

Superstar 1251

Chapter 1251: The replacement singer makes his appearance!

The next day.

On the day of the recording.

In the morning at Beijing Television.

"Eh, where's Director Zhang?"

"I don't know."

"He was around a bit ago."

"Brother Hu, Director Zhang fell asleep backstage."

"Director Zhang didn't sleep all night."

"Aiya, the audience is already here. Tell him to persevere and work some overtime."

"Alright, I got it. I'll go and wake up Director Zhang then."

The audience had already been admitted into the studio.

The singers were all standing by.

Only the director was not here yet.

Zhang Ye got woken up, then forced himself to go wash and freshen up with some cold water. When he came out, he bumped into Xiaodong and Amy in the corridor as they came over to greet him.

Xiaodong asked, "Can you save the show?"

Zhang Ye nodded. "I've handled it."

Amy gave him a look. "Director Zhang, you're so bad. I saw your Weibo post yesterday, hahahaha. Central TV Department 1 must hate you to the bone!"

Zhang Ye laughed, "I got hacked."

"Yi!" Amy jeered.

A ways away, Zhang Xia spotted the three of them while heading to the bathroom.

Zhang Xia came over and asked, "Little Zhang, has the replacement singer arrived yet?"

Zhang Ye answered, "I suppose so."

"Who is it?" Amy immediately asked.

Zhang Xia also asked curiously, "Do I know who it is?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Probably."

Xiaodong said, "What about me?"

"You probably know too," Zhang Ye said.

He didn't disclose much and quickly turned to head back to the front to get back to work.

Half an hour later.

The studio was packed and the audience was deep in discussions.

"Did you guys see Weibo yesterday?"

"I did, hahaha, it made me laugh my ass off!"

"Zhang Ye is itching for a beating! That was so ruthless!"

"He's a total quack."

"But that was such an outlet. Central TV deserved it for starting the fight."

"That's right. I wonder how I Am a Singer will turn things around today. The singers can't host anymore, right? Who will do it then? Dong Shanshan? Zhang Ye?"

"Who knows? But if they do it that way, the rules will have to be changed."

"I still prefer having the singers host."

"Yeah. If they change the rules now, it'll affect the viewership ratings."

"The issue is that everyone's gotten used to the singers guest hosting the show. It's been ingrained into the minds of the viewers."

Onstage.

The band was in position.

The staff were in position.

Counting down:

Three.

Two.

One.

Recording began!

The audience was already intently staring with wide eyes, wanting to see just how the show would deal with the change. Then they saw a person holding a microphone walking onstage from below. Cries of surprise rang out. Everyone was taken aback, with some of them laughing loudly. In an instant, everyone stood up and applauded thunderously!

It was him!

It was indeed him!

The singers backstage were also quite happy.

Zhang Xia said with a smile, "In the end, it's still Little Zhang hosting."

Chen Guang said, "I coulda guessed. It was either gonna be him or Dong Shanshan."

Xiaodong said happily, "He's both the executive director and the host. It's so hard on Teacher Zhang."

Zhang Ye stood onstage. He smiled and said, "Hello, everyone. Welcome to the stage of I Am a Singer, brought to you exclusively by our title sponsor, the leader in health products, Brain Gold. I am your host for today, a host with a 'license' to 'operate.' I've been awarded the highest honor in the hosting world—I'm a true blue and legal host. Oh, some of you might be curious about where Sister Dong has gone? Well, Sister Dong is illegal and had been reported to the authorities by someone. She's currently busy trying to get a host license."

"Pfft!"

"Hahaha!"

Laughter rang out in the audience.

This guy! He doesn't forget to get the jabs in when he comes on!

Zhang Ye continued, "So when Sister Dong found out that I'm the stand-in host today, she specifically came to look for me and repeatedly reminded me about one thing. She told me that I must let everyone know about this. As it's a very important matter, can those of you with a pen please note it down?"

Everyone was stunned.

What was it?

What was so important?

Everyone pricked their ears up.

Zhang Ye cleared his throat as his expression changed. Suddenly, he spoke speedily, "Thank you to the leading health supplement brand, Brain Gold Company, for being the title sponsors of our show. Thank you to Hubei Pharmaceuticals' strong support for us. If you're going to use a tablet, use Lilai's eight-inch tablet with multi-core technology. Honey Sweet fruit juice, so sweet that you can feel it in your heart!"

The audience burst out laughing!

Was that it?

This was what you meant by something important? Your sister!

Wasn't that just the fucking advertisements!

The singers backstage were also laughing hard, especially Xiaodong. While not knowing whether to laugh or cry, she was also quite impressed. She suddenly thought that the SARFT's issued article was not

without reason. Seeing Zhang Ye's hosting and looking at her own hosting, there was obviously a gulf in their styles. That was the difference between a professional host who had won the Golden Microphone Award and a guest host like her. Be it the rhythm, humor, adaptability, enunciation, or stage control, she was still lacking by too much.

These lines by Zhang Ye fired up the audience!

Zhang Ye calmly said, "So then, let us get today's competition started. Today's first performer will be the replacement singer for this week, so let's hand the stage over to him."

Applause sounded.

Backstage, the singers all stuck out their necks in wait. Who could it be? Was it an old friend? They were all hoping that it wouldn't be someone too strong, because the people who were performing on this stage were already great singers.

The audience also turned to face the moon gate.

Who was it?

Why couldn't they see anyone?

But there were also some people in the audience who weren't paying attention.

"They changed the rules in the end."

"Yeah, what else could they have done?"

"Hai, Central TV Department 1 is really too wicked."

"Let's just keep watching."

"Yeah, Zhang Ye's hosting is still pretty good. Even if it's not a singer hosting, so be it."

"But it's still such a pity."

"With a singer as the host, the interactions backstage are more interesting to watch."

"This will definitely affect the quality of the show."

Some musical instruments were brought up onto the stage.

The microphone stands were put into place.

Gradually, around 20 men and women appeared. The men were all wearing black suits while the women were dressed in white. It looked like they were a backing choir? Or was it going to be a choral performance?

The audience could not understand.

Amy wondered, "What's all of that for?"

Zhang Xia said in anticipation, "Just who has come?"

Xiaodong smiled and said, "This is a pretty large ensemble. What are they going to sing? Could it be a bel canto singer? A friend of Grandma Zhang's?"

Everything was set and ready.

The lights dimmed.

Many of the people in the audience were getting too antsy to stay seated.

"Where's the singer?"

"Come on out!"

"But there's no one at the moon gate?"

"Eh, why is Zhang Ye still standing on stage?"

"Haha, that silly fool!"

"Teacher Zhang, please leave the stage."

"Why's that idiot still standing there like a fool?"

Everyone started poking fun at him.

The next second, orchestral music played!

With that, everyone was stunned. What's going on? What is happening? Why has the music come on? But where is the singer? The replacement singer hasn't appeared yet?

Zhang Ye, who was still onstage, slowly turned around to face the audience. He raised the microphone in his hand while looking very annoyed and exhausted. It was as though he was not fully awake.

Crows squawked through the sound system 1 .

"Caw, caw."

Then Zhang Ye actually started singing.

"Night has crept up on Chaoyang Park.

"The plaza dancers are all ready to start.

"I catch a glimpse of the trees outside.

"And wonder if this is all there is to my youth?"

The male backing choir sang, "As petals fall off flowers."

The audience was so shocked they all stood up at once!

Oh my God!

Zhang Ye!

The replacement singer is Zhang Ye!

Oh my God! Why didn't I think of it earlier!

So the rules had not been changed!

So they were still sticking with using singers as hosts!

It was Zhang Ye who had come to the rescue!

What the heck! This is going to be interesting!

Amy was dumbfounded. "No!"

Xiaodong nearly collapsed. "We're done for!"

Zhang Xia facepalmed. "Oh! Surely this isn't happening, right?"

Chen Guang had a headache now and forced a smile. "An extremely strong challenger has joined us this time. Before I agreed to come on I Am a Singer, I thought that whoever joined the show would be fine as long as it wasn't Zhang Ye."

Zhao Wuliu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Why is it Director Zhang? If he decides to sing seriously, he's going to be more than a handful for everyone here. This is really a tough opponent."

The singers all reacted in a similar fashion!

But the audience was really happy to see him and became very excited!

Zhang Ye sang abashedly, "I have a boss named Hu Fei."

The male choir sang, "Named Hu Fei."

Zhang Ye sang, "Who shows up at 6 PM every day with the eyes of a German Shepherd."

The female choir sang, "A German Shepherd."

SFX: "Woof, woof!"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes as he sang, "Holding in his hands a steaming mug of coffee."

The male and female choir chorused, "Hey, hey, hey."

Zhang Ye sang, "Do you think we should hold a meeting?"

In the wings, Hu Fei, who was hearing this song for the first time, nearly spat out a mouthful of blood!

Beside him, Hou Ge, Xiao Lu, and a bunch of other staff burst into laughter. Hahahahaha! They could feel Zhang Ye's emotions through his singing! This fellow was still angry about it! He was reluctant and loath to be the replacement singer! It was only because of Hu Fei and them forcing him that he got dragged onstage!

...

The next day.

The episode was broadcast.

On the television at Zhang Ye's place.

"I said, 'It isn't convenient.

"I still have to pick up my old man from the airport.

"Haven't seen him in more than thirty years.

"He hails from remote Siberia."

His parents were dumbfounded!

Haven't seen him in more than thirty years?

How old are you this year, you rascal!

...

Central TV Department 1.

"You've had nothing to do all day.

"I even caught sight of you streaming.

"Could it be that you don't have a family?

"I beg of you, please don't speak those words!

"—Sweetheart,

"Let's! Work! Overtime!"

When everyone here saw the latest episode, they were floored!

...

All over the country.

Zhang Ye's Peking opera style singing was heard in every household!

Some people were really excited!

Some people were dumbfounded!

"I can feel myself getting drained.

"I have become dog-tired.

"Gone 18 days without removing makeup.

"Worn monthly contacts for two years and a half.

"My life is a mess, and I'm getting fat."

...

Very quickly, this song turned the Internet upside down!

Countless netizens were left kneeling to Zhang Ye!

"It's Zhang Ye who has come!"

"When I saw that the replacement singer was him, I immediately got goosebumps all over!"

"It's so awesome; this song resonates so much!"

"Is it good? Pfft! Why is it so funny!"

"Hahahaha, when my family heard this song, everyone cramped up from laughing so much!"

"It was really well sung! I also don't wanna put in overtime!"

"Zhang Ye really must have been forced into this!"

"I'm kneeling to this song!"

"What a divine tune!"

"I'll fucking give him 10 out of 10 for saving the show like this!"

"I like Zhang Ye so much!"

"This bel canto singing is really nice!"

"Haha, this guy is even scolding his executive producer, Hu Fei!"

"Pfft, I think that's exactly how Zhang Ye feels. He definitely didn't want to be the replacement singer and must have been forced into it. That's how 'I Feel So Drained' came into existence!"

Executive director!

Vote counter!

Host!

And now, a contestant?

Pfft!

Anyone else would also feel drained if they were put into that situation!

This course of action would kill Zhang Ye from exhaustion!

In the history of making television shows, there hadn't been anyone who took on so many roles at the same time. If he didn't feel drained, then who would feel drained?!

Chapter 1252: Reactions!

The next day.

On Weibo.

In the forums.

Tieba.

On the music sites.

"I Feel So Drained" kept getting played!

"So what now, Boss? (hahahahahahahahaha)

"So what now, Boss? (hahahahahahahahaha)

"So what now, Boss? (I bet you're happy now!)

"I really have to pick my old man up!

"You'll be on my blacklist once I quit!

"Who needs to sleep? It's such a waste of time!

"Who needs to eat? When PowerPoint is life!

"Please no overtime!

"Please no overtime!

"Please no overtime!"

On the Top Chinese Music Chart, the performance of "I Feel So Drained" was very strong. On the day of the broadcast, it charted in the top ten. By the next morning, it went up to second place on the daily "Most Listened" chart. Its momentum was really strong, and it wasn't likely there would be a change to its ranking today. Even the songs performed by Zhang Xia, Chen Guang, Xiaodong, and the others during the seventh episode did not rank higher than this song. This astonished countless industry insiders!

Because this song Zhang Ye performed did not do well on the show.

During the rankings announcement segment on yesterday's episode of I Am a Singer, Chen Guang performed as expected and took first place, with Zhang Xia coming in second, and Xiaodong in third place. Meanwhile, Zhang Ye only took fifth place and was considered to be in the lower tier of the rankings. However, that ranking was totally disconnected with the popularity of the song. The song that was ranked fifth on the show was now crushing all the other contestants' songs on the Top Chinese Music Chart. This was also something that had never happened before on the stage of I Am a Singer.

The netizens were very happy about this.

"This song is such a joy."

"The lyrics reflect the feelings of the people!"

"This is the first time I've heard Zhang Ye write a song like that!"

"My heart aches for Zhang Ye. He really is going to get drained!"

"Well, an able man is always busy."

"You can feel the sadness behind the humor. It's a really good song that mirrors the thoughts of the middle class!"

"I feel that Zhang Ye should have gotten first place!"

"Yeah, the audience was too unsupportive. If it were me, I definitely would've voted for him."

"The crucial thing is that this song has all the characteristics of a viral song. It's not something that one would perform for a singing competition."

"Yeah, 'I Feel So Drained' wouldn't get a good ranking on that type of platform, so it's already great that it came in at fifth place. After all, Zhang Ye's popularity is still a factor. If not, it might not have even gotten fifth place. In the end, I Am a Singer is a stage where singers are assessed by their singing techniques and depth of skills. Previously, be it Zhang Xia or Chen Guang, they instilled such a mindset into the audience. So there's no hope for such songs of getting first place. However, I must say that this is the song that I like the most!"

"Me too!"

"You don't need to analyze good songs!"

"Supporting Zhang Ye!"

"Sing properly for the next episode, and you'll definitely place well."

"Yeah, if Zhang Ye chooses to get serious, even Chen Guang and Zhang Xia will have to be careful of him!"

"Teacher Zhang, we're cheering you on! We love you to death!"

The viewers were all very accepting of his performance and recognized his skill.

Reviews appeared in the media.

"Zhang Ye appears as a strong replacement singer!"

"The executive director saves the day but is burdened with multiple roles!"

"The debut of a divine tune and its spread across the country!"

"Zhang Ye's spirit of humor!"

"Chen Guang takes first place!"

"Zhang Ye's rank is not ideal. Will he face elimination in the next episode?"

"I Am a Singer's viewership ratings take top spot again!"

"I Am a Singer takes nationwide number one with viewership rating of 3.36%!"

"Zhang Ye's new show to hit 4% in viewership?"

"Viewership ratings of Sing! suddenly plummet!"

"Sing!'s latest viewership ratings: 1.02%!"

"Central TV Suffers Badly!"

"Sing!'s continued slump drags down Central TV Department 1!"

"Beijing TV confirms: I Am a Singer's grand finals to be broadcast live. A real possibility viewership could hit 'ceiling' of 4%!"

News of this was everywhere in newspapers, on television, and in news reports.

But the man at the center of all this had only just woken up.

At home.

In his bedroom.

The moment Zhang Ye opened his eyes, he ached all over and his head felt swollen and huge. This was unavoidable. He hadn't slept much the past two days as he needed to get his song ready for competition and practice it with the choir. After that, he had to oversee the recording of the show, perform onstage, and oversee the vote counting. And if you thought that he would be free immediately after the show finished recording? No! Post-recording, Zhang Ye needed to personally edit the footage. Along with other related work, he hadn't caught a wink of sleep in days. When he finally got home yesterday, he instantly fell asleep.

He really was dog-tired!

Still though, he needed to scan the news to see what they had written about him and see the viewers' reactions to his performance.

So Zhang Ye lazed in bed as he picked up his cell phone to browse the news. This song was an especially famous divine tune from Zhang Ye's previous world. It was called "I Feel So Drained" and was performed by the Shanghai-based Rainbow Chamber Singers. This song was originally a chorale, so Zhang Ye had to make some changes to it for the competition. The choral parts were either reduced or changed to a backing part while he took the role of the main vocalist for it. It seemed like reactions to it were quite good?

That's good then.

As long as everyone likes it, it's good enough for me.

Zhang Ye gave a bitter laugh as he thought to himself that at least this was not a wasted effort.

Di di.

Di di.

The chat app on his cell phone wouldn't stop beeping.

Zhang Ye opened the app and saw that someone had mentioned him.

Goof Group.

Ning Lan has invited Zhang Xia.

Zhang Xia: "Hello, everyone?"

Xiaodong: "Hello, Grandma Zhang."

Amy: "A warm welcome to Grandma Zhang!"

Everyone came out.

Zhang Xia: "@ZhangYe where are you?"

Chen Guang: "Haha, he's probably dead tired in bed."

Zhang Xia: "It's been tough on Little Zhang."

Ning Lan: "The song Zhang Ye sang left me in stitches!"

Huo Dongfang: "@ZhangYe I burst out laughing too yesterday."

Director Li Ke: "Director Zhang really knows how to be funny!"

Fan Wenli: "Old Chen and the others are probably under a lot of pressure now. With Director Zhang as the replacement singer, it's truly a nightmare."

Chen Guang: "Haha, I'm not afraid of him. At most, let's have a sing-off to decide things."

Xiaodong: "Although I don't wish to face him, I actually look forward to 1v1ing Director Zhang once."

Zhang Xia: "He didn't sing properly in this episode, so his ranking wasn't that good. It probably won't be so for the next episode."

After reading all of that, Zhang Ye chose not to appear in the chat, just smiling to himself.

Sing properly?

He shook his head lightly.

There were some things he couldn't say.

After thinking for a while, Zhang Ye called Wu Zeqing. As he had been too busy over the past two days, he didn't have time to update Wu Zeqing on how things were progressing for him.

Du du.

The call connected.

"Old Wu, what are you doing?"

"Hur hur, I'm at the office."

"Did you watch yesterday's episode?"

"I did, you sang very well. I rather liked it."

"All's good as long as you like it. Have you been busy these couple days?"

"A little."

"Whoa! You always used to answer that it was manageable whenever I asked if you were busy. Now that you're saying it's a little busy, does that mean you're very busy?"

"Yes, I do have something that I'm handling at the moment."

"What is it? Do you need my help?"

"No, I can handle it."

"Does it have something to do with me?"

"You'll find out in a few days."

"A few days? Alright then, you're making it sound so mysterious."

At this moment, another voice came from the other end of the line.

It sounded like Secretary Bai. "Chief Wu, they're fighting back!"

Fighting back?

What fighting back?

What happened?

Zhang Ye was startled. "Old Wu, what's the matter?"

Wu Zeqing gently said: "It's nothing, I'll go and handle it. I have to hang up now. Oh yes, my parents asked you to eat with them when you're free, don't forget."

"OK, I won't."

The call ended.

Zhang Ye thought of all kinds of scenarios but could not figure out what she was trying to do. Old Wu was too high in the organization, so Zhang Ye could help her out with her problems. As an average person, he wouldn't understand these political matters. Therefore, he'd rather not think too much about it and just trust Old Wu to properly handle her own matters.

Wu Zeqing had never made him worry about her.

And neither would she need him to worry about her.

The door opened.

His parents probably heard him talking on the phone from outside.

His mother came into the room. "Yo, you're finally awake?"

Zhang Ye got off the bed and grabbed his belly. "I'm starving. Mom, can I have something to eat?"

"Of course, let me make something for you." His mother knew that he had been working really hard in recent days, so she didn't bicker with him and quickly went out to the kitchen to make lunch.

Then a call came.

It was from Hu Fei.

Zhang Ye answered in annoyance: "Brother Hu?"

Hu Fei said: "Director Zhang, it's time to work overtime!"

"...Are you doing that on purpose?"

"There's really overtime to put in. We've sold the exclusive online broadcast rights, but someone has been reporting the past few episodes that we've recorded. The authorities have notified us to rectify the previous six episodes with Xiaodong as the host. If we can't do that, we'll have to delete all of them. So please come back quickly. If we can't appeal it, you'll have to make up for six episodes of recording."

Zhang Ye's face darkened. "They're even attacking the online videos?"

"Yeah," Hu Fei said: "Central TV is too ruthless!"

Fuck!

Are they purposely causing trouble for us?

Zhang Ye immediately said: "I'll go back immediately! We definitely can't delete the videos. The exclusive online broadcast rights were sold for 10 million RMB, so how can we possibly let the online video hosting site take such a huge loss. If nothing else works, I'll rerecord them myself. Episode by episode, I'll edit and replace them all. Just wait for me to get back!"

"OK!" Hu Fei then stayed silent for a while before suddenly saying: "It's been hard on you."

Zhang Ye laughed bitterly. "Just serving the people."

He went out to the living room.

His mother had already started cooking.

Zhang Ye called out to her, "Mom."

His mother said, "The food will be ready soon."

"I'm won't be eating anymore. Something has cropped up at the office, so I have to go back immediately," Zhang Ye said.

His father frowned and said, "Go back after you've eaten."

But Zhang Ye was already putting on his clothes. "There's no time, it's really urgent. Oh right, I probably won't be coming home for the next two nights. There's too much to do, I'll be off now!"

Bang!

The door closed.

Their son disappeared from their sight.

His parents looked at each other as their hearts ached for their son.

Before their son became famous, they kept hoping that he could become famous and earn his own keep so that he would do well in life. When he really became a celebrity, they were truly happy for him, and for themselves too. As his parents, they would also look good and have something to be proud of. But as their son became busier and busier, even to the point of risking his life for his work when working two days and nights in a row became the norm, they suddenly felt quite bad. "I Feel So Drained" had touched them deeply. It was supposed to be a funny song, but when they heard it for the second or third time, their eyes reddened. No one knew what Zhang Ye was sacrificing so much for. Only his parents understood why!

He never cooked for them.

He rarely did the chores.

He hardly had any time to accompany his family.

He didn't even spend every day together with his fiancée.

Perhaps he had fallen short in his duty toward his parents, his girlfriend, his friends, and many others. But his parents both knew that their son has never fallen short in his duty toward the audience. He could skip sleep, work overtime every day, and get arrested and be placed in jail. He would do all kinds of things just to get a laugh from the audience!

This was who their son was.

Angering them at times!

Making them feel like giving him a beating at times!

Causing their hearts to ache for him at times!

But also, making them proud!

Chapter 1253: Old Wu's big action!

No one went home for the next two days.

Beijing Television was basically working around the clock to catch up on work.

Of course, it was mainly Zhang Ye who did the work, so the others were not that tired.

The first episode.

The third episode.

The fifth episode.

All the footage with Xiaodong as the host had to be edited out and replaced with Zhang Ye's hosting. As it was impossible to invite the audience again, nor get the singers to rerecord the episodes, the production work had become extremely complicated. They had to consider a lot of factors so that the edited footage would not look disjointed. If they could just cut all the parts where the guest-host appeared, that would have been easy to handle. Unfortunately, it couldn't be done this way. There were

too many advertising lines and none of the guest-host lines could not be missing. All of these changes had to be managed by Zhang Ye, which made it an even more difficult task. They had to rerecord everything from the start, episode by episode.

"Let's do it one more time."

"Director Zhang, this is fine."

"No, the angle wasn't right."

"Then take a break first. We've been recording all night."

"There's not enough time; let's get this line over with."

"Director Zhang."

"Please rest!"

"There's no time for rest. I have to rehearse my song tonight. The arrangement is still not done."

"But you can't carry on like this."

"I was thoughtless about the host role and could have planned it much better. Besides, the people who reported us only did it to target me, which inadvertently affected the show as well. So I must accept this responsibility. Hur hur, enough, it's no big deal. It's not like I've never had a bigger workload than this in the past. Don't you guys know what kind of a constitution this bro has? I'll still be buzzing with energy even after working three days and three nights in a row!"

No one knew whether to laugh or cry.

You're still in the mood to crack jokes?

Didn't you say that you were drained?

And that you didn't want to put in overtime?

Bullshit! You're a workaholic through and through!

Even if we refuse to let you put in overtime, you'll still risk your life for work!

To his old colleagues at Beijing Television, Zhang Ye was an iron man. He wasn't like some bosses who would stay low as much as they could, or come in late and knock off early. Everyone on the program team knew that if as they met with any trouble, if the show met with any trouble, they would never have anything to worry about. Because as long as they looked up, Zhang Ye would definitely be standing there.

Let's carry on recording then.

Everyone got back to work and took the initiative in trying to get all of the tasks completed in the hopes that they could help share some of Zhang Ye's burden. As they worked, they were cussing their hearts out in their minds at Central TV Department 1! If it weren't for that bunch of people reporting their show and resorting to underhanded methods by privately using public services for personal gain, they wouldn't be in such a sorry state.

Online.

Many netizens also realized that something was wrong.

"Look!"

"Ah, I Am a Singer's online videos have been altered!"

"There are no longer any scenes with Xiaodong. She's been replaced by Zhang Ye."

"There are even two episodes that are unavailable? Hasn't the ban on those two episodes been lifted?"

"They've been reported again?"

"It's Central TV again?"

"Fuck! Are they finished yet?"

"I heard that someone from Korea has already been in contact regarding the copyright for I Am a Singer. I think they should be interested in buying the copyright, so this is a good chance for something locally produced to make an international splash! It's going to be a first in history! The Voice's copyright deal did not go through, because the American company that came to negotiate for it was thwarted by Central TV Department 1, who wanted to sell it off without Zhang Ye's knowledge. And now they're doing this? I beg of you, please! Can you people please leave I Am a Singer alone?"

"Isn't there anyone who can keep Central TV in check?"

"This is so infuriating!"

Quite a number of people were raging at this!

Even a clay figurine retains heat!

An hour and a half later, they finally finished rerecording all the lines.

Zhang Ye went to the bathroom to wash his face and freshen up. Luckily, he could still hold up since his physical stamina exceeded that of a normal person's. Then he took a deep breath and dried his hands before texting Wu Zeqing.

"Are you still busy?"

Old Wu replied very quickly: "Almost done."

"Just what is it?"

"Hur hur, you'll find out very soon."

"Let me know if there's anything I can help with."

"That's not necessary; we just need a bit of luck."

Zhang Ye had been pondering for the past two days about what was keeping Old Wu busy. No matter how much he thought about it, he could not guess what Old Wu was trying to do. But he knew that Wu Zeqing must have been busy fighting for him!

Was she going to find trouble with Central TV Department 1's executives?

Or was she going to pick on Sing!?

He couldn't figure it out. Old Wu was afraid that he would think too much about this, so she didn't reveal anything at all.

The matter was going to be resolved soon?

It just needed a little bit of luck?

I might not be able to help you in other ways, but luck?

Sure, I'll give you some of that!

Zhang Ye tucked his cell phone away without further ado and brought up his game ring's virtual interface. He activated the Lucky Halo (Upgraded) and an angelic halo appeared over his head. A bright, pulsating glow rippled outward!

-100,000!

-100,000!

His Reputation Points decreased rapidly!

But since it was to help Old Wu, he didn't feel the pinch at all!

Five minutes!

Ten minutes!

Twenty minutes!

Zhang Ye continued working and even went over to the station's management office for a while. When he was done there, he instinctively sensed that something was amiss. However, he could not put a finger on what was wrong.

Hu Fei was just approaching from the opposite direction.

Zhang Ye immediately asked, "Brother Hu, what's going on?"

Hu Fei was also confused. "I don't know either."

"It feels like something is amiss." Zhang Ye said, "Several of the station heads aren't around, and the only deputy station head I saw around was making seven or eight calls in his office. Even when he was speaking to me, his mind was elsewhere."

Hu Fei analyzed in a low voice, "I sense that something has happened, but it should not be about our station."

"Then where?" Zhang Ye said startled.

...

At this moment!

Astonishing news spread throughout the industry!

Central TV's Station Head had stepped down from his position at the station due to work reassignment orders and the incoming Station Head was going to be a deputy chief from the SARFT that they'd never heard of before.

Central TV was going through a leadership change!

There was an uproar in the industry!

The media was stunned!

"This is too sudden!"

"It's really too sudden!"

"Is the news from a trusted source?"

"It's already been verified. It's true!"

"Who has the power to do something like that?"

"Holy shit! Who has the power to touch Central TV's Station Head?"

The industry was in utter disbelief!

...

At Beijing Television.

Xiao Lu cried out, "Damn!"

Dafei went slack-jawed. "Wh-What is going on?"

Hou Ge was beyond surprised. "Who has the power to do that? Even the big brother of Central TV has been removed from his post? Because of what? Could it really just be a normal job reassignment?"

Hou Di said excitedly, "If it was just a normal reassignment, how could it have happened without any warning?"

Hu Fei said in shock, "No wonder I felt like something was going to happen! So something big did happen!"

...

Shanghai Television.

"This?"

"The higher-ups have begun infighting?"

"They definitely have!"

"Why though?"

"Who took the first shot?"

"Who knows!"

...

At Central TV.

A lot of people blanched!

Especially those from Central TV Department 1, they all looked as pale as ghosts!

"Why is this happening?"

"How did it turn out like this?"

"That's impossible!"

"Where's Director Jiang? Director Jiang must know what's going on!"

"Director Jiang is on leave."

"What about the other deputy directors?"

"They are all on leave!"

"Th-This is a huge problem!"

"It's a shakeup!"

"With the station going through a leadership change, there'll definitely be some reshuffling in the ranks. Let's just pray that everything will go fine for us!"

...

The media reports went out.

The reassignment was also quickly confirmed by the authorities.

On paper, this transfer looked like a normal reassignment. But anyone would know that it was not that simple. They could all smell the bloody infighting even if no one had the inside scoop, even if nobody knew exactly what had happened between the higher-ups.

On Weibo.

"Did they really replace him?"

"It's good that they did that. I hope that this will change the culture of Central TV."

"Yes. They shouldn't keep picking on Zhang Ye like this. Rather, isn't it better to think of ways to join hands to better the industry? If they could work together and go global, isn't that much better?"

"Was it because Sing! performed so badly that they decided to replace the Station Head?"

"Previous poster, you're too naive. Would such a small matter call for the removal of a Station Head?"

"Then what could have happened?"

"Let's not make wild guesses. It doesn't matter anyway."

This was a huge move!

Later, even the industry did not dare discuss this matter!

...

The truth?

The inner workings?

Perhaps only Zhang Ye knew exactly what had happened.

This fellow was also shocked by the outcome. He had thought that Old Wu would only look for trouble with Sing! After all, they did take his original copyright and made some slight modifications to it in the first place. Or she might have taken it up with Central TV Department 1, since they had also used non-professional hosts in their shows. Their double standard for the regulations was definitely something she could pick on. But never could Zhang Ye have expected that his expectations were too low. He had really underestimated Wu Zeqing and was too petty!

Old Wu did not go for Central TV Department 1!

Neither did she go for Sing!

Instead, Old Wu directly "asked" their leader to step aside!

Zhang Ye called her.

"Hello." Old Wu's voice was still as gentle as ever. He could not hear a trace of anything unusual in her voice.

But Zhang Ye's tone was one of amazement. "Are you alright?"

Old Wu laughed. "Me? What could happen to me?"

Zhang Ye said: "What were you doing? That was too risky!"

Old Wu said: "It wasn't risky. It was just a difference in our political views. My relationship with Old Yu has always been quite good. I've also talked with him on many occasions and know what he's like. He's just more conservative, a little stubborn, and always keeping an eye on what he's guarding. We've entered a new era, though, be it for the entertainment industry or for the TV stations. Being stubborn doesn't help with advancing things. The first time, it was about your copyright for The Voice. I didn't say anything about it at the time. Then, when they infringed on your copyright by modifying it, I did not say anything either. But I cannot allow them to carry on misbehaving for a third time. Therefore, this change was necessary. If he can't perform? If he doesn't want to help advance the industry? Then we'll change him out. We'll replace him with someone else who can bring us forward."

That was so well-put!

Just look at her consciousness!

Just look at her awareness of the issues!

Just look at what level she was on!

When Zhang Ye heard that, he actually got quite embarrassed. That was because he knew that he was also one of those people that Old Wu mentioned as not having any aspirations and would only guard their own interests. But it didn't matter. Even if his aspirations were low, it was fine as long as his fiancée's horizons were much broader than his!

Wu Zeqing said: "We were lucky this time. It just so happened that another deputy chief sided with me on this issue. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been that easy. Political struggles are always rather complicated. That was also why I didn't wish to inform you about it beforehand."

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "It's a good thing that you didn't tell me about it. Because even if you did, I wouldn't have understood."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "If you still wish to understand, I'll teach you step by step in the future."

"Aiyo, please don't." Zhang Ye quickly said: "I'm not meant to understand such things, hur hur. If this bro had any talent for politics, would I have offended so many people in the industry over the years? Heh, this is just how I am. My thinking has always been that of the ordinary folk. I can't change it."

Central TV was undergoing a leadership change!

There wouldn't be anyone finding trouble with him from now on!

Old Wu had fixed things from the front line, while Zhang Ye supported her with his "luck" from behind the scenes!

The cooperation between this couple was seamless!

Chapter 1254: The eighth episode's knockout round! (First Half)

On this day.

At noon.

It was the day of eighth episode's recording.

At Old Wu's parents' house, Zhang Ye was playing Go with Wu Changhe in the courtyard after lunch.

"Uncle, hurry up and make your move."

"I'm still thinking, what are you rushing me for!"

"I have to attend my show's recording this afternoon. I barely squeezed out some time to come over for lunch."

"Alright, alright, I'll make my move here, a stretch."

"Then I'll play a push through over here."

"Hey, no, don't play it there!"

"Why would I not play it there?"

"You shouldn't make the move over here. Make a stand over here instead."

"Why would I play a stand there! That would make my group dead!"

"Are you gonna play a stand or not?"

"I'm not!"

"Then I won't play that move anymore!"

"Damn, you're trying to cheat!"

"Who's cheating? Ah? Who are you accusing of cheating?"

"Place it back down! You can't take back your moves!"

"Well, I'm taking it back, so what!"

The two men had only just started on the game, but they nearly came to blows!

Beside them watching, Li Qinqin didn't know whether to laugh or cry. These two grown men's tempers were really the worst when they came together.

In the end, it was still Wu Changhe who lost. He said angrily, "I wasn't in my best form today. I'll definitely slaughter you next time! Just you wait!"

Zhang Ye bade farewell and headed out of the house, saying in doubt, "I'll slaughter you twice!"

"I'll slaughter you thrice!"

"I'll slaughter you five times!"

"I'll slaughter you ten times!"

"I'll slaughter you fifteen times over!"

Li Qinqin sent Zhang Ye to the door and closed it after he stepped out. However, even after the two of them were out of each other's sight, they still shouted over the courtyard door. Now Li Qinqin did feel like laughing.

...

Later that afternoon.

At the recording studio of I Am a Singer.

When Zhang Ye arrived, Hou Ge and Dafei immediately came looking for him.

"Aiya, Director Zhang, where have you been?"

"We were all waiting for you."

"Surely you guys have to allow me to eat lunch, right?"

"Please have a look at this document."

"Alright, I got it."

"We're starting the recording at 2 PM?"

"Yes, there's no change to the time."

As the core leadership of the program team, and with all of the multiple roles that he was juggling, Zhang Ye couldn't even step away for a bit. Every little thing that went on in the program team would require his attention. He had only just come back from lunch but was busy immediately. Even his plan of taking a siesta was wrecked!

But the sense was that everyone was in a good mood today. With the leadership change at Central TV, the main culprit behind their torture was finally gone. There was going to be a reshuffle over there, so I Am a Singer's program team staff were all excited and motivated. They knew that no one would be picking on them in the near future.

Backstage, he bumped into Zhang Xia and Chen Guang.

"Zhang'er." Chen Guang waved.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Old Chen, how's the rehearsal going?"

Chen Guang said confidently, "Everything is great."

Zhang Xia asked, "Little Zhang, how's your preparation going?"

Xiaodong also came to join in on the fun. "Director Zhang, what will you be singing today?"

Zhang Ye blinked. "I finished rehearsing, but I'll keep the song a secret for now."

Chen Guang said warily, "Are you going to bring out your killer move? Looks like I had better perform to my best."

"Oh, come on. You're speaking like you haven't been putting your best foot forward the whole time." Zhang Ye chuckled.

Xiaodong giggled. "I've also prepared a good song for this episode. It's bound to give all of you a scare. Director Zhang, you had better be careful. Don't lose."

Zhang Ye said, "Sure."

Zhang Xia smiled and said, "I'm just looking forward to seeing what new song you'll come up with this time. I'll go and practice a little bit more, so I'll see all of you onstage? Good luck!"

"OK."

"See you onstage."

"Do well, everyone."

Soon after, recording began.

They picked lots first.

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "Before we pick lots, I suggest that we welcome the new singer onto the show. Director Zhang came onto the show too suddenly last week, and everyone was unable to react. Director Zhang stayed onstage the entire time and didn't come to join us last week, so since we're all here now, let's give him an official welcome."

"Welcome, Director Zhang."

"Hahaha!"

"Welcome!"

"Director Zhang, please have mercy on us all."

Everyone was applauding to welcome him.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright, thank you, everyone. But save the plea for mercy. I was one of the lower ranked contestants on the last episode, so it'd be great if I don't get eliminated today."

Xiaodong threw a jab out. "However low you're ranked, would you be any lower than Amy?"

Amy replied, "...Sister Dong, can I hit you?"

Everyone laughed.

The lot picking segment began. There were cheers and cries.

Xiaodong had picked #1.

Chen Guang was #2.

Zhang Xia got #3.

As for Zhang Ye, his luck was pretty good. He managed to pick #7, which meant that he would be the last one to sing.

Today was the eighth episode, as well as the knockout round that took place every other episode. The singers might all look very relaxed as they joked and laughed, but it would be a lie if they claimed they weren't nervous. The ones who did well would have to maintain their momentum and try to aim a little higher to not disappoint the viewers. Meanwhile, those who didn't do so well the previous episode would have to give their all in order to stay in the competition. They would have to pull out all the stops with their performances, or they'd soon be bidding farewell to this largest and most popular stage in the country.

Everyone wanted to stay until the end!

Everyone wanted a chance to be part of the grand finals!

For this reason, every one of the singers would do their very best!

At the front of the house.

The studio was packed full.

"I'm really looking forward to it!"

"Let's get started quickly!"

"Gogogogo!"

"I really like Zhang Xia!"

"I super love Xiaodong and Amy!"

"I only like Zhang Ye!"

"Haha, I'm also looking forward to Zhang Ye's new song!"

"Is he really not going to sing the same song twice?"

"Yeah, Zhang Ye has never sung the same song onstage."

"With Sing! as good as dead, there's only I Am a Singer to look forward to now!"

"The viewership ratings peaked last week. It's the knockout round this week, and with Zhang Ye joining the show, it's definitely gonna go one step further. I wonder how it'll do."

"The song that Zhang Ye sang last episode was a real piece of work!"

"Hahahaha, but it was very nice to listen to!"

"He's definitely going to sing properly this time."

"Yeah, it's the knockout round, of course he has to do his best!"

"Yeah, Zhang Ye's ranking at the moment puts him in a dangerous spot."

"Teacher Zhang, we'll be cheering you on!"

Even before the singers came out, the audience was very excited about the show. Quite a lot of people were shouting the names of the singers they liked and cheering them on.

The lights converged to a spot on the stage.

Zhang Ye came out smiling, holding a microphone.

The applause burst through the roof!

Standing still, Zhang Ye looked at everyone as he articulated, "Hello, everyone. Welcome to the stage of I Am a Singer, brought to you exclusively by our title sponsor, the leader in health products, Brain Gold. I am the executive director, Zhang Ye. Oh, and the host. Oh, and also a participating singer—hai, let's not talk about that. If I say any more, I'm going to start crying."

The audience laughed.

Zhang Ye said, "Today is the knockout round, and one of our singers will soon exit this stage. That person could be either me, Teacher Amy, Teacher Zhao Wuliu, or Teacher Chen Guang. On this stage, anything

is possible. So, as the new replacement singer looking to avoid elimination, I've decided to seek the advice of our highly experienced Teacher Amy on how she successfully avoids elimination every round."

Avoiding elimination?

Highly experienced?

The audience was cramping up in laughter!

Backstage, Amy nearly fainted!

Zhang Ye said solemnly, "Teacher Amy told me something that I thought was very beneficial."

What did she say?

What did Amy say?

The audience was dying to know.

Then Zhang Ye said, "To summarize what she said to me—" Suddenly, his expression changed as he took out a cue card and said, "Thank you to the leading health supplement brand, Brain Gold Company, for being the title sponsors of our show. Thank you to Hubei Pharmaceuticals' strong support for us. If you're going to use a computer tablet, use Lilai's eight-inch tablet with multi-core technology. Honey Sweet fruit juice, so sweet that you can feel it in your heart!"

Pfft!

Fuck you!

Was that it?

You're doing it again!

The audience doubled over in laughter while jeers rang out. "Yiiiiii!"

That feeling and atmosphere made it seem like they were watching a crosstalk performance!

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "There, I've brought out those ads in the most inconspicuous of ways, so my job here is done. So then, shall we hand the stage over to our seven singers? Let's welcome the first singer."

Pfft!

Are you really inconspicuous?!

Chapter 1255: The eighth episode's knockout round! (Second Half)

After the laughter died down, the audience got settled.

It was time for today's first singer to take the stage!

"It's Xiaodong!"

"Sister Dong will be performing first!"

"I'm so looking forward to it!"

"Go Xiaodong!"

When Xiaodong came out through the moon gate, applause rang out.

Xiaodong smiled and bowed to the audience. Then, she composed herself a little as she gripped the microphone. However, she found that her palms were all sweaty, so she forced herself to calm down. Then she turned to Music Director Bai Yuanfei and the rest of the band and nodded at them.

The music played.

Xiaodong's emotions poured into the song at once.

She sang lightly.

"My heart—

"is beating with her.

"In a—

"dream, I hold you close."

It turned out to be an English song!

It was a song that was rather niche with the audience but very popular and highly praised by those in the music industry. Almost everyone in the music industry knew this song—with the exception of Zhang Ye, since he wasn't originally from this world, so he naturally did not know that this song had won a grand prize overseas.

"How nice!"

"It's so touching!"

"She's singing her heart out!"

"I don't usually get to hear Sister Dong singing in English."

The audience responded very well to her performance.

The second to go on stage was Chen Guang.

The moment he opened his mouth and sang, the audience was taken aback again.

"I know,

"someday,

"that you'll be by—

"my side."

The audience was absolutely amazed!

"Wow!"

"This is so good!"

"Old Chen's vocals are great!"

"He's singing an English song too? How nice!"

"Old Chen's singing is amazing. Even if he's not the top singer in the music industry, he's definitely got to be one of the top three!"

"Old Chen is playing to our emotions with a sentimental song as well. I was so touched!"

The third singer made her appearance.

It was Grandma Zhang Xia.

She actually lined up a very old Japanese song for her performance today. This Japanese song was very well-known in their country, and many of the older generation knew how to sing it. But with some changes made to it by Zhang Xia, the arrangement of the song became completely different.

"Look up at the starry sky.

"As the spring breeze races through the fields."

The audience was transfixed by her singing.

Many of those in the audience who were above the age of 60 even teared up when they heard the melody of the song.

"This is so awesome!"

"Her singing is so good!"

"How eargasmic!"

Following that.

Amy was the fourth to come on. She chose to perform a Korean song that was the claim-to-fame song of a famous Korean girl group. It was a song that many people knew how to sing along to, and it was very popular all over Asia.

Then it was Huang Cheng's turn. He brought out an Italian classic!

Zhao Wuliu followed next and unexpectedly sang an English rock song!

The singers were all at their wits' end.

While Zhao Wuliu was performing, the singers who had finished were all sitting together backstage.

Zhang Xia said bitterly, "It's another foreign song?"

Xiaodong said in a speechless manner, "How could it be such a coincidence?"

Chen Guang sighed and said, "All of us thought of doing the same thing!"

The show was into its eighth episode now, so they had performed too many times on this stage. The audience was becoming familiar with their singing and understood them better. As such, their expectations slowly increased. It was possible that their singing was still as good as before, but the audience was longer surprised by it. So they would naturally find that their singing only sounded average. Having come so far, it was the deadliest factor for them. As a result, everyone thought of breaking the mold and sought to change things up by singing in a different style. But who could have thought that all of them would have the same idea and choose to sing a foreign language song on the same episode!

The audience was also somewhat startled.

At the beginning, everyone was quite pleasantly surprised. But that surprise turned to numbness. No matter how good the singing was, they couldn't stand to keep listening. If it was just one foreign song, then fine. But two songs? Four songs? Six songs? From the first singer to the sixth singer who performed on stage, they were all singing foreign songs? This made them weary, and some people could no longer appreciate the performances onstage. They were finding it tiresome.

"Man!"

"Really?"

"How did that happen?"

"Is performing a foreign song the theme for today?"

"How boring."

"Yeah, surely they can't just sing foreign songs today, right? What the hell is this?"

In the wings.

Zhang Ye found Hou Ge. He said with a frown, "What's with this?"

Hou Ge wiped his sweat away. "It wasn't supposed to be this way at the beginning. Later, three of the singers requested to change their songs at the last minute. There was no time by then, and since you said to give the singers the most freedom of control that they could have, the program team didn't want to influence the choice of their songs. As such, we didn't raise any objections and thought that it would be alright."

Zhang Ye said, "You call this alright?"

Hou Ge said, "It was my fault, blame me."

Dafei added, "We didn't thoroughly consider things."

"Next time there's a 'collision' of songs on such a big scale, you must inform me immediately." Zhang Ye was also negligent on his part as he did not check the song list for this episode.

They were all foreign songs?

How could that be acceptable!

In the end, I have to be the one to save the day again!

Do you guys think it's been easy for me in recent days?!

Onstage, Zhao Wuliu's performance came to an end.

The audience still applauded, but it was obvious that it was perfunctory. There was no enthusiasm and the applause was scattered and soft.

Zhang Ye went up onstage. "Thank you for the wonderful performance, Teacher Zhao. You're indeed a veteran of the music industry. You still sang as well as ever, so I believe that the pressure on the next singer will surely be enormous."

The next singer?

Isn't that you!

You're the only one who hasn't performed yet!

You aren't going to sing another foreign song too, are you?

Zhang Ye looked at the band and nodded to signal that he was ready.

The lights dimmed.

Zhang Ye took a deep breath and looked into the audience. His expression slowly became serious. Honestly speaking, he didn't really like the songs the other singers performed. English songs? Japanese songs? Korean songs? Italian songs? But there was not a single Chinese song? What is this? What is this development? This is a stage in China, a Chinese show! Do we not have our own stuff? Do we not have our own content?

Alright then, let me do it!

I'll plant this flag deep!

Let me tell all of you what it means to have a Chinese style!

Let me tell all of you what a song of the Chinese is!

Come on! I'll show every one of you the most authentic Chinese style song from my previous world!

Backstage.

The camera focused on Zhang Ye's expression.

Xiaodong was startled. "Zhang Ye has gotten serious!"

Zhang Xia also turned solemn. "He's getting real serious."

Amy gave a wry smile. "I think we're all in danger now."

At the front of the house.

The audience was also slightly taken aback!

"Everyone, look at Zhang Ye's expression!"

"He's angry!"

"Yeah, he's an ultra-nationalist to begin with!"

"What is he going to sing?"

"I'm really looking forward to hearing it!"

"Go Teacher Zhang! Show them what you can do!"

"Right, foreigners are scum!"

"Let's hear some music that we can call our own!"

"It's all on you, Teacher Zhang!"

Instantaneously, the audience's expectation overflowed. With the folk music accompaniment playing, they got even more excited. Some people were even prematurely feeling their emotions run high as they stood to their feet!

The air seemed to freeze!

The next moment, Zhang Ye elegantly brought the microphone close to his lips. A deep, faraway look appeared in his eyes. Without any warning, he sang 1 at the top of his voice.

"The vast horizon is my love!

"At the foot of rolling green hills flowers bloom!

"Whichever rhythm that is the most rocking!

"Whichever singing that is the most! Happy!"

Chen Guang was dumbfounded!

Zhang Xia was dumbfounded!

Xiaodong was dumbfounded!

Amy was dumbfounded!

Zhao Wuliu was dumbfounded!

The audience was also dumbfounded from listening!

However, Zhang Ye sang higher as he crescendoed.

"Winding rivers gush from the Heavens!

"Flowing into a sea of dazzling colors!

"The hottest folk songs are what we hope to find!"

"Singing as we travel is the most! Carefree!"

"If we sing, we want to sing to our! Hearts! Content!"

Pfft!

Some people burst into laughter!

Everyone in the audience was floored!

The fuck! What kind of song is this?

Are you fucking doing that again?

Can you be more serious? Please!

...

The next day.

The show was broadcast.

"You are the most beautiful cloud in my sky!"

"Let me do what it takes to have you stay!"

"Have! You! Stay!"

"Slowly singing in the hottest ethnic trend!"

"Let love sweep away all of the dust!"

"You are the most beautiful cloud in my heart!"

"Filling a glass of fine wine to have you stay!"

"Have! You! Stay!"

"Forever singing in the hottest ethnic trend!"

"Is the most beautiful gesture in the whole sky!"

Zhang Ye's singing and dancing were being showcased on television.

Countless viewers were dumbfounded for a moment by this scene before they burst into laughter. Some people were even laughing so hard they couldn't breathe!

The most rocking?

I'll rock your sister!

Have you stay?

Get lost!

Hurry up and leave!

"I'm kneeling!"

"Lord Zhang, you've really made me kneel to you!"

"Can you not be this funny?"

"Fuck! Where's my Chinese style? Was that it?"

"Aiyo, I'm dying of laughter!"

"Just look at Chen Guang, Zhang Xia, Xiaodong, and the others' expressions when they're on camera. Hahahaha, I can't take it anymore! Please allow me to laugh a little more!"

"They must've thought that Zhang Ye would sing some earth-shatteringly emotional song. Just look at the anticipation and wariness in their eyes. But it crumbled in an instant!"

"This song is awful!"

"But it's a very nice listen!"

"It's not only nice, it's too goddamn catchy!"

"I'm done for! I've been brainwashed by Zhang Ye!"

"Me too, my head is totally filled with this song!"

"No one can save this joker!"

"Hahahaha! Who'll put down that troll!"

With this episode's broadcast, Zhang Ye defeated all of the viewers, industry insiders, and singers!

Chapter 1256: 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' sweeps the country!

The next day.

The entertainment sections of the newspapers were all reporting on I Am a Singer.

"I Am a Singer's viewership ratings hits a new high!"

"Viewership ratings of 3.49%—a legendary variety show!"

"Zhang Ye performs yet another divine tune live!"

"'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' tops the daily Top Chinese Music Chart!"

"Zhang Ye nearly gets eliminated!"

"Zhao Wuliu becomes the next eliminated singer!"

"Zhang Ye and Amy barely manage to stay in the competition!"

"Voting for Zhang Ye continues to be sluggish?"

"Zhang Ye ranked sixth in both the latest episode's knockout round and in the overall ranking over two episodes!"

"Experts are starting to doubt Zhang Ye's singing ability!"

Today, the country had been bombarded with news of I Am a Singer. Be it the topicality of discussions, or the viewership ratings, or on the music charts, they were number one in every aspect.

...

Back at home.

"The Hottest Ethnic Trend" was playing on a loop on the computer.

When Zhang Ye woke up, he opened the bedroom door and looked outside. "Who's playing the song?"

His mother looked back. "It's me, son. You're up already?"

"I got woken up by the noise you were making." Zhang Ye laughed bitterly. "I was so comfortable and dreaming that I was lying on soft and fluffy clouds until a crowd of aunties suddenly flew up there and started dancing. It scared me awake. So it was because you were playing 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend.'" To him, it was exactly this image he would think of whenever he heard this song.

His mother wondered, "Dancing? What are you talking about?"

Zhang Ye coughed and said, "Nothing."

Beside them, his dad said, "Your mom has listened to this song more than a dozen times since early in the morning."

"That's because I like it." His mother said excitedly, "This song is soooo good, son. That 'Exaggerated' or 'Wild Rose' that you sang before can't even compare to this one! This song of yours is really nice. In the future, you should sing more of such songs. It's exactly what I love to hear!"

Zhang Ye laughed, "Sure."

His father said in annoyance, "How is this good?"

"As if you know a thing." His mother stared at his father and said, "This song is really good and my son sings it very well too. People on the Internet are claiming that my son's singing has declined and that he's lost his touch at writing good songs. Ptui! What the hell do they know? This is what a good song is. Is mainstream art not considered art? No?"

But his father just said, "What are you singing next episode?"

"I haven't thought of it yet," Zhang Ye said.

His father said, "Why don't you start singing seriously?"

Zhang Ye laughed in response. "Dad, I'm already singing very seriously. Do you know how many days it took me to rehearse this song? I practiced it for three straight days and went through a dozen arrangements over a dozen rehearsals. It might sound simple when you're listening to it, but it isn't

simple at all. Since I'm going onstage, every song that I sing must be sung properly. I would never hold back."

Did this song require any skill?

You even needed to practice it for three days?

And go through that many versions of the arrangement?

His father could not understand it, so he didn't say anything else.

Zhang Ye said, "I need to head over to the office today, so I won't be having lunch at home. I haven't been there in quite a few days."

His mother continued listening to the song. "Shoo, go then."

...

Jiaomen East.

A familiar tune was reverberating through the neighborhood.

Deng, deng deng deng deng, deng deng deng deng deng deng deng deng.

Deng, deng deng deng deng, deng!

Zhang Ye was startled. He even had the sinking feeling that he somehow returned to his previous world!

A group of aunties were standing there twisting about.

They were even led by someone who shouted out instructions every now and then.

"This movement should be done like this."

"Auntie Zhou, raise your hands a little higher."

"Big Sis Chen, you're not letting yourself go. Your movements are too limited."

"Right, that's very good."

"Everyone, follow my lead."

"I'll be teaching the seventh step next."

Zhang Ye's jaw dropped!

Dammit! The song was only released yesterday!

But today there are already dance moves for it?

Isn't this too fast?

Zhang Ye suddenly had a bad feeling about this. Was the plaza (square) dance careers and industry of this world going to achieve prosperity and reach a peak because of him?

Upstairs.

In the studio.

Everyone was here today, so it became noisy in the office when Zhang Ye arrived.

"Director Zhang!"

"Ah, Director Zhang!"

"The boss has returned!"

"Hahaha, we've all heard your new song!"

"Awesome!"

"Amazing!"

Everyone was feeling extremely excited.

Zhang Ye asked, "Can you guys get any more exaggerated than this?"

"Oh, we can." The moment Ha Qiqi came up, she chuckled and said, "While we were watching the episode last night, we got rather worried when we heard your performance. It was a little...you know. You didn't get a good ranking either at sixth place, which meant you were second to last and barely survived the knockout round. But to our surprise, when the Celebrity Rankings Index got refreshed after midnight, your popularity score actually went up by a little. We were all stunned. At your current level, even gaining a little bit of popularity is a huge deal. Your 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' was several times more popular than your other popular songs like 'Exaggerated,' 'I Am What I Am,' 'Wild Rose,' 'I Really Love You,' amongst others. It was unbelievable!"

Zhang Zuo gave a wry smile. "Yeah, it was really frightening."

Wu Yi added, "All of us misjudged it!"

Little Wang said excitedly, "This song was amazingly good. With it, we've gained a surprisingly large number of middle-aged to senior citizen fans. This was something that had never happened in the past. Our influence in the middle-aged and senior citizens group has always been the poorest, but this song has totally made up for that and brought in a lot of new fans. It has increased the pie to a much larger size. This has an even better effect than increasing the cohesiveness of those long-time fans and will contribute greatly to the increasing of your popularity!"

Everyone knew how advantageous it was to expand one's fan base. If your fanbase started at 100 million, even if you were to convert all of them into diehard fans, there would still only be 100 million of them. But expanding one's fanbase was different. It could turn that 100 million fans into 200 million fans, or even 300 million fans. With the fanbase expanding, the increase in one's popularity would no longer be as simple as growing by severalfold. A celebrity's development space and potential would become much greater as a result!

Every celebrity and their teams knew this, but it was not something that most of them could achieve. A lot of people would not be able to go further once they reached a certain extent. For example, a singer like Chen Guang was already standing atop the music industry. Based on his fanbase numbers, his popularity had peaked, and it would be much harder for him to go any further. But Zhang Ye could do it.

His fanbase was still expanding and extending. This time, he had extended his reach into the middle-aged and senior citizens group. This was undoubtedly inspiring and exciting news and proved that Zhang Ye's popularity could still grow much higher!

All of the studio staff were jumping for joy at this news!

This song's popularity had truly surprised them. And that spread of the other song, "I Feel So Drained," was also something they had not expected!

It had actually gotten that popular?

However, Zhang Ye was not surprised. It was because he knew how good this song was back in his previous world. Disregarding the song's depth and meaning, or even any other points, just its popularity and spread were things that practically no other song could match. Jay Chou? Andy Lau? Eason Chan? Whoever came its way would be left kneeling!

...

After handling some matters in the office, Zhang Ye left in a hurry again. There was still a load of work waiting for him at the television station. There was really no time for him to take a break.

Downstairs.

Zhang Ye took the elevator down.

When the elevator door opened, he bumped into Yang Shu and Chenchen.

Chenchen glanced at him and waved. "Hi, Zhang Ye."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "You're so rude. You should be calling me Uncle Zhang."

Chenchen laughed, "Hur hur."

Yang Shu looked off. She only gave Zhang Ye one look and respectfully called him "Senior" before walking off without another word.

Zhang Ye said, "Junior Sis, recently how've you..."

However, Yang Shu had already walked up the stairs and did not seem to have heard him.

Zhang Ye was taken aback. He looked at Chenchen and asked, "What happened with your Auntie Yang?"

Chenchen pouted. "Old Yang is angry with you."

"Ah?" Zhang Ye was baffled and asked, "What is she angry at me for? I don't think I offended her?"

Chenchen didn't go up the stairs. She just strolled into the elevator. "How would I know about the things between you adults?"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "What does a little adult like you not know? Alright, I'll go upstairs and see how she's doing." He followed her back into the lift and went upstairs again. His junior martial sister had always been very polite and respectful to him. She would always listen to him about almost anything he said, so Zhang Ye was rather concerned now that she was blowing him off.

At Old Yang's apartment.

The door was unlocked and could be pushed open.

Zhang Ye went inside while blinking. "Little Yang, what's the matter?"

Yang Shu was wiping down the table and did not say anything.

"Who got on your nerves?" Zhang Ye intentionally put on a stern face. "Tell me and I'll go seek justice for you!"

Yang Shu finally looked up at him and said, "Senior Bro, can you not sing such songs anymore?"

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Why not?"

Yang Shu didn't bother holding back the moment she decided to speak up. "If I may be disrespectful, Senior Bro, I have to criticize you! Since this morning, all the nearby neighborhoods have been taken over by 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend.' Those uncles and aunties who used to learn Taiji Fist from me have also started telling me that they don't wish to continue the lessons. All of them went to join the plaza dancing clubs instead! Our Taiji Fist group has suffered a great loss, Senior Bro! There are only the two of us left in our Taiji branch of martial arts. You are the current generation's senior brother and the leader who represents us, so how could you go and aid others! How am I going to teach Taiji now that there isn't anyone left!"

Ah?

Was that it?

Zhang Ye was floored. "I was wondering what the big deal was!"

Yang Shu scowled and said, "This is a huge deal!"

"Aiya, Little Yang, you must set your sights further than this." Zhang Ye didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He said, "You're a young lady, yet you always go out to the streets to give out pamphlets. What are you always eyeing those retired old men and women for? If they want to dance, let them dance. They're dancing to my tunes anyway, so that'll increase my popularity. When your senior bro gets to the S-list and takes the place of one of those seven spots, my influence will grow. At that time, we can start a Taiji Fist martial arts school to give lessons, or even set up a company to do it. At that time, would we still lack for people? At worst, I'll film a film or a TV series, alright? I'll use it to promote and spread Taiji Fist. At that time, will you still be afraid that people won't know about Taiji Fist? So don't be too anxious, just wait until I reach the top!"

"Ah, really?"

"Of course!"

"Senior Bro, you have such great vision!"

"That's of course. How else could I be your senior!"

After a little bullshitting, he finally placated Yang Shu.

...

On this day.

"The Hottest Ethnic Trend" swept the country!

However, no one could have realized that this was just the beginning!

No one could predict that in another few days, this song would actually reach a state of hysteria!

Chapter 1257: The plaza dancing craze!

On the same day.

In the afternoon.

At Beijing Television.

"Director Zhang, the advertisers are asking if you could add a few lines for them in your script."

"I can't do that, they're not the title sponsors."

"Director Zhang, this is the song list for this week."

"Is it confirmed?"

"This was submitted by the singers, so there could still be changes."

"Alright, I got it."

"Director Zhang..."

"Director Zhang..."

Bringing over a show from his previous world untouched was a very big advantage. This was because the show would have already gone through a market testing phase in his previous world. But there were also disadvantages. For example, like now, due to all of the show's tasking, planning, and content being totally controlled by Zhang Ye, he needed to guarantee that the show would be 100% done according to how he pictured it. As such, it required every small detail to get Zhang Ye's approval before it could be implemented. This no doubt increased his workload by a lot.

He had to run around resolving issues.

He was busy wherever he went.

Finally, even Zhang Ye himself could not take it anymore. He found a sofa and lay down. He did not even sit; he just laid totally flat, looking extremely fatigued. His eyes were closed and it looked like he had fallen asleep, but at the same time, he didn't look asleep. He looked like he was paralyzed.

Xiao Lu brought over a document to him. "Director..."

Just as she was about to wake him up, Hou Ge, who was standing close by, stopped her. "Shh."

"Huh?" Xiao Lu looked at Hou Ge.

Hou Ge gave a wry smile. "Let Director Zhang rest for a bit."

Xiao Lu nodded and looked at the sofa. She felt a little bad for him but also wanted to laugh. After some thought, she suddenly took out her cell phone and opened the camera. After focusing for a long time, kacha, she took a picture of him.

Afterwards, the picture spread within the program team.

"Hahaha!"

"Zhang Ye's posture is the best!"

"Too funny!"

"Let's post it on the Internet."

"Alright, let me check with Brother Hu if we should do that."

When Hu Fei saw the picture, he immediately said, "Post it! Post it using the show's official Weibo account! Let everyone see how hard our program team's people are working!"

Soon, I Am a Singer's official Weibo posted the picture, with a caption: "A scene from behind the scenes. You've worked hard, Director Zhang." It was supposed to be a simple interaction with fans as well as a publicity post to promote their show a little. But the people of Beijing Television could not have expected that this picture would actually turn the entertainment industry upside down!

It was shared like crazy!

The netizens were all getting a laugh out of it!

"Aiyo!"

"Look at how ugly Zhang Ye's posture is!"

"Hahahaha! I'm dying!"

"Just looked at how he's lying down! There's really no one else who can look like that!"

"It looks so terrible!"

"I can see how this fellow must be burnt out!"

"His body must be drained!"

Out of the blue, countless netizens gave this posture a name: the Zhang Ye Sprawl!

Everyone was having fun parodying this. They Photoshopped the picture with other pictures and posted them online. It had almost become a movement that everyone was taking part in. Later, quite a few celebrities from the entertainment circle even joined in!

Zhang Xia posted a picture of herself in the "Zhang Ye Sprawl"!

"Pfft!"

"Even Grandma Zhang has joined in!"

"Hahahaha, Liked!"

Chen Guang also posted one.

"Old Chen's posture is too ugly!"

"I'm cramping up from laughing!"

And Yao Jiancai.

"Old Yao, you had better stop it!"

"How is this the Zhang Ye Sprawl? It's more like a Coffin Sprawl! I can see at a glance that you're not far from being in one soon!"

Ning Lan.

Huo Dongfang.

And many other celebrities were all imitating Zhang Ye's sprawl and posting their selfies to join in the memeing. All of a sudden, the Zhang Ye Sprawl had gone viral across the country!

The person at the center of it was the last to find out.

When Zhang Ye saw his inelegant picture being spread like crazy all over the Internet, he was dumbfounded. He was exhausted in the afternoon and had no idea that his picture was taken. The gesticulations of Beijing locals were already more ungainly to begin with, so he just lay down in the most comfortable position he could get into. But who could have guessed that it would become a meme? There were this many memes of him? So many celebrities had come to join the fun as well? Whoa! Even Zhang Yuanqi posted one of herself?

The people on Weibo went crazy!

"Ah!"

"Even the Heavenly Queen is here?"

"Hahahaha!"

"I think the Heavenly Queen's 'Zhang Ye Sprawl' is much more elegant and beautiful!"

"Zhang Ye is on fire again!"

"How does he keep doing this!"

"Because he's a wonder!"

The Zhang Ye Sprawl?

Wasn't this the same as the Ge You Sprawl 1 ?!

Zhang Ye didn't know what to say anymore. Hai, whatever makes you guys happy, I guess.

The picture of him in utter exhaustion had gone viral and made it into the Weibo headlines and the headlines of the major entertainment news outlets. He had gone viral all over the country, to the point where even his popularity score had jumped by a bit. This was really something that could happen to no one but him!

Meanwhile.

The explosiveness of "The Hottest Ethnic Trend" had finally arrived!

This storm had come too suddenly and strongly. It could only be described as a state of hysteria!

...

In a neighborhood in Shanghai.

"The vast horizon is my love!"

"At the foot of rolling green hills flowers bloom!"

...

In a plaza in Shenzhen.

"Whichever rhythm..."

"...that is the most rocking!"

"Whichever singing is the most! Happy!"

...

Beijing.

"Singing as we travel is the most! Carefree!"

"If we sing, we want to sing to our! Hearts! Content!"

...

Sweeping!

Spreading!

In just a few days!

The wave of the plaza dance hysteria had swept across the entire country!

Beijing fell!

Shanghai fell!

Shenzhen fell!

Nanjing fell!

Hangzhou fell!

And to what state did the hysteria reach?

It reached a point where if you stepped out into the neighborhood, you'd hear "The Hottest Ethnic Trend" playing, to the point where if you went out, you'd see groups of aunties dancing their plaza dance routines!

The industry was shocked!

The people were stunned!

This was a change that had dumbfounded everyone!

This was way too crazy!

Th-This was simply insane!

Overnight, China had been overtaken by a plaza dance song called "The Hottest Ethnic Trend"!

Weibo was turned upside down!

"Heavens!"

"They've all gone mad! Mad, I tell you!"

"The aunties have all emerged!"

"At 7 AM and 7 PM, they're always so punctual!"

"My home has fallen!"

"The neighborhood I live in has fallen too!"

"Zhang Ye, your sister! Just what have you done!"

"Zhang Ye, you cheat!"

"That guy has opened up a door to a new world for the aunties!"

"Hahahahaha!"

"This is causing such a huge public disturbance! I'm on the verge of tears! Zhang Ye, come out!"

"Teacher Zhang, come out!"

"I really want to give him a good beating!"

"Is there a spell in this song?"

"There must be! And it's definitely a fucking spell that only works on the aunties!"

"Oh my God! The aunties have all gone mad!"

The media was fighting to get their first reports out!

The people had already started heated discussions!

In the end, even experts and government leaders stepped in. This had obviously already turned into a societal matter. No one could have expected that a song could actually bring about such a crazy situation. This was really something that was very difficult to imagine since it was only a song, a song that Zhang Ye had casually sung onstage!

Why was this happening?

How did it become like this?

The happiest people were those aunties who were retired and had nothing to do at home. All of them were very excited and were even praising Zhang Ye. Plaza dancing had always existed, and it was a very popular activity in many places as well. But there were only signs of this activity happening. It wasn't commonplace yet, nor did it happen on such a wide scale. With the release of "The Hottest Ethnic Trend," it was as though a bomb's switch had been flicked and it went off so explosively that the entire situation got out of control!

Plaza dancing had finally been unified and become popular all over the country!

In the past, the aunties would often get into arguments over what songs they wanted to dance to. There had been ongoing battles over the types of songs they preferred, with the list including folk songs, modern songs, and classic songs. They had never been united before!

Should they dance to this?

Or that?

Some of the groups in the neighborhoods would even get into fights over the topic!

But now?

There was no need to fight anymore!

"The Hottest Ethnic Trend" had arrived!

Deng, deng deng deng deng!

Deng deng deng deng deng deng deng deng!

Deng, deng deng deng deng, deng deng!

Chapter 1258: You call this a love song?

A few days later.

On the day of the ninth episode's recording.

The audience was joking and chatting as they entered the studio.

"The Zhang Ye Sprawl has gone viral."

"Yeah, everyone's imitating it now."

"And 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' is causing a stir around the country."

"Let's see what Zhang Ye will be singing today."

"Yeah, he's definitely going to sing a proper song today, right?"

"Right. If he doesn't do that, that fellow will definitely get eliminated this round."

"Yep, the ninth and tenth episodes are going to be the last qualifying rounds before the grand finals take place. When these two episodes are done, it'll be time for the revival round. It's almost coming to an end."

"Do you guys think that Zhang Ye will advance to the grand finals?"

"If he sings the way he has been, don't even think about it!"

"Actually, I don't think he isn't singing properly. He's actually performed quite well, but you have to take into account who he's up against. Who are all those people with him on this stage? Xiaodong is more popular than Zhang Ye in the Asian scene. And I don't even have to mention Zhang Xia and Chen Guang. Those two are both top singers, pros amongst pros. Even if Zhang Ye gives it his all, he probably can't beat them. He won't even be able to match their singing skills, so this is very normal."

"But he beat Fan Wenli during King of Masked Singers."

"That was because they were masked. Everyone had already guessed the identities of the other masked singers except for The Clown, which was the decisive factor of why he could win. People are curious creatures, after all. Besides, even if Fan Wenli's singing is good, she's still lacking when compared to Chen Guang and Grandma Zhang. Surely you guys agree with that too, right? Moreover, Zhang Ye only won because of the songs that he sang during the King of Masked Singers. All of those songs had very deep meanings and were written well in advance. The audience only voted for him because of the songs. But such good songs are getting harder to come by and more difficult to write these days. Even for Zhang Ye, it's impossible that he can churn out a good song every other day. It would already be ridiculously amazing if he could produce three to five classics per year. So I feel that he overdrew his quota during King of Masked Singers. Just look at 'I Feel So Drained' and 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend.' What kinds of lyrics are those? Even the melody of the songs are so simple. From that, you can get a sense that Zhang Ye's talent has been totally spent. Since he isn't willing to sing the songs that he's sung before, nor those of others, how can he perform well? However, that's also understandable."

"That makes sense."

"True, how can it be so easy to always write good songs?"

"That might not be. We'll see what he sings today."

"Right, we'll know how it goes after today."

"In any case, I'll listen to whatever Zhang Ye sings. I just like him!"

"Who cares if he's lost his touch? It's good enough as long as the song is nice!"

"He's written a song that's become popular all over the country, and you're saying that he's lost his touch? Are you kidding me? It's just that Zhang Ye isn't singing seriously!"

...

Backstage.

Recording had already begun.

The singers were all gathered at the lot picking place and were surrounded by the program team staff and cameras.

"Let's welcome the replacement singer to the show."

"Welcome!"

"Thank you, seniors."

"Who's going to pick first?"

"Not me!"

"How about Grandma Zhang?"

"Me? I'll wait a bit."

Nobody wanted to be the first to pick a lot, so everyone was laughing and joking. The replacement singer for this episode was a C-list celebrity who could also be considered a newcomer to the music industry. He had only debuted two years ago.

Zhang Xia laughed and said, "Amy survived last week's knockout round again."

Amy laughed out loud. "That's because I've been proclaimed as the undying goddess."

Xiaodong mocked, "Well, you're more like an ever-LAST-ing angel!"

Amy did not like hearing that. "Heehee, but I wasn't in last place the previous week."

"So you guys are talking about me now?" Zhang Ye said in amusement. Zhao Wuliu was in seventh place the previous episode and got eliminated from the competition as a result. Excluding him, it wasn't wrong to say that Zhang Ye's sixth place put him in last place.

Huang Cheng laughed and said, "It was a really close call for Director Zhang."

Zhang Ye smiled. "Yeah, I was hanging by a thread."

Everyone actually had very serious questions regarding Zhang Ye's songs choices for the past two episodes. However, they did not think it would be nice to bring it up. What could they say? How could they ask? Could they ask if he couldn't come up with good songs anymore? Ask if he had run out of inspiration? Or ask if his singing had deteriorated? And why he couldn't sing like he did in the past? There was just no way to ask something like that!

Chen Guang looked quite relaxed. "The difference was only a dozen-odd votes, so that was really close. If Director Zhang were eliminated, we would be left without a host."

Zhang Xia looked at Chen Guang. "What are you going to sing today, Little Chen?"

Chen Guang laughed. "Can I keep it a secret for now?"

Amy immediately said, "No, you have to say it now!"

Chen Guang gave it some thought. "I can only say that it's a rock song; I can't reveal the name yet."

Xiaodong blinked. "What about you, Grandma Zhang?"

"Me?" Zhang Xia said, "I'll be singing a love song."

Amy went on to ask Zhang Ye, "Director Zhang, what kind of song will you be singing today?"

Zhang Ye was taken aback but gave a surprising answer, "I'll be singing a love song too."

Everyone was stunned.

A love song?

He was finally going to show what he was capable of?

Truthfully, they hadn't really heard Zhang Ye sing love songs much even though that was his most powerful weapon of all. But whenever he did sing one, it would always be an earth-shattering performance. Like the duet he performed with Zhang Yuanqi, "Love of a Lifetime." It didn't sound like much when you listened to it for the first time, but it would slowly grow on you until you found it to be amazing. In fact, even a lot of industry insiders wrote great reviews of "Love of a Lifetime." They claimed that it was China's best love song this year with no other song coming close!

And today?

Zhang Ye was going to sing a love song again?

Was it going to be a new song too? Or would it be one of his old songs?

Originally, everyone was most concerned about Chen Guang and Zhang Xia's performances. Because these two singers were really strong, everyone wanted to defend against them by trying to find out in advance what they were going to sing so that they could prepare themselves. But when Zhang Ye mentioned that he was going to sing a love song, everyone was caught by surprise and started putting their guards up against him as well. One of the most important reasons for this was that the issue of Zhang Ye's wedding was really too attention-grabbing. Everyone was so curious about who his fiancée was since no one had seen her before. The paparazzi also couldn't find out anything about her, so it could be said that the entire country was still trying to figure out her identity. And to sing a love song at this time, was Zhang Ye going to dedicate it to his fiancée? Or perhaps reveal something about the course of their relationship? If that was the case, could you even imagine the stir that it would cause!

He might even be able to get first place because of it!

Zhang Ye smiled and went forward. "If no one is picking first, I'll go ahead."

He picked out a ball and unwrapped it.

Everyone looked down at it and was amused by what they saw!

"Hahaha!"

"Wow, Director Zhang."

"Seems like your luck isn't that great."

Zhang Ye did not know whether to laugh or cry. The number "1" was written on the ball. "OK, I'll be going onstage then."

The others also picked lots to determine their order of appearance.

Amy said, "I'll head back to the waiting room first. I can't miss out on listening to Director Zhang's love song."

Chen Guang said, "Let's go together."

Xiaodong gave a bitter laugh and said, "Director Zhang will surely be difficult to deal with today."

The tiger was finally baring its fangs, so what should they do?

...

In front.

The audience gave thunderous applause!

"Zhang Ye!"

"He came out!"

"It's starting!"

"I'm so looking forward to it!"

Zhang Ye stood onstage with a smile and said, "Welcome to this episode of I Am a Singer. For this episode, we will be welcoming a new replacement singer. Many of you are very concerned about who he is, and I've interviewed him backstage. He wanted me to pass a message to the audience..."

Before he could finish, the audience was already laughing like crazy!

"Yi!"

"He's at it again!"

"Only a fool would believe you now!"

"There's no need to pass the message, we're not going to listen!"

"Hahahaha!"

"We already know about your tricks and routine!"

Everyone hooted.

The staff in the studio also laughed. Everyone already knows about this approach of yours!

But Zhang Ye just blinked and said, "The replacement singer wanted me to tell the audience: He will try to sing to the best of his abilities."

The audience was taken aback.

Try to sing to the best of his abilities?

Only that?

Eh, why wasn't there any advertising lines this time?

It didn't seem right! What happened to your advertising routine?

While everyone was caught by surprise, Zhang Ye's next words floored everyone. "But his agent wanted me to tell the audience this—" He lowered his head and brought up the cue card. "Thank you to the leading health supplement brand, Brain Gold Company, for being the title sponsors of our show. Thank you to Hubei Pharmaceuticals' strong support for us. If you're going to use a computer tablet, use Lilai's eight-inch tablet with multi-core technology. Honey Sweet fruit juice, so sweet that you can feel it in your heart!"

The audience burst out laughing!

The singers backstage also erupted with laughter!

"Pfft!"

"Hahahahaha!"

"I should have known!"

"He's full of tricks!"

"Zhang Ye, that's enough!"

"When it comes to such tricks, I really have to give it to you!"

It had already been proven that Zhang Ye's tricks could never be predicted by them.

After some hilarity, the atmosphere in the studio was warmed up.

Zhang Ye said, "Next up will be the performances. First up, our first singer will be performing a rare love song. So let's hand the stage over to him."

The audience looked at him doubtfully.

A love song?

What about that?

What was so rare about singing a love song?

But a second later, the lights dimmed.

Zhang Ye did not leave the stage but stayed at center stage in silence. At this moment, the audience finally realized it. Zhang Ye was singing first? And he was going to sing a love song?

The audience burst into an uproar.

"Wow!"

"A love song?"

"This is gonna be good!"

"Is he going to dedicate this to his fiancée?"

"I'm looking forward to hearing it!"

"Zhang Ye is gonna use his ace in the hole!"

"I have a feeling that he'll be getting first place this episode!"

"He's finally going to sing properly!"

"If he sings 'Love of a Lifetime,' he can definitely get into the top three today!"

"It's finally not going to be some viral tune! Singing a love song is the correct choice!"

"Viral tune? How can he have that many viral tunes up his sleeves!"

It was all quiet onstage.

The audience was also quiet.

Zhang Ye slowly closed his eyes as the image of Wu Zeqing floated into his mind.

Backstage.

Zhang Xia watched intently.

Xiaodong had her eyes glued to the screen while she was getting her makeup touched up.

Amy was feeling very nervous and full of anticipation.

What kind of performance would Zhang Ye, who had bared his fangs, give? They were all very curious to find out!

Onstage, Zhang Ye opened his eyes. Under everyone's gaze, the music suddenly came on. A strong beat ripped through the stage in an instant!

The audience was shocked. They suddenly had a bad feeling about this!

This music?

This beat?

Surely not, right?

In the end, everyone lurched the moment Zhang Ye opened his mouth 1 !

"I planted a seed in the earth.

"And it finally bore fruit.

"Today is a glorious day.

"Plucked a star as a gift for you.

"Grabbed the moon as a gift for you.

"Making the sun rise every day for you.

"I turn into a candle and light myself to be a lamp for you.

"Give my everything to you as long as you are happy.

"Because of you, my tomorrows have become meaningful.

"Life may be short, but I'll love you forever—

"Stay! By! Your! Side!

"You are my-a small-a, small apple!

"However much I love you, it'll never be too much!

"Your small blushing face warms my heart!

"It lights my fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!"

Zhang Xia: "..."

Huang Cheng: "..."

Chen Guang: "..."

Xiaodong: "..."

Amy: "..."

The audience: "..."

Your sister!

Is this a love song?

You call this a fucking love song?!

Teacher Zhang! How did I fall for your nonsense!

Get lost!

Get lost already!

Chapter 1259: The father of plaza dancing?

The next day.

The show was broadcast.

Countless people were sitting in nervously at their televisions to catch the latest episode of I Am a Singer. When they learned that Zhang Ye was going to sing a love song, their reactions were exactly like how the live audience had reacted yesterday. They were all full of anticipation and surprise as they wanted to know just what kind of new love song Zhang Ye would come up with. And then—there were no more thens!

It crumbled!

It had once again crumbled!

The moment Zhang Ye opened his mouth, people across the country were stunned!

The expressions on people's faces were as excited as you would expect.

It lights your fire? Fire? Fire? Fire? Fire? Fire?

I'll fucking set your house aflame! Flame! Flame! Flame! Flame! Flame!

Teacher Zhang, that's enough! Do you believe that I won't set your house aflame!

"Lmao!"

"What a joker!"

"Aiyo, I give in! I really have to take my hat off to him!"

"Why does he still have more of those songs?"

"'Small Apple'?"

"This must be the fucking sequel to 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend,' right?"

"I want to go and give him a good beating, what do you guys think?"

"Me too!"

"Motherfucker, let's go together!"

"Does he think that the aunties do not have enough songs to dance to?"

"This had better not become yet another plaza dance tune in the making!"

"Surely not, right? The plaza dance scene has already been overtaken by 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend.'"

"Hopefully so, but I have a bad feeling about it!"

"It's impossible that this song can go viral. Zhang Ye has lost his touch."

"Yeah, that's what I think too. 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' only became that popular by a stroke of luck. It was pure fortune that drove its popularity. Another miracle like it isn't going to happen. Just look and you'll know. Zhang Ye's ranking on this episode of I Am a Singer was sixth place. He only managed a few more votes than the replacement singer, so it's quite possible that he'll be facing elimination soon. And with the reception of the song only being lukewarm, Zhang Ye has totally gotten it wrong this time."

"The key was that the rookie replacement singer did not do as well as he could have. He still isn't that popular yet. How else could such a terrible song like 'Small Apple' not be in last place!"

"Hahaha, I think it's a great song!"

"Yeah, it's really nice and catchy, but it's not suitable for a competition."

But some people were still extremely excited!

Like Zhang Ye's mother!

Like Chen Guang's mother!

Like Xiaodong's mother!

Like Zhang Yuanqi's mother!

The aunties were all astounded and felt like they had discovered a gem!

There were all kinds of analysis and reviews online. Some were critical, while others poked fun or laughed at it. The opinions were divided, but the general consensus from the majority of the people was that they did not feel optimistic about the chances of this song in the market.

But reality once again slapped everyone in the face!

On the very next day, the plaza dance moves for "Small Apple" were released!

...

Beijing.

In a certain neighborhood.

A couple was leaving the house in the morning to go to work. The moment they stepped out, they were shocked by the scene outside.

"You are my-a small-a, small apple!

"However much I love you, it'll never be too much!"

"No, that posture is wrong!"

"Follow me and repeat it!"

"One, two, three, four."

"Two, two, three, four."

...

Shanghai.

"Listen to the beat!"

"Yes, wave your hand, place it down, then wave your hand again!"

"Everyone, let's do it together!"

"It lights my fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!"

...

Tianjin.

In a certain town square.

On one side of it.

Deng, deng deng deng deng!

Deng deng deng deng deng deng deng!

On the other side was.

"Life may be short, but I'll love you forever—

"Stay! By! Your! Side!"

...

There were countless versions of the dance!

There was a Chenhua Neighborhood version!

There was a Shanghai version!

There was a Beijing Xicheng District version!

There was even a certain Shenzhen street version!

Every district's movements might differ slightly from each other, but the songs were the same. They were all playing "The Hottest Ethnic Trend" or "Small Apple." Further, the popularity of these two songs were practically on par with each other, with 50% of the plaza dancers dancing to either one of them!

Countless young men and women nearly broke down when they saw the sight before their eyes!

The media was dumbfounded!

The experts were stunned as well!

"Yet another viral song by Zhang Ye!"

"'Small Apple' stuns the people!"

"A new song for plaza dancing: 'Small Apple'!"

"'Small Apple' spreads across the country overnight!"

"If you didn't hear the song, 'Small Apple,' this morning when you opened your doors, you must definitely be living in the faraway suburbs. The cities have all been invaded by 'Small Apple'!"

"The suburbs have also been invaded this afternoon!"

"Yet another miracle!"

"The sudden rise of 'Small Apple'!"

"The 'Small Apple' craze! All the aunties go crazy!"

"China has entered the era of plaza dancing!"

"Plaza dancing to become a norm in the future!"

"Leaders of the local governments have expressed plans to support and promote a fitness dance for the elderly!"

"How did 'Small Apple' manage to go viral?"

"Mother of Heavenly Queen Zhang Yuanqi publicly declares: 'I like Zhang Ye's songs very much!'"

"An expert with the Center of Gerontology and Geriatrics expresses: Thank you, Zhang Ye, for contributing to the leisure activities of senior citizens!"

There was news all around!

It sent shockwaves all over the country!

A lot of people thought "The Hottest Ethnic Trend" had already spread out of control and that no other song would be able to surpass it, nor would such a miracle be replicated. But to their surprise, Zhang Ye, the bastard, had actually brought it to the next level. He had come up with a song that could match "The Hottest Ethnic Trend" in terms of its viralness—"Small Apple"! If the folk song before this could not prove anything, then with the appearance of "Small Apple," it was enough to officially declare this: China had truly entered the era of plaza dancing! No one could stop it!

But the person who started it remained very calm.

"The Hottest Ethnic Trend" had already gone viral!

So would it still be long before "Small Apple" caught up to it?

These two songs were considered the number one heroic couple of plaza dancing back in his previous world!

The only opponent of "The Hottest Ethnic Trend" was "Small Apple"!

"Small Apple" had only one opponent, which was also "The Hottest Ethnic Trend"!

Other than that, they had practically no rivals at all!

Zhang Ye, though, was at his wits' end. In the end, plaza dancing was still gloriously brought to life by this bro. Perhaps this was what you would call fate? I'm really not to blame for this. Everything was destined and this was a product of the societal development in this world. This bro was only acting as a catalyst for it.

...

On the same night.

Zhang Ye's name was actually brought up on Central TV's News Simulcast!

Ever since Zhang Ye got involved in a lawsuit with Central TV Department 1, Central TV no longer made any references to Zhang Ye's news. There was practically no mention of him on News Simulcast, and they would remain silent even if he made any major news. But today, News Simulcast was reporting about the topic of plaza dancing and the male and female news anchors actually read Zhang Ye's name aloud in front of the entire country's viewers. This was clearly a big change from before. Central TV had recently gone through a leadership change, and it seemed like the effects were widespread. Just this incident today was enough to see that. It looked like the newly appointed Central TV Station Head had nothing against Zhang Ye. They would report on any news that was trending without bias.

On News Simulcast.

There was an interview with a passerby.

But this interview resulted in making the entire country's people erupt with laughter!

The female reporter walked into the plaza dance community and raised her microphone to ask, "Auntie, what type of dance are you all dancing?"

The auntie answered with a smile, "We're plaza dancing!"

The female reporter asked, "And what is this song that everyone is dancing to?"

That auntie answered, "This is 'Small Apple.' 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' will be played afterwards. We're all dancing to these two songs over and over again."

Beside them, there were over a dozen aunties chattering.

A plump auntie said, "This song is especially good."

A grey-haired auntie said, "Yes, I fell in love with it the moment I heard it."

A skinny auntie said, "We're all retired and usually at home, but there's finally something for us to do now."

A 60-year-old auntie said, "Yeah, we sisters are really happy to be able to dance together."

An auntie wearing a colorful shirt said, "I was arguing almost every day with my husband when I was at home because I had nothing to do. But it has gotten so much better now. Every morning and evening, I can come out to take part in plaza dancing. I practically have no worries anymore!"

The female reporter asked, "Did any of the neighbors complain about any disturbances?"

The leading auntie of the group walked over. It was obvious she was the head of the group. She said, "There were some complaints, but we're not unreasonable people. When they say that we're being too loud and affecting their sleep, we turn down the volume and try not to affect them. But of course, there are also some fellow sisters in the neighborhoods who are pretty unreasonable and cause a nuisance to the people. That's why we would like to take the chance to remind everyone here. When we're entertaining ourselves, we have to be considerate of other people's feelings too. We cannot build our happiness upon others' misfortunes, am I right?"

The female reporter laughed and said, "Well said!"

The leading auntie proudly declared, "That's right. We're preparing to treat plaza dancing as a career and make it an industry that we can develop further."

An industry?

You can even make it into an industry?

The female reporter didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She said, "Any industry has to have a founder first. There's always an ancestral founder, so is there one for plaza dancing as well?"

That leading auntie was taken aback at that. Clearly, she had never considered this question before. Thus, she answered instinctively, "Of course there is. The father of plaza dancing is Zhang Ye!"

The interview ended right there.

This was an excerpt of the content on News Simulcast today!

The public was cramping up with laughter after watching this!

Coincidentally, Zhang Ye was also watching News Simulcast with his parents today. When he saw that interview, Zhang Ye very nearly fell on his butt!

Father?

Who the heck is your founder!

What the fuck has this got anything to do with me?!

Chapter 1260: The founder imparts his moves!

Back at home.

His parents were also dumbfounded!

His mother turned to the side and asked, "Since when did you become the father of plaza dancing?"

Zhang Ye nearly vomited a mouthful of blood. "How would I know?"

His father: "..."

A phone call arrived at the next moment.

It was Yao Jiancai who called first.

The moment Zhang Ye answered it, he heard a guffaw from the other end.

"Hahahahaha!"

Zhang Ye was annoyed. "What is it, Old Yao?"

"Did you watch News Simulcast just now? Hahahaha! You're great, you're really great, kid! Aiyo, you're killing me. Let me laugh a little more!"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "You better not go overboard."

"I can't, this is really too funny!"

Soon after, another call came in.

It was from his university classmate, Yu Yingyi. "Hello, father of plaza dancing."

Zhang Ye was speechless. "Go away!"

Yu Yingyi laughed loudly. "Your popularity amongst the middle-aged and elderly women is skyrocketing. My mother even called me today to ask me to get an autograph from you. She said that the aunties in her neighborhood have become your diehard fans. Keep this in mind. When I'm a little less busy, I'll be looking for you, so don't forget to sign a few more autographs for me!"

Zhang Ye said in spite: "No, I'm not giving you any."

The calls kept coming one after another.

His old friends and old classmates were all calling to mock him.

But there was nothing that Zhang Ye could do about it. He was completely speechless. Plaza dancing had also gained notoriety back in his previous world and its reputation was really bad. Zhang Ye didn't mind joking around or singing a song or two for others, but if he had to get linked to the legacy of plaza dancing, this fellow would definitely try to get away as far from it as possible. This was not something that he wanted to get blamed for! But out of nowhere, someone bestowed the title of the founder upon him. This left Zhang Ye with no place to hide. He had really been wrongfully given this title!

Abracadabra!

Please let this matter blow over quickly!

Hopefully, no one will take this joke seriously!

...

However, the development of this matter went precisely the opposite of how Zhang Ye hoped it would turn out!

What was News Simulcast?

It was the show with the highest viewership ratings without counting the Spring Festival Gala. If the total viewership ratings were combined, no other shows would dare to claim that they were number one if News Simulcast said that they were number two. The Central TV Spring Festival Gala only happened once a year, but News Simulcast was broadcast every day. And it was even a mandatory broadcast that played on all the satellite channels across the country. Comparing viewership ratings? Comparing viewership numbers? Even I Am a Singer or King of Masked Singers would have to step aside. The gap was simply too wide!

That part of the interview spread like wildfire in the blink of an eye!

On Weibo, the netizens were all laughing like mad!

"Quickly go and watch News Simulcast!"

"The interview segment today was so lit! It was lit af!"

"Hahahahaha!"

"Aiyah, I can't take it anymore!"

"Founder?"

"I somehow got tickled by that!"

"That auntie is such a comedian!"

"Teacher Zhang has created a new industry! This is cause for a nationwide celebration!"

"Pfft, but thinking about it, those two songs of Zhang Ye's have indeed gloriously spread the name of plaza dancing. Even my mother who doesn't usually go out went out to dance, so just think of how great his influence is. Calling Zhang Ye the father of plaza dancing? I don't find anything wrong with that at all!"

"Teacher Zhang has gained yet another nickname!"

"A founder has to be offered joss sticks by future generations, right?"

"That's right. A hundred years from now, every neighborhood's plaza dance groups will have to offer three joss sticks to Zhang Ye's photograph to remember him before they start their dance routine."

"Rofl!"

"Hahaha, you guys, that's enough!"

"I really have to take my hat off to him. Why is it that when anything involves Zhang Ye, it always somehow becomes a joke of some sort. Just this morning, 'Small Apple' and 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' were playing below my place. I got woken up by it and was feeling quite angry about it, but when I saw that interview on News Simulcast, all my anger fucking disappeared. I laughed for such a long time at it. In all of showbiz, only Zhang Ye can make me feel that way!"

"He's the biggest joker in the entertainment industry, after all, so the people and issues surrounding him would naturally become funny as well. Perhaps this is what Zhang Ye's personal charm is. Based on looks, he can't compare with Huo Dongfang or the others. Comparing age, he isn't like those pretty boy celebs out there. About his physique, Jiang Hanwei could easily fling him several streets. But when it comes to being funny, even if all the other celebrities in the entertainment industry combined forces, they wouldn't be a match for him!"

"Congratulations to Zhang Ye on his promotion to the father of plaza dancing!"

"Congratulations to Teacher Zhang on becoming the spiritual leader of the aunties!"

"Where's the applause?"

"Tossing flowers!"

The netizens were all gloating and laughing like mad!

Just a simple news interview had firmly placed the label of "father of plaza dancing" onto Zhang Ye. Even the media was using this title for their headlines.

...

The next day.

In the morning.

When Zhang Ye got up, he could already hear his mother playing "Small Apple" on the computer. He couldn't help but get annoyed at that, so he pushed the door open and said, "Mom, can you please stop playing that?"

His mother smacked her lips. "Why?"

Zhang Ye said, "I get a headache whenever I hear that song."

"Did you get possessed?" His mother sneered.

Zhang Ye harrumphed. "In the future, don't ever mention plaza dancing to me again."

His father said, "But you're already looked upon as the founder by so many people."

"Whoa!" Zhang Ye reacted as though his tail had been stepped on. He said startled, "Just stop mentioning those words! Don't ever bring it up again! I've contracted a disease. If I hear those words, my entire body will start trembling. So don't ever mention them to my face again. Dad, Mom, I'm off to work now. Bye!"

But Zhang Ye could not have expected that the moment he got downstairs, he would immediately be surrounded by his neighbors!

"Little Ye!"

"You've finally come out!"

"We've been waiting for you for so long."

"Quick, give us some pointers."

"Yeah, everyone's moves are not uniform at all."

"What are the standard moves for 'Small Apple'?"

"Can you teach us the moves for 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' as well?"

A group of aunties had completely surrounded Zhang Ye. There was no way out for him.

Standard moves?

Whoever said that there were any standard moves!

Zhang Ye said dumbfoundedly, "Auntie Liu, Auntie Sun, Grandma Zhou, what are you all talking about? How would I know how to plaza dance? I can't possibly teach you all anything."

Auntie Sun said with a straight face, "But you're the founder of this industry. If you don't teach us, who'll teach us?"

Auntie!

My dearest auntie!

Can you not bring up the fact of who the founder is?

Zhang Ye really did not want anything to do with this. He just wanted to get out of here.

But the group of aunties was not going to allow him to get past them. They all had their hands on their hips as they stared at him.

"Little Ye, Auntie really has to lecture you!"

"Little Ye, everyone is feeling so excited now. We're all so happy that we can come out every day to dance. It's a different world these days, with things like the Internet, cell phones, and computers. We don't know how to use any of them. We're just a group of middle-aged and elderly people with few leisure activities to keep us occupied. There's really too little that we can do. But now that plaza dancing has been popularized despite the difficulties, it has helped to enrich the lives of us old folk. This is great, and if the others don't wish to support it, then so be it. But you're the creator of it and our spiritual leader, so how can you not show your support?"

"That's right, Little Ye."

Who's your spiritual leader?

What spiritual leader!

Zhang Ye raised his hands in surrender. "It's not that I don't support it. I'm actually especially supportive of this cause. I even have both my hands up in support of it, but I'm only a small-time host and at most an amateur singer. What could I know about dancing!"

But nobody was having it.

"You've even flown a plane before!"

"And gotten the highest award in mathematics too!"

"You can play Go and even Xiang Rong is no match for you!"

"So what would you not know?"

They were all saying things.

Zhang Ye couldn't rebuke any of them!

His mother probably heard the ruckus from upstairs and came down looking cheerful too.

Zhang Ye really didn't know whether to laugh or cry. These were not just any people, they were all decades-old neighbors, and many of these aunties saw Zhang Ye grow up. Some of them had cooked for him, and some of them even brought him home from school when his parents couldn't. What kind of relationship was that? It was close to the point of being relatives! No matter how thick Zhang Ye's skin was, he couldn't just ignore these neighbors.

Finally, he gave in. "Alright, but I'll only teach it once for both songs. I still have a load of things to do at the TV station, so I have to get going as soon as possible."

"No problem!"

"We learn really fast!"

The aunties were in high spirits!

But Zhang Ye appeared despondent with a listless expression.

If he really didn't know how, then it wouldn't have been so bad. He could still come up with an excuse and push this off. But the problem was that Zhang Ye really knew the dance routine of the songs. In his previous world, the State General Administration of Sports had pushed out 20 standard plaza dance moves. Zhang Ye did not learn them, but that didn't stop him from seeing it almost every day, for months and even years. Just bringing up "The Hottest Ethnic Trend" and "Small Apple," he could remember the moves to these two songs even with his eyes closed. There wasn't even a need to use the Memory Search Capsules!

Search it from his memories?

Are you kidding?

This would be the greatest insult that you could give to the people living in his previous world!

The coaching began.

"For the first move, do it this way."

"Right, that's very good."

"The second move will be like this."

"No, that's not it, Auntie Sun."

"Auntie Zhang, that's really good. Everyone, please learn from Auntie Zhang."

"When it gets to this part of the song, you must all remember to turn around."

"Aiya, Auntie Zhou, you've gotten it wrong again."

"Auntie Chen, this move that you did was wrong. It's totally unlike what I taught you. Can you please concentrate?"

"Yo, you all did pretty well this time. Auntie Chen and Auntie Zhou, you both deserve praise!"

"Dancing is the most beautiful activity in the world, so you must learn how to relax your movements. Yes, just imagine that you're surrounded by blue sky and are dancing within the fluffy, white clouds. Don't relax your standards just because this is plaza dancing. That would be the greatest mistake of all! You have to treat it like art. Who says that plaza dancing cannot be beautiful? The dance of the people is always the most beautiful! The efforts of the people, that's what art is! Right, this is it. Very good, everyone is doing quite well!"

His mother was learning as well.

Zhang Ye always took things very seriously. Coupled with the fact that he was also a university teacher, he lost track of time as he taught everyone the dance moves. An hour passed, but he was still teaching the steps for those two songs to everyone. Further, he was beginning to teach them in much greater detail, and he was even giving everyone a lot of attention. For some of the moves, when some people just could not get them right no matter how they tried, he would give them a hard stare. He turned into a professional dance teacher!

Time went by very quickly.

They finally finished learning the moves for the two songs.

The aunties were all celebrating.

"It's awesome!"

"I still prefer the moves that Little Ye taught us!"

"That's right, they're logical and look good as well!"

"He's very professional!"

"That's true. Our Little Ye is the father of plaza dancing, after all!"

All of a sudden, Zhang Ye had a realization. He got stunned for several seconds before he looked up into the sky and nearly burst into tears!

Oh my God!

What the fuck am I doing!