

All R. Artist 141

Chapter 141: Masks and Sunglasses are a Star's Essential

Even though he had the thought of buying a villa, Lin Yuan didn't know where to start, so he instinctively sought consultation—

I should ask senior Yao Huo.

Whenever Lin Yuan encountered a problem, he would naturally think of senior Sun Yaohuo.

He wasn't sure why.

After all, Lin Yuan's biggest impression of Yao Huo was one word:

Reliable!

As usual, senior Sun Yaohuo's phone was always answered on the first ring.

As soon as he answered the phone, Sun Yaohuo, with his usual enthusiasm, asked, "Junior, is there anything I can help you with?"

I want to buy a villa.

Lin Yuan directly expressed his thoughts.

Sun Yaohuo laughed and asked, “Do you have any specific requirements for the villa?”

Lin Yuan thought for a moment and replied, “As close as possible to my current residential area.”

Sun Yaohuo knew where Lin Yuan lived, after all, he often drops Lin Yuan home after work.

Anything else?”

I guess it depends on the specifics.

Alright, I get it. Should I pick you up from your place tomorrow?

No need, my sister has a car.

That works too.

Sun Yaohuo seemed a little regretful, “Then, how about I send you the address tomorrow and we can meet up?”

Okay.

Lin Yuan hung up the phone.

Sun Yaohuo is indeed very reliable!

Lin Xuan, who saw Lin Yuan end this call, confirmed one thing:

Her brother is serious!

He really wants to buy a villa!

A villa in Su City!

This news shocked Lin Xuan, and she woke up the next day still feeling groggy. Fortunately, she remembered to take a leave from her department head.

The head of the editor’s office is Lu Bei.

However, for matters like taking a leave, it’s usually Lu Bei’s secretary who handles it.

Lu Bei had previously instructed his secretary to take good care of Lin Xuan.

So, Lin Xuan got her leave approval easily.

She drove her recently purchased car to pick up Lin Yuan and casually asked, “Did you ask for a leave from your work?”

Not yet.

Right after Lin Yuan spoke, his phone rang. It was Old Zhou who called.

Lin Xuan queried, “Your boss?”

Lin Yuan nodded and answered the call.

Old Zhou’s tone was rather caring, “Why didn’t you come to work today?”

Would it be awkward to mention buying a house?

Lin Yuan thought for three seconds, then replied:

I’m out gathering material.

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There was suddenly a silence on the other end of the phone.

After the same interval of three seconds, 01' Zhou finally spoke again, his tone was somewhat flustered, "I see."

Thank you.

After hanging up, Lin Yuan said to his sister, "Let's get going."

Lin Xuan: ".

Can I use "accompanying the writer to gather material" as an excuse for a leave next time?

It doesn't seem like it works for the editor's office.

Besides, her little brother isn't an author of Silver Blue Books.

Pity.

After they set off.

Lin Yuan made a call to Sun Yaohuo.

Sun Yaohuo promptly said, “Ready to go? I’ve sent the location to your phone. I’ll wait for you guys here. Be careful on the road, junior.”

Okay.

After Lin Yuan hung up the phone, he informed his sister of the meeting place.

Ten minutes later.

They met up.

But what surprised Lin Yuan was that Yao Huo, of all people, was wearing a mask and sunglasses under the scorching summer sun, totally obscuring his face.

Senior, are you sick?

Lin Yuan couldn’t help but feel a little guilty.

Sun Yaohuo waved his hands and said, “No, don’t worry. I’m a celebrity after all. If these people see me, it would cause a stir in public.”

Lin Xuan was surprised, “Are you that famous?”

She only knew about Sun Yaohuo because he sang a song written by her brother, so she didn't have a clear idea about Yao Huo's popularity.

Not bad.

Sun Yao Huo coughed and stood proud with his chest out. But when eyes began to shift towards him, he instantly lowered his head, looking cautious.

People are everywhere.

Sun Yao Huo continued in a low voice, "Let's go in. I've had my manager get in touch with their manager directly. Someone will meet us."

After receiving a call late last night, Sun Yao Huo had his manager start scouting for villas right away.

His manager might not be a bigwig, but thanks to the nature of his job, he had a pretty broad network.

As soon as the manager heard that Admirable Fish was looking to buy a villa, he didn't even sleep. He made dozens of calls throughout the night and finally found a decent villa.

Upon entering,

The manager was indeed waiting for them.

Following the standard introductions was a tour through a three-story model villa with a basement.

Lin Yuan found it to be quite nice.

He didn't say anything, though, letting his sister decide was fine.

If his sister liked it, then it was good.

Anyway, Lin Yuan was buying the villa for his family, so it was important that they were happy. He felt that anything which largely met their needs was enough.

What do you guys think?"

After a long introduction, the manager finally asked Lin Xuan with a smile.

Lin Yuan and Sun Yao Huo were following Lin Xuan, so the manager assumed that she was the decision-maker.

Lin Xuan: “.

What could I think?

Lin Xuan was riddled with insecurity.

From the moment she stepped into the model villa and saw the extravagant style she had only watched on TV before, she was unable to absorb any of the manager's villa introductions. Her mind was filled with doubts:

Is this the right place for me?”

How do I act like I’m used to buying villas?

No, no. How do I act like I can afford a villa?

I can’t fake it!

I don’t know anything!

Why isn’t my little brother saying anything?

Don’t you realize how embarrassed your sister is right now?

And what about this manager!

He asked for everyone’s opinions, why is he only glaring at me?

Just because I’m pretty?

Are you discriminating against beautiful girls?

When Sun Yao Huo saw Lin Xuan's silence, he thought to himself, "Sure enough, even the sister can be as quiet as her little brother sometimes."

Fortunately, Sun Yao Huo had experience.

Although he had never bought a villa, as soon as his junior mentioned buying one last night, he had researched and sought advice from seniors who had experience in buying villas, asking how to avoid being cheated...

The seniors were quite accommodating.

Although when Sun Yao Huo made the first call, the respected senior replied with, "I'm busy" and hung up straight away.

However, when he called the second time, saying he wanted to gather advice for Teacher Admirable Fish about buying a villa, the senior had somehow wrapped up what he was doing within a second and even arranged to meet at a restaurant for a lengthy chat, sharing a ton of honest advice.

Before he left, the senior even held his hand saying, "I'd like to introduce so- and-so to you if I have a chance." However, Sun Yao Huo's memory was not so formidable and he kinda forgot what the senior had said at the end.

In sum, Sun Yao Huo himself was now half a villa connoisseur.

He removed his mask and sunglasses and began to naturally communicate with the manager.

Through the conversation between Sun Yao Huo and the manager, Lin Yuan and Lin Xuan got a basic understanding of the villa.

I think it's pretty good.

Finally, Lin Xuan spoke out.

She felt there was nothing wrong with this comment, her true feelings of being a “privilege-deprived individual” had been perfectly concealed.

My sister is happy with it?

Lin Yuan nodded and looked at the manager: “Can we get a discount?”

The manager laughed: “Since you were introduced by my friend, I can offer you the most favorable price.”

After discussing for half an hour, they finally signed a pre-purchase contract.

When they went back to the lobby,

Lin Yuan looked at Sun Yao Huo and suddenly asked, “Senior, aren’t you wearing masks anymore?”

“Alt! I forgot!”

Sun Yao Huo was startled in realisation.

Just as he was about to put his mask and sunglasses back on, Lin Xuan, with a weird look on her face, spoke, “I think... it’s unnecessary now?”

Everyone looked around.

People were coming and going in the lobby.

Each person was busy with their own matters. Although many people saw Sun Yao Huo, they calmly walked by him. Even a few people who passed by him simply said, “Excuse me, sir. Can you move away? You are blocking the entrance.”

Sun Yao Huo vacantly moved aside.

Lin Xuan sighed, patted Sun Yao Huo’s shoulder and said: “When we get back, I’ll have Xia Fan give you some exposure, I’m sure you’ll get recognized someday!”

Sun Yao Huo: “.

Chapter 142: Qi Language

The villa was unfinished and needed renovations. The handover date was close, but in the meantime, Lin Yuan and his companions still had to live in their original home...

After settling this matter.

Lin Yuan and his team found a restaurant nearby to have dinner.

During dinner, Lin Yuan spoke to Sun Yaohuo, “Senior, I’m going to study at Qi Continent Art Academy for a year as an exchange student.”

Lin Yuan already regarded Sun Yaohuo as a friend, hence he felt the need to tell him about this decision.

Qi Continent?

Sun Yaohuo was taken aback and felt a pang of disappointment.

However, realizing Lin would be away for only a year made him feel better, “I wish you a joyous year there, Junior. I’ll visit you in Qi Continent when I get the chance!”

Hmm.

Sun Yaohuo expressed some concern, “If you are going to Qi Continent, won’t the company shove the subsidiary matters onto you?”

Lin Yuan nodded, “That’s correct.

Sun Yaohuo’s expression changed slightly, “Are you aware of the situation there?”

What situation?

Lin Yuan was somewhat curious.

Sun Yaohuo sighed, “The music environment in Qi Continent is far from being as good as ours in Qin Continent. After all, our Qin Continent is the Land of Music. It’s less accommodating for the composers over there...”

Why do you say that?

A lot of people said that Qi Continent was a trap, but Lin Yuan never quite understood.

Sun Yaohuo explained, “Over there, it’s predominantly the realm of TV series and film. The game industry is also booming. As a result, the music mainly focuses on customized compositions for these mediums. The composition of songs is tailor-made according to the client’s needs.”

Customized?

Lin Yuan began to understand.

Unlike free composition, tailored songs have many restrictive elements and stick to specific themes.

Just like the movie “Dragon Fish Dance” produced in Qi Continent. It customized an impressionist tune with Starlight.

Lin Yuan could not possibly send “Red Rose” as an entry, right?

This has nothing to do with whether “Red Rose” is outstanding!

What they want is music that matches the theme of the “Dragon Fish Dance movie, and even the composition style is predetermined.

Many composers in ‘10th Floor’ couldn’t handle this project, and it was only because Lin Yuan had “Big Fish” on hand that he was able to complete the order.

No wonder Starlight’s composers are reluctant to go to Qi Continent.

Most composers enjoy the freedom of creating whatever they feel inspired to, not being dictated by a client’s demand, as if writing songs for the sake of writing them!

However...

Lin Yuan, who can order songs from the System, isn’t afraid of such situations; the System’s song library is rich!

There’s another issue.

Sun Yaohuo helplessly asked, “Junior, do you speak the dialect of Qi Continent?”

Lin Yuan was stunned, “Don’t they speak Mandarin over there?”

Isn’t the language standardized in Blue Star?

Sun Yaohuo shook his head, “People over there definitely speak Mandarin. There is no one in Blue Star who doesn’t. However, the issue lies in that the music pieces sung in local dialect are more mainstream. Let me sing a few phrases for you...”

Sun Yaohuo cleared his throat and sang, “I’m the black pineapple, you’re my black phoenix!”

Lin Yuan: “..

Unbelievable, but that was Cantonese from the Celestial Dynasty?

The so-called Qi dialect was Cantonese?

Don’t take it too seriously.

It’s indeed an alternate universe.

Having sung, Sun Yaohuo looked at Lin Yuan: “Junior, since you usually write both lyrics and music, according to their customs there, you might need to collaborate with lyrical writers.”

Lin Yuan didn’t respond.

With a disposable glove on, Sun Yaohuo peeled a shrimp for Lin Yuan: “Of course, Mandarin songs exist there as well. Your ‘Big Fish’ had a pretty good response over in Qi Continent. Jiang Kui had gone there for some activities and sang this song. But overall, Mandarin songs aren’t very popular when compared to songs in the Qi dialect.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

If it’s just to this extent, Qi Continent would not be a fiery pit for him.

Anyway, when you go there, don’t be too serious.

Sun Yaohuo cautioned, “As a singer, my understanding of the branch company’s situation is limited. But from what I know, it’s quite a troublesome state. There have been a few legal disputes with clients because they ordered a custom song and then couldn’t find a suitable piece. In the end, they had to turn to our headquarters for help, unleashing our trump card to finally resolve the issue...”

Lin Yuan nodded again and took a bite of the shrimp he was handed.

Sun Yaohuo swiftly stripped a few more shrimps, leaving Lin Yuan slightly stunned.

Someone had done the same for Lin Xuan before.

That man had tried to pursue Lin Xuan, but he was not as attentive as Sun Yaohuo; he forgot to wear disposable gloves...

Sister, have some too.

Sun Yaohuo also peeled a few for Lin Xuan.

Seeing that her eyes looked somewhat puzzled, Sun Yaohuo coughed lightly and said, "Well, mainly, I just love peeling shrimp for people. Yes, I enjoy peeling shrimp."

Lin Xuan: ".

Good habit, please keep it up.

Sun Yaohuo's attention quickly returned to Lin Yuan, saying with great resentment, "In any case, there are clients all over the Qi Continent. The composers in our company who have been there all complain about it. They say that the place is littered with demanding clients who know nothing about composition, yet love to interfere and blindly direct the composers. If you ever come across such difficult clients, just ignore them, it's not worth getting angry with them, treat them like they are your kids... no, like they are your grandkids!"

Oh."

Lin Yuan questioned, "Then why did Yang Zhongming go to the Qi Continent?"

"Well-

After pondering for a while, Sun Yaohuo said, “Even though the Qi Continent is not friendly to composers, songs in the Qi language are quite nice to listen to. It might be due to the nine tones and six accents inherent in the Qi language, which has more intonation than normal Mandarin. Father Yang probably went there to learn the Qi language. Just like you, he also enjoys composing both the words and the music. In fact, many composers like to write their lyrics, you composers often feel that you know the best what lyrics your music should get, don’t you?”

Demanding clients?

Lin Yuan nodded, indeed, clients can be difficult to deal with.

Besides, Sun Yaohuo was right.

Usually, composing and writing lyrics are separate jobs.

But, on Blue Star, a lot of composers like to write lyrics for their own music.

Their theory is:

Nobody understands better than them what lyrics should match their music.

But many composers’ lyrics are not very well written. At these times, the company would intervene and assign professional lyricists to the task.

There is nothing composers can do when their lyrics are simply not good enough.

Therefore, writing the lyrics for your own music isn’t an easy feat.

Lin Yuan can write lyrics for his own songs. He has never encountered a situation where the company has assigned someone else to write for him, mainly because his lyrics have always been quite good. The reviewing department at the company has repeatedly failed to point out any issues as his musical and lyrical harmonies have constantly remained at an impressive level.

As for the nine tones and six accents Sun Yaohuo mentioned for Qi language songs...

It's not a fabrication.

Lin Yuan remembers that the phonology of Cantonese is indeed more complex than Mandarin.

Mandarin has only four tones.

While standard Cantonese retains the entering tone.

Divided into “high flat, low flat, high rising, low rising, high departing, low departing, high entering, mid entering, low entering” which amounts to 9 tones in total.

Cantonese has 19 initial consonants.

Lip, tongue, teeth, dental, throat

A five-category system of initial consonants.

59 finals.

Perhaps this is why some people believe Cantonese songs sound better than Mandarin ones?

The Qin Continent is dominated by Mandarin songs!

So Lin Yuan initially thought that this world didn't have Cantonese.

He never expected that.

The so-called dialect of Qi Continent, was in fact Cantonese.

This wasn't due to the original's lack of knowledge or exposure.

After all, the official language commonly used in Qi Continent was still Mandarin.

There isn't a tradition in the different continents to communicate in their respective dialects.

But given this revelation.

Does English, Japanese, Russian or even Korean exist in this world?

But exist only in the form of dialects?

He has to research this later.

Lin Yuan's system contains many songs from his past life that are in different languages.

If he doesn't have the language foundation, he would have to rewrite them into Mandarin versions. That was what Lin Yuan had planned originally.

Some songs can undergo such changes, like "Initial Dream", which was translated from Japanese.

However, the meaning of some songs gets lost when translations are made.

After all, some lyric rhymes match perfectly with the music.

Chapter 143: Farewell

"What a shame..."

When they were parting ways after the meal, Sun Yao Huo voiced his regret, “I just took out a loan to open a hot pot restaurant. I was planning to invite my junior to try it out once it opens, but it seems like you’ll be setting off to Qi Continent by the end of this month, won’t you?”

“You have me!”

Lin Xuan’s eyes brightened instantly.

Sun Yao Huo hurriedly nodded, “Of course, my sister can come over anytime. I’ll inform the manager, as long as you’re willing to come, it’s always free. I’ll send you the address later; we’re opening at the end of next month, you can come over then!”

“I’ll be counting on you.”

Lin Xuan replied happily. As for being called ‘sister’ by Sun Yao Huo, she didn’t correct him. Even though Sun Yao Huo might be older than her, calling her sister didn’t seem to be a problem. After all, she didn’t exactly look her age; what was there to fear from a mere title?

“Also…”

Sun Yao Huo laughed, “I also own a milk tea shop and a breakfast shop. I can also take you to try those. In the future, feel free to bring people over. It’s all free of charge. After all, I’m good friends with junior!”

“I will come back to eat.”

Lin Yuan nodded, feeling a bit regretful about not being able to savor the hot pot immediately. He believed Brother Sun’s hot pot restaurant must be excellent, for Brother Sun has a profound understanding of gourmet food and he can always find the best restaurants in Su City.

Sun Yao Huo was invigorated.

Lin Yuan did not deny their relationship, indicating that the junior Lin Yuan also believed they had a good relationship. When junior sets off, he should definitely see him off at the airport to strengthen their friendship!

Speaking of which.

When Lin Yuan returned home after bidding Senior Sun Yao Huo goodbye, he indeed felt a twinge of separation anxiety.

Having been together for so long, it feels strange to suddenly part for a whole semester.

In the following days.

This feeling of separation grew stronger and stronger.

Xia Fan also found time between her various work commitments to have a gathering with Lin Yuan. It really wasn't easy for her to find time given how her career is just getting started.

In addition.

As a Starlight artist, Jiang Kui got to know about Admirable Fish's plan for Qi Continent from some colleagues.

Admirable Fish is a new talent in Qin Continent's music scene.

Among all the musicians in Qin Continent, most only collaborated with Admirable Fish once.

Only Jiang Kui and Sun Yao Huo got a second-time collaboration with Lin Yuan.

In fact, Jiang Kui even got to collaborate with Lin Yuan for the second time before Sun Yao Huo did.

No one knew if there would be a third time.

But upon hearing that Admirable Fish was leaving, Jiang Kui immediately invited Lin Yuan for a meal and also gifted him a meticulously prepared present.

“What’s this?”

Lin Yuan was curious.

Jiang Kui replied somewhat embarrassingly, “I recently learned some pastry skills. I baked these egg yolk pastries just before I stepped out...”

Lin Yuan’s eyes lit up.

Ice cream and Pudding are his favorites.

However, egg yolk pastries aren’t bad either!

The pastries looked pretty round and seemed very delicate.

He happily accepted the gift, then dutifully expressed his thanks.

“There’s egg yolk inside, correct?”

“Yes, I’ve used salted egg yolk. I’m not sure if that suits your taste.”

“I love egg yolk, both chicken and duck egg yolk, they’re both delicious.”

When Lin Yuan used to eat mooncakes, he always chose the one with egg yolk. He would always have a fierce competition with his sister, but most of the time, they would just share it – half for each.

His sister would eat the egg yolk.

Lin Yuan would eat the other parts.

Being able to enjoy salted egg yolk by himself today, what could be more delightful than this?

“I’m glad you like it.”

Seeing Lin Yuan so excited, Jiang Kui clenched her fist in secret.

Her relationship with Lin Yuan wasn’t as close as Sun Yao Huo’s, so she had been worried that this meeting might seem a little abrupt.

This gift was also something she had mulled over for a long time.

Since Teacher Admirable Fish’s songs are so popular, he must not be short of money.

If he doesn’t lack money, he certainly wouldn’t care about it much and wouldn’t have high pursuits on the material level.

Even if she got him a gift worth tens of thousands, such as tea leaves, Teacher Admirable Fish might not be thrilled.

He might even feel that she was vulgar, no different from those others who tried hard to curry favor with him –

Like Sun Yao Huo.

But the egg yolk pastry was different!

Although it was cheap, it was full of sincerity. Teacher Admirable Fish will certainly realize that she had put a lot of thought into it!

Sun Yao Huo!

Sorry, this time, I won again!

Jiang Kui couldn’t help but feel a bit triumphant, but at the same time, she also felt a bit regretful.

She had initially planned to gradually interact with Teacher Admirable Fish more, but things didn't go as planned. Because she was too slow, Teacher Admirable Fish was already about to head off to Qi Continent. Once he left, she wouldn't be able to see him for a long period of time.

This was something she couldn't accept.

When Teacher Admirable Fish returned, she needed to find a way to spend more time with him, and couldn't let senior Sun Yaohuo continue having the upper hand.

That guy was just too vulgar in his thoughts, and had no idea about what Teacher Admirable Fish truly desired!

Parting sorrow often led to sentimentality, and Lin Yuan felt somewhat sentimental because the next day, he once again skipped work.

Not for any particular reason.

He was merely off to the Qin Art piano room, to play the piano once more.

Before he even reached the school, Lin Yuan received another phone call from 01' Zhou: "Why didn't you come to work again today?"

Lin Yuan replied: "I went out for some inspiration."

01' Zhou sighed heavily: "You can't always use that excuse. What if someone other than me checks on you at work today? This excuse might not be valid."

Lin Yuan gave another reason: "I went out to gather some materials."

01' Zhou was silent for a while, and then somberly replied: "How is that any different from your previous excuse?"

Lin Yuan answered: "I changed two words."

01' Zhou:

I can't bother arguing with you. Anyway, even if another person checks at work, they will eventually report back to me.

With this thought, 01' Zhou helplessly gave in: "Ok then, I got it."

"Thank you."

Lin Yuan ended the call.

He had just arrived at the school gate.

Even though it was vacation time, the school gate remained open, with a guard stationed there. After a few exchanges, where he confirmed his student status, the guard readily let him in.

When walking to the piano room corridor.

Lin Yuan was still deciding on the best room when suddenly he heard a surprised voice from far away: "Lin Yuan!"

He turned his head and saw that it was Gu Xi!

Running into Gu Xi could only mean trouble.

However, since Gu Xi had helped the composition department last time, Lin Yuan did not brush her off. He simply nodded and said: "Hello."

Gu Xi rushed up to him: "Are you here to play the piano?"

Lin Yuan replied: "I won't get the chance to play here next semester."

Gu Xi paused momentarily before catching on: “You are going to be an exchange student!”

Lin Yuan didn’t deny.

Gu Xi was immediately struck with despair!

She also received an exchange student slot, but she refused because she was afraid that once she went to Qi Continent, she would not see Lin Yuan. In a shocking turn of events, Lin Yuan was actually going to be an exchange student!

If only she had known earlier, she would also have gone to Qi Continent!

She was so anxious she didn’t know what to do. After a long hesitation, she finally asked: “How long will you be playing here?”

“I’m not sure.”

“Could you please wait for me for a bit? I’ll be back very quickly. Please don’t leave!”

“Make it quick.”

Lin Yuan did not know why she wanted him to wait, but he didn’t ask. He simply walked into the piano room and began to play the piano.

Gu Xi took out her mobile phone.

And quickly dashed off.

Once outside, she made a call: “Think of a way for me to get transferred to Qi Continent as an exchange student for a year... Yes, I’ve changed my mind... Ok, ok... Please....”

After finishing the call.

Gu Xi rushed downstairs.

Twenty minutes later, she returned with a beautifully wrapped gift box in her hands.

When Lin Yuan finished playing the piano.

When she was sure Lin Yuan would not continue playing, she entered and said, “I didn’t know Lin Yuan was leaving so I didn’t prepare anything. I just purchased a gift for you!”

“Thank you.”

Lin Yuan hesitated slightly but accepted the gift. After all, whether accepting one gift or two, he was just accepting.

Gu Xi smiled and said: “Do you want to open it and see?”

Lin Yuan agreed; he too was curious about what was inside.

Upon opening, it turned out that it was a round ball.

“This is a 3d printed Blue Star.” Gu Xi introduced with a smile.

She thought this gift held substantial significance; the implication being that no matter where they were, they were still on the same planet. A gift should be something meaningful; she admired her quick-thinking.

She believed that Lin Yuan would understand the meaning behind this.

Lin Yuan looked at the miniature Blue Star in his hand, thought for a second, and brought up a question that Gu Xi would never have expected to hear in her life:

“Does it contain a yolk?”

Chapter 144: Mr. Lin

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At the end of August, the airport.

Lin Xuan, Xia Fan and Sun Yaohuo accompanied Lin Yuan as he left. This time, Sun Yaohuo didn't wear a mask or sunglasses. His mindset evolved from not wanting to be recognized to eagerly wanting to be acknowledged by passersby. "He must be a star, right?"

"Seems like it!"

"What is his name again?"

A murmur came from afar.

Sun Yaohuo puffed up his chest and turned his head with a smile, but his smile froze the next moment as he saw several people rushing towards Xia Fan, some taking pictures, some asking for autographs...

"Xia Fan!"

"Xia Fan!"

The buzz revolved around them.

Just moments after Lin Yuan had gone onto the plane, Sun Yaohuo had already started feeling lonely in this vast airport, being numbly pushed out by the crowd.

II II

Lin Yuan was not quite used to the feeling of flying. It wasn't fear of heights, but his eardrums were uncomfortable as the plane soared higher. He could only try to sleep as much as possible, after all, this journey lasts seven hours.

The ticket was booked by his sister.

She purchased a business class ticket straight away.

By the time Lin Yuan found out, it was too late and he could only mourn silently. After all, there was a considerable price gap between business class and economy class. The difference could have afforded him a substantial amount of egg yolks.

At this point, the villa was about to be handed over.

Lin Yuan also bore the renovation costs.

He left the details to his sister.

After all these expenses, Lin Yuan was left with little money. Fortunately, September was looming, and in a few days, new manuscript fees and song royalties would be credited, so Lin Yuan wasn't worried...

Seven hours later.

Lin Yuan arrived in Qi Continent.

It was still daylight in Qi Continent. Lin Yuan slept for half the journey. When he disembarked, he felt dizzy. After retrieving his luggage and washing his face in the restroom, he regained some clarity.

Qi Continent, Yi Cheng.

The city Lin Yuan arrived at. As one of the most developed cities in Qi Continent, it has a four-hour time difference from Su City in Qin Continent, which should not be too difficult for Lin Yuan to adjust to.

He made a phone call.

This was the number 01' Zhou left for Lin Yuan, stating that Lin Yuan should contact him upon reaching Qi Continent. He would have someone pick him up and take him to the branch office, where his accommodations were already arranged.

The call was answered.

A girl's voice on the phone inquired, "May I speak with Teacher Admirable Fish? I am waiting at the lounge on the first floor. The car is in the parking lot below. You can see me once you come out. I am wearing a red coat..."

"I see you."

Lin Yuan looked at the girl in the distance.

Seeing Lin Yuan's face, the other party was visibly startled. She put down her phone, walked over and asked with some uncertainty, "I am Gu Dong from Starlight Music's branch office. Are you Teacher Admirable Fish?"

Lin Yuan nodded.

Gu Dong was somewhat surprised. The representative that the headquarters sent was so young that it was beyond her expectations. However, Gu Dong had researched about Admirable Fish before and knew that he was a renowned composer in Qin Continent, hence she did not dare to neglect him due to his youth. "Should we head to the office first?"

"Sure."

Admirable Fish spoke little.

He seemed cold.

Gu Dong tentatively judged as she offered to take Lin Yuan's suitcase, "You must be tired from the flight, I will take care of the luggage. The parking lot is right below, you can just follow me."

Lin Yuan did not refuse.

As the car exited the airport, Gu Dong introduced the situation to Lin Yuan: “From now on, I will be your secretary in the branch office. If you need anything, feel free to tell me. Also, I have a personal question. Admirable Fish is your real name?”

“My name is Lin Yuan.”

Gu Dong nodded, recognizing Admirable Fish as a pseudonym. “Then I shall call you Mr. Lin, or if you prefer to be called Teacher Admirable Fish, that’s fine too. I will communicate this with the company.”

“Either way.”

Lin Yuan was succinct.

Gu Dong forced a smile, stopped speaking and focused on driving. Lin Yuan took out his phone to send a message to his sister. Apart from the time difference, there wasn’t much obstacle in communication between the two sides.

After sending the message.

Lin Yuan downloaded several popular music apps from Qi Continent. Two of these were also popular in Qin Continent, showing that they did have a lot of common ground, easing Lin Yuan’s homesickness slightly.

With earphones on.

Lin Yuan started listening to music.

He listened to the popular music of Qi Continent. The style was quite different from that of Qin Continent, and overall the quality was inferior to that of Qin Continent. This held true to the reputation of Qin Continent as the Land of Music. The Qi language was certainly more popular here. Of the Qi Continent’s popular songs Lin Yuan randomly played, over seventy percent were sung in Qi language, and the remaining thirty percent were sung in Mandarin.

After listening for an unknown amount of time.

They arrived at the branch office.

Lin Yuan and Gu Dong got off the car and arrived in front of a company whose wall had the words “Starlight Music.” In terms of scale, it was incomparable to the headquarters. Even the name of the company was slightly faded and rusted due to lack of maintenance.

“The company has three floors.”

Gu Dong introduced, “Facilities such as recording studios are on the first floor, the second floor is mostly work areas, and the third floor consists of offices. As the representative sent by the central office, you are on equal footing with the general manager, so we have arranged an office for you.”

Chapter 145: Mr. Lin

Lin Yuan nodded his head.

The company’s location was a bit remote, but the advantage of this was a nicer surrounding environment with more open space. The three-floor company was far smaller in scale compared to the headquarters. Hearing about the difficulty of the branch’s development, Lin Yuan could understand.

The building didn’t have an elevator.

The two had to climb the stairs.

Lin Yuan didn’t find it too bothersome as he followed Gu Dong through a tour of the company. As they passed the second floor workspace, many employees curiously glanced at Lin Yuan trailing behind Gu dong.

“Gu Dong has brought someone back?”

“Is that person a representative sent by the headquarters?”

“Why does he look so young?”

“Perhaps they sent him here because he’s young and easy to bully. Our shitty company has never been a priority for the headquarters. The manager had to ask for several months before they were willing to send someone here. Now, it’s clear that they’re treating this guy as a lifesaver, completely forgetting that a single person can’t save a sinking ship...”

“I doubt he has even graduated yet.”

“I’m now worried that our company will shut down this year. Sending over a youngster seems like they’re just making a show of effort. It’s not easy finding a job these days, have you all secured your next positions?”

“Don’t speculate, I’m a loyal employee!”

“You’ve really got the nerve! You had a great record of job hopping five times before coming to our company. If it wasn’t for our desperate need for manpower, HR wouldn’t have even hired you.”

II II

Unaware of the office chatter, Lin Yuan, led by Gu Dong, had entered his office. Although the office was not large, it had a nice view. Gazing outside the window, he saw a large grass field, reminding him of his position at the headquarters.

A nameplate sat on his desk

Headquarter Representative: Xian Yu

His black office desk was complemented by the fresh plants set around the room, evidently cared for ahead of time. “We can hold a meeting later to introduce you to the staff. The manager would like to host a welcome ceremony for you tonight. He attaches great importance to your arrival!”

Gu Dong said, with a smiling face.

Behind her smile, however, was bitterness: “Dad seemed eager to have someone sent to us from the headquarters, placing all hope on this representative. However, the situation with the branch is not something one person could simply resolve.”

“No need.”

Lin Yuan refused flatly.

He didn’t care for welcome ceremonies. At present, he had a more important concern: “How is my accommodation arranged? Is it close to Qi Continent Art Academy? Would it be convenient for me to go to school?”

GuDong: “...”

Her heart sank even more.

This representative was still a student. When the headquarters sent him, they made it clear over the phone. Zhou Ruiming also called the manager to repeatedly emphasize: “Xian Yu comes to Qi Continent primarily to study. He is going as an exchange student of Qin Art.”

The underlying message was clear.

Don’t give Xian Yu too much work.

Gathering herself, Gu Dong smiled weakly: “The place you’ll be staying is a bit far from the company, but it’s very close to your school. This was a special request from the headquarters. We have already rented an apartment for you. The rent will be covered by our branch.”

“Thank you.”

Lin Yuan was relieved.

At this moment, a commotion erupted from outside the room. The specific content was unclear, but Lin Yuan could grasp the gist of it: “If your company can’t handle it, why not contact your

headquarters? We signed the agreement based on Starlight headquarters' reputation. You assured us..."

The voices got closer.

Lin Yuan heard a middle-aged man apologizing: "We will prepare a few more songs to send to you that will surely satisfy you. We had great cooperation before, and we hold your orders in high regard..."

Before he could finish the sentence,

A few men wearing suits passed by Lin Yuan's office. Seeing the name plate outside the office, they immediately stopped: "When did your headquarters send a representative? Why didn't you inform us?"

The door was left open.

The leader spotted Lin Yuan standing behind the desk instantly, and seeing the name plate on the desk, he raised his voice: "Are you the representative sent by Starlight's headquarters? Please contact them for us. Your branch cannot handle our order, ask them to do it. We did sign a contract in black and white!"

"Our representative just arrived..."

The apologetic voice sounded again, and a middle-aged man with a slight belly, looking embarrassed, appeared at the door. He bowed to Lin Yuan and escorted the group out of the company. Their voices gradually faded.

Lin Yuan asked, "Who was that?"

Gu Dong admitted helplessly: "That's the branch's general manager, Gu Qiangyun, also my father. The group that just left is our biggest client at the moment. We had several collaborations before, however, this time they were not satisfied with the work we turned in, so they came to urge us. This is not the first time something like this has happened."

"Oh."

Lin Yuan sat down.

Seeing Lin Yuan's lack of reaction, Gu Dong couldn't help but feel disappointed. On second thought, she felt that she was presumptuous, how could the branch's predicaments be resolved just by the arrival of a representative from the headquarters?

Chapter 146: Mr. Lin

"Right."

The chair underneath him must be new, giving a comfortable feeling. Lin Yuan quite liked the working environment here. After settling in a bit, he said, "Please send me the address of my residence later."

"After work."

"I'll take you there," Gu Dong offered.

Lin Yuan nodded, saving some taxi fare.

At that moment, the company manager, Gu Qiangyun, returned. He knocked on the door and gave an apologetic smile, "Sorry for the unexpected situation on your first day. I'm the branch manager Gu Qiangyun. Nice to meet you!"

He offered his hand for a handshake.

Lin Yuan politely shook it. Then he curiously asked, "I've just arrived, so I'm not too familiar with the situation. Is it common for our branch to have orders like the one we just discussed?"

Gu Dong: "..."

Gu Qiangyun:

There was an awkward silence for a few seconds before Gu Qiangyun coughed and said, “Actually, our company hasn’t received any new orders for two months. The order we were discussing is the only one we have.”

“That’s too few.”

“We’re a small company.”

Sweat trickled down Gu Qiangyun’s face. Although the representative from Headquarters was young, he seemed rather fierce. Was he dissatisfied with our work here? What if he reported us to the headquarters?

“I see.”

Unlike what Gu Qiangyun had imagined, Lin Yuan wasn’t frowning heavily. He was only interested in the order’s price: “How much is the client willing to pay for this order?”

“800,000 yuan.”

Gu Qiangyun answered.

Now Lin Yuan was indeed frowning. The price for this order was too low. When he accepted the “Dragon Fish Dance” order back at headquarters, the client offered five million. How come the prices for orders within Qi Continent were so low?

It’s a trap!

Definitely a trap!

Gu Qiangyun cautiously observed Lin Yuan’s face and noticed that he was frowning indeed, which made him feel a bit heavy-hearted. Lin Yuan seemed to be very dissatisfied with their work here. Would he report them to the headquarters?

“Understood.”

Lin Yuan wasn't frowning as heavily as Gu Qiangyun had imagined. He asked about the order's price, "How much is the client willing to pay for this?"

"800,000."

Gu Qiangyun answered.

Lin Yuan knitted his brows this time. The price of this order was too low. When he received the "Dragon Fish Dance" order at headquarters, the price was five million. Why were the internal order prices in Qi Continent so low?

It's a trap here!

Definitely a trap!

Gu Qiangyun carefully observed Lin Yuan's face, noticing he was indeed frowning. His heart sank, "You seem to be used to the headquarters. Starlight is a top-tier entertainment company in Qin Continent, but Starlight Entertainment in Qi Continent is actually a small music company. Our success rate with orders isn't really good. The highest order we've received was around one million yuan. Only large entertainment companies can receive large orders worth millions..."

"Order success rate?"

Something clicked in Lin Yuan's mind.

Gu Qiangyun blinked, realizing Lin Yuan didn't quite understand the situation here. He perked up and explained, "Since there are a large number of films and dramas produced in Qi Continent every year, along with some game projects, their demand for music is also huge. High-quality products usually come from Qin Continent's customizations. However, some smaller projects can't afford Qin Continent's prices, so they will work with local small music companies." Lin Yuan made a thoughtful face.

On the side, Gu Dong added, "Due to our companies' limited capabilities, if the client is dissatisfied with our songs, our order will be cancelled. In that case, both parties would negotiate based on the original contract. Sometimes the contract is voided, and sometimes we have to pay a penalty."

“Hold on.”

Lin Yuan found a loophole, “What if a client specifically uses our music not meeting standards as an excuse to receive penalties? After all, whether a song is good or not is quite subjective.”

“Don’t worry.”

Gu Qiangyun smiled, “That won’t happen. In most cases, we simply cancel the order. We only include penalty clauses in contracts with reputable clients in Qi Continent. The penalty is generally not hefty, so it wouldn’t be worthwhile for clients to risk a reputation crisis to screw us over. Besides, Qi Continent has a special audit association. When both parties don’t agree on the result, it will be settled through relevant channels. The Audit Association is very fair. If you are not satisfied with their results, you can release the song for public review.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Although there were still some subjective factors, having such an arrangement was already extensive. If 90 out of 100 people think a song is unqualified, even if it’s a subjective opinion, it’s relatively objective. Besides, most companies do value their reputations very much. Once a company’s reputation is damaged, it would be difficult to survive in this industry.

“In fact,”

Gu Dong further eased Lin Yuan’s worries, “There hasn’t been any dissatisfaction with the results of the Music Audit Association. The members of the association are respected predecessors in the music industry and are professional in Qi Continent. This is their job.”

“I understand.”

Lin Yuan nodded, “So if we can improve the success rate of our orders, the price offered by future clients will get higher, potentially reaching several million per order?”

“Yes.”

Gu Qiangyun wanted to remind Lin Yuan that not many companies in Qi Continent could receive orders worth several million yuan. If a client was willing to pay several million yuan for a custom-

made song, why wouldn't they go to the prestigious 'Land of Music' in Qin Continent? However, seeing the determined look in Lin Yuan's eyes, he wisely held his tongue.

Having dreams is a good thing.

Lin Yuan felt better. The situation here wasn't as bad as he had imagined. He said, "Then let's work on improving the company's order success rate first. Please send me the details of that order."

"Huh?"

Gu Qiangyun and Gu Dong looked at each other in shock. His words sounded so easy, like 'improving the company's order success rate'. Did he realize how many months it took to finalize an order?

"Is there a problem?"

Lin Yuan looked up at the two.

Gu Dong quickly replied, "Just a moment please, I'll bring the order over. This order was supposed to be handled by our composition department, but since it was never finalized, it's now in the public pool and anyone can take it. You can see if it suits you."

"Alright."

Lin Yuan was prepared. Even though the prices for orders were low at the moment, according to Qi Continent's explanation, as long as the success rate for orders increased, the future offers from clients would also increase.

He was prepared.

Chapter 147: The Laughter of the River and Lake

Five minutes later.

Gu Qiangyun took his leave.

Gu Dong entered Lin Yuan's office with the order in hand.

She introduced, "This is a song customization order for a martial arts game.

One of our Qi Continent's biggest characteristics is our well-developed film and television industry. But apart from that, the gaming industry of Qi Continent is also top-notch on Blue Star. Mr. Lin, do you play video games?"

Lin Yuan replied, "Occasionally."

He used to play games with Xia Fan and Jian Yi.

Lin Yuan found the most pleasure in multiplayer gaming. Playing alone didn't hold much appeal to him, so as everyone got busier, he basically stopped gaming altogether.

"I see."

Gu Dong had already gotten used to Lin Yuan's way of speaking.

It was normal for people from the headquarters to be somewhat aloof, after all,

the scale between the branch and headquarters was vast.

Moreover, Mr. Lin was probably somewhat dissatisfied, having been sent to the

Qi Continent to clean up the branch's mess.

She could understand his sentiments.

After Lin Yuan took the order from Gu Dong, he didn't show any intention to open it.

He stood up and said, "That'll be all for today. Could you drop me off at my accommodations on your way, and maybe take a detour around Qi Continent Art Academy? I want to get a feel for the environment."

"Sure..."

He didn't even glance at it?

Gu Dong felt increasingly disappointed, although she didn't dare to show it:

"Mr. Lin's luggage is still in my car, we can head there directly."

"Okay."

Lin Yuan headed downstairs.

Gu Dong slightly pursed her lips, then quickly followed.

While driving Lin Yuan to his accommodations, Gu Dong quickly introduced some local points of interest, "There is a scenic area to the east. Mr. Lin, if you're interested and have time, you could visit. Shall I take you to the academy first?"

"Just a drive by is fine."

Lin Yuan had no intention of entering the academy. The start of the semester was a week away and the school hadn't opened its doors yet. As an exchange student, the registration procedure might be quite troublesome.

"Okay."

The distance from the company to the academy was about six or seven kilometers. It seemed a bit far but it was just a twenty-minute drive.

"That is Qi Art."

Following Gu Dong's gaze, Lin Yuan saw a university in the distance. Apart from slight architectural differences, its scale wasn't inferior to Qin Art.

It was truly on par with Qin Art.

After a brief tour, Gu Dong took Lin Yuan back to his accommodations.

It was an exquisite residential area.

The complex was called "Pear Blossom Garden," a rather pleasant name.

The company had arranged a beautifully decorated two-bedroom apartment for Lin Yuan.

Of course, the space couldn't compare to his accommodations in Qin Continent, but it was more than enough for Lin Yuan alone.

As for the environment, Lin Yuan was quite satisfied. It was clear that a lot of thought had been put into preparing the living arrangements.

Gu Dong asked, "Mr. Lin, do you usually cook for yourself?"

"Yes."

Lin Yuan occasionally cooked in Qin Continent, and his cooking skills were passable.

However, most of the time, he ate at school or at the company so he didn't get many opportunities to cook for himself.

"In that case, please remember that if you exit the complex and turn left, there's a market approximately six hundred meters away."

Gu Dong had familiarized herself with the environment beforehand, as she was the one who rented this place.

“Ok.”

Lin Yuan began to unpack.

Gu Dong hesitated before saying, “The room was cleaned yesterday, and the bedsheets are new, having been washed once already. They’re very clean. Mr. Lin, is there anything else you need me for? If not, I should head back to the company as work isn’t finished yet.”

She emphasized the phrase “work isn’t finished” slightly, but she didn’t dare to be too bold. As a result, her point didn’t come across very strongly.

“You should head back first then. Thank you for your help.”

Lin Yuan nodded, and began to tidy up briefly.

There wasn’t much to tidy up, after all. The room had already been cleaned and all that remained was sorting out some clothes.

After tidying up.

Lin Yuan threw himself on the bed.

It wasn’t that he wanted to leave work early. The flight had just been too taxing, especially for someone who rarely flies.

His head was in a fog, and despite sleeping for a few hours on the plane, the discomfort was not completely gone.

Half an hour later.

Lin Yuan was feeling a little better.

He felt a little discomfort in his stomach and went into the bathroom. While relieving himself, he finally took out and read the company's only order.

It was a song order for a martial arts video game.

Although the era of martial art novels had passed, martial arts video games always held a significant market on Blue Star. After all, playing video games and reading novels are two completely different experiences.

The order's main requirement was to write a song with a strong taste of the ancient martial world.

The game's background was rather common, revolving around a young boy roaming the martial world with his sword and eventually becoming a martial arts master.

Of course, being a martial arts-themed game, it naturally included elements of romance.

The young boy's childhood friend and love was killed when he first stepped into the martial world, thus, a desire for revenge was fostered within him.

He began to practice martial arts and killed strong enemies one after another.

Later, he met a girl who resembled his lost love.

So, he began to fall in love with her.

The two experienced storms and adversity together.

Upon discovering the truth that she was just a replacement, the girl made the decision to leave the boy.

It wasn't until ten years later that they reunited again. By then, the girl discovered that the boy really had fallen in love with her and had been looking for her all these years...

By this time, the boy already had white hair.

But they still happily held each other's hands.

The order detailed the story more coherently with thousands of words. This was the overview of the storyline that Lin Yuan had summarized.

Hence the order included the following note:

Besides exuding a martial world aura, the song should elicit a sense of lingering romantic sorrow.

Apart from this.

The note also laid out a third requirement:

The song should be in Mandarin because the game will be released all over Blue Star.

A game targeting the Qi Continent audience would, of course, be in Qi language. But targeting the entire Blue Star, it would definitely need to be in Mandarin. Lin Yuan originally thought that he had to write a song in Qi language. Unexpectedly, the first order required a song in Mandarin.

He activated the system and repeated the order requirements: "How much would it cost to customize a song like this?"

System: "Five hundred thousand."

Although the requirements were relatively complicated, this type of song was common. Hence, the pricing set by the System wasn't too high.

Weighing the order shares and potential profit derived from song downloads after the game's launch, Lin Yuan felt that this deal was rather profitable.

"Will you customize it?"

"Yes, please."

Lin Yuan had about a million left in his account, certainly enough to spend five hundred thousand to customize a song.

“Random song selection in progress...”

Approximately thirty seconds later, the system had made its selection:

“Congratulations on acquiring the song ‘Laughter of Jianghu’, would you like to preview it now?”

“Preview.”

Lin Yuan responded. He had some recollection of this song. It seemed to be from the soundtrack of a previous life’s version of ‘The Return of the Condor Heroes’.

The system played Zhou Huajian’s version.

As Lin Yuan listened to the song, he nodded his head in satisfaction.

The song was quite fitting for the game, encompassing the grievances and love stories of the martial world in its lyrics:

“Laughter of the Jianghu... With resentment settled... And guarded motives... Smiles hide knives... Unreachable love... Unable to let go... Unable to forget... Your goodness... What looks like flower isn’t flower, what looks like fog isn’t fog...”

Its rhythm was also quite appropriate.

As per the order’s requirements, this song should fit the bill. Thinking this, Lin Yuan casually flushed the toilet.

Chapter 148: Everything is Fine

On the other side, Gu Dong drove back to the company.

When passing by the second floor, employees from the music composition took
a few glances around.

They saw that the representative from head office had not followed, so they quickly surrounded Gu Dong.

“Where is he?”

“He went off work already?”

“So domineering! Coming and going as he pleases, that’s something only an executive could do. Indeed the Great Old One from headquarters, completely dismissive of our branch office.”

“What’s the deal with this dude from the head office?”

“He looks so young, can he make it?”

“After all, a novice is unlikely to work out. How can one person save our entire branch office?”

“Who is he?”

Ou Dong glanced at everyone and said: “Don’t you have mobile phones? Google

it yourselves, Xian Yu... the ‘Xian’ from ‘Envy’, ‘Jealousy’, and ‘Hate’... and ‘Yu’ from ‘Sashimi’.”

“Sounds familiar?”

Someone opened their mouth doubtfully.

Everyone began to take out their phones to search.

Because the distance was too great and the regional cultures were different, the information they found was relatively general, but it was still enough to surprise many people:

“A top-tier composer?”

“This is the first time I’ve heard of such a young top-tier composer. Could he be

the legendary genius? He seems capable for his age.”

“Of course, otherwise why would he be chosen as our representative?”

“But it seems that he just became a top-tier composer and was sent to our branch office. Why didn’t the headquarters send someone more experienced.”

“Maybe he’s really capable?”

“I don’t know about capability, but definitely arrogant. He left work early on his first day. As a representative from the head office, he is of the same rank as our manager. No one can control him. I guess the manager also dares not. After all, the company is relying on him to bring in projects and ease the situation.

“Wait, wasn’t he the creator of ‘Big Fish’?”

“That song was also very popular In Qi Continent. It’s the theme song of the movie ‘Dragon Fish Dance’. Did the head office send him here thinking that he has had previous success?”

“Enough with that.”

The group was full of lively discussion.

Gu Dong proceeded to the third floor.

She entered the CEO's office and called out: "Dad..."

Gu Qiangyun said dissatisfiedly; "How many times have I told you, call me manager in the company."

"Manager Daddy?"

"That sounds so weird?"

"Mr. Gu!"

"Hmm, what is it?"

Gu Qiangyun stood up nervously: "Was Mr. Lin satisfied with the house?"

"He was quite satisfied with the house."

Gu Dong complained: "But don't you think he's too arrogant? On his first day, he didn't even want to work. I spent half of yesterday cleaning his office. Can you please hire a cleaner?"

"No."

Gu Qiangyun said, "The company's performance isn't good. Hiring a cleaner would increase expenses. You and the staff can do some cleaning. Even as the manager, I clean the office myself. I didn't ask you to clean the bathroom."

Gu Dong:

Gu Qiangyun frowned, and then a glimmer of hope lit up his face: “However, with Mr. Lin here, he should be able to help us alleviate some pressure...”

“You’re thinking too optimistically.”

Gu Dong recalled previous events: “I showed him the order, thinking that he was eager to work, but he didn’t even look at it and asked for a place to live. I guess he’s already forgotten about the order.”

“It doesn’t matter if he doesn’t remember it now. We can remind him later.”

Gu Qiangyun really regarded Lin Yuan as a lifesaver: “Didn’t you ask your friend for information on him? He’s quite famous in Qin Continent, after all, he is a top-tier composer.”

“Mr. Gu.”

Gu Dong sighed: “But he’s just a student after all, and a new top-tier composer.

He is not the seasoned master you were expecting. Do you think he came because of our branch office?

Gu Qiangyun became restless: “What do you mean by that?”

Gu Dong shrugged, resigned to the facts: “As a student, it would already be pretty good if he could work two days a week. Exchange students are usually very busy. Therefore, I suspect that he came to Qi Continent to study as an exchange student, not for work at our company.”

“That seems to be the case...”

When Gu Qiangyun remembered the call he had with 01’ Zhou and considered the current situation, he began to understand. He became despondent.

“In other words, the head office never planned to care about our branch. It just so happened that a top-tier composer was coming to Qi Continent as an exchange student. In order to keep up

appearances, they gave him the title of representative. So, it was... very incidental, taking up the position as branch representative was just a side job?

“This is probably the truth. Therefore, I advise you not to have too high expectations. We are, after all, just his nannies.” Gu Dong said, trying to hold back her sadness.

She couldn’t bear to disappoint her father further.

Exchange students usually don’t stay more than a school year, less than one year in total.

Rescuing a company within such a short time?

It was an unrealistic task.

If he could stay a few years longer, there might be some hope.

“Look on the bright side. No matter what, Mr. Lin is a top-tier composer. In a year’s time, even if he could help with one or two projects, it would still be sufficient to keep us afloat.”

Gu Qiangyun tried to cheer himself up.

Gu Dong squeezed out a comforting smile and walked away.

Gu Qiangyun called out: “Wait, don’t you have Mr. Lin’s contact info? Add him to our company group chat so he can get familiar with the environment.”

“Got it.”

Gu Dong took out her phone and added Lin Yuan to the group chat.

There was a total of one hundred and twenty-five people in the group, making Lin Yuan the one hundred and twenty-sixth.

“Welcome!”

As soon as he saw Lin Yuan join the group, Gu Qiangyun immediately began to send red packets, starting with one hundred yuan...

Biting his lip, Gu Qiangyun changed it to three hundred yuan and sent out the red packets.

Everyone grabbed eagerly.

it was surprising to see that the person with the fastest hand was Lin Yuan!

Although the amount he grabbed was just two cents.

“Welcome!”

“Welcome!”

The other people in the group also shouted ‘welcome’.

“Thank you.”

Lin Yuan politely replied to everyone, and then @ed manager Gu Qiangyun: “Can we get a new order as soon as possible?”

Gu Qiangyun was startled.

Hearing him say that, where on earth would our lousy company get a new order from? The one we have on hand is an order we managed to negotiate a few months ago, and it seems it’s about to fall through, given that the headquarters is no longer interested in us...

“Hey.”

Next door in her office.

Gu Dong sighed.

But Gu Qiangyun dared not get angry and carefully @ed Lin Yuan in response; “Mr. Lin, we can slowly discuss new orders, but we should take things one step at a time. We need to first complete the order we currently have. Take a look at the order in your hand.”

Lin Yuan: “It’s already done.”

After Lin Yuan finished speaking, the entire group chat fell silent.

Everyone in the group was silent for several minutes, and Gu Qiangyun was silent for several minutes too.

Unable to sit still, he carefully studied the text for a long while, investigated the gaps between the words and punctuation several times, and finally confirmed Lin Yuan’s words were indeed—

“Already done.”

At this moment, even the good-tempered Gu Qiangyun, felt somewhat aggravated. He wanted to ask Lin Yuan:

Hey, are you messing with me? Do you find it fun to fool me?

From the time you left work early to now, it’s only been enough time for me to go to the bathroom a few times, assuming that I’m not constipated today. And you’re telling me that the order that has been perturbing our branch office for months...

Is already done?

Chapter 149: Bring in a New Deal

Qi Continent.

The composition department of Starlight Music is eerily quiet, colleagues glanced at one another, their faces full of confusion.

After a long while...

Someone uncertainly asked, "Does 'it's done' mean...he's finished the order for this martial arts game?"

How long has it been?

Counting the time for the commute, only about an hour or two, right?

"Hmph."

Someone scoffed, "If his song is any good, I'll eat my keyboard right here and now, believe it or not."

Impossible.

Is Mr. Lin getting too cocky?

Because he is a top composer from the Land of Music, he thinks he can crush us with his skills?

So he casually composed a song while taking a restroom break, thinking it would outdo us?

And that he could fool the client like that?

Is he joking?

Surely, he's just too young.

The client will make you realize, why they're the boss!

And didn't Mr. Lin consider us when he did that?

Does he really think that an order we couldn't fulfill over several months could be easily tackled by him?

Because of all this, a silence descended on the chat group.

A silence so deep it felt almost suffocating.

Finally, Gu Dong couldn't help but tag Lin Yuan: "The client has high expectations, they won't accept any mediocre songs. I hope Mr. Lin can be more serious in composing and not try to fool the client with a song that took only a few hours to make."

"Uh."

Although Gu Qiangyun was also upset, he was more worried about offending Lin Yuan. After all, Lin Yuan was a top composer from the Qin Continent. What if Lin got mad and decided not to help?

We must keep him pleased.

He let out a sigh, quickly tried to smooth things over in the group chat: "Maybe Mr. Lin was inspired as soon as he looked at the order. With Mr. Lin's ability, he is definitely better than all us slackers at our company. But, Mr. Lin, I would suggest refining the composition a bit..."

Lin Yuan didn't explain. He simply tagged Gu Qiangyun: "Email."

The group chat was filled with ellipses. Nobody dared to speak their minds directly, let alone tag Lin Yuan like Gu Dong.

After all, Mr. Lin's position was high up.

But through a series of ellipses, indirect expressions of dissatisfaction were possible, especially given everyone was posting ellipses.

After all, where there's safety in numbers.

Feeling helpless, Gu Qiangyun shared his email address.

Lin Yuan immediately sent the song to Gu Qiangyun's email.

"You have joined the chat group[The Real Company Group]."

After sending the email, Gu Qiangyun found himself pulled into a new group chat by his daughter, and all his colleagues were also pulled in.

This group was no different from the earlier one.

The only difference was, Lin Yuan wasn't in this group.

So, the group that Lin Yuan just joined turned out to be the "fake group"?

"What's happening?"

Asked Gu Qiangyun, disgruntled.

Gu Dong's office was right next to his. If the volume was high enough, she could hear his voice.

Gu Dong didn't answer.

In the so-called real group, everyone was shocked or excited.

"Ms. Goodoong is really assertive!"

"Ms. Goodoong is awesome, stand up to him!"

"What's going on."

“Right, luckily, we have this group. Otherwise, I wouldn’t dare comment in that one.”

“The representative is showing no regard for us.”

At this moment, Gu Dong tagged Gu Qiangyun: “Can you let us listen to the song as well? Let’s see just how good the song that a gold medal composer managed to write in their precious one-hour break is.”

Gu Qiangyun shook his head.

Everyone was so against Mr. Lin.

This isn’t right. The company was still relying on Mr. Lin’s help.

And there was no question about Lin’s ability. At such a young age, he had already won a gold medal. Was there even a need to question his ability?

The only issue was because of his outstanding talent at such a young age, Mr. Lin could be a little arrogant.

But that could be understandable, right?

Later, he would have to do some diplomatic work with everyone, they must not offend Mr. Lin.

With this in mind, Gu Qiangyun decided not to upload the song into the group chat.

Regardless of his ability, how could a piece by even the greatest composer, written in just one or two hours, be better than a work that our composition department labored over for several months yet was still rejected by the client? He put on his headphones and opened his email.

The song was titled “Laugh of the Jianghu”, and it looks like Mr. Lin had already completed the lyrics as well.

He moved the mouse and clicked on play.

As Gu Qiangyun performed these actions, he didn't hold any expectations.

He was even browsing the news while listening to the song.

The news would mention new projects from various companies in the Qi Continent, perhaps he could find new order opportunities?

For the larger music companies, orders came to them.

For Starlight Music, they had to find their own orders.

For example, this new web series being produced by a small company, they would definitely need a theme song, insert songs, end-credit songs, etc. He should later look into making contact with them... There's also this news mentioned...

Thud.

Suddenly, Gu Qiangyun's hand, which was moving the mouse, paused.

The song "Laugh of the Jianghu" was still playing through his headphones. The strange synthetic sound had just reached the chorus: "Appearing like flower but not a flower, like mist but not mist. A relentless river that can't be held back, a lone hero with an iron will and bones, turns out the hero is lonely..." Goosebumps suddenly rose up all over his body!

Suddenly, Gu Qiangyun felt a chill coursing through him!

He hastily scrolled back to the beginning of the song!

This time, without any distractions, Gu Qiangyun focused intently on the song.

At some point, Gu Qiangyun found his body involuntarily moving to the rhythm of the music.

His body moved, causing the cold tea in front of him to ripple.

The sun had set by this time.

The red of the evening sunset gleamed through the window, casting a yellow light across the room.

Within this scene.

Gu Qiangyun's expression was growing more exaggerated.

When the song finished, he felt a tingle through his entire body, like he had just touched an electric current.

Then, there was a knock on the door.

Gu Dong pushed the door open and came in.

Then, Gu Dong was taken aback.

She saw Gu Qiangyun slumping in his couch, his entire body completely relaxed, a tinge of...

Happiness on his face?

Gu Dong wasn't sure if she was describing it correctly, but that's the only word that she could find to describe the smile on Gu Qiangyun's face.

"What happened?" She asked anxiously.

Gu Qiangyun ignored her.

She raised her voice: "Manager?"

Gu Qiangyun still ignored her.

She raised her voice again: “Dad!”

Soon as if waking from a dream, Gu Qiangyun looked at his daughter standing by the door, then at the computer before finally speaking:

“Go and bring the new order in!”

Just as she thought, Gu Dong let out a sigh: “Are we really going to give up on this current order? We spent a lot of efforts to get this order and breaking the contract won’t be cheap, couldn’t we contact the head office...”

“Wait.”

Gu Qiangyun waved his hand, took out his phone, and typed a message in the new group that Gu Dong had created before: “From now on, the client isn’t your boss. Mr. Lin is.”

Once finished.

Gu Qiangyun directly uploaded the downloaded “Laugh of the Jianghu” to the group file, then looked up at his daughter before saying:

“It’s done.”

Chapter 150 Sorry for Being Human

Starlight Music, second floor, composing department.

Everyone is looking at the message the manager sent to the group, frowning deeply.

We have accepted being called ‘Daddy’ by our clients as we’ve been tossed

around by them.

We're just trying to make some money.

This isn't embarrassing!

But why on earth did the manager refer to Mr. Lin as our Father?

Because he was sent by headquarters?

Because he's on the same level as the manager and could be considered as a boss of the branch company?

We don't accept this!

No one accepts this.

Because here on the land of Qi Continent, we have enough corporate 'Daddies' already!

These were the complex thoughts in everyone's minds.

Those with less complex thoughts had already plugged in their headphones to listen to 'The Jianghu Laughs'.

At the same time.

Gu Dong also returned to his office and started listening to this song.

A few minutes later.

Gu Dong took off his headphones almost mechanically, with a storm raging in his mind.

He looked down at the group he just created.

No one in the group was speaking.

Then he glanced at the ‘fake group’ on the other screen where Lin Yuan was, and saw that it already had 99+ new messages.

“@Mr. Lin, you are the GOAT!”

“Wow, wow, Mr. Lin is too powerful!”

“Mr. Lin, please accept me as your fan!”

“just now someone in our department said that the song Mr. Lin wrote in such a short time can’t possibly be any good. I, as the head of the composing department, promptly refuted him. Mr. Lin, you are a top-rated musician from the Land of Music, we can’t let others cast doubt on you. That guy, after listening to the song, fully submitted and I gave him a stem lesson.”

“Boss, look, did you drop something?”

“How dare anybody question Mr. Lin? Are they tired of life? Doesn’t everyone know that Mr. Lin was sent to our company to save the world, and this is how you treat our savior?”

II II

Upon seeing these group messages, Gu Dong choked on his own frustration and wished he could fire the whole lot.

Have they lost their shame!

The deal isn't even closed yet!

Such sycophants, such bootlicking, it's a disgrace to the company!

Unable to remain silent any longer, he typed angrily:

"Those who doubted Mr. Lin before, step forward. Write a self-criticism of 3000 words and let me review it. It's your great fortune to meet such an excellent leader like Mr. Lin after eight lifetimes of accumulated luck!"

Everyone:

Weren't you the one causing all the trouble before?

Finally, someone spoke up in the new group next door.

"This is really not fun."

"Lil Goodoong, didn't you also not believe in him before?"

"And boss, you were the one who first said that Mr. Lin couldn't possibly complete this order. If I remember correctly, the boss even said if the deal could be completed, he would eat his keyboard."

"How will you eat it, with peanut butter or with beef sauce? Will it be red braised or steamed?"

"Big brother, don't blame the second brother. Who the hell would have thought that a top-ranked composer from Qin Continent would be this mighty?"

"WTF, I just found out today what a true GOAT is."

"It's not that the top-ranked composers from Qin Continent are powerful. If you randomly pick one from Qin Continent, he wouldn't be able to complete the task in such a short time. We've met a real deity."

“I almost thought Father Yang was involved.”

•When Teacher Yang Zhongming was in Qi Continent, we occasionally asked him for help. While his moves were sure, accurate, and ruthless, guaranteeing success, he wasn’t this quick, was he?”

II II

Everyone was truly bewildered by Mr. Lin!

Not because ‘The Jianghu Laughs’ was that good, the quality of the song was indeed not bad, but not to the extent of garnering worship from all.

The truly terrifying part was

The song was composed at an alarmingly fast pace!

Some people even suspected, did Mr. Lin finish this while sitting on the toilet?

Alright.

Of course, that’s just an exaggerated guess, everyone was simply too stunned.

As Mr. Lin is a top composer in the Land of Music, it isn’t surprising he could produce song of such quality.

After all, his status as a top composer is indisputable.

If you’d said that Mr. Lin had spent two months, or even one month, to complete this song, people wouldn’t have so many doubts.

But how much time has Mr. Lin had since he received the order?

From the moment he ended work, to the point he announced in the group chat that he’d finished the composition, how much time had passed?

He was able to complete a composition of this caliber in such a short amount of time?

It's downright freaky!

Not to mention, he even wrote the lyrics himself!

And the ideas behind the lyrics are also ingenious!

Compared to Mr. Lin, the composers at Starlight Music only have one feeling:

Sorry for being so mediocre.

At this point, Gu Qiangyun popped up in the group, he mentioned everyone: "Don't rush to apologize just yet. I have already sent "Laughter in Jianghu" to the client. The order for the martial arts game should be nearly complete by Mr. Lin. Our urgent task now is to quickly pull in new orders!"

It's the same old story.

Strong companies can have clients actively seeking cooperation, while a no-good company like Starlight Music has to look for its own business.

The staff in the composition department not only have to be responsible for composing, but also part-time sales.

And it's not just them.

Even Gu Dong and the manager Gu Qiangyun have to look for business outside.

Because Starlight Music is facing two dilemmas at the same time.

The first dilemma: the ability of the composers is limited, leading to a low order completion rate.

The second dilemma: the company's order acceptance rate is also very low.

A formidable client will frown at the past performance of Starlight Music.

So when negotiating for orders, they have no choice but to tout the prestige of the head office.

This trick used to work well.

But now, even the prestige of the head office isn't very effective.

After all, Starlight Music is just a branch, its value has been pretty much evaluated by the industry.

Because of this reason.

The company occasionally takes on small private orders to sustain its operations.

These small orders often only have a commission of tens of thousands yuan.

But for the composition department, every little bit counts, the staff still possess basic operating skills, they can generally handle these small orders.

"By the way."

Gu Dong reminded: "If you guys run into trouble while negotiating orders, don't use the prestige of the head office anymore. That doesn't work anymore. You can now say that a top composer has been dispatched from our head office. But let me make one thing clear, never let Mr. Lin handle cheap orders!"

During the daytime discussion, Gu Dong noticed.

Mr. Lin was unhappy with the price of orders.

It makes sense, as a top composer, the price he got for orders in Qin Continent must have been very high.

Now being transferred to a branch office and having to do orders in the hundreds of thousands, he obviously wouldn't be pleased.

“We should ask Mr. Lin what style he specializes in.”

Every composer has their own area of expertise.

Some composers are particularly good at rock, while others are good at writing sentimental love songs.

Everyone now suspects that Mr. Lin is probably best at composing classical songs with grand ideas?

Otherwise, why was “Laughter in Jianghu” completed so easily?

He must be so proficient in it, that the moment he saw the order, he directly wrote a song.

Gu Dong thought for a while, he mentioned Lin Yuan in the old chat group: “The company is preparing to take new orders, may I ask what music styles do you specialize in, Mr. Lin?”

Everyone opened the main chat, curious about Lin Yuan's response.

In everyone's imagination, a genius like Mr. Lin would probably list several categories, such as rock, sentimental ballads, hip-hop, and so on, to demonstrate his diverse range of music styles. After all, “Big Fish” was also excellent, but it wasn't a traditional martial arts style song. This indicates that Mr. Lin must be proficient in several styles of music, fitting for someone of Lin Yuan's status as a top composer.

However, ten seconds later.

Lin Yuan only replied with two words, those words were:

“Expensive ones.”