

All R. Artist 271

Chapter 271: Complete villains

Three days later.

Starlight Entertainment.

The rather tall Liu Zhengwen and his agent were riding the elevator.

Liu Zhengwen appeared a bit nervous, adjusting his breathing several times.

The agent next to him reminded, “Don’t be too nervous, you’re very strong, you just lack an opportunity.”

“Don’t comfort me.”

Liu Zhengwen slightly lowered his voice and said, “Everyone lacks opportunity, there are not a few with strong capabilities, and I don’t have a huge advantage. I can only try to perform well during the audition.”

“That being said...”

The agent went on, “I’m just a bit surprised, why are you so nervous? Although we aren’t getting many movie offers at the moment, should we be desperate enough to take on a movie with a mere ten million investment?”

The agent was indeed puzzled.

After receiving the script for “The Tuner”, Liu Zhengwen seemed as if possessed, locking himself in the room for two days, doing nothing but researching the character –

It had been many years since the agent had seen Liu Zhengwen take a role so seriously.

“You’re wrong, it’s a must for me to be in this movie!”

Liu Zhengwen became somewhat stern, “There are indeed plenty of ten million level invested films, but few of them have such a quality script!”

Quality script?

The agent opened his mouth to speak, but the elevator had already arrived.

The two walked into the audition room of the film department.

Quite a few people had already gathered in the room at this moment, men and women alike, obviously all here to audition.

Among them, a few of the actors were familiar faces.

Apparently, the success of “Flirting Scholar” attracted many people to Xian Yu’s new film, including some well-known actors.

But that was it, they were just well-known.

The most popular actor in this audition room is only a second-tier star in the industry considering the movie’s investment.

No one was talking.

Entering the audition room, everyone became potential competitors.

Shortly after.

The audition started.

The first to audition was the most important male lead.

Liu Zhengwen was the third to enter the audition room.

The audition was different from the last one.

This time, only three people were in the audition room: Lin Yuan, Yi Chenggong, and Shen Qing.

Liu Zhengwen bowed slightly and said, “Good day, teachers, my name is Liu Zhengwen, and I can play the piano...”

He was very humble.

Shen Qing glanced at Liu Zhengwen, mainly at his face.

It was said that Liu Zhengwen had slight facial disfigurement from an accident years ago, but it seems that he had recovered very well, with virtually no scars. Handsome, with a mature man’s charm, such an actor portraying a pianist wouldn’t feel out of place.

And Liu Zhengwen himself said, he can play the piano.

The protagonist of this film is, after all, a pianist, so this is an advantage.

He also once was a popular actor, Yi Chenggong politely smiled and said, “Let’s have Teacher Liu perform the second part of the script.”

“Sure.”

Liu Zhengwen began his performance.

Auditioning is pretty procedural. The actors who came in basically introduced themselves briefly, allowed the auditioning teachers to examine their image, then read a line of dialogue and perform a certain scene from the script according to the interviewer’s request.

There were no problems with the performance.

Liu Zhengwen's professional ability fully met the standards.

After the performance, Lin Yuan asked, "Why do you think Ye Shen pretends to be blind?"

This was the most critical step in the audition process, equally as important as the performance. The auditioner was expected to discuss their understanding and views on the character.

Ye Shen is the name of the male lead, named by the System, it couldn't very well use an Indian name.

Shen Qing and Yi Chenggong also focused on Liu Zhengwen.

The previous auditioners, like Liu Zhengwen, had no problem with their performance, it was their understanding of the character that was unsatisfactory.

What will Liu Zhengwen say?

Liu Zhengwen began, "Pretending to be blind is for a noble ideal, just as the script says, losing vision can make him more focused on his piano..."

Shen Qing and Yi Chenggong frowned.

Their response was very similar to the previous auditioners.

However, just then, Liu Zhengwen changed his tone, "But that was only the original purpose, when Ye Shen discovered the benefits of pretending to be blind, his purpose was no longer pure, because he found that people had no guard against the blind, people seemed to easily believe that a blind pianist was truly skilled... Selling his disability can win people's sympathy. If a blind man can play such a beautifully composed piece, everyone seems to see how much effort Ye Shen has put into piano, see how strongly he lives for art. Thus, he received double the tips, his efforts might be real, but he's not truly blind."

Lin Yuan asked further, "Anything else?"

Liu Zhengwen uttered three words, “Voyeuristic desire.”

Shen Qing and Yi Chenggong looked at each other, their expressions subtly changing.

Liu Zhengwen continued, “In the script, there is a scene where a girl can change her clothes in front of Ye Shen with ease. This is very frightening, one can imagine that Ye Shen might not have encountered this situation for the first time. Who would guard against a blind man? So he could see the side of people that they wouldn’t want to reveal in front of normal people, but he still didn’t reveal this, this is his voyeuristic desire, it should excite him...”

No further discussion.

Discussing up to this point was enough.

There were still people waiting for the audition.

It was not until four in the afternoon that the long audition came to an end.

Yi Chenggong was the first to speak, “There should be no doubt about the male lead’s choice, right?”

Seems like Shen Qing knew who Yi Chenggong was referring to, “He was the only auditioner who mentioned voyeurism.”

“Let’s go with him.”

Lin Yuan made the final decision.

Many of the people auditioning today mentioned that Ye Shen used his guise of blindness to win the sympathy of ordinary people, thus making ordinary people more appreciative of his piano skills, but Liu Zhengwen was indeed the only one who mentioned “voyeurism”.

This has already touched the realm of human nature.

Maybe other actors also thought of this, but no one brought it up, it seemed that everyone consciously avoided it.

In other words, everyone subconsciously did not want to admit that the male lead was a so-called villain.

After all, from the whole script, the male lead should represent justice.

However, in fact, Lin Yuan's positioning of the script is very clear.

Four words: All villains.

“And the female lead...” Ying Steadman said.

Shen Qing said, “I think Zhou Xue is not bad. There are few women actresses around forty who can maintain such good looks.”

“Agreed.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Zhou Xue is a female actress from the company, very beautiful, she was wildly popular in her youth. However, now she's older, so it's hard for her to find a suitable script.

Male actors, at the age of thirty or forty can still be very popular.

Rarely do film offers extend towards female actors after the age of thirty or forty.

This is the general condition of female actors.

The heroine of this film has the positioning of a venomous beauty.

Can't be too young, can't be too unattractive, yet must have good acting skills.

The space for choice is actually not large.

As for the other supporting roles in this film, Lin Yuan didn't interfere much, leaving it mostly to Shen Qing and Yi Chenggong to decide.

Next, it was onto the formal shooting....

Chapter 272: No One Understands Composing Better Than the Master

In a world where the film industry system is perfected and developed, the preparation time for movies is inevitably not too lengthy. Of course, it's unrealistic to believe all these preparatory work can be done within a few days. Hence, Lin Yuan simply took this time to take on a second apprentice.

It was the System's task of teaching composition.

The second apprentice came from the composition department on the ninth floor.

Lin Yuan picked him from the list of potential newcomers given by Gu Dong. His name was Feng Shuo.

The reason for choosing Feng Shuo was simple...

Because this young composer had high potential!

He had just joined the company and had already written two exceptionally well-performing songs.

Some even secretly referred to Feng Shuo as "Little Xian Yu," highlighting his potential.

Remember, when Lin Yuan initially took Xue Liang as an apprentice, Xue Liang's composition ability was just over four hundred. He was just a beginner. But Feng Shuo's composition level was as high as five hundred and fifty-three! A score of six hundred meant you had a gold-standard ability in composition... With such a strong foundation, wouldn't teaching be easy?

No wonder seniors in the art industry prefer talented apprentices.

Talented apprentices are easy to teach!

Lin Yuan wanted to exploit the System loophole using his own identity. He aimed to find a rookie with the highest potential and quickly cultivate him into a gold standard composer.

This would greatly improve the task completion efficiency.

However, the disadvantage of talented students is their arrogance.

Of course, Feng Shuo dared not show a rebellious attitude in front of Lin Yuan. Even without considering that Lin Yuan was the boss of the ninth floor, just bringing up Xian Yu was enough to suppress Feng Shuo, a young composing prodigy.

But...

While Feng Shuo was respectful to Lin Yuan on the surface, his thoughts were another matter.

In summary...

Feng Shuo was delighted that Lin Yuan wanted to take him as an apprentice! Don't get me wrong.

Feng Shuo was not happy because he could be taught by Xian Yu – he, a proud composing genius, didn't think he could learn anything from Xian Yu.

What made him happy was...

Being Xian Yu's apprentice made him the number one figure in the ninth floor's composition department!

Revealing his identity – my teacher is Mr. Lin – who would dare to defy?

That was Feng Shuo's primary goal for becoming Lin Yuan's second apprentice.

However, what Feng Shuo never dreamed of was...

Before long, he would revere his own master as one would revere a god!

This happened exactly on the first of October.

This world has no such thing as National Day, so October 1st was just another ordinary day of the month.

Feng Shuo walked into Lin Yuan's office, respectfully calling him Master. "Okay, let's start the lesson. This is the first class I'm going to teach you..." Lin Yuan began.

As he spoke, Lin Yuan activated the "Yang Zhongming" character card, and his mind was immediately filled with vast composing knowledge.

At the same time, the Teacher's Halo completely enveloped Feng Shuo.

At this point, the effect of Lin Yuan's Teacher's Halo was even stronger than when he was teaching Xue Liang!

Then, Feng Shuo saw his own mentor, who seemed to have descended from heaven, seem like a different person...

He suddenly felt a sense of innate inferiority.

He didn't even dare to look Lin Yuan directly in the eye as he had when he first entered the office.

It was as if simply making eye contact with him was a form of blasphemy. Later...

When Feng Shuo, who had already gained considerable standing in the composing world, was talking about his legendary tutor, he found it difficult to find precise words to describe his feelings back then.

All he knew was that that day, he had experienced a baptism-like music composition class.

During the lecture...

Lin Yuan's profound knowledge of composition left Feng Shuo utterly astounded!

Every single simple sentence the master uttered in that class benefited him immensely, as if he were receiving an inspired enlightenment.

When the first class after his initiation concluded, Feng Shuo felt as if he had a completely new understanding of composition!

As a result, when Feng Shuo left Lin Yuan's office, he was in a daze.

All he could feel was a buzzing in his head.

It wasn't until someone quietly called out to him, "Junior Brother," that he snapped out of it.

Turning his head, he stammered, "Xue... Senior Xue?"

Xue Liang holds a high position in the composition department on the ninth floor, everyone is comfortable with him because of his status and his master-student relationship with Lin Yuan.

"What should you call me now?"

Xue Liang smiled and looked at the dazed junior in front of him.

Only he knew what Feng Shuo had been through in class today; he had the same experience, and his reaction was no better than his junior's at that time, so he did not blame Feng Shuo for his dazedness now.

“Senior Brother!”

Feng Shuo corrected himself. Now fully revived, his expression had become eager and desiring. He wished he could turn back and have his master teach him more.

“You should study well with the master in the future.”

Xue Liang was the epitome of an elder brother, patting Feng Shuo on the shoulder:

“Cherish this opportunity, once you graduate, the master won’t teach you as carefully as he does at the beginning, just like me, the master doesn’t give me much lesson now.”

Saying this, Xue Liang felt some regret and jealousy towards his junior.

Because he wanted to continue learning and progressing with the master. But the master seemed to have his own thoughts, and once he graduated, he rarely interfered with him.

So his desperate performances were intended to attract the Master’s attention. His goal was to become the Master’s pride one day!

“Thank you, Senior Brother!”

Feng Shuo nodded vigorously.

If at first, upon learning that he might be taken under Lin Yuan’s wing, Feng Shuo merely viewed it as an opportunity to cling to Mr. Lin’s coattails, by this point, he had grown to hold his master as the light and direction of his career and life.

This was genuine respect from the bottom of his heart!

At this moment, in Feng Shuo’s heart, his master was the god of composition! Being chosen by the master was like winning a supernatural luck, he was blessed by the god of composition!

Suddenly.

Feng Shuo turned around and bowed in the direction of Lin Yuan's office.

Lin Yuan couldn't see this.

But Feng Shuo just wanted to do it that way.

He felt ashamed of his previous ignorance and arrogance.

Because in the past, Feng Shuo fantasized about becoming Lin Yuan's apprentice first.

Once his future self grew up, he would surely be able to compose on par with Lin Yuan!

Successor will surpass precursor!

The new wave will die on the beach!

However, after attending Lin Yuan's class, Feng Shuo realized...

With his own capabilities, he is not even qualified to lace up his master's shoes! Perhaps in this lifetime, he would never reach the master's stateliness!

Xue Liang, witnessing Feng Shuo's actions and considering Feng Shuo's usual arrogance in the composition department, seemed to understand something. He chuckled and said, "My words might not be pleasant to hear — since you've entered the Master's door, you should always be aware of your image. Don't ever think too highly of yourself, and never disgrace the Master. Otherwise, I, as your senior brother, won't let you off easy."

"Please rest assured, Senior Brother."

Feng Shuo assured him, "I want to continue learning from the Master. I won't disgrace the Master's name. In front of the Master, I dare not consider myself important."

At this point, Feng Shuo suddenly felt indignant.

How dare anyone in the company refer to the master as just a “Maestro Junior”?

Had they attended the Master’s class, they would know that the word “junior” should not exist!

Feng Shuo’s understanding of composition told him that his master was the true Maestro!

In this world, no one understands composition better than his master!

Chapter 273: Adaptation of Dream Wedding

Compared to Xue Liang, the eldest apprentice, Feng Shuo, the second apprentice, noticeably learned faster and was much more efficient.

Even though his composition skills were nearing the gold level, he could still make minor progress every day after class...

This satisfied Lin Yuan greatly.

By mid-October, the teaching task unfolded.

The film crew was finally ready, and the official shooting of “The Tuner” began!

As before, during the filming process, Lin Yuan was present on set but rarely spoke.

There was not much need for Lin Yuan’s involvement in the early shooting stages as the initial few days served for the actors and crew to get their bearings.

However, Lin Yuan’s lessons did not stop.

He kept teaching Feng Shuo for two hours each day, only shifting the location from the company to the film set.

As filming got underway, Lin Yuan contacted Gu Xi.

This took place on the third morning of the “The Tuner” shoot.

Gu Xi, in a car, set off for the address Lin Yuan had provided.

Behind the wheel was a woman wearing sunglasses.

The woman, likely in her forties, asked, “Did you transfer to Qi Art because of the person we are meeting today?”

Gu Xi replied, “Yes, Aunt Zhou. His name is Lin Yuan.”

The woman named Aunt Zhou seemed helpless: “So you’ve been following him around just because Lin Yuan wrote a good piece of music?”

Gu Xi nodded.

Aunt Zhou sighed, “He’s about your age. Even if he’s a prodigy, he’s no Maestro. Has he played any other impressive pieces?”

Gu Xi thought for a moment and gently shook her head.

She had only heard one original piece from Lin Yuan, but that piece alone was enough to leave her in complete awe.

“So...”

Aunt Zhou glanced at Gu Xi, “Have you considered that Lin Yuan’s piece could be a one-hit wonder? Why else would he have been to the music room so many times yet played only that one original piece?”

“One-hit wonder...”

Gu Xi paused, then said, “Even if it was, that doesn’t diminish the excellence of the piece.”

Aunt Zhou nodded, “I certainly believe in your judgment. His piece must be amazing if you’re still dwelling on it, but you don’t have to treat Lin Yuan like a musical god.”

“No, I’m not mistaken.”

Gu Xi insisted.

Aunt Zhou stopped arguing and just smiled, “Well, I suppose we’ll see how great he is later. If there really is such a young Maestro in this world, you are allowed to idolize him all you want.”

Gu Xi blushed slightly, “Aunt Zhou, that’s a crude way of putting it. I’m not...

Aunt Zhou teased, “Oh, come on. Don’t young people today use expressions like bootlicker, Ocean King, or gold digger? I do hang out on the internet... Oh, we’re here. Let’s meet the young man you’ve been talking about. I’m a composer too, so I can definitely help you judge.”

Having said that, Aunt Zhou parked the car and the two got out.

The crew was filming ahead.

Aunt Zhou curiously asked, “Did this Lin Yuan tell you he was going to shoot a movie? What’s his role in the crew? If he’s doing the soundtrack, he really doesn’t need to be with the crew, right?”

Gu Xi replied, “I’m not sure...”

Aunt Zhou, helpless, asked, “Then what do you know?”

Gu Xi thought for a moment, “His name is Lin Yuan, he’s a student in our school’s music composition department.”

Aunt Zhou:

At this point, an assistant director stopped the two of them who were trying to enter the set, "Excuse me, we're shooting right now. May I ask why you're here?"

Aunt Zhou replied, "We have an appointment with Lin Yuan."

Upon hearing this, the assistant director's serious face quickly turned enthusiastic, "So, you're friends of Mr. Lin. Please wait a moment, and I'll notify him immediately."

"Thank you."

Looking at the assistant director's retreating figure, Aunt Zhou raised an eyebrow and remarked, "Your Lin Yuan seems to have quite a status on the set?"

Gu Xi rolled her eyes, "He's not mine."

Aunt Zhou smirked, "Indeed, he's not yours, otherwise, he would be here personally to greet us. You've been lingering around him for so long, yet there's been no progress."

Gu Xi:"..."

Not long after, the assistant director returned, his enthusiasm seemed even more pronounced, "Please come in, Mr. Lin is waiting for you inside!"

"Thank you."

The two were led into a room.

Inside, Lin Yuan was tuning a piano. Hearing a noise, he turned his head and greeted, "Hello."

"Lin Yuan, this is my aunt, Mrs. Zhou," Gu Xi introduced the woman beside her to Lin Yuan.

"Nice to meet you, Aunt Zhou."

Lin Yuan greeted, showing his manners towards the elder woman.

With a gentle smile, Aunt Zhou said, “Hello, is it Lin Yuan? I happened to be free today, so I came with Gu Xi. Don’t mind me, you two can just have your chat.”

Lin Yuan nodded, “Please, make yourself comfortable.”

Gu Xi, curiously, asked, “Why did you ask me here, Lin Yuan?”

Lin Yuan replied, “I want you to play a few pieces.”

There are numerous scenes in “The Pianist” where the male lead plays the piano.

Although the male lead, Liu Zhengwen, has a foundation in piano, the final presentation of the piano performance will be completed by Gu Xi. Liu Zhengwen simply has to mimic the action of playing piano-

Of course, the melody cannot be wrong, or the keys would not match.

Common people may not discern the discrepancy, but those who know the piano would instantly detect it.

Just as some actors require post-production dubbing, Lin Yuan’s purpose in seeking Gu Xi was to have her dub the piano performance for Liu Zhengwen- This is a post-production task.

By contacting Gu Xi now, Lin Yuan hoped she could get familiar with the pieces that would appear in the movie.

Gu Xi said somewhat expectantly, “Are these original pieces by you, Lin Yuan?”

Aunt Zhou, who had found a place to sit, looked curiously at Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan nodded, “The score is here. Shall I play it first?”

Gu Xi nodded excitedly, “Yes, could you tell me the name of the piece?”

Lin Yuan replied, “Manage d’Amour.”

Gu Xi asked, “Is it the one I heard last time?”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Gu Xi didn’t press further.

As Lin Yuan sat down at the piano, he adjusted his posture slightly.

The next moment, musical notes began to flow from his fingertips.

A few chord groups under his right hand were like a gentle breeze and rain, then like a spring breeze brushing across his face.

In silence, the black and white piano keys danced in harmony.

The round and natural sound filled the entire room and space.

The score was not that complicated, but this piece of music seemed to have a kind of enchanting power that could easily arouse emotions.

Gu Xi softly closed her eyes.

She was not hearing this piece for the first time, but each time, she only caught bits and pieces.

This was the first time she was appreciating this piece fully, the amazement in her heart was the same as when she heard this piece for the first time.

In the corner of the room.

Aunt Zhou, who was originally a bit careless, her expression changed slightly.

At this moment, she understood why Gu Xi valued Lin Yuan so much!

Based on the quality of this piece alone, Lin Yuan really seemed to have the aura of a maestro, plus he was still so young...

If he wasn't a maestro now, what about in the future?

At least he had the potential.

At this moment, Aunt Zhou's evaluation of Lin Yuan had risen quite a bit.

Just then.

Aunt Zhou suddenly saw Gu Xi looking at her with a smug expression, her lips moved:

"Do you believe me now? He is the maestro!"

Aunt Zhou understood what Gu Xi meant and couldn't help laughing.

This girl...

Only after one song.

Mariage d'Amour is indeed a very outstanding piece, but to judge Lin Yuan as having the level of a maestro based on this alone was too childish.

It was the same old saying.

Everyone has moments of inspiration.

This breathtaking piece was likely the result of a lucky burst of inspiration from Lin Yuan.

The judgment was simple.

Lin Yuan was simply too young.

Furthermore, as Gu Xi mentioned earlier, other than this piece, Lin Yuan had not played any other pieces.

Doesn't this explain everything?

Of course, Aunt Zhou didn't voice this out. Lin Yuan's performance wasn't over, it would be disrespectful to speak now.

Finally.

Lin Yuan finished playing.

He looked at Gu Xi, "This is the original version of the song, but I want to make some adjustments in order to incorporate it into the film scenario. Could you give it a listen and give me your feedback?"

Gu Xi was surprised, "You want to adapt it?"

Lin Yuan nodded and further explained, he needed some suggestions from Gu Xi as a pianist, "Because the intention of the piece needs to fit with the style of the movie, the original style doesn't fully match the movie."

Piano adaptation is a normal practice.

Any classic piano piece would have countless versions, just slight tweaks can lead to an infinite number of wonderful variations in the piece.

"Alright."

Gu Xi nodded in agreement.

Upon hearing that Lin Yuan intended to rearrange the song, Aunt Zhou couldn't help but sit upright. This provided a good opportunity to assess Lin Yuan's actual skill level.

Lin Yuan was oblivious to Aunt Zhou's attention.

He directly activated the character card of Yang Zhongming. The system didn't allow Lin Yuan to use Yang Zhongming's character card to do any original work, but it allowed Lin Yuan to use Yang Zhongming's ability to modify existing piano pieces.

For the sake of the adaptation, Lin Yuan specifically did not invite Feng Shuo for lessons today.

He wanted to use today's character card time for this important matter.

Sitting back in position.

Lin Yuan began his adaptation.

Lin Yuan had previously tried to adapt Mariage d'Amour himself, but the result was just average. The moment he activated Yang Zhongming's character card, Lin Yuan's thoughts became clear. With the dancing of his fingers, the left-hand chords suddenly improved, occasional variations in the climax part, subtle adjustments in the phrasing, emphasized melody of small motives and etc., allowed Mariage d'Amour to exhibit a rich variety of changes.

"Is this..."

Aunt Zhou listened to the constantly transforming music, and was a bit taken aback.

If the original Mariage d'Amour was sweetness accompanied by sadness, then now with Lin Yuan's continuous adjustments, the piece was being endowed with countless new emotions.

Each variation was no worse than the original!

Even more, this seemingly impromptu continual adaptation seemed to add different flavors to the piece!

An expert in action is instantly recognizable.

The general public may be puzzled by Lin Yuan's adaptation, but Aunt Zhou was getting more and more shocked as she listened!

The adaptation was done impeccably!

This young man, of the same age as Gu Xi, had a level of piano composition talent far more...

Terrifying than Aunt Zhou had initially imagined!

Chapter 274: A Woman Will Only Affect His Speed in Drawing the Sword

Lin Yuan didn't notice Aunt Zhou's reaction. He was already immersed in his current state, enjoying it tremendously, he could hardly believe that he had created the arrangement for the piece...

Well, he didn't really.

Yang Zhongming made the adjustments, in fact.

Yang Zhongming's musical composition is profound.

Even a classic like Mariage d'Amour, he could adapt in countless ways.

With this character card ability, it was only a matter of time before Lin Yuan found a version that was most compatible with the film!

At the end of the piece.

Like a poet's dirge, the curtain slowly closed, leaving only a few lingering piano tones.

Lin Yuan temporarily stopped playing and turned his head to Gu Xi to ask for her opinion: “Did you notice the adjustments I just made?”

Gu Xi was stunned.

Lin Yuan asked: “Are you listening?”

Gu Xi came back to her senses, feeling somewhat embarrassed and awkward, with the same shock as Aunt Zhou.

“Yeah, I noticed the changes in the adapted piece were good; the melody is very

beautiful. But, I’m not sure if it fits your intended film...”

“Let me make that call.”

Lin Yuan said, “Go ahead and familiarize yourself with the original piece first because no matter how it is adapted, it is based on the original. I don’t plan to make too many changes.”

“You mean...”

Gu Xi’s chest rose slightly, seemingly hyperventilating: “Does that mean you can grant me the rights to play Mariage d’Amour?”

“Of course.”

Lin Yuan said, “As I told you before, I won’t have you work for nothing, you can play this piece, but only after the film is released.”

Gu Xi’s face turned crimson instantly.

But immediately afterward, she put her shyness aside, feeling elated, as though all her anticipation and pursuit of Lin Yuan had been well rewarded!

I

II

At the side, the initially shocked Aunt Zhou upon hearing this, her expression became somewhat complicated.

She did not speak, just stared at Lin Yuan for a while, her eyes gradually grew more profound.

“Indeed.”

Lin Yuan was oblivious to how his words might have come off: “Not only this piece but there are also a few others that will be in the film. I should give you a demonstration now, so you can get accustomed to it beforehand.”

With that, Lin Yuan settled down at the piano for the third time.

The script for “The Tuner” provided by the System, included the original film’s pieces, full of Indian flavor, and the quality was pretty good.

Although not as good as *Mariage d’Amour*, it was overall well done, very importantly, it had a high compatibility with the film.

Sometimes, what suits best is the best.

For example, you can’t possibly match an art film with music like *The Fate Symphony*, right?

Only *Mariage d’Amour* would not be out of place, and could be seamlessly incorporated into the new film through adaptation.

The room became quiet.

Gu Xi listened in anticipation.

Aunt Zhou kept her eyes on Lin Yuan.

As Lin Yuan settled down for the third time, a new piece flowed from his fingertips shortly after.

The piece was called “wo ladki”.

Lin Yuan had given it the Chinese name “Missing”.

It was a slow piece.

With each group of soft twin-notes by his ears, Lin Yuan’s technique adeptly moved over the keys. The crescendo and decrescendo rhythm was calm and elegant.

“so~”

“la~”

“so~”

His hands chased each other but never overlapped or met, Lin Yuan quickened his rhythm. What Lin Yuan didn’t notice was that Aunt Zhou had already stood up from her seat, with her eyes wide open.

Gu Xi was fixated on the score, her gaze seemingly frozen.

In Lin Yuan’s estimation, this piece was not as good as Mariage d’Amour.

But Lin Yuan overlooked something...

This piece had a striking Indian style, an extremely novel musical style for the Blue Star piano circle!

Because Blue Star didn’t have Indians.

The Indian music style is completely different from the Chinese style, and now Lin Yuan brought this novel style to life!

Therefore.

When Lin Yuan played this piece, Aunt Zhou didn't think this piece was inferior to the last one, instead, her eyes grew wider and wider, her face full of disbelief!

"This style..."

"Unheard of..."

Aunt Zhou could discern it, and naturally, so could Gu Xi. Hence, Gu Xi was as shocked as Aunt Zhou.

Yet Gu Xi was quicker to accept it — because in her heart, she firmly believed that Lin Yuan truly possessed the talent of a Maestro.

"Maestro..."

When Lin Yuan reached the second half of the piece, Aunt Zhou subconsciously found herself uttering these words.

Although it might seem ridiculous to associate these words with a young composer.

But after hearing Lin Yuan's play and arrangements today, Aunt Zhou felt that Lin Yuan truly deserved it!

Gu Xi's judgment was actually right!

"It seems I can make a few changes."

Lin Yuan suddenly found that this piece was not presented at its utmost excellence.

The enhancement from Yang Zhongming's character card ignited a vigorous urge to create within him!

It seemed that Yang Zhongming's ability, upon encountering an excellent piece, filled him with an irresistible impulse to experiment.

So, Lin Yuan truly did revise it, it stank of improvisation.

It still had its original Indian style, but the rhythm underwent some adjustments.

The chord progression remained largely unchanged, but that indescribable feeling was somewhat intensified.

"Dum—"

Lin Yuan paused as he made changes to the last few notes.

This spontaneous decision was still not perfect. The original was already very relevant to the plot. He needed to go back and consider it more, and he had to do it while using the character card.

"Hoo."

He didn't continue playing and turned to Gu Xi and said, "I have three scores here in total. I'll give them all to you later. Once you've mastered them, come back to the set and we'll finalize the version."

"Okay..."

Gu Xi nodded dumbly.

Having said what he needed, Lin Yuan left the two in the room and, leveraging the effects of Yang Zhongming's character card, made some trial adjustments and modifications.

Only when the effects of the character card ended did he realize that Aunt Zhou and Gu Xi were still there.

Lin Yuan apologized, "Sorry. I was a bit engrossed in my playing."

"Don't be!"

II

Aunt Zhou's smile was no longer as gentle as before; it now seemed to carry a burning warmth. "Were those modifications just now impromptu?"

"Sort of."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Aunt Zhou's face was full of admiration.

Just then, someone called out for Mr. Lin outside. As a film scriptwriter, Lin Yuan sometimes had to deal with issues, so he could only say to Gu Xi and Aunt Zhou, "I'm leaving."

"Then we won't disturb you."

Aunt Zhou pulled Gu Xi along and said goodbye to Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan nodded and handed the plot summary of "The Tuner" to Gu Xi. "This is confidential. Look it over to facilitate our discussion next time."

But it didn't need to be kept strictly confidential.

Because the plot summary Lin Yuan gave to Gu Xi was quite brief, he just told her what kind of story it is, no detailed content, just reminded her to keep it confidential for precaution's sake.

Gu Xi nodded in response again and again.

A few minutes later, the two returned to the car. Neither of them spoke; nor was the car started. The car was quiet.

Eventually...

Aunt Zhou looked at Gu Xi, her smile complex: “Do you think Lin Yuan has a girlfriend?”

Gu Xi was confused: “What?”

Aunt Zhou couldn’t help but get excited: “Silly girl! I mean, you should pursue him! If you become his girlfriend, you’ll be set for life. I’ve never seen such a gifted young man!”

Gu Xi:

II

II

Aunt Zhou seemed unable to calm down her emotions: “His first piece of music was indeed at a maestro level, the second piece was a brand-new style of music. Although not as good as the first one, what’s rare is its spirituality, which is a must for a maestro!”

“Oh?”

Gu Xi laughed, “Aunt Zhou, you’ve finally admitted that Lin Yuan is a maestro, haven’t you? If he weren’t, why would I chase him this far.”

“Maestro...”

Aunt Zhou murmured: “Even if he isn’t, he isn’t far off. Hey, are you sure you don’t want to be his girlfriend?”

“Give me a break.”

Gu Xi said helplessly: “Do you think Lin Yuan, with his abilities, would lack for female admirers? Or do you think that I stand out in any way in his eyes?”

“You’re right.”

Aunt Zhou looked at Gu Xi regretfully: “If he had the slightest interest in you, he wouldn’t have had some assistant take us in. I thought you were quite popular with boys.”

GuXi:

II

II

I am indeed popular!

But is Lin Yuan just an ordinary boy?

With a roll of her eyes, Gu Xi couldn’t help feeling a little annoyed. She felt so low in front of Lin Yuan, like a lickspittle. But the problem is, if she didn’t fawn over him, Lin Yuan didn’t appear to have any interest in dealing with her.

That said.

What’s wrong with being a lickspittle? She has now obtained the music piece, she is the performer of ‘Mariage d’Amour’, and besides, Lin Yuan gave her some pieces in a new style, which is very beneficial for her future development and even strengthens Gu Xi’s determination to keep toadying!

Toadying to the end!

You get everything you need!

While Gu Xi was pondering these things, Aunt Zhou suddenly cried out in surprise: “Turns out Lin Yuan is Xian Yu?”

“What?”

ii

Gu Xi was taken aback.

Aunt Zhou pointed out the plot summary of “The Tuner” in Gu Xi’s hand, where it said ‘Xian Yu’, with ‘Lin Yuan’ written in parentheses behind it.

“So Lin Yuan has this identity too!”

Gu Xi was very surprised, and then admired even more: “Then Lin Yuan is too amazing! Not only is he skilled at piano composition, but he is also adept at popular music and scriptwriting!”

“You’re too weak!”

Aunt Zhou suddenly glared at Gu Xi: “You are acquainted with such a genius but can’t nab him. If I were twenty years younger, he would definitely not escape from my palm!”

“Aunt Zhou, stop joking!”

Gu Xi suddenly got a bit angry: “Enough with Lin Yuan not having any interest in me, even if he were, I wouldn’t accept! Because he’s a true genius!”

“So what?”

Aunt Zhou looked a bit stunned.

Gu Xi’s gaze was firm: “Women will only hinder the speed of Lin Yuan’s sword drawing.. He only belongs to art!”

Chapter 275: Spring Festival Gala Song

In the following days, it was business as usual for the film crew.

Liu Zhengwen's acting skills were really good, as he could play both the look of the male lead pretending to be blind and the look of the male lead who was genuinely blind...

As the director, Yi Chenggong continued to shoot strictly according to Lin Yuan's script.

Everything was in good order.

However, Lin Yuan was still the representative of the composition department of the Ninth Floor, so there were always some matters he had to handle personally.

In late October.

On the 23rd, Lin Yuan didn't go to the set, but came to the company's composition department to attend a collective meeting of the Ninth Floor.

Wu Yong was the host of the meeting.

It should have been hosted by Lin Yuan, but Wu Yong was more familiar with the specifics of the job, so Lin Yuan let him host.

It wasn't only the Ninth Floor that was like this.

The composition departments on the upper floors were the same.

After all, other than Lin Yuan, the representatives of the composition departments on the other floors were Maestros, and some Maestros didn't even bother to show up for important internal meetings.

The fact that Lin Yuan was willing to show up already showed a lot of respect. Today's meeting was about some major matters at the end of the year in the department.

Furthermore.

Blue Star released a new policy at the meeting—

The highest government decided that February would no longer serve as the official Spring Festival for some continents.

Blue Star's official Spring Festival was January 1st.

The Spring Festival time varies across continents.

The Spring Festival of Qin and Qi is usually in February.

Now Blue Star has forcibly synchronized the timeline of the holidays across all the continents.

This is very important for us, as it means all the major music awards will adjust their timelines and will make the competition in January and December particularly intense because one is at the start of the year and the other is at the end.”

“There's another important piece of news.”

“The merger of Qin and Qi has been happening for almost a year. This historical decision has led to leaps and bounds in development across all industries in the merged Qin and Qi, with tangible improvements in all kinds of data. Therefore, the decision has been made to further expand the scope of the experiment. From next January, Chu Continent will join the merger of Qin and Qi!”

“The transportation is already covered.”

“Another cultural barrier is about to be shattered. Those of you who have experienced the Qin-Qi merger should know what that means. A broader future is waiting for us!”

I If

The Qin-Qi merger, now with the addition of Chu Continent, is intimately related to the lives of ordinary people, and it's even more important for entertainment companies like Starlight.

Because it means the competition in all industries will become even fiercer in the future!

Even Lin Yuan was deep in thought.

Next year, another continent will join the merger. Does this mean that he will be able to make even more money?

If II

After the meeting.

Lin Yuan returned to his office.

Wu Yong followed him in, smiling, “There was one other thing that wasn’t mentioned at the meeting because I figured it couldn’t be solved just by an ordinary gold medal. Mr. Lin might need to take a hand.”

Lin Yuan asked, “What is it?”

Wu Yong replied, “In celebration of the first anniversary of the Qin-Qi merger, Qin and Qi will host a joint cultural exchange event at the end of December. They will invite the ‘King and Queen of Singing’ from both places to sing each others’ characteristic songs. In other words, our ‘King and Queen of Songs’ from Qin will have to sing in Qi language, while the ‘King and Queen of Songs’ from Qi will have to sing in Mandarin. This won’t be difficult for the Qi ‘King and Queen of Singing’, they just have to sing in the official language. But it’s a bit tricky for our Qin ‘King and Queen of Singing’, they might not be proficient in Qi language.”

Lin Yuan raised an eyebrow, “Did our company have a ‘King or Queen of Singing’ get chosen?”

Wu Yong nodded, “Our long-standing King of Singing’, Lan Yan was chosen. This is not only because of Lan Yan’s standing within the industry, but also because Lan Yan is one of the few big-name singers who is fairly familiar with Qi language. So the company is taking this matter very seriously. The composition departments within the company are all working to write for Lan Yan. I was thinking because you, Representative Lin, have experience in composing songs in Qi language, so...”

“Oh.”

Lin Yuan didn't give a definite answer.

These official projects, even for the 'King and Queen of Singing' level singers, are valuable opportunities.

Therefore, the importance of this song is very high.

Wu Yong hopes that he can represent the Ninth Floor Composition

Department, submit a song, and try to get it released for this special occasion.

II II

Seeing Lin Yuan's lukewarm attitude, Wu Yong was nervously saying, “If we get this opportunity, it will be of great significance to Representative Lin. Due to the high requirements for this song, the company has announced that if the song is ultimately chosen, there will be an additional reward of three million. While the money may not be much...”

“I can try.”

Lin Yuan suddenly said.

Wu Yong was stunned. He had prepared a lot more arguments to persuade Lin Yuan to give it a shot. He didn't expect that Lin would agree to try before he had hardly begun.

He was immediately excited, “It's great that Representative Lin can participate!”

Lin Yuan asked, “Are there any specific requirements?”

Wu Yong eagerly explained, “Actually, there aren't many specific requirements, just as long as it's catchy and positive. For example, an inspirational song would be good. The specific choice will

depend on Lan Yan's consideration. The most important thing is that it can be well received by the Qi audience."

"Hm."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Looking at these requirements, they didn't seem difficult for him.

However, Lin Yuan also understood that sometimes, the simplest requirements can be the most difficult.

Because it means the competition will be even fiercer.

Songs that are inspirational, that have positive lyrics...

There are too many of these kinds of songs!

Because there are so many of these kinds of songs, it's extremely difficult to stand out!

"By the way."

Wu Yong said, "If this song is chosen, in addition to competing in the December season, it may also be performed at the Spring Festival Gala after the Qin-Qi merger. I'm talking about the event on the night of December 31st. So some people predict that this gala's viewership will break records, as audiences from both Qin and Qi will be watching."

Wu Yong was indirectly reminding him of just how important this song was.

Lin Yuan nodded.

Wu Yong chatted with Lin Yuan for a while longer before leaving.

After Wu Yong left, Lin Yuan called up the System.

Given the background of the Qin-Qi merger, the importance of the first Spring Festival Gala is self-evident. This might be an opportunity to make a killing, so he was going to start customizing a song.

“Qi language...”

“Inspirational...”

“Positive...”

“Upbeat...”

Perhaps that’s the song he can try?

Chapter 276: Chu Continent Characteristics !

“Customize the song, ‘Under the Red Sun’.”

After browsing through the system music library for half an hour, Lin Yuan eventually chose the song which first came to his mind—

Hacken Lee’s ‘Under the Red Sun’!

Actually, there are quite a few inspirational songs or meaningful songs in Cantonese, but Lin Yuan knows the importance of this song selection, so he chose one of the most influential Cantonese songs, considering one thing:

The singer’s style.

The performer of this song has already been decided, it’s Lan Yan, one of the kings of singing in Starlight. Lin Yuan, as a native Qin person, is quite familiar with this veteran singer, including a relatively clear concept of the singer’s vocal range and tone.

Other songs may be suitable in terms of content and melody.

But when considering the content, melody and the singer's unique style, 'Under the Red Sun' is the best choice.

"Ding Dong."

The system responded: "Please confirm again, are you willing to spend three million to customize the song 'Under the Red Sun'?"

Lin Yuan:

Can I say I'm unwilling?

Has the system started to raise the price of songs to this extent?

Although 'Under the Red Sun' is indeed a classic...

But...

My money didn't just fall from the sky!

The three million was a company reward for me, and now you're taking it all...

Well, right.

I'll actually profit from this.

With enough discernment, Lin Yuan knew that a song like 'Under the Red Sun' is a song that people love to hear.

With the promotion of the Spring Festival Gala, the bonus of being sung by the king of singing, and the factors of the times, the number of downloads this song will get in the future is worth looking forward to!

It doesn't matter if the people of Qin land are not familiar with the songs in Qi language.

It's not important.

Because in the world, there are some songs that can break through language barriers, which everyone will love, even if they don't understand the lyrics!

Who doesn't have a few favorite foreign language songs?

What's more...

The gap between Qi language and Mandarin is not very big. Many pronunciations in 'Under the Red Sun' can actually be understood, even if you don't understand Qi language, you can still grasp the general idea.

How to say?

The system has become clever, and the pricing of each work takes my real situation into account.

In other words...

If this song isn't given such important significance at the moment, perhaps Lin Yuan could have secured the work at a lower price.

The system pricing this song at three million now, can be accused of jacking up the price.

Perhaps in the future, I can consider stockpiling some songs, and when needed, I can take them out directly.

This way, the system wouldn't be able to take advantage of me.

This sort of temporary customization is just falling into the system's trap.

However, the randomness of stockpiling songs in advance is relatively high.

Everything has two sides.

Is it possible that the songs I've hoarded might not be used or meaningless?

He released a deep breath.

Lin Yuan said: "Confirm."

System: "Customizing for you... customizing... please wait..."

One minute later.

The song customization was successful.

Lin Yuan listened to it, it was Hacken Lee's version of 'Under the Red Sun'.

Many people have covered this song, but 01' Li sings it with the most flavor.

After confirming that there were no errors...

Lin Yuan didn't immediately contact Wu Yong and the company; otherwise, this production speed would be too insanely fast. You can't always say that you're prepared in advance, right?

It's best to wait some time before bringing it up.

After customizing the song, Lin Yuan went online to check on Chu Continent's situation. Each continent has its own characteristics, so what would be the characteristic of Chu Continent?

As a result, Lin Yuan almost got a virus when he checked.

Why does a search for Chu Continent bring up a lot of strange things?

It seems like the computer has become sluggish...

Culture Wall?

No, this isn't a culture wall, these websites just have some issues.

But looking at the internet, it seems...

Does Chu Continent also favor films?

Like Qi Continent in the past?

There are things like infantry and cavalry films listed on the websites, and there are a bunch of inexplicable asterisks....

Are these related to war?

Where did these professional terms come from?

Ah, it should be porn, right?

Looking at many sultry character images on the website, Lin Yuan vaguely understood the meaning.

Not just that...

In Chu Continent, besides the flourishing porn industry, the level of animation production is also one of the best in Blue Star.

If we say that Divine Wings is the top animation company in Qin-Qi, then Chu Continent has at least dozens of animation companies of the same level as Divine Wings!

And they're doing even better!

Some animations imported from Chu Continent often dominate the rankings! Although Qi land is also good at film and television, Qi Continent primarily focuses on live-action film and television.

While Chu Continent, on the other hand, primarily focuses on the development of animation!

Perhaps the number of introverted males and females in Chu Continent ranks first in the world?

Lin Yuan had a certain concept.

After the integration of Chu Continent into Qin-Qi, the industry that will undoubtedly be the most impacted is probably Qin-Qi's animation industry.

But other industries won't have it easy either.

Having experienced a Qin-Qi merger, Lin Yuan can predict that after the inclusion of Chu Continent, all industries will undergo some unpredictable future changes.

But this is good news for Lin Yuan.

Because songs, films, novels, etc., these works have a wider audience range in the future!

It's easier to make money!

Although making money might lead to changes such as purchasing power, these involve quite professional economics, something Lin Yuan wasn't particularly concerned about. After all, Blue Star is a whole unit.

On the Internet...

Obviously, some people have smelled the news, knowing that Chu Continent might join the merger next year, and many netizens are already discussing it. “Watching movies will be more convenient in the future!

-Chu Continent is definitely the place that males from all provinces want to merge the most!”

“Don’t talk nonsense upstairs, as an old man from Qin land, I want to merge with Qi Continent the most. Aren’t Qi Continent’s games fragrant?

“I feel that the film-selling industry will be greatly impacted, their films are becoming outdated.”

“Ahem, I can’t bear to see my peers losing money. How about I buy some films at a low price? Any film seller interested can contact me.”

“Brother, lend me one for a chat.”

“The animations from Chu Continent are really good. I remember that Chu Continent’s ‘The Bible of Light’ can be regarded as the enlightening work of my animation journey!”

“Brother, you’re strange.”

“Nah, my friend wants to watch.”

Since it has developed to the point where many netizens know, it indicates that the news of Chu Continent joining the merger is basically nailed on the board.

Some people even speculate.

In the future, a new province will join the merger every one or two years. Even in the later stages, there may be instances where several provinces are simultaneously incorporated.

“Now, every major province is probably preparing for a future merger.

Lin Yuan did not join the discussion.

He suddenly remembered something.

It seems that ‘King of the Net’ is about to be adapted into an animation, probably airing in January of next year. Will it be affected by Chu Continent? Since Chu Continent’s animation is very developed...

Can my ‘King of the Net’ compete?

Chapter 277: What’s Done is Done

Chu Continent has yet to be incorporated, so pondering these issues now is pointless. The animation rights of “King of the Net” have been sold to Divine Wings to produce. The original story is excellent, so it now depends on the production level of the producer...

As Lin Yuan is lost in thought.

A noise comes from outside the door.

It turns out that 01’ Zhou has come over.

When 01’ Zhou came in, Wu Yong, who had just left Lin Yuan’s office not long ago, was with him. For some unknown reason, Wu Yong looked somewhat embarrassed.

“Director.”

Lin Yuan greeted.

Without him saying more, Gu Dong, the small assistant who was always on duty at Lin Yuan’s door, skillfully brewed tea for these bosses. 01’ Zhou straightforwardly said, “You don’t need to worry about Lan Yan’s song.”

“Hmm?”

Lin Yuan was stunned.

I've already taken off my pants...

I've tailored a song and spent three million for it, and now, you're telling me not to worry?

"It's my fault."

Wu Yong on the side sheepishly said: "Although we're colleagues with some composers upstairs, there is some competition, so I secretly thought about taking up the job of completing the song the company needed this time, so that our Ninth Floor could gain some fame. But I didn't anticipate that Maestro would take up this job..."

"Don't play smart next time."

01' Zhou glared at Wu Yong unhappily: "This song will be released in December! December is generally considered the battle of the gods, and now December has been officially changed to the end of the year, there will be more Kings of Singing this year than ever before, and the song, which carries the significant meaning of musical exchanges after the fusion of Qin and Qi, do you think the company keeps these Maestros for nothing?"

Wu Yong was shivering.

If Maestro takes action, even Lin Yuan might be helpless, not to mention people at the level of King of Singing, even an ordinary singer should know how to choose.

If it weren't for Zhou Ruiming's reminder, Wu Yong almost caused Lin Yuan to waste his precious time.

Lin Yuan roughly understood.

Perhaps the song was too important this time, so the company sent Maestro to handle it, and no matter what he did, it would be in vain—

That's what others think.

01' Zhou also expressed his thoughts:

“It’s the end of October now, and the song will definitely be released in December, there’s less than forty days for creation. You still have a film to shoot, how will you have time to write a song? Maestro doesn’t release many songs but has accumulated work, so this job has been accepted by Zheng Jing. You should know Teacher Zheng Jing, right?”

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Lin Yuan’s only contact with a Maestro was Zheng Jing, the only female composer of Starlight at the Maestro level. When he had just joined the company’s composing department and entered the composing group, he had a brief chat with her.

“Thankfully, it’s still early, and you haven’t started creating, otherwise Wu Yong would really have wasted your time.”

01' Zhou glared at Wu Yong again, then looked at Lin Yuan and smiled: “You focus on shooting your film first, the company is counting on this film for reputation.”

Lin Yuan:

In old Zhou’s eyes, he came timely, as soon as he received the news from Wu Yong, he came to stop Lin Yuan.

But 01' Zhou couldn’t guess that within this very short time, Lin Yuan had already prepared the song!

Since the song is ready, ask Lin Yuan to let it go now?

Impossible.

If it were any other song, encountering Maestro would have really made Lin Yuan doubtful and consider giving up.

Because Lin Yuan has Yang Zhongming's character card and has personally experienced it countless times, so he knows very well how terrifying Maestro can be.

But the song Lin Yuan tailored this time is "Red Sun!"

If songs were graded, "Red Sun" would definitely be a top-tier song!

This level of song is not something that can be easily composed by a Maestro!

This conclusion is also drawn by Lin Yuan based on the use of Yang Zhongming's character card.

01' Zhou did not know Lin Yuan's thoughts.

He continued talking: "If you encounter any difficulties in filming, you can tell me. I am not trying to discourage you. The company has its own plans for the event song, and you joining the creation would be unnecessary, because the Kings of Singing from other companies will also use songs from Maestros, after all, this is a special time point of the Qin and Qi first year anniversary..." "Hmm."

Lin Yuan did not argue for reason.

No matter what 01' Zhou says, I've already paid for the song anyway.

When the time comes, I'll give the song to Lan Yan and let him choose. Even the song "Red Sun" is not afraid of the Maestro's action.

After 01' Zhou left.

Wu Yong said sullenly: "Leader, I apologize for my faulty consideration. This December indeed is the war of the gods, there must be Kings of Singing going down the stage, and there must be a Maestro creating in the background..." The company highly approves of Lin Yuan's songwriting ability.

But the highest position the company gives to Lin Yuan is only “Maestro Junior”.

He is much stronger than the regular gold medalists, but he still falls far from Maestro.

This means that in the company, or in the entire industry, Lin Yuan only has the potential to become a Maestro in the future.

Lin Yuan nodded, but wasn’t resentful.

Including the system, if using cheats, Lin Yuan might be the most powerful Maestro in Blue Star.

But if not using cheats, Lin Yuan’s real level indeed can’t compare with Maestro.

Lin Yuan asked a question he was more concerned with: “Just now, did Director Zhou say that it’s not just our company’s King of Singing who will attend the anniversary event?”

“Yes.”

Wu Yong adjusted his mood and said: “Speaking of which, the other King of Singing from our Qin land who will participate in the anniversary event has quite a connection with you.”

“Who?”

“Dazzling Entertainment, King of Singing, Fei Yang.”

Lin Yuan paused: “The one Chen Zhiyu met last time...”

Lin Yuan occasionally pays attention to these news, naturally knowing about Chen Zhiyu and Fei Yang’s season competition incident.

“Yes.”

Wu Yong couldn't help but laugh: "Perennial Runner-up knocked down the old King of Singing, the news was quite big at that time, but the song "Change Myself" was indeed of high quality, and with the official endorsement, so we won. If it were not for this time that Maestro took action, I think we really have a chance to win over Fei Yang again."

Lin Yuan said: "Fei Yang will also use a song from Maestro?"

Wu Yong nodded: "This is what Director Zhou told me. Fei Yang's work this time is created by Maestro, which is why we have to arrange for Maestro to take action on our side."

"Oh."

Lin Yuan took a sip of tea.

Wu Yong took leave: "Then I'll leave first, I'm really sorry about this..."

"It's nothing."

After Wu Yong left, Lin Yuan thought for a while, pressed the blue button on the upper right corner of the office desk, which was a communication device. "Come in for a second."

This device connects to Gu Dong outside and allows real-time voice communication.

Gu Dong quickly came in and respectfully said: "Leader, what can I do for you?" Lin Yuan thought for a while and said: "Remember to contact Lan Yan in two weeks."

He is now the representative of the Ninth Floor composing department, and it is not difficult to contact the company's top singer.

Gu Dong was surprised: "Didn't Director Zhou say..."

Gu Dong had also heard some of the conversation when Zhou Ruiming and Wu Yong came in just now.

Lin Yuan rarely smirked: “What’s done is done..”

Chapter 278: Zheng Jing

Two weeks later, Lan Yan arrived at the company.

As one of Starlight’s Kings of Singing, Lan Yan had a private resting space, somewhat similar to a senior manager’s office.

The room was spacious and equipped with a treadmill.

At this moment, Lan Yan was running on the treadmill, drenched in sweat, but showed no intention of stopping.

Lan Yan believed that a singer needed a healthy physique to sing better, so he always paid attention to his fitness.

Lan Yan’s manager was nearby, picking up a camera and taking a few photos of Lan Yan.

These photos could later be posted to the online Tribe as interaction with the fans.

At that moment.

The manager received a phone call. After a brief conversation, his face abruptly turned peculiar.

He walked up to the treadmill and said, “Teacher Admirable Fish’s assistant called, he has written a song for you.”

“Click.”

Lan Yan quickly hit the stop button, trotted slowly for a moment due to inertia, then wiped off his sweat with the towel around his neck:

“Teacher Admirable Fish?”

As a rising composer in the company, Lan Yan was naturally familiar with Xian Yu. He had even considered the possibility of collaborating with him at some point.

Within the company.

Even at the level of Kings and Queens of Singing, it wasn't possible to always get Maestro's involvement.

So, composers like Xian Yu were already worth the attention of the Kings and Queens.

"Yes, for the anniversary event."

The manager was a bit puzzled, "The company definitely notified Xian Yu, he should be aware that Teacher Zheng Jing took this job. So, what does it mean that he still wrote a song..."

Lan Yan laughed, "It means he is unconvinced by the Maestro."

The manager was taken aback, but then he realized it made sense. "Teacher Admirable Fish, said to still be a student, has achieved such results and holds a company position equal to the Maestros. It's inevitable he has some arrogance like the Maestros, but he doesn't understand how formidable the Maestro is."

Lan Yan replied, "It's only human nature. I believe Xian Yu will become a Maestro in the future, so we should take good care of him."

The manager nodded, "Then let's go to the ninth floor's music composition department."

Lan Yan agreed.

Everybody being in the same company, if the other party were a typical composer, they would definitely come to see Lan Yan. However, since it was Xian Yu, Lan Yan would take the initiative to go see him.

It's not that Xian Yu had a higher status than Lan Yan.

Regarding their current status, Lan Yan and Xian Yu were fairly equal, and even if Xian Yu had the upper hand, Lan Yan was after all also a King of Singing.

Moreover, this time, it was Xian Yu who took the initiative to write a song for Lan Yan.

But what makes Xian Yu impressive is that he is very young, and no one can assure how far he will go in the future.

For this reason, Lan Yan didn't want to offend Xian Yu.

On their way to the ninth-floor music composition department, the manager reminded Lan Yan, "Even if you reject using Xian Yu's song as the anniversary piece, be sure to relay it gently, so they don't think we don't appreciate their song."

Lan Yan nodded, "I'm aware of that."

They haven't interacted with Xian Yu before, so they don't know what his personality is like.

But considering Xian Yu's age, young people tend to be sensitive. For such a young representative of the music department, it's necessary to respect their feelings.

They entered the elevator.

Suddenly, Lan Yan chuckled, "Besides, I don't plan on rejecting it. The quality of the song Xian Yu wrote won't be bad. It's just that this song cannot be released in December."

The manager also started laughing.

Lan Yan's thought was the same as his, Xian Yu's song certainly wouldn't be bad, it would definitely be worth singing. However, the song that will be released this December needs to participate in the anniversary event of the QinQi merger. The song for the event has to be the best one!

Gu Dong entered Lin Yuan's office, "The representative, Lan Yan and his manager said they would arrive soon. Should we contact Teacher Zheng Jing as well to avoid her feeling upset?"

"In that case."

Lin Yuan asked, "How can she be pleased then?"

Gu Dong was taken aback for a moment, and suddenly realized, the question was indeed something Lin Yuan would ask.

She chuckled, "You just need to call and explain a little."

"Alright."

Lin Yuan asked, "Do you have her number?"

Gu Dong replied, "Teacher Zheng Jing is now a representative of the tenth floor's composition department, you have the authority to look up her number."

Lin Yuan nodded, logged into the company's backend, and indeed found Zheng Jing's phone number.

Without pondering too much.

Lin Yuan dialed it straight away.

On the other end of the call, a mature female voice responded, "Who is this?"

"Admirable Fish, hello, Teacher Zheng Jing."

Lin Yuan introduced himself using his composer's name.

Zheng Jing's voice had a hint of surprise, "So, it's you. What can I do for you?"

Lin Yuan straightforwardly said, “I want to try for the song selection for the QinQi merger anniversary.”

Gu Dong,

She really wanted to help Lin Yuan explain. Since Lin Yuan didn’t beat around the bush, she should have guided him on what to say earlier.

However, given the representative’s personality, her suggestion would have been useless anyway.

The representative was naturally poor with social interactions.

There was a few seconds of silence on Zheng Jing’s end before she asked, “Are you confident?”

Lin Yuan replied, “Sort of.”

He wasn’t entirely sure, but judging by the quality of this song, it was more than enough.

Zheng Jing added, “You’re on the ninth floor, aren’t you? I’m currently at the company, do you mind if I come over and have a listen?”

Lin Yuan replied, “Sure.”

Zheng Jing laughed, “Seems like you are really confident. To be honest, I’m not even this confident. The composer that Splendid brought in is very skilled.”

Lin Yuan, “Oh.”

Zheng Jing laughed again, “By the way, I have a question, was the song ‘Changing Myself’ really about the QinQi merger?”

“No.”

Regarding Zheng Jing, Lin Yuan had no intention of hiding the truth. In fact, he never thought about hiding it.

But he was also certain he wouldn't go about broadcasting it since the company has already defined the song's context, how could he publicly undermine it?

"Hahahaha..."

Zheng Jing seemed to have hit upon her laughter point, she laughed heartily, slightly inexplicably excited, "Just as I guessed!"

After the laugh.

Zheng Jing added seriously, "But this is the magic of music."

"Yes."

"Alright, I'll hang up now, I'm almost there."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Lin Yuan quietly waited.

In no time, Lan Yan and his manager arrived.

"Teacher Admirable Fish, how do you do..."

Lan Yan was about forty years old, not very tall, just over one and a half meters. His face was not bad, giving people a sense of health and Sunlight.

"Hello."

Lin Yuan got up and shook the visitor's hand, and also greeted his manager.

Just at that moment.

Noise came from outside the office.

It turned out that Zheng Jing had arrived as well.

Upon seeing Zheng Jing, Lan Yan and his manager were stunned for a moment, then promptly greeted her. One small detail was, their attitude towards her was even more enthusiastic than towards Lin Yuan.

“No need to be polite, we are all here to listen to songs.”

Zheng Jing said with a beaming smile, then fixed her gaze on Lin Yuan, her eyes visibly brightening:

What a handsome lad!

Chapter 279: Impressive-Act

This was the first time Lin Yuan had met Maestro in person.

Zheng Jing was around the same age as Lan Yan, probably in her early forties. She might not be considered particularly beautiful, but she had an indefinable aura that inadvertently attracted attention.

“Even though it's our first meeting...”

Zheng Jing said with a smile to Lin Yuan, “I've listened to all your songs.”

Lin Yuan said, “Thank you, please have a seat.”

Lan Yan and his manager sat down.

Zheng Jing also took a seat on the couch, “But if you want to compete with me, you’ll have to show me your real talents.”

“Well, let’s see about that.”

Lin Yuan motioned for Gu Dong to turn on the sound system.

The speakers in Lin Yuan’s office were worth more than a hundred thousand. Once the door was closed and the room sealed, the sound could be immaculately presented.

“Is it a sample?” Zheng Jing leaned against the couch and asked.

Lin Yuan said, “It’s already a complete arrangement. It was recorded with synthetic sound. The effect is not as good as the human voice, that’s the reason I need a si... singer.”

Zheng Jing raised her eyebrows inquisitively.

Had he written the song in advance?

Normally, it takes time to compose a song. After all, news of the anniversary celebration had only come out less than a month ago.

Lan Yan exchanged a look with his manager, a hint of resignation in his eyes. Initially, it was awkward enough to have to reject Xian Yu.

And now, to do so in front of Zheng Jing, wouldn’t that be even more embarrassing?

What if Xian Yu harbored a grudge against them?

And really, why had Teacher Zheng Jing made a special trip here...

Was she here to embarrass Xian Yu in person?

“The song is about to play. It’s called ‘The Red Sun’.”

Unaware of the thoughts in everyone’s minds, Lin Yuan clicked the play button and a surge of magnanimous electronic melody filled the room.

“AH... AH... AH~”

The bass was loud, interspersed with guitar riffs and powerful drum beats, and the chord progression wasn’t complex.

Zheng Jing still leaned against the couch, quietly savouring the music. Meanwhile, Lan Yan listened attentively, his hands tightly clasped together. As the drumline hit the last note, a synthetic sound suddenly burst forth as if perfectly timed, like the most precise metronome, slightly raising the temperature within the room:

“Even if destiny causes me to drift, even if destiny is filled with twists and turns, even if destiny frightens you, life is not interesting.”

“Don’t shed sad tears or give up, I wish to be with you for a lifetime.”

Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding!

It was as fierce and intense as chambering rounds in a gun!

The lyrics, depicted through electronic music, were delivered at such a rapid speed that Lan Yan tightened his grip on his hands as soon as he heard it as though he was holding something precious. His knuckles turned white around the edges.

It’s explosive!

Zheng Jing’s expression immediately turned serious. The intro was so powerful that it grabbed your attention in a split second.

Sharp and swift!

Like a spark in the dark!

Only someone who is extremely confident of the chorus would put it at the beginning. And, as a matter of fact, the chorus of this song was incredibly powerful. Even Zheng Jing had to admit it as her pupils contracted. But by doing so, it undeniably raised her expectations for the verse of the song.

“Holy crap!”

The only one in the room who didn’t understand music was probably Lan Yan’s manager. However, the person who knew the least about music was also the most excited in the room!

At this moment.

Lan Yan’s manager’s eyes were wide open, his legs were shaking uncontrollably. It seemed like he wanted to stand up, but he was afraid of causing a scene, so he forcefully held himself back as goosebumps formed on his skin.

“In the course of life, the many twists and turns, the fear and indecisiveness, sitting alone in a corner feeling helpless.”

“In some year, the younger me tripped and shed many tears on a rainy night.” The verse came after the chorus.

But the verse did not lose its shine to the chorus, instead, it added an element of narrative to it.

Lan Yan suddenly let go of his clenched fists, his forehead bobbing, each beat syncopated with the rhythm.

At this moment.

It seemed his heartbeat danced to the melody of the song.

“In life, many bends and turns I have to go through. From some time, I have you with me, giving me the heated applause

Like the fire of the red sun, igniting the real me. Even mountains, I will surely cross...”

Bridging the gap between the main and the chorus!

A seamless transition!

The verse that did not disappoint, set Zheng Jing’s heart racing.

At some point, her body had already leaned forward from the back of the couch, and her ears even twitched a few times.

The tone of the steel-plate piano.

A pipe organ’s melody.

The exquisite blend of musical tones.

The song then moved into its final transition stage, known in professional terms as the bridge, which connected the main song and the chorus, encapsulating the listeners’ feelings and creating a new atmosphere:

“Let the night wind gently take us along, bringing us the tranquil scent of flowers as if blessing us.”

“Let the stars twinkle softly, reflecting every one of your hopes, like the spray of waves about to drench me.”

“Oh~”

And then the chorus kicks in again!

Lan Yan sat upright, his feelings stirred as the waves crashing against the shore. In front of him, countless long-gone years seemed to unfurl, mirrored in his eyes were the storms and rains of yesteryears.

Those were the sleepless nights of his professional career.

And the resounding speeches after claiming his successes.

He felt as if he was standing at the peak of a mountain.

He wanted to shout at the top of his lungs:

I am the rising sun, rising bit by bit!

Time hasn't aged, but the journey has been arduous.

The sound of a music box echoed during the bridge like a wind chime.

It not only played back the echoes of Lan Yan's youth, but also brought back the stern-faced Zheng Jing to her past.

There were essential things about humanity that were often the simplest.

What could move human hearts was sometimes as simple as a few common words.

There's nothing more than hard work and struggle.

It's all about persistence and never giving up.

It's about not bowing your head to so-called fate.

But it is these words that people often utter yet find hard to live by. That's why people celebrate and praise it.

This is a simple representation of these elements in the music, but it goes straight to the heart.

In the room, the music floated, as if countless notes were diffusing.

The integration of voices seemed to be expressing a resistance against fate and a yearning for the future. That emotion seemed to spread with the notes.

Lin Yuan was also listening in silence.

However, he saw some slight regrets in the recording of the electronic sound.

This song needed an immense amount of passion; it needed the singer to truly let loose. That's why the current version of the song wasn't very good.

This was indeed the importance of the singer's recording session.

A good song also needed a good voice to express it, so as to bring out its full potential.

However.

The current state of the song was enough because everyone present was a professional and they knew the standards of the song.

The only non-professional, Lan Yan's manager, was so thrilled that his scalp tingled!

His body swayed with the rhythm.

He was completely controlled by the music.

However, not understanding the professional evaluation, he simply summed up his gut feeling about the song in two words:

“Awesome!”

Chapter 280: Maestro’s Standard

“Awesome!”

That’s what Lan Yan’s agent was thinking, and what he was saying, of course, after the song ended.

However, this description seems quite out of place, so he coughed awkwardly and said,

“Sorry, I’m a bit emotional. This song is just too great!”

Zheng Jing smiled, her eyes sparkling as she looked at Lin Yuan, “Using the chorus as the beginning, boldly stepping forward in several consecutive progressions, the span is low but the effect of the tune is quite distinctive, it can catch the audience’s ears at the fastest speed. The natural utilization of variations and needle-threading techniques after that. The few big jumps plus the natural and melodious transition at the end, and the strict repetition used in the conclusion. Despite the song’s climax coming one after another, it doesn’t make people feel tired... Hmm, indeed awesome.”

“???”

Lan Yan’s agent was dumbfounded.

What’s the difference between what you and I are saying?

Isn’t it all awesome?

Lan Yan:”...”

He felt that his own assessment would be redundant, so he simply echoed,

“Awesome!”

After saying that, Lan Yan and his agent looked at each other, their emotions becoming complicated.

Originally, they intended to reject Xian Yu's song.

Normally, no one would refuse Xian Yu's song, and even would accept it with pleasure, including the King and Queen of Singing.

But this is a song for the anniversary celebration after the merger of Qin and Qi, it has official endorsement, it will make the Blue Star news, plus the renowned Battle of the Gods in December is always intense, Lan Yan has to play the safest and most effective card!

Because this song is really important!

They thought that this card would be one from the company's Maestro,

Teacher Zheng Jing.

In this industry.

Below the gold standard, there are both strong and weak composers, but Maestro is the source and answer to all music problems!

Even people who don't understand music know what choice to make. However, after listening to this song "Red Sun," Lan Yan incredibly began to doubt something he had never doubted before— Can Zheng Jing's song be better than this one by Xian Yu?

No, this is no longer a mere doubt, but it's approaching certainty:

Zheng Jing's song probably won't be as good as this one!

Maestro is the answer to all music questions because Maestro's works are always the best, but the essence of the problem returns to the work— Lin Yuan is not a Maestro, but perhaps he has outdone himself this time.

In short, “Red Sun” is a work worthy of a Maestro!

This also aligns with Xian Yu’s “Maestro Junior” status.

Being able to write a work of this level, it’s unexpected, but it also makes sense. Otherwise, why would everyone say Xian Yu has the potential to be a Maestro? Even for the Maestro, it’s not easy to come up with a song like this!

As a singer at the King level, Lan Yan still has this level of judgment.

Didn’t you see?

Even Zheng Jing herself was stunned, giving the plain and simple assessment: “Awesome”.

What can be done now?

“Red Sun” is certainly a song Lan Yan wants, he’s even somewhat eager for it.

But before he was just thinking about how to tactfully reject Xian Yu, yet now the situation has reversed.

He’s actually starting to worry about how he’s going to reject Zheng Jing next...

Oh my God!

Rejecting the Maestro!

Lan Yan never dared to think about it before!

Of course, it’s not a total rejection.

If Zheng Jing’s song is not as good as “Red Sun”, then for this anniversary and the hit song in December, Lan Yan can only choose Xian Yu.

Just as he had previously considered and deliberated about Xian Yu.

Zheng Jing's song, he could only find a way to take it, and then release it next year?

But...

Will Teacher Zheng Jing agree?

Will I offend Teacher Zheng Jing?

I can't help but say, this entangled process is a bit painful!

Same worry, it's just that the object has changed from Xian Yu to Teacher Zheng Jing.

Too hard.

Usually, these are the rare opportunities I come across.

But today, how the hell did mountains of gold and silver appear all together!

It seemed like he could see the difficulty Lan Yan faced.

Zheng Jing suddenly said: "Lan Yan, use Xian Yu's song for this anniversary celebration. The quality of this song 'Red Sun' is indeed better than the song I prepared for you this time."

"Teacher Zheng Jing..."

Lan Yan suddenly felt a bit ashamed.

It seemed like he had underestimated Maestro's magnanimity.

Zheng Jing laughed and said: “My song is not fully composed yet, I will send it to you next month. You can release it next year. It just so happens, I do not intend to pit this song against that guy.”

“That guy?”

Lan Yan was somewhat curious.

Zheng Jing glanced at Lan Yan: “The person who composed the song for Fei Yang this time is Yin Dong. In the entire Starlight, the only composer who dares to say he is better than Yin Dong is Yang Zhongming.”

“Yin Dong...”

Lan Yan’s face changed a bit, then he laughed and said: “We have ‘Red Sun’, doesn’t mean we’re necessarily worse off.”

“If it’s this song.”

Zheng Jing seemed to agree with Lan Yan’s judgment, then fixated on Lin Yuan, suddenly saying: “Strive for Song King and Queen a few years from now. After all, it’ll keep getting harder.”

Lan Yan’s complexion shifted slightly.

Lan Yan’s manager was also staring wide-eyed.

The implication behind Zheng Jing’s remarks clearly indicated that she considered Xian Yu as a potential Maestro Junior!

Previously, although the company always touted Lin Yuan as “Junior Maestro”, no top-tiered maestros have actually expressed their views.

And today.

Zheng Jing unequivocally expressed her optimism:

She believes that Lin Yuan indeed has potential to become a Maestro in the future, otherwise, she wouldn't have said such a thing!

Lin Yuan didn't understand, he just nodded along.

The following matter was resolved smoothly.

Zheng Jing voluntarily withdrew, hand over 'Red Sun' to Lan Yan.

The actual contract will be signed later on, at least wait till after the song is reviewed, but that's just a matter of time.

After adding each other on communication apps, they all left.

Lin Yuan then returned to his office, left to face Gu Dong's shocked gaze—

It worked!

It really worked!

Zheng Jing, as a Maestro, even voluntarily withdrew from this Qin Qi anniversary celebration. Doesn't that mean she will participate in the December battle?

That is December!

Where demons run amok! The battle of all gods!

In December where the King of Songs and the Queen of Songs, as well as Maestros will be present...

Lin Yuan didn't understand Gu Dong's thinking, he curiously asked: "What did Teacher Zheng Jing mean by making me produce a Song King and Queen?"

“You don’t know?”

Gu Dong was surprised, then explained: “Maestro is an honorific used within the industry for top-tier composers. However, behind this honorific, there’s a standard, just like gold medals, which is to have fostered a King of Singing and a Queen of Singing, at that point it’s considered having reached the standard.” “Foster a King of Singing and a Queen of Singing?”

Lin Yuan understood the challenge involved in making a singer become the King of Singing.

“Indeed, to foster a King of Singing and a Queen of Singing, or two Kings of Singing, or alternatively two Queens of Singing also works. Anyway, once successful, they reach the level of a Maestro. For instance, Teacher Zheng Jing, she fostered a King of Singing and a Queen of Singing. But she’s not the most amazing Maestro.”

Lin Yuan asked: “Such as?”

Gu Dong replied: “There are two other standards as well. By meeting any of them, one can also become a Maestro. One is to win the Music Sage award that the Music Festival has specially set up for composers. This award has been vacant for several years now, so you can infer its difficulty. The other method is the most brutal, which is to claim the Grand Slam in a single season. The difficulty is the highest. Up till now, only three people in Blue Star have managed to do it.”

Lin Yuan was surprised: “Grand Slam...”

Gu Dong sighed: “Yeah, the Grand Slam, do you know what the concept of the Grand Slam in a season is? It’s equal to winning the championship twelve months in a row over a year. This is not something an average person can achieve!”

Lin Yuan nodded his head.

To get the Grand Slam, how much do you have to stake on it....