

Redeem

Irena, Coral, Auraro



LIVE WELL TAKE ACTION

Ambassador Program for East Asian Youth

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Chinese Canadian National Council
Toronto Chapter



ALPHA
Education

This project was created by Irena, Coral and Aurora from the “Live Well, Take Action” program, which aims to engage Asian youth in learning about wellness and how it can have significant impacts on self, others and society. It is a collaboration between ALPHA Education and the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CCNCTO), and is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Follow us on Instagram: @livewelltakeaction and Twitter: @lwta_program.

Main Characters



Wu Lei, is now a high school student.



Jin Zhong, he is in the same high school with Wu Lei, and he is one grade higher than Wu Lei.

Other Characters



Wu Lei (Childhood)
Japanese Name: Satou Ritsu



Wu Mei
Mother of Wu Lei.



Satou ,Wu Lei's father.

Wu Mei, a 18-years-old high school student who just started her exchange life in Japan.





Wu Mei first arrived at the school and teacher let her introduce herself to the students.

Japanese students knew a little about Chinese character so it is a good way for them to get know about her.



Teacher let Wu Mei sit at the back of the classroom. The seat in front of Wu Mei's is Satou's.

Wu Mei and Satou soon got to know of each other and fell in love with each other.



After graduation, their relationship developed rapidly.

They held a traditional Japanese wedding in Japanese shrine.

Only friends were at their wedding because Wu Mei's parents refused to send them blessings.

Wu Mei and Satou soon settled down in Japan. They invited their friends to their new house.

After they settled down, Wu Mei gradually found out that she actually had a huge cultural differences with Japanese culture and started arguing with Satou.

Their relationship went sour.





Wu Mei has been feeling very tired and vomiting a lot lately. So she decided to go to the hospital to have it checked out.

After the doctor's examination, she looked at the diagnosis in disbelief.

She got pregnant.



After Wu Mei told Satou she got pregnant, Satou felt very angry and became violence towards her..

From then on, things had gone worse.

She got bullied by Satou often.

Even after Satou Ritsu was born ,Satou kept abusing Wu Mei. And sometimes abused the boy as well.



Finally, Wu Mei and Satou got divorced at Wu Lei's age of 12.

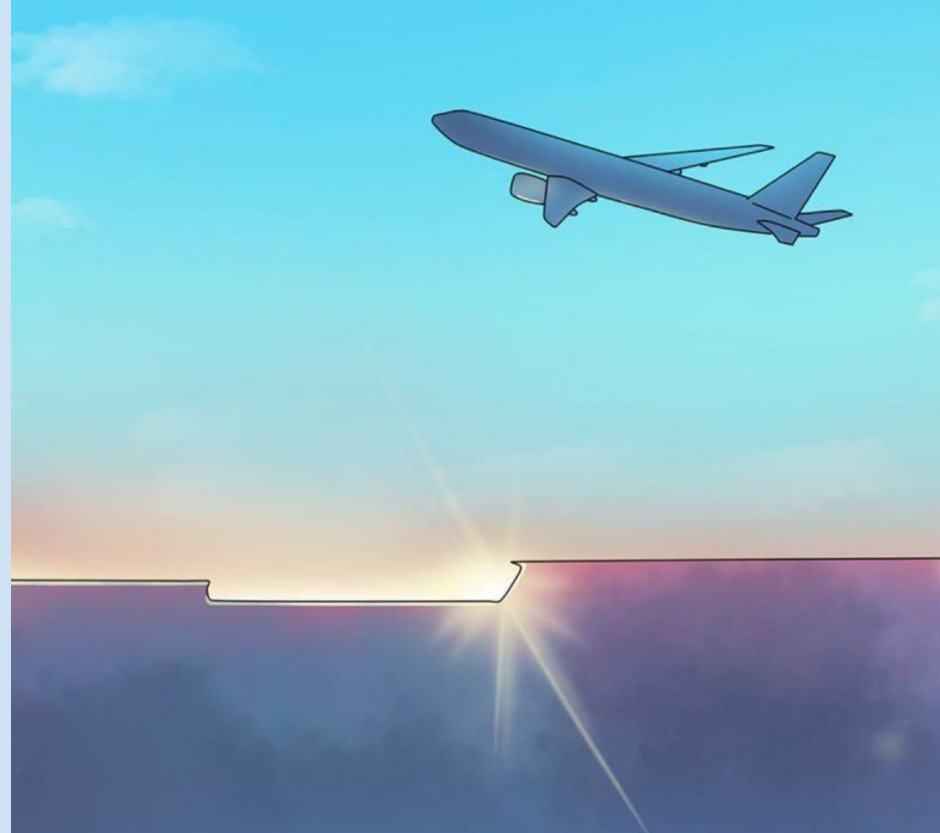
Wu Mei took over the custody ship of Satou Ritsu.

After Wu Mei and Satou got divorced. She thought she need to say goodbye to this memory and this country that caused her grief.



She decided to go back to her motherland ---- China.

She took Wu Lei on the plane back to China.





It was the first time Satou Ritsu stepped on his second hometown, China.

They went back to Wu Mei's hometown, a small city located on the northeast of China

He felt a strange feeling is coming over him.



His neighbours were very unfriendly to him.

These were only because he came from Japan and people hated him as a Japanese



Japan started to invade China from the northwest part.

Everyone hated Japanese here.



Satou Ritsu went through a hard time in middle school.

His classmates isolated him.



The teachers in the school turned a blind eye on it.

So after the classmates bullied or laughed at him, he had no choice but to run away.

However, gradually, he found some fun in books.

While reading books, he can enjoy life and play with people. It's the world without worried and discrimination.

“Can anyone answer this question?” Chinese teacher asked.

Satou Ritsu raised up his hands.

The teacher pointed at him and he felt everyone gazed on him weirdly.

He never raised up his hands ever again.





But he had devoted himself deeply into books.

Books were his besties and he learned a lot.



One day,

The infrequent phone in the house rang.

Satou Ritsu picked the phone up.

"Is that Satou Ritsu?"

"Eh...What's the matter?"

"This is the police. Do you know Wu Mei?"

"Yes, she's my mother."

"Wu Mei is in hospital now and we'll arrive soon and take you there."



"We are sorry about that. We've tried our best."

When Satou Ritsu arrived at the hospital, his mother already died.

"She committed suicide and was found by the people nearby"

"....."



The police contacted his father but his father refused to take him back.

After all these things happened to him, Satou Ritsu decided to change his name into a Chinese name.

However, Satou Ritsu was left in the former name blank.

He chose the name "Lei".

After entering high school, lei
gradually fall in love with writing.



However, because this
town was densely
populated, everyone knows
him, people still isolated
him



Lei participated in a writing competition and he got the first place by his beautiful prose.



Hi everyone, my name is wu lei, very lucky to receive this award...





One day, Zhong found Lei,

Zhong: I know you've got the talent. Don't you want to do something for yourself and try to open yourself?

Lei (timidly): Sure. But do you think I can do it?

Zhong (smile): Just give it a try. I have faith in you. And I will help you as well.

Lei (sheepishly): ...



The bell rang and zhong ran back to the classroom. But suddenly he turned back,

Zhong: By the way, I really love your prose.
It's so exquisite and delicate! You should
become a writer!



From the heart of Lei there is a warm stream to the whole body.

This feeling is reassuring and comfortable.

What he did not know is, at that moment, he already fall in love with Zhong.



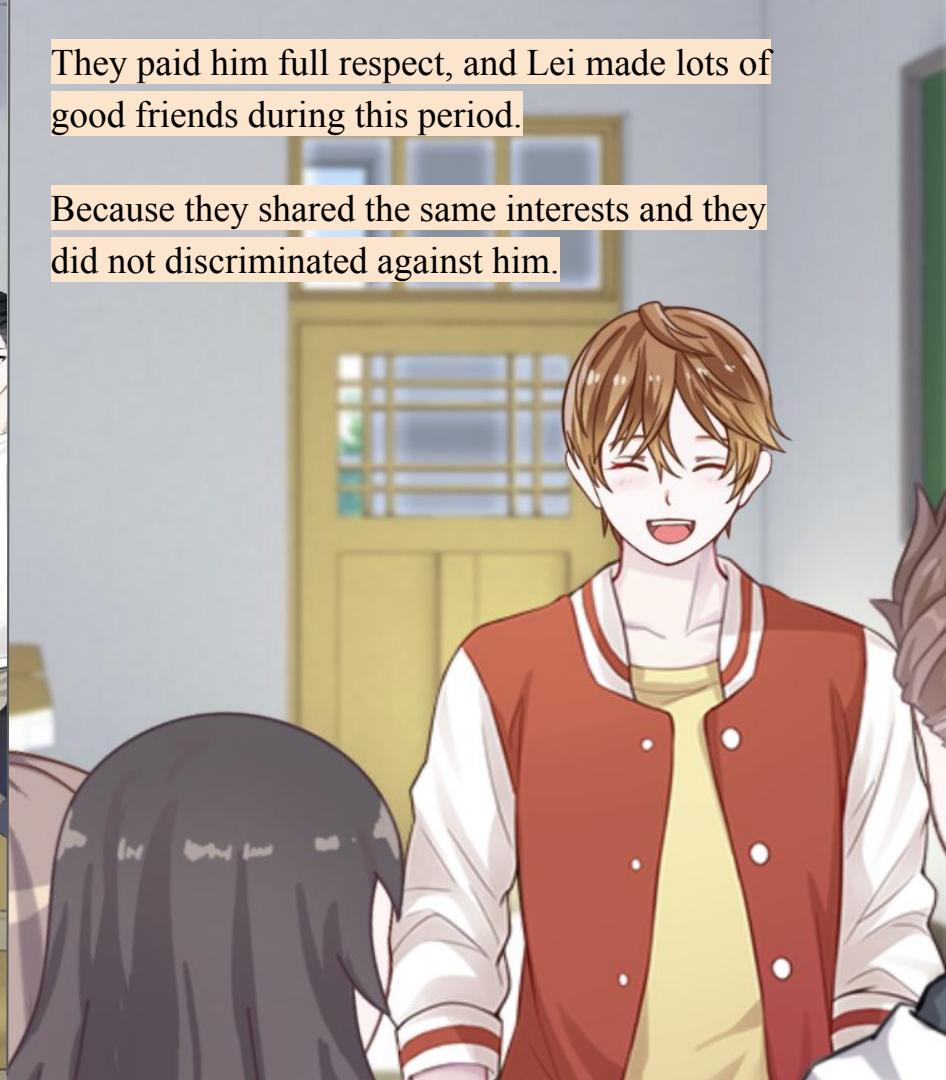
Wu Lei became the chief-editor of the school magazine.

Surprisingly, many students joined and contributed many good articles.



They paid him full respect, and Lei made lots of good friends during this period.

Because they shared the same interests and they did not discriminated against him.





One day,

Lei (timidly): Do you guys mind my heritage? You know, about my parents, one is Chinese and one is Japanese...





Yeah! Captain, don't trap yourself in it!
But, what do you think your identity is?
Do you think you are Japanese or
Chinese?



Thinking...

I consider myself as Chinese more because I don't have many memories about Japan but I received many warmful, helpful memories here in China and I've been grown up here.



Lei and Zhong soon became best friends.

They hang out very often.



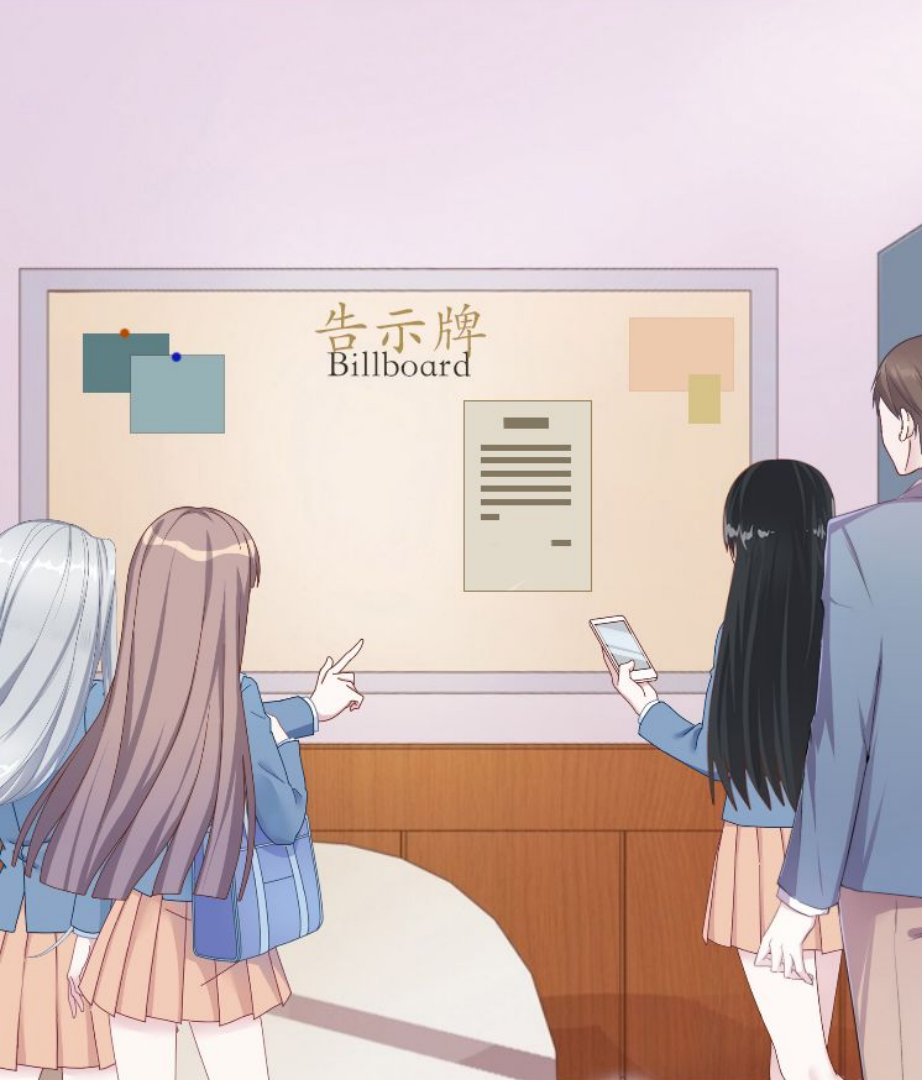
One day, Lei received an article named "This should be the history". It mentioned the issue between Japan and China. But in this article, it was in a jokey style...

'It was just a common war between Japan and China. War improves human development. And who wouldn't want to invade each other?'... 'God, WE ARE HUMANS!'... 'Chinese government should really apologize to Japan because they keep trying to ask for an apology. But it's not even their fault! Most of them already died!'...

**Such language and opinions... That's too bad!
Such a distorted article cannot be left alone. I
need to report it to the school!**



Lei directly handed this article to the guidance counsellors. In Chinese school, this is VERY WRONG. The school paid very high attention to this thing.



Though it was anonymous, the school soon tracked the monitor and found that student.

The school expelled that student from school for a couple days. The student was also notified on the billboard.



When the student was just going to leave the school, looking frustrating. Lei was just passing by.

That student shouted at him: “You reported me, didn’t you? You are just a stupid Japanese dog, you always bark at our Chinese people!”



Zhong came upon him after that.

Zhong: "You shouldn't be affected by this. You have way more important things to do, don't you think?"



This time, Lei didn't reply.

He just stand there looking upon the sky.

After a long time pause, he finally replied: "



"Zhong, it's been too long. And I think it's maybe the time for me to take a break for a while. I already applied for a exchange program to Japan."

Before he left, he said: "



"Thank you, Zhong. Maybe it's the last time we met at school. Congrats to you... And I really like you, not as a friend..."

...



He wanted to go back to his born place which is Japan. He gave his position of chief-editor to a very experiential student.

Lei had already applied for a Japanese exchange program for three months. And he paid off by his scholarship.



He spent studying abroad time in Japan.

< 靳钟 (JinZhong) ...

三个月前 下午 6:38
(Three months ago)



希望你一路顺风
(I hope you have a pleasant journey)

谢谢你的祝福

(Thank you for your blessing)



Zhong never contacted him again.

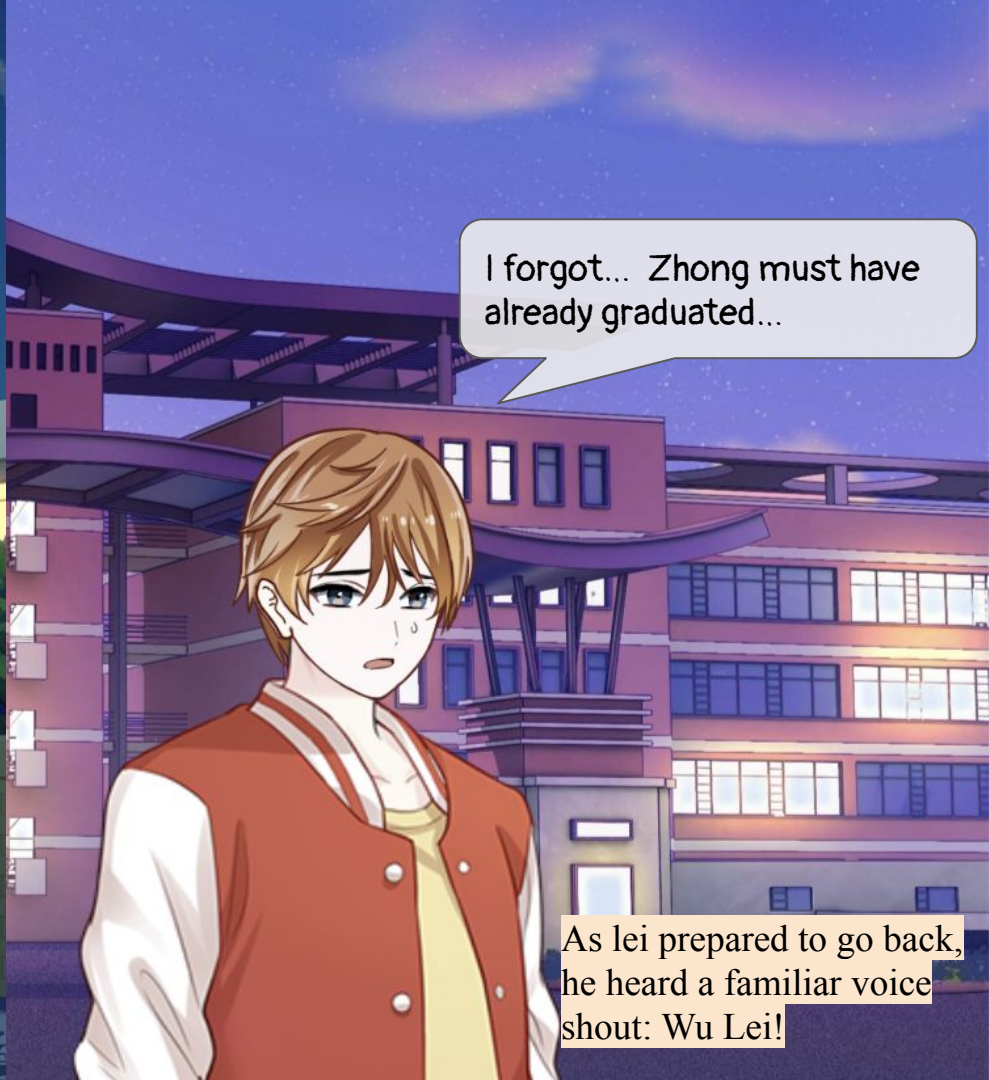
Wu Lei took part in many different clubs and met so many new friends.

His identity changed slowly when he didn't even realize...





At this time, everyone must have night school now...



I forgot... Zhong must have already graduated...

As lei prepared to go back, he heard a familiar voice shout: Wu Lei!

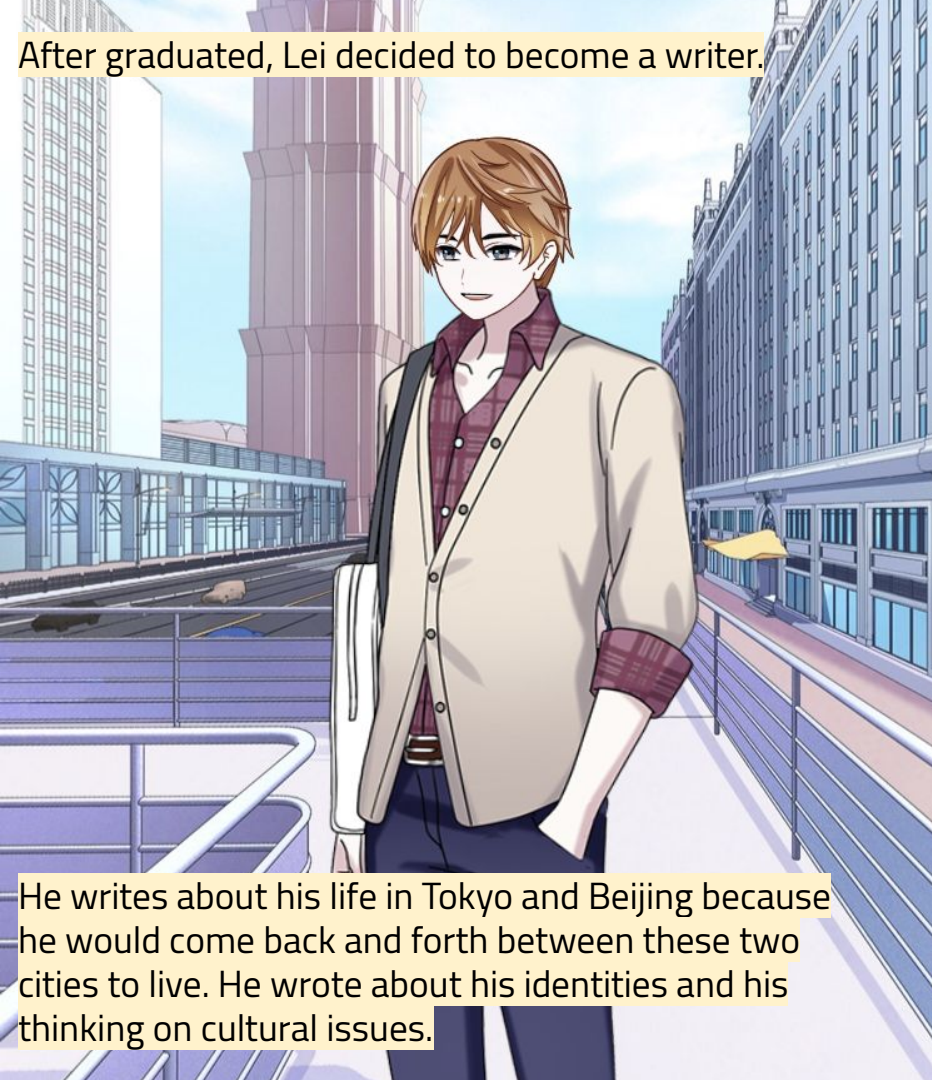


Suddenly they both laughed and the atmosphere lightened.



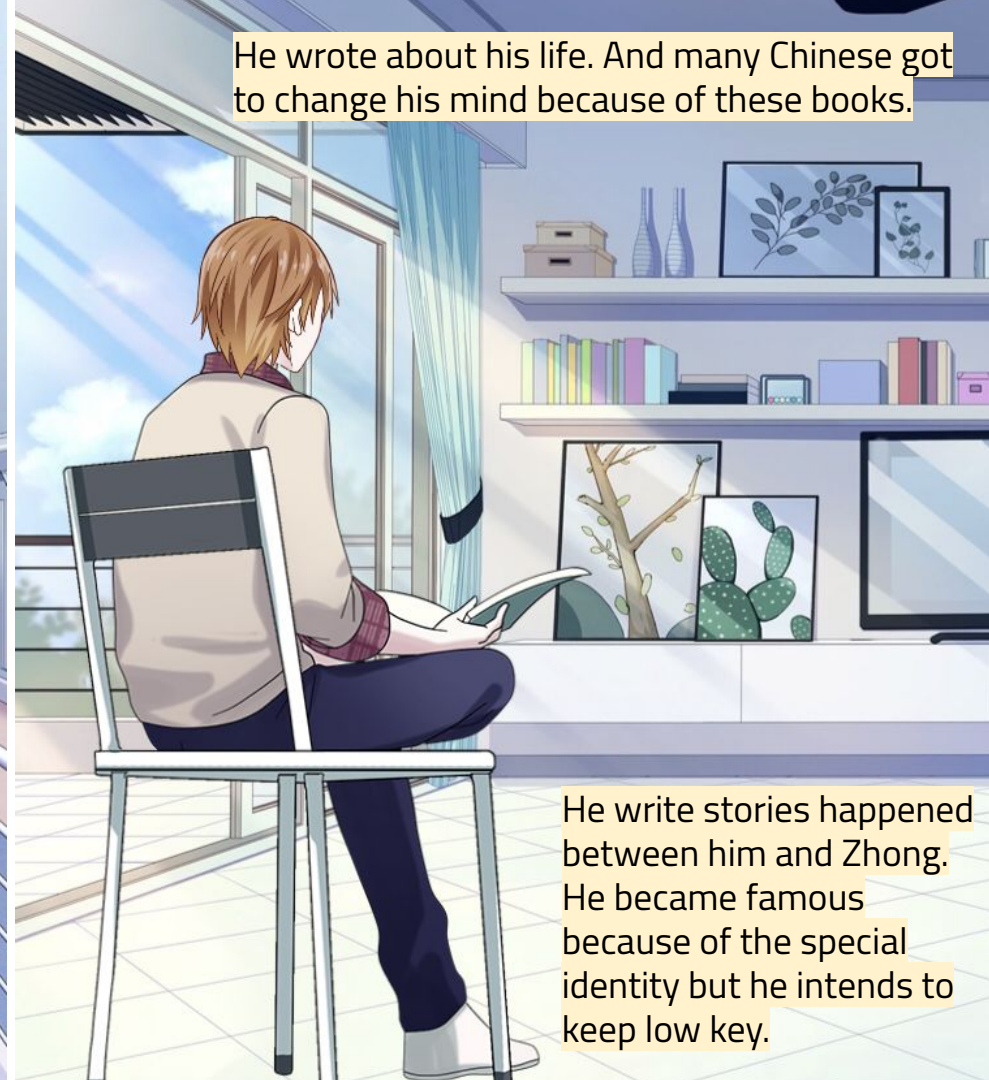


They hugged each other.



After graduated, Lei decided to become a writer.

He writes about his life in Tokyo and Beijing because he would come back and forth between these two cities to live. He wrote about his identities and his thinking on cultural issues.



He wrote about his life. And many Chinese got to change his mind because of these books.


He write stories happened between him and Zhong. He became famous because of the special identity but he intends to keep low key.




Zhong also started his own business after graduated.

Everything went on right track.


Today, Lei had an interview.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue high-collared uniform with gold buttons, is sitting on a brown sofa. He is in a room with a large studio light on the left and a floor lamp behind him. A speech bubble is above him.


That's my story, and I wrote it in a book.

A man in a dark blue uniform is sitting on a brown sofa. A woman with short brown hair, wearing a yellow and black striped top and a dark blue skirt, is sitting on the same sofa, facing him. She has her hand near her face. The room has a floor lamp, a coffee table with books, and a camera on a stand to the right. A speech bubble is above the woman.

So do you think your identity is right now?


A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue Japanese school uniform with gold buttons, is sitting on a brown sofa. He is looking towards the right. The room is dimly lit with a warm, yellowish light. A large floor lamp with a white shade is on the left, and a smaller lamp is on a table behind him. A patterned cushion is on the sofa.

Yes, I am Japanese as well, I shouldn't ignore this. I just want to tell everyone who either like me or dislike me, I consider myself as both. I feel Japan has a cultural connection and mother tongue connection to me.

A man in a dark blue Japanese school uniform is sitting on a brown sofa. A woman with short brown hair, wearing a yellow and black striped top and a dark blue skirt, is sitting on the same sofa, facing him. She is holding a small object in her hand. The room is dimly lit with a warm, yellowish light. A large floor lamp with a white shade is on the left, and a smaller lamp is on a table behind them. A patterned cushion is on the sofa.

Oh, we got it. Do you want to say something about your book or do you want to say something to everyone?

But that doesn't really matter. The identity and all the stereotypes didn't ruin my life. I am, on the good track. Huge thanks to all the people."

A young man with short brown hair and blue eyes is sitting on a brown sofa in a living room. He is wearing a dark blue, high-collared uniform with gold buttons. He is looking slightly to his right with a gentle smile. His hands are clasped in his lap. The room has a warm, yellowish-gold light. To his left is a lamp with a white shade and a brown base. Behind him is a white coffee table with a stack of books. To his right is a dark coffee table with a stack of books. There are patterned pillows on the sofa. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Zhong and I are still together and waiting for a better future. Not only waiting to get married, but also waiting for everyone to change their mind and accept these concepts. But we believe, that there will be one day, everyone doesn't need to hide and deserve all the rights, all the social justice. Last, we sincerely wish all a brighter future.

Thank you for watching!