Title: "New Beijingers in New York" - Script

Act 1

Scene 1

Interior: United Nations Building - Meeting Room - Day

Subtitle at the bottom left corner: 2018, United Nations

(Camera pans across the conference room, showing a gathering of Chinese and Chinese-American entrepreneurs alongside numerous United Nations officials.)

In the midst of the crowd, a robust Chinese entrepreneur is delivering a passionate speech in English. He is Dr. Zhao Yunlong, the protagonist of our story.

Zhao Yunlong: I understand that your time is precious, but the reason we're gathered here today goes beyond the issue of land desertification. This is a battle for survival space, not just for the Chinese nation but for all of humanity.

(Zhao Yunlong turns his gaze toward a Caucasian man in the audience.)

Today, we are honored to have with us an expert in desertification and its application from Israel. As we all know, Israel has made remarkable progress in combating desertification worldwide. If we can effectively address the desertification issue in Alashan, it will serve as a valuable reference not only for China but for the entire world. Therefore, I propose that we elevate the efforts in Alashan's desertification control to the establishment of a desert ecological circle, allowing these sandy lands to become a paradise for human survival, and contributing a viable "Alashan Model" to the world.

(Zhao Yunlong stands, bows, and then takes his seat. The audience bursts into enthusiastic applause.)

Prominent Chinese entrepreneur Wang Shi is seated next to Zhao Yunlong. He leans toward the microphone on the table in front of him, taking the floor.

Wang Shi: Dr. Zhao's words were excellent. We must not view Alashan as merely a desert reclamation project but rather embark on a long-term systematic endeavor. I suggest...

(Zhao Yunlong sits beside Wang Shi, listening attentively. His thoughts slowly drift back to where it all began.)

Chapter 1: Fearless Youth in Poverty

Scene 1

Interior: Fields - Day

Subtitle at the bottom left corner: 1967

Zhao's father hurries back home from the fields (Long shot follows Zhao's father's footsteps). The camera shifts from his feet to his upper body, revealing worn-out trousers rolled up to his knees, covered in mud from years of use. The streets are lined with red banners and slogans like "Long live Chairman Mao, the great teacher, great leader, great commander, and great helmsman" and "Grasp the revolution, promote production."

Neighbor: (Hanging clothes in the courtyard) Lao Zhao, where are you in such a hurry?

Zhao's Father: (Joyful) My wife is giving birth.

Neighbor: Congratulations! Congratulations!

Scene 2

Interior: Zhao's Home - Day

The bare walls of Zhao's home display portraits of their ancestors from the Jin merchant family. Zhao Yunlong's grandparents hear the footsteps and greet him.

Zhao Yunlong's Grandmother: You're finally back. She's given birth to a healthy boy. Go and see!

Zhao's Father enters, taking the baby from the midwife, Zhang Ma.

Zhang Ma: Lao Zhao, congratulations. Your wife has done a great job.

Zhao's Father: (Grinning) The firstborn is a big, healthy boy. What a joy!

Zhang Ma: Oh, don't say that. The first honor goes to your wife, without a doubt.

Zhao's Father: (Sitting by Zhao's Mother's bedside) You've endured a lot since you married me. Now that we have a child, I'll take good care of both of you. (He looks out the window) Let's name him "Yunlong," combining the auspiciousness of clouds and the majesty of dragons.

Zhao's Mother: Yunlong, Yunlong... Yes, I don't wish for our child to be noble throughout his life; I only hope he can avoid misfortune and live in peace.

Zhao's Mother and Father, their backs to the camera, playfully interact with the baby.

Subtitles: Title "New Beijingers in New York"

Scene 3

Interior: Zhao's Home - Day

The camera shifts to Zhao's mother and father, and by now, the baby in the cradle has grown into a 3-year-old child.

Zhao's Mother: Lao Da, stop playing around and come eat. If you don't eat now, you'll get hungry later, and don't cause a fuss. Zhao Yunlong quickly devours half a steamed bun.

Grandmother: Here, take a sip of water. Eat slowly, don't choke.

Zhao's Mother: This is the last flour we have. From now on, little Long will have to eat tree bark with us.

Grandmother: When will these hard times end? The trees in the east of the village have been stripped bare. We need to go early tomorrow; otherwise, we won't even have tree bark to eat.

Zhao's Mother: Alright, I'll take Yunlong to bed. We'll get up early tomorrow.

Scene 4

Interior: Zhao's Home - Night

In dim lighting, Zhao's father squats on the floor, crafting a simple wooden box from pieces of wood and found boards.

Zhao Yunlong, just out of a bath, emerges. He is now a handsome teenager of sixteen or seventeen.

Zhao Yunlong: (Curiously, with a towel draped over his shoulders, he approaches) Dad, what are you doing at this late hour?

Zhao's Father: Silly boy, look at what I've made for you. (He straightens up and pats his waist) Zhao Yunlong: He squats down and picks up a radio, inspecting it. What is this?

Zhao's Father: Take a look. (He takes the radio from Zhao Yunlong's hand and places it on the table, switching it on. The radio starts playing the voice of an elderly man, and Zhao Yunlong listens attentively. It's a recitation of the "Romance of the Three Kingdoms.") Zhao Yunlong: Is this like the village loudspeaker?

Zhao's Father: Yes, it's called a radio. It's yours now; take it back to your room.

Zhao Yunlong returns to his room, placing the radio on his desk. It becomes evident that the radio is broadcasting a serialized adaptation of "Romance of the Three Kingdoms."

Scene 5

Interior: Zhao Yunlong's Room - Day

Subtitle: 1988

The camera zooms out from the radio, which is now playing content related to the college entrance exam. It's daytime, and Zhao Yunlong is at his desk, listening to the radio and taking careful notes, occasionally looking out of the window as if waiting for something.

Scene 6

Exterior: Street - Day

Mailman: The eldest son of the Zhao family has been accepted into college! (He rides his bicycle through the crowd, and people turn to look at the commotion.)

Mailman arrives at the Zhao family's door and shouts with excitement. Zhao's Father and Mother come out to greet him.

Zhao's Father: What did you say? My son Yunlong got into college?

Mailman: Of course! Do you think I'd lie to you? Yunlong is the first college student in our village. Here's the admission letter.

Zhao's Father: (Trembling, he takes the envelope) That's fantastic! God has blessed us!

Zhao's Mother: (Takes a red envelope from her pocket and hands it to the mailman) Here, take this as a token of our appreciation.

Mailman: How can I accept this?

Zhao's Mother: Just take it. Thank you for your trouble.

Scene 7

Interior: Zhao's Home - Night

At the dinner table, Zhao's Father, Grandfather, Grandmother, Zhao Yunlong, and his younger siblings sit together. The table is filled with delicious food, and the youngest sibling reaches out, attempting to grab a piece of food.

Zhao Yunlong: (Picks up his chopsticks and gently taps his younger sibling's hand) Don't be in a hurry. Wait for Mother.

Zhao's Mother: Here I am! Freshly cooked chicken, dig in!

Younger Sister excitedly jumps up: It's so lively having a big brother who got into college.

Younger Brother: Yeah, yeah! When I grow up, I'll also go to college so that you all can have meat to eat. The family bursts into laughter, but Zhao's Father suddenly turns serious.

Zhao Yunlong: Father, aren't you happy that I got into college?

Zhao's Father: Happy! It's a great joy. Our family is proud of you. It's just...

Zhao's Mother: (Glancing at Zhao's Father, signaling him to stop) That's enough, don't say anymore. (She serves a chicken leg to Zhao Yunlong.)

Little Long, you're the first college student in our village. Even if we have to sell the pot and pan, we'll still support you through college.

Zhao's Father stands up and goes to his room, taking out a package wrapped in newspapers and handing it to Zhao Yunlong. Zhao Yunlong opens it and finds a few coins, seemingly totaling around a few yuan.

Zhao's Father: This is all the money we have at home, but it's only enough for your tuition. You'll have to earn the rest yourself.

Zhao Yunlong nods solemnly.

Zhao's Father: You not only need to earn for yourself but also for your younger siblings. Once you go to college, we won't be able to afford to send them to school. They'll depend on you from now on.

Unable to speak, Zhao Yunlong tears up, kneels down, and kowtows to his parents, his younger siblings, and the ancestors of the Zhao family, all with deep respect.

Scene 8

Exterior: Village Entrance - Day

The village entrance is crowded with people who have gathered to see Zhao Yunlong off. Zhao's Father helps him load his belongings onto a three-wheeled cart.

Zhao's Father: (Helping Zhao Yunlong load his luggage onto the cart) Is everything packed?

Zhao Yunlong: Everything is packed.

Zhao's Father: When you reach Hohhot, remember to send us a letter to let us know you've arrived safely.

Zhao Yunlong: Alright, I understand. Where's Mom?

Younger Sister: Mom is still at home, busy preparing something for you.

Driver: Time's running out; we should leave. Otherwise, we won't catch the bus to Hohhot.

Zhao's Mother: (Pushing through the crowd) Wait a moment, wait a moment. Long, this is freshly baked steamed buns and newly pickled vegetables. Take them to eat on the way. (She places the bundle on the cart.)

Zhao Yunlong: (Approaching his younger siblings) You two study hard. When I'm not at home, you should help Mom and Dad more. Grandpa and Grandma are getting older...

Younger Sister: Okay, big brother, you can rest assured. Driver: We need to go now!

Zhao Yunlong boards the cart, waving goodbye.

Villagers: Yunlong, study hard. We're all waiting for you to come back.

Scene 9

Interior - Inner Mongolia Education College Classroom - Night

Zhao Yunlong is studying at his desk. After a while, he closes the book, which happens to be "The Art of War" that he has been listening to on the radio. He picks up a water bottle and goes to the hallway to fetch water. A fellow student approaches.

Classmate: Yunlong, have you bought your ticket to go home? The holiday is approaching, and the ticket line at the ticket office is incredibly long. I spent a whole day there yesterday to get my ticket.

Yunlong: I won't be going home for the summer break. My family's financial situation isn't good, so I'll stay in the city and work.

Classmate: That's a shame. (He pats Yunlong on the shoulder) Well, I hope you manage to find work.

Narrator: Yunlong feels the weight of his responsibilities. He knows he must earn enough money for his tuition and living expenses, even if it means doing labor-intensive jobs.

Scene 10

Exterior - Streets of Hohhot - Day

Yunlong walks alone on the streets of Hohhot.

Yunlong: (Entering an herbal medicine shop) Excuse me, do you need an apprentice here? I'm a quick learner, and I'm a college student. I can learn quickly.

Herbalist: We do need an apprentice, but... you won't get paid. We can offer you room and board, but no salary.

Yunlong walks out of the shop dejected. It's been a week, and he still hasn't found suitable employment. Suddenly, heavy rain begins to fall. Yunlong continues walking in the rain.

Yunlong: (Enters a noodle shop) Owner, do you need an assistant? I'm young and strong, and I can handle any dirty or tiring work.

Noodle Shop Owner: We don't need anyone, sorry. Don't disrupt my business.

Yunlong continues to roam from one place to another throughout the day. By now, he is drenched from the rain, his stomach growling. He hasn't had a meal all day.

Noodle Shop Owner: (Calling out) Freshly baked buns! Hot and delicious buns!

Yunlong: (Approaches the bun stand) How much for these buns?

Bun Vendor: One bun costs one cent when it's raining like this.

Yunlong: (Takes out his wallet, hesitates for a moment) Give me one, and can you provide me with some hot water too?

Bun Vendor: Sure, here's your bun. Enjoy it while it's hot.

Yunlong squats by the roadside and devours the bun. Tears stream down his face as he eats.

Narrator: At this moment, Yunlong is overwhelmed by despair. It's been a whole week, and he's spent his money on basic sustenance, but he hasn't found work yet. He's not only worried about his own tuition but also about the promise he made to his family.

Scene 11

Exterior - Factory Entrance - Day

Yunlong holds a stack of recruitment flyers and sits on the stone steps at the factory entrance, reading and evaluating them one by one.

Old Worker: (Pushing open the factory gate) Hey, young man, it's you again? You don't seem like a troublemaker, so why are you always hanging around on the street?

Yunlong: Sir, I'm not a troublemaker. I'm a student at Inner Mongolia Education College.

Old Worker: Well, well, a college student, huh? Why are you sitting here and looking at job ads? Are you looking for work?

Yunlong: Yes. (Yunlong explains his situation to the old worker.)

Old Worker: Ah, you're a bit unlucky. (The old worker rubs his hands and looks at Yunlong for a while.) You seem like you've done some labor before. We need people to operate the boilers here, and it's tough work, but we provide meals and pay. How about you join us?

Yunlong: (Yunlong suddenly stands up) Sir, you're not joking with me, are you?

Old Worker: What's wrong? Do you find boiler work too tiring?

Yunlong: Not at all, not at all, I can handle it. I promise to work hard.

Old Worker: Then come to work tomorrow.

Yunlong: Alright! No problem! Thank you so much, sir! Relieved to have found a job, Yunlong leaves with a smile on his face.

Scene 12

Interior - Factory - Day

Yunlong arrives at the factory and starts working on the boiler. His figure moves back and forth among the boilers. His clothes are soaked in sweat, and he eventually takes off his shirt, working with his bare torso.

Co-worker A: The boiler job is both tough and demanding. How long do you think a college student like him can last?

Co-worker B: I bet he'll give up in less than two weeks.

Old Worker: Don't underestimate him. I believe he can endure it. (Says the old worker as he walks up to Yunlong.) Let's go, it's lunchtime. We'll have lunch and then get back to work.

Scene 13

Interior - Factory Canteen - Day

Workers stand in a long line, waiting for their meals. The canteen air is filled with the smell of the boiler and the sweat from the workers.

Old Worker: (Carrying a bowl of plain rice, sits down in front of Yunlong) Young man, even though we only have plain rice here and no soup to go with it, you must eat your fill. We have to stoke the boilers for several more hours in the afternoon, and you can't afford to be hungry.

Yunlong: Don't worry; I can handle it.

Old Worker: You're a tough young man. I didn't misjudge you.

Yunlong: When it comes to hardship, this is nothing. I remember that for 20 years back home, my family often couldn't afford enough food. We even had to rely on eating tree bark to survive. Now that we have white rice to eat and can earn money, what more could I ask for?

Scene 14

Interior - Factory Dormitory - Night

Zhao Yunlong lies on his bed, completely exhausted. He has never felt so tired, not even when he was doing farm work back home. He wonders, "Why am I working so hard for such a meager income?" Staring at the ceiling, he contemplates his situation.

Co-worker A: Life is so unfair. Some people are born with a silver spoon in their mouth and have no worries at all. Others sit and calculate all day and earn more in a month than we do.

Zhao Yunlong: (Suddenly, he has an idea and sits up cross-legged) Do you think Xiang Yu was a hero?

Co-worker A: Of course! Xiang Yu was incredibly brave, unmatched throughout history!

Zhao Yunlong: Despite Xiang Yu's exceptional martial skills, could he have defeated the main force of the Qin army and overthrown the Qin Dynasty on his own during the Battle of Julu?

Co-worker A: Impossible! No matter how skilled a person is, they can only fight a hundred opponents at most.

Zhao Yunlong: Exactly, the reason Xiang Yu achieved greatness wasn't just his individual prowess. (Since his co-worker remains silent, Zhao Yunlong continues) No matter how skilled someone is, they can only take on a hundred opponents, but by studying military strategy, you can become a match for thousands. If we rely solely on physical strength to earn money, we'll naturally earn less, but earning money through intelligence is different.

With this realization, Zhao Yunlong's eyes shine with newfound determination. He gains strength from history.

Zhao Yunlong perseveres from summer to winter, enduring the freezing wind howling through the window. Snowflakes fall from the sky, and the area around the furnace is scorching hot. Zhao Yunlong's cheeks are reddened and dry. His eyelashes are covered in dust. If it weren't for people knowing in advance, no one would guess that he's a college student.

Scene 15

Exterior - Factory Entrance - Day

Old Worker: (Sitting on the stone steps at the entrance, with a cigarette in his mouth, exhaling smoke slowly) You've been working in the factory for quite a while now. Have you saved enough for tuition and living expenses?

Zhao Yunlong: It's getting there. Thanks for looking out for me during this time. I need to get back to school now. Here's the address of my dormitory. If you ever need anything, feel free to come find me. (Hands the old worker a piece of paper)

Old Worker: Did you bring everything in this bag? It feels heavy.

Zhao Yunlong: (Opens his bag) It's just a few old clothes, nothing valuable.

Old Worker: (Pulls out a piece of clothing) What's this? A shirt? It looks a bit like...

Zhao Yunlong: Like it's made from a grain sack? It's actually a grain sack. I remember when I was in third grade, the Young Pioneers required us to wear red scarves, and the school mandated white shirts. But I didn't have one. So my mother found this grain sack and turned it into a white shirt.

Old Worker: (Glances at the white shirt) It says "Net Weight 50 kg" on it. Haha.

Zhao Yunlong: Exactly, I only wore it twice. I felt embarrassed because it made me look like I weighed 50 kg! Haha.

Old Worker: Your future will be brighter. Go on now.

Scene 16

Interior - Classroom - Night

As the new semester begins, students return to campus, sharing interesting stories from their vacations. After working in the factory tirelessly day and night, Zhao Yunlong's skin has darkened, making him look more mature than his peers. When Zhao Yunlong enters the classroom, his classmates surround him with excitement.

Classmate A: I heard you worked in a boiler factory during the break. Is that true?

Classmate B: Isn't it exhausting to study and work every day? Is it worth it for that little money?

Zhao Yunlong: (Forced smile) When you have a dream in your heart, you don't feel tired.

Narrator: In truth, how can a flesh-and-blood person not feel tired? Working and studying late into the night, saying you're not tired is just bravado. Saying you don't dare to sleep like an ordinary person is sincere. Tired but happy, with effort comes reward.

Scene 17

Interior - School Dormitory - Night

The boys' dormitory is as noisy as ever, with discussions about girls from various classes and various sports events.

Dormmate A: Did you guys hear? I ran into that girl from Class X in the Foreign Language Department today.

Dormmate B: The one they call the campus beauty? Is she really that good-looking?

Dormmate A: Yes, she's even more beautiful than I imagined. Zhao Yunlong was with me, and he saw her too. If you don't believe me, ask him.

Zhao Yunlong doesn't respond. The radio is playing "Golden Mountains in Beijing," and the word "Beijing" is both familiar and mysterious to Zhao Yunlong. What is this city at the forefront of the era like? Zhao Yunlong secretly makes up his mind that he must go to Beijing to find out.

Scene 18

Interior - Classroom - Night

Zhao Yunlong is in the classroom, reviewing and checking enrollment information. He sets his sights on a university in Beijing that doesn't require tuition or living expenses. "Isn't this what I've been looking for? Perhaps this is the perfect opportunity for me to go to Beijing." Zhao Yunlong is determined. He starts waking up earlier than before and going to bed later, actively preparing in every corner of the school. He tells himself that he must succeed in this battle; failure is not an option.

Scene 19

Interior - Zhao's Home - Day

Mailman: Mr. Zhao, your son has sent a letter!

Zhao Father: Oh, it's here! It's here! (Hastily comes out from inside)

Zhao Mother: Old Zhao, did our son send a letter? What did he say? (Anxious, she rushes out)

Zhao Father opens the letter and starts reading but leaves it unfinished. Seeing this, Zhao Mother, who cannot read, becomes agitated.

Zhao Mother: What did our son say? Speak up!

Zhao Father: Good news! Our son has made us proud. He got accepted into a university in Beijing with outstanding grades, and he doesn't need to pay tuition or living expenses.

Zhao Mother: (Overjoyed) My son is naturally exceptional.

Zhao Father: He also said he can earn money for the family, and we don't need to worry about his younger siblings' tuition. We can rest easy now. The only thing is that we still need to gather some money for his journey to Beijing.

Scene 20

Exterior - Train Station - Day

Zhao Father: My child! You're a good child. It's my fault that I couldn't provide for you, and you had to endure hardships!

Zhao Yunlong: Dad, please don't say that. Whenever I study late into the night and feel like I can't go on, whenever I'm exhausted from working at the boiler factory, just thinking about you and mom gives me the strength to keep going. I know I'm not alone.

Zhao Father: You haven't seen your mom. When she found out you got into the university in Beijing, she couldn't stop smiling for three days and nights. She tells everyone, "My son got into a university in Beijing!" Haha.

Zhao Yunlong: Once I'm settled in Beijing, I'll bring you both to visit.

Zhao Father: Well, your mom and I are getting old. We're fine staying in the village. We borrowed this money from our neighbors, but you'll need it for many things in Beijing. Keep it safe, don't let thieves take it.

Zhao Yunlong takes the money wrapped in a newspaper from his father, just like he did after his college entrance exam. Tears flow from his eyes without him realizing it. The train whistle sounds, and he hugs his father before boarding the train bound for Beijing.

Chapter 2: The Crab Eaters

Scene 1

Interior - Zhao Yunlong's New York Residence - Day (A series of long shots)

(Camera pans around) A panoramic view of Zhao Yunlong's New York mansion, with bookshelves lining one wall, filled with books.

(Zhao Yunlong enters the frame, and the camera zooms in) Zhao Yunlong leans back on a plush and stylish sofa, holding a tea cup in his hand, taking a sip.

(Close-up on his face) Sunlight bathes Zhao Yunlong's cheeks as he looks contemplative, lost in thought. He gazes around the room briefly and then looks out the window.

(The camera follows Zhao Yunlong's gaze as it moves towards a bright floor-to-ceiling window and gradually blurs out).

Scene 2

Interior/Exterior - Zhao Yunlong's College Dorm/Library/Campus - Night/Day (Subtitle: 1989)

A series of scene transitions:

(Night) Dormitory: Zhao Yunlong lies under a thin blanket, his back hunched like a bent bow. He holds a flashlight in one hand and flips through a well-worn copy of "The Art of War" with frayed edges. Occasionally, he takes off his glasses, rubs his eyes, and shakes his shoulders before putting them back on. His gaze shines particularly bright and thoughtful in the dim light.

(Day) Library: Zhao Yunlong searches for "The First Bucket of Gold" on the bookshelves, flipping through numerous books on entrepreneurship. He gets so engrossed in reading that he forgets to sit down, and the library is about to close.

(Day) In the cafeteria: Zhao Yunlong discusses international relations with his classmates, talking loudly.

Scene 3

Exterior - Talent Market - Day

Close-up to long shot: Bright red banners with the words "Talent Market" catch the eye. The bustling crowd stretches as far as the eye can see. Zhao Yunlong and two classmates navigate through the crowd.

College Student A: (Surprised) Hey, why are you here? Aren't you graduating in another year? Just tagging along with us old seniors for fun?

College Student B: Haha, I'm here to find a tutoring job. I thought I might as well make some money on the side. Many classmates from our class are here too! Do you know where to find tutoring jobs around here, Senior?

College Student A: (Points in the distance) Over there! Good luck!

Zhao Yunlong's heart suddenly races. He follows the student also looking for tutoring jobs to the tutoring job recruitment area. There, many parents gather, asking questions about the college students' qualifications. Zhao Yunlong, for the first time, witnesses the opportunity for income generation he had envisioned up close. While his thoughts fluctuate between nervousness and excitement, a middle-aged man taps him on the shoulder.

Deputy Director: (Friendly) Young man, do you know English?

Zhao Yunlong: (Composed) Yes.

Deputy Director: Which university are you from?

Zhao Yunlong: (Confident) China University of Geosciences.

Deputy Director: (Smiles) Great! It's you!

Scene 4

Interior - Deputy Director's Home - Day

Zhao Yunlong and the Deputy Director chat while walking in the hallway.

Deputy Director: I work at the West City District Government, and I'm usually too busy to help my kid with studies.

Zhao Yunlong: Don't worry; I can help him with everything except English.

Deputy Director: (Opens the door while talking) That kid is quite mischievous but clever. Come in!

Zhao Yunlong's eyes are captivated by the bright and spacious two-bedroom apartment before him. He never expected his first earnings to come to life in such a clean and comfortable environment.

Deputy Director: (Friendly) This is the housing assigned to us old cadres. Don't just stand there; have a seat! From now on, this will be your place for "educating and nurturing." We'll pay you 50 yuan per month, five times a week, two hours each time. Is that okay with you?

Zhao Yunlong: (Grateful) Yes, that's fine. Depending on the kid's schedule, I can come over during my free time. To be honest, compared to my previous job in the boiler factory...

Deputy Director: (Interrupts Zhao Yunlong, patting his shoulder) If you encounter any financial difficulties in the future, just let me know. Put in the effort and become one of our nation's talents! The commute from your school to our place is quite troublesome; don't let it interfere with your studies!

Zhao Yunlong: (Thankful) Thank you!

Scene 5

Interior - Post Office/Cafeteria - Day (A series of scene transitions):

Post Office: Zhao Yunlong carefully places five relatively new 10-yuan bills into an envelope. He also adds a note with the words "I'm doing well, don't worry" and seals the envelope with glue. He affixes a stamp and writes the address (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region...).

Cafeteria: Zhao Yunlong eats a dry steamed bun with gusto. His plate contains only a few pieces of cabbage, but he seems to savor every bite as if it were a delicacy. He chews while smiling, lost in thought.

Scene 6

Interior - Dormitory - Day (Subtitle: Six months later)

Zhao Yunlong sits by his bed, counting the money he has saved, which includes tens, fives, twos, ones, and even fifty-cent coins. He records the amounts in a notebook, and the Arabic numerals on the notebook grow larger, eventually exceeding 100.

Scene 7

Exterior - Campus Street - Day

Zhao Yunlong walks on the campus street with a heavy heart, head down. Street vendors around him rub their hands together and call out loudly, "Warm scarves and gloves for sale! Great quality at a low price!" Zhao Yunlong stops in his tracks and turns to approach one of the vendors.

Zhao Yunlong: Sir, how much are your gloves and scarves?

Vendor: Gloves are two yuan per pair, scarves are eight yuan each. If you buy both, I'll give you the gloves for free. These are all made of pure cotton, good quality, and will keep you warm!

Zhao Yunlong: (Hands the money to the vendor) I'll take a set, here's your payment.

Vendor: (Smiling) You're a generous young man. Let me calculate... Take these three yuan back; help me attract more customers!

Zhao Yunlong: (Politely refuses) No need, you've been very kind. I'll definitely help promote your business in the future. But I just wanted to ask...

Vendor: (Curious) What is it? Go ahead.

Zhao Yunlong: (Nervous) How much can you earn in a month selling these?

Vendor: (Before Zhao Yunlong can finish, he seems to understand his intentions) There's a high demand for these items in winter, and you can make a decent living, at least enough to get by.

A glimmer of hope flashes in Zhao Yunlong's eyes.

Vendor: Are you thinking of doing this too? It might be tough, are you willing to work hard?

Zhao Yunlong: (Determined) Yes, I'm not afraid of hard work. If it means earning money, I'll do it!

Vendor: (Enthusiastic) Alright! This afternoon, I'll take you to the wholesale market!

Zhao Yunlong: (Excited) That's great! Come on, I'll help you call out customers!

Zhao Yunlong and the vendor chat and attract many classmates in no time.

Scene 8

Exterior - Wholesale Market - Day (Noisy and crowded)

The vendor guides Zhao Yunlong to the wholesale market, pointing out items for him to select. He also introduces him to some experienced wholesalers he knows. After visiting several stalls, Zhao Yunlong can barely contain his excitement.

Zhao Yunlong: (Confident and excited) Master, I want to make a purchase now!

Vendor: (Pats Zhao Yunlong on the shoulder) You're enthusiastic! If you're ready, let's get started! Zhao Yunlong and the vendor carry bags, boxes, and bundles, purchasing a variety of items like towels, socks, and gloves.

Scene 9

Interior - Dormitory - Day

The dorm room is filled with the small goods that Zhao Yunlong brought back. Zhao Yunlong is busy sorting through the "mountain of goods." At this moment, his roommates push the door open and are all left in awe.

Roommate A: (Surprised) Zhao Yunlong, what are you doing?

Roommate B: (Wide-eyed) Opening a grocery store?

Roommate C: (Scoffs) If you needed money, why didn't you ask us? Why go through the trouble of selling stuff?

Roommate D: (Glancing at C, then walking up to Zhao Yunlong) Need any help?

Zhao Yunlong: (Blushing) No, no, I can handle it myself.

Scene 10

Interior - Dormitory - Night

The sound of roommates snoring fills the room, but Zhao Yunlong tosses and turns in bed, unable to sleep.

Scene 11

Exterior - Street - Day

Zhao Yunlong pedals his bicycle, carrying a large package, to the entrance of Tsinghua University. After setting up his stall, he opens his mouth and shouts, "Cotton socks, cotton gloves, winter essentials, high quality and affordable, come and take a look!"

(Close-up of Zhao Yunlong wearing the university emblem on his chest)

Professors and fellow students passing by occasionally stop to browse. Most of them leave with a purchase, and some even strike up conversations with Zhao Yunlong.

Scene 12

Interior/Exterior - Dormitory/Bank/Inner Mongolian Home - Day (A series of scene transitions):

Dormitory: It's early in the morning, and Zhao Yunlong stretches lazily. He gets out of bed and carefully picks up a neatly folded suit from his box. After a quick face wash, he changes into the suit, adjusts the sleeves and collar, and looks radiant. Even the roommates who had previously mocked him now exclaim, "You're doing well!"

Bank: Zhao Yunlong arrives at the bank and stares at the three thousand yuan in his passbook. He's overwhelmed with excitement, and tears well up in his eyes.

Inner Mongolian Home:

(Wide shot) White walls, red tiles, clean windows—the new cottage of the Zhao family is complete.

(Medium shot to close-up) The Zhao family sits together on a heated brick bed, enjoying a meal.

Zhao Father: (Tears welling up) Our Dragon has grown up! This unfilial child thought he could build a house and never come back to see his old man, huh?

Zhao Mother: (Wiping tears) This silly child, we sent him away to study, and he even bought a house for the family. He must have sacrificed a lot for himself outside.

Younger Brother: Our big brother is incredible! He'll definitely make a name for himself!

Younger Sister: Dad, Mom, our brother is the best in the world. He'll come back as soon as he's done!

Scene 13

Interior - Office - Day

Background music: After graduating from university, Zhao Yunlong was assigned to a geological unit and became a civil servant. In his early days at the unit, his daily work involves organizing specimens and data. For the first time, he has some free time and no longer worries about what tomorrow holds.

Visual: Zhao Yunlong carefully counts specimens in a registration book. Due to years of habit, he knows that this data will become valuable in the future.

Scene 14

Interior - Finance Office - Day

When the first month's salary is due, Zhao Yunlong goes to collect his paycheck.

After signing, Zhao Yunlong receives his envelope. The meager amount surprises him. Zhao Yunlong opens the envelope and is astonished to find that his salary is less than 100 yuan, not even enough to match his daily earnings on good days of his street vendor business.

Zhao Yunlong: How come it's not even 100 yuan?

Finance Officer: (Gives him a disdainful look) Newcomer, huh? Newcomers get less. You're a university graduate, so you get this much. Our veteran colleague, Lao Luo, has been here for over a decade, and he doesn't earn as much as you do.

Zhao Yunlong is left stunned.

Scene 15

Interior - Leader's Office - Day

With newfound determination and experience, Zhao Yunlong's posture is much firmer than before. He seeks to resign from his government job.

Zhao Yunlong: "Leader, I still prefer Beijing. I want to go back!"

Leader: (Slams down a cup forcefully) Nonsense! What can you do if you go back? The school has already assigned you here!

The leader admires this new university graduate and cannot comprehend his decision.

Leader: (Looking at Zhao Yunlong, who is silent and looking down) Think about it carefully. Come back when you've made up your mind.

Zhao Yunlong: (Raises his head) But I've already thought about it.

Leader: (Points to the door) Go back and think again!

Scene 16

Interior - Leader's Office - Day (Subtitle: One month later)

Zhao Yunlong lightly knocks on the door. A voice from inside says, "Come in!"

Zhao Yunlong pushes the door open, walks up to the leader's desk, and hands over his resignation form.

Zhao Yunlong: Leader, I've thought it through seriously. I still want to go back to Beijing.

Leader: Little Zhao, although our unit may not be the best-paying job, it's still a stable job. You know, nowadays, not all university graduates get government-assigned positions, especially those from Beijing.

Zhao Yunlong: Leader, I understand.

Leader: (Takes out a newspaper from the drawer) How about this? The central government is about to introduce a policy allowing state officials to retain their benefits while engaging in business. It's being encouraged nowadays. Why don't you wait a bit longer? When the policy is in place, I'll apply for you. This way, you'll have some security.

Zhao Yunlong: (Grateful) Thank you, Leader. However, I can't wait.

Leader: Why not?

Zhao Yunlong: If I keep retreating from the battlefront, there will be no retreat left in the end. I'm still young, and I want to try.

Leader: You always surprise me.

Leader: (Waves his hand) You can go now.

Zhao Yunlong stands up, bows to the leader, and exits the office.

Scene 17

Exterior - Beijing Train Station - Day

Zhao Yunlong walks out of the crowded train station, and when he turns around, the words "Beijing Station" stand tall behind him. He smiles happily and continues walking along with the crowd.

Scene 18

Interior - Interview Office - Day

Zhao Yunlong, dressed in an ill-fitting suit, blends into a diverse group of applicants attending a Coca-Cola interview.

The camera pans out, revealing a large conference room with approximately a hundred applicants. The backdrop displays Coca-Cola recruitment posters. Along the walls, there are randomly stacked boxes of Coca-Cola in glass bottles, each box secured with red bottle openers tied with strings.

Scene 19

Interior - Interview Office - Day

Several interviewers enter the conference room. The numerous applicants stand up, appearing nervous. The lead interviewer addresses everyone and invites them to sit down.

Interviewer: Before we begin the interviews, I'd like to ask you all one question. Coca-Cola has come to China with the hope of having more like-minded friends working together on a common endeavor. Do you prefer a high fixed salary system or a performance-based pay system?

The applicants start discussing among themselves.

A worker-looking applicant asks, "How is performance-based pay calculated? Can we earn more than what the country allows?"

Interviewer smiles and says, "Performance-based pay rewards you for your efforts. In our country, we are still in the early stages of socialism, and it encourages the principle of 'the more you work, the more you earn.' Coca-Cola is a joint venture in China, so when you earn more, it benefits the country as well."

The over one hundred applicants in the room start discussing the options.

The camera shifts to the wall clock, and the minute hand rapidly completes three full rounds.

Interviewer: Alright, we'll conclude the interviews for today. Coca-Cola thanks everyone for their participation. Tomorrow, the interview results will be posted on the company bulletin board. Please stay informed.

Scene 20

Exterior - In front of the Bulletin Board - Day

Zhao Yunlong squeezes into a crowd to check the interview results. He discovers his name on the list and becomes extremely happy. He quickly pushes his way out of the crowd.

Scene 21

Exterior - Public Telephone Booth - Day

Zhao Yunlong picks up the phone and dials the number for his village.

Zhao Yunlong: Hello, hello. It's Zhao Yunlong.

Voice on the other end: Hello, what do you want?

Zhao Yunlong: Please tell my family that I've got a job with Coca-Cola.

Voice on the other end: What? Coca-Cola?

Zhao Yunlong: Yes, it's a foreign company. I'm working in a foreign company now.

Scene 22

Interior - Trainer's Room - Day

During Coca-Cola's pre-job training, Zhao Yunlong diligently takes notes on every detail. The instructor emphasizes at the blackboard: "In Coca-Cola, a Business Representative must always remember one thing: 'No matter what, in front of the customer, you need to dress like a successful person.' It's also in your handbook, but I hope you keep it in your mind. It will benefit you for a lifetime."

Scene 23

Exterior - Supermarket / Restaurant / Streets - Day

Zhao Yunlong tirelessly rides his bicycle every day through the streets and alleys of Beijing. He promotes Coca-Cola to businesses, and the money he sends home to his family increases month by month.

Riding his bicycle, Zhao Yunlong pedals faster and harder. He knows that a new era is waiting for him.

Chapter 3: Similar Lives with Jack Ma

Scene 1

Exterior - Beijing Street - Day

Zhao Yunlong, dressed in a tailored suit, drives confidently on the streets of Beijing. He's on his way to meet with a client. This is his first car. Scenes of Beijing from the 1990s pass by outside the car.

Narrator: In the short span of three years from 1990 to 1993, through representing Coca-Cola in sales, Zhao Yunlong became one of the first millionaires in the country.

Scene 2

Exterior - Hebei Province - Day

A corporate office building's entrance is adorned with flower baskets, and a red carpet stretches from the entrance to the street. The flower baskets carry congratulatory messages from local state-owned enterprises and government departments.

Zhao Yunlong, wearing a satisfied expression, dons a high-quality suit of the time and leads his employees to welcome guests.

Guest A: Congratulations, General Zhao!

Zhao Yunlong: Thank you, and thank you for coming!

Guest B: Congratulations, General Zhao! I've been at your grand openings for the past two years!

Zhao Yunlong: Well, my friend, you had to be here for sure!

Various people, resembling officials, keep entering through the gate, and Zhao Yunlong continues to greet them.

Scene 3

Interior - Stock Exchange - Day

Background voice: Between 1993 and early 1996, the national economy experienced a downturn due to economic cycles. The A-share market went through a three-year bear market. Economic trade in various regions saw a sharp decline. In economically underdeveloped areas, there was an increasing trend of state-owned enterprises not paying salaries.

Scene: The stock market is overwhelmingly green, almost blindingly so, and the image gradually blurs.

Scene 4

Interior - Finance Office - Day

Female Cashier: (calculating on an abacus for a moment, then looks up to tell Zhao Yunlong sitting across from her) General Zhao, we're out of money this month again. If our clients don't pay their bills, we won't be able to pay salaries or even the utility bills.

Zhao Yunlong: (looking at the business ledger, then raising his head to the female cashier) There will be a way. Trust me. A living person can't be starved to death.

Female Cashier: (relentless) People can't be starved to death, but they can starve. I've only received half my salary for three consecutive months. You must know how high the prices have gone up! Pork went up by 20 cents per kilogram yesterday. We can barely afford to cook at home now.

Zhao Yunlong: There's a solution. What if we provide our employees with two meals starting this month?

Female Cashier: (smiles) That would be nice, but we need the business to come in quickly. Otherwise, we won't have a way to cover meal expenses either.

Zhao Yunlong: We'll find a way. Let me think about it. (He gets up and walks to the office area.)

Scene 5

Interior - Workshop - Day

Zhao Yunlong is surrounded by a group of workers.

Zhao Yunlong: Everyone, listen to me! The national economy is currently facing difficulties. So, these state-owned enterprises in Inner Mongolia owe us our dues. This situation won't last long, trust me.

Employee: General Zhao, we've been with you for so long. Tell us the truth, you're not going to leave, are you?

Zhao Yunlong: I, Zhao Yunlong, stand upright and do things honestly. I won't disappear! Moreover, I called you all here today because there's a project we can work on together! Let's clean the boilers!

Employee: Will we be paid in cash?

Zhao Yunlong: (waves his hand) Cash payment!

Senior Employee: But, General Zhao, (hesitatingly looks around) right now, it's just us, the older ones who've been with you from the beginning. Won't we be short on manpower?

Zhao Yunlong: (laughs) Short on manpower? Am I not a person?!

Senior Employee: (very surprised) That's not good, General Zhao! You're an educated man, how can you do dirty and tiring work like this with us rough folks? Besides, even if you want to do it, you might not be able to.

Zhao Yunlong: Yes, I am an educated man, just like everyone else, my family had no money when I was studying. I earned my tuition and living expenses by stoking boilers. Now, I'm cleaning boilers. I'm still very familiar with them.

Employees applaud, and someone shouts, "General Zhao, as long as you provide the meals, we'll follow you to the end!"

Scene 6

Interior - Boiler Room - Day

Zhao Yunlong looks at the familiar boiler and lets out a sigh. He strips down to his undershirt, takes a brush that's over a meter long, and starts working alongside everyone, much like a mechanic.

Narrator: Soon, his clothes were soiled by wastewater, but the more he worked, the faster he became. He found the determination he had when he fought for survival. He started believing that he could get through this tough time. He had confidence in the national economy. This was a transitional phase and it would soon pass. He hoped he could endure until then.

Scene 7

Interior - Boiler Room - Day

The female cashier finds Zhao Yunlong, who is working.

Female Cashier: General Zhao, can you come for a moment?

Zhao Yunlong stops his work and goes with her to a corner.

Zhao Yunlong: (sweating, wiping his forehead with a towel) What's wrong, Xiaoliu?

Female Cashier: Our account is empty. The payment for cleaning the boilers will be settled a week later. What are we going to eat this week? I'm really sorry, that's why I came to you.

Zhao Yunlong: (thoughtfully checks his pockets but finds nothing) Let me think. Zhao Yunlong begins to search through his pockets, but he finds nothing.

Zhao Yunlong notices the wristwatch on his left hand; he had tucked the watch face under his wrist to keep it clean while working.

Zhao Yunlong: (takes off his wristwatch and hands it to the female cashier) Will this be enough? Go to the nearby convenience store and buy some instant noodles, biscuits, and whatever else you think we can eat until next week.

Female Cashier: (hesitates while taking the watch) This watch seems quite expensive; it's a shame to trade it like this.

Zhao Yunlong: (waves his hand) It's a Seagull all-steel movement. I bought it for over 400 yuan. Don't let anyone cheat you, go ahead! (He turns around and goes back to the boiler.)

Scene 8

Interior - Boiler Room - Day

Zhao Yunlong sits with his legs crossed, eating instant noodles and mooncakes with the workers.

As he eats, his eyes become slightly teary. Zhao Yunlong, who had enjoyed an easy life since university, now starts to doubt himself and considers finding a stable job.

Scene 9

Interior - Finance Room - Day

The payment for cleaning the boilers has finally been settled. Zhao Yunlong has managed to overcome the biggest crisis he has faced so far.

The female cashier happily distributes the salaries to the employees, who are also in high spirits and line up to sign and receive their pay.

Zhao Yunlong sits on the side, watching everything, and thinks about going home.

Scene 10

Interior - Zhao Yunlong's House - Day

Zhao Yunlong sits in his old family farmhouse. This house was purchased by him during his university days. He sits at the dining table, head down, lost in thought. His grandmother, Zhao Nainai, walks over, carrying a glass of water for him.

Zhao Nainai: Drink up.

Zhao Yunlong still keeps his head down, takes the glass of water but doesn't drink from it. He wants to say a lot but finds it difficult to speak. He's now the pride and hope of his family. He can't bear the shame of failure.

Zhao Nainai: (sits across the table) Yunlong, take a look at the ancestors on the wall.

Zhao Yunlong raises his head and looks at the photos on the wall.

Zhao Nainai: Starting a business is difficult. You are our family's and our village's only university graduate. You can't give up so easily! In the past, our Zhao family faced many hardships when doing business in Shanxi. We've been through all sorts of difficulties. It's all about enduring. I know it's tough for you, but who hasn't faced failure?

Zhao Yunlong looks at Zhao Nainai with moist eyes. Zhao Nainai takes out an envelope from her pocket and hands it to Zhao Yunlong.

Zhao Nainai: This is the money I saved, and your cousin brought some for you too. He visited you last time and knew you were going through a tough time.

Zhao Yunlong looks at the thick envelope of money. He walks up to Zhao Nainai and kneels down.

Zhao Yunlong: I will never bring shame to the Zhao family!

Zhao Nainai smiles and raises her head, looking at the photos of their ancestors. Those were the memories of the Zhao family's most glorious period during the late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China.

Scene 11

Interior - Zhao Yunlong's House - Day

Narrator: With gratitude in his heart for his family and employees, Zhao Yunlong finally managed to get through the economic downturn of the national economic cycle and understood the true meaning of gratitude.

The female cashier continues to distribute salaries to the employees joyfully. The line of employees waiting to receive their pay continues to grow. (The scene gradually shows an increasing number of people.)

Scene 12

Interior - People's Great Hall - Day

Scene of Zhao Yunlong's wedding with his wife.

Narrator: Zhao Yunlong got married, and the wedding was held at the Beijing People's Great Hall, a dream he never dared to think about before. Amid the blessings of family and friends, Zhao Yunlong was deeply immersed in happiness. When he turned thirty, he had established a family and a career. He was like an eagle that had flown out from the depths of the grasslands, soaring over the capital. For the first time, he could plan his future according to his own wishes.

Subtitles: Zhao Yunlong, due to his outstanding work at the China Academy of Social Sciences, was transferred to the National Ministry of Information Industry as the Director of Information Resources Office.

Scene 13

Interior - Zhao Yunlong's Office - Day

In the office of the Information Resources Office of the National Ministry of Information Industry, Zhao Yunlong and his colleagues are working diligently.

Zhao Yunlong: (making a call to his assistant) Xiao Li, inform everyone to gather in the conference room in 5 minutes to discuss matters related to the establishment of the "China Enterprise Directory."

Xiao Li: Alright, understood. (She gets up to inform the other colleagues.)

Scene 14

Interior - Conference Room - Day

In the conference room, colleagues gradually gather, and Zhao Yunlong is the last to enter.

Zhao Yunlong: Hello, everyone! I'm Zhao Yunlong. I previously worked at the China Academy of Social Sciences. I'm glad to meet you all, and I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to work alongside all of you.

Applause follows.

Zhao Yunlong: Next, I'll outline our work plan for the Information Resources Office for the next six months. In the coming half-year, the establishment of the "China Enterprise Directory" will be a top national priority, and our Information Resources Office must lead the way. The present era is marked by the flourishing development of the information industry. Building an accurate and comprehensive enterprise directory will assist domestic businesses in promoting product information and brand development and help society understand corporate products or information. With the rapid dissemination of information, the enterprise directory will become an effective tool for many companies in their marketing efforts. Do any of you have suggestions for the preparation of the "China Enterprise Directory"?

Colleague A: Yes, the demand for data is increasing, and people are increasingly demanding the authenticity and reference value of data. In building the "China Enterprise Directory," we need to draw on international experience and seek input from industry experts.

Colleague B: Absolutely. Each company needs to provide information such as organization name, organization type, legal representative, business scope, economic industry, economic type, registration date, administrative area code, and organization address. Only then can we create the most detailed and widely used database nationwide.

Zhao Yunlong: (nodding) On that basis, we can also introduce yellow pages for several provinces in China and a national yellow pages.

Colleague A: Yellow pages are a breakthrough, but collecting information for the yellow pages is quite complex. It requires gathering data from various sources, including statistical departments, management departments, customs, the Ministry of Commerce, industrial associations, financial institutions, business publications, and more. This will take some time and may have limited impact if we stick with traditional paper-based yellow pages.

Zhao Yunlong: This issue can be resolved. How about we use the currently popular video technology as a carrier, combined with the yellow pages? This way, we can accelerate dissemination while achieving the best dissemination effect. What do you all think?

Colleagues: That's a great idea, worth trying. (Everyone nods.)

Zhao Yunlong: If there are no objections, let's get moving and start working on it right away. The meeting is adjourned.

Scene 15

Interior - Conference Room - Day

The entrance to the grand hall of Diaoyutai State Guesthouse is crowded with numerous journalists. A luxurious car stops, and Zhao Yunlong steps out of the car. As soon as the journalists see him, they swarm around, eager to interview him.

Journalist A: The "China Enterprise Directory" project, led by the Ministry of Information Industry, how is it progressing?

Journalist B: Why did you think of combining video technology with yellow pages?

Journalist C: What significance does this meeting have for the project's progress?

Zhao Yunlong: I'm sorry, I can't comment on that at the moment.

Guided by security personnel, Zhao Yunlong enters the venue. Zhao Yunlong takes his seat, and other leaders enter the room. Zhao Yunlong shakes hands with the leaders as they arrive.

Host: The purpose of this meeting is to accelerate the construction of the "China Enterprise Directory" database, establishing the first domestic enterprise information resource library. Now, let's invite Zhao Yunlong, Director of the Information Resources Office, to report to everyone.

Zhao Yunlong: (approaching the stage) In today's era of information explosion, the value of information is immeasurable. However, the field of enterprise information in our country has been a blank canvas until now. So, my team and I have decided to focus on filling this gap... (reports to leaders and media below the stage).

Current Department Leader: Yunlong's report is inspiring. We believe that the establishment of the database has epoch-making significance for the development of domestic enterprises. All departments should cooperate fully and actively promote the establishment and improvement of the database.

Host: Now, please invite the department leaders to present the video permits to Zhao Yunlong. Zhao Yunlong receives the video permit from the leaders, they pose for a photo, and the camera zooms in.

Scene 16

Interior - Zhao Yunlong's Office - Day

The camera zooms out, and on the TV inside the office, there is a news report about Zhao Yunlong's company. The TV host introduces how Zhao Yunlong's business empire has expanded to the United States, the United Kingdom, and Malaysia. The stock price is steadily rising, and experts believe it will reach new highs.

Footsteps enter the office. The scene changes, and Zhao Yunlong and his assistant enter the office.

Zhao Yunlong: This year, the company has maintained a strong upward trend overall, achieving new milestones. The year-end summary conference this year will convene regional general managers and outstanding employees from around the country for a meeting in China.

Assistant: Alright, understood.

Zhao Yunlong: Great, you've worked hard. Make me a cup of Da Hong Pao tea, please.

The assistant exits the office, and Zhao Yunlong browses through newspapers on his desk. On the desk are books titled "The Art of War" and "The Prince."

Scene 17

Interior - City Library - Day

Subtitle: 1997

The scene shows a crowded book launch event at a city library. Zhao Yunlong is on the stage, giving a speech.

Zhao Yunlong: This book covers my own practical experiences of over a decade. If you're interested in understanding how to market through telephone calls, then reading this book might be beneficial to you. What is "telephone marketing"? Many of you may not be familiar with it. Telephone marketing can provide companies with a clear target customer base, significantly increasing the success rate of marketing. What are the techniques of telephone marketing... (Zhao Yunlong explains the concept of telephone marketing to the audience).

Post-event interview segment.

Journalist A: Online reviews label you as the "Number One in Chinese Telephone Marketing." How do you respond to that?

Zhao Yunlong: I only hope to maximize the impact of telephone marketing through my efforts. The book contains my personal experiences and insights, and I also welcome diverse opinions from everyone. In the future, I will publish more specialized books on telephone marketing, continuing to promote and expand the theory of telephone marketing.

Scene 18

Interior - Great Hall of the People - Day

Subtitle: 2004

On November 27th, at the annual Chinese Planning Conference held in the Great Hall of the People.

Host: Tonight, which one of China's top ten outstanding planning experts will be honored? Let's find out together on the big screen.

VCR Narrator: He has publicly published millions of words in telephone marketing books, including "The Art of Telephone Marketing," "Comprehensive Telephone Marketing," and "Telephone Marketing Training Course." His research on telephone marketing theory has permeated various sectors of society. Many corporate libraries and university marketing courses still use his works as textbooks for teaching. He is...

Host: This year's "China's Top Ten Outstanding Planning Experts" is Zhao Yunlong, Chairman and CEO of Guoxin Group.

Scene 19

Interior - Columbia University Lecture Hall - Day

Zhao Yunlong is on the podium, introducing himself in somewhat broken English with a Chinese accent. Though his pronunciation isn't perfect, Zhao Yunlong's confident style shines through.

African American Student in the Audience: I heard that your video technology company is all over the world, and you're also known as the number one in Chinese telephone marketing. Why did you come to the United States for studies?

Zhao Yunlong: It's well-known that the MBA was born in the United States. After nearly a century of exploration and efforts, it has cultivated numerous outstanding business management talents, creating myths and miracles in the development of the U.S. economy. I have an infinite longing for this birthplace of "management elites." In China, there's an old saying, "Learning has no end." Everyone present, some of you are CEOs and chairpersons of Fortune 500 companies, and some are national leaders. You are all here to learn, so why wouldn't I strive as well?

Applause from the audience.

Current UN Secretary-General: (to the assistant) This young man has ideas and insights. I wonder if he'd be willing to stay with the United Nations and work together with us for the benefit of countries worldwide.

Scene 20

Exterior - Outside the Venue - Day

Outside the venue, Zhao Yunlong walks briskly, and the assistant to the UN Secretary-General rushes up from behind.

UN Secretary-General's Assistant: Zhao, hello! I was greatly inspired by your presentation just now. I wonder if you'd be willing to leave your contact information. In the future, I'd like to have more opportunities to learn from you.

Zhao Yunlong: Of course, not a problem. (Takes out a piece of paper, writes down his contact information, and hands it to him) Learning from each other! How should I address you?

UN Secretary-General's Assistant: I am the Assistant to the UN Secretary-General. The UN Secretary-General holds you in high regard.

Zhao Yunlong: Thank you! Please convey my regards to the UN Secretary-General.

Voiceover: At this moment, Zhao Yunlong's heart is filled with excitement. His appearance on the international stage is his first step beyond the country's borders. How to put into practice the strategies he has learned is his next challenge.

Scene 21

Interior - Immigration Office Lobby - Day

Zhao Yunlong has been waiting in the lobby for two hours. Ever since deciding to study at Columbia University, he has been contemplating immigration. However, when the moment to apply for immigration arrived, he still had some doubts.

Immigration Officer: What kind of work were you involved in in China?

Zhao Yunlong: I enjoy taking on new challenges. I've published telephone marketing books, led a team to establish an enterprise directory database, and more.

Immigration Officer: Oh? So why do you want to immigrate to the United States?

Zhao Yunlong: Not long ago, I was admitted as a visiting scholar at Columbia University in the United States. I believe that immigration will help me integrate more quickly into the study life in the United States.

Another immigration officer approaches and whispers to the immigration officer.

Immigration Officer: Alright! Congratulations, you're approved! In fact, the U.S. government has already included you in the Important Talent Immigration Program.

Chapter 4 Be virtuous and meritorious

Scene 1

Interior - Columbia University - Day

Inside a university classroom, a professor is lecturing on economics. Zhao Yunlong is listening attentively but finds it challenging to understand due to the professor's American accent. He takes rapid notes, and whenever he doesn't understand, he marks it with a question mark.

The scene fast-forwards, but the setting remains the same. Zhao Yunlong's notebook accumulates more and more question marks.

Scene 2

Exterior - Columbia University - Day

A professor is walking among the students, and Zhao Yunlong catches up with him, walking side by side.

Zhao Yunlong: Professor, I've heard that your course is specifically designed to teach Asian and African students American English learning methods. I'd like to seek your advice.

Professor: This is a complex matter, but it's actually quite simple to do.

Zhao Yunlong: Please tell me how!

Professor: Listening is the key. Mr. Zhao, as long as you listen to more than 7,000 hours of American English conversations, anyone can develop strong listening skills in American English.

Zhao Yunlong freezes, stops walking, and says, "Is it that simple?"

The professor smiles, puts his arm around Zhao Yunlong's shoulder, and continues walking, saying, "It's not simple, Zhao. It's not simple."

Scene 3

Exterior - New York - Day

Zhao Yunlong is on his way to Columbia University, listening to English conversations on the subway. In the shaking subway car, he notices a young Chinese student sitting across from him, wearing headphones and studying English textbooks. He finds it interesting and smiles.

Scene 4

Interior - Zhao Yunlong's Home in New York - Night

Zhao Yunlong returns home, turns on the gas stove to start cooking, and prepares instant noodles, a familiar and convenient meal for students. He adeptly handles the preparation. As he cooks, he turns on the TV and listens to English news reports.

Scene 5

Scene Change - New York

Zhao Yunlong is sitting on the subway, and the scenery outside the window changes rapidly. He continues listening intently. In his bed, he falls asleep while listening to English through his headphones.

Scene 6

Interior - Classroom - Day

Subtitle: Two years later.

With his improved American English skills, Zhao Yunlong begins giving lectures on economics at the university.

Zhao Yunlong: Savings habits differ significantly between European and American countries and Asian residents. Thus, it is unlikely that Asian countries will experience a subprime crisis. However, due to the influence of the international financial market, the primary securities and interbank trading markets in Asian countries will be significantly affected. Because of the different economic systems among Asian countries, whether they implement macroeconomic regulation at the national level will be a crucial factor affecting their future economic trends.

Zhao Yunlong opens a presentation slide and continues: This chart illustrates the gap in savings and homeownership rates between Asian residents and European and American countries. Just looking at this chart, you might think that Asians are much wealthier than Europeans and Americans.

Students burst into laughter.

Zhao Yunlong: They not only buy homes in their own countries but also purchase properties all over the world. For example, I've also bought a house on Long Island, New York.

Students burst into even louder laughter.

Zhao Yunlong: So, your homework after this class is to explain your understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of high savings rates among Asian residents in combating worldwide financial risks. Provide reasons. This question isn't about right or wrong; I care about your own thoughts.

Zhao Yunlong: Class dismissed.

Students begin walking towards the door.

Scene 7

Interior - Library - Day

Zhao Yunlong maintains his reading habit, just like he did in his youth. He visits the library to borrow books almost every other day. The library assistant has become familiar with him.

Library Assistant nods and smiles: "Sir, here to borrow books again?"

Zhao Yunlong replies: "Yes, thank you."

Zhao Yunlong's gaze wanders over the bookshelves categorized under international politics and economics.

Suddenly, the title of a book catches his eye. Zhao Yunlong says to himself: "The Art of War by Sun Tzu?"

He takes this book and opens its pages.

It's an English translation of "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu. The content is both familiar and unfamiliar, making him excited. He flips to the last page, which indicates it was published in 1991.

Zhao Yunlong mutters to himself: "So, it's true that the U.S. military increased the printing of 'The Art of War' before the Gulf War to have military officers read it."

Zhao Yunlong picks up the book and walks towards the exit, saying: "Please help me borrow this book."

Library Assistant: "Certainly." (Library Assistant glances at the cover)

The library assistant registers his library card and hands him the form. Zhao Yunlong signs it skillfully.

Zhao Yunlong: "Goodnight. Have sweet dreams."

Library Assistant: "Goodnight, sir."

Scene 8

Interior - Zhao Yunlong's Home in New York - Night

Zhao Yunlong sits upright at his writing desk, with an open English version of "The Art of War" in front of him. This unexpected reunion with an old friend in a foreign land stirs his emotions. Voiceover: At this moment, Zhao Yunlong feels that the fact that Americans value "The Art of War" so much, even translating it into a book, is quite uncommon among other Chinese classics. This indirectly confirms his view: the era when "The Art of War" was written has relevance to modern international strategic relations. He decides to publish his thoughts on "The Art of War" and international relations. However, before doing that, he wants to make Americans familiar with the ideas in this book.

Scene 9

Interior - Large Classroom - Day

This is a classroom that can accommodate over a hundred people. The projection on the central screen of the blackboard reads "Sun Tzu's Art of War and International Relations" in both Chinese and English.

Zhao Yunlong: (Looking around the classroom, where about fifty students are sparsely seated) Let's begin.

Zhao Yunlong: Today, we are going to discuss a famous ancient Chinese military strategist named Sun Tzu and the relevance of his thoughts to contemporary international relations.

A student raises their hand, and Zhao Yunlong signals that they can speak.

Student: Sun Tzu, I've heard that in your country, it's an insulting term. Why would such a renowned figure give himself such a name?

Zhao Yunlong: In ancient China, "Zi" was a respectful title. For example, you've heard of Confucius and Mencius; they were also figures of that time who were addressed with this honorific. Any other questions?

Another female student asks: "So, when did this person live?"

Zhao Yunlong: He lived about over 2,500 years ago in China.

Female Student: "Over 2,500 years?! Do his words still hold any value?" The students chuckle.

Zhao Yunlong also laughs: "Of course! For example, Aristotle, who lived around 2,400 years ago; Plato and Socrates were also born around that time. In fact, India's Gautama Buddha and China's Confucius were also born around that time. It's an interesting phenomenon that eminent philosophers and prophets suddenly emerged worldwide during that period, bringing invaluable ideas to humanity."

The students are engaged, listening attentively.

Zhao Yunlong continues: "Alright, now I'm going to formally introduce this gentleman named Sun Tzu."

Scene 10

Interior - Large Classroom - Day

In the second lecture, around fifty students fill the classroom that can accommodate a hundred.

Zhao Yunlong: Sun Tzu's concept of winning without fighting aligns with the Western idea that 'military action is an extension of politics.' Military force should only be used to achieve strategic objectives when political and diplomatic means have failed.

A student raises their hand, and Zhao Yunlong gestures for them to speak.

Student: Sir, what does 'using the normal to engage and the extraordinary to win' mean in your outline? I don't understand it.

Zhao Yunlong: That's a great question. What's your name?

Student: Michael.

Zhao Yunlong: Michael, do you know about the Chinese concept of yin and yang?

Student: Me? Of course not! (laughs)

Zhao Yunlong: Yin and yang represent light and darkness, and they generate and counteract each other. It's like the universe is composed of positive and negative matter; you can't have one without the other, or it wouldn't be perfect. Sun Tzu believed that in military matters, you should both confront your enemy head-on with a traditional army and employ surprise tactics where the enemy least expects it to gain an advantage.

Scene 11

Interior - Large Classroom - Day

Another lecture. This time, the venue is packed, with students even standing in the aisles. A white male, Mr. Mondale, from the United Nations, squeezes through the aisle to get to a closer seat. Zhao Yunlong speaks from the stage: "Know thyself, know thy enemy, and you shall win a hundred battles." This is one of Sun Tzu's most important military philosophies.

He believes that thorough intelligence preparation is the foundation of success in any war. Broadly, it is the intelligence war in the entire military, political, and diplomatic fields. From a purely military perspective, it involves gathering information about both the enemy and ourselves. The current battlefield command system, C4ISR, can be seen as the culmination of this application...

Mr. Mondale listens attentively in the audience.

After the lecture, as students leave the classroom, Zhao Yunlong organizes his materials in preparation to leave. Mondale: (approaching Zhao Yunlong by the podium) Dr. Zhao, hello.

Zhao Yunlong: (lifting his head and extending his hand to shake Mondale's) Hello, I'm Zhao Yunlong. How can I help you?

Mondale: I'm Mondale. I listened to your lecture; you spoke brilliantly.

Zhao Yunlong: The Art of War by Sun Tzu is traditional Chinese wisdom. I hope it can provide some insights and assistance in resolving modern international relations.

Mondale: That's exactly why I came to find you. You should come to the United Nations to spread the ideas of The Art of War. That way, more people will learn about it.

Zhao Yunlong: Can I? (somewhat surprised and delighted)

Mondale: Of course, you can. You understand both the East and the West. No one can better spread and interpret ancient Chinese wisdom than you.

Zhao Yunlong: (excitedly shaking hands) You've helped me realize my idea. Thank you, Mr. Mondale.

Scene 12

Interior - United Nations Office - Day

A female staff member opens the door: "Mr. Zhao, this is your office."

Zhao Yunlong enters, and inside, there are office desks, chairs, and a large window. The United Nations flag hangs on the wall.

Zhao Yunlong: Thank you!

Female Staff Member: These are your work credentials. You'll need them for access in the future. If you need anything else, you can let me know.

Zhao Yunlong: Alright, I will. (The female staff member exits the room.)

Zhao Yunlong walks towards the large window, which overlooks the entire United Nations office area.

Scene 13

Interior - United Nations Cafeteria - Day

In the year 200\*, during the election for the Chair of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Colleague: Zhao, you should run for the Chair of the Economic and Social Council.

Zhao Yunlong is surprised: Me?

Colleague: Aren't you conducting economic research at Columbia University?

Zhao Yunlong: There are plenty of people in this building doing economic research. I can only be considered alright. (laughs with embarrassment)

Colleague: Is this your Chinese modesty? I heard your lecture about The Art of War, and I think that economics shouldn't just focus on data. The strategic interactions between economic entities are also essential to consider.

Zhao Yunlong: Really? I'll give it a try. But I'm not very confident. That's my honest opinion. Zhao Yunlong continues to eat, looking down.

Scene 14

Interior - United Nations Meeting Room - Day

Dozens of people await the election results.

Host: (glances at the screen) After the final vote count, Zhao Yunlong, the researcher from Columbia University, has been elected as the Chair of the Economic and Social Council. Congratulations, Mr. Zhao.

Zhao Yunlong: (hearing the results, he's very pleased, stands up with a smile, and accepts congratulations from colleagues around) Thank you! Thank you all for your support!

Reporter: Dr. Zhao, hello, I'm a reporter from Xinhua News Agency's New York branch. Can you share your feelings about being elected?

Zhao Yunlong: (making an inviting gesture) Of course, I can. Please come to my office.

Scene 15

Interior - United Nations Office - Day

A thick stack of manuscripts on the office desk. Zhao Yunlong is working on his laptop, composing materials. The screen shows the title "Monetary Statistics Compilation."

Someone knocks on the door. Zhao Yunlong: Please come in.

A long-haired female student enters, exuding classical Eastern beauty.

Long Hui: Doctor, this is the latest Wall Street monetary gold investment statistics you requested. (Hands over printed materials) However, it only includes data without analysis. Those Wall Street people refused to provide it, saying it's a service for their VIP members only (somewhat frustrated).

Zhao Yunlong: (laughs, takes the materials) That's alright. Having the data is enough. Thank you. My book is almost finished, and the scope of monetary gold investment is quite stable. I don't need too many case studies. I mainly need to understand its developmental trends. How are you preparing for your final exams?

Long Hui: I'm doing fine, Doctor. The courses at Columbia aren't too challenging.

Zhao Yunlong gets up and pours her a glass of water: Your parents sent you to the United States for your studies; it wasn't easy. Besides studying hard, you should also broaden your horizons, get to know influential people. They can provide you with wisdom.

Long Hui: (accepting the glass of water, nods) I see! I've been learning from you all along. I want to become a journalist in the future so I can interact with those people regularly.

Zhao Yunlong: That's a good idea. I'll keep an eye out for opportunities for you.

Upon someone's suggestion, begins to host interview programs to record thoughts.

Scene 16

Interior - United Nations Assembly - Day

An international conference. The then Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra, enters the venue.

The host introduces the attending guests: "This is Dr. Zhao Yunlong, a research scholar in international political economy. He has unique insights into The Art of War."

Yingluck: Hello, Dr. Zhao.

Zhao Yunlong: Hello, Prime Minister Yingluck.

Yingluck: I also read The Art of War when I was young.

Zhao Yunlong is delighted: You were wise from a young age. It's an excellent textbook for international relations. Zhao Yunlong invites Yingluck for a photo together.

The camera flashes through photos of Zhao Yunlong meeting various national leaders and prominent figures at the United Nations.

Scene 17

Interior - United Nations Cafeteria - Day

While having a meal, Zhao Yunlong eats slowly.

Colleague looks at him: Zhao, you seem unhappy recently because you're homesick, right?

Zhao Yunlong: This is my home.

Colleague: Then why do you have a gloomy face all the time? Is American food not to your liking?

Zhao Yunlong: You wouldn't understand.

Colleague (shrugs): Right. So, you should tell me why.

Zhao Yunlong: I want to do something practical.

Colleague: Like what?

Zhao Yunlong: I want to sweat every day, so tired that I'll fall asleep as soon as I lay down at night!

Colleague: Haha! That's easy! I happen to have something. I'm just worried that you can't handle the hardship.

Zhao Yunlong looks at him: I grew up enduring hardships.

The colleague hands him an application form. Zhao Yunlong looks at the form: Kenya?

Colleague: What do you think?

Zhao Yunlong: I'll go.

Scene 18

Interior - United Nations Office - Day

United Nations Environment Programme, New York Office. Official: (glances at the application form) Mr. Zhao Yunlong?

Zhao Yunlong: That's me.

Official: Why do you want to go to Kenya? It's not like the World Health Organization; there are no views of Lake Geneva and the Alps. There are only mosquitoes and heat waves.

Zhao Yunlong: I've been at the United Nations for two years now. It's either attending meetings or filling out forms all day long. I want to do something practical. Do you understand?

Official: (smiles) I know. You want to sweat every day, so tired that you'll fall asleep as soon as you lay down at night. Your colleague, who is also my good friend, told me about it. Nairobi will definitely fulfill your wish.

Zhao Yunlong: Good.

Official: However, once you go, you must stay for a minimum of 6 months. No matter how difficult it gets, you can only apply to return after 6 months.

Zhao Yunlong: Alright, no problem.

The official stamps the application form: You can go home and prepare. You'll receive a notice soon. If I were you, I'd get all the vaccines at the hospital first. You know the hygiene conditions there; it's one of the harshest places in the world.

Scene 19

Interior - New York Home - Day

The home is cluttered with items strewn on the floor. Zhao Yunlong's wife helps with the cleanup while complaining: You've only been in the United States for a short while, and now you're leaving. I don't know for how long, and you're going to Africa!

Zhao Yunlong grabs his wife's hands: I'm going to Nairobi, the capital. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport is an international airport, and transportation is very convenient. I can come back often. You don't need to bring so many clothes; it's very hot there.

His wife embraces him: It's not easy being apart after finally reuniting. I don't know how long this separation will last.

Zhao Yunlong: These years have been hard on you. You've taken care of our child and the household.

His wife looks up at him: Since we got married at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing all those years ago, I knew I wouldn't have peaceful days. I know you're not someone content with mediocrity. You're an eagle from the Mongolian grasslands.

Zhao Yunlong: Even eagles need a place to rest. You are my resting place. The two embrace tightly, and the camera pans to the bustling night view of New York outside the window.

Chapter 5: A Unified World

Scene 1

Exterior - Nairobi Airport - Day

Exiting the international arrivals hall, Zhao Yunlong stops and looks around. A Black man wearing a United Nations ID badge waves to him: Dr. Zhao! Zhao Yunlong walks toward him, dragging his luggage: Hello!

The man helps him with his luggage and places it in the trunk: I'm your guide responsible for taking you to the office. I'm Palmer. Let's get in the car!

Zhao Yunlong shakes his hand: Thank you, Palmer! The vehicle exits the airport.

Scene 2

Exterior - Nairobi - Day

The car travels through the streets of Nairobi. This is a true depiction of an underdeveloped African city. Unlike the views of Lake Geneva and the sunny Alps in the WHO Geneva campus, the natural scenery in Africa exudes more vitality and wild beauty. It also represents a more rugged and primitive environment. (African-style music plays in the background).

Scene 3

Exterior - Nairobi United Nations Compound - Day

Arriving at the United Nations compound in Kenya, Zhao Yunlong sees another United Nations.

Inside the compound, many staff members are bustling around, not just Black individuals. There are people of various skin tones, and it's mostly young people.

The car passes through the entrance and enters the compound. Zhao Yunlong gets out of the car, and his guide leads him: Let's go to where you'll be staying.

Scene 4

Interior - Dormitory - Day

They arrive at a temporary building with no elevator. Zhao Yunlong follows the guide into a room. The guide points at a single small bed: This is it, Zhao. (He gestures to the bed)

Zhao Yunlong places his luggage in front of the bed.

The guide continues: We don't have air conditioning here, and you'll need to keep the windows open at night. We have 2 hours of running water every morning and evening. The restroom is in the building next door.

Zhao Yunlong: Alright.

The guide walks towards the door but turns back to tell him: Oh, and we're quite short on water here. You can only take showers twice a week, and each shower is limited to 5 minutes.

Zhao Yunlong smiles, recalling his childhood: I come from a place where water is scarce too.

Scene 5

Exterior - Kenya - Day

During the day, Zhao Yunlong accompanies United Nations vehicles on humanitarian relief missions. The vehicles travel slowly on the road under the protection of peacekeeping armored vehicles. The camera pans out to showcase the magnificent landscapes of Africa and groups of local people.

Along the way, people silently watch the convoy passing by. Zhao Yunlong glimpses many children of school age playing and running along the road.

Scene 6

Exterior - Kenya - Day

Zhao Yunlong is inspired by his new job and the enthusiasm of the young colleagues. Despite being exhausted every night and falling asleep immediately, his mood has significantly improved.

During his free time, Zhao Yunlong plays chess with a United Nations intern named Men.

Scene 7

Interior - Office Building Corridor - Night

Zhao Yunlong calls his wife. After dialing, the screen switches to Mrs. Zhao. She is delighted to see the call and answers it with joy. The screen returns to Zhao Yunlong, and several colleagues are waiting behind him for their turn to make phone calls. Zhao Yunlong chats warmly on the phone. The scene is silent, with background music (theme song, to be composed) playing. The camera zooms out to show the pouring rain outside in Nairobi.

Scene 8

Exterior - Kenya - Day

While Zhao Yunlong is working, he once again sees many children playing on the road. It's not vacation time.

Scene 9

Exterior - Car - Day

Zhao Yunlong: (asks his colleague in the car) Why aren't these children going to school?

Colleague: They are very poor and can't afford to go to school.

Zhao Yunlong: I heard that the Kenyan government doesn't charge school fees.

Colleague: Yes, that's true. But they still need money to buy textbooks and pens every year. It costs $11 per year. You know, many Kenyans don't even earn that much in a month. And they have too many children.

Scene 10

Exterior - Flashback - Day

Zhao Yunlong is moved and pained. He recalls his own past. He couldn't afford school fees when he was younger and dropped out of school for a period after graduating from middle school. He almost missed the chance to earn his doctoral degree. But he could herd cattle, tend to boilers, and run a street stall to earn his tuition fees. What can these children in Kenya do?

The scene flashes back to the young Zhao Yunlong herding cattle and working odd jobs to pay for school.

Scene 11

Interior - Office - Day

Zhao Yunlong talks to an official from the United Nations Environment Programme. Zhao Yunlong: I want to make a donation.

Official: A donation? United Nations staff rarely donate. Most of them don't even take a salary.

(The official looks at him with interest)

Zhao Yunlong: I'll donate my salary as well.

Official: (laughs and pours a glass of water for him) You're a generous person. Tell me why!

Scene 12

Interior - School - Day

Zhao Yunlong visits a Kenyan primary school with the official from the United Nations Environment Programme to meet the children who have resumed their studies.

Official: Zhao, do you know that your donation of $300,000 to the United Nations Environment Programme will allow more than 3,000 Kenyan children to attend school from the first grade to the ninth grade for a year?

Zhao Yunlong nods contentedly and takes photos with the children.

Scene 13

Interior - Dormitory - Day

Zhao Yunlong maintains his habit of reading at night. He is reading at the desk in his dormitory.

Voiceover: Gradually, after staying in Kenya for a while, Zhao Yunlong starts to feel like he's at home. The same drought, the same infertile land, the same impoverished population. This strange feeling often reminds him of his hometown in Inner Mongolia. He left with all his might but never truly left that place.

Zhao Yunlong suddenly closes the book. He's homesick. He wants to go back to Inner Mongolia!

Scene 14

Exterior - Airport - Day

Zhao Yunlong returns to Beijing via Egypt from Nairobi and takes a train to Ordos. His younger brother picks him up at the station and takes him back home.

Younger Brother: Big brother!

Zhao Yunlong steps forward and hugs his younger brother tightly.

Scene 15

Exterior - Ordos - Day

The car continues down the road towards Zhao Yunlong's home. Suddenly, Zhao Yunlong sees a distant sandstorm rising, sounding like a roaring bull, a rolling and rumbling phenomenon, like a shaking yellow line in the sky, gradually widening, quite spectacular. In an instant, before he can react, the sandstorm sweeps through, and everything that was there a moment ago disappears like magic.

Younger Brother: (noticing Zhao Yunlong's distraction) It's getting worse every year now. You haven't been back for several years. The desert has advanced tens of kilometers inland.

Zhao Yunlong continues to gaze out of the car window, lost in thought.

Scene 16

Interior - Government Office - Day

Zhao Yunlong conducts inspections in Inner Mongolia and purchases several plots of desert land in different locations, investing nearly tens of millions of yuan in ecological afforestation projects.

Investment Promotion Official: Mr. Zhao, here is the agreement. Please take a look.

Zhao Yunlong takes the agreement and attentively reviews it.

Investment Promotion Official: Thank you, Mr. Zhao, for investing in your hometown in Inner Mongolia after earning money elsewhere. I believe you will get a good return on this investment.

Zhao Yunlong: I'm not here to invest. I'm here to preserve the memories of this land and leave it in the best possible condition for future generations.

The Investment Promotion Official doesn't fully understand but politely nods.

Scene 17

Exterior - Inner Mongolia - Day

Zhao Yunlong plants the first tree in the ecological park he established, accompanied by local leaders. Reporters surround them, taking photos.

Local Leader: (looking at Zhao Yunlong) Mr. Zhao, you have great foresight. Although this land looks barren now, once it's green and lush in the future, it will be a beautiful landscape. (Quoting General Secretary Xi Jinping)

Zhao Yunlong shakes hands: Definitely!

Scene 18

Exterior - Middle East - Day

Zhao Yunlong conducts inspections and charity work in various regions, including the Middle East, Eastern Europe, South America, etc. (Selected scenes from Zhao Yunlong's video materials)

Scene 19

Interior - Hotel - Day

In addition to inspections and charity work, Zhao Yunlong often communicates with others, sharing his insights into "The Art of War" and international strategic studies with people from different countries. Zhao Yunlong is seen taking notes in his hotel room. He has filled 7 or 8 identical notebooks.

Scene 20

Interior - Bookstore - Day

During this time, he finally completes and publishes the book "The Art of War and International Strategy," widely spreading the application of the ancient Chinese military classic in contemporary times.

In a bookstore, Zhao Yunlong's portrait and the title "The Art of War and International Strategy" are printed together on the cover of the best-selling book. A young student picks up the book and starts reading it.