

All R. Artist 461

Chapter 461: Singing Talent

After recovering his voice, what's the first thing he should do?

Lin Yuan's choice was:

Sing!

Sing!

And sing some more!

Pulling out his phone for accompaniment, Lin Yuan burst into song whenever he came across a familiar tune!

And he tried different ways of singing.

One line would be a perfect baritone, and the next could be a stunningly beautiful female voice!

It wasn't until several hours later that Lin Yuan finally stopped singing.

Not because he was tired of it, but a few hours of singing couldn't possibly vent years of pent-up frustration.

More importantly, if he continued to sing, he would lose his voice.

Despite being physically healthy now, he's still just a regular human. And being regular means not overdoing things—

Things like not straining his voice too much.

This is basic self-preservation for any singer.

Anyhow, he was going to participate in “The Masked Singer” in the future. As long as he wasn’t eliminated too soon, he could surely let loose and enjoy singing.

“Oh right.”

Lin Yuan suddenly called up the System: “Does this mean I won’t get sick in the future?”

The System replied: “Please remember your human status, Host. Being free from major illnesses and disasters doesn’t mean you’re immune to routine ailments like colds or fevers. If the Host doesn’t take care of his own body, there’s nothing the System can do to help.”

Lin Yuan curled his lip.

This System is great at making false promises. He formerly believed being disease-free meant he could do whatever he wanted without any consequences.

Of course.

Singing isn’t just an outlet for his bottled-up desire to sing. Lin Yuan also wanted to test the capabilities of his voice.

His conclusion was:

His vocal talent was indeed quite impressive.

With a broad vocal range, he could sing many types of songs. He excelled in the middle range, and his high notes were also noteworthy.

On the other hand, Lin Yuan’s bass singing was rather average. If he were to compete in the future, it would be best not to choose bass-heavy songs.

Here, “average” is in comparison to singers who excel in bass, not regular people.

The same goes for his female voice range.

He sang beautifully in the female midrange, an average soprano, but his female low range was rather poor.

Take “Big Fish,” for instance. Lin Yuan couldn’t sing it as well as Jiang Kui. Despite having a female voice, his voice wasn’t as high, and even if he could force himself to hit the high notes, it wouldn’t be as pleasant to the ear.

But if the song was “May We Always Be Together,” Lin Yuan could sing it without issue.

The song didn’t require many high notes and Lin Yuan’s female voice was ethereal, somewhat similar to Jiang Kui’s distinctive voice.

In this regard, the female voice that the System provided as a foundation was not bad.

Considering that the foundation lays the groundwork, Lin Yuan could always improve his skills through self-training in the future.

The same goes for his male voice.

Unfortunately, during the years his voice gave out, his singing skills didn’t improve, remaining at the level they were in his freshman year.

This could be fatal.

While talent can get you through, Zhao Jue wouldn’t have signed Lin Yuan without his talent. However, it was clear that this talent alone wouldn’t be enough to put Lin Yuan on par with top-tier singers.

How to describe it?

At the moment, Lin Yuan's skills were about average for most secondary singers.

Don't think that this level is low.

Keep in mind, Lin Yuan stopped voice training during his freshman year, so his current vocal skills are at the level they were when he began his freshman year!

Having the singing skills of secondary singers right from the start of freshman year is already a sign of extraordinary talent!

Many excellent singers don't start with truly invincible voices; they improve day by day through training.

"I need to train hard," Lin Yuan thought to himself. His bass voice was his weak point, which couldn't be improved through training.

Why can't you train in the lower range?

The low notes in singing refer to the hardware's timbre, and there's little room for Lin Yuan to improve by practicing them, as his vocal cords are fixed and can't produce sounds that exceed their limit.

In other words,

The so-called bass cannons are all natural.

Here's a simple example:

Both Eason Chan and Sun Nan can comfortably hit B4, but Sun Nan definitely can't do low notes as well as Eason Chan!

This is determined by the innate vocal difference, and practicing won't change that, just like how some can easily roll their tongue while others can't, no matter how hard they try.

On the other hand, Lin Yuan's male and female voices still have a lot of room for improvement in the high notes area.

High notes can be perfected with proper technique. If you can't reach some notes now, with professional training, you can reach them.

So, singers with a wide vocal range tend to be comfortable.

They can sing high notes that most people can't and sometimes, their low notes are unbeatable too.

Should I ask the System?

Because of the limitations of his vocal cords, expanding his low notes is challenging, but perhaps the System has a way?

This System can even provide a female voice for him, it certainly must have a method for vocal cord modification!

Thinking of this,

Suddenly, his mom's voice calling for dinner came from downstairs.

Lin Yuan replied and didn't rush to consult the System. He just calmed his slightly excited mood due to his recovery and the return of his voice, and then went downstairs.

Though there was an elevator in the villa, Lin Yuan felt like taking the stairs today.

When only six steps were left, Lin Yuan suddenly felt an impulse. He couldn't help but leap and then land lightly.

"Are you crazy?"

His sister was close to the staircase and watched Lin Yuan in disbelief before coming over, worried: "Did you hurt yourself?"

“I’m fine.”

After regaining his health, Lin Yuan’s balance and jumping ability have improved a lot. Sensing that he might be able to make the leap, he jumped.

Perhaps, Spiderman also felt the same way when he was testing his abilities after the mutation?

“Don’t be rash next time. You should know your body’s limits.”

His sister complained: “I thought I heard some noise in your room earlier, were you singing?”

“Yes, your voice...” His sister frowned, then her eyes widened: “Wait, your voice sounds like...”

Lin Yuan’s voice seemed to be back to normal. Though the difference is not significant, anyone who knows him well could tell immediately!

Lin Yuan said: “I might be recovered from my ill, recently my voice feels much better.”

He couldn’t explain the existence of the System, so he could only let those around him gradually accept it.

“Really?” His sister was excited: “Seems like you really are getting better. Your voice does sounds like it’s back to normal and you even dared to jump from so high. Now you can sing a little in your spare time, since it’s your favorite activity. But remember to test your limits, like what you did just now was not okay, got it?”

“Got it.”

“Hmm, have you seen the psychologist?” His sister asked, referring to Lin Yuan’s fear of cameras.

“No problem anymore.”

“Really?”

“Almost.”

Although the problem hadn't been solved, Lin Yuan had found the root of it. The next step was dealing with his psychological issues.

“Let's eat.”

His sister felt relieved and patted Lin Yuan's arm.

After dinner,

Just before Lin Yuan went upstairs, he suddenly said to his sister: “I will send you ‘Shuke and Beta’ in a few days.”

His sister exclaimed with joy: “Has Chu Kuang finished it?”

Lin Yuan nodded, he decided to finish this novel in his spare time, then prepare for ‘The Masked Singer’ competition.

“That's great!”

Lin Xuan was ecstatic.

She can let Shui Zhourou and others deal with the long stories, and she will continue to publish Chu Kuang's short stories. That's also a significant achievement!

The recent fuss in the long-story fairy tales circle made it quite lively.

Chapter 462: The Struggle of Qin Yan

The recent long fairy tale circle is indeed lively.

This excitement initially started because of the news on the latest creation from the veteran and creator of the Three Little Pigs series, Teacher Yuanyuan.

However, what truly stirred up the fairy tale circle again was a literary duel!

Indeed.

Three days after Teacher Yuanyuan announced the imminent release of her new work, Teacher Yuanyuan accepted a literary duel initiated by a Yancontinent person—

The initiator of the literary duel is Hu, a renowned long fairy tale writer from Yan Province!

Who is Hu?

Let's put it this way:

If Teacher Yuanyuan's Three Little Pigs is the childhood of many Blue Starian, then Hu's fairy tale, the Little Carp Adventure, is the childhood of many Yan Province locals...

Based on their status in the fairy tale circles of their respective continents, Hu and Yuanyuan are on par!

Interestingly...

Teacher Hu's new work is also published through Silver Blue Books, the title of the work is Little Kitty Adventure!

Why is it interesting?

Because this is too coincidental!

The title of Teacher Yuanyuan's work happens to be Meow Star!

The two renowned fairy tales writers from different continents, surprisingly chose “cats” as the protagonist for their new long fairy tales, even choosing the same publishing platform!

So, the sparks started to fly!

“It’s like Mars colliding with the Blue Star.”

Some people described the magnitude of this literary duel in this manner.

Others jokingly said:

“The short fairy tales of Yan people were butchered by Chu Kuang, so they simply stopped competing in short stories and are competing in long ones now...”

Short fairy tales have become unplayable.

Chu Chuang single-handedly defeating nine contenders, becoming a legend with his work Fairy Tale Town winning the title of “King of Short Fairy Tales”, this feud is equivalent to a total defeat for the Yan People in the field of short fairy tales!

So...

Recently in the Yan Continent’s fairy tale circle, no short fairy tale writer has initiated any literary duels with other states.

Because there’s no point.

The intensity of Chu Kuang’s epic fight against the nine top contenders has seen everyone’s fair share.

Any short fairy tale literary duel by Yan People will inevitably be compared with Chu Kuang’s Fairy Tale Town, then there will be an immediate sense of blandness—

Without Chu Kuang’s duel, it’s just chickens pecking each other.

Some people even think that the reason why Teacher Hu initiated a literary duel with Teacher Yuanyuan was to initiate a revenge on behalf of Yan Continent's fairy tale circle against the Qin Continent's fairy tale circle!

In short fairy tales, we Yan people admit defeat.

Chu Kuang's short fairy tales are too invincible.

But in long fairy tales, we Yan people are not afraid!

"Yan people will never be slaves!"

Since Teacher Yuanyuan and Chu Kuang are both fairy tale writers from the Qin Continent, it gives all the more reason for hypothesis among peers.

However, some people think that this literary duel does not necessarily equate to a revenge by Yan People.

"Even if Hu wins the literary duel, it is at most a moment of glory for the Yan Continent's fairy tale circle, unless Hu can follow in the footsteps of Chu Kuang, single-handedly overwhelming several same-level long fairy tale writers..."

This is impossible.

Creating a long fairy tale and creating a short fairy tale are not the same concept.

The former runs into millions of words, while the latter is just a few thousand words.

So Chu Kuang's shocking victory over nine contenders, pinning several Yan Continent elites to the ground, is destined to be forever remembered in the fairy tale circle!

"Moreover, it's not yet certain who will lose and who will win."

Because of Chu Kuang, there is a hint of regional competition between Qin and Yan.

Under such circumstances, Qin Continent's fairy tale writers will definitely support Teacher Yuanyuan.

Just like the Yan Continent's fairy tale circle, they also pinned their hopes on Teacher Hu.

On both sides, it's like a challenge match.

The Qin people are in charge of cheering for Teacher Yuanyuan, while the Yan people are in charge of cheering for Teacher Hu.

After all, both of them are among the leaders who are eligible to represent the long fairy tales of their respective continents.

Netizens on both sides have also turned on their debate mode.

"You have Chu Kuang, and we have no chance in short stories, but our long fairy tales on Yan Continent are not bad!"

"If you have read Little Carp Adventure, you will know how powerful Teacher Hu is!"

"Victory to the Yan People!"

"Teacher Hu is a sure win."

"Since making his debut in Yan Continent, Teacher Hu's record has been eight wins and no loss, do you realise what that implies?"

"He's a born literary duel master!"

"..."

The Yan people began to make a commotion.

The Qin people naturally refused to back down:

“Why don’t you take a look at the Qin people’s ‘Three Little Pigs’?”

“Chu Kuang has bashed your short stories to the ground, do you think your novels can turn the tables?”

“Teacher Yuanyuan is the next old rascal... uh, no, Chu Kuang in the realm of Qin Continent’s long fairy tales!”

“The Yan people like to be defiant; if they still refuse to admit defeat, let’s continue the fight!”

“Teacher Chu Kuang is the first stick, Teacher Yuanyuan is the second stick. Their two sticks are enough to beat all of you in the fairy tale circle!”

“Chu Kuang: Blue Star tolerates no one crazier than me!”

“Chu Kuang: Yuanyuan, you can hit them as you like, this crowd has been dizzied by me.”

“...”

The Yan people were so angry they were stomping their foot.

These Qin people just knew how to tout Chu Kuang!

We’re discussing long fairy tales here!

Chu Kuang writes short fairy tales!

The netizens from Qi and Chu regions, however, were excited spectators, possessing the enlightenment of ready spectators.

Some Chu people could actually understand the feelings of the Yan people.

Their music and comics have been successively beaten by Chu Kuang's two best bros...

Someone had even summarized:

These Three Bros are a perfect combination of inner sages and outward kings!

They are fierce as tigers in internal battle!

And appear magical in external battles!

Like Xian Yu.

While fighting local people, at least he normally puts out songs. When fighting Chu people, he straightaway tossed out 'Mariage d'Amour'!

Another example is Shadow.

While fighting local people, he lazily draws a few strokes and even makes explicit content in his comics. But when he fought Chu people, he directly threw out the incredibly drawn 'Death Note'!

Didn't Chu Kuang recently do the same thing?

Fighting his own people, the 'Snow White' sufficed.

But fighting Yan people, he unabashedly brought out nine Snow Whites, pressing down everything with 'Fairytale Town'!

At this moment, inside the Silver Blue Books, the Fairy Tale Department.

There was a standoff between Zhang Yang and Shui Zhourou.

Because Teacher Hu was invited by Zhang Yang!

Therefore...

Whatever the outsiders said about Teacher Hu also choosing to release his new work in the Silver Blue Books as a challenge to Teacher Yuan Yuan was not quite right, as it was Zhang Yang who plotted this for the competition of the chief editor position in the Fairy Tale Department of Silver Blue Books.

Zhang Yang had to bring Teacher Hu into this fray to compete with Shui Zhourou on performance.

However, Teacher Hu, while being wronged, was also not completely innocent.

Because he indeed had the intention to avenge for the Yan People's fairy tale circle!

You, Chu Kuang, undermined the short fairy tale circle of Yan by breaking its symbol, the tales, as a strong man of Yan, I, Hu, must slap the face of the long fairy tale circle of Qin!

That's how tough the Yan people are!

Being a Yan person, Hu felt such a sense of responsibility.

In the midst of such a battle atmosphere, the ultimate literary duel eventually began.

That was one week later, in the morning.

New books from Hu and Yuan Yuan were placed on the shelves of bookstores one after another.

It took three days before the result became clear.

According to the rules of the literary duel, a comprehensive evaluation was made from various aspects such as sales and reputation of the work...

Teacher Hu, won!

Chapter 463: A Single Stone Stirs up a Thousand Waves

Teacher Yuanyuan lost...

Even though these one-on-one literary duels are meant to have a fifty-fifty outcome, and Teacher Yuanyuan and Hu's books are on the same level, it's not surprising who wins or loses. Yet, this defeat is somewhat of a blow to the Qin people.

"What a shame."

"The sales and reputation of Yuanyuan and Hu's books are similar, the difference is minuscule, but it's precisely the minute difference that determines the outcome of the literary duel. Now the Yan people will start to strut around."

"So, is this their successful revenge?"

"At most, they've just saved a bit of face."

"The Yan people can't compete in short fairy tales, so they challenge us in long ones. Moreover, Teacher Yuanyuan only lost narrowly, whilst the renowned short fairy tale authors from Yan Continent were completely crushed by Chu Kuang's 'Fairytale Town'!"

"..."

The setback of Teacher Yuanyuan inevitably affected the morale of the fairy tale circle of Qin Continent. Chu Kuang, the King of Short Fairy Tales, became everyone's last comfort. Shui Zhourou experienced a similar emotion.

"Lost again."

Shui Zhourou started to chuckle bitterly.

In the first round of the deputy editor's performance competition, she and Zhang Yang both lost to Lin Xuan. She thought she could turn the tide in the second round, but in the second round, she lost to Zhang Yang again. Even though the gap wasn't significant, just like many people discussed ...

A loss is a loss.

The future editor of the Fairy Tale Department would probably be chosen from Zhang Yang and Lin Xuan, depending on whether the company values long or short stories more. Her hope seems the most bleak compared to theirs.

And in the next office...

Zhang Yang finally shook off the gloom of being crushed by Lin Xuan in the performance of short fairy tales and became exuberant: "Teacher Hu is indeed a literary duel master with eight consecutive victories, even Teacher Yuanyuan was defeated by him!"

"It's a nine-win streak now!"

The assistant was equally excited: "After eight literary duels in Yan Continent, Teacher Hu has won all of them. Including the duel with Teacher Yuanyuan, he has won nine literary duels consecutively, which is also Chu Kuang's record."

"To be fair..."

Zhang Yang's smile disappeared slightly: "Chu Kuang's nine-win streak was one-off against nine, much different from Teacher Hu. Taking into account previous victories, Chu Kuang should have ten victories in a row. He even defeated Leng Guang in the mystery genre."

"That's still pretty good."

The assistant chuckled: "Although Lin Xuan has Chu Kuang, we have the help of Teacher Hu. The situation is not too bad. In terms of importance, long fairy tales are more crucial than short ones. Even though our sales are not as high as 'Fairytale Town', the advantage of long fairy tales is there."

"I hope so,"

A twitch cornered on Zhang Yang's cheek: "I always get this uneasy feeling as if something bad is about to happen. My right eye has been twitching since this morning, it's said that twitching of the left eye means gaining wealth while the right means disaster."

Zhang Yang felt uneasily worried.

Upon hearing this, the assistant was taken by surprise, then seemingly thought of something, almost simultaneously with Zhang Yang, they turned their sights to the left wall. They knew that the office separated by this wall was the office of Lin Xuan, the third deputy editor in the department.

"Hu won."

Inside Lin Xuan's well-soundproofed office, Zhang Cheng's face was slightly heavy: "Looks like our biggest competitor for the editor position is Zhang Yang. I originally thought Shui Zhourou would be our main competitor."

"No competitors."

Lin Xuan smiled: "We just need to solidify our advantage in short fairy tales. I think Chu Kuang's new fairy tale will be completed soon. Make sure to reserve space for me then, and leave the cover space for Chu Kuang's work..."

"Beep beep beep beep."

An email alert sounded suddenly.

Lin Xuan turned her gaze to the computer screen, her smile widening: "It's better to come at the right time than early. Just as we were talking about Chu Kuang's new work, Dezhi, the chief editor of the detective department, sent Chu Kuang's new fairy tale."

"Shuke and Beta?"

Zhang Cheng had heard Lin Xuan mention this.

Lin Xuan nodded and quickly sat down in front of the computer, eager to open the novel. However, when she saw the content, she was left slightly stunned.

“What happened?”

“See for yourself.”

Lin Xuan’s expression was priceless.

Zhang Cheng hesitated, unconsciously leaning over for a glance. His face immediately mirrored Lin’s expression. Chu Kuang’s “Shuke and Beta” seemed to be not a short story as expected, but a bona fide...

Long fairy tale?

Meanwhile, in the outside world.

After Hu defeated Teacher Yuanyuan in the Literary Duel, the atmosphere in the Qin Continent’s fairy tale community was downcast. In contrast, the fairy tale circle in Yan Continent was invigorated, as if the humiliation inflicted by Chu Kuang had somewhat dissipated.

“Awesome!”

“Satisfying!”

“Revenge!”

“Though we lost in short fairy tales, we Yan people have turned the tables in long fairy tales. Teacher Hu is indeed remarkable. Now, the Qin people can only console themselves with Chu Kuang. The reign over long fairy tales is ours!”

“Teacher Hu, what a man!”

“If this were a round-based game, our score with Qin people would be one-to-one now. If only Chu Kuang didn’t write long fairy tales. It would have been more satisfying if Chu Kuang were Teacher Hu’s opponent this time!”

“...”

The atmosphere in the fairy tale circles of Qin and Yan was starkly different, and this contrast permeated the internet. Finally, Netizens from Yan Continent could proudly declare:

“We won!”

Some Yan Netizens arrogantly tagged the Qin people: “I told you before, Teacher Hu is great at writing long fairy tales. You didn’t believe it, but now you know how powerful Teacher Hu is, right?”

“Teacher Hu is mighty!”

“Our cats are stronger!”

“Allow me to revel in victory for a while. Teacher Hu, representing Yan Continent, defeated Qin. Where is your Chu Kuang now? Oh, I almost forgot. You said that Teacher Yuanyuan is the Chu Kuang of long fairy tales in Qin Continent.”

“...”

The Netizens from Qin and Yan hadn’t held back their banter because of the events between Yuanyuan and Hu. They fired at each other every day. Now that it was time to determine the winner, the Yan people didn’t hesitate to press the attack!

“What a weirdo.”

“Why are you showing off so much?”

“Dare Hu challenge nine opponents?”

“Our Teacher Yuanyuan was narrowly defeated.”

“Even though Hu won, I haven’t seen anyone declaring him the King of Long Fairy Tales. Our Chu Kuang is the King of Short Fairy Tales as recognized by the Literature and Art Association. How can you compare with that!”

“...”

When the Qin people counterattacked, they seemed a bit filled with indignation. Chu Kuang’s nine consecutive victories had previously been a sharp weapon used specifically to attack the Yan people’s weaknesses. But now, Chu Kuang became the fig leaf of fairy tales in the Qin Continent.

In Literary Duels, winners rule and losers weep.

Only the victor gets the final laugh. Regardless of the size of the gap in the outcome, no one will remember the runner-up, except for people like Cheng Zhiyu and Yue Lun. For now, when Yan people claim their superiority in long fairy tales, the Qin people don’t have any solid ground to retort.

However, that very night...

Silver Blue Books, which drew attention due to successive battles in the fairy tale circle, released another shocking book preview: “Chu Kuang’s first long fairy tale, ‘Shuke and Beta,’ to be published in five days.”

This news stirred up waves!

Chapter 464: It Starts and Ends with Me

“Holy crap!”

“A long story?”

“So, Chu Kuang, the King of Short Fairy Tales, is going to write a long fairy tale? Is he seeking revenge for Teacher Yuanyuan, just like Teacher Hu is seeking revenge for the fairy tale circle in Yan Continent?”

“Really?”

“I can’t believe Chu Kuang could also write long fairy tales. I thought he was only going to write short stories. The idea of revenge definitely isn’t realistic. Chu Kuang couldn’t have predicted in advance that Teacher Yuanyuan would lose, it’s just an interesting coincidence, like how Yuanyuan and Hu both choose cats as their protagonists.”

“Wait a moment!”

“Have you guys forgotten the lyrics of ‘Fairytale Town’? There’s a line in the song that says ‘Shuk Bacchetta is the talking mouse’, which means Chu Kuang had planned this work a long time ago!”

“Ah, a mouse?”

“The characters of Teacher Yuan Yuan and Teacher Hu are cats, and Chu Kuang’s protagonist is a mouse. It is indeed a crazy coincidence. Considering the regional conflicts in the Qin Yan fairy tale circle, does this imply a cat and mouse conflict?”

“...”

Exclamations filled both the online and fairy tale circles of Qin, Qi, Chu and Yan. The previously concluded dispute in the Qin Yan fairy tale circle was immediately renewed on a new playing field. Everyone was uncontrollably excited-

Chu Kuang had joined the fray!

With a long fairy tale at that!

His fairy tale features a mouse, a natural enemy to the cat characters of Yuanyuan and Hu. Coupled with the backdrop of the regional conflict between Qin and Yan gives everyone a sense that everything had been preordained!

Yes!

Preordained!

Why was there a regional conflict between Qin and Yan, and not the other continents? Wasn't the original cause for it Chu Kuang's shocking nine versus one duel that concluded all of the masters of short fairy tales in Yan?

Looking at the present.

Chu Kuang won the regional conflict, but Teacher Yuanyuan lost. The score between the two sides was tied, but Chu Kuang's presence crushed the balance once more, giving everyone a sense of fate – “where the story starts, it will end.”

Chu Kuang is the beginning of everything!

And he should be the one to end it!

The collective shock wore off, and both Qin fairy tale circle and the netizens were stimulated: “You Yan people were bragging about Hu's win in the Literary Duel, now with Chu Kuang here, do you dare act arrogant?”

“One versus nine warning!”

“The old rascal will save the world!”

“What counts if you just win against Teacher Yuanyuan? Can you make it past this hurdle of Chu Kuang, the old rascal? Hu might have won nine in a row, but we have a ten-win champion who has yet to make his move, do you know about nine-line operation?”

“Chu Kuang, the eternal god!”

“Chu Kuang: Teacher Yuanyuan, you step back. I, Chu Kuang, started this conflict in the fairy tale realm of Qin and Yan, so I will be the one to end it. My real opponent is Hu!”

“Very graphic!”

“Heroes always step forth in times of crisis. If doctors are heroes to patients, and police are heroes to ordinary civilians, then Chu Kuang is the hero to the fairy tale realm of Qin!”

“...”

These Yan people are intolerable!

Hu’s victory in the Literary Duel had only led to ridicule from Yan. They’ve been making the people of Qin hold back their anger. However, news of Chu Kuang’s new long fairy tale was like gasoline on fire, making the anger of Qin’s people ignite!

At this time, everyone realised:

Compared to Teacher Yuanyuan, people from Qin seem to have more faith in Chu Kuang. Even though Chu Kuang, as a newcomer to short fairy tales, had never written a long fairy tale, this level of trust is absolute!

The Qi, Chu, Yan people were all puzzled.

Everyone doubted Chu Kuang’s chances at the time of his one-versus-nine duel. Why is it that now, when Silver Blue Books announces he will be writing a long fairy tale, people of Qin not only have faith in Chu Kuang, but they seem to be more passionate about Chu Kuang than ever.”I understand now.”

“After Teacher Yuan Yuan lost to Hu, the Qin people had no choice left, and the appearance of Chu Kuang for them was like a lifesaving straw. Whether Chu Kuang could really save the world or not, the Qin people would seize him without hesitation.”

This explanation was popular.

However, a netizen from the Chu Continent had a different perspective: “The Qin people do not regard Chu Kuang as a lifeline, but truly believe that Chu Kuang has the capacity to save the world. Otherwise, their emotions shouldn’t be so high. It should be as poignant as when Chu Kuang single-handedly took on nine others.”

Someone asked, “Why?”

Someone explained, “Because Chu Kuang’s previous one-against-nine was cross-field combat, his past theme had nothing to do with fairy tales, so everyone didn’t think Chu Kuang could write fairy tales. But now the situation is different, Chu Kuang has proven his ability to write fairy tales!”

“Yes!”

A Qin person appeared: “Last time we didn’t know Chu Kuang could write fairy tales, but now we know, so we trust Chu Kuang’s fairy tale writing ability. Don’t bring up that he hasn’t written a long fairy tale before. Isn’t a long fairy tale a fairy tale too?”

This is the truth!

If Chu Kuang can write short fairy tales, wouldn’t it be only natural for him to write long fairy tales as well? Like Teacher Yuan Yuan, she’s a famous long-form fairy tale writer, but when she writes short ones, doesn’t she do it with style too?

What’s up?

So a short fairy tale is a fairy tale, but a long fairy tale is not a fairy tale? They might specialize in different areas, but at least they’re the same genre this time. In this same genre, could this little constraint restrict a monster like Old Rascal Chu Kuang?

That’s why the Qin people are excited!

However, the Yan people are not intimidated at all, even a bit like enemies meeting with extra bitterness: “We can’t compete with Chu Kuang when he dominates in the short fairy tale field. After all, there isn’t a second person in the short fairy tale authors that can take on nine others. But now that he’s causing trouble in the long fairy tale field, we must cherish this chance for revenge!”

Winning against Yuan Yuan is an honor.

Winning against Chu Kuang is a revenge.

Although no one has challenged Chu Kuang after Silver Blue Books officially announced that he would publish a long fairy tale, after all, you can't create a long fairy tale in a short period of time. Even if a long-form fairy tale writer from the Yan Continent steps in, it'd be more than they could handle. Yet, with the backdrop of the regional dispute between Qin and Yan, the atmosphere of this grand fairy tale war isn't a literary duel, but it is better than a literary duel!

The Yan people love this tune.

As the self-proclaimed representative of the Yan Continent's long-form fairy tale circle, Teacher Hu naturally likes this tune. To be exact, Chu Kuang's presence brought back to Hu the long-lost passion. He was even somewhat grateful for Chu Kuang's move.

"They weren't comparable."

"If it were about short stories, I would certainly be no match for Chu Kuang. As far as short fairy tales are concerned, no one in Yan Continent can match Chu Kuang. But if it's about long fairy tales, this is giving us a chance!"

In a hotel in Yan Continent.

A tall muscular man decisively pushed away the girl beside him, and looked at the news on Tribe with eyes shining. Though challenging Chu Kuang to a contest of long fairy tales was a bit unfair, even taking advantage of someone's predicament, the temptation to defeat Chu Kuang was too great!

Hu's eyes were flickering.

Chu Kuang is the hero of the Qin Continent.

If Hu overshadowed Chu Kuang, who had just finished the one-against-nine not long ago, he would be the hero of the Yan Continent, and his status in the Blue Star fairy tale world and in the hearts of countless Yan people would certainly soar in the future!

"Five more days?"

Why does Chu Kuang's new book have to be published only after five days? It's making people so impatient. Teacher Hu now wished he had a time remote control in his hand, adjusting time straight to five days later.

Of course.

Someone big and strong like Teacher Hu obviously wouldn't have such unscientific things as a time remote control. He could only wait silently, both anxious and excited, until the arrival of the fifth day.

Finally!

Five days later!

Chu Kuang's first long fairy tale "Shuke and Beta" was officially released. With all sorts of feelings from all sorts of people across the continents, a book-buying frenzy for long fairy tales quietly kicked off...

Chapter 465: Tonnage Crushing the Food Chain

It was 8 AM on the Qin Continent.

Inside the study room of a country villa.

Teacher Yuanyuan was sitting in the chair by the desk, receiving a fresh new novel from someone's hand. On the cover was a striking illustration of two cute mice — the one on the left was sitting on a toy airplane, while the one on the right sat in a toy tank.

The title read "Shuk and Beta!"

And at the back, it says, "By Chu Kuang."

After tearing open the sealed packaging, the woman who bought the storybook for Teacher Yuanyuan said with a smile, "The New Cathay Bookstore has a clever touch today. They promoted this book and Teacher Hu's "The Aristocats" together, even claiming it to be the ultimate showdown in Long-form Fairy Tales."

“They used the same marketing for me before.”

Teacher Yuanyuan casually replied, “But it seems like I’ve held the Qin fairy tale world back. Teacher Hu’s fairy tales are indeed more engaging, and the situation in the field is gloomy. That is, if Chu Kuang hasn’t released a new book...”

“Think Chu Kuang can win?”

“Why not read it and see?”

Teacher Yuanyuan shook the freshly unwrapped novel in her hand, deeply inhaling the scent of fresh ink, “I love the smell of new books. They smell wonderful. This book should be great.”

The woman next to her rolled her eyes.

Doesn’t ink smell the same everywhere?

Ignoring the thoughts of the person next to her, Teacher Yuanyuan cheerily flipped open the first page of the novel. The opening of the story jumped out: “Shuk was born in a family with a bad reputation...and it went on.”

Fairy tales do not strain the brain.

For an adult like Teacher Yuanyuan, reading a fairy tale mostly consisted of skimming through the plot. However, as she read through, she suddenly burst out laughing.

What an interesting story!

Shuk doesn’t want to be a mouse with a bad reputation, so he disguises himself as a pilot, going around helping others. In the end, he succeeds in earning the friendship of ants, bees, and sparrows. However, when he plans to have a dinner with these new pals, a cat shows up.

The cat reveals Shuk’s true identity.

Everyone hates mice, the cat thought that revealing Shuk as a mouse would turn everyone against him, but to its surprise, not being deterred by Shuk's identity, they all plead the kitten to let Shuk go. In the end, the little kitty had to leave in disappointment...

That was why Yuanyuan laughed.

The main villain in the story is a cat.

Any sane person who comes across this plot might suspect Chu Kuang had a teasing intention behind it, since Teacher Hu's fairy tale protagonist seemed to feature a cat.

Huh?

Teacher Yuanyuan suddenly remembered that her protagonist was also a cat, which made her laughter more hearty. Especially when she later found that the two protagonists of this book are actually two mice, and the other mouse, Beta, is proficient in commanding a tank.

We have two cats!

Chu Kuang has two mice!

But it is truly a coincidence, rats and cats are natural enemies, so it is granted that the cat serves as the villain in this fairy tale. Despite being the villain, the cat doesn't really do anything atrocious after all.

That's what Yuanyuan thought.

While Yuanyuan was reading "Shuk and Beta," Teacher Hu, also clutched a copy of the same book, but he couldn't easily burst into laughter like Yuanyuan while reading.

...

Many people purchased "Shuk and Beta," but not everyone chose to read it immediately. Some bought it for their children, as adults usually don't take an interest in fairy tales.

In comparison to the content.

The thing that most concerned everybody is whether Chu Kuang's long fairy tale can win back the glory for Qin's fairy tale circle as Teacher Hu's fairy tales were quite impressive in terms of sales and reputation, and he even surpassed Teacher Yuanyuan.

"When will the result come out?"

"If it's close, it might take a few days."

"If there's a large gap, one day will be enough."

"We can put it this way. If Chu Kuang's proficiency in writing short fairy tales is ten out of ten, then his long fairy tales would only have to reach eight-tenths of his short fairy tales to easily beat Teacher Hu."

"Sounds about right."

"He doesn't even need eight-tenths. I feel that if Chu Kuang's long fairy tales have even seven-tenths or even six-tenths of his short fairy tale's strength, he can win. His short tales are of the one-to-nine level, officially recognized as the King of Short Fairy Tales by the Literature and Art Association!"

"Five-tenths will do already!"

"You guys are exaggerating more and more. The current issue is, how much worse are Chu Kuang's long fairy tales than his short fairy tales? What if Chu Kuang's long fairy tales are of the same standard as his short stories? That would leave no hope for Teacher Hu."

"..."

You can tell at one glance that the above group of netizens are from the Qin continent. When it comes to the Yan Continent, opinions take a completely different turn: "Separately categorize short fairy tales and long fairy tales. Qin people love generalizations."

“Exactly.”

“Long fairy tales require a more comprehensive outline and a more exciting storyline to connect. Otherwise, those acclaimed fairy tale writers wouldn’t distinguish between short and long tales. Everyone has their own strengths.”

“Victory for Teacher Hu!”

“Chu Kuang is dizzy from the victory over the nine opponents in the short fairy tale competition. I can understand. Just like when I won the championship in an amateur singing contest and thought I was unbeatable until I went to an entertainment company and discovered how little I know.”

“...”

They say the mindset depends on where you stand.

During the discussion between Qin people and Yan people, this argument was proven most fair. However, even fairer than the Qin and Yan netizens would be the netizens from Qi Continent and Chu Continent. Yet, their view was:

“”It’s a fifty-fifty shot!”

Both sides have unpredictable outcomes!

But is the outcome really unpredictable? The answer to this question became clear by evening, because not everyone was chatting online without reading the book. Many people bought ‘Shuke and Beta’ and took it home to read.

Not necessarily out of interest.

Just out of curiosity.

As a result, this curiosity turned into the first batch of readers' reviews of 'Shuke and Beta', which appeared one by one on the main novel comment section of Starry Sky Network, attracting netizens who hadn't read the book to the site:

"Chu Kuang is so interesting!"

"I originally bought it for my son. I just flipped through it casually but I couldn't put it down. Shuke flying planes and Beta driving tanks have outsmarted kittens in various ways. I have burst into laughter several times. Now my son wants to compete with me for the book."

"I really like Shuke and Beta!"

"Isn't the most interesting one is the cat? The protagonist of Teacher Yuanyuan and Teacher Hu's fairy tales are kittens. But Chu Kuang changed the protagonist to two mice. The kittens became villains who were beaten up at the beginning."

"Shuke and Beta are such great pals."

"These two Zhi star people are so handsome. I remember I liked model toys when I was a child, which could let my hamster get in and start moving with a remote control. I'm a model enthusiast even now. Shuke and Beta have fulfilled my childhood dream!"

"It seems like kids really like it."

"I haven't finished reading the book yet, so I quickly came online to make my presence known. This round, Teacher Hu is out. Shuke and Beta is probably the type of fairy tale I liked most when I was a child. It's thrilling and doesn't make people feel clichéd. With two mice as the main characters, flying planes and crashing tanks directly hits the sweet spot for kids!"

"..."

It appears to be quite good?

These early comments on the Starry Sky Network formed the first impression for those who hadn't read 'Shuke and Beta', and this impression didn't change as more comments appeared. On the contrary, there seemed to be even more excitement.

Meanwhile.

Inside many families with children, the little ones were engrossed in 'Shuke and Beta', flipping the pages from time to time, their faces full of tension and excitement, as if worried about another adventure of Shuke and Beta, yet excited for another victory of theirs.

...

Still in Qin Continent.

Having read half of 'Shuke and Beta', Teacher Yuanyuan sipped her tea and smiled at the woman next to her: "Cats and mice are indeed natural enemies. But cats usually dominate the food chain and mice can only scurry away when cats play with them."

"So?"

"There are exceptions."

Teacher Yuanyuan narrowed her eyes.

The woman next to her slapped her head and said, "Speaking of mice and cats, I saw a very funny animated picture a few days ago. It was probably the situation you were talking about. Let me send it to you."

The woman took out her phone and operated it.

Teacher Yuanyuan was taken aback, then picked up her phone to open the image the woman had sent. As a result, she was stupefied when she saw the picture: a mouse bigger than a cat was eating cat food.

The cat cautiously approached.

The breed of this cat is bluish-white.

The mouse looked back at the cat and continued eating its food, its tail swung once, which instantly scared the cat away. The cat hid in the corner, trembling while looking at the mouse eating its food, leaving a very adorable impression.

“What the hell...”

Teacher Yuanyuan laughed back and forth. This seemed to be a larger species than cats, so it was quite normal for the cat to be scared. “Your picture is good, but it’s mine in the next second.”

While talking, Yuanyuan logged into the tribe.

She didn’t say anything else, but uploaded this funny animated picture. As soon as the post was published, many fans began to leave comments underneath.

“Poor cat.”

Jin Shan reposted the dynamic picture.

Qiqi also reposted it.

Turtle Master followed by reposting the dynamic picture, and left an online comment: “I always thought that cats were the natural enemy of mice, but I didn’t expect that there are cats in the world that can’t beat mice. Does this count as the food chain being crushed by the tonnage...”

A cat and mouse war?

Where is the promised war?

Lastly, in the Yan Continent, Teacher Hu, with a change of expression after a few seconds, abruptly sneezed: “Why does the smell of the new book’s ink irritate my nose so much!”

Then, there was silence.

Teacher Hu had a dream. His dream was to have a time machine, even a one-time consumable would work. All he needed was to adjust the timeline a bit. Well, this was actually a dream he had just five days ago, when he hoped he could come five days later ——

Now he wants to go back to five days ago.

Saving face is possible, but revenge isn't.

The heated regional competition seems to be drawing to a close in an almost humorous manner. From Chu Kuang's penetrating through nine to the final unique "Cat and Mouse War", it's as interesting as a long fairy tale.

Chapter 466: Playing with Tickets

It was clear that Hu had lost, whether by the public comments on Starry Sky Network or the subtext of the fairy tale authors' reactions. Despite some stubborn Yan people denying the reality, the results were undeniably clear when the sales volume of "Shuke and Beta" came out the following day. They could no longer muster a counterargument because the outcome was so evident.

It was not an overwhelming win.

But it felt like one.

Chu Kuang's work didn't completely crush Hu's, but in the context of this regional battle, he played two roles in the Qin-Yan fairy tale dispute –

The story began with him.

The end came from him.

Even without intentionally belittling Hu, there's an air of "I'm still your superior" about him, which undoubtedly added a legendary aura to Chu Kuang. It further reinforced everyone's understanding of his ability to write fairy tales.

"The old rascal is still strong!"

“The old rascal is indeed awesome! Only these Yan people never learn. After being thrashed by the old rascal in short stories, they thought they could challenge him in the realm of novels, and the old rascal won’t have the capacity to handle them?”

“Offenders of Qin shall be executed, no matter how far they run!”

“Although Chu Kuang isn’t as explosive in writing novels as he is in short stories, he’s still among the most formidable writers on Blue Star. Hu’s defeat is justified. I personally think Chu Kuang’s novels are about 70% as powerful as his short stories.”

“Shouldn’t it be 80%?”

“It’s a shame that Chu Kuang didn’t completely crush Hu this time. If he had, Chu Kuang should now be known as the Fairy Tale King instead of merely the King of Short Fairy Tales. Am I having too high expectations for the old rascal?”

“...”

Yan people collectively spat blood.

These statements were too heart-wrenching. Was being the King of Short Fairy Tales not enough? Did they want Chu Kuang to also claim the title of Fairy Tale King in the realm of long fairy tales? Even the bravest of souls need limits. Do they really think the Blue Star fairy tale world revolves around Chu Kuang alone?

Pure greed!

Despite their burning anger, the Yan people couldn’t counterattack. Unless another stronger Yan person stepped up to defeat Chu Kuang, but that required a more powerful long-form fairy tale author to emerge in Yan and make a move.

Such people were rare in Yan.

To be more specific, there was only one.

So even though the Yan people were still unwilling to admit defeat, at least for now they had completely ceased their attempts. Both short and long form fairy tales had been dominated by Chu Kuang, and in the short term, no one would dare to directly challenge Chu Kuang again.

And there was no reason to!

Chu Kuang had already written so many fairy tales consecutively. Challenging him to a literature duel was equivalent to constant attacks. Shouldn't they let him rest a bit?

The Yan people had a sense of honor.

Even after losing the regional battle, they didn't show much rage. Instead, some Yan people went on to buy Chu Kuang's works and read them, contributing to his sales.

"Our own kind."

Some Yan people calmly stated, "The different continents of Blue Star are, after all, a family. There's no need to emphasize differences. The core purpose of fairy tales is to weave dreams for children's childhoods. Battles have no real meaning."

The Chu people: "..."

The noble Yan people could bend or stretch?

After being pummeled by Admirable Fish and Shadow in music and comics, the Chu people said the same thing, that nothing came out of battles. But everyone on Blue Star knew – no one loved battles more than the Yan people!

Let's get back to the point.

After Lin Yuan posted "Shuke and Beta," he didn't pay attention to the fairy tale circle anymore. He didn't even know that he had become a hero for the Qin people. It was his sister who told him about it, and only then did he realize that another regional dispute had ended.

This gave Lin Yuan some food for thought.

It seemed that the path to a united Blue Star was still a long way off. Even though Qin, Qi, Chu, and Yan had merged, they weren't wholly united. Often, they couldn't resist comparing themselves. No wonder the higher-ups decided on the grand unification scheme. If they didn't infuse the various continents, in the future, each might start governing independently and even become separate nations.

"The situation is settled!"

Lin Xuan excitedly informed Lin Yuan that Chu Kuang's long and short stories set her performance in stone. When the company selected the editor-in-chief, she would probably be the top candidate.

"Congratulations."

Lin Yuan said with a smile.

His sister shook her head: "I didn't actually do anything. You pulled Chu Kuang onboard. Without him, I would've never been able to compete against those two rivals. Chu Kuang truly is a GOAT who can prop up a whole department by himself..."

"Yeah."

Lin Yuan took the opportunity to remind her: "Chu Kuang will probably focus on writing detective novels and won't touch fairy tales for now. When he regains interest in writing fairy tales, I'll ask him to give you the works for publication."

"Of course!"

Lin Xuan nodded seriously.

She knew that Chu Kuang wrote fairy tales solely because her little brother had asked for his help privately. Now that her situation was temporarily stable, Chu Kuang certainly needed to focus on his own affairs. However, the outside world would never imagine that the reason behind Chu Kuang writing fairy tales was so offhand, right?

Lin Yuan also nodded.

He didn't plan to write any more fairy tales in the short term. He'd pick up this genre again in the future. After all, he needed to complete the many stories in the Hercule Poirot series. Moreover, he was going to participate in The Masked Singer competition next!

Indeed.

As the regional turbulence in the fairy tale circle settled, The Masked Singer finally sent out news about upcoming recordings. At the same time, Lin Yuan received his custom-designed mask and costumes.

“Try them on!”

When Lil Goodoong brought the clothes to Lin Yuan's office, her eyes shone. After all, the custom designs for the clothes and mask cost a whopping 120,000. The anticipation for how they would look on him was high!

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan agreed.

Gu Dong stepped out momentarily. Once Lin Yuan had changed into his custom-made clothes and put on his glamorous mask, she re-entered the room. Upon seeing Lin Yuan's new look, her mouth formed an 'O'.

“What do you think?”

“That's so cool!”

“Should I tone it down a bit?”

“Please, wear it just like this!”

To Lin Yuan's surprise, Gu Dong even bowed to make her request.

Lin Yuan hesitated for a moment, but didn't say anything. This outfit looked far better than the ones he saw in those Prince of Lanling type dramas on Earth. The effort put into this outfit worth tens of thousands was evident. He took off the mask and asked:

"Have we finished registering?"

Gu Dong nodded, "The show enforces strict rules. Ideally, the singer's identity should be hidden tightly. However, the director of the program needs to know who the singer is. So, they want to have a video call with you."

"No problem."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Gu Dong made a video call. The person who answered had a very ordinary face, but his surprised expression at seeing Lin Yuan's new look was anything but ordinary.

"Teacher Admirable Fish?"

"Yes, I'm Admirable Fish."

Lin Yuan replied through a veil of discomfort.

The person on the other line sighed, "Hello, Teacher Admirable Fish. I'm Tong Shuwen, the director of 'The Masked Singer'. You really are as young and handsome as the internet rumors suggested. We initially planned to invite you as a guest judge for a few episodes, not expecting you to participate as a contestant. Of course, I won't reveal any more details. Are you planning to wear this outfit for the competition?"

"Yes."

Lin Yuan donned his mask and let Gu Dong use her phone to take a spin around him, letting the other party familiarize themselves with his appearance, before continuing the conversation.

“Has the time been confirmed?”

“Yes, it’s confirmed.”

He laughed and said, “The official filming will begin in February. We’ll inform you in due time. Please prepare yourself, because you’ll be performing in the first episode!”

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan didn’t continue the conversation with him. A few short words and he ended the call — it was enough to let him know who he was.

On the other end.

After the call ended, Tong Shuwen couldn’t suppress his excitement any longer — his body began shaking involuntarily from exhilaration!

Admirable Fish!!!

He hadn’t expected Admirable Fish to join as a contestant. Tong Shuwen could almost imagine the explosive reaction when the mysterious Admirable Fish took off his mask on the stage of “The Masked Singer.”

This was going to be explosive news!

He specifically arranged for Admirable Fish to perform in the first episode with this intent in mind. The sooner a contestant like Admirable Fish unveiled himself, the better it would be for the show!

After all, Admirable Fish was just a composer.

Most of his opponents were powerhouse singers. It was possible that Admirable Fish might bomb out in the first episode, and if that were to be the case, the ratings for the first episode would explode!

Of course.

If, due to strong skills, Admirable Fish is slow to reveal his identity, that's also a good thing. The longer the build-up, the more dramatic the reveal will be when it finally happens!

But how could that be possible?

Admirable Fish was not a professional singer, this competition could hide the past glories of the singers, but it could not hide the singer's inherent singing skills!

Unless...

As a composer, Admirable Fish also possessed singing skills comparable to a professional singer. But as for something like this, Tong Shuwen certainly didn't have high expectations. Just based on Admirable Fish's looks, if he really had strong singing skills, why would he compose for others?

He should have debuted himself.

In this circle that valued both skills and appearance, if Admirable Fish had even a bit of singing ability, combined with his terrifying composing prowess, he could easily become a sensation.

That was Tong Shuwen's thought.

Recently, a lot of people have been contacting Tong Shuwen, like Admirable Fish, other composers as well. Many actors have also joined the fray. There are even sports stars who want to participate in the show. Tong Shuwen understood the mentality of these people.

They only participated for fun while hiding behind masks.

Admirable Fish was the same.

Even if Tong Shuwen's brain was kicked by a donkey, he wouldn't refuse Admirable Fish. He'd even considered privately inviting Admirable Fish to be a judge on 'The Masked Singer' after his reveal.

“So, who’s the celebrity contestant this time?”

The assistant director next to him, curious at Tong Shuwen’s excitement, couldn’t help but ask. Although he didn’t know which people were participating, the director had previously revealed some names, giving the impression of a chaotic fight.

“Indeed, it’s a celeb.”

After some thought, Tong Shuwen added, “But I have to keep his name a secret. I guess it won’t be a secret for long. He’ll probably reveal himself soon. You’ll know by the time we finish recording the first episode.”

Assistant Director: “...”

It seemed like this was another non-professional singer who’d come to the show just for fun. But if Tong Shuwen nodded in approval, it meant this playful person must be a big shot.

Chapter 467: How Come You Have So Many Fish

Tong Shuwen played a good hand.

His way of thinking was indeed correct, who would expect that Xian Yu was actually a singer about to debut, but couldn’t sing because of his damaged vocal cords and thus reluctantly turned to composing, with enormous success as a result?

As for whether losing the competition would affect Xian Yu’s position as a judge...

There is even less to worry about with that.

Here, you can make an incomplete but appropriate analogy:

The relationship between a composer and a singer is like that between a screenwriter and an actor.

You say that a screenwriter and an actor compete in acting, and if the screenwriter loses, does that mean he is not qualified to judge the actor?

There's no such rule.

Plus, Xian Yu's relationship with his collaborating singers is probably not just that of a screenwriter and an actor, but also that of a director and an actor.

Think about it.

For Xian Yu's songs, he writes the lyrics, composes the melody, and even does the arrangements himself. The singers are responsible only for the singing part.

Even how to sing is mainly up to Xian Yu's discretion.

Most top composers in Blue Star control the quality of their songs and choose their singers themselves.

Of course, this is not absolute.

If the composer is not high-profiled enough, while the singer is very influential, then the singer does have the right to speak out.

Just like in a film crew, popular actors can make novice directors listen to them.

But let's not discuss unconventional situations.

Because the judges invited to "The Masked Singer" are all high-ranking individuals in the music industry, including the Maestro.

No singer can surpass the Maestro, not even the King or Queen of Singing.

Bear in mind that the Kings and Queens of Singing were created by the Maestros, and there wouldn't be any Kings or Queens without them.

“Release some information.”

The program director, Tong Shuwen, said with a smile: “The public is getting impatient.”

“Alright.”

The assistant director nodded.

On the same day.

The production team of “The Masked Singer” announced a message:

“Our program will start recording on February 1, and the six mysterious guests for the first episode are already prepared. We can’t disclose their names here; everyone can guess who they are based on their voices and performances, which is the real fun of this program. Nevertheless, we can share some exciting news with all of you. Among the six guests on the first episode, each one is extremely prominent. Not only are there top singers in the industry but even the Kings and Queens of Singing. Also, the panel of the first episode is led by the Maestro. To know who it is, make sure to tune in to the program on time!”

Boom!

The news caused a sensation, not only because of the announced date of the recording but also due to the revealed information about the singers –

“Finally, it’s here!”

“Each guest is extraordinary. Who will be the first revealed?”

“Top-level singers?”

“Huh? Kings and Queens of Singing!?”

“It was worth the long wait. Not only are top-level singers competing on the same stage, but also the Kings and Queens of Singing!”

“And this is only the first episode!”

“Hahaha, the first episode already poses a hellish challenge. I love it!”

“The judges are damn impressive too! The Maestro is leading the panel right off the bat!”

“Damn, Maestros are usually elusive figures behind the scenes. They’re the hidden giants in the industry and rarely show up in musical programs!”

“One million times better than ‘Bloom’!”

“I remember that ‘Bloom’ would invite the Maestros to preside only in the grand finale. These Maestros are top dogs in the music industry. Their words are truth and they are not afraid of offending singers. Unlike ordinary judges who prefer to play nice and blindly blow their trumpets.”

“...”

Who says behind-the-scenes go unnoticed?

Some are indeed of great interest to the public.

For instance, those top directors in the film industry, or the key scriptwriters in the core production.

Or the Maestros in the music industry.

Therefore, as soon as the production team released the news, it caused a stir both inside and outside the industry. Everyone’s attention was firmly drawn to the anticipation created by the team!

...

In a certain community,

Sun Yaohuo called his agent and asked a question: “Why are my songs popular but I’m not?”

“Because you’re not attractive enough.”

The agent replied without hesitation.

Sun Yaohuo’s face immediately darkened: “Open your damn eyes and look, aren’t I a million times better looking than you?”

“Don’t worry about it.”

The agent chuckled: “I mean, your looks are too ordinary for our entertainment industry. Even though everyone cares more about the singer’s ability, no one would deny the bonus points an artist gets for good looks.”

“What about my voice?”

“Pretty good.”

“What if I cover my face to sing...”

“You want to participate in that program?”

“Yes.”

The agent said: “I think it’s a good idea. This program suits you well. The audience can’t see your face, so they will pay attention to your voice. And your voice is actually the kind that doesn’t amaze you at first but becomes surprisingly appealing the more you listen to it.”

“Then let’s apply. I’ve even figured out my stage persona. What do you think of the ‘Fishman’?”

“Fishman...”

The agent laughed: “Sounds good.”

Meanwhile,

In a hotel,

Jiang Kui stared at her manager: “I want to participate in ‘The Masked Singer’.”

“Even if you didn’t say it, I would suggest you participate. Your singing skills are as good as the Kings and Queens of Singing, but your experience is a big problem. However, this show doesn’t look at experience. After everyone puts on their masks, they can only rely on pure singing skills. If the Maestro-level judges announce that you are as good as the Queen of Singing, the moment you reveal yourself will be incredible...”

The manager’s eyes flickered.

Jiang Kui said: “I’m confident that no one will recognize my voice. When the time comes, everyone will be guessing who this powerful mermaid is.”

Her manager was stunned: “Mermaid?”

Jiang Kui smiled: “I plan to make my appearance as a mermaid. There’s a fairy tale called ‘The Daughter of the Sea’ that’s popular recently, right?”

Her manager broke into a hearty laugh: “I’m guessing it’s not because of the fairy tale, is it?”

Jiang Kui rolled her eyes: “Can’t I pay tribute to my idol?”

The manager was speechless.

Meanwhile,

Chen Zhiyu also contacted his agent: “Did you sign up?”

“You’re already signed up, you’ll debut in the second installment.”

“Good.”

“Have you decided on your stage persona yet?”

“What do you think of Fishman?”

Agent: “...”

Chen Zhiyu coughed, “The Golden Dragon fish persona.”

His agent, struggling to suppress a laugh, said, “No problem at all, but be prepared for your old quirks to be dredged up once you reveal your identity online.”

Chen Zhiyu retorted grumpily, “Let’s not dredge up the past.”

His agent agreed, “Stay on the show as long as you can. If you can knock off a few Kings and Queens of Singing, it’ll do wonders for your future.”

“I’m aware of that.”

Chen Zhiyu clenched his fist.

...

The waves of popularity from The Masked Singer drew in not only netizens but countless singers, too.

Everybody’s faces are covered. So what if they’re Kings of Singing?

Who's afraid of whom?

Meanwhile, at the program group...

Tong Shuwen's phone was ringing non-stop.

After hanging up another call, Tong Shuwen couldn't help but laugh, "The initial applications for the show were enthusiastic enough, but today has been even more intense than I expected!"

"Naturally."

The assistant director chuckled, "The further you go in this program, the more you can prove your singing prowess. Following the merger of Qin, Qi, Chu and Yan, there are so many singers, but many are only known within their own regions. This show offers them a chance to be recognized by other regions!"

"Hmm."

Tong Shuwen answered another call. After hanging up, he said, "That was a singing queen hoping to be recognized by audiences of other regions. She requested to reveal her identity late in the show, as it would be hugely embarrassing for her if she as a top-tier candidate, even a King or Queen of Singing, were eliminated early."

"No chance."

The assistant director said, "The Kings and Queens of Singing didn't get their titles by bluffing. It would be hard for an average top-tier singer to beat them."

"..."

Dazzling Silver Glow.

Fei Yang's agent looked at him intently, "Surely you'll participate?"

“No!”

Fei Yang retorted angrily, “What if Xian Yu becomes a judge, publicly evaluates my singing, and even criticizes me? Won’t I lose face then?”

“Fearful of criticism about your singing?”

His agent sneered, “More like you’re afraid of appearing in the same program as Xian Yu and everyone dredging up your past, right?”

“Anyway, I’m not participating!”

Fei Yang fumed, “Even if I starve to death, or leap from this place, I’d never join The Masked Singer!”

His agent sighed, “I never heard anything about Xian Yu being a judge. He doesn’t seem to like showing his face.”

Fei Yang snorted, “Even a slight risk isn’t worth taking. Plus, do I really need a show to prove my talents?”

“But this is a chance for fans from other regions to recognize you.”

“Do you think fans from other regions would find me unfamiliar?”

His agent held his forehead in frustration.

Of course not. After all, who doesn’t know the Perennial Runner-Up?

Fei Yang gained widespread popularity through his “Perennial Runner-Up” quirk!

Even the newly joined people from Yan Continent, through the enthusiastic introduction of the Qin, Qi and Chu netizens, have learned about King Fei’s glorious track record.

“Alright,”

The agent said in disappointment, “This program’s a golden opportunity. As far as I know there are many Kings and Queens of Singing participating.”

Fei Yang waved his hand dismissively.

His agent didn’t say anything further.

Back to the program group.

Tong Shuwen hung up another call.

He had lost count of how many calls he’d received that day.

Just then, a strange look came across Tong Shuwen’s face

“What’s wrong?”

The assistant director thought something had put Tong Shuwen in a difficult position.

“Nothing,”

Tong Shuwen wondered out loud, “Just don’t know why, but many singers seem to like using fish as their stage personas.”

The assistant director stared blankly, “Fish?”

Tong Shuwen nodded, “There’s a mermaid, a golden dragon fish, and one without a stated type, anything as long as it’s a fish...”

“Three of them?”

“Three so far, is there some special significance to a fish?”

Tong Shuwen thought for a moment, then laughing, said, “I think I’ve figured it out.”

“Figured out what?”

“Nothing.”

Tong Shuwen was being mysterious.

His phone rang again.

On the other end of the call, the voice said, “We’ve decided on the mermaid persona, the color will be...”

“We already have a mermaid.”

“Ah? There’s already a mermaid. Well, it’s no surprise, they’re really pretty. Let’s go with the golden dragon fish then.”

“We also have a golden dragon fish.”

“Why do you have so many fish?”

“Perhaps everyone just likes fish. How about we design a carp persona for you?”

“Sure, but make it pretty.”

“That’s a given. We will tailor it specifically for your singer... No no no, there won’t be any persona clash. Every fish is... er, distinct.”

“...”

The call ended.

Tong Shuwen shrugged at the assistant director, “That’s four fish now. I wonder if there’ll be a fifth. Maybe our show should be renamed ‘All Fish Banquet’.”

Assistant Director: “...”

Chapter 468: Live Performance

“Mr. Lin, this is an invitation from the show’s production team.”

A few days later, Lil Goodoong brought a beautifully made invitation into Lin Yuan’s office.

“Read.”

Lin Yuan was writing the next series of Hercule Poirot Series in front of his computer without stopping. He didn’t have time to read it himself.

“Okay.”

Lil Goodoong opened the exquisite invitation and cleared his throat:

“Thank you, Teacher Admirable Fish, for participating in ‘The Masked Singer’. The production team sends you their most sincere greetings. You are one of the guests for the first episode. Please arrive at Su City Music Center on February 2nd to participate in the official recording...”

The rest was an introduction of the show’s rules.

“The program will be aired in the form of a weekly recorded broadcast. There are six contestants in each episode. After each singer performs, they will be scored by an on-site audience of five hundred, fifty professional music critics, and four judges. Each audience member has one vote, each critic has two votes, and each judge has one hundred votes. The total score will be out of a thousand...”

The votes that the judges hold could potentially be critical.

The show seemed to have considered this issue, so they designed a mechanism to indirectly weaken the influence of the judges:

“The 100 votes of the judges will be issued in an allotment method. The total number of votes per episode should not exceed 100, while the audience and the critic panel will have the right to vote in each round.”

That’s much better.

The audience has the right to vote in every round, meaning they essentially have six votes after six rounds.

Yet, each member of the critic panel would have a total of twelve votes.

Although, they cannot allocate.

The judges, on the other hand, have more flexibility as they can distribute their votes.

They could give all of their hundred votes to a certain contestant, or they could vote for multiple singers, as long as the total does not exceed one hundred...

Lil Goodoong continued to read:

“In each episode, the singer with the lowest votes will be eliminated and must reveal their identity, while the next lowest in ranking will be put on hold and does not have to reveal their identity. They will face a ranking challenge in the following episode.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Having the lowest voted contestant eliminated was routine, the second lowest voted contestants still having the possibility to win was intended to provide an opportunity for some really talented, but occasionally underperforming singers a chance to turn the tables.

“In addition...”

“The show does not interfere with the selection of songs by the singers. The Literature and Art Association will liaise with major companies to acquire the performing rights of the songs for the competition, while also allowing singers to sing new songs during the competition...”

At this point, Lil Goodoong chuckled and said:

“The company has received a notice from the Literature and Art Association. Director Zhou asked me this morning whether you are willing to authorize the contestants of the show to perform your songs. The copyright fee will be in accordance with the standard for this type of show...”

“No problem.”

Lin Yuan didn't mind if others sang his songs. As a matter of fact, no composer would.

This was the impressive part about 'The Masked Singer'. They had the backing of the Literature and Art Association. Who would refuse a request from the Literature and Art Association?

Next, Lil Goodoong read some more instructions from the production team.

Lin Yuan had no objections to any of the terms mentioned.

If he could accept revealing his identity, then what other conditions could he possibly refuse?

...

Apart from Lin Yuan's assistant Gu Dong, there was another person who knew he was going to participate in 'The Masked Singer'.

That afternoon,

Lin Yuan went to the manga studio and told Jin Mu the news.

Jin Mu did not know about Lin Yuan's camera phobia, so he didn't think Lin Yuan going to sing was a big deal. The identity of Admirable Fish was semi-public anyway.

He had only one concern:

"Being on 'The Masked Singer' is fine, but after you reveal your identity, you won't be able to conceal the identity of Shadow anymore."

Lin Yuan said: "Leave that to you."

Jin Mu nodded: "Does anyone else at the school know that you are Shadow?"

"No."

The school only knew that Lin Yuan was good at drawing, but no one knew that Lin Yuan was actually the manga artist Shadow.

Only a few people, like Zhong Yu, knew Luo Wei was Lin Yuan's manga assistant.

But no one knew exactly what manga Luo Wei and Lin Yuan were drawing, even if someone who knows Luo Wei could guess through subtle hints, it would not cause a great influence.

The truth held by only a few ordinary people was hard to widely disseminate, plus Jin Mu would surely have some kind of back-up plan on his end.

"Understood."

Jin Mu said with a smile, "So the people who know that you are Shadow are basically limited to Luo Wei and the other assistants in the studio. When you reveal your identity formally, I will talk to them about the principle of confidentiality, and also support you in handling the aftermath."

"Okay."

For this outing, Lin Yuan was only going to reveal Xian Yu's aliases; it was preferable for Shadow and Chu Kuang to remain behind the scenes.

"By the way..."

Jin Mu asked curiously, "Boss, can you sing too?"

Lin Yuan replied, "Just a little."

He didn't tell Jin Mu that he had switched his career to a composer as his vocal chords had given out.

"Only a little?"

Jin Mu looked at him quizzically. "Wow, you really do have a little bit of everything up your sleeve, don't you?"

"There are also many things I can't do."

"Like what?"

"I can't transform."

Jin Mu: "..."

Lin Yuan thought for a moment, then added, "I mean 'transform' as in my physical form. Not the sound of my voice."

Jin Mu was puzzled.

Did that clarification matter?

Was he trying to explain the difference between nasal sounds to me?

“...”

After his dialogue with Jin Mu, Lin Yuan took out a notebook and started scribbling away.

He was preparing for the competition.

The most important preparation, of course, was song selection!

Unlike most singers who would cover other people's songs.

Lin Yuan did not plan to cover other people's songs, nor was he planning to sing songs he had written for others...

He wanted to sing a new song!

With the high ratings of “The Masked Singer”, singing a new song was a great way to gain popularity.

But the purpose of Lin Yuan doing so was not just to gain popularity, but also because his singing skills were subpar.

Of course, this subpar singing skill was only when compared to top-tier singers and even the King and Queen of Singing.

So, to compensate for his poor singing skills, Lin Yuan had to perfectly execute his new song.

After all, he had the System, so he wouldn't run into any situations where his creation speed couldn't keep up with the competition.

But, singing a new song also had its drawbacks...

The issue at hand was whether the audience would accept the new song.

If the audience couldn't get Lin Yuan's new song at first listen, this feature could not only not becoming Lin Yuan's strength, but rather, it could become his weakness!

Thus, Lin Yuan's song selection needed to be taken very seriously!

He needed to choose songs that were easily understood by the audience.

After all, "The Masked Singer" was a live performance competition, which was completely different from a season-long race.

For seasonal songs, the audience could listen repeatedly, contemplate on them, and ultimately feel the rhythm of the song. Many songs might just seem okay at first, but they grow on you.

That's why "May You Live Long" became popular.

But with live performances, the audience could only listen once.

Performing a song like "May You Live Long" on this kind of stage would surely be disadvantageous.

Because after listening to it once, many people might not yet comprehend how brilliant the song is by the time they need to vote...

So, the first impression of a live song is the most important!

If the first impression is not good, even if the lyrics are meaningful, the song's connotations profound, and the composition techniques top-notch, it's all for naught!

"What songs would fit the stage?"

"It would be best if they could take full advantage of my strengths..."

Lin Yuan summoned the System, entered the music library, and started searching for suitable choices.

As Lin Yuan pondered and chose songs, time slowly slipped away.

With the fervent discussions about “The Masked Singer” across the web, people’s enthusiasm grew day by day!

The competition was drawing near...

Chapter 469: Variety Show Black Hole

February 2nd.

Music Center.

Underground parking lot.

Covered in Prince of Lanling’s costume and mask, Lin Yuan was firmly concealed. The Lil Goodoong sitting in the driver’s seat said, “I won’t accompany you throughout the whole program, Mr. Lin, to prevent anyone from guessing your identity because of me. After you go in, the program team will assign you a temporary agent who will be with you throughout the rehearsals and recordings, until you officially reveal your face and leave...”

Lin Yuan nodded.

The Masked Singer had arrived!

The recording would take place today. The entire perimeter of the Music Center and its underground parking lot were sealed off. No one could enter without an invitation from the program team. They had done an excellent job at keeping the identities of the singers secret.

Bidding Lil Goodoong farewell.

Lin headed toward the elevator, where a beautiful girl was waiting. Upon seeing Lin Yuan's appearance, her eyes lit up. She took the initiative to say, "Excuse me, are you Teacher Prince of Lanling?"

"Yes."

Lin Yuan replied.

His voice was specially processed by a machine. When he entered the parking lot, the program staff equipped Lin Yuan with a voice modulator. With this device, his real voice was completely unrecognizable. However, even without disguise, it wouldn't matter, because most people haven't heard Lin Yuan's voice, and he is known for being tight-lipped. Even coaxing him to speak is a challenge.

"Hello."

The girl introduced herself: "I'm your agent, Tongtong. Welcome to 'The Masked Singer'. I will be your personal assistant for this episode. Now, I will take you to the rehearsal area prepared by the program for all the teachers."

"Thank you."

Lin Yuan replied politely.

Tongtong reminded him, "The rehearsal time is rather tight, as we will start the official recording tonight. Also, when we come out of the elevator, the official recording will begin. Some interesting footage will be edited from this recording for the broadcast."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Rehearsal was indeed important. It was now one o'clock in the afternoon, and the official competition began at six o'clock in the evening. As per the usual, the production team allocated a few hours of rehearsal time for the singers to go through the recording process, test the choreography, lighting, and sound effects. Most importantly, they had to sync with the band. As for the song Lin Yuan was going to sing, it had been sent over a few days ago. All the arrangements followed his specifications. The program team wouldn't change anything. However, if the band had any good suggestions, Lin Yuan would consider adopting them.

Just play the accompaniment?

A top-tier music program is not a cheap karaoke room. It does not rely on live accompaniment, as performances with only accompaniment are too low-level for high-end variety shows. It would be awkward for the singer, even more so than having a puppy play a mythical creature in a period drama.

It would plummet their status.

To achieve the most breathtaking on-stage music performance, the program providing top-tier band support is vital. The sound of live percussion instruments is incredibly engaging. Such performances can sway the audience's emotions and better demonstrate the layers of a song. In a sense, live music and drama are similar—it may seem like only the actors are performing with all their hearts, but in reality, it's a culmination of countless behind-the-scenes collaboration. For example, the publicly released audio equipment of this show is unimaginably expensive. 'The Masked Singer' aims to present the best singing performance that current technology can offer!

As for the recording...

Although he has camera anxiety, now that his face is completely covered, how these cameras film him wouldn't greatly affect Lin Yuan's state of mind. Just let it be.

With a ding.

The elevator opened.

Several cameras were already aimed at him. At the same time, two crew members in suits came forward to help Lin Yuan. Since Lin Yuan was wearing a face-obscuring mask and was wrapped up tight in clothing, he had difficulty walking. Lin Yuan didn't resist their help.

"Are you tired?"

"It's okay."

“Your outfit is pretty. You must be a handsome guy. Especially the mask; did you have someone custom make it for you? A lot of singers customize their own clothes and masks.”

“Yes.”

Tongtong tried to steer the conversation, only to be met with despair as no matter how she tried, Prince of Lanling always kept his responses short.

...

No filming was allowed during the rehearsal process. Everything went even smoother than Lin Yuan had imagined, as all the band members were highly skilled. However, after the rehearsal ended, the music director couldn't resist having a chat with Lin Yuan: “Is this song composed by you, Teacher Prince of Lanling?”

The music director's name is Hu Yapeng.

Hu Yapeng is no ordinary man. He is a top music producer in Blue Star, with master-level skills in piano, as well as proficiency in keyboards, guitars, and other musical instruments. His arrangement techniques are widely recognized in the industry as insane. Many of the singing kings and queens invite him to be their music director during concerts, so it's fitting that ‘The Masked Singer’ invited him.

“Yes.”

Before officially revealing his identity, Lin Yuan must do everything he can to boost the reputation of his Prince of Lanling persona. Therefore, other than the band, all the names in the composition section of his songs had been replaced with “Prince of Lanling”. This included lyrics, composition, arrangement, and final performance. This was also a means of voting for himself within the rules of the program.

“Amazing.”

Pang Ban praised, “Although we don't know who is behind the mask, it's commendable that you can compose music and voice it as well. There are too few singer-songwriters like you.”

Singer-songwriter!

This was the character Lin Yuan crafted for Prince of Lanling. Even though most singers and songwriters at Blue Star each had their own speciality, there were some multi-talented artists who could both sing and compose. In the realm of fantasy novels, such talent would equate to a “magician-warrior” of sorts.

Indeed, they were rare.

But not nonexistent.

Lin Yuan nodded in agreement.

Tongtong took Lin Yuan back to the dressing room, then pointed to the television mounted on the wall. “Prince of Lanling, we can follow the ongoing performances through this television...”

There was a knock at the door.

Tongtong answered it.

It turned out the production team was here for the singers to draw lots. The order of performance tonight was to be decided by this draw. Tongtong became nervous, “Prince of Lanling, should I draw the lot or would you like to do it yourself?”

“You.”

Lin Yuan said.

Tongtong nodded, took a deep breath, and drew the lot for Lin Yuan. Upon revealing the lot, she beamed with joy, “Prince of Lanling, is there a particular order you hope to perform in?”

“Doesn’t matter.”

Lin Yuan didn’t see any difference.

He would not feel nervous about performing first. The numbers of people did not bother him, it was the camera capturing his every move. With a mask on, however, even that uneasiness was almost entirely gone. So, he was fine with any order.

“Third!”

Tongtong unveiled the result.

Seeing Lin Yuan had no reaction, she tried her best to liven up the atmosphere, “In half an hour, the first singer will be up. What position do you expect for yourself today, Prince of Lanling...”

“Advance.”

Lin Yuan did not want to be eliminated.

Tongtong was instantly deflated. This task was way too difficult. No matter who Prince of Lanling spoke to, he was always extremely concise. Even when he was communicating with the music director, he remained the same.

Elsewhere.

The filming group was also at a loss. While the other singers just kept talking, it was as if they couldn’t get a word out of Prince of Lanling. It was like he was a conversational black hole, with no entertainment value whatsoever.

Meanwhile backstage.

The assistant director was sighing in disappointment at how the filming was going with Prince of Lanling. “Why does it feel like Prince of Lanling is a hole of entertainment gravitas? Even though we’re a music show and it’s ultimately about how they sing, it’s not good that we can’t capture any interesting footage of Prince of Lanling...”

The assistant director was quite interested in Prince of Lanling.

Because Tongtong was a relative of Director Tong Shuwen and had been assigned to work with Prince of Lanling, he concluded that Prince of Lanling must be someone of importance. However, after paying close attention, the assistant director found that Prince of Lanling barely talked at all, always responding with:

“Hmm, okay...”

If he could respond with one word, Prince of Lanling wouldn't say an extra one. Despite his aloofness, his lack of humor was negatively affecting the program's appeal. This concerned the assistant director as even music shows required a sense of fun.

Prince of Lanling?

Observing the entire scene through the camera, Director Tong Shuwen cracked a smile. The assistant director was just too naive. The so-called “black hole of entertainment” if pushed to its extreme, could also create a powerful effect on the show.

Suddenly.

A noise came from his earphones, instantly turning Tong Shuwen's face serious. “The audience is in place, all departments get ready. There is half an hour to countdown for the recording of the performances. I need the first singer to be ready in 20 minutes. Host, test your mic again...”

“Lighting crew ready.”

“Camera crew ready.”

“Sound crew ready.”

Reports from all departments kept coming in. The host's voice also came over, “Sound check is fine, Director, it's better to assign two more people to pull the curtain. It's too big...”

“Send someone from logistics.”

As the director gave orders, he anxiously watched the time. When the clock struck six, he took a deep breath: “Start the countdown now. Five, four, three, two, one!”

The countdown ended!

The Masked Singer started!

Chapter 470: Silent but Startling When Spoken

“Let go of your obsession with popularity, put aside your prejudice about appearance, throw away your understanding of professions, let’s kick off the purest singing duel of this era. Who will be our first-generation Masked Singer among these mysterious guests who hide their true identities behind masks!”

The curtain slowly rises.

An Hong, known as the top music host of Qin Continent appears on stage under stunning lights, and the grand background music leads all the audience’s emotions, “Hello, everyone, I am the host An Hong, here is ‘The Masked Singer’ brought to you by the Literature and Art Association. In this era of appearance-consciousness, let’s play a game that doesn’t require a face!”

This is The Masked Singer!

A game that doesn’t require a face!

No need for a plant, the whole venue directly presents the most primitive frenzy. Among the rustling light boards and glow sticks, countless spectators are screaming, they have been eagerly anticipating this show and now is the time to release it!

At the backstage.

In the contestants’ waiting area, everyone can’t help but look up at the TV on the wall, and of course, Lin Yuan is no exception. Because the backstage is not far from the stage, he can feel the wave of sound rolling in from the TV and the outside world at the same time—

He even felt somewhat excited.

An Hong's smile was friendly, "I don't know if this marks the beginning of a new era in the music scene, but I believe this is destined to be a milestone music show in the history of music development. Now let's introduce our four judges. The first judge is the only person in Qin Continent who has won the 'King of Singing' crown three times. He is known as the king of kings with ever-changing styles. He's also recognised by the Literature and Art Association as one of the three top male singers in Blue Star, Teacher Mao Xuewang! "

Gulp.

Mao Xuewang...

Lin Yuan swallowed, feeling as if his taste buds were suddenly unlocked,

Tongtong next to him, however, was excited, "So the rumour from the production team is true! Teacher Mao Xuewang is actually the judge of the first episode. He's a true legend among male singers, one of the three big male singers in Blue Star!"

On the stage.

The 40-year-old Mao Xuewang waved at the audience, the audience became even more excited!

True to its reputation as the strongest music show in history, the first judge is so impressive!

It's the top dog in the music scene, Mao Xuewang, who has won the King of Singing consecutively for three times!

"The second one..."

An Hong continued introducing.

The second judge is a woman called Liu Xu!

She's even more impressive than Mao Xuewang, having won the title of 'Queen of Singing' four times. She's also hailed as the strongest pop queen in Qi Continent's history and holds the record for the highest number of single-song downloads for the year. She's already fifty this year.

The third judge is Wu Long.

Wu Long is known as the God of BGM!

All the top-level anime film soundtracks in Chu Continent are basically his masterpieces!

However, because Wu Long's music tends to be commercialized, he has never become a Maestro. But in the hearts of many ordinary people, Wu Long is already a maestro.

The fourth judge...

This time it's a real Maestro!

However, when Lin Yuan heard this person's name, the face under his mask revealed a hint of strangeness.

Because Lin Yuan not only had heard of this man, but also considered him in some ways his teacher:

Maestro Yang Zhongming!

Tongtong's face went red with excitement, almost dancing with joy, "Teacher Yang Zhongming is one of the most invincible Maestros in my eyes. He is the pride of all Qin Continent people. I didn't expect him to come for the first episode!"

At the scene.

The audience seats were also full of people shouting Yang Zhongming's name!

It's hard to imagine that a behind-the-scenes composer can have an even larger reputation than a front-stage star. Only Blue Star can offer such a treatment to composers, right?

Lin Yuan thought so.

After the excitement had subsided, An Hong introduced the rules of the show.

When the audience understood the rules, he officially announced the entrance of the first contestant. However, when everyone saw the first contestant's appearance, they couldn't help but laugh.

It is a robot design!

This singer is quite skilled at being weird, even his way of walking onto the stage was mechanical, giving away his strong dancing background.

But what surprised everyone the most was his singing ability, which conquered the whole audience almost as soon as he started!

"So amazing!"

"Who's he?"

In each dressing room, the singers are discussing with their crew partners. Only in the dressing room where Prince of Lanling is located, it is silent. It's Tongtong who can't help but break the silence first, "This singer should be top-tier."

"No."

Lin Yuan answered.

Tongtong was taken aback, "You think the robot is a second-tier singer? This level should be barely top-tier. He's singing very well; most of the second-tier singers don't have this singing skill."

Lin Yuan said, "I mean, he's a King of Singing."

“King of Singing?” Tongtong laughed, simply disagreeing, but the camera was rolling, so she didn’t dare to question it directly.

After a cough, Tongtong continued the awkward conversation, “Whether he’s a King of Singing or top-tier one, judging from the voice he’s definitely a male singer, but there are quite a few singers with a dance background. Do you think you can guess who he is, Prince of Lanling?”

“No.”

Lin Yuan didn’t even bother.

Tongtong looked speechlessly at the cameramen, and they returned a sympathetic look.

While other dressing rooms are passionately playing guessing games, the room where Prince of Lanling is located was as quiet as a cold wind blowing through a deserted area.

The robot finished singing.

The judges began reviewing.

However, to everyone’s surprise, the judges seemed unsatisfied. Mao Xuewang directly said, “If it wasn’t for the good cooperation from the band, you would have collapsed at the beginning.”

“The song was rearranged.”

Liu Xu beside him smiled and said, “It’s quite a novel idea, but it doesn’t cover the flaws in the first section. Besides, the vibrato at the end is a bit deliberate. You should be a top-tier singer. The reason why you top-tier male singers are not as good as the King of Singing is the lack of naturalness.”

“...”

The third judge started speaking after a brief silence, “If I’m not guessing wrong, you should be a singer from Yan Continent. But I also cannot rule out the possibility of you deliberately learning this singing method, so I’m not sure about your real ability.”

“Interesting.”

Yang Zhongming slightly leaned back, staring at the robot and said, “You’re having fun, aren’t you? Only a King of Singing can sing a top-tier level with a voice style he’s not familiar with. And you have deliberately simulated the Yan people’s singing tone – it’s just that you didn’t mimic it quite well, but I appreciate your challenge to yourself.”

The judges are so strict!

The audience is a bit dumbfounded and the contestants in each dressing room are also a bit bewildered.

The remarks from the four bosses were really straightforward, their tone so relaxed, whether they mentioned A-list singers or even talked about the King of Singing, they remained so chilled out.

However, their conclusions seemed a bit different.

Aside from Yang Zhongming, the other three judges all thought the robot singer was A-list, who exactly is right...

Backstage in the dressing room, Tongtong glanced at the Prince of Lanling, only his and Yang Zhongming’s conclusions were the same.

Several stars from the judges received a chance to speak, it turned out that the judge’s role was not just casting professional votes, but also hinting the audience to guess who the singers might be.

The rhythm is very comfortable!

The four judges are unmatched in their professionalism, briefly pinpointing the problems of the singer’s performance.

And some stars from the judges side in charge of guessing the identities of the singers to boost the atmosphere, at the same time they also interacted and asked questions of the robot.

The two sides matched wits, one side wanting to dig for key information, while the other side hid their identity, several times making the audience laugh out loud.

...

The second singer is a female singer, a very beautiful image of a white swan.

The song she performed turns out to be “Big Fish”.

After hearing the song, even the four judges couldn’t help but smile: “This is the voice of a top female singer.”

Yes, a top female singer!

Unanimously recognized by the four judges!

This swan conquered the whole room as soon as she started singing, the judges did not hesitate to compliment her.

However, during the interaction with the star judges, this white swan was extremely arrogant.

When the judges guessed that the white swan might be a top singer called “Yuan Xi”, the white swan directly snapped back:

“She can’t sing this song.”

This sentence immediately caused an uproar in the scene!

Tongtong covered her mouth in an exaggerated manner: “This top singer is really daring to say that, she directly said that Teacher Yuan Xi can’t sing this song, the personalities of the singers are so intuitive after being masked!”

“Um...”

The white swan seemed to feel that her previous statement wasn't quite right, and added, "Yuan Xi and I have different styles. There are some songs she can sing which I may not be able to sing, well, um, you know what I mean."

What a half-hearted fix.

The audience laughed, but did not hate this arrogant swan, only feeling that this woman is truly authentic.

Yang Zhongming tapped his finger on the table and said indifferently, "You do sing better than Yuan Xi, Yuan Xi's voice is too thin and she doesn't think of changing, um, I'm not just talking about this song."

The other three judges laughed.

"Too direct."

"But indeed it is."

"I've met Yuan Xi a few times, this fellow is very talented but is easily complacent. She becomes complacent once she achieves a little bit of success not knowing that she is only at the bottom amongst top female singers."

Oh my god!

Such badass judges!

The whole site started to cheer!

But that's what they want, to be direct!

Should these bosses consider other people's feelings when they speak? They're just stating the facts!

However, judges of most music programs would not dare to say it directly even if they think so, only top musicians who judge dare to speak so bluntly, this is one of the attractions of “The Masked Singer”.

In various dressing rooms.

The singers reacted differently.

Some were silent;

Some were shouting “so brave”;

Some were afraid that they would not be able to withstand the judge’s attack when it was their turn to perform, even Yuan Xi who was not present was directly attacked!

So brutal!

However, regarding the judge’s appraisal of Yuan Xi, the singers in several dressing rooms didn’t dare to express their opinion.

Meanwhile, inside the dressing room of the Prince of Lanling.

Tongtong was shivering: “Teacher Yang Zhongming is even more domineering than I imagined. ...”

“Hmm.”

Tongtong thought the Prince of Lanling would remain silent as usual; she was just trying not to make the room too cold.

However, to Tongtong’s surprise, Prince Lanling was really nodding his head and said in a calm voice,

“Yuan Xi’s level is indeed middling among the top female singers, white swan is one of the strongest among the top singers, she sings really well, this version of ‘Big Fish’ is almost on par with Jiang Kui.”

Silence!

Tongtong: “...”

Photographer: “...”

Everyone in the room was dumbfounded.

What did Prince Lanling just say?

Did he really dare to blatantly say that Yuan Xi’s skills are indeed not as good as the White Swan’s?

And he even claimed that the female singer, White Swan’s rendition of ‘Big Fish’, is only evenly matched with the A-list singer Jiang Kui?

What the hell!

Your words are toxic, aren’t they!

What kind of linguistic genius could offend two top singers at once?

Isn’t this the legendary...

Astonishing after a single utterance!?