

## **Superstar 1081**

Chapter 1081: The Clown takes off his mask!

Flowing Time gasped!

Different expressions were shifting and running across King of Oddity's face!

When "Life Fantasia" from The Clown's world was recited, a lot of people felt as though their sweat glands had suddenly exploded! This was a poem they had never heard before. It was such a ridiculously good poem that many people became very engrossed in listening to it! However, the reason for their shock was not because of how good this poem was. What shocked them was totally unrelated to this poem's literary and artistic standards!

It was because this poem had suddenly reminded them of someone!

At this moment, everyone watching on TV and those at the venue all thought of one man!

Zhang Xia said anxiously, "Is he?"

Amy said, "Surely that can't be, right?"

Yao Jiancai said, "Holy shit!"

Chen Guang stared with wide eyes and said, "That's impossible!"

Xiaodong also shouted in astonishment, "It can't possibly be him! It's absolutely impossible!"

No one believed that The Clown could be that man!

Who are you?

Just who are you?

The music suddenly started playing gently.

The title of the song was already displayed on the teleprompter screen: "I Am What I Am 1"!

When everyone saw this, they were stunned!

"I Am What I Am"?

The Clown smiled as he walked around the stage barefoot.

Standing at center stage barefoot, it felt very cooling and comfortable. The pajamas he had on gave him a very relaxed sense of unparalleled coziness. It was as though all his disguises and burdens had suddenly been dropped and he could finally get back to being himself again in front of everyone!

It was such a good feeling!

Ever since he was banned, he had never felt so happy!

Being secretive? Hiding here and there? This was not actually something he enjoyed. He wished to stand in the light and sing to the entire world!

This was the real him!

This was who he really was!

The Clown lifted his microphone.

He started singing softly.

"Happiness is that there's more than one way to be happy.

"The greatest blessing is that everyone is the pride of the Creator."

The platform below him started to rise!

Bit by bit, it took Zhang Ye higher!

One meter...

Five meters...

Eight meters...

Before long, The Clown was standing at the highest point in the venue, ten meters up in the air where he could see everyone!

Dressed in his pajamas and standing barefoot, he sang loudly as though he had seemingly forgotten himself.

"There's no need to hide.

"I live for the life I appreciate.

"No need for a disguised side.

"In the bright corner I'll wait!"

The audience was stunned when they heard!

Xiaodong, Fan Wenli, and the others were also stunned!

No hiding?

No disguising?

Waiting in a bright corner?

You...

You...

At this moment!

The Clown suddenly raised his hand and ripped off his mask. Flinging it, the mask flew outward. A face that shocked everyone was exposed onscreen!

The eldest young sister shouted, "Ah!"

His second sister screamed!

His third sister's mouth was hanging there like she had forgotten how to scream!

Ha Qiqi, who was in the audience, was dumbfounded!

Zhang Zuo was dumbfounded!

Spinach looked at him in shock!

Han Qi was dumbfounded as she sat there unable to move!

It's you!

Why is it you?

How could it possibly be you!

At this moment, the venue erupted!

At this moment, everyone watching on TV went crazy!

This was really crazy!

Looking at that very familiar face, everyone went insane!

The Clown suddenly exploded with a high note!

Who am I?

You're all still asking who I am?

I'm not anyone else!

Lose the honorific.

The surname is Zhang.

He screamed as he looked up and pointed to his chest and sang loudly.

"I am what I am!

"A firework of different colors!

"The broad sky and open seas!

"I'll be the strongest bubble as I please!

"I like what I am!

"May the wild rose blossom at ease!

"Even in a lonely desert,

"Blooming in plain sight, unhurt!"

Banning?

Censoring?

Criticizing me?

Insulting me?

Bullying me?

It doesn't matter! It really doesn't matter at all!

Even if there is only one person looking at me, even if there isn't a single person left! I still won't retreat and let this world change me!

I am what I am!

No matter where I go, I am what I am!

Like that stubborn wild rose that blooms in the desert.

Can you all understand that?

Can you all see that?

In the audience, his mother suddenly cried as she pointed at the stage and shouted, "That's my son! My son!"

His father also teared up a little!

So earlier, when The Clown had said that his parents were here too, he was actually referring to them!

His mother was choking back her tears. "It hasn't been easy for Little Ye! It really hasn't been easy at all!"

His third sister shouted, "Brother!"

The eldest young sister and second sister were also so excited that they were unable to get ahold of themselves!

Currently, all of the audience's reactions were similar to theirs!

Shock!

Enthrallment!

Astonishment!

Disbelief!

It was Zhang Ye!

The Clown was actually Zhang Ye!

The Clown laughed!

He laughed without restraint!

"How happy I am,

"Enjoying life in a glass house."

He pointed to the sky and sang loudly.

"And telling the world!

"What it's like to be bright and open!"

A sustained note made the entire audience stand up!

Screams!

Applause!

Everything else was drowned out in an instant!

A lot of people were crying!

A lot of people were shocked!

The man who insisted on singing when he had nearly fainted on the stage due to a fever during the first episode—that was Zhang Ye!

The man who sang "The Internationale" with anger when he was faced with censorship from several television associations—that was Zhang Ye!

At this moment, many of The Clown's songs floated uninhibited into the minds of the audience!

I am a beautiful, beautiful wild rose! / Hating the Heavens for being unfair!

I'm ugly, / but I am so tender!

Arise! / ye pris'ners of starvation! / 'Tis the final conflict!

You only see the brightest of stars in the starry night sky!

Zhang Xia cried out, "It's Little Zhang!"

Xiaodong shouted, "Oh my god!"

Zhang Yuanqi was the first person to guess that The Clown might have been Zhang Ye. But when she saw The Clown take off his mask and the face behind it, she still found it unbelievable!

Dong Shanshan was dumbfounded!

High up in the air!

The Clown pointed at himself.

"I am what I am!

"A firework of different colors!

"The broad sky and open seas!

"I'll be the strongest bubble as I please!

"I like what I am!

"May the wild rose blossom at ease!

"Even in a lonely desert,

"Blooming in plain sight, unhurt!"

It was too shocking!

This song had turned the theater upside down!

This song was written with Zhang Ye in mind!

Every single word was about him!

Many of the audience members were waving their arms and screaming for Zhang Ye!

Countless viewers watching TV were shouting and yelling in shock and going crazy for Zhang Ye!

Zhang Ye closed his eyes.

He lowered his voice.

"Even in a lonely desert,

"Blooming in plain sight...unhurt."

The entire audience stood up!

It was as if everyone had agreed beforehand that they should stand up in unison!

Han Qi covered her mouth and cried. She had already lost count of the number of times she had cried today. It was really touching. She was captivated by his unique charm! So much so that she couldn't free herself!

Han Qi suddenly raised her hands and shouted, "Zhang Ye! Zhang Ye!"

In an instant, cheers erupted throughout the venue!

A female audience member shouted in tears, "Zhang Ye!"

A male audience member bellowed, "Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

The audience had gone out of control!

The audience had gone insane!

This night belonged to The Clown!

This night belonged to Zhang Ye!!

Chapter 1082: A national sensation!

At Old Rao's house.

The live broadcast of King of Masked Singers was showing on the television.

Yang Shu, sitting on the sofa, was staring with her mouth agape!

Rao Aimin was stunned!

Chenchen was also so shocked that her jaw had fallen to the floor!

Yang Shu said "Th-This is my senior bro?"

...

At Peking University.

It was almost summer break. The teachers from the Chinese Department were having a dinner party.

When "I Am What I Am" was performed on television in the restaurant's private room, when The Clown who was on screen suddenly ripped off his mask, the entire room fell silent. Before the song was finished, no one moved their chopsticks. Everyone looked like they had seen a ghost as they kept staring straight at the television!

"Zhang Ye?"

"It's Professor Zhang!"

"How could The Clown turn out to be him! Damn!"

...

At the SARFT.

In Old Wu's office.

Secretary Bai Li pushed open the door and came into the room. "Chief Wu, something has happened!"

"What's the matter?" Wu Zeqing was working overtime to handle some documentation work. When she heard Bai Li, she did not even look up as she continued writing something calmly with her head lowered.

Bai Li said in horror, "Zhang Ye is on TV!"

Only then did Wu Zeqing slowly look up. "Oh?"

Bai Li said anxiously, "Take a quick look at King of Masked Singers!"

Wu Zeqing picked up the remote control and immediately turned on the television.

The figure of Zhang Ye appeared on screen!

Then Wu Zeqing laughed. "OK, I see."

But Bai Li could not laugh at all, because Zhang Ye was currently on the ban list. As the tone had been set long ago, these people were supposed to be restricted from appearing onscreen for a certain amount of time! But who could have expected Teacher Zhang Ye to take on another persona and appear on the most popular, currently running variety show while hiding behind a mask? Further, he revealed himself during the live broadcast. This was something that no one had expected at all!

...

At an entertainment company.

Fang Weihong stared at the television in shock!

A lot of her surrounding colleagues were also stunned!

Today, they were waiting for The Clown to take off his mask and were discussing whether they would be able to poach him to their company. The proposal was already written and the offer had been decided on as well. All that was left was for The Clown to reveal his true self. As long as they knew who he was, they could find and approach him!

But when Zhang Ye's face appeared behind the mask, their office fell silent!

Silence!

Then, Fang Weihong threw the proposal straight into the trash can and said, "There's no need to try to poach him anymore." Since it is him, there would be no talent agency that could ever poach him even if he was a free agent!

Her colleagues gave bitter smiles as they knew that their proposal was written in vain!

It was Zhang Ye?

The Clown fucking turned out to be Zhang Ye?

Oh my god!

What's happening with this world?

They felt as though that this world had gone crazy in this moment!



...

On television, the live audience was screaming in excitement!

On Weibo, the reactions were about the same as well!

A fan club that had kept a low profile ever since their idol went silent suddenly came alive and appeared again. This fan club that had previously made people tremble in fright countless times in the entertainment industry was called—Zhang Ye's fan club!

"Zhang Ye!"

"It's Teacher Zhang!"

"Oh my god!"

"Comrades, so Teacher Zhang did not disappear after all!"

"Fuck, when did our Old Zhang pick up singing?"

"I'm so surprised! This is so fucking surprising!"

"How could it be Zhang Ye! Goddammit!"

"I'm so shocked!"

"Is this for real? Is this really happening?"

"I love you to death, Teacher Zhang! I've been wondering why The Clown's bad temper felt so familiar!"

"I should have known! He even admitted defeat just so that he could eliminate Li Yu? How many people like him are there in the entertainment industry who dare to fall out and pick a fight with someone like that!"

"I've only been a braindead fan of two people in my entire life. One is Zhang Ye and the other is The Clown. In the end, the two of them are actually the same person! Can you guys imagine the shock? Can you? This is too unbelievable! Teacher Zhang, I love you to death! You're fantastic! You're really fantastic!"

The acting leader of Zhang Ye's fan club, Big Saber Bro, who had disappeared for a long time, suddenly appeared again!

Big Saber Bro: "My large saber is again again again again again again again again again again again again again unable to endure the thirst! Brothers and sisters! Follow my lead!"

In an instant, Li Yu's and Flowing Time's Weibo were filled with condemning voices!

Previously, they had not known about The Clown's identity. But now that they knew who he was, they definitely had to seek an explanation about the issue from back then. If they did not receive one, then they would scold them until they gave one!

Elsewhere.

Many netizens were shocked by what they were seeing.

"Fuck!"

"Zhang Ye's fan club has been revived!"

"They've started their insulting again!"

"These people are fucking warriors just like Zhang Ye!"

"Hahahaha, I haven't witnessed such a sight in such a long time. It feels pretty nostalgic to me!"

"Yeah, an entertainment circle without the presence of Zhang Ye's fan club is definitely incomplete. After such a long time without seeing them banding together for something, I really do miss them!"

"This Zhang Ye is amazing!"

"I thought that Teacher Zhang didn't know how to sing? Was he just pretending in the past?!"

"How devious of him! He's way too devious!"

"That's right, I've never before seen someone as awful as him!"

"But it's really such a nice song! I've realized that I've also become a braindead fan of Zhang Ye's! What should I do!"

...

At the King of Masked Singers' venue!

The song ended!

The live broadcast was still ongoing!

The entire venue was still going crazy!

Thousands of audience members began chanting Zhang Ye's name in unison as the atmosphere reached its climax. There was no way to calm them down!

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

The live broadcast was coming to an end!

Dong Shanshan was not feeling any calmer than the audience. She raised her microphone and said loudly with a smile, "Thank you, everyone. With Teacher Clown's song over, the King of Masked Singers grand finals has come to a perfect ending. Tell me, do you guys still wish to watch and listen to these teachers' performances again?"

The audience shouted:

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

Dong Shanshan announced loudly, "If so, I would like to send out an invitation to everyone on behalf of Beijing Television and the King of Masked Singers program team. King of Masked Singers will be holding a live concert next Saturday night! Contestants like The Clown, Petal Shower, Sunset Glow, Flowing Time, King of Oddity, and Spinach, whom you all like so much, will be appearing at the live concert! Then, I welcome everyone to join us for the event! At that time, let us witness the glory together!"

There was still more?

There was still going to be an episode showing the live concert?

When the audience heard, they became exceedingly excited!

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Fan Wenli!"

"Liao Yiqi!"

Everyone was madly shouting the names of the contestants they liked!

Counting down: three, two, one!

The live broadcast signal was shut off!

The night of the King of Masked Singers' finale had officially come to an end!

Zhang Ye, who had just gotten off from the stage, was immediately surrounded!

Yao Jiancai chided him with a laugh, "You sure are good, Little Zhang! Why didn't you tell me you joined the competition? You're a real puzzle! A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma!"

Zhang Ye felt a little embarrassed. "Ahem."

Fan Wenli smiled and said, "Director Zhang, it's been a while."

Zhang Ye was amused and said, "It hasn't been that long. We meet each other every week."

Chen Guang asked with great surprise, "Were all the songs that you sang onstage written by you?"

"Yes." Zhang Ye grinned and said, "Please excuse my poor writing."

Zhang Xia pointed at him and said, "You're just great! I never expected that it would be you! You even pretended to be a northeasterner? Pretended to be a Hong Konger? And even pretended to be Hokkien?"

Zhang Ye said awkwardly, "Grandma Zhang, that was because I didn't dare to reveal myself. The air pollution documentary problem hasn't been dealt with yet. I'm still banned, unlike all of you."

At this moment, Dong Shanshan suddenly rushed down from the stage to question him.

"You!" Dong Shanshan shouted at him loudly.

Zhang Ye rubbed his nose. "Yo, if it isn't Teacher Shanshan."

Dong Shanshan pointed at him and said, "When I called you that one time, I asked you if you were The Clown. You even denied it back then and swore that you were not him, didn't you?"

Zhang Ye smiled sheepishly. "Did I? I've forgotten already."

Li Xiaoxian laughed and said, "Was that song of yours really dedicated to Teacher Shanshan?"

Xiaodong exclaimed, "Didn't they explain it online? That Shanshan's birthday was not on that day?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "We've been classmates for so many years and were even seated in front and behind of each other, so how could I not know when her birthday is? Her recorded date of birth on her household register is the wrong date."

Dong Shanshan rolled her eyes. "Then why did you claim that I never told you about it before?"

Zhang Ye said innocently, "But it's true that you never told me about it. I only knew because I overheard when you were telling another classmate back in school."

Dong Shanshan asked, "...Then how did you suddenly learn how to sing?"

Zhang Ye laughed, "That's a secret."

Zhang Yuanqi also walked up to him and said with a smile, "How many favors do you owe me this time?"

Zhang Ye replied nervously, "Isn't one more than enough?"

Zhang Yuanqi said, "I guessed it was you."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "But you weren't very sure about it."

"Right, because I've heard you sing on the spot before," Zhang Yuanqi said.

Zhang Xia also remembered the day Zhang Ye wrote "Woman Flower" and sang it on the spot for her and Yuanqi backstage during the Spring Festival Gala. They really did not find anything flattering about his singing skill and voice at that time. Coupled with "A Letter to Home," which he sang on Beijing Television's Spring Festival Gala, no one had expected that Zhang Ye would know how to sing. This was also the reason why no one thought of him as a possibility! As such, when everyone saw The Clown after he took off his mask, that shock was really too great to handle!

Over there!

The Beijing Television staff also rushed up to him all at once!

Dafei shouted, "Director Zhang!"

The moment Hou Ge came up to Zhang Ye, he gave him a bear hug. "How could it be you!"

Xiao Lu came over!

Hu Fei came over!

Han Qi also excitedly ran up to him!

"Teacher Zhang!"

"You were so amazing!"

"We were trying to guess who The Clown was! Why is it you! How could it possibly be you!"

"Did you really win?"

"I was wondering who could have written so many heaven-defying classics!"

Han Qi's eyes reddened a little as she got very excited at seeing her idol. "Teacher Zhang, I like every one of your songs! I love them to death!"

Zhang Ye looked at her and said with a smile, "Thank you, Little Han. Thanks for all your hard work these past several days." Then he gave the group a fist and palm salute. "Everyone, I'm sorry that I had to hide this from you. I was afraid that if my identity was exposed, the show would be dragged down by me, so I had to keep it a secret. If there's anything that I did wrong, I'll treat everyone to dinner as an apology at a later time! Haha!"

All of a sudden, someone wrapped their arms around Zhang Ye's waist and lifted him up!

Then a lot of people from Beijing Television surrounded Zhang Ye and raised him up high!

They threw him up in the air!

They caught him!

They threw him up in the air again!

They caught him again!

"Cham-pi-on!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

Today!

He was a national sensation!

Chapter 1083: Zhang Ye's latest celebrity ranking?

The next day.

Sunday.

At his parents' house, Zhang Ye slept all the way until 10 in the morning.

After he had sent his parents home from the competition venue last night, he headed straight to bed and dozed off immediately for a full 11 hours of sleep. Over these past few days, he had become

incredibly tired. It was much too tiring having to do the production, choose his songs, arrange music, practice his singing, record the show, and attend the live broadcast. He was just like a warrior who did not know what fatigue meant. Throughout the duration of the competition, he even experienced staying up for two days and nights in a row, as well as not succumbing to a fever of 40°C! It had been two months, and now the competition was finally over. When the tension he had been experiencing was released, he was immediately overcome with a heavy sense of fatigue that made him sleep until now.

His cell phone had run out of battery.

He rolled over and plugged it into the charger before turning his phone on, all without stepping out of his bed.

There were quite a few notifications of missed calls and messages received on his cell phone's display.

His old colleague, Ha Qiqi: "Director Zhang! Me, Zhang Zuo, Little Wang, and everyone else all saw the moment you got crowned champion onstage. Great job! Congratulations!"

Central TV Department 14's Director Yan Tianfei: "Teacher Zhang, you're really not being a bro here. Why didn't you let me know about such an important thing? Haha, I couldn't get through to you, so I'm sending you this message to congratulate you. I thought that you'd really stopped doing things after getting banned and were really going to behave yourself from now on, hur hur. But seeing that you're back now, I'm relieved! You're still the same old Teacher Little Zhang that I knew, always going around and stirring up trouble every other day!"

His university classmate, Yu Yingyi: "Old classmate, you're really on fire now! In the entire entertainment industry, you're the most popular one of all! When are you going to treat us to a meal? Quickly set a date! I can't wait!"

His old colleague, Tian Bin: "Old Zhang, do you intend to ascend to the Heavens!"

A-list movie star, Ning Lan: "Did you have to make such a big splash?"

His friends and colleagues all came to congratulate him and express their shock at the same time!

Zhang Ye was lying in bed and smiling as he read the messages, replying to them one by one.

For the entire morning, the Internet, newspapers, and news broadcasts were all reporting about The Clown and Zhang Ye, as well as King of Masked Singers. Admittedly, Zhang Ye's position was slightly more awkward since he was currently soft banned without any official statement or clarification from the authorities. Any news reports regarding him were also greatly controlled. However, yesterday's live broadcast had caused such a big stir that there was no one who did not know about it anymore. So the media couldn't possibly avoid not mentioning Zhang Ye's name and not report about it even if they wanted to!

"Curtains fall on King of Masked Singers: The Clown crowned champion!"

"Inconceivable! King of Masked Singers' The Clown's true identity!"

"The Clown turns out to be Zhang Ye!"

"The Clown's 'I Am What I Am' send shockwaves through audience!"

"Zhang Ye performs another astonishing crossover!"

"A layman sweeps away the music industry!?"

"King of Masked Singers to hold live concert next week. Zhang Ye's appearance still unknown!"

"Our reporter inquires over the phone; authorities yet to make statement!"

"Zhang Ye—entertainment industry's professional 'shit stirrer'!"

"Watch out, music industry musicians! Here comes Zhang Ye!"

People throughout the country were still in a state of shock!

Fan Wenli had also taken her mask off yesterday, as did Li Xiaoxian. But as their identities had long since been speculated by the netizens, there didn't exist an element of surprise. However, no one had been able to guess The Clown's real identity all this time. Then there was also the fact that the name of Zhang Ye itself had always been a focal point, and his status was unlike Fan Wenli and Li Xiaoxian's, who were professional singers. A host, director, mathematician, and someone who meddled in the Chinese language had been crowned the grand champion of King of Masked Singers by taking down a series of professional singers like Fan Wenli, Li Xiaoxian, Zhao Qiquan, and many others. This made many of the industry insiders want to vomit blood! This was too unreasonable! Zhang Ye, did you intend to blast off from Earth?

Any topic related to Zhang Ye had always been this hotly debated!

He was truly the most wondrous person in show business. No one could predict what he would do next. Ever since his debut, everything he did would always shock a group of people!

Just look!

It was no exception this time!

...

Outside, the door opened.

His parents came home in a laughing mood.

Zhang Ye quickly got out of bed and strolled into the living room. "Dad, Mom, where did you go?"

"You just woke up?" His mother was grinning from ear to ear. She placed the plastic bags in her hands down. "Your dad and I went grocery shopping. I must cook some good dishes for you in the afternoon to celebrate!"

His father glanced at his wife and said, "What grocery shopping? Your mom went out early this morning to brag. She reached the market at 8 AM and started bragging the moment we bumped into every neighbor we saw. Look at the time now. It's already 11 AM."

His mother was having none of it. "What's wrong with me bragging about my son!"

His father threw his hands up and said, "Alright, alright, I didn't say that it was wrong."

His mother harrumphed. "My son is so popular. Why am I not allowed to tell others about it?"

His father pursed his lips at Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Mom, just go ahead and tell anyone you like; no one will stop you. Let's quickly eat lunch. I'm getting hungry already. I haven't had anything much to eat at all."

His mother immediately said, "Wait a bit, wait a bit. It'll be ready soon!" Just before stepping into the kitchen, she suddenly turned around and asked, "By the way, son, what's your popularity score now? Where are you ranked?"

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Oh, I would have forgotten if you hadn't mentioned it."

His mother urged, "Quickly go and check! You were at the last two places on the A-list rankings last time, but it should have changed by now! Go check and see how many spots you've advanced!"

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright."

In recent days, his popularity score had been at a standstill while the celebrities behind him had kept increasing their popularity and were catching up to him. Like Li Yu, who had exposed his own identity on King of Masked Singers. He was close to returning to the A-list Celebrity Rankings once again. Meanwhile, Zhang Ye, who hadn't been appearing much onscreen and had few new works, had dropped to the last two spots on the A-list rankings. He was in a very precarious position. Yesterday's unmasking was a turning point for him as he finally did not need to worry about dropping back down to the B-list rankings. He would definitely advance in the rankings although he did not know by how many positions he would advance.

He quickly went back to his room and powered on his computer.

Zhang Ye typed in the address to the official website of the Celebrity Rankings Index and loaded the page.

But the page could not load.

"Please try again."

This notification was all that was on the page.

Zhang Ye refreshed the page.

The page was still unable to load!

What was happening?

Why couldn't he access the site?

He immediately went onto Weibo to check. Be it the netizens or the industry insiders, everyone was confused about what was going on.

"The Celebrity Rankings website is not loading?"

"I'm experiencing the same thing. Is there something wrong with my connection?"



"It's not your connection. The site has been inaccessible since midnight."

"Eh?"

"But that's not possible."

"This is the official website! Nothing like this has ever happened before!"

"Yeah, what's going on?"

"This has never happened in the past!"

"What's their technical team doing? We're at a crucial point in time right now!"

"I was hoping to check out Fan Wenli's popularity ranking!"

"I was waiting to see Zhang Ye's! He was about to drop off the A-list rankings the last time I checked!"

A lot of those in the entertainment industry were also waiting. The influence of King of Masked Singers was so widespread. Its songs dominated the Top Chinese Music Chart, and the popularity score gain it gave was also astonishing. Those involved in the show would always check their own rankings the following day to see if there were any changes in their rankings and how much their popularity scores had increased by. Even the celebrities and people from the talent agencies who did not have anything to do with the show would also check. They wanted to know if those who were on the show would have any changes in their ranking and whether they would be overtaken by them in the rankings!

Popularity was the lifeblood of a celebrity!

And this Celebrity Rankings Index was the lifechart of the entertainment industry!

...

This issue was also being discussed in the Goof Group.

Ning Lan: "It's still not out yet? It's still not loading?"

Huo Dongfang: "I don't know, perhaps something happened."

Chen Guang sent a sweating emoji. "On my lovely wife's request, I've been waiting up all night in the hopes of checking the rankings. I can wait no longer, so it's time to sleep."

Xiaodong appeared. "Hahaha, Brother Chen. You're truly a model husband!"

Amy: "I'm waiting for our Xiaoxian's ranking to come out. Hurry, hurry!"

A male star said: "This has never happened before in the many years it's existed, so what's going on today?"

...

Noon.

12 o'clock sharp.

There was finally an official announcement!

It was an announcement that dumbfounded the entire entertainment industry and the public!

The announcement was as follows:

Explanation regarding the temporary inaccessibility of the Celebrity Rankings Index Website:

Due to the rising influence of a certain variety show in recent times, the data statistics of the Rankings Index have been affected to a certain extent. In addition, the popularity score of a certain celebrity has seen fluctuation on too wide of a scale. The amount of data collected has exceeded more than what our systems can handle and this caused a temporary outage to our system. At the moment, our technical team is stepping in to rectify it as soon as possible. We sincerely apologize for inconveniencing everyone. We will be making another announcement when the Rankings Index is updated and returns to service.

A certain variety show?

Wouldn't that be King of Masked Singers?!

A certain celebrity?

Wouldn't that be Zhang Ye?!

When this announcement was made, everyone was dumbfounded!

On Weibo.

"What?"

"Zhang Ye's popularity score has greatly fluctuated? And it even crippled their systems?"

"Pfft, are they serious?"

"Why is it that everything that goes wrong has to do with Zhang Ye, hahaha!"

"Holy cow, just how much did Teacher Zhang's popularity score increase by! It even fucking crippled their systems?"

"That's nothing strange with that. When The Clown took his mask off yesterday, that was an instantaneous moment. Because of that, the system would have to transfer all of The Clown's popularity score from the previous month or so to Zhang Ye. Perhaps the data for that really did overflow! Pfft, Teacher Zhang is really great. He even brought down the Celebrity Rankings Index that had been operating fine for so long!"

"I'm cramping up from laughing!"

"Teacher Zhang is so mighty!"

"Teacher Zhang is so impressive!"

Suddenly, someone posted the poem that Zhang Ye recited at last night's grand finals!

"Life Fantasia."

Especially those last few lines. No matter how you looked at it, it was got the blood going!

Many of the netizens hadn't read Zhang Ye's poems in a long time, but it was still as domineering, earthshaking, and moving as ever.

I want to sing

a human song

that ages from now

will chorus through the universe.

The netizens started posting in the comments below.

"I like Zhang Ye so much!"

"His poems are always so awesome!"

"His songs as well!"

"Earth no longer has a place that can contain Zhang Ye!"

"Congratulations, Teacher Zhang. You're already blasting out into the universe!"

"The Celebrity Rankings Index website could even get crippled? I really have to take my hat off to Zhang Ye!"

The people in the industry didn't know how to react!

The website crashed?

It was Zhang Ye's fault?

Damn, just how much did your popularity score go up by this time!

Chapter 1084: The first concert of its kind in the industry!

The next day.

The Celebrity Rankings Index website was still down.

The netizens were continuing to gloat over this problem.

"@ZhangYe!"

"You made a huge mess!"

"All the celebrity rankings have been wiped out because of you!"

"Teacher Zhang Ye, you've caused trouble again."

"Hahahahaha!"

"Pissing myself laughing, this is so funny!"

"Every time Zhang Ye does something, the entertainment industry experiences an earthquake!"

"I just like how this fellow always causes trouble wherever he goes!"

As the cause of the problem, Zhang Ye could only wryly smile!

What are you guys mentioning me for?

What the fuck has this got to do with me?

Quite a number of netizens were "blaming" him for it, but of course they were just joking.

The one thing that relieved Zhang Ye was that none of his music industry peers had scolded him this time around!

Wang Zhuishu's Weibo: "During the run of King of Masked Singers, my favorite singer was Petal Shower. But the one who sang best was definitely The Clown. That's something that anyone would admit!"

A female musician: "Zhang Ye is really the favored Son of Heaven! His music literacy is so good that you'd never believe that he isn't even a professional singer yet."

A lyricist: "No one has ever dared to sing only originals on any singing show. Only Zhang Ye would dare to do something like this! He's incredible. In the field of writing lyrics, there shouldn't be anyone who is a match for him!"

In the past, whenever Zhang Ye crossed over to a new industry, there would always be people calling him out. So those people from Zhang Ye's fan club were gearing up for a fight, ready to take on the industry peers in the music scene. But to their surprise, there was not even an opportunity to do so as no one scolded Zhang Ye at all! Instead, there was only praise all around!

...

At around 2 in the afternoon, the official website of the Celebrity Rankings Index was finally partially restored after being down for close to 40 hours.

The updated celebrity rankings were published!

Countless netizens and entertainment industry insiders anxiously came to check!

Fan Wenli's name glittered at the front of the B-list Celebrity Rankings. She was already in second place on the B-list rankings after her popularity score had increased by an unknown amount!

There were also changes to Li Xiaoxian's ranking. She shot to the middle of the B-list!

Spinach, Liao Yiqi, reached the front of the C-list rankings!

Flowing Time, Zhao Qiquan, also experienced quite an increase to his popularity score!

As the only host of the show, Dong Shanshan was almost within reach of the B-list!

Chen Guang, Yao Jiancai, Zhang Xia, and the others also skimmed some popularity off of King of Masked Singers. Their popularity had also grown, although it was not as much as those who took part in the show as contestants.

Only Zhang Yuanqi's ranking did not change, but that was because she had already reached the top. Being an S-list Heavenly Queen, this increase to her popularity score might have been a large increase for others, but it was only considered a minor change for her. Of course, it wasn't negligible, but it wasn't really that much either.

Everyone was happy!

For the celebrities who took part in King of Masked Singers, the celebration and revelry this time was all to the credit of Zhang Ye alone. Whether it was from the perspective of the show's production or the copyright of the show, this entire show was essentially Zhang Ye's baby. Using his show and the production to gain their current popularity, even if Flowing Time did have a conflict with The Clown and clashed with Zhang Ye's fan club after the competition ended, he didn't have any complaints—all for that reason alone. He could blame The Clown, but there wouldn't be any pointing of fingers at Zhang Ye!

On Weibo.

"Fan Wenli has risen in the rankings so quickly!"

"That's really fast! She's already second place on the B-list rankings?"

"She could even get to this position by purely singing? I guess it's only Fan Wenli who could do something like that, right?"

"Haha, Old Chen had better work harder. He's been overtaken by his wife!"

"Li Xiaoxian is really fearsome too!"

"Spring Garden is gonna blow up!"

"Yeah, all of the Spring Garden members are now B-list celebs. Put them together and there would simply be no competition! They deserve to be called the #1 girl group! Definitely one of the top ten in Asia!"

"Eh, where's Zhang Ye's name?"

"Damn, you're right!"

"Why isn't Zhang Ye's name listed?"

"There's no sign of him on the rankings at all!"

"I've also checked! His name really isn't there!"

The netizens all rushed to lodge complaints with the official website in an instant!

In the end, another announcement was made.

"Explanation regarding Zhang Ye's celebrity ranking: The system is currently undergoing maintenance to repair the statistics to recalculate Zhang Ye's popularity score. Our technical team will strive to complete the maintenance within the week."

Only his ranking was not fixed!

The system was not fully repaired yet!

"It's still not done?"

"I'm just waiting to see Zhang Ye's ranking!"

"I'm also waiting for it."

"They will get it fixed within the week?"

"Isn't the King of Masked Singers concert scheduled for this Saturday? Are they going to wait until then to calculate all of his data at once?"

"Anything that involves Zhang Ye always ends up a mess!"

"Zhang Ye has probably created history in the entertainment industry with that, hasn't he? Pfft!"

"I'm really looking forward to this weekend's concert!"

"I wonder what songs Zhang Ye will sing."

"Me too! I can't wait!"

"Looking forward to seeing Fan Wenli's performance!"

"How I wish I could attend the concert!"

"How can we get tickets? Or do they only give them out through a lottery?"

"Are there scalpers selling any?"

The topic gradually changed to the weekend concert!

Countless viewers were anticipating it highly as there had never before been a concert like this. This was going to be an unprecedented concert that no other variety show had put on before. It wasn't that the other singing shows did not want to hold one, but that they were not popular enough to do so. King of Masked Singers was the first to hold one and had booked an entire stadium that could hold tens of thousands of spectators!

It was the first in the industry!

The first in the entire country!

Beijing Television invited everyone from all walks of life to join in the celebration!

Of course, there was also a small issue here that everyone was worried about.

...

Beijing Television.

Hu Fei asked, "Have you guys sent it upstairs already?"

Hou Ge nodded. "Yes, but the SARFT did not make a single comment."

"Not a word?" Hu Fei was startled.

Hou Ge gave a wry smile. "Nothing."

Dafei blinked several times. "Then would that mean that Teacher Zhang can take part in the concert and it'll be fine? Is this how we should understand this?"

Hou Ge shook his head. "How would I know?"

Hu Fei felt that this was strange and was wondering about it. "Have you guys realized? In this past year, the SARFT's toward Little Zhang has changed a lot. They barely touch him anymore? Just think about it. I think the SARFT also did not issue any statements regarding the air pollution documentary incident? What's more, the air pollution documentary even managed to stay online for a few days! And there was that time when those associations issued a joint statement to make those changes but were chased away by Little Zhang with 'The Internationale.' The SARFT did not say anything and even criticized those associations for cooking up those nonsensical guidelines. All these incidents don't add up."

Xiao Lu added, "Now that you've brought it up, that's true."

Hou Ge said excitedly, "Then does that mean that Teacher Zhang's ban has been lifted?"

Hu Fei replied, "Not necessarily. Who knows? Since no one has said anything against it, we'll just go ahead with the concert arrangements! Everyone, start getting down to work. We must do well and make this first concert of its kind a success! Let's make it beautiful! We'll have the perfect finale for King of Masked Singers! None of you are allowed to screw this up!"

...

Back home.

Zhang Ye received a lot of calls to thank him.

The first call was from Fan Wenli.

"Thanks, Director Zhang."

"What are you thanking me for?"

"Your show, of course. Who else would I be thanking if not you?"

"Hur hur, you're welcome."

"See you at the concert this weekend."

Then came Liao Yiqi's call.

"Thank you, Teacher Zhang."

"You're welcome, Student Spinach."

"Hehe, I've mooched off of you this time. My popularity has grown by so much. An advertising company just approached me to give me an endorsement and offered me 3 million RMB straight up. I was stunned since I was never worth that much in the past."

"3 million isn't that much. You're really popular now, so I think you can still push for more."

"Eh?"

"Just take my advice."

"Alright then, I'll listen to you."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye smiled.

Since his popularity score hadn't been calculated yet, he stopped thinking about it. It was better to do something fruitful, like choosing a song for the concert. He definitely had to be well-prepared for it even though it was no longer a competition. Although he had already been crowned the champion, he was still not going to be sloppy about things. As long as it was related to work, Zhang Ye would take it seriously.

Which song then?

For this final song, what should he sing?

Chapter 1085: Piano playing coming from the room!

The next day.

The King of Masked Singers concert was getting hyped up!

Be it within the industry or to the audience, everyone was looking forward to that day. They were also anticipating what kind of finale The Clown, Petal Shower, Sunset Glow, Flowing Time, King of Oddity, Spinach, and the others would perform for the concert!

In the morning.

Zhang Ye got up and ate breakfast.

Ring, ring, ring.

The Clown's cell phone was ringing.

Zhang Ye was startled at first, then answered it. "Hello, Little Han?"

On the other end of the line, Han Qi said: "Good morning, Teacher Zhang."

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "Why are you still calling me on this cell phone?"

Han Qi said in embarrassment, "Ah, I got used to it and didn't notice. Teacher Zhang, Director Hu wanted me to inform you that the concert this weekend will proceed according to plan. You can take part in the concert since the SARFT did not raise any objections."

"Alright, I understand."

Han Qi said: "We found it quite strange. We were already prepared for an inquiry by the SARFT on this matter, but surprisingly, nothing came of it in the end."



Zhang Ye smiled. "Isn't that good?"

Han Qi asked: "Have you decided on the song that you'll be singing? When can you start rehearsing?"

Zhang Ye thought about it. "I haven't decided yet. I'll contact you again within the next two days."

Why didn't the authorities say anything?

They did not know what the reason was, but Zhang Ye did.

His mother looked at him. "Are they pressing you for the song that you'll be singing at the concert?"

Zhang Ye grunted in affirmation.

His mother asked with interest, "Are you ready? What song will you be singing? Are you going to sing another song for me and your dad? That 'I Really Love You' was quite a good song."

Zhang Ye coughed and said, "Probably not? I still haven't decided on what to sing after thinking about it all last night. I still need to give it some thought." However, Zhang Ye wanted to handle something else right now. He had to take his mind off the concert for a while. "Dad, Mom, I need to go out after lunch. I won't be coming home for dinner tonight."

"Where are you running off to now?"

"I'm going out to buy a piano."

"Do we have any space for that at home?"

He had something that he wanted to do.

It was something that was very important to him.

...

Later that morning.

In a piano shop without many customers.

The shop was rather empty. Other than the female manager, there was no one else around at the moment.

A young man wearing a pair of sunglasses and a surgical mask pushed open the door and walked in. "Hello, do you have a piano for sale? I'm looking for a decent one."

The female manager nonchalantly looked up and suddenly screamed, "Ahhhhhhhhhh!"

Zhang Ye was frightened. "Whoa, what's the matter?"

The female manager seemed to have seen a ghost. "Zhang Ye! You are Zhang Ye!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "You can even recognize me like this?"

The female manager blurted out, "I've been following King of Masked Singers every week! I can recognize you even if you turn to ashes!" Then, probably realizing that it sounded a little inappropriate,

she quickly said, "Aiyo, I love you to death! You sang so well! You want to buy a piano? You don't have to pay! I'll give you a piano for free! You can choose from any of the pianos in the shop."

Zhang Ye waved her off. "How could that do?"

The female manager said in embarrassment, "It's alright, just...let me take a picture with you to put in our shop. Consider it promotion for us."

Zhang Ye smiled at that and said, "How about this? I'll pay for the piano and also take a picture with you, that OK?"

The female manager immediately said, "That would be great. Is the piano a gift for someone or yourself? Let me recommend you the best piano we have in our shop. Although it's a bit expensive, but hai, it's not like you're poor or anything. Come, come. What do you think of this piano? It's a high-end one; I wouldn't sell it to just anyone." Whether she was usually this talkative or just excited to see him, Zhang Ye didn't know. He just listened to her chatter away anyway.

Finally, he selected the piano he wanted.

"Where should I deliver it? Please write down an address for us."

"You don't have to deliver it. I need it today, so can you get someone to help me tie it up on my car?"

"Ah? What kind of a car do you have?"

"A BMW X5."

"But there's no way to fit it in there."

"Just secure it on top of the car."

"How can that do? Your car will get scratched."

"It's a bulletproof car. You won't be able to scratch it."

"Uh, th-then I'll get someone to give it a try."

The female manager knew that a big shot like Zhang Ye would not be willing to let others know his address, so she wasn't exactly surprised at this and immediately went to find someone.

...

Evening.

6 PM.

Wu Zeqing had just gotten off from work and was walking out of the office building.

"Chief Wu."

"You're leaving?"

"Chief Wu, take care."

"It's been hard on you, Chief Wu."

Wu Zeqing nodded at them with a smile. "You guys knock off early when you finish working."

A department supervisor walked quickly to her and said with an anguished look, "Chief Wu, about the list for the concert that was submitted by King of Masked Singers—"

Wu Zeqing waved it off and said, "It's already been decided. Don't bring it up anymore."

The supervisor said nervously, "But Chief Chen seems to—"

"If he has any problems, get him to come and look for me," Wu Zeqing said calmly.

"Oh, alright then."

Secretary Bai Li quickly caught up with her. "Chief Wu, you can't drive your car today, right? I'll send you home."

Wu Zeqing nodded. "OK."

In the car.

Bai Li blinked and said, "What are you having for dinner tonight?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "I'll just go home and fix something up for dinner. Since I'm eating alone, I can make do with anything."

Bai Li instinctively asked, "You're still single?" Then she realized her slip of the tongue. "Oh, look at me, I always ask about things that I shouldn't be asking. Please don't take it to heart."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "You've been working for me for a year. Why are you still so restrained?"

Bai Li laughed and said, "Because you're the boss."

They arrived at Wu Zeqing's place.

Bai Li said, "I'll be going then, Chief Wu."

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Alright, thank you."

She turned around and walked into the villa's yard in her high heels. She had a glance at the flowers in the yard and thought that they looked quite beautiful. Walking to the front door, she took out her keys to open the door and bent down to change into her slippers.

It was the same thing every day.

It was the same routine every day.

Opening the door.

Changing into her slippers.

Opening the refrigerator.

Making dinner.

Except something different happened today!

The moment Wu Zeqing closed the door, she could hear piano playing coming from upstairs!

She didn't have a piano at home!

There shouldn't be anyone in her house!

Old Wu looked up to the second floor and was stunned for a moment. Then she headed straight for the upstairs.

The sound of the piano was very soothing.

The melody sounded really nice too.

All of a sudden, a voice softly drifted out in the room.

It was a man's voice!

It was a very clean male voice 1 !

"I have loved, and also lost.

"Tasted the sweet and tart parts of love.

"Escaped from the irony of fate.

"I know what I want.

"There is an indescribable state.

"Created by all emotions thereof.

"Why ponder the meaningless cost?

"What in this world is there to be proud of."

Wu Zeqing walked up the stairs.

The sound of the piano was getting closer and closer!

The singing was also getting closer and closer!

The man sang loudly.

"If I'm without you,

"I keep my eyes on the distant peaks!

"But miss the turn on the track!

"Suddenly I looked back!

"I found you waiting for me, you were always there!

"I searched down in the seas of pitch black!

"And ignored the meandering rivers!

"When I found myself going against the tide!

"You were at my side, pushing me on!"

The door to the study was ajar.

Wu Zeqing stood at the door. Seeing the man at the piano, she didn't know what to do for a moment.  
Where did the piano come from? What was with this song?

The man sitting at the piano was Zhang Ye!

Zhang Ye continued to play.

"I know that I am very rich.

"Because love fulfills all.

"Every hole in my life.

"You've filled them with your sincerity.

"Right now.

"From this moment on.

"I want to hold you in my arms.

"And give you twice the affection.

"I want to sing a love song dedicated to you!

"So please listen!"

Old Wu.

This song is dedicated to you!

Actually, I've wanted to sing you a song since a long, long time ago. But there just wasn't a chance to do so. I will only ever sing this song for you. Thank you for not leaving me when I was most down and out. Thank you for always staying by my side!

As everyone knows, I'm not someone who usually speaks seriously and I don't know how to express what I really want to say. There are some things that I just can't put into words.

So, please, let me sing for you!

Zhang Ye sang in the tenor range.

"I kept my eyes on the distant peaks!

"But missed the turn on the track!

"Suddenly I looked back!

"I found you waiting for me, you were always there!

"I searched down in the seas of pitch black!

"And ignored the meandering rivers!

"When I found myself going against the tide!

"You were at my side, pushing me on!"

...

Outside the villa.

A neighbor opened their window in shock.

A lady driving home stopped her car in the neighborhood and rolled down the window with a stunned look!

Who's playing the piano?

Who's singing?

Why haven't I heard this song before?

It sounds really nice!

Isn't this song way too good?

That lady and several of the closer neighbors were visibly moved by what they heard!

Just who are you?

Who...are you singing for?

Chapter 1086: Old Wu wants to attend the concert too?

In the neighborhood.

It echoed with the melodious notes of a piano.

The piano is one of the very few instruments that do not require a power source or connection to any audio equipment to be heard inside a large enclosed space or concert hall. Of course, it would have to be a grand piano meant for such venues to achieve that. On this note, both the cello and the violin cannot achieve the same sound amplification of a mechanical percussive transmission <sup>1</sup>. Although the piano that Zhang Ye bought was an upright piano, its sound amplification was still quite outstanding. However, once in an open space, the sound of the piano would diffuse a little.

Several neighbors in the vicinity of Old Wu's villa could vaguely hear a man singing. Although the singing could not be heard further out in the neighborhood, the faint sound of a piano playing still managed to float out to their ears.

The security guards at the neighborhood's entrance turned around in shock!

The residents of the neighborhood stopped in their tracks!

A lot of people were attracted to the sound of the piano and got enchanted by it!

He finished singing.

The sound of the piano gradually drifted away.

Everyone was looking around for the source of the music.

"Where did it come from?"

"Which house did the playing come from?"

"Was it a sound system?"

"No, it must've been played on an actual piano!"

"Who could be so talented?"

"Does our neighborhood have someone so talented?"

...

At Old Wu's residence.

In the upstairs study.

After he played the final note, Zhang Ye took his hands off the keys and put the fallboard down. Then he smiled at Wu Zeqing.

Wu Zeqing looked at him. "What's the title of this song?"

Zhang Ye said, "'You Were Always There.'"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Is it for me?"

"Yes. What do you think of it?" Zhang Ye wasn't sure if Old Wu liked it.

Wu Zeqing smiled and asked, "I like it very much. When did you learn how to play the piano? When were you able to sing that well? Hmm?"

Zhang Ye gave a hearty laugh and said, "Hai, please don't mind those small details."

"Did you just buy this piano?"

"Yep. I bought it this morning, then drove it here. It was really quite heavy and nearly crushed my car. Fortunately, I own a bulletproof car and the frame is a special make as well."

"You didn't get someone to deliver it?"

"I was afraid that they might know where you live."

"So you carried this piano into the house and upstairs all by yourself?"

"Yeah, this weighs nothing."

Zhang Ye started boasting.

Wu Zeqing pointed at the upright piano. "A piano that weighs three to four hundred pounds, and you carried it up here all by yourself?"

"Of course." Zhang Ye boasted shamelessly, "Even if it were two pianos stacked on top of each other, I could still carry them up here." These words of his were merely meant for boasting.

In reality, it had taken all of Zhang Ye's strength to carry in this piano that weighed 300-odd pounds. This was even with him having martial arts and already maxing out on the Fruits of Strength and Stamina from the Lottery Draw (One). It was just that Old Wu had not seen how much effort it took for this fellow to carry it in earlier, so he started bragging about being able to carry two pianos by himself now. 700, 800 pounds? Even if this fellow had used his concealed power, he still would not be able to carry them. Besides, concealed power was not meant to be used in such a way. It was an instantaneous kind of power that could only be used for destroying, not for carrying things.

Wu Zeqing smiled.

Zhang Ye probably thought that he had bragged by too much, as he quickly changed the subject. "Old Wu, have a seat. Are you angry at me about this matter?"

Wu Zeqing saw that his collar was slightly crumpled, probably from carrying the piano earlier. It was also a little dirty, so she reached out and straightened it for him and patted off the dust. "Why would I be angry with you?"

Zhang Ye stood still and let her adjust it for him. "Because I didn't tell you that I went to participate in King of Masked Singers. Actually, it's not that I didn't want to tell you. In fact, I had wanted to tell only you about it. In the end, I was just too embarrassed to bring it up after a long hesitation the other day. The main issue was that I'd never sung before. As it was my first time singing onstage and this being such a huge competition, it would've been really embarrassing if I lost by the second episode. So I thought it might be better not to say anything about it at first and only tell you about it after I became the champion. So here I am, immediately coming to seek your forgiveness after I got crowned grand champion. I practiced the song that I just sang for you for a very long time."

Wu Zeqing said gently, "I couldn't be any happier for you, so why would I be angry with you? You're really in the limelight this time. Not bad, you didn't make me ashamed."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "That's true."

"Take off your shirt. I'll wash it for you later since it's dirty," Wu Zeqing said.

"OK." He did not stand on ceremony.

"Are you hungry?"

"Not yet."

"We'll eat in a bit?"

"Sure."

"Then do something for me first."



"Oh? What is it?"

Wu Zeqing did not say anything and searched around the study. She took out the four treasures of the study 2 and immediately began to grind the ink. Then she said, "Write down the lyrics of the song that you just sang for me. I can't remember them after listening to them just once. When you're done writing, I'll hang it and read it at my own leisure."

Zhang Ye immediately said, "That's not a problem."

"I've prepared the ink."

"How would you like me to write it?"

"How many scripts do you know?"

"I can write it in regular, semi-cursive, clerical, or cursive script."

He thought about saying how he could also write in " Microsoft YaHei 3 " if he wanted to, but Old Wu would surely not understand what he meant by that.

Old Wu smiled and said, "How about semi-cursive. I like your semi-cursive."

"Alright!" Zhang Ye immediately began writing.

A set of lyrics was written down in a free-flowing motion.

Wu Zeqing held up the Xuan paper for it to dry and took a look. The more she looked at it, the more she liked it.

As she gazed at the calligraphy, Zhang Ye looked at her. Since it was summer, Old Wu was dressed lightly and looked especially elegant in the thin, classic qipao. The more he looked at her, the more he liked her.

All of a sudden, Old Wu looked up and said, "Oh yeah, I've got something to tell you. Your ban will officially be lifted today. Although the SARFT won't be issuing any notices or documentation about it nor will there be any announcements to the public, there won't be a restriction on any news and shows related to you anymore. In fact, your ban was scheduled to be lifted soon, but King of Masked Singers expedited the process. You've caused such a big ruckus that they were unable to keep the ban on you for longer, even if they wanted. So they might as well use the opportunity to lift your ban. Even though there are still some people in the organization who are opposed to it, I've taken care of them, so it's not going to be a big deal. And there might be some flexibility given to the air pollution documentary. With some editing, I think there could be some hope that it gets re-released to the public. I will be following up on this matter."

He had been unbanned?

This bro had regained his freedom?

This was no doubt the happiest news Zhang Ye had heard in recent days!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Thanks, Old Wu."

Wu Zeqing said, "You fought for this. It has nothing much to do with me. You've been crowned grand champion of King of Masked Singers and even took your mask off during the live broadcast. Did you think you would stay banned after all that? Furthermore, your songs were very good too. That's one of the most crucial factors as you have quite a few songs that were full of positivity. For example, 'Strive Hard to Succeed,' 'Life's More Than the Grind,' and 'I Really Love You.' All of those songs were a great help in changing your image. So there's no need to thank me as you were the one who grabbed this opportunity. Without this show, you might have needed to wait at least another month or two before your ban was lifted."

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "'The Internationale' is also a very inspirational song."

He personally liked the song a lot!

On that day, he vented most of his anger after he sang it!

On that day, the feeling of having everyone stand up and sing loudly along with him was just so satisfying!

Wu Zeqing looked at him. "Don't mention that song. Do you know how big of a mess it created?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright, I understand. I won't sing it much in the future."

Wu Zeqing asked, "How are your preparations for the concert going?"

Zhang Ye said, "Hai, I still haven't decided what song to sing yet."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Take your time, there's no need to hurry. Any song that you sing will definitely be good."

Zhang Ye especially liked hearing that and could feel a warmth in his chest. He really had never come across a woman like Old Wu before. It was as though Old Wu found whatever he did to be good and would always give him her support. Furthermore, Old Wu would never broach further on a subject if it was something he did not wish to speak about or preferred to keep secret. She always gave him a lot of space and respect in that regard. She was always beside him, supporting him and encouraging him on his journey.

Wu Zeqing suddenly asked, "Do you have any tickets for the concert left?"

Zhang Ye was surprised. "Of course. Why?"

Wu Zeqing smiled. "I would like to attend in person and listen to you sing."

"You really want to go?"

"Yes, I want to go there in my own personal capacity."

"Although the broadcast is on Saturday, the recording is scheduled for Friday afternoon. You don't have to work?"

"I'll take the day off. My fiancé will be staging a concert. Even if the sky falls, I must go."

Just look at the way she put it!

Zhang Ye loved hearing it!

"Alright! I'll get a ticket for you. It'll definitely be a front row seat!"

"That's not necessary. I'm fine with sitting wherever."

"That won't do. You won't be able to see me if you're seated too far away."

Thinking about how Wu Zeqing would also be there on that day to listen to him sing, Zhang Ye was suddenly quite looking forward to it. At the same time, he also felt a little more nervous about it. He suddenly thought of a song and knew exactly what he would be singing at the concert.

It was a very nice song.

It was a song about one's ideals.

Chapter 1087: The concert begins!

Friday.

In the afternoon.

There was a sea of people at the Beijing Stadium.

"Where are the Fan Wenli fans?"

"Zhao Qiquan's fans, please gather under the billboard!"

"Over here!"

"Here!"

"Come with me!"

"Where are the Zhang Ye fans?"

"Coming!"

"We're here!"

"Hurry, it's time to distribute the items!"

"Glow sticks for everyone! They're free!"

"Don't buy from those people out there. They're so expensive!"

Even before entering the stadium, the bustle outside was spectacular. Vehicles had already occupied all of the underground parking garage spots and roads around the venue. There were no more free spots and the roads were no longer accessible other than the one that was leading west toward the suburbs. The roads in the other three directions were jam-packed. At the entrance, it was as though the entire population of Beijing's merchants and peddlers were gathered here. There were people selling celebrity posters, glow sticks, scalped tickets, and even the King of Masked Singers contestants' "genuine" autographs. The media outlets' vehicles also arrived one after another!

It was a flurry of activity!

The place was heating up!

...

On Weibo.

The netizens also made a racket.

"Who still has tickets for the concert?"

"It's beginning soon! I can't wait!"

"Haha, I'm already at the venue and waiting to get admitted."

"Previous poster, bragging like this will only end up with you getting beaten up!"

"How I wish I could go and watch them perform live! Especially Zhang Ye's songs. Why do I like him so much! I wonder what song he'll sing today!"

"Our Xiaoxian is quite good too!"

"Everyone knows that Zhang Ye is good at writing songs, but I'm still finding it difficult to accept that the guy can also sing this well!"

"It's impossible to measure a person like him with common sense."

"He was born to be a star!"

"You're wrong. Zhang Ye wasn't born to be one."

"Yeah, he was never meant to be a celebrity at all. He had to fight so hard to be where he is now. This has been a very difficult journey for Teacher Zhang Ye, and everyone knows that! I wonder how he has managed to survive for this long! I heard that the SARFT has not said anything either this time and allowed Zhang Ye to take part in the concert. Does that mean that Zhang Ye has been unbanned? I'm so happy for him!"

"Yeah!"

"The ban has finally been lifted!"

...

Inside the stadium.

The singers had already arrived for some time.

There were not only Zhang Ye, Fan Wenli, and those other singers who had taken part in the King of Masked Singers competition. Even Chen Guang, Zhang Xia, Amy, Celery, and several other celebrity guests were also backstage and getting ready for the concert. They too would be taking part in the concert today.

Executive Director Hu Fei said, "We've been preparing for this concert for quite some time now. We practically started preparing for it since the broadcast of the first episode and had the stadium booked since that time. The entire country's attention is on us now, so I hope we can make this industry's first concert based on a variety show a great success. I'll leave all that to you, so let's execute this beautifully." With a pause, he reminded them, "By the way, there's something else to note. It wasn't reported on yesterday's weather forecast, but this morning's forecast predicted that there could be rain today. So, everyone, please be aware of this possibility."

Hou Ge came over to look for him. "Director Hu, we need you over at the stage."

Hu Fei nodded, then said to the other staff members, "I'm going to the front for a bit. If there's anything urgent over here, ask Director Zhang for advice. He can take charge of the things here."

Xiao Lu replied, "Yes, sir!"

Han Qi replied, "Understood!"

Everyone responded in kind, thinking it was a matter of course.

However, Zhang Ye did not seem to care for anything right now. He lowered his head and continued texting.

Zhang Ye: "Are you here yet?"

Wu Zeqing: "I just arrived. There was a traffic jam."

"Zhang Ye: "Are you lining up to get in yet?"

Wu Zeqing: "Yes, I'm passing through security now."

Zhang Ye: "Let me get someone to bring you in."

Wu Zeqing: "There's no need. Don't alarm too many people. Most of your staff knows who I am, so it's better for me to keep a low profile. After all, I'm here in my own personal capacity today."

Zhang Ye: "OK."

Chen Guang came over. "Director Zhang, who're you chatting with?"

Zhang Ye looked up and smiled. "What's up?"

Fan Wenli looked at her husband. "Stay away. Don't come over here and try to pry any information from us."

Chen Guang yelled, "Must I, Wenli?"

Li Xiaoxian also smiled. "We belong to different camps today."

Amy rolled her eyes. "Teacher Chen, let's give our best and sing well today. We'll stamp them down!"

Chen Guang harrumphed. "Alright!"

Zhang Xia laughed and shook her head. "You people."

Today's opening song was going to be an explosive and attention-stealing showdown between the contestants and the celebrity guests. Each side was a team, the contestants' team versing the celebrity guests' team. Everyone was looking forward to this matchup. Just look. Even before going onstage, the competitiveness from both sides was picking up.

Half an hour later.

People gradually filled the stadium.

In the blink of an eye, the seats were packed with over ten thousand people!

Some of the audience members were shouting their favorite celebrities' names, some were holding up LED lightboards and waving them around, while others were bursting into songs performed on King of Masked Singers.

"Sunset Glow!"

"The Clown!"

"Flowing Time!"

"Petal Shower!"

"I am what I am! / A firework of different colors!"

"Why is the concert still not beginning?"

"I can't waaaaait!"

The scenes were very chaotic!

The audience was reaching a fever pitch!

Wu Zeqing finally got into the stadium at this point in time. She found her way to the second row of front row seats and checked her ticket to find her seat. As she made her way across the row, she smiled warmly. "Excuse me, coming through."

But a little ways in, someone called out to her.

It was a middle-aged married couple.

"Hey! President Wu?"

"President Wu!"

The couple looked at her, startled.

Wu Zeqing turned around in confusion and asked, "You two are?"

Zhang Ye's mother stood up excitedly. "I am Zhang Ye's mother!"

Wu Zeqing said, "Oh, it's Auntie."

His father asked, "Why are you also here?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Well, I'm off today. So I came to watch the concert."

"Aiyo, thank you so much for taking care of our Little Ye. You've helped him a lot. We've been wanting to visit you to express our thanks, but we just didn't have the chance to do so," his mother said.

Wu Zeqing said, "Auntie, you're too kind."

His mother immediately said, "Sit here with us, sit. Little Ye gave us three tickets, but we have an empty seat now because his cousin was unable to make it."

Wu Zeqing thought over the offer for a moment, then smiled and sat down. "Alright."

His mother was very enthusiastic. "President Wu, wait, I should be addressing you as Chief Wu instead."

Wu Zeqing immediately said, "Don't call me that, Auntie. You can just call me Little Wu."

"That would be so inappropriate."

"It's not."

"Hur hur, can I really call you that?"

"Of course."

And so, Wu Zeqing started chatting together with Zhang Ye's parents, talking and laughing throughout their conversation.

Taking some time out, Wu Zeqing quietly sent a message to Zhang Ye. "I've found a seat, I'm sitting together with your parents."

Very quickly, she got a reply. "Ah???"

Wu Zeqing: "Hur hur, I've wanted to meet your parents for a while now. What a coincidence. I won't be replying anymore. I want to chat some more with your parents."

Zhang Ye: "\*sweats\* OK."

At this moment, the host, Dong Shanshan, came out!

When the crowd saw her, they gave her warm applause immediately!

"She's here!"

"It's starting!"

Dong Shanshan announced, "Welcome, everyone, to King of Masked Singers, brought to you by our sponsor, Bright Fruit Cocoa. I'm your host, Dong Shanshan. How are all of you?"

The audience cheered in response!

After a slew of opening remarks, the main event finally kicked off.

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "Backstage today, there was so much going on. Two groups of people nearly clashed, with one side claiming that they could sing really well, while another side claimed that

they could sing even better. They bickered so much that when I was asked to give my opinion on who was better, I was too scared to answer. I believe that we should let our audience decide!"

Clashed?

Hahaha!

The audience chuckled!

Dong Shanshan said, "Next, let's welcome the All-Stars onto the stage to perform 'I Believe 1' for everyone!" She handed over the stage.

Applause thundered!

The music started playing!

Spinach, Liao Yiqi, took her microphone and went out onto the stage. "I wanna fly to the sky, walk beside the Sun. The world waits for me to change it!"

At the other end of the stage, Zhang Xia appeared and sang, "Never been afraid of others seeing my dreams. Here, I can make it happen!"

Back on other side, Fan Wenli strode onto stage. "Laughing loudly, let's walk side by side. Isn't happiness everywhere!"

At the other end, Amy appeared. "Casting off all worries, I stride forward bravely. Now I am taking center stage!"

Li Xiaoxian: "I believe I'm me, I trust tomorrow!"

Celery: "I believe that youth has no limits."

Zhang Ye appeared. "Whether sunset at the beach or the crowded streets, it's the prettiest paradise for me."

Chen Guang sang loudly, "I believe in freedom. I believe in hope! I believe I can reach out and touch the sky!"

They sang altogether.

"With you by my side!

"Life is more exciting!

"Every moment so wonderful!

"I do believe!"

The contestants were in one group!

The celebrity guests were in another group!

They sang one line one after the other as they appeared and took the stage!



The two groups of people were apparently competing, trying to outdo and outsing the person before them!

The atmosphere in the stadium flash ignited!

Screams!

Shouts!

Clouds darkened the skies as the multicolored glow sticks started to come to life!

This song was the theme song for The Voice. Back then, Zhang Yuanqi, Zhang Xia, Chen Guang, and Fan Wenli sang it together. Zhang Ye wrote this song!

Chapter 1088: 'Vast Horizons'!

The audience reached a fever pitch!

In the open-air stadium, the screaming sounded like it was piercing through the upper atmosphere!

"Awesome!"

"What a star-studded event!"

"All of them sang great!"

"The song was well-written in the first place!"

"That's for sure. This song was written by Zhang Ye himself!"

"Chen Guang's singing is a force to be reckoned with!"

"I still prefer Zhang Ye a bit more."

"The two of them don't have the same style. Old Chen is better at explosive singing while Zhang Ye focuses more on emotional singing."

"Get lost. Zhang Ye is also very good at explosive singing. Can anyone replicate that last scream in 'Exaggerated'?"

"If you wanna put it that way, then Old Chen is also good at emotional songs!"

"Fuck, what are you two arguing for?"

"Haha, as to which of those two can sing better, they have to fight it out onstage for us to find out. We won't know from the song that they just sang."

The first song ended.

The audience applauded them!

Zhang Ye's mother was also furiously clapping in the audience. "Great! Great! C'mon, son!"

His father gave her a tug and chin-nodded in Wu Zeqing's direction. "Calm down a little, will you?" He was reminding her that the executive of the organization that oversaw the entertainment industry was sitting beside her.

But his mother did not care. "Little Wu, who do you think sang better?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Zhang Ye sang the best."

His mother said happily, "Oh, you think so too?"

Wu Zeqing replied, "Mhm. I like his songs very much and feel that every one of them is good."

At that, his mother grabbed Wu Zeqing's hands with a sense of familiarity and felt that she was becoming more and more pleasing to the eye. She started chattering to her again. "Did you know? This kid's music genes all come from me!"

Wu Zeqing nodded. "Yes, I can see that."

His father nearly vomited a mouthful of blood.

Onstage, it was time for Fan Wenli's performance.

When she came out onstage, the applause went up by several decibels!

"Petal Shower!"

"Petal Shower!"

Everyone was still used to chanting her stage name!

The next to take the stage was Flowing Time.

Followed by Spinach.

Sunset Glow.

And King of Oddity.

The singers came out one after another!

The screaming and shouting at the venue came wave after wave!

They were midway through the concert when the skies turned even gloomier. Dark clouds blocked the moon and faint roars of thunder could be heard. It seemed like it was going to rain.

Right at this moment, The Clown took the stage!

Many of the audience members were shaken!

Some of them were very tired from clapping so much. But when they saw Zhang Ye, they started applauding again, crazy over him!

Some of Zhang Ye's diehard fans even stood up and waved Zhang Ye's LED lightboards excitedly as they screamed his name!

His mother exclaimed, "It's my son's turn! My son!"

His father stared at the stage without blinking.

Wu Zeqing watched him as he walked onto the stage, quietly waiting for his performance today.

"The Clown!"

"The Clown!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

Fan Wenli and Chen Guang came to the front of the stage.

Liao Yiqi silently came out as well.

Zhang Xia, Li Xiaoxian, and Amy did the same.

When everyone saw each other, they smiled at one another.

"What are you guys doing out here?"

"The feels aren't the same backstage."

"I'm curious about what song he'll be singing."

They were all looking forward to hearing Zhang Ye's song today, so they came to the front to listen. This was because every song Zhang Ye sang was a song that they had never heard before. It was always going to be a surprise for them!

...

Zhang Ye was already standing in his spot onstage.

Eight, nine cameras were focused on him!

Over ten thousand audience members were looking at him!

Zhang Ye swept his eyes over them and spotted Wu Zeqing in the crowd. He also saw his parents, Fan Wenli and Chen Guang, Grandma Zhang Xia, and the many pairs of eyes of the audience!

All of a sudden, the music played.

Snowflakes started drifting around.

These were "snowflakes" generated by the machine at the side of the stadium.

A lot of people were mesmerized by the effect of the snowflakes floating around.

But then, a voiceover played through the stadium.

A man's voice: "Zhang Ye, you won't be able to become famous the way you are."

Another man's voice: "This path is not suitable for you, please go back."

A woman's voice: "You want to be a celebrity with that temper of yours? Who would like you? Ha!"

A middle-aged man's voice: "Zhang Ye, you're fired. Go pack your things and leave!"

The lonely snowflakes gently drifted down!

Wu Zeqing was stunned!

Zhang Ye's parents were stunned!

Zhang Xia was stunned!

Fan Wenli was stunned!

Han Qi's eyes reddened!

Just those few lines of the voiceover were enough to stun everyone!

Zhang Ye opened his eyes and reached out. He tried to grab some of the snowflakes but was unable to catch any.

He sighed, then lightly sang 1 .

"Tonight, I saw snow drift through the cold sky.

"With a cooled off heart, I drifted far away.

"Chasing you in the storm.

"Can't tell shadows apart in the fog.

"You and I in these vast horizons.

"Can we change?"

This is what my life has been.

Today, I will sing it out for all of you to listen to.

He took two steps forward and looked at everyone as he sang.

"Many times, I've been scorned and ridiculed.

"But never have I abandoned my ideals.

"In a fleeting trance.

"I felt something was missing.

"Unaware, it faded away.

"My passion."

The choir accompaniment sang, "Who understands me?"

Who can understand him?

Which of us here...can understand him?

Li Xiaoxian gasped!

Flowing Time fell silent!

Listening to him sing, Amy was dumbfounded!

Zhang Ye suddenly sang loudly.

"Forgive me for always loving freedom and indulging.

"I'm afraid I might fall someday too.

"Discarding one's ideals.

"Anyone can do.

"Why would I be afraid if it's just you and me?"

The audience had forgotten how to speak!

They had forgotten how to clap!

Everyone was just staring dumbfounded at the onstage Zhang Ye.

At this moment, the voiceover began anew.

A man's voice: "Give it up, you won't be able to make it!"

Another man's voice: "Hurry up and go back home!"

A woman's voice: "Ha, how far do you think you can make it to with what you have?"

A middle-aged man's voice: "You want to say whatever you want to say? You want to sing whatever you want to sing? Do you think you make the decisions around here? Art? Don't talk to me about art! Just hurry up and kick yourself out of here! Let me tell you this: A person like you, no one in the entire entertainment industry would ever take a liking to you!"

The audience's mood was restrained to the extreme!

His mother felt a niggling sense of uneasiness!

Zhang Xia and the others also felt like there was something heavy weighing on their chests!

They knew that these were the past events Zhang Ye had experienced!

But the very next moment!

The music soared!

The guitar sped up the tempo!

The drums also turned up the heat!

Zhang Ye's expression changed as he pointed up to the sky suddenly and sang.

"I am still who I am!

"Forever singing as I please!

"Wherever!

"I go!"

With that, the stadium erupted!

His father stood up from his seat!

His mother stood up with tears in her eyes!

Wu Zeqing stood up as well!

Every one of the audience members started screaming wildly!

They had been moved!

They had been stunned!

Liao Yiqi's tears flowed without end. "Well done! Teacher Zhang, good on you!"

Zhang Ye shout-sang.

"Forgive me for always loving freedom and indulging!

"I'm afraid I might fall someday too!

"Discarding one's ideals! Anyone can do!

"Why would I be afraid if it's just you 'n' me!"

You all can insult me, underestimate, or even scold me. All of that is fine!

Just give up on me!

But I won't give up on myself!

Even if everyone in this world discarded their ideals!

Zhang Ye suddenly turned to where Wu Zeqing was and looked into her eyes.

"Discarding one's ideals, anyone can do!

"Why would I be afraid if it's just you and me!"

He smiled.

And then she smiled.

Even if there were only the two of them left on this road.

At least I still have you!

At least you'll still be right by my side!

Chapter 1089: Do you guys really want to keep listening?

The audience in the stadium was going crazy!

"This is Zhang Ye!"

"This is who he is!"

"Zhang Ye! I love you!"

"The Clown, you're the best!"

"You still have me!"

"Right, you still have us!"

"We'll walk together with you down this road!"

"Count me in!"

"There's me too! Count all of us in!"

"Why would I be afraid if it's just you and me!"

I am still who I am!

Forever singing as I please!

These couple of lines in the lyrics had made everyone's blood surge with passion!

This was a song by Beyond. This was a song from Zhang Ye's previous world that could be considered one of the most classic and greatest songs of all.

It was called "Vast Horizons 1."

...

Outside the stadium.

In a nearby neighborhood.

"Hear that? What's that sound?"

"It's going to rain soon. Let's hurry and get back home."

"Uh, what's this shouting that's coming from that direction?"

"The stadium? Is there a match going on today?"

"That noisy? Why is it so loud? Who's shouting over there?"

"Did you guys forget? That's the recording 'studio' for the King of Masked Singers concert!"

"Damn, what happened over there?"

"I don't know, but it does sound like a lot of screaming."

"Does it have to be so electrifying?"

...

The sky was getting heavier.

The dark clouds were growing and rain was drizzling.

There was no forecast of rain during yesterday's weather report, so the program team did not full preparations for such an event. They immediately deployed some employees to set up several temporary parasols to cover the equipment.

The stadium was not specialized to handle concerts, but as time had been too tight for them to get a proper place, they had to make do with this venue. In the entire stadium, only part of the grandstands facing the stage were sheltered. Meanwhile, the rest of the grandstands and the stage were all in the open air. As many of the equipment was not waterproof, they were forced take emergency measures to protect them. However, that would only be effective under light rain conditions.

But they were really unlucky to meet with such trouble today.

The wind started picking up!

The rain became heavier too!

The audience hurriedly took out their umbrellas and put on their raincoats.

"It's getting heavier!"

"Quick, go and take shelter!"

"What's with this weather!"

Some people in raincoats insisted on staying where they were.

A lot of the audience members seated in the front ran back a few rows. There was a large zone there where they could take shelter from the rain for a bit.

His parents had not brought umbrellas with them today.

His mother complained, "How could it rain just like that!"

His father said, "The weather reports are getting more and more inaccurate these days!"

Beside them, Wu Zeqing took out an umbrella from her bag. "Auntie, Uncle, take this umbrella and share it." Then she opened it up and handed it to them.

His father said, "No, no!"

His mother did not accept the offer either. "Shelter yourself!"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "I don't need it. If it gets too heavy, I'll head back for shelter."

"How can that be fine!" His mother did not expect Chief Wu to be so polite.



Fortunately, Xiao Lu came running over right at this moment. "Auntie, I have a raincoat over here. I'll give it to you and go look for another. If there are extras, I'll get more for you!" She didn't bother with other people, nor could she care too much about them. But since these were Teacher Zhang's parents, she must definitely look after them properly. There was a relationship here, after all.

His mother said, "Aiya! Thank you then, Xiao Lu."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "That came at just the right time. Let Uncle have the raincoat. Auntie and I can share the umbrella." She leaned closer to Zhang Ye's mother and held up the umbrella.

His mother reached out to take the umbrella. "Let me hold it."

Wu Zeqing said, "There's no need. You don't have to be so polite with me."

Backstage.

Recording had temporarily been suspended.

The singers and program team staff were all looking for a place to take shelter from the rain.

Hu Fei asked loudly, "How's it looking? Can we still record?"

Hou Ge ran over and said, "It's possible since the cameras are all waterproof, but the instruments and performers are not. With all that rain and wind out there, it's impossible to sing!"

Fan Wenli looked at the sky.

Zhao Qiquan shook his head. "I'm afraid this rain won't be stopping anytime soon."

Over there, Zhang Xia, Amy, Li Xiaoxian and a few others were all standing under a temporary sunshade tent to hide from the rain.

Zhang Ye came up. "How many songs are left?"

Hu Fei was holding an umbrella and said, "There's still three or four songs left for the set. We were only slightly more than half-done with the concert schedule. There's still a choir that we invited to perform, as well as the group closing song that all of you were scheduled to sing."

Xiao Lu returned. "Brother Hu, the rain is getting heavier."

Hu Fei clenched his teeth and said, "Let's wait a little longer!"

After five more minutes.

The weather did not look like it would get any better.

King of Oddity shook his head and said, "We can't sing anymore. The weather won't allow us to do so."

Zhao Qiquan (Flowing Time) added, "I think we should cut the recording short. They can't play music out there anymore. Furthermore, the rain has already gotten so heavy. How can we still sing? Let's quickly disperse the crowd and get everyone home."

Amy sighed, "It's true. We can't carry on recording."

Zhang Ye looked over at the audience and saw that no one had left yet.

Hu Fei said, "Then—"

"Let's wait a while," interrupted Zhang Ye.

Hu Fei looked at Zhang Ye and nodded. "Alright, let's give it another five minutes."

Zhao Qiquan frowned and wondered why they still bothered to wait. The weather was clearly not going to clear up!

King of Oddity also gave a slight shake his head. Who could sing in this bloody weather? There might be a bit of a shelter in the grandstands, but no place on the stage could shield them from the rain!

However, the program team staff did not have any objections to waiting. With Zhang Ye's words already spoken, it was as good as Hu Fei saying them himself. Whenever even Hu Fei could not make a decision on something, he would usually seek Zhang Ye's advice.

Soon after.

The rain did let up a little but still did not stop.

Chen Guang also spoke up, "We really won't be able to sing if it goes on like this."

Xiao Lu anxiously said, "Brother Hu, Director Zhang."

Dong Shanshan was holding an umbrella and talking to the audience from the stage at this moment. "Would everyone please wait for a bit. I have to seek advice from the program team on how to proceed."

At this time, Xiao Lu hurriedly walked up to the stage and whispered some instructions to Dong Shanshan.

Dong Shanshan nodded. "Alright, I understand." Then she looked at the audience and said, "I'm terribly sorry, but this sudden downpour was not something that we had anticipated. We were not prepared to handle such weather, so we sincerely apologize on our part. We can't continue recording, so the concert will end here. Please get ready to leave the stadium and remember to give way to each other."

When they heard this, many of the audience members started shouting!

"But why?"

"The rain's not that heavy; it's only a moderate shower!"

"We still wanna listen!"

"So few songs have been performed!"

"Can't we have a few more songs?"

"We're fine!"

"Right, we don't want to go!"

"It was so good! Let us have another song!"

Several dozen audience members were already starting to stream out of the stadium.

However, a majority of the audience did not move. They stared at the stage without blinking, some of them sitting in their seats in their raincoats or carrying umbrellas!

Dong Shanshan urged, "Please start exiting the stadium. We're truly sorry about today. Recording will stop here because the musical instruments cannot be played in the rain, so it isn't possible to perform anymore. You all can see for yourselves that the stage is open air. We also did not wish for this to happen."

"Sing a few more songs!"

"We really haven't had enough yet!"

"I came up from Shanghai just to attend this concert!"

"Just one song would do. Must we end it like this?"

"We don't need any musical accompaniment. Just sing a cappella!"

All of a sudden, someone led a chant.

"Petal Shower!"

"Petal Shower!"

"The Clown!"

"The Clown!"

"Flowing Time!"

"Flowing Time!"

They all chanted the stage names of the contestants!

The audience was eagerly waiting for them to appear back on stage. This concert had excited them so much that hardly any of them were willing to leave!

Dong Shanshan was out of ideas. "We're really—"

From out of nowhere, Zhang Ye came up onto the stage. "Hand me the microphone."

Dong Shanshan looked at him and then handed him the microphone. Seeing that he was without an umbrella, Dong Shanshan wanted to shield him from the rain.

However, Zhang Ye fluttered his hand in refusal. He did so because he saw many people in the audience who were still out in the rain. Since they didn't have umbrellas, he didn't want to be shielded by one.

The rain was soaking Zhang Ye's shirt.

Dong Shanshan had no choice but to hand the stage over to him and went back down by herself.

Facing the audience, Zhang Ye stood in the rain and said, "We can't carry on recording. The cameras have already stopped. No one can predict the weather, but we were in the wrong too. Please give me some face and quickly go home. It's too cold out here, and the rain is getting heavier as well. It's a shame about the concert, but—"

"But we really want to continue listening!" a middle-aged man shouted.

A girl yelled, "We're not afraid of the rain! Really!"

A mother said, "My kid loves to watch your show. Can we have a few more songs to listen to?"

Zhang Ye said loudly, "But today's weather..."

Suddenly, a little girl of around nine years old somehow made her way up onto the stage. She probably came up via the side stairs, which the staff forgot to watch due to the rain becoming heavier.

The little girl was holding a kids' umbrella with floral patterns on it and walked straight up to Zhang Ye's side.

Zhang Ye was startled by her, not knowing what she doing up here. He was just about to tell her that his place was restricted to non-authorized personnel when the little girl pushed the umbrella toward him.

The little girl was very short and trying very hard to stand on her tippy toes to get the umbrella over Zhang Ye's head.

Zhang Ye was taken aback by this action and quickly knelt down.

When a few staff members saw this, they ran over in panic to lead her away.

But Zhang Ye put his hand up at them to stop them from coming over.

The little girl finally managed to shield Zhang Ye with the umbrella. "Brother, please. Can you please sing a few more songs? I will shield you and not let the rain get on you."

The umbrella was very small and could only shield one person at most.

In the blink of an eye, the girl's clothes were wet.

Zhang Ye asked, "Then what will we do about you getting wet?"

The little girl said determinedly, "I'm not afraid of that!"

Zhang Ye took the little girl by her hand and pushed the umbrella back over her head. "Do you really...wish to keep listening?"

The little girl nodded vigorously. "Me, my parents, and my brother, we all like you! And we also like Sister Petal Shower and Sister Spinach too!"

Zhang Ye smiled then. He turned to the audience and looked at the stubborn audience members who were still sitting there. He suddenly asked, "Do you guys really want to keep listening?"

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

In an instant, the shouting thundered!

It even drowned out the rumbling of the thunder!

Zhang Ye smiled again. "Everyone's not afraid of getting wet?"

"No!"

"No!"

"Afraid, my balls!"

Everyone shouted in unison!

Zhang Ye smiled for the third time. He carried the little girl down the stage and returned her to her mother. Then he went back onstage and looked around it for something.

Xiao Lu was stunned. "Director Zhang, what are you doing?"

Han Qi also asked, "What are you planning on doing?"

The Miracle Wheels band also said, "The rain is so heavy. You..."

Hou Ge added anxiously, "The cameras have already stopped. We're not recording any more today! You don't have to..."

Stopped recording?

Won't be broadcasting this?

What did all that have to do with him?

The audience was still here!

The audience had not left yet!

If they are not afraid, why should I be afraid?

If they are not leaving, how can I leave?

Chapter 1090: Singing three songs in a row!

"Director Zhang!"

"What are you doing?"

"We really cannot keep performing in these conditions!"

"The rain's too heavy! How can we sing?"

"Have you gone crazy?"

"Teacher Zhang, you can't really intend to..."

Backstage, a lot of people were frantically trying to dissuade him.

When they saw Zhang Ye grab an acoustic guitar placed there, the program team, contestants, and celebrity guests all had a look of incredulity on their faces. They knew that Zhang Ye really meant to go onstage and perform. On this windy and rainy day, he was really going to go onstage and sing!

What are you trying to achieve?

Why are you doing this?

Zhang Ye did not say anything and simply strode onto the stage. By the time he finished setting up the microphone stand, he was soaked from head to toe. Then he started playing the acoustic guitar and a melody floated out!

In the midst of the pouring rain, Zhang Ye's voice reverberated through the skies!

The first line of his song stunned the crowd!

What am I trying to achieve?

I'm not trying to achieve anything!

He sang loudly 1 .

"Inside of my heart, I once had a dream.

"To make you forget all of your anguish with my singing.

"Brilliant starry night, who is the true hero?

"It's ordinary people who inspire me the most."

The audience was stunned!

Everyone was stunned!

The next second, screams came from all over the stadium!

He was singing!

Zhang Ye was singing!

He really did not leave!

He really came back on!

Zhang Ye sang and played at the same time.

"No more hate, and no more pain.

"Now if only throughout the world of man love reigned.

"Let's use our songs to gain your sincere smiles.

"And bless you with an extraordinary life from now on.

"Seize every second and minute of life!

"Spare no effort chasing after our dreams!

"Without wind and rain, how can you see a rainbow!

"No one can succeed at it with just one go!

"Seize every single inspiration in life!

"Enthusiastically embrace your beloved friends!

"Let sincere words, and tears of joy!

"Ebb and flow and swirl in our hearts!"

The Miracle Wheels band were all staring with dropped jaws!

They swore that they had never heard The Clown sing this song before during his rehearsal sessions. When did you write such a song? You can just come up with a song as and when you like? You can just start singing something the moment you open your mouth?

Han Qi shouted, "Great! Fantastic!"

Hu Fei suddenly grabbed hold of Hou Ge. "The cameras! Are the cameras on and recording this?"

Hou Ge turned to look at the cameras that were facing the stage. "They're on! Two cameras are on!"

Hu Fei yelled, "Turn them all on! All of them!"

Hou Ge said, "All?"

Hu Fei shouted, "Hurry up!"

Hou Ge immediately said, "OK!"

When the song ended, the applause was thunderous!

It was clearly raining!

The rain was very loud!

The acoustic guitar that Zhang Ye was playing did not have enough volume to be heard in such a noisy environment!

Yet the applause was so loud! It was at least twice as loud as when most of the singers performed before the rain! This happened because the audience was moved. Because someone was willing to stand out here in the wind and rain and sing for them! To them, celebrities were all very precious figures. Especially an A-list star like Zhang Ye. They were even more precious than most. Everywhere they went, they would have bodyguards surrounding and protecting them!

But Zhang Ye was not like that!

He was really singing for them!

He was sincerely singing for them!

Even if he was drenched by the downpour!

Wu Zeqing showed a happy smile.

His mother was also very excited. "That's how my son is! That's how he is!"

Wu Zeqing said, "Your son was born with a special kind of charm. Many people find it odd that others would like a celebrity with a temperament like his. But for me, I think those people who don't like him are odd."

Zhang Xia gave a wry smile. "What a nice song!"

Chen Guang was also getting a little pumped up listening to him!

The audience was chanting:

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

Brilliant starry night.

Who is the true hero?

You're the hero today!

At least to us, you're everyone's hero today!

The next second, the guitar melody switched up!

Zhang Ye did not even take a breather for more than a minute. He sang 2 .

"Black coffee is a little strong.

"I just need the lightness of soda.

"Daydreaming during this heat wave.

"I dreamed that I became a rainbow.

"I have the urge to start running.

"With you here, even falling down is fine.

"I will chase my dreams without fear.

"Our sweat records our glory.

"There are all kinds of characters in a movie.



"And every one of them has a dream of their own.

"Negativity on the big screen just isn't shown.

"I wanna hold your hands in the rain! And! Wait! For! The! Rainbow!"

In the rain?

Wait for the rainbow?

The audience instantly cheered!

Zhang Ye pointed at the little girl who came up onto the stage earlier to give him an umbrella and pointed at everyone as he sang.

"You say I am your superhero!

"As well as your occasional guest punching bag!

"I'm perfectly happy to accept this honor!

"To be the firefly by your side!

"Ah, oh, ai!

"So if I really am your superhero!

"Let me sing you this love song at this time!

"Love blossoms with a little understanding!

"I'll be the hero you're the proudest of!"

The audience chanted in unison.

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

This was the second song!

No, that's not right!

Counting "Vast Horizons," this was his third song in a row! Further, he was singing in this heavy rain without even taking a break!

A few of Zhang Ye's fans felt their hearts ache and cried!

"Rest for a while!"

"Teacher Zhang, rest for a while!"

"The rain is too heavy!"

"Teacher Zhang!"

A lot of people were shouting!

Hu Fei also said anxiously, "Quick, go and tell Zhang Ye to take a break. He better not have something happen to him!"

The physical exertion on a person during a rainy day was very large. To go all out and be singing like the way that he did, even a man of steel would not be able to take it. During the first episode of King of Masked Singers, Zhang Ye had nearly collapsed due to a high fever and "cold." At that time, he really gave everyone on the program team a huge scare!

However, the very next second!

The melody of the guitar in Zhang Ye's hand changed again. He started playing and jumping around at the same time!

Once!

Twice!

Thrice!

His playing sped up!

The melody sped up!

Suddenly, Zhang Ye used a very high-pitched voice that a normal singer would usually not be able to reach and scream-sang 3 .

"I won't get tired at all!

"I have danced for three days and three nights!

"I'll get drunk just drinking soda in this state!

"Oh!"

Hu Fei was dumbfounded!

Spinach was dumbfounded!

All of the audience members were also stunned. But right afterwards, the atmosphere reached a high!

A lot of people were pulled along by the rhythm of the music and started screaming and jumping as well!

Zhang Ye played the guitar and laughed loudly at the same time:

"There's no way I'll get exhausted!

"I wanna dance another three days and three nights!

"I feel so light that I believe I can fly!"

All of a sudden, the Miracle Wheels drummer rushed up onto the stage and took his seat. He started playing a beat!

The Miracle Wheels guitarist roared with laughter. He could not use the electric guitar in this circumstance, so he grabbed another acoustic guitar and went up on stage as well!

Zhang Ye sang loudly.

"Join in along with me!

"Jumping from morning till night!

"You won't lose out being happy!

"Don't even think to refuse!"

The stadium hit a fever pitch!

Screaming was coming from every directions!

"Three days, three nights, into the late night, dancing without a stop!"

"Three days, three nights, into the late night, staying up with just music!"

"Three days, three nights, into the late night, all that's left is sweat!"

"Three days and three nights, into the late night! Ba ba ba! Ba ba ba ba ba!"

Zhang Ye shouted at the top of his lungs!

The pitch of his voice went higher with every syllable he sang!

"I won't get tired at all!

"I won't get tired at all-I-I-I!

"I won't get tired at all-I-I-I-I-I!"

" True Heroes 4 "!

" Superhero 5 "!

" Three Days and Three Nights 6 "!

Performing three songs in a row, Zhang Ye left the audience in a state of utter shock!