

Superstar 281

Chapter 281: Revealed at roughly 8:20!

Morning.

There was a knock from outside his bedroom door.

Knock knock. "Old classmate, it's time to wake up."

Zhang Ye hurriedly closed his notebook computer's lid, "I'm already awake."

The door opened. Dong Shanshan walked into the room, dressed in pajamas, "Yo, you've already woken up? I thought you would be sleeping till noon. Are you eating breakfast?"

Zhang Ye smiled, "It's almost 10. Let's have lunch in a while."

Dong Shanshan acknowledged, "Alright, then I'll go do some groceries. The fridge is empty already."

Zhang Ye did not stand on ceremony as he said, "Buy some pork belly for stewing. Let's celebrate this afternoon."

"Celebrate?" Dong Shanshan chuckled, "Are we celebrating the loss of our jobs?"

Zhang Ye did not reply and vaguely brushed it away. He had to keep this matter absolutely confidential. After all, it was illegal to access someone's computer through the internet, so he could not let a second person know. What was most important to a hacker was not his skill or the strength of his digital attacks, but the ability to protect and conceal himself. This was the first rule of a professional hacker.

His old classmate went out.

He flipped the computer lid and began working again. He immediately used false information and an IP address to register an account on a large discussion forum. After pondering all day, he wrote a title, called "The evidence of conspiracy behind why Zhang Ye and Dong Shanshan were banned".

This matter had already caused an uproar, and was the focus of many. Hence, despite not having any content in the thread, there were many people who followed it.

"Conspiracy?"

"Is this real or fake?"

"Hai, who doesn't know that there's a conspiracy?"

"Right, 'Zhang Ye's Talk Show' clearly is in line with the requirements. I heard 'Online Talents' was halted yesterday? It would be strange if there's no conspiracy!"

"OP is speaking nonsense. Appraisal completed!"

"Proof? Where do you get it from? What proof?"

"Where's the OP? Why did he disappear? Is he cheating us for clicks and replies?"

"Hurry up and post it. Provide whatever evidence you have! We are all waiting for it!"

Zhang Ye used the same method and registered several new accounts of Tieba and Weibo, as well as places where many netizens gathered. There was no need to provide a real name to register, so by doing so, even if the website investigated him, they might just ban or delete his account, but it was alright, Zhang Ye only needed the account once. All the accounts he registered were of the same name, “Kevin Mitnick”.

This name was chosen firstly because no one in this world knew of him. This was because he was one of the highest profile and best hackers in Zhang Ye’s world. He was labeled by the U.S. Department of Justice as the “most wanted computer criminals in U.S. history.” Hence, it was obvious how awesome he was. Secondly, Zhang Ye also used this name to draw a clear line and distanced himself from this matter. If he chose an “ultra-nationalist” nickname, he might be suspected by others. After all, his intrusion this time was beneficial to himself and his colleagues. So it was inevitable that he would be suspected, hence, he decided to choose the name of the number 1 hacker, Kevin Mitnick of his world. Furthermore, it was in English, so as to avoid suspicion.

Of course, Zhang Ye was just being alert. This was just a small intrusion, and would not concern the heavy-weight security department as it was not at a high enough level. Li Tao was just a small cadre, and he was not intruding into the nation’s Department of Defense. He was just being careful and deliberately turned attention away from himself. Anyone who had seen his program knew he was the ultra-nationalist amongst ultra-nationalists, so it was impossible for him to take on a foreign name.

“SARFT Conspiracy Revelation”!

“The Manipulator Behind the Scenes”!

“Zhang Yuanqi’s Private Collection! Come gather around”!

“Angled Scenes of Dong Shanshan! Internal Unedited Versions Leaked”!

Zhang Ye was a complete asshole. If he went all out, without bragging, he could really cause the entire country to fall into chaos. One could tell just from this fellow’s topics. Just these topics would not only attract the citizens who were focused on the halted programs by the SARFT, even those unconcerned people would be f**king attracted in. Each title was more staggering than the other!

But the ones above were nothing much.

The most pornographic and most staggering title was posted by Zhang Ye using the account, “Kevin”, on the main battlefield, Weibo. Weibo was where the most number of netizens gathered, so Zhang Ye placed great importance on it. He decided to use a certain joke from his world.

Many people nearly vomited blood seeing this Weibo post!

Zhang Ye posted, “Why did a old granny in her nineties die naked on the street? Why did hundreds of sows in the village scream out at midnight? Why did a tiny store’s condoms get tampered with? Why would panties from female dormitories frequently get stolen? Who is the serial rapist of sows? Was it a human or ghost who knocked on an old nun’s door every night? What is the hidden meaning behind hundreds of young bitches dying? Is the distortion of human nature or moral decay behind all this? Please stay tuned tonight, where Kevin Mitnick will bring you the latest news...at roughly 8:20.”

“Pfft!”

“OP is too funny!”

“I’ve already seen this Kevin Mitnick posting more than ten posts. All major forums have been flooded by him, but this post is the most staggering!”

“Hahahaha!”

“Aiyah, why is it so funny?”

“Aren’t you trying to blow the whistle behind the conspiracy of the banned programs? Why is there a mention of an old granny in her nineties dying naked on the street!? And why is there hundreds of sows in the village screaming out at midnight!?”

“There’s actually such a way to cheat for hits!”

“That’s right. This promotion..is really inhumane!”

“Your sister! I really thought you had Teacher Shanshan’s angled scenes! Angled scenes your sister! What’s that in-construction triangle picture up there!?”

“This English abbreviated name, KM is too inhumane!”

“Our pants are already off, but what are you letting us see!?”

Numerous people were cheated in, and then numerous people began cursing, but it was because of this that more and more people came in. Immediately, these threads gained a lot of popularity. There were two threads that were deleted by the website due to the titles, but most of them were left alone.

“Reveal at 8:20?”

“Why is the time so precise?”

“Hurry up and post it. What’s the conspiracy?”

However, Zhang Ye refused to post it. He whetted everyone’s appetite. By doing so, he could maximize the attention placed on this matter. After all, Li Tao was not some celebrity, so just posting his video might not gather enough attention, and not enough to stir up a huge matter for Zhang Ye.

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Time slowly passed.

Around 8 at night, Dong Shanshan went to the office to settle some matters, maybe something associated with a notice about her program being halted. Due to this, Zhang Ye was left home alone.

He switched on his computer and saw his posts and Weibo popularity greatly increasing. The main reason was Zhang Ye’s titles and content were written too well. Although many netizens knew that they were being deceived, they still clicked in and had a good laugh upon seeing the content, before leaving curses. If not, they would reply and mess around, just to soak in the lively atmosphere. Sows screaming out at midnight was seriously lacking in moral integrity!

“Where is he?”

“It’s almost time, right?”

“That’s right, where’s the information about the conspiracy!?”

On Zhang Ye’s side, he was uploading the video. After he finished uploading, he linked the video to the posts and on the Weibo he had posted before.

It was 8:20 sharp.

Li Tao’s video was released.

“Hello, Little Yong ah....Yes....Yes....How are the investigations of those Talk Shows going....I know there are violations...but just symbolically take some actions against them and it will be fine, there’s no need to halt their broadcasts....Right...Copyright? I know they plagiarized Zhang Ye’s program, but whether there’s an issue with the copyright, it does not concern us. It’s the job of the relevant copyright departments. Even if they bring it to court, it has nothing to do with us.....Right, right, just issue them warnings and that will be enough. We don’t need to met out overly harsh punishments on them, but don’t make it too light either. At least we have to show the public that we mean business. Do you even need me to teach you? That girl from Weiwo Video...that Dong something girl. Her program’s been halted right? Good...who? Whoever calls in....Yes... I know, but it doesn’t matter who pleads for her. She’s Zhang Ye’s university classmate, so we will ban the both of them...Right, to go against our team and cause us so much trouble, hur, did they even think they would live peacefully? No way! In the future, keep an eye on this Weiwo Video company as well. If there’s any problem with any of their programs, report it to me....Yes, we will use them as an example to others. Let’s see who still dares to rebel....Hur Hur, you think I’m not aware that ‘Online Talents’ doesn’t have any problems? Even if there are no problems, we will still take action against it! Who can do anything about it.... You understand?.....Alright, go and take care of it. You must repress all of those negative opinions! Whoever refuses to accept it, report them to me!”

The sounds and scenes of Li Tao sneering streamed from the video!

“Who is he?”

“Isn’t this that team leader from the Shanghai SARFT live broadcast!?”

“Yes, it’s him. He’s called Li Tao!”

“Holy sh*t! There really was a conspiracy!”

“So the reason why ‘Zhang Ye’s Talk Show’ and ‘Online Talents’ was halted was because of Li Tao’s machinations. There is no problem with the programs! It’s all because of a personal grudge!”

“F**k! It’s so sinister! Too sinister!”

“F**k! I knew Teacher Zhang’s program had no problems!”

“I can’t stand it! This footage is too overwhelming! If the video is real, then there is hope in saving Teacher Zhang and Teacher Dong’s programs!”

“Waiting for SARFT headquarters to settle the matter!”

“This sort of person has to be dismissed!”

“What sort of god is that KM poster? Hacker? He can even get such a video?”

The moment the footage finished playing, a new wave was set off into the internet that had been quelled!

Many industry insiders, who had previously spoken up for the Shanghai SARFT and Li Tao, immediately turned silent. No one dared to say anything!

The other counterparts, who were just watching the bustle, also did not make a sound. As the matter was too sensitive, no one dared to take sides before the matter came to a conclusion!

Chapter 282: Offering a Limerick!

At the same moment.

Weiwo Company.

The WebTV department was still filled with people who were working overtime. Dong Shanshan had come back to discuss how to handle the halted “Online Talents” and deal with its fallout.

As everyone was busy discussing.

Somewhere at the back office.

A logistic staff member suddenly looked straight dumbfounded. Then he pointed at the computer screen and shouted out to everyone, “Everyone, quick, take a look! Quickly look at this video online!”

“What?”

“What video?”

“We’re having a small meeting right now.”

“Yea, we’re already in this situation, what’s there still worth watching?”

Everyone was speechless. Feng Guiqin and Wang Xiong also frowned.

But that person was still extremely anxious. He kept saying, “Director Feng, Director Wang, something big just happened!”

Only then did everyone get the graveness of the situation. Feng Guiqin walked over and said, “What’s the matter? What’s the video about?”

“You’ll understand when you watch it.” That person immediately replayed the video. Everyone else in the office also came over to watch as Li Tao’s words were delivered into everyone’s ears!

“For crying out loud!” Feng Guiqin exclaimed after watching the video!

Wang Xiong was also furious as he slammed on the table, “This bullying is outrageous! This is pushing it too far!”

An old man in the office said, "I had thought the crackdown this time was just being stricter, but who knew there was such a conspiracy! They were intentionally coming after us!"

A young girl, who was working as an assistant, said angrily, "He said it clearly that our Talk Show and Talent Show had no problems, and even instructed his subordinates not to deal too harshly to those pirated programs! What the hell does that Li Tao want?! Does he still have regards for the law!"

Dong Shanshan asked, "How reliable is the video?"

A moment later, Sister Four, who had already knocked off and left the office building, was called back. She sat in front of the computer momentarily to investigate the video, then turned around and nodded to everyone, "Although I am not a professional, but I've spent more than 10 years shooting and making videos. This video is definitely real. The movement of the mouth and audio is synchronized perfectly. This was definitely not edited. A very skilled hacker probably hacked into Li Tao's home computer and recorded this video. Chief Li is...done for this time!"

Feng Guiqin did not say a second word. She immediately grabbed her cellphone and made a call. She did not look for her friend, nor any contact. She called in directly to Shanghai SARFT's mainline and questioned them furiously!

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On the other side.

At a certain hotel in Shanghai.

Li Tao had just finished his bath and was comfortably lying in the bed. He had a cigarette in his mouth as he quietly hummed a melody, probably a melody from his home city.

A woman's figure could be seen behind the frosted glass in the bathroom.

"Are you done?" Li Tao urged on.

"What are you in a rush for? Isn't your wife at work?" The woman said.

Li Tao flicked the ash off his cigarette, "She went in for overtime."

The woman said, "I was wondering why you'd be so free today. Are you going back tonight?"

Li Tao laughed loudly, "I'm not going back. I said I was going in for overtime too. Anyway, I'd be going to the office from here tomorrow. It's not too far away from here. My baby, I missed you so much!"

"Naughty jerk," the woman scolded him with a smile.

The cellphone suddenly rang!

Li Tao frowned. He did not want to answer it at first, but seeing that the call was from a Leader at work, he reluctantly said to the person in the bathroom, "Don't speak. I need to answer a call!"

"It's already this late, who is it?" the woman complained.

"My leader, don't speak anymore!" Li Tao then answered the call.

On the other side was a middle-aged man who said in an angry voice, "Li Tao, I don't care where you are at now! Come to the office in 10 minutes!"

"Ah? Leader...."

Du, du. The line was already cut!

Li Tao was stunned, what's going on? What had happened?

The bathroom door opened and a woman wrapped in a towel came out, "What's the matter?"

Li Tao hesitated for a moment before putting on his clothes, "I'm going out for a while, something came up at the office." Then ignoring her complaints, he rushed back to the office in his car. As he had a guilty conscience, his heart was drumming all the way back to the office. He did not know why his leader was in such a rage.

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Shanghai SARFT unit.

Today was a rest day and it was also past 8 in the evening. There weren't many people around, except for two guards on duty outside. A few cars were parked in the yard outside. They were the cars of several Leaders of Shanghai SARFT and other team leaders. Li Tao was feeling curious. Why were so many Leaders back here tonight? Did something major happen?

Upstairs, in a small conference room.

Li Tao was the last to arrive. He pushed open the door and went inside. There were 7-8 other people and almost all of the Shanghai SARFT's leaders were there. Noticing that everyone had arrived before him, Li Tao understood something. According to his estimates, he had arrived at the office within five minutes after being instructed to do so, but the others had arrived even faster than him? Clearly, the Leader had informed them before himself!

This turnout.

Did something bad happen?

Li Tao was getting uncomfortable and nervous, "Leader."

At once, everyone looked over at Li Tao.

Amongst them was a Leader of Li Tao and another of Li Tao's same ranked colleague. They had good relations with him and this made Li Tao glance at the two of them. He thought to himself that they were really too unworthy as friends. Something had happened and yet you guys didn't give me a heads up first? At least let me be prepared! Even if you can't call to notify me, at least drop me a message? However when Li Tao looked over, the two of them were sitting uncomfortably too. They did not even look at Li Tao in the eye. Li Tao had been working for so many years, he naturally knew that in official matters, there was no such thing as friendship, so he felt something was amiss!

Sure enough, the middle aged man, who was the leader and also the head of the Shanghai SARFT, said something that left Li Tao dumbfounded, "Did you know that you were secretly filmed today!?"

Many of those present looked at Li Tao as if they were looking at a corpse. They knew he was done for.

The deputy head, a middle-aged woman smacked the table and said coldly, "It would have been easy to handle if this was an internal issue, but we can't even suppress it anymore! It has been posted all over the internet! The whole world knows about it now!"

This matter was, after all, a disreputable deed and harmed their reputation as the SARFT. If it was possible, they would have tried their best to prevent others from knowing about it. However, the person targeting Li Tao was too wicked. He did not even report it through the official channels nor did he even make a petition. He had directly posted on the internet, and before posting the video, he had even f**king worked up some momentum such as an old granny dying naked! What sows screaming out daily at midnight! Things like condoms from stores being ineffective! All of this had f**king nothing to do with the video content, but it was in this way that it attracted thousands of curious people's attention! His tactic was ingenious!

He had invaded Li Tao's computer without any detection!

He had even used such a brilliant promotional tactic to absorb the people's attention!

Against such an expert, anyone would have a headache just encountering him. Everyone present knew that Li Tao had met his match. With that person targeting him, no one could save him!

Upon hearing his Leader's words, Li Tao was stunned, "This.. No!"

The big boss coldly said, "The video is already on the internet! What do you mean no!? Ah?"

Secretly filmed?

He had been a victim of voyeurism?

Li Tao knew that it had to be true. With so many Leaders gathered here for a meeting, they clearly won't be so free as to tease him. Li Tao's face went pale as he stuttered, "Leader, I...am just...friends with that girl...We went to the hotel because...I needed to settle her housing. We did not do anything!"

The moment he said that, all the Leaders present were immediately dumbfounded!

Ah?

Girl?

There was even a f**king girl?

Are you rearing someone outside your marriage!?

A colleague, who did not have good relations with Li Tao, lowered his head, trying to hide his expressions. In fact, he had nearly burst out laughing!

The number-two-in-charge was a woman, and she was nearly infuriated to death when he heard Li Tao's words. "Chief Li! How many things are you hiding from us!? You are way too bold!"

Li Tao was completely stumped, "Ah?" It was not about this? Holy sh*t! Then why did you talk about being secretly filmed!?" He was mistaken!

The big boss waved his hands, no longer willing to speak another word with Li Tao, "Enough, the reason why you came, is for us to notify you that you don't have to return home in the next two days. The headquarters has sent an inspection team here! If you have anything to explain, say it to the people from headquarters tomorrow!"

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9 P.M.

The activity surrounding the broadcasting halt exploded!

Many people began to question the SARFT!

At this moment, the SARFT posted an article. First, it thanked the supervision and reports from the people. Secondly, they strongly protested the method of invading a civil servant's personal computer to obtain information. It did not indicate if it would pursue legal proceedings against this matter, but it posted a large heap of official-sounding terms. Finally, it announced that the headquarters were already aware of this matter and had begun investigations against Li Tao. The results of the investigation would be made known to the public as a way to answer the people. If it was proven that the halted programs were due to malfeasance, then they would provide an explanation to the companies, television stations, as well as the program team employees who were affected.

In general, this was what it said. The SARFT's attitude was made known clearly. Their intervention was timely and the response they gave satisfied the public temporarily!

"Li Tao is going down!"

"Haha, I couldn't stand him long ago!"

"Halting so many programs that shouldn't be halted, yet allowing so many programs that should be halted to carry on. He really thinks he is above the law! Now, he has received his punishment!"

"The evil will be rewarded with evil!"

"Thank you to God KM! Thank you for helping Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, as well as those Teachers who had their programs wrongly halted! You have removed an evil for the people!"

"God KM is too powerful!"

"Hereby honoring godly KM the title, 'Guard of the People'!"

"Those programs that have been wronged have redressed the situation! I wonder when 'Zhang Ye's Talk Show' will be restored! I really want to watch it!"

"That's right! It was so difficult for our country to produce such an awesome new program. We can't just let it end like that!"

"I also can't wait to see 'Online Talents'! The guy who ate glass last episode was pretty awesome!"

"Ai, with such a serious matter happening, why isn't Teacher Zhang Ye out yet? I want to hear what Zhang Ye has to say! @ZhangYe!"

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At home.

Zhang Ye was naturally paying full attention to this matter. He had also seen the notice put out by the SARFT.

He chuckled and noticed someone @ him to say something, Zhang Ye did not stand on ceremony. Back at the Beijing couplet competition, when the Beijing Writer's Association provoked him and said things like they would not want a person like Zhang Ye, he had used a limerick from his world that was written by Guo Degang, "It's not like I'll come". Guo Degang only had two famous limericks. This time, Zhang Ye was planning to use the second one!

Zhang Ye posted a large red lettering on Weibo, with the character 'Happy'!

Then he added the following words, "Gone in the late winter is like the sunset, three cups of wine poured to the sky. Where is the small-minded one? Believing that retribution in the human world works!"

The moment the netizens saw this, they were excited by it!

"Haha! Teacher Zhang Ye has finally appeared!"

"Yet another poem! Is this a limerick?"

"Teacher Zhang is still that coquettish! As coquettish as ever!"

"Where is the small-minded one? Believing that retribution in the human world works! Well said!"

Chapter 283: "Zhang Ye's Talk Show" Restored!

Home.

It was very late.

A cellphone's ringtone rang in a quiet bedroom.

It was Dong Shanshan. "Hello, old classmate. Let me tell you some good news."

"Hur Hur, what's the good news?" Zhang Ye feigned ignorance.

Dong Shanshan laughed, "A video was leaked on the internet, showing proof that Li Tao clamped down on our programs on purpose. Now, the SARFT has begun investigations. Our programs might be restored soon."

Zhang Ye said, "I already heard about it. It's all over the internet now. Didn't you see me post on Weibo?"

Dong Shanshan might have been in front of a computer, "You posted on Weibo again? You set up your Weibo account for months now, but never once have your words been good. Let me take a look..." After a pause, the sounds of a few mouse clicks could be heard through the phone's receiver, "Heh, you sure are wicked. You even put up a red-lettered 'Happy' character? Believing that retribution in the human

world works? If Li Tao sees this, he will definitely die from exasperation. You should tone down that mouth of yours.

Zhang Ye refused, "He stabbed us, and you still want me to show him face?"

Dong Shanshan laughed, "Yeah, looks like it's all because of that live broadcast you messed up. A hacker named Kevin Mitnick could not sit idle and hacked into Li Tao's home computer and found evidence. Hur Hur, but he could be a fan of ours, or one of the other programs' hosts that got halted. It's also possible that this KM has a personal grudge with Li Tao. Anyway, regardless of what caused it, it's all good for us. The Leaders have already said that once our programs are restored and your qualification as a broadcasting host is restored, they will do the rehiring procedures. You can then carry on hosting and producing 'Zhang Ye's Talk Show'. The program will carry on, and business as usual."

Zhang Ye acknowledged, "Alright, help me thank the Leader."

"Alright, that's it from me. I've got a date with Wang Bei and company to sing karaoke tonight. I probably won't be back tonight. Are you coming? It's the KTV below our office." Dong Shanshan said.

Zhang Ye answered, "No, you guys go ahead."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye washed up before laying on his bed. He had been waiting for Li Tao to open the trojan horse last night and had woken up early. He did not rest well, and now with things settled, he definitely needed a good rest. No one knew that the hacker, Kevin Mitnick, that was being discussed by others, was in fact Zhang Ye. After fighting on the front lines all this time, he could finally sleep in peace.

An uneventful night passed.

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The second day was still uneventful.

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The third day was still...Alright, this time there was something to talk about.

This afternoon, Zhang Ye went to Weiwo company. Wang Xiong had given him a call, saying that the Shanghai SARFT was releasing the results of the investigations, so Zhang Ye went over. Zhang Ye naturally did so without any hesitation. Although he had quit, he had not cut relations with Weiwo company. Besides, waiting on the internet for news was definitely not as fast as getting news directly from Weiwo. Zhang Ye was very concerned about the outcome of the investigations.

Everything was still the same at the company.

The familiar building, the familiar environment, and the familiar people.

"Yo, isn't this Teacher Zhang Ye?" In the elevator, a youth Zhang Ye did not know greeted him, "You came to the company today?"

Zhang Ye smiled, "Yeah, I came to take a look."

Another woman waved at him, "Teacher Little Zhang, good morning."

“Good morning,” Zhang Ye also greeted her back.

The woman immediately said, “I watched the live broadcast video of you at the SARFT press conference the past two days. There’s really no limit to watching it. You cursed so well!”

Zhang Ye chuckled, “Thank you.”

The woman said in amusement, “When will you have another speech like that?”

“When the opportunity arises next time,” Zhang Ye answered very openly.

Ah?

Next time?

There’s a next time?

The youth and another person from the Marketing department were at a loss whether to laugh or cry when they heard this. Come on! That speech of yours caused chaos in the industry and on the internet back then, yet, you are planning on doing it again!? Do you think there’s not enough chaos!? From just a casual chat with Zhang Ye, they could tell how fearless Teacher Zhang Ye’s temper was. Whoever got in his bad books could only blame on their misfortune!

WebTV department.

In the office, his colleagues greeted him warmly.

“Teacher Zhang!”

“Yo, Little Zhang is back.”

“Haha, Zhang Ye, I saw that limerick you posted the day before yesterday. Awesome. The ancients talk about composing a poem in three steps, I think you don’t even need three. One step is enough for you to compose a poem!”

“That companion picture of the ‘Happy’ character was really nice.”

“He even targeted our Weiwo Video? That Li is asking to be cursed at!”

“Let’s see how the matter is settled today. With people from headquarters investigating it, please don’t make it start off with a bang, but ending with a whimper, where no punishment is dealt to Li Tao.”

“It definitely won’t happen. It’s just a matter of how severe the punishment will be.”

“And the crux of the matter was if our few programs would be restored. That is crucial.”

As Zhang Ye greeted everyone, he began chatting with them, before slowly walking to his previous seat. He realized it was still empty. Clearly it had been left intact for Zhang Ye’s return.

Dong Shanshan smiled with her eyes forming a line, “You’ve come?”

“Yup. When will the official statement be released?” Zhang Ye asked with concern.

Dong Shanshan lifted her sleeve and looked at her watch, “They said it would be announced at 9:30. Just in a little bit.” As she breathed out, she closed her eyes and knitted her eyebrows. She was also waiting. At this moment in time, it was unlikely that Dong Shanshan had the mood to work. Of course, after having her program halted, she did not have any work to do either.

The appointed time was approaching.

The entire office eagerly looked forward to the news.

At the same time, it was likely that many industry insiders from conventional and online television stations were waiting for the outcome of the investigations. After all, this matter was huge in their industry and was unprecedented, hence, everyone wanted to know what SARFT headquarters would choose to do. They were extremely concerned with how the SARFT would deal with Zhang Ye. Although Zhang Ye was the most wronged person in this entire process, with evidence proving that Li Tao had halted “Zhang Ye’s Talk Show”, despite knowing that there were no problems, and ignoring the pirated Talk Show programs, putting Zhang Ye on the advantageous side of reason, his messing up the live broadcast at the SARFT press conference, and had even attacked and mocked the SARFT to the point of even cursing their actions made the matter a bit more complicated.

Suddenly, voices sounded in the office!

“It’s out!”

“Hey, it’s here!”

“The punishment has been meted out. Hurry and take a look!”

Wang Xiong had also come out from his office and into the general office area. He monitored the development of this matter with everyone else!

Zhang Ye also switched on his computer and saw the punishment notice posted by the SARFT: ‘After a complete investigation, the SARFT Headquarters and the Shanghai SARFT had identified malfeasance in Li Tao’s actions. He had received bribes amounting to 250,000 Yuan (US\$37,500), as well as had an extramarital affair!’

Li Tao was doomed!

And according to the amount of bribery he received, he would face criminal prosecution!

“F**k!”

“The punishment is heavy enough?”

“He deserves it!”

“Man, he even had lifestyle problems?”

“I wonder how the headquarters managed to discover that. They are too empowering!”

With Li Tao taken down and facing jail time, this was a result Zhang Ye was very satisfied with. The colleagues in the office also applauded!

At that moment, a second notice was posted by the SARFT.

'Regarding Dong Shanshan's "Online Talents", Zhang Ye's "Zhang Ye's Talk Show", Teacher Chen's children program, as well as the six other programs that were previously halted at the press conference, the SARFT approved them for rebroadcasting, effective immediately. There were still two other programs, which have been found to be truly problematic, and the original punishments still stand. They are not to be restored, such as "Web Bikini Show", because it had really broken the restrictions. After a round of investigations, the SARFT also added on a few other programs to the penalty list. Three of them had plagiarized "Zhang Ye's Talk Show" without paying any royalties and are now included on this list. Their broadcasts were halted, and the few conventional and online television stations are to be fined 200,000 to 1,000,000, as well as criticized!'

There was great joy in reading the punishments that were to be doled out!

Li Tao was taken down, and the programs were all restored. It was perfect!

Of course, perfection was before the last notice was posted by the SARFT. In the end, the notice mentioned Zhang Ye. Regarding the host of Weiwo Online Television Station's "Zhang Ye's Talk Show", Zhang Ye, the original penalty of revoking his broadcasting host qualifications was changed to a fifteen day suspension!

The public statements ended here!

The colleagues in the office all looked at each other before they looked at Zhang Ye spontaneously!

Zhang Ye nearly cursed. Damn it, revoking the penalty of my broadcasting host would do, why did you f**king temporarily suspend me for half a month?

What did this mean?

Are you trying to clamp down on me? It definitely was!

Zhang Ye knew, and his colleagues could also read the situation!

Although Zhang Ye had caused problems because of Li Tao's malfeasance, the SARFT did not ignore it. They still punished Zhang Ye. Although half a month wasn't a very long time, it was not very short either. Although his program was restored, his hosting qualifications were suspended. "Zhang Ye's Talk Show" still could not be aired within the next 15 days. This was clearly the SARFT settling scores, and could also be thought of as a form of clamping down or warning. It accounted to the public, but punished both sides. The only difference was Li Tao's punishment was heavier, and Zhang Ye's was lighter.

"Teacher Zhang."

"Uh, Teacher Zhang Ye."

The people surrounding him did not know what to say.

After a short moment of depression, he did not take it too hard, as he smiled to everyone, "It's alright. I was already planning to say goodbye to the entertainment industry. Being able to come back is already good enough. It's just half a month, right? I'll wait for it."

Wang Xiong also laughed as he went over to pinch Zhang Ye's shoulder, "Right, it's just 15 days. Little Zhang, we can rehire you today. We will give you the title of a planner. Once your hosting qualifications are restored, we will immediately apply for the restoration of you being a host. As for 'Zhang Ye's Talk Show', you can carry on recording even though we can't broadcast it!"

Zhang Ye blinked, "Record even now?"

"Since it can't be aired, saving it first wouldn't be a problem." Wang Xiong chuckled.

Zhang Ye immediately said, "Alright, then I'll finish recording the Talk Show over the next few days. Once my status as host is restored, then I won't need to be so busy. We can directly broadcast them!"

Chapter 284: Top of the SARFT's Blacklist—Zhang Ye!

The next day.

It was still four days till January 1st.

Zhang Ye had contacted the original members of his program team, as well as allowed them to hand out tickets for a live audience. He had plans to record the rest of the episodes of "Zhang Ye's Talk Show" before the new year arrived. A preliminary estimate was 55 episodes, before he could go back to Beijing to spend New Year's with his parents.

To film fifty episodes in about four days meant a lot of work each day!

At his fastest speed, he had to record about 12 or 13 episodes a day. With every episode being half an hour long, it would take a minimum of six hours to record. This meant recording would begin in the morning and end in the afternoon.

If it were any other host, they would not be able to handle such a large amount of stress from work. There was no need to even mentioning recording more than ten episodes a day, even recording two or three episodes in four consecutive days was something no one could handle. However, Zhang Ye had the perseverance to do so. He had done crazy things like this in the past. Be it "Ghost Blows Out the Light" at the radio station, or "Lecture Room" he recorded at Beijing Television Station, many staff members of his program teams would privately call Zhang Ye "Desperate Workaholic". This was because even them as people on the side could not survive the fatigue associated with working on scene, but Zhang Ye could do so day after day. He did not collapse at all. This was also why Zhang Ye was accepted by many members of staff. He always led by example. He worked more than others and rested less than others. With him holding the stage on the forefront, the members of the program team did not skive. People were, after all, judged by others. This was also the reason why the team led by Zhang Ye was always so efficient.

As for the need for Talk Shows to stick to current affairs?

Zhang Ye was not too worried. His Talk Show touched on current affairs, but he did not need to say those jokes only when something happened. For example, many of the jokes in "Tonight 80's Talkshow" were universal. Ridiculing the Koreans, or trampling the Japanese, these jokes could survive the ages. Without any exaggeration, even if Zhang Ye used his talk show to scold the Koreans or Japanese, the jokes would still not be obsolete a hundred years later!

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The recording studio.

“Is every department ready?”

“Teacher Zhang, we are done preparing.”

“When will the audience enter?”

“In about half an hour. It has already been arranged.”

“Alright, I’ll go backstage to take a rest. Sorry for troubling you to keep an eye out.”

“Are we really recording 12 episodes today, Teacher Zhang? Man, alright. Go take a rest. We will be busying ourselves soon. There won’t be time, but you still have us!”

The staff present were all busily working.

After Zhang Ye went into the backstage dressing room, he began to buy large quantities of “Memory Search Capsule” after closing the door. He closed his eyes and began to arrange and search through all the Talk Show programs in his mind. Zhang Ye had wildly spoken of recording more than ten episodes a day all based on the effects of the Memory Search Capsule. This allowed him to have a continuous stream of jokes in his head. The jokes chosen by Zhang Ye were all good and they had the best effects. He even abandoned certain jokes that only had passable effects, so as to make “Zhang Ye’s Talk Show” a signature show, a program of the highest standards. As such, he naturally burned through a huge number of Memory Search Capsules. Thankfully, the previous few episodes of the talk show program had added a lot of Reputation points to his game ring. He had also received a lot from the live broadcast speech and poem, and finally, the exposure from “Sunflower in the Sun” and the limerick had earned him a large number of Reputation points. It was enough!

Eat!

Ten!

Twenty!

Thirty!

Zhang Ye knew that he should not feel the pinch regarding the amount of Reputation points he just spent. He could earn the Reputation points again when they were depleted, but if he did not do the program well, there was no way of regretting it. Hence, Zhang Ye planned on spending all his Reputation points over the next few days, so as to make “Zhang Ye’s Talk Show” perfect. Besides, there was no need to feel the pinch because even with the Reputation points depleted, when the talk show was restored, all the Reputation points he earned a day would be “pure income”. The more he spent now, the better the program would be. The Reputation points from each episode in half a month’s time would also naturally be greater in amount!

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Outside.

The audience entered.

“Great, I’ve waited a long time for this moment!”

“We are really lucky. I heard the program hasn’t been restored for broadcasting.”

“That’s right. There’s still half a month left. It might be restored sometime before or after New Year’s. Since SARFT has not restored Teacher Zhang Ye’s hosting qualifications, all they can do now is pre-record.”

“The SARFT sure is something. What are they doing!?”

“There’s no way around it. Who asked Teacher Zhang to curse them during a live broadcast? He has now been labeled as a destructor of live broadcasts having done it twice. He also had misdeeds back in Beijing. This time, he was only suspended for half a month, so it’s still not too bad. If not for Li Tao smacking himself against a gun by meeting a righteous hacker, Teacher Zhang Ye might not have been able to do any programs ever again. It’s already worth thanking the stars just for us coming here to watch the talk show live.”

“Yea, let’s be content.”

“Zhang Ye is here, Zhang Ye is here!”

“Hahaha! I want to laugh just from seeing him!”

“That’s right. I haven’t seen Teacher Zhang Ye in a long time! He’s so f**king warm!”

The recording began. Zhang Ye made his debut on stage. However, the moment he stood onstage, the audience spontaneously stood up as they cheered on Zhang Ye’s name!

“Zhang Ye!”

“Zhang Ye!”

“Zhang Ye!”

The audience were very excited!

Zhang Ye was also very touched as he chuckled, “Thank you for not forgetting me. Thank you. Everyone, please sit down. Some trifling matters have happened over the past few days, causing the halt of this program...”

“Yi!”

The audience began laughing loudly. Trifling matters? When were any of the troubles you previously got yourself into f**king trifling!? When was it not earth-shaking!?

Zhang Ye was already famous. Before he even said his jokes, the audience was already laughing loudly!

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On the first day, Zhang Ye recorded 12 episodes. The audience was changed twice. At the end, he felt like he was in good condition, so he ended up doing another two more episodes.

On the second day, Wang Xiong came to persuade Zhang Ye as he was in great trepidation seeing the scenes. This workload was too tiring, so he hoped that nothing bad would come out of it. However, Zhang Ye rejected the good intentions of his Leader, and carried on insisting on recording the programs. In the end, he recorded 13 episodes in one go, from day to night.

The third day was the same.

The fourth day was as usual.

Zhang Ye's shocking performance was evident. It even caused a sensation throughout the entire company. Even many industry insiders knew of this matter. Without exception, all of them had only two things to say about Zhang Ye's actions — madness and perverse! This was simply an impossible task. Even if you had the energy and physical strength to do it, how could your scripts keep up? What was most shocking was that Zhang Ye did not prepare any scripts from beginning to the end. He actually managed to finish all the episodes of the talk show in four days. The quality of each episode surpassed the previous one, and all of them were basically recorded in one pass. There was no precedent of a re-recording!

What sort of concept was this?

It was f**king playing with one's life!

However, Zhang Ye actually managed to do it!

Many industry insiders heard of this matter and they refused to believe it. Hence, they came to Weiwo company to watch. Feng Guiqin specially approved it and gave them front row seats. As a result, a number of people showed up with faces full of disdain. They were prepared to pick at it, hoping to expose Zhang Ye for having a script, but after more than ten episodes were recorded, none of them made a sound after they left!

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Today.

Zhang Ye finally finished recording the last episode of the Talk Show. At the end of the filming, the entire audience gave him a standing ovation and broke out into an enthusiastic round of applause!

The audience were dismissed.

The program team gathered together.

"Teacher Zhang, it's been hard on you."

"You've worked hard the past few days."

"Zhang Ye, you are too fantastic!"

"Haha, our team has created an industry miracle!"

"That's right, to finish recording fifty episodes in four days. No one would f**king believe it even if we mention it!"

“Back then, I thought it was impossible, but who could have thought that we actually managed to do it! Teacher Zhang, how does your brain have so many joke segments? And they were all interconnected so nicely, and you did not even stutter once? If it were me, I would already be stuttering a single line without a script!”

“Hehe, you want to compare yourself with Teacher Zhang?”

“Who is Teacher Zhang? He is a mighty person who cannot be measured using common sense!”

With the program wrapped up, everyone was very happy.

Zhang Ye also smiled, “It should be said that it has been hard on all of you. I made you accompany me in this madness the past few days. So, tonight, I’ll be treating you all. Let’s go to the best restaurant in Shanghai! I’ll pick up the tab no matter how much you eat!”

“Oh!”

“Teacher Zhang is impressive!”

Everyone cheered!

The best restaurant? To have a single nice meal would be tens of thousands at least!

Zhang Ye naturally did not care much about money. He was ambivalent towards money as his goal was always fame. He wanted to become the world’s top celebrity. That was what mattered most to him!

Dong Shanshan came through a staff door, “What’s this about eating?”

Following that, Wang Bei and company entered, “Hehe, I think we heard it as well. Zhang Ye is treating, right? Are we included?”

Zhang Han, who had good relations with Dong Shanshan, said with a smile, “Am I allowed in?”

Zhang Ye waved his hands, “All of you are included. Anyone here is included!” Saying that, he gave Feng Guiqin and Wang Xiong a call to invite them. On this matter, Director Feng had given Zhang Ye a good deal of support. She did not abandon him at the most critical point. With the program done recording, Zhang Ye naturally wanted to express his gratitude.

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At night.

With everyone gathered together, they headed straight for the restaurant.

On the way, everyone saw a blacklist for next year posted by the SARFT on the internet!

Similar to Zhang Ye’s world, every year, the SARFT headquarters would publish a “blacklist”. Of course, this was what everyone called it in private. It was not an official term. The goal and purpose of producing this list was to stress one’s specification and professional conduct. In other words, those people who entered the blacklist, be it in their future programs, movies or television dramas, the production would be strictly reviewed as long as a person on the blacklist was in it. This was a limitation as well as a warning!

There were about eight people on the SARFT blacklist!

Two of them were actors who were caught for taking drugs this year. Three of them were two television drama actors and a scriptwriter who were caught engaging in prostitution. Another one was a director who had been involving in scamming. As for the other person, no one knew why as the internet did not report on his matters, but he was last on the blacklist.

As for the number one person on the SARFT blacklist, it surprised and shocked everyone when they saw it!

First page...

First row...

First line...

There was Zhang Ye's name!

Zhang Ye's name began with Z, and according to this ordering, his name should have been at the back, and even if it was ordered according to strokes, Zhang Ye should not have been first! But he was surprised to find that he was first on SARFT's blacklist! At the same moment, numerous people were shocked seeing this, they also had the impulse to laugh!

Take a look!

All of you take a look!?

Look at how powerful Zhang Ye's mouth was!

He neither cursed or did anything serious. All he did was say a few poems or speeches with his mouth, but what was the outcome? He was ranked ahead of people who took drugs, engaged in prostitution or scammed! The attention and vigilance that SARFT placed on him was higher than those f**king drug addicts! What did this mean? It meant that to the SARFT headquarters, the offensive power of Zhang Ye's mouth was greater than that of all of those people!

Hence, he was ranked number one on the blacklist!

Many people expressed their speechlessness in posts!

"Did they get it wrong?"

"Holy sh*t! Zhang Ye is ranked first this year?"

"The number one person on last year's SARFT blacklist was a director who beat someone up to death in public! This year... it's Teacher Zhang Ye?"

"Next year, Teacher Zhang Ye will definitely suffer! He is a target of specialized suppression! Any program or work of his will be strictly reviewed, with specifications higher than the average person!"

"There's no other way about it. Teacher Zhang Ye has caused too many problems!"

"Even so, he shouldn't be ranked first. There's a celebrity with drug addiction behind Zhang Ye! No matter how I look at it, Teacher Zhang Ye should be placed behind him!"

“That’s right, what great sin has Teacher Zhang committed?”

“What sort of standards are they using to form this ranking list?”

“Is there a need to ask? Haha, the SARFT ranks it according to the damage one can cause!”

Many netizens and industry insiders finally gave a stunning analysis. Zhang Ye’s mouth was something even SARFT was f**king afraid of!

Chapter 285: Peking University’s Invitation!

That night, outside the airport.

It was already 8:30.

Zhang Ye got out of the taxi and while walking straight into the airport lobby, the cellphone in his hand rang.

It was his mom. “Hello, son. Tomorrow is New Year’s day. Are you coming home?”

“I’m coming back.” Zhang Ye hiccupped from drinking as he chuckled, “I just finished treating people to a meal and I applied for half a month’s leave with my Leaders. I’ll be right back.”

Mom asked, “Why is it so noisy on your side?”

“I’m already at the airport and I’m about to board.” Zhang Ye had already booked his tickets.

“Alright, then I’ll wait for you at home with your dad. We’ll leave you some supper.” His mom hung up.

The airport hall had a festive atmosphere. Many people were dressed in festive colors, either red or green. Many had smiles on their faces, as they had the anxious feelings of homesickness. By looking at their appearances, Zhang Ye guessed that they were a reflection of his current appearance. Having left home for nearly a month, this was the first time he had left Beijing for such an extended period of time. This New Years was a day that family gathered together, hence, Zhang Ye would rush home at all costs. It was also why he had been desperately finishing his self-assigned task of recording all of “Zhang Ye’s Talk Show”.

A holiday that spanned more than ten days allowed him to stay with his parents at home. He could also consider what to do after the following half month. However, he needed to count on his broadcasting application to be approved. Review, approval and implementation would probably take a month or so before he could get it settled. Only then could “Zhang Ye’s Talk Show” be restored. Hence, Zhang Ye first applied for half a month’s leave. If his approval application was delayed, then he could even spend the Lunar New Year in Beijing.

After getting past security.

His tickets were checked before boarding.

Zhang Ye was in first class, so he did not need to line up to board the plane. First class tickets were expensive, and it was not Zhang Ye burning cash. It was because he had lifelong honors with China Airlines. He did not need to spend a single cent be it first class or economy class, and there were really

no tickets for economy considering that it was New Years. Hence, it wasn't due to Zhang Ye deliberately trying to take advantage of China Airlines.

At the entrance to the cabin.

Two air stewardesses were standing by the side. They were professionally smiling while welcoming the passengers.

When Zhang Ye saw them, he was slightly stunned before he said in amusement, "Yo, what a coincidence."

The fat air stewardess on the left and the thin air stewardess on the right also saw Zhang Ye. Although he was wearing sunglasses, they could identify him immediately, having tethered on the verge of death together.

"Zhang Ye!"

"Teacher Zhang!"

The two people were pleasantly surprised.

Zhang Ye walked over, "It's almost New Year's and you're still working?"

The fat air stewardess smiled, "That's right. It's our job. The holidays are peak season for air travel. We have to service our passengers."

Zhang Ye gave them a thumbs up, "To sacrifice yourselves for the greater good. Well done."

"Hurry up and go in. We'll chat in a bit." The thin air stewardess said as she noticed that there were passengers behind him who wanted to board.

"Alright," Zhang Ye headed towards first class and found his seat. His hands were empty because he did not bring any hand luggage. He sat down straight away.

In a while, the cabin doors were closed.

A familiar voice could be heard throughout the cabin. Zhang Ye could tell that it was the old air stewardess. She told everyone to fasten their seat belts and switch their phones off.

After a few more minutes, when the airplane was in line to take off, the fat and thin air stewardesses moved around. The old air stewardess also came over to first class with a smile.

"Teacher Zhang," The old air stewardess waved at him.

Zhang Ye also greeted them, "Hur Hur, it's been a while. How has everyone been?"

The fat air stewardess could not stop her laughing, "All thanks to you, we are having a good life. Everyone was basically given a suite and our wages have risen."

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "That's nice. All of you are rich now."

The old air stewardess glanced at him, "I heard you aren't doing good these days?"

The thin air stewardess was also at a loss whether to laugh or cry, "That's right. Why did you mess up a live broadcast? Just an hour ago, we were even discussing it. Why are you first on next year's SARFT blacklist? You are being specially targeted now, so how are you going to work next year?"

Zhang Ye threw up his hands, "I guess, one step at a time."

The old air stewardess smiled and poured a glass of fruit juice for him, "No matter what others say of you or how they criticize you, we will certainly support you."

The fat air stewardess was more cheerful as she patted Zhang Ye's shoulder, and she blinked, "Not only us, all the air stewardess are supporting you. After that incident, which air stewardess or attendant does not know you? They all consider you as their idol. You have many fans in the airline industry!"

Zhang Ye sat up and said, "Am I that famous? So many beauties like me? Then I don't need to worry about finding a wife in the future!"

"Yi!"

"Yi!"

A few of the air stewardesses began to laugh.

From the "Yi" sound them made, it was obvious that they all watched "Zhang Ye's Talk Show". Clearly, their support for Zhang Ye was not all talk.

Many first class passengers surrounding them looked on in a speechless manner. Zhang Ye was wearing sunglasses, and even if he did not wear them, many people here would not recognize him. Most of the people who sat first class were not busy with work. They paid little attention to the entertainment industry and they could probably only recognize the S-list celebrities. Hence, when they saw Zhang Ye board the plane with all the air stewardess in the cabin surrounding him while giggling, they were still wondering when did the airline company have such a f**king service. Weren't they too intimate? Who was this person?

Many people looked enviously at Zhang Ye who had fallen into the village of warmth. They did not know that the trust and friendship between Zhang Ye and the air stewardesses was built on a foundation of that momentarily life and death situation.

"Aiyah, it's almost time to take off."

"Teacher Zhang, we can't chat any further."

"If you have anything, call me. We have to busy ourselves."

With the air stewardesses gone, the plane quickly reached tens of thousands of meters high.

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Zhang Ye looked at the night sky through the window with his hand on his chin. Then, he drank a mouthful of fruit juice to moisten his throat. Having drunk a bit too much with everyone at the restaurant, he was beginning to feel tired, as he yawned. Suddenly, Zhang Ye looked sideways and he saw a pair of eyes staring at him. It seemed like this person had been looking at him from the very

beginning. From the hair style and figure, it was clear she was a woman, and a woman with a voluptuous figure. However, maybe she was not accustomed to the air on the airplane, she was wearing a face mask, so her face was obscured.

She looked at Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye also looked at her.

Suddenly, the woman released her seat belt and stood up. After straightening her clothes, she walked towards Zhang Ye. She then loosened the white coat on her body before sitting beside Zhang Ye. This plane's first class cabin had two seats on each side. The seat to the left of Zhang Ye had been empty from the beginning. It was unknown if the passenger did not manage to catch the flight or if the ticket to the seat was not sold.

Zhang Ye asked in wonder, "You are?"

The woman's voice was soft and elegant, "Are you Teacher Zhang Ye?"

Zhang Ye was stunned, "That's me. Why are you looking for me?"

The woman smiled gracefully, "Just now the air stewardess called you Teacher Zhang, and I felt that you resembled him, but I did not dare confirm it. I never expected it to be really you. Well, let's get to know one another. I'm Wu Zeqing, a Vice President of Peking University."

"Hello, nice to meet you." Zhang Ye immediately shook her hand but then, he suddenly reacted, stunned by the woman's introduction!

What did she just say?

Peking University's Vice President?

What the heck!? Is this real or not?

What sort of school was Peking University? That was a prestigious school domestically and even internationally. According to Zhang Ye's knowledge, his world's Peking University was an organization under the Education Ministry. Just from the administrative level, the rank of Vice President was already one of the national cadres. As for what it meant in this world's Peking University, Zhang Ye did not know. However, it could not be much different. From the woman's eyes and figure, she was like in her early to mid thirties? She was not even forty years of age, but she had already reached such an important position at a young age? She took the initiative to speak to him? This can't be right?

Maybe Wu Zeqing noticed the disbelief in Zhang Ye's eyes as she gently removed her face mask. Maybe she was not used to the air in here, so she covered her nose with her index finger while smiling.

She has an extremely beautiful face!

It was a face filled with dignity!

A woman that was graceful, elegant and warm had appeared in front of Zhang Ye. Even Zhang Ye, who had seen numerous beauties, could not help but feel shocked!

F**k!

She was so pretty even though she held a high post?

Was she really a Vice President of Peking University? A heavyweight in the education sector?

“President Wu, nice to meet you. Sorry for not recognizing you.” Towards a person in education, Zhang Ye was extremely respectful, “Are you out on a business trip?”

Wu Zeqing gave a shallow smile, which resembled a reserved smile that ancient women had, “That’s right. There was a school celebration in Shanghai. I attended it while representing Peking University. Are you on a business trip too?”

Zhang Ye chuckled, “No, I’m returning home.”

“Oh, right. I recall, you are a Beijinger.” This Peking University Vice President seemed to know Zhang Ye quite well, “I heard that you recently got into trouble?”

Zhang Ye casually said, “Just some trifling matter. I just can’t work temporarily, maybe after the new year.”

The beautiful woman looked at him and said, “I have basically seen all the poems you wrote. Although many of your poems are not suitable for the situations or conditions for announcements, and have not been recognized by the official or literature circles, your literature skill has nearly been recognized in this circle. I told two famous authors and literature scholars about you. Both of them are full of praise for you, including me. Of course, I do not know about others.”

With a smile punctuating her sentence, the beautiful woman said, “Now, our country’s literature circle is lacking a person who can wave the flag. Personally, I feel that the people in the literature industry are lacking the qualities required. If we talk about a thousand years later, to pick someone in the country that can fly the literature banner, I believe that you will be one of the most likely candidates.”

This evaluation was too high!

And it was an evaluation from Peking University’s Vice President!

Zhang Ye was instantly flattered, “I don’t dare to accept that. I lack the qualifications and experience. All I do is just mess around.”

Wu Zeqing suggested, “Let’s exchange phone numbers?”

“Sure, I could only wish to do so. If there are any matters on literature in the future, I will still want to consult you.” Zhang Ye as a member of the younger generation still appeared very modest.

Wu Zeqing smiled and waved her hand, “You can consult me on other matters, and I won’t brush you off. But if it’s a literary discussion, I do not dare to think highly of myself in front of you. At best, I am more experienced than you, which allows me to communicate with you.”

Take a look at her!

Look at how well she can chat!

Zhang Ye was feeling extremely good, but he could not say it verbally. He only said, “You are being modest.”

They exchanged numbers. Since they could not switch their phones on in the plane, Zhang Ye wrote his on a piece of paper, while Wu Zeqing handed him a name card. The name card was handwritten. It did not have any details about Wu Zeqing's post, only her name. There was a cellphone number beneath it. Zhang Ye guessed that this was most likely Wu Zeqing's handwriting. It was very elegant and beautiful. It looked very polished and clearly, she was a calligraphy expert.

The plane was quickly approaching the capital's airport.

The flight from Shanghai to Beijing was short as they were very close to one another.

During this period, Wu Zeqing sat beside Zhang Ye and chatted with him. For some reason, Zhang Ye felt that she came to him for a reason.

However, she didn't say. As this was the case, it was inappropriate for Zhang Ye to ask.

Only when they disembarked the plane and were about to go their separate ways did Wu Zeqing say something that caught Zhang Ye off guard.

Wu Zeqing said, "Little Zhang, will you be staying in Beijing for half a month or more? If you have no other work or matters to tend to during this period, are you interested in teaching at Peking University?"

Zhang Ye was dumbfounded, "Teaching at Peking University?"

Wu Zeqing smiled, "Yes."

"Are you pulling my leg?" Zhang Ye was in disbelief.

Wu Zeqing smiled slightly, "Would I pull your leg on such a matter? Now, in my capacity as Peking University's Vice President, I'm formally inviting you."

Zhang Ye gasped and said worriedly, "I know myself. I'm just a student, so what can I teach? I'm afraid that I'll teach the wrong things to students, leading them astray."

Wu Zeqing looked at him, "Before I boarded the plane, I was still thinking of something, nor did I have any candidates. However, after meeting you, it might be a matter of fate. After some thought, there really is no one more suitable than you in the literature arena. I'm not asking for you to teach anything else but your old trade. You can teach in the Chinese language department." With a pause, she carried on, "The compensation might not be very high, and it can't compare to the wages of your broadcasting host job. Since your main job is not this, we will not restrict you to other jobs on our side. When you need to host, you can go do your hosting. If you have the time and energy, you can use your spare time to teach at Peking University. You can be considered an adjunct lecturer. There have been similar cases of hiring hosts or famous authors to be university lecturers in recent years, so it's common. The response from the students is also very good. I still have an assistant professor spot on my side. It's not that I can't give you the title, so if you are interested, you can give it a try. Then, we can talk based on your results. What say you?"

Zhang Ye hesitated, "This..."

Wu Zeqing said, "You can think about it and reply me tomorrow. The school is on break for half a month. If you are ready, you can begin classes at anytime."

Zhang Ye took a deep breath, "Alright, I'll think about it when I get back home."

"Alright, there will be a car picking me up outside. I'm leaving first." After the beautiful woman bade him farewell, she walked slowly away in her flats.

He went to a taxi waiting area. The moment he entered the taxi, he rubbed his temples as he looked out of the window in excitement. He was both hesitant and excited! Why was he excited? Of course, it had to do with the prestige of Peking University. It was a institution of higher learning of the world. By inviting him to teach, it was a form of affirmation and trust towards Zhang Ye. It could also increase his popularity and qualifications. If he went out and said that he had an additional job of being a lecturer of Peking University, everyone in the industry would give him a second look. This sort of reputation and fame was not something money could buy. And it was something that no one could dispute it. And according to the beautiful woman's intention, if he did well, he could even be given the title of assistant professor?

That was a professorship!

A position that most Masters or PhD holders could not obtain!

Zhang Ye was just a Bachelor's graduate. Now, he had a chance to obtain the honor of being an Assistant Professor? It would be a lie if he was not excited!

But at the same time, he was hesitant and worried!

Peking University's Chinese department was extremely famous even in a heavy weight institution like Peking University. It was also famous world wide. The Chinese department had the greatest breadth and depth in the entire country's Chinese literature studies. Every development of history had attracted and produced many famous scholars. Some of them were masters and figures who led the literature world!

But who was Zhang Ye?

What sort of qualifications did he, Zhang Ye, have?

Did he have the qualifications to teach these students who would have promising futures?

Zhang Ye had even said some angry words to his mother a few days ago, saying that if he could not stay on in the entertainment industry, he would go to a university to be a lecturer. However, that was him just saying it in passing, he never believed that he had the qualifications. He also couldn't believe that any university would want such a literary hooligan. And now, the one inviting him was not any other institution, it was the world famous Peking University! Zhang Ye knew how important this was. Hence, he was worried that he could not do a good job teaching. He feared that not only would he fail to get any accolades, but he would end up being cursed and criticized. He did not matter, but if he sullied Peking University's reputation, and lead his students astray, it would be a serious matter. This pressure and responsibility was a bit too much for Zhang Ye, as it wasn't something that only affected him.

He was a carefree soul!

He was free to fight everywhere!

But if he implicated others, or led future famous literary scholars astray due to his bad teachings, Zhang Ye would not feel good about it! He was a jerk, and he was quite a hooligan at times, but the essence of his character was that of a considerate person!

What should he do?

Should he go?

It had to be said that the temptation thrown at him by the Peking University was too great!

On the way home, Zhang Ye kept mulling over the issue. He still did not come to a conclusion even after having a headache. He was not an indecisive person, but neither was he someone who did not think. He liked to measure the pros and cons before deciding on a matter. However, once he decided on a matter, he would rush to the end regardless if the sky was falling!

Chapter 286: Going to Peking University's Chinese Department as a Lecturer!

Beijing, at night.

It was already past 11 P.M. by the time he reached Caishikou.

The cold wind was blowing on the streets. The temperature here was colder than it was in the South.

Zhang Ye found his way through the dark to his parent's district. He looked up and saw their apartment lights were still on. His father and mother were obviously still up waiting for him to return. Zhang Ye suddenly had a feeling of homecoming. He stepped into the building and quickly climbed up the staircase. He was humming "Wishing We Last Forever" as he ran up.

Dong, dong, dong.

He knocked on the door and it opened up very quickly.

"Dad, Mom" Zhang Ye smiled, "Happy New Year."

Mom pulled him into the house, "Come in first, isn't it cold outside?"

Zhang Ye put down his bags and took off his coat, "It's OK. It's warm enough at home, has the central heating started already?"

"Look at the date. The heating has been turned on since the 12th." Mom squinted at him, "Beijing is still better, right? There's no central heating in Shanghai."

Zhang Ye had deep feelings about this, "Yes, we can only use the air-conditioner over there. Switching it on room by room, I was really not used to it. It feels very different from the warmth of central heating. It just didn't feel right. The air outside is so damp that I get goosebumps. Hai, don't talk about it anymore." Having arrived home, Zhang Ye felt that everything was good and pleasing to him, "Also, unless the sun is shining directly, the clothes hung outside won't get dry. Even if it gets dry, there's a mildew smell that sticks to it. The air there is too damp, we'd have to use a clothes dryer to dry the laundry. It's really troublesome."

Mom probably missed him a lot and said, "Then don't go back."

Zhang Ye smiled, "I have to return after the lunar new year at latest. There's still work waiting for me. This year, I'm definitely staying home for it. I managed to get many days off."

His dad got up from the sofa, "Have you eaten?"

"I had something on the flight back, but I'm still hungry." Zhang Ye said.

Dad instructed, "Bring some warm water for our son and heat up the leftover food too."

Mom made a sound and stared, "You're commanding me now? Why don't you go instead."

Dad looked up and said, "You heat up the leftovers. We are having a father and son talk about his work. What do you know?"

"As if only you understand, hmph. Our son's now a big star, a famous host. Do you still think he needs your advice?" Mom nagged as she went to heat up the food for him.

After eating, his father and mother started asking him about his job.

Zhang Ye did not wish to talk about his work, as he was afraid he would worry them. So he answered them superficially and changed the topic, "Where will we be going tomorrow for the New Year?"

Mom scooped some dishes for him while saying, "We went to your paternal Grandma's place this afternoon. Only you were not there. Tomorrow we will be spending the day with your maternal grandparents, but they will be coming to our house instead. Don't laze in bed tomorrow. Wake up early and help me buy groceries and prepare food. When my family comes over, we'll need to feed over a dozen mouths. That's not simple work."

Zhang Ye said shamelessly, "I won't be able to wake up."

Mom could not help but hit him on his head, "You're lazy!"

Dad said, "Little Ye has been busily working outside for so long. Let him rest a little, it's rare for him to get days off."

"You make it sound so simple. Are you going to help me buy groceries and cook then? You wouldn't even help!" Mom rolled her eyes, "Just my luck to have encountered you father and son duo!"

After eating.

Zhang Ye picked up the dishes to wash.

"Little Ye, your dad and I will be turning in already." Mom yawned, "Huu, I still have to battle to fight tomorrow. It's really not easy having a festive holiday get together."

His dad also stretched himself and went to the bathroom for a shower.

Then Zhang Ye suddenly remembered. Turning his head, "Dad, Mum, wait a while. I have something to discuss with you both in a bit."

Dad asked curiously, "What's the matter?"

"If you have anything to say, spit it out. I'm tired." Mom said curling her lips.

Zhang Ye continued washing the dishes and said, "Earlier on the plane, I met someone called Wu Zeqing. She said she was....."

Before he could finish, his mother and father interrupted him.

"Wu Zeqing? The one from Peking University?" Mom said stunned.

Dad obviously knew who she was, "That Vice President of Peking University?"

Zhang Ye blinked, "You know?"

Dad said, "I don't know what she looks like, but I know she's a woman and rather pretty. She's one of the youngest presidents of an elite school. She did not come through the education system so she can't be considered as someone who is in the literary field. She came through as a civil servant instead and transferred from the Education Bureau to Peking University. Didn't they mention her on the news before? Did you not see that? Although she came through the civil service system, her literary skills were rated very highly too. She has published a large number of works and the television even stated that she was a practiced calligrapher too? She's a person who has a lot of prestige within the education world."

Mom nodded and asked him, "You met her?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "More than met her, we chatted for a long time on the plane. After we landed, she suddenly invited me to go teach at Peking University."

Dad was stunned, "Ah?"

Mom was also stunned, "Go teach at Peking University? Invited you to teach what?"

Zhang Ye replied, "The Department of Chinese Language. I don't know what I'll be teaching though. It'll definitely be either Chinese culture and poetry or Chinese history, stuff like that. I wouldn't know how to teach other things anyway."

Mom said excitedly, "Do they really mean it?"

Zhang Ye threw up his hands, "Of course, they have already officially invited me."

Dad was also very excited, "Why did Peking University find you?"

"I heard that from President Wu that there was a vacancy at a relevant course in Peking University. Anyway, that's what I think she meant, so I'll be standing in for a while. It would only be as an adjunct professor though. I can choose when to conduct the classes according to my schedule, so it wouldn't affect my main job. Vice President Wu even promised me that if the response was good and the students were satisfied, they could even give me the title of Assistant Professor at Peking University. Of course, that would also mean that if I don't do well, then I'd have to pack up and leave."

Mom quickly asked, "Then how did you answer?"

"I have not fully considered it yet, so I did not reply. President Wu asked me to give her an answer tomorrow. This is why I wanted to discuss it with you two before I decide." Zhang Ye said.

Mom got anxious and slammed the table, "What are you even considering for! Quickly accept! If you don't go, then don't call me your mother anymore!"

Zhang Ye, "..."

Holy sh*t! That was uncalled for, Mom!

Who knew Dad also stood on the same side as Mom this time, "Son, you need to listen to us this time. Go, you definitely need to go! Do you know what kind of place Peking University is? It's a world class institution! I know your goal is to become a famous celebrity, but this wouldn't conflict with that, and instead will give you a special boost. No matter how successful you are as a celebrity, or how popular you are, that's all just on the surface. However, if you have the title of Peking University's Assistant Professor, it is something completely different. This is the highest affirmation of your ability in your studies. With this backing you, your popularity will enjoy a more solid foundation, and it can even be considered an official form of recognition. Didn't many Writers' Association people think lowly of the poems and prose you previously wrote? When you're hosting, didn't those people from the SARFT cause a lot of trouble for you? If you become an Assistant Professor, what more a Peking University Assistant Professor, then with such a solid backing, who would dare to find trouble with you in the future? Then when it comes to your literary accomplishments, no one would dare question you anymore."

That was true.

In the field of literary arts, it did not matter that it did not appeal to the masses. More of it depended on the recognition from industry insiders and qualifications.

It was very philistine and illogical.

But that was how it was. This was the situation in this country.

Zhang Ye listened, but still had some worries, "What if I don't do well?"

Dad said, "If you don't do well, then that's that, but you can't let go of this chance now." The reason he tried so hard to persuade his son to develop further in the educational field was because he placed a lot of importance on education. He was an older person and had a more traditional way of thinking. When he was young, there were no such things as celebrities. They were just called entertainers in the past and were not well respected. Although this had changed in modern times, to a person from his generation, there was more pride and glory at Peking University. It was even a glorious title of being an Assistant Professor. He did not object to his son's goal of becoming a celebrity but if he could achieve both statuses, wouldn't it be even better?

Mom saw that he was still hesitant, so she told him, "You were not even afraid to cause trouble during a live broadcast, daring to scold your leaders and the SARFT. Now it's just being a lecturer and you're scared?"

Zhang Ye hesitated for a moment before finally nodding. He had decided, "Alright, I will listen to the both of you. I'm going! I don't care whose mother it is!"

What was there to worry about!?

We'll talk about it when the time comes if I don't do well!

Besides, with so much knowledge from his previous world, how could he possibly mislead the future generation!

Having decided that there and then, Zhang Ye was no longer confused and conflicted. Peking University lecturer, that was such an awesome halo! It could also be considered as a form of venture and challenge. Zhang Ye felt that he could do this. Besides, he had nothing much to do during these two weeks that he was back in Beijing. Since his goal was to become the most famous celebrity in the world and he had very little positive characteristics himself, he could do with more accolades. Zhang Ye could no longer delay a moment longer, only then would he have hope to create this miracle and fulfill his dream!

"Then quickly inform Vice President Wu!" Mom was even more anxious than him. She urged him, "What if she has other choices as well, go inform her quick!"

Zhang Ye looked at his watch, "It's almost midnight, she might already be asleep?"

His father advised, "Send her a message to give her well wishes for the new year. Then mention your decision. If she has already slept, she will still see your message tomorrow morning."

Zhang Ye understood and accepted their suggestions. It was not like he had any other choice. His parents were already staring at him. If he did not do what they said, they'd probably beat him to death!

And so, he sent the message to Wu Zeqing.

He wrote: President Wu, I wanted to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope I'm not disturbing your sleep with this message. Well, I will be accepting your invitation. I am very honored to do my part for the education system.

Soon after, the other party replied.

Wu Zeqing: Thank you. Happy New Year to you too. It's good that you have considered it. You can come to the Peking University on the 2nd of January at 9AM to look for me. I will arrange the curriculum plan and teaching contract. Let's discuss it in detail then.

Zhang Ye replied: Sure, please rest early.

Wu Zeqing said: Give my well-wishes to your parents as well.

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The exchange of messages ended.

Zhang Ye showed his cellphone to his parents, "Look."

Dad was overjoyed when he saw it, "Great! Great! Great!"

Mom was also overjoyed and couldn't keep her mouth closed, "Hahaha, my son really does not disappoint! He's even going to teach at Peking University! He's really doing me proud!"

Zhang Ye was not as overjoyed as his parents were. He picked up his cellphone casually, rolled up his sleeves and continued washing the dishes, "The two of you should go rest, it's getting late."

Mom suddenly shouted, "Put that down!"

"Ah?" Zhang Ye looked over with his head tilted sideways and nearly lost his grip on the bowl in his hands, "What's the matter? You gave me a scare. What do I put down?"

Mom pushed him aside and broke into a big smile. She picked up the dishes and utensils, "Mom will do this, you go and rest."

"Don't. I'm already half done." Zhang Ye wanted to grab the dishes back, "You guys go rest."

Mom did not allow that, "If I said I'll do it, I'll do it. Don't argue with me. Haha, my son's now a lecturer of Peking University. How can I make my son do the dishes!" as she washed the dishes, she hummed a Peking Opera song. Mumbling to herself, she said, "I can go boast to the neighbours again tomorrow! When my son had his hosting license revoked, that bunch of people talked behind my back about my son's career ending? He was done for? Ha! I'll show them who's done for this time! My son will become a Peking University lecturer! Can they? Tomorrow, I will go and tell them why the flowers are so red!"

Chapter 287: Joining 3rd Cousin's New Year's Party!

The next day.

1st January, New Year's Day.

On the morning of the new year, Zhang Ye spent it in his own bed.

People seemed to come to his home, and not only in a single wave. The doorbell rung one after another. The sound of chatting entered his bedroom, as Zhang Ye woke up a few times in a daze. He flipped his body and covered himself in his blanket before going back to sleep. After four days of talk show recording without rest, he was making up for that lost sleep today. Since the people who came to his place were family, he was not that particular.

"Sis, we are here."

"Quick, have a sit."

"First (paternal) Aunt, Happy New Year. Wishing you and uncle a prosperous new year and good health."

"Hur Hur, our Mengmeng sure has a sweet mouth. There's some fruits here. Have a bit."

"Where's my bro?"

"Him? He's still sleeping in the room."

"Aiyah, my bro sure is a lazy cat. It's already past 10!"

His three maternal uncles' family came one after another. The oldest younger cousin, Cao Dan, second oldest younger cousin, Cao Tong, and youngest cousin, Mengmeng. The moment these three girls gathered together, they began chattering.

A few of the men smoked and drank tea.

A few women busied themselves in the kitchen.

First (maternal) aunt asked, "I heard Little Ye is on the SARFT's blacklist?"

"That's right," Second (maternal) aunt also said, "Is his work not going smoothly?"

"I heard his program was halted some time ago? What is going on now?" His three maternal aunts washed vegetables as they asked Zhang Ye's mother.

Mom was washing the cutting board and laughed, "You guys are already outdated. Little Ye's program has been restored, it just needs half a month's wait before it can be broadcasted again. Is his work not going smoothly? Hur Hur, let me tell you a secret. Don't go about telling others. Peking University's Vice President personally came looking for my son and repeatedly invited Little Ye to teach Peking University's Chinese department. She said it had to be him, and no one else!"

First aunt was stunned, "What? Which Peking University?"

Mom laughed, "What other Peking University is there? It's that college that ranks number one in the country!"

The three aunts were stunned, "This is big news. Little Ye really has gotten ahead in life? To teach at Peking University? Why didn't I see it on the newspapers?"

Mom said, "It was decided last night. Hai, my Little Ye actually didn't plan on going, but that President Wu kept inviting him and was extremely sincere. Finally, after being unable to further refuse it, the matter was fixed. So of course, there's no news about it yet. I believe you will see it tomorrow."

The adults and children outside also heard it. As his second maternal uncle had went to pick up Zhang Ye's grandparents, he was not around. The other people were stunned upon hearing this news!

Cao Mengmeng screamed, "Ah! My bro is so awesome?"

Cao Dan covered her mouth in disbelief, "Teaching at Peking University?"

Third Uncle immediately ran into the kitchen, "Sis, then congratulations. Our family has finally produced someone in academia. And he's even a lecturer of a famous school!"

First Uncle said to Zhang Ye's father, "Brother-in-law, congratulations."

Dad shook his hands with a smile, "I still don't know if that kid is up to the task."

Mom was extremely proud of Zhang Ye, so she rolled her eyes at her husband upon hearing that, "If my son isn't up to the task, then who is? Stop spewing such discouraging words!"

Third Aunt laughed, "Right, with Little Ye's literary standard, there definitely won't be problems!"

At this moment, someone came in from outside. It was Second Uncle bringing Zhang Ye's grandparents in.

The moment the old lady entered and heard their discussion, she could not help but ask, "What Peking University? What are you talking about?"

Mom came out of the kitchen beaming, "Dad, Mom, your grandson is going to be a lecturer at Peking University's Chinese department. He's reporting for work tomorrow."

Grandma said in surprise, "Are you all pulling my leg?"

Third Aunt chuckled, "Mom, it's true!"

Grandma was immediately excited, "Little Ye is so capable?"

"That is Peking University!" Grandpa was also startled.

Third Aunt said, "The two of you don't keep up with news, so you might not know that Little Ye already showed his ability. He goes on television and the newspapers almost daily!"

Grandma's wrinkles seemed to instantly open up, "Little Ye sure lives up to expectations!"

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In the room.

Zhang Ye was still sleeping soundly.

Suddenly, the door opened, and three petite figures entered.

"Bro! Time to wake up! It's time to eat!" Cao Mengmeng crashed onto his bed and yelled loudly.

Zhang Ye was jolted away. He yawned, and seeing that it was his three younger cousins, he buried his head again and said half-heartedly, "Go go. Let me sleep a little longer."

Cao Tong chuckled, "Bro, get up!"

Eldest younger sister, Cao Dan said, "Let bro rest a bit more."

"What's there to rest for..." Cao Mengmeng refused and climbed into bed and sat on Zhang Ye's leg, "Bro, you sure are awesome. You are even going to Peking University to teach!"

Zhang Ye waved his hands listlessly, "Nothing much."

Cao Tong also began to say in a spoiled manner, "Bro, buy us something nice to eat."

"I'll buy, I'll buy." Zhang Ye said while closing his eyes. It was unknown if he was speaking in his sleep.

Cao Mengmeng blinked her cute little eyes and said, "Then whatever we want, you must buy for us. I want a huge teddy bear, the kind that's 1.8 meters tall!"

Zhang Ye said sleepily, "I'll buy them all. All of them."

The few younger cousins cheered together, "Yo!"

With the few rascals in his room, there was no hope for Zhang Ye to carry on sleeping. Finally he was completely woken up by his few younger cousins. So he could only get out of bed in his pajamas.

The moment he came out of his room, Zhang Ye began greeting, "Grandma, Grandpa, First Uncle, First Aunt, Second Aunt..."

The moment Grandma saw her grandson, she held his hands warmly, "Did those girls wake you up?" Saying that, the old granny stared at them, "Naughty girls, your brother has been slaving these past few days at work. Can't he have a good sleep?"

Cao Mengmeng stuck out her little tongue, "Grandma is playing favorites!"

Grandma was tickled, "You little girl are asking to be spanked."

Mom also patted her son, "Hurry up and brush your teeth. It's time to eat."

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Ten minutes later, the meal began.

During the meal, Zhang Ye found himself able to reunite with his family, a rare event. He had not returned home in a while, so he poured a glass of beer and toasted his elders. They had a lot of fun eating together.

His grandparents and relatives kept asking Zhang Ye about the entertainment industry.

"Little Ye, that talent show's host is really your classmate?"

"That's right, college classmates. We were in the same class."

"What are you teaching at Peking University?"

"I'm not sure yet, but I will find out tomorrow."

"Bro, is Hu Dongjian really gay?"

"How would I know? He's a host from Hong Kong. I've never met him before."

"Bro, why are you so awesome? The talk show you do makes me die of laughter!"

"That's right, your bro is awesome, or else how can he be your bro!"

After the meal, everyone sat on the sofa in the living room. They carried on chatting, and the topic of conversation revolved around Zhang Ye. Everyone was very interested in his job.

Roughly 2 in the afternoon.

His grandparents went into Zhang Ye's parents' room to take an afternoon nap.

Zhang Ye covered his grandparents with a blanket, and after a few exchange of words, he gently closed the door.

The moment he left the room, he bumped into a Cao Mengmeng with shifty eyes. For some reason, this girl was blinking her eyes at Zhang Ye.

"What's up?" Zhang Ye was amused.

Cao Mengmeng said softly, "Bro, I have a request."

Zhang Ye did not mind, "What's the matter?"

Cao Mengmeng glanced at the elders sitting in the living room and then jerked her chin towards the bedroom. "Go into the bedroom, anyway it's an important matter."

"Alright then." Zhang Ye and his third younger cousin went into the room.

In the room, Cao Mengmeng sat on the bed.

Zhang Ye lit a cigarette and smoked out the window, "What is it? Tell me."

Cao Mengmeng said with a finicky manner, "Bro, tonight, my junior high school has a new year's party in the auditorium. We can bring our guardians. Come with me." It was common for schools to have new year's party. As it was impossible to have a Lunar New Year party due to the students on break, so the schools only had new year's parties at best. Some schools had, while others didn't. The date was not fixed. Many had their parties on December 31 also.

Zhang Ye was stunned before smiling, "Why should I go? Aren't your parents on break today. Why? They have something on tonight and can't go?"

Cao Mengmeng secretly said, "I didn't tell them."

"Ah?" Zhang Ye smiled bitterly.

Cao Mengmeng pouted, "You may not know, but every time my parents see my teacher, all three of them seem to be on stimulants. They will begin speaking ill of me. After returning home, my parents will even beat me. It's exasperating. So I'd rather go myself then bring them along."

Zhang Ye threw his hands up and said, "It isn't appropriate for me to go?"

"You are my bro, is that not appropriate?" Cao Mengmeng said it while chuckling, "Also, it's perfect for me to show you off to my friends! Last time, at a parents-teacher meeting, I heard a few parents talking about you in the corridor. Hehe, but none of them know that you are my bro!"

Zhang Ye said exasperatedly, "Is that even meaningful?"

"Extremely, extremely meaningful!" Cao Mengmeng affirmed, "And I'll be performing tonight. I've already decided to recite your 'Flying bird and fish'!"

"That is a love poem..." Zhang Ye said.

"So what if it's a love poem? A few of my classmates are reciting poems too. Many people are reciting love poems and even those in the textbooks." Cao Mengmeng said indifferently.

"What sort of poems are they reading?" Zhang Ye asked.

Cao Mengmeng shook her head, "I don't know. Everyone is keeping it a secret. A large number of them are singing or dancing. Anyway I don't care. Bro, you must help me out. If no guardians come with me, your little cousin is going to lose face. Also, you need to teach me how to recite 'Flying bird and fish', like how to punctuate!"

Zhang Ye said, "We shall see. Let me ask your parents first."

"Bro, no can do, no can do!" Cao Mengmeng grabbed onto Zhang Ye's arm and looked extremely pitiful.

Zhang Ye finally was at a loss and said, "Alright, alright. I'll go, alright? 7:30 right? I got it. I'll look for you at school."

Cao Mengmeng shouted excitedly, "Yea! Long live to my bro!"

Zhang Ye began instructing her on how to recite "Flying bird and fish".

Chapter 288: Zhang Ye can't write Love Poems?

Evening.

His relatives had left.

Only Zhang Ye's family of three was left having dinner together. They ate simply with noodles in soybean paste, Zhajiangmian. This was also specially requested by Zhang Ye. In the South, he could not find anywhere to eat authentic Beijing Zhajiangmian. Especially the brine made by his mother was excellent. Zhang Ye never got sick of eating it when growing up.

"How is it?" Mom asked with a smile.

Zhang Ye sucked the noodles, "It still has the same taste. Delicious."

Mom happily said, "That's it. My cooking can't go wrong. In the future, when you go back to Shanghai, I'll prepare more Zhajiangmian for you, so that you can bring it there."

As Zhang Ye ate, he asked, "What time is it?"

"It's 6:40. Why?" Dad looked at his watch.

Zhang Ye quickly slurped the last two mouthfuls, "I need to head out. I have something to."

"Come back early." His mother reminded him, "You need to report to work at Peking University tomorrow. Don't affect official matters."

"Alright, I got it. I'll be back before ten." After filling his stomach, Zhang Ye went downstairs to drive.

His X5 bulletproof car had been left in his parent's district. As it had been there for a long period of time, his car was covered in dust. Zhang Ye did not have the time to wash his car, and as it did not matter, he drove to Cao Mengmeng's school.

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Just past 7.

At the entrance of Beijing 15th Junior High.

The sky was a bit cloudy, then turned gloomy almost immediately. It did not seem to even have a transition.

15th Junior High was located on the western side of Taoranting. Going by the road, Zi Xin Lu, it was relatively close to Caishikou. Actually, even without a car, he could have reached there in fifteen minutes by walking from his parents' place. The moment his car arrived, Zhang Ye saw many cars bunched outside the school entrance. He began to regret driving here. He knew many parents drove their children to the new year's party, and from the ages of the children, there was not only junior high students, there were even high school students. This party was likely jointly held together. Since 15th Junior High was one of the city's focuses, this party would usually be spruced up better than ordinary junior high school parties.

There was a line of cars waiting for parking.

Zhang Ye estimate that at this speed, he would take more than half an hour to enter the school. He had lived here for a long period of time, so with his expertise, he turned his steering wheel and headed 200 meters west. He stopped his car at a hotpot store. This store's business was quite normal, so there were not many cars stopped here usually. The boss was a resident nearby and was easy to talk to. Usually, the boss would not complain even if he parked a car here when there were not enough parking lots.

Getting out of the car, Zhang Ye walked towards 15th Junior High.

With the party beginning at 7:30, most of the people who were arriving were the last few.

Ring, ring, ring.

His phone began to ring.

"Bro! Why aren't you here yet!?" Cao Mengmeng huffed and puffed through the phone.

Zhang Ye chuckled, "I'm here. I just walked through the gate. I'm west of the main entrance. I'll wait for you under the school motto?"

"You are here already? Nice, nice, nice! Wait for me!" She hung up.

A short while later, a petite figure rushed towards him, "Bro!" Then she looked at him speechlessly, "Why are you wearing sunglasses?"

Zhang Ye said, "I'm used to it. I'll keep them on."

Cao Mengmeng said in a depressed tone, "I still want to show off! If you wear sunglasses, who can recognize you!"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes, "Come on, your bro isn't that famous. This face of mine is useless. Hurry up and go. It's already not bad that I fulfilled my promise and came."

Cao Mengmeng pulled him towards the auditorium, "Alright, whatever. Hurry. There's almost no more seats left. Too many people came today since it's a new year's party jointly held by the junior high and high school. Although it's free to participate and about half came, those who came brought their guardians too, so the auditorium doesn't have enough space!"

The moment they entered the auditorium, indeed, it was packed.

The stuffy air that met them was quite unpleasant.

"Aiyah, don't push!"

"Daughter, I'm here!"

"Teacher Sun, long time no see!"

"Third Year, Class One! Third Year, Class One parents, please come over here!"

"High School Second Year, Class Five, gather! If your guardians aren't here yet, quickly contact them!"

"Students of Class Three, everyone listen to me. When the party begins, try not to make too much noise. Maintain silence since there will be a recording."

The parents were all rushing to take their seats.

The head teachers were also very busy.

Inside, there were a few people who noticed Zhang Ye. Sometimes, a few people would give him a few stares before turning their gaze away. They seemed to find him familiar, but then did not think much of it. Zhang Ye was now considered quite a celebrity. His fame in Beijing was not bad, but he was after all not an extremely popular celebrity like Zhang Yuanqi. There was limited exposure for him, so there were still many people who could still recognize him despite him wearing sunglasses. A key reason was the environment. If this was a television station entrance or some celebrity party, if everyone saw Zhang Ye wearing sunglasses, they might be able to guess that it was him, as they already had the idea planted in their heads. However, this was an ordinary junior high school's new year's party. Everyone only felt Zhang Ye looked familiar, but they didn't think too much about it.

"Mengmeng!" A woman called out to her from somewhere.

Mengmeng hurried waved, "Hehe, Teacher Leng (Cold), I'm coming!"

The average-looking woman in black-framed spectacles was clearly Cao Mengmeng's head teacher. She grumbled, "You are always the slowest. Where are your parents?"

Cao Mengmeng pointed to Zhang Ye and added sound effects, "Dang Dang Dang Dang!"

Teacher Leng nodded at him with a smile, "You are?"

Zhang Ye smiled, "Hello Teacher Leng, I'm Mengmeng's brother. This girl must have troubled you."

Teacher Leng shook his hands simply, "It's alright. This child, Mengmeng is not that bad. She's the jolliest person in the class, just that she's not that motivated in her studies. After this, we can have some one on one conversation. I've already told her parents a few times, but it wasn't very effective. As her brother, you should be closer to the child. Your words might weigh more than her parents. She is especially bad in her language. I'm her language teacher and also head teacher. It's almost time for the final exams. As her teacher, I'm worried for her. Her basic knowledge is lacking and her essays aren't good either. Right, also her math results, that is..." This head teacher was clearly quite a responsible teacher. Even on a day like new year's, she still concerned herself with the child's studies.

Cao Mengmeng gave a face of helplessness and signaled to Zhang Ye with her eyes: See, what did I say? Isn't my teacher on stimulants the moment she sees my guardian?

Zhang Ye kept saying yes, "Alright, alright. I'll go back and scold her."

Teacher Leng acknowledged, "Then teach her well." She then noticed the time, before she hurriedly said, "Heh, I'll stop at this. We need to take out seats."

Cao Mengmeng cried out, "Why aren't there any seats left?"

Teacher Leng turned around and noticed the seats she reserved for her class were gone. There were even a few parents of her class' students standing in the aisle. "Parents, sorry about that. Today, our school didn't prepare the proper arrangements. There will be chairs prepared behind. Please make do and sit in the aisle. We are really sorry. Let us all make do with it."

Teacher Leng herself could not get a soft seat. When she saw a more elderly parent, she gave up her seat. Then, she went to get chairs, and found people to move several chairs over. She sat with a few parents in the aisle. The other classes were in similar situations. Some classes did not fill up their seats, so the neighboring classes spilled over. Those that were full, could only sit in the aisle. However, their own head teachers did not sit in the aisle.

Hence, Teacher Leng was quite a good head teacher.

Zhang Ye did not hesitate. He indifferently sat on a small stool.

Cao Mengmeng refused, "Bro, why don't you take my seat. You are a big celeb..."

"Enough, it's no big deal." Zhang Ye interrupted her. "Take the time to prepare your recital. Isn't it your turn in the latter half?"

"Then...alright." Cao Mengmeng returned to her seat. She was surrounded by her classmates.

Beside her, a girl giggled, "Mengmeng, who's that?"

"My bro." Mengmeng said proudly and raised her neck, "He's handsome right?"

Another boy blinked, "Eh, why is your bro wearing sunglasses? It's so dark in the auditorium."

Cao Mengmeng giggled, "My bro is a superstar, so of course he wears sunglasses."

"Superstar? That's impossible, right?" A youth, who looked more mature, said.

A girl, who did not have good relations with Cao Mengmeng, harrumphed, "What star? Mengmeng is just bragging. I think your bro is just wearing sunglasses to act big."

Mengmeng tsked, "Lili, it's not that I look down on you. If I told you who my bro is, you would definitely die from fright!"

Lili pouted, "Keep bragging."

Cao Mengmeng curled her lips, "I can't be bothered about you."

A boy hurriedly eased the situation, "Mengmeng, Lili, don't fight. Every time you meet each other, you fight. Even if you are not tired, we would get tired from watching you two fight."

Star?

The other classmates also did not think much about it.

Teacher Leng heard their conversation and then looked sideways at Zhang Ye, who was sitting behind. She did find him familiar, but he seemed to have a common face, so she did not pay much attention.

"Little brother, you are?" A parent sitting next to him asked.

Zhang Ye looked at the middle-aged man, "Oh, I'm Mengmeng's brother."

The parent smiled while nodding, "Nice to meet you. I'm Pengpeng's father."

"I'm Qiaomeng's mother. Nice to meet you." Another middle-aged woman interjected.

Zhang Ye had a casual chat with a few parents. He was quite unaccustomed to a “parents’ meeting”. After all, they were in their thirties or forties, while he was still in his twenties.

“Little brother, what do you do for a living?” The middle-aged man asked in interest.

“Me?” Zhang Ye was stumped for an answer. If you said he was in literature, that wasn’t right. If you said he was a host, he was now temporarily suspended. Say that he’s in teaching? It was only to be reported tomorrow. So as he hesitated, the middle-aged woman beside had branched off the topic.

The woman asked, “Big brother, what do you do?”

The middle-aged man laughed, “I’m a newspaper editor. I arrange literature pieces before publishing them. We have even published Teacher Leng’s essays before. Back then, I arranged that edition. I only found a few months ago that the pen name, Cold Moon is our Teacher Leng (Cold). What a coincidence.”

A man beside said, “Ah? Teacher Leng has even gone on the papers before?”

The middle-aged man smiled, “That’s right. Teacher Leng is talented. Our editors were full of praise for that prose of hers. It was written very well.”

Teacher Leng gave a forced smile, “Brother Yang, don’t brag about me. I just got lucky. The bit of knowledge I have isn’t much talent.”

Brother Yang laughed, “You are being modest. If you lack talent, then who has?”

Teacher Leng smiled gently, “Of course Teacher Zhang Ye. I’m a fan of his. His poems are well-written, his programs are also good. He never uses a script, nor does he need to think. He can write anything he picks up. Every word he spews from his mouth is a literary work that stuns the world. Teacher Zhang Ye is a real talent!”

Brother Yang acknowledged, “That’s true. I’ve heard the compilation that Zhang Ye published has already sold more than 200,000 copies already. That isn’t some novel, but rather a literature compilation. This level of sales is defying the heavens!”

Teacher Leng said, “Out of those sales, I contributed three books. Teacher Zhang Ye’s poems are really too good. His essays and speeches are also world class. There’s nothing to pick on!”

The woman said, “I haven’t seen Zhang Ye’s works, but my younger sister loves him. She watches every episode of his ‘Zhang Ye’s Talk Show’ at least two or three times.”

Brother Yang lamented, “Now, in the literary world, the most aggressive newcomer is Zhang Ye. However, if I really want to compare, those masters with seniority are still better than Zhang Ye. In terms of literature, Zhang Ye’s works are probably inferior to those masters.”

Teacher Leng shook her head, “I don’t think so. I think Zhang Ye’s works are already on the same level as those masters. Neither of them is better than the other.”

Brother Yang looked at her, “Teacher Leng, I have a different view. If we are talking about derisive poems, then Zhang Ye can be said to be the most domineering in the country. He can indeed compare with those literary masters. “Dead Water”, “The Answer”, or even that lamenting “Prisoner’s Song” and “My Confession”, “The Song of the Stormy Petrel” too. In this regime, Zhang Ye has reached the peak. I

have to admit it, but in terms of love poems, Zhang Ye's works are basically blank. That "See Me or Not" is not considered a love poem. If one really wanted to count, that "Flying bird and fish" would be one. Hence, in terms of diversity and comprehensiveness, Zhang Ye is still inferior to those masters."

The woman said, "I've heard of 'Flying bird and fish'. It was very good."

Teacher Leng laughed, "Just one 'Flying bird and fish' is enough."

Brother Yang said, "But seriously, 'Flying bird and fish' is also 'The furthest distance in the world. At most, it's just a yearning towards love, and not purely a love poem. At least that's how I understand it. Hence, in the poetry system, where love is heavily weighted, Zhang Ye has yet to prove himself with his works. If he can produce another modern poem that shows the appreciation of love, then I will acknowledge him as a master."

Teacher Leng did not want to argue with him, "He will."

As they chatted, the topic had landed on Zhang Ye.

Sitting amongst them, Zhang Ye could not help but turn red from embarrassment. Listening to how others were praising him, with Mengmeng's head teacher even claiming to be a fan, Zhang Ye also smiled.

See!

Popularity!

This is what popularity is, comrades!

Chapter 289: Third Cousin's Poem Stolen!

It was the half hour mark.

15th Junior High's New Year's Party officially kicked off.

The opening was a female host standing on stage. From the students shouting off stage, "Teacher Li, you are really beautiful", "Teacher Li, you're too cool", it was obvious that the host was a guest appearance from the school's teacher. There were no outsiders today, so most of the programs were performed by the students.

The female host ignored the students howling and smiled, "Dear Leaders, guests, parents, and students, Happy New Year. Welcome to the 15th Junior High's New Year Talent Party. Next, let's invite Principal Qian to make his opening statement." This was a standard opening.

The host stepped down.

The principal stepped onto the stage with a smile. He was an old man, and looked like he was in his sixties. His hair was all white. He picked up the microphone and smiled, "I actually told them to cancel this segment, but they still added it in. For me, I won't be giving a long speech. Let's enjoy the exciting performances put on by our students. I'm already eagerly anticipating it. This way, I request the parents to witness the children's talented performance."

His speech was short, winning the applause of the students and parents.

The parents were all waiting for their own child's performance, so naturally they couldn't be bothered to hear the school's Leader's speech.

The moment the principal left the stage, the female host announced, "We officially begin the New Year's Talent Party. The first program will be the second class of the second year high school students bringing us an opening dance. Everyone, please welcome them!"

Bba Bba Bba!

A round of applause echoed!

The parents of the students were on full focus!

After a while, about fifteen boys and girls appeared. The background music was an American song with a fast tempo. These high school students danced to the music and from their actions, it was obvious that they had practiced for a while. Although they did not do so neatly, as amateurs, they were pretty good.

Zhang Ye could not help but be amazed. The junior high schools these days were increasingly open. They were beginning to follow international standards, and were no longer as strict as before. For example, back in junior high, his New Year's Party was just him singing a song with his class, or playing some games. There wouldn't be things like foreign songs and dances. Back then, they did not have any concept of this. Besides, their teachers would not approve of it. Back in his schooling days, there were three catchphrases to his school that never changed in his three years there. Anti-fire, anti-theft, anti-love. It was not like the atmosphere in the school now, where even love songs and poems could be performed in public? Ai, they sure had it good. Just thinking about it, Zhang Ye really suffered during his schooling days!

The opening dance came to an end.

There was applause and constant kudos from the audience.

"Alright!"

"You danced so well!"

"That's my daughter. Did you see her?"

"Haha, my son danced really well too!"

The second program was a junior high student in her first year. She chose to sing a song which was Zhang Yuanqi's song to fame. It was also her first song in the music industry, called "I don't Believe".

The female student began singing.

"After all the work, all I could do was return in failure. After all the fighting, all I could do was tear while watching my dreams. After all the thinking, why is my life so lowly? After all the lamenting, why is my voice turning haggard!"

"I don't believe, that my life is worse than others!"

"I don't believe, that I have not one bit of talent!"

“I don’t believe, that I’m destined to be a lowly person!”

“I don’t believe, that my songs will be left unanswered forever!!!”

Upon hearing this song, the atmosphere from the audience warmed up. Compared to the English song and foreign dance, the parents were more accepting of such songs. Everyone knew who Heavenly Queen Zhang was. Everyone had basically heard her songs. Many parents and children began to hum along with the song.

Even Zhang Ye got goosebumps listening to it. Although this was the earliest work of Zhang Yuanqi from many years ago, and was not as mature as the many works she currently had, the energy and expression in the song was very impressive. Zhang Ye had only spent a couple of months in this world. This was also not the first time he had heard this song. It was often used as background music on TV or variety shows or parties. He had heard it several times, and it was covered by many people. However, every time Zhang Ye heard it, he felt that the song was full of energy. It was an expression of a singer’s thoughts.

There was a story behind it. When Zhang Yuanqi entered the music industry, she already was somewhat accomplished on TV and other arenas. However, many people criticized her for entering the music industry, as her voice was not as clear and beautiful as the traditional singers of that period. Her voice was somewhat husky, so people were unaccepting of such a voice. They criticized Zhang Yuanqi for not being able to sing, and was not suited for singing. They urged her to go back to filming movies. However, with the advent of “I don’t Believe”, which Zhang Yuanqi first sang on a variety show, the final line, “I don’t believe, that my songs will be left unanswered forever” stirred the audience. This was the opening song to Zhang Yuanqi’s dominance of the music industry. From then on, no one doubted Zhang Yuanqi’s ability to sing!

A good song!

A classic piece of work!

From a while ago, Zhang Ye did not dare underestimate this world’s literary level. For such a classic song, if it was used in Zhang Ye’s world, he dared to guarantee that it would be extremely popular.

After the song was done, the girl received a warm round of applause!

“Alright!”

You sang well!”

“Haha, it’s sung not worse than a Heavenly Queen!”

Parents were more lenient towards children. Regardless if they sang well, everyone would support them. All of them gave their encouragement, making it very lively.

The third program was also singing. It was a high school boy singing rock.

The fourth program was choral music. They sang a traditional repertoire, “Ah, My Motherland”. However, Zhang Ye had never heard of it because it had not existed in his world.

The program carried on one after another.

The New Year's Party was almost half done.

At this moment, the bickering rival of Cao Mengmeng, Lili was no longer in the student seats. She was up next, so she was waiting backstage.

"It's Lili's turn."

"She's also reciting poetry?"

"Seems so. No idea what's she's reciting."

"Finally it's a program from our classmate!"

Once the program ended, the female host announced, "The next program will be a poetry recital. The performer is Chen Lili. Everyone, please give her a welcoming applause!"

Amidst the applause, Lili appeared on stage as she bowed slightly.

Cao Mengmeng tsked and looked up the stage, "She better not make a mistake. She looks nervous."

Lili was indeed nervous, but she still took out her manuscript. With a deep breath, she began reciting, however, the first line stunned Cao Mengmeng!

"The furthest distance in the world is not the distance between opposite sides of the world. It is that you don't know that I love you, when I stand in front of you. "The furthest distance in the world is not that you don't know I love you when I stand in front of you. It is when I cannot say I love you, when I love you so madly." Lili recited.

"She's reciting it pretty well."

"Flying bird and fish? I like that poem."

A few of her classmates began to chat.

However, Cao Mengmeng cursed, "Then what am I to recite!?"

"Ah? Mengmeng? What's wrong?" A male classmate asked with concern.

Cao Mengmeng cried loudly, "I also prepared this poem! Lili has scooped it from me!"

A party could not have two similar programs, especially poetry recital. Two people reading the same poem? That just wasn't right.

Teacher Leng and the surrounding parents also heard this.

The middle-aged newspaper editor exclaimed, "Little friend, then hurry and change poems?"

Teacher Leng also said, "Mengmeng, you were planning on this poem for your program too? Why didn't you report it?"

"Everyone did not report either. I only decided on the poem this afternoon." Cao Mengmeng was also worried, and was a bit freaked out.

Teacher Leng suggested, "Then try changing another poem? Doesn't Teacher Zhang Ye have several works?"

Cao Mengmeng said, "But, but I didn't prepare!"

The middle-aged man said with a wry smile, "Zhang Ye's other poems don't suit her. 'Dead Water'? 'The Answer'? These are all used to deride others. Even 'See Me or Not' is not suited for the occasion. Besides, that daughter of Father Wei had previously recited it at his wake, so it's not suitable for the party."

Teacher Leng also realized that it was true, "There's really nothing appropriate from Zhang Ye's poems. Then...why don't we forget it. I'll inform backstage to cancel your program."

Cao Mengmeng refused, "No way, no way, no way! I have to recite!"

Zhang Ye also interjected, "Mengmeng was looking forward to her performance, so you can't just cancel it, right?"

Teacher Leng had a headache as she said, "But it's already too late to change it now. Are there any suitable poems? Mengmeng wants to recite a love poem? Why not 'Spring Flowers'?"

Lili stepped off stage amidst applause after finishing her recital.

However, the female host announced the next program, and it was a high school girl reciting, "Spring Flowers"!

Great, it had also been grabbed away. These poems were too popular, so it was not surprising for there to be conflicts and repeats. Like those recital competitions, they were usually filled with those few classic poems. However, this was not a competition, but a New Year's Party. They definitely could not repeat a program!

"Mengmeng, why don't you recite, 'She is a Flower'?"

"That is a boy's love poem. How can I recite that?"

"Must you recite a love poem? I think "'Our Motherland's Land' is not bad. It praises the motherland. It's on the textbook too. Check it quickly and go on stage to recite it!"

"This poem is way overused. It's also outdated. I'm not reading it!"

Her classmates began to give Cao Mengmeng ideas, and shortly after, Chen Lili came back. Hearing that she had a conflict in programs with Cao Mengmeng, she was feeling happy.

Lili smiled, "What a coincidence!"

Cao Mengmeng gritted her teeth, "Why didn't you tell me you were reciting 'Flying bird and fish'?"

Lili harrumphed, "You didn't tell me either, so why should I tell you? Anyway, I've already finished reciting it. I don't mind you reciting it again, but the person who will feel the shame will be you! Hehe!"

Lili's mother was beside her as she knocked her daughter on the head, "How can you speak to your classmate like that?" Saying that, she looked towards Zhang Ye who wasn't far off, "Mengmeng's guardian, sorry about that."

Zhang Ye smiled, "It's alright. It happens. No one would have thought this would happen."

Chapter 290: To The Oak saves the day!

At the party.

Teacher Leng's class was all speaking in whispers.

"It will be Mengmeng's turn in three programs?"

"This program is ending soon too. There's not enough time."

"Mengmeng, I think you can forget it. There will be a chance next time."

"That's right, you can't read that 'The furthest distance in the world' again, right?"

"All of them are reciting poems now. All the famous love poems have been recited. There's no other classic works left."

Cao Mengmeng was very popular in class, especially with the boys. They all liked her, so they began to come up with ideas for her, but most of them recommended her from going onstage.

Lili also said with a smile, "Don't go, you will shame yourself."

Teacher Leng looked at Mengmeng and said, "The more famous love poems have indeed been recited. As for other types of poems, the famous and classic ones are gone too."

Cao Mengmeng stomped her feet angrily, "I want to recite! I don't care!"

Zhang Ye knew this little rascal liked to show off. She had prepared a lot for this moment. Mengmeng's temper was as stubborn as his, so it was impossible to not let her go onstage. Zhang Ye sighed and immediately checked on the internet for suitable love poems with his phone.

In the end, Cao Mengmeng suddenly looked towards Zhang Ye and her eyes lit up. She squeezed her way towards him and pulled Zhang Ye away, "Bro, follow me!"

Zhang Ye was stunned, "What?"

"Just follow me!" Cao Mengmeng pulled him out of the auditorium.

There was a hall and lounge outside. A few parents were smoking here.

Cao Mengmeng found a secluded spot and said to Zhang Ye with a helpless look, "Bro, your sister is in trouble. You can't turn your back against me!"

Zhang Ye waved his cellphone, "Am I not looking for a suitable love poem for you now?"

Cao Mengmeng stared with her smiling eyes, "As a Peking University's Chinese department lecturer, do you need to look for the poems of others? Just make one for me!"

Zhang Ye almost fainted, "Do you think it's that easy? Writing one whenever you want one?"

"Isn't every poem of yours written as you wished? Aren't they created on the spot? I don't care! You have to write me a love poem! It can't be worse than 'Flying bird and fish'! I must surpass that darn Lili! Did you see the attitude she gave me? Did you see it? How infuriating!" Cao Mengmeng stamped her feet and kicked a sofa in the lounge. She looked very cute.

Zhang Ye helplessly said, "Then what sort of poem do you want?"

"Love, from a woman's perspective!" Cao Mengmeng made her request.

Zhang Ye touched his nose and said depressingly, "Even so, it's too late. It's almost your turn, right?"

"It will be on time! If you can write it, I can read it!" Cao Mengmeng goaded him, "Bro, it can't be that you can't write it out? Could it be the media making you out to be that good was all a fluke?"

Zhang Ye stared at her and was one who succumbed to goading, "I can't write one? Don't joke with me. What a joke. It's just a woman's perspective love poem. Just wait and see!" Saying that, Zhang Ye took out a pen from his jacket. It was a pen he brought along with him to give autographs. "Do you have paper?"

There was a flyer on the table which was blank on the back.

Cao Mengmeng did not care and took the flyer, "Here!"

Zhang Ye sat on the sofa and laid out the paper. After a thought, he already had an idea in mind. Let's use this poem. Anyway, it was from a woman's perspective and was a soft, beautiful love poem, it was not suited for Zhang Ye. Since it could not be used despite being in his head, it would be such a waste. Hence, he decided to use it to help save his third cousin's face. Upon thinking of this, Zhang Ye no longer hesitated. He began scribbling with his pen. The paper was a real estate flyer, so it wasn't of good quality. However, with Zhang Ye eating calligraphy skill Experience Books, his writing was quite nice. In two or three minutes, lines of poetry appeared on the piece of paper.

He finished writing.

Zhang Ye handed the script to her, "Look for words you don't know. I'll tell you how to read them. As to where to pause, I'll recite it to you once."

Cao Mengmeng nodded seriously, "Alright!"

Five minutes later.

Zhang Ye returned to the auditorium and sat at his seat.

Cao Mengmeng did not return and directly went backstage to wait for her turn. At this moment, the little girl's face was full of joy and excitement. She did not know how good the poem was, as she could not appraise it with her literary and artistic standard as a junior high school student. However, Cao Mengmeng was filled with confidence. Why? There was no why, just because it was a poem written by her bro! It was created today on the spot! As for how awesome Zhang Ye's poems were, Cao Mengmeng already knew from the internet. There were countless people who followed his tailwinds and there were even thousands of worshippers. She knew that even the worst modern poem her cousin wrote would

receive 40,000-50,000 hits. Zhang Ye's worst work was already much better than the best works of typical poets or literary scholars!

Could this poem be bad?

Of course not!

Cao Mengmeng bounced around humming a melody. She was ready backstage. She did not know the meaning of the poem, but all she needed to do was read it ad verbatim!

.....

Inside the auditorium.

In the audience seats.

Zhang Ye returned and did not cause a commotion.

Only Teacher Leng looked over, "Where's Mengmeng?"

"She's backstage." Zhang Ye said.

The newspaper editor said at a loss, "Is she preparing to recite 'Flying bird and fish'? Hur Hur, that little girl sure is stubborn. Not bad."

Zhang Ye gave a vague smile, "I don't know either."

Teacher Leng smacked her lips, "That Mengmeng sure is... She never listens."

Onstage, the ongoing poetry program had also ended. The performances were clustered together.

The female host came on stage again as she smiled, "Next up, a poetry reciter. The performer is Cao Mengmeng. Everyone, please welcome her."

There was sparse applause and not very warm. There was no other way since with seven or eight poetry recital lined back to back, and with popular and classic poems that everyone had heard countless numbers of times, no matter how good the poem was, it was quite sickening. Hence, the enthusiasm from the teachers, parents, and students present were beginning to fade. Upon hearing the next program was a poetry recital, everyone was not that interested. Many people were even yawning.

"Another poem?"

"So boring."

"This program's arrangement is problematic."

Many people began to whisper.

Only Teacher Leng and her class raised their spirits as they were concerned about the recital.

"Ah, Mengmeng is up!"

"She really went up?"

"Why didn't she cancel her section?"

"Mengmeng sure is too much. She is too stubborn."

"Are we listening to 'Flying bird and fish' again? Give me a break!"

Mengmeng's classmates were all at a loss about whether to laugh or cry. They were worried for Mengmeng.

However, Lili was grinning as she said, "When everyone listens to it, let's see whether Mengmeng's or my recital of 'Flying bird and fish' is better." With her reading first, she had all the advantage. Even if Mengmeng recited it very well, it was impossible for her to compete with her. She might even be criticized. After all, she had followed in Lili's wake, so Lili was wishing Cao Mengmeng would make a fool of herself on stage. She finally had a chance to see Cao Mengmeng shame herself!

The female host retreated.

Cao Mengmeng appeared from the side of the stage. With small steps, she walked up to the podium. As the previous person who did the poetry recital was a taller boy in high school, the microphone was adjusted a bit high. Cao Mengmeng had to struggle with her toes tipped to reach the microphone. She then adjusted it down.

"Aiyah!" With her feet stumbling, she nearly fell.

The female host rushed over to help with a smile when she saw this.

Mengmeng's actions were quite cute, amusing several parents in the audience.

"That young lady is so cute."

"Hur Hur Hur Hur Hur."

There was laughter, and most of it was kindly.

Zhang Ye also smiled as he looked forward to see his third younger cousin on stage.

Lili and the other classmates stared at the podium. Teacher Leng was looking at Cao Mengmeng with worry. Mengmeng and Lili were both from her class. If their poems clashed, as head teacher, it would reflect badly on her. The school's leadership would blame for failing to coordinating it properly.

The newspaper middle-aged parent exclaimed and said to Zhang Ye, "Your sister was just now very worried. Why does she look so confident now?"

Teacher Leng took a look and noticed too, "Did she find a new poem to recite?"

Another female parent said, "But all the famous love poems have already been recited today. What other work could she recite?"

The microphone was readied as Cao Mengmeng stood there silently. She suddenly closed her eyes. This was a reciting technique taught to her by Zhang Ye. If one could not use one's emotion to read the poem, then one should put one's actions into the recital. This would at least make people feel like you were bringing your emotions out into it. It was considered a trick.

One second...

Three seconds...

Five seconds...

Cao Mengmeng did not say a word.

"Ai, what's going on?"

"Why isn't she reciting?"

"Did she forget her lines?"

The students and parents looked at each other in wonder.

The principal of 15th Junior High also frowned. The female host was even more vexed. Just as she was about to remind Cao Mengmeng, and just as Teacher Leng and her classmates were having their hearts in their mouth...

Cao Mengmeng slowly opened her eyes.

"If I love you—I'll never be a clinging campsis flower.

Resplendent in borrowed glory on your high boughs;

If I love you—I'll never mimic the silly infatuated bird.

Repeating the same monotonous song for green shade;

Or be like a spring. Offering cool comfort all year long;

Or a lofty peak.

Enhancing your stature, your eminence.

Even the sunlight, even spring rain, none of these suffice!

I must be a kapok, the image of a tree standing together with you.

Our roots closely intertwined beneath the earth, our leaves touching in the clouds.

With every whiff of wind, we greet each other, but no one can understand our words. Y

ou have your bronze limbs and iron trunk, like knives, swords and halberds;

I'll have my crimson flowers, like signs, heavy and deep, like heroic torches."

Upon her reciting to here!

The principal was stunned! He nearly shouted 'f**k'!

Teacher Leng and the middle-aged newspaper editor were also dumbfounded!

Then, more and more parents and 15th Junior High's teachers began to stare stunned with their mouths agape. It was as if they had seen a ghost!

Cao Mengmeng recited,

"Together we'll share, the cold tidal waves, storms, and thunderbolts."

"Together we'll share the light mist, the colored rainbows."

"We shall always depend on each other."

"Only this can be called great love, wherein lies the faith, true and deep!"

"Love—"

"I love not only your stateliness."

"But also your firm stand."

"The earth beneath you."