We argue in our research that these two films use themes and plot points from Pride and Prejudice to cultivate a distinctly modern Chinese ideal of masculinity, femininity, and marriage that seeks to mark China's place in the world. As this Chinese Dream is being sculpted in these films, though, many values are in tension. A stated belief in gender equality is undermined by an investment in an ideal masculinity that limits women's autonomy. A stated value of filial piety is undermined by the emphasis placed on individualistic wealth.

Ideal Masculinity
- A Capitalist (entrepreneur, manager of wealth)
- Represents China's youthful energy to the West
- Able to make demands, assert his desires over women

Ideal Femininity
- An Artist (chef, writer, avid reader)
- Willing to sacrifice her career for the sake of romantic partnership
- Demure, innocent with respect to sex