

## All R. Artist 511

### Chapter 511: I Don't Accept

Lin Yuan's tribe update indirectly or directly answered two queries.

The first question.

Why did Sherlock Holmes suddenly appear at the end of the "Hercule Poirot Series"?

It was because the appearance of a new character had the purpose of linkage, that man named Sherlock Holmes, is the male protagonist of Chu Kuang's new book—

Some netizens had already guessed this.

However, for certain readers who were hoping that "the appearance of Sherlock Holmes is Chu Kuang's hint that Poirot is not dead", this news is undoubtedly a little disheartening.

The second question.

Would the readers accept it?

The answer was actually very simple. It was so simple that the readers almost launched the third uprising when they saw this update.

Whoosh!

The internet was in an uproar!

Faced with Chu Kuang's new book continuing the detective genre, trying to recreate a detective protagonist similar to Poirot, almost everyone gave the same answer:

"I won't accept it!"

This voice almost immediately rose to a boiling point, and quickly filled up Chu Kuang's comment section:

"Old rascal, you're dreaming!"

"I, Wang Shang, publicly resist today: even at the cost of my life, I will not jump off the Kang to accept Sherlock Holmes. In my heart, there is only one great detective, he is Poirot, he is forever great and irreplaceable!"

"I, Liu Jing, openly object!"

"I, Zhou Ze, also make it clear today, I will not read your new book. I would watch even if you continue to send razor blades, but I won't read your new detective book. Poirot is god!"

"Is Sherlock Holmes even considered a great detective?"

"I haven't recovered from Poirot's death, and you are already eager to write a new book, claiming another man is a great detective. You say Sherlock Holmes is a great detective, have you asked Poirot?"

"Poirot is forever god!"

"Sorry, but there can only be one to deserve the title of a great detective, and that's Poirot. After Poirot, there will be no more great detectives. I don't believe any detective can surpass Poirot!"

"Does the old rascal want to replicate Poirot?"

"What else can I say, the so-called great detective Sherlock Holmes is nothing more than a different name for Poirot. You might as well write about Poirot's reincarnation and rebirth as Sherlock Holmes. In that case, I might consider buying a copy to read."

"..."

What kind of joke is this?

You, Chu Kuang, just killed off the great detective Poirot, and now you're thinking of writing another one?

No wonder there was suddenly this Sherlock Holmes at the end...

You're trying to ride on the coattails of our Poirot's popularity, aren't you?

Leave Poirot alone.

We won't meet!

Never mind whether this new great detective can reach Poirot's height, even if he really can, we readers will not recognize him as Sherlock Holmes!

He is still Poirot!

The readers won't agree. You, Chu Kuang, are just capriciously renaming Poirot, and that's all there is to it!

You!

Chu Kuang, the old rascal!

Ficklegate!

We readers will always be the most loyal!

Although the deceased Poirot may never return, we won't be like you, Chu Kuang, killing Poirot and then writing a new great detective protagonist!

Our hearts are with Poirot!

Our hearts have died with Poirot!

We won't ever love another great detective after Poirot!

We are sure.

We stand firm.

This is how countless readers express their position regarding Chu Kuang's actions.

Following "Old Rascal," Chu Kuang gained another new nickname, "Ficklegate."

Some readers even joint-signed an opinion, stating they could accept Chu Kuang continuing to write detective novels, but requested him to change the protagonist's name back to Poirot—

In other words!

If you still want to make a living from the detective series, then bring back our dear Poirot! Even a prequel would do if you really don't want to revive him!

...

After scrolling through the comments, Lin Yuan was dumbfounded.

He didn't expect the readers' response to be this intense.

He thought everyone would be happy when they saw the news.

Whenever he announced plans to publish a new book in the past, the readers were always excited, and there were generally only two types of comments in the comment section.

One was "looking forward to it".

The other was “support”.

But now, before he even published his new book and merely announced the title, readers had already expressed “boycott”.

For Chu Kuang, this was really an unprecedented situation.

He didn’t expect that even someone as influential as Chu Kuang would one day have a work that is boycotted by readers.

“...”

Jin Mu beside him looked at Lin Yuan’s baffled expression and said with an amused shake of his head:

“It looks like the new book needs to be delayed.”

Strictly speaking, this is not a big deal. Compared to the death of Poirot, the shock experienced by the readers is quite small, and the amount of boycott is within manageable limits.

Perhaps this is also related to the fact that Chu Kuang put the readers through so much that their tolerance increased?

Just look at what Chu Kuang has done to the readers.

It is cruel and insane.

Lin Yuan: “...”

The book must be postponed of course.

Even if he wanted to publish a new book now, it wouldn’t be possible. He hadn’t even started writing the Sherlock Holmes series yet, this was only a new book announcement.

However, the new book announcement was genuinely meant to console everyone.

But it backfired.

Maybe when the new book is released, everyone would've forgotten about this, or so Lin Yuan optimistically thought.

In fact.

If Poirot and Sherlock Holmes had many similarities, then Lin Yuan might only write about one great detective.

But the problem is that these two characters have completely different styles.

From their case-solving methods to their characters, they are not equivalent at all. They can't be lumped together simply because they are both great detectives.

Meanwhile.

The industry was also very confused by Chu Kuang's maneuver.

Not because of the readers' boycott, that was something that could be foreseen.

Everyone was just puzzled as to why Chu Kuang wanted to write another great detective—

“Since Chu Kuang still wants to write in the great detective mold, then why did he end ‘The Poirot Case Collection’?”

“Isn't it good to continue using Poirot's name for the same kind of great detective?”

“After all, it's just a name. It can also please the readers.”

“Yeah, judging from the sales volume of ‘The Poirot Case Collection’, no matter how the quality of the story fluctuates, as long as the protagonist is Poirot, the readers will buy it. Poirot has already become a brand, with a formidable fan effect.”

“I simply can’t understand this guy’s thought process, in every sense.”

“I originally thought Chu Kuang was drained by Poirot, and tired of this kind of deductive writing model for a great detective, so he chose to end the story. I never would’ve guessed that he just wanted to give the readers a new protagonist as a great detective. Does he think this will give the readers a sense of novelty?”

“What the readers want is Poirot, not a sense of novelty.”

“When Sherlock Holmes can no longer reach the heights Poirot reached, I wonder if Chu Kuang will regret his actions, and think he shouldn’t have killed off Poirot?”

“...”

When everyone likes to use the term “possessed by Poirot” to describe a person’s cleverness, it actually means that the Poirot series has achieved unprecedented success.

Under such circumstances, Chu Kuang’s decision is inexplicable.

However, Lin Yuan didn’t pay much attention to this matter. He wasn’t even in a hurry to write the Sherlock Holmes series.

Because on March 7th.

The latest issue of ‘The Masked Singer’ was broadcasted.

New faces, same brilliance, the show’s topics trended once again!

However...

One of the trending topics was interesting.

This trending topic was called:

#Why Is It Always Fish#

Chapter 512: Why is it Always Fish

Netizens who hadn't watched "The Masked Singer" saw this trending topic and were left scratching their heads.

What do you mean, it's all about fish?

Has everyone recently developed a love for fish?

But those who had watched "The Masked Singer" chuckled upon seeing this trending topic after the program aired.

That's right!

So many fish!

The new episode of "The Masked Singer" introduced a whole new masked lineup, with a total of six singers debuting.

Maintaining the scale of the first team.

However, the interesting thing is that, in this episode, half of the singers chose fish as their virtual personas:

Fat-Head Fish.

Golden Dragon Fish.



And a Big Fish.

Actually, there's no such species as Big Fish, though there is a song called "Big Fish". So it's just a general concept of fishman, but it can still be classified as a "fish", and that's what the trending topic is about—

"Ha ha, so many fish!"

"This persona overlap is quite something!"

"I'm stunned. Can't these singers come up with new images? How come three more fish have appeared this episode, when there were already two fish in the last episode!"

"Counting Pufferfish and Mermaid, we've got five damned fish already!"

"I almost thought I was watching 'Under the Sea' instead of a music variety show."

"Are you sure this isn't a fish tank conference?"

"No, no, no, this is clearly a fish feast, five of them are enough for a team!"

"Add one more fish and not just a team, even the damn first lineup of the episode will be complete!"

"..."

Everyone laughed upon seeing so many fish in this episode.

More interestingly, at the end of this episode, all three fish advanced to the next round!

Some people commented:

“Joking aside, we have to admit that those three fish this episode, as well as the two fish from the last episode, are all very strong. So far, none of the fish have been eliminated!”

“I see.”

“The advancement password is Fish.”

“But, anyone noticed something? There seems to be some tension among these fishes. They mostly ignore each other and when they do interact, it’s usually to trade barbs. There’s definitely some bad blood there.”

“Pfft, now that you say that, it’s kind of true!”

“Going by the first team’s situation, there seemed to be discord between Mermaid and Pufferfish. Is this what they call like poles repel each other?”

“It should be called same species repel each other.”

“I thought I was overthinking when listening to Pufferfish and Mermaid’s conversation in the first episode, but reflecting now, it’s clear they don’t see eye to eye.”

“...”

The netizens’ observations are indeed true.

Singers gather to announce the rankings, but from what can be seen on camera, it seemed these marine singers didn’t see eye to eye. Also, Pufferfish and Mermaid from the first group gave off the same vibe.

Netizens started speculating:

Do these fishes know each other?

Is there a special significance to these fish having selected a sea creature image at the same time?

The show's guessing game feature has been fully activated. Netizens have shown great interest in digging into the identities of the fish singers—

“The truth is but one!”

A user named “Little Dinosaur Loves Fish” chimed in, quite fittingly given his handle. He posted a detailed analysis: “I’ve done some thinking and noticed that things are not as simple as they seem. Thinking about who in the music industry is most associated with fish?”

Netizens paused for a moment before coming up with an answer.

The biggest fish in the music industry must be Xian Yu, our dear Maestro Junior!

“Little Dinosaur Loves Fish continued: “Correct, it’s Xian Yu. And that’s why I suspect that these fish singers might be related to Xian Yu. My suspicion is based on the fact that Pufferfish’s voice sounds so much like Zhao Ying Ge, especially after Zhao Ying Ge sang Xian Yu’s song “Big Fish,” which further confirmed my guess. What’s more, Mermaid’s voice, although well concealed, gives off a vibe of Jiang Kui. Coincidentally, both of them have collaborated with Xian Yu, and the most important songs in both of their careers were composed by Fish Daddy!”

The netizens got a shock!

Upon further thought, it made more and more sense!

If Pufferfish is Zhao Ying Ge and the Mermaid is Jiang Kui, then it’s understandable why these two are competitors. Both are popular female singers, both were promoted by Xian Yu. Surely there must be some tension between them...

“So this is actually a competition for favour?”

“Fish Papa’s fishy descendants are all participating in the show?”

“Wow, this is exciting! Your guesses are probably spot on!”

“Then, the three fishes from the second team...”

If these guesses are correct, wouldn't that be thrilling?

The netizens eagerly inquired Little Dinosaur Loves Fish, with a thirst for knowledge.

Little Dinosaur Loves Fish said, “The fish from the second team have hidden themselves well, but the key ‘fish’ hint has given them away. Don't you think the Golden Dragon Fish seems like Chen Zhiyu? Plus those who follow Chen Zhiyu would know that he is a fish lover and has a golden dragon fish at home. Also, this singer's image is a golden dragon fish!”

Netizens: “...”

Isn't this basically confirmed?

Why doesn't Chen Zhiyu try to be more discreet?

Little Dinosaur Loves Fish seemed rather smug, “I'm not sure who the Fat-Head Fish is, but it probably has something to do with Xian Yu. As for Fishman, I have some idea. It might be Sun Yaohuo. Who doesn't know that Sun Yaohuo is Fish Papa's favourite?”

“Oh my god!”

“So that's how it is!”

“Even if these are just your guesses, I've started to believe them!”

“So it's really a fight among the fishy descendants!”

“No, it's not an internal conflict, like the guy in front said, this is a competition for favour among Fish Daddy's descendants!”

“These fish are definitely Xian Yu's harem!”

“Haha, Fish Papa’s harem is on fire!”

“There’s a term ‘Yu Dynasty’ in the music composition circle. Never thought there would be one in the singing circle too!”

“It would be even more interesting if Fish Papa himself joins as a judge. Would these fish abandon singing and start fighting on stage?”

“...”

Everyone agreed with Little Dinosaur Loves Fish’s deductions!

Because all of Little Dinosaur Loves Fish’s guesses were reasonable!

And most importantly...

The voice!

Everyone hears the voices, but it’s really hard to guess without guidance. But if they have direction, it’s a different story!

Take the Pufferfish for example.

Upon close examination, focusing solely on her, don’t you think her voice sounds quite similar to Zhao Ying Ge’s?

“Poirot has taken possession!”

Netizens gave Little Dinosaur Loves Fish a thumbs-up one after another.

This netizen truly lives up to his username!

Who knew that upon receiving this compliment, Little Dinosaur Loves Fish suddenly got angry, “The damn old rascal had to go and kill off Poirot!”

Many were confused.

Not everyone reads novels.

But those who had read the “Poirot Case Files” felt the sorrow, fully understanding Little Dinosaur Loves Fish’s emotions at the moment: “Chu Kuang, you old rascal! I won’t read Sherlock Holmes!”

Meanwhile.

Lin Yuan was surfing the internet when he came across this post.

He was initially engrossed, impressed by how insightful this netizen was, even more precise than his own guesses. But towards the end, something didn’t feel right...

No way, could this be about me?

Chapter 514: Chu Kuang’s Rival is Himself

Lin Yuan stopped paying much attention to the program.

During the half a month when the second group’s program was being broadcast, he was either writing novels or watching performances on set.

He secretly gave Jian Yi the Acting Potion for one scene.

The scene was about Uncle Spiderman’s death, where Spiderman regretted not stopping the thug, the on-screen spectacle of extreme remorse and pain, which required not only tear-filled portrayals from the actors but also precise emotional delivery.

It was hard to perform.

Jian Yi was already good enough, but Lin Yuan believed that the scene could be more touching, so he secretly boosted the other person's acting skills.

After the performance.

Jian Yi softly exclaimed next to Lin Yuan: "I think I broke through! That scene was the most explosive one I've ever done since I started acting!"

Lin Yuan: "..."

There seems to be no problem with the breakthrough. The existence of this Acting Potion from the System indeed represents a significant breakthrough in technology.

But the strange thing was...

It seemed like Jian Yi's subsequent performances actually improved, even when Lin Yuan didn't give him the Acting Potion, Jian Yi was still able to interpret the characters very well.

This was interesting.

This situation happened with He Sheng's book before, Lin Yuan couldn't help but ask the System: "Are we sure the Acting Potion is a one-time use and it doesn't produce permanent enhancement on acting skills?"

"Certain."

The System responds: "But compared to technology, the power provided by human confidence is the strongest."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Jian Yi was exuding confidence.

It was probably related to Jian Yi's special situation when he joined the team.

Jian Yi always felt like he got into the group only because of Lin Yuan's connections. As a newcomer who instantly nabs the main role, he was somewhat cautious and apprehensive. This nervousness and inferiority complex were huge pressures for him.

Sure, pressure can be transformed into motivation.

But when pressure exceeds a certain limit, it's not a good thing.

Right now he needs confidence, and the Acting Potion Lin Yuan secretly used provided him with this confidence. The moment a person starts to gain confidence, their mentality would completely change.

In addition.

There was another good news for Lin Yuan – "Spiderman" was almost finished shooting, after the green screen section, most of the remaining shots were in outdoor locations, and those parts were not that many.

The progress was indeed quite impressive.

The scriptwriter's meticulous planning and presetting the shots made the shooting of the whole crew resemble a production line. Everyone just needed to do their part well and the project would move smoothly forward.

But this is only possible in commercial films.

The shooting of art films is much more difficult.

On the other side.

Though Lin Yuan didn't pay much attention to the competition status of the second group, his family members were die-hard fans of the program.

Lin Xuan would discuss enthusiastically with Big Yaoyao:



“Your brother’s harem is too interesting!”

“I always feel like the fish are going to fight backstage.”

“Like hair-pulling fights?”

“Men don’t pull hair, they fight martial arts.”

“Like the Five Whip Strikes?”

“...”

From this, it can be seen that Xian Yu’s harem fight really brought endless fun to the audience.

Even without the Prince of Lanling, the show can continue to be exciting!

Lin Xuan even tried to persuade Lin Yuan: “Why don’t you go on the show yourself? Everyone wants to hear your comments.”

Lin Yuan: “...”

You may find it hard to believe.

I was indeed on the show, and I am indeed commenting on every episode, but every time I finish commenting, I got criticized.

...

At the end of March.

The second group’s recording finally ended.

The joyful spectacle of “Xian Yu’s harem competition” that entertained everyone for a month also finally came to a conclusion.

In the final group, all the fish made it to the next stage!

By coincidence...

On this same day, Lin Yuan just finished writing “Study in Scarlet.”

It can’t be said that it’s a complete imitation, there is still some originality in the work, as “A Study in Scarlet” set its background in the Western world during the chaotic age of Earth.

This kind of setting played a significant role in the Holmes series.

Those mysteries revolving around chaos are difficult for Lin Yuan to handle, he had to arrange them in the setting of the Blue Star era, just like when he previously wrote the Poirot series.

It requires refinement and processing.

Fortunately, when the Qin Dynasty was overthrown, there were some chaotic periods during the transition to the current regime in Blue Star.

These chaotic periods now serve as Lin Yuan’s most relied upon source of background material.

Every time he writes about Western literature, there are always parts that need to be adapted, the era of regime change in Blue Star has become his greatest source of inspiration.

Of course.

In the stories of Holmes, Lin Yuan would occasionally mention Poirot, as if paying tribute to the great detective who had passed away.

Lin Yuan isn’t rigid.

He is very confident that readers would appreciate such sentiments.

The part that Lin Yuan isn't sure about right now is, how will the popularity of Holmes compare to that of Poirot?

On Earth, stories about Holmes came out first.

But on Blue Star, it was Poirot who took the first step.

First impressions can be quite powerful. If everyone has fallen deeply in love with Poirot, would it impact Holmes' position in the detective world?

Lin Yuan doesn't know.

So Lin Yuan can't even guarantee that the Holmes series will do better than the Poirot series.

Let the readers be the judge.

Rigorously proofreading and checking his novel again, Lin Yuan is ready to send out "A Study in Scarlet".

At that moment.

In the Silver Blue Library.

In the Mystery Editing Department.

The chief editor, Cao Dezhi, is discussing the potential trends of Chu Kuang's new book with his subordinate editors.

Inside the conference room.

An editor remarked, “Surpassing Poirot is impossible. Poirot is currently the top detective in the world of mystery. Some readers even suggest erecting a monument to commemorate Poirot. Such influence is terrifying. It’s hard to believe that Poirot is just a fictional character.”

“Indeed,”

An editor next to him reflected, “Holmes will also presumably follow the great detective narrative. I think it would be decent if it could achieve 80% of Poirot’s influence.”

“80%?”

“You underestimate Poirot.”

“You must understand that during Chu Kuang’s writing of the Poirot series, the quality also had its ups and downs. ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ was the peak work of Poirot. The following ‘Death on the Nile’ was also quite splendid. But if you look at Poirot’s other cases, it’s hard to reach the same standard. This shows that there are limitations to Chu Kuang’s abilities.”

“Moreover...”

“The creative methods of writers will eventually lead to the same results. This Holmes character by Chu Kuang might have difficulty escaping Poirot’s shadow. My current worry is that the resemblance between the two characters would be too high.”

“...”

Cao Dezhi remained silent.

He shared the same worries.

Both characters are great detectives. Once Chu Kuang’s new mystery novel is published, readers will continuously compare the new detective character to Poirot.

But this would be truly unfair to Holmes.

With Poirot's significant influence, how outstanding must Holmes be to stand beside him?

Furthermore...

Having written so many mystery stories already, how could this Holmes, written by Chu Kuang, completely escape from the Poirot model?

Just like how successful "Ghost Blowing Lamp" already is.

What kind of a tomb-robbing novel would Chu Kuang have to write to compete with "Ghost Blowing Lamp", without the two works being too similar?

It's too difficult!

Thinking in this way,

Cao Dezhi's mobile phone suddenly vibrated.

Cao Dezhi checked his phone, and his face turned serious. He murmured, "Chu Kuang's new book has arrived."

The crowd turned to look at Cao Dezhi, "Is it that Holmes one?"

Cao Dezhi nodded.

The rival of Holmes is Poirot.

And Chu Kuang's rival...

is himself.

Chapter 513: Tear

"Yes.

Lin Yuan also watched the program. Based on his understanding of the singers he collaborated with before, he knew the identity of the performer named Fishman almost immediately after listening to his singing:

Sun Yaohuo!

Senior Yao Huo indeed altered his voice line. This alteration was enough to conceal his true identity. However, Lin Yuan had collaborated with Sun Yaohuo on so many songs that it was normal for him to guess it out.

As for people like Chen Zhiyu...

Lin Yuan could only make an approximate guess. He couldn't fully confirm, so he held a half-doubtful attitude when he saw comments from a netizen named Little Dinosaur Loves Fish.

However, when the other party pointed out that the mermaid might be Jiang Kui, Lin Yuan agreed quite much.

He had suspicions before.

So it might be a coincidence. Many singers he knew also participated in The Masked Singer!

However...

Netizens talked about harem fights. Lin Yuan didn't feel anything about it. Netizens loved to play tricks.

Lin Yuan knew this too.

When he released the preview of his new Holmes series, he was even called a "scumbag" by book fans.

Is Lin Yuan a scumbag?

Of course Lincoln is not. Antarctica is.

Lately, Lin Yuan noticed that Antarctica frequently went around the community, playing with different dogs.

He even suspected that Antarctica had stolen someone's girlfriend dog...

Because one day, he distinctly saw Antarctica laying on a dog.

Next to it was Xiao Huang—

In other words, a stray dog in the community—

This name was given by Big Yaoyao.

At that time, Xiao Huang, with a bone in its mouth, ran excitedly over. But when it saw Antarctica lying on that dog, it just stood there stunned.

In the end, Xiao Huang didn't even want the bone anymore. It turned around and ran away, looking very upset.

However, this is Antarctica's personal matter, and Lin Yuan can't interfere.

Shaking his head, Lin Yuan no longer paid attention to what was happening on the internet and the program. Instead, he opened up his laptop while the sunlight was just right.

He's going to write the Holmes series now!

About the writing order of Holmes, Lin Yuan thought a lot last night.

In the end, Lin Yuan decided to start with "A Study in Scarlet".

This novel emphasized Holmes's "basic deductive reasoning!"

The so-called basic deductive reasoning is the fundamental basis for Holmes to solve cases.

It gives people a magical feeling.

But this thing, after Holmes's own explanation, becomes reasonable.

With this part of the content, the image of Holmes, the great detective, could initially be established.

It's worth mentioning that...

Holmes actually doesn't consider himself a detective. He likes to introduce himself as a "consulting detective".

In other words:

When detectives encountered unsolvable problems, they would come to Holmes for advice.

Doesn't this further prove Holmes' strength? Isn't it clear that all detectives think Holmes is better than them if they seek Holmes' help when they can't solve a problem?

This design is indeed quite satisfying from a narrative perspective.

However, although Holmes labels himself as a consulting detective, most of the cases depicted in the novel are only solved when Holmes acts as a detective.

In addition.

Holmes' assistant, Dr. Watson, became acquainted and began to become a partner of Holmes in "A Study in Scarlet".

With that in mind.



Lin Yuan began to type on the keyboard.

...

Meanwhile, as Lin Yuan focused on writing the Holmes series.

On the internet.

The impact of Little Dinosaur Loves Fish revealing the true identities of the fish-themed singers in The Masked Singer was getting bigger and bigger.

More and more people started to accept the speculation from Little Dinosaur Loves Fish!

At the same time, everyone showed great enthusiasm for the “Xian Yu’s Harem Fight”, rating it as another highlight of the show following the sharp-tongued Prince of Lanling!

Even countless netizens were calling for:

Xian Yu, please come and be a judge on The Masked Singer!”

All your fish are here!

If you don’t show up soon, your fish are going to start fighting!

At this moment.

Suddenly, a netizen said:

“It’s inevitable that the fish would fight among themselves, after all, it’s a harem competition, everyone wants the sole favor, but they should have a common enemy, that is Prince of Lanling!”

Yes!

Everyone didn't forget, in the four performances of Prince of Lanling, three of the songs he sang were written by Xian Yu!

Among them.

Included a song "A Laughter from the Sea"!

The previous two songs received fair responses, but after "A Laughter from the Sea" was released, it was very popular!

The song was downloaded a lot!

The judges also highly praised this song!

Yang Zhongming even called this song "A Great Song That's Easy to Enjoy".

The words "great song" are very heavy words of affirmation.

Xian Yu giving such a good song to Prince of Lanling, this favoritism is almost catching up with Sun Yaohuo!

Can the fish not consider Prince of Lanling their number one enemy?

In the language of the internet, it would be:

"If these people really belong to Xian Yu's harem, then Prince of Lanling should be the most favored concubine at present, because Xian Yu has been promoting Prince of Lanling lately."

Some even posted synchronized comments while the fish sang in this episode.

"Overthrow Prince of Lanling!"

“Overthrow Prince of Lanling!”

“Overthrow Prince of Lanling!”

Once this trend starts, it seems it can’t stop.

In the following two weeks, the show continues to air, every episode there will be new fill-in singers...

But it’s interesting that...

No matter how hard it is, no matter how powerful the fill-in singers are, the three fish are still standing, not a single fish was eliminated!

Moreover...

The fish that everyone has pretty much guessed their identities also seem to be influenced by public opinion, and there’s an increasing sense of tension between them.

Especially in the third match of the second team!

Gold Dragon Fish directly stated in front of the other singers and countless audience:

“I hope I have a chance to compete with Big Fish.”

Big Fish humorously counterattacked without hesitation: “You are just a fish, not evolved yet, while I am a human, Fishman.”

The netizens were screaming with excitement!

The competition of favoritism among the fish is no longer undercover, there’s even a sense that they’re taking it to the stage!

Come at each other!

Pull each other's hair!

For a while, all the comments were instigating.

Xian Yu's harem competition has completely become another traffic explosion point of the show after the sharp words of Prince of Lanling!

Many people even exclaimed:

Turns out, Xian Yu is the biggest contributor to the show's ratings!

The reason is simple!

Prince of Lanling is related to Xian Yu!

The fish are also related to Xian Yu!

Xian Yu himself didn't participate in the show, but traces of Xian Yu can be found all over the show!

"Wait."

Amid the carnival of netizens, someone seriously said: "Think about it, isn't it kind of terrifying, the singers that Xian Yu sees as promising are unbelievably strong!"

Huh?

That's true!

These five fish haven't been eliminated so far, which proves their strength, but this also indirectly shows how precise Xian Yu's choice of collaborating singers was—

Again, something to think about and be terrified!

## Chapter 568: Something Big Has Happened!

“Who else could it be but you?” Shen Shuyi said.

“When you were in Yanjing, there were so many people chasing after you. Many of them were as capable as Lin Yi, but you ignored them. You’ve been in Zhonghai for just over three months, but you’re already living together. I don’t know if you went to Zhonghai to work or to date.”

“Work, of course.”

“I don’t believe you,” Shen Shuyi said.

“I’m not the only one who doesn’t believe it. Our entire family doesn’t believe it. Moreover, your father analyzed your situation with me yesterday. I think his analysis makes sense.”

“What’s your conclusion?”

“We suspect that you and Lin Yi might have met online. Otherwise, you wouldn’t have insisted on working in Zhonghai just to see him.”

“What’s this nonsense? Do I have nothing better to do than to e-date him?” Liang Ruoxu said, “You guys should be serious.”

“Look, you’re angry because we hit the nail on the head.”

“I can’t be bothered with you. I’ll call Lin Yi now and tell him not to try to explain anything.”

With that, Liang Ruoxu took out his phone and dialed Lin Yi’s number, but after hearing the dial tone, the call was automatically hung up.

No one picked up.

Liang Ruoxu dialed again, but the situation was still the same.

“Alright, don’t call yet. The press conference has already started,” Shen Shuyi reminded.

Liang Ruoxu put down her phone helplessly. It was too late to say anything now. She could only hope that Lin Yi would use his intelligence and do as her mother said.

When the press conference began, Liang Ruoxu clenched his fists nervously. Lin Yi had slept so soundly yesterday, and she didn’t know if he had thought of a solution yet.

Lin Yi’s fate was about to be determined.

At this moment, Shen Shuyi was also interested as she stared at the computer screen. She really wanted to know if Lin Yi would do as she suggested as her solution was the best way to resolve the situation now.

If he did as she expected, Lin Yi would have a 90% chance of making a name for himself in the future. If not, then the road ahead would be very difficult. Once a person climbed to a high position, it would be even harder for them than walking on a tightrope.

“Is that person from Muddy Waters?” Liang Ruoxu and Shen Shuyi were both surprised to learn of Zhu Feng’s identity. They both knew that Muddy Waters LLC was the instigator behind this matter. “No matter what the motive is, Lingyun Group wouldn’t have gone looking for them. Why would this person called Zhu Feng appear here?”

Both mother and daughter’s gazes were focused on the press conference. Even Shen Shuyi, who didn’t care much before, became especially serious because this exceeded all her previous predictions.

“Firstly, I want to express my sincerest apologies to the president of Lingyun Group and the actual owner of Didi, Mr. Lin Yi...”

Zhu Feng’s speech was very short. It was all delivered efficiently without any sloppiness. Liang Ruoxu and her mother were dumbfounded. This result exceeded their imaginations and they felt that they were hallucinating.

Muddy Waters actually admitted that this was fabricated news. How was this any different from suicide?

“Mom, is this result as good as you expected?”

“It’s not just good, it’s the end of Zhao Mo’s plan. They couldn’t beat Lin Yi.”

Shen Shuyi smiled and shook her head, this Lin Yi was really impressive. ‘I underestimated him.’

“He’s the best, so you don’t have to keep bragging about him.” Shen Shuyi remarked. “By the way, you still haven’t told me how Lin Yi did a lot for you. My meeting has been postponed, so you can say it now.”

Liang Ruoxu smiled mysteriously, then took out the document she had signed from under her desk. “What do you think this is?”

“A document? A contract? I can’t even see it clearly.”

“Then let me briefly tell you what’s inside.” Liang Ruoxu said proudly. “The main content of the contract has three points. First, Pfizer and the six major pharmaceutical companies will cooperate with Lin Yi to establish a world-class drug research and development center.”

“And?”

Unexpectedly, Shen Shuyi’s complexion did not look good, as if she had thought of something bad.

“Then Lin Yi fought hard and got them to agree to locate this world-class drug research and development center in Zhonghai.”

Upon hearing the news, Shen Shuyi looked shocked. She understood better than Liang Ruoxu the meaning of this matter.

“Continue.”

“Secondly, from now on, the medicines developed here will be targeted at the Huaxian market, and the selling price will not exceed 50% of the cost.”

“Okay, please continue.”

“Finally, Lin Yi has successfully lowered the sky-high price of special medicine that Uncle Chen and the others have been discussing for many years by one-third. Don’t you think this is a great contribution?

“Furthermore, there is something that you may not know, Lin Yi asked me to sign this contract. He has done so much for me, so I will naturally help him with all my strength.”

After Liang Ruoxu finished speaking, she thought her mother would praise Lin Yi, but she didn’t expect her to be quite different from what she had imagined. Liang Ruoxu’s foresight was not comparable to that of Shen Shuyi.

From the common people’s point of view, the second and third conditions brought them great benefits, which was definitely a great thing that would last forever.

However from a political perspective, the first piece of news was the really shocking matter. Huaxia was in a stage of rapid development, and what it needs are these world-class organizations to increase its popularity around the world!

If this drug research and development center is set up in Zhonghai, forget her age, such achievements will definitely allow Little Mi to bypass provincial jobs and join the central party!

Shen Shuyi vaguely guessed why Muddy Water Company turned back at this juncture. It was because Lin Yi had reached a cooperative relationship with Pfizer and the six major pharmaceutical companies.

The capitalists on Wall Street would not allow him to be stained, so they put pressure on Muddy Waters, and this was the immediate result!

The fact that Shen Shuyi could guess all this which just these simple clues proved that she was definitely a genius-level figure.



“Mom, your complexion is not very good, is there something wrong?” Liang Ruoxu asked. Shen Shuyi didn’t answer, but instead asked, “In addition to this, what else did Lin Yi tell you?”

“He also said that after the establishment of this research institute, we will be able to hold it in our hands and achieve absolute control. ”

“Did you tell Uncle Chen about this?”

“I told Uncle Chen when I was at work, and he couldn’t stop laughing.”

“It’s over, something is going to happen!” Shen Shuyi said in a panic.”

“Is this a big deal? What’s going to happen?”

“Of course it’s a big deal.” Shen Shuyi’s face was solemn, “If this gets serious, even I might not be able to keep him!”

Chapter 515: Basic Deductive Reasoning

“One each for you.”

Chu Kuang’s new work finally arrived.

Cao Dezhi had wanted to go back to his office alone to read it –

But under the gaze of his sub-editors, he had no choice but to let his assistant print a copy for everyone.

Everyone read it together.

He himself went back to his office.

It was also a print version of the script.

Kneading the freshly brewed tea from his assistant, Cao Dezhi turned to Chu Kuang's new book.

Despite all kinds of worries in his heart, the more specific situation still had to be addressed in the main text.

Could Sherlock Holmes be Hercule Poirot under a different name?

Maybe the first case could give us some clues.

[The 78-year-long power struggle began, I earned a PhD in Medicine from the University of Han Continent and undertook a compulsory course in military medicine. Upon graduation, I was assigned to serve as an assistant military doctor in the Blue Star 5th Army 3rd Unit stationed at the Maiwand battlefield in Qi Continent...]

The story began in the first person.

The Hercule Poirot series by Chu Kuang also had many cases presented from a first-person perspective.

For instance, the acclaimed "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" used a first-person perspective and the murderer also pioneered the literary device of narrative trickery.

Most of the cases in the Poirot series narrated from a first-person perspective were from the perspective of Poirot's assistant Hastings, including Poirot's death at the end.

Chu Kuang's earlier creations using the first person could be traced back to "Ghost Blows the Lamp".

Chu Kuang seems to have a fondness for storytelling in the first person and is quite adept at it, and this is a common literary technique in detective novels.

In the current story...

The character presenting the story in first person is called "Watson".

This person is definitely not the protagonist, as Chu Kuang has personally explained in his book title and elsewhere.

The protagonist is called “Sherlock Holmes”.

Let’s talk about Watson first.

Watson is an experienced individual.

He has lived through the shift of power in Blue Star, was injured in the battlefield of Maiwand in Qi Continent, and retired to London due to the physical incapability to meet the demands of the battlefield –

Cao Dezhi knew about London.

London is one of the largest cities in Han Continent.

Chu Kuang’s novel settings were never limited to a specific continent. He had sound geographical knowledge and seemed to have some understanding of each continent.

Moreover, the character background settings were very realistic, as if those people really existed in that era.

These are similar to the Hercule Poirot series.

Let’s continue reading.

After retiring, Watson was looking for work in London, assuming that he could afford a place to stay and preferably a room partner. Accidentally, he ran into an old medical friend on the street.

The friend told Watson that a man named Sherlock Holmes was also looking for a roommate recently.

So, Watson and this old medical friend went together to a medical lab in London –

The place where Sherlock Holmes was currently working.

This inevitably reminded Cao Dezhi of when Hastings first met Poirot.

Maybe Watson served as an assistant to Sherlock Holmes in the same way Hastings served Poirot?

There were indeed similarities.

A sense of unease appeared in Cao Dezhi's mind. He believed that the readers would probably notice this as well. This point seemed to indirectly show that Sherlock Holmes and Hercules Poirot were similar.

However, when Watson arrived at the lab and met Sherlock Holmes for the first time, Cao Dezhi suddenly got a sense of the difference between Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot.

Sherlock Holmes was certainly not Poirot!

“Thud, thud, thud!”

Under the stunned gaze of Watson, Sherlock Holmes was fervently whipping a corpse. Anyone who saw this scene would think Sherlock Holmes was out of his mind –

like a pervert!

Hercule Poirot would never act so rudely. That germaphobe old man always remembered to maintain his elegance.

What's going on?

Cao Dezhi felt that Chu Kuang seemed to be trying a bit too hard to highlight the difference between Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot.

[“Does he often do this?” Watson asked.

The friend awkwardly responded, “Maybe he’s not in a good mood today.”.

Just then, Holmes turned to the arriving doctors, “You arrived exactly on time. I need to know his bruise condition in twenty minutes. This is related to one person’s alibi...”]

Cao Dezhi took a deep breath.

Oh, so it’s for the purpose of solving a case.

This approach can easily lead to misunderstandings though.

But in that era, it was absolutely a scientific manner of investigation.

[Holmes suddenly looked at Watson: “Maiwand?”.

“Sorry, how did you know?” Watson was slightly confused.]

It must have been mentioned by the doctor in advance, right?

Almost subconsciously, this was what Cao Dezhi thought.

[Holmes continued: “What do you think about the violin?”

Watson: “Uh...”

Without lifting his head, Holmes continued: “I play the violin when I think. Sometimes I won’t speak for days. Do you mind? It’s better to let the roommate know about one’s shortcomings in advance.”

“Did you tell him about me?”

Watson looked at the doctor who shook his head hastily: “I didn’t mention a word.”]

Huh?

Cao Dezhi was stunned.

It wasn't the doctor?

Then how did Holmes know?

Watson asked the question that was on Cao Dezhi's mind:

["Who told you all this?"]

"I did it myself."

As Holmes sketched circles on his notebook, it seemed like he was talking to himself: "It's difficult for someone like me to find a roommate. I talked to Mike about this matter this morning and he brought you here this afternoon. He introduces an old friend, obviously just being commissioned from a certain unit on the Maiwand battlefield. This isn't hard to guess."]

Cao Dezhi was dumfounded.

Brother, this was not hard to guess?

Watson asked the second question on behalf of the reader, Cao Dezhi:

["How did you know about the Maiwand battlefield?"]

Holmes didn't answer, but got up and said, "Baker Street 221, that will be our place."

"Just like that?"

With so many questions in his mind, Watson asked, “We just met and we’re going to find a house together. We don’t know anything about each other, I don’t even know your name...”

Holmes stopped in his tracks.

He turned back and said, “I know you’re a military doctor who has just been sent back from the Maiwand battlefield. I also know you might be suffering from Psychogenic Mobility Disorder. Maybe I can drop the ‘might’. As a roommate, isn’t this enough?”

Holmes got up and left, quickly introducing himself a few seconds later, “Sherlock Holmes.” As he said this, Holmes put on his bowler hat, bidding goodbye with a good afternoon.

Watson looked at his friend beside him.

The friend shrugged helplessly, “Yes, he’s always like this.”]

In the story, Watson was stunned!

Outside of the story, Cao Dezhi was stunned too!

Cao Dezhi was reading the story through Watson’s first-person perspective. Of course, he knew Watson had been to the Maiwand battlefield, knew about Watson’s injuries, and knew that Watson was a retiring military doctor. But how did Sherlock Holmes know?

Are you a detective?

You are a fortune teller, aren’t you!

Even though they just met, he figured out everything about the person. How on earth did Sherlock Holmes do that!?

Cao Dezhi had a million questions!

Chapter 516: Basic Deductive Reasoning

If the reader happens to be from Earth, they would certainly recognize the beginning of this chapter as a nod to “Sherlock Holmes”.

It’s a bit like the British drama “Sherlock”.

That’s right.

Lin Yuan has taken inspiration from several TV series about Sherlock Holmes.

Original works are not perfect, and Lin Yuan would definitely not use them in completion. For instance, Holmes made an incorrect deduction in the Speckled Band case.

This deduction was based on the assumption that snakes have good hearing and drink milk, but in reality, snakes have poor hearing and can’t digest milk well, rendering the murderer’s method unreliable. also, snakes do not drink milk.

But we can’t blame the author for that.

People from that era simply didn’t know.

A similar situation also occurred in “Poirot’s Casebook”.

As a modern day person, Lin Yuan would never adopt the basis of the original novels that are unscientific due to the author’s time limitations.

And now...

Cao Dezhi is too intrigued to look away—

He is extremely curious about how Holmes knows this information!

There’s simply no way fortune-telling is involved.



If that were the case, then the genre of this novel must have been misclassified by Chu Kuang.

Right next door and to the left, there's a department exclusively for fantasy novels.

Given that this is a detective novel, it's evident that Holmes must have arrived at his conclusions through deduction!

What's the basis of his deduction?

With this curiosity in mind, Cao Dezhi read carefully.

By now, he had refrained from impulsively comparing Holmes and Poirot.

Judging from the performances in the early stages, Holmes and Poirot, touted as great detectives by Chu Kuang, were distinctly different in ways such as character and style of speech—

Sherlock Holmes is too arrogant!

Poirot is also very arrogant, but how should we describe Holmes's arrogance?

This man boldly proclaims:

While others witness various details but are still unable to solve certain problems, he, Holmes, can explain complex mysteries even without stepping foot outside the house—

Can you believe it?

Is he even human?

Even Poirot doesn't show off like this!

What's even more outrageous is, Holmes dismisses all other detectives in London as worthless. He doesn't even consider himself a detective, but refers to himself as a "consulting detective"!

Oh, my.

Consulting detective is a new profession invented by Holmes himself. He believes he is the only one doing this job on Blue Star: [Whenever the police cannot solve a problem, they seek me out, as do the rest of the detectives in London.]

What he essentially means is, everyone else is a detective, while he himself is a ‘god detective’?

The only man in the entire Blue Star who can make Holmes understand the concept of “humility” happened to be the deceased Poirot.

Indeed.

Holmes only acknowledged the capabilities of Poirot.

When Cao Dezhi read this part, he could hardly maintain his composure.

Chu Kuang, must we really play this game?

If you want to write about Holmes, just write about Holmes. Why do you have to mention Poirot? Are you worried readers won’t realize it was you who killed off Poirot in your story?

Bringing up Poirot is one thing.

But why do you compare Holmes to Poirot?

From the looks of it, Holmes appeared to think that only Poirot could be his equal in this world.

This is too outrageous!

Although in the narrative, Holmes does not seem the least bit smug and instead speaks in a calm, somber tone, as if he were stating a fact, it is definitely unforgivable to fans of Poirot!

In the hearts of Poirot's fans, no one could be named in the same breath as him!

“You started off with such an over-the-top depiction of Holmes, aren't you afraid you can't wrap it up convincingly?”

This Holmes dude is absolutely unbearable!

Same here.

Even Watson in the book thinks Holmes is acting too superior.

This puts Watson and the reader, Cao Dezhi, on the same side.

But Watson is soon defeated by a piece of Holmes's reasoning:

“‘When we first met yesterday, I mentioned the Maiwand battlefield, and you seemed quite surprised.’

‘How do you know?’

Watson raised his voice: ‘Someone must have told you!’

‘I did not know, I observed.’

As always, Holmes's tone was equal parts dismissive and aloof: ‘Your face is quite sunburned, but your wrists are not. As such, you must have been to the tropics, but not for a sunbath. Your hairstyle and demeanor are military-like. Every movement and posture of yours is full of a soldier's rigor. The conversation you had with Mike when you entered implies that, like him, you studied at Han Continent Medical College. Hence, it's quite clear that you were a military doctor. You limp heavily when you walk but would rather stand than sit down, completely ignoring your disability. Therefore, at least part of the obstacle is psychological. Also, you were injured on a battlefield, which elaborates on where a military doctor can be exposed to sun and injuries? Oh yes, the Maiwand battlefield.’

Watson was dumbfounded by this reasoning!

Similarly, Cao Dezhi who considered himself on Watson's side was also shocked. He never expected Holmes to have seen through everything based on the first meeting with Watson!

Holy shit!

What an amazing power of observation!

Poirot also had similar moments of intellectual whirlwinds, equally impressive, but his approach to deduction was decidedly different from Holmes's.

Poirot seemed to be more inclined towards human psychology.

But Holmes derived his conclusions from countless observations and gathered information!

The former leaned towards intuition, while Holmes privileged rationality above all else!

This was the first time Cao Dezhi realized that, while Holmes undoubtedly has the potential to be unbearable, the speed at which his brain works is admittedly astonishing, and, more frustratingly, he can't find a valid point to refute his deduction...

Was this a coincidence?

Did Holmes just happen to find the clue?

Of course not!

As Cao Dezhi continued to read the book, watching Holmes officially kick off his first deduction show, his eyes widened in awe.

Hair...

Luggage...

Fingernails...

At a murder scene, he can deduce countless pieces of information from the dead man's sleeve to his boots, his pants, his knees, the calluses between his thumb and forefinger, his last facial expression, including cufflinks, etc!

Detail-oriented!

Rational!

Such intricate information can all be pooled in his mind, enabling him to grasp key clues. He can even judge how many people were in the carriage nearby from the depth of the carriage track marks!

Deduction of logic?

Not exactly!

The deduction of logic is to infer the process based on the result, which is Poirot's field of expertise. Most detectives deduct the process based on results, where the logic occupies a large proportion, but Holmes seems to be more adept at inferring the result through the process. And these processes are derived from the mentioned details, which bear resemblances yet show fundamental differences!

One can imagine.

When these deductions appeared before Cao Dezhi's eyes, he was almost dumbfounded. An image of a hawk-nosed man wearing a round hat and holding a pipe appeared before his eyes. The man's gaze must be filled with rational wisdom derived from observation, and all these deductions were based on Holmes's theory:

Basic deductive reasoning!

The case can probably be divided into two parts: the first part is Holmes using his method of deduction to identify the serial killer; the second part is the murderer's motive and the tragic experiences he has suffered. It's a tale of a sympathetic murderer taking revenge in his own way.

The story is over.

But Cao Dezhi was stunned.

As a Blue Starian, this was Cao Dezhi's first confrontation with the shock delivered by Holmes and the basic deductive reasoning, while a similar shock also arose from the editors' hearts in the neighboring conference room—

Horrible Holmes!

Chapter 518: To Buy or Not to Buy

Following Cao Dezhi's announcement, the fact that 'Great Detective Holmes' would be published in five days was confirmed and officially announced by Silver Blue Books. Instantly, Chu Kuang's new book kicked off its promotional phase.

At this time.

The readers had not fully recovered from the shock of Poirot's death. The discussion about his death continued wave after wave. As a result, when everyone suddenly saw the news of the imminent publication of 'Great Detective Holmes', anger surged through their hearts—

A new book?

A great detective?

Holmes?

We're still mourning Poirot here, and you can't wait to finish the new book? Do you think about how devastated we readers feel?

Angry!

All are angry!

Although Chu Kuang had previously announced his new book, fans of the Poirot series couldn't help but get riled up. Time proved inadequate to calm everyone's anger. Despite understanding why Chu Kuang killed off Poirot in the end, many still refused to accept Holmes as a replacement for Poirot. Many even protested directly in Chu Kuang's Tribe comment section, echoing the reaction to Chu Kuang's new book announcement:

"Absolutely boycott!"

"Sure enough, I underestimated the old rascal's integrity. I thought he would mourn Poirot's death, but this old rascal is now pushing the new great detective so quickly. The murderer who killed Poirot!"

"I won't buy this book!"

"I said when Poirot died, no matter what happens, I absolutely will not read 'Great Detective Holmes'. I only have one great detective in my heart, unlike Chu Kuang, an unfaithful scumbag!"

"Holmes, back off!"

"We are incompatible with old rascal Chu Kuang, we don't want Holmes, we only want Poirot. Not everyone can become a great detective!"

"..."

The readers' feelings for Poirot cannot be underestimated. The impact of this character has gone beyond that of a virtual character. When the plot of Poirot's death was released on March 3rd, even major media outlets have issued an obituary for Poirot. Which virtual character gets this treatment?

As Jin Mu worried.

As the release of ‘Great Detective Holmes’ approached, the wave of boycotting Holmes reappeared, leaving industry insiders in a bit of a laughing and crying situation, lamenting that Chu Kuang really messed up this time.

“What will Chu Kuang do now?”

“The backlash against Holmes among readers is too exaggerated. Chu Kuang’s new book might not sell, it’s hard to imagine that a best-selling author of his caliber would have trouble selling his novel.”

“What will bookstores do?”

“Bookstores will still stock up. Regardless of the loud voices boycotting Holmes, it is only survivorship bias. Many silent readers are still willing to support Chu Kuang’s new book. However, what proportion of readers they account for is unknown. This could significantly impact the sales of Chu Kuang’s new book.”

“...”

Meanwhile.

Major booksellers were also a little dumbfounded. Normally, they would definitely order more of Chu Kuang’s new books. When have his new books ever been unsellable? Moreover, the shadow that ‘Zhu Xian’ left on many publishing houses due to insufficient stock and a drop in performance has not yet disappeared.

But...

The problem this time seems to lie within Chu Kuang’s readers. Previously, it was always outsiders who were not optimistic about Chu Kuang’s new books. Now, Chu Kuang’s readers are boycotting his new book. These are the main consumers of Chu Kuang’s works!

Hesitation!

Conflicted!



On one hand, everyone can't ignore the readers' boycott, but on the other hand, they can't resist Chu Kuang's charm. The internal scales seem to be swaying left and right, which is an unprecedented situation for booksellers.

For this reason.

Some booksellers surreptitiously conducted a sample survey among Chu Kuang's reader group. However, the results of the sample survey left these booksellers even more conflicted because they offered three options.

One, support.

Two, boycott.

Three, don't know.

Twenty-four percent of readers chose to support Chu Kuang without hesitation, twenty-six percent chose to boycott, and fifty percent simply chose "don't know".

What does it mean you don't know?

This kind of uncertainty makes it very hard for our bookstore to operate. We might just end up paying the price for your "don't know", especially considering that based on the survey results, it seems there are slightly more people planning to boycott than support.

The moment of decision arrives.

Some bookstores grit their teeth and stock up on Chu Kuang's books as usual; some reduce their pre-order according to the survey results. The market's attitude towards "The Great Detective Holmes" appears slightly polarized.

At this moment.

In the studio where Lin Yuan works, Jin Mu wears a helpless expression, “The boss has indeed posed a predicament for all the major bookstores, no one can predict the sales of “The Great Detective Holmes” now.”

Lin Yuan asks: “What’s your take?”

Jin Mu hesitated for a moment, then sneered, “It’s pointless to ask me this. I’ve already read the opening of Holmes and I understand the quality of this work very well.”

Lin Yuan nodded: “Exactly.”

Jin Mu paused, then understood Lin Yuan’s point. Regardless of boycott or support, the sales of the novel ultimately depend on the quality of the work. After all, Chu Kuang didn’t do anything wrong.

Holmes is a good read.

Given the charm of Holmes portrayed in the opening, as well as his excellent and powerful basic deductive reasoning, there’s no reason for readers not to like this new character. It’s just that everyone is reacting emotionally at the moment.

They will eventually calm down.

Jin Mu revealed a smile. His boss’s IQ always fluctuated. While he could be extremely smart at times, he would also do something speechless at other times.

Meanwhile.

Cao Dezhi also worried that the readers’ boycott of Holmes might affect the sales of Chu Kuang’s new book, so he specifically sought out the chief editor, hoping he could think of a solution. However, the chief editor responded with a laugh:

“There’s nothing to be done.”

“But the situation is not good.”

“When I was young, my dream was to be a basketball player. My mother bought me a basketball, I loved that ball. Later, it accidentally broke, and I cried my heart out. Then my mother tried to comfort me by saying she’ll buy a new one for me. But I didn’t want it. However, when I woke up one day and looked at my bedside...”

“I got it!”

Cao Dezhi suddenly realized: “Dear chief editor, you’re trying to say, as long as the new basketball is as fun as the old one, everyone will eventually choose to accept it!”

“Huh?”

The chief editor shook his head: “I was saying, my mom made a mistake, she couldn’t tell a basketball from a football, so she bought me a football...”

“I understand!”

Cao Dezhi hesitated a moment, then became more excited: “You mean, you thought you only liked basketball, but then you realized that football is also fun!”

“No.”

The chief editor stared at Cao Dezhi: “What I meant was, I don’t play every ball, and I don’t have the fucking answers to every question!”

Cao Dezhi: “...”

Regardless of the readers’ reactions, nothing can change the fact that “The Great Detective Holmes” will be officially on sale in major bookstores in a few days, and neither the bookstores nor the publishers have any special adjustment plans due to some readers’ protests.

At the same time.

Some silent supporters of Chu Kuang have already bought this new book; some undecided readers also bought this new book; even some who claimed to boycott Chu Kuang also...

“Boycott is real!”

A guy who has been shouting boycott against Chu Kuang’s new book faced his friend’s doubting eyes, he couldn’t help but smack his brand-new copy of “The Great Detective Holmes” that he had just bought, “Reading gives you the right to speak. If you talk without reading, you become a troll. If you’re going to troll, at least make reasoned arguments. If you’re going to troll, at least finish the book first!”

“But you still bought it.”

His eyes instantly became deep, like a philosopher: “I bought it so that more people wouldn’t have to...”

Chapter 519: Sir, times have changed

This day.

Despite whatever initial feelings they had, many people indeed purchased “The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes,” even though for many people, the words “The Great Detective” in the title were somewhat distasteful.

Eight o’clock.

On the internet.

A considerable portion of people were still voicing their resistance to Sherlock Holmes, even though a lot of them had also bought the latest edition of “The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes.” Some were even reading it while griping online –

“The old rascal’s book is not up to par.”

“This Holmes is so perverted. He starts off by thrashing a dead body. Although it’s for the case, his character still comes off as unlikeable. Our Poirot would never be so rude.”

“Too violent.”

“The more I read, the more I feel annoyed. This Holmes is too arrogant and he is just like a clone of the old rascal. Holmes even dared to say that Blue Star’s Poirot is the only one in the detective field who can be compared with him!”

“What?”

Some audiences who hadn’t bought the book at all, hearing this, were instantly livid: “He dares to mention Poirot, he really stops at nothing to promote Sherlock Holmes to a higher position, this only makes me more determined in boycotting Holmes!”

“What does Holmes have?”

“Is he worthy to be spoken of in the same breath as Poirot?”

“The issue is that you guys are clearly also boycotting Holmes, so why did you buy this book and are now reading it? Isn’t this just playing into the old rascal’s hands, and contributing to the sales of his new book!”

“...”

The group of people who didn’t buy the book were very dissatisfied.

We agreed to boycott Chu Kuang together.

You guys actually went and secretly bought the new book.

Is there no overall perspective anymore? Chu Kuang – the old rascal – is our unanimous enemy right now. Everyone has a duty to boycott Holmes. You guys know that you’re supporting the enemy, right?

“We need to read it to criticize it!”

Those who bought “The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes” were still reading into it at this time, occasionally interacting with these online friends who haven’t read the book: “If we don’t buy the

book, how will you all know just how outrageous the old rascal is, daring to profit from our Poirot?”

“Exactly!”

“I’ve noticed a problem, the old rascal clearly wants Holmes to become the new Poirot, he arranged for Holmes to have an assistant named Watson. This Watson is simply a clone of Hastings!”

“Yes.”

“Also, the story of Holmes is told from the first-person perspective of assistant Watson, just like how the Poirot series is told from the first-person perspective of the assistant. It’s the same pattern!”

“I knew it.”

“The old rascal Chu Kuang just wants to change Poirot’s name, since it’s still the same great detective mode, a detective and assistant collaboration, why did he end the Poirot series!”

Everyone was united in their hatred.

But something strange was:

The group of people who were reading and criticizing “The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes” were quite active in the beginning, immediately criticizing any loophole they found with the other netizens. But as time slowly passed, their post frequency seemed to gradually decrease, and they hardly even complained towards the end.

Speak up!

Why aren’t you saying anything?

Those netizens who didn’t buy the book were somewhat puzzled after noticing this. Didn’t you guys say that buying the book gives you the right to speak? So where are your comments now, what happened to banding together for criticism?

This is strange.

The people have decreased.

When it was past nine o'clock, we don't know from when, but the group of people who were watching and criticizing "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes" with netizens simply disappeared altogether!

It was as if they had vanished collectively.

The remaining netizens who didn't buy the book were left disoriented, some were desperately mentioning those who were reading the book. This managed to summon a few of them, but the condition of these few seemed a little strange:

"Reading."

"Don't mention."

"No time."

Why are they so engrossed in the book?

Weren't you guys talking quite eagerly just now? The netizens who didn't buy the book were all discontented. Then another person who was reading the book appeared: "You all go buy a copy of the book and read it yourselves. Why do you keep asking us?"

Something is off!

Something is really off!

Those netizens who hadn't bought the book and thus had no book to read all frowned, but they didn't know where the problem lay. They just felt an unexplained feeling welling up inside them – should we also go and buy a copy to read?

The other side.

Lin Yuan didn't pay attention to the online commotion, he was at the set of "Spiderman" watching the filming. At this moment, with the end of a difficult scene, the director Yi Chenggong suddenly broke into a smile:

"That's a wrap."

After saying that, Yi Chenggong looked at Lin Yuan. The rest of the crew also turned to look at Lin Yuan. Lin Yuan understood Yi Chenggong and everyone's intention. He went up to look at the scene that was just filmed, then he slightly nodded:

"That's a wrap!"

The crew immediately fell into an ocean of cheers. "Spiderman" finally finished filming. The actor Jian Yi beside him took off his Spiderman suit, held it in his hand and swung it around in excitement. He had finally finished filming his first movie in his life!

"Next is post-production."

Yi Chenggong smiled and looked at Lin Yuan: "If there are no surprises, we should be able to finish this film in less than two months. At that time, we can plan the release. Perhaps, Mr. Lin, you can now consider the issue of release dates."

Lin Yuan nodded.

He was also very happy. This was the fourth movie of his life, a very interesting commercial film. Lin Yuan was not sure if he would shoot similar themes in the future, but this attempt was quite fascinating for him.

He celebrated with the crew for a while.

Lin Yuan opened his phone, ready to check the reviews of "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes" online. He calculated the time, it was 4:30 pm and the first batch of readers should have finished.



He logged into Tribe.

Lin Yuan was about to search for related topics to Holmes, but then he saw a recommended post on Tribe displayed right in front of him. It was a post made by Leng Guang, an author of detective novels from Blue Star. This so-called big critic, who had once engaged in a literary duel with Chu Kuang and ended up in a devastating defeat, surprisingly praised the book: “I thought Holmes would be the last vestige of the post-Poirot era created by Chu Kuang, but it turns out to be the beginning of a new era for the great detective series.”

Following this.

Another author with a bigger name than Leng Guang, Carter, who once wrote the preface for “Murder on the Orient Express”, astonishingly shared Leng Guang’s post, and added: “Welcome to the Holmes era!”

Meanwhile.

Someone closed “The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes” slowly before a group of stunned friends, and then looked up at the sky at a forty-five-degree angle: “This era will not prevent Poirot from shining, but it will also not overshadow others’ brilliance!”

“I get it.”

A friend was astonished: “But didn’t you say before that you bought ‘The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes’ to prevent more people from buying it?”

“Did I?”

“Didn’t you?”

“Someone once said that at each stage of life, he only spoke what he believed in, what do you want him to do, he didn’t do anything wrong.”

“...”

So now the morning and afternoon can be divided into two stages of life? Why don't you just say:

Grown-ups!

The times have changed!

Chapter 520: Truly Fragrant

Of course, the stages of life wouldn't be divided into morning and afternoon segments.

The era is still the same era.

But with the first batch of readers finishing Chu Kuang's new book, the wind direction did indeed change—

Not just Leng Guang.

Not just Carter.

And certainly not only that guy who likes to engage his buddies in philosophical debates.

The change in wind direction usually takes a collective as its foundation before it sweeps over like a whirlwind.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!

At a time when many internet users still resisting Sherlock Holmes hadn't fully regained their wits, those readers who initially joined the collective criticism and mockery but later mysteriously vanished, suddenly reappeared.

Armed with an unexpected: "The magnificent Sherlock Holmes, the brilliant basic deductive reasoning!"

What the heck?

Have they been possessed?

Those internet users who refused to buy the book in opposition to Sherlock Holmes were dumbfounded at this sudden change, then they were swept up by one wave after another of shock, accompanied by one bewitching phrase after another:

“Chu Kuang is damned amazing!”

“I’m blown away!”

“I always thought Poirot was the greatest detective created by Blue Star, never expected there’d be another Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who is on par with Poirot. I, Wang Shang, hereby acclaim Sherlock Holmes as the new greatest detective!”

“I, Liu Jing, agree with this sentiment wholeheartedly!”

“Hello everyone, my name is Zhou Ze, and I am here to introduce my new idol, his name is Sherlock Holmes.”

“...”

Those who hadn’t bought the book finally snapped out of their daze. They didn’t want to be brainwashed. They were still resisting:

We are an unbreakable alliance!

I resist Sherlock Holmes...

I resist Sherl...

I resist...

I...

Their voices were drowned out.

Their will began to waver.

Their spirits gradually broke down.

They stretched out their guilty right hands; they took steps with their guilty legs; they began to order books online; they began to run towards the bookstores...

Until...

The front desk staff smiled at them: "All sold out, there's truly not a single one left."

They left the bookstore with their heads down.

Behind the staff, the shop owner clutched his chest, indeed not a single book was left, but the blood in his heart was still dripping down, drop by drop.

Weren't you resisting?

Didn't you "not know"?

It seems to me that you all knew quite well!

Only us booksellers didn't know!

Chu Kuang you misled me! Chu Kuang's readers misled me!

Birds of a feather flock together, you fans of Chu Kuang are all two-faced creatures, fundamentally the same as that old rascal Chu Kuang!

Nothing but shit men!

Cheating us booksellers' feelings!

Alright.

Some bookstores had been regularly stocking up.

Many booksellers haven't forgotten the horror dominated by "Zhu Xian", so they played it a little safe.

That fear had once caused them heavy losses, yet on this day with similar circumstances, it compensated them to a certain degree.

They wouldn't have to experience the awkwardness of an emergency restock again.

A bookstore owner who had stocked up a decent amount of "Sherlock Holmes" displayed a knowing smile, then said to his busy workers next to him: "People often don't realize their hunger until the food is served, only then they say..."

"So hungry?"

"I don't think so, why not test it out."

The owner looked towards the entrance; it was the takeout he ordered for his employees half an hour ago, the kind with chicken.

"Really fragrant!"

The employees enjoyed their takeout. Turns out we don't say "so hungry", the bookstore was immediately filled with a joyous atmosphere.

The food tasted really fragrant.

And in front of the most conspicuous bookshelf.

Another new client picked up a brand new copy of “Sherlock Holmes”, his expression somewhat complicated.

Meanwhile on the internet.

More and more people are discussing Sherlock Holmes, fewer people are resisting Sherlock Holmes, their numbers dwindling almost to the point of extinction.

“It’s really good!”

“It truly is!”

“Chu Kuang, this intelligent... courageous and talented writer is just so likable!”

“I’ve rediscovered the thrill I had when I read the Hercule Poirot series, but Poirot is Poirot, Sherlock Holmes is Sherlock Holmes, they are both my favorite detectives!”

“Overflowing with nostalgic emotions!”

“When I read Sherlock Holmes saying that Poirot was the only detective he admired, I felt really moved. I bet Professor Chu Kuang misses Poirot too!”

“Professor Chu Kuang... is still so amazing!”

“Sherlock Holmes has an antisocial personality due to his high intelligence, is proficient in multiple disciplines, likes to pay attention to the details and deduce reasoning. While Poirot has a humanitarian style towards life and reality, he is particularly good at psychology and focuses more on logic. The characters are both very distinctive.”

“...”

People in the industry were dumbfounded.

If it weren't for seeing a few familiar IDs, they would almost suspect they had traveled through time.

Like that guy named Zhou Ze!

Staring for what? Yes, you!

Didn't you say "even if it kills me, I would rather jump from here than read Chu Kuang's new book"?

Why are you flip-flopping faster than turning a page?

Isn't it quite a shame to have two faces at such a young age?

Confused.

Based on the reactions, the people within the industry are absolutely the most dumbfounded.

Who plays like this?

In the morning, they were all saying they would resist Chu Kuang's new book, acting as if they wanted to storm Chu Kuang's house for a free grab spree.

But in the afternoon, they all fucking defected?

Yes.

They defected.

They defected completely.

And when the insiders looked at Chu Kuang's Poirot comment section, the first hot comment that caught their eye was:

“Readers can’t always live in the past, I believe Mr. Poirot would be very comforted in spirit, knowing his detective spirit is being carried on by someone else!”

Insiders held their heads.

This comment got exceptionally high approval, and all the following comments were similarly themed:

“The old rascal commemorated Poirot in his new work, it’s comforting.”

Is that what you call commemorating?

“Let’s admit, grudgingly, that Sherlock Holmes can be considered a great detective too.”

So now you’re acting coy?

“I knew it, Chu Kuang never lets people down. Sherlock Holmes will lead a new era.”

The hindsight is really quite beautiful.

“No one can replace Poirot, but someone can stand alongside Poirot in the world.”

The insiders no longer had the strength to ridicule.

At this time, they noticed someone posted a humorous four-panel comic, from the reader’s point of view.

First panel: “I’ll beat up the old rascal! How dare he kill off Poirot!”

Second panel: “Who is Sherlock Holmes? No one can replace Poirot!”

Third panel: The reader starts to read a book called “Sherlock Holmes”.



Fourth panel: Sherlock Holmes is awesome (in a funny accent)!

“...”

The insiders finally had a realization.

Turns out readers will also wax poetic, turns out readers also know what they are doing. Look at what Chu Kuang has driven his own readers to become.

Utterly outrageous!

Not only can he slap the faces of his editors and major booksellers, when he's ruthless he can even slap his own readers' faces—

Sherlock Holmes has gotten popular.