





# **2020 Annual Results**

March 23, 2021

#### Disclaimer



This presentation contains forward-looking statements relating to the industry and business outlook, forecast business plans and growth strategies of the Company. These forward-looking statements are based on information currently available to the Company and are stated herein on the basis of the outlook at the time of this presentation. They are based on certain expectations, assumptions and premises, some of which are subjective or beyond our control. These forward-looking statements may prove to be incorrect and may not be realized in future. Underlying the forward-looking statements is a large number of risks and uncertainties. Further information regarding these risks and uncertainties is included in the Company's other public disclosure documents on its corporate website.

Furthermore, this presentation also contains statements based on the Company's management accounts, which have not been audited by the Auditor. Shareholders and potential investors should therefore not place undue reliance on such statements.

### **2020 Annual Results Summary**

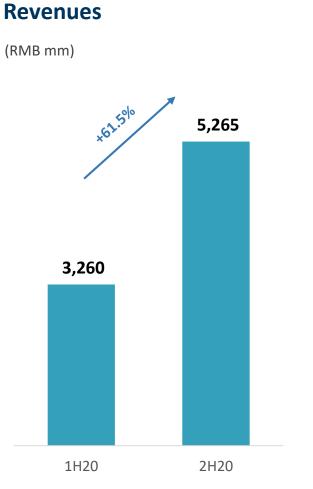


IFRS Measures	<ul> <li>Revenues up 2.1% YoY from RMB8.3 billion to RMB8.5 billion (USD1.3 billion<sup>1</sup>)</li> <li>Gross profit up 14.7% YoY from RMB3.7 billion to RMB4.2 billion (USD648.9 million)</li> <li>Operating loss was RMB4.5 billion (USD685.8 million), as compared to operating profit of RMB1.2 billion in 2019</li> <li>Net loss to shareholders was RMB4.5 billion (USD687.2 million), as compared to net profit to shareholders of RMB1.1 billion in 2019</li> </ul>
Non-IFRS Measures	<ul> <li>Non-IFRS operating profit was RMB934.6 million (USD143.2 million), as compared to RMB1.4 billion in 2019</li> <li>Non-IFRS net profit to shareholders was RMB917.1 million (USD140.6 million), as compared to RMB1.2 billion in 2019</li> </ul>
User Base	<ul> <li>Total MAU up 4.2% YoY from 219.7 million to 228.9 million</li> <li>Average DAU for free reading channels reached 10 million for Dec 2020</li> </ul>

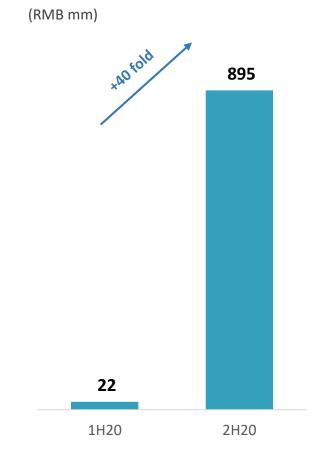
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## 2020 Annual Results: 1H vs 2H





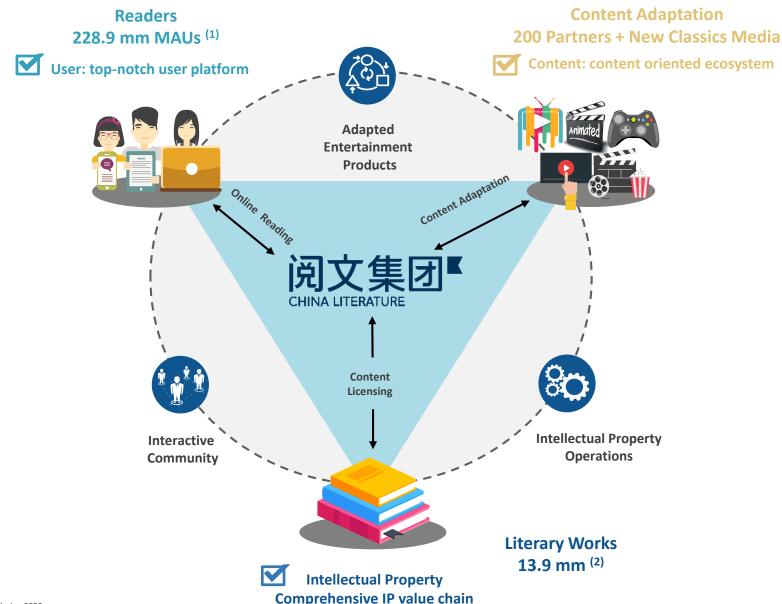
#### Non-IFRS net profit to shareholders



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#### **Continued Expansion of Online Reading and IP Ecosystem**





Total writers increased from 8.1 mm as of December 31, 2019 to
9 mm as of December 31, 2020. Total works increased from 12.2 mm as of December 31, 2019 to 13.9 mm as of December 31, 2020

 Around 46 billion Chinese characters were added in 2020

5 Notes: (1) Stands for average monthly active users during 2020. (2) Figures are as of December 31, 2020.

### **Business Highlights in 2020**

#### **Content Upgrades:**

- 26 of the top 30 online literary works originated on China Literature's platform (source: Baidu search rankings in Feb 2021)
- Improving relationship with writers:
  - ✓ New grading system for contracts
  - ✓ New editing & support system
  - ✓ New welfare and IP protection mechanism
  - ✓ Qidian Academy: 2+ million video views for online courses in one month
- Rising of Generation Z writers: accounting 80% of new writers in 2020

#### **Platform Upgrades:**

- Expanding relationship with Tencent channels for free reading content, 10 million average DAU for Dec 2020
- Interactive functions enhance users stickiness: instant comments and replies, UGC audio readings for texts, UGC chapters, etc.
- 100+ literary works each has 1+ million user comments
- Al & Big Data improves user recommendation and assists editors to screen and nurture content

### **Business Highlights in 2020**



#### **Ecosystem Upgrades:**

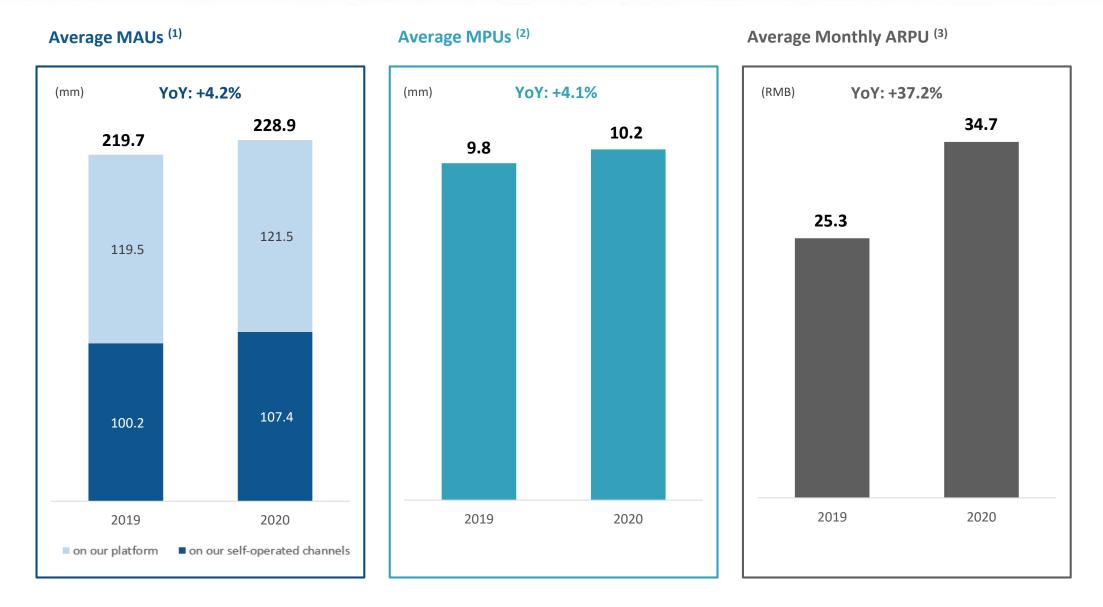
- Three-way "New Classics Media-Tencent Pictures-China Literature Pictures" partnership to facilitate productions of IP adapted drama series and films
- China Literature Comics & Animation Dept & Tencent Comics Joint Committee to incubate 300 IP adapted comic series for 3 years + joint productions of animations series
- Image: Additional system

- Top-tier titles released in 2020:
  - ✓ Drama series: My Best Friend's Story 流金岁月 (No. 1 on Enlightent's TV series playlist)
  - ✓ Animations: Stellar Transformations 星辰变 (1.8 bn video views), Martial Universe 武动乾坤 (1.8 bn video views), The King's Avatar 全职高手 (2.4 bn video views), Fighter of the Destiny 择天记 (930 mm video views), and Fulltime Master 全职法师 (2.0 bn video views)
- ~200 IP rights licensed for adaptation by business partners



### **Financials: Key Operating Metrics**





#### Notes: (1) (2)

(3)

8

Average MAU is calculated as the average of MAUs for each calendar month during the respective year or period, on our platform and our self-operated channels on partner distribution platforms.

Average MPU is calculated as the average of MPUs for each calendar month during the respective year or period, on our platform and our self-operated channels on partner distribution platforms.

Average monthly ARPU is calculated as online reading revenue on our platform and self-operated channels divided by average MPUs during the period, then divided by the number of months during the period.

### **Financials: Income Statement**

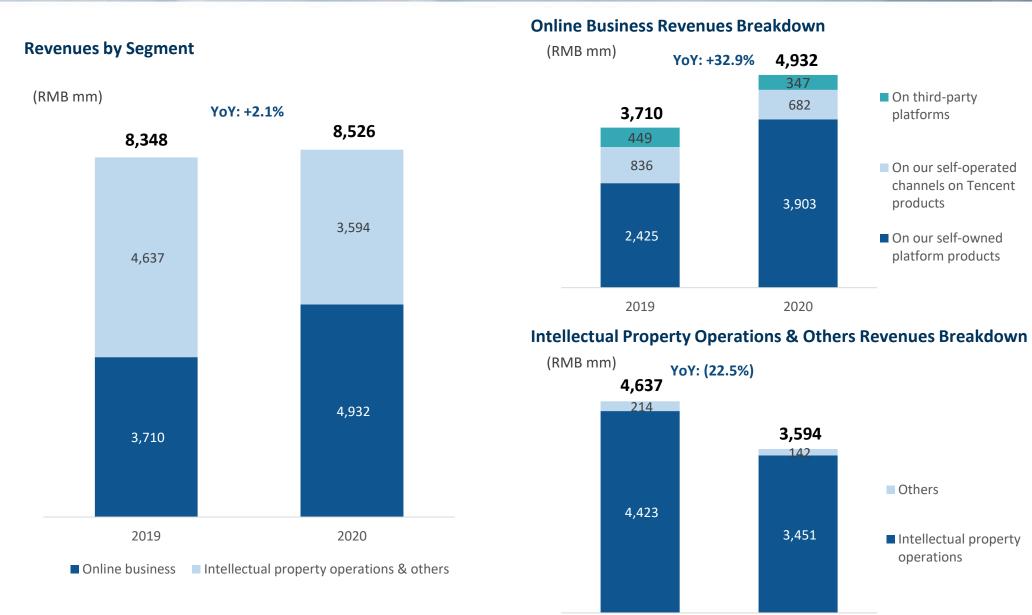


RMB' 000	2019	2020	ΥοΥ
Revenues	8,347,767	8,525,701	2.1%
Cost of revenues	(4,655,744)	(4,291,625)	(7.8%)
Gross profit	3,692,023	4,234,076	14.7%
Interest income	157,539	116,315	(26.2%)
Other (losses)/gains, net <sup>(1)</sup>	453,194	(5,322,903)	(1,274.5%)
Selling and marketing expenses	(2,073,937)	(2,498,187)	20.5%
General and administrative expenses	(1,010,282)	(873,766)	(13.5%)
Net provision for impairment losses on financial assets	(24,630)	(130,203)	428.6%
Operating (loss)/profit	1,193,907	(4,474,668)	(474.8%)
Finance costs	(172,618)	(68,785)	(60.2%)
Share of net profit of associates and joint ventures	158,508	4,733	(97.0%)
Income tax benefit/(expense)	(67,663)	38,523	(156.9%)
Net (loss)/profit to shareholders	1,095,953	(4,483,869)	(509.1%)
Non-IFRS net profit to shareholders	1,194,618	917,105	(23.2%)

(1) The other losses in 2020 consisted mainly of i) an impairment provision covering goodwill and trademark rights related to the acquisition of New Classics Media of RMB4,015.9 million and RMB389.8 million, respectively, ii) a net fair value loss of RMB604.6 million due to the modification of New Classics Media's earn-out mechanism in 2020, and iii) an impairment provision covering the Company's long-term investments related to certain investee companies of RMB252.0 million.

#### **Financials: Revenue Structure**





2019

2020

) Note: (1)

Certain figures have been subject to rounding adjustments. Accordingly, figures shown as totals may not be an arithmetic aggregation of the figures shown in the breakdown items.

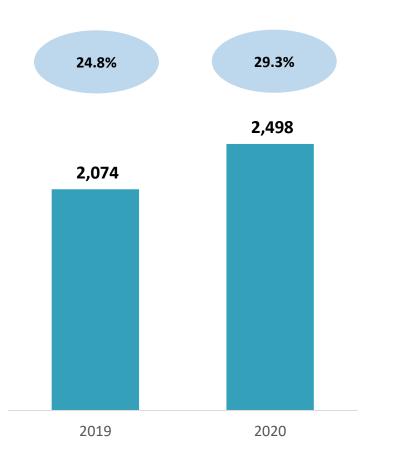
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### **Financials: Operating Expenses**



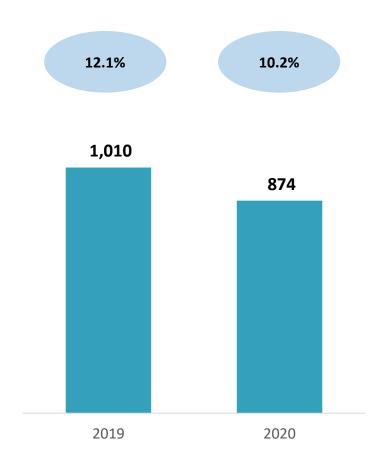
#### Selling & Marketing Expenses

as % of total revenue, total amount in RMB mm



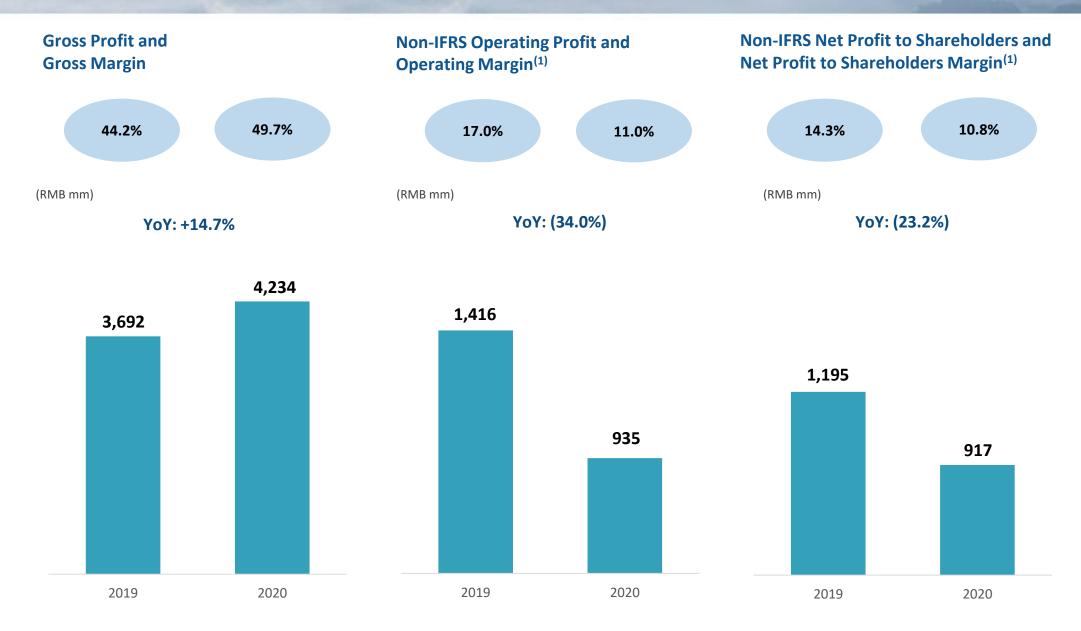
#### **General & Administrative Expenses**

as % of total revenue, total amount in RMB mm



### **Financials: Key Profitability Metrics**





### **Financials: Non-IFRS Profitability**



(RMB' 000)	2019	2020	YoY
EBITDA	841,660	1,033,839	22.8%
Margin %	10.1%	12.1%	
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	1,247,324	1,029,692	(17.4%)
Margin %	14.9%	12.1%	
Operating (loss)/profit	1,193,907	(4,474,668)	(474.8%)
Margin %	14.3%	(52.5%)	
Non-IFRS operating profit <sup>(2)</sup>	1,415,802	934,602	(34.0%)
Margin %	17.0%	11.0%	
Net (loss)/profit to shareholders	1,095,953	(4,483,869)	(509.1%)
Margin %	13.1%	(52.6%)	
Non-IFRS net profit to shareholders <sup>(3)</sup>	1,194,618	917,105	(23.2%)
Margin %	14.3%	10.8%	

(1) Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as EBITDA for the period plus share-based compensation expense and expenditures related to acquisitions.

(2) Non-IFRS operating profit is defined as operating (loss)/profit for the period adjusted by share-based compensation, net loss/(gain) from investments and acquisitions, and amortization of intangible assets resulting from acquisitions.

13 (3) Non-IFRS net profit to shareholders is defined as net (loss)/profit to shareholders adjusted by share-based compensation, net loss/(gain) from investments and acquisitions, and amortization of intangible assets resulting from acquisitions.

Notes:



# **Thank You**