

## All R. Artist 291

### Chapter 291: Difficult to Reconcile

“After the company set next year’s task, each floor of the composition department chose their most promising singers...”

“But I heard that the singers selected by the ninth floor were Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui?”

“It’s really unexpected that Admirable Fish made that decision. The others try to promote the singers who have the best chance of becoming top-tier, while he chose who they didn’t even take into account.”

“What baffles me is that Admirable Fish has worked with Zhao Ying Ge before, but why did he end up choosing Jiang Kui?”

“Zhao Ying Ge often talks about Teacher Admirable Fish, and it’s clear she wished to be chosen by the ninth floor. However, they didn’t select her. Instead, she received invitations from several other floors, she must be very upset.”

“Jiang Kui is no match for the hype around Sun Yaohuo. Promoting Sun Yaohuo with his background... that’s really tough...”

“As expected from Maestro Junior. He’s so willful in choosing people.”

“Hehe, isn’t Sun Yaohuo just catching the favor of Admirable Fish? I heard that Sun passed on his ‘Ways of Flattery’ to the company’s newcomers, it’s embarrassing.”

“Haha, are you jealous that Admirable Fish chose Sun Yaohuo and not you?”

“So what if I am? Not only me, I bet eighty percent of the male singers in the company are jealous of Sun Yaohuo! And aren’t you jealous? Your leverage among female singers is even better than Jiang Kui’s.”

“I’m just envious. After all, Jiang Kui started to build a relationship with Maestro Junior early on. Admirable Fish was new to songwriting at that time. If I could go back to two years ago, I would definitely seize the opportunity with him!”

“...”

Soon, the list of singers to be highlighted for training by each floor was announced.

As each floor announced their final list of selected singers, half of the company was discussing the results.

As the selection of the ninth floor was quite unexpected, this floor sparked the most discussion.

“Why didn’t Teacher Admirable Fish choose me?”

In one of the company’s break rooms, Zhao Ying Ge looked a bit disappointed.

She had already made up her mind, that she would go to Admirable Fish as soon as the ninth floor spoke.

She even wanted to actively seek him out, but then realized that she wasn’t the same as before.

It would be somewhat embarrassing to do so.

She figured that the ninth floor would certainly choose her even without her asking. Almost everyone knew she had the best chance of becoming a top-tier singer in the company!

And yet...

All the other floors sent her invitations, except for the ninth floor, which didn’t bother with Zhao Ying Ge!

“Does Admirable Fish not like me? Or did I offend him before...?”

Facing this outcome, honestly, Zhao Ying Ge felt somewhat wronged.

While feeling wronged, she was also a bit angry because she somehow felt that Admirable Fish was looking down on her, and it didn't feel good.

So, she eventually chose the tenth floor, which was closest to the ninth floor.

It was more of a spiteful choice!

The tenth floor wasn't the strongest, but it was the closest to the ninth floor!

Zhao Ying Ge wanted to prove her ability in the place closest to Admirable Fish!

To put it precisely, she wanted to prove to Admirable Fish himself under his watch, that not choosing her was a mistake!

A nearby assistant comforted her, "It doesn't matter after all, going by all the floors in the composition department, they all chose you. This already proves that your progress over the past two years has been very successful."

"..."

Zhao Ying Ge remained silent. Her feelings were mixed. Maybe it was reversion psychology; the more Admirable Fish didn't choose her, the more she cared about it.

Several days later.

Starlight Entertainment.

As the singers chosen for grooming by the ninth floor, Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui quite literally arrived simultaneously at the composition department to start working.

"Feels like I got in through the back door."

Jiang Kui muttered sullenly.

She of course was aware of the company's gossip. After all, she was chosen by the ninth floor, stealing Zhao Ying Ge's spot. In everyone's eyes, she fell short of Zhao Ying Ge in every way.

Opposite Jiang Kui.

Sun Yaohuo had a broad smile on his face, seemingly unscathed by the company's rumors, his spirit appearing strong and full.

"Doesn't it make you mad?"

Jiang Kui looked at Sun Yaohuo with confusion, "Don't you know the company's been talking about us? Those words aren't too pleasant."

"I know, so what?"

Sun Yaohuo said with a grin, "Regarding priority, neither you nor I are the best candidates. Being chosen by the ninth floor is purely because of Maestro Junior's nostalgia. Who cares if people badmouth us? If I were them, I would do the same. Why should I, Sun Yaohuo, be the one promoted? It's clear the whole composition department is backing us. Who couldn't make it if they were chosen? Don't you think so?"

I'd make it if I were chosen too.

That was the thought of many people when they found out that Sun Yaohuo had been selected.

When word got out that each major composition department was choosing two singers for intensive training, it sent shockwaves through the singers' department. Everyone was riled up by the news, some even volunteered...

Who wouldn't want to be chosen by the composition department?

This is an opportunity for prime cultivation!

Being chosen was equivalent to practically having one foot in the door of an A-list career!

To the singers, the composition department is a tempting treasure box!

Upon hearing the news, Sun Yaohuo naturally felt that he wouldn't be chosen, despite his close relationship with his junior. Thus, he wasn't holding his breath in anticipation.

In his mind, it was enough to be treated with a little favor by his junior on good days.

Because he was cognizant of his situation.

He's a singer whose fame hasn't caught up with his talent, like a hopeless case for improvement.

But to his surprise, his junior chose him despite the criticism from the company!

You must know...

How many male singers with better basic skills than his were dying to get on the list!

Is there even anything left to say?

Rather than seething in anger at the singers who belittled him, it would be better to make some achievements to live up to his junior's high regard for him!

Jiang Kui was taken aback.

She suddenly realized that her own status was not as good as Sun Yaohuo's.

True, what was there to deny? Wasn't it through her relationship with Teacher Admirable Fish that she managed to be chosen by the ninth floor?

Otherwise, Teacher Admirable Fish could have completely chosen Zhao Ying Ge.

After all, many people in the company know that Zhao Ying Ge is a loyal fan of Teacher Admirable Fish who would love nothing more than to go to the ninth floor!

So, she might as well openly admit it.

At such times, all explanations are powerless.

There's only one way to counterattack, and that's to achieve success, shut everyone up, and show them that Teacher Admirable Fish made the right choice!

Teacher Admirable Fish's vision is the best!

Having considered this, Jiang Kui felt relieved and even thought that Sun Yaohuo was quite warm.

As though infected by Sun Yaohuo, the resentment and anger in her heart were replaced by a strong will to fight. She must never let Teacher Admirable Fish regret his choice!

"The representative is looking for you two."

Gu Dong came out to inform them.

The two nervously entered Lin Yuan's office.

At that time, Lin Yuan was thinking about how to cultivate Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui in the coming year. When he saw the two coming, he spoke:

"Please, have a seat."

They immediately sat down.

Gu Dong prepared tea for them.

Lin Yuan's office is now never short of good tea.

Because those who know the preferences of this representative, know what he likes.

“Great tea!”

The freshly brewed tea was still a bit hot, but Sun Yaohuo took a sip right away, praising it, “I guess I should switch to tea. Coffee can’t compare to this. Junior has a good taste.”

“Isn’t it?”

Lin Yuan was rather pleased, thinking that his senior was quite similar to him:

“Take it slow, senior. The tea is a bit hot. If you like it, I’ll send you two... I mean, one box.”

Jiang Kui: “...”

And she thought Sun Yaohuo was warm earlier.

In comparison to warm, kisser is a more suitable description for the person in front of her.

Who would have thought that after such a long time, Sun Yaohuo had advanced even more in kissing up? She was still contemplating how to curry favor, and he had already quickly found the breakthrough.

So desperate!

The tea was freshly brewed.

Wasn’t he afraid of burning his mouth?

Chapter 292: Making a Prototype

Unaware of Jiang Kui and Sun Yaohuo’s thoughts, Lin Yuan slowly said, “Can you two cooperate and sing a duet? In other words, harmony.”

“Harmony in a duet?”

Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui exchanged glances, didn't dare to answer immediately. After thinking for a while, Sun Yaohuo finally said, “We basically can.”

Jiang Kui said, “I can too.”

Both of them were trained professionals, having learned vocal music systematically, of course, they knew how to sing in harmony. However, the ability to harmonize didn't necessarily equate with singing performance.

Furthermore.

They didn't know what Lin Yuan's standard for “being able to” was. If it was about the cooperation between two people, it actually needed some time for adjustment.

Worth mentioning was.

In professional terms, harmony wasn't exactly a duet. Non-professionals often confound that harmony is simply the juxtaposition of vocals.

However, just like dolphin sounds.

Originally, there wasn't such a term in the professional field as dolphin sounds, it's just that it was frequently mentioned by non-professionals, so everyone stopped fussing over it. As long as the meaning is correctly conveyed, it's fine — a case of wrong becoming right according to local customs.

Harmony could be understood as divided parts.

The lead singer performs the main melody, commonly, another part follows in harmony, usually called second part — this kind of duet is most commonly and simply performed in a three-five-eight-degree range.



If the lead singer sings 123.

The back singer sings 345.

Based on the harmony, just add three degrees, whether it's a major third or minor third depends on the chord, of course, according to different vocal ranges, the differences between male and female voice, or for special needs, this three degrees can be flipped to sing in octave.

Flexible, not rigid.

But even this kind of duet requires skill. If not practiced sufficiently, disharmony can easily arise, just like when two top vocalists try to perform a duet...

It isn't guaranteed that a duet by the King and Queen of Singing will be explosive.

There will certainly be parts in the duet where they have to harmonize. If they coordinate well, the effect is absolutely more than the sum of their individual efforts. But if their coordination is off, it will feel uncomfortable to the audience.

The sum can be greater than the parts.

The sum can even be less than one.

Hearing Lin Yuan say this, Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui both have some idea of each other's thoughts: "Junior Brother Lin, do you want me and Jiang Kui to perform a mixed-gender duet?"

Lin Yuan nodded, "Yes."

The company's task was to promote a male singer and a female singer. Lin Yuan figured that the easiest way to do so was through a duet.

Of course.

Ease was secondary, Lin Yuan was not a lazy person. What mattered most was, this method —

was the most cost-effective!

This was a loophole in the System that Lin Yuan found after much thought. If the system charged for one song per request, why not just request a mixed-gender duet that promoted both singers at the same time?

“So...”

Lin Yuan said, “You two can go back and practice some duet songs. It’d be better if you had a professional to guide you. A mixed-gender duet requires a lot of tacit understanding. Both of your vocal ranges and tones match well, so there will not be any vocal clashing.”

“Understood.”

Sun Yaohuo had no objections.

Jiang Kui naturally had no objections either. With this arrangement, there wouldn’t be any competition between her and Sun Yaohuo. At least for the first song given by the Ninth Floor, the only path to victory was through cooperation.

...

After Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui left, Lin Yuan summoned the System.

Should he customize it thoroughly?

Or leave it somewhat random?

Lin Yuan chose the less-costly customization method: “System, I’ll put in a million, customize a mixed-gender duet song.”

Being cost-effective meant risk.

In a mixed-gender duet, the vocal ranges and tones of both singers had to be considered. If the song provided by the System did not match well with both singers' voices, that would be problematic.

But there was another loophole in the system he could exploit to solve this:

The character card of Yang Zhongming!

No matter what mixed-gender duet the System offered, Lin Yuan could activate Yang Zhongming's character card to adapt the song, modifying it to be most suitable for the voices of the two singers.

He wondered if the System had discovered this loophole.

Indeed, Lin Yuan couldn't use Yang Zhongming's character card for creation, but the System did allow Lin Yuan to use Yang Zhongming's character card to arrange existing compositions.

So no matter what song the System provided, Lin Yuan wouldn't have to worry too much.

Considering the System might charge at random, he set the customization price at one million.

"Ding dong."

The System appeared, "Song customization in progress..."

Thirty seconds later.

The System prompted, "Customization of the song is complete, congratulations on obtaining the mixed-gender duet song 'Rooftop'."

It's Director Zhou's song?

It seems this is the first time getting a song from Director Zhou.

This song was composed by Director Zhou for Wu Zongxian in his early career. The original version was a duet by Wu Zongxian and Wen Lan, which belongs to the category of classic duets, both quality and recognition were fairly high.

The System provided two versions.

The first version was a duet by Wu and Wen, the second version was a duet by Zhou and Wen.

The former had an older arrangement style, somewhat outdated; the latter fit more with modern musical aesthetics.

For both versions, Lin Yuan felt they were not bad.

But maybe because the second version was sung by Director Zhou, it was more popular. Although in Lin Yuan's opinion, Wen Lan's voice didn't match perfectly with Director Zhou's, and needed studio effects for adjustment.

The female singer whose voice truly matched Zhou's should be Jolin Tsai, but let's not discuss the specific songs now.

"Wait until their duet chemistry is developed before trying the song."

"This song isn't difficult to perform; if Senior Yao Huo and Jiang Kui sing it, it basically won't need any modifications. This is good news, as it's best to not change anything if possible."

With the song confirmed, Lin Yuan prepared to download it.

But when the download was halfway through, the System prompted, "Download failed."

Lin Yuan was startled, "No internet?"

He instinctively wanted to check his wifi.

“The System does not require internet... The song failed to download because the System hopes that the host would increase participation once again and personally complete the arrangement and the demo recording. This will be the process for all the songs provided by the System in the future.”

“...”

Lin Yuan said, “Understood.”

He wasn’t angry about it. Lin Yuan didn’t resist increasing his participation in the song. As he said before, he wasn’t a very lazy person.

If he was going to record it himself, then he would do it — it was only a demo anyway.

Having a template for the final arrangement meant that Lin Yuan only needed to exercise his hands-on imitation ability and didn’t need to find someone else to do the arrangement.

Just like with novels.

The novels provided by the System in the beginning were directly usable, but later on, the System had Lin Yuan write them himself. The situation was similar now.

Creating a demo, also known as creating a demo recording, was not difficult.

All that’s needed is a computer and related software for convenient song recording; Lin Yuan had taken courses on this. Using this as an opportunity to improve his hands-on ability was a good idea, especially since it wasn’t a very formal performance.

He called over Gu Dong and made the necessary preparations before starting on the demo production.

Chapter 293: Kill the Green

The production of the song arrangement sample was completed by Lin Yuan on the same day, although it was just a simplified version. After that, he began to gradually embellish it, but that required more professional equipment and instruments. Hence, Lin Yuan spent the next few days busy with this task.

In the meantime.

Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui also started to find some duet songs to practice their coordination for singing in a duet. In addition, they found a professional teacher within the company to guide them. Having worked with Lin Yuan before, they knew that Lin Yuan has a very high standard for recording results. Hence, they reached a consensus on that aspect quickly, after all, they are now truly on the same boat.

On the other hand.

The crew was still shooting “The Tuner,” but it was already coming to an end with not many scenes left. Lin Yuan purposely took out a few days to accompany the crew to the moment when the filming would be over...

That’s the advantage of being a scriptwriter.

He still has relatively more freedom when it comes to time.

If Lin Yuan were the director of this movie, for a few months at least, Lin Yuan would have no time for anything else. He would have to lead the crew forward every day, and might not even have time to record songs.

“Action.”

The last day of filming.

Lin Yuan is watching from the side on set.

This is a night scene, and following Yi Chenggong’s instructions, Liu Zhengwen tumbled out. This was his first time leaving the house after he was poisoned and blinded by the female antagonist.

“Thud.”

Liu Zhengwen bumped into an electric pole and was thrown off. Due to the camera angle, the sponge mattress tied to the electric pole was avoided using a dislocation technique. From the perspective of the lens, Liu Zhengwen genuinely bumped into it.

There was some redness on his head.

This was also a filming technique. The sponge mattress was coated with some special paint, creating a wounded effect. Immediately following that, he ran towards the opposite side of the road, but because he was blind and couldn't see, several cars had to brake urgently.

The sound of horns blended into one.

The road was blocked by his car.

Liu Zhengwen's panicked posture seemed as if he genuinely couldn't see. He almost rolled and crawled to the side of the road. The terrified tears mixed with the blood from his scratches made his state absolutely miserable at that moment. Knowing that it was fake, Lin Yuan couldn't help but feel a hint of sympathy...

"Cut!"

Following Yi Chenggong's command, the shooting for this scene finally ended. In addition, with this command to stop, "The Tuner" also officially ended. The staff had already surrounded Liu Zhengwen. Despite the protection from the props, those falls he took were real.

"It's over."

Lin Yuan smiled, planning to walk over when he suddenly heard a commotion. Yi Chenggong's voice seemed to carry a bit of anger, "Didn't they say the clarity was good? Where's the props team, come out!"

Lin Yuan was surprised.

Yi Chenggong is not a hot-tempered person. He rarely lost his temper on set. For some reason, he was angry even though the movie was over. Therefore, Lin Yuan walked over a bit faster, "What's the matter?"

“A small problem.”

Liu Zhengwen said with a smile.

Yi Chenggong glared at Liu Zhengwen, and turned to look at Lin Yuan, trying to temper his anger, “For the authenticity of this scene, Liu Zhengwen suggested that the prop team custom make a contact lens, one that would obstruct his sight when worn. This way, he could better portray the state of a blind person. But I only found out after he’d finished acting that the prop was not done well. When worn, the person could not see anything.”

“I could still see a bit.”

Liu Zhengwen tried to explain on the side.

Yi Chenggong said frustratedly, “I just tried it on myself, I couldn’t see a thing. It was supposed to retain at least 60% of vision. This is as bad as having severe short-sightedness.”

“I’m sorry...”

The person in charge of the prop team apologized in fright, “We designed it based on the standard that the sky would not be too late. Who would’ve known that the streetlights weren’t effective, and the sky was so dark that it affected our vision...”

“It’s my fault.”

Liu Zhengwen said with a bitter smile, “I realized my vision was off, but I thought that the more authentic shooting would have a better effect, so I didn’t stop. After all, the stunt teachers knew their limits, safety measures were in place, and I didn’t get hurt. I just fell down for the sake of the effect.”

Yi Chenggong wouldn’t let it go.

Lin Yuan understood the situation.



Actually, it was just that the props team was slightly careless, and Liu Zhengwen allowed the mistake to slide, leading to this result. Both the actor and the prop team were responsible. However, Liu Zhengwen was ultimately too persistent with his so-called “effect.” Thankfully, no problems arose.

“Let’s leave it at that.”

He did not let the argument escalate.

Lin Yuan is the unequivocal core of the crew, what he says holds ground. Even though Yi Chenggong was still dissatisfied with the props and the actor, he did not say much in the end, but let out a sigh,

“You’re too impatient.”

He was speaking to Liu Zhengwen.

After Liu Zhengwen had a car accident, his career took a big hit. He was too eager to shine, so that’s why he risked it and shot this scene. In fact, throughout the filming of the entire movie, Liu Zhengwen was very determined. Sometimes, when Yi Chenggong thought a scene was passable, Liu Zhengwen would pull Yi Chenggong to shoot a few more scenes, believing that he could perform better.

“Sorry, sorry.”

Liu Zhengwen laughed, “Let’s have a wrap party tomorrow, and I’ll foot the bill. Consider it taking responsibility for my mistake this time. Thank you, Mr. Lin, for understanding. I was caught up in the moment just now, so I didn’t stop. It’s my fault.”

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan nodded his head.

Having spent quite some time on set, he had a good impression of Liu Zhengwen. Especially seeing Liu Zhengwen limp as he started to walk away, he didn’t have the heart to blame him anymore. After all, the danger of this scene was getting injured.

Not too severely, that kind.

He guessed that Liu Zhengwen probably felt that since today was the last scene, even if he got injured, it wouldn't be a big problem. This was why he bore the pressure and finished the last shot of the movie.

The storm subsided for now.

Lin Yuan then reminded Yi Chenggong to pay close attention to the editing. Post-production work could not afford to be careless. Just because a movie has wrapped up does not mean that it's over. It could even be said that it has just passed halfway.

“Phew...”

After Lin Yuan intervened, the hearts of the crowd settled down, and the crew dispersed. This was the first time Lin Yuan personally experienced the hazards of filming. It seemed that his future crew must implement a variety of safety measures.

At this moment.

Liu Zhengwen hadn't left yet, he just leaned over to Lin Yuan's ear and whispered a few sentences. The rough idea was not to blame the prop team too much, after all, the prop team had their own negligence as well.

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan agreed, if the one involved was willing to take the blame, then a minor punishment for the prop team would suffice. After all, the one who fell was Liu Zhengwen himself.

“This line of work is tough.”

After Liu Zhengwen's departure, Yi Chenggong's anger had subsided. He sighed, “Actually, everyone is having a hard time. I Believe that for Mr. Lin to achieve such success at a young age, there must have been lots of hard work behind it.”

“...”

Lin Yuan nodded his head in agreement. His own journey to get here had not been easy either. That's right, System, isn't it?

Chapter 294: New World Order

The following day, the male lead, Liu Zhengwen, hosted the wrap-up party for the movie.

After the wrap-up party, Lin Yuan officially recorded the duet “Rooftop” with Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui. This song was slated for release in January.

There were not many bumps along the way.

By the end of December, both the company and schools were on holiday.

On the evening of the 31st, Lin Yuan watched the year's Spring Festival Gala with his family.

It must be said that the Spring Festival Gala in this world was far more exciting than that of the Celestial Dynasty, perhaps due to the lack of restrictive regulations, and performers were not bound by a myriad of rules on stage.

Of course, the overall theme was undoubtedly one of positivity and optimism.

Midway through the Spring Festival Gala, Lan Yan sang the most popular song of the month, “Red Sun”.

As the familiar melody rang out, his family members joined in, humming softly.

The song, written by Lin Yuan, resonated deeply with his family.

Just as the Spring Festival Gala was about to end, several special performance segments took place.

It wasn't that the performances were peculiar, but the performers who shockingly were all stars from Chu Continent!

Lin Xuan commented, "The signs are quite clear now."

Even their mother, a regular person who seldom goes online, nodded in agreement, "It seems that Chu Continent is about to merge in. There will be Qin Province, Qi Province, Chu Province..."

His sister said, "Happy New Year."

Lin Yuan and the others were taken aback for a moment before they also rang out with "Happy New Year," suddenly feeling a surreal sensation at the moment.

Another year had passed.

The new year had truly arrived.

Just like the signal sent out by the Spring Festival Gala.

The official announcement came the next day:

Chu Continent would be merged into Qin-Qi, becoming Chu Province.

Simultaneously, the cultural wall of the old Chu Continent was eradicated completely with borders between the three provinces dissolved!

Just like when Qin and Qi provinces merged, the incorporation of Chu Continent triggered a chain reaction across various sectors—

A brand new round of challenges and opportunities emerged across many fields.

For the following days, the news reports were constantly focused on these changes. It was a time of extraordinary excitement!

On the internet, related topics emerged one after another, with the entertainment industry being the most affected:

“I feel hollowed out, don’t ask me why.”

“Ha ha, the pal above, make sure your nutrition keeps up.”

“Lately, I’ve been reading novels, not sure if it’s because they’re fresh but detective novels from Chu Province seem more exciting than those from Qi Province!”

“Chu Province’s animated shows are truly matchless!”

“I’m from Chu continent, guess I should say Chu Province now, Qin-Qi music and movies are great too!”

“We’ve changed a bunch of furniture at home, and the furniture brands from old Chu are really good.”

“I even changed my car; it’s a Chu-produced car.”

“...”

The impact was felt everywhere!

Even Lin Yuan’s pseudonyms faced different degrees of impact after the merger.

Take for instance the pseudonym Xian Yu.

The song “Rooftop” was recently released.

Prior to the merger, this song had the potential to top the charts for the season. However, as it turns out, the song ranked sixth for the season based on download numbers—

Although it didn't flop, it didn't meet Lin Yuan's expectations.

The more interesting part was...

Though the song's seasonal ranking didn't meet Lin Yuan's expectations, downloads for "Rooftop" were phenomenally high, with eight million on the first day alone!

Eight million on the first day.

This was a record only expected for chart-topping songs in the past!

Lin Yuan clearly understood what this meant.

The audience expanded, but this new batch of audience members had slightly different tastes from those in Qin-Qi. The population of Chu Province was not any less than that of Qin-Qi!

When given some thought, it made sense.

If the Celestial Dynasty conquered Neon in the real world, the rankings for Neon's music and anime works would inevitably undergo significant changes!

This was undeniable.

Some works may appeal to the people of Qin Province, but not necessarily to those from Qi Province, and even if they appealed to both Qin and Qi, they might not necessarily appeal to those from Chu Province...

This led to such changes.

But despite the changes in rankings, these works undeniably brought in significantly more revenue!

So, when Lin Yuan saw that the song's ranking didn't reach his expectations, he wasn't discouraged. Instead, he was excited!

In other words...

The value of a ranking had increased!

Furthermore, Lin Yuan noticed that the works preceding his also experienced an increase in their statistics—a universal increase!

This led Lin Yuan to wonder:

“In the future, many industry standards may change accordingly, such as what constitutes a ‘hit songwriter’...”

Next, let’s look at the pseudonym Chu Kuang.

The seventh volume of “Ghost Blowing Lamp” also benefited from the merger. Many readers from Chu land became interested in this work and started reading from the first volume, just like the readers from Qin-Qi had started zealously catching up with the works from Chu land...

However, Chu Kuang’s ranking among short story writers had dropped.

This was because several short story writers from Chu land had made it into the top ten.

And the one who reaped the greatest benefits was Shadow!

Presumably, this was due to the style of Shadow’s works meshing well with the taste of the Chu land audience?

After merger in the first month not only Lin Yuan released a song, but also the animated adaptation of his comic “King of the Net” was aired!

Originally, Lin Yuan was concerned that this animated series may be crushed by animations from Chu land.

However, that was not the case.

The animation quickly became one of the most popular animations of January, ranking fifth in terms of heat!

Among the top four on the most popular animated series ranking, three were from Chu Province.

It was clear, people from Chu Province seemed to love “King of the Net”.

As a result, Shadow, the cartoonist, attracted a massive fanbase from Chu Province, leading to a whopping thirty million followers!

One could say...

As the world’s landscape transformed, Lin Yuan was reaping the benefits. He deliberately summarised the achievements of his pseudonyms after the joining of Chu Continent and the subsequent merger.

In summary.

The pseudonym Chu Kuang, which handled his works in the literature field, had a fandom surpassing 70 million on Tribe, with a literary prestige reaching 720,000...

The pseudonym Xian Yu, which handled his works in the music field, had a fandom surpassing 70 million on Tribe, with a music prestige reaching 710,000...

The pseudonym Shadow, which handled his works in the art field, had a fandom surpassing 30 million on Tribe, with an art prestige reaching 330,000...

In conclusion.

Lin Yuan did not feel disheartened about the intensification of competitive pressures across various industries and the decline in the influence rankings of his many identities. On the contrary, he looked forward to more mergers coming about soon!

His sources of prestige were rapidly increasing!



Of course, this also served as a reminder to Lin Yuan that the standards for his future works should not just be satisfactory, but they needed to be classic!

This world...

Was becoming increasingly challenging.

Once the seven continents completely merge, Blue Star would likely enter a hellish level of difficulty. Only then would the real battles between gods commence!

Chapter 295: Inflating Ol' Chu

It's worth mentioning that...

Although the song "Rooftop" did not rank very high this season, relative to Xian Yu's past songwriting standards, the charts have become increasingly competitive after the merger of Qin, Qi, and Chu provinces. Therefore, this rank does not diminish Xian Yu's reputation.

And it's not just Xian Yu.

On the same chart, other songwriters from Qin and Qi provinces also experienced various levels of decline in their rankings. Some award-winning songwriters even shockingly fell out of the top ten for the season and were flung beyond the fifteenth place, showing how difficult it is to claim the top spot on the chart now.

Three of the top five songs are from Chu Province.

The two songs that took the top spots on the chart were both composed by the Maestro from Chu Province. While it's true that the Maestro isn't a special product of Qin Province, and Qin Province's music does indeed lead the charge in Blue Star, there's top talent everywhere. It's just a matter of the quantity and average quality of the talent differing from place to place.

The third place song is also from Chu Province.

Although it wasn't composed by the Maestro, it was sung by Chu Province's popular King of Singing. Perhaps this is Chu Province's long-prepared statement, aiming to prove that Chu Province's music is not lacking and did indeed catch Qin and Qi provinces off guard.

Judging purely from the reviews...

The song "Rooftop" is quite good.

Especially, the listeners from Qin and Qi provinces really enjoy this song. One comment on a music player app sparked numerous likes, stating, "This song unerringly paints a portrait of life after "Red Sun" topped the charts in December."

Some didn't understand and asked for clarification.

Many users responded, "Listen for yourself."

As a result, a lot of people pondered upon the song "Rooftop" and burst out laughing, "Are you making fun of the gamblers again, suggesting that they're all on the rooftop watching the moon because they lost their bets?"

"The rooftop is less crowded."

"And more spacious."

"Ah, is that it?"

"Setting jokes aside, the song is really great. Songs composed by Teacher Admirable Fish are generally above standard, and the melody of "Rooftop" is particularly catchy. Also, I think this is the first time Xian Yu has composed a duet for a male and female. The lyrics and melody are unexpectedly sweet!"

"My girlfriend and I sang it together at the karaoke."

“The song didn’t rank particularly high because the Maestro from Chu Province participated. I feel like the competition in the chart in future seasons is going to get tough. However, I trust that the musicians from Qin Province will soon dominate the chart again.”

“...”

The comment section also saw some listeners from Chu Province downloading and leaving comments on the song. These people even went as far as to confess under Xian Yu’s Tribe page, “Following the merger, the first celebrity from Qin and Qi provinces that we knew of is Xian Yu. We hurriedly downloaded the Tribe app to admire the celebrities.”

And it’s not just Xian Yu.

Including Chu Kuang and Shadow’s comment sections, many people from Chu Province have confessed there as well. In the past year, the Tribe platform and Qi Province’s blogs have been at each other’s throats!

The victor is already beginning to emerge.

Tribe has steadily seized the upper hand, successfully capturing seventy percent of the Qin and Qi market. Therefore, when Chu Province joined, many people from Chu Province also downloaded this most popular social media app in Qin and Qi provinces.

Chu Province also has a similar application.

However, Chu Province’s social media platform only has about half the audience that Tribe has, so they have some natural disadvantages. At least for now, they don’t pose a threat to Tribe. Lin Yuan is somewhat curious about what would happen if all countries on Earth merged and unified. Would the social media giants in the Celestial Dynasty like Weibo and Facebook stand a chance?

...

During the Chinese New Year holidays.

All the major companies have not yet returned to work, but people in the industry are still paying attention to the new season. When they saw the situation on the new song chart, some inevitable

discussions arose in the industry, most of which were related to Chu Continent's joining Qin and Qi provinces:

"Ol' Chu has charged in quite aggressively."

"They deployed two Maestros."

"I didn't expect them to scoop up the top three spots!"

"Can I look forward to a Maestro conflict in December at the end of this year? This is surely because of Chu Province's market-grabbing entrance. Qin and Qi provinces will undoubtedly retaliate next month, especially with Qin Province being the Land of Music. How could they be willing to be suppressed?"

"..."

Even though it's a merger, regional differences run deep and people from each province still have a stronger sense of belonging to their home province. As Chu Province immediately took the first three spots on the new January song chart, it sparked a lot of Chu Province pride.

Perhaps spurred by this pride.

Chu Province immediately launched a media campaign following their dominance of January's new song chart. Though the wording was subtle, the main thrust of the content was clear: Chu Province is leading the first season after the merger, suppressing local musicians from Qin and Qi provinces. Many musicians from Qin and Qi provinces found these claims a bit nosy:

"Ol' Chu is acting rather smug."

"Ignore that they're claiming to oppress Qi Province musicians in the news, they even dare to include us in Qin Province. Are they unaware of the fear of being dominated by Qin Province's musicians? They merely took advantage of us not paying much attention to January to steal a temporary victory."

"They even gave Xian Yu as an example in the news."

Indeed, there is news in Chu Province comparing themselves to Xian Yu, stating as a renowned songwriter, Xian Yu was suppressed by Chu Province in this season, which shows that Chu Province's music is indeed among the world's finest. This is the first time anyone has dared to use Xian Yu as a backdrop.

This news made a big impression.

Even though the media that reported this news does not have a significant influence in Chu Province, and the commentary was somewhat attention-seeking, their aim was achieved. Many fans of Xian Yu were very indignant and started criticizing this on Xian Yu's Tribe page:

"Xian Yu, quickly rebuke these Chu Province media outlets!"

"We must harshly educate this wave!"

"They actually used our musicians from Qin and Qi to highlight their own talent. It's merely because we didn't pay much attention to January, mind you. They put forth two Maestros, but our Maestro didn't even intend to make a move."

"Why don't they compare it with 'Red Sun'?"

"Using one of Teacher Admirable Fish's works, which is not ranked amongst his most outstanding compositions for the comparison, is downright rogue. If 'Red Sun' had been released this month, their Maestros couldn't necessarily have written this month's chart-winning song."

"..."

Even though the media fuelled the comments, the musicians from Chu Province also somewhat intended the same. Just like Qi Province had tried to compare itself musically with Qin Province when they first merged – this is an inevitable side effect of the merger.

Lin Yuan didn't feel offended.

It was not directed at him. The Chu Province media was raising its profile, targeting Qin and Qi Province's music circles in general. Predictably, Qin and Qi Province's music circles will fight back fiercely next month. So, Lin Yuan not only refrained from responding to the issue, but he also leisurely began promoting his new film "The Tuner" on Tribe.

The post-production was fast.

Unforeseen circumstances aside, "The Tuner" will premiere during February or March of this year. Upon second thought, Lin Yuan realized that promoting the film might also be a kind of retort in itself because the songs in this film...

Are quite impressive.

Chapter 296: He Will Dominate the List

The reason for the promotional activities was that the post-production of "The Tuner" would be completed this month. While other films are directionless amidst countless recorded materials, Xian Yu's movie shots are purpose-driven. What we call editing is just arranging the sequence, then adding background music, and so on...

It skips the process of deliberation.

The speed was as though it were a lousy movie.

Lin Yuan thought the clamor over the seasonal rankings would subside after a while, but he hadn't expected that since Chu joined the Qin-Qi alliance, the complications seemed more serious than after Qi joined?

In the following days.

Chu's expansion seemed to get worse, and even some major musicians in Chu publicly claimed that Chu's music was not inferior to Qin's. The largest media outlets in Chu have been publicly drumming up support for their musicians, analyzing Chu's contribution to music from various angles. As a result, Xian Yu, the dazzling little Maestro from the end of last year, was once again used by Chu media as a backdrop for illustration...

At this moment.

The situation intensified.

This wasn't just directed at Xian Yu. This also related to Blue Star's background. Qin's dominance in the music field is globally recognized as the leader. However, where there's a first, there is a second. Chu is the second largest musical continent, which Blue Star also basically acknowledges. However, Chu doesn't seem particularly pleased with this, thinking their music is not inferior to Qin Continent!

Hence, this drama unfolding.

Chu seemed to want to take this opportunity of joining to confront the musicians of Blue Star head-on. If Chu wins, it will be number one in Blue Star's music. Choosing Xian Yu as the most significant backdrop is only because Xian Yu just defeated two Maestros last month, and his ranking in this season is not high simply because it was suppressed by Chu.

"The rhythm of the Qin-Chu music battle?"

This is the first time that an area has dared to challenge the status of Great Qin as the Land of Music. When Qi merged before, they only dared to brag about their movies and not compete with Qin in music. So, when the people of Qi Province, who are also in the merged area, saw that Chu had put on such a fantastic show after the merger, they chose to be spectators even though they lean more towards Qin. It's a bit like watching a drama.

As expected.

Under Chu's successive challenges, several "Kings of Singing" and Maestros-level famous musicians from Great Qin have spoken out in the next few days, preparing to win this year's second season. Their evident intention is to strike a blow to Great Chu next month to uphold the reputation of the Land of Music!

In this process.

That includes even Lin Yuan's favorite character card, the strongest maestro of Starlight, Yang Zhongming. It is unclear whether the Chu people have angered this Maestro or if Starlight hopes that Yang Zhongming will make a move to bring prestige to the company, but in any case, Yang Zhongming has decided to step in.

Wow!

With the big guns stepping in, the internet was buzzing. The topic of the Qin-Chu music battle unsurprisingly became the hottest search in the tribe. Below the hot search, there were fierce keyboard battles between netizens from Qin, Qi, and Chu:

“Great Chu is mighty and domineering!”

“Everyone says Qin Province is the Land of Music in Blue Star, but I think our Great Chu’s music is also very good, it’s just that Qin is too famous, and because of the previous cultural wall, the outside world lacks understanding of us. In fact, we are not inferior to Qin Province!”

“Listen to Great Chu’s Music!”

“Doesn’t Great Chu seizing the top three spots of the seasonal rankings as soon as they joined the merger prove something? Don’t say that the Maestros of Great Qin didn’t make a move, we also have many experts in Great Chu who haven’t participated yet.”

“Exactly.”

“In many fields, our Great Chu is actually very advanced in Blue Star, such as our animated films, our electrical appliances, our car brands, etc. Just like these fields, our music should not be underestimated.”

“...”

It seemed that not only the musicians of Great Chu were confident about their own music, but ordinary people of Chu also had similar thoughts, which is why the prelude to this great battle was unfolding. However, the Qin people naturally wouldn’t accept this:

“Is the title of ‘Land of Music’ for nothing?”

“The entire Blue Star recognizes the music achievements of Great Qin, only you Chu people do not. In that case, let’s wait and see. Also, stop using Xian Yu as a backdrop. After all the fuss you’ve



made, you've only been competing with an undergraduate from our Qin Continent Art School who hasn't even graduated yet."

"This is boasting without comparing."

"Most of the top musicians in Blue Star's music scene are from Great Qin, and whether it's Maestros or Aces, we Qin people have the most. If you really want to compare strength, you Chu people don't have much chance."

"..."

Netizens from Qin and Chu were at loggerheads, while netizens from Qi Province were fanning the flames and making jokes. They acknowledged Qin's musical status on the one side while encouraging Great Chu to fight great Qin's prestige on the other side.

Below Xian Yu's Weibo post.

More and more fans began to call for Maestro Junior to join the battle. To the Qin people, who are inherently proud, Chu in terms of music is just a little brother. Now that Great Chu keeps using Xian Yu as the talking point, if Xian Yu does not respond, it would seem as if he is afraid of them.

"Stop making films."

"Teacher Admirable Fish, counterattack quickly!"

"The Chu people have been very arrogant recently!"

"If Teacher Admirable Fish brings out another 'Red Sun,' it will definitely shut the Chu people up. Creation certainly needs time. If not in February then in March, if not in March then in April, something must be said, or else wouldn't they have consumed the Chu people for nothing?"

"..."

Not just the fans.

The music circle in Qin Province was also guessing whether Xian Yu would make a move. If he hadn't won the Battle of the Gods in December, there wouldn't be such high expectations of him in the music scene of Qin Province. But now, many people believe Xian Yu has a chance to defeat the Maestro!

Chapter 297: He will sweep the list\_2

“Does it seem like he's about to make a move?”

The netizens from both Qin and Chu were extremely invested, even Lin Yuan, who initially didn't care that much about this event, subtly felt that he needed to respond. Not because he was provoked, but because Lin Yuan saw a business opportunity from it!

Yes, a business opportunity!

The Music Battle between Qin and Chu had unified people everywhere, practically delivering an unprecedented opportunity to Lin Yuan. If he seized this chance, he could certainly boost his Prestige Value enormously!

“Prestige Value...”

If he could represent Qin Continent's music in the battle, Lin Yuan felt like he could see numerous Prestige Values waving at him. He didn't even need to specifically compose a new song, because his work was already available:

The several piano pieces from the movie!

This was also a great chance to ride on the coattails of the event's popularity. Lin Yuan could utilize the music battle to promote his movie “The Piano Tuner”, knowing that promotion was greatly important for a movie!

So what was he waiting for?

This time, without much hesitation, Lin Yuan immediately posted the poster of “The Piano Tuner” using Xian Yu's account. In his status update, he dropped a hint, “This movie is also known as The Piano Tuner. As the name suggests, I created some music for this movie, including some piano pieces. You can find the answers you want in this movie.”

Whoosh!

Though his status update was similar to the previous one, with Xian Yu still talking about the movie, this time the fans were hooked. His comment section immediately exploded with netizens leaving crazy messages:

“Is he seizing the opportunity?”

“He composed the movie score?”

“Stop talking, I’m buying a ticket!”

Some noticed Xian Yu’s cunning, “This is implicitly promoting the movie. You are indeed a marketing genius. If I don’t hear satisfactory music after watching the movie, don’t blame me for going crazy, Teacher Admirable Fish.”

“Are you the Prince of Ning?”

“Should I piss myself now?”

“When will the movie be released?”

“It seems that Teacher Admirable Fish enjoys mixing his personal stuff in movies. Last time it was poems and couplets, this time he has composed piano pieces for the movie. And the movie is also called ‘The Piano Tuner’, so is this a music-oriented movie?”

“Nice, Xian Yu is stepping up!”

“Actually, it doesn’t matter whether Xian Yu steps in or not. Many big shots from Great Qin have already stepped up. Great Chu would definitely lose this time. However, who told Chu people to constantly use Xian Yu as an example? If a tiger doesn’t show its might, do you really think that Teacher Admirable Fish is just a fish?”

“...”

Even though it seemed like he was riding the popularity wave, no one seemed to mind, as Xian Yu's new movie perfectly fit the theme. It even appeared as if it was specifically prepared for the Qin-Chu Music Battle, giving people a sense of organic integration.

Lin Yuan's strategy worked.

The moment he rode on the popularity wave, the attention for the new movie soared. Many people started to search for information about the movie. Some movie review websites even had the entry of "The Piano Tuner", though detailed information was not available yet.

"Brilliant!"

Number Eight ended his annual leave.

The day he returned to work, Ol' Zhou couldn't stop smiling. He immediately approached Xian Yu: "The promotion you've done is excellent. Some cinemas have contacted us about the screening of 'The Piano Tuner'. When will post-production be finished?"

"On the fifteenth."

Lin Yuan answered. Since this was not a web movie, like a normal one, it needed time for scheduling. The movie release date was not entirely under his control. However, with the tailwind from the Qin-Chu Music Battle, these problems would no longer be issues!

In this sense, Lin Yuan even somewhat appreciated the Chu people for constantly using him as a stepping stone. It was precisely because of them stirring up enmity and provoking the unity of the Qin people that so many people started to pay attention to his movie!

"However..."

Ol' Zhou voiced his concern: "I haven't heard the tracks in your movie. Can you guarantee their quality? If you're not sure, I can let our company's Maestros assist you. They should have some unpublished works that are of high quality."

“No problem.”

Lin Yuan was confident.

His confidence never came from himself, but from the classic compositions popular in his past life. “Mariage d’Amour” was undoubtedly a killer song. One could even say that this was the time that Lin Yuan had the most confidence!

“You’re confident...”

Ol’ Zhou nodded. He had no doubts about Lin Yuan’s music-composing skills. However, since this matter was of significant scale, if the pieces in “The Piano Tuner” were not convincing enough, not only would the movie tank, Xian Yu’s reputation as a composer would also greatly suffer.

Riding the popularity wave was a double-edged sword.

The Qin-Chu Music Battle concerning glory could indeed gain enormous attention for “The Piano Tuner”. However, it also raised people’s expectations for the pieces in the movie to an unprecedented level. If these expectations weren’t met, the consequences would be unthinkable.

The blow would be too hard for Xian Yu to bear.

So, to err on the side of caution, he suggested, “Why not let Yang Zhongming give them a listen? He might offer you some advice. I’m not doubting your works this time, but they’re indeed important!”

Lin Yuan said, “Sure.”

This time, real gold fears no fire.

Ol’ Zhou nodded and took Lin Yuan to the fourteenth floor. The fourteenth floor was the highest level of the music composing department and was managed by Yang Zhongming. As a top Maestro in Blue Star, it was certainly inappropriate to have Yang Zhongming visit Lin Yuan. Instead, Lin Yuan visiting Yang Zhongming was more fitting.

Chapter 298: He Will Slaughter the List

This is the etiquette due from a junior.

Lin Yuan didn't see any problem with it. In fact, he harbored special feelings for Yang Zhongming. Setting aside those pieces provided by the System, Lin Yuan felt that Yang Zhongming was the person who gave him the most gains—

The latter was Lin Yuan's true teacher!

Because most of Lin Yuan's real knowledge in composition was actually imparted by Yang Zhongming's character card. Even if Yang Zhongming himself had no knowledge of this, Lin Yuan had indubitably learned a lot from him.

Not much later.

They reached the fourteenth floor.

Old Zhou led Lin Yuan into a quiet office, knocked at the door, and waited till a voice inside invited them in. Then, he pushed open the door and walked in. Lin Yuan then saw a man in his early forties looking up at him.

The man was about one meter eighty centimeters tall.

He was tall with somewhat gaunt cheeks, slightly recessed eye sockets as if from chronic lack of rest, and thinning hair, common for a man his age. One could imagine that in his youth he must have been a very attractive man.

"Hello, Teacher Yang."

Lin Yuan took the initiative to speak.

This was the first time the two had met. Yang Zhongming could never imagine that Lin Yuan was already very familiar with this visage of his, and even the composition knowledge Yang possessed was not strange to Lin Yuan.

Having received prior notice from Old Zhou.

Yang Zhongming didn't get surprised at Lin Yuan's appearance. He just stared at Lin Yuan, curiously studying him, before slowly saying after some time:

"I know who you are."

Old Zhou laughed, "I just mentioned the matter to you. Listen to Lin Yuan's composition this time. If you say it's alright, then I will be reassured. Poorly handling this matter could ruin Xian Yu. I hope you take it to heart."

"Xian Yu cannot be ruined."

Yang Zhongming's expression was suddenly quite serious, then he said softly to Lin Yuan, "There is nothing wrong with the song 'Rooftop.' It's just that the Chu people are playing some sly tricks, which allowed them to take some advantage."

Lin Yuan nodded.

He, of course, knew there was no problem with 'Rooftop'. However, Yang Zhongming's words had a comforting effect, so Lin Yuan didn't say anything more and simply took out his phone, "Shall I play the tune for you?"

Yang Zhongming said, "Can you play it?"

Lin Yuan nodded, "I can, a little."

Yang Zhongming glanced at the piano by the window.

Lin Yuan got the hint and directly sat down at the piano. He didn't choose any other song from the film, but chose to play 'Mariage d'Amour,' which carried the most weight in the film and was a piece he had cherished since drawing it early on.

Old Zhou sat down.

However, Yang Zhongming stood straight up. The look of expectation in his eyes was palpable. Many newcomers had appeared in this circle, but not every newcomer could catch the Maestro's attention. Xian Yu was one of the few who was noticed by many right after his debut.

Touching the piano.

Lin Yuan swayed slightly as lean fingers danced expertly across the keys like little fish joyously swimming between water and nature on a rainy riverside. The tranquil piano music gave people the feeling of being caught in the mist.

It was not intense.

Yet, Lin Yuan's piano sound possessed an indescribable force, like a note falling onto the surface of a tranquil lake, stirred waves of ripples in Yang Zhongming's heart...

Old Zhou's eyes slightly changed.

Even if his music appreciation ability was not up to par with Yang Zhongming, he could still recognize the impressiveness of this piece. What surprised him even more was that Lin Yuan's performance technique was very professional which could only be achieved with countless hours of training!

Yang Zhongming gently closed his eyes.

This piano sound seemingly had a kind of magic that made his mood pure as the bright moon is pure. The finger bouncing on piano is like telling a beautiful and moving story, accompanied by an inexplicable sadness.

Lin Yuan's left hand quickened its pace.

The sounds of a piano are always simple yet rich; soft as the sunlight on a winter day, warm and peaceful, and harsh as steel balls sprinkling on the ice, clear and piercing. Amidst such tranquility, deep as the night, there was a soundless, boundless power radiating towards the horizon.

A few minutes later.



Lin Yuan stopped playing.

The last note slipped through his fingers. By now, Old Zhou was smiling from ear to ear, but Yang Zhongming was still moving his fingers in the air as if he was comparing Lin Yuan's recent sheet music performance, seemingly immersed in it.

"Ahem, how was it?"

Old Zhou couldn't help but break the silence. He needed Yang Zhongming's professional ability to judge. In his hearing, this piece was very impressive, but if asked him to specifically describe what was impressive about it, he wouldn't be able to evaluate it professionally. Most people's feelings when listening to a piano are simply two types:

Either pleasant to the ear or displeasing.

Yang Zhongming slightly widened his eyes, glanced at Old Zhou, seemingly discontented with Zhou's interruption of his mental state, then his gaze fixed on Lin Yuan. This was the first time he felt he couldn't completely understand a junior.

"You played well."

Old Zhou was a bit speechless. "We are not discussing piano playing skills now, let's talk about this piece. Teacher Yang, do you think that there is room for modification, or can it be directly used in the movie?"

"Everything you just said is meaningless."

Yang Zhongming didn't leave face for Old Zhou, causing Old Zhou's face to turn a shade of red. Then he comforted himself internally that after John was the Maestro, and anyway, on normal days Xian Yu didn't leave him any face either. In a way, these two were quite alike.

Another moment of silence followed.

A smile appeared on Yang Zhongming's face. This was the first smile he revealed since Lin Yuan and Old Zhou came in. But before Zhou could say anything, Yang Zhongming said, "I'll be leaving in February, Director Zhou, please help me to make an announcement."

"Why?"

Old Zhou's eyes widened.

Yang Zhongming looked at Lin Yuan, and his smile became a bit warmer, "Because February belongs to him, I won't join the crowd."

"But..."

"He will dominate the charts."

Yang Zhongming interrupted Zhou's words.

The eyes of Old Zhou widened immediately. It seemed as if he was choked, he even whimpered several times, then with a slightly trembling voice, he said:

"Okay!"

Chapter 299: When the Wind Rises

It seemed like Yang Zhongming's approval had given Ol' Zhou boundless confidence. Immediately after the post-production of the movie "Tuner" was completed, he couldn't wait to take the finished film to negotiate screenings with the cinemas.

His efficiency was pretty high.

With the backing of Starlight and the heat generated by the film's publicity, the movie had finally secured its release date for February 1st of this year under Ol' Zhou's hard work.

Just in time for the start of the new season.

Subsequently, Lin Yuan announced this news on the tribe. At the same time, he also released the poster and revealed more information about the movie, such as its genre. However, what the public was more interested in were the songs that would be featured in the movie.

“It’s finally been scheduled!”

“The timing is just right!”

“It’s a suspense movie; I thought it would be a comedy like ‘Flirting Scholar.’ However, I’ll still go see it, it’s like Teacher Admirable Fish holding a concert in the film.”

“Add one for the comment above.”

“A good film can make a good song. I didn’t expect one day I would pay attention to a movie for its soundtrack. Teacher Admirable Fish is so crafty, he even said that the answer to his response can be found in the movie... ”

“Go Teacher Admirable Fish!”

“The film’s music better not disappoint, otherwise Chu people might go mad. If we don’t show them some colors, they might think our title as the Land of Music is undeserved.”

“...”

Everyone’s attention was guided, which was also related to the poster images published by Lin Yuan on his tribe status. In these nine poster images, the most prominent one is the male protagonist Liu Zhengwen playing the piano.

Playing the piano.

This scene naturally reminds people of Lin Yuan’s previous response and the upcoming music feud between Qin and Chu. It seems that the message hidden behind this poster is Admirable Fish’s weapon for the second season.

Besides encouragement from fans.

Admirable Fish's tribe comment area also had a lot of comments from Chu people. Although they couldn't be considered aggressive, they were somewhat defiant. Given that Admirable Fish never liked controlling comments, some sarcastic voices emerged here.

"Is Maestro Junior from Great Qin really that good?"

"I advise you to give up the February battle."

"We, Great Chu, sent out three maestros to compete. The only ones who can compete head-on with our maestros are your maestros from Great Qin. Maestro Junior and such should stop joining in the fun and devote themselves to their movie."

"Is he a filmmaker or a musician?"

"This Maestro Junior from Great Qin just wants to ride on the heat, but you're acting as if he's really worth waiting for. His focus is on the film; he didn't even intend to respond to the competition between Qin and Qi music."

"February 1st, tut."

"This is where this guy is smart. If his ranking doesn't look good by then, Maestro Junior can completely argue that his song was created for the film's theme. He didn't even participate in the season's competition. Anyway, my comment stays here; feel free to come back later to contradict."

"..."

Everyone could see that Admirable Fish was smartly hitching a ride on the publicity train, a shrewd promotional move. Therefore, this theory had quite an audience for a time, and Admirable Fish's comment area instantly became a battleground for Qin and Chu netizens.

During the dispute between both parties.

Starlight suddenly announced Yang Zhongming's withdrawal from the February battle. The news was posted by the official account, and Yang Zhongming himself reposted it to express his position. This immediately stirred up a thousand-layer wave among Qin, Qi, and Chu!

"Why is Father Yang stepping down?"

"Father Yang, don't give up!"

"Is Great Qin showing weakness? "

"Hahahaha, isn't Yang Zhongming considered one of the strongest maestros in Great Qin? Why is he chicken before the battle begins? He announced his participation not too long ago, and now he suddenly stops. Is this an admission of defeat?"

"What's with Father Yang?"

"Father Yang must have his reasons for not participating. Don't listen to those babbles from Chu people. When has Father Yang ever been afraid? Father Yang is the only maestro who is guaranteed to win a championship any time he competes!"

"..."

Perhaps the controversy was so great that it could affect Yang Zhongming's reputation, so Starlight made a direct response: "In February, Starlight already has Teacher Admirable Fish participating, and after hearing Teacher Admirable Fish's new work, Father Yang didn't want to cause internal competition in the company. Maestro Junior is capable enough to handle everything. In March, Father Yang will officially step in. What's destined to come will come (funny face)."

This shut the outsiders up.

The musical contest between Qin and Chu may last for a while. It's not too strange for Yang Zhongming to choose to compete in March. However, this narrative again shifted all attention to Admirable Fish —

"Are they so confident in Admirable Fish?"

Not to mention the composers from Great Qin, even musicians from Great Chu were surprised. However, this also led to greater attention on the movie “Tuner.” From a publicity perspective, this movie cleverly rode the publicity wave, forming a binding effect on the attention!

If done well, a blockbuster movie sale!

If not, Admirable Fish will crash under the hype!

It’s fair to say that no Blue Star movie has ever garnered such a massive publicity boost before its release like “The Tuner,” with millions spent on promotion, an effect you could only attain from countless sums of money. It was uproariously stirred up by a music battle.

Forget the music industry.

The film industry is also dumbfounded.

This Xian Yu is too audacious, last time he made “Flirting Scholar,” purely riding on the popularity of online big movies, it vividly competed with in-theatre movies. This time, he got such explosive publicity with super low cost!

Just so you know.

Even some big-budget movies screening in February, having burned tens of millions on publicity intending to catch the audience’s eye, falls short on promotional effect when compared to “The Tuner”!

But...

Isn’t he afraid of not being able to wrap up this big game in the end? If this doesn’t work out, it could be a total ruin of his reputation, much like the Celestial Dynasty’s delegates representing their district in a competition. Expectations are raised so high, carrying so many people’s hopes, a loss would undoubtedly lead to severe backlash!

There’s no doubt about that!

Even though Xian Yu has always been popular with the general public, this wave could land him in a disadvantageous position. This is also why despite feeling Lin Yuan's confidence, Ol' Zhou still insists Yang Zhongming have an extra layer of insurance.

Not to mention industry insiders.

Even Xian Yu's fans could not help but sweat. There is a fan group named "Fish's Joy," where many fans were discussing "The Tuner" and the Qin-Qi music fight in February:

"Feels like it's a big game."

"It's not ideal for Fish Papa to ride on the coattails of this hot wave, as Maestro does have a hand in the Chu side. Despite Fish Papa beating Maestro before, this time the Maestros have increased significantly. If it's the Great Qin's Maestro suppressing Fish Papa, it's alright, but if it happens to be the Chu people suppressing Fish Papa, Fish Papa's reputation will totally collapse!"

"Damn, I'm worried."

"Isn't high attention a good thing?"

Some felt confused about this stand.

Someone quickly explained in the group: "It's not that high attention is bad, but it's rather that Fish Papa is now placed on a pedestal. Out of a full score of 100 points, if Fish Papa can achieve 90 points at most, this round Fish Papa's work must score 95 points to win hearts."

There are many people who see through this.

In simple terms, Xian Yu originally planned to ride the wave, but the flame raged too fiercely. If he's not careful, the heat could burn him. Playing with fire has always been risky.

"Indeed."

“Even if Fish Papa presents another ‘Red Sun’, it wouldn’t help, especially after Father Yang suddenly announced his withdrawal. This made many outsiders put their bets on Fish Papa. But do you think it’s realistic for Fish Papa to slaughter a bunch of Maestros? Even as an obsessed fan, I dare not say such words.”

“...”

The people in this group are all loyal fans of Xian Yu and have been following the matter since Xian Yu officially responded. They watched Xian Yu being raised to such a high position, naturally, there would be worries.

At this moment.

The group owner, Winter Plum Blossom appeared. The owner was said to be a mysterious tycoon who seldom spoke after creating the Xian Yu fan group — only popping up to distribute a bunch of red envelopes. Today was no different. First came a thousand bucks of red envelopes, then came the words: “Fish Papa has this under control.”

“Really?”

“Does Winter Plum Blossom have an inside scoop?”

“Fish Papa can stabilize this wave?”

With the group’s inquiries, Winter Plum Blossom sent another message: “I can’t reveal specifics, but I can tell you that you mustn’t miss ‘The Tuner.’ Otherwise, you’ll miss Fish Papa’s classic debut piano composition.”

“Classic debut?”

“What does it mean?”

“What’s the situation?”



People in the group continued to inquire, but Winter Plum Blossom did not show up anymore, leaving many in the group stunned and contemplative. Because the Winter Plum Blossom, this group owner, truly was mysterious, seemed to know some inside secrets and as though could get early access to Xian Yu's works.

The outside world is rife with speculation.

The fire keeps getting bigger.

As the time moved into late January, the atmosphere of a big battle and an impending storm seemed to become increasingly intense. With Qin and Chu Maestros frequently seen, the Kings, and Queens of Singing refused to lag behind, imbuing the new season with a special meaning. The spectators from the Qi region described February as:

Battle of the Gods, an upgraded version!

Compared to last year's dog betting frenzy, this upgraded Battle of the Gods, with the added territorial conflicts from the new state merger, is an unasked-for product of the era, which brings a unique color to this matter.

With the anticipation of countless people.

The bell finally tolled on the 1st of February.

The works participating in the Qin-Chu music battle have reached their release moment. And in many movie theatres, a movie named "The Tuner" was officially screened——

The wind begins to blow.

Chapter 300: Reversal

The Hall Three of Suzhou Gale Cinema is buzzing with people who are gradually finding their seats according to the number on their movie tickets.

In the center of row eight, the coveted 'prime location',

Dai Rui, who has already settled down, glances around and mumbles: “What a publicity hound.”

Dai Rui is a native of the Great Chu.

Since Great Chu had merged, Dai Rui came to work in Qin Province.

The film he chose to watch is the hotly debated recent movie “The Tuner”.

He was not originally planning on watching this film.

But his friend Zhang Bin, sitting on his left, insisted they watch it together, so he reluctantly entered the cinema.

At this point.

Hearing Dai Rui’s grumble, Zhang Bin on his left responds,

“This is not riding on the coattails of popularity, but Xian Yu’s confidence. You, as a Chu person, do not understand how amazing our small maestro from Qin Province is. You will understand once you finish the movie.”

Zhang Bin is a Qin person.

Recently, Zhang Bin and Dai Rui often discussed privately whose hometown music was better.

Today, Zhang Bin brought Dai Rui to see the film in order to show him Xian Yu’s composing talent.

‘Our group master Winter Plum Blossom says that the song in this film is a classic, there must be some inside information.’

Zhang Bin thought to himself.

He is a member of the Xian Yu fan group “Music of Fish” and a hardcore fan of Xian Yu. He would surely support the premiere of Xian Yu’s new film.

Dai Rui snorted, saying, “Bin, if your bravado bites you in the end, it’ll be embarrassing.”

Zhang Bin replied casually, “Just listen and see.”

In fact, more than 70 percent of those who chose to watch “The Tuner” premiere came for the music.

After all, Xian Yu announced that the music in this film was his response to Great Chu.

While Dai Rui and Bin are chatting, the film has already begun...

In the black screen, an off-screen voice can be heard.

It’s a man’s voice: “This is a long story ... what kind of tea do you want?”

“Coffee.”

The voice of a woman responds.

Then, the screen light up.

It’s a field, a rabbit is stealing vegetables, a dark-skinned man holds a hunting gun in the distance, carefully approaching.

The rabbit senses danger and begins to run.

The hunter follows, suddenly firing a shot.

The screen darkens again, the off-screen sound comes again, it sounds like a car toppling, followed by a woman’s scream.

When the screen lights up for the third time, the shot has switched to a house.

Inside the room, a young man is playing the piano.

A rhythmic melody flows out little by little with the youth's performance.

Although the opening plot was not understood, the audience in the cinema were instantly captivated by the piano sound as soon as it began.

This is a very distinctive song!

Some audience began discussing in a low voice. Zhang Bin's eyes lit up. He turned to Dai Rui with a hint of triumph, "How about that?"

"..."

Hearing the sound of the piano, Dai Rui had to admit in his heart that the song was excellent, but it was still wanting if taken as a response to the music battle with Qin Qi.

So Dai Rui said,

"First of all, I'm not a troll or being obstinate. The quality of this song is indeed good, but it's not persuasive enough for me."

Zhang Bin furrowed his brows.

He thought the song was already very excellent, but if Dai Rui insisted on saying that, he seemed to have no way to refute, because this song could indeed not clinch the argument!

Is this Teacher Admire Fish's response?

Indeed very potent, but it seems inadequate to quell all doubts.

As expected...

When the anticipation is raised too high, it will create a negative effect.

If it weren't for this wave of hype ratcheting up the external anticipation too much, this song would actually have been very impressive indeed.

Zhang Bin started to feel somewhat depressed.

The situation for Teacher Admire Fish doesn't look too good...

What follows is the story setup.

Although the vast majority of people came for the music, since they're here, they're going to see what the movie is about.

Resultingly, many people's eyes widened in astonishment!

Because the story that followed left many people stunned!

The protagonist, Ye Shen, is a young pianist.

The film uses jump cuts to show Ye Shen's work situation.

He is hired by different families, frequently playing music at different people's homes.

Given his blindness, the homeowners are extremely bold.

For instance, when Ye Shen is playing the piano in a villa, the mistress, home alone, strips herself bare and dances freely to the music...

In another instance, while Ye Shen plays in a living room, a man and a woman secretly commit an adulterous act in front of him, behind someone in the kitchen...

Or when Ye Shen plays in a room, an unconventional homeowner, captivated by Ye Shen's handsome features, does unspeakable things with his dolls...

"Damn!"

Though the explicit scenes were obscured, Dai Rui and Zhang Bin couldn't resist shouting in surprise upon seeing these sequences.

It wasn't just Dai Rui and Zhang Bin.

The other audience members in the cinema also emitted ambiguous sounds.

In front of the blind Ye Shen, these wealthy individuals exposed their disgusting personalities.

Ye Shen, as a blind man, seems oblivious to everything happening around him, solely committed to playing his piano.

"Whoosh!"

The scene jumps for the second time, apparently a sequel to the previous scenes.

The woman who had danced naked lightly kissed his cheek as Ye Shen finished playing; the adulterous couple abruptly separated at the end of the piano piece, with a household member unknowingly leaving the kitchen.

The unconventional male host looked listless, following a parabolic white streak through the air.

"....."

By now, everyone had forgotten about anything related to music and was utterly bewildered by those images.

“Thank you for your performance, you will undoubtedly become a great pianist!”

A male host handed over his payment to Ye Shen, full of praise.

Ye Shen thanked the man for his payment, then exited through the door, the man turned around and the camera light fell on his naked behind.

Ye Shen, wearing dark glasses, left the mansion of the rich.

The outside world was beautiful and normal.

The men smartly dressed in suits, looking sophisticated while carrying their briefcases on the streets.

The women were dressed up formally, quiet, ladylike, and would instinctively cover their skirts when a gust of wind blew.

Dai Rui couldn't resist commenting, “It's so ironic, this film really has something.”

Zhang Bin nodded.

Like many others in the cinema, who came specifically for the music, he was now captivated by the plot of the movie, even forgetting to argue with Dai Rui about the Qin Chu Music Battle.

Feeling done for the day.

When Ye Shen was preparing to go home, he ran into a woman named Sofi.

Essentially, Sofi accidentally bumped into Ye Shen while riding her bike, and that's how they met.

Sofi learned that Ye Shen could play the piano and played it very well, so she became fond of him.

She didn't mind Ye Shen's blindness, in fact, she took extra care of him.

"How nice."

Sympathising with the weaker ones is a human instinct.

Regarding Ye Shen's blindness, the audience was very sympathetic. Seeing a girl not shunning Ye Shen's blindness, the audience found it very beautiful.

One day.

As usual, Sofi was dropping Ye Shen home.

After stepping through the door, Ye Shen suddenly took off his glasses and casually shut the door. His movements were natural, completely devoid of earlier hesitancy and groping.

And then, the audience momentarily paused.

Then, something that made people scream happened!

Ye Shen looked in the mirror, extracted something like a contact lens from his eyes, and swiftly moved to the window to watch Sofi leaving—

As it turns out, Ye Shen was faking it!!

He was not blind at all!!!