

All R. Artist 211

Chapter 211: Phoenix is not as Good as a

Zhong Yu didn't know where Lin Yuan's confidence came from. He thought that Lin Yuan hadn't yet understood Luo Wei's capabilities. Unable to speak out, he subtly tugged at Lin Yuan's sleeve, indicating that it would be better to choose a different category.

The others in the painting club shared this sentiment.

However, Luo Wei didn't give them a chance to hesitate any further: "Let's stick to the rules, we'll compete with Chinese painting. There are too many people here, shall we go inside to compete?"

Luo Wei pointed to a room inside.

Lin Yuan nodded in agreement.

Luo Wei asked, "How much time do you need?"

Lin Yuan replied, "Whatever."

Luo Wei raised an eyebrow, "Then let's take two hours. What type of Chinese painting?"

Chinese painting is divided into different types.

According to the materials used and methods of representation, it can be subdivided into ink and wash painting, heavy-color painting, light-cinnabar, fine-brush, freehand brushwork, line drawing and so on.

According to the subject matter, it includes figure painting, landscape painting, flower and bird painting, etc.

"Whatever."

Lin Yuan repeated these two words.

Luo Wei gave Lin Yuan a deep look: “Then, ‘whatever’ it is.”

She entered the empty room next door, and Lin Yuan followed her in, asking

Zhong Yu to prepare the paints.

“Good luck, GOAT.”

Zhong Yu muttered quietly after helping Lin Yuan prepare the paints.

Lin Yuan nodded.

At this time, Luo Wei was seated across from Lin Yuan and had already picked up her brush: “Just a friendly heads-up, I plan to use ink and wash. This is the type of Chinese painting I excel at.”

“Me too. Ink and wash.”

Lin Yuan had intended to paint an ink and wash painting anyway.

But upon hearing these words, Luo Wei felt Lin Yuan’s provocation was stronger. It seemed like he was implying that no matter what she painted, he could keep up as he was fine with everything...

“Let’s begin.”

Luo Wei’s demeanor became serious.

When she got serious, she discarded all irrelevant emotions. She didn’t even think about who she was competing against, she only wanted to create her painting in the most perfect way.

Lin Yuan also got serious—

He took out his Qi Baishi character card seriously.

He wasn't pretending or trying to challenge anyone.

If he had drawn any other card, Lin Yuan wouldn't have been confident.

Just with Chinese painting, Lin Yuan felt like there was no reason for him to lose. Because after using the character card, he wasn't just Lin Yuan, he was ...

Qi Baishi!

And not only that, he was at his peak state as Qi Baishi!

The truth was indeed this way. The moment he activated the Qi Baishi character card, his mind became filled with understanding of Chinese painting.

This understanding of Chinese painting was far beyond his own professional level!

This should be the top level of Chinese painting, beyond the professional level!

At this time,

Lin Yuan was ready to draw one of Qi Baishi's shrimp paintings!

And the name of this painting is 'Six Shrimps'!

On the raw Xuan paper,

with the mixed-hair brush dipped in ink, Lin Yuan painted the first stroke.

It was the shrimp closest to the viewer.

The brush, dipped in light ink, the brush tip dipped in dark ink, and using a moderate amount of water, drew the shrimp head with two side strokes of the brush.

The first stroke was short and thick.

The second stroke was slim and long.

With a sideways brushstroke, the body joints of the shrimp were already coming to life on the paper.

When painting the legs, Lin Yuan started using a center brush stroke, followed by another stroke of heavy ink on the head!

With a focus of the brush tip, he dots the eye of the shrimp, and Lin Yuan lifts his wrist.

The light and dark ink complimented each other, instantly filling the painting with a sense of space...

Lin Yuan couldn't help but want to compliment, the painting was truly great, but realizing that to compliment himself was shameful, he held back the thought.

He joyfully wielded the brush!

Lin Yuan enjoyed this state.

As he finished the first shrimp, its lively, agile, and alert form seemed to have come to life!

The characteristics of the shrimp were clear in Lin Yuan's mind.

Therefore, with only a few strokes, he used the depth and shades of the ink to express a sense of movement.

When he started the second shrimp, the hard shells were almost transparent, varying from dark to light.

Then came the third, the fourth, the fifth...

With the variations in brushwork, the waist of the shrimp took various forms, some bent forward, some swam in a straight line, and others crawled with their waist bent.

When the sixth shrimp was completed, Lin Yuan finally stopped.

“No one knows ink and wash shrimp painting better than Qi Baishi.”

This was the only feeling in Lin Yuan’s heart at this moment, especially after seeing the painting he had just completed, Lin Yuan understood even more deeply...

If he hadn’t used Qi Baishi’s character card, with just his professional-level skill, he would absolutely not have been able to create this ‘Six Shrimps’!

He finished.

As he looked up at Luo Wei, it seemed that she was completely immersed in her painting. Her ink was mostly heavy, and the range of her brush strokes was wide after lifting her wrist. Lin Yuan could roughly guess that the other party was probably painting a large creature...

He didn’t disturb her.

He didn’t get up either.

He just waited quietly.

At this time, outside the door, the number of people from the painting club was increasing, along with endless discussions:

“They’re competing with Chinese painting?”

“Doesn’t that mean the GOAT is finished?”

“The result seems easy to guess.”

“There’s no suspense, now I’m looking forward to how wonderful President Luo’s Chinese painting will be!”

“Yes, it’s been a long time since we’ve seen President Luo paint a Chinese painting!”

“Zhong Yu, of all things to draw, you just had to get Chinese painting.”

“GOAT’S teammate is dragging him down.”

“So much for being the top disciple. Who doesn’t he scheme against, but his own master.”

“Hahaha, what if the GOAT wins?”

“Please, a professional level Chinese painting contestant might not even beat President Luo.”

“Even amongst professional level contestants, President Luo is one of the better ones at Chinese painting.”

Just then, there was a commotion at the entrance.

Zhong Yu, who had been wearing a sulky face, became even more frustrated when he saw who arrived, “Why is Professor Kong here?”

Chapter 212: Phoenix is Inferior to Shrimp

“Can Professor Kong not come?”

“This thing has alarmed so many tutors.”

“GOAT and Luo Wei are more than ordinary students.”

“With their age, even if they get into the professional art scene, they can make a name for themselves.”

No matter the commotion outside, nobody comes in to disturb.

Almost two hours later, Luo Wei finally stopped painting. She massaged her sore wrist, and asked Lin Yuan: “Are you done?”

“Hmm.”

Luo Wei nodded: “You should take the role of Art Club president seriously, teach everyone more. I want to do it too, but I’m not as good a teacher as you are...”

Lin Yuan:

Luo Wei no longer had much competitive spirit after completing her painting. More accurately, she didn’t think she would lose: “Want to swap and take a look?”

“Hmm.”

Lin Yuan removed his painting and handed it to Luo Wei.

And Luo Wei also removed her painting and handed it to Lin Yuan.

“I drew a phoenix, the king of birds, you know. It’s not my first time drawing a phoenix, I’ve practiced since I was a kid, for eight years so far. However, I’m not very good at color dynamics, so I’ve always stuck to ink wash painting. It’s the only flaw...” Luo Wei took Lin Yuan’s painting as she introduced hers.

As Lin Yuan took Luo Wei’s painting, his eyes showed a moment of amazement!

Indeed, it was a brilliant ink wash painting of a Phoenix spreading its wings!

The strokes were perfectly apt, Luo Wei had vividly exhibited the unyielding arrogance of the king of birds!

Beautiful!

Exceedingly beautiful!

If Lin Yuan didn't have the Qi Baishi character card, he would probably be inferior in terms of ink wash painting. The other party was indeed exceptionally good at painting Phoenixes!

In his ears,

Luo Wei was still introducing her painting: "There are no real Phoenixes in the world, just like there are no dragons. So, I didn't have any reference material, I could only paint based on people's descriptions of Phoenixes and from some movies, animations, and artworks. The essence of this painting is..."

For some reason,

Luo Wei's gaze suddenly fell on Lin Yuan's painting and her voice stopped abruptly.

The air was deathly quiet.

Could a shrimp and Phoenix be compared?

Anyone with common sense would know that these two organisms have no comparability.

Shrimp can be enjoyed by everyone. If rich, one could even enjoy a lobster worth thousands.

But a Phoenix is something people can never see in their entire life.

So people have assigned countless wonderful connotations to the Phoenix.

These beautiful connotations were reflected in Luo Wei's artwork.

However, when Luo Wei saw Lin Yuan's painting, she suddenly had strong doubts as to whether a Phoenix was indeed nobler than a shrimp.

If she was utilizing ink, Lin Yuan was manipulating it!

His shrimp seemed lifelike, full of charm, and absolutely realistic.

The inkwork and brushstrokes weren't overly complicated, yet they vividly portrayed the structure and texture of the shrimp.

Each stroke outlined with a hint of profoundness.

Having a strong foundation in painting, being able to appraise exceptionally well, and her family's profound knowledge in art, somehow made Luo Wei feel a strange sense of inferiority.

It was peculiar.

Luo Wei didn't know what kind of expression she was making. She widened her already large eyes, raised her eyebrows high, her expression filled with desolation, yet she couldn't suppress her fanaticism and joy. It was an absolute mess.

The shape, the quality, the movement...

The wonder lay in the likeness and unlikeness of the painting.

Luo Wei suddenly understood why Lin Yuan said she couldn't win.

That wasn't arrogance, it was a supreme self-confidence, a characteristic of a Master Level figure!

Even if she further crafted her Phoenix several years more, she wouldn't win. It's not because she didn't paint well, it's because her opponent painted too well!

She so wanted...

Luo Wei was certain that she fell in love with his painting. Just like the last time she saw a masterpiece by an ancient master at a high-end art exhibition, she desired it as strongly as then. It was a primitive admiration at first sight.

As for the result of the competition? It was no longer important.

Phoenix... is inferior to the shrimp!

Chapter 213: Six Shrimps

“What’s the result?”

“You’re really curious about the outcome...”

“Sorry, I just have an inexplicable confidence in the GOAT. After all, he’s the one who brought my sketches from last place in the entire class to the top ten!”

“My gouache painting improved because of his guidance too!”

“This time, I’m betting on the GOAT!”

Zhong Yu spoke fiercely, but he was somewhat lacking in confidence. He cursed his bad luck for choosing traditional painting in the draw.

They were throwing the GOAT to the wolves!

Thus, Zhong Yu felt guilty. Betting on Lin Yuan was his way of seeking redemption.

Meanwhile, at the front of the crowd...

Professor Kong smiled faintly, saying nothing.

Behind Professor Kong were several other art teachers who had also come to join the fun. Someone whispered:

“Is there hope?”

“You mean Lin Yuan?”

“I think we have a chance.”

“Probably, but I don’t think the result is unpredictable.”

II II

It’s not that Lin Yuan wasn’t respected, but his skills in gouache and sketching were too remarkable. Artists tend to have their specialities.

If Lin Yuan was so good at gouache and sketching, he probably hadn’t delved deep into traditional painting.

This was a common way of thinking, and indeed, without extraordinary talent, one cannot escape this rule.

“They’re out!”

Just as everyone was discussing fervently, there was a sudden exclamation at the door.

Lin Yuan and Luo Wei were finally out of the room.

Looking at Lin Yuan, they were surprised. His face was as aloof as ever, not even a smile to meet social expectations—

Perhaps he lost badly?

But after looking at Luo Wei, they hesitated again. Luo Wei seemed a little out of sorts, she was swaying as she walked and almost stumbled when she stepped out of the door that frightened many people into reaching out to steady her.

Luckily, Luo Wei didn't fall. She gave the crowd a dazed look, finally focusing on Professor Kong. "You're here?"

"Mm, how'd it go?"

Professor Kong asked with a smile.

Luo Wei forced a smile, "Do you want to go in and see?"

Still smiling, Professor Kong replied, "Didn't you need a judge?"

Luo Wei shook her head, muttered, "I don't qualify."

Her voice was so low that only Professor Kong, who was standing closest to her, could hear it.

Taken aback, Professor Kong glanced at Lin Yuan, feeling a wave of sensations in his heart, then swiftly walked into the studio. As soon as he entered, he caught sight of Luo Wei's painting of a Phoenix in flight.

"You've made impressive progress recently."

Professor Kong complimented her with a smile.

The other teachers nodded in affirmation. Luo Wei's Phoenix was painted so vividly and lifelike!

"Awesome!"

"Wow!"

“This Phoenix is too cool!”

“The president’s got some serious skills.”

“Did she pull out her best card?”

The students behind were craning their necks to view, and subsequently began to chatter.

Then, Professor Kong approached Lin Yuan’s painting.

No one could see the content of the painting, only Professor Kong and a few other tutors.

Under the gaze of all the students, everyone was surprised to see that Professor Kong and several tutors changed their expressions!

Especially Professor Kong, he seemed to suck in cold air!

The studio fell silent.

Members of the painting society shifted restlessly under this unexpected silence.

Zhong Yu was puzzled.

Why do the expressions of Professor Kong and the others look so strange?

Without explanation.-

Professor Kong put on his glasses solemnly, leaned forward to look closely at Lin Yuan’s painting.

He seemed to want to touch the painting but his hand stopped in mid-air and then withdrew.

The ink hadn’t dried yet.

Touching it would affect the quality of the painting.

After staring at the painting for a long time, Professor Kong finally sighed, "Using thick ink for eyes and head, giving a golden hue to the body, the effortless skill-The abdomen is depicted with a light shade of ink for the color of the body, making the shrimp appear crystal clear... using a pointed brush to depict the whiskers, claws, and pincers, both rigid and flexible...This is a masterstroke!"

The students couldn't help but want to enter.

Professor Kong stopped them, "Look from the outside!"

The students were startled and dared not come in.

Professor Kong did consider everyone's feelings; he turned the painting to face them.

Everyone looked at Lin Yuan's painting. Some appeared thoughtful, some were speechless, some confused, and some puzzled-

shrimp?

The painting is not bad.

It's lifelike.

But compared to the phoenix, isn't it too ordinary?

That was the impression of most people.

If one were to put a shrimp painted by Qi Baishi and one by an ordinary ink painting artist side by side, most people would not notice much of a difference.

Because, after all, they're all shrimps.

But not everyone lacks sufficient appreciation skills. There were also some ink painting experts among the Painting Society members who recognized the terror of Lin Yuan's painting!

Therefore, these students were shocked. One by one, their gazes fell onto Lin Yuan, their eyes filled with shock and astonishment.

On the side of Professor Kong...

The university's ink painting tutor exclaimed, "The brushwork of this painting is simply divine. Look at the waist of the shrimp, each one has a different pose. Some bend forward, some are straight, and some are crawling. There's no stiffness at all. Although there's no water, you can still sense that the shrimp are swimming in it."

His words won the approval of other tutors.

Another tutor said, "Look at the shrimp's foreclaws, they are thin at the top and thick at the bottom. The joints extend to the pincers and look like pliers, some open and some closed. The feelers of the shrimp are drawn with light brush strokes which look easy but are really difficult to perfect. At least, I can't do it."

"It's so lifelike."

If it is drawn vividly, then the shrimp gathers life on its own.

If painted stiffly, the shrimp loses its liveliness.

In this painting, the shrimp's whiskers look soft but are tough, seem broken but are connected, in the chaos lies order... on the paper, the shrimp seems to be frolicking and swimming in the water, its feelers moving along with the water waves..."

"This painting should have a name."

Kong An looked towards Lin Yuan at the door.

Lin Yuan finally revealed a smile, “Six Shrimps.”

A student replied, “There are clearly only five shrimps!”

“Yeah...”

“In fact, there are five.”

“Wait...”

“Look at the edge of the shrimp cluster...”

“There seems to be another shrimp?”

“It’s a shrimp head, claws, and whiskers...”

“It’s too pale, barely visible!”

“Indeed, it is six!”

“The sixth one is blocked, but it does exist...”

11 11

The crowd suddenly fell silent too.

This illusionistic composition is a highly sophisticated technique in traditional Chinese painting. Many students fail to grasp this technique. Even though they cannot comprehend why the professors are so amazed by Lin Yuan’s painting, everyone knows that the standard of this painting is extremely high.

“Lin Yuan, how about selling this painting to me?”

Kong An unexpectedly turned his head towards Lin Yuan. Unknown to everyone, at that moment, Kong An had completely given up the idea of accepting Lin Yuan as his disciple.

Because Kong An knew, Lin Yuan's skills in traditional Chinese painting were superior to his own!

"Professor Kong!"

Luo Wei suddenly spoke, "This painting has already been sold to me by Teacher Lin Yuan! You wouldn't steal it from a student like me, would you?"

Just a while ago she was being polite.

Her attitude had changed remarkably: "And I made a promise to Teacher Lin Yuan. I will be his comic assistant in the future. I have paid a great price for this painting!"

The crowd was speechless.

Was there any need to announce the win or loss?

Even Luo Wei called GOAT as "Teacher Lin Yuan".

Looking at the "Six Shrimps" painting, Kong An felt a little regretful. However, Luo Wei had made her stand. He couldn't do anything about it now, but just sighed, "You are indeed very fortunate. Make sure to cherish this painting."

"I will."

Luo Wei reverted to her humble demeanor. She was still respectful to him, as long as he didn't steal the painting.

Every professor turned their gaze to Lin Yuan, "May we take pictures?"

"Sure."

Lin Yuan didn't object.

He noticed that his reputation in painting was soaring high.

“Click.”

“Click.”

All the professors, including Kong An, took pictures, and many at that.

“It seems that this painting does not have a signature.”

After taking the pictures, Kong An turned to Lin Yuan, “Can you add a signature?”

Lin Yuan shook his head, “No need.”

The painting was to be sold to Luo Wei. This was a deal he had made with Luo Wei before he left. The price Luo Wei offered was one million.

Compared to the value of this painting, one million is a drop in the ocean.

But Lin Yuan knew that because he painted it, its value could not be compared to that of a painting drawn by Qi Baishi himself.

Even if the painting could be regarded as painted by Qi Baishi himself.

In addition, Luo Wei promised to be Lin Yuan's comic assistant for three years.

Lin Yuan thought for a while and agreed. After all, he was not going to sell this painting at some sky-high price.

In other words.

If you paint Van Gogh's Sunflower, even if Van Gogh's spirit possesses you, if the painting is not actually painted by Van Gogh himself, it won't have the same value as the original.

Lin Yuan understood this very well.

Even for Qi Baishi himself, his paintings were not valued in the beginning.

They became valuable only after he became famous, old, and even more after his death.

"This painting can be sent for exhibition."

Kong An looked at Lin Yuan and suggested.

Luo Wei quickly replied, "I will send it for exhibition."

Lin Yuan nodded. Doing this could raise his reputation even further, which, in comparison with music and literature, was still considerably low.

"Let's call it a day."

Kong An waved his hand at the crowd.

Most students were still puzzled. A few who were somewhat reluctant took pictures too. But since Kong An didn't let them in, they had to take their photos from afar.

Those who understood knew why Kong An wouldn't let them in.

The painting had no protective measures. With so many people swarming around, if the painting got damaged, it would be a great pity.

"Can you paint this kind of painting again?"

When the crowd had almost dispersed, Kong An asked Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan shook his head and promptly replied, “This is the best I’ve ever painted. It can’t be replicated.”

Kong An regretfully said, “I was hoping to get a painting from you. If you can paint like this in the future, could you give me one?”

“I’ll try my best.”

Lin Yuan wasn’t sure if he would get another character card like this in the future.

Kong An nodded.

He didn’t doubt Lin Yuan’s words.

This painting was truly extraordinary. It was normal that Lin Yuan could only paint it once. Just like composing a song, when inspiration strikes, extraordinary performance naturally follows.

But such extraordinary performance showed one thing:

Lin Yuan is a master of traditional Chinese painting!

His major is not Gouache or sketching, but the most popular and widely studied genre in Blue Star:

Traditional Chinese painting!

How astonishing!

Lin Yuan’s proficiency in Gouache and sketching, which is on a professional level, is not his main focus...

“You’re going to be a great master in the future.”

This was Kong An's final comment. As a matter of fact, Lin Yuan's painting had already reached the level of a great master. However, it was a pity that the artistic community wouldn't acknowledge a student as a great master.

That was inevitable.

Blue Star's artistic community highly values seniority.

Only now, Lin Yuan should have his place in Blue Star's artistic community. He, Kong An, would fully support Lin Yuan!

Chapter 214: The Genius of Fandom

Although his painting didn't sell for much, Lin Yuan was not bothered by it.

Because he was sure of one thing.

Even if he couldn't get another character card of Qi Baishi for now, he was likely to achieve a similar painting skill level in the future...

With a corresponding skill level, he could paint as many good paintings like "Six Shrimps" as he wanted.

Because he has the treasure chest.

The system had introduced this before.

The so-called skills are all graded.

Above the professional level, there are the master level and the perfect level.

The painting skill of Qi Baishi's character card probably belongs to the master level, perhaps his shrimp painting skill is already close to perfect level?

The pity is.

Techniques above the master level can only be obtained from treasure chests of gold level or above, so far Lin Yuan has not gotten a gold treasure chest.

He only had one silver treasure chest left unopened.

“Can I purchase abilities?” After returning home, Lin Yuan couldn’t help but ask the system.

The system replied: “You can’t purchase them, abilities can only be obtained through treasure chests.”

Lin Yuan understood.

Just as he had guessed.

The saying “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime” was so true.

Ability is the most precious!

Those works, while they can earn profits in the short term, in the long term, abilities are more practical.

“For instance, professional level painting or piano playing could be of use in my daily life...”

Lin Yuan once thought that with the custom work function, he wouldn’t rely on the treasure chests as much.

But now it looks like treasure chests still need to be strived for, only treasure chests have the hope of unlocking abilities.

With this thought, Lin Yuan couldn’t help but turn his gaze towards the remaining silver treasure chest in his system storage.

Would there be any ability inside it?

Forget it, it's better to open it when I'm feeling lucky.

Lin Yuan curbed his curiosity.

It will be Saturday in three days.

Lin Yuan directly called Luo Wei to his studio. By now, Luo Wei had officially become Lin Yuan's manga assistant.

"Teacher."

Seeing Lin Yuan again, Luo Wei's attitude had subtly shifted.

Regardless of her identity as a manga assistant or her level of traditional painting, it was not unreasonable to call Lin Yuan 'Teacher'.

Lin Yuan never cared about the titles, after all, he had been called by various names by others.

Teacher, Master, GOAT, Representative, Junior...

These don't matter.

Lin Yuan began to relay the work requirements to Luo Wei. The manga adaptation of "King of the Net" could officially start today.

"It's 'King of the Net'?!"

Luo Wei was taken aback for a moment, then laughed: "It's a manga adaptation of this novel, I like this novel. I've read a bit, did you get the authorization to adapt it, Teacher?"

"Got it."

Lin Yuan had ceremoniously authorized himself in his mind.

Luo Wei had already adapted to her assistant role: “I will finish reading the novel later... Shall we set a framework? Do you have a design draft?”

“Just wait a moment.”

Lin Yuan started to paint right away.

The first step was to determine the style of the characters.

Lin Yuan drew a series of character images directly based on the original design.

They were all original images from “Prince of Tennis”, with a distinctive Japanese style.

However, there is no such thing as Japanese style in this world.

“This is Long Ma?”

The classic tennis hat, blue and white Youth Academy uniform, bangs covering the forehead, revealing a pair of bright eyes underneath.

Stylish and cool.

Then there were the character designs for important people like Zhouzhu...

Looking at the character designs created by Lin Yuan, Luo Wei’s eyes became increasingly surprised.

She knew naturally that Lin Yuan was good at sketching.

But being good at sketching and being able to create good sketches are two different things. She did not expect that the comic characters designed by Lin Yuan would also be so good

As someone who had read the original novel, Luo Wei was sure that these characters closely align with those described in the novel!

Even the die-hard fans of “Prince of Tennis” probably wouldn’t question these character designs too much.

“These are the characters that appear in the early stages.”

After half an hour, Lin Yuan temporarily stopped: “Do whatever you can to assist me.”

Luo Wei’s eyes sparkled.

She suddenly stared at Lin Yuan and said, “If I help you complete enough work, can you promise me that you will teach me to paint traditional Chinese painting in the future?”

Traditional Chinese painting?

Lin Yuan was taken aback. He certainly can’t teach Luo Wei right now because his real skill in traditional Chinese painting is about the same as Luo Wei’s.

But if he can draw a Master Level painting skill from the Gold Treasure Chest, he can indeed teach Luo Wei.

However, Lin Yuan could not guarantee this.

Just as Lin Yuan was about to speak, the System suddenly appeared: (Congratulations to the host for triggering a new task. If the host can achieve painting fame of 300,000 within a year, the host will be rewarded with a Gold Treasure Chest containing Master Level painting skills!]

“Accepted!”

Lin Yuan became quite happy.

The System was not always about taking his money, sometimes it was quite considerate.

Like when he needed painting skills the most, the System issued such a task.

After accepting the task.

Lin Yuan turned to Luo Wei: “If you can provide me with enough help, I can teach you traditional Chinese painting.”

“Great!”

Luo Wei was overjoyed.

As a renowned member of the Art Club, Lin Yuan’s teaching ability had long since been talked up among students, so Luo Wei was curious to know if Lin Yuan’s teaching of traditional Chinese painting was really that amazing?

Yes.

With Luo Wei’s current level of painting, it wouldn’t be difficult for her to find a master painter to be her mentor.

But the problem is that while there are many who are skilled in painting, not everyone knows how to teach.

“Let’s get started then.”

Lin Yuan nodded, and formally started designing the storyboard. He wanted to handover the refinement to Luo Wei, to see how well she could do.

Luo Wei wasn’t idle either.

As Lin Yuan was designing the storyboard, she was copying the appearances of characters like Long Ma designed by Lin Yuan.

After copying for a while, she could fluently draw the character of Long Ma and others in Lin Yuan's style.

"Not bad."

After completing the storyboard, Lin Yuan looked at the characters Luo Wei had copied, which were almost indistinguishable from his own.

But this was what talented people were capable of, and this was also why Lin Yuan wanted Luo Wei as his assistant.

Normal assistants could only help Lin Yuan paint some simple backgrounds, but an assistant of Luo Wei's level could truly help Lin Yuan draw comics!

In fact.

On the internet, there were quite a few talented artists who managed to perfectly capture the original characters in their fan art drawings, and these artists were usually big figures in the fan art world.

Some fan art authors could make their characters look almost identical to the original.

Luo Wei was such an assistant.

But what Lin Yuan didn't know is that Luo Wei was actually a famous artist online, she had also made some fan art pieces and earned recognition from many original story fans...

All Lin Yuan knew was that he could now draw "Prince of Tennis" with Luo Wei as his assistant.

After all, the task of storyboard design was not very complicated for Lin Yuan.

He could totally be responsible for the drawing of the first volume by himself, then complete the storyboard for the second volume in advance and hand it over to Luo Wei to draw.

Chapter 215: Shadow

Men and women teamed up makes work less tedious.

Indeed, with Luo Wei's assistance, Lin Yuan managed to make swift progress on "King of the Net".

Both Lin Yuan and Luo Wei were fast when it came to drawing.

In no time, several chapters of the first volume were already completed.

"Should we send this to Teacher Chu Kuang for review?"

After reviewing the content of the chapters, Luo Wei made this suggestion to

Lin Yuan.

Without a second thought, Lin Yuan replied, "Chu Kuang has already seen it."

Luo Wei:"???"

All these days, she had been working with Lin Yuan and didn't see him sending the comics to anyone.

Did he send them when he got home at night?

That seemed likely the only explanation.

"I wonder if Teacher Chu Kuang is satisfied with our comic adaptation?" Luo

Wei murmured.

She had recently finished reading “King of the Net”, she really liked the story, part of it could be attributed to their recent work in illustrating the comic.

At that point, Lin Yuan had just finished registering a new account on the Tribe site under the name “Shadow”.

Indeed, it had implications.

It was indeed a shadow of sorts.

Watching Lin Yuan’s actions, Luo Wei was a bit curious, “Aren’t you going to use your real name?”

Instead of answering, Lin Yuan reflected the question back at her, “Do you use your real name?”

“Me?”

Luo Wei was taken aback, “I’m just an assistant. I don’t have the right to sign my name...”

“You’ve helped me a lot.”

Although Luo Wei was not Lin Yuan’s ghost writer, she had indeed helped with the drawing.

She was capable of finishing some parts of the content independently, apart from the storyboard.

Under such circumstances, Lin Yuan couldn’t bring himself to sign his name while leaving out Luo Wei’s.

“Then count me as an assistant. I’ll use the nickname Luoli. That’s the name 1

use when I undertake online orders.”

Luo Wei did not decline further.

“Sure.”

Lin Yuan didn’t have any objections.

Once the account was set up, Lin Yuan uploaded the first few chapters of the

“King of the Net” comic version.

The author’s signature was “Shadow”.

The assistant’s signature was “Luoli”.

However, since it was a new account on the Tribe, he received hardly any comments, even after waiting for quite a while.

This was within Lin Yuan’s expectations.

He directly forwarded the link to the “King of the Net” comic version from Chu Kuang’s account to recommend to his own fans.

Suddenly, a lot of people noticed this comic.

Many reader comments appeared below Chu Kuang’s post:

“A comic version of ‘King of the Net’?”

“I’m kind of apprehensive about opening it...”

“Who is Shadow? Is he a known figure in the comic circle?”

“Why didn’t Chu Kuang find a more prominent comic artist? Did he just get a load of bad money? This Shadow directly buy the comic copyright?”

“Horrible comic-ization!”

“Let’s check it out. If he ruins my beloved Long Ma, I will blast him!”

“I have no interest in comics.”

Just because readers liked a novel, it didn’t mean they would like its comic adaptation. They would probably be more interested if it was an animation.

However, not everyone lacked interest.

Even those with absolutely no interest couldn’t help but feel curious. They wanted to know how the characters from the “King of the Net” story would appear in the comic version.

Therefore,

Quite a few people clicked the link that Chu Kuang posted and started reading “King of the Net” created by Shadow. Once they started reading, many people couldn’t stop.

The release of the comic on Earth after the novel seems like a convoluted process—but don’t forget, the fame gained by the comic and animation versions of “Prince of Tennis” was the precise reason for the creation of the novel edition of “King of the Net”!

On Blue Star,

Chu Kuang's readers naturally did not know the origins of the novel, all they knew, was that they saw a comic that perfectly fit the original "King of the Net"

"This comic is truly fragrant!"

"Ahh! The character images completely match what I had in mind! All the characters from Youth Academy are just as described in the novel!"

"Perfect reproduction!?"

"This Shadow is rather impressive!"

"The comic creator must be a fan of the novel, there is no way he/she isn't. I knew it right when I saw the cover of the comic, I need to review the plot again..."

"The comic adaptation is too perfect!"

"It's a pity only the first chapter is in color. Will there be color in the following chapters? The colored comic looks too good!"

In order to attract fans, Lin Yuan had specially applied the new techniques he learned to color the first chapter.

However, since coloring was time-consuming, Lin Yuan only colored the first chapter.

This was a common technique used in many comics.

The readers obviously loved it.

Just two hours after the comic went live, the number of followers for Shadow's account already exceeded twenty thousand.

It also received over a thousand comments:

“Feels like it can be adapted to an animation!”

-If the animation is in accordance with the comic image, I will definitely watch it!”

“I don’t know why, but after seeing the comic version of ‘King of the Net’, I feel that this novel is really suitable for comic adaptation!”

“It seems that there are some modifications to the plot, but it’s very exciting!

“I never understood what a sliced serve meant until I saw the comic. This Shadow seems to understand tennis as much as Chu Kuang!”

“I wronged Chu Kuang before, he is really good at choosing people!”

The number of comments continued to grow.

The number of followers continued to rise.

Watching the data skyrocket over periods of time, Lin Yuan couldn’t help but share the comic link again as Xian Yu.

“Another collaboration?”

Although Xian Yu didn’t have as many followers as Chu Kuang, he currently had around fifteen million followers, so the publication of the repost was still quite effective.

Especially since...

Quite a few fans were speculating about the relationship between Xian Yu and Chu Kuang. The two were highly suspicious since they followed each other but no one else. They concluded that there must be some strange relationship between them.

“Are they really good friends?”

“Just after Chu Kuang shared it, Xian Yu immediately followed.”

“Actually, I took a look, and the comic is pretty good.”

“I haven’t read the novel, but the comic is really good. I’ll follow it!”

“Thanks for the recommendation.”

“Thanks for the recommendation +1.”

No matter what happened to “Prince of Tennis” at the end, at least the early and middle stages of this comic were very exciting, especially as Lin Yuan’s comic was based on the System’s adaptation, so many parts were even more brilliant.

It wasn’t just Lin Yuan.

Luo Wei was also paying attention to the situation of the “King of the Net comic on her phone.

When Xian Yu reposted the comic, she couldn’t help but exclaim in delight, “Xian Yu reposted our comic! My favorite composer is actually reading a comic that I had a part in creating! Oh, no, that’s not necessarily the case. Maybe Xian Yu doesn’t read comics, he might just have a good relationship with Chu Kuang, so he shared it for him?”

“He read it.”

Lin Yuan casually replied.

Luo Wei was surprised, “Teacher, how do you know...wait, do you know Chu Kuang and Xian Yu?”

The more Luo Wei thought about it, the more likely it seemed!

Otherwise, why would Lin Yuan be able to draw “King of the Net ?

It must have been authorized by the person himself.

And, it seemed like Chu Kuang and Xian Yu knew each other-following this logic, it wasn't strange for Lin Yuan to know the two!

“Yep.”

Lin Yuan responded as if he was simply answering.

Luo Wei was too excited, her face full of gossip, “What’s the relationship between Xian Yu and Teacher Chu Kuang? Are they really close friends?”

Lin Yuan:

Chapter 216: He Slept

With the popularity of the “King of the Net” novel as a base, Lin Yuan felt that as long as the quality of the manga was not bad, its popularity wouldn't be too poor either.

But Lin Yuan had underestimated the influence of the manga itself.

In the following days, the popularity of “King of the Net” continued to rise. Even many manga enthusiasts who never read novels joined the ongoing followers—

“This manga is so exciting!”

“I’m a seasoned comic fan. I’m not interested in the original work, but the manga particularly attracts me!”

“Is this author named Shadow really a newcomer? The drawing style is mature.”

“Doesn’t seem like a new manga artist...”

“I love this manga, the characters are so beautiful!”

“The author gets it, how could nothing happen with a group of handsome guys playing tennis together?”

Indeed, “King of the Net” had become a sensation!

The sudden yet deserved fame also fell onto Shadow, the alias of the author!

Shadow's follower count went from the initial tens of thousands to over three million with continued increase, without even taking a breather!

Meanwhile, Xian Yu and Chu Kuang also started following Shadow.

Initially, Chu Kuang and Xian Yu followed each other and not anyone else, which led their fans to firmly believe they were close buddies. However, now that Shadow has joined, the circle has expanded to three, and followers began to sense something off.

What's going on with these three?

Is their circle so chaotic?

Regardless of how the followers speculated, Lin Yuan was quite satisfied upon checking his prestige value and other data at this point –

[Name: Lin Yuan]

[Music: 390,000]

[Art: 10,000]

[Literature: 350,000]

Music prestige was undoubtedly the highest, because Lin Yuan released songs consistently, including his original order “Kisses Everywhere”.

It is worth mentioning that when “Kisses Everywhere” was first released, it didn’t cause a big sensation.

However, as it was gradually adopted as background music by many video hosts, the song began to gain popularity in a unique way.

At that time, Lin Yuan had just returned to Qin Province from Qi Province and had many things to attend to, so he didn’t pay much attention.

But whether Lin Yuan paid attention or not, the prestige brought by the popularity of the song was solid!

Not to mention that Lin Yuan currently has an apprentice helping him earn prestige...

Next was the literary prestige.

The current prestige of 350,000, is still lower than the music.

But to be honest, it’s not very far behind.

This was thanks to the influence of Chu Kuang’s two long novels and four short stories.

If Lin Yuan were to pause on releasing songs and start with “Ghost Blowing Lamp”, he felt that his literary prestige might even surpass his music prestige. As for painting...

This category just started and had just broken 10,000, but the “King of the Net” manga was also just starting. Once the manga became popular, Lin Yuan felt the prestige it brought would be considerable!

Prestige is a good thing.

Although Lin Yuan’s main task is to break one million in music and literature prestige, without involving painting, if the prestige of painting goes up, the system will definitely trigger corresponding tasks, a pattern which Lin Yuan had figured out through long-term observation.

While Lin Yuan was working on the manga,

The shooting of “Flirting Scholar” at the film set, which had been going on for quite some time, finally wrapped up!

Unfortunately, Lin Yuan was in class that day and wasn’t present.

It was Gu Dong who informed Lin Yuan about this.

Soon after, Yi Chenggong also gave Lin Yuan a heads-up, saying that they were about to start post-production, which once finished, the film could be ready for release.

There have always been people serializing manga on the Tribe platform, but most aren’t very popular.

The really popular manga are like long novels, usually opting for physical publication.

So,

When “King of the Net” appeared and garnered some popularity in a short period of time, the Tribe platform noticed and even caused a stir in the data monitoring department:

“Wow...”

“This manga is quite impressive.”

“It’s only been published for about a week, yet this manga called ‘King of the Net’ already has very high readership. This is a work that can bring significant traffic!”

“Is this ‘Shadow,’ a newcomer to the manga world?”

“Well, this newcomer, is quite capable.”

“Quite a few new users registered just to come to our tribe to read ‘King of the Net’.”

“Our tribe doesn’t have a specific manga section, we should immediately liaise with the literature division. Chu Kuang is the collaborator of the literature division and Chu Kuang’s work has been adapted into a manga, they should help with promotion.”

The Literature Department of the Tribe.

Upon hearing this news, Han Jimei was taken aback, astounded. She had not expected that a high-demand manga would suddenly emerge within the Tribe! Furthermore...

This manga is somehow related to Chu Kuang?

As for why the company assigned this task to Han Jimei, she knew it very well.

The company does not have a manga department.

But right now, when the tribe is at war with the blog, what both sides are fighting for is traffic.

This manga named ‘King of the Net’ can bring traffic, the tribe naturally wouldn’t just ignore it.

They ought to take some measures to maintain the current situation.

Even for the sake of Chu Kuang, Han Jimei should do something...

“Replace one of the page ad slots on the Literature Department’s homepage with the manga ‘King of the Net’.”

After a moment’s thought, Han Jimei made her decision.

Her assistant nervously asked, “This is an ad that’s pushed to all Tribe users,

are you sure you want to give it to a manga?”

Han Jimei calmly replied: “The more popular this manga becomes, the greater our benefits. Besides...”

Han Jimei paused, not continuing to speak.

Actually the company has always had thoughts of venturing into the manga industry. Backed by the Tribe platform, many things would be made easier.

But the plan is not yet in place, so she didn’t feel it appropriate to discuss it further.

If it does happen, Han Jimei will likely take on the additional responsibilities for the manga department as well.

The assistant understood, “I’ll attend to it right away.”

Han Jimei nodded, then couldn’t refrain from dialing the number. This was the number Shadow left on the Tribe.

“Hello.”

Lin Yuan didn’t expect that his newly bought phone and newly registered number would receive a strange call,

This number was what he had used to register the Shadow account.

Han Jimei said with a smile: “Hello, may I ask if this is Teacher Shadow?”

Lin Yuan responded quickly: “Are you from the Tribe?”

Last time Wei Long also directly contacted him. The people from the Tribe side could see the user’s phone number.

“Yes, I’m the Chief Operating Officer of Tribe Literature, Han Jimei...”

“Is Wei Long not there?”

“You know Wei Long?”

Han Jimei was suddenly taken aback.

Lin Yuan said: “I am Chu Kuang, Shadow is asleep.”

The Tribe side might guess that Shadow and Chu Kuang are the same person, so before they start guessing wildly, Lin Yuan wants to first create the illusion that Shadow and Chu Kuang are good friends, to provide them with false guidance.

However, what Lin Yuan did not know...

Han Jimei was already stunned:

Shadow is asleep?

You are Chu Kuang?

He is asleep... so why are you answering his phone...

I can’t take it anymore.

Strange images had already started to emerge in Han Jimei’s mind.

That’s right...

All of a sudden, Han Jimei remembered, recently, Chu Kuang’s Tribe account seems to interact frequently with Xian Yu. They follow each other, and do not follow other celebrities on the Tribe platform. It’s clear their relationship is not simple.

So what about Shadow?

Han Jimei, covering her mouth, was afraid that she might scream and invite Chu Kuang's dissatisfaction, but she had made an incredible discovery, she seems to have stumbled upon a big secret-

Chapter 217: Tragically Turned into

In a certain sense, Han Jimei's assumptions were not wrong.

After all, Chu Kuang, Shadow and Xian Yu were inseparable in daily life, they even shared toothbrushes!

But that's not the main point.

The key thing is, after this phone call that night, the "King of the Net" manga received a push from the Tribe-

Ding.

Basically, all Tribe users received this push notification:

"Chu Kuang's novel "King of the Net" is being adapted into a hot manga, the style is explosively handsome!"

Everyone who has a smartphone experienced something similar.

Not looking at your phone for a long time, then suddenly opening it, you would notice all the push notifications from various apps.

Most people just glance at these notifications, if they're not interested, they

will dismiss it.

If they are interested, they will open it.

The majority dismissed it, but there will always be some who open it.

The type sent by the Tribe is one of them.

And compared to the Tribe's user base, even if only one percent of users follow the push link and decide to open it, it creates a shocking heat!

"They pushed it."

"The manga is really good."

"Only saw the opening, but was already attracted."

"Update more!"

"Loving the art style."

"Isn't this 'King of the Net'? I've read the novel, I didn't expect the manga to be out too, and it's a very faithful adaptation!"

"Unexpectedly, there's such an excellent manga serialization on the Tribe."

"Jumping into this story!"

If you said that the original reader base of the "King of the Net" was mainly the fans of the novel, by this time however, the manga had managed to draw in a crowd that was entirely non-original-fan-based.

Furthermore, among the manga readers, the number of people who haven't read the original has gradually surpassed the number of original fans.

“It’s on fire, it’s on fire, it’s on fire!”

Witnessing “King of the Net” gain more and more popularity, Luo Wei got a bit excited!

When Lin Yuan first approached her to be his manga assistant, she didn’t wish to agree and even thought it was a joke.

Even though Lin Yuan eventually beat her, causing her to fulfil her promise of becoming his manga assistant, Luo Wei was still not fully engaged—

What she wanted more was to take this opportunity to learn traditional

Chinese painting from Lin Yuan.

Because there are too many people drawing manga in Blue Star and very few

can make it big.

Competition in any industry is fierce.

In the manga industry, not only the skill of the mangaka is important, but also the story and storyboard, these are all tests for the mangaka.

The original “King of the Net” was indeed wonderful, but the main reasons for the manga’s success were the art style and storyboard...

All of these were Lin Yuan’s accomplishments!

Otherwise, with so many splendid novels, why do so many novels adapted to manga fail to create a splash?

Just like a best-seller novel being adapted into a drama, but the drama won’t necessarily be successful.

Because the TV drama depends on the director and the scriptwriter's skills. Such secondary creative work, presenting the work in different forms, indeed tests the creative ability of the secondary creators.

Therefore, it was Chu Kuang who achieved "King of the Net" in novel format without question.

However, the one who achieved the manga adaptation of "King of the Net" could only be Lin Yuan, who created it under the pseudonym of "Shadow". And Luo Wei...

She was fortunate to participate in the "King of the Net" manga due to a bet, so of course she had reason to be excited!

After all, she initially thought that she would be following Lin Yuan to create failed mangas for a few years, and she didn't hold any hope for Lin Yuan's manga to be popular...

But then, it really did become popular.

This was a whole other story.

With the manga being a huge success, Luo Wei, as the main assistant to this manga, also had some merit.

This would greatly benefit her future development in the art world.

Not to mention the chance to learn traditional Chinese painting from Lin

Yuan...

Just the mere fact that she could collaborate with Lin Yuan to create a hot manga like "King of The Net", was already enough. Even if she was just an assistant!

If she knew earlier that the manga Lin Yuan created was going to be popular, Luo Wei would seriously consider being Lin Yuan's assistant even without any other conditions.

This brings us to Luo Wei's career planning.

As an art student, Luo Wei will inevitably engage in the painting industry in the future.

Although she loves traditional Chinese painting most, Luo Wei doesn't want to limit herself to it.

Like many other students who study painting.

She's also interested in manga.

Otherwise, she would not have previously accepted online orders to draw some manga characters, and she is also a big fan of fan art in her private time.

Her ideal future is to shine in the field of manga and also achieve certain success in the field of traditional Chinese painting.

Such a career path is bound to be challenging.

Trying to draw every type may result in not being the best in any of them.

But now,

Having the experience of being an assistant to the "King of the Net", her future development in the manga field at least has a clear guideline to follow.

As for traditional Chinese painting, Lin Yuan also promised to teach her in the future.

Thinking about Lin Yuan's master-level "Six Shrimps", Luo Wei was very much looking forward to Lin Yuan teaching her traditional Chinese painting.

Speaking of which, Luo Wei suddenly realized that Lin Yuan's current state was her goal to strive for!

He can flex his muscles in the manga circle and is also a hidden master of traditional Chinese painting...

Suddenly, Luo Wei respected Lin Yuan even more!

What Luo Wei admired most was that after the manga “King of the Net” became popular, she was the only one who got excited, while Lin Yuan remained calm.

Luo Wei was not even sure if Lin Yuan did not care about if the manga was popular, or if he knew ahead that it would be popular.

In any case, Lin Yuan was very calm, not behaving like someone whose manga just became popular.

He just went into the studio as usual, calling Luo Wei to continue drawing the manga.

“Okay.”

In front of Lin Yuan, Luo Wei acted obediently.

As for Lin Yuan, when he began to draw, he started pondering a matter. Today, when he logged onto the “Shadow” account, as expected, he received many private messages.

Among them, there was one private message from an animation company. They wanted to buy the animation rights of “King of the Net”!

Moreover, they not only contacted Shadow but also contacted Chu Kuang’s account.

Obviously, the copyrights were with Chu Kuang, but they also wanted the manga characters of “King of the Net”...

Both pseudonyms belonged to Lin Yuan, so he held the complete copyright. What he was considering was whether to sell the animation rights of “King of the Net”.

Making money is one thing.

Lin Yuan's worry was mainly whether the other party had the ability to make a good animation of "Prince of Tennis".

So, he didn't make a decision at once.

He planned to investigate the production capabilities of this company back and forth, and if the capabilities weren't up to par, it would have to be a refusal.

He didn't want to see the disaster of "King of the Net" being animated.

There were cases of original works being ruined too many times in these years. What if the other party pulls an Aura Equus Domitor kind of hand?

Lin Yuan has to take responsibility for these works.

Just like a singer performing, he can't help but participate in the recording, similarly "King of the Net" must find a reliable company to make the animation.

Chapter 218: Song Tailored for Chen Zhiyu

The weather in May had already started warming up.

After a period of continuous updates, the popularity of "King of the Net" had gradually stabilized, and the attention from Shadow's fans had already broken the threshold of ten million, establishing him as an emerging comic artist in the comics industry!

One day,

Lin Yuan arrived at the company to find that someone was looking for him; it was Zhao Jue, whom he hadn't seen for quite some time. She was waiting in his office.

The company was undergoing a transformation.

Not only had 01' Zhou been promoted, but Zhao Jue had as well.

Zhao Jue used to manage the artists from the music department.

Now, she was also in charge of the artists from the film and television department, or more accurately, the artists were managed by the agents under Zhao Jue.

Zhao Jue was still undoubtedly the company's chief agent.

Knowing that Zhao Jue had a great relationship with Lin Yuan and that her position was higher than Lin Yuan's, Gu Dong wouldn't have let Zhao Jue wait outside if she wanted to see Lin Yuan.

"Ms. Zhao." Lin Yuan greeted.

"Finally here."

Upon seeing Lin Yuan appear in the office, Zhao Jue's face displayed a warm smile: "I was about to call you if you hadn't shown up."

Lin Yuan asked, "What is it?"

Still smiling, Zhao Jue asked, "Have you written any songs recently?"

"...Yes."

Lin Yuan thought about it and answered.

While he didn't have any at the moment, he could customize one with the System. If it was Zhao Jue who'd asked, Lin Yuan was not likely to refuse.

Here's the thing," Zhao Jue explained, "Recently a top-tier singer under Dazzling Entertainment's contract is expiring. He hasn't renewed his contract with his old company, and is probably considering other options. Therefore, many companies are trying to sign him; I want to sign him too... Perhaps you're familiar with this singer."

“Who is it?”

“Perennial Runner-up... cough, Chen Zhiyu.” Zhao Jue said with a somewhat strange expression.

Lin Yuan was stunned for a moment then quickly remembered who it was.

Indeed, Chen Zhiyu was a singer under Dazzling Entertainment who Lin Yuan had outperformed a few times on the championship leaderboard.

After he moved to Qi Province, he hadn’t had much interaction with Chen Zhiyu.

“Ms. Zhao, you’re planning to?”

“Give him a song.”

Zhao Jue’s gaze flickered slightly: “Currently when the media mentions Chen Zhiyu, they like to use the label ‘Perennial Runner-up’ to describe him. While this has almost become part of his persona, he would surely want to reach number one...”

Lin Yuan understood: “You want me to help him reach number one?”

Zhao Jue smiled: “That’s right. Other than Maestro, I can’t think of anyone else in the company who can help Chen Zhiyu secure a stable number one position.”

Lin Yuan understood.

Zhao Jue sighed: “You know what the company’s current situation is like. The competition on the championship leaderboard is getting fiercer, so the executives really want our company to have a presence on the leaderboard. If Chen Zhiyu were to join our company and secure the number one spot, I think there’s no better way than this.”

“Ah.”

Lin Yuan replied, “I’ll send you the song later.”

This wasn't very challenging for Lin Yuan.

Zhao Jue was surprised: "Later? Do the songs you have currently fit him?"

"Yes."

That was what Lin Yuan answered, but in his heart, he was thinking of customizing a song specifically for Chen Zhiyu.

He had accumulated a wealth of customization experience in Qi Province.

The only regret was that he originally intended to give the next song to senior Sun Yaohuo. Since senior Sun Yaohuo had helped him a lot, Lin Yuan naturally wanted to return the favor.

Since Chen Zhiyu needs to be signed now, it seems that senior Sun Yaohuo will have to wait until next time.

After Zhao Jue left, Lin Yuan switched on his computer and began to listen to Chen Zhiyu's songs.

He wasn't particularly familiar with Chen Zhiyu.

If he wanted to tailor a song for Chen Zhiyu, he needed to understand Chen Zhiyu's style first.

"Rhythm and blues..."

Also known as the R&B style.

It is a musical form that fuses elements of jazz, gospel, and blues.

For instance, a song called "Glory".

With its fresh and powerful rhythm and its constantly repeating melodies, it repeatedly hits the listener's eardrums. The echoing melody and rhythm stimulate the "beat" in the listener's heart.

"The chord progressions should be consistent..."

"The vocals and instrumental parts should correspond..."

"After the singer sings a few notes, the musical part or harmony should pick up where it left off, repeating those few notes as if it's a call and response, or even like an echo or self-questioning and answering effect..."

These are all characteristic of Chen Zhiyu.

"His gold register is around F4 to C5, his lower register can reach Eb2, the biting pronunciation is still of decent quality."

"In his earlier songs, he had a good chest voice performance in the E5 range."

"His mixed voice ability is ordinary, there's a whistle register here... No need to refer to that..."

After Lin Yuan had listened to dozens of Chen Zhiyu's songs consecutively, he'd gradually formed an idea in his mind:

"System, customize a song."

System: "The song library has been opened."

That's right, now when Lin Yuan needed to customize a song, he had to decide which one himself, so he had carefully studied Chen Zhiyu's style.

"Should it completely follow his previous style?"

Lin Yuan pondered this question.

He felt that many songs could be sung by Chen Zhiyu, but he also thought that perhaps he could give Chen Zhiyu something different.

Listeners need surprises.

Chen Zhiyu is an established singer, his fans and audience are very familiar with his style. If the song he gives him is still in the same vein as Chen Zhiyu's previous style, will it lack surprise?

Last time in Qi Province, when customizing a song for Shui Yun, didn't she request a certain amount of change?

Perhaps all famed singers hope their works could show some variation while maintaining their unique features.

"Shui Yun mainly sings slow songs, so I gave her a fast song..."

"For Chen Zhiyu, why not consider giving him a touch of rock music..."

Music is not rigid or uniform.

While a single music style is authentic, hearing the same style over and over can get tiring and make people crave something different. That's why more and more songs nowadays are attempting to combine different styles.

Change is something everyone is working on.

Moreover, according to Ms. Zhao, Chen Zhiyu doesn't want to be number two anymore...

Neither does Lin Yuan.

The first place earns the most money, so he must strive to be first.

Furthermore, since the song library was opened after system transformation, it would be a shame if the song that he had painstakingly chosen from thousands of options didn't reach number one.

“If seeking a change...”

As Lin Yuan was listening to the songs in the library and thinking about this, he found a clearer direction: “Rhythm and blues, with a touch of rock, something light-hearted, it’s best to incorporate some elements of rap...”

Got it!

Lin Yuan thought of a song. It was of quite good quality and suitable for Chen Zhiyu’s vocal range, there was no conflict in style, and it even brought a touch of light-hearted change, with a hint of rock:

“Customize song, ‘Change Yourself’..”

Chapter 219: If You Can’t Beat Them, Join Them

In a certain upscale residential complex.

Chen Zhiyu was sitting on the sofa.

His agent was on the phone in the distance.

After another call ended, the agent turned to Chen Zhiyu with a serious face and said, “Most of the biggest entertainment companies in Qin Qi are interested in collaborating with us. The terms they’ve offered are quite favorable. Have you made any decisions yet?”

“No.”

Chen Zhiyu replied hesitantly.

The agent said earnestly, “No matter where you go, I am with you. We have been working together for so many years and our understanding of each other is enough. Our relationship is not only as agent and artist, but also as good friends in life!”

Chen Zhiyu:” ...”

Just then, the agent’s phone rang again. After a few words, his face suddenly changed.

“What’s up?”

The agent ended the call. Chen Zhiyu asked.

The agent had a quirky expression: “Starlight said, if we went to them... Admired Fish could tailor-make a song for you.”

“Heh.”

Chen Zhiyu scoffed disdainfully.

The agent also echoed with a sneer: “This Admired Fish... has stolen our number one spot so many times, how could we possibly work with him! Does he think he’s a Maestro now?”

“Dream on.”

Chen Zhiyu snorted.

The agent nodded, his gaze gloomy: “We cannot go to Starlight! Who does he Admired Fish think he is? Thumped us so many times, then threw a song at us, we should tag along with them at Starlight? Isn’t that too spineless of us! I’d like to see the song he sent over. Let’s criticize it together when we’re done listening!”

“Critique together!”

Chen Zhiyu nodded firmly.

The agent opened his email, preparing to play it. Chen Zhiyu suddenly said, “Wait a sec, let me turn the speakers on.”

“That’s right, the clearer we hear it, the easier it is for us to critique! You’re clever!”

“Exactly... Alright, go ahead and play it.”

“Okay.”

Soon, the synthesized melody of a song came from the speakers.

After listening for a while, Chen Zhiyu and the agent looked at each other and concurrently said:

“Nothing special.”

A few minutes later, the song ended.

Chen Zhiyu nonchalantly said, “The song is mediocre.”

The agent agreed, “Indeed, it’s nothing impressive.”

Chen Zhiyu critiqued, “The melody is very ordinary.”

The agent added, “And the intro is especially long.”

Chen Zhiyu expressed disdain, “Singing it poses no challenge at all.”

The agent summed up, “It’s just a bubblegum pop song.”

Following their round of criticisms.

Chen Zhiyu started: “Let’s go to Starlight. I want to sing it and use my strength to prove that the song is not good!”

“No problem.”

The agent nodded repeatedly, seemingly in tune with Chen Zhiyu: “We must go to Starlight! We must sing this song! We have to get the second place! Let that Fish know that he too is nothing special!”

The atmosphere gradually quieted down.

Things like this happen all the time, like when a group of people are having a heated conversation.

They chat and chat, without any specific reason, suddenly, everyone stops talking.

After a long while.

Chen Zhiyu looked at the agent: “Do you think you’re pretty funny?”

The agent replied with a complex expression, “I think you’re quite amusing too.”

Then, the agent mumbled to himself, “I was originally planning on requesting that Admirable Fish write us a song before we consider going to them. I didn’t expect them to actually send us one of Admirable Fish’s songs.”

“Yeah.”

Chen Zhiyu stopped pretending: “I must admit, this song really speaks to my heart. Changing myself is exactly what I’ve been thinking about lately. Admirable Fish truly lives up to his name, I don’t mind losing to him any number of times. Play it again.”

“Alright.”

The agent played the song again.

This time, Chen Zhiyu held his phone and carefully listened to the lyrics.

After listening.

Chen Zhiyu took a deep breath: “How does that saying go?”

“If you can’t beat them... join them...”

Chen Zhiyu and the agent exchanged glances and simultaneously slapped their thighs, breaking into laughter, filling the room with a joyous atmosphere.

Chen Zhiyu had arrived at Starlight!

When Chen Zhiyu and his agent walked through the doors of Starlight, the news spread rapidly through the departments, becoming juicy gossip for the company’s employees.

“The living, breathing Perennial Runner-up!”

“I want to pay my respects.”

“Continually bested by Admirable Fish, he still chose to join Starlight. Could it be that Chen Zhiyu has Stockholm Syndrome...”

“I heard Admirable Fish gifted him a song.”

“Pfft...why can’t I stop myself from wanting to laugh...”

“Chen Zhiyu, the Perennial Runner-up who has been suppressed by Admirable Fish, is preparing to collaborate on a song with him? Do you guys think the song will rank first or second?”

Never mind the company gossip.

Chen Zhiyu’s prompt agreement was beyond Zhao Jue’s expectation. It seemed that Lin Yuan’s song, “Change Myself”, was quite satisfying for Chen Zhiyu.

She naturally offered a warm welcome to Chen Zhiyu and also invited Lin Yuan over.

“This is Teacher Admirable Fish.”

Zhao Jue introduced with a smile.

Chen Zhiyu looked at Lin Yuan, his eyes filled with a complicated emotion, “Nice to meet you, Teacher Admirable Fish. You’re a lot younger than I imagined.”

“Nice to meet you.”

Lin Yuan replied courteously.

Chen Zhiyu’s agent, slightly embarrassed, said, “Shall we sign the contract today and prepare to record the song tomorrow?”

“Sure.”

Zhao Jue agreed firmly.

After both parties signed the contract, Chen Zhiyu’s agent took the initiative to invite: “Could we trouble Teacher Admirable Fish to join us for dinner? Since we’re going to be working together in the future, it will be good to familiarize ourselves with each other, right? You can decide where we eat!”

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan mused: “Let’s go to a hotpot restaurant owned by a friend of mine.”

“Alright.”

Both of them had no objections.

Lin Yuan called Sun Yaohuo: “Can we go to your hotpot restaurant tonight?”

Sun Yaohuo enthusiastically replied, “Sure, I’ll go set up a table for you right away! How many people?”

Lin Yuan asked, “Ms. Zhao, will you be coming too?”

Zhao Jue waved her hand, “I’m busy tonight. I’ll treat you all another day.”

“Three people.”

Lin Yuan said.

Sun Yaohuo laughed, “No problem... Are they your friends?”

Lin Yuan explained, “They’re Chen Zhiyu and his agent. I’m not sure if you know them. I’m planning to collaborate with them on a song.”

The phone line went silent for a moment.

Just as Lin Yuan thought the signal was poor and was about to speak, Sun Yaohuo said, “I’ll reserve the best private room at the hotpot restaurant for you tonight... Wish you happiness.”

“Huh?”

“I wish you a pleasant collaboration.”

“Aren’t you going to join us for dinner? It’s been a while since we ate together.”

“You... you want me to... Fine! I’ll join.”

Sun Yaohuo’s mood seemed to carry a bit of sadness and loss.

“Let’s meet at 7.”

Lin Yuan hung up and said to Chen Zhiyu, "Let's have hotpot at 7.1 invited a friend."

"Alright."

Chen Zhiyu and his agent replied with a smile..

Chapter 220: Cold Joke

At seven o'clock that evening.

Lin Yuan, Chen Zhiyu and Chen Zhiyu's agent arrived at the hot pot restaurant run by Sun Yaohuo.

The name of the hot pot restaurant was Flame Hot Pot.

The restaurant was crowded with people, indicating that its business was thriving, with Sun Yaohuo personally greeting guests at the door.

"Hello, Chen Zhiyu."

After greeting him, Chen Zhiyu started, seeming unsure, "Have we met before?"

Sun Yaohuo reminded him, "Sun Yaohuo, I'm the singer of 'Red Rose'."

Chen Zhiyu seemed dazed for a moment.

He hadn't expected the hot pot restaurant owner that Teacher Admirable Fish had mentioned to be his fellow industry colleague!

They were all from the same circle. Although Sun Yaohuo was not very famous, he and Chen Zhiyu had met before at certain events.

That's why Chen Zhiyu found Sun Yaohuo familiar.

On the other hand, Sun Yaohuo was quite familiar with Chen Zhiyu.

After all, Chen Zhiyu was a first-class singer, who in the music circle does not know him?

“This is my agent, Liu Mou.”

“Hello.”

-Let’s not stand on ceremony, let’s go in. We’ve prepared a private room and we can’t let our junior starve,” Sun Yaohuo turned to Lin Yuan.

Exchanging pleasantries, everyone entered the private room.

Just as Chen Zhiyu was about to speak, the sound of a song reached his ears: “A dream within a dream from which one cannot awake, red entrapped within the red thread...”

Now Chen Zhiyu’s face changed.

This song was oh too familiar to Chen Zhiyu.

In the past, he once came in second when faced with this song...

Seemingly concerned, Sun Yaohuo asked, “What’s wrong, do you dislike this song, Brother Zhiyu? If so, I could have the waiter play your song.”

“No, no.”

Smiling, Chen Zhiyu said, “This is a song by Teacher Admirable Fish, how could

I not like it.”

“That’s good. I thought you didn’t like my rendition of this song...,” Sun Yaohuo said somewhat awkwardly.

Liu Mou blinked his eyes.

The atmosphere, seemed a bit off.

Without giving it much thought, Lin Yuan said, "I'll go make a dipping sauce."

"Go straight out the door and turn left... Do you want me to accompany you, Junior?" Sun Yaohuo said.

"I'll go myself, you guys start ordering," Lin Yuan got up and headed for the condiment area.

Sun Yaohuo didn't insist, and had someone bring the menu over. "You two are guests, please order first."

"Very well, thank you."

Chen Zhiyu began ordering.

After he had finished ordering, Sun Yaohuo glanced at the menu and laughed, saying, "Sorry, it seems we've sold out of the yellow throat, and I think we're also out of duck's blood?"

Sun Yaohuo turned to the server.

The server paused, "Do we have it...or not?"

Sun Yaohuo seemed unhappy, "How should I know? Don't you know more about the kitchen situation than I do?"

The server, after a moment of realization, responded, "I think we're out."

Sun Yaohuo nodded, then turned to Chen Zhiyu, "I'm sorry..'¹

“It’s fine.”

Chen Zhiyu gestured with his hand, “I’ll also go make a sauce.

“Me too.”

Liu Mou got up and said.

Just as they left, Lin Yuan returned to the room and asked Sun Yaohuo, “Have the dishes been ordered?”

Sun Yaohuo laughed and said, “Yes, I’ll recount them, see if you want to add anything.”

“Sure.”

The server then listed out the dishes that had been ordered.

After hearing it, Lin Yuan thought for a moment and said, “Let’s add some yellow throat and tripe, and oh, also some duck’s blood.”

“We’re out of yellow throat and duck’s blood!”

The server looked at Sun Yaohuo as if seeking approval, thinking that he had cleverly understood the boss’s intentions.

Sun Yaohuo’s mouth twitched, “As far as I remember, we still have yellow throat and duck’s blood, don’t we?”

The server seemed unable to follow Sun Yaohuo’s thought process, “So, do we...or don’t we?”

“We do!”

Sun Yaohuo glared at the server, “Quickly bring out the dishes.”

“Alright, alright...”

The server practically fled.

In no time, all the dishes were served.

When Chen Zhiyu and Liu Mou returned, seeing the yellow throat and duck’s blood on the plate, they looked at Sun Yaohuo, deep in thought.

Was this guy trying to be funny?

Sharing a hot pot seems to easily bridge the gap between people, and within less than ten minutes, the room had already been filled with lively chatter.

Sun Yaohuo and Chen Zhiyu seemed to hit it off and talked about many topics.

Chen Zhiyu loved discussing the current state of the music industry, his endorsements, and his singing career with Sun Yaohuo.

Sun Yaohuo loved to talk about the food and beverage industry, food, and his restaurant’s business.

“One of my songs was included in a college textbook.”

“Before, my milk tea shop did pretty well, I opened two more branches recently.”

“About that previous endorsement fee, the client was willing to pay quite a lot.” “I plan to open another tea restaurant soon, styled after the Qi Continent.” “We first-class singers don’t actually have it that easy, you guys have it much more relaxed.”

“Hey, running a restaurant isn’t easy either, I earn a lot, but the hardship is only known to me.”

“Huh, Brother Yao Huo? Is this still ‘Red Rose’? Does your shop play songs on loop?”

“How about changing to ‘Life Like A Summer Flower’? I also sang that one.”

“Oh, that’s another song written by Teacher Admirable Fish, of course... Brother Yao Huo’s songs are still a bit lacking.”

“Actually, there are some other songs as well, but these two songs have both won the season’s top spot. Brother Zhiyu, you have to work harder!”

The eyes of the two met, seemingly in meaningful conversation.

Only Lin Yuan, who held the most respect for the food, was eating with utmost joy.

Now, having finished his beef slices, Lin Yuan felt about seventy percent full. Stomach filled with warm food, he suddenly had an urge to tell a joke.

So, he slowly began, “I remember a few years ago when I went to get hot pot with my sister.”

Sun Yaohuo and Chen Zhiyu turned to look at Lin Yuan.

With a poker face, Lin Yuan continued, “But it was strange, we clearly ordered a pure broth hot pot, but it felt a bit numbing. So my sister asked the owner, why is the pure soup hot pot numbing?”

Curious, Sun Yaohuo asked, “Why?”

Lin Yuan said, “The owner explained, I am sorry, the hot pot seems to be leaking electricity.”

The room went quiet for a few seconds.

Sun Yaohuo burst out laughing.

Chen Zhiyu and Liu Mou looked lost.

They could actually find that bad a joke funny?

Sun Yaohuo's laughter escalated, doubling over he said, "Do you find Teacher Admirable Fish humorous?"

"Hahaha...."

Liu Mou also laughed, and kicked Chen Zhiyu's foot whispering, "So funny." It was only then that Chen Zhiyu reacted, "Hahahahaha... I think Teacher Admirable Fish is indeed very humorous!"

Lin Yuan:" "

Even though he felt that his joke wasn't half-bad, it surely couldn't warrant that much laughter.

It seemed like the humor threshold of Chen Zhiyu and Liu Mou was at the same level as Senior Yao Huo.

Finally.

They finished their meal.

On the way home, Liu Mou looked rather solemn, "This Sun Yaohuo is not simple, we need to be cautious in the future."

"Indeed."

Chen Zhiyu's expression got serious as he felt an inexplicable sense of crisis, "We'll record the song tomorrow, to avoid further trouble!"