

## All R. Artist 531

Chapter 531:

The next day.

Lin Yuan had just gotten up when he heard his sister making a fuss in his little sister's room:

“Hurry up and vote for the Prince of Lanling! If we don't vote, how will he ever come out on top? Every vote counts. Sooner or later, the Prince of Lanling will make his debut!”

“Okay, okay!”

Big Yaoyao's voice was full of resignation, sounding adorably soft.

Not much later.

There was a knock at Lin Yuan's door.

“Come in.”

His sister poked her head in, “So, I stayed up to finish watching yesterday's competition and now I'm a fan of the Prince of Lanling. We should vote for him. If we don't vote...”

“What vote?”

“Remember that official activity from The Masked Singer, where they asked online spectators to vote for their favorite singer? All the Prince of Lanling's fans feel like he isn't getting enough votes. He beat Illaoi in the last round, who was in fifth place, so surely he should now be in fifth place!”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Indeed, the show had organized such a voting activity.

“Alright.”

Lin Yuan mimicked Big Yaoyao’s tone, even his voice was gentle and soft.

His sister paused for a moment, wondering if she’d heard wrong, then left a bit bewildered.

Lin Yuan took out his phone and checked the ranking.

Seems like quite a few new fans like his sister had voted for him.

In The Masked Singer, he had shot up to eight place from tenth.

He didn’t give it much thought.

Lin Yuan cast a vote for himself. According to the rules, everyone had one vote per day.

There wasn’t too much change in the ranks above him.

The robot had moved up one place in the ranking, replacing the samurai who was previously in fifth place.

Samurai was unmasked and had been removed from the leaderboard.

Underneath the rankings, there was a comment section where netizens discussed their opinions—

“Prince of Lanling is amazing!”

“Everyone said the Prince of Lanling had played all his cards, but it seems like he still had a secret weapon. ‘I Surrender’ was amazing!”

“It was okay.”

“I think everyone is overrating ‘I Surrender’; the best performance was clearly the battle between the robot and the spirit. That was like divine play.”

“Illaoi really chose the wrong song.”

“If Illaoi hadn’t tried to compete with the Prince of Lanling in terms of breath control, the Prince wouldn’t have stood a chance.”

“The Prince of Lanling is cunning, intentionally luring Illaoi into a challenge on his strongest ground. Illaoi fell right into his trap. One has to admit that the Prince is good at using competitive strategies.”

“How are these crazy fans so stubborn?”

“Wasn’t the Prince’s performance yesterday enough to shut you up?”

“We admit the Prince’s breath control is amazing, but someone praised his high notes, what’s up with that? Some people from the first team said his high notes weren’t really that high, it’s just that he has long breath control.”

“Please, the Prince never claimed to sing high notes. He’s so modest.”

“Exactly, the Prince even said it wasn’t high. I think that implies he can sing even higher!”

“Prince of Lanling’s fans are master interpreters. When he says it isn’t high, it shows self-awareness. He means others can sing higher, not that he himself can sing higher.”

“What is there to argue? Everyone will lose when facing the Overlord!”

“The Overlord is truly terrifying. Also, it’s clear from the team competition; the one who moves first always loses!”

“...”

Lin Yuan shook his head.

The controversy around him didn't seem to have subsided after the competition. Thankfully, the competition goes on.

If one competition isn't enough, there will be more.

As for the so-called “the one who moves first always lose”, that does seem to be true. For some reason, whenever the first team went against the third team, whoever opened the song lost. It was quite bizarre.

Lin Yuan didn't think much, he just liked a few comments from those fans who had defended him.

Of course, he was using his secret account that nobody knew.

As for the Overlord that the fans mentioned, Lin Yuan paid close attention to him.

After all, the Overlord was widely recognized as the most likely champion.

Even the Maestro once commented that:

In the world of King of Singing, the Overlord is amongst the best.

Lin Yuan agreed with this statement.

Each one of the Overlord's performances was overwhelming, and he was capable of mastering a wide range of song styles. As a singer, he was comprehensive and versatile.

...

Meanwhile.

In a certain company's break room, a handsome and tall man was watching the team competition of "The Masked Singer" on a sofa.

"Greetings, Overlord!"

His agent entered the room with a beaming smile.

The man casually turned off the show: "Don't call me that in the company, it would prematurely expose everything if others hear it."

"There's no one else around."

The agent poured a cup of soda for himself, took a sip, and said, "In a few days, it will be the match between the second and fourth teams."

"I just need to win."

The man uttered these words with utmost confidence.

The agent laughed: "True that. You've won first place four times in a row. How could you possibly lose in the team competition? Just finish this match quickly and proceed to the finals...Were you just watching the match between the first and third teams?"

"Yes."

"What do you think?"

"A bunch of weaklings."

"All of them?"

The man paused for a moment, then toned down his remarks, "The performances of the Robot and the Elf were acceptable. The Swan is unpredictable for now, but I'll handle it. The competition for the championship should play out between her and me."

“What about the Prince of Lanling?”

The agent asked with a tinge of amusement.

For an instant, the man’s breath became heavier, “I’m glad he wasn’t eliminated!”

“Hahaha... If the Prince of Lanling knew he’s been targeted by the Overlord, the top favorite, he’d probably want to eliminate himself in the next match.”

The agent laughed uncontrollably.

In fact, the Swan is the real threat to the Overlord, but the Overlord deemed the Prince of Lanling more important than anyone else. If the outside world found out about this, it would probably cause quite a stir.

The man’s gaze was sharp and unyielding.

The agent put down his soda and remarked, “Speaking of which, we should thank the Prince of Lanling. If he didn’t attack our King Fei, King Fei wouldn’t have slaughtered the stage under the name Overlord.”

Whoosh.

The man pulled back the curtain, and the light revealed his identity—

Fei Yang!

That’s right.

The current top favorite on stage!

The one widely recognized as the potential champion of the first-season “The Masked Singer”, Overlord!

It is Fei Yang!

The agent said, “By the way, the Revenge Goddess who you’ve overshadowed for four episodes, it’s Yuan Xi, isn’t it?”

“Most likely.”

Fei Yang answered without hesitation.

The agent nodded his head, “Well, your fourth team is interesting then. Both you and Yuan Xi are targeting the Prince of Lanling. I just don’t know if Yuan Xi will eliminate the Prince of Lanling prematurely, take off her mask, and say, ‘I’m out, mission accomplished.’

“The Prince of Lanling is mine!”

Fei Yang asserted without hesitation.

The agent was momentarily stunned and wore a bizarre expression on his face.

The Samurai had said the same thing in the team competition.

And then...

Of course.

The Overlord is not the Samurai.

The Overlord is Fei Yang, the King of Singing!

The Samurai, Illaoi, could never be compared to Fei Yang in any aspect.

The most obvious difference being, the Samurai doesn't possess the Overlord's terrifying stage domination – a power that seemingly suppresses everything.

A few days later.

The epic battle between the second and fourth teams.

The Overlord demolished his opponents with an unprecedented lead of eight hundred votes—creating the largest gap in any team competition round!

Everyone online was shocked!

Some netizens even commented:

The Overlord reigns supreme in The Masked Singer, who could possibly rival the Swan if she doesn't appear!

Chapter 532: Bathing Dog

As Overlord won against his opponent by a large margin, Lin Yuan's family was having dinner while watching this round of the team match —

“Overlord is so powerful!”

Lin Xuan couldn't help but marvel.

Lin Yao, who was sitting beside her, nodded in agreement.

He was the champion of all four seasons of the ranking competition, and in the team matches, he crushed his opponents by the widest margin. Overlord truly lived up to his name.

He was simply domineering beyond belief.

“He's incredible.”



Their mother, a retired music teacher, commented earnestly, “Based on their current performances, only Swan and Lone Wolf have any hope of defeating Overlord. But even these two seem less impressive than Overlord. Overlord is just like a singing machine...”

“Our Prince of Lanling is also very strong!”

Lin Xuan couldn’t help but retort.

She has genuinely taken a liking to Prince of Lanling; these days, ‘I Surrender’ is the only song on her playlist.

Lin Yao corrected her older sister, “Prince of Lanling is not ‘ours’.”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Actually, Prince of Lanling does belong to your family....

Antarctica barked twice, seemingly wanting to say something.

Lin Yuan’s face changed swiftly, and he stuffed a piece of rib into Antarctica’s mouth.

Shut up!

This dog knows too much!

Just then,

His sister exclaimed, “Look! Look! Goldfish is about to reveal his identity!”

Lin Yuan instinctively looked at the TV.

Goldfish was about to unveil his identity and it was indeed the same as the netizens’ guess:

Chen Zhiyu!

Lin Xuan laughed, “Indeed, the originator of the eternal second place!”

Lin Yao said, “It seems like all the other ‘fish’ moved on to the next round, and surprisingly, Chen Zhiyu is the first ‘fish’ to unveil his identity.”

Their mother added, “Chen Zhiyu was unlucky to have Lone Wolf as his opponent, who is a King of Singing.”

“...”

Lin Yuan remained silent.

After finishing dinner, he went upstairs to check the online Forums.

The online discussions were all about ‘The Masked Singer’, and many topics intrigued Lin Yuan.

Such as the public guessing the identities of certain singers...

Of course,

there was also the inevitable comparison of the remaining singers’ strengths.

Currently, there were twelve singers left.

Approximately weighing his strength in the eyes of the public, Lin Yuan found himself around sixth place.

This ranking was consistent with his expectations.

The audience judged him based on his performances so far.

After receiving the System's singing enhancement, Lin Yuan had not chosen particularly challenging songs, so his full potential still remained unmanifested.

The recent ranking was a rough estimate of a slight increase.

Because Lin Yuan, in the team competition, sang a song that required excellent singing skills, titled, 'I Surrender.'

This song demonstrated his talent and helped him beat the crowd-favorite Illaoi, the Samurai.

Furthermore,

There were also discussions about Chen Zhiyu's identity reveal on the internet—

"Finally, a fish has surfaced!"

"I knew it was Chen Zhiyu!"

"Hahaha, the eternal second placer indeed!"

"He's already retired, now is the era of King Fei!"

"There was no suspense at all; when Chen Zhiyu chose the Goldfish character, it was practically like tipping off his identity!"

"So does this mean we probably guessed the identity of the other 'fish' correctly?"

"Hahaha, think about it, apart from Chen Zhiyu, all the other 'fish' will meet in the next round!"

"The ocean world indeed!"

"..."

Lin Yuan began to doubt.

Next time, I might be up against one of those ‘fish’.

There are just too many ‘fish’ in this competition!

Twelve contestants!

Four of them are ‘fish’!

The chance of drawing a ‘fish’ as an opponent is a third!

Ah.

Lin Yuan slapped his forehead.

My math teacher would be furious.

Excluding myself, the probability should be four out of eleven.

What are the chances I’ll draw a fish?

And if Lin Yuan did draw a ‘fish’, he felt that it would likely be someone familiar because he could recognize those voices.

Just then, Lin Yuan’s phone suddenly rang.

It was a call from Tong Shuwen.

“Sorry to bother Teacher Admirable Fish again. I wanted to discuss the rules of the upcoming competition with you.”

“Which rules?”

“In the next challenge, we’ll split the twelve singers into two groups to compete, and the six singers who lose will have the opportunity to challenge the winners. If successful, they can keep their spot on the stage...”

“Mmm.”

If that’s the rule, winning the first round is rather pointless. There must be additional rules.

Naturally, Tong Shuwen considered this:

“To encourage everyone to focus on the first round, we’ve decided to give the winners a hundred-vote head start. So they’ll naturally have an advantage when the two groups compete.”

“I see.”

The rule was more comprehensive than what Lin Yuan had imagined.

He completely understood the intended reasoning of the program management.

Aren’t they just anxious over the unpredictable results of the drawing lots, causing top singers to face each other early and lesser singers to advance?

But now, things could be different.

If Lin Yuan were to face the White Swan, even if he makes an error and loses, he can pick one of the six winning singers to challenge—

It was a safety net.

What’s a hundred extra votes to his opponents?

If his skill is truly superior, a hundred vote difference isn't significant. It's possible to catch up.

Of course.

This hundred-vote advantage can be quite crucial when the contestants are similarly skilled.

Because when the skill level is equal, a hundred votes can genuinely determine the winner and loser!

Thus, the intentions of the show management are clear:

Advance the stronger singers as much as possible to the final round.

Tong Shuwen smiled: "It's good that you can accept it, we certainly need to discuss this in advance with the singers."

"Mmm."

Lin Yuan ended the call.

The next several days, Lin Yuan didn't do much else.

Just practiced singing.

The System provided Lin Yuan a singing skill, but it doesn't mean he can afford to slack. If he wants to fully control his singing skills or even go beyond, it takes practice.

He practiced until the night before the challenge.

He didn't stop until nine o'clock at night.

He needed to take a bath and go to bed.

Tommorow he'd need to be at the music center, and he needs a good rest tonight to keep his performance up to par.

As Lin Yuan got up, Antarctica ran proficiently towards the bathroom and opened the door. Usually, this means Antarctica also wants to take a bath together.

Yes.

This dog can now open the door by itself.

When no one is available to walk the dog, it opens the door and runs out by itself—

Walking itself.

It has quite a few buddies around here anyway. It's just that Xiao Huang hasn't been playing with it recently.

Since discovering Antarctica's behavior, Lin Yuan has started to lock the door. He knew that Antarctica couldn't be allowed to go out on its own.

Even though Antarctica doesn't seem like the type to bite anyone, it's always better to reassure passersby.

Entering the bathroom.

Lin Yuan began to bathe.

He washed not only himself but also helped Antarctica take a bath. However, halfway through washing, Lin Yuan suddenly felt that something was wrong.

The temperature of the water seemed to have dropped...

Many people have probably encountered similar situations. The bath water starts warm, then suddenly turns cold.

This is embarrassing.

Because both Lin Yuan and Antarctica's bodies are covered in body wash, and his hair is foamed up with shampoo.

Antarctica was anxious.

"There's still a chance..."

Lin Yuan hurriedly tried to rinse off —

Himself.

By the time he finished rinsing himself, the water had completely cooled down. Clearly, there was only enough hot water left for one "person".

Lin Yuan thought about it:

Continuing to wash Antarctica with cold water would be intolerable for it. It would be better to dry Antarctica for now, and give it another bath tomorrow.

Thinking of this.

Lin Yuan began to gently wipe down Antarctica while humming a tune to soothe and comfort it:

"It's all just bubbles..."

Antarctica appeared to have lost all hope, passively allowing Lin Yuan's manipulations.

What ill intentions could a cute little dog have?



His mother called from downstairs:

“It looks like the water heater is broken. Lin Xuan, call someone to repair it tomorrow. You guys should skip the bath for today!”

“Thank God I didn’t bathe.” Big Yaoyao’s voice of relief.

“I’ve already taken my pants off, and you tell me this!” His sister exclaimed in frustration.

Zoom Zoom.

Lin Yuan took out the hairdryer, drying Antarctica, and simultaneously blowing away the foam behind its ears; all the while continuing to sing:

“I should’ve known it was only bubbles, fragile to touch, just like your wounded heart, silently suffering...”

Chapter 533: How Can We Even Compare?

It was the next day.

Lil Goodoong drove Lin Yuan to the Music Center.

Lin Yuan sat in the back seat, looking at his phone.

Many online were discussing today’s competition:

“The competition is about to start!”

“The challenge match! The challenge match!”

“Today’s match is intense, it’s all filled with the Kings and Queens of Singing along with the Fish Legion!”

“The Fish Legion probably can’t hold up today.”

“Not necessarily, there might be a chance that the Fish Legion defeats the Kings and Queens of Singing.”

“Speaking of which, is Prince of Lanling considered part of the Fish Legion?”

“In terms of image, Prince of Lanling is not a fish, but fundamentally, he is still a fish, because all of the new songs he has performed in the competition so far were written by Xian Yu!”

“Pfft.”

“Hahaha, Huasheng, you’ve found a blind spot!”

“...”

Reading this,

Lin Yuan suddenly sneezed.

Lil Goodoong, who was driving, said, “Mr. Lin, are you cold? I’ll close the windows.”

“A little.”

Lin Yuan replied subconsciously.

However, as Lin Yuan’s voice sounded, both he and Lil Goodoong halted.

Hoarse!

Lin Yuan’s voice was very hoarse!

Gu Dong was anxious, hurriedly closing the windows: “Boss, what’s wrong with your throat?”

“Cough.”

Lin Yuan cleared his throat, only to realize there was a sense of indisposition in his throat. He took a sip of water and it actually hurt when swallowing.

“Could it be that you are catching a cold?”

“It seems so.”

Still very hoarse.

Lin Yuan couldn’t help but recall the water outage last night, his head started to ache.

He had forcefully bathed in somewhat cool water last night, he didn’t feel anything wrong at the time, but who knew he could end up catching a cold the day after!

A cold wasn’t a big deal.

With Lin Yuan’s current physical condition, a minor cold would not affect his condition much.

But the problem with his throat was significant-

He had to sing today!

Lil Goodoong started to panic: “Should I go and buy some cold medicine for you- But there’s no use in taking cold medicine either, your throat wouldn’t be able to recover in such a short time, what to do about today’s competition?”

“Don’t worry.”

Lin Yuan calmly reassured, then called out to the system in his heart: “What happened to the promised healthy body?”

The system bleeped:

“The host was previously reminded that common colds are beyond the purview of the system’s warranty.”

Lin Yuan felt helpless.

The system indeed reminded him before.

He was negligent this time.

No matter how skilled a singer is, it won’t help if your throat is uncomfortable.

Also, this body was indeed very healthy. It was so healthy that Lin Yuan didn’t realize he was falling ill when he woke up.

If he had known, he would have heated the water for Antarctica the night before.

He maintained calmness: “Is there a way to remedy this?”

With this throat, his performance would inevitably be affected. It would indeed be wrong if he were eliminated for this reason.

System:

“There are potions in the system store that can stabilize your throat but they won’t be able to help the host to recover, they can only alleviate the discomfort.”

“Anesthetics?”

“You can understand it that way. It can only deal with the host’s discomfort but it can’t repair a hoarse voice.”

“How much does it cost?”

“Ten thousand.”

“It’s that cheap?”

As he said this, there was a sudden pang of guilt in Lin Yuan’s heart.

But he didn’t have the luxury of time to worry about that, he could only take the potion from the system and try it at the right moment.

“Let me buy you some throat calming medicine.”

Upon parking at the Music Center’s car park, Lil Goodoong turned to look at Lin Yuan.

“No need.”

Lin Yuan took another sip of water: “It’s fine as long as I can just manage.”

“No!”

Lil Goodoong grew even more frantic: “Your voice is completely hoarse now, how about we just drop out of the competition, since you are a composer and you don’t rely on performing to make a living...”

“There’s always a way.”

Even with the discomfort in his throat, Lin Yuan continued: “I’m going up first.”

“Are you sure you’re alright?”

“I’m fine.”

Lin Yuan went upstairs—

How could he possibly be okay?

The cold had made his voice hoarse, even drinking water was painful let alone singing. Even his tone was affected.

In this condition, there were too many songs that Lin Yuan wouldn’t be able to perform well.

Like “I Surrender”.

For that kind of song, your voice had to be powerful but with his throat being hoarse, Lin Yuan couldn’t sing with that power.

There were no other methods.

Right now, he could only use the system’s potion to alleviate the discomfort in his throat. But as for song selection, he had to think hard for today...

Exiting the elevator,

Tongtong came over to meet him, with a cameraman following her: “Prince of Lanling, the rules have been explained to you, do you need to rehearse before the competition?”

“No need.”

Lin Yuan said.

He had already rehearsed what needed to be rehearsed during the last few days, he could go straight on stage to sing.

However—

The moment Lin Yuan opened his mouth, Tongtong froze.

In confirmation, she asked: “Prince of Lanling, is your voice a bit... hoarse?”

Because Lin Yuan had only said two words, she wasn’t sure if she had misheard.

“A minor... cold... cough...”

Lin Yuan coughed consecutively.

There weren’t other significant health issues.

Ever since he was a child, he was prone to illness, he would often exaggerate his condition whenever he felt sick.

Now, even though he obviously was catching a cold, except for the throat discomfort, there seemed to be no other symptoms.

“You call this a minor cold?”

When Tongtong heard his hoarse voice, she paled, how could he sing with such a hoarse voice?

“I’ll have someone come and put you on a drip!”

“No need.”

Lin Yuan glanced at the camera: “Besides, there’s no time.”

Filming was ongoing.

The live broadcast was about to start.

Tongtong clenched her teeth: "I'll go discuss with the director, to have you go on stage last."

Lin Yuan waived his hand: "Let's just go with the rules of the competition."

"But..."

"Teacher Prince of Lanling."

Pufferfish, who happened to be next to him, saw the Prince of Lanling, quickly greeted him, and then, as if afraid that her voice was too enthusiastic, she slightly lowered the end of her sentence which was involuntarily going upwards.

Lin Yuan said, "Hello."

"Your throat..." Pufferfish is very sensitive to voices.

Tongtong couldn't help saying, "Teacher Prince of Lanling has a cold, I don't know what to do about this episode, it will definitely affect his singing."

Pufferfish anxiously said: "Give him a shot!"

"No!"

Lin Yuan was startled.

He is not afraid of anything, but he is afraid of injections. He has a shadow as soon as he sees a needle. "I had a shot before I left the house."

Having said that.



Lin Yuan fled into his dressing room like escaping.

But not long after, Pufferfish actually brought a robot and a swan, as well as a mermaid over.

All from the first team.

Obviously, they also heard about Prince Lanling catching a cold, and losing his voice.

“Can you still sing?”

The swan anxiously asked.

Lin Yuan said, “I can.”

The robot stopped his antics and said, “Don’t push yourself.”

Pufferfish couldn’t help saying, “Did you really get an injection?”

“I did.”

Lin Yuan started speaking, actually this is not a question of injection or medicine, his body is fine.

The problem is his throat.

There is no medicine that can directly restore his voice.

“Today’s competition is not easy.”

The mermaid spoke softly, then looked at the TV on the wall: “The live broadcast has started.”

...

Yes.

The live broadcast has started.

On stage, An Hong has already started hosting, there are still seven hundred spectators on the scene, fifty judges, and the four grand judges of the last episode.

Live cheers!

On countless screens, the barrage from the audience has already started rushing:

“Here it comes!”

“This episode is definitely more exciting than the team match!”

“Fried fish...”

“The strength of the Fishmen group, among the twelve contestants, is indeed relatively weaker.”

“All the Kings and Queens of the four teams made it to the top twelve.”

“Overlord is invincible!”

“Support Lone Wolf!”

“Swan first!”

“Prince of Lanling, Keep going!”

“Looking forward to the Prince of Lanling failing this episode!”

“...”

An Hong started to introduce the competition rules.

At the same time, in front of countless audiences, the big screen started to draw lots to determine the order of the first round of PK:

Fat-Head Fish vs Prince of Lanling

Robot vs Revenge Goddess

Overlord vs Pufferfish

Swan vs Lone Wolf

Mermaid vs Daisy

Elfin vs Fishman

“Prince of Lanling is playing in the first round!”

“The robot is not lucky again, it met a top-level opponent!”

“The match between Swan and Lone Wolf seems to be a preview of the championship match, Teacher Lone Wolf is also one of the strongest championship contenders!”

“I hope Prince of Lanling runs into a King or Queen.”

“Just say you want to see Prince Lanling eliminated.”

“Prince of Lanling has met a King before, didn’t he still stay on stage?”

“Fat-Head Fish probably can’t beat Prince of Lanling.”

“...”

Although many fans of the singers were not pleased by Prince Lanling, they had to admit that the strength shown by Prince Lanling was stronger than that of Fat-Head Fish.

Just at this moment.

The program played some pre-recorded footage, including Prince Lanling getting a cold.

Suddenly!

The barrage became lively—

“Seriously?”

“Prince Lanling’s voice has gone hoarse!”

“So, does this mean he can’t use his three voices?”

“How can he compete then?”

“Hahaha, Prince Lanling has no chance this time!”

“Recommend Prince Lanling to rehearse ‘Bracing the Chill’ again, he might need it when he’s unveiled.”

“How did Prince Lanling catch a cold? His voice sounds wrong to me.”

“...”

At the same time.

The audience on stage also saw the situation backstage through the big screen, and the whole audience buzzed.

“Prince of Lanling’s voice is ruined!”

“He has a cold, it’s indeed likely for him to lose his voice.”

“God, the crucial thing is that the Prince of Lanling is to play in the first round!”

“This guy always surprises people, even his cold is unexpected!”

“He can’t even sing now!”

“...”

The judges looked at each other.

On the judges’ side, Yin Dong frowned, “This is bad.”

Zheng Jing shook her head: “It’s a pity to lose due to this reason, I feel that he can exchange moves with the King and Queen again.”

Ye Zhi Qiu smiled bitterly: “This situation is not encountered for the first time.”

Yang Zhongming did not speak.

In singing competitions, this situation does indeed have precedents and it greatly affects the performance of the singer.

But as a judge, you must remain impartial, and you can’t give sympathy points because of personal reasons of the contestant.

Poor guy...

Are you okay?

Yang Zhongming squinted slightly.

For a while.

People's emotions varied.

But whether it was schadenfreude, silent pity, or just watching the excitement, people's opinions about Prince Lanling are the same—

How can he compete?

Chapter 534: He Must Love You

On stage.

An Hong helplessly said, "Everyone must have noticed too. It seems that Teacher Prince of Lanling is having some minor issues with his physical condition. However, this is a competition and we hope that all singers will go all out without considering other issues. Let's warmly welcome the first singer of today, Teacher Fat-Head Fish!"

Applause rang out.

Fat-Head Fish took the stage, took a deep breath, then, holding the microphone, said:

"I'm sorry to see that Teacher Prince of Lanling is not feeling well, but I'll still deliver my best. This is not only a respect for the audience but also a respect for Teacher Wang!"

The judges nodded.

As competitors, they should give their all, no need to consider other things, after all, a competition never involves just one person.

Soon.

The singing began.

Fat-Head Fish was performing a lyrical song.

She seemed to be born for pop music. She was one of the few in the competition who was not good at high pitches, yet she made it to the top twelve.

...

Backstage area.

Lin Yuan was silently listening to his rival's singing. Suddenly, the corner of his mouth under the mask twitched slightly.

It was Xia Fan.

In the previous rounds, Lin Yuan hadn't recognized her.

But this time, Fat-Head Fish wanted to bring out her best and had to reveal her vocal features. She couldn't hide her identity by compromising her performance.

Advancing!

That's what matters the most!

Lin Yuan believed that even if Xia Fan knew that he was Lin Yuan, she would never go easy on him. That's just how they interact with each other.

The fact was.

Xia Fan certainly didn't go easy on him.

She performed very well in this competition!

Pop music might be criticized by some as lacking substance and being too commercialized, but there's no denying that pop music is popular because it resonates with the general public!

In everyday life.

Minor loves and minor affections.

Ordinary people embrace it.

Countless songs are about affairs between couples, even the famous Jane Eyre is also about the same theme, and yet, over the centuries, all works related to love never lack an audience.

...

Lin Yuan figured it out.

Many audiences figured it out too.

"This voice sounds familiar..."

"It's Xia Fan!"

"That's right, it's Xia Fan's voice!"

"Xia Fan singing pop music is absolutely stunning!"

"Her voice is so suited to this kind of music genre!"



“Fat-Head Fish must be Xia Fan, she can’t hide it anymore in this competition!”

“You can’t hide as you go on.”

“...”

When Xia Fan finished singing, the whole audience erupted in warm applause.

The song she sang was common Mandarin and the most seen pop music. It had no high notes, no complicated singing techniques, and even ordinary people could sing it in KTV.

It’s not a high bar.

It just told an ordinary love story of a couple, but this song about love moved many audiences at this moment. They didn’t hesitate to give their applause.

Who says singing must show off technical skills?

Who says stage performance requires high notes?

Pop music belongs to the public, and so does Fat-Head Fish’s voice. Her voice embodied countless people’s best impression of this type of song. What was amazing about Fat-Head Fish was that she brought out a flavor in those well-known pop songs that ordinary people absolutely couldn’t.

...

Tongtong gave a bitter smile, “It’s so pleasant to listen to.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Xia Fan was very stable on stage singing this song.

Yes.

She was just that steady.

The nature of this song might not be able to get particularly high scores, but as long as perfectly performed, the final score surely wouldn't be low.

This is pop music for the general public.

Lin Yuan quietly used the potion provided by the System. Although the potion couldn't help his throat recover immediately, it could at least prevent him from coughing uncontrollably while singing.

...

The comments would be made later. In this kind of one-on-one duel, the two singers had to sing one after another. So as Fat-Head Fish just finished her song, the host mentioned "Prince of Lanling".

"I'm going up."

Lin Yuan said, then walked onto the stage.

The venue was a little quiet.

Judges' seats.

Yang Zhongming suddenly said, "I won't pity you for losing your voice and give you a sympathy vote. The stage should still be judged based on the singer's performance."

"No problem."

This is what Lin Yuan wanted to see.

On the screen.

As Prince of Lanling stepped onto the stage, the comments started flooding the screen:

“Is he really going to sing?”

“Why doesn’t he just forfeit?”

“Can he still compete with this voice?”

“It’s so hoarse.”

“It feels even more hoarse than before he got on the stage.”

“....”

No one could imagine what song Prince of Lanling would sing under such circumstances.

Just at this moment.

The lights dimmed.

The song information appeared on the screen.

Song Title: “He Must Love You Very Much.”

Lyricist: Xian Yu

Composer: Xian Yu

Performed by: Prince of Lanling

Holding the microphone, Lin Yuan began to sing quietly:

“I’m hiding in the car

Champagne in hand

Wanting to surprise you

On your birthday...”

As soon as Lin Yuan’s voice emerged many members of the live audience were momentarily stunned as if punched by something.

The four judges also exchanged confused looks.

This voice...

It was quite hoarse!

But...

This hoarseness, when singing, somehow possessed an indescribable charm. It seemed as if this song was meant to be sung with such a raspy voice.

“You’re getting closer

Two voices can be heard

I was caught off guard

And stood there...”

Still that hoarse voice, but it carried an indescribable feeling, subtly stirred the audiences' hearts. The spectators seemed to see a man sitting in his car, helplessly watching his beloved woman with another man in front of his own eyes, while still having the birthday surprise for her in his hand...

Accompanied by a somber piano note.

Lin Yuan lowered his head slightly:

"I should have been under the car

Not sitting inside it

Seeing how sweet you two are

In this manner

It's easier for me to let go

Gives me the courage to walk away..."

In an instant!

The audience's faces changed!

The last two words from Prince of Lanling were hoarse to the point of near collapse. In the scenario presented by the song, the sorrowful feeling resonated with countless people. There were no high notes, but everyone clearly felt a sense of hysteria—

"He must love you very much

And has surpassed me

The breakup took just a minute

He must love you very much

Better at pleasing you than I

Won't be like me, acting childishly

Making things difficult for you..."

Upon reaching this part, the eyes of the audience were completely wide open, some even had their mouths agape. The melody of the music combined with this voice, brought about a sense of sorrow and helplessness after a breakup!

He can actually sing!

He really can sing!

No matter how raspy his voice became, it still brought about the most emotional impact to the song!

"Oh my god!"

"What kind of voice is that!"

"How can a hoarse voice sound so good?"

"How does he do that!"

"I never thought that a raspy voice could add so much charm to a song, this song is just stunning!"

"So magnetic!"

"Even though I haven't been drinking, I feel like I'm about to get drunk, this is the best husky voice I've ever heard!"

“...”

Welcome.

The song is “He Must Love You Very Much”, the classic work by the Earth singer A-do.

Mentioning a hoarse voice,

A-do is a name that everyone has to mention.

Because Lin Yuan’s voice was hoarse, he naturally thought of this song!

To be precise...

It’s quite hard for Lin Yuan to sing this song in his normal voice, but because his voice became hoarse, he could bring out the best performance of this song!

...

Backstage.

The other singers were also stunned.

The White Swan muttered, “That voice is just deadly!”

The Robot slapped his thighs, “It wouldn’t have worked without a hoarse voice!”

Pufferfish mumbled, “I didn’t know there were songs for hoarse voices!”

Mermaid bit her lip, “This song and his current voice are a match made in heaven...”

A match made in heaven!

Everyone thought that once Prince of Lanling lost his voice, his performance would suffer. But little did they know, after his voice became hoarse, he delivered such a song!

Stunned!

Completely overwhelmed!

Just now, Fat-Head Fish delivered a pop song about love, which had its own uniqueness. But now, Prince of Lanling also sang a pop song about love which wasn't just unique, but something rarely seen in the whole music industry—

It was a masterpiece!

Chapter 535: Challenge

Between flashes of light.

Lin Yuan put down the microphone.

The song was clearly over, but amidst the smooth piano music of the band, the sadness seemed to still be flowing, seeping into the hearts of countless audience members. All ears still seemed to hear his raspy, enchanting voice.

“Good Lord!”

“He lost his voice!”

“But it became stronger?”

“Can it get any better than this?”



“I cried uncontrollably. I am definitely going to download this song and listen to it a hundred times. I shouldn’t have been in the car, but under it. This is a perfect depiction of the day I caught my wife cheating.”

“Hang in there, brother!”

“Stay strong, bro!”

“There’s nothing to hang in there for, I also thought that it would be better if I was under the car back then. But what if they did something terrible in the car? I would have felt even worse.”

“...”

They were both popular love songs, portraying heartbreak, showcasing unique voices. But when the performances of Fat-Head Fish and Prince of Lanling were put together, there was no suspense as to what would happen next.

Splosh!

Upon the music ending, the entire venue broke into applause. To praise the voice of the Prince of Lanling, despite sounding hoarse from a cold yet singing persistently, and his unique voice that could be considered one of the most special on the stage.

“Good job!”

An Hong stepped onto the stage, and he brought a bottle of water for Prince of Lanling, a straw included. “Thank you, Prince of Lanling, for your performance. I never thought a singer could perform so strong even when he’s lost his voice. Do the four judges have anything to say?”

“Me!”

Ye Zhi Qiu was the first to speak up and even imitated a few lines of Prince of Lanling’s just performed song before helplessly saying, “I felt that Prince of Lanling’s tone wasn’t steady last time. It was just as choppy this time. People might have thought he was running out of breath, but this singing style perfectly conveys this song!”

“Too incredible!”

Zheng Jing was completely stunned: “We all thought that Prince of Lanling’s performance would be affected due to his voice, but I saw a resilient Prince of Lanling!”

“Awesome!”

Yin Dong was still expressionless.

Yang Zhongming smiled and said, “I said earlier that I wouldn’t have any sympathy points for you because of your voice. So, when I vote later, it will be because I really like this song. It’s a high-quality and extremely successful commercial song. The lyrics, the melody, and singing tone are all perfectly melded together!”

Positive comments!

All positive comments!

Of course, all four judges also complemented Fat-Head Fish’s performance. The problem was, her performance was overshadowed by Prince of Lanling. Therefore, when the scores were announced, she undeniably lost.

“Great job!”

Despite the loss, Fat-Head Fish was not heartbroken. She handled it very gracefully, as making it to the final twelve was already her limit. She knew it would be tough to turn the table in the future challenges unless she competes with Prince of Lanling again...

But she didn’t want to.

She simply acknowledged the loss.

Back in his own lounge, Lin Yuan finally breathed a sigh of relief. Tongtong at his side quickly served him tea and even gave him a massage. “Prince of Lanling, your performance was amazing tonight, your raspy voice was killer!”

Lin Yuan didn’t say anything.

Good thing he had prepared plenty of songs in advance, or this round would have been tough.

The next matches were brutal:

Robot lost to Revenge Goddess, Lone Wolf to White Swan, Mermaid to Daisy, Elf beat Fishman, and Overlord defeated Pufferfish.

Among them,

The most surprising was the Mermaid, whose scores nearly matched Daisy’s. Daisy is a well-known singer from the second team. Despite her relatively weaker skills, it’s very commendable for Mermaid to push her to such extremes!

Of course,

The King-Queen matches between Robot and Revenge Goddess and Lone Wolf and White Swan were equally splendid. The breathtaking extent of these matches was completely in line with the standards of this competition.

...

According to the competition rules, the victorious singers have to accept the challenge of the losers. So, right after the first round, everyone was called back to the stage, with the winners and losers each occupying half of the stage.

In an instant,

All eyes returned to Prince Lanling. He won the first round, but his voice was clearly problematic. Looking at the lineup of the winners:

Overlord!

Elf!

Daisy!

White Swan!

Revenge Goddess!

Regardless of how you look at it, the Prince of Lanling seems to be the easiest singer to challenge. The singers' gazes became somewhat complicated, considering that in their ranks they have the likes of Lone Wolf and the Robot, both Kings of Singing.

"It's over!"

"Prince of Lanling!"

"The four singers who lose this round will surely choose Prince of Lanling. The song he just sang was very sneaky, so sneaky that he practically can't repeat the miracle from the first round!"

"..."

The audience was busy discussing.

Host Anhong smiled and said, "Singers, please choose your opponent. I must emphasize that challengers can't pick the same singer, because ganging up isn't fair either. We can let the singer who scored higher in the previous round go first. First off, we invite to the stage, Teacher Lone Wolf!"

"Overlord."

The moment Lone Wolf spoke out, the entire venue gasped.

Instead of choosing the seemingly weakest Prince of Lanling, Lone Wolf has chosen the outwardly strongest Overlord...

So bold!

Even Anhong was taken by surprise.

He laughed and said: "This is indeed an unexpected choice. Teacher Overlord's opponent in the next round is Teacher Lone Wolf. So, the next singer to choose is Teacher Mermaid!"

"Daisy."

The Mermaid spoke up.

Again, she didn't pick Prince Lanling but chose Daisy instead, the singer who caused her near-defeat in the previous round. Even the female singer is feisty, going straight for the top female vocalist!

The spot burst into cheers!

Anhong's smile grew bigger: "It seems that our Teacher Mermaid is a little upset about her loss to Teacher Daisy. So, how will the next three singers choose?"

"Revenge Goddess."

The Robot glanced at the Prince of Lanling, gritted his teeth, and spoke. He was from the first team; he didn't want to make it hard for the Prince of Lanling.

"Elf, I guess."

Pufferfish glanced at the Prince of Lanling, too, then laughed and said, "I know I don't have much of a chance, but I hope that Teacher Prince Lanling can keep going."

“...”

When Fat-Head Fish decisively chose White Swan, the Fishman looked left and right in confusion, stunned.

No one was left.

Only him and the Prince of Lanling remained.

Facing this outcome, the audience and netizens were all dumbfounded:

“Goodness!”

“No one picked the Prince of Lanling?”

“This round is clearly tailored for choosing the Prince of Lanling!”

“I suddenly realized that this group of fish is actually very united.”

“Yeah, none of them want to eliminate the Prince of Lanling.”

“The Robot too, he must know that choosing the Prince of Lanling is the most promising option, but the result...”

“Fishman seems to have had no choice. Otherwise, I suspect he wouldn’t have chosen the Prince of Lanling either.”

“...”

This outcome defied many people’s expectations!

No one knew what this group of fish was thinking!

The real reason...

Perhaps we will only know when they reveal their faces.

Chapter 536: We are the Yu Dynasty

It has to be said, the defeated side's lineup was virtually a suicidal attack, with little suspense—

Lone Wolf lost.

He chose the Overlord, and the Overlord once again demonstrated his dominance on this stage by defeating Lone Wolf.

The Robot lost.

His competitor was the Revenge Goddess, the most regrettable round, because the Robot had won with votes, but the Revenge Goddess was added a hundred votes from her first-round victory.

Pufferfish lost.

She chose the Elf, and the Elf, as the Music Queen, had unquestionable ability to tackle first-tier singers.

Fat-Head Fish lost too.

The White Swan just put forward a normal performance, crushing Fat-Head Fish with the number of votes.

But miraculously!

The Mermaid won!

With her identity as a first-tier singer, she defeated Daisy, the Music Queen. Even the addition of a hundred votes couldn't avoid her ultimate defeat!

At this moment!

Everyone knew that although the Mermaid was still first-tier, her future upgrading to the Music Queen was almost unstoppable!

Finally.

It was Fishman's and Prince of Lanling's turn. Their duel was forced, but when it was time for Fishman to go on stage, he suddenly looked back at Prince of Lanling.

An Hong : "Fishman Teacher."

Fishman laughed and said: "Even if I win this round by luck, I will surely lose the next one. So I want to seize this rare opportunity to sing a song that had a great significance to my life. Perhaps when this song is sung, everyone can guess my identity, but I have decided to sing this song loudly since I decided to participate in 'The Masked Singer'. With this song, I also want to thank someone!"

What song?

Thank who?

All questions were answered as the classic song "Red Roses" started playing, touching many people's hearts. At this moment, Fishman's identity was almost revealed—

Sun Yaohuo!

He sang this song!

He was paying tribute to Xian Yu.

The person he wanted to thank!



Was undoubtedly Xian Yu!

No one knew it.

This song was once nearly taken away from Sun Yaohuo.

Nobody knew what kind of hope those words, “Go record the song,” gave him in the darkness and icy despair.

After finishing the song.

He quietly bowed and retreated off the stage.

He still complied with the rules of the show and did not remove his mask, even though at this moment, his identity was almost obvious.

Lin Yuan listened quietly.

The familiar “Red Roses”.

The familiar Senior Yao Huo.

I heard him.

Lin Yuan suddenly remembered that he had a mission to help Senior Yao Huo become the King of Singing.

Perhaps this task, he should put it on the agenda now.

Thinking this way.

Lin Yuan also stepped onto the stage.

An Hong looked at Lin Yuan with a smile: “Is there anything Teacher Prince of Lanling would like to say at this moment?”

“Sing a song.”

Lin Yuan was still not fond of talking.

The host had no choice but to leave the stage.

The comments were flooding in:

“Prince of LanLing: You, get down.”

“Prince of LanLing: Don’t think I didn’t know you were laughing at my words earlier.”

“Back to the point, do you guys think Prince of Lanling has a chance in this round?”

“It depends on the song.”

“Can he bring out a song like ‘He Must Love You Very Much’ with a hoarse singing style?”

“It’s tough.”

“...”

The music started.

Lin Yuan looked at the audience below the stage and softly sang:

“It doesn’t matter

Who falls in love with whom

It doesn't matter

Who lets whom down

The past happiness

Is fleeting beauty

After experiencing happiness

We will suffer..."

It was still a love song, and still that raspy voice, but this time it seemed even raspier. Some notes completely collapsed, the audience widened their eyes:

"Holy (expletive)!"

"It's really there!"

"Again this kind of song that is so raspy you can hardly hear, but it won't work without the raspiness!"

"But, it sounds good!"

"Think about it carefully, the song would seem tasteless without the hoarseness, it's even raspier than the previous one!"

"How exceptional!"

"Oh my God!"

“Wait a minute, this song... doesn’t it sound like Prince of Lanling is pouring out his feelings about his current situation?”

“Yeah now that you mention it, it sure does!”

“Doesn’t matter?”

“Is it about not caring about the mockery, or what?”

“...”

No one knew whether the Prince of Lanling was pouring out about his situation or not, he seemed to be just singing a love song, but also seemed to be doing more than just that:

“Right or wrong

Don’t say it so absolutely anymore

Yes or no

Don’t say I have no regrets again

If it’s shattered, then let it be shattered

Who wants perfection anyway

Only by letting go of myself

I can soar high...”

The judges looked at each other, then simultaneously stared hard at the lyrics of the song, a thoughtful expression appeared—

At the same time.

All the audience were also staring hard at the lyrics on the big screen.

Is this really a love song?

Why does it so strongly resemble all the portrayals of Prince of Lanling's experience in the competition?

Just like the lyrics:

Because of the obsession with right and wrong, he suffered countless insults; because of the pursuit of perfection, he experienced numerous controversies...

And now?

He decided not to dwell on these things anymore?

Lin Yuan continued to sing,

“Doesn't matter doesn't matter

Forgiving all the wrongs in this world

Doesn't matter

I don't care

Why let yourself go through the painful cycle...”

Although his voice still occasionally collapsed due to hoarseness, his singing didn't lose its expressive nature, just like the last song, you can't sing this feeling without a hoarse voice. By the third time, Lin Yuan's voice was half-real and half-fake, which was a high-level falsetto skill. Lin

Yuan's voice was hoarse and he could not support the whole song, but this song only needed such falsetto once.

"I don't care."

His song was over.

But...

The thought this song left in the audience's mind was not over.

Chapter 537: We are the Yu Dynasty \_2

Don't care?

Does he really don't care?

Or is he deceiving himself with love?

Or perhaps...

Is the Prince of Lanling telling everyone, that even if his voice is hoarse, he doesn't care?

Can he still sing?

Or maybe...

Is this song a response to the previous one?

He must love you very much.

This line is self-consolation.

Not caring is seemingly an easy self-relief, in reality, it's just self-deception.

Moreover, it's like a response to the public controversies.

"I don't care."

The people who have said this line.

How many of them are sincere?

How many meanings does Prince of Lanling's "Don't care" contain?

No one knows.

But at the end of this song, the applause was very enthusiastic.

The bullet chat was brushing:

"This round should be won."

"Even with a hoarse voice, he managed to present two new songs that require a hoarse voice to tackle, and both are of high quality. There's no reason not to advance."

"What a great song "Don't care"!"

"I'm not sure whether he truly doesn't care. If there were no messy things, I'd think this is a love song for self-catharsis. But considering these matters, who knows what he doesn't care about?"

"..."

The audience's discussions have no answers, and the Prince of Lanling also doesn't seem to have the habit of explaining what his songs are expressing.

But!

When it came to the voting part, he won.

Along with a hoarse voice and two stand-out songs, he won this round of the competition and got the ticket to the subsequent matches.

Later.

The six singers who were defeated began to unmask.

...

Lone Wolf was the first to unmask.

He is a King of Singing from Qi Continent.

Then Daisy unmasked.

She's a Queen of Singing from Qi Continent.

The two glanced at each other and seemed to recognize each other.

Robot unmasked.

From somewhere of Chu Continent, he's one of the Kings of Singing.

Next.

Fat-Head Fish unmasked.

Without speculation, it was Xia Fan.



Fishman unmasked, also without doubt, it was Sun Yaohuo.

And when Pufferfish unmasked—

A lot of online users guessed correctly, and it just confirmed the judges' guess when she was singing her first song.

Zhao Ying Ge.

Sun Yaohuo laughed, "Finally, I don't have to wear the mask. Actually, I wanted to say why they've left the Prince of Lanling for me. I wanted to choose Revenge Goddess."

Everyone laughed.

An Hong couldn't help being curious, "Why did none of you want to choose Prince of Lanling? Did you think that he couldn't perform at full strength due to his hoarse voice, so winning against him would not be an honorable victory?"

"No."

Xia Fan laughed, "I was thinking, netizens say we are Teacher Admirable Fish's harem. Since we are the harem, we can't get defeated collectively at this time, so an internal faction is impossible. At this moment, I particularly hope that Teacher Prince of Lanling can continue with the support of Teacher Admirable Fish."

Sun Yaohuo immediately said, "That's exactly what I thought!"

"I probably also have the same thought..."

Zhao Ying Ge hesitated for a moment, "Among us, Prince of Lanling is the strongest, of course, the Mermaid is also really terrifying, Teacher Admirable Fish's harem isn't destroyed yet."

Zhao Ying Ge is very clear:

If the Mermaid loses, it would probably mean the harem's destruction...

Prince of Lanling could very well be Teacher Admirable Fish.

An Hong humorously said, "Can you guys really stick together?"

Is it a coincidence?

Though it wasn't prearranged, you group of descendants surprisingly are on the same page. No wonder everyone avoided Prince of Lanling during the challenge round. You'd rather lose the competition to keep Admirable Fish's possibly strongest seed.

The audience broke into laughter.

Teacher Admirable Fish's harem momentarily dominated the competition's topic.

These fishes certainly did cross paths in the competition!

But...

As these few people have mentioned.

They avoided Prince of Lanling in hopes that he will continue competing. Because this group of fishes knew, Prince of Lanling is stronger than them!

Continue competing.

There remains the hope to achieve better results!

In this situation, the bunch of fishes thought of self-sacrifice.

“So, the person Teacher Sun Yaohuo wants to thank is exactly as we thought, Teacher Admirable Fish...”

“Yes.”

Sun Yaohuo looked at the camera, seriously saying, “Before singing “Red Roses”, I was just an unknown singer. At that time, a top singer took to this work, he wanted to sing it, I couldn’t compete with him. But Teacher Admirable Fish did something I will never forget in my life, he rejected that top singer, he said, since the song was given to me, he wouldn’t give it to others. You may not be able to imagine, I was alone in the bathroom, crying. Teacher Admirable Fish takes care of the small singers. I can straightly say, my promotion, Jiang Kui’s and Zhao Ying Ge’s till Xia Fan’s basic entry into the music scene are all due to the support of Teacher Admirable Fish, at that time, we were nobodies in the music scene...”

Zhao Ying Ge couldn’t resist, “I am the champion of “Bloom”!”

Sun Yaohuo switched, “Then it’s me and Xia Fan...”

Xia Fan couldn’t resist, “I am the champion of ‘Bloom’!”

Sun Yaohuo: “...”

You... sisters!

Zhao Ying Ge wickedly disrupted, “I remembered that the championship song of the competition that year Xia Fan sung was “Initial Dream” which was created by Teacher Admirable Fish.”

Xia Fan covered her face.

Zhao Ying Ge’s smile lit up, “But we admit to this fact. Let’s not talk about being descendants, I actually quite like when everyone says we are Teacher Admirable Fish’s harem.”

“Can I say something?”

The Mermaid on stage couldn’t resist anymore!

You guys have already started flattering. As someone young, I can't stand this anymore!

Chapter 538: We are the Yu Dynasty\_3

"Of course."

An Hong laughed as he found the whole scene amusing.

The Mermaid exclaimed, "I do enjoy being referred to as part of Teacher Admirable Fish's harem, and I admit that my transformation into a mermaid is due to my love for Teacher Admirable Fish. However, I hope that Teacher Admirable Fish's Harem Group could show a bit more mettle!"

"Our abilities are limited!"

Sun Yaohuo boldly admitted.

The Mermaid got angry at his indifference, "Are you forgetting about me and the Prince of Lanling? We are still the voices of Teacher Admirable Fish on this stage. We will shine because Teacher Admirable Fish illuminates us! There will be a day, when they will no longer call us Teacher Admirable Fish's Harem Group, but instead refer to us as..."

"The Yu Dynasty!"

After a brief moment of silence, the audience burst into thunderous applause.

...

The judges' box.

Zheng Jing covered her mouth, "This little fish is incredible. Not only is he handsome, but...Oh, I shouldn't be revealing information about this little guy."

Yin Dong chuckled, "Being able to win over the hearts of all the singers you have worked with is not something that every Maestro can do."

Ye Zhi Qiu joked, “How come I don’t have a Ye Dynasty? If I’d known, I would have cultivated one too. Does Ol’ Yang have one?”

Yang Zhongming indifferently responded, “I am the dynasty.”

The other three Maestros, “...”

Yang Zhongming coughed slightly, “But I can’t sing.”

Huh?

The others did not understand what he meant.

We are maestros; of course we can’t sing.

...

Downstairs.

Sun Yaohuo got pumped up, “How about we all shout a slogan together? Prince of Lanling, join us!”

The crowd, “...”

Such a bootlicker!

So many people are watching. Isn’t it too embarrassing?

Sun Yaohuo didn’t seem to think that he was a bootlicker. He proclaimed, “We are...”

“The Yu Dynasty!!!!”

The voices of the Mermaid, Sun Yaohuo, Zhao Ying Ge, Xia Fan and an obviously reluctant voice of Prince of Lanling...

And.

There was also the voice of the perpetual second-place finisher watching from his screen.

Alright.

Even though it was embarrassing, once shouted out loud, everyone felt an unusual sensation in their hearts.

It's peculiar.

“Thump.”

On stage.

Mr. Overlord's chair suddenly fell over.

“Mr. Overlord...”

The surrounding singers were startled.

Mr. Overlord patted his butt, coughed, “I'm fine, you guys carry on...”

Just a harem.

Nonsense about the Yu Dynasty.

Sooner or later your dynasty will fall.

I'm sweating bullets in fright.

Behind his mask, Mr. Overlord rolled his eyes dramatically.

...

Meanwhile, the live chat on the internet had been exploding ever since Xianyu's Harem Group started revealing their identities-

"Oh my goodness!"

"Long live Fish Daddy!"

"Damn, the Yu Dynasty is awesome!"

"One must admit, the group of singers that Fish Daddy has nurtured surely has the potential to form a dynasty!"

"The Mermaid girl is already standing tall, even the top singers have been beaten!"

"The other fish are also really powerful! Making it into the top 12 is a big deal!"

"This Prince of Lanling is also very ruthless. Don't know who he is, must be recently favored by Fish Daddy. Anyway, he is also a member of the Yu Dynasty. Once again, Fish Daddy's taste is really 'brutal'."

"Why am I getting teary?"

"The seeds that Fish Daddy sowed in the music industry have unbeknownst grown into towering trees!"

"There is also a Yu Dynasty in the composing industry. Those apprentices of Fish Daddy who excel in composing..."

“This is the first time I heard the backstory of Fish Daddy. So this is how Sun Yaohuo rose to his position. I think I understand why Fish Daddy has such high charisma!”

“Damn, after watching all this, I don’t even think that the singers are that impressive, only one sentence is in my mind—”

What is it?

Xian Yu is the best!

Chapter 539: Hesitation

Too thrilling!

Too shocking!

For the audience!

This is a memorable scene!

Xianyu’s harem group actually made it to the top twelve of “The Masked Singer” with their own strength!

Then!

In front of countless audiences from Qin, Qi, Chu and Yan, they issued a deafening declaration:

We are Xianyu’s Harem Group!

We want to become the Yu Dynasty!

If a group of singers said such a thing in other occasions, the audience would simply laugh it off;



If this group of singers was eliminated by other singers early on, the audience would still find it interesting;

But they almost all made it to the top twelve...

Even the top six!

We can confidently say this!

All the singers who could make it to the top twelve or even the top six in “The Masked Singer” are terrifying on Blue Star—

Competing on the same stage with the King and Queen of Singing!

Even defeating their opponents!

Is there a more dazzling medal of honor than this?

So at this moment, the netizens are excited and even crazy:

“Fish Daddy, look at the territory you dominated!”

“Yu Dynasty, it indeed has that flavor.”

“These fish under Fish Daddy’s protection, all of them are the seedlings of future King and Queen of Singing.”

“Mermaid already has the strength of a Queen of Singing, she is likely Jiang Kui, I can’t think of any other female singer who respects Fish Daddy this much, last year, Teacher Admirable Fish was fighting wildly with Jiang Kui in the Battle of the Gods!”

“No wonder Mermaid made it to the top six!”

“It turns out that Mermaid defeated countless past Kings and Queens of Singing with Fish Daddy!”

“When the harem group unveiled themselves, they directly stole the spotlight from others like Robot...”

“I’m curious about who Prince of Lanling could be!”

“This person seems to have appeared out of thin air, has he ever collaborated with Fish Daddy in any songs before?”

“...”

Netizens have guessed Prince of Lanling’s identity.

But it’s really hard to guess.

There are some clues for other singers.

Only this Prince of Lanling, seems to have sprung out of a rock!

The moment he appeared on this stage, he became an endless topic of discussion, and stormed into the top six, even a hoarse throat in this issue couldn’t bring him down...

Whoa...

The livestream isn’t even over yet.

The entire internet is already starting to discuss.

Trending topics on social platforms and blogs are all about the ongoing episode of “The Masked Singer”:

#XianyusHaremUnveiling#

#WeAreTheFishDynasty#

#SunYaohuoAndRedRose#

#MermaidInTopSix#

#FishDaddy#

Besides, the songs performed on the stage are also being discussed endlessly.

Among them, Prince of Lanling's husky voice is the most surprising.

Not the best of the whole show.

But definitely the most sensational!

"He Must Love You Very Much" rendered in a unique singing style received unanimous praise.

A song called "Indifferent", many people interpret its meaning, some consider it as Prince of Lanling's response to public controversy.

At this moment on the stage.

As Lin Yuan shouted out "We are the Yu Dynasty" along with them, he suddenly felt a peculiar sensation in his heart.

Perhaps...

This isn't too bad.

This is your declaration.

But I said it too.

So why not try making this declaration come true?

...

The competition concluded amid applause from the audience.

Backstage.

Tong Shuwen gathered the remaining six singers together, smiled and said, “Congratulations on making it to the top six, the finals are in the next episode, hope you all prepare well.”

Everyone nodded.

Tong Shuwen continued, “Then the rules for the finals are still pair-ups. This time we can tell you who your opponents are in advance, this is the result of random matching...”

Everyone looked at Tong Shuwen.

Knowing in advance who your opponent is allows for targeted song selection. This new rule is quite interesting.

“I’ll announce it directly.”

Tong Shuwen pulled out a card: “The lineup for the next episode will be Overlord against Mermaid...”

Overlord was silent.

Mermaid was also silent.

Tong Shuwen continued: “And Swan against Elf...”

The rest did not need to be announced.

Prince of Lanling against Revenge Goddess.

But Tong Shuwen still repeated it once.

Revenge Goddess suddenly looked at Prince of Lanling, her eyes seemingly blazing.

The elf helplessly said, “Let’s not play games. I want to face Prince of Lanling...”

“Prince of Lanling is mine.”

Revenge Goddess and Overlord spoke almost simultaneously.

Swan was dazed.

Mermaid was stunned.

It’s normal for the elf to want to challenge Prince of Lanling, as he had criticized her before and she had been seeking revenge for her team.

But why was Overlord joining in the commotion?

It would seem that Prince of Lanling did not attack Overlord, right?

Unless...

The expressions behind the singers’ masks became somewhat interesting.

Overlord did not explain.

Lin Yuan didn't think anything of it.

Tong Shuwen joked, "Three rounds are not enough. Among the six singers next time, the one with the best performance will be spared by the four judges and advance directly to the final."

There were different reactions from the six singers.

Tong Shuwen continued to joke, "The three losers will be directly eliminated. There will be no chances for revival at this stage. The three winners, excluding the one who is spared, will compete with each other, and the winner will compete with the singer spared by judges. The ultimate winner will be the champion of the first 'The Masked Singer!'"

Everybody nodded in agreement.

This arrangement was quite reasonable.

The rules of this show have always been fair, with no unfair incidents occurring.

In fact, it's impossible to be unfair.

With so many Kings and Queens of singing gathered together, even A-list influence is terrifying. Who dare would the program group engage in shady dealings with?

Not to mention the Literature and Art Association's involvement.

The show ended, and all the singers left in their own directions.

At this time, Swan suddenly pulled Lin Yuan aside.

"What's up?"

"Add me as a friend later."

“Sure.”

“Also...”

“Please, speak your mind.”

“I’m actually a bit curious...”

Swan stared at Prince of Lanling, who she had been fond of since the beginning of the competition:  
“Is ‘Indifferent’ truly just a love song?”

Lin Yuan just smiled and didn’t answer.

However, from Prince of Lanling’s reaction, Swan faintly found her answer. She sighed softly and said,

“I once felt the same way...”

But Lin Yuan didn’t hear.

He had already left.

In fact, he couldn’t clearly express the emotions he felt while singing ‘Indifferent’.

Perhaps...

He was indeed affected by the external controversy.

It is said that masked people cannot speak the truth.

But when Lin Yuan wore the mask, he felt that he heard a lot of truths.

These were words he rarely heard when not wearing a mask, when he interacted with others as Lin Yuan.

Then he realized,

That there are a lot of words that people don't like to hear.

That there are a lot of things that people don't care about.

Even if he told the truth.

So what?

They didn't care.

Then should he...

Stop caring?

Chapter 540: Changes

Evening.

Home.

From afar, Lin Yuan heard his sister giving a speech: "Our very own Prince of Lanling is so amazing, his voice is hoarse but he can still sing so well..."

Lin Yao: "Sister, I watched the competition."

Lin Xuan: "Pretend you didn't, and listen to me...I look towards the distant mountains... Ah no, I'm off track..."



“Woof!”

Antarctica barked at Lin Yuan.

Lin Xuan turned her head: “Our brother is back, do you want to listen to me too?”

Lin Yuan went upstairs.

Antarctica followed.

Lin Xuan pouted her lips, and continued to chat with her sister.

Upstairs.

In his bedroom, Lin Yuan turned the faucet on and, finding the water temperature acceptable, knew that the water heater had been repaired during the day.

“Time for a bath.”

Lin Yuan looked at Antarctica.

Antarctica had not rinsed off last night’s shower gel, and was all covered in foam.

Lin Yuan had to dry him off roughly.

Antarctica hesitated for a moment, but obediently lay still.

After the bath, Lin Yuan dried Antarctica once more before lying on his bed to play with his phone.

He mostly checked out online comments about the latest competition.

This had become Lin Yuan's leisure activity.

Soon.

Lin Yuan spotted a trending topic.

There was a topic initiated by someone named [Winter Bear Sauce]. The title read:

“Prince of Lanling has stopped speaking, not because he has lost his voice, but because some people have choked him silent.”

Winter Bear Sauce, the initiator, first gave their own commentary:

“It's a bit sorrowful that in recent episodes Prince of Lanling has spoken less and less, and he no longer comments on the performances of other singers. I initially thought he had forgotten or that the production crew simply didn't give him any screen time to comment, but it wasn't until I heard his song today that I realized he's just tired.”

“Look at the lyrics of ‘It Doesn't Matter.’

“On the surface, it's a love song, but actually, it's telling his inner thoughts.”

“Right or wrong isn't declared so absolutely anymore; true or false, I no longer say I don't regret, shattered but what need for perfection, I can soar only when I let go of myself, forgiving the world for all its wrongs, why let oneself go through painful reincarnation...”

“Indeed.”

“There are too many accusations. Each time he opens his mouth, controversy arises. Some understand and accept his critiques, like Zhao Ying Ge and Illaoi (who has come around), and some, like Yuan Xi (likely the Revenge Goddess), and their fans, are fiercely incensed. It's a thankless task. After commenting on the third team, Prince of Lanling has no longer discussed other singers. He's been silenced by the criticisms, and the world has lost another person who dares to speak truth.”

“...”

This analysis got a lot of agreement.

“Just like the lyrics of his song, Prince of Lanling strives for perfection, so that’s why he points out what he sees as inadequate, but sadly, no one likes to hear it.”

“Some people are obsessed with right or wrong, so others see them as too serious.”

“Everyone likes a genuine person, but nobody wants to be that person.”

“The Masked Singer is also part of the entertainment circle, and people there dislike such an approach. If he continues like this, he won’t have any friends. But I really like someone like Prince of Lanling.”

“It’s simply a matter of perspective.”

“We have no vested interest, we simply feel Prince of Lanling is great. But some fans can’t tolerate anyone criticizing their idols even if the comments are reasonable. It seems the majority of those jumping up and down are fans. Passersby, even if they don’t like Prince of Lanling, don’t say anything too harsh.”

“...”

On the other hand, there are many who disagree:

“Just a love song, don’t read so much into it. He shut up for only one reason: he’s scared.”

“Public pressure is huge. Wearing a mask, he doesn’t care, but what about when he takes it off?”

“His unmasking is due next episode and he knows to behave virtuously now. As for what storm awaits him once his identity is revealed, who needs to speculate?”

“Too late now, he’s offended too many people. Even if he wanted to backtrack, it’s impossible, he will definitely be overwhelmed.”

“After the unmasking, he will face a barrage.”

“...”

There were also some arguments.

“Once Prince of Lanling takes his mask off, I’ll attack him. I’m a fan of Illaoi.”

“Stop pretending, you’re an Illaoi fan, huh? All your posts are about Yuan Xi.”

“Your idol hasn’t said anything, yet you guys are anxious.”

“We’ve been anxious for a long time, isn’t Prince of Lanling also scared silent?”

“...”

Such arguments never cease.

Lin Yuan shook his head, put down his phone, and suddenly lost interest in browsing the internet.

However, the post did remind Lin Yuan of something.

Recently, he really hadn’t commented on any other singers. That realization almost made him subconsciously put this into practice. He never thought why he was avoiding commenting...

Was it because he had nothing to say?

No.

Just that subconsciously, it seemed unnecessary to say too much.

Was it because he was afraid of being surrounded by those who disliked him after unmasking?

No, not that either.

Lin Yuan has never been afraid of a barrage.

Lin Yuan suddenly remembered the fans who had come a long way to the music center that day, just to shout “Good luck!” at him.

They were fighting for him online.

Until now, the fight hadn’t completely stopped.

If he stopped speaking.

Everybody wouldn’t have to fight anymore.

In fact, it seemed to be the case.

Because he hadn’t said anything controversial over the last few episodes, the comments seemed more harmonious.

People would still bicker from time to time.

But at least it was much quieter.

Until it completely vanishes.

So...

Maybe it's better to just not care.

It turns out that he was still a peace-loving individual after all. With this thought, Lin Yuan felt that he had let go of his resentment.

But in the following days, he suddenly felt lethargic, and even a little stifled for no reason.

He didn't want to practice singing or talk.

Even his family didn't notice that Lin Yuan had damaged his throat.

Ultimately, Lin Yuan didn't talk much to begin with, so even if he went a day without speaking, no one would find it strange.

His sister, though, seemed to sense Lin Yuan's low mood and started behaving much better. At meal times, she quietly ate quite a lot of vegetables—

Every day their mother would make small portions of vegetable dishes as a daily task for Lin Yuan and Big Yaoyao.

It was absolutely necessary to finish them within a day.

If it weren't for Antarctica secretly helping out, Lin Yuan and Big Yaoyao would have trouble managing.

And so it went.

Several days passed.

Lin Yuan's throat had finally improved significantly, no longer posing a risk for the competition, and the atmosphere of the finals had begun to subtly pervade.

Online.

Discussions on “The Masked Singer” were multiplying, almost reaching the pinnacle since the start of the competition!

At the same time.

In the singer support rankings for The Masked Singer, there were now only six singers left.

The top four were the singing kings and queens.

Fifth place was The Mermaid.

And the Prince of Lanling had the lowest ranking.

This wasn’t particularly surprising, after all.

Everyone had higher hopes for the singing kings and queens.

However, what was strange was...

The Prince of Lanling’s support ratings, even compared with The Mermaid’s, were significantly lower.

Lin Yuan thought this was just normal.

Until he was getting ready to leave for the competition venue and heard his sister complaining,

“Those singers’ fans are so annoying, purposely voting for the top five singers and refusing to vote for the Prince of Lanling. The Prince of Lanling originally had the fifth highest support ratings, but they managed to drag him down to sixth. And it’s not just that, why do they even bother voting so many times for the top five, making the Prince of Lanling’s data look so bad!”

Sometimes.

The tree wants peace, but the wind will not cease.

Lin Yuan didn't say anything, he just got into Gu Dong's car and headed for the competition venue.

Gu Dong, who was wearing a mask to cover his face, said, "We're entering through the main entrance today. The show's filming will start as soon as we get out of the car."

Lin Yuan just grunted in acknowledgment and closed his eyes to rest.

Twenty minutes later.

The car was about to arrive.

Looking out the car window, Lin Yuan saw a diverse crowd and various support banners.

There were those of the Overlord.

There were those of the Swan.

There were those of the Revenge Goddess.

There were those of The Mermaid.

There were those of the Elf.

Of course, there were those of Lin Yuan's as well.

However, at a glance, the Prince of Lanling's support crowd was apparently the smallest of all, with the other singers' crowds being several times larger than his.

Lin Yuan said, "I must have offended a lot of people."



Gu Dong smirked, “You mean in terms of fan numbers? Then Mr. Lin really might not understand. You have quite a lot of fans, it just seems like the other singers have more fans because most of them were pre-arranged by the singers or their companies. Those companies knew about their participation in the competition, so they arranged all this to make a good show for the singers. Unlike our company, which had no idea you were taking part in the competition. If they did, they might at least have helped you control some of the public opinion online, or arranged more support for you than for them...”

“Oh.”

Lin Yuan didn’t respond.

At that moment.

A stretch limousine appeared in the distance, moving pretty quickly, almost drifting. Then the Revenge Goddess got out of the car under the escort of her own bodyguards.

“Revenge Goddess!”

“Revenge Goddess!”

“Revenge Goddess!”

As the Revenge Goddess stopped to wave, her fans went wild and started screaming her name.

If it weren’t for the security guards holding them back, they seemed like they would rush into the hall.

Still, the momentum was quite overwhelming.

The Prince of Lanling’s support crowd was forcibly pushed to one side, with one person getting squeezed by the crowd and falling over.

Lin Yuan’s expression changed suddenly, and his eyes flashed with annoyance.

Seeing that the person was helped up by a friend before he completely fell over, Lin Yuan managed to calm down a little.

One of the girls raising a support banner accidentally got it squeezed out of her hand, and as a result, supporters of the other singers endlessly stepped over it.

The little girl was frantic.

When the crowd finally moved away, a few of the fans of the Prince of Lanling dared to run and pick up the dropped support banner, wiping off footprints and dusting it off.

“Thankfully they’re okay.”

Lil Goodoong, who was driving, had also seen what happened.

She almost rushed out to help them just now, it would have been a disaster if a stampede had occurred: “These people act like they have a death wish when they see a celebrity. The person just now should be injured, Mr. Lin, when you... hey...”

Turning her head, Lil Goodoong only then discovered that Lin Yuan had already gotten out of the car and was entering the venue under the protection of on-site security.

Lin Yuan, however, did not go in immediately.

He stood in an invisible spot at the entrance and suddenly looked back at his support crowd.

The little girl who had accidentally dropped her support banner was still fervently wiping the already clean banner, tears streaming down her face.

“Why aren’t you going in?”

The Swan had appeared from somewhere nearby and seemed to have sneaked in to avoid being mobbed by supports: “The company is always into doing these unnecessary things. Are you today...”

“It matters.”

Lin Yuan suddenly uttered these three words, then started walking towards Tongtong in the distance, leaving Swan with the view of his retreating figure.

It took Swan a while to react...

The Prince of Lanling was answering the question he asked last week.

The answer to that question...

Seemed to have changed?