

Superstar 1341

Chapter 1341: The entire world's Chinese population gets shocked!

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

"That was so amazing!"

"This is good, this is good!"

"How did that happen?"

"Just how on earth did he make it disappear?"

"Stop talking and keep watching."

...

At Old Wu's parents' house.

"Aiyo!"

"That gave me such a fright!"

"This—this—"

"Where's the apple juice? Where did the juice disappear to?"

"We have to ask Little Ye when he gets back!"

...

In a household.

"Dear, quickly come over and watch the magic show!"

"I'm playing mahjong."

"Stop playing! Come quickly!"

"What's the matter?"

"The magic show this year is unlike those from the past years!"

...

This was what close-up magic was. There weren't any grand scenes.

But sometimes, it was exactly such simple things that would thrill and excite people!

On television, Yan Mei was walking over in amazement. "Thank you, thank you, Chen Tian. That was spectacular."

Chen Tian stood up and said to her with a smile, "Hello."

Yan Mei said to the audience, "Today, we've invited several audience members to sit around him, in front, behind, on the left, and on the right. They will be observing from a close distance as he performs his magic. You can say that every move that he makes will be closely scrutinized." She then also sat down at the table. "Of course, I'm also one of those who will be observing."

Chen Tian inhaled. "Such great pressure." He took his seat as well and looked at the camera with a smile. "Alright then, everyone, let's have a look at the things that I will be using today. First, there's this round table." He stretched out his hand and tapped on the surface. "This is acrylic glass."

Clunk clunk clunk.

Chen Tian said, "It's very strong."

Yan Mei doubtfully stretched out her hand to give it a tap.

Chen Tian smiled and asked, "So does it feel strong?"

Yan Mei nodded. "Yes."

Chen Tian turned his head and asked the audience member next to him. "Give it a try too."

The middle-aged man also tapped on it a few times.

Chen Tian asked, "Does it feel strong?"

The middle-aged man said, "It's strong."

Chen Tian said, "Alright, I will require the use of a mat for my next act." Then he took out a black mat and placed it onto the table. "And these, some coins, as well as a glass bowl." He took them out one by one. "Actually, the entire process is very simple." He looked to the right. "Sir, could I borrow your right hand?"

The middle-aged man was a little startled before reaching out his hand.

Chen Tian lowered his head and narrowed his eyes. "Did you wash your hands?"

The audience broke out into laughter. "Hahahaha."

Chen Tian placed three coins in the middle-aged man's hand and then took one for himself. "What I will do next is to push this coin through the tabletop and catch it from below!"

Yan Mei was surprised. "What?"

The audience was also dumbfounded!

What did you say?

Push it through?

The glass?

How is that possible?!

—That was everyone's initial reaction!

Chen Tian smiled and said, "I know that this sounds quite unbelievable, so I want to make a pact with everyone. If I pull it off, I won't ask for much, just give me five seconds of applause. Can you all do that?"

Yan Mei said, "Much less five seconds, I'll even clap for ten seconds for you!"

The audience members stared with wide eyes.

Chen Tian smiled. "Well then, watch closely. Don't blink."

He held up the coin and pinched it with his fingers. His other hand was holding the glass bowl and positioned under the table. The atmosphere seemed to have frozen.

One second.

Two seconds.

All of a sudden, Chen Tian loosened his grip on the coin.

The next moment, something clinked from below the table!

Yan Mei was stunned!

The audience burst into an uproar!

Chen Tian brought the glass bowl back into view from under the table. The coin was in the bowl!

Instantly, applause rang out!

"Oh my God!"

"Damn!"

"It really went through!"

"How did he do it?"

"Th-This is too unbelievable!"

The atmosphere at the venue erupted!

The TV viewers were also stunned. They could feel goosebumps all over their body! They had seen it happen right before their very own eyes!

Yan Mei exclaimed, "H-How did you do it?"

Chen Tian gave her a look. "Ms. Yan Mei, I can sense from the look in your eyes that you're doubtful. I know what you're thinking. You're thinking that this black mat on the table should have something in connection to the coin passing through the tabletop, am I right? Please say yes."

Yan Mei helplessly said, "Yes."

The audience was amused.

That's right!

The mat on the table!

That mat must be a magician's prop!

Chen Tian smiled and said, "Alright, since Ms. Yan Mei has her doubts, I will remove this mat from the table." He really took it away. "If I can make the coin pass through the table in such circumstances, that would really be too incredible." He looked into the camera. "So I still have the same request. If I can do it, I won't ask for much again. All I need is two hours of applause from you all."

Yan Mei giggled. "Pfft!"

The audience laughed. "Pfft!"

Hahahaha!

Two hours?

And you claim that's not asking for much!

Do you know how many hours the Spring Festival Gala runs for!

Chen Tian had already picked up a coin and placed it onto the glass table. He covered it with his hand and then positioned the bowl underneath to catch it.

The venue fell silent!

Chen Tian did not move.

The audience did not blink.

Suddenly, Chen Tian shifted his hand a little.

At the same moment, the entire Chinese world's viewers watched as the coin suddenly fell through the glass and clinked into the bowl!

...

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

His three sisters screamed!

His parents also exclaimed out loud!

...

At Old Wu's parents' house.

Wu Mo was dumbfounded from watching!

Wu Changhe and Li Qinqin couldn't look any more surprised!

...

At the venue.

A lot of people were so shocked that they forgot to clap!

Yan Mei said, "What just happened?" She rapped the tabletop. "What's going on here?"

Chen Tian looked at her. "Ms. Yan Mei, I can again sense from the look in your eyes that you're still doubtful. I know what you're thinking. Even though the coin has passed through the tabletop, my hand was covering it at the moment that it fell through it. You must be thinking that there's some kind of trickery in there, right? Please say yes."

Yan Mei gave a wry smile. "Yes."

The audience laughed.

"Hahahaha!"

"She didn't say anything at all!"

"You're just making things up yourself!"

Chen Tian wiped his hands. "OK, due to Ms. Yan Mei's doubts, I shall attempt an even harder challenge. I'll make the coin pass through the acrylic glass without covering it up with my hands or anything else."

What?

Not covering it?

The audience once again burst into an uproar!

Then Chen Tian said something even more shocking. "And not only that, I'll let you pinpoint which area of the glass surface you want me to make it pass through."

Yan Mei randomly pointed. "Here then."

Chen Tian asked, "Over here? Alright." He placed the three coins together at the spot Yan Mei pointed at on the glass. "On top of that, you can choose any one of the coins that you wish to see passing through the glass."

Yan Mei was startled. "Me? Pick a coin?"

Chen Tian nodded. "Yes."

Yan Mei chose without thinking. "I'll choose the one in the middle."

The live audience applauded loudly!

Good one!

The middle coin is the most difficult one to attempt!

Being in the middle, it was in between the two other coins!

Chen Tian said, "The one in the middle? Alright, no one blink." He bent forward and reached a hand underneath the table. He pointed at the middle coin from below the glass. "Is it this one?"

Yan Mei had a look. "Yes."

But before the audience could react!

Chen Tian suddenly slapped his hand against the bottom of the glass!

Yan Mei jumped!

The audience was surprised too!

Clink-ring-ring!

The coins on the table flipped into the air from the force!

The next moment, everyone discovered to their shock that there were only two coins left on top of the glass. Meanwhile, the coin that was in the middle had now impressively appeared in Chen Tian's palm below the table!

Applause!

Cheers!

Screams!

All of that filled the stage in a split second!

...

It blew up on Weibo!

"Ahhh!"

"This—this—"

"That was so impressive!"

"How did he do that!"

"My God!"

"Does it need to be so ruthless!"

"Why aren't there any loopholes?"

"Yeah, why can't anyone spot it?"

"Damn, I'm almost laying down before the television!"

"Heavens!"

...

On TV.

Yan Mei continuously exclaimed, "I'm can't even believe my eyes."

Chen Tian looked at her yet again.

Yan Mei nodded and said, "I'm doubtful!"

Chen Tian said, "Ah? But I haven't even asked."

"You did not ask, but I know that you'll be asking me to say 'please say yes.'"

The audience was rolling with laughter!

Chen Tian laughed and said, "In fact, most magicians would end their show at this point. But since we're on the stage of the Spring Festival Gala tonight, I'd like to extend it a little."

The audience became very excited upon hearing that!

Wow!

There's still more?

What else can he come up with?

Shouldn't that already be the furthest he can go?

He already made the coin pass through the tabletop without covering it, so what else could he be attempting?

A minute later!

When Chen Tian covered one of his hands and pushed it through the glass tabletop to retrieve those coins from Yan Mei's palm below the table!

The entire audience went crazy!

The countless TV viewers were so startled that they jumped out of their seats!

"Ahhhh!"

"My God!"

"Fuck, did they really have to make it so ridiculous!"

"God!"

"Someone tell me that this isn't real!"

"Why?"

"How?!"

A magic act that had never gained acceptance in the many years of the Spring Festival Gala had ignited the entire venue!

Astonishment!

Shock!

Thrill!

Dumbfoundedness!

All kinds of expressions appeared on everyone's faces!

They had really gone crazy. This magic show was too stunning!

This was Zhang Ye's idea?

This was Zhang Ye's concept?

It was stunning despite being simple!

There was humor within the shock!

This magic act was absolutely perfect!

Chapter 1342: Restoring honor to the art of cross-gender acting!

Chen Tian was on fire.

The magic act was on fire as well.

Even the insiders in the field of magic were very amazed.

"How did the apple juice disappear?"

"What about the coin?"

"Did he use misdirection to distract?"

"Are the coins a prop?"

"What trickery did they incorporate into it?"

"I can't figure it out."

"What about the glass? What's the mechanism to make it work?"

"Did anyone spot how the trick was done?"

"There weren't enough gaps to analyze how the trick was done!"

"I figured out one, but not the rest. We'll need to play it back slowly so that we can analyze it carefully."

"Chen Tian's technique has always allowed him to be recognized as one of the better magicians in the industry. He has handled the details of the tricks very well. But even so, why have I never heard of Chen Tian having skills in this aspect of magic?"

"Yeah, how did he suddenly get the skills?"

"He even included humor into his interactions during the act. This isn't his usual style of magic."

"Could it be Zhang Ye?"

“I heard that too, that the magic trick was designed by Zhang Ye.”

“But he’s a layman. How could he possibly think up something like that?”

“God knows!”

This magic act called “Myriad of Changes” had even shocked the industry insiders, not to mention the common folk. Everyone knew that magic was just an illusion. There was no such thing as instant teleportation or supernatural powers to speak of. But as for where the trickery lay, no one could figure it out!

That was why they were stunned!

That was why they praised it!

Very quickly, the whole Internet was taken over by discussions related to this magic act!

...

Tianxi Company.

The apple juice advertisement was sponsored by them.

Thinking to back then, Tianxi Purified Water and Family Spring were direct competitors in the bottled water industry. That earth-shattering advertising battle between Li Xiaoxiao and Zhang Ye was still fresh in the minds of everyone. It could be said that Tianxi Company and Zhang Ye were foes since he had dominated them. But it was precisely because Tianxi and Zhang Ye had such a confrontation that they knew how good he was. There were no eternal foes, so they also took part in the bidding of the advertising rights for the Spring Festival Gala this time. In their bid, they had even identified that they wanted Zhang Ye to design the way their ads appeared. From the looks of it, this decision couldn’t be more correct!

“The ad has been placed!”

“This is such a good placement!”

“Although it was only given one scene and a single tagline, it’s great!”

“Yeah, everyone will talk about our brand now whenever they discuss the trickery behind that magic act!”

“This money was quite well-spent!”

...

At the Spring Festival Gala.

The acts followed one after another.

...

The acrobatics act.

This was the most popular acrobatics show in all of the Spring Festival Galas in Zhang Ye's previous world. Its difficulty, set design, and admiration for it were all spectacularly marvelous. Zhang Ye had spent a great deal of effort in approaching many acrobatic and performance troupes before he managed to bring the act to this world.

The audience was dazzled by the sight.

"Here we go again!"

"It's time for the acrobatics show!"

"Wow!"

"Bravo!"

"Bravo!"

"This is so exciting to watch!"

"These performers are amazing!"

"They can even execute a move like that?"

"Impressive!"

"This acrobatics show is so freaking awesome!"

...

At the venue.

In the audience.

There was a woman who wasn't paying attention to any of the performances. Her name was Zhao Ke, the wife of Gao Xiliang who was the successor to the art of cross-gender acting. Watching the acts onstage and listening to the cheers and applause of the audience around her, she was completely indifferent to it all. Right now, she was very nervous because her husband was about to take to the stage. How could she care to watch the other acts?

Honestly speaking, this was the first time that Zhao Ke was seated in the audience to watch her husband perform. In so many years, she had always been around whenever her husband performed. That was because she was his agent as well. However, she had not once sat in the audience to watch him perform. She was afraid that she would have to listen to the people around her speaking ill of her husband. The thing that angered her most was listening to others criticize her husband, so she might as well not hear that and just wait in the backstage for her husband to finish performing. But it was different today. She was seated in the front row to cheer her husband on. She wasn't going to hide anymore!

Old Gao!

Don't be nervous!

You can do it!

You won't have any problems!

Show them how hard you've worked for the past 20 years!

Let them see what real cross-gender acting is all about!

...

Onstage, the acrobatics show had just ended.

The host came back onstage to introduce the next act.

On TV, the info box was clearly displayed onscreen.

" The New Drunken Concubine 1 "

Lyrics: Zhang Ye.

Composer: Zhang Ye.

Choreography: Zhang Ye.

Performer: Gao Xiliang.

...

Here it comes!

Here it comes!

Zhao Ke's heart jumped into her throat. She could feel the veins in her neck pulsing hard. The only worries she had now were that the audience would not accept the performance and not give her husband recognition. She turned her head and looked around at the audience who was still discussing the previous act. In her head, she was screaming out pleas.

Please, everyone!

These are Old Gao's painstaking efforts that he put all his life into!

Please watch him and give him your attention!

Please listen to him seriously!

The colors on the stage changed!

The music came on and the lighting changed!

What amazed everyone most was that a platform had slowly started rising up in the middle of the stage 2 . On top of it was a person dressed as a woman, wearing a large red robe, and surrounded by dancers!

"Wow!"

"How beautiful."

"Who's that woman?"

"I don't know."

"I don't know her either."

Audience members were discussing the act.

But when the melody played, when Gao Xiliang started moving his long, flowing robes and began singing, countless TV viewers and live audience members were dumbfounded!

"Love and hate happen in a second.

"I toast the moon to show my affection.

"Lost in this love-hate relationship.

"My lord, when will you love me again?

"The chrysanthemums reflect the moonlight.

"Who knows of the chill in my love's heart?

"Drunk in Your Majesty's arms,

"Dreaming of the Tang."

A beautiful sleeve dance 3 !

A stunning and beautiful face!

A gentle and lovely singing voice!

Everyone was enchanted at the sight!

...

Not many people knew who he was.

The majority of the people did not even know about Gao Xiliang.

Online.

"She's so beautiful!"

"She's really beautiful!"

"Why haven't we seen this woman before?"

"That's a man."

"Get lost, previous poster!"

"Haha, do you know any man who's that beautiful? And can sing with such a womanly charm?"

"That's really a man. His name is Gao Xiliang. You can search for him online."

"What?"

“Damn, I searched for him!”

“That’s really a goddamn man!”

“Heavens!”

“A man?”

“Oh my God! What’s happening?”

“Impossible! That’s impossible!”

“Dammit, if this is a man, then how many people in the world still dare to call themselves women?”

“W-What kind of a performance is this?”

“I heard that it’s called a cross-gender act!”

“Cross-gender? This is really very impressive!”

“He’s totally able to pass as a real woman!”

“What the hell! This is awesome! It’s so impressive!”

“Yeah, he must be very skilled! I don’t think he could do it if he didn’t put in 10 to 20 years of hard work into the craft! Those movements, that demeanor, and that voice, everything about it is imitated to perfection!”

“I’ve met a truly godly person today!”

...

At a newspaper firm.

Several reporters were dumbfounded from watching this performance.

...

At Zhang Ye’s maternal grandma’s house.

The entire family was in disbelief.

...

At Old Wu’s parents’ house.

The entire family was stunned.

...

At the venue.

Zhao Ke was also stunned. She had thought that there would be voices of scolding and ridicule. However, she heard none of that!

Everyone around her was praising it.

“Cross-gender act?”

“This isn’t some simple cross-dressing act!”

“Is this some form of art?”

“It definitely is!”

“Yeah, if this isn’t art, then what is!”

“Too beautiful! From head to toe, I can only describe it with one word: beautiful!”

Applause thundered!

Praise flooded in!

Some audience members even put up their hands and cheered loudly!

Hearing all of that around her, Zhao Ke looked at her onstage husband and then smiled. Her tears started rolling down uncontrollably!

Old Gao!

Can you hear this?

Do you hear them?

All of the applause is for you!

They’re all cheering for you!

What is cross-gender acting?

Not many knew about it in the past.

And not many understood it either.

Contempt.

Disdain.

Strange looks.

That was how everyone viewed them in the past.

Therefore, Zhao Ke felt very grateful to Zhang Ye. Because on this day, Zhang Ye had gone against all that pressure and stood his ground to bring this cross-gender act onto the stage of the Spring Festival Gala. Because on this day, Zhang Ye had restored honor to the art of cross-gender acting!

This wasn’t cross-dressing!

It was art!

It was a genuine form of art!

Chapter 1343: Attack of the ‘Thousand-Hand Guanyin’!

On Weibo.

A heated discussion was going on.

“This year’s Spring Festival Gala is really different!”

“The acts are all very novel.”

“Yes, I agree with this view. It’s so refreshing!”

“Many of the acts have never been seen before!”

“Yeah, it’s my first time hearing of something like cross-gender acting!”

“This year’s Spring Festival Gala is so damn enjoyable!”

“Right, only the skits and crosstalks were watchable in the past, and some were not even that interesting to speak of. But this year’s songs and dances, as well as the magic show have all left the audience in shock!”

“Zhang Ye is really quite capable.”

“I heard that there are still many new acts lined up.”

“Ah? There’s still more?”

“Yes, like that dance by the deaf-mute dance troupe.”

“I’ve seen the program list too, but what kind of a deaf-mute dance troupe are they?”

“How can the deaf-mute dance? I still don’t get it.”

“That’s true. Like that ‘Flying Apsaras’ from before, I thought that it was a rather good performance. There are so many good, able-bodied dancers in China, so why didn’t they just get them instead? Wouldn’t they dance better?”

“Eh, looks like it’s coming up!”

“It’s the next act?”

...

On TV.

The live broadcast was still ongoing.

The Central TV host, Yan Mei, stood onstage with a smile that looked slightly restrained. “Next up, I would like to introduce a teacher to everyone. Her name is Qi Xiaomei and she is the coach of the deaf-mute dance troupe from the China National Ethnic Song and Dance Ensemble.”

The cameras switched to the audience.

In the front row, Qi Xiaomei stood up nervously. She put out her hands and used sign language to greet everyone.

Yan Mei translated, "She said hello to everyone."

The audience greeted her with applause.

Qi Xiaomei once again broke into sign language.

Yan Mei said, "Teacher Qi is saying that the children might live in a world with no sound, but the voices in their heads are the same as yours and mine." With a pause, she observed Qi Xiaomei's sign language and explained, "They live in a world without a spoken language, but they'll use their way of communicating to connect with everyone, thank you."

Qi Xiaomei gave a slight bow.

The audience applauded again.

Yan Mei faced the camera. "Now, I would like to introduce a very special act to everyone. It's special because the performers who are taking part in this performance are all living in a soundless world. They can't hear their parents' affectionate voices, and of course, cannot perceive the beautiful melodies of music. But even so, they would still like to send us a new year's greeting with their beautiful dancing. Let us enjoy this upcoming dance: 'Thousand-Hand Guanyin 1.'" ."

...

At Old Wu's parents' house.

Wu Changhe said, "It's starting."

Li Qinqin also said, "This act feels like a very risky choice."

"Yes, there's huge controversy over it," Wu Changhe replied.

...

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

His eldest younger sister had her hands clasped together. "God bless, God bless!"

His other two sisters were chanting, "Please bless this act with smooth sailing!"

Zhang Ye's maternal grandma asked, "What are you girls doing?"

His second sister said, "Grandma, you don't know about it, but this act has been constantly criticized by people on the Internet ever since the second approval session. It has been slammed into the ground."

...

Online.

Everyone was indeed still arguing about this act.

"I think that it's pretty good."

“What’s so good about it?”

“It must be a task the upper management set for them.”

“There’s a really good chance that they wanted the handicapped to be included as part of the gala.”

“But the effect of this act won’t be good.”

“I do sympathize with our disabled friends, but the Spring Festival Gala is quite different. This is not some charity gala, so there’s a need to allow only whoever is good enough to perform on the show.”

“Well, maybe they’re really that good at dancing.”

“Come on, I don’t believe that a deaf and mute person can dance better than an able-bodied one.”

“Yeah, they can’t even hear the music!”

A lot of people had doubts about this. The deaf-mute dance troupe’s act was one of the most controversial ones ever since Zhang Ye’s program list was revealed. Some people expressed their support for it and encouraged this sort of a move. Having disabled performers on the Spring Festival Gala was also a humanistic touch. As for whether the dance would be good enough, that was secondary. It was more important that the handicapped could feel the warmth from watching the gala on Chinese New Year’s Eve. But more people opposed this move. They felt that the quality of the act couldn’t be sacrificed just because there was a need to show concern for their handicapped friends. It couldn’t become a case of moral kidnapping, as that wouldn’t be fair.

Everyone had their own opinions.

The controversy did not die down.

The act was finally going to begin.

The answer to everyone’s doubts was going to be revealed soon.

...

On TV.

The set design was still as exquisite as before.

The stage effects were still as stunning too.

A performer stood onstage, and the first shot showing her was a direct close-up from the front. The girl stood there in a beautiful gold dress.

No!

It wasn’t just one!

There were many of them!

They were standing in a column?

It looked like they were only one person.

A lot of the audience members were slightly taken aback.

The music came on as the guqin started 2 playing.

Suddenly, while everyone was still in shock from seeing this, a pair of hands appeared out from behind the lead girl. It was almost instantly followed by another pair of hands shooting out from behind. This effect really gave the feeling that there were hands “growing” out from the girl’s back. It could be passed off as real!

Three pairs of hands!

Five pairs of hands!

Ten pairs of hands!

Suddenly, the dozen-odd pairs of hands retracted back inside uniformly before slowly extending out again from both sides. The hands were adorned with long golden nails, giving it an dazzling and hypnotic look!

The entire world’s Chinese population was dumbfounded!

“What?”

“How could it be?”

“H-How did they achieve that?”

“Why are their movements so in sync?”

“This is impossible!”

“Aren’t they deaf?”

“Even normal people couldn’t do that with such precision! So how can they do it?”

“Holy fuck!”

However, it was still too early for them to be stunned!

When the dozen-odd pairs of hands retracted back again, they started slowly fluttering before opening out without warning from behind the leading girl’s back like a fan. The stunning image of Guanyin with a thousand arms appeared!

At this moment!

Counting everyone who had seen it!

The entire world’s Chinese population was screaming!

The visual impact shot into their souls!

The audience at the venue was stunned!

The TV viewers were also stunned!

“Heavens!”

“Ah!”

“Oh my God!”

“God!”

“This is too beautiful!”

“Deaf-mutes? Are they really deaf-mute people?”

“How could it be so beautiful!?”

...

At Zhang Ye’s maternal grandma’s house.

His mother was wide-eyed!

His father was gasping!

His three younger sisters were squealing!

...

Everyone had finally shut their mouths!

All of the doubters and critics were no longer talking!

At this instant, they could only feel a sense of shock. They were staring at the breathtaking beauty taking place on television that couldn’t be described with words!

The dance went on.

Retraction.

Extension.

The flurry of hands moved spiritedly, as though they were attached to the back of the lead dancer and entirely controlled by her alone. Fluttering, agile, and ever-changing!

The applause kept coming round after round!

Some live audience members were so excited that they stood up!

Some people started weeping. When they reached up to wipe away the tears, they somehow cried even harder!

It was fantastic!

It was too fantastic!

Yan Mei’s eyes reddened as well!

In the front row, Qi Xiaomei's hand signals were constantly changing. She pursed her lips and clenched her teeth, holding back the urge to cry as she commanded the children onstage! This is it! Very good! You've all performed very well today! Teacher is proud of you all! You're the best students I've ever taught! Well done! All of you, well done!

This was a dance that shocked everyone!

Compared to the feelings that "Flying Apsaras" had given them, this was ten times more shocking!

These were deaf and mute people!

These girls could not hear anything at all!

Many of the TV viewers were in tears!

Guanyin and the Thousand Arms?

So this was what the Thousand-Hand Guanyin was?

For a dance like this, one could never find another like it even if they searched to the ends of the Earth!

Chapter 1344: Blooming in glory!

On TV.

The Thousand-Hand Guanyin came alive in the performance!

The pairs of hands were blooming as flowers would!

It was ever-changing!

According to their own will!

It was like a magical fantasy!

A golden glow had filled the entire stage.

It was so beautiful that it left people breathless at the sight. Everyone was gripped by what they were seeing!

When the dance was halfway in, the dancers moved into a staggered position and showed themselves one by one. It was at this moment that the entire world's Chinese population saw each and every one of their faces clearly!

Nervous.

Serious.

Meticulous.

The lead dancer was a girl named Sun Ye. She was 22 years old and a native of Hebei. She was born deaf and mute. Her biggest dream was to get onto the stage of the Spring Festival Gala one day.

Dad.

Mom.

I've made it to the Spring Festival Gala!

I, I—

Can you see me?

I've really made it to the Spring Festival Gala!

Behind her, the second girl's name was Liu Meimei. She was 20 years old and a native of Anhui. She was also born deaf and mute. Her biggest dream was for technology to advance enough so that she could overcome her handicap one day and have a chance at hearing the sounds of this world just like any normal person could.

The third girl's name was Hu Lijuan. She was 19 years old and from Tianjin. She didn't have any dreams. She just enjoyed dancing and hoped that she could keep dancing with everyone even after she turned 30, 40, 50. This was what she felt happiest doing.

The fourth girl was named Zhao Qi. She was 21 years old and from Shaanxi. Her greatest dream was to meet her Prince Charming one day so that she could have a grand wedding and be happily married to him.

The fifth girl was Ci Xi-an.

The sixth girl was Wu Shengnan.

The seventh girl was Jia Fang.

...

In a village.

Half of the village's residents had gathered together.

"It's Little Ye!"

"My daughter!"

"That's my daughter!"

A middle-aged woman pointed at the television in tears.

...

In a township.

Several young people were dumbfounded.

"That's!"

"It's Liu Meimei!"

"It's Liu Meimei from the dance class next to ours those years ago!"

"It really is her!"

"Sh-She went to the Spring Festival Gala?"

...

In a city.

"Holy shit!"

"Ah!"

"Isn't that Zhao Qi?"

"What's she doing at the Spring Festival Gala?"

...

At a provincial capital.

"Old Li, Old Li, quickly come and have a look!"

"What's the matter?"

"It's Hu Lijuan!"

"Hu Lijuan?"

"Lijuan was a student of mine! Have you forgotten?"

"Ah! I remember now! W-Why are you crying?"

"I'm so happy for her! So happy for her!"

...

At Old Wu's parents' house.

Li Qinqin wiped the tears off her face. "That was so good."

Wu Changhe was also convinced. "This Little Ye is really capable."

Fat Sis said rather stunned, "All of this was choreographed by Zhang'er?"

Li Qinqin nodded.

Wu Mo cried out, "My Brother Zhang is amazing!"

Fat Sis gave him a look. "Don't you be calling him what you like. You should be addressing him as Uncle-in-law."

...

On Weibo.

The controversy from before?

The criticism from before?

All of that had disappeared at this moment!

“I have to apologize.”

“Me too!”

“Damn, I’ll have to take back what I said before!”

“Who says that the deaf and mute don’t know how to dance?! The deaf-mute dance troupe would drag down the act quality of the Spring Festival Gala? Bull fucking shit! This dance will surely be recorded in the annals of history!”

“Agreed, this is fantastic!”

“Honestly speaking, I’ve never seen such an amazing dance since the time I was born!”

“How much effort did these girls have to put in before they could achieve such a level of skill!?”

“I’m so touched. This dance is so much more stunning than ‘Flying Apsaras!’”

“That’s right. ‘Flying Apsaras’ is a performance that stuns us with its technical skill. Meanwhile, this ‘Thousand-Hand Guanyin’ touches us on an emotional level! So a dance can even be performed in this way!”

“Who choreographed this dance?! It’s so cool!”

“Zhang Ye!”

“Yes, everything was planned by him.”

“How did he come up with such a creative idea!”

“Looking around in all of the past Spring Festival Galas. No other dance can be mentioned in the same breath as this ‘Thousand-Hand Guanyin’ performance!”

“I’m crying.”

“Me too, that was so touching!”

“It must’ve been really difficult for these girls!”

“I suddenly feel like I’ve been purified.”

“Thank you, girls. I’ll never forget this dance as long as I live!”

“I was surprised, I laughed, and I got touched. This year’s Spring Festival Gala is truly miraculous!”

“Yeah, so the Spring Festival Gala can even be made in this way!”

...

The dance had ended.

The act was over.

However, everyone was still unable to calm down after a very long time.

The applause at the venue was uproarious and lasted for a long time without stopping.

In the audience, Qi Xiaomei, who was sitting in the front row, was extremely proud. She had never been extroverted, but at this moment, she was sitting ramrod straight.

Rumors.

Criticism.

Strange gazes.

Doubtful looks.

From the time she was born, she had been through so much. Especially at the time the Spring Festival Gala's program list was announced, she and the children had to put up with a tremendous amount of stress. It was so overwhelming that they were all worn out by it and could hardly breathe. But they endured it and clenched their teeth while training day and night. They were physically disadvantaged to begin with but had used their hard work to make up for it. They knew that they could do anything that normal people could do. If normal people could perform this dance, then they could do it too. In fact, they wanted to do it even better!

The tears that Qi Xiaomei had been holding back started rolling down her cheeks!

All these years of persistence!

All these years of waiting!

All these years of blood and sweat!

Today, they've finally shown the world their dancing!

Today, they were blooming in glory!

...

On the stage.

Singing 1 rang out.

The girls and teacher from the China National Ethnic Song and Dance Ensemble's deaf-mute dance troupe had realized their dreams on the stage of the Spring Festival Gala. Similarly, two laborer brothers had come to fulfill theirs.

"I still remember the spring of many years back.

"At the time, I still hadn't cut off my long hair.

"I was broke and didn't know her care.

“A home without water or any snacks.

“Still, I was very happy back then.

“Even with just a broken guitar to my name.

“On the streets, under the bridges, and in the fields,

“Singing those songs that no one cared about.

“If there comes a day I am helpless and old.

“Please remember me / in the stories we told.

“If there comes a day I quietly go.

“Please bury me in / the springtime glow.”

Dreams: this word always held an eternal charm.

The two of them did not have superb singing skills, nor did they have handsome faces. They also did not have a stage presence like the big name celebrities, but their rugged voices with broad ranges was a constant presence as it told everyone their story. This was a story related to their dreams.

...

In the countryside.

Their coworkers were cheering.

“They’re here!”

“It’s them!”

“Sweetums, did you see that? That is my work buddy!”

“They’re doing us laborers really proud!”

“Keep it up!”

“Keep it up!”

...

Online.

“This is great!”

“This song is so well-written!”

“Is it another song of Zhang Ye’s?”

“This song hit me right in the feels!”

“Only the two of them can sing a song like that!”

“Why do I feel so moved listening to this? I get the feeling that they’re singing even better than the celebrities!”

...

This song, “Spring Days,” and this pair of laborer brothers.

Their singing had moved everyone in the audience!

Today, they were blooming in glory!

The Spring Festival Gala kept hitting a new high, wave after wave!

Chapter 1345: ‘The Five Senses Claim Credit’ gets sent into battle!

The Spring Festival Gala continued.

The entire world’s Chinese population was trembling in excitement.

At this point in time of the past Spring Festival Galas, many people would be feeling tired due to their circadian rhythm and the time difference overseas. There were viewers who couldn’t finish watching the event, or catch the ringing in of the new year as they went to bed early. However, it was different this year. It was getting quite late, but the eyes of the viewers were still beaming. No one was willing to turn their gaze away from the television, not a single person!

It was too exciting!

This year’s Spring Festival Gala was a fucking drug!

They couldn’t look away once they started watching it!

Hurry up, what other acts are there?

Hurry, hurry, hurry, we can’t wait anymore!

That’s right, what about the crosstalk? We’re already halfway through the Spring Festival Gala, but why hasn’t there been a crosstalk yet?

The language acts had always been the most anticipated acts for everyone. Up until now, almost all of the acts had been presented. Dancing, singing, acrobatics, magic, skits, and so on and so forth. Only the crosstalks had yet to make an appearance. A lot of people were waiting for this moment to arrive.

...

On TV.

The hosts were making announcements.

Finally, the first crosstalk arrived!

This was what the Spring Festival Gala was like. It needed to work on the bigger picture, and the flow had to be right as well. Earlier, the “Thousand-Hand Guanyin” and “Spring Days” had cheated many of

their tears. As a result, they couldn't keep them constantly immersed in a feeling of sadness and would have to bring out a language act to relax the atmosphere. And bringing out a comedy at this moment was particularly critical and an even harder task. If it wasn't a strong enough act, it would have a hard time meeting the expectations of the audience. It would be really difficult to pull them out of the emotions the previous performances induced.

As to that, Zhang Ye had naturally taken it into account.

He was extremely confident in this act!

...

In the crosstalk world.

In a small circle's group chat.

"Those performers are way too spineless!"

"Hmmph, we can let it slide regarding that youngster Little Hu, but why did Old Liu and Old Li get pacified by Zhang Ye too? They really have no backbone!"

"This olive branch was offered to them by the Spring Festival Gala, so did you think they could reject it?"

"Old Liu and Old Li also did not clash with Zhang Ye back then. It seems like they were the smart ones by not participating in the denouncement of Zhang Ye by the crosstalk world."

"Let's see just what kind of a crosstalk they can come up with."

"It won't be good for sure."

"Hur hur, as if Zhang Ye could come up with a traditional script for the crosstalk!"

"Yeah, Zhang Ye's scripts are all too vulgar. They aren't good enough for the professional stage!"

...

Online.

Quite a few people were also discussing this.

"The crosstalk is here!"

"I've been waiting for such a long time!"

"The crosstalk script is provided by Zhang Ye as well?"

"Yeah, it's all by him."

"Will it be any good?"

"Uh, all of Zhang Ye's crosstalks seem to be a bit—"

"Yeah, how could he possibly know how to come up with a script for a Spring Festival Gala crosstalk?"

"Who knows?"

“Does this crosstalk have five, six people in it? How can they perform that way?”

“This is this year’s first crosstalk. Let’s see how it goes.”

However, everyone was deeply shocked the moment the crosstalk was broadcast live on television!

...

On TV.

The info box 1 appeared.

The famous crosstalk actor, Li Xiangqi, appeared onstage with a laugh.

He was a chubby man and had a jolly demeanor about him. His appearance would make anyone feel like laughing.

Li Xiangqi was playing the role of the “ head 2 ” today.

Head: “Ai, let me tell everyone about something. I had a dream last night, and this dream was especially strange. I dreamed about my five senses, from—”

Eyes: “Yo! Head.”

Head: “What?”

Eyes: “Haha! Haha!”

Head: “Hello, hello!”

Eyes: “Do you remember me?”

Head: “I dare not say I do! May I know what your surname is?”

Eyes: “My surname is Eye.”

Head: “Wait...what?”

Eyes: “Eye.”

Head: “Does your surname exist in the Hundred Family Surnames 3 ?”

Eyes: “It’s on the first line in the list.”

Head: “Where is it mentioned?”

Eyes: “Zhào, Qián, Sūn, Yǎn (Yǎn being Eye).”

Head: “Never heard of that before! Zhào, Qián, Sūn, Yǎn? Zhào, Qián, Sūn, Lǐ!”

Eyes: “Ah, Zhōu, Wú, Zhèng, Yǎn!”

Head: “Zhōu, Wú, Zhèng, Wáng.”

Eyes: “Féng, Chén, Chǔ, Yǎn.”

Head: "Stop poking around already! Aren't you afraid that you'll poke yourself blind?"

Eyes: "No, I..."

Head: "What's your name?"

Eyes: "I'm Eyes."

Head: "Eyes?"

Eyes: "Ai, that's right!"

Head: "Aiya, who would be called something like that? Ah?"

Eyes: "Then what do you call this part of yours?"

Head: "Don't touch me! If you damage them, where am I supposed to get a replacement?"

Eyes: "So what do you call this part?"

Head: "These are my eyes."

Eyes: "Well, I am your eyes."

Soon after, the five senses came out onto the stage one by one and started a heated debate!

...

The live audience:

"Hahahahaha!"

"Aiyo, I can't take this anymore!"

"I'm dying of laughter!"

"My stomach is cramping up!"

"Hahahahaha!"

...

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

His mother was clutching her stomach and was bent over from laughing.

His three sisters were staggering back and forth in laughter.

"Pfft!"

"Hahahaha!"

"That was so funny!"

"Our brother is too godly!"

...

Online.

“Awesome!”

“I’ve to take my hat off to this crosstalk!”

“Me too, I’m convinced!”

“There wasn’t any Internet slang used, but it’s still really funny to watch!”

“This format is quite novel too! But the language used and gags are still the traditional type!”

“Zhang Ye actually knows how to write traditional gags too? And he can even write them so well?”

“Yeah, I thought he only knew how to write those vulgar gags like he did in the past!”

“Hahahahaha, this is so enjoyable to watch! This crosstalk is amazing!”

“So a traditional crosstalk can be this funny too!”

“Zhang Ye has smacked the face of the crosstalk world!”

“Aiyo, it’s so funny that I’m crying!”

...

The crosstalk world was blanketed with silence.

Tang Dazhang’s face was sunken and he did not speak a word.

The other traditional crosstalk actors who did not make it to the Spring Festival Gala had their faces turn green with anger!

They did not get to see what they wanted to see!

How was this possible!

Zhang Ye wrote this?

So he was even capable of writing this sort of script?

So it turned out that it wasn’t that he couldn’t write something that would be good enough for a large-scale gala?!

The format was novel!

The idea was outstanding!

The points of laughter were frequent!

It was positive and healthy!

Even those people from the crosstalk world who were biased against him couldn’t find any fault with this crosstalk of Zhang Ye’s—which was most shocking to them!

...

In the production control room.

Little Wang was clapping in admiration. She whispered, "This crosstalk is hilarious. I would die laughing each time I watched it!"

Ha Qiqi also quietly said, "Yeah, it's such a novelty."

When Zhang Ye who next to them heard their whispers, he couldn't help but feel amused. Novel? If they knew that this crosstalk was actually an extremely old performance from the Spring Festival Gala decades ago in his previous world, he wondered what their expressions would look like.

Zhang Ye had pondered over which crosstalk to use for this year's Spring Festival Gala for a very long time. He had written out the acts one after another but also rejected them one after another. He didn't find them to be suitable at all. Finally, he clenched his teeth and brought out this masterful piece to help hold this Spring Festival Gala together!

Master Ma Ji.

"The Five Senses 4 Claim Credit."

This act saw a stunning debut today and won great cheers from the audience!

Chapter 1346: The Spring Festival Gala draws to a close!

In a household.

It was a family of four generations.

"Grandpa, this year's Spring Festival Gala is so enjoyable."

"This crosstalk is pretty good."

"Yes, it's really funny."

"This year's Spring Festival Gala has finally made me feel like I'm watching the Spring Festival Gala of when I was young."

"Wow, it's time for another skit."

"This should be the second skit, right?"

"The first skit set the bar really high, so this second one will need to do really well if it's to do better."

"Yeah, 'Dance If You Like' was quite a good skit."

"Stop chatting already; hurry up and watch."

...

On TV.

The stage had been set up.

Two skit actors walked onto the stage.

A lot of people who were watching TV were actually having some doubts. By putting such an amazing skit like “Dance If You Like” as the first skit, wasn’t that a bit overkill? With the quality of that skit, it could easily qualify as the finale act of the Spring Festival Gala. By putting it at the start of the show, it might have amazed the viewers, but what of the skits that came later? How would they have to perform to live up to expectations? Everyone would subconsciously compare them for sure. If the latter skits were slightly off, wouldn’t the effect be softened?

What was Zhang Ye thinking?

Could he be so confident that the latter skits would do even better than the first skit?

No way, right?

But when the skit actors played their parts, everyone was convinced!

...

Skit: “ The Leading Role and the Supporting Role 1 ”

Lead actor: Gao Hong.

Supporting actor: Qian Hao.

Gao Hong had bushy eyebrows and a pair of large eyes.

Qian Hao had a sharp chin and was balding.

Both of them were very famous skit actors in China. They hadn’t partnered much before as they were from different skit troupes. However, as the executive director this time, Zhang Ye had put them to work on the same act. The moment they stepped onto the stage, the two of them exuded a strong comedic feel that made the audience amused.

Qian Hao: “That’s not right!”

Gao Hong: “What’s not right?”

Qian Hao: “This costume is not mine.”

Gao Hong: “It’s yours.”

Qian Hao: “You must’ve taken the wrong one. Let me look at the one you’re wearing.”

Gao Hong: “Don’t bother looking at it! This is yours, you’re the traitor.”

Qian Hao: “I’m the traitor?! For which play?”

Gao Hong: “The one we’re rehearsing.”

Qian Hao: “Ah, I’m once again the turncoat, huh?”

Once again?

Audience: “Hahahahaha!”

Later.

Gao Hong: "Don't you forget! The moment I draw my gun and raise it—you fall down."

Qian Hao: "Why?"

Gao Hong: "It shows that I'm a crack shot!"

Qian Hao: "Alright."

Gao Hong: "Mmm, are you the one who led the Japs here?"

Qian Hao: "Captain, the Imperial Army ordered you to give up your weapons and surrender—"

Gao Hong: "Shut up! You must be daydreaming, you traitor! I'll execute you on behalf of the people and the government—"

By the time Gao Hong turned his head, Qian Hao had already fallen to the ground. "Eh! Where'd he go? Where'd he go?"

Qian Hao sat up. "I'm over here."

Gao Hong: "Why'd you drop to the floor before I shot you?"

Qian Hao: "Hey! Wasn't that what you said? That once you pulled out your gun and raised it, I should fall down?"

Gao Hong: "But I haven't even opened fire!"

Qian Hao: "Aiyo, then doesn't that show that you're a crack shot!"

Qian Hao upstaged Gao Hong and stole the show again and again as the supporting actor while the audience laughed like crazy!

"Aiyo!"

"I can't take it, I can't take it anymore!"

"Hahahahaha!"

"I'm dying of laughter!"

"My stomach hurts!"

"Your sister! This is too damn funny!"

"This is even funnier than the first skit!"

"Damn, so this is their trump card for the skits!"

"Can it not be so funny!"

"That was so wonderful! I couldn't even bear to look away for a second!"

"I was laughing nonstop!"

“Hahahaha!”

...

In the production control room.

Zhang Ye was calm and composed.

Chen Peisi and Zhu Shimao’s skit had also been brought over here by him. This skit was one of the most classic skits in the early Spring Festival Galas of his previous world, so would it look rather outdated if he used it here? Zhang Ye had thought about this carefully beforehand. After some research, he realized that it wouldn’t. So he used it. The only issue was that the selection of the actors was very difficult. The actors for “Dance If You Like” were easier to choose as Auntie Ci and Master Lian were both quite apt for those roles. But for actors like Zhu Shimao and Chen Peisi who had such strong individual styles, it was quite impossible to find two people as unique as them. Zhang Ye himself couldn’t act in this either. Zhu Shimao? He did not have that imposing air about him. Chen Peisi? He could not portray that crass manner either. So Zhang Ye could only find people who were the closest fit and put them onstage.

In the end, it was the skit actors Gao Hong and Qian Hao who caught Zhang Ye’s attention.

Under Zhang Ye’s repeated direction, and gelling together in the rehearsals, this extremely well-known “The Leading Role and the Supporting Role” skit was finally presented to this world’s audience.

From the look of the live audience’s reaction?

It was had turned the world upside down!

...

The skit ended.

The audience was still laughing.

The next act in the order began. It was a dance.

When many of the audience saw this, they knew that it would be a transition act. After those wonderful crosstalks and skits, there was definitely a need to release all of that excitement. Besides, the first few performances of the dances had been too amazing. “Flying Apsaras” and the “Thousand-Hand Guanyin” were each more amazing than the last. When everyone thought of them, they felt that even if the following dances were well-performed, they would still be eclipsed by those at the beginning.

Peacock Love 3 ?

What the heck was this?

They were wrong again!

In fact, they couldn’t be any more wrong about it!

...

When the stage lights dimmed.

When a man and a woman used their hands and started the dance, the image of a male and female peacock came alive!

The mannerisms!

The movements!

The postures!

All of that was vividly presented!

The audience gasped when they saw it!

The set design also seamlessly blended into the performance. The blue tone of the background added a strong poetic feel, and the moon slowly moved across the curved screen. It created an impactful and strong visual experience, with butterflies fluttering in the bamboo forest. The particle effects slowly glowed upwards and built a beautiful environment to match the courtship of the pair of peacocks.

With the development of the peacocks' love, the portrayal of the dance reached a climax!

When the peacock lay down at the end, the peahen fluttered her wings as peacock plumage fanned out all across the screen behind them. Everyone was shocked and astonished!

Beautiful!

It was the height of beauty!

It was so beautiful that it entered every cell of one's body!

It was so beautiful that it weaved through the gaps in one's teeth!

Screams!

Applause!

Everyone in the audience spared no effort in showing their praise and amazement at the performance!

"Masterful!"

"I know this woman. She's Chang Hua, a 40-something-year-old dancer who was famous in China many years ago. She won major international prizes and then retired for some reason. I heard that she settled down abroad."

"That's Chang Hua?"

"Damn, I know her too!"

"She's a goddamn master at dancing!"

"This is purely her own ability!"

"The artistic and aesthetic values of this dance are too amazing!"

"Zhang Ye is so capable. He actually convinced and invited Master Chang back from overseas?"

“This dance is too frighteningly good!”

“Chang Hua was famed for her portrayal of animals in her dances. This dance can only be performed by her, no one else!”

“The choreography is very good too!”

“Zhang Ye is too fucking talented!”

“Yeah, that final plumage fan was so good that it blinded me!”

“Me too, I could literally feel my blood pumping through my veins!”

“Eh, I have a question.”

“What?”

“Don’t peahens not have trains?”

...

In the production control room.

Zhang Ye was giving orders.

Whether a peahen could fan out their tail plumage 4 was also widely complained about for some time by the majority of the people in Zhang Ye’s previous world after Yang Liping 5 and her partner finished with their amazing dance performance.[4.][5.]

Because Master Chang Hua was the lead dancer, the roles for this dance were not changed by Zhang Ye. Ultimately, the highlight of the fanning of the plumage at the end of the dance was still left to Chang Hua to perform. Only she could be relied upon, as her partner was still lacking by quite a bit compared to her. As for the doubts of whether a peahen could display a train, Zhang Ye also had his own explanation.

And his explanation was:

If she wants to display it, who are you to say that she can’t?!

There are already so many oddities among humans, so why can’t there be one in the peacock world as well?!

...

The acts continued on one after another.

They were getting closer and closer to midnight.

Chapter 1347: Who will come out for the finale?

The Spring Festival Gala continued.

The red packet war was also getting increasingly fierce. Regardless of gender and age, everyone was joining in to grab the red packets that were given out.

They grabbed.

They laughed.

They scolded.

“Wow, I grabbed a red packet with 3 yuan in it!”

“Previous poster, that’s a pretty generous red packet!”

“Haha, I grabbed one with 60 cents in it. Thank you to Sister Zhang for the red packet!”

“Thank you, Sister Ning. I grabbed one from Sister Ning that has 30 cents in it!”

“Oh, Sect Leader Huo also gave out some red packets!”

“Damn, why did I get Zhang Ye’s red packet again!”

“Me too, I got his as well!”

“This is infuriating! There’s only 1.2 cents in it? What kind of an odd figure is that!”

“I received 2.8 cents! How am I even suppose to claim that 0.8 cents?”

“This Zhang Ye is such a cheapskate!”

“Ahh, I’ve never seen a celebrity who’s so stingy!”

“Hahahahaha, this is too funny!”

“Zhang Ye, show yourself! I promise not to beat you to death!”

“Zhang Ye has always been a cheat. It’s not like you guys didn’t know that.”

“And why can’t I get my hands on the work dedication card still!”

“I don’t have it either. I’ve already collected three sets of the other four cards of fortune! But there’s no work dedication card to be seen at all! They’re just trying to stir up trouble!”

“We’re just 20 minutes from midnight!”

“This event is going to end at midnight! Oh, my work dedication card!”

“Hurry, hurry, it’s our final chance to try and get it!”

“This year’s Spring Festival Gala is spectacular. It’s so fun that I forgot to grab red packets!”

“Yeah, there’s no room to be distracted!”

And at this moment.

On TV, Zhang Yuanqi’s act was finally starting.

At the beginning, the audience was only expecting that the Heavenly Queen would sing a song. It shouldn’t be too different from the other songs that came before, except that the song was a Zhang Ye

original. It wasn't until the cameras cut to the stage that the TV viewers realized that this song was apparently different from the others.

A photo album appeared onscreen.

On it, the pictures flipped by until they animated.

A young father and mother were with their little girl. On each picture, the dates were shown at the bottom together with the little girl's age.

The first picture: The girl was one year old.

The second picture: The girl was two years old.

The third picture: The girl was three years old.

The audience was taken aback!

They were all watching in bewilderment!

Whose pictures were those?

What were they supposed to mean?

Zhang Yuanqi sat at a piano with closed eyes and played softly as she sang ¹.

"The old tree at the door has grown new shoots.

"The dead tree in the yard flowers new fruits.

"All my life, I've kept what I've wanted to say

"hidden within my now head of gray.

"I remember a girl with tiny feet,

"and a pouty little mouth of meat.

"I gave her love all my life, I had,

"just to hear her call us Mom and Dad."

In the pictures:

The girl turned 18.

The gray hairs on her parents' heads were starting to show.

Zhang Yuanqi sang loudly.

"Where has the time gone to?

"I didn't get to enjoy my youth and I'm already old.

"Raising children my whole life.

“My head is filled with children’s cries and laughter.”

The girl was now grown up. In the pictures, her parents were gradually getting older. The only thing that stayed the same were the smiles on their faces. They were still as kind and doting as ever. The girl in the pictures was not someone unknown. By the time they were showing the ten-year-old her, everyone had already guessed it. They recognized who it was!

It was Zhang Yuanqi!

The girl in the pictures was her!

Zhang Yuanqi sang.

“Where has the time gone to?”

“I didn’t get the chance to see you grow up, and I’m already going blind.

“Taking care of daily chores my whole life.

“In the blink of an eye, all that’s left is a face full of wrinkles.”

...

At the venue.

Some of the audience members started crying.

Some of them started hugging their parents beside them with their eyes reddening.

...

Backstage.

“Little He?”

“Hm?”

“Why are you crying?”

“I-I’m just missing home.”

...

At Zhang Ye’s maternal grandma’s house.

His mother furtively wiped away her tears.

His father looked at her. “You’re crying?”

She glared at him. “Who’s crying! Can’t I rub my eyes?”

His father said, “OK.”

...

The song ended.

It blew up online.

“This year’s Spring Festival Gala is such a tearjerker!”

“Teacher Zhang, you’re such a cheat!”

“The design of this song is really good!”

“Old Zhang sang it even better!”

“This year’s Spring Festival Gala is so fun to watch!”

“Yeah, the acts thus far are finely crafted! I’m impressed!”

“They get more and more touching, and more and more amazing!”

“Every one of the acts can be considered a work of art!”

“Did you guys realize something? Zhang Ye treats Sister Zhang quite differently. All of the other acts that Zhang Ye came up with were acts that he couldn’t take himself, all except for this one that Sister Zhang just performed. Zhang Ye can clearly sing this song too, but he actually gave this great song to Sister Zhang.”

“That’s true, the two of them have quite a long friendship.”

“Haha, the cheapskate has finally relented.”

“Only Sister Zhang can get something out of him.”

“I like this song so very much!”

“This performance is a crowning touch!”

“Yeah, the earlier acts were all fantastic too!”

...

At Director Li Ke’s house.

The entire family was watching the Spring Festival Gala.

His wife said with a smile, “Old Li, you regret calling it quits now?”

Li Ke shook his head and said, “What’s there to regret? Even if I went through with the job of this year’s Spring Festival Gala, even if I had thrown everything I had into it, I couldn’t have done it to such an extent. This year’s Spring Festival Gala Organizing Committee made one very correct decision, which was appointing Zhang Ye as the gala’s executive director. They were right to get Zhang Ye because, based on his skills and talent, he was the only person who could’ve reversed the fate of the Spring Festival Gala.”

His wife said, “It’s really quite good.”

Li Ke said, “Yeah, Little Zhang is truly capable. All there’s left to see is how the Spring Festival Gala will end. I wonder who’s the finale act.”

His wife gave a wry smile. "That's quite difficult. There were so many good acts at the beginning, so who can live up to the expectations as the finale?"

Li Ke said, "Yeah, if it were any other Spring Festival Gala, the performers would all love to be the finale act. But this year's Spring Festival Gala probably didn't attract any volunteers to the final test. This is really not an enviable task as the earlier acts have set the bar too high. It's so high that it's probably all the way in the sky. It's easy to step onto the stage, but the issue is who can leave it with their heads held high!"

His wife said, "Then what can be done?"

Li Ke chuckled and said, "Hur hur, that's a problem for Little Zhang to bang his head against."

...

Time was passing too fast!

It didn't feel like this year's Spring Festival Gala took long before midnight started approaching!

The netizens were startled when they checked the time.

"Ah!"

"There's just a little over ten minutes left!"

"We're almost into the new year already!"

"Who's the finale act this year?"

"I don't know, the program list isn't arranged in order of appearance."

"How many acts are left?"

"I don't think there's that many."

"The tradition every year is to have a skit or crosstalk for that, isn't it?"

"Damn, could it be that Zhang Ye will personally take the finale act?"

"Hahaha, then the pressure on Zhang Ye will be enormous!"

"Based on the momentum of the earlier acts, who can carry the finale?"

"The skits were all getting more and more amazing. If Zhang Ye, Yao Jiancai, and Dong Shanshan's skit were put at the end, then what level of a skit would they have to come up with? Could they possibly do better than the earlier ones?"

"Who knows!"

"We're gonna find out soon."

The so-called finale of the Spring Festival Gala did not usually mean the last act of the evening. This was because after midnight had passed, some acts would still be performed for the audience. Most people would generally refer to the last act that was shown just before midnight as the most important finale.

Without a doubt, this was what the audience and the entire world's Chinese population cared about the most. They looked forward to it and paid a lot of attention to this act which was the most important and heavyweight performance of the entire Spring Festival Gala of the year. Nothing else came close!

What would the act be like?

Who would take the finale?

Could they give this year's Spring Festival Gala a perfect end?

Everyone watching TV descended into chaotic conversations!

Chapter 1348: 'Selling Crutches' (First half)

The countdown to midnight began.

There were only 15 minutes left to go.

...

In the production control room.

Zhang Ye sat there and gave commands speedily.

"Camera 2, cut over there!"

"Yes."

"Dim the lights a little on the left!"

"OK."

"That's not enough, dim it further."

"Understood."

"Camera 5, pay attention when you're doing the close-up later!"

"Alright, Director Zhang."

Next to him, two makeup artists were putting makeup on him. At this moment, Zhang Ye's image was of a country bumpkin. He was dressed in a very simple dark blue getup and even wore a hat on his head.

Ha Qiqi came running in. "Aiyoo, Director Zhang, why aren't you in the waiting zone yet? You're on deck, up next!"

"I'm coming." Zhang Ye dished out several more instructions worriedly.

Ha Qiqi quickly said, "I'll take care of things here, so don't worry."

Zhang Ye instructed, "Alright, Old Ha, remember to pay attention to the camera angles."

Ha Qiqi said, "OK, OK, I'll remind them. Just hurry up and go. Teacher Yao and Teacher Shanshan are both standing by and waiting for you!"

Zhang Ye said, "Alright, I know."

...

Backstage.

The executives of the Spring Festival Gala's organizing committee were going around and inspecting the ongoing work. They were instructing the staff to pay attention as midnight was approaching, and it was at that time that everyone would have to be even more prepared for anything that might crop up.

When they came to the door of the staff room, they could hear the sound of a TV drifting out from within.

"Is there someone in there?"

"Who's inside?"

"They're watching the Spring Festival Gala in there?"

The several executives frowned. One of them pushed the door open to go in.

A staff member on the production team standing in the distance quickly called out when he saw them.

"Sir, don't. It's—"

Who is it?

It doesn't matter who it is!

Everyone is busy working, so why is someone in there lazing around?

When the door was opened, the several executives on the organizing committee were startled!

In the room that wasn't big, the live broadcast of the Spring Festival Gala could be seen on the screen of a small television. The exceedingly beautiful woman sitting before it turned out to be Wu Zeqing.

"Aiyō!"

"Chief Wu?"

"Why are you here?"

"Chief Wu?"

The executives were a little stunned.

Wu Zeqing turned her head to look at them and smiled. "Old He, Old Wang, it's all of you?"

One of the executives asked, "Did you come to check on the work too?"

Wu Zeqing shook her head. "No."

Another executive wondered, "Have you been in here all this while? Hai, if we knew you were here, we would've prepared an office for you. It's Lunar New Year's Eve; why aren't you spending it at home?"

Wu Zeqing giggled. "Hur hur, my husband is busy working here, so there's no point in me staying home. Wherever he is, I'll naturally be there to spend the new year with him." She then waved them off and said, "Alright, I'm not talking anymore. My husband's act is coming up."

The executives were overcome with emotion.

Director Zhang took charge of the Spring Festival Gala.

Chief Wu was giving him her support by staying up and accompanying him here.

Just see how good their relationship is!

...

On TV.

The hosts had been talking onstage for quite a while.

It was finally time for the finale act to make its appearance!

Yan Mei laughed in joy and said, "I saw a couple backstage earlier with a pair of crutches and was wondering what they were doing with it. Shall we take a look to find out?"

The info box appeared.

Skit: "Selling Crutches"

Script: Zhang Ye

Performers: Zhang Ye, Dong Shanshan, Yao Jiancai

...

Online.

"Wow!"

"As expected!"

"Damn, it's really Zhang Ye who's up for the finale!"

"Bro, that's so awesome! How brave would he have to be!"

"Can this skit meet the expectations of a finale?"

"Selling crutches? It sounds really ordinary."

...

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

His grandpa said excitedly, "It's beginning!"

His auntie shouted, "It's Little Ye himself who's taking the finale act!"

His third sister was so excited that she lay in front of the TV. "Brother's about to come on!"

His eldest younger sister said in annoyance, "Mengmeng, don't block the TV!"

His second sister shouted, "I'm so looking forward to this! Let's go Brother!"

His parents were staring at the screen unblinkingly and feeling a little nervous!

...

During a phone call.

"Hello, Old Sun!"

"Big Sis Li, happy new year!"

"Are you watching the Spring Festival Gala?"

"Uh, no."

"Go and watch it! Zhang Ye is coming on soon!"

"It's finally his turn? OK, OK!"

...

In a household.

"It's Zhang Ye!"

"Aunt, it's your turn to play a card."

"Let's stop playing for a while."

"What's the matter?"

"Let's continue after we finish watching the finale skit."

"Aiya, we can just play as we watch."

"It's the finale skit, so we need to pay close attention to it. I can't concentrate on playing cards."

"Alright then, let's watch it together."

...

In the crosstalk world.

"I really want to see just what kind of a skit Zhang Ye can come up with."

"Last time, his skit was really controversial."

"That one about table tennis, right? Hur hur, he's still not suited to acting in skits. I expected him to do a crosstalk for his self-directed Spring Festival Gala."

“He actually put himself in the finale act?”

“Yeah, isn’t he afraid that he’ll get screwed over?”

“I have to admit that this year’s Spring Festival Gala is indeed spectacular and wonderful. But who doesn’t know the importance of the finale act? If he suddenly screws it up at the end, the entire Spring Festival Gala is done for! All of the prior hard work will be tarnished by this skit of his!”

“Let’s see how he chooses to wrap this up.”

“It definitely won’t be as good as the earlier skits.”

...

More and more people had come back to their televisions!

More and more Chinese people abroad had turned on their televisions!

It was impossible to count the total number of people watching!

300 million!

500 million!

600 million!

The staff in charge of tabulating the statistics were petrified by the figures. The few of them looked dumbfoundedly at the computer that was collecting the data!

Chinese people from all over the world were waiting to watch Zhang Ye’s finale act just before midnight!

They were hoping to be surprised!

They were hoping for a last hurrah!

...

On TV.

The cameras cut to the stage 1 .

Zhang Ye and Dong Shanshan were already onstage. Around them, the set looked very normal. It was on the streets and there was a long bench. Their clothes and style especially dumbfounded the audience. This was clearly a rural image, with Zhang Ye looking like a country bumpkin, while Dong Shanshan looked even more so. She was dressed in a little red jacket and wore a headscarf. Her face was deliberately made to look uglier as well!

Pfft!

What kind of an image was this?

Why did they look like that?

Dong Shanshan called out to him, “Hey, Great Trickster! Great Trickster!”

Zhang Ye was carrying a pair of crutches and strolling. Hearing that, he couldn't help but turn around slowly. "Why are you shouting Great Trickster? I came out here to sell these today, so can you not call me by my nickname?"

The audience:

"Great Huckster?"

"Nickname?"

"Hahahaha!"

Dong Shanshan said helplessly, "Our child's father."

Zhang Ye replied, "Yes?"

Dong Shanshan smacked her lips and said, "In my opinion, why don't you forget about selling these crutches? Everyone out on the streets has got a good pair of legs, so who would buy them from you?"

Zhang Ye curled his lips and said, "Nonsense. You're asking me not to sell them? To make these crutches, I spent an entire day and night not sleeping putting in the effort and materials to make them. If I don't sell them, how would I make a profit?"

Dong Shanshan: "Aiya, but everyone on the streets is completely healthy, so who are you gonna sell them to!"

Zhang Ye gave a slight laugh. "Don't you know me well? And to think that you were calling me Great Trickster just now. I can trick good into evil, depression into joy, sharp into dull. Even if a couple is getting along perfectly fine, I can trick them into breaking up! And to sell these crutches today, I can trick someone with a good pair of legs into thinking that they're lame!"

The audience laughed, "Pfft!"

So he intends to scam people!

Trick someone into thinking that they're lame?

Just how on earth are you gonna do that!

With this opening, the audience quickly became curious!

Dong Shanshan: "Haha, come off it!"

Zhang Ye: "You don't believe me?"

Dong Shanshan curled her lips. "I don't believe that anyone who can walk perfectly fine can be tricked into thinking that they're lame!"

Zhang Ye: "Just watch, this is where my strength lies."

Dong Shanshan snorted and laughed. "Like I wouldn't know where your strength lies? My child's father, he's really interesting, you know? When he heard that someone bought a horse, he went over there to try to sell them a harness. When he heard that someone bought a motorbike, he went over to try to sell

them a helmet. When he heard that someone had insomnia, he went over to try to sell them some sleeping pills. When he heard—

Zhang Ye waved it off. “Stop rambling, that is called demand and supply. You’ve gotta grab the opportunities!”

Dong Shanshan giggled. “But your opportunity spotting can be wrong at times too!”

Zhang Ye spread his hands. “These crutches were a mistake, I guess.”

Dong Shanshan pouted and said, “When he heard that a neighbor had broken his leg driving a tractor, he got greedy and made this pair of crutches in advance. But the neighbor was so badly injured that he had to use a wheelchair after he was discharged from the hospital, so the crutches couldn’t be sold.”

A wheelchair?

The audience laughed, “Hahahaha!”

Zhang Ye harrumphed. “Don’t worry, I’ll definitely sell away this pair of crutches (guǎi) today.”

Dong Shanshan: “But everyone out here has no problems walking, so who will you sell it to?”

Zhang Ye: “My dear wife, we’ll specially identify someone who can walk well today and sell these to him. I’ll show you how good I am at swindling.”

Dong Shanshan: “Aren’t you cheating people this way?”

Zhang Ye laughed. “He who takes the bait, know that? Help me out by shouting for buyers.”

Dong Shanshan: “But I don’t know how to trick people.”

Zhang Ye: “Just play it by ear, alright? Hey, there’s someone coming, start shouting!”

At this moment, Yao Jiancai came out onto the stage!

In countrified getup, he was riding a bicycle and passing by.

Dong Shanshan reluctantly shouted, “Ah, make a turn (guǎi), make a turn (guǎi)!”

Yao Jiancai, riding his bicycle, started swerving more and more. “Oh, ai.”

The audience laughed.

“Make a turn (guǎi)! Make a turn (guǎi)!” Dong Shanshan tucked her hands in her sleeves and shouted.

Yao Jiancai braked. “Hey, hey, why are you randomly issuing orders? Do you even know where I’m going when you asked me to turn?”

The audience laughed, “Hahahaha!”

Zhang Ye reminded her, “Peddle the wares.”

Dong Shanshan shouted, “Selling (mài)! Selling (mài)!”

Zhang Ye said angrily to her, “What are we selling?”

Dong Shanshan: “Crutches (guǎi).”

Zhang Ye: “Put it together.”

Dong Shanshan shouted even louder, “Abduction (guǎi mài)! Abduction (guǎi mài)!”

...

When she said those words, many of the audience members burst into laughter!

“Abduction (guǎi mài)?

“Hahahahaha!”

“Aiyo, I’m dying of laughter!”

“Hahahahahahaha!”

“Teacher Shanshan is too good at this!”

“Their acting is so good!”

“This finale act does seem to be pretty good!”

“It’s only just started. Not much has been revealed yet. We still have to watch the rest of it to see if it’s any good.”

...

Meanwhile.

Backstage.

Ha Qiqi.

Zhang Zuo.

Little Wang.

The members of the production team.

The leaders of the production team.

Everyone was staring hard at the screen at this moment. Some of them were sweating. Some of them looked very nervous their extremities turned cold. Some of them felt their hearts leap into their throats. It looked like they were even more nervous than the trio performing on the stage. This was unavoidable as the finale act was simply too important!

They were all praying silently in their heads: This has to work! It must work!

Director Zhang!

Teacher Yao!

Teacher Shanshan!

It's up to you three now!

Whether the Spring Festival Gala is a success or a failure all depends on this performance!

Chapter 1349: 'Selling Crutches' (Second Half)

On TV.

Confused, Yao Jiancai parked his bicycle and walked over. "Hmm? What's going on? Who's abducting (guǎi mài) you?"

Dong Shanshan said clumsily, "No one, his crutches are for sale (guǎi mài)."

Yao Jiancai looked at him. "You want to abduct (guǎi mài) people?"

The audience laughed, "Hahahaha!"

Zhang Ye glared at him. "Are you blind? Abduct? If I want to abduct, would I abduct someone like her? Would you buy her off me?!"

Dong Shanshan did look ugly in costume!

The audience laughed, "Hahahahaha!"

Yao Jiancai spoke in a northeastern accent, "Hey, just what is going on between the two of you?"

Dong Shanshan gave a dry laugh. "We're a couple, and we're just having fun here!"

Zhang Ye also laughed. "Hur hur hur, there's nothing to do, so we're just having fun!"

Yao Jiancai said into the camera, "These two, having fun by selling the wife on the New Year?"

...

Backstage.

A staff member came running over.

"Boss! The viewership numbers have exploded!"

"What? How many are there watching now?"

"We can't get the figures yet!"

"Then how do you know?"

"The staff tabulating the viewership data told us! They said that since Director Zhang's skit began, the viewership numbers shot up in a straight line! It has grown to a crazy amount of viewers!"

"Good! Good! Very good!"

"It's still Zhang Ye who has the most appeal!"

"Come on, Director Zhang! Let's see how high of a viewership ratings you can achieve!"

“Are we going to break the record this time?”

“It all depends on how the skit does!”

...

The skit continued.

Yao Jiancai had successfully been tricked by Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “In recent days, have you noticed that any part of your body is feeling different from before? Think about it, think hard about it!”

Yao Jiancai touched his head. “I don’t feel that anything is different, except that my face keeps swelling.”

The audience laughed. “Hahahaha!”

Zhang Ye snapped his fingers. “That’s right! But this isn’t the main illness! Do you know why your face is swelling? Because of necrosis of your peripheral nervous system causing your upper body to swell.”

Yao Jiancai was startled. “Then where am I getting affected?”

Zhang Ye pointed. “Below the waist, and above your feet!”

Yao Jiancai: “My legs?”

Zhang Ye: “Spot on!”

Yao Jiancai shook his head. “No, that can’t be. I don’t have any major problems with my legs!”

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes as he pointed at Yao Jiancai and said loudly, “Take two steps forward! Two steps! If you’re fine, just walk two steps to see how it feels! Walk!”

The audience:

“Hahahaha!”

“Aiyo, Zhang Ye is really too much!”

“How wicked of him!”

Yao Jiancai got frightened. His movements were very stiff. “Alright, alright, two...two steps. I’ll take two steps if you want me to take two steps.”

Zhang Ye: “Stop! There’s nothing wrong with your shoes, right? One is higher than the other?”

Yao Jiancai: “These are sneakers, they’re almost flat!”

Zhang Ye: “That’s right, so it’s your legs that have a problem. One of them is shorter! How about this, I’ll give you a tune-up. Do you believe me? When I lift my hand, raise your leg, as high as you can, then slam it into the ground when I lower it. Do you believe me? There’s definitely a problem with your legs: Your right leg is shorter! Come, raise it!”

Dong Shanshan watched curiously from the side.

Yao Jiancai nervously raised his leg!

Zhang Ye's swung his hand downward!

Yao Jiancai followed and stomped his foot!

Raise!

Stomp!

Raise!

Stomp!

Finally, Zhang Ye pointed at him. "Stop! Do you feel numb?"

Yao Jiancai said dumbfoundedly, "I do!"

Dong Shanshan hurriedly pulled Zhang Ye aside and asked in bewilderment, "Eh, how did his foot become numb?"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Of course. You'd feel numb if you stomped your foot too!"

...

The live audience burst into laughter!

"Hahahahaha!"

"Aiyo, I can't take this anymore!"

"This cheat!"

"Old Yao has been scammed again!"

"Hahahahahahaha!"

"You'd feel numb if you stomped your foot too? What a classic line, damn!"

...

Zhang Ye: "Start walking, start walking! Don't control it, I'm 100% sure your leg has a problem. Don't control it, relax! Let's go! Keep walking! Walk, faster! Walk, don't think. Why don't you follow my lead? Keep walking, bit by bit, let's go."

Yao Jiancai staggered behind Zhang Ye. The more he walked, the more unsteady he was. "Aiya, aiya, aiya, oh my God!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Right, now walk by yourself!"

Dong Shanshan said in surprise, "He's tricked a good pair of legs lame!"

Yao Jiancai turned around. "What did you say?"

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, "See that? My wife saw it. She says that your leg has become lame from being idle."

Yao Jiancai was almost in tears. "My dear sis, then why didn't I notice it earlier?"

Dong Shanshan laughed. "That's because you didn't meet him earlier. If you did, you'd have already been crippled!"

...

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

His third sister was cramping up from laughter!

His second sister was crouched on the floor and clutching her stomach as she laughed!

The entire family was staggering from laughter!

"This is too funny!"

"Little Ye is terrible!"

"How did he even think of something like that!"

"Hahahahaha!"

...

The skit was getting to the best parts.

The laughter of the audience didn't stop!

Yao Jiancai: "Use a crutch?"

Zhang Ye: "Please sit down. After you use a crutch, your legs will start balancing out and then gradually get better. Back then, when an old man noticed that my leg had problems, my wife didn't allow me to see a doctor because it pained her how much it would cost. In the end, I was crippled." He patted his leg and said, "There's a steel plate inside and I can't bend it."

Yao Jiancai said in surprise, "This leg is crippled?"

Dong Shanshan: "No, this is a good leg."

Zhang Ye harrumphed. "What are you saying! Would I have needed crutches if it was a good leg?"

Yao Jiancai: "That's right."

Dong Shanshan interrupted, "Those crutches are not—"

Yao Jiancai got angry. "Aiya, my dear sis! Can you please stop messing around already? This is a discussion between two patients, so why do you keep trying to interrupt us!"

Dong Shanshan was exasperated!

...

Backstage.

Some of the performers who had finished their acts had also gathered around to watch the Spring Festival Gala.

Like Zhang Yuanqi.

Like Chen Guang and Fan Wenli.

Like Ci Xiufang and her team.

At this moment, they were all laughing hard at the skit!

“Hahahahaha!”

“I’m crying I’m laughing so hard!”

“I can’t take it, I can’t take it anymore!”

“I’m dying from laughter!”

...

On TV.

Yao Jiancai: “Then where can I buy crutches?”

Dong Shanshan said, “It just so happens that we have a pair of crutches here that we could sell to you.”

However, Zhang Ye appeared to get annoyed. “What are you saying? Stand aside! What are you trying to sell? If you sell them, what will I use? How can you behave like this? Women are so stingy. Why can’t I just gift it to him?”

Yao Jiancai: “Don’t!”

Dong Shanshan was stunned. “You’re not selling it anymore?”

Zhang Ye picked up the crutches and handed them to him. “Here, take the crutches!”

Yao Jiancai said agitatedly, “Aiya, bro, I can’t take this for free. I have to pay for it.”

Zhang Ye smacked his lips. “I know what you’re like. Women, if they want money, you can’t just not pay them. I have to uphold your honor, so if I don’t accept the money, that would mean I’m looking down on you, isn’t that so? I still have to accept it. So alright, just pay me half the amount. 100 yuan.”

Yao Jiancai immediately said, “Ai, sure, sure, sure.”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “If you pay me any more than that, I’ll be angry with you!”

Yao Jiancai fumbled through his pockets for cash for a long time. “Aiya, bro, I only have a total of 32 yuan in my two pockets.”

Dong Shanshan took the money that Zhang Ye received and sighed. “We’ll just take it then and get however much we can get out of it.”

But at this moment.

Zhang Ye suddenly stared with wide eyes at Dong Shanshan. “What of the bicycle?” He shouted at her, “What of the bicycle?!”

The audience laughed, “Hahahahaha!”

Yao Jiancai slapped his forehead and quickly went to push the bicycle over. “Aiya, that’s right, that’s right!”

Zhang Ye stared at Dong Shanshan and said, “How can you be like that?”

Dong Shanshan was so angry that she almost cried. “I didn’t say I wanted the bicycle! It was you who said you wanted the bicycle!”

...

The audience:

“Hahahahaha!”

“I’m dying of laughter, aiyo!”

“This is hilarious!”

“What of the bicycle? Pfft, hahahaha!”

“That is such a classic line!”

...

At Old Wu’s parents’ house.

Li Qinqin was laughing and wiping away her tears simultaneously!

Wu Mo was gasping for air from laughing too much.

“I’m dizzy from laughing!”

“Why is it so funny!”

“When did she say that she wanted the bicycle!”

...

On TV.

Zhang Ye said angrily, “I’m so sorry for that. This wife of mine is really getting out of hand. How can she say that she wants the bicycle as well!”

Dong Shanshan said in anger, “I didn’t say that I wanted the bicycle!”

Yao Jiancai hurriedly said, “My old bro, don’t be angry. I feel that my sis here isn’t wrong in saying that. For a person with a problematic leg like me, I might as well bid farewell to this bicycle!”

It was another classic line!

The entire audience's laughter roared like the thunder!

It was so loud that it nearly tore through the roof!

Dong Shanshan became so angry that she snatched the bicycle. "No! You can't take another person's bicycle!" Then she pushed it back into Yao Jiancai's hands. "Hurry up and take it back; bring it home with you. You don't know how badly he's cheating you!"

Yao Jiancai also said angrily, "You're the one who's cheating me! How can you be like this? I've been wondering. The two of you live together as a couple, but why are you such different people!"

Dong Shanshan: "..."

Zhang Ye smiled. "Bro, please accept these crutches!"

Yao Jiancai said gratefully, "My old bro, this must be fate!"

...

The audience cramped up with laughter again!

"Hahahahaha!"

"Old Yao is such a fool!"

"Zhang Ye is too damn immoral!"

"It tickled me for sure!"

"Aiyo, I need to catch my breath!"

"I've never watched such a funny skit before!"

...

The skit was nearing the end.

With the conclusion, it brought the skit to a wonderful close!

Zhang Ye pushed along the bicycle that he had earned and said to his wife, "What are you still looking at? Don't tell me you're feeling bad? Come, let's go elsewhere!"

Dong Shanshan said, "Where are we going?"

Zhang Ye kicked up the bicycle stand and gave a smile. "Let's find someone with a bad leg and sell this bicycle to them!"

The skit ended!

At this moment, the entire venue was seething with excitement!

The Chinese people around the world were overflowing with excitement!

Thunderous applause erupted!

Applause!

Screams!

Cheers!

It went on for a long time!

...

Watching TV.

Tang Dazhang's face had turned green with anger!

How was that possible!

How could that be possible?!

He had pulled it off!

Zhang Ye had actually pulled off this finale act!

Quite a lot of people from the crosstalk world who were waiting to see Zhang Ye make a joke of himself were silenced!

...

At Zhang Ye's maternal grandma's house.

His three younger sisters had gone hoarse from all their shouting!

"That was awesome!"

"Our brother is so awesome!"

"This skit is perfect! It's so good!"

...

At Director Li Ke's house.

"That was really a good performance!"

"The skit's script was even better!"

"Those three are such a good match!"

"Yeah, they have so much chemistry together. This skit is simply godly!"

...

On Weibo.

"The trump card!"

“Yeah, so they actually did leave the trump card for the finale!”

“I had thought that the crosstalks and skits before this were very godly. I was wondering how Zhang Ye would end things off, but I never expected this at all! Nothing else fucking comes close to this!”

“This is the funniest skit I’ve ever seen!”

“Agreed!”

“I laughed from the start until the end!”

“Me too, my stomach hurts from all that laughing!”

“It was amazing!”

“Yup, it was fantastic!”

“It was so good that I cried!”

“It was unbelievably good!”

“Zhang Ye really brought out all of his tricks for this year’s Spring Festival Gala!”

“This is what you fucking call a skit! This is what a fucking Spring Festival Gala should be like!”

At this moment, all of the TV viewers saw a momentary illusion!

—The Spring Festival Gala has returned!

The enchanting Spring Festival Gala from the yesteryears had finally made its comeback after all these years!

Chapter 1350: Ringing in the new year!

Backstage.

The trio had already exited the stage.

Zhang Ye, Yao Jiancai, and Dong Shanshan’s Spring Festival Gala debut came to an end.

The thunderous applause was still ringing in their ears.

“Zhang Ye!”

“Zhang Ye!”

“Encore!”

“We haven’t had enough!”

“I’m crying from laughing so much, can you see?”

They were shouting all kinds of things!

When Zhang Ye heard it, he gave a happy smile. The nervousness from taking charge of his first Spring Festival Gala and going on stage for his first Spring Festival Gala performance had all disappeared without a trace. He could finally heave a long sigh of relief.

Zhang Ye had taken a really big risk on this skit, not because of the choice of the script, but because of the changes made to the characters. There were only so many classic skits from his previous world, and even fewer that could be used as a finale, so this presented to Zhang Ye a very big problem.

What role was he going to play?

What roles could he play?

Pan Changhong? He couldn't do it.

Chen Peisi? He couldn't act like him.

Zhu Shimao? That would be even more difficult.

Even Uncle Zhao Benshan's ¹ image was not something that Zhang Ye could match!

So when the script was finalized and confirmed with Yao Jiancai and Dong Shanshan, Zhang Ye decided that he would have to take the risk of altering the characters a bit.

Yao Jiancai was to play the dupe.

Dong Shanshan was to play the ugly role.

And he would play the countrified role.

For both Dong Shanshan and his roles, they didn't deliberately make themselves look older than they were. This was because he knew that they might not achieve the best effects even if they dressed up to look old. Instead, it might even make the audience unable to concentrate on the performance, so they might as well just do it as their actual ages. There were also some modifications to the script. In the original version, Fan Weicheng had addressed Uncle Benshan as Big Bro, while Yao Jiancai called Zhang Ye Old Bro over here. The original also featured a middle-aged couple, replaced by a young couple over here, but the effects were still the same.

Looking back on it, the response was extremely good!

In fact, it was even better than any of the acts that came before!

The famous "Selling Crutches" was also restored by Zhang Ye in this world!

Dong Shanshan clutched her chest, panting. "Did I stutter through one of my lines? It scared me and I almost said it wrong!"

Yao Jiancai had sweat pouring down his face. "It's alright, Shanshan, you did pretty good."

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "It looks like the audience's response wasn't too bad, right?"

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "Just listen, listen to that, it's more than not bad. This applause, this laughter, these screams, not many skits in the past have ever gotten such a warm reception! Isn't that

so, Zhang'er?" Yao Jiancai turned his head with a smile but was startled when he realized that Zhang Ye was no longer standing there with them.

Zhang Ye was anxiously running off into the distance.

Dong Shanshan shouted after him, "Where are you going?"

Zhang Ye raised a hand at them. "I've gotta run. There's still a pile of work that requires my attention. You two head back home."

Only then did Yao Jiancai remember that Zhang Ye was the executive director of the Spring Festival Gala as well. He wasn't like them, able to put everything down once they finished performing the finale skit. The entire Spring Festival Gala was still waiting for him to take command. So he said, "Why would we head back home at this time? Teacher Shanshan and I will wait for you so that we can throw a celebratory feast when the gala is over!"

Zhang Ye said, "Alright!"

He soon disappeared from sight.

Yao Jiancai stared in that direction. "Hai, Zhang'er must be really tired out this time."

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "Well, he always risks his life when it comes to working. If the viewership ratings of this year's Spring Festival Gala aren't ideal, then it would definitely be a waste of the hard work that he's put in over the past two or three months!"

...

In the production control room.

When Zhang Ye returned, the production team's staff squealed!

"Director Zhang!"

"Hahaha!"

"Your acting was so good!"

"That skit was really godly!"

"Not to mention the audience, even I was laughing like crazy!"

"You didn't see it, but the camera operators in the venue were almost rolling on the floor laughing!"

"This finale skit just before midnight has really lived up to expectations!"

"Our viewership ratings are gonna explode!"

"Right, it's definitely gonna be explosive this time!"

They were beginning to celebrate in advance.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "The Spring Festival Gala isn't over yet, so hurry back to your positions. Don't screw it up at the last second!"

“Right.”

“Understood!”

“Alright, Director Zhang!”

“Everyone, let’s give it more effort! We’re going to make the final push!”

“Hahaha, I’m full of energy right now!”

Everyone was very excited.

Zhang Ye’s skit had given everyone confidence and a boost!

Everyone was thinking that even without the prior acts, even without the new stage that was heavily invested in, just by this “Selling Crutches” skit by Director Zhang at the end, it was absolutely enough to make this year’s Spring Festival Gala stand out among the Spring Festival Galas in recent years. This skit was such a classic, and it was also very critical since it was the finale act just before midnight. In just a short while, it had lit up all of the Chinese people’s emotions around the world. Just by looking at the reactions of the live audience, one would know that everyone was blown away by wave after wave of climaxes. The moment “Selling Crutches” ended, it hit the highest point of the night!

That imagery, that enthusiasm, they could only be described as crazy!

How many years had it been since there was such an atmosphere at the Spring Festival Gala!

How many years had it been since such laughter had been heard at the Spring Festival Gala!

Today, they had achieved it!

Zhang Ye had led them to create a surprisingly amazing Spring Festival Gala!

...

On TV.

The hosts reappeared on the stage.

Little Hu Die’s act was also coming to a conclusion.

Midnight was almost here!

...

Beijing.

“It’s time to set off the firecrackers!”

“It’s almost New Year!”

“Everyone, let’s countdown!”

...

Tianjin.

“There are only two minutes left!”

“This is an interesting new year!”

“This year’s Spring Festival Gala is awesome!”

...

Shanghai.

“I’ve realized that the northerners’ skits are also quite interesting to watch.”

“Yeah, I didn’t use to watch them either. But who knew that I would watch it this year and nearly ended up laughing to death!”

“I’ll be sure to catch the Spring Festival Gala every year from now on.”

“Zhang Ye’s skit is the best.”

...

Shenzhen.

“This New Year’s feels different from before!”

“I don’t know why, but I’m exceptionally happy this year’s New Year’s Eve!”

“Hahaha, it must be because you watched the skit!”

“That’s true!”

“I actually watched the Spring Festival Gala from start to finish!”

“Me too, I didn’t miss any of the acts!”

“Me too, I watched them all!”

...

Overseas.

“The Spring Festival Gala is great!”

“I left China many years ago, but I just realized that a wondrous person like Zhang Ye appeared in showbiz!”

“Yeah, I really liked that last skit by him. The performance was really great!”

“I’ll remember him.”

“With the Spring Festival Gala coming to a perfect close and the country prospering and strong, I’m really proud to be Chinese.”

...

On Weibo.

“Wow, Little Hu Die still isn’t dizzy?”

“Did she really spin for four hours?”

“How godly! The acts on this year’s Spring Festival Gala are all fucking godly!”

“I can’t even describe how wonderful it is!”

“Hurry, they’re giving out red packets again!”

“It’s another wave of red packets being handed out!”

“Grab them! Grab them all!”

“Haha, I grabbed one with only 1 yuan in it!”

“Damn, I got Zhang Ye’s red packet again. There is only 1.7 cents in it! This adds up with the 1.3 cents that I received earlier, so I can finally withdraw a full 3 cents now? Pfft! Zhang Ye, you great trickster!”

“Hahahahaha!”

“This cheapskate is beyond saving!”

“Ahhh! I got the work dedication card! I got it!”

“Aiyo, I received one too!”

“Damn, I’ve finally completed my collection of the five cards of fortune!”

“It’s ending at midnight. They’ll be announcing the winners very soon!”

“200 million! It’s gonna be mine!”

The red packets were being distributed in large quantities!

The five cards of fortune were released in large batches!

At the end of the year, these were the last moments of craziness!

...

On TV.

The Spring Festival Gala’s live broadcast.

Yan Mei raised her microphone and said loudly, “As we can see, Little Hu Die is turning faster and faster now. Dear friends, there’s only 1 minute and 7 seconds left until we ring in the new year. At this point in time, let us bid farewell to the old and welcome the new with thanks. Let us embrace a better and more beautiful spring with fervor. We’re thankful for the great times, we’re thankful to our dearest homeland, we’re thankful to our parents who raised us, we’re thankful to those friends and family who helped us during the year. And of course, we should also praise ourselves and thank our own perseverance and hard work for getting us through the year! Let us confidently and passionately welcome a more hopeful and even more magnificent tomorrow!”

Li Chen smiled. “Is everyone ready?”

The hosts said in unison, "Come, let's count down to the new year together!"

The live audience stood up!

The performers sitting backstage also stood up!

The staff members at the venue raised their hands into the air!

"Ten!"

"Nine!"

"Eight!"

"Seven!"

"Six!"

"Five!"

"Four!"

"Three!"

"Two!"

"One!"

"Happy New Year!"

Little Hu Die stopped turning!

Flower blossoms were scattered all over the stage!

The lights were putting on a gorgeous display!

At this moment, the entire venue erupted with excitement and cheers!

The hosts shouted New Year's greetings.

"It's the new year!"

"New Year has arrived!"

"Happy New Year!"

"Everyone, happy New Year!"

"Let us wish everyone a happy New Year!"

"May you achieve everything your heart desires! And your family be happy!"

At this very second, the whole nation was in jubilation!

At this moment, all the Chinese people in the world were celebrating the new year!