

Superstar 1051

Chapter 1051: Attention and speculation from the industry!

On this Sunday morning, the lyrics of "Ms. Dong" and discussions about it could be seen all over the Internet. All over the country, any lady whose surname was Dong suddenly became popular without any warning! On the music platform that was working with Beijing Television, the single sung on the show, "Ms. Dong," had already broken 10 million plays. And this was merely 12 hours after the broadcast! The song Sunset Glow sang in her match against this "Ms. Dong" had only garnered about 2.1 million plays. It was almost a five times difference!

"Thank you to The Clown for singing such a touching song!"

"This is my favorite song of the year!"

"My wife's surname is Dong!"

"My girlfriend's surname is also Dong. I finally know how I'll be proposing to her. I've already bought a ring, so I'll just sing this song for her tomorrow. Wish me luck, everyone!"

"Congratulations!"

"Good luck, bro!"

"Best wishes!"

Back at home.

Even Zhang Ye found this turn of events a little unexpected. He knew that "Ms. Dong" was a good song that could be easily overlooked, but he did not think that it would be so well-received in this world.

Suddenly, his cell phone's text message tone beeped.

It was from the phone meant for The Clown.

An unfamiliar number. "Hi, this is Sunset Glow."

Zhang Ye was taken aback, but replied: "Hi."

"I got your number from the program team. I just wanted to let you know something. I take back what I said to you yesterday at Beijing TV."

"No worries."

"I'm not being polite here. Rather, I listened to 'Ms. Dong' 7-8 times in a row yesterday. It really is a good song."

"Thanks."

"If the tiebreaker had been decided by audience vote, then you would have been yesterday's Masked King."

Zhang Ye immediately replied: "Not for sure."

"For sure."

"It's really not for sure. That song I sang was never meant to be a competition song."

"A good song is a good song. It has nothing to do with whether it's suitable for a competition."

"Perhaps."

"I'm looking forward to your songs next episode."

"Same here. I'm looking forward to yours too."

Sunset Glow sent: "See you next week."

"See you next week."

Their text message conversation was very simple, but Zhang Ye was starting to learn more and more about Sunset Glow's behavior and character. In his mind, a vague figure was starting to appear that would match Sunset Glow. He had already more or less guessed who Petal Shower and Sunset Glow were. They were both people he knew, and one of them was even a rather close friend of his with whom he had a lot of dealings with. However, Zhang Ye knew that even though he could guess their identities, they would never be able to guess his. He had put up too many smoke screens, so even if there were anyone in the industry who did an extremely detailed analysis, they still wouldn't find out who he was. They would never even start to suspect him.

Zhang Ye chuckled and felt that this was really quite interesting and fun.

In the Celebrity Goof Group, there was a flurry of activity today.

Ning Lan: "@ChenGuang @FanWenli Old Chen, Old Fan, are you two around?"

Chen Guang appeared. "I just woke up." Then he sent a yawning emoji.

Ning Lan: "Do you have any tickets to the live recording of King of Mask Singers? Help me get five of them. A few of my friends who would like to attend the studio recording have approached me for help."

Chen Guang: "Five tickets?"

Ning Lan: "Yep, the more the better."

Chen Guang said: "I might still be able to get one or two tickets, but it's gonna be difficult to get five or more of them."

Huo Dongfang sent a nose-picking emoji. "I want three tickets too. A few relatives from my hometown came to visit and said that they really wanted to attend the live recording. Old Chen, I'm depending on you."

Another movie star said: "I want a ticket too. Are there any left?"

To be a part of this celebrity chat group, everyone had to be at least a B-lister. In the industry, every one of them was more highly revered than the last. If they themselves wanted to attend the recording,

Beijing Television would more than welcome them to do so and make all the necessary arrangements for it to happen. But as they wanted to get the tickets for their friends instead, they found it harder to approach the television station. First, it was unnecessary to do so. Second, a favor owed to a television station was not so easily repayable. It just wasn't worth all that trouble to get a few tickets.

Chen Guang: "Do you guys take me for a scalper?"

Fan Wenli spoke: "Hur hur, it's no use approaching Old Chen for help on this anyway. He doesn't have that great an influence. Isn't Zhang Ye in the group as well? Why don't you guys ask him instead?"

Xiaodong: "I'll help to @ZhangYe for you guys."

Ning Lan said: "Oh yeah! I've totally forgotten about Zhang Ye!"

At home, Zhang Ye heard this notification on his cell phone. He opened up the group chat and replied without hesitation: "Sure, I got it. You need around 10 tickets, right?"

Ning Lan: "Correct."

Huo Dongfang: "Will it be a bother? If it is, then forget it."

Zhang Ye: "It's nothing."

Zhang Ye then made a call.

A while later, he typed: "I've arranged for them. I'll leave a number here for you guys. 138XXXXXXXX. Get your friends to go to the studio on Friday and call this number. Someone will come out to bring them in afterwards."

Ning Lan sent a smiley face. "Thanks, Zhang'er."

Huo Dongfang: "Thank you very much."

In Beijing Television, Zhang Ye could be considered rather influential. Although he did not really take part in the current production run of the show and was really more of an executive producer in name, everyone knew how much Zhang Ye's words were worth with the program team. His words were as important as Executive Director Hu Fei's!

Ning Lan: "King of Masked Singers has gotten really popular these days."

Zhang Ye said with a laugh: "Sister Ning, are you interested in joining the competition?"

Ning Lan: "Haha, forget about me. My terrible voice? I haven't sung in such a long time."

Xiaodong: "Teacher Zhang, you haven't been gaining much popularity recently. You'll soon be replaced if it goes on like this."

Zhang Ye simply sent a "yeah."

Xiaodong: "Why don't you try to release an album? I know a few people in recording companies who could tailor-make some songs for you. You can just release it online since being banned or not won't matter."

Zhang Ye sent a neutral face emoji.

Ning Lan was amused. "He can't even sing!"

Huo Dongfang also said: "I've heard Zhang Ye's 'A Letter to Home' before. It's rather good. But as for cutting an album...uh, I think it's better not to think about that. I think it's pretty unlikely that'll happen. Cough cough." He was already putting it out quite tactfully.

Xiaodong said: "He won't be able to sing live for sure, but it might be worth a try in the recording studio. At worst, he'll have to record a song multiple times. If it doesn't work the first time, try another ten times. If ten times don't work, try twenty times. There'll surely be a few times when it's good enough. Besides, they can also tune his singing to sound better than it is. Technology's so advanced nowadays. They can even fix someone's completely out of tune singing."

Zhang Ye: "Thank you, Xiaodong. But I'll pass."

Xiaodong: "OK, but if you need anything, feel free to ask me. There's always a way no matter how badly you sing, so don't worry."

Zhang Ye was smiling on the inside. "Sure."

Zhang Yuanqi suddenly appeared: "Hello, comrades."

"Whoa, what a rare guest."

"Sister Zhang, hello."

"Sister Zhang is here?"

"You're up this early?"

A few familiar names were joking around with her.

Zhang Yuanqi said: "I'm still in bed right now. Xiaodong just PMed me and suggested that we get the other two members of Spring Garden into this group as well. One of them is Amy, the other is Li Xiaoxian. I'm here to communicate this and see what everyone thinks. We can have a vote to decide."

The Goof Group could be considered a very famous group in the whole of the entertainment industry. Not just anyone could join it, as there were many big names and elites of the industry in it. The group didn't really invite anyone to join, and there were only several dozen people who were members of this group. Zhang Ye was the last person to have joined the group before this.

Xiaodong cheekily said: "Since they're my good friends and my teammates, I'll abstain from speaking."

Although that was what she said, Zhang Ye received a PM from Xiaodong very soon after.

Xiaodong secretly said: "Teacher Zhang, please help!"

Followed by four pitiful expression stickers in a row.

Zhang Ye was amused. "Alright, I know what to do."

Xiaodong sent a crying emoji. "Thank you!"

Zhang Ye then said in the Goof Group: "I'll allow it. Amy's popularity is getting higher and higher these days, and I believe it's also just a matter of time for Li Xiaoxian. With friends as good as these, we must get them into the group ASAP!"

Huo Dongfang said: "I also feel that it's OK."

Chen Guang: "After Amy appeared on those episodes of King of Masked Singers, she indeed became more popular. She also has a great character; I've spoken to her privately a few times. I find her to be quite friendly, so I'll definitely support her. As for Li Xiaoxian, there's even more nothing to say. We already know her identity. I suppose everyone here has realized as well?"

Ning Lan: "I don't have any problems with it either. We can let them join."

Quite a few people gave their opinions and a majority of them felt that it was OK.

Zhang Yuanqi said: "Alright, I don't have any complaints either. So let's invite them in."

Before long, a group notification appeared.

Zhang Yuanqi has invited Amy into Goof Group.

Zhang Yuanqi has invited Li Xiaoxian into Goof Group.

"Let's welcome the newbies!"

"Welcome!"

"A warm welcome to you!"

Everyone was very friendly. Even a Heavenly King appeared to welcome them.

Amy was stunned. "My god, is this the legendary group I've heard about?"

Ning Lan said happily: "It's the Goof Group."

Li Xiaoxian said quietly: "Hello, seniors."

Amy: "Ahhhh, I've finally been admitted into the Goof Group! How exciting! Ah, Sister Zhang! Ah, Sister Ning Lan! Wow, even Teacher Zhang Ye is here!"

In the Spring Garden, the most well-known member definitely had to be their leader, Xiaodong. Compared to her, even though the other two members were very popular as well, they were behind her by quite a bit. As a result, the number of big names in fields other than music that Amy and Li Xiaoxian knew personally could not really be considered that many and their contact with those people was not that great. Xiaodong had pushed for them to join the group mainly because she wanted to help them network some more. If they could become familiar with these people, they would definitely have it easier in the future. Like the time Ning Lan and her team were encircled by the martial artists. Zhang Ye had gone to help her after she sent a message for help in the group. They were all about looking out for one another.

Ning Lan was one of the group administrators and would usually join in the conversation whenever there was one. Zhang Yuanqi and some of the other Heavenly Kings and Queens might have been the

most popular celebrities in the group, but as their time was very limited, they didn't usually appear to chat in the group. So a lot of the matters were handled by Ning Lan.

Ning Lan said: "Amy, Xiaoxian, if there's any trouble you girls meet with in the future, just holler at us in the group. Don't be shy."

Amy: "Got it."

Li Xiaoxian: "Thank you, seniors."

Huo Dongfang asked: "Amy, who is The Clown?"

Amy: "Um, I don't know too."

Ning Lan asked: "Does Xiaoxian know?"

Li Xiaoxian said: "I'm not sure either."

Ning Lan: "Old He was asking me today if I knew who The Clown was. I bet he was trying to scoop him up for the company."

Chen Guang: "Old He? You mean the chairman of your company?"

Ning Lan: "Yeah. A lot of people in the industry have now set their sights on the trio of The Clown, Petal Shower, and Sunset Glow. The other two contestants' identities have been more or less confirmed. Only The Clown does no one have any clue about!"

Zhang Ye laughed, then closed the chat app.

Chapter 1052: A Children's Day singing contest?

Wednesday.

June 1, Children's Day.

Early in the morning, Zhang Ye was sound asleep when he suddenly felt someone prodding him.

"Zhang Ye!"

"Unh."

"Zhang Ye, get up!"

"Eh?"

"Get up!"

His arm was being shaken violently.

Zhang Ye couldn't continue sleeping. When he opened his eyes and saw that it was Chenchen who came, he frowned and made a shooing motion with his hand, seething, "Leave, leave." Then he turned around and went back to sleep.

Chenchen was so angry that she went to complain, "Grandpa, Grandma, Zhang Ye is lazing around in bed!"

His mother went into his room angrily and shouted, "Chenchen is here! Hurry and get up so that you can take the child out to play!"

Zhang Ye said in annoyance, "Play what?"

His father also came in and said, "It's Children's Day today. Get up quickly."

Zhang Ye sighed, "What about Old Rao? Why don't you get Old Rao to take her instead?"

"You have two interviews scheduled, and there's also an award presentation this afternoon. Didn't Chenchen's aunt become your agent? She's already gone out to handle all that for you, so how would she have any time today? She brought the child here early this morning and mentioned that it was Children's Day, so she wanted you to take Chenchen out to play." His mother grumbled, "Get up already."

At this, Zhang Ye was no longer annoyed. "Alright, alright, I'll do it."

He got out of bed, went to wash up, then ate breakfast.

Chenchen seemed pretty excited as she kept urging him to hurry up.

"Zhang Ye, brush your teeth faster.

"Zhang Ye, eat faster.

"Hurry up."

Zhang Ye had a terrible headache from her nagging. "Where do you want to go? Why the rush?"

Chenchen said, "I want to go to the haunted house at the amusement park!"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Going to an amusement park on Children's Day? You really don't think that it wouldn't be crowded?"

His mother stared at him and said, "What's with all your nonsense? Hurry up!"

"Fine, fine, fine. We'll go to the amusement park, OK?"

A little after 8 AM.

They arrived at the Beijing Amusement Park.

In Zhang Ye's previous world, this amusement park had closed down several years ago. But in this world, the amusement park was still in operation. It was so packed with visitors that the sea of people in front of them was blocking their view of where the ticketing office was located.

They lined up to buy the tickets.

After passing through security, they entered the park grounds.

Zhang Ye stretched his hand out. "Hold onto my hand."

Chenchen took his hand. "Where's the haunted house?"

"It should be somewhere up ahead." Zhang Ye wasn't in a great mood as it was very hot today. In the middle of summertime, he was wearing a surgical mask, hat, and aviators. If it were anyone else, who wouldn't feel hot?

When they reached the haunted house, they had to stand in line for almost an hour before they could get in.

The entrance was right in front and all the screams of the children could be heard coming from inside.

"Ah!"

"Mommy!"

"I don't wanna play here anymore!"

"That scared the crap out of me!"

"Sob sob sob!"

Some were even crying as screams rang out.

Zhang Ye looked at Chenchen and smiled. "You better not end up crying later."

Chenchen smirked. "Hur hur."

Then, Zhang Ye led her into the haunted house. It was also his first time visiting one.

After only eight steps in, a skeleton fell from above and dropped right in front of Zhang Ye and Chenchen. It was springing up and down in front of them.

Zhang Ye immediately got the goosebumps all over as his shouts nearly pierced the roof of the haunted house. "Aiyo, what the hell!"

Deadpan, Chenchen glanced at him. "Zhang Ye, are you sure you'll be OK?"

Zhang Ye shouted, "Quick, move along! Keep going!"

As someone who would even tremble in fear when he went to a hospital, how could he possibly enjoy this experience!

But just as they took a few steps forward, a figure with a protruding red tongue suddenly jumped out next to them and let out a chilling scream!

However, Zhang Ye screamed out even louder than him. "Holy shit!"

His scream nearly scared the employee dressed up as a demon out of his wits. Damn, Big Bro, is it really necessary for you to scream like that? You scared the shit out of me!

In comparison, Chenchen was pretty calm. She looked at that "demon" with a red tongue and pointed at him, saying, "This tongue doesn't look real at all. I could see straight away that this was made from cotton. And look at this." She pressed the red tongue and said, "It's so dirty. Just how many days have you not washed this tongue?"

The employee speechless.

Chenchen pointed out, "Next time, remember to use one that is made of rubber. It'd be more realistic than this."

The employee stayed speechless.

When they continued forward, there was yet another terrifying scene!

Something covered all in hair was striding step by step toward them!

Zhang Ye was frightened so badly that he kept screaming wildly.

But Chenchen just blinked her eyes and walked over to it. She pushed aside the disgusting-looking hair several times to reveal the shocked face of a female employee.

Chenchen nodded at her and said, "You're scarier than those people we met earlier on."

The female employee said, "Eh?"

Chenchen asked, "Is your pay higher than theirs?"

The female staff said nothing.

Chenchen: "How much do you get paid?"

The female staff still didn't respond.

After a trip through the haunted house, Zhang Ye's face had paled beyond white. He still couldn't get over it for the longest time after coming out and kept walking in places where the sun was shining, avoiding any place that was dark and shaded. It was not that he had no balls, but because he was just afraid of things that shocked and scared people.

But unknown to them, the staff in the haunted house were all feeling like they were going to vomit blood. They really had never seen a child like this before. She was clearly not brought up by a normal family. How did they know that? There was no need to ask this, of course. Have you fucking seen any normal child go and uncover a demon's hair and ask how much she was paid when they saw a ghost walking toward them? Have you witnessed something like this before?

Actually, Zhang Ye was also wondering how Chenchen could be so brave. She was too scared to sleep alone at night, but she was braver than anyone else once they were inside the haunted house. Even Zhang Ye nearly had his soul scared out of him, but this little kid could still find the time to mock the staff? Did you come all the way to the amusement park just to do that?

Zhang Ye asked, "Did you have fun?"

Chenchen nodded and said, "It's not too bad."

Zhang Ye said, "What do you mean by not too bad!"

Chenchen said, "Zhang Ye, you're such a weakling."

Zhang Ye said angrily, "Don't ask me to bring you out to this awful place again in the future!"

Chenchen said in a serious manner, "Don't you know that they're all just pretending?"

"Of course I know that!" Zhang Ye said angrily.

Chenchen let out a hur hur. "Zhang Ye, you're such a coward."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes and harrumphed, "I'm a coward? You just haven't seen this bro pilot a plane! That's what you would call a big occasion. What do you know?"

Chenchen pouted and turned to look at a shop that was selling things. She pointed at the shop and said, "Zhang Ye, I want ice cream."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Keep dreaming."

"Go buy it for me."

"Buy it yourself."

"You buy it for me!"

When an old couple who had brought their grandson out to have fun saw this, they could not help but criticize Zhang Ye with a few choice words.

The old lady said, "Boy, if the child wants to eat, just go and buy it for her."

The old man said, "Since it's Children's Day and they only get to enjoy one such holiday, you should give into her."

The two of them walked away after that.

Zhang Ye was at a loss.

"Alright, alright, you're the king today." Zhang Ye forced himself to go and buy ice cream for her. "But let me say this first. After Children's Day, I won't go so easy on you!"

Chenchen ignored him and continued to eat the ice cream. She kept flicking her eyes around like she was scoping out what to do next.

All of a sudden, sounds of a festive atmosphere drifted over from up ahead. It seemed to be an event. A host was onstage talking at the moment. Several hundred people were around the stage!

It sounded like there was some sort of a singing contest?

And there were even prizes?

Chapter 1053: 'The King Sent Me on Mountain Patrol'!

At the amusement park.

More and more people gathered around a stage set up on the southern side of the park.

The host was a young and pretty woman. Although she was not exceptionally beautiful, she still looked good nonetheless. From the way she spoke, she was definitely a professional broadcast host too. This

was the occupation that Zhang Ye held. So, when faced with a fellow peer, he would know from feeling alone. Beaming, she raised her microphone and announced, "Good day to all the parents and children here today. I am the host of Central Radio Children's Channel, Yuan Meng. You can call me Little Yuan or Little Meng."

Some of the people in the crowd actually knew her.

"Ah, Yuan Meng?"

"Central Radio Children's Channel?"

"I know her!"

"Yeah, I always let my kid listen to her show!"

"I've only ever heard her voice in the past. I didn't think that Yuan Meng would look so pretty as well."

"What event are they holding here? Why is there a band and all those instruments?"

Everyone was very interested.

Yuan Meng smiled and said, "We're holding a live broadcast here for the June 1st Children's Day Special. The signal will be broadcast in-sync through our radio station." Looking at her watch, she said, "We'll be starting in about another 15 minutes' time, so I hope everyone will cooperate and join the singing contest that we're holding here today. It can be the children taking part alone, or teamed up with their parents as a group. We have invited a professional band to play for today's event as well, and there are even three music teachers from the Central Conservatory of Music here to judge the contest. Every participating family will stand to win a prize, with the top three prizes even grander, so we hope everyone will participate enthusiastically."

The prizes were all placed behind her on the stage.

The three judges were also beckoning with their hands and calling for everyone to join.

"A singing contest?"

"There are even prizes to be given out?"

"Wow, it's going to be live radio broadcast?"

"Really? It will be broadcast live on Central Radio Children's Channel?"

Zhang Ye had a look at the equipment and the workers at the venue and knew immediately that this was truly a setup for a live broadcast. He used to work in a radio station, so of course he would know.

A lot of the children started to shout in excitement.

"It's Big Baby Bear!"

"Mom, I want that!"

"Dad, let's join the contest!"

"I wanna join too!"

"Alright, alright, let's participate!"

"Let's go and register!"

"We're going to register too!"

"Are we really going to be on a live radio show?"

"We can sing any song that we want? Then I'll join too!"

The parents and their children were all very enthusiastic.

But Zhang Ye was not really interested. He had already been on countless live television broadcasts, to say nothing of a live radio broadcast. Besides, if a channel like Central Radio Children's Channel wanted a celebrity like Zhang Ye to appear on their show, they would have to pay a fee for his appearance.

"Let's go," Zhang Ye called out to Chenchen.

But Chenchen did not move.

Zhang Ye turned around. "What's the matter?"

Chenchen raised her arm and pointed at the top prize on the stage. "Zhang Ye, I want that."

Zhang Ye said in annoyance, "Do you even know what the name of that thing is?"

Chenchen nodded. "I know. It's Big Baby Bear."

The prizes were quite good. The first place prize was a plushie of one of the characters in one of this world's children's cartoon. It was pretty big and even seemed like it was a limited edition collectible that couldn't be bought with money.

Zhang Ye wondered, "I thought you didn't like to watch cartoons anymore?"

Chenchen looked at the other children who were all grabbing their parents' arms like spoiled brats. A lot of them seemed like they wanted to win that limited edition Big Baby Bear.

Chenchen also tugged at Zhang Ye's arm. "Zhang Ye, I want that too."

Zhang Ye was amused and laughed, "What? You want it just because the other kids want it as well?"

Chenchen nodded. "Win it for me!"

Zhang Ye gave her a look. "You know how to sing?"

"I do."

"Really?"

"I just can't sing well."

"That means you don't know how!"

"...Oh. Do you know how?"

"Hur, do I know how? Why are you so funny? What do I not know! But what's so attractive about this contest? Do you know how much of an appearance fee I can command? If you want me to sing, you'd have to fork out at least a million or two. Would I have to be so desperate over just a lousy bear?"

Zhang Ye was not bragging in this case. He was really worth that much these days.

Zhang Ye tried to pull her away. "Let's leave."

Chenchen did not move. She stood there looking at a family beside her.

A little girl who looked about five years old was shamelessly making a scene in front her parents. "Daddy, Mommy, I want Big Bear! I want Big Bear!"

Her father smiled bitterly and said, "But Daddy and Mommy can't sing well."

The little girl was nearly crying. "I don't care, I want Big Bear!"

Her father gritted his teeth and said, "Alright, since my daughter has spoken, Daddy has to do it somehow. I'll go register!"

The little girl cheered, "Yay, Daddy's the best!" She even kissed her father on the cheek.

Her mother patted her husband's chest and covered her mouth as she laughed. "Don't embarrass yourself when you're up there."

The father thumped his chest and declared, "For our daughter, I don't mind being embarrassed!"

Chenchen looked at them without blinking.

That little girl noticed Chenchen looking at her. She looked back curiously and said, "Big Sis, do you want Big Bear too? You can ask your daddy to join the contest." She pointed at Zhang Ye.

Chenchen said, "I don't have a daddy."

The little girl was surprised by this and said, "But everyone has a daddy."

Chenchen looked at her and expressionlessly said, "I don't have one."

When the girl's parents heard that, they quickly pulled their daughter back and hurriedly said to the man in sunglasses beside Chenchen, "Sorry about that, sir. You know how kids are. We're really sorry!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "It's fine."

The mother asked out of curiosity, "Her parents?"

Zhang Ye was silent for a moment, then whispered, "They've passed away."

The mother was taken aback and said, "Oh, look at me, why did I ask! I'm sorry!"

Chenchen did not say a word.

Zhang Ye looked into her eyes and when he thought about her situation, he suddenly felt very sorry and bad for her. He knelt down and said to Chenchen, "About that Big Bear, do you really want it?"

Chenchen nodded. "Uh-huh."

Zhang Ye snapped his fingers. "Alright." He then stood up and said, "Even if I have to risk everything, I'll definitely win Big Bear for you!"

Instantaneously, this fellow was eager to fight!

He seemed to change into a different person as he strode up to register for the contest!

A few minutes later.

The live broadcast began.

Yuan Meng stood onstage and announced, "Good day, everyone. You're listening to Central Radio Children's Channel. I'm your host, Yuan Meng. I'm currently out at Beijing Amusement Park, where we are holding a spectacular singing contest. Over here, we have 13 groups signing up for the event, and we will be starting..."

At the same time, the radio broadcast started.

...

Zhang Ye's parents' house.

His father was tidying up the room when he found an old radio.

He asked, "Do we have any batteries in the house? Triple-As."

His mother clicked her tongue. "Why are you fiddling with that?"

His father said, "I want to see if it's still working. Otherwise, I'm gonna throw it away."

He tried tuning into a few radio stations.

Then he said, "It's still in working condition."

His mother suddenly said, "Wait, that station earlier was Central Radio Children's Channel? Are they broadcasting live from Beijing Amusement Park? Didn't Little Ye bring Chenchen there? A singing contest?"

His father turned up the volume. "Let's have a listen! Do you think Little Ye and Chenchen will take part?"

His mother's lips curled upward. "With our son's terrible voice, what can he sing?"

...

At the venue.

The first family was already performing onstage.

"Little bunny, be good,

"Open the door.

"I will not, I will not // open the door."

This was a nursery rhyme that Zhang Ye had sung before on a radio broadcast, At that time, it received a resounding response and a lot of people learned how to sing it as well.

This family could only sing it rather averagely, but they received rapturous applause nonetheless!

Those three teachers from the Central Conservatory of Music also smiled and applauded them.

Then it was the second group's turn to perform.

Then the third.

The father of the little girl who spoke to Chenchen earlier was the seventh to go onstage. He was very nervous as his hands trembled while holding his microphone. After all, all those people who were taking part in the contest did not have any prior experience of being on a live radio broadcast, and every other group displayed a similar anxiety when it was their turn to go onstage.

The little girl shouted, "Daddy, I'm cheering for you! Daddy, go for it!"

When he heard his daughter's cheering, the father straightened up and raised his microphone to sing along with the band's accompaniment.

He sang very terribly.

He even went off-key.

But the little girl kept clapping and shouting, "Daddy, you're great!" She held her mother's hand and said, "Mommy, Daddy's really great!"

Her mother laughed and said, "Yes, your daddy is the best!"

Chenchen looked at the girl and her mother without saying a word.

Zhang Ye could not watch this any further, so he purposely patted Chenchen on her head and said, "It's my turn, haha. Watch me."

Chenchen looked at him. "Are you sure you can do it?"

Zhang Ye laughed loudly. "Just you watch, kiddo."

Yuan Meng looked into the crowd and said, "Let's welcome the eighth group onstage."

Zhang Ye pulled Chenchen to the position closest to the stage and left her there as he walked up to the stage with a big smile. When a lot of people in the audience saw him dressed in that outfit, they looked at him strangely. Who would cover themselves with a surgical mask and a large pair of sunglasses on a warm summer day like this?

Yuan Meng also gave him an additional once-over before passing the microphone to him.

The band asked him, "What will you be singing?"

Zhang Ye took off his surgical mask. "Just give me a beat and I'll be fine." He walked over to communicate some details with the few of them.

The band was actually not that professional to begin with, so they were rather confused when they heard his instructions.

What do you mean?

You're even thinking of singing an original?

Who do you think you are?

Chenchen looked at Zhang Ye up on stage.

Beside her, a small hand grabbed hold of her hand. "Is that your daddy?"

Chenchen turned her head and realized that it was the little girl from earlier. She answered, "No."

Some people were looking at the sunglasses-wearing young man on the stage.

"Eh?"

"What's the matter?"

"That guy looks so familiar!"

"Ah, you're right!"

The stage was prepared.

Zhang Ye stood there and thought back to when he didn't know how to sing. He cleared his throat and deliberately adjusted his voice away from The Clown's voice pattern. Then he saw Chenchen looking at him and started feeling a little sad. Chenchen, don't be sad. Your parents are no longer around, but don't you still have your aunt? Don't you still have me? I may not be your father, and neither do I know how to be a father, I really don't. But I can assure you of this: As long as you need me, I'll always be by your side!

Believe me!

I definitely will be!

So, please, cheer up!

The music started!

A folk music accompaniment started playing!

Zhang Ye raised his microphone and stunned everyone the moment he opened his mouth to sing 1 .

"The sun winks at me." He looked and blinked several times at Chenchen!

"Birds are singing songs for me. I am a very hard-working and unclingly little genie." He pointed to his own chest.

Everyone was taken aback.

What?

What song was this?

An original? Did you write it yourself?

The host, Yuan Meng, was also dumbfounded!

Zhang Ye walked to the front of the stage and put his hand into a flower basket. From it, he picked out a flower.

"Don't ask me where I'm from.

"Or ask me where I am going.

"I want to pick the prettiest flower,

"To offer to my little princess!"

He stooped down and placed the flower in Chenchen's hair. He pulled Chenchen and led her up onto the stage as well. Then he bent down and, amazingly, lifted Chenchen up on his left shoulder with astonishing strength.

Chenchen was terrified!

Zhang Ye laughed and said in a loud voice, "Aiyō, I nearly forgot!

"The king sent me on mountain patrol.

"Through the mortal realm, let me take a stroll.

"Beating my drums.

"Sounding my gong.

"Life is full of the feel of rhythm.

"The king sent me on mountain patrol.

"To capture a monk as his dinner roll.

"This mountain stream is so sweet that I don't envy couples or immortals!"

And then, suddenly, the audience broke into cheering!

The children were getting excited!

The parents were also mesmerized from listening to the song!

It was really good!

The song was perfect!

The three judges were stunned!

The band was also dumbfounded!

Dammit, this is just a children's singing contest held for entertainment's sake. What's with this song of yours? Isn't this song too professionally written?

...

Back at home.

His mother said in surprise, "Hey, hey, hey. This voice?"

His father said in astonishment, "Is that our son's voice?"

His mother said, "Did he really bring Chenchen onstage?"

...

At a music production company.

A department manager was just listening to the radio as he had nothing much to do. Suddenly, when this song was played, another assistant manager and he were both stunned!

"This song?"

"Who's that?"

"It's not very well sung, but the song is..."

"Have you heard this before? What song is that?"

"I've not heard of it before. Could it be an original?"

...

At the venue.

Zhang Ye raised his microphone to Chenchen's mouth. He knew that Chenchen was a smart girl.

Chenchen looked at him, then opened her mouth awkwardly to say, "The sun winks at me. Birds are singing songs for me."

Zhang Ye took it from there and laughed, "I am a very hard-working and unclingly little genie.

"Don't ask me where I'm from.

"Or ask me where I am going.

"I want to pick the prettiest flower,

"To offer to my little princess!"

Then Zhang Ye plucked out another flower and swiftly put it into Chenchen's hair again!

Chenchen suddenly laughed.

She was laughing very happily.

This was the first time Zhang Ye had seen her laughing in such a way. It was really the first time that it happened!

When he saw that, his singing became even more enthusiastic. He was already singing and skipping around mischievously. That bobbing motion of his head was especially funny.

It was obviously very funny to watch, but the parents of that little girl from earlier could not laugh at all. They knew that the sunglasses-wearing young man was not the girl's father and that her real parents had already passed away. Their eyes reddened a little and they couldn't hold back their tears anymore!

It was quite touching to see!

But they felt a sense of admiration even more!

Zhang Ye, who had Chenchen bouncing up and down on his shoulder, was laughing and singing.

"The king sent me on mountain patrol.

"Through the mortal realm, let me take a stroll."

Chenchen followed along and sang.

"Beating my drums.

"Sounding my gong.

"Life is full of the feel of rhythm.

"The king sent me on mountain patrol.

"To capture a monk as his dinner roll.

"This mountain stream is so sweet that I don't envy couples or immortals!"

Applause rang out!

Cheers were erupting from the audience!

This song had sent the atmosphere of the entire audience to its highest point!

This was not a children's song. At least, it was not like a nursery rhyme that was sung to children. The song carried a great meaning of the unconditional love between family members that even the adults could understand and be touched by it!

Chapter 1054: Rave reviews!

The song ended.

"Great!"

"Great singing!"

"It was so nice to listen to!"

"This song is so well-written!"

"How awesome!"

"Yeah, there is brilliant talent among the people!"

"A random parent who went up on stage is this amazing? I'm impressed!"

Everyone applauded loudly. Many of the children were also clapping with all their might!

Suddenly, someone who was staring intently at Zhang Ye's face shouted, "Damn, what do you mean by there is brilliant talent among the people? Is, isn't that goddamn Teacher Zhang Ye?"

"Ah, he really looks like him!"

"What do you mean he looks like him? It is him!"

"It really is Zhang Ye!"

"Holy shit, Zhang Ye is here!"

"What?! I was wondering how a normal parent could write a song!"

The audience erupted into shouting!

A lot of people in the amusement park rushed over upon hearing the news.

The host, Yuan Meng, was stunned. "Teacher Zhang?"

The band and music teachers from the Central Conservatory of Music were also shocked!

By now, Zhang Ye had taken off his aviators knowing that it was pointless to wear them. When the people saw that it was really him, screaming again came from the crowd.

"Zhang Ye has made an appearance here!"

"Quick, come and see!"

"Oh my god, I've finally seen Zhang Ye in person!"

"This is my first time seeing an A-lister!"

The stage was surrounded by a large crowd of people!

Yuan Meng was very happy as she did not expect that she would meet a big shot like Zhang Ye while doing an outdoor live broadcast show. This was like the pie in the sky falling down, and it would definitely pull up her show's listenership ratings. "Teacher Zhang Ye, would you like to say something to the live audience and radio listeners?"

Zhang Ye plucked Chenchen off his shoulders with a smile and patted her head. "Hai, I won't say anything much or delay everyone's time. I was just bringing this kid out to play today. Since she said that she wanted that first place prize, how could I say no? Even if I had to risk my life, I would still have to win it."

Yuan Meng asked, "What's the title of this song? How could it be so good?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It's called 'The King Sent Me on Mountain Patrol.' Hur hur, I've written it just for my king."

"You mean this girl is your king?" Yuan Meng looked at Chenchen with a smile.

Zhang Ye replied happily, "Yes."

Yuan Meng said, feeling a little moved, "You're so good to your daughter."

Zhang Ye waved it off and said, "Hai, all parents are the same."

Chenchen said, "Can you give me that Big Bear already?"

Embarrassed, Yuan Meng said, "But there are still four more groups to go."

Chenchen gave an "oh" in disappointment.

"Alright, please proceed with the contest." Zhang Ye led the child off the stage. The moment they left the stage, they were surrounded by a group of people asking for his autograph. As he couldn't reject them, he signed for them one by one.

Shortly afterwards, the contest finished.

After the three judges and the band had a round of discussion, the results of the top three were soon decided!

Zhang Ye had gotten first place!

It was not because of his fame or some preferential treatment. Anyone who heard that song would know that first place was definitely his. His song was really good and was even an original. Moreover, this was also his first time performing it in public, so who else should get first place if not him?

The prizes were given out after that.

Zhang Ye smiled as he received the prize and then stuffed it into Chenchen's arms. "Here, I won it."

Chenchen instantly grabbed the Big Bear, which was nearly as tall as her, into her arms.

At the moment, the little girl who had talked to her earlier was holding her parents' hands as she stared fixedly at the Big Bear in envy. She could not help but approach. "Big Sis, your daddy treats you real well."

Chenchen said helplessly, "I've already told you that he's not my daddy."

The little girl nodded, then gulped. "Then, then can I touch Big Bear for a little bit?"

Chenchen looked at her and then placed the Big Bear into her arms. "I'll give it to you."

The little girl exclaimed in surprise, "Ah? Really?"

Her parents quickly said, "No, no, that won't do!"

Chenchen said, "This is just a toy for little kids to play with. I don't play with such things, so you can have it."

Big Bear was so big that the little girl couldn't quite wrap her arms around it, so she fell the ground with a heavy thud. However, joy lit up on her face as she said, "Thank you, Big Sis! Thank you, Big Sis!"

Chenchen tugged at Zhang Ye's arm and said, "Zhang Ye, let's go."

Zhang Ye asked, "What do you want to do next?"

Chenchen pouted and said, "You've been recognized by others, so how can we still have fun with anything?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Alright, blame it on me. Let's go home then."

"Zhang Ye."

"What's the matter?"

"Sing that again."

"Yes, my king."

At the amusement park, several hundred people were taking pictures and recording videos of the young and old duo with their cell phones. The adult was holding the child's hand as they left the amusement park, singing as they walked out of the place.

"The king sent me on mountain patrol!

"To capture a monk as his dinner roll!

"This mountain stream is so sweet that I don't envy couples or immortals!"

...

On Weibo.

There was a heated discussion happening!

An article on Weibo titled "Zhang Ye's surprise appearance at the Central Radio Children's Channel live broadcast event" immediately started trending and the song played on the radio was posted as well.

Numerous netizens also posted threads on Weibo and shared their pictures from the event.

"I got Zhang Ye's autograph!"

"Come and see! We bumped into Teacher Zhang at Beijing Amusement Park!"

"Video clip of Zhang Ye's singing on stage! Come quick!"

Picture after picture!

Video after video!

This song titled "The King Sent Me to Mountain Patrol" was trending all over Weibo!

"It's so incredible!"

"Zhang Ye is indeed Zhang Ye!"

"Haha, Teacher Zhang released a new song?"

"Why didn't he distribute the song over the Internet or through publishers? There weren't any promotions either? He just went up onstage to sing after chancing upon a minor singing contest? Isn't this a little too carefree? Uh, why do I seem to think that the fellow wrote that song on the spot?"

"Since when did Zhang Ye have a kid?"

"That little girl is a relative of his or the child of his friend, right? I know who she is."

"I know her too. That little girl previously led a group of her classmates and cracked the largest burglary case that startled the nation!"

"That's right, it's her!"

"Pfft, I remember too now!"

"I wonder why her parents are not with her, but it seems that Zhang Ye occasionally takes care of her and sometimes takes her to and from school. He has also attended her school's parent-teacher meetings. That was reported on the news before."

"This song is really funny, hahaha!"

"I don't think it's funny. I find it very touching instead."

"Me too! I was really touched by the song!"

"The person I respect the most in the entertainment industry is Zhang Ye. Although the fellow is always insulting people, picking fights, starting trouble, and constantly kicking up a fuss, I believe that everyone in the entertainment industry isn't what they seem like on the surface, except for Zhang Ye. I really believe that to be true. He is truly a good person who wouldn't hesitate to speak up about right and wrong."

"My son also listened to that song and he really likes it!"

"It's Children's Day today. I must give a Like to Zhang Ye!"

"Yes, Teacher Zhang Ye is a very good person."

"Yeah, he treats kids really well."

"Even though she's not his own daughter, he still treats her so well and specially wrote a song to make her happy. My impression of Zhang Ye has changed now, and I'll try my best not to criticize him in the future."

"It's so full of positive energy!"

"It's so full of Teacher Zhang's spirit!"

"This song is really amazing!"

The remarks online were all positive!

The netizens were all giving rave reviews to Zhang Ye and his song!

It was probably due to the alignment of many factors, but "The King Sent Me on Mountain Patrol" had incredibly squeezed into the Top Chinese Music Chart within just two short hours!

It was placed at #7 on the daily chart!

It even pushed one of Sunset Glow's songs down the rankings!

And the numbers kept increasing with more and more people listening to it!

With the Children's Day festivities in full swing, this song became popular very quickly!

#6...

#5...

#4...

A dark horse emerged and appeared against all odds on the Top Chinese Music Chart that had been mainly occupied by songs from King of Masked Singers for the past few weeks!

Many of the industry insiders were dumbfounded by what they saw!

However, most of them were already used to it. This was Zhang Ye, and one would never be able to measure him through common sense. Even if everyone thought that something was impossible or would not do well, when it got handled by Zhang Ye, he would complete it with earth-shattering results. There was no logic in how he did things and no amount of logic could be used to explain it!

For a time.

This song was heard all over the streets and on the radio stations!

It was so catchy that some people even learned how to sing it after just listening to it three or four times!

...

In a neighborhood.

"Daddy, hurry up and learn this song!"

"But Daddy doesn't know how to sing."

"I don't care! You must learn it!"

"But why?"

"Because I'm going to be your king!"

"Hahaha, alright, alright. Daddy will learn it just for you!"

...

People in the entertainment circle also started talking about it.

Zhang Xia posted on Weibo, "Recommending a song to everyone. 'The King Sent Me on Mountain Patrol' is a really nice song to listen to."

Chen Guang replied to her post below: "Grandma Zhang has already listened to the song? Haha, I've also just finished listening to it. It is indeed quite good. I only just found out that Director Zhang can even write songs of this genre. He's impressed me again. But Director Zhang's singing is still as terrible and he can't control his breathing that well. I've got to give him some pointers soon!"

Xiaodong: "@ZhangYe Teacher Zhang, can you seriously practice your singing to become better? Although, the song's really good and I found it quite enjoyable. If I were to cover it, please don't charge me a copyright fee!"

Fan Wenli: "'The King Sent Me on Mountain Patrol' is already #3 on the Top Chinese Music Chart! Congratulations, Director Zhang!"

Dong Shanshan: "What a nice song!"

Amy: "Teacher Zhang, you're amazing! Please write a song for us again!"

This song also received rave reviews from the industry!

Of course, quite a few people also ridiculed Zhang Ye's singing. Be it "A Letter to Home" or "The King Sent Me on Mountain Patrol," these two songs were the only times Zhang Ye used his true identity to perform in public. They all felt that Zhang Ye's performance had no singing skill to speak of at all!

When the people saw that, they were also amused.

"Haha, his singing is really a little terrible!"

"So Teacher Zhang also has his shortcomings!"

"It's just a children's song. What singing skills are needed!"

"It's not like Teacher Zhang's a professional singer. Not going off-key is already pretty good!"

"Eh, I have an idea."

"What is it?"

"Do you guys think that those songs sung by The Clown on King of Masked Singers were written by Teacher Zhang Ye? If not, where could he have gotten so many originals?"

"That might be possible!"

"Right, that's really a possibility!"

Soon after, Zhang Ye's Weibo was updated.

He posted: "Thank you, everyone. Thank you to all my friends and fellow peers for your support. This song was only meant to cheer up the children. I did not expect that it would cause such a big commotion. It was really unexpected that the song could even get to #3 on the Top Chinese Music Chart. You all have given me such a shock, haha. Anyway, I will use this song to wish all the children in our country a happy Children's Day!"

Chapter 1056: The Clown sings a children's song?

Friday.

On the day of recording.

Since morning, a lot of unverified news appeared all over the Internet.

"Zhang Ye faces yet another ban!"

"The King of Masked Singers program team gets investigated!"

"King of Masked Singers to stop broadcasting soon?"

"With the introduction of new regulations, all songs in violation will be banned!"

"King of Masked Singers in an awkward position!"

"Guidance and suggestions from the Ministry of Culture to variety singing sings: Promote positive energy and boycott pessimistic and negative musical pieces."

"The SARFT yet to make a statement!"

The netizens were getting very anxious.

"Are they really going to stop the broadcast?"

"Impossible. This must be fake news."

"They can't stop such a large show just like that!"

"But there's no doubt that King of Masked Singers has been implicated in a sticky situation!"

"I heard that the contestants were called up individually for talks!"

"Have you seen Li Yu's Weibo yet? He had sung about his mother telling him of the hopelessness of life, and then there's that 'I Really Hate You.' Now though, he has to step forward to make an apology and even declare that he is fully supportive of the authorities' guidance and suggestions and that all his works from now on will contain positivity."

"This Old Li! He's so spineless!"

"He has no other choice since the general environment's like this."

"I wonder if King of Masked Singers can carry on recording as usual today!"

"Yeah, the contestants might be greatly affected by this!"

"The Clown seems to have been called out and criticized as well!"

"Petal Shower and Sunset Glow were called out and criticized too. They've also performed love songs onstage that seem to have crossed the regulations' line."

"What the heck are they trying to do!"

For the past two days, this matter was constantly being discussed online. Everyone was worried that King of Masked Singers would really be taken off the air.

...

Later that morning.

At Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery.

Han Qi was already calling him for the third time.

"Teacher Clown, you're still not here yet?"

"I have something to do, so I'll be running a little late."

"I've already drawn the lots on your behalf. You'll be the sixth contestant to go onstage today."

"OK, thank you."

"Th-Then, please hurry and don't be too late."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye, dressed all in black, found his way and walked forward.

For some reason, when he woke up this morning, Zhang Ye suddenly thought of coming here to chat with Old Wei. He did not know why; he just wanted to come.

There were some reporters and cameras in front.

Zhang Ye immediately recognized them to be employees from the Central TV News Channel as he had met the host once before. When he saw them, Zhang Ye did not go over but stood in a distant, inconspicuous corner.

Other than the portrait of the deceased and the birthday on Old Wei's tombstone, a line inscribed on it: "When some people live, they are already dead. / When some people die, they are still alive." This was from the poem Zhang Ye had recited at Father Wei's funeral. After Old Wei passed, this line served as an epitaph inscribed on his tombstone to accompany him on his journey of eternal sleep.

Besides the reporters and cameras stationed around the tombstone, 20 to 30 students were standing there.

"Father!"

"Father Wei!"

"Sob, we miss you!"

"Father Wei, we're doing very well right now. You don't need to worry about us anymore. My second mock exam results were very good. The teacher said that I would definitely qualify for Peking University. I'll be taking the college entrance examination in a few days' time and I'll definitely work hard to do well. By the way, Tongtong has already been assured of a place in a university. He was your favorite back then and he did not disappoint you at all!"

"Father, please come back to us!"

"We really miss you so much!"

Some of them were crying out to the tombstone, while the others did not speak at all and just covered their mouths as they cried.

It was Old Wei's birthday today and the children brought many things to pay their respects to him.

When the Central TV News reporter heard what the children said, she quietly turned around to wipe away her tears. "...With that, we have come to the end of our report here."

They finished packing their equipment.

The television station staff left and were gradually followed by the children.

Zhang Ye, who was still standing far away, decided to slowly make his way over at this time. Standing in front of the tombstone, he smiled and said, "Old friend, I'm here to see you. How are you doing?" Then he sat down and smiled at the tombstone. "I did not bring anything with me today, but I guess there's no need for it either, really. Just look, so many of your children have been thinking of you, and so many people miss you. With them bringing you so many offerings and things, you must definitely be living a good life on the other side."

The cemetery was quite peaceful.

Zhang Ye was the only one around and he muttered to himself.

"I really envy you, really. Haha, you don't know how popular you've become. You're respected by many and your name has been immortalized for the ages. But I know that you definitely do not care about that because you're different from me in that you don't covet riches or fame. Look at me now. I have it far worse than you. There are people criticizing me every day, with some wanting to censor me and others trying to step on me. By the way, this bro has been banned yet again. Even when I sang a children's song, people were whispering and pointing their fingers at me.

"I've been shrouded in an especially bad aura these past two days. I'm not afraid that you'll laugh at me, so can you tell me what I'm slogging so much for? Hur hur, I don't even know what I'm doing all this for anymore! You must be enjoying yourself since there's definitely no air pollution in Heaven. Oh yeah, there probably aren't traffic jams either? You can cause as much trouble as you like in such a vast place. How wonderful would that be? But just look at where I am. Before I even rise up, my head is struck. Any little thing that I do, people nitpick and tell me what to do. Do you think this is interesting? It's way too fucking uninteresting! But I still have to continue moving forward. I'm not as carefree as you, leaving just like that without even saying goodbye to me.

"Old Wei, do you think I'm a huge failure? Everyone says that I'm successful, but why don't I feel that way? Please don't find me annoying, Old Wei. I'm only able to say these words to you. I'll feel better when I let everything out. Then I'll have to go and perform after this!"

Ring ring ring. His cell phone rang again.

Han Qi was calling again.

Zhang Ye did not take the call. He waved the cell phone at the tombstone and said with a smile, "See? Everything is about work, and they're hounding me again. Alright, I've said enough to you. I'll come back to see you again when I'm free. Oh yes, don't worry about your daughter, Wei Ying. She's doing quite fine and has gotten quite a good job as well. I've given her my number, so if there's anything she needs help with, I'll definitely help her out. With me around, you can rest assured."

He stood up.

Zhang Ye was about to walk off, but he suddenly stopped in his tracks and turned back for a last glance. "I'm leaving now."

...

At Beijing Television.

In the King of Masked Singers' recording studio.

Recording had long since begun and four contestants had already finished performing.

Onstage, Flowing Time was currently singing.

"The king sent me on mountain patrol!

"To capture a monk as his dinner roll!"

He was performing Zhang Ye's song that had gotten really popular over the past few days.

Hu Fei said anxiously, "Is The Clown still not here?"

Hou Ge looked at Han Qi. "What's going on?"

Han Qi also said anxiously, "He should be here soon, he should be here soon!"

"It's gonna be his turn next." Hu Fei said, "Pester him a bit more."

When Han Qi was just about to make the call, an employee rushed over from elsewhere and said, "The Clown is here and is waiting in the waiting area. We can continue to record normally!"

Hu Fei nodded. "Great!"

Han Qi heaved a sigh of relief. The Clown had been a very punctual and polite person and had never been late before. So she was unsure as to what was going on with The Clown today.

Could it be that the investigation had left him unsure about what song he should sing?

Anyway, what was The Clown's first song going to be today?

Han Qi immediately checked the title of the song. When she saw it, she was a little stunned.

Eh?

This title is a children's song?

It was going to be another children's song?

Three contestants had already sung a children's song today!

Han Qi suddenly felt a little disappointed and helpless!

Chapter 1057: 'I'm a Small, Little Bird'!

In the studio.

Flowing Time's performance ended.

The audience gave an enthusiastic round of applause, but the discussions weren't as enthusiastic as they looked on the surface.

"Great song."

"Yeah, it sounded good."

"But I feel that something's missing!"

"All the songs are children's songs today!"

"Yeah, we already heard three such songs. The new replacement masked singer sang the first one, followed by Sunset Glow, and then Flowing Time. The other replacement masked singer's song added an excerpt of a children's song to the end of his performance as well, except that he slightly arranged the melody. That was the only hint of creativity I saw today. Even though it was very enjoyable to listen to, this is too much. It's good that there's positive energy, but isn't this too goddamn positive, don't you think?"

"What can they do other than this? The contestants have been called out individually and criticized!"

"Not only on King of Masked Singers. It's the same story for other singing shows."

"Hai, is there not a single contestant with the backbone to stand against it?"

"Who'd wanna step forward? They'd just be sticking their necks out if they did that!"

"Do you think everyone is like Zhang Ye?"

"Speaking of Teacher Zhang, I'm really starting to miss him. If Teacher Zhang were here competing, he would surely be wonderful to watch. He definitely wouldn't be afraid of the Ministry of Culture or some television association!"

"Haha, that's right. That's just how Zhang Ye is!"

"That's totally spot on. Sometimes, I criticize Zhang Ye too. But having not seen him for some time now, it feels like I'm missing a part of myself. Do you guys think I'm insane?"

"Sucks that Zhang Ye isn't taking part."

"Teacher Zhang has been thoroughly banned. Who knows how long it'll be before he can make a comeback."

"Hai, showbiz without Zhang Ye is as good as boring!"

"It's The Clown turn now!"

"He's the last one to perform in this first round!"

"Let's see what he's gonna sing."

Dong Shanshan's voice reverberated, "Let's welcome the final contestant—The Clown."

The audience erupted into applause. Everyone still had great expectations for The Clown.

The Clown went onstage.

The title of the song was displayed on the teleprompter screen at this moment.

"I'm a Small, Little Bird"?

When the audience saw this, they were left speechless.

"Hell."

"It's another children's song?"

"A small, little bird? This is definitely a children's song!"

"I'm sick of listening to them!"

"Can they not sing children's songs anymore? Please!"

"Why did those people from the television association have to butt in and cause all this trouble! A proper singing show has been forced to this state? These singers too. Why isn't there anyone with some backbone?"

"How weak!"

"Yeah, will no one step up and shout back?"

"This is actually pretty good. You guys just haven't seen how the other singing shows reacted. The songs on those other shows are basically all the same."

"Hai. Even today Zhang Ye is remembered. He who refused to return to Jiangdong 1!"

Backstage.

The contestants who had finished performing were all seated in the tearoom.

Flowing Time, who had just returned from the stage, glanced at the television but did not say anything.

A new replacement masked singer said, "The Clown is also singing a children's song?"

"I'm a Small, Little Bird 2"?' Sunset Glow blinked.

Petal Shower sulked, "What can we sing other than children's songs? It's the safest choice we have!"

The other replacement masked singer sighed. "We're the focus of attention right now, so it's best that we take the necessary precautions."

At the panel.

The judges were also giving each other looks.

Another children's song?

Hai.

Chen Guang smiled wryly.

Zhang Xia and Amy wore neutral expressions.

Even they were finding today's episode pointless.

The lights dimmed.

The music started playing.

Some of the audience members had lost concentration and had let their minds wander off after they saw the title of the song.

Without warning, The Clown began singing. With him singing, a lot of people froze on the spot and were taken by surprise!

"There are times I feel like I'm a small, li'l bird.

"I wanna fly,

"but no matter how I can't fly high."

Everyone was stunned!

It wasn't a children's song!

Holy shit!

This was not a children's song!

It was a fucking rock song!

In the tearoom, the look in Petal Shower's eyes shifted!

Flowing Time's eyes widened in shock!

This song...

These lyrics...

The audience perked up in an instant!

The Clown's eyes held gloom and despair.

"Perhaps I'll one day perch on the branches,

"Yet the hunters I've incurred.

"Only when I flew into the blue sky did I discover that I had nothing upon which to rely."

What to do when born under evil stars;

Before I could even rise,

I was beaten unwise.

A worn-out hat covering my face,

I cross the busy marketplace.

In a old ship laden with wine jars—

floating down the brine 3 .

He was really annoyed!

He was downright disappointed!

The Clown's voice trembled. "Every time the dead of night arrives, I can never fall asleep."

He pointed at his chest and thumped it. "Is it only my tomorrows that won't ever get better, is that my keep?"

"What's the future hold?"

"Exactly who could know?"

"Whether happiness is just a legend,

"I'm forever unable to find and show."

Chen Guang was gnashing his teeth listening to the song!

Yao Jiancai was stunned!

Amy was also deeply shocked by the few lines The Clown had sung. She didn't even notice that her mouth was hanging agape in an inelegant manner. She just kept listening while looking like that!

The Clown suddenly sang louder.

"I'm just a small, small, little bird!

"I wanna fly and soar, but I just can't fly high!

"I'm searching and finding, looking for and seeking a warm bosom in which to lie!

"Does this request seem too hard to apply?"

Many in the audience suddenly stood up!

"This is so great!"

"Oh my god!"

"The Clown! The Clown!"

The audience was getting extremely excited!

In the tearroom, the other contestants were surprised by this!

Flowing Time said, "He's really willing to sing something like that?"

Even a fool could tell that other than the title of the song resembling a children's song, the rest of it had nothing to do with being a children's song!

The Clown closed his eyes.

"All you who know my name, you doing well, by the by?"

"The world's such a small place.

"We're destined to have no escape, no space.

"When I've had my fill of fickle feelings,

"When you decide to fight for your ideals,

"The pressures of living and the dignity of life, which has more appeal?"

To me, the most important thing is dignity!

To me, it's even more important than life itself!

But I've already given my best!

I've really given my very best!

I don't ask for much. All I want is to work in peace, to find a place that suits me and accepts me for me. But why can't I find it? Why have I been unable to find such a place in all this time?

Is it really that difficult?

Is this request really so difficult to fulfill?

Han Qi was in tears listening. It was as though The Clown's song contained some sort of spell that made her tears flood down her face. She did not know who The Clown was, nor did she know what The Clown's story was. But she was sure that it was a story full of sadness, anger, and loneliness!

Teacher Clown.

Just who are you?

How much have you gone through to be able to sing a song like this!

The Clown suddenly jumped an octave.

Was he lost?

Or was it a cry for help?

Maybe he was asking this world a question?

"I'm just a small, small, little bird!

"I wanna fly and soar!

"But I just can't fly high!

"I'm searching and finding! Looking for and seeking! A warm bosom in which to lie!

"Does this request seem too hard to apply?"

The Clown laughed at himself. Then his voice softened as he conveyed his disappointment at the industry. He sang like he was asking the world a question, "Does this request. Seem too hard. To apply?"

Chapter 1058: For dignity!

Did this request seem too hard to apply?

Petal Shower fell silent!

Sunset Glow fell silent!

The judges fell silent as well!

After he finished performing, The Clown took a deep breath and bowed to the audience. Then he turned around and calmed himself. Feelings of disappointment and anger were written all over his back!

The audience roared!

Based on what they saw and heard, The Clown's song and his singing weren't even good. The song did not have any showy high notes or any portamento techniques. He did not even care about his stage presence or the atmosphere and just quietly stood there singing, telling a story, a story about himself.

The sheer power of the song was immense!

It resonated deeply with the crowd!

" I'm a Small, Little Bird 1 ."

Some of the audience members started crying when they thought of their experiences!

Some others clenched their fists angrily when they recalled their past!

The studio erupted into thunderous applause!

"He's so cool!"

"The Clown is so cool!"

"It's really good! He sang really well!"

"I don't know how to describe it!"

"Someone really stepped forward!"

"Damn, who was saying earlier that this was a children's song? Come out! I promise that I won't beat you up!"

"The Clown!"

"The Clown!"

"The Clown!"

A lot of people started chanting his stage name, soon joining in unison!

Dong Shanshan walked onto the stage and looked deep into The Clown's eyes before announcing, "Let's welcome Flowing Time back to the stage. Next is the voting."

Flowing Time gave a bitter laugh!

Why the fuck is it me again?

Why am I always being placed next to him in such critical moments during a battle?

Flowing Time really did not wish to go up on stage as he knew that it would be meaningless whether he went up or not. In this first round of performances, it was impossible for Flowing Time to beat The Clown no matter what. Even he himself did not have any hopes of winning. In fact, he had also been moved by the song, but he concealed it very well and did not let show his eyes it. For a slight moment, he was very impressed with the song. He was not impressed by The Clown's singing but by the person who wrote it.

Yao Jiancai could not wait to speak. "I'll leave the professional comments to the other teachers since I can't make any professional judgments when it comes to music. But I want to give my vote to The Clown. It definitely has to be him!"

Chen Guang said, "I'm voting for The Clown."

Zhang Xia: "The Clown."

Amy: "The Clown."

Wang Zhuishu: "The Clown."

Chen Yidong: "I'll vote for The Clown too."

The judges did not say more than what was necessary as they were at a critical juncture where the relevant associations were conducting a large scale boycott of negative and pessimistic music pieces. They couldn't say anything at all since no matter what evaluation they gave, it would still be seen as wrong. This was because "I'm a Small, Little Bird" was a song full of negative energy. There was not a trace of positivity in it! However, they did not try to avoid the matter and used the most straightforward way to express their opinions!

They just gave their votes to The Clown!

They gave no reason for their choice!

The audience voting began and ended very quickly.

The Clown: 422 votes!

Flowing Time: 78 votes!

The Clown won!

...

Offstage.

Hou Ge said with a wry smile, "Brother Hu, when The Clown submitted the song, it was without any lyrics. We still thought that this would be a children's song and didn't think much of it, but who could have expected..."

Dafei said worriedly, "Can this part be broadcast?"

Hu Fei looked at the two of them. "Why not?"

Dafei said, "But didn't those associations..."

Xiao Lu also asked, "What if they come here and find fault with us? Will we be able to handle them?"

At this, Hu Fei suddenly said, "I also used to feel that we should follow the guidelines from the relevant organizations and make sure that 'positive energy' songs are sung. But when I heard The Clown's song, I suddenly had a change of heart! Find fault with us? Let them come then! Zhang Ye's the most troublesome person of all, but we still hired the biggest troublemaker in the entertainment industry to be our program's executive producer. Why should we be afraid of attracting any other trouble?"

Dafei chuckled, "Alright!"

Xiao Lu also got excited all at once. "Understood!"

Suddenly, Petal Shower came over.

Hu Fei started and looked at her.

Petal Shower said, "Director Hu, since we're currently in the intermission, I came over to look for you about something."

Hu Fei said, "Just speak. What's the matter?"

Petal Shower solemnly said, "I'd like to change my second round song."

Dafei was taken aback. "Change your song? At this time?"

Petal Shower nodded. "Yes."

Sunset Glow also walked over from afar. When she saw Petal Shower, she was surprised as well. Then, without saying anything to her, she walked up to Hu Fei and said, "Director Hu, I'd like to change my second song."

Xiao Lu exclaimed, "You want to change your song too?"

Hu Fei looked at the two of them. "Can you tell me why?"

Petal Shower thought for a while. "For the sake of dignity."

Sunset Glow looked at her and nodded. "For dignity."

Xiao Lu said anxiously, "But it's too late for that now. We're already—"

"OK!" Hu Fei cut her off. "I'll approve it!"

Xiao Lu groaned, "But, Brother Hu, this—"

Hu Fei dismissed her complaint with a wave of his hands. "It's settled. Please get ready!"

...

In the waiting room.

Zhang Ye came back alone and sat down on the sofa. He drank some water and continued to stay silent. He had sung all that he wanted to say about his past few years of experiences and plights. But for some reason, he was still unable to calm down on the inside. Instead, he was angering even further!

He felt a cell phone's vibration come from his bag.

Zhang Ye looked over and dug out the offending cell phone. It was his personal cell phone, and the caller ID was displaying the name of Wu Zeqing's secretary: Bai Li.

He picked up.

Zhang Ye said: "Hello?"

Secretary Bai immediately said: "Is this Teacher Zhang?"

Zhang Ye said, "This is he."

"Chief Wu is away on an overseas business trip, so it's not convenient for her to contact you. She wanted me to pass you the message that she already knows about what's going on here and that she'll handle it as soon as possible. I'll also be helping to sort out the issue regarding your two songs and—"

Zhang Ye interrupted: "I don't care about my affairs. Secretary Bai, you all may ban 'A Letter to Home' and 'The King Sent Me on Mountain Patrol' as you wish. I'll accept it without grudges. I was already mentally prepared for all of this. It's also fine if you want to withdraw the Brain Gold advertisement and any of my other works. I can deal with all the trouble that I've caused on my own. If I can't handle it, I'll accept the consequences! But what has this got to do with King of Masked Singers? What has this got to do with the other singers in show business? Can't you all leave the contestants in peace? Can't you all leave a way out for the television variety industry's workers who are battling on the front lines? Can't you guys do that?"

Secretary Bai hurriedly replied: "Teacher Zhang, you've misunderstood, you've really misunderstood. The matter this time was really not handled by us at the SARFT. We wrote up a guiding white paper related to musical and film work directives, but it was definitely not supposed to be like this. I assure you

that this was not our original intent, and that this was just the Beijing Ministry of Culture making things up by themselves! It was just those television associations talking nonsense! We definitely did not issue such guidelines regarding musical pieces! We did not ask for all songs to only spread inspirational messages or positive energy!"

Bai Li did not know what the relationship between Zhang Ye and Wu Zeqing was even now. But she understood quite clearly that the relationship between them was definitely very close. That was why Bai Li spoke to Zhang Ye in a very polite manner, approaching him very professionally from her official standpoint. She spoke to Zhang Ye in the same way she would speak to Chief Wu.

Secretary Bai said: "Teacher Zhang, I'll handle this matter from here on out, and I'll get it taken care of immediately. The lower-downs are much too outrageous! Leave this matter to me!"

She ended the call.

A knock on the door followed.

Zhang Ye tucked his cell phone away and said to the outside, "Please come in."

Han Qi, Xiao Lu, and a few others came into the room. "Teacher Clown."

"What's the matter?" Zhang Ye asked.

Xiao Lu replied, "It's nothing. W-We're just here to see you."

Worried, Han Qi asked, "Teacher, are you alright?"

Zhang Ye nodded. "I'm fine."

Han Qi said, "Your condition today as compared to the previous times...I'm afraid..."

Today, The Clown was indeed different from before. Han Qi and the program team staff felt an ominous feeling about it and were afraid that The Clown would start having negative thoughts and do something irrational due to those associations taking large-scale actions to ban music pieces. Maybe he would withdraw from the competition?

The program team staff were trying very hard for the longest time to find out what he was thinking.

Zhang Ye took a while before he finally understood their worries and concerns. Then he laughed.

Withdraw from the competition?

Don't worry, I won't do that!

Even if the sky is falling, I won't run away!

Besides, the sky hasn't even fallen yet, right?

When he thought about this, Zhang Ye froze.

His works were taken down!

His commercial was taken down!

Getting banned!

His musical pieces got restricted!

Several associations all came pointing their fingers at him!

If it were anyone else, they would probably have quit at such a time. Even a clay figure would retain some fire, let alone such a notorious figure like Zhang Ye. Who in the entertainment industry didn't know about that foul temper of his? But with everything turning out this way, Zhang Ye suddenly realized that while he was angry and disappointed, he still believed deep down inside that everything would work out!

Only then did he realize that he was never a pessimistic person to begin with. He was more of a natural fighter. He might feel dejected, lonely, and hopeless at times, but he would never shirk from a battle he had to fight!

Chapter 1059: 'The Internationale'!

Three contestants asked for a last-minute song change!

An hour later, the fifth episode's elimination round of King of Masked Singers officially began recording.

The three contestants who advanced into the battle round were Petal Shower, Sunset Glow, and The Clown. The remaining contestants of Flowing Time and the two replacement masked singers had all lost in the first round.

Onstage.

One of the replacement masked singers was singing "The Colors of Youth" loudly.

"Don't expect too much of some people.

"Don't be too stubborn with some things.

"Maybe someday, we'll look back on the past.

"And you'll realize that some things can't be changed."

The audience's eyes lit up!

"It's not a children's song!"

"This is great!"

"I was so sick of listening to all those children's songs today!"

"What's going on? Why did they started singing this type of song as well?"

"This should be a pessimistic song, right? Right?"

"They were all affected by The Clown! Everyone is finally angry! They're just singing as they should now. What censorship? What guidelines? They're not going to listen to them anymore!"

"We're finally listening to a proper song!"

"The song that The Clown sang was not for nothing. Everyone has been awakened!"

"All those lousy associations know is how to give arbitrary directions!"

"That's right. A nice, world-class variety show was nearly wrecked by their meddling!"

The elimination round ended and Flowing Time managed to keep his place in the competition with a Hokkien song.

Next up was the fifth episode's battle to be Masked King.

The first contestant to take to the stage was Petal Shower, followed by Sunset Glow.

The two of them had also changed the songs they were to perform. They stuck to their previous approach in the competition and sang in their same respective styles. The audience was largely enjoying their performances as they completely differed from their performances in the first round.

Sunset Glow finished her part of the recording.

Dong Shanshan went up on stage and announced, "Next up, let's welcome the last contestant—The Clown."

However, even before the audience could applaud, a group of people suddenly arrived and interrupted the entire recording process. Eight or nine people dressed in suits had barged right into the studio!

Xiao Lu was startled and immediately went to stop them. "What are you people trying to do!"

The leader of the group was a middle-aged man who said coldly, "I'm from the Television Show Association!"

Dafei also went over. "We're in the midst of recording a show!"

"I don't care about that!" Another middle-aged man said, "We were here two days ago and made the guidelines very clear at that time. And what's happening here and now? You didn't listen to a single word we said, did you?"

The people from the association were here!

No one knew how they received the tip, but they rushed over immediately to deal with things when they found out about the discordant factors that had occurred during the recording of King of Masked Singers.

Hu Fei was angry. He strode forward and confronted them. "This is a recording studio! Unauthorized personnel are not allowed in here! Whatever you have to say, you have to wait until we're done recording!"

That person from the association said, "You don't have to record the show anymore!"

"What do you mean?" Hu Fei sneered.

Behind them, an executive from Beijing Television rushed over after hearing about this interruption.

The middle-aged man from the association said firmly, "We stated the guidelines clearly the other day. Are you all deliberately trying to cause trouble? Alright then, let's see whose backing is stronger!" He turned to his secretary and said, "Issue an order to the relevant departments, then get in touch with Director Zhou and immediately notify him about this!"

The secretary said, "Understood!" Then he stepped to the side to make the call.

The Beijing Television executive asked, "Old Hu, what's going on?"

Hu Fei did not know how to answer him.

Sunset Glow, who had just finished her song, was frowning.

Petal Shower's face sank.

The judges on the guessing panel looked over.

Zhang Xia frowned. "Those people are from the authorities?"

Amy said, "What are they doing here at a time like this? Will recording still continue?"

Wang Zhuishu said angrily, "The cameras are still rolling. How can they just charge in like that? What is happening? Even if they're higher-ups from the authorities, there's no need for such behavior, is there?"

The audience was not having any of this either!

"Fuck!"

"These bastards!"

"They've really come?"

"Fucking hell, what are they doing!"

"Are they here to cause trouble?"

"That's what I'm wondering too. It's just singing. Why are they making this so difficult!"

"It's over. We won't be able to finish the recording today."

"What the hell is going on!"

"How infuriating!"

"Are they really going to impose all those regulations on the music industry? Aren't they a little too hell-bent on that?"

"This move doesn't make any sense at all!"

"The people won't even have the right to listen to the music they like anymore?"

"Do we really look like such pushovers to them?"

"We have our own thinking process and we know how to judge right from wrong. We don't need you people poking your nose into our business!"

"They're taking us for slaves!"

"Ai, don't bring that up. We're just a bunch of powerless folk, a bunch of shitty workers. How can we possibly stand up to them!"

Dong Shanshan looked down into the audience.

Over there, the group of people from the association were arguing with the program team!

Flowing Time walked over.

The two replacement masked singers also appeared there.

But right at that moment, a shadowy figure suddenly took the stage as if no one were present. The figure stood in front of the microphone stand and adjusted it, then looked over to Music Director Bai Yuanfei and the band.

They instantly understood.

Bai Yuanfei hesitated for a moment before nodding.

Straight away, a drumbeat kicked

The guitar strummed!

Hu Fei, Xiao Lu, Dafei, and the others from the program team were stunned. Music? Where did the music come from? They looked over to the source of the sound and realized that The Clown was standing on the stage!

Petal Shower was stunned!

Sunset Glow was startled!

Flowing Time widened his eyes a bit and stared!

Meanwhile, those people from the association were angered.

"What is that?"

"Get him off the stage!"

"Why is he still singing!"

The audience was caught off guard too. No one knew what The Clown was planning or what he was going to sing. But for some reason, when that passionate music started playing, excitement surged through the crowd!

Then The Clown opened his mouth!

With that, the studio was shocked!

The first sound that came out when his mouth opened was a roaring high note!

The Clown pointed to the ceiling and screamed 1 .

"Arise!

"ye pris'ners of starvation!

"Arise!

"ye wretched of the Earth!

"For justice thunders condemnation:

"A better world's in birth!"

Arise?

Prisoners?

Arise?

Condemnation?

The program team staff were dumbfounded!

Petal Shower and Sunset Glow were staring with mouths agape!

The audience felt the rush of hot blood course through them!

What was this song?

Just what the fuck was this song?

Someone looked at the teleprompter screen!

"The Internationale"?

Rock?

The Clown was singing loudly and angrily in a high pitch. He had never sung in such a way on this stage before. Today was the first time he was doing so. It was as though he wanted to use this song to sing the anger in his heart!

"No more tradition's chains shall bind us!

"Arise, ye slaves, no more in thrall!

"The Earth shall rise on new foundations:

"We have been naught; we shall be all!"

The faces of those people from the association darkened as they got infuriated!

However, the live studio audience was brought to a blood boiling high from listening to the song!

The Clown pointed at them and sang loudly.

"'Tis the final conflict;

"Let each stand in his place.

"The International working class / Shall be the human race!"

The Clown raised one of his hands high in a clenched fist —the universal symbol of industrial workers all over the world!

International?

"The Internationale"?

The International Workers' Association?

This was a song of the workers?

This was a song for ordinary folk like them?

Chen Guang was visibly moved!

Amy was listening in disbelief!

The Clown sang loudly.

"We want no condescending saviors

"To rule us from their judgment hall;

"We workers ask not for their favors.

"Let us consult for all."

No one can help us!

But neither do we expect a savior to come forward!

We have ourselves!

We have weapons!

Arise!

Don't be afraid!

Arise!

People who are like me!

The Clown screamed.

"To make the thief disgorge his booty

"To free the spirit from its cell,

"We must ourselves decide our duty,

"We must decide, and do it well."

Suddenly, a middle-aged man in the audience raised his hand high and displayed the gesture of the International Workers' Association, then stood up silently!

A young man beside him also proudly raised a fist as The Clown did earlier as he slowly stood up as well!

Then a third person!

Followed by a tenth person!

A fiftieth!

A hundred people!

The Clown sang loudly.

"'Tis the final conflict;

"Let each stand in his place.

"The International working class / Shall be the human race!"

Chen Guang stood up and raised his right hand!

Amy stood up and raised her right hand!

Wang Zhuishu!

Yao Jiancai!

Petal Shower!

Sunset Glow!

They all raised their hands in a clenched fist!

Han Qi also raised her right hand. She was bursting with emotion and could not help herself, having been influenced by the mood in the studio.

Dafei raised his right hand proudly!

Xiao Lu slowly brought her hand up as well!

A hundred people!

Three hundred people!

Five hundred people!

At this moment, no one in the studio was sitting down!

Even some of the backstage staff stood up with their right hands raised as hot tears welled up in their eyes!

The Clown sang loudly.

"How many on our flesh have fattened;

"But if the noisome birds of prey

"Shall vanish from the sky some morning,

"The blessed sunlight still will stay."

All of a sudden, without anyone leadership, without anyone saying a word, and with the entire audience seeming to have discussed it beforehand, everyone started singing loudly along with The Clown.

"'Tis the final conflict;

"Let each stand in his place.

"The International working class

"Shall be the human race!"

Petal Shower was singing!

Sunset Glow was singing!

Bai Yuanfei was singing!

Chen Guang was singing!

Zhang Xia was singing!

Amy was singing!

"'Tis the final conflict; / Let each stand in his place.

"The International working class / Shall be the human race!

"The International working class / Shall be the human race!"

The nearly thousand people present were singing with raised right fists!

If someone witnessed such a scene, they would be deeply shocked. This shock was something that simply could not be described in words. The source of this shocking scene originated from something known as dignity!

Chapter 1060: A battle for music and dignity!

" The Internationale 1 " also existed in this world!

There was also a song for the International Workers' Association in this world!

But it didn't sound as passionate or indomitable as this version!

This song was " The Internationale 2 " from Zhang Ye's previous world. It was the most famous song of the international Communist movement. The Soviet Union had used it as a national anthem, and it was even an openly acknowledged Communist song. You could even find traces of "The Internationale" within the melody and lyrics of China's national anthem. Historically, this song carried a great

significance for the past generations and had left its mark all around the world. And Zhang Ye had sung just that song. It was the rock version by the domestic Chinese rock band, Tang Dynasty 3 !

Positive energy?

There should be no other song with more positive energy than this song!

Although it was no longer that era anymore!

Although many young people had forgotten!

Although this song had gradually exited stage left from history!

Its spirit was still around!

Its dignity was still around!

Its anger was still around!

Zhang Ye believed that this was a peaceful and orderly world. He loved this new world that split away from his previous world. But there existed some black sheep he could not tolerate and some forms of oppression he had to resist!

Banning pieces of music across the board that carried any hint of negativity?

He could not accept it!

Love songs were also considered songs that spread negativity?

He could not accept it!

So he rose up!

And along with him, everyone in the studio rose up!

As Flowing Time looked at The Clown onstage, he suddenly felt a sense of respect for him. The song had awakened many of his memories. He suddenly remembered that he had his pride too and that he should also rise up to resist!

For music!

Or maybe for dignity!

'Tis the final conflict!

'Tis the final battlefield!

They had no room for retreat!

The song ended but no one sat down!

The expressions of the association members were as ugly as they could get. They could not say anything, because in this atmosphere and situation facing everyone's anger, they did not risk saying another word more. The middle-aged man who was leading the group looked at his colleagues behind him as their group exchanged looks before they quietly left the place in defeat.

When those troublemakers left, recording of the show continued.

The results of the fifth episode's voting came out very quickly!

Petal Shower: 21 votes!

Sunset Glow: 18 votes!

The Clown: 461 votes!

It was an overwhelming victory!

The Clown became the Masked King in the fifth episode with a dominating number of votes!

Earth-shattering applause, cheers, and screams instantly rang out in the studio!

...

Sunday.

King of Masked Singers was broadcast.

"Ah?"

"Why is it all children's songs?"

"How boring!"

"Aiya, it's The Clown's turn!"

"'I'm a Small, Little Bird'? This song is really great!"

"It's such a nice song!"

At the start, everyone was watching the show without expecting much. But when The Clown's performance of "The Internationale" came on, everyone was shocked!

"Arise!

"ye pris'ners of starvation!

"Arise!

"ye wretched of the Earth!

"For justice thunders condemnation:

"We have been naught; we shall be all!"

...

At a music production company.

It was very late, but a lot of people were still working overtime to help several singers cut some of their new albums' songs that did not comply with the regulations.

"Quick, everyone. Let's work a little harder on it."

"But how are we supposed to change this line in the lyrics?"

"Director Li, the singers are protesting strongly against this!"

"Actually, I also feel that this part is quite good. If we have to change it, then we might as well change the entire song!"

"Do we have to do it this way from now on?"

"Yeah, do all the songs have to be like this in the future?"

"If all the songs are this similar, how can we still call this music?"

Everyone had very strong opinions about it, and they even had the impulse to just quit!

Suddenly, a female employee in the office space shouted, "Hey! Come and watch this!"

"Watch what?"

"What's the matter, Little He?"

"Quick, watch King of Masked Singers!"

"We're in a tight squeeze and you're watching TV? Their show is definitely facing the same problems as we are since all pieces of music are being restricted now. The restrictions they have are even stricter than ours, so what's the point of watching their show when it's expected that their performances will all be either revolutionary songs or children's songs?"

"Yeah, do your work."

"Aiyo, guys! Just come here and watch!"

Everyone was wondering what was going on as they eventually gathered around her.

When "The Internationale" played onstage; when The Clown's angry shouting roared through the studio; when the entire audience, all the judges, and staff members in the studio slowly rose up with their right fists raised!

The company's staff were stunned and their jaws dropped!

Hot blood coursed through their veins!

"Someone has come forward!"

"Someone in the music industry has finally come forward!"

"The Clown?"

"What a good song 'The Internationale' is!"

"He's fighting for the truth?"

Suddenly, an employee threw down the stack of documents in his hands and said, "Dammit, I'm not changing this anymore! Is there any meaning to it if we end up making a crappy piece of music after making the changes?"

Three people!

Five people!

Ten people!

All of them put down the tasks they had on hand!

.....

At Zhang Yuanqi's house.

Watching the show on television, she was left speechless by what she saw.

Fang Weihong's chin was trembling as she watched the show. She was neither a nationalist nor someone who liked getting angry. As an elite manager in the entertainment industry, she had gotten used to such situations and seen past all of it. But today, when she heard The Clown's "The Internationale," Fang Weihong did not know why or how, but her usually weak fist was clenched so tight that her fingernails were digging into her palms, and she was nearly bleeding!

She could feel the blood coursing through her veins!

...

On Weibo.

A highly respected veteran artist in the music industry finally said something!

It was a domestic veteran singer who was from the same generation as Zhang Xia. In fact, he had even debuted several years earlier than her. He had come from an art troupe and had a military background. He was the famous singer Cui Haiquan!

Cui Haiquan: "Regarding the recent implementation of the new regulations for works of music, I will neither acknowledge nor accept it. This is as good as strangling the life out of the music scene! This is basically going to kill the music scene! Musicians, please don't remain silent anymore! Musicians, this is our last line of defense! Musicians, please rise up!"

The netizens were greatly shocked!

"Another person has come forward!"

"It's Grandpa Cui!"

"Grandpa Cui is amazing!"

A few minutes later!

Zhang Xia and a group of veteran singers jointly issued a response: "Arise, ye musicians! Arise, 'tis the final conflict! From now on, we will never take a step back!"

Chen Guang spoke up: "Arise, ye singers!"

Fan Wenli spoke up: "Please rise up, China's musicians!"

Xiaodong, Amy, and Li Xiaoxian issued a response as a group: "Please rise up for the last shreds of our dignity as musicians! Please rise up and fight together with us!"

A lyricist: "Arise, ye musicians!"

A composer: "Arise! We can no longer retreat!"

Ten!

Twenty!

Fifty!

"The Internationale" had united the entire music industry!

The Heavenly Kings spoke up!

The Heavenly Queens spoke up!

The music companies spoke up!

Each and every one of the musicians stood up!

This was the first time people in the music industry had ever responded in such a united manner!

This was a battle!

A battle for music and dignity!