

You Were Told to Lose Money By Making Games, and You Actually Did It?

Chapter 62: He's Even Thanking Us

May 24

After taking a walk outside, Chen Xu took the opportunity to admire Zhou Ran's expression.

After offering her a few words of encouragement, he stood behind her and watched from close range for several minutes.

Just as she finally managed to reach Genichiro's third phase, she died to the Lightning of Tomoe because she didn't know how to perform a Lightning Reversal.

Chen Xu was very pleased.

Judging by her current progress and skill level, he estimated he'd be able to enjoy watching this for another half month.

Completely satisfied, he returned to his office, leaned back in his chair, and opened the cafeteria menu on his desk.

Chen Xu began thinking about what to order for tomorrow.

He had to admit that the three chefs the company had hired were genuinely talented.

Following the nutritionist's menu, they managed to cook dishes that weren't greasy but were still incredibly delicious and fragrant.

In the past, he hated eating fish—especially saltwater fish—because he couldn't stand the fishy smell. Even a single bite would make him gag.

But the fish prepared in the company cafeteria was different. While saltwater fish still had a bit of that flavor he couldn't tolerate, the freshwater fish was handled exceptionally well.

It was the first time he had ever thought fish could taste this good.

The cafeteria had definitely been worth building.

"When the company expands later, the cafeteria's priority has to be raised to number one. The gym and entertainment areas can wait."

After selecting tomorrow's three dishes and soup, Chen Xu made up his mind.

Glancing at the time, he stretched and got up from his chair.

Some time ago, he had reserved a king crab at a five-star hotel for nearly 10,000 yuan.

He had just received a notification today, so it was finally time to enjoy it.

He had heard that king crabs were covered with tiny hairs, that their shells didn't turn red after steaming, and that the meat was naturally sweet. He wasn't sure if those rumors were true.

Unfortunately, the Mercedes-Benz S400L Luxury he had ordered still wouldn't be ready for another week.

Opening his system interface, he glanced at his personal assets.

Although this round of spending had reduced his disposable personal funds to just over 700,000 yuan, most of his major expenses were already behind him.

On average, he now had a daily spending quota of around 5,000 yuan.

Back in the day, he wouldn't even have known how to spend that much money.

In high spirits, Chen Xu slipped his phone into his pocket.

He planned to get a foot massage, have his back worked on, and then head to the hotel to feast on the king crab.

Wasn't this the good life?

Just then, there was a knock on the office door.

Chen Xu looked up to see Aonuma Shinji and Yamagami Eiji walk in.

He remembered assigning the two of them to prepare the company's motion capture department.

But they had already made progress this quickly?

Chen Xu was a little surprised.

Then again, the sooner they had a plan, the sooner he could spend money.

"So, you've got some ideas for setting up the motion capture department?"
Chen Xu asked with a smile.

"Yes, President Chen!" Eiji nodded.

He then carefully explained the strategy he and Shinji had discussed the previous day.

As Chen Xu listened, his expression gradually became strange.

Previously, they had already poached a group of employees from Hyakukin Studio, owned by Kamiyama Atsushi, to strengthen Morning Star Games' expertise in action-game design.

And now that they were establishing a motion capture department...

They were targeting Hyakukin Studio again?

Even worse, it was the employees they'd already poached who were now suggesting they go after their former employer!

Thinking of Kamiyama's shiny bald head, Chen Xu couldn't help feeling a little sorry for him.

The guy was having a rough time.

"President Chen, actually, we could just poach people directly. Quite a few employees over there are already thinking about leaving, and many are willing to work overseas," Shinji said when he noticed Chen Xu hadn't spoken for a while.

Chen Xu had thought Eiji's proposal was already ruthless.

He hadn't expected someone even more ruthless.

If they acquired the studio outright, Hyakukin Studio would at least receive a substantial payout.

But if they simply poached the staff directly...

Hyakukin Studio would be left with absolutely nothing.

"Let's not poach them directly," Chen Xu said after thinking it over. "Once is acceptable, but twice would be too much. If we can acquire the entire studio, then let's do that instead. Money isn't the issue."

"Besides, we don't have enough office space right now. Buying equipment and renovating would waste a lot of time."

"If we acquire them, we can preserve the existing team as much as possible. And given our relationship with Hyakukin Studio, we should be able to negotiate continuing to use their facilities by paying rent, allowing us to start game development as quickly as possible."

As he spoke, however, Chen Xu became less and less confident.

His relationship with Hyakukin Studio should still be pretty good... right?

After all, Kamiyama Atsushi had gone to great lengths in Japan to help promote Sekiro.

Although, from Chen Xu's perspective, it had been a bit of a betrayal...

Kamiyama had acted out of genuine goodwill. He wasn't like Chenmei and Liu Yishou, whom Chen Xu had mentally blacklisted.

Besides, hadn't they agreed to continue working together?

This could still count as a form of cooperation, couldn't it?

Hearing Chen Xu's words, both Shinji and Eiji nodded.

They understood exactly what he meant.

Spending a little less money is nice, but the project couldn't be delayed.

If they could take over the entire studio, the biggest advantage would be that the motion capture work could begin almost seamlessly.

Even if the teams weren't working from the same location, with the existing staff coordinating everything, efficiency wouldn't suffer much.

"Alright. Draft the acquisition proposal and report it to Zhou Ran," Chen Xu instructed. "Do your best to retain all the employees. Don't end up buying an empty shell."

He wasn't planning to concern himself with the acquisition details.

Zhou Ran would oversee the process, and he'd simply give the final approval.

After all, wasn't that exactly why he'd hired a secretary?

Watching Eiji and Shinji leave, Chen Xu let out a quiet sigh.

Being the boss is hard work.

Just as Chen Xu was feeling sentimental, the phone on his desk suddenly rang.

He picked it up absentmindedly.

The next second, however, his expression became rather strange.

Incoming Call: Kamiyama Atsushi

What's going on?

He had *just* finished discussing the acquisition with Eiji and Shinji.

Why was Kamiyama calling now?

That couldn't be right.

Could there be a mole?

"President Kamiyama, what can I do for you?" Chen Xu answered, sounding a little guilty.

"Hello, President Chen. Um... I was wondering whether your company is preparing a new project. If so, Hyakukin Studio could handle outsourcing work for you. As for the price... we're willing to negotiate."

Kamiyama Atsushi sounded somewhat embarrassed on the other end of the line.

But he truly had no choice.

The studio's finances were under tremendous pressure.

Although Sekiro's explosive success had also brought Hyakukin Studio some much-needed publicity, it hadn't solved their fundamental problems.

Moreover, Hyakukin Studio still had ambitions.

They wanted to continue developing their own original IPs and AAA titles.

They dreamed of achieving another blockbuster success like Sekiro and finally turning the company around.

But all of that required one thing:

Money.

The problem was that the founders had all left major Japanese game companies to start the studio independently.

They hadn't parted on good terms.

On top of that, a few years earlier they had taken on an outsourcing project for Microsoft, only to drag it out for over a year while producing little of value. As a result, their reputation among Western game companies wasn't particularly good.

Combined with their long history of losing money on every game they made...

Finding investors had become nearly impossible.

"President Kamiyama, we won't need outsourcing for the action system on our next game," Chen Xu said bluntly.

Hyakukin Studio truly excelled at action combat design.

But in most other areas...

They were, at best, barely a first-tier studio.

Possibly not even that.

"Huh?" Kamiyama Atsushi was completely stunned.

When you poached our people, you certainly weren't saying that!

"While we won't be collaborating on the action system, President Kamiyama, there may be opportunities for cooperation in other areas. However, we'll need to discuss things internally first. I hope you can understand," Chen Xu thought for a moment before replying.

Even as he said it, he felt a little embarrassed.

After all, he'd previously swung his pickaxe and hacked off a huge chunk of Hyakukin Studio.

And now, he was showing up carrying that same pickaxe again.

It really was a bit excessive.

"Of course, of course. I understand completely, President Chen. Thank you very much."

Although Kamiyama Atsushi had no idea what kind of cooperation Chen Xu was referring to, nor whether it would actually happen, it was still an opportunity for Hyakukin Studio.

So regardless of the outcome, thanking him first was the right move.

After hanging up the phone, Chen Xu couldn't help but sigh.

"He's even thanking me."