

## Superstar 691

### I'm Really a Superstar

#### Chapter 691: Broadcast!

Thursday night.

Around 8:55 PM.

At Zhang Ye's parents' house, his mother was in the kitchen preparing supper. She was frying some sausages<sup>1</sup> and chopping the garlic, occasionally coming out to the living room to ask, "Has it started yet?"

Zhang Ye answered, "Not yet, there's still 5 minutes."

His mother asked, "It's still the commercials? They're taking too long with that!"

His father urged, "Just get the sausages onto the dining table first, Chenchen is getting hungry waiting for you."

"Right away, right away." Not a moment later, his mother brought out the dish and put it onto the dining table. "Chenchen, come and eat, try the sausages that Grandma fried."

Chenchen went to the dining table and picked up a pair of chopsticks immediately.

Zhang Ye stopped her. "Have you thanked Grandma for cooking this for you yet?"

Chenchen raised her head. "Thank you, Grandma."

His mother smiled happily. "No need to thank me, just eat."

Only then did Zhang Ye let Chenchen start eating. He himself also started eating, but he used his hands instead of chopsticks. The sausages were still very hot and he even let out a yell because of that. Then he dipped it into the garlic sauce and threw it directly into his mouth.

Then Chenchen did not take the sausages from her plate but insisted on snatching them from Zhang Ye's hands. "Give me, Zhang Ye, give me!"

"No, dip it in the sauce yourself!" Zhang Ye rolled his eyes.

His mother sat down. "Why are you fighting with a child? Come, Chenchen, let Grandma dip it in some sauce for you. Do you want vinegar<sup>2</sup>?"

His father turned the volume of the TV up.

Onscreen, the second episode of The Voice was starting.

Simultaneously, the same event was also occurring in many households across the country.

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In a household.

"Honey, get me a cold beer!"

“Drinking again?”

“The Voice is starting, I’ve already been waiting for a week!”

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In an alley.

“Brother Sun, you’re leaving so early? Why don’t we play another two rounds.”

“I’m not playing anymore, you guys continue. I have to go back to catch The Voice.”

“Whoa, you’re already past 40 and still watching talent shows?”

“What do you all know? The Voice is different, it’s really fun to watch!”

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At some kebab restaurant.

“Waiter.”

“Coming.”

“Please switch the television to The Voice.”

“Sure, sir.”

“Give me another 50 kebab skewers and 5 bottles of beer, cold ones!”

“They’ll be here soon.”

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Millions of viewers were already waiting in front of their televisions, their eyes focused on Central TV Department 1’s channel. Everyone wanted to know if the second episode of The Voice would be able to continue its miraculous run and if Zhang Ye’s viewership ratings legend was really just a flash in the pan. In the past two days, a few online comments were rather spot on. The real test of Zhang Ye’s standard and The Voice was starting just today. Whether they were a mule or a horse all depended on this second episode!

The introduction music played!

The logo of The Voice appeared!

During the first episode, there was a lot more fanfare, such as the opening theme song and coaches introduction. A lot of the viewing audience thought that it would be the same for the second episode, but what surprised them was that The Voice did not follow the templates of other talent shows. Instead, there wasn’t even an opening introduction. In place of it was the fan favorite advertising segment!

When the show started, the focus was immediately on the stage. Zhang Ye had already walked up to the hanging microphone. He recited speedily while looking into the camera, “I-will-not-accept-any-gifts-this-year The-only-gift-I-will-accept-is-Brain Gold There’s-no-need-to-watch-any-TV-shows-this-year The-only-TV-show-you-need-to-watch-is-The Voice...”

A string of advertising messages seemingly flew out from his mouth!

The loud applause from the audience thundered through the entire studio!

Online, many people who heard this again could only come up with forced smiles!

“Just how did Zhang Ye do it so quickly!”

“Was he aiming to break the speed of sound there?”

“Each time I listen to it, I get more surprised! That mouth of his is really too godly!”

“Damn, Zhang Ye has gotten faster again! I timed it just now and Zhang Ye’s recital of the advertising message today was faster than the first episode’s recital by 0.5 seconds! F\*\*k, he could even go faster than before? He did not even hit his limit yet in the first episode? Still increasing his recital speed? I’m gonna faint!”

“Are you sure?”

“I timed it too! Indeed, he did it faster than before!”

“My timing shows that he was faster by 0.4 seconds!”

“Heavens!”

“Teacher Zhang’s taking this godly speed to the next level!”

“He’s just so godlike! With a godly mouth too!”

“Teacher Zhang, you’re too awesome!”

The opening advertising messages had already made many of the audience members erupt into excitement. Many of the industry insiders who saw this all felt that Zhang Ye and The Voice were being too “violent.” Why “violent”? Because whenever all the other variety shows wished to pull up their viewership ratings by attracting viewers, they would have to try many tricks and strategies, like finding a better pool of contestants, inviting a well-known coach, or giving more thought when creating new ideas for the program, and even by relying on the humor of the host. However, The Voice’s advertising segment that pulled in the viewers only needed to depend on Zhang Ye’s amazingly fast recital speed which would crush all of his fellow peers. It “violently” relied on Zhang Ye’s individual ability to pull in all the viewers’ interest, and this seemingly non-technical ability actually required the most technique to execute. Right now, everyone knew that if they delivered the advertising messages in such a manner, it would definitely raise the viewership ratings by attracting enormous attention and hype to the topic. But even if they knew, there was no host in the industry who could do the same thing! So looking at Zhang Ye continuing to use his unique skill in the second episode of the program, many of the satellite channel industry insiders could only watch and sigh. Unless they could somehow poach Zhang Ye over from Central TV Department 1, they could only watch with envy!

Excitement rose in the air!

The next moment, Zhang Ye started to introduce the first contestant who would come up onstage. The show’s pacing was very fast. There were no slow moments as it headed straight for the main event!

The contestant's intro clip started playing!

It was a woman's voice. "Since childhood, my family's living conditions have always been good. My parents are rather strict with me, so I can't do many things. When I went to work, it was also at my parents' company. I know that they wish to nurture me so I can take over the company in the future and have achievements in the business world, but to be honest, that's not what I like. I don't like doing business where people are always scheming against each other. I like to sing, and I want to sing. That's why I've come to the stage of The Voice. I hope to tell my parents that I will choose my own path!"

The female contestant carried the microphone and stepped on stage.

The moment she appeared up on stage, whether it was the live audience or the viewers in front of their TVs, everyone showed slightly shocked expressions!

Why?

Because of this contestant's appearance!

"How beautiful!"

"Damn, a beauty!"

"This person is too beautiful, too beautiful!"

"She carries herself really well!"

"F\*\*k, I've always thought that The Voice would only have ugly men and women as contestants! Where did a person with such stunning looks come out from? I thought that The Voice doesn't care about looks?"

"Yeah, I am also quite disappointed!"

"Could it be that The Voice has already conceded to the traditional format from the second episode? They are going to become just like any other talent show that uses good-looking people as their contestants? And I still thought that The Voice was something new and refreshing! If this contestant only performs averagely, I will not be watching The Voice anymore!"

"Listen to the performance first."

Many netizens were commenting online while watching the program. As the contestants from the first episode had left a very deep impression on them, many of them already formed preconceived notions of the contestants. Now that such a beautiful looking female contestant had appeared onstage, they felt a little unused to it!

The female contestant's name was Yuan Tong and had moved Zhang Ye with the song "Blooming" during the preliminary auditions, allowing her to qualify for the next round. However, as another female contestant had performed the same song in the first episode, to avoid repetition, the music arrangement teacher and music director had chosen another song for her after consulting Zhang Ye. It wasn't a love song nor an upbeat song. It was a song that carried some risk if performed in a singing competition as it didn't fit too well to the theme. However, Zhang Ye and his team all believed that Yuan Tong could make it sound good!

The song was—"For My Future Son or Daughter."

"I want a child. I'll teach 'em how write and speak.

"I want a child. I'll teach 'em to be thoughtful and free.

"I want a child. I'll teach 'em forgiveness and mercy.

"I want a child. I'll teach 'em to be selfless and true."

After this female contestant opened her mouth to sing, everyone immediately stopped what they were saying!

An uproar broke out again online!

"What the f\*\*k!"

"That's friggin' nice to listen to!"

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"F\*\*k, who says that if you look good, you won't be able to sing? I was nearly misled by you guys! She can also sing very well even if she's beautiful!"

"Ahem, I take back my words from earlier. It was because of the first episode that I assumed the wrong things. I did not think that there would be any good-looking people appearing on this stage!"

"This person sings as well as Luo Yu! She must also be a key contestant! And she's even very pretty!"

"The Voice did great! How did they manage to find so many awesome people!?"

At this moment, on the TV screens, Chen Guang and Fan Wenli both pressed the button simultaneously as they both turned around with excitement!

"They've turned!"

"There's still two more coaches to go!"

"Hahaha, how wonderful!"

"Wow, look at Old Chen's eyes. They're gleaming at the sight of a pretty lady, heh!"

"Zhang Xia looks like she's hesitating, I think she'll turn around soon!"

Yuan Tong was still singing. There was no high notes to hit nor any showy techniques. She simply used a very emotional style of singing to perform this song, or rather she was just singing her feelings. Through this song's beseeching of one's future child, she was actually reflecting on her own experiences for the past 20 years of her life. It was performed very well and full of charm!

"My daughter.

"My son.

"I don't want you to be like me, bad with words.

"I don't want you to be like me, selfish, harsh, and untoward.

"I don't want you to be like me, showing off your vanity.

"I don't want you to be like me..."

Zhang Yuanqi turned!

Zhang Xia glanced sideways and also determinedly hit the button!

All of them had turned!

It was another rare occasion where a contestant earned the approval of the four coaches!

The audience also exploded as everyone started cheering for Yuan Tong, for her beauty and for her singing!

Backstage at the second recording studio site, Zhang Ye was accompanied by Yuan Tong's parents who did not look like they were too interested, appearing quite obviously unsupportive of their daughter. But when they saw their daughter's eyes had teared up at the most emotional part of the song, then saw how the four coaches were reacting excited due to her singing, as well as the studio audience's cheers, Yuan Tong's mother's eyes reddened. She quietly wiped away some tears from the corners of her eyes and looked at her husband who had raised his arms high in encouragement of their daughter!

Yuan Tong was crying. When she reached the final verse of the song, as her vibrato ended along with the music, she saw that the four coaches had all turned around. Suddenly, at that moment, she could not hold her emotions in anymore and covered her mouth and cried. Having held it in for so long, with so many people watching her at the venue, she would naturally be a little more sensitive, and so her tears started falling.

Seeing this, Zhang Xia also teared up a little. Perhaps she was also reminded of some memories since she looked to be in a rather complex state.

Chen Guang still stuck to his old pet phrase as he raised both his arms. "This is truly unbelievable!"

A stunning face!

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The netizens all shouted in succession.

"The singing was too wonderful!"

"I nearly cried listening to that!"

"Me too!"

"I'm already a fan! Yuan Tong is awesome!"

“Supporting you in wanting to walk your own path!”

“Right, don’t go into business! You must carry on singing! It’s your life, so you must make your own choice!”

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The several industry insiders suddenly went quiet. One of them was the executive director of a talent show that was on another satellite channel in the same broadcast time slot. He could only silently sigh, knowing that he and many others had been totally underestimating Zhang Ye. When The Voice was not yet broadcast, they’d already been denouncing it and calling it bad. Many of them were not actually trying to bad-mouth it because it was a competitor; they wouldn’t stoop that low. The main reason they had done so was because they truly did not believe that a talent show without any good-looking people could get popular. They felt that this was going against the market trends, but the first episode of The Voice had utterly schooled them regarding this concern. Zhang Ye had made a show that did not have any good-looking people in it and created a viewership rating miracle, shocking all his industry peers and shutting up all those doubters!

And today, Zhang Ye had once again schooled these industry peers with another lesson!

Who said that The Voice would not have any good-looking people on it?

Who had set such a rule? No one did! Zhang Ye did not mention this explicitly before either! He only said that the contestants could join regardless of looks!

If they could sing very well and also have a very good-looking appearance, then that would be all the better. Just like how Yuan Tong was a contestant you wouldn’t just find anywhere even if you looked hard. The future development path of Yuan Tong was probably going to be much smoother than Luo Yu or Qian Pingfan, since her foundation was almost perfect and she also had the necessary good qualities!

When there was a misconception that The Voice would only have ugly people joining as contestants, it was all because the audience had wanted to believe it that way. They had a wrong understanding of The Voice and today’s first contestant Zhang Ye sent on stage was clearly set up for this. Zhang Ye had his own considerations, and as expected, Yuan Tong had amazed the entire venue and put across a message of truth to everyone—don’t ever use your understanding to measure The Voice!

.....

At Zhang Ye’s parents’ place.

His mother’s eyes lit up. “This person is really beautiful and she sings very well too!”

Zhang Ye laughed. “Yes, Yuan Tong was one of my designated trump cards from the preliminary auditions. I had planned for her to appear in the second episode to shock everyone.”

His mother said, “What is she like?”

“Alright I suppose. Do you mean her personality?” Zhang Ye asked.

His mother asked with concern, “Yes, is her personality good?”

Zhang Ye threw up his hands. "We've only talked a little about music and didn't have much contact after that, so I don't really know. But I guess she's alright, she seems to be quite filial. Eh, why are you asking about this?"

His father had already sensed it. "Your mom is just worrying about finding you a partner."

His mother immediately said, "Yes. This girl is very beautiful and can even sing well. Her family is rather well off too, and although she might not be famous yet, she can slowly work her way up. I think she would match you well."

Zhang Ye nearly fainted. "Mom, didn't I tell you not to worry about this matter?"

His mother pouted. "If you don't want me to worry, then you should find someone. I know that many people in the entertainment circle wed late in their lives, some are even still single in their forties, so you better make sure you don't learn from them!"

"Just don't worry so much. Yuan Tong is just considered as an average beauty." Zhang Ye said, "My future wife will definitely be much more beautiful than her."

Chenchen who was sitting next to them on the sofa glanced at him for a moment. "...Hur hur."

His mother doubtfully said, "Is that so?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Of course, just wait and see."

He was actually speaking the truth, since Wu Zeqing was indeed much more beautiful than Yuan Tong. Perhaps, since Zhang Ye had seen Wu Zeqing so many times, he did not even take much notice of Yuan Tong from the beginning. He basically did not have any interest in her and it was just his mother who had brought it up and incoherently connected them together, thinking that her son was still unable to find someone.

His father interrupted, "Don't talk anymore, it's the next contestant's turn." His father was never interested in watching such shows in the first place, neither could he really understand them, but maybe due to his son, he enjoyed it quite a bit. If anyone spoke loudly, he would say that they bothered his watching of the show.

His mother turned her attention back to the television and did not raise the subject of Zhang Ye finding a partner anymore. She asked anxiously, "Who's next? Is it a man or a woman? Is the performance good?"

Zhang Ye smiled and kept them guessing. "The next contestant will surely give both of you a great fright. Just watch, I won't spoil it for you!"

### [I'm Really a Superstar](#)

#### **Chapter 692: Grandpa, could you cut it out!?**

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His mother asked, "It's still the commercials? They're taking too long with that!"

His father urged, "Just get the sausages onto the dining table first, Chenchen is getting hungry waiting for you."

"Right away, right away." Not a moment later, his mother brought out the dish and put it onto the dining table. "Chenchen, come and eat, try the sausages that Grandma fried."

Chenchen went to the dining table and picked up a pair of chopsticks immediately.

Zhang Ye stopped her. "Have you thanked Grandma for cooking this for you yet?"

Chenchen raised her head. "Thank you, Grandma."

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"No, dip it in the sauce yourself!" Zhang Ye rolled his eyes.

His mother sat down. "Why are you fighting with a child? Come, Chenchen, let Grandma dip it in some sauce for you. Do you want vinegar?" [2.]

His father turned the volume of the TV up.

Onscreen, the second episode of The Voice was starting.

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In a household.

"Honey, get me a cold beer!"

"Drinking again?"

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"Brother Sun, you're leaving so early? Why don't we play another two rounds."

“I’m not playing anymore, you guys continue. I have to go back to catch The Voice.”

“Whoa, you’re already past 40 and still watching talent shows?”

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“Waiter.”

“Coming.”

“Please switch the television to The Voice.”

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A string of advertising messages seemingly flew out from his mouth!

The loud applause from the audience thundered through the entire studio!

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“Was he aiming to break the speed of sound there?”

“Each time I listen to it, I get more surprised! That mouth of his is really too godly!”

“Damn, Zhang Ye has gotten faster again! I timed it just now and Zhang Ye’s recital of the advertising message today was faster than the first episode’s recital by 0.5 seconds! F\*\*k, he could even go faster than before? He did not even hit his limit yet in the first episode? Still increasing his recital speed? I’m gonna faint!”

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It was a woman’s voice. “Since childhood, my family’s living conditions have always been good. My parents are rather strict with me, so I can’t do many things. When I went to work, it was also at my parents’ company. I know that they wish to nurture me so I can take over the company in the future and have achievements in the business world, but to be honest, that’s not what I like. I don’t like doing business where people are always scheming against each other. I like to sing, and I want to sing. That’s why I’ve come to the stage of The Voice. I hope to tell my parents that I will choose my own path!”

The female contestant carried the microphone and stepped on stage.

The moment she appeared up on stage, whether it was the live audience or the viewers in front of their TVs, everyone showed slightly shocked expressions!

Why?

Because of this contestant's appearance!

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"She carries herself really well!"

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"Could it be that The Voice has already conceded to the traditional format from the second episode? They are going to become just like any other talent show that uses good-looking people as their contestants? And I still thought that The Voice was something new and refreshing! If this contestant only performs averagely, I will not be watching The Voice anymore!"

"Listen to the performance first."

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After this female contestant opened her mouth to sing, everyone immediately stopped what they were saying!

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“F\*\*k, who says that if you look good, you won’t be able to sing? I was nearly misled by you guys! She can also sing very well even if she’s beautiful!”

“Ahem, I take back my words from earlier. It was because of the first episode that I assumed the wrong things. I did not think that there would be any good-looking people appearing on this stage!”

“This person sings as well as Luo Yu! She must also be a key contestant! And she’s even very pretty!”

“The Voice did great! How did they manage to find so many awesome people!?”

At this moment, on the TV screens, Chen Guang and Fan Wenli both pressed the button simultaneously as they both turned around with excitement!

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“There’s still two more coaches to go!”

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All of them had turned!

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The audience also exploded as everyone started cheering for Yuan Tong, for her beauty and for her singing!

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Who had set such a rule? No one did! Zhang Ye did not mention this explicitly before either! He only said that the contestants could join regardless of looks!

If they could sing very well and also have a very good-looking appearance, then that would be all the better. Just like how Yuan Tong was a contestant you wouldn't just find anywhere even if you looked hard. The future development path of Yuan Tong was probably going to be much smoother than Luo Yu or Qian Pingfan, since her foundation was almost perfect and she also had the necessary good qualities!

When there was a misconception that The Voice would only have ugly people joining as contestants, it was all because the audience had wanted to believe it that way. They had a wrong understanding of The Voice and today's first contestant Zhang Ye sent on stage was clearly set up for this. Zhang Ye had his own considerations, and as expected, Yuan Tong had amazed the entire venue and put across a message of truth to everyone—don't ever use your understanding to measure The Voice!

...

At Zhang Ye's parents' place.

His mother's eyes lit up. "This person is really beautiful and she sings very well too!"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Yes, Yuan Tong was one of my designated trump cards from the preliminary auditions. I had planned for her to appear in the second episode to shock everyone."

His mother said, "What is she like?"

"Alright I suppose. Do you mean her personality?" Zhang Ye asked.

His mother asked with concern, "Yes, is her personality good?"

Zhang Ye threw up his hands. "We've only talked a little about music and didn't have much contact after that, so I don't really know. But I guess she's alright, she seems to be quite filial. Eh, why are you asking about this?"

His father had already sensed it. "Your mom is just worrying about finding you a partner."

His mother immediately said, "Yes. This girl is very beautiful and can even sing well. Her family is rather well off too, and although she might not be famous yet, she can slowly work her way up. I think she would match you well."

Zhang Ye nearly fainted. "Mom, didn't I tell you not to worry about this matter?"

His mother pouted. "If you don't want me to worry, then you should find someone. I know that many people in the entertainment circle wed late in their lives, some are even still single in their forties, so you better make sure you don't learn from them!"

"Just don't worry so much. Yuan Tong is just considered as an average beauty." Zhang Ye said, "My future wife will definitely be much more beautiful than her."

Chenchen who was sitting next to them on the sofa glanced at him for a moment. "...Hur hur."

His mother doubtfully said, "Is that so?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Of course, just wait and see."

He was actually speaking the truth, since Wu Zeqing was indeed much more beautiful than Yuan Tong. Perhaps, since Zhang Ye had seen Wu Zeqing so many times, he did not even take much notice of Yuan Tong from the beginning. He basically did not have any interest in her and it was just his mother who had brought it up and incoherently connected them together, thinking that her son was still unable to find someone.

His father interrupted, "Don't talk anymore, it's the next contestant's turn." His father was never interested in watching such shows in the first place, neither could he really understand them, but maybe due to his son, he enjoyed it quite a bit. If anyone spoke loudly, he would say that they bothered his watching of the show.

His mother turned her attention back to the television and did not raise the subject of Zhang Ye finding a partner anymore. She asked anxiously, "Who's next? Is it a man or a woman? Is the performance good?"

Zhang Ye smiled and kept them guessing. "The next contestant will surely give both of you a great fright. Just watch, I won't spoil it for you!"

### **Chapter 693: Grandpa, could you cut it out!?**

At a quarter past 9 PM, the next contestant was about to appear. Having been enticed by Zhang Ye with his description of the contestant, his parents kept their eyes on the TV screen and anticipated who would come next. They wanted to know just how frightening this next contestant would be. Even Chenchen who was still eating the sausages glanced curiously at the screen.

But at this moment, Zhang Ye stood up from his chair. After filling his stomach, he took a napkin and wiped the garlic sauce and oil from his hand. He then went back into his room. He took out his phone and hesitated for a long while but still decided to call the number that was written on a note he had kept in his pocket. He had gotten this from the program team. It was an emergency contact number one of the contestants had put on their application form.

He dialed the number.

Du du. The call went through.

Zhang Ye greeted: "Hello."

It was a middle-aged man who answered the phone: "Hello, who is this?"

"Is this Mr. Zhou?" Zhang Ye asked.

"That's he, you are?" The middle-aged man asked, wondering what was going on.

Zhang Ye said: "Are you and your mother together at the moment? I would like to look for Grandma Wang. I'm not sure if it's convenient for her to answer the phone right now?"

The middle-aged man said: "Looking for my mother? Are you a comrade from the Residents' Committee? Or the Retirees' Association?" Maybe it was because of Zhang Ye speaking very formally, the middle-aged man did not make much of it and wasn't too suspecting. "OK, please wait, I'll get her." Then a voice could be heard: "Mother, mother, a call for you."

About five or so seconds later, someone answered.

It was a little old granny's voice: "Hello, is this Little Li from the committee?"

Zhang Ye said: "No, Grandma Wang, my name is Zhang Ye."

"Zhang Ye?" Grandma Wang said while shaking her head. "Did you get the wrong number?"

Zhang Ye said: "I didn't get the wrong number. I understand that you might not know me, but I'm calling you with a rather presumptuous request. Could I get you to tune in to Central TV Department 1's channel on TV?"

Grandma Wang did not understand. "Eh?"

Zhang Ye said: "You'll understand when you see it."

After saying that, Zhang Ye hung up because he did not know what else to say. He also didn't know if he should be the one to say it, so he just hurriedly and briefly said a few words.

On the other end.

Grandma Wang was feeling very confused. "Who was that?"

Her son, Mr. Zhou, said in surprise, "You don't know that person?"

"I don't know him. He only asked me to take a look at Central TV Department 1's channel now and then hung up after saying that." Grandma Wang's television was on at the moment, but she was currently watching opera. She very much so enjoyed listening to opera.

Mr. Zhou was quite speechless at that. "What did he mean by that? Was it a sales call? A phone scam?"

Grandma Wang said, "I don't know."

"What's there on Central TV Department 1? Oh, it's Thursday today, isn't it? I think it's The Voice of China at this time. Many of my colleagues have been telling me how good it is. Eh, wait!" Mr. Zhou suddenly said, "What was the name of the person who called just now?"

Grandma Wang thought for a moment. "He said he was...Zhang Ye?"

Mr. Zhou was stunned. "Isn't Zhang Ye that host? I think he joined Central TV Department 1 and The Voice seems to be produced by him!"

"Host?" Grandma Wang thought, but she did not know any celebrities in person.

Mr. Zhou was feeling very curious, so he switched over to Central TV Department 1. "Look, it's really The Voice. I think it just started not too long ago. Could it really be Zhang Ye who called? That's not possible, he's such a superstar, why would he call our house? Just thinking about that seems impossible already! This is really weird!"

Grandma Wang said, "If it's a scam, then just ignore it. I want to continue watching my opera."

"Can you watch the opera in a while? Let me take a look first." Mr. Zhou wondered about what kind of program The Voice actually was. "This show is very popular right now. Everyone in the country is talking about it. The viewership ratings have won hands down against all other variety shows in the same period. They also say that the contestants are all very good performers too. My colleagues told me that there was a bicycle repairman in the first episode who sang with an even more womanly voice than a woman could. That voice was really the best. Then there was another contestant...Ah!" As he related to this part, he suddenly cried out in surprise. The words that were coming out from his mouth became stuck in his throat!

Grandma Wang asked, "What's the matter?"

Mr. Zhou was shocked as he pointed at the television screen. His hand was trembling. "F-Father! It's my father!"

"What?" Grandma Wang expression also turned to shock. She turned her focus to the television and stared hard at it. Her eyes swirled with a complex mix of emotions!

Mr. Zhou, who seemingly had seen a ghost, said, "What's my father doing on TV!"

Grandma Wang was silent for a moment, then uttered, "Change the channel!"

"Mother..." Mr. Zhou said.

"Change the channel!" Grandma Wang said firmly.

Mr Zhou said, "Why do you want to change it? Just watch it. You've already divorced my father for seven or eight years already. Each time he calls, you always hang up on him. Every time he comes to look for you, you don't even want to open the door for him. Whenever any of our neighbors mention my father's name, you will give them an angry look. Just what are you trying to do? It's not like my father has done something wrong. All he likes is singing, so why can't you get over that after all these years."

Grandma Wang said angrily, "Is that what he calls liking singing? He treats singing like it's his life. When we were still young, your father would carry that guitar of his around every day and form whatever band or groups with his co-workers. If you say that he was young at that time, I'll let it pass, but as we got older, he still did not change. After working at the factory for 20, 30 years, just because he wanted to pursue that dream of his, he took the golden handshake at work and left his job. All the golden

handshake payment was good for was a few years of insurance payments, and he was left with no other income. It's not like you don't know how much our family suffered during those years!"

Mr Zhou said, "That still didn't warrant getting a divorce from my father, did it!?"

Grandma Wang resolutely said, "When he sang during his younger days, it was fine. But he's already so old, yet he still keeps on thinking about that dream. Everyone has their destiny, and his is a worker. Why does he still not give up at his age! Does he not understand?! Only young people go on talent shows, what is he thinking stepping in and joining in on the fun?! That singing of his is so terrible, who would like it?"

Mr Zhou seethed, "If you don't want to watch, I will. I have never really heard my father singing a song before. Every time he tried to sing in the past, you would always pick a quarrel with him!"

Grandma Wang scolded very harshly, but did not actually move from her seat. She remained on the sofa and her gaze was still on the TV set.

...

Online.

Many of the viewers were also raising a ruckus.

"I'm gonna faint!"

"I'm gonna faint +1!"

"This...this..."

"F\*\*k me, why is there even an old man?"

"I'm blind!"

"Your sister! The composition of the contestants in The Voice is way too complicated! There's a train driver, a P.E. teacher, a bicycle repairman, and now even a retiree?"

"Teacher Zhang, I bow to you!"

"Pfft! Does it need to be this funny?"

"At that age, he still wants to join a talent show?"

"This grandpa is really courageous, he can still sing at that age?"

"Surely this must just be meeting the requirement of the number of contestants, right?"

"Could he be intending to perform a square dance?" [1.]

The viewers in front of their TV sets found it both laughable and pitiful. They'd seen strange things, but never had they seen something this strange. A 60 year old still coming to take part in a talent show competition? And it's even a singing competition? In all the other singing shows, even a 40 year old would be rare and would be considered an overaged contestant. They were all basically just contestants who would end up having that one appearance in the competition before getting eliminated. After all,

people at that age really weren't in the condition for singing, not to mention what it would be like for a 60-year-old grandpa!

Would you cut it out!?

Grandpa, could you please cut it out!?

### [I'm Really a Superstar](#)

#### **Chapter 694: Zhou Danian! Zhou Danian!**

The contestant's intro clip played:

A 60-year-old grandpa appeared onscreen.

"My name is Zhou Danian, everyone just calls me Old Zhou. About my life, I've really been a failure. When I was young, my dream was to be a singer. Even after many decades, my dream never changed. Many of my friends say that I must be mad, criticizing that I'm not mature and even my spouse who had been part of my life for many years filed for a divorce seven, eight years ago over my pursuit of my dream. She said that I couldn't recognize what was real and what was a dream. She said that people our age shouldn't be qualified to dream anymore. But I will never believe that, why is it that only young people have the right to pursue their dreams? Why can't we old people also have a lifetime dream that we've been working with determination toward? I came to this stage today in hopes that my ex-wife and son can see me, that my ex-bandmates whom I had been playing music together with for so many years but given up now can see me, that those who tell me that I should not have such dreams can see me. I want to tell them that even though I might not turn out to be a capable singer, and I may have been wrong all my life, but I, Zhou Danian, have never given up. From my twenties to my sixties, I've been pushing forward for 40 years, working hard for 40 years, but I have never given up!"

The audience was taken by surprise.

"60 years old?"

"He's really that old?"

"F\*\*k, I just thought this man looked old."

"This is making me dizzy. He's already 60?"

Even the industry insiders who were watching The Voice were feeling a genuine sense of powerlessness. They could not understand what Zhang Ye was trying to do. How did he even manage to get an old man like this from the preliminary auditions?

The four coaches appeared onscreen looking a little lost, unsure of why the audience was so surprised. As only the four of them had their backs facing to the stage, they couldn't see the contestants or know if they were a man or a woman, how tall they were, their looks, or age. They were totally clueless.

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At Grandma Wang's house.

Mr. Zhou drew a deep breath. "Mother, my father, he..."

Grandma Wang stayed silent.

In the past, Mr. Zhou also could not understand his father. He felt that the reason why his family had come to this point was due to his parents' unrealistic dreams and aspirations. His parents argued very often and even ended up divorcing. Although he did not say it explicitly, he had always blamed his father for this, thinking that it was because his father had handled everything wrong. But now, after listening to his father's intro clip, Mr Zhou was suddenly at a loss for words.

.....

On screen.

Under the gaze of the countless TV viewers, Zhou Danian stepped up onto the stage. He held the microphone in his hand and walked up in a slow manner. He even had to climb the stairs one step at a time, unable to go two steps at once. From this, it could be seen that Zhou Danian was really getting old and no longer as strong as a younger person.

Can this grandpa really do it?

This old man could really sing?

Everyone had the same question on their mind.

The lights dimmed. 3, 2, 1... the music blared!

It was the strumming of guitars. Even though the melody sounded a little different, it was still very familiar. Those who heard it immediately knew that this was the tune of an early rock song by Zhang Yuanqi that was very popular. A lot of people had sung it before, but never had they heard an old man singing it!

"It's 'I Don't Believe'?"

"Rock?"

"Heavens! The grandpa is going to sing a rock song?"

"What is this, just what is going on here?"

"I was expecting a song from the '70s, how did it turn out to be a rock song? A person that age can also sing such a mainstream pop song?"

"Will that work?"

"It's definitely not going to be good on the ears! I have no clue what to say!"

"It can't possibly be good, can it?"

"He even got divorced because of this? That's really not worth it!"

"If he sang an old song, it would be fine. But a rock song? You were already on the wrong path in the first place, yet you persisted for 40 years? What's the point of that?"

"Rock essentially belongs to the younger people!"

On screen, Zhou Danian was faced with the doubtful looks of the audience but did not seem to care. He had already long since gotten used to it, as he had been through all this countless times. Under the gaze of all these doubtful looks, he raised the microphone to his mouth and expressed all his experiences and emotions into the singing of the song. This was a song that he wanted to sing for himself!

He opened his mouth.

His voice came out.

"After all the effort, all I could do was return in failure.

"After all the fighting, all I could do was cry wishing for my dreams.

"After all the thinking, why is my life so lowly?

"After all the lamenting, why is my voice turning haggard!"

One year...

After another...

Yet another year...

Year by year, he grew older. Year by year, he became more bleary-eyed. Zhou Danian was just like how the lyrics were written—he had never had any success in his lifetime before!

The television audience suddenly fell silent!

At the live venue of The Voice, it also suddenly became quiet!

Many people were so surprised that their mouths could not stay closed. They were all shocked by that mature and gravelly bass voice. They simply could not believe their hearing, that this voice was coming out from the mouth of a 60-year-old man!

Likewise, Zhou Danian's son was also shocked at this. Both his eyes were staring wide at the television and he could not even speak coherently anymore. "This, my dad...this..."

Grandma Wang was looking at her ex-husband on TV, as memories flashed in front of her eyes.

"How old are you already!"

"I don't want to just give up like that."

"What's wrong with you! Can't you just accept your fate?"

"I won't give in!"

"Even if you don't accept, you still have to accept! Just spend our days peacefully and stop harping about your dreams!"

"I've only had this one dream in my lifetime, can't you just support me for once?"

"I've had enough! We're going to get a divorce!"

"Xiaoyun! Let me try again! Let me try it for the last time! I can do it for sure!"

"Don't say any more. It doesn't matter how many times you try it! That is not the life you were meant for!"

Suddenly, right after Zhou Danian's bassy voice took a breath, he screamed in a high-pitched voice, with the power of a bomb exploding!

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

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

"I don't believe that my path is always tough!

"I don't believe that my dreams will never come true!"

The screaming got higher and higher pitched, inflaming every household that was tuned in on their televisions! It was too explosive!

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

"I don't believe that I have no talent!

"I don't believe that I'm destined to be a lowly person!

"I don't believe that my songs will be left unanswered forever!!!"

The coaches could no longer hold themselves back anymore!

Zhang Yuanqi turned!

Zhang Xia turned!

Chen Guang turned!

Fan Wenli turned!

The four coaches all hit their buttons and turned around within one second of each other. If a voice like that could not earn their approval, then nothing would!

However, when they saw the contestant, the four coaches all broke down!

Fan Wenli screamed, "Ah!"

Zhang Xia also had a fright. "Aiyo, my god!"

Zhang Yuanqi said, "It's a grandpa?"

Chen Guang held his head in his hands, looking like he couldn't accept it. "Holy shit!"

When they were listening to this voice with the backs facing the stage, they could hear that the contestant had some age and life experience from the way he sang with his mature and gravelly voice. But even so, it only sounded like a 40-year-old or so, not 60 or above. Who would have thought that it would be an old man! What they saw had truly given the four coaches a shock. This was really just too surprising! This person sang so well! If anyone told them that they were listening to a 60-year-old

grandpa perform when their backs were turned, they would never have believed it! Besides, this was a rock song!!

The power required in a rock song, the soul and emotions, all of these were expressed fully by the old man. Everyone who heard it could feel their blood boiling with excitement!

"Heavens! Heavens! Heavens!"

"Holy shit!"

"How awesome! "That was such a strong performance!"

"This grandpa is so damn cool!"

"Ahhh! I've got goosebumps all over my body!"

"How cool! This grandpa is really too awesome!"

"F\*ck me, how did he sing it so well! His vocals seem to be even more aggressive than a young man! Is he really a 60-year-old grandpa? Now it feels more like he's just 16!"

"Awesome!"

"The Voice is awesome!"

"This stage is too attractive! This is what music is about! This is what you call singing!"

The audience cheered!

Everyone was shouting excitedly. On screen, many of the audience members could be seen standing up and holding up their hands, waving them around crazily, feeling very pumped up from the performance!

At this moment, the music slowed down as the drum kicks faded away.

When the audience was thinking that Zhou Danian would repeat the chorus and let the rhythm pump up the audience again, the music began to slow instead. The original version of Zhang Yuanqi's "I Don't Believe" arrangement and lyrics were changed by Zhou Danian. He added in a conclusion, a type of response lyrics into the ending.

Zhou Danian's face looked a little haggard, his voice sounding very light yet deep. Compared to his screaming earlier, it sounded like he was mumbling to himself as he sang:

"Perhaps my life is worse than others."

"Perhaps I really have no talent."

"Perhaps I'm destined to be a lowly person."

"Perhaps songs will be left unanswered forever."

It was the end of the song!

The music slowly came to an end as well!

Zhang Yuanqi was already leading everyone to stand up and giving her sincerest applause!

Everyone in the studio also stood up with warm applause for him!

.....

Hearing her ex-husband screaming on the show, Grandma Wang did not seem to have much of a reaction. But when he starting singing the parts of his rhetorical answers of "perhaps," Grandma Wang immediately held her face in her hands and unexpectedly started crying. She was crying so hard that it sounded like she would not stop at anytime soon.

Her son said, "Mother! So...my father sings this well!"

Grandma Wang pressed her hands against her eyes, unable to stop crying. "Old Zhou! Wu wu wu wu!"

The feud between his parents, the complex relationship between them. As their son, he might not ever fully understand all of it, but when he saw his mother at this moment, he could guess that, perhaps she had already forgiven his father. Perhaps she already understood his father!

Dong dong dong!

The door was being knocked on.

When Mr. Zhou went to open the door, he saw his old neighbor excitedly shouting, "Little Zhou, your father's on TV! Your father's on TV!"

Mr. Zhou said, "I saw it!"

The old neighbor said, "Did your mother see it as well?"

"We're both watching," Mr. Zhou replied. "My mother is feeling a little emotional right now!"

Then some footsteps came thumping from the stairwell. Another old neighbor who looked to be past 50 years old came over, shouting, "Sister Wang! Your spouse's on TV! He sang really well! He sang really well!! I never knew my Brother Zhou had such a hidden talent! So his singing is actually this good! Did you see it, Sister Wang? The four coaches all turned around for Brother Zhou! You have a star in your family! Brother Zhou's really great!"

When the other neighbors heard the commotion, they too came out into the corridor.

"What's happening?"

"What happened?"

"Quickly go and watch Central TV Department 1! Old Zhou's on a TV show!"

"What?"

"Are you sure?"

"Central TV Department 1? Isn't that The Voice?"

"Yeah, Old Zhou went and performed a song! He sang great!"

"Really? Aiyo!"

"I must go and watch the rerun!"

The phone in their house started to constantly ringing. Many of their relatives and friends were all calling Grandma Wang, and even an ex-bandmate of Zhou Danian from his younger days called. They had not expected that, years after they had given up, Zhou Danian had actually continued with determination to sing and perform. They spoke to Grandma Wang for a very long time, saddened by what had happened but also feeling happy at the same time for Zhou Danian!

40 years!

After 40 years of determination, Zhou Danian had finally proven himself on the stage of The Voice. He had finally fulfilled that long-awaited dream, so what else could he be happier about than this?

On TV, the coaches' arguing segment finished. The coaches were all fighting over the contestant, but it ended up with the original singer of "I Don't Believe," Zhang Yuanqi, successfully pulling Zhou Danian over to her team!

Chen Guang felt so regretful about this that he slammed his hand onto the table, but still ended up raising both his arms to lead the audience to shout for Zhou Danian. "Let us all show our respect to the man who has not given up on his dreams of being a musician after years and years! He sang very well! This is the first time I've heard a rock song that moved me so much! It's also the voice that touched me the most! No matter what happens from here, Grandpa Zhou, you'll always be the champion of The Voice in my heart!"

"Zhou Danian!"

"Zhou Danian!"

"Zhou Danian!"

"Zhou Danian!"

The entire studio audience's blood was boiling passionately. They hailed him in unison, creating an extremely impressive atmosphere in the venue!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 695: The second episode's viewership ratings released!**

The second episode was on fire!

The Voice was once again so popular!

After the program's broadcast ended at 10:30 PM, the topic of discussion online was again focused on The Voice. The threads and Weibo posts regarding the program were exponentially soaring. If described on a linear graph, the angle of elevation would be at 10 or 20 degrees before the program began. But starting from 9 PM, the angle of elevation was almost at 90 degrees. The feast of The Voice was once again spreading through the Internet. Countless people were going crazy and screaming for The Voice once more!

"The second episode was amazing to watch!"

"I love Yuan Tong!"

"Who cares about Yuan Tong!"

"Yeah, Grandpa Zhou was the awesome one!"

"Supporting this up like crazy, I really love Grandpa Zhou as well!"

"How crazy is this! Grandpa Zhou was rockin' 'n' rollin'! Countless Likes for that!"

"This episode is very impressive too! Who says that The Voice's second episode might not meet everyone's expectations? It's clearly a good surprise! And obviously as awesome as the first episode! I should've known that Teacher Zhang would never let us down! Why? There is no why! It's simply because he is Zhang Ye! This name is basically a seal of quality and is synonymous with creating miracles!"

"Having watched so many of Zhang Ye's programs like Lecture Room, Zhang Ye's Talk Show and The Voice, I'm beginning to realize how great Zhang Ye is!"

"I'd heard of Zhang Ye's name some time ago and knew a little about him, but it was only through The Voice that I started liking him, though I've heard that his reputation isn't very good?"

"Pfft, it's far worse than 'not very good'!"

"Haha, has Teacher Zhang ever had a reputation before?"

"For him, he's always 'fighting' with his fellow peers, and many people in the industry can't wait for him to be brought down, so it would be strange if anyone actually had a good opinion of him. But to us common folk, Zhang Ye is still quite a good person. He's loyal, honest, capable, and dares to do what he says. Let me just put it this way for you, my friend. In the entertainment, literary, educational, and crosstalk circles, Zhang Ye is the only person to have scolded or offended almost half of all his peers, but still survived well in these industries. No one could do anything about this guy at all! Just think about it. From all of that alone, you can see how capable Zhang Ye is. If it were any other celebrity, if they even offended someone from just one industry, they would probably have been condemned many times already, let alone offending so many people from so many industries! Only Zhang Ye has been an exception, that's why so many people are calling him a 'wonder' of the entertainment circle, because this guy has truly been too wondrous!"

"The Voice is really a program of very high standards!"

"After the second episode has been broadcast, there shouldn't be anymore doubters of The Voice, right? I'm afraid there shouldn't even be the slightest bit of doubt to be found around here anymore!"

"Face-smacking Zhang is face smacking again!"

"I can already feel the pain of those industry insiders!"

"Hehe, that might not be true. Many of Zhang Ye's industry peers are his lifetime adversaries, so they won't just stop doubting because of this incident. I'm quite sure they still have many people who won't give up just yet. They're probably waiting for the release of the viewership ratings for The Voice's second episode at this moment. After all, the statistics reflect the situation in the most practical sense!"

"I'm waiting for it too!"

"I wonder how high the second episode be."

"The Voice is way ahead at the moment, so if there's anyone who could beat The Voice's first episode's record of the viewership ratings for the past three years, then I'm afraid that it can only be The Voice itself!"

.....

The next day.

At Central TV Tower.

In The Voice's program team office.

When Zhang Ye reached the office, almost all of his colleagues were already there. Everyone had arrived very early today and congregated to discuss the last night's broadcast. The second episode's recording was finished several days ago, including the blind auditions for the third and fourth episodes. The program team staff had watched all of these in the recording studio, so logically they shouldn't have been so excited about the broadcasted episode. However, there was an essential difference between watching it live and on television because the feeling and atmosphere were totally different. What was broadcast on television had gone through the editing process first, with the contestants' intro clips and their interviews added in and the overall pace of the episode optimized. The final broadcast footage was radically different from watching it live. Together with post-production color correction added, the quality and atmosphere were raised by several levels when watching it on television. As a result, when the staff watched it, they also felt very excited, especially when Zhou Dalian's segment came up. Many of them even cried as it was so moving.

"Director Zhang!"

"You're here?"

"Good morning, Director Zhang."

A few of them greeted.

Ha Qiqi came up and said, "Director Zhang, last night's episode was edited great!"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Using my recommendations when editing, the effects turned out rather well, didn't it? The suggestion you had before had a much slower pace. If we had done it that way, the audience definitely would not have approved of it."

Ha Qiqi gave a wry smile. "My suggestion was just in accordance with the industry's recommended practices, but when I saw the edit based on your suggestion and guidance, I realized that the recommended practices of our industry are really getting...old-fashioned."

Zhang Ye said, "That might not be true, since every program has its own style and rhythm. As long as we find a suitable approach, it should be good enough." When it came to the production of The Voice, whether it be the recording or post-production processes, Zhang Ye had strictly adhered to the version

from his previous world. He fully trusted and respected the style of the version that had matured and been accepted by the audience of his previous world.

Little Wang, who was not too concerned about the post-production or editing, quickly asked, "Are the viewership ratings out yet, Director Zhang?"

Zhang Ye said, "I don't think so."

Wu Yi gulped. "Do you think that the second episode will surpass the first one?"

Zhang Ye shook his head. "Who can ever predict something like that? There's really no point in thinking about or analyzing it so much. We can only see if the audience will accept it and wait for the final tabulation of the statistics."

At around 10:30 AM.

The viewership rating statistics for Thursday's variety shows were released!

Zhang Ye was in his office when he found out the news. It was Little Wang who who hurriedly came knocking on his door to tell him about it. "Director Zhang! Director Zhang! It's released, it's been released!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "You scared me for a second there."

Little Wang was very excited. "Quickly take a look at the viewership ratings!"

"Let me take a look then." Zhang Ye took the viewership ratings report Little Wang handed to him. When he saw the first row, the words The Voice of China were written there!

The Voice's second episode viewership ratings: 2.11%!

Building on the ratings of the first episode, it had increased by another 0.1%!

It must be known that this was actually an absolutely astonishing result. That's because, of this world's variety shows, most of them only got viewership ratings of around 0.5%, so an increase of 0.1% was clearly not a small amount!

Zhang Ye smiled a little. "It's quite alright."

Little Wang however did not feel that it was quite alright. Outside, among all the other staff of The Voice, no one else thought it was quite alright either. To them, the result was basically defying all common sense and everyone was getting extremely excited over it. The first episode had already broken the 2-point rating! But the second episode had set yet another new, national record in the viewership ratings of variety shows in recent years! It had utterly defeated all of the other variety shows in the same time slot! The release of the second episode's viewership ratings had given a strong boost to their program team and Central TV Department 1. Only at this moment did they finally have the courage to say that Central TV Department 1 had made a strong return to the variety scene and reclaimed its position as Big Brother! And the hero of this victory was no doubt Zhang Ye. Zhang Ye had used a show that no one took seriously, and surprisingly led Central TV to defiantly sweep the entire domestic variety show industry!

No one could stop them!

No one could compare to them!

This was absolute carnage!

It was a battle that no others had a chance to win!

.....

Online.

The congratulatory messages came flooding in in the tens of thousands!

"Although it was expected, it still came as a surprise!"

"Not only did the second episode's viewership rating not drop, it even increased by 0.1%!"

"That's too frightening! The Voice is going to be unstoppable at this rate!"

"Damn! F\*\*k!"

"Come and see, quickly! The Voice is defying all common sense again!"

"Hahaha, those industry insiders who constantly criticize The Voice can finally give up! Their statements will express: 'We will take some days off to recharge. When Zhang Ye is out with another new work, we will be back again. A lifetime of criticism, a lifetime of insults, we will never give up, we will never waver!'"

"Congratulations Teacher Zhang!"

"How exciting!"

"In recent years, many people have been saying that Central TV Department 1 is getting old and no longer has its status like back in its glorious past. But they seem to have forgotten that a starving camel is still bigger than a horse. What Central TV Department 1 lacked was probably only someone great like Zhang Ye who can turn the tide for them. Today, after staying silent for some years, Central TV Department 1 is finally back! The once Big Brother of the variety world is finally making a comeback!"

"The giant is attacking again! Beware, all satellite channels!"

"I'm delighted, Face-smacking Zhang's nth battle with his industry peers has him walking away with the last laugh again!"

"With the excitement of The Voice, the variety show industry will once again warm up. Zhang Ye has not only saved Central TV Department 1, he has saved the entire variety world!"

"Central TV Department 1 joining hands with Zhang Ye, the largest television network in the industry together with the most outstanding program planner of the industry, who could stop them?"

"Congratulations, The Voice has set another record!"

"2.11% ! You are really goddamn going 'to see all other summits dwarfed, and savor the scene'!"

"The legend continues!"

"The Voice fully deserves this honor!"

"Teacher Zhang, well done!"

"Really awesome! An awesome show! Awesome contestants! And also, an awesome host! This day will surely be forever remembered in the history of the variety world! This is certainly the era that great heroes will emerge from! Starting today, the variety world has officially stepped into the 'Era of Zhang Ye'!"

"He who gains Zhang Ye can rule the world!"

.....

In the office.

Zhang Ye was checking his rankings on the Celebrity Rankings Index website. In the B-list celebrity rankings, he immediately spotted his current position.

Third from last!

Not too long ago, he was in last place, but after two episodes of The Voice, Zhang Ye had been soaring in popularity and jumped two spots up on the B-list rankings in just a short time! It should be known that the gap between the celebrities in the B-list was much larger than those in the C- or D-lists, the disparity between each placing was much greater. Just from Zhang Ye's promotion from the C-list to the B-list rankings, it could be seen how difficult it was. He had spent a long period of time increasing his popularity score before he successfully got into the B-list rankings. But now, after just a short time of two episodes, Zhang Ye as a host of The Voice, who although did not have much appearance time, with his show of reciting those advertising messages, his popularity had once again soared. This was very quick for the fact that he was in the B-list rankings!

At the beginning of the year, Zhang Ye had been thinking of trying to aim for becoming a B-list celebrity. He would have been satisfied as long as he could get into the B-list rankings. But who knew that just after a short two months, not only did Zhang Ye reach his goal, he was already heading straight for the A-list celebrity rankings! Although there was still a long way to go, his momentum was obvious. He was already safe from dropping down into the C-list rankings due to his instability and need not worry about being overtaken by Chen Ye anymore!

The show was on fire!

His popularity was soaring!

After all these days of setbacks and busy days, Zhang Ye's mood today was the best. He was humming a song in his office, finally able to get a breather. Zhang Ye was very satisfied of his own performance during this time. After getting past all the hard work and tiredness from working, he was already reaping the rewards!

Although the people who did not like him still continued to dislike him, and the industry peers he had offended were still aiming for him to fall, Zhang Ye did not care about any of those. He clearly understood that for a celebrity in the entertainment industry, the most important thing was popularity.

Popularity and fame were the bases that these celebrity needed to get a say in things. Nothing else mattered!

### [I'm Really a Superstar](#)

#### **Chapter 696: The Higher Education Entrance Examination Board's Invitation!**

Viewership ratings of The Voice's second episode had slapped many people's faces once again!

The people loved it!

The media were fighting to get their coverage out!

The industry was silent in unison!

Those who were waiting to laugh at Zhang Ye and The Voice, hoping that the show's second episode would plunge, were also made to shut up. Some people even sneakily deleted their Weibo posts or forum comments that cast doubt onto Zhang Ye and his new program, making it seem like nothing had been said at all.

It was business as usual.

Earth still continued to spin.

At this point, the battle between Zhang Ye and a part of the industry was laid to rest.

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In the afternoon.

At the bottom of the television station tower, at a restaurant on the northern side of Bayi Lake, Zhang Ye paid out of pocket and gave another celebratory meal to everyone in the program team.

"Director Zhang, a toast to you."

"Alright, but I'll use tea on behalf of beer."

"It's the weekend tomorrow, do we still have work to do?"

"No, there's nothing else. Everyone will have their full days off to rest for a few days!"

"Oh!"

"Great!"

"We can finally get some rest!"

The Voice was already progressing as planned. Whether it was the production process or the viewership ratings, there was nothing to worry about anymore. Everything was heading towards the best possible outcome. It was all in control of the hands of Zhang Ye and his team. At this moment, the entire program team staff could finally all relax. Their days of being pressured by the deadlines and stressed out by work were finally over!

A middle-aged female editor of the program team said, "Director Zhang, I want to inform you about this in advance. In a few days, I might have to take two days off as my son is getting ready for his college

entrance exam. Since my husband is too busy, I will have to stay and help him revise and make a last sprint to the college entrance examination. And there's still meals to be cooked too. I'm going to be so busy in the next few days."

Zhang Ye wondered, "The college entrance exam has not started yet?"

"Not yet, it's only the beginning of June now," the female editor said.

"When is the college entrance exam?" Zhang Ye asked, feeling unsure about it.

AD Zhang Zuo thought that Zhang Ye was just joking, so he laughed. "The college entrance exam is held at the end of June every year. Director Zhang, did you forget because you've been too busy?"

"Late June?" Zhang Ye repeated.

Ha Qiqi said, "Yes, it's only about a little more than ten days from now."

He didn't forget, nor was he playing dumb. Zhang Ye really did not know. In his previous world, the college entrance examination had been changed some years back to fall on usually the 7th or 8th of June. It had always been like that ever since. After he had been suspended from Peking University, Zhang Ye hadn't been paying much attention to news like this as he had been very busy with The Voice's production work, so he even thought that the college entrance exam was already over. Only now did he find out that the date of this world's college entrance exam was slightly different from his previous world's. The college entrance exam questions and the order of subjects being tested were going likely going to be different over here as well then.

Wu Yi said, "Sister Li, how's your son doing academically?"

Sister Li said, "It's quite good, but our home does not fall under Beijing's household registration, even though my son goes to school in Beijing. For the exam, we would have to go back to our old place. That's why I'm feeling quite worried."

Ha Qiqi said, "Isn't it the same wherever you take the exam?"

Sister Li waved her hands. "It's not the same, not the same at all. These days, the questions are all set independently by the provinces. The Beijing college entrance exam is always easy every year. The admission cutoff point is also lower, so there's definitely less pressure. But it's not the same for other provinces, some are more difficult and some are even easier, so it all depends on your luck."

Ha Qiqi could not understand why. "The Beijing examination is easier?"

Sister Li snorted. "Yes, much more easier too."

Zhang Ye asked with a smile, "Has your son expressed the university he would like to get into?"

She nodded and said with some pride in her voice, "His first choice is Peking University."

Ha Qiqi sounded somewhat impressed as she said, "Then your son must be very academically inclined!"

"He's not too bad as long as he can fulfill his potential. Then there's a good chance." The female editor said, "If my son really gets into Peking University, then I will treat everyone to a feast! That's a promise."

Zhang Zuo smiled and said, "Sister Li, you should be treating Director Zhang to a feast instead. He's the one who is a true Chinese Department lecturer and Math Department associate professor at Peking University."

Sister Li immediately smiled. "I will definitely be treating. I was still hoping that after my son gets admitted into Peking University, Director Zhang would be able to look after him."

Zhang Ye shrugged while smiling and said, "I've already been suspended for the past semester, so I doubt that I would be able to go back to teach this year. But if your son does apply for the Chinese or Math Department, I still do know quite a few teachers personally, so if there's any problems, they would help me look out for him. Let's talk about that when it happens."

"Since you've already given me your word, let me toast you." Sister Li looked happy, then she picked up her glass of orange juice and clinked it against Zhang Ye's glass.

Zhang Ye said, "I hope your son will be able to get what he wants."

Suddenly, his cell phone starting buzzing inside his pocket. It was a call.

When he took it out to check the number, the caller ID showed Pan Yang's name—the Dean of the School of Mathematical Sciences. He found it strange that Dean Pan would call him at such a time, so he told everyone at the table to continue without him first and excused himself. He went outside to answer the call.

Zhang Ye: "Hello?"

Pan Yang: "Hello, Professor Zhang."

Zhang Ye: "Dean Pan, don't address me like that, just call me Little Zhang."

Pan Yang: "Hur hur, then I will call you Teacher Zhang instead. Are you outside?"

Zhang Ye: "I was just eating lunch, what is it that you're looking for me for?"

Pan Yang: "There's something, but it's difficult to explain over the phone. Shall we meet up instead?"

Zhang Ye: "What time?"

Pan Yang: "It's best if we could meet now."

Zhang Ye: "So rushed? It might not be possible now, I'm still not off work yet."

Pan Yang: "Oh, I remember now. You've recently created a new TV show and it seems like it's doing rather well in the nation as well now, isn't it? Hmm, then why don't you tell me when you will be free? What time do you finish work?"

Zhang Ye: "Why don't you tell me what's the matter first so that I won't feel so unsettled."

After a moment's pause, Pan Yang said: "Alright then, it's actually fine to tell you over the phone since it's not too big an issue. I'm looking for you mainly regarding this year's college entrance exam papers in Beijing."

Zhang Ye was taken aback: "Huh?"

Pan Yang said: "I have been appointed as the supervisor of this year's question setting team for the Beijing college entrance exam. The questions for the examination were already set and ready for the Mathematics, Chinese Literature, English Language, Arts, and Science sections, including a few alternate question sets. But we have suddenly encountered a situation in which all of those question sets were not approved by the board. The Beijing college entrance exam has never been too difficult. It was going to be the same this year, so the leaders on the Board of Education wanted to add more difficulty to it. If they had let us know earlier, it would have been fine since everyone could've discussed and slowly refined the exam standards. But we don't have much time anymore. The college entrance exam will take place in just over ten days. The tests have to be ready before that, which means we have to confirm the rough draft by next Monday at the latest. That leaves us with just around three days to plan, get approval from the Board, and settle the printing of the papers. It seems like we won't be able to make it in time. That's why the question setting team members are all reaching out for help from their friends right now. The more people we have, the faster we can get it done. The first person I thought of when I knew our Mathematics section needed someone was you."

Zhang Ye said nervously: "Dean Pan, you have a group of professors, deans, and PhDs there with you, surely it wouldn't trouble you all to increase the difficulty level of the exam's questions, would it?"

Pan Yang: "It's different. Of course it would be easy to increase the difficulty. We could just grab anyone from our team to set an exam consisting of questions that even a research student would not be able to solve. That would definitely be easy, but it's different for setting questions for the college entrance exam. The difficulty is not done for the sake of causing trouble to the students; it's just to filter out the students to pick out who is good. That is why the question not only needs to have value, it also needs to be presented so that a high school student would be able to solve it with their knowledge and understanding. That's not an easy thing to do, do you understand? Suppose I throw a mathematical conjecture into the exam. Then the questions would surely be very difficult, but the students definitely couldn't answer it, and even I wouldn't be able to solve it, so what's the point in that? Increasing the difficulty is not the objective, what we want is to screen the examinees."

"I see," Zhang Ye responded vaguely.

Pan Yang: "So what do you say? Would it be convenient for you to join us?"

Zhang Ye: "I've never set exam questions before. It seems like you really trust me."

Pan Yang laughed: "But I've seen the problems that you've given before."

"Oh? What problems did I give?" Zhang Ye did not remember.

"The few problems you gave when you were at Experimental Primary School. Those were quite interesting and had a standard of difficulty to them. It's also philosophical in nature and quite interesting at the same time," Pan Yang said.

Zhang Ye sighed: "But those are elementary math questions."

Pan Yang laughed loudly: "Don't underestimate that. It's hardest to set questions for elementary math. If you ask me to make a question at my own level, I can design it to be interesting and good, but that's because I am at this level and I know what is difficult and what is easy for people like me. But if you need me to set a question for the elementary level, then I will truly be at my wits' end. To me, those questions

are all the same, they're all too simple. Because of that, it becomes harder to differentiate between what's hard and easy. On this front, you have an advantage as you are able to bring yourself down to their level of thinking to understand the difficulty level for them. This is a quality that any excellent exam question setter must have, and from those few questions of yours, it already proves that you are really much better at setting questions than us. Otherwise, I wouldn't have come to you for help."

Zhang Ye jokingly said: "You're praising me to the high heavens. I feel like if I didn't agree, I would be letting you down."

Pan Yang: "Then it's settled."

Zhang Ye confirmed: "All you want are difficult questions, right?"

Pan Yang acknowledged: "But solvable within the context of an examinee, though we prefer it to be as difficult as possible!"

"Are you sure? What if the questions are too difficult, what then? Won't everyone curse me to death?" Zhang Ye had some concerns about this.

Pan Yang was tickled: "The question setter for the college entrance exam has always been a scapegoat. If you make the questions too easy, examinees from other provinces and autonomous regions will scold you, claiming that the Beijing question setter has low standards and how well they would do if they took their exam here instead. But if you make it too difficult, the Beijing examinees will scold you, saying that you have something against them. So no matter what, you won't be able to escape criticism. That's also a reason why many teachers do not like being appointed to the college entrance examination's question setting team."

Zhang Ye nearly fainted. "Then why did you still ask me?"

Pan Yang's answer left Zhang Ye annoyed but amused. "You're still afraid of being scolded? Online, on TV, in the media, has any day passed without you getting scolded by a multitude of people?"

Zhang Ye: "—No comment."

Pan Yang said: "Besides, every province will be setting their own questions and determining their own admission cutoff points. If a province's exam questions are too difficult, nobody will do well and the mean will also be low. Then the entry cutoff points will also be lower and it will all become relatively the same, so that is still going to be a fair assessment. We are not purposely trying to turn away examinees here, rather trying to see their standards. The standard of Beijing's exam has long been criticized by people, so the Board has hardened its heart this year and wants to bring a change to the style and thought behind the exam questions. That is why I think you're free to unleash whatever you can think of, regardless of how difficult it is. We're just afraid that it won't be difficult enough! I am very curious about the type of questions you will create if you were assigned to present the last three major questions of the Mathematics section of the exam."

Zhang Ye thought for a bit then said: "Alright then, let me consult with my director at work first."

Pan Yang: "It's rather urgent, so try to give me your answer by today."

"Sure," Zhang Ye said.

Actually, Zhang Ye already had a decision!

Not just anyone could qualify as a question setter for the college entrance examination. Although Pan Yang had mentioned that many teachers did not wish to be one, it was actually just an offhand remark. If the question setting team truly sent an invitation, hardly any teachers would reject such an opportunity, because it would be an honor and also a very strong acknowledgment of an educator's contributions. This acknowledgment did not mean much to Zhang Ye. What he placed more importance on for this appointment was the fame he would receive from it. In recent times, The Voice had brought Zhang Ye an enormous amount of reputation and let him taste the sweetness of his popularity soaring again. But he knew that if he were to achieve his target of becoming an A-list celebrity this year, then just that amount of reputation was not enough. He had to find the quickest way to get promoted to the A-list rankings, so it was impossible to not take the unconventional path. Another source of fame would always be good. And since his work here was already becoming cyclical, it wouldn't matter to have some "fun" on the college entrance examination's question setting team!

He would be idle anyway!

So why not earn some fame with a "part-time" job!

After the meal.

Zhang Ye headed straight to the deputy director's office at Central TV Department 1. When he got there, Jiang Yuan was not around and probably still at lunch. After waiting for around 15 minutes, Jiang Yuan finally returned.

"Eh, Little Zhang?" Jiang Yuan saw him as he walked out from the elevator.

Zhang Ye was sitting on the sofa near the elevator lobby. "Director Jiang."

"What are you doing here? Are you looking for me for something?" Jiang Yuan asked.

Zhang Ye acknowledged, "There's something I need to discuss with you. Can we speak in your office?"

Jiang Yuan was already walking in front of him. "Sure, come in."

When the two of them were inside, Zhang Ye got straight to the point. "Director Jiang, I need to apply for a long leave from the station as I have something to attend to." On seeing Jiang Yuan stunned, he continued, "Just now, someone from the Beijing question setting team for the college entrance exam contacted me and informed me of a situation that had arisen on their side which they need me to go over to assist them with."

Jiang Yuan was taken aback. "The college entrance exam's question setting team?"

Zhang Ye confirmed, then said, "They were quite urgent about it and only just contacted me, so I wasn't prepared for it either."

Jiang Yuan remained silent for a while before saying, "I heard that those who are responsible for proposing the college entrance exam questions can't return to their homes or contact the outside world even after finishing their work? The college entrance exam will only begin at the end of the month. If

The Voice's program team does not have their executive director around, how are they going to handle their work? Your new program has just started making good progress after two episodes have been broadcast, and although the viewership ratings are very satisfying and placed first nationwide for now, you can't be relaxing just because of that."

Zhang Ye said, "I know that, but during the recording a few days ago, we've already recorded three episodes in a row, so the recordings for the broadcasts for next Thursday and the following Thursday are already finished. I also personally supervised the post-production of those episodes yesterday, so there shouldn't be any clash with the times. When the exams are over, I will be back to quickly continue with the production of the recording of the fifth episode's blind audition of The Voice. Please don't worry. There won't be any delays with the program's recording."

Jiang Yuan nodded. "That's fine then."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "That's why I'm here to consult you first."

"Hai, I shouldn't be approving your request for leave." Jiang Yuan said, "You should understand that The Voice's program team is managed single-handedly by you. Besides you, none of them can take up this difficult task. If any unexpected situation occurs, I'm afraid the rest of the program team staff would not be able to handle it. I'm a little worried about them if you're not around." Hesitating a little, he added, "But to be part of the college entrance examination's question setting team is also an honor and not an opportunity that comes knocking frequently. It doesn't seem appropriate if I don't allow you to go. Well, try your best to communicate with college entrance exam team to see if you can at least stay in contact on the phone at all times."

Zhang Ye said, "Sure, I will try to do so."

Jiang Yuan said, "Alright then, when you get back to the office, inform your program team staff about it. Settle whatever needs to be settled and do a proper handover."

"Sure." Zhang Ye excused himself and left.

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Downstairs.

In The Voice's program team office.

When Zhang Ye came back, he immediately clapped his hands to grab everyone's attention and gather them around. "Everyone, stop whatever you're doing now. I have something to announce."

Everyone looked over.

"Eh?"

"Director Zhang, please speak."

"Do you have any instructions for us?"

In the end, Zhang Ye said something surprising to all, "I'll go on a long leave for the next two weeks, so I'll be leaving the work here to all of you!"

The moment the staff heard this, it stirred a commotion.

“Ah?”

“You’ve applied for leave?”

“For about two weeks? For more than ten days?”

“Who will be in charge over here if you aren’t around!?”

“Man, Director Zhang, can you stop fooling around? We’ll be lost without you around!”

From the proposal planning of The Voice to the pulling in of sponsors and organizing the preliminary auditions, all these stages of production were fully handled by Executive Director Zhang Ye alone. When they heard that he was going to drop everything at work, no one could get used to it.

Zhang Ye said, “It’s only for a little more than ten days of work. Since we’ve already recorded the next two episodes, when the time comes, you all can just hand it over to the other department to handle. It’s not like you all are responsible for the broadcast and other tasks, so there isn’t really anything to handle either. At most you all will have to follow my plans and instructions to promote the program, clarify any rumors, handle the forums, and create some discussion topics. Surely you don’t need me around for such minor tasks, do you? In a while, I’ll refine the remaining work processes for everyone. If you have any questions, you can ask me now. We will discuss and solve any issues that you all might have. After 2 PM, I will not be around in the office anymore and will only return at the end of the month.”

Little Wang took a deep breath and said, “Then, then should we call you if an unexpected situation occurs?”

Zhang Ye said, “My affairs are a little complicated in the coming days, so I might not be able to be contacted on the phone. In any case, try to solve the problems by yourselves. There shouldn’t be a possibility of an unexpected situation.” He only dared to go on leave for that many days because he had already thought of all the possible scenarios and felt that there shouldn’t be any incidents happening.

The program recording was already done.

Any unexpected scenarios were planned for.

If an incident still occurred, then all of you should just quit. That would mean that everyone has just been dawdling around!

.....

An hour later.

A little before 2 PM.

While Zhang Ye was taking the elevator down, he made a call to Pan Yang: “Hello, Dean Pan. I’ve settled my things over here and applied for leave already. Where are you guys currently?”

Pan Yang: “You’re at Central TV Tower?”

Zhang Ye: “Yes.”

Pan Yang: "Then let me get someone to pick you up."

Zhang Ye: "I can drive there myself."

Pan Yang: "This location is confidential, I'll get someone to pick you instead."

Zhang Ye: "I see. Fine, I'll inform security about it. Ask the driver to come in by the side gate for staff and just tell security that he's looking for me. I'll be waiting at the smoking area on the first floor."

Pan Yang: "OK, I'll arrange it."

Zhang Ye went downstairs to inform security and proceeded to the Central TV Tower's lobby to sit down on the sofa there. Thinking for a moment, he made a call back to his family.

Du du. The call connected.

"Hello." It was a childish voice on the other end.

Zhang Ye laughed: "It's me."

Chenchen acknowledged on the other end.

Zhang Ye: "Are any of my parents at home?"

Chenchen: "They're both at home."

Zhang Ye: "Then ask one of them to answer the phone."

"Grandma, Zhang Ye's on the phone." Chenchen called for her.

Soon after, his mother answered: "Hello, what's the matter, son? I'm making dumplings with your dad and my hands are covered with flour. If you have something to say, say it quickly."

Zhang Ye got straight to the point: "I can't come home for some days and probably can't be contacted through my phone either, so I'm informing you beforehand. The two of you don't need to work so much anymore now, right? I'll leave Chenchen in your care for now. She'll be on summer vacation soon, so don't let her leave the house and run about."

His mother asked: "Where are you going?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "It's something good. I was invited to join the Beijing college entrance examination's question setting team."

When his mother heard that, she received a pleasant surprise. "Really? Is it confirmed?"

"Yea, it's already been decided." Zhang Ye said: "But we will be isolated from the public and probably can't make any calls out either."

His mother immediately said: "Don't worry, just go on ahead and do what you need to do. Your dad and I will take care of Chenchen, so you don't have to worry about that. Do well, son, I believe in you."

Zhang Ye: "OK."

After the call to his mother, Zhang Ye was just about to inform Wu Zeqing when suddenly another call came in. From the caller ID, he knew that it was Chang Kaige from Peking University's Chinese Department.

Zhang Ye was taken aback for a while, then pressed the answer key: "Dean Chang."

Chang Kaige: "Teacher Zhang, is it convenient to talk now?"

"Yes, no problem." Zhang Ye said.

Chang Kaige: "I have an urgent matter over here and was wondering if you'd be interested in it. It should be a good thing to you. There has been an unexpected situation with the Beijing college entrance exams. The Chinese Literature exam papers are..."

Zhang Ye interrupted: "You want me to propose questions?"

Chang Kaige was a little surprised: "You're very sharp."

Zhang Ye: "It's not that I'm sharp. Rather Dean Pan from Peking University's School of Mathematical Sciences called me earlier to invite me to join the Mathematics question setting team."

When he heard that, Chang Kaige laughed: "How convenient then. Since the question setting teams will all be at an isolated location, you can go over to the Chinese Literature team to help out after you've finished your work with the Mathematics team. I don't think that will cause any delays."

Zhang Ye said: "Are you on the question setting team as well?"

Chang Kaige said: "I'm not on the team. One of the supervisors of the team contacted me for help. He's an old friend of mine and wanted me to recommend a few people, so I recommended you. You have a high literary standard and a supple mind. Since Beijing's exams this year want to experiment with some changes and creativity, you are naturally the best candidate. So it's decided then. I'll inform them first. When you arrive there, just directly contact the supervisor of the Chinese Literature team."

Zhang Ye said: "Sure."

20 minutes later.

The car arrived to pick him up.

Zhang Ye got into the car and headed straight for somewhere in the suburbs of Beijing.

Question setter for both the Chinese Literature and Mathematics exam sections? Zhang Ye pondered for a moment. Not only in the history of Beijing's college entrance exam, even throughout all the provinces in the country, there had never been such a precedent!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 698: Starting to set the questions!**

Later that afternoon.

In the suburbs.

At the Beijing college entrance examination's question setting team quarters.

Outside, Pan Yang was waiting to receive him. "Teacher Zhang, you're here."

"Dean Pan." Zhang Ye got out of the car and went over to him. "This place is really far away, where are we? It's almost near Beihe Province already, isn't it?"

Pan Yang laughed. "It's close. This is just a simple place and the scenery isn't too bad either. The two small buildings on the hill are also very well-equipped with all sorts of facilities, so the question setting team always comes and gathers at this place every year." Pausing, Pan Yang stretched out his hand. "Please hand over your cell phone and any forms of communication devices to me first. There will be someone here to specifically keep them for you. Oh, do you see that front gate over there? We'll go inside from there and up the hill, but once we're past that gate, we won't be out anymore until after the college entrance exam is over. If you have to make any calls or settle anything, then do it now while you still can."

Zhang Ye pouted. "Do we have to be that strict? Don't you know my character well enough? Would I possibly leak any questions? I still have a lot of work to handle at the television station. If I'm not around or unable to be contacted, I'm afraid that they won't be able to handle it."

"These are the rules, it's the same for me." Pan Yang threw his hands up.

Zhang Ye blinked a few times. "But didn't you call me with your cell phone today?"

Pan Yang smiled and said, "I am one of the supervisors of the Mathematics question setting team. Surely I need to hold on to a cell phone so that I can communicate with the Higher Education Entrance Examination Board and the other leaders. Besides, when I go back up to the office building, I will still need to surrender my cell phone, so it's the same for everyone."

"Sure, fine then." Zhang Ye took out his phone.

"If there's really a special case, then we will talk about it again," Pan Yang explained.

"OK."

The hill was not high.

After driving for a few minutes, they reached the halfway point of the hill where two office buildings were situated at. Looking at the hilltop, there seemed to be two pavilions up top too and the breeze up here was very refreshing and cool.

All the Chinese Literature, Mathematics, English Language and other subjects' question setting teams were situated in Office Building 1, while Building 2 was designated as the dormitory. After the car was parked on the hillside, Pan Yang alighted together with Zhang Ye. They went straight into Office Building 1 and headed to the Mathematics question setting team's office. There were quite a few people inside and even a hint of the smell of cigarettes. Most of them were gathered in smaller groups and talking away. Some of them were discussing the exam questions. There were even a few who got into an argument. The atmosphere was very tense because everyone was rushing to get the questions out before Monday's deadline, which still had to pass the Board's approval. They carried a lot of stress, as increasing the difficulty along with creativity was nowhere near as easy as it seemed.

When Zhang Ye came inside, the entire office looked at him at once.

"Professor Zhang!"

"Whoa, Teacher Zhang is here?"

"Teacher Zhang."

"Hello, Teacher Zhang."

"I've heard a lot about you."

"Hur hur, we're finally seeing him in person now."

Everyone obviously knew that Zhang Ye would be here today.

Most of them were people Zhang Ye did not know, nor had he seen them before. But even though he didn't know them, it seemed like they knew him very well. Almost every one of them greeted Zhang Ye, with a few of those who specialized in the field of math research pulling him aside for a chat.

On the Mathematics team, Zhang Ye was rather well respected. After all, the global mathematical conjecture—Dale's Conjecture—was solved by Zhang Ye. It was something that many mathematicians looked up to very highly. Zhang Ye was also one of the few world-class mathematicians China could count as theirs, so he was considered to be in the Chinese Mathematics world's elite. When Pan Yang invited Zhang Ye to the Mathematics question setting team, no one had any objections to it and felt that it was only right to do so. No matter how old Zhang Ye was, his standard in mathematics was there for all to see. In the group of around eight people, even if you put them together, including Peking University School of Mathematical Sciences Dean Pan, their total mathematics standards could probably still not match up to Zhang Ye, so who would not be convinced?

Soon, everyone got down to business.

"This question won't make the cut."

"Yeah, this question has little value and the direction the Board has given us is to not include something like it."

"Most of the questions we've been working on for the past month has gone up in smoke, hasn't it? Hai."

"It's pointless to complain, let's just continue on from here. The question I showed to you just now—I think it's has a certain degree of difficulty, can you guys take a look to see if there're any loopholes in it?"

"This won't do."

"Oh? What's the problem?"

"It'd be fine if it was short answer, but this is a multiple choice question. With the answer options available, it would be too easy even though this question might fit better in the first part of the section."

"Hai, it's really too difficult to make something and we don't even have enough time."

"Adding up all the time we have, it's just less than three days time."

"The other question setting teams are probably scrambling as well."

Zhang Ye got into work mode very quickly. He did not say anything and only listened to what everyone was discussing with regard to the questions. He had to familiarize himself with the work first, such as the scope of the question and its presentation, etc. Occasionally, he would ask Pan Yang or the other colleagues about his doubts so that he could quickly understand this world's college entrance exam questions. In the end, he realized that this world's college entrance exam questions and scope were largely the same as his previous world's. The only differences were the points' allocation and the order of the sections. With his current knowledge, he felt more assured.

Zhang Ye said, "Dean Pan, I would like to take a few exams and go back back to my dorm to read up on them. I would also like to have the past rough draft of the exam that was sketched out by our team."

Pan Yang said, "Sure, they're all available."

A young team member said, "Professor Zhang, we're depending on you this time."

Zhang Ye quickly denied that and waved his hands. "I'm only here to support."

But Pan Yang said, "Don't think of just being the support. The Math team is really going to depend on you for the questions. I've already discussed this with everyone beforehand. The creation of the questions will be mainly led by you."

"Huh?" Zhang Ye said, "Why would I be in charge? Shouldn't the bulk of the questions be coming from you guys while I just need to handle the more difficult questions?"

Pan Yang smiled. "The name Zhang Ye reverberates throughout the entire mathematics field. Since you have joined the Mathematics question setting team, how could anyone else be in charge of the exam? No one should be in charge you, and no one would do so either, so let's not try to be unconventional. Your name will be submitted and made public as the head of the Mathematics examination question setting team. For the majority of the exam, most of the questions will be set by you. I've already sought approval from the Board and they too are saying that's how it should be done."

Zhang Ye said, "You're really ordering me about now, aren't you? If I have to set even half of all these questions, wouldn't that take too much effort? Besides, I still have to go to the Chinese Literature team's office."

A Mathematics team member was taken aback. "Why are you going to the Chinese Literature team's office?"

Zhang Ye said, "I've also agreed to help out with the Chinese Literature exam's question setting team."

Someone said in a speechless manner, "You can even make Chinese Literature exam questions?"

Pan Yang: "..."

The other team members: "..."

F\*\*k! Why couldn't he set the Chinese Literature exam questions? These mathematicians were suddenly reminded that Zhang Ye was not just a mathematician, he was also an official lecturer at Peking University's Chinese Department. It wouldn't be strange that the Chinese Literature examination question setting team would look for him to help them. Moreover, thinking about it now, Zhang Ye was also very well versed in history, so it would also have been normal if the History examination question

setting team wanted him. Professor Zhang was someone who was totally different from the mathematicians like them who spent all their lives learning about math and teaching. Zhang Ye's path ahead was...much broader than theirs!

Pan Yang said, "Then you should arrange your schedule. I don't care about what the Chinese Literature team does, but over here at the Mathematics team, we must definitely finish on time."

Zhang Ye said, "OK, I will do my best. But first let me go and take a look at the Chinese Literature team."

Pan Yang nodded. "Fine. Get yourself familiarized with the work first. We'll meet here again tomorrow morning before 9 AM. We'll continue discussing the questions at that time."

"Sure, I'll try to come up with a few questions tonight as well." After saying that, Zhang Ye excused himself and left.

He asked around for where the Chinese Literature team was located and then went to find the place. He was planning to make some introductions there first and get a few copies of their exams to research.

The Chinese Literature team office door was open.

Inside, there were slightly less than ten people discussing the exam. However, it did not seem as intense as the discussion over at the Mathematics team. Everyone spoke softer and it also quieter in here.

When Zhang Ye stepped in, he immediately noticed someone familiar, an old acquaintance whom he enjoyed a good relationship with. "Teacher Su!"

Peking University Chinese Department Teacher Su Na suddenly turned her head, looking surprised. "Teacher Zhang?"

"You're here too?" Zhang Ye thought for a bit but realized it wasn't that surprising. Peking University's Chinese Department was ranked number one in the entire country, so it wasn't that unexpected to have a Chinese Department teacher here.

When the others heard the commotion, they also looked over.

Eh?

Zhang Ye?

Isn't that Zhang Ye?

Everyone in the Chinese Literature team was stunned!

Su Na immediately came over to welcome him. "What are you doing here?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm helping out at the Mathematics question setting team, so I'm here. Oh, is the chief of the Chinese Literature team here? Dean Chang told me to come and look for him."

Su Na was taken aback. "Looking for the chief?"

At this moment, an office door at the back of the room opened and a man in his forties or fifties walked out. "Teacher Zhang, you're here. My name is Yu Fan."

Zhang Ye shook his hand. "Hello."

Chief Yu said, "Have you dropped by the Mathematics team already?"

"Yes, I have," Zhang Ye answered.

Chief Yu nodded and then turned around to face his colleagues on the Chinese Literature question setting team. "Let me announce something. From today onward, Teacher Zhang will officially be joining our Chinese Literature team."

When everyone heard this, many of them showed rather awkward expressions.

Chief Yu then said to Zhang Ye, "Let me introduce you. This is Teacher Liao Qi from Tsinghua University; this is Teacher Li Rui from Renmin University; this is Teacher Ma Qi from Beijing Normal University; this is Teacher Su Na from...Oh, I don't need to actually introduce Teacher Su since you're both from Peking University's Chinese Department. I'm sure you know each other already?"

Su Na giggled. "Teacher Zhang, welcome."

Zhang Ye also played along and shook her hand. "Thank you, Teacher Su."

As for the others, they were not so friendly. Some of them didn't come forward to Zhang Ye to get to know him a little, and even did not bother to have a short conversation with him.

Chief Yu could also see that these people from the education or literary world seemed to have some sort of disagreement or conflict with Zhang Ye, but did not say anything. He directly asked Su Na to bring Zhang Ye up to date with the work they needed to do, and then headed back into his office.

In the Chinese Literature team, Zhang Ye did not get the same amount of respect he had when he was at the Mathematics team. The reason was very simple and likely to be because a literary person was typically more scornful of others. Zhang Ye was young and did not have many qualifications, having only worked for a semester at Peking University and even getting suspended later. He also had many conflicts and scolding battles with many of his peers from the literary and education world, so even though there were some peers like Su Na who enjoyed a good relationship with Zhang Ye, there were definitely more who had a poor relationship with him. Some of the literary and education world's members had not even met Zhang Ye before, but already hated him. As Zhang Ye had offended too many people before, now that they saw him coming on board and joining the Chinese Literature team as an exam question setter, a lot of the teachers were not convinced and also felt that he was not worthy to be here.

They all whispered privately to each other.

"What is he doing here?"

"I don't know."

"What the heck is Old Yu thinking?"

"So what if he knows how to compose some poems? That doesn't mean that he can set questions for the college entrance exam!"

"He's too rash, didn't he get suspended because of scolding others?"

"The controversy he created after he started that lecture on Dream of the Red Chamber still exists now. There are still many critics of his theory. For someone who is not diligent academically, how can we let him come and set the college entrance exam questions?"

"I am however convinced of Zhang Ye's standard in Mathematics, which by the way he is really great at, so even if he is going to be in charge of setting their exam questions, no one would object to it. But the Chinese Literature exam is different! This requires a rigorous understanding of Chinese Literature and also an understanding of Chinese Literature education. It is not something that a teacher who has only been teaching for six months would know!"

In the field of mathematics, Zhang Ye's achievements could be seen by everyone. Because for a mathematical conjecture or a math problem, you can either solve it or you can't. The quality is very clear there and it doesn't need much explaining either. Everyone could recognize it. However, in the literary and languages field, the standards were much blurrier. As they say, in martial arts, there's no second place; in literature, there's no first place. It was extremely difficult to differentiate who was better than another. Even if something you wrote was not read by anyone due to a lack of attention, if the experts and literature awards jury said that you were good, then you were good, which in turn meant you were a qualified literatus. On the contrary, the work you had written could be seen by a whole lot of people, gaining lots of attention, but if the industry insiders did not recognize you and picked at your faults, there was nothing you could do about it either.

This was the exact situation Zhang Ye was in. As he had offended too many people, the controversy surrounding his works in the literary field had always been huge.

He was young.

Had never received an award before.

Was a controversial figure in the industry.

Just based on these three points, it meant that Zhang Ye was doomed to his awkward position in the literary field. Those who liked him felt that he would become part of the new generation of leading figures in the Chinese literary world; those who disliked him said that he was the black sheep of the literary world and would try ways and means to freeze him out of the field.

Zhang Ye was not surprised by their reactions. He still maintained a smile and continued doing what he needed to do. In any case, he wasn't thinking of making friends with this bunch of people anyway.

He chatted with Su Na for a short while to find out about the situation. After that, Zhang Ye took a sample exam and went back to his dorm in Building 2. He lay in bed relaxed and started studying the exams section by section. Occasionally, he would flip open some high school Chinese Literature and Mathematics textbooks for reference.

Actually, Zhang Ye already had an idea in mind very early on. To suddenly scrape the current batch of exams and then come up another version that was more difficult might not seem easy to this group of exam question setters. They might not know where to start from or there might be insufficient time to do it, but to Zhang Ye, this wasn't a big issue at all. As long as he could understand this world's college

entrance examination's situation and scope of the questions, then everything else would be as easy as the flip of a hand. That was because this guy's mind might not have much of anything, but a lack of college entrance exams was not one of them!

2009's Jiangsu exams.

2010's Hebei exams.

2011's Shanghai exams.

He had everything he needed and more! He had even taken those exams dating back to the 90s. As someone who had participated in the college entrance exams of his previous world, the amount of past exams he had seen, taken, and studied numbered close to at least a hundred. What he needed to do now was to find the suitable questions and put them together effectively!

Picking up his pen, Zhang Ye started to write his first question.

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 699: Shocked examinees!**

That night.

In the dorm.

Zhang Ye opened the game ring and bought a "Memory Search Capsule." After eating it, he started recalling his previous world's memories of the college entrance exam questions. He could still clearly remember many of the wondrous questions he had come across before but had also forgotten a lot of them, so he could only rely on the Memory Search Capsule to remember them.

One capsule was not enough.

Then he used some more Reputation Points to buy another three capsules and gulped them all down in one go.

Zhang Ye's goals were not just purely limited to his previous world's past college entrance exam questions. Many of the questions used by Tsinghua and Peking University for their student admissions and other kinds of extremely difficult questions were brought up within Zhang Ye's memory. He expanded his coverage on the quantity of questions so that he could make the questions better.

An hour.

Two hours.

Zhang Ye kept the lights on and worked nonstop.

"Eh, this question is pretty good!"

"Haha, this question must be used!"

"This question is fine too, let me shortlist this first!"

"F\*\*k, this question will definitely get me some scoldings! Hehe, but it has to be this! What Dean Pan said was right. Other people might be afraid of being scolded but does this bro seem scared of being scolded?"

He progressed very quickly and efficiently. In the process of setting the questions, this guy would even laugh evilly sometimes. Without a doubt, he must have come up with some extremely tough questions!

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Meanwhile.

Each province's, municipality's, and autonomous region's higher education entrance examination boards were also busy with the setting of their college entrance exam questions. Some of the provinces had already finished their papers while others were still finishing up theirs.

There were a lot of discussions online.

On Weibo and some of the forums, all sorts of discussions were going on. It was always like this on a daily basis; some people would discuss makeup products, some would gossip about celebrities, and some were still dwelling on the surprise of the success of The Voice of China. Of course, there were also numerous examinees, their parents, and members of the public fervently discussing this year's national college entrance examination. As the college entrance exam's date neared with each passing day, the news regarding the college entrance exam of each province was also getting increasingly popular.

"It's time for the annual college entrance exam again."

"Ai, my child is going to take the exam soon but I wonder if he can score well enough to pass!"

"That's right, it's only a few days away."

"Who will oversee the setting of the questions in Shanghai this time? The questions for the History exam last year were all rather difficult."

"Our Greater Jiangsu Science exam questions last year were also quite difficult. It will be my turn this year to take the college entrance exam. I hope that Greater Jiangsu won't try too hard and just give some easy questions. I'm begging for easier questions!" [1.]

"The people of Jinshi express their great stress!"

"The people of Jiangnan Province cannot help but laugh. Who's saying that their stress is greater than ours? Last year, our college entrance exam questions were evaluated as the most difficult in the entire country. No one in the entire province got full marks in any of the Mathematics, Chinese Literature, Arts, and Science sections. Even the top student had points deducted!"

"Our Liaodong Province had questions that weren't simple too."

"Haha, as the greatest, I have absolutely no stress!"

"Pfft, your Beijing exams are always so simple every year!"

"That's right. I've attempted three of Beijing's exams and could achieve tier 1 scores. But when I attempted the other provinces' exams, I could only achieve tier 2 scores. Don't you think there's too big a difference in difficulty?!"

"You people from Beijing are too fortunate!"

"F\*\*k, I could do the Beijing exams when I was in my second year of high school!"

"They are all college entrance exams but why is there such a stark difference in difficulty?!"

"I despise your Beijing college entrance exams!"

.....

A certain Weibo trending topic.

The topic regarding this year's Beijing exams had appeared on Weibo for discussion. The people who joined the discussion were the examinees in Beijing and their parents.

"I hope that this year will even be slightly easier."

"Actually, it's pointless to be any easier. If the subjects are easy and everyone can get high scores, it will just result in a higher cutoff entry to college. It will be the same outcome in the end."

"There will be surely some difference, the easier the better!"

"Right, but I hope that the Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board will maintain their style and inherit the fine tradition of the Beijing college entrance exam difficulty. I will give a Like to all of you if the papers are strictly set with a very, very, very, simple line of thought to the questions!"

"Ha, it shouldn't be too easy, otherwise it won't be challenging at all!"

"Agreed, it's meaningless if it's too simple."

Beijing's examinees obviously had less stress compared to other provinces' students as the conversations showed. Some of the examinees were happily chatting with extremely relaxed manners. Others were positively cocky, bragging that they wished the college entrance exams would be more difficult, or else it would not be a challenge to them.

"The question setters are still the same old batch of people this time? Wasn't there some news released earlier?"

"Yes, I saw it too."

Someone immediately posted a screenshot of the roster online.

"That's right, it's this one."

"It's the same teams as last year!"

"Yu Fan was the chief of the Chinese Literature question setting team. He normally sets essay and short answer questions. It's always more or less the same thing every year with nothing new to expect."

"I also know that Teacher Liao Qi from the Chinese Literature team was present on last year's team as well. His questions were pretty easy as they were basically as good as gimme questions."

"The Chinese team added Teacher Su Na from Peking University's Chinese Department? And she's even a young teacher? Her standard should be somewhat limited then, I don't think she will be able to set any difficult questions."

"Right."

"It's the same teachers for the Science exam section as well."

"The Mathematics team is also comprised of the same old teachers. When I saw these familiar question setters' names, I suddenly had an unprecedented confidence for this year's college entrance exam! Hahaha!"

Suddenly, just as these examinees and parents were discussing the exam restfully, a piece of news appeared online out of nowhere.

"Latest news from the Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board: This year's lead question setter for the Beijing Mathematics exam section has been changed to Associate Professor Zhang Ye from Peking University's School of Mathematical Sciences!"

When this news report was published, the entire batch of Beijing college entrance examinees were stunned!

Many of these examinees and parents who were arrogant earlier were now at a loss for words.

"Holy shit!"

"Your sister!"

"F\*\*k your second granny!"

"Zhang Ye is setting the questions? How can that be?!"

"You can't do things like that!"

"That's such a d\*ck move! What are they trying to achieve with that! Are they even leaving us a path to retreat?! Of all people, why did you people find Zhang Ye?!"

"I'm stunned!"

"Heavens! I have a bad feeling about this!"

"Me too, why am I getting the shivers!?"

"Zhang Ye...Zhang Ye..."

"It's over! It's going to suck!"

"That Teacher Zhang never does things predictably! Let him set the questions? Then do we still have a chance of survival?"

After many of the examinees from the other provinces saw the news released by the Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board, they all gathered to this discussion board. People from Beijing were sarcastic to begin with. Due to their past year exams always being so simple and having little to worry about, the examinees from Beijing were bragging and stepping on people everywhere, enraging the masses. But upon hearing that Zhang Ye was going to be the Beijing question setter for the Mathematics section, the examinees from other provinces all came in laughing and observing the fallout!

"Serves them right!"

"Hahahaha! I'm dying of laughter!"

"Pride goes before the fall! This is what it means to suffer after ultimate joy!"

"With Zhang Ye setting the questions, there will be lots for you guys to suffer with!"

"Hehe, he is one of the few world-class mathematicians in China! Zhang Ye is such a wondrous and wicked fellow, so the questions he'll set definitely won't be any good for you!"

"The people of Jiangsu send their condolences to the Beijing examinees. You're on your own! Good luck!"

"The people of Jiangnan send their condolences to the brothers and sisters of Beijing. Everyone, take care!"

At this moment, there were still some confused examinees and parents from Beijing who did not normally pay attention to the news online. They asked with doubt: "Although Zhang Ye is one of the top mathematicians in the country, the questions he set might not necessarily be difficult and could even be very simple instead. Aren't you people overthinking it? Everyone is just scaring themselves maybe?"

The next moment, someone posted the elementary math questions that were leaked from the time when Zhang Ye presented them at Beijing's Experimental Primary School.

The questions 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.

Following that, another set of elementary math questions which were posted by Zhang Ye when he held "Zhang Ye's Classroom" on Weibo previously were all screenshotted and posted one by one.

After that, those examinees and parents who did not know about it earlier all fainted at once!

"Holy sh\*t!"

"What kinds of questions are those?!"

"Elementary math questions? Elementary your sister!"

"This is too damn difficult!"

"These elementary questions are already so difficult? If Zhang Ye were to set the college entrance exam questions, wouldn't it be insane? Who would be able to answer them? Oh my dear lord! Does the Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board need to be so aggressive?!"

"Zhang Ye, cursing your great grandpa!"

"I want to cry! What to do?"

"Why did I have to be taking this year's college entrance exam?! If I knew it would turn out like this, I wouldn't have f\*\*king repeated my studies last year! I would have just gone to study at a third-tier college and be counting my blessings now!"

"Back then, someone mentioned on Weibo what it would be like if Zhang Ye became the question setter for the college entrance exam. But who could have expected this to be a f\*\*king prophecy that came true! Our cursed mouths! Pui! Pui!"

"That's right, it actually turned out to be real!"

"The gods are out to destroy me! My math has never been good!"

"Teacher Zhang, I'm your hardcore fan. Please don't come to Beijing to set the questions, go be a scourge to the examinees of the other provinces or autonomous regions instead! I beg of you!"

Among them, some straight-A students of Beijing remained fearless.

Some of the straight-A students left their comments on Weibo.

"It's not such a big deal. They're just questions made by Zhang Ye. How different can they be!"

"I'm pretty good at math, so no matter who sets the questions, I'm still confident."

"I also don't have any stress as long as the Chinese Literature exam section remains easy."

"Yes, the Chinese Literature exam questions are key. It doesn't matter whether the Mathematics exam questions are difficult or not, those will still be a breeze for me."

Usually, people who excelled in math would only receive average marks in their Chinese Literature results. That was the reason why they felt that even if the Mathematics exam questions were more difficult, it was a good thing for them as it would help mark a distinct difference between them and the weaker students, which was advantageous to the straight-A students. All they wanted was for the Chinese Literature exam section to be easy.

However, just a few seconds after these straight As student had happily posted their thoughts online, another piece of news appeared on Weibo!

"Latest news from the Beijing college entrance examination's question setting team: The latest update confirms that Zhang Ye has also joined this year's Beijing Chinese Literature exam question setting team and will likely be responsible for creating the short answer questions. It is understood that this is the

first time in history that a person will be handling the question setting in both the Mathematics and Chinese Literature teams concurrently! "

Upon reading this news, those straight-A students from Beijing were totally stunned!

"What the f\*\*k!"

"Holy shit, Zhang Ye is also setting the Chinese Literature exam questions?"

"Goddammit!"

Those straight-A students who were typically honest and obedient model students couldn't help but swear when they saw this. They were all shocked by the news update!

### [I'm Really a Superstar](#)

#### **Chapter 700: Operation Send Zhang Ye Home!**

Several reports were published one after the other.

Beijing Times: Several young teachers, including Zhang Ye, have join the college entrance exam question setting teams. This shows that the Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board is determined to reform the Beijing college entrance exam. The questions for this year's exams are not likely to be as "comfortable" as previous years' anymore, so let's see how it will turn out.

Beijing Online: A last-minute change in the exam question setting team leaves the Beijing college entrance exams in doubt.

People's Daily Online: On temporary hiatus from The Voice of China, Zhang Ye tries his hand at setting the Mathematics and Chinese Literature sections for the college entrance exam. Will Zhang Ye be up to the task?

The news spread like wildfire!

Online, more and more people found out about the news!

Yao Jiancai posted on Weibo: "Whoa, I was trying to reach Zhang Ye's phone just now to chat with him, but couldn't get through even after trying a few times. I was still wondering what happened. So it was because he had gone up into the hills!"

Zhang Ye's fans were also loving this piece of news.

"Haha, Teacher Zhang is coming up with something else again!"

"Setting exam questions for the college entrance exam? Does he need to go that far?"

"I'm so looking forward to it!"

"I would like to see how difficult the questions Zhang Ye set can get. Is the Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board starting to make radical changes this time? It looks like Teacher Zhang will be taking on the lead role this time! But coming back to the point, no one has ever seen Zhang Ye's questions for the high school level before. I wonder if Teacher Zhang Ye can really complete this task? Will his exam questions really end up being too difficult? I guess that's still a big question mark there."

"It will definitely be very difficult!"

"I think so too, Zhang Ye's not going to be easy to deal with!"

"Yeah, who doesn't know what Teacher Zhang Ye's style is like. It's going to be a tough one for those college entrance examinees this time! Plus it's really unlucky to have unfortunately met with Zhang Ye getting appointed this year!"

"I just took the college entrance exam last year, but now that I think of it, my heart is also fluttering with fear. If my mother had given birth to me two months later, I would have to take my college entrance exam this year! This is the first time I feel like I should be giving my heartfelt thanks to my mother!"

There were those who were here to observe the fun.

There were others who were here to make sarcastic remarks.

There were also those who wished to watch the world burn.

Many of the Beijing college entrance examinees who saw this gnashed their teeth in hatred!

"You people, enough!"

"Don't you all have any compassion at all!?"

"Has anyone ever considered how we are feeling? In the final push before the exam, we have practiced countless times on past exams which were easier just so that we get used to the exam's question setter's train of thought and difficulty level. But now they're changing the lead question setter just like that, yet you all are here gloating at our misfortune. Do you all even know how hard we've worked?"

"To be put into this spot by Zhang Ye who has suddenly become the lead question setter for both the Mathematics and Chinese Literature exam sections! This is as good as taking our lives!"

"Teacher Zhang, knock it off, could you seriously knock it off!"

"Just go back and do The Voice as you were before! Why did you come to the college entrance examination's question setting teams to mess around! Hurry up and go back to where you came from. When my college entrance exam is done, I promise that I will buy three TVs and tune in to Central TV Department 1 every Thursday at 9 PM to support and add to your viewership ratings!"

"We were so close to taking the college entrance exam. How could they suddenly change the lead question setter! This is too unfair! Such bullies!"

"Boycott Zhang Ye!"

"Yeah, let's strongly boycott Zhang Ye!"

"This is numbing! We can't let this guy be the lead question setter!"

"Calling for Teacher Zhang to leave the question setting team!"

"Calling for Zhang Ye to leave the question setting team!"

"+1!"

"+99999!"

"Teacher Zhang Ye, please go home!"

Suddenly, whether it was on Weibo, the forums, or any of the big or small Tieba groups related to Beijing, many college entrance examinees and their parents started a new round of calls for boycotting. It was just over a week ago when the television industry insiders were calling for a boycott on Zhang Ye due to his disruption of the market practices. But now another wave of boycotting activities was beginning. Everyone was "shouting" their mottos. This round of boycott actions was labeled as—"Send Zhang Ye Home"!

The examinees were creating an uproar.

"Teacher Zhang, your house is on fire. Quickly go home and check on it!"

"Teacher Zhang, your telephone bills are due. Quickly go home and pay up!"

"Teacher Zhang, the plants at home need watering. Quickly go home and water them!"

"Teacher Zhang, there's a drop dead gorgeous woman at your house bathing right now. Quickly go home and take a look!"

There were many comments from the examinees. Their messages made many netizens who were just observing the fun laugh like crazy. One by one, more and more people began following the thread. Some of the more clever replies were even being forwarded countless times!

In the present era of the college entrance exam, it had become a watershed moment in life and an important basis and formation of the current societal structure. So if even the entire society, media, and citizens were focused on something like that, then what could be said of the examinees themselves and their parents? Adding on the famous Zhang Ye from the entertainment circle who always worried others, Zhang Ye's name had become synonymous with this current topic. Naturally, the topic of him joining the Beijing college entrance examination's question setting team had instantly gone viral. Finally, the boycott that was started by the examinees was gathering great momentum!

10!

100!

200!

Numerous Beijing examinees were even starting a group boycott, calling for everyone to join in to their Operation Send Zhang Ye Home, as more and more of the other Beijing examinees started to join!

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Elsewhere.

The Beijing question setting teams were not in the know of all that was happening.

Zhang Ye had stayed up overnight to rack his brains, trying to write out all the questions.

Some of the other question setters were also still in discussions about the exam questions, while some were eating a late night snack. A few were already deep in sleep. They were all isolated from the outside world while they were here. That meant both physically as well as their communications like cell phones or the Internet, so they were unaware of what was going on out there.

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Meanwhile.

Over at the Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board.

With the commotion online getting bigger and bigger, the Higher Education Entrance Examination Board also reacted and called an emergency meeting. There were 15 or 16 people taking part in the meeting and every one of their expressions showed that they found it both funny and annoying. None of them had expected that there would be such a huge reaction from the public because of their invitation of Zhang Ye to the question setting team!

Someone spoke but hesitated, "Professor Zhang is..."

Another female staff member was feeling rather helpless. "Teacher Zhang's affinity with the people seems to be very poor. Why does he always get boycotted wherever he goes to! I remember him getting boycotted by those people from the television stations just last week, didn't he?"

A young staff member gave a wry smile. "But that can't be helped, can it? We can't possibly be thinking of sending Professor Zhang home? He is the country's few top mathematicians, so we can't just ask him to come and go as we like. We won't be able to justify our decision that way. If the examinees want to boycott, just let them do it. From a different perspective, this also shows that our decision to invite Professor Zhang to join us was right. Didn't we do so because we wanted to increase the difficulty of the exams?"

A woman said, "That's true."

Finally, after a discussion in the meeting, the Board unanimously decided—they would simply ignore the issue raised by the examinees!

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The next day.

Operation Send Zhang Ye Home was still ongoing.

"Teacher Zhang, I've deposited 1 billion RMB at your house!"

"Teacher Zhang, your wife is going to give birth soon!"

"Teacher Zhang..."

"Teacher Zhang..."

On one of the larger Beijing forums, in the college entrance exam discussion group, this thread was even stickied at the top. All kinds of people were coming up with all sorts of strategies and posting all kinds of wondrous sounding ideas!

However, to be realistic, everyone knew that this was just a form of self-entertainment by the examinees. Boycott Zhang Ye? The literary world had tried to boycott him before, but their faces ended up getting smacked swollen by Zhang Ye. The SARFT tried to ban him, but he still did whatever he wanted to do. The television industry also tried to boycott him, but now? All of them fell silent and not a single one of them could be seen anywhere. After so many people and groups had tried boycotting Zhang Ye multiple times, none had come to any effect at all, not to mention their group now. The examinees understood that they would have to face reality in the end!

Sure enough, when they went back to school for their classes, every Beijing high school teacher wore a different expression altogether.

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Beijing Normal University Affiliated High School.

Class 3-1.

A female teacher was standing at the podium, not looking too well. "Class, our revision using the notes and examination guides might be obsolete already. You won't need to do the focused review plan that I designed for everyone a few days ago anymore either. There's no meaning to those assignments anymore. From here on, I will be working with the other Year 3 teachers to prepare something new for everyone to review intensely with, because I'm sure that everyone already knows that the lead question setter this year is Zhang Ye!"

A male student anxiously asked, "How could they change the scope of the exam now, didn't they already approve it beforehand? With this last-minute change, how are we expected to be able to take the exam!?"

"That's right!"

"Teacher, what should we do!"

The female teacher said, "The scope of the exam definitely won't change. It's more or less going to be the same as what we have told you all to study before today. Those are the subjects that the exam questions will be based on. However, a good question setter will still be able to stop you from getting the correct answer even if they provide you with the exact subject or the proper formula to start with. It's regrettable, but our Year 3 group of teachers has analyzed that Zhang Ye is likely to be such a person. He is possibly the only one in the Chinese math field who has the highest understanding of logic operations and algebra, along with a few other topics. According to our worst case scenario, his questions will be very difficult to answer if you just attempt to solve it using the most conventional methods! That is why this college entrance examination's Mathematics section is really going to be a test of everyone's quality!"

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At Beijing No.14 High School.

"Teacher!"

"Can you highlight the main subjects for us?"

"Yes, everyone says that Zhang Ye's questions will be very difficult!"

"He wouldn't possibly make us compose a poem, would he?"

"I just hope that the essay questions will not be written by him! The weight of points on the essay section is too high!"

"Teacher Zhang, what kinds of questions will Zhang Ye give?"

The students were talking one after another.

The No.14 High School Chinese Literature teacher held it in for a long time before finally shaking her head and saying, "I don't know either. All you can do right now is completely memorize the entire scope of the subject for the exam, and then..." She stopped there, not wanting to tell them that she could only offer them a blessing on this matter! With Zhang Ye's literary level, no one in the entire country could possibly guess the questions that he would write or which train of thought the questions would be based on!

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Yucai High.

"Hurry up, class. Everyone has to finish these three sets of exams today!"

"Ah? What exams are these, Teacher?"

"These are the three most difficult sets of exams over the years in all the national college entrance exams that have been held. Everyone, prepare yourselves for this, but it may be possible that this year's Beijing college entrance math exam might be the most difficult ever! The Beijing Higher Education Entrance Examination Board has already sent a very clear signal about this!"

This time, with Zhang Ye's surprising inclusion in the college entrance examination's question setting team, it not only caught the examinees off guard, even the teachers were affected and blindsided!