

二场 Act Two

强子家 *Inside Qiangzi's home*

(强子全神贯注的打游戏，强子妈边收拾屋子边抱怨。) [*Qiangzi is intently focussed on playing an electronic game, Qiangzi's Mum is grumbling as she tidies the room*]

强子妈: [擦桌子) 强子.....强子.....叫你怎么不言语呀! ?

QIANGZI'S MUM: [*wiping the table*] Qiangzi.....Qiangzi.....why don't you answer when I talk to you?

强子:哎呀, 妈, 有什么事, 说..... (不耐烦)

QIANGZI: Aiya, Mum, what's up? Just tell me. [*impatiently*]

强子妈: 我觉得, 齐主任说的话在理, 你说呢?

QIANGZI'S MUM: I think what Director Qi said was quite reasonable, what do you think?

(坐在强子脚下的沙发上, 强子把脚丫子放在妈妈的腿上, 妈妈不愿意地挪到了另一把椅子上。)

[*She sits on the couch next to Qiangzi's feet. Qiangzi puts his feet onto his mother's legs. Qiangzi's Mum, unwilling to have his feet there, moves to another chair.*]

强子: 什么事呀?

QIANGZI: What's the matter?

强子妈: 哎呀! 就是你, 你还真打算靠租这几间破房子的房租, 过一辈子呀? 你也找点营生干, 别整天介跟家呆着, 不是打游戏就是睡觉,说你呢, 听见了没有.....

QIANGZI'S MUM: Aiya! It's you! Do you really plan to live off the rent from these shabby rooms for the rest of your life? You should find yourself a job; don't just spend all day loafing around. Do something besides playing games and sleepingI'm talking to you. Are you listening...?

强子: 哎呀, 知道了妈.....

QIANGZI: Aiya! I know that Mum.

强子妈: 哎, 对了, 你姜姨给你介绍的活儿怎了养了? 面试了吗? 成吗? 什么时候上班?

QIANGZI'S MUM: Oh, yeah! What happened with that job Aunty Jiang told you about?

Have you had the interview? Did you get it? When do you start work?

强子: 哎呀, 妈, 姜阿姨给我介绍的那活, 就是一催巴, 挣不了仨瓜俩枣, 费那劲呢!

QIANGZI: Aiya, Mum, that job that Auntie Jiang lined up for me was just running errands. For the few measly crumbs I would be paid it just wouldn't be worth the effort.

强子妈: 哎呦, 那人家公司还每月花几千块钱, 请一爷呀?

QIANGZI'S MUM: Aiyo!, So you think the company is going to spend several thousand a month to employ your lordship?

强子: 妈, 我是这么想的, 那活儿啊就是一催巴, 有那闲功夫, 我还不如思考思考干点儿什么大事儿呢!

QIANGZI: Mum, the way I see it, since that job is just running errands, instead of wasting my time doing that I'd be better off coming up with some major business of my own.

强子妈: 呦, 你能干什么大事儿啊?

QIANGZI'S MUM: Yo! So what major business can you do?

强子: 哎, 妈, 我想开个文化公司。

QIANGZI: Oh, Mum, I want to start up a culture company.

强子妈: 文化公司? 就你? 张强子同志, 你有高中毕业证吗?

QIANGZI'S MUM: A culture company? You? Comrade Zhang Qiangzi, have you even got a high school diploma?

强子: 妈, 你别看不起人啊! 我是没文化, 可我有公司啊, 加起来就是文化公司! 再说了, 那些满大街的硕士、博士他们倒有文化, 不也在公司给人当催巴吗!

QIANGZI: Mum, Don't look down on me! I might not have much culture, but I do have a company, add them together and you get a culture company! And anyway, the streets are full of people with Master's and Doctorates: They might have plenty of culture but aren't they just running errands for companies too?

强子妈: 强子, 你别老眼高手低的, 看不起这、看不起那的, 哪不一样。你看人家儿, 就是当催巴, 那也是一有文化的催巴。不像你, 你就是当了老板, 那也是没文化的公司, 早晚有一天也得倒闭!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Qiangzi! Don't always set your sights high when your abilities are low. You despise this and you despise that, but it doesn't make any

difference where you work. Take a look at those other guys; even if they are just errand boys, they are cultured errand boys! Not like you. Even if you became the boss you'd still be uncultured and sooner or later the company would be sure to go belly up!

强子: 妈, 你说, 什么是有文化?

QIANGZI: Mum, so tell me then, what does it mean to be 'cultured'?

强子妈: 有饭吃.....就是有文化!

QIANGZI'S MUM: To have food on your plate....that's what it means to be cultured!

强子妈: 呵呵, 饭桶文化!张饭桶.....呵呵呵.....

QIANGZI'S MUM: Haha! Rice bucket culture! Mr Eat-a-Bucket of Rice Deadbeat Zhang...Hahaha!

强子: 妈, 得了, 您那点儿心思我还不知道, 您不就是看不上我吗? 捎带着看不上我爸!

QIANGZI: Come off it, Mum. You think I don't know what you are thinking? You just despise me don't you - along with my dad.

强子妈: 你说你这孩子, 我这说你, 怎么又撇顾上你爸了? 这又碍你爸什么事了?

QIANGZI'S MUM: You're such an impossible child! I'm talking about you, why do you have to drag your father into it? What's it got to do with him?

强子: 您要看得上我爹, 他还能躲到顺义跟几个穷哥们儿开饭馆去?

QIANGZI: If you didn't despise my dad, would he have to hide himself away in Shunyi running a restaurant with a few of his impoverished mates?

强子妈: 哎! 你说你爸啊, 把家里这点底都抖搂出来开饭馆了。你说近边儿边儿的家门口开一个也就得了, 非要大老远的跑到顺义开饭馆去了。这我也抓不着、管不着他, 躲我远远儿的。说是开饭馆, 到头来还不是成他自己个儿的酒馆了! 哼.....指不定喝成个啥样儿呢.....

QIANGZI'S MUM: Talk about your father! He squandered every last bit of the family savings on opening that restaurant! It would have been one thing if he had set up a place near the entrance to our house, but, no, he had to go and set it up miles away in Shunyi. I can't get hold of him and can't keep an eye on what he's doing. He's dodging right out of my way. He says he's running a restaurant, but when it comes down to it, it's more like it's become his private wine bar! Who knows what kind of drunken state he's got himself

into....

强子：哎呀！我的妈呀！你可真是痛打落水狗啊，我和我爸怎么就这么不招您待见啊！说白了，您心里不就只待见那谁吗！

QIANGZI: Ai ya! My Dear Mother! You really like to kick a dog when he's down! Why are you always so hard on me and my dad? The truth of it is, the only person you have any respect for is that guy!

强子妈：谁？你说清楚呢！别胡说八道啊！

QIANGZI'S MUM: What guy? Explain yourself! Don't talk rubbish!

强子：（支吾着）谁胡说八道了，那谁.....不就是您那青梅煮酒吗！

QIANGZI: *[evasively]* who's talking rubbish, that guy....that one who was your childhood 'inamaretto'!

强子妈：.....呵呵.....说你没文化吧！那叫青梅竹马！

QIANGZI'S MUM:Haha! I said you were uneducated! It's called a childhood inamorato!

强子：啊对，青梅竹马，您不就惦记那个马吗！

QIANGZI: Yeah that's right, childhood animal-ato. Aren't you pining after that animal-ato?

强子妈：小兔崽子！谁告儿你的？

QIANGZI'S MUM: Little Ratbag! Who told you that?

强子：咳，这都是公开的秘密，谁不知道啊！

QIANGZI: Huh, it's an open secret. Everybody knows that!

强子妈：（追着打强子）今儿你把话给我说清楚，谁告儿你的？

QIANGZI'S MUM: *[chases Qiangzi hitting him]* You tell me the truth now! Who told you?

强子：我不说，打死我也不说！（俩人追打，姜阿姨上）

QIANGZI: I won't tell you, even if you kill me I won't say! *[The two chase around the stage, Auntie Jiang enters the stage – remains outside]*

强子妈：你给我说清楚了，你这话什么意思？是谁这么说你妈了，还是你妈我做什么见不得人的事了让你抬不起头来了？啊？我好几十岁的人了，让你小兔崽子在背后瞎扯扯我.....你这讨厌你.....你说你什么意思？

QIANGZI'S MUM: You explain yourself, what do you mean by that? Did someone say that about your mother, or has your mother done some disgraceful

thing that means you can't hold your head up in public? Uh? I'm a middle aged woman, how dare you gossip about me behind my back, you little ratbag.... You are so annoying... tell me what you mean by it!

强子:哎.....我呀, 我就不说, 我急死您.....

QIANGZI:Ah.... I, I won't tell you, I'll worry you to death.....

强子妈: 好, 你不说是吧? 我告诉你, 你别躲, 今儿你这顿打是挨上了。好长时间不打你, 你屁股痒痒了是不是? 你等着、你等着.....我今儿好好儿教育教育你, 我让你嘴欠。(强子和强子妈追逐着, 正在这个时候, 姜阿姨进。)

QIANGZI'S MUM: O.K. So you won't tell me ay? Well, I'll tell you: don't try to get away because today you've got a thrashing coming. Is your arse getting itchy because I haven't thrashed you for ages? You just wait, you just wait....Today I'm going to teach you a lesson. I'll teach you to gossip!
[Qiangzi and Qiangzi's Mum chase around the stage, at this moment Auntie Jiang enters the room.]

姜阿姨: 强子妈! 强子妈! 哟! 这娘俩儿怎么又掐上啦!

AUNTY JIANG: Qiangzi's Mum! Qiangzi's Mum! Yo! How come the two of you are at each other again!

强子: 姜阿姨, 您看我妈, 动不动就挤兑我, 这还让不让人活了!

QIANGZI: Auntie Jiang, see how my mum bullies me at the slightest provocation? Am I allowed to even be alive?

强子妈: 你要是但凡有点儿出息, 我能着这么大急发这么大火吗!

QIANGZI'S MUM: If you had even the slightest prospects for the future, would I be so annoyed and get so angry!

姜阿姨: 行了, 你们娘俩先消停会儿, 我跟你们说个事儿。那些戏园子的人啊, 要编排你们, 把你们的事儿啊, 搬到戏台上去! (强子母子闻听各有反应, 强子兴奋, 强子妈警惕。)

AUNTY JIANG: OK OK, the two of you just ease off for a bit, I have something to talk to you about. Those theatre people want to write a play about you; put your story on to the stage! *[hearing this Qiangzi and his mother respond differently, Qiangzi is excited, Qiangzi's Mum is suspicious]*

强子: 嘿! 我的事儿也能上台?

QIANGZI: Hey! My story can get onto the stage?

强子妈：我们能有什么事儿啊！这谁出的馊主意？

QIANGZI'S MUM: What is there to tell about us? Who had that stupid idea?

姜阿姨：还有谁啊？何大主任呗！

AUNTY JIANG: Who else? Executive Director He!

强子：嘿！怪不得齐主任说找我有事儿呢，就这事儿啊！妈，瞧见没有，您看不上我，可人家搞艺术的可把咱当盘菜。得，回头把我这点儿创业史跟他们聊聊！也给他们增加点儿素材！

QIANGZI: Hey! No wonder Director Qi said there was something he wanted to talk to me about. This is what it was! Mum, have you noticed? You brush me off like a few paltry crumbs, but the people who do theatre think I'm a main course! Huh! Shortly I'll have a chat to them about the history of my undertakings to help them increase their stock of source material.

强子妈：德性！拿着尿盆子当饭碗，你还以为这是好事儿呐！

QIANGZI'S MUM: Idiot! You're mistaking a chamber pot for a rice pot. You're deluded if you think this is a good thing!

强子：你甭管什么碗，能上戏台那就是大碗！

QIANGZI: Who cares what kind of pot it is, if I'm appearing on stage then it's a big pot and I'm a big shot!

强子妈：还大碗呢！我看你也就是一酒盅！

QIANGZI'S MUM: A big shot! Seems to me you're just a piss pot!

强子：什么酒盅啊，妈，您还老嫌我爹是一酒鬼！我看你们呀，谁也甭嫌弃谁！

QIANGZI: What do you mean a piss pot? Mum, you are always complaining that dad is a drunkard. As I see it there's no need for either of you to be complaining about the other one.

姜阿姨：行了，行了，你们别跟这儿逗咳嗽了，说正事儿吧，你们还真想让人家给编排到戏里啊？

AUNTY JIANG: OK, OK, Stop picking on each other and talk about the real issue here. Do you really want those people to write you into their play?

强子妈：对了，这可不成！回头啊得找他们去！

QIANGZI'S MUM: You're right, it absolutely won't do! Later on we'll have to go and talk to them about it.

强子：妈，这事儿交给我了！我去找他们说道说道！

QIANGZI: Mum, You can let me handle this! I'll go and find them and talk it over.

强子妈: 你~~行吗? (收光)

QIANGZI'S MUM: You? Can you handle it? [*Lights down*]

三场 Act Three

小草帽剧场内。

In the Little Straw Hat Theatre

强子眉飞色舞的做讲解状，导演表情认真、若有所思。 *Qiangzi is exuberantly explaining something; the Director has a serious expression and there is a thoughtful look on his face.*

晓光面带不屑。

Xiaoguang has an expression of contempt

楠芳听得带劲，不时露出倾慕的表情，晓光对此颇为敏感。

Nanfang is listening enthusiastically, and frequently displays an admiring expression, to which Xiaoguang is particularly sensitive.

强子：你们都听明白了吗？

QIANGZI: Did you understand all that?

导演认真地点头。

DIRECTOR nods his head seriously

导演：嗯，不错！（对晓光、楠芳）

DIRECTOR: Mm, not bad [*to Xiaoguang and Nanfang*]

怎么着，照强子说的，咱们走走？

How about we include what Qiangzi has told us in our rehearsal?

晓光：导演啊，这，怎么走啊？

XIAOGUANG: Director! How are we supposed to do that?

导演：你说怎么走啊？你在中戏没做过观察人物练习啊！

DIRECTOR: You're asking me how to do it? Didn't you do character observation exercises when you were at the Central Drama Academy?

晓光：不是，他说这么一大堆，走哪段啊？是他当倒爷那段还是吃瓦片儿那段？

XIAOGUANG: That's not what I mean, I mean he talked about a whole heap of different things. Which parts are we supposed to include in the rehearsal? The bit where he makes a living by profiteering, or the bit where he lives off renting out rooms in his house?

强子：哎不对了，我跟你们白活半天你们怎么净盯着我倒霉的事儿啊！

QIANGZI: Hey, that's not right! I just spent ages telling you my life story, how come

you're only focussing on the times when I was down on my luck?

导演：这样，就那段！就是强子见义勇为那段！

DIRECTOR: I tell you which part we'll do! We'll do the part where Qiangzi saw a just cause and threw himself courageously into the fight!

晓光：哪段儿啊？

XIAOGUANG: What part was that?

导演：就是一老大妈被汽车刮倒，司机要跑，强子拦住车，跟司机理论，打起来那段儿！

DIRECTOR: The part where the old lady was knocked down by the car and the driver tried to take off, but Qiangzi stopped the car, had an altercation with the driver and ended up in a fight with him!

晓光：就那段儿？得，来吧！把那个塔拉板、大裤衩给我拿来，对了，还有牙签儿！

XIAOGUANG: That part? OK! Come on then! Bring me the flip-flops and the baggy underpants. Oh yes, and don't forget the toothpick!

强子：（认真的回忆）哎，我当时没叼着牙签儿啊！我记得我当时嚼着根儿黄瓜啊！

QIANGZI: [*earnestly recollecting*] Mmm, I don't think I had a toothpick in my mouth at the time! I remember at the time I was chewing a cucumber!

晓光：行嘞，开始吧导演！

XIAOGUANG: OK! Let's start then, Director!

导演：行，来吧！（王式捋头发、查式表情）

DIRECTOR: OK, Let's go! [*He smooths back his hair in the manner of the famous director Wang Xiaoying, and assumes the facial expression for which director Zha Mingzhe is famous.*¹]

（晓光把强子前几天砸灯箱的动作安在这段故事里，重复强子当天砸灯箱时踢飞塔拉板，单脚蹦着追骂的神态再现。）

[*Xiaoguang incorporates into this part of the story Qiangzi's actions of a few days earlier when he tried to smash the lighting equipment boxes. He mimics Qiangzi's manner when he kicked the box, his flip-flop flew off, and he hopped on one leg chasing and abusing people.*]

¹ Both Wang and Zha are national renowned theatre directors and both are graduates of the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing.

晓 光：你丫给我站住！别说你开一三蹦子了，你就开一马三儿也甭想跑！麻利儿的给我下车，呦！怎么着！想动手，哥们儿早点刚吃完涮羊肉，正想活动活动消消食儿呢！

XIAOGUANG: Stop you bastard! You think you can escape in a pedicab? Even if you were driving a Ford Mustang you wouldn't get away from me! Move to it! Get out of the car. Yoh! What the fuck? You wanna fight? Great! I just ate a bowl of mutton hot pot for breakfast and I was just looking for a bit of exercise to help my digestion!

（楠芳笑的捂着肚子，导演托着下巴，用查式表情饶有兴趣的看着。）

[Nanfang is laughing so much she has to hold onto her stomach. Director cups his chin in his hand and uses an expression typical of the director Zha Mingzhe to watch the performance with great interest.]

强 子：停！你丫成心是吧！我当时是这样吗！

QIANGZI: Stop! You Bastard! You're doing it on purpose aren't you! That isn't what I did!

（晓光故做认真状）*[Xiaoguang deliberately assumes an earnest air.]*

晓 光：没有啊！我觉得你当时就该这样啊！我就是照着你来的！

XIAOGUANG: Oh, isn't it? I thought that's what you would have done at the time! I was just imitating your behaviour!

强 子：你大爷！我当时是英雄行为，（做英雄状）你丫不就是记恨我前几天踹你们灯箱那事儿吗！真他妈小心眼儿！

QIANGZI: You're a jerk! What I did that day was heroic, *[assumes a heroic stance]* but you're still uptight over me kicking your lighting equipment boxes a few days ago, you bastard! You're too fucking petty.

（晓光被戳穿，故做无辜状）*[Xiaoguang has been exposed but puts on an innocent look.]*

晓 光：没有啊！导演你看……

XIAOGUANG: No way! Director, you see...

导 演：我说强子，刚才我觉着他演的还成，起码啊，还像你，这戏剧啊，就得演什么像什么。（对晓光）你呢，除了像强子以外，你还得把状态调调。

DIRECTOR: Hey Qiangzi, I think his performance was not too bad. At the very least he was just like you, and in drama you have to act roles as they really are.

[to XIAOGUANG] And as for you, besides resembling Qiangzi you also have to adjust the performance to the other scenario.

楠 芳：对啊！人家强子当时是见义勇为啊，你怎么把人家演成坏蛋了！

（强子对楠芳感激，点头称是，晓光见状，充满醋意的对楠芳说，）

NANFANG: That's right! At the time Qiangzi did a brave thing for a just cause! How come you are performing the role as if he was the villain? *[Qiangzi shows his gratitude towards Nanfang, nodding his head in agreement. Xiaoguang observes this and speaks to Nanfang with a voice filled with jealousy]*

晓 光：就你懂塑造人物！

XIAOGUANG: So you know better than I do how to create this character?

楠 芳：本来嘛！人家强子就是挺爷们儿的！

NANFANG: It's obvious! This guy Qiangzi is a real man!

晓 光：你这话什么意思？你跟我说说，什么是爷们儿？

XIAOGUANG: What do you mean by that? Tell what you mean by a 'real man'

楠 芳：爷们儿就是敢作敢当！不小心眼儿。

NANFANG: A 'real man' means he has the courage to do what he believes should be done! He's not narrow- minded.

晓 光：你说谁呢？（导演对晓光）

XIAOGUANG: Who are you referring to? *[Director to Xiaoguang]*

导 演：这么着，这段你再琢磨琢磨，咱先排下一段。强子，我觉着啊，刚才晓光演的也没错。你就那样！

DIRECTOR: Alright, you need to give some more thought to this section. Let's move on to the next part now. Qiangzi, I think that Xiaoguang's performance was pretty accurate, that's just how you are!

（强子要急）*[Qiangzi is about to argue.]*

导 演：可是呢，你得分什么事儿。别看你表面咋咋呼呼，其实你是一好人！（强子要急的神态一下子软下来，神情充满感动。）我没猜错的话，你小时候也是个有理想的好孩子，可是你爸妈那时候啊，经常吵架，没人管你，你学校得了好成绩，他们也不在乎，于是你就调皮捣蛋，想用这种办法引起他们的注意。可是呢，得到的只是他们的惩罚和老师的批评。于是你就开始破罐破摔！可我知道，你的心里一直渴望别人对你的肯定。而且我也相信，你是有能力做

一番事业的。（强子完全被打动）

DIRECTOR: But, you're not always like that. You might seem crude and impetuous on the surface, but underneath it in fact you're a good guy! *[QIANGZI's argumentative manner instantly softens, and he is visibly moved]*. If I haven't guessed wrong, when you were a kid you were a good boy who had ideals. But at that time your parents were constantly quarrelling and no one took any notice of you. When you got good marks at school they didn't care, so you started to be mischievous and create trouble just in order to attract their attention. But all that got you was punishment from your parents and criticism from your teachers. So then you wrote yourself off as hopeless and acted recklessly. But I know that deep inside you have always longed to gain affirmation from other people, and I also believe that you have the ability to succeed in a major undertaking. *[Qiangzi is deeply moved]*

楠 芳：就是！我也觉着强子哥行！

NANFANG: Yeah! I think Qiangzi is a great guy too!

晓 光：哎呀，武术里有这么多兵器，练什么不好非练剑！

XIAOGUANG: Ai ya! There is such a wide choice of weapons for you to attack me with! Anything would be better than making yourself that low!

（楠芳白他一眼，喃喃自语） *[Nanfang glares at him, and mutters to herself.]*

楠 芳：德性！

NANFANG: Creep!

导 演：我有个直觉，你心里啊，对你爸妈一直有个过节，刚才你说什么来着？你妈挤兑你爸开饭馆？

DIRECTOR: My intuition tells me that you have always had a deep problem with your parents. What was it that you said just now? That your mother ridicules your father for running a restaurant?

强 子：哦，是这么回事儿，我妈啊，一直看不上我爸，嫌他没本事，挤兑的我爸没辙，跟几个哥们儿到顺义开饭馆去了。

QIANGZI: Oh, it's like this: my mum has always looked down on my dad. She complains that he's useless and ridiculed him so much that he couldn't stand it and went off to Shunyi to open a restaurant with a few of his mates.

导演：（若有所思状）哦，是这样。你刚才还说什么来着？什么青梅煮酒？

DIRECTOR: *[as if absorbed in thought]* Oh, I see. What else was it you said just now?
Something about Amaretto?

强子：哦，是这样，我妈以前有一中学同学，他们俩……（强子突然回过味儿来，警惕的刹住话头儿。）

（导演、晓光、楠芳饶有兴趣的伸着脖子听着，强子刹住，三人互相会意的交换眼神。收光。）

QIANGZI: Oh, no, it was just that there was this boy at my mum's high school and they.... *[Qiangzi suddenly realises what he is saying and vigilantly and abruptly stops talking]*

[Director, Xiaoguang and Nanfang are fascinated and crane their necks to hear. When Qiangzi stops abruptly the three of them exchange meaningful looks.]
[Lights down].