

All R. Artist 451

Chapter 451: Shuk Bacchetta

“On a night when the moon was full and the winds were high, the nine renowned families challenged Chu Kuang together. Chu Kuang, with an air of nonchalance, beckoned them with a flick of his finger, stating ‘All of you come at me together. I’m quite busy, you know, I still have a mystery to write.’ The nine families were livid and laid siege on Chu Kuang. With the blink of an eye, Chu Kuang pulled from his bosom a, oh wait, he whipped out his copy of ‘Fairytale Town.’ The nine families were instantly defeated, and with that one battle, Chu Kuang was deified, becoming the unparalleled King of Short Fairy Tales...”

The dinner table that night.

Lin Xuan was enthusiastically storytelling.

Listening, Lin Yao’s little sister’s heart was racing and her face was blushing, as she clapped her hands in praise:

“Chu Kuang is so awesome!”

Lin Yuan chuckled, “Big sister, you should consider writing Wuxia novels.”

“uh, who even reads Wuxia novels these days?”

Lin Xuan waved her hand dismissively, then curiously asked, “Are you really not considering introducing Chu Kuang to your sister?”

“Little sister, eat your vegetables.”

Lin Yuan loaded up his sister’s plate with a lot of vegetables.

His little sister pushed the plate with the green veggies towards Lin Yuan and gently requested, “Big brother, eat.”

Lin Xuan: "..."

Such touching sibling affection.

She didn't give up, pressing Lin Yuan with her questions, "Is Chu Kuang married?"

"Not yet."

"Is he very young?"

"About the same age as me."

"Chu Kuang is young and single, surely he can't be as handsome as you, but he is talented. As for me, I'm pretty much the female version of you..."

"Not suitable."

Lin Yuan immediately shook his head; his sister's thinking was very dangerous.

Also, wasn't the female version of him Lin Yao?

The person in their family that looked the most like Lin Yuan was Lin Yao.

Considering character and appearance, Lin Xuan didn't resemble Lin Yuan as much as Lin Yao did.

After they finished the meal.

Lin Xuan suddenly said to Lin Yuan, "Say thanks to Chu Kuang for me."

Lin Yuan replied, "Didn't we thank him already?"

Lin Xuan shook her head, “You don’t understand the significance of ‘Fairytale Town’ to me. Because I am responsible for this work, I am getting credited with editorial experience, providing me with a significant advantage in future competitions within the editorial department. At the moment, both of my assistant chief editor competitors are at a disadvantage.”

“That’s good then.”

Lin Yuan laughed, “Big sister, you can ask me for help at any time.”

“Really?”

Lin Xuan’s eyes lit up.

Lin Yuan nodded; he typed very quickly and often wrote tens of thousands of words in a day.

For a keyboard warrior, this absolute dream speed.

However, Lin Yuan’s advantage comes from the System, as while keyboard warriors need to conceive and write simultaneously, he doesn’t have to worry about plotlines.

He’s just pure typing.

Only when he’s writing foreign works does he need to modify some of the background.

This requires a bit of work.

If it’s a complete copy, then the number of words he could accomplish in a day would be even larger, but specifics are unknown, because Lin Yuan likes to write a little every day, and occasionally do some other work.

“Then I’ll say it straight.”

His sister anticipated, “The song ‘Fairytale Town’ mentioned some of Chu Kuang’s future works, right? When they’re released, could you ask for them to be transferred to me for publication?”

“That’s simple.”

On a whim, Lin Yuan said, “Big sister, you’ve also heard the song ‘Fairytale Town.’ Why don’t you pick one, and I’ll get Chu Kuang to write it.”

There are many fairy tale plans for the future, and Lin Yuan really hadn’t decided which one to write first.

“Pick one?”

His sister’s eyes sparkled.

This was celestial treatment, being able to pick a work of Chu Kuang’s. If she told others, who knows how many of Chu Kuang’s fans would be envious to death.

Lin Yuan said, “Pick whatever.”

His sister hesitated, becoming somewhat nervous because her words would now decide what Chu Kuang’s next work would be about.

“I’ve got it!”

Recalling the unfamiliar characters mentioned in the lyrics of ‘Fairytale Town,’ his sister deliberated, “Then I choose Shuk Bacchetta.”

“Shuke and Beta?”

“Oh, are Shuk Bacchetta two characters?”

“Two talking mice.”

“Right, the lyrics do go like that all right. They’re really mice?”

“Yes.”

His sister immediately shook her head, “Then let’s change to another one. I don’t like mice. You better let Chu Kuang decide this important matter.”

“I’m sorry.”

Lin Yuan said sternly, “You’ve already placed your order, no returns or exchanges allowed. Please wait patiently, your dish will be ready very soon.”

...

Now that he was writing fairy tales and ‘Fairytale Town’ had forecasted some works, Lin Yuan definitely needed some related plans.

Given his typing speed, he could totally handle such plans.

However, the works mentioned in the song were basically mid-to-long stories, so Lin Yuan would need a bit of time to produce them.

His sister mentioned ‘Shuke and Beta,’ which is indeed a good direction.

Stories like Peter Pan, or Harry Potter and even Pinocchio require significant background modifications and are rather troublesome.

‘Shuke and Beta’ doesn’t require all that.

The author of this book is the true Fairy Tale King of the Celestial Dynasty, Zheng Yuanjie.

The book is also one of Teacher Zheng’s representative works.

Many people’s childhoods were accompanied by these two adorable mice.

Because the background is the Celestial Dynasty, Lin Yuan doesn't need to modify anything, and the influence of this fairy tale has long been proven on another planet—

Speaking of which, this work might help Chu Kuang push his Prestige Value over a million!

Yes.

With the serialization of the Hercule Poirot Series and the popularity of 'Fairytale Town,' Chu Kuang's Prestige Value has been skyrocketing recently!

It is soaring.

Especially after he earned the title "King of Short Fairy Tales," his cultural Prestige Value directly reached 950,000!

This means he is very close to a million.

Lin Yuan realized that the honorific title of "King of Short Fairy Tales" is probably similar to the effect of an award. It is a result of countless recognitions coalesced and thus offers high Prestige Value rewards.

"System, display the taskbar."

"Ding dong, already displayed for you."

Lines of virtual text appeared before Lin Yuan's eyes; he immediately looked at the earliest task on the list, also the task he cares most about.

[Task name: Health is the Capital of Revolution]

[Task content: Make Culture and Music Prestige surpass one million each]

[Task reward: Host can live until thirty years old, without illnesses or disasters, with good health]

Lin Yuan wore a smile.

He doesn't need to worry about the Prestige calculations of the system.

Maybe it takes a lot of recognition from many people to be condensed into a single point of Prestige, but so what?

Now the cultural Prestige is around 950,000!

And his music Prestige has also risen to about 930,000 over time!

If the task had a progress bar, Lin Yuan's health task would probably already be almost complete.

His health recovery was something Lin Yuan had always desired.

Now it seems that Lin Yuan will be able to confidently complete the task and get a healthy body this year.

“Good health, that should be all aspects, including vocal restoration, huh...”

Chapter 452: Owing You a First

Lin Yuan didn't immediately start writing his novel. Before his body fully recovered, he tried his best to avoid staying up late.

Seeing that it was getting late, he freshened up, then happily lay down on his bed and casually checked his chat group on his phone.

There were only four people in the group chat.

Lin Yuan, Xia Fan, Jian Yi, and his older sister.

There weren't many messages, Lin Yuan randomly scrolled through them, soon reaching the top.

The last message was from Xia Fan: “Pity we ended up at number eight, we released it a bit late.”

Below was a screenshot of the final seasonal ranking for “Fairytale Town”.

Since “Fairytale Town” was released on the last day of January, there was no time left to move up in the rankings.

Nevertheless, the eighth-place finish was considered exceptional result.

You have to consider that other people climbed the rankings for a whole thirty days, while “Fairytale Town” only had one day.

Then came Jian Yi’s words of comfort: “You’ve already made it big, look at me, still auditioning in various drama groups.”

Then, his sister messaged Jian Yi: “Go to Lin Yuan’s production crew.”

Jian Yi replied: “Isn’t that what I’m trying to do, be like Xia Fan and stand on my own two feet? Although, that might be difficult, I might go and join up with Lin Yuan.”

Xia Fan was indeed someone who depended on himself. Lin Yuan only gave him a song, “Initial Dream”, in the early days.

Add the recent “Fairytale Town”, and he only gave him two songs in total.

Lin Yuan asked Xia Fan if he needed help multiple times, but Xia Fan refused each time, so Lin Yuan didn’t bring it up again.

However, now he had a legitimate reason to help.

He directly messaged Xia Fan: “Next time, we’ll take first place.”

Immediately after, Lin Yuan messaged Jian Yi.

He paused for a moment, left the group chat, and sent a direct message to Jian Yi: “If you have time, let’s make a movie together.”

Jian Yi quickly replied: “Are you trying to save my reputation?”

Lin Yuan replied with a simple “umm”.

Jian Yi, “...”

Are you really saying these things?

Okay, that’s a typical Lin Yuan move. But Jian Yi’s heart must be a bit touched, “What kind of film are you trying to shoot? I can’t act in all kinds of movies.”

Lin Yuan didn’t pay much attention to his friend’s aloofness and told him the truth: “I haven’t thought of it yet.”

Jian Yi: “Alright, at least give me a third male lead... Eh, the fourth is fine too, but four sounds bad, how about the fifth male lead?”

Lin Yuan chuckled.

The fifth male lead in a movie was basically an unimportant supporting role. Lin Yuan was a rational person, but he was not necessarily rational when it came to friends and family.

“First male lead.”

Lin Yuan decisively declared.

The other end was suddenly silent.

It took a long time before Jian Yi replied, “First male lead is okay too, isn’t there an MV for the singer’s new song? I can be the first male lead.”

“It’s a movie.”

Lin Yuan insisted.

This time Jian Yi didn’t pause for long, “I can’t do it.”

Lin Yuan replied, “No problem, I have experience. I’ll contact you later. Remember to report to the set.”

After saying that, Lin Yuan didn’t bother with Jian Yi anymore.

Of course, he knew why Jian Yi was being hesitating.

He was simply afraid that he, being a newcomer, would hold back his movie.

But Lin Yuan had his own methods. He had the system tool. Even if Jian Yi’s acting skills were really bad, he could still help him improve.

Moreover, Jian Yi studied acting.

His grades in all his professional courses have always been amongst the best. His acting skills can’t possibly be bad.

As for the problem of the lack of reputation of a newcomer...

This is actually not a problem. When Lin Yuan filmed “Flirting Scholar”, the lead actor, He Sheng, was also a newcomer.

Lin Yuan won’t use films like “Hachiko” to promote Jian Yi, because another such film would require a great actor for a lead role.

But some films can be acted by newcomers, and some might even be more favourable with younger actors.

...

Having decided to find a movie that was suited to Jian Yi, Lin Yuan called out the system, "This film cannot be randomly customized."

Lin Yuan was not confident about what the system might randomly generate.

The system chimed a response: "You can choose from the film library. Once disconnected, the memory will disappear."

"Okay."

Lin Yuan's thinking instantaneously connected to the system's film library. It felt as if he had entered a mysterious world as countless film information appeared in his mind.

"How about this one?"

Suddenly, Lin Yuan's gaze locked onto a film.

The cover of the film was a man, at least based on his physique. He was dressed in a red tight-fitting suit covered in black grids. His head was wrapped in a mask, with the eye area primarily white –

Spiderman!

If you want to promote someone, don't bother with artsy films, but commercial blockbusters. Can any blockbuster be more successful than Marvel's series?

Not to mention the famous Spiderman.

This is definitely one of Marvel's classic series!

However, there are many versions of Spiderman movies. The version that Lin Yuan had his eyes on was the first generation of Spiderman, which mainly relied on mutations to fight.

“Actually, ‘Venom’ also...”

Lin Yuan shook his head. Let's give Spiderman to Jian Yi. The leading actor of Venom needs to appear more down and out. Jian Yi suits Spiderman better because of his tender and young face.

“Start customizing!”

Lin Yuan spoke up. This time he didn't ask about the price. In fact, he hardly ever asked about the price recently. It's not that he didn't care. He just didn't want to experience the feeling of a painful expenditure.

As long as I don't ask the price, I can pretend that I'm not spending money.

This is Lin Yuan's theory because with the balance on his card, it would make no difference if the system deducts a portion of the fee.

“Customizing for you.”

The system directly entered the script customization mode.

About a few minutes later, the customization was complete, and the script for “Spiderman” appeared in Lin Yuan's mind.

The plot seemed to be mainly based on the first generation of Spiderman, but the system made minor modifications.

For instance, in the original world, there were various countries, but now Blue Star didn't have countries, only continents.

In order to accommodate this point, the system cancelled the concept of countries in the movie.

Additionally.

The first-generation spiderman had the ability to rush out silks from veins, which was too powerful. Therefore, the script slightly adjusted this ability...

Hm?

Looking at the end, Lin Yuan realized that there were references to other superheroes in the script, which gave him a hint for his next Marvel film.

Jian Yi didn't have much reputation.

But Jian Yi was only 22 this year.

Spiderman shouldn't be performed by someone too old.

The first generation Spiderman was generally fine, but his age seemed a little off. The Spiderman series had been filmed for many years, and the face of many actors showed obvious signs of aging. Lin Yuan definitely wanted to avoid this.

Because Lin Yuan was very clear...

Once the trend of Marvel series has started, he might not just make one film, he might consider other superhero films as well.

Of course, it's still too early to think about that.

Lin Yuan planned to talk with Ol' Zhou about the script tomorrow. The investment for this film will significantly be larger than before.

Chapter 453: Overflowing Superheroes

"A new script?"

The next afternoon, holding the freshly completed "Spiderman" script, Lin Yuan found Ol' Zhou, seeking the company's filming support.

“Let me see!”

A thrill of joy spread across Ol’ Zhou’s face as he hastily took the “Spiderman” script from Lin Yuan, his expression flickering with anticipation, he said:

“Feel free to sit for a while.”

Lin Yuan nodded and looked at the piano in Ol’ Zhou’s room, feeling an itch in his hands: “May I play for a while?”

“Of course.”

Ol’ Zhou nodded with a smile.

As the head of the music department, Ol’ Zhou had some musical skills, such as playing the piano. However, his proficiency was mediocre, hence the piano was mostly decorative in his office.

“Thank you.”

Lin Yuan sat in front of the piano and began to play extemporaneously, while Ol’ Zhou started reading the “Spiderman” script.

“♪♪♪~”

Recalling the plot of “Spiderman”, Lin Yuan’s piano playing varied in tone; sometimes soft, sometimes intense, sometimes even ethereal.

After a while, Ol’ Zhou finally finished reading the script and Lin Yuan naturally stopped playing.

“That’s the first time I’ve read a script with someone providing a live soundtrack.”

Ol’ Zhou looked at Lin Yuan at the piano: “That wasn’t bad.”

Lin Yuan got straight to the point: “What do you think of the script?”

After a moment’s thought, Ol’ Zhou gave three words: “Pretty good.”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Ol’ Zhou chuckled: “What else can I say? A nobody transforming into a superhero to save the world, this is obviously a typical kind of commercial sci-fi movie. The success of this kind of movie doesn’t solely depend on the script, but also hinges on whether the scene is grand enough and the visuals are stimulating enough. Unlike your previous movie “Hachiko”, artsy plot-driven films always require more focus on the storyline and performances.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Well, that’s true.

He didn’t expect anyone to be amazed upon reading the “Spiderman” script. That would be unrealistic on Blue Star. Hence he asked bluntly:

“Can it be filmed?”

Lin Yuan had plenty of assets. It would be great if the company was willing to invest. But even if the company was unwilling to invest, Lin Yuan would finance it himself and hire the company’s crew to work for him.

“Of course.”

Ol’ Zhou closed the script: “The story of the script has a good sense of anticipation. There are many superhero-themed movies in the market. However, that’s a solid proof that superhero is indeed a popular movie theme ...”

Lin Yuan had a peculiar look on his face.

So that’s why Ol’ Zhou wasn’t the least surprised when he saw the “Spiderman” script. It’s a typical cliché in the Blue Star film industry where an ordinary person transforms into a superhero to save

the world. This trend was initiated by the Qi people many years ago, ushering in the era of the superhero genre in films!

If we trace back to thirty years ago.

At that time, the Qi Continent filmed a movie called “Dragonman”. The plot of this movie is very similar to that of Marvel’s. Two terrifying monsters appeared on Blue Star one day. They seemed to be fighting over a bizarre potion. The male protagonist, being a reporter, captured the battle between the two monsters on camera.

Then things unwound in a stereotypical way.

The two monsters died together, the potion they were trying to seize also shattered; the liquid splashed onto the male protagonist. A bizarre transformation happened to him, giving him shape-shifting ability. He could transform into a half-human, half-dragon creature at will.

More monsters began to appear on Blue Star. These monsters also seemed to be looking for that potion. Upon learning that the protagonist had consumed the rest of the potion, they decided to capture him and extract the potion from his body.

Then there was the ultimate showdown.

Under the global live broadcast.

The protagonist defeated the monsters in the end, becoming the first superhero in the history of Blue Star films. This format later inspired a flood of copycat superhero films. Most of these revolved around the protagonist gaining immense power due to some kind of mutation, and finally saving the world.

The plot was overly simplified!

But thirty years ago, this movie was an instant and tremendous success on its release. It sold box office records of over a hundred billion in the Qi Continent alone. Then, the movie was introduced to other continents and historically broke through the two hundred billion barrier in total box office revenue. It’s still among the top ten in box office history on Blue Star.

Because it was fresh and stimulating!

It was this movie that sparked the wave of superhero films. So, Ol' Zhou did not find the "Spiderman" script strange at all. It was the typical plot of a superhero film where an ordinary person evolves and ultimately saves the world.

However...

Because there have been so many superhero films, the box office performance of this genre is highly polarized. Good films could explode at the box office, while poorly made ones could cause the film company to go bankrupt. Also, most superhero films are not cheap to produce, so in recent years, there have been far fewer superhero films. Everyone needs to consider the risk as it's no longer the era where simply copying "Dragonman" could easily cause a box office explosion.

Such is the Qi Continent!

The hall of fame of Blue Star films!

Although there is no Marvel on this planet, there are Marvel-like superheroes. The Qi people have initiated this genre and made it one of the most popular film categories on Blue Star!

For Lin Yuan.

It's a mixed blessing.

The good side is that the audience definitely enjoys superhero films, there's no problem with the existing fan base. The downside is that the audience has seen too many similar movies and is highly critical of the quality of these films. If "Spiderman" doesn't have its own unique traits, it would be hard to impress the Blue Star audience, who is already saturated with superhero films.

On top of that...

Due to the influence of the "Dragonman" movie, Blue Star has also produced many superhero comics, novels, cartoons, etc. However, superhero novels aren't that popular, while comics and cartoons have a fairly good influence, which is related to the visual impact of superhero works.

“Here’s the plan.”

Ol’ Zhou stood up: “I will bring the script to the film department to discuss it. We will figure out a plan, including investment and so on. If someone else was proposing to make a superhero film, I would definitely refuse. But if the proposal comes from you, both I and the company should have a certain level of confidence.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

He could not abandon “Spiderman” just because Blue Star already has many superhero films. He has also watched many superhero films on Blue Star, and he identified two problems.

The first problem.

Most of Blue Star’s superheroes don’t emphasize character development. The protagonist tends to be somewhat stereotyped. They are generally ordinary people who have stumbled upon a magical event. The movies tend to stress the power they possess after the transformation, while ignoring the protagonist’s ordinary side.

This is relative, of course.

Some superhero films do put a little effort into sketching out the protagonist, but they don’t seem to be very successful. Even if they are, they don’t have a wide influence.

The second problem.

Blue star superhero movies do not adopt Marvel’s tie-ins model. Even if a superhero film is made into a sequel, it’s just another monster to fight. There are very few instances of different superheroes appearing simultaneously, and even if there is, the linkage is not high.

This is Lin Yuan’s advantage.

He must take full advantage of this.

In Marvel's superheroes, "Spiderman" has a relatively clear definition. The protagonist is a super talkative person who can't stop chatting while fighting monsters. He likes to mingle with ordinary people, making him a very down-to-earth hero. He's considered one of the most charming superheroes in Marvel.

Chapter 454: Preparation

"A commercial film?"

"You mean a superhero genre?"

"Xian Yu really wants to dip his toe in every film genre, huh? I thought he'd continue to make comedies, next thing you know, he went off making suspense dramas. When I thought he'd play around with extreme plot twists, he proceeded to make a drama film..."

"Maybe he enjoys challenging himself?"

"I never expected Xian Yu to take a leap and make a mainstream film this time. He probably wishes to achieve higher box office results. Although his previous themes attracted noteworthy box office, advancing further is exceedingly hard."

"..."

Ol' Zhou brought the script of "Spiderman" to the film department, and everyone began discussing soon after reviewing the script in a meeting. The atmosphere was rather positive as Xian Yu had gained the department's trust through his previous successes.

"Speaking of which,"

The senior executive on Ol' Zhou's right chuckled, "All of Xian Yu's films have some degree of commercial attributes. Even though 'Hachiko' does not strictly fall under arthouse films, it's his relatively pure commercial route this time that surprised us."

"Back to the film itself."

Ol' Zhou knocked on the table, "I think it's promising. The pacing of this film is excellent. The preservation and persistence of ordinary people towards the end is deeply touching. Additionally, the character has an origin-like growth, something most superhero movies tend to overlook."

"It's Xian Yu after all."

The senior executive sitting in the back row laughed, "In my opinion, I wouldn't agree with saying Spiderman is purely commercial. Even if Xian Yu is making a commercial film, he won't completely abandon some profound elements. The line in the movie, 'with great power comes great responsibility,' struck a chord with me. This is something other superhero movies often neglect."

"It's the investment though..."

"It's probably going to exceed a hundred million..."

"Most superhero movies have a budget that breaks a hundred million. If you want outstanding special effects, you've got to burn some cash. I believe that an investment exceeding one hundred million is paramount for a film's success. If a superhero movie fails to deliver compelling visuals, even an excellent script is in vain."

"..."

In the Blue Star film market, investments exceeding one hundred million are common. That's why all of Xian Yu's successful films come as such a shock. How can someone consistently push box office revenue into the billions using only tens of millions?

Is achieving high returns on small investments that easy?

This time, Xian Yu finally stopped his usual technique of achieving grand results from small inputs. This is the typical treatment for film production. If even a superhero movie incorporates minimal investment, even if Xian Yu has succeeded multiple times, people would naturally be skeptical.

"But we need to make sure we play it safe."

Someone proposed, “We should budget it according to one hundred million, anything more than that is risky. Superhero movies bear distinctive traits — when successful, the box office can skyrocket into billions; yet when they fail, it’s as if they disappear into the void without a ripple.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

After the meeting, many matters reached a consensus, and “Spiderman” quickly entered project initiation mode. Ol’ Zhou, with the results of the meeting, went looking for Lin Yuan and briefly explained the situation to him.

...

Lin Yuan has now gained a deep understanding of the film industry. When he learned that the budget for “Spiderman” would be around one hundred million, he felt that it was fairly reasonable, even though it’s considered on the lower end for superhero movies.

But there were some disagreements.

When Ol’ Zhou found out that Lin Yuan intended to cast a newcomer as Spiderman, he couldn’t help but express his concerns, “There are young and popular actors within the company. Why insist on casting an almost-graduate from a drama school?”

“Jian Yi is one of my best buddies.”

Lin Yuan responded as if it was the most natural thing in the world.

Hearing this, Ol’ Zhou was taken aback before letting out a bitter smile. This answer was so typical of Lin Yuan. Sighing, he said, “Then we need to invest more efforts in casting the supporting roles. Plus, your friend needs to sign a contract with Starlight.”

“Mmm.”

Lin Yuan had no objections.

Starlight can't simply help other companies boost their status for free. For a film with a budget of one hundred million, it's only natural that the lead actor is one of their own. Furthermore, Jian Yi would likely be open to the idea of joining Starlight.

"Let's have a better contract."

Lin Yuan sought benefits for his friend.

Ol' Zhou nodded, "I'll see to it. Since you've said he's one of your best friends, the artist department will definitely be more accommodating. As for the roles of director and producer, are we sticking with the previous team?"

"Mmm."

With scriptwriters at the core of the crew, Lin Yuan was the soul of the film. In fact, his role even exceeded that of a conventional main scriptwriter — he had pre-designed even the film's shots. These were additional perks provided after the System offered the script. Coupled with Lin Yuan's exquisite artistic skills, he could easily recreate any image he desired, thus saving a lot of explanations. Director Yi Chenggong might lack innovative ideas that could aid Lin Yuan's creation process, but his competency in replicating Lin Yuan's instructions was commendable.

In a certain way,

Lin Yuan was both the director and screenwriter.

Having collaborated with Lin Yuan multiple times, Yi Chenggong has comprehended Lin Yuan's mode of operation. As Lin Yuan's executor of intentions, he rarely conflicts with Lin Yuan, unless he comes up with a particularly brilliant idea.

After saying goodbye to Ol' Zhou,

Lin Yuan gave Jian Yi a call, "The new film is confirmed. You're the leading man. It's a superhero movie. I'll send you the script right now. Study it on your own for now. Also, you need to come over. You have to sign an artist contract with Starlight."

"Huh?"

Jian Yi on the other end of the phone seemed stunned, “Joining Starlight is a no-brainer for me, but didn’t you say last night that you haven’t decided what to shoot for the new movie? How do you have a script today?”

“Inspiration struck.”

“You’re so slick.”

Jian Yi didn’t say any words of gratitude.

The bond he shared with Lin Yuan and Xia Fan was deeply ingrained since childhood. Saying more at this point would only seem pretentious. Didn’t he long to play this lead role?

He absolutely did!

However, he wouldn’t use this relationship to compel Lin Yuan to make this decision. Now, Lin Yuan brought opportunities to his doorstep. Saying more could end up disappointing Lin Yuan. The best way to repay him is to take the shooting process seriously and cherish this opportunity that Lin Yuan provided.

“That’s it for now.”

Lin Yuan hung up the phone.

Lin Yuan turned on his computer and began searching for popular superhero films. This was a necessary task. After all, he needed to see how others had done it and ideally learn something useful from them.

Chapter 455: Cat and Mouse

It really is the same old wine in a new bottle...

Lin Yuan had watched several popular superhero movies from Blue Star on his computer in a row, only to find that the formula for these superheroes was essentially the same as the early

“Dragonman”. Even though there have been some changes in recent years, they all were variations on the same theme.

The same goes for “Spiderman”.

It tells the story of fighting monsters after becoming a superhero, but Spiderman has some unique characteristics that other superheroes lack, such as the numerous depictions of his assistance to ordinary people in the film.

“The friendly neighborhood New Yorker.”

This is another side of Spiderman as a civilian hero. Most other superheroes in Marvel are high-profile, while Spiderman is the most down-to-earth among them. He’s still a high school student!

There are immature parts in his thinking.

But he has a trajectory of growth.

He truly realized that as a superhero, he should take action after the death of his uncle. His uncle’s death was the trigger of his transformation. This is also why so many versions of the Spiderman series have still put an emphasis on explaining this origin story.

“With great power, comes great responsibility.”

This line may be cliché to Earth’s Marvel fans, but newcomers to “Spiderman” are still moved by these simple words. There are no superheroes; Spiderman is just an ordinary person burdened with a sense of social responsibility because of his immense power.

Moreover...

In the sequels to the original Spiderman, a scenario came up again and again, where Spiderman stops a ship or a bus with his spider web. This can be seen as homage to the original. In the second “Spiderman” movie, starring Tobey Maguire, there’s a scene where a city train is running on the tracks. In the end, Spiderman secures countless surrounding buildings with his web and finally stops the train full of people with his own body, avoiding their deaths.

The price is...

Spiderman's body reaches its limit, his clothes completely torn, his skin shredded. He falls into a deep unconsciousness. As a result, the people on the train grasp onto his body. This scene is considered one of the most iconic in the "Spiderman" series, and a large portion of the audience possibly love Spiderman for it. The scene is simply too shocking!

The system is considerate.

Although the "Spiderman" script provided to Lin Yuan starts with Spiderman's origin story, this thrilling scene from the second movie is also transferred into the script, nicely echoing the famous line "with great power, comes great responsibility".

Of course.

These changes still can't alter the popcorn-flick nature of "Spiderman", but Lin Yuan's aim was to boost Jian Yi's fame, he couldn't let Jian Yi make a film about an old man's story.

That'd be too heavy.

Jian Yi, at his current age, simply can't handle a heavy superhero film like "Batman," not to mention the Joker. Even with the help of props to reach the acting standard, there are some things that can't be compensated with acting skills.

It has to be enjoyable.

Lin Yuan had previously given the audience a hard time with "Hachiko". Now, he can give them some emotional compensation. Although Lin chose the movie himself, it seems to fit the system's typical behaviour well: manipulating the audience's emotions.

Tang Bohu foolishly grins without a brain.

The sound engineer needs to think with their brain.

Hachiko makes the audience feel heartfelt pain.

Spiderman makes the audience overwhelmingly excited.

Lin Yuan also thinks this is a good idea for making movies. You shouldn't keep the audience in the same kind of situation all the time. Once everyone has had enough of Spiderman, maybe next time something heavier could be fun?

Or even something novel.

To prevent everyone from thinking that "Spiderman" is too formulaic, where the superhero always defeats the monster and gets the girl, ending with a romantic spider-hanging kiss scene.

In fact, Lin Yuan also considered word-of-mouth.

After all, not everyone is Nolan. The reputation of a superhero movie is basically hard to explode, but Lin Yuan can't avoid making commercial movies for the sake of Xian Yu's word-of-mouth. The public loves it.

It's best when it's enjoyed by both refined and vulgar.

Lin Yuan believes that so-called word-of-mouth should be compared with movies of the same kind. If the average reputation of commercial films is seven points, then he strives to elevate his own commercial film reputation to eight. That would be fine.

Let's not think about this for now.

The film's preparation needs time.

The producers, Shen Qing and director Yi Chenggong, started to gear up the moment they got the news. Having been tremendously successful in their previous few collaborations with Lin Yuan, the two had tasted the sweet fruits of success.

However, Lin Yuan left the preparations to them.

He used this time to leisurely write his novel, not just the ongoing Hercule Poirot Series, but also his new fairy tale story that he had mentioned to his sister before, “Shuke and Beta”.

This novel was very relaxing to write.

Because fairy tales are written for children, the simpler the description, the better. The concise text allows the little ones to understand it. For instance, the beginning of the novel introduces the character Shuke straightforwardly:

Shuke is a mouse.

Generally, mice are known for sneaking around and stealing human food. This doesn't change in the world of fairy tales, but Shuke doesn't want to be a mouse that likes to steal things. He decides to be independent. So, in the first chapter, Shuke starts his journey, driving his toy plane outside.

In the beginning, he saves a tiny ant.

Then Shuke is treated by the Ant King.

As a genre that combines fun with education, “Shuke and Beta” is no exception. The first chapter reminds everyone not to steal things and to earn their rewards through their own labor.

Not just educational.

The book is also very imaginative.

For instance, an interesting plot in the story is that Beta drives a toy tank, using peanuts as cannonballs to battle with the Meow alien Mili. This scene is quite fun. If put into a web novel, it would be perfect for putting on airs and slapping faces.

Good guarantee of enjoyment.

The author first gives the protagonist Beta a gold finger, a tank that can fire cannonballs, and then the scene of the weak little mouse slapping the powerful little cat Mili happens. Little cat Mili doesn't admit defeat and brings her friends to fight back —

And continues to be trampled on.

Wouldn't you find it hard to believe that the classic scene of showing off and face-slapping in web novels had appeared in the Fairy Tale King's work many years ago? This book simply portrays cats as villains similar to those in web novels.

Writing as such.

Lin Yuan found himself amused.

While Lin Yuan was immersed in writing "Shuke and Beta" for three consecutive days, Silver Blue Books suddenly announced some news. While Lin himself didn't pay too much attention to it, and was engrossed in the fairy tale world of Shuke and Beta, the children's literature circle in general turned its attention to it.

"Three years of grinding a sword!"

"Do you remember your childhood memories of the 'Three Little Pigs' series? Teacher Yuanyuan's new long-form fairy tale 'Meow' is about to be released. This time it's a story about a kitten: this will be the childhood memory of a new generation of children!"

A long-form fairy tale is coming!

Teacher Yuanyuan is about to release a new work!

Chapter 456: The Urge to Sing

"Teacher Yuanyuan is here!"

"Indeed, the stories of the 'Three Little Pigs' series are part of countless people's childhoods. But to speak of the strength in long-form categories, Teacher Yuanyuan ranks among the top three, or even the top two, in all of Qin Continent. Silver Blue Books is indeed fortunate to have Chu Kuang dominating the short-form fairy tales and Yuanyuan in charge of the long form..."

"Yuanyuan might be planning something."

“Ever since Chu Kuang became the ‘King of Short Fairy Tales’, many long-form children’s book authors have dreamt of becoming the ‘King of Long Fairy Tales’. But this is mostly wishful thinking among ordinary people. However, Teacher Yuanyuan, being among the top long-form children’s authors, does have the strength to compete for the title.”

“Who will be the next Chu Kuang?”

“Since Teacher Yuanyuan is making her move, other children’s long-form authors definitely won’t just sit idle. I reckon the Literature and Art Association will soon recommend long-form children’s novels as essential reading for primary school students. By then, it will be a grand showdown among the authors of long-form children’s tales.”

“...”

A heated discussion ensued within the fairy tale circle.

Due to the popularity of Chu Kuang’s ‘Fairytale Town’, and the fact that Teacher Yuanyuan’s new book will also be launched here, the Fairy Tale Department of Silver Blue Books has certainly become a significant department within the company. Consequently, the position of chief editor has become even more important.

In the deputy editor’s office...

Shui Zhourou’s eyes are sparkling: “Chu Kuang is currently the ‘King of Short Fairy Tales’, and compared to Lin Xuan, we stand no chance when it comes to short tales. But since the three deputy editors are competing against each other to take the position based on their performance, it’s not just about the short tales’ performance. The importance of long-form fairy tales is even greater. In the long-form category, we have Teacher Yuanyuan. Chu Kuang can’t even touch her...”

“Naturally.”

The assistant by her side gently nodded. If Chu Kuang is recognized as the best in the short-form category, then Teacher Yuanyuan is undoubtedly one of the titans in the long-form children’s sector. “But Zhang Yang won’t sit back and watch.”

“Mmm.”

Shui Zhourou gave a grave nod: “Lin Xuan is not a threat when it comes to long-form tales. What I am worried about is Zhang Yang’s side. I don’t know who he will ask for help. There aren’t many people in the long-form fairy tale circle who can compete with Teacher Yuanyuan, but it’s not completely impossible.”

The assistant glanced towards the room next door.

In the office of another deputy editor, Zhang Yang next door is also discussing with his assistant, “So they invited Teacher Yuanyuan. It seems we have to get Teacher Hu onboard.”

“Don’t worry.”

The assistant smiled, “Didn’t your family promise Teacher Hu a lot of benefits? I don’t think Teacher Hu will refuse. He has competed with Teacher Yuanyuan early on. Even though he narrowly lost, it doesn’t reflect that he is less competent.”

“Hmm.”

Zhang Yang gave a sigh of relief, “Finally, it’s our turn. On the short-form fairy tale side, we can’t hope for anything. Chu Kuang, the ‘King of Short Fairy Tales’, is so impressive, so much so that Shui Zhourou and I can only watch as Lin Xuan wreaks havoc. Now it’s Lin Xuan’s turn to nervously watch us compete.”

The war is in two stages.

The first involves short tales, and the second, long-form tales. But with the advent of ‘Fairytale Town’, Zhang Yang and Shui Zhourou no longer stand a chance. Regardless of who they invite, they can’t possibly produce a better short-form fairy tale than Chu Kuang.

They can only move on to long-form fairy tales!

Meanwhile, in Lin Xuan’s office, she is quite satisfied with the current situation. She even laughed, telling Zhang Cheng next to her, “Now we alone shine in the short-form fairy tales sector. Let Shui Zhourou and Zhang Yang compete in the long-form sector. In any case, we always have the

advantage. Maybe I can continue to commission Chu Kuang, to expand our advantage in short tales.”

Lin Xuan has given up on the long form completely.

All she needs to do is to consolidate her advantage in the short-form sector.

Didn't her younger brother say that Chu Kuang was going to write a fairy tale about Shuke and Beta next? Lin Xuan has unshakable confidence in Chu Kuang. She believes that it will be very exciting and may even surpass the stories in 'Fairytale Town'.

Yes.

Lin Xuan subconsciously assumes that Chu Kuang's next fairy tale would be a short form. This is a natural thought process. The new piece of the 'King of Short Fairy Tales' should obviously be a short fairy tale; so she never thought that Chu Kuang's new work would be a long-form fairy tale.

On the other hand...

Lin Yuan continued to write his new fairy tale leisurely. The preparations for the movie 'Spiderman' were also proceeding in an orderly manner. This is Lin Yuan's most familiar life rhythm, and under normal circumstances, this rhythm would not be disrupted.

As usual, when he arrived at the company...

His third disciple, Li Lizhi, showed up.

As Lin Yuan's third disciple learning composition, Li Lizhi's classes were not too structured; they were mostly when Lin Yuan was free. If he wasn't free, he let her figure things out by herself. As a result of this on-and-off teaching, quite some time has passed. Today just so happened to be a day when Lin Yuan was unoccupied so he could give her a two-hour class.

“Hmm?”

Before the class even began, Lin Yuan suddenly heard a system terminal sound by his ear: “Congratulations on the graduation of your third disciple, Li Lizhi. She has met the standard for graduation.”

Li Lizhi has graduated?

Lin Yuan was somewhat surprised. He subconsciously checked Li Lizhi’s composition ability and found that she was just about to meet the graduation standard. That meant Lin Yuan had successfully gained a third disciple at the level of ‘card composer’.

“Ding dong.”

The system went on to inform him about the reward he had preset: “Congratulations to the Guide for successfully completing the ‘mentoring task’ and obtaining permanent right to use the character card of Yang Zhongming!”

A smile crept onto Lin Yuan’s face.

Being used to Lin Yuan’s strictness, Li Lizhi rarely saw her master smile. This smile made her dazed, and she immediately became nervous: “Master, have I done something wrong?”

“No.”

Lin Yuan confirmed, “I think today’s lesson is not necessary anymore. In the future, you don’t need to come if you don’t receive any contact from me, because you and your two senior brothers have reached the graduation standard.”

“Graduation?”

Li Lizhi was stunned.

This should have been a happy occasion — she finally earned Master’s approval. Still, Li Lizhi couldn’t bring herself to feel happy because both of her senior brothers had mentioned that once she graduated from his tutelage, the Master would no longer continue to teach her.

“Congratulations.”

Lin Yuan said, smiling.

Not having to teach was one less chore for him. So, he continued to type on his computer, writing the story of “Shuke and Beta”. However, while drinking water, he noticed that Li Lizhi hadn’t left: “Is there something else you need?”

“No...”

Li Lizhi bit her lip: “I intended to tell you after class, but since there’s no class, I’ll say it now. My father mentioned that a new show wants to invite you as a guest. He asked if you’re interested. If you still don’t want to show your face, then forget it.”

Lin Yuan casually said: “I won’t go.”

He didn’t even ask what kind of show it was. Due to Xian Yu’s identity, he had received countless invitations, even including some exclusive ambassadors for stars. Moreover, “Bloom” had invited Xian Yu as a judge. This was the hottest music show in Old Qin Continent. Lin Yuan simply refused all. Why would he accept any new show?

“Alright.”

Li Lizhi nodded.

Truth be told, she just didn’t want to leave and was looking for a topic to continue the conversation: “Because of the merger of Qin, Qi, Chu, and Yan, this show may be the most expensive music variety show in history, even surpassing ‘Bloom’. That’s why my father asked me to inquire. Some other maestros have accepted the invitation to be judges. Could you tell me why you don’t want to show your face?”

Why?

Lin Yuan didn’t know himself. He just had a strong aversion to showing his face. The camera made him instinctively fearful. But the young Lin Yuan didn’t show such a problem. Could this be classified as a psychological issue?

“I don’t know.”

“Such a pity.”

Li Lizhi didn’t dare to ask further and just sighed: “If only the judges could wear masks on stage like the singers. But judges definitely can’t wear masks...”

“Hmm.”

Lin Yuan responded casually.

Suddenly, he realized something. He raised his head in surprise, his expression somewhat peculiar: “What kind of singer can sing wearing a mask? Does the new show you mentioned have such a rule?”

“Huh?”

Li Lizhi was surprised: “Master, don’t you know? This new show is co-hosted by the Literature and Art Association and top production company in Qin Continent. There are discussions all over the internet. Singers can wear masks to sing...”

“What’s the name of the show?”

“I think it’s called ‘The Masked Singer.’”

Lin Yuan was slightly taken aback. He vaguely remembered a show with a similar concept on Earth. He couldn’t help but call the System in his mind: “Are there any other transmigrators in this world? I vaguely remember a similar show concept on Earth.”

“Ding Dong.”

The System explained: “The host is the only transmigrator on Blue Star. However, there is indeed a similar show on Earth. It’s just a coincidence that the same ideas collide in different times and spaces.”

Lin Yuan: "..."

No wonder it felt familiar.

Seeing Lin Yuan suddenly ignoring her, Li Lizhi thought he was trying to hint that she should leave. She pouted in grievance: "Then I'll leave first. If you need anything, Master, remember to find me!"

"Hmm."

Li Lizhi left.

Lin Yuan was filled with curiosity.

Instead of continuing to write his novel, he opened his web browser and searched for "The Masked Singer." It turned out to be an upcoming music variety show with unprecedented investment. It was rumored that the show would invite countless powerhouses from the music industry of Qin, Qi, Chu, and Yan to perform, including some of the Kings and Queens of Music. Hence, online discussions about the show were incredibly high, making it the hottest topic in the entertainment industry.

"The singers wear masks while singing."

"Each episode will feature six singers performing. The losing singer will have to reveal their face, and the winning singer can continue to perform with their mask."

"The Masked Singer..."

If he could sing wearing a mask, should he consider participating? Although he had an inexplicable repulsion towards the camera, if he wore a mask, it shouldn't be a problem, right?

Thinking of this.

Lin Yuan called the System again, asking a crucial question: "After the health mission is completed, will my health include healing my voice?"

“Yes.”

The System had given the answer.

Lin Yuan immediately fell into deep thought.

Due to the original owner’s desires, Lin Yuan’s passion for singing could not be suppressed. It was a deep-rooted love from the heart. But previously, Lin Yuan was troubled by his vocal issues, so he always suppressed this impulse. However, what should he do once his voice healed...

Should he continue suppressing his desire?

On the one hand, there’s his innate fear of the camera; on the other, his longing to perform on stage. These contradicting desires seemed to be locked in a stalemate, but the opportunity to sing in a mask seemed to unlock this deadlock!

“I’ll think about it.”

Lin Yuan was somewhat torn. His consistent life rhythm might change due to his recovery...

Chapter 457: Wearing a Mask isn’t a Problem

Lin Yuan’s mind was in chaos.

For the next two days, he hardly wrote his novel. Instead, he found himself scrolling through internet news about “The Masked Singer”. This issue had fully triggered his alarm bells. For the first time in his life, he was so engrossed in entertainment news.

“This program is legit!”

“After all, it’s produced by the team behind ‘Bloom’. The quality is definitely guaranteed. The investment is the highest ever, and undoubtedly the King and Queen of Singing will participate. Just thinking about it gives me excitement!”

“Props to the show’s creators!”

“It’s a merger of the four continents of Qin, Qi, Chu, and Yan, boasting countless top-tier singers. To last till the end on such a stage is a tremendous honor for any singer. The unveiling of the final champion will be like a coronation ceremony!”

“The champion is bound to be either the King or Queen of Singing.”

“I think that’s not necessarily the case. Headline singers also have a chance. Have you all forgotten Jiang Kui from the Battle of the Gods last year? She stepped into the limelight by competing with the King and Queen of Singing. The industry rates her singing abilities on par with them. What she lacks is simply popularity and data!”

“...”

According to the rules of “The Masked Singer”, singers have to perform masked. Once the mask is on, who can tell if you’re a headline singer or the King or Queen of Singing? Unless the singer has a highly unique voice, most of them would leave the audience befuddled once they put on the mask.

Moreover...

The overall caliber of singers from Blue Star is very high. Unless their voices are distinctively memorable, 80% of the singers can disguise their vocal traits. With the large population in the four continents, star singers are numerous!

Where would you even begin guessing?

The thought of it was too exciting!

In fact, not only Lin Yuan was following this show closely, but the music circles of Qin, Qi, Chu, and Yan were all paying attention. Insiders were certain that many of the King and Queen of Singing would be tempted by the show.

It’s simple!

Attention!

The show was already on fire even before it started airing. The mere release of its rules caused a collective craze among netizens. With the resulting viewership ratings, who wouldn't want to prove their mettle before audiences from the four continents?

“Also...”

“According to the show's crew, the judging panel will change every time. It is almost guaranteed that personalities on par with Maestro will appear every episode. Singing in front of Maestro, and even getting evaluated by him while wearing a mask...

“Impressive!”

“Feels epic.”

“The performers on stage might be the King or Queen of Singing, and Maestro might be in the judges' panel. Other judges will guide the audience to keep guessing. It scores full points from professionalism to fun. I can't see any reason why this show wouldn't be a hit.”

“Don't forget!”

“The show isn't just made by the company behind ‘Bloom’, but is also led by the Literature and Art Association. A good performance on this show can get you recorded in the Association's files.”

“...”

Shows going viral before they air isn't unheard of. However, for a show to reach this level of hype even before broadcast, “The Masked Singer” was a first. Just the announcement of this show had audiences across the four continents on their toes with anticipation!

...

Lin Yuan, being engrossed in this thought, seemed to be in deep contemplation at home. It was baffling for his family. His sister, Lin Yao, even offered him the egg yolk she was about to enjoy.

“I don’t feel like eating today.”

She sympathetically said, “You have it.”

Lin Yuan quickly popped the egg yolk into his mouth. He then affectionately stroked his sister’s hair and said with gratitude, “To thank you, I’ve decided to leave all the vegetables tonight for you.”

“In your dreams.”

Lin Yao rolled her eyes and walked off.

Lin Xuan sat on the sofa and turned on the TV. Immediately, news filled the room: “Since the release of the news about ‘The Masked Singer’, a new type of music variety show, it has gained widespread attention. A number of maestros, including Teacher Yang Zhongming, have publicly announced that they will appear on the program as judges, and they are willing to contribute to the development of Blue Star’s music...”

“This show is definitely going to be a hit.”

Lin Xuan commented delightedly, “Looks like there’s a new variety show to follow. ‘Bloom’ can’t even compare to this one. It’s just a matter of seeing whether my favorite singers will participate.”

Suddenly,

Lin Xuan turned to look at Lin Yuan, “Has your Xian Yu, alias Maestro Junior, not been invited? If you participate in ‘The Masked Singer’, as your sister I would enjoy watching the show even more. I’ve never seen my own little brother on TV!”

“I’m considering it.”

Lin Yuan replied flatly.

Lin Xuan nodded and asked again, “When are you planning to release Chu Kuang’s new book? I need to reserve a section for it in advance. However, I’m just giving you a heads up, there’s no need to rush Chu Kuang.”

“Still writing.”

In fact, since hearing about “The Masked Singer”, Lin Yuan hadn’t written a word. He suddenly asked his sister, “Didn’t I used to not be camera-shy, or even enjoyed taking photos with you?”

Lin Xuan was taken aback, “Afraid of cameras?”

Lin Yuan nodded, “Now, every time I’m in front of a camera, I feel instinctively uncomfortable, like I need to dodge.”

“How could that be?”

Lin Xuan immediately looked worried, “You used to be quite natural when getting photographed. Besides, your childhood dream was to be a singer, to enjoy standing under the spotlight. Why has it changed to this? Is it because of your voice?”

Lin Yuan was silent.

Setting aside the news, Lin Xuan got up and started pacing, “No wonder you looked so uncomfortable when Yao Yao filmed you having a tooth pulled last time. I thought you were worried it might seem embarrassing, but it turns out the camera made you uncomfortable?”

“That was a good day.”

Being filmed by Yao Yao was just about bearable.

Lin Xuan bit her lip, “It must be a psychological issue. Let me help you find a psychologist to take a look. Don’t feel burdened. You didn’t have this problem when you were younger. It must be something you encountered later that triggered it.”

“A psychologist?”

Lin Yuan said, “I’ll find one myself.”

Lin Xuan took a deep breath, filled with various worries, “The people you know are definitely better than the ones I do. Just remember to find a psychologist as soon as possible. I’m afraid it might become a problem later on.”

“Alright.”

Lin Yuan nodded, trying to comfort his sister, “There are no other problems, I’m just a bit uncomfortable with cameras. I’m fine if there aren’t any cameras around. Try filming me with your phone.”

“Film you?”

Lin Yuan nodded.

He picked up the hat that Lin Yao had left on the sofa and used a thick mask to cover his face. Then, he let his sister film him with her phone. The discomfort was minimal, completely manageable—

He was fine with a mask on!

Chapter 458: Junior Brother Glowing

Performing masked is not a problem!

This gave Lin Yuan some confidence, but according to the rules, contestants who lose games have to reveal their faces. Even the winners would eventually have to unmask themselves. So he still had to face this hurdle!

“Seek a psychiatrist.”

Lin Yuan decided to take the advice.

The person he sought help from was Sun Yaohuo. Senior Yao Huo was the one who gave him the most peace of mind. However, when Sun Yaohuo learned that Lin Yuan was seeking a psychiatrist he was startled, “Is there something bothering you, junior?”

“Somewhat like that.”

Sun Yaohuo hesitated for a moment, initially meaning to have Lin Yuan talk to him, but then thought since Lin Yuan was seeking a psychiatrist, the issue might not be something Sun Yaohuo himself could solve, so he took it seriously:

“No problem!”

Sun Yaohuo was incredibly serious—as serious as Lin Yuan had never seen him before, not even during their recording sessions. Ultimately, at Sun Yaohuo’s insistence, he found a suitable psychiatrist for Lin Yuan, “This psychiatrist has a great reputation, and she is the best in the Yan Continent. Plus, she can maintain absolute confidentiality, even towards me.”

“Thanks.”

“There’s nothing to thank.”

Sun Yaohuo said earnestly, “It’s more important to help you figure out your problem. I’ve also consulted a psychiatrist before because of some music-related worries. I believe your problems must also be related to music. She already arrived at Qin Continent. I’ll pay her fee. All you need to do is go see her. Whether she should visit you or...”

“I’ll go.”

“No problem.”

The next day, Sun Yaohuo drove Lin Yuan to the appointment. Along the way, of course, they also brought up Lin Yuan’s voice change. He dropped Lin Yuan off at a high-end apartment building, “She’s upstairs. However, she doesn’t know who you are. You’ll have to do the talking. I’ll wait downstairs.”

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan got out of the car.

As he arrived at the agreed-upon apartment, Lin Yuan felt a nameless nervousness. Some of his secrets were too deep to be spoken, even to a psychiatrist. Can his problem really be solved under such cautiousness?

“Knock, Knock, Knock.”

As he knocked on the door, Lin Yuan still had his worries.

A woman in her thirties opened the door, she was quite beautiful. There was nothing unusual on her face when she saw Lin Yuan. She smiled warmly, “You must be the pre-arranged guest. Please come in.”

She didn’t call me a patient.

Lin Yuan thought, feeling amused.

Inside, he was invited to sit on the sofa, and she took the seat opposite him, “There are different beverages on the table. I can prepare whichever you prefer. The curtains are drawn so the room is a bit dim. If you don’t like it, I can turn on the lights.”

“No need.”

Lin Yuan didn’t bother her. He made himself a cup of tea. She introduced herself in turn, “My name is Lin Li. You can call me Dr. Li or Sister Lily.”

“Mm.”

Lin Yuan nodded, took a sip of the tea, mentally bracing himself before he said, “My name is Lin Yuan, and I’m a songwriter who has published some songs.”

“How interesting.”

Lin Li laughed, “We’re kindred spirits. I’ve actually dealt with many artists. You’re not the first songwriter I’ve met in my professional career. Would you mind letting me listen to some of your music that you think is representative?”

Lin Yuan said, “My stage name is Xian Yu.”

Lin Li paused for a few seconds before slowly saying, “Then I suppose there’s no need to play any music. I’ve listened to all of your work. You can just tell me about your troubles, or you can write them down.”

Lin Yuan was taken aback.

He remembered Jin Mu was shocked when he found out Lin Yuan was Xian Yu. But compared to that, Lin Li was very calm. Not that Lin Yuan thought there was anything particularly shocking about it, “No need to write it down. I just have a problem; I don’t know why I have a fear of cameras.”

“Fear?”

“Fear of cameras.”

“Does that include taking selfies?”

Lin Yuan nodded. He had never taken a selfie. At least not since he’d arrived in this world. He hadn’t taken a single selfie, “Knowing the people there lightens the symptoms, and putting on a mask takes care of the problem.”

“I see...”

Lin Li smiled, “There is a pathological condition called scopophobia. I don’t know if you’ve heard of it. But in most cases, people with scopophobia have severe insecurity about their appearance. But you’re clearly not the case. I’ve never seen a more handsome client. Even in the entertainment industry, you’d be among the handsomest.”

Lin Yuan remained silent.

Lin Li continued to smile, “I imagine you’re tired of this sort of praise. What I’m trying to tell you is, no one normally doubts themselves because they look too good, unless you’ve had plastic surgery.”

“I haven’t had plastic surgery.”

“I figured as much.”

Lin Li started counting on her fingers, “Let’s rule out another possibility. Do you ever feel bothered by the attention your appearance draws? For example, stares from the opposite or even the same gender...”

“No.”

“Okay.”

Lin Li slightly furrowed her brows, “If none of these reasons apply, it’s hard for me to deduce normally. So, let’s consider an abnormal assumption. Have you ever felt, even for an instant, that you’re not you?”

Lin Yuan was stunned.

Am I not me?

While Lin Yuan didn’t answer, his unusual restlessness didn’t go unnoticed by Lin Li. Her surprised look quickly disappeared as she quickly said, “Don’t rush to answer my first question. Listen to my second one. Have you ever imagined a different life?”

“Yes.”

Lin Yuan spoke.

Lin Li topped up Lin Yuan's tea with some hot water, "We all have such fantasies. If I hadn't become a psychologist, I'd probably be in a classroom teaching children right now..."

"Today is Sunday."

Lin Yuan reminded her seriously.

Lin Li was taken aback, immediately followed by a laugh, "Your problem is a bit tricky, but it's actually not that severe. Hear me out. You may have another dormant personality. It may have been triggered or hidden for some reason. It disappeared covertly, but its lingering effects remain deep within you."

Lin Yuan: "..."

Does a previous life count as another personality?

He decided to be more explicit since he felt a sense of reliability from this doctor, "I seem to have had a different experience, but I've forgotten about it. It's kind of like amnesia symptoms..."

"Did you actually go through that?"

"Scientifically speaking, no."

"I am a believer in science. Although psychology can seem mysterious to some, it doesn't transcend the realm of science. The only rational explanation I can think of is that you might have been less attractive in the experiences you forgot, but I tend to lean towards the idea that you fantasized about disfiguring yourself."

Lin Yuan's brain jolted abruptly.

Some fragments from his past life flashed through his mind, causing a moment of pain to cross his face. He nodded gently, "I seem to have had a lost dream. In that dream, I was very popular. But then everyone saw my disfigured face. They said they would never leave me, but they eventually did, one by one, until one day everyone was gone..."

“Your fans?”

“Who knows.”

“I don’t know why you’d have a dream like that. Maybe it’s because you’re attractive to the point where a backlash occurs. But I can happily tell you a piece of news. This is the traumatic shadow that the dream has left on you. It’s not something that can be cured by medication, and you probably won’t have any sudden bouts leading to a loss of self-control...”

“Indeed, I don’t.”

“Then give it a try.”

Suddenly, Lin Li pulled back the curtains behind her. The dazzling light instantly filled the room, “Try to step out of your shadow. Try to embrace your new life. Because the past dream is already beyond your reach, but you need to stitch up your scars yourself.”

“I understand.”

Lin Yuan stood up to thank her.

At the moment he walked out of the room, Lin Yuan activated the System, “I always thought you were blocking my memories. Turns out, I was the one actively avoiding the past. I still don’t want to think about what happened, but I should know how to face the camera now...”

Lin Yuan came downstairs.

Sun Yaohuo was waiting for him. From a distance, he could see the slender figure of Lin Yuan suddenly glow under the sun. This vision was so stunning that it got Sun Yaohuo questioning:

Can my junior shine?

Meanwhile, upstairs, Lin Li was looking at Lin Yuan through the window. A gentle smile crept onto her lips. Artists always have minds that ordinary people can’t understand. But it’s because of these incomprehensible minds that they can shine in this world, isn’t it?

Chapter 459: Prince of Lanling

Lin Yuan was still unable to face the camera with ease, however, he already knew what the issue was, which was just a psychological shadow. Therefore, he decided to actively overcome it. When it was time to unveil himself on “The Masked Singer”, he would face the outside world as Xian Yu.

He couldn't as Shadow.

He couldn't as Chu Kuang.

But he could as Xian Yu, who was semi-exposed anyway—because to the company and those close to him, Lin Yuan was Xian Yu, and Xian Yu was Lin Yuan. He was not hiding behind a pseudonym.

“Are you okay, junior?”

“I'm fine now.”

Lin Yuan smiled from the passenger seat.

Seeing Lin Yuan's smile, Sun Yaohuo couldn't help but laugh too. Somehow, he found his junior's smile to be even better than before. He drove him to the company.

At the songwriting department on the ninth floor...

Lin Yuan summoned Gu Dong: “Didn't ‘The Masked Singer’ invite me? Reply to them that I accept, but I don't need them to make the mask for me. I'll find someone to custom-make it.”

“Mask?”

Gu Dong was puzzled and laughed: “Mr. Lin there must be a misunderstanding, the singers in the show have to wear masks, but the judges don't. The company thought you were apprehensive about revealing your face. I didn't expect you to....hey, Mr. Lin's voice seems different...”

“You don't need to worry about the voice, what I mean is...”

Lin Yuan enunciated each word, “I want to participate in ‘The Masked Singer’ as a singer, not as a judge.”

Gu Dong was shocked.

She thought she had misunderstood: “Singer?”

Lin Yuan nodded: “You might not know, but I’m actually a singer by profession, I only started composing for others due to certain reasons.”

“Really?”

Gu Dong was drastically surprised.

Zhao Jue had always kept Lin Yuan’s identity as a singer-turned-songwriter private.

Probably only the higher-ups in the company knew, but because of Xian Yu’s position in the company, no one revealed it.

“Of course, no problem!”

Gu Dong laughed: “I will inform the company...”

Lin Yuan interrupted: “Don’t tell the company yet. You can just represent me and communicate with the show’s crew. The company will know when I unveil myself.”

Lin Yuan still didn’t like being in the spotlight very much, which was not something that would change overnight.

Of course, he had to overcome this fear.

But he needed some time to transition and adjust.

“Okay!”

Gu Dong nodded, assuming Lin Yuan was just having fun: “I heard that not only you, but many other celebrities who aren’t singers are also interested in the show. What kind of mask do you want?”

“Have you heard of the Prince of Lanling?”

Gu Dong was stunned again: “I’m not well-read...”

“That’s not your fault.”

Lin Yuan said: “Perhaps nobody’s heard the story of the Prince of Lanling and a mask.”

The real name of the Prince of Lanling was Gao Changgong. He was one of the four great handsome men in ancient times. It was normal that Lil Goodoong, a native of Blue Star, was not familiar it, let alone the story about the Prince of Lanling and his mask.

Even in the official history of Earth, there were no records of the Prince of Lanling wearing a mask. It was said that he wore a very tight helmet.

However, the story of the Prince of Lanling and his mask was mentioned in Tanaka Yoshiki’s book “The Prince of Lanling”.

With curiosity all over her face, Gu Dong asked, “Can you tell me about it?”

Lin Yuan did not mind: “You can consider it a story I made up. The Prince of Lanling was a general in ancient times who was very good at fighting. But he had an exceptionally handsome face.”

“A handsome and brave general?”

Gu Dong’s heart instantly fluttered.

Lin Yuan continued, “For a battlefield commander soaked in blood, being too handsome is not a good thing. He might even get ridiculed by the enemy, saying that this general has the allure of a pretty man. So the Prince of Lanling made a very fierce and terrifying mask for himself, like a bloodthirsty Asura from hell.”

“Wow...”

Gu Dong bet: “That sounds so cool!”

Lin Yuan didn’t understand what was cool about it—it was more of despair.

“I need a mask like that.”

Lin Yuan wasn’t comparing himself to the Prince of Lanling nor emphasizing the beauty of his face.

The main reason he chose a mask in the form of an Asura was due to his love for a song.

The song was called “The Prince of Lanling’s Battle Song”.

It was a sort of synergy.

The Prince of Lanling would be his identity once he put the mask on.

This was the build-up, a foreshadowing for the release of “The Prince of Lanling’s Battle Song”.

“That outfit...”

“Would be something like this.”

Lin Yuan took a piece of paper, quickly found a pencil, and began drawing. Drawing was as simple as eating and drinking for someone at master level.

Swish swish swish.

Lin Yuan finished drawing.

He had drawn scenes of hell before, but although the mask of the Prince of Lanling was as terrifying as an Asura, Lin Yuan had his own aesthetic preferences. He would not replicate the Asura's appearance completely, otherwise, it would most likely fail to pass any review.

Because the ratings for the show "The Masked Singer" would definitely be high, Lin Yuan did not want to scare children.

"Let me see..."

Gu Dong took a look at the drawing and instantly widened her eyes: "Awesome!"

"Really?"

Lin Yuan looked at the mask he drew and added a few more strokes: "How about now?"

"Still awesome!"

"Is there a sense of terror?"

"Yes!"

"Really?"

"Yes, very wicked!"

Lin Yuan: ???

This term is not meant for this book.

“No, it’s more like... even though it’s made to look so terrifying, there’s an extraordinary aesthetic value to it, like art...”

“Alright then, it should have a gold and silver gradient colour.”

Lin Yuan’s mask was to cover his face. A part of the mouth area was left unobstructed, as it was needed for singing. Approximately three-quarters of his face would be covered.

“Sure!”

Gu Dong’s eyes lit up: “The painting Mr. Lin made is indeed beautiful. If this mask is made, it will certainly be a hit. Perhaps many people online will want to custom-make this mask!”

Lin Yuan said: “Just pay the copyright fees.”

Gu Dong laughed: “That’s not exaggerating at all. These days there have been rumours of singers customising the outfit of dark knights and even gods’ outfits. It’s very funny and interesting. Since you are wearing this mask, you can use the Prince of Lanling as an alias...”

“Yes.”

The nickname didn’t matter, but considering “The Prince of Lanling’s Battle Song”, to improve immersion, he would certainly use the name Prince of Lanling.

“And also...”

Gu Dong grinned: “Since you have a mask, you should have an outfit too, do you want armour?”

“That’s too heavy.”

Lin Yuan picked up his pen and started drawing again.

Gu Dong gave a thumbs-up: “This cloak is so fashionable!”

“Isn’t it?”

Lin Yuan said, “You can take care of the customisation, I’ll reimburse you later.”

“Of course.”

Gu Dong said: “With this look, they won’t be able to pull off the effect without several thousand yuan.”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Protect our Prince of Lanling!

Chapter 460: Voice Recovered

Lin Yuan’s throat had not yet healed, and by reason, he shouldn’t be able to participate in “The Masked Singer”. Lin Yuan himself thought so too. He even planned to rapidly produce several works to impact the million prestige of culture and music.

But Lin Yuan overlooked one thing:

Another cultural barrier had been broken down!

Just as before, when the Chu people joined the merging process, it created a considerable impact. Now, the Yan people began to massively engage with and absorb the culture of Qin, Qi, and Chu after joining the merging process. The works published by Lin Yuan’s few pseudonyms have attracted quite a number of new audiences. Now, the prestige provided by this batch of new audiences was gradually coming in with the arrival of mid-January...

It’s the fifteenth of this month!

Even before the completion of the long fairy tale “Shuke and Beta”, Lin Yuan’s cultural prestige officially broke the one million barriers. Most of it was provided by the Yan People audience, making Lin Yuan feel like he had just inadvertently collected a pot of prestige points.

During this process,

Through Chu Kuang's novels, many Yan people quickly became familiar with Chu Kuang. The simultaneous effect was, the number of followers of Chu Kuang's tribe also skyrocketed.

After another day had passed,

Lin Yuan's music prestige also finally broke through one million. This speed was no slower than the growth of cultural prestige. After all, Yan people could easily listen to a large number of Xian Yu's works just by searching. Especially "Mariage d'Amour", which was widely loved by Yan people who were experiencing this piece of music for the first time.

Totally effortless.

When his music and cultural prestige broke through the one million mark successively, a smile appeared on Lin Yuan's face. Meanwhile, two pleasant prompts from the system came to his ear:

[Ding Dong!]

[Congratulations to the host for completing the task "The Body is the Capital of Revolution". The host will acquire a healthy body and live until thirty without any diseases or disasters under the protection of the system.]

[Ding Dong!]

[Please confirm the surroundings, host. The system will transform the host's physique soon. This process will last half an hour. It is better to do this in an undisturbed environment; otherwise, the transformation will temporarily pause. Shall we start now?]

Lin Yuan's heart was beating faster.

Suddenly accomplishing the long-awaited health task made him slightly nervous. At this moment, he was in his bedroom. After he locked his door, no one would disturb him:

"Let's start."

Lin Yuan laid on his bed and spoke.

After saying this, he felt his eyelids growing heavy and soon drifted off to sleep. There weren't any special experiences; he just felt like he was sleeping really soundly, forgetting everything.

Half an hour later.

Lin Yuan opened his eyes.

The world seemed different. Lin Yuan could clearly feel his eyesight improving. Although his eyesight was good before, it was not in a perfect state, but the world he saw now was clearer than ever.

Well, it was still within human standards.

Lin Yuan got out of bed and started pacing around the room. He seemed to have a new sensation this time; it's as if his body was full of energy, and he didn't feel a bit dizzy like he used to when waking up. His steps were firm and robust...

"Do I have some muscles now?"

Lin Yuan examined his body.

Although the difference was not noticeable, if he felt himself with his hands, his abdomen definitely got much firmer. Many parts of his body, such as his legs, were more robust, and his heartbeat was steady but unhurried.

His condition has never been better!

Lin Yuan shouted, "Transform!"

In the empty room, only Lin Yuan's voice echoed. After all, no mutation occurred. Apparently, the 'healthy body' the system mentioned was literally just a healthy body:

“What about my throat?”

Lin Yuan attempted to warm up his pulled voice.

After his voice damaged, he had never warmed up his voice again. Any high notes would make his throat hurt. Speaking too much also made his voice hoarse. But when he tried to sing high notes today, Lin Yuan could clearly feel his voice recovering.

His previous voice was back!

Although he couldn't transform, which disappointed him a bit, his current condition was something Lin Yuan had never experienced before. He could clearly feel his strength and flexibility were way beyond what they used to be, and the most critical part was—

He could sing again!

The change in his body resulted in barely any change in his appearance. Yet Lin Yuan now felt healthier and more energetic than ever before. Both his physical and mental states were better than ever, which was reflected not by external factors but internal feelings.

“The body transformation is completed.”

The system again voiced out: “The host's body is healthier than ever before, nearly as capable as a professional athlete. The condition of the voice has returned to its previous state. Neither improvement nor deterioration was observed.”.

Lin Yuan understood.

He couldn't help but sing. Lin Yuan sang all of his released songs one after another, gradually gaining a clear understanding of his singing ability. That's when the system rang out:

[Ding Dong!]

[Congratulations to the host for breaking one million in cultural prestige. He has earned a special reward “Voice Reversal”. The host can not only speak in a normal voice but also produce the tone of a woman, making the gender of his voice indistinguishable.]

[Ding Dong!]

[Congratulations to the host for breaking one million in music prestige. He has earned a Gold Treasure Chest, which cannot be opened manually. It will automatically open upon triggering significant clues]

Voice Reversal?

Lin Yuan was stunned.

Without thinking, he tried to sing the song “Big Fish” in a female voice he casted. As soon as the voice appeared, Lin Yuan jumped himself; he could actually produce a woman’s voice:

“A human voice-changer?”

This ability was terrifying!

If people didn’t see his face, they might regard Lin Yuan as a girl if he only chatted with them using his female voice. Moreover, Lin Yuan’s female voice was natural and pretty, making people instinctively imagine a beautiful woman!

As a matter of fact,

Many singers could produce voices similar to a girl’s voice with acquired training and techniques like falsetto. Some male singers even naturally produced voices similar to female singers, even without the need of falsetto. But these gifted singers were not real women after all, while Lin Yuan could produce a genuinely pure female voice.

One must know...

It's like Lin Yuan naturally has an extra voice box; this tremendously enhanced his singing ability. It was indeed the reward for breaking a million prestige, even more abundant than Lin Yuan expected!

Right,

The other reward for breaking a million prestige was a Gold Treasure Chest. Lin Yuan couldn't help but anticipate the reward inside this Gold Treasure Chest; however, this Gold Treasure Chest couldn't be opened for now; it must trigger some conditions.

"It shouldn't be bad."

"Didn't expect that I not only got a healthy body, recovered my voice, but also gained an extra female voice. Although some male singers have similar skills, my female voice is definitely the most natural."

A true voice with indistinguishable gender!