

All R. Artist 831

Chapter 831: A Rather Beautiful Beginning

The drama officially began.

In the scene.

Countless Heavenly Soldiers and Generals clad in armor tightly surrounded a humble grass hut.

A solemn air.

A cloud floated in the sky.

A lone, proud figure stood amidst the mist.

He was dressed in silver armor, his face handsome yet indifferent, with a vertical silver eye on his forehead resembling twisted lightning.

Behind him, a cape fluttered fiercely.

Erlang Shen, Yang Jian!

The opening scene was Erlang Shen capturing the Third Goddess!

...

My sister's eyes lit up, "So handsome!"

In the TV drama 'Journey to the West,' Yang Jian was played by Liu Zhengwen.

At that time, Liu Zhengwen's portrayal of Yang Jian sparked numerous discussions.

Everyone felt that Liu Zhengwen's Yang Jian, both in appearance and attractiveness, was truly outstanding.

And in 'The Magic Lotus Lantern,' Liu Zhengwen continued the look from 'Journey to the West,' and with the director's specially arranged cool, impressive, and explosive shots, the visual impact was still very strong!

Just then.

A dog appeared beside Erlang Shen.

My sister was instantly dumbfounded, turning to look at Antarctica, jokingly teasing, "You're playing Sky Roaring Dog again, and I lose immersion every time I see you!"

"Woof!"

Antarctica was smug, perking up.

Lin Yuan laughed; Antarctica was brought by him to the crew.

In fact, Antarctica only filmed for a few days before the production wrapped up.

Most of the time, the character of Sky Roaring Dog was portrayed in human form by a specific actor.

And as the camera continued.

What the Magic Lotus Lantern was, the plot finally explained.

It turned out to be a treasure that, reportedly, only someone with gentle mana could control, a truly precious item.

The Third Goddess only managed to contend with Yang Jian temporarily using this treasure.

Unfortunately, there was a problem with the treasure. She was no match for Yang Jian and ultimately, her brother, Erlang Shen, personally imprisoned her in Mount Hua, though her husband and son escaped with their lives.

Seeing this.

My sister said in dissatisfaction, "Why do I vaguely feel that this Yang Jian doesn't seem very kind?"

The Third Goddess having gentle mana indicates she's a good person.

Yang Jian imprisoning the Third Goddess, not sparing even his own sister, clearly sets him as the villain.

"Hard to say, the plot has just begun."

Mom shook her head, obviously an old hand at this.

My sister analyzed, "From the beginning, it seems that the Third Goddess violated heavenly laws by marrying a mortal and having a child. As the Judiciary God, Yang Jian had to capture his sister to enforce the law, it's just a matter of perspective, we'll understand as we watch more."

Indeed.

We'll find out as we watch.

In the first episode, when Yang Jian imprisoned his sister, nobody felt particularly shocked; after all, at this point, they had not yet developed feelings for the characters, and Yang Jian was the only one they were familiar with.

...

In the second episode.

Chenxiang had grown up.

Unlike his honest father, this Chenxiang was a bit mischievous and unexpectedly ended up in the underworld.

The underworld judge prepared to throw him into the eighteen layers of hell for intruding into the underworld without permission.

Black and White Impermanence were also demoted because of Chenxiang's involvement.

Then.

Erlang Shen entered the underworld and directly requested Yama to modify the Book of Life and Death, adding twenty years to Chenxiang's life.

...

Mom said, "He still cares for his nephew."

My sister remarked, "It seems that Yang Jian isn't a bad guy after all. He imprisoned his sister as a last resort. It's just that I'm a bit confused by the protagonist; it seems like Yang Jian isn't the main character of the drama, but Chenxiang is."

"Chenxiang is the protagonist."

My sister also nodded, "Yang Jian seems to be the secondary male lead? It's a bit different from the promotion."

"Yes, but the plot is quite interesting."

Mom seemed intrigued; the quality of 'The Magic Lotus Lantern' was quite appealing.

The sister next door nodded, "Could this plot be about the uncle helping Chenxiang in various ways?"

Lin Yuan remained silent.

There was nothing wrong with what the family said.

If only they could stick to their own opinions, it would be even better.

...

Not just Lin Yuan's family.

On the internet at this moment.

Countless viewers had watched "The Lotus Lantern"!

As the first spin-off drama from Journey to the West, this show garnered a massive amount of attention right after its release, attracting numerous people to jump on the bandwagon!

"Not bad at all."

"This drama is quite interesting."

"Erlang Shen is really handsome!"

"I originally thought Yang Jian was the antagonist, which gave me a scare, but seeing him being so nice to Chenxiang has reassured me."

"What are you thinking? How could Yang Jian possibly be the antagonist?"

"Teacher Yi'an's script is still quite good. The segment where Yang Jian enters the underworld in the second episode has a bit of a 'Monkey wreaks havoc in the underworld' vibe. The difference is that after the Monkey's debacle, Yama sued him, while Yang Jian altered his nephew's lifespan, and old Yama was so scared that he didn't dare to say a thing!"

"I just love it when characters are protective!"

This segment was actually a very exhilarating one.

It had elements like showing off and being protective, which are points web novelists have tried and tested repeatedly.

The only surprise was...

This drama was said to be about Yang Jian's storyline, but the protagonist turned out to be Chenxiang.

Although Yang Jian also had a lot of screen time, from the standpoint of the story's orientation, it obviously unfolded from Chenxiang's perspective.

Luckily, Chenxiang was quite likeable.

Even though he is an original character, he was well crafted.

"It seems that Yang Jian isn't the main character, but Yang Jian indeed has ample screen time."

"I'm now a bit worried that when Chenxiang finds out that his mother was imprisoned by his uncle, it might lead to a fallout between him and his uncle, turning it into a heart-wrenching drama."

"Damn, don't scare me!"

"Let's not, just watching him protect his nephew's growth is nice too."

"It's up to how Teacher Yi An writes it."

"Considering how good 'The Legend of Wukong' was, this drama should be decent too."

Overall, the reactions to this drama were pretty good.

However, because just two episodes were released so far, people couldn't discern much more.

Of course.

Among the positive comments, there were some slightly harsh critiques.

"What's there to talk about in this crappy show? The first episode just has Yang Jian imprisoning his sister, which absolutely doesn't fit Erlang Shen's character!"

"That's ridiculous, since when did Erlang Shen become a Judiciary God?"

"Adaptation is not about making stuff up, Yi An should apologize. She has completely deviated from the setting of Erlang Shen, and it's so awkward for me to watch."

"I only recognize the Yang Jian from the Primordial Chaos!"

"If it were the Yang Jian from the Primordial Chaos, he definitely wouldn't imprison his sister; he'd fight the Heavenly Court for her!"

"The Erlang Shen in Journey to the West is just a joke."

Clearly, these were fans of The Primordial Chaos stirring up trouble.

However, the number of fans of The Primordial Chaos wasn't doing too well these days.

The provocative pacing was quickly suppressed by everyone's discussions about the plot.

The key point is...

Everyone didn't think that the drama's portrayal of Yang Jian was in any way overdone.

The only controversial point about Yang Jian so far was that he had imprisoned his own sister.

Beyond that, he didn't have any other issues.

On the contrary.

He was very caring towards his nephew, showing a sense of familial concern.

Even towards Liu Yanchang, Chenxiang's father, Erlang Shen didn't do anything.

As for discrepancies with the character setup and The Primordial Chaos?

Who said this is the Journey to the West version of Yang Jian?

Overall, "The Lotus Lantern" had a quite promising start.

Chapter 832 Turning Point

The next day.

When Lin Yuan went to the company to work, he took the opportunity to go online and check the response to "The Legend of the Lotus Lantern."

There was still a lot of discussion among netizens.

The audience's comments were mostly very positive.

For instance, Erlang Shen's appearance won the hearts of countless people.

Lin Yuan had previously invested heavily in promoting "Journey to the West," and at the time, many people thought that such cost-ignorant investment could not possibly recoup its costs, even facing resistance from the company side, feeling there was no need to pour so much money into it.

But now.

The related benefits had already become evident.

Riding on the popularity of "Journey to the West," "The Legend of the Lotus Lantern," having only released two episodes, had gained considerable attention!

On the three major video streaming platforms the company partnered with.

"The Legend of the Lotus Lantern," with merely two episodes aired, almost simultaneously climbed to the top of the playback charts on several video websites!

The daily streaming volume, all entering the top three!

On one website, it even squeezed into the top spot on the daily charts!

This was the trend of a hit drama; if there were no issues with the later plot, it was a surefire hit.

"The beginning is very smooth."

Lin Yuan quietly let out a sigh of relief.

This was the first derivative work of "Journey to the West."

In his plans, there would be other derivative works from "Journey to the West" in the future.

If the first one failed, it might affect the other derivatives, so the current successful launch was indeed pleasing.

However...

The part of the drama that belonged to "Everlasting Regret" had not yet unfolded.

The later plot was too heartwarming.

As to what the future held, Lin Yuan himself couldn't say for sure but was generally optimistic.

The Blue Star audience could even accept "Yang Xiaofan and Qin Tiange," so a drama that was more extreme in its playfulness shouldn't pose any problem, right?

Thinking this way.

Lin Yuan arrived at the company.

Inside his office.

A lovely figure sat on the couch, anxiously waiting.

Suddenly.

The door opened.

The lovely figure immediately stood up and looked towards Lin Yuan as he entered, her tone slightly excited:

"Teacher Admirable Fish!"

"Sorry for the wait."

Lin Yuan spoke and looked at the woman in front of him.

It was November by now, and there was a hint of chill in the air; the woman in front of him wore a slim-fitting white jacket for warmth, and underneath her delicate makeup, she had a perky nose and large eyes, the very image of a goddess.

Indeed, she was a goddess, the "Piano Goddess," to be precise.

That's right.

This woman was Gu Xi.

Gu Xi was summoned by Lin Yuan.

For the Song of Gods battle in December, Lin Yuan planned to perform "Nocturne."

Considering that Zhong Continent was sending two individuals, one of whom was Maestro, who excelled at classical piano, Lin Yuan had already decided to release Director Zhou's "Nocturne" while also taking Chopin's pieces out!

To let Chopin go up against Maestro!

And he had chosen Gu Xi as the performer.

After all, Gu Xi was the only pianist Lin Yuan was familiar with and whose level was sufficiently high.

Lin Yuan could also perform himself, yet his piano skills remained at a professional level.

Compared to the near-master level of Gu Xi, there was still a gap.

So, Lin Yuan thought it would be better to save his effort.

Just as one would choose a singer for a song.

Lin Yuan was certainly going to choose the most suitable pianist to play "Nocturne."

Since his own level wasn't enough to be the most suitable interpreter for "Nocturne" at the moment, there was no need to force it.

But speaking of which.

There was another reason for choosing Gu Xi:

She had previously helped Lin Yuan out a bit.

Sometimes when recording songs at Yu Dynasty, they would get her to handle the piano part.

Any one of Chopin's "Nocturnes" could be considered a classic masterpiece.

Lin Yuan could casually give any one of them to a capable pianist, and it would directly contribute to their career to a certain extent because performing this piece had huge benefits!

And Lin Yuan chose to give this opportunity to Gu Xi.

When it comes to matters of assistance, there must be reciprocity; otherwise, even if he didn't know any other piano masters, he would surely be able to find some if he tried.

He believed there wouldn't be a pianist on Blue Star who could resist the charm of "Nocturne."

"What is it that Teacher Admirable Fish wanted to see me about?"

Gu Xi looked at Lin Yuan with eagerness and anticipation.

Upon receiving his call, she immediately postponed many things and rushed to Starlight, even arriving before Lin Yuan.

There were generally only two reasons when Lin Yuan sought out Gu Xi.

The first reason was that Lin Yuan needed help; the second reason was that Lin Yuan had a new piece of music.

"I have two pieces that I'd like you to perform."

This time it was the second reason, and the one that Gu Xi was most looking forward to!

Lin Yuan directly brought out the sheet music, which turned out to be the "Nocturne" he had prepared in advance.

There were two pieces in total.

The first: "Nocturne in E-Flat Major."

The second: "Nocturne in B-Flat Minor."

In fact, Chopin's "Nocturnes" are not the title of a work, but rather a genre of piano solo pieces on Earth.

This style belonged exclusively to Chopin!

Created by Chopin himself!

The complete "Nocturnes" certainly consist of more than two pieces.

It's a series, and together with the posthumously edited pieces of Chopin, there are twenty-one "Nocturnes" in total.

Lin Yuan hadn't brought out all twenty-one pieces.

The two he had chosen were the most representative pieces of Chopin's "Nocturnes" series.

Having these two "Nocturnes" was sufficient.

Even one was enough.

The rest could be supplemented later.

After all, the impact of the entire series rested on the quality of these two pieces.

Time was mainly the issue.

If he presented all twenty-one pieces, Gu Xi would find it hard to master them all before the end of the month.

Chapter 832 Turning Point_2

Lin Yuan couldn't wait that long.

He directly handed the sheet music to Gu Xi.

"Thump, thump, thump!"

His heart inexplicably started racing.

Gu Xi hurriedly took the music and began to read!

She dared not show the slightest negligence toward Xian Yu's piano compositions!

Past collaborations had taught Gu Xi that whenever Xian Yu released a piano piece, it was bound to be extraordinary, not to mention that this time there were two.

"I'll start by demonstrating 'Nocturne in E-flat Major' for you."

Lin Yuan said, then seated himself at the piano in his office.

Lin Yuan's office was very spacious.

The white piano was situated by the window.

"Thank you for the trouble."

Gu Xi said quickly.

Lin Yuan nodded, his fingers swept over the keys, and he began his performance.

Notes poured forth.

The tranquil melody, softly sounded.

As if in the silent night, a candle was suddenly lit, accompanied by the flickering glimmer.

Gu Xi compared the sheet music with Lin Yuan's performance.

Serenity and lyricism.

Melancholy and contemplation.

Unconsciously, Gu Xi became intoxicated.

She seemed to forget everything around her, even forgetting when the music had started, her eyes only reflecting an unusual splash of color.

An indescribable romantic atmosphere was quietly spreading.

It was a very unique charm.

Under Lin Yuan's fingertips, the piano began to chant poetically with its distinct voice.

The individuality of the music and the characteristics of the piano merged together like water and milk.

It appeared to be melancholy.

Like a lingering contemplation.

The rhythm was long and dreamlike.

In the piano's lower register, Lin Yuan's playing was fast then slow, unpredictable, as if a myriad of emotions were entwining!

His fingers danced upon the keys.

Unbeknownst to her, the steps became increasingly brisk.

This caused the piano's sound to grow more animated, as if it was spiraling upwards!

Within the intensifying melody, waves began to rise!

Excitement, sighs, exhilaration, and restlessness—a range of rich and subtle emotions emerged one after another in the music!

"Is this 'Nocturne'?"

The style of the night was so consistent, yet the mood within it was so different!

Nocturne!

Gu Xi stared at the name on the sheet music, the unusual hue in her eyes slowly blossoming, as if she were drunk!

And as the climax approached.

Her breathing became hurried, her chest heaving violently, and a flush quickly spread across her beautiful face!

It was as if her entire being was enveloped in a colossal shock!

"This is..."

With the sheet music in hand, matching it with the piano's melody.

Gu Xi's naturally gifted piano hands actually began to tremble!

A rondo form, andante, 12/8 time!

The right hand, throughout the decorative notes, maintained a luxuriant chant while the left hand provided a rhythmic accompaniment that preserved the same shape from beginning to end!

"Innovative?"

Not being a professional concert pianist, it was hard to understand the excitement Gu Xi was feeling now:

This piano piece turned out to be pioneering a whole new genre of piano solo!

This style differed from that of all current piano solo styles in the music scene!

What mattered most was the incredibly high quality of this piece!

Unlike 'Mariage d'Amour'.

The former was modern piano, but this was a typical classical piano piece!

The melody to her ears seemed calm, but underneath were surging undercurrents, painting a poetic beauty before Gu Xi's eyes and in her ears!

Yes, like poetry!

At that moment.

Lin Yuan, to Gu Xi's eyes, seemed like a piano poet, completely indulging in his talent!

At a certain change in the music.

Gu Xi even felt a sensation like alcohol numbing her heart, lungs, and scalp!

Goosebumps arose!

An unprecedented impact!

This impact was tremendous for any Blue Star pianist!

In the midst of these surging emotions, Gu Xi's mind flashed back to the various encounters she'd had since meeting Xian Yu.

At this moment, she felt fortunate!

Fortunate to have met Xian Yu; fortunate to have ultimately earned his favor; fortunate to have the honor to play the piece that Xian Yu was interpreting at this moment!

Suddenly.

The piano music stopped.

Lin Yuan turned to ask Gu Xi:

"How did it go?"

There was no immediate answer.

Gu Xi seemed to have lost herself in a moment of reverie, having forgotten when the piece began.

And just as she was inadvertently immersed in it to the point of intoxication, the music gradually ceased, stirring in her a myriad of reluctant feelings, wishing the performer would play it once more.

"How did it go?"

Lin Yuan had to ask again, "Can you play it?"

"Yes!"

Finally, Gu Xi snapped back to reality!

Her response was almost without any hesitation.

It was as if anyone who dared to compete with her for this piece would face her fierce determination!

Because Gu Xi knew!

This was a composition that could get her another invitation from the Golden Hall, stunning the entire piano world – a divine masterpiece!

This is Teacher Admirable Fish's level!

Expectations were high, yet she was still utterly astonished!

Realizing she might have acted inappropriately,

Gu Xi tried to calibrate her tone, "The structure of this piece is very unique. The first section has a dream-like, lingering melody; the second section is passionate, expressing a myriad of emotions; and the third section returns to a calm atmosphere. Is this an unprecedented and unheard-of composition form, a brand-new style created by Teacher Admirable Fish himself?"

"Uh-huh."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Without Chopin's world, he certainly had to accept this title.

This was something he was very familiar with, no need to be pretentious, otherwise, it would seem duplicative and self-defeating.

"Alright, the first piece is roughly like this; now try the 'Nocturne in B-flat minor.'"

Lin Yuan stated, then gave up his seat.

Hearing what Lin Yuan suggested, Gu Xi almost immediately sat down at the piano.

She had been eager to start!

But less than thirty seconds into the second piece, Gu Xi's mood was stirred once again!

The quality of this piece was hardly inferior to the first!

The two pieces Teacher Admirable Fish brought out today were absolutely divine works!

Gu Xi treasured them like the most precious gift!

Her performance, of course, was not smooth sailing.

Gu Xi even stumbled occasionally, far from the fluidity Lin Yuan had just displayed.

It wasn't that Gu Xi's skills were inferior to Lin Yuan's.

It was just that this was her first time seeing the pieces, so she wasn't as practiced.

Lin Yuan, on the other hand, had memorized the scores by heart and could play fluently without looking at them.

But that's besides the point.

Lin Yuan didn't expect her to play perfectly.

He just needed to get a general feel for how well Gu Xi could handle them.

Ten minutes later.

Lin Yuan nodded in satisfaction, trusting in Gu Xi's skill: "Go back and practice thoroughly. You must finish recording before the end of the month."

"No problem!"

Gu Xi nodded vigorously!

Actually, she didn't even need Lin Yuan's reminder.

Even if it meant going without sleep, she would master these two pieces!

If Teacher Admirable Fish weren't satisfied and sought another pianist for collaboration, she would have nowhere to cry!

"Truly worthy of Chopin's 'Nocturne.'"

Lin Yuan saw Gu Xi's excitement and wasn't surprised.

As a signature work of Chopin, the 'Nocturne' could awe any piano master.

And as the musical idol most admired by Director Zhou, Chopin wasn't called the "poet of music" for nothing. Though he was sickly and not well-suited to perform grand, loud works, his delicate emotions and jewel-like musical changes were the charming qualities of the 'Nocturne.'

...

In the following days.

Gu Xi contacted Lin Yuan from time to time, reporting her practice progress with unprecedented enthusiasm.

Meanwhile.

The TV series "Lotus Lantern" was broadcast in an orderly fashion, its popularity rising, firmly securing the number one spot on the hotlists of the three major video websites.

Lin Yuan also kept an eye on this.

He knew the turning point of the show was coming soon.

Sure enough.

That day, the latest episode of "Lotus Lantern" aired.

Chenxiang finally learned of his own background!

Immediately, he harbored the thought of rescuing his mother, the Third Goddess, to reunite his family.

However.

Yang Jian, who had been caring and warm towards Chenxiang, turned cold upon learning of his nephew's intentions!

He not only refused to support Chenxiang but blocked his rescue plan at every turn!

To dissuade Chenxiang from his mission, he even went as far as to hurt those close to Chenxiang!

Cold!

Heartless!

In that moment, Yang Jian seemed to revert to that unrecognizable Judiciary God from the first episode, the one who didn't acknowledge any kin and forcibly suppressed his sister, the Third Goddess!

On major forums.

This plot twist suddenly sparked a huge controversy!

Chapter 833: The Audience's Anger and Outburst

No one expected the latest plot twist in "Lotus Lantern," where Yang Jian suddenly turned evil!

This sudden turn of events made many viewers jump out of their seats!

"Damn it!"

"What the hell is going on with the latest plot in 'Lotus Lantern'?"

"Wasn't Yang Jian supposed to be a good guy? How could they portray Erlang Shen so negatively?"

"Though I understood when Yang Jian previously suppressed his own sister, the Third Goddess, since he was the Judiciary God of the Heavenly Court and couldn't help but follow orders, this latest development is outrageous! The director and scriptwriter have actually portrayed Yang Jian as a villain who bullies the weak and fears the strong, and is cold-hearted and merciless!"

"I feel the same way, this plot twist is infuriating!"

"Yang Jian didn't have the courage to defy the Heavenly Court and save his own sister, and now he's even trying to stop Chenxiang from rescuing his mother, really just bullying the weak and fearing the strong, and they call it for his nephew's good?"

"Is this the Erlang Shen I remember?"

"What the heck is Yi An thinking? The previous 'The Legend of Wukong' was great, why suddenly create such a disgusting plotline!"

"What kind of junk is this?"

"Magic changing Erlang Shen's personality, magic changing his background, magic changing his identity, and even inventing a sister and a nephew for Erlang Shen—I can accept all of these. But making Erlang Shen a villain—I absolutely cannot accept!"

Yang Jian's image suddenly collapsed!

Audiences across the continents are outraged!

The previous episodes were just fine!

No matter what trouble Chenxiang caused, Yang Jian always chose to be understanding.

Whatever Chenxiang wanted, Yang Jian would give, creating an enjoyable image of a good uncle for the audience.

Over several episodes.

Everyone had a very positive impression of this Erlang Shen!

Even though Erlang Shen started off ruthlessly suppressing his own sister, everyone firmly believed that Erlang Shen had no choice, given that he was fulfilling his duties as the Judiciary God.

However.

When Chenxiang learned the truth and wanted to save his mother, Yang Jian suddenly turned cold-hearted!

He did everything to stop Chenxiang, even going so far as to fall out with Chenxiang and even harm Chenxiang's friends, which made it hard for the audience to accept!

Turns out Yang Jian is a villain?

Is there something wrong with Chenxiang wanting to save his own mother?

Moreover, what wrong did the Third Goddess do?

The Third Goddess simply bravely pursued her own love!

And the prudish rules of the Heavenly Court are unreasonable to any modern person!

The plot is also telling everyone:

This heavenly decree is a scourge across the realms!

Under such circumstances, by choosing to stand on the opposite side of the protagonist and uphold this heavenly decree, Yang Jian has directly become a villain!

So the audience is angry!

Some are angry about Erlang Shen's behavior;

Others are angry that Yi An, as the scriptwriter, dared to turn Erlang Shen's character into a villain!

The latter group far outnumber the former.

Yes.

In the end, what everyone finds most intolerable is Erlang Shen transforming into a villain.

If Erlang Shen were not Erlang Shen but just a regular character, then no matter whether this character turned evil or whatever, audiences across all continents wouldn't be so upset.

You should know.

Through "The Primordial Chaos" and other works, Erlang Shen Yang Jian has already made a very deep impression on audiences across all continents.

People deeply love this character.

Just like how everyone who watches "Journey to the West" likes Sun Wukong.

In any audience's concept, Yang Jian is absolutely unrelated to being a villain.

But this show just went ahead and made Yang Jian a villain!

That is the root of the controversy.

Some people even started cursing loudly because of this!

In fact.

Not just ordinary viewers.

Even fans of "The Primordial Chaos" were baffled by "Lotus Lantern's" move!

What the hell?

Why did the antagonist suddenly self-destruct?

They had always been trying to set the narrative for "Lotus Lantern," but never managed to take off.

The audience didn't strongly resist the departure from traditional character and background settings of Erlang Shen in "Lotus Lantern."

This deeply disappointed the fans of "The Primordial Chaos."

They could only watch helplessly as "Lotus Lantern" became more popular, watching a portrayal of Erlang Shen that didn't fit with the traditional setting of "The Primordial Chaos" being accepted by the audience.

Result.

Just when the fans of "The Primordial Chaos" thought they could no longer malign "Lotus Lantern" and could only helplessly observe its success, this show suddenly self-destructed!

That's right.

Self-destructed!

Erlang Shen was actually portrayed as a villain!

How is that different from self-destructing?

How brainless must Yi An be to dare to tarnish the image of Erlang Shen like this?

Doesn't she realize how highly regarded Erlang Shen is in the hearts of the audience?

Or is it that:

Yi An wants to follow the pattern of Chu Kuang adapting "Yang Xiaofan and Qin Tiange" to completely overturn the audience's impression of the classics?

What a joke!

Are these two things even comparable?

"Self-destruction!"

"Intending to draw a tiger but ending up drawing something akin to a dog!"

"Wait, this director is actually the director of 'Yang Xiaofan and Qin Tiange,' and that series was a huge success due to Chu Kuang's subversion of the classics, so the director tasted sweetness and thought that playing with subverting classics would always succeed? What kind of bizarre thought process is this? Just blindly applying the same formula?"

"One really dares to write, and one really dares to film!"

"Yi An and this director are challenging the audience's tolerance!"

"Heh, tarnishing the image of Erlang Shen, 'Lotus Lantern' is really asking for its own destruction!"

"This is slander against Yang Jian!"

At this moment, the feelings of the fans of "The Primordial Chaos" are actually quite mixed.

Excitement and anger!

Two completely different emotions, strangely intertwined.

The thrilling aspect is:

They finally found a point to criticize in "Lotus Lantern!"

This gives them a bit of a guilty conscience.

A beloved character is portrayed as a villain, and yet they feel somewhat excited?

The rage stemmed from:

This show was defaming the protagonist of The Primordial Chaos, Yang Jian!

That was Yang Jian!

He was their beloved and their faith!

For a time.

All fans of The Primordial Chaos went crazy setting the pace, their presence dominating numerous forums!

"Yi An is defaming Erlang Shen and tarnishing a classic!"

"Journey to the West is suppressing The Primordial Chaos by portraying Yang Jian as a disgusting villain!"

"Using Yang Jian's popularity for promotion, yet the show portrayed him in such a negative light, such a work should be vehemently boycotted!"

"Journey to the West's behavior is too ugly!"

"I don't acknowledge the Erlang Shen in 'The Lotus Lantern' as Erlang Shen, only The Primordial Chaos's Erlang Shen is the real Erlang Shen!"

"Let the Erlang Shen of 'The Lotus Lantern' go to hell."

"There's only one Erlang Shen in the world, and that's the protagonist of The Primordial Chaos, Yang Jian!"

The rhythm!

The rhythm of boycott rolled in wave after wave!

It must be admitted, the fans of The Primordial Chaos led the rhythm very successfully this time.

If it weren't for the self-destruction of 'The Lotus Lantern', no one would have paid attention to their voices, as the fans of Journey to the West were simply too numerous.

But now, no one knew whether it was Yi An or the TV show's director whose brain had malfunctioned.

The tables had turned!

Blackening of Erlang Shen was not only unacceptable to fans of The Primordial Chaos.

It was unacceptable to the general audience!

So much so that even though everyone knew The Primordial Chaos fans were leading the rhythm, some still empathized deeply.

Shortly after.

'The Lotus Lantern', which had been smooth-sailing since its broadcast, was sucked into a vortex of controversy and criticism for the first time.

Everyone naturally assumed:

Journey to the West, in order to suppress The Primordial Chaos, had deliberately vilified the image of Yang Jian.

Now that The Primordial Chaos was waning, yet it was suppressed like this by Journey to the West, this ignited the sympathy of many people.

Empathy for the underdog is human nature.

Moreover, no matter how much The Primordial Chaos had declined, people's affection for Erlang Shen still existed; Yang Jian was a classic character who had accompanied countless people as they grew up, how could he be so defiled!

Fortunately.

There were still some rational voices soothing everyone:

"Guys, don't rush to conclusions, trust in Teacher Yi'an's character. Perhaps Erlang Shen has his own reasons for targeting Chenxiang, just watch a few episodes before making a judgment, after all, Erlang Shen was extremely concerned about his nephew, Chenxiang, in the earlier episodes."

These voices somewhat calmed the audience.

In the following days.

Apart from The Primordial Chaos fans and a few extreme viewers who were still protesting, most people temporarily suppressed their anger, patiently continuing to follow the drama.

However.

The seventh episode...

The eighth episode...

The ninth episode...

The tenth episode...

As the audience continued to follow the subsequent episodes of 'The Lotus Lantern', the expected turnaround never happened!

On the contrary.

A brutal fact gradually unfolded before everyone:

Yang Jian had no hidden motives at all; he was merely the lapdog of the Heavenly Empress, an unmitigated villain!

All his actions were for the sake of the Judiciary God's power!

Blinded by greed, Yang Jian showed no regard for familial bonds, ruthlessly persecuting Chenxiang, even intensifying his malice!

Sky Roaring Dog abused his power through association!

The Mount Mei Brothers pursued and blocked Chenxiang!

In innumerable instances of targeted oppression by his own uncle, Chenxiang struggled to survive and grow, enduring relentless suppression!

The audience's patience was gradually worn thin.

Dissatisfaction with Yang Jian's character kept accumulating.

If the plot of the drama itself hadn't been captivating, the audience would have exploded long ago.

Not to mention that during this process, The Primordial Chaos fans continued endlessly stoking the fire and leading the rhythm.

The Primordial Chaos fans were desperate!

After watching so many episodes!

Why hasn't this darned TV show cooled down yet!

Yi An has already blackened Yang Jian so much, why are you still watching, and watching so eagerly at that?

Alright.

The reason is actually quite simple: although the portrayal of the character Yang Jian has displeased countless viewers, the plot of the drama itself is very exciting, which is why everyone temporarily suppressed their inner frustrations.

But...

No matter how exciting the plot, it could not withstand the constant provocation by the scriptwriter Yi An, some feelings, if not exploded, only accumulated deeper.

That day.

The plot finally progressed to the fifteenth episode.

This episode.

Yang Jian pushed Chenxiang to a complete dead end!

He wanted to kill Chenxiang!

As Chenxiang grew up, Yang Jian actually harbored the intention to kill his own nephew!

However.

Just as Yang Jian made his move.

The Fourth Princess of the East Sea blocked Yang Jian's fatal blow with her body!

Under Chenxiang's desperate gaze, the Fourth Princess of the East Sea was instantly killed, her life extinguished!

The Fourth Princess of the East Sea.

This character was kind-hearted and had an excellent reputation in all three realms, and she was Chenxiang's aunt who had always silently helped him from behind.

The audience had a very positive impression of this character!

Yet such a character was executed in front of Chenxiang by Erlang Shen!

This moment!

Even without The Primordial Chaos fans leading any rhythm.

The audience's eyes reddened, their dissatisfaction accumulated over many days completely erupted!

Chapter 834: Everlasting Regret

Because the plot of "The Lotus Lantern" was exciting enough, the audience had been restraining themselves, but this time the story touched their bottom line, and Erlang Shen, as portrayed by Yi An, had been vilified to the point of no return, which finally ignited the viewers' fury!

Countless curses!

Many people were implicated!

The comments section of the TV show director Ding Xiao's social media was besieged!

"Crap director, did Erlang Shen eat your family's rice, to be so smeared by you!"

"Director Ding's bias is too obvious, made a show to smear Erlang Shen, The Primordial Chaos' protagonist, all for the sake of Starlight's 'Journey to the West'!"

"Is this the 'The Lotus Lantern' director? thumbs down!"

"I didn't find you hateful when you made 'Yang Xiaofan and Qin Tiange,' but this time you really crossed the line!"

"Director, your conscience is broken!"

"After finishing 'Yang Xiaofan and Qin Tiange,' the director has completely gone to an extreme, creating such an image of Erlang Shen definitely for the controversy, and he succeeded, but such behavior is truly disgusting!"

...

As a director, Ding Xiao cannot shirk responsibility.

He must have known the show would vilify Erlang Shen, yet he still made it this way, so the audience did not let him off the hook!

Similarly,

Liu Zhengwen, the actor playing the lead male role, who had always been well-liked by passersby, was also sprayed by the audience.

His situation was similar to the director's.

Why did Liu Zhengwen take up the role of this villainous version of Erlang Shen?

"Liu Zhengwen, you really dare to pick up any drama!"

"Why did you choose to play such a character, aren't you afraid of losing fans?"

"Are you happy earning dirty money?"

"I can't believe you didn't read the script before picking up the role; knowing the script, you should realize that the play obviously vilifies Erlang Shen, don't you feel guilty playing such a role?"

"So disappointed, I used to 'Like You'."

"From fan to hater, and now my last advice to you, shape up or ship out!"

...

And after the audience erupted in anger,

The worst-hit area was without a doubt Yi An's blog comment section!

Whether it's director Ding Xiao or actor Liu Zhengwen, they just followed the script, and even if they were at fault, they were not the masterminds.

The real culprit behind turning Erlang Shen into a villain was Yi An!

Therefore,

Yi An's blog comment section suffered the most complete collapse!

"This is like turning a winning game into a complete mess; the goodwill 'The Legend of Wukong' brought has all been squandered by this drama!"

"What gives you the right to smear Erlang Shen like that!"

"You could have easily created a similar villain; why insist on making Erlang Shen the antagonist? Do you hate him that much?"

"I've turned from fan to hater of Yi An; I admit Yi An's scriptwriting is top-notch, but no matter how exciting the plot, it doesn't change the fact that Yi An is maliciously defaming Erlang Shen!"

"Really fed up!"

"I smell the nauseating stench of fandom manipulation; don't forget that Yi An is a Chu Kuang fan, and the dispute between 'Journey to the West' and 'The Primordial Chaos' has been longstanding, so Yi An just took the liberty to smear Erlang Shen in the drama. No matter how talented, this does not change the fact of poor character!"

"I will never acknowledge this Erlang Shen as the one I know!"

"Fans of 'The Primordial Chaos' are right, there's only one Erlang Shen, and that's the Erlang Shen of 'The Primordial Chaos'!"

...

And that's not all!

Director, actors, screenwriters.

The TV drama "The Lotus Lantern" core behind-the-scenes team was thoroughly blasted by the audience, not to mention under the official Weibo of Starlight was also filled with countless curses!

"Starlight really lost integrity with this move."

"Why invest in such a drama that smears Erlang Shen?"

"Butt dictates brain; 'Journey to the West' is Starlight's ace work, 'The Primordial Chaos' and 'Journey to the West' are at odds, so Starlight has no burden in smearing Erlang Shen."

"What's infuriating is that Starlight used to promote Erlang Shen!"

"Using Erlang Shen for promotion and now smearing him in the drama, I am really sold on this tactic!"

"Riding on the coattails of 'The Primordial Chaos' is how 'Journey to the West' started."

"Because of Fish Papa, I have always had a good impression of Starlight, but even Fish Papa can't salvage Starlight's reputation this time."

...

In the entertainment industry,

Many people were flabbergasted.

Starlight has truly botched it this time!

As the first standalone character series derived from 'Journey to the West,' since the broadcast of "The Lotus Lantern," the situation had been overwhelmingly positive!

It was a wildly successful beginning.

The industry was also closely watching this drama, everyone thought the IP of 'Journey to the West' was going to explode!

But who would have thought that "The Lotus Lantern" would cause an audience's reputation to collapse because it excessively vilified Erlang Shen in the story?

"Looks like Starlight has really messed up this time."

"Yi An's script is indeed problematic, the relationship between 'Journey to the West' and 'The Primordial Chaos' is too sensitive, yet this drama just had to target Erlang Shen, turning him into a major villain."

"No matter how 'Bracing the Chill' 'The Primordial Chaos' gets, Erlang Shen still has popularity."

"Perhaps Starlight thought 'The Primordial Chaos' had already cooled down, so stepping on Erlang Shen was no big deal, they got a bit too arrogant."

"Actually, 'The Lotus Lantern' plot is still very exciting."

"The drama's plot is indeed amazing, or else the audience's dissatisfaction with the collapse of Erlang Shen's character wouldn't have erupted until today; if Yi An were any smarter, he would've swapped Erlang Shen with another deity, and in the end, it would have surely been both critically acclaimed and popular. He cleverly outwitted himself by using Erlang Shen as the antagonist; compared to Chu Kuang's grasp of the audience's bottom line, Yi An still has a lot to learn."

Provoking the readers?

Stirring up the audience's nerves?

That's what Chu Kuang is best at!

However, the terrifying thing about Chu Kuang lies in:

No matter how he plays with the audience, he always stays clear of crossing their bottom line, he has complete control over everyone's psychology, so the audience's perception of Chu Kuang is a blend of love and hate!

Ultimately, everyone still loves Chu Kuang.

Chapter 834: Everlasting Regret Part 2

The so-called old rascal is often just a topic of jest, a little insider joke shared between the readers, the audience, and Chu Kuang, or even a bit of harmless fun.

Yi An seems to have a leaning in this direction too.

As a fan of Chu Kuang, Yi An is indeed talented; the plot of "Lotus Lantern" is fantastic!

However, Yi An is ultimately not Chu Kuang, and she crossed a line with the audience she should never have crossed, resulting in a total loss of control and a thorough crash and burn.

I'm afraid no one will seek Yi An to write scripts anymore.

A screenwriter who alienates the audience, no matter how good their scripts, only increases the audience's aversion.

Even Yi An's future development may be negatively affected by this.

Being notorious for excessively vilifying Yang Jian in "Journey to the West" will likely be an indelible stain on Yi An's record.

...

In the midst of the overwhelming criticism directed at "Lotus Lantern,"

the Blue Star Primordial Chaos Association finally spoke out!

"Recently, a TV drama titled "Lotus Lantern" has smeared and besmirched the classic image of Erlang Shen, which we find deeply distressing. We accept the scriptwriter's reimagining of Yang Jian, but we cannot accept the disordered storytelling. We hope that such chaos can be controlled, and we hope someone will restore justice to Yang Jian. We have reported to the Literature and Art Association, requesting a ban on the drama, and we strongly condemn Yi An..."

The Primordial Chaos Association snitched!

Previously, due to its connection with "Journey to the West," the association was severely criticized and had kept a low profile for a long time.

Not until the reputation of "Lotus Lantern" took a nosedive did the Primordial Chaos Association dare to emerge, seizing the opportunity very well!

The adversary has given them a chance!

If the Primordial Chaos fans know to seize the opportunity, how much more so the Primordial Chaos Association?

Under these circumstances, even netizens indifferent to the association felt that its statement had merit.

And at this moment,

something unexpected happened!

Tribe also made a statement!

It's strange to say, as logically, Tribe wouldn't have much to do with Primordial Chaos or Yang Jian.

But just now!

Tribe suddenly announced that it would be collaborating with the Primordial Chaos Association to create a film starring Erlang Shen, Yang Jian!

Quite sudden?

Not really.

Because the broker of this partnership turned out to be...

The head of the comics department under Tribe, Ling Kong!

After taking over the project, the first thing Ling Kong did was publish a long essay, criticizing Starlight for smearing Erlang Shen, Yang Jian!

In the article.

Ling Kong claims to be a die-hard fan of The Primordial Chaos, with Erlang Shen, Yang Jian, being his most adored spiritual idol since childhood. He could not sit by and watch "Lotus Lantern" tarnish Yang Jian and decided to make a movie to vindicate him...

"Yang Jian is our hero since childhood. How can such a hero be smeared?"

Ling Kong's indignant accusations!

He is upholding justice!

It seems that in fear his long essay might not draw enough attention, Ling Kong shockingly exposed his identity at the end, claiming his father helped him secure the position to oversee the filming related to Yang Jian.

And his father is none other than the helmsman of Tribe:

Ling Zhou!

This revelation was powerful, instantly making Ling Kong a hot topic. Netizens were surprised to see such a figure becoming involved!

"Holy crap, it's the Crown Prince of Tribe?"

"Ling Kong... sounds vaguely familiar..."

"Damn, Ling Kong is the head of Tribe Comics, the one who drove Shadow away!"

"Pfft, so it was this second-gen who forced Shadow out?"

"One thing at a time, Ling Kong is a man of character. Whatever his beef with Shadow, I fully support his actions this time!"

"There's a picture on Ling Kong's account, so handsome!"

"Wow, dreamy!"

"I suspect Ling Kong has ulterior motives. His relationship with Shadow is so bad; he must be enemies with the Three Bros too, likely seizing the chance to step on Starlight. I don't believe capitalists have any conscience or sense of justice."

"Why assume the worst in people? I think Ling Kong is fine!"

The allure of being the Tribe Crown Prince is undoubtedly dazzling, and the exposition of his identity as a top-tier rich second generation immediately escalated the incident's impact!

...

The media side is bustling!

"Primordial Chaos Association Reports Starlight's New Drama!"

"Tribe Crown Prince Ling Kong Blasts Lotus Lantern!"

"The True-Hearted Heir of Tribe, Ling Kong: Yang Jian is a Hero, Not to Be Smeared!"

"Should 'Lotus Lantern' Be Banned?"

"When the Wall Falls, Everybody Pushes: Tribe Crown Prince Blasts Starlight!"

"Capital Competition or Genuine Sentiment? Big Reveal of Tribe Crown Prince Ling Kong's Identity, Discovering What Kind of Rich Second Generation He Is!"

"..."

In these news stories, Ling Kong's deeds were brought to light.

Apart from creating friction with Shadow and causing Tribe Comics to stumble in the league, this Ling Kong turns out to be quite impressive.

He invested in a state and reaped astonishing profits, earning several times the returns.

He led a department within Tribe to dominate 80% of the market in a certain field.

He has...

In short, Ling Kong's resume is impeccable!

This has also garnered Ling Kong higher attention and even a significant boost in followers. The news has shaped him into a successful, hardworking second generation rich kid.

By comparison, "Lotus Lantern" is in a bind.

Director, screenwriter, actors, and even Starlight have all come under fire!

The united front of the Primordial Chaos Association and Tribe, along with the rhythm set by the fans of Primordial Chaos, has pushed "Lotus Lantern" into the spotlight!

Moreover...

Due to Tribe's influence, after Ling Kong's identity revelation, many well-known vloggers joined in the siege!

Chapter 834: Everlasting Regret Part 3

Tribe, the large capital, is never short of pawns.

At this moment,

anyone with discernment could see:

Tribe was making a move against Starlight, looking to cut at Starlight through "Lotus Lantern".

In fact,

the feud between this massive capital and Starlight had been brewing ever since Xian Yu led the Yu Dynasty to leave Tribe.

There were not a few who saw clearly.

The cooperation between Starlight's films, TV series, and artists with Tribe was becoming increasingly sparse, which many could perceive.

Yet no one expected Tribe to intensify the conflict and choose this moment to take action.

It appeared that going forward, Starlight and Tribe were thoroughly burnt bridges.

Come to think of it,

Starlight had connections with the Three Bros.

And guess what, Xian Yu, Chu Kuang, and Shadow were linked to the bloggers, inflicting no small blow on Tribe.

In such circumstances,

a complete break between Tribe and Starlight was almost inevitable sooner or later.

Now that Starlight had exposed its own weakness, Tribe merely seized the opportunity at hand.

At this time,

even die-hard "Journey to the West" fans found it hard to defend "Lotus Lantern".

The portrayal of Yang Jian as a villain by Yi An is an undeniable fact, and attempting to defend "Lotus Lantern" at this juncture might only worsen the situation.

...

Tribe.

Ling Kong watched his account's followers skyrocket with a slight smile on his lips.

"It's my turn to counterattack."

His eyes narrowed with unprecedented exhilaration!

Ever since the Shadow incident, every time Tribe got the short end of the stick from the Three Bros, he would be blasted by his colleagues!

He had long been suffocating with resentment!

If he had to rank the three people he hated most, Shadow would be in the first place!

Xian Yu and Chu Kuang would tie for second!

Even though Xian Yu and Chu Kuang had no direct conflict with Ling Kong, their indirect clashes were too numerous.

He was the Crown Prince of Tribe, while the Three Bros belonged to the bloggers. Such conflict was inherently irreconcilable!

"Mr. Ling is playing a clever game!"

The assistant beside Ling Kong exclaimed excitedly, "By exposing your own identity, Mr. Ling, you can deter internal company disputes with the fear of your status and prevent others from opposing you openly. On the other hand, you can gain instant fame and leverage your status to create influence, keeping the public focused on your every move—killing two birds with one stone!"

"The identity of a celebrity is indeed useful."

Ling Kong smiled slightly: "This time, I'm going to make Starlight shed a layer of skin!"

When Xiang Zhuang dances, his intention is to kill Pei Gong.

Ling Kong might not have heard this saying, but his actions matched its meaning.

He seemed to be targeting "Lotus Lantern", but really, he was targeting Starlight, Xian Yu of Starlight, Chu Kuang the original author of "Journey to the West", and even Shadow closely associated with Starlight.

If anything went wrong with "Lotus Lantern", the impact would be far beyond just the drama itself!

It would also affect the "Journey to the West" IP.

If Starlight ran into trouble, the Three Bros would be affected as well.

At this moment, Ling Kong even felt grateful to that Yi An. What a great assist!

If he didn't know it was impossible, he would suspect Yi An was a mole Tribe had planted in Starlight!

Next, he didn't need to do anything.

He just had to sit back and enjoy the drama.

In a good mood, he actually patted his assistant's shoulder: "Play 'Lotus Lantern'. The sixteenth episode should have been updated by now, right?"

"Yes."

The assistant smiled and said, "Please wait a moment."

Ling Kong nodded.

He had been following the drama "Lotus Lantern".

Not because he liked it, but because it smelled of opportunity.

And why continue watching now?

Of course, to add to the fun!

The more the drama vilified Yang Jian, the happier Ling Kong became!

What?

I'm a fan of Yang Jian?

Heh heh.

If it could strike his opponents, Ling Kong could be anyone's fan!

"It's starting."

The assistant suddenly spoke up.

Ling Kong didn't respond, focusing his eyes on the projector.

...

In the sixteenth episode of "Lotus Lantern", Yang Jian, after accidentally killing the Fourth Princess of the East Sea, was punished by the Heavenly Court.

Meanwhile,

Chenxiang, having escaped from death, gained a great opportunity and his strength soared!

He joined forces with friends to besiege Erlang Shen.

The battle was fierce, turning the sky and earth dark!

In the end, Erlang Shen fell.

But during this process, something strange happened:

No matter how hard Chenxiang tried to activate the Lotus Lantern, it failed to unleash its power to attack Yang Jian.

"Despicable and shameless!"

One of Chenxiang's friends, the Eighth Prince of the Dragon Palace, stated coldly:

"He must have tampered with the Lotus Lantern, causing it to malfunction. We should hurry up and end his life to avenge my sister!"

The Fourth Princess was the Eighth Prince's elder sister.

However, Chenxiang ultimately could not bring himself to kill his uncle.

Still, he stripped Yang Jian of all his mana, turning Erlang Shen into an ordinary man.

During this process,

Sky Roaring Dog loyally protected its master and was also beaten to within an inch of its life.

In fact, if not for Sky Roaring Dog, Chenxiang might indeed have taken Erlang Shen's life.

After all,

though Sky Roaring Dog targeted Chenxiang due to Erlang Shen's orders, it wasn't truly evil and had never seriously attempted to kill Chenxiang.

This fact was clear to both Chenxiang and the audience.

Sky Roaring Dog was a good dog.

As the story developed to this point, Erlang Shen was isolated and had received his comeuppance for his cold-bloodedness and ruthlessness!

Even the Mount Mei Brothers, who were originally loyal to Erlang Shen, turned against him!

It turned out that the Mount Mei Brothers couldn't stand Erlang Shen's deeds either.

Only Sky Roaring Dog remained by his side.

Blind loyalty.

Erlang Shen sought the Queen Mother's help, but she coldly dismissed him.

Having lost his mana, Erlang Shen was no longer of any use.

Chapter 834: Everlasting Regret Part 4

...

Moreover, because Erlang Shen killed the Fourth Princess of the East Sea, violating the celestial decree, the Heavenly Court could no longer harbor him.

Erlang Shen was beyond redemption!

He lost his mana and was bruised all over.

In order to eat, he demeaned himself and begged a peasant family for food.

At that time.

The Sky Roaring Dog was extremely hungry.

Yang Jian snatched a steamed bun but couldn't bear to eat it himself, instead, he gave it to the Sky Roaring Dog.

The Sky Roaring Dog wolfed it down.

The peasant who had his steamed bun stolen punched and kicked Erlang Shen, but Erlang Shen held onto the man without letting go, only urging the Sky Roaring Dog to eat faster...

It turned out that this peasant was the deity of the land!

As the Judiciary God, Erlang Shen was ruthless and callous.

His reputation in the Three Realms had already soured, with nearly everyone calling for his execution.

The land deity was deliberately taking this opportunity to beat Erlang Shen severely, venting his deep-seated resentment!

...

After this episode ended.

Ling Kong's assistant suddenly said, "A whitewash?"

How could Erlang Shen, such a bad person, be willing to starve himself and even to endure beating by a peasant, just to let the Sky Roaring Dog have a few bites of steamed bun?

Ling Kong didn't speak.

The assistant burst into laughter!

Ling Kong said impatiently, "What are you laughing at?"

He was somewhat uneasy because he had actually begun to feel a bit of sympathy for Erlang Shen, a sentiment that seemed very wrong.

Could Yi An be trying to whitewash Erlang Shen?

To let Erlang Shen realize his wrongs when he was utterly desolate?

The assistant, as if having seen through everything, said with some profoundness, "You're probably worried that Yi An is whitewashing Erlang Shen."

"Isn't he?"

Ling Kong frowned but did not deny it.

If Yi An did whitewash Erlang Shen, although "The Legend of Lotus Lantern" would still be criticized, his own efforts to undermine Starlight would be greatly diminished.

"This time you are wrong, young Ling!"

The assistant's eyes shone brightly: "But that's precisely the cleverness of Yi An. Although his action of smearing Erlang Shen's image is foolish, his screenwriting skills are indeed high!"

"What do you mean?"

Ling Kong was a bit confused.

The assistant, holding wisdom like a gem, as if possessed by Conan:

"This sequence is actually still mocking Erlang Shen. Yi An wants to tell the audience: Erlang Shen can be so kind to a dog, yet he can be cruel enough to kill his own sister and nephew, which clearly means, in Erlang Shen's heart, dogs are more valued than people!"

"So that's it!"

Ling Kong suddenly realized!

This plot twist was indeed satirical, ultimately aimed at discrediting Erlang Shen!

There was a news report online before.

It was about a rich man who took every care of his dog, and when the dog had a cold or a fever, he would be so worried that he couldn't eat. But the same rich man showed no gratitude to his parents and refused to spend money on their medical care when they were ill.

At that time, this news sparked a lot of discussion online.

Everyone was struck by the thought: "Dogs are treated better than humans."

In Yi An's pen, Erlang Shen might also be such a person.

Such brilliant satire!

Unfortunately, it was directed at the wrong subject.

Why did Yi An choose to satirize Erlang Shen of all people?

Ling Kong's worries eased quite a bit, and he patted the assistant's shoulder again, saying, "I hadn't realized you were quite smart."

"All thanks to your teachings, young Ling!"

The assistant subconsciously lowered his body to make Ling Kong's pat more comfortable.

"Let's keep watching tomorrow. It's such a good show!"

Ling Kong praised and couldn't resist taunting, "Assuming the show hasn't been banned by then."

Someone had reported it to the Literature and Art Association.

"The Legend of Lotus Lantern" had now sparked a myriad of criticisms, and it was possible that the Literature and Art Association would ban the work.

In fact, Ling Kong did not want the show to be banned.

It would be better to let Yi An continue on his path, smearing Erlang Shen beyond recognition, which would, in turn, have the most damaging influence on Starlight.

At the same time.

Netizens had also finished watching the sixteenth episode's update.

At this moment, they had not yet realized that the perspective of the show had started to shift.

The main character was previously Chenxiang.

But now, Erlang Shen Yang Jian, had become the protagonist of "The Legend of Lotus Lantern!"

What they were even less aware of:

The groundwork that Yi An had laid for Erlang Shen's image reversal was already densely woven!

Just as the saying goes:

Everlasting Regret!

Chapter 835: Heartache

Starlight.

Television Department.

Liu Zhengwen looked at the man in front of him with a face full of helplessness:

"These days I'm not getting invited to any events, even my fans are starting to disdain me. I'm worried that if this continues, someone is going to smash the windows of my home."

"No big issue, our plot behind is going to be explosively amazing!"

The man opposite Liu Zhengwen was none other than Ding Xiao, the director of "The Lotus Lantern," comforting him.

Explosively amazing?

Liu Zhengwen's expression turned weird.

The shooting of "The Lotus Lantern" had already been completed, and the subsequent plot was in post-production.

As the male lead, he certainly knew how dreadfully mad the subsequent plot of "The Lotus Lantern" was.

Just then.

Zhao Jue's voice came from the side: "All post-production work for 'The Lotus Lantern' is officially complete. I plan to start the early-access streaming tonight, but I haven't had time to see the specific plot yet. Director Ding, are you really confident?"

"Director Zhao."

Liu Zhengwen greeted him.

Ding Xiao then showed a smile: "It's finished? Let's just air it all in one go tonight then. Director Zhao can watch it himself this evening; it just so happens that the audience needs to be soothed."

Soothed?

Liu Zhengwen's expression turned strange once again.

In this world, probably only Ding Xiao would think that the subsequent plot of "The Lotus Lantern" would soothe the audience.

Zhao Jue was still somewhat doubtful: "Really?"

Because of "The Lotus Lantern," the company had been under a lot of pressure.

Everyone outside was saying Starlight deliberately demeaned the protagonist Erlang Shen of The Primordial Chaos for the sake of Journey to the West.

This had even affected Starlight's stock price today!

As the company's stock fell, many executives sought answers from Director Zhao.

Zhao Jue had no choice but to brave it out and explain that there would be a plot twist later to reassure the leaders.

However, the truth was:

Zhao Jue had been dealing with various public relation crises brought by "The Lotus Lantern" all day and simply had no time to finish watching the subsequent plot.

She had only followed the parts of the story that had already been aired, just like the ordinary audience.

If she were to consider "The Lotus Lantern" from the audience's perspective, Zhao Jue also felt that the character portrayal of Erlang Shen was ludicrous, and excessively vilified.

As for the explanations she gave to the leaders, they all came from the main creative team of the show.

Tonight she had to finish watching the remaining plot to see how the portrayal of Erlang Shen could be reversed.

At the same time.

Lin Yuan also received the news.

"The Lotus Lantern" would start early-access streaming tonight.

The final fourteen episodes about Yang Jian could be watched in one go!

Lately.

Lin Yuan had been paying attention to the sniping "The Lotus Lantern" encountered.

But he didn't have much of a solution.

Unless he spoiled it, telling the audience there would be a twist later on.

However, Lin Yuan felt that spoilers were the least interesting thing; many stories needed to be experienced firsthand to truly be impactful.

Luckily, Starlight didn't have to continue bearing this pressure anymore.

Now that the plot had been completely filmed, the truth would be revealed tonight.

As for the audience's reactions before the truth came out, Lin Yuan was somewhat prepared.

It was only a pity that Yi An had unfairly received quite a bit of scolding.

The only unexpected point for Lin Yuan was that Tribe had actually made a move!

This made Lin Yuan realize that behind Xia Fan losing her role, there really might have been manipulations from Tribe.

Now with Tribe stepping into the film and television arrangements, it was the most obvious evidence.

On another note.

Without this round of targeting, Lin Yuan and Tribe would have already become openly hostile.

Luckily, Lin Yuan had prepared two big surprises for Tribe.

Tonight's "Everlasting Regret" was the first gift.

...

Time ticked by.

Online, the voices decrying "The Lotus Lantern" for smearing Erlang Shen still hadn't stopped and were even intensifying!

"Ban 'The Lotus Lantern'!"

The fans of The Primordial Chaos spared no effort in stirring the pot!

"Yang Jian must not be slandered!"

All sorts of demons and goblins emerged as well!

Boycott!

Protest!

This was a coordinated campaign targeting Starlight!

And then, when the clock hit seven, the update time for "The Lotus Lantern" arrived!

The netizens who were furiously calling out the slanderous actions against Yang Jian in "The Lotus Lantern" noticed a very unexpected situation.

The website of Qiyigu Video.

A recommendation suddenly popped up.

"Watch 'The Lotus Lantern' tonight with early access! Pay to view the grand finale in advance. Have you really understood this drama?"

Immediately after.

Catmill Video.

A similar recommendation appeared:

"Tonight 'The Lotus Lantern' grand finale passionately airs, a plot reversal that moves the heart to the extreme, completely overturning your understanding!"

Then came next.

Penguin Video.

The website pulled up a huge banner:

"Unlock the grand finale of 'The Lotus Lantern' with payment, binge-watch fourteen episodes for a shocking ending, high energy ahead, non-combatants please evacuate!"

All three websites!

All were broadcasting platforms in partnership with "The Lotus Lantern"!

Instantly!

The curses directed at the creators of "The Lotus Lantern" all paused for a moment.

Some sneered.

Was Starlight unable to bear the pressure, afraid that dragging it out would cause trouble, so they decided to release the grand finale early?

Many more were puzzled.

What did the recommendations from the three websites mean?

A subverting finale?

Wasn't the portrayal of Yang Jian already disruptive enough?

High energy ahead?

Wasn't it just Chenxiang successfully rescuing the Third Goddess? What's so high-energy about that, when everyone could guess it, it's just that the process might have a few more twists, right?

Netizens began to complain:

"How much money did Starlight give to the three websites, giving 'The Lotus Lantern' such a huge recommendation, when the show is being criticized so badly?"

"Even directly pushing notifications to phones?"

"Doesn't this recommendation feel like there might be a twist?"

"It might mean there's a twist. Could it have something to do with Yang Jian?"

Chapter 835: Heartbroken_2

"Stop talking nonsense, even if there was a reversal, it has nothing to do with Yang Jian. Yang Jian should be logging off soon."

"Right, Yang Jian was already ruined by Chenxiang. Yi An is really hateful!"

"Yi An is so lame, he——tui!"

As they spoke, the netizens started cursing again!

As they cursed, everyone still honestly clicked on the video.

Although they were furious about the smearing of Yang Jian in "Lotus Lantern," the plot itself still drew everyone in, all wanting to see Chenxiang successfully rescue the Third Goddess.

Meanwhile.

In a certain wealthy household.

Ling Kong, dressed in pajamas, sitting cross-legged on the living room couch, lit a cigarette and turned on the latest episode of "Lotus Lantern."

Suddenly.

The seventeenth episode of "Lotus Lantern" began, playing on the big projector.

This episode.

Chenxiang was about to save his mother.

He had already arrived at Mount Hua with his friends.

Suddenly!

An anomaly occurred!

A mysterious shadow, brandishing the ancient artifact, the Kunlun Mirror, surrounded Chenxiang and his companions, preparing to deal a deadly blow!

Just as Chenxiang and his friends fell into despair.

The Lotus Lantern on Chenxiang suddenly transformed into a stream of light, flying towards a very distant direction!

Whoosh!

In the distance.

A hand grabbed the Lotus Lantern.

The Lotus Lantern emitted an unprecedented radiance!

And in the glow, the audience was dumbstruck to see the owner of this hand:

Yang Jian!

He was actually using the Lotus Lantern to repair his broken body!

Right after that.

The camera abruptly switched!

In Heavenly Court, inside Erlang Shen's palace.

A lonely figure, gazing towards the human world, his face filled with worry, murmured:

"Yang Jian..."

This figure turned out to be the Fourth Princess of the East Sea, the Dragon Princess, previously killed by Erlang Shen himself!

"Cough!"

Ling Kong, who was smoking, was directly choked by the smoke at this scene, and started coughing violently!

He had followed this drama for so long not for nothing.

A certain premise repeatedly emphasized in the TV drama was that only merciful Mana could wield the legendary Lotus Lantern!

Now, Ling Kong just wanted to know:

How could Yang Jian wield this thing?

Why does the Lotus Lantern act like Yang Jian is its daddy?

And!

Who the hell can tell me how the Dragon Princess is not dead and is just fine inside Erlang Shen's palace?

Wasn't she killed by Erlang Shen while trying to save Chenxiang?

If not for that, the Queen Mother wouldn't have given up on Erlang Shen!

This plot!

It doesn't make sense!

The screenwriter must be brain dead!

Ling Kong suddenly felt a strong sense of unease!

...

At this moment, Yang Jian's lips were cracked, his body covered in scars and blood, once radiant, he now looked more wretched than a beggar!

But it was he who personally grasped the Lotus Lantern!

The Lotus Lantern, which was said to only be wielded by using merciful Mana!

The Lotus Lantern swirled around him, as if sentient, scattering countless points of light, helping him to repair his body.

Right after that.

The supposed dead Dragon Princess reemerged before the audience, and she was in Erlang Shen's palace!

At this moment.

Countless viewers couldn't help but exclaim!

"Holy crap!"

"The Dragon Princess isn't dead?"

"How can Erlang Shen use the Lotus Lantern, it looks like the Lotus Lantern actively sought him out and even helped him repair his body, could this Lotus Lantern be in cahoots with Yang Jian?"

"What is this even?"

"I don't understand what's going on!"

"Did I miss an episode or something?"

"Isn't it said that only merciful Mana could use the Lotus Lantern, could it be that Yang Jian is..."

The air suddenly fell silent!

An astonishing guess appeared in everyone's minds!

The audience was stupefied!

Without further discussion, almost everyone hurriedly opened the next episode!

Meanwhile.

Zhao Jue was also at home following "Lotus Lantern."

When she saw Yang Jian using the Lotus Lantern, and the Dragon Princess reappearing, she exhaled a breath.

"There was indeed a twist."

She had borne a lot of pressure.

If the subsequent plot didn't twist, the loss for Starlight would have been huge.

To directly feel the impact of the twist, she even avoided reading the following plot in the script.

She just wondered if this twist could convince the audience?

Worried about a recurrence, Zhao Jue, like the other viewers, opened the eighteenth episode.

...

This episode.

Outside the Kunlun Mirror.

The mysterious shadow wielding the Kunlun Mirror prepared to kill Chenxiang and his friends, only to be stopped by a dazzling figure!

Yang Jian had arrived!

He donned his armor again, wielding the three-pointed, double-edged lance, exhibiting overwhelming presence!

"Yang Jian!"

The shadow was extremely surprised, apparently recognizing Yang Jian!

Yang Jian then spoke, revealing a shocking secret:

"Queen Mother, you have been possessed."

"You! Deserve! To! Die!"

The suddenly enraged mysterious shadow lunged at Yang Jian!

This furiously blushing terrifying shadow turned out to be the Queen Mother!?

The camera shifts.

Inside the Kunlun realm.

While Chenxiang and his companions were at a loss, an animated image suddenly appeared in front of them.

The image depicted a child, his brows exuding a spiritual aura.

Chenxiang perplexedly asked, "Who is this?"

Also trapped in the Kunlun Mirror, Sun Wukong realized:

"This is the Kunlun Mirror, capable of reversing time, sending people back to the past to observe the past, originally used by Fuxi to check on karma. Now it seems someone has activated the Kunlun Mirror, but who is this person reflected in the mirror, could it be this person is fighting that mysterious demon?"

He is Yang Jian.

The Third Goddess recognized the child.

...

In front of the computer.

Zhao Jue opened her mouth wide!

This design is simply brilliant!

Yang Jian doesn't need to explain anything himself.

Chapter 836: Epic Awkward Moment Part Two

Zhao Jue knew that although "The Magic Lotus Lantern" would vindicate Yang Jian in its later stages, she had always been worried...

Would the audience accept the twist?

Was the plot persuasive enough?

Wouldn't people feel it was an attempt to forcibly whitewash a character?

Not until Zhao Jue had seen the past reflected in the Kunlun Mirror did her worries finally vanish.

This was a trap!

Reflecting on the plot, this drama recalled countless details worth scrutinizing—

Despite being a mythological drama, it portrayed the cruelty of reality so vividly!

A carefully woven benevolent conspiracy, a group of gods with high mana, yet blinded by appearances just like the mortals.

Life's furnace, the dazzling mortal world, who is the pawn, and who is the grandmaster?

It turned out that those foreshadowings had been laid down since the very first episode; Yang Jian had turned himself into a chess piece, and he was the one who sacrificed the most!

At this moment!

Tears streamed down Zhao Jue's face!

And at this time, across the continents, there were countless people staying up late in front of their computers watching "The Magic Lotus Lantern."

Tonight.

Everyone was Zhao Jue!

Compared to them, Zhao Jue was even lucky.

Having a director's godlike perspective, she had known all along that the drama never intended to smear Yang Jian; on the contrary, it was reshaping him in a very special way.

And the real protagonist of "The Magic Lotus Lantern" wasn't Chenxiang.

Chenxiang's existence was merely to provide an external perspective for audiences to view Yang Jian's actions.

The more it was so, the more the twist played out in the Kunlun Mirror was heart-shaking!

This impact was not only conveyed to the characters in the drama but to every viewer!

Therefore.

When the truth was revealed.

Everyone's perceptions of Yang Jian, established over the previous dozen episodes, shattered like a violently broken mirror!

In the clinking sounds!

Glass shards littered the ground!

At this moment, the whole network was stunned!

It turns out Yang Jian was never the villain; persecuting Chenxiang or even killing the dragon princess were just acts of his self-sacrifice!

Is he a good person?

No!

It should be said:

In the world of "The Magic Lotus Lantern," is there anyone better or greater than Yang Jian?

Wrong!

Everyone was wrong!

Recalling the countless curses thrown at "The Magic Lotus Lantern" for allegedly smearing Yang Jian, numerous people's hearts trembled!

Shame!

Heartache!

Withdrawal!

From the moment the Kunlun Mirror first unveiled the foreshadowing, related topics exploded online, causing unprecedented shock and a mental breakdown across the network!

"I'm going crazy!"

"I feel so sorry for Second Master!"

"Do they have to be this torturous in the middle of the night!"

"Why does Yang Jian have to do this? You give so much for friends and family, even for the Three Realms, what do they give you back? After years of meticulous planning, suffering indignities in the Black Waters, only to be hated by even your closest ones. Knowing this path is despised by heaven, you almost died at Chenxiang's hand, was all this worth it? Sorry, I got a bit emotional, this part of the drama really killed me!"

"We all misjudged Yi An, the director, and the actors!"

"Just cried like crazy in my room, my mom thought I'd had a breakup. She came over to comfort me in the middle of the night, ended up watching two episodes of 'The Magic Lotus Lantern' with me, and then I had to comfort her. Now we're both sitting here crying like fools!"

"Yi An, sorry!"

"Everyone owes Yi An an apology. From the start, he never once smeared Second Master. It's our fault for not watching the show closely enough, not noticing the many clues already planted!"

"Instant shutdown!"

"Got treated to a full-on depressive episode in the middle of the night, I've watched countless TV dramas over the years, and 'The Magic Lotus Lantern' is by far the most torturous. It made me want to jump through the screen and hug Yang Jian!"

"Just a heads up, you should delete your posts now; we've all been smacked in the face by Yi An!"

"..."

Damn, almost forgot!

This reminder came just in time!

Netizens began deleting their posts!

Throughout the broadcast of "The Magic Lotus Lantern," numerous people had vehemently criticized the drama for slandering Yang Jian.

Curse the scriptwriter!

Curse the director!

Curse the actors!

Curse Starlight!

Stereotypical internet troll!

Not until this moment did everyone realize that they hadn't smeared Yang Jian, but instead had painted a Second Master for whom everyone felt pity!

This moment.

Everyone was stirred into action!

The symmetry with which everyone was deleting posts was incredible!

Online, a deletion storm like none ever seen before suddenly occurred!

God knows what the netizens felt when they saw the vitriol they had previously posted about this drama!

There's no better example of public humiliation than this, right?

The meaner everyone had sprayed earlier, the louder their faces were slapped now!

At this moment, would you still not delete your posts and keep them for the New Year?

Some people were practically crying while they deleted their posts, clearly not yet over the depressive shadow of "The Lotus Lantern."

Likewise.

Someone described this scene as "one of Blue Star's five most epically embarrassing moments."

Each case among Blue Star's five most epically embarrassing moments made onlookers want to curl their toes from cringe, the common feature being the wide swath of people getting slapped in the face. It was truly terrifying!

Previously.

The same Blue Star's five most epically embarrassing moments also traced back to the Han people reviewing "Farewell Kiss," saying that the song only topped the season charts due to the advantage of being in Mandarin, only to be severely slapped by the quality of the song's English version. That incident pioneered Blue Star's history of epic embarrassing moments (manual prompt, chapter six hundred and twenty-two).

Years later.

Many still couldn't forget that night, when they cried like dogs while frantically deleting posts.

At the same time.

In a wealthy household.

In the spacious living room, the scenes reflected from the Kunlun Mirror completely overturned the entire plot of the previous dozens of episodes...

In front of the screen.

Ling Kong was dumbfounded.

He suddenly felt parched and weak all over, with a slight sour sensation in his nose.

His face also felt a bit cool.

Ling Kong instinctively touched his face, only to realize it was his own tears.

He had actually...

Cried?

A strange sense of numbness suddenly covered his face as though someone had furiously slapped him countless times!

Ling Kong was instantly enveloped in immense shame!

He had actually cried!

He was actually sympathizing with Yang Jian!

He was actually experiencing such a shameful response to this drama!

"To hell with it!"

Ling Kong cursed, the voice that came out was a crying tone.

It was as if he thought of something.

Ling Kong quickly pulled out his cellphone, his fingers trembling as he logged into his Tribe account, opened an article, and frantically pressed to delete!

"Confirm deletion?"

"Cancel!"

"Confirm deletion!"

"Cancel!"

Ling Kong intended to delete the post.

He had capitalized on the "The Lotus Lantern" timing to write a whole article, and not deleting it now would surely be disastrous, but because he was moving too fast, he almost always inadvertently clicked the cancel button.

"Did the product team grow up eating shit!"

He angrily said, if you're gonna delete, just delete, why even give a chance to cancel?

Even if they had to include a cancel feature, why put "cancel," which is easier to hit than "confirm," in such a spot?

Suppressing his frustration.

He slowed down by a lot, finally managing to delete the post.

And before deleting the post.

He saw a comment that read:

"Making a prediction: this idiot's gonna delete his post soon. If he doesn't, I'll eat shit standing on my head. If he does, he's the one who will eat."

Suddenly, a wave of nausea.

Ling Kong actually did feel like he had eaten shit.

Chapter 837: The Male Lead Has Been Snatched Away

This was a post-deletion tidal wave!

Netizens were deleting their posts, and Ling Kong was deleting posts too!

It's just that ordinary netizens' actions of deleting posts went unnoticed, while Ling Kong had now become a celebrity and, consequently, a focal point of attention for many!

Once he started deleting posts, a wave of scolding followed in the comments of his other updates:

"This guy deletes posts faster than I do!"

"Heard you're planning on making a movie related to Yang Jian?"

"Still going to shoot it?"

"You think you're worthy of portraying Yang Jian?"

"Sorry, when it comes to Yang Jian, I only recognize Journey to the West and 'The Lotus Lantern'!"

"You've deleted your posts, let's not beat a dead horse, we've silently deleted ours too."

"Deserving of criticism, we had a bit of a misunderstanding earlier and spoke out for Yang Jian, but this guy here wanted to stir up trouble amidst the turmoil!"

"I don't believe for a second that he's a fan of Yang Jian!"

"Don't tell me you believe in the sense of justice from capital!"

Ling Kong began to regret the fame he had sought after earlier, but in this world, there's no such thing as a pill for regret.

And after Ling Kong.

The vanguard of the Tribe—

Those big V internet celebrities who had followed Ling Kong in angrily criticizing 'The Lotus Lantern' also started deleting their posts!

Similarly!

These popular internet celebrities with large followings also got scolded!

A contrasting amusing point was:

Right after the plot reversal of 'The Lotus Lantern'.

Some netizens apologized to the creators of 'The Lotus Lantern'.

...

In director Ding Xiao's comment section.

"Director, I wronged you, I'm sorry, but saying you had a bad conscience wasn't unjustified at all."

"Sorry, he—tui (dog head)"

"Director Ding is really something. 'Yang Xiaofan and Qin Tiange' was harsh enough, I didn't expect you to go even harder, I'm sorry, I spit and walk away (dog head)"

"Chu Kuang opened the door to the New World for you, and Yi An led you through it."

"Sorry... Damn it, I really can't stand it, why the hell should I apologize to you, the later part of the drama made me cry my eyes out!"

"It's so hard to apologize when my heart and spirit are unwilling!"

This scene of apologies was indeed a bit eerie.

The audience did indeed misunderstand Ding Xiao, but thinking about how torturous the later part of 'The Lotus Lantern' was, everyone felt like scolding Ding Xiao all over again.

At home.

Ding Xiao, seeing these comments, laughed so hard his mouth almost reached his ears, radiating an unusual excitement!

Indeed!

The audience just loves this!

In making TV dramas, one must be cruel!

I love this about you all, how you say you're unwilling with your mouths, but your bodies are so honest!

Scold me!

Scold all you want!

The more you scold, the more it shows you like it, if you don't scold me, that means I'm not doing well enough!

...

In actor Liu Zhengwen's comment section.

"Cough, my fans have returned."

"Erlang Shen, kisses, I still support you!"

"Your portrayal of Yang Jian was too good; I shouldn't have criticized you, it was all Yi An's fault!"

"Promise me, continue playing Yang Jian, you do it better than the actor from The Primordial Chaos!"

"The best Yang Jian ever!"

"Tragically beautiful!"

"Shouldn't have criticized you, to make up for my mistake, I joined your fan group, I'll definitely support you from now on!"

The comments here were much more normal.

Liu Zhengwen let out a big sigh of relief upon seeing these comments.

His agent excitedly said, "Zhengwen, you're going to be on fire with this, Yang Jian could be the peak of your career, you must hold on to this role well. Starlight will definitely continue to make Journey to the West stories, and your role is very important!"

"Yes!"

Liu Zhengwen looked at his account and nodded vigorously!

Previously, because of the harsh criticism during the early stages of 'The Lotus Lantern', he had lost many fans.

However, now.

Not only had his fans returned, but their number had even far surpassed the previous count, a very rare situation. He might really become extremely popular because of this role!

He would seize such an opportunity no matter what!

...

In Yi An's comment section.

Compared to the first two, Yi An's comment section was definitely the most lively!

"Sorry, Yi An..."

"Teacher Yi An, I was wrong!"

"We shouldn't have wronged Teacher Yi An!"

"Teacher Yi An, just like Yang Jian, was wronged by us but couldn't explain, after watching the drama I truly understand the helplessness."

"Remorseful."

"Bowling to Teacher Yi An."

"Teacher Yi An, you truly are an excellent writer and screenwriter!"

At this time.

Lin Yuan was browsing through comments at home.

Seeing the apologies from netizens, he showed a smile.

To err is human, to forgive, divine.

However.

As he continued to scroll through the comments, his expression became somewhat strange.

The comments seem to have taken a turn.

Someone's setting the pace, suspecting it's The Primordial Chaos fans!

"Alright, the apology has ended."

"Brothers, do we follow procedure next, or go straight to roasting?"

"Brothers, I'll start with a roast to pay my respects!"

"Teacher Yi'an, b*stard, die!"

"There's someone to take over for the old rascal Chu Kuang. Everybody's going to have to work harder in the future, hold down the old rascal with your left hand, and keep a grip on Yi'an with your right, this guy is also crazy."

"Worthy disciple of the old rascal, behave like a human being!"

"Bastard, the old rascal just likes to hand out boxed lunches, but you're giving the audience arsenic!"

"Damn Yi'an, who the hell taught you to be like this? Of all people, you had to imitate Chu Kuang, that's just a pitfall!"

"Yi'an, give me your home address, I'll send you some local specialties from our place."

"Ever since 'The Legend of Wukong', I knew you weren't up to any good, as expected, who the hell likes Chu Kuang if they're decent?"

"..."

Lin Yuan's smile froze.

What the hell?

Wasn't this supposed to be an apology?

Where the hell is the promised apology?

Do you guys even know how to apologize?

If you truly don't want to apologize that's fine; the earlier part of the story was indeed deceptive. But why the hell are you cursing?

I learned it from Chu Kuang!

If you want to curse, curse at Chu Kuang—

Wait a minute!

Chu Kuang is me too!

Lin Yuan was almost driven to depression by these netizens, angrily putting down his phone.

...

Amidst the ever-changing currents of the internet.

The Primordial Chaos fans always maintained their silence.

At this moment.

In the largest chat group of The Primordial Chaos fans.

Suddenly someone broke the silence: "Have you seen the latest plot of 'Lotus Lantern'?"

The whole group instantly became lively.

It seemed everyone had been paying attention to the group messages, just keeping quiet until now. With someone taking the lead, The Primordial Chaos fans started popping up one after another.

"They did not demonize Yang Jian, but his character has changed too drastically."

"But I feel that this kind of Yang Jian is more fleshed out."

"Yeah."

"Compared to how The Primordial Chaos shaped Yang Jian, although glorious and righteous, it always felt like lacking depth."

"What are you talking about? It's nothing but a forced whitewash!"

"The screenwriter's whitewashing tactics are truly nauseating, it's clear they are just exploiting Yang Jian!"

"It's pointless to be stubborn now, I'm starting to like this Yang Jian."

"I've realized, actually, I don't really like The Primordial Chaos; I just like Erlang Shen. The Erlang Shen in 'Journey to the West' fits my aesthetics perfectly, tragic and beautiful, obedient yet unproclaimed, this is the Erlang Shen I imagine!"

"You've turned traitors, all been brainwashed by Yi An!"

"It's you who are stubbornly in denial, always unwilling to acknowledge the excellence of 'Journey to the West'. I used to be like that too, but such a 'Lotus Lantern', such an Erlang Shen, I'm thoroughly convinced."

The group actually started arguing.

A moment later.

Some people left the group.

One, two, three...

Numerous The Primordial Chaos fans began leaving the group!

The admin panicked: "Let's talk it out, don't leave, The Primordial Chaos fans are all one family!"

"It's better this way."

The group owner suddenly appeared.

The admin quickly said: "Group owner, please say something, we shouldn't ruin our harmony over this!"

"This isn't about ruining harmony."

The group owner said: "As you all know, I am a die-hard fan of Yang Jian. I created this group even for Yang Jian. Now, this group has diverged from my original intention."

The admin became anxious: "What do you mean by that?"

The group owner said: "I don't feel like talking, it's too painful. Seeing you argue is even worse. I don't like The Primordial Chaos as much as you do, I only care about my dear brother."

???

The next moment, the remaining group members received a message alert:

"The group owner has dissolved the group."

Some wanted to privately message the group owner, only to find that the owner's profile picture had turned into Yang Jian from 'Lotus Lantern'.

From that day on.

More The Primordial Chaos fans became fans of 'Journey to the West'.

To be exact, they became fans of 'Lotus Lantern', became fans of Yang Jian.

The remaining The Primordial Chaos fans were dumbfounded!

It was one thing for 'Journey to the West' to snatch The Primordial Chaos's position as Blue Star's number one myth. But now?'Journey to the West' even took away The Primordial Chaos's male lead!?

'Journey to the West' was directly undermining The Primordial Chaos's foundation!

The great battle between 'Journey to the West' and The Primordial Chaos, following 'Lotus Lantern', came to a definitive end!

Of course.

Not everyone was in a rush to declare their love online.

Most were still watching the show, posting comments on the internet, while opening up the finale of 'Lotus Lantern'.

The question on everyone's mind:

What will become of Yang Jian's finale?

Chapter 838: Blades Worth Hundreds of Millions

"Alright, it's not a one-time deal after all."

"The Journey to the West story must go on."

Yang Jian did not die like the ending of 'Everlasting Regret.'

The grand finale.

The divine law rewritten.

After knowing the truth, all the realms were grateful for Yang Jian's kindness.

Nuwa, who had once intended to take Yang Jian as her disciple, specifically left a lifeline for him.

This is Lin Yuan's magical modification.

Actually, the Earth CCTV's 'Lotus Lantern' didn't write off Yang Jian either.

That's quite normal.

If Yang Jian were written to die, it would have too great an impact.

Especially in this world, Yang Jian's popularity is simply terrifying.

Just the first dozen episodes of 'Lotus Lantern' slightly smearing Erlang Shen caused such a storm, let alone the cost of killing off Second Master.

Moreover, Lin Yuan intends to create the Journey to the West Universe.

In his vision.

Whether it's Sun Wukong or Yang Jian, both are indispensable soul figures in the future Journey to the West Universe.

However, this ending still triggered countless viewers to curse.

There's no other reason!

It's just too torturous!

But as much as everyone criticized, the drama's ratings still went up.

On Starlight Web.

The TV series 'Lotus Lantern' scored a high 9.1!

For a TV series, this is a very good achievement!

Under normal circumstances.

A Starlight Web rating of over 8 signifies a quality work already.

Reaching nine points, that's considered a classic.

Well.

It's safe to say the rating trend of 'Lotus Lantern' has been pretty twisted.

When this drama first came out, the Starlight Web rating was just around eight points.

When the plot made Yang Jian a villain, the ratings for 'Lotus Lantern' crashed, at one point falling to around six points, showing just how deep viewers' grudges were towards the blackening of Yang Jian.

Until the plot twist occurred.

The rating of this drama suddenly surged against the trend, finally reaching the current 9.1 points.

Ups and downs.

More thrilling than the stock market.

Indeed, because of the adverse effects of Yang Jian being made a villain earlier in 'Lotus Lantern', many viewers actually quit watching midway; even when early viewing of episodes was introduced, they did not watch, protesting with their actions against this smear of Yang Jian.

However.

As the ratings and reputation of 'Lotus Lantern' counterattacked, viewers who didn't continue watching the later episodes were shocked!

What happened to the protest?

What happened to the boycott?

How did this drama end up exploding in ratings after finishing?

What's the deal with this drama?

Many netizens who hadn't been following the issue began to get confused.

Someone online voiced their doubts.

At that point.

Many enthusiastic netizens appeared to reply:

"You quit midway, right? Seriously, I strongly suggest you pick it back up and keep watching; the later part of the drama is just too healing. Yang Jian is actually a good guy!"

"Yes, don't worry, Yi An didn't smear Yang Jian!"

"The ending is really healing; it definitely won't disappoint you!"

"Absolutely don't read online comments; it's easy to get spoiled, and once spoiled, it's no fun. Start watching now, and I guarantee it'll heal all your unhappiness!"

"This is the warmest story I've ever seen!"

"The story is very warm, filled with love and Sunlight!"

"Didn't expect this story to be so heartwarming, it has a strong healing effect. You're missing out if you don't continue watching. We all misunderstood Teacher Yi'an before!"

Warm, healing?

Heartwarming, therapeutic?

Yang Jian is actually a good person?

We misunderstood Teacher Yi'an?

Everyone seems so enthusiastic in their recommendations!

Is this why 'Lotus Lantern' ratings exploded afterward?

Could it be that the later plot really had some divine twists and vindicated Yang Jian?

It must be!

Ratings wouldn't fool people, right!

Let's go see!

The viewers who quit midway are moved!

With great anticipation, they all began to watch the continuation of 'Lotus Lantern'!

After watching...

The group of viewers lost their minds!

"Damn it!"

"Who the hell said the later plot was very healing? Stand up; I promise I won't kill you!"

"Damn, turned into a tear man!"

"This is clearly depressing!"

"I just knew it, why was everyone recommending it so enthusiastically? It's a trap. I was tricked the same way into watching 'Hachiko' before, and I fell for it again; why don't I ever learn!"

"This thing is even more depressing than 'Hachiko'!"

"I can't take it anymore; I have to trick someone else. Last time my classmate tricked me into watching 'Hachiko', which left me crying my eyes out. Now it's his turn to pay the price!"

The latecomer viewers cursed wildly!

The enthusiastic netizens who promoted the drama before were so thrilled they slapped their thighs in excitement!

The highest realm of lying is to mix countless truths within a lie!

This drama indeed did not vilify Yang Jian, everyone wronged Teacher Yi'an, right?

Healing?

Well, that might have been a typo on our part.

Who can blame us when "healing" and "depressing" sound the same?

"zhiyu"

The case was finally solved.

It's all the fault of the pinyin typing method.

And these spectators are misleading others too?

Welcome aboard!

Our goal is:

No moth...

To trick one person at a time!

After all, the rating of this drama is the best cover!

It's not just the ratings.

Starlight's stocks began to rise too!

This drama is magical, it actually influenced Starlight's stocks!

When thousands criticized it before, Starlight's stocks plummeted;

Now that the reputation has reversed, Starlight's stocks surged again!

...

At this time, at home.

Lin Yuan had just finished watching "Lotus Lantern" with his family.

"Why is it so heartbreaking!"

His sister, wiping her tears, was terribly upset.

His younger sister's eyes were also red. "Yang Jian is so great."

Their mom sighed.

She was one of the few who remained clear-headed.

While everyone else was criticizing the drama for vilifying Erlang Shen, she remained silent.

It was the intuition of an old TV buff, a remote control holder.

But even mom felt deeply sad by this ending.

"I'm going to scold him online!"

His sister angrily logged onto her blog.

Lin Yuan's ears perked up, "Scold whom?"

His sister replied matter-of-factly, "Teacher Yi'an, of course, this man is too wicked."

Lin Yuan: "..."

Yang Jian must have felt similarly wronged when misunderstood by the Third Goddess, right?

"He deserves it!"

His other sister chimed in and then also opened her blog, intending to scold Teacher Yi'an.

However.

Before the sisters could start scolding, they burst out laughing.

The older sister laughed the loudest, "Hahahaha, look at this, the new razor blade poll on the blog is hilarious, I could laugh my head off, such a mischievous poll!"

"I saw it too."

The younger sister read aloud: "Which celebrity do you most want to send razor blades to... Brother, you made the list too!"

Lin Yuan was stunned.

What kind of ridiculous poll?

Lin Yuan glanced at his sister's phone. Indeed, the blog had launched such a poll—The Celebrity Razor Blade Poll. Of course, the sent blades were virtual props, similar to the flowers and votes in typical polls, each netizen having a chance to send a razor blade.

The list was full of familiar names!

First place, Chu Kuang, 93.45 million blades.

Second place, Teacher Yi'an, 35.29 million blades.

Third place, Shadow, 23.47 million blades.

Fourth place, Xian Yu, 10.26 million blades.

Fifth place...

Lin Yuan's face darkened.

His mom came over and couldn't help laughing, "My son is in fourth place; if these blades were real, we would never run out of knives for cooking in our house!"

Gosh!

Lin Yuan protested, "What did Xian Yu do wrong?"

His sister looked at the comments, "Netizens said it's because of 'Hachiko'; that movie really was heartbreaking. For a while after that movie, every time I saw Antarctica, I just wanted to hug and cry."

"Woof!"

Antarctica barked once and then hopped in front of the TV. The Sky Roaring Dog in the "Erlang Shen" show on TV was also played by him,

"What about Shadow?"

"Shadow is because of 'Death Note' and other mangas that often have heartbreaking plots. His comics are numerous, and it's inevitable to avoid some scenarios where characters are 'sent boxed lunches' or other depressive episodes."

"And Teacher Yi'an?"

"Do you even need to ask?"

"And Chu Kuang?"

"That needs even less asking!"

"Actually, it's nothing; you're only in fourth place. You still have Chu Kuang, Teacher Yi'an, and Shadow ahead of you. Especially that Chu Kuang, who is unsurpassed and takes the lead. The number of blades you three received combined doesn't even match the number he got alone—absolutely infuriating, how hated he must be!"

No one paid attention to Antarctica.

His mom was consoling Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan grumbled as he logged off the chat.

He alone received over a hundred million blades?

Chapter 839: Ito Makoto and Matsushima Rain

Lin Yuan was frustrated, but the netizens were thrilled, tirelessly casting their votes.

The comedic effect of this blog post was done brilliantly.

"There's nothing quite like the craftiness of old age!"

"Chu Kuang, you old rascal, is slashing votes like crazy!"

"Pfft!"

"The old rascal just broke a hundred million!"

"This old rascal's votes are shooting up the fastest!"

"Even Yi An, with all his schemes, can't beat Chu Kuang, the old rascal!"

"Yi An is just a small-time thief at best, it's Chu Kuang who truly deserves the title of the old rascal!"

"Xian Yu on the list is just hilarious, it's so unjust."

"Well, since Shadow also made it to the list, our aim was to reunite the Three Bros. We did it all out of good intention, plus, the Hachiko wave was something I just couldn't take."

"Those behind need to step it up and try to surpass Chu Kuang!"

"It's so embarrassing, Yi An, Shadow, and Xian Yu combined don't have as many votes as Chu Kuang."

"Why are you even cheering them on? Is it necessary to compete for first place in this kind of thing? Besides, is there anyone in the world who deserves to be number one more than Chu Kuang?"

Lin Yuan couldn't help himself.

When he returned to his room, he couldn't resist checking out the comments from the netizens, and he ended up feeling even more dejected.

Competing for first place?

Aren't all these nominations me?

You may not believe it, but even if you pull out everyone from fourth place on, their combined votes probably wouldn't match mine!

He sighed.

Lin Yuan silently cast a vote for the person in fifth place.

Although he didn't really know the guy in fifth place very well.

He didn't dwell on it any longer.

The next day.

Lin Yuan went to the studio and had a chat with Jin Mu, mainly about one issue.

"Have the Tribe comic artists switched over yet?"

"Not yet."

Jin Mu explained, "They have a few ongoing comics that haven't concluded yet, and there are other miscellaneous issues to sort out. They'll switch over all together after a while. Having several big-name artists from Tribe announce their move to the Alliance at the same time would be more impressive and hit Tribe Comics harder. Otherwise, if we have them switch one by one, it somehow feels a bit lackluster."

"Hmm."

Lin Yuan nodded.

That was understandable.

Speaking of which, he hadn't been picking on Ling Kong lately, but he didn't expect Ling Kong to try to retaliate with "The Legend of Lotus Lantern."

Now that the issue with "The Legend of Lotus Lantern" was resolved, Lin Yuan wasn't content to just let it go. Poaching several top artists from the Alliance was the second gift he had prepared for Ling Kong.

By then, Tribe Comics should be finished.

If not entirely, then at least gasping for air, thoroughly surpassed by the Alliance.

"Speaking of which, I just cast a vote for you!"

After discussing the matter, Jin Mu said with a sly smile, "About the knife gifting, I voted for Chu Kuang. Everyone's so enthusiastic. Right now, Chu Kuang's votes are more than double the total of your other aliases combined. Who could have imagined that the top four on the list are all the same person? Simply breathtaking!"

Lin Yuan replied irritably, "Go away."

This morning, he had deliberately not looked at the tally just to avoid feeling upset, but Jin Mu had laid it all out for him anyway.

The blog was evidently bored out of its mind.

Despite being a shareholder of the blog, they staged this voting event as a way to 'thank' him.

...

After leaving the studio, Lin Yuan went to the company and met Gu Xi again.

Gu Xi was here to submit her assignment today.

She had been practicing "Nocturne" lately and now had it down pat.

Lin Yuan didn't beat around the bush and had Gu Xi perform it for him on the spot to make sure there were no issues with the performance before arranging the recording.

This process went rather smoothly.

Starlight had professionals in charge of the recording, and Lin Yuan was very satisfied with the final outcome.

He was certain.

If he were to play himself, he certainly could not outperform Gu Xi, as his piano skills were merely professional level, whereas Gu Xi's were close to Master Level.

What does being Master Level imply?

One simply needs to consider the level of Lin Yuan's Master Level drawing skills to understand.

It wasn't just the piano piece.

Lin Yuan also planned to take some time in the next few days to record the singing version of "Nocturne."

December was drawing closer, and both classical pieces as well as this song had to enter the seasonal charts.

However, there was a problem with "Nocturne."

In the chorus of "Nocturne," there was a line of lyrics:

For you, I play Chopin's nocturne...

Clearly, Blue Star did not have Chopin.

So what to do?

Change the piece to "Chopin's Nocturne" directly?

In this way, the song wouldn't need any changes, but Lin Yuan felt somewhat awkward about the fact that Blue Star didn't have Chopin, it seemed too forced.

Subsequently.

Lin Yuan thought about not changing the name of the piano piece and directly modifying the first line of "Nocturne's" chorus to:

"For you, I play a nocturne I wrote"

It still seemed a bit odd, didn't it?

Having no other choice, he came up with two decent alternatives:

The first was to change the lyrics to "For you, I play Xian Yu's nocturne."

The second plan was to change that line to "For you, I play Lin Yuan's nocturne."

Without any surprises, Lin Yuan would ultimately choose from these versions.

He leaned towards writing "Lin Yuan" or "Xian Yu."

Maybe he should take another look later and see if he could ask everyone for their suggestions...

After all, the meaning was the same, but Director Zhou's line "For you, I play Chopin's nocturne" carried with it an impression that once set in, could significantly affect one's judgment.

He would think it over later.

On the other side.

Chu Continent.

Airport.

An airplane from Zhong Continent landed.

At the exit of the VIP passage, a man and a woman emerged.

"Teacher Ito, Teacher Matsushima!"

As soon as the two stepped out of the passage, a formally dressed group approached to greet and wait for them, the leader of the group excitedly said.

"Hello."

The man and woman spoke one after the other, and they were the Maestros sent by Zhong Continent to target Lin Yuan.

Slurp.

Ito Makoto took a deep breath of the air, then sighed with emotion, "This is the scent of home."

"You must be tired from your long journey."

The person responsible for the reception was beaming with an overly enthusiastic smile, "We've already arranged accommodations for both teachers at our company, as per Teacher Ito Makoto's request, we arranged the place where Teacher Ito used to live!"

"Thank you."

Ito Makoto nodded, feeling somewhat emotional inside.

After leaving his hometown, he had moved to Zhong Continent with his family.

However, the affection for his hometown was something he could never let go of.

Returning to his hometown, he felt an indescribable sense of emotion:

I wonder if the cherry tree at the end of the road by my old place is blooming?

Suddenly.

His gaze became distant, experiencing a flash of inspiration, and countless musical notes surged in his mind, making him oblivious to the words of the people around him.

"Cheng Sang?"

Teacher Matsushima beside him spoke up.

Only then did Ito Makoto snap back to reality, laughing, "I just had some inspiration; when I get back, I must compose a piece for my hometown."

"It seems this inspiration is not a simple matter."

Teacher Matsushima spoke, seeing the sparkle in Ito Makoto's eyes.

"Yes, accompany me for a walk later, the scenery of my hometown is always beautiful."

Ito Makoto said with a smile, this unexpected flash of inspiration had already surpassed the purpose of his homecoming.

But...

The task at hand still needed to be attended to.

I wonder if that young man named Xian Yu is prepared?

Chapter 840 How to Fight Without a Trump Card

Lin Yuan was unaware that Zhong Continent had already sent someone over.

In the following days,

he was still struggling with how to choose the lyrics for the chorus part of "Nocturne".

Just then,

Ol' Zhou suddenly approached Lin Yuan:

"News from the Dragon Awards says that your two films this year are nominated for several major awards. I don't understand the details yet, but we can certainly look forward to this year's harvest."

"Hmm."

Lin Yuan nodded his head.

The films Ol' Zhou was referring to were "The Truman Show" and "Life of Pi".

Both movies were well-suited for award considerations.

If neither of these films ended up getting nominated, then there would definitely be something wrong with the Dragon Awards, because even Blue Star's formidable artistry would not stand up to the top-tier masterpieces that Lin Yuan brought out from Earth's art.

Speaking of which,

there were quite a few award-winning films in Lin Yuan's memory.

Like "Forrest Gump";

like "The Shawshank Redemption";

and like "The Legend of 1900", among others. So even if it wasn't these two films getting nominated, Lin Yuan had countless other options to achieve the goal of winning awards for his films
—

Huh?

Seeming to think of something, Lin Yuan's heart skipped a beat, and a happy expression appeared on his face as he blurted out:

"Got it!"

"Got what?"

"Nothing much, just suddenly thought of a new film closely related to music. We can decide on the name of the main character of this film ahead of time."

"A new film?"

Ol' Zhou became interested immediately.

The company was very serious about Lin Yuan's new films.

If it weren't for the fact that top-level management considered Lin Yuan aiming for twelve consecutive hits this year and might not have the energy for other projects, Ol' Zhou would have urged him to release a new film much sooner.

Lin Yuan said, "You could say that."

Ol' Zhou asked, "When will it be filmed?"

Lin Yuan replied, "It definitely won't be this year."

Ol' Zhou felt a bit of regret; it seemed he would have to wait until at least next year. Nevertheless, he casually asked:

"What's the name of the movie going to be?"

Lin Yuan answered with five words: "The Legend of 1900."

That's right.

Lin Yuan decided he would find time next year to write the script for "The Legend of 1900".

The quality of this movie was still very outstanding, with excellent reviews and a praised plot, qualifying as a classic masterpiece in the forest of films.

Most importantly...

The attributes of this movie were very much in sync with Lin Yuan.

To be exact, they were very much in sync with Xian Yu. Any film related to music, with Xian Yu in charge of the screenplay and filming, was sure to be a hit with the audience.

But why this film and not some other work?

Quite simply,

because Lin Yuan suddenly no longer planned to change the lyrics of "Nocturne"; he had found the perfect solution.

"Playing Chopin's nocturnes for you..."

He had fallen into a cognitive trap before; in fact, these lyrics could be used, and it wasn't necessary to change them.

So what if Blue Star doesn't have Chopin?

He could create a character named "Chopin".

All he had to do was write "Chopin" as the protagonist of the movie "The Legend of 1900".

When the outside world wondered who Chopin was, Lin Yuan only had to explain that this Chopin was the male lead of his next film, and then everyone would believe that Lin Yuan mentioned this unknown Chopin in his song to promote a future film.

Releasing a song could also promote the movie.

Wasn't this killing two birds with one stone?

Moreover, the protagonist of "The Legend of 1900" had no real-life prototype anyway.

The film was adapted from a certain literary script, telling the legendary story of an unnamed orphan who bonded with a piano on an ocean liner and eventually became a piano master.

The story itself was purely fictional.

The protagonist's name could have been anything. Even using "Chopin" would not have felt out of place since Lin Yuan never intended to use the original movie protagonist's name to begin with.

Moreover...

By filming "The Legend of 1900", Lin Yuan could also use this movie to release more popular piano music.

For instance, the entire "Nocturne" series?

His thought process was gradually becoming clearer, and Lin Yuan finally didn't need to worry about the lyrics of "Nocturne" anymore.

...

On the other side.

The news that Ito Makoto and Matsushima Rain, both holding dual citizenship and having recently returned to their hometown in Chu Continent, had finally been leaked!

On Blue Star.

The fame of any Maestro is incredibly high!

Just think about Xian Yu becoming a Maestro. Even before he officially won an award, the Literature and Art Association had already issued a global announcement right away. One could roughly understand just how prestigious the status of a Maestro is, let alone what it means for two Maestros from Zhong Continent to make an appearance!

And after the news of their return was exposed.

Neither Ito Makoto nor Matsushima Rain kept it a secret.

The two openly accepted interviews with Chu Continent media, explaining their purpose for returning:

They were participating in this year's Gods of Music Battle!

Suddenly.

Netizens from all five continents were shocked!

Two Maestros from Zhong Continent were going to participate in this year's Gods of Music Battle?

"This year's Gods of Music Battle is insane. It even attracted two Maestros from Zhong Continent to return!"

"Teacher Ito is not simple at all. His level of instrumental music is very high. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been invited to Zhong Continent back then. Before he left Chu Continent, he had already been superior to the other Maestros."

"Matsushima Maple is also a freak!"

"Teacher Matsushima is indeed a freak. There are several master creators of piano music on Blue Star, and Matsushima Rain is one of the very best. He may not be top-notch in pop music and the like, but when it comes to piano music, there are only a few who are stronger than Matsushima Rain!"

"Either of these two could give Wonder Lu a run for his money!"

"Wonder Lu is not inferior to them. Just because they came from Zhong Continent doesn't mean they should be completely mythologized. In fact, at a certain level of Maestro, the differences in skill are not so pronounced. Results of the music ranking battles also see wins and losses, and only a few real top GOATs dare to say they fear no one."

"It seems that this year's Gods of Music Battle is going to be even more exciting than previous years!"

"Hold on, why do I feel like these two are targeting Xian Yu?"

"You're right, it really seems like that!"

Although Xian Yu had already reached the standard of a Maestro, everyone had not forgotten that Xian Yu was just the last Gods of Music Battle away from a twelve-time consecutive championship. If Xian Yu succeeded in securing the twelve-time consecutive championship, then his status as the youngest Maestro in the history of Blue Star would be even more valuable!

Yet, at this crucial moment, people from Zhong Continent had arrived!

They didn't come earlier or later, but just as Xian Yu was about to attempt the twelve-time consecutive champion, their timing was too coincidental not to think they were targeting Xian Yu!

Compared to the netizens' belated realization.

In the musical circles of the five continents.

Almost instantly, as the news of Ito Makoto and Matsushima Rain's return broke, many professionals already knew the score!

No doubt about it!

The two of them were targeting Xian Yu!

"As expected, they came!"

"I just knew Zhong Continent wouldn't just watch Xian Yu win a twelve-time consecutive championship."

"That's Zhong Continent for you. There are many people there who don't want to see Xian Yu achieve the twelve-time grand slam of the five continents because it would be embarrassing for many Maestros from Zhong Continent. Plus, Zhong Continent has maintained a superior position in various fields for many years. Xian Yu's presence has posed a threat to them, and they need to take down Xian Yu to prove that Zhong Continent is still the invincible leader in all fields."

"Xian Yu has quite some influence!"

"Zhong Continent sent not just one person, but two Maestros, showing the high priority they place on dealing with Xian Yu!"

"Isn't Zhong Continent being a bit too domineering?"

"Isn't it bullying for two Maestros to team up against a junior?"

"Didn't you see their interview? Ito Makoto said that his new work is a pop song, you know. His forte is really instrumental music, so this time he has given half of his advantage. He's not going all out."

"What about Teacher Matsushima?"

As the discussion reached this point, musical professionals couldn't help but pause.

During the silence.

Someone sighed and said, "The worst news for Xian Yu isn't that two people from Zhong Continent have come to target him, but that his ace in the hole was used up early in this November..."

Without an ace in the hole, how was he going to compete?