

## Superstar 761

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

#### Chapter 761: This game is a Zhang Ye creation?

There was an explosion of interest for the demo at the booth!

Voices of unexpected surprise by the gamers were constantly sounding!

Ha Qiqi wondered and asked, "The booth babes have already left, but why are there still so many people?"

"Plants vs. Zombies?" Little Wang hesitated for a moment, then said, "How can a game with such a title be any fun? Could these people be skills paid for by the video game company? Why are so many of them praising the game? How much money did they spend to employ them!"

Skills?

Skills your sister!

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes at her.

Wu Yi came up from behind them. "Looks like there's a lot of praise for this game, I'm also gonna give it a try."

Wu Yi went to join the line. When Little Wang and a few others from The Voice's program team saw that, they were also itching to give it a try. Ultimately, they ended up joining the line to give the game a try as well.

When it was their turn to try, their indifference at the beginning turned to shock!

When the game started for Ha Qiqi, she was startled for a moment!

It was the same for Wu Yi. He immediately started clicking the mouse and was so focused on the game that he couldn't hear his colleagues talking even though they were right beside him. His full attention was squarely on the game.

Little Wang even exclaimed, "This game is ten times more fun than Fishing Master! Is this a new game or a sequel? Why haven't I heard about this game before if it's this fun?"

Wu Yi marveled, "After just two levels, even a person like me who doesn't usually play games is getting a little addicted. This creativity, graphics, design, and the attention to detail! This should be a game made by some foreign company, right?"

A female editor pointed at something. "No, look there. It's a domestic video game company."

Wu Yi said unbelieving, "There's actually a domestic video game company that can create such an excellent product?"

Little Wang immediately waved to the area outside the booth. "Director Zhang, come and try, come and try it out!"

Zhang Ye laughed, "I'm fine here, thank you."

"It's super fun, really!" Little Wang praised loudly.

Thinking about it, Zhang Ye also joined the line. Of course he knew how good this game was. Back in his previous world, be it Plants vs. Zombies or Plants vs. Zombies 2, he had played them both. The reason he was going to give the game a try was mainly because he wanted to see how close to the original game Fat Sis's company had managed to make it. He wanted to know if they closely followed his plan and design. In addition, if there were any bugs he could inform Fat Sis to get them fixed in time.

Once he started the game, Zhang Ye had a good grasp of it.

The restoration level was very high!

It was probably at about 90% of the original game!

Knowing this, Zhang Ye began to feel reassured. He knew that Fat Sis and her staff had made this game in accordance to his design, without adding any modifications of their own. The design of the plants, the zombie's speed and health, the graphics style, every plants' cooldown times—they were mostly all the same as the original.

At this moment, a few media representatives from a video game magazine and some newspaper publishers headed over when they heard about the popularity of this booth. Extremely curious of all that was going on, they also joined the line to give the game a try. As a result, the few of them ended up looking at each other, and could see the shock in each other's eyes. Immediately, they lowered their heads again and continued to research this game. Judging from their expressions, they were quite stunned with amazement at this Plants vs. Zombies game, and simultaneously felt that it was incredible!

A domestic video game company?

It's even a small, unknown video game company?

And yet their game is fantastic! But no one has ever heard of a domestic video game company that had such standards! Which rock did they pop out from under?

What exactly was a puzzle game? To the countless people in this world, their concept and understanding of a puzzle game would surely be simple graphics, simple gameplay, and simple controls. However, on this day, Plants vs. Zombies had made them open their eyes and made them get a renewed understanding of puzzle games. Real-time strategy? Combined with tower defense features? Looking at those demo versions with their grayed out game modes, there was even an adventure mode included? Zen Garden? Mini-games? The depth of richness of this game and replayability was simply many times greater than other puzzle games! If puzzle games could be segregated into large, medium, and small, then Plants vs. Zombies was clearly considered as a mega-scale puzzle game!

These video game media personnel were in disbelief!

Around them, the gamers who had tried out the game also thought that this game was a great surprise to them!

"I have a feeling! That this game will definitely be an instant hit!"

"This is really uplifting for our countrymen!"

"Yeah, can you think of a time when a video game company from our country made such an amazing puzzle game? In the past, haven't we always just been imitating the foreign games and picking up their leftovers?"

"Although I don't wish to admit it, the development of our country's puzzle games is much poorer than puzzle games from other countries. Their game production standards are ahead of ours by four or five years, like that very popular Fishing Master which was developed overseas, and was only licensed by a domestic video game company. If I have to say it, then there are no puzzle games made by our domestic video game companies worth mentioning. But all of that has changed now! A worthy name has appeared! This game is definitely world-class standard!"

"Not only that! I think that Plants vs. Zombies is even leading the overseas standards by a couple years! I've never heard of any foreign video game companies that could create such an excellent game! It's way too much fun!"

"When does it go on sale?"

"I can't wait!"

"Fuck, I've always pirated games in the past, but I think I should definitely support the original this time! It's so rare that we finally get a game that can match a foreign-made game!"

...

At Hall 3.

Some of the staff members at several game booths were chatting.

"Eh, why is the crowd getting smaller and smaller?"

"Yeah, where did everyone go?"

"It's not even lunchtime yet. Weren't there a lot of people just a while ago? Why did it become so deserted now? It has never been like this in the past years, has it?"

"Don't you all know yet?"

"Know about what?"

"A lot of the visitors have gone to Hall 2. I heard that there's a puzzle game being exhibited there, a game called 'Plants hitting Zombies' or something. It's such a hit that all the gamers have the booth surrounded. More than twenty of those video game magazines and media outlets have also gone over to take a look. It seems to be causing quite a sensation, but I don't know about the details myself."

"Puzzle game? How can a small-scale game like that be any fun!"

"What? Rather than coming to try out our large-scale 3D graphics games, everyone went over there to play some puzzle game instead? How's that possible! Those people must be confused, right?"

"I wonder about that too!"

...

At the booth of Plants vs. Zombies.

Right now, this place was extremely packed, with the visitors gathering and extending to the outside of the booth for dozens of meters! It was basically full of people!

When the organizers received news of this, they flew into a rage, thinking that this exhibit must have gotten the bikini booth babes to come back to their booth. They immediately brought a team of security personnel and rushed over, but when they got there, they were dumbfounded by the scene they saw. Rather than the bikini booth babes, they saw that the booth babes who were within the dress code had all been nudged out of the booth to some place else instead. The entire booth was filled with gamers! A sea of gamers!

What...what was this situation?

Fuck, why are there so many gamers gathered around here!

And they were still wondering why the other games' booths in Hall 2 were so empty. So it was because everyone had come running over here!? Are you guys giving out games or giving out cash? The popularity over here is getting too hot to handle!

Inside the booth.

Zhang Ye and the others made their way out from the booth after they finished playing a demo of the game. Only after they left did they notice that Jiang Yuan, his kid, and the dozens of Central TV Department 1 staff were all lining up to try out the game.

Jiang Yuan also saw them, but did not make any direct eye contact. Central TV Department 1's relationship with Zhang Ye had completely broken down, and since they couldn't get their hands on The Voice's overseas copyright from him, the overseas license deal that they had already completed negotiations on with the foreign party—worth was large sum—couldn't be completed. Not to mention Zhang Ye's court case that everyone knew about and had embarrassed all of them. Whether it was a matter of image or interest, their relationship was ruined beyond all repair. The only relationship that the two parties had right now could only be described with one sentence: Fight it out! Let's see if our Central TV Department 1's freezing of artists is more powerful or whether you, Zhang Ye, have more endurance! In Jiang Yuan's opinion, this battle was already decided the moment it started. No matter how many lawsuits Zhang Ye could win against them, he could not escape from the "freeze" they had in place for him! Making a celebrity lose their source of popularity in less than a year would definitely be a fatal blow to them. It was as good as a death sentence! Since it had already come to this, no matter how capable Zhang Ye was, Jiang Yuan could no longer be bothered by the sight of him anymore. He had basically caused so much trouble for them at Central TV Department 1 that the executives of Department 1 hated him to the bone!

"Dad, is it our turn yet?" Little Qi asked impatiently

Jiang Yuan replied, "It should be our turn soon. There's still five more people ahead of us."

Little Qi said angrily, "Why are they so slow? Tell them to hurry up!"

Beside them, Jiang Yuan's secretary suddenly called out loudly, "Director Jiang, let Little Qi come over to this line. It's my turn over here!"

"OK." Jiang Yuan let Little Qi run along.

After a short while, a young staff member from Central TV Department 1 flanking him fawned, "Director Jiang, come over to my line. I've got a spot for you!"

Jiang Yuan did not stand on ceremony as the console with the demo was coincidentally situated right beside his son. He strolled over casually and picked up the mouse to accompany his son to test out the game.

Innermost of the booth.

A woman who was in charge of the booth for Plants vs. Zombies finally freed up some time to welcome the media. "Hello, everyone. Sorry to have kept you waiting. I will start accepting interviews from the media now." Looking at her, she seemed very excited, probably because she hadn't expected such an explosive scene today. She had just gotten off the phone a moment ago after making several calls to report to the company on the situation here.

At this moment, more than 15 media outlets surrounded her!

They included those from the video game magazines, newspaper firms, and even Central TV!

A reporter from one of the top video game magazines in the country quickly kicked off the interview. "This is just the first day of this year's National C-G Gaming Expo, but your company's game is already getting all the headlines. You're even outclassing other titles like Spiritual Realms: The First War, The Immortals Descend, and other anticipated MMO and RPG titles that the gamers were looking forward to for a long time now. It could be said that this is the greatest dark horse to emerge in this year's National Gaming Expo! Can you let us know if you all had anticipated this?"

The manager smiled and said, "Our company is extremely confident about our game, but honestly..." Her eyes swept across the booth. She gave a wry smile and continued, "...we really hadn't expected this at all. Thank you, everyone, for your love!"

A reporter from the newspaper firm hurriedly asked, "How much money did you all invest into the game?"

The manager hesitated for a moment. "I can only say it was in the tens of millions."

A media reporter from Beijing asked, "I tried out the game just now, and it's absolutely amazing. Our country's puzzle games are still only in the infancy of development, but to suddenly have a product that is so amazing pop up from nowhere, can you explain to us how you all did it? Isn't this leap too great? What inspired your company to create this Plants vs. Zombies?"

Hearing this, the manager could only smile. "Regarding the inspiration, I actually don't know about it either."

"Ah?" The media personnel were all taken aback by this reply.

The surrounding gamers were also in disbelief when they heard that. You don't know about it either? The fuck? You're the publisher! If you of all people do not know, then who would?

The manager laughed and said, "This game was actually done with the aid of a patron."

"Patron?"

"What patron?"

"Can you clarify what you mean by that?"

Nobody could understand this explanation.

...

Not far from them.

Little Qi was clapping and exclaiming, "This is so fun! Dad, this game is way too much fun!"

Also surprised, Jiang Yuan played two stages and commented, "Yes, this game is indeed different from other puzzle games. Even I, who has almost never played any games before, got the hang of it quite quickly, hur hur. This game is really quite interesting! Quite interesting!"

Even the director enjoyed playing it?

Jiang Yuan's secretary immediately observed, "Director Jiang, your evaluation of the game is spot on. This game truly is very enjoyable to play and easy to get the hang of. It suits people of all ages, whether they're young or old!"

Another person from Central TV Department 1 remarked, "I didn't know that puzzle games could also be this much fun!"

The person from Central TV Department 1 who had earlier clashed with Ha Qiqi and the others said, "When it gets released, I'll be buying a copy for my son. He will definitely love this game."

Little Qi said, "Dad, I want one too!"

Jiang Yuan smiled. "Sure, I'll buy it for you. Even I'm getting interested in this game after playing it. A game is just like a TV show. It depends on how innovative it is, which is where this game excels in. I wonder which company created this game that even got me interested even though I don't usually play games."

Zhang Ye looked over.

When they heard Jiang Yuan, his secretary, and the rest of the group praising the game nonstop, Ha Qiqi, Little Wang, and the others who were standing outside shot them a glance.

But suddenly, the next line from the manager who was taking questions from the reporters about Plants vs. Zombies astonished everyone at the scene!

In the face of all the media outlets' microphones and cameras, the manager chuckled and said, "The patron. Well, since I was just coming to it, let me make use of this chance to make an announcement here. Plants vs. Zombies will officially be launched next week, and for the endorsement of the game, we have already discussed with a big shot celebrity. That person is Teacher Zhang Ye, who will be acting as our spokesperson." Before the crowd could react, she threw out another bombshell of an announcement. "Teacher Zhang also happens to be the patron I just mentioned. I myself really do not know what inspired this game, because it was all from Teacher Zhang Ye. He contributed to the game's

name, Plants vs. Zombies, the character models, the graphics palette, technical support, mathematical attributes, level designs, and many other things. The entire concept of the game was by Teacher Zhang Ye, so you can say that this game was a collaboration project between Teacher Zhang Ye and our company!"

At that moment, the entire venue burst into an uproar!

"What?"

"Damn! Teacher Zhang came up with the concept?"

"Ah?"

"Fuck, is this for real?"

"Did Zhang Ye cross over to the video game industry as well?"

"What the hell!"

"It's Zhang Ye again? It's Zhang Ye again?"

The media was stunned!

The gamers were dumbfounded!

No one knew how to react anymore!

Ha Qiqi was staring with her eyes wide!

Little Wang stared dumbfounded at Zhang Ye, who was next to her!

Wu Yi shouted out "fuck" and went into shock!

Then, after the shock, Ha Qiqi, Wu Yi, and the others suddenly turned their sights in unison to Jiang Yuan, his secretary, and the entire group who were still playing the Plants vs. Zombies demo. They looked at them without batting an eyelid!

Jiang Yuan's face turned green!

Jiang Yuan's secretary let out a swear and dropped the mouse in his hand!

The other Central TV Department 1 staff, who were just praising how good this game was, were all staring at each other with their mouths agape. Their faces flushed red and paled at the same time, their expressions looking somewhat distorted!

Zhang Ye's?

Having praised the game so much, they discovered now that this game was created by Zhang Ye?

Suddenly, a few gamers in the crowd suddenly cried out.

"Eh, look at that person who's playing the game! Why does he look so familiar?"

"Eh? Isn't, isn't that the person who was fighting the lawsuit with Zhang Ye?"

"Oh, I remember, I remember! I saw him on television a few days ago. He is Jiang Yuan, the Deputy Director of Central TV Department 1! The Central TV Department 1 executive who did not issue Teacher Zhang's salary to him, and even tried to steal his copyright!"

"Surely not? He was really enjoying the game just now and even praising it to the high heavens."

"Yes, that's him! That's definitely him!"

Jiang Yuan: "..."

His secretary: "..."

When those words were said, the entire venue quieted down. Everyone was staring at Jiang Yuan and the people from Central TV Department 1 with subtle looks in their eyes!

Silence!

Dead silence!

At this moment, it was as though the sound of face smacking was reverberating out from nowhere, as the invisible hand smacked across the faces of Jiang Yuan, his secretary, and their group of people!!

Ha Qiqi mouth twitched.

Little Wang held in her laughter until her face turned red!

The Central TV cameraman who was holding the camcorder up for the interview was also dumbfounded, as he stood still where he was!

Wu Yi also stood there in amazement for the longest time. He had seen before how Director Zhang face-smacked others, but this was the first time he was witnessing such a harsh face-smacking!

This was far too ruthless!

This face-smacking was so hard that it nearly left its victims shitting in their pants!!

Right now, Jiang Yuan only had one thought. If there was a sewage pipe in the ground, he would have definitely crawled inside to escape all this!

Zhang!

Fuck your grandpa!!!

Chapter 762: How lively it was!

Zhang Ye became famous!

Plants vs. Zombies also became famous!

And yes, even Central TV Department 1's Deputy Director Jiang Yuan became famous along with them!

...

Monday morning.

Zhang Ye arrived at Central TV Tower for work. However, he discovered that his colleagues of Central TV Department 1 gazed in awe at him. Those who usually stayed an arm's length away from him were now avoiding him like the plague. It was as if anyone who walked within ten meters of Zhang Ye's vicinity would experience an imminent disaster. Among all of them, it was the Central TV Department 1 staff who behaved the most prominently in this manner, looking like they couldn't want for more than to stay at least a hundred meters away from him!

Zhang Ye was made speechless by this, thinking to himself that they must be insane. Did you guys really think that I had deliberately wanted to smack the face of Central TV Department 1's Deputy Director? It was just his bad luck that he appeared in the wrong place at the wrong time, so what could I have done?

Thinking back on the scene that happened at the Gaming Expo, Zhang Ye couldn't help but find it funny, too.

Jiang Yuan was indeed very unlucky. To be fair, Zhang Ye hadn't really planned on giving him a face-smacking; he hadn't even intended to do so. That was because all he could think of that day was the reception Plants vs. Zombies would get, so how could he have been bothered by anything else? Yet Jiang Yuan had to bring his people along and put themselves in the line of fire. It was just a coincidence that on this occasion, the venue and the setting of everything was "just right." So who could be blamed for what had happened?

By now, news of this incident had spread throughout Central TV.

At the main entrance, in the elevators, in the offices, this topic was constantly brought up in discussions.

"Who did you think Director Jiang has offended this time!"

"Pfft, looks like this incident has really blown up quite a lot!"

"Be quiet, don't let people hear us talking about this."

"I know; everyone knows that."

"Hai, Central TV Department 1's Jiang Yuan has really suffered a big loss of face this time. How many times does he have to suffer a downfall at Zhang Ye's hands? The face smacking he received—even I'm beginning to feel painful on Director Jiang's behalf!"

"Yeah, I saw it on the news yesterday. Even though the footage was focused on the manager of the Plants vs. Zombies booth, Director Jiang, his secretary, and some other people of Central TV Department 1 could all be seen on the left side of the shot. At that time, Director Jiang was even playing Plants vs. Zombies with a delighted expression, having fun as he tried out the game. He looked like he was full of praise for the game. When I replayed it a few times to watch again, I felt the pain as well! It was too painful! The pain from that slap on the face is unlikely to fade for Director Jiang and the others for several months at least!"

"Yeah, I agree. So many of the people at the station who saw the footage cried with laughter. This is really going to be fun to watch from now. How do you think Central TV Department 1 will get out of the embarrassing situation this time?!"

"They can't!"

“Face-smacking Zhang isn’t called Face-smacking Zhang for nothing!”

“But it’s really not Zhang Ye’s fault this time. It was seriously bad luck on the part of Director Jiang. He put himself into that situation!”

“Let’s stop talking about this already. If we go on any longer, I won’t be able to hold it in anymore and will feel like laughing. Just how on earth could it be so coincidental!”

“Zhang Ye too. How did he end up going to the video game industry and stirring up something again!?”

“Since Central TV Department 1 has already put him into cold storage, what else can he do except take up another side job?”

“I heard that the game is really fun to play!”

“That’s right. A colleague from my office went to the Expo. And I quote directly from him: ‘I’ve never seen such a classic puzzle game before.’—His praise for it was that high!”

“That Teacher Zhang, he’s really a godly person!”

“He might be a godly person, but we better steer clear from him to be safe rather than sorry!”

“Yeah, that guy is gonna tear Central TV Department 1 apart soon!”

Suddenly, a car arrived outside.

The people who were just arriving for work were slightly startled. They immediately stopped their discussions!

“It’s Director Jiang’s car!”

“Shh, the main character has arrived!”

“Let’s stop talking!”

Even though no one said anything, they could not help but turn their attention Jiang Yuan’s face as he got out from his car!

It was an extremely stern expression!

Other than being stern, there were no traces of any other emotions on his face!

At first, this stern expression helped in his show of strong mental fortitude. However, after he got out of his car and noticed countless eyes focused on him—even with over a decade of experience as a boss who had acquired a thick skin—he couldn’t help but lose his footing while dropping his stern expression!

“What are you all looking at?” Jiang Yuan shouted, getting angry from the embarrassment!

Everyone dispersed immediately.

His driver, also his secretary, got out from the driver’s seat afterwards and was also visibly angry, so much so that his neck even turned red!

How embarrassing!

This was too damn embarrassing!

If not for the exception of a meeting today, the secretary would surely have asked for the day off. In all his life, he had never felt so embarrassed. He was even shown on television as they got hit with a resounding slap under the watchful eyes of all the citizens in the country. No matter how thick their skins were, they couldn't take such a forceful slap!

...

Upstairs.

When Zhang Ye stepped into the office, he heard Ha Qiqi, Little Zhang, and the others gossiping.

Little Wang laughed loudly. "It's sucks that you guys didn't go. You missed a once-in-a-lifetime show!"

Wu Yi said, "The images and scenes at that time, well, they would really be difficult to describe in words! We went to visit the Expo with Director Zhang, but who could have expected to witness a face smacking as well! That trip was well worth it! Hella worth it!"

Zhang Zuo regretfully patted his thighs. "I didn't go because I'm not interested in games. Aiya, if I had known, I would have gone even if my whole body were broken!"

Those from the program team who did not go to the National C-G Gaming Expo all badly regretted it. The way they had been treated by Central TV Department 1 in recent days could be seen by everyone. As such, they were so angered that they already had a list of grievances they could not air, and hated Jiang Yuan and the rest of the executives. Now that such an incident had occurred, it brought them great joy. But the only awful thing was that they didn't witness this face smacking with their own eyes. This gave them a great deal of regret!

Suddenly, someone interrupted, "Whole body broken? Wouldn't that just make you cremains?"

"Director Zhang!"

"Haha, Director Zhang is here!"

"Director Zhang, quickly tell us about that event!"

"Yeah, how the hell could they be so unlucky!"

Seeing that Zhang Ye had arrived, everyone was even more fired up.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I don't know why they were so unlucky either."

Zhang Zuo quickly asked, "Then how did you get into video game development?"

Zhang Ye casually answered, "A friend asked me for help, so I just did them a favor."

"Just doing a simple favor like that has probably caused a big commotion in the gaming industry!" Ha Qiqi said flatteringly, "Right now, on the Internet and in the media, everyone is discussing Plants vs. Zombies!"

Zhang Ye blinked. "Is that so?"

Little Wang said, "Just have a look for yourself online!"

When he went back into his own office, Zhang Ye had Little Wang get him a cup of tea and then turned on his computer to browse the Internet. Sure enough, news of the game was raging like a storm online!

There were already plentiful of reviews of the game, Plants vs. Zombies, and analyses of its items. The demo of the game was released last night over the Internet and the number of downloads was constantly increasing!

"It's truly a good game!"

"Recommending it with my life on the line!"

"How cool, this is how a game should be!"

"Yes, after I finished playing Plants vs. Zombies, when I take a look at all the puzzle games that I played in the past, I find that those games were really out to scam us and take us for a ride!"

"A product of Zhang Ye's! Is surely a product of good faith!"

"Why did Zhang Ye jump over to develop games now!"

"That guy has never done things by the book. Who knows what goes on in his head? Though I am appreciative that he chose to be such a jack of all trades this time! Otherwise, from where would we get such a good game?"

"Actually, I was wondering at the start why such a good puzzle game could have originated from a domestic video game company. I knew that our domestic market did not have the capabilities to create something like that. But it was only after I watched the news that I realized the game was actually produced by Zhang Ye himself. Only then did it dawn on me that a puzzle game of this standard could only have come from the mind of Zhang Ye! Did you guys read the firsthand reviews by videogames.net? They gave Plants vs. Zombies a score of 9.9 out of 10! It's the top score in the history of puzzle games!"

"Videogamereviews.net also gave them 9.8!"

"I'm just waiting for the official release of the game now!"

"Yeah, whatever scores it gets are all for nothing. What matters most is still its sales. I heard that it will be launched in another two days. I wonder how it will fare."

"A creation of Zhang Ye's will surely do well!"

"That's right. Just based on Zhang Ye's name on this game, I'll definitely buy it!"

Online, the video game fans were applauding the game with wave after wave!

As the celebrity spokesperson of Plants vs. Zombies, Zhang Ye would naturally do his best for it. After logging into Weibo, he immediately posted a promotional review regarding the game.

Meanwhile.

News of the game was appearing all over the place!

“Puzzle game comes out on top at National C-G Gaming Expo!”

“Reviews of Plants vs. Zombies are out! Likely to set off a flurry of domestically produced puzzle games!”

“Zhang Ye makes his move into the gaming industry!? Citizens express their shock!”

“Even before his lawyer qualification certificate has been filed away, Zhang Ye breaks into the gaming industry!”

“Zhang Ye: A versatile celebrity?”

Of course, there were also some tabloids that were fearless and unafraid of trouble, daring to write any kind of headline!

—“Central TV Department 1’s Deputy Director Jiang Yuan drops by personally to support Zhang Ye’s new game. Pictures included!”

—“Approving even after losing a court case. A leader’s love for his employee!”

—“Face-smacking Zhang smacks faces again, Jiang Yuan flees with his minions from Gaming Expo!”

—“Central TV Department 1 begins placing him in cold storage, but Zhang Ye strikes with another slap across Department 1’s face!”

There were all kinds of headlines!

How lively it was!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 763: Launch Day!**

Noon.

Fat Sis called him.

Zhang Ye had just finished eating lunch at the cafeteria and was taking the elevator to go upstairs. In the face of several of his Central TV Department 1 colleagues who saw him as the god of plague while looking down and whispering to each other, Zhang Ye was not affected by it and did not bother them. When he reached his floor, he got out from the elevator alone and answered the call.

Zhang Ye: "Fat Sis."

The moment Fat Sis started to speak, she no longer addressed Zhang Ye the same as before. It was becoming even more casual now. "Zhang'er, the demo of our game has created a big splash!"

Zhang Ye laughed: "Haha, I saw it."

Fat Sis was very emotional. "Right now, the public media is promoting our game for free, I guess this is all down to your influence. Those reporters and media outlets all seem to shoot up whenever a story gets linked to you! The gamers are also giving you a lot of face. When they heard that you were the game's designer, they were all very supportive of it! In the past, Big Sis did not know how many fans you had, but looking at it now, it seems like you really have a lot of fans!"

Zhang Ye: "Everyone's just giving me a little face."

Fat Sis: "The game will officially be launched three days later!"

Zhang Ye: "OK. I'm just waiting for that day to come."

Fat Sis: "The entire company is looking forward to it as well! What are your expectations of the sales?"

Zhang Ye: "What is the distribution method?"

Fat Sis: "For the company's previous game, we did it the traditional way by distributing the game by physical CD-ROMs. As a result, we suffered a loss on our base costs, so let's not mention that anymore, fuck! This time around, we will definitely not do that again, since I can see that sales of physical media is just going to go downhill. This is the world of the Internet now, so the distribution of Plants vs. Zombies will be via Internet downloads. The download itself is free and will be free to play for three days, but after that, there will be a requirement to register to purchase a serial code. However, we've been thinking about what to set the price as for a long time now. We feel that a price between 5 and 15 RMB would be more suitable, but that has not been decided yet, so I would like to listen to your opinion about this."

Zhang Ye thought over it for a bit and replied: "Then let's set it at 5 RMB. A higher price would affect the popularity of the game, so why don't we go for quantity over profit margins? And lay the foundations for this game first? With a solid foundation for the game, there will be other ways to seek profit in the future."

"Eh, based on what you're saying, do you mean that there will be a Plants vs. Zombies 2?"

"That's a must."

"Hahaha! Good!"

"Let's not get too ahead of ourselves now. Nothing is confirmed as of now."

"I understand. We've already laid out all the preparations, so now, it all depends on this last step! The company has put everything on this; we even took out a loan for it. If Plants vs. Zombies does not sell well, then the company will have to be shuttered!"

"Damn, surely it won't come to that, Fat Sis!"

"I know, I'm just readying myself for the worst case scenario! But I, of course, have also made plans for the best case scenario, haha!"

After putting down the phone, Zhang Ye went back to his office and sat down, crossing his legs. In his mind, he went through the entire process once over. Generally speaking, he was quite optimistic and was full of confidence for this game, Plants vs. Zombies. He distinctly understood that this game had a good lead on all of this world's puzzle games, which had been verified by the video game market in his previous world. But even though the game was good, the sales figures definitely wouldn't mirror that of the original's. This world had its own rules and also slight differences.

For example, the distribution channels.

The debut country of the game's release.

The business model.

Both worlds had its differences and Zhang Ye could only guarantee a 95% similarity in game replication of Plants vs. Zombies from his previous world. But he could not dictate the distribution channels and regions in accordance to his previous world. He did not have the power to do so either. This was a game that was made by foreigners in his previous world, but he couldn't possibly choose to launch this game in an overseas market first, right? As such, Zhang Ye could only do his best and leave the rest to the market forces!

Have crossed into a new industry this time, Zhang Ye was undoubtedly placing great importance on this game, knowing that he couldn't afford to make a mistake. Having been put into the freezer for so many days now by Central TV Department 1, his popularity was already slipping. Right now, he could only depend on Plants vs. Zombies to help him achieve another rise in his popularity! In the B-list Celebrity Rankings, the competition at this level was so fierce that an industry outsider couldn't understand it. If a celebrity was a B-lister, their name would be very well-known to the people. Basically, more than half the country's people would have heard of or been able to say their names. This was a level of stardom that had an established fan base, so the unpredictability in standings was also greater. Who knew when one of these B-list celebrities might suddenly get a break in their acting career and star in a popular movie with a box office earnings of over 1 billion RMB? If that happens, their popularity would surely skyrocket. It wasn't an uncommon or unusual occurrence at all. Zhang Ye naturally knew this and understood the principle of not progressing but instead regressing in popularity. In the world of entertainment, what did people compete on? To put it bluntly, it was just a competition of popularity. Zhang Ye could not let himself have no progress at all!

...

On Weibo.

A group of haters suddenly appeared out of nowhere, discussing about things that were about Zhang Ye but were targeted at discrediting Plants vs. Zombies instead!

"Are you all blind? What's so fun about this game!"

"Just look at the graphics and you'll know. It's such a rubbish game!"

"Plants fighting zombies? That's a bunch of nonsense!"

"Only a retard would play this type of games!"

"If this game's sales cross 500,000 RMB, I will jump off a building!"

"Haha, you're thinking too much. 500,000? If it even gets 200,000, they would be laughing already! Don't be taken in by those video game magazines that praised the game to the high heavens after trying out the demo. When it gets released and sold, not many people will bother to buy it! Even if anyone wants to play, everyone would rather download the game after it has been cracked and pirated!"

"When a person gets popular, gossip will fly." This saying applied to games too.

Quite a number of supporters of Plants vs. Zombies immediately launched a counterattack, and both groups of people started flaming each other!

...

It was bustling with activity online, but it was not quiet at other places either.

Like in the entertainment circle, many of the industry insiders were following this matter very closely. They talked about all sorts of things in private.

"I don't even know what to say anymore!"

"Why did this guy go and dabble in games now?"

"I've never come across such a disreputable celebrity before. He's totally unpredictable!"

"Hur hur, I think I already understand what's going on. Zhang Ye's main profession is actually being a jack of all trades. Starting from last year, I couldn't quite figure out what Zhang Ye's main profession is! But then again...this Plants vs. Zombies game is really very fun! Zhang Ye might have offended lots of people before, but he's still a really capable person, I gotta admit that!"

...

The gaming industry was also getting noisy.

"That Zhang Ye is already a big shot celebrity, so why did he still come over to try and take our jobs?"

"Who knows what that guy is thinking!"

"This game is being praised by everyone right now, but the sales might not necessarily turn out well. The market for our domestically produced games is rather weak right now, especially in the puzzle game genre which just built itself up not too long ago. Although everyone has said many good things about Plants vs. Zombies, and have built up a lot of anticipation, the domestic game market has always been rampant with piracy. It's mainly foreign video game companies and publishers dominating the market, so if we're hoping that a domestically produced puzzle game can stand out in this market? Difficult! It is going to be extremely difficult!"

"Indeed, the sales figures probably won't be too high."

"But it's still a good start. At least our country can still produce a puzzle game that we're proud to show off. Even if it fails, it's fine. This is still a moral victory for us!"

"That's right. There definitely has to be someone to open up the market for our domestic games! Even if it gets loses money!"

"We can only wish them luck on their release!"

"The sales might not turn out badly either. Who knows? Our domestically produced game might be able to create a miracle this time! Who is to say that our domestically made games will always perform worse than foreign games?"

There were also some unfriendly voices against Plants vs. Zombies in the gaming industry, but the majority of the industry professionals still strongly supported it. In fact, the CEOs and game designers of several video game companies even publicly showed their support for Plants vs. Zombies on Weibo by giving Likes and forwarding it. It was very rare that Zhang Ye's crossover into another industry was not met with a call for boycott or doubt, but instead received the blessings of countless video game industry professionals!

The reason was simple. Due to the current state of the domestic gaming industry, domestic games basically weren't mainstream. They only accounted for about a quarter of the market share. The rest was dominated by foreign video game companies. Those who were selfish might think that Zhang Ye was here to steal their jobs, but anyone with a little bit of common sense would know that it wasn't the time for an internal conflict in the domestic gaming industry. For only a quarter market share, what was there to fight for? Even if someone won the fight, so what? What they needed to do now was get the market share back from the foreign companies, and with Zhang Ye's astounding puzzle game, this was their chance to carve out a bigger market for domestic games and also an opportunity to increase the size of the pie!

This battle was not only for Zhang Ye to fight alone.

This battle was between all domestic games fighting against the intrusion of foreign games!

The laypersons watched the buzz, while professionals examined the skills! Almost all the industry professionals in the gaming industry had given the demo of Plants vs. Zombies a try, while some of them had played it over and over to research it. Although this was just a demo and the full version of the game had not yet been seen by anyone else, just this tip of the iceberg had already given them a boost. If they had to pick a game to compete against the foreign games, then from the creativity, graphics, gameplay, and many other aspects of the game, it was without a doubt only Plants vs. Zombies that would stand a chance. All of the video game industry professionals had very high expectations for it and thoroughly anticipated the day the game would be launched!

They wanted to see what kind of results that famous and legendary Zhang Ye could bring after crossing over into their industry!

The industry professionals were all waiting to see what would happen!

The media was looking to fan the flames of hype!

The gamers were all gearing up in anticipation!

The focus of everyone, Plants vs. Zombies was about to usher in its launch day!

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

#### **Chapter 764: Rave reviews!**

Launch day.

It was still an hour away from launch.

In the morning, Zhang Ye held in his hands the documents that Fat Sis had sent to him. He went through it several times in earnest, analyzing the information for domestic sales of puzzle games in recent years.

In the data, it not only included the domestically produced casual puzzle games, but also an abundance of foreign puzzle game titles.

Flying Leopard.

Casual domestic puzzle game.

Price: Free.

Sales numbers: 800 downloads on launch day.

Kamikaze.

Japanese turn-based strategy puzzle game.

Price: 9 RMB for mobile version. Not available for PC at the moment.

Sales numbers: 16,000 downloads on launch day.

Fishing Master 2.

Country of origin: America.

Price: 19 RMB for PC version, 6 RMB for mobile version.

Sales numbers: 95,000 downloads on launch day.

And so on.

This was the current distribution of numbers for the casual domestic puzzle games in China. It could clearly be seen from the data of the 27 titles of games the disparity of the domestically made games to the foreign-made ones. The domestically made game, Flying Leopard, had apparently taken a year's time and a cost of 10 million RMB to develop—and was temporarily free to play—only managed a figure of 800 downloads on launch day. Describing it as a miserable result was already a nice way to put it. Then, looking at the foreign-made games, most of the titles had downloads crossing 10,000 on their release days, with the best performer being Fishing Master 2, which built on the success of Fishing Master 1. Its popularity showed with their market share in addition to receiving close to 100,000 downloads on launch day. With this momentum, Fishing Master 2's sales figures would cross 1 million downloads in only a matter of time, and shouldn't be difficult to achieve either.

Of course, the results of Fishing Master 2 still couldn't be compared with those large-scale, famous RPG series, among other popular titles. Nor should they be mentioned in the same breath, since how could you compare a game that was measured in megabytes to one that was measured in gigabytes? And that was the status of puzzle games. The Fishing Master series had an absolute dominance in the puzzle games genre, and was also one of the most popular puzzle games as well!

After reading through the document, Zhang Ye had a heavy heart.

The situation was grim!

The domestic games market did not have much hope!

Now, it just depended on how Plants vs. Zombies would perform. Not only did he want to make a stand for himself, he also wanted to help domestically made games make a stand for themselves...Uh, although it was true that Plants vs. Zombies itself was a foreign-made game to begin with, but then who would know about that in this world?

Hmph!

If this bro says that it is a domestically made game, then it is a domestically made game!

You gonna bite me??

...

The countdown toward the release began!

Three minutes.

Two minutes.

One minute.

At 8 AM, Plants vs. Zombies was officially launched as the resources were made available for download in this world, done in accordance to this world's market conditions with a new method of distribution!

Zhang Ye clicked to download the game. The internet speed was quite slow and the game that was only several hundred megabytes actually took five minutes to download and even got stuck at 90% downloaded. Sitting at his computer, Zhang Ye did not feel like there was any progress at all. But unknown to him, at this moment, many other people were experiencing the same issue!

At a game download website, an uproar kicked up in the comments section!

"Why can't Plants vs. Zombies be downloaded!? My gosh!"

"Why don't you try a different downloader? I can download the game!"

"Me too, but it's really slow!"

"It's slower than a glacier! What's going on!?"

"Same for me, and I have a fucking 100 Mbps connection! But why does it feel like I am back in the era of dial-up? 5 kilobytes per second? Just how slow can it get!"

"Fuck, there are too many people downloading this!"

"Let's switch to a mirror and try! There should be many other servers providing this game for download!"

"Don't bother, it's all the same. I came over from a different server, but the speed over there is about the same. Hai, let's just wait a while!"

"Hahaha, my download is done! I'll go ahead and play first!"

"Fuck you, previous poster!"

"\*flips table\*!"

"What dogshit server is this!"

"Who the hell is causing this internet slowdown in my home?"

"It's so slow that I'm crying!"

There were countless comments!

The swearing from tens of thousands of people was a very shocking sight!

...

At Beijing Television Station.

In the program team office of Do You Remember.

A loud shout of surprise rang out in the office. "I succeeded in downloading it!"

It was Hou Ge. After his exclamation, he quickly proceeded to install the game. It didn't take long for the game to be installed. Within thirty seconds, he was at the game's menu.

In that moment, Dafei, Hou Di, Xiao Lu, and a few others all surrounded him immediately.

Xiao Lu said in frustration, "We're all on the same network! Why is my download taking so long?"

Hou Ge chuckled, "It's down to character, our character!"

Dafei urged, "Hurry up and start the game!"

Hou Di said, "I can't wait any longer. Since this game was produced by Teacher Zhang, it definitely has to be fun! I've even resisted playing the demo!"

Hou Ge clicked his mouse with a swagger. "It's starting, it's starting!"

The game commenced!

Unlike the demo, this full version of Plants vs. Zombies did not bring the player directly into the game mode. Instead, there was a tutorial mode to help players become familiarized with game, and the game character that appeared to guide the player made Xiao Lu, Dafei, and everyone else freeze!

Was this Zhang Ye?

An NPC?

Crazy Zhang Ye?

Looking at that 2D cartoon character that vaguely resembled like Zhang Ye, everyone suddenly didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Why is Teacher Zhang also appearing in the game as a guest character!"

"Seems like this video game company really respects Teacher Zhang a lot."

"No duh. This game was designed by Zhang Ye in the first place. Do you think it would be difficult for him to make an appearance in it?"

"Hehehe, Teacher Zhang's pretty smart about it, even endorsing himself all the way into the game. Can you imagine if this game really blows up? How much would Teacher Zhang's popularity increase by? This is goddamn equivalent to pervasive soft advertising for him. You can't shut him out even if you wanted to!"

"I was still wondering why Teacher Zhang crossed over to making games. So it was because he had ulterior motives instead. Who says that Teacher Zhang is being too much of a jack of all trades? In fact, I think that rather than a jack of all trades, he knows exactly what he is doing. Even though taking the bar exam and making games do not seem like logical moves, all those activities actually affect his popularity and exposure to the media!"

"Stop rambling and just play the game!"

...

Peking University.

School had reopened, but on this day, the campus was quieter than usual. The people who would usually take a stroll beside the artificial lake were nowhere to be seen.

Some students who were passing by the area were surprised at this.

"Eh, why is it so quiet around here today?"

"Everyone's in their dorms."

"In their dorms? Aren't they going to get breakfast?"

"Don't you know? Today is the launch day of Plants vs. Zombies!"

"Aiyo! It's today?"

"So do you understand now? Teacher Zhang has always been good to us in the past, teaching us his knowledge and leading us to scold the foreign dignitaries. Even during the recent student recruitment, he helped Peking University stop Tsinghua University's antics. Knowing this, who among us do not appreciate him? Who wouldn't be moved? We don't know when Teacher Zhang can come back to teach us. Since he's releasing a new product now, we must support him even if it kills us! The Vice Chairman of the Student Council of Peking University and a few other officers of the council have already started calling on everyone to show their support for Plants vs. Zombies!"

"That's right! I won't acknowledge any teachers in the school except Zhang Ye!"

"We must give our support! No two ways about it!"

"Fuck, I better get back to my room then! I have to download the game and purchase a serial code as well!"

...

At one of the female dormitories.

Crosstalk actor Yao Jiancai's daughter, Yao Mi, had already started playing Plants vs. Zombies with a few of her friends. All that could be heard coming from the dorm room were exclamations, laughter, and excited voices.

"Aiya, the zombie is approaching, it's approaching!"

"Are you stupid! Plant the Peashooter!"

"Haha, you got the zombie! Ah, another wave is coming!"

"Ah, I don't have enough 'sun' anymore! I have no resources!"

"Why are you guys so terrible? I've already passed the third level!"

Yao Mi was the first to pass the first three levels of the game. After she had completed the third level, a popup appeared and prompted her to enter a serial code. She needed to buy a serial code before she could continue playing. Without even hesitating, Yao Mi immediately made the payment online. It was only a few yuan, an amount that not too many people would care about. Afterwards, she continued clicking her mouse excitedly as she began the fourth level. The more she played, the more addicted and excited she got!

"This is so fun!"

"I can't stop at all!"

"Mimi, tell us why our Teacher Zhang Ye is so awesome!"

...

A video game company in Beijing.

The Gaming Research Department employees had arrived early for work today. No one was idle as all of them were here to do the same thing: download Plants vs. Zombies! Other people might play games for entertainment and leisure, but for them, it was for work, in order to learn from the experience of others.

In the office, the game's soundtrack reverberated.

"Hai, the full version of the game is quite different from the demo!"

"You've only just realized? There are so many game modes, but they're still grayed out at the moment!"

"The levels are also different. They're much richer than in the demo. I was just mentioning that if the levels are just going to continue on so monotonously, the repetitive levels will surely cause gameplay fatigue. But after I said that, the next level immediately went into night mode. There's a difference in the strategy of fighting and the type of plants that can be planted in night mode as compared to day mode? How interesting!"

"The person who designed this game must definitely be an expert! If you go on further in the game, there's even a pool mode. Reading from the introduction, there's also a roof mode. There are different

strategies for fighting in each mode, so not only does that increase the playability of the game, it also does not cause gameplay fatigue to the player! Is...is this really a creation of Zhang Ye's? Without seven or eight years of experience in game design, how can he possibly have grasped the mind of a player so well? The demo was already amazing, but this full version is even better. After completing a level, I want to go on to the next one immediately. I think that after this level, it's be enough. But then somehow, I still go ahead and click to start the next level!"

"If this game doesn't go viral, I could never justify that!"

"Zhang Ye is indeed just like his reputation!"

"Who knows, Plants vs. Zombies could really lead the charge for our domestically developed video games!"

"This is such a godly game! It's really too goddamn godly! There's actually a day when our domestically made games could come up with such a godly work!? How encouraging!"

The industry insiders were exploding with excitement!

The Internet also exploded with comments from the netizens!

"This is so fun!"

"So the demo really was just the tip of the iceberg!"

"Is this really a game made by a domestic video game company? Did Zhang Ye really come up with the entire design of this game? This is too incredible! I can't believe this!"

"A boost for our domestically made games!"

"I've already recommended it to friends and relatives!"

"This game truly is constantly full of surprises! The more I play it, the more fun I have!"

There were also celebrities who posted on Weibo.

A C-list singer named Wang Qiqi posted a link to Plants vs. Zombies with the accompanying words: "It's so good I'm crying!"

A movie star named Chen Qi posted: "Recommending a good game my friend recommended to me. It's called Plants vs. Zombies. Please support domestically made games!"

Zhang Ye did not know those two people, neither had he come across them before. The reason for their recommendation posts was clearly because this game had truly touched them.

Naturally, Zhang Ye's friends did not idle around either.

Chen Guang and Fan Wenli highly recommended it!

Yao Jiancai highly recommended it!

Dong Shanshan highly recommended it!

At the same time, the media was also making its moves!

A few video game websites had already published their analyses and review of the full version of Plants vs. Zombies. The reviews were very good, just like how the industry insiders rated it! Websites, newspapers, and other entertainment media's reporters did not idle around either. A puzzle game that clearly had nothing to do with the entertainment circle had actually been pushed to the front page or into the headlines as the topic generated massive interest! It was like a wildfire!

"An amazing, classic domestically created puzzle game! "

"Can Zhang Ye continue writing his cross-industry legend?"

"Some industry insiders frank opinions: Not optimistic of Plants vs. Zombies' sale figures!"

"Good but unable to attract an audience?"

"A legend of a domestically made puzzle video game might have begun! "

"Possibility of poor sales? Don't be too pessimistic, don't speak too soon, just remember! The creator of this game is—Zhang, Zhang Ye! "

"The turnaround of domestically made video games? "

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 765: This guy...is actually a professor?**

The Internet was flooded with positive comments!

At home.

After Zhang Ye finished playing a few levels of the game, he exited from it with great satisfaction. When he browsed through the comments and news online, he was delighted. Seeing that everyone had actually given him so much face, he suddenly rolled up his sleeves and shook his hands about as a simple warm up. Without wasting any time, he got into his spokesperson of Plants vs. Zombies mode immediately, except that this spokesperson—uh, kind of didn't have much moral integrity!

On Weibo.

A D-list female actress with the Weibo handle of "Beautiful Little Fanghua" posted on Weibo with an attached picture of steamed buns and bean gruel: "What a sumptuous breakfast. Thank you, Mom. It's so delicious I'm crying!"

When the post was just submitted, the sofa was immediately snatched! [1.]

Obviously, the female actress did not close Weibo straight after posting, but waited to see the comments from the netizens. Who could have expected that, just a second after she posted, someone immediately commented on it!

Whoa!

Aren't you reacting too quickly?

That female actress giggled as she lowered her head to read, but she was shocked by what she saw!

This name...

This person...

The person who snatched the sofa turned out to be a celebrity as well, the person who was the focus of attention everywhere, Zhang Ye! However, the comment posted by him couldn't be anymore shameless: "Shh, don't make a sound, don't make a sound. Let me quietly share with you a secret. There's a new game called Plants vs. Zombies that is extremely fun to play. I am telling you this, but don't you go telling anyone else!"

That female actress immediately felt overwhelmed by this. This was Zhang Ye! He was the infamous and most miraculous person in the entertainment industry right now! Although he had a terrible reputation, he was still a true B-list celebrity who was popular throughout the country. He was obviously not at the same level compared to her, a small-time actress who hovered around in the D-list rankings. Seeing that it was the legendary Zhang Ye who snatched her sofa, she felt very flattered.

She replied frantically: "This game recommended by Teacher Zhang must be fun!"

Further down in the comments, her fans were also shocked!

"Ah? Teacher Zhang?"

"Aiyo! We have met a god!"

"Hahaha, Teacher Zhang, do you have any shame? This game is obviously made and endorsed by you, so should you be promoting your game in this way?"

As they were messing around and joking there.

Elsewhere, Zhang Yuanqi also had some activity on Weibo. She posted a picture of an airport. "I have just arrived after my flight. Thanks for the warm reception from my fans."

However, the sofa was snatched by Zhang Ye again. "Shh, don't make a sound, don't make a sound. Let me quietly share with you a secret. There's a new game called Plants vs. Zombies that is extremely fun to play. I am telling you this, but don't you go telling anyone else!"

Zhang Yuanqi: "..."

Her manager, Fang Weihong: "..."

The two of them replied with a string of ellipses, showing how speechless they were!

At yet another place.

Crosstalk actor Tang Dazhang, who had a great enmity with Zhang Ye, posted on Weibo: "The weather in Kunming is quite nice. It's so enjoyable to perform here."

Many of Tang Dazhang's fans saw the update on Weibo at the first moment were ready to reply. But after they had just finished commenting, they were shocked to find that they did not get the sofa. The first comment had actually appeared within two seconds of Tang Dazhang posting on Weibo!

Aiya!

Who was it that was so fast?

Are you trying to take off from the runway?

When they saw it, Tang Dazhang's fans were all stunned. Isn't that Zhang Ye, the fucking adversary of Teacher Tang Dazhang?!

Zhang Ye posted: ""Shh, don't make a sound, don't make a sound. Let me quietly share with you a secret..."

Tang Dazhang nearly vomited blood!

Tang Dazhang's fans: "...(\*&^%^%...^#@! !"

Zhang! Why are you shameless? Why are you so shameless? Back then, you derided Teacher Tang in the crosstalk competition, yet you still have the cheek to come to Teacher Tang's Weibo to promote your game?? How can you be so fucking shameless?! I've seen hooligans before, but I've never seen such a hooligan as you!

Following that, another crosstalk actor who had a past grudge with Zhang Ye was struck by this misfortune!

That crosstalk artist posted: "Recently, the weather has been cloudy and rainy. I can feel my arthritis acting up again."

Zhang Ye once again snatched the sofa for this post. "Shh, don't make a sound, don't make a sound. Let me quietly share with you a secret..."

That crosstalk artist: "..."

From 9 AM to 10 AM, Zhang Ye snatched the "second floor" on more than 20 celebrities' and public figures' Weibo posts. All of them were the first reply to each post and the content was all the same. He used a sneaky tone that was employed in marketing talk for medicinal treatments to promote Plants vs. Zombies!

All the celebrities were totally lost for words!

The netizens also fainted one after another!

"Teacher Zhang! That's enough, that's really enough of you!"

"Pfft, do you have to have such low moral integrity?!"

"Damn, just how fast is your reaction speed?!"

"I'm so shocked that I peed my pants! What the fuck is this reaction speed? He managed to snatch the sofa every time?"

"Teacher Zhang, can you stop constantly appearing and disappearing so mysteriously?! How much of an endorsement fee did you actually receive? You're working so hard! You're being way too professional!"

"Hahahahahahaha!"

"Godly reaction speed!"

"What the hell! Kneeling down!"

"I've been shocked into a daze!"

"Teacher Zhang, are you on drugs?!"

They had seen celebrities doing promotions before and had also seen them sparing no effort and working hard to promote their works or products they'd endorsed. But Zhang Ye's shameless promoting style was the first time everyone had witnessed something like this! This really lacked morals! It would have been fine if it was some average D- or E-list, small-time celebrities doing this, but you are a very well-known and famous big shot, B-list celebrity. Even within the fiercely contested industry like the entertainment circle, you belong in the top tier, so you...you are far...too...ah!

However, Zhang Ye did not feel embarrassed at all and was still tirelessly going around to carry out the great cause of "snatching the sofa."

In the following stretch of time, to the amazement of the netizens, one after another, celebrities were met with Zhang Ye's "violent sellout." The most impressive thing that left everyone full of admiration was how Zhang Ye always managed to snatch the sofa successfully from under the noses of the celebrities' millions of fans each time!

If it happened one time, it might have been accidental!

If it happened two times, it might still have been accidental!

But what about 20 times? 50 times?

The netizens and celebrities from the entertainment circle were shocked. First, they were shocked by the speed of Zhang Ye's fingers. Second, they were shocked by his qualities of persistence and shameless perseverance!

...

Shenzhen.

At an entertainment company.

A B-list female actress and singer, who had met with Zhang Ye's "violent sellout" on Weibo earlier, turned to look at the staff member beside her with a stunned face. As she was not particularly familiar with Zhang Ye, she pointed with a blank expression at her cell phone screen showing the Weibo interface. "This guy...is actually a professor at Peking University?"

The staff member smiled wryly. "Yes."

The female actress asked again, "A literary artist?"

The staff member exclaimed, "Yes."

The female actress asked for the third time, "Part of the judiciary?"

The staff member closed his eyes. "Yes."

The actress wiped her sweat away and said, "I didn't study much, so don't try to fool me like that!"

[1. In Chinese netspeak, the OP is known as 'First Floor', while the first to comment is referred to as the 'Second Floor', or 'SF'. When translated to English, this acronym is sometimes referred to as 'shā fā' which means sofa. Another explanation is that whenever a post is made, the first person to reply usually comment with 'so fast' which is usually irrelevant to the content posted, and just for the sake of getting first. Thus, 'so fast' is simplified to sofa and when a netizen snatches the sofa, it just means that they got the first comment or reply.]

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

#### **Chapter 766: Selling like crazy!**

There were traces of Zhang Ye all over Weibo!

He was everywhere!

He was like a shadow that followed you everywhere!

The only reason he could snatch the "sofa" on these celebrities' posts was naturally because he had a method to do so. First off, this fellow was a hacker, the most wanted hacker with the highest bounty in the world, so he definitely used some underhanded means to help himself snatch the sofa. Second, the key reason was because Zhang Ye's hand movement speed was now a far cry from the past. Ever since he had eaten that many Fruits of Agility, his reaction speed had greatly improved. It was the same reason behind his reciting speed; his hand movement speed had also reached a peak. Therefore, no common netizen was able to snatch the sofa from him!

Zhang Ye's promotions had performed beyond expectation, with countless netizens watching on in laughter. Regarding the launch of Plants vs. Zombies, more and more people knew about it by now!

"This joker!"

"Zhang Ye's messing around again, haha!"

"Even though he has been put into the freezer, Teacher Zhang is still so entertaining every day!"

"Is it really a fun game? I'll go and try out Plants vs. Zombies as well then!"

"Supporting Zhang Ye!"

"This promotional campaign is simply astonishing! I'm pretty sure there will be other celebrities doing the same in the future! It's low cost, has a low barrier to entry, and has good effects. This campaign of Zhang Ye's has really touched into a new field of advertising!"

"It's impossible. Who can imitate this style of promoting their products?"

Such promotional techniques might look very straightforward and simple, but in fact, in the entire entertainment industry, only Zhang Ye alone could carry it out. Even if other people followed his strategy down to the letter to do their promotions, they couldn't achieve much of an effect. The reason was simple. First, you needed to have the technique and speed to ensure that you could snatch the sofa successfully. If your comments were a few pages down, who would notice? Even if people noticed, the effect wouldn't be as great, so a majority of those who would want to use this method were already be eliminated. Second, you'd still need to be somewhat of a big shot to do this. A small-time celebrity couldn't carry out such a method of promoting their products. If you were a D- or an E-list rookie and

quite unknown in the entertainment circle, would you try and snatch the sofa of those big shot celebrities' posts and use their platforms to promote your own works? This was obviously not going to earn you any fans. This way of doing things would only devalue the efforts; furthermore, it could possibly offend others. But if you were a big shot, then it probably wouldn't happen this way, since even if everyone did not know each other personally, they would still give a certain amount of face to each other. Even with good hand movement speed and celebrity status, there was still the final requirement to manage something like that. That is, you'd need to have thick skin, reaching to the point of shamelessness!

With a large enough celebrity status.

With a quick enough hand movement speed.

Add on shamelessness to that.

—None of those factors could be missing.

The only person with these three qualities right now in the entertainment circle was Zhang Ye!

That was why this promotional technique could only be managed by Zhang Ye and no one else!

...

Noon.

Zhang Ye's antics finally caught the attention of the official Weibo staff. They had probably noticed him early on, but chose to let it slide at the beginning, thinking that his promotions for the game would stop soon after it started. But as it turned out, Zhang Ye did not even have to thought of stopping. From the morning, he had been snatching the sofas of posts, all the way until noon. It was as though his account had turned into a sofa-snatching specialist account. The Weibo staff found it both funny and annoying. They asked for instructions from their department leader, then grit their teeth as they issued a soft ban on Zhang Ye's Weibo account, stopping him from posting any further!

The reason for the ban: Advertising spam!

When Zhang Ye, who was at home, saw that he could no longer post any comments, he silently cursed under his breath and decided to stop since he had been banned. He shook his tired wrists and then went to get a glass of water. He was actually getting tired already.

He had now done all he could!

The rest was up to Plants vs. Zombies itself now!

...

At Fat Sis' company, everyone was up to their ears with work!

"Has Dayu Video not submitted the animated promotional trailer yet?"

"Uh, they said that they'd get it done today, Fat Sis."

"Go and hurry them up. I've already paid yet they're not getting our jobs done? What the hell!"

"Yes!"

"Fat Sis, quickly have a look at Weibo. Teacher Zhang has been advertising everywhere on Weibo by stealing the sofa on those big shot celebrity posts for the past three hours. Hmm, he's even sacrificed his account and gotten a soft ban!"

"Look at Teacher Little Zhang! Dedicated! He's totally dedicated! Come on, everyone. We have to learn from Teacher Little Zhang and get things moving now! Today is the launch date of our new game, and an important day for the game. The results we'll see in the future will all depend on the effort we put in today! No one should screw up at this critical juncture!"

"Yes!"

"Rest assured, Fat Sis!"

Everyone replied in unison!

Fat Sis asked, "Have the download numbers been calculated yet?"

A person said, "Not yet, but Little Hu is already contacting those game download websites, since we don't have access to their data and can only get it from them one by one. In any case, even if we calculate the data, it's only the statistics for the past four hours."

Fat Sis said, "Four hours worth of data will provide enough of a clue on how we're doing. The players will only need to pay after the first three levels of the game. We're only four hours into the launch now and there are still many players who might have downloaded the game late and not passed the third level yet, so there's no point to look at the serial codes sold for now. It won't be an accurate reflection of the numbers, but the most important thing to know right now is still the number of downloads and popularity of the game. The number of people who download, the number of accounts created—those are the most direct and the most reliable numbers we can check, and those are what I want to know. I will only be able to stop worrying if it can exceed Fishing Master 2's number of downloads!"

"Alright, I will go and hurry Little Hu up!"

"Go on!"

Fishing Master 2 was this year's most popular puzzle game, and since their game was also in the same genre, they definitely had to use it for comparison. Fishing Master 2's launch day downloads numbered close to 100,000, which was the figure for the 24-hour window. So if their Plants vs. Zombies could manage around 20,000 downloads in a four-hour window, then they could say they had succeeded. If it outperformed and got close to 30,000 downloads during that time frame, then they could say for sure that their game had brought some vindication to domestically made games by outdoing Fishing Master 2's results!

But how did they do?

No one knew at this moment!

Everyone was desperately busy and feeling very nervous. Whether their company could be revived all depended on this day. The company had bet everything it had on this release!

Suddenly, a scream sounded from the office across theirs!

"Fat Sis! Fat Sis!" It was Little Hu from the Operations Department!

Everyone looked over at that instant!

Only to see the office door bursting open and Little Hu stumbling into the office. As she was running too quickly, she did not watch her step and even bumped into the door frame, making her clench her teeth in pain, but not enough to slow her pace, as she ran into the office. She held the data documents with excitement, looking overwhelmed!

Fat Sis quickly asked, "Is it out already?"

Little Hu said with a pant, "It's, it's out!"

Fat Sis immediately asked, "How many downloads? Speak, quick!"

A deputy CEO of the company also asked anxiously, "Spit it out, Little Hu. How many downloads are we up to at this moment?"

Everyone's eyes were fixed on her.

Little Hu's face was flushed, not from the running, but from her excitement as she waved the documents in her hands and said, "The number of downloads for the four hours after launch is...47,000!"

When everyone heard this, the large office suddenly burst out in jubilation!

"47,000?"

"Heavens!"

"Hahahaha!"

"It's a success! We did it! We really did it!"

"Why are my eyes turning red? I think I'm gonna cry!"

"We've returned back to business this time! It's a hit!"

"Teacher Zhang is way too amazing! I'd said that this game would be no problem! That it would definitely be popular!"

"In the future, let's see who still dares to look down on our domestically made video games!"

Everyone was yelling in surprise!

Someone even threw all the documents in their hands up into the air!

They were all too excited and no one could control their emotions!

Even the company CEO, Fat Sis, had tears in her eyes. She smacked her hand on the table and repeatedly shouted, "Good! Good! Good!"

The company's Deputy CEO nearly shed a tear as he said in a trembling voice, "47,000 downloads in four hours. Then wouldn't that mean we would definitely surpass Fishing Master 2's 100,000 downloads after 24 hours?"

However, just as they were all celebrating, Little Hu from Operations interjected, "No! No! Fat Sis, CEO Chen, it's not like that!"

Everyone froze.

The Deputy CEO said, "What do you mean by 'it's not like that'?"

Fat Sis was also scowling. "Did you report the wrong statistics to us?"

"Ah?" Everyone thought that this better not be it, otherwise they'd have been happy for nothing!

Little Hu hurriedly waved her hands and said anxiously, "No, I haven't reported it wrong! It's, it's just that you all understood it incorrectly!" She quickly handed over the documents to Fat Sis. "The 47,000 downloads in four hours are not our game's total downloads, b-but the figures from just one of the game download websites, called 77gaming dot net! I still have not managed to get ahold of the other websites for their number of downloads! They have not sent those over to us yet!"

When she said those words, the entire office fell silent!

Fat Sis was startled. "Say that again?"

Little Hu said, "This is just one of the websites' download statistics!"

The Deputy CEO looked shocked, "D-did you get it wrong?"

Little Hu wiped away her sweat. "I thought it was calculated incorrectly too, so I asked 77gaming dot net several times for it, but the numbers they sent to us were always the same!"

Silence!

It was silent again!

47,000 downloads was just one figure from the website of a company among several dozen other companies? No one could believe this! Because...because this was too frightening to be true! If it were real, then the figures were totally unimaginable!

Fat Sis gasped, "Let's go! Lead the way!"

Little Hu knew that they did not believe her, so she quickly led everyone over to the Operations office to "reconcile" the data.

The other employees could no longer be bothered with the work they had on hand. They marched over to the Operations office together and filled that office entirely, both on the inside and outside!

Fat Sis personally handled this matter, even calling 77gaming.net's manager to verify the situation. In the end, the statistics were verified to be true! There was nothing wrong with the numbers. On top of that, during the time she spoke with them, the internal calculation at 77gaming.net for Plants vs. Zombies' total downloads had already gone up to 50,000!

Fat Sis put down the phone dumbfounded.

All the company's employees were also dumbfounded, not saying anything for a long time!

Then, gradually, all the other partner websites began sending over their download statistics!

Fenghe.net: 30,000 downloads!

A certain download host: 70,000 downloads!

A certain software search engine: 26,000 downloads!

Etc, etc, etc!

These were all the statistics for the four-hour window since launch!

Just four hours worth of data!

It was selling like crazy!!

Plants vs. Zombies...was selling like crazy!!!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

**Chapter 767: Steamrolled!**

"Is that real?"

"Oh my god!"

"These statistics are too exaggerated!"

"Aren't, aren't we defying all logic with this?"

"I have a hunch that our company is going to create a shockwave both domestically and overseas this time!"

Everyone sucked in a breath as some stood still, while others were clutching their thumping chests, and some were so excited that their hands were trembling. They didn't know how to express themselves at this point anymore. At this moment, they felt that even if they screamed or cheered, nothing would come out, because these statistics were so unbelievable that this group of people couldn't regain their senses to cheer due to the shock!

The Deputy CEO shivered and said, "Fat Sis."

Another deputy CEO was sweating profusely from his forehead as he sought for instructions. "Should we publicly announce these statistics? Announce it now?"

Fat Sis had at least twice the mental fortitude they had, yet at this moment, her forehead was also sweating profusely. She wiped away her sweat and said, "Don't announce it yet. No one will believe it even if we announce it now. Let's just keep a low profile for now and finish all the promotions and work scheduled for today. We can announce the overall statistics after 24 hours instead!"

"OK!"

"I-I understand!"

Fat Sis suddenly remembered. "Oh yes, inform Teacher Little Zhang about this. He's the biggest contributor and has a share in this game, so there's no need to hide it from him."

"Yes, ma'am!"

Fat Sis gave a wave of her hand. "Hurry up and get back to work!"

Her voice trembled slightly and sounded a bit weak—this was clearly because her heart was beating too fast which caused her blood flow to increase too quickly which resulted in this adverse effect.

...

Caishikou.

At Zhang Ye's parents' house.

Zhang Ye immediately received a call from Fat Sis's company and was informed about the number of downloads for Plants vs. Zombies in the past four hours. After hearing this figure, Zhang Ye took a deep breath as he knew that it was a foregone conclusion from here. No one could stop the rise of Plants vs. Zombies anymore! However, he did not gasp in shock like the group of people at Fat Sis's company. First, Zhang Ye had experienced more things in the past, none of which were less impactful than this event. As a result, his mental fortitude was naturally quite good. Second, Zhang Ye was likely the only person in this world who knew about the background of Plants vs. Zombies. Back in his previous world, be it however much money this game had earned or the amount of downloads, he knew it all quite well!

...

Online.

The heated discussions kept increasing!

"Hurry up and download Plants vs Zombies! It's so fun! I guarantee this on my honor!"

"I'm numb. Who were the ones who trash-talked this game two days ago? That person kept saying how this game was garbage, but when I downloaded the game to try it out, I ended up getting hooked after playing! Previously, playing such puzzle games were just for leisure and to relax ourselves. But Plants vs. Zombies is no longer simply for relaxation. You'll get addicted to it! It's comparable to playing a real-time strategy game! How satisfying!"

"How many downloads has it gotten?"

"I don't know!"

"Who has any idea? Please reveal it to us!"

"They haven't even announced it yet, so who would know what the exact numbers are?!"

"I feel that the number of downloads of this game definitely won't be lower than Fishing Master 2. The worst outcome is that they will be on par! Otherwise, I could never justify that!"

Many of the netizens downloaded the game and had an enjoyable time playing it. On seeing the overwhelming discussion about Plants vs. Zombies online, everyone knew that there were a lot of people playing this game as well. However, they did not know exactly how many and could only wait for the statistics to be released, which would be the most reliable information.

Many people were waiting to see the results of Plants vs. Zombies!

At around 3 PM.

A staff member at a game download website suddenly updated with a post on Weibo: "Everyone should prepare themselves mentally for the number of downloads for Plants vs. Zombies, as it has probably exceeded everyone's expectations. I don't have the overall statistics for the number of downloads of this title with me, but using the number of downloads and traffic flow to our website, we can make a rather accurate estimate. Don't blame me for not warning everyone, so everyone better be mentally prepared for it!"

When the netizens saw this, they pounced onto it right away!

"Just how many is it?"

"Dammit, don't keep us guessing!"

"Are you trying to cliffhanger us? What are the number of downloads of the game on your website?"

"Your sister, hurry up and tell us!"

"Why must we be mentally prepared? Could it be that Plants vs Zombies might exceed 200,000 downloads on launch day? Aren't you thinking too much? The downloads for Fishing Master 2 on the first day were only about 90,000, but Plants vs Zombies might be double that? It can't be that much, right? I know that Plants vs Zombies is very fun, but Fishing Master 2 is a classic sequel from the Americans and is also inheriting the success of Fishing Master 1. It's not just some pushover!"

"Why are you only telling us half the story!? You're really cliffhanging us!"

"Could it really reach 200,000 downloads on the first day of launch?"

"Fuck, if it's really like that, then wouldn't Plants vs. Zombies be defying all logic?"

"Or it might only reach 150,000 downloads?"

"Even 150,000 downloads would be considered very high!"

Everyone was left guessing at what would happen next!

A few gaming industry insiders appeared as well and joined in the guessing and analysis together with everyone.

However, those people who had the information stayed silent at this moment and did not say a word. A reporter at a video game magazine called up a website operator to make an inquiry, but the reply they got was to be mentally prepared, without getting any exact figures!

This was too suspenseful!

But the more they felt this way, the more curious they became!

One hour...

Two hours...

There were some things that could be hidden from gamers but not industry insiders. As professionals in the same circle, each of them had their own network of contacts. Very quickly, many industry insiders obtained the information on the number of downloads for Plants vs. Zombies through various channels!

At this moment, the gaming industry suddenly went quiet!

It was as though the mute button had been pressed and everyone immediately fell silent!

Under this very odd atmosphere, the critical time period of the first 24 hours of launch was ushered in for Plants vs. Zombies!

The next day.

At 8.20 AM.

Under the focus of the entire country, the video game company that produced and published Plants vs. Zombies officially announced the figures of the total downloads across all the game download websites. The download figures for the 23 websites were listed one by one, with the total downloads of Plants vs. Zombies after 24 hours tallying:

1,580,000!

"Ha, it's released!"

"The results have finally been released! I nearly died from the waiting!"

"How much is this?"

"Eh, why are there so many zeros?"

"Wait, let me count the number of zeros!"

"Ten, hundred, thousand, ten thousand, hundred thousand...one, one million!?"

With the initial glance, everyone still could not grasp the big picture, but when they started to count the zeros one by one, everyone got a fright from the numbers in front of them!

"What?"

"Holy fuck!"

"1.58 million?!"

"The-these numbers..."

"G-go to hell!"

"Why is it so fucking high?!"

"What kinds of numbers are those?"

The gamers were dumbfounded!

The media reporters were dumbfounded!

Even those industry insiders who were already mentally prepared were also dumbfounded!

This was obviously not an amount of downloads that a small-scale puzzle game should have received. Let alone puzzle games, even those famous RPG, action, and FPS games—their first day sales couldn't achieve such a volume either! Much less a casual puzzle game for niche audiences!

More than a million downloads?

If the statistics weren't wrong, then it must be the gamers who had gone crazy!

Wasn't Fishing Master 2 a great game? It was the most popular puzzle game nowadays, and the number of downloads for it on release in the domestic market was only about 100,000! Moreover, the game could only set that kind of heaven-defying record because it had accumulated a high amount of popularity from the prequel! But Plants vs. Zombies? It was a brand new game made by a video game company that no one had heard of before, and it was even a domestically made game? The number of downloads on release day had even surpassed Fishing Master 2's downloads by a factor of ten??

The video game industry was in an uproar!

The gamers exclaimed in disbelief!

In recent days, the reputation of Plants vs. Zombies was very well-known and widespread; the feedback after trying out the game was also great. A lot of people commended endlessly about it and the industry's appraisal of it was very high. But even so, after these results were published, the people were still stunned, and nearly even fainted from shock one after another!

More than 1.5 million downloads on launch day!

Ignoring all the puzzle video games published in the world this year, just from looking at the launch day statistics of all the puzzle games in the history of this world, there had never been a result like this either!

This had broken all records in the history of puzzle video games!

And it had broken the old record by several times over!

The closest result to this record by Plants vs. Zombies was set five years ago by a game called My Orchard! It was released in America and the number of downloads on launch day locally was 420,000! It was the bestselling casual puzzle video game in the history of the entire world! But Plants vs. Zombies was between three and four times more downloaded than this long-standing, number one puzzle game in history!

"Oh my god!"

"Oh my god!"

The Internet blew up with countless shocked comments!

Their domestically made games had actually scored a victory over a foreign-made game? And it wasn't simply just a victory, they were fucking steamrolled!

According to calculations from the downloads on launch day, could it be that Plants vs. Zombies might have a chance to head toward 100 million downloads within six months or a year??

Thinking of this, everyone was stunned again!

100 million downloads?

Is this even a fucking puzzle game anymore?

Is this still a puzzle game meant for an extremely niche audience!?

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

### **Chapter 768: Pirated copies start appearing!**

On the same day.

The news of this was appearing all over the place!

"Plants vs. Zombies latest attack!"

"Launch day downloads set new record!"

"Industry insiders predict: Plants vs. Zombies to reach 100 million downloads within six months!"

"Zhang Ye—A person who keeps rewriting his legend!"

"Zhang Ye gives invaluable boost to domestically developed games!"

"The future looks bright for domestically made puzzle games!"

"Plants vs. Zombies steamrolls all similar genre games in this quarter!"

"Zhang Ye has written his name into the annals of China's gaming industry! An insurmountable achievement for puzzle games that others may never beat has been made!"

All of the media was harping about it!

The game was selling like crazy! Newspapers were also selling like crazy!

"What a great feeling!"

"We've really given the foreigners a run for their money this time!"

"Those sales numbers, they're too damn unbelievable!"

"Those other foreign-made games that went on sale in the same period were still boasting about how they wanted to achieve sales of several million or tens of millions during their promotions, but look at this now! They didn't even get close to Plants vs. Zombies!"

"Plants vs. Zombies is on fire! Zhang Ye is also on fire!"

"Thinking about how Central TV Department 1 was trying to put Zhang Ye in cold storage, it really feels like they have been living in their own world all this while thinking that it could work! Zhang Ye is such a godly person. Whichever industry he goes to, he can always shine! How do you stop someone like that? How can you stop someone like that? How laughable are those Central TV Department 1 execs, thinking that they could have the last say in things!"

"Yeah, even the SARFT couldn't keep him down, so who does Central TV Department 1 think they are?"

"Right, if Teacher Zhang intends to keep his popularity, he can just make a game every two months. Not only can he maintain his popularity, he might even gain a significant amount of popularity!"

"It's just a pity about Zhang Ye's program planning talent. Hai, I really like those variety shows he created!"

"I like them too, but I guess there's no way to avoid that. Central TV Department 1 has already cut off his path in the area, so there's no hope that we'll see Teacher Zhang's programs for at least the next half a year or more. We'll have to wait until his contract with Central TV Department 1 runs out. Hai. So during this period, Teacher Zhang will have to find other, unconventional ways to keep increasing his popularity!"

In the following few days.

The download numbers for Plants vs. Zombies continued to soar. The speed at which it increased made the netizens and industry insiders watch while somewhat aghast!

2 million downloads!

5 million downloads!

8 million downloads!

The numbers were skyrocketing!

Ignoring the outsiders, even the staff of the video game company that made Plants vs. Zombies were shuddering at this. It was like they were in a dream, afraid they would wake up at any moment!

Many of Zhang Ye's friends congratulated him.

Big Saber Bro: "Teacher Zhang has created yet another glorious achievement!"

Dong Shanshan: "Congratulations!"

Fan Wenli: "A milestone for domestically made games! An insurmountable achievement!"

Yao Jiancai: "@ZhangYe get me serial code for the game, quickly!"

There were also a few gaming industry insiders who left their comments for Zhang Ye.

Yellow Star Game's Deputy CEO: "Plants vs. Zombies has opened the door for the gaming world. I have never been so confident of our domestic games market than I am today!"

A famous video game producer: "This is our domestic games market's counterattack!"

In the past, their understanding was that casual games were only meant for niche audiences. This was true both domestically and internationally. Many people don't seem to take such puzzle games seriously, believing that they were made by small, indie game companies that did not have the resources or money to develop a proper game. But today, Plants vs. Zombies had changed everyone's mindset with a flick of the wrist! A niche genre? Puzzle games were definitely not a minor genre! It had a massive market that no one could have expected in the past! Looking at the number of downloads of Plants vs. Zombies, would a minor genre video game create such a miracle?

Therefore, puzzle games were also part of the mainstream video game genres!

Although the barrier to entry was low, and the price of such games was low or even free, these were exactly the advantages that puzzle games had. Due to its lightweight size, with the games taking up some tens of megabytes to over a hundred megabytes or so, it made it very convenient to download. If you felt like playing, you'd only take a minute to download and install it. On top of that, the low cost model of such games also attracted a larger group of players, making small profits but with a large volume. The budget needed to produce a puzzle game definitely wasn't going to be greater than that of a large-scale RPG or MMO. In the past, everyone thought that the puzzle game genre was niche because they did not have Zhang Ye's capabilities to make a game that was like Plants vs. Zombies! Not because this genre was underperforming!

The gaming world couldn't be more excited!

Zhang Ye had opened up a path for them, a path that would help them disrupt the movement of foreign games. Due to the differences in technical standards, they were still temporarily unable to create those exquisite 3D-rendered, large-scale games. Other than having a slight advantage in the domestic games market with their xianxia genre video games, they were no match for foreign video game companies in the genres of first-person shooters, fantasy, action, etc. Compared with them, they were of a different class, as some did not have the budget, while others did not have the technical capabilities. However, it was different for puzzle games since they did not have much of a technical barrier to them. What did these games depend on? Creativity! It was creativity that would brighten your eyes! Plants vs. Zombies had given them a good start and let those domestic video game companies struggling on the verge of bankruptcy see the light at the end of the tunnel!

...

On the fourth day after the launch of the game.

Fat Sis officially invited Zhang Ye to a celebratory feast held at The Peninsula Beijing Hotel. All thirty-odd employees of the company were present as well!

There was an abundance of dishes.

There was no lack of alcohol either.

Fat Sis raised her wine glass and declared, "Zhang'er, a toast to you!"

The two Deputy CEOs of the company chorused, "A toast to you!"

"Let's not stand on such ceremony." Zhang Ye clinked his glass with theirs. "This is the collective effort of everyone, not mine alone, so let's not give a particular toast to anyone and just drink together."

One of the Deputy CEOs had taken just a sip of white wine and his face had immediately flushed red. "We've really done ourselves proud this time!"

Fat Sis asked, "Zhang'er, do you think that Plants vs. Zombies can exceed 100 million downloads?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "I don't know, but I think there's a good chance."

A female staff member said excitedly, "It's definitely not going to be a problem! We've already reached 8 million downloads today! I think we can finish the week with 10 million downloads!"

Another staff member added, "Yeah, the sales figures are also out. Paying customers stand at 47% of all users and there are literally millions of yuan coming in every day!"

Their company had initially developed their previous game with an investment of a few million RMB. But after Zhang Ye made his changes to it, although the outlook of the game had changed drastically in Plants vs. Zombies, the core game engine was still the same and there was no need to rebuild the game from scratch. Therefore, even though the publicized investment amount of Plants vs. Zombies was over ten million, it was just a figure of speech and did not reflect anything too accurately. If they were to exclude Zhang Ye's endorsement, copyright, and production fees, the entire sum the company invested was just several million RMB, which was also the maximum amount that their company could afford at that time.

But now, their returns were obviously going to be much greater!

The daily earnings of Plants vs. Zombies were almost about to offset the entire investment into this game! The remaining sales were pure profit! This time, they were going to earn big!

During the dinner, the atmosphere was extremely warm and the staff were all visibly excited.

After some pushing around of wine glasses, Fat Sis looked at Zhang Ye and brought up the matter of the endorsement fee again. "Zhang'er, the game is selling like crazy because of you. You were the one who designed this game, but we have yet to talk about your endorsement and copyright fee. We had a management meeting at the company yesterday and touched on this matter. Whatever is between you and me shall remain private, but we still have to keep business as business and make everything clear beforehand."

Zhang Ye gave a wave of his hand. "Fat Sis, we can talk about this in the future. I don't have any need for money right now, nor do I have anywhere to spend it on."

"But still..." Fat Sis replied.

"Why don't we do it this way." Zhang Ye smiled. "When I need the money in the future, I will ask you for it!"

Fat Sis thought about it and decided, "Fine. I will convert some shares for you and make you one of the company shareholders. As for the amount of the share, I will discuss this with my sister and see how to suitably deal with this. Once I have the details, we can meet again and discuss it. If there're any requests you may have, you can let me know as well."

Zhang Ye bluntly responded, "There's no need to discuss this with me again. Just talk to Old Wu about it and I will listen to her."

These words sounded a little strange.

Fat Sis gave him a look and asked, "You seem rather close with my sister."

Zhang Ye, realizing what he'd said, quickly added, "Yes, Old Wu is my old boss, so whatever my old boss says, I definitely have to accept."

Only then did Fat Sis realize.

Suddenly, a phone call came in.

Fat Sis answered it. "Hello...Yes...What!?"

After she got off the call, Fat Sis did not look too good and everyone gathered around her anxiously.

The Deputy CEO asked, "What's the matter?"

Zhang Ye also asked, "What happened?"

Holding back her anger, Fat Sis said, "There's a pirated version of Plants vs. Zombies that's appeared online!"

"Ah?"

"How could that be!"

"How did it happen so quickly?"

"This is bad news!"

Everyone's faces turned pale!

Pirated version? These were the words that a video game company feared hearing, something that was as bad as taking their livelihood away! The domestic games market already wasn't good to begin with, so if their games were pirated, then what would there be left to make money from? Their earnings would surely take a hit and they might even end up with nothing!

Actually, they had already made preparations for this before the release of the game. Piracy was not a stranger to any video game company, and they knew that it was impossible to avoid it. But even though they were prepared, they couldn't have expected the pirated copy to come so quickly, so quickly that it caught them off guard!

Fat Sis said, "Previously, our company's released games would take a very long time to get pirated, with some taking up to six months or so. That was because our games did not sell well and there weren't exactly many players either, therefore there wasn't any commercial viability for the pirates to spend too much time cracking those games. However, this time, Plants vs. Zombies has become so incredibly popular across the country that those pirates and opportunists must have laid their eyes on this game immediately! They're out to steal our livelihood! Those bunch of bastards!"

Zhang Ye frowned. "They can play even without the serial code now?"

The group of employees beside them started checking online for more information!

Fat Sis nodded. "After the first three levels of the game, they don't need the serial code for the game to work anymore, but that only works until the sixth level. Right now, this pirated copy of the game is not fully cracked and there are still a lot of bugs in it. Many of those who play the pirated version will have the game crash to desktop once they complete the sixth level, which is why we don't need to be too worried for now."

One of the Deputy CEOs said, "We can't not be worried! This game has only been released for a few days and there's already a pirated copy going around. It's only a matter of time before they crack the entire game. Besides, now that many of the players who had intended to purchase the game know about this, who knows if a majority of them will decide to not pay for it anymore and just wait a little longer for the pirated sources. This will affect our sales so much that it's surely going to be a devastating blow to us!"

Fat Sis nodded and said, "Yes!"

Everyone's hearts felt heavy.

Plants vs. Zombies was only just budding, with the media and industry both holding such high hopes for it that they even announced that the game would be able to get a hundred million downloads. But as it turned out, it took just a few days for the pirates to come and destroy its potential! If the game was fully cracked, then how many more official sales of their serial codes would take place? If they depended on domestic market physical sales, there would still be sizable earnings. Together with advertising and other partnerships, they could receive an income from those channels, but the sale of the game's serial code was still the most basic source of earnings for the company and also the largest chunk of it, so this was a channel that they couldn't afford to lose!

At least, they couldn't lose it so quickly!

"What should we do now?"

"Those bunch of wicked pirates!"

"Fuck their ancestors!"

Faced with this unexpected bad news, many of them began cursing. They were no longer in a celebratory mood. With this bad news, the progress that Plants vs. Zombies had gained for the company would all come to naught!

Grasping the situation, Zhang Ye thought for a moment and then stated with a smile, "Hmm, why don't we do this? I'll give it a try and see if we can bring the piracy under control."

The Deputy CEO was taken aback by this suggestion. "What are you going to do?"

The other Deputy CEO replied, "You can even bring piracy under control? How are you going to control it?"

Zhang Ye did not answer them and just said, "I'm going to make a call. Like I said, we can only give it a try."

Chapter 769: The pirates piss their pants!

Many netizens already knew about it.

“Something bad has happened! Plants vs Zombies has been cracked and pirated!”

“I can’t play. It’s always crashing to the desktop!”

“There should be a fully cracked version in a few days.”

“Plants vs. Zombies is in danger! Those software pirates are very ruthless people!”

“We should have guessed. The video game company that made Plants vs Zombies is just a small, unknown company that has limited technology and is inexperienced. Their anti-piracy techniques are definitely not comparable to those big companies. So it wasn’t surprising when that step of purchasing a serial code to continue playing Plants vs Zombies got cracked so quickly. The encryption technique of Plants vs Zombies must be at the most basic level! If it were the other, bigger companies, they’d have ensured that their game wouldn’t be pirated for the next three months!”

“It’s too late to say anything now!”

“That’s right, since the pirated version is already out, we can’t expect this version of Plants vs Zombies to be able to make much money anymore! At most it can only earn some reputation!”

...

Outside.

Zhang Ye found a spot with no one around and leaned on a rather clean wall in the corridor. Then he took out his cell phone and browsed through the names, finally pressing the name “Dong Zhiqiang.”

Du, du. Two rings later, the call connected.

Dong Zhiqiang laughed heartily on the other end of the call: “A rare guest, Teacher Zhang. What made you suddenly think of me that you would give me a call?”

“Director Dong, are you busy right now?” Zhang Ye laughed too.

Dong Zhiqiang replied: “Kinda. There haven’t been too many major cases in recent days.”

Zhang Ye asked: “Is everyone doing well?”

“Everyone is fine. They’re still talking about you when they’re free, especially Fan Yingyun.” Dong Zhiqiang asked: “Why? Is there a reason you’re looking for me?”

Dong Zhiqiang—Director of the National Internet Surveillance Bureau’s First Department. Previously, in order to help Zhang Ye avoid custody, Rao Aimin asked her junior to help him get attached to the Internet Surveillance Bureau’s First Department to work for a short period of time. He even experienced the Sino-Korean hacker war together with them, so their relationship was really quite good and they still kept in contact with each other. However, they were still in the dark about the role Zhang Ye played in the Sino-Korean hacker war. Fan Yingyun also known as “Big Saber Bro” or “Fan” worked in this department too. With several levels of relationships, nobody considered each other as outsiders anymore.

Zhang Ye said: “I wouldn’t come to you if I didn’t have something to ask of you. Hai, actually, I should have paid you a visit personally, but because the issue is quite urgent, I had to call you instead.”

“There’s no need to be so polite with me. If there’s anything you need help with, just say it,” Dong Zhiqiang said without hesitation.

Zhang Ye said: “It’s like this. Didn’t I create a game called Plants vs. Zombies recently?”

Dong Zhiqiang happily replied: “I know about it, of course. The entire team is playing it in the office every single day. Since there is not much work to handle now anyways, I turn a blind eye and let it slide.”

“There’s already a pirated version of the game out.”

“This fast?”

“Yes, so I hoping to ask for your help. Can you strike a blow at the pirates?”

“Ah?”

“The software pirates these days are too rampant, so there should be a serious crackdown on them!”

“You’ve worked with our Internet Surveillance Bureau before, so you should know that this area doesn’t fall under our jurisdiction. Frankly, ours is the serious crime unit for network security. We’re all dealing with international network crimes, cyber-financial crimes, and national security defense,” Dong Zhiqiang said, a little bemused by this. “For pirated games...”

Zhang Ye refuted him, claiming: “Don’t you look down on piracy. This is a very severe issue and will cause harmful effects to the safety of the people. Do you know how rampant the pirates are now? Whether it is games, movies, or novels, no industry can prevent piracy from happening. Because of piracy, the economic losses every year are in the valuations of billions or tens of billions of yuan. Meanwhile, how much money can a cyber-financial crime involve? If it’s tens of millions of yuan, it will be labeled as a major case, right? But what about piracy? It costs several billion in losses! So this is a major case for sure! It’s an earth-shatteringly major case!”

Dong Zhiqiang: “...”

Earth-shatteringly major case? What?!

“Do you know how many families and people’s lives have been destroyed because of piracy? Do you know how many people became homeless because of piracy? My heart is grieving, Director Dong! This really makes me heartbroken! This kind of crime should not be tolerated as it is not only a loss of personal earnings but a loss of earnings for the country as well! Faced with this sort of behavior, we must have zero tolerance for them! We must strike them with a hard blow! We absolutely must not show any mercy to them! I volunteer myself to lead from the front and be the vanguard. We will make an example out of the piracy of Plants vs. Zombies first!”

Initially, his claims were somewhat true, but the longer he went on, the more unreliable his argument became.

Dong Zhiqiang also knew about Zhang Ye’s eloquence as they were already old acquaintances, so he immediately interrupted: “Alright, Teacher Zhang, I understand what you’re getting at. Why not? Since there aren’t many major cases to handle for the next few days anyways, I’ll get the employees to handle this matter. Since it’s for you, they’ll surely be diligent in handling it.”

Zhang Ye replied: "Alrighty then. Thank you, Director Dong."

Dong Zhiqiang laughed: "You are a brother of our Internet Surveillance Bureau's First Department, so why are you being so courteous with me? Just treat everyone to a meal after it's settled."

"That's for sure." Zhang Ye stated: "You all can pick the place."

Since Director Dong agreed, Zhang Ye knew that there would definitely be no problem. The Internet Surveillance Bureau was well known for its reputation, and Zhang Ye knew that only he had such a privilege to seek help from them. If it were other people, there would be no chance that they could get help like this. Even it was just a simple task, a serious crime unit like the Internet Surveillance Bureau would not be bothered to handle cases like online piracy.

When he returned to the room, everyone started questioning him.

"How'd it go, Teacher Zhang?"

"Can you really get our game's piracy under control?"

"Has it been settled?"

Zhang Ye said noncommittally, "It's should be settled soon. Let's just wait for the news."

...

That afternoon.

At 4 PM.

A district police station in the suburbs of Beijing suddenly received an order from their higher-ups to cooperate with the Internet Surveillance Bureau's First Department to arrest a criminal suspect in their area of jurisdiction. As for the exact details of the case, the higher-ups did not specify it to them.

Internet Surveillance Bureau's First Department?

That serious crime unit in the National Internet Surveillance Bureau?

The same Internet Surveillance Bureau's First Department that had uncovered the transnational internet criminal network, involving five deaths and over a billion yuan worth of funds some time ago?

The district police station suddenly went on guard, as though they were facing with a formidable enemy!

Everyone became nervous and were put on high alert!

"Hurry! We've been dispatched! Don't inform the local police post; our district police station will handle it directly! We have to ensure that the information does not leak! Everyone, hand over your cell phones and all communication devices! Contact the Armed Police Force immediately and ask them to deploy 10...no...deploy 20 armed police officers! Remember! Everyone is to wear their bulletproof vest! Be careful and protect yourselves! I repeat, collect your arms and put on your bulletproof vest! Be careful and protect yourselves! We have a major case on hand! Everyone, let's move out!"

With a command from the captain of the district police station, a wide net was cast immediately!

...

At 5 PM in the afternoon.

Inside a house in the suburbs of Beijing.

When Zhang Guangwen was surrounded by more than thirty armed police officers, he was left staring down the barrels of all those guns in tears!

He pissed his pants!

He truly pissed his pants!

The captain of the district police station asked coldly, "What is your name?!"

Zhang Guangwen trembled and said, "Zhang...Zhang Guangwen!"

The captain of district police station shouted, "Put your hands behind your head and squat down!"

Zhang Guangwen didn't know what to do and kept flailing his arms about. "Policeman Bro, Policeman Uncle, what is...what is this..."

Seeing him still moving about with his hands touching his pocket at times and looking like he was reaching for a "weapon," all the police officers brought up their guns in alarm and shouted, "Don't move! Do not move! We're warning you! Put your hands behind your head immediately! Otherwise we will shoot!"

There was a policeman holding an unknown equipment sweeping through the room nervously. He seemed to be sweeping the place for explosives!

Zhang Guangwen began to cry. He acknowledged that he was not a good person, but he couldn't be considered an evil person either. The most he did was to dabble around with technology, cracking some games when he had nothing to do and selling them to the pirates to make some money. He swore that he had never committed any heinous crimes before! The present situation in front of him had nearly scared the shit out of him. More than thirty armed police officers wearing bulletproof vests had come to arrest me?

I am done for!

This is going to end with a death sentence!

And it's not even going to be a normal death sentence! This is going to be an execution with me getting shot several times until I die!

My life is over!!

Zhang Guangwen's eyes rolled backwards and he fainted.

At this moment, a call from the Municipal Public Security Bureau arrived.

The head of the Municipal Public Security Bureau asked: "Have you arrested the person yet?"

The captain of the district police station answered: “Yes, we have caught him. We are searching for weapons or bombs in his house at the moment!”

The head of the Municipal Public Security Bureau was stunned. “What weapons? What bombs?”

The captain of district police station was also stunned. “Isn’t this person a wanted international criminal? This bunch of fugitives can do anything and it would not surprise me if there were weapons in his house!”

The head of the Municipal Public Security Bureau said: “What weapons are you talking about? He’s just a person who cracked and pirated some games. The Internet Surveillance Bureau’s First Department wanted to give the pirates a warning. That’s why I issued an order for you all to arrest and interrogate him!”

Ah?

They are software pirates of games??

Fuck, why didn’t you say so earlier?! We even put on our bulletproof vests for this!

The officers of the district police station vomited blood at this all at once. “...%^^%###@!!”

Didn’t the National Internet Surveillance Bureau’s First Department only specialize in major or serious crime cases? When did they responsible for arresting pirates? When did they become so “close” to the citizens?!

...

Meanwhile.

On the Internet, the pirated Plants vs. Zombies download resources suddenly and completely disappeared within the hour. Not even a trace of it could be found anymore, as though it had never appeared to begin with. There were even four pirated game download websites that had been shut down and were totally inaccessible now! Several other pirated game download websites were still accessible for now. All the other games were still available online, except for the cracked version of Plants vs. Zombies, whose game resources had all been deleted and the game discussion board was also shut down and deleted!

It was like a land beset by war!

The pirate websites were facing a monstrosity of an enemy and even the managers of the websites were scared shitless after the Public Security Bureau or Internet Surveillance Bureau paid them a “visit”! Since they were in this business to earn their living, they couldn’t have not heard of the famous Internet Surveillance Bureau. They did not know whose foot they had stepped on that warranted such a mighty organization like theirs to be alerted! Later, when the pirates knew they were being investigated regarding the piracy of Plants vs. Zombies, the choice of these pirates and pirated games hosting websites was clear: Delete all related resources—they could not afford to offend such a serious organization as the Internet Surveillance Bureau!

This was an organization involved with major international crime! If the pirates offended them, they might just get framed for some major international crime which they could not possibly bear the accusation of!

Hence, their networks were cleaned out!

Except for the insiders, no one knew what was going on!

Some of the netizens were still wondering!

“What the hell is happening?”

“Why are the pirated sources of Plants vs. Zombies all gone?”

“Fuck, how absurd it is! They really are all gone. Even the pirated resources of Plants vs Zombies hidden in my cloud storage host can’t be found anymore!”

“Is this a crackdown on piracy?”

“That can’t be. Why can I still find other pirated games then?”

“That’s right. Why is it that only the pirated version of Plants vs Zombies is gone?”

“Holy shit! Even the pirates are selective on the games they pirate? Maybe they saw that Plants vs. Zombies could take up the difficult task of propping up and reviving the dreams of our domestically made video games, so they have all collectively removed the pirated resources of Plants vs. Zombies? Because they want to support domestically made video games?”

“My eyes are getting teary!”

“Previously, I was prejudiced against pirates, but today, this matter has made me change my opinion of them! Their hard work behind the scenes without asking for returns has seriously touched many people! I thank you on behalf of Teacher Zhang Ye! You guys are the best! You guys are the heroes behind the scenes, the conscience of the industry!”

The piracy issue was solved!

The number of downloads for Plants vs. Zombies continued to increase rapidly again!

9 million downloads...

9.5 million downloads...

What followed next was Zhang Ye’s rise in popularity. A few days ago, after Zhang Ye’s period of being placed in cold storage had started, his popularity had been stagnating for a while and had even showed signs of declining. But after the release of Plants vs. Zombies that became popular throughout the country, Zhang Ye’s popularity curve on the celebrity rankings immediately reversed, with the curve turning around and going upwards as his popularity rose steadily!

He moved up another spot in the B-list rankings again!

He surpassed a B-list movie star and was now occupying a spot firmly in the middle of the B-list!

Moreover, under the continued popularity of Plants vs. Zombies, even though his popularity did not explode by a lot, it at least guaranteed that Zhang Ye's popularity would not fall in the coming couple of months. Taking advantage of the inertia of the game's popularity, Zhang Ye's popularity would be able to maintain an overall upward trend. Since he had been put in cold storage by Central TV Department 1, he had finally found a temporary solution for his source of popularity. All this made it extremely worthwhile and not in vain for Zhang Ye to have taken the world-famous game from his previous world and brought it into this world!

### I'm Really a Superstar

#### **Chapter 770: Inviting Old Wu home**

Saturday.

It was a little after 6 AM in the morning. The fresh autumn air made for unusually good weather.

Zhang Ye was still sleeping in under the covers when he was awakened by clattering coming from the living room. Shortly after that, his bedroom door opened and his parents were standing at the door with Chenchen, dressed to the nines.

His father called out to him, "Little Ye, we're leaving now."

Zhang Ye replied helplessly, "You guys were actually serious about going to Tianjin to play?"

"Didn't we tell you yesterday?" His mother said with a laugh, "Since we have nothing to do during the weekend anyway, we just wanted to bring Chenchen out to enjoy ourselves. If you get hungry, order some takeout for yourself."

Chenchen asked, "Zhang Ye, do you want to go?"

Zhang Ye mumbled, "I would like to, but you have to ask my mom if she'd let me!"

His mother leered at him and picked up her suitcase. "Why would you go? Just stay at home! If you follow us around, could we still enjoy ourselves? You'd attract too much attention and get us surrounded by people wherever we go. They would definitely want to ask you for your autograph, making it difficult for us to move around. So you should just stay at home and sleep all you want. We will be coming back on Sunday night anyway."

Zhang Ye turned back around to continue to sleep. He said, "OK, I understand."

Dong. The door closed.

His parents left. Only Zhang Ye was left in the house. He actually felt quite tired since he didn't get enough sleep, but after his family left the house, he somehow couldn't fall back asleep. After he tossed and turned and yawned several times, Zhang Ye patted his mouth a few times before grabbing his cell phone from the nightstand. He went onto the internet and browsed around casually. Now that Plants vs. Zombies had solved the pressing issue of his source of popularity, which had now stabilized, Zhang Ye was no longer too worried. He had taken the past few days off and did not go to work, unafraid of getting into any trouble with Central TV. This fellow was in fact hoping that Central TV Department 1 would fire him, so that his contractual issue could be solved and so he could go seek a new job at

another television station. However, he knew that Central TV Department 1 would never allow him to leave.

With his popularity constantly rising, and the freedom to take days off, this wasn't too bad.

Suddenly, his cell phone vibrated.

Di di. There was a message from his instant messaging app. The message came from the alias "Water Lotus Moon"—which was Wu Zeqing's online username.

Water Lotus Moon: "Are you up?"

Zhang Ye took a look and broke out into a smile as he replied: "Just now, how about you?"

Water Lotus Moon: "Same here. Big Sis is still lying in bed right now."

Zhang Ye: "Is it your day off today?"

Water Lotus Moon: "Yes. Is there anyone beside you right now?"

Zhang Ye: "There's no one here. What's up?"

Just as Zhang Ye was wondering why Old Wu was asking him that, a di di sounded and one picture was sent over, followed by a second, a third, a fourth and...

He was about to reply when he received an invitation to join a video call.

Zhang Ye quickly tapped to answer, and a moment later he could see Wu Zeqing on the cell phone screen.

"Old Wu," Zhang Ye said with a rather dry throat.

Wu Zeqing put her hair up. "Did you get it?"

Zhang Ye nodded furiously. "Yes, I did. It was very nice!"

Wu Zeqing nodded. "I feel like I've slimmed down a little recently, so I wanted you to have a look. Did I slim down?"

"Yes, a little, but it's not that obvious." Zhang Ye gulped. "You look good no matter what!"

Old Wu: "How have you been recently?"

Zhang Ye: "I've taken a few days off and been recharging myself with this break. Everything's great."

Old Wu: "Do you really not want me to help regarding the issue with Central TV Department 1?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said: "There's no need to. Our relationship is not public and it's not really suitable. Besides, I have my own ways of handling it. I'll let nature take its course, so don't worry about it."

Old Wu nodded. "Alright then, Big Sis will respect your decision."

Zhang Ye, wanting some approval, asked: "The Plants vs. Zombies game that I made should have brought quite a lot of fame to your older sister's company, right? I'm sure they at least won't be forced to close now."

Wu Zeqing smiled in the video call. "My sister came to ask me yesterday about how many shares she should give to you, but since I don't have a grasp of such things in this area and I don't understand it well either, I did not decide for you."

Zhang Ye sighed: "It doesn't matter how many shares I get. Your older sister is also my older sister; we're all family. If we talk about money, it won't be good. Actually, I've never cared much about money. You should know that as well. What I care about is whether it brings me any fame, whether it aids my development in the entertainment circle. Everything else is secondary. I actually have to thank your sister this time. If not for her company which had already created the skeleton of the game and their entire team's trust, Plants vs. Zombies couldn't possibly have been made so successfully. And my popularity wouldn't have gone up so quickly either. In fact, it would have gone down instead."

Old Wu said: "Hur hur, my older sister and my nephew both owe you one."

Zhang Ye waved it off and said: "Look at you. You're my girlfriend. Why do you keep harping about owing this and owing that? You make yourself sound like an outsider." Then he immediately changed the topic. "Why are we still video calling? About that, my parents went to Tianjin for a short trip and there's no one at home. Why don't you come over for a bit?"

Old Wu said gently: "Now?"

Zhang Ye replied: "I haven't had breakfast yet and I'm getting a little hungry."

In the video call, Old Wu turned her head, probably to take a look at the clock, and then turned back to say: "Alright, send your address to Big Sis. I will get ready and take a shower first. It will probably take an hour for me to get there."

Zhang Ye said: "Don't be like that. Our places are so near to each other. It shouldn't take an hour to get here. It just a five-minute drive away. Don't bother showering. Even if you go a year without a shower, you will still be beautiful. Just come over straightaway. You can make something for me to eat when you get here. This bro is so hungry that he could faint at any time now! I can't wait any longer!"

Old Wu held her hair in front of her eyes, checking to see if it was dirty, then said, "Alright, Big Sis will be there in 20 minutes then. What do you want to eat?"

Zhang Ye: "Anything is fine."

Old Wu: "OK, I'll be hanging up then."

On the screen, the image was shifted to Wu Zeqing's lower lip and chin before a click tone sounded and the video was cut off.

Putting his cell phone aside, Zhang Ye took a deep breath then rolled out of bed. It was a little cool inside the house now, so he took out a pair of long johns and changed into them before stepping into his slippers to head outside to wash his face and brush his teeth. Afterwards, he scrambled about to arrange the stuff in the living room and bedroom, sweeping the floors and mopping them, doing it all very diligently. Thinking of, this was actually the first time he was bringing his official girlfriend into his house, so he thought that he should at least leave a good impression on Old Wu.