

All R. Artist 411

Chapter 411: Bumper Harvest

“I cried my eyes out.”

“I purposely put on makeup for this.”

“I don’t think I have the courage to watch this movie a second time.”

“Starlight anticipated this reaction, so they provided tissues on each seat.”

“So heartbreaking. Xiao Ba really suffered a lot.”

“From the moment Xiao Ba started picking up the ball, I felt something was off, but I really didn’t expect the professor to leave in such a way.”

“I thought this was a story of Xiao Ba healing a family, but it turns out it’s a story of a dog waiting for its owner for ten years.”

“Even Ye Hongyu cried. She sat not far from me, she cried out loud, I heard everything.”

“So even Ye Hongyu can cry.”

“There’s no Iron lady, just a clever woman trying hard to hide her feelings.”

“...”

The theatre representatives wiped away their tears as they exchanged thoughts.

Ye Hongyu too, was trying hard to control her emotions.

As a representative of the Dadi theatre line, her job was all about watching movies or on her way to watch movies.

After watching so many movies, is there any scene she hasn't seen?

Admittedly, even similar situations like today's, Ye Hongyu has experienced before.

The emotional effect created by the movie, if amplified to the extreme, will indeed have this effect. This is the charm of film art, and there must be more than one Xian Yu in Blue Star who possesses this power!

This is a certainty.

But in all of Ye Hongyu's memories about movie screenings ...

Even though she has watched so many movies, if it's about tear-jerking potency, there are very few that can compare with "Hachiko".

It could even be described as rare.

"What's amazing about this movie is that even though you know it's going to start playing with your emotions, you are still unknowingly trapped. You know that the slow motion scenes and the hope for your tears, you know the sad music score is meant to accentuate Xiao Ba's ten years of tragic waiting, you know the writer's purpose is to touch the audience, you are still unable to resist this emotional contagion. This has nothing to do with how many people are watching the movie. If we were not in the same theater but watching it privately, we might cry even harder."

Ye Hongyu seemed to be talking to herself, yet also seemed to be hinting at Yang An.

Her young confidant, Yang An, nodded seriously.

Some movies can make people lose control, and "Hachiko" is one of them.

Ye Hongyu, despite having seen through the writer's intent and having prepared herself mentally, warning herself that the movie was going to start tugging at her heartstrings towards the end, still ended up losing miserably and crying bitterly at the end.

In the meantime.

Ol' Zhou had already taken the stage, microphone in hand, saying, "Everyone may need some time to calm down. When everyone is ready, we can discuss the cooperation matters next door."

Everyone stood up unanimously.

The movie ran a bit over an hour and a half, and many couldn't hold their bladder any longer.

The theatre representative previously offered a cigarette by the senior executive of Starlight Film Department, nudged the senior executive on the shoulder, saying:

"Give me a light."

"Didn't I already give you one?"

"One isn't enough."

"..."

I thought you didn't smoke?

This is just a microcosm. "Hachiko" is a tearjerker movie, and also a movie that consumes cigarettes. Ol' Zhou and his companions have an opinion on this.

At this moment.

Ye Hongyu walked up to Ol' Zhou and said, "Director Zhou, can we have a chat?"

Ol' Zhou glanced at Ye Hongyu.

Ye Hongyu had already repaired her makeup perfectly while sitting in her seat. The fact that she had cried her makeup off was well concealed by her.

But this didn't hide the fact that Ol' Zhou had previously observed Ye Hongyu's reaction from the back of the room. He knew this woman was just putting on a facade.

"Sure, let's meet next door in a bit."

Ol' Zhou said with a smile, pretending not to notice Ye Hongyu's reddened eyes.

"Hmm."

Ye Hongyu looked at Ol' Zhou, and suddenly chuckled, "Speaking of which, Teacher Admirable Fish and I are actually from the same clan. Both of our names have the character 'Fish'. We are all in the same family."

Ol' Zhou: "???"

Are you making fun of me for having a bad memory because of my age?

When I brought up this matter to relate with you before, you didn't respond to me, making me feel quite awkward.

Of course.

Ol' Zhou understood that this was merely Ye Hongyu expressing her optimism towards "Hachiko".

With Ye Hongyu actively reaching out, the contract with the Dadi theater chain was essentially secured.

Not just Ye Hongyu.

As the other theater representatives regained their composure –

Either after addressing their physiological needs, or after puffing away in the bathroom.

The theatre representatives who came to the neighboring exchange room started to discuss contract matters with Starlight’s senior executives.

“Hachiko” is a slow-paced drama.

The so-called drama has this kind of slow pace, but the plot is relatively compact. This kind of movie usually focuses on a social phenomenon and the life condition of a certain group of people as a portrayal, and is easy to resonate with the viewer on an emotional level.

The main focus is on stirring up sentiment.

This type is different from the exciting fights in action films, different from the grand scale in science fiction films, different from the sweet romance in love films, and even more different from the humor in comedy films.

So, in fact, drama movies like “Hachiko” are not really box-office hits.

Because their popcorn value is not strong.

As theatre representatives, all of whom have strong judgement skills and business acumen, they certainly understand this.

But unfortunately, “Hachiko” has maximized the effects of a drama!

The first and second acts are warm and healing.

The last part is tear-jerking and depressing.

Any movie that can maximize a particular effect is one that goes beyond the norm and cannot be ignored.

Therefore.

A vast majority of the theatre representatives have developed a considerable interest in “Hachiko”.

After several rounds of negotiation.

Ol’ Zhou and the senior executives of Starlight Film Department have signed contracts with about ninety percent of the theater representatives present.

This means that “Hachiko” has secured the basic guarantee of film arrangements.

Movie schedules could never be fixed. If the audience likes it, more will be scheduled; if the audience doesn’t like it, fewer showings will be scheduled, or the movie may even be discontinued. This is the theater chain’s forte.

Real and cruel.

But at the beginning of a movie’s premiere, it’s impossible to know how the audience will react, and the theater can only judge based on the taste of the theater representative. The schedule at this time is very important.

It can be considered highly contested terrain.

Because sometimes even very good movies can get buried in the market due to poor initial scheduling. There are not a few examples of this. What Starlight is doing right now is to prevent the possibility of the movie being buried due to a lack of scheduling.

“Huge harvest!”

Saying goodbye to the theatre representatives, Ol’ Zhou looked at the stack of contracts on the table, displaying a satisfied smile.

“Shall we have a drink?”

“Sure, another round of the movie was a bit too tough to handle, a few drinks would be nice.”

Starlight’s department executives were all joking and laughing.

The foundation has been laid very solidly. The next focus would be the publicity before the official release!

Chapter 412: Strive to the Extreme

For the distributors who were invited to attend the screening of “Hachiko”, it was a memorable experience.

Such an experience is something most screeners could not offer.

But if you look at the overall Blue Star film market, the impact this movie has had so far is just a small ripple...

However, everything depends on people’s efforts.

The next day, Starlight increased the promotion budget for “Hachiko”, making the film more widely known.

Given the high reputation of Xian Yu’s first two films, the promotion of this one indeed attracted more audience attention.

And with the promotion, more information about the movie was revealed.

Such as “Hachiko” taking a touching storyline.

Such as “Hachiko” having a little bit of art film flavor.

Such as “Hachiko” featuring a very heartwarming and comforting storyline.

Such as...

Spoilers are impossible to disclose.

Major spoilers would simply chase the audience away.

You certainly can't tell the audience directly that this movie tells the story of a dog waiting for its owner for ten years and ultimately dying beside the waiting flower bed.

The promotion can only release some stills and posters, using taglines like "the most touching movie of the year", "redemption between a man and a dog" to attract the audience and so on.

Such prepared promotion sketches out the public impression of "Hachiko":

This is a heartwarming drama with a touch of artistic flavor.

There are those who are interested, and many who are indifferent, but at the very least, the goal of widespread publicity has basically been achieved.

To make everyone aware demands a bigger promotional push; that would be too high a cost for "Hachiko", so the company's control over promotion funding is quite rational.

But Starlight's ad copy is somewhat innovative:

"If you say 'Flirting Scholar' is the ultimate in happiness and comedy, then 'The Tuner' is the ultimate in plot twist and mind-blowing. Teacher Admirable Fish goes all out, taking it to the extreme, and 'Hachiko' also has its own extreme. What it is, we will see on November 11th!"

The purpose of the copy is simple:

Use the impressions of the first two movies to awaken the audience's memories, thereby arousing their interest in Xian Yu's third movie.

Apparently.

Starlight has achieved its goal with this ad copy.

With the release of this statement on Starlight's official Weibo, many netizens began discussing what "Hachiko" would be the ultimate in.

"It should be the ultimate in warmth, right?"

"It really piques my curiosity."

"It's not easy to take anything to the extreme."

"The first two films indeed reached the extreme in some ways, few movies have as many plot twists as 'The Tuner'."

"In my mind, few movies are as comical as 'Flirting Scholar'."

"...."

Meanwhile.

Lin Yuan received the specific screening schedule of "Hachiko".

Starlight's screening invited representatives from 43 theater chains. Nearly 90 percent of them showed interest in the movie and arranged some screenings, but the scheduling rate varied among different chains.

No need to elaborate on the specific scheduling rate, overall, the initial scheduling arranged by the theater chains is pretty good.

Especially for a drama like "Hachiko".

Don't think that just because representatives of theater chains like "Hachiko" they will automatically arrange a high rate of showcase.

The movie market is not that simple.

Liking it is one thing, business is another, never confuse the two.

After watching the movie, the theater representatives return to being rational, using a commercial perspective to evaluate movies.

Let's use an example from Earth's film industry:

Regardless of whether it's in China's Douban or in various leading film review lists in the West, "The Shawshank Redemption" tops them all!

Even if movie-watching levels differ in China and abroad, their views on this film are completely unanimous!

Everyone loves "The Shawshank Redemption".

The film's reputation on Earth is indeed top-notch.

But another shocking fact is that "The Shawshank Redemption" not only bombed at the box office after its release, but it also fell short in terms of awards, in spite of having some very strong competitors at the time...

The box office flop of this film is not an isolated case.

This is the status quo for many dramas with artistic attributes.

Audiences endeavor to go to the theater to watch more commercial blockbusters!

Theater representatives know this, so it is quite extraordinary that they are willing to sign contracts for screenings after the end of the "Hachiko" screening –

Perhaps they all plan to use the high reputation of this film to exchange for box office revenue.

If word-of-mouth can't convert into box office, no matter how highly "Hachiko" is rated, the screening will gradually decrease until it is off the schedule.

Naturally.

This also has to do with the fact that the artistic flavor of "Hachiko" is not so strong, it even has a bit of commercial flavor.

There are not many of those pretentious shots that are common in art films.

No playing tricks on the audience, the goal of the story is to be heartfelt and emotional, to achieve the ultimate in these aspects, thereby gaining favor from the theaters.

Comparatively, some of Xian Yu's diehard fans are the most selfless ones.

As the film's promotional campaign kicks off, Xian Yu's Tribe comment section is filled with cheerleading:

"Looking forward to Teacher Admirable Fish's new film, see you in the cinema on November 11th!"

"The still shots make the film look so comforting, just in time as I've been feeling down lately. I hope watching this film can warm me up."

"Just like what Starlight's ad says, our Teacher Admirable Fish does take a different route with each film. The first work was the ultimate in comedy, the second film was the ultimate in plot twists, so I'm curious about what the third film will take to the extreme?"

"Needless to say, it must be the ultimate in comfort and warmth!"

"I don't know why, but I always feel things are not so simple".

"Teacher Admirable Fish's movies, just like his music compositions, never repeat; each song brings a fresh feeling to everyone, unlike some composers whose songs all have shadows of each other."

“...”

Fans' expectations are effusive.

In fact, not only Xian Yu's fans, but heartwarming and comforting dramas like “Hachiko”, although not as mainstream as commercial films, have quite a few enthusiasts, which has incited discussions regarding “Hachiko” in many movie forums.

Equally.

Audiences who are interested in the film are also wondering, what kind of extremes “Hachiko” will take?

Is it really warm and comforting?

And amidst everyone's curiosity.

Time moves on to November, with only ten days left before the premiere of “Hachiko”.

Chapter 413: Incompatible Version

There were only ten days left until the release of “Hachiko”. Yet, the most exciting event at the stroke of midnight in November was the start of the season's music chart competition —

The November new song chart was here!

Some people said that the November new song chart was like a warm-up, or even a mini-version, of the Battle of the Gods in December.

And they weren't wrong.

The new song chart was lively indeed.

Without Xian Yu's participation, without the arrival of the Maestro, without the King and Queen of Singing stirring up the scene —

All these top singers were fighting back and forth. On the first day alone, the champion song had gone up and down several times already.

One hour you were number one, another hour I surpassed you.

Yet another hour later, the third place surprisingly came up.

It was an absolute mess.

This was a real evenly matched fight.

And this was the scene the music world liked to see most.

A big shot dominating everything might be shocking to watch, but there's no suspense.

Unlike now in November, the battle was so intense. With news flying everywhere and countless netizens were all paying attention to this season's new song chart.

How exciting!

This scene also added to everyone's anticipation for the fierce competition in December!

November was already like this.

What would December be like?

However, Lin Yuan didn't participate in November's new song chart, so he naturally didn't pay much attention to it.

Just like those audience passionately discussing online about what kind of ultimate interpretation “Hachiko” was pursuing.

Lin Yuan was quietly waiting for the release of “Hachiko” in his routine and miscellaneous work.

The truth was,

As more and more discussions were taking place online, people started to believe that “Hachiko” was as warm and healing as it appeared on the surface. Some even interpreted additional meanings from it:

“Teacher Admirable Fish is truly warm-hearted to choose November 11 for the movie’s release.”

“Huh?”

“What do you mean?”

This interpretation baffled many spectators.

Until this genius of logic revealed his understanding: “Isn’t it obvious? Of course, it’s because November 11 is Singles’ Day, a day that belongs to single dogs!”

Oh, damn... That’s right.

This logic genius continued to post and boost his theory: “There are just too many coincidences, ‘Hachiko’ is obviously a movie about a dog, warm and healing, and to the extreme.”

“What you’ve said is very reasonable, I am speechless.”

“Haha, so ‘Hachiko’ was made by Xian Yu for you single dogs?”

“It must be! This is Teacher Admirable Fish’s care for single dogs. You know, Singles’ Day is supposed to be the saddest day for us single dogs. Arranging a warm and healing movie for us on such a day is meant to give us spiritual comfort!”

“The commenter above, remove the ‘us’.”

“The commenter above the above, remove the ‘us’.”

“The commenter above above above... Damn, don’t remove it, I almost forgot that I’m a single dog too!”

“Hahaha, are you guys trying to laugh me to death in order to inherit my cockroach flower?”

“So, the single dogs are watching ‘Hachiko’ alone on November 11?”

“I originally had no plans to watch the midnight premiere, but after hearing what you guys said, I’m going to buy two tickets for me and my girlfriend to watch it. I hope not to get beaten up by single dogs.”

“Brother, wake up, the first thing you need is to have a girlfriend...”

“Couples, don’t come. ‘Hachiko’ is a movie for us single dogs!”

“...”

The creative interpretations of netizens gave “Hachiko” a bit more attention.

Of course, no one really believed the movie was made for single dogs. It was a hilarious misinterpretation that a dog movie would be released on Singles’ Day, precisely when single dogs would be shedding collective tears.

...

In such waiting, the days passed without rush.

Click.

As if the gears of time finally clicked into the correct node, with a crisp mechanical sound, November 11 officially arrived!

On this day, Lin Yuan went to sleep early as usual.

But at midnight, all major cinemas were as brightly lit as ever.

The heat in the lobby wasn't cold at all.

With the start of ticket checking for "Hachiko", the first batch of the audience flooded the theaters, finding their corresponding seats.

The timeslot was late.

The ones willing to stay up late for the movie were either night-owls with nothing to do, or hardcore devotees of Xian Yu.

Of course.

It did indeed include some lonely hearts.

They came alone in taxis, bought their cola and popcorn alone, sat in their assigned seats alone, and prayed silently that they wouldn't be seated next to couples.

The total number of audience members was limited.

After all, it was late at night, even though the cinema was still operating, the midnight screening audience was destined to be sparse, and besides, "Hachiko" was not a popular blockbuster.

If it were a popular blockbuster screening, even at midnight, countless people would be willing to wait.

Even so, many people were rushing to see the first showing of the movie out of respect for Xian Yu.

By this time, most people were watching a heartwarming film, and had no idea how this film would portray it.

But...

What will come, will come.

With the screening of “Hachiko”, there seemed to be an invisible hand in the theater quietly throwing tear bombs.

At first, no one noticed.

By the time someone realized something was amiss, Professor An in the big screen had already fallen powerless in the classroom.

The abrupt piano forte seemed like a heavy hammer falling, leaving only a close-up of a small yellow ball in the scene.

Boom!

The sudden death of Professor An was like a mountain collapsing.

Accompanied by a sudden wail from inside a certain theater, one after another tear bombs exploded instantly, and all the audience was trapped in a gentle trap-

“Cry! Everyone fucking cry!!”

In a bedroom of a high-end residential area, Ol’ Zhou who was still not asleep at this hour looked at the time, and suddenly started yelling excitedly, even waking up his sleeping wife next to him.

“What the hell are you yelling about in the middle of the night!” his wife scolded Ol’ Zhou irritably.

Ol' Zhou didn't explain, wearing dark circles under his eyes, he sat in front of the computer, grinning like a 170-pound child.

Like a remote control switch,

Just as Ol' Zhou's malicious laughter rang out, countless viewers of "Hachiko" burst into tears!

The sea of tears instantly swept everything!

Couples and single watchers were treated the same!

Meanwhile, in a cinema in the city center, the screening room of "Hachiko" was filled with countless whimpers and curses. These curses were interspersed with sobbing:

"Xian Yu, you liar!"

"You call this heartwarming healing?!"

"Did the boss put in the wrong disc?!"

"Too misleading, this healing version doesn't work at all!"

"Why is the popcorn in this cinema so salty today?!"

"..."

This night, was destined to be sleepless.

Under the peaceful starry sky, as many spectators shed tears like rain, an equal number of people lambasted Xian Yu in the cold dead of night.

Chapter 414: Xianyu the Old Thief

The so-called verbal condemnation and written castigation, the former is the continuous swearing in the movie theater, while the latter is people picking up their mobile phones, venting their own emotions by publishing movie reviews online.

But...

When many angry viewers actually picked up their mobile phones, opened the movie review websites and prepared to accuse Xian Yu of “deception”, the fingers falling on the screens hesitated.

Should we blame Xian Yu for making such a heartbreaking movie?

Clearly not.

Is there anything wrong with the performance of the movie?

Clearly not.

After a moment of silence, accompanied by a sigh of helplessness, even the angriest viewer couldn't find a stance to criticize ——

It would be doing injustice to the great movie.

Their heartfelt love for the movie and the shock from a ten-year wait eventually outweighed all complaints, but the sadness had become so thick that it could not be diluted, lingering for an extended time.

This is the ultimate of “Hachiko”.

The ultimate of....

Depression.

“I was excited to greet Xian Yu's new work, hoping to experience a warm and healing immersion, but watched a movie that made me cry from beginning to end. I'm trembling while typing this,

making many typos and corrections. Well, perhaps this is the only film I immensely love but may never have the courage to watch again.”

On the Starsky website, a renowned movie review site.

This hot-review seemed to lay a foundation for other reviews. The “Hachiko” review section late at night was filled with heartbroken people:

“Perhaps Professor An also waited for Xiao Ba at the gateway of heaven for eighty years.”

“Teacher Xian Yu, forgive me for now considering you Xianyu the old thief, why did you make the movie so good that even someone like me who likes to mock others crying over a movie ended up becoming one of those people I once mocked.”

“After you left, I dedicated the rest of my life to you...”

“I’d rather believe that Xiao Ba had no pain, only happiness, on the night of his passing because Professor An came in the train of heaven to take him home.”

“God knows how much I like Zhang Xiuming, but the best performance in the whole film, I have to give it to Xiao Ba.”

“After Xiao Black died, there was a void in Madam An’s heart, and after Professor An died, Xiao Ba gave up the rest of his life.”

“I feel that I’m going to cry out all the tears of my next few years tonight.”

“I wish so much that the movie, as everyone expected, would be warm and healing, showing mutual redemption between man and animal, so that when Professor An passed away, it felt like Xiao Ba’s silhouette solidified into eternal loneliness.”

“...”

Ol’ Zhou, who still couldn’t sleep, kept refreshing the reviews on the Starsky website.

His face was full of mischievous laughter at first.

But as the laughter carried on, he silently lit a cigarette.

Under the faint glow of the lighter and the computer screen, his smile was strained.

This is the last one, thought Ol' Zhou.

Actually, Ol' Zhou quit smoking when he was young, but this movie... It was too consuming. Without the tiny numbing sensation brought by the nicotine passing through his lungs, he feared he couldn't bear it.

...

And on a forum...

A late-night post suddenly exploded in popularity: "Who the hell said this movie is made by Xianyu the old thief for all the single dogs to watch, step up, I promise I won't beat you to death!"

The heat of the post was mainly reflected in the massive replies that followed.

"As soon as I walked in, I saw a couple sitting next to me, and I was immediately crippled by the shock. When Professor An died, the couple cried their eyes out, but all I could do was hold my knees and cry!"

"No movie has ever been so unfriendly to single dogs!"

"Damn it, Singles' Day is already a bit sad, but after watching this movie, it's not just a bit sad anymore, I feel like I'm starting to become introverted."

"Do you think us couples have it easy? After the movie, my girlfriend who always opposed me getting a dog, actually made me get one in the middle of the night. And it had to be the same breed as Xiao Ba. Where the hell am I meant to find a dog in the middle of the night?"

“You up there can be a bit more flexible in your thinking, you can’t find a real dog in the middle of the night, but there are many sad lone dogs.”

“I returned home and cried my eyes out holding my dog, even though the little rascal took advantage of my absence to chew up my new pair of sneakers.”

“...”

In the end, even the original poster who claimed that this movie was made by Xianyu for single dogs showed up in the comments section. Obviously, he was one of the first batch of audience: “I’m guilty. I really thought Xianyu the old thief was considering our single dogs. Today’s midnight snack is pickled fish soup, let’s drink to that, brothers!”

Everyone was trying to soothe their emotions.

But obviously, most people will have a hard time healing in the short term.

Meanwhile, through the spread of these movie reviews, Xianyu, once beloved by all, gradually completed his transition from a respectable teacher to an old thief.

In the words of a certain netizen:

“Birds of a feather flock together, none of those three bros are good people. Chu Kuang, the old thief, not to mention the countless times he’s killed Biyao, and Shadow, who obviously possesses top-level painting skills yet always deceives the readers, and now even Xianyu has become bad. I used to say that Xianyu is the last moral man among the Three Bros!”

All those who make fans suffer are thieves!

Someone even confidently asserted: “Actually, all of this is premeditated. No wonder Xianyu wrote a song called ‘Ten Years.’ He is clearly satirizing us in a cryptic way. After ten years, the once inseparable couples meet again, each having found their own partners, becoming the most familiar strangers. But in the same ten years, Xiao Ba is still waiting for its Professor An through wind and rain, and never gives up!”

A so-called couple is really no more persistent than a dog.

Once this statement appeared, it was immediately shared by many people. The same ten years, whether it's a coincidence or not, really makes sense if you think about it carefully.

In ten years, how many human couples have broken up?

As for Xiao Ba, a dog that supposedly doesn't know what emotions are, it waits tirelessly in wind, rain and snow, until it completely dies of old age.

Compared to the fragility of human emotions, the loyalty of dogs really makes one sigh.

By this time, "Hachiko" on Starry Sky Network has a score of 9.5!

This score is even higher than Xianyu's widely accepted "Flirting Scholar", which is a rare high score on the entire Starry Sky Network!

And with this score, a new trend emerges in the comments section:

"Damn it, why should only we, a group of people, be tortured by Xianyu late into the night? I hereby solemnly suggest that everyone should recommend this movie to the people around them. Nobody can run away, all of you must cry with me!"

As soon as this leading comment appeared, it immediately gained strong support from the first batch of viewers!

"Great idea!"

"Off to recommend it to my buddies!"

"A big gift for my bestie!"

"I've already recommended it to my friends and posted it on my circle."

“Here’s a little trick for recommending, make sure to tell your friends that this is a very warm and healing movie.”

“Got it, keywords, warm! Healing!”

“...”

The army of people who trick others is ready.

Chapter 415: The One Who Tricks Others Will Always Be Tricked

“Hey, are you asleep? I recommend you watch a movie.”

Late at night.

Someone clicked on his buddy’s avatar.

His buddy replied, “I’m in the middle of cultivation. What movie are you recommending?”

The other party said, “It’s a very warm and healing movie, ‘Hachiko’.”

The buddy sent a confused emoji:

“Why do I feel something is off? Why would you suddenly recommend a movie to me in the middle of the night?”

“Because this movie is truly excellent, it’s Xian Yu’s...” he hesitated, “...Teacher Admirable Fish’s movie! Please don’t read any reviews before watching it, you’ll get spoiled by the spoilers!”

He emphasized that again.

This buddy seems to be an ordinary fan of Xian Yu, and immediately said, “So it’s Teacher Admirable Fish’s new movie? Got it. I’m going to buy tickets.”

“...”

In another instance...

On a film forum, someone is making a post inquiry.

“There’s an internet celebrity on the blog recommending the movie ‘Hachiko’. Have any audience seen it and could talk about it?”

Unexpectedly to the person who made the post...

Not long after his post, a reply appeared below: “Good movie, very healing!”

The person who made the post expressed his doubts: “Really?”

The commenter firmly responded, “Why would I lie to you? Just go and check the ratings on Starry Sky Network. But don’t read the reviews! Most of them are filled with spoilers, which can severely impact the viewing experience.”

Starry Sky Network?

The person who made the post immediately looked up ‘Hachiko’ on Starry Sky Network, and was shocked by the results.

The movie ‘Hachiko’ has a rating of 9.5!

Holy cow, only classics get such high ratings!

He quickly replied to the enthusiastic netizen: “Thanks for the recommendation, brother! The rating is really crazy. I’m buying a ticket for the first show tomorrow morning.”

“You won’t regret it!”

The commenter, who was very enthusiastic, added: “After watching this movie, I feel so warm. I feel like the whole world has become better. I believe you will be just as moved.”

At this time.

In the forum...

...there were also other night owls lurking.

After seeing the post, some of the night owls that didn't know much about films were drawn in, filled with curiosity and interest:

“What movie is this awesome?”

“A rating of 9.5? That's pretty brutal!”

“The movie is called ‘Hachiko’? Seems like it's Xian Yu's new work. I saw the promotions before.”

“Alright, I'm going to buy a ticket. Starry Sky Network's ratings are dependable.”

“Xian Yu's ‘Flirting Scholar’ didn't even score this high! Looks like Xian Yu has made another good movie. I'm definitely supporting this excellent film.”

“...”

These people didn't suspect anything fishy and certainly didn't bother to read the reviews, knowing how Starry Sky Network operates.

Eighty percent of those so-called movie reviews are spoilers.

The viewing experience is bound to be lessened after being spoiled.

Moreover, with the excellent word of mouth for ‘Hachiko’, how could the audience be collectively hyping it up?

So...

Many people booked their tickets for the next day right on the spot.

Such is the power of word of mouth.

At the same time...

In a small company group chat...

An employee tagged a close colleague:

“I saw your Moments and I saw the ‘Hachiko’ movie you recommended. Is it good? What kind of movie is it?”

“Healing! Warm! Touching! Redemption!”

With a cute puppy avatar, the answer came at lightning speed.

Apparently, to strengthen the persuasion, the colleague with the puppy-like avatar added: “I can responsibly tell you that this is the absolutely must-see movie of this year. It’s super classic!”

Perhaps because it was a Saturday, surprisingly many people in the group chat hadn’t gone to sleep yet.

Seeing a conversation going on, people started joining the chat about the movie:

“Is that true?”

“Is the movie really that awesome?”

“I’m tempted to go see it.”

“It won’t hurt to go to the theater and find out, right? There is a show at 9 AM tomorrow. Who’s going?”

“Me!”

“I’m in!”

“Count me in!”

“...”

Since it’s the rare Saturday break, everyone’s enthusiasm for watching movies was really high.

At this moment, someone asked the colleague with the puppy avatar, “Wanna watch it for the second time?”

“Not a chance!”

The guy with the puppy avatar responded without hesitation and hurriedly added: “Mainly because I have some things to take care of tomorrow morning, so I can’t go to the movies with you guys. Enjoy your movie, and also, don’t read the reviews beforehand. I believe you guys know this.”

“Exactly, reviews are filled with spoilers.”

Everyone replied adeptly, not thinking too much about it. They quickly organized a group purchase of movie tickets in the chat.

Similar situations were happening elsewhere...

The swindlers were efficiently gathering everyone they could convince.

They kept recommending to anyone they meet and the keywords were consistent:

“This movie is really healing”, “It’s a warm and sunny film”, “After watching it, I felt full of love”, “I don’t usually tell anyone this, but I’m recommending it because we have a good relationship”, “Sisters, hurry up and go watch it. This will really touch you as a dog owner”...

They were inflammations!

Under the influence of these swindlers, more and more people began to buy tickets for ‘Hachiko’.

The next day.

A girl, sitting in the theater waiting for ‘Hachiko’ to play, happily posted in her Moments:

“I had a fight with my boyfriend a while ago and I’m not feeling well. Came to the theater to watch Teacher Admirable Fish’s new movie to heal myself. I absolutely love Teacher Admirable Fish’s first movie ‘Flirting Scholar’. I still remember Teacher Admirable Fish’s promotional slogan of his film: Rescue the unhappy. Teacher Admirable Fish, save me again!”

The girl specifically posted about her ‘Hachiko’ ticket and a selfie of herself.

Her best friend commented quickly, “Did you bring tissues?”

The girl humorously replied to her best friend, “Why do I need a tissue to watch a movie? Am I going to poop in the theater?”

The friend then replied with an ellipsis.

She was about to carry on interacting, then the movie started...

So she muted her phone and sat back, recalling her joke earlier, a smile spread on her lips and she eagerly started to watch the movie.

Clicking sound.

The gears of time started to turn.

Let's just fast-forward ninety-three minutes later...

At the same time in countless theaters, most of the viewers silently took out their phones and began to vent their feelings online or texting their friends...

"Go screw yourself!"

"Wang Xiaohua, you wait for me!"

"He Mingxuan, you're dead!"

"I swear, next year today, I'll go and honor your dead body!"

"..."

Meanwhile, the girl who posted before going to the movie was now crying so much that she texted her best friend: "I have decided to break up with my boyfriend."

Her best friend was stunned: "Huh?"

She sobbed and said: "He's a far cry from Xiao Ba!"

Her best friend: "..."

Not long afterwards, these people also happily joined the team of swindlers. They couldn't be the only ones who'd cry!

So it is said:

The swindlers are swindled; It's an endless cycle.

Chapter 416: We Love Each Other Very Much

Without a doubt.

The fleet of people-spiting has grown!

As the number of people who trick others grows, the number of victims will only increase, especially with the wave of movie viewing that starts on the second day. The internet is simply buzzing.

On the Star Space network.

The movie review area for "Hachiko" is in utter chaos, and the resentment there is almost overflowing.

"How careless of me!"

"What's happening to this society!"

"The internet environment is seriously deteriorating!"

"Where has the basic trust between people gone?"

"My goddess actually recommended me to watch 'Hachiko', I will never be her fawning dog again!"

"I suspect the movie ticket my mom bought for me was a gift for topping up my phone bill!"

Someone, who shares his unfortunate fate, comforts him: "No way, it must have been picked out of the trash to dare to be such a cheat. Wipe away your tears, let's fight back against this sick society."

"..."

So many people have been deceived.

Of course, the audience that got tricked later joined the trickster fleet, which is pretty normal, and the number of victims only increased...

This led to “Hachiko” becoming hotter and hotter!

More and more audiences are entering the cinema to watch the movie “Hachiko”.

The reasons for these audiences to enter the cinema are varied.

Some are tricked by friends, some are bewitched by netizens, and some are attracted by word-of-mouth...

No matter why they enter the cinema, the nature of this film determines that all audiences enter happily and leave crying.

“Is this your idea of therapy!?”

“I’m in tears, Xianyu the old thief owes me tears!”

“Lured into the cinema by a friend, who said it was warm and healing, but half a bag of tissues wasn’t enough!”

“This movie cured my cold that lasted for several days.”

“We, the green teas, are the most difficult to subside. In two days, I watched ‘Hachiko’ six times with six different boys. How could this movie make people cry every time they watch it? I already know the plot. The seventh boy who invited me to watch the movie was categorically rejected by me. I dare not be such a green tea playgirl anymore.”

“...”

While the word-of-mouth reviews are alright, the tears are flying as high as the reviews.

At this point, in addition to Xianyu being called an old thief by netizens, Chu Kuang and Shadow also got implicated.

Many netizens complained:

“These three people, really, one is worse than the other!”

“Southern Xian Yu, Northern Chu Kuang, they all share the same knack for kicking people when they’re down!”

“I told you that this movie was so healing, I probably wouldn’t have gone to see it. As you get older, you can’t bear to watch these kinds of movies, they’re just too torturous!”

“You three deserve each other, you all stink alike!”

“Xianyu, if you dare to make this kind of movie next time, I’ll... I’ll cry for you to see.”

“The threat above is really harmless, look at mine, Xianyu the old thief! If you dare to make this kind of movie again, I’ll curse you! Today I’ll start with a scolding... you big fool!”

“...”

Media with sharp senses, of course, would not miss noticing the booming reputation of “Hachiko”, and news of the movie’s release flooded the pages.

“Xianyu’s new tear-jerker hits the screens!”

“Healing or depressing? ‘Hachiko’, a film that touches countless audiences.”

“Xianyu’s new release: From extreme comedy to extreme tear-jerking!”

“The unmissable film of November, ‘Hachiko’!”

“Xianyu’s third film officially released, starring Zhang Xiuming.”

“...”

Under the blessings of all parties, by the end of the first week, the box office of “Hachiko” had reached 420 million!

The growing fleet of people-tricking had a huge part in this.

For a film, the first week’s box office is always the most exciting, because under the combined market of several continents, the golden period for the box office of a film that is not a “blockbuster” is generally just two or three weeks.

Basically, by the third week, the box office figures will decline significantly because there are too many new movies in the market.

However, this does not mask the astonishing box office results of “Hachiko”, which even surpassed Xianyu’s previous movie!

Keep in mind that the first-week box office for “The Tuner” was only just over 300 million.

And the total cost of this film, from production to promotion, was only around 50 million, with one part of the costs due to Zhang Xiuming’s high price tag as a movie emperor.

Of course.

Since it’s a film of his own company, Zhang Xiuming reduced his fee and gave them the internal friends’ price. Otherwise, the cost of this movie might not be covered by 50 million.

The experience proves that Zhang Xiuming’s decision to play in “Hachiko” was a wise one.

This film might not be his highest-grossing work, but it's definitely the one with the best reputation since he started his career-

For an actor, the box office is important, but reputation is also a must!

A good reputation is the foundation of box office performance.

Furthermore, from any angle you look at it, the box office performance of "Hachiko" isn't bad, even for a drama film.

Even...

It's among the top performing ones in the drama genre.

And from the third day of its release.

Zhang Xiuming's agent started to feel the horrifying influence of "Hachiko"!

The most direct evidence was the sudden increase in new film invitations!

And some of these even included offers from top-tier directors.

Actually, these top-tier directors would also consider an actor of Zhang Xiuming's calibre.

But the amount of invitations he was getting was definitely more than usual.

It can be said that for Zhang Xiuming, "Hachiko" was a milestone in his career where his acting skills were widely acknowledged!

Of course, there were also netizens teasing online, saying that the best performance in "Hachiko" was Xiao Ba...

Zhang Xiuming, naturally, wouldn't be jealous of a dog.

He also liked Xiao Ba very much and would even joke gracefully when faced with the netizens' ribbing:

"I fall short compared to Mr. Antarctica's performance."

Antarctica portrayed the grown-up Xiao Ba.

After the movie was released, the adult version of Xiao Ba was the most loved by the audience.

Even though it was just a dog, all the viewers unanimously agreed that they saw explosive acting skills in this dog!

"I feel some actors should really learn how to act from Antarctica."

"Ah, so the dog's name is Antarctica, I suggest that all future dog-related movies should cast Antarctica!"

"There are three dogs in the movie, the performances of the puppy and the elderly dog were very touching, but the performance of the adult dog was the best. I even felt that Antarctica had human thoughts, although this is impossible."

"Antarctica, make your debut!"

"When this dog first appeared on screen, I was telling my friends, it's amazing, how can there be such an interesting dog, it can convey emotions to the audience through its eyes!"

"Turns out I wasn't the only one who noticed this dog."

"No wonder the subtitling team listed the dogs in the cast list. The performances of the three dogs were completely deserving, and Antarctica's performance was of a level that could debut immediately!"

"..."

Film critics were also busy.

On Starry Sky network, a review titled “Just Asking You to Learn to Cherish” was trending.

“Five years ago, I experienced the death of my first family member. A month before my grandfather died, my grandmother gave away our 8-year-old dog, I’m inherently scared of dogs, so I never wanted to get close to it. Although every time I visited my grandparents, it would wag its tail at me. Later, I asked my mom why she gave the dog away when it was so old? She said, from the time my Grandpa fell seriously ill, the dog already stopped eating and drinking – I don’t know where that dog is now, and I don’t have the courage to ask.”

The author of this review was Han Jiajia.

At the beginning of the review, Han Jiajia shared her story, and later, she brought up the content of “Hachiko”:

“Xian Yu’s film reminded me of that dog who fasted for my Grandfather, I bring up this story to tell everyone that the story of “Hachiko” might not be a creation of the scriptwriter’s artistic craftsmanship, or stirrings of beauty and invention, please believe that Xiao Ba has such loyalty and perseverance, even if the cost was Ten Years. Actually, I later thought about getting a dog. Even though I didn’t manage to get one, my understanding of dogs deepened in the process. For example, an adult dog’s IQ is roughly similar to a four-year-old child, and a dog’s average lifespan is just over ten years – this is why I eventually didn’t get a dog. To you, this dog might have only accompanied you for a part of your life, but to the dog, you mean their whole life.”

In the end, Han Jiajia evaluated the quality of the movie:

“I wanted to say, disregarding the touching ten-year wait by Xiao Ba, from a professional film critic’s perspective, this movie’s setting is actually quite simple. It doesn’t have the brilliant metaphorical shots of art films, or a strong scriptwriter or director’s personal style, and certainly not shocking plot twists and mind-blowing elements. But I don’t want to come to such a conclusion, because the essence of a movie is to tell a story. How well the story is told, shouldn’t be evaluated solely based on professional jargon and esoteric terms but should look directly at our hearts. The question of whether the movie is good, only needs one answer, do you like this movie?”

Han Jiajia didn’t give an answer.

But she rated the movie 9.3, which was her answer.

And during the days when the movie's popularity continued to rise, Lin Yuan received quite a few endorsement invitations—

Not for Xian Yu.

But for... Antarctica!

Many business owners specifically wanted Antarctica to be their endorser.

Lin Yuan initially wanted to reject it, but after asking Antarctica, he felt that Antarctica seemed quite eager, so he accepted an endorsement for a dog food brand on behalf of Antarctica.

Lin Yuan himself didn't want to be involved, so he had his assistant Gu Dong accompany Antarctica to shoot the commercial.

"You're saying, Antarctica can make several million with just one advertisement?"

That night, upon hearing that Antarctica had accepted an endorsement, Lin Yuan's sister Lin Xuan couldn't contain her excitement and kept hugging and kissing Antarctica.

"Sis, I thought you didn't like dogs?"

Lin Yao stared in shock.

When she and Lin Yuan brought Antarctica home, their sister wasn't very welcoming, she never touched Antarctica. When has she ever been this friendly?

"Stop making things up, we're very much in love!"

Lin Xuan looked at Lin Yuan and Lin Yao and stressed, "At least I don't force Antarctica to eat vegetables."

Afterwards, Lin Xuan looked at Antarctica with a beaming smile. “Why don’t you become a celebrity? Sis can be your manager!”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Lin Yao: “...”

So you’re Antarctica’s sister now?

How should one calculate these relations?

Chapter 417: Wishing for Longevity

The success of “Hachiko” was also a topic of discussion in the circles of film and television.

The people in the industry had yet again renewed their perception of Xian Yu—

This fish is really strong!

From comedy to mystery, and now he’s even dabbled in drama, these genres don’t seem to match, yet the box office results are consistently high.

Moreover, his works always receive positive public praise!

This time, he even historically soared above a rating of nine points!

This was difficult for the experienced veterans of the film industry to imagine, considering how Xian Yu is still a newcomer to the industry.

All of Xian Yu’s movies, including “Hachiko”, are not very costly, yet they always scare people with how high their box office revenues are.

People have the impression that:

Xian Yu is very good at making a lot out of a little.

Some even believe that Xian Yu's screenwriting skills are nearly on par with his composition skills.

However, this claim was quickly rebutted by those who know Xian Yu:

"Xian Yu's screenwriting skills can in no way compare to his achievements in composition. He is a maestro junior in the world of composition, but among the new screenwriters in the film and television industry, Xian Yu's abilities are certainly considered top tier!"

As for the success of Xian Yu this time...

What truly shocked the industry was not the box office results of "Hachiko".

Through the box office data of the first week, you can see the ultimate potential of a film.

Normally, the final box office of this film is estimated to be around ten billion, slightly better than Xian Yu's last film.

But this box office data is something that many films can attain.

After combining the box office from each state, many films have broken a hundred billion at the box office.

What's truly remarkable about Xian Yu is the extremely low production cost of "Hachiko"!

Also, let's not forget:

"Hachiko" is a bonafide drama!

In the movie market, dramas are never the type to fetch high box office, but to be able to make such a film receive both high acclaim and box office success, this in itself is well deserving of recognition.

Lin Yuan himself is also pleased with the box office result of “Hachiko”.

Although he didn’t have a good understanding of the current market model, Lin Yuan was well aware of how hard it was for a drama to pull in good box office numbers.

In Lin Yuan’s initial estimation, as long as the box office of this film was close to that of “The Piano Tuner”, it would be considered a good result.

But to his surprise, the box office of this film likely would surpass that of “The Piano Tuner”.

This was pleasantly unexpected.

“Next, we should record December’s new song.”

Although still watching the box office trend of “Hachiko”, Lin Yuan didn’t forget about “Battle of the Gods” in December.

He finally contacted Jiang Kui to prepare for the recording of the song.

The moment Jiang Kui received the message, she immediately rushed to the recording studio.

“Teacher Admirable Fish ...”

“Here’s the music, get familiar with it first.”

Lin Yuan took out the score for “May We All Be Blessed with Longevity”.

Originally, Lin Yuan indeed had plans to change the title to “How Long Will the Full Moon Last”.

But after careful deliberation, Lin Yuan decided to keep the original title.

Because the words “How Long Will the Full Moon Last” do not convey the emotion as directly as “May We All Be Blessed with Longevity”.

The latter's implication is also more beautiful.

You must know that the most recognized timeless line in the "Song of Water" is "May we all be blessed with longevity, sharing the beauty of the moon from a thousand miles away".

"May We All Be Blessed with Longevity?"

Jiang Kui picked up the sheet music and immediately noticed the title.

But what astonished her even more were the lyrics of "May We All Be Blessed with Longevity"!

"Teacher Admirable Fish, these lyrics..."

"Is there a problem?"

"No, I just want to say..."

Jiang Kui had a decent literary background.

The moment she saw the lyrics, countless lavish descriptions flooded her mind, but she ended up uttering the most generic four words:

"It's so damn cheesy!"

Lin Yuan: "..."

Well, she wasn't exactly wrong.

"Give it a try." Lin Yuan said, "We don't have to record it today, I'll help you get accustomed."

"Alright!"

Jiang Kui brimmed with enthusiasm as she strode into the recording studio with such force.

The recording studio staff glanced at Jiang Kui, their gazes tinged with a touch of emotion, just like the sound engineer previously said—

This girl is so lucky.

Such good songs and lyrics; if those kings and queens of song knew about them, they'd probably fight tooth and nail to sing them.

“Start with the-beginning.”

Lin Yuan didn't pay attention to the thoughts of others and simply gave his instructions.

Jiang Kui nodded, almost reverently, as she tentatively began to sing.

Lin Yuan remained silent, listening quietly.

The initial phase was to familiarise Jiang Kui with this song; the specific requirements would come once she was somewhat proficient.

For outstanding singers, achieving basic proficiency doesn't take a long time.

Half an hour later, Jiang Kui had grasped the melody.

Lin Yuan started to instruct, “In the middle-to-low vocal range, sinus resonance is needed. Also, when in the high vocal range, there is no need to sing so loud, just use the resonant effect of the facial mask to concentrate the voice, making it sound clear and penetrative...”

“Alright.”

Jiang Kui immediately sang according to Lin Yuan's instructions.

Even though it wasn't a formal recording, from this first attempt, Lin Yuan was already frequently interrupting Jiang Kui's singing:

"The resonance should be from your head."

"The control in the oral-pharyngeal area isn't natural enough, don't just focus on techniques when singing, they should come naturally."

"Voice reduction during high notes is also a skill. Don't practice now, see if you can use your natural vocal range — or in other words, the strength and tone of your speaking voice — to sing the high notes from C5 to G5."

Voice reduction has always been one of the most difficult techniques to master in singing.

Teresa Teng was very skilled at high note voice reduction, some music fans even thought Teresa Teng didn't have a high pitch due to listening too much to overpowering high pitches. However, this is actually a very sophisticated way of dealing with high notes.

The song, "How Long Will the Full Moon Last", has high notes, but to the singer, they are not particularly high.

He needs Jiang Kui to exhibit stronger abilities.

This is also why he gave Jiang Kui the song to practice in advance.

Jiang Kui sang again following Lin Yuan's instructions, and this attempt showed a clear improvement, which made Lin Yuan nod slightly:

"Try it like this."

Lin Yuan gave Jiang Kui a demonstration.

Lin Yuan had demonstrated many times in the recording studio, and the staff and others who have worked with Lin Yuan understood that in addition to writing lyrics and composing music, Lin

Yuan's singing abilities were also very strong. However, his throat seemed to be unable to take intensive singing, so nobody was excessively surprised.

"The ending note should curl up?"

"Yes, but it should sound natural."

This is where Lin Yuan excels.

He is able to communicate to singers like a fellow singer.

In the film industry, some directors, having been actors themselves and possessing excellent acting skills, can particularly understand actors, therefore, they are also better at coaching.

Lin Yuan's situation proved the principle of different methods leading to the same result.

Just like that.

While "Hachiko" was still being screened, Lin Yuan was in the recording studio, practicing singing with Jiang Kui.

This made singing "How Long Will the Full Moon Last" feel easier and more natural for Jiang Kui.

Not only was the singing getting better and better.

But Jiang Kui's confidence for the Battle of the December Gods was also growing significantly during this process.

The main source of this confidence was the high quality of the song "How Long Will the Full Moon Last" itself!

They practiced continuously for several days.

Finally, Lin Yuan announced a halt to practice, “You have basically mastered the song, continue to practice by yourself each day, and then we will officially record it in a week.”

“Okay!”

Jiang Kui’s response was extremely loud.

Lin Yuan nodded, then suddenly asked, “What happened to your eyes?”

Jiang Kui’s eyes had been fine a few days ago, but today they are unusually red; Lin Yuan was worried if she was under too much pressure from singing practice.

“My eyes?”

Jiang Kui was taken aback and then looked a little resentful, “I ran into Yao Huo yesterday, and he gave me a movie ticket to ‘Hachiko’, saying that the movie was warm and healing. So I thought this is your movie, Maestro Junior, and I went to the cinema to see it last night.”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Chapter 418: Brother’s Transformation Plan

Since the release of “Hachiko,” Lin Yuan had been closely following the film’s reactions, including news of people tricking others into seeing it. However, he never expected to witness a real-life victim right beside him.

He could only offer his sympathy.

On the second day, like usual, Lin Yuan got up early, freshened up, had breakfast and prepared to go to work.

It was almost December.

The weather was starting to get cold.

Lin Yuan, being the weakling that he was when it came to handling the cold, was already seriously considering wearing long johns. But considering winter had not officially arrived yet, he dispelled the idea. If he started wearing long johns now, what would he do when winter came?

He couldn't possibly wear two pairs of long johns, could he?

Lin Yuan could only put on a thick jacket and switch to a pair of denim pants with fur lining. He didn't put too much thought into his fashion choices. Although he wouldn't go so far as to wear brightly colored garments haphazardly, he also wouldn't study the art of clothing coordination.

This was related to his family environment in his childhood.

When it came to clothing, Lin Yuan was quite unfashionable in his childhood.

This had nothing to do with personal taste and everything to do with his family's economic status.

No matter how tasteful and fashionable a person, wearing patched up, outdated clothes and carrying a military-green backpack that had faded from years of use would inevitably give a rustic impression.

Lin Yuan didn't have many options, and he didn't care anyway.

It's just that Lin Yuan's face had a natural elegance and charm that to some extent overshadowed his rusticity. In contrast to the rustic clothes, it accentuated a sense of other-worldliness.

Times have changed.

Now, Lin Yuan had earned a lot of money, and the quality of his clothes had improved. But his childhood habit didn't change, and he still wore whatever clothes he had without making any intentional efforts to dress up.

At least, this was the case until now.

As Lin Yuan dressed in these clothes to go to work, his brother Lin Xuan, who had gotten up late and was still eating breakfast, suddenly called out to Lin Yuan.

“Stop.”

“What is it?”

Lin Yuan looked at his sister curiously, ready to transfer money to her via his phone.

Every- time his sister inexplicably stopped him, it was basically to borrow some spending money.

However, Lin Xuan wasn't asking for money this time. She was looking Lin Yuan up and down, tut-tutting, “You need a new wardrobe.”

“I think this is fine.”

Lin Yuan wasn't interested in this type of thing.

In his house, only Lin Xuan was fervent about fashion and dressing up. She would read the latest fashion magazines and study the clothes models wore. If she saw something she liked, she would buy it.

Not enough salary?

She could mooch off her brother.

Lin Xuan was no longer the poverty-stricken girl who had to decide whether or not to add a sausage to her instant noodles. The luxuries she had coveted in her childhood were now easily attainable with her brother's success. In addition to this, her own salary was not low, even higher than her peers' salaries at the same position.

Silver Blue (their employer) was always extra generous with her.

However, today Lin Xuan seemed to be no longer satisfied with changing her own appearance. Her sights landed on her brother: “How can the magnificent Xian Yu dress so casually? Doesn’t your company have dress codes?”

“I think so.”

“And you dress like this?”

“No one has said anything to me.”

Lin Yuan’s retort left Lin Xuan speechless. She gave him a dismal look, as if she had been struck by reality. After a moment, she managed to utter, “Anyway, my brother must dazzle. I have a day off today; I’ll take you to buy clothes!”

“I have clothes.”

“Your taste is too bad.”

Without giving Lin Yuan the chance to refuse, Lin Xuan got in her car, dragging Lin Yuan along: “Ever since I started working, all your clothes have been bought by me online. From now on, let your sister help you buy your clothes.”

“Oh.”

Lin Yuan was amenable.

Even though Lin Xuan’s current clothes were much higher-end than Lin Yuan’s, when Lin Xuan first started working, the clothes she bought for Lin Yuan cost a few hundred pieces each.

At the same price, Lin Xuan could have bought several outfits for herself, or even more!

Don’t ask why the clothes were so cheap.

Lin Xuan had even bought several skirts online for ten-odd pieces each. She could even wear a single skirt for half the summer.

If she accidentally pulled and damaged it, she would feel distressed for several days.

Speaking of being poor, Lin Xuan was genuinely poor back then, nothing like she had told her younger brother and sister before she started working:

“When I start working and make money, I’ll buy myself the most beautiful dresses, the prettiest shoes, the sexiest black...”

1

After she started working, she did buy some nice clothes and pants, but those were all for her younger siblings.

Anyone who knew Lin Xuan had no doubt:

After Lin Xuan got married, she would definitely be possessed by a demon of sibling assistance, both for her brother and sister.

In fact, Lin Xuan has always unabashedly shared her dream of marrying a rich man.

Unfortunately, this dream was abruptly dashed when Lin Yuan made a name for himself as Xian Yu.

Now, she herself is the “rich person”.

2

Taking Lin Yuan to the mall, Lin Xuan demonstrated the manner in which rich people buy clothes. That is, swiping credit cards—

Swiping the card.

Lin Yuan seemed to be a natural clothes rack.

Any clothing on Lin Yuan could always bring out the original design intention of the designer.

When the fifth outfit was packed up, Lin Yuan finally couldn't stand it: "That's too much."

"Then let's change the place."

Lin Xuan reluctantly looked at the mall. There were still several pieces of clothing that she hadn't bought yet.

Most of these clothes were ones she had seen male models wear in magazines. From that moment on, she had been fantasizing about how Lin Yuan would look in these clothes. Today was simply the long-premeditated "Great Brother Makeover".

The results proved that the basic physical limits of those male models had limited Lin Xuan's imagination.

If Lin Yuan hadn't pursued music and had become a model instead, their family would probably be wealthy by now.

"Change the place? Where to?" Lin Yuan sensed that his sister still had more plans.

"Barbershop. I've made an appointment with Master Toni."

Lin Xuan grinned smugly, not giving Lin Yuan a chance to refuse. She swiftly drove him to a barbershop that the average person wouldn't even want to enter just by looking at it.

"Is this a legitimate establishment?" Lin Yuan was doubtful.

"Your sister is a Supreme member here."

Lin Xuan walked in with overbearing steps. Lin Yuan reluctantly followed, and they were warmly greeted by the staff.

For some reason, Lin Yuan could see Senior Yao Huo's shadow in the staff's attitude towards Lin Xuan.

Of course, Lin Yuan also received a warm welcome.

During the hair washing, several female staff members nearly fought over who would wash Lin Yuan's hair.

Lin Xuan rambled on the side, "Your hair is too long, and you don't like to groom it. This won't do."

Lin Yuan muttered, "Why don't you bother Big Yaoyao instead?"

Lin Xuan confidently responded, "She is still a student; it's not good for her to be too flamboyant. We'll talk about it after she graduates."

Lin Yuan: "..."

This was a habit of his since childhood, never cutting his hair until it reached a certain length.

To save money.

Latter, to save even more money, their mother bought their sister a pair of hairdressing scissors. Since then, Lin Yuan's haircuts were mostly done by his sister.

Initially, the haircut was so odd that he had to wear a hat after it was done, but eventually, it was barely passable.

It proved that Lin Xuan's haircutting skills needed improvement.

When Lin Yuan walked out of the barbershop, he was so dazed that he didn't even know what had happened, except that everyone on the streets was turning their heads to look at him. Even his sister, who was closest to him, licked her lips—

Usually, Lin Yuan would also attract quite a few glances. He was used to it.

Today, however, the rate of turned heads was exceptionally high, so high that even Lin Yuan, who had grown up under people's gaze, felt instinctively uneasy.

Of course.

One of the male clients being attended to in the barbershop excitedly pointed at Lin Yuan, "I want that hairstyle."

Then, in the face of the barber's twitching face, he was gently reminded, "Sir, actually your facial features are better suited to your current hairstyle..."

The client objected, "Are you telling me what to do?"

The barber was close to tears, "I'm sorry, I have limitations."

You're not even compatible with this version, bro!

Chapter 419: Top Lyricist Ni Hongwu

After giving Lin Yuan a complete makeover, Lin Xuan finally let him off the hook. She even kindly drops him off in front of Starlight Entertainment's doorstep:

"This is only fair to your handsome face. Alright, off you go to the office."

As Lin Yuan gets out of the car, Lin Xuan sizes him up and down, satisfied, she nods her head in approval, her transformation plan for her little brother, a resounding success.

"..."

Lin Yuan scrams and quickly runs into the company.

The receptionists at the front desk cover their mouths in shock as they see Lin Yuan walk in, their eyes sparkling like little stars.

Only after Lin Yuan swipes his staff ID card and goes upstairs do they suddenly realize:

“Was that handsome guy Mr. Lin?”

“I think so...”

“How come I feel like Mr. Lin has gotten even more handsome?”

“I feel the same way, he was like a ray of light...”

“It seems like he changed his outfit and got a new hairstyle?”

“Oh my, how can anyone be this delicious!”

“Ah, I’m going to die!”

“This is too much, let’s tell everyone on the group chat right away!”

“...”

One of the receptionists quietly pulls out her phone and opens a group chat called “Starlight’s Admirable Fish Fan Club.”

This is an internal group chat at Starlight, all of its members are women.

The group members range from receptionists to mid-level managers, with almost two hundred members.

A receptionist sends a message in the group chat.

Receptionist Zhao Yan: “Mr. Lin is in the office, he looks so handsome today!”

The group chat seems to awake suddenly.

HR department’s Xiao Liu: “Does our Mr. Lin really need to dress up?”

Zhang Xin from the Resources Department: “Oh my God! I just ran into Teacher Admirable Fish in the elevator. He looks so handsome when he dresses up, I think he’s trying to kill me, just take my life, it’s all yours!”

Xiao Qin from the Film Department: “Did you really just run into Mr. Lin? I’ve seen you hanging around the elevator multiple times this morning.”

Publicity Department Wang Xiaoa: “No, I absolutely cannot imagine husband getting even more handsome...”

Receptionist Li Juan: “It’s a pity that I’m not on duty today, it was Zhao Yan who got the discount instead, not being able to see Mr. Lin dampens the taste of my breakfast.”

Flurry of messages.

The group chat erupts with a flurry of messages.

All of a sudden, Ma Lingling from the Composition Department on the ninth floor sends a message in the group chat:

“Mr. Lin is here. My God, he looks stunning! The whole Composition Department was left speechless. Almost no one recognized Mr. Lin at first. When he doesn’t dress up, Mr. Lin is practically the ideal man, but when he does, it’s as if a God has descended upon us!”

Instantly, the group chat erupts with envy.

Ma Lingling works in the Composition Department on the ninth floor, so she has the most opportunities to see Mr. Lin.

At this time.

A woman staff member from the Administration Department sends a message in the group chat: “The company is updating the office equipment for a few representatives in their Composition Department.”

“As usual, start with the ninth floor first!”

“Arrange the best equipment for Fish!”

“Can someone from the relevant departments handle this?”

“Sisters, rest assured, our department is also responsible for this, I’ll supervise the process.”

“...”

The group chat’s daily topic is always about Lin Yuan.

However, Lin Yuan has no idea that there’s such an organization in the company.

When he enters his office, Gu Dong makes him a cup of tea and then stands aside.

Lin Yuan lifts his head and asks: “Do you need something?”

Gu Dong coughs: “No, I just didn’t want to be far off in case you needed me.”

“I’ll call you if I need something.”

Lin Yuan then lowers his head to start reading documents.

With no other choice, Gu Dong leaves, but not before sneaking a few more glances at Lin Yuan, as though not doing so would mean missing out.

...

The attention from all around seemed to be far more exaggerated than before, but Lin Yuan adapted fairly quickly. After all, he had grown up in this type of environment, and the atmosphere now was just slightly more heated.

Before long.

Wu Yong rushed over.

When he entered and saw Lin Yuan, he paused, then chuckled, “Mr. Lin would certainly attract star scouts if seen walking down the street, wouldn’t he?”

Lin Yuan replied, “I came by car today.”

Wu Yong: “...”

What would have happened if he hadn’t taken a car?

He didn’t ask, nor did he need to.

“What’s up?”

Lin Yuan knew that Wu Yong usually came to him when there was an issue.

Wu Yong hastily explained, “It’s not a big deal. I just wanted to know if you want to start a rumor that you’ll participate in the Battle of the Gods in December. Quite a few Kings and Queens of Singing, along with Maestro, have announced their participation...”

Lin Yuan replied, “Let’s announce it then.”

Having an opportunity to promote ahead of time was also a good thing.

Wu Yong nodded, and then added, “Fei Yang has also announced that he will participate in the New Song Chart in December. He’s probably aiming at you since he lost to you twice in the seasonal chart. Considering the buzz online, he seems to be rather unsatisfied. Not to mention that the composer helping him with his song this time is Teacher Yin Dong...”

“Hmm.”

Lin Yuan was aware of the buzz online.

He had also heard of the never-getting-out-of-second-place joke.

Netizens’ ability to create jokes was quite formidable. Weren’t his own three alternate accounts filled with loads of jokes about him?

Even his Teacher Admirable Fish account, which had the best reputation, had recently been labeled as an “old rascal” by many netizens because of the heartbreaking movie “Hachiko”.

As for Yin Dong...

Last December, Yin Dong had teamed up with Fei Yang, but they lost to him. So, not only Fei Yang but also Yin Dong probably wanted to compete with Admirable Fish again.

“Oh, yes.”

Wu Yong hesitated for a moment, then expressed his concern: “It’s not just that Maestro Yin Dong has boosted Fei Yang, they’ve also invited the famous lyricist, Neon Dance Teacher, who once said in ‘Literature and Art Gazette’ that your composing ability is better than your lyric-writing ability.”

Neon Dance?

Lin Yuan was slightly surprised.

He had heard about the famed lyricist, Neon Dance.

Of course, it wasn't because this person had evaluated his lyric-writing ability. Lin Yuan never cared about things like that.

He knew of Neon Dance because she really was stellar.

Neon Dance was a native of Chu Continent, but even before the Chu Continent was merged, many top composers from Qin Continent used to have Neon Dance write lyrics for their works, which attests to her high status in the lyric-writing world.

After all, Qin is known as the Land of Music.

There were plenty of talented composers in Qin.

The fact that Neon Dance, being a Chu native, was highly recognized by the Land of Music even before the merger, said a lot about her skills.

"Quite clearly, Fei Yang and his team are out for no good."

Wu Yong looked at Lin Yuan with a worried expression: "In terms of lyrics, composition, or singing, they've put forth their strongest lineup."

"Indeed, they're quite formidable."

Lin Yuan nodded in agreement.

Wu Yong felt helpless. Apparently, Mr. Lin hadn't grasped the underlying meaning of his words:

"Mr. Lin, you are still going to write lyrics and music by yourself for this. I'm not worried about that, but I heard you've chosen Jiang Kui as the singer. Isn't that a bit of a risk?"

"Isn't she good?"

“No, that’s not the issue. The main thing is, our opponents are either Kings or Queens of Singing, backed by powerful teams. I’m afraid Jiang Kui may not be able to keep pace with you...”

Lin Yuan explained, “Jiang Kui is extremely talented.”

Wu Yong hesitated for a moment, and finally nodded. He feared if he continued urging further, Mr. Lin might whimsically retort:

“Then I will collaborate with Sun Yaohuo.”

Even though Sun Yaohuo had been propelled to the first line by Mr. Lin, Wu Yong believed that Jiang Kui was more powerful in comparison.

However, Wu Yong found it quite challenging to envision how Jiang Kui would compete against those Kings and Queens of Singing.

At eight o’clock that evening.

Starlight Entertainment officially announced on social media that Admirable Fish would participate in the Battle of the Gods in December.

November was still not over.

But the moment many people saw Admirable Fish announcing his participation in the Battle of the Gods, they could suddenly smell a whiff of gunpowder from December.

Chapter 420: The Target of All

In the music industry, it was expected that Xian Yu would participate in the Battle of the Gods in December.

For much of this year’s major seasons, Xian Yu was absent for a long time.

So when September came around, Xian Yu made a strong comeback with the song “Ten Years,” and his return as a king had secretly foreshadowed this moment.

But when this moment actually came, many people still felt an emotion they hadn't experienced in a long while: excitement.

Online.

Netizens were too excited to even pay attention to the great melee in November, and everyone's hearts almost simultaneously flew to the unrarried Battle of the Gods in December-

"He is coming, he is coming, he is walking towards us with the trophy of the defending champion!"

"Please welcome with a round of applause last year's king, Xian Yu's appearance!"

"Hahaha, I love Xian Yu's irregularities. He disappears in the first half of the year and attacks heavily in the second half. I don't know if Xian Yu can still get the championship this time?"

"Pff, win another championship? Do you understand what that means?"

"Let me explain; in the Battle of Gods, the chance of consecutive championships is very low. I statistically analyzed the data from the past decade, Great Qin's historical probability of consecutive championships is only thirty-three percent. These are previous data, now with the unification of the three continents, other continents also have Kings of Singing and Maestros. So, the difficulty of the Battle of Gods at year-end has already reached hell mode, Xian Yu's re-win chances are probably even lower."

"No matter what, it will be exciting with Xian Yu participating!"

"Indeed exciting, this year it is the battle of top musicians from Qin, Qi, and Chu!"

"..."

Everyone is excited, not because everyone thinks Xian Yu is stronger than others in the Battle of Gods-

The Battle of Gods is a battle between immortals.

It is difficult for anyone to stand out alone.

In the end, it is all about who performs better at the end of the season.

Even the emperor's throne is taken turns to rule, and no one has ever consecutively won the Battle of Gods.

Even to win the championship once is as difficult as ascending to heaven.

Therefore, Xian Yu's participation can make countless people excited, and the most important reason is Xian Yu's status as the defending champion.

Don't forget that in December last year, Xian Yu topped the Battle of Gods with the song "Red Sun."

Now the Battle of Gods is making a comeback.

If Xian Yu, last year's defending champion, does not participate, it feels like there is something missing to everybody.

Therefore, everyone is delighted to see Xian Yu participate.

Not just the netizens.

Those Kings and Queens of Singing and Maestros who have already announced that they will participate in the Battle of Gods in December also love this!

What?

The music industry changes color when Xian Yu is mentioned?

Fear of Fish Syndrome in the music circle?

Sorry, that's something ordinary people worry about, we Kings and Queens of Singing certainly aren't afraid of Xian Yu.

The Maestros fear even less!

Some people will participate in the Battle of Gods in December specifically to cook up a delicious bowl of fish head soup!

Now that the fish is ready, it just waits to be slaughtered.

For the Kings and Queens of Singing and even the Maestros, there is no greater sense of achievement than defeating the last year's reigning champion, if Xian Yu does not participate in the December season list, some people would actually be disappointed.

Like Fei Yang.

God knows how closely Fei Yang has been watching Starlight's movements recently. The first question he asks his assistant every morning when he wakes up is:

"Has Xian Yu officially announced his participation in the Battle of Gods yet?"

Today, Fei Yang finally received a satisfactory answer!

His wait has not been in vain, nor have all his preparations been in vain; that fish has finally appeared.

He brings with him the aura of the reigning champion, and as soon as he enters, he becomes the eye-candy for everyone!

At this moment.

Fei Yang has already arranged a perfect script for the Battle of Gods. This script is:

Himself making a magnificent ascent to the top, and clinching the championship song!

And Xian Yu, as last year's reigning champion, ideally placing second!

What?

Xian Yu is third, fourth, or even lower in ranking?

No way!

Absolutely not!

If Xian Yu's ranking isn't high, won't it indirectly convey to everyone that this year, Xian Yu's preparations for the Battle of Gods were not enough?

I, Fei Yang, want to defeat Xian Yu at his peak!

Only if Xian Yu gets second place will everyone feel that Xian Yu remains formidable.

But I am the stronger one.

Besides, Fei Yang's biggest motivation at this moment is to beat Xian Yu, letting him taste the bitterness of being in second place.

For the last six months, Fei Yang has been contemplating how he's going to shake off the label of the perennial runner-up.

He even took inspiration from the first generation, Chen Zhiyu.

Chen Zhiyu, the eternal runner-up, chose to join his rivals once he realized he could not beat them.

He joined Starlight, and managed to rid himself of his 'second-place' label by riding the coattails of Xian Yu's success.

But Fei Yang will not do that!

Fei Yang is no coward. Even if it means starving to death, or jumping off a cliff, he would not ever join Xian Yu!

He intends to always stand in opposition to Xian Yu, constantly imposing a threat.

So, Fei Yang came up with the strategy to defeat Xian Yu.

Only by making Xian Yu the runner-up, could Fei Yang shake off the label of being the perennial second-place Mr. Second.

This is the only proper way to shake off that label!

Fei Yang is confident about this!

At this point, Xian Yu should already see him as the number one rival in this war of the gods.

Exactly.

Those who have made it to the level of King and Queen of Singing, those who are deemed Maestros, are all filled with self-confidence, arrogance, and a powerful urge to win.

This is true for Fei Yang.

It's also true for other Kings and Queens of Singing and the Maestros in December.

They will not be defeated.

They will only transform their resentment into motivation, growing stronger after every setback.

That is the only secret to their success, there are no shortcuts!

Fear of Xian Yu? Fear at the mere mention of Xian Yu?

These are simply the products of ordinary people's fear.

Every King and Queen of singing, and every Maestro, have once brought this level of fear and trepidation to the music industry. They have made ordinary people this afraid.

Xian Yu is merely walking a path taken by the many before him, facing similar vistas.

Therefore, the situation is quite delicate.

Many hope that Xian Yu can do extremely well this year, while at the same time, they don't want him to outdo them.

Just the conditions for this situation to arise are sternly rigorous.

In light of this, the industry insiders heave a sigh:

"The target of public criticism, indeed!"

"These big shots all want to slaughter that fish."

"Who would have thought that the underlying reason for this battle of the gods this year is because they all want to eat the fish."

"If Xian Yu doesn't participate in the war of the gods this year, these people will probably suffer insomnia out of frustration."

"If I were Xian Yu, I might have flinched. The challenge of winning the championship again is plain to see, why should I be a backdrop for others?"

"You can't say that, what if Xian Yu wins?"

“...”

Many people pause, then start to ponder. It seems like there is indeed a possibility for Xian Yu to win.

He daringly released a song of the caliber of ‘Ten Years’ in September!

What does that imply?

It suggests that he thinks the song prepared for December is even better than ‘Ten Years’!

Otherwise, he wouldn’t have any reasons not to save ‘Ten Years’ for a December release!

With this in mind, many start to muse.

But...

Just when the music world starts to consider Xian Yu’s winning odds, Starlight suddenly released a message the next day:

“Xian Yu collaborates with singer Jiang Kui on a new song ‘May You Live Long’, stay tuned!”

The music world was stupefied!

No one expected that Xian Yu, for this December, chose not to collaborate with one of Starlight’s Kings or Queens of Singing, but rather an insignificant little singer...

Jiang Kui?