

All R. Artist 171

Chapter 171 - Competition single

Lin Yuan was prepared for the reader revolt that was incited by Biyao's death.

He had been psychologically prepared when he wrote this plot.

It is a turning point in the book, where Zhang Xiaofan undergoes a massive change in nature, leaves Qingyun, joins the Ghost King Sect, and assumes the alias Ghost, who is both righteous and wicked.

The subsequent main plot involves a battle between good and evil.

It's also a process of resurrecting Biyao.

Even though this process is bound to fail.

However, Lin Yuan's silence can also be seen as a form of indulgence.

Because a response would essentially spoil the plot, at least he hasn't completely dashed the readers' hopes.

This matter hasn't caused any significant impact on Lin Yuan's life.

In the days to come, he continued to train Xue Liang, committing to his apprenticeship task.

He went to work as usual on weekends.

One day, when Lin Yuan came to the company again, Gu Qiangyun knocked on Lin Yuan's door once more.

"Mr. Lin."

After entering the room, Gu Qiangyun hesitated for a moment, “Of the four orders you declined earlier, we only managed to secure one. The one worth seven hundred thousand that you have, we couldn’t secure the other three.” “Why?”

Lin Yuan was somewhat puzzled.

He had developed some understanding of the company’s situation by now.

So he knew that this type of business where the client took the initiative should have had a higher success rate.

Gu Qiangyun said with a wry smile, “Because the clients behind those three orders all specifically requested Xian Yu, that is, they wanted Mr. Lin to take the order. If you declined, the clients did not want any other composers from the company...”

Lin Yuan finally understood.

No wonder the System wanted him to train an apprentice.

The plight of Starlight Music wouldn’t change much due to his arrival.

The core issue was that the overall strength of the composition department of Starlight Music was inadequate.

In order to change this situation completely, some special measures were still needed.

“But fortunately, we managed to hold onto one order.”

Gu Qiangyun said helplessly, “However, the only order we did manage to secure was because I told them that Xue Liang is your student. They agreed to try a collaboration, so I thought, if Xue Liang fails on this order, you should help him out. I will discuss splitting the order with Xue Liang...”

Gu Qiangyun expressed his words rather tactfully.

His true intention was for Lin Yuan to offer a bit of guidance to Xue Liang's composition.

If it worked out, the order would be attributed to Xue Liang, but Lin Yuan would receive the money. This way, Xue Liang would have some tangible work under his belt, which would make future orders less challenging.

"No need."

Lin Yuan interjected, "Xue Liang is capable of completing this order."

Gu Qiangyun: "..."

Don't you think too highly of Xue Liang?

Of course, there's no way Gu Qiangyun would dare to express this thought out loud. He tread lightly, "What if he can't complete it?"

"I will step in."

Xue Liang is Lin Yuan's apprentice; Lin Yuan would certainly back his apprentice up. But Lin Yuan truly believes that Xue Liang can complete this order. Xue Liang has been learning from him recently and his progress has been extremely rapid.

"Alright."

With this reassurance from Lin Yuan, Gu Qiangyun felt somewhat relieved.

He hesitated for a moment, and then said, "Actually, there is another potential order that I thought I should mention to you."

Lin Yuan looked up, "How much?"

Gu Qiangyun replied, "Also three million."

Lin Yuan thought it was acceptable, but seeing Gu Qiangyun's troubled look, he asked, "Is there a problem?"

"How should I put it?"

Gu Qiangyun weighed his words, "This is an order from Seven Star Entertainment. They want to custom-make a song for their top singer, Shui Yun, for three million. But this is a competitive order."

Lin Yuan was startled, "What do you mean?"

Gu Qiangyun explained, "What's meant by a competitive order is, the client collaborates with several companies at the same time. Under the same conditions, they will choose the song they like best."

"Oh."

Lin Yuan nodded, "Accept it."

Gu Qiangyun nodded, "We can indeed accept it, but I don't think it's necessary to take it too seriously."

Lin Yuan looked at Gu Qiangyun.

Gu Qiangyun analysed, "Because such competition offers are often taken by multiple music production companies at the same time, but the client is only one. So even though they sign contracts with several companies, they will finally choose to cooperate with only one company. The rest, on the other hand, turn out empty-handed."

Lin Yuan commented, "Casting a wide net."

Gu Qiangyun nodded repeatedly, "Yes, it's the wide-net strategy. Seven Star Entertainment is planning to sign contracts with five B-side companies this time, with all five compete for the position. If they don't choose our work in the end, our effort will be in vain. Even if our work is not

bad, as long as it's not the best, the client will only symbolically give a hundred thousand yuan as consolation."

Lin Yuan said, "Then we just need to win the order."

Gu Qiangyun couldn't help but laugh at Lin's response, "Mr. Lin is bold with high artistic talent and does not fear putting in efforts all for naught. But with so many companies in competition, who can guarantee their song will be chosen by the client? Moreover, you don't have the freedom to choose the singer this time, because their purpose is to tailor a song specifically for Shui Yun..."

"I know Shui Yun."

Lin Yuan had researched the market a bit after moving to the Qi Continent. Shui Yun was a unique singer; Lin Yuan had listened to more than one of her songs after his arrival.

Lin Yuan did prefer to freely choose singers.

That's because he didn't know who would sing the song in advance, and he was afraid the song would be ruined.

But if the artist for the project was specified in advance and this artist was of an excellent calibre, then Lin Yuan could accept it.

Because he could choose a song suitable for that specific singer.

After all, having a specific singer is often one of the requirements of the client.

All in all, as long as the song isn't ruined, it's fine.

"Mr. Lin."

Gu Qiangyun stated nervously, "There's another issue with this project that I need to discuss with you."

Lin Yuan asked, “What?”

Gu Qiangyun grimaced, “Because among the five B-side companies chosen by Seven Star Entertainment this time, except for our Starlight Music, the others are quite powerful. Two of them are even well-known music production companies in the entire Qi Continent. One is called Lone Wolf, and the other is called Red Moon. You may not be familiar with them, but you just need to know that the power of these two companies is enough to crush our Starlight Music...”

To be honest,

Gu Qiangyun was somewhat honoured that Seven Star Entertainment even considered Starlight Music in its choice of partners.

However, he knew they were attracted by Xian Yu.

But Gu Qiangyun really didn’t want to take the project.

Because Xian Yu is Starlight Music’s treasure and his time in Qi Continent is limited.

Why let Xian Yu compete head-to-head with Lone Wolf and Red Moon?

Those companies also have ace composers!

However, Lin Yuan had a different perspective from Gu Qiangyun: “If we win this contract and beat Lone Wolf and Red Moon, will there be more requests for collaboration in the future?”

Gu Qiangyun:

That makes sense.

Who doesn’t want to defeat Lone Wolf and Red Moon?

But the problem is we only have you, Xian Yu, and Lone Wolf and Red Moon both have more than one ace composer!

He didn't dare to say this, as it would seem like he didn't have confidence in Mr. Lin.

But it's natural for Gu Qiangyun to be uneasy when the opponents are Lone Wolf and Red Moon.

Although taking on this request doesn't pose a loss if we don't beat them, Mr. Lin's time in Qi Continent is very limited.

If we fail this request, it will be a waste of Mr. Lin's time in Qi Continent, which is what Gu Qiangyun doesn't want to see.

Mr. Lin's time is incredibly precious to Starlight Music.

"Let's give it a try," Lin Yuan said.

Seeing Lin Yuan had an idea, Gu Qiangyun didn't continue to persuade him.

After all, even if the request isn't completed, there isn't a loss, they could even make some money from the consolation fee.

He said, "We can take the order, but Mr. Lin, you must promise me one thing." "What?"

Gu Qiangyun said, "If the request is difficult to fulfill, there's no need to stick with it, it would be a waste of time. Let's treat it as testing our luck. It's great if our work is chosen by the client, but it's okay if it isn't. Mr. Lin, you can take on other orders earlier."

"Okay."

Lin Yuan had no objections.

He wouldn't stick to any order; he had a lot of money.

He didn't underestimate everyone else, especially after using Yang Zhongming's character card.

Chapter 172 Fish Leaps into the Sea

In the evening, Lin Yuan returned to his residence.

In his hand, he was holding a document, which was the request for a new single.

The requirements were elaborated on in a few thousand words, but after Lin Yuan had read through them, he found that the key points were all captured in one sentence:

“Create a song tailored to the musical style of the singer Shui Yun.”

Sounds simple enough.

But it’s a bit challenging when it comes to actually doing it.

However, this is not a problem that Lin Yuan needs to fret about.

He just habitually called upon the system, like the previous two times when he needed to tailor the musical style.

Surprisingly, the system did not immediately respond to Lin Yuan’s request this time:

“Ding Dong!”

“Due to the host’s recent frequent song customization, there is suspicion of over-reliance on the system for song creation. Therefore, the system will temporarily open its song library to the host, allowing the host to select a song from the library. The host will be responsible for the consequences.”

Lin Yuan was stunned for a moment.

I have to pick the song myself?

He wasn't angry with the system's decision, as more involvement in anything is generally better. Moreover, he had recently learned more about composing through Yang Zhongming's character card. Guided indirectly through the teachings of the Maestro-level character, Lin Yuan felt his understanding of music was improving.

"So you're saying that it's not the system making the decisions, but me?" Lin Yuan asked.

The system replied, "Yes."

Lin Yuan started to think.

The system's song selection always seemed to meet the target's requirements precisely, and this was a skill as well.

Could he, without the system's suggestions, choose a song that would suit the target's customization requirements?

"The song library is open."

The system suddenly gave a prompt.

Lin Yuan felt as if his brain was suddenly connected to the system's song library, allowing him to listen to all the songs on earth. The information of these songs could appear vividly in Lin Yuan's mind just by thinking about them.

Lin Yuan suddenly asked, "Aren't you afraid that I'd remember some songs from the library?"

"It will be blocked afterward." The system's reply was impeccable.

Lin Yuan wasn't surprised.

He didn't immediately pick a song, nor did he reminisce about the classic earth songs. Instead, he turned on his computer on his bedroom desk, started listening to Shui Yun's songs, and also looked up some information about her.

Shui Yun was primarily a singer.

She was also an actress.

She had publicly explained in an interview why she, as a singer, also occasionally acted:

Because she felt that the skills actors used to control their emotions were worth learning, and these skills were also very helpful for singing.

This was Shui Yun's unique point.

She was very good at expressing sentiment in music.

Just like writing an article requires finding the right angle and a good writing style, Shui Yun was a master of this technique.

She was adept at finding the entry point of a song and, through her way of singing (comparable to a writer's style), expressing and interpreting it accurately.

This is a skill of control.

Both in terms of voice and emotion.

Why can some powerful singers with high-pitched voices not move their audience?

When a singer loses control and the ability to grasp their voice, the expression becomes a mere venting.

Even though Shui Yun's singing might not be top-notch among female singers, her emotional expression and unique acting skills were one of a kind.

This wasn't just a conclusion drawn from Lin Yuan's research but was also verified by the feedback he received while listening to Shui Yun's songs.

The experience was fairly unusual.

Previously, the system would pick a song for Lin Yuan within a minute.

This time, the system was slacking off, and Lin Yuan had to pick the song himself, hence spending a lot of time doing preliminary research. Luckily, lately, Xue Liang had not been studying composition with Lin Yuan every day— Xue Liang had now started practical training.

So, Lin Yuan only needed to guide Xue Liang on his days off.

From Monday to Friday, the usage of the character card, Lin Yuan had applied it to himself.

After all, using the character card to teach himself only took two minutes a day, not hindering his schedule for the Kung Fu Hustle.

“Is there a time limit for song selection?”

“The host has ample time to make the selection.”

Lin Yuan understood. Since there was no time limit, he knew he didn’t have to rush the decision. It would be more prudent to listen to a few more songs before deciding.

Moreover, the order had some specific remarks, like how Shui Yun’s song this time should have some differences from her previous ones but should not completely abandon her unique singing characteristics, etc.

And another feature.

A very Qi Continent feature was that the performance of the song must be completed in Qi language!

So, Lin Yuan basically ruled out Mandarin songs.

Otherwise, Lin Yuan would have to fret about the lyrics. He was unwilling to make such a significant alteration unless the original lyrics were really bad.

“Let’s listen to some songs then.”

The song library of Earth was fully open now, and Lin Yuan wanted to seize this opportunity to immerse himself.

After taking a bath.

Lin Yuan lay in bed and ordered in his heart, “Xiao Ai, play Jay Chou.”

“My name is not Xiao Ai.”

The system corrected Lin Yuan before playing the music.

Jay Chou’s songs, of course, had nothing to do with Lin Yuan’s song selection this time.

Shui Yun was not that kind of singer.

Lin Yuan just simply wanted to listen to Jay Chou’s songs.

The system was now his personal music player, and its sound quality was far superior to that of headphones worth thousands of dollars.

The company had learned that Mr. Lin had taken a competitive task, but the employees didn’t discuss it much.

Everyone was thinking along the lines of Gu Qiangyun.

They treated this task as playing a lottery, after all, there wouldn’t be any repercussions if they failed to complete this task.

In contrast.

The fact that Xue Liang had accepted an order worth 700,000 stirred up a lot of internal discussion in the company.

This was because Xue Liang had never accepted such an expensive order before, he usually focused on smaller orders that were worth around 100,000 to 200,000.

However, after studying under Mr. Lin for some time, Xue Liang seemed somewhat inflated compared to before.

He actually dared to take on an order of 700,000?

Clearly.

No one thought that Xue Liang would be able to fulfil this order.

Even though Xue Liang has been learning composition from Mr. Lin and even started to be recognized as his apprentice, what does that prove?

Would Mr. Lin, like in those martial arts novels, be able to transfer his skills to Xue Liang?

That's not how it works.

Composition is not like painting or calligraphy.

Painting and calligraphy can be improved through study, with clear improvement!

But composition highly depends on talent, simply studying won't significantly improve skills.

So in everyone's minds, Xue Liang was still Xue Liang, he wouldn't become any different just because he studied with Mr. Lin.

Fortunately.

Although Mr. Lin didn't make Xue Liang any different, he did indeed make Starlight Music somewhat different—

Because, that night, “Hero’s Mate” officially launched.

The ancient martial arts-inspired song “Jianghu Smile”, written under the pseudonym Xian Yu, was formally released, riding on the coattails of the release of the martial-arts themed game, Dream Dragon!

A lot of players highly praised the song featured in the game!

“Full of boldness!”

“Fits the plot!”

“Very catchy!”

These were direct comments many players made after reaching the relevant levels in the game and hearing this song.

However, it's unfortunate that the song did not explode in popularity, like “Like You” did, due to the broadcast of the television series, thereby winning some fans who were not television drama viewers.

After all, the game can't match the popularity of a television drama.

But this didn't prevent “Jianghu Smile” from being an extremely well-executed order, nor did it prevent clients in Qi Continent from acknowledging it to some extent after hearing this song!

Dream Dragon rated this order five stars!

Yes, clients can rate an order; this is a feature typical of Qi Continent's culture.

Qin Continent definitely doesn't have this feature.

In the formidable Land of Music, they don't rely on clients to maintain the markets.

A five-star rating often represents the maximum affirmation a client has for an order.

And in the music industry of Qi Continent, what they value most is indeed the profitability of the orders!

Taking into account order prices, completeness, order acceptance rate, and public reaction, Qi Continent's music association even specifically set up a ranking list for music production companies, which includes the top 100 music production companies in Qi Continent—

The Qi Continent industry jokingly calls this ranking "B-side ranking".

Starlight Music, supported by the two orders with extremely high completion rates from Xian Yu, has made a historical entry into the top 100 list of B-side rankings!

Alright.

The top 100.

This sounds a little awkward.

What's even more awkward is that Starlight Music is just now at the bottom, the 100th place on the B-side rankings.

In name and in reality, they are the tail end.

But Gu Qiangyun was so excited that he couldn't contain himself.

Because, in the past, Starlight Music didn't even dare to glance at this list.

This ranking, it's practically an advertisement for the B-side!

Just being on the list could bring in countless potential orders for Starlight Music.

Some clients even specifically look for collaboration companies from this list!

It was only after Mr. Lin recently joined Starlight Music and completed two super-high-quality orders, one of which included the large 3-million-order "Like You", that Starlight Music was forced into these heights that it originally did not belong to.

The company originally ranked at the 100th place was called Flame Music.

With the rise of Starlight Music, Flame Music was squeezed off the list.

As a result, all the composers in Flame Music were upset. The company's big group chat was filled with sour complaints.

"What the hell is Starlight Music, they even squeezed our company off the list!"

"I looked at their company's works, it's just a garbage company that doesn't know what it's doing, they were only able to squeeze us out thanks to a composer named Xian Yu!"

"Xian Yu?"

"It's rumored that he's a trump card from Qin Continent, Starlight Music is a branch of Starlight Entertainment in the Qin Continent, probably seeing the branch struggling, they forcefully brought in a trump card to save the situation."

"I know of Xian Yu, he wrote 'Big Fish', a very powerful trump card, he does have the qualifications to save the day."

"It's really more than just powerful, it's incredible, this Xian Yu has only been in the Qi Continent for a short time and has already completed two high-quality orders. The game order is nothing to talk about, after all, the money wasn't high, just that the completion was high, so the client gave

five stars. The amazing one was the second order, a big company named Thunderbolt's order, with a whopping commission of 3 million, Xian Yu also completed it, it's the song 'Like You' that was played in the coffee shop under the company building this morning, also rated five stars!"

"So, their entering the list was all thanks to Xian Yu, isn't this just a fluke?"

"If it weren't for Xian Yu, the level of our composers here far exceeds that of their company, but Xian Yu alone can beat all the composers in our company, where's the fairness in this?"

However, grievances aside, who can ignore the fact that Starlight Music is backed by a parent company from Qin Continent.

After the wailing of the group.

The head of the company's composition department suddenly spoke up in the chat, with a touch of schadenfreude, "Now the pressure should shift to those few companies that are close in ranking to Starlight Music."

Chapter 173: Planting the Flag

For a company that is able to rank within the top too of music production companies, the importance of the rankings is self-evident.

Because in a sense, these rankings represent the company's overall strength in Qi Continent.

This is an important bargaining chip when negotiating orders!

So, every music production company in Qi Continent pays great attention to changes in their own ranking.

Starlight hitting the hundredth spot seems like a trivial matter.

Especially when looking at the surface, Flame Music is the only victim.

But this doesn't stop the companies close in ranking to Starlight Music from feeling tense, especially after they fully understand the reason for Starlight's surge into the rankings—

“Just because of one person?”

“Isn’t this composer named Xian Yu too fierce? He’s taken on two five star orders in such a short time, including a three million theme song order for a major Thunderbolt TV drama?”

“Our position is shaky.”

“This Xian Yu is pretty good. Among the top too rankings, which company has soared up just because of one person?”

“If Xian Yu performs well enough, wouldn’t all the companies ranked 90th or lower have the risk of dropping down in the rankings?”

This kind of tension mainly belongs to the companies that are ranked after the 90th.

Companies ranked before 90 don’t have to worry too much about Starlight threatening their positions.

Because the disadvantage of Starlight Music’s model is too great, no matter how strong Xian Yu is, after all, he is just one person.

So, compared to those companies that are very close to Starlight in rankings, companies ranked before 90th are more of a spectator.

This fire won’t burn their heads.

However, the fact that Xian Yu, alone, is leading a company forward has indeed shocked many B-side companies.

They may not take Starlight Music seriously, but they won’t face Xian Yu with the same attitude.

In fact, after Xian Yu completed these two orders, he has already attracted the attention of many industry insiders in Qi Continent.

And in the B-side rankings.

At present, the Lone Wolf Company, which is ranked 13th, certainly does not need to care about the squabbles between these lower-tier companies—

For Lone Wolf, companies ranked below 50 are all chickens, and those not even in the top 100 are not even considered chickens.

At this time.

A general meeting of the Lone Wolf's composition department was being held: "Red Moon is competing with us for the Seven Star Entertainment order. Even if it's just to defeat Red Moon, we must win this order. I hope all senior composers in the company can participate. The requirements of the client have been distributed to you. It would be best if you could brainstorm, and of course, you would not be working for free. The company can distribute shares according to your contributions!"

Yes.

Because Seven Star Entertainment is competition-based this time, there are a total of five companies competing for this order.

But for Lone Wolf, there is actually only one competitor for this order from start to finish.

That is Red Moon Production, ranked number fifteen on the B-side rankings.

As for the other three companies contacted by Seven Star Entertainment?

From a strength perspective, there is not much comparability with Lone Wolf and Red Moon.

Seven Star Entertainment also understands this point.

Although they have contacted five companies at the same time, the real gem of this order is actually on Red Moon and Lone Wolf.

The other three are not necessarily just making up the numbers, but anyway, it's a side move.

Seven Star Entertainment just wants to try their luck, when it comes to making a real choice, it's actually the same whether there are three other companies or not.

Red Moon has a similar view on competitive orders.

Saying that there are five competing companies, in fact, three of them are mixtures trying their luck.

Red Moon's real opponent is only Lone Wolf.

However, compared to Lone Wolf's certainty, Red Moon still investigated the other three companies.

This is Red Moon's system and probably has something to do with the company culture or something.

In the conference room.

The director routinely said: "In addition to us and Lone Wolf, the other three companies are ranked 38th, 55th and 100th..."

Many composers couldn't help but snicker.

The 38th place, the 55th place could be ignored.

But how come there's a company ranked 100th among them?

They almost didn't make it into the top 100 list.

But the deputy director explained: “You probably don’t pay much attention to these small companies. The 100th ranked company is called Starlight Music. They just collaborated with Thunderbolt Entertainment recently and completed a three million order.”

“What?”

“Three million?”

“Thunderbolt Entertainment?”

“Any experts there?”

“Kingmaker?”

The composers at Red Moon suddenly took this more seriously. Regardless of luck or other reasons, a three million-order is not a small amount

If this was a small sum, Red Moon wouldn’t have held a special meeting for the three million order from Seven Star Entertainment!

Of course, this level of attention is not solely due to the money. If it was just about the money, Red Moon and Lone Wolf would not take it so seriously.

The main reason is that Red Moon wants to seize this opportunity to defeat

Lone Wolf to enhance the company’s ranking.

Keep in mind.

The rankings of Lone Wolf and Red Moon are very close.

The two companies can form a kind of balancing out pattern.

This is also why Seven Star would choose Red Moon and Lone Wolf at the same time. They saw that Lone Wolf and Red Moon were not on good terms and exploited the competition between the two companies to make them take this order seriously.

“It seems that you all get it.”

The deputy director nodded: “This is why our company stipulates that every competitive order should be given full support, and besides Starlight Music, the two companies that are ranked 30th and 50th have performed quite well recently. Absolutely do not drop the ball. After all, among the many competitive orders in Qi Continent, there have been a few cases of major companies messing up, they are the bloody lessons of our predecessors...”

Seven Star Entertainment, even if they want to try their luck, is not randomly selecting within the B-side of Qi Continent.

The standard for their selection of companies has certain basis.

For Red Moon and Lone Wolf, the threat of the other three is not large, but it is not without threat.

After the meeting.

The director laughed and said to the deputy director: “Why did you read it so conservatively? Our company has received lots of competitive orders, when have we ever messed up?”

The director has planted a flag for himself.

“It’s just to get them to give it their all.” The deputy director shrugged, “The real target is still Lone Wolf, but Lone Wolf hasn’t messed up either. It’s not that easy to make a mistake with an order.”

The deputy director also planted a flag for herself.

For both of them, planting flags is actually a work-based adjustment, especially in clear situations.

For Lone Wolf and Red Moon, losing to each other does not count as messing up an order, because both companies are very strong.

But if they lose to the other three, that would be a real mistake, because the other three are much less powerful than Red Moon and Lone Wolf.

So messing up is just a joke.

Because there's not just one order in play here, but two!

Chapter 174: Gratitude and Resentment Situation

Red Moon and Lone Wolf have accepted Seven Star's competitive order!

Perhaps the music scene in Qi Continent has been too calm for too long, with few blockbuster news, so as these two companies began to mobilize, many in the industry couldn't help but cast their curious gaze.

"Red Moon and Lone Wolf?"

"Are they at odds again?"

Many people wore knowing smiles.

Usually, although Red Moon and Lone Wolf are formidable, they are not toptier music production companies, and there should not be much attention on them. Instead, the focus should be on the battles among companies ranked in the top ten.

But the issue is...

Star Month and Lone Wolf have past grudges!

Many people can't remember the specifics from a few years ago, only that Lone Wolf forcefully snatched a five million order from Red Moon, even causing the Qi Continent's Music Association to intervene, and eventually it escalated to a lawsuit.

That was just the beginning.

The same year Lone Wolf snatched an order from Red Moon, Red Moon also snatched a three million order from Lone Wolf in the same manner!

It happened when the client was about to sign a contract with Lone Wolf, Red Moon suddenly intervened and took the order for fifty thousand less, and completed it with excellent quality.

A feud developed between the two.

But a company ultimately prioritizes profits, so both sides eventually reached a reconciliation.

The specifics are not entirely clear to the public, but these two companies stopped undercutting each other, resulting in a decently peaceful period.

Little did they expect that Seven Star Entertainment, so cunningly, at the same time, signed competitive orders with both Red Moon and Lone Wolf.

Isn't this a duel stage for Red Moon and Lone Wolf?

Even though the two companies have reconciled, upon accepting the same competitive order, wouldn't they harbor some thoughts?

They're surely bracing themselves to beat the other!

Furthermore, there isn't much difference in the strength of these two companies...

This is what interested everyone. Human nature is to be attracted to excitement. Moreover, the competitive order that Red Moon and Lone Wolf have accepted carries some grudge.

"Seven Star sure knows how to play."

"This move is genuinely quite something."

“Most importantly, you can’t accuse Seven Star of being unscrupulous. After all, Red Moon and Lone Wolf have reconciled. Since they’ve reconciled, we can’t say that Seven Star’s competitive order is malintended.”

“Could such a large company afford to be accused of wrongdoing?”

“Seven Star Entertainment didn’t force them to sign the order. If either Lone Wolf or Red Moon didn’t want to compete for this order, it wouldn’t be a competition.”

“After all, they are closely ranked, each has its strengths and weaknesses.”

II II

The industry was buzzing with discussion.

Compared to this matter, Starlight Music’s historical breakthrough into the client’s ranking chart seemed somewhat insignificant.

Although it was mentioned that Seven Star Entertainment did not only seek out Red Moon and Lone Wolf, they actually approached five companies in total.

“The other three companies are just along for the ride.”

“Those three are probably just trying their luck.”

“Among the other three companies, there seems to be Starlight Music. You all know about Xian Yu from Starlight Music, right? This person is not to be underestimated.”

“Yeah, we know. His song, “Like You”, is quite popular lately.”

“He completed Thunderbolt’s three million order. This means, he stands a chance of fulfilling the Seven Star order.”

“Indeed possible, but the odds are quite low.”

“The overall strength of their company is a real problem.”

“I think it can be understood as Seven Star Entertainment diverting attention. Seven Star is telling everyone that we didn’t intentionally fan the flames. See, we didn’t just seek out Red Moon and Lone Wolf, we approached five companies in total. This is just a coincidence, we chose our partners based on their company strength.”

“Couldn’t be more accurate.”

“However, this order is no easy task. They say it’s to tailor a song for Shui Yun. Who doesn’t know that Seven Star’s Shui Yun has very high demands for song quality.”

“If you ask me, Seven Star’s price is a bit low.”

“Seven Star seeking out Red Moon and Lone Wolf is to press down the price, otherwise they could have picked from the top ten companies, or even directly order a custom from Qin Continent. However, without four or five million, the aces over there in Qin wouldn’t be interested in such an order.”

That’s the truth.

Music creators in Qi Continent are accustomed to writing songs for clients, while those in Qin Continent pursue more freedom in creation.

With the revelation of Seven Star’s competitive order, those companies that were languishing at the lower end of the rankings suddenly breathed a sigh of relief.

So Starlight Music had taken on a competitive order!

We’re safe for now.

The analysis isn’t difficult.

Among Starlight Music's songwriters, the only one qualified to take on this order is Xian Yu!

Being a master like Xian Yu, surely he must have ideas about Seven Star's competitive order.

Even if it's a long shot, at least for some time, Xian Yu wouldn't take any other orders.

And the success rate of Xian Yu getting this order...

Is extremely low!

Because to succeed with this order, he'd have to bypass the two big mountains – Lone Wolf and Red Moon!

"Let the fight begin!"

"Hopefully, Xian Yu doesn't take any orders for a while, just wrestles with Lone Wolf and Red Moon."

"With this order keeping Xian Yu occupied, the rest of the Starlight Music company is nothing to worry about."

"Xian Yu is truly fighting alone."

"As long as Xian Yu doesn't produce songs, at most in two months, Flame can push Starlight Music out of the top too again."

This is the common sentiment of several companies that feel threatened by Starlight Music.

In one of the company's group chats, suddenly, someone expressed their worry: "What if Xian Yu pulls off this order?"

His words caused a few seconds of silence in the group, then sparked a lively discussion:

“You mean both Red Moon and Lone Wolf failing at the same time?”

“If Xian Yu really manages to pull off this order, the ones who should worry are not us. Do you think those companies ranked in the eighties could stay as steady as Mount Tai?”

“We’ll all die together.”

“But is it possible?”

The department manager suddenly chimed in: “If Xian Yu had any brains, he might abandon Seven Star in a few days, switch to other orders, and then our position would be shaky.”

With these words, the group fell silent again.

Even though it was a bit humiliating to be on the run from Xian Yu, everyone admitted that the manager made sense.

We can’t just hope Xian Yu will be tripped up by Seven Star’s order.

The most likely scenario was that he was just trying his luck and would give up in a couple of days.

So, Starlight Music was still a threat.

If everyone didn’t seize the opportunity to release their orders quickly, being knocked down a rank would just be a matter of time.

Even a one rank drop would affect the company’s order volume and order price, or else why would everyone care so much about the leaderboard.

Starlight Music, of course, had heard about the industry chatter.

Despite the company’s pitfalls, it was not isolated from the music scene of the Qi Continent.

Everyone seemed to accept the notion that the company was just there for a ride along.

Gu Qiangyun himself admitted that this order was more of a shot in the dark.

This didn't suppress the morale at Starlight Music; on the contrary, everyone seemed rather optimistic recently.

After all, the company had made it into the Top 100 of the Qi Continent B-side chart!

The effects of being in the top too were immediately evident.

Shortly after Starlight Music squeezed into the Top too, several companies reached out.

These first-tier companies hinted at intentions for collaborations through their words.

Gu Qiangyun, of course, was extremely welcoming.

Starlight Music was disorganized, not just because the company was weak, but mainly because it lacked opportunities!

In the past, many first-tier companies simply didn't offer this kind of collaboration opportunity.

But now, with the increase in orders, Gu Qiangyun had the chance to pick and choose.

Several talented composers in the company finally got new orders after a long hiatus.

Yet, a few potential orders still fell through, just like before.

A considerable portion of the first-tier companies came for the name of Xian Yu.

If Xian Yu didn't take their orders, they weren't interested in collaborating.

For this reason, Gu Qiangyun held a rare meeting, and the main theme was for everyone to seize the opportunity!

This was an opportunity that Mr. Lin brought to the company!

If it wasn't for Mr. Lin single-handedly elevating the company to the Top too, they wouldn't have this many orders and so on.

Lin Yuan didn't attend the meeting.

He was still in school at this time.

He didn't need to put much effort into his daily coursework anymore.

Thanks to Yang Zhongming's character card instruction, Lin Yuan had basically completed the knowledge points for this semester.

If there were exams now, Lin Yuan felt he could easily rank in the top five of the class.

So whether he was in class or after school, he was always thinking about the order.

What kind of song fits Shui Yun's standard?

It has to match Shui Yun's style and differentiate from her previous works...

Lin Yuan decided to share his thoughts with someone.

The first person that came to mind was Gu Dong, so he sent Gu Dong a message. It was more of a casual chat than seeking advice: "What do you think of Shui Yun's songs?"

"Listening to her songs is like listening to a story."

Gu Dong knew right away that Lin Yuan was thinking about the Seven Star order, so after saying this, she hastily added: “Mr. Lin, don’t take this order too seriously. Even if we can’t make it, it’s okay. The company has been receiving new orders recently. If any of them are suitable, we will let you know.”

Clearly, Gu Dong also feared that Lin Yuan would obsess over this order.

Lin Yuan didn’t reply. Gu Dong’s evaluation was meaningless.

When he got home that night.

Lin Yuan decided to watch Shui Yun’s live performance videos for a while, but because he was too quick, he accidentally hit the triple-speed button.

There’s no speed setting for listening to songs.

But there is for videos.

Lin Yuan reflexively wanted to return the speed to normal, but his hand stopped halfway as he was moving the mouse.

The song played at triple speed in his ears.

It sounded somewhat weird.

After all, Shui Yun’s songs were sentimental and slower paced. This type of slow ballad, when listened to at several times the speed, created a strange dissonance, as if the singer was just babbling.

However.

As this feeling of disharmony grew stronger, an idea suddenly crossed Lin Yuan’s mind—he felt that Shui Yun needed a song that was less sentimental, ideally with a quicker tempo than her previous songs.

“System.”

Lin Yuan said: “Create a song, ‘Kisses Everywhere.’”

Chapter 175: Reorganizing the Subsidiary Company

The speed of Shui Yun’s songs isn’t usually fast.

In fact, it’s pretty hard to speed up ballads.

But since the order requested a distinct style from Shui Yun’s previous works, there needed to be some differences.

What could be different?

Lin Yuan, after accidentally hearing Shui Yun singing at a faster tempo, suddenly thought:

The best way for Shui Yun to differentiate herself from her past would be for this slow ballad singer to suddenly get lively!

So, Lin Yuan thought of “Everywhere Kisses”.

There were numerous heart-pumping tunes in the System’s music library.

But in order to be energetic and retain Shui Yun’s uniqueness, the choices were, in fact, quite limited.

Lin Yuan couldn’t guarantee that his choice would meet the order requirements perfectly.

But he thought that “Everywhere Kisses” would at least be adequate.

Because this song was actually able to bring out Shui Yun’s performance characteristics.

Despite being a common love theme, it wasn't the typical sorrow of love lost, it instead made jest of and accused a rotten man from a woman's perspective—

It was quite entertaining, to say the least.

The song makes one want to tap their feet along with the rhythm.

Its effects are even better when accompanied by a video.

The song's information showed that the lyrics were written by Albert Leung. For those who don't know him, they can find more about him on the internet.

The composition is by Lei Songde.

Again, there's no need for much introduction, you just need to know that his status in the composition field is equivalent to that of Albert Leung in the lyric field.

The song was quite remarkable, to say the least.

But, with a remarkable song comes a price, and when the System gave its rate, Lin Yuan almost flinched.

“The customization price is 2 million.”

Out of an order of 3 million, the System's charge was as high as 2 million!

Lin Yuan couldn't figure out if the song was remarkable or if the System just seized this opportunity to increase the price. Either way, Lin Yuan felt the System was getting greedier: “Why is each custom song getting more expensive, could you be a little cheaper, how about 100,000?”

Lin Yuan wanted to negotiate the price.

The System ignored him: “Do you want to customize it?”

The System was unfeeling; Lin Yuan hesitated for a moment, but finally decided to customize “Everywhere Kisses” because this order was special. It wasn’t for a specific person, so there wasn’t any additional singer’s share.

In other words.

Shui Yun was not taking any money.

She was the one paying.

It made sense when you thought about it, I tailored a song for you, I’m going to sing it for you, and you still want to be paid?

It was illogical.

In addition to this, the song download share also belonged to Starlight Music.

Orders were orders.

Song download shares were always Lin Yuan’s default base.

This part of the rights was by default on party B, otherwise, the Qi Continent music industry wouldn’t be able to continue its development.

Seven Star had spent 3 million, their intention was clearly for Shui Yun to perform this song, which belonged to the singing rights in the contract’s description copyright.

Therefore, Lin Yuan felt that the 3 million order was a fair deal.

“Ding dong.”

Just as the song customization was finished, the System suddenly announced: “The host now has the ability to independently select a song. In future, the host has to decide for himself which song to select for all orders.”

“Oh.”

Lin Yuan felt neither sadness nor joy.

The System meant that the selection of “Everywhere Kisses” was up to par.

As for choosing songs in the future, as long as the System opens the library, Lin Yuan was fine with it because he didn’t think it would be difficult to choose songs.

Take this time for instance.

The only place that required his professional consideration was nothing more than the singer’s own range and style, and his understanding of music. Lin Yuan felt that as long as he put in effort, it would be enough.

Assuming this was an exam.

Although Lin Yuan couldn’t directly see the standard answers on the test paper, the reference book was right next to him. If he was flipping through the reference book while taking the test, he could surely score well.

Now that the song was ready.

Should it be sent directly?

Of course not.

The order had only been made a few days ago.

Lin Yuan's speed of completing orders was already fast enough. Any faster would be somewhat unrealistic. He definitely had to get a grip on this timing issue.

Another Saturday.

Lin Yuan came to the company again.

Before he even had the chance to sit down, he saw Gu Qiangyun walking in with a grin: "Would Mr. Lin like to take a look at the new orders?"

"Hmm."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Seeing this, Gu Qiangyun's smile widened.

He was only here to test the waters.

If Mr. Lin was still hung up on the Seven Star order, then he would definitely not be interested in the new orders; but if he showed interest in the new orders, this meant that Mr. Lin had given up on the Seven Star order!

It seemed like he had given up on it.

It was good that he gave up!

Stubbornly sticking to the order only held back the operation.

In no time, many order documents were laid out in front of Lin Yuan. It seemed that there were more orders in the company recently than before.

However, there were lots of orders but none that Lin Yuan liked: "Where are the 3 million orders?"

Just like the last time he looked.

The most expensive order was only 2 million.

Gu Qiangyun grinned bitterly: “Mr. Lin, are you only interested in orders of 3 million now?”

Lin Yuan replied: “No.”

Upon hearing this, Gu Qiangyun’s spirit was uplifted.

Lin Yuan added: “Orders above 3 million would be better.”

Gu Qiangyun’s spirits fell again, forcing a smile: “Mr. Lin, there are many clients in Qi Continent but orders of 3 million are quite rare. Even for top-tier production companies like Red Moon or Lone Wolf, their usual orders range from 1 million to 2 million...”

Seeing Lin Yuan remain silent, Gu Qiangyun continued:

“Orders of more than 3 million are usually only taken by companies ranked in the top ten in the industry. We took two because one time the deadline was too tight, Thunderbolt only gave us a month, and the other time it was a competitive order; as you saw, it’s not easy to win against Red Moon and Lone Wolf.”

Lin Yuan frowned.

The System’s customization price was pretty high, if the client only paid 2 million, there wasn’t much point in spending 2 million on System customization.

“How about Mr. Lin considers the 2 million ones?” Gu Qiangyun looked expectantly at Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan shook his head: “Let’s wait a bit.”

Gu Qiangyun hesitated for a moment, then nodded in agreement.

Lin Yuan had just finished two orders and indeed needed some time to rest.

This had nothing to do with how long Mr. Lin planned to stay in Qi Continent, even a top composer needed rest, they couldn't be expected to constantly churn out works without a break.

“By the way.”

Just as he was about to leave the office, Gu Qiangyun suddenly added: “Due to Mr. Lin's success with the orders, our company has entered the top 100 of Qi Continent's music production company rankings. If Mr. Lin is interested, he can check out the rankings.”

“Alright.”

“Also...”

It seemed that Gu Qiangyun had made a somewhat tough decision: “I want to formally reorganize the branch company, focusing on areas like talent and management. I wonder what Mr. Lin's thoughts are on this?”

“None.”

Lin Yuan didn't understand company management.

Gu Qiangyun said seriously: “I will take care of the company's management while Mr. Lin can focus on songwriting.”

Chapter 176: Order Handover

That very night.

Gu Qiangyun suddenly called for an all-staff meeting, and in it, he expressed an intention: “The company needs restructuring.”

Whoosh!

With Gu Qiangyun declaring the company's restructuring, everyone felt their position was under threat. It wasn't hard to guess that Gu Qiangyun was planning to make layoffs.

It takes a longer time for everything to add up.

The flaws of Starlight Music were quite evident.

Gu Qiangyun had wanted to restructure the company for a long time, but the company was already on the verge of collapse. It couldn't withstand any major upheavals, so as the general manager, he dared not be reckless, and could only suffer a death of a thousand cuts.

But things are different now.

With the arrival of Mr. Lin, the company's situation has vastly improved, even making it to the top hundred in the B-list!

Thus, Gu Qiangyun felt that this was a good opportunity to restructure the company!

Now, the company had Mr. Lin to hold the fort. If he postponed it any further, he might not have another chance to restructure the company once Mr. Lin returned to Qin Continent.

So, after the all-staff meeting, Gu Qiangyun took decisive action the next day!

He called people in for discussions relentlessly.

Almost every day, people left.

The wind of massive layoffs made everyone in the company feel threatened, especially the composition department. Seeing more and more of their colleagues being laid off, they couldn't help but panic—

The manager is really doing it!

A few laid-off employees tried to speak to Gu Dong in order to salvage the situation.

Faced with pleading from some old employees, Gu Dong felt reluctant, so he sought Gu Qiangyun's opinion.

Gu Qiangyun said impatiently, "Do you think I don't have feelings for the old employees? But in order to sustain the development of a company, we must be ruthless. For instance, 01' Zhang who came to you for help is not that bad, but he lacks self-awareness, arrogantly claiming that he only takes orders over half a million, not even bothering to look at orders of two or three hundred thousand..."

Gu Dong was silent.

What Gu Qiangyun said was the truth.

Many employees in the company have this problem.

If they can't handle big orders, they aren't willing to put down their pride to do small ones.

But if no one does the small orders, who would take responsibility for the company's performance?

Gu Qiangyun sighed, "You've heard what people are saying in the industry, right? Although our company has made it to the list, many people in the industry say that we're dragging Mr. Lin down. Even though this is true, we can't be shameless, right?"

"I understand."

Gu Dong nodded, no longer objecting.

Gu Qiangyun's restructuring continued in full swing.

It was not until half a month later that Gu Qiangyun's restructuring finally came to a halt.

At this point.

The composition department of the company had been reduced from the original total of one hundred and twenty-six people to a mere seventy.

Hence.

When Lin Yuan returned to the company, he could clearly feel that the company was a lot emptier.

He didn't say much. As usual, he continued to give music composition lessons to Xue Liang.

Xue Liang had not been affected by the layoff wave.

Mainly not because of his teacher-student relationship with Lin Yuan.

Even without this relationship, Xue Liang would not have been let go by the company, because his performance had always been quite good—

He never overreached and accepted all incoming small orders.

After the lessons.

Lin Yuan checked Xue Liang's ability level.

Xue Liang's composition ability score has astonishingly reached 514.

It was evident that Xue Liang had not been undergoing Lin Yuan's training in vain.

However, worth mentioning was...

When Xue Liang's ability score exceeded five hundred, Lin Yuan could clearly feel that Xue Liang's growth was slowing down.

After a bit of thinking.

Lin Yuan understood why.

The reason why Xue Liang improved rapidly was because his foundation was weak.

But as Xue Liang's ability strengthened, further improvement was not so easy. This rule applied in any field.

Lin Yuan didn't seem too anxious.

He just asked Xue Liang to complete his current order first.

It was a seven hundred thousand order. Lin Yuan thought that if this order was completed, it would be a great help to Xue Liang's ability improvement and might even become the opportunity for Xue Liang to officially graduate!

After Gu Qiangyun completed the company's restructuring, he didn't continue recruiting. Seventy staff members in the composition department were enough for now.

Indeed, it was true.

Whether it was the successful effect of the restructuring, making the remaining staff feel survival pressure, or that the seventy composers retained by the company were genuinely capable – when it came to late November, Starlight Music had indeed completed three orders.

Gu Qiangyun was over the moon!

Ever since Mr. Lin came to the branch, these were the first new orders completed not by Mr. Lin, but by the branch's composers—

And there were three orders in a row!

Though these three orders were worth only one million five hundred thousand combined, they were nothing compared to the quantity of Mr. Lin's previous orders. However, as the general manager, Gu Qiangyun could finally breathe a sigh of relief. After all, having laid off more than a third of the

staff all at once, he was under a lot of work pressure. If anything were to go wrong, he would be held accountable by the head office.

Now, the situation had improved significantly.

At least on the B-list, Mr. Lin was no longer fighting alone. Other composers had also contributed their power. At least they were no longer plainly dragging him down!

Get Mr. Lin to have a chat!

Gu Qiangyun had always felt guilty about dragging Mr. Lin down, hence he had not spoken to Mr. Lin for a long time.

“Manager.”

Seeing Gu Qiangyun coming to his office, Lin Yuan lifted his head and looked at him, “How are things going with the Seven Star competitive order?”

“Seven Star?”

Gu Qiangyun was taken aback for a moment before laughing, “I almost forgot about that. Has Mr. Lin completed the Seven Star competitive order?”

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

At this point, almost two months had passed since Seven Star released its competitive order. Lin Yuan felt that it wouldn’t seem too abrupt to hand it over now.

“I’ll give you my email address.”

Gu Qiangyun took out his phone to sort it out promptly.

He was just assuming that Lin Yuan wanted to earn a service fee, which is there for the taking. Just like a test paper issued by Seven Star, regardless of whether he knew how to answer the questions or not, he couldn't just hand in a blank sheet: "Mr. Lin can directly send the work to this email."

This was also where Gu Qiangyun was smart.

He felt that since Mr. Lin had implied that he had given up on the Seven Star order, he must have written a rather random and perfunctory song. As a manager, it's better not to listen to it, also to save some face for Mr. Lin.

"Okay."

Lin Yuan nodded.

He was not aware of Gu Qiangyun's current thoughts, and even if he did, he wouldn't explain much. After all, he wasn't sure if his order met the client's requirements. He simply sent the already prepared "Everywhere Kiss" to the email address Gu Qiangyun gave him.

Chapter 177: Starlight Music

Seven Star Entertainment.

As one of the most well-known entertainment companies in the Qi Continent, Seven Star is on par with Thunderbolt in terms of scale. In a private lounge on the twelfth floor of the company, Shui Yun met with her team.

"Sister Yun."

Shui Yun's agent, representing her team, began with a smile, "After our company offered a competitive fee of three million, these contractors have been quite efficient and the custom songs are basically done."

"What about Red Moon and Lone Wolf?"

Shui Yun valued these two companies more.

The agent said, “Lone Wolf completed their production last week. Red Moon was a bit slower, but they also sent the complete song yesterday. Companies like these, if they want to focus, can finish an order in two months, which proves they give importance to this order. Which would you like to listen to first?”

Shui Yun said, “Let’s go with Lone Wolf.”

The agent nodded and played Lone Wolf’s work.

This was a rather complete piece, including lyrics and instrumental arrangement. Lone Wolf even found a singer with a similar vocal range to Shui Yun to record this sample, allowing Shui Yun to feel the full effect of the song.

Let me explain a little here.

The adept contractors usually handle both composing and arranging music, while writing lyrics is a supplementary task.

The difference between composing and arranging music has different criteria for evaluation in the Celestial Dynasty and internationally.

Internationally, a so-called composer is actually someone who can take care of both composing and arranging, similar to Lin Yuan’s style.

Of course, this is the standard in international academics.

According to the traditional view of the Celestial Dynasty:

Composing is like creating a person, while arranging is like grooming this person.

The two are distinct tasks...

Blue Star lies somewhere in between these two concepts.

Most composers are willing to be involved in arrangement and even lyric writing, but if the client doesn't approve, they will have to do the arranging and lyric writing again, only adopting the melody part of the vocal performance.

However, Lone Wolf is a company that ranks high on the charts.

The work they sent over, be it the composing, arranging, or even the lyrics, were all quite good.

After listening to it, there were many satisfied expressions on the team.

Shui Yun didn't speak, but asked her agent to play Red Moon's work.

After hearing this one, Shui Yun's team was torn.

Because Red Moon's work is also good. Although they didn't prepare as comprehensively as Lone Wolf, who provided arrangement, lyrics, and even a sample performance, the vocal melody is commendable.

Let's conclude now.¹

Shui Yun spoke, "The song from Lone Wolf is very similar to my previous work. One could say they tailor-made it for me. But the problem is that I am looking for a breakthrough. Compared to my previous works, this song doesn't have

much of a breakthrough."

Everyone nodded.

Shui Yun continued, "Now for Red Moon's song. The issue with Red Moon is the opposite of Lone Wolf. Red Moon's breakthrough is too big. They boldly included a rap section. I don't object to rap, but I personally prefer melodic rap..."

"So, which one do we choose?"

The agent cautiously asked.

After some contemplation, Shui Yun said, “Aren’t there three more? Have they come over?”

“Um...”

The agent hesitated, opened her email, and raised an eyebrow, “The remaining three have also sent their works, but these three are basically just along for the ride. You should know why, Sister Yun.”

“We should at least listen to them.”

Shui Yun waved her hand, “Forget it, give me the headphones. I’ll continue listening to the remaining songs while you guys start discussing whether Lone Wolf or Red Moon should be chosen.”

The agent nodded.

Shui Yun sat in a corner by herself, turned the volume of the headphones up high, and slowly started listening to the music, while her team initiated their discussion.

“Let’s go with Lone Wolf.”

Someone spoke up, “Lone Wolf’s work is the safest. We can ask them to make minor modifications.”

“Lone Wolf is too conservative.”

Someone else shook their head, “And you even mentioned modifications. Then why don’t we choose Red Moon’s song? Red Moon’s song clearly has made some breakthroughs. Although the rap section is a bit audacious, all we need to do is change the rap part to a melodic rap.”

“You oversimplify things.”

A member of the team who understood music shook his head, “The rap section in this song is hard to modify, because the song has to integrate this form of rap to achieve the maximum effect. Changing it to melodic rap would change its flavor.”

“Anyway, I think Red Moon’s is better.”

“Lone Wolf’s song is foolproof.”

“There’s no such thing as a foolproof piece...”

The team obviously divided into two clear camps, with completely opposite opinions. After a while of arguing, someone finally looked exasperated and glanced at the agent, saying:

“Can we take both?”

The agent held her forehead, “You are dreaming. This is an order for a three- million-per-song. To take both would cost the company a total of six million. Do you think the manager would approve?”

Everyone smirked.

A new round of arguments soon began within the team, and within ten minutes, there was an escalating situation of near-argument. The agent, growing a headache from the noise, concluded, “Forget it, we won’t get anywhere arguing this way. All of you, stop arguing and let Sister Yun decide!”

“Red Moon.”

“Lone Wolf.”

The team still bickered for a while until they saw the agent’s face turn black and reluctantly stopped their argument. Their faces held a hint of unwillingness.

“Sister Yun?”

The agent looked at Shui Yun.

Shui Yun must have had the volume of the headphones turned up too high because she didn't hear the agent. She was leaning back, fully indulged in the music, and her legs were even rhythmically bouncing...

"Sister Yun?"

The agent raised her voice.

Shui Yun still remained oblivious.

Everyone looked at each other. They didn't think Shui Yun was concentrating on the music, but rather suspected that she might have been a bit moody because the argument earlier had gotten too heated?

"Sister Yun!"

The agent leaned in front of Shui Yun.

Shui Yun seemed to only snap out of the music trance after she saw the big face of the agent approaching her. She suddenly stood up, scaring everyone in the team who didn't understand her big reaction.

"I've made a decision!"

Shui Yun's tone was extremely light and cheerful.

Upon hearing her words, everyone looked at Shui Yun. The agent was also watching Shui Yun, feeling nervous and unsure if Shui Yun would ultimately choose Red Moon or Lone Wolf.

Neither Red Moon.

Nor Lone Wolf.

Shui Yun took off her left headphone. Without any hesitation, she decisively said four words:

“Starlight Music!”

At that moment, many doubted whether they had heard wrong, which made them freeze in place. The agent even subconsciously thought about which company Starlight Music was?

Chapter 178: Rise

Lone Wolf Corporation.

The atmosphere these past few days has been tense, considering the time frame for contract delivery, a conclusion should be reached soon from Seven Star’s end.

“I wonder how Red Moon’s work is this time around, will we end up losing?” The deputy director worried.

The director’s face was somewhat cold: “Lone Wolf absolutely cannot lose this competitive contract, as our competitor this time is Red Moon. Regardless of how close our rankings are, our company rivalry alone does not justify losing!” “Of course.”

The deputy director sighed: “I’d rather crash, lose one of those slacking, smaller firms, than lose to Red Moon. Not to mention how many eyes in the industry are waiting for the results of this competitive contract. Losing would be a full-blown embarrassment.”

“How could you say such a thing?”

The speechless director helplessly continued: “But what you’ve said is also true, losing to Red Moon would indeed be worse than losing to any of the other three. At least we won’t fall flat on our faces in front of Red Moon. Everyone knows that our two companies are arch-nemeses.”

Meanwhile.

Red Moon Corporation.

The situation here is almost identical to that of Lone Wolf.

The company is waiting for Seven Star's results because both companies are mortal enemies, even if there were reconciliation talks, but where can the thorns at the bottom of the heart be easily removed?

"No problem!"

"Red Moon must win!"

"Anyway, we've done our best with this song, a group of ace composers teamed up to contribute ideas to this song. Everyone thinks it's good after listening to it, there's no reason for us to lose to Lone Wolf."

While they spoke confidently, in reality, the composers at Red Moon were mostly encouraging themselves. Although their song is indeed very good, wouldn't Lone Wolf have done their absolute best as well?

Waiting is always agonizing.

But only Lone Wolf and Red Moon are bothered, the industry is merely in the mood for a show. However, the outcome is a major event that the industry is paying attention to. Even some clients have shown some gossip-like interest: "It's been two months."

"The results should be out soon."

"Lone Wolf has a greater chance."

"Looking at the ranking, Lone Wolf is stronger."

"But Red Moon's ranking is not far off."

The result should be announced by Seven Star, considering this subject is very hot now, a lot of people are waiting for this result. Anyway, I am more hopeful for Red Moon to win, because their ranking is a little lower."

“Are you sympathizing with the underdog?”

“If we’re talking about an underdog, aren’t the other three companies running side shows weaker compared to Red Moon and Lone Wolf? Wouldn’t it be fun to expect the other three companies to cause both Red Moon and Lone Wolf to crash, that would be truly entertaining!”

The further discussion was based on playful psychology. The people who said Red Moon and Lone Wolf would crash were just subconsciously messing around.

Although Red Moon and Lone Wolf were both not too fond of this teasing behavior.

During their particularly nervous time, Seven Star’s client representative finally contacted the two companies.

The results of the competitive contract came out.

“So what is it?”

When Lone Wolf received the call from Seven Star’s representative, they swallowed unconsciously.

But the deputy director, disregarding manners, leaned closer to the phone, wanting to know the results of the competition at the earliest possible time.

“I’m sorry.”

The Seven Star representative started speaking.

The two directors of Lone Wolf exchanged a glance, simultaneously witnessing each other’s fleeting sense of loss.

The deputy director got up and shook his head.

In the end, the director put up a brave face and said it was ok, then couldn't help asking: "Was Red Moon's work this time better than ours?"

"No."

"Then how?"

"Starlight Music."

After Seven Star's representative hung up the phone, Lone Wolf's director still hadn't recovered from some subtle emotion.

It was only when the busy tone disappeared from his phone that he murmured: "It seems we've truly crashed."

The deputy director's retreating steps instantly froze.

Coincidentally.

At the moment when Lone Wolf realized they had crashed, Red Moon had also received Seven Star's response.

However, Red Moon was clearly calmer than Lone Wolf. The two directors seemed to easily accept Seven Star's results.

"You've got a banner."

The Red Moon director suddenly said.

Upon hearing this, Red Moon's deputy director immediately understood the pointed meaning, his response wasn't slower than the latter:

"You seem to have a banner behind you as well, do the two of us standing together look like two generals on a stage?"

The generals on the stage would have many banners behind them.

Approximately 20 minutes after Red Moon and Lone Wolf had received the results, the results of Seven Star's competitive contract were publicly announced.

Cooperation: "Starlight Music, Xian Yu."

However, many people's first reaction upon seeing this result wasn't shock, everyone was too busy being at a loss and dumbfounded...

What is this?

What exactly is this?

Which third-rate novelist wrote this plot?

Did they think we'd be shocked? We are not shocked at all.

We just think this plot they've written is totally unreasonable, it's simply complete nonsense!

Like a gust of wind.

Many people were blown away.

The old-fashioned reaction eventually fell on everyone's heads, and they were all shamefully shocked.

This reversal didn't even leave any room for the industry insiders to make retrospective comments

"Did they really freaking crash?"

"And two at a time?"

“Starlight Music, they’re so fierce?”

There’s no need to speculate about Red Moon and Lone Wolf’s reactions, because it’s all clear by now.

“Done by the last on the top 100 list?”

Are you telling me this was done by a company that’s at the bottom of the ranking?”

The surprise today was somewhat taken over by Starlight Music.

Actually, everyone’s information channels aren’t that closed, many people knew that Starlight Music had a strong backing, otherwise the company wouldn’t even qualify for the top 100 list.

However, nobody had measured beforehand how strong this backing truly was.

Everyone took it for granted.

Until today, Seven Star measured it for the industry.

“Do you get it?”

“Xian Yu is the culprit!”

“When Lone Wolf and Red Moon died in each other’s arms, no fish was innocent!”

“What’s this about dying in each other’s arms, it’s clearly about Lone Wolf and Red Moon truly reconciling before their deaths!”

“Xian Yu has immeasurable merits.”

One has to say about this matter.

The shock did not affect the sharp senses of the clients.

When Xian Yu flipped over the cars of Red Moon and Lone Wolf in an almost gorgeous manner, the ideas flashing in the minds of countless clients in Qi Continent were strikingly similar:

Starlight Music is on the rise.

And following this thought, everyone had a shared new idea:

Should we cooperate with Xian Yu?

The significance of the second idea clearly supersedes the first.

And the only result of this event is...

Starlight Music's phone lines were bombarded.

Chapter 179: Xian Yu Effect

“Mr. Lin...”

The following morning,

As soon as Lin Yuan arrived at the company, Gu Qiangyun rushed over to him.

However, after he started to talk, he seemed to suddenly forget what he was going to say, simply staring at Lin Yuan with a complex look.

Snatching food from the tiger's mouth!

Gu Qiangyun had thought that Mr. Lin had given up on the Seven Star's competitive order, but to his surprise, the latter managed to defeat Red Moon and Lone Wolf to win the order in front of everyone, performing a miracle akin to snatching food from a tiger's mouth!

Shocking beyond belief...

This was Gu Qiangyun's feeling at the moment, as well as the entire Starlight Music's!

Lin Yuan, however, thought that Gu Qiangyun had come to discuss the new order, and said,

"I won't take orders recently."

Even though Lin Yuan wished to accept dozens of orders at once, he had to suppress this impulse.

"Okay... okay..."

Gu Qiangyun naturally agreed readily, finally suppressing the shock in his heart, and said with a promising smile, "Mr. Lin, you've really worked hard recently. We'll also try our best. The company has received countless more orders, all thanks to you, Mr. Lin. We'll seize the opportunity!"

Lin Yuan nodded.

Not long after Gu Qiangyun left, Gu Dong also appeared in the office.

However, just like Gu Qiangyun, she opened her mouth, but all her thoughts seemed to get stuck in her throat, leaving only an ambiguous smile that was either flattering or admiring, "Mr. Lin, would you like some tea?"

"Hmm."

Lin Yuan stared at his computer, without looking up, just responded casually.

After brewing the tea, Gu Dong placed it on Lin Yuan's desk. She clearly saw what was written on Lin Yuan's computer screen: "Great Wizard, I have a friend who lost her two souls and seven spirits, leaving only one soul. She has been like a fake death for exactly Ten Years. I heard that, Great Wizard, you have a unique technique to revive souls. Please, you must save her..."

She suddenly shuddered.

After putting down the brewed tea, she quietly left Lin Yuan's office.

"Did Mr. Lin say anything?"

Gu Qiangyun popped out from somewhere. Perhaps, he had been paying attention to Gu Dong since she entered Lin Yuan's office.

"No."

Gu Dong looked somewhat awe-inspired, "But I only realized today how hard Mr. Lin has been working..."

"Working hard?"

Gu Qiangyun hesitated and asked, "Why do you say that?"

The expression on Gu Dong's face had become somewhat solemn, "Didn't you once mention that reading novels is the way Mr. Lin gets inspired? At first, I didn't believe it, but now I have no doubt in my mind!"

Gu Qiangyun exclaimed in surprise, "You mean?"

Gu Dong nodded forcefully, "Mr. Lin is still looking for inspiration!"

Gu Qiangyun said subconsciously, "So he is reading novels during work hours again..."

“It’s not reading novels, it’s looking for inspiration! Saying it like that could lead to misunderstandings.”

Gu Dong immediately corrected Gu Qiangyun, “Reading novels is Mr. Lin’s way of finding inspiration. He had just completed a big order and there’s no sign of slackness in him. Compared to him, all of us should be ashamed!”

“You’re right.”

Gu Qiangyun acknowledged the inappropriateness in his words, “Mr. Lin really works hard. Success doesn’t happen by chance for anyone!”

Others read novels to relax.

But Mr. Lin reads novels to pursue creative inspiration.

The two looked at Lin Yuan’s office, their faces filled with respect.

The impact of the Seven Star order is huge.

With Red Moon and Lone Wolf as the background of this order, Starlight Music’s ranking has soared to 73rd after a series of breakthroughs!

Especially those companies ranked in the 80s, they were in bitter plight.

Since Starlight Music entered the top 100, the bottom of the ranking had ignited a bonfire.

Those companies that are ranked slightly higher thought that this fire would only burn the companies ranked in the 90s.

Who would have imagined that an unexpected gust of wind had already spread the fire to those ranked in the 70s and above.

And with that,

Those companies ranked in the 80s have inevitably become cannon fodder.

As for those companies ranked in the 90s, while feeling regret, they also inexplicably felt some schadenfreude—

You thought you were safe, didn't you?

Look up and see, who does Xian Yu spare!

It was as if it were a viral infection.

When those companies ranked in the 80s are also devastated, the gloating eyes have already turned to all companies ranked after 50!

The fear has kicked in.

With Starlight Music's continuous breakthroughs, more and more companies could not maintain a position of neutrality on the ranking.

No wonder!

Even Red Moon and Lone Wolf had fallen!

Why should these companies ranked in their 50s feel safe?

Although logically, it won't be easy for Starlight Music to keep climbing, who would dare to judge the company based on previous experiences now?

The existence of Xian Yu is unscientific in itself!

And so,

Those companies that felt they were not safe enough all called for emergency meetings at the same time, with a simple and almost pure goal:

Climb up!

Find a safe place!

Some even dubbed this phenomenon as the “Xian Yu Effect.”

It’s certainly a pun on the “Catfish effect”—

The people of a certain continent on Blue Star love to eat sardines, especially live ones.

The price of live fish in the market is much higher than that of dead fish, so the fishermen always try every possible way to bring back live sardines.

Despite their efforts, most of the sardines still die of suffocation halfway.

Later, someone put a catfish, which mainly feeds on fish, in the tank with the sardines.

The sardines, seeing the catfish, avoided it everywhere. In this way, the lack of oxygen was solved, and most of them were lively and bouncing when they returned to the harbor.

Look at that.

Aren’t these companies, trying not to be squeezed off the ranking by Starlight Music, very much like the life-loving little sardines?

This is the Xian Yu Effect!

And with the moves of these companies, the ones ranked higher suddenly felt a crisis too—

There’s a big gap between ranks in the 70s and in the 50s.

But the gap between the 30-40s and the 50s is very small.

Now, with those companies ranked in the 50s and 60s desperately pushing forward like they're on stimulants, how could the companies ranked slightly higher not be concerned and skeptical?

One thing leads to another.

The rankings are in chaos!

This has probably been the first time ever since the establishment of the B-side ranking list on Qi Continent that the tail of the rank has had such a far-reaching impact.

Of course,

Everyone is still being overly worried.

Lin Yuan has no plans to continue taking orders recently.

And if Lin Yuan does not take any action, Starlight Music will remain a company without much threat.

However,

With the influx of a large number of orders, Starlight Music has indeed ushered in an unprecedented opportunity for development.

To this end,

The stagnant water of Starlight Music seems to have been stirred up a bit.

The chess move of establishing a branch office by the headquarters of Starlight Music at Qin Continent seems to be somewhat revitalized..

Chapter 180: The Torrent of the Era

Qin Continent, Starlight head office.

At the senior executive meeting in December, everyone summarized the company's achievements and shortcomings from the past year.

At the end of the large meeting table, the boss simply rested his chin on his right hand, silently listening to the reports from heads of each division. "Chairman..."

When the round of reports concluded, someone gently reminded the boss whose attention seemed to wander.

"Hmm."

The chairman, Li Songhua, who kept himself in good shape, unlike other senior executives who had beer bellies, casually "Hmm" in response, making him an impressive figure.

As all eyes turned toward him, he asked unhurriedly, "Why has no one mentioned the branch offices?"

As Li Songhua turned his gaze around, everyone lowered their heads, silently contemplating.

Just as everyone thought the chair would explode in wrath as in the previous years, Li Songhua suddenly chuckled, "It seems like your information sources are inadequate, no wonder the higher-ups are not pleased..."

"Qi Continent's branch closed down?"

Li Songhua's last remark didn't draw much attention; merely a question from a department head, as the high-level executives had tacitly accepted the possibility of a branch office's closures.

"Let's take a look then," Li Songhua responded softly.

The male secretary beside him, keenly understanding his intent, brought up a document and projected it onto the large screen in the conference room. Everyone turned to look.

They were all taken aback.

It was an annual performance report. The first few months indeed showed that the branch office was teetering on the edge of collapse.

However, starting from September to the current December, the line graph had sharply risen, creating an eye-catching mountain-like peak!

“Is this?”

Old Zhou, the head of the composition department who sat among them, widened his eyes in disbelief, “Xian Yu?”

He turned to look at Li Songhua.

While the other executives scrambled to find the word “Xian Yu” in the graph, 01’ Zhou’s words echoed in their ears. Many of them glanced at the outlying peak on the chart, as if they could see a silhouette hiding behind it.

Like Zhou, they turned to look at Li Songhua.

Li Songhua nodded lightly, affirming Zhou’s conjecture and clearing up the doubts in everyone’s minds.

The meeting room fell silent for a few seconds.

Li Songhua broke the silence, turning his gaze back to 01’ Zhou, “Modify Xian Yu’s contract.”

“Understood.”

or Zhou responded with a smile.

Li Songhua didn't continue on this topic. Instead, he changed the subject,

“You've all seen the recent official news, haven't you?”

Everyone looked puzzled.

The topic had suddenly jumped.

Someone quickly responded, “You mean the proposal from Zhong Continent?”

Zhong Continent is the political center of Blue Star.

And the most recent popular news was the proposal initiated by Zhong Continent for the integration of all the continents.

However, lively as it was.

No one thought the proposal would really pass since it was an age-old topic brought up annually.

Everyone talked freely, each seemingly well-informed.

“This proposal won't work.”

“Blue Star may be unified, but each continent is self-governing, practically different countries.”

“How could countries merge easily?”

Continents have all set up an information firewall to protect their own cultures from being impacted.”

“We even need to import films from Qi Continent, and the tariffs between continents are extremely high.”

“Our music finds it difficult to be issued there, too many restrictions on copyright transactions, Qi Continent does this because they fear our music would crush the music market in other continents. Otherwise, we wouldn’t have had to set up branches there.”

II II

After everyone had their say, they finally stopped talking.

Li Songhua’s fingers were lightly tapping on the table, signaling that he had something to say.

“The proposal has initially been approved.”

Li Songhua sighed.

He hadn’t anticipated that an almost impossible proposal that’s tossed around yearly would have actually passed the preliminary reviews this year.

Perhaps the folks at Zhong Continent feel.

The autonomous nature of each continent and the resulting lack of unity have started affecting the cultural and technological development of Blue Star, right?

Li Songhua finished.

The meeting room went quiet suddenly.

If this statement had come from anyone else, they might not have believed it, but if Li Songhua said it, they had no choice but to believe.

Given Li Songhua’s unique background, no one dare to discuss it openly, but it was clear to everyone – Li Songhua must have received reliable information.

“They’re really merging?”

“Without any barriers?”

“Allows circulation?”

“Governed by Zhong Continent?”

After a moment of silence, the meeting room erupted!

No one knows what will happen after the continents merge. However, everyone understands that no one can remain unaffected in this era-changing tide!

“This is just a preliminary approval.”

Li Songhua tried to subdue the chaotic thoughts in his heart, “This policy will choose two continents as the test subjects for the proposal, and our Qin Continent along with Qi Continent, where our branch office is located, are specifically selected as the pilot areas.”

It was difficult for everyone to digest this news.

Li Songhua paused for a while, allowing everyone to process before he continued, “This is just a start. As Qin and Qi merge, the other continents will gradually break down their restrictions and barriers, forming a truly unified Blue Star. Of course, Blue Star is already a unified country. What we mean by ‘merging’ is, in fact, a cultural merger.”

“So...”

“Does this mean...”

“Blue Star will enter an unprecedented...”

“Entertainment era?”

Everybody's eyes were focused on Li Songhua. At this moment, Li Songhua's decision would determine the future of the company!

"You could say that."

Li Songhua took a deep breath, "Our music became successful because we are a company in the Qin Continent. But when our market merges with that of Qi Continent, there will be more options in all industries. At that time, not only will there be the Land of Music, nor the Home of Films, but all industries will develop and closely intertwine..."

Someone quietly asked, "So what are you planning to do?"

Li Songhua answered in a grave voice, "In face of this era-changing tide, many industries in both Qin and Qi Continent will have to transform. We need to take the initiative to expand our reach. We need to focus on developing the film industry. Of course, we can't abandon the music market that forms the foundation of Starlight."

Everyone was in a daze.

The day changed so suddenly.