

## All R. Artist 261

### Chapter 261: Gourmet Comics

“August 25.

Inside Shadow’s studio.

Jin Mu said to Lin Yuan, “The Tribe wants to conduct an interview with comic artists who are about to publish their works on the new website. The idea is a bit of promotion for their new works. You don’t have to show up in person, it’s just a text-based interview. Are you willing?”

“Sure.”

Lin Yuan answered.

Jin Mu nodded, and soon after, a Tribe Comics’ editor added Lin Yuan’s Shadow account on their contact list.

The editor was very polite, “We have already discussed with Teacher Shadow’s manager, can the interview be started now?”

Shadow: “Yep.”

Editor: “I’m also a fan of ‘King of the Net’, and I’m really reluctant to see it end.

But I’m looking forward to your upcoming comic. Can you reveal some information about the new comic to your fans?”

Shadow: “The new comic is called ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’, and it’s a food-themed comic.”

Editor: “Just hearing about it makes me hungry! We know that ‘King of the Net’ is a work by novelist Chu Kuang. So, is the story of the new comic created by Teacher Shadow yourself?”

Shadow: “Yes.”

Editor: “Is writing your own story for the first time stressful?”

Shadow: “Not really.”

Editor: “Teacher Shadow, you are very confident. As our website is newly founded, what are your expectations for the performance of your new work?”

The interview lasted about fifteen minutes.

The editor’s questions were all standard ones, so it didn’t take too much effort for Lin Yuan to answer.

But then the editor started to gossip, “[Mischievous]Actually, I have a personal question. What is your gender, Teacher Shadow?”

Shadow: “Male.”

Editor: “Gossip one more time, absolutely the last one, you seem to have a good relationship with Admirable Fish and Chu Kuang. What are their genders?”

Shadow: “That’s two questions.”

Editor: “Ha ha ha, sorry sorry[Cute].”

Shadow: “Both male.”

Editor: “Successful gossip[Grin]! Thank you for your answers, Teacher Shadow. It’s a buy one, get one free, n(\*^\*)n!”

Shadow: “Why buy, you clearly didn’t pay.”

Editor stammered for a few seconds before replying, "...Teacher Shadow has quite a sense of humor."

Shadow: "My friends say the same thing."

Twenty minutes in.

The text interview finally ended.

Jin Mu took a look and confirmed that there were no issues, then nodded, "The interview will be published tonight. Other comic writers also have text interviews."

Lin Yuan nodded.

He didn't take this to heart.

However, Lin Yuan underestimated the gossipy nature of netizens.

That night.

As the interviews with the comic artists appeared online, the comment section in Admirable Fish and Chu Kuang's Tribe became lively:

"I knew it, the three of them are together!"

"So, all three are boys-"

"Actually, it's not too surprising. Although Chu Kuang's writing style varies, he always seems to be a man."

"I wasn't sure about Admirable Fish's gender before because he has a song with lyrics written from a female's perspective. Now I get it, Admirable Fish has the heart of a young girl."

“The three of them are indeed good bros!”

“Congratulations to Teacher Shadow on the success of his new work. If not, he might be left behind by Admirable Fish and Chu Kuang.”

“The underdog needs to keep going!”

Many fans don’t really understand comics, so they mostly tease.

For these people, the most significant value of this interview is revealing Admirable Fish and Chu Kuang’s genders.

However, the same interview, viewed by some industry insiders, actually sparked a different reaction.

“Shadow is going for a self-created comic?”

“Isn’t he a pure artist?”

“Looks like another comic artist who is not content with being a pure artist.

Every pure artist seems to have the idea of individual creation...”

“Isn’t the focus food?”

“If Shadow’s new work is not on food, I think his new comic might have a glimmer of hope. But the food-themed comic killed 99% of the suspense!”

“Yeah, why choose food?”

“The food-themed comic was once very popular, but now no one is interested in it. Simply put, this theme is out of date.”

“I suggest Shadow continue to work with Chu Kuang, or it would be a waste of a very impressive pure artist.”

It's not just the industry insiders who find this unconvincing, even Shadow's fans are a little stunned upon learning that Shadow wants to go for an original creation.

“Really?”

“Does Teacher Shadow not want to be a pure artist anymore?”

“I think being a pure artist is quite nice. You can focus more energy on drawing and leave the story to the scriptwriter...”

“Wake up, Teacher Shadow, food is out of date!”

“Absolutely. If Teacher Shadow insists on creating his own original, why not go for a sports theme?”

“Strongly suggest going with the sports genre!”

“In the field of comics, sports still have some potential and ‘King of the Net’ has proven that Teacher Shadow is best at it.”

“Though I'm not optimistic, I will try my best to support Teacher Shadow.” “I've seen comics drawn by original artists before, there's no doubt about their drawing style, yet the story is a bit lackluster.”

Both industry insiders and Shadow's fans don't care about the gossip about Admirable Fish and Chu Kuang. They all care about Shadow's new work.

But-

Finding out that Shadow's new work is actually going along the original creation line, and even choosing the food theme, many fans felt a bucket of cold water being poured on them.

It's not Shadow's problem.

Many pure artists tried to go for original creation before Shadow, but most of them failed.

Of course, nothing is absolute.

There are also those who didn't fail while going along the original creation line, but their works' popularity can't be compared to when they were pure artists!

'King of the Net' is the most popular comic on Tribe!

It's going to be tough for Shadow to achieve the same height with his original creation. Let alone the fact that he has chosen food, which is relatively less popular in the market.

However, clearly.

The outside world's thoughts can't affect Shadow's resolution.

Even though many people posted comments under Shadow's Tribe, it was useless.

On the other hand, Luo Wei, as Shadow's assistant, was slowly changing her view on 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma'

Yes.

As 'King of the Net' came to an end.

Lin Yuan had already started on the creation of 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma' with Luo Wei!

The creative process was tough, and it was a time-consuming project. Because Lin Yuan intended to create a full-color comic this time! Only a full-color comic can showcase the characteristics of 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma'!

What is glowing fried rice exactly?

How can grayscale lines make readers instinctively see how tempting the food in ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’ is?

In this process, Luo Wei was attracted by ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’. With the storyboard and story provided by Lin Yuan in clear sight, Luo Wei suddenly felt that this comic might set off a food trend!

Her passion for drawing seemed to be inspired by the delicious food in the story, and she worked even harder!

Chapter 262: Reunite with Gu Xi

The attention drawn by Shadow’s new work is limited only to Shadow’s fans and some professionals in the comic circle.

If we looked at the entire comic community, it’s bound to say: the news of Shadow’s new work would hardly stir up a big commotion.

Comic enthusiasts are still immersed in the anticipation of the launch of Tribe Comics!

Because...

The lineup of comic artists invited for the launch of Tribe Comics is too luxurious!

New works from many top comic artists are worth looking forward to! Shadow is virtually inconspicuous amidst such a stellar line-up. Moreover, many people had not even noticed this pure graphic artist. And when this mood all culminated on the first day of September, all the excitement and anticipation exploded with the launch of Tribe Comics! Swoosh Swoosh Swoosh.

Countless comic readers flocked to the comic website established by Tribe on this day!

However...

At such a moment, Lin Yuan was not closely following the situation of his comic.

He had delegated Luo Wei, his assistant, with the task of uploading “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma”.

Because not only was the first of September the day when Tribe Comics launches its new comic website, but also...

It was the opening day of the school at Qin Art.

Although Lin Yuan had been on indefinite leave since his second semester of junior year, he still had no reason to skip the opening day of his senior year. In his class,

Meeting with classmates was particularly cordial and enthusiastic, with a hint of looking forward to the new school year.

Lin Yuan, too, received many warm greetings from his classmates, enjoying the unchanging darling treatment as always.

Universities in Blue Star are five-year programs.

However, by the fourth year, there are hardly any classes for everyone.

The school was also relaxed in its management of seniors.

No one checked whether students stayed in the dormitory.

Students could live outside the school and attendance figures dropped sharply.

As long as you didn't fail, everything was fine.

Nowadays, as long as you study diligently, most college students will not fail the course.



In this senior year, it's more about practical activities than attending classes.

As for the fifth year...

The fifth year are for graduates-to-be.

Those who should look for internships did so; those who wanted to start their own businesses were supported by the school.

For instance, Luo Wei, Lin Yuan's assistant, was a fifth-year student at Qin Art. She didn't even come to school today.

In the future, she would not need to come to school often; it was estimated that she would be a bit busy only when she was preparing her graduation thesis.

Now she was essentially working for Lin Yuan, almost like a half-working part of society.

The reason it's half is that, after all, she hasn't received her graduation certificate from Qin Art yet.

However, Lin Yuan had a certain plan for his senior year time as well.

The premise to be established first is that...

He would undoubtedly be taking more frequent leaves in his senior year.

Since the senior year courses are sparse and scattered, the cost of taking leave is much lower than that of junior year.

Moreover...

Lin Yuan now does not have much time to linger in the painting club anymore. Not only did Luo Wei get promoted to fifth year,

Zhong Yu, a senior at the painting club that Lin Yuan is quite familiar with, also advanced to fifth year.

After advancing to fifth year, Zhong Yu might rarely show up at the painting club.

For Lin Yuan, the painting club, which is missing familiar faces, always feels as if something has been lost.

After all, the painting club that he is familiar with is mainly composed of seniors like Zhong Yu.

Although the painting club will be missing many familiar faces, Lin Yuan went there with a touch of nostalgia.

Because today is the first day of school, there were not as many people in the painting club than usual.

But there are still quite a few people who know Lin Yuan.

After all, the Painting club is a mix of students from all grades. Even students a grade lower than Lin Yuan had learned sketching or gouache from him.

After greeting everyone, Lin Yuan went to the piano room for a while.

The piano room was as it always was.

He is still familiar with the pianos in a few of the piano rooms.

Sitting in the room and playing a little bit, Lin Yuan was ready to leave.

However, right out of the door, he saw a familiar figure.

GuXi!

The last time he met Gu Xi was at Qi Art. Unbelievably, so much time had passed since then, and Gu Xi had come back from studying at Qi Art.

But the reason why...

Gu Xi's look at Lin Yuan was very complex.

It seemed to have a touch of surprise, and yet some traces of resentment, also a bit of depression, and a lingering trace of sorrow between her eyebrows.

"Lin Yuan, we meet again." She took the initiative to greet him.

Lin Yuan nodded in response: "Hello."

After the greeting, Lin Yuan was ready to go, but to his surprise, Gu Xi stopped him and forced out a smile. "Lin Yuan, do you not want to see me that much?" Lin Yuan shook his head: "You misunderstood."

Gu Xi paused for a moment, then seemed to have thought of something, she whispered, "I seem to misunderstand Filbert often, but some misunderstandings are difficult to resolve..."

"Is there something you need?"

Lin Yuan couldn't understand what she was saying.

This was the exact coldness she had expected. Gu Xi sighed.

Actually, wasn't she treating others the same way Lin Yuan was treating her? It could only be said that there were no good outcomes for a sycophant. No matter how hard one tries to please others, it is hard to change the heart of someone who disregards you.

From now on, she would no longer be anyone's sycophant.

Not even for the Maestro.

Dignity was more important than the Maestro!

“Nothing...”

Thinking about it, she smiled a little depressingly.

Lin Yuan nodded, suddenly thought of something, and asked, “Are you free lately?”

“I’m free, I’m free!”

Gu Xi quickly raised her head.

Her sudden, fiery enthusiasm, as if reborn from the ashes, startled Lin Yuan.

“I am planning to shoot a film...”

Lin Yuan wanted to invite Gu Xi to help: “There will be some music pieces in

that film. Your performance skills are better than mine.”

“No problem!”

Gu Xi kept nodding and smiled warmly, “Lin Yuan, your skill level is actually

not worse than mine, but I’ll certainly help if you need me.”

“Let’s add contact information.”

Lin Yuan said, “We can negotiate the remuneration, you won’t work for free.”

Gu Xi quickly replied, “No, no, I can work for you for free!”

Realizing that her words were a bit off, Gu Xi's face turned red quickly and she hastily explained nervously, "I meant that you can work for free, not free..." Why is this girl babbling?

Lin Yuan gave her a strange look: "Your mobile number."

Gu Xi covered her face and said, "My mobile number is 1008612580..."

One minute later.

The two exchanged contact information.

Lin Yuan left the piano room.

Gu Xi, on the other hand, danced happily on the aisle of the piano room as if stepping on the tiles of the floor, humming a tune.

It wasn't until someone came by that she coughed, regained her expression, raised her white jade-like neck, and walked away with an aloof air like a peacock.

Meanwhile,

With the official establishment of the Tribe Comics website, some people have gotten in and opened up Shadow's new comic, "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma"..

Chapter 263: Medicine King

The advent of Tribe Comics was a major event for all comic enthusiasts, and of course, that included a seasoned fan like Lu Wei. So, when the comic website made its first appearance, he, like countless other long-anticipated comic lovers, logged into the new website right away.

The new website had engaged many renowned comic artists to publish their latest works.

After Lu Wei finished reading the latest works from the most famous comic artists, he felt unsatisfied, so he started to search for more new comics to read.

To comic enthusiasts, the new website was like a treasure trove, waiting to be discovered.

Every comic fan aspired to discover more mouth-watering spiritual nourishment from the new website!

Then he noticed this comic entitled “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma.”

The artist was Shadow.

Lu Wei hadn’t seen “King of the Net,” so he didn’t know much about Shadow.

The reason he noticed this comic was because of its unusual theme...

Food!

Any type of comic has its reader base, it’s just a matter of the size of this base.

And Lu Wei was among the few who had a fondness for food-themed comics.

Regrettably, after the food fad had waned, the genre was publicly acknowledged as a low-interest topic.

So, Lu Wei had not seen any new food comics for a long time.

And this had always been a regret for him.

Yet Lu Wei could logically understand that food-themed comics were indeed a genre that had lost its vitality.

Even he, a long-time enthusiast of food-themed comics, found it hard to avoid feeling that the existing body of work was getting stale

Lu Wei found it hard to imagine that someone would still want to create food- themed comics under such circumstances.

And this made Lu Wei feel sort of familiar.

Perhaps it was this sense of familiarity?

With a touch of nostalgia and a dollop of enthusiasm for food, Lu Wei opened “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma.”

Let’s just take a casual look and take it as a trip down memory lane for my once-upon-a-time love for food-themed comics.

The comic begins in the backyard of a small restaurant.

A red-haired boy is sitting in front of a barbecue stand, a strange grin plastering his face: “Grilled squid legs with peanut butter... disgusting... haha...”

Lu Wei was taken aback.

What the heck? Is this a food comic? Are you sure this isn’t about grotesque culinary concoctions?

Just thinking about grilled squid legs with peanut butter was enough to give anyone the creeps.

Then, a voice came from inside the house: “Yukihira, your friends are here.”

“Alright...”

The red-haired boy suddenly rose to his feet, unwrapping the long, white strip around his wrist before tying it on his forehead: “Let’s get started.”

The scene focused on the red-haired boy.

If there were no surprises, this Yukihiro should be the protagonist of the comic.

The scene shifts.

The protagonist, Yukihiro, and his father each cooked a bowl of fried rice, and a girl was the judge, evaluating the cooking skills of the two.

“Hmm...”

As the girl took her first bite of fried rice, the camera suddenly paused at a strange angle. The girl’s legs slightly tightened, and her short skirt fluttered as if blown by the wind, then a flush appeared on her face.

“Ah...”

The girl let out a fragrant breath, seeming to be in a comfortable state that made her appear almost intoxicated.

Lu Wei, who was sitting in front of his phone, could not help but suspect that this comic had some naughty elements, but he had no proof—

At the same time, Lu Wei thought it was quite novel.

This artist called Shadow was really skilled. The two bowls of fried rice on the table looked so appetizing – as if just the drawing alone could awaken the taste buds of its readers.

As it turned out, Yukihiro’s father was the winner.

It seemed that every now and then Yukihiro would have a culinary competition with his father, with the customers acting as judges.

They had competed hundreds of times, and Yukihiro hadn’t won once.

But what had Lu Wei laughing was ...



Yukihira and his dad started arguing again about who made the most disgusting dish.

Yukihira thought his grilled squid legs with peanut butter were the most disgusting, while his father thought his dried sardines with strawberry jam were more horrifying...

Goddamn dried sardines with strawberry jam.

The father-son argument brought a smile to Lu Wei's face.

Other food comics were all about who could make the more delicious dish.

But in this food comic, not only did they compete over who could make the most delicious dish, but they also strived to make the most disgusting dish ...

Taking into account the customer's reaction after tasting the food, Lu Wei began to have a little interest in this comic.

Just a tiny bit.

Because the protagonist's culinary skills were not that impressive. He had lost to his father so many times and his father was just a cook in a small restaurant.

Though it was a bit cliché ...

Lu Wei felt that if the protagonist of a food-themed comic didn't have impressive culinary skills, the story's excitement would be diminished. Who would like a sissy protagonist?

With a somewhat apathetic attitude, he continued to flip through.

At night, the restaurant was closed for the day.

Just then, a woman wearing sunglasses, escorted by her bodyguards, strolled into the small restaurant.

It turns out this woman was a representative of a property developer, and the developer planned to build a large apartment complex opposite the small restaurant.

So, she wanted to force the small restaurant to close down.

Yukihira, with his restaurant's policy of never letting a customer down, refused.

As a result, the next day, the kitchen of the small restaurant was completely devastated, with all the meat including what was in the refrigerator, ruined by someone.

Upon seeing this, Lu Wei felt a hint of anger.

In order to force the small restaurant to close down, these developers would stop at nothing, just like some real-life developers who forcibly drive out local residents for their own profits!

They were utterly despotic!

Chapter 264: Medicine King\_2

Yukihira was enraged, storming out of the restaurant, noticing paint dripping at his feet.

Looking up, he saw his own restaurant's sign covered in white paint.

Just then.

The female representative of the developer reappeared, still in her luxurious car, surrounded by her bodyguards, displaying a haughty demeanor: "I suddenly felt like eating meat. I remember the sirloin steak I had at the central restaurant not too long ago was simply delicious."

She entered and crossed her legs:

"Hey, young man, how about preparing a top-notch juicy meat dish?"

Yukihira remained silent with a stern face.

The woman taunted: “Didn’t you say that if you can’t serve satisfying dishes to customers, you will close your doors? Since your signboard is already ruined, why not close your doors now? I can provide you with generous compensation...”

She started laughing heartily.

Lu Wei’s irritation increased.

However, at that moment, Yukihira suddenly sighed, “A delicious juicy meat dish, is that all you want...”

He untied the bandages on his wrist.

As the bandages fluttered magnificently like a living creature, Yukihira’s expression became blurry but his dialogue for the scene was enlarged and boldened: “Swear to me that you’ll never disturb this place again. If you dare to swear, I can make food that will satisfy your tongue.”

The woman was taken aback, and the bodyguards were startled too.

The next scene had no dialogue, only the protagonist’s piercing gaze at the woman.

At that moment, Lu Wei strangely felt fired up?

Hang on...

Why would I feel spirited over a culinary manga?

Like I’m reading a combat manga?

Moreover...

Yukihira is just a young chef who has lost to his father countless times, where does his confidence come from?

At this moment, a strong curiosity and anticipation surged in Lu Wei's heart!

The following scenes seemingly shifted into an intense mode.

Even though he was simply preparing a dish, Yukihira's speed in cutting the vegetables and his handling of the ingredients exuded a sense of calm and confidence.

"How is this possible..."

The female representative's face changed, she coldly looked at her bodyguard: "Didn't you say you had destroyed all the meat?"

Sweat trickled down the bodyguard's face: "I did destroy it..."

Lu Wei frowned. He was certain that all the meat had been destroyed. Without meat, how could Yukihira make a meat dish?

Soon, the story provided an explanation.

Indeed, Yukihira had no meat, but he used the bacon he had just bought. Using potato as the main ingredient, he evaporated the moisture from it, mixed in a variety of accompaniments, and created a meat-like dish that closely resembled actual meat!

Isn't the protagonist a small dish chicken?

A small dish chicken who never won against his father...

How could his cooking skills be so proficient?

The woman representative seemed to consider it an insult: “I want a meat dish. High-end dishes can only be presented in the finest restaurants, in the most exquisite manner. Your humble shop does not even have a reason to exist!”

Thud.

The food was on the table, Yukihiro calmly looked at her: “Whether there is value in this place should be judged after you finish the dish.”

The woman didn’t say a word.

Nevertheless, she picked up her fork and took a bite.

However, the moment the food entered her mouth, she seemed dazed:

As her teeth chewed, the carefully baked bacon filled the mouth with aromatic, juicy flavors...

Her expression became strange, as if she were going to break down.

The imagery filled the scene.

The aroma of the food filled every corner of the universe, forming a powerful tornado.

Even the bodyguard couldn’t help but swallow his saliva.

This wasn’t real meat...

Yet the taste and texture surpassed that of the most genuine meat dishes!

Swallowing that bite, it felt like she had swallowed...

An aphrodisiac?

The description might sound strange.

But it was indeed...

An aphrodisiac that could send the customers into rapturous delight?

This isn't "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma", this is clearly Aphrodisiac no Soma!

And the protagonist...

Is like a "Medicine King"!

The scenes were filled with a sense of shame, yet Lu Wei didn't feel it was odd. As the guests succumbed to the food prepared by the protagonist, he felt an extremely intense pleasure!

Thrilling!

The following scenes left Lu Wei astounded, feeling like he had been run over by a rolling wheel...

The protagonist collected the food, staring at the woman: "Make your promise. If you want to continue eating, you can't cause any more trouble here."

"Impossible!"

The female representative refused, but her expression wasn't strong enough. Her face turned slightly red as she couldn't take her eyes off the food.

"Although it's a bit of a shame..."

Yukihira picked up the food, ready to leave.

After a fierce inner struggle, the female representative suddenly whimpered, "I swear..."

“Oh?”

Yukihira stopped in his tracks.

The female representative started to act strangely, “Please... let me... taste... more...”

“Deal.”

Yukihira put the food back on the table.

This time, it wasn’t just the female representative. The bodyguards made a beeline for the food too.

When they finished eating, they looked like they had just been through a war, lying haphazardly on the ground.

Their clothes were a little messy, clearly from eating to the point of bursting.

Yukihira untied the bandage wrapped around his forehead: “Just a humble host, lacking any grandeur.”

The first episode ended.

However, Lu Wei seemed to have taken a blow, his gaze slightly vacant.

Can you really play this way?

Is this really a fighting show?

What’s going on with these strange bursts of excitement?

And what about the customer’s reaction to the food...

How to describe it?

Although it seems exaggerated, yet it somehow fits perfectly within the world of food.

Odd dialogue and all, it strangely makes your heart race.

Moreover...

Watching the female representative and bodyguards surrender to Yukihiro's food, Lu Wei feels a refreshing sense of satisfaction directly soaring to his Heavenly Spirit Cover!

The ringing sensation of a slap in the face!

And it feels absolutely brilliant!

Is this really a cooking manga?!

Can your culinary manga really do this?

You argue this is unrealistic, that a simple dish can combine with bacon to mimic the taste of meat?

But the manga explains every step of cooking in a professional and detailed manner!

According to the theory given by the manga, this kind of cuisine is possible!

Lu Wei even remembers a culinary documentary he once watched that talked about the same thing—simple vegetarian food can mimic the taste and texture of meat, even adding certain qualities that meat dishes lack...

“Gulp.”

Lu Wei swallowed a little.



He realized he was a bit hungry.

Especially seeing the food in the picture and the reactions of the female representative and the bodyguards, Lu Wei felt a strong surge of hunger. But it wasn't a desire to eat anything in his reach, instead, it was a desire to taste the protagonist's cooking!

Hold on...

Isn't the protagonist referred to as Small Dish Chicken?

He seemed to have gotten things quite wrong.

This is a small restaurant, but the protagonist is certainly not a novice when it comes to cooking, he's a master, or rather, the Medicine King!

The food made by Small Dish Chicken can cause physiological reactions in customers?

He's a master who can make food that excites customers!

His numerous failed combats with his father are not because the protagonist's cooking skills are not refined, but because his father is probably an even more fearsome gourmet expert!

Think back carefully.

Didn't the first few images of the manga hint at this?

This is a restaurant with a large customer flow!

Every customer who walks out of this restaurant does so with a satisfied look on their face—marveling at the deliciousness of the food—even the students around gravitate towards this restaurant when it's time for a meal...

“Holy Shit!”

So this is it!

His previous disappointment completely disappeared at this moment and Lu Wei suddenly had a strong anticipation for what was coming next!

You should know...

When Lu Wei first clicked on “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma”, it was just out of a sentimental mood. After all, it’d been a while since he saw a new food manga on the market.

But now...

Lu Wei was thoroughly engrossed in the manga. This was a different kind of food manga, unlike any others he had read before!

Exciting!

Blushing!

Heart racing!

Incredibly exhilarating!

It’s a pure world of food, where the food prepared by the chefs are their most powerful weapons!

Chapter 265: Gourmet is King’s Path

With just a glimpse of the content, Lu Wei was absolutely captivated by this comic. It was a gourmet manga unlike any of its kind. Only by reading this manga did he truly understand what it meant for food to truly embody color, aroma, and taste.

The author had uploaded three chapters.

After finishing the first chapter, Lu Wei couldn’t help but read the remaining two. From the protagonist successfully defending his small restaurant to joining Totsuki Academy under his

father's arrangement, the plot continued to captivate Lu Wei. Moreover, the subsequent plot confirmed Lu Wei's guess that the protagonist's father was indeed unusual. Although it wasn't explicitly revealed in the story, this made Lu Wei look forward to the protagonist's performance in this top-notch culinary school even more!

Lu Wei was not alone.

Like him, there were some casual readers who had stumbled upon 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma' and were completely captivated. So, not long after the manga was released, the comment section went into a frenzy:

"Such sensual art style!"

"The author is a master storyteller!"

"A food-induced climax, really?"

"The protagonist puts aphrodisiacs in the food!"

"The plot is so exaggerated and embarrassing, but after finishing the first chapter, I surprisingly couldn't stop. I thought I would never find food comics interesting again till I read 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma'. The perfect combination of art style and storyline, I'm loving it."

"Isn't this 'Aphrodisiac no Soma'?"

"There's a fair amount of fanservice, but overall, I feel the manga is very passionate and inspiring. The protagonist keeps challenging his father with such determination and always seeks reasons for his defeat. I'm very curious to see how much of a culinary genius his father is. Judging by the thrill, it's a masterpiece."

"Small restaurant, top chef?"

"Moaning at the aroma, climaxing at the taste, the clothes not ripping is considered a food fail, this art style surprisingly doesn't feel weird. The food is also incredibly true-to-life and as a chef, I approve of the theories in it. Although I can cook the dishes, I certainly can't create the explosive

excitement experienced by the customers in the comic. But this is exactly what makes the manga fun. If it was too connected to reality, it would lose its appeal.”

“Very satisfying to read!”

“From the sizzling sounds of the cooking process and dazzling golden glow when unveiling the dish, it’s a masochistic pleasure. Each dish is exquisitely detailed and enticing, making you crave even when you can’t eat it. ‘Medicine King’, my soul has been swept away by you.”

Compared to the casual readers, the reactions from Shadow’s fans were even more exaggerated: “I initially rejected the news of Shadow creating an original gourmet manga. I won’t blindly follow just because you’re Shadow. But after reading it, I was stunned by Shadow’s imagination. This isn’t something an ordinary artist can dream of, I’m already a fan!”

“Shadow is awesome!”

“Am I the only one finding this comic hilarious? The segment where the protagonist challenged his father with a dark cuisine really hit my funny bone. The copy meat episode is absolutely explosive!”

“Shadow’s embarrassment level is off the charts!”

“Shadow is both cringey and passionate!”

“If you didn’t mention this is a food manga, I’d almost think it’s a mainstream anime. Despite its culinary setting, the plot gives a whole new dramatic meaning to cooking. We shouldn’t take for granted that Shadow is a mere artist. He knows what readers like.”

Readers who choose gourmet manga can inherently accept the exaggerated setting of customers being conquered by food. In reality, people hardly get excited to such an extreme extent when eating delicious food. Most of them just nod their heads affirmatively and say:

“Not bad.”

“Quite delicious.”

If this realistic reaction was depicted in the manga, it would lose its fun factor. This manga uses exaggerated methods to portray the vulnerability of customers in front of food, combined with the humorous elements abound in the manga, amalgamating both logic and worldview to a consistent degree. Similar to absurd movies, the plot and humor are both exaggerated and unrealistic. But everyone chooses to ignore the unrealistic side, simply enjoying the thrill brought by the exaggerated plot and the joy of taste buds blooming.

before this.

Many of Shadow's readers firmly believed that Shadow was just an illustrator. After all, his rise to fame with 'King of the Net' was largely attributed to the well-constructed plot by Chu Kuang. If he had any creative ability, his first work wouldn't have been a complete reproduction of the original work, would it?

But now.

Without a scriptwriter, Shadow managed to create 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma' entirely on his own, changing his fans' perception. Their previous assumptions were completely shattered.

This reaction was incredibly apparent.

Some even began analyzing in the comments: "Many people have said 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma' is very passionate. If you think about it carefully, it's essentially a mainstream manga disguised as a gourmet one. It even belongs to the highest commercial category of invincible protagonists. Judging by the current plot, the protagonist's father is definitely a super-chef hiding his true identity behind a small restaurant. And the protagonist is clueless about his father's skills. He constantly learns from his father and even challenges his highly skilled father in cooking. If it's still hard to understand, just think of the gourmet in terms of power levels in mainstream manga. The protagonist is a high-level expert the moment he is introduced.. His only weakness is being compared to his master-level father, but the protagonist may already be excessively strong compared to other chefs!"

Chapter 266: Gourmet is the King's Path

This analysis is correct.

"Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" is a highly commercial food-themed manga, with a strong touch of web novel style. It vividly captures the exhilarating feeling of content creation, and the

protagonist's cooking skills are near unbeatable. He is one of the most outstanding newcomers in the culinary world. As for the reaction of diners after they've finished eating, everyone should understand it as the 'shock' often seen in web novels. This constant shock is an important theme in this type of work and one of the crucial elements that contributed to the success of this manga.

The only difference is:

While traditional shonen manga emphasize the awesomeness of the protagonist through their battles, "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" accomplishes this by showcasing the protagonist's cooking skills that conquer one opponent after another. His adversaries may be talented colleagues or fastidious diners, but the thrill of victory is identical. It's exhilarating to see eaters' clothes bursting off due to the deliciousness of the food, let alone the fact that food-themed works naturally have a tempting quality.

Since Tribe Comics was just established, there's a delay in presenting data on its comics. However, for all manga artists who've started serializing new works on the site, the most accurate reflection of their work's success is still the popularity ranking. The most crucial ranking is:

The Popularity Ranking!

The popularity of a manga is determined by a combination of votes, likes, and donations. Only works with the highest overall data can make it to the top of the ranking. Since everyone is freshly launching new works, many manga artists are waiting for the debut of this ranking. Even some readers on the site are paying attention to this list.

The reason is simple.

Manga readers often use rankings to find works that suit their taste. High popularity means a work is exciting, and being exciting suggests that the work caters to the general public. This is the most straightforward logic.

Zhang Wei is a manga artist.

Specifically, Zhang Wei is a well-known manga artist, one of the first dozens of big-name artists announced by Tribe Comics. Although not the top one among these artists, Zhang Wei is confident about his new work. He believes he could make it into the top ten in popularity!

So, Zhang Wei has been closely following the ranking.

When it was the fifth hour after the site was successfully established, the ranking was finally updated. Zhang Wei checked it instantly and excitedly pumped his fist as he saw his manga named “Dragon Fist” was ranked seventh in popularity!

“Impressive, Bro Zhang...”

Zhang Wei’s friend must also be an insider. He looked at the computer screen and then congratulated with a smile, “The seventh place is super high. If you maintain this momentum, you could become one of the top authors in Tribe Comics. You’re on your way to superstardom!”

“Not too bad.”

Zhang Wei grinned, “The main thing is that after the merge with Qin Qi, the reader base of all manga has more than doubled. Whoever can achieve good results at this moment has seized the opportunity. Yet, it isn’t easy, you see, those ranked in the top ten are all top-notch artists on the site...”

“All of them?”

The friend pointed to the work ranking eighth and said uncertainly, “Who’s the author of this ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’? I don’t remember hearing much about it before.”

“Huh?”

Zhang Wei paused.

He too found the name “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” somewhat unfamiliar, not like those from the site’s main artists. Could it be like him, all of a sudden making headlines after the industry reshuffle?

He instinctively hit refresh.

Then Zhang Wei’s face darkened.

After he refreshed, he found himself dropping to eighth place on the popularity list, and stepping into his previous seventh place was the just-following “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma.”

“Got beaten online.”

The friend couldn’t help but joke.

Zhang Wei just curled his lips, not bothered too much. However, when he clicked on “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” and saw who the author was, he finally showed a surprised expression, “It’s written by Shadow?”

“Shadow?”

The friend’s face also slightly changed after he recalled something, “The author of ‘King of the Net’, right? He’s known as a manga artist. I heard his new work planned to go down the original creation path relying on his own drawing and scripting... so this is his original work..”

The two exchanged glances.

An original work by a manga artist?

Without further discussion, they directly read the manga. But halfway through, the friend started laughing, “This Shadow is indeed a rare talent. A food manga painted so enthusiastically, even eating food has a clothes-bursting effect, can you imagine if it was adapted into an animated series?”

“His dad is awesome.”

“The protagonist’s got some skills.”

“Hahaha, this is so fun!”

Having finished the comic, his friend was already in fits of laughter, but Zhang Wei was sporting a helpless expression. This manga was indeed spectacular, completely breaking the mold of past



gourmet comics. Although still focused on cooking, the emotional build-up was tremendous. Even a casual meal could elicit a sense of fervor. No wonder he had been blown away by the competition!

“It’s bound to go viral...”

Zhang Wei came to his own conclusion.

Just as Zhang Wei finished speaking, a glowing red number appeared on the website: [Applauding and exclaiming with astonishment, this reward is the only way to express my admiration. User Hanyu awarded ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’ with 1,000,000 Tribe Coins, becoming the Silver Alliance of this work!]

“Silver?”

Zhang Wei’s friend was taken aback: “According to the conversion rules of Tribe Comics, a million Tribe Coins is about ten thousand yuan, right? Some big spender just rewarded this manga with ten thousand yuan. That’s quite something.”

Zhang Wei:

I’m envious, but I won’t say it.

Just as Zhang Wei was filled with envy, another notification popped up:[Applauding and exclaiming with astonishment, this reward is the only way to express my admiration. User Feather awarded Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’ with 1,000,000 Tribe Coins, becoming the Silver Alliance of this work!]

Zhang Wei:

Friend:

Another wealthy reader has popped up?

Seemingly provoked, soon other comics received Silver Alliance-level rewards too. Like ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’ currently ranked seventh, these comics were also in the top ten hot comics.

That’s normal.

The top ten comics are generally created by GOAT-level comic artists. These GOAT comic artists already have many loyal fans. So, it’s quite typical for some affluent fans to be among them.

However...

Shadow couldn’t be considered a GOAT-level comic artist yet, but rather a new comic artist. Yet, he received so many rewards which made Zhang Wei’s heart ache a bit. Clearly, his fame was not much less than Shadow in the industry. They were in the first batch of comic artists announced. Why was there no support from any Silver alliances for him?

Suddenly.

Another banner floated up, and this time it was actually related to Zhang Wei: [Applauding and exclaiming with astonishment, this reward is the only way to express my admiration. User ‘Zhang Wei’s Friend’ awarded the comic ‘Dragon Fist’ with 1,000,000 Tribe Coins, becoming the Silver Alliance of this work!]

“You...”

Zhang Wei turned to his friend.

The friend laughed: “You’re welcome.”

Zhang Wei held his forehead: “I mean, your nickname is so embarrassing, it sounds like I made up a friend out of nowhere. Couldn’t you at least change it to a more reader-like nickname to reward me?”

Friend:

Fine, this was a misstep.

However, this had genuinely increased the popularity of Zhang Wei's work. Just like when the first Silver Alliance appeared, 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma' attracted a lot of readers too. The comic's popularity began to rise!

When refreshed for the third time.

Zhang Wei saw it already, 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma' moved up to the sixth spot in the popularity rankings and was showing signs of leaving him behind: "Is this really a work from a pure illustrator?"

"It's intense."

"Shadow is known to be good at original creations. The plot design of 'Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma' is really good. Why did he choose to be an illustrator before? Wouldn't it be better to go original earlier?"

"The fun is just getting started...."

Chapter 267: The Advancing Shadow

The popularity rankings and the high amount of rewards early on exposed "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" to a large number of people. This degree of exposure was enough to attract many readers who initially were not interested in the comic.

Many people are like this.

Regardless of their interest in the subject matter or title of the work, they would at least have some anticipation when they see them appearing on the highly valued list and would likely to take a closer look.

A normal herd mentality.

If the work happens to appeal to them, those who clicked on it naturally become part of the audience. As a result, the number of readers who like the comic “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” increases, causing the comic to eventually climb up to...

Third place!

At the Tribe at this moment...

Ms. Han, the Chief Operating Officer of the literature and comics department, has just finished a senior-level meeting. She is rushing towards the newly established comic department office and asks the second-in-command of the website, the deputy webmaster, while walking:

“Have the data come out yet?”

“The rankings have been updated.”

The expression on the deputy webmaster is a bit strange.

Han Jimci glanced at him, opened the office door, turned on her computer, and asked, “With all the big-name comic artists we’ve dug up and the previous heavy promotion, the traffic shouldn’t be a problem, right?”

“The traffic is not a problem.”

The deputy webmaster hurriedly said: “Tribe Comics’ daily activity is among the top in all of Qin Qi’s online comic sites. Both initial member registrations and user reviews are pretty good. I will send you the report later, but the works on this ranking list...”

“What’s wrong with the ranking list?”

“You better see for yourself.”

The expression on the deputy webmaster’s face become increasingly peculiar.

Han Jimci raised her eyebrows, opened the website interface, and looked at the current popularity rankings.

When she saw “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” at third place, her mouth slightly widened, her face full of astonishment –

Shadow’s comic?

Ranked third?

The deputy webmaster seemed to be unsurprised by Han Jimei’s reaction because he had a similar reaction when he first saw the list: “As you can see now, Teacher Shadow’s original comic has been well received.”

Han Jimci was at a loss for words.

This is the third on the popularity list!

It’s not just “okay,” it’s clearly very impressive!

You must know that to be able to enter this list, you basically have to be a very influential comic artist in the industry!

With the backing of the Tribe.

About half of Qin Qi’s best comic artists are now releasing new works on Tribe Comics.

A work that stands out on this website, even in the entire industry, is worthy of pride!

In fact.

Even if Shadow was truly willing to collaborate with the writer provided by the Tribe, Han Jimei’s expectation would simply be for them to break into the top ten on the list. This is not to mention

that Shadow actually rejected the Tribe's proposal and chose to create her own work. Moreover, she chose the niche subject of gourmet food!

This doesn't fit the profile of a pure artist!

Looking at the performance of "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma", Shadow is clearly an extremely creative comic artist, even arguably a top-tier comic artist on the website!

It goes without saying what a top-tier comic artist means for a website!

Thinking of this...

The expression on Han Jimei's face gradually changed from astonishment to excitement!

She turned her head and stared at the deputy webmaster: "The third place... that is considered a pillar-level work, right?"

This is a term used in the comic circle.

On any comic website, works ranked in the top three are considered pillar-level works for that website.

"Yes."

The deputy webmaster nodded heavily: "If the popularity of "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" can be maintained in the top three for a long period of time, then it can be considered a pillar for the website, and the website will tilt its resources and focus on cultivating it!"

Up to this point...

The deputy webmaster's voice grew a little sentimental: "Also, there's one thing that Ms. Han might not be very aware of. In every large-scale online comic website, all of the pillar works without exception belong to the passionate genre. It's the first time for me to see a niche genre like gourmet food breaking into the top three. This is truly the most impressive part of this comic..."

“Great!”

There was a barely concealed smile in Han Jimei’s voice: “This time it seems that we weren’t the only ones who misjudged the situation.”

That’s right.

Not just Han Jimci.

The entire comic circle misjudged!

From the official establishment of Tribe Comics, the comic circle has kept a very close eye on this new website.

So, people in the comic circle naturally noticed the performance of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma”. For a while, many people were so shocked that their glasses were about to fall off!

“Shadow ranked third?”

“Did I see it wrong?”

“He’s not just a pure artist?”

“I’ve read ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’, although the plot is still short, the story creation is very good...”

“It turns out that everyone misunderstood one thing. It’s not that Shadow is not good at original works, but that he didn’t choose to create an original work for his first comic. Perhaps he wanted to practice his drawing skills, or for other reasons?”

“This is a pillar-level work!”

“Tribe Comics really made a fortune this time around. Nearly half of the top comic artists in the circle are serializing new works in the Tribe, and now a new star, Shadow, has appeared. Is this website going to dominate the comic circle in the future?”

If Shadow had collaborated with a writer, everyone would not be so shocked.

But because everyone thought of Shadow as a pure artist, when “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” was so popular, everyone was dumbfounded!

That night!

Shadow’s Tribe fans went into growth mode!

In addition.

The comments in his Tribe section were exceptionally lively, with old fans and new readers mixing together:

“I’m here to shout 666 for the master!”

“After reading Teacher Shadow’s new comic, I always become listless after my body violently trembles...”

“The person above, beast, what did you do to ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’!?”

“Speaking of which, Teacher Shadow is clearly very good at original works, so why did he decide to go the route of a pure artist before?”

“Don’t you understand yet, of course it’s because of love.”

“The answer is ... Chu Kuang...”

“I’m a newbie, I don’t really understand, who is Chu Kuang and what does he have to do with Chu Kuang?”



“Let me explain to the newbie, Teacher Shadow’s first comic work is called ‘King of the Net’, which is a comic adapted from a novel. Also, Chu Kuang and Shadow, um... along with Xian Yu, are three good buddies privately.”

” OMG, this is so exciting?”

“So even though Teacher Shadow is very good at original works, he still chose to illustrate for ‘King of the Net’, all for the sake of Chu Kuang?”

“Hahahahaha, Teacher Admirable Fish needs to work harder!”

“Does Teacher Chu Kuang feel Teacher Shadow’s love?”

“As Xian Yu and Chu Kuang’s influence grows, our Teacher Shadow has also started to work hard to keep up with them.”

At this time, the number of fans following Shadow on Tribe had broken through fifteen million, and was moving rapidly towards twenty million..

Chapter 268: Why Not Continue to Make Comedies

Compared to Chu Kuang and Xian Yu’s positions in their respective fields, Shadow, in terms of fame and influence, lagged far behind the two. Even the fans that simultaneously followed the Three Bros, tended to overlook Shadow. However, with the release and success of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma”, this gap has somewhat narrowed. Nevertheless, Shadow’s influence in the manga circle still could not be mentioned in the same breath as the other two That was Luo Wei’s perspective.

Having witnessed the great success of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma”, Luo Wei stayed up all night in excitement.

Her mind was filled with fantasies of Shadow becoming a top magnate in the manga circle and joining hands with Chu Kuang, which led to her almost drifting off to sleep when she arrived at the studio the next day.

However...

Her excitement and expectations triumphed over the drowsiness.

“The current margin doesn’t mean much. Eventually, Shadow will achieve the same level of success as Chu Kuang and Xian Yu!”

With that thought in mind.

Luo Wei felt a tangled mix of emotions when she saw Lin Yuan again.

When they first met, she never imagined that Lin Yuan could achieve such great success in the manga circle under the pseudonym, Shadow. Not only was he skilled at drawing, but he was also extremely adept at creating manga scripts!

Lin Yuan was pretty pleased too.

The significant income generated from the roaring success of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” was causing his reputation as a painter to rise steadily. “Boss.”

Jin Mu, who has fully embraced his role as an agent, smiled and said, “With the release of this manga, we’ve pulled off your ‘pure painter’ label. But we need to keep pushing to firmly secure one of the three pillar positions of Tribe Comics!”

Lin Yuan was curious, “Three pillars?”

Jin Mu said, “I only recently learned from research that the top three ranked comics on the website are usually nurtured as pillars by the site. Whether it’s on-site recommendations or off-site promotions, they receive the best resources. This is essential for the website to consolidate its standing in the industry using the influence of their pillar-level manga.”

Lin Yuan nodded in agreement.

Meanwhile, Luo Wei exclaimed, “We can increase the update frequency! To get good results, we need to update quickly! I’m not afraid of the hard work and exhaustion!”

“Haha.”

Jin Mu chuckled, “Assistant Luo is certainly enthusiastic. However, famous manga artists in the industry usually have several assistants helping. Even if we want to speed up updates, we may not necessarily be faster than others, unless we continue to hire...”

“Uh.”

At his words, Luo Wei’s face scrunched up, “Is Uncle Jin unsatisfied with my performance?”

“On the contrary.”

Jin Mu earnestly said, “Assistant Luo is no longer just at the level of a manga assistant. You can now take over half of the boss’s tasks. I’m thinking of hiring two real assistants, one for the boss and one for you, Assistant Luo.”

Luo Wei smiled, “I have no objections.”

She was Lin Yuan’s first assistant. With the studio hiring more staff, the new ones could only serve as second or third assistants. This would not affect her job but instead help her a lot.

Lin Yuan also nodded in agreement.

Jin Mu nodded, “Also, about the animation adaptation of ‘King of the Net’, I have already discussed it with Divine Wings. Regarding the contract...”

Lin Yuan said, “I’ve reviewed the contract. It’s fine. I’ll authorize Uncle Jin to sign it for me.”

Recently, Jin Mu has been following up on the animation adaptation of “King of the Net”, finally deciding to partner with Divine Wings.

Among the animation companies that showed interest in “King of the Net”, Divine Wings was the most competitive, with a consistent reputation for producing high-quality animations.

Jin Mu had also discussed the contract with Lin Yuan prior.

In the following days, Jin Mu hired two more assistants for Shadow Studio to serve as the second and third assistants for the creation of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma”, which successfully alleviated some of the workload off Lin Yuan and Luo Wei.

As the serialization progressed.

“Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” indeed secured the third place in the website’s popularity chart, showing no signs of a downward trend after a high start.

But it didn’t advance any further.

Lin Yuan was not disappointed about this. To secure the top spot on the website’s popularity chart with “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” would be quite a challenge. While this manga was impressive, the manga artists from Blue Star were not to be underestimated.

Furthermore...

The theme always favored most by readers was hot-blooded fighting manga. There hadn’t been any flagships by manga companies that weren’t of the hot-blooded fighting genre. In a sense, “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” had already created a miracle. Who would have thought that a niche genre like a cooking manga would end up as a pillar work?

Apart from that.

Lin Yuan finally started considering his second movie. He sought out Zhou.

“A new film?”

On hearing Lin Yuan’s intention, 01’ Zhou instantly perked up, “Is the script for your next film written yet? Let me take it back to evaluate. We need to decide how much investment is suitable!”

Lin Yuan said, “I also want to invest.”

Having tasted the sweetness of “Flirting Scholar”, Lin Yuan was now thinking of investing in films himself.

01' Zhou was stunned, “You want to invest too?”

Lin Yuan nodded, “Is that not allowed?”

01' Zhou laughed, “It’s fine, but the investment ratio needs to be decided by the company. We’ll discuss that later. Can I have a look at the script first?” “Sure.”

Lin Yuan took out the script for “The Pianist” that he had worked on for some time.

The title hadn’t changed yet.

By the time the movie is released, an alternative title “The Pianist” would be added.

In Lin Yuan’s presence, 01' Zhou flipped through the script for a while.

After not even five minutes, 01' Zhou suddenly looked up at Lin Yuan and carefully said, “This film...well, it seems quite different from your last one, doesn’t it?”

“It is different.”

Lin Yuan said, “This one is a suspense film.”

01' Zhou instinctively wanted to frown but held it back, only the corners of his eyes twitched, “Why aren’t you continuing with comedy?”

This was an obvious question.

Anyone with a normal mindset would know that Lin Yuan should make a comedy for his new film.

Jumping from comedy to suspense all of a sudden?

This choice left people puzzled.

The success of “Flirting Scholar” was already proven.

As long as Lin Yuan made a similar film following the first one’s formula, preferably with the original cast, the box office was guaranteed to be great!

Some high-ranking officials even wanted 01’ Zhou to discuss a “Flirting Scholar” sequel with Lin Yuan.

But not only was there no sequel, even the genre and style of Lin Yuan’s new script had changed!

This simply didn’t fit with the style of the film circle.

Lin Yuan said, “Let’s go with this.”

Lin Yuan couldn’t explain that the system simply provided him with the script for “The Pianist”.

There was no other option.

01’ Zhou wanted to say more but finally nodded, “Alright, I’ll take the script back for study..”

Chapter 269: Award-Winning Movie

Two days later, Old Zhou notified Lin Yuan that the script for “The Tuner” had passed the evaluation and could be put into production. The initial investment was set at ten million, the same as the previous film. However, the funding would be split between the company and Lin Yuan, with Lin Yuan holding the major decision-making power for the preparation of the crew.

There was no resistance whatsoever.

This was not only because Lin Yuan had already achieved success once, but also because the script for “The Tuner” immediately signified a small investment. Tossing five million for the successful

Lin Yuan to make a new film with a small investment was a small matter for the company. At least no one would think anymore that Lin Yuan making films was unreliable.

Then, there was a third reason.

The reason was something Old Zhou discussed privately with Lin Yuan, “The film department thinks that the script for ‘The Tuner’ is very creative, of high quality, and would earn money if the production is decent. However, with the current situation of mystery films, small profits are possible, but large profits are difficult. Therefore, the company hopes that your film can achieve good reviews. Reviews are also very important for us at Starlight. If it could win awards, even better...”

“Hmm,” was all Lin Yuan responded.

He did not say much.

In fact, he didn’t even know if this film would make huge profits once produced. All he knew was that the script came with a hefty price, and usually, the system’s pricey works were usually quite profitable. He hadn’t yet come across a case where a product provided by the system ended up making a loss.

As for winning an award...

Would the trophy be made of gold?

With this plan set, Lin Yuan decided to first look for actors. He would inform the film department to initiate the project officially once the actor selection was complete. “The Tuner” required a male lead with high acting skills. After all, he would portray a blind man pretending to be sighted, a role with rich layers of performance.

It was now the second half of September.

As time went by, “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” had quite a large reader base. The manga’s update speed accelerated with the addition of two new assistants, allowing the plot to progress quickly.

Under the comment section of the manga,

many people had become accustomed to addressing the main character as the Medicine King. The term “Aphrodisiac no Soma” had deeply resonated with the audience. However, there are two sides to a coin. As the manga progressed, the comment section occasionally filled with negative voices.

“Shameless.”

“Fan service manga.”

“Poor character development.”

Fans of manga were typically young people, who were easily upset. Therefore, when the negative comments appeared, manga enthusiasts would inevitably strike back. The discourse was mainly arguments, but some rebuttals were rational.

For instance, someone criticized the character development.

In response, a fan named “Origin Source” commented: “The development of the main character in this manga is quite grounded compared to other cooking manga. Firstly, Yukihiro’s inspiration in cooking isn’t from innate talent, but from pure contemplation and relentless attempt and exploration. Which previous cooking manga featured a main character who wasn’t naturally good at cooking?”

This was indeed a great setting.

Since the character is not particularly talented, the main character in this manga would lose in cooking battles. Most people tend to think that losing to a talented person is inevitable. People always cover their hearts with such excuses.

But the male protagonist wouldn’t.

He could bravely face his weakness, and defeat his opponents through constant learning. Of course, there are parts of the plot that seem to be leaps, but this is unavoidable in manga. However, the plot has done its best to make these leaps seem reasonable.



As for the fan service comment,

a user named “Sprite with Rice” responded: “For those who have read this manga, the clothes-bursting scene does not only happen to ladies, but to everyone, regardless of age or gender. Shadow treats everyone equally. Instead of adding cliched and deliberate plots, such as a young girl falling and inadvertently revealing a private place, it’s better to be straightforward and set a rule where clothes would burst after eating. It’s a direct way to deliver fanservice.”

Voicing out loud indeed.

Regardless of the love or hate for this setting, at least everyone would think of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” when the terms “cooking” and “clothes-bursting” come up. That is a success on some level. After all, you cannot just watch anime, this is, after all, a manga.

In the anime industry on Earth,

due to voice acting, the voice actors’ interpretation usually doubles the embarrassment. Manga is actually fine, just as there are always some heart-throbbing scenes in novels. The level of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” is within the limits, and it doesn’t deliberately hide these scenes. Lin Yuan was not very willing to deliberately modify the original manuscript, to ensure the most authentic taste, and so he sees no big deal about the resulting controversies.

In fact,

those who like this manga far outnumber those who dislike it. The current data for “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” is impressive. Just in the list of fan clubs, Silver’s alliance alone had eight fan clubs, not to mention the number of ordinary fans.

Moreover,

in more lists developed by Tribe Comics, such as the Tribe Recommendation List, this manga has grabbed high positions and the data seem to resemble that of a mainstream shounen battle manga.

Because of this,

the official Tribe account of Shadow finally broke through the 20 million follower mark. Unfortunately, this number is still far less than that of Chu Kuang and Xian Yu, whose follower counts are all in the vicinity of 60 million.

Especially the account of Chu Kuang,

due to the ongoing popular serialization of “Ghost Blows Out the Light”, the pace of gaining followers is among the top in the Tribe. This gives Lin Yuan hope for the completion of the task. After all, the goal of Chu Kuang’s pseudonym is to break 100 million followers.

At present,

Chu Kuang’s “Ghost Blows Out the Light” has been serialized into the third volume. With the continued swift updates, the sales have steadily increased. Jin Mu, as Lin Yuan’s agent, was already thinking about negotiating a new contract with Silver Blue Books.

Jin Mu’s positioning is clear.

His future position will be the shared agent of Chu Kuang and Shadow. After all, Lin Yuan’s three pen names have a great relationship, and it is not surprising for two pen names to share an agent. But Jin Mu’s performance is much stronger than that of Lin Yuan. Before, Lin Yuan stuck to the norms, while Jin Mu would think on behalf of Lin Yuan, as to how to gain more benefits for his pseudonyms.

Lin Yuan greatly supported this.

Expecting capitalists to voluntarily raise wages is less sensible than letting his agent fight for more benefits. This has nothing to do with morals; it is a very normal approach, especially as the costs for the system’s various works continue to rise.

The system will not limit high consumption.

Money is still a very necessary thing for Lin Yuan!

Chapter 270: The Choice for the Male Lead

“Mr. Lin...”

In the composers’ office on the ninth floor, Shen Qing, a film producer, looked somewhat uneasy at Lin Yuan and asked, “Did you need something from me?” Lin Yuan stated, “I want to shoot a new film.”

Shen Qing queried, “So...”

Lin Yuan explained, “I need a butler for it.”

Shen Qing broke into a smile.

Having collaborated on a film before, he knew all too well that the “butler” Lin Yuan referred to was a producer.

News of Lin Yuan’s new film project had already spread within the Film Department.

Shen Qing had some guesses as to why Lin Yuan had called him prior to the meeting.

He was just slightly surprised.

It was unexpected that after his clear lack of confidence in “Flirting Scholar”, Mr. Lin was willing to let him continue working as the producer of his new film...

At this moment, Shen Qing was somewhat touched.

Of course, Shen Qing also heard that Lin Yuan’s new film was going to be a mystery, and he had no plans to continue with the nonsensical comedy genre. But what does that matter?

After their previous collaboration, now no matter what kind of film Mr. Lin wanted, Shen Qing would not hesitate. All he did was raise his voice a little and said:

“I have no problem with that.”

Before Shen Qing could finish his sentence, a burst of laughter came from outside the door. “If Mr. Shen has no issues, I surely won’t have any problem either. Just point to what you want done, Mr. Lin!”

The speaker was none other than Yi Chenggong.

He, along with Shen Qing, was summoned by Lin Yuan this morning. Both the producer and the director of “The Sound Mixer” were people that Lin Yuan was familiar with.

“Director Yi.”

Shen Qing cheerfully greeted Yi Chenggong, not surprised that Lin Yuan had chosen him as the director once again.

Although the genre of the new film differed greatly, Shen Qing was aware of Lin Yuan’s style...

The scripts that Mr. Lin worked on were typically script-centered.

Which meant that on Mr. Lin’s film set, the director was merely a tool. All Yi Chenggong had to do was follow the script’s demands and shoot systematically.

“The scripts are here, why don’t both of you take a look.”

Lin Yuan distributed the newly printed scripts of “The Sound Mixer” to them.

The two stopped talking and began reading the scripts in silence.

In less than an hour, they finished reading the script.

Yi Chenggong exclaimed, “The central conflict is impeccably designed.”

Shen Qing who was sitting beside him added, “The handling of the multiple twists in the script is also superb, very thought-provoking, especially the ending...”

Shen Qing didn't quite understand the script of "Flirting Scholar".

But this script for "The Sound Mixer", was unequally a good story in Shen Qing's opinion!

His judgment was not wrong!

Mr. Lin was very skilled in scriptwriting. Genre and theme could not limit Mr. Lin's creativity!

"Let's not discuss the script for now."

Lin Yuan stated, "I invited both of you here because I wanted to ask if there's any actor you would recommend. I mean for the male lead."

Lately, Lin Yuan had been selecting actors on his own.

However, Lin Yuan wasn't very familiar with the actors in Qinzhi, so after such a long time picking, he couldn't find anyone suitable. He had no choice but to ask for Yi Chenggong and Shen Qing's help.

"Zhang Hua!"

Shen Qing didn't hesitate at all when he said this name, "I think Zhang Hua is very suitable to play the male lead!"

"Mr. Shen."

Yi Chenggong remarked frustratedly, "The total investment for the film is only ten million. Do you think we can afford the acting fee of the actor Zhang?" Zhang Hua is an actor from Starlight, and he has won the Best Actor award!

And the fee and worth of a Best Actor are definitely beyond what a low-budget film could afford...

Shen Qing replied embarrassedly, "I was just saying the candidate is quite suitable...What about Li Dongming?"

Yi Chenggong morosely added, “Li Dongming may not be a Best Actor, but he has been nominated twice for Best Actor. He is a genuine first-rate actor in Qinzhi, and his price is also not cheap.”

Shen Qing, unable to come up with a solution, named a few more actors.

However, either the price was too high or the other conditions did not match, the male lead just remained undecided.

Lin Yuan did not comment.

Although he was not familiar with the actors in Qinzhi, he had heard of some of the actors Shen Qing mentioned as they all belong to the famous class.

Indeed.

At least three of them, like Zhang Hua, were worth considering, but given the film’s budget, it was really quite difficult to hire them.

In the end, Shen Qing grew impatient and directed his gaze at Yi Chenggong, “Why don’t you suggest a suitable person?”

Lin Yuan also looked at Yi Chenggong.

The selection of He Sheng to star in “Flirting Scholar” was Yi Chenggong’s recommendation, which indicated that he had good judgment when it came to selecting actors.

“I do have an actor to recommend...”

Yi Chenggong smiled, “What about Liu Zhcngwen?”

“Liu Zhengwen?”

Shen Qing was stunned, but immediately considered, “That might actually work, although his popularity has dropped due to an accident on set...”

Lin Yuan asked, “Who is Liu Zhcngwen?”

He had never heard this name before.

Yi Chenggong explained with a smile, “Liu Zhcngwen was a popular actor ten years ago, but there was an accident on set, apparently a problem with the blasting which caused him to be severely injured. He had to take a two-year break from acting, and his popularity plummeted. After all, this entertainment industry has a short memory...”

“My worry isn’t about his popularity.”

Shen Qing said worriedly, “I just don’t know what Liu Zhengwcn’s current status is like. I heard that he was slightly disfigured due to his injuries...”

If we were to consider popularity...

He Sheng, a bit-part actor, could star in “Flirting Scholar”.

At least Liu Zhcngwen had some fame which certainly put him in a better position than the prior He Sheng.

Yi Chenggong laughed, “I’ve seen his recent works, and although they weren’t successful, his acting skills have improved since then. His face doesn’t have any issues, the surgery seems to have worked well.”

Lin Yuan said, “Then, invite him for an audition.”

“Sure.”

Shen Qing replied, “Even though Liu Zhcngwen doesn’t belong to our company, given his current situation, there’s practically no chance that he would refuse our offer. I will reach out to him later. However, just in case, we should also select a few other options.”

“Okay.”

Soon, the group discussed and came up with the names of a few other potential male leads.

After establishing the alternate choices for the male lead, Yi Chenggong suggested, “As for the female lead, we have to choose someone from within our company. The films our company invests in must have some of our employees participating. Moreover, the female lead in this film is quite important.”

Shen Qing nodded.

For the previous film “Flirting Scholar”, the female lead could simply be a pretty face, there was no need for high-level acting skills, as long as she was beautiful enough.

However, “The Sound Mixer” was different.

Because the female protagonist in “The Sound Mixer” wasn’t the male lead’s lover, but the important villain in the film, who was in opposition to the main character. There was a high demand for acting skills!

This was a non-traditional female protagonist.

Conventional female protagonists are usually in a romantic relationship with the main character. However, in the film “The Sound Mixer”, the girlfriend of the male lead did not have a significant role. Her role was only to trigger and spur the plot.

Just like that.

The group discussed potential actresses for the other important roles in the film and outlined a selection range.

Next, they would just have to wait for the audition..