

All R. Artist 351

Chapter 351: God's Hand

In the face of a masterpiece like “Murder on the Orient Express,” all detective novelists can only marvel at the genius of Chu Kuang!

It's hard to imagine that such a classic work, highly acclaimed by the detective association, was written by a novelist with little detective writing experience—

Chu Kuang is indeed prolific.

He writes fantasy novels, excels in short stories, and straddles two major areas. He is acknowledged as a genius in the world of fiction.

However, his real detective writing can be summed up in a single work, “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”, and with this one entry into the world of detective writing, Chu Kuang brought a storm of narrative trickery!

As for his short story “The Fall of the Dondon Bridge” published last month, people didn't pay much attention to it.

To put it in kind words, that's Chu Kuang's enrichment and complement to narrative trickery.

Less so, he's mocking readers out of boredom and taking a large sum of blog manuscript fees by the way, drawing enough attention.

Up to now, the impression Chu Kuang left on the detective writing circle was still just a genius who enjoyed fooling around and teasing his readers with his narrative tricks.

Not until Chu Kuang published “Murder on the Orient Express” did all disputes in the detective circle crumble before this work.

No one called Chu Kuang a frivolous trickster anymore.

Nor did anyone say that Chu Kuang was just fooling around with readers in virtue of his talent.

He is more of a master of detection, causing occasional laughter, but with profound insights!

He completed a detective show, initiated and concluded by Poirot, with an almost devout ceremonial sense!

From narrative trickery to tradition...

From playful creation to classical mystery...

As a constant character, Poirot is already showing a trend toward canonization!

As the creator of Poirot, at this point, Chu Kuang has also become the “newbie” of monstrous talent in the eyes of detective writers!

Well, Chu Kuang is still a newcomer by the number of detective works.

But this newcomer is terrifyingly formidable, and no detective writer is willing to describe Chu Kuang as a “newcomer” anymore.

So, “monstrous” is the appropriate term.

This is a title that belongs to Chu Kuang, because it’s hard for everyone to regard Chu Kuang as a newcomer. Who else would have such a high starting point when they debut?

“Chu Kuang has blurred the boundaries of the detective circle. If we say he is a top-tier detective writer, his works have made it into the top ten in the detective rating. He has overwhelmed Leng Guang, a top-tier detective writer, in the literary duel. Yet if we say he is a top-tier detective master like Carter, he has only written two detective stories! Well, I think ‘The Fall of the Dondon Bridge’ is not a detective story.”

The industry has a habit of grading different writers.

However, they found that Chu Kuang cannot be graded.

His qualifications were too shallow and his upper limit too high. Chu Kuang now only has few works. No one knows what level Chu Kuang will reach in the future.

Anyway, the wretched loser in this literary duel, Leng Guang, is a bona fide top-tier detective writer. This could be used as a reference to assess Chu Kuang.

Some shook their heads, “Leng Guang crashed quite badly this time.”

Some held a different opinion, “It’s not disgraceful to lose to ‘Murder on the Orient Express’, because anyone would be the same.”

A sigh from the former, “But he nonetheless lost, becoming a backdrop for Chu Kuang.”

The latter seriously retorted, “Didn’t you notice that nobody is scoffing at Leng Guang? He may have lost, but he demonstrated his skills. It’s just that the opponent was too inhuman.”

As the two sides were about to argue, a senior remarked:

“Nobody has the right to ridicule Leng Guang. For all the detective writers present, anyone who faces ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ will experience the same outcome.”

“What would happen?”

“They will surely perish.”

A silence fell over the detective circle.

Chu Kuang’s “Murder on the Orient Express” is an almost invincible work. As that senior said, it’s not about Leng Guang. Anyone who confronts this novel will die.

...

The ripple continued to spread, starting from the detective forum and eventually sweeping across various related platforms.

On the official website of the detective association, “Murder on the Orient Express” has been included in the top ten of the rating leaderboard.

The comments on the novel were like those of other high-rated detective novels, full of praise.

“Chu Kuang’s ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ adopted the purest traditional flavor, presenting to the readers a grand feast of detection!”

“With more and more detective novels on the book market starting to use similar templates, we often see a gruesome case occurring. The detective arrives and conducts an unexplainable investigation, following up with some seemingly baseless detective work, or even disappearing for a few days in order to find clues. When the truth is revealed, an astounding secret is exposed, and we as readers can only marvel without fully understanding. However, what Chu Kuang brings readers is a fair duel with the detective, and also offers us humanitarian contemplation outside of the case. This is incredibly rare.”

“Yes, in order for the conclusion to be sufficiently unexpected, regardless of the case or the detective’s investigation, the more perplexing they can manage, the more perplexing they will be. So while the conclusion is astonishing indeed, I always feel that what I read before was useless. I only need to see the case occur and the final reveal by the detective. The investigation feels like I am complete idiot, not understanding anything, only regularly seeing the detective’s knowing smile. But when the detective finally reveals the solution, I finally understand what happened in the case.”

“Where’s the promised confrontation between the reader and the detective?”

“The work of Chu Kuang this time is completely different. You don’t have to guess what kind of investigation the detective did. The author lays out every step of the detective’s investigation and the evidence obtained in front of the reader, inviting the reader to join the detective in cracking the case. I inevitably get involved. The author does not try to trip up readers in terms of specialized knowledge, investigative situations, or evidence, and makes up for readers’ disadvantaged reading position as much as possible, offering a platform for thinking. He does not dwell on issues such as investigations but leaves room for plot twists, which still make sense. The reader is allowed to guess and think according to the development of the plot and the gradual increase of evidence, draw conclusions and overturn their own conclusions, and then continue to guess and think...until the answer is given, the reader’s thinking has been following the plot development, and the answer

given both makes sense and is invariably unexpected. So the reader can't help but admire the author's meticulous thinking and ingenious planning."

"Those detective stories that are afraid to tell readers the investigative details and case evidence are indeed afraid readers will guess the result too soon and lose interest in the story. But this should involve an exploration into the story structure and plot, rather than a petty cleverness that conceals and confuses readers, or deifying detectives. Readers are not just placed in a position equal to the characters in the story, but they also fail to find enjoyment and gain respect."

"After all this verbosity, there's actually just one sentence: Chu Kuang was divine this round."

The tone smacks of a self-media, suspected of either stepping on some or boosting others. However, it reveals a fact implicitly:

Chu Kuang has won over the discerning traditional mystery lovers.

It was not long ago that Chu Kuang's reputation in the detective circle was teetering on the brink due to "The Fall of the Dondon Bridge."

However, once "Murder on the Orient Express" was published, the world seems to have changed.

In this world, there is someone who will never change.

This person is the well-known Chu Kuang advocate, Shen Jiarui, who stated on the Tribe: "It is said that there is a term called 'God's Move' in Go. 'Murder on the Orient Express' is Chu Kuang's God's Move!"

Chapter 352: Chu Kuang's Fans Break 100 Million

"Professional Chu fanatic online."

"Dedicated to Chu adoration for a hundred years."

"Opened his mouth and began praising Ol' Chu."

"..."

Shen Jiarui's nickname as "Chu praiser" is now known all over the internet.

Even some internet users, who also praise Chu, follow and praise him in the comments, obviously seeing Shen Jiarui as their spiritual leader.

In his comment section, many people are using the three words Shen Jiarui previously used:

"Who else?"

Shen Jiarui responded with a cheering emoji.

Chu Kuang's "Who else" has gained popularity through Shen Jiarui's promotion.

It is the third day since the release of "Murder on the Orient Express".

And in these short three days, the sales of "Murder on the Orient Express" have exceeded ten million!

The booksellers once again witnessed Chu Kuang's terrifying book sales capability!

Meanwhile.

The number of Chu Kuang's tribe fans is also steadily marching towards the 100 million mark, and it is estimated that it will reach that milestone in the next few days.

Obviously, this is largely due to the success of "Murder on the Orient Express".

This work has successfully conquered many traditional mystery enthusiasts!

Because Poirot in the book is very popular, there are also fans who are good at painting. Based on the character image description and character introduction of Poirot in the novel, create some portrait paintings of Poirot-

Some are realistic.

Some are cartoon-like.

The appearance of these virtual character images of Poirot represents the readers' love for Poirot and widespread attention.

At this juncture.

There was news that several film and television production companies had the idea of purchasing the film and television rights of "Murder on the Orient Express" and had contacted Chu Kuang's agent on this matter.

This has stirred up the expectation of many readers, even to the extent of eagerly looking forward to it!

In fact, on Earth, "Murder on the Orient Express" has been adapted into film several times.

This is naturally a very suitable work for film and television adaptation!

Inside the comic studio.

Jin Mu asked Lin Yuan with a smile:

"We've accumulated a lot of copyright inquiries, should we consider handling some of them?"

Indeed, some companies are considering adapting "Murder on the Orient Express" for film and television, but not just this one.

The copyrights inquiries Jin Mu is referring to basically include the ongoing manga "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" and the eight stories of "Ghost Blows Out the Light", and some even want to buy the rights to "Zhu Xian" along with the latest "Murder on the Orient Express".

People have been asking about things related to film, television, animation, etc., but Lin Yuan has always kept his mouth shut about this.

The reason for not loosening up is simple.

Lin Yuan is afraid that his work will be ruined if it's adapted.

It's too disrespectful to struggle with copyright issues.

Although Lin Yuan loves money, he's not particularly short of it, so Lin Yuan asked Jin Mu to investigate these companies.

If the film and television company that made the inquiry has a good reputation, he is willing to sell the copyright.

“Have you investigated?”

“It's clear now, some companies are trustworthy, for example, the company that wants the production rights of ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’ is the third-ranked animation production company in Chu Province. Their level is considered first-class in the circle, and they also offered a lot of money.”

“Hmm.”

“There is also this TV drama production company called ‘Time Production’, they want to buy the copyright of ‘Ghost Blows Out the Light: The Ancient City of Jingjue’. This is the first story in the Ghost Blows Out the Light series, so there are the most requests for copyrights. The contract signed with our company can stipulate the director and actors. They are all teams with fairly strong abilities in the industry and can ensure to the greatest extent the seriousness of the television drama shooting.”

“...”

Following the communication between Jin Mu and Lin Yuan, Lin Yuan decided to sell some copyrights.

However, he made a rule that the copyrights he let out must have a time limit.

In the past life, the author of the “Ghost Blows Out the Light” series didn’t make much money because of copyright issues, even though the film and television adaptations of his work were very popular. The specific reason can be found on the internet.

Therefore, Lin Yuan is very careful when it comes to letting out copyrights.

For example, “Ghost Blows Out the Light: The Ancient City of Jingjue”, although he plans to sell the copyright, he only gives three years.

During these three years, the purchasing company can film it into a television drama.

Whether they film it or not, after three years, Lin Yuan will take back the copyright and the company will not be able to shoot again unless they buy the copyright from Lin Yuan again.

Of course, the animation production rights of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” can also be sold accordingly.

This manga was originally about to end, and continuing with an animation is a good choice.

Also planned to be released is “Murder on the Orient Express”.

The only one that no one seems to want to buy is “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”, but this is a problem with the work itself, not a problem with Chu Kuang.

It’s apparent.

The charm of this “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” lies in the textual Narrative Trickery, which is more interesting to read in a novel.

Therefore, on Earth, there is a saying, “Agatha Christie wrote ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ many years ago, but it took film companies several decades to figure out how to make it into a movie”.

“You go negotiate the specific price.”

Lin Yuan delegated this task to Jin Mu.

As long as the price and conditions are satisfactory, just bring the contract here for Lin Yuan to sign.

The total of these copyright fees has already exceeded one hundred million!

In addition, Lin Yuan’s current annual income is also easily over one hundred million!

With the increasing number of works under his three pseudonyms, Lin Yuan’s income is becoming more and more horrifying.

“It seems I need to be a bit more expansive.”

After reckoning how much money he could get from selling the copyrights, Lin Yuan decided to play more freely in the future and make better use of the system to improve the quality of his works.

For example, films.

Why not use all those props that assist in making films better?

After all, props that cost hundreds of thousands, or even millions, are trivial compared to Lin Yuan’s current income.

Lin Yuan is consciously adjusting his mindset.

This is probably related to Lin Yuan having read a lot of books recently with the help of the system’s energy potions and other props.

Having read a lot of books, he feels that his insight has improved a lot and he is no longer as petty as before.

After changing his way of thinking, Lin Yuan did the following things:

Increased Jin Mu's salary.

Increased Luo Wei's salary.

Bought a gaming cabin and other fun things for his home.

Increased his sister's pocket money.

Changed a better car for his sister.

And...

On second thought, it seems that he didn't just do a few things, basically all related to spending money.

"A problem that can be solved with money is not a problem."

When Lin Yuan watched movies before, every time an actor said this line, he always felt it was too fake, but now he has a bit of understanding of this sentence.

After all, any of Lin Yuan's three pseudonyms, when singled out, has a considerable income.

Even if the least noticeable, Shadow, relying on the serialization of "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" and the subsequent layoff of royalties, can easily earn tens of millions a year.

Thinking like this.

Lin Yuan suddenly received a system prompt:

[Ding dong! Congratulations to the host for completing the task of having 100 million fans on Chu Kuang's account, reward: one Silver Treasure Chest, three Bronze Treasure Chests!]

Chapter 353: Four Consecutive Draws from the Treasure Chest

Three Bronze Treasure Chests, and a Silver Treasure Chest.

With tasks that span a long timeline and present a relative high difficulty, the rewards are naturally substantial.

But I wonder what good stuff would come out this time?

Given Lin Yuan's nature, he would probably wait for a lucky moment to claim his rewards.

But as mentioned earlier, Lin Yuan's mindset has changed a bit.

Maybe it's a good idea to open the chests while they're still hot!

If they sit too long, the chests might cool off.

So no more hesitation, let's just get straight to it.

With this thought in mind, Lin Yuan spoke, "Open a Bronze Treasure Chest first."

System: [Congratulations Host for getting the song "Nervous".]

The song "Nervous"?

Well, this song is good.

This reward is quite generous considering it comes from a Bronze Treasure Chest.

Without thinking too much,

Lin Yuan proceeded to open the second chest.

System: [Congratulations Host for obtaining a basic level in all musical instruments!]

At this instant, Lin Yuan felt as if countless pieces of musical instrument knowledge were flooding into his brain.

Guitar, violin, guzheng, guqin, erhu...

He knew a bit of each.

Well, alright.

Indeed, only a tiny bit, all at a basic level of understanding.

In other words, Lin Yuan now understood all the musical instruments but wasn't a master in any of them. He was at the stage of just being able to play.

However, this reward was very practical for someone like Lin Yuan, who liked to compose his own music!

There are so many musical instruments.

If it wasn't for the system's reward, it would be unimaginable how long it would take Lin Yuan to learn about them one by one!

So, Lin Yuan would not be dissatisfied just because the award for musical proficiency was basic.

On the contrary.

Lin Yuan thought that if a Bronze Treasure Chest could come out with such a reward, then its value was already quite high!

Feeling lucky.

Lin Yuan decided to take a gamble on a triple draw!

He proclaimed loudly, “Open another Bronze Treasure Chest.”

Lin Yuan was already feeling the allure of opening chests consecutively. It was as exciting as lottery draws!

“Ding dong!”

The system presented the reward from the third Bronze Treasure Chest: [Congratulations Host for obtaining professional level calligraphy skills!]

Whosh.

With the opening of the third chest, Lin Yuan’s brain was flooded with countless pieces of calligraphy knowledge,

Including brush calligraphy, pen calligraphy, and so on.

“Calligraphy skills?”

This time, Lin Yuan was more surprised than excited.

Because Lin Yuan’s time is precious now, and he can’t do as he did before, teaching painting to a wide range of students to earn money.

The same goes for calligraphy.

Even if he could teach professional level calligraphy, he wouldn’t actually go out to some university to impart calligraphy skills. So the only advantage of this reward is...

Perhaps in future when signing books for readers, he won't be laughed at by the crowd?

See who would dare to say his handwriting is a child's writing.

No, that's not right.

Since he has acquired calligraphy skills, why not hold a signing event now? It might even boost the sales of "Murder on the Orient Express."

Lin Yuan was pumped.

Lin Yuan, who probably cares a lot about his handwriting being laughed at by the group, immediately contacted Jin Mu and asked him to bring over fifty books.

He was going to hold a book signing event again, to vindicate his handwriting!

"Okay."

Jin Mu agreed.

After hanging up the phone, Lin Yuan looked at the last chest of the system.

This chest was at the Silver level!

After opening three Bronze Treasure chests consecutively, Lin Yuan was now really tempted to open the Silver Treasure Chest.

Should he open it now?

Hit a quadruple draw now?

After gritting his teeth, Lin Yuan said, "Open the Silver Treasure Chest!"

“Ding dong.”

It was the fourth prompt from the system: [Congratulations Host for obtaining Hercule Poirot Complete Series!]

With the system prompt, Lin Yuan was stunned.

So items from hot-opening chests could be this amazing?

The song, basic instrument skills, professional level calligraphy, all are good.

But all these rewards from the Bronze Treasure Chests added together couldn't compare to the reward from the Silver Treasure Chest!

This was the complete series of Hercule Poirot!

You should know that for every custom mystery novel Lin Yuan had written before, each one required a reward expenditure!

But this time he was incredibly lucky and directly got the complete series of Hercule Poirot mystery novels!

This alone covered dozens of Agatha Christie's mysteries.

It even included timeless masterpieces like “Death on the Nile”!

What a windfall!

Indeed worthy of being a Silver Treasure Chest.

Lin Yuan was very satisfied inside.

Last time, a “Death Note” came out of the Silver Treasure Chest, which was given to Shadow.

But in terms of value, compared to the items from other Silver Treasure Chests, “Death Note” was completely blown out by the Hercule Poirot Series this time!

There was no helping it.

The Hercule Poirot Series had too many novels.

For example, the mentioned “Death on the Nile”.

The value of this novel was almost on par with “Murder on the Orient Express”.

There are also “The ABC Murders”, “Evil Under the Sun”, etc.

These novels, when singled out, were no match for “Murder on the Orient Express”, but combined as a series, they were formidable!

In Agatha Christie’s lifetime, she mainly published around 80 detective works.

There are 38 in which Hercule Poirot is the main character!

In other words.

With the Hercule Poirot Complete Series, Lin Yuan had effectively obtained half of Agatha Christie’s works!

Of course.

The series doesn’t include “And Then There Were None”, because unfortunately, our Hercule Poirot didn’t take part in that story.

But Lin Yuan doesn’t ask for such generosity.

After all, excluding the already published “Murder on the Orient Express” and “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”, Lin Yuan had received throughoutly thirty-six of Agatha Christie’s detective works in one shot!

What a profit!

Lin Yuan had already started planning the release time of his “Hercule Poirot Complete Series”.

He even considered the possibility of releasing the entire series directly.

While Lin Yuan was thinking, Jin Mu had someone bring in fifty unpublished copies of “Murder on the Orient Express” into the studio.

“Begin signing.”

Lin Yuan took out the pen on the table.

“Chu Kuang.”

The two words, full of vigor and resembling cursive calligraphy, appeared on the first page of the novel, right under the blank space of Carter’s preface.

After signing, he handed the book to Jin Mu for re-packaging.

Jin Mu took the book, instinctively inspecting it while preparing himself to see the boss’s infamous primary-school-student handwriting.

As everyone knows, boss’s handwriting... was ugly, widely acknowledged to be that of a primary school student’s.

But when Jin Mu saw Lin Yuan’s signature this time, his eyes suddenly widened!

The signature was bold and flowing, with a strong sense of artistry and a forceful presence!

The vigorous and round strokes of the pen and ink lines were winding; the structure and layout of the characters were adventurous, varied and continuous!

Looking back.

He saw Lin Yuan, pen in hand, deftly writing his pen name. With short lines cutting off abruptly, and long lines flowing smoothly, where was the primary school student handwriting from before?

Jin Mu was dumbfounded.

He suddenly felt very tired inside.

It turns out that the crap that Lin Yuan was writing before was just to mess with us?

He had bought practice books for the boss, but there's no guarantee that the teacher who made those books would have a higher writing level than the boss, right?

Chapter 354: Chu Kuang the Old Rascal is Fooling Readers Again

In his early days, Jin Mu was quite a character, valuing cultural cultivation.

He could tell at a glance that the word Lin Yuan wrote was not an ordinary one.

An average person could not achieve such a standard without a certain amount of practice!

Look at these skillful strokes and the professional demeanor while holding the pen and writing.

The boss must be a master of calligraphy!

Because anyone with a bit of common sense knows that one's calligraphy can't leap from a primary school level to a master's level in a short period of time...

So why were the boss's words so ugly before?

There can only be one truth!

Lin Yuan was previously intentionally using a primary school font to tease everyone!

His judgement was correct. Chu Kuang, the man who invented the narrative trickery, was playing with the readers, and his heart must be as black as ink upon dissection.

He's full of bad taste!

"I used to think that the almost perfect boss had a weakness, that his handwriting was as ugly as that of a primary school student, but it turns out the boss was deliberately teasing me."

Come to think of it, it's true.

The boss is so good at painting and composing, and he's proficient in writing novels and scripts, a true all-around artist!

How can such a person lag in the most basic aspect of handwriting?

Most arts require acquired practice, except for handwriting, everyone starts to learn it as soon as they start school.

As expected, the boss has no weaknesses.

Jin Mu thought as he sorted out the books signed by Lin Yuan and sent them back to the publisher.

The next day.

These books were mixed with several batches of newly published goods and distributed through various channels.

At the same time.

Silver Blue Books also followed the same approach as with The Murder of Roger Ackroyd, announcing that Chu Kuang's signed books were randomly on sale.

There are still a lot of people buying books.

Soon, the first lucky person got Chu Kuang's signed book.

This lucky netizen, named Jianhui, seemed to be from the Qi people. After receiving the first signed copy of Murder on the Orient Express, he excitedly made a post on his blog:

“Ahhhhh! I got the old rascal's autograph! I'm going to treasure it like a family heirloom!!!”

What used to be a mundane internet user suddenly became the object of envy for many people!

“I'm so jealous that I want to reveal my identity: my name is Zhang Wei, you can call me Wei.”

“Ha, I got Chu Kuang's autograph. It's said that only fifty copies of Murder on the Orient Express are signed. It's an absolute steal to be able to buy a signed edition.”

“Is it real or fake? No picture, no proof?”

“Are you sure it's not a scam, is it the real thing?”

“You're the first one to claim to have a signed book, share a picture, if it's confirmed I'm willing to offer five thousand.”

The netizen who left this comment is obviously wealthy.

Jianhui looked at the comments, and seeing that quite a few people were doubting him, made another post, releasing nine pictures!

In these nine photos, he showed off the pristine cover of Murder on the Orient Express and the page with Chu Kuang's signature from all angles.

You should believe now, right?

Jianhui felt smug and took the opportunity to reply to the wealthy netizen:

“I’m not planning to sell it. I’m a fan of Teacher Chu Kuang, I will keep this book as a collection.”

To Jianhui’s surprise, the wealthy netizen replied to him this way:

“I don’t intend to buy it anymore, you seem to have been tricked by an unscrupulous bookseller, this is not Chu Kuang’s autograph.”

Jianhui was stunned.

At this point, more comments appeared, saying the same thing as the wealthy netizen.

“Fake autograph!”

“Chu Kuang’s handwriting is not this beautiful.”

“Last time *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* was released, didn’t he also sign? It was definitely a primary school font.”

“Let me show you a picture, someone posted it online last time.”

A netizen posted a signed copy of *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, which was officially approved as a real signature by Silver Blue Books, who even congratulated the lucky guy who posted that picture.

“Did you see that? This is Chu Kuang’s real signature!”

“I feel sorry for the original poster.”

“I’m guessing some bookseller wanted to fool consumers and had someone else sign it. It’s disgusting, you can make a complaint to the bookstore.”

“From what I see, the original poster clearly had no idea.”

“Uh, those who noticed The Murder of Roger Ackroyd signed edition last time would know Chu Kuang’s handwriting is worse than a primary school student’s.”

“...”

Jianhui compared the autograph on the title page of The Murder of Roger Ackroyd and his expression gradually fell.

Although the signature on Murder on the Orient Express was more beautiful, it didn’t seem to be Chu Kuang’s!

If it’s not Chu Kuang’s signature, then there’s no point calling it a “signed copy”.

Thinking this way, Jianhui almost wanted to follow the netizen’s advice and go to the bookstore to demand an explanation.

However, just at that moment, Silver Blue Book’s official blog account mentioned Jianhui and explained:

“This copy of Murder on the Orient Express is personally signed by Teacher Chu Kuang, everyone can stop doubting. As for why the handwriting is completely different from last time, we were flabbergasted when we received the signed books. You should probably interview Mr.Chu Kuang himself (dog head emoji).”

Jianhui: “...”

He felt like he went from heaven to hell, then back to heaven again.

If the publisher says it’s Chu Kuang’s autograph, how can it be fake!?

“Holy shit! It’s real!?”

After seeing the official explanation, the wealthy man quickly messaged Jianhui again:

“Teacher Chu Kuang’s signature is so beautiful this time, if you’re willing to sell, I can offer ten thousand!”

The wealthy guy immediately raised his price.

The other netizens were both surprised and puzzled.

“Is this really Mr.Chu Kuang’s signature?”

“Are you sure the official publisher didn’t make a mistake? Isn’t this Chu Kuang’s signature (screenshot of The Murder of Roger Ackroyd signature)?”

“Huh? Did Chu Kuang have someone else sign for him? Because his handwriting was mocked by the group last time?”

“Um, I’m starting to suspect that Chu Kuang deliberately made his handwriting look ugly last time.”

“The handwriting this time is too beautiful, right?”

“This autograph is even more beautiful than our calligraphy teacher’s writing!”

“...”

In the midst of the comments from the netizens, two more lucky readers who had bought signed books posted pictures of Murder on the Orient Express online.

They were both in cursive!

The handwriting is exactly the same as the pictures Jianhui posted!

Only the font style is slightly different, it seems that the person who signed it had carefully designed it.

Before the netizens had time to ponder, Silver Blue Books rushed over to authenticate:

“These two are also genuine signed books, congratulations to the two book fans for buying Chu Kuang’s signed books!”

Silver Blue Books is really going all out for this signature verification.

Seemingly wanting to help Silver Blue Books share the workload, on Chu Kuang’s Tribe account, amid the shock and confusion of the netizens, a short video was posted:

“Chu Kuang!”

A slender hand, holding a pen, wrote these two words with mature pen movements.

Then, the speed of the hand changed abruptly and wrote “Chu Kuang” again with a different style.

The text that accompanied the short video was: “I’ve been practicing calligraphy recently and have made some progress.”

Only then did the readers and fans realize...

Chu Kuang, this old rascal, is teasing everyone again!

Chapter 355: So It’s Because of Narrative Trickery Again

His calligraphy improved from persistent practice?

Only fools would believe such a dull explanation from Chu Kuang!

Just as Jin Mu predicted—

Any person with common sense knows that it's impossible for an ordinary person's calligraphy to escalate from a schoolboy level to master level in a short span of time!

How long has it been since “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” was published?

You practiced calligraphy for just that little while and it improved so significantly?

Impossible!

There could only be two explanations for this.

The first possibility: Chu Kuang had someone else sign for him.

The second possibility: Chu Kuang's previous schoolboy handwriting was just a prank on the readers.

Obviously.

Everyone believes it's the second reason.

There's no need to have someone else sign for him. Even if Chu Kuang's signature is ugly, it doesn't affect his popularity and prestige.

In fact, everybody finds it rather cute!

After all, Chu Kuang's writing prowess is remarkable. A weakness like “poor handwriting” only makes people find him more amusing.

How sensitive must one be to hire someone else to sign for them just because they were teased a bit by netizens?

Not to mention, Chu Kuang even posted a video of him signing.

Although the video didn't show his face, it made readers more willing to believe that it was Chu Kuang's real signature and that the previous time was just a joke he played on everyone.

"You old rascal! You've been exposed!"

"So all this while you were pretending to have bad handwriting?"

"Be careful, rascal, I might smash your windows. Others pretend to be weak to take advantage of the strong, while you pretend to be weak to play on your fans."

"Did you think we'd admire you by saying: Wow, Chu Kuang's handwriting is so beautiful? Dream on!"

"So it's another case of emphasizing the importance by underestimating first. No wonder you are the master of writing."

"This twist is so interesting. I'm learning so much."

"Although I don't want to admit it, that signature of the rascal is indeed beautiful. Any experts out there who can comment on his calligraphy skills?"

"His way of holding the brush seems quite professional."

"The writing looks even better than some of the calligraphy templates."

"..."

At this point, some netizens, who had been studying calligraphy, stepped up:

"I've been studying calligraphy for over a decade. I can say without bias that Chu Kuang's calligraphy is good enough to be used as a reference for people to imitate."

“Yes, judging by the signatures shown on the internet, Chu Kuang is quite accomplished in calligraphy.”

“The only word we can analyze is Chu Kuang’s name, so the analysis might not be that good. But based on his brush strokes and how he holds the brush, it’s clear that Chu Kuang knows a lot about calligraphy.”

“At least, the signature can only be written by a calligraphy master.”

“...”

Only then did netizens realize that Chu Kuang’s calligraphy skills were indeed very high.

A master calligrapher?

As anticipated, genius of GOAT level like Chu Kuang and devilish writers are all-rounders, even excelling in calligraphy.

Too excellent!

However, the higher Chu Kuang’s calligraphy skills, the worse his previous actions were.

“So, Chu Kuang was really fooling us?”

“He intentionally signed “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” with elementary school handwriting, he really is naughty.”

“He has always been tricking us. Didn’t you remember the genre of ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’?”

“If you hadn’t mentioned it, I would have forgotten. ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ was originally a detective novel, aimed at trapping the reader with textual pitfalls. It created the trend of narrative trickery. Isn’t it normal for the author to continue to trap readers even while signing?”

“So the childish signature had this intention?”

“Chu Kuang: After all, it’s ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ that originated the narrative trickery. It would be strange to have a regular signature, so I might as well take it all the way and prank my readers.”

“Hahaha, Chu Kuang is so naughty!”

“He intentionally made the signature ugly to match the narrative trickery genre. But everyone believed that was his real handwriting. With heated discussion, they felt Chu Kuang’s wicked sense of humor.”

“...”

Once again, thanks to Chu Kuang’s fame, whatever he said or did would always be interpreted in a way to suit his statements by the public. And these explanations are flawless.

Even Jin Mu started to believe in these interpretations after seeing them.

The childish signature really matches the style of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” that makes fun of readers!

It’s just that many people didn’t expect Chu Kuang to fool readers so thoroughly by even including pranks in the signatures!

Now that they think about it.

If it wasn’t for the narrative trickery trend that “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” initiated, why would Chu Kuang intentionally make the signature so ugly?

The ugly signature and the narrative trickery are a perfect match!

They both exist to fool the readers!

The netizens could only ridicule that Chu Kuang was becoming more and more of a prankster.

While everyone was laughing at Chu Kuang, someone noticed a rarely noticed detail in the calligraphy video Chu Kuang posted—

Chu Kuang's hand!

In this video, although Chu Kuang's face wasn't in the frame, his hand was, allowing netizens to analyze it frame by frame:

"Chu Kuang's hand is so beautiful!"

"It seems like the hand of a young person."

"The right hand is holding a pen, indicating Chu Kuang is not left-handed. His skin is fair and delicate, and his fingers are quite slender. Looks like the hand of someone who plays the piano. I wonder if Chu Kuang can play piano. Anyway, he should be young. Authors of fantasy novels are not likely to be old men."

"Just by looking at this hand, I want to lick it (I am a man)."

"Such a beautiful hand, I already assume, Chu Kuang is definitely handsome!"

"Oh my gosh, you guys can estimate looks based on a hand too?"

"Just associating thoughts. If a girl's voice sounds pleasant, we associate it with a goddess's face. If a boy's hand looks nice, we associate it with a male god's face. But in reality, beauty is often the opposite."

"How old is Chu Kuang this year? I am so into this hand."

"We know Chu Kuang and Xian Yu are best buddies, and Xian Yu still hasn't graduated this year. So it can be inferred that Chu Kuang's age isn't much different from Xian Yu's. Considering the appearance of this hand, Chu Kuang should be around thirty years old!"

“Everyone says Xian Yu is handsome. Chu Kuang is so young and has a good relationship with Xian Yu. Could he also be really handsome?”

“Handsome guy with another handsome guy?”

“I’m sorry, the scene that’s playing in my mind has started to go awry.”

“...”

Netizens’ thoughts went round in circles, coming back to the initial point. And the ‘rotten girls’ discovered a new continent, with their eyes shining brightly!

Lin Yuan did not expect this.

When Jin Mu suggested filming a video like this, he didn’t think too much about it.

But netizens actually inferred a bunch of truths very close to reality based solely on his right hand, which holds the pen!

Of course.

Saying that his ugly handwriting earlier was intended to match the narrative trickery genre was just absurd. If Lin Yuan didn’t know his own circumstances, he would almost suspect that what the netizens said was the truth.

It seems, that the ugly handwriting indeed matches with the narrative trickery genre.

No, no!

My handwriting is absolutely beautiful.

Chapter 356: Limited Edition Signed Book

Because of the autograph event for “Murder on the Orient Express”, most people online were discussing just how good Chu Kuang’s handwriting was, and how terrible Chu Kuang’s deliberate action of writing an ugly elementary school-like autograph last time was—

As these discussions escalated.

Some readers who had acquired the autographed copy of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” couldn’t stand it anymore.

This netizen named Big Egg immediately posted online questioning whether Chu Kuang’s action was too unfair to the first batch of readers who received the autographs.

He ranted angrily:

“Chu Kuang gave us, the first batch of readers, such ugly autographs, and the second batch got such beautiful ones. I’m too embarrassed to admit I have Chu Kuang’s autograph.”

After posting this status.

A netizen named Sima Yanlong private messaged Big Egg:

“The autographed edition of ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ is so beautiful, and yours isn’t really good. How about you sell your autographed copy to me, 1,000 dollars okay?”

“Okay.”

Big Egg agreed instantly and completed the transaction the same day.

For Big Egg, the autographed copy of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” wasn’t valuable anymore. Who would know that Chu Kuang purposefully wrote an ugly autograph?

But, what he didn’t expect was...

Just the night he sold the autographed copy of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”, the comments area filled up with hundreds of messages. All were surprisingly consistent, they all wanted an autographed copy!

“I’ll give 2,000!”

“I’ll pay 3,000.”

“4,000 dollars okay.”

“Author, don’t sell it!”

“You guys just want to grab a bargain.”

“Can’t even grab a bargain now, I guess the author isn’t stupid enough. Must be showing off that he has ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ with an ugly autograph. If the author really wants to sell, private message me. I can offer higher than those in the comments.”

“Exactly.”

“Are you guys underestimating the author’s intellect? If you don’t have 10,000 dollars don’t come here; those offering 2 to 3 thousand are simply indecent. Even a fool would know Chu Kuang’s ugly autograph is limited edition; it might increase in value later.”

“...”

Big Egg was stunned.

He didn’t expect the autographed copy of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”, which he detested, was so sought after. Is he the stupid one or are these people stupid?

“I’m not selling anymore!”

He hurriedly found the buyer.

The buyer replied with a triumphant emoji: “The book is in my hands already, I’ve transferred the 1,000 dollars to you. It’s no use wanting to back out now. By the way, I’m going to advertise in your comments section, I don’t think you’ll mind.”

“Damn!”

Angry, Big Egg sent a series of foul words over, but the recipient refused payment as he had been blocked by the seller!

This wasn’t the worst part. What was even more outrageous was that the buyer shamelessly posted in Big Egg’s comment section:

“The autographed edition of ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ from the author has been sold to me; I got it for 1,000 dollars. I am willing to sell at 20,000 dollars, who wants it?”

“I want it!”

“Me, me, me!”

“Damn, you’re the most bloody indecent one, you actually bought it for just 1,000 dollars and now you’re advertising in the comments section too!”

“Heartless!”

“I take back my previous comments, there really are stupid people these days. They can’t even realize the value of ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’s’ autograph.”

“Hey, the author really is both dumb and pitiful.”

“I thought the author was on level five, turns out the author is on the first level. He really thought Chu Kuang’s autographed ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ was a rip-off; this is a pitfall that so many people wish to step in!”

“...”

Only then did Big Egg realize, Chu Kuang wasn't setting him up, but giving him a fortune. He was just too stupid, went public with Chu Kuang setting up his readers. It turns out the autograph of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" increased in value due to its ugliness!

Pretty simple logic.

Autographs are more valuable when scarce!

If Chu Kuang's autograph in the future is all beautiful then the autograph he signed for "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" in an elementary school handwriting style becomes even more unique.

...

Lin Yuan was oblivious to the fact that the price of the "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" autographed edition had been hyped by netizens online, doubling two or three times over.

At the moment, he just received a system prompt:

"Congratulations to the host for unlocking the calligraphy category; you've gained one thousand nine hundred prestige points in calligraphy. Additionally, reminding the host that when prestige in a certain category breaks through a certain number, it will receive a large amount of system rewards."

With the system prompt, the calligraphy prestige was unlocked.

Including the earlier unlocked music, literature, painting, film and television, all five artistic fields have opened the prestige collection mode.

"Calligraphy?"

Lin Yuan contemplated, perhaps calligraphy could be Chu Kuang's second hidden talent.

It's just like Xian Yu being able to compose music and write and direct movies.

We, the Chu Kuang Tribe and I, not only know how to write but also excel at calligraphy. It's reasonable and logical, which is perfectly normal.

Just happened to see someone questioned online whether all I could do was write signatures.

Exactly.

There are two main types of comments in Chu Kuang's tribe area: one is complaining about the old rascal's shrewdness, and the other is praising the old rascal's superb calligraphy skills.

There's a third voice, not mainstream, but it exists, which questions if it's reasonable or not.

These voices declare themselves as sensible netizens.

"There's no need to praise Chu Kuang's calligraphy skills too highly, he's just an ordinary person with good handwriting."

"Yes, everyone should have practiced writing their own name. Some people have terrible handwriting, but their names are surprisingly beautiful when they write them."

"Imitate a well-designed artistic signature hundreds or thousands of times, and anyone can achieve this effect."

"Some time ago, an actor who only plays a little basketball was hyped up as a basketball star. Actually, there's really no need."

"Chu Kuang is excellent at writing, his calligraphy might be about the same as those we encounter in life who write well."

"..."

An ordinary person with decent handwriting?

Lin Yuan thought it sounded like a show-off...

It's a good chance to gain reputation, too bad there aren't many who doubt me.

If each piece of my work was questioned by the outside world, the impact of a subsequent reversal would certainly be potent.

Now I can only argue with this handful of people.

Thinking of this, Lin Yuan said, "Uncle Jin, get the Four Treasures of the Study ready!"

"Huh?"

Jin Mu was startled.

Lin Yuan spoke straightforwardly, "I want to write with a brush."

Jin Mu was surprised, "Posting it on the Tribe?"

Lin Yuan nodded, "It could be posted."

Jin Mu made an OK gesture and turned to go shopping.

He just needed to buy some good quality paper, ink, brushes, and ink stones.

On Blue Star, calligraphy was mainly done in brush strokes, one of the prevalent forms of art, similar shops are abundant, there are two just a few hundred meters down the road.

After Jin Mu purchased the writing materials.

Lin Yuan suddenly called out the System, "I want to custom order some Chinese poetry, preferably in bulk."

Calligraphy supplies, of course, had to be coupled with brilliant poetry, that's when the best results were achieved.

System: "Chinese poetry package special price 50 million, do you wish to customize?"

Lin Yuan: "..."

Are you selling me a package of ancient poetry for 50 million?

It's definitely worth it. All those poems, their value isn't something money can measure. This transaction is clearly a bargain.

But the System is probably kind this time for a specific reason. Lin Yuan had already understood the System's nature.

Regardless of the system's intention, Lin Yuan wouldn't miss such a bargain, considering the recent sales of his film and television rights, he nodded.

"Let's do it."

With his current income, spending 50 million to improve himself no longer feels painful.

Lin Yuan feels that his miserly, poverty-stricken persona is starting to crumble.

"Order complete!"

The System wasn't very fast this time, probably because of the heavy workload.

Fortunately, the System got it all done in ten minutes, after which Lin Yuan felt his head filling up with countless lines of poetry.

He began to recite:

“In the peach blossom grotto orchard, peach blossom hermit. Peach blossom hermit plants a peach tree, and picks peach blossoms to exchange for wine money.”

Huh?

I got that poem, is the System trying to trick me?

Alright.

There might be duplicates in the customization, just like in the Poirot detective stories collection that includes “Murder on the Orient Express”.

“The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” is also in the detective collection.

As Lin Yuan’s voice fell, Jin Mu, who had returned after buying stationary, was full of admiration:

“Sir, you really have a taste for poetry, no matter how many times this poem is heard, it’s always wonderful.”

If it were a hundred years ago on Blue Star, Jin Mu would have called Lin Yuan “Sir”, so his cultured remark, paired with Lin Yuan’s poem, was quite fitting.

Chapter 357: A Tranquil Night Abed

Of course, the type of writing that best embodies calligraphy is Chinese brush writing. In terms of artistry, anything like pen writing would be completely overshadowed by brush writing. Thus, if Lin Yuan wanted to prove his calligraphy skills, he would naturally choose the most prestigious, brush writing.

The paper was spread open.

Jin Mu began to grind the ink.

Brush writing might seem simple and casual at a glance, as if anyone could do it. However, when people actually pick up the brush, they’d realize how difficult it is.

There are many specifics when it comes to brush writing.

For example, the posture of writing, also known as the body method in ancient times. Once this body method is mastered, one is not far from excelling in brush writing. Lin Yuan did not know this before; if he had, his writing wouldn't have been so bad.

Now things are different.

With his skill in calligraphy, he also possesses the corresponding knowledge. When sitting at a desk, one should sit upright with the line of sight approximately 45 degrees to the surface of the desk. Unless one is a master, the head should not be tilted to either side. Those who are masters and don't pay attention to these elements have reached a level where their writing is impressive no matter how casually they write.

Lin Yuan is at a professional level.

To ordinary people, he is certainly a master, but to real calligraphy masters, there is still some distance. Therefore, he takes it very seriously. He even spent several minutes selecting the right brush, eventually choosing one suitable for writing large characters. The gray tip of the brush was smooth and slightly soft to the touch.

How one holds the brush also matters.

First, the tip of the thumb is held against the inner side of the brush barrel, applying force from left to right. Then, the end of the index finger leans against the outer side of the brush barrel, pinching the brush barrel with the thumb. The middle finger hooks tightly on the outer side of the barrel, with the root of the fourth finger pressing against the right side of the barrel. Finally, the little finger naturally closes up against the fourth finger. All of this is quite technical...

Lin Yuan was going to write in regular script!

Regular script symbolizes rules and standards. It's one of the most popular calligraphy fonts. Historians on Earth such as Ouyang Xun, Chu Suiliang, Yu Shinan, Xue Ji, Yan Zhenqing, Liu Gongquan, etc., were masters of regular script. The characteristics of regular script can be described in eight words:

Moderately ornate and beautiful.

Calm and peaceful.

This isn't the complete summary as there are different ways to write in regular script. However, this style is the most beautiful, so Lin Yuan chose to write in this font. From afar, just the sight of him writing with the brush was a pleasure to watch, a clear sign that he has matured in his skills.

“....”

Watching this scene left Jin Mu with complicated feelings. He found his boss too impressive, as he was exceptionally professional in writing brush script, clearly a master among masters. He had previously pretended to be a novice to his readers and managed to deceive even his own manager.

Immediately afterwards.

Jin Mu could no longer dwell on Lin Yuan's actions, because he saw Lin Yuan writing a poem. It wasn't any verse that he had written before, but a new creation. The first verse written in regular script was:

“Moonlight floods the whole room.”

Although just one line could not gauge the quality of the entire poem, considering the verses previously created by the boss, Jin Mu was starting to feel a sense of anticipation. Amid this anticipation, Lin Yuan wrote the second verse:

“I suspect frost on the ground.”

It seemed to be taking shape.

As Lin Yuan began to write the third verse, he casually explained, “When the brush is pressed down, the strokes become thick. When it is lifted, they become thin. It's like our feet when we walk. One foot steps down while the other is lifted, constantly alternating. Similarly, during writing, the brush is constantly lifting and pressing down. Only in this way can we produce lines of varying thicknesses.”

The Teacher's Halo activates.

It was just an unintentional explanation by Lin Yuan, a habit formed after teaching composition. Jin Mu, however, was deep in thought, obviously influenced momentarily by the Teacher's Halo. However, neither Jin Mu nor Lin Yuan noticed the magic happening at this moment. Right now, Jin Mu's attention was on the third line of the poem that Lin Yuan was writing:

"I lift my head to see the moon."

What would the fourth line be?

At this moment, the orange glow of the setting sun poured through the window lattice, speckling the fine rice paper. The ink was not yet dry. Lin Yuan was holding a black brush loaded with what seemed like famous ink. He wrote the final line-

"I bow my head and think of home."

His brush moved like a dragon and a serpent in a race, the ink flowed as smoothly as clouds and water. The twists and turns as the brush moved, the ups and downs as it was lifted and pressed down. At this moment, the entire poem was clear at a glance. With Jin Mu's slightly amazed eyes watching him, he couldn't help but read it out loud: "Moonlight floods the whole room, I suspect frost on the ground. I lift my head to see the moon, I bow my head and think of home."

A nice verse.

But sir.

Are you missing home at this moment?

Lin Yuan remains silent.

Miss home? But where?

The poetry and lyrics of various eras are infinite, why did he choose the simplest and most direct “A Tranquil Night Abed”? Lin Yuan couldn’t explain it himself. Perhaps this was the occasional self-reflection and self-release of a transmigrator, revealing his subconscious thoughts.

He labelled the name of the verse.

Lin Yuan placed the brush in his hand on the pen rest next to him, feeling quite satisfied with his regular script. Gently blowing on the rice paper, he said to Jin Mu, “You can post this online.”

“Understood!”

Jin Mu was somewhat excited.

He turned his head to find a series of equipment and then searched for the shooting angle. Finally, he filmed the beauty of “A Tranquil Night Abed” displayed from different angles and had Lin Yuan review it.

“It’s fine,” said Lin Yuan, who seemed satisfied.

In order to be a good manager, Jin Mu reportedly went out of his way to learn photography skills. In any case, his photos are better than the average person’s. The short video last time was also Jin Mu’s initiative, and the effect was quite good.

“I’ll upload it then.”

Jin Mu completed the action and hesitated for a moment. Looking at the “A Tranquil Night Abed” that Lin Yuan had just written, he grinned, “Boss, can I keep this poem as a collection? I really like this poem. If one day I’m too poor to live, I can still sell it for some money.”

The last sentence was a joke.

There were rumors out there saying that Xian Yu identifies himself as Tang Bohu, and in the movie “Flirting Scholar”, Zhu Zhishan made a living by selling Tang Bohu’s paintings and calligraphy. Jin Mu also knew that both Xian Yu and Chu Kuang were pseudonyms of his boss.

Lin Yuan:”.....”

He nodded, indicating it was no problem.

At the same time, the “A Tranquil Night Abed” in regular script written by Lin Yuan had been uploaded to Chu Kuang’s account. It was proper brush calligraphy, and it was in regular script. This form of writing most directly showcases a person’s calligraphy skills!

It’s a beautiful piece of regular script!

However, what’s even more beautiful than the writing itself is the poem “A Tranquil Night Abed”. It’s one of Li Bai’s most famous poems. Although it’s not his most classic work, it’s definitely the one that touches people the most!

Calligraphy combined with a poem.

Netizens, bystanders, fans, seeing the newly uploaded image, were briefly stunned, then slowly regained their senses. Following that, the comment section in Chu Kuang’s account blew up, predictably.....

Chapter 358: Enjoyed by both Refined and Vulgar

In the beginning, everyone’s attention was entirely captivated by the calligraphy posted by Chu Kuang. The elegant and clear regular script had a sense of proper beauty and peaceful circumstance. Even people who didn’t understand calligraphy could appreciate the exquisite features of this piece.

It flowed like clouds across the sky.

Every stroke was as ethereal as a wisp of cloud.

Lately, due to the matter of autographed books for “The Murder on the Orient Express”, many people were discussing whether Chu Kuang really had a solid foundation in calligraphy. By sharing a piece of calligraphy at such a time, Chu Kuang made an extremely powerful statement!

“This handwriting is breathtaking!”

“Whoever previously said that Chu Kuang was just an ordinary person with good handwriting, forget about whether ordinary people can master brush writing, even as a participant who has practiced brush writing from a young age, I absolutely cannot achieve the level of elegance that Chu Kuang has. I even have the feeling that my calligraphy teacher is not as good as Chu Kuang!”

“What beautiful regular script!”

“I never expected Chu Kuang to be skilled in regular script. The writings of ordinary regular script masters are almost indistinguishable from one another with no variations at all. After mastering the basic strokes and a bit of practice, anyone could write this kind of font. But top-tier regular script masters can create a scrutinisable masterpiece with each stroke, adding unpredicted excellences in the most casual way. Chu Kuang’s calligraphy has reached the level of top-tier masters!”

“This piece of writing is so handsome”

“I thought you, Chu Kuang, were just talented at writing; you could even effortlessly crossover various genres of novels. It took me a while to accept this setup, and now you’re telling me that you’re actually a calligraphy expert as well?”

“No wonder they say Chu Kuang is a genius!”

“Chu Kuang, the old rascal! How are others supposed to survive with this monster around? His regular script is vigorous and upright yet not lacking in femininity. It’s definitely not an amateur level; he’s clearly a calligrapher who has been delayed by novel writing.”

“...”

Indeed, there were many people who could appreciate the value.

Anyone with a little knowledge of calligraphy could see what level Chu Kuang’s calligraphy was at. After all, this was calligraphy evaluated at the professional level by the System. People who could make a living with their calligraphy, how could their brush writing be bad?

Even professional calligraphers gave their evaluations.

After all, Chu Kuang is a celebrity. Many well-known influencers in the calligraphy field rapidly retweeted Chu Kuang's "A Tranquil Night Abed" and shared their own views:

"Chu Kuang's writing already has a sense of harmony."

"He can consider developing in the calligraphy field."

"I would consider buying a calligraphy collection by him."

"This style of regular script must have the hard work of more than a decade."

The assessments from everyone were fairly objective. Even those who mentioned Chu Kuang's decade of hard work did not overstate. Without the System's prize as a boost, if Lin Yuan wanted to achieve this levelling of calligraphy by his own practice, he would likely need to train for more than a decade.

In the meantime.

Those so-called sensible netizens were dumbfounded. They previously swore that Chu Kuang was just an ordinary person with attractive handwriting, only skilled at autographs. They claimed that even his autographs were nothing spectacular. However, this piece of regular script literally swelled their faces!

This is an ordinary person?

Is this called "nothing special"?

Even professional calligraphers, who have published calligraphy collections, commented that Chu Kuang's writing has already become masterful. How could they persistently claim that the reason Chu Kuang's writing was good was only because of the hype attributed to his celebrity status?

It was also at this time.

Suddenly someone posted a thread: “I just looked it up, this poem ‘A Tranquil Night Abed’ doesn’t seem to be some ancient poem, pretty sure the author is Chu Kuang the old rascal himself. The quality of the verse is really damn top-notch!”

A poem by Chu Kuang himself?

Everyone noticed the content of ‘A Tranquil Night Abed’ quite early on, with some even noticing it immediately. However, due to more people initially discussing calligraphy, everyone didn’t think much about the verse itself. In fact, some even thought it was a poem written by some ancient sage, until a netizen highlighted this poem that finally caught everyone’s attention.

“This poem is so impressive!”

Initially, it wasn’t that notable, but after being reminded by some people, everyone took a closer look and found that this poem was indeed exquisitely written. It seems to be a simple five-word quatrain, but it fully depicts the sentiment of longing for home...

The verse seems like a painting!

A traveler, unable to sleep in the foreign land at late night, finds the inn courtyard particularly desolate. The serene moonlight coming through the window lands on his bed, bringing a cold shiver of the autumn night. On first glance, in his dreamy mood, it seems as if a layer of white frost has fallen on the ground. However, on a closer look, the surroundings tell him that this is not frost.

It’s moonlight.

The moonlight inevitably prompts him to look up and he sees a round, plain moon hanging in front of the window. The autumn night sky is so clear, the autumn moon is extraordinarily bright, but also cold. Especially for a lonely traveler, it easily provokes homesick thoughts.

Compounded by a bleak predicament, time passes quickly.

Gazing at the moon, feeling sorry for himself, as if his brief dream just ended, he thinks about everything that has happened back home, about his family. His head gradually lowers as he is immersed in these thoughts and the moonlight seems lonelier...

“What a beautiful sentiment.”

“What a tranquil night of thought!”

“The text is pure and simple. The whole poem doesn’t have any peculiarly novel imagination, nor does it have finely crafted and gorgeous diction. It simply uses a narrative tone to express the sentiment of a traveler missing home. However, it is profound and thought-provoking, firmly captivating the reader. From ‘doubting’ to ‘looking up’, then from ‘looking up’ to ‘lowering the head’, it vividly reveals the poet’s inner activities, outlining a vivid image of thinking about home on a moonlit night, expressing the feelings of Chu Kuang, the old rascal, when he misses his home in the quiet moonlit night.”

“Are you the class representative above?”

“The class representative did a good summary.”

Of course, not everyone can understand the aesthetic of this poem. Someone curiously said, “I find the verse quite simple, without any peculiarly novel imagination or finely crafted and gorgeous diction. Especially the last line ‘lowering the head to think of the homeland’ is too colloquial. How can this end up being a merit of Chu Kuang?”

Don’t even mention it.

Once this voice rose, those sensible netizens became more excited, rushing out to say, “Exactly, I don’t see anything astonishing about this poem. I wonder why so many people are complimenting it. Just because Chu Kuang is a successful novelist and is very good at calligraphy, don’t elevate his poetry too high. We should still be rational.”

The sensible netizens love to parade their sensibility.

So they still acknowledged Chu Kuang’s calligraphy.

However, when they started trying to downplay ‘A Tranquil Night Aged’, someone shared the post. The sharer was none other than the widely recognized poetry master of Blue Star’s Qin Province, Mr. Quan: “Chu Kuang’s four-line poem is written with a fresh and simple elegance, straightforward as speech, intricate and profound in its conception, spontaneous and completely unpretentious. Its content is simple, yet very rich; easy to understand, but inexhaustible to taste. In

fact, Chu Kuang left unsaid much more than what he already disclosed. This is a marvelous state of effortlessly achieving perfection, a talented writer indeed displaying his brilliant talent.”

Unexpected!

Even a renowned poetry master like Gong Quan publicly praised the level of ‘A Tranquil Night Abed’, making even readers who initially had no sense for the verse fall into deep thought, wondering whether they may lack comprehension and thus fail to appreciate the brilliance of this poem?

Fortunately, such people are in the minority.

As a planet with a highly developed culture and art, one of the greatest benefits of Blue Star is that ordinary people have some ability to appreciate. Because everyone has grown up immersed in such an environment, their basic cultural literacy is pretty good.

Still not convinced?

The netizens could only say one phrase, “Are you saying you understand poetry better than a poetry master like Gong Quan?” ‘A Tranquil Night Abed’ is indeed not grandiose. It is quite down-to-earth and populist. Some people naturally prefer audacious poems like “I am the killer of all flowers after blooming” and might not resonate as much with more grounded poetry. But the great thing about Li Bai is his ability to be enjoyed both by the refined and the vulgar!

Chapter 359: South Xian Yu North Chu Kuang

The poem “A Tranquil Night Abed” itself is neither overly popular nor overly elegant, it’s more like Li Bai’s casual exposition and expression.

It’s like Jay Chou casually singing “Confession Balloon”.

If you really want to evaluate Li Bai’s poetic level, you should look at his other representative works.

Such as “Bring in the Wine”.

Such as “The Road to Shu is Hard”.

Such as the well-known Milky Way falling from the heavens.

I won’t list them all here.

That’s because Li Bai’s wonderful works are so abundant, and some of them can astonish people at first glance.

Otherwise, Li Bai wouldn’t be recognized as the Poem Immortal.

Of course, there is a Li Bai in this era too, but this Li Bai’s works are completely different from Earth’s Li Bai’s works.

In fact, Chu Kuang’s exhibition of calligraphy and verses has had the greatest impact by letting the public see that Chu Kuang has skills beyond writing novels, and these skills are pretty exceptional.

Witnessing this, people’s past impression of Chu Kuang as “good at writing novels” has been changed.

Those who had experienced the couplet incident also knew that Chu Kuang and Xian Yu were both “masters of matching couplets”.

Now, Chu Kuang puts forth two more impressions to the public.

The first one is “a calligrapher, whose talent was wasted on writing books”.

The second one is “a poet”.

Added up, Chu Kuang was really impressive.

He was not only able to write poems, good at writing couplets, but also adept at novels and skilled in calligraphy.

Two words: Universal talent!

This naturally made many netizens associate with Xian Yu.

“May I say, as expected of close friends, have you guys noticed, what Chu Kuang can do, Xian Yu can do too!”

“Wow, you’re right when you put it that way!”

“Xian Yu definitely excels at composing music, but Xian Yu’s screenwriting talent is also undeniable. The verses from ‘Flirting Scholar’ were just amazing, not to mention Xian Yu’s last performance in the couplet war...”

“Non-kin doesn’t live under the same roof.”

“The friend of a genius, is usually a genius too.”

“I can’t stand it anymore, I’ll only say two words: Shadow, those who understand will understand.”

“Hahahahaha, Shadow’s daily invisibility.”

“Shadow really is, becoming more and more invisible.”

“Shadow is somehow a significant figure in the comic industry; ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’ is very hot, it’s just that these two buddies of his are too weird.”

“So frustrating, when will Shadow stand up?!”

“...”

Shadow was indeed becoming less visible.

But now, as Chu Kuang and Xian Yu partner up more and more, Shadow is teased by netizens more, which somehow gives him some bizarre presence.

emmmmm.

Existing in everyone's jokes.

Some even jokingly called Xian Yu and Chu Kuang, "Southern Xian Yu, Northern Chu Kuang".

Don't ask how north and south are distinguished.

It's just that everyone thinks this sounds more rhymic.

If you must figure it out, possibly, "Xian Yu" sounds relatively gentle, giving a sense of southern elegance.

"Chu Kuang", on the other hand, implies braveness and has an old jesters-like charm, giving a sense of northern wildness.

Then, this way of saying spread around somehow.

Regarding the saying "Southern Xian Yu, Northern Chu Kuang", it surprisingly left profound impressions!

Some even tried to add candidates to the "east" and "west".

But unfortunately.

Everyone found out that there really weren't any names in "east xx" and "west xx" that could be compared with Xian Yu and Chu Kuang.

The two of them are indeed oddities!

So there are only the South and the North, the West and the East, probably they will appear in the future, or maybe they will never appear.

...

When Lin Yuan saw the comments in Xian Yu's section, many people were typing "Southern Xian Yu, Northern Chu Kuang", he was a bit flabbergasted.

He had only ever heard the names "Southern Murong and Northern Qiao Feng," so "Southern Xian Yu and Northern Chu Kuang" was a first for him.

It didn't rhyme at all.

Some even truncated the names to "Southern Fish and Northern Mad," which was full to the brim with adolescent pretensions.

Lin Yuan felt if he fell off his horse at this moment, the embarrassment would knock out a whole two-bedroom apartment from his toenails.

Jin Mu, however, seemed quite excited:

"Southern Xian Yu and Northern Chu Kuang, actually, it seems pretty apt. One pen name committed to the field of novels, the other focused on composing. Moreover, both pen names have diverse ventures, Xian Yu in movies and Chu Kuang in calligraphy, perfect."

Lin Yuan: "..."

Could he at least save some face for Shadow?

Although they are all pen names, and there is no favoritism, being teased so much made Lin Yuan inevitably affected by online opinions, feeling that Shadow seemed a little underappreciated.

Fortunately, "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" is about to end.

The next comic series is “Death Note,” and it’s sure to explode in popularity. Shadow must catch up with Chu Kuang and Xian Yu, at least not to be completely unnoticeable, right?

With this in mind, Lin Yuan immediately called Luo Wei and the assistants in the studio to discuss the new comic.

“New comic?”

Luo Wei sounded somewhat nervous: “Have you decided the theme yet?”

Lin Yuan took out the materials he had prepared in advance. He prepared these when he was idle at the company: “Story summary, character settings, from image to drawing style, everything is designed. You guys have a look first, ask me if you have any questions.”

“OK.”

Luo Wei said: “Just in time, ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’ is going to end next month, so we can slightly prepare now to start the serialization of the new comic.”

With that, Luo Wei looked nervously at the new comic material in her hand.

Just as she felt nervous when “King of the Net” finished.

What if the new comic isn’t good? What then?

This is a common worry for writers of novels, comics, and creators of any art form: Will the next work be as successful?

However, these anxieties gradually disappeared as Luo Wei started reading “Death Note.”

Unless one is naturally disinterested in this type of cult, any boy who loves to act cool, or girl without much princess mentality, will hardly resist the allure of this story!

Not to mention, Lin Yuan made slight adjustments to the art style of “Death Note”...

Like the image of the Shinigami, Lin Yuan has made it akin to the hellish ghost image in the mythologies of Blue Star.

Also, the drawing style of some characters in the story has been tweaked a bit by Lin Yuan to suit the aesthetics of Blue Star.

This so-called aesthetic of Blue Star, is basically the aesthetics of his previous life's Celestial Dynasty.

The aesthetics of Neon manga, though also Eastern in style, have more Japanese-style details, so changes are necessary.

Lin Yuan has got the hang of it already.

Not only did Luo Wei like this story.

The other assistants in the comic studio who were nobodies also got excited when they saw the textual version of the story. Their eyes shined brightly –

“This story is great!”

“I feel like it'll be amazing when drawn out!”

“It might be even more exciting than ‘Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma’!”

“Can't say about the popularity, but it should be highly rated, Yagami Light is too cool!”

“This Lin is also very handsome – is Lin the boss?”

“...”

This was Lin Yuan indulging in vanity, satisfying his wicked humor.

In “Death Note,” the man who loves and fights with Yagami Light is L.

Replacing names with letters is influenced by Western culture. Lin Yuan has tried it, but it doesn’t suit him.

Blue Star rarely does this, even though Blue Star has its own set of alphabetical letters.

So Lin Yuan changed the “L” to “Lin.”

“Lin” also starts with “L,” and, what a coincidence, it exactly matches Lin Yuan’s surname—

He also wanted to increase his involvement in “Death Note.”

Of course.

He is certainly not inviting a real Yagami Light with a Death Note aiming for justice to this world.

Chapter 360: Silver Blue Mini Theater

Bringing out “Death Note” now is just to let everyone in the manga studio get familiar with it in advance, after all, this is everyone’s future work.

And at this moment, the main focus of the studio is definitely on the existing manga.

No one slacked off on the work of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma” because of Shadow’s new work.

Next, the studio is preparing for the final chapter of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma”, and Lin Yuan, who is rarely idle, stays in the studio all day drawing.

Of course.

Before diving full-time into the final chapter of “Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma,” Lin Yuan still found time to write a novel.

The novel is called “The Styles Manor Case”.

Don’t wonder why the title of the book didn’t change, Lin Yuan actually paid a lot of attention to avoiding typical Western names, but as he learned more about Blue Star culture, he gradually realized there was no need for it.

Styles is fine.

In this world, there are too many varied names, like the foreigners in his previous life, let alone names in novels.

There are names in novels that use characters like “Shang” (meaning death).

But there is no capricious use of characters like “Wang” (death) for names.

So now when Lin Yuan writes characters’ names in his novels, he begins to act capriciously.

Of course, a name like “Nikolai Ostrovsky” is definitely not usable.

Not to mention the habit of Blue Star people of not adding dots in the middle of their names.

Just to say, the longest name a Blue Starian can have is five characters, any more and it would lose the readers’ sense of immersion.

Anyway, that’s why “The Styles Manor Case” didn’t need a name change –

It’s the first story in the “Hercule Poirot Series”, and also Poirot’s earliest appearance chronologically. Poirot’s legendary life began with this story!

It sounds similar to Conan Doyle’s “Study in Scarlet”, where Watson meets Holmes in this case.

And Poirot's assistant Hastings, also first met Poirot in The Styles Manor Case.

Likewise, both Hastings and Watson were injured in war and met their detective friends while recovering from their injuries.

As everyone knows, Holmes's era precedes Poirot's.

So it is generally believed that Agatha Christie was influenced by the relationship between Holmes and Watson to create the combination of Poirot and Hastings.

The truth doesn't matter.

Because on Blue Star, both Poirot and Holmes probably belong to Chu Kuang.

After finishing this novel, Lin Yuan sent it to Silver Blue Books for publication.

For a long time to come, he will serialize Poirot detective stories. Since he got "Hercule Poirot Series", he naturally wants to create his own Hercule Poirot series in the genre of detective novels!

Silver Blue Books.

After reading the new story "The Styles Manor Case" and getting the news that Chu Kuang is going to officially create a series of Poirot novels, the whole Mystery Department was ecstatic!

The editor-in-chief, Dezhi, was so excited that he was almost short of breath!

This was the first time he felt that he had firmly latched onto Chu Kuang's coattails!

"I really like Poirot!"

"Master Chu Kuang is planning to create the Poirot series, which means we can see more stories about Poirot."

“This seems to be a new approach to writing detective stories, with a fixed protagonist but changing cases. This can reduce the unfamiliarity for readers – people seeing the detective’s name will feel familiar.”

“Yes, ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ introduced Poirot to many people.”

“Because people started to know Poirot, so when they saw ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ with Poirot appearing again, they quickly got into the mood. This is also somewhat related to the readers’ understanding of Poirot’s way of deduction.”

“I wonder how many stories Master Chu Kuang is going to write.”

“The more stories about Poirot, the better. It might depend on when Master Chu Kuang gets tired of writing about Poirot and arranges for his retirement again. After all, we all know that Poirot in ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ was planning to retire, he just didn’t succeed.”

“...”

The Mystery Department passionately debates, while “The Styles Manor Case” also enters the publication and promotion phase.

Elsewhere.

The atmosphere in the Fantasy Department was gloomy.

The Editor-in-chief Ol’ Xiong’s face was so dark, it looked like it was about to rain.

They also received the news about Chu Kuang’s plan to create the “Poirot Series”.

Chu Kuang has surprisingly settled in the Mystery Department, but we, the Fantasy Department, were there before. Be it in terms of contract signing, improving treatment, or supporting his transition...

When Chu Kuang first wanted to write detective stories, many people in the department thought he was just playing around.

After all, Chu Kuang had already written several fantasy novels, and he liked to transition between genres as if he wanted to touch on everything. Given his past records, his desire to try his hand at detective fiction was not surprising.

But no one expected that Chu Kuang's detective novels would be so popular!

And what's more unexpected, Chu Kuang seemed to have become addicted to writing detective novels that he planned to continue and even develop a "Poirot" detective series.

So, this group of people had a mental breakdown.

You must know, Chu Kuang was indeed the walking performance of the department!

His readership influence, his book sales, his personal fame, all were too massive. The Fantasy Department didn't want to let Chu Kuang go at all!

Chu Kuang could have been the darling of any department he ended up in!

To describe it in a way the Mystery Department would like to say:

"A pillar is always a pillar, wherever it goes!"

The situation of the Mystery Department is the best proof!

Before Chu Kuang joined the Mystery Department, the whole department was lifeless.

Every time the company held a meeting for all departments, Cao Dezhi would be scolded mercilessly by the Chief Editor.

As a department that has been lagging in performance for years, the editors from the Mystery Department always felt downcast when they were at work.

Now that Chu Kuang has arrived, the performance of the Mystery Department has gone up dramatically!

Simply put.

Chu Kuang single-handedly saved the Mystery Department!

His earliest release, “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”, sold pretty well.

Not to mention the recent sales of “Murder on the Orient Express”. Even after a month, the sales didn’t drop too much, and there were still many people buying it continuously!

Plus, he’s just finished a new title, “The Styles Manor Case”, which is about to be published.

Now the Mystery Department has finally raised its head up!

Even Cao Dezhi, who could be lightly teased before, started to shake.

In the past, when the Chief Editor held a meeting, he would keep his head down, wish he could become invisible, and remain submissive. But now, he frequently speaks up, pounces on opportunities, fearing that others might not notice his presence.

“I, Dezhi, am Chu Kuang’s editor!”

Of course, Cao Dezhi didn’t say this directly, but it was crystal clear from his actions and words.

By comparison, the Fantasy Department seemed like a spurned ex-girlfriend of Chu Kuang’s, looking at the Mystery Department with resentment and jealousy.

What’s more terrifying is that this “ex-girlfriend” is still deeply in love with Chu Kuang...

Many people in the company were afraid that people from the Fantasy Department and Mystery Department would start fighting over Chu Kuang.

And the biggest fear.

If the Fantasy Department and the Mystery Department are considered as Chu Kuang's ex and current partners, then the other departments could probably be seen as those little bitches jealous of their relationship and hoping for them to break up soon. Because other departments were also coveting Chu Kuang, wishing they could take his place!

Of course.

This was just a small drama inside Silver Blue Books.

Externally.

With the launch of "The Styles Manor Case", Silver Blue Books also officially announced Chu Kuang's upcoming Poirot series, and this story, would be the earliest timeline of the Poirot series—

The reader's circle was buzzing.