

## Superstar 731

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

#### Chapter 731: Meeting Wu Zeqing's family

The next day.

With his next program still undetermined, Zhang Ye went ahead with his vacation.

After breakfast, Zhang Ye was in a very happy mood. He hummed a tune that sounded like a Jingyun Dagu or a verse from an introductory poem that no one could really make out. Inside his bedroom, he pretentiously set up a desk and placed the Four Treasures of the Study on it. It was rare of him to be in the mood to practice calligraphy. Although his house was not big and did not have much space, he could still make do with it. Since it was only for practice, it did not matter how big the space was as long as there was a brush, paper, and ink. [1.] [2.]

He picked up a brush and dipped it in the ink.

Then he smoothly wrote out the song he was humming.

"Storytelling, acting to persuade people."

"Walking the middle of three roads."

"What goes around comes around."

"Experience is..."

As he sang, his mother knocked on the door from the hallway. "Don't sing anymore, you're too noisy!"

Zhang Ye snorted, "What so noisy about it? This is art."

His father also said something at this moment. "Chenchen wants to go out."

"What does she want to go out for? Just let her stay home and watch television," Zhang Ye said.

The door opened and Chenchen walked in. "Zhang Ye, I want to go play with my classmates. I've already arranged to meet up with them."

Zhang Ye smacked his lips disapprovingly. "It's such a mess out there. I don't want you running around outside."

Chenchen was not having any of it. "Zhang Ye, send me there."

His mother said, "Chenchen is going to her classmate's house. A few of her classmates have arranged to have lunch at Mengmeng's house. The place is not far away, so send Chenchen over, and pick her up in the afternoon."

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "I'm busy right now."

His mother stared at him and said, "What are you busy with?"

"I'm dabbling in the arts," Zhang Ye said confidently.

Chenchen came over and looked at the calligraphy on the Xuan paper, then let out a contemptuous "hur hur."

His mother seethed. "You call writing some crappy words dabbling in the arts? Then if I steam some buns, can I call it scientific research!? Stop talking nonsense. Hurry up and send the child there. Her classmates are waiting for her. I just got off the phone with Mengmeng's mother and she informed me that they are already preparing lunch."

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "Alright, I understand." After that, he looked at Chenchen and groaned, "You only know how to cause trouble for me. Old Rao is too much. She said she would return in a month at most, but it's already been three months and there's still no news of her. This bro is going to become a professional nanny soon. Let's go then, Little Grandaunt."

He put on his sunglasses and a face mask. Zhang Ye held Chenchen's hand and led her downstairs. As Mengmeng's house was not situated too far, as it was on Zixin Road, he decided to not drive and just walked with Chenchen straight to Mengmeng's house.

Today's weather was not bad. The weather was cooling and there were clear skies above them. It was quite rare to see clear blue skies in Beijing these days, so it was also a good chance to take a stroll and enjoy themselves.

They reached their destination. It was an apartment complex that still hadn't been torn down, and was located inside an alleyway.

"Chenchen!"

"Chenchen is here!"

"Ah, and Uncle Zhang!"

"Hello, Uncle Zhang."

Her young friends all ran out to greet them.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Hello, everyone."

Zhang Ye had met these children before during the school's parent-teacher meetings. They were in the same class. There were four children, two boys and two girls. However, he was unable to call them by name.

Mengmeng's parents also came outside.

"Yo, Teacher Zhang is here?"

"Teacher Zhang, quick, come into the house quickly and have a seat!"

Mengmeng's parents were very friendly and rather polite.

Zhang Ye quickly gestured with his hands. "There's no need for that. Let the children play by themselves. I've got to go. Chenchen is a naughty girl, so if anything happens, please be tolerant of her. Sorry for giving you additional trouble."

Mengmeng's mother laughed and said, "It's no trouble at all. Chenchen has always been Mengmeng's closest friend."

Mengmeng's father said, "Since The Voice has finished broadcasting, we don't know what other shows there are to watch anymore. Is your new program starting production yet?"

"It should be soon," Zhang Ye said.

He made small talk for a long time.

Chenchen pulled on Zhang Ye's sleeves impatiently and said, "Zhang Ye, you can go now."

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, "Whoa, you're chasing me away now?"

Everyone was tickled.

"Alright, I'll come back and pick you up later." Zhang Ye reminded Chenchen again to be obedient and not to cause any trouble. Then he left and strolled east. Actually, he was very worried about Chenchen, even though he always deriding her by picking at her faults. However, when the moment the kid got out of his sight, Zhang Ye could not quite get used to it and was always afraid that she would cause trouble or something bad would happen. He was worried because this little one was very different from the kids her age in that she should not be assessed by thinking of her as a child.

He walked and walked.

He had nearly reached Taoran Pavilion Garden's North Gate. It was just ahead.

Just as he was thinking about whether he should go to the park to enjoy the view of the lake, he spotted in his peripheral vision a BMW 7 Series parked on the opposite side of the road. It looked very familiar. As this color of BMW 7 Series cars were not commonly seen around the area, coupled with the fact that Old Wu also lived nearby, Zhang Ye immediately walked closer to take a look at the license plate. Heh, so it really was Wu Zeqing's car! What a coincidence! And so he crossed the road and stood beside the car, looking around and waiting.

About five minutes later.

Wu Zeqing's figure appeared from a market in the wide but dark alleyway, carrying large and small bags of stuff and walking in the direction of the BMW.

Zhang Ye waved at her. "Old Wu!"

Wu Zeqing looked up with a smile and said, "What are you doing here?"

"I was just taking a stroll when I saw your car." Zhang Ye pointed at the BMW. "You came to buy some food? Isn't there a Wumart Store on Taiping Street?"

Old Wu said, "That place is a bit more expensive."

"You're not working today?"

"I have a half-day and need to go to the office in the afternoon. Are you on break too?"

"Yes, the entire program team is on break for two days." Zhang Ye glanced at the things she was carrying and asked, "You bought so much stuff? You have visitors at your house?"

"My relatives came to visit me." Old Wu placed the bags into the car and invited, "Do you want to come over to my place?"

Zhang Ye said nervously, "Aren't your relatives at your house? How can I go there?"

Old Wu smiled. "What about it? It's not like there's a conflict of interest there. Let's go."

Zhang Ye hesitated. "About that, I don't think it's appropriate? Our relationship is still under wraps, so I'm thinking when the occasion is right, we could officially..."

Old Wu smiled and looked at him. "Are you afraid of going?"

When he heard this, Zhang Ye let out an uncontrolled laugh. He was a person who could not take provocation lightly and immediately got ruffled. He threw his head forward, cupping his ears as if he did not hear her clearly. "Eh, what did you just say? I seem to have heard you say that I was 'afraid'? Afraid of going? Me? Afraid of going? Aiyo! Old Wu, why are you so funny? Me? Afraid of going? I have nothing to be afraid of! Isn't that a huge joke! Aiyo, this temper of mine, hurry up! Get in the car! I must definitely go to your house today! Let's go! Start driving!" He got into the BMW and sat in the passenger seat.

Old Wu: "..."

Several pedestrians who were nearby also looked over, wondering to themselves what had gotten into the person wearing a face mask.

Old Wu drove the car off. They reached Old Wu's house within three minutes.

When the car was parked, Zhang Ye coughed and immediately lost all his energy. "Do I really have to go in?"

Old Wu smiled and said, "Yeah."

"Your relatives are all here?"

"No, only my elder sister is here."

"Hai, you should have told me earlier!"

After getting out of the car, Zhang Ye straightened his back. He was not terrified of seeing Old Wu's elder sister, more worried that he would have to see her parents. If her entire family and relatives were all here, Zhang Ye wouldn't have dared to come as the time to meet them was not ripe yet. With his current status and reputation, if Old Wu's family saw him, they would probably demand he break up with Old Wu. Getting Old Wu to agree to be his girlfriend was only the first step. If he wanted to marry Old Wu, then his path ahead was sure to be beset with difficulties.

In the villa.

When they entered the house, Zhang Ye saw a plump figure.

"You're back?" The plump woman looked over.

Old Wu put down the groceries and said, "I brought a friend over. We happened to bump into each other on the way just now."

Zhang Ye immediately said, "Hello." He had already removed his sunglasses and face mask.

The fat woman was stunned. "Aiyo! Hey, isn't this Teacher Zhang? Zeqing, you're friends with Zhang Ye? Why didn't you say so earlier?!"

Old Wu remarked curiously, "Didn't I say that before? Didn't I invite Little Zhang to join Peking University? I was also the one who kinda linked him for the endorsement of Little Mo's Brain Gold commercial."

"You..." Zhang Ye opened his mouth to say something but he did not know how to address her. No one knew that he was in a relationship with Old Wu, but he still couldn't possibly call her Auntie, right? The seniority was also a little bit messy in this case. The woman standing in front of him had somewhat similar features to Wu Zeqing, but they had a wide age gap. She looked in her forties to fifties. He remembered that Old Wu had previously mentioned that she was fourth in her family. She had two elder sisters and an elder brother. This plump lady was likely the eldest sister in her family.

Thankfully, the plump woman said, "Just call me Fat Sis. That's what everyone calls me."

She even had a nickname? Zhang Ye said in a slightly reserved manner, "Sure, then I will address you as Fat Sis?"

Old Wu gently said, "You two chat first, I will start preparing the food. Some of the food is quite troublesome to make and I'll have to fry them in oil first before marinating them."

Fat Sis waved her off with her hands. "Go ahead, I will chat with Little Zhang." Then she enthusiastically dragged Zhang Ye and sat on the sofa. "If I knew that you were so close to my younger sister, I would have invited you to our home to have a meal long ago. You might not know this, but I have seen all of your TV shows, especially The Voice. I got such a kick out of watching it that I even caught it online several times. It was simply out of this world!"

Zhang Ye said, "Thanks for your support."

"How's Qian Pingfan? I liked him the most. Why didn't he win first place? Is there any conspiracy behind that?"

"No, there isn't!"

"Really?"

"A record label has already signed Little Qian. From what I understand, he will probably release a single sometime later, so that could be considered his official debut."

"Are you familiar with Luo Yu?"

"Yes, I am."

"Everyone claimed that she's a lesbian. Is that true?"

"Heh, of course it is not true. Those are just rumors."

Wu Zeqing's eldest sister was quite a talkative person. She could speak about almost anything and was commenting on everything. Coincidentally, Zhang Ye was also similarly good at chatting. The way they spoke and their natures felt quite similar. The more they talked, the more it felt like they had really compatible personalities. The whole of the living room was filled with the sounds of Old Wu on the chopping board and the chattering between Zhang Ye and Fat Sis.

About a full hour later.

Fat Sis said, "Little Zhang, you're quite a nice person. We must become friends!"

Zhang Ye also said, "That's for sure. If you need any help in the future, just tell me."

"Now that you mention it, I really do have something I need your help with." Fat Sis shifted and said bluntly, "I saw the Brain Gold products you are endorsing for my nephew, Little Mo, selling like hot cakes. In the past, his health products company was only valued at one-tenth of my company. But after having benefited from his association with you, his company has become the market leader in health products. Then that kid started blabbering every day about his goal of getting his company listed on the stock market. As someone senior to him, I'm also feeling the pressure now. Little Zhang, why don't you become my company's spokesperson as well? We can also aim to get listed on the stock market!"

Zhang Ye answered without even thinking. "Sure."

In reality, Fat Sis was just speaking in jest and she did not expect Zhang Ye to really accept. After being stunned for a moment, she said, "I'm serious."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I'm not kidding either."

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

## **Chapter 732: The birth of Plants vs. Zombies!**

An idle chat had turned into business talk.

Wu Zeqing's elder sister was likely a woman of her word, so since she brought up the issue as the conversation had somehow steered toward it, she was probably really hoping to get an influential celebrity's endorsement for her company. At the same time, Zhang Ye was not the type to plan things. He just took things as they came and was also a more easygoing type of person.

As a result, they hit it off very well.

They settled an important matter in just a few lines of idle chatter.

Fat Sis thought that this was somewhat hasty, not because of herself, but because Zhang Ye had promised her so freely. Therefore, she decided to give him a brief introduction to her company. "I set up my company some years ago with a partner, with me being the majority shareholder. The company is in the PC gaming industry, and mainly focuses on browser and puzzle games. We're just a small, indie company that cannot compete against those large video game publishers who deal with huge game projects. However, even though we're an indie company, we aren't that small either. We do have a name carved out for ourselves in the industry and have ambitions to get into bigger projects. Some time ago, after our company completed long-term research into puzzle games, we came up with a new

project we have invested heavily into. We hope that it can compete with the top dogs in the market, but as you know about the video game industry these days, the competition is very fierce and depends heavily on advertising campaigns. In many of the recently published games, the ad budget has even exceeded the game development budget for some companies, so we can see just how important ad campaigns are."

Zhang Ye nodded as he listened.

Fat Sis insinuated, "We have also discussed this in our last few meetings and were considering several celebrities, hoping to discuss an endorsement deal with them. But those were all just small-time celebrities. For a big shot like you, truthfully, we haven't even given it any consideration since the endorsement fees are so high, therefore..."

Zhang Ye suddenly interrupted, "I can sense that you're insulting me."

Fat Sis said, "Not at all."

Zhang Ye said unhappily, "But you are. What big shot? What famous person? I'm just a small-time celebrity. What about the endorsement fee? Can you not ridicule me like that?"

"But we have to talk about the money no matter what."

"If you wish to talk about money, then I won't be doing the endorsement for you."

"Little Zhang, are you looking down on me?"

"Not at all."

"But you are. If we don't discuss the endorsement fee, I can't possibly make you do it pro bono, can I?"

"Old Wu is my friend, so how can I ask you for any money? Why are you so funny? I don't need a single cent. All I need is a word from you and we can sign the contract!"

"Little Zhang, it's meaningless if you put it that way. Business is business, even if you're my sister's friend. Anything between the two of you remains so, but business is business!"

"But I think of you as a friend too, unless you don't treat me as one?!"

"It's you who's not treating me as your friend! What you're saying is totally pointless!"

"It's you who's being pointless! It's just an endorsement for a game. All you need is to take a few photos of me and publish them, so why are you still bringing up the issue of money with me? Aiyo, aren't you getting tired of this talk?"

The two of them nearly started a fight, speaking in quick succession. But of course, it wasn't really a fight. The two of them were actually speaking with humility in every line they said. This kind of a conversation style could only be seen in Beijing throughout the entire country. It was typical of the Beijing style and couldn't really be found anywhere else!

Until noon, the two of them squabbled over the issue of the endorsement fee.

"3 million. I can't afford it if it's any more than that."

"I won't take a single cent from you!"

"With the reputation of Zhang Ye out there, it's worth 3 million, so that's settled!"

"What reputation? I don't have any reputation at all! Who the hell would know who I am?!"

"You're being pointless again, Little Zhang! Really pointless!"

In the kitchen, the food for lunch had been prepared.

Old Wu set the table and placed the dishes on it. Then she looked over with an air of gracefulness and said, "Enough, you two. You've been squabbling for the past two and a half hours, ever since I began preparing lunch. Do you two still have energy?"

Only then did Fat Sis take a breather, take her cup of tea from the table, and gulp down the cold tea in several mouthfuls. "Hoo, I was dying of thirst!"

Zhang Ye, finding it to be the right time now, said, "So it's settled then, Fat Sis."

Old Wu agreed, "Little Zhang's not an outsider anyways. If he's willing to endorse your game, just go ahead and use him. The endorsement fee can just be a symbolic one. Aren't the finances for your company a little tight?"

Fat Sis sighed. "That's not right, that's not right at all! Little Zhang might be a B-list celebrity, but everyone in the industry knows that he commands an A-list endorsement fee, especially in the wake of The Voice. No one would believe it if his fees don't reach several million. Even a payout of 3 million is too shabby!"

Old Wu laughed. "At worst, you can wait until the game is released and everything has stabilized before giving Little Zhang his share through a share of the profits. It's not really that big of a deal."

Fat Sis said, "We still don't know how the game will perform in the current market. The National Gaming Expo is coming up, and the demo version hasn't even been completed yet. There are still many details and kinks that need to be ironed out, so if it fails when the time comes, how would I be able to compensate Little Zhang?"

They began eating.

Zhang Ye was getting tired from talking. He sat at the dining table and immediately picked up the chopsticks to start eating.

Old Wu also sat down, speaking as she ate, "I don't know anything about video games, but you can discuss it with Little Ye. He has a quick mind and many ideas as well."

"Right, I can advise you on some things," Zhang Ye said, still chewing on his food.

Fat Sis did not take this to heart, and even picked up a piece of meat and put it in Zhang Ye's bowl. She said, "Game development is quite different from making TV shows. They are two completely different fields, so even though I know Little Zhang's planning skills are very strong, it's unlikely that he knows much about video games. The genre of this new game that we're developing is a type of strategy-puzzle game in which the player can command a group of soldiers. There will be various types of weapons



available while the enemy will be the computer AI's group of soldiers. The different types of weapons and soldiers will deal a range of different damage to the 'enemy.' The player's objective will be to capture a central flag on the map, but even if they do, they will just advance to the next stage where it becomes harder and harder to win. Of course, there will also be boss characters for them to come up against."

She gave a general overview of the game's rules.

Finally, Fat Sis said with a headache, "The game's final version has generally been completed now, but regarding the battle between the soldiers, many of the staff at the company feel that it's too traditional and boring after they playtested the game. There's no novelty to it, nor are the features outstanding. However, the advantage that we have is that our gameplay is quite strong, with many stages available. The preliminary design has 68 different levels, so the only thing left to ponder is how to make the game more interesting and creative."

Listening up to here, Zhang Ye raised his head and blinked several times. "Does it have to be about soldiers fighting a battle?"

Fat Sis glanced at him. "It doesn't have to be. We can change it any time we want."

Zhang Ye hesitated for a moment and smiled, "Then let me share with you an idea. Tell me what you think."

"Go ahead." Fat Sis did not take him too seriously.

When it came to his girlfriend's family, Zhang Ye was unconditional in giving. "Could we change the soldiers that the player will be controlling to different types of plants and fungi that have their own unique offensive or defensive capabilities? And the enemies would be changed into different types of zombies."

Fat Sis was stunned. "Plants? Zombies?"

Zhang Ye stopped eating. He put down his chopsticks and found a pen and paper, and started scribbling on it. "The gameplay that I'm talking about is similar to your game overall. The difference is that the player-controlled assets would be static, which means that it's essentially a kind of tower defense game. With the scary zombies about to invade, each type of zombie would have its own unique features. For example, the Buckethead Zombie is extremely resistant to damage, while the Digger Zombie can dig beneath the yard to bypass plants that are planted on the lawn, and so on." With every explanation, Zhang Ye sketched out simple forms to illustrate it to Fat Sis. "The player will have to defend against the zombies by placing different types of plants on the lawn. There will be several dozen types of plants with different characteristics, like the Cherry Bomb that can instantly kill all enemies within a certain range, while the Chomper can devour the zombie closest to it. The players will have to strategically plan their placement of the plants in accordance to the weaknesses of each type of zombie to gain victory."

Fat Sis was so enthralled by the explanation that she no longer cared to eat. She anxiously asked, "Will there be enough stages though?"

"Why would there not be enough? You mentioned that the game your company designed has 68 levels? In my opinion, that isn't what I'd call enough. If it is according to my design, every plant type would have

different attacks, special abilities, and purchase costs. It's also a developing process, with puzzle pieces to collect. There can be different game modes, such as adventure mode, survival mode, puzzle mode, mini-games, a zen garden, etc." He explained the overall concept of each mode before finally saying, "Then, including different areas on top of Day, like Night, Pool, Fog, and Roof, I dare say that this type of game has levels that are...virtually limitless!"

In the half-hour talk, Zhang Ye sped through his explanation, speaking with more and more excitement as the number of pages he used to illustrate his proposal increased to more than a dozen on the dining table!

Stage layout...

Plant names...

Zombie characteristics and design...

Almost everything was covered in detail!

Fat Sis was incredibly stunned and amazed. "What is the title of this game!?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I hope you can name it...Plants vs. Zombies!"

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 733: The busy Zhang Ye!**

Afternoon.

The design of Plants vs. Zombies had been brought out by Zhang Ye.

At the beginning, it was only Fat Sis who had been listening to Zhang Ye's explanation with an excited look on her face. But as time passed, Old Wu's villa was becoming more and more lively as people knocked on her door one after another.

A youth entered the villa, looking very puzzled. "Fat Sis."

Fat Sis was the one who opened the door for him. She complained, "Little Sun, why are you so slow?"

The youth gave a wry smile. "I rushed over from the company as soon as I got your call, but this address was quite difficult to find."

"Hurry up and come in!" Fat Sis waved him in.

The youth suddenly noticed Zhang Ye sitting in the living room. Shocked, he said, "Ah? Zhang...Teacher Zhang Ye?"

"Don't be surprised by everything, come over here and listen to what Teacher Zhang has to say!" Fat Sis's title for Zhang Ye had also changed. She no longer called him Little Zhang.

Dong, dong, dong.

Someone had arrived again.

"Fat Sis, what's the urgent matter?" A middle-aged man arrived.

"Old Lu, you're here at the right time! Quickly come and listen!" Fat Sis said.

The middle-aged man essentially did not know why he was here. "Huh? Listen to what?"

"There's a new concept for our new game!" Fat Sis said.

The middle-aged man wondered, "Hasn't the concept for our new game already been confirmed?"

Fat Sis said, "Come here and listen, then you'll understand! Hurry, hurry, hurry!"

The middle-aged man did not recognize Zhang Ye but found him rather familiar looking. It seemed to him that this was a celebrity but he couldn't remember the name. He found a chair and sat down.

Zhang Ye was still explaining the concept, not caring who was joining the meeting. He just kept speaking, "There's basically no limit to the levels in the survival and puzzle modes. The enemies come wave after wave, and as long as the player wants to keep playing, they can continue for six months to a year and it would still be playable. A linear, stage-clearing game can also be done this way. Each time that a stage has been cleared, the next one would just have its difficulty increased with more obstacles."

Fat Sis anxiously asked, "How do we avoid a loss of interest from gaming fatigue if the players can play forever?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "That's easy. We just need to create an in-game store where plants' puzzle pieces can be purchased. A player can also purchase premium plants and other items in the store. There are many ways that a player can earn money, like from growing a plant and then selling it back in the in-game store, or by completing challenges to increase your gold and silver coins' amount. This is a kind of endowed progress that can hook a player into the game and increase their anticipation of what comes next. As for gameplay fatigue, mini-games can be added to negate that. Instead of letting the player control the plants, they will be controlling the zombies instead, using all the types of zombies to attempt to eat the enemy's plants. Then there are also mini-games like breaking vases and bowling!"

One person!

Five people!

Ten people!

The entire game development team from Fat Sis' company had come over. There were more than a dozen people sitting around in Old Wu's living room and all of them were listening to Zhang Ye's explanation of the game with their mouths agape.

Everyone was also constantly throwing questions at Zhang Ye.

A female white-collar worker dressed in a business attire asked, "How many different variations of attack can the plants have? Wouldn't it get too monotonous?"

Zhang Ye answered, "You can have as many as you want. For example, the Cherry Bomb can blow up all zombies in an area around it, the Jalapeno can blow up enemies in an entire lane, some plants can shoot two or three attacks at once, some plants can attack targets in the air, some plants can block the path of the enemy, all kinds of attack variations can be created."

A woman asked, "Wouldn't that game take up a very large size then? Is this even a puzzle game anymore?"

Zhang Ye said, "It might sound complicated, but the concept of the game is actually very simple and not complex at all. As long as you create the game as I have envisioned it, the final product will probably be less than 100 megabytes."

Not only did he talk, he also illustrated his ideas.

Sunflower...

Peashooter...

Cherry Bomb...

And so on and so forth.

When everyone took a look at the sketches that Zhang Ye drew as well as the level settings he listed, an image of the game that he was describing formed in their heads, greatly pumping them up!

Fat Sis slapped her thigh. "Awesome!"

A lean-looking youth exclaimed, "This game sounds so cool! Amazing!"

A middle-aged man also gasped. "I've never thought that a simple thing like a puzzle game could be played this way. This is already miles ahead of our previous title, Soldiers' Fury!"

"That's right!"

"This game is really going to be absolutely awesome!"

"I agree! If we can really make this game, then it will surely be wonderful!"

"Just listening to this makes my blood boil with excitement! All the innovation and game mechanics we were looking for is here, so it can be said that nothing is missing whatsoever. It's usually very difficult to avoid any shortcomings and defects in the development of a puzzle game, but none of that can be found anywhere in this game!"

Everyone made constant exclamations.

Fat Sis looked at her company's staff. "Everyone agrees that this is good?"

"It's more than good!"

"Yeah, this is a divine creation!"

"Fat Sis, this game will surely get popular if we make and publish it!"

"Besides, we already have a playable version we can use from Soldiers' Fury. Most of the prep work is already done, so all we need to do now is modify the assets and reprogram some functions. Reusing the game engine won't be a problem, so we can directly base it upon that and it save ourselves loads of production time! I think if we do it fast enough and everything goes smoothly, we can come up with a demo version in time for this year's Game Expo!"

Everyone unanimously thought that this was a good game. In fact, they didn't just think that the game would be good. The game had already amazed them, and gave them an impulse to quickly develop it so that they could see for themselves how it would look!

Fat Sis nodded and looked excitedly at Zhang Ye. "Teacher Zhang, I really have to take my hat off to you this time!"

Zhang Ye happily said, "I was just making up things along the way."

At this moment, the thudding of footsteps came from the stairwell. Wu Zeqing had changed and was carrying her bag with her down to the living room. "Big Sis, I'm going off to work then."

Fat Sis said, "Hurry, hurry. Let me use your house for a while."

"Little Zhang." Old Wu smiled and said, "Come with me, I need to speak with you."

"Sure." Zhang Ye excused himself and followed Wu Zeqing outside the villa. They stood on the front yard. Zhang Ye asked, "What's the matter, Old Wu?"

Old Wu said in a gentle tone, "My sister's company isn't that big, as for the endorsement fee..."

Before she could finish, Zhang Ye interrupted, "Hai, don't you think I know what to do already? Don't worry, I won't be charging your sister a single cent. We're all family and your sister is as good as my sister. Why would I still ask for any money from her? Why are you so funny? OK, OK? You don't need to worry about such things, I know what to do."

Old Wu laughed. "Alright then, I'll let you work hard."

"Why are you still so courteous with me? Don't you still have work to handle at the office? Go to work already. I will definitely settle your sister's issue by the end of today." Zhang Ye proudly thumped his chest.

Old Wu left and Zhang Ye came back inside the house.

In the living room, Fat Sis and a few people were discussing something in low voices. When they saw Zhang Ye walking over, they immediately stopped.

Fat Sis suddenly said, "Thank you everyone for coming over. OK, everyone, you can go back for now. I will stay here and discuss things with Teacher Zhang. We'll talk again when I get back tonight for the meeting."

"Sure."

"Then we'll leave first."

"Teacher Zhang, goodbye."

The group of over a dozen staff members said their farewells and left.

Only Zhang Ye and Fat Sis were left in the house.

Fat Sis looked at him and got straight to the point. "Teacher Zhang, I don't like to beat around the bush, so I'll say whatever comes to mind and not hide my intentions. I really loved the idea that you proposed just now, so I would like to buy the copyright to your proposal and make this game."

Zhang Ye waved it off with a hand. "If you treat me as a friend, don't talk to me about money. I was just randomly talking about this game idea that I had, so if you like it, please use it as you see fit. When the game is made, just don't forget to put my name into the credits."

Fat Sis said firmly, "That won't do. I would be taking advantage of you too much if I did that!"

Zhang Ye threw up his hands. "I won't hide it from you either, Fat Sis. But to be honest, I don't need money. Even if I earn more, I won't be able to spend it. It's not that I am boasting, but among the C-list and above celebrities, I am the only one without an agent. I don't have a need for a management agency to find me any jobs and neither have I attended any commercial performances since my debut. You won't find someone else like me in the entire entertainment circle."

Fat Sis said with a laugh, "That I have heard before."

"If I wanted to earn money, I would be able to get enough by just taking on a few projects. Don't you think so?" Zhang Ye explained, "That's why I'm telling you to stop bringing up the issue of money with me. If you really must, then we can just do it the way Old Wu mentioned. When your game sells well and becomes popular, you can share some of the profit with me."

Fat Sis bit her lip and finally said, "OK, then I will take advantage of you this once!"

Zhang Ye picked up the rough draft illustrations and notes on the table and arranged them properly, then handed it to her. "Hold on to these. If there are any problems with the details, you can ask me again. Like the rate of fire of the plants, the attack and defense of the zombies, for questions like these, I can make a suitable attribute table. When it comes to game development, I'm an outsider. I don't understand computer programming either, but mocking up things like that is my expertise since I am in the field of mathematics after all."

"Great!" Fat Sis felt fantastic now. Having accepted Zhang Ye's favor, she was no longer argumentative. "In your concept, you mentioned an important game character, someone called Crazy Dave? He's the player's guide as well as the in-game store owner? Is that universal throughout the game? If that's the case, then I would suggest that we don't call him Dave or whatever. Why would we name our Chinese game character with a foreign name? I think we should just call him Crazy Zhang Ye instead and make you into a cartoon character. If Plants vs. Zombies truly becomes popular, then it would be able to bring you a lot of fame as well. Similarly, the game can also rub off on some of the reputation that you already have by borrowing your influence. We'll put this point into the contract. Since we're going to work together, we will do this well and put your endorsement right into the game itself. What do you think?"

Zhang Ye laughed, "That's sounds good."

"OK, then it's settled. I'll go and prepare the contract now and get the profit sharing details in as well. You don't need to worry over this. I'll be sure to get it all done!"

"When do we sign the contract?"

"Tomorrow?"

"Sure, any time is fine with me!"

They had settled such an important affair within a few hours. Further, this agreement only came about because of a spontaneous conversation between the two parties, so that made it even more interesting. Zhang Ye could not have expected that just from him taking a child out and turning a corner on the way back, it could have led to him bringing out a tower defense game like Plants vs. Zombies and putting it into this world!

Fat Sis and her staff had been discussing how this game might become popular and sell like hot cakes, but those were all just assumptions!

However, for Zhang Ye, there wasn't any doubt. He knew that Plants vs. Zombies would definitely be popular. In fact, it would be popular not only in this country, it would even become very popular throughout the entire world!

Zhang Ye did not have much desire for money. Being in the entertainment circle, what he placed more importance on was fame and visibility. Zhang Ye never learned about game development, and did not know how to do it, nor did he have the energy to handle something like that. The ideas he had for browser games or puzzle games from his previous world would have been left to rot in his mind in any case, since he did not have any use for them. But today's accidental stumble onto this project had opened yet another path for Zhang Ye. He did not know how to make games, but he could surely team up with someone who did. If he could become successful as a game producer and designer, then it would surely bring about a lot of popularity for him. Besides, Zhang Ye also had an endorsement agreement with them. If he could endorse a global phenomenon like this tower defense game, it would definitely help Zhang Ye increase his popularity and fame from sources that wouldn't have known him in the first place!

Today, another door had opened for him.

After Zhang Ye had crossed over into the education, crosstalk, mathematics, and advertising worlds, among others, he now turned his attention to the video game industry. He was officially marching into the puzzle games market!

You couldn't find anyone else as flexible as him in the entire entertainment industry!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 734: Chenchen catches a thief!**

Elsewhere.

In the afternoon, at Mengmeng's house.

Mengmeng's mother asked, "Have you finished eating?"

"Yes, I've finished." Mengmeng took a napkin and wiped her mouth.

Mengmeng's father laughed and said, "You ate so little, why didn't you eat the vegetables? You should learn from Chenchen and not be picky about food. You can only grow taller and stronger if you do that."

Mengmeng stuck out her tongue. "I don't like celery and chives."

Little Fatso put down his chopsticks and said, "Auntie, Uncle, I've finished too."

Mengmeng's mother said politely, "Have some more, Auntie will serve you another bowl of rice."

"It's enough, I really can't eat anymore." The terrified Little Fatso waved his hands hastily.

Another boy, Little Chao, said, "Chenchen, Mengmeng, let's go play outside?"

Mengmeng nodded. "Sure, sure. Dad, Mom, then we will be going out now?"

Mengmeng's mother reminded them, "Watch out for cars, and don't go too far away. Just play around in the alleys so that I can call all of you back."

"OK," Mengmeng replied.

The young children went out in their group.

Little Fatso and Little Chao brought a soccer ball with them and started kicking it around in the alley. Lianlian was riding on Mengmeng's small bicycle and was fighting with Mengmeng over who got to ride it in a fun manner. Chenchen glanced at them and strolled leisurely beside them with her hands behind her back like a small adult, not joining them in their activities.

"Chenchen, come and play with us!" Lianlian signaled for her to go over.

Chenchen gave a scornful pout. "You guys play by yourselves."

Mengmeng offered the small bicycle to Chenchen. "I'll let you ride it."

Chenchen said, "That's not necessary. It's too childish and uninteresting."

Mengmeng didn't know how to react. "But isn't everyone playing with these things? What are the things that are not childish?"

At this moment, the two kids, Little Fatso and Little Chao, who had gone to pick up the soccer ball from the entrance of the alleyway returned. The two of them rushed back with nervous looking expressions and looked very anxious.

Lianlian looked at them and asked, "What's the matter with you two?"

Little Chao said softly, "Little Fatso and I saw someone stealing things!"

Mengmeng covered her mouth. "Ah?"

Lianlian's jaw dropped. "Are you serious?"

"It's true, I also saw it!" Little Fatso was gesticulating as he related what he saw. "A woman's bag was nearly stolen by him, and now he's targeting another person! It's terrible!"

Mengmeng asked anxiously, "What should we do? I will go and inform my parents!"

Chenchen suddenly asked, "Where is he?"

Little Fatso said, "We saw it happen at the bus stop by the entrance of the alley!"

Chenchen took the lead and walked forward. "Let's go and take a look."



When he heard that, Little Chao was terrified. "Ah? Why are we going to take a look at that?"

"Hurry up." Chenchen glared at him. "Are you even a man? Why are you so spineless?"

Little Chao wiped away his sweat. "OK...fine."

Lianlian was more scared and was shivering in fear, but when she saw her classmates following Chenchen, she could only grit her teeth and catch up to them. "Wait for me, wait for me!"

.....

In front of the bus stop.

Everything looked as usual at a glance.

Chenchen turned around and asked softly, "Which one is he?"

Little Fatso furtively pointed at a middle-aged man dressed in a gray shirt and then whispered very quietly, "That's him."

Chenchen asked again, "Does he have an accomplice?"

"Er, I don't know," Little Fatso said confused.

As they were talking, they saw the middle-aged man dressed in a gray shirt making his move. Actually, Little Fatso and the rest did not manage to see clearly how the man did it. They only saw a middle-aged woman going up to a young and pretty lady to ask for directions. When the young lady turned her head to say something, the middle-aged man in the gray shirt immediately stretched out his hand. His movement was too fast and they were too far away, so it was difficult to make out whether he had used a blade or something else, but when the middle-aged man withdrew his hand, he was already holding something that looked like a purse in his hands. He then turned around to walk away slowly.

Mengmeng was getting nervous. "He stole it already!" He stole it already!"

Lianlian pulled at her in panic. "Mengmeng, lower your voice, don't let him hear that!"

The middle-aged man scanned the surroundings just before he left, so thankfully for Mengmeng, Lianlian, and the others, they were just seven- and eight-year-old children who had not attracted his attention. He did not even look at them.

Chenchen observed the surroundings for a moment and hypothesized, "That man has an accomplice."

Little Chao exclaimed, "Where? Wasn't he working alone?"

Chenchen explained, "That middle-aged woman who was asking for directions from the victim was his accomplice. She was responsible for diverting the victim's attention."

Little Chao was enlightened. "So that's how it is! Chenchen, you're really smart!"

A warm-hearted person, Mengmeng said, "Then we should inform that big sister whose purse got stolen by them."

"No, we can't do that." Chenchen looked across the road and said, "It's useless even if we let her know. When that thief committed the crime, he used a pocketknife that was about three inches long as his tool. So it's pointless even if that big sister chases after him. She might end up getting injured instead."

Little Fatso was stunned. "Was there a knife? How come I didn't see it? It's even three inches long?"

Little Chao said, "That's right, I didn't see it either, so how could you have seen it?"

Chenchen dismissively curled her lips. "When I was only three years old, I followed my aunt and practiced the horse stance, standing stump, and started to learn martial arts as well. How can your eyes be sharper than mine? If I say that it is a knife, then it's a knife!"

Little Chao lost his fight. "...Fine."

"Let me ask you guys this, do you all wish to capture the thief?" Chenchen looked at them.

Little Fatso said, "I do, but that man has gotten too far away already. It will be too late even if we call the police now."

Chenchen pointed at that middle-aged woman and said, "He still has an accomplice over there, we will just follow her and find their meeting place or maybe even their hideout. Then we can capture them in one fell swoop!"

These bold claims immediately gave a scare to the other young children!

"What?"

"We're going to follow her?"

"But they have a knife!"

"Chechen, why don't we just call the police? If we get discovered by them, we'll be in big trouble!"

Chenchen said, "We are only young children, they won't notice us. Besides, we should stand up to help if we see injustice, isn't that what everyone should do?"

Lianlian turned pale. "But...but the teachers say that even if we want to act bravely, it should be within one's limits!"

Chenchen looked at her and said, "Comrade Lianlian, as our school's first batch of Young Pioneer members, isn't your level of consciousness too low?"

Lianlian said, "I..."

Little Chao also disagreed, "But..."

Chenchen looked beside her and said, "Mengmeng, how about you?"

Upon hearing that, Mengmeng clenched her teeth and said, "I will do as you say!"

"Very good, this is more like it as a member of our class committee." Chenchen patted Mengmeng on her shoulders and then said to the boys, "What about the two of you?"

Little Fatso hesitated, "This, um."

Chenchen pouted. "As a girl, Mengmeng is brave enough to stand up against the evil forces. Why are the both of you boys behaving like cowards?"

Little Fatso was vexed. "Who is a coward? Who's a coward? I'll go!"

Little Chao also let out a scream. "Son of a gun! I'll go as well! Who's afraid of who! Let's go and catch them! Let's capture them in one fell swoop!" But after saying that, Little Chao's legs and belly were obviously trembling with fear.

Lianlian glanced at them and could only follow along with the majority.

"That's great!" Chenchen nodded in satisfaction. Then she ordered, "From now on, our temporary team of thief-catchers is formally established. I'm the team leader, so all of you have to listen to my orders. Now, I'm going to assign an operation code name to each of you. Mengmeng, your code name is Squash. You are more familiar with this area since you live here, so I will give you a cell phone later and you will be responsible for contacting the police and informing them about the thieves' location at any time."

Mengmeng was dumbfounded. "Squash?"

Chenchen continued, "Little Fatso, your code name is Black Bear and you're responsible for our safety."

"What the hell is this? Black Bear?" Little Fatso stared at her.

Chenchen said, "Little Chao, your code name is Bald Eagle and you're responsible for the alternative route tailing."

Little Chao nearly fainted. "Bald...Bald Eagle? Why does it sound so lame?"

Chenchen looked at the last team member. "Lianlian, you have the most important task. You must keep a certain distance from us. When the moment our whereabouts are exposed and our enemies discover us, you must seek help immediately. Oh, your code name...is Black Widow."

Lianlian: "..."

Mengmeng complained, "All of the names sound awful!"

Little Fatso was flustered. "Chenchen, what is your code name then?"

Chenchen leered at him and said calmly, "It's the same for everyone. There isn't much difference in our code names. My code name is 'Sailor Guardian Imbued with Courage and Wisdom.'"

Mengmeng: "Pfft!"

Lianlian almost vomited blood. "How is that not too different? That is clearly way too different, alright!?"

On the other side of the road, the thief's accomplice was already starting to move west.

Chenchen immediately gave the order. "The target is moving. Bald Eagle, Bald Eagle, cross the road and outflank her from that side. Black Widow, conceal yourself quickly. Black Bear, let's go together!"

Mengmeng stretched out her hand. "Chenchen, give me your cell phone."

Chenchen gave Mengmeng the cell phone she borrowed from Zhang Ye's mother for playing games. Then she said matter-of-factly, "Remember, during the mission, call me Sailor Guardian Imbued with Courage and Wisdom."

Mengmeng rolled her eyes and said, "I got it!"

Chenchen acknowledged and said, "Go on, Squash."

Mengmeng felt that it sounded very weird. "Can I change to another code name? Can I change to something that's slightly firm and powerful? Squash sounds like a weakling!"

"Firm and powerful? Sure." Chenchen thought for a moment and said, "Then your code name will Unbreakable Egg."

Mengmeng remained silent for a few seconds, then she turned around and walked away while wiping her tears from off her face. "...Call me Squash instead!"

That woman who acted as the distraction for the thief had already crossed the road. Her pace was not fast but her eyes were very alert and sharp. She was observing the surroundings closely as she walked with a strong counterspying mindset. After circling the area for a bit, she made a phone call before walking off in another direction.

Chenchen led her team of thief-catchers and followed from a distance.

"Bald Eagle, you are too close to the target. Be careful of your concealment, be careful of your concealment. Squash, wait a little longer before you call the police. It's useless if you contact the police now, they will alert the criminals if they come too early. Even if they capture that woman, there's no evidence and we won't be able to find out where their hideout is. Black Widow, don't look at the suspect. Right, don't stare at her so hard, your cover will be exposed. Just follow us from behind!" Chenchen commanded.

The team members followed her orders accordingly.

No matter how vigilant that woman was, she would never have imagined that there were five seven- and eight-year-old primary school students shadowing her. Even if she caught a glimpse of a primary school student occasionally, she would still filter out the threat and not treat it as something serious.

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

### **Chapter 735: Chenchen copies Zhang Ye's poem!**

Later that afternoon.

Taoran Pavilion Garden.

Beside the lake, Zhang Ye had not gone home yet. He put on his sunglasses and face mask and came to sightsee at the lake. Since he did not have anything to do today, he just waited around for Mengmeng's parents to give him a call so that he could go and pick Chenchen up and go home. If he had gone home by himself first, he would have to come out again to pick her up. That would have been too troublesome.

The atmosphere here was rather nice. There were many senior citizens who came here for a stroll. In front, an old man who came out to "walk" his bird even had a pocket radio he was tuned into and was playing through the speakers. He was listening to the news at the moment.

"Yesterday night, in an upscale villa district in Beijing's Chun Shuyuan, a burglary took place. There was a reported loss of cash and other items totaling more than 100,000 RMB, along with a safe. According to sources, there was a jade bracelet and some jade accessories worth several millions in it, along with a famous painting. Said painting was bought from an auction at Shanghai last year and was sold for 37 million RMB at that time. The case has been referred to the Municipal Public Security Bureau's Criminal Investigation Brigade. This is also one of the largest cases of burglary in recent years. As of now, there are no other details with regard to the development of the case."

"Chun Shuyuan?"

"That's not too far from Taoran Pavilion."

"Hai, the security these days is really too lousy."

"It's been so long since we've had such a big case!"

"Around 40 million yuan of property stolen just like that? Tell me, what's the point of keeping your valuables in the safe at home? If anyone chooses to carry away your entire safe, what can you do about it? Thieves these days are far too rampant!"

"I heard that the municipal office has already set a deadline for this case to be solved. They have called for the stolen items to be found within a week from now, but the way I see it, this won't be easy at all. There are so many thieves around, who do we start catching?"

A few of the grandpas and grandmas were discussing the case after hearing about the news.

Zhang Ye also heard it and lamented mentally. He wondered if he should be installing some security nets at home for protection.

As he was thinking, an unfamiliar number suddenly called his phone. Zhang Ye thought that it might be from Mengmeng's parents, so he answered it as he continued strolling in the park. "Hello?"

The other end sounded chaotic, with many voices talking over each other!

Then he heard a youth say: "Hello? Is this Chenchen's family?"

Zhang Ye was stunned. "Yes, who is this?"

The youth suddenly said: "I am a police officer with the Municipal Public Security Bureau's Criminal Investigation Brigade. Little Chenchen only gave me this number, so I called to contact you."

When Zhang Ye heard this, his face turned pale!

Police?

Criminal Investigation Brigade?

F\*\*k! What serious trouble had the little rascal gotten into again!

Zhang Ye hastily said: "Officer, what's the matter? I am Chenchen's relative. I'm sorry, I'm really sorry, that kid must have gotten into some kind of trouble again, right? Aiyo, I knew it, she's always been so troublesome! I should never have let her out of the house today! Who did she beat up? Or whose house did she burn down?"

The police officer was getting a little dizzy from this. "It's not like that!"

Zhang Ye quickly said: "Don't worry! I will definitely criticize her! And beat her to death!"

That police officer quickly said: "No, just listen to me first..."

"You don't have to plead on her behalf! This sort of a kid has to be beaten! Beaten terribly so that she'll learn! I will beat her up so badly that she wouldn't be able to recognize herself in the mirror!" Zhang Ye said angrily.

The police officer spoke in frustration: "No! Listen to me..."

Zhang Ye interrupted: "You don't have to worry about this case anymore. Just leave it to me to handle. I will go and pick the kid up and pay however much needs to be compensated. Just help me appease the victim or their family. You must definitely express my sincerest apologies to them. The kid is still young and don't know much, so please don't take it up with her. Let the family members have a go at me instead! I will go over and settle it now! Oh yes, are the economic losses heavy? Are there a lot of casualties?" Zhang Ye asked while trembling.

The police officer couldn't even find the words to respond!

Economic losses?

Casualties?

F\*\*k! Just what do you think this kid is! A monster?

The police officer couldn't even interrupt to say something. All he heard was the other party yammering nonstop, trying to explain himself. He waited for the other party to finish talking before he began explaining: "Sir, you should have listened to me first. Why are you threatening to beat the child up and apologizing? What have you been talking about all this while!?"

Zhang Ye was stunned. "Ah?"

The police officer said: "The child did not get into any trouble!"

"That's impossible!" Zhang Ye thought about it. If she didn't get into any trouble, then why would the Criminal Investigation Brigade call me? Besides, with that wicked personality Chenchen had, even if she did get into trouble, Zhang Ye wouldn't be surprised. "You don't have to give me any face, officer. There's really no need to. Just tell it to me straight, I can take it! But you must definitely give the child a chance to turn over a new leaf!"

What face am I giving to you!

Turn over your sister!

The police officer's next line immediately left Zhang Ye dumbfounded. He heard him say, "Not only did Chenchen not get into trouble, she even rendered a great deed! It's even a really huge deed! She and four of her classmates acted bravely when they saw something wrong being done. They tracked a couple thieves to their rendezvous point and found their gang's hideout, then contacted the police and helped us to corner an enormous gang of burglars in one fell swoop, leading to an arrest of more than 50 criminals! As a result, we also found the stolen property worth 40 million in their hideout in the search afterwards. The huge burglary case that happened in Chun Shuyuan last night was also cracked together with their arrest!"

Zhang Ye was stunned. "What?"

The police officer said, "We're at the crime scene now, taking inventory of the stolen items. So could you come over to pick the child up? We have already informed the parents of the other kids as well as their school teacher!"

Holy shit!

Is this true?

Zhang Ye hung up and hurried over!

.....

At the crime scene.

Outside a remote car garage, the crime scene was currently surrounded by many reporters with their cameras and zoom lenses, while further out, there was a group of observers. The main entrance of the garage was already cordoned off with police tape while some of the criminals were handcuffed and seated in the police vehicles. Some of them had been led away earlier. There were also many police officers from the Municipal Public Security Bureau standing around and maintaining order in the area.

"Don't push!"

"Stand farther away, and no taking of photos!"

"You, reporter, please stand aside, don't get in the way of our investigations!"

But no matter how the police officers harried them, none of the reporters moved. At this moment, they had surrounded the area where five seven- and eight-year-old kids were standing. Shock was written on every one of the reporters' and observers' faces as they could not imagine how those primary school students could have solved a crime!

Not only them, even many of the faces of the police officers were the same. As they conducted their investigations, they would occasionally turn around and glimpse at those children. Though they had been in this occupation for many years, they had never witnessed such a scene before. The country's largest burglary case in recent years had actually been cracked by a bunch of primary school students. If they had not seen this with their own eyes, they knew they wouldn't believe it if someone told them! Actually, when the report was being made, the operator could hear that it was a child's voice. The first reaction was that this was a prank call and the operator did not believe it to be true. However, later on,

in order to be safe rather than sorry, they still sent someone over to check. If they did not go, it would have been OK, but since they did, the involved police officers were all dumbfounded by what they saw!

More than 50 suspects!

Over 40 million yuan worth of stolen property!

At that moment, everyone's expressions changed when they were looking at the children. It was as if they saw a fairy of some sort, wondering to themselves just how smart primary school students were nowadays!

"Kids, how did you all track them?"

"You were all amazing! What gave you the courage to do what you did? What made you guys have the courage to step up to do this?"

The reporters were all trying their best to squeeze in and were asking questions one after another, taking photos as well.

Chenchen, Mengmeng, and the other kids were being revered like heroes as they stood in the center of the crowd.

Little Fatso was getting a little big-headed as he stood ramrod straight. He said, "Our teacher has always taught us that, as a good person, we have to brave and know how to judge right from wrong!"

Lianlian nodded furiously. "Right, that's what our teacher taught us!"

Zhao Mei, their form teacher from No. 2 Experimental Primary School, had also received the call and rushed over to the crime scene. A few other teachers and the school principal also came along together.

When Zhao Mei heard what the children said, she was stunned. She knew it was true that she told them before to be brave and know how to judge right from wrong, but she had never taught them how to solve a case! Weren't you all being too extreme?! Tailing them all the way from Zixin Road to here, and they didn't lose their target? They were not discovered by the criminals either? Zhao Mei knew these children very well. Little Fatso? Don't be fooled by his size, he essentially didn't have the spine! Little Chao and Lianlian? Those two were even more timid, so it wouldn't be possible that they would have the idea to tail the suspects! It wasn't possible that Mengmeng would do it either. That child was a warm-hearted girl. If there was a problem, she would surely let the teachers or parents know first. She wouldn't risk going up against those criminals! Without needing to think much, they were surely led by Chenchen! This was exactly the kind of thing that she would do! This kid was just like her Uncle Zhang Ye, not afraid of anything. They were both so overly bold they would dare to do just about anything! Zhao Mei would even say that if this incident hadn't happened because of Chenchen, she would jump off a building! It had to be her, no question about it!

However, the school principal of No. 2 Experimental Primary School was feeling very excited and emotional. He stood in front of the cameras and proclaimed, "I am very proud of our students who are brave enough to do this!" Then he looked at the children and said, "You're all fine examples, find examples! After school reopens, we have to organize a study session so that everyone in the school can learn from you all!"



Little Chao scratched his head in embarrassment.

At this moment, Little Chao, Mengmeng, and the other children's parents gradually arrived at the scene.

"Mengmeng!" Mengmeng's mother anxiously ran up to her!

Mengmeng called out, "Mom!"

Mengmeng's mother was still aflutter with fear at heart. "You gave me such a scare! How can you have that much audacity!? What if something happened?"

Meanwhile, Mengmeng's father was extremely pleased. He said happily, "I think it's a good thing that our child is so courageous and smart!"

Mengmeng's face flushed from embarrassment. She quickly said, "It was all planned by Chenchen. We, we didn't really do much."

"Chenchen?"

"Which one of you is Chenchen?"

"It's her!"

"Quick, take a picture of her!"

The reporters immediately pointed their cameras at Chenchen.

A female reporter who was shouldering her camera said, "It was you who led your fellow classmates and tailed the criminals here?"

Chenchen straightened her back. "Yes."

A male reporter interrupted. "We're all extremely curious. Just how did you all track them? Why didn't the criminals discover your presence?"

Chenchen cleared her throat, and spoke like an adult, "First, I broke down the jobs we had to perform. Squash was in charge of contacting the police, while Black Bear and I were in charge of acting like pedestrians while we followed them. After a while, Bald Eagle changed places with Black Bear and tailed them on an alternative route. Black Widow served as a backup to our roles."

Lianlian's face burned hot from embarrassment. "Chenchen, don't, don't use our code names!"

Chenchen nodded. "OK, Black Widow."

Lianlian: "..."

Chenchen said, "Second, in our group, those of us who were near each other would communicate by speaking. If we were far apart, we would communicate with actions. Sometimes in our school, they organize games that we also play outside of school, which are for us to play charades. With those basics, even if we're far apart from each other, we can still have some basic communication. After that, we made use of our bicycle and other modes of transportation and followed the criminal suspects closely. Together with our status as children, it added an extra sense of camouflage and deception, making the

criminal suspects not notice us. Finally, after experiencing all sorts of difficulties, we were able to locate the criminal's hideout!"

After she explained in detail, everyone at the scene was feeling a little befuddled!

Holy shit!

This thought process...

Those ideas...

This level of expressing herself...

This child was most definitely not typical!

A normal seven or eight-year-old primary school student couldn't possibly be this mature!

Only Zhao Mei and a few of the teachers from No. 2 Experimental Primary School were not particularly surprised at this, because they already knew from school that Chenchen was not much like other children.

The place was lively.

"Teacher Zhao, how does Chenchen usually do in school?"

"Chenchen, will you accept a one-on-one interview with us?"

"I am a reporter with the Beijing Times. We would like to do a feature story about this incident. Mengmeng's parents, could we have a little of your and your child's time? We won't take more than an hour. The interview will be quick!"

"The role models of Beijing will surely be you all!"

"You're all very smart, our little heroes of Beijing!"

"Chenchen, can you say a word or two for our readers?"

"Student Chenchen, what do you have to say to everyone?"

Seeing the messy exchange of words from everyone, Chenchen lightly coughed and got their attention.

"Let me say a few words."

Everyone quieted down at once.

The policemen were looking at her, the teachers were looking at her, all of the reporters, and the crowd were looking at her, together with Mengmeng, Lianlian, Little Fatso, Little Chao. Even the criminals who were being taken away had looked at Chenchen.

At this moment, the taxi Zhang Ye was in arrived on scene. When he got out of the taxi, the first thing he saw was Chenchen standing in the center like she was in the spotlight!

He saw Chenchen hesitating for a few seconds before turning to the cameras and speaking in her childish voice!

"Storytelling, acting to persuade people.

"Walking the middle of three roads.

"What goes around comes around.

"Experience is the...fruit! Of! Life!"

The surrounding crowd were dumbfounded by what they heard!

An introductory poem? A doggerel? Why hadn't anyone heard of it before? Did this little girl compose it herself? Is she a prodigy or what? This little girl was truly too extraordinary!

Some people in the crowd immediately applauded in admiration!

"Good!"

"Well said!"

"What a good 'What goes around comes around. / Experience is the fruit of life.'!"

"That poem is too impressive!"

"Well said! Everyone, see how enlightened this little girl is!"

Applause thundered, while calls of how impressive the poem was kept coming one after another!

Many people who had been fooled were now stunned.

Little Fatso, Mengmeng, Lianlian, and Little Chao looked at Chenchen in admiration. They did not expect her to make such a profound speech that had stunned everyone!

Only Zhang Ye who was walking over from a distance away nearly stumbled when he heard that!

F\*\*k!

Wasn't this what I wrote at home this morning?

You little rascal! You were still contemptuously giving me that "hur hur" of yours at the time! But now you're taking what I wrote and using it here? Your sister! Why don't you learn something better instead of learning how to show off like I do!?

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 736:**

"What an uncommon person!"

"Quickly, record this poem! We will submit it for this evening newspapers!"

"'Experience is...' what comes after 'Experience is'?"

"Experience is the fruit of life!"

"That's right, that's right. The words used were really too exquisite!"

"This little girl is no average person after all!"

The reporters and crowd lavished praise on Chenchen.

Zhang Ye who was watching from a distance away felt angry and tickled at the same time. He had once again experienced just how smart this child was. He merely sang a few lines of that poem in the morning which Chenchen overheard, or it could also be that she saw the calligraphy he wrote of this introductory poem. But just by listening or seeing it once, she had managed to memorize it just like that. If it were another child, or rather, most adults in general, not even they could've achieved something like this.

Faced with all the praise from everyone, Chenchen remained relatively calm and was very cooperative. When the reporters' cameras focused on her, she would turn to face them and pose, though not showing much of an expression.

"Rao Chenchen!" Zhang Ye shouted at her.

When she heard, Chenchen looked in the direction the sound came. After she saw him, she said, "Zhang Ye, I solved a crime."

Zhang Ye stared at her angrily. "What did you think you were doing?! I'll deal with you when we get back home!"

But with his appearance, the reporters were left with their mouths agape!

"Ah?"

"It's Zhang Ye!"

"What is Teacher Zhang doing here?"

"Picking up Chenchen?"

"Holy shit, could he be a relative of our little hero?"

"What the hell! They are relatives??"

"I knew it! I was still thinking how an eight-year-old child could produce such an exquisite poem? It was definitely Zhang Ye who composed the poem privately which then got memorized by this child!"

The police officers also stared blankly at him. Earlier, when they contacted Zhang Ye with the number that Chenchen gave to them, they did not know who they were calling, neither did they know that the person would turn out to be such a big time celebrity. Moreover, it even turned out to be the notorious Zhang Ye whose name was already very well-known within the Public Security Bureau! Beating up a leader's son, beating up a Korean celebrity, and more recently, smashing cars belonging to Tsinghua University. Zhang Ye had dealt plenty with the officers from the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau. Within the Bureau itself, the legend of Zhang Ye had already been spread to all corners!

A detective exclaimed, "You are Rao Chenchen's guardian?"

"That's right, I'm here to pick the child up. Sorry for the trouble she's caused," Zhang Ye said.

A senior detective said, "She did not give us any trouble at all. In fact, she has been a great help. Let me express our gratitude on behalf of the Municipal Public Security Bureau's Criminal Investigation Brigade. As reward for assisting in cracking the case, there will be a prize given to Chenchen and her classmates. We will have to seek approval for the reward amount to the higher-ups first, but someone should contact you in the coming few days."

"There's even a reward?" Zhang Ye said in surprise. "Sure."

A female reporter squeezed over from the other side and stood in front of Zhang Ye. "Teacher Zhang, I'm from the TV station. Please let us interview you. Regarding Chenchen, she..."

Zhang Ye immediately flapped his hands. "Stop filming, stop filming. She is just a child, why would you want to get her on the news? Everyone, stop filming now. Those who have already recorded the footage, even if you intend to pixelate the footage, I still won't allow you people to publish it on the news. There cannot be any photos or footage of the children's faces and their figures appearing in the media. This is a form of protection for them!"

A male cameraman said, "Don't be like this, Teacher Zhang. Please make an exception for this!"

A middle-aged reporter said, "That's right, we've even planned the layout for our headlines!"

Zhang Ye firmly said, "I don't care what becomes of your page layout, I'm the child's guardian. And if I don't authorize this, no one can report it on the news without my permission! There's no room for negotiation with this!"

Actually, Lianlian, Mengmeng, and the other children's parents also did not wish for any photos of their children to get published on the news. They feared that the criminal gang might still have some accomplices who had not been captured yet. If those people saw the children's pictures, they could seek revenge. Although this had a low probability of happening, they still could not take the risk and had to stick to the safe side in consideration of the children. The reason they did not speak up earlier was because this was the first time they were faced with such a situation. They were very nervous and had never dealt with media reporters, so they found it difficult to say anything to them. But with Zhang Ye here, they were relieved. The issue would be easier to handle since the parents knew that Zhang Ye was different from them. As a celebrity, he was more familiar in dealing with reporters than them. With him representing them, there would surely be no problems at all.

After settling the problem here, Zhang Ye turned around and looked for the parents of Mengmeng, Little Fatso, and the others. He ran over to apologize, "Everyone, I'm really sorry for letting your children be in such danger. I will criticize Chenchen later and make sure she doesn't do something like this again. I will pay a visit to everyone again at a later date to express my apologies!"

Zhang Ye had not even ascertained the situation yet, but he knew in his heart of hearts that Chenchen was definitely the one who led the other children along. No one would have done that except her!

Mengmeng's mother repeatedly said, "It's OK, it's OK!"

Little Fatso's father said, "Teacher Zhang, listen to what you are saying. This is a good thing!"

Little Chao's father laughed heartily and said, "Teacher Zhang, you are being too courteous with us. What are you apologizing for? I should be thanking you instead. From the time my child started

kindergarten, he has always been timid. I've always been unhappy that he couldn't live up to my expectations, so now that he has contributed to such a marvelous incident, I can't be more thankful than this. I must thank Little Chenchen for this."

Little Chao chuckled, "Dad, am I cool?"

Little Chao's father gave him the thumbs up. "You did well this time! You have made your father proud!"

Zhang Ye said, "It was all my fault, I shouldn't have let this child leave my side. Whenever she is out of my sight, she will always make something happen."

Chenchen was not very happy about this.

Taking notice, form teacher Zhao Mei walked over. "Teacher Zhang, don't blame Chenchen when you get back home. Although what she did was a little dangerous, the child had good intentions. Acting bravely is to be encouraged. Since it's already happened, and we are happy with the outcome too, don't reprimand the child anymore and encourage her instead. I feel that Chenchen was really capable in handling such a situation. You shouldn't be treating her as a child anymore. For the children in our class, I would be worried if any of them went out alone, afraid that they might get involved in an accident, get kidnapped by someone, or so on. But the only person I don't worry about is Chenchen. She's smarter than everyone else, so you have to consider her as an adult."

Zhang Ye said exasperatedly, "It's precisely because this kid is too smart that why she stirs up trouble for me every day. You even dare to follow a thief? Don't you value your life? You even want to seek out their hideout? Did you think you were Dong Cunrui?! You must learn to have self-control and not do whatever you want to do. You have to carefully consider the circumstances and not be impulsive. That is what a mature person should be like, do you understand?" he said in all earnestness, and looked at Chenchen. [1.]

It was very well said!

But when the surrounding police officers, reporters, as well as the crowd heard that, every one of them didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

Who is Dong Cunrui?

Besides, Teacher Zhang, among all the people present, the person who is least qualified to speak those words would probably be you!

Learn to have self-control? Have to be thoughtful and not be impulsive? You educate the child with that exaggerated tale full of flowery words, but when it comes to your turn? Why didn't you think of having self-control when you were beating up your leaders? Why didn't you be more thoughtful when you were scolding your peers? Why didn't you calm down when you were smashing Tsinghua University's cars? If these words came out of anyone's mouth but yours, they would sound reasonable. But hearing it from you just makes it sound totally unconvincing!

Moreover, thinking about it, Chenchen's fearless nature is clearly molded after you. You are surely the one who influenced her!

Yet you want her to be thoughtful?

Did you set a good example in the first place?

You are the child's biggest negative influence! Being a person with this type of personality yourself, you still expect the child to learn anything good from you??

Bullshit!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 737: A family full of wondrous people!**

Later that afternoon.

Past 4 PM.

After giving their statements and completing the procedures, Zhang Ye took Chenchen back home. On the way back, he nagged, grumbled, and criticized Chenchen, scolding her emotionally. This made the taxi driver look back at them in the rear-view mirror repeatedly, before finally saying some words to try to mediate between them. However, Chenchen did not seem to have any reaction. She just ignored Zhang Ye telling her off, not treating it like it was anything important. Her little head just carefreely looked at the scenery outside the window, angering Zhang Ye even more.

"Did you listen to what I have been saying all this while?"

"Uh huh."

"Don't ever do something like this again!"

"OK."

"That was too dangerous! Did you think that you were me?"

.....

Caishikou.

They returned back to his parents' home.

The moment Zhang Ye opened the door, Chenchen quickly squeezed past him and went into the house.

The first person she saw was Zhang Ye's mother who preparing dinner in the kitchen. "Grandma, I have performed a great deed!" "

His mother was baffled. "Ah?"

Chenchen then walked delightedly into the living room. "Grandpa, I have performed a great deed!"

"What great deed?" His father looked at her kindly.

His mother came out from the kitchen, flicking away the water droplets from her hands. She smiled and said, "Did you help Mengmeng's parents cook today?" Not bad, you are a good girl. When you go to other people's home to eat, you should help out."

Zhang Ye grunted, "Help with what cooking! This damned child led Mengmeng and the rest of her classmates and chased after some thieves! Even the Municipal Public Security Bureau's Criminal

Investigation Brigade was activated! Just now, all of the media outlets in the entire Beijing went down to the scene to report about it!"

His mother said shocked, "Ah? What?"

His father also became somewhat anxious. "What happened?"

Zhang Ye sulkily explained the entire situation, and then started scolding again, "Don't you both think it's infuriating? I nearly got scared to death! If something happened to her, how would I explain to her aunt when she returned?! If she keeps worrying me like that, I won't bother to take care of her anymore. I'll simply hand her over to the country for safekeeping!"

Chenchen pouted.

Zhang Ye glared at her. "Look at her, she's even giving me that look!"

Chenchen said unhappily, "I have performed a great deed."

Zhang Ye sneered, "Come on you, what so great about that deed of yours!"

"I have performed a great deed!" Chenchen insisted.

His mother smacked him. "You rascal, cut it out. Don't always be so mean to her. The largest burglary case in the country has been cracked by our Chenchen. Isn't this a great contribution?!" His mother went over and patted Chenchen's head. "Well done, Chenchen, you've impressed Grandma!"

Only then did Chenchen feel satisfied. "It was my duty to do so."

His father said with lingering fear, "But it was still too dangerous."

His mother sided with Chenchen and stated, "What's so dangerous about following some petty thieves? Your son even fought off some hijackers barehanded and piloted a plane. Why didn't you say that that was dangerous too?"

His father: "..."

Chenchen nodded and said earnestly, "Zhang Ye, you are too disobedient."

Zhang Ye was furious. "...Do you think I won't beat the crap out of you?"

His mother lightly kicked her son's shin. "Who are you going to beat up? Quickly come and help me with the cooking. We need to sooth the child's nerves. We have to celebrate this incident today! Our Chenchen is too awesome!"

Chenchen had been praised to the high heavens by now. She leaned on the sofa, comfortable, with a heroic expression on her face. "Zhang Ye, I'm hungry now."

Her actions made Zhang Ye roll his eyes in annoyance. "You are even acting like a lord now?"

.....

Not long after, a phone call came for Zhang Ye. It was a female staff member from the Municipal Public Security Bureau. "Hello, are you family to Rao Chenchen?"



Zhang Ye replied: "Yes."

The female staff asked: "Are you her guardian?"

Zhang Ye said: "I'm considered her temporary guardian. Her aunt who is also her guardian is my friend. She isn't in Beijing currently, so has given the child to my care temporarily. You can talk to me if there's anything."

The female staff member explained in a gentle tone: "OK. We handle special cases like yours separately, so the reward for the people who assisted in solving the case has been expedited and approved at the quickest time. The reward amount for Rao Chenchen is 200,000 RMB in cash. Can you bring her to the Municipal Public Security Bureau to receive the reward tomorrow? There might also be a mini-press conference held tomorrow. Moreover, the victim of the huge burglary case involving the 40 million RMB worth of property stolen from Chun Shuyuan has just contacted us. He requested that you be here tomorrow so that he could thank you in person. He even made a silk banner to give to Rao Chenchen and her friends. The owner was pretty moved and repeatedly emphasized that we pass the message to you."

"Ah?" Zhang Ye said with surprise: "The reward is 200,000 RMB?"

Chenchen's eyes immediately lit up.

Zhang Ye's parents were also stunned for a bit.

The female staff member said: "That's right. Because this is a major case and the people who helped solve the case were just children, in order to reward such bravery and intelligence, the reward was adjusted to be slightly higher than usual."

Zhang Ye quickly said: "Sure, we'll definitely be there tomorrow."

After hanging up, his mother immediately asked, "The reward is that much?"

Zhang Ye nodded and looked delightedly at Chenchen. "You're still underage and won't have the need for the money yet, so I will help you safeguard the money for the time being. It will be your dowry in the future when you get married."

Chenchen was furious. "Zhang Ye! That is my reward!"

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "It's still your money. I'm just depositing it for you first."

His mother pounded his back. "Don't argue. Why are you eyeing the child's reward? Go to the bank and apply for an account for Chenchen using your name and deposit the reward there. Then let Chenchen keep the card herself for safekeeping!"

Zhang Ye whined, "She only cracked the case largely in part due to my teaching and influence on her, so I deserve a share in the reward as well!"

Chenchen nearly fainted from anger. "Zhang Ye, you don't behave like an adult at all!"

.....

On the same evening.

The news outlets bombarded the public one after another!

On TV, newspapers, the radio, and the Internet, a stunning piece of news was published. When everyone saw or heard this news, their first reaction was disbelief!

"Chun Shuyuan's largest burglary case has been solved!"

"Primary school students cracked the most important case of the country!"

"More than 50 people arrested! Investigations reveal over 40 million RMB worth of property was stolen!"

"Primary school students solved a major case! Tracking down the criminal gang's hideout!"

"Zhang Ye appears on scene to claim child!"

"An alarming insider story! Leader of the primary school students who went after thieves was Zhang Ye's relative!"

When countless of newspaper reports were out, the people of the entire country went into an uproar!

.....

At a restaurant in Beijing.

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and some other colleagues from The Voice were eating dinner. Wu Yi had too much to drink and was currently singing loudly on the dining table. Suddenly, the news of the burglary case appeared on the television in the lobby.

"Don't sing anymore, stop singing!"

"Everyone, quickly watch the news! This..."

"This case was cracked by primary school students? Zhang Ye's relative?"

"Holy shit, look at that figure in the footage, that...isn't that Chenchen?!"

Wu Yi sobered up almost immediately and stared at the television with eyes wide!

Footage of Chenchen and her friends appeared on the TV screen. However, due to Zhang Ye and the children's parents not agreeing to let the children appear on screen, the news only showed the backs of the children. They were even masked with pixelation, so that most people still wouldn't be able to recognize them. But it was different for the program team staff of The Voice. With the news linking it to Zhang Ye's relative and information that they were primary school students, just by looking at that back of the tiny child, they immediately figured out that it was Chenchen! Back then, Chenchen had spent some time living at Central TV. Ha Qiqi and the others were all very familiar with Chenchen. They all rather liked the "Little Leader" who enjoyed ordering people around!

"It's really Chenchen!"

"Oh my God! Chenchen went after some thieves and solved a crime?"

"I always knew that Chenchen was sharp and clever and that she was also different from the other children. But to solve a crime...how could this possibly be something that a primary school student could achieve!"

Ha Qiqi gave a wry smile. "Chenchen and Director Zhang really are carved from the same mold!"

Zhang Zuo was also amused. "That's right, they are so alike!"

Everyone agreed when they heard that. The personalities of the young and old duo really were exactly the same. Wasn't Director Zhang exactly the same in that he could make something out of nothing while idling around? And if there was a situation going on already, he could create an even bigger event out of it!

.....

It was also crazy online!

Zhang Ye's celebrity friends from everywhere were sending him their "congratulations"!

Yao Jiancai: "..."

Zhang Xia: "..."

Fang Weihong: "..."

Dong Shanshan: "..."

The couple, Chen Guang and Fan Wenli: "..."

Many celebrities expressed their shock!

The netizens also found it unacceptable!

"I've been blinded!"

"Heavens! Aren't primary school students these days too amazing?!"

"What sort of world am I living in now?!"

"Primary school students? This makes it difficult for anyone to look straight into their eyes anymore!"

"This is getting too crazy!"

"I was wrong! I won't ever look down on primary school students anymore in the future! You guys have won!"

"How could this be possible? Is this fake news?"

"It can't be fake! All the media outlets and newspapers are reporting about it!"

"F\*\*k, can it be any more unbelievable than this?! During my second grade days, I was still playing around in the mud. I didn't even know how tell the difference between a boy and a girl at that time! Are primary school students nowadays all able to solve crimes and catch thieves? And it was even the largest burglary case in the country? The gap is too great between then and now!"

"Comparison always ends up torturing people! I'm totally kneeling to the primary school students now!"

"I still don't dare to believe it! It's...it's impossible! This doesn't make sense!"

"Why isn't it possible? Hur hur, take a look at this photo. Do you know who the person was who came to pick up that child? And this news article, take a look at it!"

"Eh, this person looks quite familiar?"

"F\*\*k, isn't that Zhang Ye?!"

"What? She's that wretched Zhang Ye's relative?"

"I knew it! I f\*\*king knew it!"

"If she is Zhang Ye's relative, then everything makes perfect sense! No wonder this child is so wondrous. It's because the adults in her family are also like that! Only with a family member like Zhang Ye could such a godly kid emerge!"

"Hahahaha, I'm dying from laughter! So it turns out that she is Zhang Ye's relative!"

"Teacher Zhang is famous again! How on earth did he teach the kid?! He must have really outdone himself in teaching that kid that she could turn out so well! Not even the world could hold him down!"

"Just two days ago, Zhang Ye smashed some cars at Tsinghua University. After causing such a big incident and not getting into any other trouble for the past two days, it was his relative who took over from him instead? Breaking new ground and getting engaged in community work now? Isn't this family too professional with their reputation! They really are advancing dauntlessly, wave after wave!"

"I nearly pissed myself laughing!"

"Does it need to be this funny?!"

The netizens were very surprised at this!

The people were stunned!

But the reactions were more on the positive side as this piece of news had tickled them a lot. As long as it was any news related to Zhang Ye, it would seem very funny. It even made many of those people who did not really like Zhang Ye previously unable to stop from laughing out loud because this matter was truly too wondrous to begin with!

A comical adult!

With the addition of a comical kid!

Zhang Ye's family was a bunch of f\*\*king wondrous people!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 738: The new show will launch soon!**

On this day.

In the morning, Zhang Ye drove to Central TV.

After bringing Chenchen to the Municipal Public Security Bureau to settle some matters, he went off to see Fat Sis to get the Plants vs. Zombies endorsement contract signed. With that, Zhang Ye had finally settled all his affairs and his leave had ended as well. Today, he dressed to the nines and had his hair styled before going back to the office.

In the program team office.

The plaque with the name of The Voice had not been removed from the door yet. Everyone had already started working. However, as there was not much work on their hands, they were all happily chatting away instead.

"Hey, Director Zhang is here!"

"Director Zhang, good morning!"

"How were your two days of rest?"

"I saw on the news that our 'Little Leader' has solved a big case?"

"Chenchen is too clever. When that child grows up, she will definitely do well in life!"

Everyone started chiming in with their thoughts and broke out into laughter after that.

Zhang Ye smiled helplessly as he waved it off. "Don't mention that little kid anymore. She's too naughty."

Zhang Zuo laughed and said, "Chenchen is rather cute. If I had a daughter like her, I would be so happy. I have never seen such a clever and resourceful child before."

"You can have her if you want," Zhang Ye offered to him generously.

Zhang Zuo was startled, then said, "Director Zhang, I wasn't serious."

Everyone laughed.

Then, Ha Qiqi asked, "Boss, are there any updates regarding our new program? What kind of program are we doing? When will we start on the production? We were just discussing this and everyone is quite looking forward to it."

Little Wang said, "That's right, that's right."

Wu Yi laughed excitedly. "We are only waiting for your command and will be going all out alongside you again!"

A female staff member flattered, "With you around to lead us, we are confident in handling any kind of program! We are full of confidence!"

Zhang Ye joked, "I don't even have any confidence myself. The new program should go into production soon. As for what kind of program it is or what requirements it has, the station has not informed me to discuss it yet. We will have to see how it goes and how much of a production budget they are going to allocate us. The proposal for the new program still depends on whether they will be generous with the production budget or not."

As one of the more popular hosts around, he only had a short-term contract with Central TV which lasted a year. With a situation like this, Central TV definitely wouldn't let Zhang Ye idle around for too long. When The Voice finished its broadcast run, they would surely have to get started on the new program as well. It should be happening within these few days now. If it was the typical program production cycle, under normal circumstances Zhang Ye's contract would probably expire once he had completed this new program.

Indeed, when it was almost time for lunch, Deputy Director Jiang Yuan of Central TV Department 1 came over. "Is everyone here?"

"Director Jiang."

"Hello, Director Jiang."

"Director Jiang, are you here to give us our next task?"

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others said, one after another.

Jiang Yuan smiled and said, "That's right, the funding for the new program has been approved."

When he heard the commotion in the workplace, Zhang Ye came out of his executive director's office.

"Director Jiang."

"Little Zhang, the station has already given their go-ahead to your team's performance many times, so I'll skip the platitudes." Jiang Yuan smiled and said, "Your results are apparent to everyone and the station also trusts all of you. We also have great expectations of you, so I have specially applied for more funding from our Director of Central TV Department 1 this time. The production budget is 80 million RMB in total. The management held a quick meeting and approved it almost straightaway. Furthermore, if the program production encounters any uncontrollable factors, this production budget can be increased by up to 10% more. With this kind of funding support, let alone the other channels of Central TV, even our own Department 1 has never had something like this before."

80 million RMB?

They could still up it to 88 million RMB?

When they heard this, all of the program team staff became extremely excited. Central TV Department 1 had indeed invested a lot in them this time. No other program team had ever had such treatment before. But coming back to it, the results of The Voice were there for all to see. A huge production budget brought back an even larger return, so who wouldn't be tempted after seeing that? It was inevitable that they would increase the production budget, because the station knew that as long as Zhang Ye was helming the production, no matter how much money they invested into it, they would still be able to recoup back their initial expenditure. Not only did they not have to worry about the production costs, they would even be able to earn back a huge profit. There were now no more doubts about Zhang Ye's standards in program production!

Zhang Ye said, "Thank you for your trust, director. About that, the title sponsorship fee this time and the allocated—"

"Don't even think about that," Jiang Yuan quickly interrupted. "The title sponsorship fee will not be added into the production budget this time as it will go directly into our station's account. Isn't the production budget of 80 million enough for you to make the program? Even if you were to use it to shoot the second season of The Voice, it should be more than sufficient!"

Zhang Ye said, "Well, alright then."

Jiang Yuan added, "Regarding the new program, the station also has some requirements to ask of you. The first requirement is the title sponsorship fee cannot be less than 80 million."

Zhang Ye felt that this was somewhat difficult to fulfill. "The Voice was a special case. Director Jiang, I cannot guarantee that the new program will also get a title sponsorship fee of close to 100 million, but I will try to fight for at least 50 million."

"Since the station has promised to give you an 80 million RMB production budget, the first thing we want is to guarantee a recoup on that investment. You do not need to be as humble as all of us. Believe in your ability." Jiang Yuan continued, "A tentative target of at least 1.2% in the viewership ratings is the second requirement. The third requirement that management discussed during the meeting was that, even though they feel that singing shows are definitely not doable again in the short term, they want to borrow the momentum generated from that genre and make a similar show. Our goal is still to make a talent show, but as for which type of talent show, we will need you to write up a proposal for the station to go through first. We'll then make the final decision when the time comes."

Zhang Ye replied, "Still doing talent shows?"

Jiang Yuan affirmed, "Yes. For example, a dancing reality show? Or something similar? Of course, this is only our suggestion. Write the actual program proposal first. We'll discuss again on whether it is workable or not."

Zhang Ye could only say, "Sure, I'll think over it first."

After talking for a bit more, Jiang Yuan prepared to go to lunch. "Alright, that's all for now. Oh right, Little Zhang, come by my office after lunch. I have something to discuss with you."

"Sure," Zhang Ye responded.

After Jiang Yuan left, Zhang Ye delegated the problem to the colleagues. "Everybody, give it some thought about what kind of a program is most suitable. Come up with some suggestions. We can have a brainstorming session after that."

Ha Qiqi blinked and said, "Why don't we just go with the dancing reality show idea?"

Zhang Zuo said, "It sounds like it would be a cult program that will lack originality. We can't possibly follow the format of The Voice with the coaches selecting contestants with their backs turned, right? If their backs are turned, they won't even be able to see the poses of the dancers, so how are they going to judge? By listening to the sounds of the dance steps?"

Wu Yi said, "Talent shows really are difficult to make."

A female staff member said, "I'm actually more inclined to doing reality TV shows as the potential for development is greater, but if the station prefers a talent show, then..."

A production budget of 80 million RMB?

A talent show?

The title sponsorship fee and the viewership rating must also be high?

Zhang Ye consolidated the requirements of the station and felt that the difficulty was much greater than before. One after another, popular variety show ideas from his previous world appeared in his head, but in the end, they were rejected in succession by him. For now, he could not think of any suitable program to use.

Which show should they do?

Which show was the most suitable?

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 739: Arguing with the leader again!**

In the afternoon.

Central TV Department 1's official Weibo posted an update.

The contents were as follows: Central TV Department 1 will invest a hefty 80 million RMB in its next TV show. Estimated broadcast date: TBA. Production Team: From the team that brought you The Voice. Executive Producer: Zhang Ye. Executive Director: Zhang Ye. Host: Zhang Ye. Broadcast Schedule: Friday Primetime Slot.

When this news came out, it immediately made a splash on the Internet.

"Great!"

"Hahaha, Zhang Ye's new show is coming!"

"80 million RMB? That's quite considerable!"

"Quite considerable? That amount is more than enough to shoot a movie, a blockbuster movie in fact. If we're talking about a normal movie production, then it's enough to make three or four of them! They're actually going to spend that much money just on a TV show? If we're talking about our domestic market, I suppose Zhang Ye alone can command such a price. Besides, haven't you all noticed something yet? Previously, The Voice did not broadcast in a primetime slot, but Zhang Ye's new show has already been announced for Friday's primetime. I'm so looking forward to seeing this new show get even better viewership ratings this time. I wonder if Teacher Zhang can continue writing his legend!"

"Right, The Voice was just a variety show that broadcasted on a normal Thursday night slot and its ratings still managed to get the number 1 spot in the nation. If it was given a primetime slot, it would surely have done much better. I believe that Central TV Department 1 was too conservative in the handling of Zhang Ye back then, so they only gave him the Thursday slot. Otherwise, if he had been given the Friday or Saturday primetime slots, the viewership ratings would surely have been much higher than they were!"

"I'm so looking forward to it!"



"Let's see what kinds of tricks Zhang Ye can pull off this time!"

"This has got to be the most exciting news that I've heard all day. Teacher Zhang, I've always liked you a lot, so I'm cheering for you!"

"Is there any more definitive information?"

"What type of show would the new program be? Why didn't they disclose it yet?"

"I can't wait!"

"Looking forward to 'The Tongue of China' displaying his prowess again!"

"After the recent car smashing incident and with his relative solving a crime case, I think it's time for Teacher Zhang to get back to proper business again!"

The topic was hotly discussed online. Central TV Department 1's new program had entered the early stages of promotion!

.....

At Central TV.

At the cafeteria in the television tower.

While Zhang Ye was eating lunch, some people came up to chat with him.

A TV producer said, "Director Zhang, I heard that your new program will have 80 million yuan set aside for it?"

"It's not in the account yet." Zhang Ye laughed it off.

A program team's female director standing beside him said, "You're already the darling of Central TV Department 1. Thinking of how my program used to apply for a production funding of 20 million, we had to wait for over a month just to find out that it couldn't be approved. In the end, they slashed it to 15 million. Hai, comparison always ends up torturing people, that's totally true."

Zhang Ye happily said, "Director Chu, don't joke about me like that. I've heard that the different types of copyrights that your program sold fetched tens of millions of yuan. If we base it proportionately to the production costs, your program did much better than The Voice."

"Come on." That female director said, "The copyright of The Voice would definitely sell for much more."

Behind them, a middle-aged man laughed. "I heard that someone from America has already come to discuss The Voice's overseas copyright. I believe they may have already touched base with Central TV about it."

"Is that so?" Zhang Ye asked, not knowing anything about this.

The middle-aged man answered, "I've only heard so, but I don't know specifically."

The female director said, "Director Zhang's contract is a little different from the other hosts. I believe he came as part of the package with the program? So the copyright should still be with him."

"I only hold the overseas copyright, nothing more," Zhang Ye explained.

The female director said, "That's more than enough. If the discussions go well, at least 10 million will go directly into your pocket, and that's just lowballing. Don't forget to treat us to a meal when the time comes."

Zhang Ye smiled. "There's not even a shadow of that happening yet."

He had been working at Central TV for 3 months now. During this time, Zhang Ye had gotten to know quite a lot of people, but mainly just as acquaintances. He could speak to them or carry a conversation in their daily interactions, but none of them really had a close relationship with him. Since the time they spent together wasn't that long, Zhang Ye also did not talk in-depth with them. They would just make small talk, and often kept the conversations short since they weren't that close.

After the meal.

He took the elevator upstairs. Zhang Ye did not return to his office but went directly to Jiang Yuan's office instead. Jiang Yuan had earlier asked Zhang Ye to see him in the afternoon as there was something he wanted to discuss with him.

He knocked on the door.

"Come in." Jiang Yuan's voice came from inside.

Zhang Ye went inside. "Director Jiang."

Jiang Yuan said pleasantly, "You're here? Take a seat."

Zhang Ye did not stand on ceremony and just took a seat. "Is it regarding the program?"

"More or less." Jiang Yuan went over to the water cooler to get a cup of water for Zhang Ye. "I asked you here today because I wanted to discuss something in your contract with you."

"Contract?" Zhang Ye perked up, but played dumb. "What contract?"

Jiang Yuan continued, "I will be honest with you. For the contract that we have previously discussed, there have been many meetings at the management level regarding it. They feel that the contract does not abide by the rules."

Zhang Ye's eyebrows twitched. "Director Jiang, regarding the contract, we have already—"

"Listen to me first," Jiang Yuan interrupted. "I understand as well. Previously, the contract we discussed was done after negotiations from both sides. But because there are many clauses within it that cannot hold up to scrutiny and is not perfect. For example, the overseas copyright that you wanted to keep, that has never been something like that in Central TV before, nor have there been any similar cases in any other TV stations."

Zhang Ye's contract was indeed different from other people's contracts. Whether it was other hosts or program planners, as long as they had signed an employee contractual agreement, they did not own the copyrights of the works they created during their tenure for the purpose of work. It belonged under the category of obligatory creations in their professional positions, so at most, it would be subjected to year-

end bonuses or cash awards based on work performance. There would be no sharing of the copyright fees should it be sold. However, it was different for Zhang Ye as he had earlier discussed the contract with Central TV Department 1 based on his terms. In that contract, he would not be entitled to year-end bonuses or a joining bonus, but in return, he would get to retain his copyright in the event that television stations from overseas wanted to buy it. That was the one and only clause he requested, so you could say that he had brought the program along with him to Central TV Department 1.

So what was the meaning of this now?

Are they intending to break the contract? Did I hear it wrong?

Zhang Ye asked in an unpleasant tone, "What do you mean by that?"

Jiang Yuan looked at him. "The management's decision is that we ought to renegotiate your contract terms. Don't be too hasty now. We aren't targeting you. The main issue here is to standardize the contract to Central TV's contractual rules. Moreover, you don't have to worry since this is just modifying the copyright clause that is in the contract now. What you have produced and created within your professional role will become Central TV Department 1's copyright, so it's simply just that one clause. As for the others, the contract will seek to increase your performance bonuses accordingly. Your bonuses and viewership rating performance pay are directly linked, and with your standards, the monthly payout for you won't be low at all. In summary, we are just asking for you to give up the overseas copyright. In exchange, we will increase your salary to compensate you. It's the same thing in the end."

Zhang Ye laughed. "Then may I first ask; how much will the monthly payouts amount to?"

"Since we did not discuss your bonuses in the previous contract, you were at a disadvantage. As you know, overseas copyrights are actually not easy to sell. How many of such cases have you ever seen happening in our country's variety show industry? There's basically none. But what we are going to do for you is renegotiate the contract in your favor, so even if the overseas copyright is not sold, you will still stand to gain monetarily in the form of bonuses. With your show's performance, I am estimating that you will receive at least 200,000 RMB a month, maybe even more," Jiang Yuan explained.

Zhang Ye laughed in spite of all this. "What I understand by this is that you are telling me that the contract will be renegotiated not from the next show, but starting with The Voice, right?"

Jiang Yuan acknowledged, "You can give it some consideration first."

Zhang Ye candidly replied, "I don't need to consider. It's a no."

Earlier at the cafeteria, when someone mentioned that an American had come to discuss the overseas copyright for The Voice, Zhang Ye was still doubtful of it. But at this moment, he no longer doubted the veracity of that. Someone from Central TV Department 1 had definitely met up with the American already, and it was likely that they'd also discussed a preliminary figure for the copyright. However, because of the issue with Zhang Ye's contract, Central TV Department 1 could not sell the copyright of The Voice to an overseas party. Therefore, the only choice left was to talk it through with Zhang Ye.

Change the copyright clause in favor of bonuses?

200,000 RMB a month?

Are you trying to deceive an idiot!? If the overseas copyright were to be sold, it would fetch at least tens of millions of yuan! The monthly payout of 200,000 RMB still had to be tied to the viewership ratings? If the viewership ratings drop, so will the pay? Do you think I was born yesterday??

Jiang Yuan frowned. "Little Zhang, the reason a program like The Voice has done so well was not down to only your concept and hosting. You have to know that Central TV Department 1's large platform contributed heavily to the rise of the show's popularity as well. In fact, it's even the decisive factor, since without the platform, The Voice would never have become so popular. This is not your credit alone to claim. If you insist on biting onto a throwaway issue like the copyright, don't you think you're being too unreasonable?"

Zhang Ye's eyes narrowed. "Director Jiang, first of all, the issue with the contract was brought up by me at the very beginning. When you invited me to join Central TV Department 1 after our discussions, I did not request any conditions except the matter of the copyright. There was no joining pay, no bonuses. Just a basic salary of 8,000 RMB as the host. I worked incredibly hard on the show, came up with the idea, used my personal connections to pull in a title sponsor to fund the production, and finally, also gave up my share of the online exclusive broadcast fees that went directly to Central TV Department 1. So how am I being unreasonable??"

"You have to think from a different perspective—" Jiang Yuan tried to advise.

Zhang Ye refuted. "The one who should think from a different perspective is not me. I dare put it this way: if you had rejected my request to retain my ownership of the show's copyright back when you approached me to join the station, we would've just parted ways on good terms and I would not have joined the station. But now that the contract has already been agreed on and signed, and I have also joined the station and created the show too, then with the overseas copyright nearly sold, you're telling me that the contract agreements that we had don't stand up to scrutiny? You guys even want the overseas copyright for yourselves now? All the money will go to you all? Going back on your word? Burning bridges? Is this the way to do things, if I may ask? It's not like I'm particular about things. Neither do I feel that I have asked for too much. You even mentioned earlier about how many of our variety shows have had their copyrights sold overseas, right? Basically none? But when I want to retain this 'throwaway' copyright for myself, I am being called unreasonable? What else would you like me to do? I need to ensure that I create a good show, ensure its viewership ratings, and now I even have to control myself from getting too much money? Is this what you mean by being reasonable? That is not called being reasonable, that is what you'd call idiotic!"

Hearing Zhang Ye's tone, Jiang Yuan also didn't bother to hold back anymore. He spoke harshly, "Little Zhang, I suggest that you better consider this carefully."

"I should not be the one considering this matter, nor am I obligated to do so!" Zhang Ye laid down the law, "A contract is a contract, we will continue according to the contractual terms. After the year ends, if you still want to renegotiate the contract, we can talk about it again. But for now, I have no reason to renegotiate the contract!"

Jiang Yuan said, "Go back and think about it again."

"The ones thinking should be you all." This was just what Zhang Ye's temper was like. If people were good to him, they could talk about anything. But if people tried to find fault with him, he would say

anything he wanted. "I don't need to speak of how much The Voice has earned for Central TV Department 1 or how much fame and glory it has brought to the station. You guys should know all about that. Besides, you can check around with anyone, but ever since I joined Central TV Department 1, have I not been giving my best to the station? In turn, what you all are trying to do chills me. I can clearly tell you this: the contract has been written in black and white already and I won't be renegotiating it. If the American wants to discuss the overseas copyright to The Voice, I will discuss it with him or her face-to-face. There's no need for you all to bother yourselves with it!"

Zhang Ye stood up to walk out.

Jiang Yuan was so angry his face paled. He told Zhang Ye, "Don't forget that you still have to fulfill the contract duration with Central TV Department 1. Whatever our station might lack, it definitely won't be a host!"

"What a coincidence." Zhang Ye stopped in his tracks and turned around. "I can teach, crosstalk, produce music, act in movies, and write novels, so it's not like I have to be a host either!"

At the door.

Two staff members were just walking past Jiang Yuan's office at this moment. When they saw the door open and heard Zhang Ye arguing with Jiang Yuan inside the office, the two of them looked at each other, stunned and rooted to the spot!

What was happening?

Why was Zhang Ye arguing with people again??

Chapter 740: Director Zhang flies into a rage!

--

Later that afternoon.

News started spreading internally at Central TV.

A group of people were heatedly discussing it in private, talking about Zhang Ye.

"Hey, did you hear about it?"

"What?"

"Zhang Ye and a Central TV Department 1's deputy director were arguing with each other!"

"Ah? When did that happen? What's the state of affairs?"

"I heard that a leader from Central TV Department 1 wanted to renegotiate with Zhang Ye over his contract. They wanted him to give up his ownership of the copyright to The Voice and any upcoming shows to Central TV, but Zhang Ye did not agree and they clashed over it."

"Changing the contract?"

"If it were me, I wouldn't have agreed either!"

“Right, based on what can they ask to change the contract?”

“It seems like the overseas copyright fee that Central TV Department 1 has negotiated for is rather high. It’s somewhere in the range of 10 to 20 million RMB, so if such a large sum of money doesn’t go into Central TV Department 1’s account, it wouldn’t look good for them. Moreover, this is also a sort of political achievement for Central TV Department 1 since it would be the first time that a domestically produced variety show has ever had its copyright sold overseas. That in itself would already be a huge achievement, but if it were sold under Zhang Ye’s name, Central TV Department 1 would end up being embarrassed. It wouldn’t look good, so the leaders at Department 1 came up with the scheme of changing the contract terms. I guess they were left with no choice after all.”

“But still, they can’t force people to resign it.”

“Yes, of course they can’t, but they can let him waste away. Don’t forget that Zhang Ye still has a one-year contract with Central TV Department 1. If Central TV Department 1 decides to freeze Zhang Ye for the remainder of his contract duration and not release him, Zhang Ye can’t do anything about that either. Remember our Central TV News Channel’s Old Zhu from a few years back? Didn’t he get frozen for three whole years after offending someone? In the end, when his contract expired, Old Zhu lost all his popularity together with it. Do you still see him around on television these days? I don’t even know what he’s up to anymore these days. This is what Zhang Ye will have to face as well. Even though he’s very popular right now, in the entertainment industry, once you don’t have any exposure or publicity, you’re as good as dead. No matter how much fame you had previously, it will all go to waste. Zhang Ye couldn’t afford such circumstances.”

“That’s right!”

“That Zhang Ye’s temper is really too quick. I’ve heard that he often argues with his leaders, but thought that it was just a rumor. Who knew that he actually turned out to be that way!”

“This problem can’t be easy to handle.”

“Let’s just see how Zhang Ye will handle it then.”

“Hai, such things in the professional setting have always made it difficult to distinguish who’s right and who’s wrong. Furthermore, it involves the leaders’ vested interest. We can only wait and see how they resolve it. Teacher Zhang is really unlucky to get involved in such an uncalled-for situation. The media has always reported on how Zhang Ye always gets into trouble at every place that he goes to, but it seems to me that it’s just a case of the popular attracting trouble. If Zhang Ye weren’t so capable and the show’s viewership ratings were just average, the copyright wouldn’t have attracted any interest, and there simply wouldn’t have been any issues. However, it’s precisely because he’s so capable that even if he does not look for trouble, trouble comes looking for him!”

“Yeah, there’s no way out of this.”

The entire Central TV network was made up of many other departments other than Central TV Department 1. It could be described as a large network, but also be seen as a small corporation, since they were all housed in the same building. Besides, as someone had witnessed the argument between Zhang Ye and Jiang Yuan, news of it spread very quickly internally and couldn’t be kept under wraps.

.....

In The Voice's program team office.

When the program team staff heard about it, they were all shocked!

"This..."

"Why would they try to change the contract?"

"Yeah, it doesn't make sense whatsoever. Isn't this pushing it a little too far?"

"Aiyo, why did Director Zhang argue with the leader? Will the new show be affected by this?"

"It definitely will. If it isn't handled well, Central TV Department 1 might even give the show to someone else to do! A show with a budget of 80 million, do you know how many hosts would vie for that!?"

"Then what should we do?"

"Director Jiang is being too insincere about this!"

"Shh, keep it down. It's not our place to discuss this."

"Keep it down, my ass. Director Zhang has always been good to us! If we don't speak up for Director Zhang at this time, then who should we speak up for? This is all happening because those leaders from Central TV Department 1 are being too money-grubbing!"

"How did it become like this just when our new show was about to start!"

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the rest also started speaking up. Everyone was very worried about Zhang Ye's situation. Some of them came to a conclusion that Director Zhang would be frozen by Central TV Department 1 over the matter. Just thinking about this outcome made everyone's expression change. Speaking from the heart, they would of course prefer to work with Zhang Ye, even if it meant working harder. Zhang Ye also called for a higher standard of work from them, but they were all willing to put in the effort for him. From a motley crew of a program team, they had now become the best program team in the country. It was truly an honor for them! How great of an honor was this? It was so great that they wouldn't exchange it for anything else!

"Surely they won't freeze him, right?"

"That's unlikely. I don't think it calls for such drastic measures yet!"

"Right, it's not such a big conflict anyway. I'm sure they can still come to an agreement somehow. Let's see how Director Zhang will handle this now. But I wonder, with Director Zhang's temper...this is really difficult to say!"

No one was in the mood to work anymore.

At this moment, Zhang Ye pushed open the door and walked into the office.

Ha Qiqi quickly said, "Director Zhang!"

Zhang Zuo immediately said, "Just let us know if there's anything we can help you with!"

Zhang Ye smiled and waved a hand. "It's nothing, just go on and keep working."

Seeing how Zhang Ye was still able to keep his smile in such a situation, everyone admired him from the bottom of their hearts. He was indeed worthy of his label as the jinx of the entertainment circle, and had been through all sorts of difficulties in this industry before.

Zhang Ye had actually prepared for the worst-case scenario, but he still carried on doing whatever he needed to do as of now. He did not let the problem affect his rhythm at all.

Zhang Ye asked, "Is the proposal written up yet?"

Ha Qiqi said, "We came up with two simple concepts. You can take a look at them first."

Zhang Ye said, "Mmm, it looks fine."

After chatting a little about the new show, Zhang Ye shared some of his views and ideas about it before ending the meeting. All they needed to do now was wait for the funding to come in so that they could start implementing their plans and realize a general development direction for the show. Zhang Ye already had several concepts as well, but he still needed to refine them a little further.

Di di.

Ha Qiqi's cell phone rang.

Di di.

The cell phones of everyone else in the office also went off at about the same time.

"Wah, our salary has been paid!" Little Wang said happily.

Zhang Zuo took a look and immediately exclaimed, "Whoa, 80,000?"

Ha Qiqi also said, "Me too, 87,000 to be exact."

Wu Yi was shocked. "I got 69,000!"

Little Wang also held her cell phone with her mouth agape. "Mine is above 50,000 too! Aiyo, why did we get so much this month? The bonus is 47,000?"

Ha Qiqi suddenly said, "We have Director Zhang to thank for this. He applied for the bonus on our behalf. This payment should be for the work done in the month before last. There should still be another bonus in next month's salary."

Little Wang was overjoyed. "Thank you, Director Zhang!" She offhandedly asked, "Director Zhang, how much did you get? It's definitely many times more than ours, right? Will you be treating us later?"

Everyone laughed.

When Zhang Ye finally took out his cell phone to check, he found no messages on it. "Oh, I haven't received mine yet."

Ha Qiqi stared blankly at him. "That can't be."

Zhang Zuo was also stunned. "Isn't Central TV using an automated payroll system?"



Within the Central TV network, the bank details of every department were different. Some of the newer departments had their bank accounts tied to the Postal Savings Bank of China, while the older departments used China Construction Bank. So when the employees of Central TV Department 1 were paid by the same bank, it was unlikely that there would be a delay since the salaries should all be received at the same time. Even if there were some slight delays for some people, it couldn't be that Zhang Ye alone did not receive the notification, right?

Little Wang said, "Did you activate the salary payment alert?"

Zhang Ye did not answer her and just smiled. "Looks like you guys will have to treat me to dinner instead?"

However, this smile from Zhang Ye made Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others feel a sense of unease. It felt like it was the prelude to Director Zhang flying off the handle!

What happened at the Finance Department?

Why did everyone receive their salaries except for Director Zhang?

Without Director Zhang, there would not have been The Voice. After Director Zhang had earned so much money for Central TV Department 1, as well as garnered so much reputation for them, why did he deserve such treatment from you? Is this the way to treat your most exemplary employee? Is this how you treat someone who saved the viewership ratings of Central TV Department 1??

Ha Qiqi stood up and said, "I'll go check for you with the Finance Department! What're they doing!?"

Zhang Ye understood what was going on. The anger he had accumulated within him had reached the limit. Do you all really think that I, Zhang Ye, am afraid of you people at Central TV Department 1??

No joining fee!

No bonuses!

The show I created!

The show I produced!

The title sponsorship I pulled in!

Yet now, not only do you not intend to leave the overseas copyright for me, you're even withholding my salary of only 8,000 RMB?

Ha!

Why don't you tell me just what you're trying to play at!?