

All R. Artist 381

Chapter 381: Next Year, Today

“‘Ten Years’ wins championship song, sweeps September season chart!”

“Xian Yu’s new song ‘Ten Years’ surpasses ten million downloads on its first day!”

“Xian Yu and Sun Yaohuo collaborate again, who will you be to who after ‘Ten Years’?”

“Not disturbing you is my tenderness, Xian Yu makes his king-like return, Sun Yaohuo’s ‘Ten Years’ moves listeners to tears.”

“...”

September 2nd.

The entertainment sections of all major media are reporting news related to the song ‘Ten Years’.

And the first-day achievement of ten million downloads largely represents the success of this song.

At this moment.

A famous music recap show is currently playing ‘Ten Years’.

“Lovers in the end, unavoidably become friends...”

As the melancholic and helpless final line of ‘Ten Years’ concludes in solitude, the resonance of the accompaniment still intertwined with the notes, the host reveals a smile:

“Hello everyone, I’m Xiao Le. As per tradition, let’s start by listening to a new song, titled ‘Ten Years’.

Let's talk about the creator of this song, the well-renowned Maestro Junior, Xian Yu!"

It's been over half a year since Xian Yu released his last piece, 'Mariage d'Amour', and we've long been eager for his new works. So, when he suddenly released a new song, the large fan base felt genuine joy and excitement.

However, for other artists on the chart, Xian Yu's comeback is not good news—

Especially for Ling Feng.

As you may have noticed, 'Ten Years' is undoubtedly number one.

And the song that ranks second on the chart is the new song 'Dream Chaser' by the well-known singer Ling Feng.

In fact, the performance of Ling Feng's song is also quite impressive, with an encouraging number of four million downloads on the first day, surpassing the third-ranked song by a whopping one million downloads!

One can imagine that without Xian Yu's appearance, 'Dream Chaser' would have comfortably secured the championship title.

Although it's a pity, that's just how it is with Xian Yu.

After listening to 'Ten Years', I'm sure you, like Xiao Le, will be moved by its lyrics and melody, immersed in such a beautiful ocean of music, even compelled to put it on repeat.

However, Xiao Le believes that it's not just Xian Yu's composition that moved everyone, it's also the performer: Sun Yaohuo's voice.

In fact, it is not the first time Sun Yaohuo has been favored by Xian Yu, without a doubt, he is lucky.

Many first-line musicians in this industry desire to collaborate with Xian Yu but fail to do so, but Sun Yaohuo has not just once, but multiple times, sung songs composed by Xian Yu—undoubtedly, many people are envious of this.

But this time, Xiao Le believes, apart from musical literacy, Xian Yu's vision is also commendable.

He doesn't care about the popularity of the singers, he doesn't blindly collaborate with A-list singers, not even the King or Queen of Singing, he simply chooses the most suitable performer for the song. As for 'Ten Years', I think no one could interpret it more perfectly than Sun Yaohuo."

This song also made me start paying attention to Sun Yaohuo.

I began to think about why this male singer, who has been chosen by Xian Yu to collaborate with more than once, is so fortunate. Or does he have his own special qualities? The result was that I listened to Sun Yaohuo's previous songs and gradually discovered the reason."

Sun Yaohuo is awesome, he is not considered handsome, at least by entertainment industry standards.

His voice is not the type that astonishes people at first listen, I could only describe it as satisfactory.

But after I listened to all of Sun Yaohuo's previous songs, unconsciously, I felt captivated by him, the more I listened, the more I liked him, the more addicted I became. Perhaps many people have underestimated Sun Yaohuo, including Xiao Le himself, but starting with 'Ten Years', I believe many people will pay attention to Sun Yaohuo and his songs, and appreciate his unique qualities in music...."

Click.

Inside a certain hotel room, a young man raises the remote control high and forcefully turns off the TV, his face full of frustration.

"Brother Feng, don't be upset. Sun Yaohuo is just riding on Xian Yu's coattails. If that song was given to you to sing, your performance would surely surpass Sun Yaohuo's!"

Someone tries to comfort him.

This frustrated young man is none other than Ling Feng, the singer who ranks second on the September season chart.

Hearing his assistant's comforting words, Ling Feng sighs, "At least for this song, Sun Yaohuo's interpretation is indeed very good. Even if Xian Yu let me sing it, I couldn't bring out that flavor. What upsets me is Xian Yu's unexpected arrival. I could've won the championship."

"So in your opinion, Sun Yaohuo this..."

Ling Feng shrugs his shoulders, "He's going to make it big, huh? Sun Yaohuo, Sun Yaohuo, at least he got a good name."

In terms of popularity, Ling Feng is a bit more popular than Sun Yaohuo.

But with the help of Xian Yu, Ling Feng simply can't compete with Sun Yaohuo.

Although the host does seem a bit suspiciously biased toward Sun Yaohuo and might even have been paid by Starlight, people in the circle have keen ears.

Everyone's musical abilities may vary, but basic musical literacy is not lacking.

Anyone who understands music knows that Sun Yaohuo truly put his heart into the song 'Ten Years'.

There are two types of singers, one that can become popular shortly after their debut, and another that slowly rises after releasing some songs, like Sun Yaohuo.

The latter is relatively rare, but there have been a few in recent years.

Sun Yaohuo, who sang 'Ten Years', is the perfect example of the latter, showing a sense of gradual success after years of accumulation.

In fact.

Even in the Celestial Dynasty, there are many singers who have achieved success through long-term accumulation. They may not have been popular initially, it often takes years before they gradually gain recognition.”

“Come to think of it.”

Ling Feng tries to cheer himself up “Now I kind of understand how Chen Zhiyu and Fei Yang must have felt.”

The assistant pauses before laughing “Chen Zhiyu was the first generation perennial runner-up, teacher Fei Yang was the second, do you want to be the third?”

“Isn’t that a nice thought?”

Ling Feng curls his lips “Chen Zhiyu got second place when he encountered Xian Yu, Fei Yang got second place when he met Xian Yu, and I am also second when I meet Xian Yu. So I’m on par with A-list singer Chen Zhiyu, and also with the King of Singing, Fei Yang.”

The assistant gives a thumbs up “Round it off, you’re on the same level as the King of Singing!”

“When you put it that way, being second doesn’t seem so bad, does it?”

“Yes, as long as we don’t compete with Xian Yu. At least your second place crushes the third place, leading by a full million downloads, absolutely safe!”

Hmm?

Are you trying to jinx me?

But what do I have to fear from a curse now?

I’m already in second place.

Could I possibly drop to third?

Thinking about this, Ling Feng bursts into laughter, though as his laughter continues, he starts to feel a lump in his throat.

Meanwhile, inside the Starlight office.

Wu Yong is excitedly reporting the success of ‘Ten Years’ to Lin Yuan:

“The first-day download count exceeded ten million, a huge hit! While Sun Yaohuo didn’t become a first-line artist just by this song, his popularity is definitely on the rise. Today, quite a few music critics acknowledged Sun Yaohuo’s performance. Choosing him was definitely a wise decision! If it weren’t for the fact that some Qi people naturally prefer their native Qi language songs, maybe the download count of this song could’ve been even higher...”

“Qi language?”

Lin Yuan ponders, a few seconds later he suddenly says, “Then let’s release another song in Qi language.”

Wu Yong is taken aback, “What?”

Lin Yuan looks at the September season chart displayed on the computer screen, whispers softly:

“Next Year, Today...”

Chapter 382: Opportunity Only Stays with the Prepared

“What’s ‘Next Year, Today’?”

Wu Yong could not immediately follow Lin Yuan’s train of thought.

Without bothering to explain, Lin Yuan simply said, “Contact Sun Yaohuo.”

“Okay...”

Wu Yong quickly turned around.

Meanwhile, Gu Dong next to them quietly offered, “I’ll reach out to him.”

She felt as though the Assistant Director was trying to take over her job as assistant.

Whenever Mr. Lin visited the company, their counterpart practically ran to the representative’s office with more enthusiasm than herself.

“Sure.”

Wu Yong nodded.

After Wu Yong left, Lin Yuan began pondering.

Qi people generally prefer songs in Qi language because it’s the music they’ve listened to the most since childhood – it’s the norm.

With the merger of the Qin, Qi, and Chu continents, the influence of Qi language seems to have increased somewhat.

Many Qin and Chu people have also shown an acceptance towards music in Qi language.

As such, from time to time, songs in Qi language would appear at the forefront of the monthly new song chart. Even those who don’t understand Qi language are fond of listening to them.

Obviously, songs in this language have quite a large market.

Considering that “Ten Years” happens to have a Cantonese version, which is essentially Blue Star’s version of Qi language, Lin Yuan decided:

Why not release the Qi language version of this song, also known as “Next Year, Today”?

The issue at hand is the release time of this song.

Should it be released this month, or next month?

Forget about it.

Just release it this month.

It's already September, and the end of the year is getting closer. If Lin Yuan wants to promote Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui to the first tier, they must act quickly.

Releasing "Next Year, Today" next month seems a bit of a waste of time.

Moreover, releasing "Next Year, Today" this month has another advantage –

It can ride on the coattails of "Ten Years"!

"Ten Years" is so popular right now. If a Qi language version is released, it might generate another surge of popularity, paving the way into the Qi language market.

No one stipulates that a songwriter can only release one song per month.

Furthermore, "Next Year, Today" and the Mandarin version have almost no differences in melody. It's just a variation in singing style and lyrics.

Thinking about this, Lin Yuan firmed up his decision.

Of course.

Releasing two songs in the same month is not without drawbacks.

The biggest downside is that the two songs would appear on the same chart, creating a competitive situation.

He didn't want to harm either of his two children.

But considering that "Ten Years" was released first, and given that Mandarin has a wider influence, Lin Yuan was not too worried.

Undoubtedly, "Ten Years" is more well-received.

Not to mention, the release of "Next Year, Today" would certainly take some time to fall off the charts.

Hence, it wouldn't be in a position to compete with the Mandarin version for the season's charts.

"I wonder if Senior Yao Huo can speak Qi language."

Lin Yuan muttered to himself.

"Next Year, Today" is performed in Qi language.

If a person who doesn't understand Qi language tries to learn it in a hurry, the time might be a bit tight. Rushing will affect the quality of the song.

He has no choice.

If Sun Yaohuo really cannot speak Qi language, "Next Year, Today" will have to be sung by someone else.

Lin Yuan remembered that Lan Yan, the King of Songs, is very good at singing in Cantonese, and with his skills, he could also handle "Next Year, Today".

Before that, Lin Yuan needs to investigate Sun Yaohuo's language abilities first

...

When Sun Yaohuo received the notification from Gu Dong, he quickly came to the company.

“Junior, you’ve sought me.”

Compared to the last time they met, Sun Yaohuo seemed to be in a significantly better mood today. However, his eyes were somewhat red and swollen, so much so that he had an egg on hand to soothe them.

“Is that fun?”

Lin Yuan looked at Sun Yaohuo’s egg.

Sun Yaohuo looked flabbergasted, and before he could even think of a suitable response, Lin Yuan shook his head: “It certainly isn’t as fun as a transformer.”

“What’s a transformer?”

Lin Yuan solemnly announced, “They come from Cybertron, Decepticons and Autobots!”

Sun Yaohuo: “...”

He decided to do his research once he got home.

Lin Yuan gave a lonely wave of dismissal: “Senior Yao Huo, you wouldn’t understand. Can you speak Qi language?”

Sun Yaohuo nodded.

This time, it was Lin Yuan who was taken aback: “How do you know Qi language?”

Sun Yaohuo naturally replied, “Because, junior, you’ve been to Qi Continent.”

Lin Yuan was puzzled: “So what?”

Sun Yaohuo somewhat embarrassedly scratched his head:

“When junior went to Qi Continent, I thought that you might need singers. After all, you don’t know the singers there. Coincidentally, songs in Qi language were popular there. How could I not learn Qi language? Therefore, I spent half a year learning Qi language, intending to go to Qi Continent once I have mastered it to see junior. After all, we did agree on it at the time. However, before I could go to Qi Continent, it merged with Qin Continent, and junior returned from there to our Qin Continent. So, in the end, I learned a language for nothing and did not get to use it.”

“It will be put to good use.”

Lin Yuan was somewhat pleased.

In terms of performance, Sun Yaohuo is the most suitable choice.

Because he sang “Ten Years” very well.

Although Lan Yan is also good, for the same melody and similar mood, “Next Year, Today” should rightfully be sung by Sun Yaohuo!

Sun Yaohuo looked puzzled: “What does junior mean by that?”

Lin Yuan replied, “‘Ten Years’ has a version in the Qi language, with a melody that’s almost the same.”

Sun Yaohuo’s eyes widened, “Do you mean that junior wants me to sing another version in Qi language?”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Sun Yaohuo clapped his hands, speaking in Qi language: “I studied Qi language for half a year and also did research on songs in Qi language. There should be no issues!”

“That’s great.”

Lin Yuan responded in Qi language, then thought for a moment, realizing that his phrase was not in Qi language.

Never mind.

It’s not important.

Lin Yuan handed over the lyrics to “Next Year, Today”: “Prepare for this, then. Here are the lyrics. Familiarize yourself with them as soon as possible and record the song.”

Sun Yaohuo paused for a moment and asked, “Junior, do you wish for the Qi language version to be released this month?”

“Yes.”

“Alright then, although the time is a bit tight, with junior around, it doesn’t matter much if we delay a bit. It won’t be a problem for the song to chart.”

Sun Yaohuo joyously took the lyric sheet for “Next Year, Today”, and practiced a few lines.

After Lin Yuan listened to a few lines, he knew that Sun Yaohuo was not exaggerating.

Sun Yaohuo could really sing, and he sang very well!

To Lin Yuan’s ear, he could not discern any difference between Sun Yaohuo’s performance and that of a native Qi speaker.

If he did not know Sun Yaohuo, he might have thought that Sun Yaohuo was originally from Qi Continent.

“I’m going to rehearse the song. I’ll stay in the company for the next few days.”

Sun Yaohuo took the music sheet and bid farewell to Lin Yuan..

Lin Yuan agreed.

As he turned around and closed the office door for Lin Yuan, Sun Yaohuo couldn't help but smile and clenched his fists tightly.

Suddenly, he was startled.

It seemed that he had accidentally crumpled the music sheet due to his excitement. He then carefully flattened it again and blew on it affectionately.

“Have a safe journey, Teacher Sun.”

Someone from the composing department greeted him with a smile.

Sun Yaohuo returned the smile, seemingly ignoring the idle chatter he had heard the last time he was there.

Back in the office.

Having witnessed the entire conversation between the two, Gu Dong suddenly had a profound understanding of an old saying –

Opportunities often only belong to the prepared.

Chapter 383:

After singing “Ten Years”, Sun Yaohuo was already very familiar with the melody of this song.

These days, whether he was taking a shower or using the bathroom, he would hum this melody without getting tired of it.

Therefore, for Sun Yaohuo, singing the Qi language version of “Next Year, Today” now wasn’t much different, except for the adjustments he needed to make in portraying his emotions and feelings through the lyrics.

However, because the emotions expressed in the two songs were different, merely transitioning between the mental states delayed the song recording for several days.

Sun Yaohuo tried to perform this song with his previous state of mind, but naturally, it ended up in failure.

The taste was completely wrong.

He could only seek more alternatives.

Lin Yuan always strived for perfection. He wouldn’t lower his expectations for “Next Year, Today” just because Sun Yaohuo’s Cantonese singing was good.

But for a competent singer, there’s nothing that cannot be solved with practice.

If one day doesn’t work, then two days; if two days don’t work, then three days.

After five whole days of grinding, Sun Yaohuo finally met Lin Yuan’s standards perfectly.

The difficulties encountered during the recording even made Sun Yaohuo feel as if “Next Year, Today” was a completely new song!

Not a so-called Qi language version of “Ten Years”!

Thus, “Next Year, Today” was successfully recorded.

Unlike the surprise attack at the beginning of the month.

This time, before “Next Year, Today” even started official recording, Starlight swiftly arranged the song’s promotion, which was pretty generous.

“Xian Yu’s new song is set to be released on the 10th of this month – it’s the Qi language version of “Ten Years”!”

Tribes, blogs, and various internet forums with decent traffic became Starlight’s promotional grounds.

These were also the main bases for promoting many works.

Sun Yaohuo also posted an update of his own, expressing it via a recorded video.

In the video, Sun Yaohuo faced the camera and said:

“The new song is a companion piece to “Ten Years”. Listen to the same melody and different feelings. I hope the music lovers in Qi land will like it, it’s in your familiar language.”

After releasing “Ten Years”, Sun Yaohuo was gaining momentum.

Once he posted this video, the number of likes and comments surged compared to his previous posts.

However, people’s enthusiasm for “Next Year, Today” couldn’t be considered high.

Why?

Because both Starlight and Sun Yaohuo stated in their promotional material that the new song was a Qi language version of “Ten Years”.

The same melody, just different lyrics.

Only the music lovers in Qi province were somewhat excited because the Qi language appealed to the Qi people.

But the excitement was relative.

Because the vast majority of songs are their best in their original form. Modifying the lyrics, even if retaining the same melody, would make it taste weird.

You can refer to the Mandarin versions of many foreign songs.

Meanwhile, insiders in the music industry, especially musicians who joined the September season ranking, shivered when they first saw Starlight's promotion!

Damn it!

It's over!

Does Xian Yu still want to release songs in September?

Please, give us a chance to survive!

Not until they saw the content after the dash did they heave a sigh of relief –

So, it's the Qi language version of "Ten Years".

Then, it's nothing to worry about.

This way of having two sets of lyrics for one song is merely a gimmick.

Xian Yu and Sun Yaohuo decided to release the Qi language version of "Ten Years", likely trying to appeal to the musical taste of Qi people.

...

In that same hotel room...

Ling Feng, still reeling from the shock, looked at the online promotion for “Next Year, Today” and remarked: “I was scared to death, I thought you had jinxed me successfully.”

“I was scared too.”

The assistant said, patting his chest: “Luckily, it is just the Qi language version of “Ten Years”, a language that has a small audience. Plus, it’s the same melody, and it’s already the 10th by the time the song is released, so a third of the month has already passed.”

“That’s not the point.”

Ling Feng laughed bitterly: “If it’s Xian Yu, even if he releases a song on the 10th, winning the championship would still be a piece of cake.”

Assistant: “...”

How to describe this feeling?

It’s like Xian Yu has a 31-meter long knife and tells the singers of the September season, “I’ll give you a 30-meter head start”. It’s just ridiculous.

Damn it, we’re still going to die anyway.

“The key here is that the melody is the same, it’s just one song with two sets of lyrics. So technically speaking, “Next Year, Today” shouldn’t be considered a new song.”

Ling Feng sighed,

“Everyone is already very familiar with the melody of “Ten Years”, changing the lyrics won’t bring any surprising effect. However, considering that the new lyrics are also created by Xian Yu...”

The small assistant became anxious once more: “What’s going to happen?”

Ling Feng laughed awkwardly and consoled: “Nothing’s going to happen, at most Qi people will like it. It won’t be surprising if “Next Year, Today” ranks in the top ten anyway.”

“The same melody but with different lyrics, and it only enters the list on the 10th. And yet, there’s still hope for it to make the top ten?”

The assistant was flabbergasted: “This is clearly a scam!”

Except for Xian Yu, who else would dare to claim that they could change the lyrics of a song released in the same month with the same melody, and still rank in the top ten of the New Songs Chart after delaying its release to the 10th?

Isn’t that a scam?

If you change your clothes, do I not recognize you anymore?

This was not just Ling Feng and his assistant’s thinking, but also the common sentiment of the majority of the internet users and the music industry.

So although Starlight did the promotion, there wasn’t any particular reaction from the public.

In addition.

Even within Starlight.

Wu Yong didn’t pay much attention to the release of “Next Year, Today”.

The company was willing to promote it just for Xian Yu’s sake and on account of Sun Yaohuo’s popular streak with “Ten Years”.

They didn’t hold much anticipation for “Next Year, Today”.

With the same melody as “Ten Years” and different lyrics, would it still be a hit?

As everyone was not that concerned, time passed and it was already the 10th.

The chime at midnight was no different from that of ten days ago.

Both were dull and boring.

The moon outside didn't seem any rounder than usual.

However, in singer Ling Feng's memory, that night seemed to be exceptionally cold...

Ling Feng originally went to bed at nine.

However, at half-past eleven, he suddenly had a nightmare.

He dreamed that he fell into a fish pond, and a terrifying shark emerged from the small fish pond and viciously bit at him!

Snap!

The shark's giant mouth was too terrifying. He was scared out of his wits, was shivering all over and was subsequently jolted awake.

After waking up, Ling Feng realized that he didn't cover himself properly with his blanket and that's why he felt cold.

He got up to use the restroom. After returning, thinking about the horrifying nightmare he just had, Ling Feng hesitated before turning on the air conditioner at home.

Then, he sat in front of his computer.

His computer was still on, and it was open to the season ranking chart page, where his song "Dream Chaser" was still firmly in the second place.

The computer was left unattended because Ling Feng would check his ranking every day recently.

“Let’s listen to some music.”

The nightmare he just had scared him and since he couldn’t fall asleep right now, Ling Feng casually opened the music player.

And the song recommended today on the player was “Next Year, Today”.

Only then did Ling Feng remember that today was the 10th.

The day “Next Year, Today” would take the airwaves by storm.

Chapter 384: Meeting You in My Lifetime Seems to Have Exhausted All My Lucky Chances

“What a coincidence.”

Ling Feng muttered, casually putting on his headphones and clicked play.

If it hadn’t been for the bashing on the leaderboard from the Xianyu Army, Ling Feng would have admitted he really liked the song “Ten Years”.

Now that the song had a Qi language version, Ling Feng was naturally curious to listen to it.

Wait a second.

Ling Feng suddenly smelled something fishy.

If he was interested in this version, wouldn’t other fans who liked “Ten Years” feel the same?

This realization gave Ling Feng a slight panic.

Just as Ling Feng was hit by this worry, a voice filled his ears, beautifying the Qi language:

“If this chandelier falls down or if I cease to exist, even if you don’t love, no need to part...”

Thump.

His heart sank.

Ling Feng’s panic escalated slightly.

Despite the familiar melody, the song sounded alien to Ling Feng accompanied by the lyrics sung in Qi language.

The singing continued:

“If at this moment, I am severely silly, not needing to be loved at all, forever dreaming on my bed, no more sadness for the rest of my life...”

Ling Feng’s expression hardened.

The sense of alienation became even stronger!

He even doubted, is this really “Ten Years”?

It’s only a change of lyrics...

Lyrics!

Ling Feng’s eyes became piercing, glued to the flashing lyrics on the computer screen. It was just transitioning into the chorus:

“People always need to live bravely; I make a new wish, like learning to bear the pain of heartbreak...”

Ling Feng's back stiffened slightly.

Despite the functioning air conditioner, he felt colder.

The chorus of "Next Year, Today" echoed in his ears. The climax of the song seemed like a cold gust of wind blasting into his brain, leaving him chilled:

"Next Year, Today, no more insomnia bed sheets have changed."

"Should we be lucky to meet up or at a friend's wedding banquet, anxiously waiting for your appearance."

"Next Year, Today, haven't seen you for a year, who would change willingly, leaving you for sixty years, but I wish to recognize your offspring and hear you say goodbye at the farewell."

Ling Feng wrapped himself tighter in his thin pajamas, he wanted to cry but couldn't.

He didn't know whether it was because he was moved by the song, or for some other reason.

Anyway, the song wasn't even finished, and Ling Feng felt like he was fading away.

Ling Feng's emotions suddenly surged.

Deception!

It's Starlight's deception!

This is not a lyric-altered version of "Ten Years" at all!

It's clearly a completely new song. From the emotions it conveys to the singing style and the thematic expression, they are completely different!

If there's anything most similar about the two songs, it's definitely not the melody!

It's the fact that...

Both songs were highly enjoyable and were equally excellent!

This Fish is way too abnormal!

How in the world did he manage to make a song sound absolutely different by simply changing the lyrics, not lacking the original version?

This question, at the end of the song, seemed to have found its answer.

“In the instant that I could meet you, I used up all my luck. It wasn't until today that I realized, I had once breathed air.”

Ling Feng was suddenly not agitated anymore.

The melancholic and helpless ending note was followed by solitary chords that were still spinning with the music notes. For a while, Ling Feng was somewhat lost.

From start to finish, he never noticed that he had set the air conditioner to cold wind.

...

During the late nights when Ling Feng happened to be playing this song, many others, like Ling Feng, out of their love for “Ten Years,” listened to the so-called Qi language version.

Just as Ling Feng had anticipated.

But as more and more people listened to the Qi language version of “Ten Years” for various reasons, they all had the same conclusion:

This is not the Qi language version of “Ten Years”!

This song should have its own name, it should be called “Next Year, Today”!

Since then, the comments on this song had been completely overwhelmed.

The hottest comment with the most likes was:

“Everyone says that Xian Yu is a master of composing music, almost forgot that Xian Yu’s lyric writing is also at a master level!”

The subsequent praised comments were even more complimentary.

“My God, [In the instant that I could meet you, I used up all my luck], I’ve written lyrics for songs as well, but I won’t be able to come up with these kinds of lyrics even if all my brain cells died!”

“When I listened to “Ten Years,” I didn’t cry. But when I listened to this song, I was in tears.”

“Before I played this song, I thought I was going to re-listen to “Ten Years”, but after I finished, I realized that what I had listened to was “Next Year, Today”.”

“Personally, I think “Next Year, Today” sounds better than “Ten Years”!”

“Personal taste doesn’t represent popular taste, both the songs have no high or low, different mood, different brilliance.”

“Who would’ve thought that Xian Yu could create an entirely different song just by changing the lyrics!”

“I never liked Qi language songs, but why has “Next Year, Today” become an exception?”

“I’ve only gotten a rough understanding of it, looking at the lyrics while listening to it, I felt myself getting intoxicated.”

“...”

At the same time.

Some Qi people's groups were also passionately discussing it:

“Go and listen to “Next Year, Today”! My God, the song is so good!”

“Are you talking about our Qi language version of “Ten Years”? It's just a normal song, I don't feel anything when I listen.”

“Go and listen, you'll understand it's absolutely wonderful.”

“I didn't feel anything for Maestro Junior earlier, even when people around me hyped him up, I thought it was exaggerated. Perhaps because I've only listened to Qi language songs since I was young. After hearing “Next Year, Today” today, I realize that Xian Yu is genuinely amazing!”

“Ahhh, I really hope Xian Yu can release a few more Qi language songs!”

“Xian Yu has had Qi language songs before, “Everywhere Kisses” huh.

“And “Like You” right? He wrote both the music and lyrics.”

“No way, those songs were written by Xian Yu? I thought they were our Qi people's songs!”

“We Qi people only did the singing, Xian Yu's Qi language song skill has always been high, the song “Next Year, Today” has blown you guys who don't listen to Mandarin songs to the ends of the earth.”

“Ahem, I'm back, it truly is wonderful.”

“...”

Everything seemed to be scripting back to ten days ago.

It felt like the time when “Ten Years” had just been released, everywhere was filled with discussions about Xian Yu’s new song.

And this time around, apart from Qin and Chu, countless Qi people had also been added to the discussions!

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

The big V’s on the forums and blogs had started their overnight marathon again.

The music critics had once again begun to burn the midnight oil.

And Xian Yu’s name was once again making headlines in a grand way.

The original song was named “Ten Years”.

But everyone went from shock to further shock, in just a span of ten days.

Through “Next Year, Today”, for the first time, the energy everyone spent on discussing the lyrics of Xian Yu’s song, surpassed the energy spent on discussing Xian Yu’s composition!

Of course.

No need to mention the fact that many people changed their profile statuses to “In the instant that I could meet you, I used up all my luck” that night.

In front of the tremendous vibration brought about by “Next Year, Today,” along with the change in lyrics and the singer’s pronunciation, this was merely the tip of the iceberg.

Chapter 385: Connection of Two Songs

The discussion around “Next Year, Today” is overwhelming.

Some even believe “Next Year, Today” sounds better than the Mandarin version!

As a result, fans preferring “Ten Years” are not pleased.

There’s an undercurrent of a standoff brewing between both sides.

The real flurry, however, began late at night when many lyricists started to chime in.

Indeed, the unexpected rejuvenation of “Next Year, Today” through the mere evolving of lyrics and language caught everyone off guard.

And when it came to the impact of language change on the music, the most obvious change that the average person could see was the lyrics!

Lyrics—that’s the dominion of lyricists!

And so, whether out of a desire for attention or genuine admiration for Admired Fish’s lyrical skills, many lyricists began to analyze “Ten Years.”

Among them, one lyricist drew particular attention with his opening gambit:

“Many of you likely just noticed the big change in ‘Next Year, Today’ after the lyrics and language adjustments, but few have recognized the true intention behind Admirable Fish’s new version of lyrics!”

This lyricist’s name is “Rabbit Two Dot”.

Among his peers, Rabbit Two Dot is considered a top-tier lyricist. He’s even written lyrics for a King of Singing and a Queen of Singing, and his work is consistently well received.

And with the release of “Next Year, Today”, Rabbit Two Dot also revealed his owl-like nature, unable to help but speak out.

Indeed, no sooner had he spoken than he attracted the attention of his fans and many internet users:

“Admirable Fish’s true intention?”

“What does that mean?”

“Is there any connection between the two songs?”

“Which song does Rabbit Second Teacher think is better written?”

“Go on, go on, I’m all ears for Teacher Rabbit Second’s views.”

“Rabbit Second Teacher staying up late just to study Admired Fish’s ‘Next Year, Today’?”

“Hahaha, Rabbit Second Teacher followed Admirable Fish a year ago, it’s just that Admirable Fish hasn’t followed anyone back, as we all know, the Three Bros loop is eternal.”

“.”

Rabbit Two replied to one of the netizens guessing about the connection between the two songs:
“You’ve found the blind spot.”

Eh, what blind spot?

Well, say it then!

The netizens couldn’t take the suspense.

Because Rabbit Two is a professional lyricist and very well respected in the industry, people tend to listen to what he has to say. Famous people’s words always carry more weight.

Rabbit Two didn’t keep them guessing any longer, instead posting a long explanation:

[Putting other things aside, I'll try to analyze from the perspective of the content of the lyrics, the emotions represented, and the thoughts conveyed.

Firstly, regarding "Next Year, Today".

This song portrays a heartbroken person lying hopelessly sleepless at night, the uncontrollable grief leading to all sorts of wild musings, and struggling bitterly in the swamp of heartbreak.

In the beginning, he wonders if it'd have been better had he been crushed by the ceiling lamp prior to the heartbreak, effectively sparing him the torment of her departure. Following that, he contemplates the positive side of surviving whilst turning senile, at least then he'd become insensitive towards love, thereby not having to endure the current agony.

In the dead of the night, a myriad of thoughts wreak havoc in his mind. He knows he can't go on like this and determines to bravely confront the heartbreak. Therefore, he attempts to convince himself that he shouldn't be suffering from insomnia at this same date next year, that it's about time he changed the shabby bedding after the person beside him is long gone...

However, as these ideas grow, he falls back into the emotional whirlpool, suddenly reluctant to make the changes, even desiring to meet up once again; perhaps even visualizing a reunion sixty years later, even on his last breath, wishing for one last encounter.

You've noticed, haven't you? "Next Year, Today" describes the pain of heartbreak, but in the entire lyrics, only one word relates to pain.

Admirable Fish didn't directly write about the character's inner torment, but rather, in the first person, he creates several fictional scenarios:

Being hit by a ceiling lamp, turning senile, bumping into each other at someone's wedding, reuniting sixty years later.

He meticulously delineates the microscopic changes in the heartbroken insomniac, letting listeners place themselves into the shoes of the heartbroken one, experiencing their struggle of a tough goodbye with their ex-partner.

Now let's look at "Ten Years".

It as well portrays heartbreak but differs significantly in its writing approach and the emotions conveyed compared to “Next Year, Today”.

And so, the protagonist of “Ten Years”...

Turns out to be the one breaking off the relationship with the protagonist from “Next Year, Today”!

This is the biggest connection between the two songs—they are monologues from the two sides of the ex-couple!

If you don’t believe it, let’s analyze.

In the first verse of “Ten Years”, she realizes that she is a little upset during the break-up; she describes their shared experiences as akin to those of a holiday, but that wasn’t fulfilling enough for her yearning. She wants to pursue a better life; then she calmly and rationally advises that emotional separation is inevitable given that they can’t continue, so why not just enjoy the emotional connection that still remains.

As the song transitions into the chorus, this character’s rationality shines through, like they’ve never been in love before, imagining events from ten years ago and ten years into the future.

Ten years prior, they were strangers, but haven’t they made it this far today? In ten years, although they would be broken up, to have known one another is still considered an encounter, a polite greeting upon running into each other is justifiable. It’s meaningless to have been in love before, anyway. ‘Lovers will inevitably become friends’—how cruel yet how starkly realistic it is! Faced with such advice, there’s virtually nothing left to be said, leaving no room for reconsideration, as if the reasons for sorrow have vanished.

The concluding line ‘my tears won’t flow for you, they’ll flow for someone else’ suggests that there will always be people who will come and go in my life, it just happened to be you. There’s nothing special about it, nothing worth lingering on. With that mindset, you could say she sees the bigger picture or that she’s coldly rational to the brink of numbness.

While “Next Year, Today” delves deeper into the abyss of heartbreak, “Ten Years” delivers rational persuasion. “Next Year, Today” expresses emotions through narratives whilst “Ten Years” emphasizes logical analysis; “Next Year, Today” is more straightforward, allowing listeners to

empathize with the emotions upon placing themselves in the protagonist's shoes, whereas "Ten Years" requires more pondering and contemplation.

If my hypothesis holds, these two songs are responding to each other, representing a dialogue between the emotional and rational facets of Admirable Fish's inner self.

You are still asking which song is better?

I am not deliberately being evasive, but I just want to tell you all that which song is better written depends on which protagonist your personality aligns more with, and at different stages of your life, you may have different answers.]

This interpretation suddenly opened another door for listeners!

Those netizens who were previously debating about which song was better immediately ceased the debate.

Considering this interpretation, arguing seems as though it's entirely pointless.

"I see, so the two songs present different perspectives of the same couple?"

"It all makes sense now! I always felt there was some connection between these two songs every time I listened to them."

"I love this [the dialogue between Admirable Fish's rational and emotional sides], it clears everything up!"

"He really nailed it. Initially, I wanted to say that Rabbit Second Teacher might be over-interpreting with his article, but after reading through it all, I found it incredibly compelling. The imagination of lyricists really knows no bounds."

"Eureka, so that's how it is. Admirable Fish is so incredible!"

"Haha, how can I think so much when listening to songs, all I can say is: awesome!"

“Actually, Sun Yaohuo hinted that ‘Next Year, Today’ is the companion piece to ‘Ten Years’.”

“.”

By this point, someone in the comments asked Rabbit Two about his evaluation of Admirable Fish’s lyrical ability.

Rabbit Two responded with a bit of humor:

“The kind that leaves many lyricists tossing and turning all night long.”

Oh?

So this is the reason you’re up cultivating at this late hour?

Chapter 386: No Egg Remains Intact Under a Toppled Nest

Although Rabbit Two’s comment, “A level that keeps many lyricists awake at night” was meant to be humorous and self-deprecating, it was true to some extent. It did indeed hit quite a few lyricists hard—

Aren’t you, Xian Yu, a composer?

Why are you stealing our jobs as lyricists?

Why aren’t you sticking to your own profession? If all composers were like you, should we lyricists retire?

Or should we lyricists also learn composing?

Should we pursue a dual career in both fields like Xian Yu?

Not everyone can be as talented as you, Xian Yu. Even many maestros, when it comes to putting lyrics to melodies, still need the help of long-term collaborating lyricists.

But Xian Yu... doesn't!

And what's more, Xian Yu isn't one of those composers who insist on writing their own lyrics despite producing subpar work.

His lyrics are so good they make many professional lyricists feel inferior!

Can an average person write, "In the years of my life, meeting you has depleted all my luck?"

The thing is, Xian Yu does this every time.

Every time, his lyrics mesh perfectly with the melody.

Starting from his debut song "Life Like a Summer Flower", he began crafting memorable lines like, "Live splendidly like a summer flower, die as beautifully quiet as autumn leaves"—

Of course, the "Life Like a Summer Flower" lyrics don't contain the latter half of that sentence.

To help listeners understand the artistic conception, Xian Yu specifically noted the latter half when he was finding buzz words to promote his composition.

Then came his song "Red Rose".

Xian Yu actually penned the classic line, "What is unattainable is always in turmoil, the loved ones have no fear".

These lyrics have been repeatedly quoted by modern youths, whether they like the song or not. It has even become the signature of many, often recited like a mantra after breakups due to third-party involvement.

And this doesn't even cover all of Xian Yu's slightly less influential, but still brilliant lyrics!

Hence, many lyricists are distressed.

There's an old saying, "Do not challenge my profession with your hobby".

Xian Yu's profession is obviously composing, yet his demonstrated lyric-writing capability can virtually kick countless lyricists out of their jobs.

At this point.

The biggest solace to the lyricists would probably be the fact that very few composers are as talented at writing lyrics as Xian Yu is.

Also, on the Tribe blog and various forums.

With everyone paying attention to "Next Year, Today", the issue gradually evolved into a public discussion about Xian Yu's historically exceptional lyrics.

"Come to think of it, the lyrics of every song Xian Yu has released are amazing. The thematic lyrics of "Easy to Ignite and Explode", for example, have won me over."

"The lyrical dialogue stretching across two versions of the same melody is totally rad."

"Not everyone can do it like that. Otherwise, why not just write a few alternative sets of lyrics for one melody. Xian Yu alone is capable of releasing a new set of lyrics for "Ten Years" in the Qi language and getting everyone to download it once again."

"Even Xian Yu wouldn't dare to do this frequently, I presume. Two sets of lyrics for one song, both of them becoming hits – that's quite a feat."

"Rabbit Second Teacher's review has indirectly proven how professional Xian Yu's lyrics-writing is."

"..."

Intense debates over Xian Yu's lyrical prowess had been going on for some time, and this time seemed more like a breakout after a long period of fermentation.

However, the most frustrated ones are not the lyricists, since most composers still need professional lyricists to work with. There's only one Xian Yu, after all.

As for the musicians involved in the September season's competition, they face two Xian Yus!

Just within a few hours, "Next Year, Today" broke the one million download mark, making its way directly into the top ten of the season's list!

Then, the next day came.

The inscrutable composer, who was betrayed by the season's list as fifth, woke up pleasantly. He felt he had slept like a log and felt extremely refreshed.

His work was only ranked fifth, but the company's expectations for the song were actually to make it into the top ten.

Making it to the fifth position was a great reward.

But his expression instantly froze when he saw the ranking on the season's list.

Why am I sixth now?

He was stunned for several seconds before scrambling to find out the reason. Three seconds later, the truth lay bare before him.

Xian Yu's "Ten Years" – the Qi language version – had parachuted in.

This song, simply by changing its lyrics and adopting the alias "Next Year, Today", had risen to the fourth place overnight, pushing him and the original fourth positioner down!

"He occupies two of the top five spots? Are the listeners stupid, or do they just have too much money!?"

This unknown singer felt like Xian Yu had driven past with a steamroller, crushing a bunch of people. Realizing something was wrong, Xian Yu drove the steamroller back...

The singer was close to cursing, but his hand didn't stop. He hastily clicked on "Next Year, Today" to listen to it once.

After listening, he stopped speaking.

This song... fine, maybe he was the one who was stupid.

He then turned his malicious gaze to all the songs ranked below "Ten Years". The unknown composer cracked a triumphant smile.

When the nest is upset, none of the eggs are spared, the explanation says. This phrase usually implies that when a collective suffers, individuals or parts cannot avoid being affected.

In simpler terms, we're all doomed.

Similar sentiments were shared by several other contemporary musicians who were in the same predicament.

As for Ling Feng, who was ranked second, he was mentally prepared after listening to the song last night. Seeing the result the next day, he wasn't overly upset or depressed. He just felt a little under the weather due to catching a cold the night before.

As expected, it's Xian Yu.

What about parachuting in?

What about having two different sets of lyrics for one song?

Isn't he still wreaking absolute havoc as usual?

Until the 14th of September, “Next Year, Today” reached the second place on the seasonal list with six million downloads. Every song released during the same period dropped one rank, marking the end of the bloodbath.

Behind this bloodbath was the further deterioration of what the music circle calls ‘Ichthyophobia’.

Of course.

Within Starlight, exclamations from the composing colleagues on other floors were inevitable:

“Is that even possible?”

“With one melody and two sets of lyrics, he simultaneously seizes the top two spots?”

“Who the heck can still claim that Sun Yaohuo couldn’t become a sensation?”

“Even if Sun Yaohuo was a pig, Xian Yu could probably still lift him to the heavens!”

“We can’t quite put it that way. Sun Yaohuo’s ability to sing in Qi language is unexpected. There aren’t many singers in the company who can do that.”

“Why does it feel like Sun Yaohuo is on the fast track to reaching the top tier?”

“Securing the first and second places in a single season, that record is good enough for Sun Yaohuo to brag for a few years.”

“We worried about whether the ninth floor could complete the company’s task earlier. Now let’s worry about ourselves. The tears of envy are literally flowing from my mouth.”

“...”

Probably only Jin Mu, the agent who best understands Lin Yuan’s strength, wasn’t surprised at all. He looked at the top two songs on the list and smiled.

There couldn't have been a better return than this.

A true king must return by triumphantly stepping over heaps of beaten foes.

Chapter 387: This Could Reach Me Too

Starlight, ninth floor music composition department, representing the office.

Lin Yuan, whom Jin Mu described as “dominating, awe-inspiring”, was exuberantly playing with a toy car—

This was no ordinary toy car.

This was a toy racing car that could transform like a Rubik's Cube to shape-shift into a robot with slight folding.

Lin Yuan's fingers were nimbly moving the toy's joints, quickly creating a commanding, mighty small robot.

At the helmet of the robot, the lights flickered and gleamed, utterly cool.

Where did this toy car come from?

Of course, Sun Yaohuo gifted it.

Upon hearing Lin Yuan mention “Transformers” a few times, Sun Yaohuo searched online extensively but found no lead. Eventually, he had to ask Lin Yuan about what exactly these Transformers were.

Lin Yuan briefly explained, and then Sun Yaohuo had this toy ordered from Han Continent.

This morning, Sun Yaohuo rushed to the company to personally handover the gift to Lin Yuan.

And no doubt, this gift was quite similar to Transformers.

Even though it was not Bumblebee, the design philosophy of the toy was the same as that of Transformers.

“Shoo!”

Lin Yuan placed the toy on his desk, staring at the robot while making sound effects with his mouth.

Seeing Lin Yuan enjoying himself, Sun Yaohuo was cheered as well. Rubbing his hands together, he said, “Junior, do you want to dine at my restaurant tonight? I recently opened a new one specializing in Yan Continent cuisine.”

Reluctantly shifting his gaze from the robot to Sun Yaohuo, Lin Yuan questioned, “Yan Continent?”

“Mhm.”

Sun Yaohuo laughed and said, “Isn’t Yan Continent about to join the merger? At that time, surely a lot of Yan people will come here to work. I think opening a restaurant catering to Yan tastes will have a good market...”

Lin Yuan was somewhat intrigued but then said, “Maybe later. Tonight, I want to go home early as I have to go to the set tomorrow.”

Sun Yaohuo quickly responded, “No problem! Just let me know anytime what you want to eat. My restaurants have everything.”

“Senior has opened many restaurants.” Lin Yuan was surprised.

Sun Yaohuo waved his hand dismissively. “Not that many, just three hot pot restaurants and six others that primarily feature different cuisines. Last time, Xue Liang mentioned you have an interest in steak, so I plan to open a steakhouse next year. You should come and try it.”

“Great!”

Lin Yuan nodded joyfully.

At that moment, Sun Yaohuo's phone rang. He apologized and moved away to take the call at the corner of the room.

Not sure what the other party said, but Sun Yaohuo suddenly became excited. "Really? They want me as an endorser? That's great! Hahaha! Thank you for getting me this endorsement. I'll treat you to a meal tonight at my restaurant...what did you say? Half price isn't enough? You think you're my dad? Bye."

After finishing his statement, Sun Yaohuo hung up the call and burst into laughter, even humming to himself.

"Senior."

Lin Yuan helplessly asked, "Can you be more mature and composed like me?"

Meanwhile,

The toy, which Lin Yuan had once again folded back into the shape of a racing car, rolled its wheels on the desk until it collided with a stack of papers and came to a halt.

"..."

Sun Yaohuo glanced at the toy racing car, then at Lin Yuan. In the end, he silently nodded his head.

"What's going on?"

Lin Yuan returned to fiddling with the racing car.

Sun Yaohuo joyfully exclaimed, "Endorsement! A top-tier brand wants me as their endorser. This would be my first time being an endorser for a top-tier brand!"

"Congratulations, senior."

Lin Yuan lifted up the race car, observing its rapidly spinning wheels.

...

Clearly,

Because both versions—the Mandarin and Qi language versions—of the song “Ten Years” made a strong impact, Sun Yaohuo had completely risen to stardom. Currently, even top-tier brands were approaching him for endorsements.

As Wu Yong put it:

Sun Yaohuo’s popularity is soaring. If he could continue this momentum until year-end, he might secure a position as a top-tier singer.

Furthermore,

The two versions of the song significantly boosted Lin Yuan’s music-making reputation.

At this point in time, the impacts of both songs had not yet fully subsided.

Online,

Beyond the discussions about the two versions of “Ten Years”, there was a new hot topic online. A popular blogger had joked about the September new song list:

“Do you guys know why Xian Yu released two songs in September?”

Netizens were naturally curious and started leaving comments asking for more insights. They thought this person might have a new interpretation of these two songs, just as Rabbit Two had analyzed the lyrics of Xian Yu’s two songs.

As a result, this person replied seriously, “Because not everyone can occupy the second position!”

“...”

Netizens understood immediately. Everyone knew this was an implied sarcastic jab at Fei Yang's Perennial Runner-up stigma!

“Hahahahaha, you're so naughty!”

“Xian Yu: You, Ling Feng, are also worthy of the 2nd place?”

“Xian Yu: Defending the best in the world, Fei Yang.”

“This interpretation makes perfect sense and is very convincing. Yes, in order to defend the Perennial Runner-up position for King Fei, Lin Yuan released a song named ‘Next Year, Today’ to grab the top place himself.”

“Xian Yu: The second place is not for everyone!”

“Xian Yu: Chen Zhiyu can, Fei Yang can, but you, Ling Feng, are still not up to it.”

“What talk about two unique lyrics for one song? This is probably Xian Yu's special care for the Perennial Runner-up!”

“Xian Yu was forced to do this. To make room for Fei Yang or Chen Zhiyu to take up the second place, he had to release ‘Next Year, Today’ himself to take up the first.”

“...”

Following the tradition of joking around, the netizens were playing with memes in the comments and soon the joke spread across many forums, leading many other netizens to follow suit.

Everyone clearly knew that Xian Yu didn't mean it this way.

But it doesn't matter.

Who asked for the Perennial Runner-up meme to be relevant to this issue?

As more and more netizens started playing with that meme, Chen Zhiyu's comment section inevitably attracted a lot of troll netizens.

But compared to Chen Zhiyu, Fei Yang's comment section was truly the epicenter of troll netizens!

Everyone knew Chen Zhiyu had successfully passed on the torch, giving the title of Perennial Runner-up to Fei Yang.

Now it's the era of Fei Yang, the second generation Perennial Runner-up!

"Fish says: Only you can sit in the second spot."

"King Fei, what a face!"

"I wish Fish and you fly together!"

"Waiting for another double!"

"Chen Zhiyu took the second place three times, King Fei only twice. One more time and it'll be perfect!"

"Sense the deep love from Xian Yu?"

"..."

At this time, Fei Yang was doing a show outside. During the break, he intended to update a status to interact with his fans and casually looked at his comment section.

Looking at the comments, Fei Yang was dumbfounded.

Dense comments. Every page filled with different jokes. After looking carefully for a while, every page was filled with four words, “Perennial Runner-up”.

No way, right?

Can this also be made into a joke about me?

You guys are not done yet, are you?

Chapter 388: Enduring Hardship with Great Perseverance

Fei Yang was upset.

Don’t I have a reputation to uphold?

It didn’t matter much if Chen Zhiyu was labelled as the Perennial Runner-up, after all, his rival was Xian Yu.

But things were different for him. He was the King of Singing, and one who was at the peak of his popularity, no less!

The King of Singing should not be disgraced!

... Oops, sorry, wrong set.

Anyway, Fei Yang was angry.

The assistant next to him obviously knew what had happened online.

He kept it from Fei Yang fearing it would upset him. Now that it was impossible to hide the situation, he could only attempt to console him by saying,

“Brother Fei, you don’t need to take the netizens’ silly memes too seriously. Today’s youngsters just enjoy playing these games. They mean no harm.”

“Uh-huh.”

Fei Yang said, “Last time, I didn’t care even when an internet troll cursed me at a concert. Why should I hold a grudge against these netizens who are just joking around?”

“An internet troll?”

The assistant chuckled, “That troll you reported last time was detained for several days.”

“Huh.”

Fei Yang rolled his eyes, snorted unhappily, and said, “That’s because he insulted my family — I just want to beat Xian Yu for once, and let him taste what it’s like to be second.”

“Alright.”

The assistant certainly knew that Fei Yang’s temper was relatively good among the kings of singing. He was merely trying to lighten the mood: “Actually, beating Xian Yu isn’t that difficult. After all, the end of the year is near.”

The assistant hinted.

Fei Yang’s eyes flickered slightly, “Yes, the end of the year is coming.”

According to the music industry, the end of the year is the time for the annual Battle of the Gods!

The Battle of the Gods was always a lively affair.

At this time, the kings and queens of singing and songwriters never shied away.

Last year, Xian Yu won the crown for the Champion Track with “Red Sun”. There are many who are not satisfied with this outcome, not just Fei Yang, who is eager to claim victory.

So.

This end of the year, as a trending King of Singing, Fei Yang is still going to participate in this Battle of the Gods!

Besides, Xian Yu started his comeback in September, apparently intending to join the Battle of the Gods at the end of the year as well.

At that time, Fei Yang and Xian Yu will meet again.

Holding a grudge for a year, Fei Yang is all set to turn tables at this year's end and win the singing contest.

“Come to think of it.”

The assistant reminded him: “Xian Yu daring to release the song ‘Ten Years’ in September, rather than at the end of the year, shows that he is confident he can produce an even better song by then!”

“That’s true.”

A serious look crossed Fei Yang’s eyes.

Netizens had nicknamed him the new Perennial Runner-up, and in such a situation, Fei Yang couldn’t ignore Xian Yu.

Moreover, the song “Ten Years” was so popular that even if it wasn’t Xian Yu’s song, Fei Yang would definitely want to listen to it.

Also, a recent song, “Next Year, Today,” launched Xian Yu to the top two spots on the music charts, making him the center of attention in the music industry.

Even Fei Yang, who was determined to seek revenge against Xian Yu, had to admit that the song “Ten Years” was excellent.

This challenger could not afford to be taken lightly, not even a tiny bit.

“Unless Xian Yu doesn’t participate in the Battle of the Gods at the end of the year, but if he does, his song must be of extraordinarily high quality!”

The assistant’s expression was very serious.

Fei Yang clenched his teeth: “I learned my lesson last year, and this year I made more comprehensive preparations. I started preparing for the end-of-year song half a year in advance, just for this tough battle with him!”

King Fei was full of determination.

Preparing for the end-of-year song half a year in advance, such determination isn’t something everyone possesses.

Everyone says that Xian Yu writes good lyrics, right?

That’s perfect because the new song King Fei has prepared for the end of the year perfectly weaves the lyrics with the melody. The lyrics have a very lofty and poetic meaning. He fears neither the melody nor the lyrics!

...

Lin Yuan had no idea how eagerly King Fei was preparing, let alone how much King Fei longed to make him taste the bitterness of being second.

September sixteenth.

Lin Yuan arrived at the set of “Hachiko”.

He was there for two reasons. The first was that the filming of “Hachiko” was entering its final stage, with the shoot wrapping up at the end of the month. Lin Yuan needed to check on things.

The second reason was that Yi Chenggong, the director, had hit a snag with one of the scenes. No matter how he filmed it, he wasn't satisfied. He asked for Lin Yuan's help.

So Lin Yuan came.

Upon seeing Lin Yuan, Yi Chenggong's eyes lit up, and he rushed over: "Mr. Lin, you have finally arrived!"

Lin Yuan cut to the chase: "What scene is giving you trouble?"

Yi Chenggong took out the script and pointed to a specific passage: "In this scene, the professor is preparing to go to the school, but for some reason, Hachiko is acting unusual today. It seems that he doesn't want the professor to go, unusual for Hachiko who is normally not so clingy. This surprises the professor. As he sits at the railway waiting for the train, Hachiko walks up to him with a ball in his mouth."

Lin Yuan understood.

This scene needed the cooperation of a dog.

More accurately, it needed Antarctica's cooperation.

Antarctica was the grown dog featured in this scene, a character with a significant amount of screen time.

This scene was supposed to hint at the impending misfortune to befall the master, as sensed by Hachiko instinctively.

"The part where he brings the ball to the professor's side isn't difficult to film, but after the train departs, Hachiko needs to chase it for a while, and then return to his usual spot where he waits for his master every day. This needs Antarctica to show some emotion..." At this point, Yi Chenggong blushed, "Am I asking too much?"

Normally, Yi Chenggong wouldn't demand so much, especially not from the other two dogs in the film. He wouldn't press them like this.

But Antarctica was different. This dog was incredibly intelligent.

Because of Antarctica's intelligence, Yi Chenggong couldn't help but want to enhance the role, making the scene more heartfelt.

"Let me try."

Lin Yuan walked over to Antarctica, crouched down, and petted her head: "Can you understand the feeling when someone you are close to is about to leave you?"

Antarctica stuck out her tongue and licked the back of Lin Yuan's hand.

"I see."

Lin Yuan allowed her to continue licking while he mentally summoned the System to arrange a dose of the Emperor's Charm Potion for Antarctica.

Antarctica had never used the Emperor's Charm Potion in all the shoots so far as she was naturally good at acting.

However, considering the relatively higher difficulty of this scene, Lin Yuan did not hesitate to spend that extra money.

Antarctica continued licking.

Lin Yuan couldn't help saying, "Once we finish filming, you can go home. Yao Yao misses you. She even said she wanted to give you a bath the day before yesterday."

Antarctica wagged her tail.

Standing up, Lin Yuan said, "You may start filming."

Having gotten used to Lin Yuan's way of talking to dogs as if they were people, Yi Chenggong nodded, "Let's get ready then."

The crew got to work at once.

Then again, the crew witnessed the formidable power of Lin "Druid" Yuan.

Antarctica, who had been struggling to perform this scene previously, suddenly cooperated perfectly, completing the scene smoothly. When Antarctica looked at the departing train blankly, some people even had moist eyes.

"Don't cry!"

Yi Chenggong scolded, "How many eggs have we fed you all!"

Just as the crew was about to cry, upon hearing his words, they all burst into laughter.

It turned out that the plot was so heartbreaking that the crew often got moved and cried. Sometimes, they would cry multiple times a day.

After a couple of these crying incidents, their eyes would swell up. The crew had to provide eggs for them to soothe their eyes.

However, they were only peeling and eating the eggs instead of using them to soothe their eyes.

Someone sighed, "This film is set to leave the audience in floods of tears."

Someone next to him scolded, "Can't you get your idioms right? The correct phrase is 'rivers of tears'!"

The first person shook his head, "Ah, you're too inexperienced."

Watching this scene come together, Lin Yuan felt a part of him being affected. The sadness caused a slight ache in his teeth.

Chapter 389: All Caused by Sweet Food

Strange, why does my tooth hurt?

Lin Yuan was a bit puzzled, but didn't give it much thought.

After finishing filming, Lin Yuan was ready to go home only to find Antarctica trailing behind him on equal footing.

Lin Yuan was taken aback, "Why are you following me?"

According to the plot of "Hachiko", this wasn't a good sign.

Antarctica wagged its tail in a seemingly docile manner.

Helpless, Lin Yuan simply said goodbye to the crew and took Antarctica home.

Tomorrow morning he would return Antarctica to the set.

That being so, Lin Yuan took a car and returned home.

Lin Yao had already finished school by now and was doing her homework at home. Lin Yuan didn't know what university homework his sister was working on, but he felt she was studying even harder than when she was in high school.

However, spotting Antarctica returning through the window, Lin Yao uncharacteristically put down her pen and went to open the door.

"Antarctica!"

"Woof woof woof!"

Antarctica pounced forward like a hungry dog –

Well, it is a dog indeed.

Looking at Lin Yao, who was squatting down, patting the dog's head seriously, Lin Yuan couldn't help but say, "You don't greet me like this when I come home."

"Are you as cute as Antarctica?"

"I bought you egg yolk pastries."

"You make it sound like you didn't eat any."

"I also bought you strawberry-flavored jelly."

"I like apple-flavored ones, you're the one who likes strawberry."

"I also bought you study materials."

"Well, for this one, I am a bit grateful to you..."

Lin Yao thought about it and reluctantly took out a packet of candy from her pocket: "A classmate gave me this happy candy."

"Your classmate is getting married?"

Lin Yao's expression faltered for a moment: "It's happy candy for getting first place in the exam."

Lin Yuan was surprised, "Isn't the first place always yours?"

Lin Yao was a top student who always came first in every exam at school. This was the first time Lin Yuan saw Lin Yao take second place.

Lin Yao didn't make a sound.

Lin Yuan lamented, "I have never taken second place. I always get first place; people think it's boring."

"I'm also first!"

Lin Yao looked angrily at Lin Yuan, her bastard big brother clearly trying to hit her where it hurt, "As long as I want to, I can definitely get first place again!"

"So, were you second this time?"

"It is second, but I gave her first place."

With that, Lin Yao pouted, "Every time she gets second, she hides and cries, worried about losing her full scholarship. But giving her first place didn't make me feel happy."

"Of course, you wouldn't be happy."

Lin Yuan chuckled, "Because you sympathized with her, but didn't realize that she may not need your sympathy. She might need your respect and efforts more. If she knew the truth, she might be sadder than when she got second place."

Lin Yao was worried, "Should I tell her the truth?"

Lin Yuan shook his head, "Since you have already let her have it, just let it be. Just not be like this next time."

With that said, Lin Yuan suddenly became curious, "What does it feel like to come second?"

"Eat your candy."

Lin Yao replied unhappily. She walked into the room with Antarctica. Just before she closed the door, she paused, “Didn’t you come second this time?”

Huh?

Lin Yuan paused, realizing that was indeed the case.

He really did come in second place.

So that’s what it feels like to come second?

It doesn’t seem much different from coming first.

He put the candy in his mouth and chewed. Suddenly, Lin Yuan found that his toothache had intensified.

...

A toothache isn’t a disease, but it can be really painful.

Lin Yuan thought his toothache would get better soon, but it quickly worsened, especially after he ate a few candies.

Lin Yuan asked the System, “Did I get a cavity?”

System: “...”

Feeling that he wouldn’t get an answer from the System, Lin Yuan decided to ask his sister to take him to the hospital, but she was not home due to overtime work.

“I’ll take you.”

Lin Yao was worried about Lin Yuan and directly hailed a taxi to the hospital.

The hospital was still open at this time.

The doctor did a quick check and smiled, “No big problem, you’ve got a wisdom tooth coming in. Do you want to have it removed?”

“Yes!”

Lin Yao responded with a serious face.

Lin Yuan was a bit worried, “Will it hurt?”

Lin Yuan was afraid of pain, very afraid. This fear stemmed from his regular childhood illnesses for which he received injections. He had a shadow over syringes.

The doctor smiled, “Just a little anesthesia.”

Normally, the doctor wouldn’t be this patient, but the brother and sister in front of her didn’t make her lose her temper. Talking with these two seemed to make her feel calm and composed somehow.

“I need to get an injection again?”

Getting his tooth pulled and an injection too, Lin Yuan became weak.

If he could, he would trade ten second place finishes for this painless extraction.

Lin Yao started looking up information about wisdom teeth on her phone: “If you don’t get it pulled, it will hurt again in the future.”

“Then let’s pull it out.”

Lin Yuan had to resign himself to it.

Although he was afraid of pain, he preferred short-term pain to long-term pain.

At this moment, Lin Yuan fervently wished he could finish his task soon. There was another task from the System. As long as he completed it, he could get a healthy body.

A healthy body definitely wouldn't grow wisdom teeth, right?

Hmm, does growing wisdom teeth have something to do with me liking sweets? It's all the fault of sweets! A certain uninformed guy was thinking to himself.

"We will start the injection now."

The doctor looked at Lin Yuan's fearful face and felt a bit reluctant. The last time she felt this way was when she was treating a six-year-old child.

"Alright."

Lin Yuan was resigned to his fate. He finally understood why Antarctica had followed him. This was an inauspicious omen.

Lin Yao took out her phone and pointed it at Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan asked, "What are you doing?"

Lin Yao replied matter-of-factly, "Recording it."

Lin Yuan: "..."

He had no energy to deal with this now.

Soon, after the anesthesia injection, Lin Yuan felt his mouth was somewhat numb.

The doctor used a series of tools to fix one of Lin Yuan's teeth: "I'll count to three, and then start pulling. Don't be afraid, it won't hurt; the anesthesia has already worked."

Lin Yuan's mouth was open and he couldn't reply, so he just blinked.

"Ready, one..."

The doctor's hand suddenly pulled hard and with a click, Lin Yuan felt like something was missing, as if he was incomplete.

He opened his eyes in astonishment and stared at the doctor.

What happened to the countdown of two and three?

Where are your "two" and "three"?

Lin Yao let out a strange laugh and her hand holding the mobile phone shook slightly.

"It's usually like this."

The doctor explained, "One, two, three is to relax the patient's guard. Before I count to three, you are relatively less nervous."

Lin Yuan: "..."

That night, Lin Yuan's tooth extraction video was uploaded to a small group chat, causing Xia Fan and Jian Yi to laugh endlessly.

His sister seemed to comfort him with a few words, "I'll treat you to candy tonight, oh no, you can't eat them now, so I'll just have them with Big Yaoyao."

Lin Yuan did not want to talk.

Having just had a tooth pulled, he couldn't speak anyway.

Chapter 390: White Rose

Although the toothache was an agonizing experience, Lin Yuan felt better by the next day. His mouth was just a little stiff and he had to avoid eating certain foods.

He had planned to enjoy a meal at Senior Yao Huo's hot pot restaurant, but that idea had to be shelved for now.

The doctor, who seemed to ramble endlessly, instructed Lin Yuan to have only liquid or semi-liquid meals for the next two days.

Lin Yuan didn't have specific food preferences. He could handle hot and spicy as well as bland foods. As long as it tasted good, he was fine. So, his current condition didn't present a great deal of inconvenience.

"Master, what happened to you?"

When Li Lizhi arrived for her composition lesson, she noticed Lin Yuan holding his mouth. He waved her away, saying "I had a tooth extraction yesterday. No class today."

"Oh, well, take care then."

Li Lizhi looked at Lin Yuan with concern before rushing off to the high-end cafeteria. She asked the chef, who usually only cooked for the chairman and other VIPs, to make a bowl of noodles for Lin Yuan. When it was time for lunch, she hustled back to Lin Yuan, excitedly announcing that the meal was ready, her face screaming "Look at how dutiful I am."

By noon, just as Lin Yuan had sat down in the cafeteria, he received a call.

Turns out, Sun Yaohuo heard about his tooth extraction and had a bowl of porridge delivered.

So there was Lin Yuan, sitting in the cafeteria, with Sun Yaohuo to his left, holding a bowl of porridge, and Li Lizhi to his right, holding a bowl of noodles.

The porridge was filled with an assortment of delicious ingredients, stimulating anyone's appetite just by its appearance.

The noodles, peeking out amidst the gourmet ingredients, were equally mouthwatering.

“Junior...”

“Master...”

Looking at the eager faces on both sides, Lin Yuan decided to eat both.

It wasn't because he didn't want to disappoint them but simply because he was greedy and wanted both meals.

It was just like how people teased Xian Yu:

Only kids choose. I want both the first and second places on the season leaderboard.

Although this meant he ended up bloated, as he wiped his mouth, he couldn't help but feel immensely satisfied.

Sun Yaohuo turned to Lin Yuan, saying “Junior brother, if you like it, I can have it prepared for you again tomorrow.”

Li Lizhi, somewhat displeased, turned to Sun Yaohuo and retorted, “The master could have had the same meal in the cafeteria. The chef usually cooks only for my dad and a few specific individuals. He's a renowned chef.”

I was merely showing my respect for the master.

Are you, Sun Yaohuo, here to do the same?

The company rumors were indeed true. When Sun Yaohuo puts his mind to it, he is incredibly meticulous. In comparison, those so-called gold-star nannies should be ashamed and consider changing professions.

Sun Yaohuo naturally knew who the company's little princess was.

By his previous standards, he would've pleased her already, but he was different now and even raised a counter-argument:

"My chef once cooked for high-ranking figures from Zhong Continent and is quite reputable in the catering industry."

Li Lizhi retorted, "By the time you deliver it, it's not fresh anymore."

Sun Yaohuo pointed to the insulated lunchbox and said, "This is a fresh-lock thermal lunch box invented by Chu people. It has a heating element inside it; on the way here, it was still cooking. The food is perfect when it arrives!"

Do you think I, Sun Yaohuo, wouldn't consider such details?

Li Lizhi: "..."

Lin Yuan couldn't help but intervene, "Senior brother, there's no need to trouble yourself, I can manage with the cafeteria food during these few days. I'll come to your restaurant later. That being said, you need to come to the company tomorrow. I need to discuss something."

"Alright, then. I must go now, Junior brother, take care."

Once Lin Yuan had spoken, Sun Yaohuo didn't insist.

Continuing to argue with the little princess of Starlight would seem a little petty, plus he wouldn't stand a chance if she decided to throw a tantrum.

...

After Sun Yaohuo left, Lin Yuan rested a while in the cafeteria.

He had eaten so much he was stuffed. A bowl of porridge and a bowl of noodles, both were sizable, how could he not be?

Li Lizhi stayed by Lin Yuan's side, and timidly asked, "Master, when can I graduate?"

"In a hurry to graduate?"

Lin Yuan looked at Li Lizhi. Although this third disciple was average in terms of talent, she had greatly improved her composition skill under his teaching and was almost ready to graduate.

"No, it would be great if I never graduated."

Li Lizhi said instinctively, then blushed, realizing her mistake. She waved her hands in a fluster, "No, no, I meant I'm not in a hurry..."

Lin Yuan said solemnly, "Studying composition requires patience."

Li Lizhi immediately affirmed, "Yes."

"Louder!"

"Yes!"

"Can you endure the solitude?"

"Yes!"

"Any more questions?"

"No!"

Lin Yuan was used to being strict with Li Lizhi, and she was accustomed to his strictness, making it feel like military-style discipline.

“That’s good, then. Help me up.”

“Eh?”

“I’m too full, I can’t move.”

“...”

With Li Lizhi’s help, Lin Yuan went back to his office on the ninth floor. He reclined in his chair for a while, pondering some matters.

There were still three months left of the year.

He had to release a song in December. There was no way he would miss the much-anticipated Battle of the Gods. Furthermore, he had set goals to achieve for his department.

His aim was to propel Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui into the spotlight.

With the song “Ten Years” gaining immense popularity and his mastery of the Qi language widely acknowledged, Sun Yao Huo was almost there.

However, Sun Yaohuo’s foundation was not as solid as Jiang Kui’s and thus needed another hit to solidify his place.

An A-list singer, albeit not a King of Singing with recognized professional awards, had specific criteria in the Literature and Art Association. This was based on the singer’s popularity, the influence of their work, and their commercial value.

Lin Yuan was not particularly familiar with the specific calculation formula nor did he need to understand it. Someone would remind him.

And that person was Wu Yong.

According to Wu Yong, Sun Yaohuo was just one champion song away from becoming an A-list singer.

Therefore, Lin Yuan decided to arrange another song for Sun Yaohuo in October.

He had already decided which song it should be.

Inspired by the success of “Ten Years” and Sun Yaohuo’s proficiency in the Qi language—remember, Sun Yaohuo also sang “Red Rose”!

If there was a red rose, why not have a white rose too?

This was him cutting corners without hiding!

The melody and arrangement were basically ready-made; they just needed a tweak in the lyrics and voila! A new song was born!

Yes.

Lin Yuan planned to release “White Rose” with Sun Yaohuo in October!

This was why Lin Yuan had asked Sun Yaohuo to come to the company tomorrow.

Since people enjoyed dissecting the lyrics, why not throw “White Rose” into the mix for netizens to analyze?

Hopefully, someone could spot the name “Zhang Ailing” tucked between the lines of the two songs.