

Superstar 611

Chapter 611 Premiere episode of Do You Remember!

On this day.

In the morning.

Zhang Ye was still sleeping and lazing around at home.

In recent days, after the public release of Grandmasters and its rising box office earnings crossing the 200 million mark, the pace of earnings had slowed down by quite a bit due to the issue of piracy. It was no longer rising as fast like before but instead felt as though someone had applied hard brakes to its momentum. The box office earnings had fallen greatly. However, this situation was already expected by the film producers and also something that was unavoidable in the film industry. It had become a normal phase in the lifespan of a movie and highlighted exactly how no movie was spared by the onslaught of piracy.

The box office earnings for Grandmasters were the highest in the country for this month.

Zhang Ye's reputation was also increasing very quickly, together with the pace of the movie. This could be seen from the amount of reputation points he gained as they were being added to his game ring at a rapid pace!

+1032!

+99!

+276!

+2123!

The points were credited to his game ring!

For Zhang Ye, whose reputation points had all been used up earlier, this was truly a lifesaver, something he needed very badly.

As for Zhang Ye's placing on the Celebrity Rankings Index, there were some movements in the past few days. In the C-list rankings, after having been quiet for some time, he finally took a critical step and moved into the top spot, number one! He was so close to rising to the B-list now!

It wasn't even a step anymore.

More like just half a step away!

With just a little push more, he would surely be able to swap positions with the last ranked celebrity on the B-list rankings. He was only this close from it now!

.....

Ring, ring, ring.

It was almost 11 AM when the phone started ringing!

Zhang Ye was still in dreamland when he suddenly got woken up. Sitting up on his bed, he looked to his left and right, yawning as he searched for his phone. Finally, he found it and picked it up to answer the call. "Who is this?"

It was Dong Shanshan on the other end. She said, "What's up? Still sleeping?"

"Shanshan?" Zhang Ye asked sleepily. "Yeah, what time is it now?"

"It's almost 11 AM." Dong Shanshan laughed and said, "You're getting really popular these days, are you going to a lot of socializing events too? Why were you still not awake yet at this time? What time did you get home last night?"

Zhang Ye said, "How would I have any social events to attend? You know very well how my relationships with the people in the entertainment circle are, and besides, you also know that I don't take up commercial performances either. I've been staying home for the past two days, waiting and checking my popularity score. Looking at it rising bit by bit makes me feel really good. I was even dreaming about it until you called."

Dong Shanshan said, "You've almost reached the B-list rankings?"

"Yup, almost. But I don't know when." Zhang Ye said conservatively, "There's still quite a gap between me and the last place person on the B-list, so I might not be able to catch up for sure."

Dong Shanshan said, "Hur hur. Oh, by the way, I just watched Grandmasters yesterday. The story plot isn't exactly my type of show with all that fighting and killing, but I must say that your acting is really good. That makes me wonder. We were both in the same class at the same school and taking the same lessons, so why don't I remember that we were taught how to act in the broadcasting department? Where did you learn acting? You're even that good at it? Even the fight scenes were done quite well. Did you fight for real?"

Zhang Ye laughed and answered, "I was self-taught, just self-taught."

Dong Shanshan said, "It's even doing so well at the box office. You could definitely be considered a movie star now since you're already a member of the 200 million club."

Zhang Ye denied it and said, "Oh come on, I was just part of the supporting cast, it doesn't mean much at all. Besides, this movie was just so-so. I will tell you that, honestly, there are many parts I'm not too satisfied with."

To someone from this world, Grandmasters might have been a breath of fresh air to the domestic film market with its high box office earnings, but in Zhang Ye's opinion, he felt that it was still somewhat lacking. It's true that it was pretty enjoyable as a movie, but could it be considered a classic? No, it was far from that. As Zhang Ye did not know how to make movies, he decided that once he knew how to make one and had a chance to become a director, he would definitely bring those classic movies from his world over to this world and make himself the lead actor. He would just film it in the way he liked without anyone daring to correct or criticize his Taiji Fist. When that time came, Zhang Ye would let everyone know what a good movie should be like! As for now, his focus was still on television programs. He did not have any spare time to get into the film industry, at least, not for now.

"How's your program going?" Zhang Ye suddenly asked her.

Dong Shanshan laughed and said, "I actually called to tell you about it. I've already recorded 3 episodes of the program. The first episode will be airing tonight at 9 PM. We've managed to get the next two days of the 9 PM schedule as well, so that means there will be three continuous episodes aired in a row. After that, we'll plan for it to resume the normal schedule starting from next Friday and airing it once weekly."

Zhang Ye blinked and asked, "Using two days of primetime slots over the weekend as well? Looks like the station is really putting a lot of confidence and importance on this. Sure then, I'll definitely catch it tonight. I've been waiting for it for so long now!"

"Me too, but I wonder what the viewership ratings will be like?"

"They won't be bad, guaranteed."

"Hopefully."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye started to look forward to the program as well. He had really been waiting for the program to air for some time now, especially now when he was also at a critical moment of sneaking up into the B-list rankings. He knew that he needed to drum up his advance and get to the next spot quickly, or else, once the momentum has passed, and if he still could not advance up in the rankings, he would probably have to wait for another time to do it again.

His parents had gone to work and did not prepare any breakfast for him, so Zhang Ye just casually decided to cook some instant noodles, returning back to his days as the "Instant Noodles Hero." As he ate his noodles, he browsed Weibo to check on the news.

Do You Remember had been promoted for many days now, but the level of discussion among the netizens still wasn't very high. It felt like, even though there was a bit of focus and attention on the program, it still wasn't enough.

"The premiere will be tonight?"

"Yes, it's going to be three episodes broadcasted over three days."

"Has Beijing Television gone crazy? They're really putting everything on this, huh?"

"I find it strange too. How could such an odd and idiotic program get promoted so much that they're even using other primetime programs' slots to support this lyric memorization show? Do You Remember...just hearing this name alone leaves me kind of speechless. What sort of lousy show is this!"

"Don't tell me there could be something more to it?"

"The show's trailer has already been released. It's just a competition for people to remember lyrics, what more could there be? It's all mentioned clearly."

"I don't think it will be that simple, after all, this is a program made by Zhang Ye. I'm part of the television industry and Zhang Ye's program production abilities are recognized by any and all of the industry insiders."

"That is the reason why I am so disappointed with Zhang Ye this time. Your sister, remembering lyrics...I can't see what's the selling point at all. If the viewership ratings can surpass 0.1%, they had better burn some incense to thank the gods!"

“Teacher Zhang has almost reached the B-list rankings, so if this show’s viewer ratings turn out well, then he might possibly ride on it together with his popularity from Grandmasters to propel himself into the B-list. But this doesn’t seem like it will be happening anymore now.”

“There’s definitely no chance of it anymore.”

“This show can’t possibly be any good.”

The netizens were mostly negative about the show, Do You Remember.

Following the release of Grandmasters, Zhang Ye’s popularity was currently on a rise. Even though its momentum was already weakening, it was still on the rise, just increasing at a slower rate. This was the reason why Zhang Ye did not know exactly when the moment would happen. Last night, there were already media and news reports that Zhang Ye’s promotion to a B-list celebrity would happen at any moment, but all of that turned out to be nothing. The birth of a new B-list celebrity was not a small matter in the entertainment circle, as after all, at this high level, any move by anyone would be greatly scrutinized. A celebrity at this stage could finally be considered a big shot. Their performance fees and worth would also be doubled from before!

More interesting was that the celebrity in the last spot of the B-list rankings was also a host, a very famous host from Central TV—Chen Ye. His career had mainly been focused around the different channels of Central TV, starting from doing documentary programs in the past, then doing interview programs before moving on to variety and large-scale gala events. He was even one of the hosts of the Spring Festival Gala for the past two years, and by that reason—if he could host the Spring Festival Gala—he was naturally very well-known in the country. In the realm of the A and B-listers, there weren’t many hosts who could reach this level. The number of those who did were easily accounted for with just the fingers on one hand. Chen Ye was precisely one of them.

It was at this moment.

On Weibo, Chen Ye actually posted a reply onto the topic that was promoting Do You Remember: “A show like this would surely not get any viewers, so why would anyone actually produce such a show? What are they even thinking!”

Chen Ye opened direct fire!

Nobody knew whether he had directed this shot at Beijing Television or at Zhang Ye!

Before his reply, this promotional Weibo message was not really getting much attention, but once Chen Ye started something, a number of Weibo users immediately rushed over to observe the commotion!

“Wow, Host Chen has said something!”

“Getting the popcorn ready and watching this!”

“Chen Ye vs Zhang Ye!”

“The battle of the two hosts!”

“This is the storm and assault of the status of a B-list ranking!”

If Zhang Ye were to rise into the B-list rankings, then without question, Chen Ye would be relegated to the C-list. With such a competitive relationship between them, this was the conflict that everyone was paying great attention to right now, especially since Chen Ye had said those words at such a critical period. It definitely did not help to control the netizens appetite for drama as they were all left guessing what would happen next!

“Come and see! Quick, they’re almost fighting!”

“@ZhangYe don’t thank me, just call me a Red Scarf!”

“Zhang Ye is notorious for his bad temper. I wonder what he will say to this or if he’ll even respond.”

“@ZhangYe come and put this person in his place! It’s your turn to stand up!”

“@ChenYe keep stepping on him, well done!”

“@ZhangYe someone is scolding you!”

“@ChenYe your criticism is still not strong enough!”

“Teacher Zhang, get him!”

“Teacher Chen, show him who’s boss!”

Many of these Weibo users kept stirring the pot, some wanting to look at mayhem and others wanting to create trouble. It all boils down to one sentence—a spectator could never get enough of drama!

Chapter 612 Crossing Half of China to Sleep with You!

[collapse]

Afternoon.

At home.

When Zhang Ye check his Weibo, he received a barrage of mentions from countless of people. He saw the comment made by that Central TV’s Spring Festival Gala host, Chen Ye, and just smiled at it, not bothered at all. He continued doing what he was up to, brewing some tea and lying comfortably on the sofa as he watched a little of the news and then some video clips.

Be bothered by him?

This bro doesn’t have that much free time to be bothered!

In the past, as long as anyone doubted or criticized him, Zhang Ye would return to them ten times their doubts and criticisms. But later on, having out-scolded almost everyone, he gradually stopped paying much attention to such incidents anymore. It’s not that his temper had changed for the better, just that he understood that some things were meaningless to be bothered by. Back then, when he wasn’t well-known or popular, if anyone tried to cast doubt on him, it was considered a big matter, so of course he had to fight against it. However, these days, with his popularity soaring and no longer still a small time celebrity, he knew that the more people who knew about him, the greater amount of criticisms he would get. If he had to reply to everyone who did that, then even if he had a hundred arms, it wouldn’t

be enough to fight back. There wasn't such time anyway, but most importantly, even if Zhang Ye did reply them, no one was able to out-talk him. If he won every single time, it would be meaningless, and thus he did not have the motivation to do so. So when he saw this, he just treated it as a laughing matter. This was also Zhang Ye's growth to a higher level.

The netizens were still waiting.

"Where's Zhang Ye?"

"Teacher Zhang, please come out quickly!"

"Someone is criticizing you."

"F**k, Teacher Zhang has been very quiet on Weibo recently. It's been such a long time since he's had a showdown with someone online. I'm not used to this peace at all."

"What do you know? Teacher Zhang has been longing for defeat. Having dominated for so long, he has yet to taste defeat but there aren't many worthy opponents that can make Teacher Zhang Ye appear anymore these days."

"That's sounds right when you put it like that."

"Haha, the mighty Teacher Zhang."

"You can't put it that way. Chen Ye is a Central TV host and has hosted the Spring Festival Gala before. In these past few years, he could be considered one of the most popular celebrities of the hosting world. He was also a graduate from the Media College and would be considered as Zhang Ye's senior. Let's not bring in the topic of other industries. Just putting it into context within the hosting world, Chen Ye's experience and capabilities are way ahead of Zhang Ye's. No matter how good Zhang Ye is, he still lacks the experience of hosting at Central TV or a satellite channel. I'll admit that Zhang Ye is a very witty talker and has a great competitive streak, but I still feel that compared to Teacher Chen Ye, he still lags behind by a bit."

"That's right, it's not possible to compare at all."

"Chen Ye's also Central TV's star host!"

"Yeah, I've seen many episodes of Chen Ye's interview show before. That mouth of his is really quick. If Zhang Ye really went at it with him, it would be difficult to predict who would win."

"Zhang Ye would definitely win. That's already been proven countless times."

"I think the victor will be Chen Ye."

"I have my money on Teacher Chen as well. Many of you think that Zhang Ye is formidable, but that's because he has never come up against anyone strong enough or another famous host who depends on their mouths for a livelihood. Teacher Chen is Central TV's star host and that title alone makes him someone to be feared."

"Why isn't Zhang Ye taking the challenge?"

"Is he getting scared?"

The netizens were coming up with all sorts of theories.

Someone even took the effort to set up a Weibo poll to pose the question of who would be able to outtalk the other if Chen Ye and Zhang Ye really did come up against one another. Those who craved nothing short of seeing the world burn immediately cast their votes. Vote by vote, in the end, the results between the two were almost the same. 49% had voted in favor of Chen Ye, while another 49% were rooting for Zhang Ye. 2% of the users had voted for an evenly matched outcome.

Later in the afternoon.

Zhang Ye did not surface amid all these commotions.

However, Chen Ye's fans did not let up on their barrage because of Zhang Ye's non-appearance. Since Chen Ye had already fired the first shot, as fans, they would not while the time away.

"What a lousy program! Remember your sister's lyrics!"

"Zhang Ye has already lost his touch!"

"Why are we even comparing Zhang Ye to Teacher Chen? How laughable!"

"Everyone, go to the search engines and search for Teacher Chen's name, that will help increase his popularity score. Let's not let that Zhang guy chase up!"

"Right, forwarding Teacher Chen's Weibo to increase his exposure!"

Suddenly, Chen Ye's Weibo updated again. With Zhang Ye ignoring him, he continued firing shots and pointed out: "These days, there are so many singing shows around on the market. It's understandable that you would try to innovate in this area, and we should also support it, but innovation doesn't mean that we should go against the conformity of a regular television show. I really don't know who came up with a lousy program such as the one that focuses on remembering lyrics. Is this done so that they can bring down all the other singing shows together with them?"

Chen Ye's fans echoed his sentiments widely.

"Ha, it was Zhang Ye who came up with the idea!"

"Teacher Chen has hit the nail on the head with his observations!"

"Zhang Ye's too full of himself, becoming cocky just because he achieved some results elsewhere!"

"Look, he doesn't even dare show himself anymore!"

At this moment, a hardcore fan of Chen Ye's appeared. It was a woman and she had a photo of herself on her Weibo. She wasn't fat or thin, but her looks were really terrible. With slanted teeth, a pointed chin and barely any eyebrows, her Weibo username was contrastingly named IAmGorgeous77. This person was a very active member of Chen Ye's fan club and all the other fan club members knew her as Gorgeous.

IAmGorgeous77 said: "I don't believe that Zhang Ye won't come out! Teacher Chen Ye, hehehe, could you back me up with some support? I know that you're very talented, much more so than Zhang Ye."

After those words, there was no more activity from her and no one was sure whether she was communicating in private with Chen Ye.

About ten minutes later.

IAmGorgeous77 suddenly made a surprising move. She publicly posted a picture of herself with her lips puckered up, looking ready to give a kiss, but those thick and twisted lips were really terrible to look at. What followed were some words that left everyone dumbfounded: “@ZhangYe, you’re the skin to my flesh; I am the buttons to your suit; you’re coffee and I am the beans, loving you with all my life is not enough! When I hear you, it moves my heart; When I see you, I lose myself; When I don’t see you, my whole body hurts; Even as I wash my feet, I long for you to be mine! Zhang Ye, come and marry me quicklyyyyy!”

Many people burst out laughing at this on Weibo!

It’s a proposal!

Someone has proposed to Zhang Ye!

It’s even such an ugly woman!

Chen Ye’s fans were all cramping up from their laughs.

“Hahahaha!”

“Gorgeous is so awesome!”

“Gorgeous77, well done! Disgust that Zhang Ye to his death!”

“This doggerel is so well written! Could it be the work of Teacher Chen Ye? It must be! I’ve always heard that Teacher Chen Ye’s poems are very good! Who says that only Zhang Ye knows how to write poems?”

“Zhang Ye, hurry up and come forward, someone has proposed to you! Hehehehe!”

Somehow, due to some reason, this Weibo post was getting a lot of attention and constantly being forwarded. Many others who did not pay attention to this before were now joining in on the commotion and watching the fun!

At the same moment, Zhang Ye also saw the post. His first reaction was to think that the person must be an idiot, right? Because Zhang Ye had always had ordinary looks since childhood, he never had biased opinions about others who didn’t look too good themselves. He even did not like it when others started harping about appearances, but this fan of Chen Ye right now was really quite interesting. She was willing to stand out to let others make fun of her and to be Chen Ye’s cannon fodder? It might look like Chen Ye’s fans were supporting her, but they were actually just making fun of her. Could she be any sillier than that and not understand the situation, and even “jump” around so happily? There are all kinds of people in this world, some with thoughts that you would never understand in your lifetime.

Seeing the ugly girl’s proposal to Zhang Ye getting forwarded with increasing pace, Zhang Ye’s fans could no longer bear to watch. They were all jumping up and down in anger!

“This is numbing. We did not care about your words, but you’re taking advantage of our silence?”

“Who is this disgusting person!?”

“Proposing? You ****?”

“Chen Ye, a person like you can even be a Spring Festival Gala host? Not only did you not control your fans, you’re even helping them cause trouble? Helping your fan compose doggerel to disgust Teacher Zhang? How crass! With your standard of doggerel, you even dare to think of competing with Teacher Zhang? Just because Teacher Zhang did not bother with your antics, you’re all biting even harder!?”

“It’s just a fight for a B-list spot, does it have to come to this!”

“Chen Ye is a sore loser?”

But it had to be said that Chen Ye’s fans had really achieved their objective. Many people had been riled up by Chen Ye’s ugly fangirl’s proposal to Zhang Ye. Many of them even started asking Chen Ye to help matchmake for them, but of course, most of them were Chen Ye’s fan troll army.

“Zhang Ye, come out quickly.”

“Our Gorgeous77 is a great beauty, lucky you, hahaha!”

There were a few fans who were really behaving with no class, as the calls for a conflict were flaring up.

Chen Ye did not say a single thing all this time. Nobody knew if he was condoning his fans’ actions or just observing the situation, neither did he answer the question of whether he was the one who wrote the doggerel for IAmGorgeous77. Of course, those in the fan club who knew IAmGorgeous77 also knew that she did not have such a flair for writing.

As the excitement mounted.

Zhang Ye browsed through Weibo while shaking his head. He was increasingly despising the behavior of Chen Ye and his fans. He really did not want to bother them at the beginning, but they kept trying to stir up trouble. Isn’t it just a matter of trying to gross someone out? You’re too damn funny, did you think that only you know how to gross people out? Proposal?

On Tieba.

Zhang Ye’s fan club had already set up camp and were all asking for permission to start battle!

“Teacher Zhang, we have to hit back at them!”

“I’m a girl, let me do it, f**k, I can propose too! I’ve just taken an even more disgusting picture, so let me go and gross out that Chen Ye and his fans!”

“I’ll do it!”

“Don’t argue with me, let me do it instead!”

“Which of you guys could possibly be uglier than me? Let me do it instead!”

“Is Teacher Zhang around?”

Suddenly, Zhang Ye appeared in Tieba and said: "I'm here. I've already read everything. As everyone here should know, we only abide by one principle—we will not attack unless we are attacked, if we are attacked...we will return the favor tenfold! Comrades, it's not only them who can come up with poems!"

"Teacher Zhang is finally here!"

"They were really too much! We have to f**k them up!"

Zhang Ye announced: "I just happen to have a poem ready here."

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A few minutes later.

Just when countless other Weibo users were attracted to this commotion between Chen Ye's fan club's "attacks" on Zhang Ye, as those fans of Chen Ye were celebrating and enjoying the fruits of their victory, a poem surfaced online. Following that, the poem appeared again when another Weibo user posted it, followed by the third, and so forth. These were all the same poem being posted by Zhang Ye's fans. Soon enough, a few hundred posts of the same poem had been "dedicated" to Chen Ye!

When Chen Ye saw it, his face turned green!

When Chen Ye's fans saw it, they were all so grossed out that they nearly vomited blood!

.....

This was the contents of the Weibo post:

@ChenYe !

Crossing Half of China to Sleep with You

Actually, me sleeping with you and you sleeping with me is basically the same, not much difference.

It's just the slapping of two bodies, nothing more than the forced blooming of flowers.

Simply through the illusion of spring created by these flowers we mistakenly believe that life has begun anew.

Across half of China, everything is happening: volcanoes erupt, rivers run dry,
political prisoners and refugees abandoned,
elks and red-crowned cranes held at gunpoint.

I braved the hail of bullets to sleep with you,

I pressed endless nights into a single dawn to sleep with you,

countless parts of me ran together and became I to sleep with you.

Of course, there are times when the butterflies lead me astray,
confusing praise for spring.

Yet these

are all the more reason I must sleep with you!

.....

The key to this poem was that it was delivered to Chen Ye by all sorts of people, both men and women. There was even a male fan that went by the name of ZhangYe'sGayGoodFriend who copied IAmGorgeous77's style and sent a picture of himself giving a kiss. He even edited this picture and composited Chen Ye's photo into it and posted it together with the poem Crossing Half of China to Sleep with You. That impact and nauseating effect that rushed at anyone who saw this Weibo post immediately made them to vomit all over their floors!

Chen Ye's fans were all angered and confused!

"Holy shit!"

"That's such a dick move!"

"What the f**k did it mean by 'the slapping of two bodies'?"

"I can't take it anymore, I'm going to vomit!"

"Why is there even a guy in there!"

"Those bastards! They're so disgusting, those people!"

IAmGorgeous77: "....."

Initially, they had wanted to gross out Zhang Ye and his fans to achieve their objective, but who could have expected that they would be grossed out by them instead!?

Many of the netizens who saw this were cheering happily at the turn of events!

"This poem is too brainwashing to read!"

"Godly poem!"

"It's indeed Zhang Ye! This poem must have been drafted by him!"

"Chen Ye's fan club have stubbed their toe this time by kicking an iron plate! It's definite now that Zhang Ye and his fan club's battle powers on Weibo are indeed more powerful!"

"This incident was actually quite boring to begin with. We can only blame Chen Ye alone for letting water seep into his brains. Look at how it turned out, they got grossed out instead! Well done!"

"This poem's too damn teasing!"

"Chen Ye, with so many people out there wanting to sleep with you, do you feel pressured?"

"No, if you all read it carefully, f**king hell, this poem does not look like it was just written hastily for fun. It might look pretty retarded, but if you really read and think about it, you'd see that there's a lot of depth to it!"

“You’re right! This poem really has quite a feel to it!”

“I’ve realized that I’m beginning to fall for this poem!”

”Zhang Ye really knows how to compose all kinds of poems. They’re all really meaningful as well and full of profundity. Compared to him, Chen Ye’s lousy doggerel is truly just a dog fart!”

At this moment, no one on Weibo was focusing on some ugly girl making a proposal anymore. Everyone was swept away by this Crossing Half of China to Sleep with You. It was such a quick turn of events! When Zhang Ye’s fan club posted this poem, it immediately got the attention of countless others and was forwarded by them as well, going viral. Almost instantly, it spread all over Weibo, Tieba, and the other large-scale forums!

“Chen Ye bit off more than he could chew!”

“How did this poem spread so quickly? Oh my God!”

“This would surely deal a blow to Chen Ye’s popularity!”

“Dammit, not even Teacher Chen could do it? He lost as well? There’s already no one left in this country who can stand against Zhang Ye’s march to the top!”

“In a scolding battle, Zhang Ye and his fans are invincible!”

“Yeah, no one can stop them!”

“Chen Ye’s fans were asking for it anyway. Of all the people to offend, they had to do it to Zhang Ye!”

Only Zhang Ye knew about the origin of this poem. It was by a poet named Yu Xiuhua from his previous world, a farm woman who was given the title of “poet with cerebral palsy.” Because of Crossing Half of China to Sleep with You, Yu Xiuhua became famous throughout China. For a month or two in his previous world, the poem spread all over the internet. Its spread and popularity was known to all!

As for Yu Xiuhua, she was caught in a mire of controversy.

Some people emphasized her disability.

Others claimed that she was a rare breed of poet.

Of these matters, Zhang Ye did not have much of an opinion nor any views about it. The reason he brought out this poem was because he had been incredibly pissed off and disgusted by those people and felt that it just wouldn’t be him if he did not retort. Just on Chen Ye’s lousy doggerel that wasn’t much of a doggerel, a limerick that wasn’t a limerick, even flattery would not make it comparable to Crossing Half of China to Sleep with You! How could they compare??

Chapter 613 Becoming a B-list celebrity!

[collapse]

From afternoon until night.

The modern poem was spreading virally across the internet!

Although Chen Ye and his management team made an emergency PR response to condemn Zhang Ye, it did nothing to help at all. Countless people were tirelessly forwarding the poem Crossing Half of China to Sleep with You and making a joke out of Chen Ye.

“Hahaha!”

“Teacher Chen is becoming even more well-known now!”

“Chen Ye will become the catchphrase for our gay comrades in the future!”

“That Zhang Ye is so mean!”

“You only know that now? When has Teacher Zhang never been mean before?”

“Why did you all have to provoke him? It’s not like you guys don’t know what kind of person Zhang Ye is!”

“We can’t put the blame on Zhang Ye for this matter. It was Chen Ye who was asking for it, so he deserves what he’s getting now. Chen Ye and his fans were being low class to begin with anyway!”

“Right, Teacher Zhang is still the classy one!”

“Hehe, why do I like Zhang Ye so much!”

“Comparing Chen Ye to Zhang Ye? So what if he’s a Central TV host! So what if he has hosted the Spring Festival Gala before? If you want to say that Chen Ye has more fans than Zhang Ye, I’d believe it! If you claim that Chen Ye has more experience than Zhang Ye in the hosting world, I’d believe it too! But if you want to compare them on their bickering abilities, then two of Chen Ye would still not out-talk Teacher Zhang! I kept wondering why anyone would even think that Chen Ye had a chance at out-talking Zhang Ye in the first place, why would the votes be so equally split at 49% each? What a bunch of morons!”

“That’s totally true, if you look back at the poll results now, there shouldn’t even have been any doubts as to who’d win it.”

“Yeah, the difference in power is too great.”

“Chen Ye and his fans deliberately tried to mock Zhang Ye, doubting him publicly, and someone even sarcastically proposed to him, coming up with all sorts of trick all day. But Teacher Zhang Ye just randomly came up with a poem and wiped them out just like that! This feels just like one of the phrases in Zhang Ye’s poem from the past: ‘With humor, he helped see to that the masts and skulls of Wei’s navy go up in smoke and ashes turn into’!”

“Just now, someone even mentioned that Chen Ye’s literary standards were comparable to Zhang Ye’s? I totally laughed at that. Just who gave such confidence to these people! Just look at the lousy stuff that Chen Ye came up with, then have another look at the poem that Teacher Zhang wrote. I am a student in a Literature Department at my school and this poem might feel very vulgar on the first read, not looking like a proper modern poem, but let me tell you all something, that is what a layman would see it as. Read it with care, line by line and word by word. In my opinion, this ‘sleep with you’ is just like a coat, and an artistic convergent for the whole poem. This poem really expresses something on another level of understanding. Volcanoes are erupting, rivers are running dry, political prisoners and refugees are abandoned, elk and cranes held at gunpoint; just looking at those phrases makes it very clear that

there's an element of societal reflection, and even an environmental message, and to sum it all up, it uses 'sleep with you' to draw it all in. This is such an artistic and high-level modern poem. Teacher Zhang Ye's literary standards are not something that people like you all, who only know how to use doggerel and limericks, could understand. Teacher Zhang could just randomly throw out a poem and the depth and profundity in it would all be lost on you all!"

Zhang Ye's fans were gaining strong momentum!

Because of the viral spreading of this poem, Zhang Ye's popularity was rising again, pulling the gap between him and Chen Ye even closer than before.

Chen Ye's fan club dispersed quickly as their morale took a serious blow, however a number of them still continued to refuse to back down.

"What are you all showing off for!"

"So what if he can write poems? Is that a big deal?"

"Wait and see about the lyrics memorization program! Beijing Television will surely pay a heavy price for believing in Zhang Ye's program plan! They will definitely lose their claim as the big brother of satellite channels in the north!"

"Right!"

"Wait for the great reveal of the downfall tonight!"

"If that lousy show's viewership ratings can pass 0.2%, then I will twist my head off!"

"Hur hur, I'm guessing even if you set it at 0.1%, you still would not need to twist your head off! So don't set it at 0.2%!"

In the end, the focus was back to the program Do You Remember. This round of scolding battles had started because of it, so naturally it must end with it as well. Everyone was waiting for a conclusion as to whether Chen Ye could safeguard his ranking or if Zhang Ye would usurp his position and rise up into the B-list rankings. The outcome hung on this show's performance.

.....

After dinner.

His mother was picking her teeth with a toothpick when she asked, "Son, did you get into a war of words with others again this afternoon?"

Zhang Ye who volunteered to do the dishes today said from the kitchen, "Whoa, you even know about that?"

"I heard people talking on the bus when I was on the way home. What happened?" his mother asked.

Zhang Ye sighed and said, "It's about the program that I planned for Beijing Television. It's premiering tonight but no one believes that it will be good, so there were a bunch of people who came to insult me."

His father who was reading the newspapers said, "It's airing today?"

"Yeah, at 9 PM," Zhang Ye said.

His mother said, "Actually, when I saw the show's trailer, I didn't feel that it would be interesting either. Remembering lyrics? There's no requirement of skill in that at all."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Just wait and watch it tonight then."

At 8:50 PM.

Zhang Ye's parents were both seated in front of the television and waiting for the show to start.

At the same time, all over the country, many viewers were also waiting in front of their TVs and tuned in to Beijing Television. Before this, there was hardly any attention given to this program, but after the scolding battle in the afternoon, the news surrounding Do You Remember was stirred up a little as well. It attracted many curious viewers, most of whom were not exactly expecting the show to be any good, but just watched anyway because they wanted to know what the program was about, to see it in its true form. Even Chen Ye, along with his fans and those "foes" of Zhang Ye were waiting to watch the program. People like crosstalk actor Tang Dazhang and the Beijing Writer's Association's Meng Dongguo were also watching Do You Remember simply for the reason of seeing how bad it would turn out. They were all watching with the hopes of laughing at the quality!

Counting down.

Three minutes...

Two minutes...

One minute...

The music played first then the program officially began broadcasting!

On screen, the lights in the studio flashed and the outstanding stage effects began. In the large studio, more than a hundred live audience members had turned up and were cheering in unison. With the dynamic music and opening dance, the atmosphere in the venue had been charged up and lighted up the whole stage as two hosts, a man and a woman, walked on!

"Good evening everyone!" The male host who was dressed in a suit was called Gao Ge.

Meanwhile, Dong Shanshan was dressed in a evening gown, not the type of evening gown one would wear for a red carpet event, just a modest one that was more suited for a lesser occasion. Her thighs were rather exposed and it made her look very sexy. However, possibly due the the male host's height, she did not wear high heels of eight centimeters but only an orange pair of high heels around five or six centimeters.

Dong Shanshan smiled very charmingly as she said, "Friends who are with us in the live audience and those of you who are at home in front of your television, good evening to all of you!"

Gao Ge was also in high spirits as he did the introduction. "Welcome, everyone, to the newly minted variety program brought to you by our sponsors, Hua Mei Shampoo and proudly produced by Beijing Television: Do You Remember!"

Dong Shanshan continued his lines, "This is a program where the entry barriers are the lowest in the country, with the simplest of rules, which only stands at one: whoever can sing the lyrics correctly. We're not looking for good voices or stage presence, we don't care if you're pretty or handsome, or neither, all we want to know is who has a better memory. As long as you can correctly sing the designated lyrics, you'll win! So what are you all still waiting for? Quickly come and sign up to take part now!"

Gao Ge said, "I am your host, Gao Ge!"

"And I am also your host, Dong Shanshan!" It was obvious that Dong Shanshan had more lines than Gao Ge and was probably something that was arranged by Hu Fei and Beijing Television, giving special care to Dong Shanshan.

.....

At home.

His mother's eyes brightened. "Is that your classmate?"

Zhang Ye nodded. "Yes."

His father looked at the television and said, "I think I saw her before—when we attended your graduation ceremony."

"Yeah, she was one of the graduate representatives and made a speech too," Zhang Ye said.

His mother looked a little odd, as she kept staring at Dong Shanshan on screen and did not blink at all. Then, she said, "This girl looks quite good, she's really pretty. Son, does she have a boyfriend yet?"

Zhang Ye said, "Whoa, what are you thinking about?"

His mother said, "I'm not thinking about anything, I'm just asking."

"Probably not." Zhang Ye said, "At least that's what she said. But to be honest, her words are not very trustworthy and I don't think most of what she says is true either."

His mother immediately asked, "There are no developments between the two of you?"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes and could not be bothered with her anymore.

His father commented, "Don't keep trying to mess around. Our son will know what to do."

His mother did not like hearing that, so she said, "What do you mean by 'messaging around'? Look at our neighbor Little Wang. He has only just graduated from university and he's already going to get married soon."

His father rebuked, "Why don't you talk about the other neighboring unit's Little Sun. He's about to get a divorce."

“Old Zhang! Are you bent on singing a different tune from me?” his mother said angrily.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, “Keep it down, you two. Can we just watch the show now?”

On TV.

The core segment of the program had started!

A very normal looking male lead singer was standing on stage and singing a classic oldie while Dong Shanshan was among the audience, moving around. When the lead singer stopped singing, she would point the microphone to a seemingly random audience member to let them pick up from where the lead singer left off at. If they got the lyrics correctly, they would win the right to take part in the competition.

The song’s title was Just Yesterday.

This was a song by an old singer who had already passed away. It was a classic folk song.

“Just yesterday, you were on the horizon, walking to me with a smile.”

“Just yesterday, you were facing me, your eyes looking sweet.”

“Just yesterday, you were beside me, gently leaning on my shoulders.”

“Just yesterday, you were behind me, slowly caressing my face.”

His mother was already humming along to the song, “Just yesterday, you were on the horizon...” singing with a slightly out-of-tune melody.

His father sighed emotionally. “This is a very old song, I could still sing it when I was younger, but I have totally forgotten the lyrics now.”

“Don’t lie.” His mother belittled and stepped on his claims, “You were tone-deaf since childhood, how would you be able to sing it?”

After the song ended and six contestants were chosen, they were all invited onto stage by Gao Ge and Dong Shanshan to officially begin the competition round.

Zhang Ye was still unfamiliar with the songs from this world. He did not know any of those that were performed at all. This was the reason why he did not pay attention to it but was only observing at Dong Shanshan’s performance instead. He thought it was rather good. She did not look like she was nervous due to her small-timer reputation or never having hosted at a major satellite channel before. She was indeed worthy of being one of the top graduates from Media College in their year. As her old classmate, Zhang Ye knew her quite well and had never doubted her abilities at hosting. Some people judge her to be just a “vase,” but it was true that she had really good looks and a great figure, distracting others from her job abilities. So even though she had a pretty face and a nice figure to her advantage, it was also her weakness. She did not lack the ability, she just lacked a chance like this!

Dong Shanshan said, “Alright, let’s begin with the first contestant.”

Gao Ge said, “Are you ready?”

The first female audience said, “I’m ready!”

Gao Ge laughed and said, "The next song is going to be really great. It's an early work by the Heavenly Queen, Zhang Yuanqi, and very difficult to sing."

Dong Shanshan said, "The title of the song is Please Look at Me. Over to our lead singer, Little Hai."

The music began. At the side of the stage, the second lead singer picked up the microphone. This lead singer looked very handsome and had quite a good voice as well. When he started singing, all the audience members cheered loudly.

"Please look at me. Is this the person you loved so deeply? Why, when you were in your hardest times, did she turn to go."

"Please look at me. Is this the friend you trusted so much? Why, when you were down on your luck, did he never look back."

"Please look at me. Is this the you who you liked so much?"

At this point, the lead singer, Little Hai made a gesture and the camera view switched to the contestant.

The female audience was clearly familiar with this song. She immediately continued from where it was left off, "—Why do I have nothing, even though I tried my most!" Although she did not sing it well, she had gotten the lyrics right!

"Congratulations!"

"You got it right!"

The show continued from there.

Zhang Ye looked at his mother and asked, "Mom, what do you think?"

His mother who was still focusing on the screen, humming along. She absent-mindedly asked, "What do I think about what?"

"The show of course. Didn't you say it didn't interest you?" Zhang Ye said.

His mother just nodded and said, "It wasn't interesting from the trailer and previews, but not bad when you watch it. Compared to all those singing competition programs these days, it's much more interesting!"

.....

On the internet.

On Weibo, some voices also stirred.

"Did anyone watch Do You Remember?"

"I caught it. Damn, it was actually much better than I expected!"

"Is that so? I thought it was only alright."

"It's really nice. My brother and I were singing along for most of the time. Did you all hear the second contestant? He's not even half as good as me. If I joined, I'd definitely do much better! No way, I have to register for it soon!"

"This quality of this program is really high!"

"So this is how you can make a variety show out of remembering lyrics? Zhang Ye is indeed Zhang Ye! Who says that he has lost his touch? Who says that his program will be a failure?"

"How strange is this! We knew the rules of this show early on, and the content of the show was exactly the same as the promotional preview. There's no change at all to the core of the program which emphasized remembering the lyrics, so what happened? I did not look forward to this show at all before, but why do I find it so enjoyable after watching it?"

"Yeah, I was wondering about that too. Just what is so interesting about this show? There shouldn't be any at all. Only one of the lead singers was quite good looking. Although the female host is quite sexy and pretty, she's still a rookie and I've never even seen her before. The contestants on the show are also pretty bad at singing. Just look at this fourth contestant singing totally off-key. The stage equipment is not exactly the most well-equipped either and overall the whole show looks pretty low end, but...I just can't keep myself from enjoying this damn show!"

"This show's rules just needs you to remember the lyrics, but that's not its selling point! This show is not like your traditional singing competition program. It's selling point is pretty concealed, like how the show looks really low end, but is in fact really at a high standard!"

"Well done!"

"The viewership ratings will be difficult to predict!"

"Right, the viewer rating is a question mark right now. It might not really be that bad at all!"

"We'll know when we see the results tomorrow."

"I'm not gonna talk about this here for now, I have to go watch the show! It feels really relaxing to sing along while watching. After such a hard week at work, it feels kind of refreshing to be able to watch a show that can help me to relax."

Soon after.

The show finished airing and the first episode of Do You Remember ended successfully.

Zhang Ye's parents went to wash up before heading to bed, while Zhang Ye did not turn in yet. He was back in his room, checking on the internet for everyone's comments. At about 11:50 PM, when he knew that the day's viewership ratings would be released internally to the stations, he gave a call to Hu Fei.

The call connected.

Hu Fei said: "Little Zhang, I knew you'd call."

Zhang Ye laughed: "Yes, it's my program proposal, of course I'd be concerned about the results. So how did it do? Are the viewership ratings released yet?"

Hu Fei said: "They were just released."

"How much?" Zhang Ye asked.

Hu Fei said: "Hur hur, guess."

Zhang Ye thought for a moment before saying: "The first episode is surely not going to be very high. This kind of a program is the type that will get popular only after a while and will be more apparent when we hit the third episode. I guess the 50 cities' viewership rating is 0.5%?"

Hu Fei laughed heartily and said: "That's a bit short. The draft report I have for the 50 cities' viewership rating for the first episode of Do You Remember is 0.63%! It's second place for the same time period in the entire country!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said: "Good then. It surpassed the estimates by quite a bit!"

Hu Fei said: "To be honest, I didn't expect such a result either. Such an auspicious start to the first episode will surely boost the station's confidence in this program. Our team feels the same, and for the next episode, we have confidence that the ratings will be even better. Little Zhang, most of the program team is still at the office right now. We were all waiting for the viewership ratings to be released. Now that it has, we're all getting ready to go to supper to celebrate the good results. Why don't you join us too?"

"Forget about me." Zhang Ye said: "I only gave the proposal and was not involved in the production. Since I did not contribute to the show, I don't think I should join in the celebrations."

Hu Fei said: "Hur, since when did you become so modest? I'm not used to you being like this at all!"

.....

The next day, the viewership ratings for the premiere episode of Do You Remember were released.

When the viewers saw the ratings, without exception, everyone was astonished!

"Ah?"

"Did they get it wrong?"

"0.63%? How did it get so high?"

"It's only their premiere episode!"

"It should be right. This show was really enjoyable to watch!"

"Second for the same time period in the entire country? Compared to another satellite channel's singing program, its viewership ratings are only 0.06% lower? Beijing Television has put out a killer program this time!"

"My eyes have been blinded!"

The people who saw these statistics were all dumbfounded.

There were also many people who did not watch the show last night and were thus left scratching their heads. A show that had been acknowledged by everyone as a rubbish program that had no hopes: how did it receive such an illogical viewer ratings figure? If this was only for the premiere episode, then wouldn't the viewership ratings for the later episodes get even higher?

"What's going on?"

"What's the matter?"

"Who can update me on what's happening here? Did Do You Remember create a miracle?"

Someone answered: "Why don't you guys just watch the show first? There's a video of yesterday's episode on Beijing Television's official website. Go take a look and you'll know why. The viewer ratings it had are really not that surprising at all!"

Zhang Ye's fans were also stirred up and getting lively with the viewership ratings released.

"@ChenYe !"

"Teacher Chen, what's your opinion on this matter?"

"Teacher Chen, please make a speech about your thoughts!"

"Who was the one who said that if Do You Remember gets a viewership ratings of more than 0.2%, he would twist off his head? Come forward now, it's time to show us your circus performance by twisting your head off."

"Waiting."

"Waiting for the head twisting performance."

"Waiting +10000!"

There's a saying that goes: "He who handles vermillion will be stained red, and he who touches ink will be stained black."¹ Zhang Ye's character could be considered a little mean, and among his fans, there weren't many that were pushovers either. They all jumped out together to do some face-smacking, riffing out some of those who had doubts about Zhang Ye's program planning abilities from before on Weibo and mentioned those public figures one by one.

"@TangDazhang, what's your opinion on this matter?"

"@MengDongguo, what's your opinion on this matter?"

"@ChenYe'sFirstAunt, what's your opinion on this matter?"

"@ChenYe'sSecondUncle, what's your opinion on this matter?"

"@ChenYe'sPrimarySchoolTeacher, what's your opinion on this matter?"

"@ChenYe'sSecondUncle'sWife'sNephew'sGrandma'sThirdAunt'sHusband'sSister, what's your opinion on this matter?"

Especially towards Chen Ye, Zhang Ye's fans were being all fanciful and invented all sorts of non-existent user handles related to Chen Ye, particularly having fun while doing so. They were all being their terrible selves!

Chen Ye's fans nearly fainted from anger in this onslaught!

They're pushing this too far!

They're totally pushing this too far!

However, in the face of the viewership ratings for Do You Remember, they could not muster up a response. This statistic was the real thing and even if there were some minor inaccuracies, it would not affect it by much!

On the same day, some online media outlets had also started reporting on this matter.

"Do You Remember—Great success on both fronts: well praised and popular with the viewers! "

"This year's big winner amongst singing competitions!"

"A singing competition program that subverts all traditional singing competition programs!"

"The legend of Zhang Ye's program planning abilities keeps going!"

"A crossing of swords between Chen Ye and Zhang Ye, who would be the victor?"

"Dong Shanshan: new star in the hosting world!"

On the second night, the second episode of Do You Remember was aired as planned.

On the third day, the viewership ratings for the second episode were published: Do You Remember's second episode's 50 cities' viewership rating—0.75%! Number one in the country for the same time period!

The next day, the third episode's viewership ratings were revealed!

Do You Remember's third episode's 50 cities' viewership rating—0.81%! It retained its number one spot in the entire country!

In just three short episodes, Beijing Television's new program segment had unexpectedly dominated Friday's primetime slot. In the current low of a market saturated with traditional singing competition programs, a show that had somehow managed to lead way ahead in the same time period ratings was something that not only the audience could not have expected, their industry peers, the media, and even Beijing Television Station itself...had not thought it was possible!

It greatly exceeded all estimates!

Seeing the viewership ratings rise like a rocket launched, it felt dreamy!

This was a proposal that was simply given out by Zhang Ye casually? These were the abilities of the television industry's legendary program planner?

.....

On the night of the third episode's broadcast.

Just as the interim viewership ratings for the third episode were released, the Celebrity Rankings Index was also updated. Zhang Ye's name was no longer listed in the C-list rankings, while in his place, a new name had appeared in the first spot. That name belonged to the famous host of Central TV, Chen Ye!

In this moment, at midnight.

Zhang Ye had quietly been promoted into being a B-list celebrity!!

Chapter 614 Reporters from nationwide clog the gates!

In the morning.

The day had just begun and congratulatory calls were arriving one after another.

The first call came from Yao Jiancai.

Yao Jiancai said: "Old bro, are you still sleeping?"

Zhang Ye replied: "Old Yao?"

Yao Jiancai continued: "I have seen the change in your ranking!"

Zhang Ye said: "Yeah, I finally sneaked onto the B-list rankings."

Yao Jiancai said: "Finally? Don't put it like you have already put in so much effort, since you've only debuted for a year or so. In the entertainment industry, who else has can have it so smooth sailing like you. Just look at your old bro here. Including my time in the crosstalk world, I have been working in this industry for more than twenty years, but where's my popularity? I don't even have a fifth of your success!"

Zhang Ye replied: "Yup, well said."

Yao Jiancai said: "—Stop being irritating. Come out for a meal when you're free?"

Zhang Ye said: "OK, I'll go if you're treating."

Yao Jiancai said: "My treat? You're really such a miser!"

The second call came from Dong Shanshan.

Dong Shanshan said: "Hello, may I know if this is Teacher Zhang? I'm sales agent 123 from the insurance company. I've heard that you have recently become a B-list celebrity. Our company is worried that your heart is unable to take this surprise, so we've specially launched an insurance policy, going for only 998! It's only 998!"

Zhang Ye said: "Man, if I didn't see the caller ID, I would've hung up. I couldn't tell who it was on the phone at all when you were talking with a high-pitched voice."

Dong Shanshan said: "Hur hur, congrats."

Zhang Ye said: "I should congratulate you too."

Dong Shanshan said: "I don't have anything to be congratulated on."

Zhang Ye said: "Oh c'mon, I know that you are also getting really popular now."

Dong Shanshan said: "Is that so?"

Zhang Ye said: "After the third episode of Do You Remember, I saw on the internet that someone had already given you a nickname: Goddess of Otakus. You already have your own fan club now?"

Dong Shanshan said: "I guess so. It was formed by the fans themselves."

Zhang Ye lamented: "Hai, having long legs is really an advantage."

Dong Shanshan said: "I can't be compared to you when you're the one who's secretly become a B-list big shot. Although we were both from the same class, our gap is too great. From now on, I have to look up to you in admiration."

Zhang Ye said: "I'll keep a low profile."

The third caller was Tian Bin.

Tian Bin said: "You defy all logic!"

Zhang Ye laughed: "Haha."

Tian Bin said: "It's been really busy over here at Central Radio Station recently. After being busy for over a month, I only came to know about it when I watched the news in this morning. Good god, you're already a B-list celebrity? How did that happen? How did you do it so quickly? I remember that you didn't even have a proper job in recent times? So how did your popularity rise by so much?"

Zhang Ye said: "Hai, after the Peking University incident, my popularity score went up by a lot. Later, I took part in a movie and also helped Beijing Television plan a new program."

Tian Bin said: "I really don't know what I can say to that."

On the other end, Tian Bin's wife's could be heard saying: "Teacher Zhang, congratulations to you."

Zhang Ye: "Ai, thank you, sister-in-law."

Afterwards, there were calls from Hu Fei; skit actress, Ci Xiufang; Wang Xiaomei from the radio station; Zhang Yuanqi's agent, Fang Weihong; Peking University's Chinese Department's Su Na; the publishing firm's Li Mei; and even Dean Pan of the Peking University School of Mathematical Sciences; etc. The only regret was the person whom Zhang Ye wanted to hear most from did not call him. Actually, Zhang Ye could call her but he did not want to disturb Old Wu's rest as she had been very busy at work.

He got up and went to wash up.

Zhang Ye did not feel sleepy anymore after getting so many calls and was unable to fall back asleep. Thus, he went out to have the breakfast that had turned cold which his parents prepared earlier before they went to work.

Ding dong.

The doorbell rang.

Zhang Ye, feeling a little suspicious, went over to open the door.

A young man dressed in work attire was standing outside the door and holding a bouquet of flowers in his hands, said, "Hello, are you Mr. Zhang Ye? This is your...ah!" That person was stunned and continued, "You're...you're Teacher Zhang Ye? These flowers are for you. Please sign to receive them." Although there was a name indicated on the delivery order, the name of Zhang Ye was far too common. This young man never expected this Zhang Ye that he was delivering to would actually turn out to be the Zhang Ye!

Zhang Ye signed for the delivery order and asked, "Who sent this?"

The young man hurriedly said, "The delivery order indicates it was from a Madam Wu but no full name was given."

Zhang Ye knew who it was, so he said, "OK, thank you then."

The young man quickly replied, "You're welcome, too welcome, no need to thank me."

When the door closed, Zhang Ye looked at the flowers in his hands with mixed emotions. It being sent so early in the morning clearly meant it was not ordered at the last minute. His ranking update had only been released at 12 AM last night. If the flowers weren't ordered by Wu Zeqing last night, then Old Wu must have ordered in advance but did not fill in the delivery timing until the moment Zhang Ye became a B-list celebrity. Ever since Old Wu became the deputy chief of SARFT, her workload became increasingly heavy. Zhang Ye knew this as, when they were on the phone sometimes, Old Wu would still be working as she chatted with him. But even though she was so busy, Old Wu still thought about him, and this made Zhang Ye feel really touched.

Without any more hesitation, he made a call to her.

The call went through and Zhang Ye said: "Are you awake yet?"

"I just woke up." Old Wu's voice sounded very gentle and cheerful.

Zhang Ye laughed: "I got your flowers. Hai, how can I be the one receiving flowers from you first when I have never even sent you any before. I feel so embarrassed. I should have sent some to you first."

Old Wu laughed: "It doesn't matter who sends to whom first, do you have to be so clear about such things with me?" She let out a lazy yawn and then asked: "Have you eaten yet?"

"I just finished the fried breadsticks my parents left for me."

"Was it hot or did it already turn cold?"

"It had already turned cold."

"In the future, don't eat anything that has turned cold. It's bad for the stomach."

"Sure, I'll listen to you."

"Hurry up and drink some warm water to ease your stomach."

“OK, I will.”

“Go and drink first. We’ll talk again later.”

“Alright then.”

Old Wu was the kind of woman who knew just how to take good care of others. She was also very gentle and would dote on and respect others. It was probably only such a woman who could capture his heart. Zhang Ye would often lose his temper with other people, but with Old Wu, Zhang Ye felt a sense of calm whenever he was in her presence.

In the morning.

After watching the news for a while, Zhang Ye decided to go for a jog as he had not exercised in many days. He had already reached his goals ahead of time and whatever work that needed to be done was also done. Since there were no new job offers at the moment, the only thing left that he could do was training himself up and doing some self-cultivation while hoping for good news.

He met some of his old neighbors at the corridor.

“Little Ye, you’re already up?”

“Yeah, Auntie.”

“You’ve really made us proud. I heard that you already became a B-list celebrity!”

“It’s all thanks to everyone’s help. I’d be a nobody if not for all of you.”

“Heh, look at our Little Ye, how eloquent he is!”

“Where are you going?”

“I’m going for a jog, get some exercise.”

“Then you have to be careful. When we were buying our groceries earlier, we saw between ten and twenty reporters in the district. There was also an interview van from the television station outside. They’re blocking the path to the gate.”

“Really?”

“Hur hur, be careful and don’t get surrounded.”

“I understand, Grandma Zhou, thanks.”

Chapter 615 A short poem from Bingxin!

That morning.

Caishikou, in the district of Zhang Ye’s parents’ house.

Xiaoxue was riding her scooter, a bag that was carrying her interview equipment slung over her back. She rode her scooter at lightning speed, rushing to her destination, her hair a mess from the wind. She finally spotted the gates to the district community and quickly pressed the brakes. She could see many other media colleagues carrying their cameras camped outside the gates too. There were reporters from

the Beijing Times, Beijing Evening News, a correspondent reporter from a Beihe province, as well as reporters from the China Youth Daily newspaper.

Whoa, there were so many people here?

She felt done for, knowing that she would not be able to get the interview for sure!

With a bunch of people blocking the gates, would Zhang Ye even make an appearance?!

Xiaoxue got off her scooter listlessly. She didn't hold much hope in the first place when she got delegated with the task this morning at the newspaper firm, knowing that she was unlikely to get a chance to interview Zhang Ye at all. She was an entertainment news reporter, and although only a newbie with half a year under her belt, she had been through all kinds of major and minor interview experiences. She knew the the difficulties of being an entertainment news reporter. Even though it was easy to interview some celebrities because of the fact that those were the small timers, those interviews were in fact quite worthless and wouldn't make it to a good spot in the newspapers. If they wanted their interviews to be on the front or second page, then they had to interview the big shots, as only a big time celebrity would have news worth reading. However, what was the concept of a B-list celebrity? That was equivalent to celebrities who were well-known throughout the country. Scoring an interview with a celebrity that was B-list and above would be good to have but hardly ever guaranteed. You'd have to stay alert to the news, have a way, get tips, be focused, and have a strategy. It even encompassed good communications skills, sometimes needing to scale a wall or climb a building, using whatever means possible, before you might end up getting a chance to interview a big shot celebrity in unofficial circumstances. It was as difficult as climbing into the heavens.

"Xiaoxue!" A middle-aged man called out to her.

Xiaoxue locked her scooter, then ran to him and greeted, "Brother An."

Brother An, lugging a camera around, said, "Why are you so late?"

"My scooter broke down on the way, sorry about that, Brother An," Xiaoxue said apologetically.

Brother An brushed it off and just said, "Come quickly, find a spot for yourself. If Zhang Ye or his parents come out, we will take the chance to squeeze inside with the crowd. We must definitely get a good spot, so hurry up!"

Xiaoxue said helplessly, "Surely Zhang Ye won't come out, right?"

Brother An asked back, "Why not?"

"He's already a big shot now. How is it possible that he will accept an interview so casually? Besides, this address might not even be the right place. If this address was known to everyone in the media, would Zhang Ye still be staying here?" Xiaoxue questioned.

Beside them, an older man who was a cameraman for another newspaper firm laughed and said, "Miss, are you new?"

"Ah?" Xiaoxue looked over to him.

Flanking him, a female reporter who looked to be in her forties also said, "If you want to get an interview with other A- or B-list celebrities in an unofficial and unscheduled location or timing, it would practically be impossible. Even if it were a C- or D-list celebrity, that wouldn't work. But Zhang Ye is different. He has never avoided the cameras before. If we're talking about the easiest D-list and above celebrity to score an interview with, then Zhang Ye has to be the easiest. As long as we don't meet him while he's in a bad mood, or knock on his house door and disturb him from his daily life, then as long as you went to interview him, he will give you a few words at the very least."

Xiaoxue said in surprise, "It's that easy to get a word from Zhang Ye? I've seen the news reports of him having a very bad temper, frequently scolding people here and there."

The female reporter smiled and said, "As long as you don't provoke him, Zhang Ye's easier to speak with than you can imagine. He—he is really quite different from the rest of the celebrities in the entertainment circle."

Brother An added, "He is very different!"

Suddenly, someone shouted!

"He's coming!"

"He came out!"

"There's Zhang Ye!"

"Quick, quick, quick!"

"Teacher Zhang!"

As if a gust of wind had swept past, with a single sound, over 20 of those media reporters had already rushed up. Brother An was also one of them. However, Xiaoxue was a step too slow, so she had to rush up to try to squeeze into the crowd.

Zhang Ye had a white towel hanging around his neck and had appeared jogging out from the building's corridor. He had only jogged for about 20 meters before he was surrounded by a group of reporters and could not move anymore. Zhang Ye helplessly stopped there and greeted, while waving to them, "I've hardly had a chance to do morning exercises anymore, so would everyone please be so kind as to let me go for a round first?"

The female reporter from before said, "Teacher Zhang, I've been here since 5 AM and I'm almost about to fall asleep already. Why don't you spare us a few minutes of your time first instead?"

A young female reporter said, "That's right, Teacher Zhang. If I don't get to interview you today, I won't be able to go back to answer to my superiors. I would surely tick them off."

If it were other celebrities, it would have been possible to make an appointment to interview them and there wouldn't be a need to crowd around outside the gates like now. However, Zhang Ye was different in that he did not have an agent or a managing agency at all. At the moment, he did not even have a job, so that resulted in the media group having communication problems with him. On top of the fact that Zhang Ye's promotion into the B-list rankings came at an unexpected time, having shot up suddenly at the turn of the clock last night, these media reporters did not have enough time to do their preparations

either. Those were the reasons for their rowdy presence this morning as everyone rushed over to this place. Besides, such interviews were better done the day of, since the matter happened on this day as well. If all interviews followed an order, time, and location, then it would only be reported on a few days later. By then, it would have been 800 years too late. Could news still be called news if it was old?! News always focused on being delivered in a timely manner.

The crowd of reporters were speaking in chattering voices.

Since Zhang Ye could do nothing about it, he simply agreed and said, "Alright then, just five minutes. Shoot."

Xiaoxue: "....." What the! Zhang Ye was really this easy to speak to?

Brother An reacted the quickest. Just as Zhang Ye finished speaking, he had already started, "Teacher Zhang, in the latest update of the Celebrity Rankings Index, you've become a B-list celebrity, so I would like to congratulate you first."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Thank you."

Brother An went on, "There's a lot of people talking right now, saying that you're one of the fastest rising celebrities in recent times, turning from an unknown into a B-list celebrity in little more than a year. It feels like this is a route that many other public figures would not be able reach, but you've done it in just the blink of an eye."

"Blink of an eye?" Zhang Ye repeated the words.

A Huadong Daily News reporter interrupted and asked, "I wonder if you have seen it yet; there were a lot of netizens who left their comments online after the rankings were updated at midnight yesterday. Other than congratulatory comments, there were also many criticisms and doubting comments. They feel that based on your traits and your appeal to the minority groups, getting to where you are now is already a miracle. I've also seen some of your fellow peers say this about you. They all acknowledge your talents, but at the same time, they also feel that your success has more to do with your luck than your talents. Regarding this, what do you have to say?"

It was true that there were many of such voices on the internet right now.

Just randomly browsing the forums or Weibo, many of these channels were discussing Zhang Ye's promotion into the B-list rankings. This was considered quite a feat in the entertainment circle as well.

"What a miracle!"

"Zhang Ye's too lucky. If he even had a little bit of bad luck, he couldn't possibly have reached where he is right now!"

"Zhang Ye's just a very normal looking guy. How did he even become a celebrity? And he even managed to become a B-list celebrity? I could do it too then! At least, I am a teeny bit better looking than Zhang Ye!"

"There's a definite element of luck in Zhang Ye's success."

"If I had Zhang Ye's luck and talent too, how great would it be!"

“Zhang Ye is still a newcomer, without many film credits to his name and has never sang before either. Just based on a few television programs on the local channels and an online television station, with some poems and speeches, Zhang Ye has somehow amassed so much popularity. This would surely make many of the ‘old-timers’ in the entertainment industry quite uncomfortable! If he could become a B-list celebrity this way, then if Zhang Ye were to ever officially go into movies or singing, or do a few programs on a satellite channel with nationwide coverage, then wouldn’t his popularity defy all common sense by then?”

“Not defy all common sense, more like his popularity would be out of this world at that time!”

“This person has opened up an alternative route to advancing in the entertainment circle!”

“Other celebrities all depend on themselves and work hard for many years in the industry with no assurance of anything, but Zhang Ye’s achievements when he has only just debuted for about a year, when compared to them, really does feel a little unfair.”

“Yes, a lot of his fellow peers are not too happy with him.”

“That’s right. Mathematical and literary standards do not belong in the entertainment circle at all. If he had advanced with the aid of those, then it really leaves those celebrities in the entertainment industry rather helpless.”

There were many comments such as those mentioned.

When a person gets popular, gossip will fly. It was a very normal phenomenon.

Faced with such a question from the reporters, Zhang Ye also fell silent for a moment.

Xiaoxue raised her audio recorder up and asked, “Teacher Zhang, how do you feel about the comments made by these minority groups and your fellow peers from the entertainment industry?”

Unfair?

Got lucky?

Going by an alternative entertainment route that was considered as unorthodox?

Seeing all of the reporters not blinking as they awaited for his answer, Zhang Ye smiled for a moment, not feeling angry at all because of these question. He even eloquently said, “I’ve said this before: whoever it is or whatever kind of art form we’re talking about, there is no possibility of it being liked or accepted by everyone. There are those who like me and those who dislike me. Whatever the people’s comments about me are, I will accept them, but for some of my fellow peers’ comments...” He paused for a moment, before suddenly getting into the mood and saying, “I have here for them, a poem—a short poem.”

When everyone heard that, they felt like they were all suddenly injected with adrenaline. They became extremely excited!

“What poem?”

“Teacher Zhang, please recite it!”

“Ah, wait, wait, wait, please wait a while! My pen recorder broke! Let me quickly get another!”

“Would the person in front please squat down a little! I can’t get a picture! Please, people in the middle, please squat a little!”

As long as it was anyone who knew a little of Zhang Ye’s history, they would know that Zhang Ye’s most outstanding talent was not mathematics, nor was it crosstalk, or his hosting abilities. It was actually his poetry composition!

Zhang Ye softly recited:

“A Successful Flower.

“We always admire only the beauty of flowers!

“but its budding in its beginnings

“were watered by tears of its struggles,

“and rained on by the blood of its sacrifices!”

The poem ended here.

Tears?

Blood?

Sacrifices?

At this moment, an old neighbor of Zhang Ye’s family who was standing around the crowd spoke. When she saw the reporters here earlier, she stood where she was and listened, but finally unable to keep quiet about it any longer, she opened her mouth. “Little Ye, don’t be bothered by those sarcastic remarks from your fellow peers! We neighbors have watched you grow up and know how many sacrifices you’ve made. You’d skip sleep every day just to finish recording your programs. For your job, you’ve always risked your life just to get things done, but who has seen that side of you?”

Zhang Ye clasped his hands, then smiled and said, “Grandma Cui, thank you.”

Another old man said, “Little Ye, work hard. We’re always supportive of you.”

A woman said, “Yes, don’t listen to their nonsense!”

The poem was very short and was only composed of four phrases, but the impact of this poem was strong enough to cause the hearts of those reporters to sink a little. Yes, everyone could only see Zhang Ye’s success, but when it came to his hard work and sacrifices, how many had bothered to notice it? How many people even knew about it?

Xiaoxue glanced at Zhang Ye a few times. This was just her first time interviewing Zhang Ye, but when she came face to face with him now, she suddenly felt that she had some understanding of this person!

Back then, during the hijacking incident, everyone had happily talked about how Zhang Ye was so lucky to have brought the plane down by landing it safely, but did anyone think about how Zhang Ye had nearly died in a plane crash? Everyone saw Zhang Ye silencing all his detractors during the crosstalk

competition, but did anyone ever care about how Zhang Ye had nearly been banned for life by the SARFT!? Luck? Fluke? Coincidental? Zhang Ye did not reach where he was now based on these factors! He had fought his way through a bloody path against overwhelming odds!

Leaders suppressing him!

Fellow peers attacking him!

In the moment between life and death!

A choice between compromising or standing his ground!

No matter when and where, Zhang Ye dared to stand up proudly to claim this: My road has not been easy or smooth. The path he chose was harder than anyone else's!

A Successful Flower.

—This was a very well-known work by famous prose author, Bingxin. Bingxin was famous for her prose works, but this short poem was one of her rarer and more outstanding works. Faced with the questions by these reporters and doubts from his fellow peers, Zhang Ye felt that this poem was the best reply as it represented his current thoughts and emotions. Back in his previous world, he also liked this poem very much, probably because of the use of the word “sacrifices” in it. Whenever he recited this short poem, Zhang Ye's expression was not one of lament or complaint, and he did not say it to tell others that he did not have it easy. Instead, he mentioned it with a smile and some pride, because the “sacrifices” in this short poem were not pain or torture to him, but symbolized his strength of character instead. It was the source of his pride to be able to puff out his chest and raise his head high when faced with anything, because that was not a sacrifice to life's unfairness, but the value and sacrifices of his uncompromising character!

.....

On the same day.

This poem had been published by many publications throughout the country!

“Success and Sacrifice!”

“Zhang Ye's Voice!”

“A Successful Flower!”

“Zhang Ye: A blooming flower stained with blood!”

When this poem was published, it immediately caused an ardent discussion on the internet.

“Teacher Zhang, you're the best!”

“Don't bother with what others say, we understand you! How much you have sacrificed, we all know!”

“F**k, What's wrong with 'unorthodox, alternative paths'? So what if he went by the unconventional path? That's what we favor, the unconventional path! Because of this, let us continue harassing them! If

one comes at us, we will deal with that one! If a bunch of them comes at us, we will deal with all of them!”

“Supporting Zhang Ye!”

“Teacher Zhang’s totally deserving of his B-list ranking!”

“Those who don’t know anything, I suggest you check out Teacher Zhang’s CV first before opening your mouth!”

A Successful Flower might not carry the blood boiling passion like Zhang Ye’s previous works, nor was it as excellent as them, but it did carry a very important and heavy emotion. Anyone who read it would feel their hearts sink a little, especially that phrase “were watered by tears of its struggles, / and rained on by the blood of its sacrifices.” Those words had silenced many of Zhang Ye’s detractors as well as those who were jealous of his achievements. Thinking of how Zhang Ye had made it so far, they did not dare to say any more.

Difficult?

There was a C-list celebrity movie star who once suffered a fracture during filming. After that, when he posted on Weibo, crying and whining for over a month, his fans all sympathetically claimed that he had suffered so much!

When a Korean singer had a few pimples growing on his face, the fans were all crying and shouting, saying things like how life was so unfair, claiming how that Korean celebrity had always suffered so many mishaps!

Was that difficult?

Compared to Zhang Ye, their difficulties might not even be considered as something!

Having been held in jail twice, forced to resign by Beijing Radio Station, sacked by Beijing Television Station, suspended by Peking University, nearly losing his life in an airplane hijacking incident, being suppressed multiple times by the Shanghai SARFT, being affected by the most stringent ban in the history of the SARFT, and now being unemployed even though he was already a B-list celebrity with nothing to do except stay at home, being bored until he could even “leisurely” go out in the morning for a jog. There was only one such person who existed in the whole of the entertainment industry. So who dared to say that they were suffering more than Zhang Ye?

No one would dare to say that!

No one had it more difficult than him!

Even so, even then, Zhang Ye had gone against all odds and managed to stand at his position in the B-list rankings. What kind of a notion was that!

In this whole wide world.

Who else could compare!?

Chapter 616 Chenchen’s guardian called to school for a meeting!

In the afternoon.

Zhang Ye leisurely went downstairs for a bowl of meat stew at a food stall nearby. It was rare for him to be so free these days, so he wanted to enjoy his life for now.

“Master.”

“Hey, Teacher Zhang, you are here!”

“I’ll have a bowl.”

“Large or small?”

“A large bowl, add more garlic sauce.”

“OK, please wait for a moment.”

The reporters had already left and there were none of them in the district anymore. Zhang Ye had a unique way of handling reporters. Many of the other famous celebrities were always troubled by the ever-present reporters and would think that there were always some nearby at every moment, so they tended to be extra cautious wherever they went. They would hide from reporters when they were going home, when they were eating, and when they went out to meet friends, causing even more reporters to want to follow them. Zhang Ye was obviously doing the opposite. He would not hide from reporters as he would accept interviews at any time. Even if he was not free, he would still have the courtesy to answer one or two questions. He would not refuse anyone, answering any questions that were asked, without hiding or acting mysterious. When the interview was done, the reporters would leave since there was nothing more for them to do. And so, they would not follow him around every day.

As he was eating, his phone rang.

When he saw the number—what a surprise!—it was Rao Aimin who was calling him.

Zhang Ye swallowed his food and said with a mumble: “Hello, Landlady Auntie. What’s the matter? I’m eating now.”

She replied: “Are you busy these next few days?”

“These next few days?” Hearing this, Zhang Ye was immediately put on high alert and said: “I’m busy, really busy!”

Rao Aimin smirked: “What are you busy with? Aren’t you mostly staying at home nowadays since you’re without any work? From the B-list celebrities and upwards, there’s no one who is as free as you are!”

Zhang Ye said: “...Then why do you ask when you already know it.”

“That’s why I’m entrusting you with something. I have to go on a long trip for some personal matters for a while and I must leave in a moment. But Chenchen definitely cannot be left at home by herself and I don’t feel at ease letting other people watch over her. Anyway, since you’re free at home, you will have to help me take care of her,” Rao Aimin said.

“For how many days?” Zhang Ye asked.

She replied: "It depends. Maybe it will take a few days, maybe it'll be a month."

Zhang Ye exclaimed: "Even up to a month? Are you going up to the moon or what!?"

She said: "It'll be a month at most but I might come back after a few days. I'll not let you help for nothing. Since you haven't paid your rent for this month yet, I've decided that you do not need to pay the rent for this month."

Zhang Ye was not willing to do it and lamented: "How much would it cost to hire a nanny? Don't even think about it, absolutely not! I'm still looking for a job and I'll be busy if there is a new job offer. How can I find the time to take care of a child? That's that then. I'm going to eat now, so please ask someone else, Landlady Auntie!"

In the next second, Rao Aimin said: "You do not need to pay rent for the next three months!"

Without even thinking, Zhang Ye replied: "...Alright then, leave her to me!"

She acknowledged and said: "Be more meticulous and remember to fetch the child to and from school every day."

Zhang Ye said: "I know that, it's not like I've never taken care of her before."

Rao Aimin instructed him for a long time before hanging up. Although the landlady had a bad temper and a wicked mouth, she was still very meticulous when it came to Chenchen and took great care of her.

Hai, not only did he still not find any hosting jobs, he was now even tasked with a big errand.

After hanging up, Zhang Ye continued eating his meat stew, but just as he took a mouthful of the meat, another call came in. He did not recognize this number.

Zhang Ye picked it up and said: "Hello, who's this?"

It was a young woman's voice: "Teacher Zhang, I'm Zhao Mei, Rao Chenchen's form teacher from No. 2 Experimental Primary School. We met at last year's parents' public class, do you still remember me?"

Zhang Ye had an impression of her. It was during the time when he was not famous yet, and he had went in place of Rao Aimin to participate in Chenchen's lesson and even helped Chenchen to write "Tribute to the White Poplar" for her essay. He said, "Teacher Zhao, of course I remember you. What are you calling me for?"

Zhao Mei said: "Didn't you give me your contact number previously in case there was anything to inform you regarding Chenchen? I just tried giving her guardian, Miss Rao, a call, but couldn't get through, so I contacted you instead."

It was true that she couldn't get through to the Landlady Auntie earlier.

She had just called me a short while ago.

Zhang Ye asked immediately: "What's the matter? Please speak."

"Chenchen got into trouble again. Can you make a trip to the school?" Zhao Mei said helplessly.

Zhang Ye was a little stunned, so he asked: "Is it serious? Did Chenchen get bullied again?"

Zhao Mei laughed ironically and replied: "That's not the case. It would be fortunate if Chenchen did not bully others instead, so how would she be bullied? It's better for you to make a trip here as it's not convenient to talk over the phone."

That kid! Always getting into trouble!

"OK, OK, OK, I'll be there immediately." Zhang Ye tucked away his phone and hurriedly finished his food. After settling the bill, he returned to the district and drove directly to No. 2 Experimental Primary School. He did not contact Rao Aimin as she had other urgent matters to settle, so even if he told her, she couldn't go anyway. It was better that he just went by himself.

Zhang Ye was very concerned because it was about Chenchen, so he drove very fast.

.....

In the afternoon.

A little past 1 PM.

Zhang Ye drove up to the school entrance. As the school was still having afternoon lessons, he informed the security guard in the guardroom, "I'm the guardian of a student here. Teacher Zhao Mei of the second grade asked me to come." Then he was let in and he went to park his car before proceeding upstairs to the teachers' office quickly.

At the teaching block.

In the experimental classroom of second grade, class one.

The mathematics teacher, Li Jiaxing, was a young teacher in his mid-twenties. He was standing at the rostrum, staring angrily at Chenchen who was standing at her desk. The surrounding students were all seated while only Chenchen was standing up. A lunch box given by the school was on her desk but it had already turned cold. The chopsticks were still wrapped in a plastic wrap and it was obvious that Chenchen had not eaten her meal yet. The atmosphere in the classroom was very tense as Zhao Mei and some of the other subjects' teachers stood at the side.

Zhao Mei persuaded, "Teacher Li, let's carry on with the lesson first."

The language teacher also said, "Yes, don't bear grudges on a child."

Li Jiaxing insisted firmly, "Teacher Zhao, it's not that I don't want to go on with the lesson, but this Rao Chenchen has really gone too far. She's not showing me any respect at all and this is not even the first time it has happened."

Zhao Mei said, "I've already informed Chenchen's guardian to come down to the school, we can discuss it later after the lesson if there's anything."

Li Jiaxing said angrily, "Then let's wait for her guardian to get here! We need to resolve this matter before anything else! Today, I have to demonstrate clearly. If Rao Chenchen does not apologize to me, I won't continue with this lesson!"

Zhao Mei said, "Then let the child eat her food first."

"I didn't say she couldn't eat her food, but she must be punished by standing in the class!" Li Jiaxing gritted his teeth.

The form teacher, Zhao Mei walked in front of Chenchen and said, "Eat your food first."

Chenchen said with a straight face, "I'm not eating. It has turned cold."

Zhao Mei said, "You should just apologize to Teacher Li. It was definitely wrong of you to rebuke Teacher Li earlier at lunchtime."

Chenchen stubbornly said, "I won't apologize!"

Li Jiaxing said angrily, "Look at her! Just look at her!"

The female fine arts teacher also tried to calm things down and said, "Teacher Li, calm down."

"I've always wondered!" Li Jiaxing flared up and then said, "How can a child with such low standards be in the experimental class! I suggest that you all transfer her out immediately! Otherwise, I won't ever be able to teach this subject anymore!"

Many of the other students were also persuading Chenchen in whispering voices.

"Chenchen."

"Why don't you apologize?"

"You should just say sorry to Teacher Li."

Chenchen looked at her classmates and then said, "I'm not in the wrong, why should I apologize? He doesn't know how to teach mathematics! I don't understand any of what he's teaching at all!"

Li Jiaxing furiously said, "It's a problem of your standard if you don't understand it. You are bad at learning, not serious, not hardworking, and have a lack of motivation! I don't know how to teach? I was an intern and taught in Heping High School before. Last year, I was transferred to No. 2 Experimental Primary School. If I can teach high school students, why couldn't I teach primary school students?"

Chenchen pouted, "—Hur hur!"

When he heard that, Li Jiaxing nearly died of anger. He said, "Laugh again if you dare!"

All of a sudden, a figure walked in through the door and shouted in the same tone, "Shout again if you dare!"

This loud voice made everyone in the classroom jump in fright!

The person who had entered the classroom was Zhang Ye of course. He was wearing sunglasses as he came into the classroom!

Chenchen immediately raised up her head.

Li Jiaxing was exasperated. He asked, "What are you doing?"

"I'm Chenchen's guardian!" Zhang Ye looked unpleasantly at the math teacher. When he was walking to the classroom, in the corridor, he could roughly hear what was being said and knew about the situation.

He said, "My child may have her own problems but there are many ways to solve a problem. There's no need for physical punishment and senseless yelling at her! Who are you trying to scare? What are you shouting for? If you want to shout, shout at me! Why are you yelling at a child!"

Li Jiaying was wondering what kind of guardian he was and immediately said, "First, I did not punish her physically; second, I allowed her to eat her food. It's just that she does not want to eat. Finally, what is her purpose in coming to school? What's her role and responsibility? Not only did she disobey the teacher, she even openly insulted the teacher's teaching standard! However, I would like to ask you this. As Chenchen's guardian, do you know if your child is still motivated to learn?"

The commotion that occurred here had attracted many teachers who were having their free period. But the only person who knew him as Zhang Ye was the form teacher, Zhao Mei. Although Zhang Ye came last year, since he was still an unknown back then, not many people knew about him. Since the majority of second grade students did not chase after stars, why would the matter at that time be spread around? At most, some teachers would occasionally relate to the incident and bring it up in their conversations.

After listening to Li Jiaying's words, Zhang Ye did not argue with him. With his eloquent mouth, even a hundred math teachers would not be able to out-argue him. But he knew that he had to first understand the situation before saying anything else.

Walking over, Zhang Ye asked with a deadpan expression, "What's going on?"

Chenchen said nothing.

Zhang Ye said, "Spit it out."

He knew Chenchen was not an ordinary child. She was extremely naughty and antisocial. Sometimes, even he would be vexed to death by her, let alone other people. However, Zhang Ye also knew that Chenchen was not an idiot. On the contrary, she was smarter than most of her peers, except that she was also lazy and did not like to learn. That was why when he heard the commotion from outside the classroom that Chenchen claimed that Li Jiaying did not know how to teach and she could not understand his teaching, Zhang Ye felt puzzled. With Chenchen's intelligence, how could she not understand elementary math problems? So he wanted to understand the situation further, so as not to blindly side with the child.

Chenchen leered at him, looked down at her desk and picked up a textbook from the table and passed it to Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye took a look and saw what were obviously Li Jiaying's class notes written during lunchtime. This math problem was rather simple for adults since they would not even need to calculate it to get the answer. But the steps to solving the problem and the train of thought....

Chenchen could not understand it?

Zhang Ye roughly understood what was going on.

Chapter 617 Wondrous math problem from the Previous World!

In the classroom.

Zhang Ye put down Chenchen's workbook and patted on her shoulder before asking her, "How long have you been standing for? Sit down first, I know what is going on."

Chenchen nodded, then sat down and rubbed her legs vigorously.

Li Jiaxing who did not agree to this, said, "Sir, this is a school and I'm the teacher currently teaching this lesson. At school, students should listen to teachers, and since she did not apologize yet, I'm not going to let her to sit down!"

Zhang Ye retorted, "What if I feel that she does not need to apologize?"

Li Jiaxing stared at him and never thought that a student's guardian would speak to him in such a manner. This place was Beijing's No. 2 Experimental Primary School and one should know just what kind of a school it was to be named as such. It was one of the key focus primary schools in the city with lots of people and parents vying hard to send their children here. Which parent did not treat the teachers here with courtesy and politeness when they saw them? Even if it hadn't been a key focus primary school, in any normal school, the students' parents would never talk to a teacher in this way. Li Jiaxing shouted, "Then take your child back home! If you have the capability and ability, you can teach her yourself! There's no need for her to come to school!"

Chenchen unexpectedly replied, "My uncle can teach better than you."

"You!" Li Jiaxing was getting mad!

What a terrible child!

And what a terrible guardian!

This was exactly a case of what type of a general would lead what kind of a soldier! How the child turned out depended on what kind of a guardian you were! I was still wondering why this child was so unbearing! It's simply because the guardian was also the same!

The surrounding teachers were also speaking in whispers.

"What sort of a guardian is that?"

"He's too protective of the child."

"Right, this child has been spoiled by him."

"Why do I feel that Chenchen's guardian looks a little familiar to me?"

"I don't know, I don't recognize him at all. I've never seen him at the past parent-teacher meeting sessions either. I only remember a woman who goes by the surname, Rao, the one who is very pretty but spoke in an expressionless manner."

"Oh, I remember her."

"Ai, the parents these days really have a problem educating their children!"

"She even thinks that her uncle can teach better than Teacher Li? Hur hur, Teacher Li is our highest qualified mathematics teacher in No. 2 Experimental Primary School. If he hadn't offended someone at

the high school he was teaching in, he would not have been dismissed and ended up teaching at a primary school.”

Many of the teachers from the other grades also came to take a look at the commotion happening between guardian and teacher, pointing at them as they observed and talked.

It was probably only the form teacher, Zhao Mei, who knew the meaning of Chenchen’s previous sentence. She has paid attention to the news of Zhang Ye before and knew about her uncle’s background rather well. When Zhao Mei saw that the situation was getting a little out of control, and afraid that it would alarm the school leaders or media, leading to a bigger mess, she immediately tried to smooth over the situation by saying to Zhang Ye, “Teacher Zhang, this matter is actually...”

Li Jiaxing interrupted and asked, “Teacher Zhang? What a coincidence, you’re also a teacher?”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “You could say so.”

Li Jiaxing stared at him and asked, “What subject do you teach?”

What subject did I teach? Zhang Ye replied, “In the past, I could be considered as having taught mathematics.”

Once those words were said, a lot of the surrounding teachers of No. 2 Experimental Primary School were stunned. This was a conflict between people who were both on the same side? 1 That’s coincidental? You’re also a math teacher?

Upon hearing that, Li Jiaxing got even angrier and said, “Since we are in the same field and teach mathematics, then as a teacher, you should understand better that a student should unconditionally listen and carry out a teacher’s teachings. We won’t harm the students since we are carrying out the work of teaching others. If you are also a teacher, you should be guiding the child on how to have the correct learning attitude and not spoiling the child like this!” He paused for a while and asked, “Which school do you teach at? What grade do you teach? Primary school? Junior high?”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “Let’s not talk about which school I taught at first. Just now, I found what you said not to my liking, and it was the word ‘unconditionally.’ Perhaps we have a different understandings, but to me, other than family love, there is nothing in the world that is unconditional. If my child is in the wrong, I will criticize her. For example, like today, Chenchen’s attitude towards her teacher is indeed problematic. I will go back and teach her about it. But at the same time, the reason I don’t think that my child should apologize is because I feel that you have the same problem. If a teacher makes a mistake, should the students unconditionally follow and do what they’re told? I don’t think so, because not even a teacher has such privilege!”

Huh?

What did he say?

Li Jiaxing said, “I’m in the wrong? Where did I do wrong? During lunchtime, I was talking about yesterday’s homework when I pointed to Chenchen to answer a question. After that, I explained about the question in detail, but I was wrong?”

The other teachers were all speechless looking at Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye pointed to Chenchen's textbook and said, "I've seen this math problem and its solving process. It's not wrong; the steps and the answers are correct too."

"Then you..." Before Li Jiaxing could finish, he was already rebuked by Zhang Ye's next words.

Zhang Ye said, "But when I meant that it was correct, that is in the case of the question being targeted at adults. Actually, I can ask all of the students right now." He turned around and faced the class. Waving the textbook in his hand, he asked, "Earlier during lunchtime, did you all really understand Teacher Li's calculation and the train of thought in solving this math problem?"

Actually, Li Jiaxing had also written the solution on the whiteboard.

Listening to Chenchen's guardian talking as though he knew what he was saying, all the teachers, including Zhao Mei, looked at the whiteboard, but were unable to see anything wrong with it.

"What's the problem?"

"Is there a problem in this question?"

"The final answer is nine, so it's correct."

"This problem does not even need to be calculated."

"Just separate them out, then the problem will be solved?"

All of the teachers were confused.

At this moment, a girl who was not on friendly terms with Chenchen raised her hand and said, "I understand it! Teacher Li explained it very well! I can understand all of it!"

Zhang Ye pointed to the whiteboard and asked, "Then can you explain how to do the separation for this step?"

The girl was a little stunned and blinked for a long time but did not say anything.

After that, a little boy said, "I...I also don't understand."

Then, more students gradually said the same.

"Me too."

"I don't understand it as well."

"I managed to get the final answer but I don't know why I must separate the numbers that way."

"Yes, me too."

Li Jiaxing was a little shocked by this. He said, "Didn't you all say that you understood when I finished explaining the question just now! Why is it now that all of you suddenly don't understand it? Yes, this question is quite difficult for a second grade student, but I've already explained the steps required to solve this and written out the solution very clearly, so what do you all not understand about it?"

A little boy lowered his head and explained his reason, "Earlier, when I saw all the other classmates saying they understood it, I also nodded along with them, but actually, I did not understand it."

Zhang Ye said, "See, the other children also did not understand, but only Chenchen spoke the truth."

Li Jiaying helplessly said, "It's fine if you don't understand it, I can explain it again to everyone. This time, I hope everyone will be more serious and attentive!"

Zhang Ye interrupted, "But have you thought about it before, Teacher Li? It might not be that the children were not attentive, but that your solving process and train of thought to the question was problematic instead?"

Li Jiaying laughed in extreme anger, "There's a problem with my explanation?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes."

Li Jiaying said, "Then why don't you tell me, where did I teach incorrectly?"

Suddenly, news of the commotion made its way to the school leaders and several leaders of the No. 2 Experimental Primary School had arrived at the classroom entrance, bringing two security guards along with them.

The vice-principal entered and asked, "What happened? Whose parent is causing trouble here?"

Zhao Mei hurriedly went up and explained, "It's just a misunderstanding, there's no trouble at all." Then, she explained about Zhang Ye and Li Jiaying's reason for their disagreement.

The school leaders were left speechless for a while when they heard that. They were wondering from where in the countryside this guardian had come from. He tried to argue about a math problem with a mathematics teacher? They also saw the question on the whiteboard and wondered: what could be the problem with it since it was such a simple question? He was also a teacher? He's even a mathematics teacher? Then his standard must really be a joke. Even the two security guards, who did not seem well-educated, after looking at the question, also looked at Chenchen's guardian despidngly.

And then Zhang Ye spoke in an indifferent tone, "Teacher Li, I don't doubt your mathematics standard, I only said that your train of thought in teaching might have some problems. You were a teacher at a high school previously?"

Li Jiaying said, "Correct."

The vice-principal frowned and added, "Teacher Li also holds a master's and is a scholar from Tianjin Normal University, yet you are saying that Teacher Li's standard is not good enough?"

"A master's? Majored in higher mathematics? Indeed, he is very good." Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Let me put it this way, everyone might not understand if I just say it like this. Since I'm also a math teacher, then let me pose a problem now for everyone to try to solve, then there might be an answer to the problems I brought up, OK?"

Zhao Mei said, "This..."

One of the school leaders decided to speak up first, thinking that this student's guardian was trying to challenge the authority of their teachers and creating trouble. That wouldn't do, so this matter had to be solved today no matter what. He said, "Sure, since the subject for this class now is still math anyway."

Li Jiaying could only think, You still want to set a question for me, even though I have a master's? He didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Then, he said, "Fine, pose the problem. Is it calculus? Functions? Or equations?"

Zhang Ye waved his hand with a smile and said, "No, it's just a simple elementary math question."

When they heard this, the teachers went into an uproar.

"What?"

"Elementary math question?"

"Are you teasing Teacher Li?"

"Why do you even need to give an elementary math question? Even a fool could do it!"

"Teacher Li has a master's from a well-known school!"

Zhang Ye walked towards the whiteboard and said, "I heard the teachers' saying that even a fool could do it? Hur hur, that might not be so. Anyway, I'm going to pose the problem now."

Zhang Ye found a black marker and began to write out the problem on the whiteboard.

This problem of course did not exist in this world, because this world's current education and syllabus had differed slightly with Zhang Ye's previous world. In Zhang Ye's previous world, this set of problems was very famous, and had for a time, caused a commotion and heated discussions all over the internet. Essentially, this was really an elementary math question and had appeared in a elementary math topic before. But any adults who had seen it before would give it the nickname:

—The wondrous math problem!

Today, Zhang Ye would display it here as he wanted to make the people from this world widen their horizons!

Chapter 618 Philosophy behind the math problem!

On the whiteboard.

Zhang Ye's wondrous math problem from his previous world had surfaced in this world!!

The problems were: Follow the rhythm and write out the multiplication formula (a set of onomatopoeic words):

1: Ding Ding Ding, Ding Ding Ding;

2: Ah, Ah, Ah, Ah;

3: Wu Wu Wu, Wu Wu Wu;

4: Miao Miao, Miao Miao, Miao Miao.

There were a total of four questions with few words. Zhang Ye finished writing them with just a few strokes before putting down the marker. He turned around and said, "I have finished setting the questions, everyone can give them a try. The students may try it as well, so just find a blank piece paper

to write down your answers. Yes, let me emphasize it once more, this is a set of elementary math questions meant for primary school students. OK, you may begin now.”

If the people from Zhang Ye’s previous world saw these math problems, they would not be unfamiliar with them or too surprised. However, in this world, these teachers had never seen such kind of questions before, so they were all f**king stunned by it!!

Pfft!

F**k!

What kind of math questions were these!

Li Jiaying had already intended to pick up a marker to start writing. If he could even handle university-level higher math questions, what would be so difficult about these elementary math questions. After all, he held a master’s degree! But within a second of seeing the questions, Li Jiaying felt like he was suddenly overwhelmed by a hundred thousand lines of ‘f**k you’!

This...

What the f**k was this!

A second grade fine arts teacher asked in confusion, “Are these really elementary math questions? That’s impossible! They are such difficult questions that I don’t even understand them!”

A third grade music teacher said, “Yes, I don’t even know what the meaning of these questions are.”

Zhao Mei was also trying to solve the questions but was left very confused, “Onomatopoeic words? What do you mean by onomatopoeic words?”

The vice-principal also muttered softly to himself, “Follow the rhythm to write out the multiplication formula? Rhythm? What kind of rhythm? Why are the questions even related to music now? Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do? How would the children even understand it!”

One of the language teachers mumbled to himself, “Ding Ding Ding? Is this a multiplication formula?”

An English teacher who had already given up said, “It’s impossible to solve this! What and what?!”

Li Jiaying was also experiencing a headache that was hurting his brain at this moment. What did these sounds have anything to do with multiplication formulas? And also, how would these multiplication formulas be written?

However, Chenchen had already lowered her head and started to write.

Her other classmates were also writing down their own answers.

One minute passed.

Three minutes passed.

Five minutes passed.

Suddenly, Zhang Ye told everyone to stop. "OK, that's enough. The time given is already too long. Those who know the answers would have already written them. Teacher Li?"

Li Jiaxing handed over his answers with a dark expression. He had written down the answers on the blank area on the back side of his teaching materials. The answers were written as—Question one: " 1×3 , 1×3 ."; Question two: Empty, he did not write any answer for it; Question three: " 1×3 , 1×3 ."; Question four: " 1×2 , 1×2 , 1×2 ."

Zhao Mei also wrote: Ding $\times 3$, Ding $\times 3$; Ah $\times 1$, Ah $\times 1$; and so on for the other questions.

The other teachers' answers were also all sorts of strange. Compared to Zhao Mei's multiplication formula which even contained the Chinese characters, the answers given by the others were much odder and weirder.

Most of the teachers did not answer at all because they could not even understand the questions.

Zhao Mei asked curiously, "What are the correct answers?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Teacher Zhao, can you help me collect the answers from the students?"

"Sure." Zhao Mei went to collect the answers from all of them.

After they were fully collected, Zhang Ye wrote down the right answers on the whiteboard.

The answer to the first question: 3×2

The answer to the second question: 1×4

The answer to the third question: 3×2

The answer to the fourth question: 2×3

Every teacher had answered them wrong!

When Li Jiaxing saw the answers, he was suddenly enlightened!

He finally understood what was going on once the answers were given!

"So that's how it is!" A fine arts teacher said in a speechless manner, "This was really too difficult to guess, just reading and understanding it was already too difficult!"

One of the teachers couldn't resist and said, "These are elementary math questions? Which primary student can solve these kind of questions? If they can do it, I'll eat all the answer sheets!"

Li Jiaxing nodded and said, "Even if they can get it right, it's probably only by chance."

Zhang Ye asked with great interest, "Oh, is that so?"

"How is it not so?" Li Jiaxing pointed to the whiteboard and said, "Even the adults had trouble understanding those questions, so don't even mention the children!"

Zhao Mei also nodded.

"That's right," all the teachers said.

Zhang Ye happily said, "Alright, since everyone says that, let's check the answers by the children. Teacher Zhao, could I trouble you to read out their answers?"

Zhao Mei had not looked at their answers yet, so she said, "Alright, but there are no names on the answer sheets."

"It's alright, no need for any names," Zhang Ye said.

Zhao Mei acknowledged and took the stack of answer sheets. From the first one, she read out, " 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3" Reading up till here, Zhao Mei and the rest of the teachers were all stunned. Zhao Mei's hands shivered, she seemed to have witnessed something miraculous. She stared with her eyes wide open and continued reading, reading faster as she went on, " 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 ...empty, a student did not answer.... 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 3×2 ; 1×4 ; 3×2 ; 2×3 !"

She finished reading out all of the students' answers!

Only one student handed in an unanswered sheet and another one got it wrong but everyone else was correct. In the entire class one of the second grade, more than 90% of them had correctly answered those questions!

Zhao Mei raised her head up and asked blankly, "How could this happen?"

The vice-principal was shocked and said, "This...this is not possible!"

The fine arts teacher was stunned and asked, "Almost all of them got it right?"

Zhang Ye shrugged, then pointed at the children and said, "Everyone here saw them just now, the children did not engage in any cheating. I believe everyone saw it more clearly than me, is that right? After these questions were given, they did not copy from each other and I also gave the answers only after their answer sheets had been collected. That would have eliminated all possibility of them cheating, and so the results are for all here to judge. Teacher Li, is this what you call a lucky shot even if almost all of them had answered correctly? If one or few of them got the questions correct by chance, then how would you explain almost all of them getting it correct together at the same time?"

Li Jiaying was at a loss for an explanation. He asked, "How—how did you do that?"

Zhang Ye waved it off and said, "It's not how I did it. You should be asking the children how they did it instead. I have mentioned and confirmed that these are only primary school elementary math questions, so perhaps the children might have a different thinking from you all. Children, do you think these questions are difficult?" He looked at them and asked.

A girl said, "It's not difficult!"

A little boy smiled and said, "It's very simple."

Another boy also smiled and said, "It's too simple."

This was probably the first time they felt they were actually smarter than the school's teachers. They had gotten the math questions correct when even the teachers could not answer them. Everyone was

feeling very proud and excited, scrambling to speak up and express their thoughts about how this problem was really simple for them.

Chenchen's answer was even more exasperating.

She smirked and said, "Such childish questions."

Childish...

The elementary math questions that were labeled as childish by a child was too difficult for a group of teachers and school leaders to handle, even baffling the teacher with a master's degree, Li Jiaying!

This was a scolding!

This was outright scolding!

Many of the teachers did not look too good anymore.

Li Jiaying hurriedly asked, "Just what is going on here?"

Everyone did not know or understand why either!

Zhang Ye explained, "You might think that this is magic. Why did the adults find the questions to be so difficult while the children solved it without any pressure at all? Obviously this was not magic. It's just the difference of the train of thought in approaching the solving of the questions. Teacher Li, you have a master's and have taught in a high school previously, but also precisely because of that, it ended up becoming a problem when you are teaching the primary school students. They are not adults and are even the youngest among the pre-teens, so the way they view the world is also different from what adults see. Naturally, you shouldn't use an adult's train of thought to measure them by either."

After letting Zhang Ye show off a little of his skills, the teachers were silent and only waited for him to continue explaining.

Zhang Ye walked to the whiteboard and asked, "Is this question difficult? It is not difficult at all. If I change the way the question is expressed in, maybe all of you will be enlightened." Then, he wrote and drew something at the side of the 'Ding Ding Ding, Ding Ding Ding' question. Zhang Ye changed it into a set of three watermelons on one side, and another set of three watermelons on the other side, but kept the requirement of expressing the question in a multiplication formula.

When everyone saw it, they were jolted awake!

"Aiyah!

"If it was written earlier in that way, I'd have understood it!"

"Such questions already exist in the elementary math workbooks!"

"Right, it's exactly the same too!"

"Isn't it just simply a 3×2 multiplication formula!"

Li Jiaying was left speechless as he looked at Zhang Ye with a complex expression.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It looks really clear now, right? This was actually the same question, but was only changed from a pictorial representation into words. Since it was only like that, then why did everyone not understand it? Why? Let me tell all of you why. This is because the thought process of an adult is too complicated. They always overthink things, such as the meaning of the words, onomatopoeic words, or the permutation and combination of words. Thus, even when the questions were essentially the same, what was affected was actually your own judgments. However, it is different for children, as in their eyes, the world is really not that complicated at all. Together with the way we have been learning and our mindsets of how questions should be, this has led to such an outcome that seemingly feels like magic here."

The form teacher, Zhao Mei, looked at Zhang Ye in admiration. Unexpectedly, just some simple elementary math questions were conveniently modified by Zhang Ye to such a level that it not only shocked the teachers, but also gave them a lively lesson to learn from!

The math problems even had a hidden philosophy behind them!

What a legendary person of the entertainment circle! He thoroughly deserved his reputation!!

Chapter 619 Genuflecting!

Those teachers who were present stared doubtfully and anxiously at Zhang Ye who was speaking with fervor and assurance. This was no longer just a simple lesson on elementary math problems anymore.

"Who is this person?"

"What's his background?"

"Is he really a math teacher?"

"I've never before come across these types of questions that Chenchen's guardian set, nor even heard of such questions coming from other schools or appearing in any textbooks, so could he have come up with them spontaneously?"

"This problem is really quite wonderful!"

"That's right, there's a hidden catch!"

"It looks difficult, but is in fact really simple."

"Yes, it looks easy, but is in fact difficult too."

"Why do I feel that he looks really familiar the more I look at him? I can't see his face clearly when he's wearing those sunglasses!"

The teachers were discussing the experience Zhang Ye had led them through just now, leaving them with mixed feelings and a sense of reflection.

Li Jiaxing was feeling the most tangled right now as he was not only a mathematics teacher, but also the most qualified teacher among the teachers present. It was still within reason that the others, the fine arts teacher, language teacher or music teacher were not able to answer the questions, but for Li Jiaxing to be unable to answer them, he was even worse than the students he called out and criticized earlier.

This made him feel very embarrassed. He would like nothing more than to run away or find a hole to hide. But he knew he could not run away; it was impossible for him to go anywhere!

After Zhang Ye had taught them a lesson, his anger also subsided. He said to Li Jiaxing, "Teacher Li, the meaning behind those questions can be applied to the problem you gave to the children as well. I have seen the steps in solving the question on the whiteboard, and the separation solution you used was in line with an adults' thoughts and problem solving pattern, but very different from what a child has learned from kindergarten and onwards. That is why the children could not understand what you were teaching." He picked up the marker, raised his hand, and wrote something onto the whiteboard. "What if I explained it this way? Chenchen, do you understand it now?"

Chenchen took a look and said, "I understand."

"Ah, I understand!"

"I know how it is calculated now!"

"So that was how it was calculated!"

The other children also chimed in, expressing that it was now clear to them.

Zhang Ye revealed his own opinions and said, "And that is the reason why all of you think that the questions I posed just now were some sort of wondrous questions. That was what I meant. It's only good for the students if the teaching style is suited to them. At least, I feel that we shouldn't enforce the mindset of an adult onto the children. Each certain age group has its own thought process, be it primary school students, secondary school students, high school students or university students. Each of them should have a different education plan based on their thought processes. We have to move along with the times and ages of our beneficiaries."

Everyone became speechless at this.

Philosophy was even taught through these elementary math questions?

Hidden reflections about society and education were contained in these elementary math questions?

These types of math questions were literally unheard of before by Li Jiaxing, the teachers, and school leaders, but today they were truly enlightened. At this moment, even if they were fools, they already knew that they had met an expert!

Li Jiaxing breathed in deeply and asked curiously, "Which...age group of students are you teaching? Are you also a teacher teaching primary school students?" In his opinion, if someone could set these questions based on the thought process of primary school students, then it was very likely that he was also a primary school teacher by profession. That must be the reason he could understand the children so well. As for Li Jiaxing, he had only been transferred to teach at a primary school in the last year, which was why he had a different line of thinking when teaching them as he was still more familiar with teaching high school students, thus making Zhang Ye look a little better than him.

The other teachers also thought the same.

However, Chenchen's guardian gave an unexpected answer. Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Me? I used to teach university students."

“What?”

“Huh?”

“University students?”

“You are a university teacher?”

“Surely not?”

“But you’re so young? How could you be a university teacher!”

“That’s right, how can there be such a young university math teacher?”

The teachers of No. 2 Experimental Primary School were expressing voices of doubt.

Li Jiaying as a master’s degree holder was also stunned, because he knew what it meant if one could be a math teacher at the university level. Mathematics as a subject was quite different from other subjects, as qualifications were not the only thing needed. Even though he already had master’s degree, if he wanted to teach at a university, he had to first go through an internship and have worked for some years to gain the necessary experience. Even so, he might not end up being able to teach because the requirements of a university teacher were much higher than high school or junior high!

“Which university did you teach at?” Li Jiaying knew some people in this field and was unsure whether Chenchen’s guardian was telling the truth, so he wanted to get to the bottom of things.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “I taught at Peking University previously.”

Li Jiaying was shocked, “Peking University? Which Peking University?”

Zhang Ye said, “How many Peking Universities does China have?”

When everyone heard that, they were left with their eyes wide and mouths agape. What the f**k! Peking University? The top ranked higher educational institute in the country? A globally renowned university’s math teacher?

F**k!

Could he not say something that was so ridiculous!?

How could he be a teacher at Peking University!?

A female music teacher laughed and said, “Chenchen’s guardian is really humorous, hee hee hee.”

Li Jiaying asked again, “Which school do you really teach at?”

Zhang Ye became speechless at this.

The form teacher, Zhao Mei, finally spoke up and said, “Teacher Zhang really is a teacher at Peking University. Not only is he a teacher, he’s even an associate professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences at Peking University.”

A Peking University teacher?

And even an associate professor??

The school leaders and teachers nearly fainted from shock! Could it get any more exaggerated than that? To be a teacher at Peking University in his twenties was already shocking, he's even an associate professor? How could that be possible!? The number of teachers at a university in China were just a handful, since when was there such a young associate professor??

Eh?

That's not it!

Wait a moment!

Li Jiaying suddenly remembered something, as his expression suddenly changed into one of fright. It was as though he had been greatly shocked by something. Then he said with a slight loss of his voice, "You! You are Zhang Ye!"

Those words were like a bomb that had exploded in the classroom!

The vice-principal of No. 2 Experimental Primary School stared at Chenchen's guardian and said, "You're really Zhang Ye!"

The fine arts teacher slapped her thigh and said, "Hai! No wonder I was thinking about why he looked so familiar! So it's because he is Teacher Zhang Ye! I should have guessed it!"

"What the f**k!"

"..."

"That's what I thought!"

One by one, the teachers started to recognize Zhang Ye!

They felt that they had really been stupid at this point of time. A guy in his twenties, wearing sunglasses in a classroom, with solid foundations in mathematics, and also an associate professor at Peking University—other than Zhang Ye, who else could it be! Right, some time ago, there were rumors going around in school that a second grade student's guardian was a celebrity. At that time, several of the teachers had seen Zhang Ye during the public class. It was in this second grade class that the famous "Tribute to the White Poplar" originated from. But as some time had passed, people had already started to forget about this matter!

But today, Zhang Ye has appeared again!

The person most affected was of course Li Jiaying. He certainly knew who Zhang Ye was. Not only did he know him, he was also a hardcore fan of Zhang Ye. What Li Jiaying admired about Zhang Ye was not his programs nor his poetry, but his unfathomable standard of mathematics!

Thinking back, when he found out that the long unsolvable Dale's conjecture was solved by a Chinese mathematician, Li Jiaying's excitement was indescribable and lasted for a long time too. On that day itself, he had posted many messages onto Weibo, highlighting his pride as a fellow Chinese mathematician. At that time, it was the first time he had come to know of Zhang Ye's legendary name.

From then on, he had regarded Zhang Ye as his idol. In Li Jiaxing's view, Zhang Ye was a new wave of leaders, and also an important pillar in the Chinese mathematics world. Just he alone could hold up and support the entire Chinese mathematics world, allowing it to stand up with its chest out in the global field of mathematics. The scene and excitement at the time when the conjecture was solved, was perhaps only something that a true math practitioner would be able to understand. It was a feeling of having his heart pumping hard, the hot-blooded passion and excitement of a mathematician!

That was why, at this moment, Li Jiaxing felt like he wanted to vomit blood for three straight days and nights!

What was I doing just now? I was arguing over some math questions with Professor Zhang? I was arguing about how math education should be conducted with a world class mathematics master?

Your sister!

Argue my ass!

This was something on a whole other level!!

Faced with a living god of the mathematics world, Li Jiaxing could only stand there in a trance. If he knew earlier that this was the illustrious Zhang Ye, he would not have dared to argue over the math question with him, even if it killed him. Not only him, even his mentor in mathematics would not have the right to hold an exchange about math or science with a great mathematician like Zhang Ye. Their level of difference was too great, so there was really nothing they could exchange. At the most, his mentor would be there to "listen"!

This was really Zhang Ye!

This was really the legendary Zhang Ye!

Li Jiaxing was genuflecting, he was thoroughly and sincerely genuflecting!!

Chapter 620 Witnessing a celebrity's appearance!

Ding ding dang lang.

The bells went off and signaled the end of the math class.

But in the classroom of second grade, class one, there were no signs that the class had already ended. Everyone was still talking with excitement. After the period was over, students and teachers of the adjacent classrooms also came over after hearing news of the commotion. Many people came to take a look at the celebrity and wanted to see for themselves just how Zhang Ye looked like in real life.

"Look, it's Zhang Ye!"

"I know him, I know him!"

"Aiyo, it's really him! My little brother likes him very much!"

"Why did he come to our school? I can finally see him in person!"

"I think he came here last year too. There was hearsay that he's a relative of one of our students in the second grade."

"He looks just the same as he does on television."

"Everyone says that Zhang Ye only has average looks, but why do I think that he's not bad at all?"

Teachers were human too, especially those female teachers, who were very gossipy as well.

At this moment, Li Jiaying went up to the rostrum and said excitedly to the students, "Students! Students! All of you might not quite understand, but let me introduce him to everyone. This teacher is Zhang Ye." He gestured politely towards the direction where Zhang Ye was and continued, "Some of you or your parents might have seen him on the news, and some of you might not understand what is going on, but I'm going to tell all of you about it now. Some time ago, Teacher Zhang Ye was the person who solved the mathematical conjecture that had troubled the mathematics world for several decades. He brought us glory, dignity and honor, and is our country's most outstanding young mathematician! He's also one of the top mathematicians in the global mathematics field!"

With every claim made by the teacher, the children felt impressed over and over again.

"Ah?"

"Is that true?"

"He's that great?"

"Chenchen, your guardian is so cool!"

The students clapped wildly.

Chenchen calmly said, "Yes, he's passable."

But Zhang Ye waved it off and said, "Teacher Li, you are too generous with your praise. I'm not that great. It's just that everyone has exaggerated me. I'm only a simple mathematician." He was playing it cool! It was too great of an act! Zhang Ye thought to himself about his false modesty, but maintained his tone in a "low-key" manner by sounding very humble.

"Teacher Zhang is being too modest." Li Jiaying said, "Students, I hereby apologize to everyone. Just now during lunchtime, I did not consider the issue properly and the thought process was not tweaked well enough for you all. As a result, it caused everyone to fail to understand the logic of the solution and yet I thought that it was because you all were not being serious and attentive in class. I even lost my temper at Chenchen, therefore I would like to apologize and also thank Teacher Zhang. It was Teacher Zhang who had enlightened me. In the handling of our students' education problem and teaching methods, there are still many things that I have to learn. On top of that, there are also many things for me to learn from Teacher Zhang! From today onwards, I'll strictly demand more from myself and adjust my way of teaching."

Zhang Ye waved his hand and said, "Don't put it that way." He paused for a moment, then continued, "When I came in just now, I was also probably too overprotective of the child. On this matter, Chenchen has her problems as well. No matter what, she shouldn't have challenged a teacher like this." He turned

to Chenchen and signaled for her to come over. "Come here, apologize to Teacher Li and the other teachers."

Chenchen showed a reluctant expression.

Li Jiaying hurriedly said, "Don't, Teacher Zhang, you're making me look bad. I didn't handle this matter appropriately and there were mistakes in the way I taught, so how could let the student apologize to me? Please don't say anymore. If you say any further, I will not have any face left to continue teaching math to the students. The mistake has already been made, teachers do the same." If it were anyone else, Li Jiaying would not have been convinced or even say such words. But standing in front of him right now was his idol in the mathematics field, a legendary expert of the mathematics world. No matter who Li Jiaying would be unconvinced by, that person would definitely not be Zhang Ye!

The matter was settled.

Everyone was now satisfied and happy with the outcome.

Under the instruction of the school leaders, most of the teachers were told to disperse and get back to their work. Some returned to their offices while some went back to their classrooms to get ready for the next lesson.

When most of the crowd had dispersed, and with the school leader not around anymore, it became easier to talk about what needed to be said.

Li Jiaying came up to Zhang Ye immediately to ask him for guidance on some math problems. "Teacher Zhang, can I bother you for a few minutes? I just need a few minutes. I have some math problems I do not quite understand. I've even sought my mentor's advice before, but he was unable to help me, so..."

Zhang Ye nodded and said, "Sure, how can I help?"

They were both similar in age, but Li Jiaying was clearly older than Zhang Ye by a few years. At this moment, in front of Zhang Ye, Li Jiaying felt just like a humble student asking about some math questions that had troubled him for a long time, patiently waiting for Zhang Ye's explanation. Without much thought, Zhang Ye explained it to him in simple terms. Li Jiaying could understand a bit, but still generally did not understand, mainly because his standard wasn't good enough. So he took out a small notebook, and scribbled down some notes like a student would. After that, Li Jiaying promptly thanked him, feeling like he was filled with wisdom and had benefited a lot from the explanation!

It was a case of meeting beats hearsay!

He was indeed a world class mathematics expert!

Li Jiaying looked at Chenchen and felt that the more he looked at this child, the more he liked her. Those big round eyes, how clever. Her small nose, how cute. Those eyebrows, so likable. As a result, he smiled brightly and said in a very gentle voice, "Chenchen, are you hungry? There is a microwave in the teachers' office, let me heat up the food for you. You can't continue without eating your meal." He picked up the cold lunch box and said to Zhang Ye, "Chenchen is an extraordinarily clever and quick-witted child. To be honest, in my past few years of teaching, I have never come across such a smart child. In the future, she will surely have some great achievements. With your guidance, Chenchen will certainly also have the makings of a world-class mathematician!"

Chenchen: "..."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Form teacher Zhao Mei: "..."

Students of the second grade, class one: "..."

Only half an hour ago, he was pointing at Chenchen saying that she was brainless, poor at math, and did not learn seriously, but now she suddenly gained the foundations to becoming a world-class mathematician??

Li Jiaying went to heat the food up, and then returned with the boxed lunch and gave it to Chenchen. He also took the initiative to inform the teacher of the next lesson of the reason, so that Chenchen could have permission to eat her meal during class.

On seeing that there was nothing left for him to do, Zhang Ye said to the form teacher, Zhao Mei, who had invited him over in the first place, "Teacher Zhao, I'll be leaving then."

Zhao Mei asked, "Are you busy?"

Zhang Ye stopped in his tracks and replied, "I'm not really busy, what's the matter?"

Zhao Mei smiled and said, "Then let's go and talk in the teachers' office. The reasons I asked you to come to school today was first, regarding the matter that happened in the math lesson just now, and second, I wanted to discuss with you the problem of Chenchen's learning attitude. She's an infamous problem student in our school and many subject teachers have always intended to have a meeting with Chenchen's guardian to discuss about her.

Zhang Ye nervously said, "Ah?"

Zhao Mei led him towards the end of the corridor, saying, "Please come with me."

When Zhang Ye was still schooling, he had always been afraid of having his parents called to school. This was because, when they got home, he would be surely get a beating from them. But now that he as a guardian was called to school by a teacher, he could finally understand why his parents would give him a beating. It was because it was really just too embarrassing! If the child got into trouble, he would also get a scolding. As Zhang Ye was already a big shot B-list celebrity, he was of course not looking too good at the moment!

Ai, having acted so awesomely earlier, he was now on the verge of being exposed as incompetent!

Zhang Ye only hoped that Chenchen's teachers would give him some face and not talk down to him like how his parents were talked down to in the past!