

## F. University 81

### Chapter 81: First Stage of School Expansion Project (1/3)\_1

"What are you two thinking about?"

Ding Yue chided Huang Youjie and Xu Bin and then sat casually in his office chair, continuing, "When I speak of acquiring, I don't mean it literally. Lin Zhirou is a very promising music student. Her future after graduation has already been clearly planned by me."

"Have you signed her?"

Xu Bin understood what Ding Yue meant and immediately asked.

A few days ago, Xu Bin learned that Ding Yue had registered the Feiyue Group Company, he knew Ding Yue's development strategy.

"Hm, I've signed her, for ten years after graduation." Ding Yue laughed, nodding in response.

"What have you signed? And for ten years? What does this have to do with Lin Zhirou?"

Huang Youjie was completely confused.

Hearing Ding Yue and Xu Bin's conversation, Huang Youjie suddenly felt like he was listening to gibberish. Could it be that he had been reading his law textbooks too much lately, and his response has deteriorated?

"Old Huang, you've been engrossed in your 'Criminal Law' book and have no idea about the outside world. Even this you don't know?"

Xu Bin patted Huang Youjie's shoulder and said with a laugh.

"Tell me about it."

"Yue has registered a company, called Feiyue Group, to help support the development of our Mist City Arts and Science University. Think about it, if the university cultivates excellent talents in various disciplines, is it better for us to retain these talents or let them be recruited by other companies?"

Xu Bin explained to Huang Youjie.

"Of course, it's better to keep them working for us." Huang Youjie might have been a little slow to react but was not stupid. He naturally knew that if excellent graduates could be absorbed internally, the benefits could be maximized.

And others won't benefit from it.

"Bin is right". Ding Yue nodded as well, "The purpose of registering Feiyue Group was to maximize profits and at the same time giving back to the school, promoting the better development of the school."

"Old Huang, let me give you an analogy."

Seeing that Huang Youjie still didn't quite understand, Xu Bin explained further: "Suppose a student from our school's engineering discipline has the potential to develop a very promising technological achievement, then when the time comes, the school can invest in his research project, and simultaneously, under the school's backing company, retain the technological breakthrough and the person, this way the technological results and talents will not be leaked to other companies. We will absorb internally and then make big money through this technological breakthrough, understand?"

This time, Xu Bin explained it clearly enough.

After hearing this, Huang Youjie looked dazed and nodded his head.

In fact, Huang Youjie had understood already and after a moment, he gave a thumbs up to Ding Yue. "Yue is indeed Yue, truly far-sighted."

"Heh~ Such flattery makes me feel good. Alright, you two came to see me because you need something, right?"

Ding Yue said with a face of "enjoyment".

Knock, knock, knock!

Just as Ding Yue finished speaking, there was a knock on the office door.

"Come in."

The one who came in was Ding Yue's intern secretary, Wen Ruohan. She was holding some documents and files.

"Principal Ding, Director Huang, Director Xu, I've brought all the paperwork." Wen Ruohan came over and put all the documents on Ding Yue's desk.

"Is it regarding the construction land procedure?"

Ding Yue took a look, there were things like the land use planning permit.

"Yes, after our school's architecture faculty conducted surveys and designs on the land, I ran around with the drawings for approvals and did all the paperwork. I've got all the relevant procedures done during this period."

Wen Ruohan sounded a bit proud as she spoke.

"Secretary Wen even communicated with our logistics department, discussing the preparation for the bidding conference."

At this time, Huang Youjie nodded approvingly at Wen Ruohan.

Xu Bin also said, "So we came to discuss with you about assembling personnel from various departments to form a bidding office and get ready for the bidding conference."

"Yes, yes, yes. With all the work I've been doing, I almost forgot."

Upon hearing, Ding Yue reacted.

He remembered last time he asked Wen Ruohan to discuss the bidding conference with the logistics department.

"Since all our procedures are in place, let's assemble some people from the logistics and administrative departments to form a bidding office. I will personally be in charge of it."

Ding Yue had to supervise this matter personally.

After all, if someone else was left in charge of choosing the bidding companies, who knows if there would be some underhanded business going on?

At this stage, inviting bids for construction companies to expand the campus is a crucial matter for Mist City Arts and Science University.

Regrettably.

The students at the current School of Architecture are still not capable of being in charge of this construction project.

If they were, Ding Yue would have used his own people.

The initial stages, including the construction of a new library and the first batch of apartment dormitory buildings, still require the invitation of external construction companies for the construction work.

Once the students of the School of Architecture at Mist City Arts and Science University are accomplished or graduated, Ding Yue will set up his own construction company within the Feiyue Group and venture into the field of construction.

By then, the subsequent school expansion projects might be carried out by construction crews composed of the university's graduates.

"Alright."

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin nodded in unison, always obeying the instructions of Principal Ding.

"Besides, for this bidding, we will first set up the first-phase project, including new libraries, apartment dormitory buildings, etc. Subsequent construction will be determined based on real conditions as the second phase, then discussed later."

Currently, the teaching buildings of Mist City Arts and Science University are basically enough. After all, there was originally an area of 2,500 acres.

There is only the first-year class now, and many classrooms are not even in use yet.

The laboratory buildings and practice bases are not in a rush, as many majors will not need them during the first or second academic year.

If some students do require a laboratory for their projects in these two years, the existing laboratory building should suffice.

The remaining issue is the experimental equipment, which can be bought with money.

So, Ding Yue knew very well that what Mist City Arts and Science University urgently needed to construct were new libraries and apartment dormitory buildings.

The library is already full every day and completely insufficient.

As for the apartment dormitory buildings, due to the consistently low number of students at Mist City Siyuan University it was previously, so the number of their apartment dormitories was also relatively few.

About ten thousand people might be just enough.

At least another ten thousand will be enrolled next year, so apartment dormitory buildings also need to be expanded in the first phase.

The construction projects such as the new library and the apartment dormitory buildings are the first stage. If you can't use your own people, you can only invite outside construction companies for construction.

If one can utilize their own construction company's crew, it could save quite a bit from the cost.

Mind you, the costs of future expansion projects at Mist City Arts and Science University will inevitably be in the range of billions.

"Hmm, I agree with the phased expansion."

"I also agree."

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin both thought that Ding Yue's idea was excellent.

Blind expansion might lead to unreasonable use of funds, while phased expansion could rationalize the use of funds.

"Well, where do we find a construction company? We certainly can't invite some worthless construction crews to the bidding convention, right?"

Huang Youjie suddenly asked a vital question.

"That indeed is a problem." Ding Yue murmured softly.

There is a real possibility that the bidding units might be worthless ones without any real strength. Even small subcontracting teams might come trying to get a piece of the work, and one can imagine the quality of the buildings they would construct.

School expansion.

You have to find a reliable construction company no matter what.

"I've got it, there is someone who might be able to help." Ding Yue suddenly thought of someone.

## Chapter 82: Bidding Meeting

"Who is it? Can they actually help us?"

Huang Youjie couldn't hide his curiosity.

"Let me guess, it must be Director Zhang Jianyang from the Education Bureau, right?" Xu Bin made a guess.

"Correct."

Ding Yue nodded at Xu Bin, then took out his cell phone and found Director Zhang's number in his call log.

The educational land allocated to Mist City Arts and Science University was approved by the Education Bureau after Director Zhang had conducted his inspections.

Now.

Mist City Arts and Science University was about to make a bid and through Director Zhang, perhaps a group of construction companies with considerable strength could be recommended to bid for the project.

"Hello, Principal Ding."

"Hello Director Zhang, are you busy?"

The call was connected.

On the phone, Ding Yue explained to Director Zhang the expansion plan of Mist City Arts and Science University. All procedures had been completed and the bidding conference was about to begin.

In addition to the bidding advertisement for Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue hoped that Director Zhang Jianyang could recommend a group of construction companies with substantial strength to participate in the bidding.

Zhang Jianyang said that the Education Bureau could indeed help a bit with this matter.

"There are several construction companies in our southwestern region that are quite strong. The Education Bureau can recommend a few."

"Really? Thank you so much."

"Don't mention it. We are all doing this for the cause of education in Mist City."

Now when construction companies are recommended by the Education Bureau to bid, along with those attracted by the bidding advertisement, a commendable construction company should be selected for collaboration.

"Then let's start preparing for the bidding conference."

Ding Yue instructed the two directors and his secretary, Wen Ruohan.

Over the next few days, Ding Yue pulled staff from various departments to form a bidding office.

He served as the head of this office.

Next, Mist City Arts and Science University began to broadcast bidding advertisements throughout the southwestern region.

Construction companies began to notice the bidding advertisement of Mist City Arts and Science University.



Just as Ding Yue pondered, some small companies began to feel eager to try their chances after seeing this tempting offer, especially since the bidding advertisement of Mist City Arts and Science University showed that the cost of the project was in the hundreds of millions of yuan.

A week later.

In a large hall at Mist City Arts and Science University, representatives of more than a dozen construction companies from the southwestern region gathered.

The release of the bidding advertisement was just the prelude to the bidding process. The most important part was to hold a bidding conference.

The bidding conference mainly introduces the specific details of the bidding project to construction companies.

This includes preparations for the construction phase, especially the approval procedures for basic construction applications, the scope and content of the project, technical quality requirements, construction period requirements, contracting methods, conditions provided for construction units, supply and payment methods for materials and equipment, and so on.

In addition.

At the bidding conference, a variety of questions from bidding construction companies will be answered, while specifying the time, place, method, content and requirements for the delivery of bid documents.

"Oh, isn't this Mr. Dong? So, you're interested in this project at Mist City Arts and Science University?"

"A hundred million project, how can I not be?"

"I heard that the Southwest Branch of the Sixth Construction Bureau of the Nation also sent people."

"Tianfu Construction Group is also here."

"The competition seems fierce."

The mentioned Mr. Dong and others were the "bad fish" as described by Ding Yue among the construction companies.

They didn't have substantial strength. They often won bidding projects by unscrupulous means. They even personally attended bidding conferences, all in an attempt to pull connections through improper means.

The Southwest Division of the Sixth Construction Bureau of the Nation and Tianfu Construction Group, which many companies were discussing, were powerful construction companies.

They were probably construction companies recommended by the Education Bureau for bidding.

"Welcome, esteemed companies, to the bidding conference of Mist City Arts and Science University."

The bidding conference began.

Ding Yue, along with the personnel of the bidding office, provided all the participants with a detailed introduction to the bidding project of Mist City Arts and Science University.

The bidding project included -

A large-scale library.

apartment dormitory buildings (including 2 high-rise elevator apartments and 10 seven-storey dormitory buildings).

A basketball court.

Many people from construction companies were amazed by the library design revealed by Mist City Arts and Science University.

"This building is a bit tricky."

"Top-notch requirements, right?"

"Did you see? The library's estimated cost is 150 million yuan. You small companies shouldn't count on it."

"This library, our company might not be able to build it."

Some small-scale construction companies felt immense pressure after seeing the design plans for the Book Ship Library.

Because the design of this [Book Ship Library] was imposing and the structure seemed complex, the level of construction required was indeed quite high to execute it.

And since the Mist City Arts and Science University had laid out high construction requirements for the Book Ship Library, smaller construction companies suddenly didn't dare to bid and take on the task rashly.

Large-scale construction companies like the Southwest Division of the Sixth Construction Bureau of the Nation and Tianfu Construction Group, however, showed great interest in the bidding project of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Your library building design is quite interesting, may we take a detailed look at the structural data?"

At this moment, someone from Tianfu Construction Group asked.

"Sure."

The bidding office of Mist City Arts and Science University gave an affirmative answer, and the staff immediately displayed the professional structural data made during the design of the [Book Ship] by their team.

"This structure is complex, unfit for a typical construction company."

"Tianfu Construction Group should be able to handle it, right?"

"Of course. Their capability speaks for itself."

"Our West Shu Construction Company can also do it."

"West Shu Construction has developed quite rapidly in recent years."

Merely describing the quality and technical requirements of [Book Ship Library], these had already discouraged the smaller construction companies.

Only large-scale construction companies had the confidence to guarantee the quality and meet the technical requirements needed to construct the [Book Ship Library].

Including West Shu Construction Company, Cloud-On Construction Company, the Southwest Division of the Sixth Construction Bureau of the Nation, and Tianfu Construction Group announced their intent to submit bidding documents.

Then, the Mist City Arts and Science University specified the time and content for the bidding companies to send in their bid documents.

After the bidding conference at the main hall was over, Mist City Arts and Science University organized a field visit to the construction site for all the participants.

This introduced them to the on-ground geological, geomorphic and natural conditions of the construction site, including the existing public infrastructure and social situation, thereby providing an essential and credible experience. This deepened their understanding of the bidding documents and provided factual information for their bidding strategy and proposal.

After all, for construction tendering projects, the focus is on the construction site so that the bidders understand the conditions better.

After the visit to the construction site.

All the companies expressed that the geological and other construction conditions of this educational land allocated to Mist City Arts and Science University was surprisingly good.

Chapter 83: The boy I like?

The bidding conference ended successfully after the site survey was completed.

Of the dozens of construction companies that attended the bidding conference, only seven made it clear that they would submit a bid to Mist City Arts and Science University.

It will take some time for the construction companies to submit their bidding documents.

Because they need to create their bid books after returning.

Mist City Arts and Science University will choose the winning construction company based on their bid books to undertake the campus expansion project.

As for this, Ding Yue is not in a rush.

Because there's a more important event in the next few days.

Inside the recording studio of the Art building, Lin Zhirou is diligently practicing the three songs given to her by Principal Ding.

"Fragrance of Rice", "Confession Balloon", and "Blue and White Porcelain".

The three songs have different styles: one is inspirational, one is romantic, and one is traditional. Therefore, it's quite challenging to practice.

However, Lin Zhirou is not discouraged.

Every day, she spends more than ten hours recording and understanding these three songs, which is even more diligent than the professional esports students in the E-sports Game College.

Moreover, due to Lin Zhirou's natural talent in music, her practice appears to be effective.

Outside the recording studio, Ding Yue specifically came over today to check on Lin Zhirou's practice.

After Lin Zhirou finished singing "Confession Balloon" in the recording studio, she quickly took off her headphones and walked out of the studio upon seeing Principal Ding.

"Principal Ding, what brings you here?"

Lin Zhirou walked over and asked curiously.

"Isn't the final competition the day after tomorrow? I came to see how your practice is going and let you know that we will leave for Yancheng tomorrow. The outfits for your performance are also ready."

Ding Yue replied with a smile.

Ding Yue had already asked his secretary, Wen Ruohan, to purchase the flight tickets and book the hotel.

There are four tickets altogether, for Ding Yue, Wen Ruohan, Lin Zhirou, and the Art Department's Director, Jiang Xiuli.

This time, Ding Xiaoyou couldn't come to watch Lin Zhirou's performance.

Because the final is not on a weekend and Ding Xiaoyou has classes. Being in her third year of high school, it's not suitable to ask for leave, so she could only wait for the good news of Lin Zhirou's great results from Yancheng.

"Principal Ding, these three original songs are of such high quality that I still feel my performance does not do them justice," Lin Zhirou humbly stated.

Ding Yue noticed Lin Zhirou's modesty because he had previously listened to her performance through the studio's headphones.

The way Lin Zhirou sang "Confession Balloon" was filled with a sublime romantic charm, and her performance was absolutely explosive.

It would be difficult for others to achieve the effect Lin Zhirou had.

"You need to have confidence in yourself," Ding Yue stretched out his hand and lightly patted Lin Zhirou's shoulder. "You can do it."

Although Principal Ding's pat was light, why did Lin Zhirou feel a sense of heaviness?

Lin Zhirou is still worried about her performance at the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition. What if she couldn't meet Principal Ding's expectations?

Especially since Principal Ding had given her such top-notch original songs.

What should she do if she couldn't meet Principal Ding's expectations?

Seeing that Lin Zhirou was still a bit worried, Ding Yue wanted to reassure her, so he chuckled and said, "I listened to you singing 'Confession Balloon' just now, it was very beautiful."

"Really?"

Lin Zhirou has always been modest and understated in evaluating her own abilities.

In her view, she has not performed well enough.

However, in the eyes of others, her singing was already quite extraordinary.

"You said it's a little hard to pursue..."

"Huh?"

Lin Zhirou was suddenly taken aback, "Principal Ding, what did you say?"

"The lyrics, you want me to back off, no need for a fancy gift... You need to sing out a strong romantic feeling in this song to immerse the audience in it. I think you were still lacking a little bit in your performance just now."

Ding Yue offered his critique.

Even though Lin Zhirou's performance of "Confession Balloon" was pleasant, Ding Yue felt that the romantic flavor was somewhat lacking.

"Well, then, Principal Ding, what should I do? How can I make it more romantic?" Lin Zhirou was already finding it difficult to enhance the romantic atmosphere of the song.

She had tried her best.

"Ahem, when singing this song, imagine the boy you like dancing with you amid the melody. This will help you easily create a strong romantic atmosphere in your mind. Try singing with that feeling, and the romantic vibe you provide the audience will surely rise a notch," Ding Yue suggested.

The key is to first immerse yourself in the romance.



If the singer of a romantic song can't evoke a romantic feeling, how can the audience resonate with the song's emotions and atmosphere?

"The boy I like?" After hearing these words, Lin Zhirou murmured to herself, then gazed unblinkingly at Ding Yue, as if a light was shining in her eyes.

"Lin Zhirou, why are you looking at me? Come, try singing it again using the method I just told you," Ding Yue urged, quickly leading Lin Zhirou back into the recording studio. "Keep it up!"

So, Lin Zhirou sang "Confession Balloon" once again, using the method Principal Ding suggested.

"That's it! The romantic feeling of this performance was more pronounced, and it was enough to resonate with the audience," said Ding Yue, nodding his approval to Lin Zhirou.

This talented woman is truly astounding. With just one suggestion, she made significant progress.

He just wonders which boy she likes and was thinking of while singing.

The next morning.

Ding Yue, along with the director of the Art Department, Jiang Xiuli, led the team with Lin Zhirou to the Mist City Airport. Wen Ruohan also accompanied them, handling the responsibilities of a secretary on a trip.

Like booking flights and hotels, coordinating with the hotel once they reached Yancheng, and so on.

They also brought a suitcase.

In the suitcase, Wen Ruohan put three bespoke outfits for Lin Zhirou, each respectively matching the styles of "Fragrance of Rice", "Confession Balloon", and "Blue and White Porcelain".

At Mist City Airport, Ding Yue and his group waited in the lounge for their flight.

Yancheng, one of Xia Country's metropolises located up north, was quite a distance from Mist City.

But it's only around three hours by plane.

The National College Student Art Festival Music Competition final would be held in the Star Sea Music Hall of Yancheng Music College.

Therefore, the hotel that Wen Ruohan booked was not far from Yancheng Music College.

Three hours later.

The group arrived at Yancheng Airport by flight, and another two hours by car before they finally made it to the hotel.

Exhausted from the journey, they decided to rest before doing anything else once they arrived at the hotel.

Chapter 84: Strong Man\_1

Yancheng Music College.

The final of this year's National College Student Art Festival Music Competition is being held here.

The venue, named Star Sea Music Hall, was already teeming with music enthusiasts. They were eager to see if any outstanding and dazzling contestants would emerge from among this year's college students.

Reportedly, the popular candidates included the high-pitched "Prince" Wang Jin from Shu City Music Academy.

As well as the Fantasia Band from Yancheng University of Music.

And Su Xixi from Chang'an Music Academy.

Fortunately, the finals aren't about who's more popular, but who performs better on stage.

The judges only focus on your performance.

The interesting lineup of judges for this final included distinguished professors from major music academies all over the country, as well as a few outstanding contestants from previous years.

Another handful of jurors were music producers from the pop music arena.

"One of my university seniors is actually among the judges."

Director Jiang Xiuli remarked in surprise after seeing the final jury list.

As the dean of the Faculty of Arts at Mist City Arts and Science University, Jiang Xiuli was a graduate of prestigious art schools, with over a decade of experience in art education.

Ding Yue said to Director Jiang Xiuli with a smile, "Director Jiang, perhaps after our Mist City Arts and Science University further expands, this senior of yours might come to teach in our Department of Arts, making you her superior."

Jiang Xiuli chuckled along with Principal Ding at his words.

She dared not contemplate such a thing. Her university senior had a great future ahead, and Mist City Arts and Science University was just a private university at best. How much could they really grow?

Nevertheless, Principal Ding always seemed very confident in the prospects of Mist City Arts and Science University.

However.

Although Jiang Xiuli had difficulty envisioning the future development of Mist City Arts and Science University, she felt that the students of the department of arts were more diligent and outstanding compared to the students she previously taught at other universities.

Upon entering the venue.

Ding Yue asked Wen Ruohan to first find their seat in the audience while he went to the contestants' waiting area with Director Jiang Xiuli and Lin Zhirou.

"Student Lin Zhirou from Mist City Arts and Science University?"

As soon as they arrived at the waiting area, a young male star approached them from a short distance away.

It was none other than Wang Jin, who was in the same competition area as Lin Zhirou.

If Ding Yue remembered correctly, he had finished second in the southwest regional competition, scoring just a fraction below Lin Zhirou.

"Hm?"

Lin Zhirou looked in the direction of the voice.

"You performed brilliantly in the preliminary competition, even defeating me. Let's hope that we, the contestants from the southwest division, can go further in this final. Keep it up!"

Wang Jin said encouragingly.

This guy seemed rather arrogant, but in reality, he was polite, courteous and straightforward to interact with. He seemed to give off quite a good impression.

"Yes, we must push on."

Lin Zhirou nodded at Wang Jin.

"Student Lin Zhirou, remember our goal," Ding Yue once again reminded Lin Zhirou.

This was crucial.

Because Ding Yue urgently needed to upgrade Mist City Arts and Science University to 'Minor Achievements.'

"Top ten to strive for the championship!"

Lin Zhirou answered with a resolute look in her eyes.

"Exactly. We must bring back at least the first prize. Otherwise, our efforts over such a long time will have been in vain."

At this moment, Ding Yue needed to give Lin Zhirou a little pressure and motivation.

"Alright!"

The more Ding Yue spoke like this, the more confident Lin Zhirou became.

"Student Lin Zhirou, winning a prize this time, that is, making it to the top ten, will be greatly beneficial for your future development. You must push yourself!"

Director Jiang Xiuli also encouraged Lin Zhirou.

"Ah, thank you, Director Jiang."

Lin Zhirou took a deep breath, then calmed her heart and glanced at the suitcase next to Principal Ding, saying, "Principal Ding, I'm going to change my clothes now."

"Alright, go on."

Ding Yue handed the suitcase to Lin Zhirou.

The suitcase contained three sets of clothes specially designed for her final singing competition.

"Fragrance of Rice", "Confession Balloon", and "Blue and White Porcelain" each have three different styles, so Ding Yue had three sets of costumes specially tailored to match the styles of these three songs for Lin Zhirou.

For instance, for "Fragrance of Rice", the song Lin Zhirou intended to sing first, the corresponding outfit was a vibrant youth energetic white shirt and denim shorts.

The most distinctive costume was the one matched with "Blue and White Porcelain", a cheongsam dress with blue and white porcelain print.

Three songs were prepared on purpose.

According to the final competition rules, to win the championship, one could sing up to three songs.

The first round of the final competition is the random PK match.

Twenty-eight contestants from seven national competition areas were randomly grouped into 14 pairs, where winners advanced and losers were eliminated.

A song would be sung here.

After advancing, 14 contestants moved on to the second round of singing, where each contestant showcased their strengths and the judges then scored.

Those ranked 11th to 14th directly based on these scores were immediately eliminated, having no chance for the first prize.

Technically, the top ten contestants win the first prize, but since four years ago, the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition began to select the gold, silver, and bronze winners.

Therefore, those ranked 4th to 10th win the first prize, and then the gold, silver, and bronze winners are selected.

After the second round of singing, the top two, based on scores, will compete for the championship.

The third and fourth will compete for the bronze medal.

In other words, a contestant can perform a maximum of three times to determine the outcome.

Soon, after Wen Ruohan checked the seating arrangements for the audience, she returned to the waiting area for the contestants and found Principal Ding and the others.

Lin Zhirou had also changed into her pure and dazzling clothes, and she had Wen Ruohan tie her hair up into a simple ponytail.

"Look at her, the girl is so beautiful."

"Her legs are long, fair, thin, and straight."

"Is she a contestant? Why doesn't she wear makeup?"

"She's wearing light makeup, no?"

Some of the female contestants around were attracted by Lin Zhirou's looks and figure.

Compared to their hip-hop style, although trendy, it just couldn't compete with Lin Zhirou's purity and simplicity.

Not to mention in terms of looks and figure.

So far, Ding Yue hadn't seen anyone in the venue who could compete with Lin Zhirou in terms of looks and figure.

She is indeed a pride of their university!

"The grouping results are out!"

Suddenly, someone shouted from nearby.

Then the contestants quickly huddled towards the electronic screen on the left.

"Who are you paired with?"

"Damn, how did I get grouped with Wang Jin?"

"You're done."

"I'm paired with Zheng Kun, who is that?"

"Oh god, Crazy Fantasy Band, I'm feeling so much pressure!"

Ding Yue and Lin Zhirou were also there but were blocked on the periphery of the crowd. Ding Yue managed to squeeze through the crowd and saw the contestant who was grouped with Lin Zhirou for the PK match, Chen Xiuli.

"Lin Zhirou, your PK opponent is a girl named Chen Xiuli. I haven't heard much about her. She probably isn't a strong popular contestant. Go on, do your best!"



Ding Yue said to Lin Zhirou with a smile.

Just then, a gruff male voice came from behind, "Who are you calling a girl?"

## Chapter 85: Close Your Eyes\_1

This guy in front of me is a tall man with a muscular build, are you telling me his name is Chen Xiuli?

Ding Yue quickly pulled Lin Zhirou away.

He didn't want any trouble.

Mainly because he didn't stand a chance in a fight.

"Principal Ding, the competition is about to start."

Wen Ruohan reminded him after looking at the time.

"Alright, I got it."

Replying, Ding Yue reminded Lin Zhirou, "Student Lin Zhirou, we're heading to the audience seats now. Put up a good fight, remember our goal of being in the top 10 and compete for the championship. Show them what you got!"

"Hmm."

Lin Zhirou nodded gently.

Afterwards, Ding Yue followed Wen Ruohan and Director Jiang to the auditorium. Wen Ruohan purchased seats in the middle, after all Principal Ding had said, money was not an issue.

The venue was quite crowded, mostly filled with young college students since this was the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition.

Before the competition started, a few opening performances took place, but they were by not so well-known singers and dance groups.

The only familiar face was a second-rate singer.

About twenty minutes after the opening performances, the host came on stage to announce the beginning of the final round.

The first one to perform was Wang Jin from the Southwest District.

As a top-contender from Shu City Music Academy, Wang Jin was undoubtedly talented. He was also popular and known as the 'Prince of High Pitch' from Shu City Music Academy.

Indeed.

The moment Wang Jin appeared on stage, the audience started cheering.

"Wang Jin! Wang Jin! Wang Jin!"

"Ah!!! Wang Jin is so handsome!"

"Handsome? He's not as handsome as the guy next to me." At that moment, a girl near Ding Yue muttered.

Ding Yue happened to hear this.

This girl does have taste.

With his high-pitched song, Wang Jin won the enthusiastic applause from the audience and appreciation from the judges.

His opponent was in quite a predicament.

The opponent was so intimidated by Wang Jin's imposing presence that his performance suffered. Ultimately, unsurprisingly, the majority of judges chose Wang Jin.

After Wang Jin from the southwest district, the girl from Guizhou Province took the stage.

Unfortunately, she lost to her opponent by a narrow margin of two votes and was regrettably eliminated.

Lin Zhirou was the seventh to perform and was also the third contestant from the southwest district.

"Next up are contestants from the seventh group, Chen Xiuli from the North China District and Lin Zhirou from the Southwest District."

The host introduced.

"A face-off between two girls?"

"Hahaha, a girl fight, just pull each other's hair."

"Chen Xiuli or Lin Zhirou, just going by the names, I choose Lin Zhirou."

"I feel like I've seen the name Lin Zhirou somewhere online."

"True, it sounds familiar."

"Remember that male campus flower trending topic?"

"Oh yeah, I remember now. Lin Zhirou, the campus flower of Mist City Arts and Science University."

"What?! Are you saying Lin Zhirou is a guy?"

"No, Lin Zhirou is a girl. Super gorgeous. The 'male campus flower' was called Huang something."

While the audience was abuzz with discussions, the contestant named Chen Xiuli took the stage.

At this moment.

The audience was dumbfounded.

Holy shit, Chen Xiuli is a guy! And a burly hunk at that, full of muscles!

"You're telling me this guy's name is Chen Xiuli?"

"What the heck, he's a man?"

"Hahahaha what?!"

"I hope Lin Zhirou isn't a guy too."

"Don't scare me!"

After Chen Xiuli took the stage and briefly introduced himself, he started his performance.

This seemingly fierce boy.

Darn this, he sings so delicately and gently, it's a refreshing surprise!

But to be honest, Chen Xiuli's singing skills are average at best, his biggest highlight is the contrast he presents. Everyone thought him to be a tough, high-pitched guy, but his performance was quite gentle.

This contrast earned him a wave of compliments.

Even the judges gave him slightly higher points than expected.

Next up is Lin Zhirou.

Clearly, the name Lin Zhirou didn't disappoint the audience - it's a girl.

And she's an extremely beautiful girl with a great figure.

As soon as Lin Zhirou appeared on stage, the young guys in the audience began to get restless.

"I'm so excited, it's finally Zhirou's turn." Wen Ruohan clasped her hands together in anticipation of Lin Zhirou's performance.

Ding Yue at this moment was quite calm.

It all depends on how Lin Zhirou performs. Chen Xiuli isn't that strong, but his performance has been well received by the judges.

While he is amazing, his singing just wasn't as outstanding as led to believe.

If Lin Zhirou doesn't perform the song "Fragrance of Rice" well, she may have difficulty defeating the tough Chen Xiuli.

But as long as Lin Zhirou gives a regular performance, beating this tough Chen Xiuli shouldn't be hard.

"Wow, isn't she too beautiful?"

"With this beauty, Wei is dead!"

"What a great figure."

"She's a goddess!"

"Oh no, I'm feeling a heartbeat!"

Lin Zhirou on stage, she's just an alluring part of the scenery.

Then came the familiar introduction to "Fragrance of Rice".

Of course, this intro is only familiar to Ding Yue, to others it's a strange yet pleasant preamble.

Ding Yue had teachers from the music major at school arrange the accompaniment for the three songs he gave to Lin Zhirou.

So, very few people have heard the melody of "Fragrance of Rice", you could count them on one hand.

"What's this song?"

"I've never heard it before, but the melody is pretty nice."

"This intro is really special."

The intro melody of "Fragrance of Rice" includes summer insect sounds and children's laughter, so it gives people an intense feeling of immersion.

"If you have too many complaints about this world~

You have fallen and dare not continue to move forward~

Why, people are so fragile, and degenerate~"

When Lin Zhirou sang this song, it gave Ding Yue a different feeling from Director Zhou. After all, one is a male voice and the other is a female voice.

But Lin Zhirou sang it well, mastering every rhythm and melody with perfection.

Of course.

This is the basic expectation from a music major student.

Most importantly, Lin Zhirou conveyed the emotions of the song well, at least making Ding Yue, who had listened to "Fragrance of Rice" countless times, feel very satisfied and pleasantly surprised.

"This song is good."

"Is it an original song? No wonder I didn't hear it before."

"The melody is quite lively, and the lyrics are very inspirational."

"I'm feeling it."

"A good song will give people goosebumps when they listen to it, I am having them, all over."

The audience was astonished.

Not only is Lin Zhirou beautiful, the song she sang was also very attractive.

The judges were also quite amazed when they heard Lin Zhirou's "Fragrance of Rice".

"This song is really high level."

"Her singing skills are also very good."

"I haven't heard such a pleasant original song in a long time."

The judges watched Lin Zhirou as she was singing, all whispering appreciative and satisfied comments to each other.

At this point, Ding Yue.

He closed his eyes, savouring Lin Zhirou's enchanting voice~

Chapter 86: Can't Drag it Until Tomorrow

After Lin Zhirou sang "Fragrance of Rice".

The audience in the venue burst into enthusiastic applause. If applause wasn't given, it would have been absolutely unjust.

Because Lin Zhirou sang the song so beautifully.

The song was filled with positive energy and was very inspiring.

Lin Zhirou's voice was just enchanting.

The 21 judges on the stage gave Lin Zhirou high praise, and they also looked up the information about this original song she performed.

Song - "Fragrance of Rice"

Singing: Lin Zhirou

Lyrics: Erxiong



Composer: Erxiong

Arrangement: Liu Cheng, Wang Yixiang

"Have you heard of this Erxiong?"

"I haven't heard of him, he should be a musician with low profile, right?"

"Since he could create such a good song, this guy must be very talented!"

A few judges discussed the creator of "Fragrance of Rice," Erxiong, and unanimously believed that Erxiong has a promising future.

Ding Yue told Lin Zhirou that these three songs were composed by a friend of his who makes music, so he used the artist name of that "friend" as the songwriting credits.

That is, Erxiong.

As for the two people who were credited for the arrangement, they were music teachers from the arts department of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Ultimately, the outcome of this PK match was without suspense.

Even the muscular Chen Xiuli admitted his defeat wholeheartedly, as after listening to Lin Zhirou sing this song, he found himself becoming a fan of Lin Zhirou.

From opponent to fan.

It was just a song's distance.

After Lin Zhirou successfully advanced, Mist City Arts and Science University was just one step away from the upgrade to "Minor Achievements".

As long as Lin Zhirou's score ranks in the top ten after the second round of performances, the achievement of "First Prize in the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition" will be within grasp.

At that time, Ding Yue can upgrade his Mist City Arts and Science University!

Ding Yue was somewhat looking forward to it.

The competition continued, all fourteen PK matches ended, and out of the four contestants from the Southwest Division, three advanced.

These three were Wang Jin, Rui Di Baby and Lin Zhirou, with Shu City Music Academy taking up two-thirds of the spots.

After the grouping PK matches ended, there was a ten-minute intermission, followed by the elimination round.

During the elimination stage, the fourteen contestants performed in succession, then the 21 judges scored them, with a total of 2100 points.

The four lowest scorers would be eliminated directly, having no chance for first place.

The top four would compete for the championship, runners-up and third place, while ranks four to ten would receive first prize.

If you can win the first prize in the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition, it shows that the contestant has potential for future development.

Of course.

If someone could win the championship, numerous companies would probably proactively offer opportunities.

The mid-break was over in the blink of an eye.

Just as Ding Yue returned from a bathroom break, he continued to watch the competition, eagerly anticipating Lin Zhirou's impressive performance and the moment of achievement.

The seat to Ding Yue's left was empty, Wen Ruohan was not in the audience.

She was in the makeup room.

"Zhirou, this hairstyle will look more romantic, and I think the eyelashes could use a little more makeup..."

Wen Ruohan was helping Lin Zhirou with her hairstyle and makeup.

As Lin Zhirou's next song is "Confession Balloon", she has changed into a white crystal gown that corresponds to the song, and her hairstyle can't be the ponytail she had for "Fragrance of Rice".

Initially, Ding Yue planned to hire a makeup artist for this task.

But Wen Ruohan actively volunteered, and her makeup skills were quite good, so Ding Yue agreed, giving her an opportunity to show off her skills.

With a new outfit and light makeup, Lin Zhirou had transformed from a youthful and vibrant style to a pure and romantic one, giving off a sense of first love and romance.

The knockout round has started.

Wang Jin again performed first, and Lin Zhirou was the seventh.

This knockout stage is critical for those strong competitors, especially if they want to compete for the championship.

First and foremost, your performance must be extraordinary compelling, pouring all your efforts to ensure that you rank first or second in the scores.

After all, only the top two scorers are eligible to compete for the championship of the music competition.

Obviously.

Wang Jin absolutely intends to compete for the championship.

Therefore, him being the first to perform, could be said he gave it his all. He blended and remixed two high-pitched songs, creating a high tide of harmony during the two high-pitched sections and gaining round after round of applause at the scene.

The judges were quite complimentary about the performance of the "High-pitched Prince" from Shu City Music Academy.

All 21 judges scored him more than nine points.

In the end, Wang Jin scored a total of 2005.5 points.

"As expected, the High-pitched Prince of Shu City Music Academy is quite strong."

"Wang Jin is handsome and good at singing. I just love him."

"I see Wang Jin has the potential to win the championship."

"Wang Jin is thinking about winning the championship? Is he not regarding my Madness Band?".

"Su Xixi from Chang'an Music Academy is laughing!"

"Am I the only one who likes Lin Zhirou from Mist City Arts and Science University?"

"Lin Zhirou's 'Fragrance of Rice' was indeed stunning!"

Some audience members favored Wang Jin, others favored Madness Band, some favored Su Xixi, and now some are starting to favor Lin Zhirou.

Madness Band, a rock band was the fourth to appear. Comprised of rock enthusiasts from Shencheng Music Institute, this band indeed commanded great strength and popularity.

When the band performed their rock song, the atmosphere was such that it made the competition almost feel like a concert.

Finally.

The Madness Band scored 2000 points, unexpectedly a little lower than Wang Jin, temporarily ranking second.

Next was Rui Di Baby from the Shu City Music Academy, whose performance this time seemed a bit too forced.

Thus, Rui Di Baby only scored a total of 1976 points. It seems like she has no chance of competing for the top three, but getting a first prize should be no problem for her.

"The next performer is from the Southwest division, a student from Mist City Arts and Science University, Lin Zhirou."

Finally.

It's time for Lin Zhirou to perform.

She came out in a white crystal dress, long hair draped over her shoulders, an exquisite face, bringing out a sense of first love.

Thump~Thump~

Even Ding Yue's heartbeat quickened a bit when he saw Lin Zhirou come out.

Oh no.

What is this feeling?

"Wow!"

"That looks good!"

"Mom, I'm in love."

"Lin Zhirou is my type, my heart is moved!"

"Perhaps this is what a goddess is?"

"Whew, why is she so beautiful?"

"I unilaterally declare that I'm in love, all of you can do whatever."

"Hehe, she looks just like my ex-girlfriend."

The male audience got very excited, and Ding Yue wanted to laugh when he heard these words from the boys.

What are you guys thinking?

All members of the Peach Network?

Lin Zhirou is my girl, if I say I'll have her tonight, I definitely won't drag it till tomorrow...

Chapter 87: Mist City Arts and Science University! Upgrade! Take off!\_1

"Is she going to sing an original song, 'Confession Balloon', again?"

"The composer and lyricist is still Erxiong."

"Who is this person really?"

The judges looked at the information of the song 'Confession Balloon' that Lin Zhirou was going to sing. Just like before with 'Fragrance of Rice', the performer was Lin Zhirou.

The composer and lyricist were both Erxiong.

The arrangement was done by Liu Cheng and Wang Yixiang.

In the eyes of the judges, 'Fragrance of Rice' was an excellent original song, so how will 'Confession Balloon' fare?

On the stage, Lin Zhirou held her microphone, waiting for the accompaniment to begin.

A few seconds later.

The lively prelude of 'Confession Balloon' sounded. The audience, just from hearing this prelude, knew that it would definitely be a good song.

As for the judges, from a professional perspective, the prelude of 'Confession Balloon' could definitely be called a superb work.

"On the banks of the Seine, the coffee on the left bank~"

"In my hand a cup, tasting your beauty~"

"Leaving a lip print on the mouth~"

Lin Zhirou was very focused as she started singing 'Confession Balloon'.

While singing this song, she remembered Principal Ding's teaching, that if she thought of the boy she liked, or looked at him, she could sing the most romantic feeling of this song.

So, Lin Zhirou lifted her head and looked straight ahead.

Not far away in the audience, there were dozens, hundreds of spectators in her line of sight.

But.

In Lin Zhirou's eyes, there was only one person.

Looking at Principal Ding's handsome face, Lin Zhirou could feel the romantic emotion brewing within her.

"Having you is having~ the whole world~

My dear~ falling in love with you~ since that day~ sweetly and easily~

Dear~ don't be stubborn~ your eyes are saying~ I am willing~"

When Lin Zhirou sang the last line of the first chorus, "I am willing", it was as if she was reading it from Principal Ding's eyes.

In the spectator stands, apart from seriously listening to Lin Zhirou singing the romantic 'Confession Balloon', Ding Yue was also watching Lin Zhirou.

However.

Ding Yue noticed that she seemed to be gazing at him the whole time she was singing?

Hmm.



The distance was a bit far, Ding Yue wasn't 100% certain that Lin Zhirou was looking at him.

In fact.

For a long time, Ding Yue had felt more or less aware of Lin Zhirou's feelings for him.

But he wasn't quite sure about the meaning of these feelings.

What if because of his position as the principal, Lin Zhirou's feelings for him were merely admiration?

Therefore, Ding Yue, busy with the school's development and his own studies, hadn't given a clear response to Lin Zhirou's feelings.

But today!

If Lin Zhirou wins the first prize or the championship in the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition.

Then she would be key to Ding Yue's upgrading Mist City Arts and Science University to [Minor Achievements].

Such a contribution.

How could it not be worthy of a good "reward"?

If Lin Zhirou really does have those feelings for him, then what would be the best reward for her?

Thinking about it, Ding Yue couldn't help but snicker.

"Principal Ding, your... corner of your mouth?" Suddenly, he heard the voice of his secretary, Wen Ruohan.

"Huh?"

Ding Yue immediately licked the saliva at the corner of his mouth. Awkward, but thankfully he was quick-witted and quickly diverted the topic: "Listen carefully to student Lin Zhirou's performance."

"Mmm, okay," Wen Ruohan nodded and turned her head back to continue watching the stage.

Lin Zhirou's performance of 'Confession Balloon' could be said to have painted the atmosphere of the venue full of romance.

Listening to this song, the audience felt as if they were in love.

A romantic pop song, 'Confession Balloon', was undoubtedly very successful today.

After Lin Zhirou finished singing 'Confession Balloon'.

The scene immediately broke into a warm round of applause.

These applause were an affirmation of Lin Zhirou's performance.

The judges were also nodding their heads in agreement, praising Lin Zhirou's performance.

"Truly, the new generation excels the old."

"Her vocal skills are strong, the transition from 'Fragrance of Rice' to 'Confession Balloon' was well-handled."

"Which music academy is she from?"

"No, no, no, she's not from a music academy. She's a student at a private university."

"With this level of ability, she could pass the entrance exam for the national music academy, right?"

"Not sure about that, let's just score. I'll go first, 98 points. Deducting two points so she won't get arrogant in the championship."

"96 points."

"I kind of want to award her 100 points."

In the end, the 21 judges gave Lin Zhirou a total score of 2047.5 points!

"Damn! Is this score too high?"

"I calculated it, an average of 97.5?"

"Predestined champion!"

"This year's dark horse, a goddess!"

"Wang Jin and the Crazy Band would be crying right now."

"To be honest, Lin Zhirou's renditions of 'Fragrance of Rice' and 'Confession Balloon' indeed left an extraordinary impression."

"These songs are beautifully written, and she did them justice."

Even Ding Yue was surprised by the score. However, considering that Lin Zhirou gave such a great performance, such a high score was deserved.

Besides the support from Ding Yue's songwriting, Lin Zhirou's high score was the fruit of her hard practice prior to the competition.

This score would not only secure a top-ten position easily, but it might become the highest in the competition, paving her way towards the championship.

Ding Yue smiled contentedly.

Currently, Lin Zhirou is temporarily ranked first with a score of 2047.5 points.

Even after all fourteen contestants had performed, Lin Zhirou's score still remained unbeaten.

The only one who had a chance of surpassing Lin Zhirou, Su Xixi, performed brilliantly but the judges' total score was 2039 points, ranking her second.

The eliminations are over.

Lin Zhirou is in first place, preparing to compete for the championship with the second-place Su Xixi.

Wang Jin is in fourth place and will compete with the third ranked Crazy Band for the third position.

Ding ding!

"Congratulations to the host for achieving the [First Prize of National College Student Art Festival Music Competition]!"

A prompt from the system finally echoed in Ding Yue's mind.

This was the success Ding Yue had been yearning for. Finally, it had been achieved!

"Upgrade!"

Ding Yue immediately thought, eagerly speaking to the system.

Ding ding!

"Congratulations to the host. Your [Mist City Arts and Science University] has successfully upgraded to [Minor Achievements] level."

"Congratulations on unlocking the system mall that comes with [Minor Achievements] level!"

"Congratulations to the host for receiving the [Minor Achievements] level reward of Prestigious School Level: a bonus of 10 billion yuan, 500 points of reputation value, and one advanced laboratory (of chosen type)."

At this moment, Ding Yue was feeling extremely thrilled.

billion yuan in hand!

And there was also an advanced laboratory of a selectable type.

This was a real treasure. For example, if Mist City Arts and Science University needed a physics laboratory, then Ding Yue could designate the reward of [an advanced laboratory] as an advanced physics laboratory.

Biology and medical laboratory, mechanical engineering laboratory, anything was possible!

Ding Yue decided to hold onto this treasure for now, to use it when needed since a good weapon should be wielded wisely.

Apart from the rewards,

He had also unlocked the system mall of the [Minor Achievements] level.

The system mall of the [Obscure] level only had some scrolls or Twist Fate cards to provide BUFFs.

Now, [Minor Achievements] was different. It contained a variety of advanced technologies from various fields.

If Mist City Arts and Science University could level up again, then the system mall would allow the exchange for some high-end technologies.

However, to upgrade to the next prestigious school level [Well-known], he knew it was bound to be difficult without thinking!

#### Chapter 88: What Kind of Divine Song is This\_1

In the [Minor Achievements] system store, Ding Yue can use reputation points to exchange for advanced technologies in various fields.

This has a significant effect on the development of the science and technology departments at the Mist City Arts and Science University.

After the students in the science and engineering majors have laid down their knowledge foundation, Ding Yue can exchange various advanced technologies for the top students in each major.

By then, Mist City Arts and Science University will surely have the opportunity to fully display its prowess.

If you level up again to the [Well-known] rank.

In the system store of this level, there are even some world-leading black techs.

"Principal Ding, Zhirou is ranked first, she has a chance to compete for the championship, that's simply awesome."

The excited voice of Wen Ruohan next to him pulled Ding Yue back to reality from his immersion in pondering the system store.

"Hmm, indeed I didn't misread her."

Ding Yue nodded very satisfactorily and said with a smile.

"Then, Principal Ding, I'll go and do Zhirou's makeup for 'Blue and White Porcelain' first."

"Okay."

After saying that, Wen Ruohan stood up and went to the makeup room for the contestants to start putting makeup on Lin Zhirou.

From youthful inspiration to pure romance, to traditional Chinese cheongsam style, Lin Zhirou's style changes had no discordance at all.

Can't help it.

Who said she has the face that can pull it off?

Ding Yue was sitting in the audience waiting for the championship competition to start, but seeing no reaction from the organizers for a long time, he became impatient, simply left his seat and walked towards the makeup room for the contestants.

Upon entering the makeup room, Ding Yue saw Lin Zhirou, who had already changed into a cheongsam dress with a blue and white porcelain pattern, her figure perfectly highlighted by the cheongsam.

"Principal Ding, why are you here?" Wen Ruohan asked curiously as she saw Principal Ding approaching.

"I came to have a look and remind Student Lin Zhirou along the way. If it is to compete for the championship, don't be nervous, don't be pressured, your current achievement is

already very good. I represent the Mist City Arts and Science University to thank you for bringing the glory of the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition to the University."

Ding Yue said simply.

The main point was to let Lin Zhirou compete for the championship with a relaxed mind and state, otherwise, if she was nervous or felt pressured, she might affect Lin Zhirou's performance.

"Hmm, I got it."

Lin Zhirou turned her head, glanced at Principal Ding, and nodded.

About ten minutes later.

On the stage, the third-placed Fantasia Band and the fourth-placed Wang Jin started competing for the third place.

In the end, Wang Jin got 9 votes, and Fantasia Band got 12 votes, losing to Fantasia Band by a regrettable margin of three votes.

Although Wang Jin is hailed as the high-pitch prince of Shu City Music Academy, his way of high-pitch singing seems a bit monotonous or uninspired.

Therefore, in the third-place match, although Wang Jin's high-pitch singing sounded good, the judges still preferred the Fantasia Band, who performed an original rock song.

After the third place was decided.

Next is the competition for first place between the first and second place.

This is undoubtedly the most exciting contest.



It's between the dark horse Lin Zhirou and Su Xixi from Chang'an Music Academy.

Su Xixi is known as an all-around singer who can handle almost any type of music and sings very well.

This is somewhat similar to the strength shown by Lin Zhirou.

Like Lin Zhirou, Su Xixi sang songs of different styles all the way to the current second place, but unlike Lin Zhirou, Su Xixi had only ever performed covers.

On the other hand, Lin Zhirou sang original songs.

Just based on this, Ding Yue knew that their Lin Zhirou was already in an advantageous position.

Not to mention.

The third song was the absolute weapon— 'Blue and White Porcelain'.

If they lost this...

Ding Yue decided to livestream immediately...

"Contestant Lin Zhirou, are you ready?" A staff member came to the door of the makeup room and asked.

"Yes, I'm ready."

At this time, Wen Ruohan had already finished Lin Zhirou's makeup. She looked at herself in the mirror, and then, with a relatively relaxed mood and with Principal Ding's expectations, she left the makeup room.

"Let's go."

Ding Yue watched Lin Zhirou leave for the stage, then turned his head to Wen Ruohan and said, they both left the makeup room and returned to the audience seat.

"Principal Ding, the competition for the third place just ended, but unfortunately, our Wang Jin from the Southwest Division lost," said Director Jiang Xiuli of the Art Department regretfully.

"That's not important, as long as our student Lin Zhirou can win the championship," Ding Yue didn't care about Wang Jin's win or loss.

After all, he was not a student of his own school.

Just as Ding Yue and Jiang Xiuli were speaking, the host announced the beginning of the championship battle.

Su Xixi was the first to enter the stage to perform.

It's either a coincidence or not, but the song Su Xixi was about to sing was called "Lovesick".

By the sound of the name, it's clearly an ancient-style song.

Moreover, it's an original song.

It seems Su Xixi had made careful preparations to win this year's National College Student Art Festival Music Competition.

She had made it all the way to the championship by performing cover songs with her extraordinary foundations and now was going to try to win the championship with an impressive original ancient-style song?

Pity though.

The idea was indeed good.

However, it happened that the third song Ding Yue had prepared for Lin Zhirou was also of the same style.

On stage, Su Xixi started singing "Lovesick".

Ding Yue listened carefully as well, and indeed, although the melody was very ancient-style, it was too monotonous. The lyrics seemed to be very well-written on the surface.

In fact, it was a huge pile-up of words.

What did several gorgeous sentences in a row even mean?

You could say that "Lovesick" was a qualified ancient-style song, but if compared to the traditional Chinese song "Blue and White Porcelain".

Forget it, Ding Yue didn't even bother to compare.

Surprisingly, the audience's reviews and reactions to Su Xixi's ancient-style song "Lovesick" were quite high.

Of course, the audience's reviews didn't matter, what mattered was how the judges would vote.

After Su Xixi's performance ended, it was Lin Zhirou's turn to go on stage.

In a blue and white porcelain cheongsam, she walked onto the stage under the swaying lights.

"Isn't this cheongsam too beautiful?"

"Real · Goddess."

"So beautiful, like a fairy."

"I noticed that Lin Zhirou has a different look for each performance."

"Yes, yes, the 'Fragrance of Rice' she sang before was like a youth style."

"That 'Confession Balloon' was romantic style."

"And now, this classical cheongsam style is obviously a traditional Chinese style."

"Interesting!"

When the melody of "Blue and White Porcelain" rose, everyone at the scene was stunned.

What kind of divine prelude is this?

The judges were also attracted by the divine arrangement of the prelude and listened carefully, wondering how excellent the song "Blue and White Porcelain" really is.

"The plain porcelain is sketched into blue and white with a pen, from thick to light, just like your initial makeup~

I know your feelings well through the slowly burning sandalwood across the window~

With the unfinished words still hanging on the rice paper~"

Several judges widened their eyes as they heard the lyrics sung by Lin Zhirou.

If Su Xixi's song "Lovesick" was a gorgeous lyric of the ancient-style song, then Lin Zhirou's.

Almost every line of the song deserves careful consideration and is not deliberately piled up with words.

When Lin Zhirou sang to the chorus.

"The sky is waiting for the drizzle in light blue, and I am waiting for you, cooking smoke spirals up in the sky, across the river a million miles away," directly stunned both the audience and the judges.

What kind of celestial lyrics are these?

Chapter 89: Winning the Championship

The song "Blue and White Porcelain" ended.

The audience and judges were completely enchanted by Lin Zhirou's captivating voice and the charming rhythm of the song.

The most common phrase among the audience was "This is too good to listen to."

However, the hall fell eerily silent after Lin Zhirou finished singing.

"Why is nobody clapping?"

Wen Ruohan asked curiously.

Ding Yue looked around at the audience, they seemed still immersed in the music.

About a second or two later, gradual applause started.

Then.

Whoosh~

The applause echoed like a wave in the Star Sea Music Hall.

Several judges were discussing Lin Zhirou and the stunning song she sang.

"This girl's singing is top-notch, on par with Su Xixi."

"I think she's a bit below Su Xixi since Su Xixi was professionally trained at a music academy."

"But the impact this 'Blue and White Porcelain' gave me is far greater than Su Xixi's 'Lovesick.'"

"I agree with that."

"To be honest, the gap between the two songs is too big."

"Professor Zhang, what would you choose?"

"I think Lin Zhirou is better," said Professor Zhang, who held a higher position among the judges.

"Yes, yes, I also vote for Lin Zhirou."

"Hmm, indeed, all three songs that Lin Zhirou sang today were excellent, especially the last one, 'Blue and White Porcelain.' It's outstanding!"

Several judges echoed Professor Zhang's sentiments.

About three or four minutes later.

The 21 judges began voting for Lin Zhirou and Su Xixi, with the one getting the most votes winning the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition.

At this critical moment, Ding Yue in the audience was not nervous.

Because Ding Yue trusted the judges' judgment, it was obvious who sang better between Lin Zhirou's "Blue and White Porcelain" and Su Xixi's "Lovesick."

Unless there was manipulation, Lin Zhirou was destined to win.

As predicted!

The voting results came out quickly.

Lin Zhirou got 19 votes, Su Xixi got 2 votes, Lin Zhirou won overwhelmingly!

"Hahaha, we won, Principal Ding, Zhirou won, fantastic, she's the champion!" At this moment, Wen Ruohan excitedly jumped up from her seat.

A joyful smile was also on the face of Director Jiang Xiuli of the Department of Arts.

Winning the National College Art Festival Music Competition awards was undoubtedly a proud honor for the Art Department of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Now, when Jiang Xiuli meets other department heads, she will have something to brag about.

Lin Zhirou did not disappoint Ding Yue.

If so.

Ding Yue decided that he would not disappoint Lin Zhirou today either.

With her hard work and practice, her singing skills had improved significantly, and if she receives his support in the future, she would definitely become a brilliant superstar.

After the judges' voting results were announced, the awarding ceremony followed.

The organizers gave Lin Zhirou a certificate of award and a champion trophy made of crystal.

Beep beep beep!

While Ding Yue was watching the awarding ceremony, his phone beeped with a Whatsapp message.

Taking out his phone to check it.

His younger sister, Ding Xiaoyou, had sent a picture of herself and asked about the competition.

Ding Xiaoyou: Bro, how was the competition? (Eagerly rubbing hands)

"I refuse to tell you."

Ding Yue knew that his little sister must be anxious to know how Xiao Rou is doing in the competition.

How could I satisfy her wishes as an older brother so easily?

Ding Xiaoyou: Ding Yue! You're asking for death, aren't you! [Cleaver.jpg]

"Hehehe, [You come and hit me.jpg]" Ding Yue replied.

Ding Xiaoyou: Big bro~ my sweet big bro~ just tell me, could you~ please~

Shit!

This voice message instantly made Ding Yue's skin crawl.

This girl, so she can play both soft and hardball, right?



"Okay okay, I won't tease you anymore. The competition just ended and Lin Zhirou did very well!"

Ding Yue responded in a voice message.

Ding Xiaoyou: Champion?

"Yes!"

Ding Xiaoyou: Hahahahaha, I knew Xiao Rou would definitely do it!!!

Ding Xiaoyou: Bro, when are you guys coming back?

"Tomorrow, it's Saturday tomorrow, are you coming over?"

Now that his parents work at Mist City Arts and Science University and her brother is the principal, Ding Xiaoyou spends her weekends at the university without going home.

Ding Xiaoyou: Yeah, I'll come over after my evening self-study tonight.

"Then have dad pick you up in his car."

Usually, it was Ding Yue who drove to pick up his sister from high school and take her to Mist City Arts and Science University.

But that wouldn't work tonight.

Because Ding Yue planned to fly back to Mist City tomorrow morning.

Ding Xiaoyou: Oh~ I see~ Then you guys come back early tomorrow, I miss Xiao Rou.

"So you only miss Xiao Rou, and have no respect for your big brother, huh?"

Ding Xiaoyou: Who are you? Do I know you? What do you want? [Suspicious Stranger.jpg]

Ding Yue didn't feel like fooling around with his naughty sister anymore, he had more important things to do.

The award ceremony ended on stage, and the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition declared its conclusion.

Ding Yue, Wen Ruohan, and Jiang Xiuli immediately left the audience seats and headed towards the stage.

At this time, Lin Zhirou held her certificates and a crystal trophy, feeling elated and clueless about what to do next.

Winning a major competition like this as a music student was undoubtedly a stepping stone for Lin Zhirou.

But Lin Zhirou was very clear.

Her victory can't be separated from Principal Ding's support and encouragement.

"Zhirou, you were amazing!"

Wen Ruohan ran over, embracing Lin Zhirou affectionately.

The two girls were of the same age, both students at Mist City Arts and Science University. After interacting during the semi-finals and the finals, they became friends.

"Thank you, Ruohan, your makeup technique is terrific," Lin Zhirou gently thanked Wen Ruohan.

Wen Ruohan had helped with many little things, so Lin Zhirou had to thank her.

"Lin Zhirou, you did not disappoint us, well done," Ding Yue walked over and said with a smile.

A moment later, Ding Yue turned to Wen Ruohan and said, "Book the tickets for tomorrow morning."

"Huh? Principal Ding, it's only noon, we can book the tickets for the afternoon," Wen Ruohan suggested they could fly back to Mist City in the afternoon.

"Lin Zhirou has been competing all morning, she must be tired, she needs to rest."

"Oh, I see, I'm going to book the plane tickets for tomorrow morning!"

Chapter 90: Where Can I Find Resources?\_1

Mist City Airport.

"Principal Ding, Vice Principal Huang and Vice Principal Xu said they would pick us up at the airport. Your sister also came," Wen Ruohan suddenly said to Ding Yue.

"Oh?"

Hearing this, Ding Yue pulled out his phone and opened Whatsapp.

Sure enough, there were many unread messages from Huang Youjie and Xu Bin. His sister, Ding Xiaoyou, also sent a message and even made a video call, which he didn't catch.

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin knew he was returning from Yancheng with honors today, so they personally came to pick him up.

As for his sister, Ding Xiaoyou, she had gone to Mist City Arts and Science University yesterday and accompanied Huang and Xu to the airport to pick them up this morning.

At the airport terminal pick-up area, Huang Youjie, Xu Bin, and Ding Xiaoyou were all waiting for Ding Yue and his companions.

A few minutes later.

They finally spotted the people they were expecting.

Seeing Huang and Xu at the pick-up area, Ding Yue raised his hand to gesture.

At that point, his sister, Ding Xiaoyou, rushed over excitedly. She opened her arms as if she wanted a big hug?

Well then.

His sister's enthusiasm left him speechless. Was this necessary?

"Xiao Rou!"

Only to see Ding Xiaoyou rush over and hug Lin Zhirou.

Ding Yue had already opened his arms to give his sister a warm hug, but instead, he hugged air?

"Hahahaha!!!"

Seeing this, both Huang Youjie and Xu Bin burst into laughter.

"Laughing your heads off, huh? Hurry up and help with the luggage," Ding Yue glared at these two.

"Xiao Rou, congratulations! You won the championship, you are amazing!" Ding Xiaoyou joyously said to Lin Zhirou.

"Thank you, actually, it's all thanks to Principal Ding," Lin Zhirou humbly replied.

After Huang Youjie, Xu Bin, and Ding Xiaoyou picked everyone up, they returned to Mist City Arts and Science University.

Once they arrived, Ding Yue called Director Liu Hongxia from the Publicity Department, asking her to properly publicize Lin Zhirou winning the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition.

After all, this was the first honor that the Mist City Arts and Science University's Art Department had received.

Although it was awarded to a music major.

Still, this was a major victory just half a semester after the university reopened--a music student from their Arts Department had won the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition.

Didn't this show that the Arts Department of Mist City Arts and Science University had talent?

Moreover, this could be seen as a result of cultivating interest and hobbies.

If this information were to be publicized, not only would Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University gain popularity, but it would also greatly help next year's enrollment.

So the Publicity Department first announced this on the university's official website.

Then, the news was announced on Twitter, TikTok, and other platforms.

The official Twitter account of Mist City Arts and Science University had gained quite a few followers because it had trended several times in early September.

The netizens praised and commented after seeing the news posted by Mist City Arts and Science University's official Twitter.

"This Lin Zhirou is one of the three school belles voted by Mist City Arts and Science University, right?"

"That's impressive."

"Damn! Is your Art Department at Mist City Arts and Science University this good?"

"National College Student Art Festival Music Competition champion? She beat music fans from all other universities nationwide?"

"Not only music fans, but also music students from professional music colleges."

"Tsk, tsk, it seems that Mist City Arts and Science University really does have something!"

"I didn't have a very good impression of this private university at first. It always gets on the trending topics for some flashy things. I didn't expect it to be so amazing in terms of art education?"

"This school belle is really pretty 0.0"

"I heard that she sang 'Blue and White Porcelain' in the final, which was super beautiful, can anyone please tell me where can I find it?"

"Also asking for resources."

"Same here +1. Godspeed to all good people!"

"Need resources? Direct message me, I'll share the Qian Du cloud disk resources!"

This round, the Department of Arts at Mist City Arts and Science University received many positive reviews, as well as some increase in popularity value for Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University.

Since the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition isn't like the TV recorded or live-broadcasted competitions, there aren't many resources for Lin Zhirou's performances of "Blue and White Porcelain", "Confession Balloon", and "Fragrance of Rice" except for the videos taken by the live audience.

Actually, the organizer also made recordings.

But in such competitions, even if the organizer makes recordings, it seldom makes them public.

In the afternoon, Ding Yue handled some school matters.

In the evening.

Ding Yue, bringing Lin Zhirou, arrived at the campus hot pot restaurant run by his mother to celebrate her success over dinner.

It must be said that Lin Zhirou really is quite diligent and hardworking.

She returned to Mist City in the morning and in the afternoon, was already back at the Arts Department building practicing dancing and singing.

In the campus hot pot restaurant, the people Ding Yue invited gradually arrived.

In addition to his own parents, there was his younger sister Ding Xiaoyou, Huang and Xu, as well as secretary Wen Ruohan and the director of the Department of Fine Arts, Jiang Xiuli.

Soon, the waitstaff at the hot pot restaurant brought in a Mandarin Duck Hot Pot base specially made by Master Hu Jianren.

Then came the food.

Soon, the private dining room was filled with the lively atmosphere of a group of people eating hot pot.

"Um, let me say a few words."

Ding Yue stood up, preparing to say a few words.

Huang and Xu Bin immediately started cheering.

"On this trip to Yancheng, our Arts Department of Mist City Arts and Science University made a bit of a name for ourselves. Today with accolades, the credit is inevitably due to Lin Zhirou..."

As Ding Yue spoke, he looked at Lin Zhirou at his side.

"Director Jiang, we must guide the students of our Department of Fine Arts to follow the example of Lin Zhirou, to study diligently and work hard in learning professional knowledge and skills, hoping their future will be bright after graduation."

Ding Yue reminded Director Jiang Xiuli of the Department of Fine Arts.

"On hearing Yue speaking increasingly authoritative, he really has the aura of a Principal. Hehe," Huang Youjie muttered to Xu Bin sitting next to him.

"Of course, he's been the Principal for nearly an entire semester now, so naturally, he's got the hang of it," Xu Bin nodded in agreement.

"Principal Ding, you're right. From now on, Lin Zhirou will be the role model of our Arts Department," Jiang Xiuli quickly agreed.

"Good, I won't say much more. Let's eat!" Seeing that it was time to start the hot pot, Ding Yue sat down and began to enjoy the food.

Just as Ding Yue finished cooking a slice of tripe, his phone suddenly rang from his pocket.

"Who is it?"



Ding Yue muttered, putting the tripe held by chopsticks into his mouth, then took out his cellphone and looked at the caller ID.

Director Chen Ping of the School of Architecture?

"Hello, Director Chen, what's up?"

Ding Yue answered the call, asking.

"Really?"

"Great, great. I see, that's excellent news!"

On the phone, Director Chen Ping of the School of Architecture reported something to Ding Yue.

Believing that today's celebration of Lin Zhirou representing Mist City Arts and Science University and winning the National College Student Art Festival Music Competition would be a great event.

Unexpectedly.

The sudden call from Director Chen Ping of the School of Architecture turned the good thing into a double celebration.

"Principal Ding, whose call was that? You look so cheerful," Huang Youjie asked curiously.

"Ahem, let me say a few more words."

Ding Yue stood up again.