

All R. Artist 101

Chapter 101: This Round is Secured

No matter whether he's helping out with composing and arranging music on the piano or not, the frequency with which Lin Yuan visits the art club inevitably decreases, because he also needs to make time to write "Zhu Xian".

He has to accumulate several thousand words a day.

No matter how fast he types, it will still require effort.

As half of May has passed, the relevant music departments of large entertainment companies have started preparing for the new season in June. At Starlight, the plan to release "Red Rose" next month has been confirmed.

One of the three giants in the Qin Continent.

The lounge of Dazzling Silver Light.

As a top-tier singer, Chen Zhiyu is also preparing to release a new song in June. For this reason, Chen Zhiyu made a point of reminding his agent to look at strong competitors that might surface next month.

"Great news!"

After the agent had investigated the preparations of various companies for next month and contacted Chen Zhiyu in a hurry, he was very excited: "This is excellent news, there's absolutely no problem for you to top the charts next month!"

"Don't jinx it!"

Chen Zhiyu said irritably: "As far as I know, Jin Shuyu from Starlight Entertainment will also be releasing a song next month. Jin Shuyu's capabilities and influence among fans are not to be taken lightly. I don't have the confidence to consistently beat him."

Both are top-tier singers.

But their popularity levels differ.

Jin Shuyu began to rise in popularity last year, and this year he has securely claimed the throne of a top-tier singer. His popularity and fan base even slightly surpass those of Chen Zhiyu. Under such circumstances, Chen Zhiyu views Jin Shuyu as his biggest rival for next month.

“This is the good news I was talking about!”

The agent said gleefully: “For some unknown reason, Jin Shuyu has been suspended from activities for a month by Starlight Entertainment, and his agent has received the same punishment. So, his plan to release a new song in June has been cancelled by Starlight.”

“Are you sure?”

Chen Zhiyu was taken aback: “This isn’t some smoke screen Starlight is putting up, is it? Jin Shuyu is currently a popular top-tier singer. How can his song release plan be cancelled just like that?”

“I am not sure about that.”

The agent smiled and said firmly: “But I know for sure that Jin Shuyu’s suspension from Starlight is real. Because several of his key activities have been suspended in recent days. It’s likely he’s offended some big shot. Now you can relax. Because apart from Jin Shuyu, none of the other singers next month pose any threat to you.”

“What about Starlight’s substitute singer?”

“The substitute singer is apparently Sun Yaohuo. He was probably hastily pulled in by Starlight. He is just a little-known small-time singer, not even as good as Zhao Ying Ge from last time. Starlight’s top-tier singers wouldn’t substitute for Jin Shuyu at the last minute.”

“Heaven is on my side!”

Chen Zhiyu's doubts were completely dispelled.

He finally revealed a smile. It's not that he's overly cautious. He had mainly been frightened before. The last time he released a song was in January, and as a result, he was unexpectedly trounced by "Easy to Ignite and Explode". It scared Chen Zhiyu so much that he hasn't released any new songs for several months.

This time, no matter what, he must claim first place!

He must recover the face he lost in January!

You should know that Chen Zhiyu had deliberated for a long time before choosing June to release his song. This is the month he most hopes to claim the first place of the season. He doesn't want to unexpectedly stumble again.

"This round is definitely won!"

The agent patted Chen Zhiyu's shoulder: "I don't believe that another Zhao Ying Ge is going to pop up this time. Even if Zhao Ying Ge does come, it would be useless. Under normal circumstances, how could non-top-tier singers possibly beat a top-tier singer like you?"

The news that Jin Shuyu was withdrawing from the June season competition didn't just reach Dazzling Silver Light. Soon, the entire industry knows about it. After all, he's currently a popular top-tier singer, so everyone within the industry is curious, wondering what Jin Shuyu did wrong to get suspended for a month.

"Dazzling Silver Light is getting a windfall."

"We won't be able to see a fight between the two Yus."

Since both Jin Shuyu and Chen Zhiyu have the character "Yu" in their names and both are top-tier singers, the media has directly dubbed the competition for next month's new song chart as "Battle of the Yus".

Now, only one "Yu" is left.

Onlookers can't help but feel bored.

Is it possible not to feel regret? Since Jin Shuyu and Chen Zhiyu can't compete, a match between Dazzling Silver Light and Starlight Entertainment can't happen. Who likes to watch a competition without suspense? Probably only Dazzling Silver Light and Chen Zhiyu will be laughing in secret.

The person who must be the most upset about this should be Jin Shuyu, right?

The industry is rife with such speculation.

Meanwhile, Jin Shuyu continues to stay in a hotel near the company.

During the period of his work suspension, he practically hasn't left the hotel.

Only his equally idle agent, Tao Ran, keeps him company. Occasionally, the two of them fend off their worries with a drink.

"It's only a month."

After quietly drinking a few glasses of wine, Tao Ran tries to comfort Jin Shuyu: "Wait till the company loses in the new song chart in June, they will realize how important you are. Without you stepping forward, what can the company use to fight Chen Zhiyu? Can Sun Yaohuo really be a match for Chen Zhiyu?"

"You think so too?"

Jin Shuyu lifts his head to look at Tao Ran.

Tao Ran is taken aback: "Did I say something wrong?"

Jin Shuyu remains silent, only sighing lightly. He takes a sip of his wine gloomily, as if trying to drown his countless worries with alcohol.

“What’s wrong?”

Tao Ran furrows his brow: “This isn’t like you, Jin Shuyu. Is it such a big deal to be suspended for a month? If you’re angry, I’ll arrange something behind the scenes later on to make sure Sun Yaohuo regrets it.”

“Brother Tao!”

Upon hearing this, Jin Shuyu’s expression suddenly turned serious: “You absolutely must not harm Sun Yaohuo!”

“Huh?”

Tao Ran frowns even more: “Why?”

Jin Shuyu emphasizes every word: “You have to promise to me, don’t touch him!”

Tao Ran forces a smile: “Alright, alright, alright, I’ll listen to you. I won’t touch him, but you need to give me a reason, right?”

“A reason?”

Jin Shuyu puts down his wine glass: “As an agent, Brother Tao, you are indeed very talented, but when it comes to music, you are just an outsider.”

He chuckled coldly.

Jin Shuyu stood to look out of the window: “I guess Dazzling Silver Light is probably overjoyed right now, thinking that they’ve hit the jackpot. But they have no idea what’s waiting for them.”

“You mean...”

“Just because they want to win doesn’t mean they can do it so easily. The company isn’t dumb either. They could have punished me next month, so why did they choose this month? They are merely subtly reminding me to make way.”

“Because of Sun Yaohuo?”

“Because of Xian Yu...because of ‘Red Rose’!”

Tao Ran’s mouth dropped open.

He felt a bit dazed.

Jin Shuyu wasn’t usually a man of good temperament.

If it were anyone else who had put Jin Shuyu in such a predicament, Jin Shuyu would have retaliated heavily, without question.

All singers who have reached top-tier status are not pushovers!

But this time, despite being dealt such a heavy blow, Jin Shuyu did not erupt in anger, but rather began to introspect on his own actions?

That just doesn’t make sense..

Chapter 102: A Slight Tremble of the Hand

The exam for sophomore year was a song, a song that influences the choice of exchange program positions for junior year, so everyone naturally sought Lin Yuan’s help for the piano parts in the song arrangements...

Classmates need to record songs.

Lin Yuan also needs to record songs.

After all, he has some ideas about the exchange program for junior year, and for this, he even specially customized “Initial Dream” with the System.

“Turn to Starlight to record songs?”

This song needs a singer.

After all, there are plenty of tool users at Starlight and Lin Yuan can pick whichever one he wants.

However, after thinking about it, Lin Yuan changed his mind because he has someone beside him who is well-suited for this song’s vocal range.

His good friend Xia Fan!

Although doing this might reveal his identity, but since Xia Fan decided to pursue a career as a singer, she would find out sooner or later and there is no point in continuing to hide it.

So he contacted Xia Fan.

After ending the call, Lin Yuan gave it some thought and decided to invite Jian Yi as well.

The trio met at the cafeteria during lunch.

Lin Yuan immediately took out the sheet music for “Initial Dream” and gave it to Xia Fan.

“A song you wrote?”

Xia Fan saw the sheet music and was taken aback.

Lin Yuan nodded, and then sent a sample of “Initial Dream” to Xia Fan’s phone:

“Have a listen.

Okay.”

It wasn’t surprising that Lin Yuan could write songs.

After all, he had been studying in the composition department for quite a while.

Xia Fan thought Lin Yuan wanted her opinion, so she pulled out two Bluetooth headphones, planning to listen, and at the same time thought to herself that no matter how the song turned out, she would definitely encourage Lin Yuan.

Give me one too.”

Jian Yi snatched one of Xia Fan’s Bluetooth headphones and put it in his own ear, curious about the song Lin Yuan had written.

After listening for a few minutes...

Xia Fan suddenly turned to look at Lin Yuan in shock.

Not bad, Lin Yuan, this is a really good song!”

Jian Yi spoke up surprisingly, not understanding music himself, but still able to tell whether a song is good or not.

From the very first line, Lin Yuan’s song had impressed him!

Hmm.”

Lin Yuan didn’t respond to Jian Yi.

He looked at Xia Fan: “This song is for our annual assessment in the composition department. I’m going to submit it, but I still need a singer to perform it. How about you sing it?”

“Do you really want me to sing it?”

Xia Fan looked at Lin Yuan with a complex expression: “You’ve been studying music for so many years, you should know... this song is quite valuable...”

Of course she wanted to sing this song!

But this song is too good!

It would have a better effect if performed by a professional debut singer, could even become a big hit, Xia Fan didn’t want to let Lin Yuan down just because she wanted to sing it.

“What’s the matter with you, Xia Fan?”

Jian Yi was anxious: “Such a good song, do you really want to push it away? If Lin Yuan lets you sing it, just sing it!”

Xia Fan didn’t reply to Jian Yi either.

She quietly looked at Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan smiled: “No need to worry about letting others hear it. You’re the most suitable for this song. Plus, there’s something else I want to tell the two of you.”

“What?1

Both were suddenly nervous.

Lin Yuan said: “Actually, I am Xian Yu.”

Jian Yi was stunned, his last vague recollection was that this name sounded familiar, but he couldn’t remember where he had heard it before.

Xia Fan's eyes widened: "Are you joking?"

Lin Yuan seriously said: "I'm sorry, I didn't tell you before."

"That's not the point!"

Xia Fan locked onto Lin Yuan: "You really are Xian Yu?"

Lin Yuan nodded.

Before Xia Fan could say anything, Jian Yi suddenly remembered.

He realized who Xian Yu was!

This name... Xia Fan had mentioned it several times before.

Awhile back, hit songs like "Big Fish," and several others, were all written by this Xian Yu!

This person turned out to be Lin Yuan?

Lin Yuan can actually write such amazing songs?

Just as the excited Jian Yi was about to say something, Xia Fan suddenly covered her face with her hands.

Jian Yi was startled, "What's wrong with you, Xia Fan?"

Lin Yuan also looked at Xia Fan worriedly.

Xia Fan let go of his hand, his face turning crimson with excitement, glaring at Lin Yuan and saying, "One song isn't enough!"

“The ones later on.”

Lin Yuan chuckles, “I’ll give you another when it suits, this is the only one I have at hand now.”

This song is not cheap.

Jian Yi patted his chest, “You scared me a bit. But Lin Yuan, you’ve been hiding this from us for so long, you ought to be punished!”

Xia Fan said fiercely, “He should be treated to a meal... no, make that two!

Lin Yuan, managing to keep a straight face, replies: “We’ll dine at the Oriental Restaurant tonight.”

This is the best restaurant around their school, Lin Yuan and his classmates from the composition department once visited, the pudding jelly there was incredibly delicious.

“Tonight it is then.”

Jian Yi and Xia Fan high-five in celebration.

Things from before make sense now, why did their leader allow Lin Yuan to stay in such a nice house, why was his company treatment so good?

Because Lin Yuan is Xian Yu.

Lin Yuan reminded Xia Fan,” We have to go to Starlight to record music another day.”

Xia Fan laughed, “Sure, but won’t giving me this song violate company regulations?”

Lin Yuan was taken aback, he’d completely forgotten about that.

According to company rules, he was not allowed to compose songs for outsiders privately, it had to be done through the company's channel.

"Why don't you just let Starlight sign Xia Fan directly, Lin Yuan? Can you do it?" Jian Yi isn't sure about Lin Yuan's standing in the company that allows for this power, so he asked tentatively.

Lin Yuan turned to Xia Fan, "Do you want to sign?"

Xia Fan nodded immediately, "Of course!"

Lin Yuan spoke: "I'll talk to Ms. Zhao, it shouldn't be too difficult. But the issue is, if you sign with the company now, your contract grade definitely won't be high."

"Huh?"

Do rookies dare to dream of contract terms?

Xia Fan was struggling to keep up with Lin Yuan's thoughts.

Lin Yuan explained: "If Xia Fan can catapult to fame with "Bloom", he can definitely sign a relatively higher-grade contract with Starlight."

It had been the same case with Zhao Ying Ge before.

Once the song blew up, people naturally wanted to sign him.

Xia Fan gave a bitter smile: "Lin Yuan, you have high expectations. For me, just being able to sign with Starlight is a huge deal, why think about more?"

I see."

Lin Yuan made a phone call to Zhao Jue, letting him in on the situation. He trusted Zhao Jue a lot.

I see.”

Zhao Jue, upon hearing Lin Yuan’s request, ponderously said: “I can do that. I bet you want to increase her contract level a bit, right? No problem, we can sign a letter of intent first, if she achieves anything before signing the official contract, we can upgrade her contract level. However, this is essentially exploiting a loophole in the company’s policy, so before signing the official contract, make sure not to write songs for her using the Xian Yu pseudonym. Just using a fake identity would do.”

She didn’t even ask Lin Yuan who he intends to sign.

For many young dreamers, signing with Starlight could be a life goal, but for Zhao Jue, this was a small matter—

As long as Xian Yu asked for it.

“Thank you.”

Lin Yuan hung up the call.

Xia Fan and Jian Yi were anxious, “What did she say?”

Lin Yuan gave a slight smile, “Get ready to record. And most importantly, don’t let anyone know that I wrote the song, otherwise there will be trouble.”

Sure!

Xia Fan was excited.

Jian Yi also smiled, happy for his friend.

However, they took Lin Yuan’s warning to heart, careful not to reveal Lin Yuan’s identity to anyone.

Just to be safe, when they went to record the song a few days later, they rented a studio outside the school instead of using Starlight's studio.

It's always good to be cautious.

Meanwhile...

May had quietly passed.

At the stroke of midnight on June 1st.

The new music season officially begins in Qin Continent!

Chen Zhiyu, who was determined to win, confidently opened the music player.

"Top recommended resource."

His new song was placed in the most noticeable spot on the quick access recommendations, Chen Zhiyu was satisfied with the attention his song was given.

Hm?"

Glancing at the other song recommendations, Chen Zhiyu suddenly noticed a new song recommendation called "Red Rose".

It's a song from Starlight.

The singer is Sun Yao Huo, who he heard from an agent before. Sun is the singer for Jin Shuyu's slot at Starlight, and the lyrics and composition are ...

Oh, my God!"

All of a sudden, Chen Zhiyu's hand shook, his mouse almost flew out of his hand-

Chapter 103: Do You Think You Are Very Funny

Don't panic.

I must have seen it wrong.

Definitely saw it wrong.

Chen Zhiyu steadied his nerves and even showed a self-encouraging smile, then took another glance, and quickly turned his face away- —

His face fell.

What a letdown!

How could it be a song by Xian Yu!

Chen Zhiyu was incredibly frustrated, his agent said that the singer Starlight used to replace Jin Shuyu was not worth mentioning, this singer called Sun Yaohuo was indeed not worth mentioning, but who wrote Sun Yaohuo's song?

Xian Yu, it's Xian Yu!

The person Chen Zhiyu fears the most!

Compared to Xian Yu, Chen Zhiyu would rather face Jin Shuyu, at least everyone can compete on their own merits.

But Xian Yu is too weird.

This person cannot be judged by conventional wisdom!

Am I going to fail again?

Chen Zhiyu felt panicky.

However, after only panicking for about ten seconds, Chen Zhiyu gradually calmed down.

He suddenly took a deep breath, even he began to feel a bit lacking in resilience: “After all, I’m an A-list singer, can Xian Yu always ignore the difference in artists’ popularity? Really think us A-list singers do nothing? Such things can only happen once at most.”

The reason is simple.

I’m so scared because I failed last time due to Xian Yu.

So seeing these two characters brings back bad memories. What makes me scared is not Xian Yu, but the unbearable memory.

Such description sounds quite literary.

In fact, there’s nothing to fear.

Although Zhao Ying Ge was not an A-lister back then, her song “Bloom” was champion, she had some popularity and barely ranked as someone important, Xian Yu’s song was not wasted on her.

What about Sun Yaohuo?

He had zero popularity.

Probably wouldn’t be recognized as a singer on the street. If he stood across from him, Chen Zhiyu would definitely not know who he was.

That’s also good.

Get up from where you fell!

Chen Zhiyu felt that he is fine again, he relaxedly adjusted the mouse wire, and put on the headphones next to the mouse: "Let's see how your song this time is, don't let me down."

He played "Red Rose".

The song starts with an ordinary piano melody, very common, the kind that he could play casually.

Only like this.

Chen Zhiyu smiled faintly.

The moment the piano sound paused, a deep and low voice sounded: "A dream in a dream that I can't wake up from, the red thread that is tethered, all the stimulation leaves behind is fatigue and pain, no more feelings."

Just like this!

Chen Zhiyu kept smiling and continued to listen: "When I hug you from behind, what I'm expecting is his face. It's totally ironic, I don't understand, but I hope you understand."

Just like this!!

Chen Zhiyu's smile has stiffened, but he stubbornly refused to disappear. The prelude to "Red Roses" was playing in his ears: "Is happiness too heavy, overuse doesn't itch or hurt and the empty pupils are worn out, finally hollowed out, finally endless."

Just like this!!!

Chen Zhiyu's eyes were about to split and he pinched his thigh hard. His expression gradually collapsed amid the singing: "The unreachable is always in turmoil, the favored ones take things for granted, the redness of the rose and the dream that is easily hurt, held in your hand but lost between your fingers and ends in vain."

No...

Not just...

Fuck!

Chen Zhiyu couldn't hold it in any longer.

I quit, isn't that enough!

He violently took off his headphones, covering his ears, and at this time his agent just entered the room, smiling slightly:

"Zhiyu, are you listening to music?"

Obviously, this wave is already steady!

To celebrate the top spot, his agent even brought two cups and a bottle of good red wine at twelve o'clock precisely to Chen Zhiyu's home, and because their relationship was very good, he had the key to his artist's house.

Listen to music?

Chen Zhiyu, as if he'd been stimulated, held his ears tighter: "I won't listen, I won't listen, I won't listen, I won't listen, I won't listen!"

The agent was a bit confused, seeing this scene made him inexplicably familiar.

"Calm down."

The agent frowned.

Chen Zhiyu's emotions gradually calmed down, no longer covering his ears, just looking at his agent quietly: "Didn't you say there are no tough competitors this time?"

"Indeed, there are no tough competitors."

The agent was very sure.

Seeing the agent looking innocent, Chen Zhiyu sighed and stopped talking, silently putting on his headphones again, and replayed the song.

"It's so good."

This time after finishing, Chen Zhiyu directly downloaded "Red Rose" and added it to his playlist.

"What are you up to?"

The agent's corner of the mouth twitched, he witnessed the whole process of Chen Zhiyu's operation and had a not-so-good premonition.

"In our singing world, this is called a surrender."

Chen Zhiyu raised his hands, L(T_T)J .

The agent:"..."

Chen Zhiyu said to himself: "I'm really stupid, really."

He raised his spiritless eyes: "I only knew there weren't any A-list singers in June, I could take an advantage, but I didn't know the Maestro would come." The agent sighed, he had roughly guessed what had happened: "No hope?" "There is hope."

Chen Zhiyu replied: "Avoid him."

Chen Zhiyu pointed at the songwriter behind “Red Rose”.

The agent saw the word “Xian Yu” and his face changed.

At this moment, he remembered the fear once ruled by these two words.

No wonder when he entered the door just now, he felt the atmosphere was strangely familiar. Would we, who have been hiding for several months, be hit by Xian Yu’s gun again?

What crap luck!

Jin Shuyu is gone, but here comes Xian Yu, the difficulty of the game suddenly seems more exaggerated!

“Next time I’ll definitely find out clearly!” the agent declared forcefully.

“Next time for sure?”

“Next time for sure!”

“I don’t believe you anymore.”

Chen Zhiyu said sorrowfully: “You’re just a jinx.”

The agent sighed: “Actually, I prepared a gift for you, it’s outside the door right now. This wine, I wanted to celebrate our topping the chart.”

Chen Zhiyu didn’t want to talk.

The agent opened the door and brought in a box.

Chen Zhiyu looked up at the agent: “What is this?”

The agent said: “A fish tank, didn’t you say cats are too much trouble, keeping fish is easier?”

“Are you kidding!”

Chen Zhiyu suddenly felt wronged.

He forcefully pushed the agent out of the door, also throwing out the agent’s box: “Even if I die from hunger, jumping from here, I would never keep fish! Never in this life!”

“Why?”

After the agent asked, he suddenly slapped his head, and the atmosphere became silent and awkward.

After a while.

The agent finally said: “So you have piscinophobia.”

Chen Zhiyu’s eyes widened in surprise, looking at him: “Do you think you’re funny?”

Chapter 104: This is What I Think

For Chen Zhiyu, it was a sleepless night.

However, for many insiders, this was a relatively normal night, even though the new season was starting tonight—

Who enjoys a season competition without suspense?

Chen Zhiyu must be the first place in the June New Song Chart!

Faced with the "Double Yu Conflict" that died before it could even be born, many people naturally thought this way.

That being said, a part of them still looked at the charts for this season as the next day approached, analyzing the current industry situation through the performance of the songs each season was a routine for many.

As expected.

No suspense for the first place in the June New Song Chart.

"A Bit Painful", singer Chen Zhiyu, composer Wu Tiangc, company Dazzling Silver Glow

Downloads: 1.01 million

Seeing the download count, many people subconsciously nodded their heads, Chen Zhiyu's new song had actually broken one million downloads on the first day.

Truly worthy of a top – tier talent!

Nice score!

Again, a high song download count doesn't happen overnight.

Because the listeners in Qin Continent have to bombard their ears with various good songs every month, they become numb after listening to too many songs, and need a certain reaction time to decide whether to download.

So this score is actually pretty good.

Evidently, even if Jin Shuyu were to participate in the competition this June, he would basically have a hard time beating this song by Chen Zhiyu, so perhaps his withdrawal is actually a good thing.

Pretty steady, huh.

This champion is a sure bet.

While everyone was thinking this way, their gazes naturally fell on the second place, assuming that the second place's statistics must be far behind Chen Zhiyu's.

The second was called "Red Roses"1.

Sung by Sun Yaohuo, lyrics and composition by Xian Yu, company Starlight Entertainment

Downloads: 880,000

Those who reacted slower were stunned in front of their computers. Those who reacted quickly drew in a sharp breath, and some even swore on the spot:

"Fuck!"1

There's something off about this second place!

If the performer of "Red Roses" was Jin Shuyu, everyone wouldn't have reacted this way, because it's normal for Jin Shuyu to achieve such a score.

The first day of a top-tier singer generally wouldn't be too bad.

But the performer of this song was Sun Yaohuo.

Who's Sun Yaohuo?

Buddy, you're playing foul.

Tell me the truth, did you buy the charts?

Don't blame the industry insiders for having poor memory, there are just too many singers in Qin Continent, with endless works and newcomers appearing every month.

After a long time.

Finally, someone remembered: "Sun Yaohuo seems to be the performer of 'Life Like A Summer Flower', a newcomer who debuted about half a year ago!" How could a newcomer be so fortunate!

Everyone's eyes unanimously floated past Sun Yaohuo and locked onto the two words they were incredibly interested in when they first saw the information: Xian Yu.

In fact, when everyone saw the words "Xian Yu", they already had an inkling in their hearts, so the small dramas of buying the charts and such were just jokes.

Clearly.

Xian Yu had shot off again.

It's another Xian Yu surge!

Wait, why do I say 'again'?

Those with quicker hands, put on their headphones and started listening to 'Red Roses'. Anyway, when an incomprehensible song score appears, all you have to do is to listen to the song once.

A few minutes.

After finishing the song.

After a moment's pause, an ace composer from Sand Sea Culture suddenly sighed and commented in the company's composer group: "There isn't much time left for Chen Zhiyu."

Wham!

The big group exploded!

Obviously, everyone understood what this ace composer meant. Sun Yaohuo, a little singer without any foundation, surprisingly achieved a terrifying download count of 880,000 on the first day. Overtaking Chen Zhiyu afterwards would just be a matter of time, and the championship would inevitably belong to “Red Roses”.

“Fuck, I’m convinced.¹

,

“This Fish is really terrifying.¹’

“What can be done once surely can’t be done twice. To forcibly bridge the difference in status between singers by one’s own strength, it’s enough to brag about merely achieving such a feat once, but this Xian Yu has done it again!”

“He’s not human,”

Suddenly someone quietly said: “The time when Xian Yu wrote a song for Zhao Ying Ge in January this year also seemed to coincide with the release of Chen Zhiyu’s song, and Chen Zhiyu had no choice but to take the second place that month. This year, the second time Chen Zhiyu released a song, he ran into Xian Yu again...”

“Pfft!”

“It’s a curse!”

The big group erupted in laughter. For a while, there were all sorts of comments like “Chen Zhiyu is so pitiful” “Give Chen Zhiyu a break” “Fish coming from thousand miles away to meet” “I’ve seen this episode, and Chen Zhiyu is screwed in the end” “Surprise or not, guess who, it’s me again”.

The ‘big three’ were old competitors.

If Dazzling Silver Glow was unlucky, Sand Sea would only take pleasure in their misfortune. Besides, they didn't have any top-tier singers participating this season, so they were just spectators, making all kinds of sarcastic remarks, it was hilariously fun for a while.

The whole industry was watching.

Meanwhile, inside Starlight Entertainment.

The music department was doubly happy.

The entire company naturally knew about Jin Shuyu being suspended from work for a month, and many people were worried that the championship position might have to be conceded this season. They didn't understand the company's decision, but they didn't expect Xian Yu to be the real trump card!

"Sun Yaohuo must be relaxing."

"Xian Yu's trump card is in hand."

"This trump card truly deserves the name."

"Now I suspect that the company deliberately suppressed Jin Shuyu. Think about it, if Jin Shuyu also released a song this month, wouldn't he be accidentally injured by Sun Yaohuo? Top-tier singers may not be afraid of losing, but it's really hard to lose to a newcomer who just debuted. It's basically like being a green leaf backdrop."

Zhao Jue, listening to the discussions, was a little dazed.

She did punish Jin Shuyu truly because of Xian Yu, this is true, but in the eyes of others, it seemed like she knew Xian Yu was going to take off, thus she had prepared a step for Jin Shuyu in advance.

1 really didn't think like that!

The assistant next to her admired: “Your move was really grand, you obviously punished Jin Shuyu and Tao Ran, but Jin Shuyu and Tao Ran have to appreciate your punishment. I really didn’t expect you to be such a Prophet!”

“Yes, that’s what I thought.”

Zhao Jue gave a casual smile with a calm and composed look.

This kid has really sprouted another flower.

Meanwhile, at the composition department, the executive who had a spat with Ol’ Zhou even called personally. This time the tone was very gentle: “I was wrong last time. I thought about it carefully and you did have your difficulties. I really support your work.”

“Thank you for your understanding.”¹

After hanging up, Ol’ Zhou directly laughed like a pig in his office. He was the only real Prophet in the whole scene, after listening to “Red Roses”, he knew that there wouldn’t be a big issue. Things like Jin Shuyu, Tao Ran and other stuff were minor issues, firing an employee from the audit department is merely trivial.

As long as Xian Yu doesn’t do anything outrageous.

He could stay invincible!

Chapter 105: Total Fish Banquet

It wasn’t just the industry discussing it.

Over at Qin Art, the excitement was palpable.

After all, Sun Yaohuo was a senior who had graduated from the music department of the Qin Continent Art Academy, and the sense of belonging there was strong. More than eighty percent of the posts on the school forum were discussing this matter.

“Brother Sun is awesome!”

“Xian Yu is clearly the awesome one.”

“I was saying Brother Sun’s luck is awesome.”

“Xian Yu really showcases the importance of the Maestro to the fullest. Last time he helped Zhao Ying Ge surpass a first-line singer, and this time he did it again with senior Sun Yaohuo. I’m starting to suspect Xian Yu is doing it on purpose. The weaker the foundations of Sun Yaohuo and Zhao Ying Ge, the greater Xian Yu’s skills seem to be. In reality, Sun Yaohuo’s foundations are far from matching a first-line singer, let alone competing with Zhao Ying Ge.”

“These lyrics are incredible too.”

“That line, ‘What one cannot have constantly agitates them, those who are favoured have no fear,’ really touched my heart. I’ve decided to make this line my personal signature. Xian Yu’s lyric-writing skills are just as great as his composition skills!”

“You may want to rethink that.”

“Ever since the song was released, I’ve seen at least ten of my friends using this line as their personal signature. At a glance, it makes them all seem like newly released matryoshka dolls. I’m afraid one day they’ll suddenly message me saying they’ve been the same person all along. If I don’t believe them, they might even switch accounts to prove it.”

“Yao Huo is really going to hit it big!”

“If ‘Life Like A Summer Flower’ marked the successful debut of senior Sun Yaohuo, then this song is enough to give Brother Sun some fame. From now on, whenever people see the name Sun Yaohuo, they won’t find it unfamiliar

anymore.”

Indeed, many people's first reaction upon seeing Sun Yaohuo's name was unfamiliarity. Other than those who especially love the song 'Life Like A Summer Flower,' who else really knows who he is?

But now the situation is clearly different.

Not to mention the industry insiders.

Even within the comments section of this song, many are discussing Sun

Yaohuo's singing skills.

After all, 'Red Rose' isn't a song that can be easily sung well, even by a dog chained in a recording studio. The song requires a lower vocal range, and without corresponding singing skills, you simply won't be able to handle it.

Besides singing skills, the song also requires emotion.

Think about how long Sun Yaohuo trained just to record this song, and consider how Jin Shuyu couldn't resist trying to claim the chance to perform it, you'll realize that this song isn't as simple as it sounds.

Some people might say, 'I can sing this song too.'

Well, yes and no.

In terms of singing difficulty, 'Red Rose' is indeed easy to sing.

But being able to sing and singing well are two different things!

Even if the melody is exactly the same, if you can't bring out the flavor of the song, it'll greatly diminish its charm. When many people listen to a song, they're listening for that specific flavor.

Change the singer, and the flavor will be off. Anyone can notice that!

On that note, Sun Yaohuo deserves praise.

Still, most of the comments were discussing the song itself.

These comment sections are not only gathering spots for music enthusiasts, but also for casual visitors to make witty remarks. For example, one comment read: “My boyfriend has been listening to this song since last night, is he hinting at something?”

Another asked, “What does being favoured feel like?”

The top-rated reply was: “When you commit a murder, he asks if you are hurt, and if it’s painful...”

“So, the story of this song is actually quite sad.”

“Men are like that, they like the well-behaved ones, but they can’t resist the

flirty ones.”

“Only by following one’s heart, can they live a good life.”

II II

The comments section most frequently features comments of this artsy, melancholic tone.

In this sense, the gloomy web users of Earth really understand.

But there’s actually a backstory to this song.

The backstory also originates from Earth so Blue Starrians wouldn’t know it. This backstory is also the inspiration behind the lyrics to this song.

The classic opening line from Zhang Ailing’s novel ‘Red Rose, White Rose’ is:

“In his lifetime, every man has at least two such women.

“He who marries a Red Rose, in time sheds his love as easily as ridding a speck of mosquito blood on the wall; while the White Rose remains, a moonlit light before his bed.”

“He who marries a White Rose, the white turns into a speck of rice stuck to his clothes; while the Red Rose rolls down to become a cinnabar mole on his heart.”

This little tidbit doesn’t really affect the mood of listening to the song.

Don’t feel like you’re missing anything, because you’re not.

Because even on Earth, among those who have listened to ‘Red Rose’ and those who think they understand it, more than ninety percent have never read Zhang Ailing’s novel or even know it exists.

The meteoric rise of ‘Red Rose’ to the top of the charts the very next day after its release is proof enough of this.

The lyrics and music are already enough.

In the end, Chen Zhiyu lost out.

He only sat on the champion throne for one day, or in the words of the jokers on the outside:

Chen Zhiyu hadn’t even had time to warm his seat.

However, Chen Zhiyu had anticipated this result, so when he was pushed to second place, he just made a phone call to his manager:

“Let’s have dinner together tonight.”

Understanding Chen Zhiyu’s feelings, his manager comforted him, then asked, “What should we eat tonight?”

“Let’s have fish.”

Chen Zhiyu said, for some reason, he really wanted to eat fish.

An all-fish banquet would be perfect – braised fish, steamed fish, pickled fish, chopped pepper fish head, and perhaps a crucian carp tofu soup as well.

Did he forget about the sashimi?

He has always been afraid to eat raw fish.

However, after some hesitation, he decided to try it tonight. He heard it’s actually quite delicious.

His manager:”...”

Meanwhile, in a hotel near the company, Tao Ran, horrified by the proceedings on the June New Song Chart, said to Jin Shuyu, “I’m glad you reminded me not to take action against Sun Yaohuo. It would have been unwise.”

If Sun Yaohuo was an unknown, it would have been okay.

But looking at the momentum of ‘Red Rose,’ Sun Yaohuo is obviously going to become famous.

Even though he’s still far from being a top-tier performer, the company will definitely allocate a lot of resources to him in the future. There’s really no need to make him an enemy in this situation.

“Not enough.”

Jin Shuyu said, staring intently at the chart: “It’s not enough.

He held high hopes for this song.

But the power this song displayed was even more exaggerated than he thought. This result, completely out of his expectations, made him realize he had made a mistake he shouldn't have!

Tao Ran was taken aback: "What do you mean?"

Jin Shuyu took a deep breath, pulled out a razor and started shaving. He hadn't been in the mood to shave for a few days, so his beard had grown quite a bit.

After fixing his hair and finding a more formal outfit, Jin Shuyu said:

"We need to apologize to Xian Yu."

Chapter 106: Division of the New Contract

When "Red Rose" rocketed to the top spot, the downloads for the song had already exceeded 1.2 million!

This was not just an impressive figure but also signified that Lin Yuan had officially earned the qualifications of an advanced songwriter.

Putting it plainly:

It was time to revise Xian Yu's royalty contract!

Lin Yuan's previous contract was a standard one for newcomers, where the company took 80% of the profits.

To change this, a negotiation with the company was needed.

The contracts signed by the advanced songwriters in the company were not all

the same.

As soon as Lin Yuan reached the promotion criteria for the advanced songwriter, 01' Zhou approached him bluntly: "You have reached the company's criteria for an advanced songwriter, what do you think of a new contract?"

Thoughts?

Lin Yuan gave 01' Zhou a puzzled look. That was a rhetorical question, wasn't it? Obviously, he wanted more money!

Surprisingly, 01' Zhou understood the meaning behind Lin Yuan's gaze and didn't get angry. He smiled kindly: "I will handle the contract negotiations with the company personally."

Lin Yuan hesitated.

Can 01' Zhou be trusted?

While he was contemplating, a knocking sound was heard from the door followed by a familiar figure entering the room.

The person was Zhao Jue. Upon entering, she said to 01' Zhou, "Lin Yuan has reached the standard for an advanced songwriter, and I'm planning to negotiate a new contract on his behalf."

01' Zhou glanced at Zhao Jue: "I can handle it.

Zhao Jue shook her head: "I can get a better contract."

01' Zhou was displeased: "Don't forget that Lin Yuan is a person from our Songwriting Department. Do you think your face is bigger than mine, or do you think I will cheat Lin Yuan if I take charge?"

This Little Zhao couldn't be trusted!

Lin Yuan was my man, yet you're trying to steal my limelight?

Zhao jue, a bit disgruntled, reminded 01' Zhou, "I was the one who signed Lin

Yuan."

"I'll go."

"I'll go!"

"I, Zhou Ruiming, dare to confront upper management!

"I'm very close with the boss!"

II II

Seeing both about to bicker, Lin Yuan could only say: "What about both of you going together?"

"Together?"

Old Zhou and Zhao Jue looked at each other and simultaneously broke into a smile: "Alright, wait for our good news."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Five minutes later.

Zhou Ruiming and Zhao Jue arrived at the Finance Department. Starlight Entertainment's Finance Department had a dedicated person in charge of the contracts for advanced songwriters.

"What wind blew the two of you over here?"

Seeing both Zhou Ruiming and Zhao Jue together startled the responsible person briefly before a warm smile spread across his face.

Both were significant figures within the company.

Zhou Ruiming said: “Renegotiate a contract for Xian Yu.

The manager immediately looked as though he had swallowed a bitter melon: “You’re personally negotiating on behalf of Xian Yu?”

Zhou Ruiming nodded.

The manager immediately got a headache.

Normally, such contracts were negotiated between the musician and the company.

Only for some extremely talented songwriters would the managers personally step in to help negotiate.

This was the situation the manager dreaded most!

These managers, in order to win over high-potential musicians, often adopted the most aggressive attitudes, firmly siding with the musician!

The manager’s responsibility, on the other hand, was to keep the company’s interests in mind and bargain as much as possible.

“Then what about Chief Zhao?”

The manager looked at Zhao Jue.

Zhao Jue said: “The same.”

The manager was dumbfounded: “Whose behalf are you on?”

Zhao Jue: “Xian Yu’s.”

The manager was so shocked that he didn't manage to utter another word for a while.

By the time Zhao Jue and Zhou Ruiming left, the manager was slumped over the table, scaring the subordinate nearby: "What's going on?"

"I'm the company's sinner."

The manager replied weakly.

The subordinate looked helpless; "Why not explain it to upper management?" The manager gave the subordinate a look: "You think I didn't think of that?"

Upper management already told me to do as I see fit once they heard it was for Xian Yu's contract."

"How much did you sign?"

"Is that any of your business?"

Embarrassed, the subordinate gave a weak laugh and left quietly.

As if it were casual, the manager said, "The next time a contract comes up, higher management might need to personally negotiate.

The subordinate was taken aback.

On the other side, 01' Zhou and Zhao Jue had returned to the songwriting department and with much grandeur, they placed the new contract on the table: "This is your new contract."

"What's the split?"

Lin Yuan was anticipating.

Zhao Jue smiled: "If you were to collaborate with smaller artists in the future, you can directly get 50% of the distribution rights, you decide how you want to split with the artist and of course, they have the right to refuse. But, I guess there won't any small artist who will reject the opportunity to work with you." Lin Yuan started to do the math:

According to this contract calculation, he previously would have only received 0.15%. Now, he would directly get 4-5%. tripling his previous amount. This meant that Lin Yuan's song split amount would be multiplied by three in the future. This made the price for customized songs from the system seem significantly more reasonable.

"In addition,"

01' Zhou added: "In the event of a collaboration with a big-name artist, the company can give you a 30% share of the profits, the remaining 60% will be negotiated with the artist and their management by the company, and you wouldn't be involved."

Lin Yuan: "..."

This was the reason why he wasn't fond of collaborating with big-name artists. When working with tool people (small artists), he could get 4-5% and give away only 0.5%; but when working with big-name artists, he would only get 3%.

The difference was a full 1.5%!

Don't underestimate this 1.5%. That was the percentage Lin Yuan earned from his previous songs. AU in all, he had made a decent amount of money from this.

"Lin Yuan,"

Old Zhou said with a smile, "For a new advanced songwriter like yourself, this contract is already the best at the moment. Other advanced songwriters may have more exceptional works than you, but their contracts might not necessarily be better than yours."

"Hmm,"

Zhao Jue nodded: “Once you’ve created more excellent works in the future, this contract can be further improved. At that time, both Old Zhou and I can still help you negotiate.”

“Thank you.”

While Lin Yuan was talking, he looked through the entire contract again. Once he was certain there were no problems, he wrote “Xian Yu” and his own name in the signature column.

“By the way,”

After Lin Yuan signed, he curiously asked, “How do ‘maestros’ split royalties with the company?”

“100%”

Zhao Jue smiled.

The artists don’t participate?

Before Lin Yuan could become envious, 01’ Zhou added: “Some maestros can also participate in various other types of revenue splits beyond downloads.” Lin Yuan was shocked.

There were many ways for a song to make money, not just from download shares, but also include artist appearances and even concerts, etc. The revenue from these projects was often astronomically high, which sometimes could even exceed download shares!

“Keep going,”

01’ Zhou chuckled, “When you reach that stage, I might share some even better-kept secrets with you. The company has many trump cards, so trump card contracts might not necessarily be that great, but maestros, well, they live in a different world.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

While Lin Yuan was over the moon about his new contract, Chen Zhiyu was dining with his agent on a fish banquet when suddenly, Chen Zhiyu opened his mouth in distress.

“What’s wrong?”

The agent asked concernedly.

Chen Zhiyu shouted, “A bone! There’s a bone in this fish!

Chapter 107: Drinking Tea

“Congratulations on becoming the new ace of the tenth floor!”

As soon as Lin Yuan left the office, the people in the composition department began to applaud, with Wu Yong and a few others leading the congratulations.

“Thank you.”

Lin Yuan displayed a smile in line with social expectations.

One of his colleagues joked, “To celebrate, maybe Admirable Fish should treat us to a cup of coffee?”

“No coffee.”

Lin Yuan instinctively shook his head, “I’ll treat everyone to tea instead.”

Everyone was delighted, “Tea works as well. There’s a tea house downstairs. Shall we go down now, or would you prefer to call and have them deliver it?”

“No need for that trouble.”

Lin Yuan turned back and reentered 01’ Zhou’s office.

Zhao Jue, who hadn't yet left, was talking to 01' Zhou. Seeing Lin Yuan come in, both looked curiously at him, "Do you need something, Lin Yuan?"

Lin Yuan asked, "Where is your tea?"

01' Zhou was stunned for a moment, then laughed, "In the bottom drawer on the left."

Apparently, the kid had given up on coffee and taken to tea.

Lin Yuan nodded, riffled through 01' Zhou's drawer, and then walked out with a box of tea leaves.

01' Zhou startled, exclaimed in alarm, "Hey, hey, hey, wait a minute, you can't drink all of that!"

Lin Yuan replied, "I'm treating everyone."

The colleagues outside the office, who were peeking through the door, saw that Lin Yuan had directly taken 01' Zhou's treasured quality tea leaves. Their eyes sparkled, and they gave him a thumbs-up!

"Admirable Fish is ruthless indeed!"

"01' Zhou is bleeding a fortune!"

"Those tea leaves are precious!"

"01' Zhou is too good to Admirable Fish."

"You could do the same if you had his skills."

II II

Everyone was exceedingly enthusiastic.

01' Zhou was uneasy, wanting very much to reclaim the box of tea Lin Yuan was carrying off.

Zhao Jue, sitting at the side with intense calmness, commented, "Director Zhou, you are indeed generous. Little Zhao admires you."

01' Zhou:

How could he lose face in front of Little Zhao?

He forced himself to remain calm and waved helplessly at Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan didn't think too much about it and went straight out with the tea. He began to brew it for his colleagues, since there was hot water readily available. "Give me some!"

To his surprise, his colleagues seemed to love tea more than coffee, were even more eager for it, and quickly gathered around him.

He was shrewd after all.

How expensive is the tea downstairs!

Doesn't 01' Zhou have readily available tea right here?

He didn't just take 01' Zhou's tea for free, anyway. He could always buy 01' Zhou another box to make up for it. It was definitely more cost-effective than buying from the tea house downstairs.

With these thoughts in mind.

Lin Yuan brewed a cup for himself as well. Halfway through drinking it, Wu Yong suddenly leaned in to him and said, "You've got some nerve! This tea costs at least tens of thousands a box. 01' Zhou usually can't bear to drink it himself, let alone any of us. Now that you've managed to get your hands on it, we are really benefiting on your account."

Lin Yuan's hand trembled.

Wu Yong didn't notice Lin Yuan's reaction. Blissfully, he said, "Honestly, tea that costs tens of thousands for a box, it really tastes different!"

Lin Yuan glanced back at 01' Zhou.

01' Zhou was rubbing his temples hard.

Looking at the tea in his hand and then at the now empty box of tea, Lin Yuan suddenly found himself missing the sixty yuan a cup coffee upstairs.

Should he reimburse 01' Zhou?

Until the time he left work, Lin Yuan was still pondering this significant dilemma in life. He found it hard to comprehend why there were people like 01' Zhou in the world who actually drink tea that costs tens of thousands a box. Such people don't know how to live a sensible life!

Don't all types of tea taste the same? It's just like coffee, all subtly different. The only difference is the degree of sweetness and bitterness. With that kind of money, wouldn't it be more tempting to buy some ice cream and accompany it with a portion of pudding jelly?

"Teacher Admirable Fish."

Just as Lin Yuan was grappling with his thoughts, a voice drifted into his ear. He looked up to see two men standing in front of him. One was Tao Ran, whom he'd met before, the other was a stranger.

"My name is Jin Shuyu!"

Jin Shuyu quickly introduced himself.

Lin Yuan paused, "What is this about?"

Tao Ran solemnly said, "Our previous actions caused you discomfort. We are here to apologize. These gifts are a token of our sincerity. Please accept them!"

Tao Ran was carrying a few boxes.

Lin Yuan didn't take them, "It's fine."

Jin Shuyu gave a bitter smile, "Teacher Admirable Fish, please don't be so formal. What happened last time was wrong of me. I've been reflecting deeply on it. I give you my word, such things won't happen again!"

"That's good then."

There's a saying: don't accept rewards for deeds not done.

Lin Yuan nodded his head and prepared to leave.

Jin Shuyu gave Tao Ran a meaningful look, and Tao Ran took his hint. He promptly handed the boxes in his hands to Lin Yuan, "There's nothing of great value inside, just some tea leaves."

Tea leaves?

Lin Yuan's nerves jumped. Unable to help himself, he stopped, hesitated a moment, leaned in towards Tao Ran, and asked softly, "How much does this tea cost?"

"Not very expensive."

Tao Ran quickly waved his hands to dismiss it.

Lin Yuan frowned, "That won't do."

Tao Ran froze, then coughed, "A box costs thirty to fifty thousand. If you're not satisfied, I can get you better ones. But reserve high-quality tea in advance; you have to give me some time..."

"I'm very satisfied!"

He could give this tea to 01' Zhou as compensation.

Lin Yuan took the gifts quickly. But, he felt leaving like this was somewhat improper. So he spoke sincerely, "I don't hold it against you guys, so you really don't have to be so formal next time."

"Okay!"

Both men sighed heavily in relief.

Looking at Lin Yuan's receding figure, Jin Shuyu breathed a sigh of relief and said with lingering fear, "Brother Tao, you must remember, the people we absolutely can't afford to offend in this company are the composers, or rather, composers of Admirable Fish's level."

"Certainly!"

Tao Ran nodded emphatically.

Jin Shuyu smiled, "But perhaps we've overthought it. Admirable Fish is a human after all. Didn't he accept these gifts? We're all mundane people. It won't be difficult to get on his good side in the future if he likes money."

"Foolish!"

Tao Ran retorted.

Jin Shuyu: "Huh?"

Tao Ran shook his head, "Teacher Admirable Fish is absolutely not a man who can be swayed by money. Even when I offered two million for the song 'Red Roses', he didn't bat an eye. You think a petty gift of tens of thousands of dollars is something he'd care about?"

"So that's how it is."

Jin Shuyu said, “Then why...”

Tao Ran sighed, “That’s the magnificent character of Teacher Admirable Fish. He probably just didn’t want us to keep worrying, to make us feel uneasy, so he accepted our gifts. He even specifically asked me the price of the tea. He was testing me! A few tens of thousands of yuan is a neither significant nor insignificant amount. If it’s too cheap, it seems insincere, but if it’s too expensive, it changes the nature of the gesture. So it’s just to put our minds at ease, to tell us that he genuinely forgives us.”

“I understand!”

Looking at Lin Yuan’s retreating figure, Jin Shuyu felt somewhat moved. He had been too crude in his assessment of Teacher Admirable Fish!

Chapter 108: What’s bad about being a dog

“What is this...”

01’ Zhou was rather perplexed at the sight of Lin Yuan carrying a tea box back to his office after work.

“Tea.”

Lin Yuan said.

01’ Zhou laughed, “Did you go out and buy tea for me? It’s no big deal that I asked everyone to drink up my tea, I’m not so stingy.”

“Here you go.”

Lin Yuan put the tea in the drawer.

01’ Zhou nonchalantly said, “Consider it in my keeping. You can brew yourself a cup whenever you want, no need to stand on ceremony with me.”

“Sure.”

It was only after Lin Yuan put down the tea that he left. As he passed a rest area, he suddenly heard a familiar voice in front of him.

The voice of Sun Yaohuo.

At this moment, Sun Yaohuo was surrounded by a group of young singers from the company. Their eyes were filled with admiration and envy for Sun Yaohuo, a look that was similar to the way the members of the art club looked at Lin Yuan.

Sun Yaohuo was showing off.

To be precise, he was giving a speech on success: “Actually, success is simple, just four words: hard work and diligence. You see only my success but not the sweat I shed to achieve it, have you ever seen the sun at one in the morning?” “The sun at one in the morning?”

“That’s not the point, the point is, I get up every day to warm up my voice, every day I practice my lung capacity, I haven’t smoked or drunk alcohol for all these years for the sake of my singing, I even dare not touch my childhood favorite chili!”

“Brother Yaohuo, say something different.”

“Right, we’ve heard all these before.”

“Who among us isn’t diligent and hardworking?”

Reclining comfortably on the sofa, Sun Yaohuo said leisurely, “Alright, then I’ll share something unique. Actually, there’s a key to being successful!”

“What’s the key!”

The crowd’s eyes lit up.

Sun Yaohuo smiled lightly, “For newcomers, the secret to success is simple: as long as you follow the right maestro, even if you’re tied in the recording studio singing a few random lines, you can make it!”

“Isn’t that being a dog?”

Someone blurted out, then quickly closed their mouth and cautiously looked at Sun Yaohuo, clearly realizing their slip of the tongue.

“Haha.”

Sun Yaohuo patted the person’s shoulder lightly and smiled, “I’ve heard that before. When I made my debut with ‘Life Like A Summer Flower’ many people said that even a dog tied in the recording studio could make the song famous!” The crowd responded, “That’s too much!”

Sun Yaohuo shook his head, “No, no, no, that’s why I say you all are too young. Everyone says I’m Admirable Fish’s dog, but look at where I am today, can you tell me... what’s wrong with being a dog?”

In front of a big star, newcomers are just dogs!

Sun Yaohuo will never forget the scene when Tao Ran handed him a business card, asking him to give up ‘Red Rose’. It was at that moment that he realized what it really meant to be treated like a dog.

The crowd was deep in thought.

Lin Yuan spoke, “Senior.”

On hearing his voice, Sun Yaohuo perked up immediately. Under the stunned gaze of all around, he quickly put on a different face, showing a mix of friendliness, appeasement, and humility, along with a touch of...

Dignity?

“What do you need, junior?”

“Can I get a ride with you?”

Lin Yuan mainly didn’t want to take a taxi.

Before Sun Yaohuo could reply, the people around him jumped up and crowded around Lin Yuan, much faster than him: “Is Teacher Admirable Fish off work? Would you like a ride in my car?”

“I have a car too!”

“I should be the one to take you!”

“My car cost three hundred thousand!”

How did these guys learn so fast?

This seemed like teaching their master a lesson in getting rid of their own livelihoods.

Sun Yaohuo, feeling a strong sense of crisis, quickly moved to Lin Yuan’s side, “The same temperature as usual, junior? I’ll have someone adjust the air conditioning in the car right away. We’ll pass by a milk tea shop that I invested in recently, they have all sorts of flavors. Let’s have dinner around there too. There’s a famous restaurant I had reserved a table at last week!”

The crowd:

Only after Lin Yuan and Sun Yaohuo left, the group looked at each other and began to marvel, “Indeed, we’re miles away compared to Senior Yaohuo!”

“Woof!”

Someone spoke.

The crowd looked at the speaker with confusion, only for him to present a faint smirk of someone who'd stumbled upon a great truth, "Let me show you today, that I can do it too!"

The crowd had an epiphany.

And they started imitating him.

On the other hand, Lin Yuan got in the car.

Sun Yaohuo really did own a milk tea shop.

It was primarily due to the trauma caused by his last failed attempt with Jiang Kui.

The milk tea shop was conveniently located on Lin Yuan's commute home, with a wealthy variety of flavors. While Lin Yuan was drinking his milk tea, Sun Yaohuo cautioned the clerk, "From now on, this gentleman doesn't have to pay when he comes for milk tea."

After the milk tea shop.

Sun Yaohuo took Lin Yuan to have dinner at the restaurant he had reserved beforehand.

The restaurant's food was indeed exceptional, and Lin Yuan enjoyed it thoroughly.

However, this time, Lin Yuan picked up the bill himself.

He couldn't let Senior Yaohuo pay each time, Lin Yuan knew the principle of reciprocity well.

"How could I let you pay."

On the way to Lin Yuan's housing complex, Sun Yaohuo kept grumbling.

He ordered a heap of delicious food and drinks, which cost a pretty penny, all to treat Lin Yuan graciously and express his gratitude. But he hadn't expected Lin Yuan to pick up the bill in the end.

This didn't sit well with him.

"Next time, you pay." Lin Yuan said.

Only then did Sun Yaohuo give up.

He even considered whether he should open a restaurant that served all the dishes that his junior loved, which would also facilitate his work.

But he didn't have that much money yet, so he'd consider this issue in the future.

Perhaps it won't be long?

Yes.

Sun Yaohuo now, was different!

Although 'Red Rose' hadn't been released for long, he had already gained some popularity and showed signs of rising fame.

Today, many commercial performances have approached him, getting in touch with his manager. Although not quite flooding him with offers, compared to the past, it was a different world!

In addition.

The company had clearly arranged Sun Yaohuo's itinerary for him, offering him all kinds of high-quality publicity, something Sun Yaohuo could only dream of in the past.

Otherwise, why would those newbies in the company cluster around Sun Yaohuo?

Don't underestimate these guys, they're new but they're crafty.

But do they really think they can get anywhere just by groveling?

Fat chance.

My real secret to success is sincere!

...groveling!

Yes, sincere groveling, that's the ultimate art of being a bootlicker.

My kindness towards my junior comes from the heart, I think his thoughts, worry about his worries, it's even become a sort of muscle memory!

Those little guys are still miles away from that.

Insincere groveling looks too flashy, with no skill at all, Jiang Kui can kill them in a second!

Upon reaching the entrance to the residential complex.

Lin Yuan suddenly said, "Senior."

Sun Yaohuo promptly replied, "What is it, junior?"

Lin Yuan looked at him seriously and said, "You're not a dog, you're a person."

Sun Yaohuo was taken aback, then felt a warmth in his heart and nodded heavily.

Chapter 109: You Can Never Wake a Pretending Sleeper

Back home, Lin Yuan started thinking about a few issues.

Thanks to the great success of “Red Rose,” he had successfully secured a new contract. At the same time, this meant he temporarily had no songs in his possession.

Did he need to customize something?

Perhaps there was no need to rush for now.

He hadn’t completed the system’s painting task yet.

The painting task offered a treasure chest as a reward. If a song came out of the chest, wouldn’t that save him the cost of 500,000 for customizing a song? Moreover, “Initial Dream” had not yet been released!

Although the existence of Xian Yu might be obscured when the song was first released, the Prestige Value obtained by “Initial Dream” ultimately pointed to Lin Yuan himself.

For Lin Yuan, that was enough.

After all, he was not one to seek fame –

he sought profit.

As long as the Prestige Value was credited to his account, he was fine.

As for when Xia Fan would specifically release “Initial Dream,” Lin Yuan did not plan to interfere.

That was Xia Fan’s business.

If Xia Fan wanted to sing the song during the competition, then he’d sing it then; if he wanted to wait until he officially debuted, then he would wait until his official debut.

For Lin Yuan, it was all the same; the Prestige Value might be late, but it would never be absent.

He contemplated for a while.

Lin Yuan suddenly slapped his leg and exclaimed, “Damn it!”

He suddenly remembered that there seemed to be a time limit for the painting Prestige Value task.

Lin Yuan quickly called up the System: “How much time do I have left for my task?”

The system notification read: “There isn’t much time left for the host. There are only two weeks until the task deadline.”

Lin Yuan was taken aback.

Is that all the time he had left?

Previously, he had been helping his classmates play the piano, taking Sun Yaohuo to record “Red Rose,” and working weekends. These activities had delayed him a bit, so he didn’t have enough time to carry out the system’s task. Lin Yuan checked the progress of the task and breathed a sigh of relief.

The current painting Prestige Value was 800, and he was only 200 away from the target of 1,000 painting Prestige Value.

The gap was not too wide.

He decided to concentrate on this task and finish it off first.

Although there was no penalty for not completing a system task, missing out on the treasure chest was the greatest penalty to Lin Yuan.

With that in mind.

Checking his class timetable saved on his phone, Lin Yuan noted that tomorrow’s first class in the morning was Mr. Huang’s piano lesson, followed by a physical education class...

“lean skip those.”

Lin Yuan made up his mind.

Skipping school wasn't a big deal for college students. While Lin Yuan rarely skipped lectures, he didn't have much psychological pressure to do so under exceptional circumstances.

About taking leave...

Lin Yuan was, after all, doing it for the system task, so he felt that taking leave wasn't the right thing to do. He considered it better to outright skip class.

Keeping that in mind.

The next day, Lin Yuan went straight to the art club.

There weren't many people in the art club in the morning, as many classes from the art department had lessons, but there were always a few students who would come over if they had no classes.

For example, Zhong Yu, who declared himself to be Lin Yuan's number one disciple, was in the art club at this moment.

In Lin Yuan's impression, Zhong Yu seemed to spend most of his time in the art club.

Did he not have many classes?

No, it was because Zhong Yu liked to skip classes.

As soon as Lin Yuan walked in, Zhong Yu came over with a giggling face and said, “GOAT, you are coming to the art club less and less often. A lot of club members are lining up for your teachings.”

“No problem.”

Having plenty of time after skipping class, Lin Yuan glanced at the crowd around him and said, “Today I will teach ten people.”

The crowd: “...”

Why did an unexplained hegemony suddenly emerge?

Immediately after, the crowd was excited!

We love this “It’s me or no one” arrogant attitude!

Lin Yuan’s teachings were in high demand, with everyone wanting to secure their spot as early as possible. Therefore, when they heard that Lin Yuan was planning to teach ten people today, they were naturally thrilled.

Today, as usual, those intending to learn sketching were in the majority.

Apart from sketching, Lin Yuan had recently taught some people how to use gouache. Everyone could tell that Lin Yuan’s gouache painting technique was also very good.

However, because Lin Yuan had never fully displayed his skills in gouache, everyone was somewhat hesitant.

After all, being good at painting is one thing, being good at teaching it is another thing altogether.

It seems that Lin Yuan’s gouache painting skills were quite good.

But did this mean his gouache teaching skills were also good?

In contrast, Lin Yuan’s sketching teaching ability had already received universally good reviews. Therefore, over ninety percent of his students came for sketching classes.

Lin Yuan wasn’t picky.

He started the Master Effect.

No matter what they chose to learn, he would teach as normal.

In this way, one, two, three...

Perhaps the Master Effect was really useful, or maybe Lin Yuan had taught so much that he had become proficient in it. In any case, Lin Yuan now educated quickly and had more and more students.

“It’s getting late.”

When Lin Yuan was teaching his fourth student, Zhong Yu quietly reminded him, “GOAT, do you have class today?”

After spending so much time in the art club, Lin Yuan’s schedule had been mostly figured out by Zhong Yu.

“I skipped class today.”

Lin Yuan explained briefly, then said, “Next.”

Meanwhile.

In the composition department’s piano classroom.

Huang Benyu, as usual, glanced at the students below the podium, quickly checking if anyone was missing.

After scanning for a while, he was delighted to find that Lin Yuan was surprisingly absent today.

Did he skip class?

If it was any other student skipping class, Huang Benyu would have been strict, teaching them the lesson of failing grades!

But if Lin Yuan didn't come, Huang Benyu was not only not angry, but rather excited!

It's good that he didn't attend.

He should've started skipping a long time ago!

Why did Lin Yuan come?

Was he there to teach me how to play the piano?

In terms of skill, Huang Benyu and Lin Yuan were equals, both on a professional level. Considering the age gap between the two, Huang Benyu truly didn't want Lin Yuan to waste time coming to his class.

Even if Lin Yuan casually practiced in any piano room, the effect would be much better than attending his piano class.

At this point.

The class representative actively handed the student list to Huang Benyu.

However, Huang Benyu didn't even look at it and tossed it back.

The class representative was confused: "Mr. Huang?"

Huang Benyu smiled: "No roll call today."

The class representative was stunned.

Although some teachers' roll call frequency was quite random, Huang Benyu was undoubtedly a roll-calling fanatic in the representative's mind.

He took roll every class, and anyone who was absent would be severely reprimanded.

Therefore, the composition department's students dared not skip Huang

Benyu's piano lessons.

Today was quite strange, the roll call fanatic wasn't taking roll?

Huang Benyu gave a quiet chuckle.

If he took roll today and announced Lin Yuan's absence in front of the whole class, wouldn't he have to mark Lin Yuan as absent?

That would be like shooting himself in the foot.

What if Lin Yuan took his piano lessons regularly for fear of failing the piano course?

So it was simple.

He didn't take roll.

As long as he feigned sleep, nobody could wake him up!

Chapter 110: Is This The So-Called Group's Favorite?

Painting Prestige Value: 811

Having finished teaching another student, Lin Yuan sees a slight increase in his painting's Prestige Value, which pleases him.

Usually, teaching a few students doesn't produce such significant results.

However, during today's teaching session, Lin Yuan happened to encounter a few students with solid fundamentals in sketching, clearly having attended his sketching classes before.

For these students who have a good basis in sketching, Lin Yuan explained somewhat profound concepts, consciously demonstrating advanced sketching techniques that evoked a considerable amount of admiration from the onlookers—

This is probably why the Prestige Value reward is higher.

Just when Lin Yuan was getting ready to continue teaching, a commotion suddenly arose from outside.

A female teacher was unexpectedly entering the art club!

This teacher marched straight towards Zhong Yu, her face filled with rage:

“Zhong Yu, you've skipped class again!”

“Teacher...”

Zhong Yu shrunk his head in fear, not expecting his gouache teacher to find him at the art club: “I promise I won't skip class next time!”

“Shut up!”

Zhong Yu's gouache teacher coldly said: “You said the same thing last time, and the time before that, and the time before that.”

Zhong Yu patted his chest: “Next time for sure!”

The gouache teacher gruffly said, “I didn't come looking for you solely because of your tendency to skip class, but also to inform you that your gouache work has won second place in this gouache competition.”

With that said, the gouache teacher took out Zhong Yu's gouache painting.

“Ah!”

Upon hearing this, Zhong Yu was overjoyed. He unrolled his gouache painting, his face full of delight: “I can't believe I won an award.”

“Wow!”

“Well done!”

“Zhong Yu, you're so good at gouache?”

“I thought your previous gouache works were just average!”

“You actually won second place in the college gouache competition?”

Upon seeing Zhong Yu's painting, everyone couldn't help but express their astonishment.

Many of those present had participated in the college gouache competition, but only a few had won.

Moreover, everyone in the club knew each other well.

In their previous impressions, Zhong Yu's gouache skills were just decent, definitely not enough to win second place in a gouache competition!

But looking at Zhong Yu's work now, it's as if he's a different person!

The teacher's expression gradually softened and she said softly, “You did quite well.”

Zhong Yu was a little proud and grinned, “Well, you should see who my mentor is.”

After saying this, Zhong Yu suddenly covered his mouth.

Oh no!

The GOAT's gouache teaching skills are about to be exposed!

Within the art club and even the entire art department, not many students are aware of Lin Yuan's gouache skills.

Zhong Yu plans to continue studying with Lin Yuan to further improve his gouache skills, so he made a secret agreement with those students who had seen Lin Yuan sketch on the blackboard not to reveal the GOAT's gouache skills too soon.

That way, they could quietly make a fortune.

He didn't think that he would slip up and expose it all today!

Just as Zhong Yu feared, the moment his words were out of his mouth, all eyes instantly fell on Lin Yuan.

Zhong Yu's rapid improvement in gouache skills stems from the GOAT?

This is astonishing. Lin Yuan's teachings have directly raised Zhong Yu's gouache skills to competition level?

However, the gouache teacher was not surprised.

Some time ago, the skill levels of Zhong Yu and a few other students in the class had increased dramatically, so she asked why.

While these students dared hide it from their peers, they didn't dare to conceal it from their teacher, admitting directly that their fast improvement in gouache were all thanks to Lin Yuan's teachings.

“Is Lin Yuan here?”

The gouache teacher curiously scanned the crowd.

Lin Yuan replied: “I’m here.”

Upon seeing Lin Yuan’s face, the teacher exclaimed, “You’re the student who drew on the blackboard last time!”

The teacher had also been present during the blackboard painting contest the last time.

She had a deep impression of Lin Yuan’s painting and hence recognized him.

After all, it’s hard not to remember such a handsome face.

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan acknowledged with a nod.

The gouache teacher glanced at the sketch in front of Lin Yuan and suddenly chuckled, “Don’t just teach sketching. Teach gouache when you’re free too.” “Okay.”

Lin Yuan agreed. He felt that teaching gouache classes on a large scale would add some variety, as teaching so many sketching classes every day was a bit monotonous.

After the gouache teacher left, a group of people looked at Zhong Yu with eager eyes.

Zhong Yu knew he couldn’t hide it any longer and laughed bitterly, “Yes, I learned gouache from the GOAT.”

“No wonder your gouache improved so quickly!”

“A few people from our class have also improved their gouache recently. Does that also have something to do with the GOAT?”

“We were so bitter that we didn’t know!”

“Before, we thought the GOAT was only good at teaching sketching!”

“I was hesitant about learning gouache from the GOAT before. Thinking about it now, I truly missed out a lot while hesitating!”

“Just like you guys imagined, but you can’t blame me completely, why didn’t you discover it?” Faced with the questions from the crowd, Zhong Yu finally confessed.

“I want to be taught by the GOAT!”

The audience’s eyes grew even hotter, all of them now ignoring Zhong Yu, turning their gazes towards Lin Yuan.

“Five hundred per hour.”

Lin Yuan calmly quoted the price.

“We’ll pay!”

None of the crowd got discouraged because of the price.

“Registration.”

Zhong Yu from the side spoke with a beaming face.

The crowd felt irritated at Zhong Yu, but they still obediently registered with him.

Who told Zhong Yu to be in charge of registration?

Moreover, with so many of them wanting to learn gouache from the GOAT, lining up was a must. Lin Yuan had been at the art club for quite a while, and everyone was already very clear about his rules.

Not long after, the number of people registered for gouache had reached fifty.

This number was already catching up with the number of people registered for Lin Yuan's sketching classes.

Zhong Yu submitted the list to Lin Yuan for reviewing.

Lin Yuan nodded, "Continue the class."

More important than this minor gouache issue, was Prestige. He needed to hurry up and complete tasks in order to raise his Painting Prestige Value to a thousand in the coming days.

"Continue class."

Zhong Yu heartily summoned everyone.

Lin Yuan's class became even more popular after this. Although Zhong Yu regretted that he could no longer enjoy Lin Yuan's gouache class all to himself, he had already learned a lot and even won second place in the gouache competition during the time when others didn't know about it, so it was time for everyone else to learn from the GOAT too.

On the other hand.

The music department had already started their PE class for the day.

Unlike Huang Benyu, who feigned sleep, the PE teacher had a habit of calling attendance.

"WangQiang."

“Present.”

“Li Feng.”

“Present.”

“Zhou Han.”

“Present.”

“Lin Yuan.”

“Present”, “Present”, “Present”, “Present”, “Present”, “Present”...

Surprisingly, more than half of the class shouted “present”.

Even some of the girls joined the chorus of “present,” deliberately lowering their voices to imitate the voices of the boys.

Lin Yuan was skipping class today, and his classmates in the music department had already noticed earlier, so they had planned to cover for Lin Yuan. But without prior discussion, they ended up with a comical and bizarre scene.

The PE teacher fell into deep thought.

In all his years of teaching, this was the first time he had encountered such a situation, so he couldn’t help but ask, “How many Lin Yuans are there in your class?”

Everyone:

Is this what they call a cherished group pet?