

All R. Artist 301

Chapter 301: Another Turnaround

Faced with the sudden plot twist in the film, all the spectators in the theatre were gobsmacked!

Nobody could have expected that Ye Shen was not blind!

Thinking back to Ye Shen's employment history, those wealthy individuals had exposed their entire selves in front of this 'blind man'...

"Wow, this plot twist is insane!"

"I genuinely thought the protagonist was blind at first!"

"Doesn't that mean that the woman who was dancing naked earlier was fully seen by Ye Shen, and so were the couple having an affair, oh god, and that man who was doing strange things in front of Ye Shen..."

"Who would have thought!"

"The protagonist had been faking it so calmly all this time, I'm impressed!"

"..."

Dai Rui suddenly said, "Come to think of it, if a blind man were playing the piano in my house, I probably wouldn't be on guard either."

"That's the terrifying part."

Zhang Bin shook his head, "The more I think about it, the more horrifying it is. Everyone appears decent on the outside, but people's baser instincts are completely unguarded in front of a blind man."

At this point, there was a voice-over.

It was the male protagonist's voice: "Art is the meaning of life for an artist, but he must pay the price for that."

A woman's voice asked, "The purpose of peeping?"

The protagonist paused for a moment before explaining, "I just feel that by shutting down some of our physical systems, people can focus more on the art itself."

The voice-over ended.

The plot then resumed.

Apparently, the male protagonist's dream was to make money playing the piano, achieving his goal of performing in the Golden Hall of Qin Province.

He believed that pretending to be blind could earn him more money.

Ironically, the protagonist's plan worked. People seemed to have more faith in the artistic achievements of a blind man, even more so than a sighted person.

Even Sofi, who was attracted to the protagonist because of his blindness, offered him more support, not only dating Ye Shen, but also recommending him for a job at her father's restaurant.

The restaurant offered generous compensation.

Playing the piano there not only earned the protagonist hefty tips but also won him the admiration of some of the elites, such as Su Tai.

Although Su Tai, who was once a popular movie star, had now retired from the limelight, he was still prominent and successful.

He had married a female artist named Jiang Yan, who was much younger than him.

A classic May-December couple.

Admiring Ye Shen's exceptional piano skills despite being blind, Su Tai invited Ye Shen to play the piano at his house on Sundays to celebrate his and his wife's wedding anniversary.

Ye Shen accepted.

On that Sunday, as per the agreement, Ye Shen arrived at Su Tai's home. However, the following scene left the audience gasping!

Blood!

There was blood all over the floor!

Among the blood were shards of broken glass!

And on the sofa lay a body!

The audience immediately recognized that...

It was Su Tai's body!

"What happened!"

Dai Rui's heart skipped a beat.

Next to him, Zhang Bin swallowed hard, "Su Tai is dead? No wonder it was Jiang Yan who opened the door, and she was reluctant to let the protagonist in..."

Faced with another plot twist in the film, the audience's emotions were once again pulled taut!

Even Ye Shen, who had been pretending to be blind for so long and could handle various situations with ease, was frightened!

Jiang Yan began to test Ye Shen, unsure if he was truly blind...

As Ye Shen nervously responded, he suggested that he needed to use the bathroom, seemingly to relieve his tension.

As a result, when Jiang Yan led Ye Shen into the bathroom, an even more shocking scene ensued!

There was a man in the bathroom!

The man held a gun in his hand, pointing it right at Ye Shen.

“That man is her lover!”

This was the third plot twist in the movie, and the audience’s hearts were in their throats!

Ye Shen bit his lip hard, pretending to be calm as he finished using the bathroom, flushed, and returned to the living room...

The film went into a flashback.

As it turned out, the gorgeous young woman, Jiang Yan, was having an affair with the man in the bathroom. The reason for the murder was that Su Tai had fooled his wife into thinking he was away on a business trip that day. But unexpectedly, he returned with wine and flowers, hoping to surprise his wife. This included Ye Shen arriving to play the piano, which was part of the surprise.

But then...

The surprise turned into a scare...

He was shot dead by the man with whom his wife was having an affair...

“I’m blind, I’m blind, I can’t see.”

Ye Shen kept reminding himself of this as he played the piano in a room splattered with fresh blood. Su Tai, who had been dead on the sofa for God knows how long, was sitting facing Ye Shen, while the lady of the house was pointing a gun at his head from behind.

The scene was incredibly eerie!

Within this incredibly eerie and horrific scene, a new piano piece began to play.

To everyone’s surprise, it was Mariage d’Amour!

The music seemed to carry an overwhelming sadness, as if mourning the death of Su Tai and mocking the current predicament. It stirred the hearts of the audience along with the rhythm of the piece.

The audience in the cinema seemed completely immersed in the music at this moment.

Contrasting with the beautiful piece was the brutal scene of Jiang Yan and her lover starting to move Su Tai’s body, hiding it in a suitcase, then cleaning up the blood...

All of this was achieved under the watchful ‘eyes’ of the male character.

It was not until the lover dragging the suitcase containing the corpse away did Dai Rui come to his senses.

His eyes widened abruptly, “That piece just now...”

Zhang Bin, who seemed to realize something, also started panting rapidly.

Because the plot was so intense and thrilling at this point, they almost neglected the music.

But neglect doesn’t mean the ears are closed!

Although the piano piece had already ended by the time they fully regained their senses, the feelings brought about by the piece had built up, resulting in a great shock based on the plot!

“No wonder it’s Xian Yu...”

Zhang Bin muttered, not knowing whether he was praising the ingenious design of the plot or admiring how beautiful the piece was.

“...”

Dai Rui was speechless, swallowing a mouthful of saliva, his heart filled with an indescribable feeling, which even caused him to break out in goosebumps.

Similar feelings also appeared among the other audience members in the cinema.

“Did you hear that...”

“That piece just now...”

“More brilliant than the first one...”

“I want to listen to it again!”

“Beautiful, sad, tender, and brutal...”

“Is this... Xian Yu’s response?”

“Let’s focus on the movie first...”

Someone took a deep breath.

The piece was no longer the main point, as the plot was so intense it made people’s hair stand on end, and they were highly anticipating what would happen next!

“It’s none of my business...”

“I didn’t see anything...”

“I feel very sorry for Mr. Su Tai...”

“He has helped me a lot, but I...”

Ye Shen was scared, shivering with cold, his body shaking. After he left, he sat on the street for a long, long time, then chose to take a cab home, all the while comforting himself:

“Don’t draw fire on yourself...”

“They will kill me...”

The male character’s agony at this moment was palpable.

At this moment, the audience felt somewhat disappointed, thinking that the male character lacked courage.

However.

The scene changed.

The male protagonist appeared at the police station!

God!

What a sudden transition!

The male character decided to call the police in the end!

At this moment, the audience started to like the male character, as he at least retained the essence of being a human being.

Isn't that right?

However, this movie is destined to keep audiences guessing, because once they arrived at the police station, a terrifying scene unfolded!

As it turned out...

The captain of the police station was the same man who the male character had encountered at Su Tai's house, the lover!!!

"You're here to report a crime?"

The murderer, dressed in his police uniform, was glaring at Ye Shen.

The hearts of the audience rose to their throats once again!

Oh my god!

This movie has too many twists and turns!

Each twist and turn causes one's heart to race!

Chapter 302: Infinite Reversals

"My cat's gone missing. I suspect my neighbor killed it ..."

Ye Shen chickened out!

The Chief of Police was already reaching for his gun!

Without a doubt, he knew that they would kill him before he got to tell the truth!

So, he steered the conversation away.

But it made the Chief suspicious.

The duplicitous Chief of Police and the adulterous Jiang Yan took turns visiting Ye Shen's home, attempting to determine if he was truly blind:

First up, the Chief aimed a throwing knife at Ye Shen to see if he would flinch.

The knife flew out, but Ye Shen didn't move.

Then it was Jiang Yan's turn to visit Ye Shen's home. When he turned his head, she put on a terrifying mask...

Despite her attempts, Ye Shen wasn't scared.

In the face of a life-threatening crisis, he was on a roll with his acting!

"I admire this guy..."

"He's truly performing for his life!"

"When Jiang Yan tried to frighten Ye Shen, I too jumped in fright..."

"His mental fortitude is otherworldly!"

"..."

All these tests conducted in quick succession allowed the audience no respite. Yet eventually, the protagonist's cover was blown.

Because Jiang Yan had the audacity to poison the coffee right in front of Ye Shen.

No matter how great a performance Ye Shen managed to put on, he couldn't refuse the coffee offered by Jiang Yan, could he?

He could do nothing but pretend to spill it. Unfortunately, it had no effect.

In reality, as soon as Jiang Yan walked through the door, she had slipped poison into the snacks she'd given him.

The poison rendered Ye Shen blind.

Thus, Ye Shen went from pretending to be blind, to an actual blind man.

It wasn't over yet!

Jiang Yan was a perfect example of a vicious temptress!

Seizing Ye Shen's moment of unconsciousness, she deceived Ye Shen's girlfriend, Sofi:

"I got too lonely, Ye Shen and I slept together."

Meanwhile, Sofi had learnt from a child who observed Ye Shen from downstairs that Ye Shen had been pretending to be blind all along...

Ye Shen's calm and satisfying life suddenly collapsed!

He became a true blind man and lost the trust of his girlfriend...

Yet, the adulterous Chief of Police still didn't want to let a 'helpless blind man' go, wanting to kill him once and for all.

How can a blind man outrun the Chief of Police?

Fortunately, Ye Shen was lucky enough to be saved by a taxi driver couple who also took him to a hospital and found a doctor to examine his eyes.

“Phew...”

The audience finally breathes a sigh of relief at this point in the plot.

From the moment Ye Shen witnessed Su Tai being killed, he had been in a life or death situation, causing the audience to be on edge.

Watching the suspenseful narrative, they also felt aggrieved!

“Jiang Yan is just too wicked!”

“And that damn Chief of Police is ruthless!”

“Ye Shen had decided to not go to the police, yet these two still won’t let him off...”

What comes next, the counterattack?

Just as the audience started to expect this, they were once again befuddled by numerous plot twists already present in the film!

The plot once again causes immeasurable damage to the protagonist!

The doctor and taxi driver couple weren’t trying to save Ye Shen?

It was apparent that the trio intended to sell Ye Shen’s kidneys!

And not just one, both of them!

In other words, they wanted Ye Shen dead!

Zhang Bin was shocked: “Damn, this protagonist is too unfortunate...”

Dai Rui was at a loss for words.

He could never guess the writer’s twists!

Countless twists have people’s heads spinning, all they could do was go along with the plot!

Of course.

No matter how many twists, the protagonist won’t die halfway through the movie...

Depending on his silver tongue, Ye Shen managed to temporarily win over the heartless couple and the kidney-harvesting doctor. He persuaded the trio that his plan could initiate the counterattack:

How much money can you get from selling a kidney?

If you help me kidnap Jiang Yan and reveal the truth about veteran actor Su Tai’s murder, you could earn at least ten million!

The three are convinced.

With Ye Shen’s cooperation, they kidnap Jiang Yan together and called the Chief of Police to set up a time and place for the ransom exchange.

At this time, the five cab couple broke trust again:

They tied up Ye Shen and Jiang Yan together in the warehouse, planning to pocket the whole ten million by themselves.

During this process, the Chief of Police died.

In the conflict, the taxi driver was injured.

Ironically.

When the taxi driver's wife took the injured man to the hospital to seek a doctor, she found the ransom the Chief had sent was nothing but blank paper...

"Yes!"

Dai Rui suddenly exclaimed.

Zhang Bin also felt a sense of satisfaction.

This taxi driver couple were too wicked and greedy, but in the end, they not only failed to grab any money, but the male taxi driver died.

In the meantime.

Ye Shen and Jiang Yan who were tied up in the warehouse decided to help each other escape.

It was an ironic scene.

Although they wished death upon one another, they had to help each other survive.

Barely escaping their restraints.

Jiang Yan was considering killing Ye Shen...

At that moment, the doctor arrives. In the ensuing struggle, he almost dies, but is saved by Ye Shen.

This made the black market doctor greatly indebted to Ye Shen.

He decided to return the favor and told Ye Shen a secret: “Jiang Yan’s kidney is a match with a wealthy man’s kidney, you could earn a lot of money just by selling hers!”

The doctor decided to share the money with Ye Shen.

Simultaneously, the doctor told Ye Shen, “Your eyes can be saved, we just need to transplant this woman’s cornea to you...”

“Phew!”

Dai Rui let out a heavy breath.

Zhang Bin’s heart finally found some stability.

Chapter 303: Infinite Reversals_2

It’s interesting that...

At this moment in the cinema, many people are unanimously holding their breaths, indicating that everyone’s hearts are in a state of utmost tension in front of this overwhelming flood of plot twists.

Jiang Yan is definitely dead!

That’s what everyone thinks.

But after Zhang Bin relaxes, he suddenly feels an inexplicable sense of anxiety again:

Could it be...

Another plot twist?

If it were any other movie, Zhang Bin wouldn’t entertain this suspicion, but the movie “The Tuner” is too damned insane, taking plot twists to the absolute extreme!

Thrilling!

Shocking!

No one can guarantee that the next shot won't reveal another unexpected plot twist!

The subsequent plot seems to suggest that Zhang Bin's speculations are excessive.

Ye Shen and the doctor drive, ferrying the unconscious Jiang Yan, to hand her over to the black market tycoon...

The scene transitions.

It's two years later now.

In Qin land.

Inside a music hall.

Ye Shen, donning sunglasses, passionately plays a piece on the piano, the same piece he played in Su Tai's living room before he died...

The plot was so tense before that no one really had a chance to fully appreciate it.

This time, as the plot reaches its conclusion, everyone is finally able to relax.

Delicate musical notes are flowing.

The audience at the music hall immersed themselves in the musical enjoyment.

Dai Rui also closes his eyes slightly, savouring the beauty of this piece.

After this exhilarating movie-viewing experience, listening to this piece seems to soothe one's body and mind.

"I admit..."

Dai Rui softly stated.

Zhang Bin, who was listening to the music, responded, puzzled: "What?"

"I admit... Xian Yu has given the best response. I'm speechless in front of this piece," Dai Rui said.

Zhang Bin was taken aback, then chuckled lightly: "I almost forgot about that."

Yeah.

How many people in the cinema still remember the real reason they came to watch this film?

Dai Rui sighed: "The music is great, the movie... is also amazing!"

A perfect integration!

Complementing each other perfectly!

And the movie has not completely ended here.

After the music finishes, many audience members take the initiative to shake hands with Ye Shen, and some even ask for his autograph.

Ye Shen moves about by feel.

"His eyes haven't recovered?"

“It seems Ye Shen didn’t end up killing her after all.”

Jiang Yan’s cornea could have rescued Ye Shen’s sight, but the fact that he still can’t see suggests that he ultimately didn’t kill Jiang Yan...

The audience doesn’t know whether Ye Shen has achieved his dream of performing in the Golden Hall.

But there’s no doubt that he has already become an exceptional pianist.

Just then.

Ye Shen’s ex-girlfriend, Sofi, unexpectedly shows up in the music hall, where she runs into Ye Shen.

“Sofi?”

Even though he can’t see, Ye Shen identifies her by the slight touch of their handshake and the sustained silence from the person in front of him.

“You’ve been tricking people here too?”

Sofi scoffs, staring at Ye Shen.

She doesn’t know about everything Ye Shen’s been through.

Ye Shen gives a wry smile: “It’s a long story... What kind of tea would you like?”

Sofi said coldly: “Coffee.”

This does relate to the narration at the beginning of the film.

The film transitions to a new scene.

Sofi and Ye Shen are sitting outside, drinking coffee.

Then, Ye Shen begins to recount the events that happened after they broke up...

“And then?”

Sofi’s expression is somewhat shocked; she can’t imagine the twists and turns that Ye Shen experienced afterwards. At this moment, her eyes well up with tears.

“And then...”

Ye Shen’s voice sounds somewhat ethereal.

The scene flashes back to the car two years ago.

Ye Shen sits in the car, persuading the black market doctor to let Jiang Yan go.

The doctor sneers: “Considering her crimes, the court would surely sentence her to death anyway, we’re not killing her, just making use of the waste. A death row prisoner can be exchanged for a large reward, ensuring a carefree future for both of us. The most crucial thing is, you need her cornea...”

Noises come from the back of the car at this point.

The doctor stops the car, pulls out a syringe, intending to keep Jiang Yan unconscious.

Moments later.

The car is again on the move.

But the audience, who had completely relaxed at this point, experiences a jolt to their hearts. Some even cover their mouths, their eyes filled with shock at what’s happening on screen next!

The doctor got killed by Jiang Yan!

Covered in the doctor's blood, Jiang Yan gets back in the car and casually continues driving.

Man, this woman is truly awesome!

And truly ruthless, like a venomous scorpion!

Ye Shen, who is blind, is completely unaware and continues to plead:

“Doctor, I beg you, if you kill her to cure my blindness, I will never be able to play the piano again. What I said was just to scare her. Why do we have to take her kidney away? Please, stop the car on the roadside. Let us go...”

Driving the car, Jiang Yan wiped away her tears.

Suddenly she hit the brakes, coldly saying, “Get out!”

Perhaps Ye Shen's pleading moved Jiang Yan.

She surprisingly spared Ye Shen!

Ye Shen was stunned...

He didn't expect Jiang Yan to be by his side.

Where's the doctor?

Jiang Yan roared angrily, “Get out!”

She forcefully pushed Ye Shen out of the car.

Helpless, Ye Shen got out of the car and stood blankly in place.

Jiang Yan's tears flowed freely.

"This is no redemption... damn it!"

Just when the audience started to feel moved that Jiang Yan let Ye Shen go, she turned the car around!

She was still intending to kill Ye Shen!

Dai Rui stuttered, "Bin, this woman is terrifying!"

Bin remained silent.

The protagonist didn't die after all.

But why?

The answer was revealed in the following scene.

Mainly focusing on Hunter's view, a rabbit suddenly sprang out.

The rabbit was struck by the car and caused Jiang Yan's vehicle to flip over, creating a loud bang.

An explosion!

"The rabbit!"

"A rabbit?"

Only then did the audience remember the premonition at the beginning of the movie.

When the rabbit was stealing food and was shot by the owner of Yuan Zi's garden...

This was foreshadowing that was hinted at from the beginning!

The audience had almost forgotten!

However, this foreshadowing had played its role at the end!

The rabbit surprisingly escaped and ran into another closeup shot.

Something seemed wrong with the rabbit's gaze...

At this moment, the audience was rendered speechless with shock!

The entire cinema was filled with gasps of surprise!

Plot twist after plot twist, infinite twists!

The final twist, it was as if someone had torn through the silence of the sky!

When the audience recovered, the flashback had ended, returning to the scene at the entrance of the coffee shop.

"Sir, is this your order?"

"Yes, it is."

In the custom shop next to the coffee shop, the waiter brought a cane with a rabbit-shaped handle.

"You did nothing wrong..."

Sofi said earnestly to Ye Shen.

Ye Shen bitter smile and shook his head. After a moment of silence, he spoke:

“Thank you. Would you like to come and listen to my performance at the Golden Hall?”

Ye Shen had finally realized his dream.

Sofi hesitated and coughed. “I might not have the time... I will try to be there...”

The two bid each other goodbye.

Although the film had infinite twists, almost exceeding viewers’ imagination, the ending was particularly satisfying!

“Awesome!”

Dai Rui exclaimed.

Zhang Bin wanted to agree, but had a strange look on his face. “I feel like something is wrong...”

“What?”

Dai Rui furrowed his brows.

Then, the movie unfolded its final scene.

It was a lonely night. Ye Shen, leaning on his cane, was walking alone in the cold night. His shadow looked rather lonely.

In front of him was an empty can.

Ye Shen didn't stop his walk. And just when he was about to step on the can, he swiftly swung his cane, hitting the can away as precisely as a professional golfer...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Three thunderous explosions echoed and the big screen displayed three words that seemed to pierce everyone's heart:

The! Piano! Tuner!

Underneath these three words was a parenthesis: Also known as the "Pianist".

Zhang Bin finally realized where he felt something was wrong.

If the male protagonist was blind, he definitely wouldn't know that a rabbit saved him...

"Fuck!"

Dai Rui's body jolted. "Ye Shen was lying!! He's still pretending to be blind!!!"

At this moment!

The entire cinema erupted in gasps of shock. Audiences sat dumbfounded with their mouths agape, their faces showing the same stunned expressions.

Everyone, was stunned!

Chapter 304: A Big Brainstorm

Dai Rui and Zhang Bin looked at each other, both seeing disbelief in each other's eyes. The final scene of the film felt like a sudden black hole, devouring people's imagination and blowing open the minds of all the viewers —

Could Ye Shen really see?

Was the doctor really killed by Jiang Yan?

Did that rabbit causing the car crash exist?

Was the story he told Sofi true or false?

These questions previously had plausible answers, but with Ye Shen's throw of the can, all the answers seemed to shatter. Question marks lingered in everyone's mind.

"No."

Dai Rui, who had just exited the cinema, suddenly pulled Zhang Bin, who was deep in thought, and suggested: "Let's watch the movie again tomorrow. I feel we focused too much on the music and missed quite a few details."

"Okay."

Surprisingly, Zhang Bin agreed.

The film pushed twists to the extreme. The conclusion of the movie, the ultimate twist, completely overwhelmed viewers. With just one detail, the scriptwriter overturned everyone's understanding of the story!

Zhang Bin was included.

This was the first time Zhang Bin had decided to watch a film for the second time immediately after viewing it.

But without a second watch, many of his questions would remain unanswered. This feeling of seemingly understanding, yet not quite understanding the movie left him particularly intrigued.

Upon leaving, they noticed that a few other viewers had made the same decision: “The ending proved that the protagonist definitely lied. The question is, when did he start lying? Let’s watch it again tomorrow...”

Of course, only a minority decided to watch it again.

Most people chose to search for answers online immediately after leaving the cinemas, which led to an entirely predictable scenario.

All who had watched the movie participated in the overall analysis of the movie plot, full of shock and queries!

[Eat-sup-sup]: “I got totally fooled by the ending!”

[Qian Dan]: “The final twist is simply amazing!!! It boosted the attack power by 50!”

[Bird_Sinkingto_the_Seabed]: “Ye Shen, hitting the can flying with a tap of his walking stick at the end proves that he is not blind, and he has lied to Sofi again. But I was so immersed in the piano music at the end – it could have swollen Ol’ Chu’s face, but let’s stick with discussing the movie – it was just brilliant and I didn’t think about the repercussions of the huge plot twist immediately. Can anyone explain it?”

“If you want explanations, I got them.”

Inside a forum for mystery films.

A user who goes by the name “All_The_Username_Were_Taken”:

“The man who shot the rabbit does not exist. The protagonist just made up a story based on the rabbit-shaped figure on his cane. Jiang Yan didn’t really kill the doctor. In fact, Ye Shen and the unscrupulous doctor handed Jiang Yan to the mysterious tycoon in exchange for her kidney and a large sum of money. He even used the money to hold a concert and cured his own eyes using her corneas. Maybe Ye Shen wanted to leave Sofi with a good impression and cover up the fact that he indirectly killed someone, so he chose to lie.”

“So when did the protagonist start lying?”

“Careful viewers would notice that the story narrated in the movie and the version Ye Shen told Sofi linked through a single scene – a tree by the roadside.”

“In the movie’s narrative, the doctor drove Ye Shen and Jiang Yan past the tree towards the distance. Suddenly, the scene switched to Great Qin two years later, where Ye Shen was narrating his experiences to Sofi.”

“But in Ye Shen’s version, they didn’t simply drive past the tree; they stopped there! The commotion from the trunk as Jiang Yan woke up forced the doctor to stop and attempt to administer an injection. However, Jiang Yan fought back and killed him. So, regarding when Ye Shen started lying, the tree provides the answer!”

“...”

This post received a lot of upvotes and was the most widely accepted one because it provided the most direct evidence, making it more reliable than baseless conjectures.

However, there were alternative analyses as well.

“I think the protagonist is just a pianist who likes pretending to be blind. Maybe after being caught cheating by Sofi, the lies he told from the time they met in Great Qin until they met again were just excuses he made up after sleeping with another woman and not being able to justify his actions. He then left the girl and came up with a series of excuses after arriving in Great Qin!”

“The protagonist enjoyed playing the blind man. People’s defenselessness satisfied his voyeuristic desires. He loved prying into the unknown sides of peoples’ lives under the guise of a blind man.”

“Could the man shooting the rabbit at the beginning of the film be real? Jiang Yan didn’t kill the doctor in the car. On the way to the airport, the doctor was accidentally killed by the man hunting the rabbit. The protagonist and Jiang Yan were saved, then either deceived or persuaded the man hunting the rabbit to dispose of the doctor’s body and continue the journey to deliver Jiang Yan to the tycoon. In exchange, they got the corneas and money to travel to Qin...”

“Everything is possible, anyway, everyone in this movie is wicked! Only poor Sofi was deceived over and over again.”

“No, Sofi was not deceived in the end. When Ye Shen picked up the rabbit cane, she gave a disdainful smile. That already indicated she knew he was lying. But she believed that Ye Shen did nothing wrong by killing Jiang Yan, which is why she comforted him in the end, saying he should have taken her corneas.”

“So there is no decent person in the whole story...”

Various online analyses represented the different directions led by the open-ended conclusion.

And after reading these analyses, most ordinary viewers were shocked to realize that they had overlooked so many details!

So Sofi discovered the truth too!?

Damn, are we watching the same movie?!

We both went to public schools, how are you so clever?

At this point, a netizen followed up with a comment: “After reading the analysis by this big-shot, I suddenly felt that the male lead should be disappointed with Sofi. Perhaps, he wished his original goodness was still there, just like in his own story where the blind rabbit killed the female lead instead of him. And by the way, some people said that the last song and the romance with Sofi are forced, I feel that what Ye Shen liked was not Sofi, but his initial kindness in his heart, but in the end, Sofi did not turn out to be what he thought.”

“...”

The discussion got livelier, with some film critics also joining in.

Like everyone else, they analyzed from various angles, but their conclusions mostly pointed towards using the big tree as the reference—

The part where the tree is told in reverse order is where the male lead starts lying.

After reading these film reviews and analyses, the audience became even more aware of just how detailed and thorough this movie is!

The plot is insane! It left me speechless! The evil side of humanity is displayed in all its glory. Before watching the movie, just from looking at the poster and description, I thought it was an inspirational comedy about a blind musician. However, the story unfolded in such an unconventional manner, Xian Yu's script is mind-boggling!"

It's so freaking amazing!"

I went for the music, but ended up with so much more. It's unbelievably good! There were countless plot twists, I had goosebumps all over! The recurring theme in the beginning and ending scenes plus the final scene of the male lead really left a lot to the imagination! This is the best mystery film I've seen this year!"

Who would have thought Xian Yu could play with dark humor and storytelling tricks so skillfully! I thought the plot was spiraling out of control in the last 20 minutes of the film, then the ending completely blew me away. Apart from the blind dude's girlfriend who is somewhat decent, everyone else is evil! The script! The score! The cinematography! Every single one is fine! The plot twists were executed brilliantly, and several gags made me burst out laughing. It's been a while since I've enjoyed a film this much with my full intellect. Hats off to Teacher Admirable Fish!"

"..."

As the heated discussion among netizens continues, the piano compositions that appeared in "The Tuner" naturally became classics not to be missed!

In fact, many people initially went to see the movie just for these songs!

"The piano pieces in the beginning were all great, but the best one has to be the one played at Su Tai's death scene."

"That piece is truly amazing!"

"When I heard that piece again at the end, I felt like just for that song alone, the money I spent on the movie ticket was worth it! Not to mention how interesting the plot of the movie was..."

“This film is simply a highlight of Xian Yu’s composing talent!”

“If this is the case, is there any suspense left for the Qin-Chu music battle?”

“What suspense? The piece played at Su Tai’s death scene was absolutely divine!”

“The other pieces were also very good. When I first heard the others, I thought Xian Yu’s response was already superb. It was the piano piece at Su Tai’s death scene that made me realize that Xian Yu’s response was even more impressive than I imagined!”

“Uh... I think I now understand why Yang Zhongming suddenly pulled out of the season’s competition.”

“For this round of Qin-Chu battle, Xian Yu alone is enough for Starlight!”

“...”

Amid the sighs, someone reminded:

“The two most classic songs in the movie have been released, you can download them from any media player. The song played at Su Tai’s death scene is titled ‘Mariage d’Amour’, make sure you get the name right”

Yes

With the release of “The Tuner”, the two piano pieces from the movie have also topped the charts on major music players.

The first is “Missing”.

This track is mostly praised for its innovative style.

The most loved though, is the piano piece played at Su Tai's death scene and at the ending by the protagonist once more, named 'Mariage d'Amour'!

Those in the music circle weren't idle.

With the release of these tracks, many Qin-Chu musicians listened to Xian Yu's new work for the first time.

Outcome.

The musicians in Chu land were silenced after listening to 'Mariage d'Amour'.

To describe the situation of the Chu musicians using the in-jokes the netizens often tease each other with in games seems quite apropos:

"I've sent my part, have you?"

"I initiated it."

Chapter 305: Massacre

This is obviously just a tease, typically used between two close friends playing cooperative video games –

The coordination might be dodgy, but when it's time to surrender in a game, good buddies always have a surprising unspoken understanding.

However, this indicated the reality of Chu Province musicians.

"Is this what they call the land of music..."

"I heard Admirable Fish is still an undergraduate student in Qin province."

"This song, Mariage d'Amour, has reached a master's level. Is this the level a university student should have?"

“Don’t even talk about musicality, just comparing our ages, we’ve already lost horribly!”

“Although I don’t want to admit it, this song is indeed incredible.”

“The competition of music between Qin and Chu might continue for a while, but I feel that this harsh defeat has already foreshadowed our future.”

“We underestimated the innate musical talent of the Qin people!”

“Initially, I was unwilling to accept it, but after listening to Mariage d’Amour a few more times, I feel this result isn’t unacceptable.”

“Actually, the score is very simple, devoid of the weight and charm of classical piano, but often, simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.”

“I thought it would be a few good pop songs, but I didn’t expect Admirable Fish to throw out a piano song of this caliber, what is there to compare now?”

“From pretentiousness to concept to popularity, we’re completely crushed. If we’re not psychologically prepared, even the Maestro can’t play.”

“...”

If Blue Star people have ever read a certain science fiction novel, they will undoubtedly be able to describe this music war with great accuracy.

Four words:

Dimensional reduction.

In ordinary seasonal disputes, no matter how noisy it is, everyone is still comparing popular songs.

But Admirable Fish did not play along with them.

He directly threw out a classic piano song!

Facing such a result, the Chu people of course will be silent. Should they accuse Admirable Fish of foul play?

That would mean they lose face big time.

This is not to say that Admirable Fish has the ability to crush the Maestro.

It's to say that even the Maestro didn't expect that Admirable Fish would pull out his killer move!

Something of Mariage d'Amour's caliber, even if the Maestro racked his brains, he wouldn't dare to claim he could create it!

Online.

Apart from countless discussions about the movie, the disputes over the Qin-Chu music battle have completely turned into a one-sided slaughter!

"Does any buddy from Chu Province have any last words (sly smile)?"

"I am Chu people, and I must say I was shocked after listening to the song. Admirable Fish is amazing, I am convinced, no way to fight back!"

"Can't argue, I quit, next house."

"I am also Chu people. Now that Qin, Qi, and Chu are united, we are all one family, no need to quarrel non-stop, right."

"Great Qin is mighty, Junior Maestro is domineering!"

"Ha ha ha ha I didn't expect him to just whip out a piano song! As someone who has striven to become a pianist for many years, I almost kneeled when I heard this song! The difference between

pop songs and piano composition is like a status gap, it's as if the Chu people came with cold weapons ready for a big fight, and then saw Admirable Fish slowly pulling out an AK."

"Admirable Fish, forever the GOAT!"

"As a Qi people, I was just watching the fun, but I didn't expect the show to reach its climax just at the beginning. This Fish is too scary!"

"Honesty without bias, Mariage d'Amour by Admirable Fish can directly challenge the Maestro, right? Maybe he should consider the composition award this year."

"It's hard to get the composition award. It's usually for classical piano. Mariage d'Amour is the pinnacle of pop piano."

"..."

Among the Qin people, there are discerning ones.

Such discussions are also taking place among musicians in Qin Province. Some even guessed whether Admirable Fish might become the Maestro because of this. However, after discussing, everyone felt that this idea was not realistic...

Pop and classic are different.

You can understand this by comparing pop music with classical music.

Pop piano might be softer than classical, while classical piano pays attention to strict rhythm.

More detailed distinctions involve professional elements, which won't be elaborated here.

However, the counterattack by Admirable Fish has indeed achieved a shocking effect!

"This song can be considered the highest achievement of Admirable Fish's works to date."

“If Admirable Fish becomes the Maestro in the future, Mariage d’Amour will definitely occupy a huge weight and be considered by the judging panel.”

“Considering Admirable Fish’s status as a university student, his level is almost demonically exceptional!”

“The Chu people must be all dazed, aren’t they?”

“Nevermind the Chu people, which of us musicians in Qin Province aren’t dazed?”

“...”

Yes, everyone is dazed!

The chart hasn’t come out yet, but Admirable Fish has already released a work that directly kills all suspense!

The reality is also the same.

The next day when the season ranking was revealed, Mariage d’Amour directly became the champion, establishing a victory that belongs to pure music and the land of music!

The value of this championship is a little excessive...

Because Mariage d’Amour had more than 36 million downloads on the first day making people feel a sense of dreamlike unreality!

The second place is a piece by a composer and King of Singing from Qin Province, and the download volume barely exceeded 10 million.

That is to say.

Even if Admirable Fish didn’t make a move, the victory of February would have still been taken by Qin – The Land of Music.

And Fish made a move!

And it was a chart-topping kind!

No distinction between friend and foe!

An indiscriminate killing spree!

Every musician from Qin, Qi, and Chu who participated in this season's challenge, knelt down one by one, and from data to evaluation, it was all a complete mess!

What's even scarier is...

Another piano piece in the movie, "Missing," also ranked fourth on the new song chart.

That means...

Xian Yu alone occupied two of the top ten spots in the season rankings!

Shocking!

The three major music circles of Qin, Qi and Chu were all astounded!

This resoundingly declares that starting this season, Xian Yu officially earned the right to compete for the title of Maestro!

Aside from the shock, insiders were actually left speechless.

Especially the Chu people...

?????

More question marks than you can count.

You, Xian Yu, have such awesome pieces, so why do you want to compete with us in this season's battle!?

Even without the movie's promotion, if you directly released these, you could absolutely prove yourself to the fullest!

If we knew you had such pieces up your sleeve, even if we picked a Maestro in the Great Qin to compete, we wouldn't dare to directly contend with you, Xian Yu!

Are you messing with our mentality?

After all, "Mariage d'Amour" is an exceptional heavyweight amongst many Maestros masterpieces.

The Chu people felt a bit wronged.

The glory attributed to "Mariage d'Amour", of course, wouldn't stop there.

The day after the rankings were revealed, the official website of the "Literature and Art Gazette" gave featured coverage to the song on its front page.

As the most authoritative music media, the "Literature and Art Gazette's" acknowledgment was like a resounding stamp of approval for Xian Yu's piece:

"On February 1st, 'Mariage d'Amour', a work that best represents Xian Yu's composition skills was born. Even if it can't end the ideological conflict of Qin and Chu's music, it can at least serve as a period indicating the attribution of glory to the hall of fame, and is enough to thoroughly prove the astonishing talent of Maestro Junior Xian Yu..."

A masterpiece!

Extraordinary talent!

The keywords within the long article are easy to search for, and with this declaration from the most authoritative media in the industry, it was pretty much set in stone, and no one dared to question further.

“...”

Even the Chu people who still wanted to grumble a bit were silenced immediately after the “Literature and Art Gazette” made its statement.

This is getting crazy.

What was supposed to be an exciting season’s contest and a thrilling competition of talent, ended up being completely overshadowed by your performances!

The media in Chu land cried their hearts out!

We totally picked the wrong person to compete with!

After all, the Chu media had some plans to make a name for themselves by putting Xian Yu against a Maestro, but it turned out they had just hit a wall. Now looking back...

Wasn’t it good just being alive?

At that time...

Lin Yuan had just woken up to find his phone filled with messages from various people, which he couldn’t catch up with.

When he logged into the Tribe...

It was even more exciting.

On the Tribe, Xian Yu’s pseudonym had reached more than 86 million followers!

The comments section was blown up in an instant.

“Fish Papa is awesome!”

“This song has blown the minds of the Chu people...”

“I feel ‘Missing’ is also very nice.”

“All the songs in the movie are good, but ‘Mariage d’Amour’ is what conquers all. I’m a piano student, and this song has been listed as a compulsory piece in our department today, that’s face!”

“Our piano teacher said that Teacher Xian Yu’s song is close to becoming legendary.”

“Becoming a legend is inevitable, don’t forget, how old is Teacher Xian Yu this year!”

“...”

Lin Yuan was startled by the hustle and bustle, then he thought about something and calmed down.

It’s natural.

Although “Mariage d’Amour” is not the most lofty classical piano, but precisely because it’s not classical piano, it could be this successful.

In other words...

If an ordinary person hears “Mariage d’Amour” for the first time and compares it to a random fugue of Bach, anyone who dares to say Bach sounds better, is definitely showing off!

And it’s extremely showy!

Some people may wonder, how can “Mariage d’Amour” be compared to Bach in terms of pretentiousness, grade, and the connotation of the work?

It’s like comparing van Gogh’s works with some extremely exquisite and gorgeous paintings.

Ordinary people will only think that van Gogh’s paintings are a complete mess.

Of course there’s no comparison, and no need to compare.

Because Bach is for professionals to listen to, ordinary people don’t listen to classical, not because they aren’t used to it, but because they don’t care.

So the most popular, widely disseminated pieces are often ones like “Mariage d’Amour” which are ubiquitous.

However, the term “ubiquitous” here is not derogatory, but rather, it means that the piece is so popular that many people have calloused ears from listening to it.

Any piece that can cause people to develop callused ears should not be denied by the pretentious lot that wants to highlight their uniqueness.

The point here is that “Mariage d’Amour” is popular for a reason.

There’s a saying that over ninety percent of people in the Celestial Dynasty have heard this song inadvertently!!

So, it’s only natural that this song exploded in popularity!!

After glancing at the comments for a while and surfing the internet for a bit, Lin Yuan noticed the “Literature and Art Gazette’s” report on him—

Well played.

Front page headline.

This is a report from the music industry's most authoritative media. This is the first time Xian Yu has made the front page headline.

What's even more amazing is...

The side page, that is, the second largest section, also has content related to Xian Yu...

Chapter 306: Do You Understand Now?

"A Discussion on 'The Tuner' and Xian Yu."

This was the headline of the news on the sub-section of the Literature and Art Gazette.

The content was akin to a film review:

"Speaking of plot reversals in films, it is the most common technique in suspense films and also a touchstone for testing screenwriters. During the viewing process, viewers will constantly guess the next direction based on the existing plot. Yet reality often upends the situation and turns it in a completely opposite direction, making the film more eye-catching and whetting the viewers' appetites, even repeatedly surprising them that it can be done this way?"

"The first shot of the film actually lays the groundwork."

"This is a scene that seems to have nothing to do with the story of the sound mixer: a hunter chasing a rabbit in a vegetable field."

"Who is this hunter? Where is this scene? What circumstances led to this chase? For the rabbit, the director provides a close-up of a rabbit with one eye that can't open and one that is totally blind, what is this aiming to express?"

"There are many questions."

"Only after watching the film do we understand that it is a cyclical structure; the sound at the beginning is the setup for the ending."

“Metaphor and irony, this film achieves a high standard in suspense movies right from its structure.”

“Only after watching the film do we realize that the closed eye of the blind rabbit is reminiscent of the main character’s choice to remain silent and close his eyes to conscience when repeatedly confronted with the injustice and truths of reality?”

“This is the impact and thought brought to us by Xian Yu’s new film ‘The Tuner’.”

“And speaking of Xian Yu, the most basic impression most people have of him is that of a music composer. But with a work like ‘Mariage d’Amour’, perhaps we should call this Maestro Junior a composer. And it was this composer who chose to venture into film while his career was flourishing.”

“I believe many people, like me, were dumbfounded when they first heard that Xian Yu was going to make a film.”

“In a situation where no one was optimistic, Xian Yu completed a film called ‘Flirting Scholar’ and broke the view count record for web-based cinema. It added a new style of absurd comedy to Blue Star’s comedies, and we suddenly realized...”

“Xian Yu is not just a composer, he is also a core screenwriter.”

“But we are still limited by our inherent views. We thought that besides composing, Xian Yu was also good at writing scripts for comedies. But then we were presented with ‘The Tuner’, with its genius, plot reversal, astonishing moments, metaphors, and satire.”

“This seemingly incompatible style with absurd comedy, Xian Yu also played it skillfully.”

“Some say that talent is common. I didn’t believe it before, but now, perhaps we can try to believe that there really are people in the world who can handle both music and film concurrently. Xian Yu is not only worth remembering in the music world, but also worthy of attention in the film world!”

“In the future, we can not only look forward to Xian Yu’s music, but also his films.”

“It is undeniable that ‘The Tuner’ actually has some logical flaws. Because it over-pursues plot reversal, it inevitably has logical gaps. The identity of the composer is not an excuse for us to forgive the imperfections of Xian Yu’s works, but it is enough to be the reason why we are willing to wait for this newcomer in the film industry to grow.”

“As the saying goes, things shouldn’t be done more than three times.”

“Xian Yu’s first film, ‘Flirting Scholar’, was a big hit, perhaps some people could consider it good luck.”

“But when Xian Yu handed over a film called ‘The Tuner’ with a higher level of scripting, we should look forward to the more exciting surprises he can bring in the future. He is a successful musician and a genius filmmaker.”

“...”

This was the introduction and analysis of Xian Yu on the sub-page. And when such an introduction appears on the page of the Literature and Art Gazette, it is undoubtedly a happy event for the boost in box office revenue.

In fact.

The public’s attention has indeed gradually shifted from ‘Mariage d’Amour’, to this film by Xian Yu. This can be seen from the comments beneath the piano composition:

“After listening to the piece, I decided to go see the movie.”

“Everyone says ‘The Tuner’ is full of twists, it is itching in my heart, I have already bought the ticket.”

“The piece was composed around the film, it’s worth it for me to buy a ticket for the sake of the composition.”

“Usually it is film and television works that drive music, but ‘The Tuner’ has used music to drive the popularity of the film.”

“After listening to the piece, I watched the movie the same day. The last shot was a sight for the audience!”

“...”

In the following days, the box office began to skyrocket!

Starting with billions, this film became an indispensable hit in its release period.

After the first week, it directly garnered over 300 million at the box office, causing numerous shocks in the film industry!

It’s not about how high the box office is... this box office performance is not explosive...

But you have to know that the cost of ‘The Tuner’ is only ten million. This is a classic case of making a large amount from a small one!

Although this is not the first time that Xian Yu has made a large amount from a small one, last time Xian Yu did not participate in the box office battle, there was no direct reflection of the box office, so the impression was not very intuitive.

This time Xian Yu has shown off his skill of making a large amount from a small one in front of numerous filmmakers!

Of course.

Just like last time.

The market after the merger of Qin, Qi, and Chu is very large, and the box office of ‘The Tuner’ in the first week was indeed shocking, but it is still unable to contend for the weekly box office crown with big productions.

Because there are too many works at the same time...

This is several times the number of films on Earth at the same time!

The range of choices for viewers is terrifying!

But considering the return on investment, this film did indeed explode!

After all, what everyone compares is not the total box office, but who makes more money!

This sparked a broader discussion in the film circle.

“Why is it always a small investment for a big return? Can’t it be done in a different way? I’m so jealous my eyes are red!”

“Ah, Xian Yu’s operation mode reveals the incompetence of many old industry veterans.”

“It’s not the veterans who are incapable, but this newcomer is a bit uncanny.”

“It seems that in the future, Xian Yu will also be a person who cannot be ignored in the schedule.”

“After riding the popularity of the Qin and Chu music battle, I knew the rhythm of this wave was going to explode when I first found out about the genre and cost of ‘The Tuner’. I didn’t expect that it made 300 million in a week!”

“Why should Starlight dig out filmmakers from Qi Province? They should just hold on tight to Xian Yu.”

“This is a prodigy who has emerged!”

“...”

Speaking of the influence of different circles, Xian Yu is still unable to shake off the title of newcomer in the film circle. However, after this wave, everyone’s attention to Xian Yu has naturally taken a step up.

The outside world is already like this.

Not to mention Starlight.

When Ol' Zhou got the first week's box office for 'The Tuner', the entire company's film department was in a state of stupefaction.

"Did we make a profit again?"

"No, we made a killing."

"Or should our film department change its name to the Composition Department? It seems like we, a group of filmmakers, have to rely on this Maestro Junior for our reputation?"

"But we have to admit, Xian Yu's script this time was really good."

Last time, even though 'Flirting Scholar' was a big hit, there were still voices of disapproval within the company, because many people didn't understand the script.

This time was different!

The pure script quality made 'The Tuner' a success. Even with the popularity of the music, it couldn't overshadow Xian Yu's talent in scriptwriting!

It almost seems like Xian Yu deliberately won this time in a way that everyone could understand.

It was as if Xian Yu, in front of the film department, demonstrated the same operation and then asked the film department a question:

"Did you understand this time?"

Chapter 307: Contract Level Increase Again

Of course, Xian Yu wouldn't say that. It was merely speculation by everyone else.

However, just because Xian Yu didn't say it didn't mean others wouldn't think of it.

At this moment.

Many at Starlight's film division felt their faces flush hotly.

However...

The one who felt the most embarrassed was Du An.

Du An was the director of "Thunderstorm" and a well-known top-tier director in Qi Province.

Last year, after the merger of Qin and Qi, Starlight spent a lot to lure Du An over, building an entire film around him as the central director.

Their goal, naturally, was to make a killing and make a loud statement in the film and TV industry on Starlight's behalf.

However, the performance of "Thunderstorm" turned out to be average.

In contrast, "Flirting Scholar", which the company didn't value much, ended up carrying the banner for Starlight's film and TV department!

At that time, Du An felt rather embarrassed.

To save face, Du An decided that his next film must showcase his value and let Starlight witness the strength he possessed as a top director from Qi Province.

But...

Before Du An's next film came out, Xian Yu's new movie, "Sound Engineer", was already a success!

Du An suddenly felt even more embarrassed!

Equally embarrassed was Zhang Yu, the famous scriptwriter Starlight had poached from Qi Province. Zhang Yu wrote the script for "Thunderstorm".

But before Zhang Yu had time to write his second script, his work got overshadowed by the success of "Sound Engineer"!

It was a script that even Zhang Yu praised!

When the two men reunited, Zhang Yu sighed slightly: "Heroes come from young, you might want to consider collaborating with Xian Yu."

"I can't."

Du An smiled bitterly: "The scriptwriter-centric model is in conflict with my philosophy."

The scriptwriter-centric and director-centric models are two different ways a film crew operates, each with its own advantages.

An ambitious director, of course, would not willingly submit to the command of a scriptwriter, let alone a renowned director like Du An?

Even for Zhang Yu, his script was in service to Du An, the director. Du An's ideas determined the way the script would be presented.

Unless Xian Yu was willing to leave the presentation of the script to Du An's discretion, Du An would never collaborate with Xian Yu.

Why did everyone talk about Xian Yu when "Sound Engineer" became a hit?

It's because everyone knows "Sound Engineer" is the product of the classic scriptwriter-centric model. The director listed, Yi Chenggong, was merely a tool for Xian Yu to realize his vision.

"Right."

Zhang Yu's words were probing to some extent, which somehow assuaged her concerns. She wouldn't lose her job just yet.

"Let's do our best on our next film."

"Hmm."

Du An responded solemnly.

He came to Starlight thinking he would be the bigshot of the film division, but after joining the company, he ended up losing to a rookie. And it was through internal competition at that.

Meanwhile...

With the popularity around "Sound Engineer", Ol' Zhou, representing the film division, attended a high-level meeting hastily convened by the company.

The subject of the meeting was Xian Yu.

Chairman and CEO Li Songhua gently tapped his fingers on the desk, suddenly saying: "Let's increase Xian Yu's contract."

Everyone nodded.

As an officially recognized Maestro Junior, there has to be a huge differentiation from ordinary hit songwriters. For the company to court Xian Yu, they were willing to pay a greater price.

This was the consensus of all executives.

Li Songhua further added: “Increase Xian Yu’s resource allocation in the film division. If he shoots a new film, increase the standards a bit.”

“Sure.”

This was within Ol’ Zhou’s authority.

If it was only “Flirting Scholar” making it big, the executives might have opposed this decision, but now it’s different.

After all, when the company decided to fund “Sound Engineer”, the initial intention was just to win an award. They didn’t expect the film to have outstanding box office performance.

But now, the box office hit the mark.

Moreover, the company’s appreciation for Xian Yu has reached new heights!

...

When Lin Yuan found out his contract was being elevated again, he was quite pleased.

In fact, his agent Jin Mu had already reminded Lin Yuan to discuss a rise in contract level with the company, but before Lin Yuan took the initiative to speak up, the company very consciously made the relevant decision.

Of course, Lin Yuan was delighted.

The new contract met no resistance whatsoever. Since it was the boss’s order, Ol’ Zhou easily wrapped up the process and gave Lin Yuan a detailed introduction to the new contract:

“If you collaborate with a third-tier singer in the future, you can have 90% of the download earnings.”

Lin Yuan’s eyes lit up!

Ol' Zhou continued:

“If you collaborate with a second-tier singer, you can have 70%. The remaining portion, the company will negotiate with the singer.”

“If you collaborate with a first-tier or King of Singing, you can take 50% share. The remaining part will also be discussed by the company.”

Lin didn't pay much attention to the last two profit-sharing scenarios.

If it weren't absolutely necessary, only a fool would collaborate with second- or first-tier singers, or even the King of Singing.

Details weren't addressed further.

In any case, this contract is much stronger than Lin Yuan's previous contract!

It was double!

Daddy's share is 100%!

Lin Yuan isn't Daddy yet, but to be able to have 90% share, he was close to the Daddy's share!

Of course.

Daddy can take part in the profits outside of the downloads. That's a treatment Lin Yuan cannot have for now. However, considering Daddy's experience and his total past works far exceed his own, Lin Yuan was willing to accept this.

Without any doubts, he signed the new music contract.

With this matter resolved, Ol' Zhou looked at Lin Yuan and asked: “Do you have any other requests?”

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan had already prepared his answer: “In the future, I want to participate in 50% of the investment decisions for my scripts.”

“50%? Like this time?”

Ol’ Zhou hesitated, then said: “I’ll think about it when I go back. This isn’t a big problem, but aren’t you worried about films losing money? Don’t think that just because you’ve had two successful films in a row, that you will always be successful. The market is unpredictable.”

“I see.”

Lin Yuan spoke.

The success of films that had been successful in his previous life doesn’t guarantee 100% success in this life, but he felt that the probability of success is at least higher than that of ordinary films.

“This isn’t a big problem...”

Ol’ Zhou hesitated for a moment before saying: “But I’d suggest you invest around 30%. The company has larger operations, so if the film succeeds, even though we earn a bit more, if it fails, your losses will be less.”

Ol’ Zhou didn’t have any ill intentions.

He just felt that even the most impressive directors and scriptwriters have their off days. “Thunderstorm” was a clear example.

Lin Yuan nodded.

He didn’t plan to invest as much every time. After all, as a scriptwriter, he can also participate in the profit sharing. He can’t miss out on making money.

If there's risk, bringing the company in can lighten the load.

He couldn't avoid the company in the matter of film production anyway. Without the company's support, gathering a reliable crew wasn't easy.

"By the way."

After their discussion, Ol' Zhou asked: "Do you have any ideas for your next film?"

"Not yet."

"Alright, we will wait for your news."

Ol' Zhou got up and said, "From now on, at least one third of the resources from the film division will be on standby for you at any time. The company really trusts your scripts now, but in the future we may add a pre-condition, that is, to try and choose actors from within the company as much as possible."

"Understood, as long as the company actors meet the requirements."

"You can rest assured."

Ol' Zhou smiled: "If the company needs to find people from within, as long as the script is good, even if you want an A-lister, I can negotiate the pay."

The main creators of the film department are still Du An and Zhang Yu.

Starlight wouldn't deny the two's abilities just because "Thunderstorm" received average feedback.

However, starting from "Sound Engineer", Xian Yu will also become the second most important figure in Starlight's film department, next to these two.

Chapter 308: The Strongest Newcomer in the Film and Television Circle

In its second week of release, “The Tuner” raked in more than two hundred million at the box office, bringing its total to about six hundred million when factoring in first-week numbers. As a result, the popularity of the cast members soared, notably that of the leading man — Liu Zhengwen —

“Liu Zhengwen’s phenomenal comeback!”

“Liu Zhengwen’s new film a huge hit!”

“Analyzing the acting skills of Liu Zhengwen!”

Xian Yu’s new film does exceptionally well, Liu Zhengwen tastes sudden success!”

“Listing all those once-popular actors we’ve gradually forgotten. Some are still struggling, others have quit the circle. Liu Zhengwen has re-entered the public’s view with this film.”

“...”

This is the advantage of having had fame before.

Over ten years ago, Liu Zhengwen was once a very popular actor, whose career was cut short due to an accident on set. When he returned to the industry, he struggled to regain his previous status.

But the memories he left the audience with from ten years ago have yet to fade.

And this film, “The Tuner”, is like a spell, reviving everyone’s impression of Liu Zhengwen.

Thus...

Liu Zhengwen found fame once again.

It is important to note that this resurgence, seemingly simple, is actually the product of countless instances of persistence and hard work. So when the spotlight and flowers were once more showered upon him, Liu Zhengwen cherished the moment intensely.

“Now I understand why you took this role so seriously back then.”

These words, spoken by Liu Zhengwen’s agent, carried a hint of fear.

If Liu Zhengwen hadn’t landed that role, he would’ve regretted it bitterly. Would he still be constantly thanking Xian Yu in media interviews like he is now?

Indeed.

Lately, Liu Zhengwen has done many interviews, and in every one of them, he has often said:

“I thank Teacher Xian Yu.”

These words are heartily spoken.

And when reporters ask if Liu Zhengwen would consider collaborating with Xian Yu again in the future, Liu Zhengwen’s answer is equally resolute:

“If Teacher Xian Yu needs me, I am ready at any time.”

This is the signal he has put out to the public.

Actors typically don’t send out such signals because they could affect factors like pay and timing schedules.

This means that Liu Zhengwen has branded himself with a label – one that belongs to Xian Yu.

Ordinarily, no actor would dare to show such humility when one’s future prospects are uncertain.

Meanwhile...

As the film’s director, Yi Chenggong too has been getting a lot of interviews.

However, words from Yi Chenggong's interviews have given rise to quite a shock:

"Many people don't know that Xian Yu is actually the real director behind both 'The Tuner' and my previous slapstick comedy film. I simply followed the instructions of Xian Yu, including for camera shots and so forth, which are clearly written out in the script..."

It is known that Xian Yu's films are led by the scriptwriters.

But no one had expected Xian Yu, the scriptwriter, to have such a decisive role!

"Do you feel that your talents are not being fully utilized? Have you considered directing new films with yourself as the main lead?"

"Whether it is the scriptwriter or director who functions as the core of a production crew, the essential goal is to make the film as good as it can be. Since we're all working for the betterment of the film, naturally we should adhere to Xian Yu's guidelines. I don't believe following my own ideas to present this script would add any value. Furthermore, if I come across shots I think could be improved, I discuss it with Xian Yu. He is quite approachable off the clock, and often adopts the crew's suggestions."

...

The things Yi Chenggong said in the interview stunned many people, none of whom doubted his honesty. These facts could easily be confirmed by interviewing a few crew members, so lying would be pointless.

Besides, lying about this would bring no advantage to Yi Chenggong.

"So Xian Yu is the real director?"

"Is Yi Chenggong merely a tool?"

“It must be that Director Yi is being modest. He certainly has made his contribution to the film. With a different director, the film might not have turned out as good. But chances are Yi Chenggong is right, this film’s ultimate director in control is probably Xian Yu...”

“Since the presentation of the shots is determined by the script, hanging a director’s title under Xian Yu’s name would be perfectly fine.”

“This is absolute centralized authority on the part of the scriptwriter!”

“...”

People both within and outside the industry are taken aback.

Some remarked: “It is indeed Yi Chenggong.”

He succeeds with ease.

However, Yi Chenggong does not think there is anything wrong with this.

His dream is to be a famous director, to see his own films in cinemas, to see his own movies become box office hits.

As for whether he directs the film production or is directed by others, Yi Chenggong never pursues this.

It only goes to show that people are different.

If it were Du An, he would definitely dislike being directed by a scriptwriter.

But Yi Chenggong actually likes his current situation and even finds it palatable.

When he collaborates with Xian Yu, success comes easily.

Moreover...

People who truly know the business should understand, no matter how scriptwriter-centric the production is, the importance of a director in a film is still undeniable.

He's gained fame and fortune.

So why the need for anything more?

Yi Chenggong isn't the type of director who will get jealous just because everyone pays more attention to the scriptwriter, Xian Yu.

Even in a script-centric production, a director is still a director, isn't he?

It's worth mentioning that...

The actor Zhou Xue, who played the enchanting vixen Jiang Yan in the film, also gained popularity following the film's release!

The vicious vixen was perfectly portrayed from her performance.

Of course, we didn't see nasty instances of her being criticized online just because she played an antagonist character...

Some villains, no matter how evil, can still be loved by the audience, thanks to the actors who portray them.

This has set off a stir within the company.

First He Sheng...

Then Yu Xilu...

And now Zhou Xue...

Several actors within the company have seen their careers take off because they were involved in Xian Yu's films.

This has excited many actors in the company.

They want to be in Xian Yu's... films!

Back when Xian Yu was preparing to film "Flirting Scholar", well-known actors within the company tried to avoid it.

Even when "The Tuner" was casting, many actors didn't take it seriously.

As a result of their lack of interest, many missed out on good opportunities.

Just like Yi Chenggong publicly admitting that he was the director who followed Xian Yu's orders in the crew.

Another twist appeared after the film ended.

The name Xian Yu, already famous in music, is gaining more and more attention in the film industry as well.

"The Most Powerful Newcomer in the Film Industry."

That's how some people described Xian Yu's position in the film industry.

Chapter 309: New Short Story is Coming

The box office has basically stabilized.

In the following days, Lin Yuan didn't pay too much attention to the follow-up situation of the movie, instead, he put on his "Chu Kuang" pseudonym and started writing the last volume of "Ghost Blows Out the Light".

That's right.

After nearly a year of serialization, the book "Ghost Blows Out the Light" finally welcomed its final volume.

Because Lin Yuan's typing speed was very fast, the completion time could have been advanced by a month, but it was slightly delayed because he was previously busy with the comic and post-production music for the movie.

The final volume is named "Witch Gorge Coffin Mountain".

Among the eight stories in the serialized novel, "Witch Gorge Coffin Mountain" is not the most popular, but its importance is self-evident.

Because all the plot holes in this novel have been filled up till the last story!

This is also the biggest difference between this novel and other novels of the same genre, such as "Grave Robbers' Chronicles".

As we all know, there are many plot holes in "Grave Robbers' Chronicles" that were not filled until the end of serialization.

Hard to say what plot hole "Ghost Blows Out the Light" has left...

Could the "Sixteen Characters Feng Shui Secret" be considered one?

The author didn't give specifics about the content of the book, just saying it was very powerful.

But this can't really be considered a plot hole.

When Elder Jin was writing wuxia, he couldn't possibly write out the content of "Eighteen Dragon Subduing Palms", could he?

Besides, there is an explanation in the novel and it was mentioned that...

Because “Sixteen Characters Feng Shui Secret” would reveal the secrets of heaven, so half of it was burnt.

The remaining half of the content is explained in the novel.

This is what makes “Ghost Blows Out the Light” so impressive, it fills all the plot holes, whether they are filled perfectly or not, at least it doesn’t leave readers with doubts after reading the entire series.

The novel was completed in mid-February.

After Lin Yuan sent it to Silver Blue Books, they didn’t wait until the first of next month, but directly published it.

Then, the readers who had been following this novel for nearly a year finally saw the complete version of “Ghost Blows Out the Light”.

As a best-selling book with high popularity, the completion of “Ghost Blows Out the Light” is worth paying attention to for the entire industry.

Because of the appearance of this novel, many copycat works appeared in the industry, and some of them even had good sales. From this point of view alone, the status of this novel is already affirmed.

Therefore, as soon as the novel was finished, the sales of the previous volumes all had different levels of improvement.

In addition, the evaluation of the entire book also reached a very high level.

The message board of Silver Blue Books and the comment area of “Ghost Blows Out the Light” were very lively at this time:

“Eight volumes are not enough, Chu Kuang old rascal please give us eight more~”

“I have mixed feelings. On one hand, I don’t want this novel to end, but on the other hand, I hope it can end, because only then can we see Chu Kuang’s new book.”

“Judging from the content, the word count of Chu Kuang old rascal’s novels is increasing. This novel being serialized to nearly two million words is very conscientious. Think how many words ‘King of the Net’ has?”

“I always feel chilly on my back when reading this novel. When the novel ended, my heart also felt a chill.”

“Weasel Grave and Wrathful Huangxiang are personally considered the most exciting. The fight against the giant centipede in Wrathful Huangxiang, the relationship between Quail Whistle and Lady Red, subtle yet shocking!”

“The Ancient City of Jingjue is the most stunning, after all, it caught my eye from the beginning.”

“...”

Not only the readers’ reluctance and summary, but also the evaluation of the industry.

The chief editor of an editorial department described it as this:

“This is a work that can keep people up all night reading from the moment it is launched. It has a magnificent imagination, lifelike dialogues, a materialistic atheism challenges the unknown... and then, the status starts to reverse, there are too many things that science can’t handle... readers later read the fear in their hearts... the current science has its limits, but the unknown has no limits, we are afraid, so we invented science, but science can’t save all our fears... maybe this is how religion came.”

“Literature and Art Gazette” also reported on the matter:

“Chu Kuang, with his immense cultural heritage and scientific literacy, powerful penmanship, and structural capacity, has carved out his own path, leading the tomb-raiding novels in Blue Star. The ‘Ghost Blows Out the Light’ doesn’t really have any ghosts, but it ends in science, humanities, and

nature. It's magnificent and inspiring, like drinking wine, the feeling is intoxicating after drinking it all, and like tasting tea, you can savor it for a long time."

Meanwhile.

The forum of Chu Kuang is also full of messages from readers, of course, there are many voices urging Chu Kuang to publish a new book.

With nothing to do, Lin Yuan read many of the messages.

Among them, one message caught his attention:

"Did Chu Kuang old rascal forget that he hasn't written a short story for a long time? After 'Necklace', I've been looking forward to his new short work, don't just focus on writing long ones."

Indeed.

After finishing "Necklace", Lin Yuan hadn't touched short stories for a while. When he was lucky, he had gotten five short stories in a row.

Now he has published four of them, with one still in his hand unreleased.

Should he find an opportunity to release it?

Because he can't start a new long story right away, there is still room for "Ghost Blows Out the Light" to digest.

He hadn't released any short story for so long, so he didn't have this concern.

With that thought, Lin Yuan surprisingly felt the pleasure of actively publishing his new work, and started chatting with Jin Mu.

"A new short story?"

Jin Mu thought for a while and said: “The most suitable platform for publication at the moment is Tribe. Since Qin Qi Chu merged, the author resources have greatly increased, and Tribe is releasing new short stories every month. Also, the top three have long-term bonuses, and this platform can guarantee the maximum number of readers for your novel...”

Then he continued.

Jin Mu smiled and said: “Because of Chu’s entry, your short story writer rank has dropped several places. If the quality of this novel is good, our ranking may be higher...”

Lin Yuan said, “So I’ll publish it first?”

Jin Mu shook his head: “Big name short story writers like you can negotiate with the website about the fee for new works, which is an income in addition to the prize money. This means we can earn a bit more.”

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan laughed.

This is the advantage of having an agent, before he used to publish directly, then tried to get the prize money. He didn’t realize that he could calculate the fee before publishing. Jin Mu would discuss this with the other party.

“We could earn at least an additional two hundred thousand!”

Jin Mu confidently said: “Of course, the premise is that you can get in the top three, plus, your ranking in the field of short story writers also decides the amount of the fee. If you enter the top ten, we should be able to ask for more, because besides Tribe, there are other platforms soliciting contributions.”

Tribe is now the biggest platform.

But apart from Tribe, desperate competitors like blogs and others have never given up struggling, still trying to find the turning point, after all, the struggle for customers is not a matter of a day or two.

For now, Tribe just has the upper hand.

Chapter 310: It's All Over

Jin Mu's actions were swift, and because he hoped to release a new work in March, he had already quickly negotiated cooperation terms with Tribe Literature. As long as Chu Kuang could ensure a top-three placing in the current event, he would receive an extra 200,000 yuan in manuscript fees

This highlights the importance of an author's worth.

Currently, Chu Kuang was ranked 14th among the short-story authors in the Qin Chu sector, and his promotional and motivational powers were immense.

This was why Chu Kuang could demand extra manuscript fees from the Tribe for his new publication!

This was all due to the eagerness of platforms like the blogging sites.

If they didn't concede to Chu Kuang's requests, what if he turned around and cooperated with the bloggers instead?

They certainly had to take precautions.

And the situation proved Tribe's concern to be valid.

No sooner had Jin Mu, representing Chu Kuang, signed the new short-story contract with the Tribe, than people from the blogging sites came knocking.

"The blogs hope you could work with them, offering a manuscript fee of 300,000 yuan, with any resulting awards being separate..."

By the time Jin Mu mentioned this to Lin Yuan, the contract had already been signed.

There was nothing they could do.

Lin Yuan did not intend to breach the contract. He took contract spirit seriously; the reputation of all his pseudonyms was vital.

“Of course, I’m not suggesting you break the contract.”

Jin Mu chuckled, “I’m just considering whether it’s possible to partner with the bloggers for the next short story?”

Lin Yuan paused, then said, “It’s worth considering.”

His partnership with the Tribe was temporary after all.

If the bloggers could offer a higher price, Lin Yuan would of course contemplate publishing his new work with the bloggers.

There are no eternal friends, nor eternal enemies.

While Chu Kuang had once helped the Tribe against the bloggers, it didn’t mean he couldn’t help the bloggers against the Tribe.

This could not be considered disloyalty.

Jin Mu nodded, “I will keep in touch with the bloggers. For the next piece, if they offer more, we’ll consider it.”

At that point, Jin Mu added,

“With the amalgamation ongoing, there are increasingly more leading authors in various fields, and the Tribe is getting more selective with authors than before. So, it’s common for authors to publish

one piece of work with Tribe and the next with the bloggers. Even the Tribe can't say much about it. We're all accustomed to this back-and-forth running."

Tribe offered a cash prize for the top three authors.

The bloggers also had a similar cash reward program.

As the sums were similar, authors would naturally look at both sides.

If the competition of Tribe was too tough one month, why not venture next door?

While the blogger site had fewer readers than Tribe, the difference wasn't fatal.

As things were settled,

quickly, Tribe announced to the public that Chu Kuang's new work would be released in March. This was the usual warming-up every large platform would carry out. With Chu Kuang's fame, the publicity effect was remarkable.

The reality proved as much.

Having not released any new work for a long time after "Necklace", many were eagerly awaiting a new piece from Chu Kuang. The promotional column was full of hopeful comments:

"Finally, a new work is coming!"

"Chu Kuang's short stories are exceptional!"

"I have always felt that Chu Kuang should be ranked higher in the short-story rankings; his several pieces are still classics today. I hope that this new novel can boost Chu Kuang's ranking. "

"Oh, is this a new piece from old rascal Chu Kuang? Oh, it's a short story, no worries then."

“Hahahaha, too real! Just at a glance, you know it’s a fan of long stories. But Chu Kuang’s short stories are not bad either, they worth reading.”

“Is Chu Kuang preparing to make a run for the rankings with this move?”

“Looking at Tribe’s line-up, it’s clearly Chu Kuang’s world next month.”

“Yes, I wasn’t looking forward to Tribe’s roster next month, but seeing Chu Kuang, I think I can still hold on.”

“Looks like Chu Kuang is going to get the first place prize.”

“Can’t promise first place, but top three for sure, since there’s also Teacher Shen Jiarui in the same period.”

“...”

No matter if it’s the Tribe, bloggers, or other platforms, each time they have a new short story writer participating in the next month’s reward contest, they will leverage the author’s fame for promotion.

At Tribe Literature, the slots for March’s reward contest were almost filled.

The most impressive one so far was Shen Jiarui.

This was the currently 26th-ranked short story writer in the Amalgamated Continent, showing substantial prowess.

With the addition of Chu Kuang, the most dazzling author naturally became Chu Kuang.

However...

Compared with the reader’s excitement and anticipation, the authors scheduled to release their new short stories at the Tribe in March were not as delighted.

Almost as soon as the news came out, their small circle of short-story authors began their lamentation.

“It’s over, Chu Kuang will be in March!”

“Blasted! If I had known Chu Kuang was coming out in March, I should have avoided him. Top three just lost one slot!”

“Teacher Shen Jiarui has already given us a headache, adding Chu Kuang into the mix, we lose two slots from the top three. Are we competing for the third place now?”

“So we can only watch Teacher Chu Kuang and Shen Jiarui’s battle?”

“I had my eyes on the third, now it seems unlikely. Fortunately, I managed to negotiate some manuscript fees privately.”

“Tribe doesn’t pay much privately; only big names like Chu Kuang and Shen Jiarui could get a high manuscript fee.”

“...”

Unwittingly, Chu Kuang had become the boss in many of his colleagues’ eyes.

His plan to release a new work in March had his contemporaries facing a tricky situation.

At this moment,

someone in one of the short-story authors’ chat groups mentioned Shen Jiarui:

“Teacher Shen, your chance to raise your ranking is here, just defeat Chu Kuang!””

“Exactly, Chu Kuang is ranked 14th. If he loses, he may not drop in ranking, but Teacher Shen will definitely rise if he wins.”

“A crisis can present an opportunity.”

“I believe any writers who could make the short-story ranking are fearsome. Teacher Shen being in her 20’s is not to be underestimated.”

“...”

Shen Jiarui was watering his plant at home when he saw the group messages, a glance was enough for his eyes to slightly bulge:

“Chu Kuang is publishing at the same time as me?”

He asked the group buddies.

“Yes,”

“Tribe just announced it officially. Chu Kuang has not released any new short stories for a long time, but you happen to release at the same time. If he released last month, it would have been fascinating. Last month’s author Chu Province, who’s ranked 8th in the short story, grabbed the championship.”

“This month is also good, it’s Teacher Shen’s opportunity!”

“If you defeat Chu Kuang, Teacher Shen will skyrocket!””

“We can do this!””

“...”

People replied in the group chat.

Everyone thought Shen Jiarui was ready for the battle and started to cheer him up, he was the most capable writer in the group!

If someone had the power to fight Chu Kuang, it could only be Shen Jiarui in this group.

“...”

Shen Jiarui sent a few ellipses, his face fell, and he left a message in the group:

“No, it’s over.”

He could kiss his first place goodbye!