

All R. Artist 161

Chapter 161 I'm Fine Again

In a coffee shop far from Thunderbolt Entertainment, Luo Qi stared at the lyricist sitting in front of him, "What did Xian Yu say?"

The lyricist shook his head.

He was one of the three lyricists who went to Starlight Entertainment today. Luo Qi asked him to gather information, "This Xian Yu is too arrogant, he directly refused to collaborate with the three of us lyricists, he wants to write the lyrics himself."

"Does he understand Qi language?"

Luo Qi said in surprise.

The lyricist curled his lips: "His level is mediocre at best. His speech is full of hitches and glitches. He can barely manage to communicate with locals in the Qi language. To believe he can write songs in Qi language is just a dream. But as he refused us, we can only wait for him to finish writing the lyrics before seeing how they need to be changed. Perhaps we will have to rewrite everything. Anyway, Huang Da looked extremely unhappy then."

"Great!"

Luo Qi was practically bursting with joy, but then realized he was showing his emotions too openly and held back his smile, "It seems Fan Longhe chose an unreliable teammate this time. With only a month left, and the opponent not willing to cooperate in songwriting, how will this task be completed?"

The lyricist shook his head again.

On the other side, Fan Longhe met with lyricist Huang Da. However, upon hearing Huang Da's disgruntled claims that Xian Yu had refused his help with the lyrics that day, Fan Longhe's expression instantly froze.

“It’s not that I didn’t want to help.”

Huang Da said: “He’s the one who didn’t cooperate.”

In Huang Da’s opinion, Xian Yu didn’t have the skills but still insisted on taking on a task he wasn’t suited for.

This was a common problem with many composers.

They liked to independently complete the lyrics and melodies.

If it were lyrics in Mandarin, it wouldn’t be a problem. The lyrics of “Big Fish” had proven Xian Yu’s songwriting ability. However, this time it had to be a song in Qi language.

How could someone with a rudimentary understanding of Qi language write a song?

Fan Longhe gave a bitter laugh, “Even so, once his music is sent over, if the lyrics are truly terrible, we should ask Mr. Huang to help correct them. I will try to convince him of this.”

“I’ll do my best,” Huang Da said.

As he stood to leave, Huang Da turned back to remind him, “If he submits both the melody and the lyrics too late, even I wouldn’t be able to compose high-quality lyrics in a short period of time. I hope Director Fan can understand.”

“I understand.”

Fan Longhe forced a smile.

Once Huang Da left, Fan Longhe’s face grew more helpless.

Although he was reluctant to admit it, he seemed to see the balance of victory tilting increasingly towards Luo Qi.

Now his only hope was that Xian Yu's music would be good enough.

Good enough that a slip in the lyrics wouldn't matter!

After all, time was really short.

This time constraint was a huge challenge for both songwriting and lyric writing.

And all eyes in the department were watching him now.

If he lost to Luo Qi this time, he would be completely excluded from the department's important decision-making process for at least a year.

"The hope is getting dimmer."

Fan Longhe stood up, feeling slightly dizzy under the not-so-strong sunlight above him.

What kept him from admitting defeat outright was probably the decreasing days left in this month.

Indeed, the days were dwindling, especially for Fan Longhe and Starlight Music. The sense of urgency was pervasive and constant.

Lin Yuan, the main party involved, was carrying on as usual, whether it was school or work.

Gu Dong had already given up hope.

Especially after seeing Lin Yuan working on other things while at work several times.

However, she only shared her thoughts with Gu Qiangyun, and didn't pass the same sentiment to the others in the company.

She didn't want to shake the morale of the troops.

Gu Qiangyun, on the other hand, hadn't given up. He always insisted that "Lin Yuan is seeking inspiration."

As for how much Gu Qiangyun himself believed in this idea, even he wasn't sure.

He just didn't dare to think in the same direction as Gu Dong, which was his experience and insight from managing the branch for many years.

It's best to maintain a positive attitude before disaster strikes.

Dying in pain or dying with hope doesn't make much difference in the intensity of suffering.

But.

As the end of the month neared, with the deadline for submission looming, Gu Qiangyun could no longer keep up his ostrich mentality.

What's bound to come will come!

He finally gathered the courage and, along with Gu Dong, knocked on Lin Yuan's door.

"Come in."

Lin Yuan's voice was as calm as ever. Calm enough to make him seem indifferent to being the person responsible for three million orders, calm enough to suggest that he had almost forgotten that he still had a task to complete.

At this moment, Gu Qiangyun couldn't help but feel a bit of admiration!

Such calmness and composure in the face of danger, truly befits the demeanor of a great leader like Mr. Lin!

If this were ancient times, such a person wouldn't show much emotion even when standing at the execution grounds waiting for his beheading, right?

Compared to his own ostrich mentality which was nothing more than self-deception, that seemed much superior.

He took the initiative to brew a cup of tea for Lin Yuan and said with a reluctant expression, "Mr. Lin, we don't have much time left..."

"What's the date today?"

Having been busy writing his novel lately, Lin Yuan had completely forgotten about this matter. After all, all he did daily was head straight to the office. Gu Dong initially tried to remind him, but eventually gave up mentioning it.

What's the date today?

Gu Dong silently glanced at Gu Qiangyun, his eyes filled with sympathy.

Gu Qiangyun almost didn't make it through, but finally managed to come to terms with Lin Yuan not even remembering the date: "It's the 26th of September."

Something stirred inside Lin Yuan.

It was almost time.

Gu Qiangyun anxiously said, "Mr. Lin, we have never asked about the progress of your work due to fear of disturbing your state of mind. But now we really don't have much time left. Hence, even though it might sound naggy to you, I still have to say it: at least come up with a song, good or bad, at least to show some gesture to Thunderbolt Music, right? I have said so much, just hope you won't find it annoying..."

He rambled on for a few minutes.

Lin Yuan did not respond, but his facial expression, which couldn't even be masked by his anger, made Gu Qiangyun comprehend three words:

He's too annoying.

Of course, this was all Gu Qiangyun's misunderstanding. Lin Yuan did not find him annoying, but rather wanted to thank him for reminding him of one thing:

"I can take new orders now."

The expression on Gu Qiangyun's face instantly became rather amusing. He gaped for a long while before finally stammering out: "Not even a semi-finished product?"

Wouldn't there be at least an attempt of work?

Isn't it a bit much to not even do a basic draft?

If only I had allowed those in the composing department to try writing a song, then at least we could've shown Thunderbolt Entertainment that we did make an effort, though we didn't have the capability...

Lin Yuan looked up at Gu Qiangyun, "It's already done."

Gu Qiangyun's thinking was abruptly interrupted.

Almost subconsciously, he asked, "What?"

Gu Dong, however, gazed at Lin Yuan somewhat blankly, with some fanciful questions suddenly popping up in his mind:

How come it's done all of a sudden?

Didn't you say this before?

Did I time travel back to the day when Mr. Lin first joined the company?

But I don't remember the lottery numbers, did this happen as a chance given by God for me to change the past, to prevent the Thunderbolt's order beforehand?

No, no...

Last time, Mr. Lin seemed to have said these four words in the group, but today he's saying them in person. I probably didn't time travel or rebirth.

But what happened after Mr. Lin said these four words last time...

Gu Dong's breathing suddenly became a bit rushed!

Gu Qiangyun apparently realized something as well.

His expression, at that moment, like in a slow-motion movie scene, opened his mouth frame by frame, and his eyes widened, revealing the already clear lines of worry on his forehead..

Chapter 162 Like You

On the same day, Thunderbolt Entertainment's monthly meeting was convened ahead of schedule.

After the department members arrived at the meeting room, they all instinctively looked at Fan Longhe, who was sitting in a corner, gripping his cell phone tightly.

Some wanted to go forward and console him, but they were pulled back by their companions. After a moment's hesitation, they chose to give up.

The sound of high heels clicking against the floor echoed from outside the room.

The supervisor, Luo Qi, had arrived.

Upon entering, she too glanced at Fan Longhe in the corner. A hint of amusement sparked in her eyes as she announced loudly, “With regard to the theme song for the TV series, I think it’s time to confirm it with the relevant departments.”

“Supervisor Luo.”

Fan Longhe suddenly raised his head.

Luo Qi arched an eyebrow, “Deputy Supervisor Fan, please speak.”

Fan Longhe’s voice was a bit hoarse, “Why has the meeting been moved up? It’s not yet the date we agreed upon.”

“Did Supervisor Fan forget something?”

Perched on her high chair, Luo Qi lightly crossed her legs, “If we wait any longer, even if your Xian Yu sends over the song, will we have any time left to record it?”

Fan Longhe gritted his teeth.

Indeed, as Luo Qi had said.

If they waited any longer, even if Xian Yu finished the song, the company wouldn’t have time to record it.

They couldn’t possibly change the fixed broadcast date just for an uncertain song.

“Moreover, even if he sends the song now, don’t the lyrics need to be changed?” Luo Qi added confidently.

Fan Longhe glared at Luo Qi.

It was clear that Luo Qi had insiders working for her, otherwise, she wouldn’t know so much, even about Xian Yu’s reluctance to have others write lyrics. Had he really lost?

During the rest of the meeting, Fan Longhe was oblivious to the discussions.

Sitting in the corner, he felt like an irrelevant bystander.

It wasn't until the meeting ended and someone tapped his shoulder, that he managed to come back to his senses.

"The meeting is over, Supervisor Fan."

A subordinate reminded, who Fan had a good relationship with.

Fan Longhe smiled bitterly and nodded, "You shouldn't stick with me, if Luo sees you might suffer in the future."

"I don't care."

The subordinate shrugged, "I have no interest in climbing up the ladder, I'm content being an office worker."

Fan Longhe was moved.

Who doesn't want a promotion?

It's just a matter of loyalty.

Usually, many subordinates surrounded him, but now only one person stood firmly by his side.

Suddenly.

Fan Longhe's phone rang.

He glanced at it and suddenly stood up, a flicker of color in his eyes which quickly faded, “They must have already been informed by now...”

“Yes.”

The subordinate curiously asked, “Did the song come? It’s a pity it’s too late now, we should have dragged it out a bit more.”

“Indeed.”

Fan Longhe smiled, “But even if we dragged on, it might not have made a difference. But it was still a \$3 million dollar order I placed. Even though it was rushed within a month, let’s listen to it together?”

The subordinate nodded.

The two each took an earphone, and then Fan Longhe pressed the play button.

The soft and sorrowful piano prelude played, oddly matching Fan Longhe’s current mood, making him feel even more bitter.

Then.

Processed electronic music began to play, slowly sung in Qi language style, “Drenched streets at dusk from the fine rain, looking up aimlessly with wet eyes, gazing at the lonely street lamps, those sentimental memories...”

Fan Longhe slowly raised his head.

His subordinate also lifted his head, their eyes met for a brief second.

In their mono earphones, the song continued, “Missing you once again surges in my heart, past laughter still lingers on my face, wish you could know at this moment, it’s me sincerely saying...”

Their gazes never had a chance to break.

Then they saw simultaneously, the faint light in each other's eyes, followed by the sudden contraction of their pupils:

“Like You

Those captivating eyes

Laughter even more enchanting

Wish I could caress you again

That lovely face

Hold hands and talk about dreams

Like yesterday

You and me...”

Fan Longhe abruptly stood up, the mono earphone cord fell to the floor. At the same moment he opened his mouth, the subordinate also stood up:

“I get it now!”

Removing the earphone, the subordinate rushed out of the meeting room, while Fan Longhe dashed toward a high-level office at the end of the corridor, urgently knocking on the door.

“Come in.”

A stem voice came from inside.

Fan Longhe pushed the door open, quickly placing his cell phone on the table, “Manager, this is the real theme song The Distance Between You and Me needs!”

The man raised his head, “Luo Qi just confirmed the theme song with me five minutes ago.”

“Not that one!”

Fan Longhe stuttered with nervousness, “This one... this one is different... this is another song I bought... Manager, could you please take a listen...”

“You’re overstepping.”

The manager stared at Fan Longhe, his voice somewhat harsh. But seeing Fan Longhe’s insistence, he took off his earphone and hit the play button on the phone, though his face clearly showed impatience.

As he played the song.

The office was filled with the sound of “Like You”. It was exactly the second part of the song, which Fan Longhe had not heard before:

“I was once so impetuous, full of idealism, often blaming love for taking away my freedom, I hope you will know at this moment, it’s me sincerely saying – –

Like You, those captivating eyes, your laughter even more enchanting

Wish I could, caress you again, that lovely face, holding hands and talking about dreams

Like yesterday, you and me!”

Fan Longhe clenched his fists tightly.

From love to weariness, from hate to regret.

Although the manager hadn't responded yet, he was certain that there was no song more suitable as the theme for The Distance between You and Me.

He took a deep breath.

The manager's brow relaxed after a tense moment, his body sinking deeper into the leather chair.

At this point in the song, it was transitioning and building up to an even greater climax. "I used to wander alone every night, so cold, I often struggled for myself, never realizing her pain..."

"Manager."

Unable to hold it in any longer, Fan Longhe took a slight step forward.

The manager didn't stop the song.

His fingers followed the rhythm of the song, drumming rapidly against the table.

His legs also began rocking rhythmically, lost in enjoyment.

It wasn't until the end of the song that he seemed to come back to himself.

The room fell silent for a moment.

A few seconds later, the manager looked at Fan Longhe with a frown, shook his head, and joked, "Luo Qi is after all your superior. You neither brought this song up early nor later, but chose to do so right after she confirmed with me, really not giving her any face."

Fan Longhe was nervous, "I..."

The manager waved his hand, picked up the phone on the table and dialed a number, "Call the TV station and tell them that the theme song for The Distance Between You and Me needs to be changed to another one... Why? Of course because there's a better song! Yes, a thousand times better!"

After ending the call.

The manager looked at Fan Longhe, “I don’t care about your feud with Luo Qi, but this song must be recorded within three days!”

“Understood!”

At this moment, Fan Longhe’s eyes finally burst with dazzling light!

Chapter 163 Crushing

When Fan Longhe left the manager’s office, everyone in the music department’s conference room had resumed their seats, but everyone’s faces were filled with confusion—

Had they not just had a meeting?

Why is the deputy director calling another one?

Does he want to futilely struggle on his deathbed?

Luo Qi also sat in the director’s seat, but her mood was inexplicably irritable. As soon as Fan Longhe returned, she stared coldly at him, “What do you want, do you need me to give you a few more days?”

“No need for that.”

Seeing Luo Qi again, Fan Longhe’s mood was entirely different.

He even broke into a gentle smile, of course, this smile was directed at the employees of the music department: “Xian Yu’s song has arrived, and I would like everyone to evaluate the quality of this song.”

The manager's approval was not enough.

Fan Longhe wanted to win over the entire department with this song in front of Luo Qi.

Only in this way, could he regain the ground he had lost.

"The song has arrived?"

Luo Qi's heart became increasingly irritable: "Let's not even talk about the quality of the song right now, don't we need to revise the lyrics? Only when the lyrics also meet the quality can it be officially recorded. Do you think we have enough time?"

Fan Longhe said, "Alright."

He called the three lyricists who had previously been rejected by Xian Yu at Starlight Music in front of everyone, "There is an important meeting here, Three teachers might need to come over."

After that, Fan Longhe hung up.

The conference room started buzzing.

Only the subordinate who had just listened to part of "Like You" with Fan Longhe showed a gloating smile.

He had witnessed the whole incident today, and besides being shocked, there was an inexplicable sense of superiority in his heart.

"We're here."

Huang Da and the other two lyricists arrived.

Luo Qi immediately began speaking with them.

The conference room was still somewhat noisy, everyone was whispering discussion. Suddenly, a song echoed from the speaker:

“The fine rain with the wind drenched the dusk street, wipe away the rain, my eyes aimlessly look up...”

The conference room gradually quieted down.

Only the synthetic song continued.

Luo Qi's heart inexplicably missed a beat.

As the director of the music department, her music appreciation ability was definitely not something ordinary people could compare to.

So, she could naturally hear the quality of this song.

At the same time.

The employees of the music department, while listening, gradually revealed surprised expressions.

Then these expressions gradually transitioned to shock.

Because everyone knows how short the creation period of this song was.

It only took a month!

Until this meeting today!

Not even a full month has passed!

And the three lyricists, including Huang Da, already had a general idea of the situation.

They knew that Luo Qi wanted to play with the lyrics of Xian Yu's song because everyone thought Xian Yu's Qi language lyrics were a big problem.

But as they listened...

The expressions of the lyricists changed.

They knew the plot of the TV show, which was necessary preparation before writing lyrics.

But now as they listened to this song, they realized that their preparation was somewhat superfluous.

Because the lyrics of this song and the theme of the TV drama are too compatible!

Even without looking at the plot summary of the TV drama, we should know what this song is about!

"Once again, countless thoughts arose in my heart, the past moments of laughter still hang on my face... I was so impulsive, full of ideals I complained of loving her without freedom... to struggle for myself, never knew her pain..., would you know now, I like your eyes, they're captivating..."

From the sense of loss and memories, to the moment of reunion.

With that belated realization, the liking that had been hidden for many years completely exploded. Isn't this the protagonist's inner portrayal from his point of view?

Xian Yu doesn't understand Qi language?

Listening to him speak Qi language, it is indeed quite poor, but looking at his lyrics, he understands Qi language even better than the locals of Qi Continent!

When the song ended, the entire conference room was silent as a graveyard.

After a long while.

Huang Da smiled bitterly: “These lyrics are already very good.”

The songwriter to Huang Da’s right opened his mouth: “It’s not about how excellent these lyrics are written, but how this song’s lyrics are too in sync with the theme of the TV show, Xian Yu had put in heart.”

“Indeed.”

The third songwriter also voiced out, even though she had a good relationship with Luo Qi: “This is not the best Qi language lyric, but it is absolutely the most suitable lyrics for this TV drama.”

The three of them shook their heads or sighed and left the conference room.

Luo Qi’s face was as black as a pot.

She was actually being overturned by her opponent?

After everyone in the room saw the lyrics and left, there was a string of exclamation, unified expressions of astonishment and admiration:

“It was written so beautifully!”

“If I hadn’t followed the whole process, I wouldn’t have believed that this was a work completed by Xian Yu within a month, worthy of the author of ‘Big Fish’!”

“There’s no problem with the lyric and song.”

“I can’t imagine this song was hurriedly completed, just in terms of quality, ‘Like You’ completely triumphs the theme song we had confirmed earlier!”

“I think it’s a landslide.”

“The former is a standard acceptable work, while the latter is a classic that amazes the ears. But isn’t it a bit late now, do we still have time to change the song?”

Some looked towards Fan Longhe.

Fan Longhe looked at Luo Qi, then smiled: “The manager and you all have the same evaluation of this song, so we can still change it, we just have to hurry up with the recording. Luckily, Teacher Admirable Fish has made great progress, including the arrangement part that has also been completed.”

This song was unexpectedly complete!

Melody and lyrics, even the arrangement, everything was done, now Fan Longhe only felt that the three million he had utilized was too damn worth it!

“Phew.”

Everyone exhaled in relief, showing relieved smiles, but when they looked at Luo Qi, they immediately stopped laughing.

Luo Qi stood up: “Well done.”

She suddenly smiled, looking at Fan Longhe: “Congratulations, if I had listened to this song earlier, I would have chosen this one too.”

Fan Longhe said, “Thank you.”

Luo Qi nodded her head, turned around, and left.

She was still maintaining the demeanor of a director, but everyone could imagine how bad Luo Qi’s mood must be at the moment.

Fan Longhe didn’t keep agitating her.

After he announced the end of the meeting, he immediately contacted Starlight Music, and brought up the matter of recording the song.

He hadn't forgotten his promise to the other party that the recording of this song would be handled by Xian Yu.

If he wanted to continue collaborating in the future, he had to keep his promise.

"Mr. Lin!"

After receiving the news from Thunderbolt Entertainment, Gu Dong excitedly knocked on Lin Yuan's office door: "We were successful, Thunderbolt adopted our song!"

"Mmhmm."

It seemed that Lin Yuan knew that Gu Dong would come to him, and he was not surprised that his song was noticed by Thunderbolt.

He immediately got up and walked out, saying to the trailing Gu Dong while walking, "Take me to Thunderbolt Entertainment."

Lin Yuan knew there was a rush for time.

He was not indifferent to the matter.

In fact, a few days ago, Lin Yuan had already looked up information about Thunderbolt on the internet.

He thought that a simple screening might not find a suitable voice, and was expecting more detailed singer information from Thunderbolt.

Turns out that in the first round of screening, he had already found a suitable performer for this song.

Fan Longhe was waiting downstairs.

Suddenly, a car pulled up in front of the company's building.

Two people got out of it.

On the left was Gu Dong, whom Fan Longhe recognized, and on the right was a tall, good-looking man with a somewhat aloof demeanor...

It would seem a bit of an understatement to call him a boy.

But referring to him as a young adult might also seem excessive.

What was certain, however, was that he was a young man you wouldn't be able

to resist taking a second, third, or more glance at.

To Gu Dong's surprise, Fan Longhe was personally there to greet them, she hurriedly introduced, "This is Teacher Admirable Fish."

"Hello, Teacher Admirable Fish!"

Before Fan Longhe could step forward, a figure suddenly sprinted out from the

side, proactively greeting Xian Yu—

It was Luo Qi!

Fan Longhe stared in disbelief.

LUO Qi, with a bright smile and enthusiastic demeanor, extended her hand: "I am the head of the music department at Thunderbolt, welcome to our company for guidance!"

Lin Yuan exchanged a handshake with her.

Fan Longhe had already come to his senses. Gnashing his teeth in irritation, he hurriedly rushed over: “Hello, Teacher Admirable Fish, I am Fan Longhe, the head of the music department who invited you!”

“Deputy Head Fan...”

Luo Qi deliberately corrected him.

Fan Longhe gritted his teeth, but ignored her. She was playing as if she was the one who invited Xian Yu!

Meanwhile, Fan Longhe couldn't help but admire her nerve. Although she was defeated by Xian Yu, she could unabashedly show her goodwill towards him, even going so far as to beat him to the punch.

“Hello.”

Lin Yuan shared a handshake with Fan Longhe: “Can we start recording the song?”

“Yes, sure!”

Both Fan Longhe and Luo Qi were vying to lead the way.

As they walked, each gave a glare to the other, engaging in a palpable competition.

“Manager Luo Qi, you can get back to your work if you're busy. After ah,

Teacher Admirable Fish was invited by me.

“I’m fine, Deputy Fan can go ahead with his work.”

Luo Qi argued, “After all, Teacher Admirable Fish is here in person. As the primary person in charge of the music department, how could I not be the one to host him? Wouldn’t that be unseemly?”

Neither of them was willing to back down.

Thus, they led Lin Yuan and Gu Dong to the company’s recording studio.

All along the way, many employees saw this scene and wore astonished faces.

Gu Dong walked at the back, completely baffled.

She naturally didn’t know what was going on at Thunderbolt, but she could tell that Fan Longhe and Luo Qi were competing to host Mr. Lin...

What happened to them being a big company?

Why do both of them seem to have the same attitude towards Mr. Lin as our subsidiary companies?

Isn’t this supposed to be the formidable Qi Continent?

Who the hell is in charge?

Upon arriving at the recording studio.

Fan Longhe asked with a laugh, “Teacher Admirable Fish, do you have any specific singer in mind?”

Luo Qi added, “If not, I can bring you all the profiles of our company’s singers

for your perusal.”

Lin Yuan asked, “Tan Kai is one of your talents, isn’t he?”

Both Luo Qi and Fan Longhe were taken aback.

Gu Dong also stared at Lin Yuan in surprise.

Tan Kai is the male protagonist of “Distance Between You and Me.” No one expected that Xian Yu’s chosen singer would be him.

Reflecting on this, Fan Longhe said thoughtfully, “Tan Kai is indeed one of our talents, but he’s an actor, not a singer. Although he made his debut as a singer, his career didn’t pan out as planned, so he switched to acting. As it turned out, it appears acting suits him better.”

“This choice seems pretty good.”

Luo Qi murmured, “The lyrics of ‘Like You’ are sung from the male protagonist’s perspective. If the protagonist sings it himself, it could enhance the audience’s immersion.”

“Let’s go with him then.”

Lin Yuan had listened to Tan Kai’s songs when doing his research; although the songs were just average, he felt Tan Kai’s voice was quite fitting.

“But I am not sure if Tan Kai would be available...” Luo Qi hesitated.

Fan Longhe interjected, “Let me check.” He made a call and after two minutes, he nodded, “They’re fine with it.”

After some time, Tan Kai arrived.

Gu Dong, who appeared to be a fan of Tan Kai’s, concealed her excitement.

Tan Kai walked up to Lin Yuan: “Hello, I’m Tan Kai.

“Admirable Fish.”

Lin Yuan nodded: “Get yourself familiar with the song first.”

With a smile, Tan Kai replied, “Manager Fan sent me the demo earlier, I’ve pretty much learned it on the way here.”

Having initially debuted as a singer before transitioning to acting, Tan Kai was still quite competent in this field. He listened to the almost complete demo on a loop during his journey and could now sing it without needing to look at the lyrics.

“Then let’s start recording.”

Lin Yuan, without wasting any more words, walked straight into the recording studio.

Tan Kai gave a small laugh before heading into his recording booth.

Actually, he had a shoot scheduled for the day.

But when he heard that the theme song was to be re-recorded and he could potentially be the singer, he immediately listened to the demo.

After listening to the song once, Tan Kai immediately canceled his shoot for the day.

That was because, compared to acting, Tan Kai loved singing more!

Especially after hearing a song like ‘Like You,’ he was resolute in his decision to perform it!

Once inside the recording studio.

About half an hour later.

Tan Kai's recording was starting to take shape.

Fan Longhe was surprised. He had not expected Tan Kai to sing so well.

Luo Qi was even more taken aback, immediately followed by amazement at Xian Yu's keen intuition.

Out of all the singers in the company, he had surprisingly picked Tan Kai, who was no longer a singer!

Looking at the recording results, it was clear Tan Kai was a great match for the song. His mature voice lacked excessive technique but was not devoid of it. Paired with his talent as an actor to tap into and convey emotions...

The recording process went extremely smoothly!

Several hours later, towards the closing time at the company, the recording of 'Like You' was officially completed – a smooth process that took everyone by surprise.

"Let's call it a day."

After the recording, satisfied with the results, Lin Yuan nodded and turned to leave.

Naturally, Luo Qi and Fan Longhe vied to walk him out.

But in a twist, Tan Kai also thanked Xian Yu and walked him out. "I wish your new drama much success. Could I also have your autograph, please?"

Once downstairs, after some hesitation, Gu Dong allowed herself to embrace her fangirl tendencies.

Tan Kai was easygoing and readily gave Gu Dong an autograph.

Gu Dong happily left the building.

Lin Yuan said, “Let’s go home.”

The staff members at the company had already left for the day.

“Alright, Mr. Lin!”

Gu Dong was really excited, not just because she got to meet her favorite actor today, but also because of Thunderbolt Entertainment’s attitude towards Lin Yuan!

Today, Lin Yuan challenged Gu Dong’s understanding of what it meant to be a subcontractor!

In her memory, Qi Continent, being the outsourcer, was always high and mighty, carelessly commanding the subcontractor.

But today.

Compared to being a subcontractor, Mr. Lin seemed more like the outsourcer! Upon stepping into Thunderbolt Entertainment, he promptly began commanding, making numerous demands and dominated the recording sessions. Thunderbolt seemed to merely follow orders –

Who knew a subcontractor could also play the boss?

Chapter 165 -New Task

Back home.

Lin Yuan saw that Jian Yi was in the kitchen, and the room was filled with an eerie smell.

Jian Yi called out to him: “This is our dinner!”

Lin Yuan opened his mouth and quickly closed it. The smell was too strong, and he couldn’t tell what Jian Yi was cooking.

Was he stewing shit?

Not wanting to discourage Jian Yi's recent enthusiasm for cooking, he returned to his room and tightly closed the door behind him.

"Ding Dong."

The System suddenly appeared: "Congratulations host for completing the second order of the branch company, triggering a new task"

[Task Name: Better to teach a person to fish than to give them a fish]

[Task Content: Given the impending departure of you, the hostel, the branch company is likely to return to its previous state. The host school is to choose any three people from Starlight Music as composers and enhance their composing abilities before graduation]

[Task Reward: Each day you may use a two-hour Yang Zhongming character card]

[Task Reminder: Yang Zhongming's knowledge and experience in composing are very rich but cannot be used by the host for original work This is because this knowledge does not belong to the host itself. If the host has the desire to compose an original piece, the Yang Zhongming character card will be unusable, and creativity must be based on the host's own knowledge and skills.]

Lin Yuan hesitated for a moment.

After some analysis, he roughly understood the System's intention.

The System wanted him to use the Yang Zhongming character card to mentor students in the branch company.

But the System was afraid he would use Yang Zhongming's knowledge to write songs.

After all, a song written in earnest by someone of Yang Zhongming's caliber could be on the same quality level as the ones the System had been providing. Therefore, the System imposed certain restrictions.

"I accept."

With the System's prompt, Lin Yuan saw an extra character card in his warehouse.

"Activate the character card."

Lin Yuan had a thought, and the character card began to activate.

Lin Yuan thought he would become Lin Zhongming Yuan, but in fact, Yang Zhongming's personal character had not affected him at all.

He only felt that a large amount of composing new knowledge suddenly appeared in his mind.

Many of these pieces of knowledge were far more advanced than his current college course.

It was then that Lin Yuan could comprehend how powerful the Maestro really was!

In a sense, Yang Zhongming was like a human-shaped textbook of composing knowledge!

The amount of composing knowledge in his mind was both shocking and intimidating!

He even had a feeling that he wouldn't need much inspiration to complete a decent song.

However, the moment he had the idea to compose a song, the memories provided by the Yang Zhongming character card disappeared instantly.

Lin Yuan's knowledge of composition returned to the level that he had recently learned in "Advanced Composition and Chords".

Lin Yuan tried to find an accurate description:

“I want to create a Transformer, but the System cancels the effect of the character card. Without the boost from the character card, I can’t create the Transformer.”

This description was fairly precise.

Until Lin Yuan gives up creating the Transformer...

Until Lin Yuan gives up on using this knowledge to write a song, this knowledge will reappear.

So the lessons and summary of using the character card are:

The System excels at using the power of 4.04..

Lin Yuan had a sudden thought: “I can’t use it directly to compose, but can I deliberately learn this knowledge during the activation of the character card?”

“You can. This is a special usage of the character card.”

The System asked: “Does the host want to start learning?”

“Let’s start.”

Lin Yuan looked forward to it.

In an instant, he felt that his surroundings became blurry and distorted.

When he recovered, he found himself in a clean small classroom.

There was only one person in the classroom.

And that emotionless middle-aged man standing on the podium was Yang Zhongming.

Lin Yuan asked: “Where is this?”

The System said: “This is the world within the host’s brain. Time here passes very slowly. Two hours of learning in your mind only takes two minutes in the outside world.”

Lin Yuan was taken aback: “Did you bring Yang Zhongming here?”

What if he wants to use the bathroom?

Is there even a bathroom in his head?

The System said: “This is only a character projection, not bringing Yang Zhongming into this space. Now, Yang Zhongming will teach you, the System default assumes that the Yang Zhongming projection is using the Teacher’s Halo.”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Can the Teacher’s Halo be used like this?

That’s true.

After all, the character card does belong to himself.

Before Lin Yuan could say anything else, Yang Zhongming in front of him suddenly began speaking: “Don’t daydream during class, or you’ll have to stand outside. You are now in your third year of college. I’ll start explaining from there...”

“Alright.”

Lin Yuan sat upright.

It's normal for a teacher to be strict.

Students should act like students during class, and there's a time limit on the character card. I can only have this class for two hours a day. Every minute counts.

"Today we will talk about chord progression."

Yang Zhongming was still expressionless. He didn't need a textbook and started explaining directly.

A lot of what he covered were things Lin Yuan only half-understood before.

Lin Yuan wasn't sure if it was due to Yang Zhongming's great teaching or the effect of the Teacher's Halo, but he was quickly able to understand the course.

Lin Yuan had never been able to learn this efficiently in school!

Therefore, Lin Yuan cherished this time.

Two hours later, Yang Zhongming's memory disappeared, and Lin Yuan snapped back to reality from that wonderful state.

He suddenly felt as if he knew nothing.

This made Lin Yuan feel a sense of frustration. In terms of actual ability, he was worlds apart from Yang Zhongming.

However, the learning efficiency within those two hours was truly horrifying.

Lin Yuan felt that the academic progress he made in half a month at school could not compare to the two-hour teaching by Yang Zhongming!

He even wished he could continue learning from Yang Zhongming.

Unfortunately, the character card was now in a cool-down state and could not be used till tomorrow.

“Friendly reminder.”

The System said: “If the host is unable to complete the teaching task within the task period, the Yang Zhongming character card will become invalid.”

“Understood.”

Lin Yuan was resolved to finish this task as he wished to continue learning from Yang Zhongming!

With Yang Zhongming’s experience and knowledge, along with the effect of the Teacher’s Halo, Lin Yuan felt that teaching three decent composers was not all that difficult.

Lin Yuan asked, “What is the standard for completing the task?”

The System said: “The System has its own evaluation standards. The host needs to do the task well, and when the apprentice can be certified, the System will provide a prompt.”

“Understood.”

Lin Yuan took out his phone and sent a message to Gu Dong: “Could you send me the profiles of everyone in the composition department, including the songs they have composed in the past?”

After all this, Lin Yuan got up to open the door, and a strong stench filled his nose.

“It’s just in time. Let’s eat.”, Jian Yi said with a smile.

Lin Yuan stepped back: “What did you make?”

Jian Yi said: “Snail Noodles.”

Chapter 166 - Olive Branch

He only needs to work on the weekend.

From Monday to Friday, Lin Yuan is still a student.

However, it's more apt to say that Lin Yuan is Yang Zhongming's student rather than a student of this school's tutors.

During Lin Yuan's school term, he studies with Yang Zhongming for two hours every day!

This doesn't interfere with Lin Yuan's normal classes.

Every day, studying with Yang Zhongming inside his brain for two hours equates to only two real-life minutes.

Yet, this does affect Lin Yuan's campus life.

The most significant impact is that Lin Yuan found that the teachers' pace of teaching can no longer keep up with his learning speed.

Qi Art's teachers have just started teaching the composition knowledge from the first stage of the previous semester.

Lin Yuan, however, has already learned with Yang Zhongming up to the third or even the fourth stage of the previous semester's composition knowledge.

This results in the teacher's lessons becoming boring to him.

Lin Yuan even anticipated the weekend to come sooner so he could do his tasks at the company.

But Lin Yuan failed to get the weekend to come earlier.

Instead, the drama "Distance Between You and Me" officially aired that Friday night!

Tan Kai is an A-list actor in Qi Continent, him starring in “Distance Between You and Me” produced by Thunderbolt Entertainment naturally would be a blockbuster drama.

So, it drew a lot of interest.

But after two episodes of this drama aired.

Online comments about the drama focused not on its plot, but on its theme song!

“This theme song called “Like You” is so pleasant to the ears!”

“The drama was fine, it’s one of those that I could either watch or not, but when the male and female leads reunite, the theme song suddenly played, causing the story to become fascinating!”

“The old-fashioned plot, yet a godly song?”

“Hahaha, it’s not that bad of a drama I guess. I remember the scene in the warehouse where the male and female leads reunited for the first time. The female lead moved boxes and after moving a dozen of them, she saw the male lead standing opposite her. They stared at each other, and then the music sounded. It really touched me...”

“How should I put it, the past poor boy has turned into today’s overbearing CEO. He encounters his wife who abandoned him years ago. This cliché plot is irresistible, and combined with the music the effect is suddenly more than the sum of its parts!”

“The integration of the song and the drama is just too good!”

“The theme song was sung by Tan Kai himself, I didn’t know Tan Kai sounded this good in singing. Plus, he’s the male lead, I felt an immediate sense of immersion!”

“The song reignited my passion for the drama.”

“I usually start liking a song because of a drama, this is the first time a song made me interested in a drama.”

Gu Dong is a fan of Tan Kai, so she watched the drama as soon as it aired. Seeing these comments from the audience, she couldn't contain her excitement!

They're saying the song "Like You" saved the drama?

Surely that's an exaggeration, especially for professionals like Gu Dong.

A good drama can drive the popularity of an average song, but a good song can hardly boost the popularity of an average drama.

So, Gu Dong understood very well that the recognition for "Like You" not only comes from the quality of the song itself but also from the fact that the drama itself is quite decent.

Without the neat integration with the plot, while "Like You" still sounds good, the audience would only feel that the song is good, not the drama.

Therefore, most of these comments were from biased observers.

Or perhaps they subconsciously didn't want to admit being attracted by a drama with such a cliché plot...

That would make them seem tasteless, wouldn't it?

However, in reality, the vast majority of people are tasteless, it is a world that gets won over by clichés.

It's even somewhat like novels.

Using the same clichés, some directors can make a moving work, while some directors will produce something vulgar and unbearable.

Here's a simple example:

Some works have been remade, with the same story but a different crew, the effect can be completely different.

In general, the performance of this drama has been decent.

And subsequently, the “Like You” original soundtrack released by Starlight Music quickly gained in download numbers, showing signs of becoming a popular song.

It’s worth mentioning that.

The song rights are shared by Starlight Music and Thunderbolt Entertainment, but Thunderbolt Entertainment doesn’t partake in the download royalties.

Tan Kai sang the song, and rightfully he should share in the download dividends as the singer.

But during the formal handover negotiations, Thunderbolt Entertainment proactively gave up Tan Kai’s share of the royalties. Instead, Starlight Music paid Tan Kai a one-time performance fee of 200,000 yuan, thus buying out the subsequent dividends.

This amount was split evenly between Lin Yuan and the company.

Who made it necessary for the company to pick a singer from another company since they don’t have a singer themselves?

On the flip side.

Even if it’s the company’s own singer, those who sing the song should share the profits with the composer, so essentially there’s no difference.

Lin Yuan was satisfied with this outcome.

Qi Continent’s order-based model suits Lin Yuan perfectly because he needs to release songs anyways, and the order’s customization fees serve more like extra income for him.

The main reason was the existence of the system.

This kind of order is difficult for other composers.

Extra income from releasing songs?

It sounds good, but the song must meet the client's requirements and maintain quality —

How difficult is that!

But no matter how restrictive the rules are, it's hard to hold back Lin Yuan.

Because the system's song library is extremely vast.

Therefore, Qi Continent may be a minefield for other composers, but for Lin Yuan, it is a place where he can make some extra income.

And the most direct impact of this successful order is...

Starlight Music is now in the spotlight!

With abundant funding, the client would select their partners based on their achievements!

Starlight Music couldn't show any decent results before, so slightly more powerful clients wouldn't cooperate with them.

But now, "Like You," produced by Starlight Music is a hit!

For the drama "Distance Between You and Me," it's undoubtedly a very successful theme song!

An undisputable success case!

Let's not forget, Starlight Music this time cooperated with Thunderbolt entertainment!

Even without mentioning how good "Like You" is, just a little contemplation would tell that a party chosen by Thunderbolt for cooperation can't be bad.

You should know, Thunderbolt Entertainment used to mostly order songs directly from the Qin Continent!

Therefore, naturally.

Several clients from Qi Continent have started paying attention to Starlight Music.

Among them,

Some moderately-sized companies went one step further, directly extending an olive branch to Starlight Entertainment, showing their intent to cooperate!

Chapter 167 -Disciple

Lin Yuan finally made it to Saturday...

While Jian Yi was still sleeping in, he had already ridden in Gu Dong's car to the company.

It seemed just like the first time Lin Yuan entered the company.

Almost the moment Lin Yuan set foot in the company, all eyes were on him.

The composers in the composing department looked at him, their eyes filled with a hint of admiration!

Can you blame them for not admiring him?

A three-million-dollar order, a month of creative time, along with the client's style restrictions, in the eyes of many, Mr. Lin had only a ten percent chance of completing the order!

But what was the outcome?

Mr. Lin not only completed the order, secured Thunderbolt Entertainment, but also exceeded the task, the song “Like You” was a massive hit!

Understand this!

Completing the order is one thing, but whether the song can become popular is another.

For Starlight Music, from the moment the order is transferred, whether the song can become popular or not is no longer the most important issue!

As mentioned before...

Over eighty percent of customized songs actually don't hit big.

Because custom songs are like a specified topic composition, it's hard for composers to fully showcase their completely powerful skills.

This is the second major reason why composers from Qin Continent dislike the order style of Qi Continent:

“I worked so hard for so many days to write a song you like according to your strict requirements, but the public doesn't like it that much?”

Why should I do that?

I'd rather not take your order, be free to create, write a song that the public likes, and then enjoy the download dividend, isn't that more appealing? So called extra rewards.

What's scary is that you might eventually lose the basic clientele while trying to get extra rewards.

So unless it's a huge order of millions, truly powerful composers really don't like to take it.

Therefore.

For the composers of Starlight Music, Mr. Lin, who not only completed a hellishly difficult order but also managed to make the song a hit, was truly a godlike being!

Lin Yuan didn't react much to this.

It's hard to expect a child who's been used to being stared at since childhood to react to this situation.

He just calmly walked into his own office.

Gu Dong followed him like a bag-carrying sister, despite carrying no bag.

"See? This is what a Maestro looks like!"

"At first, I just felt that Mr. Lin was aloof, now I feel that even if such a divine being was approachable, I wouldn't dare to babble in front of him."

"The strong are always lonely, which is why we are weak."

"Mr. Lin has not been with the company for long, and he has already completed two orders!"

"Is this what they call 'one god leads four dogs'? "

"What the hell are you talking about – it's clearly 'one god leads a pack of dogs'."

"Look at Lil Goodoong, looking all ingratiating. She's never been this submissive to her dad."

"I would like to ingratiate myself, but I can't."

“We would be perfectly fine if only we had one-fifth of Mr. Lin’s abilities. We wouldn’t be producing just one order every few months, and that too only a small order worth three to five hundred thousand.”

“I heard that the company has new order intentions. It’s all because of the Thunderbolt order. Our Starlight Music is actually being contacted by clients for potential orders?”

The company’s composers are engaged in a lively discussion.

Meanwhile, in the CEO’s office, Gu Qiangyun was grinning from ear to ear.

From last night until now, he had received several calls about potential collaborations with Starlight Music.

Of course.

These unconfirmed orders are called intended orders.

The company’s capacity is limited, Gu Qiangyun couldn’t possibly accept all the orders and then cram them all onto Mr. Lin.

The Thunderbolt assignment had been thrilling enough, he didn’t dare to play such a risky game again.

He was simply thinking that he would let Mr. Lin choose later.

He would first screen the intended orders, as many clients were unfamiliar with Mr. Lin’s order acceptance rules.

Lin Yuan had no intention of accepting orders today. One song a month was his limit, any more would attract unnecessary attention.

He was here today for the task, so once he entered the office, he immediately asked Gu Dong:

“Is Xue Liang in the company?”

Gu Dong was taken aback, suddenly remembering Lin Yuan had asked for the details of the composition department staff before: “Does Mr. Lin need him for something?”

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan thought for a while, feeling that he needed to explain himself: “I plan on taking three apprentices in the company’s composition department, and Xue Liang is the composer I chose first.”

“Huh?”

Surprised, Gu Dong broke into a smile.

She knew that Lin Yuan would leave the branch office sooner or later, and it might go back to how it was before.

So, it’s great that Lin Yuan would be willing to guide the company’s composers. After all, Mr. Lin’s skills are obvious.

But Gu Dong doesn’t expect Lin Yuan to teach someone incredibly talented.

Her thoughts are simple.

It would be good to slightly improve the strength of the company’s composers. After all, learning to compose is not a simple matter, and it requires talent. Five minutes later.

Xue Liang came up.

The moment he entered, he was inexplicably nervous. Looking at Lin Yuan, like the other composers in the company, his eyes were filled with subtle admiration.

Also, Xue Liang, who was turning 25 this year, being one of the youngest composers in the company, looking at Lin Yuan who was even younger than him, his feelings were probably deeper than others!

He knew.

If it wasn't for Mr. Lin being transferred from the head office, he would probably never have the chance to interact with someone on this level.

Xue Liang believed that even in the Land of Music like Qin Continent, Mr. Lin must be an extremely powerful figure!

“Mr. Lin.”

He nervously asked, “You have business with me?”

Apart from the usual thoughts, Xue Liang was also slightly worried...

Did he do his job poorly and thought Mr. Lin wanted to fire him?

Lin Yuan looked up at Xue Liang and said, “From today onwards, on every double-cultivation day, learn composition from me. Are you willing?” “What?”

Xue Liang was stunned for a moment, followed by a surge of ecstasy: “I’m willing, I’m willing! I... I...”

Lin Yuan nodded slightly.

He chose Xue Liang for a reason.

After reviewing the staff information of the company, Lin Yuan knew that Xue Liang was a composer with a high single-out rate.

This man was very smart.

He never takes those large orders of hundreds of thousands but instead focuses on the smaller orders of around a hundred thousand.

There's a sense of accumulation.

And those orders around a hundred thousand, Xue Liang executed them smoothly.

This was his expertise.

Because most of these orders don't require high-quality songs, catchy pop songs are enough, so Xue Liang's order completion rate was high!

This was also a skill.

Lin Yuan thought that Xue Liang's qualifications should not be bad, and another reason was:

Xue Liang was not from a background in composition!

Before he became a composer, he was actually a programmer.

It may sound unrelated, but he indeed was a programmer, and only switched careers to become a composer halfway through.

Probably only Starlight Music would ignore his college major and hire him.

For someone who had not undergone systematic learning to be able to complete a large number of orders, he must have a talent factor.

With this in mind, Lin Yuan asked Gu Dong to bring in a teaching dedicated whiteboard and black-colored whiteboard markers.

After Gu Dong left.

With a thought, Lin Yuan activated Yang Zhongming's character card, and a myriad of composition knowledge filled his mind. At the same time, the Teacher's Halo automatically turned on!

"Let's get started then."

Xue Liang could obviously sense that Mr. Lin seemed to have changed somehow in an instant.

But he couldn't pinpoint exactly where the change was.

He inexplicably felt very insignificant...

Chapter 168 - Peach and Plum Trees Everywhere

Two hours later, a puzzled Xue Liang returned to the Composition Department. His colleagues instantly surrounded him, their faces full of curiosity:

"What did Mr. Lin want with you?"

"You were gone for quite a while!"

"This is the first time Mr. Lin has summoned someone from our department!"

"Mr. Lin isn't the emperor, why are you using the term 'summon'?"

"I think 'summon' is very fitting, it suits Mr. Lin's status."

"That's true."

After some chattering, everyone turned to Xue Liang again: "A-Liang, why are you quiet?"

"I..."

Xue Liang looked at everyone, opened his mouth, and after a long time, finally spoke: “I am learning composition from the teacher.”

Everyone was surprised: “The teacher?”

Xue Liang seemed somewhat distracted: “Mr. Lin is my teacher, he said he will instruct me in composition in the future...”

“Really?”

“No wonder you were gone for so long.”

“Mr. Lin taught you for two hours?”

No one saw that coming.

But what was even more unexpected for Xue Liang was that, as he recalled the class, he was filled with awe: “Mr. Lin is too...”

“What?”

Everyone stared at Xue Liang.

After thinking for a while, Xue Liang failed to come up with an appropriate adjective, and it was only when people were about to lose interest and disperse that he finally said: “I believe there is no one in the world who understands composition better than Mr. Lin!”

Everyone: “...”

Then, everyone burst into laughter.

The head of the music department patted Xue Liang’s shoulder: “You are a special one among us because you have never systematically studied composition. So, your professional level is a bit lacking. There’s no doubt that Mr. Lin, as the ace composer, has a more profound understanding of

composition than anyone else in this room. But to say that there's no one in the world who understands composition better than him is a bit of an exaggeration. Aside from Maestro, no one would dare claim to be an unrivaled composer."

Xue Liang kept silent.

He wanted to tell the group that he had been working hard to improve his knowledge of composition every day and that he had almost self-studied through the university's composition course.

He wanted to say:

Mr. Lin is on the same level as Maestro!

But he knew none of them would believe him. Only he knew what he had gained from his two-hour study with Mr. Lin!

"It feels like Mr. Lin has fooled Xue Liang." One of the composers joked.

Xue Liang suddenly felt irritated, he looked at the man and said, "That's because you don't understand Mr. Lin!"

"I knew it." The colleague laughed even harder.

Xue Liang clenched his fist, suddenly calmed down, casually glanced at the man and said, "You'll understand it later."

"What?"

The man suddenly became unhappy as well. Xue Liang's demeanor made him uncomfortable, so he sneered: "Just because you studied with Mr. Lin for a few days, you'll become a master with supernatural powers? Oh, will you also get a three million deal like Thunderbolt Entertainment? You might have the highest turnover rate in the company, but if I remember correctly, the biggest deal you've made had a down payment of only two hundred thousand, right?"

“Joking is joking, but you’ve crossed the line.”

The head frowned, gave the man who had a row with Xue Liang a stern look, then patted Xue Liang’s shoulder: “Study hard, this is a rare opportunity. Mr. Lin selected you because he believes in you the most.”

“Alright.”

Xue Liang nodded vigorously.

The one who had a row with Xue Liang sneered, but did not continue to argue.

Deep down, he was just a little frustrated that Mr. Lin chose to mentor Xue Liang instead of him.

Lin Yuan found it interesting to teach composition because when he activated the Yang Zhongming Task Card, his memories remained clear.

So, while he was instructing Xue Liang, he also had a feeling that he was learning himself.

The character card worked in mysterious ways.

Even though he was teaching others, he felt like he was also teaching himself.

Unfortunately, during the teaching process, he couldn’t enjoy the Teacher’s Halo, Xue Liang reaped all the benefits of it.

“Did my Teacher’s Halo level increase?” Lin Yuan asked the System.

The System replied: “Host’s Teacher’s Halo effect has been increasing slowly, but it has recently stagnated because the host hasn’t taught for a very long time.”

Lin Yuan understood.

He knew that the System was referring to his teaching painting at Qin Art. During that time, Lin Yuan's Teacher's Halo effect increased quickly.

"The problem is..."

Lin Yuan frowned: "I am currently teaching only one student, and in total for this task, I'll teach only three people. Under such circumstances, it will be very difficult for me to continue to increase the Teacher's Halo."

"The host has misunderstood."

The System responded: "The Teacher's Halo not only increases as the host's teaching range expands, but also with the quality of the host's teaching. In other words, even if the host only teaches one person, if the host can elevate this person to a certain level, the Teacher's Halo will also get a boost effect, perhaps even level up!"

Lin Yuan valued the Teacher's Halo a lot.

Because teaching can earn him money.

He should technically be charging Xue Liang too.

But since this is a System task, and considering Xue Liang is technically his subordinate, Lin Yuan didn't feel comfortable bringing up the matter of charging a fee.

But what Lin Yuan didn't realize before was that teaching just one person can also increase the Teacher's Halo.

He asked in his heart: "Taking Xue Liang's example, does the system mean that if I can teach Xue Liang to become a brilliant composer, the effect might not be worse than if I taught a group of composers?"

"That's correct."

That's the strategy of using elite troops!

If Lin Yuan had known this earlier, he would have seized a person with good talent and cultivated him for experience.

Like at Qin Art before, for instance.

He could have focused on teaching Zhong Yu more, and cultivated him into a true master of painting!

It's like grinding in online games.

Fighting dozens of small monsters provides a hundred experience points, but if you encounter an elite monster, killing just one could also provide the same experience points!

"I understand now."

Lin Yuan was slightly annoyed: "Why didn't you say this before?"

The System surprisingly hesitated for a moment: "Because the host has never enjoyed the pleasure of exploring the System, the host only likes money, and sees everything through the lens of money."

Can the System also taunt?

Lin Yuan grew even more irritated.

Who says he only likes money?

He also likes pudding jelly, ice cream, egg yolk...

And tea.

"Realizing it violated protocol probably, the System quickly compensated: "Actually, the System has a new function that the host has not discovered yet.

The System originally intended to let the host discover and develop it on his own. However, seeing as the host only thinks about the System when he wants to make money, the System has decided to provide hints.”

“What hint?”

“Another reason for the System to encourage the host to take on disciples is that once the disciple reaches the graduation standard, their published works would also generate Prestige Value, which will be added to the host’s account. The System wishes the host will one day have a large group of successful apprentices.”

“Why didn’t you say this earlier?”

Lin Yuan became anxious: “If you had told me earlier... wouldn’t everything have been fine... Why didn’t you...”

Chapter 169 - Xue Liang's Composing Ability

Lin Yuan truly regretted it.

He hadn’t realized that having apprentices had this advantage.

If he had known earlier, he would have taken on more apprentices, letting them earn reputation for him.

It must be simpler than working hard on his own to earn reputation!

Thankfully, there was still Xue Liang...

If it could be said that Lin Yuan previously taught Xue Liang just to complete the system task in order to permanently obtain Yang Zhongming’s character card, now he sincerely wanted to cultivate Xue Liang into his main apprentice until Xue Liang formally graduated!

Under normal circumstances.

For Xue Liang to graduate, it was of course not an easy matter, even if his teacher on the surface was Lin Yuan, but in reality, it was Maestro-

Lin Zhongming Yang Yuan.

But Lin Yuan had the Teacher's Halo.

This thing was a tool for teaching apprentices. Even people with extensive teaching experience couldn't compete with it.

Moreover, Lin Yuan was essentially giving Maestro a Teacher's Halo.

There were no better teachers than Maestro with a Teacher's Halo!

Therefore.

The next day.

After Lin Yuan finished teaching Xue Liang, he suddenly made a decision: "Not just on weekends, from now on you will study with me for two hours every day. I'll send you my address. You can come to my place when I finish school."

Just like yesterday.

After learning composition with Lin Yuan for two hours, Xue Liang felt that he had gained a lot!

This was countless times more useful than his self-study from university composition textbooks, or paying to take some online courses.

When Xue Liang heard Mr. Lin say he could learn this way for two hours every day from now on, he was overjoyed!

"Thankyou, Mr. Lin! Mr. Lin..."

“What’s up?”

“Can I call you Master?”

“As you wish.”

Lin Yuan didn’t care about what he was called.

He was just a bit distressed now, because the effect of his character card was only two hours every day.

If he used it on Xue Liang, then he wouldn’t be able to use it himself.

But in order to fast-track this apprentice’s education, he had to make this choice.

Anyway, there would be plenty of time in the future. The character card was his and it was up to him how to use it.

“Master!”

Xue Liang respectfully called.

Lin Yuan nodded.

Just then.

A system’s voice suddenly echoed in Lin Yuan’s mind, “Congratulations host, you’ve acquired your first apprentice. You may now view the apprentice’s information.”

A thought flashed across Lin Yuan’s mind and within the music category, he saw Xue Liang’s information:

[Name: Xue Liang]

[Composing Ability: 409]

[Relationship: Master-Apprentice]

[Status: Not yet graduated]

[Other: Not unlocked]

[Note: The capability value's full score is 1000. The minimal ability standard for an industry-recognized, gold-standard composer is 600. Once Xue Liang's ability reaches above 600, he will formally graduate]

So that's how it was.

As long as he could boost Xue Liang's composing ability score to over 600, that would be considered having successfully taught this apprentice.

That's right.

He could totally find an apprentice who could draw! It looked like when he had time, he'd need to pop by Qi Art's drawing society.

Check for good talent that would be worth teaching.

"Alright, you can go now," Lin Yuan said.

"Okay, goodbye, master!"

Xue Liang respectfully bowed, then left Lin Yuan's office.

Not long after Xue Liang left, Gu Qiangyun came, his face plastered with a smile, his hands holding a few documents: "Mr. Lin, these are our recent intention forms. There are four in total. Take a look and see if any interest you?"

Lin Yuan nodded.

Among them, two were like “Like You”, classified as OST orders.

The so-called OST generally referred to original soundtracks for television dramas or movies—the most common type of order in Qi Continent.

Of the other two, one was a game order, the other was a private order.

After briefly considering, Lin Yuan didn’t immediately make a choice, because these orders’ prices were all not high, with the most expensive one being only two million.

“Mr. Lin.”

Gu Qiangyun guessed Lin Yuan’s thoughts and hesitated for a moment before saying, “This is just a list of intentions, the specifics still need to be discussed. If you haven’t made a choice yet, I can continue to filter the selection.”

Lin Yuan nodded his agreement.

Just as Gu Qiangyun was preparing to take away the files, Lin Yuan pointed to a private order and said, “Leave this one here.”

Gu Qiangyun was surprised.

The order was private in nature, priced at only 700,000. He hadn’t expected Lin Yuan to be interested in it.

Lin Yuan explained, “I plan to leave it for Xue Liang.”

Teaching alone wasn’t enough. To quickly improve Xue Liang’s composition skills, he needed some practical work.

This order could be a chance for Xue Liang to practice, it was a test provided by Lin Yuan for Xue Liang.

Gu Qiangyun was taken aback.

Of course, he knew that Lin Yuan had been teaching Xue Liang composition recently.

But could Xue Liang, with his abilities, really fulfill an order of this 700,000- level magnitude?

After a brief hesitation, he nodded, "Okay."

Lin Yuan nodded in acknowledgment.

Then Gu Qiangyun left.

The next day.

Lin Yuan resumed his regular school routine.

After school, when he returned home, he was somewhat annoyed to find Jian Yi cooking again.

The previous steak and snail noodles had left some psychological shadow on Lin Yuan, even though he had courageously finished them.

He was unsure about what kind of horror dish Jian Yi might create today.

Just then.

There was a knock on the door.

Upon opening it, Lin Yuan found it was none other than his only disciple, Xue Liang standing there.

“Master.”

Xue Liang saluted.

Lin Yuan nodded, “Come in.”

Once Xue Liang entered and saw another person there, he hurriedly greeted him, “Hello, I am Xue Liang, master’s disciple.”

“Hello, Jian Yi...” Jian Yi finished his greeting and looked at Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan said, “I’m his master.”

Jian Yi laughed, “Well done Lin Yuan, even accepting disciples now. So should this new friend of ours call me ‘Junior Uncle’?”

Xue Liang seriously said, “Hello Junior Uncle.”

Jian Yi was startled for a moment, not expecting the child to be so honest. He quickly waved his hands and said, “I’m just joking. Just call me Jian Yi.”

Xue Liang honestly said, “Politeness must not be neglected, you are master’s friend. I’ll call you Brother Jian.”

Jian Yi waved, “You’re probably older than me, you can call me whatever you like.”

This Xue Liang was an honest person, because of his honesty, he appeared somewhat stiff.

Then Jian Yi suddenly felt something was off, were he and Lin Yuan of different generations?

Never mind, they were all their own.

“Let’s order takeout.”

Lin Yuan had no faith in Jian Yi's cooking abilities.

Xue Liang volunteered, "Are you cooking? I can help."

Jian Yi asked, "Do you know how to cook?"

Xue Liang nodded, "Yes, master."

Twenty minutes later, looking at the three delicious dishes on the table, Jian Yi's opinion of Xue Liang had changed, "Culinary genius, brother! You have to teach me later!"

Xue Liang said, "No problem, Brother Jian, you're flattering me."

Lin Yuan tasted a bite and was also very surprised. This taste was nothing short of a master chef's!

Xue Liang, reserved and refined.

This meal, he had two full bowls, which showed how tormented he had been by Jian Yi's cooking before.

After dinner, Lin Yuan took Xue Liang to his bedroom.

"We start the lesson."

With the activation of the Teaching Aura, Lin Yuan's eyes became serious.

Xue Liang was also very serious, he treated his master and master's lesson with the utmost reverence.

This time, the teaching session still lasted two hours.

After finishing the class, Lin Yuan deliberately checked Xue Liang's composition ability value.

Surprisingly, Xue Liang's rating had increased a bit!

Previously, it was 409.

And now it was 415.

This was faster than Lin Yuan had imagined.

Perhaps it wouldn't be long before Lin Yuan could look forward to the day Xue Liang graduated...

Chapter 170 - Death of Biyao

In the following days, Xue Liang would learn from Lin Yuan every day.

Of course, Xue Liang was also responsible for Lin Yuan's daily dinner.

If Xue Liang's cooking skills were measured by ability value, it would be at least over 600.

As for Jian Yi?

He received negative points and was kicked out.

However, Jian Yi didn't give up. He lent a hand to Xue Liang every day, learning how to cook.

However, this made the senior-junior relationship even more complicated.

Xue Liang was Lin Yuan's apprentice in the first place. After learning to cook from Xue Liang, Jian Yi felt that he had inexplicably become Lin Yuan's grand-disciple?

Uh...

Maybe everyone should just keep to their respective roles.

After each lesson, Lin Yuan would check Xue Liang's ability value.

He knew very well that Xue Liang's ability value was steadily increasing.

At this rate, it would only be a matter of time before Xue Liang reached the level of a gold medal composer.

By this time, it was already October.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring Qin Continent, the latest volume of "Zhu Xian" was officially released!

The world of "Zhu Xian" was already fully unfolded.

The disputes between Biyao Party and Xue Qi Party were intensifying.

Regardless of whether they supported Biyao or Lu Xueqi, both characters had amassed a huge following!

All this popularity translated into the readers' affection for the novel.

So whenever a new chapter of "Zhu Xian" was released, readers couldn't wait to devour it.

However...

Upon reading the latest volume...

The truth about the annihilation of Caomiao Village was revealed to be the work of Puzhi, who had once saved both Zhang Xiaofan and Lin Jingyu. Zhang Xiaofan was already filled with murderous intent and began to deviate from the righteous path.

The readers' hearts clenched in sympathy.

The big climax came when Ghost King attacked, and the Immortal Slayer Sword finally appeared.

Many readers were greatly moved by this scene!

But no one expected that the first person the Immortal Slayer Sword would be used against was Zhang Xiaofan. At this point, the demon-infested Zhang Xiaofan had become a serious threat in the eyes of the Qingyun Sect Leader- Zhang Xiaofan was doomed to die.

The readers were on tenterhooks.

Subsequently, a scene that shocked all readers to the core ensued!

Just as the Immortal Slayer Sword was about to strike Zhang Xiaofan, a figure clothed in green stepped in front of him!

“Nine Nether Ghosts, All Heaven Gods Demons, I sacrifice my body for you.” “Through three lives and seven worlds, forever falling into the yin realms, all for love, no regrets even in death...”

It was Biyao!

At the brink of life and death, it was Biyao who stood in front of Zhang Xiaofan. She was willing to scatter her soul and body as a price to bear the power of the Immortal Slayer Sword for Zhang Xiaofan!

The turbulent wind suddenly changed direction, forming a huge vortex around Biyao.

The gentle and pretty woman was pushed into the air by the wind, facing that giant, seven-color-roving sword.

At that moment, she was the only radiance between the heaven and earth!

When the unstoppable Immortal Slayer Sword struck down, a bang echoed throughout the world.

Vaguely, a slender and sorrowful figure slowly fell from mid-air.

All of a sudden, the world fell silent.

Zhang Xiaofan reached out to grasp her but caught nothing.

What fell into his hand was a torn piece of green garment.

“Why were you so foolish... I haven’t told you yet, the person I saw in that ancient well was you...”

Zhang Xiaofan was utterly dejected.

Countless readers were dumbstruck by this plot twist that would undoubtedly turn the whole story around!

Some readers even cursed loudly!

Biyao, she... she was actually dead?

Many people found it hard to accept this fact.

At that moment, whether it was the Biyao Party, Xue Qi Party, or the minority Harem Party, everyone was emotionally charged. They vented their feelings on relevant forums:

“Chu Kuang, you old rascal!”

“Bring Biyao back!”

“I’m freaking crying. The thing is, I’ve always been a staunch supporter of Xue Qi, but Biyao really is... I’ll never badmouth Biyao again...”

“Chu Kuang, the old rascal, deserves death!”

“Give me the Immortal Slayer Sword, I’ll be the first to kill Chu Kuang!”

“Ah ah ah ah ah ah I’m crying my eyes out!”

“Biyao is dead? Chu Kuang actually killed Biyao off?!”

“My favourite female character in this book was killed off by Chu Kuang.”

“The person Zhang Xiaofan saw in the Full Moon Antique Well was Biyao, but Biyao can’t hear this anymore. As a grown-ass man, my eyes are close to swollen from crying!”

This was a riot involving all readers of “Zhu Xian”. With this riot, Biyao’s popularity was pushed to its peak, outperforming Lu Xueqi for the first time by a landslide.

And on the day this volume of the novel was released, Chu Kuang’s Tribe discussion board was totally inundated.

All the comments from readers had only two intents:

Firstly, Chu Kuang, the old rascal, is completely unforgivable!

Secondly, Chu Kuang, the old rascal, must bring Biyao back!

The former is an expression of anger for Biyao’s death, while the latter is the overwhelming wish from countless readers for Biyao to be revived!

If anything could be worse than leaving a story unfinished, it would probably be killing off the readers’ favourite female character.

And Chu Kuang had committed both of these most despicable acts.

Not just the readers...

Even Silver Blue Books was shocked by this wave of outrage.

Especially when the editors of the Fantasy Department looked through the official website comments, refreshing almost every time to see countless new posts.

They felt like they were about to lose it.

“I knew it!”

“Before this volume was even released, I knew that the readers were going to explode.”

“If we knew that, we should have persuaded Chu Kuang to modify the manuscript.”

“When has Chu Kuang ever listened to our editorial advice?”

“No one can change Chu Kuang’s decisions. After all, he’s always been such a willful author.”

“Are the sales going to tank?”

“The audience is already seething!”

The editorial department of Silver Blue Books was facing such a shocking scene for the first time. So much so that the memory of today’s scene lingered for countless years, even invoking a sense of inexplicable fear.

Yes.

Almost all the readers of “Zhu Xian” were unhappy!

Even the most steadfast fans of Xue Qi couldn’t accept Biyao’s death, let alone those who had always loved Biyao so deeply...

You could tell by the change in the way they addressed him.

In the past, readers called him Master Chu Kuang.

Even if Chu Kuang teased readers by leaving chapters unfinished, people only complained a bit.

In the end, teasing was nevertheless due to the anticipation of the following plot.

This time it was different!

The readers' reactions couldn't be described merely as teasing anymore.

Chu Kuang had been downgraded from "Master" to the "old rascal" that was roundly condemned.

As many people said:

It wasn't the Immortal Slayer Sword that killed Biyao, it was Chu Kuang, the old rascal!

But the novel has already been released, and there's no turning back.

The readers could only hope that Biyao could be revived in the subsequent plot of "Zhu Xian".

After all, this is a fantasy novel, so it's not completely impossible for Biyao to be resurrected.

In the following days, many people were hoping for Chu Kuang to give a definitive response.

But Chu Kuang didn't respond.

Even though at this moment, Lin Yuan had specially logged into his Tribe account to view the reactions of the readers from Qin Continent.

It's not that Lin Yuan didn't want to respond.

But Lin Yuan knew very well that the readers' expectations were doomed to be unmet.

Although, in the subsequent plot of "Zhu Xian", Zhang Xiaofan and the Ghost King Sect both tried their best to resurrect Biyao, but until the end of the novel, Biyao didn't manage to come back to life...

The only thing left for readers was a trace of her unburnt green robe corner..