he was also one of the most popular idol celebrities currently. His fame and popularity were no longer the same as before, so everyone would naturally be more attentive to his developments. This was especially so after Man vs. Wild got really popular around the world, leaving many people wondering what his next step would be.

An animated film?

What kind of joke are you cracking!

Isn't that something that children watch?

...

On the other side.

Boss Qian Jr. said dumbfoundedly, "What's this about?"

Little Wang was also stunned. "What just happened!?"

"Director Zhang! You—" Ha Qiqi facepalmed and looked at Zhang Zuo. "You! Why didn't you stop him!"

Zhang Zuo said, "I couldn't react in time. You were standing closer. Why didn't you hold him back!"

Ha Qiqi said, "I'm a woman, like I'd have the strength to hold him back."

Tong Fu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Sister Ha, Brother Zuo, please don't blame each other. What should we do now? Director Zhang has already announced his intentions!"

Qian Haitao also came over. "Teacher Zhang, what was that about?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "Didn't I already agree to make a movie for you?"

Qian Haitao looked at him and said, "But what I mentioned was a live-action movie, a Hollywood blockbuster, a platform that would allow you to showcase yourself without restraint. Now that we didn't manage to acquire the studio, that agreement would naturally be null and void. I only have an animation studio now, but you're the director of a Top 100 global box office movie, so why would you want to direct an animated film under me? You—wouldn't that be a joke?"

But Zhang Ye said, "Is an animated film not a movie?"

"It's a movie," Boss Qian Jr. said hurriedly, "but they're movies for children."

Zhang Ye laughed. "Whoever told you that?"

Boss Qian Jr. was taken aback. "What do you mean who told me that? Everyone knows it."

Zhang Ye said, "The animated films that I make are naturally going to be different from other people's."

Boss Qian Jr. said, "It's all the same whoever makes them!"

Ha Qiqi advised, "Director Zhang, this is a big deal. You should really consider carefully whether it will work or not. A movie's production cycle is very long. If we really spend time on making it, and it ends up with no one watching it, that would be a blow to your career for sure. Your popularity will definitely drop if that happens. We're currently on the rise, and it wasn't easy getting onto the International B-list Rankings, so we had better not fall from grace overnight because of this. In any case, I don't agree with making an animated film!"

Zhang Zuo said, "I don't agree either. No matter how the overseas response to your previous movie was, Wolf Warrior 2 is still a production that earned 4.8 billion yuan at the box office. With this as a benchmark, how much would we need to earn to be considered a success if our next project is an animated film? 1 billion? 2 billion? I'm afraid that wouldn't be enough at all. Moreover, the historical global box office earnings for animated films have never crossed 200 million USD before. The animated film market is only so large with a niche demographic, so it will be very difficult to achieve any results."

Everyone was trying hard to persuade him.

But Zhang Ye said, "I don't think that's how it is."

Qian Haitao said in a serious tone, "What are you thinking then?"

"I'm thinking of pulling off another big one!" Zhang Ye said.

Pull off a big one?

Again?

How many big ones have already you pulled off this year!

The studio staff were flustered when they heard that. Whenever Director Zhang said something like this, he would always come up with some earth-shattering move. They had already learned to be afraid of him.

Boss Qian Jr. said with a wry smile, "Are you really planning on making the movie?"

Zhang Ye said, "Of course! I've already announced it, haven't I?"

Qian Haitao said, "Will it really work?"

Zhang Ye said, "It will."

Qian Haitao asked, "Are you sure?"

Zhang Ye nodded. "I'm very sure."

Qian Haitao said, "OK, I believe you."

"To a happy cooperation." Zhang Ye stretched out his hand.

Qian Haitao grasped his hand and said, "We'll be depending on you then."

Zhang Ye cautioned them. "You all know very well how I am. I either don't do it, or I do it to the best of my abilities. Therefore, the project's budget might get a little large."

Qian Haitao said domineeringly, "I lack everything but money."

Talking to me about money?

Can you be any funnier!

Besides, how much funding could an animated film possibly need?

Qian Haitao said, "Is 100 million enough?"

Zhang Ye blinked. "RMB?"

Qian Haitao was taken aback. "Yeah."

Zhang Ye shook his head. "That definitely isn't enough."

Qian Haitao said without hesitation, "How about 200 million?"

Zhang Ye said, "It's still not enough."

Qian Haitao said, "Ah? 200 million is still not enough? Even a big production like Wolf Warrior 2 only cost 200 million to make, right?"

Zhang Ye quoted an astonishing figure next. "I'm thinking more like a billion to start."

Qian Haitao's smile froze!

Everyone present was dumbfounded as well!

How much? A billion? For a start? This is only an animated film, alright! The highest box office record for an animated film did not even reach a billion RMB in earnings, yet you're asking for a billion RMB investment as a start? Even if this was a Hollywood blockbuster, even if many international A-listers were invited to take part in the movie, and even if it was going to be filmed in 3D, there should still be leftover change with a billion RMB budget, right? But that's not what we're making! Ours is just going to

be an animated film! Have you gone crazy or something? Isn't that a little too much? They finally had a taste of what Zhang Ye's "pull off a big one" really meant. Just look, even China's richest man had been shocked by him. Zhang Ye was probably the first person who could give a scare like that to China's richest man and China's son-in-law over a matter of money.

Boss Qian Jr. said nervously, "Does this movie require that much money?"

Zhang Ye acknowledged, "Yes, it definitely does."

Qian Haitao gave him a look. "But it's just an animated film."

Zhang Ye nodded. "I know that."

Qian Haitao said, "Then do you know what the average cost of production is for other Hollywood animated films?"

"That, I'm not sure about," Zhang Ye said.

Qian Haitao said, "The average cost is only 20 to 30 million USD."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "This animated film of mine is different."

Over there, one of the managers said, "We also have a limit to our cash flow over here. We just spent a great deal of money to acquire Star Moon, so there might be some issues with the—"

Zhang Ye directly said, "I'll fork out the bulk of the funding."

Wolf Warrior 2's box office profits had already been paid out. Together with the endorsement fees he received from The Cola Company, his earnings from Man vs. Wild, and so on and so forth, Zhang Ye had a net worth of over 2 billion RMB. Moreover, this 2 billion RMB was purely in cash deposits too, so he could take them out to use at any time he wanted.

The manager looked at him in amazement.

Qian Haitao also said in surprise, "Can it really break even?"

Zhang Ye said, "If there are no mishaps, yes."

Boss Qian, Jr. said, "What if there are?"

Zhang Ye replied very domineeringly, "In my dictionary, there isn't such a word."

If anyone else had said this, they would definitely have refuted them.

But since it was Zhang Ye who said it, no one could refute him!