

All R. Artist 391

Chapter 391: Feeling Guilty

There are swathes of online discussions about the lyrics of “Ten Years” and “Next Year, Today”. When Lin Yuan has nothing better to do, he would go through them, but he hardly ever expresses his own interpretation —

He has always maintained that idea.

The fun of interpretation lies in the deliberate omission of the real intentions by the ones involved. Unless necessary, Lin Yuan doesn’t plan to spoil this fun for everyone.

Moreover, making two lyrics for the melody of “Ten Years” has made him realise something.

If the melody of a song is liked by the masses, their enthusiasm for discussing the lyrics is also high.

Certain classic lyrics will be remembered for a long time. Some even leave a deeper impression in the public memory than the song itself.

Like the most well-known lyrics from “Red Rose”, “What is unreachable always causes unrest; the favored ones are always fearless.”

It’s understandable for those who like the song to like these lyrics as well.

Even many who are not particularly interested in the song find the lyrics compelling, which is quite impressive.

After having two lyrics for one melody of “Ten Years”, now it’s time to release “White Rose” along with the classic Mandarin lyrics. The timing, place and people are perfect!

It’s worth noting that the lyrics for “Red Rose” and “White Rose” are both inspired by a novel.

As mentioned earlier, the novel was “Red Rose and White Rose,” a representative work by Ailing Zhang.

The novel has a famous quote in it: “Every man has two women, at least two. Marrying a red rose, over time, the red turns into a smudge of mosquito blood on the wall, white still remains ‘the moonlight in one’s heart’. But if you marry a white rose, the white soon becomes a grain of rice stuck on a shirt, but the red becomes a cinnabar mole in one’s heart.”

When evaluating men’s nature, many people have quoted this phrase.

As a result of this phrase, the novel was once incredibly popular in the Celestial Dynasty.

Lin Yuan even considered having Chu Kuang write “Red Rose and White Rose”, but considering the different era and the potential lack of interest of today’s readers. Plus, he isn’t particularly fond of some characteristics of Ailing Zhang, so he dropped the idea.

After all, not all novels can be published without a sense of discrepancy.

Just like, with “Zhu Xian” around, Lin Yuan couldn’t possibly write another “Shushan Swordsman”.

The essence of the novel can be demonstrated by “Red Rose” and “White Rose” alone.

Chu Kuang has already released a calligraphic piece of “A Tranquil Night Abed”.

So that when the public sees “moonlight in his heart”, they don’t need to search too hard for the source. It’s a special collaboration between Xian Yu and Chu Kuang.

This is the part where “people” work perfectly with timing and location.

Yes.

Lin Yuan plans to reveal the main idea of this novel with the release of “White Rose”, combined with the lyrics and connotations of these two songs, to help more people understand these two songs.

Because compared to the Mandarin version of “Red Rose”, the lyrics of “White Rose” are relatively oblique.

It definitely isn’t as straightforward as “Red Sun”—a Qi language song, but universally understood at the sight of the lyrics.

The next day.

Sun Yaohuo came to the company, his first words were, “How’s your tooth, junior? If it still hurts, I know a good dentist who can help.”

“No need, it’s almost better.”

Lin Yuan said, “I called you in today to record a song for October. This time, it’s the Qi language version of ‘Red Rose’.”

“The Qi language version?”

“Yes. This version is called ‘White Rose’. Here are the lyrics, and an explanation of the lyrics, as well as the relationship between the two songs.”

“Great!”

Sun Yaohuo took over the printouts from Lin Yuan, “With your song, I’m sure I can make it to the top tier!”

No one knew how eager and desirous Sun Yaohuo was to become a first-tier artist!

On receiving “White Rose”, even without seeing the lyrics, Sun Yaohuo was full of confidence.

He was too motivated.

On the familiar melody, Sun Yaohuo memorized the lyrics of “White Rose” by heart within a day!

Then came the recording.

Just like the recording of “Next Year, Today”.

Although Sun Yaohuo was very familiar with the melody of “White Rose” and had learned the lyrics by heart, capturing the emotional essence was still a major challenge.

Because the two songs express completely different states of mind, even entirely different lives!

This contrast was bigger than how “Next Year, Today” contrasted with “Ten Years”.

Just by listening to Eason Chan singing these two songs, one can sense their differences, which are all-encompassing. Sun Yaohuo had to grasp these feelings accurately to express them through his singing.

This caused a deadlock in the recording.

During the recording of “White Rose”, the company also released publicity about the song.

Blogs, major forums, everywhere.

News like “A Masterpiece by Xian Yu, new song by Sun Yaohuo to be released in October” appeared in many places.

Swish!

The debate about the two lyrics for “Ten Years” hadn’t yet concluded. And suddenly, this news drew the attention of the entire music scene!

Instantly!

Many musicians who were planning to release new songs in October were shocked. Especially those who were hoping to win the seasonal championship, suddenly felt the earth spinning, legs trembling!

“Damn!”

“He’s back again?”

“Xian Yu in October?”

“I was planning to release my song in October!”

“Forget it, I am asking my company to change the release date.”

“I’m out!”

“I can’t afford to provoke this. I am out.”

“Looks like Xian Yu plans to make Sun Yaohuo a hit all at once. I’m out too!”

“Wow, Sun Yaohuo must’ve saved the Milky Way in his past life!”

“Ahhhh! Will someone neutralize this amazing Xian Yu, please? If he keeps producing, should I even release my songs?”

“Xian Yu didn’t produce anything for over half a year and now, he can’t stop?”

“Sun Yaohuo is set to become a sensation!”

“Can there be a singer in this world that Xian Yu couldn’t make successful if he wanted to? I may need to cancel my October release plan. If I can’t mess with him, I’d better find a way to avoid him.”

“...”

Even the super-confident musicians eyeing the October season chart, even the top-tier ones, were thinking of retreating after seeing this news.

Keep in mind, Sun Yaohuo is not what he used to be.

Although not a top-tier artist, he has already got one foot in the door.

Plus, with Xian Yu's help and the bonus of two lyrics for “Ten Years”, this is certainly not something every artist can compete with, except perhaps the maestro or the “King of Singing”.

However, the maestro and “King of Singing” are busy preparing for the Clash of Gods in December, who has time to care about the October music scene?

This has created a scenario where Xian Yu reigns supreme!

As a few top-tier singers become unsure, something that leaves countless netizens dumbfounded happens!

Chapter 392: The Brave Three Brothers

“Due to health issues, the plan to release the new song ‘Love it or Not’ in October has been postponed, we hope you understand.”

“Due to having a cold and not being in the best vocal condition, it has delayed the recording of the new song planned to be released in October. It has to be postponed, that's what the company told me to say.”

“For the record regarding postponing the new song: I want to win the title song, so I won't compete with Xian Yu.”

“...”

The three top-tier singers who were originally scheduled to release new music in October have all.....POSTPONED THEIR RELEASES!

The first top-tier singer gave the excuse of health issues in a roundabout way.

Although the second one gave a similar elusive excuse, he at least hinted, “That’s what the company told me to say.”

The third one didn’t bother to hide it and candidly stated the reason for the delay: I want to be number one, so I need to stay away from Xian Yu.

This issue led to countless netizens being dumbfounded, even some musicians in the industry were at a loss for words when they saw this scene!

What the fuck?

Are they all running away?

Are they scared to death by Xian Yu?

You guys are at least top-tier singers!

Did you guys plan this to avoid Xian Yu together?

As it turns out, netizens and some insiders guessed correctly. These three top-tier singers really did plan to escape from the October charts together.

The companies behind them negotiated and at the sight of each other’s shared sentiments, a joint decision was made.

If only one top-tier singer postponed, it would have seemed quite cowardly.

But if three people did it together, it wouldn’t single any one person out.

It can be easily imagined in the music industry that:

If Xian Yu doesn't release a song in November, there would be a chaotic fight amongst a group of top-tier singers this November.

Because these three top-tier singers, who have postponed, will probably join in the competition in November, if they find out that Xian Yu will not be participating.

For these three top-tier singers, they would rather compete with more top-tier singers in November than stay in October to fight an unequal battle for the title song with Xian Yu-

If they were bound to lose the first place, why would they push to compete?

If it's a competition among top-tier singers, even if things might get a bit crowded, at least everyone would be on equal footing with a chance to reach the top.

But the top-tier is the top-tier after all.

The scene where three top-tier singers change their release dates together to avoid Xian Yu is indeed spectacular, leaving netizens in shock.

"This is real!"

"Are they avoiding the Fish disaster?"

"Hahahaha, I heard there's something called Fish-phobia in the music circle. I didn't quite get it before but now I understand. Indeed, it's Fish-phobia!"

"These three really surprised me!"

"I would like to call them the Brave Three Brothers!"

"Against Xian Yu they just nod along, but against the top-tier singers they come blasting?"

"Xian Yu: Why is it so quiet here? Where are the people? Where have they gone?"

“Nice, the three brothers jointly postponing, what a sight!”

“Are these three trying to kill me with laughter, especially the third one postponing, at least follow the first two and show some acting skills. Directly stating the reason is too real, right?”

“...”

Originally, October was supposed to be a clash for the title between the three top-tier singers, which would have been a much greater spectacle than September’s skirmish. Now it has suddenly turned into a solo play by Xian Yu.

On the contrary, non-top-tier singers are not fazed at all, even laughing!

You have to know, non-top-tier singers are aware of their abilities. They never had any hopes of winning the first place and naturally didn’t feel as much pressure.

Although Xian Yu is in October, for non-top-tier singers, Xian Yu and those three top-tier singers are the same:

They are all people we cannot beat.

If we can’t beat the top-tier, we also can’t beat Xian Yu. So with or without Xian Yu, it’s all the same, at most our rankings would just all drop by one.

This is the enlightenment of non-top-tier singers.

As a result, Xian Yu scared the three top-tier singers away, and suddenly, three spots were freed up on the season’s chart!

How could these non-top-tier singers not be excited and laughing out loud?

“For the first time, I realized how happy it is to share the same release period as Xian Yu!”

“I was originally prepared to compete for the fifth place. Anyway, Xian Yu is definitely number one—and second, third, and fourth would be the three who postponed. Now I know that I have the ability to compete for second!”

“Xian Yu will be number one, but the second place will be our battlefield!”

“I declare from now on, whenever Xian Yu releases a song, I will follow. After all, if you encounter Xian Yu, the top-tier singers will run anyway.”

“Sun Yaohuo is aiming to reach the top-tier while laying down!”

“Originally, those three top-tier singers were not completely without hope, but now the three of them got scared and with Sun Yaohuo winning without doing a thing.”

“Do I need to mention Sun Yaohuo’s luck? He’s known in the industry as the luckiest singer!”

“...”

The non-top-tier singers participating in the October charts are exulting!

This is the first time that someone is so happy to be in the same period as Xian Yu. Life is indeed full of dark humor.

As for Lin Yuan, he didn’t really care about this situation.

Sun Yaohuo was secretly very pleased, his three strongest competitors had run away, he was definitely winning this round the easy way.

Perhaps because of this reason, the recording that Sun Yaohuo had later went smoothly.

September twenty-fifth.

The song “White Rose” was officially recorded!

Upon completing the song, naturally more information could be revealed during promotion, including the song name, “White Rose”.

Of course, it also included the fact that this song is the Qi language version of “Red Rose”.

Only then did netizens and the industry know that Xian Yu was playing the one-song-two-lyrics scheme again.

If it wasn't for the precedent set by “Next Year, Today”, maybe some people would think that this so-called new song by Xian Yu is not that important.

But considering this month's situation, no one dared to underestimate “White Rose.”

Those three top-tier singers who had already announced their withdrawal from the new song list in October, someone reminded them:

“Actually, there's still some hope, ‘White Rose’ is not really a new song, it is just ‘Red Rose’ with changed lyrics in Qi language.”

The three singers had the same reaction:

I'm not listening! I'm not listening! I'm not listening!

When “Next Year, Today” was released, this was what you guys said, and went on about the theory of “merely changing the outfit”!

What about the result?

Do you still dare to harbor illusions when dealing with Xian Yu?

Arguably, one song two lyrics strategy is indeed just changing the outfit.

But the example of “Next Year, Today” was still outstanding on the September charts, it was astonishing, who would dare underestimate Xian Yu again?

Of course.

There must have been a little regret in their hearts, just like gamblers always feel they can turn the tables, but this kind of regret is just the sprout of wishful thinking.

The three singers decisively extinguished this dangerous thought.

However, a lot of onlookers are still hesitant.

Can Xian Yu really continue the success of the one-song-two-lyrics?

Could he really change the lyrics into another language and yet give the listener the impression of hearing a completely different song?

This doubt lasted until the early morning of October, when the song “White Rose” was finally released.

That night.

The number of people waiting up at night for the release of this song was significantly higher than at the beginning of September.

This also shows that the success of “Next Year, Today” indeed affected a lot of people...

Chapter 393: Please be Kind

In a bedroom of a large flat on the outskirts.

At midnight, Wang Qiu was still on the phone with the company:

“If Xian Yu doesn’t release a song in November, we’ll set our schedule for November. Now that the new artist season has been canceled, we don’t need to give way to new artists in November. New artists have their own charts...”

Before the integration, November was Qin Continent's new artist season.

Every November, only new artists could release songs, and artists who had already debuted would not release songs in November.

This was Qin Continent's highly acclaimed new artist protection system.

Later, with the increase of singers after the integration, November was no longer enough to provide protection for new artists, so the Literature and Art Association issued a new regulation—

To abolish the rule of November as the new artist season!

This was not to squeeze the living space of new artists, but to protect new artists. From now on, new artists could release songs at any time. However, their works would no longer compete with artists who had already debuted, but would have a dedicated new artist new song chart.

When this regulation was released, it was generally well received.

New artists didn't have to wait until November for their chance, and artists who had already debuted didn't have to give up competing for the November new song chart.

Some music companies even specifically guarded the new artist new song chart and tried to recruit any potential talents that appeared.

"Okay."

The person on the other end of the phone said, "Then let's see what movement Xian Yu makes this month. I'll also inquire about Starlight, you just wait for my good news here."

"Um, hang up."

Wang Qiu looked at the computer. It was already twelve zero five.

"Eager to listen to the song?"

“Yeah, let’s see if our departure as three artists was the right decision.”

“Okay, I’ll listen too.”

After hanging up the phone, Wang Qiu looked at the computer.

Xian Yu released a song in October, three top-tier singers withdrew, and Wang Qiu was one of the three top-tier singers who announced the change of schedule.

He stayed up this late just to wait for Xian Yu’s new song. So, after hanging up the phone, he immediately put on his headphones and found this newly released song “White Rose,” which dominated the largest promo banner on the player.

Lyrics: Xian Yu

Composer: Xian Yu

Singer: Sun Yaohuo

Seeing the name Sun Yaohuo, Wang Qiu’s eyes flashed with envy, and then he clicked to play the song.

The prelude was very familiar.

Exactly the same as “Red Rose”.

If you just listen to the prelude without looking at the song name, everyone would think that this is “Red Rose”.

But with the start of the singing, this thought was immediately shattered:

“White as white teeth, passion swallowed up, champagne has long since evaporated completely; white as a white moth sinking back into the mundane world, looking down at a memorial tablet; but

when love suddenly changes into an annoyance, just like a dirty filth don't mention; silent with a smile, roses with thorns in return, only trust in defense..."

Wang Qiu raised his eyebrows slightly.

If read in Mandarin, these lyrics do not rhyme, and are even somewhat obscure.

But Sun Yaohuo sang in Qi language, and the feeling came out as soon as he sang.

It's still such a beautiful melody, with every line of rhyme neatly stressed, and the finish of each breath lands at the most comfortable spot, combined with Sun Yaohuo's accent which is pure enough to make your ears pregnant.

The voice broke through the obscure barrier of the lyrics.

And when the chorus came, even people who didn't understand Qi language would understand what this song was singing about. Recalling the version of "Red Rose", the feeling of immersion suddenly became profound.

The music actually isn't extravagant.

There were no explosive drumbeats, no resplendent arrangements, just the sound of Sun Yaohuo's voice, slightly hoarse and helpless:

"How can you be cruel yet still beautiful; what can't be obtained has always been valuable; how can one cope with disadvantages without scheming, revealing awe to test your laws. Even if it's a nightmare, it's still beautiful, willingly be at the bottom to set off your nobility; a handful of roses simulates the funeral of the heart as love has already faded, in the next life..."

Wang Qiu was not deeply familiar with Qi language, yet at this point, there was no hesitation in his understanding.

His eyes suddenly stung a bit.

Red roses and white roses, huh...

For a man, two roses symbolise two women.

If the red rose represents what has been obtained but is not cherished, than the white rose represents what is admired from afar but is unattainable.

No matter how cold, no matter how dignified and noble, men are willing to be servile.

It's as if it was a cruel dream. You know you can't hold onto to it, but you aren't willing to wake up from, like a bewitched fool.

Xian Yu expressed his agitation in "Red Rose".

And "White Rose" explained the origins of that agitation.

The same melody, but tells a connected story; one of a red rose's habits and tiredness in life, and of a white rose's brilliance and allure in dreams.

The former suppresses, the latter collapses.

At this moment, it seemed that a shadow, long forgotten in Wang Qiu's memory, suddenly re-emerged with the song, like an unwanted nightmare.

But I shouldn't think of her.

I already have a new partner, and the previous white rose has been married and had children since last year. It's a mistake to even dwell on her, yet this song has stirred up these past memories.

Memories are unreasonable.

The more Wang Qiu tried to restrain himself, the more fragmented emotions surged within him, as if he was stuck in quicksand created by the song from which he couldn't extricate himself, causing his breath to slightly quicken.

Suddenly, the voice in his ear softened:

“White, as sugar, mysteriously destroyed, what was initially obtained is no longer there, white as sugar, wrongly thrown into the mundane world, and dissolved within it.”

White sugar, white moonlight...

Wang Qiu’s heart suddenly calmed, as if being shattered piece by piece, and then slowly reshaped.

Seemingly sensing Wang Qiu’s emotions, the voice in the headphones continued, but did not intend to linger.

“Even if it’s a nightmare, it’s still beautiful, ready to be last, bolstering your nobility, giving me roses, coming to the funeral, past relationships are void when I already passed, reincarnated in another life...”

The song had now ended.

In the lingering reverberation of the final notes, despite the same melody, it was imbued with an air of desolation.

Was it lamenting those who haven’t yet moved on, or was the song reflecting on its own obtuseness?

Wang Qiu suddenly exhaled a breath, his breathing steadied, he gently removed his headphones, and stepped out of the whirlpool of chaotic emotions, escaping far, far away.

So what if you have attained it?

It’s nothing more than gaining agitation.

If it’s lost, so what? It’s nothing more than reincarnation in the sea of suffering, if a person were to split into two halves, how to tell who is the white rose, and who is the red rose?

It's nothing more than the devil of the heart making mischief.

A smile appeared on Wang Qiu's face, unknown whether he was relieved that he had extricated himself early from the mire of the October season rankings, or was moved that he had timely extricated himself from a whirlpool of emotions.

He inexplicably opened the Tribe account of Xian Yu, intending to click 'follow', only to see Xian Yu had just posted an update.

"Every man has at least two women in his life. Marry a red rose, and over time, the red turns into a smudge of mosquito blood on the wall, while the white one remains the 'moonlight in his heart'. Marry a white rose, and the white becomes a grain of rice stuck to your clothes, while the red one remains a cinnabar mole in your heart."

Wang Qiu paused for a moment.

Shortly after, Wang Qiu felt completely relieved.

The mosquito blood on the wall is actually that cinnabar mole. The sticky rice grain on the clothes is the real 'moonlight in his heart'. Not being able to obtain it is not the reason for your agitation. Please be kind.

Chapter 394: The Blessing of Qi People

By the time Wang Qiu saw Xian Yu's post, many people had already listened to "White Rose" that night.

Countless people found themselves entrapped by their emotions.

And there were just as many who had sudden realisations after the song ended.

In the vast and tranquil ocean of the listeners' minds, the song "White Rose" was like a boulder plunging into the water.

Plop.

Water splashed in all directions.

Ripples spread out in circles, eventually returning to a state of calm.

But the thoughts it left for the audience did not fade away with the end of the song. Instead, it spread out like the ripples, growing larger and larger.

“Xian Yu, in a somewhat boastful manner, reminded everyone once again that his lyric and composition skills are equally excellent!”

“If someone else did one song with two sets of lyrics, I would think they were just trying to trick me into spending a dollar to download the song. But for Xian Yu, I hope he never stops.”

“Language doesn’t matter, red and white roses, two atmospheres.”

“I love the turmoil of the red rose, the preciousness of the white rose, but these descriptions are ultimately from a man’s perspective. Most people can’t achieve the transparency of Xian Yu, also, because of Xian Yu, I seem to be interested in songs in Qi language.”

“After listening to this and then listening to “Red Rose”, I understood how cruel that song really is.”

“If you fall in love with a red rose, and enter the hall with a white rose, perhaps you may still hold the hand of the white rose at the time of death, but your eyes will surely shed tears for the red rose.”

“When I think of my first love, if she was not the white rose, she might have been a grain of white rice.”

“The red rose is loved by someone not loved, the white rose is to love someone who does not love oneself, it doesn’t get more helpless than this.”

“...”

And as the comment sections of various music sites fell into chaos, the lyricist Rabbit Two, who had previously analyzed “Ten Years” and “Next Year, Today”, also posted a new status:

“Another sleepless night.”

Rabbit Two had previously mentioned that Xian Yu’s songwriting skills were good enough to keep many lyricists awake at night. This combined with his current status, immediately brought a knowing smile to the faces of many fans:

“Boss Rabbit, aren’t you going to analyze the relationship between the lyrics of the two songs today?”

“Why not analyze the two songs for us again?”

“Exactly, I feel like I understand, but also feel like I don’t understand.”

“Boss Rabbit, here’s a reading comprehension question that’s right up your alley.”

“...”

Some netizens were joking, while others genuinely hoped for Rabbit Two to analyze it.

Rabbit Two replied to the most popular comment: “Let me put it this way. You are a cheating man, the red rose is your wife, the white rose is your lover. You like the white rose, but if the white rose were to become your wife, you would realize that you actually like the red rose more.”

Immediately after this...

Rabbit Two reposted a status update from the official Xian Yu about ‘all men having had two women’:

“Xian Yu himself has already analyzed it for you all, what more do you need me to say?”

The famous lyricist didn’t want to waste too many words this time because the story of the Red Rose and White Rose is easy to understand. Regardless of the different lyrics, both songs essentially tackle the same subject but from different perspectives.

...

In fact, the liveliest spot was the post Xian Yu had published. The comment section was filled with messages from various users.

Most people, like the commentators, were philosophical and heartfelt in their responses.

Some however, were playful.

For example, one comment read:

“I’m just worried about Sun Yaohuo. When the rhythm starts, which one would he sing, red or white? Would he suddenly think of the lyrics to ‘White Rose’ while singing ‘Red Rose’, or vice versa?”

Amid praises of “Go for it, we stand by you”, this comment garnered numerous likes.

Others imitated the form and wrote:

“When the prelude began, Sun Yaohuo started to sing: ‘Next Year, Today, I won’t know you, the bed has changed, yet we remain the same...’”

Those who were serious dived deep into the music and made thoughtful comments, while others found their own ways to enjoy themselves:

“The Brave Three Brothers: Thankfully we took off quick.”

“Don’t talk to me about red roses and white roses, I’ll take both!”

“Xian Yu is really good at changing outfits, every time he changes his outfit, he feels different to me.”

“Sun Yaohuo: Xian Yu is just a costume designer, but I am the one who actually wears them!”

“Moonlight in his heart, eh? Isn’t that a line from Chu Kuang’s poem? And you say there’s no illicit affair between you two?”

“I see, so this is how you are supposed to interpret ‘moonlight in his heart’!”

“You may not believe this, but Xian Yu always has me downloading his songs twice.”

“Xian Yu: Thank you for the reminder. I’ve got the password for wealth.”

“...”

Regardless of how the netizens teased, at the end of the day, they wanted to emphasize that Xian Yu’s one song, two lyrics trick had worked wonders.

Only Xian Yu could write two versions of a song with the exact same tune.

Of course.

The Qi people were always the happiest of all.

“I am liking Xian Yu more and more. Teacher Admirable Fish, please translate your other songs into Qi language soon!”

“Xian Yu is forever a friend of the Qi people!”

“After listening to ‘Ten Years’, I felt average. After ‘Next Year, Today’, I thought it was impressive. After ‘Red Rose’, I wasn’t interested. After ‘White Rose’, I was blown away. And then, as I listened to ‘Ten Years’ and ‘Red Rose’ again, I found them especially melodious. Xian Yu really sings well.”

“Sun Yaohuo: Are you sure?”

“...”

The Qi people also started to play along with the jokes, brimming with happiness, even declaring it their fortune as Qi people.

“God damn it, this is our ‘Qi Ren Zhi Fu’!”

The netizens burst into laughter, “Qi Ren Zhi Fu” comes from “Mencius”. Although it doesn’t really have anything to do with the Qi people, it refers to the bliss of having a wife and a concubine. Today, it signifies a prosperous life with a husband and a wife.

But.

If you link the conversations around “Red Rose” and “White Rose”, “Qi Ren Zhi Fu” is indeed fitting.

That is, of course, provided a person is allowed to have a red rose and a white rose at the same time. That would truly be a “Qi Ren Zhi Fu”.

And while “White Rose” was causing a stir among the netizens-

Apart from Wang Qiu, the other two top-tier singers who had narrowly escaped their ranking this October also breathed a sigh of relief after listening to “White Rose.”

The trio even started a private conversation:

“My god, that was close.”

“Who said there was hope? Is this what’s called hope?”

“So, I am not listening, not listening, not listening!”

“Facing Xian Yu, isn’t it the same as participating in the Twelve Gods Battle in December?”

“...”

Who chickened out?

This is being genuine!

What no one knew was that that same night, Chen Zhiyu also stayed up late, even getting up especially to feed his fish.

As he fed the fish, he muttered to himself:

“I had no choice if I did. If I had a choice, I’d be one of the Brave Four right now. I heard Fei Yang is preparing for this year’s Gods Battle...”

Chen Zhiyu dropped the food.

The previously calm fish tank suddenly stirred up as the fish skillfully opened its mouth and devoured the food.

Chapter 395: The Color Change of the Fish

Just overnight, “White Rose” swept across the internet.

The popularity of this song even rekindled interest in the Mandarin version of “Red Rose,” resulting in a significant increase in song downloads.

The next day.

This song had effortlessly become the champion.

After all, with three of its same-period competitors absent, there were no rivals for the song.

Instead, the second place became a position that countless singers from the same period fought over.

In this process, no one had any thoughts about the first place.

That was the forbidden realm marked by Xian Yu.

Meanwhile.

Backstage in the dressing room of a certain event.

Zhao Ying Ge, while putting on headphones to listen to a song and looking down at the lyrics, was playing “White Rose”.

From the first time she listened to it before going to bed last night to the single-track loop after she left in the morning, Zhao Ying Ge had listened to this song many times over.

“So that’s how it is.”

This time, during what she didn’t know was her umpteenth loop of the song, Zhao Ying Ge suddenly murmured, “He doesn’t need to particularly collaborate with anyone because as long as he’s willing, there’s no singer he can’t make famous.”

“Many people in the company say this.”

The assistant beside her chimed in. Recently, several departments of composers had been discussing this, but seeing Zhao Ying Ge’s changing complexion, she quickly shut her mouth.

“I see.”

Zhao Ying Ge chuckled bitterly, “I purposely collaborated with the 10th floor, intending to become a top-tier player in his eyes as quickly as possible, to show him my abilities. However, it seems like he doesn’t need to care about these things at all. It doesn’t matter who he chooses, including Sun Yaohuo, who many in the industry joke can’t be made famous, he can easily lead them through the gates of stardom.”

The assistant chuckled with her.

The assistant now understood what Zhao Ying Ge was upset about.

It was nothing more than the sense of loss, feeling that her much valued top-tier status might not be all that impressive in the eyes of Maestro Junior.

Half the reason why Zhao Ying Ge worked so hard was to prove that Xian Yu's decision not to collaborate with her was wrong.

But the fact turned out to be that for Xian Yu, it didn't matter who he chose, he could make them reach the top.

Bringing Sun Yaohuo, a singer acknowledged as impossible to make famous, into the top ranks, even more so showed his extraordinary ability.

"I even feel that Xian Yu is my 'White Rose'."

Zhao Ying Ge shook her head.

Just as the lyrics wrote:

How can you be cold yet still so beautiful, what you can't get is always precious.

How not to resort to tricks when at a disadvantage, showing reverence, testing your rules...

These sentences were incredibly like wanting to attract the attention of Xian Yu, while he probably doesn't even remember that such a person exists.

The assistant didn't say anything.

There were actually quite a few outstanding women in Starlight Entertainment who wanted to attract Xian Yu's attention, but it seemed like no one had succeeded yet.

Most of them, like Zhao Ying Ge, were all secretly in love with Xian Yu.

A few days ago, the assistant heard a rumour that Xian Yu's third apprentice, the company's little princess Li Lizhi, even helped Xian Yu back to his office from the cafeteria.

Regardless of any teacher-student relationship, this wasn't ancient society after all.

In many people's eyes, Li Lizhi probably had certain special feelings for Xian Yu. She was just using the name of a student to get close to the water first due to her advantageous position.

...

Sun Yaohuo finally became a top-tier singer!

Xian Yu's apprentice wrote songs for Sun Yaohuo for several consecutive months, laying a solid foundation.

The three blockbuster songs that Xian Yu finally provided directly made Sun Yaohuo a top-tier singer, which could be described as a rapid rise.

Even many Qi people became die-hard fans of Sun Yaohuo.

With Sun Yaohuo becoming top-tier, various notices and endorsements came rushing in, and Sun Yaohuo reached the peak of his life.

Because he was the first top-tier singer brought out by Xian Yu, he naturally received massive attention from entertainment media.

With his rapidly rising singing career, Sun Yaohuo was rarely so busy that he had to work around the clock.

Meanwhile, inside Starlight Company.

Lin Yuan was playing with his race car robot when suddenly a knock sounded at the door.

"Please come in."

"I've brought you some good tea."

It was Ol' Zhou's smiling face at the door.

It had been a while since Ol' Zhou had come to visit Lin Yuan, but he still exuded a warm familiarity.

He sat down on the sofa opposite Lin Yuan, let his assistant Gu Dong open the tea he'd brought, and said to Lin Yuan:

"Today 'Hachiko' completed its filming. You are the scriptwriter, didn't you go to see?"

Lin Yuan said: "I went there this morning."

Indeed, the filming of 'Hachiko' officially ended at noon today.

The shooting took a little over three months.

The original shooting time was supposed to be longer, but Lin Yuan, with his 'Druid' ability, made clear arrangements for the dogs, which were the most unpredictable part of filming.

Under such circumstances, the filming progress couldn't possibly be slow.

"I see."

Ol' Zhou coughed, "I came here on behalf of someone, and I wanted to ask you something."

"What is it?"

"Will you be releasing a new song in November?"

"November?"

Lin Yuan thought for a while and said, "I'll be off in November."

Upon hearing his words, Ol' Zhou laughed, "With your assurance, those guys should be relieved."

He received several calls this morning, all from friends in the industry, including a few big shots in the music scene.

They called Ol' Zhou with one purpose:

To find out if Xian Yu was planning to release a song in November.

Ol' Zhou, having been in and out of the industry for many years, of course understood why these people cared so much about whether Xian Yu would release a song in November.

Many people were terrified of "Fish".

Cause when Xian Yu released a song in October, three top singers were scared away.

If Xian Yu's going to release a song in November, are the other top singers going to confront Xian Yu head on?

Or are they going to follow the example of the "brave three brothers" in October and do whatever they want?

Hence hearing Lin Yuan say he wouldn't release a song in November, Ol' Zhou made such a comment.

Seeing Lin Yuan was somewhat puzzled, Ol' Zhou took the initiative to explain: "Mainly because everyone wants to avoid you. If you're releasing a song in November, it's better to get them prepared in advance. Of course, they would have to express their gratitude later."

Actually, this was also an unwritten rule in the industry.

If there were no grudges between companies, top singers would usually announce beforehand when they were releasing new songs so that they could avoid unnecessary competition.

“Then I won’t release it.”

Lin Yuan gave a solid response.

His sister could give way to her classmates once, so he could do the same to his peers at least once.

More, Lin Yuan had already planned to take a break in November. His task was half completed anyway as Sun Yaohuo has already made it to the top tier.

The next task would be to lift Jiang Kui to the top tier as well.

As Wu Yong said, Jiang Kui only needed two more songs to reach the top tier, and of course, they had to be of high quality.

But Wu Yong also said, if Lin Yuan couldn’t keep up with the creative speed, one song could also work. The prerequisite for this was a good result in the end-of-year ‘Battle of Gods’ for Jiang Kui.

At least in the top three!

Therefore, Lin Yuan planned to rest in November and arrange a great song for Jiang Kui in ‘Battle of Gods’ in December, so that Jiang Kui could easily secure a position in the top three.

He’d been releasing songs frequently lately, which was a bit too high-profile.

Lin Yuan, when releasing works, always paid attention to the frequency, although his current speed was much faster than when he first debuted.

As for not mentioning securing the championship spot in ‘Battle of Gods’, it was because Lin Yuan didn’t know whether Maestro might have a stroke of inspiration and write a god-level song or something.

He was always a stable person.

But there was a voice inside him resounding quite assertively, a statement targeting the ‘Battle of Gods’ in December:

“One Piece, I am coming for you!”

Chapter 396: Protect Our Frontline Singer

Xian Yu’s successive success with two distinct lyrics for one song has caused a considerable stir.

With “White Rose” continuously topping the charts, discussions about Xian Yu’s lyric writing ability remain endless.

On October 3rd, an article was published in the Literature and Art Gazette, further discussing Xian Yu’s ability to write lyrics.

The title of the article was: [Does a composer need to have a certain lyric writing ability?]

“This topic is an old cliché in the music world. Many talented composers have argued with their companies more than once to defend their right to write the lyrics for their compositions. However, with the birth of some failed cases, an increasing number of composers have given up writing lyrics for their own compositions. Musicians like Xian Yu, who persist in writing lyrics for their own compositions, are few and far between.”

“Here, my personal conclusion is: when composers write lyrics for their own compositions, they need to be mindful of their capabilities.”

“The majority of composers do not possess professional lyric-writing knowledge. Their aesthetics of music and lyrics do not align. Therefore, these composers should collaborate with familiar lyricists, and numerous excellent songs have been born from this model.”

“But if a composer has certain lyric writing ability, it is absolutely possible to write lyrics for their own compositions.”

“Especially for a master of words like Xian Yu who can achieve success twice with one song and two sets of lyrics, one should not waste such an ability.”

“The problem is, the number of composers who can use lyric writing techniques skillfully like Xian Yu is simply too low.”

“In fact, most outstanding composers increasingly tend to participate in half of the lyric writing process, that is, they communicate with the lyricist, describe the mood and theme that their compositions want to express, and the lyricist completes the semi-orchestrated composition based on the composer’s understanding and reflection of the music.”

“This increasingly highlights the value of Xian Yu’s ability.”

“The most surprising aspect of Xian Yu’s powerful lyric writing is his research into Qi language. The Qi language lyrics of Xian Yu simply couldn’t be written if one did not have a deep understanding of Qi language. If one does not know the details, upon seeing Xian Yu’s lyrics, they would undoubtedly think it was written by a Qi land lyricist, wouldn’t they?”

“This gives people reason to expect more beautiful phrases in Xian Yu’s future works.”

“As Rabbit Second Teacher once said, Xian Yu’s lyrics are probably at a level that keeps many professional lyricists awake at night.”

“This statement appears somewhat biased in the lyric writing circle. Here, I quote the evaluation by top lyricist, Neon Dance Teacher: While Xian Yu’s lyric writing ability is slightly inferior to his terrifying composing ability, it is already quite rare. In the lyric writing field, perhaps this evaluation is more impartial.”

It is consistent with the usual style of the Literature and Art Gazette.

While praising, it also appropriately sprinkles some cold water.

However, to many people, this cold water is a further recognition of Xian Yu’s composing ability.

Such good lyrics, in the view of the composing world, still cannot fully match the achievement that Xian Yu has reached in composition.

No one refutes this.

Because the person who gave this evaluation is Neon Dance Teacher.

Who is Neon Dance Teacher?

Music listeners are not strangers.

This is a top lyricist, who has been working with first-line and even king and queen of singing for many years. If in the Celestial Dynasty, his status in the lyric-writing field is probably at the level of Jay Chou's designated lyricist.

...

The Literature and Art Gazette, with its semi-official media attribute, has somewhat finalised Xian Yu's lyric-writing ability.

But Lin Yuan has always been indifferent to such things.

The music world also doesn't care about such things. What interests them at this moment is whether Xian Yu will participate in the contest in November?

For the first-line singers who are planning to release songs in November, this is indeed the most nerve-racking issue!

However, soon, the affirmative answer received by Ol' Zhou from Xian Yu was passed along through the mouth of some people –

Xian Yu will not participate in the November season contest!

Just as Ol' Zhou predicted, a lot of people breathed a sigh of relief.

Immediately following this, several top-tier artists began to promote their new songs, which were set to be released in November!

“Recovered and healthy, new song to be released in November!”

“The cold is gone, throat healed, see you on the November new song chart!”

“New song to be released in November, stay tuned!”

The first to announce that they would be releasing music in November were the brave trio who escaped from the October season chart!

For a time, many people didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

These Brave Trio are so hilarious, all meek in front of Xian Yu but striking hard against the other top-tier singers!

But it’s not just the Brave Trio.

After the trio, there are seven more top artists in a row who announced they’ll be releasing new songs in November.

Thus, this November season chart battle will see a total of ten top-tier singers!

“Oh, my!”

“Xian Yu is causing havoc!”

“Ten top-tier singers, all releasing songs in November?”

“December is known as the Battle of Gods, but I feel November is shaping up to be the same?”

“It makes sense.”

“December is for battle of higher gods, November is for lower gods.”

“I guess you’ve gone nutty reading novels, but it’s a good description, November is a prelude to the Battle of Gods.”

“It’s not just about Xian Yu, these top-tier singers have no choice. If they don’t release songs in November, they’ll have to wait till next year, after all, they can’t afford to play the December game.”

“Then release next year, what’s wrong with that?”

“Of course it’s problematic. Don’t forget that next year Yan Continent is joining the mix. Those guys are all fighters. Once they join, the new song chart will become a bloodbath!”

“Oh, so apparently November is a safe zone?”

“As more lands keep joining, competition in all fields gets more intense, especially in our music circles.”

“...”

Even though many anticipated that November would be tough, the scene of ten top-tier singers competing on the same stage literally knocked their glasses off.

November used to be the season for rookies.

Now, November has evolved into a mini Battle of Gods.

The Brave Trio who were driven to November by Xian Yu have contributed significantly to this battle.

The music industry seems to have sensed the surging battle of December.

If November is this intense, how intense the actual Battle of Gods in December will be?

Even someone maliciously said:

“What if Xian Yu suddenly changes his mind and decides to release a new song in November, what would happen?”

Those preparing to compete in November’s new song chart jumped in fright, wishing nothing more but to shut that person’s mouth.

Xian Yu releasing a song in November?

That’s just not a joke to crack!

Everyone has been looking forward to bagging a championship in November to boost their reputation.

Nurturing the huge momentum in November, even mirroring a prelude to the Battle of Gods, has its own advantages.

If any top-tier singer can stand out in such intense competition in November, they are indeed a potential King or Queen of Singing!

Therefore, even if coming together to press Starlight, no major companies will just stand by and watch Xian Yu cause havoc!

Not just Xian Yu.

No Kings and Queens of Singing or Maestros will be allowed to enter November.

This can be regarded as protection for top-tier singers, somewhat continuing the tradition of protecting newcomers in November—

Just that some insiders may find it odd.

When on earth did top-tier singers also need special protection from the industry?

Chapter 397: Jiang Kui’s Nervousness

November was the battle month for top singers, which Lin Yuan certainly would not meddle in.

With Sun Yaohuo becoming a top singer, half of the department's task was done, in Wu Yong's terms, so they could now report their success to the higher-ups.

However, one person was feeling incredibly uneasy at the moment.

And that person was Jiang Kui.

When the Admirable Fish returned as the king of September, he created the song "Ten Years" for Sun Yaohuo. He also utilized the one melody, two lyrics strategy, allowing Sun Yaohuo to dominate the top two spots on September's music charts.

At that time, Jiang Kui was utterly envious and her expectations soared:

If September belonged to Sun Yaohuo, wouldn't October be her turn?

The company's directive was to promote two top singers, and the nominees from the ninth floor were herself and Sun Yaohuo.

Supporting Sun Yaohuo in September and herself in October was a logical expectation.

Jiang Kui was even hopeful that she might receive the one melody, two lyrics treatment.

Because of this, she even learned Qi language urgently!

But by October, Admirable Fish still hadn't contacted her. Instead, he continued aiding Sun Yaohuo in clinching victories with the song "White Rose," capturing the October championship title!

At this point, Jiang Kui was feeling quite jittery.

Couldn't she help but feel jittery?

It was already October.

With just two months left till the end of the year, and the December battle simply being non-viable, she didn't have much time left!

Would it only be her turn in November?

As anxious as she was, Jiang Kui still retained some hope in her heart.

She even comforted herself, saying:

"I have a better foundation than Sun Yaohuo. It took three songs and two consecutive titles for him, plus monopolizing the top two spots on the monthly charts, to finally break into the top singer category. As for me, I don't need to go through all that trouble, so it's understandable if Teacher Admirable Fish has focused more on Sun Yaohuo."

If it were up to Teacher Admirable Fish, even if he only started promoting her in November, there would be quite some risks, but the timing would still be about right.

But what Jiang Kui never expected was...

Just in these few days, the industry suddenly learned that Admirable Fish had decided not to participate in the November music charts!

At this point, Jiang Kui was not just jittery but a little panicked.

Did I do something wrong?

Did Teacher Admirable Fish give up on me?

Even the company started spreading some rumors.

The gist of it was that Sun Yaohuo was a singer admired by Admirable Fish, so Admirable Fish chose him as the task's target.

Now that the ninth-floor team had successfully promoted Sun Yaohuo, they could already report back to the company.

Besides, none of the other composition departments managed to promote two top singers within a year.

Given this, Admirable Fish shouldn't need to bother with Jiang Kui anymore.

Jiang Kui knew that Teacher Admirable Fish wasn't that kind of person, but as November was approaching with no clear place for her, she couldn't help but feel restless.

Did Teacher Admirable Fish really give up on me?

Or are they planning to promote me next year?

Seeing how anxious Jiang Kui was, her agent couldn't help but console her:

"Teacher Admirable Fish will not give up on you. With the help from the ninth floor, your foundation is already very solid. As long as Teacher Admirable Fish provides a little help, you can become a top-tier singer. This is a matter of course for him, and he wouldn't waste the effort he put into training you for the past months."

That's right.

Sending the Buddha to the west.

The ninth floor had already helped Jiang Kui for so long. If she didn't strive for herself, so be it. But when she was already 90% close to becoming a top-tier singer, the ninth floor had no reason to give up now.

Also, even Sun Yaohuo, who was harder to promote, was pushed to the top!

She looked at her agent in desperation, “Then why hasn’t Teacher Admirable Fish planned for me to release any songs in November?”

“Isn’t this quite normal?”

Her agent barely managed a smile: “Do you really think Teacher Admirable Fish is a god? He has already released three consecutive songs, which is highly productive. His song reserves must have been exhausted by Sun Yaohuo. Don’t even mention trying to create two sets of lyrics for a melody. It’s not easy to come up with good lyrics in a short period.”

“So...”

“So, if the ninth floor wants to promote you, it will likely happen next year. Or I can reach out to other floors now and see if an ace composer can help and let you participate in the November competition.”

“No.”

Jiang Kui shook her head: “Even if there are composers willing to help on other floors, November is a gathering of strong competitors. Without Teacher Admirable Fish, it would be difficult for me to achieve good results. Do you think it’s possible that Teacher Admirable Fish is planning for me to release a song in December...”

“Impossible.”

Her agent decisively answered:

“Letting you release a song in December, Teacher Admirable Fish must think very highly of you. You must remember, December is a great scramble for the King and Queen of Singing. It’s industry-wide acknowledged ‘Battle of Gods’. Can a singer like you, who hasn’t even reached the top echelons yet, compete with a group of Kings and Queens of Singing?”

“That’s true.”

Jiang Kui couldn’t help but scratch her head. Even if Teacher Admirable Fish thought highly of her, she wouldn’t have the confidence to compete with the Kings and Queens of Singing.

Teacher Admirable Fish is indeed amazing.

But don't the Kings and Queens of Singing have their Maestro assistances?

Her agent analyzed: "Going by Teacher Admirable Fish's moves, he will most likely appear in December, but he should collaborate with one of the company's Kings or Queens of Singing to ensure the best song outcome."

Right.

Although Teacher Admirable Fish didn't win the Maestro title, he was widely acknowledged as Maestro Junior in the industry and had defeated many real Maestros.

If he collaborated with a King or Queen of Singing and competed with top musicians of Blue Star, even if he doesn't take the championship, the result can't be too bad.

That's the top-level competition in music circles.

When will I be able to participate in such a top-tier competition?

Jiang Kui's eyes were a little longing, the previous anxiety had subsided a lot. Next year would be next year, it was just a matter of later breaking into the top tier.

At this moment, her agent's phone suddenly rang.

Her agent was surprised: "It's a call from Teacher Admirable Fish's assistant, probably to reassure us."

Jiang Kui hurriedly said: "Pick it up then!"

Her agent nodded, accepting the call.

Jiang Kui didn't know what was said on the other end, but she saw her agent's eyes widen suddenly, and his mouth gaping open.

When the agent put down the phone and looked at Jiang Kui, his eyes were extremely strange.

"What happened?"

"Teacher Admirable Fish says..."

"What did he say?"

"Teacher Admirable Fish said, you should get ready... to release a new song in December."

"..."

Jiang Kui was dumbfounded.

Release a song in December?

She had considered countless possibilities, but the one thing she had never thought of was that Teacher Admirable Fish would ask her to release a song in December!

In December, with so many Maestros, Kings, and Queens of Singing coming together, did someone like her who hadn't even risen to the top yet really qualify?

"I take back what I said earlier. Teacher Admirable Fish really values you."

The agent patted Jiang Kui's shoulder: "Looking at it this way, his expectations for you are even higher than they were for Sun Yaohuo."

Jiang Kui was left dumbstruck.

An absurd idea popped into her head:

Does Teacher Admirable Fish... really like egg yolk cakes that much?

Chapter 398: Growth

The only reason Jiang Kui could think of as to why Teacher Admirable Fish valued her so much was perhaps due to his satisfaction with the egg yolk pastries she had made for him.

Otherwise, why would he choose me?

Why does Jiang Kui deserve to be compared with the Kings and Queens of Singing?

This has nothing to do with confidence.

Even the most confident person has to consider the actual gap.

Even achieving something significant in one's chosen path is full of obstacles, let alone that those Kings and Queens of Singing are even rarer elites.

"Should I go over first?"

Jiang Kui spoke with difficulty.

The manager shook his head: "No need, just be prepared and take care of your throat, because this song requires you to leverage your strengths. Think about what your strengths are, I believe that's the reason Teacher Admirable Fish chose you."

My strengths?

Jiang Kui appeared pensive.

In the industry, the most common praises for Jiang Kui's voice is that it is ethereal and clear, her singing voice is very beautiful. Even though it adheres to popular music, it has its unique performance style.

“But...”

“No buts, Teacher Admirable Fish chose you, and you should seize this opportunity. If you appear cowardly and anxious before him, I believe he would not hesitate to replace you!”

Jiang Kui was shocked by this.

She had been studying music since she was a child and would starve herself for the pursuit of the diversity of voice. Now the stubbornness deep in her bones was instantly ignited.

“I won’t let Teacher Admirable Fish down!”

It is said that personal allegiance is worth dying for. Jiang Kui’s self-doubt, in the beginning, was merely a natural fear of Blue Star’s top musicians.

What was she afraid of?

The singing prowess of the Kings and Queens of Singing?

Not really. Jiang Kui’s singing skills are not inferior to anyone’s.

In essence, what she feared was the prestige and reputation that those Kings and Queens of Singing had built over the years in the music circle.

That’s what truly demands awe!

So what else does she need to fear?

Fear of the Maestros behind the Kings and Queens of Singing?

Is Teacher Admirable Fish inferior to those Maestros?

Although rated as a Maestro Junior by the industry, everyone knew that Admirable Fish had the level of a Maestro, and has defeated more than one formidable Maestro.

He himself had not become a recognized Maestro, purely due to lack of experience and his young age.

If Teacher Admirable Fish can defeat so many Maestros as a non-Maestro, why can't I as a non-King or non-Queen of Singing, combat those Kings and Queens of Singing?

Saying that I'm not an A-list singer is nothing but an excuse for my own cowardice.

No matter how you look at it, I'm just a step away from being an A-list singer – a thin layer of paper away that could be easily punctured.

At that moment, Jiang Kui was filled with boundless courage.

Ultimately, this courage was instilled in her by Teacher Admirable Fish.

“If Teacher Admirable Fish chose me, it means in his heart, I'm not inferior to those Kings and Queens of Singing. That kind of recognition, that kind of value, if I were to let him down, it would be disrespecting my respect for music.”

Jiang Kui's eyes instantly cleared up.

Even she herself didn't expect that this newly-born courage could carry her so far into the future.

...

Lin Yuan did not immediately ask Jiang Kui to record the song.

He simply gave her early notice, allowing Jiang Kui to prepare herself mentally.

It was not that Lin Yuan needed to use Jiang Kui to assert his abilities, but he felt that the song he prepared for December was very suitable for Jiang Kui's voice.

Lin Yuan had been paying attention to Jiang Kui.

From the very beginning when he chose Jiang Kui to perform “Big Fish”, Lin Yuan held a high regard for Jiang Kui.

Although Lin Yuan did not participate much in Jiang Kui’s musical path later on, he would occasionally listen to her songs and judge how she was doing.

By the time Feng Shuo began writing songs for Jiang Kui consecutively, Lin Yuan was able to clearly feel Jiang Kui’s growth.

In terms of potential growth, Lin Yuan believed that Jiang Kui’s limit was very high!

In fact, he saw shadows of two very powerful female singers from the Celestial Dynasty in Jiang Kui...

Not releasing a song in November also had this consideration.

Considering Jiang Kui’s position, not releasing a song in November was just fine. The song released in December would be enough to raise Jiang Kui to another level.

Others saw Lin Yuan tightrope walking, betting on the situation in the last month, and perhaps even giving up on Jiang Kui.

Only Lin Yuan knew that he didn’t mean to gamble. He was just confident about the next song.

Of course.

Not only did Jiang Kui have to prepare, but Lin Yuan also had to get ready.

After letting Gu Dong inform Jiang Kui to prepare for the December new song chart, he buried himself in his office, producing a sample of the song.

As for the song, he had already ordered it from the system.

Having completed the sample, he entered the recording studio, called in a familiar recording engineer, and worked on the arrangement part of the song.

The so-called arrangement is essentially dressing up a song.

To use an immature analogy, the melody is a plain person, and the arrangement is to makeup and dress this person according to their appearance.

In this process, the recording engineer couldn't avoid seeing the song Lin Yuan was preparing for December.

Result.

When the recording engineer saw the lyrics to Lin Yuan's new song, this top-grade engineer who often worked with Maestro Yang Zhongming, was so astounded he involuntarily stepped back and collapsed into the chair before the instrument.

As he looked up at Lin Yuan, his eyes were filled with reverence:

"Teacher Admirable Fish, these lyrics are among the most amazing I've seen. Sorry, I'll omit the 'among'. They are the most perfect lyrics I've ever seen."

He had only shown such eyes to Yang Zhongming, and not even to Zheng Jing, or any other maestro, which had so deep an impact on this recording engineer.

And Lin Yuan was the second musician in Starlight to win his sincere admiration.

Lin Yuan couldn't help but say: "The music is also not bad."

The recording engineer smiled and nodded: "Did you write such lyrics because the Literature and Art Gazette complimented your composition over lyric writing in the last month, including Ni Hongwu saying the same, so you produced such lyrics to prove them wrong?"

“No.”

“Let’s say it isn’t then.”

The recording engineer smiled more broadly, if it wasn’t, then hell had frozen over!

Admirable Fish was a young man, he naturally had a side that was spirited and daring.

If Ni Hongwu hadn’t said that Admirable Fish’s composition skills were superior to his lyric writing, how could he have dropped such a powerful bomb?

When Ni Hongwu saw the lyrics of this song, she, one of the top lyricists in Blue Star, would be flabbergasted too

Of course.

The reason for the recording engineer to be so happy was because he could participate in the recording of such a song. It was a great honor!

For those working in music production, the opportunity to take part in recording some classic songs was both prestige and an honor.

Their names would be remembered in the industry along with the songs they recorded.

Just based on this, the classic works were enough for many music practitioners to covet!

“Jiang Kui is fortunate indeed.”

The recording engineer took another look at the lyrics. The excitement and shock in his eyes couldn’t be concealed.

Chapter 399: Prelude to Water Melody: How Long Will the Full Moon Last

Lin Yuan, of course, understands the astonishment of the recording engineer.

If he were to place himself in the perspective of a Blue Starian, Lin Yuan would also be shocked.

Just like the shock he felt when he first heard this song in his previous life, and the admiration and fondness for the author of the song, there was the aura of a magnificent work coming right from the first line of the song:

How long will the full moon last, as I ask the azure sky with a cup of wine...

If not created by a top master with excellent skills in lyric composition, how could the “Prelude to Water Melody: How Long Will the Full Moon Last” be written?

Yes!

The song Lin Yuan prepared for this time is the famous “Prelude to Water Melody”!

The author of the song...

Resident of the Eastern Slope, Su Shi!

If Tang Bohu became a talented man known to all through visual artworks and a certain degree of beautification from people, then Su Shi, as a representative of the highest achievement in literature during the Song Dynasty, truly mastered all areas of poetry, lyrics, singing, and painting, even without any over-beautification!

The “Prelude to Water Melody” created by him is particularly well-known, a timeless classic that has been passed down for countless years and cherished by people generation after generation!

Including this work, many of Su Shi’s works are eternally popular, admired, and worshipped by people from generation to generation!

Unfortunately, such a legendary figure does not exist on Blue Star.

But now, Lin Yuan brings this classic Song lyric to light in the form of a song!

Faced with such a classic, it's no wonder that the recording engineer exclaims that this is the most perfect song lyrics he has ever seen in his life, there is no other!

Of course.

As a Song lyric, the true melody of "Prelude to Water Melody" is lost to oblivion. The version obtained by Lin Yuan is a re-composed work based on the original lyric –

"Hoping for Endless Love" sung by Teresa Teng.

This song is part of the poetry songs album "Listening to the Faint Melody" released by Teresa Teng in 1983.

This album is a classic masterpiece of Teresa Teng's personal entertainment career at its peak, also the first record she personally planned. Different from other albums, all twelve songs in this record are selected from Song lyrics, which are literary masterpieces tested by history of over a thousand years. The combination of classical and modern pop music, sung by Teresa Teng with her innate sentimental feelings, is elegant, serious yet gentle, and emotionally rich, quite a Tang and Song style.

As time goes on, the worldly dust of the years has not been able to cover up the beautiful radiance of Teresa Teng, but rather reveals an extraordinary charm with the passage of time.

This song "Hoping for Endless Love" received great popularity as soon as it was released, was later covered by many singers, and has been renowned as one of Teresa Teng's timeless hits!

Among them, Faye Wong, the Queen of Singing from the Celestial Dynasty, also covered this song.

Because of Faye Wong's influence, many people even don't know that the original singer of this song is actually Teresa Teng, and they think that it is sung by Faye Wong.

But the original singer is Teresa Teng, this is very important and should be emphasized three times.

Faye Wong herself is also a fan of Teresa Teng.

On one occasion, Faye Wong sang at a concert commemorating Teresa Teng. As the music began, the big screen showed photos of Teresa Teng. Faye Wong, who originally had her back to the screen, suddenly turned around, her hands holding the microphone and looked at Teresa Teng in reverence, her posture modest like a student.

No one has ever seen Faye Wong like that.

Some people might ask, why is the version by Faye Wong more famous?

We don't have to use Teresa Teng's early death as an explanation here.

Many people must have heard the song "Don't Want to Grow Up" by She.

But few people know that this song is based on the most popular theme from Mozart's Symphony No.40 as the main melody of the chorus.

However, Faye Wong has her strength, her version is also very excellent, and the quality of the song is indeed excellent. Therefore, not only Teresa Teng's version is provided by the System, but also versions by Faye Wong and others are customized by the System.

Furthermore...

Regarding this song, in fact, there has been a discussion in the outside world that some people believe that the composition of this song is not up to par with the lyrics.

This is, in fact, perfectly understandable.

How many composers can match Su Shi's lyrics?

You should know that "Prelude to Water Melody" is regarded by some in the literary world as the pinnacle of Song lyrics, the only one who can contend with it in the field of Song lyric is Xin Qiji, while here Yi An's Residency might be added as well, only the first two, belonging to the bold style, have more comparability.

Some even go as far as to claim that “Prelude to Water Melody” dominates today’s music, rated as the first among Song lyrics.

So this is a lethal proposition.

First appears “How long will the moon last”, then write a melody according to such a high-level Song lyric, it’s not a task that ordinary people can accomplish.

The ability to make the melody not inferior is already very rare.

As for the performance alone, it must be solidified by Singers of the caliber of Teresa Teng and Faye Wong, those who do not have extraordinary vocal talents need not apply.

This is why Lin Yuan chose Jiang Kui.

Lin Yuan can see the shadow of such top singers as Teresa Teng and Faye Wong in Jiang Kui.

Although it’s not completely the same –

No one can be completely the same as others.

But in terms of vocal cords, timbre, skills, and other aspects, Jiang Kui is now the most suitable choice Lin Yuan can think of.

Lin Yuan did not specifically arrange which version for Jiang Kui.

He planned to polish a version that belongs to himself and Jiang Kui, blending Teresa Teng’s classic and Faye Wong’s ethereal features according to Jiang Kui’s own voice style.

Songs should vary from person to person.

This is why Lin Yuan uses the System’s songs, but tries to produce them according to the vocalist’s voice in the recording process.

Perhaps by the time the song is officially recorded, adjustments will be made to the arrangement.

The melody won't make any drastic changes now, even if Lin Yuan used the character card of Yang Zhongming, he wouldn't know where to begin the change.

To recreate Su Dongpo's "Prelude to Water Melody" in its authentic musical essence, it's too difficult.

Even if the outside world comments that "Prelude to Water Melody" is a work where the lyric exceeds the melody, Lin Yuan can only admit it.

This song lyric is indeed brilliantly attractive!

In a world without Su Shi, tossing out such a song is tantamount to throwing a bomb that's heavier than a bombshell!

"Use 'How Long Will the Full Moon Last' as the title of the song."

The song title used by Teresa Teng and Faye Wong is "Hoping for Endless Love".

Releasing this song during the Mid-Autumn Festival, Lin Yuan would also consider this title, because it's more suitable for the occasion.

However, this is the Lunar New Year's release, so 'How Long Will the Full Moon Last' is more appropriate.

This is also the name used by the original lyric.

The recording engineer surely has no objection to this.

While Lin Yuan starts to produce the accompaniment for "Prelude to Water Melody", Jiang Kui also starts to ponder about her singing strengths, seriously going to find relevant teachers to do some practice, even turning down all her current appointments...

It's not any last-minute cramming.

The pressure of December is simply too high, she has to do something to feel more confident.

This December is destined to shake the nerves of the music world!

Chapter 400: Influence in Three Continents

Of course, there is still some time before December, and even the small-scale team battle in November hasn't started yet, so Lin Yuan can complete the arrangement and accompaniment production at a leisurely pace—

When Battle of Gods presented 'How Long Will the Full Moon Last', Lin Yuan had no intention of relying solely on the composition to win!

In a world dominated by Maestro, who can be much worse in terms of composition?

The lyrics are the trump card.

Unless there are contemporary poets like Xin Qiji and Su Shi in Blue Star.

Of course, the premise that the lyrics can serve as a winning trump card is that your composition cannot be too poor. If it is, then it would be akin to fighting left-handed.

The composition of 'How Long Will the Full Moon Last' is quite competitive.

Many people in the Celestial Dynasty generally reflect that the song sounds better the more you hear it. It's a work passed down by Teresa Teng, covered by countless music bigwigs. How could its quality be poor?

All of these are the sources of Lin Yuan's confidence.

Besides producing the music score and accompaniment, Lin Yuan also urged the post-production of 'Hachiko'.

Starting from last year, Blue Star adjusted the time of the Spring Festival to January.

With such adjustment, naturally, the movie release dates during the Spring Festival have also been adjusted.

In other words.

January has now become the Spring Festival block, which is the most competitive time in the entertainment industry!

Even the winter vacation has been brought forward!

It's October now, and the middle of the month has not yet arrived. At Qin Continent Art Academy where Lin Yuan is located, the fifth year has already started their winter vacation.

For Lin Yuan, this means that the first semester of the fifth year is completely over.

By the end of the next semester, Lin Yuan will officially graduate from university.

If this was in the Celestial Dynasty, a standard four-year university, Lin Yuan would already be considered a graduate. But in Blue Star, we still follow Blue Star's rules. Anyway, there isn't much time left in the fifth year, and there aren't many classes next semester.

Whether there are classes or not doesn't really matter, because Lin Yuan hasn't been to school a few times during his fifth year.

Now, Lin Yuan's focus is not on the winter vacation, but on choosing the schedule for the movie release.

What he has in front of him is the attractive Spring Festival slot.

Lin Yuan really wants to participate in a box office battle during the Spring Festival.

Because the audience during the Spring Festival has the highest number throughout the year, students and white-collar workers are all on holiday.

These people are the main force supplying the box office for movies.

However, considering that there are so many people and movies in the Spring Festival, after all, everyone wants to grab the box office, Lin Yuan doesn't want to step into it instead.

The movie slots aren't enough to go around.

Rather than rushing to ride the subway during peak time, why not start earlier?

With this in mind, Lin Yuan set his sights on next month, which is November!

Because of the special shooting method of Lin Yuan's film, the film is edited in sequence, there are almost no extra shots, and with the strong support of Blue Star's powerful film industry technology, the post-production is very fast. If they want to release it in November, this is completely achievable.

Besides, the movies in the Spring Festival slots tend to be commercial ones with feel-good atmosphere. If it's a family-friendly movie, so much the better.

If Lin Yuan pushes 'Hachiko' into the Spring Festival slot, he'd make people sob during the big festival?

That would be rather heartless.

The Spring Festival should be filled with joy, not so depressing. As for making people cry before the New Year, Lin Yuan could do it without guilt.

...

Lin Yuan discussed his thoughts with Ol' Zhou.

Ol' Zhou totally agreed with him.

Now is not the time when Lin Yuan's movies are ignored by the company after completion.

The higher-ups at Starlight are not fools. How could they still have the same casual attitude towards Lin Yuan, after the success of his last two movies?

So, on the issue of selecting 'Hachiko' release date, Ol' Zhou was very serious.

He immediately contacted the theater chains to confirm some details, and entered Lin Yuan's office the next day.

"How about November 11th?"

"Double 11?"

"What Double 11?"

"I'm talking about Singles' Day."

"Indeed, the 11th of November is known as Singles' Day, but some say that this day signifies 'forever and always'. However, that's not the main reason why we chose the 1st of November as our release date..."

"What is the main reason then?"

"The schedule for this day is relatively empty, with no other major films in competition. This means less competition for 'Hachiko'."

"Then, let's release it on that day."

Lin Yuan had no objections as the timing was just right.

Ol' Zhou nodded: "While we're at it, I might as well fill you in on the current state of the film market."

"Oh?"

"You might not be aware, but the merging of three continents has greatly changed the market. It has even drastically affected the release patterns of films..."

Ol' Zhou then gave Lin Yuan a detailed run-down.

Apparently, due to the radical population increase resultant from the continents' merging – roughly equivalent to that of dozens of Earth's nations combined – the market has grown phenomenally large. Enough cinema chains exist to simultaneously accommodate the release of dozens of films.

Hence, both the number of film companies and cinema chains is astoundingly high.

However, for many cinema chains, the issue was how to allocate daily screening times to the dozens or even hundreds of films. A total of twenty-four hours a day seemed insufficient for such a task.

Not to mention that after each movie screening, there needs to be a scheduled cleaning period.

Could they screen movies over the course of several days then?

That's not feasible either. It's undoubtedly unwise to put all your eggs into one basket but that doesn't mean each egg should get its own basket. Who has that many baskets?

Therefore, this brings us to the issue of screening choices made by cinema chains.

Every day, many films vie for screen time. The chains simply cannot accommodate them all, hence they would need to assess the quality of the films.

Cinema chains would schedule the commercial release of films they deem to be good;

and if a film doesn't look promising to them, they would simply pass on carrying it at all. With so many films to choose from, missing out on a few good ones wouldn't be a big loss; there could be other good films to substitute for them.

Thus,

Films that are seen to have bright prospects can earn the favor of ninety percent of theater chains and finalize contracts on the spot.

As for those films that theater chains aren't particularly optimistic about...

Well, with so many chains, there would still be some that would carry the film, unless the film is so bad that no one wants it.

Although Xian Yu's films wouldn't reach a point where no chains want them, they also wouldn't be able to court more than ninety percent of the chains.

For this reason, Ol' Zhou arranged a preview screening that will be attended by representatives from numerous chains.

Those who approve of the film will draw up a contract over the next few days.

Those who do not simply won't make an offer.

This mode of operation varies greatly from that on Earth – a vast difference indeed.

On Earth, each country has its own film market.

Each respective nation mainly watches its own films. Their audiences are already content, and they would only bring in a few competitive foreign films.

However, in Blue Star, the entire world shares a common language and there isn't much of a cultural barrier. The terrifyingly massive population and correspondingly huge market mean that the audiences' choices are very diverse —

Such intense competition brings with it both benefits and drawbacks.

Therefore, the attitudes of cinemas toward the films at the preview screening become absolutely crucial!

Lin Yuan felt a touch of sentiment.

Once again, he was witnessing the changes brought about by the merging of three continents. And next year, with Yan Continent joining, it would be four continents.

The population and the market would become even more exaggerated.

What kind of changes would occur then, no one knows. Even those who made the decision to merge the continents could probably only grope their way forward. The galaxy is vast and anything could happen within it.

“Then, let Director Zhou be responsible for the preview screening.”

With matters that Lin Yuan was not adept at, it was better to let Ol’ Zhou do it. This was one of the advantages of having company backing. Lin Yuan certainly didn’t have the power to bring together representatives from major theater chains. It required an extensive network of contacts that Starlight possessed, and not something an individual could manage.

“Alright, I’ll try to get as many theater chains as possible.”

Ol’ Zhou showed a hint of a smile, eagerly anticipating the quality of ‘Hachiko’. This would determine how many cinemas the film could capture!