

All R. Artist 191

Chapter 191: Accompanying the Crown Prince in Studying

or Zhou left with a woebegone face.

Not a few people at the music composing department on the ninth floor noticed that there was something wrong with Ol* Zhou's demeanor as he left.

What was going on?

He had merely had a chat with Mr. Lin, so why did it feel like the big boss Zhou was about to break into tears?

Of course, no one understood the reasons behind it.

Instead of returning to his office, 01' Zhou went directly to the top floor and knocked on the Chairman's door.

"Come in."

A commanding voice came from inside.

After stepping inside, 01' Zhou took a deep breath and said, "There's a problem."

"What happened?"

Li Songhua furrowed his brows: "Is there a problem in the film department?"

01' Zhou shook his head: "Xian Yu wants to make a movie..."

Li Songhua arched an eyebrow: “You didn’t refuse?”

“I couldn’t refuse. When Thunderbolt Entertainment called Xian Yu, I was sitting right across from him. Even though the odds are that Xian Yu probably won’t switch companies, I really didn’t dare to gamble!” 01’ Zhou felt his blood pressure rising.

Of course, part of it was an act.

If he didn’t act agitated, how would his boss understand his predicament?

Li Songhua kept silent for three seconds and then said: “Let him have his fun.’ With these words from Li Songhua, 01’ Zhou felt a little better: “Shall I keep the budget a little tight? I didn’t quite understand the content of the script, but I think the investment should be minimal. The film department can...”

“I’ll take care of it.”

Li Songhua, feeling somewhat exasperated, said: “Consider it as them tutoring the Crown Prince. Let Xian Yu use the idle staff. If he wants to make a fuss, let him do it. Our work focus can’t be disrupted. ‘Thunderstorm’ is our company’s first movie. If this movie is successful, let him tinker around the edges as he pleases.”

You’ve got a way of seeing the big picture.”

01’ Zhou gave a thumbs up.

Since the company’s top leader had given a nod, it was not 01’ Zhou’s responsibility to bear the consequences of this matter.

He only needed to try his best to minimize Lin Yuan’s expenses.

Moreover, Lin Yuan shouldn’t be able to create too much of a havoc in reality. Because the company has planned a movie named ‘Thunderstorm’, which is about to enter the shooting stage.

The investment cost of this movie is in the hundreds of millions, which may even increase later.

Almost half of the film department at Starlight is revolving around this movie.

The remaining resources, both money and manpower, are quite limited.

At most they could barely put together a small crew to let Lin Yuan play around with.

Let him enjoy himself.

“I got to leave now. This kid is spoiled these days...” 01’ Zhou mumbled as he left.

Li Songhua glanced at his retreating figure: “Stop acting, I am not going to give you a bonus.”

01’ Zhou paused in his tracks, coughed once, and quickly took his leave.

From a distance, Li Songhua reminded: “Keep the costs within ten million.”

“Got it.”

OF Zhou quickly agreed.

in simple terms, the company intended to spend several million, or even ten million, to make Xian Yu happy. If little Maestro was happy, he would naturally not go to other companies.

The market was quite turbulent recently.

Sand Sea was an example of what could go wrong.

Someone like Maestro could up and leave just like that.

What if Xian Yu got upset and went to other companies?

That loss wouldn't just be a matter of several hundred or thousand grand. The company was very clear about this part.

So, 01' Zhou let Xian Yu have his fun.

After all, Li Songhua was prepared for any investment to be a sunk cost.

just because 01' Zhou was clear about it, doesn't mean everyone else was.

As soon as the directors in the film department heard that a certain representative from the music composition department wanted to make a film, the majority of them objected vehemently!

“Are you kidding me?”

“People from the composition department want to make a movie?

“Isn't this leap a little too big for someone switching to another field?”

“Our company's film department has just been established and cannot stand such a toss.”

“The entire film department is revolving around the ‘Thunderstorm’ project right now. How are we going to manage another project in addition to that?”

01' Zhou said solemnly: “The Chairman has agreed.”

These words shut everyone up instantly.

Everyone wisely closed their mouths.

This is why 01' Zhou first went to talk to the chairman. As long as the chairman approves, there won't be any obstacles.

A middle-level executive lamented, “We would shoot, the problem is, everyone now wants to join Director Du and Author Zhang’s team....

Director Du is Du An, and Author Zhang is Zhang Yu.

The former is a top-tier director in Qi Continent, and the latter is a top-tier screenplay writer.

Both of them are heavyweights in the film and television industry, poached with great difficulty by Starlight. “Thunderstorm” is the collaborative work of these two core team members.

On the film side, anyone with a bit of ability wants to join their team.

Over this issue, the newly formed film department has been almost at each other’s throats recently.

At this point, establishing another team for Lin Yuan might not be welcomed by many.

“No problem.”

01’ Zhou said, “Let the two big shots pick first, and cram the leftover people into Lin Yuan’s team. We’ve brought so many people over, at least their basic professional skills are there.”

Someone said, “I’m afraid they wouldn’t want to...”

01’ Zhou glared, “Whoever dares to refuse, I will have a talk with them!

No one spoke again.

After a while, someone finally said, “What about the investment...”

or Zhou waved his hand, “Let me make a call.”

He went to another room and called Lin Yuan: “We can shoot your script, but the investment might not be very high.”

“How much could it be?”

“Probably several million.”

“What about nine million?”

“This...”

Lin Yuan said, “Isn’t it several million?”

Old Zhou:”...”

Two million can also be considered several million.

Nine million can also be considered several million.

You are directly asking for the maximum limit in one breath?

He tried hard to remain calm, after all, he had already asked the chairman: “Okay, I will try, nine million, but there won’t be more money later. The company will not give you additional investment!

“Oh.”

Lin Yuan was satisfied with nine million.

Although he wasn’t very familiar with the market, he could roughly estimate the cost of “Flirting Scholar.”

“Then that’s it.”

“Wait, there’s one more thing.”

01' Zhou's heart skipped a beat: "What?"

Lin Yuan replied: "Don't change my script."

01' Zhou forced a smile: "We won't change it. Who dares to want to change such a world-shaking masterpiece, they have to pass me first!"

"Thank you."

"You're welcome."

After 01' Zhou hung up the phone, he wiped the sweat from his forehead like he'd just fought a battle, and then he adjusted his mood before returning to the conference room: "We've agreed on an investment of nine million for this project."

The group sighed in relief.

Everyone understood the reality.

To put it bluntly, this project is clearly just for the representative of the music department to toy with, which shows that this representative has quite a high status in the company.

However, nine million is not much...

Compared to "Thunderstorm," which could potentially cost hundreds of millions, nine million is but a drop in the bucket, nearly negligible.

"Just let him play with it."

The deputy director of the film department said helplessly: "When will the script be delivered? Although it's fooling around, we should also do our part."

"The script can not be changed."

01' Zhou said, "It's set."

Everyone looked at 01' Zhou together, with complicated expressions. Finally, a mid-level executive who was quite familiar with 01' Zhou quietly asked: "Is this representative from the music department the son of the chairman?"

Most of these people don't understand music, so naturally they don't understand the significance of Xian Yu to Starlight.

01' Zhou understood everyone's thoughts.

He waved his hand again and said, "Just treat him as the prince of Starlight, serve him well. It's the nature of children to love to play, I wouldn't want to catch anyone speaking nonsense behind his back."

Everyone smirked.

Even if they wanted to talk, they wouldn't dare. At most, they'd make a few snide comments privately.

The chairman even let this guy fool around, which shows his position in the company. He is definitely not someone ordinary people can afford to mess with

Seems like we're just accompanying the prince in reading.

Chapter 192: Tool Man Director

All is ready except for the final touch!

Lin Yuan met the producer arranged by 01' Zhou the very next day.

Originally, 01' Zhou wanted to also arrange the director for Lin Yuan, but Lin Yuan decisively declined.

He wanted to personally control the selection of the director and actors.

After considering it, 01' Zhou agreed.

It is not that Lin Yuan, the screenwriter, holds a high position.

It's just that everyone treated the matter of Mr. Lin making a movie as a game of house with Maestro Junior.

Since it's a game, why take it seriously?

However, it's not entirely unserious.

At least the producer that 01' Zhou arranged for Lin Yuan is quite serious—

The producer is Shen Qing.

Starlight already has a film and television department. Shen Qing is a middlelevel executive in Starlight's original film department.

It's just that recently, Starlight hired a bunch of film and television talents, including some relatively strong producers.

As a result, Shen Qing's role in the film and television department was suddenly overshadowed by these outside hires.

Unfortunately, there was nothing Shen Qing could do about it.

After all, these outside hires are indeed more experienced and capable.

In comparison, Shen Qing is insignificant.

After the company planned for “Thunderstorm”, the producing team was mostly run by parachuted-in talent. Shen Qing tried to get a foot in the door for a long time but could not find a spot.

Just as Lin Yuan was planning to make a movie, 01' Zhou simply shifted Shen Qing, the outcast from “Thunderstorm,” over to him.

Although everyone defaults to Lin Yuan playing house, this is the first opportunity for Shen Qing to serve as the chief producer for a film. He saw it as a rare learning opportunity, so there was no problem with his attitude—

After all, he would not have been able to squeeze into the “Thunderstorm” team anyway.

So why not take advantage of the opportunity to experience the production process?

Therefore, the night Shen Qing received Lin Yuan’s script, he carefully put together a producer’s list and gave it to Lin Yuan the next day to review.

To his surprise, when Shen Qing first met Lin Yuan, he found him reading a book in his office.

The book’s title was “The Fundamentals of Film and Television Production.

At that moment, Shen Qing suddenly felt an overwhelming pressure, finding the extraordinary Mr. Lin.

“Hello, my name is Lin Yuan.”

Lin Yuan took the initiative to speak. He has already begun to learn some basic knowledge of film and television production.

The book mentions the importance of the producer to the filmmaking team.

The producer is responsible for organizing and carrying out the film’s production.

The selection of filming locations, personnel arrangements, contacts, and more, are all managed by the production team led by Shen Qing...

Shen Qing is basically the housekeeper who takes care of the daily affairs of Lin Yuan's crew!

"My name is Shen Qing. Hello, Mr. Lin."

Shen Qing didn't dismiss Lin Yuan, not only because he had been tipped off by Ol' Zhou, but also because Shen Qing had read Lin Yuan's script.

He does not believe Lin Yuan is somebody who knows nothing about film production!

Someone ignorant about films could not write such a script.

This was Shen Qing's gut feeling after reading the script for "Flirting Scholar".

Regardless of the script's content, in terms of standards and completeness, there is no problem with Lin Yuan's script.

If forced to say something critical, it would probably be that Lin Yuan's script is overly detailed, detailed to the point where even the director's storyboard is ready.

And in terms of Lin Yuan's storyboard, not only is its professionalism unquestionable, even the artwork stuns Shen Qing.

He finds it hard to imagine that a composer could draw such beautiful storyboards!

This is also why Shen Qing thinks Lin Yuan is extraordinary.

They say Mr. Lin understands film creation, then why is he reading a basic textbook?

But if you say Mr. Lin is clueless, then how did he come up with the professional script for "Flirting Scholar"?

Not to mention that Mr. Lin as a screenwriter is also skilled in drawing, clearly a basic skill of many directors.

Indeed, Lin Yuan was also surprised at the script's completeness sent by the System, ranging from content to storyboards and even some minor details.

Lin Yuan simply wrote out and drew everything about the script and storyboard that was engraved in his mind by the System.

Writing is not too hard; Lin Yuan's typing speed is so fast, and as long as he has hands, he can write.

Drawing is also not difficult, for Lin Yuan is of professional-level as an artist.

If he had to compete in drawing, he would crush the drawing skills of more than ninety percent of directors.

After he and Shen Qing exchanged greetings, they began to chat.

However, the first request raised by Shen Qing was rejected by Lin Yuan, because Shen Qing's suggestion was to adjust the storyline a bit.

"The current plot is coherent overall, yet some parts seem too..."

"Absurd?"

"Yes, that's the idea..."

The so-called absurdity, is a term in Qi language, meaning a person's actions and words are hard to comprehend, lacking a focus, and their language and behavior do not have a definite purpose. They are crude, random, and vent their dissatisfaction, yet always have a forceful logic to explain away their actions.

"That is the style of this film."

Lin Yuan was quite patient in explaining to the housekeeper, whom he respected: “The entire movie is based on this perspective of absurdity. The older audience might not accept this style, but younger people will definitely understand it better...”

Thirty-eight-year-old Shen Qing was silent for a few seconds.

He quickly gave up on persuading Lin Yuan to change the script: “What about the choice of director?”

“Do you have a list?”

“We have a rough list, but none of them are well-known directors. The relatively mature directors have all gone to learn from the “Thunderstorm” crew.”

“Give it to me for now.”

Who the director is may be important for other crews, but for Lin Yuan, as long as the director shoots according to the established direction set out in his script, that would be fine.

This is Lin Yuan’s only standard for selecting people for the “Flirting Scholar” crew, and all it requires is strong implementation capabilities.

“Alright.”

In this crew, Mr. Lin, the screenwriter, had the final say, and Shen Qing saw no point in clashing with him: “Then the scenes will be arranged as we have planned?”

“Yes, and also the list of potential actors...”

“I only have the list of actors internal to the company, and I will send it to you in its entirety. If you want to find actors outside of the company, of course, you can try inviting them, but given our limited budget, we certainly cannot afford the high-profile ones.” Shen Qing gave Lin Yuan a heads up.

“Oh.”

Lin Yuan never wanted any big-name actors anyway.

Big-name actors and big-name directors, just like big-name singers, are burdens with low-cost performance value.

“Then that’s all for now.”

Shen Qing got up with a bit of a complex mood: “I’ll send you the list of remaining directors and actors in our company’s film department.”

“Alright.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

After Shen Qing left, Lin Yuan turned on his computer, logged into his email, and first decided to nail down the director. He had to find someone with adequate execution skills—

A tool person.

Chapter 193: Yi Chenggong

Shen Qing’s list included three potential directors, along with links to their works.

However, as Shen Qing himself said, none of these directors had been very successful.

The first director came from an advertising background and usually made music videos for company singers;

The second director had once filmed a TV drama, but the ratings were mediocre;

The third director was the only one who did not graduate from a film school. He became a director halfway, but he had experience in micro-film shooting.

Lin Yuan took a quick look at the works of these three people.

In the end, he circled the name of the third director:

Yi Chenggong.

The decision to choose this director was not because of the auspiciousness of

his name.

The main reason was that the micro-movie he shot was rather funny. It was less of a micro-movie than a collection of jokes, with a patchwork plot pieced together by various skits.

At least it had elements of comedy.

Although his micro-movies were compilations of jokes, making the story seem disjointed and lacking coherence, at least, the humorous elements of these skits were meticulously portrayed by him. It showed that his executive ability wasn't a major issue.

"If it doesn't work out, we'll replace him."

With this principle in mind, Lin Yuan started to select actors.

Compared to the choices for director, there were quite many actors for Lin Yuan to choose from.

However, there were indeed no major stars who could be considered for the role. Either they were newcomers who hadn't been in the film industry for long, or they had been extras in the crew for many years and yet were still unknownstart with the appearance requirements.

This criterion alone had Lin Yuan sifting through a lot of people since each character in "Flirting Scholar" had their own unique characteristics.

Like Ruhua.

Like Sister Pomegranate.

Those who fit the image, Lin Yuan circled first.

After being busy for a while, there was a knock at the door.

“Come in.”

“Mr. Lin.”

The knocker entered the room.

Lin Yuan looked up, surprised to see it was Gu Dong: “Haven’t you returned to

Qi Province?”

“I want to stay at headquarters.”

Gu Dong sounded a bit nervous: “The headquarter plans to assign me to be Mr. Lin’s assistant, but they said it requires your personal approval.”

“No problem.”

Lin Yuan’s impression of Gu Dong was quite okay.

Gu Dong sounded pleasantly surprised: “I will work hard!”

Working at the branch office was certainly not as prestigious as the headquarters, and being Mr. Lin’s assistant in the headquarters was much better than her experience in the branch office!

So, Gu Dong really wanted to secure this job opportunity.

But she wasn't sure if Lin Yuan was satisfied with her.

Now that she received Lin Yuan's approval, she felt relieved.

Lin Yuan handed her his list: "You contact the butler and ask him to arrange a time for auditions."

"Are you really going to shoot a movie?"

Gu Dong was somewhat surprised. She had heard some rumors before she arrived here, that Mr. Lin wanted to make a movie just for fun- –

The word "fun" was intriguing, representing many people's opinions on this matter.

"Yes."

"Okay, I'll go and contact him now. But who is the butler?"

"Shen Qing, he is the film producer of 'Flirting Scholar'."

Gu Dong nodded, without asking further.

She wouldn't stop Lin Yuan, because her experience of working with him at the branch office made it clear to her that it was useless to discourage him from doing what he wanted to do.

She just needed to do her job as an assistant.

Now, Gu Dong had fully placed herself in the position of Mr. Lin's assistant, and as an assistant, she just needed to follow Mr. Lin's instructions.

She shouldn't even have asked that question just now...

Gu Dong reviewed her speech error just now and decided not to repeat it in the future.

The news of Lin Yuan making a movie indeed spread around the company, but no one commented on Lin Yuan's decision to make a movie per se.

People were just amazed at the company's regard for Lin Yuan, insisting on making a movie according to Lin Yuan's whimsical interests without any

resistance.

This only made the company's people realize that Lin's position in the company was even higher than many people could imagine.

But that was it.

The company is now in a critical period of transformation. Everyone is more concerned about whether the film "Thunderstorm" can be a hit, which would allow the company's transformation to successfully make a good start.

Compared to this, people lost their interest in Lin Yuan's movie-making project after some brief gossip.

Lin Yuan, of course, didn't care about other people's opinions.

He met his preliminary choice of director the day before the audition.

Yi Chenggong.

Yi Chenggong was truly a small-time director.

For such a small-time director, the chance to direct is the most precious thing, and he certainly wouldn't make trouble by nitpicking the script!

After receiving the script for "Flirting Scholar", he read through the content in detail the very same night and clearly understood his position –

A tool!

How this film should be shot and how the scenes should be handled were all set in stone in the script by Mr. Lin!

All he had to do was to execute it, and help manage the crew.

But unlike the film producer Shen Qing, Yi Chenggong fell in love with the script of “Flirting Scholar” at first glance!

So, the first thing he said when he met Lin Yuan was:

“The script of Mr. Lin is ingenious!”

Lin Yuan immediately felt a sense of camaraderie.

The director was the second person, after 01' Zhou, to affirm the quality of the “Flirting Scholar” script.

What's more, unlike outsiders like 01' Zhou, Yi Chenggong was the director of this film!

At this moment, Lin Yuan realized that this director might not need to be replaced.

Yi Chenggong was a bit chubby and just under one meter seventy. Wearing glasses for short-sightedness, he was a talkative fellow:

“This script from Mr. Lin has some similarities with Qi Continent... Its name should be Qi Province now. In their early days, they had a movie called ‘I am a Master’ that adopted this kind of exaggerated style. Unfortunately, I think some parts were slightly restrained. The actors didn't seem to let loose and some of the jokes weren't daring enough. As a result, the box office of that movie wasn't high, and after that, few people attempted this type of film again

Lin Yuan nodded constantly.

Blue Star indeed had absurd films, but those were only the embryonic form of absurdity. In contrast, “Flirting Scholar” was an all-out piece of absurdity.

“When will the auditions for the actors start?”

“Tomorrow.”

“Then we must pick our actors carefully. Supporting roles are okay, mainly we need to put some effort into their appearance, but the male lead will be difficult to select, with all the humor focused on his character...”

Lin Yuan found that Yi Chenggong was very knowledgeable more and more. Because Yi Chenggong’s line of thought was completely in line with Lin Yuan’s.

This made Lin Yuan somewhat hopeful: “Do you have a suitable candidate for the male lead?”

Yi Chenggong pondered for a moment and said: “Actually, there’s someone I know but this person is just a bit-part actor and can’t carry the box office...”

“That’s not important.”

How many major actors started as bit-part actors? If one doesn’t give them a chance, how would they know they are going to play bit-parts for their entire life?

“You don’t care about the fame of the lead actor?”

Yi Chenggong thought Lin Yuan would at least choose a familiar actor for the leading role.

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan answered affirmatively.

Yi Chenggong laughed: “Then the person I recommend should not disappoint

Mr. Lin...”

Chapter 194: Casting Completed

On the day of the audition, Lin Yuan met the male lead actor recommended by Yi Chenggong.

“Hello, Mr. Lin. My name is He Sheng...”

He is a young actor whose looks can be described in what way?

Standing with Lin Yuan, He Sheng’s appearance was rather average, almost indistinguishable from the crowd.

When on the side of Shen Qing, the housekeeper, He Sheng could likely be considered quite attractive to the average person.

And if you were to compare him to Yi Chenggong, He Sheng could definitely be considered a handsome man.

However, at this point, He Sheng was standing close to Lin Yuan, so he fell into the category of a regular person.

Especially in front of Lin Yuan, his instinctive nervousness made him seem even more ordinary...

“Hello.”

Lin Yuan presented the expected social smile, nodding at the leaders of various departments of the film crew assembled in the recent days by Yi Chenggong and Shen Qing:

“Let’s begin the audition.”

Shen Qing nodded, and everyone commenced with the auditions.

The first person to audition was He Sheng. Facing the director's recommendation, Shen Qing frowned slightly.

But not just Shen Qing.

The other department heads of the film crew were also somewhat anxious.

Not because He Sheng was bad.

But because He Sheng had only been in the industry for three years with no established fame, and an unknown actor playing the lead role naturally lacks box-office appeal.

However, Lin Yuan did not speak up, so the audition process continued as normal.

A completely standard audition.

There were no fancy requirements, just asking He Sheng to perform a certain scene from the script.

During the waiting period of the audition, everyone had already reviewed parts of the script in advance, so there was no need for impromptu reading and acting.

He Sheng was initially a bit nervous, but once he got into actor mode, he seemed transformed into another person, quickly immersing himself into the character.

He acted out a scene where Tang Bohu was trying to get into Hua Mansion. Suddenly, he bent down and picked up a dead cockroach...

Shen Qing and the others were taken aback, not knowing where He Sheng found the cockroach. However, it was clear to everyone that it was a real cockroach...

“Xiao Qiang!”

“Xiao Qiang, what happened to you, Xiao Qiang? You can’t die! We’ve been relying on each other for so many years... I’ve raised you like my own flesh and blood for so many years, only to see the white-haired man send off the blackhaired man today...”

He Sheng held the cockroach, sobbing loudly, beating his chest, and stamping his feet.

The attention of Shen Qing and the others was diverted from the cockroach itself to He Sheng’s performance.

What’s this?

Is it worth it for a dead cockroach?

If you say this crying act is real, it gives people a sense of manipulation, it’s clearly an exaggerated performance style; if you say it’s fake, He Sheng’s appearance of grief seems rather genuine, at least the feelings he invested in the cockroach are beyond everyone’s imagination...

In any case, Shen Qing and the others, though they had read the script and knew the causes and consequences, could not help but feel a little confused. Yi Chenggong, on the other hand, looked to Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan’s expression did not change much.

The performance script was determined by Lin Yuan. He deliberately omitted the part about performance instructions, providing only the lines, allowing the actor to interpret the performance on his own.

As a result, He Sheng’s incarnation was very close to the part of the script that Lin Yuan had removed.

It’s this kind of real or fake crying scene.

Being too serious makes it solemn, while too fake loses its humor.

It's about getting the balance right.

Shen Qing and the others also turned their heads towards Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan asked, "Where did the cockroach come from?"

Shen Qing and others were left speechless by the question. Was this really the main point?

"I found it in the bathroom."

He Sheng answered somewhat awkwardly.

Lin Yuan nodded but did not make an immediate decision, instead inviting the next auditionee to enter.

He Sheng left, appearing uneasy.

The subsequent auditionees for the leading roles did not elicit any comment from Lin Yuan.

Until the end of the auditions, when everyone began to discuss.

Yi Chenggong directly recommended He Sheng.

Shen Qing shook his head, "He Sheng's performance, wasn't it a bit too much. He was crying over a dead cockroach, is that necessary? It just feels like an exaggerated performance..."

The others behind Shen Qing nodded in agreement.

Yi Chenggong couldn't help but interject, "You guys view it with a professional vision, of course, He Sheng's performance seems a bit exaggerated. But I believe He Sheng's performance mode is at least consistent with the logic of the script..."

Someone argues, “If not choosing from a professional acting background, are we to choose from unconventional paths?”

Yi Chenggong shook his head, “You can check his background, He Sheng is indeed from a professional acting institute.”

The assistant director next to him frowned and said, “But his acting doesn’t seem professional at all.”

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After a round of discussion, with no clear decision reached, everyone turned their eyes to Lin Yuan.

“Let’s go with He Sheng.”

Lin Yuan spoke up.

Shen Qing and the others wanted to object but ultimately didn’t say anything more.

It turns out this was a one-man show for Lin Yuan, any objections from others would be irrelevant anyway.

Just like before when someone tried to persuade Lin Yuan to modify the script, but he was not willing to do so.

Yi Chenggong, on the other hand, revealed a smile.

It turns out not only him, but the entire cast and crew of “Flirting Scholar” were tools for Mr. Lin.

All they needed to do was to complete their tasks.

After the leading roles had been determined, the rest of the casting process became relatively easier.

Shen Qing and the others rarely voiced their opinions, and it was essentially Lin Yuan and Yi Chenggong who finalised all the actors.

However, during the casting process, the others got a sense of Lin Yuan's casting criteria:

No handsome men.

No beautiful women, aim for an uglier cast, or rather, ones with characteristic looks.

Shen Qing agreed completely with this.

In a comedy, supporting roles must be cast with less attractive actors.

Only the four servants of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter, were deliberately selected by Lin Yuan to be exceptionally beautiful actresses. Especially Qiuxiang...

This was probably the most suitable choice for the leading lady in the eyes of

Shen Qing and the others because Qiuxiang's face was very beautiful!

More importantly, Qiuxiang had a reputation!

She is a second-line actress with the stage name Yu xilu.

Yu Xilu has a number of works to her name, she has a somewhat classical beauty, but because her acting skills are mediocre, she has been labeled a "vase" by many people since her debut.

If it were casting for any other film or TV series, Shen Qing and others would

not take a liking to a "vase" like Yu Xilu.

But looking at the actors Lin Yuan picked...

Even the director looked somewhat sleazy...

Shen Qing and the others felt that Yu Xilu, at least, was a reliable choice.

At least Yu Xilu was pretty, and she has some level of fame!

Don't care whether this reputation is built on her acting skill or her looks.

Anyway, if you must choose one, just like in picking the tallest amongst the short, Shen Qing and the others considered Yu Xilu to be the perfect choice.

After deciding on the leading male and female roles as well as the integral supporting roles.

Lin Yuan said, "Let's get shooting on the schedule."

Shen Qing and the others nodded, fully prepared to be Lin Yuan's tools. When assigned to tutor a prince like this, not seeking merit but avoiding demerits became their motto.

However, Yi Chenggong was full of motivation.

Although he was a tool, he was the most willing to be used out of the lot!

Chapter 195: You Think I Dare Not Spend

The preparation period for a film is usually not quick, so after the crew has assembled the personnel framework, all kinds of preparations require some time to implement.

These issues don't concern Lin Yuan, the screenwriter; they are shouldered by the producer and director—

This is probably the advantage of being a screenwriter.

Now it is February, and the annual Chinese New Year has begun.

This is the first Spring Festival after the merger of Qin and Qi provinces, and the atmosphere seems to be even more lively than in previous years. Lin Yuan's mother has finally been brought to Su City to celebrate the Chinese New Year with her children.

During the New Year's Eve dinner.

Lin Xuan kept persuading her mother to stay in Su City for retirement and not to return to work. Given the current situation of the Lin family, there was no need for her mother to continue to work hard for money.

After hesitating for a while, her mother finally agreed.

Everyone in the family is in Su City, her nostalgia for her hometown could not resist the temptation of a family reunion.

The consent of Lin Yuan's mother made the younger generation in the family happy.

On this Spring Festival!

The novel "Zhu Xian" written by Lin Yuan under the pseudonym Chu Kuang finally reached its grand conclusion.

However, even the festive atmosphere of the New Year can't diminish the resentment of the readers.

Because even by the grand conclusion of "Zhu Xian", readers weren't able to see the scene they had been looking forward to all along: "Biyao's resurrection."

"Damn Chu Kuang, that old rascal!"

"Even on New Year's Day, you upset me!"

"Where's the promised resurrection of Biyao? If I had known, I would have dropped the book when Biyao died, at least I could have kept some hope."

“At least Zhang Xiaofan reunited with Xue Qi at the end...”

“He has made me hesitate to read any more of Chu Kuang’s novels.”

“Next time Chu Kuang writes a book, make sure an editor holds this old rascal

Of course, despite their complaints, in their hearts the readers still approved of “Zhu Xian.”

Since they had already been hurt by Biyao’s death before, the fact that there was no resurrection at the end of “Zhu Xian” merely added a bit of regret to the readers’ hearts.

On the official website of the Silver Blue Books.

In the comments section of “Zhu Xian”, one reader made a very logical statement:

“If Biyao really revived, would our feelings as readers who have been tortured recover?

The answer is no.

At that time, we would probably go back to the initial vicious circle, and the factional disputes would certainly reignite:

Should Zhang Xiaofan choose Biyao or Xue Qi?”

Although there is the possibility of a harem, “Zhu Xian” has described both girls too well.

Because they are so well portrayed, the story can’t end with a harem.

Whether it is Biyao or Xue Qi, neither of them would share Zhang Xiaofan. If the two of them are truly willing to be with Zhang Xiaofan together, it would be a desecration to the characters.

At least I would feel...the character setting has collapsed.”

So this is an unsolvable proposition, this is probably why Chu Kuang did not choose to resurrect Biyao in the end.

Eventually, one girl has to bear it all.

Biyao died under Chu Kuang's pen, but she lives in the hearts of us readers, which may not necessarily be a bad ending."

This post received many upvotes.

At this point, because of the merger of Qin and Qi provinces, many readers from Qi province also read "Zhu Xian."

So they experienced the feelings of the original readers from Qin province: cursing on one hand and accepting on the other.

However, this novel also introduced the fantasy writer Chu Kuang from Qin province to the readers in Qi province. After the merger of the two places, Chu Kuang was one of the first writers remembered by the readers from Qi province!

With the completion of "Zhu Xian", Silver Blue Books were not overly pessimistic.

Although the nature of this novel is still short, at least it is longer than "King of the Net."

After experiencing something once, it is not so hard to accept again.

After all, YangFeng quickly accepted the fact that "Zhu Xian" ended sooner than expected, even though YangFeng still believed that the novel could make much more money if it continued—

Who cares if Chu Kuang doesn't care about these things?

Rather than regretting the completion of "Zhu Xian", YangFeng looked forward to Chu Kuang's next work.

After receiving the message, Lin Yuan hesitated for a moment before replying: "I'll start the new book after a while."

"Okay."

Yang Feng didn't say much.

Although he wished Chu Kuang's new book was already prepared, creation was never a very speedy process. It was customary to rest for a while after completing an old book. After all, every writer needs to recharge.

What he cared more about was: "What type of work is Chu Kuang's next piece?"

"I don't know."

Lin Yuan responded honestly.

YangFeng fell into thought upon seeing Lin Yuan's reply.

After a long while, he asked, "Not continuing to write fantasy novels?"

"I don't know."

Lin Yuan still responded with these three words, he really didn't know. It depended on which book would come out of the System's so-called custom randomization.

"Alright."

YangFeng was powerless.

With the popularity of "Zhu Xian", a wave of fantasy novels had hit the market. Many veteran writers even chose to follow Chu Kuang's trend, and indeed a good number of new fantasy pieces with excellent results emerged!

The market for the theme created by Chu Kuang this time was even more vast than the sports competition!

This made the title of “pioneer” associated with Chu Kuang even more popular.

Even some insiders joked:

The two themes created by Chu Kuang have kept countless writers afloat.

Think about the highly successful writer He Mingxuan, thanks to his basketball theme...

Didn't he start his career by following the trend set by Chu Kuang?

Before that, his novels were so unpopular that no one wanted to publish them.

There are many authors like He Mingxuan, so these authors should probably feel more grateful to Chu Kuang than anyone else.

But as much as Chu Kuang has helped, his reign was all too brief...

Though he did write two successive best-selling novels, he recklessly decided to end them prematurely. Authors who make such decisions are bittersweet for publishers.

The reason why Lin Yuan doesn't plan to start a new book right away is actually related to his filmmaking plans.

Lin Yuan was uncertain about how much time he would need to spare once the shooting of “Flirting Scholar” begins.

Even though he writes quickly, churning out 200,000 words in a month, he still needed some time to manage everything.

“You should start a new book as soon as possible.”

In the end, YangFeng reminded him: “Because the market competition is fierce, and the reader’s market in Qin Province and Qi Province has unified, many authors want to seize this opportunity to make themselves known to these readers.”

“Hmm.”

Lin Yuan replied, but he didn’t take it seriously.

Because it’s not just the book market, it’s the same in every industry.

Using the phrase “great time of revival” to describe every industry may not be very accurate, but it’s true that everyone is playing a game of capturing territory. After the market expands, everyone wants to seize this rare opportunity to be the first to benefit.

Even though Lin Yuan didn’t rush to start a new book, he was far from idle during the Spring Festival.

Recently, he found a treasure in the specialty items section of the System.

Lin Yuan originally thought the System only had film-related items. On a closer look, he found that it truly had everything!

Pretty flashy.

For instance, an item called a Memory Pill.

If you took a Memory Pill, your memory would be infinitely amplified for the next hour.

In other words, if you took this thing, you would achieve photographic memory while reading a book!

Another item it had was an Energy Potion.

If you drank it, you would feel energetic for an hour. No matter what you did, you would feel full of life and won't feel tired at all.

Then there was stuff like a Tear Potion. Once ingested, the user could shed a torrent of tears on demand.

Buddy...

What was the point of this?

By a far stretch, it could be related to film making?

Like if an actor can't cry on set, you could give them one?

The problem was, a professional actor shouldn't have any trouble crying. If they can't even cry, wouldn't that mean they were too amateur, unprofessional? Even a person without any acting skills could cry if forced to. Isn't that right?

On top of that.

Can't you use onions?

Aren't eye drops better?

Alright, onion and eye drops aren't as efficient as this, but everything in this system cost a serial killer fare. There's nothing cheap, the starting price was all 10,000!

For example, a Tear Potion...

Can you believe this thing cost a hundred thousand per bubble, not sickness?

A volume that couldn't even quench thirst!

Anyway, Lin Yuan wouldn't spend this wasteful money; let it stay unsold in the System.

The only exception was the Memory Pill, which Lin Yuan was genuinely interested in.

No wonder, he had a film to shoot and he was a novice who barely understood the basics of filmmaking. If he wanted the crew to move in the direction he wanted, he had to learn some stuff.

Which was why he had been reading film-related books recently.

But only reading books had a lousy rate of learning things, and without someone to explain, although Lin Yuan felt like he had learned a lot, whenever he reflected on it, he didn't understand any of it.

What to do then?

Take the Memory Pill!

The prices of these specialty items varied, a Memory Pill was priced at two hundred thousand, a price Lin Yuan would never have considered before.

But even the stingiest of persons might become extravagant once they have earned some money.

Lin Yuan felt like he was just that person who became extravagant after earning money.

He went ahead and bought the Memory Pill from the System!

While buying from the system, Lin Yuan kept giving himself pep talks:

"Taking a loss is a blessing."

"You need to give up something to gain something."

"Money is something material."

“Smart girls...men are willing to invest in themselves.”

“There are beauty in books, there are beauty in books.”

Lin felt like she was Madam Hua arguing with Tang Bohu in “Flirting Scholar”:

“You spend!”

“You think I dare not?”

“If you dare, spend for this!”

“Spend! I will!”

“Spend now, for me to see?”

“I will spend now, for you to see...You think I’m stupid? Spend more? Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!”

Gulp.

The System, like Tang Bohu, stuffed the Memory Pill down Lin Yuan’s throat. Lin Yuan had finally spent his money.

He had no choice.

What was bound to come would eventually come.

Worst case scenario, he’d make back the cost of one by learning from many!

Lin Yuan was serious, he started reading his first book at a crazy speed, even more serious than when he attended Yang Zhongming’s teaching class...

Chapter 196: The inexplicably funny

Using your game currency, there are only no times and countless times.

From the moment he fell into the system's customized routine, Lin Yuan has opened the mouth of gold consumption.

And when he found unprecedented joy from it, everything that followed would be as natural as a flood.

Unstoppable.

What's Lin Yuan's joy?

Perhaps it's while others are studying, I'm reading books.

The things that others took a long time to understand, Lin Yuan could understand at a glance.

He's really reading books.

A book called "Rules of Film Production" he finished reading and comprehended.

The so-called memory pill not only deepened Lin Yuan's memory ability, allowing him to remember at a glance what he had read but also improved Lin Yuan's understanding ability, making Lin Yuan truly understand the meaning carried by these words.

At this moment, Lin Yuan suddenly understood why his sister could obtain happiness from studying just like eating egg yolk.

That's the joy of harvesting.

So in the following days, Lin Yuan spent every day in the painful consumption of gold and the joy of studying.

Until the end of February, the filming of “Flirting Scholar” officially started, Lin Yuan still could not stop the momentum of studying.

The ocean of film and television knowledge is vast.

Even if Lin Yuan spent millions on gold consumption, read books for so many days, he still didn’t dare to say that he really understood everything.

He felt that the knowledge inside him was still not enough.

However, he finally temporarily stopped his pace of learning and participated in the opening ceremony of the film.

No reporters and flashlights.

The so-called opening ceremony is nothing more than the producer and director taking turns making speeches. After the two of them finished speaking, they looked at Lin Yuan.

Meaning, Mr. Lin, you also say a few words?

Lin Yuan thought for a while, picked up the microphone and said, “Everyone have fun.”

Yi Chenggong was stunned.

Shen Qing and others showed weird expressions.

But the actors laughed. The film hadn’t started yet, and the atmosphere somehow became much more relaxed.

And this light-hearted atmosphere even continued into the formal shooting...

When He Sheng acted out the first plot according to the script, which is when Tang Bohu sang that classic line:

“I love roasted chicken wings...”

Someone echoed: “But your mother says you’re going to heaven...”

Couldn’t continue to sing.

The actors couldn’t stop themselves, they all burst into laughter.

Who in the real world speaks and suddenly sings?

Moreover, singing has rhythm.

It should be noted that the script of “Flirting Scholar” is very complete. The melody of this line was also given to Lin Yuan.

Maybe many people watch movies just for fun.

But few people know that the original tune of this song is the first one in the second act of “Turandot”.

It’s very high-end, but is made fun of by Zhou Xingchi.

Not only this one.

The scene where Tang Bohu disguised himself as a house servant in Hua Mansion and sang “I have houses and fields at home” also originated from a concert in Europe and America.

Zhou Xingchi is very good at taking some music and overturning it with lines.

So this script, even if it is just customized, can take a large sum of Lin Yuan's money just based on these music scores.

Luckily this is the first script, so the system packaged it as a task and gave it as a gift.

Shen Qing held his head, but didn't say much, this is originally a strange film, as a producer, he can't interfere.

"Again."

Yi Chenggong is obviously not a fiery-tempered director.

When the actors laugh, he also laughs with them, and then reminds everyone to do it again.

This is a film set that is not serious at all.

But while laughing heartily, everyone had to admire Mr. Lin's strengths, he was indeed worthy of the name of Maestro Junior.

Not to mention the spoof lyrics.

Just by turning these lines into a song tune, you can see how deep Mr. Lin's musical accomplishments are, many seemingly casual tunes are surprisingly good...

Even Shen Qing admires this.

Just Shen Qing feels a bit regretful, how good would it be if Mr. Lin's talent was used only in movie soundtrack, why does he have to do the job of a screenwriter?

The following shooting situation is the same.

Everyone will laugh from time to time.

In terms of the number of times the actors laugh, probably “Flirting Scholar” can crush other comedy crews. Even Yu Xilu, who is responsible for the beautiful protagonist, Ruhua, also had to perform some performances that ordinary people can’t understand according to the director’s requirements. By the time the filming reached the later stages, not to mention the actors, even the people like Shen Qing couldn’t help but laugh along.

Sometimes, even laughing until their stomachs hurt.

“What the heck is this!”

The assistant director laughed while muttering.

It took Shen Qing a great deal of effort to hold back his laughter, and for a moment, he didn’t know how to describe it.

He pondered for a long time and finally summarized: “The plot is inexplicable, but some places are inexplicably funny...”

This has nothing to do with whether the movie is good or not.

To put it crudely:

Life is like being forced, since you can’t resist, just enjoy it.

Shen Qing felt he had fallen.

Anyway, the internal drama of Shen Qing and others is: once you accept this setting, it seems a bit sensual?

Just follow the laughter and it’s over.

Here’s the peculiar part of the crew.

Although everyone kept laughing, even the main creators couldn't pretend to be serious, but the progress of the film's shooting was not delayed at all, and it seemed that the atmosphere of the crew was too happy, so many performances, the actors were all very open, and they completely let go.

Lin Yuan, the screenwriter, didn't speak either.

He just watched everyone laugh, and occasionally followed a laughter that met everyone's expectations –

In fact, it's a forced smile.

Of course, Lin Yuan could understand the humor, but the memory of "Flirting Scholar" was unlocked by the system, he had seen this thing more than once in his previous life.

So it's hard to laugh again.

Novelty things are very important.

Later, Lin Yuan was too lazy to laugh, he simply asked someone to move a small table over, secretly took a memory pill, and started to read.

A lot of books.

The table was full of dozens of books, all related to film and television.

Shen Qing silently nodded his head and sighed, "Although it's a whim, and the movie is very bizarre, Mr. Lin is indeed seriously studying and getting a deep understanding of this field."

"Are you sure?"

The person next to him asked quietly.

Shen Qing was stunned, then he saw something unbelievable, he suddenly wanted to take back what he just said:

Lin Yuan was seen seriously opening the book, turning pages one after another, and each page wouldn't stay for more than thirty seconds...

The weather is not hot today, it's even a bit cold.

Is Mr. Lin using the method of fast page turning to fan some wind for himself?

Chapter 197: The Master Trainer

The filming was not entirely smooth sailing.

At the beginning, the progress was indeed gratifying. But after a period of consecutive filming, acting difficulties inevitably arose. Specifically, at some points of humor that seemed rather strange, the male lead He Sheng seemed a little unsure about his performance.

One day.

While filming a scene at Hua Mansion, no matter how hard He Sheng tried, he couldn't get into the feel of his character. Even Yi Chenggong, known for his good temper, couldn't help but pause the filming and chat privately with He Sheng for over ten minutes.

Regrettably, the one-on-one talk had limited effects...

Back into the acting, He Sheng's performance still couldn't meet Yi Chenggong's standards.

Not just Yi Chenggong's.

Even Shen Qing, the producer who most of the time was on set, noticed something was off with He Sheng.

It's hard to describe exactly.

The feeling was, He Sheng didn't seem as funny as before?

But it's normal.

There will always be difficulties in filming.

It's a good thing that Yi Chenggong insisted on maintaining high standards.

Actually, it wasn't He Sheng's problem, but rather the characterization problem of Tang Bohu's role, which is Zhou Xingchi's role!

Zhou Xingchi's characters, though seem whimsical, capricious and casually performed, are in fact all backed by strong comedic foundations.

But He Sheng is not Zhou Xingchi after all.

His nailing some parts does not mean he can nail everything.

If a replication of Zhou Xingchi could be found in Blue Star just as easily as that, then Zhou Xingchi wouldn't be Zhou Xingchi.

In the end, Yi Chenggong ran out of options and could only wave his hand and say, "Let's shoot the others' parts first."

He Sheng nodded, sitting in the corner quite frustrated.

But he is just a small actor. His real acting experience is running minor roles in the past.

And what he learned from the academy could not be applied here at all

So, when his performance fell into a stalemate like a bottleneck, he could only figure out a way to break through.

Without an assistant, he felt a bit thirsty and was going to fetch some water for himself when a bottle of mineral water was handed over.

“Mr. Lin? Thank you...”

He Sheng rose somewhat astoundingly.

Lin Yuan is a scriptwriter, but both Shen Qing and Yi Chenggong call him Mr. Lin. Consequently, everybody else calls him Mr. Lin as well.

Meanwhile, his heart couldn't help but pounded a little.

He worried that Mr. Lin was unsatisfied with his performance and came to criticize him.

Offering him water was just the calm before the storm.

“Sit.”

Lin Yuan began to speak, “Any problem?”

After just using a Memory Pill for an hour, he saw the scene of dissatisfaction with He Sheng's performance from the director. So he came to show care.

“I can't quite find my feel...”

He Sheng confessed somewhat guiltily, “I'll try harder later...”

Lin Yuan remained silent.

If effort could solve everything, why would need the System?

In terms of performance, He Sheng already has the flavor of Zhou Xingchi. Therefore, Lin Yuan was still quite satisfied with He Sheng as an actor.

Even though he was satisfied.

Lin Yuan still knew in his heart that He Sheng was ultimately not Zhou Xingchi.

This newcomer had no reference from Star Grandpa's observance. He was truly feeling his way across the river.

His present performance was excellent.

The current situation was actually a process that He Sheng needed to go through to become Zhou Xingchi of Blue Star.

He might manage to overcome this hurdle.

Or he might for life be just one step away.

However, it was all up to He Sheng. He had to overcome this, while all Lin Yuan needed to do was to get He Sheng to temporarily play Zhou Xingchi!

"Too expensive."

Lin Yuan muttered to himself.

He Sheng looked confused, "What's too expensive?"

Lin Yuan didn't answer.

"Too expensive" was referring to the "Star Fragment" from System, a crystallization of Zhou Xingchi's performance techniques with a hefty price tag of three million apiece!

And the effect only lasts an hour.

Seeing that He Sheng's previous performances were fine, Lin Yuan had not been willing to use it till now.

But now it seems he must use it.

However, this couldn't be done abruptly. Lin Yuan decided to talk with He Sheng about acting. He didn't waste his time reading all those books on acting lately. Just talking about the theories of acting, Lin Yuan was not any worse than many professional actors.

“Do you see Tang Bohu as a big character or a small one?”

“A big character...right?”

“Wrong, Tang Bohu is a small character.”

Lin Yuan began to woolgather, combining his recent reading on acting, although it wasn't his field of expertise, “Essentially speaking, Tang Bohu is a small character, a big character is just a surface identity for him, a big character wouldn't experience the helplessness that Tang Bohu did. Tang Bohu's real identity in this movie is Hua An, and his experience in Hua Mansion mirrors that of every small character. It's just that he has a Trump card regarding his identity, but this card wouldn't be unveiled until the later part of the script.”

He Sheng was taken aback.

He seemed to vaguely understand something...

Tang Bohu may appear as a big character only in disguise, but would a big character be worn out by his eight wives?

Would a big character be tormented to death by his eight wives?

Would a big character chase a little maid in such a ridiculous way?

Especially since Tang Bohu entered Hua Mansion, he became a real small character.

Comparing hardships, pretending a cockroach is his years-long companion.

At mealtime, others took away all the food, leaving him with only an empty pot...

Such encounters of small characters, Tang Bohu had them all. And his reactions to these situations, no matter how nonsensical or ridiculously funny they were, all belong to reactions a small character would have.

“So fundamentally, I was wrong?”

He Sheng was even somewhat self-doubting for a moment.

Lin Yuan didn't say much more, but instead stood up and looked at Yi Chenggong, who had just finished shooting another scene, “Continue shooting He Sheng's part.”

“Mr. Lin, I'm currently...”

Although He Sheng felt he had gained some insight, in terms of acting, he really hadn't thought of a solution yet. This wasn't something he could change with just a few words.

Yi Chenggong couldn't help but to ask, “He Sheng, can you handle it now?”

“I can't.”

He Sheng said, embarrassed and helpless.

However, Lin Yuan frowned and said, “He can.”

“I really can't...” He Sheng, who had been stuck many times, now knew just how difficult this scene was.

Lin Yuan said, “If I say you can do it, then you can.”

He had already used the Star Fragment on He Sheng.

With only an hour, he didn't want this time to be wasted on pointless things.

Thankfully, in the end, it was still Mr. Lin who had the final say on the set.

Under Lin Yuan's insistence, He Sheng had no choice but to brace himself and walk to the film set.

However, the crew was somewhat helpless.

Was Mr. Lin considering himself a big acting coach?

He Sheng had performed many times and it didn't work out, could he really get it right just after a few words with Mr. Lin?

He Sheng himself felt that he couldn't do it!

For a time, the crowd looked at He Sheng with some sympathy.

Even Shen Qing, who came with the crew today, couldn't help but sigh in her heart.

If He Sheng couldn't perform later, wouldn't Mr. Lin be furious?

Wasn't this implying that Mr. Lin didn't understand acting?

She had to help He Sheng a bit.

Although she was dissatisfied with the script, Shen Qing thought He Sheng was a very hard-working actor.

This wasn't Shen Qing's fault. It's inevitable for actors to encounter similar situations. Even the best actors have had trouble performing many takes, let alone a newbie like He Sheng.

"Let's get started then."

Yi Chenggong didn't say much. He had made up his mind that no matter how bad He Sheng's performance was, he wouldn't criticize him too harshly.

Just like that.

The filming began again.

He Sheng was originally not confident, but as soon as he entered the performance state, he suddenly felt something strange, as if he had achieved some sort of enlightenment!

He picked up his chopsticks and struck the broken bowls in front of him, almost rapping:

"I'm a simple guy living by the river in Su City, I have a house and fields, my life is unbelievably good..."

It felt great...

But it was also quite odd!

Why did it feel like my hands had a mind of their own?

Wasn't I striking with too professional a rhythm?

Even the lines were fluctuating, spoken with a rhythmic chant, a demonic melody: "Who would have thought Tang Bohu, he is unreasonable, snatching my wife and child, monopolizing my fields..."

He Sheng was really into it!

At this moment, he even forgot who he was, completely got into Tang Bohu's character. It was as if he had performed this part countless times, producing the best state of performance effortlessly!

The look in Yi Chenggong's eyes changed.

The look in Shen Qing's eyes also changed accordingly.

This emotion spread quickly throughout the crew. Anyone could feel it, in this scene, He Sheng was performing amazingly!

The actresses portraying Madam Hua and the maidservant were all inspired, and involuntarily poked their heads back and forth with the rhythm.

Someone backstage couldn't help but laugh.

This part was actually quite funny, but when He Sheng performed it before, it fell flat. It felt overly deliberate, like he was just acting for the sake of acting.

But this time, He Sheng's performance could be truly described as tailoring to his own persona!

He was Tang Bohu, he was Hua An, he was 9527!

So when this performance ended, everyone's faces turned into utter shock.

Then, dozens of eyes turned to Lin Yuan.

"Director, after listening to Mr. Lin..."

He Sheng excitedly glanced at Lin Yuan, then hurried to speak, his voice unprecedentedly enthusiastic:

"I feel like I can do it again!"

"Get ready for the next scene quickly!"

Of course, Yi Chenggong knew how precious an actor's state was. Compared with before, He Sheng had undergone a complete transformation!

So after coming back to his senses, he quickly shouted to the crew behind him.

Under this atmosphere, everyone quickly set up for the next scene.

During this process,

The crew looked at Lin Yuan with somewhat awestruck expressions:

Everyone had just witnessed the transformation of He Sheng, who didn't know how to act not long ago, to delivering arguably the most perfect performance of this movie's production so far—

All of this because of the guidance of Mr. Lin!

Guiding actors should be the director's responsibility, but at this moment, Yi Chenggong deeply understood that his abilities in guiding actors were nothing compared to Lin Yuan!

What did Mr. Lin say to He Sheng?

Shen Qing and the others were even more wide-eyed, not knowing how Lin Yuan managed to pull it off. Could Lin Yuan actually be a hidden acting guru on set?

No, wait a minute.

This wasn't guidance. This was plain and simple total transformation!

Looking closely at the He Sheng now, was he still the same He Sheng!?

Chapter 198: Storm Rising

He Sheng was indeed still He Sheng, it was just that with the effect of the Star Fragment ending, he had lost that burst of inspiration.

However, since his breakthrough during that performance, in the subsequent performance, He Sheng indeed gradually explored some experience and a direction for effort.

Lin Yuan originally thought that an hour later, He Sheng's performance state would plummet.

But the reality was that an hour later, his state had indeed declined, but it was much better than before he used the prop.

Many people in the crew murmured admiringly, saying that He Sheng's acting skills had made a certain breakthrough today.

This gave Lin Yuan food for thought.

He thought the Star Fragment was a disposable prop.

Actually, it was indeed a disposable prop, but one clear point was that once this state is experienced, it easily allows the actor to find a direction.

Perhaps this was the real function of the Star Fragment?

The filming for today is finished.

He Sheng also felt a little excited.

He took a big sip of water, intending to express his gratitude for Mr. Lin's guidance, but for some reason, he suddenly choked on the water, and couldn't help but cough loudly.

"Cough... Cough..."

He Sheng had never been choked by water so badly in his life.

He kept coughing for several minutes, feeling like his heart would be coughed out, startling those around him.

After a good deal of coughing, he finally stopped a bit, only to feel a fiery sensation in his throat.

“Are you okay?”

Everyone asked with concern.

He Sheng waved his hand with a smile, it was just choking on water.

Suppressing the discomfort in his throat, he quickly ran to Lin Yuan, his eyes slightly glinting as he said: “Thank you for your guidance, Mr. Lin, can I consult you in the future?”

“Do your best not to.”

Lin Yuan shook his head decisively.

The Star Fragment is too expensive, he can’t afford it, only using it when he absolutely has no other choice.

“Ok...”

He Sheng thought about it, how could one always expect the screenwriter to guide them?

Moreover, today’s performance state has given He Sheng great gains. He faintly felt that a door to acting was slowly opening to him.

After the crew finished work for the day.

On his way home, Lin Yuan couldn’t help but summon the System: “Why do I feel something is off?”

Yes, for He Sheng’s misfortune, Lin Yuan always felt that something was not right.

Reality proved that his feeling was correct.

The System responded: “The side effect of using the prop is that there’s a certain chance to trigger bad luck.”

“Then I...”

Lin Yuan’s expression changed.

He has used the Memory Pill so many times!

The System said: “The host, as the master, will never trigger bad luck. Only when the host uses the prop on others, the other party may be unlucky after the prop effect ends, and this bad luck will not be too big.”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Would it be too heartless to say, “Then I’ll rest easy now?”

But Lin Yuan was indeed a little relieved, and there was no need to falsely deny it.

After all He Sheng only choked on water...

Such a level of bad luck is indeed acceptable, especially in comparison to the sky-defying effects of the prop.

Thinking carefully about He Sheng’s state just now, it was like Zhou Xingchi’s spirit possessed him. For the filming of “Flirting Scholar”, is there a better prop?

in the following days, He Sheng kept a good performance state, no longer experiencing the situation where he couldn’t act effectively at all.

This relieved Lin Yuan quite a bit.

And just when the filming of “Flirting Scholar” was in full swing, competition and erosion in various industries had entered a feverish stage.

In particular, tribal and blog, the two top cyber-social platforms, are doing everything they can to win over customers!

This day.

Tribal Literature.

As the Chief Operating Officer, Han Jimei was really a little overwhelmed recently.

This was the editorial meeting of Tribal Literature.

A certain editor looked somewhat unhappy and said: “The literature department over on the blog is being built, they also set their sights on the market for short web-reading, and their actions are quite fast. They have now signed many top short-story authors in succession. The short-story section will officially go online next month...”

Short stories.

This is currently the web’s most favorite type for instant reading.

This used to be a characteristic of Tribal, since Tribal Literature was restructured, this section has been very popular with users, and even attracted many readers from Qi Province to join Tribal.

Now that the Qin and Qi markets are merging.

The folks at blog quickly copied Tribal’s operating style, and formed a literature department to attract users in the same way, attempting to use this method to compete with Tribal for the user market.

For this.

The Chief Editor worriedly said: “Tribal and blog are in a stalemate, with the user activities of both sides being almost equal. The company has high demands on every department, if something happens with our literature department, I’m afraid the senior management will have us to answer.”

“Don’t worry.”

Han Jimei said calmly: “The senior executives won’t punish you, they will only target me – the Chief Operating Officer of Tribal Literature, and while the competition started later than we did, we should also get in touch with our short-story authors and compete with them for the short-story market in March!”

Someone said: “We should think of a way to motivate the authors.”

Han Jimei nodded: “That’s why I plan to set up a million dollar prize fund at Tribal Literature in March. The first prize work will receive a reward of one million, the ranking will be determined by users voting; we held such an event when we first restructured, the effect was quite obvious.”

“Let’s set up a second and third place as well...” said one of the main editors.

Han Jimei nodded, she had already prepared her plan: “Second prize with a reward of half a million, third prize with a reward of three hundred thousand, and from the fourth to the twentieth place, they will be awarded with a prize of one hundred thousand!”

The scale of this event was much greater than at the beginning of the restructuring!

But such is the harshness of market competition.

Although operational costs are sure to increase, it is worth it if one can successfully attract users who like short web-readings!

“The quality of the articles is fundamental.”

The Chief Editor sighed: “We can hold events, and so can blog; when the company scales are about even, there is no point in comparing capital strength. In the end, it’s about which side’s article quality is higher, and this aspect is the most uncontrollable.”

“That’s why it’s a comparison of who has more talents.”

Han Jimei’s face was serious: “Get in touch with the short-story authors right away, this concerns the traffic of Tribal in March, and invite the biggest names of short-story authors that you can!”

“Understood!”

Editors all responded in unison.

One can imagine that this time’s lineup of short-story authors would be a rank above last year’s!

Someone even suspected...

Top-tier short-story authors might make a comeback.

Chapter 199: Necklace

With the decision by Tribe Literature, all the short story writers of a certain level in Qin Qi had basically received creative invitations from this platform. Lin Yuan also received a call from Wei Long, one of the chief editors of the platform, who detailed this event’s proceedings.

“Short stories?”

It was only then that Lin Yuan recalled having two short stories on his hands that he had not published yet.

Now was a great time amidst Qin Qi’s merger, and the first prize for Tribe Literature is a whopping one million!

Even if he does not secure the first prize, he wouldn’t be at a loss with the second or third prize either.

Yes.

Lin Yuan felt confident that whosoever of the two remaining works on his hand would do well enough to make it to the top three.

“Do you have a piece at present...”

Wei Long was somewhat nervous. After Death of a Small Civil Servant was released, he had sought Chu Kuang more than once, but Chu Kuang kept saying he didn't have any inspiration.

Thus, he is not certain if Chu Kuang has a short story that can be released in March.

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan affirmed decisively.

Wei Long breathed a sigh of relief, feeling cheerful, “I will send you the submission email later. When will you send your work over?”

“In a few days.”

“Alright, please make it quick, we have to release it in March...”

“No problem.”

Lin Yuan agreed very simply.

Well, he must agree. He is very pleased with the terms of this one.

After hanging up the phone, Lin Yuan went to the crew with his laptop that very

As the scriptwriter, Lin Yuan seldom meddled with the actual shooting of Flirting Scholar.

Because Yi Chenggong would shoot according to his requirements, and Mr.

Shen, Shen Qing, mainly handled the logistics work of the crew.

He has ample time to do his stuff on set.

No one cares what Lin Yuan does on the set anyway.

The reason Lin Yuan is still on set is that he is afraid of unforeseen circumstances arising.

He found a quiet spot to type, and then started contemplating about which short story to use.

It was a choice between two.

After mind-mapping, Lin Yuan finally made up his mind.

He typed two characters on the document:

Necklace.

As a short story, Necklace is merely over 5000 words long, it wouldn't take Lin Yuan much time to write.

What he really needs to work on is the adjustment of the novel's background. "Many beautiful and charming women in the world, because of fate's capriciousness, are born into impoverished families..."

She has no dowry, no means or hope of making a man who is wealthy and well-placed get to know her, understand her, love her, and marry her; in the end, she can only make do and marry a small officer in the Ministry of Education." ' If you say that The Gift of the Magi is one of O. Henry's representative works.

Then the Necklace that Lin Yuan is writing now is one of Maupassant's representative works.

Being a world-class short story master as famous as O. Henry, although Maupassant's style is different from O. Henry, their respective representative works are undoubtedly excellent.

This is Lin Yuan's confidence in Necklace.

As for background adjustments, Lin Yuan is well-versed already.

However, to avoid errors, Lin Yuan spent a couple of hours perfecting the new background of the novel. He carefully checked it, striving to make the story appear flawless.

Meanwhile, Wei Long, who had just finished the call, reported the situation to Han Jimei, the chief operation officer of Tribe Literature, while Lin Yuan was writing Necklace.

At this time.

The editors had successively gotten in touch with the writers and were presenting the lists to Han Jimei for the report.

“Wen Da...Shen Gongfang...Yue Mei...”

Looking at these names on the list in her hands, Han Jimei's face lightened up somewhat.

Under heavy reward, there must be brave men.

In all respects, the lineup of short story writers invited by Tribe Literature this time is even more luxurious than the last!

And the names appearing in these lists are all famous figures in the short stories field.

With the participation of these people, Han Jimei felt that the flow of users in March for Tribe Literature would not be too poor.

When it was Wei Long's turn to submit the writer list,

Han Jimei took a look and her gaze suddenly paused.

“Chu Kuang.”

Last season’s winner, Chu Kuang, is on the list?

She couldn’t help but smile: “This is the winning writer from our last event. His participation this time makes this event even more meaningful.”

“Did Chu Kuang participate?”

The editor-in-chief was somewhat surprised and smiled straight after, “His participation is indeed good news. Although this time’s lineup is more grand and the reputations of many of these writers are more renowned than Chu Kuang’s, he is after all the champion of the previous season. His presence makes our event seem to have a sense of continuity. We should make this an annual event, and make it a unique point of Tribe Literature.”

Han Jimei nodded her head.

This is indeed a good idea.

Wei Long laughed: “I wasn’t very hopeful initially. Chu Kuang has rejected my invitations a few times before, citing lack of inspiration. But perhaps this time he wants to establish his reputation in a new market, seeing that the reader base has doubled.”

“While it may be true...”

The editor-in-chief shook his head: “But the writers participating this time are not comparable to the group from the previous round in terms of overall skill levels. For Chu Kuang to get a good placement again isn’t as easy as it seems.” “That’s not necessarily so.”

Wei Long couldn’t help retorting: “I think Chu Kuang’s abilities are not inferior to the big-name writers. He just has fewer works, making his fame and qualifications in the short story field inferior to other well-known writers we mentioned earlier.”

The editor-in-chief didn’t argue and just laughed, “I hope so.”

As far as Tribe Literature is concerned, the higher the caliber of the invited writers, the better.

Just then,

A sudden flustered editor hurried in the door with a panicked expression: “Something has happened.”

“What is it?”

Han Jimei frowned slightly.

This editor made a bitter face: “I just called teacher Feng Hua and wanted to invite him to participate in this event, but he refused...”

“Feng Hua?”

The editor-in-chief faltered before laughing out loud: “Isn’t it quite normal for Teacher Feng Hua to refuse us? He is an authority in the field of short stories, hailed as one of the three masters. He is of the top tier, famous for writing only one short story a year, and has already written one this year. I just didn’t expect you to attempt inviting him.”

“But the problem is...”

This editor shrugged helplessly: “Teacher Feng Hua refused me, not because he didn’t want to participate in our Tribe Literature event, but because he had already accepted an invitation from a blog. He told me this himself!”

Whoosh!

As soon as these words came out,

Everyone’s face changed!

Even Han Jimei suddenly felt that the array of impressive names on her hand, they are not as enticing.

Chapter 200: Three Carriages

It seems like every field has a proverbial ceiling, and in the domain of short stories in Qin Province, there are three top short story authors, hailed as the three horse-drawn carriages of the short story field, one of whom is the renowned short story author, Feng Hua!

Feng Hua, who is thirty-five years old this year, is the youngest of the three.

Therefore, some people say that Feng Hua is the least powerful among the three top short story authors in Qin Province.

But-

Even if his abilities are the least impressive, he is still one of the three horse-drawn carriages of Qin Continent!

After a moment of silence, the editor-in-chief suddenly murmured, “Feng

Hua?”

Wei Long snorted, lamenting, “Writers can be as deceptive as ghosts!”

Han Jimei stood up, her fingers lightly gripping the list, “Can we contact the other two top authors?”

The only ones in Qin Province who can outshine Feng Hua are the other two among the three carriages.

However, the editor-in-chief sighed, shattering Han Jimei’s hopes, “The number one short story writer in Qin Province, Teacher Changqin, had announced his formal retirement last year. We simply can’t ask for his contribution. As for Feihong, I just contacted him. He is old and does not feel well, therefore cannot spare time for writing.”

Han Jimei didn't give up, "What about Qi Province?"

If Qin Province has top-level short story authors, Qi Province naturally does too.

The editor-in-chief replied with a bitter smile, "Qi Province has four top-level short-story authors, but I don't believe the Blog didn't contact them first. Since they haven't joined the Blog, it means we'd also have a hard time inviting them to participate. But we can indeed try..."

"Contact them immediately."

Han Jimei commanded seriously.

The chief editor nodded, everyone rushed off, all clearly having work to do.

And when it was close to quitting time.

The Editor-in-chief finally found Han Jimei again: "We managed to get in touch, but as expected, the four from Qi Province all refused us, saying they don't have any suitable manuscripts at present."

Writers need inspiration to create.

Especially for short stories, it's not possible to produce one just because someone demands it. If created hastily, the quality of the story would be poor, thus tarnishing the author's reputation.

The more renowned the author, the more they value their reputation. Unless they're certain of the quality, they will not commit lightly.

Han Jimei shook her head.

In fact, she had guessed the outcome a long time ago.

These top short story authors won't simply write for an event unless they have a suitable manuscript ready.

Feng Hua's willingness to participate must be because he has in hand a short story of assured quality.

If the quality of the manuscript is not up to par, how could Feng Hua be ready to participate so easily?

It was due to this reason that when Han Jimei heard that Blog had invited Feng

Hua to participate, she became anxious.

"There is also a silver lining..."

The editor-in-chief said with a bitter smile, "I have made a deal for a manuscript from a top author in Qi Province, but it definitely can't make it for March, the timeline is too short for him to create. Also, his price is not low."

"How much?"

"Five million."

Han Jimei paused for a while, then nodded her head, "Let's book it first, now is not the time to dwell on the cost. If it's really effective, it's worth spending the extra money."

Since Blog managed to invite Feng Hua, they naturally wouldn't miss out on such a prime opportunity for promotion.

On March 20th.

Blog officially launched their literature column, named Blog Fiction, and at the same time, they announced that Feng Hua will be releasing a new work on Blog Fiction in March!

If this was on Earth, the impact of a short story writer releasing a new work might not be that big.

But this is Blue Star.

in this world where the arts are highly developed, there are no small number of people who love short stories.

So, as soon as the news was out, the readers became excited!

“Teacher Feng Hua is creating again?”

“Didn’t Teacher Feng Hua say that he only publishes one short story a year?”

And he already published one in January.”

“Could it be that Teacher Feng Hua has received new inspiration this year?” “I’m looking forward to it. The last story, under the title ‘Cliff that Teacher Feng Hua published in January was really excellent. I reread it last night. The plot of only 5000 words is really thought-provoking. Both the structure and the text are top-notch short stories.”

“After all, he’s one of the three carriages.”

“I am a reader from Qi Province. Now that the merger has happened, I have the great fortune to read Teacher Feng Hua’s new work. It is indeed well written. I then read Feng Hua’s previous works, and now I am a fan of Teacher Feng Hua.”

After the merger of Qin and Qi, Feng Hua published a short story, which made the readers of Qi Province recognize the power of Feng Hua. Therefore, when Blog made their announcement, the readers from both Qin and Qi provinces were united in anticipation!

In a way, Feng Hua’s fame even surpasses the other two top short story authors in Qin Province.

Because he had made a work public after merging with Qi, and the work had undoubtedly been loved unanimously by readers.

Compared to the other authors, who have not released any works yet, the readers from the other continent have not fully recognized them.

In terms of anticipation for the short stories in March, Blog Fiction has already prevailed over Tribe Literature.

Even the authors on Tribe's side couldn't help but feel a bit jittery.

Although Feng Hua's novel doesn't have much to do with them, as they are not publishing new works on the same platform, just having them published in the same period is enough to put a lot of pressure on many short story writers.

The Tribe Literature department is walking on thin ice.

Everyone can tell that Blog's move has put Han Jimei, the chief, in a difficult position. Even from behind her office door, the editors could imagine how somber Han Jimei's expression must be.

Therefore, in the past few days, everyone has been working very carefully.

Wei Long was also cautious, afraid of rubbing Han Jimei the wrong way.

At this point, they had moved into the manuscript review stage.

The writers they had been in contact with had sent in their works one after another.

This is probably Tribe Literature's last hope.

What if there are high-quality works among these manuscripts?

With this kind of expectation, many editors reviewed the manuscripts with extraordinary care.

Wei Long was no exception.

But after reviewing several manuscripts in succession, Wei Long's confidence was fast eroding.

These manuscripts were actually pretty good.

If it were any other time, Wei Long would enjoy reading them.

But now, when thinking about the looming giant that is Feng Hua on the opposing side, he feels—

It's not enough!

These guys aren't enough to rival Feng Hua!

Wei Long had deliberately observed other chief-editors' reactions. Each of them wore a serious expression, which indicated that they hadn't encountered astonishing works either!

Indeed.

Only an extremely impressive work can help Tribe Literature to compete with Blog, which has Feng Hua, for traffic. But such manuscripts don't come by easily, do they?

Wei Long felt gloomy.

Just then, he saw that he had received a new manuscript in his email. It was sent by Chu Kuang, whom he had contacted earlier:

Necklace?